

THE AUSTRALIAN GELBVIEH JOURNAL



2026



30
quality
red &
black
bulls

11am
26 September
Coolabunia Saleyards
Kingaroy

Gold Ribbon

GELBVIEWH & BALANCER
— BULL SALE —

OPEN DAY:

29 August

11am-2pm

Midas Gelbvieh

351 Hetheringtons Rd, Manyung Q 4605

Agents:

Aussie Land & Livestock (07) 4162 2233

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I reflect on the past year, I would like to sincerely thank the Genetic Hub staff for their ongoing assistance and professionalism, along with the committee for their continued support and commitment to our Association. I would also like to extend my personal thanks to Clyde Johnson for his balanced counsel and wise guidance as Patron of our breed. Your support does not go unnoticed.

One of our key achievements this year was the approval of an annual magazine, to be published every 12 months. This marks an exciting step forward in improving communication and showcasing our breed. My sincere thanks go to Jasmin Kaddatz and Amanda Lange for their dedication and contribution to the successful publication of this year's magazine. This builds on our previous publications produced every three years to coincide with Beef Expo in Rockhampton, and it is pleasing to see this evolve into a more regular platform for our members.

I would also like to personally acknowledge Annie Minehan for her seven years of commitment and service to the council. Annie has been a strong supporter of the breed, and although she has resigned due to personal reasons, we thank her sincerely and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

The year 2025 has been challenging for many, with severe droughts, floods and bushfires, particularly across Victoria. Dorothea Mackellar's famous words capture the essence of our country perfectly:

**"I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror —
The wide brown land for me."**

Despite the hardships, one significant positive has been the strength of cattle prices in 2025, which have risen by 22% compared to the previous year. This has provided welcome relief and confidence for many producers.

We were pleased to see interest from New Zealand in operating under Australian Gelbvieh. Unfortunately, due to limited member numbers and demand within their country, they decided not to proceed. Nevertheless, the interest itself reflects the growing recognition of our breed.

A major milestone this year has been our successful integration into International Genetic Solutions (IGS). This collaboration positions us strongly for the future, enhancing the genetic evaluation of Gelbvieh cattle and providing breeders with greater confidence in how Australian Gelbvieh compares both nationally and internationally. This is a significant step forward in strengthening the integrity and competitiveness of our breed.

Understanding the pressures many members have faced, we introduced a payment plan to assist those experiencing financial hardship due to extenuating circumstances. This support remains available, and we encourage any member in need to reach out.

It has also been wonderful to see our youth continuing to thrive. In 2019, our then Gelbvieh Youth President, Aleacea Nixon, was awarded a travel scholarship to New Zealand but was unable to travel due to the COVID pandemic and subsequent university and



work commitments. In 2025, Aleacea was awarded two travel scholarships to America and sought approval from the Council to utilise her original scholarship funds to explore Gelbvieh operations while abroad. The Association approved her request, and she embarked on an extensive journey from Texas to Minnesota, visiting leading Gelbvieh operations and attending the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, where she connected with breeders and expanded her knowledge of the breed internationally. We look forward to reading her detailed report in the upcoming magazine.

My thanks also go to Michael Schulz for organising this year's Annual General Meeting in Victoria and coordinating an itinerary that allowed members to visit fellow Victorian breeders. Opportunities such as these strengthen relationships, encourage knowledge-sharing, and reinforce the sense of community within our Association.

As we look to the future, I wish the incoming leadership every success. May you continue building on the strong foundations established through Genetic Hub and IGS,

and continue advancing the Gelbvieh breed in Australia.

Finally, I would like to thank the members for entrusting me with the stewardship of the Gelbvieh breed over the past three years. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve. I sincerely hope and pray that 2026 brings improved seasons, renewed confidence, and continued progress for all.

Thank you.

Aderian Nixon
President 2023 - 2026



Canadian Genetics Available for Export

For anyone planning a trip to Canada to invest in Canadian genetics, please contact the Canadian Gelbvieh Association office.



403-250-8640

www.gelbvieh.ca

gelbvieh@gelbvieh.ca

GELBVIEH GENETICS ON SHOW

at Victorian AGM Weekend



This year, members from Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria gathered in Victoria for the Annual General Meeting, enjoying a fantastic opportunity to catch up with fellow breeders while seeing Gelbvieh cattle performing across a range of environments.

We kicked off the weekend with a visit to Ian Humphry's property in Springhurst, where members were treated to an impressive lineup of Gelbvieh cross cows and steers. It was a great way to begin the tour and sparked plenty of discussion about the strength and practicality of Gelbvieh genetics in commercial herds.



The second stop on the tour was the picturesque property, "The Springs." It was fascinating to hear the family has been farming there since 1966, building on an inherited Hereford herd and generations of experience. Over time they have worked with purebred cattle and now speak very highly of Gelbvieh genetics, particularly appreciating the breed's low birthweights, strong growth and easy temperament.

A real highlight of the visit was learning about "Harminder," a sire whose calves are known for being easy-calving, well-muscled and well suited to rearing. The breeding decisions behind the program were practical, efficient and clearly well thought out. It was inspiring to see tradition and smart farming come together so naturally in such a beautiful setting.



The tour then continued to Eadesville, where Colin and Allison Jenvey welcomed members to their property. A relaxed morning tea was enjoyed by all, and it was wonderful to see the country looking green and refreshed following the long-awaited rain just two weeks earlier.



Following a five-hour drive, we arrived at our final property for the day, Michael Schulz's operation at Mortlake. Members were impressed by the quality of the Gelbvieh cattle on display, with a strong lineup of bull calves, steers and cows with calves showcasing the results of Michael's refined breeding program. A short trip to Timboon followed, where everyone enjoyed a delightful dinner at Berry World, capping off an exceptional day.

The following morning began with a busy but enjoyable start, with breakfast at the home of

Michael Schulz and Jenny Evans. Members then heard from Jason Ledger, Managing Director of Xytovet, who provided an informative overview of the livestock DNA analysis services available and how these tools can assist breeders in making more informed decisions.

The group then visited Schulz Organic Dairy, where Simon guided us through the regenerative farming practices used to enhance soil health, pasture quality and overall animal vitality. It was a fascinating insight into how careful land management can positively influence productivity and sustainability.

After a delicious lunch, members returned to Michael and Jenny's for the AGM. Overall, the weekend was an enjoyable and worthwhile event, combining valuable learning opportunities with the chance to strengthen connections within the Gelbvieh community.



In the weeks following the AGM weekend, the Council met to formally appoint positions for the 2026 year. The following office bearers were confirmed:

President: Brian Kaddatz

Vice-President: Michele Fleming

Secretary: Genetic Hub

Treasurer: Aderian Nixon

Council Members:

Thomas Bewick

Alexandra Riggall

Michael Schulz

The Council looks forward to supporting the association and its members in the year ahead.





NEWS FROM CANADA

Demand for Gelbvieh genetics within Canada is growing. Initiatives and leadership within the industry in a number of areas are contributing to this growth.

We have a fantastic junior program that continues to grow year over year. The planning and work done by the adult advisors, Joe Barnett and Jessica Pearson, along with many other supporters has made the program what it is today. Providing supportive resources and tools to help the next generation of cattle producers learn and be successful has made Gelbvieh an easy choice for many young Canadian producers. The Junior incentive program, organized by the Gelbvieh Association of AB/BC had 35 juniors enter the draw with 134 entries in 2025. The Gelbvieh Association of AB/BC provides 2 sale credits toward the provincially organized Wish List consignment sale. The breeder's purse sale credit is made up of donations from members and the GAABC also provides a second sale credit. At the 2025 National Junior Gelbvieh Show, junior participants were asked to submit a podcast episode for their marketing project. The Canadian Gelbvieh Association started a podcast channel, Canadian Gelbvieh Connection. The first season of episodes features these junior podcasts. Please follow us on Spotify or Apple Podcasts. We look forward to launching season 2 in February 2026. We have many members that include junior credits in their sale programs as well. One retired breeder has donated a free registration to every Junior who registers an animal, further supporting the bred and owned class at our National Junior Shows.

The Canadian Gelbvieh Association has been a key stakeholder in the Canadian Beef Improvement Network, with a focus in the last 6 months of repatriating our DNA testing services to a service provider within Canada. Starting November 2025, the Canadian Gelbvieh producers were the first to start sending their samples to the Global Institute For Food Security in Saskatoon, SK. We are also working toward reliable, accessible, and secure data storage and sample management within Canada. The Canadian Gelbvieh Association is proud to be leaders in this initiative as our goal is to provide the best service possible to our members, but also advocate and provide value to all Canadian beef producers collecting genomic data.

The latest issue of The Gelbvieh Guide has been released. The latest Gelbvieh news, show results, and upcoming events are included. Please check it out online, a link can be found on our Facebook page. Give us a Follow!

If any Australian cattle producers wish to come to Canada to tour herds or attend industry events please contact the Canadian Gelbvieh Association as we can apply for funding on your behalf.

