



Southern Regional Promotional Group

Lowline Newsletter

March 2014

Message from the Chair

On being selected as Chair of SRPG in October, I decided that my agenda would be to;

- Find out what members wanted from the Group and our survey of Breeders gave us ideas for future planning
- Encourage breeders to participate in the commercial side of cattle breeding.

Without a commercial side to the Breed, it will eventually fall apart, as not everyone wants to endure the paperwork and management of a Stud. To inform breeders of exactly what type of beef they are breeding, I encourage you to use your steers for on-farm/farm gate beef sales, participate in carcass competitions and/or steer trials to get feedback on the genetics you are using. Profits are made when carcasses exhibit ideal sized prime cuts. Selecting a bull that will improve your cow herd's traits and give you the highest return is the way to achieve this.

Notice of carcass competitions and steer trials will be advertised on our newly designed SRPG web site, which I encourage you to visit often. The Committee's aim is to keep the web site fresh and current. A special thanks to Sue Pace for her expertise and hours of work on the web site.

We encourage any member who knows of someone in the fire affected areas who may still require assistance to let us know how we can assist.

At the suggestion of ALCA President, Bill Belton, I recently phoned our Past President, John Rowe, to inquire of his health. John advised that he had spent time in hospital in late 2013 with serious heart and associated problems, but was now progressing well, although a change from farming to a more relaxed lifestyle was on the "drawing board" in the near future. We wish John & Ann, who worked tirelessly promoting the Lowline Breed, well in their lifestyle change.

The Committee has invested many hours of their time to organize the 2014 On Farm Challenge and I encourage you to enter as many cattle as you can. It is an excellent way of having your cattle appraised.

On our farm, the weather in 2014 has been unusually dry and some of us have already started feeding out, hoping that the Autumn break is not too far away. We left a productive green farm in mid January to visit the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, USA where we offered some embryos for sale, and came home late January to parched brown paddocks. How quickly our landscape changes!

We have had our usual visit by the crickets and Peter spread 800kg of baited barley last week, which didn't seem to go very far. However, there are a lot of dead crickets along our tracks, so it must have worked. Crickets eat each other, so hopefully, a lot have disappeared that way as well.

It is always nice to get favourable remarks about your stock and breeding programme from other cattle breeders and this has recently been the case with the Autumn arrival of calves from our bull Ardrossan Wizard, who won the 2013 OFC Bull 12-24 months. Commercial and Stud calves, all female out of heifers and cows, weighed 25kg at birth and are uniform in their length, hip height and girth.

We also used some old "tried and true" bulls over more modern cows, in our AI programme this year.

Have you used a new bull this year - did you use some AI - were you able to get enough hay - have you had a good sale of animals - did your entrants in the OFC justify their entry in 2013?

Our hard working Treasurer, Jacqui and Secretary, Jo-Ann would also like to hear from you with what is happening on your farm or any other news, for inclusion in the Newsletter. We can only keep you informed if you keep us informed.

Jeanette Stebbins

On Farm Challenge Entries Close April 4th, Don't Miss Out!!

The Southern Region Promotional Group (SRPG) of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association (ALCA) is proud to present the second Lowline Cattle On Farm Challenge. This 2014 event follows the success of our inaugural challenge in 2013 when nearly 100

entries from Victorian Lowline studs across the state competed in 13 classes over three days of judging.

This year an even larger pool of entries is expected, with the addition of a new Sire's Progeny class. This will give Lowline breeders the opportunity to present the results of their respective breeding programs.

The On Farm Challenge enables entrants to have their stock assessed by an experienced cattle judge without having to prepare and transport them to a showground. No leading, clipping or special preparation, cattle to be assessed in their "working clothes." It's also an excellent introduction to showing for new breeders and is open to all full members of the SPRG/ALCA.

We're delighted that Annette Walker will judge this year's event. Annette is joint principal of Raedean Red Poll and Red Angus Stud at Buln Buln in Gippsland, Victoria. Raedean Stud has had great success in the show ring, consistently winning broad ribbons at major shows throughout Australia. Annette is a very well respected cattle judge and judged the Lowline Classes at Brisbane Ekka in 2012. (details of Annette's achievements are attached).

There are some fantastic prizes on offer from:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 🏆 Timboon Vet Group | 🏆 Coopers |
| 🏆 Anchors Port Campbell | 🏆 Zoetis |
| 🏆 Crameri Stock Feeds | 🏆 Art by CJ Brown |

A presentation day lunch/get together will be held on Sunday May 18, where prizes and ribbons will be presented to the winners.

