



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
Website: www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

E-mail: office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Renewals Due Soon

Although we are still in the midst of Covid-19 restrictions, life is starting to find some normality. Despite these disruptions, the year is flying by and we are midway through 2020.

The ALCA Office staff, Katrina McKemey and Natalie Herd are mainly working from home so sometimes there might be difficulty contacting them by phone. Please send them an email, as the phones can be unreliable.

The end of the 2019/2020 Financial Year is approaching so membership renewals will be due soon.

You will receive your Renewal Invoices via email (or mail if no email is available) and these can be paid through the Lowline Shop by Debit or Credit Card. It is a simple process but if you have any problems, please contact the ALCA office for assistance. If you prefer to use EFT to make your payment then please use the details provided in the invoice email.

At the AGM last October, members approved the increase to the following Membership Categories and these will take effect with these renewals. Fees have not been adjusted in the past ten years so it was time to look at a few changes –

Junior Membership – from \$20 (+GST) to \$25 (+GST)

School Membership – from \$20 (+GST) to \$40 (+GST)

Commercial Membership – from \$50 (+GST) to \$75 (+GST)

Inside This Issue

Renewals Due Soon	1
2020 Journal	2
Possible Postponement of the 2020 AGM	2
2021 Royal Melbourne Show – Lowline Feature	3
Transfer Reminders	3
The Cattle Parasite Atlas from MLA	4
How to Photograph your cattle	5/6
Welcome to New Members	7
Nominations for ALCA Council Positions 2020/2021	7
Blackleg in cattle – the importance of Vaccinations	8/9
Why Registration of Lowlines is Vital	10
How to simplify your cattle registrations	11

Junior Members who have reached 21 years of age will need to upgrade to a Full Membership. Those Juniors will be notified of this change to Membership.

Your ALCA Council understands there will be some members who may be having financial difficulties during these times. If you are in this situation, please contact the ALCA office to arrange a payment plan to pay your Membership Renewal.

We value your membership as you are part of our Australian Lowline family. Your participation and support are important for the continuation of the Association and will ensure the Australian Lowline breed continues its increasing recognition and popularity in the wider community.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ALCA office if you have any further queries –
office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Julie Knight
ALCA President



2020 Journal

There has been much discussion about the future of the Lowline Journal.

Increased publication costs, lack of member support with advertising/articles and the difficulty to get anyone to assist with putting the Journal together have been limiting factors and the reason the future of the Journal has been questioned.

Thank you to those members who have offered their comments to the ALCA office and on the Lowline Cattle Discussion Facebook page.

As the majority want to see the Lowline Journal continue, Council has been discussing ideas. One suggestion has been that this year's Journal could be a combined 2020/2021 Journal due to business & isolation restrictions which may cause delays in production.

A combined Journal published later this year would be available for the 2021 major shows and promotional events and the 2021 Rockhampton Beef Expo which looks, at this stage, to be proceeding next year.

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 Journal will be discussed at the next Council meeting on Tuesday 14th July so if you have any further comments and ideas or would like to help with the Journal, please contact Katrina at the office.

This is your Association so the Journal is a way to showcase your cattle, your stud, your beef, your business – yourselves. So when the time comes to advertise, use the Journal for your promotion and buy an advertisement.

Possible Postponement of 2020 ALCA AGM

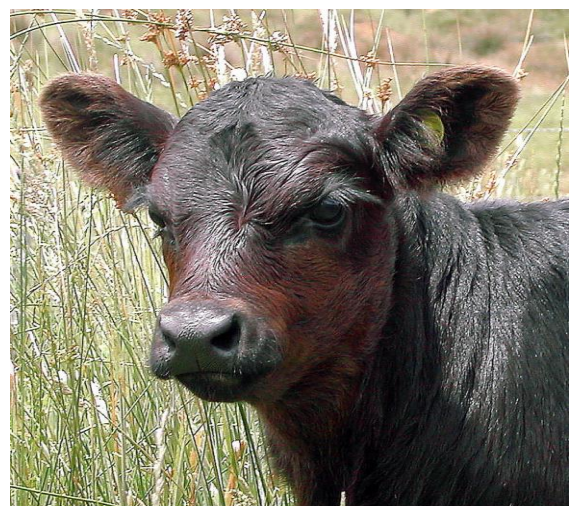
The upcoming ALCA AGM was discussed at the June Council meeting.

Current restrictions have resulted in state and country border closures as well as social distancing regulations that may affect the AGM planned for October this year in Melbourne.

NSW Fair Trading has updated their regulations for AGMs to allow Associations to follow the Covid-19 restrictions and postpone their AGM until the following year.

