

In this edition of The Specktator

1. Chairman's note
2. What Is In A Name?
3. Beef Week 2024 Update
4. From Ringside to Regina with Emily Edwards - SPI Youth
5. SPI Youth Update
6. Rules & Regulations Show Uniform
7. Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza 2023
8. Using SPI Selection Indexes
9. Did you know?
10. Calendar of Events

Welcome 2024


As we venture into this new year, we acknowledge the diverse challenges and triumphs that each member faces in their individual breeding programs and their goals for the future of our breed.


Whether you are a seasoned breeder navigating the intricacies of genetic lines or a newcomer eager to learn the ropes, know that SPI is here to support and celebrate each milestone.

With this edition, we welcome a new MESC team of volunteers, farewell longstanding member Tania Paget, and see Stacey Jones step back from an operational role in the MESC to Board Liaison. Thank you for your valuable contributions over the years.

Here's to a year of growth, resilience and shared accomplishments. Together, let us forge ahead into the future and the collective vision of this great breed.

SPECKLE PARK INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
ACN 635 982 839

 1800 221 271

 PO Box 439,
Pittsworth QLD 4356

 www.specklepark.org

 info@specklepark.org



A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



Dear Speckle Park Community,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed some down time (to the extent that is possible with livestock!) to prepare for another big year.

It has been great to see much needed rainfall falling across large parts of the Country. The cattle market opened significantly stronger than it closed with the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator reaching 616.35c/kg last week, with improved conditions driving demand by restockers. With Speckle Park stud sale calendar commencing shortly, we expect to see the more buoyant outlook translate to improved results.

As mentioned in the December Board Report, we have engaged the services of Graham Truscott, former CEO of Angus Australia and the Australian Wagyu Association to conduct a review and make recommendations on the next phase of growth, including operational and strategic direction. We are excited by the opportunity to draw upon Graham's wealth of experience that has been so pivotal to the advancement and success of great beef breeds in Australia. The Board of Directors will be meeting in Armidale next month, together with Graham, to participate in a strategic planning workshop. We look forward to reporting on the outcome of this process in due course.

For those planning on participating in any carcase competitions this year, please remember that SPI's Carcase Competition Support program is still running. The support provided is \$220 (inc. GST) per member, per competition up to the total support value. Full details can be found at the Carcase Competition Support link at the bottom of the Forms and Resources page on the website.

SPI extends its thanks to those members who have submitted information via the Data Warehouse. This data is an invaluable resource for our Technical and Marketing Sub-Committees. If you have suitable data to provide, it is gratefully accepted via the Data Warehouse link at the bottom of the Forms and Resources page on the website also.

As a supporting partner of Beef24, plans are well underway to ensure SPI maximises the marketing and networking opportunities afforded by this important event in the industry's calendar. There will be various ways in which members can get involved and represent Speckle Park at this event - stay tuned for further details in this regard.

Members will have received an email on Friday, 19 January 2024 attaching a pre-list of current registered females. You have until 29 February 2024 to update your list to ensure your inventory fees are invoiced accurately. You can complete this process manually by filling in the list emailed to you however, we encourage members to update your female inventory electronically via ILROnline - this can be done via the Animals/Performance Overview tab. Your inventory can be kept up to date all year round using this method. If you need your log in details for ILROnline or have any queries about using the system, please reach out to our MSO, Heather, by phone or email.

As you finalise your plans for the year ahead, we urge you to consider whether you have any capacity to join one of our volunteer Sub-Committees. Not only are they a fantastic opportunity to provide a valued contribution to the Speckle Park breed, but they are a great way to expand your knowledge and network by working closely with your peers. If you would like further information as to what is involved, please contact Heather, a member of the Board of Directors or a member of the relevant Sub-Committee.

We hope you enjoy the first edition of The Specktator for 2024 - another great initiative of the Marketing and Events Sub-Committee.

Kind Regards
Stacey Jones
SPI Chairman



WHAT IS IN A NAME?

Starting a new stud can be a daunting task. Just one of many questions we see raised is 'how or what guidelines are there to name registered animals?'

Important factors in naming your animals are understanding your Herd ID/Membership No. and Prefix. Your Herd ID/Membership No. is three characters or numerals that make a unique identifier to your herd. No two studs can have the same Herd ID/Membership No. or prefix.

A prefix is a unique name that prefixes all the animals that you breed. Every registered animal in the Speckle Park herdbook has a unique name which may be in different formats but will always commence with a prefix.

