



angus Raff

2022 Newsletter angus



2022 SPRING BULL SALE

110 "Bulls with a Difference"



AuctionsPlus
Australia's Livestock Marketplace

sell at 'Mundibulanga', Drillham Queensland.

Friday 19th August @ 1pm



Following on from last year's return to Queensland this year's spring sale will again be held at our past property and selling facility at 'Mundibulanga', Drillham where fifty rising two-year-old bulls and sixty 18-month-old bulls will be offered. These bulls headed up to Condamine late April in preparation for this year's sale. It's represented by a solid line up of lots sired by a number of homebred sires including a large draft of Raff Napoleon N327 sons. Sired by show sensation Raff Empire E269 and used for several seasons Napoleon sold as the lead bull at last year's sale. These sons have real performance, tremendous mobility and a beautiful soft and loose skin type. Descendants from the Hoff Scotch Cap lines continue throughout the sale draft, a handful of direct sons from United Kingdom AI sire imports sell as do grandsons to these bulls. If you want muscle and big weight gains off grass then these should certainly be of interest. There will be a handful of sons sired by the great bulls of past decades used for their genetic linkage without pedigree compromise - Shady Brooke Explorer, Paramount Ambush, Traveller 23-4, Scotch Cap 0B45 and Crusader of Stern. We even have a son from an AI sire born 43 years ago. Used for their maternal capacity full brothers SAV Sensation and Seedstock have sons selling as with new sire USA sire Jindra Megahit who has some big boned and heavy weighers selling.



**Raff
Napoleon
N327
15 sons
sell**

- Breeding Soundness Evaluated and crush slide semen tested by Dr Ced Wise
- Ear notch tested free of Pesti Virus and double vaccinated with Pestigard
 - Calving ease and weight for age (200, 400 & 600 day growth) recorded
- Frame Score and Scrotal Circumference measured
 - Ultrasound Scanned for Carcase Traits
 - Sire Verified and Genomic Tested
 - Blooded with 3 Germ Tick Fever
- Interfaced on Auctions Plus and Elite Livestock online platforms
 - All raw data information available on each lot
 - Individually videoed

Several weeks before the sale David Reid will be scanning them a second time for carcase. This information along with their individual weights, whole of life daily weight gain, scrotal size and frame score will also be taken at this time.

"...we are big believers in an individual's raw performance and believe it's very meaningful when it can be compared against others in herd from within a strong contemporary group".

This data will be collected too late for inclusion in our sale catalogue however it will be available through our website, on Facebook and as a supplementary sheet sale day. With the retirement of our good friend and professional sales manager Michael Glasser of GTSM we have now moved across to the GDL Studstock team based at Dalby. They will be managing, selling and settling this sale. We promote this sale as the 'Raff Angus Bulls with a Difference Sale'. We welcome and encourage you to take the time to understand our program and look at the bulls. We are very proud of this draft that sell - they are a culmination from 57 years of dedicated breeding



Gilbertines Powerhouse (UK)



Jindra Megahit (USA)



Idvies Eric (UK)

Certified Organic King Island Grass Fed Raff Angus Steers...

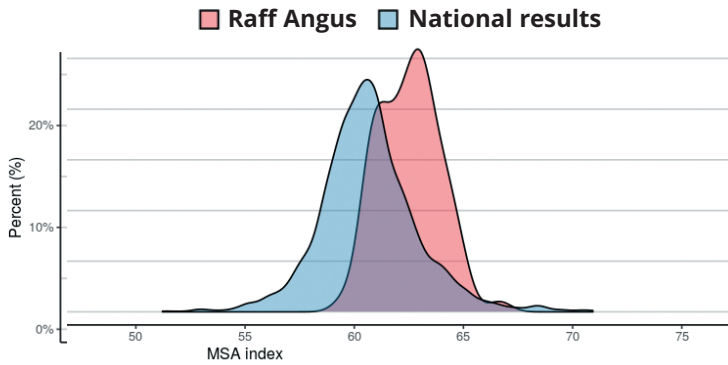
We were very excited to sell our first fully Certified Organic cattle in January this year. These steers produced a 382.7kg Carcass Weight average when just 20-21 months of age. Processed by Greenham at their Certified Smithton plant in Tasmania the top carcass weight steer was at 456 kilograms with the top marbling steer recording a Marble Score of 6.

