



REVIEW 2017

SOUTH DEVON

BEEF
AT ITS BEST

KILDARE SOUTH DEVONS

SUCCESS BREEDS ON



Kildare Haggie

Supreme South Devon - Beef 2015
and Brisbane Ekka 2015. (QCL photo)

Scan figures for Haggie at Ekka 2015:

Age: 36 months
Weight: 1180kg
EMA: 149 (largest on ground)
Rib: 11
Rump: 17

During the time Haggie spent at the Ekka he actually gained 70 kg to weigh 1250kg, an average weight gain of 6+ kg per day.



Kildare Likabull – by Haggie.

Supreme South Devon Ekka 2016.

Scan figures from 2016 Ekka:

Age: 14 months
Weight: 608kg
EMA: 112
Rib: 6
Rump: 8



Kildare Magic

– the one to watch in 2017 and beyond.

Born June 2016

KILDARE SOUTH DEVONS

SUCCESS BREEDS ON

Kildare breeds both red and black South Devons with the aim of producing easy calving, early maturing, feed efficient cattle to meet a variety of markets.

This is **Kildare Kool Black** (by Davelle Prog Blackrock H17) at home in the paddock



with his cows. His scan figures at Ekka 2016 – age 26 months:

Weight: 904kg • EMA: 130 • Rib: 7 • Rump: 13

Kildare offer bulls for sale, both privately and also in their annual sale. Cattle are paddock raised and have the ability to handle with ease a wide range of climatic conditions. Kildare cattle are consistently meeting grid specifications at feedlot inductions and are EU accredited.



Consider a Kildare bull for your next commercial or stud sire.

Approximately 20 bulls will be offered through AuctionsPlus on Friday 1st September 2017.

Sire lines: Kildare Haggie, Kildare D9, Kildare Galaxy G86, Kildare F11 (Alpha S4), Davelle Prog Blackrock H17, Davelle Blackjet G36.

**Rick and Sue McDouall, Kildare South Devons,
Upper Horton, NSW 2347. Phone: 02 6782 7245**

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I hope you enjoy reading this magazine which is only possible due to the hard work of the production team and our Contributors and Advertisers. I thank them most sincerely for their assistance. Please keep sending me news and photos as they can always be used for the newsletter and Facebook page.

Heather Lindsay – gh.lindsay@bigpond.com

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Bolinda Julian



Ace K10 with Bolinda Julian calves



Bolinda Highlight



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Members,

I like to think that I am a positive thinking person, but what has happened to the South Devon Membership in the past 25 years has been very disappointing. In year 2000 the South Devon cattle society had a big push on promotion, with advertising in the media, posters, brochures and members getting new gate signs, and a push to gain carcase data.

I thought South Devons would take off, but it didn't happen. In our area farming has gone the same way, all down hill, with very dry seasons and land prices getting too high for the returns that one gets for our produce. On the positive side, half of our young bulls for next year have already been sold this year. I suppose that you can only sell them once.

It was sad to see our membership get to the stage, where some states didn't have enough members to function. At the A.G.M. at Kangaroo Island with the South Devon Society in some turmoil and running at a deficit every year and no one willing to take on the President's job, John Cassidy stepped up and took the President's job for six months. It was decided at the meeting, to abolish all state branches and become one federal body with a new constitution. This came into place on the 1st of January. If we are to survive, we had to raise our fees, which was done

under John's guidance at an executive meeting, held at Armidale.

As members, we need to get behind the society, so that we can continue to function and hopefully get some new and younger members, to keep this great breed going. John resigned, as he only promised us six months and I took on the presidency. I hope that I can do the job successfully, with the member's support. Its good to see members continuing to display their cattle at shows and also at field days as well as feed trials and carcase competitions, with good results. Keep up the good work.

It is great to see members bringing new bloodlines into the country, which helps to broaden the Genetics and hopefully improve our cattle. It is challenging to get new blood lines for our clients every few years.

On behalf of the society, I would like to thank John Cassidy for his leadership during the past difficult time. Also, all members of council, for their time and effort over the last twelve months. Thanks Heather Lindsay for an excellent job as our publicity person, doing newsletters and the Review. Thanks

Daphne Lines as Treasurer, for keeping our expenses to a minimum, and David McDonald for his good work as Secretary and guiding hand on all issues involved with the new constitution and other issues.

I wish all members a prosperous future, so that we can keep this great breed going. I hope all members going to South Africa have a great trip. Looking forward to seeing a good turn up at our next A.G.M. to be held at Toowoomba, QLD in June 2017.

I would encourage all States to keep promotion groups going, and get both stud and commercial members involved.

Ross Cauley

President, South Devon Cattle Society of Australia Inc

***“It was decided at the meeting,
to abolish all state branches
and become one federal body
with a new constitution.”***

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Warm greetings to all South Devon breeders across Australia. Maybe it should be “hot greetings” because, as I write at the start of February 2017, much of eastern Australia is experiencing yet

another heat wave with daytime temperatures sitting in the mid- to high thirties to low forties (degrees centigrade).

Parts of WA, SA and Vic had those “hot forties” days at the end of December and only Tasmania seems to be enjoying “normal” summer temperatures this year. However, most areas of southern Australia enjoyed significant rainfall (and some flooding) during November and December 2016 which replenished dams and underground water supplies.

Extreme temperatures, irregular rainfall and continued drought in some areas over the past 3 years have continued the pressure on farmers in Australia to earn their livelihoods. The positive note during 2016 was a resurgence in cattle prices “across the board”, to the point of record commercial levels being obtained in all categories over the second half of the year. This was due mainly to the unavailability of stock for sale after the many years of drought and regeneration of pastures in many areas.

The Society was very fortunate to have Leonie Daley as President during 2014, 2015 and the first few months of 2016. Her related Councillors were very supportive in “keeping the ship afloat”. However, a number of concerns needed attention and resolution later in 2016. When Leonie’s term as President finished in April 2016, the Society welcomed John Cassidy to the helm, for a limited period, to resolve the major concerns of falling income and re-consideration of the role of State Branches.

With the support of his new Council, John proposed an amended Constitution to the members and, after due process, that new Constitution took effect from 1 January 2017. There are no longer any “State Branches” and the election of new Councillors at the AGM in June 2017 will be done on a national basis. All Society fees for 2017 have been increased to hopefully result in a break-even financial outcome. It is now up to the members to continue their support of the Society.

John Cassidy stood down from the Presidency in November 2016 and was replaced by vice-president Ross Cauley. Ross has agreed to “steer the ship” up to the 2017 AGM which is scheduled to be held at Toowoomba in Qld.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2014 was conducted for the first time by telephone hook-up with a successful outcome of both participation and discussion of items. The AGM in 2015 was held in May at Rockhampton, Qld to again coincide with the triennial Beef Australia Expo. This followed the success of having the 2012 AGM at the previous “Beef Expo”. There was again a strong contingent of South Devon exhibitors and

interested parties at the 2015 Expo – and they have recommended the same location be adopted for the AGM in 2018 at the next “Beef Expo” event.

The AGM in 2016 was held in Adelaide, SA and due to excellent organising by co-ordinator Daphne Lines, the related tour for 2016 was a visit to Kangaroo Island (also in South Australia). This attracted the largest gathering for many years of members and it was very encouraging. It was a great opportunity for members to discuss South Devon matters, exchange ideas, make new friendships and also catch up with six fellow South Devon breeders from New Zealand.

During 2015 we were saddened by the passing of two breed stalwarts. David Bruce, from Stanley, Tasmania passed away 2nd July and Bill Newton, from Upper Caboolture, Qld passed away 2nd August. Each of those gentlemen is survived by

“ It is now up to the members to continue their support of the Society. ”

their wives, Marie and Margaret respectively, and other active family members.

Another Society project undertaken during 2015 was the development of a new website – www.southdevonsaustralia.com.

Heather Lindsay of Athlone Stud was appointed new Communications Officer which entails responsibility for the website, a new Facebook page (Australian South Devons) and for any newsletters and/or magazines. In accepting her appointment Heather asked for lots of support from all members through regular submission of items and photographs for stories/information to help maintain interest in and content of both the website and newsletter.

Those of you who have worked with communications will appreciate it is not a “one-off, closed item” but a dynamic production always ready for updating and new information.

There have now been three successful newsletters under Heather’s guidance and this 2017 Review is her first foray into the magazine production. Congratulations to Heather for a fantastic product – and thank you to everyone who has supported it with input and advertisements.

In April 2017, a strong Australian contingent is heading to South Africa for the World South Devon Conference. John Miller is the chief organiser of the related tour – including a visit to the Victoria Falls – and I wish all participants (both from Australia and other countries) a fantastic experience.

Best wishes to all South Devon members and breeders for a successful and productive 2017-2018 period.

David McDonald

Secretary, South Devon Cattle Society of Australia Inc



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SOUTH DEVONS

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SOUTH DEVONS FEATURE IN SCHOOL STEER COMPETITIONS

Three Nowra district high schools are pioneering a new approach to carcase competitions with South Devon steers.

The steers have been donated by the South Coast Beef Producers Association (SCBPA) from two local commercial South Devon herds; M & J Hamilton, Oakfield at Fox Ground and Milton Beef at Little Forest in NSW.

Over 40 students from Nowra and Shoalhaven High Schools are being mentored by SCBPA members in the preparation and feeding of the steers for local shows and the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Bomaderry High School is also participating in the project preparing a Murray Grey steer.

