



angus Raff

2014 - April Newsletter

angus



BREEDING ANGUS IN QUEENSLAND SINCE 1965



Charlie Raff after his Reserve Pee Wee Champion Parader award with Raff Burnette H122.



The Raff Angus Team - Steph Frankham- Kate Raff- Alistair Philp- Harry Raff- Hayden Bidgood- Sam Vincent- Charlie Raff- Molly Raff and Jack Raff.

Raff Angus supports the 2014 National Youth Angus Roundup

Raff Angus supported this year's event with a team of eight heifers and eight beef enthusiasts who joined with over 150 fellow young people from all over the country that gathered in Toowoomba to participate in the Angus Youth event of the year - the Angus Youth Roundup 2014 in January.

Held over 4 days, the Roundup attracted participants from ages 8 -25 with all levels of cattle experience and provided both a learning and fun experience for all.

The Angus Youth Roundup, organised by a group of volunteers, comprised of educational sessions, various competitions and many activities.

Additionally, a huge range of scholarships and awards were presented to Angus Youth's most outstanding participants. At the special Dinner and Auction that was held on the Saturday night Raff Angus donated a Herd Book Registered heifer towards Angus Youth which featured as the major lot attraction.

The 11 month old heifer, Raff Duchess J107, was described as 'a very stylish daughter by South Australia's top priced bull of 2012 whose dam, Hoff Blackbird 5218, was the \$17,500 high selling pick heifer of her flush that sold at the Hoff Scotch Cap Angus Dispersion Sale.

This young heifer has a pedigree stacked

with longevity with her 3rd dam retiring at nearly 19 years, her 2nd dam at 14 years along with her dam who is twelve this year and still sound.' Following the sale where she realised \$4,000 the Raff family were delighted to find out that successful purchasers Ruby van den Hoek with her father Roger purchased Raff Duchess J107 as their foundation female for their new stud. It was the first show event for most of the team members that entered Raff heifers. Raff Doris H438 became the most acclaimed Black Angus winning the Intermediate Champion Heifer award.



Harry Raff with Cherry Steel of 'Ben Nevis Angus' sashing the Intermediate Champion Heifer - Raff Doris H438.

A visit to the United Kingdom

by David Raff

In June 2013 Jill and I spent a month in the United Kingdom visiting Aberdeen-Angus herds in England and Scotland culminating in a visit to the Royal Highland Show at Edinburgh. The purpose of the visit was to research the Angus breed in that country, the founding country of the Angus cattle breed over 200 years ago, and to search for suitable genetics to import to take the Raff Angus to the next level. I last visited the UK in 1980 when I spent six months there on a Nuffield scholarship.

This was the time when Euro cattle were having a huge impact on the industry and had just about wiped out most traditional British breeds because of their superior growth and yield.

At that time some progressive Angus breeders were beginning to import genetics from North America to make their cattle more competitive by increasing growth and yield.

Today the Angus breed has regained its rightful place as the most popular pure beef breed in the UK thanks to the vision and commitment of a few dedicated stockmen who now have cattle that have comparable growth and yield to any breed.

Like all parts of the world demand for Angus genetics is driven by the 'Angus' brand name with substantial premiums being paid for Angus



cross cattle. What impressed me most was the fact that breeders select for the traits that drive profitability - weight and yield. They accept that Angus cattle have all the inherent meat qualities which have been engrained into the breed over hundreds of years, remembering of course that many of the breed founders were butchers.

Continuing our commitment to be industry leaders in sourcing new genetics for the Angus breed in Australia we are now looking forward to the resulting progeny of the semen and embryos we have imported from the UK. This is another exciting stage in the progress of Raff Angus.

MOORE STEPHENS
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

SUNCORP

zoetis

IS BREEDPLAN CATCHING UP?

Eight years ago we were becoming increasingly frustrated with the on paper data published by Angus Australia on our cattle - we felt that the Breedplan figures, EBV's, failed to reflect the true genetic merit of our cattle. This was the time when we purchased four proven cows of 'old' genetics at the Hoff dispersal sale in USA and flushed them to mainly 'old' proven bulls.

After much deliberation and discussion with the architects of Breedplan and others we came to the conclusion that because of the poor linkage our cattle had in some way due to our refusal to use modern high accuracy bulls to achieve 'linkage' and the strong emphasis Breedplan places on pedigree rather than actual data, our EBV's would remain at a relatively low base until they had progeny recorded in herds with linkage. One leading geneticist told us that 'the system would eventually catch up with us'.

This was cold comfort to us as we had to market our young bulls with EBV data that we knew did not truly reflect their genetic merit. Eight years later and with Raff Angus genetics used throughout the country the linkage to mainstream sires has occurred and our EBV's are, at last, adjusting to what we knew they should have been for a number of traits.

SEVENTEEN RAFF BRED BULLS NOW FEATURE IN 'TOP 100 SIRE'S'

In the April Angus Sire Summary there were 1450 recorded progeny of twenty seven Raff bred bulls from 179 herds across Australia.

Now Breedplan is beginning to reflect the true genetic value of Raff Angus.

