



Information Sheet

Flock Profile - Merino

The genomic-based Flock Profile test was developed by team of researched from Sheep CRC, AGBU, NSW DPI and Sheep Genetics. The Flock Profile test is suitable for any commercial Merino breeder.

Flock Profile is a new tool available to commercial Merino breeders. Flock Profile estimates the genetic merit of a merino flock or drop which can be compared to the Sheep Genetics database. Flock Profile results deliver genomic breeding values for key Merino production traits and then scaled to Australian Sheep Breeding Value (ASBV) level. This allows Merino breeders to track the genetic progress of their flock and make better ram buying and selection decisions.

What is Flock Profile

Flock Profile requires Merino producers to randomly select 20 sheep representative of a drop. They can either use blood cards or tissue samples to have the DNA from each sheep extracted. Once blood or tissue samples are submitted to the sheep genomics office and paid for, results are returned via email 10-12 weeks later. Results are presented on an ASBV level but are not ASBVs.

Flock Profile has been scientifically validated with internal cross-validation with industry data, matching Flock Profile data to historical ram team history and matching group phenotypes to group genotypes in a wether trial. Flock Profile is currently undergoing final pipeline stages. Pilot participants have been overwhelmingly positive about the information they receive in taking their breeding program in their commercial flocks of Merinos forward.

Registering

- Prior to testing you need to acquire a Flock Code from the Sheep Genomics office

Selecting sheep to blood card

- There is to be no bias in selection of individuals for genotyping
- To select, count your entire mob and divide by 20 and select or draft off every animal that is the answer of $\frac{\text{mob number}}{20}$. For example you have 1000 sheep in your drop. $\frac{1000}{20} = 50$ - so draft off every 50th sheep (without fail) and run up draft to collect blood
- You may only decide to genotype wethers or ewes from drop, but they need to be representative of the entire drop

Submitting blood cards

- Please insert a quick note and write your name, trading name, station name, phone, address, email, property ID (PIC) code, bloodlines used and that you are part of the Flock Profile project.
- Please indicate year drop you are testing (e.g. 2016)

What you will receive

1. Flock Profile results where you will receive values and percentile standings based on ASBV scale for key traits ycfw, yfd, ysl, pwt, ywt, pemd and key selection indexes DP, MP, FP.
2. An indication of your poll/horn status of your flock.
3. A free subscription to the RamSelect app where you can see your Flock Profile results and then search ram sales for individual rams that suit your breeding objectives and flock requirements.
4. An information booklet on ASBVs if you elect to receive one.

Important - Please note this is for Merinos only.