

OCTOBER 2021

# KENTISH DOWNS

Annual Newsletter of the Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud

## Welcome

Welcome to the 2021 Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Annual Newsletter. We are very excited by the advancements that have been made at KD over the past 12 months. We have had an excellent season this year and look forward to offering the high performing Kentish Downs genetics to our existing and new clients at our upcoming ram sale.

Highlighted in this newsletter are feature stories and information about our sale, including; ram data and 2021 sire data.

We thank you for your ongoing support of Kentish Downs and look forward to seeing you at the sale on Wednesday November 3.

Regards  
Craig and Karen Wilson



**RAM SALE**  
**Wednesday 3 Nov 2021**

Flock No. 336

## This issue:

About Kentish Downs  
PAGE 02

New Stud Sires for KD  
PAGE 05

Using Ram Lambs  
PAGE 06

High Growth at KD  
PAGE 07

Modern Technology  
PAGE 08

Genetics is King  
PAGE 09

2021 Ram Sale  
PAGES 11-15



## About Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud

### HISTORY

Established in 1960, the stud was relocated from South Australia to Holbrook in 2000 when Rob and Jody Martin took on their own direction of the management of the stud. In 2019, Rob and Jody Martin placed their property and the Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud on the market, as they looked for a lifestyle change and to move closer to family in South Australia.

In December 2019, Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud moved to a new home when it was purchased by Craig and Karen Wilson. The stud now runs on “Yarragundry West” a property along the Murrumbidgee River, 15 minutes west of Wagga Wagga in the Riverina.

“Yarragundry West” has over 200m of Murrumbidgee River frontage, rich alluvial soils, and 17ha of irrigation. Terrestrial and riparian vegetation on the property is dominated by River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).



The property includes a drought-proofing feedlot to the capacity of 3000 head of sheep. Lucerne is grazed under the pivot and stored for future feeding of stock. Improved pastures and native pastures are additional feed supply for Kentish Downs stock. Stock access billabongs, dams, and groundwater-fed troughs. If required, the stock are fed grain from high-quality local suppliers, all of which are feed tested to ensure the desired needs of the stock are being met.





## About Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud

### KD BREEDING OBJECTIVES

At Kentish Downs we believe genetics play a significant role in productivity and profitability. Research has shown many carcass traits are moderately to highly heritable and provide good opportunities to improve breeding programs.

Our focus is on increasing the potential of Kentish Downs Poll Dorsets to generate more profit for our clients. We are achieving this goal through targeted inclusions of stud sires and we have an extensive breeding and performance recording program, which combines a selection of the best quality sheep using both visual and Lambplan data to produce rams of the highest quality.



#### Breeding Objective 1

To breed Poll Dorset sheep that have the right balance of structural integrity and industry leading genetics to maximise profit right through the entire Prime Lamb supply chain.

#### Breeding Objective 2

To use Lambplan to benchmark across the Terminal Lamb Industry and use the most up to date technology to achieve our genetic gain objectives with maximum consideration of the environmental and animal welfare outcomes.

Artificial insemination and using Matesel allows single mating of one sire to selected ewes resulting in the fine-tuning of the breeding of rams which will then be offered for sale. All sheep have been DNA tested to allow the accuracy of data and pedigree. The sires used in the 2021 mating, average in the top 2% of the Lambplan database for the Terminal Carcass Production Index.



# About Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud

## OUR PEOPLE



WILL SULLIVAN - STUD MANAGER

Will joined Kentish Downs as Stud Manager in 2019 and is currently studying a Postgraduate In Agribusiness Management at Marcus Oldham as well as an internship with Meat and Livestock Australia. Prior to his promotion as Stud Manager of the Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud, Will worked for a number of years with Craig Wilson and Associates.

Will grew up on a cattle property and has worked in the Northern Territory and at Calf Corp in Holbrook as a station hand. He has a passion for livestock and his previous experience in cattle breeding values undeniably make him an asset to our team. It's difficult to encapsulate all of what Will does in one sentence, but generally, he takes care of data collection, reporting, and stock management at Kentish Downs.



