

## ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW REPORT

# Quality starts with cows

BY SHAN GOODWIN

THE 70-days on feed section of this year's Paddock to Palate competition was dominated by NSW entrants.

Among them was Rob and Kelly Lamoureux, "Kingsford", Armidale, with a pen of Santa Gertrudis/Angus/black Simmental animals that won them first place overall in the domestic section.

The couple also won reserve champion carcase, the eating quality class and highest individual score in the trade section, along with placing second in the export eating quality class.

They have a 250 cow herd at "Kingsford", supplying feedlot steers and also selling commercial bulls, on 700 hectares of rotationally grazed native pasture.

They run the operation under a different philosophy. "For 25 years we have been focusing on conformation according to nature's original design for the ruminants," Mr Lamoureux said.

"In doing so we have greatly enhanced the femininity of our cows and the



Rob and Kelly Lamoureux, "Kingsford", Armidale, with RNA steward, Ken Crotty, and sponsor, Steve Groom, JBS.

masculinity of our bulls and herd longevity overall.

"Never using EBVs (estimated breeding values), but periodically weighing, we then use our consistent visual assessment to ensure a uniformly angular type of animal that gains well, has a top carcase and a quiet temperament."

The win was the second

consecutive year for the Lamoureuxs.

A pen of Speckle Park/Angus from another NSW contestant, Minnamurra Pastoral Company, at Coolah, placed first in the pen of six carcasses in the trade section.

Minnamurra also came in second overall in the trade competition.

General manager, Den-

nis Power, said demand for Speckle Park cattle was exploding on the back of the kind of results the breed was notching up in competitions like Paddock to Palate.

Minnamurra also took first place in the carcase section, while Gyrenda Pastoral Company, Thodore, Queensland, was first in the weight gain section and the

Lamoureuxs took first and second in the eating quality section.

Queensland breeder, Alan Hoey, Allora, collected the top honours in the new Wagyu section.

A massive 1000-plus head of cattle contested the 2017 Paddock to Palate event, which offered a prize pool of \$60,000.

## First time export winner

IN THE 100-day export section of the Paddock to Palate competition, the overall winners were Kerry and Ken McKenzie, Blackwater, Queensland.

The McKenzies, who also run Yarralla Droughtmasters, took the export section with Droughtmaster/Simmental animals.

It was the first time the McKenzies have entered the Paddock to Palate and they were thrilled with the carcase results.

"Meat colour and fat distribution were spot on," they said.

"Entering this competition is about validating the commercial attributes right through the whole package and seeing how you are travelling against others."

The McKenzies run 1600 breeders and sell around 50 bulls a year. They introduced Simmentals eight years ago at the prompting of a regular feedlot buyer and have never looked back.



Dennis Power, Minnamurra Pastoral Co, was placed first in the pen of six carcasses, and second overall in the trade section, as well as producing the winning carcass.