



Australian
GELBVIEH

2024 TRIENNIAL MAGAZINE





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**Balgowan Gold
Gelbvieh Stud
Established 1990**



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**Gelbvieh Bulls
Go To The NT**



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Aderian Nixon
President

President's Report

Dear Members and Followers of Gelbvieh,

A warm welcome to each and every one of you! I trust this message finds you in good health and prosperity during what I hope is a promising season.

In the past three years, the Australian Gelbvieh Association has undergone a significant transformation, transitioning from ABRI to Genetic Hub in Wagga Wagga. While the integration of IGS presented its challenges, we are now confident in the path ahead. The recent bata run has proven to be very promising, demonstrating a level of quality and comparability with other breeds that aligns with our commitment to excellence. A heartfelt thank you goes out to

all the dedicated staff at Genetic Hub for their unwavering support throughout this transitional journey.

The Gelbvieh Association has been on a growth trajectory, expanding its presence into all Australian states and even in the process of reaching across the Tasman to New Zealand.

April 2023 saw the AGM in Western Australia, with several members traveling over from the East. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but a huge thank you to all WA members for hosting and showing everyone their cattle.

There have been strong sales within Australia and even some Gelbvieh semen going overseas. Let's hope the cattle market stays strong and seasons improve for all.

As we continue to navigate the dynamic landscape of the cattle industry, let us celebrate the achievements of the Gelbvieh breed and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Your support and dedication have been instrumental in our growth, and I am optimistic about the positive impact we will make collectively.

Once again, welcome to all members and followers of Gelbvieh. May our shared journey be marked by continued success, collaboration, and the pursuit of excellence.

Best regards,

Aderian Nixon
President
Australian Gelbvieh Association

Expected Progeny Difference: Why, What, How, and When

by *Randie Culbertson, PhD,*

IGS Lead Geneticist

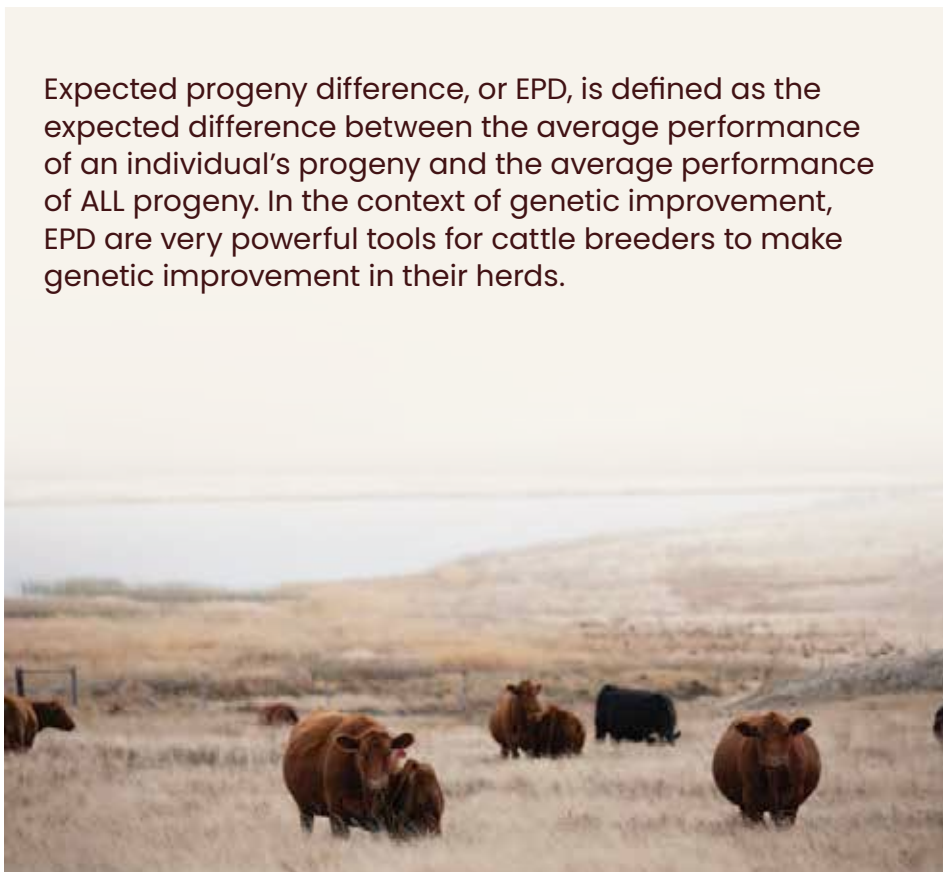


Expected progeny difference, or EPD, is defined as the expected difference between the average performance of an individual's progeny and the average performance of ALL progeny. In the context of genetic improvement, EPD are very powerful tools for cattle breeders to make genetic improvement in their herds.

EPD vs. EPDs

Historically in editorial content, the ASA has used EPDs for the plural form of EPD.

However, expected progeny differences are abbreviated EPD for both singular and plural forms. From now on, the ASA Publication will adopt the scientific approach of using EPD for both singular and plural abbreviations.



Why

Why use EPD? Simple: genetic improvement! Underlying the performance of every animal is both environment and genetics.

Every calf on an operation has a genetic propensity for performance of a trait. When

genetic potential is lacking, even when an ideal environment is provided, the calf will have limited performance. To maximize performance, both environment and genetics need to be maximized.

Phenotypic selection for improvement can be utilized, but

by selecting on phenotype the rate of improvement is significantly slower. When selecting on phenotype, you are selecting for the underlying genetics, but you are also selecting the environmental influences that cannot be passed onto offspring. Phenotypic selection gives no indication of how much of the

performance is influenced by the environment.

EPD account for environmental differences and influences as well as genetics. EPD therefore help you to select for the heritable portion of a trait that can be passed to offspring. Using EPD to select for traits of interest will dramatically increase the rate of improvement, especially when compared to using phenotypic selection.

What

In the most basic sense, an EPD is a solution resulting from the genetic evaluation. The evaluation is a series of statistical and mathematical models where performance, DNA, and pedigree information are included. These statistical and mathematical models are developed based on our knowledge of biology and genetic inheritance. Utilizing the information provided, these models are able to differentiate environmental influence from genetic influence to create a prediction of genetic potential for an animal as a parent.

When we consider an animal's performance, there are two major influential components: genetics and environment. Environmental factors are any effect that is non-genetic and can range from management, to the physical environment, to the maternal influence of the dam on a calf. The environmental influences are important to an animal's own performance, but they cannot be passed on to the next generation of calves. Appropriately accounting for environmental factors is crucial for reliable EPD. When developing the models for a genetic evaluation, tremendous focus is placed on how to account for all non-genetic influences on a trait. The assignment of contemporary groups (animals raised in the same environment with the same opportunities to grow,

conceive, marble, etc.) is crucial in accounting for the non-genetic components that would influence an animal's performance. With environmental effects properly accounted for, the evaluation solves for the genetic effects using animal relationships from the pedigree.

The pedigree maps out all known relationships to an individual animal and the relatives of that individual. These relationships are assigned numerical values to represent the amount of genetics shared.

For example, calf A shares 50% of his genes from his sire and 25% of his genes from a half-sib. If the half-siblings were inbred, the percentage of genes shared would be higher. The evaluation uses these relationship ties within the pedigree in conjunction with performance records and environmental effects, to solve for the genetic potential of animals for a given trait. It is important to point out a biological law of genetic inheritance referred to as the law of independent assortment. The law of independent assortment states that the segregation of genes is independent during the formation of reproductive cells. In other words, each parent possesses two versions of a gene, but only one version is passed onto progeny. Which of the two genes that is passed onto each individual progeny is completely random. This randomness leads to genetic diversity and allows for the ability to make genetic improvement on traits. If we consider full sibs, these calves will share 100% of their genes according to their pedigree, but there will be differences in their performance. These differences in performance are in part attributed to the difference in gene versions inherited. In the absence of performance data, these two

animals would have the same EPD, but once performance or DNA information is included in the evaluation, their EPD will begin to deviate from each other as the evaluation begins to account for the difference in the genes inherited from their parents.



How does DNA and genomic testing fit into all this? When an animal has genomic information included in the evaluation, it allows us to identify the actual genes, or markers, the animal has inherited. If we know that an animal has specific markers for a trait and how those markers contribute to a trait, this increases the reliability and predictive power of the EPD. If we consider the genomic results for a pair of full sibs, calf A has markers that contribute to additional pounds at weaning, while calf B has markers that do not contribute additional weight at weaning. As a result, there will be a deviation in their EPD since the genomics give a clear indication of which genes were inherited by each calf. Genomics will also increase the accuracy as it reduces the uncertainty of which genes a specific animal has available to pass on to progeny.

Submitting DNA does NOT replace the value of submitting phenotypes. Although DNA markers improve the accuracy of an



EPD by reducing the uncertainty of the genes an individual has, these markers only explain a small percentage of the genetic variation of a trait. Traits included in genetic evaluations are controlled by thousands and thousands of genes, where genomics may only identify a small portion of the genes contributing to the phenotype. Reporting the phenotype as well as DNA will increase the overall reliability of the EPD.

How

It is important to remember that EPD are a tool for comparison. An EPD is a reflection of how we expect an animal's progeny to perform on average in comparison to the average performance of progeny from other animals. Let's consider two bulls: Bull A has a weaning weight EPD of 95 pounds and bull B has a weaning weight EPD of 102. This means that if we look at 100 calves from each bull, on average, bull B's calves will weigh roughly seven pounds heavier than bull A's.

This does not mean that all of bull B's calves will be heavier than bull A's calves. Some calves will perform

better than others. This difference in performance among calves can be due to differences in environment, the dam's genetics (she contributes 50% of the genes to her offspring), and the rule of independent assortment. But when we look at all the progeny from each bull across different contemporary groups, we will see that bull B's calves on average are heavier.



When considering younger animals, there is a risk of their EPD changing as more information enters the genetic evaluation. This is compared to older animals with progeny information already incorporated in the calculation of their EPD, resulting in less EPD

movement. The level of information included in the estimation of EPD is indicated by the accuracy. Alongside each EPD that is published, an accuracy is also published. An accuracy is defined as the relationship between estimation of an animal's EPD and the "true" EPD for that animal. More simply put, an accuracy is reflective of the amount of information provided on that animal, and is the level of risk associated with each EPD. The lower the accuracy, the less information provided for the EPD estimation, and the higher the accuracy, the more information used for EPD estimation. As an accuracy begins to approach 1, this would mean that these animals have a significant amount of information included in the evaluation, and that their EPD are close to the true genetics for that trait. In addition, as accuracy increases, the amount of potential change for an EPD decreases.

Possible change is an easier way to interpret the amount of change likely in an EPD. When considering a young bull with low accuracy, it is important to consider the amount of change that could potentially occur as data for this specific animal enters into the genetic evaluation. Younger bulls will have a larger possible change range than older bulls with higher accuracy. As an EPD approaches an animal's true genetic value, of the time this value would be within the possible change range, but of the time the true EPD will fall outside of this window.

This doesn't mean that each animal's EPD will change by this amount, but it is the potential change that could occur to an EPD. It gives an indication of the level of risk for each trait and accuracy level. Along with EPD, accuracies, and possible change, a percentile rank for each animal is also published. The percentile rank is the

ranking of an animal based on their EPD in comparison to all animals within the breed population of ASA's registry. Percentile ranks range from 1 to 99, and the lower the number, the higher the ranking of the animal. For example, a bull whose weaning weight EPD is in the 5% percentile rank means that this bull is in the top 5% for weaning weight based on his EPD. Percentile rank does not take into account accuracy; therefore, if this bull has a low accuracy, there is a potential for this bull's percentile rank to change (either up or down) as more information enters the evaluation.



When

When is it appropriate to use an EPD? When genetic improvement is your goal! EPD are a tool for genetic improvement and should be used when an animal is being considered as a parent for the next generation. Looking at a bull or heifer's EPD is an evaluation of that animal's merit on a genetic level, and is the expectation in the performance of their calves on average. When selecting animals

as replacements or looking at purchasing a bull for your herd, the value of those animals is their genetic potential for producing future generations of calves with high performance.

When is it appropriate to use phenotypes? Phenotypes are important when the performance of the individual animal itself is being considered. When terminal steers enter a feedlot, their phenotype for feedlot and carcass performance become crucial

for profitability, but these steers themselves will not be producing the next generation of calves. The genetics of these steers will not be passed on to the next generation. However, the phenotypes on these particular calves are extremely valuable. Not only for operational profitability, but in the context of genetic improvement, these phenotypes are extremely valuable information to the genetic evaluation, as well as improving the genetic prediction of the bull and dam of the calves.

A Smart Approach in The Far North!!

by Julie Nixon



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Thomas Bewick of Cherryburn Gelbvieh Stud in Ravenshoe has found an innovative solution to address the needs of smaller hobby farmers in the region.

His leasing option for his Gelbvieh bulls provides an economically viable way for these farmers to access superior genetics without the burden of long-term ownership. By doing so, Thomas not only expands his market reach but also ensures the continued utilization of his breeding stock.

This arrangement benefits both parties: smaller herds gain access to quality genetics without committing to full-time ownership, while Thomas maintains ownership of his bulls and increases their utilization. This win-win scenario not only supports the proliferation of Gelbvieh genetics in the area but also demonstrates a commitment to meeting the specific needs of the local farming community.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT

by IGS Genetic Evaluation Team

The new genetic evaluation, Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT, offers groundbreaking advances in the prediction of EPDs for the IGS group. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers to help you better understand the new evaluation.

1. What are the key features of the Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT?

- » Faster and more automated system allowing for frequent genetic evaluations.
- » Improved use of genomic data with Single-step.
- » Improved methodology for predictions of all traits.
- » More accurate accuracy.
- » More flexibility to add additional traits or change methods for future improvements.

2. How is IGS's single-step approach different from blending for genomic evaluation?

The blending approach uses separate steps to calculate genomically enhanced EPDs. This approach requires two steps. The first step is to estimate the effects of DNA markers through a

process called "training" or "calibration". These effects are then used to calculate molecular breeding values (MBVs) on genotyped animals. The MBVs are then combined with traditionally calculated EPDs to enhance the accuracy of the traditionally calculated EPDs. The blending process is only performed on genotyped animals.

