

Proven - Production - Profit

GREENDALE

merinos

Greendale Merinos Spring 2021 Newsletter

Edition 2



*Pictured – Greendale 2020 Drop Hoggets
Av GFW – 6.5kg, Av micron – 16.5 (whole cohort)*

Newsletter Features:



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Wether Trial Results



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McGufficke - Rabobank
#thankafarmer article

Welcome back to another Greendale Newsletter,

A quick note to mention and to bring a little laugh is Greendale has recently created a Facebook page- and if you are not familiar of who Facebook is really for.... here is a quick (very accurate) run down I was given by my social media expert daughters:

'Facebook' is for those of a youthful age who still have a social life and want everyone to see what pattern was made on their overrated coffee that morning...

Or you belong to the 'Bookface' category - 'Bookface' – the one for those well over the millennial age and for those technologically inept who don't know how to use the 'like' button or even know what a 'like' button is....

As presumed, I accurately fit into the 'Bookface' category so I will be leaving the Facebooking to those in the under 25 category (thankyou girls!!!) So, if are interested in following Greendale's progress and performance make sure to have a look.

<https://www.facebook.com/Greendale.Merinos>



So, whichever category you fit into to (or think you fit into) I'm sure you'll find something.

We have also updated our emailing address –
please contact greendalemerinos2@outlook.com



Contacts:

Phone; Alan McGufficke on 0429448078

UPDATED EMAIL ADDRESS; greendalemerinos2@outlook.com

Social Medias - Instagram at [@greendalemerinos](https://www.instagram.com/greendalemerinos) and now Facebook at **Greendale Merinos**

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial Results 2021

Greendale Genetics Economic Impact and Performance:

Greendale Merinos **consistently proven; high-ranking results** are **unmatched** by any other merino genetic source. Our continuous involvement in entering and measuring in various trials and evaluations clearly emphasises the **substantial impact** and **improvement** Greendale genetics can gain on the **most heritable and profitable traits** of a **commercial merino breeding business**.

The 2021 Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial once again saw teams using Greendale genetics to be the **most economically superior genetic source** for performance and profitability out of the 28 entered teams.

Clients using Greendale genetics ranked as having the **highest average team value** with placings in **1st, 2nd, 6th and 10th**. Teams using Greendale **averaged \$85.55/hd** whilst the overall **trial average** was **\$75.36/hd**.

The **highest average value** was **\$90.53/hd**, also achieved by **Greendale genetics**.

Greendale genetics has retained the **highest profit per hectare** as well as the **highest profit per head** for the **past 15 years** of the Bookham Ag Wether Trial.

With a well-recognised and prominent focus in benchmarking genetics it has driven the growth, profitability and sustainability of our commercial breeding business and our clients merino breeding businesses.

Results from the 2021 Bookham Wether Trial can be found on the pages below.



Pictured – 2020 Drop Greendale Wether Hoggets.

GREENDALE TEAM RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY:

- Greendale Teams received the **highest average team value** out of 28 teams
- Teams using Greendale Genetics **averaged \$85.55/hd**. Trial average was **\$75.36/hd**.
- **Highest average value** of the trial was **\$90.53/hd** – achieved by a Greendale Team
- Greendale has **achieved and retained** the **highest profit per hectare** as well as the **highest profit per head** for the **past 15 years of the trial**.

