

Outside the Square

With Compliments

A publication produced by The Square Meaters Cattle Association of Australia Ltd

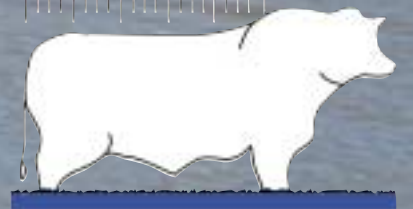
Bright future for
Square Meaters

Double muscling

Transporting
livestock

Holding an open day

SQUARE
meaters



Square Meaters Cattle - "No Ifs, Just Butts"

Bright future for Square Meaters



By Tony Cairns, Chairman

This third issue of the Association's Annual magazine marks the tenth anniversary of the breed's foundation in April 1996.

It also coincides with the end of my three consecutive years as Chairman, when I am required to step down from a position I have been privileged to occupy during a period of exciting progress of the breed and changes in the affairs of the Association. It is also a time for both reflection of these events, and looking forward to what lies ahead and what challenges we shall need to meet in order to fulfil our wishes and long term objectives for our wonderful breed.

Since April 2003 we have seen the number of registered cattle increase by over 50% from 2750 to 4165, and the commercial appendix by over 65% from 244 to 405. The membership has increased by 66% from 86 to 143. These increases have in turn increased our secretary's work load from 15 to 27 hours per week. The workload has caused the Board to invest in upgrades to both the computer hardware and software, with a new registration program being developed

to speed up processing.

The very great contributions made by Tom Pankhurst in establishing the original website, and pioneering the first edition of the Annual which he edited, were both very successful initiatives.

With the subsequent expansion of the Association's membership and activities it became necessary to assist Tom, who is a very busy man, with the ongoing production of both these important facilities which are pivotal in the ongoing promotion of the breed and member's interests. Accordingly, the second issue of the Annual was coordinated by the secretary and contracted out, and the updated and ongoing maintenance of the website has been placed with Graphical Constructions based in Tamworth.

We have been fortunate to once again secure the support and sponsorship of the CRT organization for the third year, with a modest increase, and we look forward to the continued development of a long term relationship with them.

A new and exciting development during 2005 was the establishment of a strategic alliance with Ausure Insurance and Finance whereby the Association will benefit from financial instruments negotiated through this group.

We are very hopeful that the members and associates will embrace this alliance and thereby further support the financial coffers of the Association. They are

confident that in negotiating your various financial and insurance matters, not just your rural cover, they will be more than competitive.

There is tremendous potential for the Association to benefit by you placing your business through Ausure, with no disadvantage to you by doing so, but the significant boost to our capacity to promote the breed and therefore your interests will be the reward you will reap. The arrangement is not restricted to members, since any referral that you may make of an unrelated party will also be eligible for the commission, but in every instance it is very important that the client identify their link to the Association for the benefit to flow to us.

2004 saw Square Meaters make their inaugural appearance as a Feature Breed at the Royal Canberra Show where the largest exhibit so far in our breed's history was on show. The event was wholeheartedly supported by the members with over 80 exhibits and was a great success by any measure. To put the icing on the cake the grand champion steer, a heavyweight to boot, was a Square Meaters steer described by the judge as "bluddy beautiful". I believe that it is fair to say that this event has been the most significant factor in the breed's promotion thus far and I congratulate my fellow Board members for their courage and foresight in making the decision to embrace this opportunity.

Coinciding with that event, the Board had decided to re-open the herd book to Murray Grey females for a limited period for the primary objective of attracting those breeders of grey cattle who had decided

to continue breeding compact, medium frame cattle but who had been sidelined by the shift to the modern version of those cattle.

A secondary, lesser objective was to broaden the genetic base of the Square Meaters herd. This concession will end permanently on June 30 2006.

In late 2004/early 2005 a very significant decision to modify and extend the frame score system was proposed by the Board and endorsed by the membership. This modest extension of the frame measurement system was designed not to attempt to increase the size of our cattle, but rather to try to offset the natural tendency for the size of the cattle to decrease generation by generation unless great care is taken with a breeding program, and should assist breeders avoid this tendency. During this period the Board has also reviewed Membership categories to try to make our membership more broadly inclusive, and has expanded them to a minor extent. We are also trying to establish a Junior and Schools program with a view to engendering interest in Square Meaters amongst tomorrow's cattle breeders.

In this last year of my stewardship I attended all five Royal Shows in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Perth to meet as many members as possible and discuss their respective concerns and aspirations. I have to say that I was very impressed with the standard of cattle presented, despite relatively small numbers outside Canberra and Sydney, and I am confident that the quality and standard of



Square Meaters remains on an upward curve since my involvement began over nine years ago. I was also very appreciative of the attendance, interest and enthusiasm and hospitality of the members in each location who provided me with much feedback and suggestions. I have been particularly gratified by the formation of breed promotion groups which have followed these gatherings in Queensland and Western Australia.

In 2003 Glen Jackson undertook the task of trying to organize an inaugural Show and Sale, but the prolonged drought and other factors caused this to be reduced to a multivendor sale in which interested breeders participated in Goulburn in May 2005. Although the sale was in many respects disappointing, in many others it was a success, if for no other reason than we learnt a lot from it and all participants are willing to go again. It will however, likely turn out to be the precursor of the inaugural Show and Sale, probably in Camden in August/September 2006.

There is much to be satisfied about the progress of the last three years. But what of the future and where to now?

The task ahead of us is very daunting indeed, but by no means insurmountable, and a number of facets need to be addressed.

The quantum leap in our membership can be a two-edged sword in that increasing strength is accompanied by increasing diversity of opinions.

Our membership hails from a diverse variety of backgrounds and the onus will be upon the leadership to meld these opinions into a cohesive unified strategy to carry the breed forward.

The current Board has before it the task of developing a Strategic Plan which will need to address a number of issues which might include for instance: a revision of the Memorandum & Articles of the Association to bring it up to date and rectify some anomalies; to examine, devise, and institute a form of Breedplan to provide some objective assessment of animals; to attempt to increase, stabilize and develop a structured budget within which to conduct our operations; develop a marketing strategy to increase our competitiveness; to institute a Junior & Schools program; to conduct a prospective study to review the method of measurement (to make it easier!) and determine a standard of mature animal measurement; to institute a standard of desirable pigmentation characteristics for the breed; and to institute an organized method of steer preparation to raise our profile in carcass competitions, to name but a few.

It only remains for me to thank the membership and my fellow Directors for the confidence that they have shown in supporting me over the past three years and the honour and privilege that they have extended to me in allowing me to lead the Association during this time. I hope that I have fulfilled their expectations, and that the Association will continue to prosper and move forward.

Lastly, I could not have begun to discharge my responsibilities without the unfailing and sublimely efficient and loyal support of our secretary Cheryl Mott, who continues to be a tower of strength, and "the glue that keeps it all together". ■

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A lethal disease found in cattle

By Julie & Peter Healy

Mannosidosis is an inherited, not an infectious, lethal disease reported in humans, cats and cattle.

The disease was first recorded in Angus cattle in Australia in the 1960's, and based upon pathology findings was given the name pseudolipidosis.

In the 1980's, Professor Bob Jolly in New Zealand proved that pseudolipidosis in cattle is the bovine equivalent of a disease previously recognised in humans and given the name mannosidosis, as it is caused by a deficiency of the

enzyme mannosidase.

The disease was introduced into the Australian and New Zealand Angus herds by bulls imported from the British Isles.

Descendents of these imported bulls were more widely used in the New Zealand Angus herd than in the Australian herd. This was reflected in the estimates of frequency of heterozygotes during the 1980's - around 20% and 5%, for New Zealand and Australia, respectively.

The disease has also been diagnosed in Galloway and Murray Grey cattle in Australia and New Zealand, and in Angus in North



Approximately sixty percent of affected calves are either stillborn or die in the immediate postnatal period.

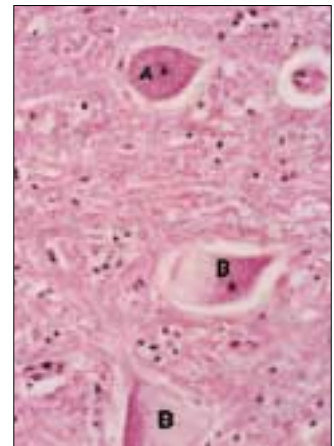
America and Europe.

There is anecdotal evidence that germplasm from at least three Murray Grey mannosidosis carriers has been exported to North America.

The genetics of mannosidosis: Mannosidosis is inherited as a recessive. A recessive disease is expressed in subjects that inherit defective genes from both parents. The parents are clinically normal as they have one normal gene (M) and one defective gene (m). Such animals are known as carriers (Mm), or more precisely, as heterozygotes. When carriers are mated with non-carriers (MM), half of the progeny will also be carriers.

When two carriers are mated, 25% of the progeny will be affected with mannosidosis (mm) as they have inherited a defective gene from both parents, 50% will be carriers (Mm), and 25% will not inherit a defective gene (MM). Refer to the figure in Appendix 1. **Clinical signs of mannosidosis:** Approximately 60% of affected calves (mm) are either stillborn or

die in the immediate postnatal period. The remaining 40% are able to stand and feed, and they may survive for many months. Clinical signs vary from illthrift to progressive neurological dysfunction. The most striking features are muscular tremors affecting predominantly the head, uncoordinated gait, and progressive aggressiveness.



Pathology: There are no visible lesions on post-mortem examination that are specific for mannosidosis. Microscopic examination of nervous tissue from affected calves will reveal marked vacuolation of the

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cytoplasm of some neurones (cells labelled B), while others in the same field will display very little vacuolation (cell labelled A). However, these findings are not specific for mannosidosis. A diagnosis of mannosidosis can be confirmed by demonstration of a deficiency of mannosidase activity or by DNA analyses.

The diagnostic advantage of the enzyme assay is its ability to identify the disease regardless of the mutation. Once the mutation is identified, DNA tests provide a more efficient means of identifying carriers.

Biochemistry: A deficiency of the enzyme can be shown by analysing mannosidase activity in plasma and white blood cells. Affected animals have only trace amount of the enzyme,

while carriers have approximately half the levels found in normal animals (see Appendix 2). This enzyme test was used for carrier detection from the early 1980's until 1995. **DNA testing:** Collaboration between NSW DPI and The University of Tromso in Norway resulted in the definition of the mutations in the mannosidase gene that are responsible for the disease in cattle. This research led to development and introduction of DNA tests in 1995 that replaced the enzyme tests for detection of carriers of mannosidosis.

Two mutations have been discovered - one that causes the disease in Angus and Murray Greys and Square Meaters, and a different one that causes the disease in Galloways. This means that there are two different

DNA tests for mannosidosis, so it is important to specify the breed of the animal when submitting samples for analysis. The DNA test will determine the genotype of the subject for the relevant mutation. The only possible genotypes for any given mutation are normal (MM), carrier (Mm) and affected (mm). See Appendix 3 for a description of the DNA test.

Management of genetic diseases: The mutation that causes mannosidosis in Angus and Murray Greys has been found in Square Meaters, though the prevalence of carriers appears to be very low. Despite this, artificial breeding technologies present the potential to amplify the prevalence to levels of concern.

Breeders of Square Meater

bulls should provide proof that their product is what it is claimed to be, and is suitable for the purpose for which it will be purchased. This is particularly the case when animals are sold using EBVs to enhance their value. It would therefore be advisable to consider ensuring all sires and all ET donors are parentage verified by DNA typing and shown to be free of the mutations that cause mannosidosis. If animal identification/parentage verification (AIPV) testing is routinely adopted by Square Meater breeders as a quality assurance tool, then a free-by-inheritance status for mannosidosis can be assigned to progeny, progressively phasing out the need for mannosidosis testing.

