



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
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ALCA AGM 2018

Don't forget the AGM & Farm Tours will be held on the weekend of 3rd & 4th November in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We are looking at LIVESTREAMING parts of the Conference & AGM so keep an eye on Facebook to see how to join in!

Day One – Saturday 3rd November

12 noon -- Meet and greet/registrations & lunch

1 p.m. -- Breed conference with speakers:

- Monique Koning – The impact of *mycoplasma bovis* in N.Z.
- Professor Dr. Pablo Gregorini – Aspects of beef production
- Johanna Scott – The transition to SNP from Microsatellite DNA

3 p.m. Afternoon Tea

3.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting of ALCA

4.30 p.m. Council meeting

6.30 p.m. Meet for conference dinner at 7 p.m.

Day Two – Sunday 4th November

Stud tour by luxury coach departing and returning to the Commodore on Memorial Avenue.

Departure 8 a.m.

The 310 km tour will take about 9 hours, but only half of that will be travelling, the rest of the time on farm.

You will visit

- Woolstone Park Lowline Stud – Philip and Kay Worthington, Rangiora
- Flat Hills Lowline Stud – Monique Koning and Ron Uitdewilligen, Hororata
- Ashmore Lowline Stud – Gordon and Debbie Guthrie, Ashburton
- Araawa Lowline Stud – Kevin and Penny Harmer, Dunsandel

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Merchandise available at the AGM in New Zealand

For those attending the AGM you will have the opportunity to purchase some special ALCA merchandise – free of postal charges!

A limited number of special Lowline mugs & Australian Lowline books will be for sale.

There will also be some of the normal merchandise – Lowline caps, badges & key rings

These will only be available at the AGM so be there to take advantage of this offer!



Selling Livestock in Victoria - new regulations

**Are you selling livestock?
Your advert must include
the Property Identification
Code**

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

A person selling livestock must include the Property Identification Code of the property where the animals are kept in any advertisement. This is not required if a livestock agent is involved in the sale, and their name and contact details appear in the advert.

INCLUSION OF THE PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODE IN ADVERTS FOR SALES OF LIVESTOCK

What is required and when?

A person must include the Property Identification Code of the property where the animals are kept in any advert selling cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, poultry, camels, alpaca, llama or deer. This includes adverts placed in printed classified adverts, posted online via online sales sites (e.g. Gumtree) or on social media sites (e.g. Facebook). It includes when livestock are offered free of charge, or for barter, or for exchange of money.

Why is this required?

There are traceability systems in place to ensure that the movements of sold livestock are recorded and their origins can be determined. This is important in the event of a disease outbreak or chemical or other contamination issue.

There are lower levels of compliance with traceability requirements in some situations, including private sales between individual properties. Sales are increasingly occurring which do not involve traditional avenues, e.g. online sales through new trading platforms and social media.

The requirement to include the Property Identification Code in adverts will assist Agriculture Victoria trace the origins of livestock when required, and will raise awareness of the requirement to have a Property Identification Code and the importance of traceability.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes, if you are utilising the services of a livestock agent, the inclusion of the agent's name and contact details in the advert means that you do not have to include the Property Identification Code.

What are the consequences of not including the Property Identification Code?

It is an offence to not include the Property Identification Code in the advert. It is an offence to publish an advert which does not include a Property Identification Code.

A person may be issued with an infringement notice if they commit an offence, and be prosecuted under the Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2017.

Using a livestock agent in the sale and the publication of their name and contact details in the advert means that a person does not have to include the Property Identification Code in the advert.

What is a Property Identification Code and how to I obtain one?

A Property Identification Code (PIC) is the eight character alphanumeric code allocated by Agriculture Victoria. In Victoria, PICs commence with the prefix '3' and are in the format '3ABCD123'. There is no charge to apply for a PIC.

All properties on which cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, poultry, camels, alpaca, llama or deer are kept must have a PIC. This includes where these livestock are kept as pets. For the purposes of allocating PICs, a property is defined as a parcel of land, consisting of one or more blocks within the one locality, operating as part of a livestock enterprise.

