

Wal's Message

Well, another year has passed with little improvement in the wool market. The indicator has remained static with a reduction in price for the 17-18 micron wools. This year is the first time in 10 years that our fine/medium wool studs have beaten our superfine wools on a per head basis albeit only slightly. Consumer confidence is down in China and around the rest of the world, not only affecting wool, but lamb and beef as well. Once economic conditions improve around the world, the wool price will respond.

Also, this year at Sydney Royal, we won our father's trophy for the Best Exhibit of Five Merino August Shorn Sheep. Merryville also won the Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram and Grand Champion Medium Wool Poll Merino Ewe. It was very pleasing to see our clients doing well too with Peter and Jayne Lette (Conrayn) winning the Reserve Grand Champion Superfine Wool Merino Ewe and Champion August Shorn Ewe. This ewe was by one of our Giant Test rams. Also, Andrew and Paddy Davis of Demondrille won the Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Merino Ram, which was by one of our rams.

With the demise of the Inverell and Mudgee Ram Sales, the sheep that we had earmarked for these sales will now be sold at our On-Property Ram sale in September. This means that in 2025 we will be

marketing our top rams at Armidale, Bendigo, and our On-Property sale.

The other thing we must think about is the amount of wool levy we will pay as this is a WoolPoll year. It is quite obvious to me that the 1.5% levy has been a failure. AWI has had to draw down on their reserves to a point where they have no fat, and it must be very difficult to try to manage the company. We need AWI to market the wool. It is that simple. No one else will market it for us and no one else will confront the petrochemical lobby with the true lifecycle analysis that shows wool to be the most sustainable fibre for the planet. I recommend we choose a 2% levy.

This year I have asked Dave Shingles of West Coast Wools to give us his thoughts on the wool market.

Dave brings a unique perspective, having been from the land at Cooma, jackerooed at Hazeldene and Springfield and as Overseer at Boonoke. He then completed a Diploma of Advanced Science at Melbourne College of Textiles. Dave also worked as a Wool Advisor for Dalgety's before helping to run Dalgety International. Dave then worked for Marubeni and then Lempriere, moving to South Africa to setup their South African business. Dave brings us his thoughts for the future 12 months of the wool industry.

**MERRYVILLE
ON-PROPERTY
UNHOUSED
RAM SALE**

Friday 13th September 2024
1pm at 'Beverley', Boorowa

Enquiries:

Wally Merriman 02 6385 3333
George Merriman 02 6385 3282
Nutrien, Boorowa 02 6385 3174
Elders, Boorowa 02 6385 4200

Sydney Success

Sydney Royal Easter Show 2024

Major Awards



- The Bruce Merriman Memorial Perpetual Trophy - Best Exhibit of Five August Shorn Merino Sheep
 - Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Exhibitor

2 Grand Champions

- Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram
- Grand Champion Medium Wool Poll Merino Ewe



*Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram
Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ram*



*Grand Champion Medium Wool Poll Merino Ewe
Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe*

Highlights

Merryville Clients

Merryville would like to congratulate the following clients on their success at the 2024 Sydney Royal Show:

The Lette family, Conrayn, Reserve Grand Champion Superfine Wool Merino Ewe and Champion August Shorn Ewe, sired by a Merryville Giant Test ram.

The Davis family, Demondrille, Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Merino Ram sired by a Merryville ram.

2024 AUSTRALIAN FLEECE COMPETITION BENDIGO

Of note is that 17 of the previous 23 Grand Champions of the Australian Fleece Competition (from 2001 to 2024) were Merryville Blood.

Glenburnie Partnership, Glenburnie Merino Stud, Walcha NSW

Grand Champion Fleece
Champion Fine Wool Fleece

Seaori Pastoral Co Pty Ltd, 'Rosemont' Crookwell NSW

Reserve Commercial Champion Fleece
Reserve Champion Fine Wool Fleece

HM Barty & Sons, Beverley Merino Stud, Redesdale Vic

Reserve Champion Ultrafine Wool Fleece
Reserve Champion Extra Superfine Wool Fleece

Mont Waters, 'Beltana' Jingellic

Most Valuable Commercial 14.5 micron & finer fleece of \$202.50

Also, congratulations to long-term Merryville clients, Mt Bute Pastoral, Linton Vic, on their success in the 2024 fleece competition.

