



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
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Office Update

May & June have been extremely busy months for your ALCA Council. Organising the ALCA office & staffing has been a priority. Negotiations are underway to renew the ABRI contract with ALCA so we should have a new Executive Officer as well as our Lowline Registrar soon. Both will only be on a part-time basis, as they have other breed societies to work for as well as ALCA. Members will be notified about staffing as soon as the contract is finalised.

In the meantime, members are asked to email with any questions rather than contact by telephone as there is only one person in the office on a part-time basis. Your emails will be answered within 24 hours Monday to Thursday. Please remember that there is a 14 day turn around for registrations & transfers so ringing the ALCA office with your request will not hurry up the process or let you jump the queue. Please be patient, get your paperwork & payments organised & Natalie will process your registrations & transfers as soon as she can, usually within a few working days.

The Special Resolution vote held recently resulted in 86% of returned ballot papers agreeing to the introduction of the new Lifestyle Membership category. Only 14% of the votes were opposed.

The Lifestyle Membership will be included in the ALCA Membership in the 2019–2020 Financial year.

It will be limited to people who have 8 or less registered animals & should be suitable for those starting out or who only want to keep a small herd but still be involved in the association. Further details will be found on the ALCA website – Membership => Become a Member.

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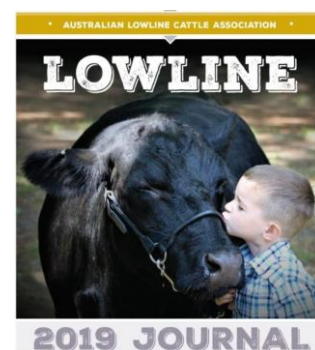
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2019 Journal

The latest Lowline Journal has been published & posted to members. If you haven't received your copy you will need to email the office & update your contact details as the postal addresses used were those on the ALCA membership list.

A big Thank You to Councillor, Bill Brydon, for collating the journal this year.

If the journal is to continue, we need members to assist, as 'many hands make light work'. You don't need to know anything about graphic design or publishing – you just need to be able to use your ideas & contact people for articles &/or photos. You will also learn a lot about the members & their cattle in the process.



The state Promotion Groups will have spare copies of the 2019 Journal if you require more for your own promotion or email the ALCA office for copies to be posted to you.



Bryce Barker - Star View Farm, Colorado, USA

Greetings from us at Star View Farm.

We, my Mom and I, have been raising Lowline cattle for going on ten years. We decided on Lowlines because of their smaller size, docile nature and ease of calving. We did not want tall cattle that could poop on top of our heads. As an extra bonus they're highly efficient in feed conversion. They will grow more with less feed consumed, meaning we can have more beef per acre.

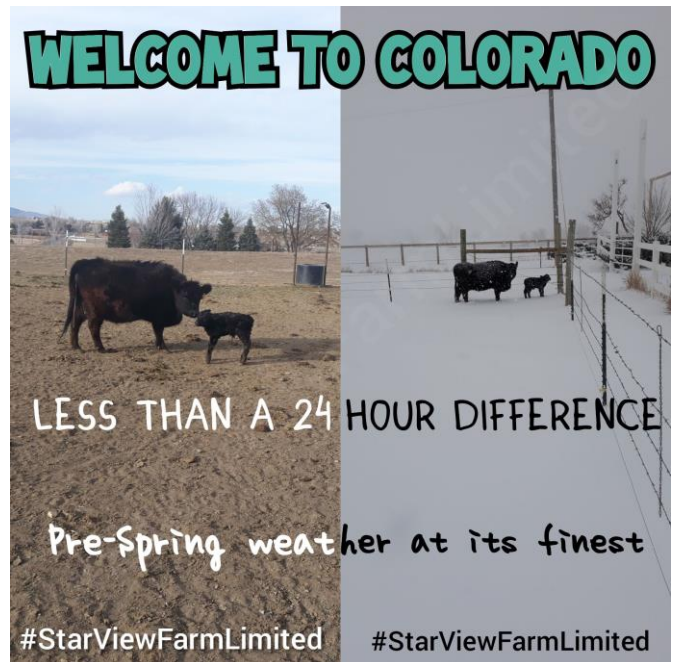
When we first started in the breed, we traded small bales of hay for our first percentage calf. She was an unregistered Lowline crossed with a Simmental/Lowline. After we had our first percentage calves we began our search for 100% Lowlines to further improve our herd. Due to our elevation and exotic weather patterns we needed to find genetics that would do well at our higher altitude and thrive in the adverse weather of Northern Colorado. 5,151' or 1570m.

