

# LIMOUSIN

*Carcass, Yield, Efficiency.*

## FROM THE CHAIR

Hello from the Deep South of New Zealand

With 2025 drawing to a close, time has definitely flown by very quickly. Our weather here has been up to its unpredictable self, having a warm, dry winter but a wet, windy spring.

On October 23rd, a storm of fierce winds struck many regions of New Zealand with Southland being one severely hit. Power was out from power poles blown over and trees downed upon them. Roofs off buildings and cell towers out causing no communication. Town water supply and sewerage out. Dairy cows not getting milked, freezers thawing and no fuel supply at the pumps. The BBQs got dusted off early, lanterns and candles came out, generators got cranked up, billys boiled and a game of cards for some good old fashioned fun camping style. Many of the region's parks and cemeteries closed for the months ahead while the clean-up still goes on. Three weeks on now and there is still a small number of people without power. What a wake-up call to how prepared we are in this type of event and how much we rely on modern day technology.



In July, the annual Otago Southland Beef Carcass Competition was held. The event judges the animal both on the "Hoof" and "Hook" with the ultimate goal of producing superior carcass production.

Judging criteria can include eating quality, which is determined by factors like marbling, eye muscle area and pH. Congratulations to Loch Head Limousins for being in the top results of this competition.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Owen Clements and son Kyle and family to Southland after a move from Northland, with their cattle, to a farm at Kaiwera, Gore. It's great to have another Limousin breeder in the province. Hopefully the weather hasn't been too much of a culture shock to you all!

With beef prices at an all-time high, high demand at sales for quality beef continues to soar. Limousin continues to shine in the sale yards. Recent sales saw Limousin sell for record prices blitzing all other lots on the per kilo basis. At the Coalgate weekly sale on the 6th of November, 107 yearling bulls and heifers were put under the hammer. The bidding was vigorous with a pen of heifers selling for a whopping \$6.49/kg and bulls \$5.42/kg. Well done to Ben More and Piwakawaka Studs for this fabulous result. That's got to be some great advertising for Limousin. Long may it continue.

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Sean and Steph Roberts, who are based at the rugged inland Waikura Station on the North Islands East Coast, will be offering Limousin/Angus cross cattle for sale at the stations on farm sale on the 9th of December. There will be 800 yearling steers and heifers offered up for sale. Previously they had been sold as weanlings, but a change was made to carry them through to the spring/summer. What a great time to be selling and be promoting the crossing yield of the Limousin. All the best Sean and Steph. Look forward to seeing the sale results.

Calving will be all but over for most now apart from a few cows dragging the chain. From most reports calving has gone well for most people, and we look forward to seeing the new genetics developing on the ground. Many will now be in full swing with AI, cedars and synchronising, and bulls will be out for natural mating. All the best to those trying new bulls and semen and just stepping out of the box from the normal breeding program.

Take care, best wishes

Colin Phillips



## BEEF PRICES HIT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

Recently Peta Lean of Kivlean Stud sent her stud bull Snake Gully Sammy to Greenlea Premier Meats Ltd. She had used Sammy for the past 3 seasons and he was in his working clothes, going straight from working in the herd to the works.

Weighing in at 1011kg live weight – Killed out at 629kgs (62%) @ \$8.85kg = you do the sums\$\$

The beef prices are currently at an all-time high – Long may this continue.



Photo of Snake Gully Sammy while out working in November 2024

## NEW MEMBER

On behalf of members of the New Zealand Limousin Society I would like to welcome Carmen Guy who has recently started the Saidia Limousin stud. I asked Carmen if she could tell us a bit about herself and what made her select the Limousin breed.

We run a primarily steer finishing farm with about 30 breeding cows on the side to have young stock for the paddocks which can not handle the big boys very well.

