

## **Carcase and Progeny Testing.**

Getting carcass feedback is the most accurate way in which we can get information on how our cattle perform. We have been doing this for a number of years and so have some of our clients. We breed some steers for structured progeny tests every year and also follow some steers from clients through to slaughter. We also have had bulls in the Angus Sire Benchmarking Programme since its inception.

The photograph below is of a sample of striploin collected from a steer whose father was a bull we bred – Murray El Grando G20. Some of you who have been at our sales and field days will have seen Grando..



*Striploin sample collected from Body # 222 - steer GBHJ1108 from ASBP Sire MURRAY EL GRANDO G20. This carcass graded carcass weight 493 kg, Ausmeat Marbling Score 5, EMA of 107 cm<sup>2</sup> and MSA Index of 67.3*

Picture and caption and Table (below) from Angus Australia Website

The striploin looks good – but how good was it really? And more important how good is the father of the steer?

One hundred and twenty seven steers (including this one) were born from AI matings and raised in strict contemporary groups at two locations – one in Victoria and one in New South Wales. They were raised together, were fed and feed efficiency tested at Tullimba together and then finished at Rangers Valley Feedlot before being processed on the same day. The only difference between the steers was that they had different fathers – and it shows.

The table below is an analysis of some of the measurements of these 127 steers. The green figures below are those for #222.

	Live Wt (Kg)	Carcase Wt	Dressing %	P8 Fat (mm)	AUSMEAT Marbling (Score)	Ossification (Score)	MSA Marbling (Score)	Rib fat (mm)	EMA	MSA Index
Average	804	460	57.2%	21	3.5	148	567	19	92	65.9
Max	938	539	60.3%	35	8	170	890	32	118	70.2
Min	610	349	52.7%	10	1	120	340	6	66	61.7

#222

493

5

107 67.3

#222 was obviously a good steer. He was above average for growth, marbling and muscling – and most importantly above average for eating quality. To comment on his father we need to look at all of Grando's progeny and compare them with those of all the other bulls on the programme. This information is presented in reports prepared and presented by the society. In addition the results go into the calculation of the EBVs that you are familiar with.

#### A. Angus Sire Benchmarking Program (milk, backgrounded and then finished at Rangers Valley Feedlot).

The ASBP is a structured progeny test program in which progeny from nominated bulls are born, grown out and processed in strictly comparable management groups. Entry is by nomination and payment of a fee. All members of the society may nominate bulls for testing.

The price for entry to the program is \$2500 – so there are no ring-ins.

Three bulls that we have used widely have now had progeny carcass and feed efficiency tested in the ASBP. The first two were outside bulls (Te Mania Deegan – VTMD309 – and Tuwharetoa Diplomat – BNAD106) and the third was a Kilburnie bred bull – Murray El Grando G20. Four of our younger bulls, including a Grando son, are at different stages in the Benchmarking programme.

We would like you to look at some of the results for Cohort 3 –which included El Grando. The link is

[http://www.angusaustralia.com.au/images/ASBP-Progeny\\_Performance\\_Report-Cohort\\_3\\_August\\_2015-FULL.pdf](http://www.angusaustralia.com.au/images/ASBP-Progeny_Performance_Report-Cohort_3_August_2015-FULL.pdf)

or you can get to it through the Angus website, Home Page, Sire Benchmarking (seventh down in the extreme right hand column), Third Cohort and the Progeny Performance Report.

Forty bulls, nominated and paid for by their owners for inclusion, were compared in Cohort 3. Gordo's progeny ranked 23 (of 40) for birth weight, 3 for 600 day weight, 4 for scan IMF.

(The other outstanding bull in the third cohort is Waitara Pio Federal – his ranks were 10, 6 and 14. Good enough for us to use him after inspection, and to offer his calves for sale to you in 2016).

Carcase IMF and weights plus MSA indices for cohort 3 are still to be reported. We will keep you briefed.

In cohort 2 Diplomat progeny ranked 3 (of 46) on MSA index. We have been selling his sons for the last few years and are now selling grandsons. The highest ranking progeny group on MSA Index was by Ayrvale Bartel E7 – some of his sons will be available for sale in 2017).



Murray El Grando G20

### B. Kilburnie blood commercial calves (milk and oats – no grain ever).

We were very impressed by the most recent batch of steers on which we had feedback. A group of steers, born in July/August 2014, were weaned onto oats in autumn 2015. The tops were kept growing on the oats and were processed at Bindaree on October 15 at age 15 months.

The average carcase weight of these steers was 335 kilograms, fat was 12 mm., EMA 77 sq. cm. and MSA marbling score 415. One animal has an AUSMB score of 1, 5 were 2, one 3 and one 4.

Most importantly the average MSA index was 64.09. Only one calf was below the critical combination of 61 index **and** AUSMB of 2.

The mothers of these calves were good commercial Angus cows, the fathers were Kilburnie bulls.

The average value of these fifteen month old calves was just above \$2,000 (exc. GST).

### C. Kilburnie Progeny test steers (milk, grass and topped up with an oat crop – no grain ever).



Steers on oats in late October

Our most recent progeny tested steers were processed on October 26, 2015 at age 27 months. These seventeen calves were born within six weeks of one another on the same property east of Walcha in July/August 2013. They were two contemporary groups of animals for Breedplan – and their mothers are Breedplan recorded. These animals were shifted five times (we were chasing feed and water in a drought) before having six

weeks on a finishing crop south of Walcha.

The average carcase weight of these steers was 348 kilos, fat was 8 mm., EMA 79 sq. cm. and MSA marbling score 439.

The fathers of these steers were Grando (NURG20), two Ambush 28 sons (NURG47 and NUR G24) and AAR Ten X. We had Grando as the link or reference sire and aim to get information on the performance of these other bulls.

The mothers of these calves were Kilburnie blood commercial cows recorded on Breedplan.

The average value of these twenty seven month old steers was just under \$2,000 (exc. GST)..

### Some general comments.

We are very privileged to have information available to us from the Angus Sire Benchmarking Program. Appropriately used it allows us to make objective comparisons of the performance of bulls – without any bias or marketing hype.

The information is readily accessible. You might want to access it yourself. You would rather hope that the people breeding your bulls have taken note of it.

**We use this information – and are using semen from the best of these bulls in our breeding program.**

It costs us a lot of money to get the information on our own bulls – but we are leveraging this information by using these highly proven bulls as benchmark sires in our own (smaller and less comprehensive) progeny testing program.

The purpose of this exercise is to breed bulls that will consistently produce superior carcase progeny. From your point of view it should enable you to choose bulls that will produce more profitable calves. MSA grading is here to stay. If you sell finished steers it is in your face and is going to have an impact on your pocket. If you sell weaners it will be in the faces of the buyers of your calves – and is going to affect their pockets.