Since starting our journey into Lowline Cattle we now raise fullblood Lowlines alongside our British Whites. We utilize crossbreeding to produce our Lowline Beef with heterosis aka hybrid vigor.

Our herd sire is a son of Yarra Ranges Jackaroo, and he fits perfectly into our programs. Our bull Yukon Jack 28Y has greatly improved the beauty of our herd and the quality of our beef. If you haven't eaten Lowline Beef you are missing out on one of the best aspects of raising cattle. The quality and flavor of Lowline Beef is unchallenged and is the most delicious beef we have ever eaten.

One of our goals is to provide excellent quality Lowlines born and raised at higher elevations, to provide strong and healthy genetics to stand the test of time. One of our main focuses is to preserve the breed standard and keep Lowline cattle in the US for future generations to come.

If you are considering raising cattle for beef, for show, or for pets this is the breed to have. Your only regret will be that you did not get into Lowlines sooner.



When raising livestock or crops there will be challenges, face them and learn from them.

We scheduled a simple tune-up (oils, lubes, fluids, filters, hoses, grease fittings, with an overall inspection) done on our tractor. The "mechanics" fried wires and the starter, broke the ignition, ruined the fuel injector pump & fuel lines, and never did the tune-up. They disabled our only piece of equipment, our only way to lift large bales or pallets.

After a few weeks of trying to determine what they did, we found a real tractor mechanic and he fixed our John Deere 1020 over the next 3 months.

We had to feed the cattle every day using just the pickup, and throwing 3'x3' flakes over the fence line.



Star View Farm cont.

Feeding with the tractor takes up to 30 minutes per feeding and would last three to five days. With using just the pickup and me to load and throw feed it took closer to two hours per feeding.

Did I mention this was all happening during winter?

For over four months my Mom and I would load large square flakes and feed the cows. There was a lot of blood, sweat and tears shed during those long and cold winter months.

In the end, we learned that feeding the cattle by hand saved nearly 30% feed wasted. We did not realize our herd was so wasteful at the large bale feeders.

As an additional surprise, our herd was in much better condition throughout the winter, not a single cow dropped below a 5 on the 1 to 10 scale.

Learning that my cows like to waste feed when it is in full supply was worth the unexpected challenge.

Remember that whatever trials and tribulations you and your herd go through can either be a learning experience or just a bad experience, the choice is yours.

Bryce Barker



Neogen Update

We are finalising the list of DNA samples with Neogen & then all samples processed between 1st September 2017 & 11th June 2019 will be transported to the Zoetis laboratory in Brisbane where they will be stored, at no cost. ALCA will be covering the cost for Neogen to pack the collection & have them transported to Zoetis.

If you are using Neogen in the future & require any results to be sent to Neogen, Zoetis will send them at no cost. Neogen will charge for doing the same.

From now on, all your DNA samples & payments should be sent directly to either Neogen or Zoetis. This will mean you will now be able to contact either laboratory if you have any queries about your samples.

The forms & directions for DNA collection can be found on the website => Forms & Downloads or Members Area.

Please remember, when you are registering your animals with ALCA, send a copy of your DNA/SNP & Parent Verification results with your Registration form to the ALCA office & make your payment for the registrations through the Lowline Shop (Credit card or Bank transfer) or by cheque to the ALCA office.

Member Contact Details

Have you moved recently?

Have you changed your postal address?

Have you changed your email address?

If you have done any of these things recently, please email Natalie at the ALCA office with your new contact details. Many thanks

office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au



Meat & Livestock Aust (MLA) - Free Webinars in July

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) offer a vast variety of webinars & workshops throughout the year available for beef & sheep producers around Australia. If you want to improve your knowledge with cattle, pastures or farm management, these educational opportunities should not be overlooked. Take advantage of the webinars taking place throughout July & improve your animal husbandry skills.

