



The Victorian Stud Merino Sheepbreeders' Association Inc.

27 April 2018

Dear Ram Vendor,

AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW MERINO RAM SALE

AT BENDIGO [ACCREDITED MERINO EXPORT AUCTION] - SUNDAY 22nd JULY 2018

The Victorian Stud Merino Sheepbreeders Association and the Australian Sheep Breeders Association - organisers of the Australian Sheep & Wool Show in Bendigo invite you to be a part of the 19th multi-vendor Australian Merino Ram Sale - the first for the season's circuit. Involvement in this Auction provides both International and National exposure for your bloodlines. This is a unique opportunity to place you at the front of this industry showcase.

The Bendigo Merino Ram Sale:

- Will be held on the **SUNDAY of the Show, commencing at 1 pm**
- Will be housed in the Bendigo Exhibition Centre together with all the Merino show sheep once again this year.
- Sale sheep will be sold over the pen.
- You have the choice of two agents – Elders or Landmark.
- Landmark are the duty agents for 2018

Year	Duty Agent
2018	Landmark
2019	Elders
2020	Landmark

- Sheep will be penned in order as determined by the VSMSBA Ram Sale Committee. Getting the order right is always difficult but we will do our utmost to provide a fair and equitable structure for offering your stud stock for sale. All sheep will be penned in order of the gross value of rams sold divided by the number of rams offered over the last two years.
- JD (Ovine Johnes Disease) and Brucellosis accreditation remain the two most important sheep health issues. We ask all entrants to make sure that copies of **Vendor Declarations** and **National Health Certificates** are provided to the VSMSBA prior to the Show.
- Studs are permitted to display EBVs in standard format as appropriate in addition to the normal AWTA fleece test results.

- All studs selling rams have the opportunity to enter (free entry) their sale sheep in the Ram Sale Pairs competition – this is run in two sections – August Shorn and March Shorn classes as below (refer to ASBA Show Schedule for details of entry):

PAIR OF SALE RAMS MARCH SHORN

Proudly sponsored by RASV

- Rams may be horned or polled.
- Cash prize \$1,000 & Champion Ribbon
- Cash prize \$500 & Reserve Champion Ribbon

PAIR OF SALE RAMS AUGUST SHORN

Proudly sponsored by RASV

- Rams may be horned or polled.
- Cash prize \$1,000 & Champion Ribbon
- Cash prize \$500 & Reserve Champion Ribbon

Advertising space is available in the ram sale catalogue for vendors for the cost of \$80.00 incl GST for a full page ad (size 200mm high x 95mm wide) – black & white. Agents and vendors are encouraged to submit photos of sale rams that can then be included on the Agents, Sheep show and/or the Vic Merino website.

The standard and presentation of sheep for the sale in Bendigo is always extremely high. This year's sale will offer vendors an opportunity to promote and offer rams to an ever widening client base in this congenial, high quality venue. The Committee has resolved that entry fees as for 2018 will be **\$85.00 per sheep** - payable to the Victorian Merino Stud Breeders Association (VSMSBA).

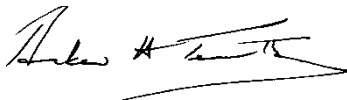
Please note that the closing date for entries is **Friday 15th June 2018** – at time of entry you are only required to declare the number of rams to be entered together with payment and your agent preference. We will require details of the specific rams as soon as AWTA fleece test results are known in early/mid June.

Please make every effort to get your fleece samples taken by your state Association representatives and get them in to AWTA for testing as soon as possible. Only samples taken by your State Association tagging inspectors are valid for the sale – individual breeders are not permitted to sample their own sheep. Special attention must be paid to the size of your samples – particularly March shorn sheep – a minimum sample size of 20gm is required otherwise penalties are applied for additional testing.

The sale catalogue details form will be emailed/mailed to you as soon as we receive your entry.

We value your participation and look forward to your participation at Bendigo this year.

Regards,



**FOR Warren McRae
CHAIRMAN - RAM SALE SUB-COMMITTEE**