



A solid Kaharau sire with presence pictured during the bull walk last month. Kaharau Stud is using the latest technology and is pleased with the results of DNA testing sires.

# Kaharau sires rate 'exceptionally high' in DNA testing: Dowding

THE positive signs emerging for farming are good news, say Kaharau Angus Stud owners.

"The dollar is down significantly and prices for meat and wool have risen steadily compared to prices for the same time last year. There is a huge demand for protein worldwide, and most areas have at last received rain," says Kaharau's Charles Dowding.

There is also plenty of good news for the Angus breed.

After attracting record entries from all breeds, it was a thrill to see Angus were the overall winners in the 2008 Steak of Origin for the fifth year running, Mr Dowding says.

Also the Angus Pure meat brand continues to build steadily with sales exceeding \$4 million to the end of last year, an 18 per cent increase.

Restaurants throughout New Zealand are using Angus Pure with 18 in Auckland alone.

To be part of the ongoing success of the Angus Pure Programme and to benefit from the premium offered, there is an opportunity to sign up to the Angus Pure Members Club, he says.

Kaharau has always tried to provide bull buyers with as much useful information as possible and the latest technology available is DNA testing.

Current genetic tests are focused on productivity and carcass quality i.e. feed efficiency, marbling and tenderness.

Catapault Genetics carried out this research with research groups in Australia and New Zealand after testing 60,000 cattle. These findings were also mirrored by independent tests carried out by Chris Morris at Ag-Research.

"The test results are easy to follow. The more stars for any one trait the better."

In 2007, most Kaharau sires were DNA tested for marbling, tenderness and feed efficiency.

"The combined results totalled 15 to 17 stars for each sire, which is considered exceptionally high. Seventy-five per cent of these sires scored seven or eight stars for tenderness, eight being the highest score attainable for this trait," says Mr Dowding.

Kaharau Stud is also pleased to see Angus weaners sired by Kaharau bulls continuing to gain premium prices for clients selling to the Five Star feedlot at Ashburton with the criteria for selection being easy-fleshing cattle with marbling and tenderness.

Kaharau will offer 87 rising two-year bulls for sale this year.

All bulls have been carefully selected and inspected by an Angus breed inspector. The sires have tested BVD antigen-negative

and vaccinated for BVD. The Kaharau herd Tb status is C10.

Bulls have also been service tested and inspected for breeding soundness by John Meban of Eastland Vets.

All bulls are fully guaranteed and will be delivered free in the North Island.

The stud welcomes inspection if anyone would like to view the bulls or would like any further information.



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