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial Results 2021

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial 2021

Table 1: Ranked on average team value

ENTRANT	BLOODLINE USED	NO OF WETHERS	GFW	FD	YIELD	CFW	CLEAN PRICE	BODY WT	\$/HD
MCGUFFICKE PARTNERS	GREENDALE	10	9.7	17.8	67	6.2	1511	71.6	\$90.53
AVACO	GREENDALE	9	10	20.3	69.6	6.8	1333	69.1	\$87.05
LEONARD/ KAVENEY	TALLAWONG	10	8.4	17.9	70.8	5.8	1578	69.3	\$86.97
KINGSLEA PARTNERSHIP	GROGANSWORTH	9	9	19.6	74.7	6.5	1347	77.2	\$84.38
R & S HYLES	YARRAWONGA	10	9.1	18.1	65.1	5.7	1516	72.5	\$83.66
S & R MILLS	GREENDALE/ STILLBROOK	9	8.7	18.6	71.2	6	1448	74.4	\$83.58
M & Z GILES	BOGO/ GRASSY CREEK	8	8.6	18.5	71.1	5.9	1479	73.3	\$83.52
AJ & R DAWSON	WINYAR	9	9.7	20.3	70.1	6.6	1267	83.6	\$82.82
PALING YARDS CO	PALING YARDS	9	7.2	17	70.7	5	1747	75.1	\$81.75
MAYFIELD PARTNERSHIP	GREENDALE	7	10	18.5	67.5	6.5	1486	66.9	\$81.05
S R & D WEIR	BOGO	8	7.8	17.9	70.1	5.3	1577	71.1	\$80.10
WERONG	TALLAWONG	8	8.8	18.3	64.6	5.5	1503	74.2	\$79.70
D & R SYKES	BOGO	10	7.4	18.1	72.5	5.2	1545	75	\$76.58
M GAERLOCH PARTNER	GAERLOCH	9	7.9	19.8	75.5	5.8	1359	67.2	\$75.65
G & R ROBERTSON	MIXED	10	7.7	18.5	69.7	5.2	1474	70.1	\$73.55
MARKDALE STATION	LEACHIM/ HAZELDENE	9	8.1	19.4	69.6	5.5	1376	76.9	\$72.79
TINTAGEL PAST CO	SPRINGVALE	9	8	19.2	69.7	5.3	1396	64.1	\$71.79
TALMO PAST CO	BOGO	10	7.6	18.4	68	5	1489	69.6	\$70.87
TALLAWONG	TALLAWONG	7	8.3	17.6	66.7	5.4	1595	68.7	\$70.43
GLENROCK PARTNERSHIP	JOHNSON PARK	9	6.8	17.9	70.8	4.7	1559	72.6	\$70.08
M & K SHANNAHAN	BOGO/ TALLAWONG	8	6.7	17.6	71.6	4.7	1597	72.2	\$69.84
D & J YOUNG	LEACHIM/ BUNDILLA	10	7.4	18.2	67.7	4.8	1517	86.2	\$69.53
BIGGA PASTORAL	GRASSY CREEK	10	7.9	18.1	67.9	5.1	1367	76	\$68.09
BOOROOMBA	BOGO/ TALLAWONG	7	7.6	17.7	68.8	5.1	1615	76.4	\$67.52
M & R GROGAN	CENTREPLUS	9	7.2	18.9	66.3	4.6	1443	80	\$63.91
P & RK MOORE	BLINKBONNIE	7	8	19.2	69.4	5.4	1403	75.7	\$63.34
BOGOLONG	MIXED	9	6.9	19.2	68.7	4.6	1403	74.9	\$61.21
LAVERSTOCK	CENTREPLUS	8	7.3	19	64.1	4.5	1398	79.6	\$59.66
AVERAGES		-	8.14	18.56	69.27	5.45	1476	73.7	75.36

