

Brahman F1 Steer Success in Sydney Royal Easter Show Beef Challenge

by Margareta TRAVERS

Brahman F1 steers with impressive weight gains and solid feedlot performances combined with successful taste test awards excelled in the Export section of the Sydney Royal Easter Show Beef Challenge.

Twenty-six pens of six steers representing many different British, European and Bos Indicus breeds were fed for 100 days at Wilga Feedlot situated near Bellata. NSW beef producers, Lincoln & Lisa Job, Marellan Shorthorns, Cumnock & Innes & Jessica Fahey, Bizzy Brahmans, Copmanhurst were awarded Reserve Champion Export Pen and 3rd overall respectively.

The Beef Challenge Competition assessed all sectors of the supply chain and a score was assigned to the following sections:

- Live Assessment 7.5%
- Feedlot Performance 30%
 - Average Daily Gain & Consistency
 - Dressing Percentage & Consistency
- Carcase Grid 15%
- Carcase Judging 20%
- Exhibitor Carcase Selection 2.5%
- Profitability 20%
- Taste Test 5%

The pen of six entered by Lincoln & Lisa Job were F1 steers sired by Brahman bulls out of Marellan Shorthorn cows. The 17-19 month old, all milk tooth steers were sired by NCC Vermont and Kandoona Ryan and



Marellan Shorthorns - Reserve Champion Export Pen of Steers - Brahman X Shorthorn.

were awarded Reserve Champion Export Pen. With an average Carcase weight of 357kg, they recorded an Average Daily Gain of 2.2kg per day which was the 2nd highest scoring pen in the export competition. In the individual steer results, Marellan gained 3rd place in the Profitability section out of 156 head.

Lincoln Job of Marellan Shorthorns said "we were extremely happy with the result. It just shows what a great combination the modern Brahman is with the right type of Shorthorn".

The cattle bred by Innes & Jessica Fahey were F1 steers out of Bizzy Brahman cows by Angus bulls. Their pen of six, with an average carcase weight of 375kg, were placed third overall – only 0.4 of a point behind the Job's Reserve Champion Pen. They also placed in a number of classes including third place in the Profitability section out of the twenty-six pens and achieved impressive individual steer performances with second highest Average Daily Gain (2.662kg/day – winner was 2.767kg), third in Dressing Percentage (57.72% - winner was 58.28%) and third in Feedlot Performance, out of 156 head.

Innes Fahey stated, 'these results demonstrate the advantages of the extra performance, growth & weight gained from the hybrid vigour that is achieved when using Brahmans to cross with British and European cattle. What is equally, or even more satisfying, is the fact that the sisters to these steers are very productive and

profitable as breeders and F1 supermum's at home in the paddock – displaying exceptional fertility, milking ability and the ability to thrive, produce and rear a good calf in whatever country and climatic conditions that they are running in'.

In addition to the successful feedlot performances, both teams, as well as another team of Brahman x Marellan steers, performed well in the Taste Test component of the Challenge. The taste testing took place at the RAS Grounds and was judged by two panels of three professional fine food judges. These judges included Ed Halmagyi ('Fast Ed'), Andrew Ballard, Lachlan Bowtell, Hugh Greenough, Damian Heads and Bob Retallick. Two pens of Brahman x Marellan Shorthorn steers received a Silver and Bronze Medal award and the Angus x Bizzy Brahman's were awarded a Bronze Medal.

"To be awarded a Silver Medal in the Taste Test with a Brahman X Shorthorn was magnificent. To have meat quality and feedlot performance is a profitable combination", Lincoln Job said.

It was great to see Brahman cross cattle performing well across a variety of sections within the competition.



I & J Fahey - 3rd place Overall Pen of Export Steers - Angus x Bizzy Brahman F1 Steers.