IMPORTANT: In the current COVID-19 circumstances, associations no longer have to apply for extensions of time to hold their 2020 annual general meetings or submit annual summaries of financial affairs. Associations may conduct their AGM when restrictions are lifted or present 2020 financial information to members at the 2021 AGM.

Council may not hold an AGM this year as people may not be able to travel interstate or overseas to attend the AGM in Melbourne. Council will make a decision at the next meeting when further information is considered.



2021 Royal Melbourne Show Australian Lowline Feature Show

Shows and other cattle events have been cancelled for 2020 but the Southern Region Promotion Group is now focusing on the 2021 Royal Melbourne Show where our Australian Lowline cattle will be the Feature Breed.

It will be 21 years since Australian Lowlines were Feature Breed at Melbourne when over 100 head were exhibited, being the largest number of Lowlines exhibited at a show up until that time.

So start making plans.....

2021 Royal Melbourne Australian Lowline Feature Show

AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE
Breeders of Victoria
Southern Region Promotion Group (SRPG)

The Southern Region Promotion Group invites all ALCA members to attend and exhibit at the 2021 Australian Lowline Feature Show at the Royal Melbourne Show.

21 years since the Australian Lowline Breed has been the feature breed at the Royal Melbourne Show, so this is a event not to be missed.

Plans are in place to make this a extraordinary event and over 80 head expected

ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

WE HOPE YOU WILL BE THERE!
September 23rd - October 3rd 2021

Transfer Reminders

From time to time you might sell a registered animal. There are a few things you need to remember so the transfer goes smoothly.

A registered animal can only be transferred to a Member of ALCA – Full, Lifestyle, School or Junior

- Transfers can only be processed if the Registration Certificate is signed by the OWNER of the animal in the TRANSFER section at the bottom of the certificate.
- If the cow or heifer has been joined to a bull prior to the sale, remember to fill in the bull details & joining dates on the Registration/Transfer Certificate. This will enable the new owner to register any resulting progeny.
- The signed certificate should be posted or emailed to the Lowline Registrar – lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au
- The transfer fee of \$30 + GST should be paid via the Lowline Shop www.lowlineshop.com

If you are selling to a non-member, encourage them to join ALCA so the animal can remain active on the ALCA database.

There is now a LIFESTYLE Membership which may suit someone with only a few animals.

If you are selling to someone who says they are going to join ALCA, the transfer cannot proceed until that person becomes a member.

So please don't pay for transfers until the person has become a member & has a Member ID.

Contact Katrina McKemey at the ALCA office if you have any issues or need further assistance with your transfers – office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

The Cattle Parasite Atlas produced by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)

A regional guide to parasite control in Australia

The 'atlas' of parasite control in cattle has been developed as a rapid reference for advisors and producers on the best practice for parasite control for all the major livestock regions in Australia.

The atlas is divided into two sections. The first section describes the program of treatments and interventions for each climatic and geographical region. The regional guides highlight the main production systems, the most important parasites, management procedures that may be used to assist in their control and, where the information is known, the cost-effectiveness of those programs.

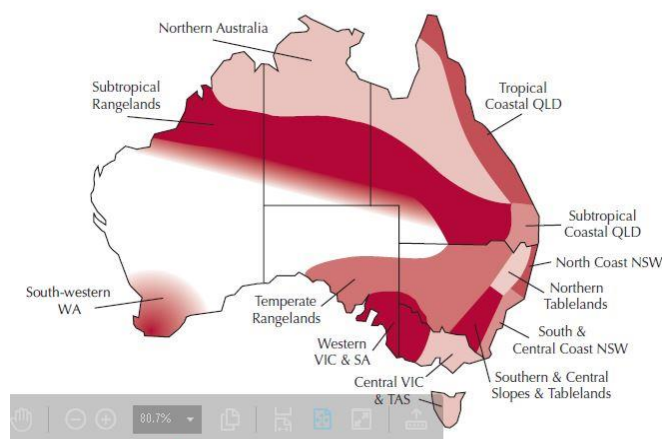
The recommendations for each region are generic and therefore need to be customised to the needs of individual producers and delivered by those with knowledge in the field.

The second section of the atlas examines in more detail the most important parasites, basic principles of parasite control and the range of treatments available.

The atlas is a compilation of available information and represents the end result of 30 years of investigation, research and application by veterinarians, advisors and producers.

The publication has relied on the effort and input from a number of sources, particularly from Dr David Buckley who has collated the information and provided unique approaches to presentation and delivery.

Further acknowledgement should be given to Queensland Department of Primary Industries, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, South Australian Research and Development Institute, Western Australian Department of Agriculture, Rural Lands Boards in NSW and a number of manufacturers of antiparasitic products. Dr Malcolm Smeal has provided expert technical advice and review.