CRAIG WILSON - STUD OWNER

Craig's extensive experience in sheep breeding puts him in good stead to implement quality objective data to measure the things you can't always see to supply production-driven terminal genetics to clients across Australia.

Craig advises most of Australia's largest commercial Merino breeding businesses and Australia's leading Merino studs. He assists them to identify and reach their optimum Merino breeding profitability.

Craig is committed to the ongoing improvement of all sheep genetic development and has collected benchmarking data for the past 20 consecutive years on more than 18,000 sheep run-in evaluations.

Craig also has more than 13,000 sheep under management, and has initiated share farming agreements with five properties.



## New Stud Sires for KD

### SONS AVAILABLE IN 2021 RAM SALE

At Kentish Downs we have an extensive breeding and performance recording program which combines selection of the best quality Poll Dorset sheep using both visual and Lambplan data to produce rams of the highest performance quality.

This year, we were pleased to welcome two new Stud Sires to Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud. Ivadene 190025 (pictured below). A nice balanced ram with great structure and shape. His industry leading breeding values made the decision to purchase him a very straight forward one indeed.



Kentish Downs also acquired joint ownership of Pepperton 180339 (pictured right), who is currently the number 1 sire in the Lambplan database for Post Weaning Eye Muscle Depth.

Pepperton 180339 is also currently the 5th ranked Poll Dorset ram in Australia for TCP and sons will be available for sale this year at our annual ram sale.

The sires of the 2021 drop lambs perform exceptionally well across their traits of production and as a group of sires they average in the top 2% of the national Lambplan database for Terminal Carcase Production (TCP).

**Ivadene 190025: Industry leading ASBVs ranks in the Top 5% for PWT, LMY & TCP and Top 10% for EQ and EMD.**

**Pepperton 180339 is currently the number 1 sire in the Lambplan database for Post Weaning Eye Muscle Depth.**





## Using Ram Lambs

### A BUYER'S PERSPECTIVE

As a supplier of superior genetics to the prime lamb industry, at Kentish Downs we know that it is important to offer our rams for inspection and sale at the equivalent age stage that our clients will be marketing their prime lambs.

Allowing our clients to access these genetics at a younger age provides them with the opportunity access genetics faster and increase their rate of genetic gain by reducing the generation interval.

2020 KD Ram buyer Tom McGuinness (pictured below), from McGuinness Farms, Bigga joins 7000 Merino ewes to Poll Dorset rams annually.

"Last year I purchased 35 ram lambs from Kentish Downs. Our conception rate in the ewes mated to the ram lambs was very good, and the rams have grown out well. I see this purchase as a profitable and productive decision for our business to increase the number of lambs that we can get from our rams over their lifetime," Tom McGuinness said.

"We aim to have 25% of rams as young rams, and this helps with day to day management as they are much easier to handle."

**"Using ram lambs gives us around 20% more lambs per ram. I can then invest in high performance genetics and access them earlier than other suppliers and know that this is a sound business decision," Tom McGuinness said.**



PICTURED: TOM MCGUINNESS / PHOTO: ABC



## High Growth at KD

Over the past 12 months, Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud has seen a rapid increase in demand for LambPlan and genomic tested Poll Dorset rams.

Demand for industry leading terminal genetics has given us the confidence to expand through the purchase of ewes from the Western Australian 'Curlew Creek Poll Dorset Stud' at their dispersal sale in October last year.

The growth in the stud this year has led to more than a 1000 lambs being weighed, tagged and recorded at birth. We see the birth weighing of our stud lambs as a critical tool in managing genetic birth weight in the flocks of our clients. This year, new clients to Kentish Downs Poll Dorset Stud have seen significant reductions in dystocia through the use of rams with appropriate birth weight breeding values for their flock.

The sires of the 2021 drop lambs perform exceptionally well across their traits of production and as a group of sires they average in the top 2% of the national Lambplan database for Terminal Carcase Production (TCP).

Our goal is to benchmark our genetics across the prime lamb industry and strive to supply the very best rams that will drive the profitability of our client's businesses.

