

White River triumphs at Hay Sheep Show

The Daniell family's Minnipa based White River Merino and Poll Merino stud attended the Hay Sheep Show last weekend and came home with the top award.

The Hay Sheep Show is now one of the major sheep shows in Australia, with leading studs from 3 states competing.

White River attended this show for the first time last year, winning the second top award, but this year they went one better.

Their outstanding Merino hogget, White River 'Kaldoonera' 9778 was awarded the Riverina Wool Australian Merino Champion Hogget Ram of the Year, in a competition against 26 other competitors.

This is the Hay Sheep Show's major award and is judged first with the winner taking all of the sponsor's \$5,000 prize money. In commenting on their win, John Daniell said, "This is a fantastic achievement for us and we are proud to be the first South Australian winner, plus it's the first show we've been to where the prize money has paid our way!"

WR 'Kaldoonera' 9778 is sired by Charinga 'Pearler' 013 and was from a White River Majestic 111 family ewe. He also had impressive data to back up his magnificent visual appeal. He was the heaviest ram in the line up at 110 kg at just 12½ months of age. His official wool test figures are just as impressive, with a fibre diameter reading of 20.1 microns, SD of 2.9, a CV of 14.4 and a 99.9% comfort factor.

Many of the astute sheep industry people in the shed commented that he was the best ram they'd seen in a White River pen and that he displayed the extremely rare combination of a genuinely big South Australian frame and SRS quality wool.

The Collinsville stud placed second and Concordia third with their entries. Having won this major award, the White River ram was then ineligible for all other competition.

However, the White River team included 3 other March shorn ram weaners that went on to win the Pen of 3 Dual Purpose Ram Hoggets class, judged equally for their meat and wool attributes. Again, White River won from the Collinsville pen, with Uardry in 3rd place in this class.

It was a great day for White River as they approach their second ram sale at their new Pochera base.

"We haven't decided for sure what we will do with 'Kaldoonera' yet, but you don't breed rams this good every day. He is potentially very valuable to our future breeding programs at White River," John Daniell said.



Major sponsor, Riverina Wool manager, Mark Bazeley, (left) with White River stud principal, John Daniell, Poochera, Eyre Peninsula, with the Riverina Wool Australian Merino Champion Hogget Ram of the Year at last weekend's Hay Sheep Show.