To date the steers have performed very well targeting the heavy domestic/ supermarket carcase (221-280kg carcase wt., 8-13mm fat at the P8) or the export trade carcase (281-400kg carcase wt., 9-15mm fat at the P8) classes at Sydney.

The Oakfield steer is being prepared by Nowra High School and has already been placed second at both the Berry and Nowra Shows. It is a May drop calf, 40kg at birth, weaned at 212 days of age weighing 310kg and is now 462kg at 283 days of age. That's an ADG from birth of 1.5kg.

The Milton Beef calf being prepared by Shoalhaven High School had its first outing at the 2017 Kangaroo Valley Show (17 February). It is younger (born June) and currently weighs 402kg at 238 days. That's an ADG from birth of 1.5kg. Needless to say there is healthy competition between the two schools and the respective breeders.

The project, an initiative of the SCBPA, received funding from the ABC and their Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Program which aims to support and foster young people in their development.

This project specifically aims to mentor students currently studying agriculture by providing an opportunity to learn a skill and develop confidence in handling and preparing cattle for show.

The project also aims to foster students' interest in agriculture as a worthwhile career choice and as such provide a pathway to further study in agriculture.

Students are encouraged to participate in the project in a number of ways. There are four streams of the project from which students can choose one or more depending on their skills and interest.

These streams include cattle handling and preparation for shows, animal and carcase science to monitor the steer's ration, treatments and growth performance; agribusiness to assess and evaluate the economics of animal growth and carcase performance; and a media group responsible for recording and reporting the progress of the steer for use in promotion through social and other media.

With this variety of tasks more students are engaged in a hands-on approach to the project which simulates the variety of skills and careers available in animal production and agriculture more generally.

The project has attracted considerable interest and support not only from the wider school community but also from local businesses. Manildra Group has provided the dry distillers grain as the principal ingredient in the ration, Bomaderry CRT the hay, Bomaderry Veterinary Hospital the testing and health management, and SCBPA members the logistics, time and mentoring for each school.

Pictures following show the work in progress towards the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show.



*Above: Oakfield steer at weaning weighing 310kg
Right Top: Oakfield steer at Kangaroo Valley Show.*



*Right: Milton Beef steer at weaning
Below Right: Milton Beef steer at Kangaroo Valley Show.*



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WINTERWOOD SOUTH DEVONS WIN LARDNER PARK STEER TRIALS – AGAIN!

Congratulations to Peter and Nellie Hutchinson of Winterwood South Devons who have once again won the major awards at the recently completed Lardner Park Grass Fed Steer Trials in Victoria. Their steers won both the Combined Weight Gain and Carcase Award as well as the Highest Weight Gain Pair Award.

The following article recounts their story.

Nellie and Peter Hutchinson started beef farming in March, 1978 on approximately 100 acres in Boolara, Victoria. Boolara is a small community nestled in the Morwell River Valley in Gippsland.

Initially our preferred breeds of cattle were Hereford and Hereford Friesian crosses. The crosses were so impressive that we decided to investigate other breeds to find a pure strain that could perform equally as well.

After speaking to a South Devon breeder called Tom Nest we decided to give South Devon a go and in August, 1983 we purchased a pure bred South Devon bull and became members of the South Devon Cattle Society. We called our stud Winterwood.

We sold some of our calves as private butchered bodies and as we were also running Hereford bulls with our cows we could immediately see the increase in carcass weights in the following year. We could also see that not all of the things Tom told us about the breed were bull dust. As well as the increase in weaning weights, we were greatly impressed with the temperament of the South Devon progeny.

We moved to our present farm down the road in Yinnar South in 1984 and started to increase our South Devon numbers by grading up from our base cows and by purchasing small numbers of pure South Devon cows at regular intervals.

In an effort to improve our herd we visited many other breeders and inspected their herds. Many of these breeders had been breeding South Devon cattle for a long time and had already achieved the standard that we were aiming for. In an effort to reach a higher standard we joined Breed Plan and participated for a number of years. We also

entered steer trial in order to gauge our progress in improving carcass traits.

Success came slowly but it became evident that we were getting there. We started having success at local agricultural shows and at the Royal Melbourne where we achieved most successful South Devon exhibitor on two occasions.

Since 2008 our calves have received 13 awards during the Lardner (Warragul) annual steer trials for highest daily weight gains, best carcass traits or both.



One of the Lardner Park winning steers. Photo taken September 2016.

The Lardner steer trials is an annual event involving sometimes more than 50 calves of various breeds paddocked together for about six months on grass and with hay and silage as needed. The major objectives of the trials are to demonstrate the carcass requirements of the standard domestic trade market.

The winners are decided according to their daily average weight gain which constitutes 45% of the overall result and their carcass score assessed according to the Australian Beef Carcass Appraisal System. The latter score constitutes 55% of the total. Photo of 2016 winning steers taken in September 2016.

In the most recent trials our steers achieved a daily average weight gain of 1.44 kilograms each (trial herd average 1.22) and an average carcass assessment score of 72.34 (trial herd average 62.39).

As in other years we will be supplying the store cattle market. We will be weaning approximately

18 pure bred heifers and 15 steers in 2017. From what we understand our steers nearly always go to return buyers. If we keep any replacement heifers we will join them at between 14 and 15 months.

Nell and I are in our very late 70s and are planning to reduce the number of cows we will calve down in the future. I am sure we will regret this as the cows have been good to us and I guess we were fortunate to choose South Devons as their gentleness has allowed us to continue farming for as long as we have. We do not overlook the financial benefits the cows have contributed.

This photo was taken of Winterwood cows during the 2011 World Tour.



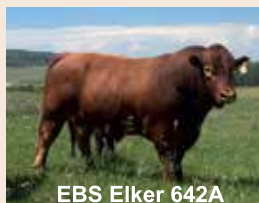

"THE BEND SOUTH DEVON STUD"
CHRIS & LEONIE DALEY

Wish to thank those who bought South Devons at our recent herd dispersal, and our loyal customers over the years.

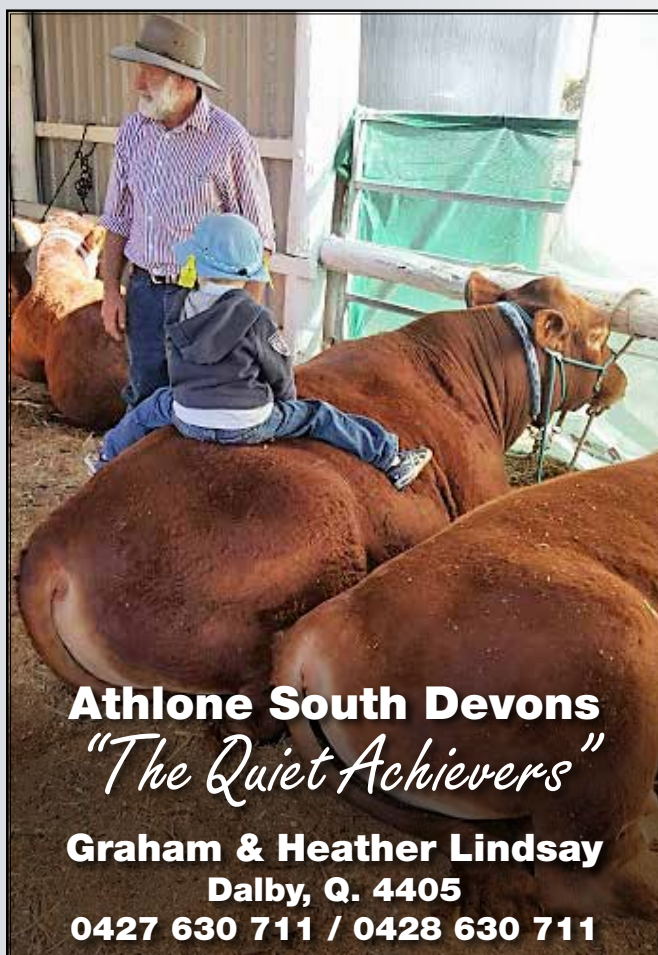
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INVEST in the BEST - Ashlea South Devons



E 23. calf by Elker 642a. USA.



L30 Sherlock. 12mths. 636kgs. p8 fat6 ml. rib fat4ml, ema 113. imf 4 sire DLCC. Durango 26Z. USA



L28, Leopold, photo 9mths, scanned at 13 mths, weight 622 kg, P8 fat 7ml, rib fat 5, ema 119 , imf 4, Sire DLCC Durango 26Z, USA.



Ashlea E26 with calf L30, sired by DLCC. Durango USA.



Legend, L 14, photo 12mths, scanned 14mths, 712 kg, P8 fat 10ml, rib fat 7 ml, ema 123, imf 4.2 Sire DLCC Durango 26Z USA



K8, 26 months, 902kg, P8 fat 9 , rib fat 6, EMA 142, imf, 4.9, Sire Lincoln Posidon



L4, Lindon, 20mths, 712kg, p8 fat 12, rib fat 8, ema 120, imf 5.5 Sire DLCC Durango 26Z



Kentucky. 21months. 818 kg P8 fat 8 ml rib fat 5ml, EMA 139, IMF 3.8. Sire DLCC. Durango 26Z. USA. Naturally slick coated

We try to get our cattle between 300 and 340 kg dressed at 16 to 18 months.
In October we sold 10 steers achieving 100% M.S.A. compliance. Results were, average EM.A: 93.03, average fat P8: 8.3, Rib fat: 7.6, and average weight: 316.6 kg dressed.
We have sold 40 steers and heifers since October with the following results, average EMA: 90.82, average P8 fat: 10.2 and rib fat: 7.6. South Devon's are doing the job for us.