Befitting its name, the single-step approach calculates genomically enhanced EPDs in one step – using DNA, pedigree information, and phenotypes simultaneously. As a result, the DNA information not only improves the accuracy of prediction on genotyped animals, but also on the relatives and contemporaries of the genotyped animals. In a sense, all animals are genomically enhanced under the single-step approach.

There are also issues inherent in the blending process that are solved with single-step. Similar to the fact that only reporting phenotypes on a selected group of animals in your herd can lead to less informative (and more biased) EPDs with traditional evaluation, problems can exist with blending as it only involves genotyped animals – and genotyped animals tend to be highly selected.

However, because single-step includes information from nongenotyped as well as genotyped animals, the issues are corrected.

3. How is the Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT different than other singlestep models used in other genetic evaluations?

It is well established that DNA markers vary greatly in their effect on traits – ranging from a large to no impact. To leverage this biological fact in a statistically advantageous manner, the BOLT single-step method only utilizes markers that have a meaningful impact on the traits of interest, while ignoring those that have little to no effect. By using this approach, BOLT reduces the statistical “noise” and thereby increases the accuracy of prediction. By circumventing the “noise,” BOLT-generated EPDs tend to be more accurate than EPDs generated by organizations that are relegated to using all markers in their single-step evaluation.

4. How many DNA markers are being used?

The Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT uses a subset of weighted markers based on a research study performed by Drs. Mahdi Saatchi and Dorian Garrick, while they were scientists at Iowa State University. Drs. Saatchi and Garrick first used the 50,000 markers to determine a subset of weighted markers that are highly associated with economically relevant traits in beef cattle with consistent effects across breeds. Because the IGS evaluation is for multiple breeds, it is important to remove markers with inconsistent effects or no effects in different breeds.

The Saatchi and Garrick research also found that utilizing genotypes on animals of multiple breeds consistently increased the accuracy of prediction within a particular breed when compared to limiting DNA utilization to only animals of a particular breed.

5. Why are some traits influenced by markers and others are not?

The genetic architectures of various traits are different. Some are controlled by few genes with large effects and some are controlled by many small effects genes. In the current DNA profilers, there are some markers with high correlations with corresponding genes for some traits and low correlations with others. That’s why we see the different DNA added values for different traits. It is hard to change the genetic architecture of a trait. But, new DNA profilers or future technologies may

help to improve the value of DNA information for such traits.

Furthermore, some maternal traits, like Maternal Calving Ease and Milk, are difficult to predict with genomics because there are so few females genotyped. Increasing the number of cows and heifers genotyped will improve the ability to use genomics to predict maternal traits.

6. Will genomic testing replace the need to submit phenotype records?

No, reporting actual records is critical. The value of genomic predictions increases as the amount of phenotypic information increases. Furthermore, at this point, animals cannot achieve high accuracy with genomic data alone. High accuracy EPDs are only achievable by collecting many phenotypic records on offspring.

7. How do we know predictions via BOLT are better than the previous system (Cornell software)?

The IGS evaluation team has conducted a series of validations to compare the BOLT system to the Cornell system. BOLT-derived EPDs had higher correlations to birth, weaning and yearling weights (0.34, 0.29, and 0.26, respectively) than the Cornell derived EPDs (0.27, 0.19, and 0.20, respectively). Furthermore, there was a larger difference in average progeny performance (birth, weaning, and yearling) of the top 1% compared to the bottom 1% animals in the BOLT derived EPDs compared to the Cornell calculated EPDs. Both validations suggest the BOLT EPDs align better with the actual phenotypes than the Cornell EPDs.

8. Why do some animals have substantial changes in their indexes?

Though the correlations between the previous (Cornell derived) EPDs/indexes and the BOLT derived EPDs/indexes are relatively strong, there will be some animals that happen to move in a consistently favorable or unfavorable direction in a number of EPDs. Because indexes are comprised of several EPDs, even though movement in individual EPDs may be considered small, movement in the same direction across EPDs may yield sizable movements in the index value. This is particularly true for animals that have consistent movement in traits that are drivers of a particular index. Though in a large population like ours we would expect to see several animals with substantial index movement, these animals will be the exception to the rule.

9. How does BOLT improve our calculation of accuracy?

“True” accuracy can be thought of as the gold standard of accuracy. It is statistically unbiased, and therefore the ultimate measure of accuracy. True accuracy is the accuracy resulting from direct calculation. Unfortunately, even with the massively powerful computing capacity now in existence, the direct calculation of accuracy is not possible on datasets the size of ours. Because we cannot calculate accuracy directly, other approaches to accuracy calculation have been developed.

In our Cornell evaluation platform, and all others in existence other than BOLT, the calculation of the accuracy associated with each EPD is achieved through “approximation” methods. It has long been known these methods are a very crude approach to the calculation of accuracy – tending to overestimate accuracy.

Another approach to the calculation of accuracy is via “sampling” methodology. Sampling is shown to be a more accurate predictor of accuracy. In fact, the results of this method were reported to be virtually identical to true accuracy. Unfortunately, due to its computationally intense nature, sampling has long been thought an infeasible approach to the calculation of accuracy on large databases.

BOLT, however, has changed the landscape in this area. By employing unique computing strategies that leverage both software and hardware efficiencies, BOLT performs what was previously unthinkable – utilizing a sampling methodology to calculate what is essentially true accuracy.

Because BOLT can calculate true accuracy, we can put more confidence in our accuracy metrics. Put another way, unlike with approximation, we can count on the predicted movements associated with possible change holding true over time. This was not the case with our Cornell system nor any other system in existence.

10. Why do the carcass EPDs generally have an increase in accuracy with BOLT while this is not a case for other traits?

You will notice that while the Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT will generally produce lower accuracies than the Cornell system for growth and calving ease traits, the opposite is true for carcass traits.

One reason behind the differing accuracy outcomes is several years ago the evaluation team developed a way to temper inflated accuracies in the Cornell carcass evaluation. Unfortunately, this was not possible for growth traits.

Another reason is that the Cornell system only used the carcass and its corresponding ultrasound trait (e.g., marbling score and IMF) to predict carcass EPDs, while records on several additional correlated traits are leveraged with the BOLT system.

A new feature of the BOLT evaluation is a new approach to the calculation of Carcass Weight EPDs. Due to limitations, our previous Carcass Weight EPDs did not incorporate actual carcass weights. They were predicted through an index of birth, weaning, and yearling weights. Besides using prior growth records (weaning, post weaning), the new approach also includes actual carcass weights. This feature will undoubtedly lead to a more accurate prediction of carcass weight.

11. What can I do to improve the predictions on my herd?

Whole Herd Reporting – If you haven’t already, you should consider enrolling your entire herd with a breed association total herd reporting program as it offers the most complete picture of the genetics involved in your herd.

Proper contemporary groups – It is important for the genetic evaluation that you group, to the best of your ability, animals that were treated uniformly. Proper reporting of contemporary groups ensures better predictions for all.

Take data collection and reporting seriously – Phenotypes are the fuel that drives the genetic evaluation. Take pride in collecting accurate data. If possible, try to collect additional phenotypes like mature cow weight, cow body condition score, feed intake, and carcass data.

Use genomics – DNA testing adds more information to what we know about an animal. The more genotypes we collect, the better we can predict DNA-tested animals in the future. Also, the more relatives genotyped, the better we can predict their relatives in future generations. Therefore, to ensure your bloodlines are well represented in the predictions, genotype your animals.

Nobody Shares Like IGS Through pooling

by Jackie Atkins, Ph.D,
 Director, Science and Education Operations

Early in life, we are taught to share. Share with our siblings, share with our classmates, share with our neighbors. The fact that we have to learn this behavior is telling – it’s not instinctive. It’s human nature to protect what is “ours” and become territorial to ensure we have what we need to survive and thrive; however, we have seen how we all can do better by working together, sharing resources, and maybe most importantly, sharing ideas. This philosophy of comradery and collaboration is at the heart of the International Genetic Solutions (IGS).

IGS aims to serve the beef industry by providing resources for genetic improvement using the best technology available and unprecedented collaboration. The IGS collaboration now has 20-million animals and nearly 300,000 genotypes from 20 different organizations. Not only is it the largest beef cattle database, but it also has a huge amount of connectivity among the different organizations. Nearly

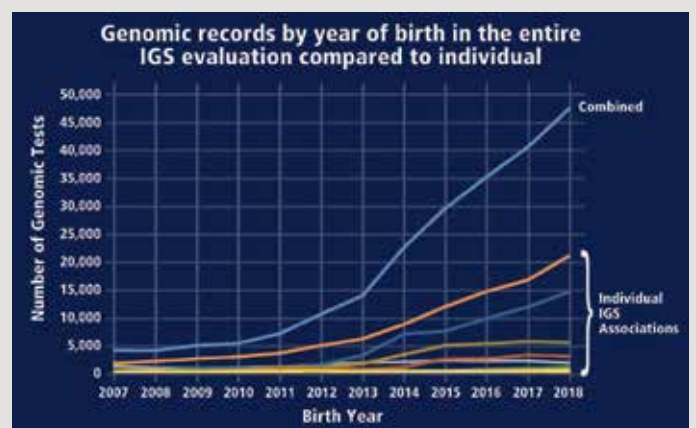
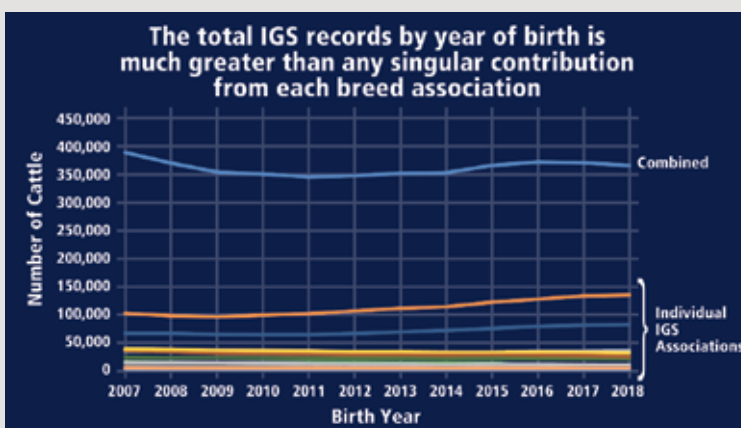
of the progeny records in the IGS evaluation have siblings in a separate database and multiple sires have progeny in as many as 12 databases. If each of these databases was an island with an isolated evaluation, we could all breath a little easier because the evaluation would be much simpler. But, it wouldn’t be better. It wouldn’t be as accurate. It wouldn’t give the best genetic predictions of the animals in the evaluation.

Instead, the IGS model has chosen the harder path. It is complex to have one evaluation with 20 different data sources. It is challenging to have a multi-breed genetic evaluation and to account for different breed effects and heterosis. But at the end of the day, we want to provide the BEST possible genetic predictions, not only to seedstock breeders but for anyone using EPDs to select their future genetics.

The IGS model also sets aside the territorial toddler behaviors often seen in breed associations and societies. Instead of guarding our

data, our material, our resources, to be used only to help our association improve, the IGS system opens the doors of communication among all the IGS partners to offer better resources to all the members and ultimately the beef industry. We all benefit from working together and sharing various perspectives from different breeds of cattle, different breed associations, and different countries but with the common goal of beef cattle genetic improvement. Beyond making the best possible genetic predictors, the staff from the various IGS partners learn from each other, share educational material, collaborate on different research projects, and work through various challenges most of us have faced independently but can get through better together.

While the future is unknown to all of us, it is certain to improve by working together towards the common good.



Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT

Are the New BOLT-Derived EPDs More Accurate Than Previous Cornell EPDs?

by Mahdi Saatchi, Rohan L. Fernando, Lauren Hyde, Jackie Atkins, Steve McGuire, Wade Shafer, Matt L. Spangler, and Bruce Golden, IGS Genetic Evaluation Team and Consultants.

The ASA and International Genetic Solution (IGS) partners invested in a new and improved genetic evaluation software called BOLT to replace the Cornell EPD evaluation system. Among other benefits, this enables the use of Single-step methods for incorporating genomic information into the National Cattle Evaluation instead of the blending approach. In the Single-step process, the DNA marker genotypes are directly incorporated into the genetic evaluation along with the phenotypes (performance data) and the pedigree. As a result, the genomic data has an impact not only on the genotyped individual, but also on all the relatives of that genotyped individual. This allows for the genomic information to improve the accuracy of non-genotyped relatives.

The Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT squeezes more information from the DNA markers by allowing for certain DNA markers to have a larger influence on predicting the genetic merit of an animal than other DNA markers while some DNA markers have no effects on trait(s) of interest. This model is closer to what we expect based on biology where some parts of an animal’s genome (or genes) play more important roles than other parts of its genome (or genes). This is unique to the IGS Single-step method compared to other organizations where the DNA marker information is used to adjust relationships among the individuals.

Are the BOLT EPDs more accurate than the Cornell derived EPDs in the real world? To answer this question,

we performed a validation study where we ran a data set (pedigree, performance, genomics) through both genetic evaluation software (BOLT and Cornell) to compare the accuracies of the EPDs produced. To enable a fair comparison, we removed the performance records of animals born in 2015 and later from the evaluation in both systems to be used as progeny performance records for validation purposes. Table 1 shows the correlations between EPDs and progeny performance of non-genotyped sires evaluated in both systems that have progeny born in 2015 or later with recorded birth, weaning, and yearling weights. As shown, the BOLT EPDs are more accurate than Cornell EPDs as the correlations are higher for BOLT EPDs with sires’ progeny performances.

Table 1 – The correlations between BOLT vs. Cornell EPDs with progeny performance of non-genotyped sires for birth, weaning and yearling weights.

Trait	N of Sires	BOLT	Cornell
Birth weight	29,154	0.34	0.27
Weaning weight	21,571	0.29	0.19
Yearling weight	10,849	0.26	0.20

To have a better sense of improvement in accuracies, we ranked sires based on either BOLT or Cornell EPDs for birth, weaning and yearling weights. Then, we compared the progeny performance of the top 1% vs bottom 1% ranked sires for each trait in each evaluation system. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – The average progeny performance of non-genotyped sires ranked based on either BOLT or Cornell EPDs.

