



Meet Brad and Oxton Park - Winners of 2023 Gundagai Lamb Producer of the year award.

“Oxton Park” is a family run sheep and cropping operation located at Harden in the Southwest Slopes of NSW. The focus of business is a poll merino self-replacing flock, cross bred lamb production in addition to wheat, canola, and triticale enterprises.

The Oxton Park livestock team is led by brothers Paul and John O’Connor, with the assistance of Brad Cavanagh, Jack O’Connor, Alice Lewis and Emelia Stokehill. The direction of Oxton Park’s sheep business has grown to its current position under the watchful eye of classer, Chris Bowman, pictured below.

Oxton Park have been supplying Gundagai Lamb since they first released the marbling grid in 2021.

It was Gundagai Lamb’s model, which rewards producers for the quality of their product, that caught Oxton Park’s interest from the start and aligned beautifully with their own philosophy - gaining price premiums based on quality and consistency is the focus of Oxton Park’s livestock business whether it’s selling lamb, wool, or replacement females.

The transparent nature of the carcass data facilitates the healthy relationship that Oxton Park and Gundagai Lamb enjoy today.

Brad tells us, that ‘the feedback we receive from Gundagai Lamb makes it easy for us to see, objectively, the things that we are doing well and where we can improve our practices. This is a powerful tool for a business of this scale, as every time we increase our carcass value per head, it has a huge positive impact on our bottom line.

Receiving the Producer of the Year award was a great recognition for the hard work the Oxton Park team puts into delivering a product to Gundagai Lamb. A product that they are all proud of.

‘It’s the recognition for the small things we do to ensure every lamb destined for Gundagai Lamb is as good as it can be. It is very much a team effort, from the point when a strategic decision is made, and is carried right through to our operational team.’

Oxton Park also has its own ram breeding nucleus flock and seeing the genetic gain within this flock is very gratifying for the Oxton Park livestock team, as it is proof that their genetics are performing for the end point consumer.

We asked Brad what he likes about what he does and what he gets up to when he's not farming.

'I enjoy the challenge of working in such a great team and thriving to constantly refine our genetics and our management systems to produce a high-quality product which is sought after by consumers. Additionally, we love being part of the story that's being created by Gundagai Lamb; that consumers can be assured that what they're eating really is the highest grade of lamb available and it's through the cutting-edge technology implemented by Gundagai Lamb, that we can guarantee this.'

'Away from work, time is spent with my wife Jess and our three children Olive, Henry, and Fleur. Supporting Jess in her career as General Manager of Proagrive and being there for the kids and their sports and other hobbies takes up most of our non-farming time, and I wouldn't have it any other way.'

Thank you, Brad, and the team, at Oxton Park. We love your work and working with you.

The Gundagai Lamb Producer Award rewards producers based on the following criteria and weightings;

- GLQ score average weighted at 40%.
- Hot standard carcass weight weighted at 20%.
- Number of consignments weighted at 20%.
- GLQ score standard deviation (spread of GLQ scores for a producer), weighted at 10%.
- Hot standard carcass weight standard deviation (spread of hot standard carcass weight for a producer), weighted at 10%.