- **Apply** online at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic. You can also use the online service to update your existing PIC details if they have changed.
- Download an application form by visiting www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic.
- Contact Agriculture Victoria's NLIS Helpline during office hours on 1800 678 779 to have a form mailed or emailed to you.
- For more information visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au



Welcome to New Members

ALCA would like to give a warm welcome the following new members to our Association –

Mark McGregor & Cindy Peel-McGregor

(Full membership)

Owaka, South Island, NZ – Tahakopa Lowlines

Robbie Hill & Kimsey Hill (Full Membership)

Pillar Valley, NSW – Chaffin Creek Farm Lowlines

Penelope Windler & Philip Jacques

(Commercial Membership)

Bald Hills, SA

Mike & June Neale (Full Membership)

Port Curtis, Qld – Golden Triangle Lowlines

Andrew Down (Commercial Membership)

Currency Creek, SA

Moira & Neil Landford (Commercial Membership)

Wondecla, QLD –

Croft Manor Farm Pty Ltd (Full Membership)

Kurrajong, NSW – Maggiemae Lowlines

Peter Baldwin & Jodi Wruk (Commercial Membership)

Veteran, QLD



2019 Lowline Journal

Do you want a 2019 Lowline Journal published next year?

If so, are you prepared to advertise your stud or farm in it to help cover costs?

Are you prepared to submit articles & photos for another journal?

Would you give your time to assist with the production of the journal?

As costs for publishing a journal has increased & the reduced number of member advertisements does not cover printing costs, there has been a suggestion of ceasing the publication of the journal.

Our regular newsletters inform members of on-going activities & supply other information. Much of the information in the journals is shared with members in newsletters throughout the year.

Website & social media outlets are the trend in advertising & promotion these days, involving minimal cost.

The Australian Lowline book is now a major promotional tool & includes names of ALCA members for the 2017/2018 year, which is free advertising for them.

ALCA promotional pamphlets are available to hand out at events to anyone interested in the breed. These are free for members to use.

Let us know your thoughts.

Contact the ALCA office with any constructive comments or suggestions.

office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Council will discuss this & a decision will be made shortly.



New Lowline Registrar

ABRI have made further changes to positions in their office so ALCA has another new Lowline Registrar – Natalie Herd.

Natalie has been with ABRI a number of years and has worked within the Brangus, Dexter and Devon societies as a registrar.

Natalie will be working Mondays to Thursdays.

Natalie will be available at the usual e-mail address of lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au and phone number **02 6773 5588** for all registration enquiries.

Please send your registrations &/or enquiries concerning registrations/transfers directly to Natalie.

We would like to thank Tessa Pearson for her valued time with ALCA & wish her well in her new position at ABRI.



Haven't renewed yet?

Go to The Lowline Shop to renew now –

www.lowlineshop.com/collections/memberships-forms/products/membership-renewal

Genetics - the Big Cow Myth

Easy calving, high fertility, longevity, feed efficiency and docility are all traits that the Lowline breed is renowned for. When combined with a compact frame and excellent carcase traits resulting in top quality beef, this breed suddenly becomes commercially viable and highly desirable.

For years now, the breeders of Lowlines have experienced the Lowline advantage and now it seems that others are recognising that bigger doesn't necessarily mean better!

In the following article, prominent Angus seedstock breeder Harry Lawson shares his views on cow size and 'frame creep' in the seedstock industry. Despite the fact that eastern Australia is experiencing one of the worst droughts ever, beef producers are paying record prices for bulls with record Mature Cow Weight EBVs, and don't seem to be connecting the dots, he says....

Read the full story – you will find it really interesting!

Genetics: The big cow myth – measuring the economic impact

By Beef Central, 21 August 2018

<https://www.beefcentral.com/genetics/genetics-the-big-cow-myth-measuring-the-economic-impact/>



2018 Royal Melbourne Show Results

The Royal Melbourne Show is over for another year and the Australian Lowlines, once again, showed the public a line-up of quality animals everyone would be proud to have in their herd at home. Although the entry numbers for all breeds were down due to the drought, the Lowlines presented 26 animals from 7 Victorian studs.

We were really excited to have as our judge, long-time Lowline advocate, Lucy Newham from Cobar, NSW. Lucy had worked with Tammy Breuer (Allambie) & her show teams, so has been involved with the breed for many years. Her only other time to judge Lowlines at Melbourne Show was in 2001 so Lucy was really pleased to be asked to judge at Melbourne this year.

Lucy commented that she was very impressed with the cattle throughout & the quality was excellent.

Congratulations to all the exhibitors at Melbourne. It was another fun & friendly show. Thank you to the other Victorian breeders who came on judging day to give us all a hand & show their support.

