

Meet Australia's Best Producers

RAS Sheep Exhibitor: Graham Gilmore, Stud Breeder, Oberon, NSW



Martin Gilmore with the Poll Dorset Ewe representing Tattykeel Stud

"Tattykeel started to show Dorsets at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 1974 when the first sheep were exhibited there. We knew, of course, that the Sydney Royal is the largest and the most prestigious event of its type in Australia so we haven't missed a Show since we began. The Show struck me on a personal level too; I loved exhibiting there so much that when I should have been starting Year 11, I told my family I wasn't going back to school, but was going to do this full-time. It's not a decision I've ever regretted.

In our industry (meat sheep), the animals on display at the Show are some of the best in the world. I have been to many international sheep shows and none would have the winning animals of a higher standard than what you see at Sydney Royal. And of course, Sydney Royal attracts large media coverage so if you are successful, it's excellent advertising for your stud. We show several different breeds of sheep, and because it's the first major sheep exhibit of the year, we've found it also gives you the opportunity to show what your animals can achieve at such a young age.

We've won all three interbreed awards at the Sydney Royal for the last two years in a row. Tattykeel is known for being on the cutting edge in terms of the breeding technology we're using such as embryo transfers, but I believe one of the main reasons we've been so successful is because everything we do is based on traditional values. Like most exhibitors, all I'm concerned about is doing things to the best of my ability – if I focus on the competition and what they're doing, it means I'm distracted from my own work and that's not fair on my animals or my customers.



The benefits we've seen from showing at Sydney Royal are numerous, and each year we always find there's something new on the horizon. Obviously it's a great place to keep in contact with other breeders and many of our clients come to see the judging, but we've also made many international contacts through exhibiting here. We have launched the first showing of the Australian White sheep breed and had international guests attend just to see this new breed exhibited, and last year we hosted a delegation from Philippines on our farm in Oberon after they inspected our animals at the Show. I think it's clear by now to everyone that those who are interested in the top end of Australia's sheep genetics will see some of the country's best at the Show and I'm very proud to be a part of that."

For more information, or to register your interest in meeting other Australian farmers such as Graham, please visit:

<http://www.rasnsr.com.au/sydney-royal-competitions/competitions/cattle/general-information/international-delegate-program/>