



NEWS

BUSINESS

MARKETS

BEEF

SHEEP

DAIRY

CROPPING

WEATHER

CLASSIFIEDS



Custom Search

First-time entrants set the benchmark



Brendan Mansbridge 13 Feb 2014, 4 a.m.

@BR_Mansbridge

Beef



Sylvia and Guy Martin, Wirrabilla Fleckvieh and Angus, Taralga.

Beef



First-time entrants set the benchmark

3 years, 1 month ago

FOR first-time NSW Beef Spectacular Feedback Trial entrants Wirrabilla Pastoral Company, the experience has been incredibly positive.

“We thought we had a pretty good product and we wanted to benchmark it against some of the top producers in Australia,” said Wirrabilla manager Guy Martin.

The results from their benchmarking exercise have shown they’re right up there with the best of them.

One of Wirrabilla’s two teams of five Fleckvieh/Angus steers performed well across the board and took out equal eighth place overall, the highest placing from a first-time exhibitor in this year’s event.

The team of steers scored full points at induction, meeting all the required specifications, and also placed 19th in the feedlot performance category, with one steer gaining 2.85 kilograms per day.

The Taralga-based operation performed strongly in the carcass category, placing sixth, and also had the highest scoring individual carcass on 90 points.

This carcass dressed at 391kg, with 20 millimetres of fat at the P8 site and an eye muscle area of 96 square centimetres.

It also received a marble score of two.



“One thing a lot of people don’t know is Fleckviehs do have good marbling,” Mr Martin said.

Mr Martin said he was pleased with the results.

“It’s proved we’ve got a pretty good product,” he said.

“We got pretty close to full marks for most traits across the board.

“We knew the carcass would perform well from results we’ve had in the past and we knew they would perform in the feedlot too from other previous results, but it’s been good to compare them to everyone else.

“We went in it to get the feedback and because it’s a totally commercial trial – the feedlot needs to make money too.”

The operation, owned by Duncan Makeig and Andrea Strong, generally runs between 500 and 600 breeders, with 100 to 150 stud Fleckvieh females.

“We started with an Angus commercial herd then bought in the Fleckviehs and crossbred with them,” Mr Martin said.

Now the commercial herd is run as a self-replacing crossbred herd with those females showing more Angus content joined to Fleckvieh bulls and vice versa.

As a result, the Wirrabilla team of steers comprised two steers each with 50 per cent Fleckvieh and Angus content and the remaining three steers with up to two-thirds Fleckvieh blood.

“Using Fleckviehs over the Angus gives you a lot of options in your program,” Mr Martin said.

“We wanted to get the message out there that producers can source a reasonably priced Fleckvieh bull to join to their Angus cows and get good results.”

The steers selected for the trial were born in August 2012 and Mr Martin said they were just a general representation of what they were breeding.

“They weren’t the tops of the drop because they were too heavy at induction,” he said.

“We looked for a good, soft doing type of cattle with good muscle and fat cover.”