



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

E-mail: office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Welcome to Leigh Marsden

It was with great sadness that we recently had to say goodbye to the ALCA EO, Katrina McKemey. Due to family commitments, Katrina had to leave ALCA and we wish her and her husband great success with their family business in the future.

We are very fortunate to have Leigh Marsden join ALCA as our EO and Leigh will be the point of contact in the office for our members in the future.



Hello Lowline Members

I would like to introduce myself as your new Executive Officer here with Australian Lowline Cattle Association at ABRI. This is a role which I am very excited to be jumping into.

My fascination with pedigree research and business/record management has led me to this opportunity. This interest first started with competition horses as a young girl and has progressed over the years through to my own cattle (Murray Grey & Angus), Stud Wiltipoll sheep and finally through to my working Border Collie and Kelpie dogs.

Over the years I have worked extensively in customer service. I have learnt a great deal when it comes to public relations, and I aim to maintain an honesty and integrity with everything I do.

Inside This Issue

Welcome to Leigh Marsden	1
The end of an era for Araawa Stud, NZ	2/3
How to Simplify Your Cattle Registrations	4
The Responsibilities of a Vendor	5
2022 Royal Canberra Show	5
Welcome to New Members	6
The reason we DNA our cattle	6
How to Transfer a Registered Lowline	7
Growing better beef – Feed & Minerals	8
Judging cattle at Gore Show – Philip Worthington	9
Assessing Cattle for Beef Production	10
From the Archives	11

Following my passion for livestock farming I have recently completed my Diploma of Agriculture and have now embarked on an Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness to further extend my knowledge in Agribusiness, which in turn will assist in my role here with ALCA.

I'm certainly looking forward to a productive 2022 with ALCA and wish all members the same.

Leigh Marsden
Executive Officer – Australian Lowline Cattle Association.

Office Hours:

ALCA EO – Leigh Marsden

Wednesday – Friday 8am to 4pm

Phone: (02) 6773 3295

ALCA enquiries: office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Australian Lowline Registrar – Claudia Scott

Tuesday – Thursday 8.30am – 4.30pm

Phone: (02) 6773 5588

Registrar enquiries:

lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au



The end of an era for Araawa Stud, New Zealand

The end of an era, the end of a journey, and a new beginning. Tinged with sadness, but with much pride and pleasure after 21 years our involvement directly with Lowlines has come to an end.

As a background, the Araawa Stud was established in 1976 on Banks Peninsula breeding Suffolk sheep. In 1985 the Perendale breed was added, and after relocating onto the Canterbury Plains in 1992 the Cheviot breed was added. These studs totalled over 600 breeding ewes. Showing was a part of our operation, attending Royal shows across New Zealand, as well as many local shows.

In 2000, after Penny joined the family, we explored new breeds of cattle, as I had previously farmed a small purebred herd of Herefords. Lowlines at that time were very new in New Zealand and very expensive but had, we believed, an exciting future if the right animals were able to be sourced – the market being dairy industry bulls and the boutique beef market.



A visit in July 2000 to Melbourne and an opportunity to visit a breeder meeting that boutique market, saw an invitation back to the Melbourne Royal Show. At that show I met many breeders and saw some truly outstanding stock. During that visit I travelled to Ian and Sandy Bamford's Murrumbong Stud just outside Canberra, and was offered a wide selection of stock, from which I selected 8 cows, 2 heifers, 2 heifer calves and 2 bulls to go into quarantine. On return to Melbourne, I was invited by Jane and Andrew Ristrom to the Elandra Park Stud in southern Victoria and selected 2 mated cows and 2 heifers. The generosity in allowing me access to their studs and to select top quality animals, gave the Araawa Stud the diverse bloodlines it has, including many from original animals released from Trangie. An additional 3 heifers were added in 2002 from the Murrumbong Stud.

Adding to these animals were the birth of two young bulls, one sired by Elandra Park Sam, and the other by Brambletye Commander VIII. With careful selection of sires and female replacements, the herd grew to over 80 cows, selling over 30 bulls annually into the dairy industry.

Marketing of animals was a "do it yourself" as stock agents scoffed at the breed and were not interested when they knew they were Lowlines.

However, the sales of bulls annually became a major part of the 'Araawa philosophy' educating farmers of the benefits that Lowlines have, especially short gestation and low birth weights. So successful was the marketing technique, that Araawa Stud has never sent a 2-year-old bull retained to the works because they couldn't be sold. Return business became a standard, but as the longevity of the Lowline became established those returns lengthened out, meaning new clients were always being sought.



