

GALLOWAYS AUSTRALIA - NZ CONGRESS REPORT 2025

Galloways Australia again says G'day to old and new Congress friends at this fantastic New Zealand World Galloway Congress. We've seen some lovely cattle, beautiful scenery and enjoyed wonderful hospitality. It's a credit to the organisers and the New Zealand Society.

The important thing, that each association here represents, is the Galloway cattle breeds and their important economic/environmental attributes. Attributes that evolved over eons but are becoming increasingly relevant. Because Galloways are minority breeds, real evidence of their excellence is required to put the breeds in front of the cattle industry. Galloways Australia has specialised in collection of that evidence. I thank our UK and German colleagues for recommending Galloways Australia as a source of real information to a Romanian PhD candidate researching Galloways.

To illustrate that excellence, it is great to be able to share some fantastic Galloway Carcase Competition results with you, after all success with carcase results and carcase quality is what producing premium Galloways and Galloway meat is all about.

At Australia's premier carcase competition, the Sydney Royal Pure Breed Steer Carcase Competition, a Galloway carcase was awarded a Silver medal for a steer achieving 83.78 points out of 100 while another Galloway carcase was awarded a Bronze medal achieving 83.84 points with a 76.2 cm Eye Muscle Area and a Saleable Meat Yield of 63.54%. Galloway carcasses were then entered into the Show's Stan Hill Trophy competition judged on 3 steers from each breed's entries and selected by the breed. The Galloways came 5th out of 13 breeds. However, in a very tight finish, they were only 8.52 points out of 300 points behind the winner and were placed ahead of well-known breeds such as Angus, Hereford, Murray Grey and Speckle Park. At another well regarded Carcase Competition held at Hawksbury, NSW, a Galloway steer's carcase was awarded 87.95 points. These carcase competitions are scored on objectively measured attributes such as size of eye muscle, marbling, ossification and measured eating quality.



One of the steers from the Stan Hill team

Further evidence of the Galloways superior eating qualities was an approach to supply heavy, grass-fed Galloways steers for export processing to a Michelin hatted chef in Taiwan. The steers were to be slaughtered and processed into primals in Australia, the primals then airfreighted to Taiwan. A carcase price premium was offered. Due diligence was carried out with the assistance of the Australian Government and revealed no problems. The chef visited Australia tried a number of meat samples from different breeds, confirmed he considered Galloway beef remained his choice for flavour, juiciness and tenderness and confirmed he wanted 7-8 heavy carcasses (350+kg) a month. Then disappointment. There are

limited Australian export abattoirs, beef exports are currently at almost record levels BUT no export abattoir would process less than 100 carcasses a month for an individual organisation. So, Galloways Australia's exports to Taiwan are currently on hold. A positive of the exercise was it made Galloways Australia reconsider how group marketing can be encouraged.

Galloways Australia remains active in showing cattle at both Royal and local shows. This year at Royal Canberra there were 10 head plus calves in the senior female classes a great exhibition, show-casing the variations available for breeders to choose from.



Champion Senior Galloway Cow

Both "traditional" and "Modern" type females were exhibited with the judge awarding Supreme to a "traditional" type whose genetics hark back to the original imports from Scotland.



Grand Champion Senior Galloway Bull Junior, Grand and Supreme Galloway Royal Canberra 2024

Field Day activity remains a focus for Galloways Australia, putting Galloways in front of a wide audience that might not necessarily be familiar with Galloways and their great economic and high-quality beef attributes. Field days are a great way of attracting new members and buyers. At this Field Day, the public were impressed to see this 18 year old Belted Galloway cow with an excellent calf at foot. The 3 year old Galloway cow impressed the public with her solid build.



Murrumbateman Field Days



Mudgee Field Days



Galloway meatballs with sundried tomato

Both shows and field days are great platforms for attaching a Galloway Dinner and this year was no exception. All of Galloways Australia dinners feature Galloway beef often in innovative ways. Recipes can be requested by emailing the Galloways Australia's Secretary at gallowaysaustralia@gmail.com.

Members of Galloways Australia enjoyed the hospitality of the Swiss at the World Galloway Congress in Bern, Switzerland. A great program, great visits and a great technical program.

One of the items on the Swiss technical program was Hypotrichosis in Belted Galloways. Hypotrichosis causes cattle to be born with partial or full loss of hair which can not be treated. It is also found in Angus and Hereford cattle. After the Congress, Galloways Australia was shocked to learn Hypotrichosis affected Belted Galloway calves had been born in an Australian Belted Galloway Association herd. Galloways Australia took immediate steps to ensure Galloways Australia's Belted Galloway Register was "ring-fenced" to prevent the introduction of Hypotrichosis into Galloways Australia. Galloways Australia undertook genetic testing to eliminate the known carrier and advised all major international associations that the introduction of overseas genetics would require a negative Hypotrichosis genetic test before acceptance into the Galloways Australia Herdbook. Further details are on the Galloways Australia website www.gallowaysaustralia.com.au.

Galloways Australia was incredibly shocked to find that Australian Galloway Association black Galloways had been born with Hypotrichosis. (It should be noted that there are 3 associations registering the Galloway breeds in Australia). The same actions that were put in place for Belted Galloways are now in place for Galloways. Hypotrichosis has never been known in Galloways, it is hoped that it is a recent happening and that genetic testing of the first known Galloway carrier's sire and dam progeny, if undertaken, will limit the future testing required. That advice has been provided to the Australian Galloway Association.

While further testing is required, it is considered that Hypotrichosis is not in Galloways Australia animals (Belted or Galloway) and if it is detected Galloways Australia has determined that it should be eliminated from Galloways Australia animals in the same manner as alpha-mannosidosis was eliminated decades ago.

Galloways Australia continues research into the Galloway breeds' genetic basis of the Galloway's economically important characteristics e.g. feed efficiency, marbling ability, calving ease, non-selective grazing habit. This is with a view to having research to prove the genetic basis of these characteristics undertaken in Australia.

It has been noted that while there is UK/European research supporting Galloway breeds as "conservation" grazers, highlighting their non-selective grazing habit and ability to turn woody forage into excellent beef, there is virtually no research demonstration that Galloway breeds can fulfill such a role in Australia, a country having very different conditions and foliage to that of Europe. Galloways Australia is therefore collecting all available "conservation" grazing data that it can locate in order to present that data to both funding bodies and research bodies to enable Australian research.

If anyone has information regarding studies/research relating to the Galloway's "conservation" grazing abilities or the genetic basis for the Galloway's economically important characteristics, could you please email details to the Galloways Australia Secretary at gallowaysaustralia@gmail.com .

New content is continuing to be added to Galloways Australia's website. So please visit www.gallowaysaustralia.com.au or check us out on Facebook to learn more about Galloways Australia's promotion of and protection of Galloway genetics. If you have questions regarding Galloway genetics our in-house Master of Genetic Science may be able to assist you.

Questions?

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