■ *Continued next page*

WOOLARINGA
SQUARE MEATERS
SQUARE MEATERS STUD

Over 35 years breeding this type of cattle

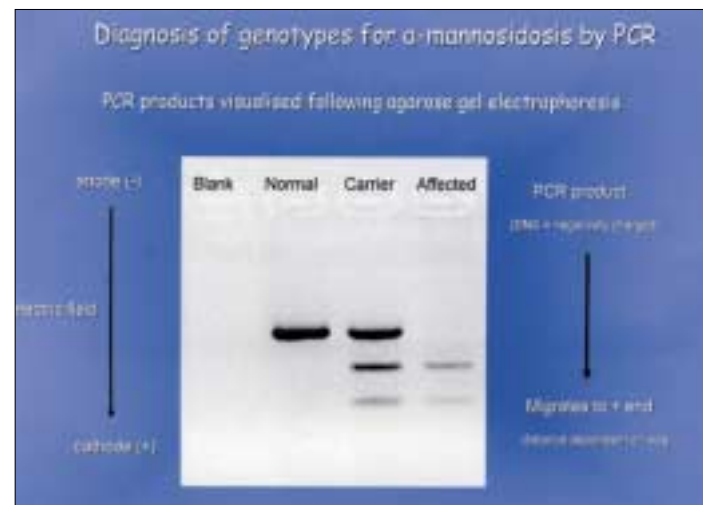
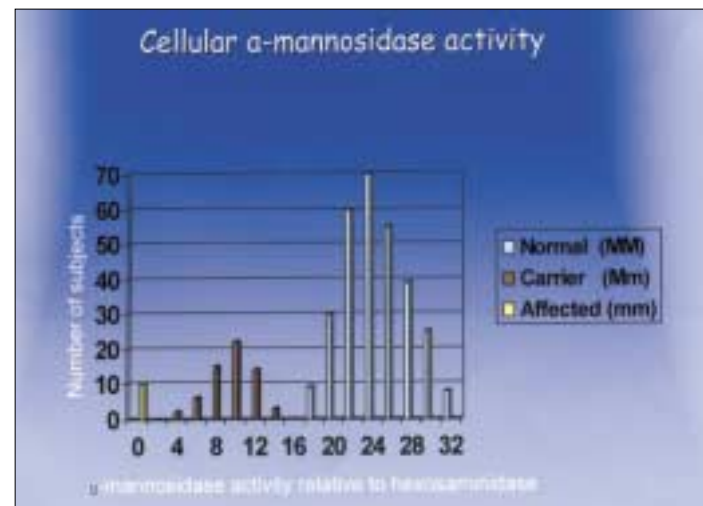
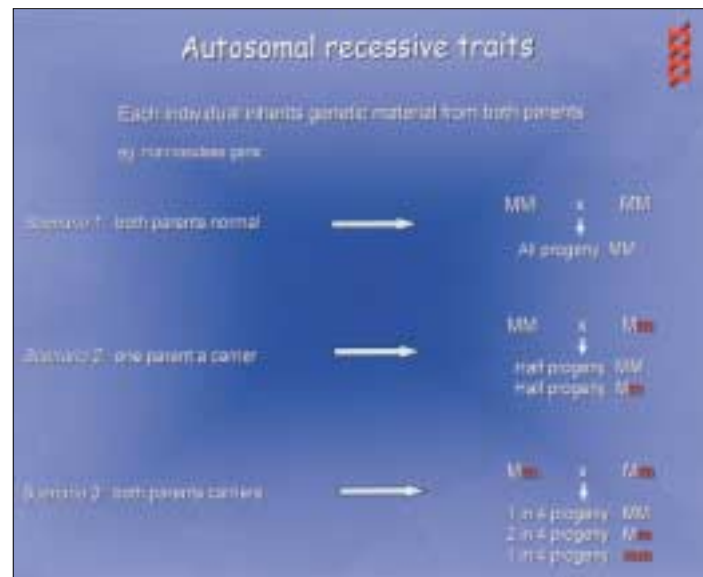
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National
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Autosomal recessive mode of inheritance: Every animal has two genes that contain the genetic message that governs the synthesis of the enzyme, mannosidase. A mutation occurred in this gene in a founder Angus animal that resulted in the synthesis of a defective α -mannosidase enzyme. A copy of this mutated gene (m) was passed to descendants, but not expressed clinically because the animals also inherited a normal gene (M) from the other parent (hence they were carriers (Mm)). The amount of enzyme produced is the sum of the synthesis driven by the two genes inherited from the sire and dam. For simplicity, consider each "M" contributes 50% of mannosidase activity, and each "m" contributes almost zero. Therefore, a normal animal (MM genotype) will produce 100% of the enzyme, a carrier (Mm) will produce 50% of the enzyme, and an affected animal (mm) will have virtually no enzyme activity. With the majority of enzymes, including mannosidase, the amount synthesised is generally in excess of that required. This is the reason carriers (Mm) are clinically normal, as they have sufficient enzyme activity (50%) to drive the crucial biochemical reactions. It is when only trace amounts of enzyme are synthesised (mm) that the disease is expressed.

The biochemistry of mannosidosis: The enzyme mannosidase is necessary to enable the body to recycle complex molecules that exist in all cells. The enzyme, with a battery of related enzymes, is located in minute compartments known as lysosomes. Lysosomes are the equivalent of Simsmetal, acting on redundant material to recover components for later use. Specifically, mannosidase cuts mannose from its attachment to other sugars that in turn, are attached to proteins. If there is a deficit of mannosidase, the mannose link cannot be broken and the other sugars remain attached to the redundant protein. These redundant proteins that cannot be recycled then accumulate inside the lysosome. When this happens, the ever enlarging lysosomes disrupt normal cell function. In most tissues such as the skin and liver, new cells are being formed all the time, so the consequences of disrupted function within an older cell are minimal. In contrast, brain cells such as neurones are not replaced, so a disruption of cell function leads to brain dysfunction, and hence the presentation of progressive neurological disease. Prior to the introduction of the DNA test, a biochemical assay quantitated the amount of α -mannosidase within the white blood cells. Use of known controls enabled genotypes to be assigned based on the amount of mannosidase activity relative to another lysosomal enzyme, hexosaminidase. The figure below illustrates the severe mannosidase deficiency in affected animals (yellow), while the activity in carriers (brown) is approximately half that found in normal (light blue) animals.

DNA test for α -mannosidosis: DNA is extracted from tail hair roots and used in a process that amplifies the region in the mannosidase gene that encompasses the mutant site. The process is called PCR (polymerase chain reaction), and is a major step in determining if the subject from which the DNA was derived contains the mutation of interest. DNA fragments from the process are driven through the gel by an electric charge. The shorter fragments migrate further than the longer ones over any given time. Comparison of samples submitted for testing with those of known genotype (control DNA samples as shown in the image below) provide a very efficient and accurate means of establishing the mannosidosis genotype of every subject.



■ **Suggested further reading:** The following web sites provide additional information on this topic. www.angis.org.au/omia (database for genetic diseases in animals) www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=OMIM (database for genetic diseases in humans)

Risk of the open day experience

Every serious breeder at some point must entertain the idea of prospective buyers coming onto their property. In an age of litigation the thought of this can be quite daunting.

Whether you are the kind of breeder who is low key about how you communicate your message, or a breeder who is up front and out there with the message to the masses, sooner or later you must consider the implications of other people on your property.

There are differing aspects of the visit that can be dealt with including property presentation not forgetting the fact that your cattle are as Tina Turner would say 'simply the best'. The one theme which nags at all of us at some stage is how can we best deal with the risks. Let's go one step further however, and turn that risk into a positive for you and your client.

Some well thought out plans for dealing with risk can turn the whole experience into a positive selling point for your stud. The prospective buyer's first experience of your cattle is you, so give your prospective buyer something to be impressed about. Organise a thoughtful and well planned experience, one which keeps the clients well-being at the forefront.

It is impossible to deal with every possible situation or activity that may be conducted for the purpose of conveying your message and ultimately selling your cattle. For the purpose of some broad considerations let's say that we will be

conducting a stud open day.

The process to go through would be to start with the activities underway on the day; identify the risks with each activity, and control them. This does not mean that you can't have a laid back feel to the day. If the organisation has been done before hand then you will be able to concentrate on the 'greet and meet'.

Main Considerations : The main issues to consider for a stud open day would be to:

- * Provide for a visitors sign in book; have some way of checking everyone who enters the property. Sign in can be accompanied with an information package and possibly some giveaways.

- * Limit public access to machinery; this depends on the circumstances but ensure that exposure to machinery is minimised and controlled

- * Provide ready access to water, food and amenities. A client whose basic needs are met is more inclined to be a happy client.

- * Restrict public access to those parts of your property where there is no reason for visitors to be. Lock doors where you don't want visitors venturing and point out areas you don't want people to go. Use tape and signs to mark off restricted zones.

- * Consider exposure to the sun and the elements and find possible ways of limiting these.

- * Ensure that any travel to and from external sites is arranged in order to flow easily.

- * Keep a well stocked and sign posted first aid kit. It is also advisable to ensure that a qualified first aid



A well planned open day will turn any risks into positives for all those attending.

certificate holder is also on hand for the occasion.

- * Check that your public liability insurance is adequate and up to date.

The easiest way to control many of these considerations is to break the displays or activities into small groups under control of a staff member. Have your guests escorted around each activity or display. If this is impractical, assign someone to herd the whole group and shunt them around from activity to activity checking for strays and folk who are looking lost.

Develop a plan for the day so visitors know where they are expected to be at any time. Have someone on hand who can direct/escort people who arrive late to the current activity.

Introduction to Day's Activities: A bit of a run-down on the day's activities would be good and should include information on:

- * The visitors sign in book
- * Any Workplace, Health and Safety or compliance issues
- * Drinking water locations
- * Location of amenities
- * Provision of sun screen
- * Speed limits and road

rules if driving on off properties, including some sort of order for driving to and from external sites etc.

Children at Field Days: Consider the control of children who may turn up and any issues that could create, particularly access to dams, chemical sheds, machinery etc. It would be important to ensure that parents take responsibility for kids. Staff should be keeping an eye on the children as well.

Most of all enjoy the day and enjoy your guests. Give them a reason to want to come back. ■

■ The above article was contributed by Peter Horne. Peter and Jackie Horne are keen new members of the Square Meaters association and breeding under the Chipililo stud banner at Pittsworth on Queensland's Darling Downs. Peter is also a Research Station Manager and Workplace, Health and Safety Officer for the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries at the Leslie Research Centre in Toowoomba as well as Manager of the Roma Research Station.



Placid and great breed to have

DOMINIC Auguste has much in common with Square Meaters breeders across the country.

The principal of the Chevy Farm stud at Bullsbrook, north east of Perth admits he's relatively new to life on the land, but like so many other Square Meaters breeders is now totally wrapped in the breed and the lifestyle they offer.

"You could say I'm addicted to my Squares," Dominic said.

"They are just so easy to manage and maintain, they are placid and great to work with and have terrific characters. I wouldn't swap them for anything," he said.

Chevy Farm is a family operation that began from a shared desire for a sea-change.

Dominic, his mother Patricia and now 12 year old brother Joshua left suburbia in 2003, in search of a 'tree-change'.

They found it on a 25 acre property at Bullsbrook, and then they discovered Square Meaters.

Dominic, Patricia and Joshua founded the Chevy Farm stud in 2003 with purchases from the Malcari

stud dispersal that included their stud sire Mandalong Ronald SMR24A, three cows in calf and a heifer.

The Chevy farm herd now consists of ten breeders, five heifer calves and two bulls, and spills onto a nearby 20 acre block they lease not far away.

Chevy Farm now also includes Dominic's fiancé Erin. An orchardist by profession Dominic and his family have quickly adapted to life as cattle folk.

"Our Square Meaters have been a great introduction to the beef industry. They are tremendous cattle and I believe they have a promising future," Dominic said.

Already Chevy Farm is showing it's potential.

At the 2004 Perth Royal Show Chevy Farm Gladiator was junior and grand champion bull.

"He was a very smooth and structurally sound young bull," Dominic said.

"We've since sold him to a partnership of two studs."

Then on the 2005 local show circuit Gladiator's sister, Chevy Farm Zena flew the stud's colours high and proud.

Zena was supreme



Chevy Farm Gladiator's sister Chevy Farm Zena proving a success on the show circuit.

interbreed champion All Breed at the Toodyay Show, and Supreme Champion group B female at Toodyay Show. Reserve Junior Interbreed Champion at the Beverly Show, Champion Female at the Swan View Show.

