

Outside the Square

With Compliments

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



Size in the right places

Udderly Predictable

Versatile Squares

Competitive Breed

Square Meaters Cattle - "No Ifs, Just Butts"

More Success for Younger Breeders

Cate Stanton,
SMCAA Chairperson



As I sit to write this report I have reviewed reports I have written in the past 12 months. There is an interesting theme of drought, rain and flooding – an interesting country in which we live.

It is amazing to think we have come to the end of 2017, where has the time gone? Of note this year has been the continued success of Square Meaters steers in Hoof and Hook competitions across the country, a testament to the strength of our breed.

The continued success our younger members have had with their steers, whether it is via school involvement or individually as junior members. It is important

for breeders to continue to support our youth members they are after all the future of the breed.

There have been several schools join as members over the past year and some of them have gone into the stud show ring supported by members and others are progressing well in the Hoof and Hook events.

Several individual stud breeders and non-member schools are also taking on the challenge and winning top dollars in the hoof and hook competitions.

The prize money put into the Hoof and Hook competitions by our founder Rick Pisaturo and the SMCAA is over and above any that may be advertised for any specific event, meaning the SMCAA has a strong stake in supporting our steers and heifers in competitions and thus displaying their marketability in the domestic arena.

The details and simple conditions for Hoof and Hook competitions are in this magazine, so do try

to source an animal and enter a competition near you. Do you need some help in the preparation of your entries? Contact the Breed Promotions Portfolio board member or your state Breeders Group who will have some suggestions to assist you to set up and prepare your cattle.

Changes in the animal health industry over the past 12 months has led to Biosecurity Plans becoming an integral part of livestock breeding and management across Australia changing the onus onto the farmer to manage disease's such as Bovine Johnes, BVDV and other health issues in cattle. This affects all breeders but particularly those breeders who sell stud or commercial animals privately or lease and show animals; requiring of them a high level of the plan and stringent declarations and testing for showing and cross border transit.

The Board has worked hard to maintain a solid base for the breed a task which we have taken very seriously. A moratorium has been in progress for breeders to late register animals which has been quite successful with LBC run off their feet to achieve all the paperwork.

Your Board has also been

working on a variety of important documents such as that related to Animal Registration Regulations (included in this magazine) as well as clarification of the various fees and upgrading of some forms.

The redevelopment of the SMCAA website has given a clean and fresh look to the Square Meaters technology with ongoing ideas and inclusions to promote our cattle into the future of breeding for the market and consumer desires in the red meat industry.

An interesting paper that was posted on Facebook and presented at a breed conference has some interesting commentary about carcass weights getting too big in Australia; our Square Meaters were developed with the smaller cuts of beef (smaller carcasses) and the end consumers requirements in mind in the 1996, they already meet this market.

I would personally like to thank my fellow Board members for their assistance and the staff at LBC for 2017 and look forward to working with the 2018 Board and look forward to continued success for the breed. ■

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"Steering in the right direction"



Extolling the Virtues

Editor Ellen Moffat

It is always a challenge to get your magazine out in time for the Canberra Royal show and with changes in the pre-press and employment changes for me in the latter part of the year, has caused a very time poor run for the magazine.

Some extensive research has been put into the article "That's the Short & Tall of It" clearly showing the statistics of two different frame score bulls and moving into the how's and why of "Early Weaning" which can be of benefit in our changing seasons to both the cow and calf.

State Breed Promotion groups are an integral part of support for our breeders, 'Being Part of a Support Group' shows how breeders interact and support each other in various events or preparation and other activities.

What can one say about the longevity of our cows? A legacy left behind – Vale: Domvale Treasure.

"Udderly Predictable" comes about from the book "A Treatise on Milch Cows" by M. Francis Guenon, who studied the physical attributes of cattle in the 1800's, it may or

may not be exact but an interesting read from the past.

Distance has and will always be a factor in Australia, this creates issues for semen collection in remote locations and semen testing of bulls proves to support integrity and capacity to perform in lease and sale bulls.

Pencae had an exciting year while Sunset Park and Rainbow Valley extol the virtues of our Square Meaters many attributes at home and in the show ring, their capacity to be versatile and of a quiet, tractable nature.

An Ag Teacher tells how Square Meaters traits proved their suitability for young handlers, how a school which became involved in Square Meaters is still keen on them 10 years down the track.

Square Meaters show their versatility in all seasons at Rosellinos and Naringi Square Meaters, maintaining condition with minimal need for hand feeding and even in the snow they seem to hold their own extremely well. A big thank you to advertisers, story writers and front page photo providers all of your help make this magazine happen each year. ■

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That's the Short & Tall of it!

By Gary Sewell

Does size really matter? Well within the Square Meaters breed we have height restrictions placed upon us and for good reason, to maintain that true-to-type quick maturing pattern suitable for the domestic market that will also give good conversion rates (feed requirements to daily weight gain).

Suitable steers should be able to meet a high standard of MSA grading at an early age with an 11-13 month old, yielding that ideal carcass weight for the trade of 180-240kg for medium domestic with 6-10mm of fat depth at the P8 site and 5-8mm of fat

depth at the rib site.

The age of the animal can be even less for the light domestic trade with the ideal carcass weight of 100-180kg with 4-8mm of fat depth at the P8 site and 4-6mm of fat depth at the rib site.

So with this quick maturing pattern of the Square Meaters breed we have a quicker turn off of the finished product along with a smaller feed bill converting to that all important element of more profit!

When talking with commercial producers I often hear the term "he has a bit of leg under him" and yes these larger framed (taller) animals on 1,000 acre blocks can cover the

ground with less strides but naturally will require more feed to do so (less beasts per acre and slower maturing).

When the Square Meaters breed was developed a frame score unique to our breed was designed to help maintain those quick maturing patterns, measured at the shoulder at 12 months of age for registration with a frame score of 1-5 for both male and female.

So what is the ideal frame score? The points that you need to consider as seed stock producers for the beef industry is that the animal has good commercial (quality domestic trade) viability, structural soundness, breeding ability and temperament.

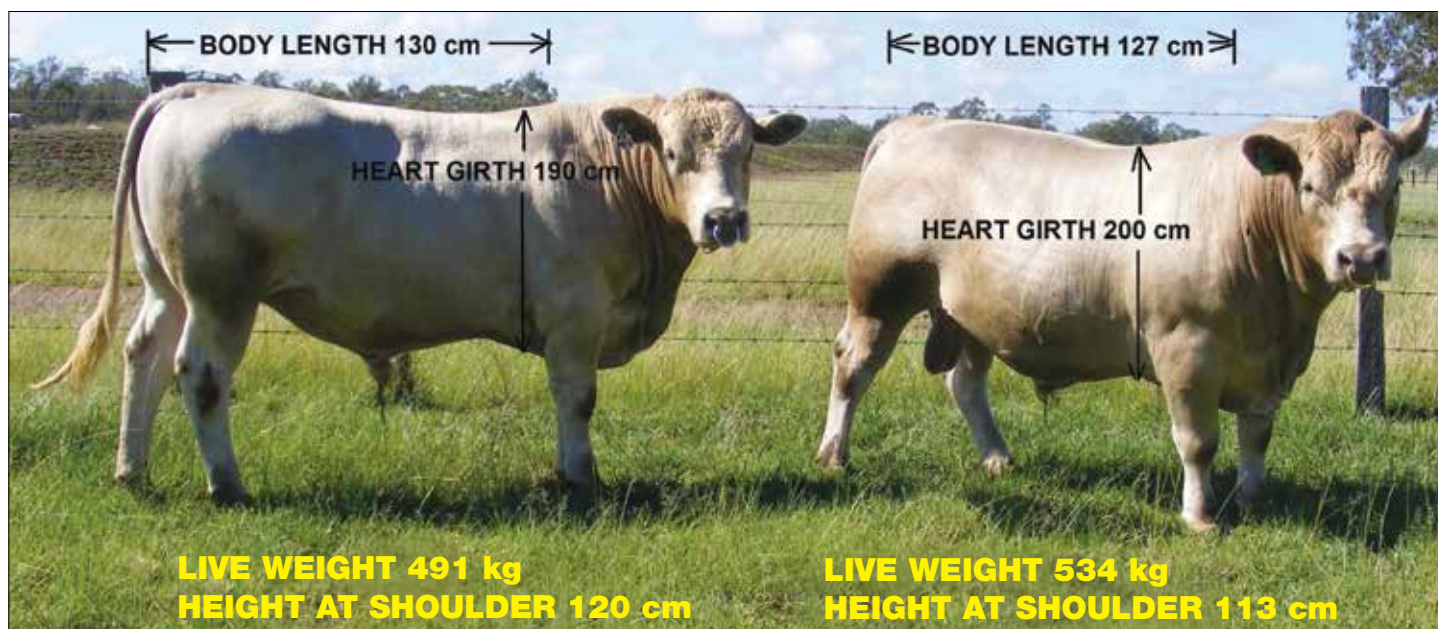
Points to remember is that weight equates to dollars and hence profitability!

