



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
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Merry Christmas

Another year has come & gone so quickly. Everyone is busy racing around making preparations for Christmas & the coming New Year.

Your ALCA Council & ABRI staff wish all our members & their families a very happy & safe Christmas & New Year.

Christmas Closure Times

ALCA Office –

We are closed from the afternoon of Friday 22nd December 2017 & will be back on Monday 8th January 2018.

Geneseek Laboratory

(formerly University of Queensland UQ) –

The Animal Genetics Laboratory will be closed over the Christmas break from Friday 22nd December 2017 to Monday 8th January, 2018.

If you have any DNA samples to send in, please wait until the first week in January to post so the samples will reach the laboratory when it re-opens.

Zoetis Laboratory –

The Zoetis Laboratory will be open as usual over the Christmas/New Year period & will only be closed on the Public Holidays.

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Calf Identification for 2018 -
the Year Letter is

P



How to Photograph your Cattle

A picture is worth a thousand words... but bad pictures of your cattle can cost you plenty! Many potential customers cannot visit your farm to view your cattle in person, but when they see your cattle in your photo album, a sale catalogue, or in an advertisement in your breed publication or on the Internet, you want their first impression to be a good one.

A medium priced digital camera is perfect for livestock pictures. Make sure it has a zoom lens so you can get a close-up without having to get too close and a built-in flash to help with the shadows. You can take several extra shots of the same animal and then just delete the not so good pictures. The auto-focus and auto-exposure controls make the camera easy to use. With the photo editing software usually included with the camera you can crop and adjust the brightness and contrast to improve your picture even more. You can email the photo to the person doing your ad or web site and they have it the same day it was taken.

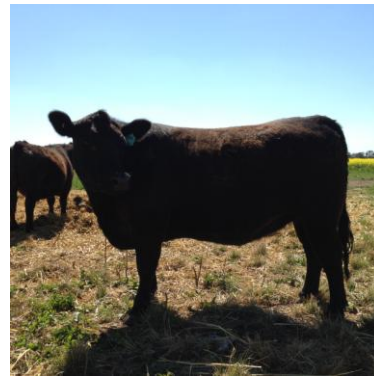
Tips from a professional livestock photographer:

Don't carry a bucket of feed or hay with you to take your pictures. What you'll get for the next hour are cattle with their heads down eating. Instead, just ease into the pasture and wait until the cattle get used to you. Move slowly so you don't spook them.



Don't take photos of cows with heads down eating

Take your photos early or late in the day, never in the middle of the day. It just doesn't work. Hazy or cloudy days work better than bright clear days. Keep the sun behind you. Stand where your shadow does not fall into the picture. Use your flash to help eliminate shadows.



Avoid bright sunlight

Get another person to help you. The best pictures have the ears forward with the head up looking at a 45° angle. The best way to accomplish this is to have the other person stand in front of the animal and do something to get their attention, wave their arms, whistle or do whatever necessary get the cow to look at him.



Head up & ears forward

Fill as much of the frame as possible with the animal. Have room to back up if necessary. Do not cut off any of the head or feet; get the whole animal in the photo.

How to Photograph your Cattle cont.

Have the cow going uphill. Cattle photograph much better when their front legs are higher than their back legs. Professional photographers even build a mound for the front legs to stand on. Standing on level ground is not good but going downhill is terrible.



Top: Bull is standing with front legs downhill.
Bottom: Bull standing correctly

Cattle generally photograph best if you aim directly at their side, standing neither in front nor behind them. Get them to stand with their back leg that is closest to you back so you can see their udder or testicles. It is best for the camera to be lower than the center of the cow. Get down on the ground if necessary. Never take a picture with the camera higher than the cow. It makes them look small.



Left: Never take a photo from above the cow. Make sure the head is up, looking alert & legs are positioned properly



A good paddock photo of a mature Lowline bull showing all his best attributes

The background of your picture is important! Make sure you don't get a shot with your ute, hay feeders, junk piles or other cows in the picture. Don't have a fence post or telephone post sticking up out of the back of the animal.

A cow standing in a green pasture with some spring flowers blooming makes a great picture. Try not to have them standing next to a fence. The best way to avoid fences is to string a thin single strand of electric fence wire. If the cattle are used to electric fencing it doesn't even need to be hot.

As a rule of thumb try to get a dark colored background for light colored cattle and a lighter colored background for dark cattle. It is much harder to get a good picture of a dark cow.

Try to take your pictures in the spring or early summer after they have shed their winter hair and are in good condition. A good time is after a rain has cleaned them up.

So let's start shooting!