Trait	N of Sires	BOLT			Cornell			BOLT vs Cornell
		Top 1%	Bottom 1%	Difference	Top 1%	Bottom 1%	Difference	Top 1%
BW	29,151	74.2	95.9	+21.7	76.0	92.8	+16.8	+3.1
WW	21,571	655.3	546.2	+109.1	638.5	558.6	+79.9	+16.8
YW	10,849	1,151.5	915.8	+235.7	1,111.3	895.6	+215.7	+40.2

As you can see, the BOLT EPDs ranked sires more accurately than EPDs from the Cornell software, where progenies of top 1% ranked sires based on the BOLT EPDs are +3.1, +16.8 and +40.2 lb heavier at birth, weaning and yearling. These results are exciting, and show that our investment in new technology will lead to more accurate EPDs.

The Value of DNA Information

in the Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT

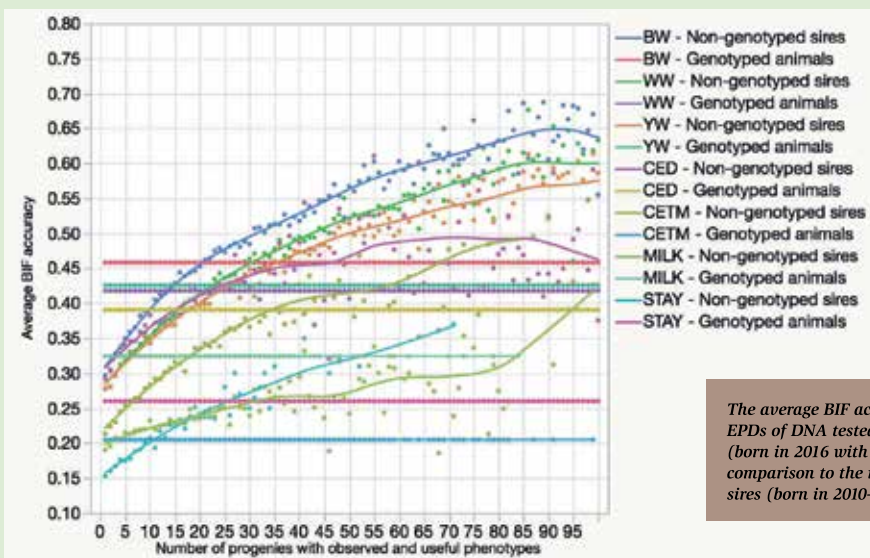
by Mahdi Saatchi, Rohan L. Fernando, Lauren Hyde, Jackie Atkins, Steve McGuire, Wade Shafer, Matt L. Spangler, and Bruce Golden, IGS Genetic Evaluation Team and Consultants.

DNA profiles provide additional information about the genetic merit of a DNA tested animal and increase the accuracy of EPDs, which are called Genomic Enhanced EPD or GE-EPDs. In the IGS Single-step process, the DNA marker genotypes are directly incorporated into the genetic evaluation along with the phenotypes (performance data) and the pedigree. As a result, the DNA information has an impact not only on the genotyped individual, but also on all the relatives of that genotyped individual. This allows for the DNA information to improve the accuracy of non-genotyped relatives.

To measure the impact of DNA information on accuracies of GE-EPDs in the IGS Singlestep genetic evaluations, we compared the average BIF accuracies of GE-EPDs of DNA tested young animals (born in 2016 with no progeny) to the average BIF accuracies of nongenotyped sires born in 2010-2014. Only sires with non-genotyped calves were used for this comparison. We found that the average BIF accuracy of GE-EPD for a DNA tested young animal is equivalent to the average BIF accuracy of a non-genotyped sire with 21, 22 and 24 calves with observed phenotypes for birth,

weaning and yearling weights, respectively (Figure 1, where a horizontal line cross a curve for a specific trait (e.g. red line and blue curve cross each other at the data point correspond to $y(\text{accuracy})=0.46$ and $x(\text{progeny})=21$ for birth weight)). The progeny equivalent (PE) for direct calving ease was 15 and it was only 3 for total maternal calving ease due to limited genotypes on cows. The PE for milk and stayability were 18 and 25, respectively (Figure 1).

The Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT is a breakthrough in GE-EPD accuracy improvement. Enabling technologies such as BOLT software allow for even faster genetic progress with more accurate EPDs earlier in an animal's life. We (IGS) are dedicated to using the best available technology to deliver more accurate GE-EPDs to our members so they have the best tools available for their selection decisions.



The average BIF accuracies of GE-EPDs of DNA tested young animals (born in 2016 with no progeny) in comparison to the non-genotyped sires (born in 2010-2014).

Figure 1



First Use Born Out Of Desperation: Now Providing Permanent High Quality Pasture.

by Brice Kaddatz

Stuart Volmerhausen, along with his wife Lynda, runs approximately 250ha of grazing country in the Theebine district slightly west of Gympie.

Six years back Stuart contacted Brice Kaddatz who was involved with the use of BEST Farming Systems TM Agricultural biostimulant. At that time, it was being used with effect in the Macadamia Nut Industry. Brice had spoken with Stuart about the use of TM on pasture. Brice has not forgotten Stuart's introductory comments on the phone "I am standing on my patio watching my pasture disintegrate further each day".

Brice was not familiar with 'Pasture Dieback' however a rapid and

steep learning curve was about to take place. Brice visited with Stuart and inspected the areas of pasture badly affected by the dieback. Whilst any pasture bulk was totally absent, excavated root clumps revealed stools of grass hanging grimly onto life below soil surface level.

A discussion about the attributes of TM took place and Stuart took the decision to immediately treat 80 hectares of the worst affected areas of the farm. The result of that decision was not short of amazing. Stuart observed that the spread of the dieback which had been increasing on a daily basis, literally stopped from the day of application. Progress back to full grass cover was slow but obvious and over time full grazing capacity has been returned to the property.

These days there is no sign of dieback, even though it remains active throughout the district. Stuart has adopted an annual application of TM Agricultural and a booster Best Fulvic Plus as his preferred annual maintenance program. The extra bonus is the realistic annual cost which is in the order of \$15 per hectare.

Stuart & Lynda produce high-grade Brahman genetics through their stud "Rockstar Brahmans" which has produced some record-breaking prices, plus provision of recipient cows for other stud operations involved with AI & ET programs. High-quality pasture is an essential element. TM Agricultural underwrites that outcome for Stuart & Lynda.

Best
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It All Starts in the Soil



TM Agricultural - The Simple Secret To Healthy Soil

Australia's No1 Proven Biostimulant

Nestle Soil Analysis Trial Result

Key Microbe Groups	TM Treated Total Count	Untreated Total Count	Improvement
Total Bacteria	1,900,000	305,000	523%
Fungi Count	5,700	1,800	217%
Mycorrhiza Count	2,500	400	525%
Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria	230,000	189,667	21%
Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria	575,000	234,667	145%
Potassium Solubilizing Bacteria	1,050,000	76000	1282%

Findings: A significant increase in the following variables can be seen from the analysis of soil samples with the application of TM Agricultural as compared to the untreated samples.

- Better root systems.
- Increased soil carbon.
- Improved soil, plant & animal health.
- Improved nutrient cycling & availability.
- Improved water holding capacity.
- Increased frost protection.
- Improved soil structure and stability.
- Increased organic matter.
- Reduced reliance on chemical inputs.

Benefits of active soil biology



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Australian Tropical Gelbvieh



Merrindale Gelbvieh

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Brian & Jasmin Kaddatz
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*Kaddatz Family Enterprise
Established 1989
Quality Genetics: Selected Australian & Canadian ET.
First in Australia to Breed Gelbvieh X Brahman*

Balgowan Gold Gelbvieh

Est 1990



7 months dam BG Fiona
(13 years)



Sire Perfect Combination



Sire JRI Cartwright

For private sales and queries please contact Shirley 0407 303 100
Email balgowan@dcsi.net.au. 2303 Main Neerim Rd, Neerim South Vic 3831

Balgowan Gold Gelbvieh Stud Established 1990

by Shirley Trennery



The journey of Balgowan Gold Gelbvieh, from its inception through its remarkable success in the 1990s to its transition into semi-retirement, is a testament to dedication, vision, and a commitment to excellence in Gelbvieh breeding.

The decision to introduce Gelbvieh as a second breed alongside Simmentals was informed by thorough research and recognition of Gelbvieh's outstanding qualities, as demonstrated by results from the Meat Animal Research Centre (MARC) in Nebraska. This strategic choice laid the foundation for a breeding program focused on milk production, docility, longevity, maternal characteristics, fertility, calving ease, and carcass quality.

Stud principal Ted Hazlett was a past councilor of The Australian

Gelbvieh Association and a life member. Ted particularly enjoyed working with and assisting Mr William Hughes in amending the an original version of the Australian Gelbvieh regulations. William was an outstanding General Manager who did so much to establish the Gelbvieh breed in Australia and a lifelong friend.

The Full-blood foundation females were Circle T Wilma 32W (Imp Can) and Bells Hill Wanda. Bulls used initially were Taurus (Imp Can) and Triangle T Topper and later LTC Prince Albert, Bear Tooth Bonanza, Bear Tooth Zest, Hyek Polled Master Mind, KCF Bennett Horizon, PHG Prairie Lobo, Norolle Absolute Power, Leachman New Day, Top Brass, JRI Cartwright and some of our home bred polled bulls, and recently, introducing polled genetics from Weetalabah Perfect Combination.

Under the management of Shirley Trennery for the past 33 years, the Balgowan Gold Gelbvieh stud thrived, producing notable successes in major agricultural shows across Australia. The achievements of standout individuals like Balgowan Gold

Magnolia, winning Grand Champion Gelbvieh Female at prestigious events such as the Sydney Royal Easter Show and the Royal Adelaide Show, underscored the stud's commitment to breeding excellence.

The stud's success was not only measured in accolades but also in the enduring relationships forged within the Gelbvieh community. The welcoming of Ruth and Andrew Burford of "Lara Park" and Jenny and Michael Schulz of "Schevan Gully" into the Gelbvieh family exemplifies the spirit of camaraderie and shared passion that characterizes the breed's enthusiasts.

As Shirley and Ted Hazlett transition into semi-retirement, their legacy in Gelbvieh breeding endures through the continued dedication of fellow breeders and the ongoing influence of the genetics they cultivated over the years. Their commitment to maintaining a closed herd and their unwavering pursuit of breeding excellence have left an indelible mark on the Gelbvieh community in Australia.

Through their shared enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to the breed, the Balgowan Gold Gelbvieh stud has not only contributed to the advancement of Gelbvieh genetics but has also enriched the fabric of the Australian agricultural landscape.



First ET calves to start the Gelbvieh herd in 1990

Introducing Schevan Gully Gelbvieh

by Michael Schulz



Our story moving into cattle breeding is a little different from a lot of cattle enterprises. We are located at Timboon in South West Victoria. Our farm (100 Ha) was purchased by my parents (Hermann and Marlis) in 1972 after having migrated from Germany in 1954 as refugees post-war.

My father had completed an agricultural traineeship in Germany and was always going to have a career in Agriculture. Never did he think that he would end up in dairying but in 1972 it was one of the few ways to build an asset starting with very little. They encountered a drought in their second year and couldn't afford any fertiliser. Cattle prices had also crashed and the situation was dire. Having seen BioDynamics and Organics in Germany, he went down that path. They became one of the pioneers of this farming methodology in Australia. After surviving the drought and increasing productivity they decided to value add. This is when in 1982 Timboon Farmhouse Cheese was born. From very humble beginnings a factory was built on a farm and additional land was purchased. Products included Camembert, Brie, Quark, Herb Torte, Yoghurt, Buetten, and 2 varieties of blue cheese. Some of these products were served on Qantas and

associated airlines for several years. The cheeses had received many awards and Hermann was recognised as a pioneer of boutique Cheese Manufacturing.

The enterprise became a family affair with a couple of changes through to the current time. My role during the period from 1982 to 2020 was running the farming operation. My parents retired and sold TFC in 2000 but the infrastructure remained. Manufacturing resumed in the factory in 2010 with our son Simon starting his own business Schulz Organic Dairy. His product mix is somewhat different with the focus on selling fresh milk to cafes and Farmers Markets around Victoria. Yoghurt, Quark, Fetta, Butter, and Buetten are also produced. The farm has a milking area of 420ha and milking 500 cows all year round. Young stock spend some time on an out paddock and certified organic hay, grain, and silage is outsourced. All the milk produced on farm goes through the factory.

Our journey into Gelbvieh has come about purely by accident. During the East Coast drought of 2019, we were fortunate to have surplus feed on an out-paddock near Timboon. It was logical to help a fellow cattle breeder from central NSW and assist his 30 Gelbvieh cross cows with calves at foot for 6 months. Most animals were second or third cross. We were so amazed by how quiet they were and how quickly the calves grew. Fencing on this out paddock was fair at best, but these cattle never challenged them. Our dairy yearlings, on the other hand, were quite the opposite. Little did I realise that not long after the agisted cattle returned home our son would give me a tap on my shoulder and say that it was time for me to retire. It was a relief of some sort. I was happy to leave behind the rigors of dairy farming but not cattle altogether.

We retained an out paddock at Mortlake and set out to follow a fast-evolving passion for Gelbvieh!! The ownership of the dairy farm has now transitioned to Simon. Our Gelbvieh herd has quickly grown to 100 animals ranging from registered cows through to a few base cows, that are already due for their second batch of Gelbvieh calves. There are predominantly 2 bloodlines in our foundation cows, Balgowan Gold and Mellool studs. The next drop of calves will include progeny from Weetalabah Perfect Combination, as well as backup bulls sourced from Weetalabah and Balgowan Gold.





A Perfect Combination For The Overseas Market!!

Weetalabah Perfect Combination, affectionately known as PC, emerges as a symbol of excellence and a beacon of hope for Gelbvieh enthusiasts worldwide. Bred by Aderian & Julie Nixon in Dulacca, QLD, PC carries the legacy of his illustrious sire, RWG Right Combination, a three-time Canadian National Champion Gelbvieh Bull.

PC's journey begins with remarkable promise, showcasing exceptional genetics from the outset. His impressive birthweight and subsequent growth into a colossal presence highlight his genetic superiority. With outstanding statistics including

a mature weight of 1100 kg an impressive 150 EMA and a fat score of 8/7, PC demonstrates the embodiment of his name – a perfect combination of traits inherited from his renowned sire.

