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The count down is on


The count down is on to the end of the year with Christmas fast approaching. This time of year provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on where we have been but most importantly, where we are headed. It has been an interesting year that has presented challenges to many of us - none the least of which being the weather and the cattle market.

Through the ups and downs, SPI remains committed to delivering on its strategic objectives into the future but cannot do this without the support of our members. SPI warmly encourages members to volunteer to join one of the sub-committees to help achieve these objectives for the benefit of the breed because **TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE.**

We wish all members a safe and enjoyable end to 2023 and look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM this Saturday, 4 November 2023.

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A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



Hi All,

As we move towards the end of the year and sale season, it goes without saying that the dry weather conditions are taking a toll on many farmers, graziers and through the yards. In turn we see the seedstock producer sale price average remaining significantly lower than 2022. Bulls are averaging higher than the females, yet the bull volumes are lower.

During challenging times an opportunity is created to refocus on profitability and consistency of quality. SPI's Technical Sub-Committee have been working on a Sire Selection Indexes since the beginning of the year and we are not far off releasing them. The index will assist commercial producers make sire selection across the

and we are not far off releasing them. The index will assist commercial producers make sire selections across the entire herdbook, based on the target market of the progeny. They reflect both the short-term profit generated by a sire through the sale of his progeny, and the longer-term profit generated by his daughters in a self-replacing cow herd. The initial indexes, aimed to be launched in December, will be:

- Export and Domestic Terminal (2 separate indexes)
- Export and Domestic Maternal (2 separate indexes)

Working with industry in the past months has been very energising. There is lots of enthusiasm towards Speckle Park cattle, and the carcass results are what is generating the most attention. We are so pleased for the entrants who showcased their steers for both Sydney RAS Easter Shows this year and the Ekka Brisbane Royal, as both winnings in the interbreed carcass competition continues to capture attention in the industry. The interest is now in a potential Multibreed Northern crossbred cattle program/trail, RBVs for MSA (future MSA EBV), university sample testing for meat tenderness (against the industry tender standards), sustainability metrics/traits measured and scored within a Sustainability Selection Index, etc. Additionally, we are endeavouring to seek grant funding to support a range of projects in early 2024.

It has been pleasing to see members take up the opportunity for receiving subsidies from participation in carcass competitions with the data being contributed to our Data Warehouse for marketing purposes. If you are interested in participating and want to know more, please email Heather, our Member Services Officer.

The Youth Education Day at Colinton Qld, at the exceptional Ivery Downs facility, went really well and the rich learning for both young and old was fabulous. Thanks to our Youth Sub-Committee members for hosting this event and providing your time and skills for the benefit of others.

We are now well on the way to planning the Beef24 event where Speckle Park International is a supporting partner with Beef24, allowing us the opportunity to host a site on grounds. This event is the largest in the industry and hosts scientists, nutritionists, geneticists, companies who work in the industry (>500 trade exhibitors) and a huge range of learning events for the public.

Lastly, thank you to those who have registered to attend the AGM, we are looking forward to providing an update to our members. We are confident with the direction SPI is going and we are becoming more connected with industry every day as we seek to participate in a range of projects in 2024 and seek greater engagement through industry events.

We are pleased to bring you the final Specktator for 2023, a huge thank you to our Marketing and Events Sub-Committee led by Stacey Jones. This is another fantastic publication, enjoy the reading.

Kind Regards
Mitch Warrener
SPI Chairman

IMPORTANT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4 NOVEMBER 2023

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of Speckle Park International will be held at 11am on Saturday, 4 November 2023 at Picnic Point Function Centre, Table Top Room, 164 Tourist Road, Toowoomba QLD 4350 at 11am (QLD AEST).

The AGM will be held via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Members wishing to attend via Zoom, will be required to register to join.

Formal notice of the AGM was sent to all eligible members on 11 October 2023 and the Zoom link together with the AGM document pack was emailed to all eligible members on 25 October 2023. If you require another copy of either of these emails to be sent to you, please contact Heather as soon as possible.

Members are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the AGM.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT HEADING INTO THE AGM CAN YOU HELP?

Speckle Park International is a not for profit company that relies largely on volunteers donating their time and expertise to assist in its running. While plans are underway to increase resources available, during this period of growth, and particularly in times of uncertainty, it is important to ensure these changes can be sustained financially. Therefore, the help of our members, particularly by volunteering to join the board of directors or sub-committees, continues to be crucial to the ongoing advancement of SPI.

SPI is calling for members to join the various sub-committees including Youth, Marketing & Events, Technical and Beef24. Our current directors and sub-committee members are doing a fantastic job however, a large number of tasks are being carried out by a limited few when, as the saying goes - 'many hands make light work!'

If you would like to know more about what is involved in joining an SPI sub-committee, please reach out to our MSO, Heather, or to an existing director or sub-committee member.

**ASK NOT WHAT YOUR BREED SOCIETY CAN DO FOR YOU ...
ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR BREED SOCIETY.**

RECORDING PERFORMANCE DATA DURING DROUGHT

Originally published in 'Beyond the Black Box', the eBulletin produced by the ABRI Extension Services - Edition 5, October 2023.

With large areas of Australia having received below average rainfall, the ABRI Extension Services team felt it would be timely to remind beef breeders of the considerations when collecting performance information for BREEDPLAN during drought.

Beef producers are sometimes reluctant to submit performance data collected in drought conditions due to concerns that lighter weights will correspond to lower EBVs. Thankfully, this is not the case. While it is true that the average performance of a group in drought conditions will likely be lower relative to the average performance of a group in a good year, there will still be variation in performance within each group. It is this variation in how each animal has performed relative to the other similarly treated animals that is important to the BREEDPLAN analysis, and not the raw measurements.

However, there are a number of considerations that beef producers should be aware of:

- If early weaning, remember that BREEDPLAN can only analyse the 200 day weights of calves that are older than 80 days of age when the weight is recorded.
- BREEDPLAN can analyse two 200 day weights on each animal. Therefore, if early weaning, it may be beneficial to weigh the calves at weaning and then take a later weight.
- Mature cow weights should be collected within two weeks of collecting the 200 day weights of their calves. If you delay 200 day weight recording, you should also delay the collection of mature cow weights.
- Only record ultrasound scan information on animals that are in adequate condition, especially when scanning for fat depth and IMF. Ideally, animals should have a minimum average rump fat depth of 4-5mm.
- Fertility performance information of cows running under drought conditions can be very valuable information to the BREEDPLAN analysis, as drought generally places more pressure on female fertility than a good season.

In addition, some beef producers may find that due to the constraints of drought, they are unable to continue with their normal performance recording schedule. If you are in this situation, you could consider the following options as interim measures:

CONTINUED ...

- Restricting your performance recording to a core of important traits (consider which traits are important to you and/or your clients' breeding programs).
- Maintaining full trait recording but limiting this to a single sex (e.g. bull calves).

If you choose to undertake either of these options, you should aim to return to your full performance recording program for the whole herd as soon as possible (i.e. once drought conditions ease).

More information can be found by scanning the QR codes below.

Recording Performance Data
During Drought tip sheet



Recording Performance Data
During Drought short video





SPI PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

Registration of calves & DNA Parent Verification in 4 simple steps!

AUSTRALIAN VERSION

1. TAG & DNA SAMPLE CALVES

Tag and obtain DNA samples from selected calves. Samples are to be taken via Allflex Tissue Sample Units (TSU) or Neogen Hair Sample Kits (note, hair samples incur a surcharge of \$3 plus GST per sample).

Complete tag and test kits can be ordered here on the SPI website under Resources/Forms and Resources: https://www.specklepark.org/s/Allflex_Speckle-Park-Order-Form_VER12_110321.pdf

Store the tissue samples in the fridge until you receive your batch submission forms from PBB as referred to in Step 3 below. Samples can be stored for up to 12 months.

2. RECORD CALVES WITH SPI

Record the animals with the SPI registry by using either using ILROnline or by completing the registration forms (excel and pdf available) on the SPI website and emailing it to registrations@specklepark.org.

Animals will be recorded as "pending" with a "?" in the front of their ident (eg ?ABC 123) until the registration process is complete.

3. COMPLETE FORMS AND SEND DNA

Complete the DNA application form on the SPI website (you will need to request the SKSTD_BDL test to meet all registration requirements) and send to dna@pbbnz.com. PBB will provide you with batch submission forms that must be printed and sent with the DNA samples to Neogen for testing. IMPORTANT - samples will not be accepted by Neogen unless they are accompanied by the required batch submission forms.

4. RESULTS AND REGISTRATION

Once processed by Neogen, results loaded into the SPI system and reported to breeder via email by PBB DNA. If all in order, eligible animals will be registered on the SPI database and certificates issued by SPI registry

Scan the QR code for the New Zealand process summary or go to Resources/Forms and Resources/DNA Testing/New Zealand DNA Submission Flowchart for more information



THE BIG DRY

The Bureau of Meteorology has declared that El Niño and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole weather event are under way at the same time which means warmer and drier conditions will be more likely over spring and summer for parts of Australia, under the influence of these to climate drivers.

“Southern Producers will now likely increase usual protection measures for their properties by managing fuel loads and ensuring they have adequate fire breaks,” says Adam Coffey, Cattle Australia Interim CEO.

“With dryer conditions expected across the board, producers need to plan for the likelihood of increased fodder and supplement requirements with likely reduced availability. The Bureau has indicated the current forecast period is to autumn 2024, however it is important to recognise most El Niño events last up to nine months, Australian beef cattle producers are no strangers to dry times and are accordingly very adept at building resilience within their businesses,” Mr Coffey said.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

There are a wide range of resources available to provide assistance to producers with drought preparations - this assistance can be obtained at various levels from local and small enterprise through to federal government. For example, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website contains details of programs offering drought, disaster and rural support include:

- Farm business resilience - subsidised learning and development opportunities in strategic business management, farm risk management and decision making, natural resource management and personal and social resilience;
- My Climate View - climate information relevant to your location and business;
- Local Drought Hubs - connecting farmers with regional agricultural experts, innovation and new practices;
- Drought loans - low-cost Regional Investment Corporation loans for eligible farmer or farm-related small business in financial need.

Rural Aid is another provider of drought related assistance who offer counselling, financial assistance, fodder, water and educational resources.

Scan the QR codes below to find more information about the assistance mentioned above:

DAFF website:



Rural Aid website:



If you need urgent mental health support, please contact Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36.

CARCASE COMPETITION SUPPORT



An SPI initiative to support the demonstration and marketing of the commercial advantages of the Speckle Park breed.

ELIGIBILITY & PAYMENT:

- ✓ Open to financial members of SPI as at the competition date and the date the application for support is made. The application is to be submitted via the application form on the SPI website by the earlier of 7 days after entries for the relevant competition have closed and 7 days before the competition commences.
- ✓ The initial total support value is \$11,000 (inc. GST) for carcass competitions commencing from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. A potential increase will be considered dependent on uptake and quality of data obtained.
- ✓ The support provided is \$220 (inc. GST) per member, per competition up to the total support value. The support will be applied to the member's SPI account with any credit to be paid as the member directs. Support is on a first come, first served basis - to be made after the eligibility criteria have been complied with to SPI's reasonable satisfaction.
- ✓ Entered animals must be sired by a registered Speckle Park bull.
- ✓ The carcass competition must be approved by SPI which will require - conducted by a reputable third party organisation, open to entry by a sufficiently broad segment of producers with judging to be based solely on carcass traits with all data provided to entrants. Members may seek approval of a competition from SPI prior to entry.
- ✓ All data resulting from the carcass competition is to be provided to SPI via the Data Warehouse within 14 days after receipt, to be used in accordance with the Data Warehouse terms.

For more information: mso@specklepark.org
To confirm eligibility: technical@specklepark.org

Scan to be taken to Carcass
Competition Support
Application Form:



DATA WAREHOUSE



An SPI initiative to support the demonstration and marketing of the commercial advantages of the Speckle Park breed.

The SPI Board and Technical Subcommittee are pleased to welcome submissions for the newly established Data Warehouse. This initiative has been designed to capture performance data from Speckle Park infused cattle within commercial production systems.

BROAD OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

✓ **COMMERCIAL FOCUS**

Collect and utilise 3rd party data to demonstrate the superior performance and carcass attributes of Speckle Park. This data may include MSA data, feedlot performance and carcass data.

✓ **DATA INTEGRITY**

Source data exclusively from herds using purebred, registered Speckle Park bulls, ensuring traceability of the information provided.

✓ **RECOGNITION**

Members providing data should be recognised and we will ensure contributors' names are acknowledged (unless otherwise requested) as the source whenever their data is used.

✓ **HANDLING DATA**

To address potential variations in data collection, each dataset will be treated as a unique case study. This approach guarantees accuracy and transparency in our analyses.

✓ **TAKING THE NEXT STEP**

The Data Warehouse marks another step forward for our breed society. Through ongoing member support, we can continue to unlock invaluable insights to strengthen the Speckle Park breed in Australia. Contact the Technical Subcommittee at technical@specklepark.org if you would like more information.

For more information contact:
technical@specklepark.org or mso@specklepark.org

Scan to be taken to Data
Warehouse Upload Form:




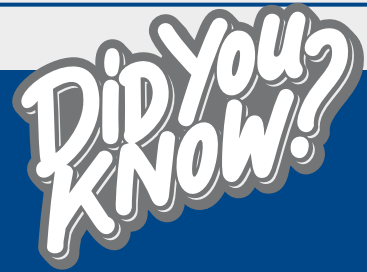
DON'T MISS A THING! SPI UPDATES

Emails are SPI's main form of communication with its members and industry partners.

Make sure we have your current details to stay up to date with all things Speckle Park!