FEMALES

Heifer, 12 To 16 Months

1. Ballarat Grammar Nancy – Ballarat Grammar

Heifer, 12 To 16 Months

1. Wanamara Mary Poppins – G & J Knight
2. Rotherwood Qunitessence – G & J Knight
3. Ardeen Maleficent – A & S O'Brien
4. Tarrawarra Gorgeous – J & R Feagan
5. Tarrawarra Galaxy – J & R Feagan

Heifer, 16 To 20 Months

1. Rotherwood Number One Girl – V Gilbert
2. Ardeen Mystique – A & S O'Brien

Junior Champion Heifer

Rotherwood Number One Girl – V Gilbert

Reserve Junior Champion Heifer

Wanamara Mary Poppins – G & J Knight



Matt Cooney with his Supreme Exhibit – Cann Valley Lunar Eclipse – also judge, Lucy Newham & Gill Lorains (Whitby Farm) presenting the Supreme rosette

Heifer, 20 - 24 Months

1. Ballarat Grammar Maggie – Ballarat Grammar
2. Ballarat Grammar Maisie – Ballarat Grammar

Cow or Heifer, 24 - 36 Months

1. Tarrawarra Fantasia – J & R Feagan

Cow, Over 36 Months

1. Cann Valley Lunar Eclipse – M.Cooney
2. Ballarat Grammar Kate – Ballarat Grammar
3. Whitby Farm Georgie – K & G Lorains

Senior Champion Female & Grand Champion Female

Cann Valley Lunar Eclipse – M.Cooney

Reserve Senior Champion Female

Tarrawarra Fantasia – J & R Feagan

Grand Champion Female

Cann Valley Lunar Eclipse – M.Cooney



Junior & Grand Champion Bull –
Wanamara Dynamite



2016 Royal Melbourne Show Results cont.

BULLS

Bull, 9 – 12 Months

1. Cann Valley Nutcracker – M.Cooney
2. Ardeen Magneto _ A & S O'Brien

Bull, 12 To 15 Months

1. Whitby Farm The Best Man – K & G Lorains

Bull, 18 To 20 Months

1. Wanamara Dynamite – G & J Knight
2. Ballarat Grammar Nevett – Ballarat Grammar

Junior Champion Bull

Wanamara Dynamite – G & J Knight

Reserve Junior Champion Bull

Cann Valley Nutcracker – M.Cooney

Bull, 20 To 24 Months

1. Whitby Farm Richard II – K & G Lorains
2. Rotherwood Master Maelstrom – V.Gilbert
3. Ballarat Grammar Norman – Ballarat Grammar

Bull, Over 36 Months

1. Tarrawarra Eclipse – J & R Feagan
2. Ballarat Grammar JD – Ballarat Grammar

Senior Champion Bull

Whitby Farm Richard II – K & J Lorains

Reserve Senior Champion Bull

Rotherwood Master Maelstrom – V Gilbert

Grand Champion Bull

Wanamara Dynamite – G & J Knight

Supreme Exhibit – Cann Valley Lunar Eclipse

Most Successful Exhibitor – Ballarat Grammar

Best Three Head, Any Age, Both Sexes

- 1 K & G Lorains – Whitby Farm
- 2 Ballarat Grammar
- 3 Ballarat Grammar

Sire's Progeny

- 1 Ballarat Grammar – Ballarat Grammar JD
- 2 Ballarat Grammar – Ballarat Grammar Fordy

Best Two Females, Under 20 Months

1. Ballarat Grammar

Changes to DNA Testing- Geneseek/Neogen

On 1 September 2017, GeneSeek Australasia Pty Limited (GAA), a wholly owned Neogen Corporation Company, acquired 100% of the assets and business of The University of Queensland's Animal Genetics Laboratory (UQ AGL).

Over the next 3 years, Geneseek will be phasing out the microsatellite testing (MiP) which is the DNA/Parent Verification testing that we use in Australia at the moment (using tail hairs).

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) testing is one of the newest forms of DNA technology & needs a tissue sample rather than the tail hair samples.

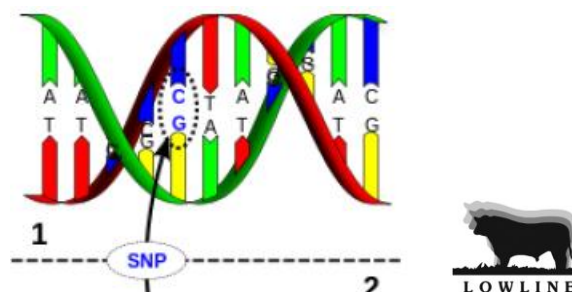
SNP DNA testing is available now for your cattle DNA & Parent verification.

If you decide to change to the new SNP testing the parent animals require their previous DNA samples to be re-tested under the new SNP technique so Parent Verification can be done for any progeny.

It will not be compulsory to change to the new SNP testing yet but after 3 years, if you continue to use the Geneseek/Neogen Laboratory, you will have to change testing to SNP.