We have trialled a few different breeds, but have been consistently Hereford for the last seven or eight years. I bought my first Belgian Blue heifer in November 2021. Our Belgian Blues grew in numbers with a few purebred cows and bulls purchased by parents. We had a bit of a nightmare calving in 2024 with a bull throwing excessively large calves. We wanted to find a bigger animal to cross with the Belgian Blue to prevent such things in the future. Our vet recommended some Charolais cows, unfortunately, we could not find anyone willing to sell so we had to have a rethink. I had spent some time in Ireland working on farms and the Belgian Blue x Limousin animals proved very popular, although their Belgian Blues are more eccentric in terms of muscle. We thought we could give that a try. After some googling, I found Snake Gully Limousins and messaged to see if there was any excess stock available, this led me to a small herd sale of Nick and Stephaine Browning. We had the intention of buying three or four to trial with our Belgian Blues. This turned into purchasing 11 in-calf cows, three yearlings and later a bull from Snake Gully's annual bull sale.

Our first calving was a success with our new girls; all 11 cows calved perfectly without incident. We have decided to keep the purebred line growing and use our Limousin bull over our Belgian Blue heifers for what we hope is an easy calving.



## 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL SNAKE GULLY SALE TOPS at \$11,700.00

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Snake Gully sale was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June on farm at Maungakaramea.

Top price of \$11,700.00 went to Lot 11 Snake Gully U'll B Right, a hetero-polled son of Piwakawaka Quantum Leap, by dam Snake Gully Rochelle, a Snake Gully Lucas daughter. U'll B Right was purchased by repeat buyers Waikura Station, Hicks Bay, Gisborne.

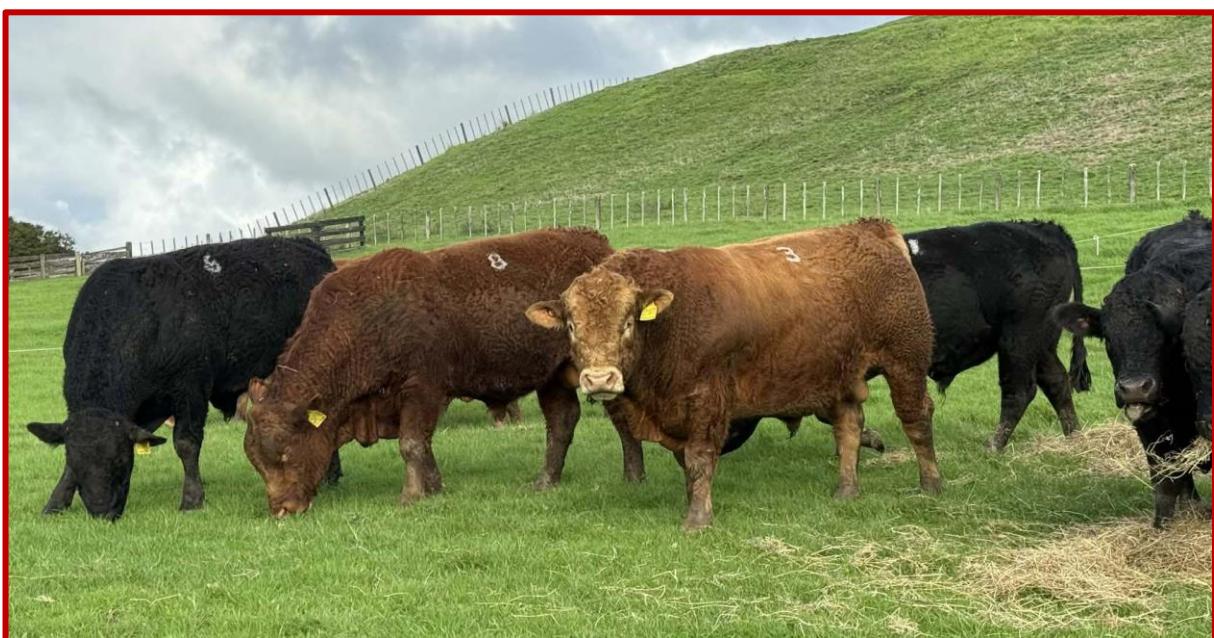
Second highest of \$10,000.00 was shared by three bulls –

Lot 5 Snake Gully Umanga, a PP, BB son of Snake Gully Rambo, by dam Snake Gully Penny, a LFLC Ace 750A daughter. Umanga was purchased by Owen and Kyle Clements of Braebrook Stud. Umanga went to his new home at Paparoa, Northland after the sale only to then, four days later travel the 1697km journey to Owen and Kyle's new farm in Gore, at the bottom of the South Island.