The entry form and rules have already been emailed to members. If you haven't received yours, or have any queries, please email Jo Jackson, jojack2@bigpond.com

Chain Ranch Wins Champion Commercial Heifer Honors at National Western Stock Show

DENVER, CO [February 3, 2014] – Each year the National Western Stock Show has entries from around the country come to compete in the Commercial Heifer competition. This year, 2014, the historic Chain Ranch, Canton, Oklahoma, won the coveted award with a set of Lowline cross heifer

calves sired by the 2006 National Champion Lowline sire, Little Joe 305R.

The dams are the Chain Ranches' commercial cows which have used top genetics for producing commercial cows for over 100 years. The Chain Ranch was founded back in 1883.

These Lowline cross females, also referred to as Moderator Plus females by the American Lowline Registry, were born with a light 50 pound birth weight and weaned off at over 580 pounds. The set of extremely low input females weighed in at 700 pounds and could be used to raise heifer bulls, replacement females or use a high performance sire to add more pounds and maintain a very low input cow factory. Either way the females will be a valuable tool in moderating cow size and controlling input costs while having a very productive cow factory for their new buyers after bringing \$1700 per head through the Commercial Heifer Pen Sale. The females are expected to have an 1100 pound mature size.



PhotoThe Grand Champion Pen of Commercial Heifers – American Lowline Registry.

Value of Cross Bred Bulls

Cross bred bulls sired by Ardrossan bred bulls resident in the US, Jamberoo & Woomera, averaged \$6750.00 at a recent Aberdeen Plus auction at Duff Cattle Company in Oklahoma, USA (further details in this newsletter)

Once again, it shows the value of Lowline bulls in a commercial enterprise.

Jeanette Stebbins

ALCA Website - 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 and write it down. It doesn't need to be lengthy and a few facts and 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 and let us know. The more we work together, the stronger the breed

Julie Knight

New Zealand Royal Show

The New Zealand Royal Show was held at Feilding in the North Island on 6-8 Dec 2013 and in response to a request by the North Island Promotion Group, ALCA sent well-known Victorian judge, Ross Canning as the Australian judge for the occasion.

Ross Canning, a Canadian and now resident in Australia, is the manager of South Boorook Herefords in Mortlake, Vic. and many SRPG members will know him from the SRPG On Farm Challenge last year. Ross also manages his late father-in-law's Simmental stud and has judged Lowlines many times over the years at both local and Royal Shows

Ross was delighted to be asked to judge the Lowlines in NZ, both he and his wife, Rita, thoroughly enjoyed their NZ Lowline experience. Thirty animals were exhibited, many by newcomers to the Show scene and they greatly appreciated Ross' expertise.

A comment from an exhibitor was "As well as being a great judge, he has a great sense of humour and a lovely smile."

Sally Yearbury, Ploughbright Stud, won the Tammy Breuer Memorial Cup for the best Lowline exhibit and it was presented by Judy Sainsbury, Casablanca Stud, who was one of the chief organisers. Katherine Moore won the Lowline Junior Handler.



Pictured the Supreme Champion Lowline Cow - Ploughbright Chatterbox - exhibited by S. Yearbury.

Rural Lifestyle Expo

This event is growing in popularity as the trend towards people wanting to enjoy a rural lifestyle and a desire to learn more about the aspects of living on a rural property increases. This Expo brings together experts and representatives from rural businesses to help people increase their skills and knowledge.

There are livestock advisors, suppliers of machinery and equipment that rural lifestyle people need, livestock agents, veterinary professionals, a sustainability theme, fencing experts and a host of other representatives on site to speak to. This one day event is on Saturday April 5th, 2014 from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm at the Ballarat Showgrounds.

A number of Lowline Studs have participated in previous years and feedback has been positive from those who've displayed their animals. If you're interested in attending this year as an exhibitor, log on to www.rurallifestyleexpo.org.au SRPG will provide marketing and handouts to be given out on the day.



Cows-a-Weigh

Knowing what your stock weighs is important. It ensures you don't under or over medicate, and it can help with decisions about when to send animals to market. It provides confirmation to observations about whether or not a cow is losing or gaining condition, and enables you to see how well calves are growing. This information can also be provided to potential buyers who will be interested in growth rates.

I am not very good at guessing. I've never been able to guess the number of jelly beans in a jar, I can't tell how old a person might be, and I can't guess how much my cattle weigh.

I've wanted a set of scales since we sent our first batch of steers off to the saleyards in 2012.

At the end of 2013, we bought a set of cattle scales, a Thunderbird PS3000. The scales comprise two weighing bars and a reader that connects to the weighing bars via two cables. It's possible to buy a reader that can connect directly to a laptop for recording data, or a heavy duty set of weigh bars that sit under the crush, so if a cow leans on the crush, it doesn't affect the displayed weight.

