Export lamb carcass competition - Western Australia again leads the Commonwealth

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A WEST AUSTRALIAN lamb breeder, Mr. R. S. Wallace, of Mt. Barker, gained first place with his entry of five lambs in the West Australian Export Lamb Carcass Competition for 1956. Later this winning entry was awarded the All Australian Championship when competition carcasses from all States were judged at Smithfield by Mr. E. F. Way, a highly qualified and experienced member of the London Meat Trade. The Western Australian team of the four leading pens was also judged to be superior to the teams entered by the other lamb producing States and thus won the Interstate Competition.

The All Australian Competition has been conducted for five years. Lamb carcasses from this state have now been successful in both the All Australian Championship and the Interstate Competition for three (1952, 1953 and 1956) of the five years. For the first two years the All Australian Championship was won by Mr. M. K. Reynolds of Meckering.

Western Australia can feel justly proud of its continued success in this competition. These results must give further impetus to an important industry and also provide an incentive to growers to take part in the competition, quite apart from the high value of the prizes given.

State-wide competitions for export lamb carcasses were first conducted by the Australian Meat Board in this and other lamb-producing states in 1937. The petitions were interrupted by the war but were resumed in 1948 and have been held every year since.

The principal objects of the competition have been to foster the production of high quality lamb suitable for the English market and to keep buyers aware of the high quality of lambs from Australia. After each killing season, all lambs entered and accepted for competition have been shipped to England where they were the subject of a special advertising display made on a state basis at the Smithfield Meat Market.
Zone 3 consisting of the Central and Great Southern Districts.

Zone 4 consisting of the lower Great Southern and South-West Districts.

Entrants in each zone compete for the Zone Competition except that zones 1 and 2 are now judged as one competition. The first and second prizewinners then compete for the State Championship which carries a prize of £30 and a trophy valued at £15. A prize of £10 is awarded to the Reserve Champion.

Prizes are given for each of the Zone Competitions. In Class 1 they are for first £13, second £7, and third £4, and for Class 2 the prizes are £13, £7, and £3 respectively.

ALL AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION

In 1952 it was decided to conduct a competition on a Commonwealth basis for all lambs forwarded to London in the various State Competitions. Two awards are made. One is the All Australian Championship for the best individual entry and the other is the Interstate Championship awarded to the State with the best group entry.

INTERSTATE COMPETITION

The four leading entrants in each State Competition are regarded as the entry for that State in the Interstate Competition for which the prize is a trophy valued at £50 for perpetual competition. This trophy is held by the Department of Agriculture in the winning State for one year. Prizes in addition to those won in the State Competition are given and these are £10 for first, £5 for second, £3 for third, and £2 for fourth placings.

This State’s entrants again showed up to advantage. The Western Australian entry won the Interstate Competition for the third time in five years and now holds the trophy until the results of the next competition are announced.

The four entrants comprising the winning team are given below together with their points scored.

First—
R. S. Wallace, Mount Barker (Southdown x Romney Marsh-Merino), 433 points.

Second—
Dallak Estate, York (Southdown x English Leicester-Merino), 424 points.

Third—
S. Wallace, Mount Barker (Southdown x Romney Marsh-Merino), 421 points.

Fourth—
O. E. W. Bruns, Armadale (Southdown x Romney Marsh-Merino), 419 points.

Mr. R. S. Wallace with his prizewinning entry. The lambs were sired by Southdown rams out of Romney Marsh-Merino crossbred ewes, and had an average carcass weight of 36.6 lb.
This gave a total of 1,697 points for Western Australia. Victoria followed with 1,677 points and next in order were Tasmania 1,674 points, New South Wales 1,664 points, South Australia 1,634 points and Queensland 1,628 points.

The members of the other two successful Western Australian teams in 1952 and 1953 were as follows:

1952—
M. K. Reynolds, Meckering.
J. P. Reynolds, Meckering.
A. N. Rischbeith, Mt. Barker.
M. K. Reynolds, Meckering.

1953—
M. K. Reynolds, Meckering.
W. G. Burges, York.
Muresk Agricultural College, Muresk.
Chapman Research Station, via Geraldton.

ALL AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The highest scoring entry in the Western Australian team, that of Mr. R. S. Wallace and which scored 433 points, gained the All Australian Championship. It was closely followed by that of E. F. Hancock of Warracknabeal, Victoria, with 425 points.

The judge referred to the Western Australian exhibits as:

Easily one of the finest entries ever made from this State. It would be fair to say that lambs from this State have never reached such a high standard since the Competition commenced.

The report on R. S. Wallace’s winning entry said:

This pen was outstanding, of good conformation, well muscled, with excellent fat distribution and light interior suets, ideal retail meat.

These competitions relate essentially to the requirements of the meat trade. The carcasses are judged according to quality and suitability to the U.K. market. The results are thus of considerable value to breeders to acquaint them with the type of lamb required for export.

It is interesting to note that the winning team last year and of the two previous years were comprised of breeders from very widely divergent areas, ranging from the Geraldton district in the extreme north of the lamb belt to Mt. Barker, adjacent to the southern coast. It is obvious therefore, that the whole of our lamb producing areas are well suited to the production of the type of high quality lamb in demand at Smithfield.

It is also noteworthy that two of the members of last year’s team are of the Mt. Barker district, which is particularly important in view of the very considerable land development which is taking place in the agricultural areas adjacent to the southern coast.
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