

## Gippsland Beef Produces Steers in the Right Direction

The winners of the 2011/12 Gippsland Steer Trials were presented at a gala dinner at Lardner Park Warragul recently.

Eddie Jefford Lardner Park Events chairman explained the Steer Trial has been an important fixture in the calendars of Gippsland's beef producers since 1984, and this year's winners exemplified the strength and quality of the regions beef producers.

“The trial is designed to help improve the understanding of live steer assessment, market requirements, steer growth and fattening relative to pasture production,” he said.

“Again it has proven a very successful forum for discussions on aspects of beef cattle marketing and provided producers valuable source of feedback on growth and carcass attributes of steers to assist with genetics and sire selection.”

The target of the competition is to provide finished carcasses to market specifications for the domestic (210-270 kg Hot Standard Carcass Weight, 5-14mm of fat at the P8 site) and heavy domestic categories (270-310 kg HSCW, 6-12mm of fat at the P8 site)

“It provides an ideal opportunity for producers to compare their cattle under independently controlled grazing conditions and provides the vehicle for producers to develop a deeper understanding of the factors influencing liveweight gain and carcass quality.”

This year, Phillip Island Enviromeat producer and Gippsland Natural Meats director Bob Davie and family's Bimbadeen Angus were stand out winners taking out many of the prestigious Awards.

“The Davie family cattle were outstanding, winning ‘the Domestic Weight Gain and Carcass Award’; ‘the Heavy Domestic Weight Gain and Carcass Award’; ‘the Highest combined points weight gain and carcass Combined Overall Awards’ (for both turnoffs and for both Domestic and Heavy Domestic Sections; ‘the Radford Award for Best Overall Weight Gain & Carcass Award for both sections and the Highest Weight Gain Pair’.”

Vespa producer John Fowler of Fowler Farm won ‘the Highest Carcass Score Pair Award’ with his pair of Red Poll Steers.

### **The competition**

Eddie Jefford explained the aim of the competition is to have the widest representation of entrants and breeds possible.

“The grass fed trial is run in two turn-off sections. The first for the domestic market, with the second being for the heavy domestic market,” he said.

Cattle arrived at Lardner Park in the third week of June 2011, and the competition started after a one-week settling-in period. The first turn-off for domestic was 28 November, 2011 and second turnoff heavy domestic 9 January, 2012.

“The increase in liveweight gain was the difference between the final and initial empty liveweight, as measured at the first official weighing after the one week settling-in period in June. “

The MSA grading system was used in judging the carcasses. The assessment included tropical breed content, marbling, meat colour, pH, fat thickness, carcass weight, ossification which placed the carcasses in MSA boning groups.

“Points for each steer were calculated both for weight gain and carcass score, based on a comparison of individual steer performance with the average performance of all steers that meet the specifications.” Eddie said.

The weight gain results (accounting for 45% of the points) were added to the carcass evaluation results (accounting for 55% of the points) to determine the overall winners in each section.

All steers were processed and carcasses graded at Radford’s Abattoirs in Warragul.

## The Results

### Commonwealth Bank of Australia (Regional and Agribusiness Division) Combined Weight Gain & Carcass Awards Standard Domestic Trade - Turnoff 1 210-270 kg Carcass Weight 5-14mm P8 fat

| Breeder          | Breed                         | Points |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| <b>1st Prize</b> |                               |        |
| Bimbadeen        | Angus                         | 222.6  |
| <b>2nd Prize</b> |                               |        |
| Amberley Park    | Buchan Black                  | 208.9  |
| <b>3rd Prize</b> |                               |        |
| Three Oaks       | Simmental x Angus x Optimizer | 208.2  |

### Mobil Delvac - Evans Petroleum Combined Weight Gain & Carcass Awards Heavy Domestic Trade 270-310 kg Carcass Weight 6-12mm P8 fat

| Breeder                  | Breed       | Points |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------|
| <b>1st Prize</b>         |             |        |
| Bimbadeen                | Angus       | 233.2  |
| <b>2nd Prize</b>         |             |        |
| Kentsie Murray Grey Stud | Murray Grey | 228.5  |
| <b>3rd Prize</b>         |             |        |
| Bimbadeen                | Angus       | 222.4  |

### Radford Award for the Champion Pair – Best Overall Combined Weight Gain & Carcass

This award goes to the highest scoring weight gain/carcase pair out of either standard domestic or heavy domestic class

| <b>Breeder</b> | <b>Breed</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Bimbadeen      | Angus        | 233.2         |

**Coopers Animal Health  
Highest Weight Gain Pair**

| <b>Breeder</b> | <b>Breed</b> | <b>Pair Av. Daily gain</b> |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Bimbadeen      | Angus        | 1.34 kg/day                |

**Coopers Animal Health  
Highest Carcase Score Pair**

| <b>Breeder</b> | <b>Breed</b> | <b>Average Carcase Score</b> |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Fowler Farm    | Red Poll     | 74.620                       |

For more information about the Gippsland Steer Trial,  
visit [www.lardnerparkevents.com.au](http://www.lardnerparkevents.com.au) or contact Lardner Park on (03) 5626 1373