Amidst the challenges posed by the global pandemic, PC's

exceptional qualities are recognized in the ORB Champion of the World competition, where he secured a remarkable 2nd place in Australasia, marking a historic achievement for Gelbvieh breeding.

PC's impact extends beyond the paddock, as his outstanding temperament, docility, and fertility earn praise from stockmen worldwide. His exceptional performance during collection at Rocky Repro, yielding over 1500 straws, solidifies his reputation as an extraordinary breeding bull.

Recognizing PC's immense potential, a half share was sold to Michael and Tracie Borg of Calveston in Clermont. PC's offspring surpass expectations, showcasing his ability to transmit superior genetics to the next generation.

PC's influence reaches far beyond Australian borders, with semen sales to four states in Australia, as well as to New Zealand and Paraguay. A first in a very long time for an Australian-born Gelbvieh bull to achieve such widespread acclaim, cementing his legacy as a global ambassador for Gelbvieh excellence.

As Gelbvieh enthusiasts worldwide witness the legacy of Weetalabah Perfect Combination unfold, his story serves as a testament to the transformative power of superior genetics and the enduring impact it has on the future of the breed. PC's journey encapsulates the global reach and influence of Gelbvieh excellence, inspiring breeders to strive for greatness and uphold the standards of excellence set by remarkable individuals like PC. Semen is available, contact Aderian or Julie anytime.



Calves by PC around the country.

Summit Gelbvieh bull sale tops \$13,000

by *Kyah Peeti*

EVEN, consistent, well-bred and well-presented were only a handful of ways to describe the impressive line-up of bulls offered by the Pugh family at its 16th on-property Summit Gelbvieh bull sale at Narrikup last week.

An exceptional team of 13 black and 14 red bulls were offered which had expected progeny differences (EPDs) and visual traits that proved to be well sought after.

The catalogue was made up of 27 quality and consistent sires, ensuring there was a bull for all prospective buyers, both in person and via AuctionsPlus.

Through AuctionsPlus, there were 1237 catalogue views, 20 bidders logged in during the sale and nine online bids placed, with two being successful.

Sale supporters and buyers filled the stands at the Narrikup property, placing multiple bids on their preferred lots during the Helmsman-style sale, giving them complete control over securing their catalogue favourites.

Prices reached a high of \$13,000 and averaged \$6833 overall, with 21 of the 27 bulls offered finding new homes.

Ten of the 13 black Gelbvieh bulls were cleared at an average of \$6425 and a high of \$9000, while the red Gelbvieh sires reached a high of \$13,000, averaging \$7205.

Last year the stud sold 25 of 33 bulls overall, to average \$7780 and top at \$15,500.



With the top-priced \$13,000 bull, Summit Tetrus T0074, bought by McVay Pastoral Co, Esperance, is Summit Gelbvieh stud co-principals Alexandra Riggall (left) and Clare King, with Elders, Mt Barker agent Dean Wallinger and Zoetis area manager and sponsor Ben Fletcher.

Elders, Mt Barker agent Dean Wallinger said he was very pleased with the outcome for the Pugh family, along with the evenness and quality of the team.

"The bulls were presented exceptionally well and the Pugh family should be congratulated," Mr Wallinger said.

"There was good support both at the sale and on AuctionsPlus which was pleasing to see."

Mr Wallinger said it was an overall great result, with plenty of support from returning buyers.

Achieving the sale's \$13,000 high was a May 2022-drop bull from lot 16, which was secured by McVay Pastoral Co, Esperance.

The honey red bull, Summit Tetrus T0074 is a son of Summit Tetrus Q0003 (black) and out of Summit Samba K85.

The 756 kilogram bull has EPDs of 10.3 calving ease (CE), 3.9 birthweight (BWT), 48.8 weaning weight (WWT), 57.4 yearling weight (YWT), 21.5 for milk, 3.4 maternal calving ease (MCE), 45.9 maternal weaning weight (MWWT), 11.3 stayability (STAY), 8.7 docility (DOC), 35.0 carcass weight (CWT), 1.03 rib eye area (REA), -0.039 fat, 0.28 marbling (MARB) -0.32 yield grade (YG) and 44cm scrotal circumference (SC).

With these figures it ranks in the top 15pc for MCE and top 20pc for CE. Rob Revell was buying on behalf of McVay Pastoral Co and said he was a return buyer.

"I picked this bull in particular because he had a soft, moderate frame," Mr Revell said.

"Going forward he will be used over the nucleus herd to replace the existing Summit bull."

Taking second top price honours was also a May 2022- drop honey red bull, which was keenly sought after by the Avery family, WC, BE & DC Avery, Scott River, paying \$10,500.

The 740kg Summit Billy Ray N10 son, Summit Billy Ray T0141 is out of Summit Bitter Sweet N32 with EPDs of 10.3 CE, 3.9 BWT, 47.0 WWT, 54.2 YWT, 21.6 for milk, 3.0 MCE, 45.0 MWWT, 10.7 STAY, 8.6 DOC, 35.1 CWT, 1.02 REA, -0.037 fat, 0.28 MARB, -0.32 YG and 38cm SC.

It ranks in the top 20pc for CE, CWT, fat and MARB. The Scott River account rounded out its purchases with a black Gelbvieh bull, Summit Fleetwood T0215 for \$6750.

The June 2022-drop sire weighed 716kg and ranks in the top 15pc for MCE and CE. Chris Avery is a return

buyer and purchased the bulls with help from Elders, Margaret River agent Brendan Millar.

Mr Millar said the Avery family was looking for length and depth in its bulls.

“Those two bulls were selected to add some hybrid vigour into the Avery family’s Murray Grey base herd,” Mr Millar said.

The Avery family supplies local markets. Closely behind was the third top-priced bull from lot 15, Summit Brick T0001, which was picked up by RL Cake & Co, Robinson, for \$10,250.

The 752kg, March 2022-drop sire is a honey red and is by Summit Brick M083 and out of Summit Ednah L019.

It has EPDs of 10.1 CE, 4.0 BWT, 48.8 WWT, 57.1 YWT, 21.5 for milk, 3.1 MCE, 45.8 MWWT, 11.1 STAY, 8.8 DOC, 34.7 CWT, 1.03 REA, -0.039 fat, 0.28 MARB, -0.32 YG and 42cm SC.

Kangarabbi Farms, Narrikup, also purchased two bulls, taking home Summit Centurion T0112 for \$8500 and Summit Buddy T174 for \$8000, which both have black coats.

Centurion T0112 is a 680kg son of Summit Centurion M001 and out of Summit P005 with EPDs of 10.2 CE, 4.1 BWT, 47.5 WWT, 54.7 YWT, 21.3 for milk, 2.7 MCE, 45.0 MWWT, 10.3 STAY, 8.6 DOC, 35.3 CWT, 1.05 REA, -0.038 fat, 0.28 MARB, -0.32 YG and 47cm SC.

Continued over...

SUMMIT GELBIEH ON-PROPERTY BULL SALE (Under the hammer results)

	Offered	Sold	Top	Gross	Average
Red	14	11	\$13,000	\$79,250	\$7,205
Black	13	10	\$9,000	\$64,250	\$6,425
Total	27	21	\$13,000	\$143,500	\$6,833



Above: With the second top-priced bull, Summit Billy Ray T0141, which was successfully purchased by WC, BE & DC Avery, Scott River for \$10,500, were Elders, Margaret River agent Brendan Millar (left), Summit Gelbvieh stud co-principals Clare King and Alexandra Riggall, and Elders, Mt Barker agent Dean. Right: Picking out their catalogue favourites were Redmond-based buyers Les Duncan (left), with his father John.



Looking over bulls prior to the sale were Robert Potter (left), Manypeaks and Kim Ravenhill, Tingledale.



With these figures it ranks in the top 15pc for CWT and top 20pc for MARB. Buddy T174 is a 680kg bull by Summit Buddy P0113 (black) and out of Summit Cher M30 (black).

It has EPDs of 10.2 CE, 4.0 BWT, 47.9 WWT, 55.8 YWT, 21.3 for milk, 2.9 MCE, 45.2 MWWT, 10.9 STAY, 8.8 DOC, 33.8 CWT, 1.02 REA, -0.041 fat, 0.27 MARB, -0.33 YG and 44cm SC.

An AuctionsPlus account was another fan of the Summit genetics, securing two Summit Emperor N92 sons.

Summit Emperor T161 is a black May 2022-drop bull out of Summit Beatrice Q0039 (black) and ranks in the top 10pc for CE and STAY, top 15pc for MCE and top 20pc for DOC, while Summit Emperor T186 is a honey red May 2022-drop sire out of Summit Disco Diva M221 and ranks in the top 10pc for MCE and STAY, top 15pc for CE and milk.

AH Hall & Co, Tenterden, and EP & TJ Johnston & Sons, Millbrook, both bought two bulls for \$5000 each.

The Hall family secured a Summit Emperor N92 son, Summit Emperor T0110 (black) which weighed 656kg and a Summit Billy Ray N10 son, Summit Billy Ray T0132 (red) which weighed 654kg.

The Johnston family successfully bid on a Summit Emperor N92 son, Summit Emperor T229 (black) weighing 580kg and also another black Summit Centurion M001 son, Summit Centurion T0150 weighing 586kg.

Another top-end support was Trevelleys Pty Ltd, Tingledale, which bid to \$9000 for a black bull from pen two, April 2022-drop Summit Tetris Q0003 son, Summit Tetris T0076.

The 700kg sire is out of Summit Aria H86 and has EPDs of 10.2 CE, 3.9 BWT,

46.4 WWT, 52.9 YWT, 21.6 for milk, 2.6 MCE, 44.7 MWWT, 10.5 STAY, 8.7 DOC, 35.0 CWT, 1.02 REA, -0.037 fat, 0.30 MARB, -0.31 YG and 40cm SC.

These figures rank it in the top 10pc for MCE, top 15pc for STAY and top 20pc for CE and MWWT. Another notable account was Talawa Grazing, Woogenellup, which paid \$8000 for a honey red coat, March 2022-drop sire weighing 748kg.

Summit Brick T005 is sired by Summit Brick M083 and out of Summit Madagascar R0122 and has EPDs of 10.1 CE, 4.0 BWT, 48.7 WWT, 56.7 YWT, 21.5 for milk, 3.1 MCE, 45.8 MWWT, 11.0 STAY, 8.7 DOC, 34.7 CWT, 1.04 REA, -0.039 fat, 0.27 MARB, -0.32 YG and 38cm SC.

The Pugh family has been working on consistency and depth of quality in its bulls and thanked Elders and loyal clients for supporting the 2024 sale.



ANNUAL ON PROPERTY BULL SALE FEBRUARY /MARCH



**Summit Tetris T74
Lot 16 in 2024 Sale**

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What to Expect with Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT

by IGS Genetic Evaluation Team and Consultants

Change can be a scary concept to some yet sought after by others. Many breeders wonder about the changes on the horizon once the new evaluation, Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT, is fully implemented. That change may be nerve-racking but in reality, things should change. Why invest in new and improved methods if you get the same answers?

Here are key changes to expect with the new genetic evaluation:

1. **Movement of EPDs and reranking.**

EPDs will change especially in younger, lower accuracy cattle. Members should expect movement in lower accuracy cattle, as seen in the existing evaluations, because they may have new progeny data reported. Some cattle will move in a favorable direction while others will do the opposite. Keep in mind even if the EPDs get worse, the prediction of them is more accurate. With Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT, we will have more accurate EPDs earlier in an animal's life.

2. **More accurate accuracy.** This idea takes a little time to sink in. The accuracy reported for each EPD will be more directly calculated and thus closer to the "real" accuracy. The methods to solve accuracy directly are extremely difficult and take a lot of computer power. With the previous Cornell software it was not possible to solve for accuracy directly so an

approximation method was used to estimate accuracy for each EPD. There were inherent flaws with approximating the accuracy with the previous method. Now with BOLT software, the accuracy reported with the EPD will be more reliable.

3. **Reported accuracies will tend to be lower.**

One of the inherent flaws in the approximation methods used to find accuracy in the previous evaluation, and in all evaluations not produced through BOLT, was they frequently overestimated accuracy, especially for younger animals. This was known for a long time, but there was no way to calculate the accuracies directly. With BOLT, having accuracy more directly solved results in a more reliable accuracy but that accuracy will often be numerically lower than the previous evaluation would predict. However, the new reported accuracies with BOLT should better represent the possible changes for the EPDs.

4. **DNA testing will have a larger impact.**

With the switch to BOLT software, IGS will use Single-step genomic evaluation on all EPDs (currently using Single Step for Stayability EPDs). Single-step uses the DNA markers, pedigree information, and phenotypic data simultaneously in the prediction of the EPDs. Previously molecular breeding values (MBVs) were calculated from the genomic information and those MBVs were blended separately into the EPD prediction. The Single-step method

squeezes more information from the DNA markers than the previous approach allowed. Also, there are biases inherent in the blending process that aren't a problem with the Single-step approach. Additionally, with Single-step, the genomic information will not only enhance EPDs for the genotyped animal but also will be used in the EPD estimates of relatives.

5. **Weekly genetic evaluation runs.**

With the horsepower behind BOLT, IGS can run genetic evaluations weekly. This has many benefits. It allows members to get more immediate feedback after submitting their records. If members miss a deadline, they can catch the next evaluation run the following week. It allows for more accurate EPDs throughout the year and faster incorporation of the genomics. This also means the EPDs put in print will quickly be outdated.

Genetic evaluation is not stagnant.

There will always be improvements as new research in animal breeding, genomics, and statistics advance. BOLT software is revolutionary in the innate flexibility, the computational power, and the statistical methods made possible using this software. Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT promises more accurate EPDs, accuracies, and better use of genomics all delivered to you on a weekly basis.

Gelbvieh.ca

***For anyone planning a trip to Canada to invest in Canadian genetics,
please contact the Canadian Gelbvieh Association office.***

gelbvieh@gelbvieh.ca 1-403-250-8640

Anyone interested in subscribing to the Gelbvieh Guide, please contact the CGA.
50th Anniversary History Books are still available to purchase through the CGA. \$75 + shipping.

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March 8-9th, 2024

DLMS Farm Gate Timed Auction

Inquire for flush opportunities.



