



THE BEEF SHORTHORN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BEEF SHORTHORN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA HOME OF THE AUSTRALIAN SHORTHORN

www.beefshorthorn.org.au

DECEMBER 2023



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The Federal Secretary • Beef Shorthorn Society of Australia
PO Box 199 Rutherglen Vic 3685 • Phone: 0419 319 990 • Email: secretary@beefshorthorn.org.au

PRESIDENTS REPORT



As I write my first President's Report, I regard it as an honour to be President of the Society. I would like to thank our outgoing President, Marion Spencer for her excellent work and leadership.

The Society has just entered into a contract with Weatherbys Scientific Australia, an international

genetic testing company. I encourage all members to use these services where possible. You will be able to read more on this exciting development elsewhere in the newsletter.

I thank David Ashley and Marion Spencer who have done a lot of work to bring this to our members.

The JBS Thousand Guineas National Shorthorn Show and Sale was a great success, with a lot of members involved at this premier event.

The recent Melbourne Royal had an impressive number of Australian Shorthorn steers. Thanks to all who exhibited and were involved.

Tides turn in the beef industry and we are all experiencing that at the moment but what you do now is for two-year time, and probably on the rise.

We all know that Quality Shorthorns will always sell.

Peter Falls,
President

2023 FEDERAL COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS

President: Mr Peter Falls
Vice-Presidents: Mr David Spencer
Mrs Carolyn Shannon
Honorary Treasurer: David Ashley
Acting Secretary: Mrs Marion Spencer
(also immediate past President)

Councillor representation from each State are as follows:

NSW: Mr Peter Falls, Mr Jason Tetley,
Mr Phil Cooper
Ms Michelle Kay

Victoria: Mrs Marion Spencer,
Justice David Ashley,
Mr David Spencer,
Mrs Carolyn Shannon,
Mr Leo Swan, Mr Scott Bruton,
Mr Allan Mathers
Mr Bill Harwood

Tasmania: Mr Robert Smith,
Mrs Carolynn Evans

Western Aust: Mr Jerome Grubb

Queensland: Vacant

WEATHERBYS CONTRACTS WITH SOCIETY

Following an exhaustive investigation of available options, the Society has entered into a contract with Weatherbys Scientific Australia for the provision of genotyping solutions to Society members.

From 1770 Weatherbys has had a continuous and major role in the administration of the bloodstock industry of the UK and Ireland. It is the keeper of the General Stud book, which is the 'mother stud book' to which all other registers of Thoroughbred breeding across the world trace their ancestry and format. It is the owner of Weatherbys Bank, one of only two family-owned private banks in the UK.

From 1985, Weatherbys began to provide genomic parentage verification of thoroughbreds in the Irish equine industry. As Weatherbys Scientific, it established its own laboratory in County Kildare, Ireland. Then, more than 20 years ago, it expanded its genomic services to bovine and other animal species. It uses Illumina technology to provide services including parentage verification, SNP verification, single gene testing, pedigree searching, species identification and forensic testing. In the past 3 years, it has analysed more than 2.3 million samples worldwide.

In Ireland, for 10 years now, Weatherbys Scientific has been the genotyping service provider for the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation. Weatherbys Scientific Australia has had a presence in Australia and New Zealand since 2019 and is committed to the bovine industry, servicing several breeds in both countries.

Weatherbys Scientific Australia provides an extremely cost-effective service to its users and at a time of depressed cattle prices, this is of particular importance.

They offer a quick 4-5 week turnaround and utilise the Weatherbys Scientific developed Bovine Versa 50K SNP chip to analyse samples and report 50,000 points of DNA. This chip is an ideal genotyping solution for Shorthorns as it identifies breed specific health conditions

and characteristics and is compatible with Breedplan, incorporating Breedplan's core 6,000 SNPs.

The chip can identify 130 genetic diseases and traits of importance, all have been validated and mapped to 41 cattle breeds, including Shorthorns. The Shorthorn specific genetic diseases include Tibial Hemimelia, Maple Syrup Urine Disease, Pompes E18 and White Heifer Disease, all of which are now available to our breeders for testing.

Weatherbys Scientific offer a unique form of parentage verification called Parent Discovery. This method compares all 50,000 points of DNA to all potential parents in their database to establish the best possible matches. There is no need to identify and nominate a select few potential sires and dams, they can test them all. If you have tested cows and bulls in the past that are still being used for breeding today, Weatherbys can upload suitable DNA profiles into their parentage database to use for future parent discovery, there is no need to retest.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Nineteen-year-old Tricia King holds two shorthorn bulls to be shown at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, Coombing Park, New South Wales, 1958



WEATHERBYS
SCIENTIFIC

Genomic Testing

Weatherbys is excited to be working with the Beef Shorthorn Society to provide Genomic Testing Services to all of its members. We have been operating in Australia and New Zealand since 2018 and are eager to assist members to achieve their breeding and production goals.

