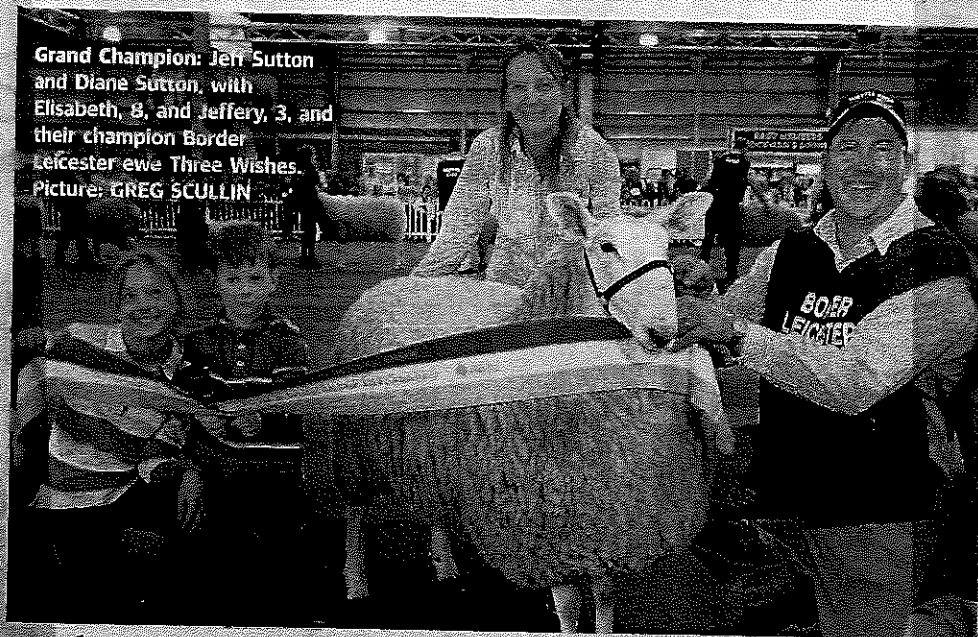


WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 2015



Grand Champion: Jeff Sutton and Diane Sutton, with Elisabeth, 8, and Jeffery, 3, and their champion Border Leicester ewe Three Wishes. Picture: GREG SCULLIN

Three Wishes come true

By KATE DOWLER

JEFF Sutton had not won a prize "anywhere near this magnitude" before his Border Leicester took out the Interbreed Championship Ewe sash at the Royal Melbourne Show on the weekend.

But the Wattle Farm Border Leicester stud ewe, dubbed Three Wishes after Jeff and wife Diane's children's favourite toy figurine, has taken home other ribbons.

Three Wishes took out the Grand Champion ewe award for her breed at the Sydney Royal this year, as well as Supreme in the breed at the Dubbo, NSW, sheep show.

"But this interbreed win

means a lot to me," Jeff said.

"I picked this ewe out as a young lamb and backed myself and hoped she would be good enough to compete and do well," he said.

"I've nursed her for 12 months to get her up to this."

Jeff said the ewe's "structure, style, balance and quality of her bone and fleece" were among reasons for her win.

The Sutton family travelled to the show from their property at Temora in NSW.

"Quality Border Leicesters are always in demand, and first-cross ewes are making very good money now," he said.

"From a commercial viewpoint, showing is very useful

for getting your name out there and bounced around as one of the better studs.

"We're in LambPlan too and objectively measure. Our clients like the balance between good visual assessment; people want to see that the sheep are structurally correct but they also want the objective measurement."

This was the sixth year the Suttons have shown at Melbourne.

"It is a great show and very family-oriented here. The officials all work to make you welcome," Jeff said. After a busy showing season, Three Wishes will be heading to the shearing shed where Jeff expects the fleece to weigh in at 7kg.