VISITORS WELCOME AT ALL TIMES

Phone: (07) 4692 8260 | Email: ashlea@skymesh.com.au

Ross & Del Cauley 367 Rosalie Plains-Quinalow Road, Brymaroo, Qld.

Bulls For Sale



A QUEENSLAND CROSS BREEDING STRATEGY

Jim and Jenny Cross operate a rather unique cattle breeding operation in the South Burnett region of Queensland with the South Devon breed as an integral component. The herd has developed into a composite of 50% Belmont Red, 25% Brahman and 25% South Devon.

They use Brahman for their doing ability, temperament, and ease of calving.

Belmont Red for their hardiness, fertility, parasite resistance, eating quality, ease of calving, and feed conversion.

South Devon for their temperament, fertility, doing ability, feed conversion, muscle, fat cover, milking ability and eating quality.



South Devon cross with her calf.

The one original paddock bought over a decade ago has grown into 860 ha of basalt soils including creek flats and high country (Qld high country, not Snowy Mtns country). There are also various agistment blocks currently numbering 5, spread from near Kingaroy in the east to Bell in the west.

In the mid 1990's Jim was recovering from a back operation that meant the end of his life as a Lucerne farmer, so the Lucerne farm was sold and a grazing block in the Bunya Mountains area was purchased. Jim and Jenny then began to grow the small herd of beef cattle that had always been a minor part of their farming enterprise. Jim was looking for quiet, fertile cattle that would raise calves of a good weight, and withstand the vicarious weather patterns that were occurring at the time. During the next

couple of years three important influences came to form the basis of the herd as it now exists.

Jim was asked by well-known South Devon breeder Bill Rogers to take his cattle to Beef week in Rockhampton. Bill and Marion were the Principals of Halzephron Stud and at that time were located in Kingaroy. The Rogers family were originally from Cornwall and that musical accent was well to the fore as Bill waxed lyrical about his beloved South Devons on the 8-hour trip north, the 8 hour return trip, and the 3 days of the show! Jim liked these gentle animals who Bill assured him would calve by 2 years of age and rear calves of good weight. The purchase of a bull from Bill was the first step in the development of the Cross herd as it now stands. Since the dispersal of Halzephron Stud, bulls from Ashlea have been used.

The second influence was a phone call from Bill Rogers on behalf of a Central Queensland Brahman breeder who was downsizing and relocating to Kumbia to run his herd of Cherokee Brahmans. Peter Peacey asked Jim to deliver hay to the Coolabunia Clearing Dip to feed the Brahman herd (Cattle from ticky country must be 'cleared' at registered clearing dips before they are allowed into 'clean' or tick free country. This involves at least three days' isolation after treatment to make sure there are no live cattle ticks still on the cattle, hence the feed requirement).

Jim had always loved Brahmans and had sneaked a red Brahman bull into his small herd on the Lucerne farm some years earlier. Now he was really smitten. These cattle talked to each other and they talked to him as he fed them. Over the years, Jim bought Peters herd and Peter's profound knowledge of breeding enabled Jim to develop a closed herd, with the Brahmans providing the desirable traits of quiet temperament, resilience to heat and insects and small birth weight calves. Goodbye to all the calving problems experienced during the short association with other breeds. The third influence came through Jim's commitment to learning as much as he could about cattle,

A QUEENSLAND CROSS BREEDING STRATEGY ctd

land and animal management, and everything else associated with breeding and raising these animals which had become his passion. Jim stayed at the Narayan Research Station a few times undertaking courses in Nutrition, Breeding and Business, and there he found the final piece of his dream. The Belmont Red cattle were bred for Australian conditions. They too were early maturing and fertile cattle. When Narayan was sold, Jim bought twenty PTIC cows with calves at foot and two bulls.

Now he could begin his composite breeding programme with all the traits he was seeking. The dream of medium framed cattle, fertile and early maturing heifers, quiet temperament, and easy handling cows who weaned off well-built calves suitable for the feeder market was now achievable.



With Peter's help, he began work on his closed breeding programme. The cattle showed they could cope with the rigors of drought and flood, heat and cold, and Jim could do all the work himself with occasional help from the three girls in his life (*granddaughters shown in the photo above, with a sample of the 'Cross' bred – pun intended – progeny*) when their own commitments allowed.

With the closed herd breeding programme, the requirement to run pure herds continues. So, during the three-month mating system (mid-November to mid-February) the herd is separated into breed lots. South Devon, Brahman, Belmont Red and Composite.

Photo (left) shows South Devon influence on the females in the foreground and the Brahman influence in the background.

Cross herd of cattle with all breeding influences on display.



During the rest of the year the herd runs in larger combined lots to simplify animal management and to use the cattle in a density grazing programme to address soil health, improve pastures and nutrition, as fire, weed, erosion and riparian health control. This last measure, based on Holistic Grazing Practices has changed the focus of the business from 'hunting and gathering' the progeny from our herd, to looking not just at the cattle, but at the



whole enterprise literally from the ground up. Soil health, land capacity and its condition, as well as herd management are now viewed as a continuously working whole. It has been a tough journey to get everything flowing along but we now feel there is light at the end of the tunnel and a period of consolidation rather than furious adaptation in the foreseeable future.

As proof of the local recognition of the quality of the cattle from this programme, Jim and Jenny regularly exhibit in the grass fed commercial cattle section of the Kingaroy show with consistent placings. *(Photo on left.)*

As a footnote; I believe Bill Rogers is still alive and now retired in the Rockhampton area. His wife Marion passed away some years ago. Halzeperon cattle are still spoken of as being excellent cattle by many cattlemen in the Kingaroy area.



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What did the doctor say?



You're going to die!

DECADES OF VIGOUR WITH THREE WAY CROSS

Written by Amy Williams

Bold, aggressive cross breeding for impressive vigour is a popular concept today, but it was less fashionable 20 years ago when Jeff Higgins of Port Elliot decided it just made sense.

For six generations, his family had grown out cattle, and as long as Jeff can remember they were mainly stud polled and milking shorthorns. But with a bent to innovate, he started bucking tradition.

At the time, Jeff was selling high quality 400kg vealers and 550kg yearlings to Woolworths. He decided to introduce South Devon bulls to his cross bred cows, a combination (effectively 50% South Devon, 25% Simmental and 25% Shorthorn) he hoped would carry forward the muscle and size of the South Devon, along with the Simmental's milking talent.

"People can be sceptical but the thing is, if you're a prime lamb producer, your lambs are cross bred, whereas with cattle, it's mainly simple breeding," he said.

"But I look at the bigger picture – if you cross breed, you're going to get some vigour, and how much depends on how bold you go with the crossing...if you go outside those (British) breeds towards the Euro style like the South Devon, you get a major jump in vigour, you size up your animals and yields come up as well. That's why we moved away from purebred.

"I had always liked South Devons, they're a well built, muscly animal and I thought I'd give them a go."

The theory was proven by calves which dressed at an average of 234kg, blitzing not only the

buyer's 190kg dress weight minimum but his own and Woolworths' expectations.

"They just stood out. One particular calf went way over the grid, 270kg dress weight. You'd see the calf standing next to its mum, and it was just phenomenal."

Two decades later the combination is still effective. The Higgins are loyal customers of Kaye Arnold's Paltarra South Devon Stud, with Jet JILP J26 (18/06/13) and FF19 (14/06/10) as terminal sires to 2 herds of two breed cross cows, featuring Shorthorn, Murray Grey, Black Angus and Simmental.

"The younger bull is put to 40 heifers, and we feel comfortable with that, since the calves are very small – which is typical," Jeff said.

"They are lovely little calves, 42kg or so, which is such an easy, small birthweight but they grow so well. We've rarely had any calving difficulties, and we've had a lot of twins."

Calves are then grown out to yearlings of 550-650kg and supplied to markets and Teys.

Ratios are critical when breeding becomes more sophisticated, Jeff said. Favouring the Euro style, he was happy with the large injection of South Devon genetics, along with the quarter Simmental.

"It was a bit of a gamble because you can run the risk of having a big animal but of the carcass being leaner, say under 5ml of fat cover – but somehow it worked," he said.

"It's important to be careful about what you use as your sire, ensuring they are not lean, hungry and promoting problems. You want what I would call a sappy sire. It's got a nice fat cover, but all the attributes of vigour you want – the growth



Simmental cross cow with South Devon cross calf.



Cross bred cow with South Devon cross calf.



Quality of cattle is proof three-way cross breeding works.

and muscling the South Devon is renowned for.”

First on the property 176 years ago, Jeff’s great, great grandfather walked his bullocks to Cape Jervis and shipped them to SA’s mining towns, and subsequent generations ran sheep along with its breeding cattle. When he took over the property from his father, Jeff opted out of sheep and away from stud cattle, instead deciding the country was good enough to finish his animals.