Her performance was only overshadowed by Chevy Farm's new stud sire, Namerik Centurion. Aged 13 months and weighing in at 485 kilograms Centurion was reserve champion at the 2005 Perth Royal, the overall champion at Swan View show. Junior Champion and Champion group B bull at the Gidgegannup show and champion group B bull at Toodyay.

With complete confidence in the future of the breed, Dominic has undertaken an Artificial Insemination course and is now using semen from Mandalong Rambo and Caloona Trouble to introduce new bloodlines to Western Australia.

"We've sold a couple of commercial bulls and the feedback we're getting is terrific so I see a good future for Square Meaters not only here in Western Australia but across the whole country," Dominic said.

The future would seem just as exciting for Chevy Farm.

For more information contact Dominic Auguste on (08) 9571 8153. ■

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CHEVY FARM SQUARE MEATERS STUD



Chevy Farm Gladiator CVY Y2A
2004 Perth Royal Show Junior and Grand Champion Square Meaters Bull.

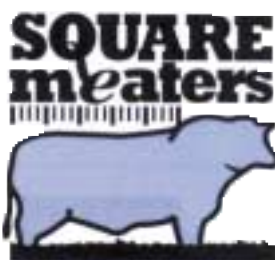


Chevy Farm Zena CVY Z2A
Reserve Junior Champion Interbreed Female -
Beverley Agricultural Show 2005
Champion Female - **Swan View Agricultural Show**
Supreme Champion all Breeds Group B
Supreme Interbreed Champion all Breeds -
Toodyay Agricultural Show 2005



Mandalong Ronald SMR 24A
Chevy Farm Stud Sire

*Commercial Semen Available from:
Mandalong Ronald SMR 24A &
Chevy Farm Gladiator CVY Y2A*



For any information on Square Meaters cattle in Western Australia please contact:

Dominic Auguste at Chevy Farm

Telephone (08) 9571 8153

Mobile 0415 871 482

or email chevy@hotmail.com

Thurloo Park still winning consistently in the show ring!

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SYDNEY SHOW RESULTS

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Senior Champion Female & Grand Champion Female
- **Thurloo Park Pecar** Reserve Senior Champion Bull
- **Sires Progeny Winner** Caloona Trouble Les T6A

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The message is now expanding

Since the last edition of "Outside The Square" Magazine, Thurloo Park has seen a lot of water pass under the bridge.

The season at Cootamundra is the best it has been for the past five years with an abundance of water and feed fence height, and masses of weeds that have come from the pastures being overgrazed. The next step is to start a weed and pasture improvement program to make the farm productive once again. Cattle at Thurloo Park are in excellent condition. Our depth of breeding is evident as we are consistently producing high quality even calves.

We must admit that we draw comfort from our

ongoing success at Sydney Royal Easter Show where the competition is very strong and this year was no exception. Due to tough conditions we ended up only taking five head instead of the usual ten.

We had a great show taking out our third consecutive Senior and Grand Champion Female & Junior Champion Female titles as well. This was our eighth Grand Champion title at the Sydney Show, three with Bulls and five with Females.

We believe we have certain attributes in our genetics that the Square Meaters breed needs to progress forward into the future. The door is open to anyone who wishes to inspect our cattle and you are welcome at any



The season has been the best in five years at Thurloo Park, Cootamundra, NSW.

time of the year. We think you will be very surprised at the quality of the cattle being run under commercial conditions, so please make an effort to visit us. There may only be relatively few Square Meaters breeders but slowly the message is expanding through the cattle industry

of the benefits of breeding Square Meaters. Our membership is becoming more numerous and the hard work of all members is paying off. The future is looking good so keep enjoying your cattle.

We thank our clients for their support and welcome new clients at all times. ■



Breeding Cattle of Distinction



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peterwade@bigpond.com



Square Meaters were advised

Elendee Square Meaters Stud owners Fiona R. Neumann and John V. Hodgson were first recommended to Square Meaters by the manager of a very large Angus property.

As a highly experienced manager and cattleman, he thought that Square Meaters offered a commercially viable cattle option for newcomers, with very quiet temperaments, medium build, genetically sound and with an active breeders' association with some clear directions in mind.

After further investigation by John and Fiona had found his advice was pretty sound, which has been

backed up by experiences of the last three years.

The property Lindendale is 1,700 acres on the Monaro, just south of Canberra.

"After three years, we have some 30 breeders with another 13 heifers growing up", John said.

"Fifty to sixty would seem about the right number to stabilize at, until we get some more of the property fenced, weeded and pasture improved.

"The initial herd came from Cluskers - Su and Bob McCluskey then leased to us the first two bulls Scorch and Victor in the initial years.

"Our first bred bull is Sunburn, who won the



Sunburn the bull is already an expert in his second year of show life.

Senior Bull Blue Ribbon at Sydney in 2005 and is still growing. His first calves are looking very good at twelve months.

"Our breeding aim is to breed structurally sound heifers at the higher end of the frame score, with good muscling, easy calving and rapid development in the

first twelve months of life. We seem to be achieving this 80% of the time in our third season.

"Our future plans are to continue to develop Lindendale as an environmentally sound and stable property, and Elendee as a commercially sound Square Meaters Stud. ■

Elendee
SquareMeaters

John Hodgson & Fiona Neumann
Ph: 02 6239 4990
Fax: 02 6239 4960
eMail: kissit@webone.com.au

We have a small number of our better females available now for the select buyer

Monaro Cattle from Lindendale, Anembo, NSW

Very proud time for the breed

The culmination of the Queensland show season is the Brisbane R.N.A. exhibition, or the "EKKA" as it is fondly known.

The 2005 EKKA saw an outstanding display of 13 (including calves) quality Square Meaters animals shown by 5 exhibitors. The Square Meaters show team - animals - display breed advertising etc. was of such a high standard that we not only drew complimentary comments from the general public but from other breed societies as well.

It was also a very proud moment for Jo Van Elten of Vesco Stud as every one of these quality animals on show was by a Vesco Stud bull and proof that they are "breeding on". The 2005 EKKA was definitely the highlight to date of the Vesco Stud breeding program.

2005 also saw Vesco purchase a new stud sire, the 800kg plus "Darlea Wizard". This son of "Mandalong Tom Boy" will broaden our genetic base, while allowing us to continue breeding to the maximum height standard, thus ensuring that we retain the commercial viability of our herd.

Breed Society membership in Queensland has continued to rise and the EKKA saw an extremely well supported gathering of members on show day. After judging, a society sponsored lunch was enjoyed by all. Directors, Tony Cairns and Graeme Singleton spoke regarding the advantages of the alliance with Ausure Insurance Group to both members and our breed

society. The formation of a Queensland Breed Promotion Group was also discussed and enthusiastically agreed upon. As a large number of participants had pressing commitments the formalities of electing office bearers was held over. However, the first venture of the group was organised, a cattle handling and assessment school with the highly credentialed Charolais stud breeder, Royal Show judge and rural training consultant, Dugal McDougall.

The school held at Vesco Stud was attended by 21 keen Square Meaters enthusiasts who came away from the two instruction days much wiser, more confident and even more enthusiastic.

The Queensland Square Meaters breeders group met again on the 3rd of December for the completion of formalities re the formation of the group and then to enjoy a Christmas BBQ lunch and a "Getting to know you" afternoon. Enquiries can be directed to Jo Van Elten on 07 5426 8137. All Square Meaters enthusiasts are welcome to participate in any of our breed activities.

Beef 2006 will be held in Rockhampton in May and a number of Square Meaters Studs plan to participate in this national beef expo. All being well the 2006 Brisbane RNA should also see an increase in exhibitor numbers to approximately twelve studs with 25 animals mooted to compete. This certainly reflects the increasing



The 2005 Brisbane Ekka saw an outstanding display of Square Meaters.

interest in Square Meaters Stud cattle.

More Square Meaters bulls are going into commercial herds, and as well the saleyards where Coles is the usual purchaser, there are now a number of butchers

willing to pay premium prices for all the Square Meaters they can get.

All these are indications that in Queensland the Square Meaters breed is continuing to grow strongly. ■

MUMBULU SQUARE MEATER STUD

BREEDERS OF QUALITY SQUARE MEATERS

TETH PTY LTD
RMB 1194
DINGO FLAT ROAD
DENMARK WA 6333
TEL/FAX (08) 9840 8361
EMAIL: kalulu@bordernet.com.au
Contact: Peter & Ann Cave

Rules for stock transportation

Transporting livestock is not as simple as just loading the animals into the vehicle and taking them to their destination. Varying state legislation as well as a national approach to stock identification and the disease control means landholders have to ensure all is in order before transporting livestock.

Requirements differ among states, and there are also restrictions with intrastate movement, as well as interstate movement, of livestock.

Assisting police with reducing livestock theft as well as control areas for footrot, and varying zones across the nation for Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) and Bovine Johne's Disease (BJD) are just some factors that influence stock transportation. Overall, livestock can only travel in public areas after a permit has been issued.

New South Wales: NSW producers need to have a Transported Stock Statement (TSS) before livestock can be moved. The TSS system was introduced in 1990 partly to assist the Police Service to trace stolen stock and applies to all forms of livestock - cattle, sheep, goats, alpacas and horses - being transported by road, rail, water or air.

However, a TSS is not required under certain circumstances when stock are transported into NSW from another state or the ACT. There is also no need for a TSS when stock are transported across or along a road from one part of a property to another; when

stock are transported to or from a place for treatment by a veterinary surgeon; when horses are being transported to or from any agricultural show, exhibition, gymkhana, pony club meeting or similar function; and when racehorses, harness racing horses or working horses are being transported from one place to another.

Certain conditions or diseases prohibit the transportation of stock to anywhere other than an abattoir or knackery- for example, sheep with foot rot or lice are prohibited from transportation.

For footrot, more than 80 per cent of NSW is regarded as protected, which means there is a low prevalence of the disease. However, there are several control areas in the state: New England in the north and an area from the Central Tablelands down to the Hume.

Under the Stock Diseases Act, 1923, it is an offence to move sheep or goats into a protected or controlled area. Specific documentation is needed for restocker sheep.

An Animal Health Statement (AHS) provides information on the health status of restocker sheep and is a valuable tool for buyers to assess OJD risk when buying sheep. The AHS became mandatory in NSW in January 2004 for the sale or agistment of restocker sheep. However, it is not needed for exempt sheep- sheep being moved to slaughter, directly or via a slaughter-only sale, lambs accompanied by a National



Areas within Australia with a prevalence of Ovine Johne's Disease.

Vendor Declaration for "Prime Lambs For Slaughter Only" and sheep being sent or delivered to an Animal Health Statement exempt sale. Restrictions of cattle movement under BJD legislation include a series of established zones free of the disease, protected zones (an area with no significant BJD), control zone (area with significant levels of the disease) and a residual zone where the disease is endemic.

Victoria: The entire state is a control area with regard to BJD.

Queensland: Livestock owners may require as many as four separate documents to move stock within the state: a Queensland Travel Permit, a Queensland Livestock Movement System - Move Easy Waybill, a Cattle Tick Preliminary Treatment Owner Declaration and an Cattle Tick Inspection/Treatment Declaration.

The Queensland Livestock Movement System allows the movement of healthy stock from non-restricted properties using a duplicate waybill without the need for a permit.

All four of these documents are needed when cattle are being transported to an approved meatworks, transported for competition at an event in a protected or free area and returning in three days and to travel to the RNA Grounds. However, stock from restricted areas need varying forms, mainly depending on the region's status of cattle tick.

All four forms are also needed for sheep, goats, members of the camelid family and competition stock horses going to a protected or free area for more than five days and returning in less than 14 days.

Tasmania: Animal identification and traceback is an essential part of a number of chemical residue and disease surveillance programs that enable Tasmania's livestock producers to gain and maintain access to premium markets. Traceback of cattle is required for a number of programs, including the Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) surveillance program, National Residue Survey (NRS) and the

National Antibacterial Residue Minimisation (NARM) program, as well as animal disease emergency preparedness and interstate sales and purchases of live animals. Cattle in Tasmania presented for sale at a public saleyard or for slaughter at an abattoir or slaughterhouse, must still be identified to the last property of residence by the use of tail or ear tags. Tail tag use supports the National Vendor Declaration system, which also underpins market access by allowing processors to certify that cattle have not been treated with veterinary chemical products within the relevant Withholding Period (WHP) or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI).

