2016 Joining - Sire Entries – NOW OPEN

Have you ever wondered why some animals consistently perform year in and year out whilst others fade with time? Are there any factors that might help us to better predict superior lifetime performance at young ages? With the growing influence of the lamb industry on Merinos, what’s the impact of selecting for growth, reproduction and carcase traits on lifetime wool productivity? Do animals selected on breeding values at a young age have better lifetime productivity?

An exciting opportunity exists for ram breeders to be part of the Merino Lifetime Productivity project that aims to answer these and many more industry questions. A partnership between AWI and AMSEA will see sires entered into four standard sire evaluation sites and all their ewe progeny retained for annual joining, classing and lifetime assessment.

Would you like to nominate your top sires, good all-rounders, trait or index leaders, good doers or show winners in this important trial?

The sites will operate like a standard sire evaluation site – following the rigorous and independently assessed measured and visual assessment protocols. At the conclusion of the standard sire evaluation (generally once progeny are between 18 and 24 months of age) AWI will support the ongoing measurement and visual classing of all ewe progeny through 4-5 joinings and annual shearings. The number of ewes joined to each sire will be increased to 90 ewes to ensure that there will be sufficient ewe progeny numbers throughout life.

Entrants at these sites will receive a full range of results; extensive professional classer assessed performance and within site breeding values as well as ASBVs. Regular field days will be held at sites for ram owners to inspect their sire’s progeny, receive updates on the progress of the project and network with fellow Merino producers.

The broader aims of the Merino Lifetime Productivity project are to:

- Validate the current breeding value technology across sheep types and environments
- Where necessary, provide the evidence and data such that current systems can be enhanced to more accurately predict lifetime productivity.
- Provide the industry in a commercial environment the cost benefit relationship of measuring multiple adult traits throughout the lifetime of an animal.
- Provide a substantial amount of reproduction records to the MERINOSELECT database, allowing the industry to more accurately assess the relationship between all the components that make up lifetime productivity.
- Provide a common focus for a wide range of ram breeders with differing breeding philosophies.

We are looking for a range of sires to join in 2016 – and are taking nominations now. Sire entry will incur standard sire evaluation entry costs which range between $2500 - $3000 depending on the site.

Interested?
- Fill in the attached nomination form and return by 20\(^{th}\) of November
- If selected – have 92 doses of semen available (the project will purchase at $10 per dose semen beyond that which is normally be required for a standard sire evaluation trial)

Need more information?
- Please pick up the phone and call either Ben Swain, AMSEA Executive Officer on 0427 100 542 or, Anne Ramsay, Merino Lifetime Project Manager on 0400 368 448.
2016 Sire Nomination Form

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________

Please list sires in order of priority for entry:

**SIRE 1**
Stud/Flock Name: ______________________________________
Sire Identification: ______________________________________
Sire 16 Digit ID: ______________________________________
Is semen currently available: YES NO

**SIRE 2**
Stud/Flock Name: ______________________________________
Sire Identification: ______________________________________
Sire 16 Digit ID: ______________________________________
Is semen currently available: YES NO

**SIRE 3**
Stud/Flock Name: ______________________________________
Sire Identification: ______________________________________
Sire 16 Digit ID: ______________________________________
Is semen currently available: YES NO

☐ I have read and am willing to complete and sign the AMSEA Sire Entry form as well an Entrant Agreement (*please tick)*?

*Please complete and return to Anne Ramsay by fax (02) 6743 2307 or email stenhouseconsulting@bigpond.com, nominations close 20 November 2015*
Entrant Agreement

Please complete and return once accepted into the project

The Merino Lifetime Productivity Project is designed to collect data and examine lifetime productivity on progeny that result from Merino Sire Evaluation trials. These trials are coordinated by the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA) and sites are located across Australia.

In doing so, this 9 year, $3m project, will leverage and value-add to a resource that is already commercially funded by ram breeders, through entry fees and a large amount of in-kind industry support.

