

19th Annual Bull Sale

We are delighted with the line up of bulls that we will have to offer you on June 13th. There are standout sons on all fronts – including genetics from Fossil Creek L35, Earnsleugh Tussock, MF Outlaw, Fossil Creek Titan L230, Storth Oaks Everest J20, Fossil Creek L235, Hoover Emperor.

The Everest sons are outstanding again after being so highly sought after last year. Now we have Tussock sons to complement the programmes. Both bulls look great and are true multitrait performers, both in maternal traits but also beef quality merit.

You will find even more choice of the multitrait specialist sires to pick from a larger lineup of quality bulls on June 13th, please take the opportunity to come and view the bulls before the sale at anytime.

Fertility is King

We are sure you don't need to be reminded that live calves are the best driver of profit in the beef cow system. We devote huge resources to ensuring that we present the commercial industry with the very best genetics to obtain the best fertility levels.

We don't synchronise or AI our yearling heifers as we firmly believe they need to be able to express their own natural fertility or not. We recently scanned our yearling heifers and over 90% were pregnant within 2 cycles, of which 80% of these conceived in the first cycle. This is guaranteed to set these girls up for better fertility throughout their lifetime.

Many of our clients report similar high in calf rates, with a recent report of 9 dry's from 480 mixed age cows. This provides huge selection options for other traits.



Two of Cascade South Westland Limited's Fossil Creek sires

Indexes – the wood from the trees'

Fossil Creek Angus took the initiative at our 2017 sale to introduce a simplified system to use a more relevant way of economic evaluation of traits – being able to sort bulls on what you are actually getting paid for in the paddock. These indexes were developed and managed by Abacus Bio. We believe you should only be paying a premium for those traits that you will receive a premium for in your calves, not simply looking at EBVs weighted by some corner office boffin. We will continue to put these 'sub indexes' in our catalogue this year, as we did in 2018. Please take the time to also evaluate the bulls you are interested in on these indexes – contact us if you have any queries as it is important that you select the right bull for your own individual herd needs.

We wish you well for a productive Autumn and Winter ahead. We are excited by the opportunities that the beef industry presents for efficient pasture-based production and we believe that producing fit-for-purpose agile genetics is our job to nail for you. Please contact us to come and look at our herd, young stock or bulls at any time or to simply chew the beef.

Neil & Rose and Blair & Jane



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Check out our updates on our
Fossil Creek Website

www.fossilcreekangus.co.nz or Facebook

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

'Beefed Up'

What a great time to be in the red meat industry – with the trifecta of beef, venison and lamb all paying dividends on decades of hard work. Forecasts remain for the NZ dollar to drop below USc 63 within the next 12 months - coupled with the African Swine Fever outbreak having a huge impact on China's pork production, this is tipped as being a huge opportunity for NZ red meat – being able to break our beef into untapped markets in a spot previously filled by Chinese pork due to this 10% reduction in global pork production. Our meat marketers need to ensure that we are first cab off the rank to fill this gap before poultry. We must have a government that understands that the economy is driven by trade receipts, not domestic tax collection. We need new money onto our shores, not robbing Peter to pay Paul through a myriad of taxes. For every 1% drop in GDP receipts, \$500M less tax is collected – so it doesn't take a brain surgeon to work out that the most effective gains for this country are from driving GDP, which in turn allows us all to invest in our resources – a win:win. It seems absurd that at a time when our red meat sector profitability is incredibly strong that we have Shane Jones and his merry men targeting to replace 500,000 ha of sheep and beef country with a monoculture of trees.

Officials in the Ministry for the Environment have recently admitted that this strategy would have a significant negative impact on our economy. As a supplier of genetics, we ask you to use all the tools of genetic selection (EBVs) and best management in order to make sure you are running the most efficient breeding herd for your land. We need to continue to drive profitability of our sector through efficient productivity gains in order to fight any political arms race front on.



19th Annual Fossil Creek Bull Sale
Thursday 13th June 2019



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Find us on Facebook
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'Fossil Creek in the Field'

After our cold and wet Summer we have had a very hot dry Autumn period throughout March up on the hill block- the huge amount of feed amassed up on the back blocks remains both a challenge and an opportunity for the girls over Winter, with all 260 stud cows to be wintered out at 600 metres above sea level as usual. We feel that it is important that our stud cows are run in an environment that reflects the commercial conditions that we sell our bulls into - all around the country.



Blair with our stud heifers after IMF scanning

We had a great calving up in the hills again this year. As well as a good crop of Everest and Tussock progeny, we had fantastic results from last year's A.I programme with 40 calves from two USA multitrait specialist sires – LD Capitalist and GDAR Regulator. Along with another 25 ET calves from our very best production donor cows, we have a great lineup of 300 new season calves.