**“The genetics of the Curlew Creek stud are industry leading ASBVs across all of Australia. This unique opportunity to purchase a large number of ewes with exceptional LambPlan figures fits perfectly with Kentish Downs goals to simultaneously expand the number and quality of the rams that they can offer their clients,” said Roy Addis, Stud Stock Prime Lamb, Albany WA.**





## Modern Technology

### WHY WE USE GENOMICS

For the past two generations at Kentish Downs, we have seen just what genomics testing can do for the progression of our flock's performance. Knowing the genetic merit of animals at a young age can guide selection and breeding decisions and shorten generation intervals in the flock.

A significant investment has been made in DNA testing all sheep to assist in driving genetic gain in our flocks' genetics by increasing the accuracy of ASBVs, providing accurate pedigree, and genetic benchmarking of our flock.

## Goal Driven

### WHAT THE AUSTRALIAN POLL DORSET ASSOCIATION HAS TO SAY ABOUT GENOMICS TESTING

Using traditional genetic selection methods, such as visual assessment of conformation and type, transforming a flock from 'average' to 'elite' could take decades.

These traditional methods of selection remain as important as ever, but new objective genetic evaluation tools like DNA testing, allow breeders to press 'fast forward' on the pace of transformation by enabling them to identify with greater certainty and at a younger age the stock they need to keep and those they should cull.

Neogen Australasia's Territory Manager for South Australia and Western Australia, Dan Roe, said "DNA testing is a fast, accurate and cost-effective method for Poll Dorset breeders to accelerate the rate of genetic gain in their flock."

"Visual assessment for conformation remains very important; DNA testing is simply another tool in the box to allow you access to the information you can't see."

READ MORE: [HTTPS://POLLDORSET.ORG.AU/NEWS/GENOMICS](https://polldorset.org.au/news/genomics)

"There is no doubt that using genomics testing along with visual and ASBVs that we will take KD's flocks' genetics to the elite performance level in a matter of years, as opposed to decades if we relied upon visual assessment only," Will Sullivan, Stud Manager, Kentish Downs.





## Genetics is King

### WHAT IS THE NEW TCP INDEX?

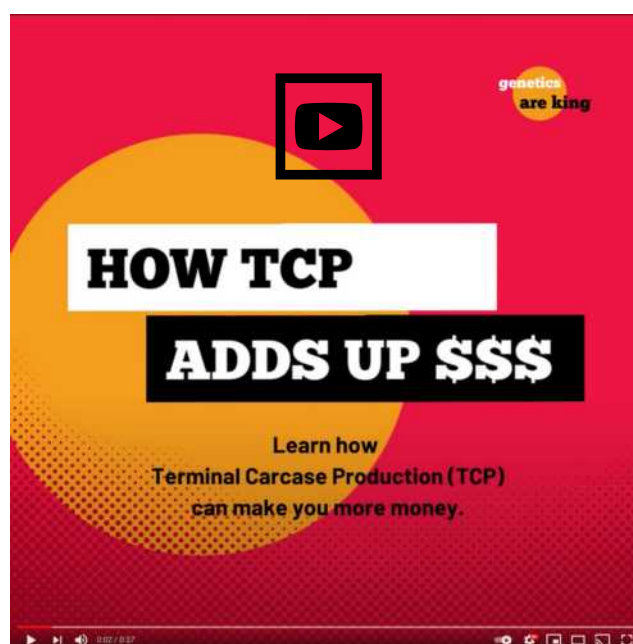
Indexes help producers select animals for use within a breeding program when there are a range of traits of economic or functional importance. This ensures that genetic gain in one trait is not made in isolation from other traits. Using indexes in ram purchasing decisions allow producers to make balanced genetic progress towards more profitable sheep. The TCP index has been created to assist producers to achieve both gains in their major production traits, such as post-weaning weight and muscling, as well as ensuring consumer satisfaction from lamb is maintained through focusing on key eating quality traits such as shear force (tenderness) and intramuscular fat (marbling).

The TCP index is designed to suit a production system where:

- all progeny are terminal
- improving growth and muscle is of commercial benefit
- increasing lean meat yield has a positive financial impact
- a small degree of emphasis is included to maintain or improve eating quality.