The registered name of an animal (including the prefix) must not exceed 29 characters.

All registered animals have a letter associated with the year they were born - this forms part of the animal identification. The letter associated with 2024 is 'V'. The letters I & O are not used due to the similarity to 0 & 1. Each animal is then given a number usually in the order of birth which is added to the Herd ID/Membership No. For example, the first animal born in 2024 will be V1 etc. This can also be formatted as V01 or V001 as per your stud's preference.

Now comes the hard part! How do you name them?

We have come up with some suggestions below. There is no right or wrong way of doing it, when starting your stud you only need decide which method best suits your operation.

1. Naming your females based on their dam's/family line. This will generally indicate to anyone who views this animal on the register/catalogue that your animal is descended from that particular cow line. For example, if you had a Unique 8R daughter, granddaughter etc etc, you could use this cow line as your name. For example 'ABC Speckles Unique V1'.
2. You could name your females/males with names beginning with the year letter that they are born in. For example, 'ABC Speckles Victor V1' or 'ABC Speckles Voluptuous V1'. This method indicates that these animals were born in a particular year.
3. You could name your females/males with any theme or name you believe suits the animal. For example, you may decide to name them all plant names or celebrity names etc. There is no right or wrong, it is just what suits your operation. You could then use that theme to carry on their name for future generations.

Further to the above, is how to incorporate the Sire into the equation. This could be by incorporating his Rego ID into the name. For example, if the sire of an animal is AAA Walker Frontline M24, you could then incorporate this into the name by using 'ABC Speckles M24 Unique V1'.

NAMING - CORE COMPONENTS

How these are formatted is completely up to you.

COMPONENT	EXAMPLE
<Prefix>	ABC Speckles
<Year Letter & Calf Number>	V1 / V01 / V001
<Animal Name>	Victor or Voluptuous
OPTIONAL INCLUSION:	
<Sire ID Year & Number>	M24

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

ABC Speckles M24 Unique V1

<Prefix> <Sire ID Year & Number> <Dam Family Line><Year letter & number>

ABC Speckles Unique V1

<Prefix><Dam Family Line><Year letter & number>

ABC Speckles M24 Voluptuous V1

<Prefix><Sire ID Year & Number><Year letter name><Year letter & number>

ABC Speckles Voluptuous V1

<Prefix><Year letter name><Year letter & number>

ABC Speckles M24 Holy Moly V1


<Prefix><Sire ID Year & Number><Any Name/Theme><Year letter & number>

ABC Speckles Holy Moly V1

<Prefix>< Any Name/Theme><Year letter & number>

YEAR LETTERS

2016	M
2017	N
2018	P
2019	Q
2020	R
2021	S
2022	T
2023	U
2024	V
2025	W
2026	X
2027	Y
2028	Z
2029	A
2030	B
2031	C
2032	D
2033	E



IF YOU ARE EVER UNSURE, USE THE ANIMAL SEARCH TOOL ON THE SPECKLE PARK INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE FOR IDEAS. BUT IN THE END, AS EXPRESSED PRIOR, THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG WAY, THE DECISION SIMPLY IS YOURS!



BEEF 2024

ROCKHAMPTON
AUSTRALIA
MAY 5-11

BEEF 2024 SUB COMMITTEE

UPDATE

It's now 2024 and that means we are only months away from the largest Beef Expo in Australia, Beef2024 in Rockhampton! From the 5th - 11th May you will find representatives from Speckle Park International manning the stall and spreading the word about all things Speckle Park.

AN EXCITING UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE

LIMITED RELEASE Speckle Park Beef 24 caps are just about ready to be revealed! There will be a pre-sale of these caps, so look out for details of this on the Speckle Park International Facebook page. With the 2021 release of caps selling out within the first couple of days at Beef Week, we are looking forward to allowing early access to this year's caps soon!



We will be working together with the Technical Sub-committee and Marketing and Events Sub-Committee to pull together an informative stall for Beef 2024 attendees. Promotion of the breed is our focus, targeting attendees that are from a broad spectrum of Beef Industry participants. Industry connections that will be formed during the week will be invaluable and we are very excited to bring the best of Speckle Park to a wide audience.

For updates on Beef 2024, be sure to follow their Facebook page and website. They are releasing information regularly and if you want the latest news, this is where you find it. Tickets to events are selling fast, with some events already sold out - details are on their website.

