

Hyfield ewes heading to the east

By HELENA BOGLE

THE trip to WA to attend the LambEx conference was well worth it for one NSW farmer, who walked away with 100 Merino ewes.

The ewes, which were valued at \$10,000, were the prize in a competition that was run in conjunction with the LambEx conference by the Stud Merino Breeders' Association of WA, Wellard's Hyfield Poll Merino stud and *Farm Weekly* in an effort to promote the Merino ewe.

The winner, Hamish Dickson from Canowindra, NSW, said he was ecstatic about winning the 100 ewes.

Mr Dickson, who runs 400 Merino ewes on his property, will take the 100 ewes back home to join his breeding flock.

"They will also be individually managed as a stud

flock," he said.

Stud Merino Breeders' Association of WA president Brett Jones said the response to the competition was excellent.

"The interest in Merino ewes was very heartening and obviously the support from *Farm Weekly*, the Wellard group and the Hyfield Poll Merino stud was fantastic," Mr Jones said.

"At first, I would have loved the ewes to have stayed in WA, but it does show that people were quite happy to get hold of the Hyfield sheep, which demonstrates that WA sheep and the Hyfield sheep in particular can perform over a range of environments.

Mr Jones said the competition was very successful and there was no reason why there couldn't be a similar competition next year.

He said it was great to see lots of farmer delegates at the



Winner of the 100 Hyfield Merino ewes at LambEx Hamish Dickson (left), Canowindra, NSW, with Wellard general manager of animal production Harold Sealy, Wellard managing director Steve Meerwald, Wellard chief executive officer Mauro Balzarini, The Grange livestock manager Geoff Crabb, Dongara, live export sheep livestock manager Murray French, Hyfield stud master Kevin Keatley, Kojonup, and Stud Merino Breeders' Association president Brett Jones.

LambEx conference and the positive vibe in the industry was excellent

Hyfield studmaster Kevin Keatley said the competition was well received and LambEx was an outstanding success.

"The competition was there

to promote the Merino ewe," Mr Keatley said.

"It was a great opportunity for someone to secure 100 ewes."

Mr Keatley said Mr Dickson could take possession of the ewes in October.

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