This production system is for a prime lamb operation where terminal sires are joined to ewes of a Merino/maternal breed or cross. The TCP index focuses on increasing weight and muscle while reducing carcass fat, which contribute to higher lean meat yield. TCP also has emphasis on modest improvements in eating quality. In the Terminal Carcase Production system, growth and improved carcass eye muscle contribute the most to the index, with smaller contributions from carcass fat depth, lean meat yield and dressing percentage. Improvements in intramuscular fat and shear force contribute to maintaining lamb eating quality.

Learn how  
TCP can  
make you  
more money!





# Genetics is King

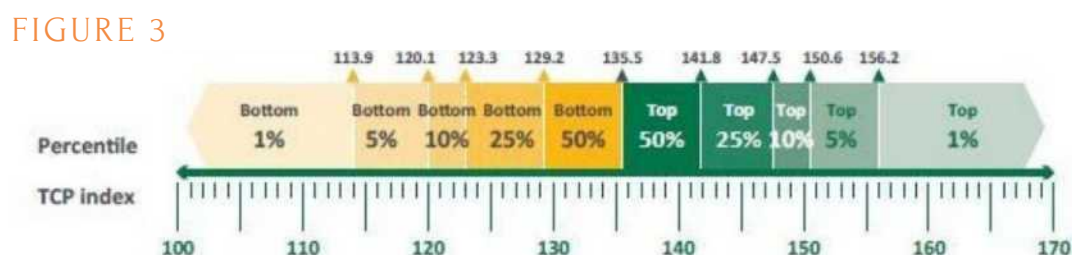
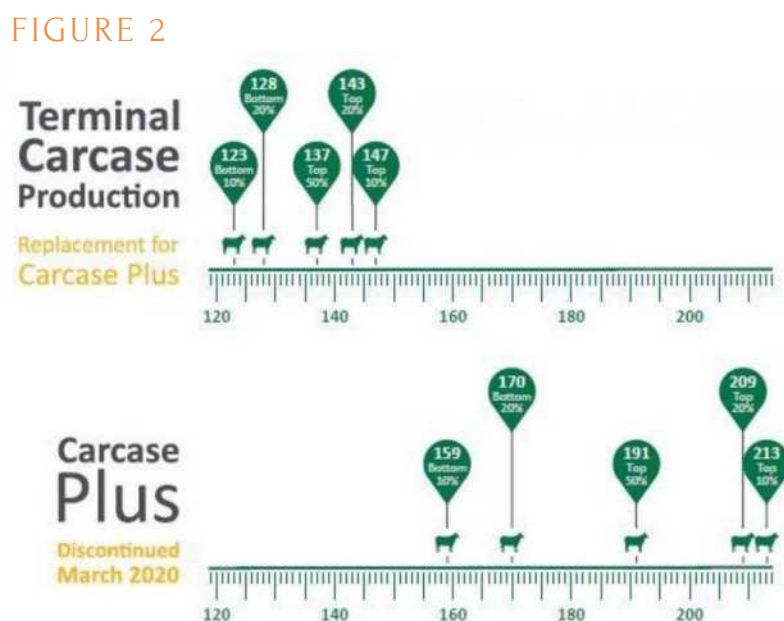
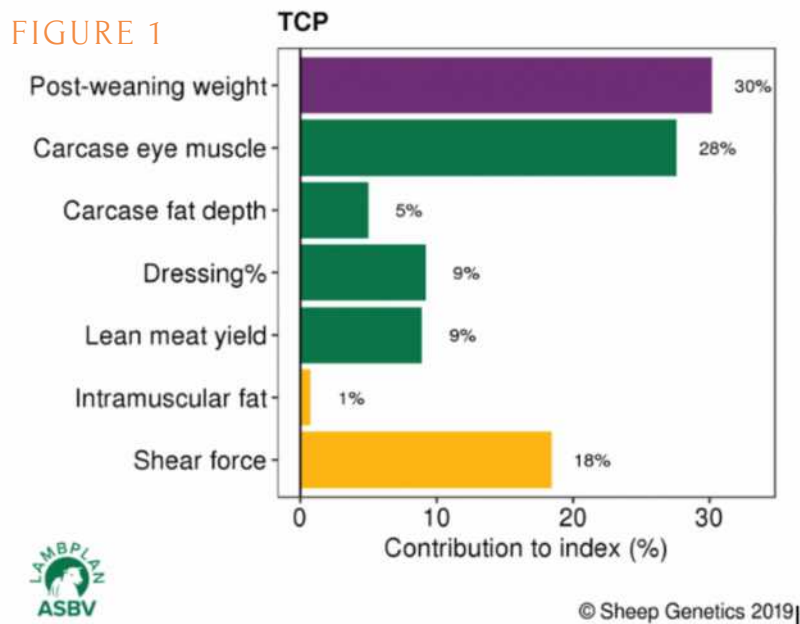
## USING THE TCP INDEX