"...one of the great advantages of our move to King Island has been that we are now able to have our selection criteria totally focused on the commercial reality of premium grass-fed beef production based on real carcass feedback".

Interestingly the highest dollar value carcass was ranked within the lowest 91% for profitability in the Angus Breed for the Heavy Grass Selection EBV Index. These bodies stayed within the Australian market as we are yet to gain USDA Certification.

The following information was sourced from Meat & Livestock Australia myMSA dashboard

The below information details where this group of Certified Organic Raff Angus steers sat when benchmarked against the NATIONAL COMPARISON for all animals processed that day, 04/01/22, with an ossification <230, Grass Fed, no HGP.



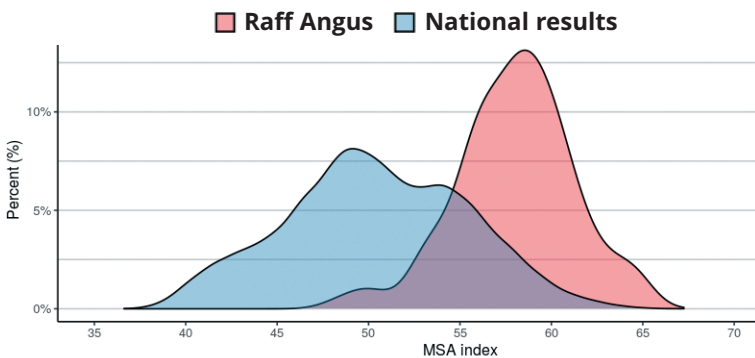
Carcass Attributes Steers <230 Oss.	Raff Angus Averages	National Averages
MSA Index	65.52	60.68
Carcass Weight (kg)	383	301
Hump Height (mm)	65	60
Ossification (100-590)	160	160
AUS-MEAT Marbling (0-9)	1.8	1.0
MSA Marbling (100-1190)	420	330
Rib Fat (mm)	9	7

*"...with the same ossification score our steers yielded an **82-kilogram heavier carcass** with more marbling and more fat. On that day's grid price, excluding the certified organic premium, these Raff Angus steers were **\$738/head more profitable** when compared nationally. For this consignment of two trailers, it equates to over **\$56,000 more profit**."*



Raff Angus Certified Organic steers that were \$738 per head more profitable.

The below information details where Raff Angus cull females sat when benchmarked against the NATIONAL COMPARISON for all females processed over the past twelve months sorted with an ossification >230, Grass Fed, no HGP.



Carcass Attributes Females >230 Oss.	Raff Angus Averages	National Averages
MSA Index	58.01	50.43
Carcass Weight (kg)	396	302
Hump Height (mm)	55	80
Ossification (100-590)	500	500
AUS-MEAT Marbling (0-9)	2.2	1.1
MSA Marbling (100-1190)	460	340
Rib Fat (mm)	12	9

*"...with the same ossification score our cull cows yielded a **94-kilogram heavier carcass** with double the marbling and more fat. On current grid prices of \$7.50/kg these Raff Angus females were **\$705/head more profitable** when compared nationally. For our past twelve months of consignments, it equates to over **\$66,000 more profit**."*

We know Marbling is important but does weight still pay?...

It is the great debate Marbling v Carcase Weight & Yield – particularly in the Angus breed.

