

# The AgFirst-Greenlea Dairy-Beef Programme – A Real Opportunity

## Introduction

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AgFirst Waikato has teamed up with Greenlea Premier Meats to help improve profits and outcomes for both the dairy and beef industries along with addressing the growing challenge of bobby calves in the Waikato. The result was a contract based system where dairy farmers utilise proven beef semen over their herd after their initial AB period. We are looking for farmers who are willing to commit at least 100 dairy cows to beef inseminations. The cows should be at least 50% Friesian (F8+). Benefits of this programme for dairy farmers will include:

- Free semen from nominated beef bulls with proven easy calving records
- Breeding values for gestation length with most of the bulls offering an advantage
- Option to use Angus, Hereford or Simmental genetics.
- Every qualifying calf sired above 30 kgLWT for heifers and 32 kgLWT for bulls, will be purchased at four days old.
- Price expectations are between \$60 - \$100 per calf depending on weight and gender (\$2.00/kg for heifers and \$2.50/kg for bulls).

The purpose of the dairy-beef initiative is to:

- Build enduring relationships (underpinned with contracts) between dairy farmers and beef farmers for the rearing of quality calves.
- Supply beef cattle for specific markets which claim a significant premium. This type of service will require cattle to be delivered in-full, on-time and to-specification throughout the value chain.
- Help provide solutions to assist with the rearing of surplus bobby-calves.

## The Details

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The background work that we have done on this programme indicates that:

- Artificial Insemination (AI) affords the best opportunity as the beef bulls with the serious value propositions, coupled with high accuracy breeding values, are available 'in a straw' rather than 'on the hoof'.
- The suggestion is that the dairy farmer plans for:
  - 5-weeks AI to dairy replacement bulls
  - 5-weeks AI to high breeding value beef bulls
  - A minimum of 100 beef inseminations to at least one of the nominated AI bulls
  - The cost of AI is borne by the dairy farmer
  - **The cost of the nominated beef semen will be provided at no cost to the dairy farmer by Greenlea Premier Meats.**
- Beef AI-sired calves would be picked up from the dairy farmer twice per week by a nominated professional calf-rearer on the basis that:
  - The calves are sired by one of the nominated beef sires
  - The calves have had at least two good feeds of colostrum and are at least four days old
  - EID tagged to herd of birth
  - Bull calves: 32 kgLWT and above at \$2.50 per kgLWT
  - Heifer calves: 30 kgLWT and above at \$2.00 per kgLWT
  - Any animal health treatments have been recorded to individual calf EID
  - The calves would ultimately be DNA tested for parentage verification at no cost to the dairy farmer
- Our homework suggests that the best value proposition AI beef bulls are Angus, however the best (within breed) value proposition Herefords and Simmentals are also available.

**For more information contact:**

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Summary Table of Nominated Beef Bulls for Dairy Farmers

*Available on first-in, first-served basis*

| Bull                          | Breed                    | GL EBV | ADJ GL EBV | CED EBV | Comments for Dairy Farmers   | GL Value per Cow calving |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|------------|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Matuari Crikey G244           | Angus<br>500 straws      | -7.4   | -7.4       | +6.9    | A good all-round proven Angus bull with good calving ease EBV; suitable heifers and cows.                                      | +\$33.30                 |
| Rissington C200               | Angus<br>1,000 straws    | -11.3  | -11.3      | +4.7    | A good all-round Angus bull with lower reliability figures but from a herd with VG easy-calving background.                    | +\$50.85                 |
| Storth Oaks H41               | Angus<br>500 straws      | -7.5   | -7.5       | +2.9    | GL moderate and all-round reliability good. Cows only at this stage.   | +\$33.75                 |
| Koanui Rocket 0219            | Hereford<br>500 Straws   | -0.0   | +2.5       | +10.3   | VG Calving Ease bull but no GL advantage. Great option for heifers and cows with great calving ease figures.                   | -\$11.25                 |
| Shrimptons Hill 130021        | Hereford<br>1,000 straws | -8.0   | -5.5       | +10.8   | The best Hereford bull on offer. Great for heifers and cows but waiting for some better reliability figures through Breedplan. | +\$24.75                 |
| Rissington New Standard AU158 | Simmental<br>500 straws  | -8.0   | -2.5       | +6.7    | A VG Simmental bull for cows only.   | +\$11.25                 |