<http://www.cattletoday.com/archive/2004/May/CT327.shtml>



It's Showtime! - Entries are Open

2018 Royal Canberra Show

2018 Royal Canberra Show will be held from 23rd – 25th February at Exhibition Park in Canberra.

The closing date for entries is 2nd January, 2018.

Further information can be found at <http://www.canberrashow.org.au/cattle>

If you would like to enter the show but need further information about the event, please contact the NSW Promotion Group nswalcp@gmail.com



2018 Royal Toowoomba Show

Schedules for the 2018 Royal Sydney Easter Show are available to download from http://www.toowoombashow.com.au/uploads/media/Draft_Beef_Schedule.pdf

Entries can be done ONLINE.

Entries Close: 13th February 2018

Dates: 12 – 14th April 2018

For further information:

<http://www.toowoombashow.com.au/rasq-toowoomba-royal-show/show-schedules/>

2018 Royal Sydney Easter Show

Schedules for the 2018 Royal Sydney Easter Show are available to download from <http://www.rasnw.com.au/sydney-royal-competitions/competitions/cattle/>

Entries can be done ONLINE.

Entries Close: 7th February 2018

Beef Cattle Dates: 19th March – 28th March 2018

If you need further information contact the NSW Promotion Group nswalcp@gmail.com



2018 Rockhampton Beef Expo Stud Cattle Show

2018 Rockhampton Beef Expo will be held from 6th – 12th May 2018

Schedules are available to download from <http://beefaustralia.com.au/cattle-competitions/stud/>

Entries can be done ONLINE.

Entries Close: 2nd February 2018



Blackleg in Cattle - the importance of vaccinations

The 'sudden death' of a healthy 16 month old steer was a recent discussion topic on the Australian Lowline Cattle Discussion page on Facebook.

Blackleg was a possible cause of this death. The steer had been vaccinated twice as a calf with 7in1 vaccination & was due to have his 12 month booster this month.

The other possible cause of death was Brown Snake venom from a snake bite.

The cause & prevention for Blackleg might be of interest to members.

The following article is from the NSW Dept of Agriculture – PRIME FACTS

Blackleg in Cattle

Introduction

Blackleg is a fatal disease of young cattle. It produces an acute local infection, and the resulting blood poisoning leads to rapid death. The name 'blackleg' derives from the fact that the site of infection is often a leg muscle, and that the affected muscle is dark in colour.

Occurrence of Blackleg

Although the disease is widely distributed in New South Wales, most losses from blackleg occur in the eastern half of the state. In some areas the disease may appear on several properties, while in other areas only isolated farms are affected. Sometimes, only part of a property is affected.

Susceptible animals

Although blackleg has been found in cattle as young as 2 months old, most losses occur in cattle between 6 months and 2 years of age. Occasionally, losses are seen in adult cattle. Generally, the best conditioned animals are affected, with most losses occurring where there is an abundance of feed. Blackleg can occur at any time of the year, though more losses are seen during hot, humid weather or following the sudden onset of cold periods.

Cause

Blackleg is produced by spore-forming bacteria. The organisms most commonly responsible are *Clostridium chauvoei* and, less frequently, *C. septicum*. Spores produced by the clostridia can lie dormant in the soil for years without losing their potency.

Method of infection

Bacterial spores are eaten in contaminated feed or soil. The spores then enter the bloodstream and lodge in various organs and tissues, including muscles. Here they lie dormant until stimulated to multiply, possibly by some slight injury to the animal. The injury reduces blood flow to the area, thereby reducing the supply of oxygen to the tissues. In the absence of oxygen, the spores germinate and multiply. As they grow, the bacteria produce toxins which destroy surrounding tissues. The toxins are absorbed into the animal's bloodstream which makes the animal acutely sick and causes rapid death.

Signs of the disease

Blackleg should be suspected if an animal aged between 6 months and 2 years:

- becomes lame with swelling of a muscle;
- stops grazing;
- appears sick and quickly goes down.

However, these signs are usually of such short duration that they may be missed. More frequently, a thrifty calf or yearling is simply found dead. Gas is detectable under the skin and this produces a crackling sensation when the skin is rubbed with the hand. The rapid accumulation of gas under the skin and in the body cavity gives the carcass a bloated appearance, with the limbs spread apart and pointing upwards. There may be a frothy, bloodstained discharge from the mouth, nostrils and anus. If the skin over the affected area is removed, excess bubbly bloodstained fluid can be seen, and the muscle immediately below will be dark in colour. However, when the affected muscle is inside the carcass, such as when the heart muscle is affected, no external evidence of the disease is found.



Blackleg in Cattle - the importance of vaccinations cont

Because the disease is accompanied by rapid decomposition, the post-mortem changes may be masked by gas formation, especially if examination of the carcass is delayed for more than a few hours.