Lot 12 Snake Gully Unflappabull, a son of full French sire Fenrir, by dam Snake Gully Leesa, a Greensons Howlett daughter. Unflappabull was purchased by Phil and Pauline Gaudin of Aria.

Lot 3 – Snake Gully Ultimate, a son of Piwakawaka Quantum Leap, by dam Snake Gully Sherry, a Flemington Legend L12 daughter. Ultimate was also purchased by Waikura Station.

Selling 18/19 bulls at auction with an average price of \$7150.00, is up \$1600.00 per head on last year, a reflection of New Zealand's current high beef prices. The remaining bull sold following the sale which resulted in a total clearance on the day.



## TAIERI FARMER ON THE HOOK FOR TOP PRIZES

### Article from RURAL LIFE 18 June 2025 by Shawn McAvinue



West Otago farmer Clark Scott looks at his black Limousin heifer which won the hoof class between 271kg and 320kg at the Otago-Southland Hoof and Hook Beef Competition.

PHOTO: *Shawn McAvinue*

Taieri farmer Geoff Edgar won both of the top prizes at the recent 2025 Otago-Southland Hoof and Hook Beef Competition.

Mr Edgar, of Outram, won the hoof class for cattle 321kg and heavier for his Charolais and Belgian blue-cross steer.

Hoof judge Jimmy McAllister said the steer was crowned the supreme hoof champion and Doug Lindsay Memorial Trophy winner due to its 'conformation and sheer weight for age'. The steer also won the 'most valuable animal on the day' category in the hook section.

An Angus steer Mr Edgar entered was crowned the supreme hook champion and AH Dodd and Family Trophy winner. Other hook categories Mr Edgar won were best on fork, best marbling and best of British. Exotic breeds could grow to heavy weights if given enough feed, Mr Edgar said. As beef prices were good, he was keeping cattle on farm longer so they were put on the truck at heavier weights. The 16-month-old steer had been given a diet of only grass and autumn had been favourable for growing it.

"It has been a great season."

Farmer Clark Scott, of Moa Flat, won the hoof class between 271kg and 320kg for his pure-black Limousin heifer. "I'm ecstatic," he said with a smile.

Another gold-coloured Limousin heifer placed third in the same section. Mr Scott entered the competition because it showcased the different cattle breeds in the South. A point of interest in the competition was how much an animal weighs on the hoof, compared to on the hook, and the ratio of

meat to bone of a carcass. Limousin cattle had been his preferred breed for 30 years and the relationship would continue.

“I find them lovely quiet cattle to work with. They’re easy care and good foragers. The cows can live on nothing and I’m not going to change breeds now. I’m getting too long in the tooth.”

Autumn had been great for growing pasture on his sheep and beef farm.

“It has been very mild and growthy and product prices have turned an unbelievable corner so it has been a nice change for farmers to finally get some money in their pockets.”

Competition committee chairman Barry Gray, of Owaka, said the 30 competition entries, a mix of 12 steers and 18 heifers, were from farms between Outram, Owaka and Wyndham.

“The 30 entries is a good result. The cattle were judged on the hook at Alliance Group’s Mataura plant. Fat colour on the carcasses this year was a lot whiter than last year’s entries,” he said.

This year, 14 carcasses scored maximum points for fat colour compared with no carcasses scoring peak points in the same category last year. One of his Maine Anjou steers scored maximum points for fat colour. Nearly twice as many carcasses were given maximum points in the ‘muscle class’ compared with last year. Cattle with a ‘nice, big, round beefy backside’ usually scored maximum points for muscle. Two of his pure Maine Anjou cattle, a heifer and a steer, scored maximum muscle points. Mr Gray was crowned the reserve champion in both the hoof and hook sections.

## **OTAGO-SOUTHLAND HOOF AND HOOK BEEF COMPETITION 2025**

Hoof section: Class 1 (220kg to 270kg): Geoff Edgar (Outram) Charolais and Belgian blue-cross steer, 1; Barry Gray (Owaka) Angus and Maine-Anjou-cross steer, 2; Mike Thompson (Waikaia) Limousin steer, 3.

Class 2 (271kg to 320kg): Clark Scott (Moa Flat) Limousin heifer, 1; Jorge Story (Wyndham) Charolais and Hereford Angus-cross heifer, 2; Clark Scott (Moa Flat) Limousin heifer, 3.

Supreme hoof champion and Doug Lindsay Memorial Trophy winner: Geoff Edgar (Outram) Charolais and Belgian blue-cross steer.

Reserve hoof champion: Barry Gray (Owaka) Angus and Maine Anjou-cross steer.

Supreme hook champion carcass and AH Dodd and Family Trophy winner: Geoff Edgar (Outram) Angus steer.

Reserve hook champion carcass: Barry Gray (Owaka) Angus and Maine Anjou steer.

Best of British: Geoff Edgar (Outram) Angus steer, 1; Max Nicol (Outram) Angus steer, 2; Brian Thomson (Allanton) South Devon heifer, 3.

Best new entrant: Jorge Story (Wyndham).

Best owner-bred animal: Barry Gray (Owaka) Angus and Maine Anjou-cross steer.

Most valuable animal on the day: Geoff Edgar (Outram) Charolais and Belgian blue steer.

Best marbled carcass: Geoff Edgar (Outram) Stabiliser steer.

Best on fork: Geoff Edgar (Outram) Angus steer

## SAVE THIS DATE

The Australian Limousin Society will hold their 2026 AGM in New Zealand.

The New Zealand AGM will also be held on Saturday 9th May 2026.

The itinerary is still in the draft process but the dates will be

**Thursday 7th May – Monday 11th May 2026** for those wanting to book flights.

More details for booking accommodation etc will be given closer to the time.

### **Thursday 7th May**

Meet and greet at The Langlands Hotel.

### **Friday 8th May**

Visit Loch Head Limousins, lunch, Braebrook Limousins, tea

### **Saturday 9th May**

Bill Richardson Museum / Motorcycle Mecca / lunch at Bluff

AGM at 4pm, formal dinner, guest speaker

### **Sunday 10th May**

Visit Fernhill Limousins, through to Manapouri / Te Anau for the night?

### **Monday 11th May**

Doubtful Sounds day trip - across Lake Manapouri, Wilmont Pass, Doubtful Sound cruise

Drop off back at Invercargill.



**Real NZ Doubtful Sound trip**  
**10am depart – 4.45pm return – \$314 per person**

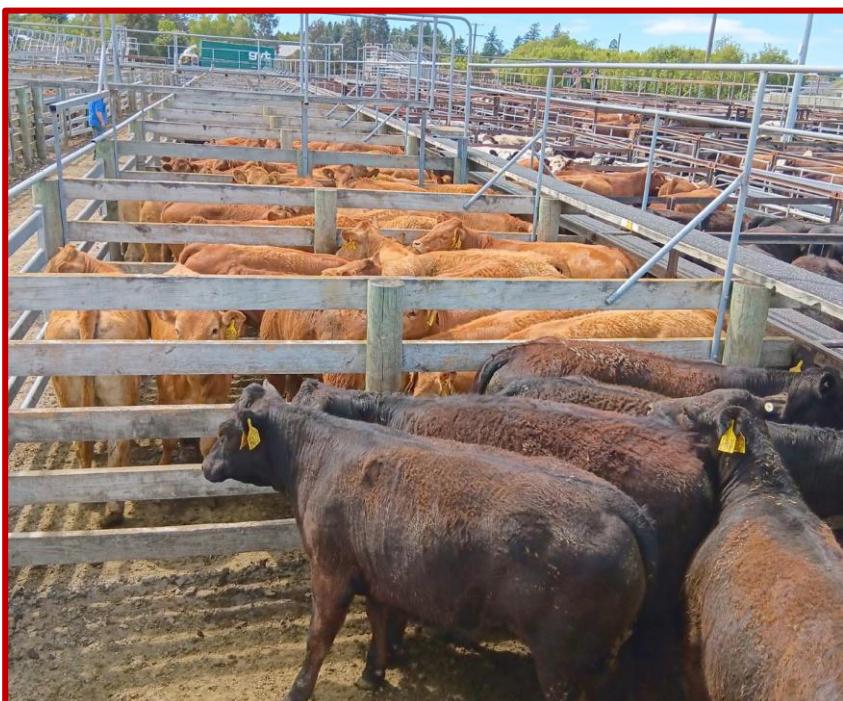
## LIMOUSIN SHINES IN NEW ZEALAND SALEYARDS!

