



# DOHNE

# Solutions

## WOOL CUT

There is a perception that after several generations of running Dohne rams within a flock, wool cut suffers, and a Poll Merino ram should then be used to boost the quantity of wool produced. This is not so.

Reality is, within any breed there are differences in productivity. There are both higher and lower producers for various traits.

Within the Dohne population, there is great variation - in fact this is true of most populations where sexual reproduction occurs. This variation is called genetic diversity. As breeders, we have the ability to select animals that will help to improve our flock according to our breeding aims and objectives.

You may come across many different ideas of what a 'typical' Dohne looks like, how it produces, or how it behaves. If you allow yourself to look far enough, you will discover how great the variation is in many traits from temperament to wool production (colour, fleece weight etc.) to growth and meat production to body type and conformation.

This is where it becomes very important to have a clear idea of your own breeding aims and objectives. It will allow you to choose animals that will help you meet your goals and allow you to bypass animals that may be detrimental to your objectives.

Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBV's) are a tool (figures) used to help understand the genetic potential of an animal, and its ability to pass on production traits to its offspring. This differs from raw data such as fleece weights, which are influenced to a greater extent by environmental factors such as climatic conditions, feed quality and availability, and cannot be compared between different flocks, properties or seasons.

The real benefit of the Dohne as a breed is the ability to have excellent wool quality together with fertility and meat production. However, with genetics, there are correlations and antagonism between some traits. It is widely understood that seeking only wool production and fleece weights can lead to a reduction in meat production, and likewise seeking high meat production can be at the expense of wool production and quality.

It is mentioned earlier, but worth repeating; this is where having your own breeding aims and objectives and some understanding of ASBV's allows you to select animals that will help you to meet your production goals and allow you to bypass animals that may be detrimental to your objectives.

At Glen Holme we, as stud breeders, have our own objectives and use ASBV's to help achieve this. We have seen improvements in genetic gain by utilising ASBV's to target and improve certain traits.

The rams that we present for Auction all have a balance in production traits, whilst being structurally sound. Within the sale team, there are animals considered to be all-rounders, and others with some bias towards either wool production or meat production. We recognise that our clients have their own objectives, and have opportunity to select accordingly.

If you would like some assistance in selecting rams that will help you to meet your breeding objectives, please feel free to contact us.