Zoetis, another genetic testing laboratory, will not be changing solely to SNP testing, so you can still have the usual MiP testing (using tail hairs) for DNA & Parent verification done at this facility.

For further information, contact Carole at the ALCA office office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au



Why Registration of Lowlines is Vital

Registered Lowlines have to be DNA tested to prove that they are direct descendants of the Foundation Herd. This means that each and every animal in that particular pedigree has been DNA verified and therefore proven to be 100% Lowline.

The Foundation Herd is derived from the stock that was procured for the Trangie Research Centre by the NSW DPI. The herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle at Trangie were selected from the best available around the world at the time. This became a closed herd and from this stock, the Lowlines were developed during the trials commencing in 1974 through until 1992.

The closed status of this herd and the subsequent formation of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association resulted in the genetic purity of the Lowlines being maintained.

In more recent years the foresight of the foundation members of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association to preserve and maintain this genetic purity is proving invaluable. Preserving the purity and integrity of the Lowline breed has major benefits for today's breeders.

Primarily, the refusal to allow breeding up to pure bred status, as seen with some breeds, has prevented the introduction of undesirable traits resulting in inconsistency and the potential loss of desirable traits. It has also protected the breed from the introduction of heritable genetic defects and or diseases.

Once a gene is introduced it is always there. No second chances. A genetic combination cannot be undone.

In the light of some issues that other breeds are experiencing with recessive genetic defects, the genetic purity of Lowlines is a valuable asset. To not have to worry about such problems either being in your herd or being introduced to your herd creates peace of mind.

Quite a few breeds are experiencing issues with calving, fertility, breeding longevity, structural soundness, poor carcase traits, frame size and feed efficiency. All these issues directly impact the profit margins of any cattle enterprise.

The Lowline is not plagued by any of these issues. In fact, the Lowline genetics have been used by others to moderate their frame sizes, to decrease their calving problems/losses and to improve their carcase traits.

Registration of the herds is vital for another reason – it guarantees traceability. This creates marketplace confidence which in turn ultimately assists in the promotion and preservation of the breed. Registration also aids the keeping of accurate records regarding the number, sex and age of Lowline cattle in any given year.

The requirement for DNA verification ensures that by buying registered stock you are guaranteed to be purchasing the genuine article – the Australian Lowline. Not a crossbred Lowline nor a smaller type Angus. The Lowline is an Australian heritage breed of beef cattle that has not only proven itself to be commercially viable but ultimately worth preserving for future breeders.

So whilst it may seem like an unnecessary need to purchase registered stock, it is actually the very opposite – both for you as an owner and for the breed as a whole.

<https://lowlineshop.com/blogs/news/why-registration-of-lowlines-is-vital>



Your invitation to Meat 2018

I am writing to invite you to join us in Canberra from 20–23 November for the red meat and livestock industry's flagship event: Red Meat 2018.

Red Meat 2018 brings together our industry's leadership and producers from around the nation. The event is your chance to hear the latest insights from industry and MLA leaders, and learn about how MLA is fostering producer profitability, sustainability and global competitiveness.

Program highlights include:

- MLA's Global Markets Forum
- Welcome Function: 20 Years of MLA
- MLA Business Breakfast
- Trade and Industry Exhibition
- MLA Innovation Forum "Transformation is coming...is your business ready?"
- MLA's Annual General Meeting
- Two producer tours
- MLA Digital Forum "From the hype to the happening"

For more information on the event and to register, please visit the dedicated event website: redmeat.mla.com.au

Red Meat 2018 is an opportunity to learn more about how your levies are being invested to ensure the future prosperity of the Australian red meat and livestock industry. Please ensure you lodge your MLA Levies Notice by COB, 21 September to receive your full voting entitlement for MLA's Annual General Meeting. You can do so online at: www.mla.com.au/voting

I hope to see you in Canberra.

Richard Norton
Managing Director

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)



CLB Data collection

As part of the Certified Lowline Beef Producer Agreement, members participating in CLB are required to submit any carcass data they receive from their steers.

This is being collected so we have data to back up our claims of high beef production from Lowline steers.

This data collection will benefit all members when information on our CLB beef production is collated and made available, both for stud breeders at time of sale and commercial producers needing feedback on their processes and production.

Carcass data can be emailed to Michele Molloy mitchmay@bigpond.com

This information will benefit all members, breeders and producers. And it will benefit the breed as a whole to have some valid statistical data to support our promotions.



Certified Lowline Beef - DNA Testing

We have always known that CLB meat can be genetically traced and the parentage of the beef verified because all Certified Lowline Beef produced is at least 50% registered Australian Lowline. As all registered Lowlines have DNA and parent verification on record and have so for many generations, the meat itself can be tested. The DNA of the meat will establish the parentage of the animal that produced it, proving the provenance of the beef.