The end of an era for Araawa Stud, New Zealand cont.

With the sale of the larger farm and reducing down to 28 acres in 2012 an elite herd was selected, and the balance of the animals dispersed. Lack of interest in Lowlines at that time saw most of the cows sold into a commercial operation or to slaughter.

That elite herd has continued and is the current Araawa herd, which has now been purchased in total by John and Demelza Clearwater from Lumsden in Southland. Not only have they bought the animals but have decided to continue to breed under the ARAAWA stud name.

Lowlines have given us many enjoyable memories, whether it being very special animals like Elandra Park Showgirl who lived to 20, or our current matriarch Araawa Zamara who is 18 and has calf at foot, or the bulls Murrumbong Ulysses – half brother to Murrumbong Roulette; Araawa Vanguard our first born in the stud and Royal Show Supreme Champion at 11 months, or other Araawa bulls, Bonanza, Definition, First in Line, and Nimrod.



Showing was a highlight for us, from our first Royal in Christchurch in 2001 where Showgirl, Ulysses and Vanguard were all champions, to shows at Ellesmere, Banks Peninsula or Mackenzie Highland we enjoyed much success. Possibly the greatest achievement was in our last show at Canterbury A & P in 2019, the largest animal show in New Zealand, where our two yearling bulls won the All-Breeds Pairs against 13 other breed pairs.

During the years breeding Lowlines the breed has faced some tumultuous times, especially within the ALCA administration, but at the end of the day regardless of all those issues, these magical little black beauties are why we breed them, their nature and personalities intrigue us, and they are always the same whenever you go into the paddock with them – always grateful for the hay, or grass, or pat and scratch, they are what keeps us sane and loving farming them.

Regretfully that has ended for us but we will be interested in the herd with John and Demelza, and have made many new friends through the breed and will continue to promote Lowlines every opportunity we get.

My advice to anyone wanting to get involved, be patient, do what you do well, sell only quality stock, leave the breed better than when you started, and it is not a get rich quick scheme.

Our motto was 'Quality breeds Quality, Success breeds Success'. We believe we achieved that.

Kevin & Penny Harmer



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 from your animal for DNA/SNP & Parent Verification (+ Coat Color test if required) & send to Neogen or Zoetis. Instructions are on the website in 'Forms & Downloads' & MEMBERS AREA. Post a copy of the DNA Form & samples to the appropriate DNA testing Laboratory.

2/ The results of the DNA & PV will be sent to you in about 6 – 8 weeks. When you have received your DNA & PV results make your payment for the REGISTRATION at the Lowline Shop www.lowlineshop.com. **Add details of the animal in the NOTES section.** You will be emailed the link to the Registration Form to be filled out & sent to the Lowline Registrar.

OR fill out your registrations ONLINE via the MEMBERS AREA – Herdbook Database Login. Instructions for both of these are on the website in 'Forms & Downloads' & the MEMBERS AREA.

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. Payment for the UPGRADE REGISTRATION should be made at the Lowline Shop www.lowlineshop.com . **Add details of the animal in the NOTES section.**

4/ Make payment to ALCA for the Registration for the animal/s you need registered. This can be done –

- * The Lowline Shop www.lowlineshop.com (preferred option)
- * Via Bank Transfer to our ALCA Bank Account: BSB-082 407 Account Number-45 349 8710
- * Mailing a Cheque with your registration form

Please note – Registrations will NOT be processed without payment.

Full Registration – Female \$35.00 (+GST) /Bull \$100.00 (+GST) per animal
 Upgrade RECORDED Animal – Female \$30.00 (+GST) /Bull \$95.00 (+GST) per animal

5/ Email the Registration Form to lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au with a brief note about which animal/s you require to be registered & let the Lowline Registrar know you have paid for the service. Include a copy of your DNA/PV/Coat Color test results for the animal/s to be registered.

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.

Please remember that Registrations will not be processed without DNA and PV results, correct registration details on a Registration Form and payment in full. Allow a 2 week turn around for registrations.

For prompt processing, please put the completed Registration forms and the DNA / Coat Colour Test Results together, and then submit to the Lowline Registrar lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au



The Responsibilities of a Vendor

Owning Australian Lowlines is fun and challenging, often at the same time.

Buying and selling registered pedigree cattle fits into this category.

There are some very important things to know regarding ALCA requirements if you are selling registered cattle.