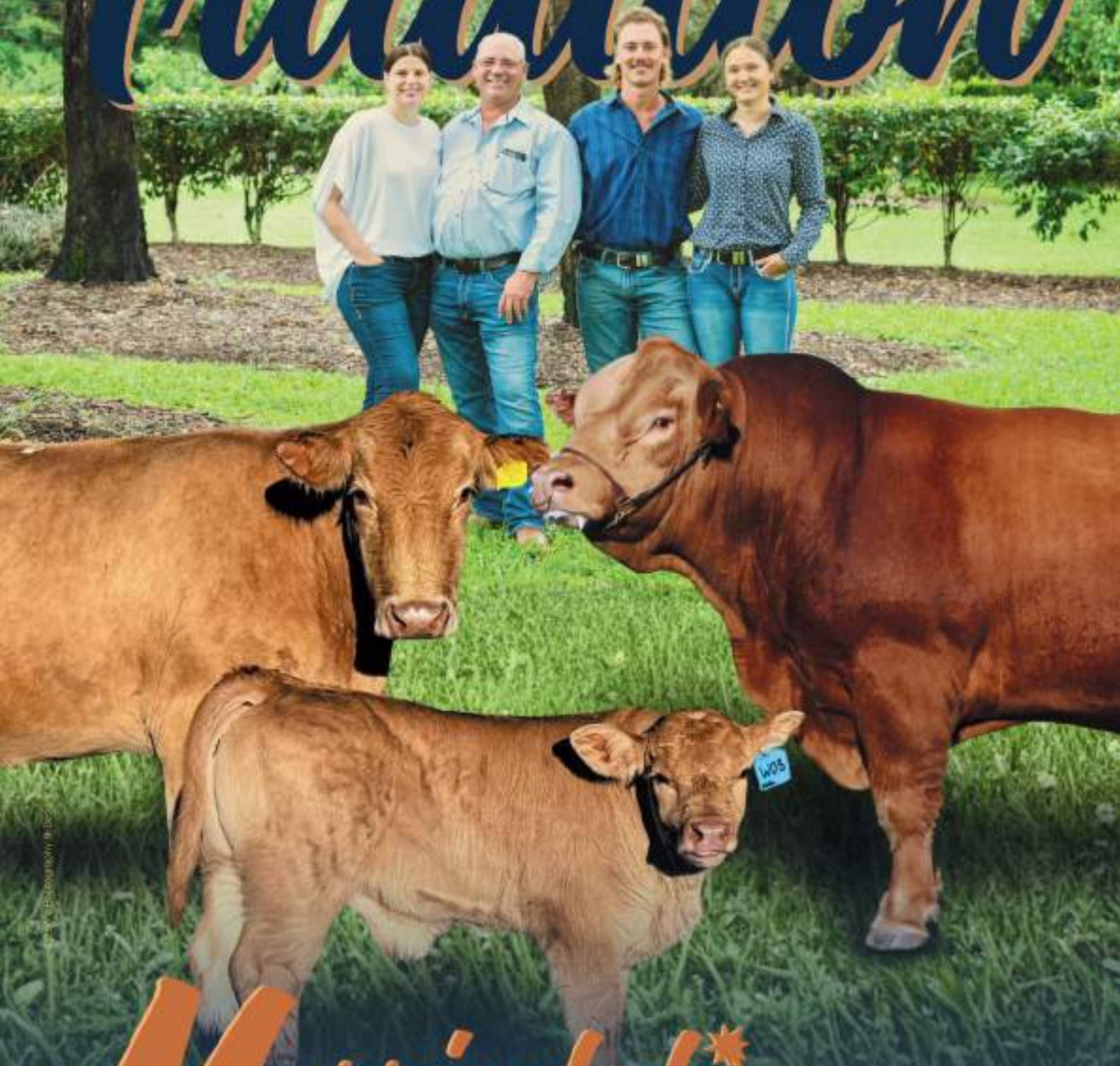
Sarah Van Schothorst



30+ YEARS & 4 GENERATIONS OF BREEDING GELBVIEWHS & GELBRAHS

PERFORMANCE BACKED BY

Tradition



Merrindale
GELBVIEH

Brian & Jasmin Kaddatz
0429 821 593
merrindalegelbvieh@gmail.com
Merrindale Gelbvieh

BREEDING THE ULTIMATE COW

By Ruth Schwager
(originally published in 'The Land')

A stud-like approach to genetic selection and performance recording is helping the Tongue family breed the ultimate female.

Philip and Belinda Tongue, with their daughter Sophie, are using Angus in the breed mix for their large operation at Llanillo, Nundle.

They're currently running about 1400 head of cattle over 2225 hectares, with about 800 breeding cows.

The herd began with a Hereford base, with the family using Angus bulls to produce black baldie cows.

Over the past 18 months, they've used Gelbvieh blood to produce a three-way crossbred female.



"We have the first lot of Gelbvieh-cross heifers calving at the moment," Mr Tongue said.

"Our carcase data shows that we're picking up an extra 1 per cent in yield over the hook with that cross, so

it's giving us a little bit of extra hybrid vigour. We're trying to breed the ultimate cow, with good temperament, mothering and milking ability, and fertility."

All three breeds are integral to the family's breeding objectives.

"We like the black baldie females as mothers, but if we kept going with Angus,

we'd dilute the Hereford side of it, and we're trying to keep the frame of a Hereford that we've built up," Mr Tongue said.

"The Gelbvieh is the closest thing we've got to a Hereford mother frame-wise, and for temperament, milking and doability."

The breed mix has certainly led to increased weight gain.

"Twenty years ago, we were producing a similar product fattened on pasture, getting to 220 kilograms carcase weight, and at the moment we're targeting 280kg," Mr Tongue said.

"We've done that through crossbreeding and getting hybrid vigour, and that's the beauty of the baldies."

Gestation length, calving ease, and average birth-weight are the priorities in bull selection.

"We're putting the maximum pressure on younger heifers, so when we get them through the heifer stage, we

have a good, productive cow that's going to be low maintenance and highly fertile.

"We also look at the 200-day weight, milking ability and marble score, but it's not easy to get a carcase and the mother we want from our bulls."

"Our liveweight target is 500kg at 14 months..."

The Tongues source their Angus bulls from the Steinbeck family, XL Beef Angus, at Dungowan.

"We bought a son of Texas Iceman R725 (XL Beef Iceman T106, purchased for \$9000) last year, and figures-wise, he's as good as Iceman," Mr Tongue said.

In 2020, the family started an artificial insemination program for the maiden heifers using elite genetics.

They join 200 heifers each year and keep the best 140.

Among the bulls they've used are Millah Murrah Paratrooper P15, Baldrige Endeavor E477, Tehama Patriarch F028, Pine View Vezina J166 and Gelbvieh bull Weetalabah Phantom Menace.

"That's sped the whole system up, and now we're doing genomic testing in the females, to see whether the data we've collected correlates to the genomics," Mr Tongue said.

"We've collected a lot of data over the years – average daily weight gain, fertility, live calf, ease of calving and growth, and every calf has traceability with the mother, so we can see how she has performed as a mother, and how the calf has performed through the supply chain. We're still in a rebuilding phase after the drought, but we're not number-driven – we're just trying to get the cow that we want, so we're using all the tools we can to do that."

Maintaining fertility, even through dry times, has led to increased longevity in the herd.

Mr Tongue has a six-week joining period for his heifers and nine weeks for cows.

"The oldest cows we're pulling out now were born in 2013, so they've come through the drought, and reared a calf every year.

"Every breeder has to rear a live calf every year, otherwise they're culled out."

All steers (about 300) and cull heifers (about 100) are finished for the grass-fed supermarket trade, run in a 150ha rotational grazing system.

Improved pastures include fescues, ryegrass, brome grass and clovers.

"We oversow with oats and rye for winter to bulk them up, and we sow straight oats as well," Mr Tongue said.

"Our liveweight target is 500kg at 14 months, so we try to get a 1kg weight gain per day from when they're born.

"They're doing that now, but as the weather warms up, they'll go to 1.2kg."

The steers and heifers are on a 12-week rotation, moved to a different paddock each week, then the pasture is rested for 60 days.

"They're weighed regularly so we can measure the input and output of paddocks to work out what needs more seed or fertilising.

"One week's grazing pays for



the fertiliser and seed for that paddock, and each paddock will have three grazings before spring or early summer, and then we might have to supplement them through the hotter months with our lucerne silage."

The family aims to make 600 bales of lucerne and ryegrass silage each year.

"Then we've got the option to sell them to other grass-fed accredited backgrounders or fasteners, and there's a little bit of a premium there," Mr Tongue said.

"We were down to a third of our cows in 2020, so we've been buying in weaners to fatten them, but they're not grass-fed eligible because they have to be guaranteed vendor-bred cattle.

"Our own line of cattle is HGP-free, antibiotic-free and 100pc pasture-fed."