So what is Genomics?

Genomic testing or genotyping is the process of analysing an animal's DNA to understand their genetic merit, identify potential health risks and reliably predict future performance in the herd through further breeding value analysis. When we perform genotyping, we are reading the DNA sequence and turning the physical sample from your animal into a digital DNA map of sorts. This map is commonly referred to as a genotype and is made up of a combination of SNPs (pronounced 'snips') or single nucleotide polymorphisms. The order and placement of these SNPs, help us to identify genetic differences between your cattle, read specific DNA locations to recognise traits and genetic conditions and identify parentage information. All of this in combination will be added into the system that works to provide you with GEBVs or Genomically Enhanced Breeding Values.

At Weatherbys, we accept three types of DNA samples:

- Hair
- Tissue
- Semen

Key benefits of Genomic Testing

Genomics allows breeders to make informed decisions to:

- Avoid the incidence of fatal diseases
- Reduce or eradicate unwanted traits
- Increase the occurrence of valuable traits within your herd

In traditional scenarios, animals that are genetic carriers of fatal diseases and unwanted traits are only discovered when two carriers are bred and produce an affected calf. With genomics however, you can gain a clear picture of your herds genetics and manage your breeding program to avoid their incidence. It grants you the opportunity to manage quality animals that may be carriers, without the need to cull them.

Effective use of genomics within a breeding program also allows breeders to make selection decisions at an earlier age, decreasing the need to grow out animals before they are culled and increase the genetic gain made with each generation.

SNP Chips Explained

Genomic testing is performed using a SNP chip, the density of these chips varies between the animal species being tested and the laboratories performing the analysis. Different SNP densities used in the market today include 35K, 50K and 100K and it means that the genotype produced includes 35,000, 50,000 or 100,000 points of data (SNPs).

There are about 4 million SNPs in a Bovine genome, which cover off every single biological detail in an animal. 98% of these SNPs will be the same for every cow in the world: 2 ears, 4 legs, 1 tail etc. Variations in the genome are things like coat colour, horns or polled, dairy cow, Shorthorn or Hereford appearance.

So when it comes to developing and utilising a SNP chip, the density makes little difference to the accuracy of final results, it is the selection of SNPs featured on the chip which has the greatest impact as it determines what traits and health conditions can be read.

BREEDPLAN for example, requires a minimum of 6,000 SNPs to generate Estimated Breeding Values. Breeds utilising Single Step Analysis such as Angus, Hereford, Brahman and Wagyu accept both 50K and 100K genotypes.

At Weatherbys we have developed and use a 50K SNP chip, this includes the following SNPs:

- 11,500 Bos Indicus Specific
- 11,000 are highly informative for Composite Cattle
- 3,000 for Dairy
- The remaining covers Indicus, Composite & Bos Taurus Traits

What does this mean for Beef Shorthorn breeders?

When the time comes that BREEDPLAN can produce Single Step EBVs for Beef Shorthorns, our data can be utilised to generate these EBVs as our chip includes the specific 6,000 SNPs that are needed.

Together with the Beef Shorthorn Society, we have identified important traits and genetic conditions for the Beef Shorthorn breed, all of which can be interpreted from our 50K chip and have made these tests easily available to all members.

Our Beef Shorthorn specific services include:

Bovine Versa 50K SNP Test – 50,000 SNP locations that will be identified and interpreted to indicate phenotypic traits and genetic health conditions.

Genetic Traits:

- Horn/Poll
- Roan Coat Colour

Genetic Health Conditions:

- Myostatin – Double muscling/ Muscular Hypertrophy
- Maple Syrup Urine Disease – A defect in an enzyme that breaks down complex amino acids causing them to build up, side effects include brain damage and a sweet urine odour.
- Pompes E18 – A lysosomal storage disease causing poor growth, incoordination and muscle weakness
- Tibial Hemimelia Improver – affected calves are born with severe deformities including twisted rear legs with fused joints, large abdominal hernias and/or skull deformities.

Tamarah Luxton is the Territory Manager for Weatherbys and will be looking after all genomic enquiries for society members. Based in Brisbane, Tamarah has been with Weatherbys for 18 months and working in the Red Meat Industry for 5 years. If you have any questions at all, please give her a call today.