**Footnote**

The ADJ GL EBV's have been adjusted as follows:

- Angus: No adjustment as same as Friesian breed average
- Hereford: Plus 2.5 days GL compared to Friesian breed average
- Simmental: Plus 5.5 days GL compared to Friesian breed average
- GL Value per Cow has been calculated as follows:  $ADJ\ GL\ EBV/2 \times 1.5\text{kgMS}/\text{day} \times \$6.00/\text{kgMS}$

**Legend**

- EBV = Estimated Breeding Value
- GL = Gestation Length – the lower the number the better the value proposition
- ADJ GL EBV = Adjusted GL EBV
- CED = Calving Ease Direct – the higher the number the easier the calving

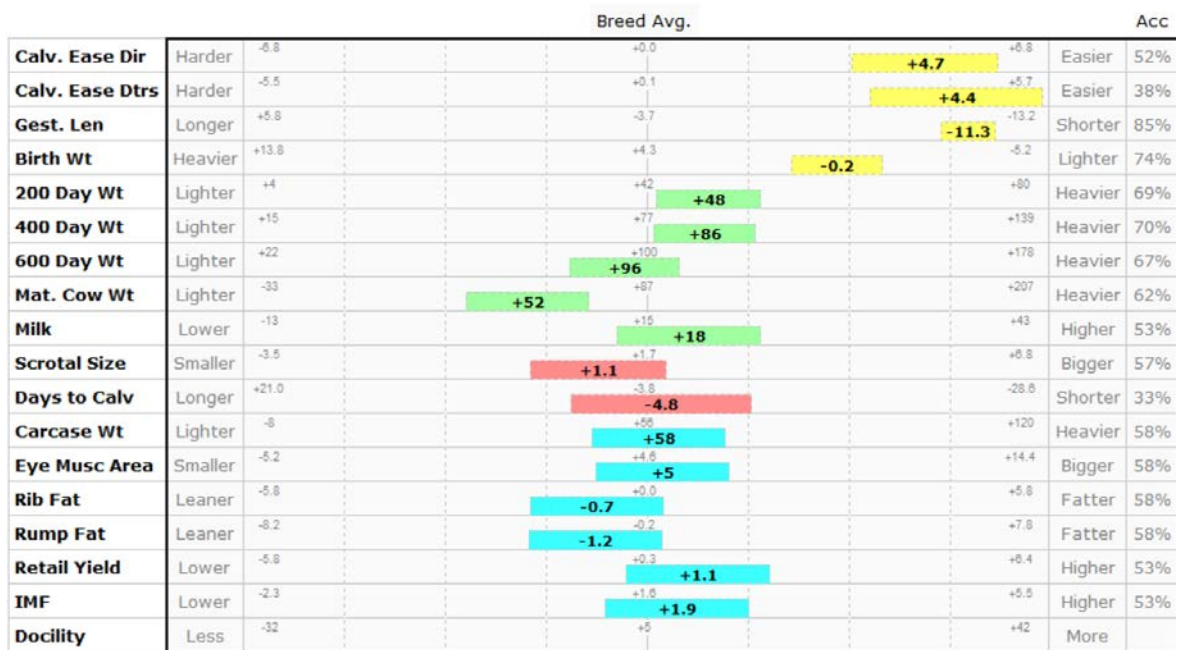
ANGUS BULLS FOR MATING 2017

EBV Graph for MATAURI CRIKEY G244



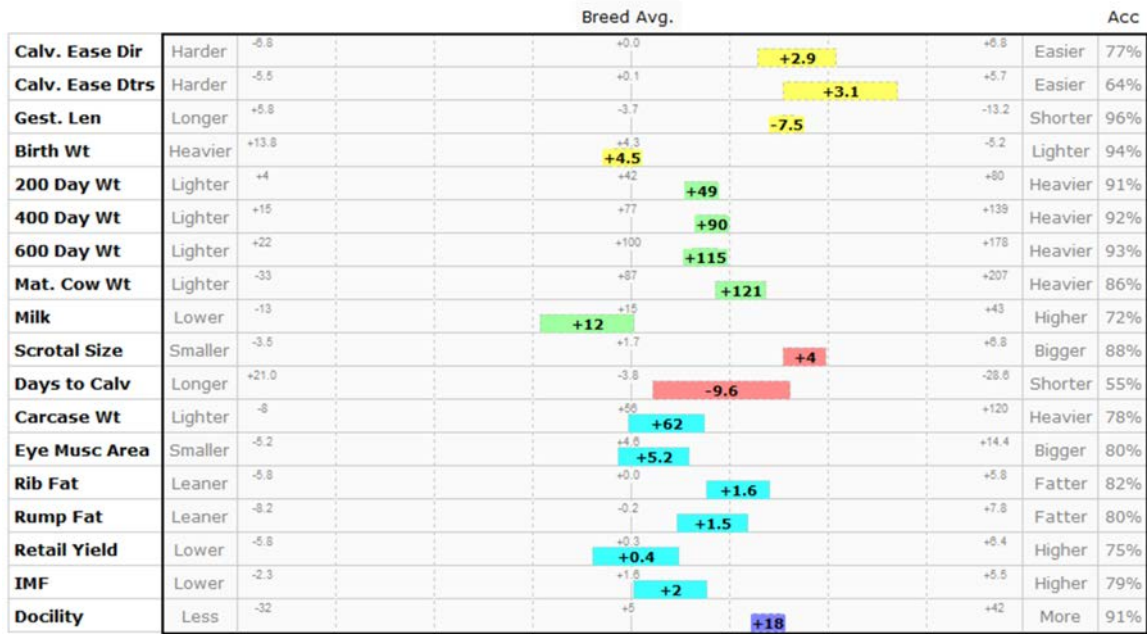
ANGUS BULLS FOR MATING 2017