The pasture system is allowing the family to maximise returns for their cattle, but it's also good for drought preparation.

When the Tongues took over the property in 2018 they had a full herd and went straight into a drought.

After the drought broke, they bought the adjoining property in 2020 to set up the pasture system.

"With each drought you're always learning, so we have two years of hay in the shed, and in the past 12 months we've subdivided more paddocks and installed more water points with solar pumps," Mr Tongue said.

"We've got dams as well, but we're putting troughs in every paddock, because there's a 20pc weight gain advantage on reticulated water compared to dam water, and more when it gets really dry. We have the capacity to run 1000 cows quite comfortably and sell all weaners in one sale, but we're running fewer cows and maximising the value of each calf. But we still have flexibility with our markets, so when it gets dry, we can sell them earlier, as weaners, and use the pasture rotation for the cows."

KESTON HOLLMAN

By Gail Anderson



Sixteen year old Canadian Junior Gelbvieh Member, Keston Hollman, from Red Deer County, AB is in Grade 11 and plans to attend Olds College in a couple years for Agriculture. He believes "that the Gelbvieh breed has a lot of maternal traits, offers docility, and fertility with adequate growth and average daily gains, but most importantly they crossbreed really well!"

When asked what words of wisdom he could give to other junior members he shared:

"Don't ever stop chasing your dreams, make the biggest statement you can for yourself."

"Cattle will never win with their heads down, neither will you!"

Keston had a dream, so now lets follow that dream!

April 8, 2023, RWG Goodnight L415 was born. Sired by JRI Where's the Beef 307H40 with RWG Goodnight E419 on the dam side, she was born to standout. By June, before cattle even hit pastures, Keston chose her from his parents, Rod and Tanya's, herd for his 4-H project. That commitment later led to his

part ownership and beginning of an amazing show career for Goodnight L415, himself and Royal Western Gelbvieh. He has shown her right from the beginning with great success and his impeccable taste earned him and Goodnight L415 with heifer calf at side,

the coveted ORB Champion of the World 'Miss World 2025', as well as advancing to the 2nd round in the 2025 All Breeds World Supreme. This competition is a prestigious international virtual media-based livestock show which is judged by several experts from around the world. Breeders compete globally, showcasing their qualifying champion beef cattle in a conformation contest which celebrates breed excellence and superior genetics.

Before showing Goodnight

L415, Keston was no stranger to the showring as he has competed in many show rings through 4-H, multiple junior shows in multiple breeds, Farmfair and Agribition, winning many awards and banners throughout. Keston and Goodnight L415's show journey would have begun at Farmfair, and Agribition in 2023 then on to 4-H in 2024, followed by Canadian Junior

Gelbvieh Shows, Bashaw All Breeds and the big shows – FFI & CWA. She started her show career as Reserve Champion Junior Heifer Calf at the National Gelbvieh Show in 2023 at Farmfair, and Reserve Champion Gelbvieh in the BMO Junior Beef Extreme at Agribition. Keston also won Grand Champion Gelbvieh Female then with Kitty's Back as a bred heifer.

In the events at the Canadian National Junior



Gelbvieh Shows Keston was part of the Champion & Reserve Team Grooming Teams in 2023, 2024 and 2025. In Stetter in 2024, Goodnight L415 became Champion Bred Heifer and later set a record as the first bred heifer to win the Canadian National Junior Gelbvieh Show. She went on to become overall Grand Champion Purebred Female, this also qualified her for the All Breeds Beef Supreme in Bashaw and the Junior Supreme Quest at Farmfair. Keston also won the 2024 Percentage/Balancer Champion Bred Heifer.

In the big shows, Goodnight L415 as a bred heifer really

shone in 2024! At Farmfair she was National Champion Junior Bred Heifer and later became the Reserve National Champion Female overall, following behind his parents National Champion Female pair. At Agribition, in the Open Purebred Show, Goodnight was Reserve Purebred Yearling Heifer, followed by Champion Yearling Gelbvieh Female in the BMO Junior Beef Extreme.

In 2025, at the Junior Show in Swift Current, Goodnight was Reserve Champion 2-year old Cow/Calf Pair. It was a good day for Keston, as he also won



Reserve Champion Bred Heifer and the 2-year old Goodnight L415 later hanging the Reserve Grand Champion Female honors.

At Farmfair in 2025, Goodnight L415 was Reserve Champion Gelbvieh Female in the open show with her calf at side, and later in the week, was given the honors of Grand Champion 2 year old Female in a competitive class of top end pairs at the Farmfair Junior Show. Agribition was the real ground breaker though, as she was crowned National Grand Champion Gelbvieh Female- thus, opening her door to the CWA Beef Supreme ring. She was the

4th Royal Western Gelbvieh female in a row to compete in the CWA Supreme!

Agribition's Beef Supreme is an elite multi-breed competition which is judged by a panel of 5 judges. Grand and Supreme Champions from major livestock shows throughout the year and across North America are invited to join Agribition's Grand Champion Bulls and Females to compete in this spectacular event. In Keston's words,

"It felt like a whole new world leading my cow into that ring. Standing beside and competing against all the other high-end cattle and champions from all the other shows and breeds. I was nervous for sure, but I was excited to have the opportunity to show off my hard work and part of my breeding program. All Goodnight and I needed to do was make a statement out there."

Both Keston's brothers share similar passions, successes and dreams as well. His older brother Wacey (one of our 2025 Junior Scholarship recipients) won the Grand Champion Gelbvieh Female in the 2025 BMO Junior Extreme this year with a bred heifer. His younger brother Chayse owns, in partnership, the CWA Grand

Champion from 2023 and also entered the CWA Supreme ring, and she is the leading donor at RWG with embryos in 3 countries. All three of these young men and their achievements and dreams definitely provide inspiration for our CJGA members.

Keston was recently asked to attend and compete in the 2026 Cattlemen's Congress National Gelbvieh and Balancer Bull and Open Female Show in Oklahoma City in January. He just added to his herd by purchasing a stunning black Balancer Female GHGF Nikia 200N from Green Hills Gelbvieh in North Carolina! Nikia, sired by GHGF Man O'War F825 and her Dam GHGF Two Step, was chosen from the Green Hills Gelbvieh sale catalog. In the Open Winter Heifer Calf Division they placed 2nd in a large, incredibly strong class of 9 females. Let's anticipate seeing this beauty in 2026 at the Junior Gelbvieh Show, Farmfair and Agribition.

When asked about the future of the Gelbvieh breed, Keston's comment is:

"To be successful in the beef industry, breeders need to stop worrying about being the best in the Gelbvieh breed and focus on being competitive in the beef industry!"



QUEENS of the HERD

Gelbvieh continues to wear the crown of maternal excellence.

Spring bull sale season has arrived and sale catalogs continue to fill the mailbox daily. As you flip through each new catalog that arrives in your mailbox, you will see everyone's favorite sayings in their footnotes, "She's the front pasture kind" or "She's destined for the donor pen." While these sayings ring true, shouldn't beef producers raise every female with the goal to make it to the front pasture or donor pen?

While not every female can make it to the donor pen, every replacement female can make it to the pasture whether it's the front pasture or the back pasture, every female needs to be producing to her maximum ability. The Gelbvieh female does just that. Whatever pasture she calls home, in any environment or zip code, she continues to excel in maternal ability, and the data continues to prove it.

The United States Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) located in Clay Center, Nebraska, is the home of the historic Germplasm Evaluation Project that has contributed data to the beef industry for more than 50 years. This project is designed to compare genetic change across beef breeds and their crosses, which allows producers to make the best genetic selection decisions in crossbreeding systems. The research goals are to identify complimentary breed utilization for traits that impact producer efficiency and cater to consumer preference, sustainability, and marketability.

USMARC Progress Report No. 22 data shows Gelbvieh females have the smallest mature cow size of the four major continental breeds. The Gelbvieh breed was the only breed in the study to reduce mature cow size – at an average of 1,382 pounds Gelbvieh-sired females had the lowest five-year-old cow weight. This reduced mature cow-size allows for puberty to be reached at an earlier age, which leads to calving earlier in the season and producing a heavier calf at a younger age.

Gelbvieh females are the smallest mature cows however, their decreased size does not negatively influence their maternal influence, it continues to improve their efficiency and makes them the picture of sustainability. Growth in your calf crop



begins with the Gelbvieh female and the latest USMARC research proves this fact even more.

USMARC just released new research regarding breed-specific heterosis for growth and carcass traits in 18 United States cattle breeds, and Gelbvieh-sired females were the only *Bos taurus* females with a maternal weaning weight advantage. The data revealed that Gelbvieh-influenced females had a maternal weaning weight advantage of 22.7 pounds. This increase in weaning weight is thought to be the result of maternal milking ability in Gelbvieh females as Gelbvieh is in the top two breeds for average maternal milk.

