

The official journal of
Mohair Australia Ltd. Serving
breeders of angora goats &
producers of mohair

ABN 40 008 585 135



**March
2021
Mohair
News**



Mohair Australia Ltd. Mohair News

National Executive

President

Nick Gorrie
0409 129 123

Vice President

Grant Forsdick
0408 205 048

Secretary/Company Secretary

Sue Jordan
08 9574 7090 or 0409 743 968

Treasurer

Nick Gorrie
0409 129 123

Kimberly Barrett
0427 654 678

Rowan Ross/Youth Portfolio
0467 816 178

Registered Office and Correspondence

Mohair Australia Ltd
PO BOX 248
MUNDARING WA 6073
email: mohair@mohair.org.au

Herd Book Registrar

Doug Stapleton
0408 681 610
email: dougstapleton@bigpond.com

Newsletter Editor

MAL Board
email: mohair@mohair.org.au

Division/Region

New South Wales

Division President

Reg Scott
430 Montpelier Drive
THE OAKS NSW 2570
phone: 02 4657 2293
email: gillreg@bigpond.com

Eastern Region

Reg Scott
THE OAKS NSW
phone: 02 4657 2293

Central West Region

Doug Stapleton
email: dougstapleton@bigpond.com

Hunter Region

Secretary

Sandie Smith
200 Lindsay Road NORTH ROTHBURY
NSW 2335
phone: 02 4938 7536
email: inwood-s@bigpond.net.au

Riverina Region

Peter Simpson
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
phone: 02 6921 1271

South Eastern Region

Sue Bell
477 Kameruka Lane
TOOTHDALE NSW 2550

Queensland

Division President

Jacob Stevens
Wheatvale QLD 4370
mobile: 0429 696 842
email: charlyangorastud@gmail.com

South Australia

Division President

Don Carter
PO Box 65
MOONTA SA 5558
phone: 08 8825 3529
email: lynne.don37@bigpond.com

Tasmania

Division President

Eian Rayner
Elonera Angora Stud
123 Vermont Rd
MOWBRAY TAS 7248
mobile: 0409 423 476
email: moderngame@westnet.com.au

Victoria

Division President

Margaret Nicholls
Post Office
SEASPRAY VIC 3851
phone: 03 5146 4564

East Central Region

Margaret Nicholls
PO SEASPRAY VIC 3851
phone: 03 5146 4564

North East Region

Geoff James
1185 Mansfield-Whitfield Rd BRIDGE
CREEK via MANSFIELD VIC 3723
phone: 03 5776 9585

Western Australia

Division President

Aaron Foster
1377 Lower Hotham Rd BODDINGTON
WA 6390
phone: 0437 445 871
email: goldcreekfarm@hotmail.com

Mohair Australia Ltd Bank Details

Mohair Australia Ltd
BSB 062 583
Account 1011 0481

EDITOR'S NOTES

The month of March is well and truly upon us. As NATS was cancelled for this year the Board decided members could advertise breeding stock in this issue which is the reason for a number of Sale Animals included in this issue.

The article Birthing Sweet shows a different approach to the management of lambing ewes and highlights the gains that can be achieved using an intensive lambing system. Most lambing happens in the paddock and farmers accept percentages of around 80-90% lambs at marking time. Research done some years ago suggests farmers are not including all the lambs that hit the ground in their calculations. Twins are quite common in sheep flocks, just as they are in goat herds. There are two schools of thought regarding management of Angoras at kidding; paddock versus intensive. Many Angora breeders use an 'intensive kidding system' as it assures better kid survival rates. Depending on the number of multiple births, kidding percentages in Angora's can be up to 150% or higher. Paddock kidding, on the other hand, is less intensive but the percentage of live kids drops down to around or below what sheep farmers accept as "normal". There is no right way or wrong way, it's a matter of personal choice. Membership fees are due in by the end of the March. As has been previously noted, plus it is on the renewal form, you are required to send (email, post or fax) the renewal form to the Office at time of payment. If you have misplaced your renewal form, you can access the form from the website.

**Warm Regards,
Kimberly**



VALE

*Margaret
'Peggy' Boyce*

of Rosemar Angora Stud
409 Steel Rudd Rd.,
Greenmount Qld 4359

It is with great sadness that the members and friends of the Queensland Division of Mohair Australia acknowledge the passing of Peggy on the 15th of January. A service was held at the St. James Anglican Church, Toowoomba, with a graveside service held later in Charleville.

Peggy along with her husband Noel, bought their first angora does in 1977 from both Mr Jim Crook and Mrs Alma Bode when the breed society was called AMBA. In these days, Peggy and Noel were some of the real pioneers of the industry. Peggy became the Vice President of the South West Region QLD in these days, organising

many information and field days to promote Angoras/ Mohair.