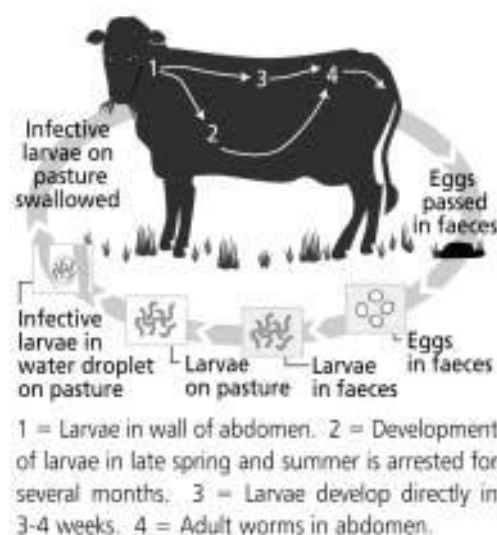
It is really important to have a regular drench program for your cattle for parasite control.

This 'atlas' is extremely informative with separate sections for each region & can be downloaded from the Meat & Livestock website

<https://www.mla.com.au/CustomControls/PaymentGateway/ViewFile.aspx?CBSGoUKScHIFpDxts9F1BXR1zhSqeOSm5uhX8cawsZb4Hq10A8j9tgBF83sXk9OF3EYMKKAfsht7d1Tnt3BqiA==>

Or the ALCA website =>

<https://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au/membership/herd-health>



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. Some of the latest phone cameras take great photos too. 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.

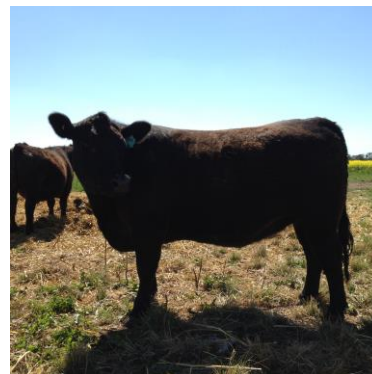
Tips from a professional livestock photographer:

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/C T327.shtml>

Welcome to New Members

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

ALCA also welcomes our first member from France.

Matt Wicks Full Membership
Rutherglen, VIC – Sanctuary Farmstead

Megan McNamara Full Membership
Mindaribba, NSW – McNamara Park

Stewart Sweeting Full Membership
Tullymorgan, NSW – Shelter-Feather Farm

Danielle Irvin Full Membership
Leeton, NSW – Blair Athol

Audrey & Mathieu Lauvie Full Membership
Dordogne, FRANCE – Perigord Lauvie

Ernie & Jennifer Crownover Full Membership
Eaton, CO, USA – Crownover Ranch

Tracey Denning Full Membership
Magnolia, QLD – Karijali

Sarah Ferguson Full Membership
Gunnedah, NSW – Big Little

Megan, Mike & Mia Perkins Full Membership
Withcott, QLD – Sirius Black

James Kilgore Full Membership
Belli Park, QLD – Belli Bluff Farm

Shaun & Cindy Rasmussen Commercial
Mount Egerton, VIC Membership

Tom Smith Junior Membership
Hidden Valley, QLD – Smith

Nominations for ALCA Council Positions for 2020/2021

With the approach of the ALCA AGM, it will soon be time for nominations for Council for the following 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:

Gordon Guthrie (NZ), Sandra Price (QLD), Klaus Emmerich (SA) and Bill Brydon (NSW)

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.



Blackleg in cattle - The importance of vaccinations

The 'sudden death' of a healthy yearling steer or heifer is something you need to investigate.

Blackleg is a possible cause of sudden death in young animals.

The cause & prevention for Blackleg might be of interest to members. Prevention is better than a cure.

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 color.

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 color. 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.

