



Goombungee-Haden-Oakey Beef Classic



Judge of the Goombungee Oakey Beef Classic Brett Campbell, livestock manager with JBS at Dinmore, and Wendy and Graeme Motley of Plainby, with their supreme beef of the show.

Consistent supporters of prime cattle shows at Goombungee and Oakey, Graeme and Wendy Motley of Plainby, have won their first supreme championship.

At the recent Beef Classic, conducted by the Goombungee/Haden and Oakey Show Societies, the Motleys won a bag of championships, including the big one for supreme beef of the show.

Mr Motley said he and Wendy started ex-

hibiting prime cattle at Goombungee 39 years ago. In that time, they collected many awards and championships, but never a supreme trophy.

They have also been supporters of the Beef Classic event, established about six years ago when the Oakey and Goombungee show societies combined their prime cattle events. The closure of the Oakey salesyards (with weight selling) was a factor in this decision, and the event has been held at the

Elders salesyards in Toowoomba ever since, with the show cattle being sold at the regular sale the next day.

Their 16 month old milk tooth steer which had been grain fed for 150 days, won them the prized ribbon.

They bred it from a Murray Grey Limousin cross cow, with a Black Limousin sire. It surprisingly still looked like a Murray Grey with a dark grey colouring.

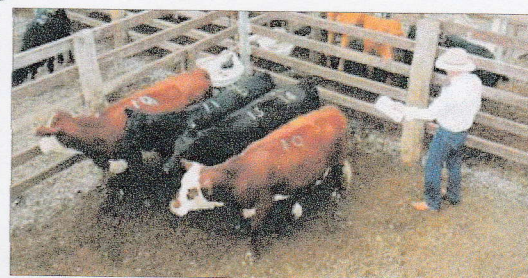
It was the champion grain fed/grain assisted

bullock and was put ahead of the champion pasture fed steer and champion vealer for the supreme ribbon.

The Motleys also had the reserve champion single steer lot fed/grain assisted, the reserve champion heifer, lot fed/grain assisted, the champion vealer, and champion pen of two vealers.

The supreme steer sold for \$2,012 per kg to Hessland Meats, Meringandan and had a carcass yield of 60 per

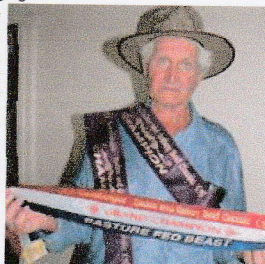
cent. The reserve champion single steer, a Murray Grey Limousin cross, sold for \$2,135 to MacLagan Meats. Their reserve champion heifer, a black Limousin, yielded even better at 63%, selling for \$2,16 per kg. Their champion vealer sold for \$2,30 per kg. The Motleys have about 180 breeders, with a big concentration of Murray Grey cows, producing Limousin cross cattle, but are moving towards black Limousin bloodlines.



Judge Brett Campbell at work at the Beef Classic. He was provided with weights and ages for the judging.

Prize winners: Supreme beef of the show G.C. and W.K. Motley. Most successful exhibitor G.C. and W.K. Motley. Lot fed/grain assisted classes champion bullock G.C. and W.K. Motley. Reserve champion bullock R.K. and G.C. Hartwig. Champion single steer Dowling Farming. Reserve single steer G.C. and W.K. Motley. Champion pen of 2 steers KAU Farming. Champion heifer B. and J. Wiecek. Reserve champion heifer G.C. and W.K. Motley. Grand champion lot fed/grain assist beast G.C. and W.K. Motley. Pasture fed classes champion bullock J.N. Lau. Reserve champion bullock N.P. and G.V. Hartwig. Champion single steer J.N. Lau. Reserve champion single steer R.K. and G.C. Hartwig.

Champion pen of 2 steers J.C. Harth. Champion heifer D.L. and L.A. Janetzi. Reserve champion heifer L.J. and E.J. Kahler. Grand champion pasture fed beast J.N. Lau. Unrestricted feeding vealer classes. Champion vealer G.C. and W.K. Motley. Reserve champion vealer R.K. and G.C. Hartwig. Champion pen of 2 vealers G.C. and W.K. Motley.



John Lau, Oakey won two championships and one grand championship at the Goombungee-Oakey Beef Classic. He exhibited the champion pasture fed bullock and the champion single steer, pasture fed, which was also the grand champion pasture fed beast.

Elders A rural report
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

CATTLE: Just under 700 cattle plus 130 calves yarded at Elders Harristown Sale today. Monday 25th February 2013. It was a particular top quality yarding of well finished cattle from the Oakey - Goombungee Show exhibitors. Prices reflected the quality on offer.

Best bulls: ex Pittsworth topped 165.20/kg. The champion bullock account Graeme and Wendy Motley reached 201.20/kg. Most other bullocks selling from 180-195.20/kg. Heavy heifers sold to a top of 172.20/kg. Best local cows topped at 162.20/kg, while cull dairy cows sold to 129.20/kg.