The DPIWE said sheep identification for traceback (the equivalent to tail tags in cattle) was not yet required, however, the necessary legal framework was already in place if future events require its adoption at short notice.

Western Australia: Producers must have a Livestock Waybill before stock are moved; it must accompany stock being transported and be handed to the receiver of the stock.

According to Department of Agriculture Western Australia (DAWA), they are also extremely useful documents to aid tracing for disease and residue problems.

As well as a waybill set out in the schedule of Stock (Identification & Movement) Regulations, stock can also have a 'Permit to Move' issued under the Ezootic Disease Regulations and a 'Special Permit to Move' issued by an inspector from the DAWA. Under the Stock (Identification & Movement) Act, owners

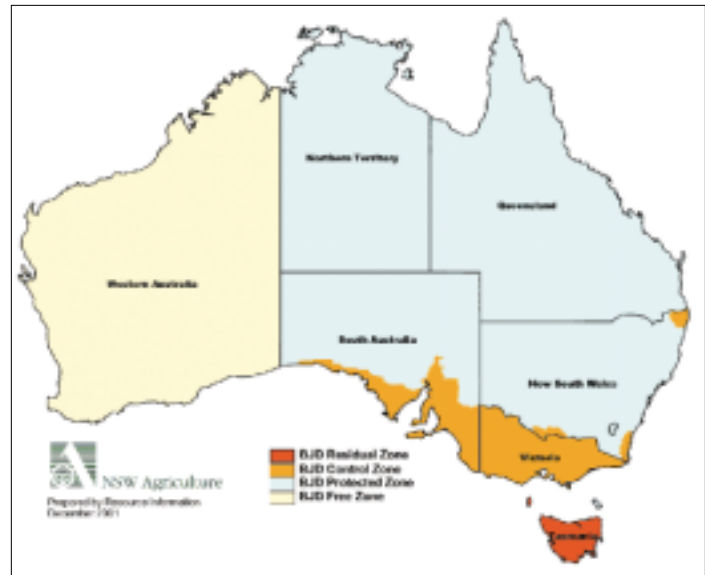
must have a waybill to accompany cattle, sheep, swine, goats, buffalo, deer, ostriches and camelids.

A Waybill must include the owner's name and address, number and type of stock, registered brand or registered earmark, or both, the Transaction Tag number (Property Identification Code) in the case of cattle, the date of movement, the name of consignee and destination address. When stock are moved between properties the owner can apply for a 'Special Permit to Move' from a DAWA stock inspector.

Stock transported from outside Western Australia and are accompanied by the Western Australian interstate health certificate do not require a waybill. Similarly, stock being transported out of Western Australia do not require a waybill if they are accompanied by the importing state's health certificate.

Northern Territory: Any movement from a property requires a waybill containing details of ownership, cattle identification, brands and a property identification code. All cattle eight months and older moving from a property must be branded unless a written exemption from branding has been provided by the Registrar of Brands.

A Property Identification Code (PIC) is assigned to every property on which cattle or buffalo are kept and identification devices are either Permanent devices or Transaction tags. Permanent devices carry the PIC of the property where the stock were bred, and the Transaction tags carry the PIC of the last property of residence of cattle. Transaction tags are colour-coded depending on use.



This map details states of Australia where Bovine Johne's Disease occurs.

Cattle moving from the Northern Territory to interstate abattoirs require transaction tags while cattle moving to NT abattoirs require transaction tags for consignments of 20 animals or less.

South Australia: All cattle, including calves, must be identified with an approved device before they leave the property for sale or slaughter, enabling disease or chemical residue sources to be traced. If a meat inspector detects disease in slaughtered cattle or takes a sample for chemical residue, the tag will quickly identify the property.

Any property running cattle must obtain a PIC. Cattle owners can apply on a form available from local Primary Industries and Resources SA offices and owners of more than one property must lodge a separate application for each, unless the properties are in the same local government area and are run as a single enterprise.

Transaction tags identify the last property cattle grazed on before leaving that property for sale or slaughter and are needed

for: registered stud cattle moved for purposes other than slaughter; cattle travelling to or from any place with written approval of a stock inspector; and cattle moving from one property to another if not going to slaughter or sale.

Cattle sent to another state must be identified with either a permanent identification device or a transaction tag and health certificates may also be necessary for interstate stock movement. ■

■ **Contact: Queensland:** Department of Primary Industries, (07) 3404 6999;

Western Australia: Department of Agriculture (08) 9368 3333; **South Australia:** Primary Industries and Resources (08) 8226 0222;

NSW: NSW Department of Primary Industries & Agriculture (02) 6391 3100; **Victoria:** Department of Primary Industries (03) 5332 5000;

Tasmania: Primary Industries, Water & Environment (03) 6233 8011; **Northern Territory:** Department of Primary Industry (08) 8999 2317.

Dispersal Sale

Registered and
Commercial Cattle
Available

All reasonable offers considered



Bull For Sale:

"Boyne Creek Eddie" D.O.B 1/3/99
S. Strathmore Bertie Q386
D. The Braes Bangle Q33
\$2,000 or best offer

Boyne Creek Square Meaters Stud

1845 Summerhill Road, Turill, NSW

Contact: Laraine or Alex

Ph: (02) 9554 8687 Mob: 0412 206 752

Email: larainealex@smartchat.net.au



Outside the Square

Aiming to make it easy for you

The Square Meaters Cattle Association is happy to announce a new association with Ausure Insurance & Finance Pty Ltd.

In a strategy aimed to strategically benefit the Square Meaters Association, Ausure Insurance can arrange all types of Insurance at competitive rates and above-competition service.

Asure Insurance has been looking after the Insurance needs of people in rural & regional Australia since the first office opened in Tamworth in 1996.

Asure has since grown to over 20 offices and has become one of the fastest

growing Insurance Brokerage Firms in NSW.

Asure Insurance in Tamworth specialises in Insurance & Finance for the rural market and understands the needs of their clients. Ausure has experienced, professional staff that work hard to make things easy for you.

Asure Tamworth Representatives Wayne & Trent Brown, will visit you at your home, in your business or on your farm to help arrange Insurance suited to your needs at competitive rates. So support the Square Meaters and contact Ausure for all your Insurance & Finance on 1300 65 10 60. ■



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AUSURE

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Ausure Insurance & Finance Pty Ltd

Ausure has been looking after the insurance needs of local people in country NSW since 1996 and is a trusted source for securing your business and financing your assets.

We are a company that understands your business and we are aware of the difficulty when working in the country, to find time to arrange appointments with insurers or spend lengthy periods of time on the phone to an automated service. Therefore Ausure comes to you. We will visit you in your home, business or on the property to arrange insurance suited to your needs at competitive rates and above-competition service.

Relationships with over 100 affiliated insurance companies allowing us access to the best quote every time. Provide a full range of insurance products designed for the home, farm and business.

Services we can provide for you

- ✓ Business insurance
- ✓ Farm insurance
- ✓ Professional indemnity
- ✓ Liability Insurance
- ✓ Personal accident insurance
- ✓ Home & contents
- ✓ Motor insurance
- ✓ Crop insurance
- ✓ Workers compensation
- ✓ Insurance premium funding

86A Bridge Street, Tamworth, NSW, 2340

Telephone: (02) 6762 6491

Fax: (02) 6762 6578



Square Meaters Regulations

(A brief outline of Square Meaters Regulations)

General:

Square Meaters must be clean polled and of a single colour. Colour patches are permitted around the udder/testes, but not elsewhere on the animal. The official colouring range is from Silver to Dark. Black is to be included on the herd book as B Grade.

Automatically this excludes black bulls from being registered and black females from being exhibited. Black steers are ineligible to be shown. The following table is an indication of the colouring:

Silver	Silver Grey	Grey	Dark Grey

Females:

There are two classes for Square Meater females, Class A & Class B. Females that are between 100 and 110cm at 12 months of age can be registered as Class A. Outside this height criteria they may be registered at Class B. While it is technically acceptable to register females under 100cm, the SMCA strongly discourages this practice in order to preserve size standards.

Bulls:

There is only one class for Square Meater Bulls, Class A. At 12 months of age bulls must be between 103 and 113cm. Bulls must be Mannosidosis tested and certified to be clear of this genetic defect. For both males and females, the measurement of the animal must be taken at 12 months (plus/minus two weeks). The point of measurement is the highest point on the shoulder. A witness to the measurement is required to sign the declaration form.

For Show Purposes only:

Only Class A animals may be exhibited at Agricultural Shows. A further height restriction applies to exhibited animals at 18 months of age. Bulls may not be more than 120cm and females not

more than 115cm. Should an animal grow beyond these limits after 18 months, they will remain Class A and be eligible for showing. These restrictions do not apply to carcass classes.

Semen:

In order to sell semen, the donor bull must be approved by the board of directors and the prescribed fee paid. Under law, semen cannot be sold unless it is registered i.e. the bull must pass all the relevant health protocols and be collected in an approved AB centre. In the case of shares in a bull being sold, the shares give the shareholder rights to the semen. In this instance, on-farm collections are permitted. In either case the Bull must be DNA tested.

Embryo Transfer:

Donor females for Embryo transfer must be DNA tested and the prescribed fee paid. Calves born as a result of embryo transfer and/or artificial insemination, must have the details recorded against the calf's registered name, i.e. (ET) or (AI).

Multiple Birth:

Calves born in multiple births must be indicated in the calves registered name, i.e. (T) for twin. Female calves from male/female twins should be tested to confirm that they are not freemartins.

Commercial Appendix:

Murray Grey females may be registered on a commercial appendix, for use with registered Square Meaters bulls, to breed-up to pure Square Meaters by breeding through four generations.

Stud Murray Grey Females:

Registered Murray Grey females may be included in the Herd Book. Progeny of these females by registered Square Meater Bulls are eligible to be registered as Square Meaters, providing all other requirements of the breed met. *Herd book closes to registered Murray Grey females on the 30th June 2006.*

SQUARE MEATERS REGISTRATION & FEES SCHEDULE

All fees are based on the interim registration being carried out.

A: BULLS

- (1) Birth - 3 months Interim registration..\$ 20
- (2) 12 mths & up to 15mths Calf MUST be measured & registered according to frame score system.....\$ 80
- (3) 15-18 months.....\$105
- (4) 18 months & up to 21 months Calf MUST be measured and registered according to frame score system if registration has not been carried out previously. Registration 18-21 months\$130
- (5) Bulls aged over 21 months can only be fully registered provided they have been placed on the interim register and measured at or prior to 18 months.....\$150

B: HEIFERS:

- (1) Birth - 3 months Interim registration. . \$ 20
- (2) 12 mths up to 15 mths. & Calf MUST be measured and registered according to frame score system. Class "A" & "B"\$ 30
- (3) 15-18 months.....\$ 55
- (4) 18 months & up to 21 months. Calf MUST be measured and registered according to frame score system. Class "A" & "B" if registration has not been carried out previously.....\$ 80
- (5) Over 21 months All heifers will be registered as Class "B".....\$105
- (6) Registered Murray Grey females registered as "B" Grade Square Meaters.....\$ 50

Herd book closes to registered Murray Grey females on the 30th June 2006

- 1. Membership Entry Fee.....\$100
- 2. Annual Membership Fee.....\$100
- 3. Transfer Fee (bulls and females).....\$ 80
- 4. Donor female registration.....\$ 50
Donor females and bull used on the donor cow by natural service or artificial insemination must be DNA tested. DNA test must be received by this office prior to ET work
- 6. Transfer of recipients.....\$ 50
- 7. Licenced semen must be registered.....\$500
And the bull must be approved by the Board of Directors. The bull must be DNA tested prior to any semen being sold.
- 8. Shares in bull per share.....\$ 50
DNA test must be forwarded to office prior to selling shares
- 9. Commercial appendix registration.....\$ 20
Foundation & calves
- 10. Commercial Appendix transfer.....\$ 10

Registration fees have not increased if the registration process has been completed prior to the animal becoming 15 months of age i.e. measure at 12 months and 3 months to forward paperwork to office.

