

Wattle Farm's quality genetics to \$3000 top

By BRENDAN MANSBRIDGE

STUD rams sold to a top price of \$3000 during the Sutton family's second annual Wattle Farm Border Leicester production sale last Friday.

Held on-property at Temora, the sale featured genetics which have been highly successful for the family in show rings across the eastern States in recent years.

In the breakdown of the sale, all 22 stud ewes offered were sold to a top of \$450, twice, to average \$365.

Five of the seven stud rams sold to the sale top of \$3000, averaging \$1710, while 27 of 70 flock rams topped at \$1150 and averaged \$700.

The top-priced ram was selected by Ben Picker, Bedsy's Border Leicesters, Bigga, for \$3000.

The ram, Wattle Farm 2012-221, was sired by a Cadell Tops ram, and from a Wonga family ewe, and had Australian Sheep Breeding Values of +0.65 for birthweight, +13.56 for post weaning weight, -0.73 for post weaning fat depth and a Border \$ index of 128.25.

Mr Picker said he had only recently started his Border Leicester stud and was after a top quality ram to kick it off.

"We were looking at a couple of studs but Wattle Farm have had some good results in the show ring and we thought they had a good line of sheep," he said.

Mr Picker said the top ram stood out and had no real faults.

He also took home a second stud ram by Wattle Farm Supreme 1st.

The Bradley family, Kain Border Leicesters, Braidwood, purchased the second top stud ram, Wattle Farm 2012-239, also by a Cadell Tops sire, at \$1550.

The Bradleys also took home five stud ewes for \$350 each.

Taking home stud rams for \$1500 each were Peter Knox, "Kariny", Bombala, and A.P.S. and R. Heffernan, "Claris Park", Junee, who also purchased a ewe for \$350.

In the flock rams return client Joe Mooney, Mooney Bimbi Partnership, "Meadow Bank", Thuddungra, paid the top of \$1150 among his draft of three



Jeff Sutton, Wattle Farm Border Leicesters, Temora, and Ben Picker, Bedsy's Border Leicesters, Bigga, with the \$3000 top-priced ram he purchased.

rams which averaged \$1016.

Another return client, Robert Sheridan, "Woodstock", Nangus, selected two rams at \$900 each.

Volume buyers included Michael Thomas, Thomas Farms, "Heaton Park", Gubbata, who loaded up with five rams at \$600 each and Jim McDonald, "Eubindal", Binalong, who recently featured in *The Land's* Border Leicester feature, secured three rams to

\$700, averaging \$666.

In the stud ewes, the top price of \$450 was paid twice by Terri Barrell, Delco stud, Bargo.

Wattle Farm principal Jeff Sutton said while the sale was well attended, seasonal and economic conditions affected the overall sale result.

The sale was conducted by Landmark, with David Coleman the auctioneer.