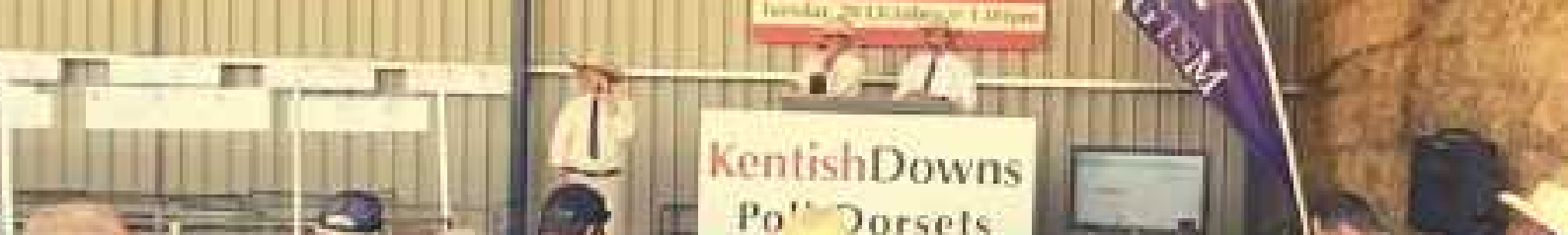
To assist in comparing rams, Sheep Genetics recommends using a percentile band table as a reference. The figure below, which is based on the percentile band table, highlights the TCP index value for significant percentiles for the 2018 drop animals.

Figure 1: Illustrates which traits are in the index and how much they contribute to the overall balance of the index. The longer the bar, the greater the impact on the index, and the greater impact on the profitability of the production system.

Figure 2: Comparison of TCP and Carcase Plus index values for significant percentiles for 2018 drop animals

Figure 3: Percentile band range graphic for TCP index 2018 drop animal





## 2021 Ram Sale

### WELCOME

We welcome new and existing clients to our Annual Ram Sale. All the rams that are presented are in their natural paddock condition and are as honest as they look. This year we have 450 industry leading Poll Dorset rams available for sale in the selling season of 2021/22.

We believe in the quality of the sheep that we breed, but more importantly, we strive to breed sheep that are easy to manage, functional and efficient, and have a good balance of breeding values.

Commercial attributes that will make money well into the future is the focus of Kentish Downs. Drawing on the longstanding success of the Kentish Downs flock, and the implementation of a targeted breeding program we will offer a quality draft of high performance rams.

All Kentish Downs ewes and rams have been DNA sampled providing clients a guarantee that the pedigree and Lambplan data is as accurate as we can possibly have it. We have been quite aggressive in adding to and expanding the stud with the purchase of elite ewes from four of Australia's leading providers of Lambplan tested PD genetics.

We are eagerly awaiting genomic results for the 2021 drop ram lambs. Currently, 2021 sires for Kentish Downs rank in the top 2% of the industry for Terminal Carcase Production (TCP) in the Lambplan database.



# 175

## High Indexing & High Performing Rams

### KD Ram Sale



Date: Wednesday 3 Nov 2021

Inspection: 10.00am

Auction: 1.00pm

Location: 'Yarragundry West'  
2096 Sturt Highway, Wagga  
Wagga NSW 2650

Auction Rams: 175

- 50 Sept-Oct 2020 drop ams
- 125 tops of the drop 2021 rams lambs

the 175 high indexing and high performing rams;  
rams;  
OS.

