

Cashmere Merrrit

performance recording and EBVs for Cashmeres



Australian Cashmeres were domesticated from a feral origin in the 1970s. Generally productivity per animal was low and quality only barely adequate.

A first phase of improvement efforts saw quality improve but productivity plateau.

A second phase of improvement was lead by formal '*Benchmarking*', '*Sire Referencing*' and '*Performance Recording*' projects commencing in year 2000. Ultimately this became ACGA Merrrit – the performance recording scheme of the Australian Cashmere Growers Association.

Merrrit has facilitated large gains in productivity.

A third phase of improvement now needs to happen – we need to change from a two-coated animal that produces a fleece that requires expensive dehairing to remove stiff hair from soft cashmere. We need a single coated animal – the '*One-Coat Cashmere Goat*' project.

ACGA Merrrit EBVs from 1982 till now.