In today's market, the increased 22.7 pounds of weaning weight has a significant impact on the beef producer's bottom line. At a market price of \$4.50 per pound on five-weight steers with a 22.7 pound weaning weight advantage, the Gelbvieh influence would equate to an additional \$102.15 revenue per head. On a group of 100 steers, Gelbvieh-influenced females would generate \$10,215 in additional calf crop revenue. Gelbvieh-influenced cowherds generate more pay weight which is more profit for the producer. Gelbvieh genetics grow more than just weaning weights, they grow your profitability.

The USMARC research projects continue to prove that Gelbvieh females are the queens of the herd and wear the crown of maternal excellence with honor. Gelbvieh females have the genetic capability to be the next donor dam and front pasture cow, but they really deserve to be the foundation females of the entire United States cowherd as Gelbvieh is the maternal breed of choice.

By Megan Underwood

Communications Coordinator
American Gelbvieh Association



DISCOVER THE ONLINE SUPPORT HUB



Farming is both rewarding and challenging, with unique pressures tied to the seasons and unexpected events like natural disasters.

The National Centre for Farmer Health's Support Hub is here to help.

Find a range of mental health resources, support and practical tools, to help farmers navigate tough times, manage wellbeing, and stay resilient through challenges.

This is not a crisis support page. If you, or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 000 immediately.

Take care of yourself and your mates – explore the hub today

farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub

What you'll find in the hub

- Mental health support – Know who to call when you need it
- Practical tools and resources to improve your wellbeing

Why use the support hub?

- Explore the national support and resources available, as well as state-specific information
- Access free, and easy to use tools at any time
- Prepare for the challenges of the farming calendar or recover from extreme events



Funded through the Victorian Government's Farming Safe and Well Program





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**Semen Packages for Top
Magnum sons Available
\$50- 100 per straw
Min=20 straws**

SIRE Summit Magnum R037



DAM Summit Shanie R008



Summit Elvis V100

Born 1/5/2024

Pictured at 21mths 800kg with only 5 weeks intensive feeding

Standout bull in our 60 rising 2yo bulls

Hard to imagine a more prospective modern Gelbvieh with perfect structure and feet. DAM is one of the best cows in our herd Summit Shania and SIRE is Summit Magnum who is a once in a generational sire

**Clare King 0407 532 010
Alexandra Riggall 0409 532 011**

**email: admin@rpuhandco.com.au
website: www.summitgelbvieh.com.au**

find us on  

EKKA 2025

Gelbvieh Excellence on Show

The 2025 Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) once again showcased the strength, consistency and growing profile of Gelbvieh cattle in Queensland, with a competitive lineup of exhibitors presenting animals of outstanding quality. From the junior classes through to the senior championships, the Gelbvieh ring reflected careful breeding decisions, sound structure and strong commercial relevance—qualities that continue to define the breed.

The junior classes set a high standard, with Crosshill Miss Calista V6 claiming Junior Champion Heifer honours, while Weetalabah Vector impressed judges to take Junior Champion Bull before going on to be crowned Grand Champion Bull—a significant achievement for such a young animal. In the senior female classes, Midas Emm T043 stood out, securing Senior Champion Cow or Heifer and ultimately the title of Grand Champion Cow or Heifer, highlighting the depth and consistency of the Midas breeding program.

With strong results across multiple classes, Chris Braithwaite of Midas Gelbvieh was named Most Successful Exhibitor, a fitting recognition of a stud that featured prominently throughout the show. The 2025 Ekka Gelbvieh results not only celebrated individual excellence but also reinforced the breed's momentum and the dedication of its exhibitors—ensuring Gelbvieh continues to hold a respected place on one of Australia's biggest show stages.



Photo: Grand Champion Bull

2025 GRAND CHAMPIONS



GRAND CHAMPION COW OR HEIFER
Midas Emm TO43, MGCT043



GRAND CHAMPION BULL
Weetalabah Vector, WBHV033



MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR
Chris Braithwaite - Midas Gelbvieh

2025 ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW RESULTS

JUNIOR HEIFER

Class 172: Heifer – 12 months and under 16 months

- 1st Crosshill Miss Calista V6, FJXV006
- 2nd AH Gelbvieh Stud Veronica, AHSV001
- 3rd Merrindale Vera, KF5V476

Class 173: Heifer – 16 months and under 20 months

- 1st Midas Yeletta V004, MGCV004

JUNIOR CHAMPION HEIFER

Crosshill Miss Calista V6, FJXV006

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION HEIFER

AH Gelbvieh Stud Veronica, AHSV001

JUNIOR BULL

Class 174: Bull – 8 months and under 12 months

- 1st Weetalabah Vector, WBHV033
- 2nd Merrindale Veteran, KF5V480

Class 175: Bull – 12 months and under 16 months

- 1st Midas V013, MGCV013
- 2nd Crosshill Valentino V10, FJXV010
- 3rd Merrindale Victor, KF5V474

JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL

Weetalabah Vector, WBHV033

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL

Midas V013, MGCV013

SENIOR COW OR HEIFER

Class 177: Heifer – 20 months and under 24 months

- 1st Midas Windlass U022, MGCU022
- 2nd Midas Zena U028, MGCU028

Class 179: Cow – 30 months and under 60 months

- 1st Midas Emm TO43, MGCT043
- 2nd AH Gelbvieh Stud True Lady, AHST001

SENIOR CHAMPION COW OR HEIFER

Midas Emm TO43, MGCT043

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION COW OR HEIFER

AH Gelbvieh Stud True Lady, AHST001

SENIOR BULL

Class 180: Bull – 20 months and under 24 months

- 1st Merrindale Ulrick, KF5U212

Class 182: Bull – 30 months and under 42 months

- 1st Midas T036, MGCPT036

SENIOR CHAMPION BULL

Midas T036, MGCPT036

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BULL

Merrindale Ulrick, KF5U212



Photo: Senior Champion Bull



CMR **SUNSHINE** 94D



RWG **KITTYS GLOW** 9423 ET



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FROM GOLD TO BLACK

I am passionate about producing great cattle and my partner and I ran a large Gelbvieh herd here in 1990 on the granite rich country of the Bega Valley on the south coast of NSW. Our original Gelbvieh genetics came from Eureka Park and Clarkes Hill. We bred our own herd of purebreds from these original lines and currently run 100 breeders. I am building a productive and resilient herd of beef cattle by combining genetics with balanced nutrition to produce high quality steers and replacement heifers.

We introduced Angus genetics into our herd some 10 years ago due to the market premium of the breed. We started with Sim Angus bulls with wonderful results and then transitioned to pure Angus bulls. I am now up to my third and fourth generation of Angus/Gelbvieh cross females which I run alongside some full blood Angus and Gelbvieh cows and heifers.

I have been left a lovely legacy from my Gelbvieh cows and their influence is coming through in the Angus cross genetics especially in their milk production, mothering ability, temperament and frame. I use a combination of visual assessment, estimated breeding values and specific family lines to guide my decisions. I have been sourcing bulls from all over NSW to introduce a quality outcross to the herd. To me, temperament is number one, and I look for bulls with low birth weight for ease of calving in our heifers but also with high growth particularly at 400 and 600 days, with curve benders if you can get them, but

still with good milk and maternal traits which is extremely important for our herd.

I have a background in show horses as well as cattle and

grew up on a large farm in the north west of NSW. I have a long standing interest in pedigrees and I also place a strong emphasis on the maternal side when selecting sires. I think a lot of people overlook the genetics of the dams of the bull, but they are very important especially when you are retaining heifers.

Our heifers are joined in July for 10 weeks to start calving from late April onwards, about 4 weeks ahead of the cow herd. This gives the heifers a better chance to be looked after and by the time spring arrives they've already got a calf on the ground and can take advantage of the growing feed.

I also prefer to calve heifers at around 28 months of age giving them an extra few months of growth and maturity before their first calving.

The herd is pregnancy tested annually with long term conception rates averaging out at about 98 per cent across both the cows and heifers, a result that I believe has been positively influenced by the Gelbvieh genetics. I aim to turn off the steer portion of the calves in the following March with an average weight of 360-400 kilograms. Our farm is accredited through the Greenham's "Never Ever" grass fed quality assurance program and I have worked very hard to establish good relationships with backgrounders and am now selling most of our steers and stock privately.

Being a part of the "Never Ever" program has been great for us, it has given us a clear market to focus on and really pushed us to breed cattle that fit the program requirements.

Sheridan Zuev 2023 with herd





Some of our steers are going to long term buyers in Victoria and get grown out to supply a 24 month milk tooth grass fed program. Our cattle are bred to fit into all markets including feed lot programs.

You also have to think outside of the box during dry times to ensure that you keep the cattle growing while still meeting specifications. Winter presents the biggest nutritional challenge with a feed gap occurring in August and September, where depending on the season the cattle are supplemented with

and we have been steadily working to renew our fencing and renovate our pastures. Our mix includes rye grass, clover, prairie grass, plantain and chicory alongside the established kikuyu. I have a growing interest in regenerative farming and I have started to use fish emulsion as a pasture conditioner but regular fertiliser and lime applications remain essential.