The installation instructions recommend the weigh bars should be positioned on a hard, level, well-drained surface, preferably concrete. We've had the yards for a couple of years, and each year, we move them around a little to come up with a configuration that works best for us. The time had come to settle on the permanent configuration for the yards, as we decided to concrete the race for the scales.

Then we had to decide where the scales would go in the race. We decided to place them at the end of our race, after the crush. We decided not to put them before the crush, as our race is not very long, and sometimes we will have a couple of head trying to be in the same place at the same time when we're pushing them through.

If we are drenching or vaccinating, we can put them on the scales and check weights to ensure the cattle are getting the correct dose, and give that to them while they're standing on the scales. The Lowline



reputation for docility, and the fact we handle our stock regularly mean we don't need to put them in a head bail in order to treat them.

Although we didn't need a lot of concrete, it was easier to bring in a mixer for the concrete, rather than mix it ourselves. So one morning a small cement mixer delivered a load of cement, and I learned about screeding. Craig had moved the crush and race panels, then framed up where the concrete would be poured. We left the concrete to set for a couple of weeks, and then set the race and yards back up around the slab. A neighbour with a bigger tractor than ours came over to help reposition the crush back on the concrete, and we set the yards back up.



The rear weigh bar is bolted firmly to the concrete, but the front bar is bolted loosely to allow the metal to flex.

Next came the weighing platform. Craig decided to buy a platform, rather than construct one himself. We spoke with our local supplier, who knew a special was coming up, and so we waited for the special. The platform came, and was positioned over the weigh bars.

The reader was set up so it could be bolted to a gate on the race – making sure that when the gate swung open, it would not crash the reader into another panel or gate. Craig also used a bucket to make a cover for it, to make it easier to read in bright light, and protect it in case of rain. We plan to roof that part of the race to make it more waterproof. The reader is stored in the shed where it can be charged up ready for use. The cables between the weigh bars and the reader have been secured, to prevent feet getting caught in them.

Last week we ran the herd over the scales for the first time. They were a little unsure of the concrete, and the platform, but we gave them the time to check it all out, and we were able to record our first weights. We note the cow and the weight, and take that back to the house and enter it into a spreadsheet. We can sort the spreadsheet by weight, age, sire or dam. I

will be able to confirm how well an animal is doing, and not just rely on my sight (which is not great).



We'll also know, instead of having to guess, when the steers are ready to be sent to market and have a better chance of getting a good price.

Sue Pace and Craig Davis
Black Label Lowlines

Trust Me: Lowline makes US\$85,000

TRUST Me, a Lowline-cross bull with a pedigree stacked with Australian genetics, has sold for US\$85,000 in the US.

The October 2012-drop sire sold in the Duff Cattle Company's Power Plus bull sale at Hobart, Oklahoma, on the weekend to JC Ranch, Gurdon, Arkansas. It was one of 22 Aberdeen Plus bulls which averaged \$10,965.



Pictured The US\$85,000 bull Duff Trust Me 2525.

Duff Trust Me 2525 is from the Duff family's Aberdeen Plus program, which uses Lowline sires to join to their heifers and thus, eliminate the worry of calving difficulties. "Three years ago, I finally decided there had to be a better solution ...so I began

a search for the best low maintenance, easy calving Angus genetics available to use on my virgin heifers," said Kirk Duff.

"After countless hours and many miles, we came across some quality Lowline Angus genetics that were able to complement our current Angus genetics." Mr Duff said over the past three years, the results had been satisfying.

At Power Plus, they had calved more than 200 heifers bred to Lowline Angus bulls, and they had also supplied hundreds of straws of semen as well as leasing Lowline Angus sires to long-time commercial customers. "We no longer bring our heifers up close to the barn to calve them; they stay out on grass just like the cows during calving," he said.

"Birth complications have been minimal, as the birthweights have ranged from 50 to 69 pounds (23 to 31 kilograms). "The two lines of Angus genetics are so distantly related, when mated together the result has added hybrid vigor."

Source:US Stockman

Lardner Park Steer Trial

The annual Lardner Steer Trial will commence in June 2014. Details won't be available until May, however now is the time you should consider if you will have 2 steers that fit the criteria. The following commentary is from the 2013 trial, and as soon as we receive information on this year's event, we will advise.

The grass fed trial is run in two turn-off sections. The first for the domestic market, with the second being for the heavy domestic market. The trial provides an ideal opportunity for beef producers to compare their cattle under independently controlled grazing conditions. It also provides the vehicle for producers to develop a deeper understanding of the factors influencing live weight gain and carcass quality.