Today Jeff and his wife Helen run their 400 ha property without staff, and comfortably

accommodate some 570 head when fully stocked. Simple changes on the property have made this possible. Jeff bought an excavator to install and maintain extra dams, taking the property from 14 to 45 dams, and installed three sets of cattle yards at strategic points to save time.

“Lot feeders might prefer pure breeds in preference to what we do, but we put the vigour into them, we get tremendous growth and really lovely yearlings.”

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LANDCARE WHILE YOU SLEEP

Written by Amy Williams

You couldn't pay staff to do the unenviable job of a dung beetle, but thankfully for the Australian cattle industry, they are happiest turning over your soil, improving the landscape by removing dung and parasites from the surface – while you get on with the rest of your operation.

Seven years ago Peter Piavinini first introduced dung beetles on his 800 acre property in Collie, WA, where he runs South Devons with some Angus crossing. Today an assortment of dung beetle species, from that first batch and others from expanding populations on neighbouring properties, are actively improving the land and its potential.



A very healthy population of dung beetles turn over Peter Piavinini's soil.

"Every year they're getting better," Peter said. "I believed my farm would be turned over every seven years, 15 inches deep – I've reassessed that...I'd say if they keep going like they are, they'll turn my farm over every five years, 15 inches deep, four inches apart, while I sleep."

Actively involved with local landcare groups, Peter is aware of the benefits to his land – not

only removal of dung, but better water absorption rather than run off, as a result of the holes the beetles dig.

"It's just enormous in my opinion...and I believe my stocking rates are going up."

Peter first saw dung beetles in action while visiting South Devon Australia life member Stan Dorman, and bought his first batch of Bubas Bison (winter active) beetles from him.

"They have multiplied out of sight to the extent they are just about on every cow dung. These things are digging, in the old language, a 3/8 inch (9.5mm) hole about 15-18 (380-460mm) inches deep, and there is anything up to 30 on one cow dung," Peter said.

Introduced species have been dramatically improving the Australian farming landscape and animal health for decades now, but there is still more to do, according to international dung beetle and soil health expert Dr Bernard Doube.

Dr Doube said cattle producers in southern Australia were now able to enjoy the benefits of the summer active dung beetle which has reached its natural limits, prevalent most places where it was not deterred by drenches – most of which (apart from "beetle friendly" varieties) were toxic to the beetle.

A winter active beetle is available to producers, allowing beetles to be active almost all year round – except for spring, but Dr Doube is currently working with CSIRO towards making available two species which will cover that period

"We need to introduce the winter dung beetles, then we need to introduce the spring beetles when they become available, and lastly we need to avoid the use of toxic drenches."

But for property owners who have good beetle colonies, drenching less or switching to non-toxic drenches has been easy, because beetles burying dung, means parasite eggs in the dung are also removed from the soil surface.

Neil Hagger released beetles on his property at Willalooka, SA, seven years ago and has found among many benefits, his herds are less

Dr Bernard Doube says there is still enormous potential to be realised with yet-to-be released species of dung beetle that will allow on-farm activity yearround.



The Bube bison is active in Australia during winter months.

bothered by parasites and his property cleaner because of the beetles.

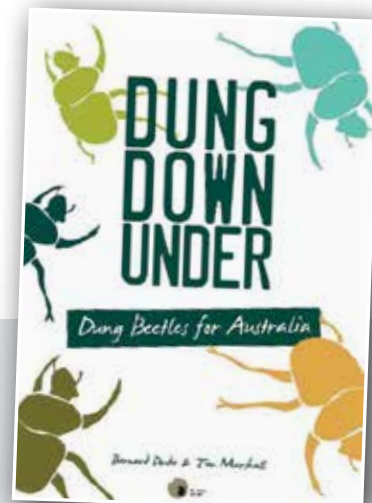
“Without the fresh dung, with it being buried, any internal parasite eggs from the cows should be buried and not reinfecting the cows,” he said.

“We’ve gone through three bad years when you would think the cows would have been lower in condition and susceptible, but I haven’t had to treat them for 15 months now.”

Neil has a mix of summer and winter active

beetles, which he said have spread beautifully across his 2,000 acres – and have shared themselves between neighbours.

For more information visit Dr Doube’s website www.dungbeetlesolutions.com.au. The “first farmer-friendly” book on the ecology and management of dung beetles in Australia, and possibly the world, can be sourced through the website. Written by Dr Doube and organic agriculturalist Tim Marshall, *Dung down under: dung beetles for Australia* is essential reading for farmers, landcare groups and environmental organisations concerned with sustainable land management.



CALF WEIGHING THE EASY WAY

This article and the accompanying photo has been supplied by Mauree, David and Simone from Barooga South Devons in Western Australia. They have invested in a calf catcher which attaches to their quad bike to make the task of recording birth weights easier.

As David considers 'calvingease' particularly in 2 yr old heifers, is usually associated with birth weight, a calf catching pen attachment for his four-wheel motorbike was purchased. This

allows him to catch, accurately weigh, tag, mark, disinfect the umbilical cord and identify the calf's dam all within a few hours of birth. A live calf is essential as there is no profit in a dead calf, so those heifers without a calf at foot are immediately sold regardless of pedigree! Of 140 heifers mated, 32 were sold for an average of \$1324.20 per head.

Generally, for heifers to calve unassisted, calf birth weight should not exceed 40 kg –

preferably in the 32 – 36 kg range. Not many calves 43 kg+ are delivered unassisted. In our operation, heifers need to calve unassisted with a moderate size calf which will get up and go.

Admittedly cows can calve quite satisfactorily producing 50 kg calves, but once 50 kg birth weight is exceeded we find calves are slower to mobilize and may require human intervention/supervision to survive. As a breed, we feel Birthweight is one of the most important factors breeders must concentrate on.

South Devons already have the advantage of placid temperament, good growth rates, good feed conversion both in the paddock and the feedlot, excellent meat quality, high dressing percentage and high fertility. Control our birth weights and we feel that we have a near perfect animal regardless of coat colour.



CLANCY@THEOVERFLOW

*I had written him a text
Which I'd sent, hoping the next
Time he came in mobile coverage
He'd have time to say hello.*

*But I'd heard he'd lost his iPhone,
So I emailed him from my smartphone,
Just addressed, on spec, as follows:
clancy@theoverflow*

*And the answer redirected
Wasn't quite what I expected
And it wasn't from the shearing mate
Who'd answered once before.*

*His ISP provider wrote it
And verbatim I will quote it;
'This account has been suspended;
You won't hear from him anymore.'*

*In my wild erratic fancy
Visions come to me of Clancy.
Out of reach of mobile coverage
Where the Western rivers flow.*

*Instead of tapping on the small screen,
He'd be camping by the tall green
River gums. A pleasure
That the townsfolk never know.*

*Well the bush has friends to meet him,
But the rest of us can't greet him;
Out there even Telstra's network
Doesn't give you any bars.*

*He can't blog the vision splendid
Of the sunlit plains extended
Or tweet the wondrous glory
Of the everlasting stars.*

*I am sitting at the keyboard
I'm too stressed out to be bored
As I answer all the emails
By the deadlines they contain.*

*While my screen fills with promotions
For 'Viagra' and strange potions
And announcements of the million dollar
Prizes I can claim.*

*But the looming deadlines haunt me
And their harassing senders taunt me
That they need response this evening
For tomorrow is too late!*

*But their texts, too quickly ended,
Often can't be comprehended
For their writers have no time to think
They have no time to wait.*

*And I sometimes rather fancy
That I'd like to trade with Clancy:
Just set up an email bouncer
Saying 'Sorry, had to go.'*

*While he faced an inbox jamming
Up with deadlines and with spamming
As he signed off every message;
Clancy@theoverflow.*



Merilba

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Peter Gosper (Manager)

T +61 2 6778 9121

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E gosaok@activ8.net.au



*Proudly the world's largest
South Devon Herd*

SOUTH DEVON STRENGTH

Do you want a cow that always calves unassisted, has strong mothering instincts, plentiful milk supply, and top genetics for growth – these breeders look to South Devons or their Angus crosses. Linden and Greg Roberts claim these are the attributes they seek from an ideal commercial beef cow. They spent over 25 years breeding Red Angus and in the latter years crossed with South Devon and Gelbvieh bulls to increase growth and milk.

The Roberts' have now been breeding poll Blonde d'Aquitaine for the last 9 years, but still maintain a small herd of commercial red cows. They are mostly South Devon cows, yet a few Red Angus or their crosses still exist. The red herd is meant to show off what a Blonde bull can bring to a commercial beef operation; but, to do this well, the importance of using great cows is not underestimated.

Greg has often commented that South Devon cows do a tremendous job of allowing the crossbred calves to fully demonstrate their genetic potential; particularly highlighting the benefits of the extra muscle that a Blonde cross can bring.



This photo is The Bend Julia with her 6 month old Blonde x calf.

The South Devons also create the opportunity to rear some pure Blondes as embryo surrogate cows and are sometimes bred back to sexed female Red Angus semen to produce additional crossbred females. The Roberts believe that the crossbred cows have a hybrid vigour related fertility advantage, but are not sure about any

real evidence for this. However, SD x RA heifers are much more difficult to source than straight South Devons.



Photo is Belinda, a 10 yr old South Devon x Red Angus cow with her Blonde x heifer.