This information has been extracted from the rules and regulations of the Square Meaters Cattle Association of Australia Ltd, as detailed in the Articles of Association and Memorandum, as amended. The above information is provided as a guide only, and not the absolute definition of any aspect of the breed. Persons interested in the finite regulations of the breed may obtain copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association from the SMCA office by telephoning (02) 9834 4322 or writing to PO Box 371, St Marys, NSW 1790.



Square Meaters Membership

APPLICANT'S NAME.....

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME.....
(IF IT IS A COMPANY, REGISTERED BUSINESS NAME OR PARTNERSHIP)

PROPERTY ADDRESS.....

.....STATE.....POSTCODE

POSTAL ADDRESS

.....

STATE..... POSTCODE

TELEPHONE..... FAX.....

EMAIL.....

PREFIX: My choices for a registered stud name (prefix), in order of preference, are:-

1

2.....

3.....

HERD TATTOO: My choices for no more than 3 characters herd identification (tattoo) are:-

1 2 3

(Herd Identification is no more than 3 characters long, containing standard numbers .
and/or letters only. Symbols are unacceptable.)

FEES: Entry fees (once only)\$100.00

Annual subscription.....\$100.00

Total.....\$200.00

I / we wish to become a member of the Association and agree to be bound
by the Provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association,
and Rules made pursuant thereto.

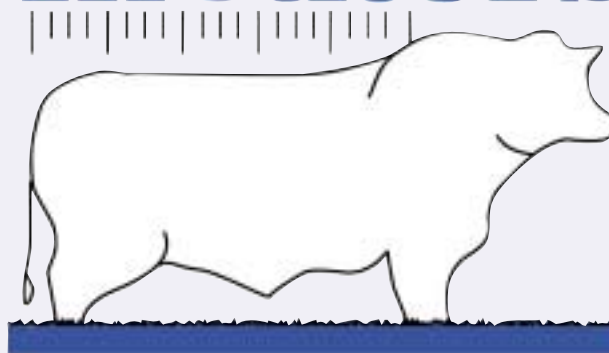
Signed

Dated

Please enclose a cheque for \$200.00.

SEND TO:
THE SECRETARY,
SQUARE MEATERS CATTLE ASSOCIATION,
PO BOX 371, ST MARYS, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1790.
Telephone: (02) 9834 4322

SQUARE meaters





Outside the Square

Square Meaters Cattle Assn

NSW & ACT MEMBERS LIST:

MR RJ & DR JM BARBER
FARM LOCATION: LOCHINVAR
PREFIX: SILVER BELLE TATTOO: JJB
TEL: 02 4998 7388 FAX: 02 9872 9452

BARKER COLLEGE
ATT: MR M WEIER
HORNSBY NSW 2077
PREFIX: KURRAJONG TATTOO: BAR
TEL: 02 9847 8280 FAX: 02 9477 3556

BEDE POLDING COLLEGE
SOUTH WINDSOR NSW 2756
PREFIX: MERIKI TATTOO: MRK
TEL: 02 4577 6455 FAX: 02 4577 4538

MR G BERRY
FARM LOCATION: DUNGOG
PREFIX: SPRING VALLEY TATTOO: SPR
TEL: 02 4959 1988

MRS M BOHM
FARM LOCATION: TABLETOP VIA ALBURY
PREFIX: KELKETTE TATTOO KPM
TEL: 02 6020 3211 FAX: 02 6020 3213

BRINSLEY PASTORAL CO.
FREEEMANS REACH NSW 2756
PREFIX: BRINSLEY TATTOO: SQM
TEL: 02 4579 6266 FAX: 02 9622 3400

DR P & MRS L BROWNIE
TORRYBURN NSW 2358
PREFIX: WOLLEMI S/M TATTOO: KAB
TEL: 02 6775 5553 FAX: 02 6775 5518

MR J & MRS H DICK
SUTTON FOREST NSW 2590
PREFIX: STONEHILL TATTOO: STH
TEL: 02 4869 4889

MR C & MRS J BRYSON
FARM LOCATION: MITCHELLS FLAT
PREFIX: WEARAWEE TATTOO: WW
TEL: 02 9456 1390
FAX: 02 9456 5778
MB: 0418 212 881

MR RD & MRS NE CASTLE
FARM LOCATION: BOORAL
PREFIX: ROYNAN TATTOO: RN1
TEL: 02 9905 1273 FAX 02 439 7040

MR J CONNOLLY
FARM LOCATION: BROKE
PREFIX: 88 HILL STREET TATTOO: 88H
TEL: 02 9232 1033 FAX 02 9235 3690

MR RJ & MRS JA DAVIS
SCONE NSW 2337
PREFIX: CLAREMONT TATTOO: RJD
TEL: 02 6545 1911 FAX: 02 6545 1966

COOTAMUNDRA HIGH SCHOOL
ATT: MS I KLEPPER
COOTAMUNDRA NSW 2590
PREFIX: BAILEYANA TATTOO: BLY
TEL: 02 6942 2711 FAX: 02 6942 1516

MRS S DICKESON
OAKDALE NSW 2570
PREFIX: BACK CREEK TATTOO: BC
TEL: 02 4659 6426 FAX: 02 4659 6385

DOONSIDE TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL
DOONSIDE NSW 2767
PREFIX: DOONSIDE HIGH TATTOO: HI5
TEL: 02 9622 2463 FAX: 02 9831 5951

ELDERSLIE HIGH SCHOOL
ATT MRS S DICKENSON
NARELLAN NSW 2567
PREFIX: ELDHIGH TATTOO: EHS
TEL: 02 4658 1110 FAX: 02 4658 0219

GLEANNHOLME SQUARE MEATERS
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333
PREFIX: GLEANNHOLME TATTOO: GLE
TEL/FAX: 02 6543 1413

MR AR GOW & MS DS HOWE
LOCHINVAR NSW 2321
PREFIX: PLATINUM TATTOO: GOW
TEL: 02 4938 3312 FAX: 02 4938 3812
MB: 040 815 7212 MB 0412 005566
EMAIL: rgow@comsteel.com.au

MR G GREEN & MISS T GREEN
MAITLAND NSW 2320
PREFIX: GUMUT VALLEY TATTOO: TGG
TEL: 02 4933 3287

MR J HODGSON & F NEUMANN
FARM LOCATION: ANEMBO VIA CAPTAINS FLAT
PREFIX: ELENDEE TATTOO: LND
TEL: 02 6239 4990

MR S & MRS M HOLLAND
TOWRANG NSW 2580
PREFIX: SUNRISE COTTAGE TATTOO: SUN
TEL: 02 4829 8132 MOB: 0427 662526
email sunrise@goulburn.net.au

MR T & MRS S ION
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
PREFIX: BIG SPRINGS TATTOO: BSS
TEL 02 6928 1363 FAX 02 6928 1365

JEMBELLA PARK
GLEN OAK NSW 2320
PREFIX: JEMBELLA PARK TATTOO: JEM
TEL: 02 4988 6368 FAX: 02 4988 7000

MR B & MRS M JONES
& MR W & MRS M PATCH
WISEMANS CREEK NSW 2795
PREFIX: MARYMIYN TATTOO: JP
TEL: 02 6337 5615 FAX: 02 6337 5689
TEL: 02 4567 7673

MS L JORDAN & MR A HAMILTON
FARM LOCATION: TURILL
PREFIX: BOYNE CREEK TATTOO: ALB
TEL: 02 9554 8687 FAX 02 9554 8687

MR A & MRS A KNOWLSON
MARSHALL MOUNT NSW 2530
PREFIX: HILLVIEW TATTOO: AK
TEL: 02 4257 1042

MR N LAW
RAVENSDALE NSW 2259
PREFIX: VALLEY VIEW TATTOO: VV
TEL: 4356 1312 FAX: 02 9252 2655

MR TE LEWIS & MRS AM TROUTMAN
BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622
PREFIX: NUNLEF TATTOO: NUN
TEL: 02 6232 5827 FAX: 02 6260 4515
EMAIL: telewis@bigpond.net.au

MR RW & MRS S McCLUSKEY
VIA HALL ACT 2618
PREFIX: CLUSKERS TATTOO: CLK
TEL: 02 6227 5420 MB: 0438 123 137

MABELIE SQUARE MEATERS STUD
NARROMINE NSW 2821
PREFIX: MABELIE TATTOO: KMB
TEL: 02 6889 5784 MB: 0407 926843
Email: mabeliesquaremeaters@yahoo.com.au

MR P & MRS S MACARTHUR
ROCKY RIVER NSW 2458
PREFIX: GOLDSWORTH TATTOO: MAC
TEL: 02 6778 4019 FAX 02 6772 9428

MR D & MRS S MACKINNON (PARTNERSHIP)
BEGA NSW 2550
PREFIX: BROGO BEEF TATTOO: TBA
TEL: 02 6492 4968

GK MORGAN & ASSOCIATES
YARRAMALONG NSW 2259
PREFIX: MORJEN TATTOO: MOG
TEL: 02 4356 1081

MR PK MORRIS
LINDENDALE NSW 2480
PREFIX: CORINDABELLA TATTOO: PKM
TEL: 02 6629 5512 FAX: 02 6629 5513

MR A MORTIMER & MS G McCHESNEY
CORAMBA NSW 2350
PREFIX: GAINMOR TATTOO: MOR
TEL: 0407901 803

MR P & MRS H MULLER
DARK CORNER NSW 2795
PREFIX: JACINTA TATTOO: J5A
TEL: 02 6337 7211 FAX :02 6337 7211

MURRUMBURRAH HIGH SCHOOL
HARDEN NSW 2587
PREFIX: MURRUMBURRAH TATTOO: MHS
TEL: 6386 2755 FAX :02 6386 3048

NICSHAULEY STUD
SUTTON NSW 2620
PREFIX: NICSHAULEY TATTOO: NSL
TEL: 02 6230 3609 FAX: (W) 02 6230 2647

MR JC NINNES
MAITLAND NSW 2320
PREFIX: CEDAR GROVE TATTOO: CGM
TEL: 02 4933 1902

MR JR PARBERY
GLENBROOK NSW 2773
FARM LOCATION: OBERON
PREFIX: PARBERYS TATTOO: VBB
TEL: 02 4739 2326 FAX: 02 9628 1506

MR A PAUNA
KURRAJONG HILLS NSW 2758
PREFIX: ATELL PARK TATTOO: APJ
TEL: 02 4567 7490 FAX: 02 4571 1138

MR RB & MRS MA PETERSON
FORBES NSW 2870
PREFIX: MARRUCE TATTOO: BMP
TEL: 02 6853 6288

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A proven breed of beef cattle

A lot has been said about the merits or otherwise of "miniature" cattle and Square Meaters have sometimes been caught up in this discussion.

Square Meaters breeders would like to dispel a myth that has developed in some areas and educate the public, other breeders, producers and show judges about the breed - Square Meaters are not "miniature" cattle - they are a serious beef breed with the success to prove it.

Whilst it is true that Square Meaters may suit people on smaller acreages, it is not specifically their frame size but, rather, the characteristics that are also attracting beef producers which produce this result. The calves have low birth weights (15kg - 20kg), are extremely efficient feed converters and produce a 260kg to 300kg weaner, comparable in weight to mainstream beef calves, at 8 to 9 months. The big difference is that Square Meaters calves produce a finished carcass, ready for market, with optimal fat cover at this age whilst

mainstream calves may take up to 18 months to produce a finished carcass. The result of course is that you can stock more animals per acre and turn them off in a much shorter period - more profit whether you are on small or large acreage.

Other traits which breeders like are their quiet temperament, high milking ability of females, strong muscling with superior fleshing and a wonderful capacity to maintain good condition in poor seasons.

The Square Meaters Cattle Association does have a height restriction on the registering of bulls. At 12 months of age bulls cannot be less than 103cm and not more than 113cm. This regulation is aimed at providing a safeguard against animals becoming too small or regressing back to taller/slower growing.