So within the structure of the animal, length, width

of loin and depth of body (heart girth) will all add to the weight of the animal. These points I would consider more important than the frame score of the animal (height).

When I first became associated with the breed back in 2000/2001 I had the pleasure of inspecting Square Meaters females and bulls of the breeds founder Mr Rick Pisaturo of Mandalong Studs. Back then we had no frame score 5 animals but all the animals displayed those quick maturing patterns with great length and depth of body. The introduction of frame score 5 was to assist breeders maintain that commercial viability as cattle have that tendency to become smaller.

Over the last few years I see many studs with herds predominately consisting of frame score 5 animals, this I believe is partly due



to show ring results with the perception that to be competitive with other breeds you need a larger framed animal. These animals may be taller but a lot lack that depth of body and show signs of slower maturity and would all require more feed to maintain.

I do believe these frame score 5 animals are necessary within our breed, by being used for the purpose they were intended for, such as, using a frame score 5 sire to cover those smaller cows and if the herd consists of frame score 5 cows then look to that true-to-type frame score 3 bull.

The breed was developed as a quick maturing moderate framed animal.

It has been pointed out to me that when processing steers, a 500kg live weight animal will yield more saleable beef with the same kill charge as a 400kg live weight animal that yields less. This is true but the 500kg animal will have taken longer to finish to grade well with MSA and in this time will have

consumed more feed so hence more cost and a slower turn off.

We have a top quality product with-in our Square Meaters breed being of moderate frame that does offer something different for the domestic market.

I have included photos of 2 Square Meaters bulls to help identify the points in this article. Both bulls are of similar age (15 months) the commercial bull on the lefts sire was frame score 5 with a frame score 4 dam, while the bull on the right's parents were both frame score 3. You do need to bear in mind that genetics of the parents will play a large part in the animals make up as well.

The 2 bulls have been in the same paddock together since weaning with a very small amount of supplement feed. So although the commercial bull is substantially taller (7cm) he does not have as large a heart girth and width of loin as the bull on the right. ■

**SO SIZE IN THE
RIGHT PLACES DOES
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Cover Photograph

This late spring photo shows some 2017 drop calves including the 'foster heifer' at left, a bully, heifer calves and maiden heifer behind, all being inquisitive in the evening sunshine at Kilayr Square Meaters, Esperance WA.



Early Weaning More Efficient

By Rick White, B. V. Sc

Why Early Weaning is a good idea?

Whilst milk is an excellent source of nutrition and immunity for the newborn animal it becomes an increasingly inefficient way to meet the nutritional requirements for growth. The process of a cow or ewe converting feed into milk and the progeny then converting milk into meat and other products for growth is not as efficient as providing each with their own specific requirements.

Therefore the total amount of feed required to maintain both animals is dramatically reduced once they are separated. This has long been recognized as a valuable tool in drought management to reduce the total feed requirement, however the same benefits can be gained in normal seasons if early weaning becomes an integral part of the normal management. The longer the interval between calving and weaning, the greater the consumption of high

value pasture.

The significant reduction in overall feed requirement following early weaning creates a relative feed surplus or the potential to increase carrying capacity.

Fertility responses to early weaning reflect the influence of energy balance and condition score on the reproductive responses of the breeding unit. There is also significant evidence to show that removal of a suckling calf cause hormonal changes in the cow that stimulate cycling. Trial work at Oklahoma State University showed that heifers had their first cycle 20% earlier when their calves were early weaned compared to those with calves weaned at the normal age. Cows whose calves were early weaned cycled 43% earlier. Pregnancy rates were 39% higher in heifers, and 17% higher in cows with early weaned calves.

Fundamentals for Successful Weaning

Post weaning growth rates and feed conversion efficiency in weaned animals

are fundamentally determined by both the bodyweight and level of rumen development achieved by the calf at the point of weaning. Bodyweight is important because it determines feed intake and therefore potential growth, in practice however, once calves achieve a bodyweight of 140-160 kg they are able to consume sufficient high quality pasture to maintain excellent weight gains.


Rumen development is important in determining both short and long term growth rate performance

and future feed conversion efficiency.

Efficiency of Nutrient Uptake & Distribution



Other than having access to a supply of feedstuffs which promote a continuing and stable fermentation process, fully functional ruminants also rely heavily on the efficiency with which Volatile Fatty Acids are both absorbed and distributed from the rumen.

To this extent, the efficiency of conversion of feed to meat, wool, milk or new progeny in cattle is conditional on the level of development of both



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the rumen epithelium and the richness of the surrounding blood supply. Young animals that suffer from a lack of development of the epithelium, and in particular poor formation of papillae (the small protrusions that increase the efficient absorption of nutrients in the rumen), are at a significant risk of reduced growth rates and poor vigour in the post weaning period.

Under these circumstances the genetic potential for feed conversion efficiency, weight gain and adult size are often compromised.

Key Factors In Rumen Development

Extensive work by Professor D.C. Church Ph.D. of Oregon State University has shown that exposure to diets containing both roughage and quality carbohydrate early in it's life significantly advances the development of both the rumen epithelium & the associated blood supply.

Ruminants fed these types of diets at weaning also begin exhibiting the rumen muscle contractions required to stir rumen contents for more efficient digestion at an earlier age.

Calves exposed to “milk only” diets on the other hand show retarded development of the rumen epithelium, reduced rumen blood supply and may go for extended periods without exhibiting rumen muscle contractions.

Importantly, advanced rumen physiological development is shown to significantly reduce potential weaning age and it has also been shown to have a very positive influence on increasing post weaning growth, development and Feed Conversion Efficiency.

Providing weaners with access to a high quality source of roughage throughout the weaning process is important to increasing the volume of the rumen as a percentage of the upper gastrointestinal tract.

Providing weaners with a high quality cereal grain for a period through the weaning process is critical to rumen epithelial & vascular development. (Quantity of grain depends on grain type, feeding frequency and bodyweight)

Traditional weaning practices are mismatched with the need for increased production efficiency because they



Early weaned Square Meaters calves 5 - 6 months old placed onto a ration of hay and weaner pellets then upgraded to adult ration, seen here foraging for weaner pellets in their first days of weaning.

inherently reduce rather than enhance the genetic potential for growth and feed conversion efficiency in developing progeny. Unfortunately, current weaning management systems disregard much of our fundamental technical understanding of the nutritional factors influencing physiological development in the young calf. At best,

producers who continue to wean as they have always done run the risk of limiting their return on investment from high performance genetics. At worst they contribute to the perpetuation of low efficiency animal production systems. Like many animal production management issues weaning should not be viewed in

isolation, but rather as part of a continuum of good production and nutritional management. To that end, good weaning starts with correct pre-calving preparation of the cow, using simple techniques designed to increase early lactational performance. This underpins rapid growth in the newborn calf, in turn producing greater bodyweights at an earlier age.

Higher bodyweights at an earlier age coupled with the correct pre-weaning and weaning management system significantly enhance the opportunity to increase rumen physiological development, minimise stress and in turn prepare the calf for high post weaning growth.

What is involved?

There are a number of simple management and nutritional techniques to be employed in this process. A full protocol is available to explain in detail the following steps.

Imprinting

Previous exposure to hay, pellets and grain is very beneficial in the training of behaviour which improves uptake during the weaning process.

Stress Management

This will help to quieten cattle and stimulate appetite.

A pelleted supplement can be fed or a liquid supplement provided on hay for the first two days.

Vaccination and Injections

A complete protocol for vaccination, drenching, vitamin and trace element supplementation needs to be developed for your location.