For several years, Linden and Greg have been purchasing yearling heifers from "The Bend" and would love to be repeat buyers for many years to come. Alas, that era has come to an end! If you want to chat more about the benefits of South Devon cows in a commercial beef herd, the Roberts' can be found by a quick google search for "Rupari Blondes" at Yarrowonga, Victoria.

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INGREDIENTS

SOUTH DEVON STEAKS – MOST IMPORTANT!

Have the steak at or very close to room temperature. You are not doing justice to your steak if you throw a cold steak on a hot plate. You know how your muscles contract when you touch something hot – so does the steak!

Seasoning.

METHOD

Heat the barbeque plate to hot.

Brush the steaks lightly with oil and season to taste.

Place the steak on the heated barbeque – if it doesn't sizzle you haven't got it hot enough – but it's too late now!

Cook on one side until the first sign of moisture appears. Turn steaks once only. Test the steaks for signs of 'doneness' with tongs. Rare is soft, medium is springy and well done is very firm.

Remove steaks from heat, place on a warm (not hot) plate and loosely cover with foil to rest for 2 to 4 minutes.

Serve with your choice of salads, veggies, chips. A dollop of garlic butter is wonderful – may not be good for you but tastes so good!

Enjoy!

SOUTH DEVONS INTEGRAL TO JOHNSTON FARM

Phillip and Judith Johnston run a commercial beef cattle operation in Mirboo North and are impressed with the attributes of South Devons, now an integral part of their herd.

Phillip and Judith commenced their farming life in Mirboo North in 1974 on 176 acres. They started dairying in 1975 and continued milking for 30 years. In 1985 they purchased an additional neighbouring 96 acres and again 1995 another 56 acres. They now farm approximately 320 acres which is heavy blue gum country of grey soils. The terrain is hilly and the average rainfall over 1000ml per year.

Hay and silage is cut from approximately 120 acres each year- enough to feed the cows over the cold and wet winter months.

In 2005 Phillip and Judith switched over to a beef operation, starting out with Angus X Friesian mothers, plus a few Hereford X Friesian and Murray Grey x Friesian.

They used a Limousin bull and an Angus bull over their 100 cows. Phillip found that they were getting \$40 per head more for their Limousin cross vealer calves than the Angus cross and bought another Limousin bull.

In 2009 Phillip changed his Angus bull to try one of his friend, Chris Daley's South Devon bulls. He was impressed with both the temperament and the growth rates of the South

Devons. The bull he purchased was out of a Lincoln Lynette cow by The Bend Rembrandt. The bull is still being used today. Phillip ran 2 Limousin bulls for a while plus the South Devon and found that the South Devon calves were so much quieter and easier to handle.

Since that day Phillip has continued to put more South Devon infusion into his herd. The herd today consists of 120 cows with calves, and a few replacement heifers being mainly South Devons. Over the years, Phillip has bought more South Devon bulls from the Daley's herd. In 2010 he bought his first South Devon purebred cow from Chris which had a nice

young bull calf at foot also by The Bend Rembrandt and the cow calved again to the same bull. Phillip still has all 3 of these bulls but has since bought The Bend J7 (by Ashlea Dominator out of The Bend Audrey) and also The Bend Kosciusko (by The Bend Easyrider out of The Bend Sapphire). 5 South Devon bulls now replace the Limousins and Phillip couldn't be happier with the temperament of the calves. He states "they are so much quieter in the yards".

The cows are run in 2 calving patterns, 1st February and 1st June (70/50) each year, the February number in 3 mobs and the June group in 2 mobs. Calves are usually sold straight



Johnston's cows with their South Devon cross calves.



A Johnston South Devon cross steer.

from their mothers at maximum age of 10 months and he targets about 350 kg liveweight. They are usually sold as vealers but occasionally sold as stores. He says he gets the same price as he would for Limousin cross vealers.

Phillip is happy with the birthweights of his calves and has few calving problems. He says the Friesian x Angus cows are excellent mothers but he has kept some of the South Devon cross red heifers to replace a few older cows. He also kept 3 heifers (triplets) from a Hereford/Angus/South Devon cow.

Phillip has also purchased a few purebred South Devon females



South Devon cross cattle in the hills.

from The Bend dispersal sale.

Phillip entered the Lardner Park Steer Trial in 2015 for the first time with a pair of South Devon X Friesian Angus steers. He could see the opportunity to benchmark his cattle against many other breeds and crossbreeds. Last year he placed

mid field and this year entered a pair of steers again. The steers were at the top end of the weight range upon entry but managed to stay below the top weight specification of 285kgs carcass weight. He scored 2nd place in the individual carcass results.

Congratulations to Phillip.



L-R Peter Squires, Tom Oakes & Robbie Bloch sell a pen of 18 Merilba South Devon cows at Inverell saleyards on 15th November, 2016 for 243.2c@ 684 kg to average \$1663.89.

"As a livestock agent in Northern NSW town of Inverell, I have the opportunity to market the South Devon cattle from John and Annette Cassidy herd at "Merilba" Kingstown.

I find the South Devons can target many markets, with their great growth for age, good frame for feed conversion and quality carcass shape for high yielding, makes many repeat buyers very happy to purchase these cattle.

Several clients have purchased South Devon bulls from the Merilba Stud and have been very happy with the increase in weaner weights and find them a pleasure to handle with their excellent temperament.

As we get paid weight for age I would recommend South Devon cattle to any herd."

Tom Oakes
C.L. Squires & Co, Inverell

SCANNING AS A CARCASE ASSESSMENT TOOL

This article has resulted from the participation of Queensland South Devon breeders at the Farmfest Field Days held near Toowoomba in June of every year.

Every year, we would be approached by Leon Martin (principal of Natural Ecosystems Group) to have our animals scanned. As the South Devons on display at Farmfest were mostly unled, it wasn't feasible, but in 2015 Graham and Heather Lindsay of Athlone South Devons took two South Devon x Brahman steers to Beef 2015 in Rockhampton and then took the same steers to Farmfest, by which time they had been on feed for eight weeks and were starting to show definite results. As these steers, had been taught to lead, we took them to be scanned and were amazed and extremely pleased with the scan results.

In 2016, Queensland breeders Athlone and Ashlea Studs, along with Kildare Stud, made a conscious decision to have the majority of cattle on display able to be led so that we could participate fully in the scanning process and the Cattleman's Cup which is a prestigious part of Farmfest.

The Cattleman's Cup is a voluntary competition, so there were 48 males scanned (8 South Devons) and 33 females (3 South Devons); some breeds decline to participate. 6 male and 6 female finalists are presented in the ring for the final and two of each were South Devons.

I then asked Leon Martin to provide the following article for Inclusion in the Review.

Natural Ecosystems Group (NEG); Livestock Solutions – Livestock Assessment Programs involving the 'Carcase Merit Index' (CMI):

The Livestock Solutions division of the 'Natural Ecosystems Group' offers a range of consultancy services including Livestock Assessment, Selection and Breeding Programs. These programs may involve the 'Carcase Merit Index' (CMI).

What is the Carcase Merit Index (CMI)?

The CMI is an industry leading, sophisticated index developed in Australia by NEG and,

evaluates the potential retail meat yield of individual live animals.

The index importantly assesses the meat yield, meat quality and variable fat content of livestock and enables the identification of 'Super Elite', 'Elite', 'Standard' and 'Sub Standard' livestock.

The critical point of difference with the CMI over other indexes, is it accounts for both meat yield and quality, ensuring going forward the livestock produced have the ability to be both high meat yielding and the meat produced can be tender and, therefore greatly improving the chances of highly satisfying the customer. A win win situation for everyone.

The system uses ultrasound technology to scan livestock carcasses and gather data. The scanning is conducted by an Industry Accredited Scanning Contractor. The livestock are weighed and scanned on property. The data is then forwarded to this office and formulated into an index value, known as the CMI, for each individual animal.


Animals with heavy live weight (LW), large eye muscle area (EMA), least fat depth (FD) and high intramuscular fat (IMF) will be rated highest by the 'CMI'.

The CMI helps everyone to make important decisions from actual data. The CMI empowers everyone to operate with surety and confidence.

How The Carcase Merit Index can help you?

Farmers:

- * It is an objective measurement tool for evaluating individual animals.
- * An animal's CMI value allows within groups the ranking of individuals from highest to lowest, and allowing peer group comparisons.
- * It can readily be used for the selection of breeding stock.
- * It can be used to engineer superior progeny that will meet specification(s).
- * It assists in the selection of efficient livestock and, therefore such use of farm resources.
- * It assists in marketing by providing a 'label' on



livestock for Farmers/Breeders, Meat Buyers and Feed-Lotters.

- * It assists in achieving optimal returns at the 'Farm Gate'.
- * It is educational - increasing the understanding of carcase data and the wide variation of meat:fat:bone ratios of individual animals.

Meat Wholesalers/Butchers/Retailers:

- * It assists in livestock selection for efficient processing - allowing a higher rate of success of carcasses meeting specification(s) and, being uniform to a desired type.
- * It assists in lowering the waste in processing, and therefore reduces the need for disposal requirements which will over time be a massive gain for society and the environment.
- * It maximises the opportunity to achieve optimal financial returns from processed product(s).

Farmfest – In recent years, if you have attended any of the cattle events at Farmfest, Toowoomba, QLD you may have witnessed the NEG; Livestock Solutions in action.

