

## ARTISTRY AND VALUE, REDEFINED.

# AN EATING QUALITY REVOLUTION

BEEF consumers are demanding a consistently top quality eating experience to justify their decision to choose beef over cheaper protein alternatives. The discerning beef consumer has demonstrated they are willing to pay a price premium for quality. The challenge is in the hands of the beef supply chain to deliver on that quality demand, time and time again. Speckle Park has quickly become recognised for its unique ability to combine high yields AND eating quality, and this combination is winning fans among butchers and beef customers.

NSW Hunter Valley butcher, Robert Constable, Roberts Meats, Singleton, started selling Speckle Park beef through his butcher shops in mid-2009.

“For the past three years, we’ve had a constant supply so basically our beef range now is all Speckle Park.

“In our business, 60% of what we sell each week is beef, which is huge, and we sell pork, chicken and lamb also.

“For the past two months, we’ve been running at a 21% increase in sales (year-on-year, week-on-week), and this is not a common trend among butchers generally.

“We’re not in a wealthy community necessarily, however our customers are prepared to pay for quality.

“Our experience with Speckle Park beef is that due to the fat distribution, the flat bone structure of the animal, and bone density, we have been achieving high yields of three per cent better than Euro cattle.

“I don’t think there are too many breeds that have more even fat distribution throughout the carcass, and that is the number one factor impacting eating experience.

“And to have them start to marble off grass at 12 months is unheard of yet I have seen it in this breed.”



In New Zealand, Dion and Ali Kilminster (pictured, above) operate Homegrown Farm Fresh Meats in the Wairarapa region of the north island, and they have recently extended their award-winning direct-order boxed grass-fed lamb and beef packs to include a new brand: Angus Park.

“We chose Speckle Park for the superb eating experience and this has been four years in the making.”

“Our first Angus Park beef boxes went out in March and our customers are loving it,” Ali said.

“They are noticing a real difference in the texture and eating experience. We aim to have a different offering to the mainstream that is on the market at present.”



## FROM THE SPI BOARD

It's amazing to think we are nearly half way through 2019 already! Your SPI Board has been busy working to improve communications with members, plan towards major structural changes that will be voted on at our upcoming AGM, and generally representing the membership in areas including legal, DNA testing, compliance, strategic direction and more. The Board has congregated for seven phone meetings so far this year, and will meet for a face-to-face board meeting on the day after the SPI AGM in Sydney.

### 'Special Resolution' to be voted on at SPI AGM

Full and Life Members were sent an email on May 21 containing all documentation pertaining to SPI's upcoming AGM, to be held in Sydney on June 15. This email included the final draft of the proposed new SPI Constitution, and notice of a Special Resolution to be voted on at the AGM. This resolution relates to the

Board's proposal to transfer SPI from an Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee, and with this a proposed new SPI Constitution. Please take the time to read this documentation, including the Information Memorandum on pages 18-24 of the '2019 AGM Documents...' attachment, as these pages provide a full explanation of the reasoning behind these proposed changes. This section was collated by SPI's solicitor, Greg Moin, Moin Morris Schaefer, Armidale, who will be present at the AGM on June 15 to answer questions.

### SPI in strong financial position

Upon reading through the AGM documents, members will note that in the reported period (January 2018 to December 2018), SPI had a net profit of \$62,012.51 - up by \$31,916.32 on 2017, which finished at \$30,096.19. This stronger financial position is attributable to a number of areas, both in savings and increased income, with the Profit and Loss analysis to be further detailed at the AGM. All the same, it is a pleasing result for the society.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2021**  
**FEATURE BREED WORLD CONFERENCE**  
**& SPECKLE PARK SALE**

**SPI**  
Speckle Park International

**HELD AT SYDNEY ROYAL 2021**  
**AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED**  
**STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS...**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY IN THIS SPECTACULAR EVENT.  
CONTACT THE SPECKLE PARK INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS

WWW.SPECKLEPARK.ORG    SPECKLEPARK@ABRILUNE.EDU.AU    PHONE: (02) 6773 3056

**"ONE MUTATION OF THE LEPTIN GENE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH BETTER BACK FAT GROWTH"**

### DNA testing - more tests available for less

We recently negotiated a new contract with Neogen Australasia, resulting in a slightly reduced price (less \$3.30) for the Speckle Park SNP Bundle at \$62.70 incl. GST, and added to the bundle offering is a Leptin test. Read on to learn more about this Leptin test. Please note that the Leptin test is not compulsory to register animals, and the addition of this test did not influence the pricing - it is a complimentary addition to the Bundle. In summary, the following tests are now included in the Speckle Park SNP Bundle:

- ✓ 50K SNP Profile
- ✓ Parent Verification (PV)
- ✓ Horn/Poll
- ✓ Myostatin (MSTN) (incl nt821)
- ✓ Coat Colour
- ✓ Leptin

To encourage more members to adopt tissue sampling rather than hair sampling and to supply samples using



approved collectors, Neogen has adopted a \$3.30 (incl. GST) Hair Sample Type Fee, and a \$2.20 Non-Approved Collector Fee (ie: not Neogen haircard or TSU). In addition, DNA testing from semen straws will incur a \$5.50 fee. So, the Speckle Park SNP Bundle will remain at \$66 for tests requested via hair samples, and \$62.70 for tests requested via TSUs. All prices include GST.

### What is the new Leptin test all about?

Leptin is a hormone secreted by fat cells that essentially tells the brain when to stop eating. While there are more than 20 mutations of the gene in cattle, and all can create subtly different effects, one mutation of the leptin gene (genotype TT) has been associated with better back fat growth, higher dairy production, and improved feed efficiency (Nkrumah et al., 2005). While there remains debate about the benefits of selection on the basis on Leptin alone, with many of the view that a more holistic approach of genomic EBVs captures a wider gene network and hence offers a superior option where genomically-enhances EBVs are available, some producers believe that selecting for the favourable genotype (TT) has improved their herds. Following interest from the Speckle Park community in both New Zealand and Australia, Neogen has included the Leptin gene marker in Speckle Park SNP Bundle.

### Live video streaming at the Sydney Royal Show

It was great to see so much interest and support of our initiative to engage Struan and Monika Pearce of studstocksales.com to provide live video streaming at this year's Sydney Royal Show. There were 75 Speckle Park animals entered at this year's Sydney Royal and with this being the most highly-regarded show in Australia, we knew its coverage on the SPI Facebook page would be well-supported. In addition to live video streaming, Struan and Mon also interviewed the judge,



The spotlight was on Speckle Park youth at the 2019 Sydney Royal Show. Here is Jacob Moore from Singleton, NSW.

**"I'VE ADMIRERD THE SPECKLE PARK BREED ... THEY HAVE A REAL PLACE IN AUSTRALIA'S BEEF INDUSTRY"**

John Manchee, SPI Chairman, Dale Humphries, and there were a series of excellent interviews with SPI Youth Ambassadors and SPI youth participants at the show. If you haven't already watched these videos, they can be readily accessed under the "Videos" tab on the SPI Facebook page. Well done to all involved!

Sydney Royal Show Speckle Park judge, John Manchee, Manchee Ag, Narrabri, said in his post-judging video that he "really enjoyed" judging the breed. *"It was probaly one of the better judging jobs I've had in terms of quality right through the line - there were very few animals not up to Royal standard and that is a real credit to the breed," Mr Manchee said. "I've admired the Speckle Park breed for a long time and followed them through with their carcasse results.*

*"They have a real place in Australia's beef industry, and that really impresses me. New breeds that come into the country often take a while to settle their genetics down but this breed is really firing. I was very impressed with the structural correctness.*

*"The Speckle Park breed is rare in the way they can soften a carcasse but at the same time have an enormous amount of meat on that carcasse. That's not easy to do in a maturity pattern that isn't late, so I think Speckle Park have got an enormous place and it will be great to see how these genetics go out into the industry."*



## REMINDER

The SPI AGM will be held at 3pm on Saturday, June 15, at the Novotel Sydney International Airport. If you cannot make it to the meeting in person, please appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf in respect to the Special Resolution (see page 17 of the attachment emailed to SPI members on May 21).