<https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/events-and-workshops/>

Role of Vaccination in the prevention & control of pneumonia in sheep & cattle

Date: Thursday 4 July 2019

Time: 8pm – 9pm **Cost:** Free

You are invited to these webinars, as part of the Productivity & Profitability Webinar Series, to hear Ben Linn from The Mackinnon Project discussing the role of vaccination in the prevention and control of pneumonia in sheep and cattle.

Topics:

- Pneumonia in sheep and cattle – causative agents and costs to producers.
- Treatment or prevention – what are the risks?
- How does vaccination fit into my management plan?

To Register:

<https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/events-and-workshops/webinar-the-role-of-vaccination-in-prevention-and-control-of-pneumonia-in-sheep-and-cattle2/>

Bulk worm tests increase accuracy

Date: Tuesday 9 July 2019

Time: 8pm Eastern Standard Time (Adelaide 7.30pm, Perth 6pm) **Cost:** Free

How can you get the most out of worm egg counts?

Worm egg counts show the number of worm eggs in a dung sample which gives us a good idea of the size of the worm burden in the animal.

Join us on this webinar with presenter Deb Maxwell, Executive Officer at ParaBoss, to hear the benefits of bulk worm egg counts and how they improve the accuracy of your worm testing as well as help you make better decisions regarding worm control.

Time: 8pm – 10pm Eastern Standard Time (Adelaide 7.30pm, Perth 6pm)

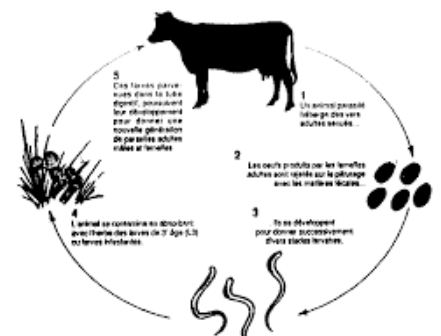
Location: The comfort of your own home

Contact for more information:

Deb Maxwell

Paraboss Mobile: 0437 524 163 Email: deb@paraboss.com.au

<https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/events-and-workshops/free-webinar-bulk-worm-tests-increase-accuracy/>



Does Australia run the risk of Angus carcass weights getting too large?

Jon Condon, May 28, 2019



The following are excerpts from an article in the Beef Central News. It follows discussion at the Angus Through the Ages National Conference held recently in Albury, NSW.

Much discussion was about the increasing size of the Angus carcass & the problems this might cause the hospitality industry & the consumer in the future.

This all points to the benefits of Lowlines & identifies the niche where our beef fits perfectly. This is useful ammunition in the marketing of Lowline beef for sure.

Read this article – it is really interesting from our perspective.

<https://www.beefcentral.com/news/does-australia-run-the-risk-of-angus-carcass-weights-getting-too-large/>

Challenge for steakhouse chains

MLA's executive chef **Sam Burke** said many food service operators using beef – such as pub groups – wanted that consistent 250 gram of 300 gram porterhouse or scotch fillet, and did not necessarily have the skills base among grill cooks to manage steaks cut to different thicknesses due to using different sized primals.

"They're going to struggle," Mr Burke said. "The bigger food service groups often want a smaller primal, so they can cut a thicker steak to a weight spec, and get the ideal degree of doneness, time and time again.

"It's the biggest problem I'm seeing out there in the marketplace, among those bigger corporate hotel steakhouse chains," Mr Burke said.

"Meat does not come from Ikea"

Adrian Richardson agreed that cut size could be a challenge for some food service operators, but said it was important to remember that "beef does not come from Ikea."

Carcasses 'way too big'

Glen Rowan, VIC Angus producer **Rob Williams** attended the conference, saying the question of excessive carcass weight was one of the most important topics Angus breeders needed an answer for over the two days of the gathering.

"Looking at the two largest wholesalers of Certified Angus beef in the US, in Boston and LA, since the 1980s they have been saying that the US Angus carcasses are way too big," he said.

Australian Lowline Feature Show - Victoria



2019 WHITTLESEA SHOW

2nd—3rd November 2019

The Southern Region Promotion Group Committee has negotiated with the Whittlesea Show Cattle Committee for Australian Lowlines to be the **Feature Breed at the 2019 Whittlesea Show**.

The Whittlesea Show represents a **great promotion opportunity for Australian Lowline Cattle** with high show patronage from smaller landholders from the surrounding rural and semi-rural areas.