Mature bulls weigh around 800kg plus at around 130cm high, again with a deep body on short legs. Despite the shortness of leg, Square Meaters bulls can easily serve larger females in commercial crossbreeding programs. ■

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Champion Progeny

- **Rainbow Estate Xocet:** Senior & Grand Champion Bull, Group B Interbreed Champion Bull Royal Canberra Show 2004 (Feature Breed). Senior & Grand Champion Bull Royal Canberra Show 2005
- **Rainbow Estate Xanadu:** Junior Champion Bull, Royal Canberra Show 2004 (Sold: to Kelkette Square Meaters Stud 2005 \$12,500)
- **Rainbow Estate Melody Y8:** Supreme Beef Breed Exhibit Braidwood 2005. Numerous Class winners at both Royal Canberra & Sydney Shows. ***
- **Rainbow Estate Yucatan:** Reserve Junior Champion Bull Royal Canberra Show 2004. Junior & Grand Champion Bull, Supreme Square Meaters Exhibit Royal Sydney Show 2004. **Champion Pair of Bulls** Royal Canberra 2004 (Xocet & Xanadu) **Breeder's Pair** Royal Canberra 2004 1st & 2nd **Sires Progeny Group** Royal Canberra 2004 1st & 2nd
- **Rainbow Estate Marie Y15:** Senior & Grand Champion Female, Group B Interbreed Champion Female Royal Canberra 2005. Reserve Senior Champion Female Royal Sydney 2005 **Two bulls not over 24 months** Royal Sydney 2004 (Xanadu & Yucatan) **Sires Progeny Group** Royal Sydney 2004

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New sire now at Rainbow stud

Since last year's Annual magazine, Rainbow Square Meaters has had both a busy and successful year despite the continuing drought from which we have at least had some measure of relief this Spring.

We are delighted to report that once again we were the most successful exhibitors at both Royal Canberra and Sydney's Shows. Of particular satisfaction was that, whereas previously we have had great successes with our bulls and reasonable success with females, this year at Canberra we took out the double when Xocet won Grand Champion Bull, and Maree Y15 won Senior & Grand Champion Female and went on to win the Group B Supreme Champion Beef Breed Female. Interestingly, the following week at the local Braidwood Show, Maree's contemporary, Melody, was put over her by the judge and went on to win the Supreme Beef Breed Champion against eight other breed representatives.

While we then went on to Sydney and were again most successful exhibitor, our major successes were again with the bulls, Yankee Doodle as Junior Champion Bull and joining Zeus as best pair under 20 months. Maree was judged Reserve Senior Champion Female.

In May we participated in the multi-vendor sale at Goulburn with seven other vendors in a sale which produced both encouraging and disappointing results. Most vendors were positive and satisfied with the

outcomes despite average clearances and prices, and expressed their willingness to participate in future. There is no doubt that the results were heavily adversely affected by the prolonged drought conditions and buyer uncertainty related thereto. Notwithstanding the sale was a very useful exercise with many lessons which will stand us all in good stead when we mature to a National Show and Sale, hopefully in September 2006.

During the year we also attended Mudgee and Murrumbateman Field days with David and Julie Thompson who graciously allow us to share their sites, which we appreciate and enjoy very much. The level of interest and enquiry remains very high, but at that stage the continuing drought was putting a dampener on aspiring buyers who, hopefully, will carry out their threats to join the breed when conditions improve.

We are also very pleased to report that in June 2005 we sold Rainbow Estate Xanadu to Margarete Bohm of Kelkette Square Meaters in a package valuing him at \$12500, including four lovely heifers with calves at foot to add to the original ten Kelkette heifers which we purchased at Mandalong in 1996, and which have performed very well for us in the intervening years. We are particularly pleased that Margarete thought so much of him, given her proven breeding track record and the successes she has enjoyed with her cattle



Vesco Yes Man, at 13 months of age and weighing 506kg.

over the years. Congratulations Margarete, and we hope that he fulfils all your expectations of him. The bad news however, is that in September we lost our champion Xocet when he broke his stifle in a scrap with Woolaringa Valance after they had each gone through two fences to exchange opinions about each other. We were at the time on the verge of taking him to be collected when the tragedy occurred. To make matters worse he had registered five stars on Genestar testing, and his first crop of calves on the ground are exceptionally promising. The only upside is that his very first calf to hit the ground, Zippity Doo Da, shows some promise, and may make it as his replacement. There is some consolation in still having Rambo's other son and Supreme Royal Sydney exhibit Yucatan to use in the line breeding program.

Recently we repurchased a son of Woolaringa Quaama who was a Reserve Senior Champion at Canberra because he had been throwing exceptional calves for his owners when put over a group of Rambo daughters. He is yet another complete outcross and gives us even wider genetic

diversity than we were already enjoying.

While attending Brisbane Show this year we were delighted to see two outstanding heifer calves at foot sired by Vesco Yes Man who we had purchased the year before after we had seen him in Brisbane. We immediately doubled his heifer allocation when we returned home and cannot wait to see his first calves here soon, one of which will be from the Canberra Champion Maree Y15.

In June we were visited by Bill McKiernan of DPI at Orange who has written extensively about muscling in cattle, in females, and feed conversion efficiency in medium frame cattle. He is currently looking at a genetic variant influencing muscling in some breeds, including Square Meaters, and a sample of our herd was weighed, scanned and DNA tested as part of Bill's study. The findings are very interesting and somewhat exciting, but in a preliminary stage.

Finally, readers may be interested to learn that we have had our star performer, Mandalong Rambo semen collected, and are offering 1/6 semen shares in this outstanding, powerful and potent sire for sale. ■

Attraction to the compact size

Su and Bob McCluskey have been running Square Meaters just outside Canberra since 1996.

Through talking to many people who are interested in Square Meaters at field days and shows and also to clients, the McCluskey's find that many people are attracted to the breed for their compact size and easy handling, with a lot of them having smaller acreage and eager to take advantage of the opportunity to run more cattle than the standard size breeds.

Many clients looking to buy are new to cattle, with some new to farming itself. The McCluskeys also find that a large number of clients are like themselves - having very busy schedules and are trying to organise a breeding and management program around working off-farm. And there are aspects to looking after cattle and general animal husbandry that can prove pretty daunting to the new cattle owner. There is also a whole lot of information that the person new to farming may not know about.

Recognising this as a

common need, the McCluskeys have come up with several strategies to help. Firstly, they encourage anyone thinking of buying cattle to come out and have a look at the cattle and talk through different options. For example, is it breeding or fattening that the person is looking to do? Are they interested in stud or commercial cattle? What sort of country do they have? How much time do they have to put into the enterprise?

The McCluskeys find that quite often talking through different factors with prospective clients can provide them with options they may not have even considered. "We believe that it is very important that people looking to start with cattle are aware of what's involved with different enterprises" says Bob "and we are happy to provide some tips and suggestions where we can".

The McCluskey's also offer an after-sales service, where if you buy cattle from them, they are happy to help with advice and assistance to ensure that both you and your new purchases can



A cow and calf graze happily at the McCluskey's property outside Canberra.

enjoy a long and happy life together. No question is considered too silly or too simple. "We didn't know the difference between a heifer or a steer when we first came here 14 years ago" Su says "and if we can share some of the lessons we have learned with others, it can only help them".

Things such as why and when to drench and what to use. Although your local rural supplier will be willing to help, generally you need to know what you are looking for in the first place. If you are starting off your herd with a couple of cows and calves then maybe you don't need a 5 litre container of drench with a fancy drench gun - perhaps a squeeze pack of backline may do. On the other hand, if you are needing to orally drench larger numbers of cattle, then a hook can make life so much quicker and easier.

Some people are keen to breed cattle but are uncertain about having a bull on the property all year round. Cluskers Stud provides a bull leasing service for this very reason and if transport is a problem, where possible,

the McCluskeys will deliver a bull for the service period then go back and pick him up.

Cluskers Stud also conducts on-farm field days and information sessions where participants can gather a wealth of practical information about how to manage and assess their cattle, receive tips on cattle handling and contacts for where to go for other information.

In keeping with providing this type of service, Cluskers Stud has now launched their website, www.cluskers.com.au The Cluskers website will provide you with the very latest information on what's happening at the Cluskers stud, including information on upcoming field days, on-farm information days and what is available for sale at any particular time. The website also provides useful contacts and links to relevant information.

The McCluskeys encourage you to visit Cluskers Stud to view the cattle and talk about what you may be interested in. You can contact Cluskers Stud on 02 6227 5420, 0438 123 137 or through the website. ■



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The Horseshoe
via Hall ACT 2618



p 02 6227 5420 m 0438 123 137



Providing Square Meaters females

At Malolo Square Meaters Stud, Boyanup WA, we seem to have found our niche in providing Square Meaters females as foundation stock for new studs.

In rapidly expanding Square Meaters story in Western Australia we have provided breeders for seven new studs in the past two years. Most of these females were heifers sired by Malolo Victor and mated to our new bull, Thurlo Thomas,

having been bred from Murray Grey cows.

Because Square Meaters are bred solely from selected old styled Murray Greys we can still source breeders from these existing lines.

The rapid expansion of the Square Meaters breed relies heavily on this Murray Grey source.

Malolo is only 35 acres so our cattle must be efficient. Murray Grey cattle have always demonstrated this trait, and it is more



Tony Vanderloop, Malolo Square Meaters said his cattle must be efficient.

intensified in Square Meaters by the further selection. Therefore we are able to consistently keep a herd of about 40 animals,

selling six heifers in calf. Several more heifers and some young Square Meaters cows are available for sale.

For more information contact Malolo Square Meaters, Boyanup, WA on (08) 9731 5187. ■

THE SQUARE MEATER MAN

To every wife of the Square Meater man,
Be it Harry, Fred, Donald or Dan.
Sooner or later these words he will say,
"I need your help in the yards today."

So its on with the trousers, sunscreen and hat,
Cancel the shopping, coffee and chat.
Hop on the bike with trusty old boots, and muster
the cattle out of the clover.

Now in the cattle yards the cattle man
be it Harry, Fred, Donald or Dan.
He does from my long observation,
Quickly undergo a strange transformation.

From a mild mannered husband
he does a tyrant become.
be it drafting, drenching, or wielding the knife,

The target for abuse is most always the wife.
Waving and shouting till his face is quite puce,
"What are you doing you're no bloody use!"

But storm off in high dudgeon, he is down on his knees,
"Sorry my dear, didn't mean it, come back will you please!"

Trip over old boots, fall flat on your face,
"get up woman your blocking the gate"
Your ankle is throbbing, you're choking with dust,
Hope no one heard how loud you did swear,

His parting words at the end of the day,
After working and sweating, (and of course there's no pay),
"Let out the cattle and open the gates."
"I'm going to the pub for a beer with my mates."

Tired and weary, to the shower you do run,
The beds are not made and the dishes not done,
And you know the cattle mans next words will be
"I could eat a horse whats for tea."

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Double muscle in our beef cattle

For many years the double muscle condition (muscle hypertrophy) has been known and studied and it is also known that a variant of the condition occurs whereby the animals display many of the advantages of hypertrophy in meat characteristics but also carry fatness and are just as functional as normal animals.

This variant or the heterozygote form of the condition (animals with a single copy of the myostatin deletion) can have quite enormous impacts on meat production.

Mr Bill McKiernan, Beef Industry Leader at Orange who has been the researcher involved in investigating the effects of this gene said that carefully managed using a DNA test, this condition can add substantially to muscle selection. Following years of studying the effects of increased muscling and quantifying the progress that can be made through selection, Mr McKiernan said this myostatin deletion is a tool to quicken the progress to higher muscling. He and colleagues in NSW DPI with funding from MLA, have studied the effect of this condition over and above that effect of selection for muscling.

He said that in two herds studied, one being a NSW DPI research herd at Glen Innes, the other a commercial pure bred Angus herd in the Hunter Valley, the effect of the condition has been quite dramatic.

In both herds eye muscle area had been increased by 12 to 20 % at the same age and muscle score by almost

one full muscle score on cattle which were already known for high levels of muscling. The heterozygote or carriers of the single deletion were only slightly leaner and slightly smaller in stature or height.

Cows and heifers carrying the deletion in both herds were of the same weight and condition as normal animals and records indicated that they were equally productive in maternal traits.

Mr McKiernan said the big surprise was the enormous impact the deletion had on carcass traits. Just recently 40 steers from the Glen Innes herd were slaughtered and assessed for carcass traits. The carcasses were boned out in a boning room and meat yield information collected.