Of those twenty seven Raff bulls seventeen (over 60%) now feature in the April 2014 Angus Australia Breedplan 'TOP 100 SIRE'S' lists for at least one trait. Raff bulls dominate for 400 day weight, 600 day weight, carcase weight.

BELOW IS THE NUMBER OF RAFF BRED BULLS LISTED IN THE 'TOP 100 SIRE'S':

Calving Ease Direct	1	Carcase Weight	10
Calving Ease Dts	1	Retail Beef Yield%	4
200 Day Growth	8	IMF%	1
400 Day Weight	10	Long Fed CAAB Index	1
600 Day Weight	10	Heavy Grass Fed Index	5
Scrotal Size	4	Short Fed Index	5
Eye Muscle Area	1	Terminal Index	8

As we have always said

"Raff Angus are not a by-product of a breeding program based on EBV's, but rather our EBV's are a by-product of a disciplined multi-trait selection focusing on the commercial realities of profitable beef production in northern Australia"

A quote from a 82 year old veteran English stockman; "Good figures do not always make a good animal but a good animal with good figures makes a terrific animal."



Raff Genetics influencing profit

At the southern beef week field days this year Geoff Murphy 'Milton Angus', Yerong Creek NSW had on display a steer sired by Raff Limited Edition C136 out of a first calving

Limited Edition daughter.

The 16 month old milk tooth steer weighed over 720 kilograms and scanned 12/12mm fat, 103sq cm EMA and 8.2% IMF.

Are you considering switching to Black Euro bulls because too much growth and yield has been lost in your cattle?

Before switching breeds consider using Raff Angus bulls

The Raff Angus Advantage:

- Growth and yield comparable to any breed or their cross.
- Outcross genetics to mainstream Angus
- Performance is real - not just a number
- Bred by stockmen - not by computers
- More market option flexibility
- Backed by 49 years breeding
- You retain Angus purity to qualify for the premium Angus beef markets
- You capitalise in the new premiums for the PCAS market for grass fed beef

Dare to compare...



RAFF EXPEDITION E213

23 months 1152 kg
EMA - 145sq cm, Fat - 17/15mm, IMF% - 6.1%



RAFF EXPLOSIVE E108

22 months 1185kg
EMA - 135sq cm, Fat - 13/9mm, IMF% - 6.0%



RAFF FRANCO F153

23 months 1122kg
EMA - 148sq cm, Fat - 11/8mm, IMF% - 6.8%



RAFF FONZIE F352

20 months 936kg
EMA - 130sq cm, Fat - 19/10mm, IMF% - 7.1%



Raff Angus head south

After a very poor summer season here at 'Mundibulanga' and with continuing dry conditions the decision was made to send females south on agistment.

In February one hundred and fifty May to September 2013 born weaner heifers made the long trip south to Bothwell in Tasmania. Northwest of Hobart and about 1200ft above sea level 'Dungrove' is home of the Downie Family that run a large scale sheep and cattle breeding and trading business. Usually joined in August these heifers will be carried over for a May 2015 joining which will be better suited for not only the seasonal conditions in Tasmania but will allow us to have more 18 months old bulls for our annual on-property sale held in September. Also at that same time we sent a B-Double of mixed age March/April calving cows to Glenthompson, northwest of Melbourne, to Charles and Cass Kimpton. They run a large scale commercial Angus program and were kind enough to find us a paddock at their property 'Toora West'. A percentage of these cows are carrying fully imported O'Neill's Angus genetics from the United States with the remainder to calve down to our Raff/Hoff genetic sires. We look forward to seeing how such a large number of Raff genetics perform in such a different environment to what their genetics have been bred for over 49 years of selective breeding for the northern Australian environment.

See it to believe it

by Andrew Raff

It is all too easy for people to form an opinion about something from what they have heard not from what they have seen. With the three year showing campaign of Raff Angus 'taking their cattle to the people' ending in 2012 the next obvious step to gain more knowledge about the breeds direction and about individual seedstock programs was to participate as a traveller during the southern NSW and Victorian Beef Week program earlier this year. Anna and I visited 42 seedstock businesses, one commercial program, one calf rearing business and one semen collection centre - all in 9 days and 3550 kilometres later. It was great to not only meet with like minded producers but also to visit programs with varying differences and directions to ours. The variance in phenotype to suit the different environments was evident within the areas

we entered. Over the years we have emphasized the importance of growth. With that there has come a perception that our cows are extreme in frame. It was interesting for us to see that at a number of studs we visited they had Angus cows bigger than ours that were not considered extreme by those breeders. If I was to voice a point of concern from what I observed during Beef Week it would be the obvious narrowing of the Angus gene pool. Because of the industries obsession on the use of high accuracy carcass cattle the Angus gene pool has shrunk to an alarming level.

With this, un-proven sires of genetic outcross merit have limited opportunity to prove themselves as the market place demands high EBV cattle on sale day not in four years' time. This is something we must all be mindful of.

Raff Hercules H411 qualifies for EU export

Over the years we have had an ever increasing interest in our genetics from International breeders.

Because of this we started testing procedures last year on a young bull Raff Hercules H411.