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial Results 2021

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial 2021

Table 2: Ranked on Total Team Value

ENTRANT	BLOODLINE USED	NO OF WETHERS	FD	YIELD	CFW	CLEAN PRICE	TOTAL \$ /TEAM
MCGUFFICKE PARTNERS	GREENDALE	10	17.8	67	6.2	1511	\$905.30
LEONARD/KAVENEY	TALLAWONG	10	17.9	70.8	5.8	1578	\$869.67
R & S HYLES	YARRAWONGA	10	18.1	65.1	5.7	1516	\$836.64
AVACO	GREENDALE	9	20.3	69.6	6.8	1333	\$783.48
D & R SYKES	BOGO	10	18.1	72.5	5.2	1545	\$765.81
KINGSLEA	GROGANSWORTH	9	19.6	74.7	6.5	1347	\$759.41
S & R MILLS	GREENDALE/ STILLBROOK	9	18.6	71.2	6	1448	\$752.20
AJ & R DAWSON	WINYAR	9	20.3	70.1	6.6	1267	\$745.42
PALING YARDS	PALING YARDS	9	17	70.7	5	1747	\$735.78
G & R ROBERTSON	MIXED	10	18.5	69.7	5.2	1474	\$735.55
TALMO PAST CO	BOGO	10	18.4	68	5	1489	\$708.69
D & J YOUNG	LEACHIM/ BUNDILLA	10	18.2	67.7	4.8	1517	\$695.26
BIGGA PASTORAL	GRASSY CREEK	10	18.1	67.9	5.1	1367	\$680.92
M GAERLOCH PARTNER	GAERLOCH	9	19.8	75.5	5.8	1359	\$680.89
M & Z GILES	BOGO/ GRASSY CREEK	8	18.5	71.1	5.9	1479	\$668.13
MARKDALE STATION	LEACHCIM/ HAZELDEAN	9	19.4	69.6	5.5	1376	\$655.12
MAYFIELD PARTNERSHIP	GREENDALE	7	18.5	67.5	6.5	1486	\$648.40
TINTAGEL PAST CO	SPRINGVALE	9	19.2	69.7	5.3	1396	\$646.07
S R & D WEIR	BOGO	8	17.9	70.1	5.3	1577	\$640.81
WERONG	TALLAWONG	8	18.3	64.6	5.5	1503	\$637.63
GLENROCK	JOHNSON PARK	9	17.9	70.8	4.7	1559	\$630.73
M & R GROGAN	CENTREPLUS	9	18.9	66.3	4.6	1443	\$575.15
TALLAWONG	TALLAWONG	7	17.6	66.7	5.4	1595	\$563.43
M & K SHANNAHAN	BOGO/ TALLAWONG	8	17.6	71.6	4.7	1597	\$558.71
BOGOLONG	MIXED	9	19.2	68.7	4.6	1403	\$550.92
BOOROOMBA	BOGO/ TALLAWONG	7	17.7	68.8	5.1	1615	\$540.12
P & RK MOORE	BLINKBONNIE	7	19.2	69.4	5.4	1403	\$506.73
LAVERSTOCK	CENTREPLUS	8	19	64.1	4.5	1398	\$477.30
AVERAGES		-	18.6	69.3	5.5	1476.0	676.94

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial Results 2021

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial 2021

Table 3: Ranked on Average Value divided by DSE

For the 4 teams with 7 sheep, their \$/hd based on the 7 sheep was used for this calculation.

ENTRANT	BLOODLINE USED	DSE	\$/DSE
MAYFIELD PARTNERSHIP	GREENDALE	1.15	\$80.52
MCGUFFICKE PARTNERS	GREENDALE	1.23	\$73.53
AVACO	GREENDALE	1.19	\$73.26
LEONARD/KAVENEY	TALLAWONG	1.19	\$72.99
TALLAWONG	TALLAWONG	1.18	\$68.14
R & S HYLES	YARRAWONGA	1.25	\$67.11
M & Z GILES	BOGO/ GRASSY CREEK	1.26	\$66.27
S R & D WEIR	BOGO	1.22	\$65.52
M GAERLOCH PARTNER	GAERLOCH	1.16	\$65.47
S & R MILLS	GREENDALE/ STILLBROOK	1.28	\$65.33
TINTAGEL PAST CO	SPRINGVALE	1.10	\$65.13
KINGSLEA PARTNERSHIP	GROGANSWORTH	1.33	\$63.57
PALING YARDS CO	PALING YARDS	1.29	\$63.31
WERONG	TALLAWONG	1.28	\$62.47
G & R ROBERTSON	MIXED	1.21	\$61.02
D & R SYKES	BOGO	1.29	\$59.38
TALMO PAST CO	BOGO	1.20	\$59.22
BOOROOMBA	BOGO/ TALLAWONG	1.31	\$58.74
AJ & R DAWSON	WINYAR	1.44	\$57.61
M & K SHANNAHAN	BOGO/ TALLAWONG	1.24	\$56.26
GLENROCK PARTNERSHIP	JOHNSON ROCK	1.25	\$56.14
P & RK MOORE	BLINKBONNIE	1.30	\$55.61
MARKDALE STATION	LEACHIM/ HAZELDENE	1.32	\$55.05
BIGGA PASTORAL	GRASSY CREEK	1.31	\$52.10
BOGOLONG	MIXED	1.29	\$47.53
D & J YOUNG	LEACHIM/ BUNDILLA	1.48	\$46.91
M & R GROGAN	CENTREPLUS	1.38	\$46.46
LAVERSTOCK	CENTREPLUS	1.37	\$43.59
AVERAGES		1.26	\$62.06

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial Results 2021

Bookham Ag Bureau Wether Trial 2021

Table 4: Fibre Diameter and Total Dollar Values for the 3 years

- The difference in DSE value between teams is very solid with this year's data, as all animals have had the opportunity to express their genetics for growth.
- At this stage of the trial, you can use the 3 data sets to look at the relative wool production merit of the teams. Teams that perform well on all the measures have robust performance.

