



RESEARCH CONFIRMING GALLOWAYS' GREAT MATERNAL & CARCASE ATTRIBUTES

Very little Australian research has been undertaken regarding the relative attributes of cattle breeds in Southern Australia. Much of the following refers to US, Canadian and European breed independent research. However Galloways' outstanding and consistent successes in Australian Carcase Competitions speak for themselves.

Extreme Fertility, Calving Ease and Longevity

The US Government's Meat Animal Research Centre at Clay Centre Nebraska found Galloways had the highest weaning percentage of US beef breeds and among the highest percentage of unassisted births. Galloway cows are known to produce for more than 20 yrs. Australian Department of Agriculture studies also confirm Galloway calving ease superiority. These are THE major beef enterprise profit drivers; more calves, fewer female replacements.

Excellent Feed Conversion Efficiency

Studies confirm Galloways' excel at another enterprise profit driver; feed efficiency. A continuing project at OLDS College, Alberta, Canada commencing in 1983, with 24 breeds participating (not all breeds have participated in all years) and involves over 1300 steers. Pens of 5 steers from each breed are fed a common finishing ration of 75-80% grain and the balance cereal silage and supplement. The steers are slaughtered when finished.

Using the 2003 accumulated averages of the breeds with ten or more years of data. Galloways achieved:

- **first** on cost of feed per pound (kilo) of gain
- **first** on feed consumed per pound (kilo) of gain
- **third** on Average Daily Weight gain.

The February 2008 OLDS' College report lists Galloway feed efficiency as an excellent 3.85, the average for the 17 breeds involved was 4.32, Canadian Angus required over 20% more feed than Galloway.

US research at Montana State University has shown that a beef cow with a hair coat just **25mm thicker needs between 20% and 25% less** digestible feed intake to maintain body weight when the weather is cold. It has been noted in Australia that the Galloways' double hair coat significantly reduces winter feed requirements in many Australian Tableland and southern areas.

Exceptional Carcases

Australian Carcase Competition results are one of the few Australian results that can be quoted for the Galloways, as little breed comparative research is undertaken in Australia.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show results typify the Galloway successes: Few, if any, other breed can boast of 7 consecutive years of steer/carcase competition Championships:

- 2001 Grand Champion Carcase
- 2002 Taste Test Grand Champions
- 2003 Taste Test Grand Champions and Belted Galloways had the highest average carcase points of any breed shown
- 2004 Reserve Grand Champion Carcase
- 2005 Junior Champion Live plus First or Second or equal First or Second on points in 5 of the 12 Taste Test Classes.
- 2006 Middleweight Champion Carcase
- 2007 Lightweight Champion Carcase

Galloways won the prestigious Royal Melbourne Show's Borthwick Trophy the first time they competed in 1978, repeated it in their second year and again in their third year.

In 2003, at Royal Melbourne Show, a 525kg milk tooth full blood Galloway steer was Reserve Champion Carcase, it had the **highest** eye muscle (111sq cm) of any steer and scored **equal highest** for marbling.

Trial results published in the New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research regarding trials of New Zealand steer breeds slaughtered at 30 months of age showed: - Galloways had the **highest** mean dressing out percentage and mean eye muscle area at the 12th rib, when they were represented in the trials.

Direct comparisons between 7 British breeds undertaken by the US Meat Animal Research Centre, Clay Centre, Nebraska found that the Galloway was:

- **first** (lowest) in fat thickness
- **first** (lowest) in estimated kidney, pelvic and heart fat
- **first** (highest) in percent retail product (69.7%)
- **first** (lowest) in percent of fat trim
- **second** in rib eye area (72.8 sq cm)
- **second** in dressing percentage (61.2%)

A 2006 meat marbling study, published in the respected Journal of Animal Science, showed Galloways having more marbling flecks in both number and proportion of muscle than other trialed breeds including German Angus. Galloways achieved this significant result with 6% less feed than the other breeds. Marbling influences meat's flavour and juiciness.

Galloways consistently score 6 and above (out of a max of 8) for Australian GeneSTAR's feed efficiency and tenderness gene marker testing.

Extremely Flavoursome, Juicy, Tender Beef

The US Meat Animal Research Centre at Clay Centre, Nebraska analysed the beef from 12 US raised breeds, it ranked Galloway **1st** for flavour, and highly for tenderness and juiciness.

Another US trial undertaken by the National Livestock and Meat Board in cooperation with Texas A&M University ranked Galloway **1st** for flavour and **1st** for juiciness.

This just follows on from the words Ortellius wrote in 1573, "In the region of the Galloway section of Scotland are oxen of large size, whose flesh is tender, sweet and juicy."

In the twenty first century, Galloways' Australian Carcase Competition and Carcase Taste Test results and GeneSTAR tenderness gene marker results mirror these qualities.

Healthy Meat

Galloway beef is naturally lean but well marbled with a high Omega 3 content.

Testing at the Lipid Analytical Laboratories, University of Guelph, Canada compared Belted and Galloway cattle and random commercial beef cattle. The results found Galloway/Belted Galloway beef low in saturated and total fat and found healthy levels of Omega 3.

This Canadian testing concluded Galloway/Belted Galloway beef has been proven to be as **healthy for the heart and brain** as both chicken and fish.

Excellent Foragers and Environmentally Friendly Cattle

The Mols Laboratory in Denmark has found that Galloways consume more varieties of flora than any other breed of cattle. This foraging ability reduces the potential for the "grazing out" the most palatable grass and herb species.

Galloway cattle are now used in conservation areas of Germany, Denmark, UK and Ireland assisting with grassland conservation and reducing the presence of woody weeds.

For more information on Galloway cattle write to the Secretary, Galloway Cattle and Beef Marketing Association Inc. PO Box 309, HALL, ACT, 2618 or by sending an email to gallowaycattlebeefmarketing@yahoo.com.au or visit our award winning website at www.gallowaycattle.com.au , or phone 02 62 302 536.