The overall design of the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project is to evaluate 3,800 ewe progeny from 120 sires entered in Merino Sire Evaluation trials. The ewes will be measured for a large range of lifetime productivity traits over a period of 6 to 7 years.

Fundamental to the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project is the appropriate analysis and publication of the results. This will be carried out both within each site (within flock), as well as between sites and other sources of information (across flock). As a result, individual sires entered in the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project will have publically reported results published for a wide range of traits.

In order to achieve this effectively, AWI is seeking to retain full ownership, analysis and publication rights of all data that is collected as part of the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project. AWI has granted AMSEA a license to utilise the data for its standard sire evaluation analysis, reporting and publication purposes.

This agreement is intended for owners and breeders (where they are different) of sires entered in the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project.

By signing this agreement, the owner / breeder of the sire detailed below:

1. Approves the entry of the sire in the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project, and
2. Agrees that AWI will retain full ownership, analysis and publication rights of all data collected as part of the Merino Lifetime Productivity Project, and
3. Agrees that the sire entered cannot be withdrawn from publication in either AMSEA Site Reports or Merino Superior Sires (both hardcopy and online) without prior approval of AMSEA, and
4. Agrees to receive communications from AWI and AMSEA. AWI will only use personal information in accordance with its privacy policy at www.wool.com/privacy.

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Please complete and return to Anne Ramsay by fax (02) 6743 2307 or email stenhouseconsulting@bigpond.com
Sire Entry Form

1. Site details for the sire being entered
Site & year being entered: ................................................. Year: .................................................................
Has the sire been genotyped:  Yes  No  Unsure

2. Sire details
Sire’s stud/flock name: ..........................................................
Sire’s identification: .......................................................... Sire’s year of drop: ...........................................
Breed of stud/flock (Merino or Poll Merino. If other breed give details): ..................................................
Sire’s 16 digit code [see sample code below right:]  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __
Is the sire currently alive:  Yes  No
Is semen available for sale:  Yes  No
Sire’s stud/flock code:  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __
Sire’s stud/flock name: ..........................................................
Sire’s stud/flock code: .......................................................... Sire’s year of drop: .............................................
Breed of stud/flock (Merino or Poll Merino. If other breed give details): ..................................................
Sire’s 16 digit code [see sample code below right:]  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __
Is the sire currently alive:  Yes  No
Is semen available for sale:  Yes  No
Sire of sire (16 digit code): [see sample code above right:]  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __
Grand sire of sire (16 digit code): [see sample code above right:]  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __  __

3. Owner details - Owner and contact for enquiries about the sire, plus owner(s) permission
Owner: ............................................................................................................................................................
Contact: First name: ................................................. Surname: ..........................................................
Address: ......................................................................................................................................................
Town: ................................................................. Postcode: .............................................................
Phone: ..................................................................................................................................................... Mobile: .................................................................
Fax: ......................................................................................................................................................... Email: .................................................................

Does the owner of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site:  Yes  No  Initial: .......
Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Merino Superior Sires:  Yes  No  Initial: .......
Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:*  Yes  No  Initial: .......
* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

4. Breeder details - only fill in section 4 if the breeders details are different to the owners details in section 3.
Breeder: ....................................................................................................................................................
Contact: First name: ................................................. Surname: ..........................................................
Address: ......................................................................................................................................................
Town: ................................................................. Postcode: .............................................................
Phone: ..................................................................................................................................................... Mobile: .................................................................
Fax: ......................................................................................................................................................... Email: .................................................................

Does the owner of the sire give permission to enter the sire into this sire evaluation site:  Yes  No  Initial: .......
Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Merino Superior Sires:  Yes  No  Initial: .......
Does the owner of the sire give permission to publish the sires results in Sheep Genetics reports:*  Yes  No  Initial: .......
* If you are an existing Sheep Genetics member, your default Sheep Genetics publication settings for your flock code will be used.

5. Signature of entrant
I believe all the above details to be true: .................................................................................................... Date: .................................................................

6. Stud/flock details – if you are a first time entrant of sire evaluation please provide a short summary of your stud/flock’s history and breeding objective.
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