Heavy Trade steers ex show reached 213.20/kg, while the heifer portion sold to 216.20/kg. Show vealers topped the day at 229.20/kg, with the steers selling to 215.20/kg. Light weight store steers ex Croves Nest sold for 220.20/kg. Cows and calves sold to \$760 per unit.

PIGS: 240 Pigs yarded with Prime bacon pigs dealer, Prime Pork firm to slightly easier. Backlatter sows sold to keen competition with store and weaner pigs easier.

Prime Pork from 245-288.00/kg. Prime Light Bacon 235-300.00/kg. Prime Bacon from 240-280.00/kg. Boars made 20.00/kg and sows topped at 128.00/kg. Forward stores made \$95-\$130/head. Weaners from \$65-\$85/head and suckers topped \$30/head.

Bookings for next Toowoomba sale
Contact Darren Hartwig
Phone 0428 736 470

Seminars on improved soils and pastures and crops

A group of farmers across the northern Downs is receiving specialist assistance on how they can make their farms more productive.

They are the recipients of Federal funding through its Caring for Our Country program provided through the Condamine Alliance being delivered to farmers by North East Downs Landcare.

Three groups of farmers across the northern Downs have attended seminars on how to improve their soils, pastures, crops, and production.

Each group has five or six farmer members who are also members of

Landcare. The first group is in the Moola Creek area, the second in the South Myall area, Peranga, Highgrove, Highland Plains, Kulpi, and Rosalie Plains, and the third group is from the Gomoran, Doctors Creek area, (including Goombungee, Kingshorpe and Meringandan areas).

Agronomist Ian Moss is meeting with each group for three seminars.

A field day about June should round off the training.

Attention is being paid to each farmer's individual property. Where the soil composition is not known, new soil tests are done.

The farmers in each group share details about their production systems and learn from each other, but in particular are guided by Ian Moss whose understanding of soil chemistry, soil life and soil health, and its effect on pastures and crops, has been developed by his early farm life, university study, and agronomic and business experience.

Mr Moss grew up on the land at Narrabri. After university studies in agriculture at the University of Queensland, his first job was with a cotton agronomy consultancy in Wee Waa.

Since then he has operated his own cotton consultancy, owned a rural merchandise business, and became a field officer manager for the international AgriEvo/Aventis/Bayer organisation before settling with his wife in the Pittsworth district, producing and marketing organically produced beef, lamb, pork and chickens.

It is from here that Ian Moss operates Farm Agronomy and Resource Management Pty Ltd (FARM) with a focus on economic and environmental sustainability. FARM is involved primarily in soil and crop nutritional and supplies fertiliser to many clients also.



Agronomist Ian Moss, Keith Nielsen, Boodua, and Evan Ehrlich, Gowrie Little Plain, at the Highfields seminar.



Ashley Volz, Highgrove, Peter Kuhl, Highland Plains, and Tanya Plant, Samara, Rosalie Plains, at the Peranga district seminar.



At the Highfields seminar are from left, Jan Rankin, Groomsville, Allan Ellwood, Groomsville, and Nicki Laws, Cutella.

CROWS NEST CATTLE SALE
Alex Stariha
Saturday, February 23

Alex Stariha's Crows Nest cattle sale on Saturday produced good results for vendors with local buyers looking to restock. Geoffrey Sloss, Kingshorpe sold milk tooth Murray Grey steers for \$875 AAG Investments, Ravensbourne, sold 16 month old Droughtmaster steers for \$735. Groves Family, Ravensbourne, sold 16 month old Hereford steers for \$725. 12 month old Blonde steers from Arend Tibben at Klermont sold for \$600. Wayne Stark, Crows Nest, sold Droughtmaster steers, 10 months, for \$605. The Butler Family, Plainby sold quality Droughtmaster steers, 8 months for \$625. Lloyd Muller, Ravensbourne, sold 12 month old Droughtmaster steers for \$620. Cows and calves from Pat Collingwood sold for \$910.

NEXT SALE
SATURDAY, MARCH 9 - 10am
bookings to hand:

- 50 Euro-cross steers, 15 months
- 20 Santa Droughtmaster cross steers, 15 months
- 20 Droughtmaster Lino heifers 15-18 months
- 20 Angus cross weaners 8 months
- 25 Vealer calves a/c breeders
- 10 Charbray heifers 8-10 months
- 4 Greyman cows and calves
- 2 Santa Hereford cows and calves
- 10 Charbray cows and calves

FOR BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION
PLEASE PHONE ALEX STARIHA AUCTIONS

David Stariha 0412 704 456
Rick Zeller 0428 879 531

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Field day in Ravensbourne district
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- Identifying important species
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- Assessing and monitoring pasture condition
- Sown pastures

16th March 8.30 am Perseverance Hall
Registration and information:
Don Groves 4697 8035,
d_c_groves@hotmail.com
Ian Eustace, 4697 8058,
ian.eustace101@gmail.com

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