Introduction of Weaner pellet

A weaning pellet specifically designed for this program can be gradually introduced and fed with a small amount of cereal grain.

Yard Feeding

The aim of this period of feeding is for both stimulation of maximum rumen development and for bunk training.

The recommended period for feeding of weaning pellet and grain is usually about 21 days. The age of the calves is a factor, with younger calves benefiting from a longer feeding period.

A Complete Ration

The rest of the animals' diet will depend on the situation. Hay should also be provided and a protein supplement may be needed depending on the hay type and pasture available. Good quality water is also essential. ■

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Squares in the Snow

By Scott Davies

Nestled in the lower regions of the Blue Mountain escarpment of east New South Wales is the small town of Fullerton with around a population of 100. This is where my grandparents Graham and Cate Stanton

live and breed Square Meaters cattle on their property Naringi and they help me to manage my own Antill herd of Square Meaters.

Regular forays to visit and help them throughout the year gives me opportunity to photograph different seasons and in 2017 I



snapped these pictures of the herd looking

fantastic whilst foraging in fetlock deep snow, a common winter feature at Naringi.

The cattle are fed a ration of hay during the winter and when snow falls on the paddocks, but they keep foraging below the snow for tasty morsels. ■



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Square Meaters
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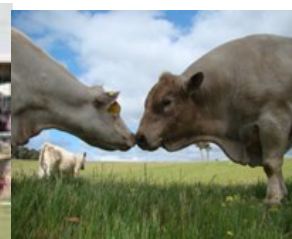
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*Represents Grand Champion

ADELAIDE 2017



ADELAIDE 2017

*Jnr Bull – Willows Rest Rap Dancer

TOOWOOMBA 2017



TOOWOOMBA 2017

*Champion Bull – Oakvale Leroy Brown

BRISBANE 2017



BRISBANE 2017

*Champion Bull – Oakvale Leroy Brown



ADELAIDE 2017

*Snr Female – Willows Rest Park Hanna



TOOWOOMBA 2017

*Female – Kilbilli Farm Harmony



BRISBANE 2017

*Snr Female – Oakvale Helen K17



ADELAIDE 2017

Jnr Female – Rainbow Valley Cinderella



TOOWOOMBA 2017

Champion Calf – Sunset Mr Mister



BRISBANE 2017

Jnr Female – Black Oak Maggie M1



ADELAIDE 2017

*Light Domestic Steer – Willows Rest



BOOROWA 2017

*Snr Bull – Weethalle Monarch of the Glen M7



CROOKWELL 2017

*Snr Bull – Weethalle Laird L13

* Represents Grand Champion

CANBERRA 2017



CANBERRA 2017

* Snr Bull – Weethalle Laird L13



CANBERRA 2017

* Female – Javid Fiona H8 Supreme SM Exhibit



CANBERRA 2017

* Jnr Bull – Back Creek Frontline Maximus



CANBERRA 2017

* Jnr Female – Back Creek Marnee

Being Part of a Support Group

By Julie Gillies

I am very proud to be a part of our QLD Breeders Group... why you may ask!

We are a support group, sounding board and think tank all rolled into one. Being a time poor society we might question why we need to go along to ANOTHER meeting talking about cows and not much else. On arrival, you often find other breeders also struggling with the effects of this season's challenge, they also had to fight with the online entry system needed to exhibit at a Royal Show, we compare rainfalls and distances covered getting to wherever the meeting is to be held on that particular day.

We have a balance of backgrounds in our members, coupled with wisdom and experience, along with youthful enthusiasm and drive, each 'problem' becomes a talking point and over a cup of tea and some of Dawn's delicious cooking, it is shared and resolved along the way. Some of the past, ongoing and future highlights have been organising and fundraising for the Toowoomba Royal feature show in 2012, the led steer and heifer show held in 2014 for Agshow. We got together a team and travelled down for the feature show in Canberra in 2016, we have a site in June each year for Farmfest a casual and exciting event, where we have a great time catching up with familiar faces, making and meeting new friends and clients at these events.

Our next highlight for 2018 is Beef Australia in Rockhampton, members have shown there before and this year QLD Breeders Group

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Our next highlight for 2018 is Beef Australia in Rockhampton, members have shown there before and this year QLD Breeders Group

will be presenting a greater and more focused presence at this prestigious triennial event that showcases Australian cattle to the world.

Our meetings are usually held in the Ipswich area, but we have travelled to Bjelke Peterson Dam at Murgon, Wivenhoe Dam an hour North West of Brisbane, Mooloolah Valley, and Dayboro.

Some of topics have been buffalo fly control, tick control, diet supplements (for cattle), maintaining true to type Squares, marketing strategies, it's not just about showing and we are aiming towards the meat business part of cattle, Square Meaters steers or heifers in various types of hoof and hook competitions.

We strive to maintain a friendly non judgemental atmosphere we welcome all questions from across all backgrounds, after all none of us ever knows it all and we can all learn from each other. ■

Heritage of an Influential Female

By Jo Van Elten, Vesco Square Meaters

The end of an era at Vesco Square Meaters Stud. 2017 saw the passing of the herd matriarch “Domvale Treasure”. Treasure who undoubtedly is one of the most influential females in the Square Meaters breed was in her 20th year and the hard decision had to be made. She was a multiple Royal Show Champion herself and during her life Treasure had 11 live calves of which 10 were shown and all 10 became Royal Show Champions.

Treasures first calf, the 2001 Toowoomba Royal and Brisbane RNA Grand Champion “Vesco Victory March” by “Liath Atholl Galashiels” was initially used in the Vesco herd and was subsequently purchased by Paul and Aileen Hain as the foundation sire for their “Hain Rural” enterprise at Mt Mee in Queensland, “Victory March” was later sold to K & A Neal as the foundation sire of their “Black Gully” stud.

“Vesco Wise Guy” another “Liath Atholl Galashiels” son was Treasures second calf and 2002 saw him become the Brisbane RNA Grand Champion Square Meaters Bull, “Wise Guy” followed this up by winning the Supreme British Breed

Bull award at the 2003 Boonah Show. “Wise Guy” was subsequently purchased by Gary and Heather Sewell as the foundation sire of their “Oakvale” stud.

Domvale Treasures third calf again by “Liath Atholl Galashiels” was “Vesco X Marks The Spot”, as a junior bull he was the Supreme British Breed Bull at the 2003 Lowood Show and then the 2003 Brisbane RNA Junior and Grand Champion Bull.

Number four calf from Domvale Treasure sired by “Vesco Vital Signs” was the

bull “Vesco Yes Man” and as a junior bull he was the Supreme British Breed Bull at the 2004 Lowood Show, then won Junior and Grand Champion Bull of the 2004 Brisbane RNA Show. “Yes Man” was purchased by Tony and Ellen Cairns for their Rainbow Stud at Braidwood ACT.

The first heifer calf of Treasures, sired by “Liath Atholl Galashiels” was “Vesco Zippity Do Da” she was the Senior and Grand Champion Female of the 2006 Briabane RNA Show. Zippity is the dam of “Vesco Easy Does It” the Junior and Grand Champion Bull of the 2010 Brisbane Royal show.

The female “Belle of the

Ball”, sired by “Vesco Vital signs”, was the sixth calf of “Domvale Treasure”. “Belle of the Ball” won the Junior Champion Female of the 2007 Brisbane Royal Show, the Senior and Grand Champion Female at the 2008 Brisbane Royal Show. Belle of the Ball is the dam of “Vesco Double Trouble” the Junior Champion Bull at the 2009 Brisbane Royal Show.

Probably the most widely recognised son of “Domvale Treasure” would be “Vesco Bobby Dazzler”, sired by “Darlea Wizard”. In 2009 Bobby Dazzler was the Junior Champion Bull at the Canberra Royal Show followed by Junior Champion Bull at the



Domvale Treasure at the Brisbane Royal Show 2000 calf at foot calf Vesco Victory March, two months old, Treasure was Champion Female at Toowoomba Royal in 1999 and 2000.

Toowoomba Royal Show, Junior and Grand Champion Bull at the Brisbane Royal Show. Dominic Auguste of Chevy Farm Stud in Western Australia purchased “Bobby Dazzler” and also exhibited him at Perth Royal Show for Grand Champion Square Meaters and Inter Breed Champion awards. Upon the unfortunate dispersal of Chevy Farm “Bobby Dazzler” went to Brett Harms’ Great Southern Stud in WA’s south west.