Tamarah Luxton
M: 0474 633 799
E: tluxton@weatherbys.com.au

Discover more:
weatherbysscientific.com.au

Weatherbys Genomics Test Shedule

PRODUCT/SERVICE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	COST (PRICE INC GST)
Weatherbys Scientific Bovine VersaSNP50K V1.3	<p>The content and density of this highly versatile SNP chip has been optimised to contain markers of most economic interest for both Dairy and Beef breeders.</p> <p>Applications: Genomic Evaluations, GWAS studies, Parentage Verification (Weatherbys Scientific Parentage Verification, ISAG and ICAR SNPs), Microsatellite Imputation, Breed Assignment, Sex Determination.</p> <p>Weatherbys Scientific Base Reporting Content (Illumina SNPs): 49,629 (SNP Bovine VersaSNP 50K map available on request).</p> <p>Applications: Genomic V1.3 Evaluations, GWAS studies, Parentage Verification.</p>	\$41.25
Bovine Myostatin 9 variants read from SNP chip		\$9.90
Bovine parentage verification and parent discovery using SNP technology	50K SNP Genotype, Parental Verification with >3 nominated sires and 1 dam. Database search of previously SNP genotyped sires and dams to discover potential parents. If nominated parents are excluded, qualifying discovered parents will be reported.	\$5.50
Bovine Polled read from SNP chip		\$0.00
Bovine Polled stand-alone test		\$30.00
Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV)		\$11.00
Maple Syrup Urine Disease - Shorthorn		\$8.80
Pompes GSD E18		\$8.80
Tibial Hemimelia Improver		\$8.80
White Heifer Disease/Roan-coat-colour		\$8.80

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Society's finances continue to be in robust health. Membership receipts in the six months to the end of June were at 2022 levels, with a number of new members signing on. The appeal of access to the JBS Thousand Guineas program is clear.

Australian Shorthorn registrations have held up. A significant number of registrations, many of which involve bloodlines novel to Australia, are also in the process of completion.

Beef Shorthorn registrations, unfortunately, are not increasing.

The uptake of the online registration system has been pretty good. This does mean less work for the Secretary, but greater charges by ABRI.

A little later this year, an up to date herdbook will be finalised. It is well past due. The herdbook will be in digital form. A small number of hard copies will also be printed. The Society has budgeted for the cost, and has funds in hand.

Routine website maintenance is necessary, along with the insertion of new material. This has been handled very well by the Secretary and the Society's website professional contractor. The website is well structured, but seven years after it was first put online, it would probably benefit from a more extensive revision. Again, this can be afforded.

The Society again provided prizemoney for Champion Bull at the Dubbo National. It also sponsored, earlier this year, the junior handlers camp run by Stud Beef Victoria.

With the Society's strong emphasis on demonstrating the worth of our cattle in carcase competitions, it is certain that breeders will be offered new prize money at venues around the country. As one instance, a team of Australian Shorthorns will be entered in the Sydney Royal

Easter Show hoof and hook competition in 2024, and the Society will offer appropriate prizemoney. The identification of a suitable show in Tasmania at which to exhibit our cattle in a hoof and hook competition is underway.

As I have emphasised in the past, the Society does not exist to make a profit. Its purpose is to serve its members. In fact, by careful management, it is in a financial situation which other cattle societies would envy. That gives it the potential to serve its members better still.

Herd Book Regulation changes.

At a recent meeting, the Society's Council resolved to amend the Australian and Beef Shorthorn herd book regulations.

The regulations of both herd books were amended to specifically provide for online registration, transfers and so on as an alternative to the submission of hard copy documents to the Secretary. This brings the regulations into line with the ABRI online facility.

The Australian Shorthorn herd book regulations were amended in two other ways. First, by getting rid of the requirement that the symbol 'A' be tattooed below the brand. Second, by providing that, in what are likely to be rare cases, the Society's Council may permit an inspection of Foundation Females using photographs or a videotape of such animals. The most obvious circumstances where that course would be permitted is where the cattle were at a remote location.

David Ashley
Treasurer

VALE JOHN KOEHLER



John was born on the 19 November 1950 at Kingaroy. John was the oldest child of Albert Carl (Pat) Koehler and Elma Doris Koehler (nee Janetzki), and had two younger sisters Ann and Joy.

John grew up on the family farm at Lanksowskis Road. He attended school at Taabinga State School and later Kingaroy State High School. When he left school, John worked for a number local farmers while continuing to work on the family farm.

In 1972, John moved to Brisbane to look for work and began working at General Motors Holden, and this is where he met Paula. Soon after they wed at Torquay Lutheran Church on the 21 April 1973. After they were married John and Paula moved from Brisbane back to Kingaroy and the family farm. Dad to the very last at any mention of Brisbane would say that the best view of Brisbane is in the rearview mirror.

John and Paula had three children. Sue was born in 1978, Luis in 1980 and Michelle in 1983. During this time they lived in Toogoom and Monto and

John worked on local farms in the area.

In 1984 John purchased his first stud Shorthorn cow and began a lifelong endeavour of breeding and showing cattle. His interest took him overseas to visit other breeders in the United States and to Deerpark in Ireland, which is where the photograph on the front of the Order of Service was taken, and more recently in contact with Canadian breeders.

In 1988 the family moved back to Kingaroy, at which time John became involved in politics. He devoted a large portion of his life to politics after being directly impacted by the political regime, John felt compelled to speak out against and advocate for family farming and family businesses across Australia. This took him on a journey where he spoke at venues on this subject nationally and internationally throughout the United States and Europe.

In 2008, John and Paula moved to Haly Creek and started farming again, alongside his son Luis. John also spent time imparting his farming knowledge to his grandson Archie.

John was always physically fit. Farming and hunting kept him active. After his first heart attack I had flown home from Darwin and was supervising him as he was supposed to be on bed rest. He woke me up one morning while still dark in the middle of winter because he'd heard dingos howling and thought I should come with as it was my job to keep an eye on him. He went and stalked up and down hills in knee high wet grass with me running every second step behind him to keep up. Despite the physical exertion, this was apparently ok as on the list of allowed activities post heart attack was "walking the dog".

Over the last 18 months he may have become physically weak but his mind, convictions and faith remained strong. Often awake at all hours of the night, he would think of some advice or knowledge he wished to impart or a bible verse and the context in which it should be considered and I would awake to a message from him.

He will be missed by his wife Paula; children Sue, Luis and Michelle; and grandchildren Archie, Ethan, Madelyn, Sebastian, Georgia and Cameron.

VALE JOHN DAVIDSON

It is with great sadness we learn of the passing of a great friend John Davidson. John passed away earlier this year, and he can be remembered for showing the Junior and Grand Champion Bull at the Melbourne Show in 1987.

The very well-presented white bull was Moss Bank Underwood, in the under sixteen months class sired by Yaralla Valiant. Moss Bank also had the reserve junior champion with Moss Bank Universal out of the under 18 class and a first prize in the under 14 class with Moss Bank Understudy - a great effort from Moss Bank. Underwood was believed to be one of

the heaviest bulls shown in the under 16 class either at Melbourne or Sydney shows.

John was an assistant at Deepfields Poll Herefords for many years. Members may remember John's late father Tom who would have been very proud of him as the Moss Bank cattle were always shown to perfection. John spent many years driving interstate before coming back to the farm.

Today Tom's and the Moss Bank legacy is preserved by the Memorial Trophy awarded to the Junior Champion Beef Shorthorn Bull.



**QUALITY SHOWS OUT
....FROM ANY ANGLE!**



It is an old line, but quality bulls really do stand out in any company. If ever there was doubt, it was dispelled at the Melbourne Royal in September with the Junior and Grand Champion, Moss Bank Underwood.

In strong classes he looked an exciting prospect. Just the sort of quality the Breed needs. Indeed, as the Royal Show judge, Graham Day, commented: "the Junior and Grand Champion Beef Shorthorn Bull would be a great asset to any of the beef breeds at the show."

The photos on this page testify to that. Underwood looks outstanding. A credit to John Davidson.

VALE KATHLEEN CUST

Kathleen Cust was involved in Melbourne Royal's Horses in Action competition for approximately 70 years and had been the 'main organiser' of the competition's hunting events. Kathleen participated as a steward for a variety of sections and, following in her father Noel Mason's footsteps, was also Master of Oaklands Hunting Club, a Club which has been instrumental in ensuring the continuation of the Hunting classes at the Melbourne Royal Show. Kathleen competed in the Ladies Riding Competition over obstacles from 1960 for a number of years and started stewarding in the Saddle Galloways from around 1990, where she continued before assisting in the Hunting Section. Kathleen owned many horses that have placed well in the hunting competition today.

Kathleen's husband, Dr Richard Cust, is a former director of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria Limited, a former senior member of the Veterinary Panel, and former member of the Horses in Action Committee.

Most recently, Kathleen won the Champion Qualified Hunter sash and the Noel Mason Memorial Hunter's Plate in 2022, whereby she owned the winning horse, Dulverton, ridden by rider Paige Douglas.

Kathleen sponsors two trophies, the first being the Noel Mason Hunter Plate, an award named after her father, dating back to the 1980s and is presented to the Best Exhibition of jumping at hunting pace. She also sponsors the Darren Green Memorial Trophy, which was introduced at the 2022 HIA Competition in honour of Darren Green. A former Master of the Oaklands Hunt Club, Green worked and lived on Kathleen and Richard's farm for over 30 years, caring for the horses and property before sadly passing away at just 52 in 2019 in a house fire on the Custs' property.

Kathleen is described as 'a wonderful person who has contributed significantly to Melbourne Royal' and someone who has gone 'above and beyond' her traditional roles as an exhibitor, steward, member and sponsor.

Melbourne Royal Board and management are most grateful to Kathleen for her remarkable service and contribution to the Horses in Action competition at the Melbourne Royal Show.

Pictured below Kathleen presenting Gerard Hurry with the inaugural Darren Green Memorial Trophy for the most successful horse and rider in the hunting competition at the Melbourne Royal Show in 2019.



2023 JBS THOUSAND GUINEAS SUPPLIER PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The above award was presented to Damian Parker, Eurabbie Pastoral Company, Walla Walla at the dinner function held at the National Shorthorn Show and Sale over the past weekend.

Congratulations to Damian who succeeded in providing multiple consignments (minimum 20 cattle per consignment) over the timeframe May 2022 - May 2023. The award was based on overall highest percentage in performance timeframe and meeting all the criteria; consignments were to have met the JBS

supply specification at induction time (weight & dentition, Bovillis MH+IBR pre-vaccinated). Further, the consignments were to have also met the Thousand Guineas brand specifications at the time of production (AusMeat marble score 2+, meat colour 1B - 3 and 0-4 teeth).

The winning prize was a travel voucher and 2 tickets to the JBS EKKA Cocktail function to be held on 11 August, and valued at \$1000. A well-deserved winner. Peter Falls, Society President accepted this award from Jason Carswell, JBS on Damian's behalf.



SALE RESULTS JBS NATIONAL SHORTHORN SHOW & SALE

90/117 bulls sold to an Australian record of \$106,000 (Lot 7 Ronelle Park Slurpie S29) to Malton Shorthorns and averaged \$10,744

14/19 females sold to \$18,000 (twice) and averaged \$8286

2/3 flush opportunities sold for an average of \$8000

1/1 PTIC recipient sold for \$8000

3/5 embryo packages sold for an average \$2108 per embryo

2023 JBS THOUSAND GUINEAS NATIONAL SHORTHORN SHOW & SALE

The event was held over the King's Birthday long weekend (12-14 June) in Dubbo, NSW. As indicated in the sale results, 117 bulls were offered for sale and 19 elite females.

The show was judged by Mr Lincoln Job of Marellan Shorthorns located in Emerald, Queensland. The Society once again sponsored the Senior Champion Bull which was won by Southern Cross Smokin' Joe.

It was pleasing to see many Society members in attendance; those not pictured included Phil Cooper, Orange, Brent Smith from Broken Creek Organics, Nathalia, Luke Spencer (Spencer Family) and Carolyn Evans of North Eastern Shorthorns, Legerwood Tasmania.



Judge Lincoln Job, Marellan Shorthorns



Society President Peter Falls with Jason Carswell of JBS



Scott Bruton, Roly Park with Jason Tetley



Darcy Swan, Goonawarra Beef Shorthorns for Roly Park



Sarah Sutton, Double S Shorthorns



Caroline Aitken, Wareelah



Roly Park exhibits



Senior Champion bull Southern Cross Smokin' Joe exhibited by L Stone



Jason Tetley and Michelle Kay



David Spencer and Peter Falls



Tiffany Schwenke and son Axel for Roly Park

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2023

Judge: Mr Hayden Green of Summit Livestock, Uranquinty NSW. Shorthorn exhibitors from NSW, Victoria and Queensland exhibited 83 head (47 bulls and 36 females) at the Easter Show held

on Friday 7 April. We acknowledge Meadow Vale Australian Shorthorns from Victoria who exhibited 2 females at this event. Championship results are as follows:

Junior Champion Heifer

Nagol Park PW Belle - R&N Evans

Reserve Champion Heifer

Blackjack P013 Rosebud - Blackjack Grazin

Senior Cow

Royalla Belinda - N, S & N Job

Reserve Senior Cow

JJ PNG Lexus - J Evan

Grand Champion Cow

Nagol Park PW Belle - R& E Evans

Junior Bull

Roly Park Revolution

Junior Bull

Roly Pak Thunderstruck - Roly Park Shorthorns

Reserve Junior Bull

Nagol Park P94 Showbiz - R&N Evans

Senior Bull

Nabiac Springsteen - L Evans

Reserve Senior Bull

Royalla S211 - N, S & N Job

Grand Champion Bull

Roly Pak Thunderstruck - Roly Park Shorthorns

Best Exhibit

Roly Pak Thunderstruck - Roly Park Shorthorns



Best Exhibit Roly Park Thunderstruck



Judge Hayden Green with Meadow Vale Cherry Mustard - first in class



Junior Champion Heifer NP PW Belle, Mrs Trish Bellamy and judge Hayden Green



Sire's Progeny Group

GENETIC DEFECTS AND CONDITIONS

(Article kindly reproduced with permission from the Canadian Shorthorn Association and can be accessed on the Society's website under Breeding)

In the Shorthorn breed, like almost all genetic populations, human and animal, genetic conditions or defects show up from time to time. The terms condition and defect tend to be interchangeable although, generally defect is attached to lethal outcomes.

There are 4 conditions/defects that can be prevalent in Shorthorn populations. Most lethal outcomes can be avoided and exposure can be managed by ensuring that the sire and dam both do not carry the gene and if one does, it is important to be aware of the negative or positive status of the animal it will be mated with.

The Beef Shorthorn Society of Australia is currently working together with Neogen Australia to provide genetic testing opportunities for members.

TH (TIBIAL HEMIMELIA)

TH is a lethal genetic defect when an animal inherits two copies of the recessive gene (sire and dam). Calves are born with severe deformities including twisted back legs with fused joints, large abdominal hernias and/or skull deformities. If calves survive the birthing process, they cannot stand and do not survive long.

PHA (PULMONARY HYPOPLASIA WITH ANASARCA)

PHA is a lethal genetic mutation when an animal inherits two copies of the recessive gene (sire and dam). Calves are born dead with under-developed lungs (pulmonary hypoplasia) and extreme swelling caused by excessive fluid retention (Anasarca). This is a potentially a doubly lethal defect as the cow often cannot survive trying to birth the calf.

DS (DIGITAL SUBLUXATION)

DS is not a lethal condition from a genetic standpoint. Animals that carry two copies of the undesirable gene (sire & dam) are known as Homozygotes and are identified in a number of registries worldwide by the symbol 'DSH'.

Most cattle that are DSH show some outward signs of the genetic condition, usually malformation of the rear pastern (ankle area). It is important to know that ALL progeny of DSH

animals will be at least carriers of the condition and Carriers will be recognized with the symbol DSC in each registry.

Although the original mutation happened in completely separate populations, the DS condition sits on the same chromosome as the PHA condition and as a result, it appears that a PHA Carrier animal mated with a DS Carrier can result in the same physical deformities as mating two DS Carriers.

MYOSTATION (ALSO CALLED DOUBLE MUSCLE)

An animal classified as a Myostatin Carrier does not actually have two muscles in place of one normal muscle. However, due to a genetic abnormality, the affected animal has a greater number of muscle fibres which can result in a much larger than normal muscle mass appearance.

This condition is common in many mammals and is due to the production of "myostatin", which is a protein found in the gene that regulates muscle growth. In normal animals, myostatin tells the muscles to stop growing when they reach a certain size however, the defective gene lacks the myostatin protein and therefore allows the muscle to keep growing.

GENETIC DEFECTS AND CONDITIONS

Nine Myostatin mutations (also called variants) of the gene have been identified and some are more common than others in certain beef breeds. Six of the nine are classified as “disruptive” as they may cause conditions along with extra muscling that are not advantageous such as increased birth weights and calving difficulties. The other three variants are referred to as “missense” or nondisruptive.

The nine identified variants are:

Disruptive Variants are:

E226X nt419, nt821, C313Y, E291X, 0204X

Non-Disruptive Variants are:

D128N, F94L, nt821, S105C

The Myostatin condition is not classified as a simple recessive gene defect, like TH for example, where the carrier is an animal having no physical affect, but ‘carries’ the defect (essentially hidden) and can pass it on to offspring. The Myostatin condition affects all that are not “0” for variants.

However, that physical affect could be virtually undetectable all the way to obviously affected or to the point of looking deformed. Typically, it is expected that those with only one variant would show much less increased muscularity compared to those with two variants.

Test results will typically be presented as in the following examples:

0	No variants present
1 copy of variant present	1, E226X
2 copies of the variant present	2, E226X
1 copy of each of 2 different variants present	1, E226X; 1, nt419
Predictable breeding results from mating sires and dams who do and do not have a myostatin variant present in their DNA can be grouped as follows-	
50% have 0 copies; 50% have 1 copy	0 x 1, V
25% have 0 copies, 50% have 1 copy; 25% have 2 copies	1,V x 1,V
100% have 1 copy	0 x 2,V
50% have 1 copy; 50% have 2 copies	1,V x 2,V
100% have 2 copies	1,V x 2,V

As with most genetic conditions there are often additional positive and negative associated traits. Positive Myostatin condition characteristics can include: leaner meat (less intramuscular fat), more tenderness, larger rib eye measurement and higher carcass yield. Negative characteristics may include: heavier birth weights, calving difficulties, thinner bones and less fat cover.

For reasons associated with the positive and negative characteristics noted above, breeders

may specifically choose to include Myostatin positive animals in their herd and manage them with careful breeding programs. Or breeders may choose to bypass the necessary management and discourage the inclusion of Myostatin positive animals in their herd.

Both programs are valid and acceptable and the availability of genetic testing for the presence of the condition ensures management either way is accessible to all members.

