

Spring Valley Open Day 2007

You have just got to come to the Spring Valley Open Day held every May a few kilometres outside Dungog, NSW. It is a brilliant showcase for the true to type Square Meaters cattle and a very informative day with talks by DPI officers, comparisons with other beef breeds, clipping, parading and judging demonstrations. The day included a free BBQ lunch and country music with singer Hannah Brooker. The whole day is very well planned and run by Graham Berry and his family and friends. With a great PA system everyone can hear the talks and the dinner gong.



Graham Berry marshalling the breed parade.

Now about that BBQ lunch. The members of the Toronto Baptist Church do the cooking. I never miss the chance to have a steak sandwich, as those of you who know me will understand by my proportions. I have had steak sandwiches from Peterborough to Parramatta, from Toowoomba to Tumut and from Muswellbrook to Melbourne, but nowhere will you get a better steak sandwich than the Spring Valley Open Day. Why? The most tender, melt in your mouth, purebred Spring Valley Square Meaters beef. Graham is proving just how good his Square Meaters product is, not only by the hundreds of show ribbons, but with this superb beef product. I wasn't the only one impressed, I heard people asking if they could buy a beast for the freezer. I have always said, if we can get

the product out into the market, it will sell itself, and so it does.

Each year the Spring Valley herd is on display, from the show team, which are tied up in the front garden, to the last breeder cow. Approximately 80 breeding cows are grazed on the lush pasture of the 130 ha property. A most impressive even line of cattle as you would wish to see.



Some of the Spring Valley cows & calves.

We inspected very impressive weaner calves being trained for show. They will create hot competition on the show circuit next season. The thing that impressed me the most was the young heifers, with their depth and thickness of muscle, still had plenty of udder room. Now that is femininity! Graham really is doing a great job with his breeding program at Spring Valley.



Tony Cairns, Christine Wade & Graham Singleton discussing the weaner calves.

The DPI conducted talks on feed values from different forage sources with samples of feed to show everyone to help with drought feeding choices. They pointed out that we usually pay as dollars per bale or per tonne for our stock feed, but we should think about buying it as dollars per metabolisable energy and crude protein. Well worth a thought.

Tony Cairns, our evergreen vice president, gave a very informative talk, as the cattle paraded around the ring, on the Square Meaters history and progress, pointing out to the 100 or so people that they were looking at the true to type Square Meaters cattle – early maturing, medium frame height and well muscled.



Tony Cairns talking up the breed on parade.

A simulated junior parader's competition, conducted by Alan Ball was entertaining as always, with one "clown" in the ring showing how it wasn't done.



Junior judging – "clown" is on the left.

Alex Tickle and Alan Ball conducted the simulated mixed age heifer class judging. The message is slowly filtering down of what we are all about and the judges were looking for the true to type Square Meaters and it demonstrated just how different we are from other breeds and that we must be judged as such.



The heifer class placed in order by judges - 1st on left.

Once again, Graham and all involved with Spring Valley are to be congratulated for a well-run and informative open day, highlighting Square Meaters beef cattle. It is green whenever I come here and I always have a great day, and wonder as I leave, what they will do to top it next year?



Great Square Meaters mates - Graham Berry (right) with Glen Jackson leading Spring Valley Joe 8.

Report by Glen Jackson.
Glennholme Square Meaters