

2012 AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW

Breeder eyes top prize

ELOISE JOHNSTONE

JEFFERY Sutton is looking to exceed the competition with his prize ram at this weekend's Australian Sheep and Wool Show.

The sheep breeder from Temora, NSW, has had his most successful year to date.

His ram Wattle Farm Exceed, won Prime Lamb Sire at the Royal Sydney Show and NSW Border Leicester Lamb of the Year at the NSW Sheep Show.

Now he has top prize at Bendigo in his sights.

"I'm hoping, like everyone else here, to win the same title for the ram, because we won Sydney, we won the NSW sheep show, and we hope that ram is good enough to win here," he said.

Mr Sutton has 14 sheep competing at the show, but said the quality of competition at the show left him

unsure of how his stock would fare.

"You can never be confident," he said.

"One day you're a winner, one day you mightn't be that good.

"It's up to the judges but we're here to win that's for sure."

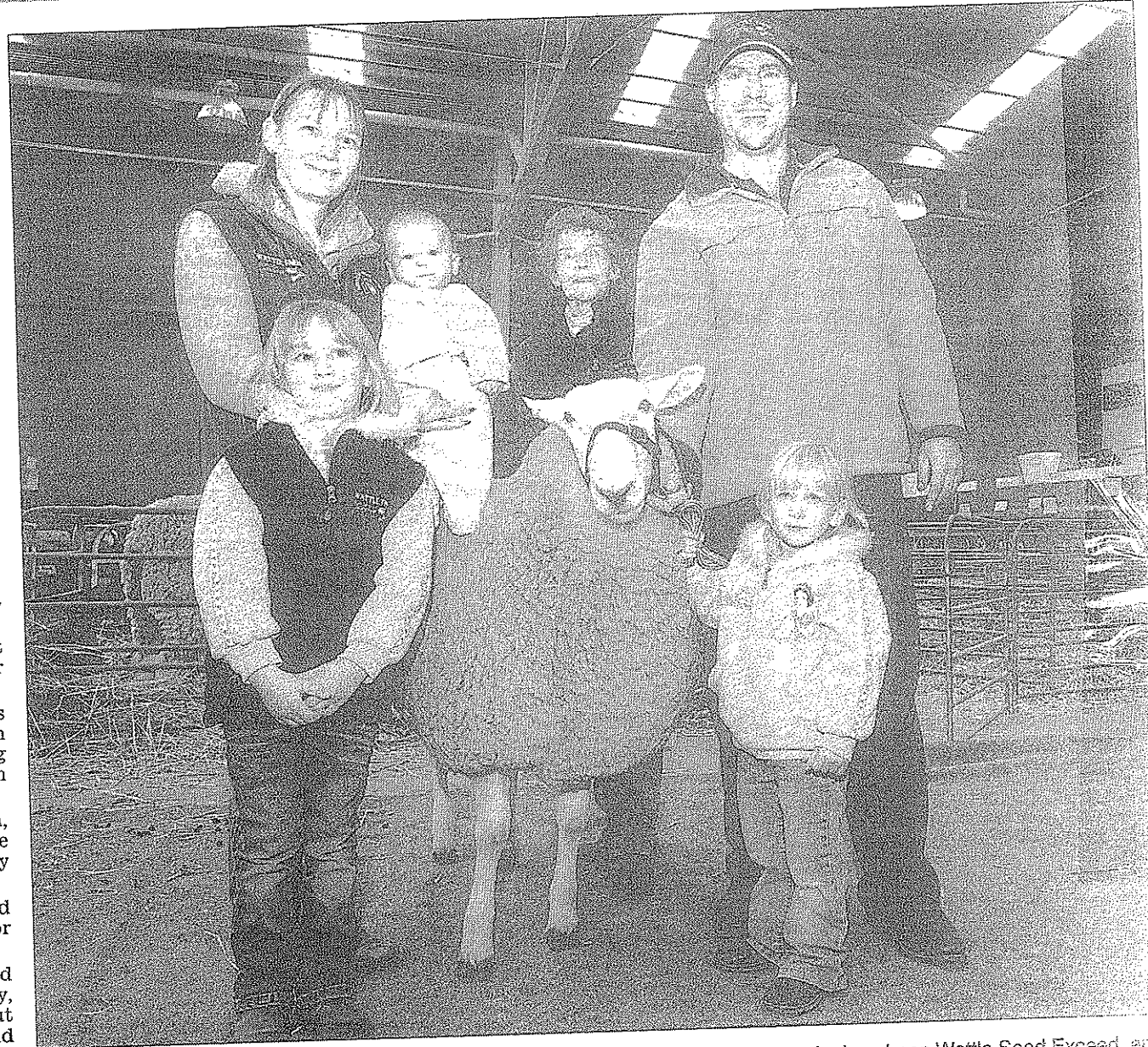
Mr Sutton said his success came down to dedication throughout the showing season, which runs from February to September.

"Hard work, preparation, and you should always aspire to do something better every show," he said.

Wife Dianne Sutton said the judges were looking for good bone structure.

"A Roman nose, a good backline, good bone density, not so much the wool but a long neck extension and classic characteristics.

"That's what the judges are looking for."



BEHIND SCENES: Dianne, Jeffery Jr, Marie and Jeffery Sutton, Elizabeth, the prize-winning sheep Wattle Seed Exceed, and Christine Sutton. Pictures: RAMON CAREY