



Sheep CRC Practical Wisdom Case Study

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USING electronic-ID

The Duxson Family – Glendemar Multi Purpose Merino Stud

CASE STUDY: Duxson family

LOCATION: 'Glendemar', Marnoo, Victoria

ENTERPRISE: Lamb Breeding and Finishing

FLOCK SIZE: 3000 Ewes



ABOVE: Ben Duxson, Multi Purpose Merino Group

It was the use of the Pedigree Match Maker that encouraged the Duxson family's entry into the use of Precision Sheep Management's electronic-ID (e-ID) systems for sheep.

Operating the 'Glendemar' property, which is located 15km south of Marnoo on the eastern edge of the Wimmera Plains region of Victoria, the Duxson family contemplated the use of RFID tags and equipment for around 10 years prior to making the call to run with it.

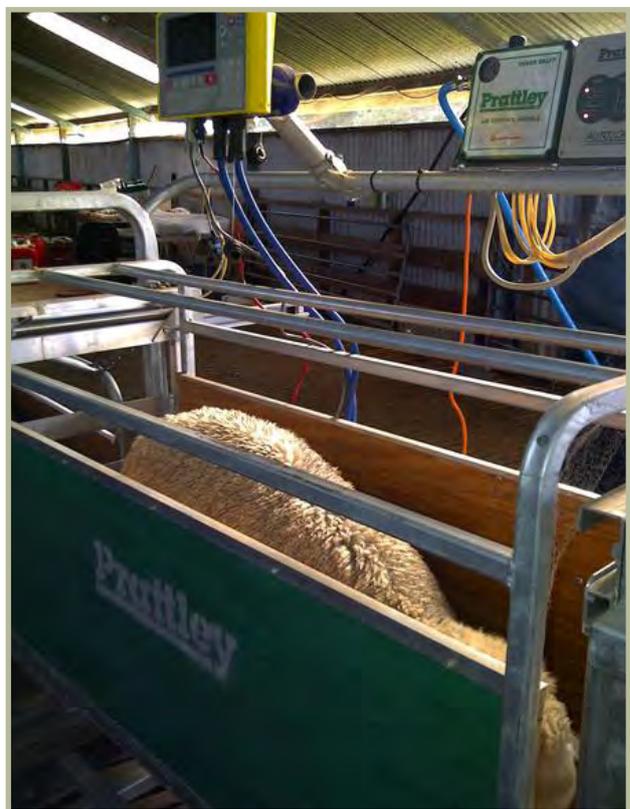
The Glendemar flock consists of 3000 stud ewes, and produces approximately 400 sale rams annually.

Two Allflex panel readers, an Allflex stick reader, a Tru-test XR3000 indicator and a Prattley auto-drafter are all now used to collect various types of data on those animals.

Ben Duxson points to the difference this has made to their enterprise.

"We used to mother-up all of our ewes and lambs in the yards to obtain the dam pedigree. It was a huge job, with us only doing 120 – 150 a day with three people. It would take us 8-10 weeks just to get through all of the ewes.

"With Pedigree Match Maker, once we have the sheep trained to walk through the race properly, the system is so simple it saves us a huge amount of time."



ABOVE: Autodrafting using Tru-test XR3000 indicator and Prattley autodrafter

While it was Pedigree Match Maker that was appealing from the very beginning, the Duxsons are finding advantages in using e-ID for almost all data collection.

“We now record all of our individual pregnancy scanning results, lamb weights and have just started to record the condition scores of some of our ewes. We will also begin to record carcass and fleece data using our e-ID equipment as well.

“The auto-drafter has allowed us to weigh our lambs more regularly and easily, and we will certainly be looking to use it to draft our animals based on ASBV data, sire groups or whatever criteria we might decide to use.”

The Duxsons have managed the implementation of their e-ID system to ensure that there has been little disruption to the enterprise.

“We had a few issues as we learned to operate the equipment, but it has generally been pretty good,” Ben said.

“We do rely on the Tru-test representative for help with the XR3000 fairly regularly.

“Data management has been the biggest issue though, particularly understanding what Excel will do with our data.



ABOVE: Labour saving using the autodrafter



ABOVE: Allflex e-ID tag panel reader

“We are using Stockbook software and we are working through the issues that we have had. It will just be a case of me spending more time to understand the process better.”

As for the overall move into e-ID, Ben said “there is no way that we would go back now. It has made our life so much easier, particularly with Pedigree Match Maker.”

The Duxsons intend to continue to increase and improve their use of e-ID equipment.

“We are tagging everything at lamb marking now with RFID tags, and we will look to record a range of different data. We will collect more and more data as long as it will have a positive impact on our business,” Ben said.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:

www.sheepcrc.org.au
and go to Precision Sheep Management or
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