

Cross breed Charolais sires to British cows

Increase your returns by up to \$100 per head

Research on the progeny of Charolais sires and Angus cows proves the advantage of using superior genetics in a cross breeding program. MLA and the Charolais Society have undertaken a project to examine the progeny of 50 Charolais sires when joined to Angus or Brahman females.

Producers can expect to make up to \$100 more per head by crossing a Charolais bull over an Angus cow due to faster weight gains, better feed efficiencies and higher carcass yields.



Hybrid vigour is the additional weight gain that occurs from crossing cattle from different breeds. Charolais is a French breed that adds muscle and weight gain to British cattle. French genetics have been selected and improved during the past 40 years to enable the breed to cross with Australian Angus, Herefords and Shorthorns. Charolais also reduce the amount of fat in crossbred progeny which results in higher carcass yields. Research has shown that higher levels of fat do not improve meat eating quality and retailers do not want more than 10 mm. Charolais cross progeny are younger when they go to slaughter relative to pure British breeds as they reach target weights earlier and therefore they have lower ossification scores which improves meat eating quality.

Charolais cross progeny often top saleyard markets on a \$ per head basis and the progeny are highly sought after for the retail, supermarket and foodservice markets. They are also very well suited to the European and Asian markets which have been growing over the past three years.

How Charolais will increase your returns:

- ▶ Bull temperament - *excellent*
- ▶ Natural conception rate - 86%
- ▶ Artificial insemination conception rate - 76%
- ▶ Calving ease - unassisted births 97%
- ▶ Average calf birth weight - 42kgs
- ▶ Growth rate to 550 kilograms (pasture fed) - 1.07kgs per day



Meat Quality:



- ▶ Pasture fed females - 280 kgs carcass with 12 mm P8 fat.
- ▶ Pasture fed steers - 300 kgs carcass weight with 7 mm P8 fat.
- ▶ Grain fed carcass (74 days) - 330 kgs carcass weight with 9 mm P8 fat.

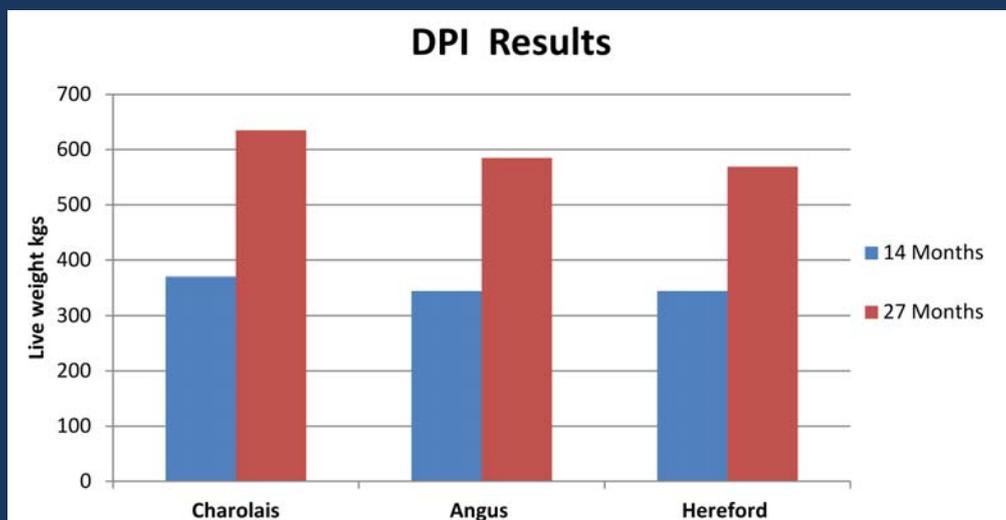
Results Support Charolais Growth Advantage

The NSW Department of Primary Industries conducted a trial on 482 progeny using Charolais, Angus and Hereford sires over Hereford and Hereford cross cows. This research has conclusively shown that Charolais sired progeny produce heavier carcasses with significantly higher retail beef yields relative to Angus and Hereford progeny.

The results show that at 14 months the Charolais sired progeny were 25 kilograms heavier than progeny sired by Angus or Hereford bulls. At 27 months the Charolais progeny were 635 kilograms live weight versus 585 kg for Angus and 569 kgs for Hereford. This live weight advantage of 50 and 66 kilograms respectively is why it pays to use Charolais bulls.

Higher live weight gains transfer into higher retail beef yields. The average carcass weight of Charolais progeny was 33.5 kgs heavier than Angus and 44 kgs greater than Hereford progeny. When the wholesale price is \$3.00 per kilogram then the premium to Charolais is \$100 higher than Angus and \$132 higher than Hereford.

If we take the premium of \$100 per head and multiply this over 40 progeny then the annual Charolais premium is \$4,000 over Angus and \$5,280 above Hereford. The advantage then of using a Charolais bull over a five year working period is then \$20,000 higher than Angus and \$26,400 greater than Hereford.



References: H Hearnshaw, PF Arthur, D Johnston and PD Stephenson (1995) Australian Journal of Agricultural Research 46 (6) 1231 – 1244, PF Arthur, H Hearnshaw, D Johnston and PD Stephenson (1995) Australian Journal of Agricultural Research 46 (6) 1245 – 1258.

Visit www.charolais.com.au for more information



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