Colby Hollman ORB Winner

by Gail Anderson

Bar GR Gelbvieh

In 2020, 12-year-old Colby Hollman won the GAA/BC Gelbvieh Wish List Junior Incentive Purse, donated by various breeders. Unable to attend the sale that year due to COVID, he browsed through the catalogue and chose DL Jen-Ty Hot Stuff 550H, consigned by Jen-Ty Gelbvieh. Luckily, his parents were able to purchase her on his behalf, while he watched online at home. When she arrived home, he fell in love. She was to become his 4-H Project in the Kneehill Valley Beef 4-H Club, where for two years in a row, she won Grand Champion Female with calf at side.

Inspired by his Mom's early desire to become an Animal Health Technician and then a Veterinarian, Colby decided in Grade 8 that he wanted to become a Veterinarian! He is passionate about large animals and sees a real need for Large Animal Veterinarians. Presently, in Grade 10, he is doing an Introduction to Veterinarian Medicine course through Olds College, as well as the Green Certificate Program, which he feels will enhance his chances of being selected into Veterinary Medicine in the future.

Colby's show career with Hot Stuff did not stop at 4-H. Colby is a board member of the newly re-energized Canadian Junior Gelbvieh Association. In both 2022 and 2023, he and his sensational female, with calf at side, were the Supreme Champions at the Canadian National Junior Gelbvieh Show. These wins gave him the opportunity to enter into the UFA Youth Supreme Quest at the Canadian National Junior All Breeds Heifer Show in Bashaw, Alberta. In 2023, Hot Stuff, along with her heifer calf, Hot Damn, were honoured to receive the title Reserve Champion Pure-bred Mature Female. Our youth are our breed's strength, so

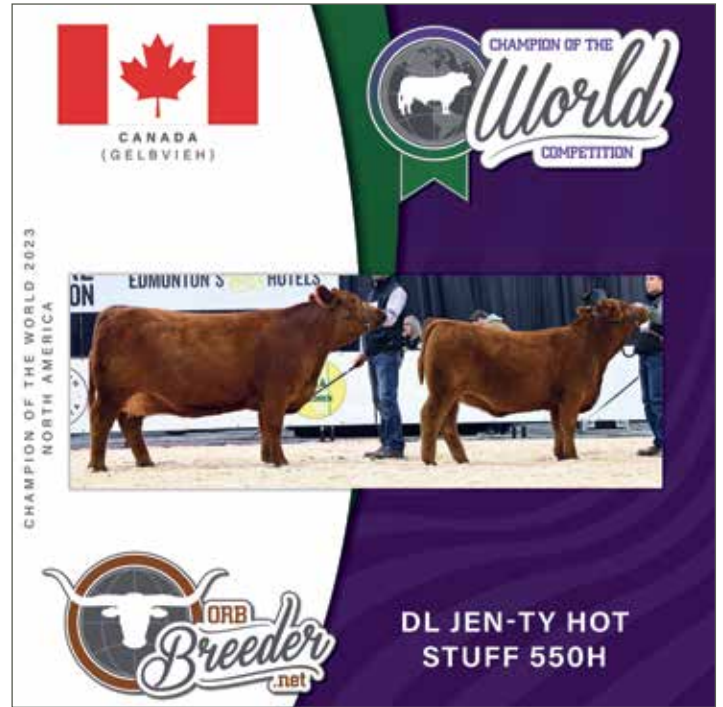
thank you Colby for moving the Gelbvieh breed into the spotlight.

Success for Colby doesn't stop here. He and his fabulous female were qualified to take part in the Supreme Championship at Agribition, but due to the many farm commitments, they were not able to attend. Winning at Farmfair also qualified them automatically to be entered into the Champions of the World ORB (Other Registered Breeds) Competition. Not only did Hot Stuff, with Hot Damn at side, take the North American Division, but Hot Stuff was also crowned with the prestigious title of Miss World for 2023.



Colby is hoping that his amazing purchase at the Wish List Sale, in 2020, will help pay for his degree in Veterinary Medicine. And let's just say that Hot Stuff's first calf, BNHC Krakatoa 11K, will be his first pay cheque. Krakatoa sired by JRI Secretariat 285E78, was entered into the 2023 Bull Futurity in December and he was in the top 6 bulls selected by Gelbvieh breeders. Kraken will sell in the Gelbvieh Advantage Bull Sale on March 8-9th, 2024 (DLMS Farm Gate Timed Auction), where you can bid from all over the world.

What amazing accomplishments thus far for this young man, and in my interview to complete this article I asked him for his words of wisdom for all of the young Gelbvieh enthusiasts. In conclusion Colby said, "It may be hard to recognize at that time, but the small moments are the ones that matter the most, as they are how you can overcome the obstacles of life. In the end, your hard work, determination and perseverance will drive you to succeed."



Building Bridges Down Under: The Impact of the Canada Gelbvieh Tour on Australian Genetics

by Jasmin Kaddatz

The recently concluded Canada Gelbvieh Tour proved to be a decisive experience for some QLD Gelbvieh breeders, as they embarked on a journey of exploration, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

The tour kicked off on Saturday, November 18, as the group, led by Brian and Jasmin Kaddatz of Merrindale Gelbvieh, touched down in Regina, SK, and set the stage for a week filled with insightful engagements and strategic discussions. The primary focus of the trip was to forge partnerships with prominent Canadian Gelbvieh breeders and explore opportunities for introducing outcross genetics into Australia.

Monday, November 20, marked the commencement of the renowned Canadian Western Agribition, where the QLD Gelbvieh members, including Chris Braithwaite of Midas Gelbvieh, Col & Rhondell Pardington, Angus & Melody Logan, and Frank Kaddatz & Amy Stuart, delved into conversations with key breeders. Twin View Livestock, Davidson Gelbvieh, Lonesome Dove Ranch, Royal Western Gelbvieh, and Severtson Land & Cattle emerged as pivotal partners for potential collaborations. Distinctive breeding practices, such as Royal Western's later calving season, sparked interest and discussions on mutual goals.



The subsequent days saw the Aussie contingent viewing various events like the President's and First Lady Classic, gaining valuable insights into the Canadian Gelbvieh breeding landscape. Additionally, interactions with agricultural vendors at Agribition and exploration of farm machinery showcased the diversity between the two nations.

Embarking on a journey from Regina, the touring group traversed to Twin View Livestock, hosted by Aaron Birch and Joe Barnett, the first of many pivotal moments in their exploration of Canadian breeding excellence.

The day unfolded with meticulous inspections of yearling bulls, herd bulls, yearling heifers, and the robust cow herd, offering a firsthand glimpse into the genetic foundations of Twin View Livestock. Beyond the visual assessments, discussions unfolded, steering towards the potential collaboration in genetic exchange. The dialogue expanded to consider the option of embryos and semen, with a particular focus on securing Australian rights. This exchange not only showcased the commitment to enhancing genetic diversity in Australia but also exemplified the collaborative spirit that defines the global Gelbvieh community.

Monday, November 27, saw the traveling party embark on a tour of the Davidson Gelbvieh and Lonesome Dove Ranches, immersing themselves in the heart of Canadian breeding expertise. The day unfolded with meticulous inspections, exploring the nuances of yearling bulls at both Davidson and Lonesome Dove, continuing with yearling heifers, feeding operations, and main herds. This experience provided an invaluable firsthand understanding of the breeding philosophies and operational intricacies that define these ranches.

The following day saw a strategic split within the traveling group. Col, Rhondell, Angus and Melody set out to investigate the Angus breed, exploring its potential in developing the Balancer breed further in Australia. Meanwhile, the remaining members of the group continued their stay with the Davidsons, dedicating an extra day to the selection and discussion of bull and heifer options for the prospective export of genetics to Australia. This nuanced division within the group highlighted the multifaceted approach and depth of considerations undertaken in their quest to enhance and diversify the Gelbvieh landscape in Australia.

On Friday, December 1, the group travelled to Stettler, AB to participate in the Wish List Sale and Annual General Meeting. Engaging with fellow breeders, they delved into discussions on bloodlines and explored potential export options. In a gesture of camaraderie, the Canadian Gelbvieh Association presented the touring party with a 50th-anniversary belt buckle symbolizing the enduring bond and collaboration within the global Gelbvieh community. Furthermore, showcasing their enthusiasm for the breed, the QLD team entered the Wish List Bull Futurity judging,



adding an exciting dimension to their involvement in this significant event. The day was about transactions and discussion and celebrating the shared history and future possibilities of Gelbvieh breeding on an international scale.

On Monday, December 4, the travellers immersed themselves in the vibrant atmosphere of the Gathering Sale, where cattle were not just inspected but became conduits for meaningful exchanges. Engaging with breeders, the Australian contingent took the opportunity to delve into insightful conversations, unravelling the distinctions between Australian and Canadian farmers and graziers. This shared exploration extended beyond the evaluation of cattle traits; it became a platform for understanding diverse farming practices, environmental considerations, and herd management strategies.

Another pivotal moment unfolded as the group, accompanied by Royal Western Gelbvieh's Rodney and Tanya Hollman and Rocky Top Gelbvieh's Cory and Melissa Congdon, embarked on a comprehensive exploration of four different properties. The family group engaged in extensive discussions, laying the groundwork for future collaborations in the export of cow lines and bull genetics to Australia. The talks not only centred on the prospect of acquiring a share in a bull/cow line but also delved into strategic considerations on how to effectively market these genetics both domestically and internationally. This exchange of ideas and plans between Australian and Canadian breeders highlights the tour's significance in fostering global partnerships and setting the stage for the integration of diverse genetic resources into the Australian Gelbvieh landscape.



Meet The Breeders:

The realisation of this tour owes its gratitude to the generous spirit of the Canadian breeders who graciously opened their homes and showcased their operations to the touring party. We deeply appreciate their warm hospitality, which not only made this tour possible but also foster it. The recent connections between breeders of the Gelbvieh cattle breed are a positive sign of strengthened international bonds. These connections are expected to lead to future tours and collaborations aimed at enhancing the breed even further. Instead of us telling their stories, we believe it is better to let each breeder share their unique operations and perspectives.

Davidson Gelbvieh – Vernon and Eileen Davidson

Davidson Gelbvieh Ranch in Southwest Saskatchewan in an area known as the Palliser Triangle, near the communities of Ponteix and Cadillac, Saskatchewan Canada. It has always been home to Vernon and Eileen and they have ranched and farmed in this area for many years. They raised their family of one daughter Carla married to Mario, their son Glen and his wife Julie, Ross and his wife Tara and their youngest son Tyler and his wife Melanie. 11 Grandchildren all located within 4 hours, is a wonderful blessing!

“We initially raised Cattle commercially and about 36 years ago we ventured out and developed a herd of purebred Gelbvieh cattle that have been the mainstay. Today sees us looking forward to calving nearly 200 purebred Gelbvieh females beginning toward the end of January. We sell 100 yearling bulls each season in our Annual Bull Sale, on the first Friday of March along with our son, Ross and Tara and their family (Lonesome Dove Ranch).

The journey concluded with visits to Ron and Gail Anderson – veterans of the Gelbvieh breed in Canada and one of the first to export genetics to Australia in what became the beginning of an ongoing partnership with the Kaddatz family and Australian Tropical Gelbvieh Stud. Followed by a scenic Jasper sightseeing excursion before departing for Brisbane on December 9th. A significant update reveals that contracts have been signed with Vernon and Eileen from Davidson Gelbvieh, Joe Barnett and Arron Birch from Twin View Livestock and Blair Bentz from Goodview Gelbvieh.

The Canada Gelbvieh Tour has not only deepened the bonds between Australian and Canadian breeders but has also paved the way for a promising future of genetic diversity and collaboration in the Australian Gelbvieh industry.



Our program has been built with the commercial cattle industry in mind. Breeding genetics that combine to make for the resulting calf crop to exceed our expectations each season, are some of our goals. Yield, eye appeal, exceptional production and structural soundness are foremost. We are always looking to add new genetics to better our program each season, and enjoy very much, the opportunities this provides as we network with fellow cattle producers both internationally and domestically!"

Lonesome Dove Ranch – Ross & Tara Davidson and family

Ross & Tara Davidson operate Lonesome Dove Ranch located in the southwest part of the province of Saskatchewan near the town of Ponteix. They are proud to be raising the fourth generation of purebred Gelbvieh breeders with their children Ash, Cameron, Jaime, and Flynn. Whether they are gathering and moving cattle, putting up bales and silage in the summer, or feeding and caring for cattle in the winter months, their young family is a great asset.

The Lonesome Dove Ranch runs a large purebred red and black Gelbvieh herd, where they team up to market yearling bulls through an annual on-farm sale each year with Ross' parents Vernon and Eileen Davidson of Davidson Gelbvieh. This year, the family will celebrate 35 years of annual bull sales on March 1, 2024. Ross and Tara also run a large commercial Gelbvieh cow-calf ranch, marketing steers into feedlots, replacement heifer calves to other farms and ranches, and also selling beef direct to consumers.

In 2023, they were honoured with Purebred Breeder of the Year by the Man-Sask Gelbvieh Association. Their focus is producing efficient, maternal, fertile cattle with sound feet and legs, good udders, and effective growth. You can learn more about their family and farm at www.lonesomedoveranch.ca.



Rocky Top Gelbvieh – Cody & Melissa Congdon and family

Rocky Top Gelbvieh is a purebred operation run by Cody & Melissa Congdon out of Bashaw Alberta, Canada. Our operation started in 2005 with Cody's first purchase and registration of the purebred female TSCC Twin Star Rosebud 924R. This Gelbvieh female was a 4-H prospect who went on to win many ribbons and Cody had great success with her. So, with thanks to that specific female, Rosebud was the spark for Cody to continue into the cattle industry with Gelbvieh Cattle.

Over the last 19 years, we've continued to grow, select and develop into our purebred herd with 82 registered females. Our program solely focuses on the Gelbvieh cow to have strong maternal traits. Accentuating on breed back fertility, longevity, proper foot and udder development and the maternal ability to mother and raise a calf. Our sire groups are selected from top-end genetics that we consider to be industry relevant functionally made bulls. When it comes to weaning time, we are very hard on the keep/cull list. If there are any calves that do not

meet the requirements and needs of our program, they do not stay. Typically, our bullpen will see three, if not four cull cuts before we are content with the consistency in the bulls. We are proud to be a part of the annual Draft Picks Bull Sale that takes place in February yearly, to market and sell our bulls.