2024 Australian Sheep & Wool Show Bendigo

Glenburnie Partnership, Glenburnie Merino Stud, Walcha NSW

- Grand Champion August Shorn Ultrafine Wool Ram
- Champion August Shorn Ultrafine Wool Poll Ram
- Champion August Shorn Superfine Wool Poll Ewe

HM Barty & Sons, Beverley Merino Stud, Redesdale Vic

- Victorian Merino Pair of the Year
- Champion Victorian Bred Merino Superfine Wool Ram
- Champion Victorian Bred Merino Superfine Wool Ewe
- Grand Champion August Shorn Superfine Wool Ewe
- Grand Champion March Shorn Superfine Wool Ewe
- Champion August Shorn Superfine Wool Ewe
- Champion March Shorn Superfine Wool Ewe

Merryville 2023 On-Property Ram Sale

Merryville's 24th Annual On-Property Ram Sale was held on 8th September 2023 where 134 rams were offered to a top of \$7,500. The sale averaged \$1,951 across the board and there was consistent interest in the offering of Merino and Poll Merino Rams.

The top-priced ram was purchased by Tony & Winsome Price, Boiga View, Pyramul, NSW who paid \$7,500 for a two-year-old son of Ringmaster Ultra 2nd. The Superfine wool ram's weaner micron was 15.9 while his current tests were 16.2 micron, 2.6 standard deviation (SD), 16.2% co-efficient of variation (CV), 99.5% comfort factor (CF) and 15.2 spinning fineness (SF). The next lot of the sale, and second top priced ram at \$5,500, was also purchased by the Prices being a two-year-old son of the Brilliant Super Syndicate. The Price family have been buying rams from Merryville since 1966 with a focus on producing wool for the Italian spinners.

The third-highest price of \$5,000 was achieved with AG & JE Matthews, 'Fairview', Golspie NSW, purchasing a 17.8 micron, 2021 drop March shorn ram sired by a Brilliant Super Syndicate. They also took home another 3 younger rams from the sale to average \$2,938.

Volume buyers at the sale included repeat clients Girvan Lea Pty Ltd, Wonwondah, Victoria, who purchased 10 rams for an average of \$2,425 while JA Fitzgerald, Harrow, Victoria, took home nine rams for an average of \$2,305.

Merryville Stud Structure

The Current Breeding Families

STYLE:

All micron tests shown are on full feed.

ULTRA FINE This type traces back to the original Ravensworth sheep and is about 80 years old. The sheep range from ultrafine (it is not uncommon for some to be tested to 14.0 micron) to 16.5 micron. Pure Saxon wool with style and high spinnability.

Average of Adult Ewes 16.5 mic 4.5 kg cut/hd

Sires Used: Ringmaster Ultra 2nd 15.6 mic
Ringmaster Ultra 3rd 15.2 mic

SUPER FINE This type traces back to the original Ravensworth sheep and is about 80 years old. The sheep range from ultrafine (it is not uncommon for some to be tested to 14.0 micron) to 18.5 micron. Pure Saxon wool with style and high spinnability.

Average of Adult Ewes 17.5 mic 5.5 kg cut/hd

Sires Used: Ringmaster Superior 14th 18.4 mic Grand Champion Superfine Wool Ram Sydney 2017, cut 12.9kg
Merryville Giant Test Super 18.2 mic Grand Champion Superfine Wool Ram Sydney Royal 2021, cut 12.5kg
Brilliant Super 14th 17.2 mic Not shown
Giant Test Supreme 18.6 mic Grand Champion Superfine Wool Ram Sydney 2022, cut 12.7kg

FINE Larger framed, heavier cutting, 66s 70s type, staple length 90mm, white - highly crimped wool, genetic source of the Merryville Commercial Flock and represent about 40% of stud numbers.