Led Steer Contest – NEG has been privileged to assess a selection of led steers and award the prestigious 'NEG; Cattleman's Cup' to the best, live, 'Super Elite' exhibit based upon the criteria of a Livestock Assessment Program involving objective measurement.

Stud Cattle – As a complimentary service NEG offers Stud Cattle Exhibitors the opportunity to have their exhibits assessed using the same Livestock Assessment Program.

Consultancy Services – The Livestock Solutions division of the 'Natural Ecosystems Group' offers a range of consultancy services including Livestock Assessment, Selection and Breeding Programs. The NEG; Livestock Solutions include four service packages -

1. The **Livestock Assessment Program** involves objective measurement (weighing, scanning and indexing), and is suited to both stud and commercial on farm projects and Public Shows/Exhibitions/Carcase Competitions.

2. The **Livestock Selection Program** involves visual appraisal (classing), and is suited to large commercial farm projects.

3. The **Livestock Assessment & Selection Programs** involve both objective measurement and visual appraisal (combined services), and is a system suited to judging at Public Shows/Exhibitions/Carcase Competitions.

These combined services provide a structured outcome with many educational advantages for the event.

4. The **Breeding Program** involves researching the breeding, pedigree and market objectives of individual cattle and where possible combining the Livestock Assessment & Selection data to construct an engineered & purposeful Breeding Program(s).

Experiences – Mr Leon Martin has personally found great success with clients in utilising the CMI as both a marketing &/or educational tool.

The 'CMI', together with the recorded data *which is real data and not projections*, can be easily comprehended.

Consequently, programs utilizing CMI are becoming increasingly popular as live animal assessment tools.

The full selection of the NEG; Livestock Solutions are commercially available for assessing cattle/ sheep/goats through-out Australia and internationally.

If you have any queries or would like a no obligation free quote do not hesitate to contact this office.

Leon A Martin B.Ag.Sc.(Hons)

Managing Director • Principal Consultant

"Working toward a better future for the Australian Livestock Producer and Meat Industry *by measuring, and making a difference*".

"No more Guess Work!!"

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MARKETING MANNERS

From the South Devon Annual Report 1990.

In this world of high competition for a slice of the beef production market an increase in numbers and percentage share of the total is going to be achieved by hard work on the part of all our Society members.

Whenever we market our breed under the Society Banner we must be careful to present a product to the buying forces that is desirable and keenly sought after.

1. Bulls need to be marketed in top working condition, not lean store condition or over fat.
2. It is desirable that information on scrotal circumference, testicle consistency scores and preferably serving capacity and mating capability should be made available.
3. When marketing crossbred females or steers (xbred or pure), cattle should be offered in consistent lines of type, preferably in tray top truck loads.
4. Try not to mix cows and calves of varying ages in pen lots – the closer the cattle ages the better.
5. As producers we may know that these lean cows perform well at home but that may not be evident in the sale pens so try to offer them in condition score 2 ½ to 3, ideal calving condition, to attract greater interest and competition.

6. When selling pregnant females check the calving pattern of farmers in the area surrounding the sale venue and only offer those that are compatible with the area.
7. Always offer pregnant females PTIC and if possible have a foetus aged so a close calving group can be offered. Preferably plan your sale groups at mating time and restrict the mating period to about 6 weeks for heifers, 8-9 weeks for cows.
8. Endeavour to give after sales service to purchasers of your cattle. Develop a working relationship with them to enable you to obtain performance and carcass data on the cattle when they are sold as fats or on the progeny of bulls or pregnant females you have sold.
9. When selling finished cattle sell where carcass feedback is available.
10. Any figures of performance is welcomed by purchasers.

These are points which should all be considered when offering cattle for sale at multi vendor or on farm sales of store, breeding and slaughter cattle. The image that our breed portrays is determined by the quality and presentation of cattle offered.

Stefan Spiker

Former Victorian State President SDCS of A Inc

PALTARRA SOUTH DEVONS

Paltarra South Devons continue to meet and exceed industry standards



Kaye Arnold

Paltarra South Devons

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Ph: 0417 863 071

Em: paltarra@activ8.net.au



DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE

Dear Tech Support

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend to Husband, and I have noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewellery applications which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend. In addition, Husband uninstalled many other valuable programmes, such as Romance and Personal attention and then installed several undesirable programmes such as Rugby, Football, Sailing and Continuous TV. Conversation no longer runs and Housecleaning simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?
Signed, *Desperate*.

Dear Desperate,

First keep in mind that Boyfriend is an Entertainment Package, while Husband is an Operating System. Please enter the command; 'http: I thought you loved me.html' and try downloading Tears. Don't forget to install

the Guilt update. If that application works as designed, Husband should then automatically run the applications Jewellery and Flowers, but remember – overuse of the above application can cause Husband to default to Grumpy Silence, Garden Shed or Beer. Beer is a very bad programme that will download the Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do; DO NOT install Mother in Law (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources). Also, do not attempt to reinstall the Boyfriend programme. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband.

In summary, Husband is a great system, but it does have limited memory and cannot download new applications quickly. It also tends to work better running one task at a time. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Favourite Foods and Hot Lingerie.

Good Luck, *Technical Support*.

TORR DOWN SOUTH DEVONS



TORR DOWN MARVEL 3 – HOMOZYGOUS POLL

Photo – May 2016 @ age 10 - sold to Two Red Wagyu breeders
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MERILBA (HL) J & A Cassidy
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SHERWOOD PARK S & P Seiffert
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Email sherwoodpark.sd@bigpond.com

TESBURY Tesbury Partnership
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THE BEND C & L Daley
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STUD DIRECTORY 2017

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CALLANISH Callanish Grazing Co
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Email callanishgrazing@gmail.com

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Email scdorman@bigpond.com

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Phone 08 9728 1179

SOUTH DEVONS ON THE WESTERN DOWNS IN QUEENSLAND

Our over sixty-year operation at Wandoan comprises 2,500 acres of mixed brigalow, belah, bottle tree and wilga country with some soft wood vine scrub. This has been sown to a mixture of green panic, Gatton panic and buffel, 250 acres oats, 100 acres of summer forage either sudan type or cow peas or lab lab.

We are meant to be in the 25 inch rainfall zone, but as everywhere in recent years, this has been very variable. Some years are as low as 7 or 8 inches while others go over 30.

My father drew the block in 1954 in the soldier preference scheme and once getting country cleaned up and buildings constructed, decided to dairy. This proceeded successfully until Dad fell a tree on himself and was unable to continue with the dairy. Hereford bulls were put in with the A.I.S. cows resulting in the best vealer calves possible. Where to go after the second cross was the big question. More Hereford percentage meant less milk and bad eyes, so, looking for a dual purpose breed we went Red Poll. Hybrid vigour again produced results, however as the herd approached pure we seemed to be losing bone and scale.

On his trip to the United Kingdom, Mr George Greenup (Rosevale Santa Gertrudis Stud, Jandowae Qld – one of Qld's foremost cattle breeders at the time) wrote an article in the Country Life saying the best British breed he had seen was the South Devon. At the time (early 1970's) the Milk Marketing board of England and Wales was promoting A.I. from European breeds and South Devon. We decided to get a number of cows in calf using a number of English bulls. Given excellent results and looking for a straight breed with milk and beef we decided to purchase some pure-bred



bulls. Few were available in Queensland, so an aged imported New Zealand bull as well as bulls from their own stud were purchased from Bruce Ironmonger at Don Millers Main Camp Station Casino. Subsequently bulls were introduced into the herd from Dungrove Tasmanian Stud, Harvey's Torr Down South Devon Stud, Bill Rogers (Halzeperon), Noel McPhee, Gerry Waterfall and latterly Ross & Dell Cauley (Ashlea).

Seasons have played a big part in our operation of late, not allowing us to get our cattle away at the desired age of 18 months - to a max 2 years. Equally we think our cattle are getting bigger and somewhat more shabby. This makes it harder to fatten as well as running less breeders. Last year 3-year-old steers were sold in Dalby, only 20 to a deck, averaged over 800kg to come back at over \$2400. Looks good, but we would be happier to sell more, younger and lighter steers. Ross Cauley is in agreement also, so we are using bulls that don't stand over much ground and are more muscled.

Our plan all along has been to have fast finishing steers that can be sold as milk or two tooth suitable for the E.U. market. At the moment we are running a herd of about 150 cows but would like to increase this, when we are able to fatten these older steers.

There is a continual turnover of breeders with heifers being got in calf at around two years while cows are culled at around ten years.

Having been South Devon breeders now for over fifty years we are obviously happy with the breed, however big, to our mind is not always better, especially massive. We are at present in the process of downsizing our cattle to some degree, to breed a more compact, heavier muscled animal. We have also over the years been alert and constantly culled quartered uddered cows. Having to milk out freshly calved cows so calves can suck is not my idea of a good mother.

To conclude, I have no hesitation in recommending South Devons as a breed to anyone contemplating a change and I would like to encourage all stud breeders in QLD to increase their output as to my mind supply is not equal to demand.

Alan Postle, Sylvan Hill, Wandoan 4419

ROSEBAY LASKA – Paddock to Plate

In 2015 a rather special calf was born at Rosebay Bazadais at Hervey Bay in Queensland, to a South Devon female bred by long term Queensland South Devon breeders Bill and Margaret Newton (Lylanne Stud) and by the impressive Bazadais sire Rosebay Falkland.