We not only plan to showcase the breed but to also run a breed information stand and hold cattle health related sessions with expert speakers throughout the show.

We hope that breeders will support this initiative and enter cattle for the show and/or help to staff the information stand. Classes will be sponsored so great prizes will be available.

For further information please contact Jacqui Feagan
Tarrawarra Lowlines
Email: rfeagan.dbms@bigpond.com

Sunshine Lowlines, Cuddington, UK

It is always so good to hear how our overseas members are going. Thank you, Dr Owen Tunney for sharing the following.

'We have recently taken part in the Royal Cheshire Agricultural Society's Show where daughter Sophie made her showing debut with our 10 month Lowline heifer calf.

She was awarded reserve junior champion in the "any other breed" section beaten by a Murray Grey bulling heifer.

On the second day of the show Sophie showed Ariel in the novice young handlers class where she achieved a second place rosette.

Sophie (age 6) has now truly caught the cattle showing bug and the heifer behaved very well for her.

We now look forward to some embryo calves in the autumn and more fun next year.'

Congratulations, Sophie!



Membership Renewals

Australian Lowline Cattle Association Members have the strength of a proactive association behind them, ensuring long term support, commercial viability and purity of the unique genetics of this Heritage breed.

Membership provides access to the accumulated wealth of knowledge and support of other breeders – not only do you gain relationships but you benefit from the collective market place presence.

Protect your investment – being a member of an association gives credit to your product, allows you to have use of the Lowline Logo and Trademark to promote your Stud or Beef business – this helps with market place recognition and consumer confidence.

Membership allows registration of your stock, protecting both your own investment and that of your clients. You're also participating in the preservation and promotion of the purity of this breed.

Continuing your membership of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association and buying and selling registered stock ensures that the animal you are purchasing and breeding with is in fact an Australian Lowline.

The DNA traceability guarantees this.

Forming lasting friendships with other breeders provides satisfaction – having the ability to converse or communicate with another who is just as passionate about the breed as you are is immensely gratifying and encouraging.

Membership Renewals will be emailed to members from The Lowline Shop. You will receive a link directly to the Lowline Shop where you can pay your renewal via Credit Card or Bank Transfer (EFT). Alternatively, you can post a cheque to the ALCA office.

Email the ALCA office if you have any queries:

office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Nominations for ALCA Council Positions for 2019/2020

With the approach of the ALCA AGM, it will soon be time for nominations for Council for the next twelve months.

The aim of the ALCA Council is to provide guidance for the membership and establish strategic plans for the advancement and promotion of the association and the Australian Lowline breed. Whilst it is often a difficult role, it is also extremely rewarding to see the positive outcomes both for the individual members and the Association as a whole.

Members are encouraged to nominate for Council to:

- Represent members interests,
- Influence the continuing advancement of the breed and the Association,
- Contribute leadership to achieve the Association's objectives.

The following councillors will be finishing their two year term on Council:

Phil Worthington (NZ), Julie Knight (V), Michele Molloy (QLD) and Colin Schiller (QLD)

Interested members are encouraged to nominate. If you have new ideas on how to improve the Association for the membership or to promote the breed we would like to have you work with Council.

Nomination documents will be emailed to all Full members in a few weeks time.



Welcome to New Members

We send a big welcome to our latest new members from Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, England & New Zealand.

Mark L'Oste-Brown Conondale, QLD – ELAMAN CREEK	Full Membership
Samantha Prince & Price Family Nikenbah, QLD – PASADENA	Full Membership
Chris & Sue Randle Yahl, SA	Commercial Membership
Nicholas Wallace Barkway, Berkshire, UK – BARKWAY	Full Membership
The Kings School Tudor House Moss Vale NSW – TUDOR	School Membership
William Silver (Shavalgen Aus P/L) Mortlake VIC – SHAVALGEN	Full Membership
Freda & Jim Louizos Killabakh, NSW – KILLABAKH	Full Membership
Gary & Adrienne Holder Whitford, Auckland, NZ – BHQ PERFORMANCE	Full Membership



Beautiful winter days at McIntosh Creek, Qld.

