Australian Galloway Association
12th World Galloway Congress
September 2018 Australia

www.galloway.asn.au

The Association

Association membership is continuing to grow, particularly in the area of lifestyle farmers, who have moved from the cities to small properties on the outskirts of larger towns and purchased smaller herds of cattle for both aesthetic reasons and as a source of beef for their tables. We now have 128 members and it is great to see an increase in junior members as the younger generation is coming through to become the Galloway breeders of the future. Sadly, some of our longstanding members have reached the age of retirement and dispersed their herds, but in most cases the cattle have been snapped up by existing members, or people who have purchased registered stock and made the decision to join the Australian Galloway Association (AGA) and build on the pedigreed stock they have purchased.

Sallie Wadley is our Executive Officer and she works for the Association two days a week. The AGA's web site is updated regularly and provides a great source of information and news, and includes public access to the Association's herd book. It is a great tool for obtaining pedigree information when considering cattle genetic options or new purchases, as registered and commercial cattle for sale can be listed on the website.

There have been a number of Galloway Family Facebook pages developed for information exchange and our members, and Galloway enthusiasts world wide, have been active and enthusiastic contributors on these pages.

Australian Current Climate Conditions

Since the last World Galloway Congress in Scotland 2016, Australia has seen very low rain fall in large farming areas along the east coast of Australia. Farmers are experiencing severe drought with little to no rain over the past two years and have had to adjust the way they farm. The Galloway breed has also had to adapt to the change of foraging more to survive during these hard times and is coping a lot better than many other breeds with the current situation of little to no rain.

Galloway Family - Field Days, Workshops & Forums

The Galloway Family, that is all types of Galloways, are registered with the Australian Galloway Association. We recently held our Annual General Meeting for 2018. This included a forum for our members to put forward and share their knowledge and opinions. 46 people attended the weekend which is a great positive reflection on the Association. A very successful stock handling workshop and field day was held in conjunction with the AGM.

AGA members have run several similar days in the past year, with a couple more planned before the end of the year. New and existing members enjoy gaining new knowledge and practical ideas to take home to their farms, and they are a great opportunity to mix with other Galloway breeders in the area.

With Australia being such a big country, the Committee called for people in different areas to act as event co-ordinators to help members organise similar types of events. We are hoping to build a bank of resources to use at field days or to provide to new members who are also new to cattle. We will be building on the success of past field days by holding future events in different regions in the future, at the properties of AGA members.

Galloway Family Marketing

Showing continues to be a favourite marketing tool for breeders with AGA members doing a fabulous job of presenting their cattle in great condition despite tough conditions over the past couple of years. At many shows the Galloways have held their own in the interbreed competitions, being highly ranked in the final placings. Shows are also proving to be a great opportunity for Galloway breeders to get together and relax after the formalities and chat about their cattle and get to know each other.

An exciting event is now in the planning for 22nd to 24th February 2019 with the Galloway Family taking centre stage as feature breed at Royal Canberra Show. This has attracted a lot of interest among Galloway Family breeders, and it's possible we will see the largest representation of exhibitors and cattle from the Galloway Family ever seen at an Australian Royal Show.

Carcasses

The Galloway family in Australia continues to prove that they can produce the high yielding carcase for the butcher and the quality meat that the consumer

enjoys. The proof is in a number of wins in carcase competitions entered and awards for "From the Paddock to Plate" production of beef.

Currently there are premiums being paid for grass fed beef for both export and local consumption.

Agricultural Field Days

Our members are finding field days are a great way for interested people to inspect and enquire about our Galloway cattle. These days are usually held over three or four days and breeders attend with a selection of cattle and promotional material. This provides valuable exposure to the general public as well as being a great networking opportunity to keep in touch with other cattle breeders displaying their cattle. We are finding that many people are coming back year after year to chat about the Galloway Family, and many do eventually buy some Galloways.

Composites

Galloways have always crossed very well with other breeds and some beef producers are having success doing this in order to meet current markets. In Northern Australia where most of Australia's beef is produced, Galloway genetics have been used successfully with the Brahman breed to produce a composite that is fertile, hardy, and productive, therefore improving the carcass quality of the Bos Indicus. In the Southern part of Australia the Galloway is being crossed with Angus to produce very marketable and productive stock – the hybrid vigour is producing cattle which grow well and are meaty and easily meet butcher shop and abattoir requirements.

Looking forward to spending some time with you in Australia during the WGC and beyond

Please don't hesitate to contact the AGA office or any member during your visit to Australia - we would be pleased to help in any way we can.

All the best for a successful Conference.