

Upfront News

Uardry ram wins Riverina crown

A RAM from the Sims Uardry Merino stud at Hay with a long loin has won the coveted title of the Elders Riverina Ram of the Year Award, judged last Friday.

The competition, held as part of the Riverina Merino information day held at Conargo last week, attracted 10 rams to be judged by Charinga Merino stud principal, Roger Polkinghorne, St Arnaud, Victoria, and was the highlight of the one-day field day.

The Sims Uardry ram, 7.719, was placed first ahead of the rams from the Boonoke Merino

By LIZ MECHAM

stud, Conargo, and the One Oak Poll Merino stud, Jerilderie, ram.

Mr Polkinghorne said despite the winning ram being at the "high end" of fleece measurements with 21.5 microns, his "big long body" covered in "very bright and very lustrous" wool with "safe and sound" conformation put it ahead.

"I really like that type of sheep in our industry. He has plenty of wool with

a long staple and deep crimping wool with a long loin ... and that's where the money cuts are," he said.

This year's Riverina Merino information day featured industry speakers, notably Australian Wool Innovation's Stuart McCullough talking about mulesing.

Riverina Merino president, Richard Cannon, Hazeldean Merino stud, "Rosevale", Hay, said this year's event was about unravelling the issues of the wool industry by providing commercial producers with information about mulesing, sheep benchmarking and genomics, and what customers want from the wool product.

It also hosted the judging of the Merial Noel Reid Memorial Young Riverina Ambassador of the Year Award won by 20-year-old, Amelia Wyatt, of the Avenel Merino stud, Wanganella, and the Landmark Pennefather Junior Judging Award won by John Porter, 20, from the Hazeldean Merino stud, "Rosevale", Hay.

The Riverina Merino field day is returning to its on-property display roots in 2009 with two days of displays planned for March, with a showcase evening event at Conargo featuring the region's three major industry judging competitions.

■ **More Riverino Merinos,** p54-55.

RIGHT: Winner of the Merial Noel Reid Memorial Young Ambassador Award, Amelia Wyatt, Avenel Merino stud, Wanganella.



Uardry manager, Ben Lane, and the Riverina Ram of the Year, Sims Uardry 7.719, (pictured and on our cover, with judge, Roger Polkinghorne, Charinga Merino stud, St Arnaud, Victoria.