With New Zealand beef schedule prices at an all-time high, Limousin genetics shone through at two recent South Island sales.

On 9 October at the Coalgate Saleyards Prime Beef Competition, a pen of four prime heifers offered by Benmore and Piwakawaka Limousin sold for a record \$5.42/kg. This blitzed all other lots on a per kg basis as buyers recognised the value in Limousin's yielding capability.

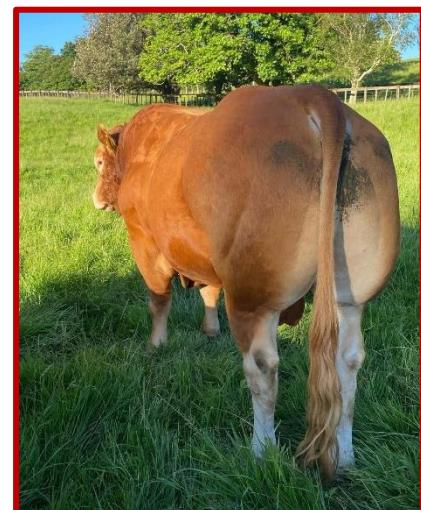
Then on 6 November at the Coalgate weekly sale, 107 Limousin yearling bulls and heifers from the same breeders were offered as stores. It is rare in New Zealand to have this number of pure Limousin put up for sale and consequently bidding was vigorous with a pen of heifers selling to \$6.49/kg. The top yearling bulls sold to \$5.24.

Vendors Warrick and Cece James, Duncan James, Gary Kennett and Marilyn Montgomery were thrilled with the outcome and recognition by buyers of Limousin genetics.



## NORTH ISLAND LIMOUSIN BEEF BREEDERS INC. AGM 2025

North Island Limousin Beef Breeders Inc held a very positive AGM at the Grayleen Limousin Stud mid November. They welcomed two new members for the first time, Tony Gault (bought Robert Hunt's Huntlands cows} and Martin Crop. Here are some images from the meeting.



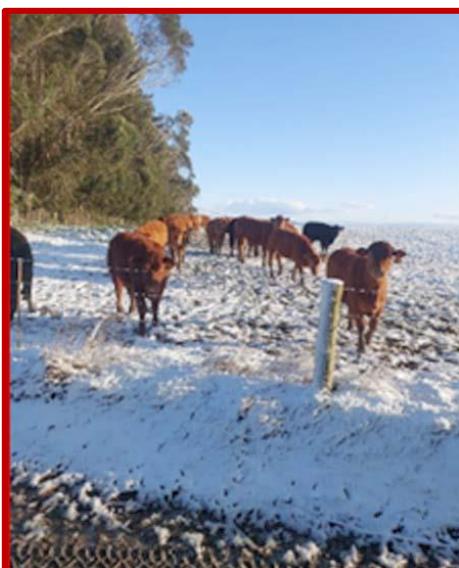
## BRAEBROOK LIMOUSINS

Owen and Kyle Clements and family of Braebrook Limousins had a big move from Northland to Kaiwera, Gore in June. Their herd took the 1697km journey on four truck and trailer units plus farm machinery etc.

They have now all settled into their new home and are enjoying Southland.



## LOCH HEAD LIMOUSINS



Snowing in October at Loch Head.



Calving included three sets of twins

## SERVE RE WEATHER HITS SOUTH ISLAND BREEDERS

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October severe weather hit the bottom of the South Island. Many were without power for over a week. The clean-up is still an ongoing process for a lot of farmers. Owen and Kyle of Braebrook Limousins were amongst those hit hard as shown in the following photos taken at their property after the storm.