He is a direct son of Raff Empire E269 whose dam resulted from the importation of frozen embryos out of leading donor Hoff Blackbird 5217 after her purchase in 2006 at the famous Hoff Scotch Cap Angus Dispersion Sale. A full sister to Hercules sold in 2012 for \$17,000 when just eight months of age. Hercules has spent the past period at Total Livestock Genetics where he has been in collection to allow for the



Sire of Raff Hercules H411 - Raff Empire

first Raff Angus semen to be exported internationally.

His semen has already been exported to Zimbabwe.

Raff Angus celebrates 50 years in 2015



In 1965 David Raff registered his first Angus calf with the Angus Society of Australia making 2015 our 50th year of breeding Angus Seedstock.

To celebrate this milestone we are planning a feature exhibit of our cattle at Beef Australia in Rockhampton next year as well as holding a special Golden Anniversary Female sale in conjunction with our 2015 Bull sale in September.

RAFF ANGUS BULL SALE - Monday 29th September

Forty-nine years in the making the Raff Angus annual bull sale will showcase the commercially relevant, multi-trait and disciplined breeding program that the Raff Family has targeted since establishment in 1965.

This year's offering will undoubtedly be highlighted by the over twenty direct sons of **Raff Empire E269** who travelled more than 20,000 kilometres in transit during his undisputed reign as Champion during the Raff Angus show campaign when he won Supreme Beef Exhibit of the Show titles eleven times out of the fifteen shows attended in a fourteen month period.

The docile and powerful sire described by

David Raff as 'the reason you don't need to use Euro type breeds when you can have Angus like this bull' in **Raff Distinction D197** will present a large line-up of sons.

The high performance sire on both paper and in real performance individually **Raff Explosive E108** will feature a typical heavy weight for age group of sons.

The rather unique birth to growth Hoff genetic import sire **Raff Ego E266** will also again showcase his breeding potency with sons selling.

High marbling and the easy doing carcass sire **Raff Fortune F344** will have his first sons sell after he himself sold last year as one of the top selling lots.

A full genetic brother, **Stoney Point Fever**

Pitch F93, to Raff Blackbird D349 and used Raff sires Dazzler and Dynamite will have a group of high weight gaining sons selling.

Finally the outcross marbling sire to mainstream Australia genetics **O'Neill's Prime Star 80** will present some very genetically strong embryo sons from leading cows Raff Blackbird D354 and Bulliac Doris V12.

Again as with previous years we will have our front gates open from dawn to dusk for anyone wanting to inspect sale bulls and to have the opportunity to view some of our sires and breeding females - this will occur the day before sale day on Sunday the 28th.

The mature cow weight debate:

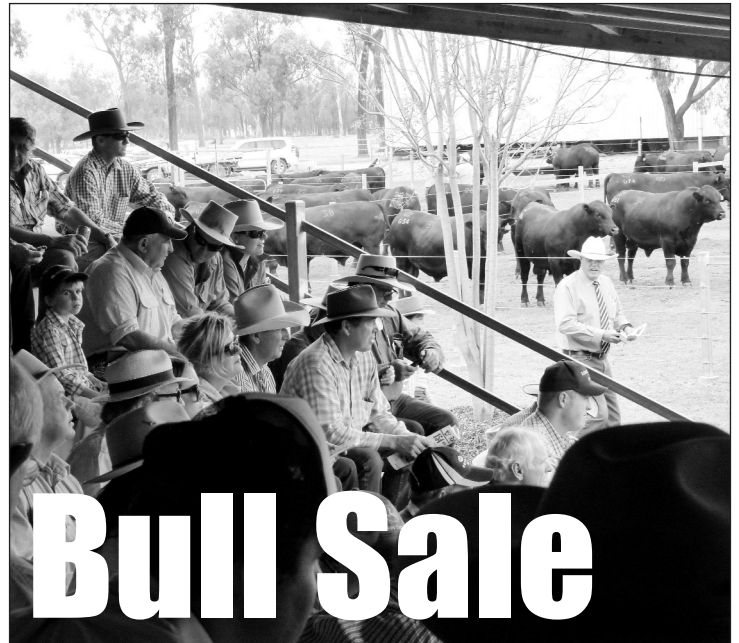
Is a big tractor less efficient than a small one just because it consumes more fuel?

Raff Angus Bulls and Females for PRIVATE SALE



www.raffangus.com.au

0429 691 975



Bull Sale

Discount for Buyers and Rebate for Agents

Raff Angus have always been prepared to try new ways to make our on property sales operate more smoothly and efficiently with the emphasis at all times being on providing the very best facilities and service to our clients and rewarding those agents who support our sale.

The bull sale on Monday September 29th 2014 will see a new initiative with Raff Angus doing the settlement of sale day accounts.

This will allow us to offer a discount to those purchasers who

choose to pay on sale day, either by cheque or EFT (Electronic transfer).

With us operating the sale and just employing a guest auctioneer for the day it also allows us to adequately reward those agents, no matter how large or small, who support our sale by offering them generous rebates.

Full details will appear in our sale catalogue.

Michel Glasser of Glasser Total Sales Management will once again be our guest auctioneer.