



Great genetics do the trick

BOB Butcher says the success of a black simmental and angus hybrid programs, still relatively in its infancy in Australia, will be reflected in the market results once numbers increase.

A Hunter Valley-based beef breeder who has his embryo recipient cows in the New England area, Mr Butcher says he's interested in the black simmental program and what Circle 8's genetics offer his breeding herd.

Mr Butcher, who has bought extensively from Circle 8 proprietor Jeremy Cooper in the past, was a keen onlooker at the Tarcutta-based beef producer's sale last week.

Mr Cooper, who has studied hybrid vigour in the United States, has brought some of America's best angus genetics to Australia. It is this access - and his undoubted confidence in his product - which has Mr Butcher enthused.

"It's still only early days and people are still trying to understand the hybrid benefits," Mr Butcher said.

"It's still a little early (to tell how successful it will be), but it just makes too much sense to be another fad program."

The hybrid genetics are still an experimentation because it was still unknown what American genetics worked best on Australian-raised cattle, he said.

"I've put my 25 best purebred



females across a cross-section of superior American genetics and we'll see what ones are working out here," he said.

ABOVE: Beef producer Bob Butcher has strongly endorsed the angus-hybrid concept trumpeted by Circle 8 proprietor Jeremy Cooper.

Picture: CASSANDRA SMITH

80 buyers present for Circle 8 sale

A GALLERY of about 80 buyers were in attendance as Jeremy Cooper's Circle 8 sold simmental, angus and angus-hybrid bulls at his Tarcutta property last

week.

Mr Cooper's angus bulls averaged \$3083, his four simmental bulls to sell averaged \$2625, while his angus-hybrid stock proved

popular.

The angus-hybrid bulls achieved a 100 per cent clearance rate, averaging \$4400 and selling to a top of \$8000.



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ANGUS HYBRIDS



TOP @ \$8000 AVERAGE \$4375

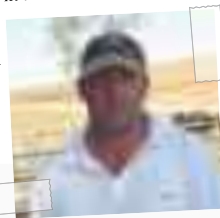
Glen Galbraith - Khancoban

Glen bought bulls in the 2006 sale and returned to purchase a Hybrid bull this year to put over his 160 Angus cows, with an aim to keep the heifers as future breeders. The steer portion will be grown out to back grounding weights or sold direct to the butchers. Glen has read the Angus Hybrid booklet supplied at Circle 8 and he is using the Hybrids to try and improve the quality of his cattle through the use of Hybrid Vigour.



Russell Parker - "Ingleburn", Holbrook

Russell runs 600 cows in a major crossbreeding operation of which they have undertaken for many years. I came to look at the Black Simmentals, but changed my mind when I saw the Hybrids, as they were extremely impressive under inspection. Russell bought two Hybrid bulls at the sale for \$4500 and \$3500 to use in a 3 breed rotation over Angus/Shorthorn cross cows to gain Hybrid Vigour. He said using the Hybrids, he did not lose the advantage of the Simmental, as he was still able to pick up some maternal traits of the Simmental. The Hybrids offer plenty of muscling with the ability to still marble well, without being too extreme. With grain prices at \$400t I am looking to concentrate on cattle that can do well on both grass and grain and I think the Hybrids will fit the bill. The ET Hybrids really impressed as they were all peas in a pod, which encouraged my Father due to gaining "greater type" in my bulls.



Richard Hicks - "Truro", Cootamundra

Richard came to the sale looking for an Angus bull, but soon swapped sides when he saw the Hybrids paying \$8000 for the top bull. He said



the size impressed him, as they were nice and long and quiet natured and moved really well, but still were able to give him a heap of punch into his program. Richard runs around 100 breeders of which the top priced Hybrid bull Circle 8 Beef B127 will join to around 40 to 50 females. Richard said keeping the Angus colour was paramount and I am now hoping to pick up an extra 50kg on my calves with through the Hybrids. I will aim to sell these calves through Wagga saleyards at 10 months of age, weighing 400kg, with the extra bit I get from the Hybrids.

Mal Kiehne - Glen Innes

Mal runs 400 breeders near Glen Innes in the New England and is looking to increase numbers further. He traveled all the way down to buy Black Simmentals, but once he saw the Hybrids he went with them and paid \$6500. The Hybrid bull will fit in over our Poll Hereford/Shorthorn cross cows as a terminal sire. His son Richard showed a lot of interest in them, due to their low birth weight and tremendous weight at 9mths. Mal said he plans to keep his basic herd of roan cows, of which he turns his steers off at 13 to 18mths. He will now flag this part of his herd to try and get steers off as weaners at better weights, freeing up country to run more cows. He said the first draft of progeny from the Hybrids he would like to put into a feedlot or send them direct to get some feedback and trace back on how they performed.



50 Angus & Angus Hybrid Bulls for Spring Sale, date to be announced

Jeremy Cooper - 0427 549 261 John Setttee - 0408 297 368