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Murray Greys: The New Beef Breed, , Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society, 0959521402, 9780959521405, . Leaflet containing history and some notable achievements of the Murray Grey breed..

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By chance & intuition the story of Mervyn Gadd and the Murray Greys, Mervyn Gadd, Andrew Kelly, Jul 1, 1990, History, 375 pages. .

Murray Greys Australia's own beef cattle, Tim Hewat, Jan 1, 1972, Technology & Engineering, 194 pages. .

Modern breeds of livestock , Hilton Marshall Briggs, 1949, , 772 pages. .

Beef cattle breeding and management , W. A. Beattie, 1954, , 476 pages. .

See it now , Edward R. Murrow, Fred W. Friendly, 1955, Performing Arts, 209 pages. A selection in text and pictures, from the famous television series..

Cattle A Handbook to the Breeds of the World, Val Porter, Sep 28, 2007, , 400 pages. This encyclopedic guide traces the domestication of cattle, looking at the evolution and eventual extinction of different types and breeds. Its later chapters also touch on the

Essay on slavery as connected with the moral and providential government of God; and as an element of church organization. With miscellaneous reflections on the subject of slavery, Thomas J. Taylor, 1851, Social Science, 270 pages. .

Beef Cattle Breeding, Feeding and Showing, Lucy Newham, 1994, , 148 pages. A detailed guide to the breeding and management of beef cattle and their preparation and fitting for shows and sales. The book is divided into two sections: breeding and

Good night, and good luck the screenplay and history behind the landmark movie, George Clooney, Grant Heslov, Mar 3, 2006, , 208 pages. "The only book on the acclaimed movie - here is the complete screenplay, Q&A with the screenwriters, production notes, and a special section on the history behind the broadcast

The Murray Grey breed was developed from an initial chance mating of a black Aberdeen Angus bull and a roan Shorthorn cow in 1905 during the Federation drought. The resulting thirteen dun-grey calves from these matings were kept as curiosities and then bred on the Thologolong property along the Murray River in New South Wales by Peter and Ena Sutherland.[1]

These unusually coloured cattle grew quickly, were good converters of feed and produced quality

carcasses. Local cattlemen soon became interested in the greys and began breeding them. The first larger-scale commercial herds were established in the 1940s. In the 1960s several grey cattle breeders were selling them as a commercial enterprise and the Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society was formed to register the cattle and to administer the breed. There are Murray Grey registries in Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In New Zealand Murray Greys have been favoured because of their resistance to Facial eczema which is a problem in other cattle breeds.[2]

Greyman cattle were developed in Queensland in the 1970s, specifically to suit the Queensland environment, by combining Murray Grey and Brahman breeds. Cattle breeders in the northern and western regions of Australia are increasingly using Murray Grey genetics to cross with Bos Indicus cattle to improve fertility, docility and carcass quality. Murray Greys are the third largest breed in Australia and because of their superior marbling and carcass traits, are in strong demand for meat exports to Asian countries.

On 11 January 2011 a Murray Grey cow was swept 95 kilometres by flood waters that raced through a property owned by Veronica Nutley, at Patrick Estate, near Lowood in the Brisbane Valley. The cow was found alive, three days later, in Moreton Bay and was towed through mangroves to shore. She was identified by her National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) ear tag and returned to her owner.

Murray Grey cattle are of a moderate size, possess sound structure and have good walking ability. Murray Grey bulls will usually weigh 817 to 1,135 kilograms (1,800-2,500 lbs); cows normally weigh 500-700 kg. They are a true medium-framed animal that can maintain body condition easily, without consuming large amounts of forage.

Hair colour ranges from very light silver to chocolate or dark grey; a few animals are even black but the majority are silver to a silvery-dun color. This colouring is very dominant, so when crossed with another breed, the colour is grey or silver (light grey). Their skin has a dark pigmentation, which helps prevent cancer eye (ocular squamous cell carcinoma), photosensitivity reactions and sunburned udders. They have performed well in snow country and in a trial which was undertaken at a commercial feedlot between December 2002 and June 2003 to determine the effect of high heat load on performance and carcass characteristics when fed a high energy diet for 165-183 days. In this heat stress trial they out performed the other trialled breeds by producing the highest average daily weight gains over this period.[4] Their superior performance in this trial was attributed to their lighter coloured coats.

Murray Grey cattle, embryos and semen have been exported to Canada, New Zealand, South America, the United Kingdom and United States. Murray Grey cattle have also been accepted into the South African Registrar of Livestock Improvement's books.[9] In Paraguay Murray Grey cattle have been used in crossbreeding programs involving Zebu and Charolais cattle. The Zebu and Charolais cattle there lacked the dark skins and early maturing traits of the Murray Greys. This crossbreeding program improved the fertility, calving ease and weight gains of the progeny produced there.[10]

Varying in colour from dark grey to a silver, the Greys are natural pollers and are noted for their docile temperament. From their Angus ancestors, they inherited dark skin pigmentation and are not susceptible to skin or eye problems in severe climates. They have proved adaptable to most climatic conditions.

Furthermore, the Murray Grey is an excellent cross with Bos Indicus, British or European breeds. The Murray Grey attributes of easy calving, docility, marbling, fertility and carcass quality are all evident in the cross bred progeny. For you to receive these benefits, all you need is a Murray Grey bull.

You should have received this in the post by now. Please complete as per the instructions and remove or add any females, 2 years and over, as appropriate. Please post back to Linda Rule at

PBB asap, so that your updated Calf entry sheets can be mailed out to you in early August. You will be charged the fee per cow, as it appears on your Calf entry sheet, in due course.

The Murray Grey originated in southern New South Wales, Australia. The preferred color is silver-gray although there are numerous variations in the shading of gray. In 1905, on the Thologolong property of Peter Sutherland, a particular roan Shorthorn cow, when bred to various Aberdeen Angus bulls, dropped only grey calves, 12 of them by 1917. Because Mrs. Eva Sutherland liked these grey calves, her husband didn't slaughter them although he feared they would reflect poorly on his black Angus herd. When her husband died in 1929, Mrs. Sutherland sold the herd of Greys to her cousin Helen Sutherland who started a systematic breeding with 8 cows and 4 bulls.

In the early 1940's Mervyn Gadd started a second Murray Grey herd as a commercial venture, using a grey bull from the Sutherlands and breeding up from Angus cows. Gadd was convinced that the Greys were better and more efficient weight gainers, but it wasn't until 1957 that a demand for them developed. Butchers paid a premium price for the Greys because of their consistent high cutability and less wastage. Breeder after breeder turned to them and in 1962 fifty breeders banded together to form the Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society of Australia. The name of the breed comes from the color and the site of origin along the Murray River that divides New South Wales and Victoria.

The Murray Greys began to win carcass competitions in the early 1970's and have continued to dominate the steer and carcass classes at the Royal Shows in Australia. Murray Greys are one of the two breeds preferred by the Japanese for importation, due to their easy fleshing and high-quality meat production.

In 1969, three importers, New Breeds Inc.; Murray Grey USA, Lubbock, Texas; and Firetree Production Stock of Shelbyville, Kentucky, brought Murray Grey semen to the United States. In May 1972, a bull calf and yearling heifer of this breed arrived in the United States. Although several more Murray Greys have been imported into the United States, the total number of importations has been relatively small and the expansion in the breed has been largely through the grading-up process.

Murray Greys - A Sensible Breed for Profitable Beef Production, a booklet by the American Murray Grey Association, indicates that twenty-eight purebred bulls and nine purebred heifers were imported from New Zealand or from Australia by way of New Zealand. In the 1976 Yearbook, published by the American Murray Grey Association, eighty-three bulls in the United States were listed as foundation sires and their semen was available for distribution, and twenty females were listed as purebred females.

The calves of the breed are small at birth. The cows are good mothers and milk well, and the calves have good rates of growth. Docility seems to be a genuine asset of the breed both in the herd and in the feedlot. The cattle have relatively small heads and bone and are polled. Their survival and reproductive rate has been very satisfactory under a wide range of climatic and management conditions.

The color of the Murray Grey can be both an asset and a liability. The gray is a very practical color that reflects more heat than dark colors. The skin should be heavily pigmented or dark-colored and this helps keep away certain eye and skin problems, such as cancer eye and sunburned udders. Unfortunately, the inheritance of the color pattern is not well understood from a genetic standpoint. Studying the data available indicates that, in addition to the basic color pattern genes involved, diluting or modifying genes also seem to play a definite role. Multiple gene effects always make it more difficult to get a true breeding condition.

The Murray Grey breed of cattle began in Australia along the Murray River in New South Wales. In 1905, on the property of Peter and Eva Sutherland a light roan shorthorn cow, when bred to various Aberdeen Angus bulls produced only grey calves. She had produced twelve of them by 1917, which were the origin of this breed. The herd was sold to Helen Sutherland in 1929, who started a systematic breeding program.

Mervyn Gadd started a second Murray Grey herd in the early 1940s as a commercial venture, using a Grey bull from the Sutherlands and breeding up from Angus cows. Butchers began to pay a premium price for the Greys because of their consistent high cutability and less waste. Murray Greys began to win carcass competitions in the early 70's and have continued to dominate the steer and carcass classes at the Royal shows in Australia. Murray Greys are one of the two preferred breeds for importation to Japan, due to their easy fleshing and high quality meat production. The Murrays have also started to win carcass competitions at the Calgary Stampede in Canada.

