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Ewe win: Elizabeth 9, and Christine 7, Sutton, from Wattle Farm, with the interbreed champion ewe. Picture: DANNIKA BONSER



Studs repeat interbreed wins

By **JAMIE-LEE OLDFIELD**

IT was double *deja vu* in the interbreed sheep judging at the Royal Melbourne Show, with last year's champion studs repeating their successes.

For the second year running, a Suffolk from Allendale stud, Bordertown in South Australia, was the supreme interbreed ram, while Wattle Farm Border Leicesters, at Temora in NSW, won supreme interbreed ewe, also for the second year in a row.

Allendale principal Alistair Day's Suffolk ram, a 119.5kg sire with a 49mm muscle

depth, 94mm muscle width and scanning 7mm of fat, was placed above the Poll Dorset ram from Hildren stud in NSW in reserve.

The reserve ram weighed 145.5kg, with a 54mm muscle depth, 108mm width and fat scan of 9mm.

It was previously sashed supreme Poll Dorset exhibit and Hildren's James Frost said the ram was a twin from an embryo transfer program and would be retained in the stud.

Allendale also won the sire progeny interbreed with a group by Derrynock 183, while Hildren's Poll Dorsets came

out on top of the breeders group interbreed competition.

Jeff Sutton's Wattle Farm ewe continued to highlight the Border Leicester breed's maternal trait dominance, with his supreme exhibit of the breed named interbreed ewe.

A Suffolk ewe from the Blue Rock stud at Romsey was in reserve, having also been a champion at Hamilton's Sheepvention in July.

Border Leicester and interbreed judge Ian Cameron, from Nundoone Border Leicesters, at Narromine in NSW, said the Wattle Farm exhibit was as good a ewe he

had seen in a long time.

"It is an outstanding long wool ewe to beat the short wools, and this one had great carcass and very good wool," he said.

"We have been breeding Border Leicesters to produce a first-cross mother since the 1950s and agriculture has been trying to find a better prime lamb dam since then — and they haven't done it.

"Breeders using a first-cross ewe with terminal sire are doing better than other crosses because the lambing percentages and wool cut is keeping them on top."

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