

the BULLETIN

PRE SALE 2017



Welcome to our presale issue of the Bulletin for 2017. The years seem to flash by and it is hard to believe this is coming up to our 29th sale. This year we are offering more bulls than ever before and we are very proud of the line up coming forward. In the Charolais the influence of Evolution remains strong. Not only is he siring many bulls in the sale we also now have many bulls out of Evolution daughters and bulls sired by Evolution sons. This year we have sons of new sires including Palgrove Foresight and Silverstream Geddes. There are some exciting bulls by these sires in the sale. We are once again really pleased with our Hereford bulls and our magnificent Hereford sire Gay Olympus keeps breeding quality cattle and a type we strive for. We will also have more Hereford bulls for sale than before.

This past year has been busy, rewarding and exciting. Back in September we went to Melbourne. Charolais were the feature breed at the Royal Show and Brent had the honour of judging a very good line up of Charolais cattle from 4 Australian states. He also judged the Angus and the interbreed. Apart from Anna realising that her passport had expired the night before flying out and then Brent's bag not arriving when we did eventually get there resulting in him judging in borrowed clothes, the trip went really well. We had a small line up at the Canterbury A & P Show in November which proved very successful. Not long after the Show Brent took his dad Bruce and father-in-law Peter to Canada for a week for a whistle stop tour. Our genetics have been very well received in Canada and the trip was an excellent opportunity to catch up with many of the breeders that use Silverstream genetics. Anyone who knows Bruce would appreciate that Brent taking him was going to be challenging. It was and if anyone has time, just ask Brent about the many frustrating incidences that involved Bruce on the trip.

December saw the arrival of our delightful baby girl Jordie. She has been so far (touchwood) a dream, fitting into our busy lifestyle. She is often in her pram or car seat while we are at the farm and in the yards and she seems quite relaxed and accommodating.

We are currently receiving calves for finishing. The fodder beet system has proven extremely successful and it is rewarding to see how it has changed and improved people's beef systems. It is exciting to see the better returns for the cow calf producer. The beef cow has had a tough run climatically and economically over the years so it is great to see those that have stuck with them getting the rewards.

We have recently had an awesome trip to The Muller Station which features in this issue. It is an awesome part of the world and one could not help but be inspired after visiting.

We hope you enjoy the read and we really look forward to seeing a lot of you at our sale on the 14th of June.

All the best for the next few months.

Kind Regards

Brent, Anna, Bruce and Maureen Fisher.



Brent with the Grand Champion Angus that he judged at the Melbourne Royal in September.



Jordie Katy Fisher born 18th December 2016



After winning the Supreme Champion Livestock Exhibit at the Canterbury A & P Show. Pictured is Harris Thompson from Western Australia, A & P President Warwick James, Anna, Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Bruce.



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SILVERSTREAM HAS GONE GLOBAL

-Our International Success

"We love Evolution daughters-they are simply outstanding and account for a high percentage of our replacement heifers. Their substance, maternal traits and overall quality are unequalled."

(David Bondfield, Palgrove)



This stunning 11 month Evolution heifer Palgrove Panache M44 was the top price heifer at the Palgrove Showcase Female Sale who sold for \$12,500



This impressive 11 month Silverstream Holster heifer Palgrove Desire M22 was the 2nd top price heifer at the Palgrove Showcase Female Sale who sold for \$11,000



Another impressive 10 month Silverstream Holster heifer Palgrove Refine M78 sold for \$8,500 in the same sale.



This 3 year Evolution heifer Palgrove Estella J109E sold at Palgrove Showcase Female Sale for \$12,500



SILVERSTREAM HOLSTER H172
HIS EXCLUSIVE AUSTRALIAN SEMEN RIGHTS WERE SOLD TO PALGROVE. IN THEIR RECENT SHOWCASE FEMALE SALE A SEMEN PACKAGE OF 20 STRAWS MADE A RECORD \$13,000/\$650 PER STRAW. HOLSTER WAS AN EVOLUTION SON WHO SOLD IN OUR 2015 SALE TO DON DITTMER.



Palgrove Kingdom who is sired by Evolution sold for a whopping \$50,000 at the Palgrove annual on farm bull sale. The 8 sons sired by Silverstream Evolution sold in that 2016 sale averaged \$17,500.