ENTRANT	BLOODLINE USED	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL \$
MCGUFFICKE	GREENDALE	15.5	16.9	17.8	\$1,233.79	\$1,154.10	\$905.30	\$3,293.19
R & S HYLES	YARRAWONGA	15.9	17.4	18.1	\$1,173.54	\$1,083.60	\$836.64	\$3,093.78
AVACO	GREENDALE	17.2	19.1	20.3	\$1,068.71	\$1,142.80	\$783.48	\$2,994.99
LEONARD/KAVENEY	TALLAWONG	15.4	17.2	17.9	\$1,074.23	\$972.94	\$869.67	\$2,916.84
AJ & R DAWSON	WINYAR	17.8	18.8	20.3	\$1,107.09	\$1,016.30	\$745.42	\$2,868.81
D & R SYKES	BOGO	16.1	17.7	18.1	\$1,105.53	\$986.15	\$765.81	\$2,857.49
KINGSLEA	GROGANSWORTH	17.6	18.5	19.6	\$1,039.25	\$1,024.40	\$759.41	\$2,823.06
MAYFIELD	GREENDALE	16	17.3	18.5	\$1,136.88	\$1,000.50	\$648.40	\$2,785.78
S & R MILLS	GREENDALE / STILLBROOK	16.8	18	18.6	\$928.98	\$1,087.40	\$752.20	\$2,768.58
TALMO PAST CO	BOGO	15.8	17.2	18.4	\$1,054.29	\$979.87	\$708.69	\$2,742.85
BIGGA PASTORAL	GRASSY CREEK	16.8	17.8	18.1	\$1,031.00	\$1,012.70	\$680.92	\$2,724.62
G & R ROBERTSON	MIXED	15.9	17.2	18.5	\$1,014.53	\$960.49	\$735.55	\$2,710.57
M GAERLOCH PART	GAERLOCH	17.1	18.6	19.8	\$959.88	\$1,044.10	\$680.89	\$2,684.87
S R & D WEIR	BOGO	16.4	17.7	17.9	\$1,097.50	\$918.37	\$640.81	\$2,656.68
MARKDALE STATION	LEACHIM/HAZELDENE	16.5	18.5	19.4	\$978.43	\$1,005.00	\$655.12	\$2,638.55
M & Z GILES	BOGO / GRASSY CREEK	16	17.6	18.5	\$1,089.01	\$862.15	\$668.13	\$2,619.29
PALING YARDS	PLAING YARDS	15.1	16.7	17	\$987.56	\$882.42	\$735.78	\$2,605.76
TINTAGEL PAST CO	SPRINGVALE	16.9	18.1	19.2	\$926.32	\$988.92	\$646.07	\$2,561.31
WERONG	TALLAWONG	16.3	17.6	18.3	\$974.30	\$925.26	\$637.63	\$2,537.19
GLENROCK	JOHNSON PARK	16.2	17.7	17.9	\$952.91	\$896.55	\$630.73	\$2,480.19
TALLAWONG	TALLAWONG	15.3	16.8	17.6	\$1,101.86	\$729.90	\$563.43	\$2,395.19
BOOROOMBA	BOGO/TALLAWONG	15.8	17.1	17.7	\$1,006.80	\$837.51	\$540.12	\$2,384.43
D & J YOUNG	LEACHIM/BUNDILLA	16.5	17.7	18.2	\$894.39	\$770.61	\$695.26	\$2,360.26
P & RK MOORE	BLINKBONNIE	16.9	18.1	19.2	\$1,005.66	\$829.33	\$506.73	\$2,341.72
M & R GROGAN	CENTREPLUS	17.3	18.2	18.9	\$854.26	\$900.38	\$575.15	\$2,329.79
M & K SHANNAHAN	BOGO/TALLAWONG	15.9	17.2	17.6	\$873.20	\$813.87	\$558.71	\$2,245.78
BOGOLONG	MIXED	17.8	18.5	19.2	\$836.33	\$820.57	\$550.92	\$2,207.82
LAVERSTOCK	CENTREPLUS	16.8	18.1	19	\$843.27	\$762.84	\$477.30	\$2,083.41
AVERAGES		16.4	17.7	18.5	\$1,012.48	\$943.18	\$676.94	\$2,632.60

Sheep Metrix
Greendale Merinos
Genetic Progress Report



Greendale Merinos Genetic Progress Report

Prepared by
SheepMetrix, 6 October 2021

Greendale has been making significant genetic progress with a **five-year average genetic trend of 6.3 index points** compared to the industry average of 2.8 index points (Merino Production Plus).