It was an outstanding and unusual achievement that “Domvale Treasure” had two calves in 2006 and that those same two animals would be the Brisbane Royal Show Grand Champions of their breed in 2009.

Calf number eight in 2007 was a mis-presented heifer that unfortunately was dead

at birth. Our veterinarian advised that the damage caused would see the end of Treasures breeding life but Treasure proved him wrong by giving birth in 2009 to calf number nine, the female “Vesco Ever So Nice” sired by “Liath Atholl Galashiels”. She was the Senior and Grand Champion of the 2012 Brisbane Royal Show and is also the dam of “Vesco King of the Castle” the Junior Champion Bull at the 2016 Toowoomba Royal Show and the Inter breed Supreme British Breed Bull at the Marburg and Esk Shows in 2016.

The female “Vesco Fair and Square” by “Cluskers Aussie Battler” was Treasures tenth calf and made us all proud when she was awarded the Junior and Grand Champion Female at the

Square Meaters Feature Breed Show at the 2012 Toowoomba Royal Show. “Fair and Square” is the dam of “Vesco Jolly Roger” the Junior and Grand Champion Bull at the 2015 Toowoomba Royal Show.

Treasures eleventh calf sired by “Rainbow Caligula” was the bull “Vesco Governor General” who was the Junior and Grand Champion Bull at the 2013 Toowoomba Royal Show. Governor General is currently doing stud duties at Grant Ducats “Ducato di Cudgen” stud in Northern NSW.

“Vesco Jokers Wild” by “Hain Rural Ever Ready” was Treasures twelfth calf but due to injury was never shown.

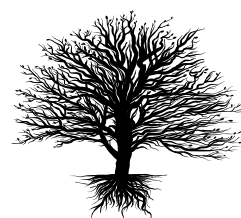
Calf number (unlucky) thirteen was a heifer dead at birth and was the last calf

this great producer ever had. All of Domvale Treasures female offspring have been retained in the Vesco stud herd.

The statistics show that “Domvale Treasure” had eleven live calves with ten shown and all ten gaining Royal Show Champion awards at various venues on both the East and West coasts of Australia. Her sons and daughters are breeding-on with multiple Royal Show winning offspring of their own.

“Domvale Treasure” is undoubtedly one of the most influential females within the Square Meaters breed with a record that is unlikely to ever be exceeded. ■

VALE
DOMVALE TREASURE
1997-2017



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Standard of Excellence

General Appearance:

All animals must meet the frame score requirements of the Square Meaters breed, and should be well-balanced and proportionate displaying good length, width, spring of rib, adequate muscle and smoothness. Animals should have a straight top line, with minimal slope from hooks to pins and should express well defined muscle development overall and especially in the hindquarters. Undue deposits of fat must be avoided. Animals should be free moving with balanced tracking and gait. Bulls should be masculine with breed character and capable of natural service, displaying adequate reproductive organs with a minimum scrotal circumference of not less than 280 mm at 18 months of age or 320mm at 24 months of age. Females should be of feminine disposition with breed character, showing adequate feminine reproductive characteristic, enabling them to be prolific and capable in rearing their progeny.

Colour:

Animal colour shall be any solid shade of grey, namely silver, silver grey, grey, dark grey (Dark Grey includes a colour spectrum of various shades of brown) Black animals may occasionally occur, Black females are only eligible for Class B registration and therefore cannot be exhibited. Black bulls cannot be registered and black steers may not be exhibited as Square Meaters. In respect to the term "solid shade" it requires that the animal's colour is consistent over the animal allowing for characteristic dappling or classical "mulberry" appearance over the back of darker animals. Rarely small, irregularly shaped patches of coloured hair can appear on the body called birth marks. Birthmarks are never white (Pink Pigmentation) and although not desirable shall not be discriminated against.

Silver	Silver/ Grey	Grey	Dark Grey

Skin:

Skin should be dark coloured, loose and supple. Some pink skin (white hair) although not desirable, is acceptable only on the underbody which can include on the testis or udder. It is preferred that there be no pink skin on the underbody forward of the naval scar (for females) or forward of the pizzle (for bulls), however, if pink skin (white hair) is further forward on the underbody it must not be visible with the animal in a standing position. Pink Pigmentation (white hair) is highly discouraged and is not acceptable on any other part of the body.

Head:

Animals must be naturally polled with good length from eye to muzzle. Animals born with scurs or showing signs of surgical removal of scurs are not eligible for registration. The muzzle and area around the eyes must be dark in colour, denoting dark skin pigmentation. The eyes should be clear, alert and set wide apart. The ears should be well placed. The jaw must be strong, neither undershot nor overshot.

Legs:

The legs must be well placed. The animal should stand square, i.e. equally on all parts of the foot and the feet should be dark in colour and well formed. Cow hocks and sickle hocks are not desirable. White hooves are not acceptable.

Temperament:

All animals should be of a quiet disposition and docile temperament.

Constitution:

All animals should be of good constitution reflecting good health and high productivity.

MEMBERSHIPS:

New members are required to pay a once only Joining Fee as prescribed. All full members may advertise in the Outside the Square Magazine and Inside the Square newsletters and are encouraged to be active in writing articles and providing photos for both at the discretion of the editor.

All Full members can promote their cattle through the Website such as advertising, photo competition and cattle sales through the Web Manager and all members are listed in the members section of the website and magazine.

Members can further promote their Stud by way of contributing to the Square Meaters Cattle Association Sponsorship Plan for major shows Australia Wide.

Registraton Regulations (in brief)

Memorandum of Articles REGULATIONS

6. Regulations

The following regulations (inter alia) shall apply to registration on the Database:

(a) *Except as provided by Regulation 7 hereof, each animal submitted for registration must be registered within twelve (12) months of the date of calving and be the progeny of a sire and of a dam each of which is registered on the Database or in some other Herd Book approved for the purpose by the Board.*

- To register or transfer registered Square Meaters cattle the applicant must be a full, youth or school member of the Square Meaters Cattle Association and have paid the prescribed Annual Membership.
- Calves must be Interim Registered before 12 months and Full Registration completed at 12 months on the Interim Registration certificate.
- Interim Registration Certificates are required for calves that are shown before 12 months of age.
- Registration Process from birth up to 12 months – Interim Registration Certificates.**
 - MANUAL** List calves on the Progeny Recording Form and forward to the registrar requesting Interim Registration Certificates required (fee applicable for each requested certificate), **include any AI documentation – Artificial Insemination records, embryo and donor female certificates.**
 - ON-LINE** – enter the calf details into the LBC on-line Registration application (fee applicable for each entry).
 - Interim Certificates will be forwarded upon payment and a tax receipt issued.
- Full Registration Process at 12 months**
Calves are required to be measured at 12 months (+ or - 2 weeks) in accordance with Regulations and as per diagram and frame score system. The 12 months measurement and Mannosidosis declaration for bull calves is required to be recorded on the Interim Registration Certificate and witnessed by an independent person or a family member, if no independent person is available, forward certificates to the Registrar at LBC.
 - Bull height is between 103cm and 113cms, bulls outside this measurement are considered commercial and cannot be registered under any circumstances.
 - Female height is between 100cms and 110cms, females outside these measurements can be registered as "B" Grade. It is not in the best interests of the association to register females under the height of 100cms at 12 months.
 - Certificates** will be forwarded to you when accounts are paid in full and a tax receipt issued.
- Late Registration and Penalties**
Calves over 12 months can be registered and must meet the following criteria.
 - The application will require board approval.
 - The application will attract a financial penalty as prescribed.
 - Animals must be Progeny Recorded or Interim Registered before 12 months.
 - Bulls must be Mannosidosis tested.
 - Animals must meet 18 months measurement requirement and be witnessed.
 - Certificates will be issued when fees and penalties are paid in full.

EDUCATION:

The Board continues to develop and improve the general knowledge about the standards of Square Meaters cattle through educational references available on the Association and LBC web sites, also available in hard copy (fee applicable).

- Standard of Excellence
- Breed Type and Evaluation Type
- SMCAA Cattle Terms and Definition
- SMCAA Show and Judging Terminology
- "Prescribed" amounts are noted on the membership and registration fees page and may be varied or changed at an Annual General Meeting or by the Board.
- "LBC" is Livestock Business Center the Registrar and Secrtariat for the Square Meaters Cattle Association of Australia.