Whenever possible, Peg would wear clothing made from Mohair to also promote Mohair. Also whilst still living at 'Ambaville' Charleville, Peggy attended many shows from - Barcaldine - Blackall - Longreach to Stanthorpe (Show and Sale in February every year) and even the Ekka. By 1988, Peggy and Noel moved to Greenmount.

As Peggy's health started to decline and she was not physically able to handle the angora's anymore, she gradually stepped aside from the management of the stud.

Peggy will be remembered as a wife, a mother and a pioneering women of the western Queensland within the Mohair industry. We send our love and sincere sympathies to Noel and their three children from the members of the Queensland Division of Mohair Australia.

Current Membership fees

Please note that all fees include a copy of this quarterly "Mohair News"

Breeder	\$130
Commercial	\$80
Trader	\$130
Education	\$55
Ordinary	\$50
Junior	\$10

Membership fees are due in by the end of the March. As has been previously noted, plus it is on the renewal form, you are required to send (email, post or fax) the renewal form to the Office at time of payment.

If you have misplaced your renewal form, you can access the form from the website.

FRONT COVER

Juliana and Jeff Neve with Ron Harris and GT Ferreira at the NATS 2010 Dinner at the Goulburn Brewery Steam Mill Restaurant winning the prestigious 10kg kid mohair trophy and the \$1,000 cheque from SE Region MAL members.

DISCLAIMER

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REPRINTS of articles from "Mohair News" are welcome, provided the Editor receives courtesy communication and the "Mohair News" is acknowledged.



National President Report

5th March 2021

The Covid 19 situation has caused some major disruptions worldwide however it has presented some new opportunities. We are in for a very exciting period if the recent mohair sale in South Africa is a market indicator because they have had their best sale in 40 years this week. 60% of the small offering clip sold was Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) qualified. Strong demand with good prices and 100% clearance across the total offering.

We have reported separately in this issue on the Angora buck sales from South Africa. It shows two things – sale clearances are 100% the growers want to join as many does as possible and buck prices are reflective of the commercial value of the animals in that country. We print these reports to remind you to use the best bucks available and replace bucks that are not up to a high standard. The cost of using the wrong bucks is more than losing one year of hard work!!!

We are having a Goat Fibre / Mohair workshop with Agri-futures Australia on the 8th April 2021 in Wagga Wagga. It is the day before the upcoming AMMO mohair sale in Narrandera on the 9th April 2021. More details are included in this newsletter and invites will be emailed. We would encourage you to RSVP and attend.

**Please note change
of date 22 April 2021**

I think more than ever we need to rally around trying to sell surplus animals to restockers rather than the abattoir this year. In this issue we have got some great animals and equipment listings that are for genuine sale. Please contact the vendors directly if you are interested. MAL can help by putting together an ad for the Mohair News or Mohair Australia website. We would also encourage you to list them on your facebook page or advertise in main-stream rural media. Growers need to breed / mate all suitable breeding does and sell their good quality surplus animals early because there is strong international demand for mohair this season.

We would also like to acknowledge Juliana and Jeff Neve as one of the top producers in the country that are exiting the industry after selling their property on Friday. We wish them the very best in retirement and hope to continue with their legacy (genetics and knowledge) in shaping the future.

Yours sincerely, Nick Gorrie



Help us shape the future plans of the Australian Mohair Industry?

How do we grow the local mohair industry?

What research, development and extension do we need to complete in the next 5 years?

Open Invitation to ATTEND an ideation, planning and prioritization workshop with the goat fibre industry on 8 April 2021, Wagga Wagga, NSW, and involvement in a subsequent report to AgriFutures Australia in the form of a new five-year RD&E plans that address the needs of the mohair industry.

The aim of this project is to engage the goat fibre levy payers, the industries, and stakeholders, and ensure their RD&E needs are captured, and the subsequent report aligns priorities with future investment.

Change of date 22 April

On the 8 April, we will have a workshop style meeting from 10am – 3pm at Wagga Wagga, CSU campus.

Arrive at 9.30am for a cuppa and catch up, then get underway at 10am.

Propose a 45 min lunch break to support good networking and discussion.

The meeting would be facilitated by an independent provider who can capture and prioritise the issues and needs, and to write from it an RD&E plan that AgriFutures and the industry can use to guide investment over the next 5 years.

Key details :

- Goat Fibre Industry Planning workshop – hosted by Agri futures Australia
- Date : 8th April 2021
- Place : Wagga Wagga Charles Stuart University campus
- Time : 10am to 3pm
- Lunch included. Personal Invites will be emailed. RSVP required.

Sarah Ingold
0437967874
Sarah.Ingold@agrifutures.com.au

Change of date 23 April 2021

Also attend AMMO mohair auction on the 9th April 2021 in Narrandera.