Greendale Merinos embarked on a journey to capture full pedigree using DNA Parentage testing in 2018. The 2018, 2019 and 2020 drop have all been DNA Parentage tested. All the ram progeny in 2018 and 2019 were 50K Genomic tested and in 2020 both ewe and ram progeny were 50K Genomic tested.

Moving forward Greendale Merinos will be 50K Genomic testing all progeny to **maximise the accuracy** of the Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) as a selection tool and to **capture the benefits of genomics to predict hard to measure traits**, such as inter muscular fat (IMF) and later in life traits such as adult clean fleece weight (ACFW) and reproduction.

Figures 1 and 2 show the trajectory of Greendale Merino's breeding program and the McGufficke family's commitment to breeding productive performance measured Merinos.

Table 1 presents the trait and index improvements for each year drop and the direction of the breeding program. Moving forward with the 2021 Reserve Ram Team which rank in the TOP 1% and TOP 5% for micron, clean fleece weight and the MP+ and FP+ indexes.

Sheep MetriX
Greendale Index Trajectory

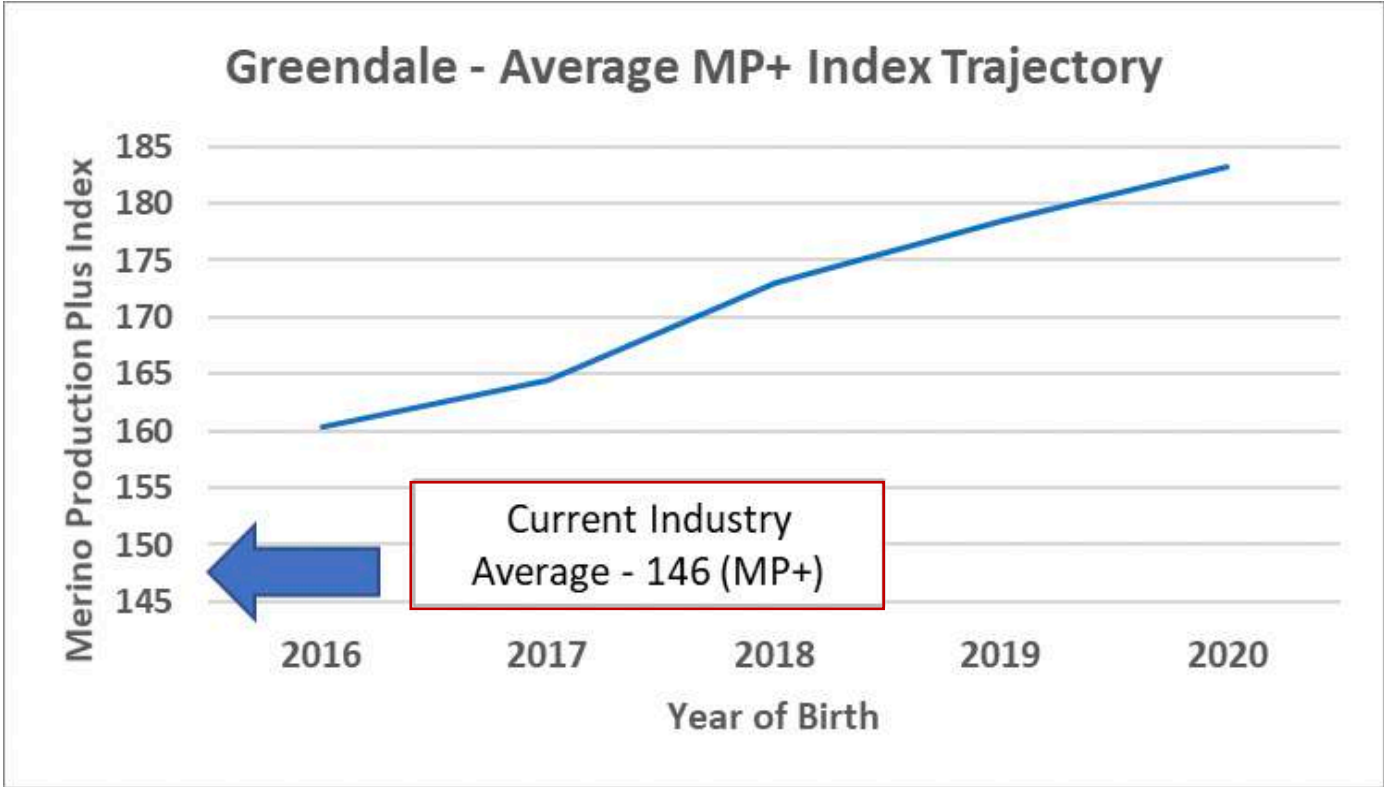


Figure 1 – Greendale Average Merino Production Plus Index trajectory

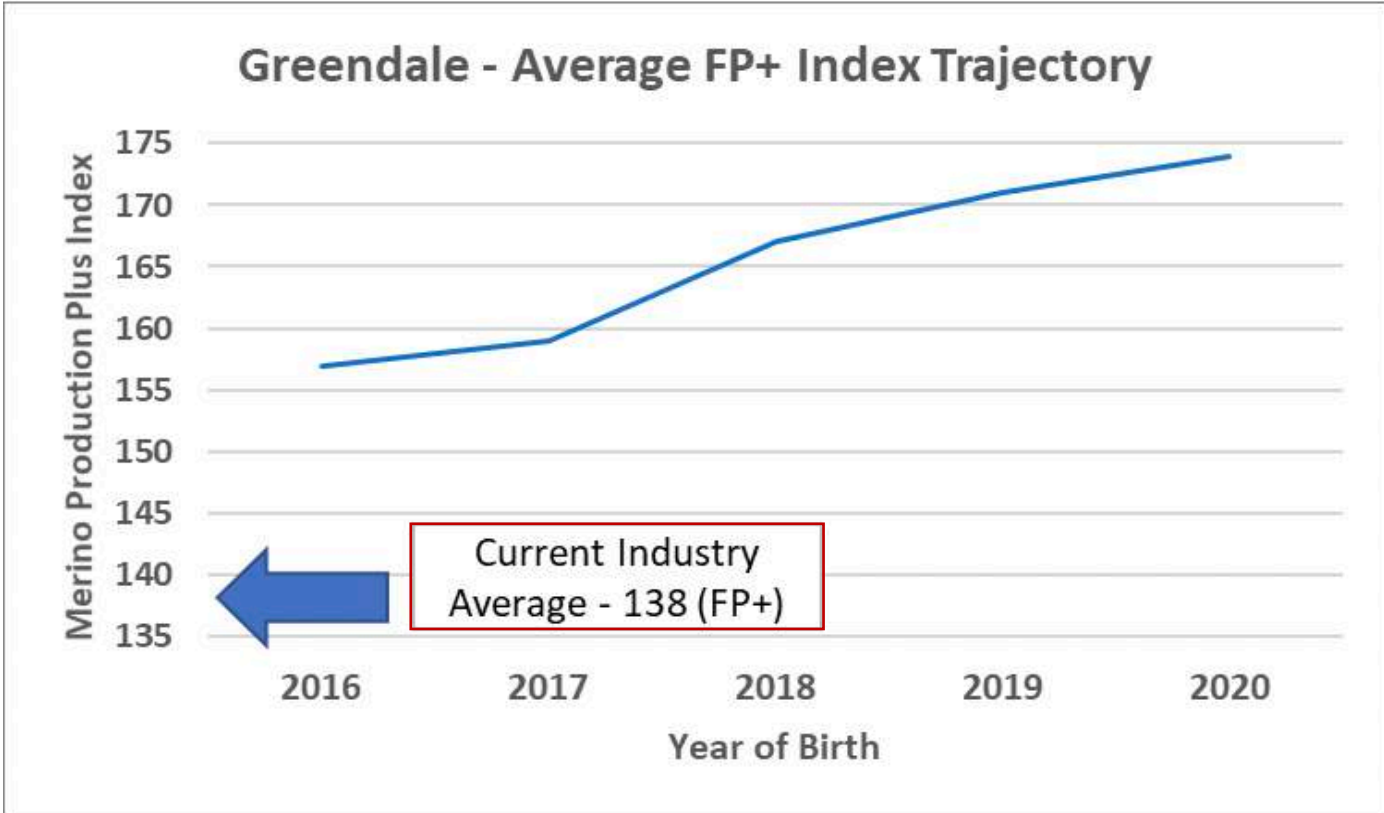


Figure 2 – Greendale Average Fibre Production Plus Index trajectory



Sheep MetriX Greendale Genetic Trend

Greendale Merinos	YWT	YCFW	YFD	YSS	MP+	FP+
2021 Reserve Ram Team	4.4	33.3	-2.4	0.4	200	186
2021 Auction Team Ave	3.7	30.1	-2.1	1.3	190	178
2020 drop	2.8	25.9	-2.3	0.4	183	174
2019 drop	2.6	24.1	-2.3	0.1	178	171
2018 drop	2.3	22.1	-2.3	0.1	173	167
2017 drop	2.5	18.4	-2.0	0.7	164	159
2016 drop	1.7	17.7	-2.2	0.2	160	157
