

Matthew Butler & Katherine Moore
North Island, New Zealand

NZ EVENTS



Bright future on horizon

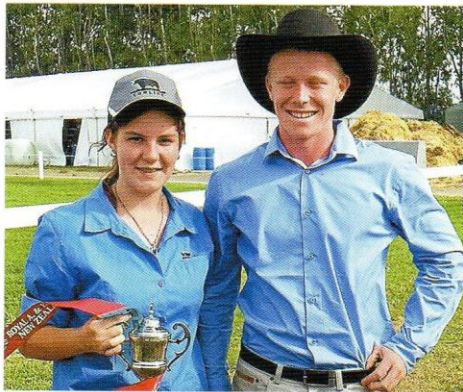
By JUDY SAINSBURY

FROM Triple M Lowline stud, a tiny farmlet in Eltham, South Taranaki, 15-year-old Katherine Moore travels New Zealand's North Island, competing with her family's Lowlines in all breeds and youth handler events.

Her hard work paid off at the 2013 New Zealand Royal Show at Feilding, Manawatu, when judge Ross Canning from Victoria awarded her the North Island Lowline Breeders Group Cup as the best Lowline handler under 18.

Second was Matthew Butler of Whakatane. The class was judged over all the rings competed in for the day, which meant that the young handlers prepared and paraded cows, calves, bulls and two-year-olds.

Starting with school calf competitions in 2006, Katherine's first



Katherine Moore, winner of the North Island Lowline Breeders Group Cup for best handler under 18 at the NZ Royal Show, with Matthew Butler, who was second. In New Zealand, red signifies a first prize.

show experience with Lowlines came at Kumeu, Auckland, in 2008 when she was 10 years old.

With encouragement from the judge, the late Tammy Breuer, she became hooked, and thereafter wanted only to handle and

show Lowline cattle.

Today she is sought after as a handler by many breeds and has a mantelpiece of handling trophies.

Katherine confidently and patiently trains all of the young stock at Triple M, a small holding of just under 5 acres made up of 14 small paddocks with a small stream and a set of yards built for sheep, but which work well with smaller cattle. The Moore family runs four Lowline cows and calves plus a few breeding ewes to cross-graze, keep the paddocks clean and put meat in the freezer.

The Lowlines are strip-grazed Kiwi dairy farm style behind two wire electric fences, which stop them getting on their knees and grazing further than intended. Paddocks are regularly harrowed (New Zealand has no dung beetles to break down manure) and topped and rotation-

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ally fertilised in spring and autumn in a lifestyle which also accommodates a 28-year-old horse bred by mother Sandy, a huge vegetable garden, chooks, cats, dogs and even breeding goldfish. Sandy works full time while Katherine has school and pamphlet runs, so hours for cows are usually in the evenings and weekends, more so when the show season is looming.

"We're so pleased that we chose Lowlines," Sandy said. "They don't make a mess in winter and are easy to handle, lack calving problems and are free from the metabolic problems that bigger animals exhibit on this rich country. I just wish that we had a few hills for them to build muscle on." 