The only effective means of controlling blackleg is by vaccination. Several makes of multivalent vaccine ('5 in 1' or '7 in 1') are available commercially and care should be taken to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- Calves should receive two doses of blackleg vaccine. Two vaccinations 1 month apart are essential to provide the best protection.
- A booster vaccination 12 months later should provide lifelong immunity to blackleg.
- It is desirable to give the initial two doses of vaccine before young cattle reach their most susceptible age of six months.
- To await the occurrence of blackleg before vaccinating is unwise, as vaccines take 10–14 days before they begin to provide immunity. If store cattle are purchased in blackleg areas, it is wise to vaccinate all newly bought young cattle.

Vaccination techniques

The vaccine should be delivered just under the skin – not into the muscle. Draw up a pinch of skin and insert the needle between the skin and the muscle. The loose skin of the neck is convenient for this.

Abscesses or large swellings at the site of vaccination are usually the result of:

- lack of hygiene;
- injecting into muscle rather than beneath the skin.

Treatment

The speed with which blackleg kills usually makes individual treatment useless. In some cases, however, animals treated early with antibiotics may survive, although they often suffer permanent deformity due to partial or complete destruction of muscles.

Carcass disposal

Carcasses of animals known to have died from blackleg should not be opened. Opening the carcass can liberate bacteria which will form spores that will contaminate the ground and subsequently infect other cattle. Also, do not drag carcasses along the ground. If possible, burn or deeply bury the carcasses where they lie.



Canterbury A & P Show in NZ. Young parader, Ryan Ashworth's smile says it all - this is what showing should be about for young people. Ryan, aged 11, and his mate, Woolstone Park Swandri, a yearling bull had a great time at the show.

Carcass Competition Success

Congratulations to Peter & Jeanette Stebbins for their success at the 2017 Noorat Carcass & Eating Competition in Victoria.



On The Hoof – The Ardrossan steer was placed 2nd & the cross bred steer was placed 5th.

Well done !

2017 Beaudesert Show, Qld

Tanview Master won Supreme British Breed Bull then went on to win the top spot Supreme Bull of the Show at just 15 months of age – a welcome surprise for breeders, Kenneth & Tanya Falkenhagen of Tanview Lowlines !

Blue Jem Little Star, now owned by Tanview, won Supreme British Breed Female and just got beaten by the Falkenhagen's Limousin female for Female of the Show.

Tanview also won the Interbreed Pair of females, were placed second in the Pair of Bulls & first place with their Breeders Group and Sires Group. Congratulations Tanview – what a great way to end the show season!



Welcome to New Members

It is really satisfying to see the continued growth of our membership thanks to breed promotion by our members.

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to our Association.

Priscilla Gallo (Full membership)
Bellawongarah, NSW – Amaroo Lowlines

Jane and Mark Walker (Commercial Membership)
Clarenza NSW – Four Mile Cattle

Karin & Gustav Volschenk (Full Membership)
Lalor, Vic – Ruhetal Lowlines

Cathy and Dale Lait (Full Membership)
Milora, Qld – Gumnut Ridge Lowlines

Join the Australian Lowline Discussion Group



If you like social media, why not join the Australian Lowline Discussion Group page on Facebook.

It is the best place for Lowline breeders, owners & lovers to talk about anything they would like to discuss about our breed.

If you are new to Lowlines or cattle in general, why not ask any questions you have about animal husbandry, feeding cattle, breeding or handling. Maybe you have questions about farm fencing or yards, or you have something to sell.

Many experienced cattle people are members of the group & are willing to share their knowledge. It's a great way to 'meet' people too.





Another example of a good paddock photo – cattle standing well & looking alert.

McIntosh Creek Kept A Secret & her beau, Goan Myall II (McIntosh Creek)

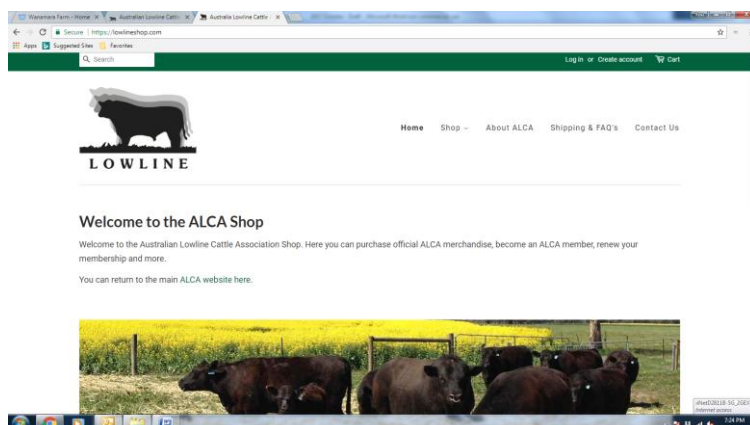
Lowline Shop

ALCA website => MEMBERSHIP tab => SHOP

We now have a one-stop Lowline Shop available for all your Lowline apparel, merchandise, promotional material and for the easy payment of ALCA fees and services.

