

**Western Division
DAMARA SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
INC**



Damara Sheep In the Rangelands North Of Yalgoo WA

**WELCOME DAMARA GROWERS OF WA
Newsletter July 2010
Editor Matthew Young**

Introduction

The Damara as you all know has played a significant role in the Australian sheep industry since their introduction from South Africa in the mid 1990's. Although the breed has met with a huge amount of unfounded criticism the breed is having a major role in the breeding of composites such as meatmasters and the opportunities it is giving growers in lower rainfall and pastoral areas

There are many Damara characteristics that breeders are looking to introduce into their flocks such as shedding, mothering, herding ability and hardiness. The year has seen again a great deal of interest in the Damara with the lower grain prices and continued good sheep prices

There has been a steady enquiry from wheat growers in the lower rainfall area of WA about how they can get into Damara sheep or sheep in general. A lot of the growers I am talking to had sheep and then about 3 years ago were advised to sell them and finance their cropping program with the proceeds now their financiers and advisers 3 years later are asking how many sheep have they got

So I am pointing out to grain farmers one tonne of wheat will only buy you 2 sheep at the moment so it is really making them think about where they are going, even with today's high prices for sheep there is still a good return, nobody I have spoken to has thought about going in to sheep they have to shear

AGM WESTERN DIVISION DAMARA SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA inc and the WHEATBELT DAMARA GROWERS GROUP inc

Held In Koorda WA Saturday 27th March at 1pm

The following office bearers were elected

President Matthew Young ph 0899568506 [email myoung@ agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:myoung@agric.wa.gov.au)

Vice President Colleen Scally ph 0896841314 [email colleen.scally@cbh.com.au](mailto:colleen.scally@cbh.com.au)

Secretary Len Cargeeg ph 0896851274 [email len.cargeeg@bigpond.com](mailto:len.cargeeg@bigpond.com)

Treasurer Gerry Pauley ph 0896841393 [email g.pauley@bigpond.com](mailto:g.pauley@bigpond.com)

Discussions

John Hall suggested that a Damara sheep photo competition should be held and he would pursue sponsorship for a prize the members endorsed this and John was told to go ahead

Damara Sheep Information Days This was discussed and Matthew Young would look into holding a couple of Damara information days in different areas of the state with assistance from members

CLEAN SKIN SHEEP CONFERENCE AND SALE ADELAIDE FEB 2010

This was a conference for all non wool breeds in Australia this was the first ever conference of this type held in Australia

It was extremely well attended with over 250 delegates (with some people being turned away due to the capacity of the venue) from all states and there was much discussion and networking over the 2 day period

The sale was only a fair success maybe being held at the wrong time of the year It was very noticeable that almost all the composites that were offered for sale had a % of Damara in them

Matthew Young Colleen Scally and Gerry Pauley attended representing the Western Division Damara Growers

MURCHISON SHEEPMET GROWERS GROUP

A public meeting was held in Yalgoo Feb 2010 WA to discuss the idea of forming a Sheep Meat Growers group in the Rangelands of WA

It was decided to form a group and the main issues the growers wanted to be addressed over a period of time are

Improving Breeding	Sheep Handling
Breeding for Markets	Supply Chain Management
Visit Other Stations	Learn from each other
Control Wild Dogs	Animal welfare

A Field day was held at Meka Station Yalgoo 15th July 2010

14stations attended with a total of 41 people attending 2 stock agents attended Primaries and Landmark and the owners of SAMEX abbs(South Australian Meat Exporters) A very informative afternoon was held

Meka stn handling facilities were inspected

Meka trapyard setup inspected

Market Update

Wild Dog control

Supply chain Rangelands to the plate

BBQ and plenty of Sheep talk

NEXT MEETING NALBARA STN MT MAGNET WA EARLY OCT 2010

MARKETS

There is still a very high demand for Damara sheep for the live trade and this looks like being maintained for sometime to come with shippers keen to secure supply

Recently at the Muchea yards in Perth Damara Lambs made \$103 a great price

There has been several inquiries for pure Damara breeding stock to go to the Middle East and also Malaysia I am not sure if any of these orders have been filled but it shows there is interest

There is an enquiry from the NT several years ago some Damars went to the NT this is for a larger number to set up a commercial enterprise

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAMARA INFORMATION AFTERNOON EARLY OCT

**GEMMA CRIPPS MICHAEL TRANT PROPERTY WALKAWAY NEAR
GERALDTON (ALL WELCOME)**

If you need any information regarding DAMARA sheep please contact any of the committee

Any Feed Back Regarding this newsletter and any information for a future newsletter would be much appreciated