Of the 40 steers 11 were carriers of the myostatin deletion (heterozygotes) 14 were from a high muscle selection line and 17 from the low muscle selection line. The myostatin steers out-performed both other groups substantially. The myostatin steers dressed 1% more than the high selection line steers who dressed 1% more than the low selection steers.

All steers measured the same fatness at the P8 and rib sites (24 and 16mm respectively). However, once boned out both higher muscled groups had less total body fat percentage.

The real difference was in the amount of retail meat yield produced. The myostatin steers yielded 66.5%, the high selection 63.2% and the low 61.8%. A huge 5% advantage over



The effects of double muscling can be seen here in this Square Meaters bull.

the low muscle line which closely represents the more normal or average level of muscling in the Australian cattle herd.

Of even greater reason for excitement according to Mr McKiernan was the fact that both the myostatin and the high muscle selection group had a higher percentage of weight in the hindquarter in higher priced cuts. There was a 21/2 % advantage to the myostatin steers over the low muscle steers in the weight proportion of primals in the hindquarter.

Mr McKiernan stated this was exciting new information indicating that substantial gain can be made in meat yield by the way of this new gene technology.

He also said that the incentive for producers to make these sorts of substantial gains in meat yield needs to be supported by the beef processing industry by recognising these advantages and implementing programs or systems which will encourage producers to breed these animals via carcass feedback and price incentives.

Mr McKiernan also sounded a word of warning, stating that this technology was not for everyone and particularly not for producers not prepared to instigate a rigorous breeding program using DNA testing to ensure the deleterious homozygous form of the condition did not occur. ■



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Generations of beef muscling

Over 160 producers from across NSW and southern Queensland attended a NSW DPI field day on the 1st of December at Glen Innes Research Station.

On display were lines of commercial breeding cattle selected for up to three generations for high and low muscling, together with the first detailed carcass results from their steer progeny.

Mr Bill McKiernan, NSW DPI Beef Industry Leader (Orange) in conjunction with Mr Greg Meaker, Beef Officer from Goulburn have been running the beef cattle breeding selection program since the early 1990's concentrating on the selection for muscle and

measuring the consequences.

The original cattle herd was run at NSW DPI Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute at Camden just outside Sydney until 2002 when drought conditions and alternative use for the Camden site necessitated a move of the herd north and the cattle now reside at the DPI's Glen Innes Research Station.

In 2000 a major field day was held at Camden to deliver some preliminary results of the research. At that time some major industry perceptions and issues with muscling were addressed and answered. However, further selection and analysis of results was

required to be more confident of early indications and trends.

Following what has been effectively another generation of selection for muscling researchers are now confident in results and are in a better position to answer many of the industry issues.

The design of the project effectively puts selection pressure on both the female replacements and sires used. Originally a random selection of Hereford females were selected to represent industry average muscularity. In 1991 high and low muscle score bulls were used to produce progeny for comparison. In 1997 females from these matings were selected on their high or low muscle pedigree and selection for high or low muscle score. They were consequently mated to high or low

muscle score bulls respectively, sourced from industry herds.

Subsequent generations of females have been selected on muscle score to be replacements for the respective herds.

Today two herds of cows exist numbering approximately 70 cows in each herd. The average muscle score of the low muscle cattle is a D muscle score and the high muscle cattle is a bit better than muscle score C (average of both male and females).

A third herd has now also been included made up of cows carrying the myostatin deletion gene (double muscle gene). Results of their performance were reported independent of the differences between the 2 selection lines.

The creation of one full muscle score difference between the herds in both

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males and females, clearly demonstrates an economic advantage in saleyard terms. From analysis of saleyard reports 1 muscle score difference across all categories attracts a premium of between 10c to 20c per kg. These days more than \$100 per animal sold. The consequences of selecting for muscle to achieve this market advantage is the focus of this research.

Selecting for muscle score has not only increased visual subjective muscle score in the progeny but also their eye muscle area, measured at any age up to slaughter. There is a difference of 5 to 10 cm² between the lines at the same weight.

Fatness has decreased, due to muscle selection, although the decrease is only marginal at the rib site. Results from over 200 steer slaughtered from these lines

show a decrease of about 2mm on a 350kg carcass at 2 years of age. Marbling fat is also slightly decreased.

One major concern of producers has been the effect of muscle selection on weight gain. A common perception is that the more muscular animals within breed are dumber and slow growing. The research clearly shows there is little to no effect on growth rate between the lines. However, the high muscle group are shorter in height at the hips. This effectively explains why there is a common perception of "dumpy" because these high muscle animals are perceptively smaller in stature. However, they are the same weight at any given age and rather than being earlier maturing as their height would indicate, they are in fact the same maturity if not later

maturing than their low muscle counterparts.

This has huge implications to feeder steer on store steer buyers. They should not only rely on animal height for a gauge of maturity and growth potential but should consider muscularity in combination with height and weight to assess animals future performance.

The final and possibly most difficult trait to measure and assess is female fertility and performance.

There is no difference in weaning weight of progeny between the two muscle lines indicating that milk production has not been adversely effected.

On serial ovary scanning of weaner and yearling heifers it was found that there was no differences in "active ovaries" as heifers achieved sexual maturity. Indicating sexual maturity of females from the two

muscle lines were the same.

There has been virtually no dystocia or calving problems within these 2 muscle line herds. The low muscle selection line has slightly heavier calves at birth - the opposite to what most producers would expect. Overall fertility, that is number of calves born or weaned relative to cows mated is effectively the same in each herd.

Mr Mckiernan said "We are now confident from these results in saying that selection for muscling will result in substantial economic benefit with little impact on other herd productive traits".

He said "This is an experiment and does not imply that single trait selection should be pursued. We recommend that muscling can and should be included in multiple trait selection programs". ■

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Living the dream breeding cattle

Hain Rural Enterprises originated through a city slicker's boyhood dreams of living on a farm. This however took some 40 years when I was introduced to a horse and campdrafting by a mate who lived on a rural block just north of Brisbane.

We bought some small numbers of store cattle to train the horses for campdrafting. Around 10 years later my wife Aileen and I purchased our present property Bungo Creek Farm at Mt Mee.

Mt. Mee is a dairying and beef cattle community around one and a quarter hours north west of Brisbane. The store cattle were usually Brahman

crosses and quite a handful in the camp and also in the yards when treating for ticks etc. My wife decided that she would prefer to see me playing with more mild mannered cattle. With this in mind we ventured to the Brisbane Ekka Show to choose our breed. With Bungo Creek Farm consisting only of 63 acres we had to choose our breed carefully.

I did not like the small breeds and on coming upon Jo Van Elten's Vesco Square Meaters I was impressed by Jo and her cattle. The medium sized good doing cattle with excellent temperament would do me and I felt they also would sell commercially.



Champion bull Vesco Victory March is now owned by Hain Rural Square Meaters.

I first purchased 7 cows and a bull Vesco Victory March (Mr. T) from Vesco and 3 cows from Ann Willet's Ballian Stud around January 2003. This was followed by another 5 cows from Vesco. Our herd now consists of 16 cows, 7 young heifers 12 to 24 months, Vesco Victory March (Mr. T), Hain Rural Merlin which was Reserve Champion Bull at the RNA show in 2005, Hain Rural Beau an 11 month old bull, both by Mr. T, and Darlea Zapper a 14 month old Mandalong Tom Boy bull purchased with 2 Mandalong Tom Boys heifers from Rex William's Darlea Stud in Coffs Harbour. We also have 11 calves on the ground and we are about to send 5 x 10 to 12 month old Steers to the local saleyards.

My wife and I attended the 2005 Canberra Show to assess the cattle south of the Queensland border and we were impressed with the standard. None however impressed my inexperienced eye more than Mandalong Tom Boy which prompted

my purchase of Darlea Zapper. I believe or hope that coupled with the outstanding temperament and quality of Vesco Victory March, that Hain Rural Square Meaters will compare favorably with other Square Meaters throughout Australia.

With my recent purchase of 260 acres at Mt Kilcoy only 30 minutes from Mt Mee I hope to also run a commercial herd to increase the Square Meaters exposure in the local store sales at Toogooloowah and Woodford.

In closing I would like to thank Jo Van Elten and Pam Scott from Vesco and Cheryl Mott for their help over the past 2 years.

I look forward to meeting and learning from other Square Meaters breeders throughout Australia and hope that in some way Hain Rural Enterprises can promote and improve the standard of the breed in Queensland and other states.

For more information contact Paul Hain on 0418 741 262. ■

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(Photo taken December 2002 AGE: 30 months WEIGHT: 730kg)

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Now owned by Hain Rural Square Meaters, Mt Mee, Qld.



HAIN RURAL MERLIN - BORN 6/7/2004

RESERVE CHAMPION SQUARE MEATERS BULL 2005 ROYAL BRISBANE SHOW
By Vesco Victory March

Note: Merlin had lost 30kg when being broken in a month prior to the Royal Brisbane Show. In the words of the judge he was a close second on the day to the Champion Bull.
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HAIN RURAL BEAU - BORN 25/11/2004

By Vesco Victory March
Recently broken in and ready for showing. We have high hopes for Beau and he has inherited his Sire and Dam's temperament and conformation.



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Dam of Hain Rural Beau
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Determine your watering needs

The availability of suitable sites on a property to capture and store ample water is so critical that it can be a stop-go factor in a farm's productivity.

Without adequate water reserves a grazer can be forced to reduce stock numbers in a dry spell even in a situation where there is still adequate fodder in the paddocks.

Water is essential for animals to metabolise their food intake and good water reserves are as important in meat production as the supply of food.

The amount of water you need to hold should be derived from facts about the way you intend to farm the property. The decision

about what type of livestock, and how many, you intend to run has a direct bearing on how much water you need to hold. Knowledge of animal consumption rates is important: For example;

■ If you intend running a beef production operation you should take account the fact that the daily water requirement for beef cattle is around 45–50 litres for each beast per day.

■ This means that if you intend to run a herd of 100 cattle you will need water storage capacity to provide 4500–5000 litres a day in dry times.

■ The water requirements vary for different animals depending on their metab-

olic rate and their body mass.

The next factor you need to examine is the weather pattern in the district where you are buying the property. In every year in every district there are periods of low rainfall and dry spells. It is important to examine local records to see when these dry spells fall and how long, on average, they last. The very first calculation to do about total water holdings required is to multiply the total daily needs of your stock by the number of days duration of the average dry spell. Hence, in the case of a herd of 100 cattle, and a winter dry spell of 60 days, the amount of water needed to be held in reserve is between 270,000 litres and 350,000 litres. This is a lot of water but only represents an absolute minimum because the calculation does not take into account water losses to evaporation or lea-

kage during these 60 days.

The existence of drought must be taken into account. Conventional wisdom is to sell production stock early in a drought and retain breeding stock through the drought.

Today's knowledge of the El Nino effect is a management tool which now helps farmers determine when a dry spell is not just a dry spell but the beginning of a drought. When calculating total farm water needs the farmer needs to determine a survival strategy in which he/she decides the reduced stocking rate in case of drought. The reduced rate must be matched to the amount of fodder on the property at the start of the drought and the amount of water held in reserve.

Local records about the length and severity of drought can provide information about how many



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months the breeding stock have to survive without new rainfall in drought. In the previous case where the farmer had a herd of 100 cattle, the drought strategy may be to hold a reduced herd of 25 breeders. The water requirement for a 12 months drought is therefore between 410,000 litres and 460,000 litres. And remember, the drought reserve must be calculated and held IN ADDITION TO the amount of water held as the dry spell reserve.

Using this form of calculation it is easy to see that your property must be able to capture and store a vast amount of water if it is to be commercially viable. The water holding needs for a grazier intending to run 100 beef cattle can be as high as 800,000 litres just to ensure minimum levels of guaranteed stock water.

The next thing to do is an audit of the existing water holding capacity of the dams on the property you are buying. Caution is necessary because, as a prospective buyer, it is easy to get a good feeling about the property just by seeing water in a dam in a good season. This good feeling can be misleading. Examine existing dams closely as many have been considerably silted in past years and the broad expanse of water may be just an illusion about how much water the dam can really hold.

