

Back-to-back wins confirm breed type

SPECKLE Parks are a relatively new breed in Australia, but Dennis Power, “Glenrowan”, Gunnedah, is confident the Canadian breed has a lot to offer.

Mr Power, general manager for the Minnamurra Pastoral Company, said he first saw them four years ago and decided they would fit well with the company’s beef operation.

“They have a higher natural marbling content than Angus,” Mr Power said.

“We are giving them a go because of their good carcass, and great yield, and eating quality.”

In the 2016 Feedback Trial, a team of Speckle Park/Angus steers from Minnamurra Pastoral Company won the Riverine Premium Beef champion pen, with first place in the carcass section.

These results back their success during the 2015 Feedback Trial when four teams were entered, and placed first, second, third and eighth out of 95.

Mr Power said this year’s result confirmed they “must



Minnamurra Pastoral Company general manager, Dennis Power, Gunnedah, with Speckle Park heifers.

be doing something right”.

“It is a terrific result, quite flattering and we are very excited about it,” he said.

Mr Power said the best way to test the virtues of a new breed is to test their performance in trials during which cattle are run under the same conditions and feedback is available for evaluation.

“You can become blind to the merits of your own stock, and participating in these competitions is a chance to compare your efforts against other producers,” he said.

Mr Power is still cautious about the ultimate value of the pure-bred Speckle Park’s.

“We have had great suc-

cess with our F1 (first-cross) steers, but one thing we don’t know yet is how the pure breed will perform,” he said.

Reflecting on the results, Mr Power said they confirmed the company’s current situation, giving him confidence in its long term aims.

“We will ensure the quality of our females matches the demand for premium beef production,” he said.

Encouraging others to enter similar trials Mr Power said, “if you don’t go in them, you will never know how well you are going”.

– STEPHEN BURNS