All steers will be slaughtered and evaluated at Radford's Abattoirs. Carcasses are evaluated using the Meat Standards Australia Measurement System (MSA). In the 2013 trial, Castricum Fine Foods purchased the MSA graded beef from both sections of the trial.

The weight gain results (accounting for 45% of the points) are added to the carcass evaluation results (accounting for 55% of the points) to determine the overall winners in each section.

Helping a Newborn Calf Breathe

Despite our best efforts at bull selection and heifer development, cows or heifers occasionally need assistance at calving time. Every baby calf has a certain degree of respiratory acidosis. Acidosis is the result of the deprivation of oxygen and the accumulation of carbon dioxide that results from the passage of the calf through the birth canal. The excess of carbon dioxide results in a build-up of lactic acid (therefore the acidosis.) In order to correct the lack of oxygen and the excess of carbon dioxide and its by-products, the healthy calf will pant vigorously shortly after birth. Some calves, however, may be sluggish and slow to begin this corrective process.

It is imperative that the newborn calf begins to breathe as soon as possible. To stimulate the initiation of the respiratory process, a few ideas may help. First, manually clear the mouth and nasal passages of fluids and mucus. Traditionally, compromised calves were held up by their hind legs to allow fluid to drain from the airways, but now many veterinarians and animal scientists don't recommend this. Most of the fluid that drains from an upside-down calf is stomach fluid, important to health. Holding the calf by its hind legs also puts pressure on the diaphragm from abdominal organs, interfering with normal breathing. It's better to use a suction bulb to clear the airways.

Hanging the calf over a fence also is NOT a recommended method for a sluggish newborn. The weight of the calf on the fence restricts the movement of the diaphragm muscle. The fence impairs the diaphragm's ability to contract and move. This diaphragm activity is necessary to expand the lungs to draw in air and needed oxygen.

A better method is to briskly tickle the inside of the nostrils of the calf with a straw. This will usually cause the calf to have a reflex action such as a "snort" or cough. The reflex cough or "snort" expands the lungs and allows air to enter. Expect the calf to pant rapidly for a few minutes after breathing is initiated. Panting is the natural response that increases oxygen intake and carbon dioxide release and will allow the calf to reach normal blood gas concentrations.

Source: Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus
Extension Animal Scientist

Southern Regional Promotional Group Member Advertising

SRPG Membership is now automatically included in your subscription to ALCA. This new funding model will not cover the costs of the group's social and promotional activities. To enable the group to continue its work a number of new fundraising initiatives are being implemented.

The first of these initiatives is the **SRPG Member Advertising Package**.

The Advertising Package will be offered to all SRPG members at a cost of **\$85.00** per annum. The benefits included in this package are:

Inclusion of members stud name and details in the new SRPG **Brochure** which will be re-printed annually as required. Participating Breeders will receive 50 brochures for their own use. Extra brochures can be purchased at anytime. SRPG will use the brochures in promotional activities such as Field Days, Showbags and Information Packs.

Inclusion in selected SRPG promotional advertisements placed in external publications

Advertising in the **For Sale** section of the SRPG website www.victorianlowline.com.au. (advertisements would be displayed on the website for a maximum of 8 weeks)

Listing of the stud/breeder's website in the **Links** section of the SRPG Website www.victorianlowline.com.au

Advertising in the new **For Sale** section of the quarterly SRPG **Newsletter**

Members who decide not to take up the offer can still advertise in the For Sale Section of the website and the newsletter on a 'for fee' basis and **all** member details will be listed on the website unless the member has elected to opt out

Please advise our Treasurer Jacqui Feagan via email rfeagan.dbms@bigpond.com or phone (03) 5962 3477 and an application form for the Advertising Package will be forwarded to you, alternatively the form can be downloaded from the News Page at www.victorianlowline.com.au .

Also, we are currently seeking photographs from members for inclusion in the new brochure. All photos must be of high quality and subjects should reflect one of the following areas;

- SRPG education events or promotional activities
- Herd shot in landscape
- Carcase competition photos
- Lowline bull in landscape
- Lowline Cow or heifer in landscape
- Crossbred Lowline
- Calf images, group/single
- Schools agricultural programs
- Youth/Child with Lowline

Please email your photos to Jacqui before April 25th. Photos for inclusion will be decided by the SRPG Committee before the **30th April 2014**

VICTORIAN BEEF WEEK

Day Five (1 Feb 2014) Lardner Park

The combined Beef Week field day at Lardner Park, near Warragul, drew together six breeds giving interested cattle people the opportunity to view and more easily compare breeds in cattle. Two Lowline studs, Tarrawarra and Urila and SRPG participated and were very pleased to be able to promote the Australian Lowline breed and theirs and other studs with a good representation of Lowline animals and publicity material.