Industry Top 1%	12.7	37.3	-3.1	7.0	194	176
Industry Top 5%	10.7	31.5	-2.4	5.0	180	164
Industry Top 10%	9.5	28.6	-2.0	3.9	173	157
Industry Average (50th Percentile)	5.5	18.0	-0.9	0.6	148	138

Percentile band – 7th September 2021

Table 1 – Greendale Merinos Genetic Trend compared to the current industry percentile (benchmark)

Sally Martin M: 0400 782 477 E: sally@sheepmetrix.com.au	Rachael Gawne M: 0428 212 801 E: rachael@sheepmetrix.com.au	Samantha Moorfield M: 0448 336 437 E: samantha@sheepmetrix.com.au	Lucinda Eddy M: 0459 438 494 E: Lucinda@sheepmetrix.com.au
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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (September 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with an appropriate adviser. The product trade names in this publication are supplied on the understanding that no preference between equivalent products is intended and that the inclusion of a product name does not imply endorsement by SMC Pty Ltd over any equivalent product from another manufacturer. Recognising that some of the information in this document is provided by third parties, the author and the publisher take no responsibility for the accuracy, currency, reliability, and correctness of any information included in the document provided by third parties.

Greendale Semen Sire list

‘Greendale are at the forefront of all these comparisons (ASBV, Sire Evaluations, Wether trials/ Bloodline Comparisons) ... which should give you a lot more confidence in the predictability of what the genetics of these animals will do for your flock.’ Alan McGufficke

Greendale Genetics Economic Impact:

Greendale Merinos results are **unmatched** by any other merino genetic source.