Gelbvieh females will always be an integral part of my female herd and the Gelbvieh breed and genetics have really helped me achieve the quality herd we have today. We were recently very fortunate to obtain some Gelbvieh females from Shirley Trenery at Balgowan Gold Stud in Victoria. Even after 6 generations of cross breeding the Gelbvieh traits remain strong. Gold to Black has worked for us.

By Sheridan Zuev

lucerne hay or pre grain export oaten hay in its milk stage, salt, mineral mix and Copra meal.

After the steers are sold we turn our attention to yard weaning the heifer portion and carefully select our replacement breeders. I usually select based on genetics and follow proven family lines. Temperament, frame, capacity and volume are my go to traits when choosing which heifers to keep. I attend all possible training opportunities and firmly believe that you can never stop learning.

We were fairly hard hit in the fires in late 2019 which were followed by a wet season and then several dry years



What we like to keep -
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A TORTUROUS JOURNEY

to green sprouts and happy bulls & weaners



By Brice Kaddatz

Mid 2018. A 30-acre home block and 20 or so cows on agistment. Our attention was drawn to the potential of sprouting grain as a viable and cost-effective stock food. We followed this up, and enquiries



directed us toward a redesigned sprouting unit which offered multiple advantages over the earlier developed designs. While the early units did the job, the time taken to unload finished sprouts, clean, and reload the unit with grain was not an attractive proposition. Along the way, we were informed about a modernised and redesigned unit developed in Toowoomba by Ausprout.

We visited the Ausprout plant in Toowoomba in early 2019. The visit revealed a unit that was indeed a big improvement on the early designs, replacing wire baskets and shelves with high-grade stainless steel shelving, which allowed for much easier grain loading, finished sprout removal and cleaning. We also went to see the sprouts fed out, and it was simple and effective, with cattle very keen to consume the goodies.

So, based on what we had seen, we decided to proceed. It was a

large investment for us at \$50k, much larger than we had ever previously invested, but it was much cheaper than buying more land. The order was placed and a deposit paid in August 2019. Not to bore readers with the

gory details, but sadly (for us and others) the wheels fell off the Ausprout company despite its initial positive intentions. To cut a long story short, we took delivery of a half-finished unit in August 2021. We were not happy campers, but the alternative was to receive nothing at all.

Considerable investment was going to be required to finish the machine—around \$15k plus. I had a fortunate connection with Keba Engineering in Gympie at that time, and we are forever grateful for the support they provided to help get the machine finished. Along with that, Brian looked at what was needed for lighting and the irrigation system. He did a great job pulling it all together over a two-year period as finance became available.

We purchased the first grain (barley) direct from the Darling Downs in July 2023. This proved successful despite teething problems, and Brian and Jasmine venturing off to Canada as a very severe drought took hold in the area. We hold the view that had it

not been for the sprouts, stock losses would have been much greater. Once the travellers returned home, the teething problems were addressed, and in April 2024 we switched from barley to wheat, which has proven to be cleaner to handle, shows a good sprouting percentage, and is more readily available.

The machine is producing approximately 30 biscuits (300 kg) of green sprouts daily from about 60 kg of wheat seed. The system has been further enhanced with the purchase of a mixer, allowing the sprouts to be combined with grassy hay and minerals for improved efficiency. Originally fitted with a standard air-conditioning unit for temperature control, it quickly became apparent that this was not sufficient over extended periods, and it was replaced with a fit-for-purpose refrigeration unit.

Along the way, Best Farming™ Ag & Fulvic Plus has been added to the irrigation water in minuscule quantities, which has shown to improve sprout growth. Cleaning of the internals of the machine has also been enhanced through the use of vinegar. Shelves are sprayed every day

after cleaning, and the whole inside of the machine—which is constantly wet—is also treated from time to time. The unit, process and overall effectiveness are all positive these days.



FEATURED BREEDER: GLENDALE GELBVIEH

Each edition, Australian Gelbvieh Magazine will feature a dedicated breeder who is helping shape the future of the Gelbvieh breed in Australia. Through these interviews, we aim to highlight the passion, experience, and innovation driving Gelbvieh genetics across the country. From seasoned studs to new entrants, every breeder brings a unique perspective to the industry. This year, we spoke with Michele Fleming from Glendale Gelbvieh and Red Angus Stud about her journey, vision, and commitment to promoting Gelbvieh cattle.

Where Did It All Start?

I was born into breeding animals. As a child, we had a dairy farm, so I always loved the cattle and enjoyed following their breeding and progress within the herd. When our dairy milk quota finished, we introduced a beef bull to the herd — starting with a Hereford and then moving to a Simmental bull.



The Gelbvieh story began around 1991. At the time, I was breeding and showing dairy goats, and Mum would come along to look after the (human) kids while I was at shows. It was during this time that Mum sighted Gelbvieh cattle. From that point, we decided to look further into the breed.

The stud was established by Viv and Muriel Vinicombe and myself, Michele Fleming. We were drawn to the breed's solid colour, temperament, muscling, milking ability, exceptional mothering ability and early puberty, which allows for easy breeding and calving by two years of age. We also appreciated how Gelbvieh consistently complement other breeds in crossbreeding programs.

At that time, Gelbvieh were not easily obtained. We began with a recipient cow carrying an embryo, which resulted in a bull — our first commercial bull — who was used over both stud and commercial cows. We were then able to purchase three females from Double Bar Stud: Double Bar Robin (a Sherman Tank female), Double Bar Sarah (a Polled Hockeye female) and Double Bar Treasure (a Goldstar 4W female). All three females still have descendants in the herd today, although Robin's biggest contribution came through her son, Glendale Taurus Star.

Glendale Taurus Star was Grand Champion Calf at the World Gelbvieh Conference held



in Sydney at the Royal Easter Show in 1999. He went on to be named Junior Champion All Breeds Bull as a two-year-old in Perth in 2000.

Sarah's most famous daughter was Glendale Unicorn, who also claimed many breed championships and produced 15 calves, last calving in 2016 at 17 years of age. Many outstanding descendants from this line continue to produce strongly within our herd today.

Treasure was Champion Heifer Calf at the World Conference in Sydney. She produced 13 calves, including two standout females — the Finesse line and the Candy line — with many of their progeny still performing well today.

In the early years, we also selected an outstanding Murray Grey female to grade up from. This line is now purebred and known within our herd as the Roxy and Black Husk families — very sound and structurally correct females.

Over the past 10 to 12 years, we have introduced various imported embryos, both male and female, along with semen, with more to come.

Our Gelbvieh herd has evolved significantly in type compared to where the breed began — becoming far more commercially relevant. We adopted BREEDPLAN in the early years and continue to utilise EBVs and 100K genomic testing, along with recording birth weight, 200-day, 400-day and 600-day weights, and scanning for EMA, IMF and rib and P8 (rump) fat.

Some standout animals over the years include Glendale Unicorn, Glendale Taurus Star, Glendale Candy, Glendale Finesse and Glendale Black Husk — all of whom have established strong family lines within the herd. Among imported lines, Glendale Maple M5 and Glendale Gayle Q5 have been influential. Semen from V V Zake has also made a significant impact, stamping his

progeny with thickness, body depth and excellent temperament.

Advice to producers?

Don't hold back — make the change. Gelbvieh offer outstanding temperament, muscling, adaptability, moderate birth weights, fertility and exceptional mothering ability. They have so much to add to any

operation. In British-bred herds, they help reduce excess fat while adding muscle in both male and female progeny. They are highly suitable for

the feeder market, and the females develop into outstanding mothers. We have seen producers previously penalised for excess fat completely turn this around with Gelbvieh infusion, gaining muscling and improving market suitability.

Interest in the breed continues to grow steadily. Feedback consistently highlights their ability to produce a heavy-bodied animal that is not overly fat, with strong

fertility and the capacity to raise an excellent calf. There is solid and steady interest in both male and female animals, and the future for Gelbvieh remains very positive.



By Michele Fleming



BEYOND THE BOUNDARY FENCE

Checking in on Farmer Wellbeing

There's a certain peace that comes from standing at a boundary fence, looking out across a paddock at first light. The hum of insects waking, the low call of cattle, the sense of routine and purpose stitched into the land itself. For many farmers, that quiet moment is the calm before a day of long hours, unpredictable conditions, rising costs, and responsibilities that don't clock off when the sun goes down.

In recent years, the weight carried by farmers has grown heavier. The seasons have become more extreme. Droughts, fires, and floods now feel less like rare events and more like chapters in an ongoing cycle of recovery. Add to that market pressures, biosecurity threats, labour shortages, and the emotional toll of caring for livestock through it all, and it's no wonder the load on farmer wellbeing has never been greater.

Yet despite all this, many farmers still feel that talking about mental health is something best kept tucked away—behind the shed, behind a joke, behind the belief that "it's just what we do." But if we've learned anything in the last decade, it's that mental health is every bit as important as herd health, soil health, and business health. And just like anything else on the farm, it needs regular checks,

attention, and the right tools to keep it in good shape.

