

**MID NORTH COAST  
MURRAY GREY BREED  
PROMOTION GROUP  
SUMMER 2018  
NEWSLETTER**

*Please RSVP by 9<sup>th</sup> Feb so we can  
organize a table*

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*The next General Meeting will be  
held at*

*Taree West Bowling Club*

*on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

*Commencing at 11.00am*

*Lunch at 12.00 Midday*



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**52<sup>nd</sup> Murray Grey National Show & Sale Event**

**Wodonga Exhibition Centre, Vic**

**22-23 April 2018**

**&**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Murray Grey Youth Stock Show EVENT**

**Wodonga Exhibition Centre, Vic**

**20-22 April 2018**

*Full details check the Murray Grey Website: [www.murraygrey.com.au](http://www.murraygrey.com.au)*



# MSA eating quality performance continues to rise

by Beef Central, 06 December 2017

Meat Standards Australia

THE eating quality of Australian beef continues to rise, with the national average Meat Standards Australia Index reaching 57.56 points in 2015-17 – that's a large rise of 0.84 index points since the 2010-11 grading year.

The results are revealed in a new report, *2017 Australian Beef Eating Quality Insights* produced by Meat & Livestock Australia. The report aims to help beef producers optimise the eating quality of cattle by demonstrating the impact production factors have on the MSA average.



The MSA Index is a single number between 30 and 80, and is the standard national measure of the predicted eating quality potential of a whole carcass.

The report analysed carcass grading data from 5.5 million MSA-compliant cattle processed in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years and examined compliance and

eating quality performance by production categories including feed types, use of HGPS and gender.

MSA program manager **Sarah Strachan** said the report highlighted the traits of carcasses in the top 1pc through to the bottom 1pc of the MSA Index scale to identify the areas producers can focus on to improve their own Index results.

The report showed the top 1pc of carcasses had an average Index of 66.19, and those in the top 25pc are averaging an Index of 60.61. Carcasses in the bottom 10pc had an average Index of about 52.17.

The report also found that 10.8pc of MSA-graded grassfed carcasses did not meet MSA requirements compared with 2.3pc of grainfed cattle.

"And while seasonal conditions vary for each state, on average, non-compliance was highest in the winter months. The main reason for non-compliance across all cattle was consistently having a high meat pH above 5.7," Ms Strachan said.

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angular Snip

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The report was part of a series of planned benchmarking activities to the year 2020 to continue evaluating the eating quality performance of the Australian beef herd and build on the groundwork set by the 2015 Australian Beef Eating Quality Audit.

"The project aims to provide more meaningful tools for producers and wider industry to identify areas for improvement but to also highlight reasons for celebration," Ms Strachan said.

"The results of the study confirm with confidence that the opportunity exists for MSA beef producers to continue to improve the eating quality potential of their herd as well as manage fluctuations in compliance throughout the year.

"Improving both of these areas can increase the value of the carcass they are producing and can create potential for increased profitability and enhanced farm productivity. Our objective is to help producers improve their MSA Index as well as ensure all cattle in Australia are eligible to be graded to receive an MSA Index."



# Biological worm control for livestock nears commercial launch



Vernon Graham

It's being hailed as the biggest breakthrough in internal parasite control since the 1960s and could be available to livestock producers next year.

International Animal Health Products (IAHP), based near Blacktown in western Sydney, is on the verge of releasing a product for the biological control of parasitic nematodes (roundworms) in grazing animals.

The company is awaiting final registration approval from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) but director, Chris Lawlor, said all the boxes had now been ticked in a long and expensive approval process.

The product is based on a strain of *Duddingtonia flagrans*, a fungus that occurs naturally in the environment and is found all over the world.

The CSIRO identified strains of *Duddingtonia flagrans* as having potential for biological parasite control in the early 1990s.

IAHP collaborated with the CSIRO in 1997 and took charge of the commercialisation of the project in 2004.

Twenty years later and IAHP is now geared up to manufacture and market the *Duddingtonia flagrans* (Df) product in Australia, NZ, the US and, eventually, Europe.

The company now holds provisional patents and trademarks and will announce the name of the product when final approval is received from the APVMA.

The *Duddingtonia flagrans* (Df) spores are fed to grazing animals in feed supplements and have no effect on internal parasites within the animal.



They pass onto pastures in the manure where they trap and eat the larvae of the major parasitic worms in sheep, cattle, goats and horses.

Mr Lawlor said the fungus was particularly effective against barber's pole worm (*Haemonchus*), commercially the most important roundworm

globally, along with brown stomach worm (*Teladorsagia*), black scour worm (*Trichostrongylus*) intestinal worm (*Cooperia* spp) and thread necked worm (*Nematodirus*).

He said some farmers may initially balk at having to feed *Duddingtonia flagrans* in daily supplements but once they saw a marked reduction in worm burdens along with reduced frequency of chemical worming he was confident they would be hooked.

Df will be available in two forms – one to feed mills and veterinarians in a concentrated form and the other as an over-the-counter product, via produce stores.

Mr Lawlor said the biological wormer would be a game changer in the battle to overcome increasing resistance to chemical drenches.

It was the biggest breakthrough in parasite control since the introduction of anthelmintics in the 1960s.

Mr Lawlor said before using the Df product the animals should be treated with an effective chemical drench and moved onto pastures which hadn't been grazed by the same animal species for a minimum of six weeks.

They would then be fed daily rations containing Df to cut the number of infective worm larvae which would help slow chemical resistance and over time may reduce the number of chemical drenches and the frequency of drenching.

***THE LAND 1<sup>ST</sup> DEC 2017***

## ABC MID NORTH COAST RURAL REPORT.



ABC Coffs Coast added 2 new photos.

5 hrs · 🌐

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For Onward Murray Greys stud owner Sue Francis at Dorrigo west of Coffs Harbour 2017 has ended badly with three young bulls and a bullock killed by lightning strike.

Storms lashed the area over the Christmas break – causing havoc at vegetable and blue berry farms, and the rain run-off to rivers halted oyster harvests in some areas.

Sue Francis had high hopes for the three young bulls aged between 16 – 18 months as she was planning to sell them mid-year at Glen Innes where she is a regular attendee.

It will change some of her plans for 2018.



### **Sue Said:**

I'm just sitting down after dealing with reality. I'm gutted, but it could have been worse. The 7 survivors are currently delighting in the upturned earth, unconcerned with what lies beneath. My heartfelt thanks to those who can empathise, to all those who understand how it feels and sympathise. Thank you.

***Mother nature at her unpredictable worst. What a disastrous loss. Our deepest sympathy for Sue.***