

BOOKHAM WETHER TRIAL 2023 TO 2026

RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. A sub-committee of the Bookham Agricultural will oversee the trial.
2. The Trial will be run over a four year period. i.e. over four shearings, the first in 2023 and the final in 2026. In the event of exceptional circumstances occurring the Wether Trial Sub Committee has the authority to alter the duration of the trial.
3. All teams shall be depastured and managed under identical conditions at all times.
4. The annual and progressive results of the trial shall be made public each year at the conclusion of each shearing.
5. Public field days focusing on issues relative to sheep & wool production may be held in association with the trial.
6. Proceeds resulting from the sale of wool from this trial will become the property of the trial convenor.
7. Ownership of the wethers passes to the trial convenor (60%) and the Bookham Agricultural Bureau (40%), upon delivery to the host property.
8. Any costs associated with managing the trial, after the consideration of any sponsorship or donation of product will be born by the convenor.
9. The trial will be open to all merino sheep producers who are financial members of the Bookham Agricultural Bureau. Membership of \$20.00 must accompany the entry form.
10. Studs may enter the trial provided the wethers entered are bred in the entrants commercial flock.
11. The Wether Trial Sub Committee has the right to accept or reject any entry in this trial.
12. The trial will be run under the guidance of the SE LLS.
13. Each team entered in this trial shall comprise ten (10) randomly selected merino wethers born in 2021.
14. Two members of the Wether Trial Sub-Committee or their appointed representatives will carry out the random selection drafting.

15. The random selection shall be carried out as follows:
- **At least 80% of the entrant's 2021-drop wethers must be presented, i.e., each entrant has the option to class out up to 20% of the drop.**
 - From this minimum of 80%, twenty head are randomly drafted off from which the entrant may select the trial team of ten head, plus two spares, to be used if up to two sheep from an entrants team dies before delivery to the host property. The two spares must be nominated at drafting time.
 - For example:
 - i. From a flock of 500 head the entrant classes out 20%, leaving 400 head (80%) from which one in twenty sheep is drafted off, from this 20 head the entrant selects the trial team of 10 head.
 - ii. Flock size 250 head, class out 50 head (20%). Leaves 200 head, random draft one in 10 head, leaving 20 to select team from.
 - iii. Flock size 500 head, no classing, one in twenty five (25) drafted off, leaving 20 to select team from.
16. **Delivery details to the host property at Bookham for the even up shearing in March 2022 will be given closer to the date. All sheep are to be delivered "in the wool", (minimum 2 months wool). No teams are to be delivered off- shears.**
17. Each team will be inspected (for notifiable diseases) at the host property prior to acceptance of entry. Both a signed National Vendor Declaration and a Sheep Health Statement declaring freedom from footrot and lice and Gudair vaccination status is to be provided by each entrant.
18. All animals not pre-vaccinated with Gudair vaccine will be vaccinated on delivery to the host property.
19. Annual results will be based on the individual average wool production performance of each animal in the team. In the event of any team being reduced to eight or less sheep, averages are calculated over eight sheep.
20. Overall results calculated after the final shearing in 2026 will be based on the average wool production and carcase value of each animal in the team. In the event of any team being reduced to eight or less sheep, averages are calculated over eight sheep.

21. The following measurement data will be collected to determine annual and overall results
- a) Fibre Diameter and associated measurements (CV, SD, PF etc)
 - b) Greasy Fleece Weight
 - c) Yield
 - d) Bodyweight
 - e) Fleece rot score
 - f) Other traits may be measured at the discretion of the organising committee
22. Wool preparation and valuation procedure in line with NSW Agriculture guidelines will be as follows:
- Fleeces are weighed and classed into bin lines by qualified wool classer
 - Skirting is minimal and undertaken by same personnel for all teams
 - Skirtings for each team are pooled and yield and fibre diameter are based on the yield and fibre diameter of the fleece wool.
 - Belly wool is treated in the same manner as skirtings
 - Wool valuations will be based on the average values for the previous 12 months.
 - Locks are insignificant and are not valued.
23. All decisions of the Wether Trial sub-Committee shall be binding.