Merino Lifetime Productivity Project

2017 Sites Ewe Base and Entry Fees - (92 doses of semen required per entry)

**Entry Fees (accounting for AWI funding of 45 doses of semen at $10 per dose)**

- **MerinoLink**  cash cost = $2,450
- **Pingelly**  cash cost = $2,050
- **New England**  cash cost = $2,050*
- **Macquarie**  cash cost = $2,550**

*Will be confirmed in November, 2016
** Macquarie will join in December 2016 if suitable ewes can be sourced in time

**Number of rams expected to be joined at each site**

- **MerinoLink**  13 sires
- **Pingelly**  15 sires
- **New England**  15 sires
- **Macquarie**  16 sires

**MERINOLINK – Temora, NSW**

Southern NSW. Moderate winter (slightly) rainfall. 600mm

- **AI date:** 1st week January, 2017, (semen to be delivered by 10th December).
- **Number of entries:** 13
- **Mulesing status:** Progeny to be mulesed with pain relief

**Ewe Base – 4 ewe sources**

**Bluechip Livestock bred ewes**

The Bluechip ewes base goes back to Billandri and Nerstane. The 2011 and 2012 drop are progeny from 3 previous sire evaluation trials, and the 2013, 2014 and 2015 drop ewes are by selected sires and out of the ewes retained from the sire evaluations. All Bluechip ewes have full pedigree and have all been DNA sampled and measured for all AMSEA required traits in addition to older age traits. The Bluechip wool clip has averaged 17.4, 18.2 and 18.3 microns in 2015, 2014 and 2013.

**Purchased in ewes**

Additional ewes have been purchased by Bluechip Livestock specifically for the MLP project from Pooginook, Bundilla, Centre Plus and a commercial Pooginook client. The ewes selected are structurally sound, able to deal with high rainfall events (no fleece rot), between 3 and 5 years of age, have ASBVs (except for the commercial ewes), wool quality standards will not be compromised. Ewe merit (visual and objective) will be evenly distributed across sire groups.

**Pingelly, WA**

Wheatbelt WA. Low Winter Rainfall. 440mm

- **AI date:** Late January, 2017
- **Number of entries:** 15
- **Mulesing status:** Not mulesing
Ewe Base – 2 ewe sources

Commercial ewes - 1105 ewes (some to be classed out)
Bloodline: Moojepin Multi Purpose Merinos
Wool cut: 5kg
Micron: 19.5um
Mature body weight: 60kg (this is an estimate)
Weaning %: ~100% (this is an estimate)

Maternal Efficiency Project – 600 ewes (some to be classed out)
Wool cut: Yearling 3.6kg, Adult 5kg
Micron: Yearling 17.7um, Adult 18.4
Mature body weight: 61.3kg
Weaning %: 110%

New England, NSW

New England Tablelands of NSW, High Summer Rainfall. 700-800mm
AI date: April, 2017
Number of entries: 15
Mulesing status: Not mulesing

The CSIRO Chiswick resource flock (which would comprise approximately two-thirds of a MLP base ewe flock) is a typical commercial superfine/fine wool type, based on local performance recorded studs (most recently Cressbrook and Alfoxton sires, previously T13 and Westvale). The Breech Strike Genetics flock, which would potentially make up one-third of a MLP base ewe flock, comprises historical genetics from many sources, but for the last 5 years has been essentially a superfine/fine wool flock (bulk 70’s quality count, adult ewe mean fibre diameter approx. 17microns), and is physically similar to the Chiswick Resource flock.

While this flock comprises varied genetics, it brings other advantages being that it is deeply pedigreed, comprehensively phenotyped and well linked genetically to industry via MerinoSelect.
Macquarie (Trangie), NSW

Central West NSW, 500mm rainfall evenly distributed

AI date: 3rd week December, 2016 (semen to be delivered by 5th December)
Number of entries: 16
Mulesing status: Mulesing with pain relief

Ewe Base – 2 different ewe types are being purchased specifically for the MLP.
Karbullah Poll Merino commercial bred ewes
Karbullah is a Merino stud focused on producing a dual purpose merino. Karbullah specialise in a Merino with high productivity, superior wool and strong carcass characteristics. Ewes have been sourced from a long term commercial client the Goondiwindi region.

Towalba Merino commercial bred ewes
Towalba Merino stud is renowned for producing highly productive sheep with large frames and productive skins growing soft crimpy wool. Ewes have been sourced from two long term commercial clients in the Warren district.

Ewes from the two bloodlines will be evenly allocated to each sire.