

AUSTRALIAN MERINO

Production Trial

EST. 2004

**Benchmarking Genetics.
Measuring Performance.
Driving Profitability.**

Introduction



About

The Australian Merino Production Trial (AMPT) is Australia's leading independent sheep benchmarking project, bringing together Merino producers from across the country to evaluate genetics under commercial production systems. By measuring wool quality, growth, carcase performance, eating quality and overall profitability, the AMPT provides producers with reliable, independent data to support informed breeding and management decisions.

The trial creates a unique opportunity to compare bloodlines in a consistent environment, delivering practical insights that help improve productivity, profitability and long-term genetic progress across the Australian sheep industry.

Whether you are a commercial producer, stud breeder or industry professional, the AMPT offers valuable information that supports evidence-based decision-making and encourages collaboration throughout the supply chain. Together, we are building a stronger, more productive Merino industry by identifying and promoting genetics that deliver measurable benefits from the paddock through to the consumer.

Led by Craig Wilson, Director of Redgum River Pastoral Company, the trial provides participants with invaluable insights into the genetic potential of their Merino flocks.



Scan the QR code
to view AMPT Video.

Links

The AMPT is uniquely positioned to connect genetic performance with real market outcomes. Through partnerships with Meat and Livestock Australia, Fletcher International Exports, Moses and Son wool brokers and industry service providers, participants receive a clearer understanding of how genetic differences influence profitability across the entire supply chain.

The project continues to strengthen the link between seedstock breeders and commercial producers by providing independently measured data that can be used with confidence when making breeding and purchasing decisions.

For stud breeders, the trial offers a valuable opportunity to validate breeding objectives and demonstrate the commercial relevance of their genetics under real-world production systems

Trusted

AMPT Trial Convenor Craig Wilson, Redgum River Pastoral Company, has spent more than two decades collecting Merino benchmarking data across several locations.

Since 2010, 435 teams have been evaluated from 6 states across Australia.

The Australian Merino Production Trial (AMPT) provides an important platform for independently benchmarking Merino genetics across a diverse range of production environments and commercial systems throughout Australia.

Benchmarking

At its core, the AMPT is designed to measure the genetic component of a sheep's capacity to produce profit. By removing much of the environmental noise that can influence performance, the trial allows breeders to compare genetics on a level playing field.

The latest results demonstrated considerable variation between teams across a range of commercially important traits, including wool production, growth, feedlot performance, carcase merit and eating quality. These differences ultimately translate into significant profitability outcomes for commercial producers.

Importantly, the trial continues to show that superior genetics can generate substantial economic advantages without necessarily increasing production costs.

"When all AMPT teams were adjusted for site and age group and ranked together, Total Sheep Value ranged from \$170.39 to \$229.94 per head, representing a 35% difference between the highest and lowest-performing genetics and highlighting the substantial opportunity for producers to improve enterprise performance through informed breeding decisions," said Trial convenor, Craig Wilson.

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Traits measured in the AMPT include;

- Wool quality (fibre diameter, fleece weight, staple length and more)
- Growth and liveweight performance
- Carcase traits and dressing percentage
- Intramuscular fat (IMF) and eating quality
- Feedlot performance
- Commercial profitability



Craig Wilson is a progressive sheep producer, genetics specialist and Principal of Redgum River Pastoral Co. He is the owner of Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud and Convenor of the Australian Merino Production Trial (AMPT). With extensive experience in sheep breeding, genetic selection and commercial livestock production, Craig is passionate about delivering practical, data-driven outcomes that improve profitability and productivity for Australian sheep producers through research, innovation and industry collaboration.

AUSTRALIAN MERINO PRODUCTION TRIAL

NEW TRIAL



Western Australia Lamb Trial

The Australian Merino Production Trial is expanding west with the introduction of the **Western Australian Lamb Trial** (WALT) an exciting new initiative designed to benchmark Western Australia's Merino genetics against some of Australia's leading bloodlines.

Modelled on the proven success of the Australian Merino Production Trial (AMPT) in New South Wales, WALT will provide producers with independent, commercially relevant data to evaluate the genetic performance of their flocks under consistent production conditions.

The trial aims to **benchmark** 600 wether lambs from a minimum of 30 teams, each comprising 20 wether lambs born between April 2026 and August 2026. All lambs will be managed together, ensuring that performance differences reflect genetics rather than environmental variation.

Throughout the trial, sheep will be **independently measured** for growth, feedlot performance, wool production, fleece value, carcass traits and overall commercial value. By assessing these economically important traits, WALT will provide producers with meaningful benchmarking information to support breeding decisions, improve flock productivity and increase profitability.

Participants will receive comprehensive **performance data** comparing their team with the trial average and other participating bloodlines, providing valuable insight into the strengths and opportunities within their breeding program.

Inspection days will be held during key assessment stages, including **shearing evaluation** and **carcass processing**. These events provide entrants with a unique opportunity to inspect the sheep, discuss results with industry experts, network with fellow producers and gain practical insights from progressive sheep enterprises.

The Western Australian Lamb Trial is managed by Redgum River Pastoral Co. Western Australian sheep service providers, consultants, researchers and extension officers will be actively involved, ensuring the trial delivers valuable outcomes for producers and contributes to the continued advancement of the state's Merino industry.

Gain

- ✓ **Clear understanding** of your flock's genetic performance and capacity.
- ✓ **Data** to drive breeding and selection decisions.
- ✓ **Confidence** when investing in genetics.
- ✓ **Access** to independent, large-scale industry benchmarking.
- ✓ **Stronger alignment** with processor and market requirements.
- ✓ **Flock profile** results from DNA taken from wethers.



WALT Timeline

- **September 2026** Entries close for the WALT.
- **September/October 2026** Tagging lambs.
- **November 2026** Lambs arrive Beaufort River.
- **December 2026** Even Up Shearing & Animal Health.
- **December 2026** Trial lambs run together on pasture.
- **January 2027** Trial lambs inducted into the feedlot.
- **January 2027** Lambs penned across 5 pens based on weight.
- **January 2027** 1st Trial Body Weight Collected. Update published.
- **February 2027** 2nd Trial Body Weight. Update published.
- **March 2027** 3rd Trial Body Weight. Update published.
- **March 2027** Link teams from WA to NSW.
- **April 2027** 4th Trial Body Weight. Update published.
- **May 2027** Final Empty Weight. Update published.
- **May 2027** Open Day - Shearing and wool assessments.
- **May 2027** Open Day - Processing at Fletchers International Exports.
- **August 2027** Total sheep value and results published.

Your Flock. Your Future. Express Your Interest Today.

The Australian Merino Production Trial is seeking **Expressions of Interest** from Western Australian Merino producers to participate in the upcoming Western Australia Lamb Trial (WALT).

Your Expression of Interest will help us confirm producer participation and establish a trial that delivers reliable, independent benchmarking and valuable insights into the performance of Western Australian Merino genetics.

There is no obligation at this stage, registering your interest simply ensures you receive priority updates and gives you the opportunity to be involved as the trial commences.

How do I get involved?

1. Express your interest in the Western Australian Lamb Trial.
Expressions of Interest close 15 September, 2026. A minimum of 30 teams is required for the WALT.
2. **Enter Your Team by 30 September, 2026.**

Scan the QR code
to get involved.



**Take the next step towards
benchmarking your flock and
accelerating genetic progress through
the Western Australian Lamb Trial.**

To learn more about how the trial operates, simply scan the QR code below to view the full **Trial Protocol**.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the trial, please don't hesitate to contact us, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Contact

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AMPT



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Trial Protocol

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