

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Few readers will be surprised to hear that I believe our Australian Lowline cattle are the most environmentally friendly of all cattle with long term sustainability ahead of virtually any other breed. Not only are they wonderful, friendly and fertile black cattle, but they thrive in poor conditions, take up less space in our pastures and can crowd bigger groups into a truck. And this is before we consider the succulent, tender, sensibly sized steaks they produce and their many other attributes.

It has been fortunate for all of us that we were Australian Lowline breeders in the last year, another tough one marked by prolonged drought in many places causing additional costs in having to buy in feed and even water. At other times, overwhelming floods have devastated parts of the countryside.

The cost of all this has been exacerbated by the high price of farm and transport fuel and the extraordinary increases in fertiliser prices. Many of these factors, as well as the uncertainties of international financial markets, have also affected

New Zealand, US and other international members, and the impact has been lower for all of us than it would have been had we any other cattle breed. We can all be proud of our personal foresight in involving ourselves with the great Australian Lowline cattle breed.

Even in these conditions, and with a flattened demand for pedigreed animals, demand for commercial Lowline cattle is better than ever as more people move to small acreage blocks with un-utilised pasture near major cities. The attractive features of commercial Lowlines often result in buyers graduating to registered Australian Lowlines to gain the long term benefits of further genetic enhancement. This is an encouraging trend and your ALCA Council is exploring the opportunities we would gain if we had an appropriate commercial register.

On the pedigree Australian Lowline front, Royal and regional show entries continue at high levels and the quality of animals has continued to improve. Both New Zealand and the United States report similar results. Congratulations to all involved.



An increasing number of pure bred Australian Lowline steers and Lowline cross steers have been exhibited in the last year with such outstanding results that the wider beef industry is now paying much more attention to our breed. Royal, national and regional shows exhibiting Australian Lowlines will take place in 2009 in all states of Australia, both islands of New Zealand and many parts of the United States. Three important ones in Australia, which are in April, May and June of 2009, will have a heavy ALCA presence. These are the Sydney Royal, the triennial Beef Australia at Rockhampton (See Page 9) and National Beef at Bendigo. My best wishes and the best of luck to everyone taking part or helping at these major events.