2019 Royal Queensland (EKKA) Show

Dates to see Australian Lowlines at the show:
Sunday 11th Aug 2019 – Sunday 18th Aug 2019

Australian Lowline Judging:
Saturday 16th Aug 2019 at 1.30PM

Entries are now Closed

For further information

<https://www.ekka.com.au/media/3796/stud-beef-2019.pdf>



2019 Royal Melbourne Show

Dates for Australian Lowlines:
Thursday 26th Sept 2019 – Tuesday 1st Oct 2019

Australian Lowline Judging:
Saturday 28th Sept 2019 at 1PM

Entries Close: Friday 26th July 2019 at 5PM

For further information & classes

<https://www.rasv.com.au/beef-cattle/competition-info/>

Don't forget – In 2021 Australian Lowlines will be the Feature Breed at the Royal Melbourne Show. So now is the time to start thinking about your breeding programs so we can present a line-up of wonderful cattle to promote our breed.



Assessing Fat Depth in Cattle

Bruce Knee, Hamilton

Updated: March 2006

AG0111 ISSN 1329-8062

Fatness is an important component of the beef carcass. Red meat consumers in both domestic and export markets are becoming increasingly specific in their requirements, particularly in relation to the fatness of meat. Successful beef producers of the future will need to breed and manage their cattle to suit the requirement of a particular market, and to do this, they must be able to assess the fatness of live cattle.

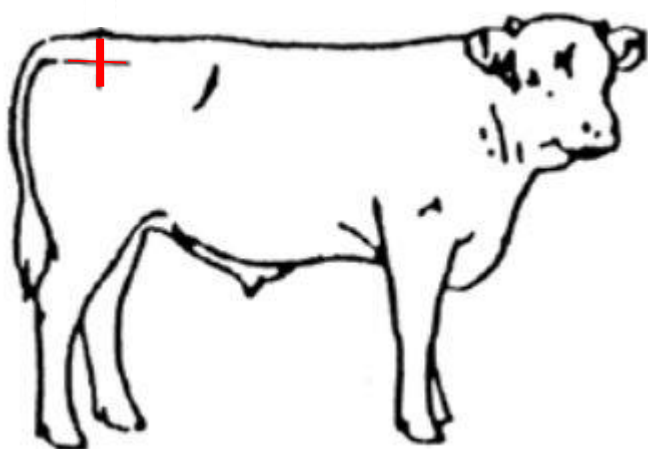
The purpose of this Agriculture Note is to describe techniques for assessing the fat depth of cattle at the P8 (rump) site, which reflects the percentage of fat in the carcass and the likely yield of saleable meat.

Producers can improve their skills in this area by participating in carcass competitions and field days, or by closely observing their own cattle. The important thing is to regularly practice assessing small groups of four or five cattle, and then following them through the abattoir.

Premium prices are paid for carcasses that have the acceptable fat depth for a particular market. While very lean carcasses with fat depths of 0, 1 and 2 millimetres may be considered too lean, carcasses with more than 12 or 15 millimetres could be considered too fat.

For example, a particular market requiring carcasses weighing between 180 and 220 kilograms (hot standard carcass weight – HSCW) ideally requires a fat cover of from five to nine millimetres at the P8 rump site. Carcasses of this weight with less fat may be bare on primal cut areas and are therefore difficult to market. On the other hand, the same carcass with from 12 to 15 millimetres will require trimming, which is expensive in terms of time and lost weight.

P8 site for measurement of fat depth



Fat depth in cattle refers to the depth of fat at one particular point on the animal (in this case, the P8 site). The depth of fat at this site reflects the percentage of fat in the carcass and the subsequent meat yield

Locating the P8 site – The two intersecting lines on Figure 1 indicate the position of the P8 site on the animal.

Technique for assessing P8 fat depth – To assess fat depth on live cattle it is necessary to both visually appraise cattle and, wherever possible, handle the animals at particular reference points

Figure 1 – locating the P8 site

Assessing Fat Depth in Cattle cont

Handling the animal – This is the technique by which fat depth at the P8 (rump site) can be assessed where cattle can be handled.