## 2021 Ram Sale

### 2020 DROP RAM DATA AT A GLANCE

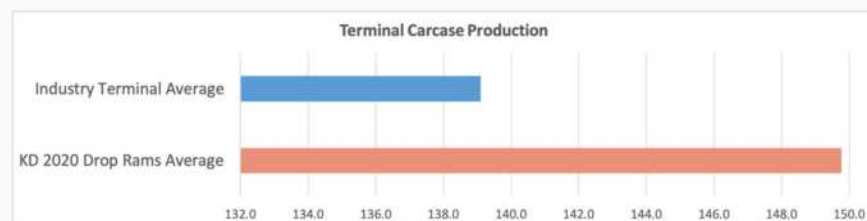
Tabled below is the average of the KD 2020 drop rams on offer at our ram sale. To view the individual data for each of the 50 rams on offer [click here](#).

[Download Full 2020 Drop Ram Data](#)

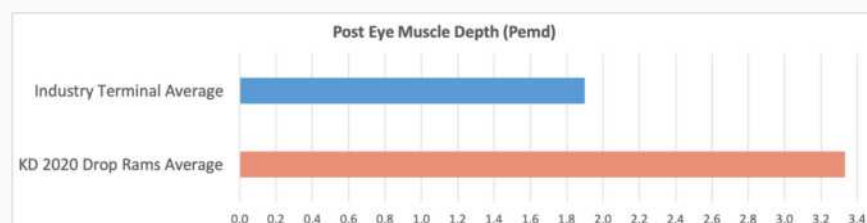


	TCP	LEQ	EQ	Bwt	Pwwt	P Fat	Pemd	LMY
<b>KD 2020 Drop Rams Average</b>	<b>149.8</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>140.3</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Terminal Average</b>	<b>139.1</b>	<b>132.3</b>	<b>132.0</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Top 1% of Terminal</b>	<b>Top 5% of Terminal</b>		<b>Top 10% of Terminal</b>		<b>Top 20% of Terminal</b>		<b>Top 50% of Terminal</b>	

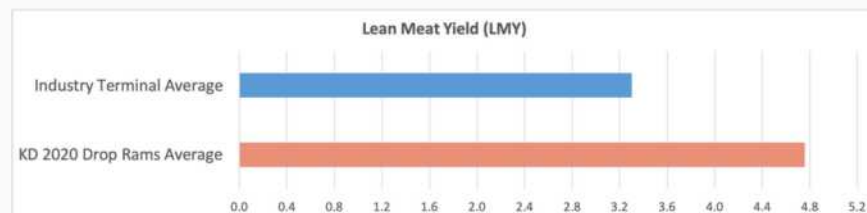
## 2020 Ram Data Percentile Data



**TCP**  
**TOP 15%**



**PEMD**  
**TOP 5%**



**LMY**  
**TOP 5%**



**LEQ**  
**TOP 25%**

Data sourced from Lambplan percentile report



## 2021 Ram Sale

2021 DROP RAM LAMB GALLERY PREVIEW



KD 2021 DROP RAM LAMB



KD 2021 DROP RAM LAMB



KD 2021 DROP RAM LAMB

These Ram Lambs are all less than 6 months of age and expressing their industry leading genes for growth and muscle.

We are eagerly awaiting their 50k genomics, and full breeding test results.

### USEFUL LINKS

LOG INTO [LAMBPLAN](#)

READ [TERMINAL INDEXES](#)

[WWW.KENTISHDOWNS.COM](http://WWW.KENTISHDOWNS.COM)

In the coming weeks, the 2021 Kentish Downs catalogue will be ready for publishing on our website and emailed to you.