View mohair at AMMO from 9.30am

Lunch at 12pm at Ex Servicemen's Club Narrandera

41, BOLTON STREET, NARRANDERA, NSW 2700

Auction at 1pm at Ex Servicemen's Club Narrandera

Must RSVP directly to AMMO (02) 6959 2988 or admin@ausmohair.com.au



Background

Program RD&E Plans are a key part of implementing the AgriFutures Australia Strategic R&D Plan 2017-2022 and provide an industry-specific basis for our Annual Operational Plan, guiding AgriFutures Australia's investments on behalf of industry stakeholders. These RD&E Plans identify and balance RD&E priorities and outcomes to promote industry productivity, profitability, and sustainability.

To determine the optimum balance of investment in RD&E activities, each levied industry periodically undertakes a strategic planning process in consultation with key industry stakeholders. The outcome of this process is a strategic RD&E plan that identifies the industry's priorities for investment and key outcomes sought for the period of that plan.

The Goat Fibre Program RD&E objectives for 2013-2018 are covered by the objectives of the Animal Industries RD&E Plan:

- 1. Developing new opportunities**
- 2. Stimulate industry partnerships and adoption**
- 3. Increase competitiveness, capability and capacity**



BIRTHING SWEET INDOOR LAMBING AT MERNOWIE

By Kerrie Robertson

It might not have the bells and whistles of a traditional birthing suite, but the “maternity ward” at Marrabel is proving to be a success in post-partum care for Mernowie Poll Merinos. The stud has been able to increase lambing rates to more than 130 percent by bringing their ewes ‘indoors’ at lambing time.

In 2016, David and Paige Rowett and David’s parents Ian and Roz from Mernowie Poll Merinos were hit with 40 millimetres of rain overnight—right at peak lambing time for their artificially inseminated (AI) ewes.

They moved several ewes into a shed to lamb down – and it worked so well, last year they did it on a much larger scale.

The Rowett’s conduct an extensive annual AI program. Split into four, this year it will be boosted about 10 percent and include about 900 ewes in total. In 2020, three mobs will lamb in April with the fourth due in June.

This year capacity will increase by about a third, with extra pens being installed to boost holding capacity from 126 to 170 at any one time.

According to David, despite being “pretty full-on”, the system has numerous benefits.

It utilises a reasonably new multi-purpose shed near the sheep yards, which is also used to store hay, machinery and hold the annual on-property ram sale and it allows them to gain pedigree information on all lambs and prevents mis-mothering.

Divided into small pens, each one is constructed of interlocking panels and has a light layer of bedding straw and has individual feed bins. Water is delivered via a continuous 150mm PVC piping with round hole cut in top for individual access. Straw is topped up as required and again for the second program. Straw is then replaced for the third lambing and topped up as required. A Bobcat will make pen cleaning a lot easier this year.



David Rowett with lambing set-up

How it works

When the first couple of ewes in each AI program start to drop their lambs, the mob are walked into the shed and penned up.

Because they have been synchronised by AI all are likely to drop within five or six days of each other.

“They settle down very quickly in their pens with the odd skittish one culled from the flock.

“Surprisingly, the hardest part has been to get ewes with their lambs to move out of the shed as they have a very strong mob instinct.

“We will use a different system this year. They will return to nearby paddocks via a new doorway at rear of shed to get them back to paddock the quickest way practical.”

Once the lamb has been born, David is able to tag and record the pedigree – a job that he says is much easier to do when the animals are in the individual pens rather than in a mob in the yards or paddock.

It also avoids the need for expensive DNA testing to match pedigrees, which can cost in excess of \$23/head.

Another benefit they have found is they are able to better observe the mothering ability of each ewe when taken out of its natural environment.

“Mernowie ewes are good mothers, the result of over 30 years of selection,” David says.

“Ewes failing to rear a lamb each year will be culled.

“We intend to udder score the ewes this year which will help us identify a few poor milkers which we may also cull.

“Ewes that have multiple births need to have more milk, especially in a year like last year when paddock feed was very light on.”

David says reducing mis-mothering was a major aim at the stud.

“This can happen with large numbers of newborn multiple birth lambs following their mothers to water or shade at the same time,” he said.

“We estimate we are saving at least 10 percent more of the multiple born lambs.

“Given the investment we have outlaid on genetics, this will give us a very good return on current sheep values. Lambing in paddocks with very minimal feed in 2019 would have been disastrous.”



How long in the maternity ward?

Single lambs and their mothers generally spend about half a day in the shed before being walked back to the paddock.

David says twins and triplets spend a little longer in the 'maternity ward' – usually "as long as needed but about two to three days".

