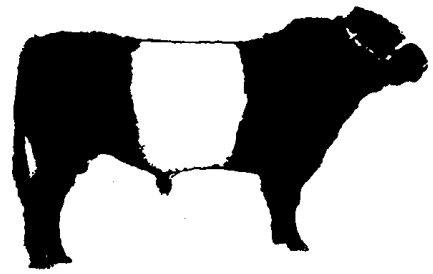


Media Release



AUSTRALIAN BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 64 054 638 602

16th June 2009

For Immediate Release

Belted Galloways Carcass Competitive

They may be known as the beef industry's "pretty little play cattle" but the good-looking Belted Galloways are also known to play hard in carcass competitions, often providing mainstream breeds with an unexpected thumping.

Peter Koppman of Bumbaldry, NSW has been competing in carcass competitions with Belted Galloways and their crosses since the 1990s.

His steers have achieved Champion on the Hoof at the 2008 Goulburn Hoof and Hook show, Grand Champion Carcass at the 2007 Cootamundra Competition, and Reserve Champion Carcass at the 2001 Dubbo National Steer Competition.

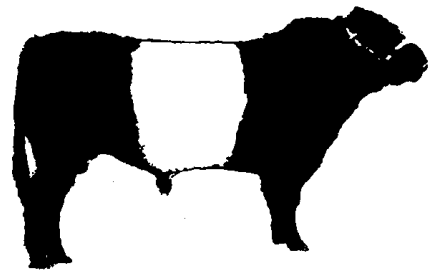
Koppman steers regularly achieve carcass scores in the 80-90 point band. His steers were used when Belted Galloways achieved the highest breed averages at Sydney Royal and Dubbo National steer comps.

"Peter has achieved phenomenal carcass results in both local and royal shows. His success is made more impressive considering the smaller size of his herd, and the minimal size of the breed. He is someone for breeders to aspire to, regardless of breed," says Jeff House, DPI Livestock Beef Officer at Forbes NSW. Mr House has also been a regular carcass judge for Sydney Royal steer competitions.

"Belted Galloways are a breed that has a number of challenges ahead but there is good potential in terms of their carcass attributes. It's keeping a commercial focus on production and carcass traits that represents the biggest challenge."

"The amount of hair the breed carries can also compromise the buyers ability to quickly assess the muscle and fat attributes of the animal."

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Merv Presland, deputy principal and ag teacher for Chifley College, Shalvey NSW, has fed steers of many breeds for the Sydney Royal competition over the past twenty years with much success.

In 2007, he won Champion Lightweight steer with a Belted Galloway on 89.92 points. Belted Galloways also achieved second place in that year's Stan Hill Trophy.

"I don't know how many steers of different breeds I've fed for that competition," says Mr Presland. "But I know it took a Belted Galloway to get me my first Championship. They are under-rated, particularly when you study carcass competition results."

"The 2007 Stan Hill result was definitely a highlight in terms of getting more runs on the board for the breed," says Mr House. "They were only beaten by the Angus."

Another Beltie steer, Jandrew Charles managed to outpoint all Angus and Murray Grey animals in last year's Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza carcass competition at Scone NSW. It was the first time that a Belted Galloway had been entered into that competition.

On 85.97 points, this steer placed 12th out of 116 purebred and trade steers, 2nd out of 42 purebred steers, and 1st for eating quality among the lightweights.

"I was pleased Charles did so well given that he was a registered fullblood animal competing largely with crossbred steers," says Andrew Monaghan who runs his Jandrew stud at Bathurst, NSW. "There is a capacity in this breed that needs to be explored further."

Philippa Goninan of the Gold Coast hinterland, Qld was successful with a Beltie x Charolais/Angus steer at the last competition in Lismore NSW. Her Charolais/Angus females were bred at Sundown Valley in her family's beef operation, Sundown Pastoral Company, which runs a minimum of 15,000 head at any one time.

Her Belted Galloway crossbred steers are 2/3 British and 1/3 European and provide a framier animal coupled with the superior British traits.

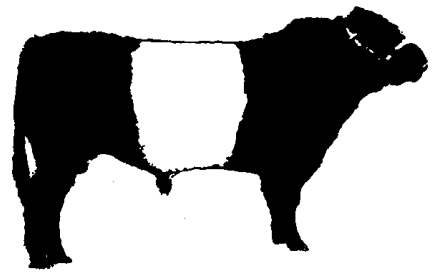
"Out of a field of 30 animals, our Beltie x Charolais/Angus steer placed third in the carcass competition, even though it failed to make the front line on the hoof," says Mrs Goninan. "I think the Belties challenge the saleyard tradition of expecting an above-average carcass from only a conventional-looking animal."

"My home acreage is only a small holding and I'm now finding the Charolais cross difficult to carry through the winter. I'm slowly removing the European content and now focusing on the Beltie x Angus cross to reduce the feed intake and make them more efficient."

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“For my area, people want an animal that looks good, yields well and eats well”, says Mrs Goninan. “ Belties were the obvious choice.”

Competition success has provided confidence in larger commercial herds trialling the Belted Galloway. The *Skibo Downs* certified Angus herd near Gloucester, NSW has recently put Belted Galloway bulls over 165 of its crossbred heifers.

“The aim here is to use the Belted Galloway as a low birth-weight breed to join our heifers earlier than normal, and get another calf out of their productive breeding life,” says Steve Murray, Skibo Down’s property manager.

“About 30 years ago, I saw Brahman x Beltie cows and considered them as good a mob as any I had seen for that type of country [Northern Rivers]. I’m confident about this trial. I can’t see why it won’t work.”

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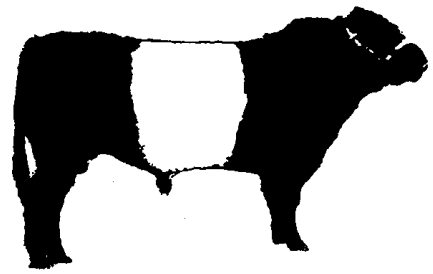
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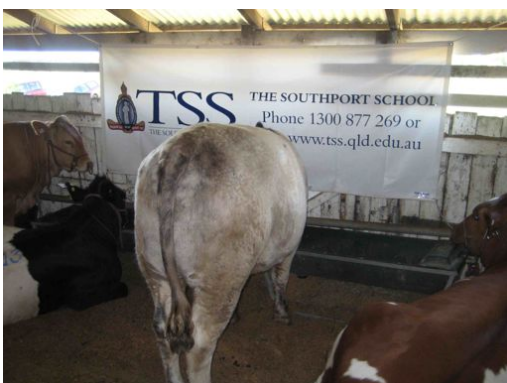


Alan Walden (*left*), purchasing butcher and Merv Presland of Bekadan Belted Galloway Stud (*right*), breeder with the 2007 Sydney Royal Champion Lightweight Carcass.



Jandrew Charles with handler, Mair Edwards at the 2008 Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza Carcass Competition, Scone NSW

Belted Galloway x Charolais/Angus steer (*below*)
bred by Philippa Goninan (Ironbark Belted Galloway Stud), QLD
3rd place, Lismore Show NSW 2008



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