

'Bruno' best ram at \$3500

A WELL-fleshed spring-drop Poll Dorset ram, nicknamed "Bruno", topped the annual Kentish Downs ram sale at Holbrook last week, reaching \$3500 in keen competition.

The ram was a late entry on the sale catalogue, as he was almost kept as a stud sire by vendors, Rob and Jody Martin, who said the ram was a "standout" since he was a lamb in the paddock.

The ram was first out into the ring, and measured a post-weaning eye muscle depth (PEMD) of 0.17 millimetres, a post-weaning fat measurement of 12.65 kilograms and a yearling weight of 15.04kg.

He attracted lively bidding but was knocked down to repeat buyers, Tom and Kathy Simons, Pembroke Pastoral Company, Telangatuk East, Victoria.

The ram will be used over maiden ewes in their 500-ewe stud and commercial enterprise.

"The ram's bone structure is wonderful, which will help maintain the size and growth of our flock," Mrs Simons said.

She said the stud had used Kentish Downs genetics for several generations and planned to use the ram's progeny on first- and second-cross ewes.

The Simons also paid \$1700 for another ram with similar figures.

In all, 116 rams were offered at the auction, including 60 spring-drop rams, which sold to a 77 per cent

clearance and \$806 average.

The average was lifted from last year's \$768, which Mr Martin put down to the rams' condition and figures.

The annual trek to the Kentish Downs sale was worthwhile for volume buyer, Tim Clarke, Minja Pastoral Company, Woolsthorpe, Vic, as he secured 16 rams, topping at \$1600 and averaging \$890.

After buying a tidy draft of 23 rams last year to increase flock numbers, Mr Clarke said the season had meant a smaller number of rams were needed.

Another volume buyer, Dick Sinclair, who runs Nutfield Partnership, "Merrinehbk", Alexandra, Vic, with his father, John, paid to \$850 and averaged \$650 in securing 15 rams for their 5000-ewe second-cross enterprise.

Stud breeders, the Ryan family, Gillmore Poll Dorsets, Yeoval, secured two long, meaty rams for their stud for \$2100 and \$2600.

First-time buyer, George Wilson, "Big Springs", Wagga Wagga, bought



Top-priced ram buyers, Tom and Kathy Simons, Pembroke Pastoral Company, Telangatuk East, Victoria, with Kentish Downs Poll Dorset principal, Rob Martin, and their \$3500 ram, nicknamed "Bruno", which will go into their stud and commercial operations.

three rams, paying \$550 for two and \$500 for the third, for his commercial operation.

The sale was conducted by Elders and auctioneer was Michael Glasser.

— PENNY WATTS