At mating we selected six yearling bulls to cover our 95 yearling and 75 R2 heifers, including Everest and Tussock sons, an outstanding Hoover Emperor son as well as a son of the Titan L230 sire sold to Nethertown Stud. You will see a sneak preview of these boys on our Fossil Creek Angus facebook page.

We remain focused on a tight calving pattern, with a 50 day window for our mating (just over 2 cycles). This hard line policy has paid dividends – we scanned our 75 second calving heifers this week (these girls calved as R2s) and had a 100% in calf rate within 50 days of mating. Generally heifers that conceive early will continue to do so throughout their lifetime. They also usually wean heavier calves, so just a reminder that it doesn't pay to keep late calving yearling heifers or even 3 year olds.



Partnering Rural Events'



Fossil Creek Angus was proud to be a major sponsor of the 2018 Springton Trophy, hosted by the North Otago Pony Club in their 70th Anniversary year. The event was a resounding success, held on a new course that received accolades from all competitors and supporters. Fellow Angus breeder Lindsay Carruthers from Middlemarch was the technical delegate for this event. We congratulate Lindsay on the recent sale of his property and have been proud to be aligned with Lindsay's Nethertown stud operation – with sire Fossil Creek Angus Titan L230 sold to Lindsay at last year's sale continuing to perform well within his stud.

'The Mackenzie Collie Dog Club Trials' is another event that Fossil Creek Angus is proud to support – held annually in February, this is a strong club of dog trial enthusiasts, driven by volunteer time and encompasses everything that is good about rural communities.

Jane was delighted to recently judge the Aorangi Regional Finals of the Young Farmer of the Year and used the opportunity to write all the questions for the evening session and put some tricky beef breeding questions in! Well done to all finalists, we look forward to the national final in July, a showcase of this nation's finest young talent. All of these events should be prime time viewing on TV.

Neil attended a world reproduction conference in Brazil last August, and in April will be at the Trans Tasman Beef Cow production meeting in Cromwell. Neil has participated in this initiative alongside Beef and Lamb Genetics since its inception and it fuels his knowledge and passion for lifting productivity in the NZ beef industry



Maniototo Action Network Group visit to the Fossil Creek Breeding Herd



Fossil Creek Angus Donor cows with calves at foot

Pure Propaganda

You may have read some promotional material recently published in farming media by Angus Pure Ltd and introducing their so called elite stud breeder partners. We consider this material to be very inflammatory and disappointing as the claims have no basis whatsoever. Angus Pure have misrepresented their claims to be those of Angus New Zealand which is incorrect as the breed society function is to promote and support all its members.



Angus Pure is unable to process cattle in the South Island, and from its 63 claimed partners it appears a number have no registered cattle, many have actively opposed the AP strategy and have shown no interest in carcass traits. As far as claims of superior genetics and management, there is no baseline to measure either and such suggestions are rejected. However, a number of the named partners have poor or mediocre Completeness of Recording scores which relates to their data input for Breedplan.

Fossil Creek Angus has a 5 star maximum score for performance recording data input, utilises independent structural assessment, implements some of the strictest culling regimes and fertility management practices in New Zealand, but felt it was not a good investment to throw some token money at Angus Pure to get on this 'list' as we couldn't see a value proposition for our clients.

Angus NZ has moved swiftly to state its position to the Beef industry and dispel any myths claimed by these media releases.

'Hazeldine' – A Passion for Performance

Bob Johnson is passionate about his females... (the four legged kind!!). Bob manages Hazeldine, a 2500 Ha North Otago typical dry steep run block in the headwaters of the Kakanui river. Take a trip around the farm with Bob and you can't help but be impressed by the evenness of the predominantly Angus cowherd numbering 250 quiet cows. A large herd of breeding hinds and flock of halfbred ewes are similarly managed and genetically selected with care and similar passion to the cows.



Bob has worked on an impressive number of iconic properties in his career and worked with many highly respected cattlemen. He now has the chance to stamp his mark on his own programme alongside owner John Hannon, and he is certainly doing this. The genetics in the cowherd is predominantly Fossil Creek and stretches back at least 10 years. The strong maternal attributes and strength for the challenging environment are evident and the young heifers and first calvers are really impressive in their consistency of type and temperament.

Hazeldine calves are sold at the Waiareka sale and are highly sought after by finishers and commercial breeders seeking replacement breeding females.



Bob Johnson and a mixed age Fossil Creek Bull