As a first cross, his destiny was not to be used for future breeding, but rather to be shown as a steer, and eventually to provide some pretty exceptional meat. He was an excellent calf as can be seen in the accompanying photo, and grew to be quite an eyecatching steer, displaying characteristics of both parents, and meshing the best characteristics of both parent breeds.

At Farmfest in Toowoomba in June 2016, he was scanned with the following results. Age 14 months; weight 504 kg; ema 95.86; rib 3; rump 5; imf 3.2. At 22 months, he was slaughtered, with the following statistics. Weight 608 kg; dressed weight 370 kg – 61.5%; saleable meat



270 kg – 73%. This is a coastal Queensland steer, not a grainfed feedlot steer from the better cattle country and these figures and the quality of the meat as seen in the accompanying photos justify the faith of the breeders Francis and Lesley Smith in continuing their crossbreeding programme with Bazadais and South Devons.



1ST CROSS BAZADAIS/SOUTH DEVON STEER

22 MONTHS

WEIGHT: 608 KG

DRESSED WEIGHT: 370KG - 61.5%

SALEABLE MEAT: 270 KG - 73%



RIB ROAST



RUMP

T-BONE

ROUND

RIB FILLET



BEEF BASIC CUTS

1 INSIDE/OUTSIDE



Inside



Inside Cap Off



Top Round Roast



Outside



Eye Round



Inside Steak

2 ROUND



Round Steak



Round



Beef Strips

4 TENDERLOIN



Tenderloin



Tenderloin Butt



Tenderloin Center Cut Steak

6 STRIPLOIN



Striploin Roast



T-bone Steak



Striploin Steak, Bone In (New York)



Striploin Steak, Boneless (New York)

7 RIB EYE



Rib Eye Roll Steak



Rib Steak, Bone In



Rib Roast



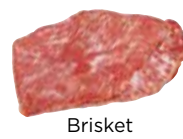
Whole Rib Eye

8 INSIDE SKIRT



Inside Skirt

9 BRISKET



Brisket

MFG. BEEF BULK PACK (GRINDING)



60 CL



80 CL



90 CL

10 CLOD/CHUCK



Chuck



Clod



Flat Iron Steak



Blade Steak, Bone In



Chuck Eye Roll Steak



Shoulder Roast



Diced

11 SHIN



Shin, Bone In (Osso Bucco)

- Sustainable Farming Practices
- Variety of Products
- Long Shelf Life
- High Food Safety Standards
- Traceable



3 TOP SIRLOIN



Top Sirloin



Sirloin Center Steak



Center Cut Sirloin



Sirloin Roast



Sirloin Cap



Tri-Tip

5 FLAP MEAT



Flap Meat



Australia is a world leader in the processing and preparation of halal meat and meat products. Processors must have a registered Halal program which complies with Australian Government Authorised Halal Program (AGAHP—a collaborative program between Islamic Societies and the Australian government) requirements. Facilities are inspected and accepted for Halal slaughter and/or production. The inspections are carried out by recognized Islamic organizations and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQIS). Halal meat is identified by an official halal stamp to carcasses or products in a carton.

The Australian beef industry is a world leader in safety and quality systems. We remain free from the major diseases of livestock and have implemented a state-of-the art animal identification system for whole of life product traceability.

Chilled, vacuum packed Australian beef achieves approximately 120 days shelf life providing the cold chain has been maintained. Australia produces a wide variety of beef including naturally raised, free range, grass/pasture fed, grainfed, Wagyu and organic products.



ETHICAL MARKETING

This article was written by Ian Turner and published in the Poll Dorset Journal May 2016. Permission was granted to edit for the South Devon Review. You decide whether and how much it applies to the Stud Cattle Industry.

Ethical Marketing - What is it and do you adhere to it?

To answer the question, we need to break it down and firstly describe the word "Marketing". This is the process of informing as many potential clients of the quality and benefits of the product you are producing, thus allowing you to expand the sales. It is an investment in achieving an improved profitability level.

Any level of production without an adequate and corresponding level of attention to marketing usually means the end result will be far poorer than desired. Good marketing without adequate quality control in the production phase will give the same result.

Combining these two factors (Production and Marketing) in balance is the ideal scenario. Failing to do this will result in one of two situations.

- Underproduction: Where you have a demand that exceeds your current production levels. This usually results in prices that are higher per unit than general industry levels. While the economic rewards are good in the short term, you risk losing potential clients through the price exceeding their budget, or you simply can't supply their needed volume.
- Over production: Where you have increased your production and supply without stimulating extra demand, or demand has dropped through other situations, sometimes beyond your control (enterprise change by your established client base; or urban spread etc). This usually results in a reduction in competition which lowers the price you receive for each unit, and/or you are left with a big carryover of product.

Both these scenarios produce economic outcomes that urgently need addressing if you are to be able to retain your margin, but as in all

situations prevention is a much better pathway than attempted cure.

Prevention of either of these outcomes is a lot easier said than done and requires an ability to read market signals, plus a willingness to adjust investment in either or both production and marketing components of your enterprise. The weather is another relatively unpredictable element.

No matter how good you are at reading these signals, it is unlikely that you will get everything in balance every year.

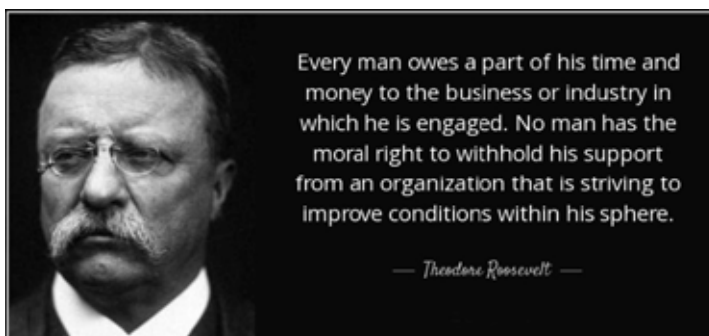
Every error of judgment is another learning experience. As the old adage goes, "Everyone makes mistakes; only a fool keeps making the same ones"!


With dedicated effort and experience the result should be a need for only small adjustments in matching supply and demand from year to year.

Now we get to the other key word in our heading; "Ethical".

The capitalist free enterprise society that we live in is a good system in allowing everyone the opportunity to reach their potential. However, and a big however, is it must be matched with a social conscience. By social conscience we mean an awareness and care factor for those around you and especially those directly and negatively affected by your actions.

Everyone has rights, but with every right comes a responsibility. With the substitution of "human" for "man" to satisfy the political correctness obsessed members who may read this, I include this quote from Theodore Roosevelt, generally rated as one of the all-time top American Presidents; an honest politician who cared about the wellbeing of all citizens.





That quote encompasses the need to contribute some effort, income, time and consideration to the organisation that supports your chosen enterprise.

For South Devon breeders, that is the South Devon Cattle Society of Australia and all the individual members it collectively includes.

Membership fees contribute to the smooth running of the organisation, registration and quality control regulations ensuring production quality remains high; limited promotion of the breed as the best option for commercial beef producers to use (your potential clients), plus organising specific events that can potentially benefit all members within a region or Australia wide.

Beyond that it is up to individual members to undertake their own extra promotions to increase their sales, but some key collective groundwork has been done for you by the Association.

Very few will begrudge someone who is very successful with increased sales when they have worked very hard to achieve that by producing a quality article and by undertaking an extensive marketing campaign to attract buyers to their door.

However, very few admire those who over produce and then flood the market on other people's doors, thus severely affecting the market place those people have worked hard to stimulate.

When some have got their supply and demand segments out of balance, classified advertising of bulls at or below the average producer's cost of production is unfortunately an all too regular occurrence.

Another scenario is "Have bulls will travel" and the blatant "dumping" of cheap surplus bulls into another area where they have rarely if ever serviced clients before.

Both these actions drive prices down for all and in some cases put good efficient producers out of business.

Such actions are not clever and they are certainly not ethical. There are better options that could be taken.

Besides investing in increased marketing to bring more buyers willingly to your door, there is very good economic reward for slaughter bulls sold over the hooks these days.

When potential oversupply signals raise their head, it is an ideal time to offload from the bottom through this slaughter option.

Competition is to be embraced, but just as we all react when subsidised foreign product is dumped in our country, competition needs ethical rules, and dare I use this phrase, "a level playing field".

A great way to fully understand the meaning of ethical marketing is to put yourself in the shoes of others. Would you be happy with the consequences if the scenario was the other way around?

The short term customer who is happy to get a cheap product is just one of your considerations. The more you nurture these people with a cheap product, the more they will expect it to be the norm.

Also, what are members of your regular client base going to think, and expect when they find out you have been selling bulls at cheaper prices than they have been paying?

What is the effect of your actions on your fellow breeder members who are giving part of their time, effort, money and consideration for the wellbeing of all other members, including you?

And perhaps to bring the issue down to simple economic terms, the question is, "Is the short term gain worth the longer term pain - is it an economically and ethically sustainable course of action?"

It is a free country – your call!

WORK SAFETY

The sun was hot already,
it was only 8 o'clock
The cocky took off in his ute
to go and check his stock.

He drove around the paddocks
checking wethers, ewes and lambs,
The float valves in the water troughs,
the windmills on the dams.