Within this past decade there has been increased selection pressures to have Angus Seedstock cattle reported by EBV's to be very low birthweight, be of low mature cow size and very high in marbling. As a generalisation Fat has a negative correlation to Muscle. That is why Wagyu's and Jersey's look the way they do. Animals with more Fat generally have more Marbling. Higher Growth animals (200, 400 & 600 day weight) generally have heavier Carcase Weights, Higher Yields, are leaner and have lower NFI-F EBVs (indicating the animal is expected to eat less feed per day, relative to their weight and rate of weight gain). Marbling is a well-researched indicator to eating quality.

"... however, with this ever-increasing current selection pressure is weight gain, yield and actual carcase weight being overlooked?"

Both processors that purchase finished cattle off King Island pay premiums for carcase quality. Bodies that Marble Score 2 with and MSA Index of 62 receive a 20cent premium above standard grid price. For those bodies that grade with a Marble Score 4 or greater and MSA Index of 64 receive a 40cent premium to the standard grid. We had a good friend sell a trailer load of heifers in March. For decades he has been purchasing bulls from leading mainland studs that put strong selection emphasis on carcase quality. Several years ago, he used semen of our well proven sire Raff Jovial J350 whose Selection Indexes rank him in the worst 90 to 98% for

Profitability within the Angus Breed. Two of the thirty-six heifers within the trailer load sold were sired by Jovial. The consignment averaged 356kg carcase weight, 76sq cm EMA, Fat 17mm and a MSA Index of 64.80. Incredibly the average marbling score was – AuMarb 4.28 with a top of 8 / MsaMarb 676 with a top of 1050!! 60% of the consignment received the 40cent/kg premium and 20% of the consignment received the 20cent/kg premium for marbling. The remaining 20% were standard grid price or were discounted because of being too fat or, as with one of Jovials daughters, too heavy.

"... however, the \$\$/head value is the ultimate profitability indicator. The two Jovial animals had the heaviest and 2nd heaviest carcase weights – 408kg and 444kg. They were not extreme in marbling but these two bodies were the highest and 3rd highest \$\$ value carcasses hanging on the hook on a dollars per body value. Despite the consignment averaging a Marble Score of over 4 and even after receiving premiums for marbling those with the heavier Carcase Weight were the more profitable".

Here at Raff Angus, we know calving ease and carcase quality are important. However, these are naturally inherent qualities within the Angus breed. Without losing these key qualities our enhanced selection priority is for animals that weigh heavier at younger ages and produce bodies of beef with big carcase weights and high yields. With this breeding belief we know cow/calf operators, backgrounders, feed lotters and processors can all be profitable.

Ultrasound Scanning results...

In January we had Lonnie Stone come down and scan our autumn drop of heifers. This saw one hundred and nineteen 21 – 22-month-old PTIC autumn heifers due to calve mid-February and March scanned.

- 40% of the group recorded an IMF% of 8.0 and higher. Their IMF range was 5.8% to 8.3%
- 8 heifers had an EMA measurement over 100sq cm
- P8 Fat range was 6 – 28mm
- Rib Fat range was 5mm – 17mm

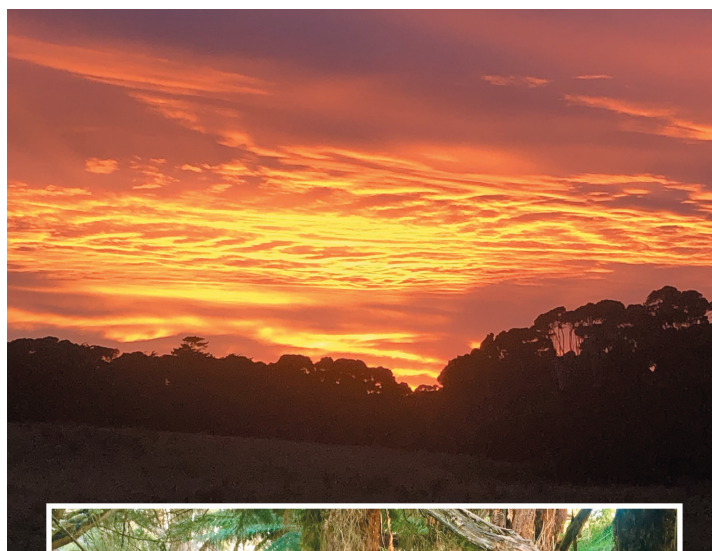
"... their results were outstanding. With an average weight of 666 kilograms at 21-22 months of age 10% of this group of heifers recorded an IMF% of 8.3 which is the highest that the scanning technology can record to".



