



# HICKS BEEF

SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

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## Beef Farmer of the Year and Beef Producer of the Year - The Double

**It is always great to be recognised by the industry with awards. Early in the year Hicks Beef won the Coles – Weekly Times Beef Farmer of the Year award.**

This was great, but as we say - what is better than Hicks Beef winning awards.... is our clients winning awards. Long-time clients Brad and Irene Gale won the JBS Beef Producer of the Year for their consistent supply of high complying MSA cattle to JBS.

We congratulate the Gales for their award, and for their progressive management which has driven their success as producers of such a high quality product. This is Brad and Irene's second win this year, they also won the Champion Performance Pen at the Beef Spectacular Feedlot Trial this year. They were reluctant to go to the award ceremonies as modestly enough they didn't think they had a chance of winning at either event.

The Beef Farmer of the Year award was a great recognition of our Hicks ABC breeding program. Selecting for bio-economic traits from three breeds, consistently selecting for calving ease, growth and carcass is paying off for us and our clients.

Being involved in the Coles Graze program and consistently meeting their specs, has shown the benefits of a performance based composite program, making positive genetic progress.



*Brad and Irene Gale JBS -  
Beef Producers of the Year*



*Andrew, Anne, Tom and Kate - Coles Weekly Times  
Beef Farmers of the Year*

# USA Beef Improvement Federation Conference

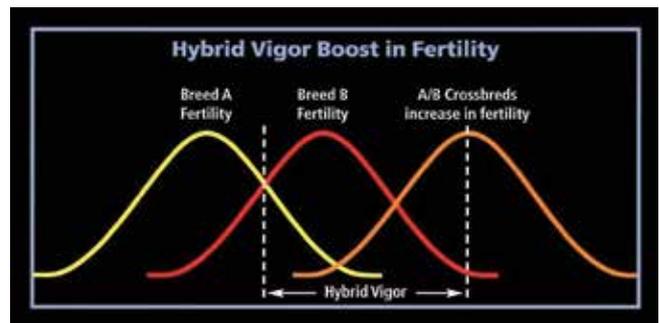
**It was a family affair as Andrew, Anne Tom and Kate went to the BIF Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi.**

It is always interesting to catch up with what is happening on the cutting edge of beef production. One of the differences between Australia and the US is the widely accepted benefits of hybrid vigour by US beef producers. Many US seed-stock breeders are producing composite bulls. The use of multi breed EPD figures has enabled breeders to rapidly improve genetics to better target market and production goals. Thanks to Wade Shafer and the initiative of the



US Simmental Association in bringing multi breed EPDs to the forefront of the industry.

Another of the take home messages, is that there has been a rapid improvement in genomic identification of production traits. This is a major benefit of sending our performance data to the American Simmental Association Multi Breed database. As more and more traits are identified by genomics, the US is the place to be linked. Here at Hicks Beef all our sires' figures will be genomically enhanced by sending blood samples to the US, to give a more accurate assessment of sires.



Above: This graph is from International Genetic Solutions brochure **Breeding for Profit**

Left: Anne, Andrew and Tom at the BIF conference

## All Purpose Index

Many \$ indexes have a narrow focus, concentrating on a few traits with a limited target – such as a feedlot index etc. The ASA Multi Breed figures have an index that focuses on all the traits that go into profitable beef production. The figures are calculated by IGS (International Genetic Solutions) using 15 million cattle records. The co-operation of many breeds compared on the same system has allowed for unmatched research. Industry focused, science based research provides the best opportunity for commercial cattlemen to maximise profit through genetics.

The All Purpose Index (API) evaluates sires for use on the entire cow herd (bred to both Angus heifers and Angus cows) with a portion of their daughters

required to maintain herd size, while the remaining heifers and steers are put on feed and sold for grade and yield. This index incorporates fertility traits, stayability traits (the ability of females to stay in the herd) calving ease, carcass traits and growth for a total performance outcome.

These figures are adjusted to US markets. It may be argued that some of the market conditions may be different in Australia where we are not always directly rewarded for carcass traits. (Perhaps Brad Gale's success as a preferred feedlot supplier shows that carcass quality is valued by the industry)

Hopefully in the future Australian producers will be paid directly on the performance and quality of the carcass.

## Spring 2015 Bull Sale

WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2015

It's always hard to be objective about your own cattle, but we are extremely pleased with our offering for Spring 2015.