Square Meaters Cattle Association of Australia

Schedule of Member & Registration Fees 2018

Annual Subscription:

Full membership	\$185
Commercial/Associate	\$ 50
School/Youth Membership	\$ 30

One-Off Membership Joining Fee:

Full Membership	\$110
Commercial/Associate	\$ 50
School/Youth Membership	\$ 30

Registration Fees (Per Animal):

Complete 'A' & 'B' Females	\$ 50
Complete Bull Registrations	\$100
Split – Calf Interim Registration	\$ 20
Split – Upgrade 'A' & 'B' Female	\$ 30
Split – Upgrade Bull	\$ 80

Transfer Fees (Per Animal):

Female	\$ 50
Bull	FREE
Whole Herd Transfer Discount	Contact LBC

Late Registration Penalty (Per Animal)

Animals 18 mths & up to 24 months	\$ 50
Animals 24 months and over	\$150

Donor Female Registration:

Donor Females and Bulls used on the donor cow by natural service or artificial insemination must be DNA tested and the DNA test must be received by the Office Prior to ET work.

Donor Female Registration	\$ 50
Transfer of Recipients	\$ 50

Semen

The bull must be approved by the Board of Directors and the bull must be DNA tested prior to semen being sold.

Licensed semen must be registered	\$150
Un-licensed semen	\$150

Semen Shares

DNA test must be forwarded to the office prior to the shares being sold.

Bull Shares (per share)	\$ 50
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Commercial Appendix (Females)

Registration foundation & calves	\$ 20
Commercial Appendix transfer	\$ 10

International enquiries are Welcome, please contact the

Square Meaters Cattle Association of Australia, Livestock Business Centre +61 2 4232 3333

HOOF AND HOOK SPONSORSHIP 2018

Royal Shows and Major Steer Competitions



SMCAA founder Rick Pisaturo
Sponsors \$500 for
CHAMPION ON THE HOOF OR HOOK

SMCAA sponsors \$200 for
CHAMPION ON THE HOOF OR HOOK

SMCAA sponsors \$100 for a CARCASE
gaining 80 points or more

Entry Conditions Apply

- ♦ MUST be nominated as a Pure Bred Square Meaters (SM) or by a Registered SM Bull.
- ♦ Square Meaters School Entries are Eligible
- ♦ Winner to email details to:
squaremeaters@bigpond.com





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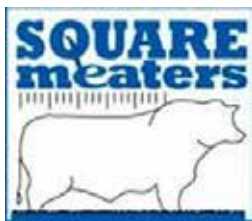
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www.squaremeaters.com.au

Membership Application

Note: The Square Meaters Cattle Association of Australia Ltd. (SMCAA) collects your personal information for the purposes of contacting you, forwarding you important information, maintaining and updating its databases containing herd information and assisting you to promote your business. The SMCA will disclose your personal information to its members and the general public via the SMCAA website, public directories and other means unless you advise otherwise.

NB: ** Each Business, Company, Trader or Partnership must nominate an individual; a "Principal" to represent and act on behalf of the "Member".

Member & Principal Details

Circle preferred: Mr Mrs Miss Ms

Partnership, Company, Trading Name:	
** Principals Full Name (Printed):	
Postal Address:	State & Post Code:
Residential Address:	
Telephone:	Mobile:
Email:	
PREFIX: My choice for registered stud name (prefix), in order of preference are: (Cannot exceed 14 characters including spaces)	HERD TATTOO: Must contain no more than 3 characters with standard numbers and / or letters only. Symbols are unacceptable.
1	1
2	2
3	3

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES:

Membership Type	Annual Membership Fee	Joining Fee (ONE OF)	Total Fee
FULL	\$185.00	\$110.00	\$295.00
COMMERCIAL/ASSOCIATE	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00
SCHOOL / YOUTH	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$60.00

Membership fees will be invoiced on approval of application.

I am applying for: (please CIRCLE one)

FULL MEMBERSHIP

COMMERCIAL / ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

SCHOOL / YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

I/We apply for membership of the Square Meaters Cattle Association of Australia Ltd. and agree to be bound by the Provisions of the Memorandum & Articles of Association, Rules and Policy made pursuant thereto. I/We certify that the details shown on this form are correct and that I/we have the appropriate authority to sign this application on behalf of the membership name applied for.

**Signature of Principal (1):	Date:
YOUTH MEMBER Under 18 DOB: ____/____/____ Please provide date of birth and Parent/Guardian Signature Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____	

How did you first hear about Square Meaters?

SHOW

BREEDER

INTERNET

PUBLICATION

A year in Review at PENCAE

By Dr Meghan Scrivens

Nestled on the mountain top of Ocean View Qld lies Pencae and home to Pencae Square Meaters where just about everything is, as I'm known to write, 'all about cows'.

Although only small in numbers, we produce some truly magnificent true-to-type Square Meaters. Our genetics stem from many of the studs across Australia now, although my current foundation cows arose from Kilbilli Farm (KBF) and JAVID Square Meaters. We predominantly use AI (artificial insemination) for our reproductive program however two of KBF Harmony's bull calves (Pencae Kyan A2 and Pencae Mr Darcy M1) have been

used as stud animals here.

This year I spent most of my time with my head stuck in text books and closely examining as many animals as possible, as I prepared to sit for my Membership examinations (with the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists [ANZCVS]). I was the only candidate to sit in the Chapter to which I was examined. Pleased and pleasantly surprised, I can say that I now have Membership with the ANZCVS in the Chapter of Beef Cattle Medicine!

Due to the study, I entered my girls into just one show this year; our big show for the year being Toowoomba Royal. The Pencae show team consisted of Kilbilli Farm Harmony and her

muscle man calf Pencae Mr Darcy (pronounced with a light aristocratic tone of course!), JAVID Flower, JAVID Fiona and her beautiful little heifer Pencae Mabel. My Pencae Angels being three of the ten cows and their calves who strutted their stuff in the rain as we wet bedraggled, gum booted handlers attempted to do them justice in the show ring (quite frankly, I think we all did marvellously well to have our cattle looking so dry and shiny and ourselves for that matter!).

KBF Harmony took out Senior Female and Grand Champion Female for the third year running. She is truly a magnificent animal; her frame, character and reproductive performance makes her stand out as a true Square Meaters cow. JAVID Fiona received 4th place following Warrill Creek and Sunset Park stud's cows. Two of Pencae's offspring from the previous year, Pencae Lexi's Hope

and Pencae Lady Harmony owned by Aldridge SHS, were entered, however due to severe weather conditions in Gympie the Aldridge SHS were unable to attend their first show with their first SM cattle. No doubt we will be seeing them at Toowoomba next year.

I write my thanks to all those who made the journey up the range to Toowoomba Show, who cheered us on and supported the SMCAA. To John who goes that extra mile for my girls and for anyone who needs a hand, you are amazing and valued, thank you. I thank Kyna Morice for leading my darling Harmony in the ring as she has done each year whilst I lead Harmony's calf. Without Kyna, Jess and KBF, I wouldn't have my girl and may not have got into showing cattle. I extend my appreciation to Luke Cox who again lead the lovely JAVID Flower and to Jess Hodges and Cheney Freese for your kindness in



showing JAVID Fiona and Pencae Mabel.

We have a very special team here amongst the Queensland Breeders Group, even with the competition I find that we are supportive and there to lend each other a hand, borrow a blower or scoop up poop. Well done team, it's this that can make a difference to an individual and to potential new comers to the association.

Other Pencae Show news: Aldridge State High School purchased two heifers, Pencae Lady Harmony and Pencae Lexi's Hope as their 'foundation' females for their Square Meaters Stud. The students were to enter the girls into the Toowoomba Royal Show, however the weather disallowed that happening. The girls had their debut at the Fraser Coast Show and took out Second and Third place in their class. They were up against older and heavier heifers of different breeding, including Limousins and Bazadaise. Well done Aldridge SHS in preparing your two Pencae heifers.