Average of Adult Ewes 18.5 to 19.0 mic 6.4 to 7.3 kg cut/hd

Sires Used: Giant Test 17.4 mic Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram Sydney Royal 2015, cut 16kg
EM Supreme Syndicate 18.4 mic Supreme Exhibit Sydney Royal 2010. Cut 15.6kg, weight 128kg
Supreme 14 18.6 mic Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Ram Sydney 2016. Cut 15.5kg
Supreme 15 17.6 mic Grand Champion Fine Wool Ram Sydney 2019. Cut 15.5kg
Brilliant Example Syndicates and fine-testing Uniform Syndicates of young rams for progeny testing.
Giant Test Syndicate

MEDIUM Large framed ewes with 64s type wool. Main families are Uniform and Grand Monarch which trace back to Wanganella ram 'Sire Francis' 1929.

Average of Adult Ewes 19.0 mic 7.4 kg cut/hd

Sires Used: Grand Monarch 42nd by Grand Monarch 37th 18.9 mic Not shown, reserved as a 2 tooth. 3rd season
Uniform 41st 19.4 mic Reserve Champion Sydney Medium Wool ram 2006
Magnussen Syndicate 18.5 mic Medium Wool Ram Sydney 2013. Top performer in Sire Evaluation Trials

MURGHA The Murgha stud was established with ewes bought from the Murgha dispersal sale pure Wanganella blood. Highly regarded at the time, esteemed studs such as Uardry, Koonawarra and Pemcaw can trace their origins back to the Murgha dispersal sale. The sheep have been joined to Merryville medium types and are like a separate family in the Merryville medium type.

Average of Adult Ewes 19.0 mic 7.4 kg cut/hd

Sires Used: Sons of East Mundulla 19.4 mic East Mundulla by WA Purple (contains Merryville blood) out of a Collinsville Olympic ewe (Merryville background)
Magnussen Syndicate 18.5 mic Medium Wool Ram Sydney 2013. Top performer in Sire Evaluation Trials

POLL MERINOS The type and style of the Merryville Poll Merino sheep mirror the Merryville horned types and families

SUPERFINE

Average of Adult Ewes

Sire Used: P17.6 17.6 mic Grand Champion Super Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram Sydney 2022. Cut 12.0kg
Ringmaster Poll 17.2 mic Otway Falkiner Perptual Trophy group Sydney 2022. Cut 11kg

FINE

Average of Adult Ewes 19.0 mic 6.5 kg cut/hd

Sire Used: Uniform Poll 14th (Bolte) 17.3 mic Champion Fine Wool Poll and Grand Champion Poll in Sydney 2019. Second in his Objective Measurement class with a fleece weight of 13.2kg valued at \$254.2. Sired the Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram Sydney 2023. Sired the winner of the Ram Production Class Sydney 2023
Uniform Poll 18th 19.3 mic Winner of the Ram Production Class Sydney 2023, Cut 16.5 kg

FINE/MEDIUM

Average of Adult Ewes 19.3 mic 6.8 kg cut/hd

Sires Used: Uniform Poll 17th 17.8 mic
TW7.63 18.6 mic Purchased in Adelaide. Sired top-priced Ram 2022 Bendigo \$20,000. Sired Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram Sydney 2023
Merryville Regal 18.5 mic Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram Sydney 2022. Cut 15.2kg

Merryville Poll Merinos

The Merryville Poll Merino Stud continues to perform at the highest levels.

At the 2023 RAS Sydney Royal Show we exhibited the Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram, the Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ewe and the Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Merino Ram. We also repeated our success of 2022 by winning the Otway Falkiner Cup for a group of Five Poll Merino sheep. These awards earned Merryville the Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Exhibitor of the show.

Our Reserve Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram placed first in the Ram Production class. This ram cut 16.5kgs at 19.3 micron with a yield of 74.2% and the highest fleece value of the competition at \$185.09. A Merryville Poll Merino was first in the Ewe Production class and was the highest scoring ewe of the Ewe Production classes. This ewe was the Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ewe.

Merryville Bolte sired both our Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram and the Ram Production class winner/Reserve Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram.

Merryville was pleased to be awarded the Otway Falkiner Perpetual Cup for the Best Exhibit of Five Poll Merino Sheep in Sydney 2022. A Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram, 'Ringmaster Poll,' was a part of this group and is now a Poll Sire for Merryville. He cut 11kg of wool at 17.2-micron.

We also now have a dual-purpose line for those who want to do fine wool Merino lamb production. Our sire Merryville Regal was Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram in Sydney 2021. He weighed 155kg at 2yo and cut 15.2kg at 18.5-micron.