When an animal is handled, bone feels hard, muscle feels firm and fat feels quite soft. The main sites to feel on an animal for fat depth are:

- **over the hip where fat will be deposited**

- (i) a "soft" hip indicates that fat is present
- (ii) a "hard" hip indicates the lack of fat

- **thickness of the anal fold (where tail joins body)**

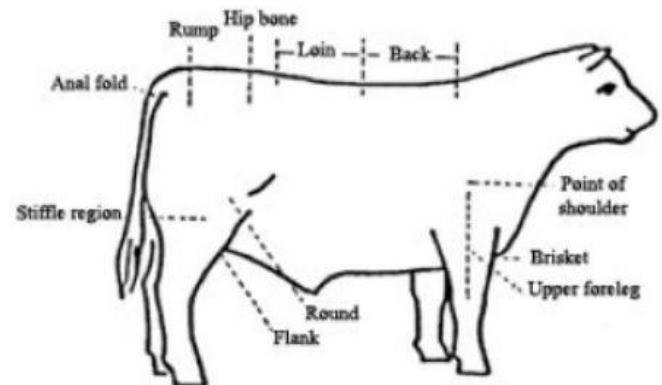
- (i) a thick, spongy fold indicates that fat is present
- (ii) a feel of a double fold of skin without "padding" in between indicates the lack of fat

- **feeling along the backbone over the rump area**

- (i) a soft, spongy feel indicates fat
- (ii) a hard, solid feel indicates the lack of fat

- **feeling the P8 site**

The final area of assessment is on the P8 site, which is over a large layer of muscles. In assessing this site, the assessor needs to develop the skill of determining the fat depth without becoming confused with "muscle bounce".



A guide to assessing fat depth at the P8 site is:

- Hip bone highly visible and easily felt as hard bone; no fat in brisket (lower point of the skeleton where the foreribs join together) or flank (the fleshy part of the side between the ribs and the hip). No filling in anal fold. Spine easily felt over the rump (individual vertebrae felt): **the depth of fat is 0–2 mm (fat score 1).**
- Hip bone feels hard because of lack of fat cover; a light deposit of fat in brisket and flank. Anal fold has soft feeling indicating presence of small amount of fat.
- Spine over the rump area can be felt but vertebrae feel rounded: **the depth of fat is 3–6 mm (fat score 2).**
- Hips tending to feel layered with fat, giving a feeling of soft tissue beneath the hide. Fat in brisket and flank is obvious. Anal fold filled with fatty tissue, which can be easily detected when pinched. Spine over the rump area can be felt with firm pressure: **the depth of fat is 7–12 mm (fat score 3).**
- Hips are no longer noticeable because of heavy layer of fat. Brisket appears to be well developed, flank fat very obvious. Anal fold bulging with fat, feeling thick and spongy. Spine cannot be felt because of a heavy layer of fat, which tends to 'bounce' when tapped: **the depth of fat is 13–22mm (fat score 4).**

Assessing Fat Depth in Cattle cont

• All bone structure and tail are buried in fatty tissue with folds of fat covering hips. Anal fold extremely full. Heavy layer of fatty tissue over rump area, very 'bouncy' when tapped:
the depth of fat is 23–32mm (fat score 5).

• Grossly fat animal, giving an appearance of blockiness with folds of fat around hips, tail and ribs. A very large brisket and deep body because of heavy layer of fat along underline:
the depth of fat is 33+ mm (fat score 6).

When assessing fat cover, it is important to be able to distinguish between fat deposit and muscle as they both influence the shape of the animal.

Visual assessment

When assessing cattle visually, as can be done both in the yards or in the paddock, there are particular reference points to study.

The three main sites used in visual appraisal are:

- brisket
- the underline including the flank
- the rear view taking in the twist, cod and tailhead area.

The brisket and the rear view are probably the most useful reference points when assessing for fat cover. The brisket is the lower point of the skeleton where the foreribs join together. In this area, little muscle is laid down and excess tissue will be fat. Ideally, the brisket should be partly filled, trim, and high above the knee joint. Deeper, fuller briskets are only filled with fat, and this indicates that there could also be excessive fat deposits on other areas of the carcass.

When viewing the leaner type of animal from the rear, the leanness will be indicated by roundness over the top, the prominence of the tail head, a cut-up and wrinkled appearance in the twist and little or no cod development. Animals carrying a heavy fat cover, when viewed from the rear, will have a square appearance over the top, knobs (of fat) on both side of the tail head, a fuller and deeper twist and greater development of the cod.

