

## A GOOD DUAL-PURPOSE OPTION

Peter and Val Tischler admit they can't complain about the season in southwest Victoria. Already this year, they have received 450mm of their 600mm average rainfall. And there are still five months to go.

The Tischlers run Tarraleah, a 1300ha operation at Edenhope near the Victorian-South Australian border. They are ably assisted by son, John, and daughter, Anne, who juggles work on the farm with her veterinary science studies at Wagga Wagga's Charles Sturt University. Contract labour is employed at crutching and shearing.

The Tischlers are currently running 4000 sheep, including 3100 breeding ewes, 1250 of which are joined to Dohnes. A further 1000 F1 ewes are joined to Border Leicester rams.

Lambing is at the end of May and early June. Last year the ewes averaged a lambing percentage of 98 per cent.

The main flock is shorn in early December with the crossbreds following in early April. Wool is generally sold in February and May. This year the ewes cut 5.5kg of 19-micron wool which returned 950c/kg greasy. Lambs wool, which averaged 18 micron, sold for a greasy price of 1071c/kg.

Wether lambs are marketed over the hooks, through the sale yards or sold to the live-export trade. In May, the lambs dressed at 23-25kg at 11 months of age, returning about \$157 a head.

According to Peter, Dohnes offer an easier-care option with better doing ability, increased lambing percentages and easier lambing.

"We had a good look at them first," he said.

"They were easier to manage, had better fertility - more lambs to sell, a nice style of wool ... a good dual-option sheep."

The Tischlers market their stock through Landmark Naracoorte and their wool through Australian Wool Network. Chris Bowman classes the flock.



## 2011 UARDRY DOHNE EVENTS

**Uardry Dohne Performance Sale** ~ Thursday, September 1  
200 AA & A two-tooth rams  
200 Registered Dohne Ewe Hoggets

**QLD Uardry Dohne Sale, Westech Field Days, Barcaldine** ~ Wednesday, September 14  
50 AA & A two-tooth rams

**Premier Dohne Sale, Adelaide** ~ Tuesday, October 11  
Proven Uardry Sires

**South Australian Dohne Sale, Naracoorte** ~ Wednesday, October 19  
15 two-tooth flock rams

**Victorian Dohne Sale, Ballarat** ~ Friday, October 21  
10 two-tooth flock rams

**Tasmanian Dohne Sale, Campbelltown** ~ Thursday, November 3  
5 two-tooth flock rams

**Flock ram selections** ~ mid September onwards

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# UARDRY

JULY 2011

## UARDRY'S LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO BREED

This year the Uardry Dohne Performance sale will again see the largest Dohne auction in Australia with a line-up of 200 AA & A rams. A further 80 rams will be auctioned at multivendor sales across eastern Australia. The size and scale of the Uardry Dohne stud is even more apparent with close to 850 AA & A Uardry Dohne rams on offer in this year's spring ram selling season.

The size of the Uardry Dohne stud has now also enabled us to put forward 200 registered AA & A Dohne ewe hoggets which will be auctioned in pens of 20 at the Uardry Dohne Performance sale. The ewe sale adds diversity to the day, giving stud and commercial clients a chance to further invest in Uardry genetics.

Stud Manager, Ben Lane, said the returns sheep producers have been receiving from wether lamb sales will allow them to invest in better quality genetics that will have further impact upon the future of their maternal breeding flock. Targeting higher quality rams with desirable maternal ewe traits will result in an increase in the productivity of breeding ewes, which has a long-term effect on profitability.

Investing in quality genetics was evident last September at the 2010 Uardry Dohne Performance sale. That sale grossed more than \$401,000 and was predominantly driven by long-term clients. The auction was red hot with 100% clearance for the 199 rams offered. It sold to a top of \$5000 with an average of \$2018.

51 registered buyers from New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania competed for the impressive line-up of one-year-old rams. The top price ram, UD090921, was secured by Don and Karen Mills of Kardinia Dohne stud at Corowa. The outstanding young sire created competition with his overall balance of excellent carcass attributes and soft white stylish wool. The AA Dohne ram returned an incredible Index Value of 143.4; a 13.5% body weight; 0.4mm Muscle Diameter; 0.0mm Fat; 10.7% Fleece Weight; -1.2µm Fibre Diameter; and a -1.0% Co-efficient Variation.