**CLICK HERE OR
SCAN
ME** 
TO PROVIDE DETAILS



ONLINE TRAINING VIDEOS

There are a number of very informative educational videos on topics such as using ILROnline, how to take hair and tissue samples and more. You can find these under the Resources/Education tab on the website!

DIY - REDUCED REGISTRATION FEES

Members can effect the transfer of animal registrations via ILROnline. Transfers completed via ILROnline attract a lower transfer fee than transfers processed manually by PBB. ILROnline can be accessed under the 'Studbook' tab on the website. If you require log in details for ILROnline, please contact our MSO, Heather at mso@specklepark.org.

DNA SAMPLES

TSUs, applicators and DNA hair cards can be purchased direct from the "Shop" on the SPI website.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

Phil Jackson

CALENDAR

of events



Details subject to change - confirm with relevant parties prior to event

2023

Nov

4	Speckle Park International	Annual General Meeting	Toowoomba, QLD & online
17	JAD Speckle Park	A Day in the JAD Yards - a Practical Workshop	Yeeoval, NSW On property

2024

Jan

30	Te Mooi Speckle Park	Te Mooi Open Day - Beef Week	Londrigan, VIC - On property
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Feb

24	Underhill SPECS	Future FWD Bull Sale - Underhill SPECS - Bulls	Canada - On property
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Mar

7	Te Mooi Speckle Park	The Te Mooi Performance Sale - Bulls, females, genetics & commercial lots	Londrigan, VIC - On property and via AuctionsPlus
18-27	Sydney Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Sydney, NSW

Apr

5	JAD Speckle Park	6th JAD Speckle Park Sale - Bulls, females & genetics	Yeoval, NSW - On property and via AuctionsPlus
8	Battalion Speckle Park	Battalion Speckle Park Sale - Bulls, females & genetics	Glen Innes Showground, NSW On site and online via TBA
12-14	Bathurst Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Bathurst, NSW

18-20	Toowoomba Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Toowoomba, QLD
29	Alinjarra Speckle Park	Annual Sale - Bulls, females & genetics	Hernani, NSW - On property and via AuctionsPlus
May			
5-11	Beef Australia 2024	see www.beefaustralia.com.au	Rockhampton, QLD
8	Wattle Grove Speckle Park	Rockin at Rocky Sale - Bulls, females & genetics	Rockhampton, QLD - On site and Via Elite Livestock Auctions
18-26	Casino Beef Week	Beef Cattle Events	Casino, NSW
24	Multi-Vendor	The Blueprint Opportunity Sale - Bulls & females	Pine Lodge, VIC - On property and via Elite Livestock Auctions
Aug			
TBA	Brisbane Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Brisbane, QLD
16	Oakey Creek Speckle Parks	Oakey Creek Speckle Parks Annual Bull & Female Sale - Bulls, females & commercial lots	Namoi River, NSW - On property and via Elite Livestock Auctions
18	Beki Speckle Park	Tablelands Better Beef Open Day	Kairi, QLD - On property
24	Dorrroughby Speckle Park & Beth Vide Speckle Park	Dorrroughby Speckle Park Annual Invitational Sale - Bulls, females & genetics	Westbrook, QLD - On property and via Elite Livestock Auctions
29	Multi-Vendor	Roma Spring Speckle Park Sale - Bulls	Roma, QLD - On site and via TBA
31	Rose Hill Speckle Park	Rose Hill Speckle Park Open Day - Bulls, females, genetics and commercial lots	Monivae, NSW - On property
Sep			
TBA	Adelaide Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Adelaide, SA
6	Wattle Grove Speckle Park	Triple Treat Sale - Bulls, females & commercial lots	Toowoomba, QLD - On site and via Elite Livestock Auctions & AuctionsPlus
7	Rob Roy Speckle Park	Rob Roy Annual Sale - Bulls, females, genetics & commercial lots	Gulgong, NSW - On property and via Auctions Plus

13	Multi-Vendor	Upper Hunter Spring Speckle Park Sale - Bulls, females & genetics	Scone, NSW - On site and via Elite Livestock Auctions
14	Hawthorne Stud	Hawthorne Stud Open Day	Coulson, QLD
21	Multi-Vendor	Hot Spot Speckle Park Sale - Bulls, females, genetics & commercial lots	Colinton, QLD On property and via Elite Livestock Auctions
TBA	Melbourne Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Melbourne, VIC
TBA	Perth Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Perth, WA
Oct			
4	Hillview Speckle Park	Hillview Speckle Park 2nd Annual Production Sale - Bulls, females, genetics & commercial lots	Leconfield, NSW - On property and via Elite Livestock Auctions
TBA	Geelong Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Geelong, VIC
TBA	Hobart Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Hobart, TAS