

# **APRIL NEWSLETTER**

**2014**



## MERCHANDISE

We have lots of suitable gear for the Lowline enthusiast. Badges, stubby holders, caps and now Lowline ties in maroon or grey! Don't forget we also have chambray shirts and polo shirts in your stud colours. Get online and check it out on the ALCA website!

There are also farm gate signs – see below – for **just \$66 plus postage**. These are proving very popular!

Gate sign size is 600mm x 600mm

Contact Aimee or Sally at ABRI for details and orders and get one for your gate! Phone: 02 6773 3144

# STUD NAME



LOWLINE

# Phone or Email

## Youth sets farm goal

WHEN schoolboy Matthew Butler hauls himself out of bed at 3am to feed bobby calves during spring, he can be pretty sure his classmates are still fast asleep. The 15-year-old, who has reared calves on his own account every year since he was 11, rises so early because he has to be at the Whakatane Rowing Club in time for training at 6am.

If that is not evidence enough of the Whakatane High School student's ability to commit to and focus on the task at hand, in September he was elected chairman of the North Island promotion group for the Lowline cattle breed.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, his dedication to rowing paid dividends last year. Matthew won gold in the under-15 double sculls at both the Maadi Cup, the national schools' rowing regatta, and at the North Island championships. He was partnered with high school senior sports champion Lenny Jenkins.

The quietly-spoken teenager lives with parents Maurice and Lee-Anne Butler on 40-hectares of rolling hills and flats off Paul Road, Awakeri.

The Lowline breed was established in Australia in 1992 at the Trangie Research Centre in New South Wales

after nearly 20 years of selectively developing separate herds of large and small Angus cattle from an existing Angus stud.

The smaller sized, early maturing herd became the Lowline breed, the first arriving in New Zealand in 1995.

Matthew said today there were 20 North Island breeders and a lesser number in the South Island.

He said because of their small size Lowline cattle were easier on wet ground than larger breeds. They also produced a superior muscle-to-bone ratio.

"So you can carry more and they yield better, which makes them more profitable," he said.

Lowline bulls were also useful to cross with dairy heifers as they produced easy-to-deliver small calves that were a better beef option than Jersey-cross calves.

Matthew owns two cows out of his parents' 20-strong herd.

Lowline bulls are about 60 per cent of the size of larger breeds. Bulls stand about 105 centimetres at the shoulder and weigh 400-500 kilograms, with cows 350kg and 100cm tall.

Matthew said he did not expect to be elected chairman when he attended the North Island group's September annual meeting at Taupo "but it turned out that way".

Because of his age, his election was ratified by the Australian Lowline Cattle Association's council.

"They were happy with my appointment."

Matthew said his role involved presiding over annual meetings and a few others held during the year, and writing promotion reports for the association's journal.

In December he claimed second place in the Lowline under-18 handlers' class, an event in which the handler's abilities, rather than their livestock's attributes, are judged.

Matthew said his long-term goal was farm ownership, probably through dairy farming.

He intends completing an agricultural science degree at either Massey or Lincoln university, and that's where the bobby calves come in.

He intends for his calf-rearing business, which he funds himself, to pay for his university studies.

In 2013 he reared 130, buying four-day-old Friesians for between \$70 and \$120. He sold his early ones this season at 100 kilograms for \$450, but the market has dropped since to about \$360.

"I ended up doing alright," he said.

"It was hard sometimes but I'm used to getting up early now."

[geoff.mercer@whakatanebeacon.co.nz](mailto:geoff.mercer@whakatanebeacon.co.nz)



# SALES

**ALCA would like you to let us know if you sell any cattle to non-members. A quick email to Aimee will suffice including names and addresses, especially email addresses - or fill in the back of your pedigree, including email, and send that in. We would like details for these customers so that they may receive copies of the Newsletter and Journal – and they may decide it is worthwhile to join our great association!**

**Thank you!**

## ALCA Testimonials

ALCA is looking for testimonials from members who have had steers processed for Lowline beef. We know our Lowline beef is second-to-none but need written testimonials from our butchers to help promote this great product we are producing - Certified Lowline Beef. If you use a butcher, ask for his opinion of your steers & write it down. It doesn't need to be lengthy & a few facts & figures about your steers (age, liveweight, carcass weight, amount of meat produced) will all be beneficial.

Any information we receive will be shared with ALCA members on the Commercial Beef pages on the web site which are being developed at the moment.

We are also looking for more Testimonials from people who use Lowline bulls in beef or dairy herds. Ease of calving is a major factor for promoting Lowline bulls, so if you have sold bulls to others specifically for this or any other reason, ask your clients for feedback & let us know. The more we work together, the stronger the breed

# Beef Week 2014

Jeanette Stebbins

February was Beef Week in Victoria and 5 Lowline Studs showcased their cattle with 3 opening up their farms and 2 joining forces at Lardner Park.