Through Greendale’s continued involvement in entering and measuring in various trials and evaluations we can clearly see the **substantial impact** and **improvement** of our genetics **gain** on the most **heritable** and **profitable traits** on a commercial merino Breeding operation.

Greendale Merinos **ranked number one** for \$/DSE out of **73 other bloodlines** measured and compared in the **2007-2018 Bloodline Comparison evaluation**.

Greendale Merinos **have proven** that **breeding moderate sized sheep** to be the **most efficient and profitable animals**. This has and continues to be proven over a number of comparisons in which we participate in.

Through adopting the use of genomic technology and comparison tools to **predict** genetic performance allows **increasing accuracy** of the **animal data** over its **lifetime**. This enables us to **choose and breed the most profitable genetic performances** to **secure and receive profitable results** for **your** breeding flock objectives.

NOW is the opportunity to **invest** in semen from some of the **highest indexing and performing genetics** in the **entire** Merino industry.

For more information please contact;
Alan McGufficke on **0429448078**
Email greendalemerinos2@outlook.com

Price list;

- **Proven Semen Sires;**
Per dose **\$55**
- **Young Potential Semen Sires;**
Per dose **\$45**

Tag No: 190090 **Horn: PP**

Sire: CP -307204

Sire: HAZ-003542

Sire: YAGLOO -160070

Dam: GREENDALE -160025

Dam: Y -120533

Dam: ----

Australian Sheep Breeding Values 07/01/2021											
FP+	MP+	DP+	YCFW	ACFW	YFD	YSS	YWT	YDCV	NLW	YWEC	EBWR
198	217	209	36.6	34.0	-2.62	0.84	4.99	-1.03	---	---	---
46%	47%	46%	66%	63%	70%	59%	62%	65%	%	%	%

