



The big thing making a difference to the breed at the moment is the silver coat and its ability to avoid heat stress.

> - BRETT DAVIDSON, Mount Major, Yabba North

■ LEFT: Sarah Chaplin and Brett Davisdon, Mount Major Murray Greys, Yabba North, with their children Maise and Ted and their dog Shaza. The family will participate in Beef Week for the second year.

Murray Grey ◆ The stud: Mount Major, Yabba North ♦ The genetics: Dajory, Lindsay, Willalooka ◆ Gates open: Day 6 -Wednesday, February 1

By JAMIE-LEE OLDFIELD

OUNT Major Murray Greys is using the breed's known carcase traits as the foundation for its herd, with outstanding results.

The stud's herd sires all have estimated breeding values (EBVs) in the top one per cent of the breed, while the 2010drop of calves is in the top

Principals Brett Davidson and Sarah Chaplin have been using Breedplan since they founded their stud seven years ago and have now added carcase scanning and structural

Mr Davidson said this ensured his herd continued to increase in quality and therefore profitibility.

'We are focusing on highquality stock with an emphasis on low birth weights, high growth and outstanding intramusclar fat (IMF) traits," he said.

"Through the structural scoring and carcase scanning for Breedplan we are seeing an increase in growth, a lowering of birth weights and an increase in the intramuscular fat in our young stock.

"We recently had two calves that put on 1.6 kilograms a day for the first 200 days just off of grass and their mother, which is incredible.

Mr Davidson said EBVs played a large role in the stud and were

a good tool to help improve a herd over time.

They're basically the building blocks of going forward, and with our carcase trait EBVs being in front of other studs, hopefully we can develop a good client base and tailor-make bulls for people to improve their profitibilty and long-term viability," he said.

'We have four bulls in the top 100 for \$index values at the moment, which is starting to create interest in the stud.

"By having those figures it really helps a young stud starting out, especially when they are published online and through Breedplan.

"People get to know and hopefully see the carcase start to flow through clients and breeders, and then butchers and buyers will start targeting those animals.

Mr Davidson said on top of the Murray Grey's carcase quality, low birth weight and strong maternal instinct making easycare cattle, was their silver

"The big thing making a difference to the breed at the moment is the silver coat and its ability to avoid heat stress," he said.

"We have had strong interest from northern States and are getting inquires about providing large numbers of bulls to go up nortn.

"A few years ago, the Kidman Cattle Company bought the Willalooka Murray Grey Stud to breed silver Murray Grey bulls to go to all its properties because their carcase traits and quality could match it with Angus and they don't have the heat stress."

Mount Major Murray Greys, eight kilometres north of Dookie, is participating in Beef Week for the second year, after last year's event helped build new relationships with clients.

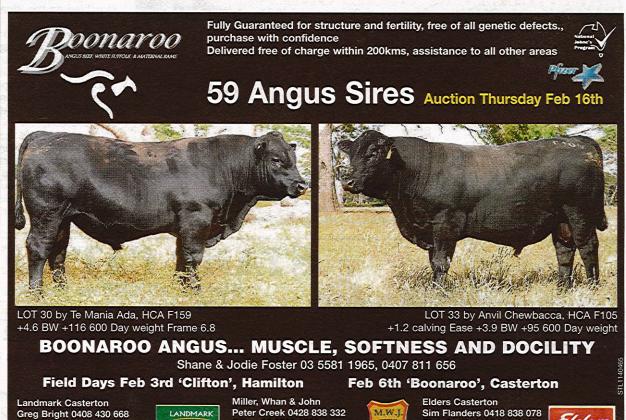
The stud will have bulls headed for the national sale, as well as herd sires, cows, calves and mated heifers on display.

Calves by the recently purchased Dajory Echuca, which was in the top three figures for his breed last year, will also be on display, as well as the bull

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Smart moves: Brett Davidson teaches stock breeders best handling practice at Bendigo National Beef last week.

Easy does it best

By GEMMA GADD

A HAPPY cow is a productive cow, says animal

"Stressed handlers create more work for themselves and make the only need to take one step themselves and make the themselves

Handling Workshop, produced and presented cation in livestock hand-

help handlers of all ages work with livestock animal rights groups.

Group, is based on animal behavioral science to through to the abattoir, was the best way to coun-

behaviour expert and stock man Brett Davidson.

work with livestock safely and efficiently.

safely and efficiently.

''It's as simple as knowing when you are in Davidson, who often

job harder, more dangerous and longer," he told
a group of 50 young
breeders at Bendigo
National Beef last week.

Mr. Davidson's Stock

Mr. Davidson's Stock with the North East Vic-toria Breed Promotion from the saleyards equally as important."