"We walk through the shed a couple of times a day for feeding, tagging and shifting any that are ready to go back to the paddock, besides that we keep away from the shed as much as possible," says David.

"In an ideal world you'd have a paddock in the front of the shed that they could meander out into."

The numbers

In 2019, David recorded 132 percent of lambs marked across the 4 AI programs compared to 100 percent in the natural-mated mobs.

While he concedes that figure can be skewed due to the higher number of multiple births in the AI program, he's optimistic it's still a much higher figure than if they ewes had lambed down in the paddock.

"We now achieve much better AI lambing percentages, going from about 60 percent (and often less) to now up to 132 percent and consistently around 100 percent," David said.



"This is largely due to a synchronisation protocol for our AI programs that we have fine-tuned in recent years after extensive on-farm research."

David initially expected the \$25,000 shed investment to pay for itself in three to four years

– now he says it should "easily" do that in three.

"Despite the dry year in 2019 we had serious cold wet weather events during two of the AI peak lambing periods," he said.

"It was very comforting to hear rain on the roof and know that newborn lambs were protected."

Article and Photographs taken from South Australia Merino Annual Directory 2020

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**David Williams on 0419 352 399 or
John Hoorweg on 0428 488 422
email: david@amtMoh.com.au**

To facilitate ease of handling, please all bags into one (or more) bags or a wool pack. Ensure all bags, bales are clearly marked.



RSA Buck Sale Summary

International Stud Update:

Graaff Reinet Angora Buck Sale

The Angora Veldram Auction, which ran under the auspices of The House of Fibre, was held in Graaff-Reinet, on the 28th January 2021.

The ram sale achieved exceptional prices, with the most expensive ram being sold for R61 000 to Angela Research Project from Steytlerville. The ram was bred by well-known ram breeder, Jannie Lategan from Aberdeen.

The auction achieved very good average prices:

Stud rams: R34 000.00

Selected flock rams: R13 600.00

Flock rams: R6 300.00



From Left: Chris Curtain (The House of Fibre), Andre Van Zyl (Auctioneer), Andries Coetsee (Buyer), Jannie Lategan (Seller), Roche Jongkind (The House of Fibre)

Jansenville Angora Buck Sale

The Angora Veldram Auction, which ran under the auspices of The House of Fibre, was held in Jansenville, on the 21st January 2021.

The day was a big success with a 100% of the lots sold. The most expensive lot was sold for R25 000 to Richard Herold. The ram was bred by well-known ram breeder, Roelfie van der Merwe.

The auction achieved very good average prices:

Stud rams: R20 000.00

Selected flock rams: R8 500.00

Flock rams: R5 000.00



From Left: Andre van Zyl (Auctioneer), Chris Curtain (House Of Fibre), Roelfie van der Merwe (Seller)

Reports from the House of Fibre – Facebook page

FOR SALE

Contact: Hilary Day
0417 038 935 | hmday@ozemail.com.au

Koonkie Woorun 1702

Koonkie Woorun Angora Stud, Upper Beaconsfield, Vic



Sire: Champion Ancor 4428
(Registration No 193623)

Available for viewing

FOR SALE

Further enquires contact: Lynne Carter
0408 832093

Lynndon Grove Angora Stud Moonta S.A

Offer 22 × 2018 doe 10 × 2017 does from sire lines of imported South African genetics from Martsyford Stud South Africa.

These animals have been bred for high level of weaving type mohair along with meat qualities. Shorn January 26th Angora goats are dual purpose fibre and meat and with meat prices

better than lamb why wouldn't you purchase quality animals that have both.

\$300 per head will negotiate to mate does to proven Lynndon Grove sires to kid in September 2021arrangement can be made to deliver does.





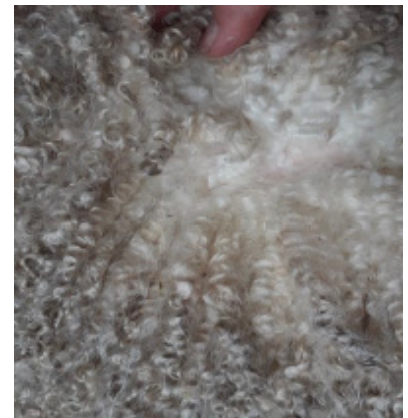
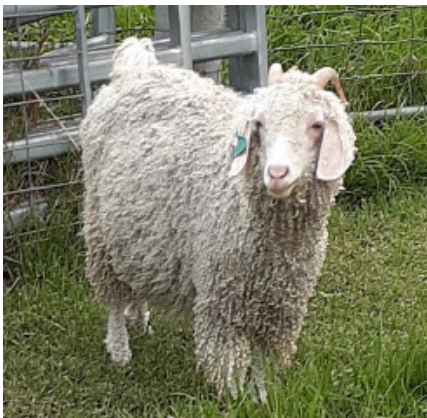
FOR SALE

Contact: Jennifer Readford
0458264672

1902 – Brindella Rachael **DOB: 14/8/19** **HBN: 196323** **WEAVING: 15265A**
Sir: TRE 12152 **Doe: Brindella Miley – 1402** **Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 24.9mic**

This is a nice young doe carrying her third fleece. She will be an asset to any breeding program into the future, she has a fine even fleece and a strong body structure. Brindella Rachael also has a pink weaving tag.