Just as October was coming to a close and as Harmony gave birth to a nuggetty bull calf (N1) a category 4 storm hit our beautiful home. There was not much that didn't sustain damage from the destructive winds and hail. The paddocks were torn apart and a number of my stud sustained injuries (superficial/hide damage). Yet, despite the destruction my cattle are alive and the remainder of the cows have since calved without any problems. Currently our Pencae calves are tearing around the paddocks of Pencae and learning the ropes in our intensive beef herd. Harmony's bull calf Pencae Mr Darcy is remaining in the herd for the time being with plans to prepare him for showing in 2018 prior to selling him on. We have also retained JAVID Fiona's heifer calf, Mabel, as she will enter our breeding program.

I look forward to promoting our breed both in the show ring and in their natural environment of our home paddocks in 2018. ■

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Breed Promotion Group



Co-ordinator: Erin Wilcock
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Our Steers are medal winning.
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Inspections & Tyre Kicking Welcome by Appointment

Why I love my Squares

Why did I get into the Squares....Well for me my journey started completely by accident, somewhat reluctantly on my part and has plenty of ups, downs and twists and turns along the way.

My landlord at the time went for a 2 hour drive to see Gary and Heather Sewell's cattle the one day and on returning said "I think I found some cattle - they're quiet, easy to handle, easy calvers, good doers, fast finishers and the butcher shops LOVE them". He previously very successfully turned off steers, but with young children now in the mix (at the time I was married with 3 kids , and number 4 on the way) this became a hazard so one had to change their way of thinking. I questioned whether they were like the ostrich faze, lots of people jumped on the band wagon, but then the bum dropped out of the market due to poor education, inexperience and a poor market for their product.

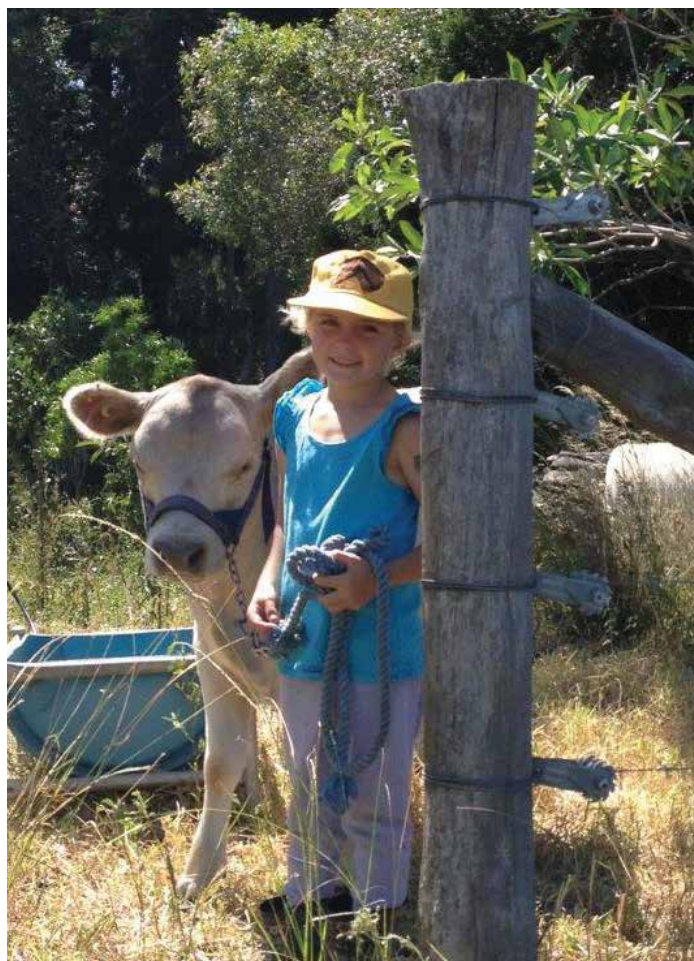
I was full of questions and trepidation, but alas about a month or so later our first truckload of about 14 (from memory) cows, heifers & calves one of which was to be our first bull arrived. I grew up a dairy farm so I knew most of the fundamentals. You count em, about... once a week, you feed em- by way of opening a gate

of a paddock that has the most available grass and that should be about it.. shouldn't it??

Cows....yep easy, the world's our oyster, we can breed cows and turn off the calves quicker than steers, but one thing I definitely wont be doing is showing them-No way!! What I didn't know was the stud side, you mate a "good" with another "good" animal that makes a "great" animal doesn't it. After all they're stud animals so that makes it pretty straight forward. And previously Friesian, or Ayrshire cows have markings that allow you to tell them apart. Not so with the Squares, I was too slow with the tagging of our first drop of calves, so I couldn't tell who owned what- guess who likes to tag calves quick smart these days. DNA testing my first batch of calves was a costly and time consuming exercise that we haven't repeated since.

We outgrew our first bull fairly soon, so we were on the lookout for another, along came Rainbow Ace of Hearts. He was really going to put me on the map- which he did, but not for the reasons I was looking for. But he did have the most amazing temperament, he and I could have the indepth conversions, which we would both participate in.

Back then my people skills weren't anything to be



Four years on Caitlin & Rube are still the best of friends.

proud of, and lets just say, even now they are a work in progress, so it was suggested we try showing. At the time I would've much rather have walked to China, than try showing, but try we did. I figured that if I didn't like it I wasn't going to lose much. I borrowed the neighbours Holden Rodeo tray back ute, drove the 10 minutes to our local show, having no idea which way to walk around the 'ring'. Luckily I had a friend on hand who had horse showing and some cattle showing experience to tell me what to do and when. Some years later I've had the honour of giving her a hand with clipping

and the occasional show. After showing somebody elses horned Dexters, I was more appreciative of my own polled and quiet breed.

I've had some doozy show memories, my first Royal was Toowoomba 2012, full of nerves, we've come to a halt in the ring for the lineup - everyone else has their animal beautifully presented and mine....well a bag of spuds would've looked better, I of course was completely oblivious until I was politely but loudly told to stand her up!! The next year, same show I completely ignored the judge (no less than 4 times!!) we've all frozen at field days & completely

cooked at others (I actually took notice to the weather report that year and packed the industrial fan).

We have done 2 long haul trips over the years. Our first took 12 hours to pick up our present day bull Spring Valley Oliver. Went down for one bull, brought back 3 cows with him as well. Our 2nd was the 20th anniversary of the breed held at Canberra, taking some 17 hours.

My kids now ranging in ages from 16 years to 8 are usually keen to help in most areas of the cattle. My eldest daughter was most reluctant to learn to drive, but when she did the

springers suddenly became the most checked group of expectant mothers in history regardless of the time of day or weather conditions they suddenly needed to be checked and photographed. Same daughter became a mother/grandmother of sorts when a particular heifer gave birth to a chocolate heifer. The name was chosen with the help of a school friend and she was the most cherished animal. I half expected to find 'Lottie' in her bed such was the adoration. Lotties mum was extremely laid back and took it in stride. Lottie is now almost 2 year old and due

to calve in Autumn, fingers crossed all goes well.

We are lucky enough to have 2 herds. One weekend the kids went outside to find our other bull standing quite calmly in the laundry, chewing his cud, not a care in the world. Dads new prized Triton was parked in the shed, with about 40cm spare room around it. Not a panel was touched and no drama created when the bull was redirected outside.

It has been about 9 years since we've started. We've been hand feeding both herds since mid November with no end in sight so far, are

experimenting with different ideas and techniques and having lots of fun along the way.

For me the Squares can't be beaten for temperament and I am especially grateful for their size at the moment when I'm unrolling a bale of hay in amongst impatient girls that only want their breakfast immediately and it's times such as now that I can really see what they're made of in terms of do-ability. I have tried various breeds to see how they would turn off, but without a doubt the Squares easily outdo the crosses. ■



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Udderly Predictable

By Steve Campbell from
Acres USA

“By following the direction of M. Guenon, as laid down in the treatise, anyone can tell with certainty whether a cow is a good milker, or whether a young heifer will become one, so that there need be no doubt as to the profit of raising an animal and no chance of being taken in the purchase of one.” – National tribute of the French government Paris, September 17, 1848. This quotation is the first page of the 14th edition of A Treatise on Milch Cows by M. Francis Guenon.

Imagine the usefulness of the discrepancy between the Expected Progeny Difference that most of us are currently using and Guenon’s “tell with certainty” methodology. Why do we breed in variability by using animal science (which was not even heard of in 1848) and numbers, when animal husbandry, knowledge and a bit of observation can lead us to a more certain and consistent outcome?

