



Why have we adopted the Stabilizer® program?

We are an advocate of sustainability. Today, that means using all of the available tools to increase productivity. Paringa has advocated planned crossbreeding with our Charolais. Now we have the chance to help farmer's rear a maternally minded hybrid female. They'll add up to 23% more kg weaned per cow exposed to the bottom line and added to our terminal program it starts getting exciting.

What are we trying to achieve through our Stabilizer® program?

We've all seen crossbreeding fail because of poor design and/or poor cattle. We hope to provide thoughtful combinations of the right cattle from the right breeds. Our goal is to supply seed stock that build efficient, uniform, hybrid females that really drive our Paringa terminal Charolais program.

What is the genetic mix in our Stabilizer® program?

The Stabilizer® is a trademark developed by Leachmans in the USA. Their design is to combine the best maternal aspects of British and maternal Euro lines into roughly a 50/50 blend. The USDA proved that such a blend can fit maternal goals and provide an optimal mix of yield and muscle. Plus, by selecting the right inputs, we can build cows that flesh like the old British F1's. In the US, Leachman's are principally using Angus, Simmental, and Gelbvieh along with minor contributions from Hereford, South Devon, and Shorthorn. Here, we've started with some awesome Gelbvieh x Angus. We have now incorporated Red Poll, Simmental, and US Stabilizer® lines. Instead of getting caught up on a particular breed mix, we're keen to breed the best stock we can.

What traits will this genetic mix produce?

Our goal is to calve like Angus -- around 36 kg's. Weaning growth will be impressive due to the hybrid vigor. We're producing cattle that target a range of markets with good muscle, Angus type marbling and adequate fat cover. Contrary to what some might think, the cows will be moderate in size around the 550 to 600 kg mark.

How long has it taken to perfect/stabilize?

The concept was developed by Dr's Cundiff and Gregory in the US. Their study started in 1973 and continued into the early 90's. Then Leachman's stepped in to commercialize their work. The system is proven to work, but none of us feel we've perfected the cattle as there is always room for improvement. We'll use tools like EBV's, ultrasound, DNA markers, etc to stay on the cutting edge for profitability.

What is our business link with Lee Leachman?

We've formed a global genetic alliance. We love to work with like minded people. We see eye to eye on our goals to make our customers more profitable. Most of us spend a lifetime learning what works in this business. The accumulated experience from the Lawson and Leachman families' history in the business is one of our greatest assets. Both Lee and I love to learn and we are already benefiting from the synergies of the relationship. With this foundation, we are working as Lee's exclusive genetic representatives in Australia. He's representing our genetics in the USA. We'll also be offering our combined consulting services to breeders throughout Australia and around the globe. We want to provide solutions that hit the bottom line.

What did we learn from him when he came out?

We've been considering the composite route for a couple of years. Lee provided a bit of push to get is over the hill on the decision. His approach to objectively measuring profitability is the key. That's really the only trait that ultimately matters. Lee also picked up tips from our business model. We're focused on designing genetics for specific customers and that is a new approach for him. Lee says it will fundamentally shift his business focus. Working together has been like hybrid vigor -- you put two and two together and get 5!

Lee's quote:

"We've had a 'build it and they will come' model. Tom's approach of 'custom designed genetic solutions' is a paradigm shift for us. It will change our whole approach to the seed stock business."