Covid caused the cancellation of the 2020 Sydney Royal Show, but Merryville returned in 2021 with great success in the Poll Merino classes. After claiming the Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ewe, Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram, and Ewe and then the Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Merino Ram, Merryville was awarded the Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Exhibitor.

Merryville was awarded the Most Successful March Shorn Poll Merino Exhibitor in Sydney 2019. "Merryville Bolte" contributed to this success being awarded the Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram and then the Grand Champion Poll Merino Ram. This ram also placed second in the 6 teeth and over Ram Objective Measurement class. His results included a 13.2kg FWT, 17.3-micron fleece valued at \$254.23. The 122kg ram had the second highest fleece value and third highest EMA. Another Merryville Medium Wool Poll Ram had the highest EMA and fourth highest fleece cut of his class.

Merryville Poll Merino Stud exhibited two grand champions in Sydney 2018 with the Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Ram earlier judged champion March-shorn and growing 18.4-micron wool with a 2.8-micron SD, 15.2pc CV and 99.8pc CF. In the fine wool poll section Merryville showed Grand Champion and Reserve Champion rams.

At the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show 'Merryville Cas' was the Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram. This poll ram went on the win his Objective Measurement class cutting 15.8kg at 18.1 micron. No poll ram has ever cut this sort of weight at this micron.

Merryville Poll Stud's results at the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show included the Most Successful Exhibitor in March Shorn Poll Merino Section, Grand Champion Poll Ewe, Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Ewe, Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ewe and Junior Champion March Shorn Poll Ewe. In the Objective Measurement class, a Merryville 2 tooth poll ram had the highest eye muscle depth at 40.0 mm, with a fat depth of 3 mm. This ram also had the second highest poll fleece value of the class.

In the Objective Measurement class at the 2015 Sydney Royal Show, Merryville's Junior Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram placed third with a 19.5-micron fleece. This was the highest yielding and most valuable fleece of the class at 82.1% and \$125.39, respectively.

Merryville is continuing to strengthen the genetics of its Poll Merino Stud.

Performance & Production

Increasingly shows are including Performance Classes in their schedules to give a more objective view of a sheep's value. These Performance Classes use objective measurement for both wool and meat, looking at Frame & Confirmation, Body Weight, Fat Depth, Eye Muscle Depth, Staple Strength, Coefficient of Variation and Fleece Value.

Merryville Stud has proven the profitability of both its rams and ewes in the Objective Measurement Classes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in recent years.

Merryville placed first, second and third in both the Ram and Ewe Merino Production classes in Sydney 2023 with the impressive results shown in the table on the next page.

The fleece yields of the 3 Merryville entries in the Production Classes in Sydney 2022 were of merit. In the Merino or Poll Merino Ram, 6 teeth and over class, a Fine/Medium wool ram had the highest yield of the class at 80.0%. Another Merryville ram in that class had a yield of 76.6% while a Poll Merino Ewe in her 6 teeth and over class had an impressive yield of 81.8%, the highest of all the production class entries.

Performance & Production Continued ...

Ram and Ewe Merino Production classes in Sydney 2023

Merino & Poll Merino Ram		Micron	Cut	Fleece Value	Yield
1st	Highest scoring Ram of Ram Production classes Highest fleece value of all Production classes Reserve Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ram Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ram	19.3	16.5kg	\$185.09	74.2%
2nd	Grand Champion Fine/Medium Wool Poll Merino Ram Champion Fine/Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ram	19.2	13.5kg	\$169.09	81.5%
3rd	Placed 3rd Fine Wool March Shorn Merino Ram	17.6	12kg	\$174.00	78.5%

Merino & Poll Merino Ram		Micron	Cut	Fleece Value	Yield
1st	Highest scoring Ewe of Ewe Production classes Highest fleece value of Ewe Production classes Grand Champion Fine Wool Poll Merino Ewe Champion Fine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe	17.1	10.5kg	\$156.92	82.0%
2nd	2nd Ultrafine Wool March Shorn Ewe 6 teeth & over	16.2	8kg	\$128.88	79.9%
3rd	Reserve Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ewe Champion Superfine Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe	16.5	10kg	\$156.26	76.1%