Raff Burnette R218. At 22 months she weighed 744kg with a 103 sq cm EMA & 7.6% IMF.

The Farm...

Incredibly records indicated we experienced the driest summer for four decades. For us when in Queensland that would have seen us having to severely reduce stock numbers, caused both emotional and mental strain and had severe financial consequences. However, because it occurred on King Island, we just had to manage grass a little more carefully with weight gains and condition scores slipping but still manageable. We did not have to feed excess hay, reduce stock numbers or have any financial losses. We have been applying liquid fertiliser this late autumn being keen to feed the bugs and microbes under the soil for better plant health. In the spring we will apply an organic granular fertiliser being blended specifically to meet our soil test reports requirements. We have access to what seems like an unlimited supply of lime sand which we applied between 5 -7 tonnes per hectare to improve our PH earlier in the year. When compared to the pioneers we are fortunate that there are many more Organic options available. Even for the livestock we can access numerous animal health substitutes to that of synthetic. Worm burden in high rainfall country will always be a concern however with good rotational practices and both healthy soils and plants we should be able to mitigate this. Like anywhere Vitamin F (Feed) is most important to animal health so we are happy to run with our business model of 'run less to make more'.



The Genetic Difference – there is a price to pay...

The Raff Angus Herd is genetically different. Genetics that are different to mainstream and cannot be linked within herd to a highly used mainstream sire for comparison take a lot longer to be fairly and accurately reported by science – sometimes if ever.

“...no breeding program should consider their program to be right and consider others to be wrong. Australia has diverse environments, diverse feeding systems and diverse markets. Individuals within the industry also have a diverse and varied range of beliefs”.

Here at Raff Angus, we like the cow herd to be big in volume, big in width, have extra neck extension with length and strength of spine. We don't like high tail sets, dippy loins, narrow pins and fine bone structure. We like our animals to have the capacity to gain weight quickly and to reach target weights earlier. To produce these types of animals we have been sourcing genetics from herds of outcross genetic makeup for a number of decades. Unfortunately, with the computer-based accessibility to information, herds throughout Australia of genetic variance can be

overlooked and ignored – simply by doing a quick EBV Index sort. Don't be fooled into believing the science without understanding the program and the herds genetic makeup. Some of the best cows walking our paddocks are reported as some of the least profitable indexing cows within the breed. It just does not make any sense. This point can be well highlighted about the inaccuracies of EBV Selection Index Values in our herd within the earlier article - We know Marbling is important but does weight still pay? within this newsletter. Jovial, the sire of the highest and third highest value carcasses, is reported by science as being within the worst 90 to 98% for Profitability within the Angus Breed population???. Facts are hard to manipulate and impossible to ignore. Scientific mid parent estimations are just that. EBV information at time of sale have an estimation of being around 70% accurate or 30% in-accurate. However, when you throw in a herd that is genetically different to mainstream with little linkage such carcass results of our progeny make you truly question how accurate are the Profitability Selection Indexes for our herd - and others in the country with similar breeding programs? The above suggests for our herd they are not very accurate at all.

Our 2021 bull sale an outstanding success...

After a five-year absence from holding an on-property sale in Queensland we were humbled by the loyal support shown and the sales final outcome.

104 bulls were sold to average \$12,346 selling to a top of \$32,000. 15% of the sale draft sold for \$6,000 allowing all clients with varying budgets the opportunity to secure our genetics.

