



## Raff Angus purchase new Australian sire

Raff Angus is excited to announce the purchase of Cherylton Stewie D19 for \$20,000 from Cherylton Angus in Western Australia. The sale agreement allows Cherylton Angus to retain 100% semen and marketing rights with Raff Angus securing 100% walking rights to him.

For years Raff Angus have been on the lookout for a carcass sire that was of similar genetic lines to their breeding program but most importantly of true outcross genetics to the mainstream carcass sires of Australia. 'The intense selections over the past decade for a low *Birth Weight*, low *Mature Cow Weight* and high *Marbling* animal has resulted in not only a change of phenotype but more so the extreme narrowing of the Angus gene pool.' Andrew Raff remarked.



The grand-dam of Stewie, Ideal 4465 of Ideal 6807 4286, features in the Americans 'Angus Legends' book and is described as "The Angus breeds feed-efficiency matriarch with more than \$2.5 million in progeny sales." Both the sire and dam of Stewie were bred by two of the most commercially focused herds the Ruffs have ever visited in the USA - the Van Dyke herd in Montana and the Jorgenson herd in South Dakota.

Stewie D19 was a participant within the Angus Sire Benchmarking Program – Cohort 1. Typically animals not linked by pedigree to highly used carcass sires do not have good data until progeny are in the system. Stewie, now a rising six year old, with actual carcasses now assessed has at last had his

breeding potency for specific traits recognised with his paper performance now truly reflecting his individual breeding ability.

He has more progeny assessed from actual carcasses hanging on the hook than other highly used AI sires within his cohort that have more than 5000 progeny recorded. 'His EBV information has improved the right way round. So often sires are used within the industry with good carcass paper data that has been created simply based off a mid-parent assumption' Andrew commented. 'We know Stewie's maternal line excelled for those traits and at last – four years later – he has been recognised.'

In the purchase of Stewie Raff Angus refuse to suggest that they are joining the mainstream path of selecting for extreme marbling. 'Breeding cattle for one target market is not what our program is about. We still maintain that weight, both daily gain and carcass, is the ultimate driver of profitability.'

Whilst he is a trait leader for *Marbling* Stewie is also a trait leader for *Days to Calving*, *400 Day Growth* and *Carcass Weight*.

The Ruffs have endeavoured to breed Angus cattle that have growth and yield comparable to Euros whilst maintaining the extra fertility and maternal attributes of Angus along with all the traditional carcass qualities. They believe the purchase of Stewie will add another dimension to their cattle by enhancing carcass quality into other traits they know they are superior in.

Further to his purchase the Ruffs have already introduced genetics that they believe will complement the daughters from Stewie. 'We know that if we use more than one generation of high marbling we will start to lose what our breeding program is recognised for – animals that weigh heavy younger with big carcass weights and extra yield. Last year we travelled throughout the United Kingdom and subsequently imported not only semen but also embryos from there. Sons from these genetics will complement Stewie's high carcass attributes nicely.'