

# Doing it with Dohnes

Murray Drage

## Far Valley Stud Adviser and Classer

It is that time of year again to look into your breeding program. A lot of you have experienced a very good year in 2016 and a very tough 2017 to date and with the outlook for meat and wool looking very strong it is important to remember the profit drivers in your sheep business. Fertility, growth, wool, and low maintenance are all critically important in balance with your environment and farming system. Animals that can perform when it is tough and then turn around and make the most of conditions when they are good make for good returns year in year out. Identify your aims and use them in long term genetic selections.

For several years now Far Valley have been selecting for those longer stapled, better nourished wools to handle the dusty stubbles in mixed farming systems while forever improving wools to handle the demanding high rainfall areas. There is never a compromise at Far Valley on structure, fast growing, meaty animals that they are well known for. Do yourself a favour and get along and have a look as these genetics, they are of the highest quality.

Please feel free to contact me on  
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## Far Valley Sale Day

16th Annual On Property Sale  
Wednesday 13th September  
Inspection from 10am  
Rams penned from 10am  
**130 Rams Selected**

**1,000**  
*Specially selected mixed age purebred Commercial Dohne ewes*  
**500**  
*Specially selected Dohne ewe lambs, June/July drop*

**The Dohne is bred to combine prime slaughter lamb production and fine, white wool**



## Adaptability

*Dohnes easy care features include:*

- Excellent confirmation
- Plain body
- Bare Breech
- Clean face
- Higher fleece rot and fly strike resistance
- Small, vigorous lambs for easy birthing
- Have the ability to cease mulesing

## Welcome to our 2017 news update

As usual, Far Valley has continued its 8 year trend of gradually raising wool cuts on their Dohnes to bring the WPP% (Wool Production Potential) up to 5.6. Whilst its taken quite a few years, its starting to pay dividends, with the help of higher wool prices.

The Commercial success of our clients, remains upmost in our mind at all times and with a large Commercial flock ourselves, it makes it easier for us to test and measure the performance of our Commercial ewes.

High Fertility, excellent milking ability and the fast robust growth of our lambs enable us in most seasons to finish the majority of the male portion of the lamb drop and sell as sucker lamb. Add the 5 year average woolcut of 5.35 kgs and rising, of 19 micron wool and we have a ewe that has the capability of making the Commercial grower a very good return on investment.

Last years ewe lambs when shorn in April cut an average of 3kgs, 18.3 micron and 80mm length and sold for over \$13.00/kg greasy.

Have mated those ewe lambs and they are lambing as we speak. Mated entire drop and achieved 58% in lamb at preg testing. A great result really.

**You do the sums**

**Wool, Meat = hard to beat !!!**



Far Valley Commercial Flock

Visit us on our Website for more information:-

**www.farvalleydohne.com**

Far Valley Dohne Stud is Brucellosis Accredited and Accredited OJD Vaccinate



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Inspections available prior to Sale Day.  
Please call me to make an appointment at your convenience.



# Doing it with Dohnes

## Improve your Gross Margins with Far Valley Dohnes

The number of head marketed per hectare per annum (turnoff) is the single most important factor that influences flock profitability and gross margin.

**Maximizing the turnoff per hectare involves the following aspects:**

1. **Flock Composition** — Maximum number of ewes in relation to total flock—minimum 60%
2. **Lamb Growth Rate** — The faster the lambs grow, the earlier they can be marketed at better prices, freeing production resources for a higher relative number of breeding ewes. **The early marketability of lambs is therefore the key to higher ewe numbers, more lambs to market and higher profitability.**
3. **Stocking Density** — Maximize turnoff per hectare by carrying the optimum number of ewes for your particular situation. The correct balance needs to be found between ewe productivity and stocking density. Maximizing return per hectare does not equate to maximizing return per ewe. Figure 1 illustrates how stocking density influences productivity per animal. Stocking density must be set a level which will maximize return per hectare from ewes capable of efficient production at that level.
4. **Type of Sheep** — Ewes must be hardy, easy-care and efficient converters of even low quality feed. They must be non-selective grazers. They must have high reproduction rates, good maternal ability for high lamb survival and good milking ability for high lamb growth. Plain bodies and the optimum relationship between wool production and body size. (WPP%) are essential attributes of the type of sheep capable of this level of production under hard commercial conditions. High wool production potential impedes reproduction and growth rate. Fine wool of the highest possible quality will enhance returns.
5. **Managing planning** — Plan lambing time in relation to maximum fodder flow, wean early and consider Feed lotting or marketing to Finishers. Good hygiene and animal health management is important to consolidate success.
6. **Dohnes are the ideal breed with which to maximize profit because:**  
Plain bodies and Easy-care features reduce management and input costs. Vigorous rams can be joined at 2%.  
Excellent conformation, muscling and fat distribution mean that prime lambs fully meet the highest market specifications.  
Dohnes produce high quality Merino wool. Selection over generations for high quality fine wool and resistance to fleece rot and body strike means that maximum value is achieved from the wool component of the enterprise.

# Doing it with Dohnes

***Once again I invite all Clients and Sheep breeders to our Annual Sale held on property on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> September.***

Wow, what a year, February fires, then flood, then no rain for a very long time. Many of us, have spent a lot of time and money to maintain, (or tried to) our sheep flocks condition. I believe that it is money spent wisely, because next year we want our ewes in good enough condition to mate. So a long term view is always best in my opinion, in conditions that most of us have experienced this year. So now it rains and has filled our soils profile, so hopefully with a good spring all can get back to normal.

This years Rams are looking good, albeit slightly smaller, but I guess that is to be expected. If any of you wish to inspect the rams prior to sale, please just ring and we can organise a suitable time for us both.

A point of interest is that one of our main sires (140350) has moved to second place on the Dohne index. He has great width and length of body, and a lovely long staple, high yielding white wool. He also has a very high EMD, which he is throwing in his progeny. As he has more lambs, his index just keeps on going up.

Wishing everyone a good finish to 2017,

Cheers

David

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