

Raff's 50 years of stud breeding

By DAVID RAFF

FROM a very young age I developed a fascination for breeding stud beef cattle – my ambition in life was to become a successful beef bull breeder.

Herefords were the dominant breed at the time and dominated the bull market in Australia. I felt that the Hereford breed would have been both too expensive to get into and too difficult a market to break into. Angus at the time was the breed reputed to have superior carcass qualities but had poor growth rate and a shocking temperament. I figured that if I could breed a larger framed, higher growth Angus with a better temperament while retaining those superior carcass and maternal qualities I might have a chance of having an acceptable animal for the industry.

In 1965 I purchased four cast-for-age Stud Angus cows which marked the beginning of Raff Angus as it is known today.

Showing was the only yardstick to quality then, attending shows gave me the opportunity to watch and listen to the judge access cattle of all breeds. Watching dairy judging was a valuable learning experience, learning how a cow should be made.

Seeing carcasses hanging on the hook taught me the finer points of the end product. Probably the single most relevant

was a meat works buyer telling me that with a group of steers hanging on the rail the one closest to the floor was the heaviest and most profitable – thus my emphasis on length in my cattle.

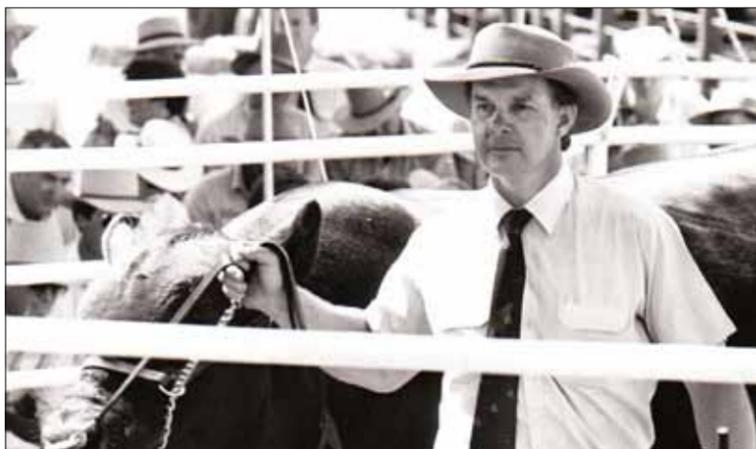
The introduction of the MSA grading system is the greatest industry initiative I have witnessed in my lifetime, it has identified quality and the market is now paying for quality. There is an incentive to breed for quality.

I am proud to have survived half a century in an industry I am so passionate about, having begun from such a humble beginning to where Raff Angus are today gives me a real sense of achievement.

The year 2004 saw the first genetics of Hoff Limited Edition SC594 enter Australia with Raff Angus negotiating the countries marketing rights on him. A true 'beef bull' Hoff Limited Edition went on to gross over \$1.5 million dollars in both semen and progeny sales in the preceding years.

The year 2006 marked a new beginning for Raff Angus with the purchase on four cows at the final dispersion sale of the world famous Hoff Scotch Angus herd in South Dakota USA. This resulted in the importation of 300 embryos that produced over 200 live calves. This set a new standard in type and sale demand for Raff Angus genetics.

After a 20-year absence from showing,



David Raff in the ring at an on-property sale at Leyburn when the Ruffs broke the Australian sale average record in 1985.



Andrew Raff with Hercules at Beef Australia this year.

Raff Angus returned for a three-year campaign from 2010-2012 where another five Royal Show Grand Championships were won across three states.

This period witnessed the remarkable achievement of 10th generation Raff bred sire Raff Empire E269, who was undefeated on the country show circuit across Australia earning a total of 11 inter-breed supreme beef exhibit titles over a two year period including the Melbourne Royal Angus Feature Show.

In 2011 Raff Angus won 13 'Supreme Beef Exhibit of the Show' awards from the 15 shows attended in three states. At the remaining two shows they were awarded junior champion Angus bull at the Sydney Royal and reserve senior champion Bull at the Brisbane Royal Show - over 18,000 kilometres of trucking show cattle occurred that year. Also within 2011 the Ruffs saw unprecedented demand for Raff Angus bulls breaking all prior sale records when 127 bulls were offered and sold through the ring

individually in 120 minutes for a new sale auction record of \$7,165 for a draft of 16½-month-old bulls.