## FROM THE SPI OFFICE

### Genetic test results now displayed on SPI Register

If you've been looking at animals on the SPI Animal Register lately, you would have noticed that we have added genetic test results to animals now being registered. These results are also being published with the granting of new AI Sires and ET Donor Dams, for those sires/dams that require testing in order to gain a permit. If you have previously sought AI Sire or ET Donor Dam Permits for animals and would like their genetic testing results displayed, email through the Animal Identifier and we'll action that.

**Identifier:** BSS P15  
**Sex:** Female  
**Tattoo:** P15  
**Sire:** [WARATAH LOOK AT ME GO \(AI\) \(White\)](#)  
**Dam:** [WATTLE GROVE 68L KOLOR ME KATE E20 \(ET\) \(Speckled\)](#)  
**Colour:** White  
**Birth Date:** 20/06/2018  
**Status:** Active  
**Registration Status:** Registered  
**Breeder:** [BEN WESLEY](#)  
**Current Owner:** [BEN WESLEY](#)  
**Polled/Scurred:** Polled  
**SNP Typed:** 41718097179  
**DNA Horn Tests:** Homozygous Polled (PcPc)  
**Genetic Tests:** [RGF ,NT821C](#)  
(Click for Explanation)  
**Progeny:** None  
 Pedigree Assured  
**Pedigree:** [\[View\]](#)

If you would like to understand more about the genetic tests and how to interpret them, click on the blue hyperlink under the "Genetic Tests:" heading that says "(Click for Explanation)".

In summary, if the animal in question is a carrier for myostatin or red coat colour, then that test result will be written in **red**, while non-carriers are written in **green**. Poll/Horn test results are reported a little differently. On the line above and next to the heading "DNA Horn Tests", Homozygous Polled (PcPc) animals are non-carriers of the horn gene, while Heterozygous Polled (HPc) animals are carriers of this gene.

### Ensure accuracy in show entries

Members are reminded to pay attention to all show rules and regulations, including small local shows, when entering their animals for competition. There have been a couple of unfortunate instances this year where some members have incorrectly entered animals at local shows, whether that be through

age (animal too old for the class), or even entering unregistered animals where DNA testing has not been undertaken, or results have formalised ineligibility. This is not good enough, and the SPI Rules and Regulations are currently under review by the SPI Board.

### Studs and buyers embrace BREEDPLAN

We are pleased to announce there are now 26 SPI member studs now signed up to BREEDPLAN - 21 in Australia and 5 in New Zealand. With monthly GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis, these studs are provided with 12 updated reports a year for their animals. It is also great to see more studs are reporting BREEDPLAN Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) in their sale catalogues, and buyer feedback about these catalogue additions has been complimentary. Well done!

SPI Members are encouraged to join BREEDPLAN and submit raw data to strengthen the accuracy of resulting EBVs. This data can start with a birthweight, can then include any or all of a 200-day weight, 400-day weight and 600-day weight, and then it is recommended that breeders get their bulls and females scanned for fat and muscle as well. Bull scrotal size is usually measured by an accredited BREEDPLAN technician on the same day as fat and muscle scanning takes place.

Please feel free to contact the SPI office if you require additional information regarding BREEDPLAN. Catriona Millen is the Technical Officer for Southern Beef Technology Services (SBTS) and can also be contacted on 02 6773 3357. A reminder that the deadline for the submission of performance data to be included in the next BREEDPLAN analysis is the **26th of every month**.