With the growth and development in the Gelbvieh breed we are not only excited for what the future of the breed has in store, but we are also proud of our impact and contribution to the breed thus far. The connections and relationships we've made through this business are what really matter. Having the ability to import and export genetics that are industry-leading makes it just that much easier and quicker to keep moving in the right direction with our program. With that being said, Cody and Melissa are more than happy to connect with breeders to continue the push forward of the Gelbvieh breed.



Royal Western Gelbvieh – Rodney & Tanya Hollman and family

Royal Western Gelbvieh is a family-run seed stock business owned and operated by Rodney & Tanya Hollman, along with their 3 sons, Wacey, Keston & Chayse who all have a passion for livestock production and agriculture. Show cattle is an enjoyment but genetics, ET work, grass management and true sustainability is the passion.

Gelbvieh has been the main genetic focal point from 1998, with a heavy focus on the development of cow families. Elite cow families have been the backbone of Royal Western Gelbvieh from the start. The breeding program is phenotype driven yet utilises all forms of advanced genetic technologies to make genetic progression. This has allowed for the production of very phenotypically appealing cattle, that also transmit into the major beef production sectors of industry. The passion for Gelbvieh cattle comes full circle back to wanting to make the industry's most profitable females. The areas which Gelbvieh excels past all other breeds, are fertility, mothering ability, stability, structure and most certainly

disposition. Traits that attracted us to the breed and now define our breeding program, with a strong effort to make attractive cattle that appeal to all segments of the industry.

We utilise the show ring as a tool to display genetics, we have been fortunate enough to be recognised as Canada's premier breeder and premier exhibitor 2 years in a row and have countless National Champion Banners. Our annual joint female production sale is called "The Gathering" hosted early December, it's a collection of breeder's top genetics and creates one of the most elite offering of Gelbvieh females yearly. The bull sale is hosted mid-February in conjunction with Rocky Top Gelbvieh and the sale is called "Draft Picks Bull Sale". It's a great event and has produced multiple big name AI sires and elite walking bulls across North America. The breed has taught us to be proud of what we accomplish as nothing comes easy in agriculture. But, most importantly, this is a people business, and we are honoured to have met, worked with and made great friends with so many amazing breeders, farmers and ranchers who not only share our passion but continue to motivate us.

Severtson Land & Cattle – Scott & Lisa Severtson and family

We were very pleased to have the group from Australia tour our ranch. We are located in Central Alberta near Innisfail. Our operation is family-owned and operated by Scott, Lisa and our three children. We started with Gelbvieh in 1987 and currently run 400 mother cows; Gelbvieh, Balancers, Simmental and Simangus. Our farm is situated on 3500 acres, where we also grow wheat, barley and canola. Our main focus is selling bulls into the commercial sector of the beef industry. This year will mark our 31st annual bull sale. There will be 100, two year old bulls on offer, 60 Gelbvieh and Balancer bulls, 30 Simmental bulls and 10 Red Angus. We have utilised embryo transplant for the past 30 years and will annually implant 25-50 embryos in our recip cows. Over the years, we have sold cattle all over the world including Australia, China, Mexico, Russia, UK, Argentina and the USA. We have exhibited our cattle for more than 30 years with numerous national champions in Canada and the United States.



Twin View Livestock – Joe Barnett and Aaron Birch

Twin View Livestock is located at Parkbeg, Saskatchewan and is operated by Aaron Birch and Joe Barnett. We calve 125 cows each year and have extensive AI and ET programs. We are passionate about the advancement of the Gelbvieh breed both in Canada and abroad. Our program is very much focused on three main beliefs.

The first is the critical importance of cow families and the maternal capability of the breed. We strategically layer the most potent cow families we can and believe the value of a herd bull is largely created by his mother and the daughters he will create.

Secondly, we believe our cattle need to be accepted in the industry, not just within the breed, in order to increase market share amongst commercial producers. There is no greater compliment than for producers from other breeds to admire our cattle.

Finally, we place extreme value on foot and udder quality as well as structure and phenotype. We understand that our commercial customers value these things as well and believe it is our responsibility as seed stock producers, to go above and beyond in these traits.

We have an annual bull sale each March and also host the Function and Finesse Gelbvieh Female Sale mid-October. We show cattle

as a means of promotion and have enjoyed great success with this, including many National Champions and Agribition Champions as well as two World Champions. We consistently have exportable semen and embryos available and can be reached in several ways. Find us on Facebook or our website,;

www.twinviewlivestock.com



Gelbvieh Sire Proves His Worth

by Michele Fleming

After noticing a decline in back-end muscling in their Red Angus cattle at Gingin W.A., Stephen, and Heather Dewar went looking for a breed that would meet all of their requirements - including the need to maintain the strong red colour of the ensuing progeny.

Internet research and discussions with their local Elders Livestock Agent resulted in a visit to the Glendale Gelbvieh Stud at Serpentine to view their herd. They were suitably impressed with the animals at Glendale and were convinced that Gelbvieh would be the breed to trial.

Glendale 'Nero' was purchased in 2019 and since then has gone on to be a very gentle sire. His progeny has brought back the muscling that Stephen and Heather were looking for, especially in the steers. They have noted the steers are finishing earlier than their counterparts and their quiet temperament has been extremely impressive.

This success with Nero encouraged the Dewars to attend a Gelbvieh Composite sale and make a purchase of 10 breeding heifers to integrate into their commercial herd.

This year has been a poor year for the growth of pasture, but despite this, the Gelbvieh cross, yearling steers have still finished earlier than usual.

Stephen and Heather are not disappointed with the improvements obtained since trying the Gelbvieh Breed.



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Building Gelbvieh Market Share

by Joe Barnett
of Twin View Livestock

Being a business owner is a huge commitment. The most successful businesses often begin from a passion or strong personal interest in the product or service being offered. Those of us in the cattle industry are no different! We are passionate about Gelbvieh breeding stock and have a keen interest in expanding the breed's market share. What we sometimes forget however is that our agriculture passions and interests are truly a business!

Our story isn't all that unique here at Twin View Livestock but in some ways, it is. We began our program as young people with a vision. We were fortunate to have backgrounds in purebred cattle and an intense passion to pursue those dreams. We stepped

out and purchased a farm away from our families to establish our own identity using our existing herd of females as the basis. We had to find ways to purchase the necessary equipment, establish our own living environment (which has become our 'storefront') and

ensure our facilities would allow us to calve during harsh Canadian winters. It was a monumental task without family backing or a generational farm to rely on in order to meet our needs.

One thing that is somewhat unique about our program is that we eat,

sleep and breathe our passion for Gelbvieh cattle. We have a relatively small land base meaning that we are limited in the volume of cattle we can run. Our goal from the beginning was to make each cow on the farm have a distinct purpose and to pay more than her fair share. Easier said than done!

There is a simple reality to all of this. We, like you, have bills to pay. From land mortgages to feed costs to equipment repairs to promotion, agriculture is among the most expensive businesses to operate! One of the things we often hear from promising, up and coming Gelbvieh breeders is the challenge they experience in creating markets for their product. They have the skillset, ability, and interest to create high quality cattle but then what? If we don't have established markets, the creation of high quality cattle can seem fruitless if we aren't rewarded financially.

We have learned a lot so far on our journey! First, the lofty ambitions we had would likely come on a longer timeline than we'd hoped and, secondly, there are often things completely out of our control that take precedence over everything else. We also learned there were things we could control that made a major impact on our business and continue to help us to establish markets. So far, these things have allowed us to make Twin View Livestock our primary source of income. Here are our top 5 methods of building and expanding markets to make our Gelbvieh dreams a reality.

1. Have a detailed and up to date website. Customers search you and your business more than you think. Take high quality pictures and update your website regularly. We aim to update our site monthly at least. We have taught ourselves to do

this work in house and you can as well! If that isn't something you would be good at, find someone who can help! Reach out and make contacts to keep your online presence up to date, polished and detailed! The investment in high quality images will pay for itself immediately.

2. Get involved in your breed and the industry. Volunteering for committees or a board of directors is often intimidating. Start by taking out a membership in a group that seems to be aligned with your work or an area of interest. You'll be surprised how quickly you find tasks you can contribute to or how meaningful your involvement can be. These are also great opportunities to network with like minded people who could contribute to your work down the road. We have both been involved in Gelbvieh specific associations and boards and we have recently taken on leadership roles with the Junior Gelbvieh Association. Building capacity in young people is the greatest way to grow our breed!
3. Be a meticulous record keeper – and be quick with it! There is no better time to record your data than when it is fresh in your mind. From sorting breeding groups, recording AI or embryo information, tracking heats, recording weights or performance data – have a spot to keep the important information and write it down when it's fresh in your mind. We have found success with the Notes app on our iPhones but we also keep paper pencil calving records and spreadsheet accounts of information. As purebred breeders, our registration of

cattle is critical to breed growth and our information can make the greatest impact if it is shared in a timely manner. Our goal is to register our calves by the time they are 2-3 months of age and we begin gathering DNA at the same time. The sooner we gather the most information possible, the more we have to share with our customers!

4. Some of the most valuable time you can invest in building your business is in your vehicle. We've experienced great learning and "Ahh-haa" moments as a result of stopping in to visit a fellow breeder or a commercial customer. Taking the time to visit usually means more to people than we realize. Commercial customers are so excited to tour their cowherd and share the successes (and occasionally the challenges) they've had. Other valuable visits can be to local producers you hope someday use Gelbvieh cattle. They likely know you are raising seedstock and your taking an interest in their work can often encourage them to return the favour. Some of our most loyal customers would have never invested in Gelbvieh genetics if we hadn't stopped for coffee!



On the purebred level, we take pride in visiting as many programs as possible. Seeing someone else's work with your own eyes is the surest way to know if their cattle align with yours and if you want to invest in your next purchase from them. Connected to this is the need, as seedstock producers, to expand our existing gene pool in order to offer our customers new products when they need it. If you don't have what they need, you can't blame them if they go down the road to another business to meet their needs. The old saying, "You have to spend money to make money!" is no truer anywhere than in the purebred cattle business. Go for a drive!

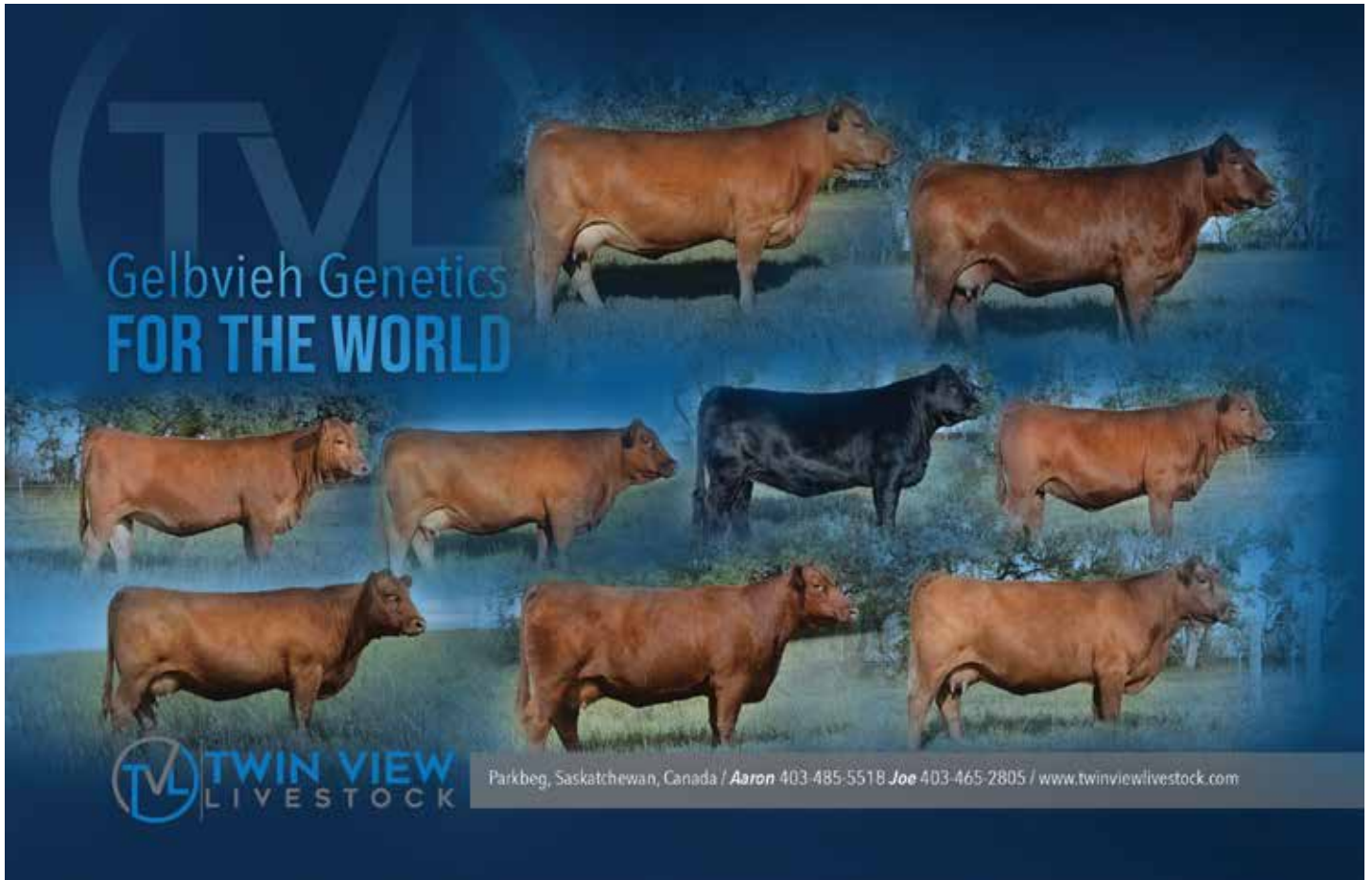
5. Make personal connections through social media and tell your story. Humans are the only species with the ability to tell stories and to document them. This is how we make personal connections with those around

us. Technology has shifted the ways we connect with others, but the information has not changed. We connect through story. One of the ways we do this here is with detailed, well written footnotes in our catalogues where we talk about cow families and give detailed descriptions of the animal.