This year, 2015, marks Golden Anniversary for Raff Angus. To have been able break into an industry with virtually no money and no breeding tools in 1965 to now have survived 50 years of Angus Seedstock production is extremely humbling. We are all extremely grateful to those that have supported us over these many years.

Hercules and Jackpot stand out from the herd

Over ¼ of the sale catalogue are Raff Empire E269 sons. Feature lots include Lot 3 Hercules and Lot 7 Raff Jackpot J448.

Hercules was the grand champion Angus bull and third placing interbreed champion bull at this year's Beef Australia event in Rockhampton, where he recorded an EMA measurement of 145sq cm whilst weighing 1274 kg's.

"It is not very often we offer sires of this calibre but with our planned directional change and with plenty of his semen in the tank, he sells," Andrew Raff said.

As a yearling he was put in collection for international semen sales – he now has calves in the United Kingdom.

His dam resulted from an embryo imported from the United States after the purchase of Hoff Blackbird 5217 at the famous Hoff Scotch Cap dispersion sale.

"The wording 'outcross' is very loosely used within the Angus breed but, as with most of our genetics, Hercules must be considered 'outcross' or at the least genetically different to the mainstream.

"His first calves were born here in March. They are slippery at birth and grow fast with general smoothness and good fronts."

Raff Hercules H411 sells with 75 per cent ownership and 100 per cent domestic semen interest rights with full possession.

Raff Angus retains 25 per cent

ownership with exclusive International semen rights – no further call is required on the bull for semen collection.

"Raff Jackpot J448 is an absolute standout," Andrew Raff said.

At 22 months his raw data was 934kgs, 1.33kg daily gain, 38.5cm scrotal, 13/8mm fat, 117sq cm EMA, 6.1 per cent IMF.

He has had full genetic brother's top previous sales with his dam and numerous flush sisters, being promoted by us as the most potent breeding females ever produced in our 50 years of breeding Angus seedstock.

Jackpot has the potential to fast track the breed's genetic advancement and improve genetic diversity.

"We are keeping a genetic brother, Raff Kingdom K76, who weighed 846kgs at just 14.8 months to be gaining 1.77kg/day."

Another full brother sells as lot 8 along with genetic brothers at lots 38 and 81.

Semen has been collected for Raff Angus in-herd use only.

RIGHT: Raff Jackpot J448 is a standout and at 22 months, his raw data was 934kg's, 1.33kg daily gain, 38.5cm scrotal, 13/8mm fat, 117sq cm EMA, 6.1pc IMF



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Sale information:

Registration status

All bulls are either HBR (Herd Book Registered) with a green tag or APR (Angus Performance Registered) with a yellow tag. There is one bull in the sale, lot 101, which has a white tag. He resulted from an embryo that was imported from the United States – this bull is Herd Book Registered.

Health treatments

Most bulls would have been vaccinated with Red Water (three-germ blood), three-day sickness, seven-in-one and botulism (three year).

Breeding soundness examination and semen test

All bulls have undergone a thorough examination by Dr Ced Wise to check their physical structure and breeding anatomy both internally and externally.

Inspections

The Ruffs will not be holding an open day the Sunday prior to Monday sale due to the unsettling nature for bulls and increased workload.

However if you are about on the Sunday and would like an informal inspection you are still welcome, Mr Raff said.

All sale bulls may be inspected at any time in the lead up to sale day by arrangement with the vendors.

On sale day bulls will be penned ready for inspection from 8am on the morning of the sale.

Refreshments

Lunch and refreshments will be available on the open day and on sale day with the compliments of the Raff family.

Delivery

Mundibulanga is in a tick-free area and cattle are free to move interstate.

Phone bidding

Phone bidding facilities will be available on sale day.



angus **Raff** angus 

Established 1965

Bull Sale - 102 lots

Monday 10th August at Drillham, Queensland

Angus genetics with a difference to mainstream Australia

LOT 3 — Raff Hercules H411 Beef Australia Grand Champion Angus Bull and 3rd placed Interbreed Champion



Catalogues available at www.raffangus.com.au • Contact Andrew Raff 0429 691 975 or email andrew@raffangus.com.au