“...when compared to both the Queensland and New South Wales State sale averages for the 2021 Angus bull selling season 80% of our bull draft sold below the states per head average price representing great value for money”.

The top priced lot was the heaviest weight for age bull in the draft being sired by a homebred sire containing a mix of our own maternal lines with the inclusion of Hoff and United Kingdom genetics. He was purchased by the Hoffman Family at Rockhampton. Leading bulk buyers were Cornford Grazing Co of Charleville and the Ladbrook Family of Yuleba. With the return of a bull sale to our home state many repeat clients of past returned to purchase numerous lots underpinning the sales success. Thank you to those that purchased, were underbidders or simply came to show their support.

Sons to these sires sell Friday 19th August



Tour of Duty



Raff Ultimate U27



Raff Jovial J350



Raff Lockhart L62



Raff Lethal Weapon L156



Raff Major M74



Raff Marshall M82



Raff Neptune N4



Raff Pedro P163



Raff Poundmaker P399



SAV Seedstock 4838



SAV Sensation 5615

Females For Sale...

We have a number of Herd Book Registered females currently for sale.

These mature cows are all pregnancy tested in calf to United Kingdom genetic sires following a short 5 ½ week spring joining.

They are due to calve September/October this year.

They combine predominately a mix of Raff and Hoff Scotch Cap genetic lines and are typically big volumed females sound in foot and leg structure.

We are aiming to further reduce our spring calving group hence the sale of these cows.

They will be located at Walwa, Victoria.

If interested please contact us so pedigree, prices and joining information can then be sent through to you.

Phone 0429 691 975 - andrew@raffangus.com.au

The Family...

They do grow up!! All four of our children have a few cattle of their own and have a genuine interest in our business and agriculture. Our eldest three all board in Adelaide, Anna's home town. Harry, is finishing his final school year. Like father like son, he loves his rugby playing at number 9. Now playing both club and school Harry has the ambition to play professional and is considering heading to the rugby capital of the world, New Zealand, for a gap year post school. Charlie is grade 11 and a talented AFL player making the 1st team amidst a competitive group of boys. We think he will hit 6ft by 2023 - hybrid vigour at its best!! Georgina, grade 9, has inherited her mother's 'smart gene' and has the world at her calling - our beautiful G. Pocket rocket Miss Olivia is in grade 5 here on King Island. Not a bad bone in her body she is loving and so compassionate to others and for now wants to be a nurse. Go girl... My good wife continues to be the rock in our family. Multi-talented and just a wonderful human Anna does everything selflessly and without complaint.



Tasmanian Agritourism - a diversification opportunity...

It has taken a little more than a year or two of patience however the two houses destined for Farm-stay accommodation on our farm are now all but fully renovated. The farmland we purchased here on King Island is predominately on two-hundred-acre titles developed after the Second World War for returning soldiers - this meant we inherited a number of homesteads. We are looking forward to adding agritourism into our business model with farm tours also to be offered to guests. This is something that we are excited about as, now more than ever, agriculture needs to showcase and promote what we do to counter balance many assumptions and mistruths within the industry.



The Cowherd...

Our cow herd continues to be the cornerstone of our breeding program. The vast majority of our females descend from the original cows that founded our stud in 1965 with Burnette and Doris now dominating. The Duchess line was included in the mid 1980's. The outstanding Blackbird, Moriah and Lady Durham from our Hoff Scotch Cap investment in 2006 has added a new and well proven maternal contribution. Decades of such maternal strength gives enhanced predictability in their progeny. This is why the greater percentage of progeny are sired by homebred bulls. We have 250 stud females calving in the spring of this year. We expect 550 to calve in the early months of 2023. We are now at full

production. All females are Herd Book Registered. Unfortunately, beef cattle take years to reach their end destination. However, by 2025 we will be selling around 40% or 300 of both bulls and females for seedstock production with the remainder leaving our farm as Certified Organic, 100% pasture raised prime farm finished animals.



