

# WA buyers bid up at Bundara Downs sale

WESTERN Australian buyers joined repeat clients and new bidders at the Funke family's 22nd annual Bundara Downs ram sale at Western Flat, South Australia.

Three and a half hours later Elders auctioneers Laryn Gogel and Ronnie Dix oversaw an 87 per cent clearance and several new Bundara Downs records at the three-breed marathon.

Steve, Ros, Greg and Selena Funke offered 385 White Suffolk, Poll Dorset and Suffolk rams, selling 336 by auction to a top of \$10,200 and averaging a very healthy \$1372.

They offered 63 more rams than last year, sold 66 more, were up \$8000 in top price and \$193 in average price.

The visual quality was supported by extensive LambPlan data which ranks Bundara Downs in the very top group of studs in the country

for its measured performance levels.

Of all the lots offered, 84pc ranked in the top 10pc on indices for all terminal breeds.

There was a significant increase in registered bidders to 74 in the sale shed, plus 28 more on the AuctionsPlus network which was used for the first time.

While the network failed to produce a successful bidder, such was the bidding strength from within the sale shed gallery, it allowed more than 40 producers logged on to see first hand the quality on offer at Bundara Downs.

Several Bundara Downs highlights included the sale of its first ever stud Suffolk ram at \$3600, the sale of three very significant Poll Dorset stud rams from \$9200 to \$10,200, plus an outstanding 97pc clearance of 241 White



□ With the top-priced rams from the three breeds at the Bundara Downs ram sale at Western Flat, South Australia, recently were Elders auctioneer Laryn Gogel (left), Collyn Garnett, Curlew Creek stud, Gnowangerup, with his \$10,200 Poll Dorset purchase, Suzanne Funke, Bundara Downs stud, holding the \$6200 top White Suffolk ram purchased by the Millinup stud, Albany, Elders Bordertown manager Brenton Henriks and Greg Funke, Bundara Downs stud, holding the \$3600 top price Suffolk ram by a WA sire purchased by Gemini Suffolks, Werneth, Victoria.

Suffolks to a \$6200 high.

The individual highlight was the sale of the third Poll Dorset ram offered, Bundara Downs 179705, for the overall sale top of \$10,200.

It was purchased by Collyn Garnett, Curlew Creek stud, Gnowangerup, after outlasting John Pepper, Murndown Poll Dorsets, who connected via phone.

With terrific balance and structure, the son of BD133266 had outstanding Lambplan figures of 15.6 PWWT, -0.80 PFAT, 2.30 PEMD and CarcasePlus Index 207.

Mr Garnett followed up eight lots later by paying \$9200 for BD170247, a twin sired by Old Woombie 130219 that was introduced via AI for muscling and eating quality traits.

This ram was equally impressive as the top lot for performance with a CarcasePlus index of 215.

He said he'd been dealing with the Funkes for a few years and they were very good people to deal with.

"We have similar breeding objectives and their sheep have done very well at home," Mr Garnett said.

"We can buy with confidence knowing they complement our

breeding program."

It was the run of 241 White Suffolks that kicked the sale off on a top note, with the first ram offered BD170069 knocked down for \$6200 to John Stephenson, Millinup stud, Albany.

He also connected to the sale via phone to win the strong bidding competition for the ram that was brought forward from its catalogue position of lot 11 after winning the reserve senior championship at the recent Adelaide Royal Show.

It was sired by BD122026 and had a CarcasePlus index of 203.

It was the second Suffolk ram of 20 offered in the final draft of the day, BD170817 that sold to stud duties for \$3600.

The successful bidder was Craig Mitchell, bidding via phone for the family's Gemini Suffolk stud, Werneth, Victoria, who outlasted Hamish and Noeleen Branson, Mortlake, Victoria, who travelled over to check out the son of WA-bred Lynburn 'Game Changer' 150247.

It has certainly changed the game for the Bundara Downs Suffolk program, with 10 of the 13 that sold at auction in this draft being his sons.

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