All you have to do is add an item to your Shopping Cart and payment is made directly online.

Christmas/New Year Holidays –
The ALCA Office will be closed between
22nd December 2017 & 8th January 2018 so any
new orders will be processed after the 8th January
2018.



Southern Queensland Promotion Group

The Southern Queensland Promotion Group is organizing a Certified Lowline Beef (CLB) Workshop for members in January or February 2018.

Key speakers will be organized for the event to introduce & explain to members about how they can become involved with producing & selling their Lowline beef.

The day will also incorporate how to set up a Co-operative to sell beef as a group.

Members will be advised of further details in the New Year.

Advertising in the 2018 ALCA Journal

Preparations are underway for the next ALCA Journal which will be available for Rockhampton Beef Expo in May 2018.

Members will have the opportunity to publicise their studs internationally by advertising in this publication which will be handed out at Rocky Beef.

It is great publicity for your stud as the Journals are freely available to all who visit the Australian Lowline stand at the Expo.

So start practicing your photography skills & get some impressive photos of your stock for your advertisement in the 2018 ALCA Journal.

Advertising prices & information will be sent to members early in the New Year.

Don't miss this opportunity!



How to Tattoo your Cattle

2018 - Year letter is P

Mandatory Cattle Identification - ALCA By-Law 8

All cattle submitted for registration must be either ear tattooed OR conform to the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) in Australia or the National Animal Identification and Tracing Scheme (NAIT) in New Zealand.



Tattooing

Requirements:

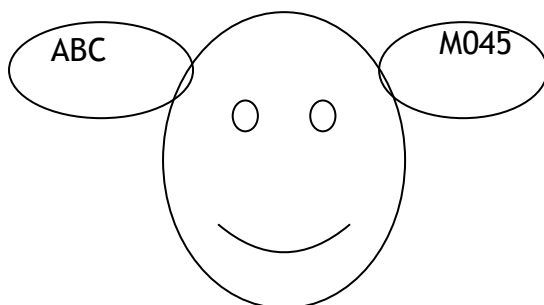
- Tattoo gun with letters & numbers
- Green Ketchum Tattoo ink
- Cotton buds (to save ink on hands)
- Disposable plastic gloves

Confine animal's head in a head bale. Clean the inside of both ears with water on a cloth. Don't use any chemicals (eg. methylated spirits) as this will stop the ink from staining the skin and leaving a tattoo.

The **stud tattoo code** (eg. ABC) goes into the animal's right ear so that it can be read upright from the front (the ear on the left when you face the animal).

The **year letter** and **individual calf number** (eg. M045) is imprinted into the animal's left ear (the ear on the right when facing the animal).

In the example below, with the stud tattoo in the animal's right ear & the Year letter & calf number in the left, the full ear tattoo can be read as 'ABC M045', which is the animal's ID.



Steps To Tattoo

1. Clean inside the ears
2. Get the Tattoo letters and numbers out ready
3. Place your STUD CODE letters in the tattoo gun (3 digits)
4. Check the letters are the correct way around by testing tattoo on a piece of cardboard or paper
5. Make sure you have your disposable gloves on to save a mess on hands
6. Put green ink on the letter pins & on the area to be tattooed in the ear using a cotton bud
7. Place tattoo gun in the top third of the ear, as far in from the hairline as possible. Try to avoid the large blood vessels.
8. Close gun tightly - holding pressure for a few seconds.
9. Remove tattoo gun & rub in the green ink over the area that has been tattooed - either with your gloved finger or the cotton bud.
10. Most tattoos will bleed a bit but leave the area to scab & heal by itself.
11. Repeat for the other ear, using the YEAR LETTER & CALF NUMBERS (4 digits)

It is mandatory to have good tattoos at all major shows, especially Royal Shows. The tattoos will be inspected prior to judging and if any animal has an unreadable or incorrect tattoo, it will be disqualified from the competition.

If you are unsure of how to tattoo or apprehensive about doing it, ask another breeder to give you a hand or show you how to do it.

If you are new to the breed & don't know anyone, your state Promotion Group should be able to suggest someone in your area that might help.

PG contacts are on the website under the Promotion Group tab.

