



THE DOWNLOW ON THE LOWLINE

TODAY, THE LOWLINE IS A COMPACT beefy breed. Genetically pure, free from inherited defects and health issues, Lowlines now show consistency in breed traits.

From humble beginnings in New Zealand in the late 1990s as a show and lifestyle boutique breed; this moderately-sized breed of cattle is becoming a popular option for the dairy sector where Lowline bulls are being sought to ease the sleepless nights of exhausted dairy farmers at calving time.

These bulls are perfect for dairy heifers providing them with an easy first birth to get them started on their dairy journey. Lowline bulls provide a shortened gestation length of about 270 days, and these bulls provide a stocky, black beefy calf that is bound to fetch a good dollar once reared. It's not a long history for Lowline studs within NZ but it is a changing time for the breed.

Thanks to the efforts of a handful of combined studs and the approval of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association, there is now a NZ-bred Lowline bull taking part within the Beef + Lamb NZ Dairy Beef 2020 progeny trial.

It is the first Lowline to be included in this trial and represents a big step for the breed. Stud owners are all holding their breath for results. Up against all the mainstream breeds the Lowline should have some standout traits displayed throughout the rigorous assessment period. These calves show hybrid vigor and finish earlier than what is seen as normal in the dairy beef market these days.

Lowline studs within NZ are selectively improving the breed for the NZ market. With quality semen being available locally the breed is looking well for the future both in purebred and dairy beef markets. 🌱