The Hidden Pressure Points on the Land Farmers are known for their resilience. But resilience doesn't mean being untouched by hardship; it means finding ways to withstand it. The trouble is, when pressures stack up without a break, even the toughest among us feel the strain.

Some of the biggest contributors include:

- **Isolation** — not just physical distance from others, but emotional distance that grows when stress builds and talking becomes harder.
- **Uncertainty** — weather, markets, animal health, finances... farmers constantly plan for variables they can't control.
- **Long hours and minimal downtime** — when the farm is also the home, work follows you everywhere.
- **Generational expectations** — the responsibility of continuing a family legacy can sit heavily on the shoulders.
- **Stigma** — the old belief that mental health struggles equal weakness still lingers, even if quietly.

None of these are failings. They are simply the realities of life on the land. And they're exactly why farmers need more support, not less.

Practical Ways Farmers Can Look After Themselves The idea of "self-care" can feel a bit foreign in rural life. It

doesn't always look like meditation or journalling (though it can). Often, it looks a lot more like the simple habits that help you stay steady through long seasons.

Here are a few practical tools that fit naturally into farm routines:

Take Micro-Breaks, Not Holidays

Most farmers laugh at the idea of disappearing for a week. But small breaks—a cup of tea on the veranda, five quiet minutes in the ute before starting the next job—can help reset the brain and body.

Talk While Doing

Conversations don't have to be formal. Some of the best check-ins happen:

- while driving between paddocks
- walking the fence line
- checking calves
- loading hay

Side-by-side conversations feel less confronting and more natural.

Notice the Small Signs Mental health changes often show up in subtle ways:

- changes in sleep
- irritability
- feeling constantly tired
- withdrawing from usual routines
- short fuse in the yards
- difficulty concentrating

These aren't character flaws—they're early warning signs, just like a limping heifer or a leaking trough.

Use the Tools Available

Telehealth appointments,

phone counselling, wellbeing apps, and online peer groups are now more accessible than ever, especially for people who can't simply duck into town. You don't have to struggle alone.

Set Boundaries Where Possible

Even small boundaries help:

- a daily knock-off time
- one night a week free of farm talk
- shared tasks to reduce individual load

A good boundary protects your energy so you can continue doing what you love.

How Partners and Families Can Help

Often, the people who notice changes first are the ones who live under the same roof. Supporting a loved one doesn't mean fixing their problems—it simply means standing beside them through it.

A few helpful approaches:

- **Pick the right time**
Important conversations go better during calm moments, not in the heat of stress.
- **Focus on concern, not criticism**
"I've noticed you seem exhausted lately and I'm worried about you," lands much better than "You're being grumpy."
- **Offer options**
"Would you like to talk to someone? I can help find numbers," reduces the overwhelm.
- **Encourage connection**
A chat with a mate or neighbour can make a world of difference.

And perhaps most importantly—partners shouldn't shoulder everything alone. They also deserve support.

Shifting the Culture on the Land The stigma around mental health is slowly

loosening, but it's still tangled in generations of "just get on with it." The truth is no one expects a farmer to shear their own sheep without proper tools or treat a sick cow without calling a vet. So why should looking after mental health be any different?

Normalising conversations doesn't mean oversharing. It means acknowledging that wellbeing matters, checking in on mates, and recognising that strong farmers aren't the ones who stay silent—they're the ones who seek help when needed.

Every time someone speaks openly, it gives others permission to do the same.

Looking Beyond the Fence

Farming is more than a job—it's a lifestyle built on passion, grit, and a deep connection to the land. But even the strongest foundations need upkeep. Looking after mental health isn't a sign of weakness; it's a sign of wisdom, leadership, and care for the people who keep Australian agriculture thriving.

So next time you're standing at the boundary fence, take a breath. Look out across the paddock that depends on you. And remember that your wellbeing matters

every bit as much as the work you do.

WHERE TO REACH OUT

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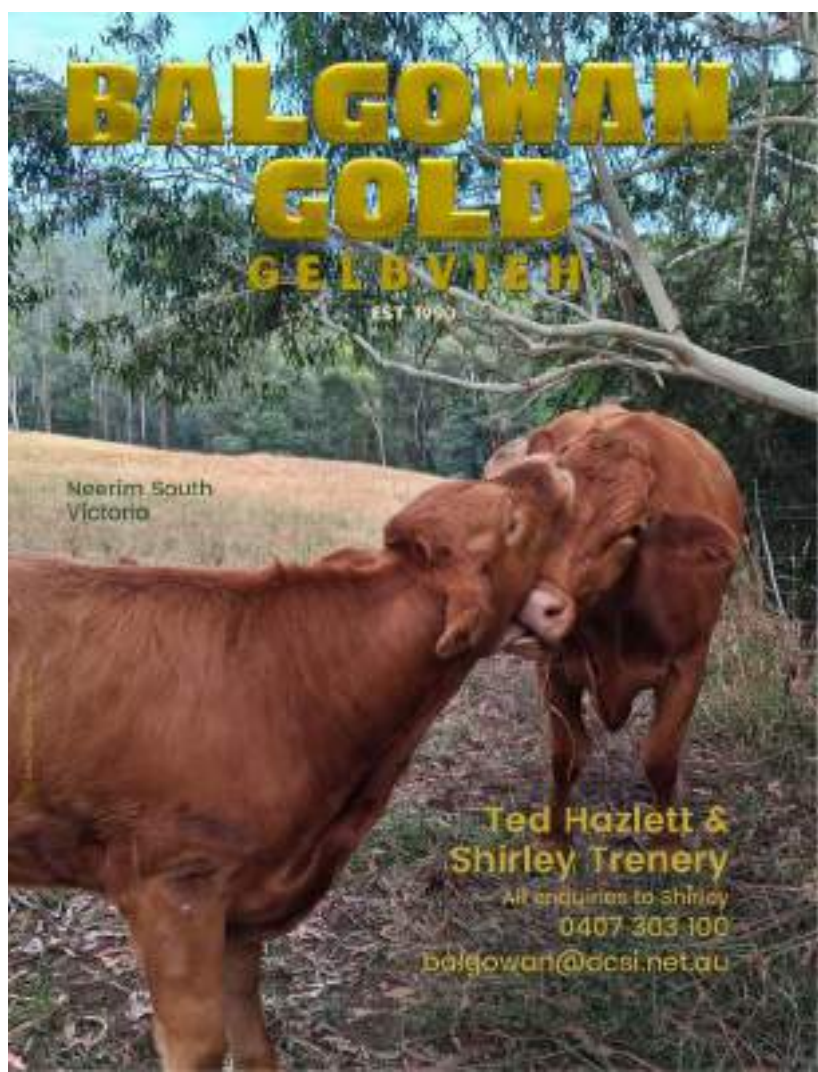
areyouboggledmate.com.au

Head to Health

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A single conversation can change the course of a tough season.

About the Author Anita Smith is a Registered Psychologist living and working in regional Queensland. She is passionate about supporting the mental health and wellbeing of farmers, rural families, and remote communities, and is committed to making conversations about wellbeing more accessible and less intimidating for people on the land.



UNDERSTANDING EXPECTED PROGENY DIFFERENCES (EPDs)

Making genetic progress with confidence in your Gelbvieh herd

For many new breeders, the catalogue page can feel overwhelming. Numbers, percentages, accuracies and indexes — it can look complicated at first glance. However, one of the most powerful tools available to Gelbvieh breeders is actually quite straightforward once you understand the basics: Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs).

If we want to continue strengthening the reputation of Gelbvieh Australia cattle for fertility, growth, carcase performance and maternal strength, then understanding EPDs is essential.

What Are EPDs? An Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) is a prediction. It estimates how a bull's (or cow's) calves are expected to perform compared to the breed average for a particular trait.

Put simply, EPDs tell us the genetic difference we can expect in the next generation.

They do not tell you how an individual animal will perform in your paddock. Instead, they estimate how that animal's calves are likely to perform, on average,

compared to the calves of another animal.

For example, if Bull A has a 200-day growth EPD of +20 kg and Bull B has +10 kg, then — on average — Bull A's calves are expected to be 10 kg heavier at 200 days than Bull B's calves, when joined to similar cows and run under similar conditions.

That's it. It's a comparison tool.



EPDs vs EBVs – Understanding the Terminology

Some breeders may be more familiar with Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs), which are used in some other beef breeds. EBVs and EPDs are both measures of genetic merit, and both are calculated using performance records, pedigree and related animal data. The difference is simply how the values are expressed.

An EBV estimates an animal's total genetic value for a trait,

while an EPD estimates the genetic difference you can expect in that animal's calves.

Because a calf receives half its genetics from each parent, an EPD is approximately half the value of an EBV for the same trait.

For example, a bull with an EBV of +40 kg for 200-day weight would have an EPD of around +20 kg. This means his calves are expected to be 20 kg heavier at 200 days, on average, compared to breed average.

