



HD Cattle shine at historical agricultural show, the North Coast National, in northern New South Wales

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The steer auction attracted record prices and international buyers, while the **dairy** cattle were rated of the highest quality in the state.

Lismore's agricultural show, the North Coast National, in northern New South Wales has attracted record prices and international buyers at its annual Led Steer Auction.

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The beef cattle auction, with 77 steers listed and **sold** for around \$100,000 in total, was held for the first time under the lights at Lismore Showground.

A Speckle Park heifer was named the 2014 Supreme Beef Exhibit after taking out the Junior Interbreed Female.

The animal, from Wattle Grove Speckle Park Stud at Oberon, was exhibited by Travis Luscombe from Allora in Queensland.

"The Speckle's a little bit different and catches everyone's eye, but the judges really commented on how well she was made and loved her maturity pattern," he said.

"There wouldn't have been too many Speckles shown here before so to come down here on one of their first showings and win the Supreme Exhibit of the show will be pretty special for the owners."

An Angus cow Mr Luscombe showed, on behalf of the K5X Angus Stud at Allora, won the Senior Interbreed Female, and the cow was part of the winning Champion of Champions team with a Red Angus Bull from Triple **M** Red Angus at Rukenvale.

It was a successful show for the cattle fitter, but the win he's most wrapped about was his own steer winning Champion Led Steer and then receiving in excess of \$6 a kilogram at auction.

"Pure bred black Limo and he won Champion Heavyweight Steer class out of about 30 steers and then won the Champion Steer and then he was part of the Limousin **group** that won Overall Pen of Three on the carcass," Mr Luscombe said.

"That Champion Steer of ours made just over \$6 a kilo dressed and they were saying that's a record price for led steers **sold** at a **sale** outside Sydney and Brisbane here at the North Coast National, so that's good for the show and good support from the local producers and butchers as well."

Auctioneer Darren Perkins says it's the first time the auction has attracted international buyers.

"One buyer being here from Japan, who bought a few head, and we also had an American from Dallas who bought a couple of head as well," he said.

"I think that we've got a very, very good green image out there for our beef and with the US numbers dropping and more and more appetite for other countries like **China**, and other areas like that, looking for our beef Australia's out there in the leading front."

Mr Perkins says it's one of the best steer sales for the North Coast National in Lismore.

The Champion School Led Steer was named Reserve Champion Led Steer at fetched \$5 a kilogram at auction.

That steer, James Bond 007, was also a black Limousin and owned by the Stanthorpe High School in Queensland.

Nathan Hurtz, one of the school's four agriculture teachers, is ecstatic about the win.

"He's actually a steer that we bred at the school, we've got a Limousin stud," he said.

"This steer's just gone 12 months old, so he's still a **milk** tooth, and he weighed 482 kilos when we put him across the scales this morning.

"They loved his length, and in the beef cattle game length means more money and they liked his softness and the way he was finished and also the carcass, the meat attributes of the Limousin breed."

This year the **Dairy** Spectacular was moved to the main show days, rather than in the days prior, and also changed location in an effort to attract more of the public.

A nine-year-old Holstein cow owned by Alan and Julie Clark from Caniaba, south of Lismore, was named the Supreme **Dairy** Exhibit.

"Our Supreme Champion Holstein Cow got pneumonia two weeks before the Brisbane Show so she never went back to the Brisbane Show this year," said Mr Clark.

"She was the reigning Supreme Udder at Brisbane Show and she was the reigning Supreme at Lismore Show so we'll able to get her here today, and get Supreme Cow which is a great thrill for us."

Mr Clark says the new facilities for the **dairy** cattle at this year's show are wonderful.

"The people have been coming through the shed and it's been a real positive for the **dairy** industry and for the show," he said.

Away from the cattle, Ellie Stephens was crowned the 2014 North Coast National Showgirl, and Margaret Young named Runner Up.

In 2015 the historic agricultural show will celebrate 130 years.

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