### Send registrations with DNA test requests

Members are reminded that if you would like to have DNA testing done on animals that are not yet registered with SPI, it is important that you (please) send your completed SPI registration form WITH the

**"MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO PAY ATTENTION TO ALL SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS"**



SALE-O, SALE-O: Murray Van der Drift, Black Diamond Speckle Park, Macorna, VIC, at the Scone SP Sale on April 27.

DNA samples/form to the SPI office. As a matter of process, Mel and Sharon at the SPI office need all of this information supplied in the mail AND electronic copies of the forms emailed to the office as well. Please remember to send your samples and forms to SPI and NOT directly to Neogen. The SPI office will enter the test requests and send them to Neogen - this makes the tracking and importing of results more efficient.

Therefore, the process is:

- ✓ Collect a sample (TSU preferred over hair)
- ✓ Complete DNA application form. Print a hard copy
- ✓ Complete the SPI animal registration form
- ✓ Post samples and DNA request form to SPI
- ✓ Email the electronic forms for both the DNA application and SPI animal registration to SPI.

Please note that DNA test results will NOT be supplied to members until full payment has been received by SPI. The DNA Application Form has been updated and explains this - download it from the SPI website. DNA kits are available through the SPI office. They are sold in bundles of 10 for \$11 (incl GST) plus postage of \$5.50. Please note Neogen's new \$4.40 fee tests requested using hair samples as an incentive to encourage greater uptake of tissue sampling (TSUs).

<b>Identifier:</b>	GGG 68L
<b>Sex:</b>	Male
<b>Sire:</b>	<a href="#">SPOTS 'N SPROUTS JUNO 103J (Speckled)</a>
<b>Dam:</b>	<a href="#">STAR BANK 55H (Speckled)</a>
<b>Colour:</b>	Speckled
<b>Birth Date:</b>	17/04/2001
<b>Status:</b>	Active
<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered
<b>Breeder:</b>	GLENN & BETTY ANNE GOODFELLOW
<b>Current Owner:</b>	<a href="#">Multiply Owned</a>
<b>AI Approved:</b>	Yes
<b>DNA Typed:</b>	UQ194503
<b>SNP Typed:</b>	732690
<b>Progeny:</b>	<a href="#">[392 - View]</a> <a href="#">[View by Herd]</a>
<b>Pedigree:</b>	<a href="#">[View]</a>

### How to tell whether an animal has an AI/ET Permit

If you are looking to purchase embryos or semen to produce registrable animals, please first check on the SPI Animal Register to see whether the contributing sire/dam has a permit in place. See the red box in the image below, left, where this example sire does indeed have an AI Sire Permit in place. A dam with an ET Donor Dam Permit in place will have the following addition to her listing in the SPI Animal Register:

**ET Donor:** Yes

These permits are required before calves produced through either AI or ET can be registered. Please note that if the dam or sire is born after 1/1/2013, a SNP Bundle DNA test (SNP profile, parent verification, myostatin, colour and horn gene testing) will be required and results supplied to SPI together with a permit application form. These forms can be downloaded from the SPI website.

### Can you tell whether an animal has a SNP or MiP?

When you're studying the SPI Animal Register, can you tell whether an animal has a SNP or MiP DNA profile, or both (see green box in image below, left)? If the animal you are researching has a number next to the heading "SNP Typed:" then that animal DOES have a SNP DNA profile on the system. If the animal has a number next to the heading "DNA Typed:" only, then the animal (in most cases) ONLY has a MiP DNA profile on the system.

### If you need a new SPI show vest, don't delay!

Please don't leave ordering a new SPI show vest to the last minute, or else you may find that it won't arrive in time for the show!

### When did you last read the SPI Rules & Regulations?

When you sign up to be a SPI member, and re-sign annually as part of your renewal, you are also letting us know - with a signature - that you have read and agree to be bound by the SPI Rules & Regulations.

This important document is updated from time to time to ensure it accommodates and reflects the changing nature of the breed, the breed society, and its members. The SPI Rules & Regulations are currently under review, with the Board seeking to place tougher penalties on those members who "break the rules".