Importantly, the ranking of animals does not change. A genetically superior bull remains superior — only the scale is different. EPDs are used by Gelbvieh breeders because they directly describe the expected performance of the next generation.

Why EPDs Matter Every mating decision shapes the future of your herd. While visual assessment remains important — structure, temperament and phenotype — genetics drive long-term progress.

EPDs help remove guesswork. They allow breeders to:

- Select bulls that improve growth without overdoing birth weight
- Strengthen maternal traits

such as milk and fertility

- Target carcase traits for specific market programs
- Balance multiple traits at once

Rather than breeding on hope, you are breeding with data.

Common Traits You'll See

While trait names may vary slightly, most breeders will regularly look at:

- **Birth Weight (BW)** – Important for calving ease
- **200, 400, 600 Day Growth** – Measures weight gain at different stages
- **Milk** – Indicates the maternal contribution of daughters
- **Scrotal Size** – Linked to fertility
- **Carcase traits** – Such as eye muscle area and marbling

Each EPD is expressed in the unit of that trait (kilograms, centimetres, etc.), making it practical and easy to interpret once you understand what you're comparing.

What About Accuracy?

Alongside each EPD is an accuracy figure. This tells you how confident we are in that estimate.

- Lower accuracy = more likely to change as more data is added
- Higher accuracy = more reliable prediction

Young bulls will naturally have lower accuracy because they have fewer recorded progeny. That doesn't mean they are poor choices — it simply means there is slightly more risk and more opportunity.

Using EPDs to Improve Your Gelbvieh Herd Genetic progress happens in small,

consistent steps. Here's how EPDs help:

Match genetics to your environment If you run cattle in a harsher environment, moderate birth weight and strong maternal traits may be priorities. If targeting feeder or export markets, growth and carcase traits may be more important. EPDs allow you to select animals suited to your production system — not someone else's.

Avoid single-trait selection Selecting purely for high growth can increase mature cow size and feed costs. Chasing extreme milk can raise nutritional demands. EPDs help you balance traits, keeping your herd functional and profitable.

Measure real progress Because EPDs are calculated within the breed, you can objectively measure whether your herd is improving over time — not just appearing to.

Reduce risk Buying a bull is a major investment. EPDs reduce the risk by providing objective genetic information rather than relying solely on visual appraisal.

EPDs Don't Replace Stockmanship It's important to remember that EPDs are a tool, not a replacement for good stock sense.

Structure, temperament, feet, udder quality and overall phenotype still matter. The most successful breeders combine:

- Sound visual assessment
- Performance data
- Clear breeding objectives

When used together, these tools accelerate progress.

The Bigger Picture Across the Australian Gelbvieh population, every recorded weight, scan and fertility record contributes to stronger, more accurate genetic predictions for everyone through the work of the Australian Gelbvieh Association and IGS International Genetic Solutions.

When breeders record data and use EPDs in their selection decisions, the entire breed benefits. Over time, this strengthens the market position of Gelbvieh cattle and reinforces their reputation for efficiency, maternal strength and performance.

Final Thoughts for New Breeders If you're new to the breed, don't be intimidated by the numbers. Start simple:

1. Decide what matters most in your production system
2. Compare bulls within those key traits
3. Aim for balance rather than extremes

Genetic improvement is not about chasing the highest number — it's about making consistent, informed decisions year after year.

Expected Progeny Differences give us the ability to shape the future of our herds with confidence. Used wisely, they are one of the most powerful tools available to Gelbvieh breeders — helping ensure that the next generation is better than the last.

MULTISPECIES PASTURE IN ACTION

Regenerative Farming at Schulz Organic Dairy

Across Australian agriculture, regenerative farming is moving from concept to practice, delivering tangible benefits for soil, livestock and farm viability. At Schulz Organic Dairy, a multispecies pasture system has become a cornerstone of their regenerative approach—one that aligns productivity with long-term land stewardship.

Why Regenerative Farming?

Regenerative farming is built on the principle that healthy soils underpin healthy farms. At Schulz Organic Dairy, this philosophy is evident in both management decisions and outcomes. Increasing pasture diversity has improved soil biology and soil organic matter, supporting carbon sequestration while also enhancing moisture retention—an important factor for climate resilience.

Diverse pastures provide habitat for beneficial predatory insects, helping to naturally manage pest pressure. Deeper-rooted plants access and unlock nutrients lower in the soil profile, improving overall nutrient cycling and pasture performance. For livestock, this translates to a more balanced and nutrient-rich diet, improved



animal health, and increased milk production per cow.

From a business perspective, greater self-sufficiency in feed production has reduced reliance on purchased feed, improving



profitability. The added bonus? Pastures so productive that farmers can choose whether to harvest them for silage or hay—or simply let the cows graze directly. This is regenerative agriculture in action: nourishing land, animals and community simultaneously.

The Power of Multispecies Mixes

Schulz Organic Dairy currently uses two pre-mixed multispecies blends—one for summer and one for winter. These mixes are the most cost-effective option at present, though custom blends may be considered in the future as the system evolves.

The summer mix includes a wide range of cereals, legumes, brassicas and perennials such as wheat, barley, oats, ryecorn, millet, sunflower, peas, vetch, faba beans, perennial ryegrass, chicory, plantain, turnips, tillage radish and multiple clover species.

The winter mix is similarly diverse, featuring oats, wheat, barley, field peas, triticale, ryecorn, faba beans, perennial ryegrass, vetch, clovers, brassicas, chicory, plantain and tillage radish.

This diversity is intentional. Each species plays a role—whether fixing nitrogen, improving soil structure, boosting biomass,

supporting grazing quality or extending the growing season.

Making the Transition to Regenerative Systems

The shift to regenerative farming at Schulz Organic Dairy has been underpinned by several key management changes:

- Low-tillage establishment of highly diverse multispecies pastures
- Longer grazing rotations, ranging from 45 to 60 days and extending to 120 days when conditions allow
- Establishment of native and exotic vegetation corridors, covering up to 10% of the farm, to support biodiversity and landscape function

These changes have been gradual but deliberate, allowing the system to build resilience over time.

The Role of the Soil Kee

A critical piece of equipment in this system is the Soil Kee—a modified rotary hoe fitted with a seed box. This machine oversows multispecies seed while only lightly disturbing the soil. It cultivates seven narrow strips, each 10 centimetres wide, evenly spaced across the three-metre working width.

The disturbed strips provide an ideal seedbed for new plants, while soil spilled over existing pasture delivers nutrients that stimulate growth of established species. As most species in the mix are annuals, this approach effectively functions as a minimum



annual pasture renovation program.

Now nearing the end of its third year, the program has come full circle, with previously sown areas being resown—this time on an angle to further enhance establishment and diversity.

Results That Speak for Themselves

Over the past two and a half years, dry matter production has been significantly higher than before the regenerative program began. Pastures are visibly healthier, and reliance on purchased feed has reduced markedly. These outcomes highlight how well-designed multispecies systems can deliver both ecological and economic benefits.

Learning and Sharing Knowledge

Schulz Organic Dairy draws inspiration and knowledge from resources such as *Soils for Life*, including their podcast discussions on multispecies systems. The organisation's website is a valuable resource for producers interested in soil health and regenerative practices.

For Gelbvieh breeders and beef producers alike, the lessons from Schulz Organic Dairy are highly transferable. While systems will vary between dairy and beef enterprises, the principles remain the same: diversity, soil cover, thoughtful grazing and a long-term view of land health.

Regenerative farming is not a single recipe—it is a mindset. And as this case study shows, when that mindset is applied with care and commitment, the rewards can be substantial.

ACROSS BORDERS and BLOODLINES

Back in 2020, I was fortunate to be the recipient of a travel bursary from the Australian Gelbvieh Association. The original plan was to travel

to New Zealand; however, due to the pandemic, those plans were put on hold. In 2025, I was finally able to take the trip of a lifetime, largely supported by two amazing breed societies,

one of them being the Australian Gelbvieh Association. This opportunity allowed me to travel to the United States and Canada, visiting Hereford and Gelbvieh studs throughout both countries.

I began my trip in Kansas at the World Hereford Conference, which was a fantastic way to start. One of the things I enjoyed most was talking to people and telling them I was from

Australia and that we also have Gelbvieh cattle. The response was always the same: "Oh yeah, we know that breed." I quickly learnt to say that I have *Gelbvieh's!*

Over two weeks, I travelled more than 4,500 kilometres, visiting breeders from Texas to Minnesota. I was incredibly fortunate to visit four outstanding studs in the United States. One of these was Judd Ranch, which is without doubt a hallmark of the Australian Gelbvieh industry—you can clearly see why. I then visited Circle S, a stud that truly caught my eye by combining my two passions,

Herefords and Gelbvieh's, through their trademark Gelford's. Within the Gelbvieh industry, it is very common to see a strong



Angus base and build from there. While Circle S still had some Angus influence, their cattle showed a much heavier Hereford influence, which really appealed to me.