New sire for Raff Angus...

We are excited to have purchased privately new stud sire PC Royal Rolex R036. Purchased late last year as a yearling Rolex has just recently completed his second joining for the autumn, following on from an earlier group of cows for the spring calving season. His sire Northern View SMW Gustov 3Z oozes of natural fleshing ability with good bone structure, thickness and muscle. Gustov is sired by Remitall Rachis 21R who has worked so well for DSK Angus breeding powerful and big performance animals with phenotype. The dam of Rolex is rock solid with great breeding sires of past

decades right at the forefront of his pedigree – TC Stockman 2164, SAF Bando 5175, VDAR New Trend 315, RR Traveler 5204 and even Burthlene Patriot 47M. Greg and Sharon Fuller, Pine Creek Angus, have very similar breeding principals to ours with weight for age and maternal strength underpinning their program. They have been tremendous promoters of the breed and we are delighted to have a walking sire of such calibre adding the Pine Creek genetic influence into our herd.



PC Royal Rolex R036



Northern View Gustov



Remitall Rachis 21R

Selection – how do we do it...

We are getting close to producing 350-400 Herd Book Registered male calves annually. Of this we only intend to raise 150 through to bulls to sell for breeding duties. How do we select them? Firstly, we need to go back to when we mate them. We do not use the mid-parent mating predictor - it is all about the cow's individual pedigree, her phenotype and her own breeding ability.

"...we choose not to breed low birthweight, low mature cow weight, high marbling and positive fat cattle. We believe these types of animals restrict weight gaining potential for the producer, backgrounder and feed lotter and they have the inherent negative correlation on carcase weight and yield for the processor".

Prior to calving we draft the cows into their joining groups so they then do not have to make a trip back to yards when they have baby calves by their side. At this time, we visually give each cow a once over – temperament, foot and heel shape, udder attachment, body capacity etc. Pedigrees are also scrutinized following the extra knowledge gained during the previous twelve months. Every bull calf born from those cows that fail any of the above is 'rung' at birth – regardless if he 'has the look' when born. Their dams are also subsequently culled post



weaning. At both the beginning of joining and when the sires have completed their joining period, the bull calves are again individually looked at in the yards. The 'ugly ducks', those with poor temperaments or poor structure immediately fall out of the bull group. At weaning we start to look at the bull calf's individual performance – their 200-day weight.

We have now also started to scan the bulls for carcase at 400 days. This is the final opportunity to mark those poor performers from structure, temperament, breed character, body shape, individual weight and now their actual scanning measurements on carcase is also assessed. Those that fail any of the above-mentioned again fall from the group. From birth through to 400 days all decisions as to whether they stay a bull or become a steer occurs from within the yard. When in Queensland over 90% of all bull calves weaned made it through to sell for breeding duties. Now it is well less than half of male calves making it through to breeding duties.

This gives enhanced confidence on those bulls that make it through this selection process that they have tremendous breeding potential, have structural integrity and real individual performance capabilities.

The Future...

Just six years ago we sold our first grass finished steers off King Island for \$4.20/kg carcase weight. Current grids now well exceed double that price. The flow on effect through to the Seedstock Producers has seen bull prices increase relative to that of bullock values.

"... during the wool boom of the 1950's one bale of wool put dad through boarding school for the year. Three bales bought a new Mercedes vehicle".

