

Cleanskins draw 50 producers to field day

By Neil Garnett,
The Sheep Company

MORE than 50 enthusiastic sheep producers from most regions of the state attended the Cleanskin Sheep Field Day at Bruce Rock last week and took advantage of the opportunity to see five breeds of cleanskin sheep at the one time.

The sheep were genuinely displayed and enabled visitors to evaluate and discuss the traits of each breed.

About 200 penned animals were weighed on the morning of the field day and their respective weights displayed on their backs.

This gave visitors the chance to easily compare the weights of the different breeds on display.

Visitors would agree that the feature group of sheep was a pen of Van Rooy-Damara (F1) two-tooth ewes.

These animals weighed between 74kg and 84kg despite living through 18-months of the worst seasonal conditions in Bruce Rock for many years without hand feeding.

Their ewe lambs at 4.5 to 6 months old had body weights of 50 to 58kg.

The event's special guest speaker, Alan Barron, Dubbo, NSW, presented an outstanding paper on the international sheep industry.

Mr Barron spoke on the sheep industry in the Eastern States and gave field day attendees a general update on cleanskin breed development in New South Wales and Queensland.

He also reported on the acceptance of the cleanskin sheep in the local slaughter industry.

The key message Mr Barron presented was for the industry to produce highly fertile sheep with minimum input costs for the Australian and overseas lamb market, which not only wanted these lambs, but wanted them as its first choice.

Wellard Group livestock manager Garry Robinson spoke about current Wellard policies and the group's support for the cleanskin sheep industry.

A discussion followed regarding the live animal trade and future opportunities for WA lamb producers.

Les Buller and his family were congratulated on providing the display and the unique forum to provide meaningful information to interested cleanskin sheep breeders.



□ These 16-18-month-old F1 Van Rooy ewes weighing between 74kg and 84kg with their ewe lambs (reds) weighing 50kg to 58kg were on display at the Cleanskin Sheep Field Day last week held at the Buller's Bruce Rock property.



□ The same F1 Van Rooy ewes and lambs as above, at Les Buller's Bruce Rock property in October 2010.



Farm WEEKLY

WA's **BIGGEST** selling rural newspaper

Too well read to be GIVEN away!

Subscribe **NOW** and **SAVE!**

Freecall: 1800 804 538 Freefax: 1800 242 348

Email: lorraine.dolan@ruralpress.com

or online at www.fw.farmonline.com.au/subscriptions