At Twin View, we have had great success in expanding our reach through our social media accounts. And not just at sale time! People want to hear from you year round. Simple posts about what you're up to around the farm, a sunset image after a long day, a newborn calf or maybe what breeding decisions you've made keep people feeling like they're invested in your work. Make a video as you walk through your cattle and talk about them or do a live feed of yourself talking about your work. This makes you relatable and people feel like they can

pick up the phone and call you if they already know what you sound like and have seen your face. When it comes time to promote a sale or share an offering, your followers will already feel connected and be able to quickly identify with what you're selling. Connection leads to sales! These strategies have proven to work well for us as we continue to build our brand. We have enjoyed great successes within the breed and are truly humbled by the relationships this breed has brought to us. We live by several consistent beliefs but one of the most important is, 'The cattle are the vehicle to the people.' The purebred industry, like marketing a product as a business owner, is based on people. Sharing our passion for the Gelbvieh breed through our story has built an effective market for us and we're sure it can for you as well!





Expanding Opportunities

by Julie Nixon

A landmark moment for Aderian and Julie Nixon, Weetalabah Gelbvieh, making their debut at the Canadian Western Agribition with a sole entry. The purchase of ZAL Diamond Z Natalie's Kamila 16K with the assistance of Twin View Livestock, marks a significant milestone in international collaboration within the Gelbvieh breed.

Kamilla participated in a successful IVF program and her embryo's were sent to Australia, with her first

embryo calves due in 2024. This landmark adventure showcases the dedication of both Weetalabah Gelbvieh and Twin View Livestock to advancing the genetic base and excellence within the breed. Her impressive showing at Agribition, as a bred heifer, where she stood 2nd in a competitive class, highlights her potential, and sets the stage for future successes.

Kamilla will remain in Canada with Aaron & Joe, of Twin View and will be shown as a cow and calf unit



again later in 2024. Just before print, she had a bull calf on 28th February 2024, by DCHD GBG High Caliber 161H. Her story is one to watch closely, representing the promising outcomes that can arise from global partnerships and innovative breeding programs. Her contributions to both the Australian and Canadian Gelbvieh landscapes underscore the importance of international relationships in driving progress and excellence within the breed.



Gelbvieh Bulls Go To The NT

by Valmai Jones



Valmai and Steve Jones' journey from Yeldham Station to Renner Springs Station showcases a deep-rooted passion for cattle breeding and a keen eye for innovation. Their decision to introduce Gelbvieh genetics to their Droughtmaster stud reflects a thoughtful approach to improving their herd's resilience and performance in the challenging conditions of the Northern Territory.

Their experience with Droughtmasters at Yeldham Station provided a solid foundation in cattle breeding, but it was Valmai's astute observation of Gelbvieh attributes that sparked their interest in incorporating this breed into their operation. Their meticulous research and selection process, highlighted by the acquisition of semen from Weetalabah Perfect Combination and subsequent purchases from Kevlor and Weetalabah at the Golden Advantage Sale, underscore their commitment to enhancing their herd's genetics.

The harsh environmental conditions of Renner Springs Station demand cattle with exceptional adaptability, making the Gelbvieh-Droughtmaster cross an intriguing prospect. Valmai's emphasis on desirable traits such as mothering instincts, tick resistance, and milking abilities aligns with their goal of producing cattle suited for both southern markets and the unique challenges of the NT.

By focusing on traits like heavier weaning weights, improved fertility, and enhanced milking abilities in their crossbreeding program, Valmai and Steve demonstrate a forward-thinking approach to meeting the demands of commercial operators while ensuring the long-term sustainability of their stud.

Their optimism about the potential success of the Gelbvieh-Droughtmaster cross reflects their confidence in their breeding decisions and their dedication to continually improving their herd. As they embark on this new venture, Valmai's words, "I don't think we can go wrong," encapsulate their unwavering belief in the merits of their breeding program and the promising future it holds.



The Story Behind Glendale Gelbvieh Stud in WA

by Michele Fleming

In the picturesque town of Serpentine, Western Australia, the Vinicombe family – Viv, Muriel, and their dedicated daughter Michele Fleming – embarked on a remarkable journey that would shape the legacy of Glendale Gelbvieh Stud.

It all began in 1990, when the Vinicombe family sought a breed that would not only enhance muscle and reduce fat in their saleable animals but also maintain the gentle nature of their beloved herd. After careful consideration, they chose Gelbvieh, drawn to its exceptional maternal traits and milking ability, ensuring a harmonious balance between quality meat yield and a tranquil herd.

In those early years, Glendale Gelbvieh Stud was a vision taking root, fueled by passion and a commitment to excellence. They became trailblazers, among the first to implement Breedplan, evolving with the times to embrace C-Gen EPD's with IGS and 100 K genetic testing. The dedication extended to meticulous scanning of Fat P8, Rib, and EMA, ensuring each animal met the highest standards.



On their lush pastures, nurtured by homegrown meadow hay, Glendale Gelbvieh Stud blossomed. Calves, raised with care, were not creep-fed, fostering a natural and healthy growth. Weaner bulls, introduced to grain post-weaning, and through their first summer became a testament to the family's dedication to ethical and sustainable practices.

In the early years, genetic availability posed a challenge, but the Vinicombe family, true to their values, seized every opportunity that arose. Notable females like Double Bar Robin and Double Bar Sarah left an indelible mark, with progeny like Glendale Taurus Star, emerging as the first Supreme

Champion Junior Bull at the Perth Royal Show in 1999.

A turning point came in 2005 when the family expanded its genetic horizons through the acquisition of some females from the Bandeeka Gelbvieh Stud dispersal sale. Beauchamp Molly Q, Beauchamp Kimberley, Bandeeka A-Florrie, and Bandeeka Z-Sarsha brought new dimensions to Glendale's genetic tapestry.

The descendants of these females, such as Glendale Edward and Glendale Ashley, became pillars of strength in the herd, leaving an enduring legacy. A-Florrie, with her lineage bred to Bandeeka Yankee, achieved remarkable success, with one of her offspring winning the National Champion Carcase steer at Beef 2009.

As Glendale Gelbvieh Stud flourished, the family's commitment to improvement led them beyond Australian borders. Inspired by Michele's daughter's experiences in Canada, they imported new genetics, infusing fresh vitality into their herd. Embryos from Stonegate Farms and Twin View Gelbvieh Stud resulted in remarkable individuals, like Glendale Miss Maple and Glendale Quarterback.

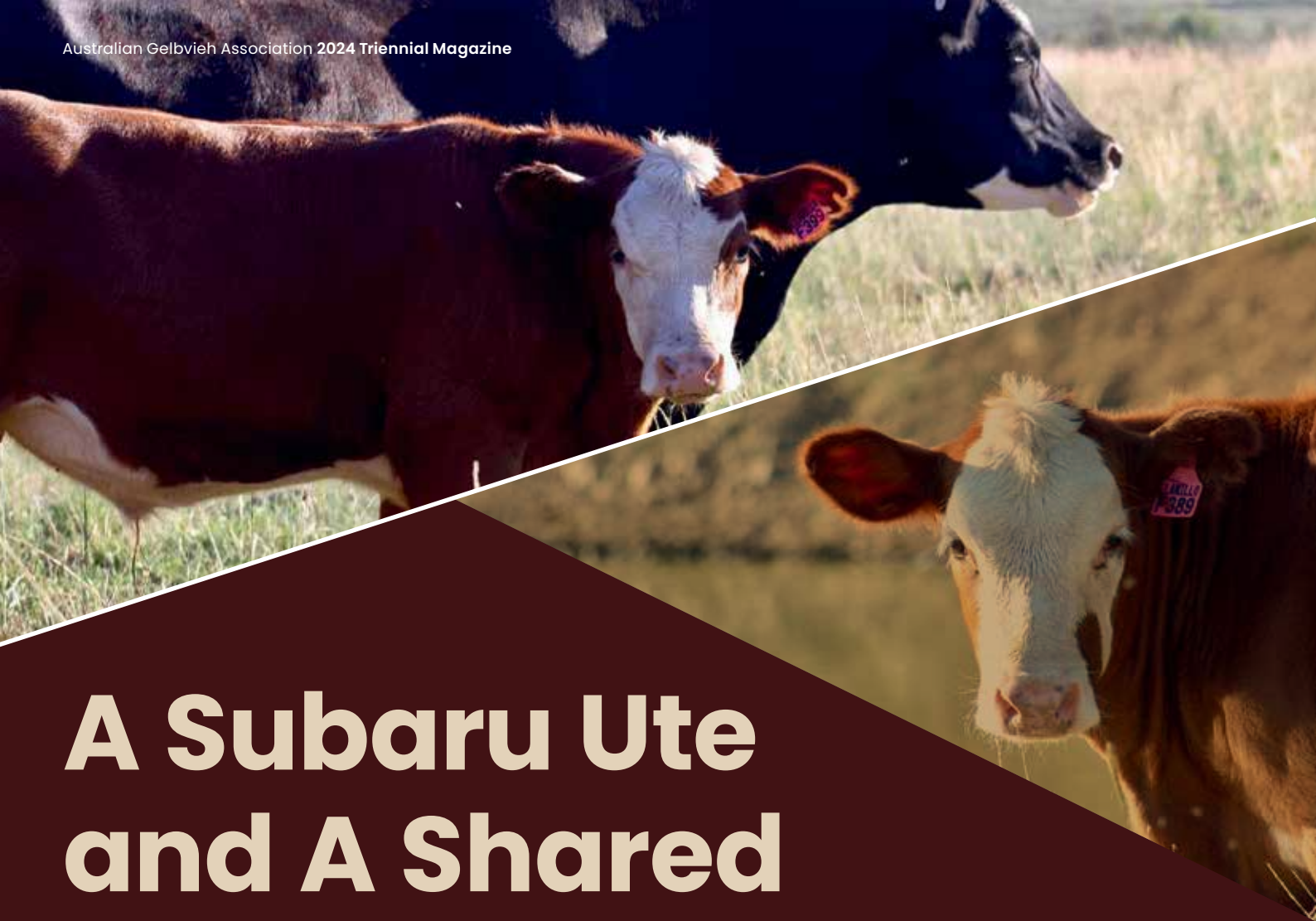
International semen, including that of VV Zake 114Z and RWG Right Combination 5506, brought

renowned Canadian champions to Serpentine. These bulls, with their impressive track records, contributed to the deep-bodied progeny that now graze on Glendale's pastures.

As Glendale Gelbvieh Stud looks to the future, the Vinicombe and Fleming families eagerly anticipate the results of their ongoing efforts. The arrival of new genetics, like those from Twin View Vendetta 99J, holds the promise of further success and innovation.

And so, the story of Glendale Gelbvieh Stud continues a tale woven with dedication, passion, and a commitment to excellence that spans generations. In the heart of Serpentine, the legacy of the Vinicombe and Fleming families and their beloved Gelbvieh cattle continues to thrive, a testament to the enduring spirit of agricultural stewardship and the pursuit of perfection.





A Subaru Ute and A Shared Love Of Breeding Cattle!!!

by Sophie Tongue

I met Aleacea Nixon at UNE, and we formed a friendship through the Subaru Brumby Ute, she had at the time and our mutual love of Hereford cattle. Because of this friendship and our shared interest in cattle, she invited me out to her family property in QLD. This is when I was first introduced to the Gelbvieh breed! From that moment, after seeing the structure and docility of these animals, I was hooked and I wanted to work on incorporating the breed into our operation, in any way possible.

After I arrived back home to Nundle NSW, I pitched my idea to my father, that we have to use the Gelbvieh breed in our herd as I thought that it would be a beneficial cross to try! Little did I know that it would take three years of hassling him, to let me give it a try!!!!

Here is a brief family background. We had a family company (Llanillo Pastoral Co) that consisted of my father Philip, his brother Cameron, and my grandfather Geoffrey Tongue, run over three properties Clermont, Llanillo, and Tamarang, all in the Nundle area.

2018 marked a turning point when my Grandfather wanted to retire, Phillip retained Llanillo, Cameron retained Clermont, my mother Belinda, then bought Cameron's share in the property Tamarang. My father was able to obtain most of the breeding stock, which he

had been developing before the company breakup. In 2019, my parents bought nearby Barwin Downs, ushering in the era of Llanilla Ag Company, a testament to the family's commitment to a sustainable future.

The core of the herd, rooted in 70 years of Hereford breeding, underwent strategic planning after the split. Introducing Angus bulls over the Hereford Cows creating the popular Black Baldy cross, incorporating hybrid vigour and the sought after black skin, which is favoured in today's markets and also giving us our Black Baldy replacements as a new base. With the black baldy, we want to increase the eating quality, using the Angus breed's marbling ability and also get a premium for the black skin. Through my persistence and the generosity of Aleacea's parents, giving me 5 straws in their black bull Phantom, we were able to do our first little trial. Dad agreed to let me try 5 head of first calvers (2 pure Hereford and 3 black Baldy). We AI'd them to Weetalabah Phantom. We got lucky and got one Gelbvieh x Hereford calf and two Gelbvieh x Black Baldy calves. These cows were joined at the same time as the rest of their original herd and run under the same conditions, to minimise any bias and run it as a fair trial!! The trial yielded impressive results with the Gelbvieh x calves managing to outperform in weight, weaning 20kg heavier, with a higher growth rate and stronger muscling than that of the other calves.

After seeing the results, a larger trial commenced with a mob of Black Baldy second calvers, and additional Gelbvieh Bulls from Excel and Weetalabah, plus more semen was acquired. With the Gelbvieh, we are hoping to enhance the best of the Hereford and Angus

breeds and maintain the quiet temperament, but produce a larger framed, and better-muscled animal, that can still milk and retain all the feminine traits you want in producing replacement heifers. So far, I have noticed the Gelbvieh calves have a lighter birth weight, which has made easy, no-stress calving, without sacrificing growth, they make up for it in their fast growth to weaning. They are also heavier muscled, making a better eating quality. The heifer portion of the calves will be retained, as they will have strong maternal trait with high milking ability, to produce even better sappier calves in the future but are still able to hold a good condition in harder times. With the end goal to produce an animal that turns off steers and is suitable for the domestic market.

We are very happy with the results as can be seen in the photos. These are the first batch of calves, from the bulls and semen we purchased. Colour is not a focus in this trial at the moment, as this is just early stages of my long-term goal. The heifer portion will be retained and crossed again to balance out a three way cross with the Hereford, Angus and Gelbvieh, to start to stabilize a new breed of highly productive beef cattle that are maternal, milk well, are quiet and with a high standard of meat quality. What I like to call The Ultra Balancer!!!!