From there, I headed north to Nebraska

and the Sandhills, where I visited Flying H and Warner Beef. It was exciting to see not only the difference in country type but also the variation in the cattle themselves. What stood out most was that both Warner Beef and Flying H view the Balancer as a true breed in its own right, rather than a

crossbreed, which is more commonly how it is seen in Australia.

While I spent a significant amount of time focused on the Hereford breed, another standout of the trip was the advancement in genomic testing. The cattle truly reflected what the data showed, highlighting the exciting future this

"I have Gelbvieh's!"



technology holds for the beef industry as a whole. In Iowa, I also visited Trans Ova, a leader in reproductive technologies, which demonstrated just how quickly the industry is evolving and reinforced that this is certainly a space worth watching.

After leaving the United States, I travelled to Canada, where I was able to visit my brother and attend Agribition, which absolutely lived up to the hype. I caught up with old friends at Twin View Livestock, Lonesome Dove, Davidson Gelbvieh and RWG, while also meeting new breeders and making valuable connections. While watching the Gelbvieh judging was a highlight, the most rewarding part of Agribition was seeing genetics we have used in our own stud thriving in other programs. Seeing those cattle perform so well overseas was incredibly affirming and reinforced the confidence we have in our breeding decisions. Overall, the trip highlighted the strength of the Gelbvieh breed on a global scale and the importance of the relationships and collaboration that continue to shape its future.

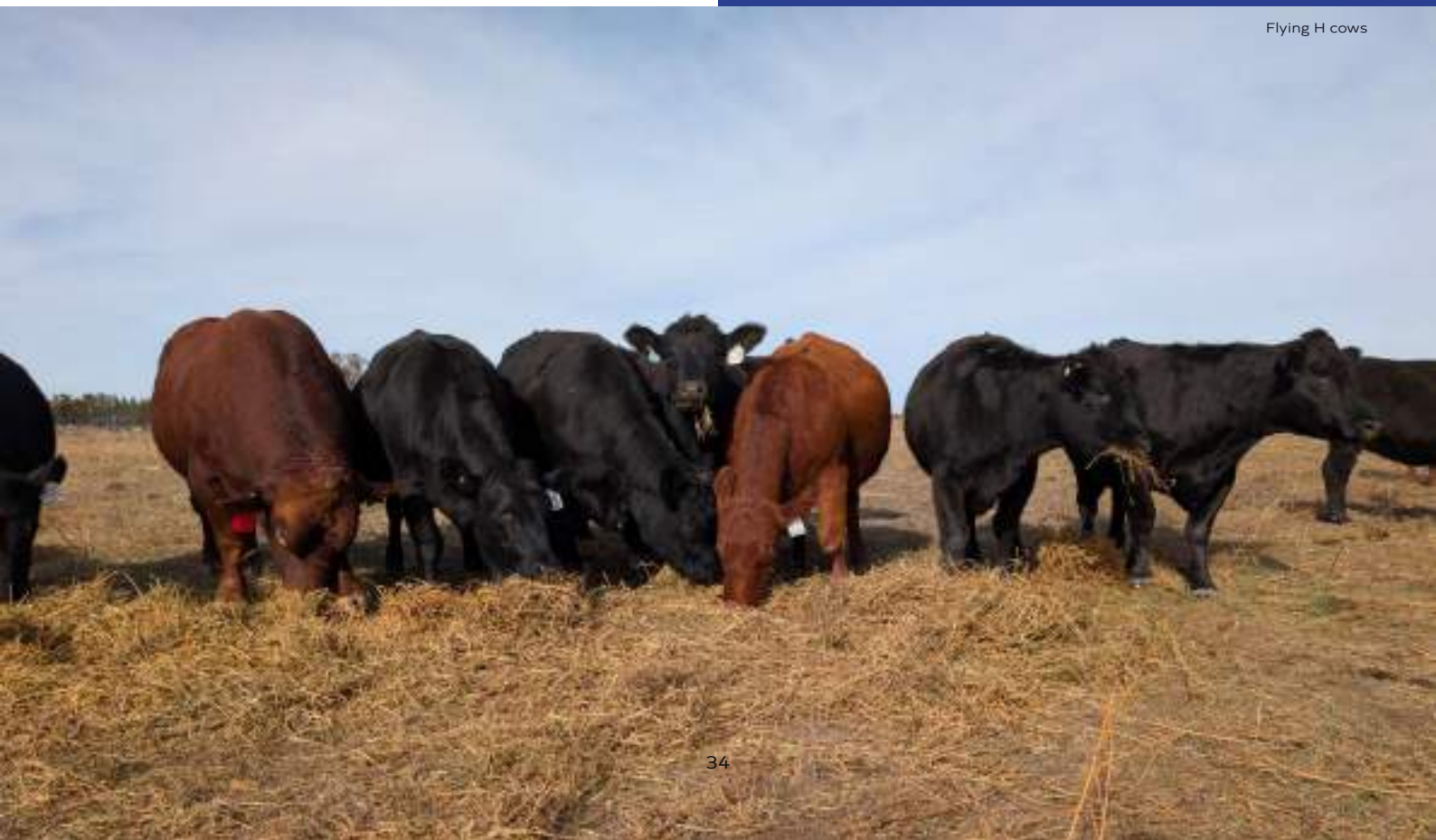
By Aleacea Nixon



Agribition



Judd Ranch standout



Flying H cows

SUMMIT GELBVIEH SUCCECSSL AT ALBANY SHOW 2025

The Albany Show is one of the last events on the WA show calendar, held in November 2025, and is also one of the biggest shows outside of the Perth Royal Show and Wagin Woolorama. Summit Gelbvieh, exhibited by the Pugh family, enjoyed a very successful Albany Show, taking home multiple broad ribbons.

In the European section, Summit Rayban S110 took out the Champion Senior European Bull sash, which earned him the opportunity to compete for the Interbreed Champion Senior Bull of the show. Rayban is an extremely long bull with an amazing temperament and good, easy-care characteristics. He was in excellent show condition despite being only recently out of the cows.

Also in the European section, Summit Maggie U56 (a



CHAMPION INTERBREED HEIFER
Summit Mango V130



WINNERS OF BREEDERS GROUP
Summit Gelbvieh

red Magnum first-calver) and her heifer calf, Summit Swift (sired by Hillsdown Finnegan), took out Champion Senior European Female, earning the right to compete in the interbreed competition, where she was narrowly pipped at the post.

Maggie's full sister, Summit Mango V130, also won a hotly contested Champion European Junior Female and later went on to win the Interbreed Junior Heifer of the show.

Summit Gelbvieh also won Champion Pair of Females and placed second in the Breeders Group of Three. Summit Swift was also awarded Champion Calf of the Show.

The Albany Show is always a highlight of the calendar and a wonderful opportunity to showcase quality Gelbvieh genetics with family.



CHAMPION SENIOR EUROPEAN BULL
Summit Rayban S110



CHAMPION SENIOR EUROPEAN FEMALE
Summit Wanda U01

By Alexandra Riggall



VALE: JEAN MCKENZIE

On February 6th our Gelbvieh family said it's worldly goodbyes to one of our early breed supporters, Jean McKenzie. Jean and husband Evan, instigated Jevana Gelbvieh Stud based at their Blackwater property "Tantallon"

In 1991 Jean & Evan were exposed to Gelbvieh cattle at Beef Australia 1991. That is where they met Brice & Fran Kaddatz

(Kadfam Gelbvieh & Braford Stud) and Charlie & Jean Borg (Fernandez Brahman Stud) McKenzies had focused on Simmental but Gelbvieh caught their eye. Soon after, Jean visited Kadfam Stud at Septimus, near Mackay, to look at the first Gelbvieh X Brahman calves on the ground to ET Gelbvieh sire Kadfam Adam.

It was not long and Gelbvieh took centre stage at Tantallon. Jean & Evan immersed themselves in the Breed. In 1997, Jean & Evan featured on the cover of the Gelbvieh News

Jean loved showing her cattle and took pride in having them presented as solid representatives of the breed. Like all stud masters, Jean had her favourites and we could never forget her favourite Bull. Jevana Reggie, who she did so enjoy parading. When Jean & Evan decided to retire $\frac{3}{4}$ of the herd was sold off to Michael Borg, Charlie's younger brother. Those females have bred on and Michael & Tracie sell commercial pure and Gelbrah bulls at their private sale each year. The balance of the herd was brought to Gympie and now resides at Cinnabar near Kilkivan under the stud name of Merrindale operated by Brian & Jasmin Kaddatz.

Jean was a most delightful and personable soul. She threw



herself into projects with total abandon and her skills in all forms of handicraft and art were legendary. Jean was born on 8 February 1949 and passed on 28 January 2026 after a battle with dementia over a couple of years. Jean was shamelessly in love with Evan, her children and Grandies and not forgetting her beloved Gelbvieh cattle.

Gelbvieh has precious memories of this lovely lady. Give ol' Reggie a scratch in heaven Jean.



Jean McKenzie 1949 - 2026

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