

Grass ram to \$1350

A NEW client of Grass Merinos bought the top-priced ram for \$1350 at the stud's annual ram sale and field day near Armatree last week.

Robert and Theraise Turnbull, "Bando", Collarenebri, bought the top ram, as well as seven others, for a price range of \$750 to \$1350.

The top ram was a 78.5-kilogram May/June 2005-drop sire, carrying 17.3-micron wool with a co-efficient of variation of 17.2 per cent and comfort factor of 99.8pc.

It also had one of the highest Grass indexes in the catalogue.

Through the Helmsman auction, Grass Merino stud – managed by Greg Peart, "Wongalee", Gilgandra – achieved an average ram price of \$1013 and a 66pc clearance of 30 rams offered.

Rams topped at \$1300 and averaged \$812 last year.

Buyers of last year's top ram, Don and Ian Hamblin, "Cullingera", Nyngan, returned this year to take the second top for \$1300, as well as three others.

Don Hamblin, a regular ram buyer, chairman of the NSW Farmers wool committee and vice president of the National Farmers Federation Wool Producer Council, was also a speaker at the field day.

The field day attracted 60 woolgrowers and industry representatives.

They heard from speakers including Walcha Merino breeder and AWI director, Hugh Nivison, and Geoff Lindon, livestock manager of the Twynam property, "Jemalong", Forbes, who joins 95,000 Merino ewes to Merino rams annually, and runs 17,000 Angus cows.

– PENNY ZELL



Grass Merinos field day speakers, AWI director and Walcha Merino breeder, Hugh Nivison, Yalgoo stud; livestock manager of Twynam property, "Jemalong", Forbes, Geoff Lindon, and Grass business manager, Graham Peart.