



# DAMARA SHEEP BREEDERS' SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

## = GUIDELINES FOR SETTING UP A DAMARA STUD =

Purebred and pedigreed Damara have become very uncommon in Australia in recent years and for that reason care needs to be taken to maintain good pedigrees and other records from all Damara Studs still operating in Australia. The gene pool of these documented sheep is now quite small so very good record keeping will be required going into the future.

In 2007 the Australian Government banned all imports of ALL Sheep breeds Genetics (embryos and semen) from all countries except New Zealand due to the prevalence of 'Scrapie' Disease worldwide. Scrapie is caused by a prion which is smaller than a virus and can be transmitted through genetic material. Australia and New Zealand are the only countries Scrapie-free. For this reason we cannot import new Damara genetics from Africa. New Zealand does not have any provable purebred Damara flocks left.

### Setting Up a New Damara Stud using Documentation and Foundation Sheep from an Existing / Past Stud.

It is best practice for all of your Foundation sheep come from a Damara Stud and are then registered and transferred into your Stud. You then have a background platform to register and transfer any progeny. This however is not always possible—please refer. the information below.

1. It is best if you inform the Stud breeder that you have purchased or plan to purchase your Foundation Flock from, that you are planning to register a Damara Stud. Pedigrees are often supplied by Damara Stud Members for sheep purchased from their Stud. The pedigrees are not mandatory and are supplied for interest and to help in genetic maintenance of the breed. These pedigrees are not registrations. It just means your sheep would in likelihood be eligible for registration.
2. If you have purchased Damara sheep from a third party and have pedigree documentation from a present Stud it would be best to contact the Stud breeder for more information and as a courtesy to inform them of your plan.
3. If you have Damara sheep with pedigrees from a Damara Stud that has now closed, contact one of the Damara Society Committee Members listed on the Damara website on how to proceed.

### Setting up a new Damara Stud using documentation and Foundation Sheep from an existing / past Stud and also Damara Sheep understood to be purebred but with no known background.

1. You should proceed as explained above for your sheep that have documentation.
2. The Damara ewes that you have no known background for that you believe are purebred will need to have a photo or photos of each submitted to the Damara Breeders' Committee to view. You will need also to supply any known information about these sheep. For example; where you bought them from, age, lambs produced, current condition (lamb at foot, pregnant or any other relevant info that would impinge on the appearance of that ewe).
3. No rams with unknown pedigrees can be used as sires.
4. The Committee will then assess your photos and provided information and decide if your ewes appear to have purebred attributes. To have a purebred attribute your Damara would need to be at least F3 (7/8ths). Anything less than F3 is very easily identified by purebred Damara breeders.

(Examples: F3 or less would require some shearing if the cross was a wool sheep. Shorter legs and ears are also a cross breed indication).

5. If you receive approval, you can then allocate a stud tag number from your new Stud, using these sheep as Foundation sheep for your Stud.
6. No ewes with no known pedigree can have descendant rams registered for two generations after being used as Foundation stock in a new Stud. This is to ensure that any rams registered with the Society are as purebred as can be ascertained.

Two Generations from F3 = (87% Damara ) becomes F5 (96.88%) - Purebred to all intents.

### Ram Sires

All Rams 'at Stud' must be Registered with the Society.

### Pedigrees and other Records

All Damara Sheep Breeders' Society of Australia Stud Members must keep pedigrees for all Damara kept on their Stud and be prepared to produce Stud Return information to the Society on an Annual Basis. This information is general information, such as; how many head your Stud has, with a breakdown of ewes, rams, and lambs under 12 months.

There are several Pedigree Programs available online to download (for example; Kintraks is a very good pedigree keeping program that can be downloaded for \$25 with unlimited entries and updates and help desk email).

### Maintenance of a Standardised ARC (Australian Rural Connect) Accredited Tagging System

ARC keep all registration records for the Damara Society (and for many other Breeder Societies).

They have a six-digit tagging system which is preferred.

Explanation as to how this system works day to day. Once you have your Stud up and running- each lamb born will need a six-digit ear tag starting with the year of birth and then chronological order. Example- Last year 210001 for your first lamb born to your stud. Say 15 lambs for the year- so next year number would start with 220016. The first two numbers is the year of birth and the last four digits denote what number sheep born all up born on your stud. The Registration Body- Australian (Your ear tags will also need to have your PIC number as well as these details and a V for OJD vaccinate if you decide to do that). There is a colour coding system for each year's ear tags as well.

**To be eligible to register every sheep in your Stud, they must have a registered ram as their Sire.** Breeding ewes that you have bred on your stud must have an Individual Tag Number from your stud. As long as the ewes have this and background, they can be left unregistered but are always registrable. Their sire must be registered, and their dam must have at least a Tag Number and Registrable pedigree (same as explained above) from your stud. Your foundation sheep keep the tag numbers from their birth stud.

If you think you won't have time or inclination to keep these records after reading these Guidelines you can still join our Society as an Associate Member.

Now however if all that is 'OK' with you, please proceed to place your paperwork with the Society for a Stud Number and Prefix!

Welcome to The Damara Sheep Breeders' Society of Australia!