

Author's note

The decision to undertake or develop a stud breeding enterprise is either a natural progression of a family tradition or, alternatively, a passion to become involved in a sheep breeding enterprise that is much more challenging than simply producing commercial stock.

For many stud breeders, especially those that are well established within the sheep industry, the tradition of stud breeding has been going on for many generations and the younger generations within these studs have always been



Author Murray Long with one of the many 'Pendarra' White Suffolk sires that have made stud breeding such a rewarding experience.

surrounded by the terminology and decisions that are an integral part of stud breeding. The development of a specific type, the use and fine-tuning of your eye to detect faults, as well as the good breeding traits, and using different mating strategies to achieve your ideal sheep become second nature to the young stud breeder who has grown up with the day-to-day workings of a long-established stud breeding operation.

Many of the most recognised studs within Australia have been operating for many generations.

How then does a 'new kid on the block' break into this industry that is saturated with years of tradition and time honoured history? This was just the situation I faced when I made the decision to develop a sheep stud around 10 years ago.

Being a third generation farmer on a property that was traditionally a mixed farming enterprise consisting of cereal grains and sheep, I recall how the yearly trip to a sheep stud to purchase replacement rams was the only contact we had with the operations of a stud breeding operation. Our sheep enterprise was