



Wellard

MEDIA RELEASE
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Hyfield ewes off to NSW as part of Perth LambEx

Wellard is pleased to announce, Hamish Dickson of Canowindra, NSW, was the winner of 100 Hyfield Poll Merino ewes, valued at \$10,000 at LambEx 2010 in Perth.

Mr Dickson said he was thrilled about winning the 100 ewes and plans to take them back home to join his breeding flock, which currently consists of 400 Merino ewes.

“They will be individually managed as a stud flock,” he said.

The competition was organised by the Stud Merino Breeders’ Association of WA and Farm Weekly, in an effort to promote the Merino ewe. The ewes were donated by Wellard’s Hyfield Poll Merino Stud.

Selected from the stud’s five year old commercial flock, which prides itself on a 19.5 micron average over five years, the ewes are proven mothers based on Hyfield genetics.

“With the right management and an accurate selection, Merino ewes have the ability to produce high lambing percentages. They are the true dual-purpose breed, generating income not only from wool and meat, but also for use in crossbreeding,” Hyfield Poll Merino stud manager Kevin Keatley said.

Merino ewes were the cornerstone of the sheep industry and were the favourite mothers in Australia for over 200 years. Today, Merino ewes have an even more important role as prime lamb mothers.

“We understand how important the role of the Merino ewe is in the industry and we are very keen to promote her benefits,” Hyfield studmaster Kevin Keatley said.

The ewes are currently lambing and good lambing percentages are being achieved. Thanks to improved management and genetics, the flock has seen an average 16 per cent increase in lambs weaned over the past 15 years.

Wellard’s involvement with LambEx 2010 was not limited to the \$10,000 value donation. Chairman Mauro Balzarini also presented at the conference ‘the exporter’s perspective’ on industry issues and what can be done to keep Australian sheep producers motivated.

“It is important that the sectors – producers, processors and exporters – better understand each other and look at how we can work together to create a sustainable industry for everyone,” Mr Balzarini said.

Wellard was very pleased to have participated in LambEx 2010 as the conference represents an opportunity to share points of view with other sectors of the industry.

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Background – Wellard Rural and Trading

Wellard Rural and Trading is the Wellard Group’s agriculture and international trade division.

Its two largest subsidiaries are Wellard Rural Exports, Australia’s largest livestock exporter and ship owner, and Wellard Agri, a mixed farming land owner and operator specialising in the production of grains, legumes and livestock.

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian and New Zealand dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for 30 years, and its investment in the live export industry is without peer. Based in Fremantle, the company’s operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed milling, road transport, feedlot facilities throughout Australia and modern shipping.

The company’s flagship carrier, the MV Ocean Drover (formerly the MV Becrux), is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

Its MV Ocean Shearer (formerly the MV Stella Deneb) can carry 125,000 sheep or 23,000 cattle, or a combination of both.

A new, technologically advanced, purpose-built vessel, the MV Ocean Swagman sailed on its maiden voyage in January 2010. The Swagman’s sister ship, the MV Ocean Outback, is due for launch in mid-late 2010. In August 2008 Wellard and Siba Ships announced a US\$250 million contract to build an additional two new livestock vessels which will be able to carry 17,000 cattle or 70,000 sheep or a combination of the two.

Wellard Agri owns and operates eight farms across three agri-hubs, two are located at Dongara and Watheroo in Western Australia’s central midlands and one is located at Kojonup in the Great Southern region of WA.

The Dongara hub is home to The Grange, a 14,500 hectare property which is considered one of Western Australia’s blue chip farming properties. It is primarily used for grazing, with some cropping.

The remaining landholding totals more than 18,000 hectares, of which 14,000 hectares is cropped to a variety of grains and legumes. The other 4000ha is devoted to sheep production, including the famous Hyfield Poll Merino stud at Kojonup.

In November 2009, Wellard Agri announced it was entering the farm machinery sector, when it commenced management of the CLAAS Harvest Centre at Katanning for the Landpower range of farm machinery.