Most people will eagerly await the arrival of the the registration certificates from the ALCA office for their newly purchased animals.

Sometimes the certificates don't arrive and the purchaser wonders why, perhaps thinking the cattle they have purchased really aren't registered with ALCA at all.

As a seller/vendor, your responsibility is to TRANSFER the animals from your stud to the new owner which will require the signing of the Transfer Form at the bottom of the Registration Certificate and with a TRANSFER FEE to be paid to ALCA.

The details of how to process a transfer are on Page 7 in this newsletter.

The TRANSFER FEE needs to be paid via The Lowline Shop which can be accessed through the ALCA website.

Then the completed and signed copy of YOUR Registration Certificate is emailed to the ALCA Registrar, Claudia Scott, in a timely manner.

lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au

Ideally , the new owner would have the certificate within a week after the animal left your possession.

Please contact the Vendor if you are experiencing unnecessary delays in receiving the transferred Registration Certificates as the Vendor may have forgotten to send in the transfer.

Claudia Scott, Registrar from the ALCA office may also be able to assist you.

2022 Royal Canberra Show



The weekend of 26th February saw the cattle judging at the 2022 Royal Canberra Show.

A great line up of 19 Australian Lowline exhibits were paraded by 5 studs. Congratulations to all exhibitors

ALCA Junior member, Jada Buchan of Little Dream Lowlines came out on top against the other very experienced exhibitors with her young cow with a calf at foot, Phoenix Quinn, winning the Champion Senior Female followed by the Supreme Exhibit of the Australian Lowline breed.

It was a fantastic achievement by a Junior exhibitor who should progress to bigger and better things with her small Lowline stud, Little Dreams.

Thank you to members of the NSW Promotion Group. Danielle Irvin and Jess Muscat who organised the breed display and nibbles for exhibitors after judging.



Welcome to New Members

Once again we are seeing the growing interest in registered Australian Lowline cattle which means more new members for our association.

Thank you to our existing ALCA members who are selling their cattle as registered animals and transferring them on to the new members.

To the new members of the Lowline family – Welcome!

Full Members

Brendan Wheeler
Murringo, NSW – SHANTY CREEK

William Croker
Okehampton, Devon, UK – CROWS NEST

Barbara Wilkinson
Sandy Creek, QLD – BRENLOCH

Craig & Kirsten Jolly
Murrumbateman, NSW – GURAGUMA

Lifestyle Members

James Spinks
Braemore, QLD – BRAEMORE STATION

School Member

Catherine McAuley College
Junortoun, VIC – MERCY

The reason we DNA our cattle

Some members think that having to DNA & Parent Verify their Lowlines is time consuming & costly. The following article appeared in The Weekly Times newspaper & proves why ALCA should continue to require DNA & PV for all registrations – to preserve the integrity of our breed.

<https://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/agribusiness/cattle/irelands-angus-ordered-to-pay-200k-for-catalogue-error/news-story/ce9dd64bf06801e888e98f80837aac2e>

A PROMINENT Angus stud has been ordered to pay out more than \$200,000 after a court found it misrepresented the sire of a bull.

The NSW District Court on Tuesday ruled Wagga Wagga stud Irelands Angus sold a bull, Irelands Kelleher K34, for \$18,000 to Bongongo Angus in August 2015, only for it to be discovered the bull's sire was not that noted in the sale catalogue.

Irelands Angus, which is owned and operated by Corey and Prue Ireland was ordered to pay \$200,191.88 to Bongongo for the error.

District Court judge Margaret Sidis said the bull was listed as the progeny of sire Granite Ridge Thomas F223 — a bull purchased by Irelands in 2012 for \$14,000 — and Irelands Lowan B107. DNA testing after the sale established that Granite Ridge Thomas was not, in fact, the sire of K34.

**Don't be fooled -
Be sure you're buying an
Australian Lowline!**



Ask to see the Registration papers.
Still not sure?
Phone the ALCA Office & ask.



How to Transfer a Registered Lowline

From time to time you will sell one of your registered Lowlines to another ALCA member.

Filling out the Transfer of this animal correctly will ensure the new owner will have no problems registering progeny in the future.

At the bottom of the Certificate of Registration & Pedigree is a section that needs to be filled out when a registered animal is sold.

This needs to be filled out & signed/dated by the Vendor.

Without authorization from the Vendor an animal cannot be transferred to another member.

A Transfer fee of \$30.00 (+GST) is to be paid by the Vendor.