Manager, Ben Lane was astounded with the demand at the sale. An additional 70 rams were added to the auction over the previous year to give buyers a large selection of quality rams, with the aim to sell more rams at competitive prices. "The high prices from the sale reflect the returns Dohne breeders are achieving with the buoyant lamb market," Mr Lane said.

With a large breeding flock of 2400 stud breeding ewes (2010/2011 joining) Uardry can provide buyers with a superior selection. The 2009-drop progeny were the first rams offered following a rigorous stud ewe classing. Every Dohne stud ewe on the property is visually assessed each year, taking into account its full EBV figures, its age, and the number and quality of progeny raised. Uardry is only breeding rams that are from proven performance ewes.

Uardry is committed to the Dohne breed with a long-term target of sustaining 3000 stud breeding ewes with the potential to market 1000 rams annually. The stud is dedicated to sheep producers in providing the best genetics the breed can offer. It is pushing the boundaries for the ideal meat and wool balance to create the ultimate dual-purpose sheep.



Pictured at the 2010 Uardry Dohne Performance sale are volume buyer, Tom Holt of Coonong, Urana; Uardry Manager, Ben Lane; Uardry Principals, Nerissa Guest and Graeme Black; and Coonong classer, Jason Southwell.

**Uardry Dohne Performance Sale - Thursday, September 1**

## Understanding Changes to Dohne ASBVs and Indices

The Australian Dohne Breeders Society has recently joined forces with Sheep Genetics Australia to manage the breed's database. Dohnes have adopted an Australian Sheep Breeding Value (ASBV) to replace the previous EBV managed by Advanced Breeding Services (ABS).

From July 2011 Sheep Genetics Australia commenced the Dohne breeding and index analysis. The basic methodology used has not changed, however there have been some significant improvements to the analysis.

Bodyweight is now expressed in kilograms (kg), not as a percentage (%). As a result the spread in bodyweight values is not as large. Rams with a positive ASBV for bodyweight (WT) will produce lambs that grow faster and reach their target weights sooner. A ram that has a WT of 4.4 will generally breed progeny that are genetically 2.2kg heavier than those of a ram with a WT ASBV of 0.0 (zero).

Some traits that are being reported for the first time are the Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW), and Maternal Weaning Weight (MWWT).

Number of Lambs Weaned (NLW) – Rams with a more positive NLW ASBV number will sire daughters that wean a higher percentage of lambs. A ram that has a NLW of 4 will sire daughters which, on average, will wean 2% more lambs than a ram with a NLW ASBV of 0.0 (zero).

Maternal Weaning Weight (MWT) – Rams with more positive MWT ASBV will breed daughters which will wean heavier lambs. This ASBV reflects a combination of the daughter's ability to milk and provide a better maternal environment.

Weaning weight ASBV is now measured on two components: firstly a dam's effect on the lamb's growth, and secondly the lamb's own genes for growth.

The Dohne index now has emphasis on weaning weight (WWT), not just yearling weight (YWT). There is no more emphasis on weight relative to other traits but it is now split 60% WWT and 40% YWT. Commercially this means the Dohne breed is targeting early maturing lambs, lifting growth rate to market lambs at an earlier age.

A Dohne ASBV describes the expected performance of a Dohne's progeny for a trait relative to the performance of all Registered Australian Dohne ram breeding flocks.

**Percentile Band Table** – your benchmark to the performance of the current industry drop

% Band	NLW (%)	MWT (kg)	WWT (kg)	WT (kg)	EMD (mm)	Fat (mm)	CFW (%)	FD (μm)	CV (%)	Dohne Index
10	0.0	1.0	2.7	4.7	0.9	-0.3	10.0	-1.0	-1.3	131.0
20	0.0	0.7	2.4	4.1	0.8	-0.1	8.0	-0.8	-1.0	127.5
30	0.0	0.6	2.1	3.7	0.6	-0.1	7.0	-0.7	-0.8	124.9
40	0.0	0.5	1.9	3.3	0.5	0.0	5.0	-0.6	-0.7	122.7
50	0.0	0.4	1.8	3.0	0.4	0.1	4.0	-0.5	-0.5	120.8
70	0.0	0.1	1.4	2.3	0.2	0.2	2.0	-0.2	-0.2	116.8
90	0.0	-0.2	0.9	1.4	-0.1	0.5	-1.0	0.1	0.3	111.2