Merryville's Reserve Champion Medium Wool March Shorn Poll Merino Ewe in Sydney 2021 also competed in the Merino and Poll Merino Ewe Production 2 to 4 tooth class. This ewe had the highest poll merino fleece weight. Her fleece yield was 76.1%, micron 17.5, SD 2.9, CV 16.6 and CF 99.7

In 2019 Merryville placed second in the 2 to 4 tooth Ram Objective Measurement class with a 15.5kg FWT, 17.6-micron fleece valued at \$261.51. This ram was the heaviest cutting 17-micron ram, had the highest subjective points and the third highest fleece value in the class. Along with Merryville Bolte's success in the OM class, another Merryville Medium Wool Poll Ram had the highest EMA and fourth highest fleece cut of the class.

In 2017 a Fine/Medium Wool Poll Ram was the winner of the OM 6 tooth & Over Ram class. 'Merryville Cas' cut 15.8kg of 18.1-micron fleece at a yield of 83.5% for a total fleece value of \$277. The 121kg ram had an eye muscle depth of 32mm.

In the Sydney 2016 Objective Measurement 2 to 4 tooth class, Merryville had the second highest fleece value for 'Merryville 14' (the Supreme Merino Exhibit) with a 15.4kg, 18.5-micron fleece with a yield of 72%. A Merryville 2 tooth poll ram had the highest eye muscle depth at 40.0 mm and a fat depth of 3 mm. This ram also had the second highest poll fleece value of the class.

In Sydney 2015 'Merryville EM Cas' placed second in the Ram 6 tooth and over class with a 125.5kg ram with 18.8-micron wool, a fleece yield of 74.9% and fleece value of \$138.06. A younger poll ram in the 2 to 4 tooth class placed third in his class. With a 19.5-micron fleece this was

the highest yielding and most valuable fleece of the class at 82.1% and \$125.39, respectively. In the 2 to 4 tooth Ewe class Merryville secured second place with a 17.7 micron, 12.5kg fleece valued at \$108.23.

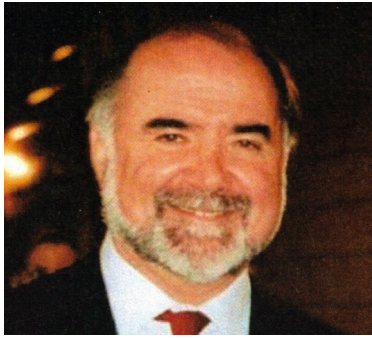
Merryville Stud recorded a record wool weight of 18.36kg in the performance class of the 2015 Dubbo Show and Sale. The ram won the class with a micron of 17.8, SD of 2.9, CV of 16.8% and CF of 99.8%. The fleece was valued at \$155.33 and received 160 points from a possible 160 for the fleece value. The eye muscle depth and fat depth also obtained maximum points.

The Objective Measurement Class for Rams 6 tooth and over at Sydney in 2013 was won by a Fine/Medium ram from the Merryville Uniform family during his first showing. This ram weighed 113.5kg after shearing a 12.4kg fleece of 18.1-micron wool yielding 75.2% and valued at \$116.66. The ram's total value was \$409.00 and its eye muscle measured 42mm with a fat depth of 4.2mm. This eye muscle measurement was the highest in the class. Merryville's entry in the Ram 2 to 4 tooth class also had the highest eye muscle measurement of 41mm.

Merryville won the Objective Measurement Class at Dubbo in 2013 with a ram cutting 14.6kg wool with a micron of 17.4 and 139kg body weight. The ram scored a perfect score for his fleece which was valued at \$126.44. This follows on from Merryville's Castellon ram which cut 14.8kg at 19.2 micron in 2012.

In 2012 in the performance classes at Sydney Merryville placed 1st and 3rd with two rams. The prize-winning ram was a 4 tooth while Merryville's 6 tooth ram came third. Both rams scored top in their class for eye muscle depth.

Vale



Don Belgre

Don Belgre was an icon in the wool industry particularly the superfine sector with his connections with the Schneider Group. When I first started travelling to Italy, Don sponsored me onto the main players that being Marco Schneider, Francesco Botto and Dr Alberto Barberis. These introductions held me in good stead when later I became Chairman of AWI and I have always been very grateful to Don and Paulina for their friendship.