Being such a very hot day we had to be discerning as to which of our cattle were selected to make the journey to Lardner Park. The photographs show the contended Lowlines enjoying the shade.



Lines of enquiry included: establishing a Lowline herd; bulls for first drop heifers of other beef breeds and dairy; and Lowline heifers and cows for breeding.



Urila Lowline Stud at Beef Week 2014 Lardner Park

Beef Week gives the opportunity for beef breeders to showcase their cattle and the breed at their home location or combined at regional locations with accompanying publicity. As well as the studs at Lardner Park, this year three SRPG members participated at their stud locations and two South Australian breeders took part in the combined promotion in Victorian Beef Week at Mt Gambier.

For future Beef Weeks, SRPG members might consider initiating combined exhibits with SRPG in other regions of Victoria - an economic opportunity for more members to publicise their studs and the Australian Lowline breed.

Hilery Belton
Urila Lowlines



Tarrawarra Lowline Stud at Beef Week 2014 Lardner Park

Raedeans Reds

Red Angus Red Polls



Annette Walker & Noel Gnaden
61 Grays Road, Buln Buln
Victoria. 3821 Australia
Ph: +61 3 5626 7062
Mob: 0407 346 488
email: raedeans@smartchat.net.au

www.raedeans.com.au

Profile - Annette Walker

Along with my husband Noel Gnaden, we operate Raedeans Red Angus and Red Poll Stud at Buln Buln approx 100 km east of Melbourne, Victoria. I have been breeding Red Polls for almost thirty (30) years and we decided to add Red Angus to our breeding program five (5) years ago.

Our very first and successful showing of Red Polls was in 1994, winning the Senior and Grand Champion Female at Melbourne Royal. We have since gone on to win broad ribbons at Adelaide, Supreme Exhibit awards at Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra Royals. Royal Melbourne Shows from 1999 to 2005 we have had the pleasure of breeding the Supreme Champion Exhibit, showing six of those animals ourselves. We have exhibited at 13 Red Poll Feature Shows since 1994 (including 4 Royal Features) and were most successful exhibitor at eight of those shows. The 2007 Canberra Royal we were excited to see a bull with two generations of our bloodlines awarded Supreme Interbreed Exhibit. One of our bulls was selected by Semex for international semen collection and one bull has now sold over 2000 straws world wide.

In 2008 we started our Red Angus herd in and our debut showing at the 2009 Red Angus Feature in Adelaide with over 100 exhibits our two heifers placed in the largest classes of the day we returned to Adelaide the following year to take out Supreme Exhibit. We have been successfully showing at our local shows taking out many Interbreeds at local shows including Supreme Exhibit at the Berwick Red Angus Feature show.

In 2007 I was invited to judge Red Poll & Santa Gertrudis and the Interbreed classes at the New Zealand Royal held in Christchurch. 2008 I was invited to judge at the Brisbane Royal, judging Red Poll, Piedmontese, Sahiwal & Interbreed and in 2012 I was invited back to Brisbane to judge the Lowlines and Small Breeds Interbreed. I have had the pleasure of judging cattle at many local Agricultural shows judging the junior handlers and judging competitions along with a variety of cattle such as Angus, Murray

Grays, Simmentals, Belted Galloways, Charolais, Welsh Blacks, Lowline, Hereford, Shorthorn, Maine Anjou, Brahman, Limousin, South Devon, Gelbvieh, Galloway, Highland, Red Angus, Pinzgauer and Red Poll. In 2008 it was an honour to be selected to judge one of the VASL regional finals for Junior Handlers & Junior Judging. Perth Royal 2013 I was invited to judge the Red Poll, Saler, Square Metre, Simmental and the State Final of the Junior Judging.

Annette Walker

Committee

Chairperson
Jeanette Stebbins

Phone 0438 542 495
stebbins@bigpond.com.au

Secretary
Jo Jackson

Phone: 0407 811 002
jojack2@bigpond.com

Treasurer
Jacqui Feagan

Phone: (03) 5962 3477
rfeagan.dbms@bigpond.com

Committee

David Ritter

Phone 0412 330 060
abaminga@optusnet.com.au

Sue Pace

Phone (03) 9746 1159
Lowlines@blacklabelstud.com

Tonia Goodman

Phone (03) 5429 1837
toniabilabouri@bigpond.com.au