[Beef 24 website:](#)



[Carcase Competition:](#)



FROM RINGSIDE TO REGINA WITH EMILY EDWARDS

I have been fortunate enough to be able to take part in the South Australia Junior heifer expo for the last 7 years, with last year 2023, being my final year eligible to participate. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 7 years that I have spent attending and competing in the expo and highly recommend it to all those in the industry. The expo has allowed me to make meaningful connections with many people within the industry, with highlights of my time participating being my time spent teaching and mentoring the juniors, taking my first purebred animal to the 2023 show as well as being fortunate enough to walk away as not only reserve senior judge but also reserve senior champion herdsman last year. Achieving reserve senior champion herdsman was not only a fantastic way to end my time as a competitor in the expo but also, thanks to Rabobank and their generous sponsorship, allowed me to embark on an international trip to Canada to further my exposure and knowledge within the industry.





I was lucky enough to spend a little over 5 weeks away in Canada at the end of last year, travelling across the provinces, starting in Saskatchewan before heading to Alberta and across to British Columbia. It seems I brought the Australia summer with me with the area experiencing its first 'brown' Christmas since 1997.

I made the most of the weather and utilised the time to tour around various seed stock producers making some amazing new international connections as well as being fortunate enough to finally meet some in person after years of speaking purely online and purchasing from them in the past. My family and I import a significant portion of our speckle park genetics for our stud, Wattle Lee, from Canada and to be able to see the animals we had purchased material from in the flesh is something I will remember forever.

I cannot thank the producers enough for opening their farms and in some instances even their homes to me, allowing me to see the result of different genetic combinations in person, ask questions and further develop relationships within the industry. I would be remiss to not give a special mention to Colgans Cattle Company, a farm with not only quality animals on display but a wonderful paddock to plate service which promoted the speckle park carcass in full and was tremendous to see and experience in person.

I was able to round off my trip by attending the 2023 Agribition event in Regina. It was wonderful to attend an international event of this magnitude and see the display of breeding animals, a true testament to the places the speckle park breed is heading.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time over in Canada and want to take this opportunity to thank Rabobank, the Junior Heifer Expo, all of those who welcomed me, took the time to show me their animals and supported me on my journey, Emily Edwards - SPI Youth.



UPDATE

**Speckle Park
YOUTH**



After a few weeks off over the Christmas and New Year period the Youth SC is in full swing having regular meetings to organise the year ahead. Last year, we saw a significant increase in the number of Youth memberships which is very exciting for the future of Speckle Park.

Our main focus at present is working alongside the Beef 2024 Sub-Committee to ensure Speckle Park Youth has an impressive presence at what is the largest Beef Expo in the southern hemisphere.

We will also be doing a couple of Education Days consistent with those presented over the past 2 years. These Education Days will be fantastic warm ups as we work toward our first youth camp in 2025. More information about each of the events will be released in the coming months so keep your eyes peeled!

Youth hats and calendars are for sale on the SPI website (under the "shop" tab). Proceeds from these products go towards our Education Days and other events. All our amazing committee members are volunteers that always put in the hard yards to help the younger generation learn more about the Speckle Park industry.

If you have any questions about the Speckle Park Youth or what we are up to, or if you even have a photo you would like us to share on our page, please contact the Youth Sub-Committee via our social media pages or email youth@specklepark.org.

RULES & REGULATIONS SHOW UNIFORM



A reminder to all members that the Show Uniform consists of:

- blue jeans;
- white collared dress shirt; and
- black SPI approved vest,

or as agreed by the Shed Captain at the relevant Show. The approved vest is a plain black v-neck vest with:

- the SPI logo embroidered, (embroidered vests available from SPI website); or
- a SPI logo patch affixed to a black vest (to reduce the costs for those who already have a uniform), (available on SPI website); or
- the previously available black vests with the Speckle Park wording embroidered.

If the weather requires, and the Shed Captain approved the removal of the black vest this is only permitted where the white collared dress shirt has:

- the SPI logo embroidered on the chest (embroidered shirts available from SPI website); or
- an SPI logo patch affixed to an existing shirt (to reduce the costs for those who already have a uniform), (soon available on SPI website); or
- the previously available white collared dress shirts with the Speckle Park wording embroidered.

If you have any queries, please contact mso@specklepark.org.

UPPER HUNTER BEEF BONANZA

27 - 29 October 2023

The Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza held in Scone NSW, is one of Australia's largest youth Beef Cattle Competitions. Classes included Led Prime Heifers, Hoof & Hook Led and Unled Steers/Heifers, Stud Heifer Classes, Parader's and Junior Judging. There were a large amount of both Purebred and Speckle Park infused cattle on show, with Speckle Park performing well across the board. Once again the best results were seen on the hook, where Speckle Park shone in the carcass competition. Two major awards going to:

Cultivateag & Tookawhile Speckle Park, with 'Dallas' a Pure Speckle Park Steer scoring 84.3/100.

**RESERVE CHAMPION
LIGHTWEIGHT**



Camden Haven High School, with an F2 Speckle Park from Nether Grove & Luja Speckle Park Studs scoring 85.68/100.

**RESERVE CHAMPION
LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT**



Congratulations!

To all competitors on representing Speckle Park so well in both the Hoof and Hook Classes. For full carcass results scan the QR code or visit the website - [Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza](#)



Using Speckle Park International Selection Indexes



Selection indexes assist beef producers to make selection decisions that take into account the relevant growth, carcass, fertility and efficiency attributes of each animal to identify candidates whose progeny will be the most profitable for a particular commercial enterprise. Selection indexes provide an overall indication of an animal's genetic value for profit in a specific production system/target market and are calculated based on weightings placed on individual traits that are deemed to be important for that production system.

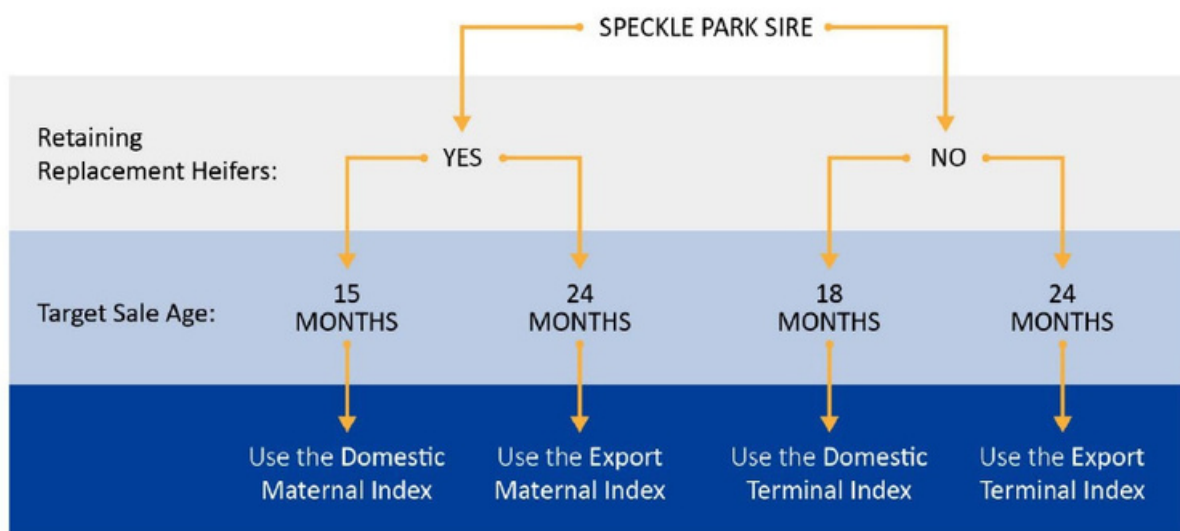
The weightings are calculated using [BreedObject](#) software that analyses all sources of costs and income for the production system represented by each selection index. As such, selection indexes account for both sides of the profit equation and reflect the short and long term profit possible through selection of superior genetics. For example, short term profit can be generated by a bull through the sale of his progeny, and the longer term profit generated by his daughters in a self-replacing cow herd.

Best Practice Guide to Animal Selection Using Speckle Park International Selection Indexes

Incorporating selection index information into breeding decisions takes the hard work out of trying to decide how much emphasis you need to put on individual EBVs when determining which animals you want to retain in your herd or purchase. The recommended strategy for selecting animals is to complete the following steps:

1. Identify the selection index of most relevance to your or your client's breeding objectives. This decision should be aided by the index descriptions at the end of this document and the following flowchart.

Which Speckle Park International Selection Index should you use?



- Rank animals on the chosen selection index. This can be done via the web search facility available for the breed.
- Consider the individual BREEDPLAN EBVs of importance. All breed level selection indexes are designed for the average of the production system specified in their description. This means that individual farm environments and management choices may require that their own thresholds are applied. For example, if looking for a bull to use over heifers, particular attention should be paid to Calving Ease and Birth Weight EBVs.
- Consider other traits of importance. Structure, fertility (e.g. BULLCHECK™), temperament, genetic conditions and pedigree are all important additional considerations.

Further information is available in the [A BREEDPLAN Guide to Animal Selection](#) tip sheet that can be found in the [Help Centre](#) on the BREEDPLAN website.

Available Speckle Park International Selection Indexes

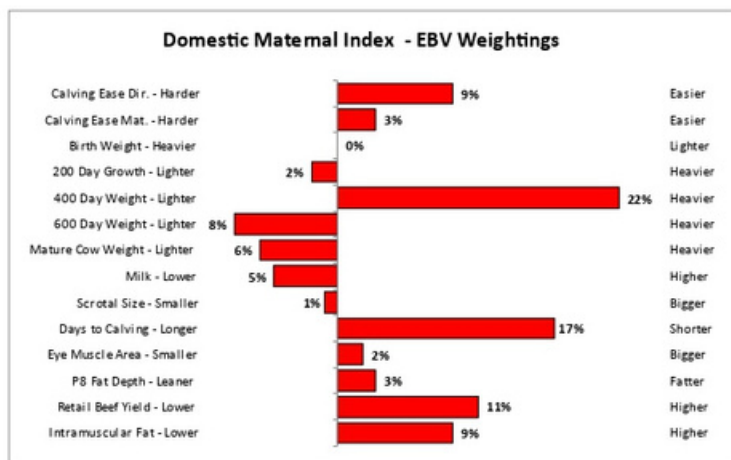
Speckle Park International currently reports four different selection indexes. These are the:

- Domestic Maternal Index (DM)
- Domestic Terminal Index (DT)
- Export Maternal Index (EM)
- Export Terminal Index (ET)

Each selection index is reported in units of net profitability per cow mated (\$), and targets the following specifications:

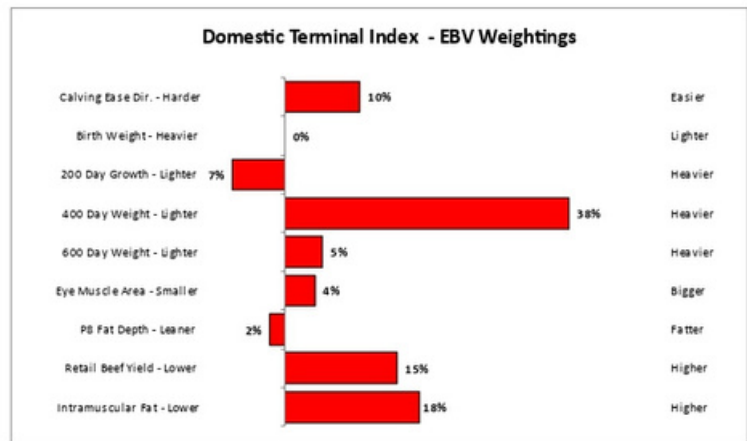
Domestic Maternal Index (DM)

- Commercial herd targeting the supermarket trade.
- Selected heifers are retained so maternal traits are important.
- Steers target 475 kg live weight (260 kg HSCW & 12 mm P8 fat depth), while heifers target 450 kg (240 kg HSCW & 14 mm P8 fat depth), at 15 months of age.



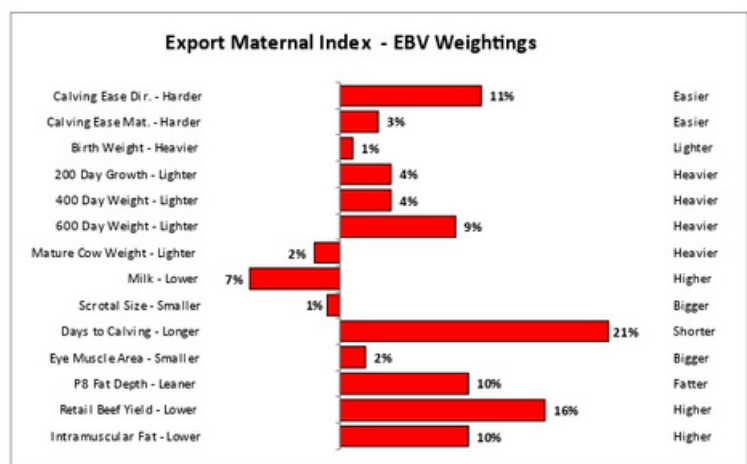
Domestic Terminal Index (DT)

- Commercial herd targeting the supermarket trade.
- All progeny slaughtered at 18 months of age.
- Progeny target 450 kg live weight (290 kg HSCW & 10 mm P8 fat depth).
- Carcase quality is of importance.



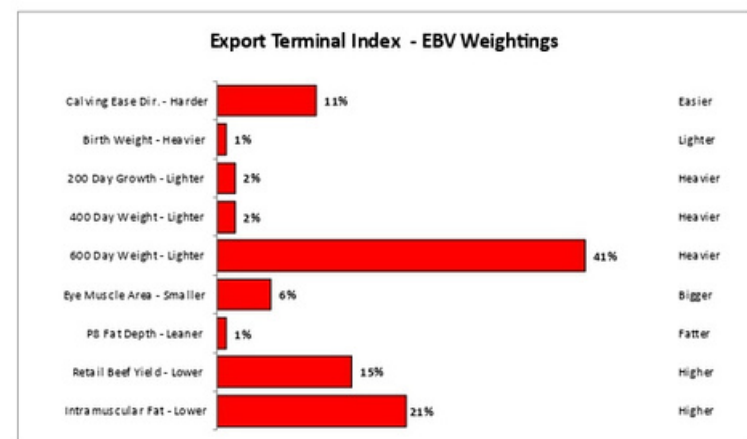
Export Maternal Index (EM)

- Commercial herd targeting the export trade.
- Selected heifers are retained so maternal traits are important.
- Steers target 680 kg live weight (375 kg HSCW & 9 mm P8 fat depth) at 24 months of age.
- Carcase quality is of importance.



Export Terminal Index (ET)

- Commercial herd targeting the export trade.
- All progeny marketed at 24 months of age.
- Progeny target 550 kg live weight (300 kg HSCW & 11 mm P8 fat depth).
- Carcase quality is of importance.



More detail on the trait and EBV emphasis for each of the selection indexes described above is available in the [Speckle Park International Selection Indexes: Technical Specifications](#) tip sheet that can be found in the [Help Centre](#) on the BREEDPLAN website.

If you have any further queries regarding the Speckle Park International Selection Indexes, please do not hesitate to contact staff at your BREEDPLAN processing centre.

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!



Did You Know?

RECORDING RECIPIENT FEMALES

Before registering your ET calves, you can record your recipient females on ILROnline in a matter of seconds. Please note, when recording recipient females on ILROnline, you must record the ID as it is to appear on the registry (i.e include 'R' at the end of the ID) as this is not automatically added as it is with the traditional method.

AI & ET CALVES PERMITS REQUIRED

A calf resulting from Artificial Insemination or Embryo Transfer is only eligible for registration if the sire has an AI Permit (AI) or the Dam has a Donor Dam Permit (ET) in place at the time of registration of the calf.

SPI strongly recommends intending purchasers of genetics check to confirm all necessary permits are in place to avoid potential issues. Permit status can be viewed on the online studbook.

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."

Winston Churchill

CALENDAR

of events



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

2024

Jan

27	Whiteline Speckle Park	Whiteline Speckle Park Open Day	Winchelsea, VIC - On property
30	Te Mooi Speckle Park	Te Mooi Open Day - Beef Week	Londrigan, VIC - On property

Feb

17	Clifton Show	Speckle Park Feature Show	Clifton, QLD
24	Underhill SPECS	Future FWD Bull Sale - Underhill SPECS - Bulls	Canada - On property

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
12-14	Bathurst Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Bathurst, NSW
15	Battalion Speckle Park	Battalion Speckle Park Sale - Bulls, females & genetics	Glen Innes Showground, NSW On site and online via TBA
18-20	Toowoomba Royal	Beef Cattle Events	Toowoomba, QLD
27	Multi-Vendor	9th Invitational Scone Speckle Park Sale - Bulls, females & genetics	Scone, NSW - On site and via Elite Livestock Auctions
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	Corndale Speckle Park	Corndale Speckle Park Sale - Bulls & females	Warwick, QLD - On property and via Elite Livestock Auctions
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	Minnamurra Speckle Park	Minnamurra Bull Sale	Coolah, NSW - On property and TBA
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