Greys and their crosses can be found producing in Canada, and South America; in the United States, they can be found in the Western areas, in the Corn Belt, the Plains from north to south, and in the hot climates of the deep south. They are, of course, a major breed in Australia and New Zealand, and Murray Greys are presently being introduced in various areas of Africa.

In 1905, The Murray Grey originated in southern New South Wales, Australia when Peter Sutherland bred a roan Shorthorn cow, to Aberdeen Angus bulls. The product resulted in grey calves. Because Mr. Sutherland's wife, Eva, liked these grey calves, her husband didn't slaughter them. However, he feared they would reflect poorly on his distinguished Black Angus herd. When her husband died in 1929, Mrs. Sutherland sold the herd of Greys to her cousin Helen Sutherland who embraced the new breed. In the early 1940's Mervyn Gadd started a second Murray Grey herd as a commercial venture, using a grey bull from the Sutherlands and breeding up from Angus cows. Gadd thought firmly that the Greys were better and more efficient weight gainers. In 1957, a demand for Greys developed because butchers would pay a premium price for their consistent high cutability and less wastage.

Murray Greys vary from dark grey to light silver in color and can also come in dun and black. They inherited dark skin pigmentation from their Angus ancestors and are not susceptible to skin or eye problems in severe climates. The breed is naturally polled. They have proved adaptable to most climatic conditions. Murray Grey cattle are moderate framed, with enough length and thickness. They are well balanced and proportionate, and have adequate muscling to the rear quarters and loin. The breed features have sound feet and legs. They have short, strong pasterns and sound hooves. Murray Greys must have a free and open stride, indicative of the ability to walk and cover ground while foraging for food and when breeding.

Murray Greys are known for their docility, low maintenance and carcass qualities. they readily convert grass to beef, they fatten on grass, they finish economically in feed lots and they have a high dressing percentage. Females are to be feminine, but with strength and capacity. They produce growthy calves who reach high weaning and yearling weights. Bulls are masculine, with significant scrotal development. Murray Greys are Suitable for both small producers and large commercial producers.

During the 1990's, breeders began producing Murray Greys that were of sufficient frame size to be acceptable in the commercial beef industry. Soon, the interest in the breed flourished. Murray Greys attract overseas markets such as Japan and Korea for live and carcass imports because of the economical performance in feedlots and the quality of the meat. Today, the American Murray Grey breeders had begun to produce black cattle, opening that huge proportion of the commercial market long dominated by black haired breeds.

Murray Grey, breed of Australian beef cattle first bred in 1905 in the Murray River valley on the border between New South Wales and Victoria. Its characteristic colour is grey, and the breed is known for its calving and milking ability, its gentle temperament, and its rapid natural growth rate. Murray Greys are naturally polled (hornless) and have proved adaptable (in part because of their dark skin pigmentation) to a number of climates. The breed has also been successfully crossed with Herefords, Bos Indicus, Shorthorns, Angus, Holstein-Friesians, and other breeds. Murray Greys have been exported to New Zealand, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, and Japan. The Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society was founded in 1962.

According to the Australian legend, the first Murray Grey was born on the Thologolong property of Peter Sutherland in New South Wales in 1905, to a light roan Shorthorn cow and an Aberdeen Angus bull. The legend goes on to recount how this one cow gave birth to 12 off color calves, from which Mrs. Helen Sutherland, cousin to Peter, developed the breed. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the breed actually originated throughout Australia as ranchers used "blue roan" bulls on their "blue roan" females. Regardless, of the real origins, the Murray Grey cattle in Australia gained a reputation for high quality beef and by the 1950s, butchers were paying a premium for them. The Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society of Australia was formed in 1964 to archive the pedigrees and to promote the breed.

In the late 1960s, American cattlemen were desperate to find larger, more efficient animals than those which the purebred Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn producers were offering at the time. To fill this need, American stockmen imported many dual-purpose draft and dairy breeds from Europe and the Murray Greys from Australia. The first Murray Grey semen was imported into the US in 1969 and the first live animals followed in 1970. The American Murray Grey Association was founded in September of 1971.

The early Murray Grey breeders in the United States resisted the industry trend to select only for frame size and worked to retain the temperament, calving ease, feed efficiency and carcass quality for which the cattle were so highly regarded in Australia and New Zealand. After an initial rush of interest in the 1970s, the smaller frame size and lighter carcass weights pushed the Murray Grey breed to the sidelines of the American cattle industry. A dedicated group of Murray Grey breeders across the country defied the industry trends and continued to breed the easy calving, efficient, cattle with excellent eating qualities.

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