

YARRAHAPPINI STUD HAS A NEW HOME

MEDIA RELEASE BY IAN TURNER

Mike Barton (left), Wellington, NSW is pictured with Paul Routley, Almondvale, Urana, NSW in front of the loaded Yarrahappini White Suffolk ewes, ready for transit to the Almondvale property, Urana.



The Routley family, Almondvale White Suffolks, Urana, NSW has just completed the private purchase of the major proportion of the highly respected Yarrahappini high performance stud, formally owned by Mike Barton at Wellington, NSW. This bold expansion, takes the Almondvale White Suffolk breeding strength to 750 outstanding quality ewes.

Since commencing the Almondvale White Suffolk stud in 2002 to add another “string to their bow”, Paul Routley has not looked back in his quest to produce industry leading rams that can make a positive difference to their clients’ profitability, and their own of course.

Paul’s father Peter established the family’s renowned Bond stud and when Australia’s prime lamb industry progressed from being primarily part time to now being a professional industry and major world player in its own right, the decision to expand into the popular White Suffolk breed was a no-brainer for the Routley family.

Paul Routley is passionate about the breed and his family’s flock, and in less than 10 years Almondvale has gone from foundation to the 750 high quality ewes in now runs. Demand for the Almondvale rams is increasing in line with wider recognition of their quality. At their 2010 sale they had a total clearance of 70 rams at auction to \$2000 twice and at a \$1067 average; selling 145 rams for the year. This purchase gives them the capacity to meet the growing demand for their rams and expand it further than would be possible through natural increases.

Mike Barton founded the Yarrahappini stud in 1984, but commenced working with the breed at its very beginnings with Professor Euan Roberts at the Hay Research Station in the late 1970s, plus he was heavily involved with the Prime Lamb Genetics group. The flock has used Lambplan performance data heavily

in its selection and is widely recognised as a high performance stud. In more recent years Simon Beattie has also classed the flock.

The Routleys had the pick of the entire stud and the 160 selected 2005 to 2009 drop ewes in the acquisition arrived at the Almondvale property last week. They are due to commence lambing in early April, with the Almondvale ewes to follow from mid May. These purchased ewes carry a lot of Bundara Downs and Detpa Grove bloodlines as well as the long established Yarrahappini lines and complement the Almondvale ewes very well.

“We have always looked at any opportunity that will enable us to increase our capacity to meet the growing demand for high quality prime lamb sires. Therefore the availability of such a highly respected stud as Mike’s was an opportunity we couldn’t let pass,” Paul Routley said.

“These ewes are very similar to ours in type and maturity pattern; the type sought by most producers in the Riverina when sourcing rams to maximise their profitability,” he said.

The Routleys have always believed in investing in quality and have bought both volume and top quality at the last four Detpa Grove mated ewe sales, giving them infusions of the leading genetics in the breed. They have also purchased three top sires from Detpa Grove, including two last year. In 2004, Paul Routley also purchased the Allengate stud in its entirety, giving another significant lift in quality breeding ewe numbers.

Mike Barton said that after 26 years it was pleasing to see the Yarrahappini stud stay together in one group to carry on their influence in the breed. He was particularly pleased that they are now in the hands of such an enthusiastic, switched on and passionate breeder of livestock as Paul Routley.

◆ Power ◆ Presence ◆ Performance ◆

ALMONDVALE

White Suffolks

Founded with the best genetics available & produced with passion since 2002

The next exciting progression

Almondvale purchases the vast majority of ewes from Mike Barton's highly respected Yarrahappini (F159) high performance stud, Wellington, NSW.



Mike & Paul by the truck with the ewes loaded for delivery

Founded in 1984, the 160 April lambing Yarrahappini ewes complement the Almondvale flock and take our breeding flock to 750 high quality ewes. Stay tuned for more developments

◆ *8th Annual White Suffolk & Bond Ram Sale* ◆

Friday 9th September 2011

◆ *Semen always available from our top sires* ◆

Enquiries most welcome:

Paul & Dalles Routley, Urana, NSW

Phone: (02) 6927 1465 Fax: (02) 6927 1465 Mob: 0427 209 016

Email: paulanddalles@dragnet.com.au