

APS – a note on Lambplan data

With the APS sheep, you are looking at a unique product with proven high-performance backgrounds, both in their country of origin and in progeny testing and feed conversion trials we have run here under independent oversight.

Despite that background, you will find Lambplan figures on these sale sheep that do not reflect their actual performance levels. This is not putting any negative aspersions on the Lambplan system which we strongly support and recommend; but is just a statement of fact on how that system works.

Progeny from any animal that does not have linkages within the Lambplan system will have inferior figures as they go back to a base figure rating. A major part of the Lambplan performance figures on any sheep is derived from accumulated ancestral data, which a vast majority of the APS sheep do not have within the Lambplan system.

Because the overall objective of the APS breeding program has been on preserving the strength and genetic integrity of their unique bloodlines, while also testing their actual performance levels under our free-range grazing management systems and fluctuating environmental conditions.

We have occasionally introduced Australian bloodlines with elite Lambplan figures, primarily within our White Suffolk program, yet the APS imported bloodlines have consistently outperformed the better figured sheep by up to 40% in actual growth levels.

Thus, if you are looking for sheep that can give an immediate boost to your Lambplan figures, you will probably be disappointed at this offering. However, if you are seeking actual high performance levels, with the additional benefit of broadening your gene pool, then these sheep present an exciting option.

The scenario of introducing any sheep without verifiable figures into a flock that has high Lambplan figures on most of their stock, will bring a much more rapid figure correction than in the scenario we have faced at APS. From the evidence we have experienced first-hand, we are very confident the progeny correction from introducing these APS -genetics will be upwards.