Direct payment can be made through the Lowline Shop www.lowlineshop.com

Add details of the animal to be transferred in the NOTES section.

Scan & email the signed Certificate of Registration to the Lowline Registrar lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au

Issued By: AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE ASSOCIATION INC
 ABRI, UNE, Armidale NSW 2351
 ABN 982 1677 6682

Transfer Details - Please Mail this Certificate of Registration to ABRI

SALE DATE:...../...../..... BUYER NAME:..... HERD ID:.....

BUYER ADDRESS:..... STATE:..... PCODE:.....

JOINING SIRE:..... SIRE REG#:.....

SERVICE FROM:..... TO:..... AI: YES/NO SIGNED:..... DATE:.....

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE REQUIRED: YES/NO

IMPORTANT: This certificate remains the property of the Breed Association and must be surrendered on demand. Both transfer and payment of transfer fee are the responsibility of the vendor. Note: It is important that Tattoos/Brands/Animal Identifications are checked.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are selling a female that might be in calf, please fill out the following -

JOINING SIRE & SIRE REG # - give full details of the bull the female was joined to/running with

SERVICE FROMTO.... - give the dates the bull was with the female

AI : YES/NO - note if the pregnancy was by AI. If the AI bull was a Registered AI Sire no further action is required.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE REQUIRED: YES/NO - this is needed if the AI bull was not a Registered AI Sire



Growing Better Beef - Feed & Minerals

Growing beef cattle happens at different stages and at different times.

Frame growth, as in skeletal growth, is not constant. It happens at different but predictable times of the year when you get 'growth spurts'. The animal will look taller but thinner than it did previously. This is growing bone. Eventually cattle get to the point where bone growth slows down to the point where they are fully grown.

Muscle growth (beef) generally happens in stages as well. When a growing animal is abundantly fed where protein and minerals are not limited, they will pile on muscle. The opposite is also true. Underfed cattle will 'mine' their own muscle to survive, lose weight and look thinner.

Fat deposits only appear when the animal has been well fed for a long period and its surroundings are abundant, that is, there is no food or mineral limitations. If cattle feel too abundant for too long they will get overly fat – they should have been processed for beef earlier. Over fattening cattle is a waste of food which could be feeding something else. Over time, excess fat becomes 'hard'. Consumers don't like hard fat.

Four things other than genetics affect growth – food, minerals, disease and parasites. If an animal has limited feed and minerals or has parasites (internal or external) or disease, the growth rate will be limited.

If your cattle are fully fed but are thin and not diseased, mineral deficiency will be limiting muscle and fat growth.



Lowline steers – Wanamara Farm, VIC



Lowline carcasses – Riley Jensen, Adelaide Park, QLD

Matt Wilkinson
Lowland Park, NZ

Australian Lowline Cattle Association
www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Let's Talk
Lowline

LOWLINE

Join the Australian
Lowline Cattle
Discussion Group on
Facebook



Judging cattle at Gore Show, NZ with Philip Worthington

Just back from a 1700km (1800km?) road trip to the depths of the South Island – a lot of driving but a lot of fun.

For those of you in Oz, this last weekend in NZ was Waitangi Weekend, a public holiday on Monday giving us three days off. That was the opportunity to get away, the reason being a cattle show in Gore.



The Gore A&P – like every other show in NZ – has been cancelled thanks to Covid, but a member of the local A&P committee and a keen cattle breeder who brings his Galloways and Angus all the way up to Christchurch every year, organised the event. Seven or eight breeders and 45 animals of five breeds (unfortunately no Lowlines). I was down to judge, hence the pics.

On the way home my wife, Kay and I visited several of her relatives who live in Central Otago (where Kay's Mum was born), spending the night with one couple and thoroughly enjoying the catch-up with them all (even if it did add a couple of days to the trip).

The pics give a flavour of the event and the keenness with which the breeders took part, with the exception of the calf in the third pic. As you can see in picture 4, she had won her junior handler a 2nd place ribbon (remember we are different on this side of the ditch in that 1st is a red and 2nd a blue) but then decided she had had enough and took a rest !!

A great day had by all.

