

Borders prove dominant force

BY CARA JEFFERY

BORDER Leicesters proved an unbeatable force in the meat sheep interbreed show ring when they took out the supreme prime lamb sire and dam honours at the Sydney Royal.

The supreme prime lamb sire was won by Jeff Sutton and his family, Wattle Farm Border Leicester stud, Temora, for their eight-month-old ram Wattle Farm Bonn Exceed.

The ram was by Cadell Bonn, a ram the Suttons purchased in 2007 from Cadell Border Leicester stud.

Mr Sutton said he was "absolutely thrilled" with their win.

"As relative newcomers to the Sydney Royal in 2009 and the stud scene in 2005, it was a real honour to take out the title," Mr Sutton said.

The win came on the back of their success at the Melbourne Royal last year where they won champion Border Leicester ram and reserve champion Border Leicester ewe.

The Suttons also won best Border Leicester exhibit at the NSW State Sheep Show at Dubbo last year.

Mr Sutton said Bonn Exceed's carcass and stylish head made it a real stand-out, together with the ram's dense fleece and well-defined crimp.

This was the first showing for the young ram that weighed about 105 kilograms and was October shorn.

Judge Ian Gilmore, Tattykeel White Suffolks, Oberon, said the ram had magnificent growth and spring of rib for eight months of age, and was also structurally sound.

Fellow southern NSW breeders Jamie and Tracey Buerckner, Bauer stud, Aria Park, won the supreme prime lamb dam for their eight-month-old ewe.

While the Buerckners have competed at the Sydney Royal for seven years, this was the first time they had won the interbreed competition.

They had won the grand champion Border Leicester ram and reserve champion Border Leicester ewe on two occasions previously at the Sydney Royal, but the supreme title had eluded them.

Their winning ewe, Bauer Jilly, had only been shown previously at the Canberra Royal where it was sashed junior and grand champion Border Leicester ewe.

Bauer Jilly has been joined to Bauer Bingo which was also shown at Sydney Royal this year.

Judge Brendan Mansbridge, Brooklyn Park Poll Dorsets, Richmond, said the Border Leicester ewe was an excellent example of the breed, very true to type and structurally correct.

"She shows great carcass traits, with a lot of volume and capacity through the body and great width across the loin. She also has a good fleece of wool all over," Mr Mansbridge said.

Together the supreme sire and dam from the Wattle Farm stud and Bauer stud consecutively came up trumps again for the Border Leicester breed to take out the J.A. and M.Y. Gilmore Perpetual Trophy for best pair.



Jeff Sutton, Wattle Farm Border Leicesters, Temora, holds the supreme prime lamb sire while Jamie Buerckner, Bauer Border Leicesters, holds the supreme prime lamb dam. The duo teamed up to win the interbreed best pair in show.

This is only the second year this trophy has been in existence and was introduced by the Gilmore family, Tattykeel stud, Oberon, for which the grand ram and ewe of each breed are eligible to compete.

While the judging criteria is based on breed qualities, emphasis is placed on carcass shape and the

trophy is won by the breed, rather than the exhibitor.

In all, 12 breeds contested the interbreed, which included the

relatively new Australian White breed which was shown for the first time in Australia at the Sydney Royal.

Meat sheep and dual purpose interbreed

Supreme prime lamb sire: Border Leicester, Wattle Farm, Temora.
Supreme prime lamb dam: Border Leicester, Bauer, Aria Park.
Supreme group in show: Poll Dorset, Springwaters, Boorowa.