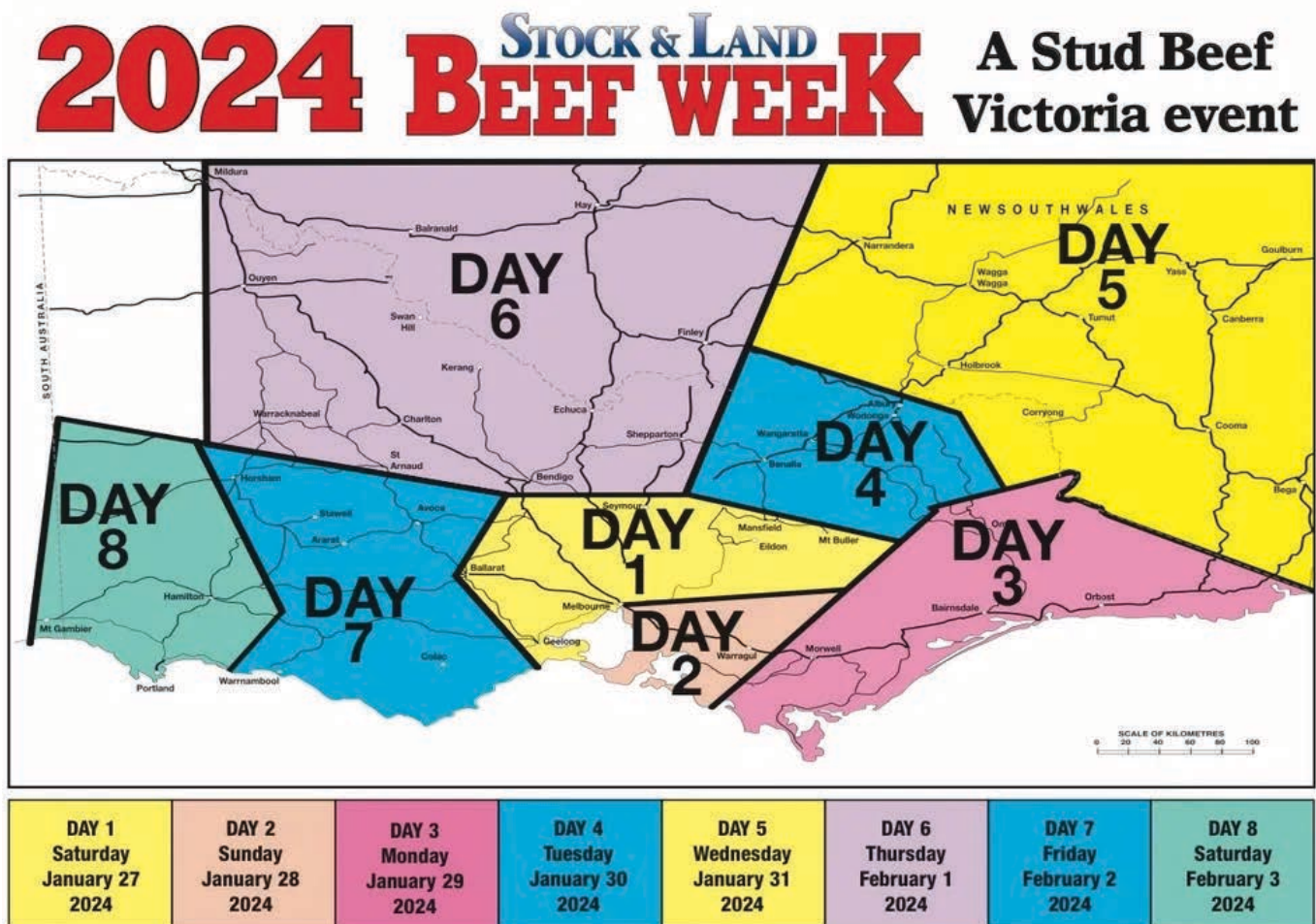
UPCOMING EVENTS

27 January - 3 February 2024
33rd Stock & Land Beef Week

22 March - 2 April
Sydney Royal Easter Show

23 - 25 February 2024
Canberra Royal Show

5 - 11 May 2024
Beef Australia Rockhampton



NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Archie Koehler - Kingaroy, QLD
 Michelle Kay - Wayo, NSW
 Lock Rogers - Armidale, NSW
 Mark & Lisa Honess - Dungong, NSW
 Gerard Parker - Bonegilla, VIC
 Jamie Kenny-Collins - Pretty Pine, NSW
 Guy & Heidi Shoemark - Merriwee, NSW
 Kate Bowman - Leaderville, NSW
 David & Marianne Deutscher - Birriwa, NSW
 Greg & Helen Lanyon - Romsey, VIC



AGRI-GENE

Agri-Gene Pty Ltd are Australia's largest privately owned Bovine Artificial Breeding company based in Wangaratta, Northeast Victoria. We work closely with over 150 local Australian resellers to distribute our Semen & Artificial Breeding products Australia wide.

We are an Australian Government approved semen & embryo Export storage facility and specialise in importing and exporting elite Bovine genetics. Our domestic sires are sourced from the very best Australian Dairy and Beef genetics available with most sires available for export. We are also the exclusive Australian distributors for several leading international companies.

OFFICE STAFF

For all other enquiries contact our friendly office staff
(03) 5722 26 66

Liz Banister – Business Manager & Accounts

Julie Fillippetto – Merchandise Manager

Brian Holmes – Anipro Manager & Semen
Despatch

Brett Revell – Semen Despatch

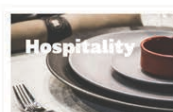
Shannon Williams – Marketing Administrator

McLardyMcShane

INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

We protect your people and your business.

Our focus is on understanding your unique business and the people behind it. We offer insurance and risk management that not only protects the future of your business, but the people who make it great.



FOR VERY COMPETITIVE RATES CONTACT
TIM DICKSON

1/29 CALDER HIGHWAY, KANGAROO FLAT

Ph: (03) 5442 5000 | Mob: 0458 021 003

Email: tim.dickson@mclardymcshane.com.au

Web: www.mclardymcshane.com.au

SPENCER FAMILY SHORTHORNS

EXHIBITING AT THE 2024 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

David & Marion Spencer

'Elanora', 753 Police Paddocks Road Carlyle

Ph: 0409 135 419

Email: sfbeefsh@bigpond.com

MELBOURNE ROYAL 2023

Date: Saturday 30th September 2023
Judge: Mr Jason Catts, Futurity Shorthorns

We take this opportunity to extend our appreciation and gratitude to those members of the Society for

their commitment to this event. We also thank our longtime supporters: Linfox Logistics, Australia Post, Tuffmar International, Federal Council, Victorian Branch, Spencer Family, Falls Family, Swan family.

Junior Champion Heifer

Boltons Topaz Ruby Lochclyde Pastoral Co

Reserve Champion Heifer

Spencer Family MI Flowerbomber
Spencer Family

Senior Cow

FHS Stephanie Finley High School

Reserve Senior Cow

FHS Millie Finley High School

Grand Champion Cow

FHS Stephanie



Kayla Horne for Spencer Family

Junior Champion Bull

Roly Park Theodore Roly Park Shorthorns

Reserve Champion Bull

Spencer Family Tim Tam Spencer Family

Senior Champion Bull

Roly Park Mr Sydney Roly Park Shorthorns

Reserve Champion Bull

FHS Thor Finley High School

Grand Champion Bull

Roly Park Theodore



Daryl and Vicki Holder, The Cattle Shop - recognised by Beef Cattle Committee with "Legend" status; presented by committee chair David Bolton.



Junior Champion Bull



MALTON
SHORTHORNS

Ronelle Park Slurpie S29

Malton Shorthorns presents the
Australian Record Top Price Shorthorn Bull

DOB: 23.08.2021 WEIGHT: 850KGS EMA: 130SQCM
RIB: 10MM RUMP: 18MM SCROTAL: 42CM IMF: 7.8%



CONGRATULATIONS
TO FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL
ON EXHIBITING THE
HIGHEST SCORING
SHORTHORN STEER AT
MELBOURNE SHOW

BRED BY MALTON

BJS

Semen Available & Inspections welcome