PALGROVE KINGDOM

Cloud Nine who is sired by Evolution sold in the Wilgenbusch biannual female sale for \$17,500. She was sold to Elders Charolais who continued her successful show career. At the 2016 Canadian Western Agribition she was the Junior Champion Charolais female and the Charolais Champion in the First Lady's Classic!

JWX CLOUD NINE 46C



SOS CHUCK WAGON 54C

SOS CHUCK WAGON 54C Sired by Silverstream Geddes was the National Grand Champion at the Charolais Royal in Toronto, Canada. He was also the top price Charolais bull sold in 2015 at \$60,000. The Global Semen Rights in Silverstream Geddes were leased to Semex in 2014.

MULLER STATION

Awatere Valley

CLIENT PROFILE

By Anna Fisher

Passion, Pride and Commitment are evident as we drive through Muller Station on our way to the homestead to catch up with Steve and Mary Satterthwaite. We have been driving for ages. For us it's a couple of hours to Hanmer Springs but we are only halfway there as we make our way up a shingle road that passes through Molesworth Station and eventually to the Muller. It's a beautiful day and there seems to be plenty of feed around. You know when you cross over to the Muller as it looks like a property that is farmed exceptionally well. These high country stations can easily be let go but not here. There is not a weed in sight. Broom and Wilding Pines can easily get away on you up here but the Satterthwaites appear to have this in check. As we pull up Steve is casually selling some Merino rams and the staff are busy working away in the background. The house, yards and grounds are immaculate. Brent, Guy Martin and I are looking forward to spending our day with Steve and Mary taking in the magnificent views and checking out this amazing property. Once Steve's ram client has left we are invited into the yards to inspect a line of beautiful two-tooth ewes and the sire rams. We are also educated on Merinos and what makes the Muller Station Merinos so good.

Muller Station run 550 stud Merino ewes and about 5000 flock ewes which typically shear around 6.5kg of wool each which is supplied to the Icebreaker brand of clothing. The stud was established on 200 elite ewes from their flock ewes mated to a couple of rams bought from Australia and from that they then started to record the pedigrees. The aim of their breeding program is to breed a dual purpose sheep but not losing sight of wool

quality. The sheep are not pampered in any way. They are bred for the commercial reality. The two-tooth ewes are as nice a line as you would see any where. These sheep have strength of bone about them; they have good constitution and the x-factor quality. This is not to mention the quality of their wool which Steve and Guy give Brent and me a few pointers on. Conformation, nourishment, density, volume, length, handle and weight are all key wool traits strived for on top of the structure and constitution of the sheep itself. We know ourselves with breeding it is not easy to get the right animal when selecting for so many traits so to see a great looking animal that's producing such a high quality wonderful product is a real pleasure to see. As we look at the sire rams individually, that pride, passion and commitment becomes apparent again. Some people are good at marketing numbers while others are stockmen who breed a product that is practical and work in the real world. Steve is a stockman and has experience and an understanding of his sheep and what is going to work and what won't. Steve and Mary were fortunate enough to purchase a stud sire that would impact their stud greatly. Willandra Desmond was purchased in 2013 from Australia for a whopping \$35,000. He was a polled sire whose dual-purpose traits were outstanding. This ram had constitution, a great top-line and hindquarter and his wool was faultless. We saw Desmond while we were there and as a 5 year old ram there was still something 'special' about him. He will still get 120 ewes this season. What Steve finds really exciting is that a son of Desmond outperformed Desmond this year with the weaning weights of his lambs.



A group of sire rams that we inspected They aim for a dual purpose sheep but strive for top quality wool traits.