Price \$400.00



1907 – Brindella Regina **DOB: 20/8/19** **HBN: 196326** **WEAVING: 15259A**
Sir: TRE 12152 **Doe: Brindella Miriam – 1405** **Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 28.3mic**

A strong robust doe carrying her third fleece will be an asset to any breeding program. Grown well for her age. Brindella Regina has a pink weaving tag.

Price: \$400.00



FOR SALE

Contact: Jennifer Readford
0458264672

1801 – Brindella Queena **DOB: 2/9/18** **HBN: 195488** **WEAVING: 14275**
Sir: TRE 3-67 **Doe: Stud Doe – 044** **Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 33.5mic**

A big strong doe carrying a large amount of lustrous fleece for this shearing. Will produce strong kids in any breeding program. Brindella Queena has a pink weaving tag.

Price: \$400.00



1822 – Brindella Qi **DOB: 23/9/18** **HBN: 195506** **WEAVING: 14287**
Sir: TRE 3-67 **Doe: Brindella Nerissa – 1524** **Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 30.6mic**

This is an exceptional doe, she has a large upright frame that carries beautiful fleece, even from front to back. This doe would be an asset to any breeding program. Brindella Qi carries a weaving pink tag.

Price: \$400.00





FOR SALE

Contact: Jennifer Readford
0458264672



1715 – Brindella Payton

DOB: 3/9/17 HBN: 195425

WEAVING: 011610

Sir: TRE Charisma

Doe: Brindella Malena – 1401

Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 34.4mic



1718 – Brindella Peggy

DOB: 14/9/17 HBN: 195426

WEAVING: 011623

Sir: TRE Charisma

Doe: Brindella Lola – 134

Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 29.2mic

Both these does produced strong healthy kids last season. They are both robust large framed does that can produce fibre and kids into the future. These does carry the weaving pink tag.

Price: \$250.00 each

Reminders

* Membership fees are due now. A form is available on the website. Please remember to send a signed form to the Company Secretary.

* If selling or moving goats you need to be using the 2021 Goat NVD. 2020 NVDs are out of date!

FOR SALE

Contact: Jennifer Readford

0458264672

1602 – Brindella Owena DOB: 8/8/16 HBN: 194261 WEAVING: 08885A

Sir: TRE Charisma Doe: Brindella Loretta – 1307 Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 28.8mic

1603 – Brindella Osanna DOB: 8/8/16 HBN: 194262 WEAVING: 08884A

Sir: TRE Charisma Doe: Brindella Lizbeth – 1308 Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 32.2mic

1604 – Brindella Olivia DOB: 8/8/16 HBN: 194263 WEAVING: 08883A

Sir: TRE Charisma Doe: Brindella Louisa – 1320 Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 34.5mic

1609 – Brindella Obelia DOB: 10/8/16 HBN: 194267 WEAVING: 08881A

Sir: TRE Charisma Doe: Brindella Lora – 1310 Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 31.3mic

1614 – Brindella Ophelia DOB: 20/8/16 HBN: 194269 WEAVING: 08875A

Sir: TRE Charisma Doe: Brindella Lottie – 1322 Last Micron test 20/11/20 – 29.5mic



Five does born 2016, all have produced healthy strong kid's last season. These girls are all robust well grown animals with more years of production in them. These does all carry a weaving pink tag.

Price: \$200.00 each



DISPERSAL SALE

Contact: Juliana Neve

02 6383 6148

ACCREDITED WEAVING FLOCK

KOORANA ANGORA STUD and commercial animals

Stud sires, breeding does, maidens and weaned kids.

Also husbandry items, tattoo equipment, air operated hoof trimmers, classing tables, double bin wool press, long feed troughs, large lick feeder, head bales, 2 x fibreglass plunge dips, Fox lights, solar electric fencing, Hayes sheep/goat handler, goat float and other items



Tasmania Division Report

Life in beautiful Tasmania has started to be a busy time.

It has started with Goatfest, a promotional day, with four goat breed societies coming together to promote all aspects of breeds and keeping. A very successful day raising almost \$1,600 from donation tin and \$900 to Cancer Council (Tas) food stall. Money raised from donation tin goes to cost of running our 4 breeds show and a stand at Agfest in May.

