A sale of Bond Corriedale sheep in 1982 (photographer was George Batten).

**Lifetime's work**

Wayne Doubleday

A poster advertising a Dorset Invitation Sale at the Wagga Showground in 1967. Vendors from Wagga included AW Aleyen of "Allenside", HW Guiller of "Hillside", and H Yates and Sons of "Aberdeen".

and state authorities that slaughter houses be located in Wagga, Goulburn, Dubbo and Gundedah and operated by local government authorities.

As a result of his involvement on this committee, Jim was appointed abattoir officer for the Department of Agriculture NSW and was instrumental in the construction and establishment of abattoirs at Goulburn and Wagga, then facilitated the commencement of abattoir construction in Dubbo and Gundedah before his retirement on December 7, 1961, the day that the Wagga abattoir was officially opened.

Private business

AFTER 35 years of service, Jim retired from the NSW Department of Agriculture in the position of abattoir and abattoir officer to set himself up in private business as an auctioneer, stock and station agent, specialising in stock work, sheep classing and stud stock sales.

In his private capacity Jim was able to expand his repertoire of breed specialties to include Merinos and expand his services beyond the Riverina. In 1962, the Wagga region had the greatest concentration of registered sheep and cattle studs in all of Australia.

Jim, in conjunction with the Australian Society of Breeders of British Sheep, introduced annual spring auction sales of classes, purdured flock rams and was instrumental in popularising "ring selling" in the region. Annual stud livestock sales became a prominent feature of Wagga and the Riverina, and of Jim's career.

Their services included travelling to New Zealand in the late 1960s to purchase stud rams on behalf of his local clients. Similar trips to Tasmania were undertaken in the early 1960s.

Jim became renowned in Australia and New Zealand as a sheep selector, judge, classer and buyer of Australasian and British sheep breeds.

Sheep classing according to breed standards was a service Jim provided to many sheep studs around the Riverina. This work involved handling and close inspection of many hundreds of sheep each year.

To assist with this task, Jim invented and manufactured the Daley Sheep Classing Race, which he patented in June 1966.

The original model was modified and occasional patent infringements occurred, however, Jim happily provided patent licences to those who acknowledged him as the patent owner. Eventually manufacturing costs became prohibitive and Jim allowed the patent to lapse in June 1971.

After an inquiry from Mr Murray Elliott, sheep and wool officer at the Department of Agriculture in Braidwood, Jim replied on December 31, 1971, that the Daley Sheep Classing Race had been out of production for about three years as the company fabricating the items had gone out of business.

Jim had sold off the stockpile of a dozen or so rare race but still had one partially completed race which required assembly. Assured he needed help, Mr. Elliott would take no more than half a day in any half-decent farm workshop and offered this race, as is, for $150.

**Spire time**

Jim was a regular contributor to industry publications and local newspapers, including The Daily Advertiser, voicing his opinions on the need for breed development, diversification, prime lamb production and pasture improvement.

He was instrumental in the development of the bond or commercial crossbreds, polled dorset and south Suffolk breeds, assisting wool growers to meet the changing prime lamb and fine wool markets with dual purpose breeds.

Jim also found time for active involvement in the Wagga Apex Club and the Riverina Branch of the Australian Society of Animal Production. He was a founding member of both and a committee member of the latter, as well as serving on the Wagga College of Technical and Further Education committee for almost 20 years.

The sheep and wool industry of NSW, and particularly Wagga and the Riverina, would have never evolved and adapted to the changing market demands as was done over the past 70-80 years without the commitment and dedication shown by Jim Daley throughout his lifetime.


Compiled by Debra Leigo

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The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Holy Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for a fee of $55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6025 3666, email archive@csu.edu .au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.

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