## 2021 KD Sires

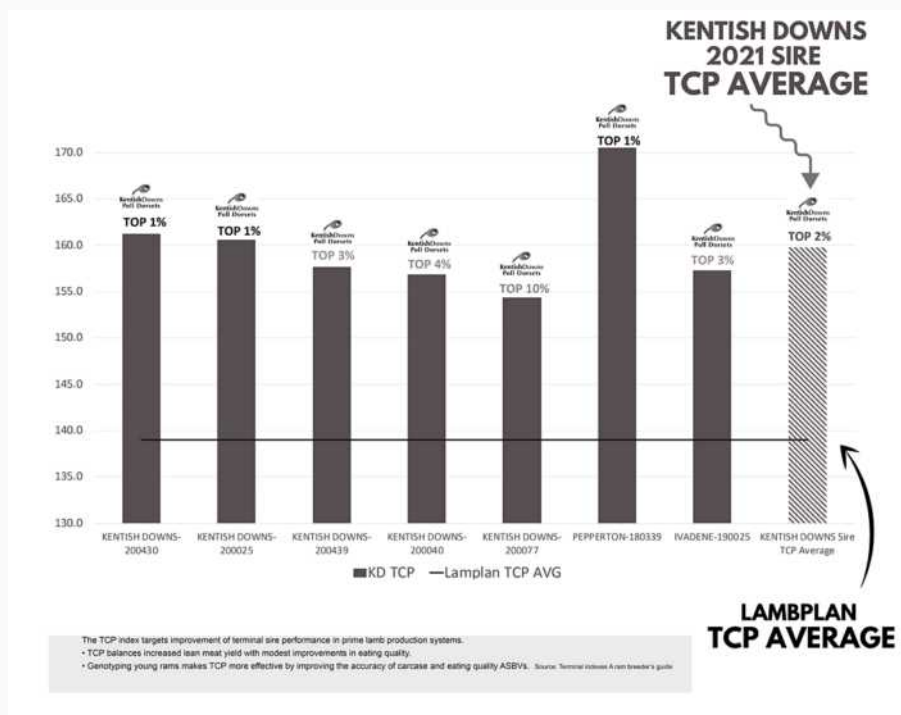
### FAST TRACKING GENETIC GAIN AT KD

Kentish Downs has been making significant genetic progress with the investment of genomics testing and utilisation of ASBVs to guide the breeding direction.

All Kentish Downs sheep are fully genomic tested. Helping to predict the traits that are not obvious to the naked eye, such as EQ. Genomic testing adds an extra layer to the measured data and the pedigree.

## 2021 KD Sires - Terminal Carcase Production

Pictured in the graph below is a visual representation of 2021 Kentish Downs sires and their TCP (Terminal Carcase Production) Index. This year we have maximised the genetic gain of our flock by selecting and only using high ranking rams in our breeding program. The average of the 2021 KD Sires rank in the top 2% for TCP of the terminal industry.



## KD's Leading 2021 Sire

### Ranked No. 1 in the terminal industry for Pemd

Pepperton 180339 is an impact sire of our 2021 drop rams. In Lambplan he has 830 progeny in 11 flocks.

