

Babirra

The first auction of the day was held at the Farrow family's Babirra stud, its 48th Poll Merino and eighth Dohne auction.

"Preparing rams for the sale is not a one day in the year job, as we present what we consider are good all-round sheep and doing what we think is right for the bottom line and your hip pocket," Robert Farrow said as he welcomed a large crowd to the Stansbury property.

"Our old slogan 'the ability to thrive and survive' is just as important today as it ever was, with both the Dohne's and Poll



■ Top price Poll Merino at Babirra, with buyer Graham Cook (centre), Mark Bryant (Elders) and Robert Farrow.

Merinos dual purpose breeds."

The growing popularity of the Dohne was once again reflected in sales, Babirra offering 33 rams this year, recording a 75% clearance rate, selling to a top of \$2,800 (up from \$2,600 last year) and averaging \$1,356, while the private sale team sold to an average of \$500.

Robert described the Dohne line-up as having all the important attributes — fertility, general carcass size and soft, white stylish wool.

"Last year we sold three rams with 100% comfort factor and thought this was a one-off, but this year we offered five more the same," he said.

The top-priced Dohne went to D. H. and R. R. Agnew and Sons, Rosedene, Stansbury, pleased with the physical structure of the two purchases they made on the day.

"We started buying at Babirra's first Dohne sale, and plan to carry 100% Dohnes from early next year. With their growth rates the lambs are up for sale a bit quicker than the Merinos, and demand is very good," David Agnew said.

A number of other local producers also bought well; however, a large group of buyers from the Mid North, Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula also made their presence felt.

The Farrow's had 33 quality Poll Merinos on offer in the main auction, and recorded a 100% clearance, selling to a top of \$1,750, averaging \$740 (up



■ Top price Dohne ram at Babirra was purchased by near neighbours D. H. and R. R. Agnew and Sons, Rosedene. Pictured with the purchase are Robert Farrow and David Agnew.

from \$680 last year). Top price ram was purchased by regular buyer G. D. and J. A. Cook, Pangari, Minlaton, and was one of four purchases Graham Cook made on the day.

Buying from Babirra for almost a decade, Graham said their rams represented good value for money, were good all-round general purpose sheep bred to suit local conditions.

Mini auction rams also recorded 100% clearance, averaging \$400.

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regular buyers including T. D. Smith (Yorketown), Tom Honner (Brentwood), Mark Filmer

