

# Waiterenui Angus

Newsletter May 2005

Dear friends and breeders,

There's nothing like a biting cold southerly to get you onto the office chair and beginning a long overdue newsletter! There are several things we want to keep you informed about, and others are just for interest

## Market options

It is very pleasing that markets for Angus derived progeny are consolidating, and rewarding Angus' position in the market. Our pursuit of niche markets for Angus is at last bearing fruit, with the AngusPure programme particularly on fire.

There are three main Angus-specific markets I would encourage you to pursue, as shown in the table opposite.

## Black, Red and 'Wild'

DNA analysis has now shown that Angus cattle have not two but three coat colour possibilities.

The "wild factor", as the third option is described, occurs in just 1:150,000 and can best be described as a mottled 'dun' colour.

Product	Market	Contact
<b>Calves</b>	<b>Five Star Beef</b>	⇒ 03 308 1599
<b>Prime heifers/light steers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 230 – 270kg</li><li>• No bulls</li><li>• No HGP</li><li>• No dairy</li><li>• pH &lt;5.8</li><li>• Maximum age 30 months</li></ul>	<b>AngusPure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land Meats Wanganui</li><li>• Wilson Hellaby Auckland</li></ul>	⇒ David Gordon 0274 193 141 A/H 06 357 7621 ⇒ Clark Ambury 09 270 9851 A/H 09 445 2968 0274 942 263
<b>Heifers/steers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Export weight steer/heifer</li><li>• &gt;270kg carcass</li><li>• Max 30 months old</li><li>• No bulls</li><li>• No HGP</li><li>• No dairy</li></ul>	<b>NZ Angus Grassfed Beef Ltd</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wilson Hellaby Auckland</li><li>• Lean Meats Ltd</li></ul>	⇒ Clark Ambury (as above) ⇒ 06 878 8820

**Sale Day: Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm**

## Open Day - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

As usual we are involved in the annual CountryWide Beef Open Day.

Between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm you will be able to view a selection of this years sale bulls, plus some cows, rising two heifers and two sires (including the 12 year old repurchased last year from southern Wairarapa – and he is a picture!).

Come along, we would love to see you.

## June Sale Bulls

We're happy with how they look!

This year we have some interesting Te Mania Unlimited sons (the hot bull around – we are one of five North Island herds privileged to use the semen a year before public release). Unlimited's sons were sought after in the September yearling sale.

The sons of Glanworth 108 will appeal for their substance, and there are again some handy Te Mania Prince sons but the bull that has really impressed us with the way he has bred is Waiterenui Eclipse, the Leachman New Era son out of our good Bunty 650 (she has produced three sons which we have used). Eclipse is now the foundation sire in the Kiwikawa herd, managed by Mike Fraser at Okawa.

In the background there are dependable bulls by W Westwind 037 and Kayjay Uncle Bill. Sale day June 17<sup>th</sup>: we look forward to seeing you there!



### A note on EBVs

EBVs are a sound business tool. They have been shown categorically to work; the science is mature.

Nevertheless, they deal with probabilities. They are estimates.

EBVs are as good as the accuracy percentage they carry.

### Around the Traps

The word on the street is that Neil Kjestrup (Kayjay Stud, Wairarapa) has some excellent bulls coming up at his inaugural bull sale. Waiterenui Westwind 212 (pictured right) has been a spectacular success as a sire – eight of the first nine lots (of 25) are by this Waiterenui sire. Well done Neil.



### BeefClass Structural Assessment

The Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit at the University of New England, Armidale, Australia, has established the heritability and repeatability of structure traits in cattle – claw set, foot angle, hock set and tracking – amongst others. An EBV for structure is now possible (when there is enough data) but because of the already confusing array of figures currently available, the six structure EBVs will probably form part of an index. As with all the other measurements we take, it is the differences between animals that build a genetic picture, rather than the actuals.

This is world-leading science that is totally practical for NZ. All 2005 Waiterenui June sale bulls have been assessed and passed by Wayne McLaren, NZ's only accredited assessor.

### Genetic Indexes

Worldwide genetic analysis is embracing indices because they include actual financial data and influence profit – the driver of genetic gain. Ultimately they will replace raw EBVs, many of which are currently indicators of profit only. NZ Angus has two indices – the Self Replacing index and the Ease of Calving index.

### Semen Tested

All sale bulls have passed a fertility evaluation conducted by Robin How of Tararua Breeding Centre Ltd.

Although this is only a 'snapshot', it reassures us (and you) of the bulls' abilities, and you would be surprised what Robin sometimes finds! While one or two fail the test for various reasons – deformed penis, injuries, warts, hair rings, low libido, faulty testes, poor semen quality and immaturity – most pass with flying colours, allowing you to have confidence in the bulls you buy from Waiterenui.

### South Africa

Viv and I have recently returned from a cattle tour of the 'Rainbow Nation'. I was part of the NZ delegation at the World Angus Secretariat meeting, which was held prior to the Angus World Forum Conference and tour. The Secretariat meeting was a great success as far as I am concerned, because (with help from Saatchi's "Lessons from geese") the remit which NZAA proposed to launch a worldwide genetic evaluation for Angus cattle was accepted by all with the exception of the USA black Angus.

South Africa was very hot! We were privileged to visit a number of farms and Angus herds nationwide, saw a lot of the country and experienced extreme hospitality from our South African hosts. We were in awe of the vastness of the country, with its huge expanses of veldland and chronic lack of water. It is a very different way of farming to that we are familiar with in New Zealand, relying on a large labour-force. We also witnessed extreme poverty, homelessness and sick people. Our hosts discussed the huge problems they have yet to face with the ongoing AIDs pandemic.

We came back to New Zealand looking through new eyes.

### The Home Front

We had a quick trip to Australia at the end of last winter to visit Te Mania so that we could check out a bull, Te Mania Expo (subsequently used heavily), and enjoy a few days in Melbourne.

Three times over the summer/autumn we have hosted meat buyers from the USA Wholefoods supermarket chain. (John Atkins of Lean Meats/Atkins Ranch regularly brings groups of buyers out to see the country, taking the opportunity while they are here to promote Angus beef and NZ lamb.) We particularly enjoy these visits as it gives us some great insights into the beef/lamb market in the USA.

On the family front we have had a very busy summer. Viv seems to have been permanently on holiday since September showing family and friends from the UK around. (Was it two or three times around the South Island?) But I'm cracking her back into full time work now!

The children seem to have grown up quickly, Archie (18) and Kate (17) are into their last year at school; home on holiday as I write. They are not sure what they are going into next. Kate is talking long distance truck driving(!), and Arch possibly architecture (too much imagination for farming), but both are planning to take a year out and go to England next year.