Due to the weather, attendance by the public or prospective new breeders was limited, but a few good contacts were made, with future sales hoped for.

Young stock were exhibited at Lardner Park, with one Stud, along with its stock they had recently broken in, making its first outing— well done Tarrawarra.

Urila Stud exhibited stock all sired by the one bull, illustrating their breeding programme.

**Rod McNeil from Astralgus & Fiddleleaf Studs reports:-**

*It was very hot both days.*

*We had some people come by on both.....several new groups at Berwick, and existing customers at Gisborne, which is always fun. I think that the heat really determines how Beef Week goes.*

*Overall Karen and I had enjoyable days...probably will sell a bull and maybe a few steers as a result over upcoming weeks.*

## PHOTOS FROM BEEF WEEK



# CANBERRA ROYAL RESULTS

## Royal Canberra Show Results 2014

### Australian Lowline

**Bull. Over 14 months and not over 16 months**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** *O'Hara Master Gerald - W & T Hall*



**O'HARA MASTER GERALD**

**Bull, over 16 months & not over 18 months**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** *Serena Downs Howzat - C&M Noel*

**Bull, over 18 months and not over 20 months**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** *Rotherwood Howzat - V&P Gilbert*

**Junior Champion Bull-** *O'Hara Master Gerald - W & T Hall*

**Reserve Champion Bull-** Rotherwood Howzat - V&P Gilbert



**ROTHERWOOD HOWZAT**

**Bull over 24 months and not over 30 months**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Serena Downs Googoplex - C&M Noel

**Senior Champion Bull-** Serena Downs Googoplex - C&M Noel

**Grand Champion Bell-** O'Hara Master Gerald - W & T Hall

**Heifer, over 8 months and not over 12 months**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** O'Hara Miss Angelica- W&T Hall

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Wigram Odyssey- Ashleigh Kuipers

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Elle Kay Satin - L.A & L.M Kuipers

**4<sup>th</sup>:** Serena Downs Je T'Aime



**O'HARA ANGELICA**



**Heifer, over 14 months and not over 16 months**

1<sup>st</sup>: Rotherwood Hadfield Girl - V&P Gilbert

2<sup>nd</sup>: Serena Downs Holly - C&M Noel

3<sup>rd</sup>: Wigram Sweet Cienna - Ashleigh Kuipers

**Heifer, over 16 months and not over 18 months**

1<sup>st</sup>: Rotherwood Hula Girl - Matt R Cooney



**ROTHERWOOD HULA GIRL**

**Heifer, over 18 months and not over 20 months**

1<sup>st</sup> Serena Downs Hannah Lilly - C&M Noel

**Junior Champion Female** - Rotherwood Hula Girl - Matt R Cooney

**Reserve Junior Champion**- O'Hara Miss Angelica- W&T Hall

**Cow/Heifer, over 24 months and not over 30 months:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Elle Kay Briar Rose - LA & LM Kuipers

**Cow, over 30 months**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Serena Downs Emilly - C&M Noel

**Senior Champion Female:** Serena Downs Emilly - C&M Noel

**Reserve Senior Champion:** Elle Kay Briar Rose - LA & LM Kuipers

**Grand Champion Female:** Serena Downs Emilly - C&M Noel

**Supreme Champion of the Breed-** O'Hara Master Gerald - W & T Hall

**Tammy Breuer Memorial Trophy** W&T Hall

***Congratulations to all who exhibited!***

## **JUST A QUICK REMINDER.....**

Payments need to be made with applications for registration (by credit card, EFT or cheque) before processing occurs.

Please ensure that registration forms are completed as the DNA result does not provide all information required.

Registrations will not be processed based on a DNA result and this may delay processing time.

Registration forms can be posted, emailed or found on the ALCA website in the member's area.

We thank you for your cooperation.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

ANGUS GORMAN  
ALYSIA & CAMERON COOPER  
BRETT & NERYLEE FRASER  
VANESSA & CRAIG ARCHER  
MATT COONEY  
ANGUS CALDER  
EMMANUELLE FRANCESCA HUTT  
MATTHEW BAILEY  
M KONING & R UITDEWILLIGEN  
GORDON E MARSDEN  
HUGH GOODACRE  
IAN & MAUREEN MORRIS  
JOHN LISTER  
PAUL & AMANDA KING  
MICHAEL & DEBORAH MAHER  
PHILLIPA MOLONEY  
PITTWATER HIGH SCHOOL  
ANDREW ROSS ALLEN  
KERRY J & ROCHELLE L PRATER  
IAN & KYM FAINT  
KAREN ANDERSON  
COMMERCIAL SALE  
STEPHEN & ADRIENNE LUEY  
TARA SHIRE STATE COLLEGE

**ALCA welcomes members above who have joined since the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013. We wish you every success with your Lowlines!**