One enterprising producer, Cloudbreak Lowlines, has tested the system. Their butcher felt the carcass looked “different” from others he had processed. Mandy and Kell Tennent thought this would be a good opportunity to test the value and ease of the DNA traceability process.

They took a 3 x 3 cm piece of beef, froze it down and sent the sample in an esky by overnight courier to the Genetics Laboratory at the University of Queensland. There they performed MiP + PV testing. The results confirmed that the Cloudbreak’s registered Lowline bull was indeed the sire of the processed steer, which was unregistered.

The cost of the testing and transport was over \$100, so it was not a cheap procedure – but priceless for peace of mind and being able to validate the traceability of the CLB product.

It is also a tremendous point of difference for our beef – we can scientifically substantiate the provenance of our beef!

It is a valuable tool – whether to ensure your beef is what you claim it to be, or to resolve an issue or query from a customer, or to track meat carcass quality genetics – a myriad of possible uses.

And unique to Certified Lowline Beef!



Improving Temperament - effects on productivity & meat quality

Selecting cattle to improve temperament can benefit beef production and animal performance, in addition to improving animal welfare and human safety.

How is temperament defined?

Temperament is the way in which an individual animal reacts to an unfamiliar or challenging situation. Temperament of an individual animal is the result of both its inherent temperament and its environment, including handling and training.

It is therefore important to recognise that training may improve an animal’s reaction in a familiar situation but may not overcome an animal’s inherent reactions in unfamiliar environments. This is particularly relevant at slaughter, where it is important to keep animals calm so they do not deplete the high glycogen levels that are needed to produce beef that is acceptable to consumers.

Further reading on this interesting subject can be found on the following link:

<https://www.beefcentral.com/genetics/improving-temperament-effects-on-productivity-and-meat-quality/>

Source: FutureBeef



Amazing prices paid for Lowline cattle in the UK

A recent auction held in Beeston, Cheshire, England saw record prices paid for Lowline cattle with Australian genetics.

This article by Andrew Forgrade is taken from The Daily Post – 2 Oct.2018

Unfortunately the use of the words 'miniature' & 'mini' to describe Lowlines is still occurring in other countries. In Australia & New Zealand, we have worked very hard to educate the public to eradicate the use of those terms when describing our breed.

There is also the mention of height comparison with other breeds, saying 'Lowlines are 60% smaller than other breeds'..... correct terminology should be 'Lowlines are about 60% the size of other breeds'..... Oh well.....we just have to keep trying to educate those Journalists!

North Wales Breeders set UK record price for Lowline Cattle

A new UK record price was set in Beeston for a miniature breed of cattle that is becoming increasingly popular with smallholders.

Lowline Angus cattle sold by Wrexham's Jones & Pilkington took centre stage at the market's annual sale of rare and traditional breeds (Sat, Sept 29). First in the ring was Cammall Isolde, a pedigree Lowline cow with her heifer calf who sparked a bidding war which ended in a UK record price of 12,700gns (£13,335).

The winning bid went to Angus breeder and local vet Owen Tunney and his daughter Sophie.

Lowlines are derived from the "original" Aberdeen Angus but are 60% smaller than their modern counterparts. As a result they suit small acreage owners whilst offering short-gestation benefits for commercial beef producers too.



Pictured: Lowline cow Cammall Isolde & her calf with buyers Owen Tunney & his daughter, breeders Ruth & Richard Pilkington, an admirer Andrew & Janet Morrison, & co-breeder, Steve Jones.

Auctioneers Wright Marshall said the Cheshire sale ring was packed to the rafters, with huge pre-sale interest in the Lowlines.

"The phone lines were all booked and there was countless parties interested in this up-and-coming breed," said a spokeswoman.

Isolde's under-bidder was Andrew Morrison from Alderley Edge, who snapped up the next lot, Cammall Blanche, for 5,600gns.

A January 2016 cow with her bull calf, the outfit was another from breed entrepreneurs Steve Jones and Richard Pilkington, from Shordley Hall farm, Hope.

Making it three in a row, Mr Morrison also bought the next two lots, both part-bred Lowline cows with steer calves, for 1,200gns and 980gns respectively.

EDITOR'S Note: The cow that sold for this fantastic price was an embryo of Elandra Park genetics exported to Cammall Farm on the Isle of Man in 2013. A bull of Elandra Park X Barregowa genetics, also exported as an embryo in the same shipment, was also sold at the auction. All quality Australian Lowline genetics from Australia.