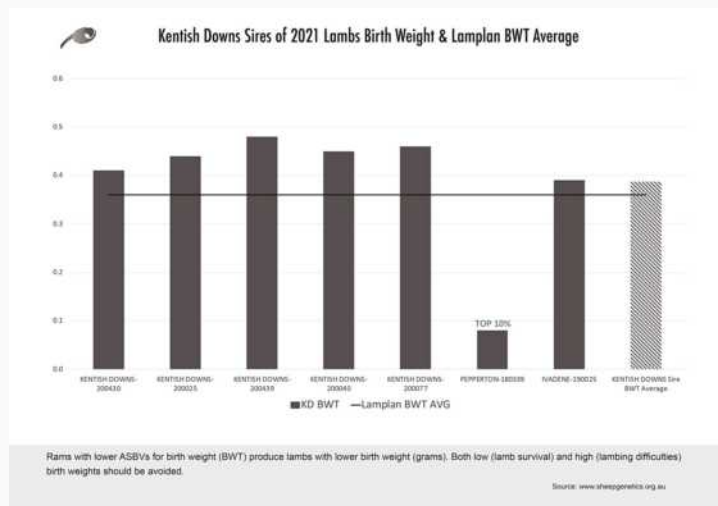
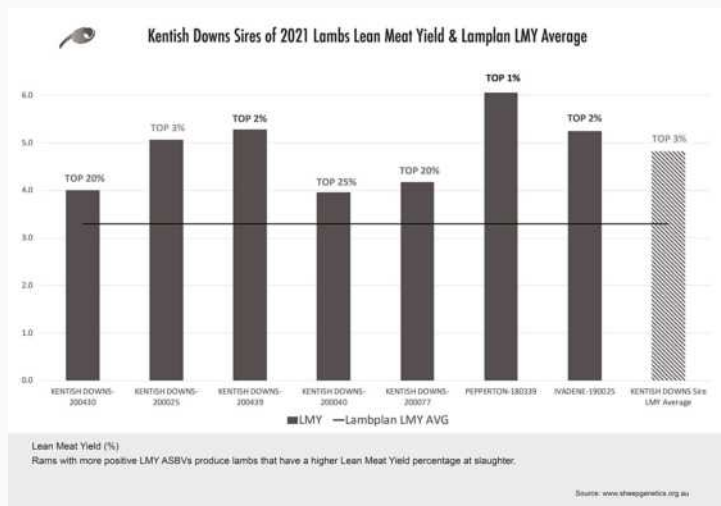
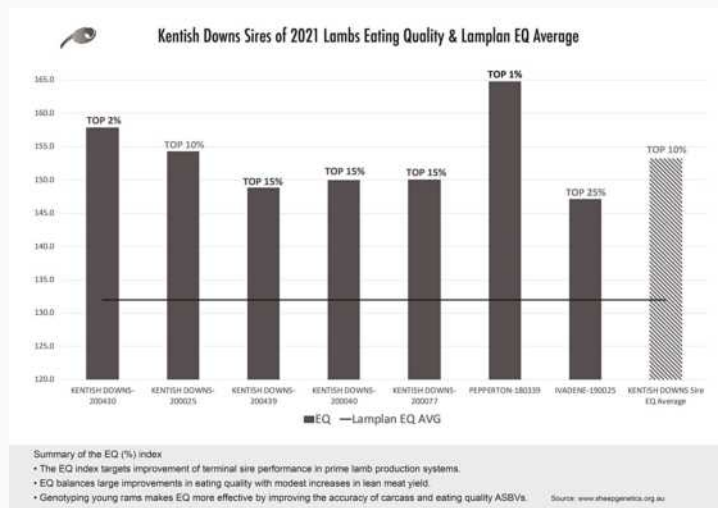
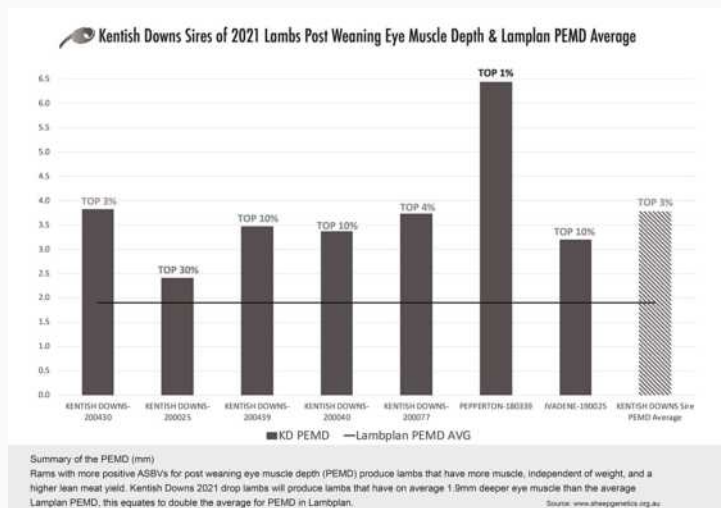
He is an all-round impressive ram, with huge power ranking NO.1 in the terminal industry for PEMD with a whopping 6.25 and an extremely high TCP of 168 that ranks him 5th in the terminal industry.

6.25





## 2021 KD Sire Data



**We look forward to seeing you at the sale!**

## Contacts

**Craig Wilson**  
Stud Owner  
M: 0428 250 982  
E: [craigwilsonlivestock@bigpond.com](mailto:craigwilsonlivestock@bigpond.com)

**Will Sullivan**  
Stud Manager  
Mobile: 0408 766 518

**Selling Agent Ray White GTSM**  
**Michael Glasser**  
M: 0403 526 702  
E: [michael.glasser@raywhite.com](mailto:michael.glasser@raywhite.com)



# **Kentish**Downs Poll Dorsets