Muller Station has been buying bulls off us for 25 years, and would be the biggest property by size that we sell to. The property is 38,800ha with a 300ha support block (the Greta block) and another 850ha block Randolph which runs its own Merino flock. The property has been in the family since 1965 when Steve's father purchased it. He never lived on the block and it had a manager while Steve's father stayed at the Palmside property which is now run by Steve's brother Mike. From a young age Steve loved the Muller and went up there at any opportunity. After Steve left school he did 2 and a half years at the Muller starting as a cowboy then spent 2 years in the North Island, 1 year in Australia, 1 year in South America and then came back to The Muller as head shepherd before he took it over. With the children showing a real interest in farming it looks as though the Muller could be passed on to the next generation. With this possibility in sight, things are certainly not slowing down on the property and as we take a tour around with Steve the commitment is evident in all the development going on. The parts of the property which can be cultivated are now being looked at as potential satellite blocks. We suggest some areas as we drive around which look like you could easily get a tractor over but Steve assures us that there are too many rocks in this part and they are not as small as they appear on the surface. He knows this place well. He takes us up to the places that have already been developed and points out where he is going next. Matagouri and other weeds are sprayed, burnt and mulched and then once cultivated and fenced up, the blocks do 2 years of Ryecorn followed by a permanent pasture. The Ryecorn is used for the ram hoggets and calves and they will get 4 grazes off it. Steve says there is not much else you could get that sort of production off up there. Ryecorn is really forgiving of low soil fertility and grows well here in these new developed blocks where there is a low pH which is around 5.0. It is although pleasing for them to see that where it is now in a permanent pasture of cocksfoot the pH is now up round that 5.6. Of the 60ha they have this year in Ryecorn 30ha will go into permanent whist the rest is doing another year of Ryecorn. They have 40ha of permanent since they began this process and Steve and Mary have another 50-60ha lined up for development next year. They are

looking at costs of around \$3000/ha including fencing but this is well worth it as the lambs do exceptionally well on the new pasture and having these satellite blocks means they can do more finishing up at the Muller and take the pressure off the Greta block. This year they will have enough Ryecorn to do their calves through the winter. Steve said last year they did their heifers on it with no baleage and they got through the winter and looked a picture. With the kids wanting to eventually come home to the Muller has given Steve and Mary a real motivation to continue with this development.



A group of 4500 ewes coming in for crutching. (photo courtesy of the Muller Station Facebook page)

Steve and Mary are certainly not scared about changing the way they are doing things or trying something new. They have been running 750 cows including the heifers but with the intention of increasing this number to over 1000, this year they have 950. With this new development Steve believes there is nothing stopping them really ramping up the numbers. Steve and Mary are also getting out of farming Merino wethers which will free up some space for more cows and breeding ewes. The cows are used as a pasture management tool in the valley in the summer. The bull goes out with the cows on the 20th of December and are finished with on the 20th of February. Once the bull is finished the cows head out to the 'summer country'. The cow herd is 60% Angus and 40% Angus/Gelbvieh cross. All first calving heifers are mated to an Angus regardless of breed and this year for the first time they will calve down 2 year olds. After the first year



Casey, Jack and Michael working out the back of the yards



An example of a satellite block that has been developed and is now in a permanent pasture.

all poorer Angus cows go to the Gelbvieh and the Angus/Gelbvieh females are mated to the Charolais. It's a pretty simple system as there are only 3 cow mobs and 1 heifer mob to run at mating. All the cows are drafted and tagged into their groups pre-calving when they are also TB tested. Steve is adamant that the hybrid vigour and extra performance he gets from the Charolais far outweighs any Angus or Hereford premium.

In recent years Steve has seen a dramatic change in his young Angus cattle. He believes that the most important attribute of the Angus cow is her maternal attributes, her constitution and hoovering ability. He was finding it much harder to finish his straight black cattle than he was his Gelbviehs and Charolais. He has recently changed direction with his Angus genetics to something that concentrates more on those traits important to him. Steve can't emphasize enough that cattle have to be bred for commercial reality. Constitution, moderation and weaning ability are key here at the Muller. The cows at Muller are used as vacuum cleaners to clean up rough tucker. When there is that long dry feed around you have two options, either eat it or burn it and there's not much money in burning it. Once the cows are weaned they go on to this country and they are left to eat it until August when they are drafted for calving. The cows are run in big mobs through the winter and there is no supplementary feeding or special treatment for the ones that cannot handle the conditions. They are big blocks where the cows are run



The Merino ewes bred to survive all the elements that are put to test them.

during this time. The beauty of the Muller is there is natural water in every block as water can be a real headache for many other properties. The mean calving date for the cows is around the 1st of November. The calves are weaned in May and go down onto what was the deer country before they got out of them 14 years ago. At weaning time the calves are drafted into males and females then the females are further drafted into crossbreds, good blacks for replacements and the poorer blacks. They keep approximately 170-200 heifers for the replacement mob. Last year they weaned the heifer calves onto the Ryecorn and then the Charolais heifers went down to the Greta block in June onto fodder beet. Most of these Charolais heifers have already gone to the works at less than 18 months of age which is the earliest they have had cattle away. The ability to be able to have prime cattle ready at less than 20 months of age which has been bred off this type of country is an amazing achievement and really gives confidence in further development. The aim in the future is to have all the calves apart from the replacements down onto the beet and have them killed by 20 months. The Charolais cross cattle are ideal for this system as Steve can get them to good weights. The extra production he can get from a Charolais cross heifer far outweighs that of his straight blacks which is why he has a strict replacement strategy as having surplus black heifers is wasted production.



