

REPORT OF ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW 22-23 September 2007

Hoof and Hook- on the Hoof component!

The show commenced on Saturday with scanning of animals by Falkirk Index for the inaugural Hoof and Hook competition. After weighing, the animals were scanned for eye muscle area and evenness of fat cover. There were four classes which consisted of 10kg carcass capretto, 14kg carcass kid, 18 kg carcass chevon and 22kg carcass goat less than two years of age. Animals were entered in all classes with eight exhibitors entering animals in pens of three. There were a total of 30 animals entered after scratchings.

Judging of the hoof component was very professionally done by David Booth from NSW who explained his judging process as he examined goats. This was particularly informative for the students from Assumption College, Salesian College and Dookie Campus (University of Melbourne) who participated in the competition. A winning animal was selected from each of the four classes as well as a winning pen. The four winning pens were then re-judged for a Champion pen of three. The criteria for the champion pen of three was evenness of the animals.

The Championship was awarded to F & L Jewkes, Franklin Park Boers, for a pen of capretto. The hook component was judged on Tuesday 25th September by Dr Bruce McGregor (see below for report)

Annual General Meeting

Saturday was also the Annual General meeting of the Victorian Branch. It was well attended by a "captive audience" as well as the promise of a free lunch! After attending to formalities the new Committee members for the 2007-8 year were announced. These are: Taylan Atar, Carole Axton, Judith D'Aloisio, Chris Lawrance, Glenn Martin, Vicki Mitchell and Lorraine Tedford (Tasmanian representative). Sue Ryan will attend as a Board member, Contact details for these members as well as the Victorian executive will be placed on the website once approved by the Board.

A presentation was made to the Merit Point winners for the show season 2006-7. The top Victorian Buck was awarded to Mitchell SA Genetics Hughie owned by Geoff & Vicki Mitchell and Peter & Christine Mitchell. The top Victorian doe was awarded equally to Kandara Martine owned by Suzannah Cevaal and Stornaway NDRFA5376 owned by Norm & Doreen Robbins. The Does were Champion animals of the year beating the buck on points and their owners share the perpetual trophy for the year.

Apologies for the AGM received from: Jason & Adrienne l'Anson, Wayne & Julie Paul (Tas), Maureen Dean, Ray & Nerida Tull, Susannah Cevaal, Frances Ashwood, Marianne & Cameron Rocke, Janice Dumbrell, Faye Clarke, John McIntosh, Norm Robbins, George White, Vicki Mitchell.

In attendance: Carole Axton, Thomas Youlden, Doreen Robbins, Carol McIntosh, Chris Lawrance, Judith D'Aloisio, Sue Ryan, Glenn Martin, Ian Turpin, Jeoff Campbell.

Judging of Fullbloods

Sunday saw a late start to the judging of the Fullbloods. This was undertaken for the first time in the main Livestock pavilion with dairy cattle and alpacas present and plenty of spectators! Classes were well represented with a number of very good animals, making the judging difficult at times. Judging was undertaken by Mal Morgan from NSW, again in a very professional and competent manner. The Champion animals and a full coverage of results with photos has been published on the Victorian and national websites. After considerable deliberation Supreme was awarded to the Champion Buck owned by Jeoff & Dawn Campbell, Tindarra Boers. Most successful exhibitor was Linda Jewkes, Franklin Park Boer Goat Stud.

The Victorian Branch would like to thank all exhibitors for their support and the judges for their excellent and very informative judging. Mal Morgan is especially thanked for explaining his judging process and the Breeds standard to the spectators in the stands. This exposure is invaluable in promoting the breed especially to interested newcomers to the industry. Having schools' participation was a godsend to the show exhibitors on Sunday as three very keen students returned to assist us. As the day went on and we got slower, their energy was unbelievable as they helped everyone washing and grooming animals in the morning, showing them in the ring, topping up water unasked, and assisting with packing up! Their participation promises a bright future for boer goats through the next generation if we can harness this energy and enthusiasm!

Hoof and Hook- on the Hook component

This was undertaken at Hardwicks abattoirs on Tuesday 25th September. The criteria for the Hook judging undertaken by Dr Bruce McGregor was:

- consistency among the group entered (weight, fat cover)
- the GR tissue depth which he calibrated (this should be low)
- the eye muscle score from the scanning (this should be high) which was then calculated as an inverse value
- how close the animals came to target specifications (penalties were applied to animals which were over or under weight)

The animals(s) in the group which had the lowest numbers would be the winner.

After taking the GR depth and recording the animals' cold carcass weight in the chill room, this information was entered into Bruce's computer together with the Eye Muscle score. He then calculated a winning pen of three from each of the classes.

The winning groups of carcasses were then put together in the chill room for a visual assessment. From this a winning pen of three was decided for the carcass

competition and the winner was Dookie Campus (University of Melbourne). Full results will be available on the Victorian and National websites.

The best carcass was then chosen from the winning groups and this was also awarded to Dookie for carcass number 7151.

A video was taken of both the hoof and hook components and will be edited, put on a DVD and be available to interested persons for the 2008 competition.

Sponsors for the 2007 competition were: Pat Cuffe Livestock, Taylan Atar, Ghin Ghin Boer Goats and Don McKie donated animals to enable school entries. Their generous support has made it happen! A big thank you to Chris Lawrance for the huge effort put into organizing the competition and transporting the goats to Kyneton.

We anticipate 2008 to be bigger and better with the promise of a Minimum of \$1000 prizemoney to be shared equally by the winners of the hoof and hook components!

Judith D'Aloisio