Phenotypically they present with the extra thickness and muscle of Euro cattle, coupled with the easier finishing of British breeds. They are structurally sound,

# Hicks ABC Indexer E538 sells to the US

A visit to Hicks Beef by some of the leading breeders from the US was a great chance to catch up with what is happening in the US prior to our visit there this year. It was to our surprise when showing them our herd, in the late afternoon that we came into a paddock to show them our Indexer bull; that the excitement was obvious as they saw Indexer – a bull backed by breed leading figures - actively pursuing a heifer. The thickness and capacity of Indexer, coupled with his very sound phenotype, started the negotiations to get the bull's semen to the US. The decision to get semen was unanimous as all four breeders bought semen. Leading breeders, Jim Butcher, Gateway Simmentals (at the time US Simmental President) Bob Lanting (US Simmental Vice President), Will Townsend and Luke Keller.

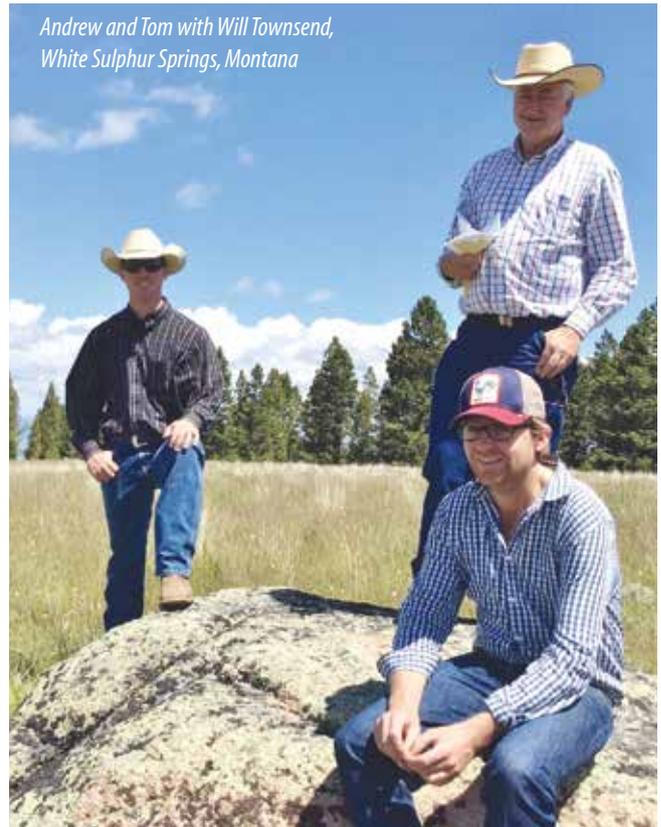
We were fortunate to visit three of the herds that will be using IndexerE538 on our recent visit to the US.



Tom and Andrew with Jim Butcher, Gateway Simmentals Montana USA



Tom and Luke Keller at Broken Heart Ranch, North Dakota



Andrew and Tom with Will Townsend, White Sulphur Springs, Montana

and have all been independently checked and scored by Liam Cardile.

There are bulls that will produce high growth, high carcass cattle, for use over cows; and bulls that will produce easy calving over heifers and still improve carcass and thickness.

We believe the numbers accurately describe the animals, and we are aware that people's needs vary according to their climatic and management conditions. If we can help match your requirements with the bull that best fits your needs we are happy to assist.

The Red Composite bulls are back in numbers for this offering; mainly caused by the use of black

heterozygous bulls over red composite cows. In theory half the progeny will be red, but most of the red calves are heifers, thus not many red bulls. We can assure our clients that next year there will be more Red Composite bulls. An alternative to Red Composites may be the use of some of the best Red Angus bulls we have ever offered.

Red Angus bulls – sired by some of the leading sires in the industry, will average in the top 10% of all \$ Index figures, offering balanced performance, calving ease and carcass traits.

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WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2015

# Family News – The Next Generation

In our last newsletter we shared the news that our eldest daughter, Sarah, and Matt Hamilton were married in a beautiful ceremony by the Murray River at “South Bend”, Jingellic. We are now very happy to announce the birth of Sarah and Matt’s adorable baby daughter Eva. According to her grandmother Eva is possibly the cutest baby ever born.



## Follow us on Facebook

Hicks Beef have joined Facebook so look us up and follow our latest news and photo updates of what’s happening on the farm and in the beef industry. The Facebook page is updated regularly so check it out!

 Find us on Facebook



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## Spring 2015 Bull Sale

WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2015 at  
“Annandale South” Holbrook, NSW.



Enquiries contact:  
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Web: www.hicksbeef.com.au



Annandale South, Holbrook, NSW 2644

For your copy of the Spring Hicks Beef Bull Sale Catalogue fill out your details below.

Name: .....

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Address: .....

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Tel: .....