Bringing the cows and calves along the river. Among them 4 Silverstream bulls.

On our tour round Steve pulls up the truck at a lookout and points out a few things. I start wondering about the altitude we are sitting at and how far up the stock will graze. The homestead sits at about 2600ft and Steve points over to some country where the wethers will graze up over 7000ft. He tells us that the weather station at Molesworth would historically record 220 frosts a year. He thinks they will not be getting this number these days. The summers are usually hot and dry and they typically get 22-25 inches of rainfall a year. There are three permanent staff that work here; the stock manager Michael Benton and 2 shepherds Jack Robertson and Casey King. As we admire the stunning scenery we can see them starting to move the cows out past us. It's mid March and the cows are on their way out to the summer country but they are

not on their own. Along with them are the yearling heifers, the ewes and the two-tooth ewes. The only thing left in the Awatere valley for the next couple of months are the weaned lambs. Steve points out to a mountain where they are heading. He explains once they get there they hook round a hard right and keep climbing. Its nearly 50km from start to finish. We cannot see their final destination and would love to jump in a chopper to see where they are heading to and to get a feel for the size and scope of the property. It will take a week to get all the stock out there. The final gate they put them through sits at 4200ft but the cows will graze up to 5800ft until it is time to bring them home. Bringing them home is no simple feat, it is an annual event!



Three lovely Charolais cross calves that we saw while we were there. They are sired by Silverstream bulls.

The autumn muster is something so many would love to experience and Steve and Mary are certainly not short of any volunteers. It starts early May and takes 6 musterers and 1 packie, 8 days to muster nearly 1000 cows with calves and 5000 ewes over 35,000 acres. This event doesn't go without a few beers which in some years has seen full crate bottles frozen while sitting on the back of the ute. Day one of the process starts at the very top of the west side of the Acheron River. This is done on foot with a team of good working dogs. Once all the stock, sheep and cattle are down in the holding area the musterers head back to the top of the east side of the river and bring everything down from there. They are boxed up with the rest in the holding area and then they start the big walk home. There are three huts out the back so they move from one to the other until they are home. It takes 8 days to muster the block and 1 day to walk them home. It's a time of hard work, great friends and a few beers at the end of each day. Steve and Mary have a few regulars that show up most years including Jefferson Powdrell from Shannon Station in Wairoa. He use to help years ago and even though he now lives in a different island he doesn't often miss an autumn muster at Muller. Alby Orchard is another regular and every year turns up to be the packie. He is in charge of food and beer. This muster has to be done before it gets too cold because once it freezes up there, the stock will get snowed in and they also wouldn't be able to get a vehicle up the



A lone Charolais bull grazes on this vast and beautiful landscape. Another season has recently been completed.

tracks. Once the stock are home the sheep are dealt with first. The ewes have to be crutched and set up for mating which is the 20th of May when the rams are put out. Once the sheep work is complete they start on the cattle. The calves are weaned and the cows are pregnancy tested before they start on their rotation of cleaning up pastures in the blocks after the ewes have been through. We wish we had more time for a bigger tour and to see more country but it is an isolated place and we still have a 4 hour drive home. So we have a quick cup of coffee and start making our way. As we drive back out through the property we discuss how impressed we are with how things are done. The pride, passion and commitment hasn't gone unnoticed by the three of us and our thoughts are of admiration. We have had a great relationship with the Satterthwaites over many years. They have always been very encouraging of our breeding program and we have always appreciated the feedback we have received, good and bad. They have helped shape our cattle into what they are today.



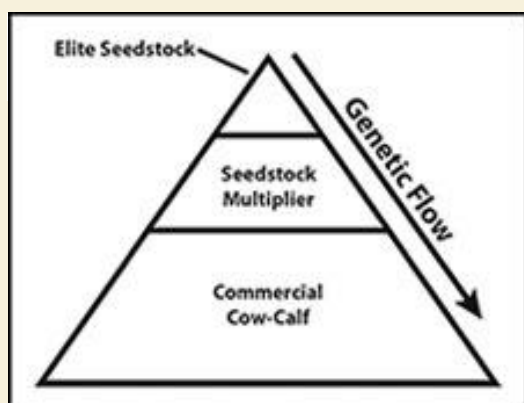
Steve and Mary Satterthwaite. Proud stewards of The Muller Station.

GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OR GENETIC CHANGE?

kindly supplied by Kevin Shaffer, West Virginia University

The genetic landscape of beef production has changed significantly and rapidly in recent years. New technologies have emerged to improve the prediction of an animal's genetic merit early in life, and new traits and selection indexes have been developed to assist in selection for a variety of traits. Technology continues to advance at a rapid pace, and the tools available to breeders have never been greater.

Utilizing these tools, breeders have affected a significant amount of genetic change in a relatively short amount of time, but there is a distinct difference between genetic change and genetic progress. Genetic progress is the goal, and genetic change can be a means to achieve the goal; however, genetic progress implies movement toward the overall goal — optimum profit potential. The overall goal may require genetic change; it may not. It may be an increase in uniformity (homozygosity) or maintenance of an optimum. Unfortunately, it appears that selection in the industry is driven toward continual and rapid genetic change in easy-to-measure traits.



Consider the hierarchy of genetic flow illustrated in the figure accompanying this article. At the top of the genetic chain is the elite seedstock producer, or the true seedstock breeder. Elite breeders have defined goals, but are forward-thinking. They do not waiver with industry trends or fads. They challenge their cattle environmentally. They select for optimums, not maximums. They often utilize linebreeding as a tool to increase homozygosity, fix positive traits and, most importantly, identify and eliminate problem genes.

Elite seedstock breeders define where the industry will go genetically.

Secondly, seedstock multipliers utilize genetics from elite breeders and reproduce those genetics in volume for the commercial producer. Multipliers are not the genetic engineers of the industry; they are the genetic distributors.

At either level, seedstock producers are tasked with creating and providing access to genetics that will move the industry forward as a whole. This is a tremendous responsibility and one that should not be taken lightly. Effectually, the future of many is in the hands of a few,

including genetic services companies.

If we consider the selection decisions currently being made at these higher levels of the genetic hierarchy, are true considerations for profit at the bottom of the pyramid driving those decisions? Are they creating genetics to maintain a balance between biologically efficient, cost-effective maternal value and terminal traits (i.e., bulls to create females in a crossbreeding system)? Are maternal-breed bulls being selected for fertility, soundness and longevity first? Then growth and carcass value? Are these options available as AI sires?

Although your answers to the above questions will likely depend upon perspective, I have found it difficult to find an AI sire that will satisfy my preferences. In fact, I have found it difficult to find real differences between the offerings of varying companies. From my perspective, it seems this segment of our industry has become confined by a lack of genetic diversity and an unwillingness to select what is necessary for the improvement of the industry rather than what will generate the greatest revenue.

Because the two should be the same, I am left wondering why they are not. I believe it is because our industry remains focused on outputs rather than inputs. Remember, outputs determine revenue. Inputs determine profit.

We reprinted this article as there are so many similarities as to how we see the beef industry in New Zealand. Cattle are being bred which are not practical in so many of our typical hill and high country environments. The reality is that the typical beef cow faces many challenges in a good year. Throw in extremes in climate and these challenges are exacerbated. There is no such thing as too much production but this production has to be able to be achieved within the confines of the environment that they are raised. In New Zealand cows are not typically farmed for the sake of farming cows. They are there to groom pastures for other stock classes and generally eat poorer types of feed with sheep running under their feet. Not to mention the fact they have been pushed further back into more marginal country due to the expanse of the dairy industry. Unless the beef industry makes a dramatic improvement and we start seeing cows under centre pivots it's hard to see that their role will change. We must not forget that it is not just how the cow performs when times are good but more importantly how she performs when times are tough. The traits that determine her ability to withstand these tough times are not these 'easy -to-measure traits' which many have become fixated on.

29TH ANNUAL BULL SALE:

WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2PM



LOT 5 *By Silverstream Evolution*



LOT 7 *By Silverstream Intrepid*



LOT 10 *By Silverstream Focus*



LOT 27 *By Silverstream Evolution*



LOT 50 *By Silverstream Evolution*



LOT 58 *By Silverstream Focus (P)*



LOT 80 *By Gay Olympus*



LOT 82 *By Gay Olympus*



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