When we go out in the pasture, do we really see our animals? When was the last time you went out to the pasture, picked a long stem of grass, put it between your teeth, and took a few minutes to observe? Guenon spent 30 years of his life observing cows to develop his method. A couple of hours on our part spent reading his treatise and 30 days of observation could have any of us light years ahead in understanding the

animals that populate our pastures.

A good cow must have the following qualities:

- Excellent glandular function
- High butterfat to nourish her calf in utero and by her side
- A phenotype that lends itself to calving ease, superior utilization of our grass, and plenty of meat on her offspring

Of all the animals God put upon his green Earth, a cow has more external hair expressions revealing the glandular functions going on inside her than any other species. Guenon’s Treatise is an excellent place to start learning about some of those hair patterns, whether you are looking for beef cows or dairy cows.

A cow’s hide is her largest gland. A soft supple, dappled hide with lots of folds in the neck area is found on animals that also have other fully functional glands. The first gland to develop during pregnancy is the pituitary. If it is not in place and functioning properly, the development of all other glands suffers.

The larger the thymus expression, a hair pattern on the lower neck, the better the overall health of the animal. Gland expressions (hair whorls) that are small or in the wrong area of the body are crying out to us, “Things are not right.”

The adrenal hair whorl, in most cases, is the easiest gland to see. Think about looking



A very small escutcheon, the milk production is low and her peak is half of normal production. Her calf will suffer from starvation in early months because of low milk production.

at the top of an apple with a stem still attached (the tuft of standing hair represents the stem). If you see that adrenal

“pattern” on the top line of your cow or heifer, you will know she is cycling. This hair whorl needs to be in



the shoulder area or further forward for high butterfat production and to assure that she will pass this trait along to her offspring. Once that “stem” lies down, she is either pregnant or has gone infertile. The pancreatic hair whorl is located low on the side of the abdomen. The longer a cow is pregnant, the longer and further up the side of the cow this hair pattern will grow. Learning to read the glandular function of the adrenal and pancreatic hair whorls could eliminate pregnancy checking expense. Three things are vital to long-term profitability on your farm:

- the amount of butterfat a cow gives,
- when she will come into her milk and for how long,
- how much total milk she gives.

To be able to know these traits the day a heifer is born could be invaluable. Guenon’s Treatise describes the visual indicators for each of these traits.

Are you looking for butterfat in your cows?

You should be. The spade

on an escutcheon (the main element of Guenon’s book) that slopes upward at the top as it spreads out onto the back of the cow’s leg indicates very high butter fat.

Other indicators of butterfat, some of which are mentioned in Guenon’s Treatise, are loose hide over the pin bones, small dense bones, a pointed poll, a darker greasy streak down her back, a flat or concave jawbone just behind the front teeth, the adrenal hair whorl in the shoulder area or forward, a soft and silky hair coat that is loose to the touch, a bald udder and supernumerary teats on the back of the udder.

Exudates that indicate higher butterfat and marbling include yellow flakes at the bottom of the tail bone, yellow wax in the ear, and dandruff on the inside of the back legs. Guenon even shows us how to read the protein content of the milk by the expression of the “butterfly wings” on the back of the udder.

That “genetic potential” we put together at the point of conception has to have

abundant nutrition in the form of minerals and rich butterfat from conception to maturity to be fully expressed and functional in the animal. Linear measurements can also be an invaluable tool to help us know how structurally correct our animals are and how likely they will weather the seasons on our farm. The first heifer that I retained with a 5-inch plus rump width (linear measuring) calved when she was 2 years old and took seven minutes to have her calf from when she first laid down until the calf was on the ground and she stood back up. Almost every measurement recorded is related to the length of the rump.

When talking about the correct phenotype, Guenon said, “If there is one part of the frame, the form of which, more than any other, renders the animal valuable, it is the chest.” The width of the shoulders of a cow has to equal the length of her rump. Do you have cows or bulls whose front toes point out? This is a sure sign that his or her shoulders are too narrow. The length from the poll to the nose should equal the length

from the hook to the pin bones on a well-balanced cow. The greater the distance between the hook and the pin bones, the larger the udder. A wider longer rump equates to calving ease and volume of meat.

I hope that this short article has piqued your interest in just what kind of cows you have in your pastures, and if they are not what you want, you now know more of what to look for in the future. Perhaps we can accomplish what Guenon speculated elsewhere in his treatise, “The establishment of a race as uniform and remarkable for excellence at the pail as the Devon Ox is for the yoke.”

Do a bit of reading and observing, and use your talents to select for the positive traits that will work on your farm. ■

Steve Campbell raises grass-fed beef in Idaho, Email: trianglec3@gmail.com

To purchase a copy of “A Treatise on Milch Cows by M Francis Guenon check on the www

Photos Bovine Engineering, Gearld Fry, Arizona, Email: gearldfry@gmail.com



This beautiful bald udder is what we are looking for in butterfat production. Her tail is of a high yellow with large dandruff scales and the wax in the ear is a high yellow. The absence of hair on the udder is the no 1 indicator of high milk fat and an indicator of tenderness or fine textured meat. (The more hair on the udder, the lower the butterfat.)

Versatile in all Seasons

By Eric Ross

Square Meaters have proved to be versatile under all seasons. This is borne out this year with the season we have just experienced, where we had record breaking rain followed by record floods in the early part of the year, then for 6 months where virtually no rain fell, followed then with good rain prior to summer. Our cattle have maintained their condition, only cows with calves at foot lost some condition. Weaners and dry cattle have fared well.

With our stud operation, Rosellinos are staying focused on maintaining true to type Square Meaters. Our breeding plans continue with the 4 main factors in good breeding, Constitution, Conformation,

Constitution, Temperament and Pigmentation. Conformation is essential to have animals that have the right structure to carry a maximum carcass without a break down of spine, rump or legs and pasterns. Constitution is required in an animal to withstand dry, wet, hot or cold conditions. Temperament is essential, for placid animals are not disturbed and continue grazing under all circumstances. As well quiet animals make for ease of handling and less likely for the handler to be harmed. Pigmentation, while required by the Association Rules to be dark, is beneficial under hot or wet conditions where photosensitization can lead to scalding, followed by cancer. Rosellinos have a high priority on selecting



Progeny at Rosellinos – Future Champions carrying the Genetics of Future Generations for The Future of Square Meaters.

26 Outside the Square




Focusing on type and pigmentation and Rosellinos Leane and calf Rosellinos Notable fits well within the Rosellinos strategy.

breeding animals with a dark pigmentation to avoid the problems associated with light skinned animals.

Our mature Herd Sires are Kilayr Finn and Rosellinos Leanes Hitech ET, who are both Dark Grey Bulls. These bulls have wonderful temperaments and carry most of the attributes that we require for our 4 main factors in breeding. We are presently involved in the use of an Artificial Insemination program mating a limited number of females with semen from the following bulls, Rainbow Bomber, Rainbow Yucatan and Rainbow Zippity Doo Da. Rosellinos, this year only

showed 2 head at the Brisbane RNA and 3 at Toowoomba Royal where we were awarded Junior Champion Heifer Calf with Rosellinos Lilac. In 2018 we plan to take teams to both Brisbane and Toowoomba as well as Beef Week in Rockhampton in May. Beef Week is the largest Beef Show in the Southern Hemisphere and it will be beneficial to have Square Meaters on display.


While numbers are not large in the Beef Cattle Industry in Australia, Square Meaters Cattle do compete well in the Beef Market with their ability for early maturity and quality carcasses. ■



NSW/ACT BREEDERS GROUP

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Great Southern Square Meaters Stud

2017 has been a very exciting year for WA Square Meaters and our stud. We have become more involved in shows by providing animals to the Denmark Agricultural College and we have entered another Team into the Paddock to Plate Challenge and seen significant improvements in Team performance putting our breed up there with the best of breeds in WA.

We have continued with sales of bulls into WA Commercial operations so producers and consumers alike can see the merits of our cattle and their traits.

We would like to thank those that have purchased cattle from us throughout the year, and wish all Square Meaters enthusiasts a Great 2018.



For more information, please contact

Brett Harms

Tel: 0403005611 Email: brettharms@hotmail.com

Value in Bull Testing

By Ellen Moffat

Due to distance from semen collection centres, we have struggled to be able to collect from our senior bull Kilayr Daroth and his son Kilayr Kinsey who has put the most amazing 1st calves on the ground in 2017, we knew then he was worth "bottling"!

An attempt was made in February 2016 to see if K Daroth was still viable to collect, proceeding with the usual semen test for the first time. We were so disappointed that he came back at less than 50% viable. This lead us to semen test all our junior bulls going out to commercial herds in 2017 and we thought we would try K Daroth again, with great success this time, Motility 90% and Morphology 79% deeming him collectable.

So what happened the first time? One might ask! That day in February 2016

proved to be the hottest day for the year topping the mercury at 43° by 11am, just about the time we tested him!

For several years we have regular customers who lease bulls for heifers and small herds and the junior bulls had gone out to work before the final testing report came in.

This report saved our "beef" indicating that one of the junior bulls had not performed to operational capacity in the semen tests, although he performed in Motility at 70% his Morphology came in at 54% and he was recommended for retesting.

With some relief we were able to contact the customer, explain the test results and supply a replacement bull which they were happy with, they had noticed that some heifers had returned for a second cycle.

We chose not to retest this bull as he was a planned commercial lease sire and

went to market on his return.

Following our experience and test results, and after listening to another "cattleman's" story where a major stud tested bulls for sale and ignored the results then consequently needed to substitute the bulls, would have been a costly exercise all around!

Another young bull we sold in 2015 had proven himself at home with 6 calves and we thought he was a sound entire until at his new home he proceeded to lose weight and have cows return. In layman terms, this proved to be a skin growth blocking the semen flow and causing him some anxiety and an

inability to get cows in calf, it was a relief when a simple vet procedure rectified this issue.

The decision to semen test bulls was a valuable tool, to know that, excluding any subsequent injury or infection after testing, the bull would be sound and "fit for purpose" fits our ethos.

The coming season will see all operational bulls at Kilayr tested to ensure they have not become infertile or damaged through any acquired injury or disease, they will be vaccinated and BVDV tested ensuring there is no recurrence of "faulty equipment". ■



Rising 4 year old Kilayr Kinsey K13 displaying and carrying on the Square Meaters type at Kilayr SM.



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Jo van Elten

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**Vesco Matriarch
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*leaving her stamp of
quality across the
Square Meaters breed
from coast to coast.*

Square Meaters for School Farm's

*By Hayley Mahoney
Chavalier College*

I started cattle showing with students 10 years ago. We started with Minature Herefords. One of my agriculture students had them and so, being new to it all, we started our cattle showing adventure. Only on a small farm at school, we could not have anything too large and by having smaller cattle, it meant the kids (and I) were less scared to handle them. That student graduated and although happy to still let us use his cattle, and his parents were still happy to cart them around for us, they were down-sizing themselves and phasing out the cattle on their property.

I had another student who said "Miss I show cattle and my grandparents would help us out" I nearly fell off my chair! This student I definitely did not pick for not only owning cattle, but also exhibiting them. I asked for proof. (Mainly because I had never heard of Square Meaters, I thought he was making it up). The next day a Square Meaters folder with all the rego's and paperwork landed on my desk. This was the start of a beautiful relationship between Nangari and Antill Square Meaters (sorry Scott for not believing you).

Cate and Graham Stanton helped us out with stock, showing and feeding advice

and anything in between. We exhibited at local shows and also Canberra Royal with steers and stud stock. My students even undertook work placement at their property. Their generosity and support still continues today.

From this grew another relationship with Weethalle Square Meaters. Brad and Jo have let my students assist with their show team for many years now. We have worked with junior judging workshops at their property, exhibited stock, broken in numerous heifers and the odd bull and lots of steers. Again, their support continues with lending us show stock and donating steers for us to use.

I have moved schools and now work at Chevalier College. The school farm had larger breed cattle, which I sold within the first few weeks. The students were scared and apprehensive of handling the cattle and the show team needed a make-over. In came Weethalle cattle. The students were amazed at how quiet they were and how easy they were to handle. At the first show we took them to, I remember the students being too worried to wash them, tie them up, move between them in the row, lead them because of all bad experiences in the past, some of the stories even scare me.

Now my students have confidence and are developing their cattle handling skills.



Even our Yr7 students are confident to handle the Squares. This was Ava's first show and she came third in the junior handler class.

The cattle are easy and calm to work with and are easier on our budget and paddocks. Even the Angus breeder students have a soft spot for them. We are getting good results in stud classes and

with the steers. We even use the Square Meaters at other events, like UniSteer which is a Hereford based event, for junior judging and as part of our display, because of their size and temperament. ■

HIGHBURY SQUARE MEATERS STUD



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Highly Competitive Breed

by Robin Prokopec

What a wonderful breed! This is the tenth year we have been involved with them here in the Mt Lofty Ranges at Rainbow Valley, on the edge of SA's famous Barossa Valley, and we have found them everything they are meant to be and more.

In the show ring, we have found Square Meaters to be highly competitive with all the bigger breeds. Our local country shows have all moved away from classes for British Breeds and European Breeds etc.

and are running classes where every breed is judged together. We have found Square Meaters to be highly successful in these classes, and have won numerous championships and most successful exhibitor awards. We have also won three show association most successful exhibitor awards for an amalgamation of points gained in a year against all breeds, and across all shows for those associations.

Scanning results for bulls have also been remarkably impressive against the other breeds. At the Royal Adelaide Show, Rainbow

Valley Lord Haldon at 27 months old and 740kgs, had an eye muscle area of 125 sq cm, 8th highest of the 153 bulls scanned. When 3 ½ yrs old and 755kgs, our Argio Park Ultimo scored an EMA of 127 sq cm and had the 10th highest score of the 96 bulls scanned that year. On both occasions, bulls in the same range were generally heavier by 100kgs or more.

Square Meaters are a very muscular breed, but it certainly doesn't detract from their fertility, and we have never had any problems. We also had over 60 calves born before we had a difficult birth. Clients

have reported back how thrilled they are with the ease in which their cows calved after purchasing a bull from us, having previously experienced frequent difficult births, sometimes resulting in caesareans. Calves are strong and well-muscled at birth and progress at an incredible rate. We have often had breeders from other breeds comment on how advanced they are for their age.

Since we have been here, in this drier part of the Mt Lofty Ranges, we have had several really bad, dry seasons, but the cattle all came through with flying colours. A couple lost more condition than the others, but when one looked at the lovely calves they were raising there could be no complaint at all. Some of ours also tend to lose condition through being willing to feed every calf in the herd...thin they may become, but they still manage to raise an impressive youngster of their own!

We have found them to have a wonderfully quiet disposition; great to handle and easy to break in for showing. Our first two heifers were purchased before we had cattle yards or a crush, and I hand fed them in a small paddock. Within



The classical dark grey Square Meaters type heifer, Rainbow Valley Nancy Puddin in preparation for the show circuit.

a week, they were quiet enough to allow me to fit halters. Another heifer that was just out of the back paddock and had never before been handled, had her first halter put on in the morning, and was walked on a lead the same afternoon as though she'd always been doing it. Another was broken in at over 2 years of age, went to her first show a short time later, and behaved beautifully. She even let me walk up and catch her

easily after she got loose; an inexperienced young handler had let her go when he was startled by a bull passing close by. Yet another, also a two-year-old, was in the cattle yards when our vet came. She was wearing a halter for the first time and had not had any work done with her. I looked around and saw the vet take hold of her halter and lead her across the yard. When I told him she wasn't broken in, he just smiled as he led her

quietly along and said "She's doing OK."

The same vet, who says all our animals have a beautiful temperament and he loves working with them, has pregnancy tested cows standing in the yards without restraint, and we have injected them the same way.

We have also loaded young bulls onto a trailer wearing a halter for the first time, tied them up, and had them stand quietly whilst unaccompanied

throughout the journey to their new home.

The only problem I have found with these cattle is that they are so friendly and trusting that it becomes extremely difficult to part with them when they have to go, and go many must as with their high fertility it doesn't take long at all to build up a sizeable herd. We are very pleased to have chosen Square Meaters as our breed; we believe we made an excellent choice. ■

SUNSET PARK SQUARE MEATERS *'Bred for Family Friendly Farming'*



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