Goatfest was held at Longford showground (Northern Tasmania) for the first time, being a great success at a new venue.



The next on our calendar was the 4 breeds show held at Deloraine showground with almost 200 animals being shown.

The next event is in May, being Agfest, sharing a stand with the other breeds again at this very large ag display.

Our annual Angora/Mohair show was held at the Deloraine venue, well supported by our breeders.

A great day was had by all with Mrs Audrey Gaffeny, who with her husband Bill were top breeders and exhibitors, agreed to judge our show. Many thanks to Audrey. Her comments were "that a very good line up of animals was presented with the Supreme Exhibit having a nice even coverage of mohair from head to tail".

A thank you to Mary Orledge for being Chief Steward and photographer on the day. Congratulations to all winners.

After Agfest we have both our Royal Shows. Launceston Royal being held at a new venue, which is the Agfest grounds and Hobart Royal celebrating 200 years as an Ag Show.

Looking forward to promoting our breed at venues this year.

Eian Rayner

President

Tas Div. Mohair Australia.



Possible Herd Book Expansions

This is a speculative article with the objective of expanding the use of an Angora Herd Book based on the current data base.

Since 1949 the Herd Book has tracked the breeding of Angora Goats in Australia. At the time the Goat Breed Society (essentially a Dairy Goat organisation) had agreed to register (record) Angora goats in an Appendix with a suffix "A" to the Herd Book Number as a separate list of recognised animals. Herd Book Number 1A was Banksia Caesar (FCB 28). Clearly Angora Goats had been present in Australia for a long time but not recognised by a third-party organisation. The objective of the Herd Book was to recognise the very small number of animals and breeding herds. This was a statement of legitimacy.

The "recognised herd" split in 1965 when the Angora Mohair Association of Australia (AMAA) went independent, recording Angoras with their own rules. Meanwhile the GBS continued to record Angoras unit, in 1974, the Angora Council of Australia negotiated a separate Angora Herd Book administered by a new breed society with the name of the Angora Breed Society (ABS) The GBS withdrew from registering Angoras.

The dividing argument was the detail of the record and the product. Dairy registration relied on identifying sire and dam. Litter size and date of birth. Essentially this was easy to record because dairy herds were small and centred on milk production. Kidding was a big event and easy to record. The recording of dairy buck kids was somewhat less important than that of doe kids. Most bucks were put down and there had to be a very good reason to keep entire bucks. Not only were they rarely required but they were large, non-productive (of milk) and rather obnoxious for a large part of the year.

With the Angora breed fleece production was still the main product of the females but bucks (or wethers) still had a role producing fleece. Theoretically Angora flocks were larger. In the early 1970's interest in Angora breeding expanded enormously and so recording of entire male progeny from recorded (pure bred) does was financially significant. So began the recording process, first for PB bucks and then the progeny of crossbreeding, where recorded Angora sires were joined to milk or feral does as the beginning of an upgrading process leading to "PB" females of the 5th cross which was agreed to be equivalent to the existing recorded female Angoras. One reason for recording bucks was to "prove" the depth of breeding and to "prevent" breeders selling lesser cross bucks. This upgrading process developed a much expanded population and was only challenged with the importation of first, the Texan Angoras (in 1984), and several years later, the South African genetics. Once these clearly

superior Angoras were available, a new sort of upgrading began.

At the same time another tech revolution was developing. The Herd Book was digitised. During the early 1980's ABRI (and the RASV) copied the paper records to electronic data and ran data cleaning routines which allowed the merging of the ABS and AMAA Herd books in 1983. With some negotiation on specific rules the files were merged, and the Herd Book was administered by ABRI in Armidale using land lines to Orange, then Canberra, then Melbourne as the amalgamated breed organisation HQ moved.

From 1992 crossing to imported Angoras resulted in a manifestly superior Angora. Texan crosses were considerable greasier and heavier in the fleece, and much less kempy. Several years later the Angoras from Zimbabwe and South Africa became available and were used over the Texan cross Australian Angoras. The registration process produced a pedigree tracking the ancestry of sale animals.

Two things happened in the mid 1990's. The emphasis moved to tracking the crossbreeding to Texan and South African animals, and the phasing out of the earlier Australian crossbreeding. The effect on the scoured yield and the kemp content was reported in the National Mohair Pool catalogues of the time. Yields fell to just over 82% and lines of kempy mohair fell to about 20% of the sale catalogues. See Stapleton (2017).

It is of interest that during the 2000's the Angora population moved from Texan crosses to African crosses and this included a move towards ringlet styled fleeces. Pedigrees ran to "unknown" as registrations quoting importations of African animals failed to define ancestry. This was accepted by AMBA/ Mohair Australia which recognised animals from Africa. It should be noted that South African breed rules identify stud, drop year and individuality ids without parentage ids.

