

NORTHLAND RED DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS CLUB



Field Days Team 2009

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**NEWSLETTER
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Breedplan Australia

In 2001 there were a group of NZ Breeders joined the Australian Breedplan recording scheme. These were the Rotokawa, Te Maewa, Te Wai-iti, Woodlands and our own Tapuwae herd.

In August 2002 we had our first group analysis done. Our herd had 80 cows, 45 heifer calves and 34 bull calves analysed. Because we had in the past used common AI sires the accuracy of EBV's were reasonably high at 60 to 70 % Even with this accuracy there has been movements in EBV's as the accuracy % has increased. You also get a printout of the average for the breed and your herd on the traits analysed, birth, 200 day milk, 200 day growth, 400 day growth, and 600 day growth.

After our day with Russell Priest on 29th November 2009, I have found these averaging figures far more useful than before. Not only does this tell you where your herd compares to the rest of the Australian Herd but is a useful tool for future use.

As an example – Breed average birth weight 2008 was 1.7. If I were to mate a bull and cow with a birth weight EBV of 1.7 you could expect the offspring to be average weight at birth. Any increase in the EBV for birth you would expect to compromise our easy calving claims. 200 & 400 day weights are an indicator of the animal to grow at an early age. These are also very important for our breed as an indicator of early maturity.

600 day weight is also an indicator of early growth but also has a relationship to the animal's mature size. This EBV would be of more importance if you wish to breed Terminal Sires, than if you are breeding a Maternal Dam Herd.



When asked to pick out some 14 month old bulls for our Field day with Russell we emailed him our 400 day EBV's for our bulls. We also gave him the breed average EBV's for 2008 drop of calves. I was somewhat surprised with the animals he picked.

This was the interesting part. The EBV's breed average 2008 calf drop:-

	Birth +1.7	200day growth +8.4	400day +15.5	600day +22.1
Bull 815 has EBV's	Birth +1.5	200day Growth +12	400day +19	600day +16
Bull 860 has EBV's	Birth +1.4	200day Growth +8	400day +19	600day +18

As you can see both these bulls are expected to be slightly lighter at birth than the average, but can be 4kgs heavier at 400 days than the average and are going to be 4kgs lighter than average at 600 days and therefore are not as big at mature as the average.

In Russell's opinion these are the type of EBV's that could be very useful in any Maternal Breeding Program.

He also picked our top EBV bull 868 with figures:-

Birth +3.1 200day growth +18 400day +27 600day +38

As you can see this bull was heavier at birth and has continued to grow and mature into a heavier than average bull at maturity.

As the general rule this is what happens, heavier at birth more growth, lighter at birth less growth. There are those exceptions.

By using Breedplan it removes the environmental effects from the equation and allows you to find those bulls and cows with the genetic qualities of the likes of 815 & 860. By knowing the EBV's also allows you to match the growth patterns of different animals to suit your breeding program.

We hope that in the near future there will be Breeders of Devons from UK, USA, & Brazil join the Breedplan program. The information that will be available when these other breeders join will only help to improve the Devon Breed worldwide.

Other Breeds also have EBV's or are trying to get EBV's for Docility, Meat Tenderness among others. The Hereford Breed has taken their EBV selection one step further. They have an Index which groups a set of EBV's for their 3 different groups. To learn more about this Index System you can look up the ABRI website.

Even with all this information it is still important to do an eye appraisal to check for faults and breed type.



Russell Priest explaining the why's and what for's of Breedplan from animal to paper

YES!!! THE FIELD DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!!!

4th to the 6th March 2010.

We have a new site this year, Probitas Way 127.

When coming in the main entrance instead of turning right like you have in the past 2 years, this year you turn left and head toward the main highway.

Again I invite **ALL** members, their family, friends, and enemies to take part in promoting our Devon breed. Even if you can only give us ½ an hour on site it will be appreciated. So we look forward to seeing between the third and the sixth of March 2010



Tapuwae Joy 2 with Bull calf and Team at Whangarei Show December 2009



Tapuwae 723 2yr old, with Heifer calf at Whangarei Show December 2009

BEG --- BEG – BEG, “KNEES GETTING SORE” BEG --- BEG --- BEG.

Arthur