He stopped and turned a windmill on
to fill a water tank
And saw a ewe down in the dam,
a few metres from the bank

“Typical bloody sheep” he thought,
they have no common sense,
They won't go through a gateway
but they'll jump a bloody fence.

The ewe was stuck down in the mud,
he knew without a doubt
She'd stay there till she carked it
if he didn't get her out.

But when he reached the water's edge,
the startled ewe broke free
And in her haste to get away
began a swimming spree.

He reckoned once her fleece was wet
the weight would drag her down.
If he didn't rescue her
the stupid thing would drown.

Her style was unimpressive,
her survival chances slim,
He saw no other option,
he would have to take a swim.

He peeled his shirt and singlet off,
his trousers boots and socks,
and as he couldn't stand wet clothes,
he also shed his jocks.

He jumped into the water
and away that cocky swam.
He caught up with her somewhere
near the middle of the dam.

The ewe was quite evasive,
she kept giving him the slip,
He tried to grab her sodden fleece
but couldn't get a grip.

At last he got her to the bank
and stopped to catch his breath.
She showed him little gratitude
for saving her from death.

She took off like a Bondi tram
around the other side.
He swore next time he caught her
he'd hang her bloody hide.

Then round and round the dam they ran,
although he felt quite puffed,
He still thought he could run her down,
she must be nearly stuffed.

The local stock rep came along
to pay a call that day,
He knew this bloke was on his own
his wife had gone away.

He didn't really think he'd get
fresh scones for morning tea,
But neither was he ready
for what he was soon to see.

He rubbed his eyes in disbelief
at what came into view,
For running round the catchment
came this frantic looking ewe.

And on her heels in hot pursuit
and wearing not a stitch,
The farmer yelling loudly
“Come back here you lousy bitch”

The stock rep didn't hang around,
he took off in his car,
The cockys' reputation
had been damaged near and far.

So bear in mind the Work Safe rule
when next you check your flocks,
Spot the hazard, assess the risk,
and always wear your jocks.



*Landmark Armidale proudly supports
the South Devon Breed*

For your total farm business requirements contact our local team

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Merchandise Manager	Steve Ward	0407 197 760
Livestock Sales	Angus Laurie	0418 587 643
Insurance	Gwen McCluand	0457 547 015
Real Estate/Finance	Jon Goudge	0428 668 005

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SOUTH DEVON BREEDER AWARDED OAM

Congratulations to John Flynn of Alpha South Devon Stud on being awarded an OAM in recognition of his many years of medical service.

John Flynn is the senior Consultant Physician on the Northern Tablelands of NSW. Although based in Armidale, he has served the communities of the Northern Tablelands for nearly four decades, and is passionate about rural health, and is deeply concerned about the way in which rural people are treated in comparison with their metropolitan counterparts. For example, approximately one-third of taxpayers live in regional or remote Australia, where they have 200 doctors per 100,000 head of population compared with twice that number in the metropolitan areas. Furthermore, despite the same tax rate, for every Medicare dollar spent per 100,000 of population in metropolitan areas, only fifty cents is spent in rural areas. Over the years, he has tried to redress this unfair imbalance, but has been frustrated by successive Health bureaucracies that are city-centric and that do not appreciate the constraints imposed by distance and under-resourced rural hospitals.

John is also passionate about rural medical education as a means of attracting competent Doctors to rural areas. His philosophy regarding young Doctors is: "Obtain, train, and sustain rurally". In 2008, the University of New England in Armidale opened its School of Rural Medicine, to which John was appointed as a foundation adjunct Associate Professor, teaching into all five years of the program. He is concerned however that not enough effort is being directed into admitting students with rural backgrounds, as currently most of the students are from metropolitan areas and have no intention of entering rural practice. Following graduation, young Doctors are required to spend some years in hospitals, undertaking further training, and in order to try and provide this in a rural setting, John and his colleagues have arranged for Armidale Hospital to take Interns, and they have also received accreditation from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to train young specialists. John hopes that these initiatives will result in an improved rural medical workforce

with tangible benefits for rural people.

As well as practising medicine in the civilian sphere, John has given a lot of his time to the practice of military medicine through the Army Reserve. Some years ago, he retired after over 40 years of service during which time he became the senior Consultant Physician to the Australian Defence Force, earning the Reserve Forces Decoration with a Federation Star – the only Army Medical Officer to have done so. During his time, he saw active service in Rwanda, East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan, and was deployed to both Bougainville and The Solomon Islands in support of peace-keeping operations in these Pacific island states. Following the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, he was deployed to Banda Aceh in Indonesia as the senior Medical Officer of the Australian Field Hospital that was sent to provide relief. His military experiences have given him insight as to what could be done, if allowed, in rural civilian medical practice.

Outside of medicine, John's major interest is in breeding cattle, assisted by his wife, Pam, who is a geneticist at the University of New England in Armidale. Together, they have been engaged in cattle breeding for some 40 years, and initially experimented with a number of different breeds and their crosses, but were not satisfied with the results. In the early 1990s, they were introduced to South Devons, and were soon sufficiently impressed by them that they formed their ALPHA stud in 1996. Over the years, they believe they have made significant improvements to their herd in the areas of carcass characteristics (EMA and IMF), calving ease, temperament, and polling, with one of the principle tools being BreedPlan. Both John, with his medical background, and Pam, with her genetic background, have great confidence in this scientifically validated tool, and are concerned that it is not more widely used by South Devon breeders. As John puts it: "The selection methods that many of our breeders use are centuries old. This is akin to me using blood-letting to treat infections rather than antibiotics; if I were to use the former, I would surely be deregistered, and I am certain that my fellow breeders would not want to consult me as their Doctor."



GUM HILL POLL SOUTH DEVON STUD

- **Who are we?**

Successful Merino breeders since 1885, 4th, 5th and 6th active Generations continuing 132 years of success. Registered a South Devon Herd in 1972, 45 years 3 active generations

- **What do we do?**

Run 3 closed herds for maximum genetic gain based on economic factors using only young bulls on a rotational basis

- **How do we do it?**

Let nature be our selection tool.... Do or die, survive in our harsh unattended environment

- **Why do we do this?**

We want a herd that will work for us, not us work for them

- **What are the results?**

A simple solution, repeat clients, easily managed herds, performing animals

Gum Hill Poll South Devons – Breeding work-free herds for stud and commercial herds where Gross\$ = Net \$

Pioneers of Objective measurement on the merino Industry 1956,
Basis of South Devon Herd establishment in 1972

Selected Bulls and breeding cows always available

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Justin and Anthea	08 8893 4006	E justin@linesgumhill.com.au
Haydn and Poppy	08 8755 3487	E haydn@linesgumhill.com.au



www.linesgumhill.com.au

Gum Hill, where Performance matters

Why Davelle?

- With our involvement within the beef industry, we continue to read, listen and learn to what is demanded. Influencing our objectives and breeding
- We continue to weigh, scan and analyse. We see constant herd improvement, stopping is not an option!
- All Davelle cattle are registered with the SDCS
- We have stated our "Objectives" which are researched and strived for - see our website
- We hunt genetics that meet our "Objective" - internally, locally and overseas. Genetics are constantly reviewed. Keeping Davelle at the forefront, for our buyers benefit, is paramount.
- Our environment is tough, so are our cattle. They can adapt to many areas and operations.
- We select on functional type and eye appeal first, then look to our "Objectives"
- We breed both red and black to meet the market

Davelle Herd Average EBV's November 2016. All within our EBV Objectives. Knowledge is power. Know what you are buying? Providing superior proven genetics for stud and commercial breeders.

Gest. Len. (days)	Birth Wt. (kg)	200 Day Wt. (kg)	400 Day Wt. (kg)	600 Day Wt. (kg)	Mat. Cow Wt. (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Carcass Wt. (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq.cm)	Rib Fat (mm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF %	Vealer Index (\$)	Super market Index (\$)	Export Maternal Index (\$)
-1.2	+0.1	+15	+26	+29	+29	-1	+1.0	+25	+1.3	+0.6	+0.6	+0.1	+0.5	+\$24	+\$33	+\$41
Breed Avg. EBVs for 2015 Born Calves																
-0.7	+1.1	+13	+22	+29	+31	+0	+0.7	+19	+0.5	-0.1	-0.2	+0.2	+0.0	+18	+22	+28

Recent Achievements –

- Semen sales to New Zealand (Davelle UB Righton H26) and USA (Davelle Black Ace K2). Export semen available
- Consistent results in carcass competitions – 2016 Royal Adelaide 2nd highest scoring steer 91.46 points. 7 Davelle breed steers averaged 85.89 points.
- Import of MJB Cool 548C, calves due July 2017
- Continue to exhibit our cattle at local shows to compare with differing breeds. We continue to have great success with many broad ribbons and placings.
- David has been Beef Cattle Judge at South Australian shows. A great opportunity to appraise and appreciate many breeds.

Semen for Sale - see our website for up to date details
Annual Sale in February each year Bulls and Females on AuctionsPlus



Davelle UB Righton H26 at 40mths 1,050kg
 Rump Fat 13mm • Rib Fat 7mm • IMF 5.1%
 Eye Muscle Area 159cm². Semen for Sale.



Davelle Black Ace K2 – at 30mths 958kg
 Eye Muscle 140cm² • Rump Fat 8mm • Rib Fat 5mm
 IMF 4.9%. Moderate and Powerful. Calves are impressive.

David & Rochelle Leese
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