So, in 2004 breeders had the option of "on-line" registration through an email link to ABRI but needed to postal application to record transfers. Things were changing quickly in the world of computing and costs were dropping rapidly. The Mohair Australia Board withdrew from the costly registration process with ABRI and Steve Roots and I worked to set up a totally on-line system at minimal cost to breeders. The idea was that costs of administration could be shifted to breeders who could work to record their own data processing. So, from 2005 to 2019 recording and transfers were entered by the breeder. There was an effort to include performance recording, again with breeder data entry. It was planned that this system would link to individual animal's pedigree but perhaps this was premature since breeders were unconvinced of the efficacy of the genetic analysis and there was little support for the

combined process. My own analysis of the index failed to provide a convincing story, so the concept was discontinued.

In 2017 the incoming Board approved a re-write of the Mohair web site including the Herd Book and completed in 2020. Perhaps it is of interest that in 2005 when we received a copy of the ABRI data we found that the data was structured as a relational database accessible by the Microsoft Access and Sequel interpreters. Chris Davis, the programmer who worked on the Mohair Australia Herd Book system in 2005 was again contracted to up-date the system but it took a long time and was carried out "live" as opposed to a structured backroom model method of development and testing before a transition.

Unfortunately, this rebuild was slow and filled with bugs. However, the new version does have some useful features. Notably the "back button" works and clicking an entry takes you there.

There has been a call for additional features in the Herd Book. The Polled character is one but there is also the Weaving character, SRS type, Heritage (old Australian) type and even back crossing. This raises the question of why we record at all, and can the system help breeders make decisions about breeding values? Traditionally a Herd Book entry recorded the eligibility to be part of the "purebred" population. This was important when there was a high demand for breeding stock and much crossbreeding or upgrading producing at least initially, many inferior animals.

When the imported Angoras arrived the registration process provided a third party acknowledgment of the ancestry or source of the animal involved. No doubt, the pedigree was important for sales especially when sales were to now breeders. Of course, for shows a Herd Book Certificate was required by most major shows (but not all). Such a requirement was tacit support from show organisations for the Breed organisations philosophy. "We'll support you and back your system if you support our shows."

Now there has always been a difference between stud methods and commercial production. Various methods have been developed ranging from individual registration, flock or herd registration, annual reports, and base flock start-up qualification (as in the South African stud system). The annual report system has some merit, but it has always been difficult to get breeders to do it. It was also found to be difficult to interrogate such a system. In Angoras there is the further difficulty that cross breeding to non-fleece producing "breeds" was a "danger". This was not the case with Alpacas, and one might argue that crossing to other fleece breeds of sheep was a somewhat more subtle affair as was crossing beef cattle breeds.

So how can recording "type" assist the Angora breed or provide additional information to breeders? It has been argued that breeders with adherence to a type should run their own Herd Book. Thus SRS, Weaving type, Heritage Angoras and Polled breeders could all have different data bases with different breed rules and descriptions. Well true, but is that necessary? After all these are (with the possible exception of SRS) "yes/no" descriptions – animals either compliant with the type, or not. The type could be coded for by a letter code on the Herd Certificate. This could be a separate field or included in the name or HBN. A field could be "controlled" (once used and then un-editable by the breeder), or uncontrolled which includes the letter codes in the name or separately printed under the name.

One could argue whether the breeder should be able to edit data, or not. Obviously, the industry would need to understand what the codes mean. Whether or not descriptions could be printed at the bottom of the Record form and Transfer form would need to be decided. It remains to be seen if the type character is repeated in a pedigree and this might well influence who decides that a code is valid. Obviously a "P" for polled is a fixed character but an SRS might not be. Can an animal be a little bit SRS or a lot SRS? Even a W (for weaving) might be a matter of opinion in later fleeces or older animals. Then there is the matter of compliance – do breeders "have to" record the type?

The questions are: If we add a coding facility, will people use it? Will it help? Could it be misused?

We already have a working model in the Herd Book. Using the Polled Angoras we can see how it could work on a wider scale. Attached is an Animal Record Form for Dauson 902 (POLL). In this case the breeder has identified animals in the pedigree as "POLL". If the breeders involved have been consistent the source of the Polled Gene is Dauson 448 which passed the gene to Dauson Prophet (POLL) and he to Dauson Federer (POLL).

D. Prophet (POLL) passed the same gene to Yarran Park Poll 2037 but he has not passed it to Dauson 578. Dauson 902 (POLL) however received the gene from D. Federer (POLL). As a single poll (Pp) the process has not produced a double poll combination which perhaps might have conferred the intersex character.