Philip Worthington
Woolstone Park, NZ



Assessing Cattle for Beef Production

Are you wanting to grow the perfect steer for beef? Learn more by reading the Cattle Assessment Manual produced by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). Below is Page 2 but plenty more information is available –

https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/prices--markets/documents/minlrs-information-brochures-etc/mla_cattle-assessment-manual_jan-2017.pdf

1.2 Live weight and Carcase weight

MLA assesses cattle in live weight, as they appear in the saleyards. A dressing percentage is then applied to convert this stock into carcase weight. The formula for converting stock into carcase weight is:

Carcase weight = liveweight x dressing percentage

Most of the changes in live weight we observe are changes to gut content. This occurs immediately after stock has been taken off feed.

Carcase weight losses occur later and are due to dehydration of muscle and fat tissues when water is withheld, this then flows on to a breakdown in muscle and fat tissues when feed is withheld. Stock then draw on their body tissue to supply them with their energy needs. Losses to carcase weight can occur from 12 hours without water and from 24 hours without feed.

1.3 Fat Score

There is increasing pressure for cattle sellers to meet market specifications for fat depth, and a failure to meet fat requirements will often result in significant price discounts offered by cattle buyers. Outlined in Appendix 1, table 9 (page 11), there are six fat scores ranging from 1 (lean) to 6 (fat). The amount of fat coverage for each score is shown in table 3.

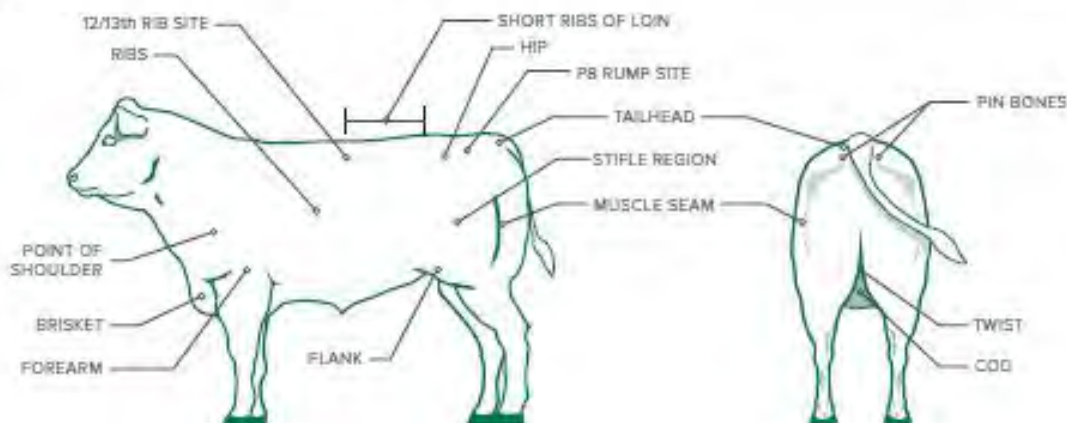
Table 3: Score fat table

Score	P8 site (mm)	12th rib (mm)
1	0-2	0-1
2	Over 2 up to 6	2-3
3	Over 6 up to 12	4-7
4	Over 12 up to 22	8-12
5	Over 22 up to 32	13-18
6	32+	18+

Source: AUSmeat

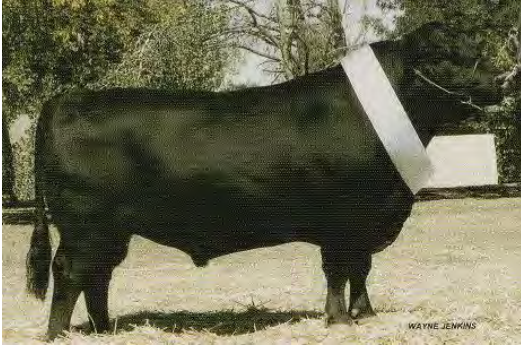


Figure 1: Reference points used for fat assessment



From the Archives

The Royal Canberra Show has just been held. In 1994 Canberra saw the first ever judging of Australian Lowline cattle and has seen them exhibited there every year since then. Many members will not know winners from past shows. You may even find some in the background pedigrees of your own animals. More photos can be found on the ALCA website.



2008 – Senior Bull & Supreme Exhibit- Kemoi Just Genes



2008 – Senior & Grand Champion Female – Trungley Zirconia



2008 – Junior Champion Female – Kemoi Poppie



2008 Junior Champion Bull – Rivenmead Rolls Royce



Senior & Grand Champion Female – Allambie Valantine



Junior Champion Female – Wanamara Leticia



Senior Champion Bull – Urila Emperor



Junior & Grand Champion Bull –Tanview Fair Dinkim

2012
Canberra
Australian
Lowline
Feature
Show

