Poena project

The Poena project was described in Merino Focus 2012, page 44. This project has now been completed, but unfortunately no report is available yet.

Summary of the PROJECT:

- The ram "Poena" was used in seven studs with 317 measured progeny in the 1990's, with the last progeny born in 1996.
- In the "Poena project" 64 more lambs, born in 2012, were tested with the rams "Jood" and "Sneller" in two studs.
- The objectives were to measure a) The accuracy of BLUP EBV predictions and b) The genetic progress made in the Merino breed over time.

Summary of RESULTS:

From 1995 to 2012, the Genetic changes in the Merino breed were:

- Fibre diameter (FD) decreased by 1.04 micron.
- Body weight (BW) increased by 3.5 kg.
- Predicted BLUP values for BW and FD were very close to results from the test / project.
- Gross Margin (GM) per Small Stock Unit (SSU) was marginally over-predicted.
- GM / SSU results show that there was substantial progress over the last 17 years of about R60.
- Genomic breeding values will give even more accurate results in the future.

2013

Gold Merit Ram Awards

"The Merino Plan"

Ram I.D	Nickname	Reg. Breeder / Stud	Expected Progeny Difference (EPD)						Score		No of Studs	No Prog.	Date	Cert. no
			REV	BW	CFW	FD	SL	TWW	W	C				
1415-2007-0675	Moord	DG Poggenpoel	71.78 *	5.67 *	0.147 +	-1.70 *	2.79 +	5.19 *	7	9	4	225	3-May-12	352
2323-2008-0931	Jood	Grootfontein Agric College	47.29 *	3.65 *	0.190 +	-0.77 +	12.55 *	3.32 *	9	9	7	419	3-May-12	350
1832-2008-0759	Fondasie	B Brynard	40.67 *	3.96 *	0.256 +	-0.27 =	6.64 *	2.47 +	9	9	3	139	3-May-12	353
952-2010-0261	Bravo	JC Hanekon & Sn	70.88 *	3.99 *	0.438 *	-1.03 *	4.64 +	1.30 +	9	9	4	197	13-Nov-13	355
855-2009-0029	Basics	J Sauer	59.90 *	3.34 +	0.489 *	-0.32 =	16.11 *	-0.12 =	9	8	4	226	13-Nov-13	356
1832-2009-0508	Vyfstêr	B Brynard	42.31 *	3.87 *	0.021 =	-1.16 *	4.67 +	-0.09 =	9	8	3	93	13-Nov-13	357

KEY:

Ram I.D.	Ram identification number
Reg. breeder / stud	See members list for contact details
REV	Economic value (R-c)
BW	Body weight (kg)
CFW (kg)	Clean fleece weight (kg)
FD	Fibre diameter (micron)
SL	Staple length (cm)
TWW	Total Weaned Weight
W	Wool Score
C	Constitution Score
No of Studs	Number of studs ram was tested
No Prog.	Number of progeny evaluated per ram
Date	Certificate date issued by Merino SA
Cert. No	Certificate sequence number

The purpose of Gold merit rams is to identify genetically superior sires for use in the Merino industry. The BLUP sire rating as available on Logix is used as reference. A Gold merit ram must:

- Have been used in at least three participating BLUP studs
- Have at least 25 tested offspring per participating stud and therefore tested progeny of at least 75
- Have EBV's in the top 10% (*) of the Merino breed for at least two of the four production traits.
- Have an EBV at least in the top 40% (+) of the Merino breed for a third of the four production traits
- Have an EBV at least average (=) in the Merino breed for a fourth of the four production traits
- Be in the top 10% (*) for REV
- Be at least average (=) in terms of TWW
- EBV's of at least 7 for wool and conformation