

First Belted Galloway does well in 2008 Scone Carcase Competition



Jandrew Charles

One of the first Belted Galloways ever to be entered into the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza carcase competition held each November in Scone NSW has done well in representing his breed.

Jandrew Charles, a registered full blood Belted Galloway steer, placed third in his open lightweight class achieving a respectable carcase score 85.97 points. He placed 12th out of a total of 116 steers – pure and crossbred - entered into the competition.

Weighing in at 373kgs, the seventeen-month-old steer was also the highest scoring animal for eating quality amongst the lightweights.

In comparison to other British breeds, Jandrew Charles also performed extremely well, managing to just outpoint the best Angus carcase (85.947 points) and the best Murray Grey carcase (81.135 points). However, a Hereford on 86.793 points pushed Jandrew Charles down into second place.

Regarding European breeds, the best Limousin/Limousin cross carcase, and the highest scoring carcase at Scone, scored 89.014 points. The best purebred carcase was a Charolais scoring 87.667 points.

Jandrew Charles is the first steer bred by Andrew Monaghan

of Jandrew Belted Galloway Stud, Bathurst NSW. He was prepared by royal champion steer-feeder

Merv Presland, who, as Deputy Principal of Chifley College, Shalvey NSW, incorporates steer feeding into the college's thriving agricultural curriculum.

"It is pleasing to see that a Belted Galloway managed to more than hold his own, particularly insofar that it is the breed's first airing at Scone," says Andrew. "It does give people confidence in utilizing the breed when there are objective assessments available."

Jandrew Charles was sired by Peppercorn Rosco, the first bull bred by Peppercorn Belted Galloway Stud at Barrington, NSW. Peppercorn Rosco has had much success in Royal Show rings around the country as a sire producing several grand champion bulls and champion females, including a Supreme Belted Galloway Exhibit.

Peppercorn Rosco is also the maternal grandsire of Peppercorn

Zula, Australia's first live Belted Galloway export.

[Incidentally, Peppercorn Zula was shown again by owner Rob Hall at the Royal New Zealand Show on 12th November and reclaimed his title of Senior Champion Bull for his third consecutive year. While he lost his mantle of Supreme Galloway – a title he held for the last two years – Zula's achievements in New Zealand now match the achievements of his British paternal grandsire, Mochrum Kingfisher. Zula still proudly flies the flag for Aussie belties.]

Jandrew Charles was the first calf out of the heifer Wombledale Yasmine, bred by Peter and Sue Burgess of Bathurst NSW.

He is also the brother of Jandrew Charlie Girl (also sired by Peppercorn Rosco and out of the heifer, Wombledale Yamka) who won her class at the Melbourne Royal and was Reserve Junior Champion Female at Sydney Royal Show earlier this year. She was also awarded Reserve Champion Interbreed Female at Wagga against seven



Chifley College students with Roman

Photo: The Land



*Jandrew Charles Rib Eye
Photo: Karen Pierce*

other breeds, and where she was the first beltie to be shown there.

Jandrew Charles also won Champion Lightweight steer at this year's Maitland show.

Merv Presland commented that Jandrew Charles was a neat little package. "He's not the best beltie I've fed up for a comp, but he's a better example than the average beltie in a herd," says Merv.

"I would have preferred that he would have more rib eye – rib eye is adequate but not extreme. And I would have preferred he had more meat down his legs, a deeper and thicker hindquarter."

Jandrew Charles had a rib eye measurement of 68 sq. cms. He dressed out at 54.69%.

With regard to marbling amongst the lightweights, Jandrew Charles shared second place with an Angus steer with an MSA Marbling score of 360. A



*Jandrew Charles (l), Roman (r)
Photo: The Land*

Charolais X Angus achieved 1st place with a score of 380.

Regarding AusMeat marbling scores. Jandrew Charles ranked equal 4th with a Charolais X Angus scoring 1.2. 1st place went to an Angus steer scoring 2.1. 2nd place with scores of 1.5 was shared between an Angus and a Charolais X Angus. 3rd place was shared between a Hereford X Limousin and an Angus achieving a score of 1.4.

Over 88 days, Chifley College grain-fed Charles (who started from a low platform of 256kgs), achieving a daily weight gain of 1.33kg per day. Over the first 39 days, he achieved a daily weight gain of 2.68kgs, with this gain converting to muscle, not fat.

"His weak area was his ossification score. It was 130," says Andrew. "Its interesting in light of the fact that several judges who judged both Charlie Girl and Charles on the hoof commented on how early maturing they were."



*Jandrew Charles (l), Roman (r)
Photo: The Land*

Hey! Check out the next edition of *The Land's Farming Small Areas*, due out on December 11th.

There will be a great story on Chifley College & the Scone Carcase competition with lots of hints for you on entering & feeding steers.

And if you aren't a New South Welshman, check it out online at www.farmonline.com.au/FarmMags/FarmingSmallAreas/index.aspx

Peter Koppman of Vombatus Belted Galloway Stud at Bumbaldry NSW bred the other Belted Galloway steer entered into the Scone competition.

Donated to Chifley College as a poddy calf and reared by students, Roman was sired by Oradala Red Ochre Mountain, and out of an unregistered dam sired by Shiralee Thomahawk.

This 476kg steer, judged as a middleweight, had a 71 sq. cm rib eye and dressed out at 57.56%. His ossification score (130) was identical to Jandrew Charles', though Roman was significantly older at approximately 25 months.

His AusMeat marbling score was 2.1 and his MSA Marbling score was 410. Regarding these scores, Roman ranked, among middleweights, equal 5th and equal 3rd respectively, sharing these ranks with other breeds.

Unfortunately this steer cut dark, dramatically affecting his overall score, which subsequently came in at only 42.206 points.

Peter Koppman's highest scoring steer so far in his career came in at 89 points.

However, it is Merv Presland who has bred the highest recorded and known score to date for a Belted Galloway. His steer that won the Champion Lightweight in the Stan Hill Trophy at the 2007 Sydney Royal achieved a carcase score of 89.9 points. ■■