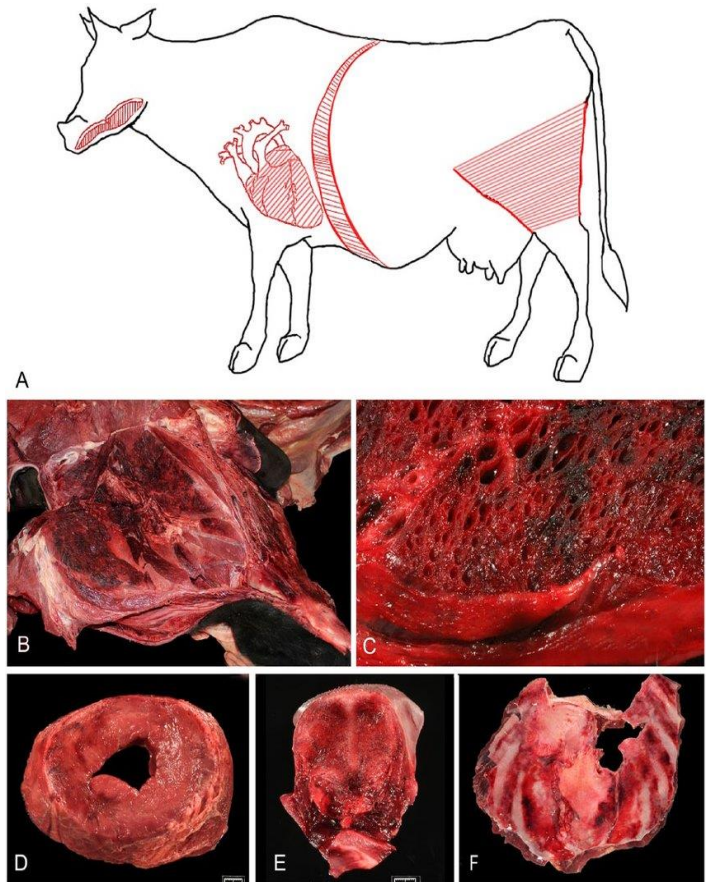
- Calves should receive two doses of blackleg vaccine. Two vaccinations 1 month apart are essential to provide the best protection.
- A booster vaccination 12 months later should provide lifelong immunity to blackleg.
- It is desirable to give the initial two doses of vaccine before young cattle reach 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.



Gross lesions of blackleg in cattle. A. Most commonly affected sites in blackleg cases. B. Classic blackleg necrohemorrhagic myositis in the hindlimb. C. Necrohemorrhagic myositis in hindlimb skeletal muscle with prominent emphysema. D. Necrohemorrhagic myocarditis and fibrinous epicarditis. E. Necrohemorrhagic glossitis primarily affecting the ventral portions of the tongue. F. Necrohemorrhagic myositis of the diaphragm with rib impressions.

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.

Why Registration of Lowlines is Vital

Quite simply – without registration, you, the buyer have no guarantee that the animal is not a Lowline cross. However, the need for registration goes a bit deeper than that – the future and purity of this heritage breed is dependent upon it and a look at their history tells us why.

Registered Lowlines must be DNA tested to prove that they are direct descendants of the Foundation Herd. This means that each and every animal in a 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.

Preserving the purity and integrity of the Lowline breed has major benefits for today's breeders. The refusal to allow breeding up to pure bred status has prevented the introduction of undesirable traits and the potential loss of desirable traits. It has also protected the breed from the introduction of heritable genetic defects and or diseases and served to maintain the quality and consistency of the breed.

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

In 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.



How to Simplify Your Cattle Registrations

Cattle registration is not really difficult – it only seems that way if you haven't done it before.

Below explains step-by-step how the DNA & registration process should take place so your registration can be processed quickly for you.

- 1/ Pull tail hairs or take tissue samples from your animal for DNA/SNP & Parent Verification & send to Neogen or Zoetis.
Instructions are on the website in 'Forms & Downloads'
Post to the appropriate DNA testing Laboratory.
- 2/ The results of the DNA/SNP & PV will be sent to you in about 4 – 6 weeks. When you have received your DNA & PV results, fill out the ALCA Registration Form (in Forms & Downloads on the website) or fill out ONLINE via the MEMBERS AREA – Herdbook Database Login.
Instructions for both of these are on the website in 'Forms & Downloads'
- 3/ If your animal has already been RECORDED on the Herdbook Database, you will not be required to fill out another registration form. Just email the Lowline Registrar & notify them of the animal you need to have upgraded to registered.
Send the Lowline Registrar your DNA/SNP +PV results.
- 4/ Make payment to ALCA for the Registration of the animal/s you need registered via the Lowline Shop www.lowlineshop.com.
Registrations & Upgrades can both be paid through the Lowline Shop

Please note – Registrations will NOT be processed without payment.
- 5/ Email the Registration Form & the DNA/SNP/PV results to lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au with a brief note about which animal/s you require registered & let Natalie Herd know you have paid.

Registration Certificates will be emailed as a PDF unless you say you would like a paper Registration Certificate, and then it will be posted to you.

If you follow these steps your registrations should be processed promptly. Allow 7 to 10 days for the registration to be processed.

Please remember that Registrations will not be processed without DNA/SNP and PV results, Registration details on a Registration Form and payment.

Full instructions for the Collection of Tail Hair Samples, ONLINE Registrations, Calf Recording & many more processes can be found on the ALCA Website => FORMS & DOWNLOADS

<https://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au/the-association/forms-downloads>

