



# ALMA MERINOS



*Image: Stud ewes pictured prior to shearing, August 2023*

## SPRING 2023

It has been a challenging year for grazing businesses in NSW, as a combination of climatic and economic factors have posed significant obstacles to operation. At Alma Merinos we have relied on generations of consistent breeding objectives to help manage the health of our livestock and to generate income despite market variability.

During the past summer, Alma experienced widespread flooding, which brought about various animal health issues such as fly strike and high worm burdens. However, thanks to the iconic plain bodies and clear breaches of our lambs, we were able to effectively manage fly waves and mitigate stock losses. Despite the difficult joining conditions, our ewes have continued to perform well, marking over 100% of lambs to ewes joined. Additionally, our wool clip has exhibited outstanding staple length and strength, while remaining free of colour.

In a weakened commodity market, it is crucial to maintain high production levels in order to sustain profitability. Matching your livestock to the environment has never been more important, as it ensures cost-effective production of high-quality wool and sheep. With a wide selection of high-quality rams available, Alma Merinos offers Merino breeders the opportunity to access genetics that have proven to excel in the Western Division and Western Riverina.

We invite all current and prospective clients to view and select from our sale rams on Thursday, September 28th. Please contact us to arrange an appointment and take advantage of this opportunity.

## NEW SIRES

The Alma team constantly monitors the effects introduced genetics have on our stud and flock operations. For the past 20 years, we have been acquiring poll sires from Glenville Merino Stud. We are highly satisfied with the positive influence their genetics have had on the quality of our flocks' wool and body composition.

This year, Alma has purchased an additional 7 poll merino rams from Glenville Merino Stud in Cowell, SA. This purchase reflects our ongoing commitment to breeding animals with fast maturing abilities, plain bodies, and the ability to produce high-quality, long staple wool. These rams, with an average wool micron of 19.5, will assist us in maintaining our objective to breed a medium micron wool while also contributing to an increase in our overall flock fleece weight, crimp style, and colour.

All 7 sires possess exceptional body length, depth, and eye muscle depths, aligning with our goals of producing merinos that can thrive in our environment. We eagerly anticipate observing the offspring produced by these rams when paired with the Alma stud ewes in 2024.



*Image: Glenville Rams purchased by Alma Merinos in 2023*





*Image: Road to Alma Woolshed October 2022*

## FLOODS 2022

The floods experienced in Spring and Summer 2022 were unprecedented, breaking living records at Alma Merinos. The amount of rainfall received during October, combined with an already above-average rain season, transformed the Hay Plains into an inland ocean, covering a significant portion of the landscape. At certain points, we estimated that 70-80% of the station was submerged. Due to the loss of road access to our woolshed for over 3 months, our lambs had to keep their wool on until the late summer. This flooding persisted until the end of February as the water from the upstream reaches of the Lachlan Valley slowly made its way down, spreading across the plains between Hay and Ivanhoe.

Fortunately, we received assistance from Local Lands Services in airlifting a substantial number of ewes and rams from islands that formed along the flooded Merrowie creek. During this challenging time, the community rallied together, and we received offers of help from friends and neighbours for the evacuation. Alma Merinos extends warm gratitude to the individuals who generously dedicated their time and resources to assist us, as well as the government agencies that coordinated the aircraft and funding for the operation.

## FAIR GO SELECTION

Alma Merinos aims to breed a quantity of rams surplus to demand to ensure there is a quality selection for all our clients. It is of utmost importance to us that Alma clients are satisfied with their rams. We strive to ensure that everyone has fair access to a selection of animals that best suit their breeding requirements.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Alma Merinos. We look forward to meeting your breeding needs.



*Image: Andrew Low and William Morphett airlifting ewes*

### ALMA CALENDAR

*Hay September Ewe Sale*

**Fri 22nd September**

*Alma Ram Selection Day*

**Thurs 28th September**

### 2023 SALE RAMS

*Merino and Poll Merino*

*Rams will be available*

**Ram Grades**

**Poll: \$900**

**Horn: \$850**

(GST Exclusive)

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