Whilst this is not relative, not by a long way, these current beef prices give us all the opportunity to catch up both financially and on ground with property improvements that we have all put on hold for a number of years. Population growth has now well exceeded the general risk of food oversupply – the world needs protein. Agriculture in Australia is an exciting space to be in and we are proud to be producing elite Seedstock animals and nutrient dense and organically produced pasture raised beef for the Australian consumers.



angus Raff angus



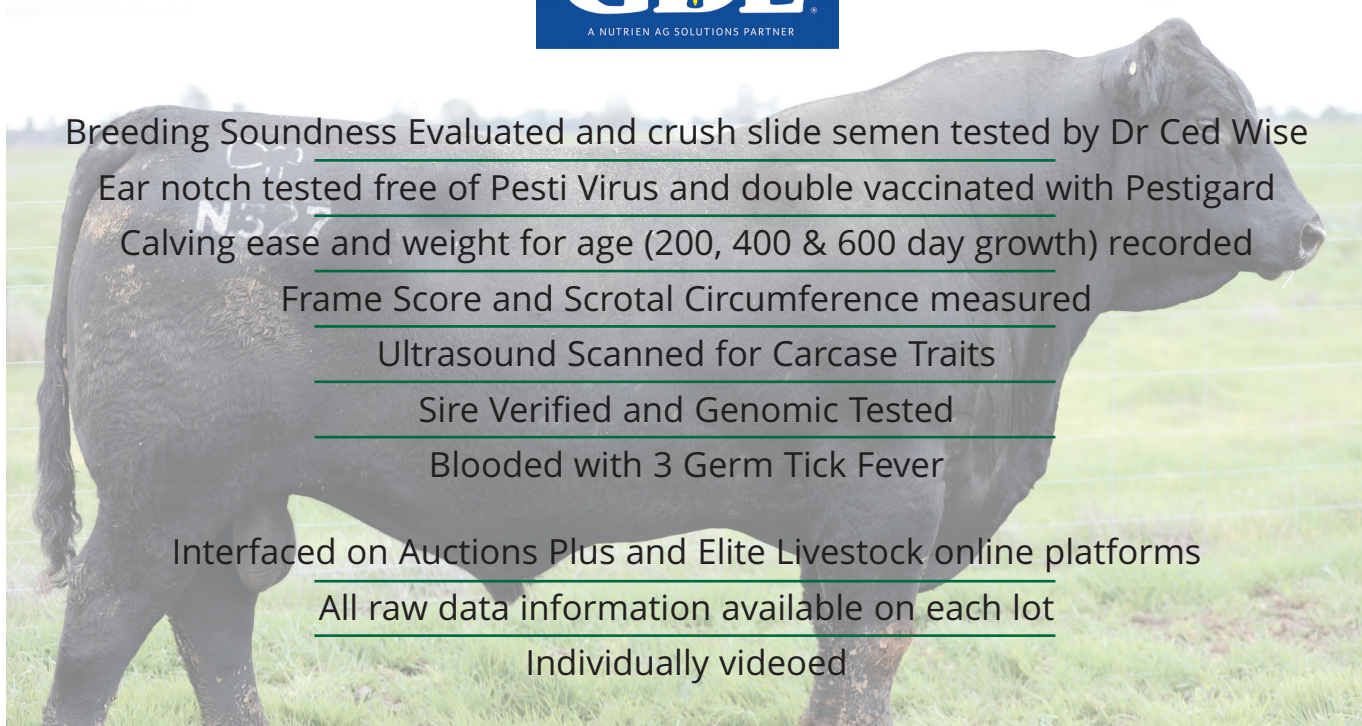
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Please note that there will not be individual photos of bulls within this year's sale catalogue. Instead, all bulls will be videoed on the 28th & 29th July by Ben Hooper. Once edited each lot can be viewed on our website www.raffangus.com.au or through our sale listings within Angus Australia, Elite Livestock & AuctionsPlus. Further, we want bull lots individual performance to accurately describe each bull for direct comparison within their group. All RAW DATA information will be collected when scanning for Carcase measurements on 4th August. This information will be accessible through the same media platforms as mentioned.

To receive a sale catalogue and future information please fill out the following and email to andrew@raffangus.com.au or post to **Raff Angus 233 Yarra Creek Rd, Lymwood TAS 7256.**

Name: Phone:

Address:

..... Email: