

Square Meaters Steers a Cut Above

Square Meaters steers highlighted the breeds commercial focus and value at the 2008 Sydney Royal Easter Show with one taking home a major carcass award and another being named the winner of the virtual taste test

A 378 kilogram steer bred by David and Julie Thompson at Thurloo Park Stud was named the reserve champion lightweight carcass in the country's most prestigious purebred competition. The steer dressed out a fantastic 60 per cent and drew high praise for its colour, eye muscle area and even fat cover. It had earlier been unplaced on the hoof. Another Thurloo Park breed steer weighing 325 kilograms live was placed second on the hoof and also dressed out at 60 per cent.

Both those steers were exhibited by The Kings School Parramatta. Agriculture teacher Michael Weier said his students were delighted with the result and the performance of the Square Meaters in their care.

“The Square Meaters steers were just perfect for us,” Mr Weier said.

They were quiet and easy for the students to handle and they didn't need to be feed for as long as other breed steers. We were all amazed at their feed efficiency,” he added enthusiastically.

A third steer bred by the Thompsons was fifth in its class while a steer bred by Tony and Ellen Cairns at the Rainbow Stud received a bronze award in the lightweight carcass judging after being placed third on the hoof. Weighing 356 kilograms and dressing 59 per cent the steer was shown by students from the All Saints College. This steer was also the winner of the virtual taste test.

Another Rainbow steer weighing 439 kilograms and shown by Bede Polding College was placed third in its open middleweight class on the hoof.

Glen and Julianne Jackson from the Gleannholme Stud also tasted success when their 320 kilogram calf shown by Gosford High School was placed fourth on the hoof. Commercial breeders the Ryan family also picked up a fourth placing with a steer bred by Deb and Tony Cotter's Brinsley Stud.

All up 11 Square Meaters steers were shown in the purebred classes while Brodie Chester exhibited the only Square Meaters in the new trade section. What was particularly impressive about the entries was their average dressing percentage which at better than 57 per cent put them near the top of all the breeds on show.

The Thurloo Park, Rainbow, Gleannholme and Brinsley studs, along with the Ryan family, Brodie Chester and Murrumburrah High School are to be congratulated for the time, effort and money they put into exhibiting the steers. For our breed to attract the attention of commercial operators we need to show how Square Meaters genetics can

perform on the hoof and on the hook. We all how efficient and productive our 'compact quiet achievers' are – steer shows are a great way of letting the rest of the industry in on our little secret!

A report on Square Meaters judging at the Sydney Royal will be in the July newsletter. The results are on the website