# CAUGHT ON CAMERA





# MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

as at 24 May 2019

## Speckles shine in hoof comps

### Heavyweight carcasse win at Wingham Beef Week

This Speckle Park/Angus/Limousin-cross steer (pictured, below) came first out of 40 entries in the Heavyweight Carcasse class at Wingham Beef Week, NSW, in May. He scored a total of 94.88, with 19/20 for market specifications, 35/35 for saleable meat yield, and 40.88/45 for eating quality. He also made the finals in his class on the hoof. The steer was prepared and exhibited by St Catherine's Catholic College, Singleton, and bred by Alan Badior and family of Glendon, near Singleton. Congratulations to all involved!



### Another heavyweight carcasse win, this time in WA

The Harvey Show carcasse competition results came in during May and Errol and Annette Howard, Kamarah Speckles, Wannamal, WA, claimed the Champion Carcasse with 92.40 points. Their two heavyweights averaged 90.14 points, while their pen of medium weights placed second. The Howards then picked up a third place in the MSA Grading section at the Harvey Gate To Plate Awards presentation dinner - all with Speckle Park-cross calves. Congratulations!

### \$11,000 prize pool anticipated for 2020 Futurity!

The 2020 Speckle Park Calf Futurity Jackpot is shaping up to be a cracker, with 60 cow joining nominations, 18 sires, nominations from four states of Australia, and an anticipated prize pool for the weaner classes of \$11,000. The Futurity will be held in conjunction with the Scone Speckle Park Sale in late-April. A big congratulations to SPI member and Futurity organiser, Tania Paget, and also to sponsors, Kelly's Finance Group, Underhill SPECS, Canada, and Ann Covill, Paradise Nutrients.

## Full and Life Members



278

TOTAL

+38

YTD in 2019

## Junior Members



21

TOTAL

+8

YTD in 2019

## Commercial Members



37

TOTAL

+3

YTD in 2019

## Animals Registered



11,173

TOTAL

+1666

YTD in 2019



4519

MALE



6654

FEMALE



## How can we help?

Contact Mel or Sharon at SPI:  
**+61 2 6773 3056**



# 'STEAKING' A CLAIM



## Dean Missingham

**Dorroughby Speckle Park Premium Beef  
Toowoomba, QLD, AUS**

A new Speckle Park beef brand in south-east Queensland is racking up a list of very happy repeat customers, and the butchers are interested too. "We got into Speckle Park because of their dressing percentages and the taste is amazing," Dean says. "In the past couple of months, the response has been unbelievable and I have not had one complaint. We've been getting calls from butchers lately who are wanting to come out and have a look. The higher yields make a big difference at the butchering end and breeders need to focus on this."

## Meet the Team



Listed as pictured, left to right.

### Justin Dickens (AUS)

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### Dale Humphries (AUS) President

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### Jason Goodfellow (CAN) (Not pictured above)

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### John Herbert (CAN) (Not pictured above)

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# UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

It has been a busy few months and we congratulate all members on their contribution to the promotion and expansion of our great breed. SPI wishes all members with upcoming sales the very best.

## JUNE

1-2	Wattle Grove SP Elite Genetics Online Sale
6	Maungahina Speckle Park Sale, New Zealand
12	Below Sea Level Speckle Park Sale, NZ
15	<b>SPI AGM in Sydney, starting at 3pm</b>

## AUGUST

9-18	Brisbane Royal Show (EKKA), QLD
12	Waratah Speckle Park Sale, Guyra NSW
20-31	Adelaide Royal Show, SA

## SEPTEMBER

1-8	Adelaide Royal Show, SA
6	Minnamurra SP Spring Sale, Coolah NSW
21-30	Melbourne Royal Show, VIC
27	Maungahina SP Yearling Bull Sale, NZ
28-30	Perth Royal Show, WA



## Data Submission Deadlines

The 26th day of the month is GROUP BREEDPLAN data submission deadline day. To learn more about BREEDPLAN, contact Catriona Millen from SBTS at (02) 6773 3357.