The volume of water in an existing dam can be hard to assess accurately because the depth of the water varies and the shape of the dam is like a basket rather than like a box. The surface area is easy to calculate but the depth is harder. An average depth may be calculated by taking five measurements across the dam from each direction. Once you have determined an average

depth in metres, then multiply it by the surface area. This will give the total storage capacity in that dam in cubic metres. Each cubic metre water contains 1000 litres.

Once you have audited the existing dams you can calculate the total existing water storage capacity of the property and compare it with your calculation about minimum dry spell and drought needs. If this process shows that the property has enough water in dams to be dry spell proof and drought resistant, then the property may represent value for money – at least from the water storage point of view.

If the property has a deficiency of water storage capacity, then you may have to consider the cost of building new dams, modify the stocking rate and farming plan, or give up on the idea of purchasing that block altogether.

Where your option is to build new dams to bring the water storage up to the required level, you then need to consider a number of other factors to determine whether a building program is going to work or not. These factors include:-

■ **Legislation.** States are now legislating to protect the downstream water rights of water users by restricting the amount of run-off an individual landholder can capture and harvest. In NSW this restriction means that a land holder can only harvest 10% of the run-off from his/her property. In certain situations in NSW the land holder requires a licence to build a dam and the dam must now conform with a variety of environmental conditions such as the fact that a dam can no longer be built directly across a water course.

■ **Run-off potential.** Some

properties, such as sandy or river flat loam properties, absorb nearly all rain and there is rarely any run-off. If the block you are considering has limited run-off, it may not represent good value for money. Other properties, such as clay or rocky soils, have good run-off potential even in a light shower of rain.

■ **Rain Pattern.** Even in country where there is good run-off, it is unlikely that there will be run-off with every rain event. Try to determine from local knowledge the number of days per year where there is run-off and whether or not this amount of run-off would be suitable to fill additional dams you may build.

■ **Dam sites and soil types.** Soils need to be tested at prospective dam sites to ensure that they are suitable for holding a water.

■ **Evaporation Rate.** Evaporation is significant in

most parts of Australia. If the evaporation rate in your area is 1m per year it means that the sun will simply take the top metre of your dam's water each year.

Your calculation of water reserves needs to account for the total annual evaporation.

■ **Cost.** The cost of building the extra water storage capacity must be measured against the financial benefit of additional stock carrying capacity. Costs vary with factors like distance from the contractors base, type of soil, size of dam and construction problems such as slope and rock.

Farm management in Australia is moving toward a situation where all factors are calculated before the farming operation starts. This process reduces the risk of financial failure and applies to dam building as much as it does to other management factors. ■

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Commercial application of GeneSTAR: There are a number ways to evaluate potential performance for beef cattle, including a range of genetic tools that can be used to select superior breeding stock. One such tool is GeneSTAR, a DNA test that identifies Marbling and Tenderness genes in cattle. Brisbane based company Genetic Solutions is able to test for two Marbling genes and two Tenderness genes.

The GeneSTAR process is simple, requiring a producer to send in a tail hair sample and within 14 days find out if their animals have the genetic capacity to marble or produce tender beef.

GeneSTAR allows producers to identify potentially high performing, highly valuable animals and reduce the impact of animals that produce poor quality beef.

The research and development of these tests have been conducted by the CSIRO, the CRC for Cattle Meat

Quality, and other groups around the world. GeneSTAR Tenderness 2 How did you feel last time you were served a tough piece of meat at a restaurant? If you answered disappointed, irritated or dissatisfied you are not alone.

Meat tenderness is the biggest factor contributing to the consumers satisfaction.

Studies conducted by Meat Standards Australia (MSA) show that consumers not only prefer tender beef, they pay premiums for beef that is guaranteed to be tender. The challenge for producers is that tenderness is difficult to assess in live animals.

Objective tenderness measurements are able to be conducted on meat samples by assessing shear force; i.e. the amount of force required to cut a piece of meat. However, this is not practical for seed stock and commercial producers who want to ensure the live cattle that they are breeding are generating tender beef.

GeneSTAR® Tenderness2 is a multi gene test that detects two different forms of two genes for Tenderness - the form associated with increased tenderness and the form that induces increased toughness.

A major study conducted by Beef Quality CRC researchers examined the characteristics of the first GeneSTAR Tenderness marker in carcasses from more than 5000 animals sampled from seven breeds. A 2-STAR result is for an animal with two copies of the tender form of the gene, a 0-STAR has no copies of



GeneSTAR allows producers to identify potentially high performing animals.

the tender form, and a 1-STAR has one copy of each form of the gene. Tenderness was measured in kilograms of shear force, an objective mechanical measure of tenderness which is used internationally.

The effect of the gene marker was clear-cut. Averaged over all 5000 animals, there was close to a 10% difference in tenderness in favour of the 2-STAR carcasses compared to the 0-STAR. 1-STAR carcasses were intermediate. Importantly for the beef industry, the 10% difference in objective tenderness is predicted to more than halve (21% to 8%) the number of carcasses rated unacceptably tough by consumers. So the

research shows that 2 STAR animals are genetically programmed to be more tender and this will result in significantly fewer unsatisfactory eating experiences.

Tenderness 2 adds to the power of the initial test. The Tenderness 2 marker tests for variations in a second gene, also associated with tenderising of meat. This second marker has a similar amount of effect so the results of the two tenderness markers can be added together, producing a 1 -4 star scale for the GeneSTAR result. ■

■ For more information contact Genetic Solutions Toll Free - 1300 768 400 or visit the website at www.geneticsolutions.com.au

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Female muscling is very essential

Results from recent research findings have highlighted the impact of having reasonable levels of muscularity in beef females to achieve high levels of muscle and hence meat yield in their progeny.

Mr Bill McKiernan Beef Industry Leader with NSW DPI in Orange told a field day audience at NSW DPI's Glen Innes research station recently that the overall level of muscling and meat yield in the Australian Beef herd has not increased over the last 40 years because beef producers are actively selecting against muscling in females.

He said many producers when selecting replacement females for their beef herd place undue emphasis on visual traits of dubious value. Ill defined traits like femininity and motherability are often used when in fact these sorts of traits can be easily measured.

Femininity or more importantly fertility can be simply measured by allowing heifers access to a

bull. What better assessment can be made than if she gets in calf or not? Her future performance can also be measured by her ability to calve naturally and at the weaning of her first calf her ability to milk or motherability can be assessed against her peers Mr McKiernan said.

Mr McKiernan asks why we should bother visually assessing these traits if we can easily measure them? He suggests over mating the heifers by 10% or more in order to allow selection and culling to be made post mating and then again on poor performers based on their calves weaning performance.

Mr McKiernan said this pre-occupation with assessing females for all traits at weaning or yearling age was detrimental to pressure being put on highly profitable carcass traits. Females with the ability to be both productive and contribute to their calves carcass worth



Recent results have highlighted the impact of having reasonable levels of muscle in females.

were being culled before they even got the chance to demonstrate their contribution. Sire selection alone for carcass traits like muscling achieves little progression in their progeny if not combined with a similar contribution from the female. The best muscle bulls in the world, particularly within breed won't progress carcass traits or "beef" traits if all he has to work with is dairy cattle look-a-likes. Recent research from NSW DPI's muscle selection lines at Glen Innes clearly demonstrate the effect of muscle selection in second and subsequent generations. Mr McKiernan said that

although the use of high muscle bulls on poor or average muscle females produced a response in the first generation, it was not enough to attract premiums in the market place.

However if the resultant females of higher muscularity are selected to go back into the herd and then mated again to high muscle bulls then the resultant progeny will be sufficiently superior in muscularity to achieve the desired premiums.

He said the results from the research clearly show this effect and yet with no subsequent deleterious effect on female production. ■

2006 Coming Shows and Events

As dates may be subject to change please confirm with the show/event organisers

January

31st Entries close for Beef 2006 Rockhampton. For entry forms contact Mary 07 4922 2989.

February

17-19th Seymour Field Days. Contact Peter Brown 03 5422 2329.

24th-26th Canberra Royal Show.

24th AGM Forest Room, Pavilion on Northbourne, ACT.

25th Members dinner, Four Seasons Room Pavillion on Northbourne Hotel, ACT.

28th February-2nd March Wimmera Field Days, Horsham, Vic.

March

17- 18th South East Field Days, Lucidale, SA.

30th March to 2nd April Farm World, Warrigal, Vic. Contact Emma Joy 0407 855708.

April

7th-20th Sydney Royal.

14th Square meaters Judging 10am.

May

1- 7 Beef 2006, Rockhampton, QLD. Contact Jo Van Elten 0407 111 423.

4- 6th Agro Trend Field Days, Bundaberg, Qld.

4- 6th Agfest Field days, Launceston, Tasmania.

5-7th Tocal Field Days.

13th Spring Valley Field day, Dungog, NSW. Contact G Berry on 02 4959 1988.

June

14-17th New Zealand Field Days, Hamilton, NZ.

July

14-15th Mudgee Small Farm Field Days.

August

5- 6th Riverina Farm Expo, Wagga Wagga, NSW.

8-10th August Eyre Peninsula Field Days, Cleve, South Aust.

29th- 31st Dowerin field Days, Dowerin, West Aust. 10-19th Brisbane Royal Show.

September

8- 9th Farmarama, Lismore, NSW.

1- 9th Adelaide Royal.

19th- 21st Henty Field Days.

21st Sep- 1st Oct Melbourne Royal Show.

30th Sep- 7th Oct Perth Royal Show.

October

12-13th Wandin Silvan Field Days, Wandin, Victoria.

14-15th Murrumbateman, Murrumbateman, NSW.

17-19th Aust National Field Days, Orange, NSW.

November

11-12th Small Areas Expo, Clarendon, NSW.



Offering a wide product range

Australia's reputation as one of the leading beef producers in the world has been achieved through the committed efforts of its farmers to deliver a premium product to national and international markets.

CRT 'Local Blokes' understand the importance of a strong, healthy national herd, not just to local economies but also to Australia's export trade and they play an important role in providing farmers with the very best products and advice to help ensure the livestock industry maintains its prominence.

With more than 300 stores, CRT is Australia's largest group of independent rural retailers and their access to all major agricultural supply companies means they are well positioned to meet the demands of the industry.

Throughout their 35-year trading history, CRT has built a solid reputation amongst primary producers and rural communities as reliable, progressive and innovative leaders in rural retailing and CRT members are now leading the way with the implementation of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and associated technologies.

In addition to stocking NLIS tags, management tags and tag reading equipment from companies such as Aleis and Allflex, CRT stores also carry cattle handling equipment such as cattle crushes and portable yards and scales from Ruddweigh, Tru-Test and Thunderbird.

CRT staff are up-to-date and informed on the issues and requirements surrounding the NLIS and can advise their clients on the most appropriate equipment and program for ensuring their livestock is NLIS compliant.

CRT 'Local Blokes' are also well supported by the group's 260-strong national agronomy team and well-resourced team of animal health experts.

With quality branded products from Fort Dodge, Merial, Ancare, Pfizer, Ridley, Aleis, Allflex, Gallagher, One Steel, LNT, Tru-Test, Thunderbird, Philmac, PPI and Grow Force your local CRT store has all the goods you'll need to ensure your farming enterprise runs efficiently and your profitability increases. Your CRT store carries a wide range of animal health products including vaccines, parasiticides and feed supplements and your CRT 'Local Bloke' can also advise on farm management options and pasture improvement. The capital intensive nature of farming means farmers need access to a range of financial services in order to maintain and develop their operation. Through an alliance with the ANZ bank CRT members are able to assist their clients with accessing a range of funding options to help them with new equipment, stock or land acquisitions. This is just one of many customised services that CRT stores provide to their clients. As local operators, CRT store owners understand the need



A CRT store has all the goods you'll need to ensure your farm runs efficiently.

for a flexible approach to business because they know that local conditions don't always work in tandem with even the best business plan. Working closely with their clients to provide useful and relevant services to meet individual goals has contributed significantly to CRT's reputation as strong

community supporters and leaders in their field.

For information on how you can improve the health of your livestock and your profitability call in and see your CRT 'Local Bloke' for expert advice, great service and competitive pricing. Log onto www.crt.com.au for a list of stores. ■

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