Wool Test Results 3/12/2020		
Micron	GFW (kg)	CF
17.1	7.1	99.3

Top 1%	Top 5%	Top 10%	Top 20%
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Tag No: 190776 **Horn: PH**

Sire: HAZ -003542

Sire: ----

Sire: GREENDALE -170029

Dam: GREENDALE -171922

Dam: ----

Dam: ----

Australian Sheep Breeding Values
07/01/2021

FP+	MP+	DP+	YCFW	ACFW	YFD	YSS	YWT	YDCV	NLW	YWEC	EBWR
196	225	216	48.4	50.2	-1.06	---	6.53	-0.31	---	---	---
31%	31%	29%	54%	47%	62%	%	49%	51%	%	%	%

Wool Test Results
3/12/2020

Micron	GFW (kg)	CF
19.1	7.0	99.5

Top 1%	Top 5%	Top 10%	Top 20%
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Tag No: 190843 **Horn: HH**

Sire: GREENDALE -150018

Sire: ----

Sire: **GREENDALE -170431**

Dam: **GREENDALE -171710**

Dam: ----

Dam: ----

Australian Sheep Breeding Values

07/01/2021

FP+	MP+	DP+	YCFW	ACFW	YFD	YSS	YWT	YDCV	NLW	YWEC	EBWR
205	224	204	43.3	44.1	-2.69	---	3.46	-0.46	---	---	---
29%	29%	25%	54%	47%	62%	%	50%	51%	%	%	%

Wool Test Results

3/12/2020

Micron	GFW (kg)	CF
17.7	6.7	99.5

Top 1%	Top 5%	Top 10%	Top 20%



Greendale Merinos Rabobank story
#Thankafarmer for wool's quality assurance



Rabobank



If you can't measure it, you can't better it – and for Cooma's McGufficke family, genomic testing is ensuring its 15,000 commercially focused merino flock is continually on the improve.

Greendale Merinos is a genuine intergenerational family farm, owned and operated by Alan and Michelle McGufficke, together with daughters Florance, Miranda and Ivy plus Mark and Karen McGufficke with children James, Lachlan and Elle.

Together, the family is constantly striving to increase efficiencies through genetic selection, helping maximise profits and provide the consumer with a superior quality merino wool product.

It's a journey that began 40 years ago thanks to the McGufficke family's dedication to participating in Wether trials and flock comparisons, and has progressed into a highly data-driven operation backed by scientific benchmarking tools such as genomic DNA testing and Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs).

While ASVB's – estimates of the genetic potential across a range of economically important traits a sheep will pass onto its progeny – have been measured across the flock for the past 14 years, more recently the McGuffickes have turned to genetic testing for a precise description of a sheep's genetic merit.



“Sheep have the two most heritable traits of any domestic animal, and that is fibre diameter and fleece weight, and through science we are now able to refine our breeding and produce a superior flock that is at the forefront of the merino industry,” Alan said.

“For the past three years we’ve been DNA testing using genomics to increase and improve the genetic performance and predictability of the flock – and by identifying the top performers our breeding efficiency and profits continue to improve,” Alan said.

This sophisticated technology has raised the bar in terms of wool quality, with Alan estimating that over four to five years half a micron could be dropped from the clip. Through correct genetic selection lower micron with increased fleece weight can be achieved.

“We are performing at the pinnacle of the industry, refining our flock through genetic testing, and still experiencing a two to three percent increase in production annually – you can always keep improving.”

Alan said for wool producers looking for a more profitable flock, they could expect a marked difference within two to three years through using genetic comparison and selection.

The merino wool grown on the McGufficke’s property – 100,000 kilos annually, with a flock average of 17.5 microns– is sold at auction and is largely used to supply high-end fashion houses.



"In today's environment I'm extremely proud to be producing a natural fibre that is durable, sustainable and fully bio-degradable, and as Australia is the world leader in merino wool production, it's exciting to have this technology of genetic selection and comparison to further enhance our natural product."

And thanks to the McGuffickes' unwavering commitment to increasing efficiencies across their merino flock, we can all enjoy superior quality wool, locally and across the globe.

You can view the article on the Rabobank link below:

<https://www.rabobank.com.au/insights/2021/05/04/06/03/thankafarmer-alan-mcgufficke/>