It can be seen that all the polled animals in the pedigree carry the same copy of the P gene.

Doug Stapleton



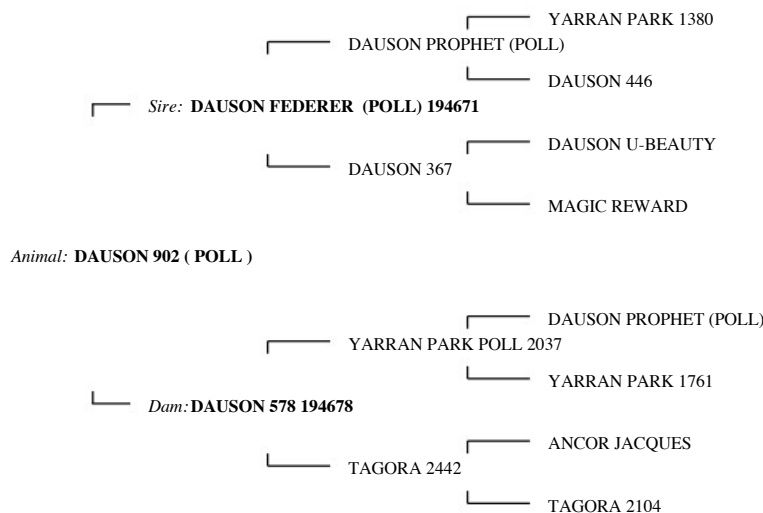
Mohair Australia Ltd. Mohair News

Mohair Australia Limited Animal Record Form DAUSON 902 (POLL)

Issued 11/01/2021

(This statement indicates that the breeder has amended the data displayed to correct original errors)

Herd Book Number: 194685
 Sex: Female
 Tattoo: A2031 902
 Birth Date: 18/08/2017
 Breeder: DAU, GRAHAM
 Current Owner: DAU, GRAHAM



Numbers of progeny from this animal recorded with Mohair Australia Limited
 - 0 Males
 - 0 Females

The production of this Animal Record Form certifies that the animal is recorded in the Mohair Australia Limited Herd Book. This form is not a transfer and does not entitle non members to record progeny from this animal. Members may request the breeder or vendor of this animal to transfer it to them with the issuing of a Herd Book Certificate thus allowing the recording of progeny in the Herd Book.

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website: www.ausmohair.com.au



Mohair Australia Ltd Tasmanian Division
Show: 2021 Annual Tasmanian Angora Show

Venue: Deloraine Show Ground

Judge: Mrs Audrey Gaffney

Chief Steward: Ms Mary Orledge

Trophies

Category	Exhibitor	Entry
Supreme Angora	Elonera Angoras	Elonera 02
Champion Buck	Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 30 Terry
Champion Doe	Elonera Angoras	Elonera 02
Champion Kid	Ranga Wagga Angoras	Ranga Wagga 40 Theo
Champion Fleece	Granary Lea Angoras	Class 12 Hair - Young Buck



Apricot and Pistachio Stuffed Goat Loin - Recipe supplied by Lynne Carter



DETAILS

Servings 4

Prep time: 20 minutes plus 20 minutes marinating

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Ingredients

1 pound goat loin, boneless
¼ cup orange juice
2 tablespoons olive oil
salt and cracked black pepper
2 ¼ cups fresh breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon butter, softened
¼ cup chopped dried apricots
2 tablespoons chopped pistachios

½ teaspoon finely grated lemon rind
1 ½ tablespoons shredded sage

Method

Preheat oven to 350°F. Pound the goat saddles with the smooth side of a meat mallet or rolling pin (this will help to tenderise the meat and give a larger surface area to roll up). Transfer to a plate (skin side down) and pour over the combined orange juice, oil, salt and pepper. Set aside for 20 minutes.

Place the breadcrumbs in a bowl with the butter, apricots, pistachios, lemon rind, sage, salt and pepper. Use your fingers to fully combine.

Drain the goat from the marinade well (reserving the marinade to baste) and pat dry. Place the saddles on a work surface and spoon the stuffing mixture along the middle. Carefully roll over to enclose the stuffing, then truss each saddle with cooking string. Place in a baking dish lined with baking paper.

Brush the goat with the orange juice mixture and sprinkle with a little extra salt and pepper. Bake 20-30 minutes or until cooked through, basting regularly with orange juice mixture.

Remove the meat from the oven and cover with foil. Allow to rest for 10 minutes, then serve sliced with roasted or steamed vegetables.

Mohair Australia Limited

PO Box 248, Mundaring, WA 6073

Secretary - Sue Jordan **p** (08) 9574 7090 **m** 0409 743 968

President - Nick Gorrie **m** 0409 129 123

e mohair@mohair.org.au

w mohair.com.au

