

Only the best at Balmattum

By EMMA OLIVER

WHEN stud farming is a quest for perfection, Richard Boadle, farm manager of Balmattum Australian White Sheep Stud, doesn't put any rams up for sale that he wouldn't have in his own paddock.

This means that buyers can be confident on attending the stud's on-farm sale that all ram lambs going under the hammer will be premium quality.

A line-up of 30 rams will be going under the hammer in

October, all sons of Number One (Tattykeel 160459) - a ram who breeds so true to form that Balmattum have no cull progeny from this pedigree sire.

"Number One is the son of Leader, the most influential ram at Tattykeel at the time, who was sold for the then record price of \$38,000," said Richard.

"It was in the midst of the drought in 2017 - when farmers were more looking to offload their stock - that Leader went to auction.

"The resulting record was

indicative of industry excitement about the breed and the potential of Aussie Whites - they really are the breed of the future.

"When you've got a breed that has an exceptionally fast growth rate and farmers can turn-off a carcass very quickly, you're already on a winner.

"Combine this with the breed's shedding ability - particularly when shearers are so hard to find - and the Aussie White becomes even more attractive as an alternative.

"But then take into consideration the quality of the

meat, and the superior flavour and marbling, and it's no surprise that Aussie Whites are the way the industry is heading.

"We believe so strongly in the breed that our motto has become 'Quality Aussie Whites at affordable prices'.

"We pride ourselves on providing accessibility to top-quality genetics."

The genetics are so good in this May drop of ram lambs, that there are four strong contenders for top ram, with even Richard finding it difficult to determine which ram

- or rams - the stud will keep.

Number One has produced such a stellar line-up of progeny, that Richard reckons it would be hard to differentiate the rams in a carcass competition.

"They have such a well-developed hind quarter, with a twist in the muscle, providing this great depth and width that they would win the competition," he said.

"Their conformation is outstanding."

In regards to shedding, Number One is a generation ahead of others in the breed,

which is reflected in all the lambs he has thrown.

"Temperament-wise, he's very quiet, and we've found all his sons to be easy-handling," Richard said.

"He was an amazing investment, and is rapidly asserting himself as a foundation ram for the Balmattum herd."

With dams from Tattykeel, Campden Park and some Balmattum-bred beauties, the October line-up of ram lambs are an investment in the future, with all sheep going under the hammer wearing the blue tag of authenticity to the breed.



WHITE GOLD: Balmattum's 2021 inaugural ram sale was a huge success, with this year looking to be bigger and better with up to 30 rams going under the hammer.

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