

TESTIMONIALS FOR LOWLINE BULLS

Dairy Herds

We took over the Ayshire/Holstein Dairy at Hurlstone Agricultural High School where 85% of first calf heifers were needing assistance to calve when put in calf via AI to their respective breeds.

We leased a Lowline Bull from Allambie stud to use over the heifers and over the course of 4 years only two calves needed to be pulled, due to malpresentation.

The conception rate rose significantly also and most batches of heifers went in calf on their first cycle.

Ease of calving with heifers means that the heifers recover quicker and can be put straight into the dairy. It created less cases of metritis and mastitis which meant much better milk production from our first calvers.

Our 1st lactation cows were easier to get back in calf also because of the reduced stress from calving.

Where we had previously got \$5 a calf for dairy bull calves, we were selling black lowline cross calves and making \$100 a calf.

Emma Germany
Hurlstone Agricultural High School
Glenfield, NSW



Another Lowline Convert

Girgarre Dairy farmer, Ross Wheeler made the decision to use Lowline bulls in 2014 after having a disastrous calving season the year before when he had to assist 32 Holstein heifers while calving.

"I decided to try using the Lowlines because my neighbor has been using a Lowline bull for years & swears by them. I have seen the healthy black calves he sends off to market which is always a bonus."

Ross purchased 3 Lowline bulls from Wanamara Farm & the following season all 80+ heifers calved within 6 weeks of each other with strong healthy calves.

He has had friends & neighbors commenting on his 'well-bred Angus calves' & he has had great delight in telling them they are **well-bred Lowline calves!**

Ross Wheeler,
Girgarre, Victoria

Lowline bulls mated with dairy heifers are proving a winner for Canterbury dairy farmers, Graham and Adele Wells on the Canterbury Plains.

They own 182 ha and lease other land. The milking herd should reach 830 cows this year and production last season was close to 1700kgMS/ha or 415kg/cow.

Lowline bulls have been used for the past four calvings.

Four two year old Lowlines were bought from Gordon and Debbie Guthrie of Ashburton, and have performed without problems.

“They seem to get the heifers in calf easily even though they are short legged” Graham said.

The Lowlines are mated to 200 Friesian/Jersey cross heifers after the heifers have been artificially inseminated & used as mop-up bulls. The natural mating result is about 70 Lowline-cross calves.

“The biggest advantage of using Lowline bulls is easy calving”, Graham said. **“We get no paralysis or calving difficulties.** The calves are robust and will quickly get on their feet and feed off their mums.”

The other great advantage of Lowline cross calves is that they have no horn growth. The two types of calves are easily identified as the AI bred calves are kept as replacements.

“It’s a really important thing for a dairy farmer to tell whether it’s an AI calf or mated naturally”, Adele says.

Graeme & Adele Wells
Canterbury, NZ

Article courtesy of Straight Farrow, NZ

Ken Lorains of Whitby Farm, has been leasing Lowline bulls to neighboring dairy farmers for many years.

Having been a Dairy farmer most of his life, Ken originally purchased a few Lowline cows & a Lowline bull which he used over his dairy cows. The many benefits of the Lowlines soon became apparent. Ken later retired from dairy cows & built up a substantial stud Lowline herd.

Ken now has dairy farmers around the local area ringing him about his bulls, either to buy or lease. At times, even the old Lowline bulls are brought out from semi-retirement because the demand for bulls is high.

“Once a Dairy farmer has used a Lowline bull over his heifers, he will come back for another the following season, because easy calving saves time and money”, says Ken.

Ken Lorains

Whitby Farm
Zeerust, Victoria



One of the key character traits of the Lowline breed is the shorter gestation by comparison to the usual cow gestation of nine months and nine days.

Rangiora breeders Philip and Kay Worthington, who have about 130 purebred Lowlines, have used it as a selling point supplying Lowline bulls into the dairy industry.

They've been selling bulls to dairy farmers for about six years. The story that one regular buyer told this year sums up what the Lowline breed can do in this context.

The North Canterbury farmer, part of a syndication group of farms, used Jersey semen to artificially inseminate his mixed-breed heifers, then ran Lowline bulls with the herd. The first calves on the ground for the season were the black Lowlines, some days before any Jersey juniors appeared.

The North Canterbury buyer was delighted to turn his milkers around that much earlier and add to his milk cheque earlier.

The smaller calf size is ideal for heifers calving for the first time. The same North Canterbury farmer noted that he did not have to pull any calves from cows mated with his Lowline bulls.

But the small calf size is no disadvantage – the calves feed well and grow quickly.

Another buyer of the Woolstone bulls, who has reared Lowline cross heifer and bull calves as beef, along with other cross combinations, has commented that "The little Aussies are tough little buggers and certainly first to line up at the feeders. They do well."

And another Rangiora dairy farmer, who sells crossbred calves to calf rearers, had customers coming back asking for "the little black ones" because of past experiences with the Lowline's sturdiness and assertiveness.

*Philip & Kay Worthington
Rangiora, N.Z*

Article Courtesy Of The Straight Furrow, NZ

Larry Gofton and family milk 600 cows and run a small feedlot on 1200 acres at Scottsdale, Tasmania. In about 2001 he bought his first Lowline bulls from Mignon stud in an attempt to overcome continual calving difficulties in his heifers.

After using Lowline bulls for five straight seasons, Larry decided he wanted some black baldies from a Hereford bull but had a disastrous result.

"I didn't get any sleep from the time they started calving," he says. "We lost calves. We didn't lose heifers because I went round them every two or three hours checking."

"We knew what had happened with them because we had had such a wonderful run with the Lowlines."

"We calve about 100 two-year-old heifers every year and we put these [Lowline] fellas over them and we have no problems at all," Larry says.

And is he happy with the offspring and their growth rates?

"Growth rates? Well, put it this way, the growth rate is really good. We have had buyers come here to see Friesian-Lowline cross heifers that we're about to sell and they wouldn't believe that they were Lowlines. He reckoned they were Black Poll cross."

"I can't speak too highly about the Lowlines. "We have calved to Black Polls, Poll Herefords, Shorthorn, White Shorthorn, Roan Shorthorn & many other breeds. But we've never had the results we've had with these Lowlines. They're great!"

*Larry Gofton
Scottsdale, Tasmania*

Mating heifers to Lowline bulls delivers dual benefits – easy births and calves that can be raised for beef, says a Hawera dairy farmer.

Eric and Diane Werder who have 310 pedigree Friesian cows on their 173ha dairy farm have been mating their 60 or so heifers to Lowline bulls since 2005.

Like other dairy farmers with Friesian herds, they found that mating heifers to Friesian bulls was fraught with difficulty. The calves were so large the heifers could die giving birth or become paralysed.

In 2005 they decided to mate their Friesian heifers to Lowline bulls.

Eric Werder said mating his Friesian heifers to the little Lowlines produced little calves that “popped out like peanuts.”

In the seven years since he started using pedigree Lowline bulls, he hasn’t had to assist his heifers at calving.

“I’ve never had to calve any – not one.

They’re just 20 to 24kg. They’re sucking on their mothers and running around really quickly and they double their birth weight in two weeks.”

Sometimes the newborn crossbred calves can be hard to find because they are so small that if the paddock has long grass, they’re hidden.

Eric & Diane Werder
Hawera, NZ

Article Courtesy Of Taranaki Daily News

