

Breed does more on less

Market ripe for Speckle interest

BUSINESS PROFILE

THE maths is simple for Speckle Park breeders Ivery Downs: better output, less input.

That philosophy will be on show at this year's Hot Spot Multi-vendor Speckle Park Auction on September 23 at Ivery Downs, Colinton, Queensland.

Potential buyers are being encouraged to increase their profit potential by considering the breed. With a more subdued national beef market, the timing of the sale means those looking to invest in the Speckle Park breed have the opportunity to buy quality cattle at very reasonable prices.

Speckle Park cattle are early maturing, give excellent feed conversion, are moderately framed and boast traits desirable within the wider beef industry including high carcass yield and better tasting meat.

The breed has been receiving significant recognition for its carcass improving traits having recently won the prestigious Stan Hill Memorial Perpetual Trophy interbreed carcass competition at the 2023 Sydney Royal.

The breed itself is rapidly shaking off the image of being niche or boutique, notching up considerable carcass competition wins and serious commercial beef producer interest.

Operators of Ivery Downs, Dale and Stacey Jones,



Dale Jones, Ivery Downs, Colinton, Qld, and Kane Lutter, The Butcher Co, with carcasses from Ivery Downs' winning pen of six steers from the Ekka Prime Beef 2022 competition, purchased by The Butcher Co. Picture supplied



Speckle Park cattle are early maturing, have excellent feed conversion and are moderately framed. Picture supplied

will host one of the largest multi-vendor Speckle Park sales in Queensland with more than 50 stud lots plus PTIC recipients, genetics and commercial cattle to go under the hammer.

Ivery Downs has been exclusively using Speckle Park bulls in its circa 1000 head commercial operation for the past four years after buying a load of heifers PTIC to Speckle Park bulls and seeing the quality and growth of the calves. Mrs

Jones said the sale presented an ideal opportunity for cattlemen and women to "give them a go" and experience the increasingly common reports of herd improvement throughout the country.

She said there was a misconception Speckle Park cattle were more susceptible to heat and ticks, particularly in northern Australia.

"They just adapt so easily." Ivery Downs is in the process of building a selling facility for the Hot Spot

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The calibre of the cattle I've seen has just been excellent.

Carl Young, Elders Beudesert

Multi-vendor Speckle Park Auction, as well as subsequent on-farm sales in the future.

There will be 16 vendors offering cattle and genetics on the day from Speckle Park studs across Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Canada, all with a keen focus on producing animals to increase the bottom line of beef operations.

One of the invited sellers is Charlie Sutherland, Deeargee Speckle Park, Uralla, NSW, who will be offering a mix of PTIC show heifers, registered PTIC females, frozen genetics and two commercially focussed purebred bulls.

Recently, Deeargee Speckle Park put 200 embryos

into commercial cows as part of its upscaling growth. Currently, they have about 700 cattle running on their property. Mr Sutherland said he believes the breed is the "complete package".

"That's why I've invested so heavily in them," he said. "In the 2019 drought, we saw our Speckle Park cattle show that they were resilient and they came out of that very well."

Last year Deeargee Speckle Park topped a sale with a \$44,000 stud heifer. Mr Sutherland also sold another for \$36,000 and one for \$34,000, both into Queensland, cementing the stud's reputation for top-notch breeding.

Mr Sutherland expects

substantial interest in the sale from both in-person buyers, and those tuning in online.

The team from Elders Beudesert will handle the auction, including livestock specialist Carl Young. Mr Young has been inspecting the cattle and said he's been thoroughly impressed by what he's seen.

"There are going to be some really, really good cattle there," he said. "There will be all different types so plenty to choose from. The calibre of the cattle I've seen has just been excellent."

Elders Beudesert has established a reputation for pushing the Speckle Park breed with a now well-populated network of breeders to draw on.

Mr Young said an increasing number of commercial beef producers were looking to Speckle Parks to provide that renowned frame structure. He said the breed's solid, punchy and muscly bulls gave a genuine hybrid vigour to any cross-breeding operation.

The auction will also be live-streamed via Elite Livestock Auctions, a critical addition to any sale these days, according to Mr Young.

"People are busy these days so it gives the option for people to be at home and bidding or even keep an eye on the sale while planting or whatever," he said.

Mr Young paid tribute to Ivery Downs for its continual promotion of the breed, particularly through its own cattle. A catalogue will be available closer to the auction. Those wanting more information can join the mailing list by e-mailing: stacey@iverydowns.com.au

For more information, search for Hot Spot Multi-Vendor Speckle Park Auction, on Facebook.

HOT SPOT

Multi-Vendor Speckle Park Auction

23 SEPTEMBER 2023 COLINTON, QUEENSLAND

Attend in-person or online via Elite Livestock Auctions

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dale Jones 0407 679 660 · Stacey Jones 0438 386 092
stacey@iverydowns.com.au

BULLS & FEMALES · PTIC RECIPS · SEMEN & EMBRYOS

MORE

High carcass yield

BETTER

Carcass and taste competition winning

FASTER

Early maturing & strong hybrid vigour

FOR LESS

Excellent feed conversion & moderately framed

VENDORS INCLUDE:

