



AGA Galloway News

Summer 2024

From the President

Wow, it is nearly the end of 2024.

We have a new Committee Member, Kristie Morris. Kristie is a young vibrant professional. Whilst Kristie is relatively new to the cattle world, she has heaps of experience with horses and is a project manager in the equine industry.

The AGA Committee has been concentrating most of its efforts on the best policy to protect the Galloway breed from the recessive condition of hypotrichosis. The membership has had two opportunities to attend webinars with guest speaker from NSW DPI, Dr Brendon O'Rourke. Members have also had the opportunity to attend a Members' Forum on 20 November to make contributions to the final by-law. Unfortunately, the forum was only attended by 17, which included six Committee members. The general opinion of the forum (excluding the committee members) was that females should not be required to be tested and imported males can be carriers if the Association is aware.

The Committee has now prepared a management plan to deal with hypotrichosis, which will be incorporated into the By Laws. To be honest it was not a unanimous decision by the Committee, but being a democratic society, majority rules. The management plan is included in this newsletter for your attention.

There has been interest in a new logo for the Association. The reasons being that:

- the current logo is in a software format that some publishers cannot use. The AGA does not have the original file and hence a new logo has been developed.
- a fresh new look

Rest assured members who have merchandise with the current logo will not be required to buy new merchandise until they need to.

Facebook is also getting a facelift (oh that's a good pun ha ha). Hopefully members will enjoy the changes. The AGA is also stepping into the world of Instagram.

We are also planning for AGM 2025, please save the dates – 26th and 27th April 2025. I am hoping as many members as possible can attend and I can put faces to names.

Thankyou to the AGA committee for their dedication. Thankyou to the members for their contribution to showing, field days and believing in Galloway cattle.

And lastly, when you get this newsletter, it will be just under two weeks till Christmas. I feel like I should be giving a Christmas speech (would be nice but I can't emulate the Queen, she was the master of the Christmas speech). I will say: "not many things stay the same, but

one thing that doesn't change is our ability to participate in humanity. Merry Christmas AGA members, your families and friends. Cheers to 2025.

Joanne Tesoriero
President

From the Committee

The Committee is pleased to welcome Kristie Morris, Ellanedry Farm Stud, to the committee. Kristie applied to join and has been involved since October. Many of you would recognize Kristie's name from show results as she has been active in New South Wales showing her Belted Galloway cattle. Kristie has an equine background, and currently works as the project manager for The Equine Practice Company, which provides continuing education to equine veterinarians worldwide. We look forward to working with Kristie and the skills and knowledge Kristie brings to the table.

Hypotrichosis

The Committee has met three times since the August newsletter, and a great deal of time has been devoted to researching and discussing hypotrichosis and the best way of managing the condition in the best interests of the breed and its members. Two webinars were held to provide information about this genetic condition and following release by the committee of a draft management plan, a members forum was held. The committee was looking for input from members and 11 members other than the committee attended, asked questions and put their thoughts forward. Following the forum the draft

plan was amended slightly and will be circulated with this newsletter.

Several members were concerned about the cost of testing, and we are pleased to report that negotiation with the DPI of NSW laboratory which carries out the testing has resulted in a reduced fee for hypotrichosis testing which is carried out in bulk. If the AGA can submit between 51 and 199 samples, the cost is reduced from \$46.92 to \$32.90, a saving of \$14.02 per test. If we can submit 200 samples the cost reduces again to \$22.83.

Therefore, for members wishing to test their cattle, the AGA will submit a bulk sample to the NSW DPI early in March 2025. Samples will need to be submitted to the AGA by 28th February 2025, with the hairs attached to the DPI cards (below). If you need cards please contact the office.



AGA Logo

The digital files held by the AGA for its existing logo are unable to be used in some of the newer software applications, and the committee agreed to look at updating it. After much deliberation the final touches are being made to an updated logo and it will be released early 2025. Rebranding of brochures and flyers is also taking place and they too will be released early next year.

Administration Matters

Herdbook Errors

If you see an error in the herdbook in relation to your cattle, please contact the office and we will organise to have it corrected. Please check your certificates when you receive them after your cattle have been registered and if there are errors please let us know so they can be fixed.

Semen Listing on AGA Website

If you have semen listed for sale on the AGA's website, would you please check the details and ensure they are current. Please let the office know if details need to be updated.

If you have semen for sale you would like included on the website please let the office know.

Office Christmas Closure

The AGA's office will be closed from 23rd December 2024 and re- open on Monday 20th January 2025.

Pink Eye

Pink Eye is apparently quite prevalent In New South Wales at present, with the weather conditions being perfect for spreading by flies between cattle. Pink Eye is a bacterial infection of the eye that causes inflammation and, in severe cases, temporary or permanent blindness.

Eye irritation from dust, bright sunlight, thistles and long grass can then cause tear production which attracts flies. The flies feed on infected secretions and move from animal to animal, spreading the bacteria.

The first sign of pinkeye is an animal with a 'runny eye'. In the first two days, the membranes of the eye are red and swollen (hence the name 'pinkeye') with a watery discharge causing tear staining and a closed eye. One or both eyes may be infected. The cornea then becomes cloudy or bluish and a small whitish spot appears in the centre. In the majority of cases, the infection then starts to resolve, leaving little or no permanent damage.

Treatment is the use of a penicillin eye ointment obtainable from your vet and should be applied between the eyelid and the eye. Eye patches can be glued over the affected eye, after the long-acting eye ointment has been applied, and will offer protection from any further irritation from dust, flies and sunlight. An intramuscular injection of a long acting antibiotic can also be effective in treating pinkeye.

Your vet will be able to suggest the best treatment options for your individual situation.

Members Out and About

The Flocco family of Belvue Ranch, Canyonleigh, NSW - Ben and his three children Belle, Bastian and Briah - have been very active in attending cattle handling camps this year in an endeavour to expand their knowledge of the cattle industry and showcase Belted Galloways and their stud to the general public. Their year has been one of amazing experiences and memories created as a family with contacts and friends within the cattle industry formed for a lifetime. Ben's reports follow, and from reading them you will be able to see just how much is packed into the handlers camps and how much can be gained from them.

Southern All Breeds Handlers Camp, Harden, NSW 23rd to 25th August

Ben Flocco writes:

"Winter 2024 saw Belvue Ranch return to the Southern All Breeds Handlers Camp at Harden in NSW for our second year. This camp was recommended to us last year by our friend/ mentor and fellow Beltie breeder in the Southern Highlands. The camp ran from Friday the 23rd of August to Sunday the 25th with an early bump in on Thursday evening if required. Over the three days participants are allocated to a group from "pee wees" through to "seniors". This year we had two pee wee participants, one novice and one senior handler along with five Belted Galloway heifer under two years old. Each day participants are to tend to the welfare of their cattle while attending a variety of activities including presentations, discussions, demonstrations, team

building activities, junior judging, formal dinner and a charity auction. This was held on the Saturday evening at the Harden Country Club. Parading was followed by a presentation on the Sunday before being dismissed.

This year the camp was at its largest draft of over 160 participants, which included school teams, studs, individuals and family groups. We were lucky and thankful to be with JJ Livestock (Little Dream Lowline), JTR Herefords & St Gregorys High School show team, who assisted us with preparation and stalling of our cattle (four of which were used as ballot animals for the school show team). Highlights we particularly enjoyed were the clipping & fitting demonstration by Keajura Park Limousins, lick block making and also junior judging which was overseen by judges Lee White and Zeke Groom who gave many hours of their time to help mentor and guide the group through the processes of assessing cattle.

On day two the cattle we took to the camp were used, along with a couple of other British breed heifers, for a group challenge. This saw the cattle prepared under different circumstances chosen by



Bastian, Belle and Briah Flocco

the judges, to parade into the ring. It was really great to see all the participants involved with the animals and getting their hands on some Belties.

Briah Flocco placed fourth in her parading heat and received a highly commended ribbon for her herdsmanship in the Pee Wee class.

Bastian Flocco placed 3rd in junior judging, fifth in his heat of parading and fifth for herdsmanship in the Pee Wee class.

Belle Flocco placed 3rd in her heat for parading in the novice category and fourth for the group challenge

Ben Flocco placed first in the Senior parading heat, Reserve Senior Champion, Reserve Senior Junior Judge, Reserve Senior Herdsmanship and was awarded the "JTR Co Most Successful Golden Oldie.

Belvue Ranch Ubeauty was balloted to the winner of Novice Grand Champion, Ben Harrison on the St Gregory's High School Show Team.

I'm very proud of our junior participants this year who were able to make some mates in the industry and take away

plenty of experiences and education."

Agri Show Farm Field Day – Moss Vale Showground NSW – 30 to 31st August

Ben and Bridget Flocco from Belvue Ranch attended the Agri Show Farm Field Day with their Belted Galloway cattle. Pam Brown from Red Ochre Stud helped Ben and Bridget out over the two days with information and answering queries. Here's a report from Ben on his experience:

"Over the two days exhibitors of the field day are encouraged to engage with spectators and discuss topics related to their exhibition. Belvue Ranch was quite fortunate to share the company of AGA committee member Pamela Brown of Red Ochre Stud, High Range, over the two day period of the field day. We were placed just off the main show ring adjoining the cattle yards where we set up a display to help demonstrate to the public some examples of the Galloway cattle with our current show heifer team who are being prepared for Melbourne Royal, and to share information and merchandise to promote the breed and the AGA. The cattle are all Belted Galloway ranging in ages from 10-20 months.



Belle Flocco, above, at the Southern All Breeds Handlers Camp, and children participating at Moss Vale Field Day right



The public were given the opportunity to discuss topics ranging from the history of the breed to the ability of Galloway cattle beef with Pamela, while we ushered groups in to the yards and escorted spectators to view the cattle up close. The public were given the opportunity to pat or brush the cattle and even take a selfie with the heifers who seemed to take it mostly in their stride. Children gravitated towards the cattle and enjoyed being able to run their hands over the heifers double layered coats which came in handy over the two days with extreme gusts of wind, experiencing speeds over 50km/h. Even though the weather proved difficult the exhibit was a hit! Especially on the Saturday, many enquiries were made from wanting more information to obtaining cattle or coming to visit the rest of the Belvue Ranch herd on the farm out at Canyonleigh.

Highlights would have been receiving visitors from as far as the Bega Valley to Danny Boy (who attended Stud Beef Victoria 2024 with the Flocco family) and Ainsley Davidson of Ainendell Stud along with Jeanette and Shane Holness of Idavale stud in Bungendore. It was also humbling to have so many visitors from the local Galloway community from



Camden down though to Marulan come out to visit and see the exhibit. We would just like to take the opportunity to thank them all for their show of support and kindness.

Thankyou to the AGA committee for all the encouragement and contributions to the field day. Having Pam on-site really bought the extra energy and experience to help navigate the whole event. We are extremely thankful for her time and friendship and proud of our little junior paraders for rolling up their sleeves and helping promote our breed of choice.

National All Breeds Heifer Show, Blayney NSW 5th to 8th September 2024

The Flocco family rounded out a very busy few weeks at the National All Breeds Heifer Show, which was held on the first weekend of September at the Blayney Showgrounds, NSW. The show caters for young people aged 5 to 25, and this year was the 30th year the show has been held. Ben writes:

“We were very impressed on the size of the show and how well the event was organised and officiated by the committee and volunteers.

All three children were involved with



The “Beltie Booth” at Moss Vale, left, and Briah Flocco , above, at the National Heifer

parading, cattle class entries and junior judging. They also entered the heifer jackpot on the Friday night which was a real eye opener that saw almost 100 head of cattle go head to head in a 3 judge snap knockout system. The children enjoyed involving themselves in educational presentations and team building games. They cared for their cattle for the first time with our own team for Belvue Ranch with the aid of a couple of older participants who were buddies for the children and helped them throughout the weekend's events from time to time.

Briah Flocco placed 5th in her Pee Wee paraders class with Belvue Ranch Ureeka, and he also received a novice herdsmanship award in the Pee Wee section.

Belvue Ranch Ubeauty placed 5th in her cattle class paraded by Belle Flocco.

I highly recommend the National Allbreeds Heifer Show to the youth involved with beef cattle who are looking to expand their knowledge and experience. "



Bastian Flocco, above, at the National All Breeds Heifer Show

Freedom Rise Stud Field Day, Yarraman, Queensland – Sunday the 15th September 2024

Baden and Raymond of Freedom Rise miniature Belted Galloway Stud held a successful field day on Sunday 15th September. 37 people attended from the three associations.

Attendees learnt how to:

- start to break cattle
- inject cattle
- tattoo cattle
- apply ear tags
- make a cattle lead



The picture, above, in the paddock was taken during a discussion on Galloway colour outcomes with red, black and the dun dilution.

The picture below shows participants making their own leads.



**Royal Melbourne Show,
26th September to 6th October**

This year saw five exhibitors, three with Belted Galloways, one with Miniature Galloways and another with Miniature Galloways as well as a standard Galloway. It has been at least 15 years since Miniature Galloways have been exhibited, and they competed in the "Any Other Registered Small Breeds" classes.

Belted Galloways

Heifer 12-15 months

1st Jalaway U R A Sweet Girl - Ali Hilli, Jalaway

2nd Silvan Park U-Bute - Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park

3rd Silvan Park Uluru - Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park

4th Belvue Ranch Ureeka - Belvue Ranch and led by Briah Flocco

Heifer 15-18 months

1st Belvue Ranch Ultima Unicorna - Belvue Ranch and led by Bastian Flocco

Heifer 18-20 months

1st Belvue Ranch UBeauty - Belvue Ranch and led by Bree Flocco

Junior Champion Female - Jalaway U R A Sweet Girl, Ali Hilli



Supreme Belted Galloway Exhibit,
Jalaway Loch Sassenach

Reserve Junior Champion Female - Silvan Park U-Bute, Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park

Pair of females under 20 months

1st Silvan Park - Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park

2nd Belvue Ranch - exhibited by Belvue Ranch

Heifer or Cow 24-36 months

1st Jalaway Loch Sassenach - Ali Hilli, Jalaway

Cow over 36 months

1st Silvan Park Smokie - Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park

Senior Champion Female

Jalaway Loch Sassenach exhibited by Ali Hilli of Jalaway

Reserve Senior Champion Female

Silvan Park Smokie exhibited by Hettie Biersteker of Silvan Park

Grand Champion Female

Jalaway Loch Sassenach exhibited by Ali Hilli of Jalaway

In the bull section there was only one bull which won Senior Champion and Grand Champion Bull - Silvan Park

Tambo - Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park

Sires Progeny group of 3

1st group by Silvan Park Whisky - Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park

Breeders Group of 3

1st Silvan Park - Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park

Supreme Exhibit

Jalaway Loch Sassenach - Ali Hilli



Reserve Senior Champion Female,
Silvan Park Smokie with Silvan Park Viking

Galloways

Heifer 15-18 months

Balytyckle "Ushi" Little Bear – Sonya

Heron Balytyckle

Grand Champion Female and Supreme

Galloway Exhibit

Balytyckle "Ushi" Little Bear – Sonya

Heron, Balytyckle



Balytyckle Ushi Little Bear

Any Other Registered Breed

Junior Champion Female - Spring Hill

Park Umi - Holly Dee, Barmaroo

Reserve Junior Champion

Oakvale Ulla Bella Ruby - Holly Dee,

Barmaroo

Senior Champion Female Tumblegum

Bonnie Jean - Sonya Heron, Balytyckle.

Reserve Senior Champion Balytyckle Toy

Story - Sonya Heron, Balytyckle.

Grand Champion Female

Spring Hill Park Umi - Holly Dee,

Barmaroo.

Senior and Grand Champion Bull

Balytyckle Top Gun - Sonya Heron,

Balytyckle.

Supreme Exhibit

Balytyckle Top Gun - Sonya Heron,

Balytyckle.

Balytyckle Stud was awarded the Alan

Dunk Memorial Prize for most

successful exhibitor of Miniature

Galloways.



Balytyckle Top Gun

Small Breeds Interbreed

Supreme Senior Champion Bull

Balytyckle Top Gun - Sonya Heron,

Balytyckle.

Supreme Reserve Junior Champion

Female

Spring Hill Park Umi - Holly Dee,

Barmaroo

Supreme Reserve Junior Champion

Female

Tumblegum Bonnie Jean - Sonya

Heron, Balytyckle.



Springhill Park Umi

**Royal Geelong Show,
17th to 20th October**

Judge was Tom Isedale

Belted Galloways

Bulls Over 20 Months:

1st Silvan Park Tambo

Champion Belted Galloway Bull:

Silvan Park Tambo

Heifer Under 20 Months:

1st Silvan Park U-Bute

2nd Silvan Park Uluru

Cow 20 Months and Over:

1st Silvan Park Smokie

Champion Belted Galloway Female:

Silvan Park Smokie

Reserve Champion Belted Galloway

Female:

Silvan Park U-Bute

Group Of Three:

1st Silvan Park Belted Galloways

Grand Champion Belted Galloway:

Silvan Park Smokie

Most Successful Exhibitor:

Silvan Park Belted Galloways



Silvan Park Uluru, left and Silvan Park U-Bute, right

Galloways

Champion Galloway Heifer

Balytyckle Ushi Little Bear - Sonya Heron

Miniature Galloways

Champion Miniature Galloway Bull and

Grand Champion Miniature Galloway

Balytyckle Top Gun – Sonya Heron

Interbreed

Champion Bull

Balytyckle Top Gun – Sonya Heron

Albury Show, Vic, 1st to 3rd November

Galloway cross steers were successful for Peter Koppman, Greenethorpe Galloways, at the 2024 Albury Show held from the 1st to the 3rd November 2024.

In the trade vealer class (carcase weight 190 – 220kg), a Galloway X Charolais weighing 324kg took out first place with 62 points.

In the supermarket trade class (carcass weight 221 to 250 kg) Peter took out first and third place, with 73 points and 66.5 points respectively. Both entries were Galloway steers and weighed 428 kg.

Peter also entered four steers in the heavy supermarket trade class (carcase weight 251 to 400kg) with three Galloways, average weight 465 kg, and a Galloway X Charolais weighing 520kg. Although achieving good scores they were out of the winning placings.

Congratulations Peter for another successful Albury Show with your steers.

Sale Show, Vic 1st and 2nd November

Sale Show was held early November and as Chez Hedger was taking one of her Limousin cows, I asked her to take one of our partially broken junior bulls as well. We were certainly glad we did. I can't thank Chez enough, not only has she

stepped up to break in our bulls (and some heifers this year for us), but she has been a long time supporter of the Galloway Family and can often be seen on the halter parading at other local shows for Pat Hunder of Torcroft stud as well.

In the Belted Galloway Section Junior Champion, Grand Champion and Supreme Exhibit was Jalaway Watch Our Unsung Hero (well he was actually the only Beltie there).

He then went on to the interbreed section where he was awarded Grand Champion Interbreed bull. Hero led like he'd been doing it all his life and had so many pats and scratches from the public throughout the day. By the end of the day, Hero was completely broken in and his fantastic temperament shone through. The judge even mentioned his very chilled attitude and lovely temperament on the microphone. We missed our usual Beltie crew from Pageoway to catch up and compete after they had some car troubles. There's always next year!

Ali Hilli



Jalaway Watch Our Unsung Hero

Whittlesea Show, Vic, 2 November

Hettie Biersteker, Silvan Park Belted Galloways, attended Whittlesea Show on 2 November, with judging carried out by Aaron Brennan.

Bulls Over 24 Months:

1 St Silvan Park Tambo
Senior Champion and Grand Champion
Bull:

Silvan Park Tambo

Female 12 To 18 Months:

1st Silvan Park Uluru

2nd Silvan Park U-Bute

Junior Champion Belted Galloway

Female:

Silvan Park Uluru

Female 24 Months And Over:

1st Silvan Park Smokie

Senior Champion Belted Galloway

Female And Grand Champion Belted
Galloway Female:

Silvan Park Smokie

Brighton Show, Tas, 10th November

Sam Phillips ventured out to the Brighton Show after a two year break, exhibiting two junior Miniature Galloway heifers and a senior cow. Valley View Twilight was awarded Junior Champion Heifer, with Valley View Trooper Reserve Junior Champion. Star of the team was Valley View Sleeping Beauty, judged Senior Champion Female, and which went on to be awarded Interbreed Reserve Senior Champion female, with the judge commenting on her volume and depth and praising the Valley View breeding programme.



Valley View Miniature Galloway team at Brighton Show

Kyneton Show, Vic, 15th and 16th November

There was no cattle judging at the Kyneton show this year, so Hettie and Andre from Silvan Park Belted Galloways and Sonya Heron from Balytyckle Miniature Galloway Stud displayed some of their cattle. It was a great opportunity to promote Belted Galloways and Miniature Galloways.



Yea Show, Vic, 23 November

Champion Miniature Galloway Bull and Grand Champion Miniature Galloway: Balytyckle Top Gun

Champion female Miniature Galloway: Balytyckle Toy Story

Champion female and Grand Champion Galloway: Balytyckle Ushi Little Bear

Upcoming Events

Royal Canberra Show: 21 – 23 February 2025

Entries are now open now
Stud Entries close: **27 January 2025**
Steer Entries close: **7 February**
Jackpot Entries close: **18 February**
www.rncas.org.au/cattle.html

The cattle committee has been working hard to provide extra events, and will be including a rare breeds interbreed as part of the interbreed judging in 2025.

World Galloway Conference – New Zealand: 27th March to 2nd April 2025

Late registrations up to 27 January 2025 are being accepted, subject to the availability of accommodation, and at present there are still hotel rooms available. See the website for the registration details to book in. Information below covers all the details.

www.gallowayworld.net/galloway-world-congress-2025.html

The 2025 World Galloway Conference will be held in the deep south of the South Island, starting on Thursday 27 March and running through to Wednesday 2 April 2025.

This is autumn in Southland and Otago, so hopefully participants will be rewarded with the sight of beautiful autumn leaf colours as they travel around these southern regions.

The starting location is in the city of Invercargill, on the south coast, for 3 nights, then participants will travel by coach north to Queenstown, located

inland in the mountains on beautiful Lake Wakatipu on Sunday to stay for a further 3 nights.

Direct flights are available into Invercargill Airport from the international airports of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Direct flights are available out of Queenstown Airport to Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, with access to connecting flights around NZ. There are also direct flights from Queenstown to the Australian cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane with Air New Zealand, Qantas, Virgin Australia and Jetstar.

WGC2025 Chairman, Angela McNaughton, thinks some of the Waikato breeders may be planning a short itinerary prior to start of the congress for anyone interested in visiting this area in the North Island, to see some Riggitt Galloways and other local herds.

Angela would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone from anywhere in the world that shares our common interest in the Galloway breed of cattle. Our breeders look forward to hosting you in New Zealand.

Any questions please contact:
Angela McNaughton
Chair WGC2025
mcnaughton@xtra.co.nz

Year Letters

2024 V

2025 W

Seymour Alternative Farming Expo, Vic – 4th to 6th April 2025

Always a popular field day, AGA members regularly exhibit at this expo, where you can explore the latest technology, practices and trends in small and backyard farming, visit the animals and enjoy the market style shopping, food and entertainment. Visit www.seymourexpo.com.au for more information.

Sydney Royal Easter Show - 11th to 22nd April 2025

Entries are now open and close on 26 February 2025.

Please check the website for further information. Note that Belted Galloways and Galloways have lost their classes at Sydney Show and are now shown in the Any Other Breeds classes.

www.rasnsw.com.au/competitions/animals/cattle-details/

AGA Annual General Meeting and Field Day 26th to 27th April 2024

The Association's Annual General Meeting and Field Day is in the initial planning stages, and it will be held in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. This is a beautiful area, and particularly so in Autumn, so mark the dates in your calendars now.

Details will be released as soon as they are finalised. We are planning an exciting programme for the Saturday field day, and will hold a dinner on the Saturday night. It will be a great opportunity to meet fellow Galloway Family breeders.

Royal Bathurst Show, NSW – Belted Galloway Feature Show - 2nd to 4th May 2024

The feature breed for the 2025 Royal Bathurst Show will be Belted Galloways. To be held from the 2nd to 4th May 2025, it would be great to see as many exhibitors as possible at what will be an incredible event for the Belted Galloway breed in Australia. All members from all three Galloway Family Associations are invited to attend and exhibit.

There is prize money up for grabs in all stud and steer classes as well as prize money for all Champions throughout the cattle section.

Events like these are not possible without generous sponsors and those wanting to sponsor classes can contact the feature breed co-ordinator for more information as to how they can support this Belted Galloway feature show. Prizes and sponsorship money are welcome.

Belted Galloways and miniature Belted Galloways will have their own group classes in addition to the interbreed group classes for this feature show. There will be junior bull and heifer jackpots, school stud classes, interbreed group classes, a fancy dress class, junior herdsman, junior fitting, young judges and paraders classes. Belted Galloway, Galloway, miniature Belted Galloway and miniature Galloway will be shown in separate stud classes. There will be a Galloway family interbreed and a small breeds interbreed.

For more information about the 2025 Royal Bathurst Show, here's the link to the website:

www.bathurstshow.com.au/competition/s/competition-sections/livestock

or please feel free to contact the Feature Breed Coordinator, Alexandra Munday via email at beltedgalloways-7hills@outlook.com

Stud Beef Victoria Handlers Camp 24th to 27th April 2025

The 2025 camp will be held from Thursday 24th April to Sunday 27th April at the Royal Geelong Showgrounds

www.studbeef.com.au/handlers-camp

Entries are not yet open, so keep an eye on the website and the facebook page, or for further information, please contact:

Sarah Bolte, Handlers Camp
Administrator

Ph: 0427 284235

Email: sbvchc3@gmail.com

This camp is extremely popular and books out very quickly. Ages of attendees range from 8 years to 80 years!

You will learn about presentation for shows, judging (which is beneficial as a stud owner and for showing or simply as a cattle owner), nutrition, etc - there is no limit. It is a great experience mixing with youngsters learning and those who have experience. Really, an excellent networking opportunity if you like to look at the experience in that way.

SA Junior Heifer Expo: July 2025

Another fantastic training opportunity for young people aged 8 to 24 years. Dates and details are not yet available, but here is the website for you to check

www.sajuniorheiferexpo.com.au

It is a camp where professionals give their time and it has produced some of Australia's leading cattle judges, fitters and industry heads. Attendees generally go back year after year expanding their marketing, fitting, nutrition, showing and production knowledge making lifelong friends and contacts within not only the beef industry but industries which connect to the beef industry.

Good Ground Cover Can Save Soils

As summer takes hold, it's worth considering how your topsoil can best be protected from the erosion caused by wind, water and stock movement. Even losing a tiny amount of soil really adds up – just 1mm of topsoil across a hectare weighs between 10-12 tonnes! Losing this soil also means the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus, essential nutrients needed for healthy plant growth. Bare soil is also at high risk of weed invasion.

Maintaining dense pasture is the best way to protect your soil, and both living and dead plant matter can play a role in protecting this precious resource. As a guide, at least 70% per cent of the

ground should remain covered with plant material (see middle photo, below to prevent runoff and erosion. It is important to regularly assess groundcover, particularly in these dry times, so that preventative management actions can be implemented.

How can you measure ground cover? One quick way is with a Standing Measurement. Stand with your feet 50 cm apart. Visualise a 50 cm square in front of your feet and estimate the percentage of groundcover within it. Do this ten times in the paddock and average the results. If it's less than 70% cover, the paddock needs a rest.

To protect groundcover in the short term, actively manage stock. If needed, set up a containment paddock to help maintain a minimum of 70 per cent groundcover in your other paddocks. Longer-term, consider the type of pasture species and whether different species or more mixed species (including perennials, legumes and grasses) would be more suited to the soil, climate and grazing practices, and provide the necessary feed quality and quantity for stock.

By actively measuring and managing groundcover, you are not only helping



Above Photos: Summer season groundcover- left 10%, middle 70% right 100%.
Images: A Cole

to improve soil health, but ultimately improving pasture and stock health too

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL GALLOWAY ENTHUSIASTS.

***WE WISH YOU A SAFE, MERRY AND WONDERFUL
CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR FULL OF LOVE AND JOY***