Tom Padbury

I was saddened to hear of the death of Tom Padbury of Collinsville.

Tom was a great mentor to me and gave me considerable hospitality on my first South Australian Field Day trip. Tom also took me under his wing the first time I judged at Adelaide, and it was quite an insight for me to see him operate with his clients.

He took Collinsville to the highest levels which I don't think will ever be achieved by any other stud.



Rodney Evans

This year we also lost Rodney Evans. Rod was the founder of the Tara Park Stud using Manderley ewes as a base for his stud. In 1990, Rodney was part of a syndicate put together by John Willians to purchase Merryville Anzac. That Ram mixed superably with Rodney's sheep and really put the Tara Parks on the map. Guy and Anna successfully run the stud today.



John Doak

On the 17th July 2024 we lost a good friend in John Doak. John and I grew up together in the stud industry, from his father buying rams at Inverell to John's Supreme Ram in Sydney in 2007. John and Annette also had great success with fleeces, winning at all the major shows. Our thoughts are with Annette and the family.

FLOCK RAMS

- Free delivery in most areas.
- All Sheep vaccinated.
- Available Mid- September.
- In all grades to suit your stud or flock.



Merryville Newsletter. July 2024

As the 2023/2024 wool selling season comes to a close, we find ourselves in a similar position regarding where we closed the 2022/2023 season.

The market indicator at the close of the 2022/2023 season was sitting at 1162ac kg (6/7/2023), today moving forward 12 months we see the indicator at 1174ac kg (15/6/2024). With the average sitting at 1160ac kg for the season.

Currently we find ourselves in a holding pattern on some form of cruise control, we just find it hard to move forward from. The fortunate thing is that we have not seen too many selling weeks of dramatic falls.

It is apparent that there is strong optimism out there for the wool industry, but with the current cost of living and high interest rates worldwide impacting consumer confidence. We may have to just tread water until we see these pressures decrease and consumer confidence and spending habits return.

Word came out of China in the last few weeks, that with the steady increase in greasy market some Chinese spinners have started to show some interest in purchasing wool tops. Unfortunately, this confidence was eroded this week with the greasy market retreating 10ac kg on one of the smallest selling weeks of the season. Some put this down to the heavy indent buying in the last month and when the indent buyers fill up, there is a lack of trading companies willing to take a position. Let's hope confidence returns in the last selling week of the present season and the first four sales of the new season.

Optimism is still very strong for the future, but the crystal ball is unwilling to predict when the turnaround will happen. Whether it's early in the new season or sometime in early 2025. Let's all keep our fingers crossed and hope it's sooner not later.

Another interesting fact to come out of this season has been the fall in the finer micron categories, mainly the 16.0u-18.0u, falling from around \$1.00 - \$1.50ac kg. This has been evident in the last few seasons, as some growers chase the finer micron for their clip at the expense of cut and quality. In the last 12 months the production of wools finer than 18.0u has increased by 20-30%. The lack of Italian buying has also attributed to decrease in these price levels. Some Italian fabric makers still have stocks of fabric purchased after the spike in the greasy market following the covid period, and as such are trying to average down their inventory, before returning in force to the greasy wool market. The Italian market is still active, but on a reduced basis compared to previous years, and as such they are particular in the style and quality, they are willing to purchases at auction.

Having seen Merryville sheep at ram's sales, sheep shows and wool auctions over the last 40 years, I have always been impressed in their conformation, thickness of staple, excellent character and lovely bright white wools. Everything a wool exporter could wish for. Obviously, this is due to the Merriman family and the breeding philosophy they have adopted over the years to breed the Merryville type. I was fortunate to be able to class a Merryville commercial flock on the Monaro when I was a Sheep and Wool advisor for Dalgety's, and was super impressed with the prepotency that the stud imparts on its commercial wool grower's flocks. This is evident in the sale room when Merryville or a Merryville commercial clip is on offer, and the strong bidding they receive.

Let's all hope the 24/25 season starts some positive movement in the coming months. Wishing you all the best.

Best Regards

Dave Shingles

West Coast Wools, Sydney.