Information sourced from NSW Industry and Investment

### FOR SALE

**200 AA & A Uardry Dohne Ewe Hoggets (pens of 20)  
at the Dohne Performance Sale on Thursday, September 1**



More information on stock for sale is available at [www.uardry.com](http://www.uardry.com)

## Uardry Dohne Spring Ram Sales

The 2011 Uardry Spring ram selling season will offer a record number of quality Dohne rams. A total of 1030 rams were bred for the 2011 Spring ram classing. Of these 861 rams from the Uardry Dohne May/June 2010 drop were submitted for June 2011 analysis. A further 169 rams from the August 2010 drop are being presented for the August 2011 data analysis.

Quality and numbers are the main objectives to Uardry's Dohne breeding program. Of the rams in the photo included, Uardry Manager, Ben Lane says, "The 2011 Uardry ram sale team displays tremendous bone constitution and muscling carcasses. The wools are white with the free growing stylish crimp Uardry Dohne has become renowned for."

On Thursday, September 1, the Uardry Dohne Performance sale will again see 200 AA & A rams going through the rostrum. Uardry is the only Dohne stud in Australia which can offer buyers such a large selection of quality rams at a single auction. In addition to the Uardry on-property sale, a selection of 50 AA & A Uardry Dohne rams will travel to Queensland to be auctioned at the Westech Field Days at Barcaldine on Wednesday, September 14, commencing at 2pm.

Uardry is a member of the Southern Dohne Breeders Group. This is a proactive group of leading studs marketing and promoting rams in south eastern Australia. The Southern Dohne Breeders Group will host numerous multivendor sales throughout October and November with the first to be held at Naracoorte in South Australia on October 19 where Uardry will offer 15 rams. Naracoorte has grown into a great area for Uardry to market Dohne rams. The early growth rates of the Uardry Dohne combined with the white wool and free-growing lock structure aid in withstanding the high rainfall of the south east of South Australia. The Uardry Dohne will also



2011 Uardry Dohne sale rams

suit the areas surrounding Ballarat, host to the Victorian Dohne Sale to be held on October 21. Uardry will offer 10 rams at Ballarat. Lastly, 5 Uardry rams will go under the hammer at Campbell Town, Tasmania, on November 3.

In addition to the 290 Dohne rams offered at auctions over the spring, Uardry will also have up to 550 grade rams available for private selection. With such large numbers Uardry can cater for clients in the pastoral zones searching for large drafts of flock rams.

## West Plains diversify with Dohnes

A desire to increase returns from their lambs prompted Peter and Jayne Hammond to diversify into Dohnes in 2005.

The Hammonds, who run the 2200ha property West Plains at Forbes in central NSW, had been Uardry Merino clients since the early 1980s, purchasing top flock rams.

"We believed they (Dohnes) offered more choice in the marketing of our sale sheep - stores or fat," Peter said.

West Plains has received 350mm of its 450mm annual average already this year.

The Hammonds run 3800 sheep and this year joined 1800 ewes to Dohne rams. The ewes, which lambed in June and July, achieved a 102 per cent lambing rate.

At shearing in late March, ewes cut an average 6.4kg of 21-micron wool with the weaners averaging 3kg of wool testing 19 micron. Wool prices averaged 735c/kg greasy.

Depending on the season or the market, the Hammonds sell their wethers as store lambs or carry them on themselves to fatten on crops. This year wether lambs were sold off shears in April for \$140. Body weights averaged 35kg.

According to the Hammonds, the benefits of the Dohne are numerous, including increased fertility and meat yield.

"They are a very easy-doing sheep with much higher body weights than the Merino, although slightly less wool cut," Peter said. "The quality of the wool is just as good, if not better."

"Having Dohnes has allowed us more options with the added benefits of more lambs to wean."

The Hammond's flock is classed by Chris Bowman and marketed by agent Randal Grayson of Forbes Livestock.