EBV Graph for RISSINGTON C200



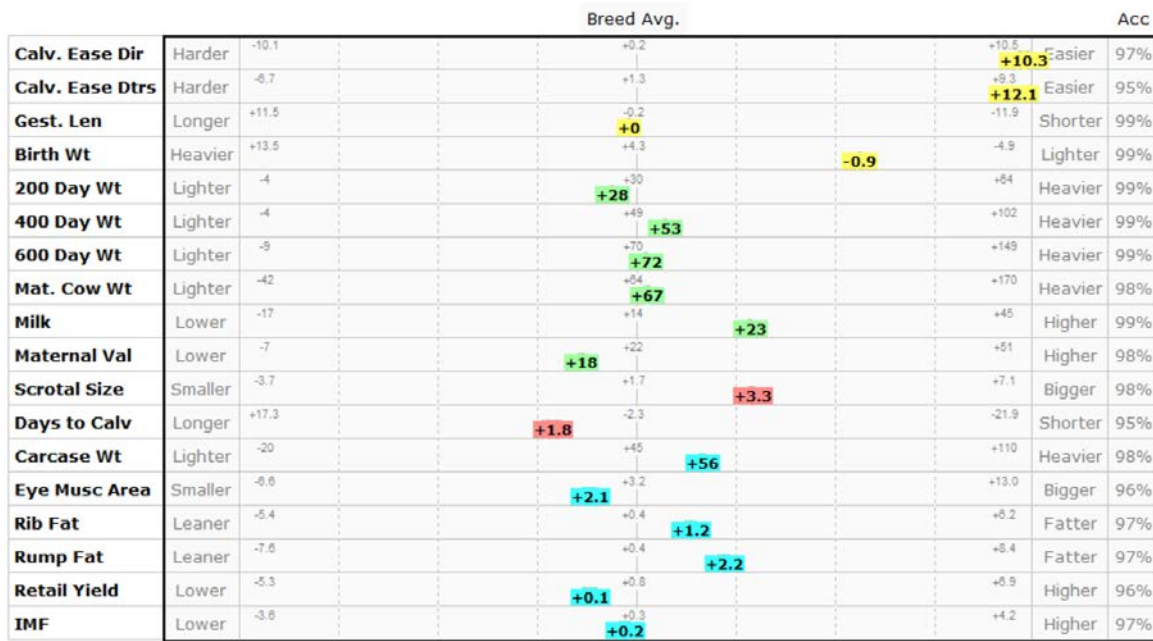
ANGUS BULLS FOR MATING 2017

EBV Graph for STORTH OAKS H41



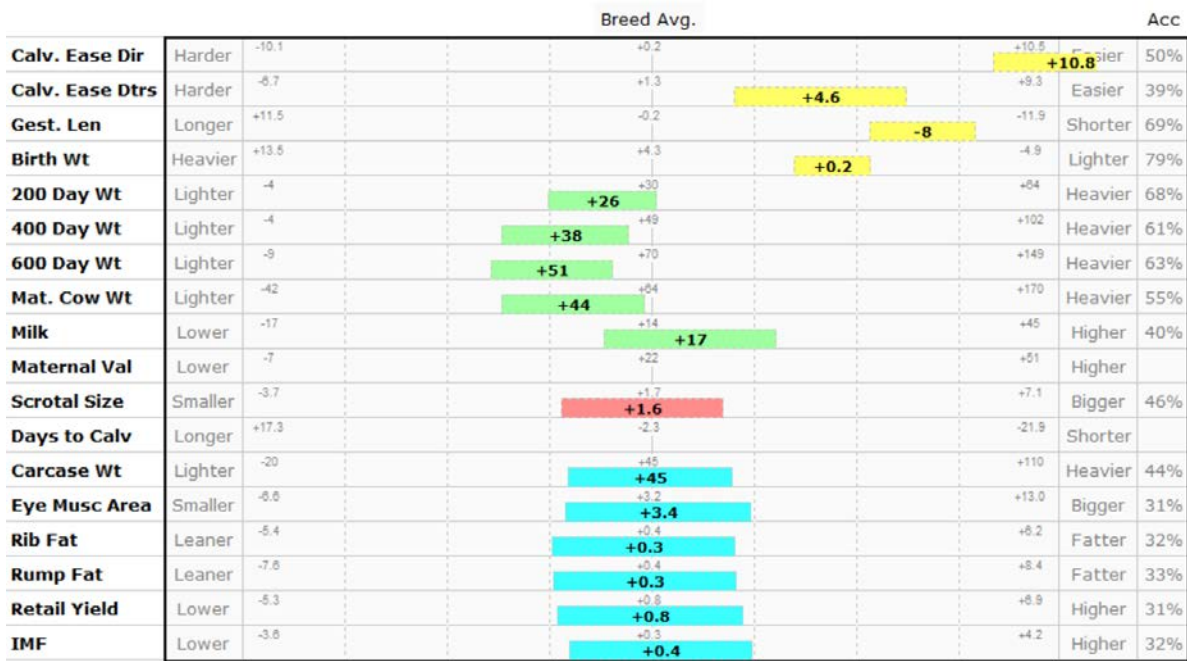
HEREFORD BULLS FOR MATING 2017

EBV Graph for KOANUI ROCKET 0219 (BM)



HEREFORD BULLS FOR MATING 2017

EBV Graph for SHRIMPTONS HILL 130021 (EZI)



SIMMENTAL BULL FOR MATING 2017

EBV Graph for RISSINGTON NEW STANDARD AU158