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Golden Advantage Sale Report

by Julie Nixon

In the heart of Central Queensland, under the vast sky, a historic event unfolded in November – the very first Gelbvieh and Gelbvieh-influenced sale in Clermont. Despite the challenges posed by below-average rainfall over the past 12 months, the anticipation for the sale was heightened by a night of welcome rain just before the event, a hopeful sign for the parched land.

The bulls, showcased against the backdrop of optimism and resilience, looked magnificent. It was not just a sale; it was a celebration of the Gelbvieh breed and a testament to the strength of the agricultural community in the face of challenging conditions.

With technology bridging distances, nearly 30 online viewers and 15 registered buyers gathered, eager to participate in this landmark sale. The air was thick with excitement and a shared passion for Gelbvieh cattle.

In a remarkable turn of events, 55% of the bulls found new homes, with 4 new clients joining the ranks. Seven bulls made their way into herds that had never experienced the qualities of Gelbvieh cattle, a significant milestone for the breed's expansion and recognition.

The familiar faces of long-time Gelbvieh buyers also played a pivotal role in the success of the sale, demonstrating the enduring appeal and reputation of Gelbvieh genetics.

The highlight of the day was the overall top price of \$8000, a well-deserved honour for the Ekka Grand Champion bull, Weetalabah Sandalwood. Co-vendor Michael and Tracie Borg were the proud recipients of this exceptional bull, marking a momentous occasion in the Gelbvieh breed.

A heartfelt thank you echoed through the dusty air, directed towards Hoch & Wilkinson Livestock & Property, the dedicated agents who facilitated the sale, as well as the buyers, bidders, and followers who lent their support. The success of the Inaugural



Golden Advantage Bull sale was a collective effort, a testament to the unity and shared commitment within the Gelbvieh community.

As the dust settled on this historic event, plans for the 2024 sale are already underway, set to grace Clermont in October. The Gelbvieh breed had not only weathered the challenges but thrived, and the journey continued, fuelled by the hope and resilience that defined the spirit of the Australian agricultural landscape.



Western Australia

1. GLENDALE
BR & MA Fleming
Serpentine WA

2. SUMMIT
RF Pugh
Narrikup WA

Northern Territory

3. SAVANNAH GRAZING & RENNER SPRING STATION
Valmai Jones
Tennant Creek NT

GELBVIEH BREEDERS

GLENDALE
BR & MA Fleming
Serpentine WA
Page 55

SUMMIT
RF Pugh
Narrikup WA
Page 26

Victoria

4. BALGOWAN GOLD
Shirley Trener
Neerim South

5. CUTLER FAMILY PARTNERSHIP
C/ Cameron Cutler at Byaduk
VIC

6. EADESVILLE
C&A Jenvey
Springhurst VIC

7. EUSI
Michael Fairbrother
Cowwarr VIC

8. FIELDHOUSE
Daryl & Joy Veldhuizen
Meerlieu VIC

9. NEERIM VIEW
Colin Flanagan
Darnum VIC

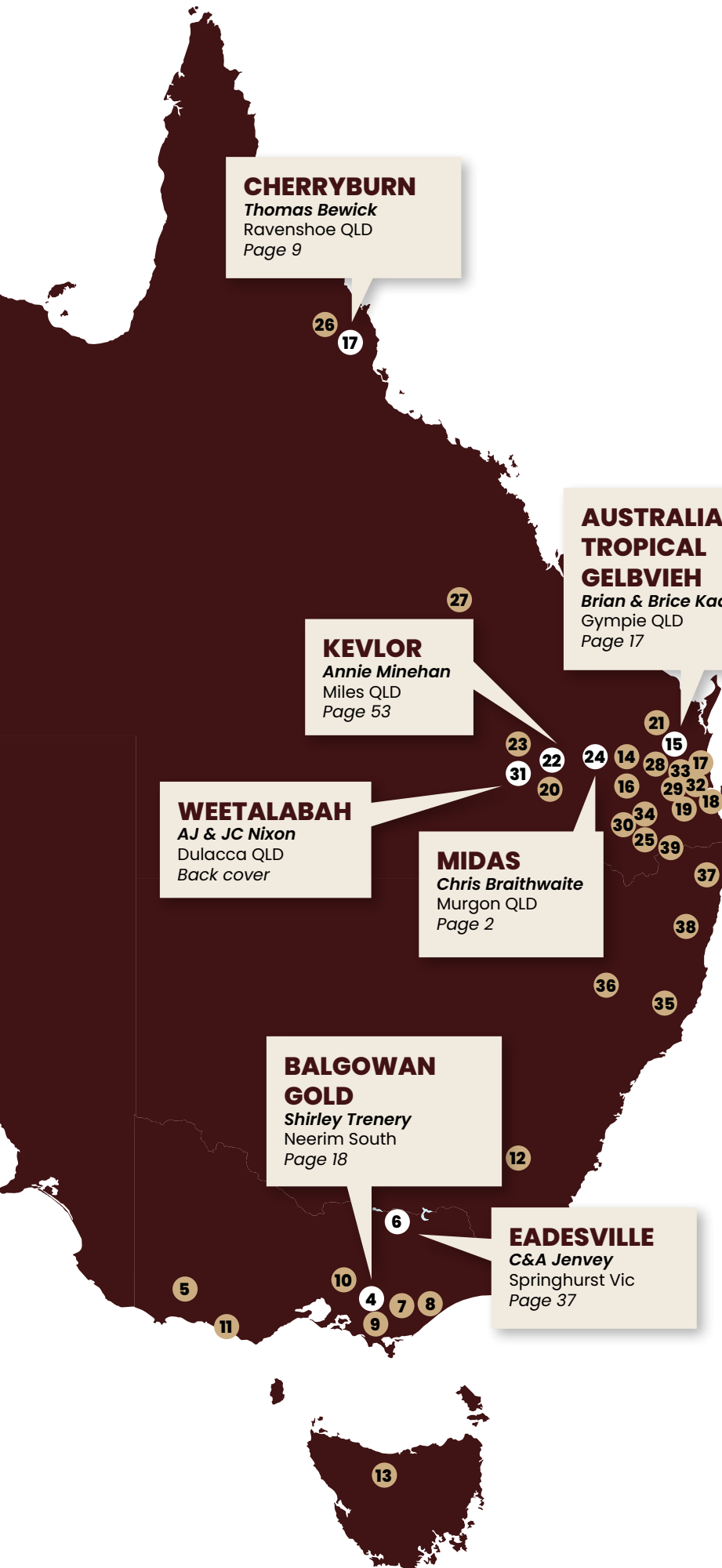
10. TAUNTON PARK
Matthew & Kimm Noonan
Yea VIC

11. SCHEVAN GULLY
Michael Schulz
Timboon VIC

12. LARA PARK
Mount Taylor VIC

Tasmania

13. CIR PONDS
Ella & Callum Anderson
Mayberry TAS



Queensland

14. AURUM
Amanda Weber
Murgon QLD

15. AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL GELBVIEH
Brian & Brice Kaddatz
Gympie QLD

16. BUSHY PARK
Aaron Randall
Booie QLD

17. CHERRYBURN
Thomas Bewick
Ravenshoe QLD

18. A & A OPERATIONS
Col Partington
Bribie Island QLD

19. GOLD RUSH
Malcolm King
Karalee QLD

20. GOLDEN GROVE
BE & KA Jackson
Condamine QLD

21. MERRINDALE
Brian Kaddatz
Miva QLD

22. KEVLOR
Annie Minehan
Miles QLD

23. MICKEY MOUSE
Aleacea Nixon
Dulacca QLD

24. MIDAS
Chris Braithwaite
Murgon QLD

25. NOROLLE
Clyde Johnson
Millmerran QLD

26. NQ GELBVIEH
Geoff Campbell
Mutchilba QLD

27. ORVILLE PARK
T & C Robertson
Clermont QLD

28. STAN & PEGGY PORTER
Moffatdale QLD

29. SARAH PETERS & KAE SEANNA & KEELEE THOMPSON
Conondale QLD

30. TERLEY
Mrs SA O'Halloran
Clifton QLD

31. WEETALABAH
AJ & JC Nixon
Dulacca QLD

32. WINDERMERE
CD & RA Dellaway
Caboolture QLD

33. AH GELBVIEH
Alexandra and Harry Swan
Tuchekoi QLD

34. MJ & SM AGNEW AND JG & JA FULTON
Oakey QLD

New South Wales

35. EMENESS
Malcolm & Susan Rilen
Marlee NSW

36. EXCEL
GD & CA Steinbeck
Tamworth NSW

37. ROCKY CREEK
Jesse Joseph
Woodlawn NSW

38. TAYJAC
James Taylor
Dorrigo NSW

39. SILVER DOWNS GELBVIEH
Darryl MacCarthy
Tenterfield NSW

Gone but not Forgotten



Mick Ralston AM
(member of the Order of Australia)
22/10/1942- 29/5/2022

Mick Ralston's journey from a pathologist to a prominent figure in the Australian cattle industry is truly remarkable.

Mick arrived in Australia in 1976 as a pathologist and after many years of working for some of the top pathologists in the country, he ventured out on his own. Within 3 years it was the biggest pathology business in Gippsland and the biggest privately owned pathology business in the State. Ten years after establishing Gippsland Pathology Mick started Gippsland Veterinary Pathology which quickly grew to be the biggest veterinary pathology business in Victoria. They did all types of pathology but specialised in testing for Johnes

disease. This was regarded as the best and most accurate testing laboratory in the State and was used by veterinarians from all over the State. 25 years after starting Gippsland Pathology and Veterinary Pathology Mick sold the business and retired to Tasmania but continued to consult to the Federal Government on matters to do with pathology both people and animals. Mick was held in very high regard in the medical pathology business for both his medical and business skills.

The Ebony Lodge Stud was started in 1993 with the purchase of some embryos. Over the years other females had been added along with the use of some of the most

influential bulls in the breed, such as Gladstone Red Barron and SLC Freedom. At the time of Ebony Lodge's dispersal their cattle were highly sort after and were sold to all states of Australia.

The legacy of Ebony Lodge Stud, under Mick with Larry Cutler as manager, continues to influence Gelbvieh breeding in Australia, with their cattle remaining prominent in pedigrees and commercial herds. Sadly, Mick passed away in 2022 but his passion, vision, and dedication to the breed will be remembered fondly by all who knew him, and the Ebony Lodge Stud stands as a testament to his lasting impact on the Australian cattle industry.

Julie Braithwaite by Chris Braithwaite

The story of Julie and I is one of shared journeys, challenges, and unwavering support.

It began in February 1977 when I took Julie away from her dress salon business to Wyong, NSW, where I started my first veterinary job. This marked a significant change for Julie, who had never been away from her family for an extended period. Our adventures continued as we moved to Edenhope in Western Victoria, settling for six years, during which Julie became an integral part of the veterinary practice where I was a partner.

In 1983, we returned to our hometown, Murgon, becoming partners in the local veterinary business, South Burnett Veterinary Services. By 1988, we became the sole owners of the practice. The journey took a turn in 1990 when I attended EKKa and discovered a new breed of cattle – Gelbvieh. Intrigued by their potential, I gathered a group of like-minded individuals and formed Midas Gelbvieh in partnership with four others.

Our commitment to the Gelbvieh breed led us to import genetics from the USA, and in that first year, Julie and I faced the demanding task of calving down 28 cows over a two-day period. Despite the challenges, Julie stood by my side, offering unwavering support. We purchased a property from Julie's family to run our growing herd.

As the '90s progressed, the participants in Midas Gelbvieh

went their separate ways, and Julie's health began to decline. We became guardians for Julie's two nephews after the tragic passing of her sister and brother-in-law. The herd was split up, but I retained the name Midas Gelbvieh for us, with Julie and the boys taking precedence over the cattle.

In 2006, with Julie's blessing, I began showing cattle. Julie, though unable to join me at many shows, was always my greatest supporter behind the scenes. Midas Gelbvieh achieved immediate success and continued to garner acclaim at various shows.

Tragically, Julie's health took a turn for the worse in 2015, and she faced her challenges stoically until her passing in July 2021. Throughout our years together, Julie was my biggest support, and I endeavoured to reciprocate that support for her. Her absence is keenly felt, and her memory lives on in the legacy of our shared experiences.

The story of Julie and me is one of love, resilience, and a shared passion for Gelbvieh cattle. It is a tale of two lives intertwined, leaving an indelible mark on each other and the Gelbvieh community. Julie is sorely missed, but her spirit lives on in the enduring legacy we built together.



Margaret Single

The cattle industry lost a true Champion with the passing of Margie Single, 92 years. Ma, as she was known to everyone, still had her beloved Gelbvieh cattle. She was very passionate about her cattle and always ready to help others and promote the breed. She truly was a remarkable woman and was remembered fondly for the rubber gloves, she always wore around the cattle!

Margaret and her late husband, Keith were life members of the Australian Gelbvieh Association. She passed away peacefully on her farm in Dungowan NSW in November 2023.

Gone but not Forgotten



Gary Burton
1961 – 2023

Garry had a deep passion for Gelbvieh cattle and dedicated much of his life to the breed. Starting with RP Bramble Pastoral Ltd. alongside his friend Richard Sullivan in the late 90s, Garry ventured into both stud and commercial Gelbvieh cattle, as well as Herefords. His commitment to the breed extended to attending numerous shows where he found success, and as his children Elyse and Luke became involved, they too joined him in showcasing the cattle at various events.

Following the dispersal of RP Bramble in 2004, Garry founded Macquarie Gelbvieh in 2005 with friends from Sydney, Don Smart, Phil Driscoll, and John Drummond. Together, they continued to participate in shows and focus on breeding, eventually building up to 100 breeders before gradually dispersing in 2014.

Garry's dedication to the Gelbvieh breed was evident in his involvement with the Australian Gelbvieh Association, where he served on the council and eventually became treasurer. His passion for the breed was shared with his daughter Elyse, and together they enjoyed working with the cattle, attending shows, and tracing bloodlines.

Even in recent years, although Garry wasn't actively breeding Gelbvieh cattle, he remained connected to the industry through steer programs, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to the breed and the agricultural community.



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