

Cross breed Charolais sires to *Bos indicus* cows

Increase your returns by up to \$180 per head

Research on the progeny of Charolais sires and Brahman cows shows the advantage from 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 Brahman or Angus females.

Producers can expect to make up to \$180 more per head by crossing a Charolais bull over a Brahman cow due to faster growth rates, increased muscle development and improved meat eating quality relative to pure bred progeny.



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 *Bos indicus* cattle. French genetics have been selected and improved during the past 40 years to enable the breed to cross with Australian Brahman, Santa Gertrudis and Droughtmaster. Research has shown that Charolais-Brahman cross progeny were 21% heavier than pure Brahman progeny. This equates to approximately 60 kgs of additional carcass weight. At \$3 per kilogram this hybrid vigour provides an additional \$180 per head or \$7,200 when multiplied over 40 cows per year.

Charolais cross progeny are younger when they go to slaughter relative to pure *Bos indicus* and *Bos indicus* infused 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.

Crossing Charolais sires over Brahman cows will increase your returns:

- ▶ Bull temperament - *excellent*
- ▶ Natural conception rate - 86%
- ▶ Artificial insemination conception rate - 38%
- ▶ Growth rate (on pasture) - 0.95 kgs per day
- ▶ Calving ease - unassisted births 98%
- ▶ Average calf birth weight - 33 kgs



Meat Quality (20 months) from Beef CRC research (Newman):

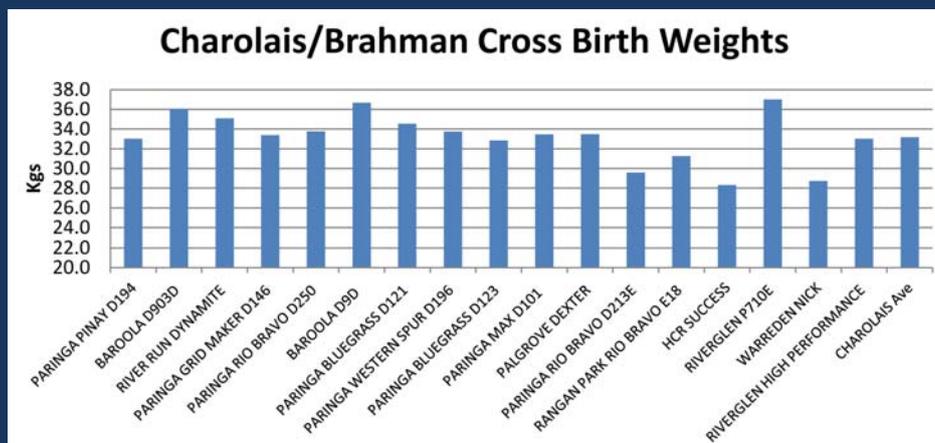


- ▶ Carcass weight heifers - 268 kgs with 12.6 mm P8 fat.
- ▶ Carcass weight steers - 302 kgs with 9.3 mm P8 fat.

Newman, S., H.M. Burrow, R.K. Shepherd and B.M. Bindon, 1999, Carcass yield traits of grass and grain-finished Brahman crosses for domestic and export markets, Proc. Assoc. Advmt. Breed. Genet, vol 13: 231- 234.

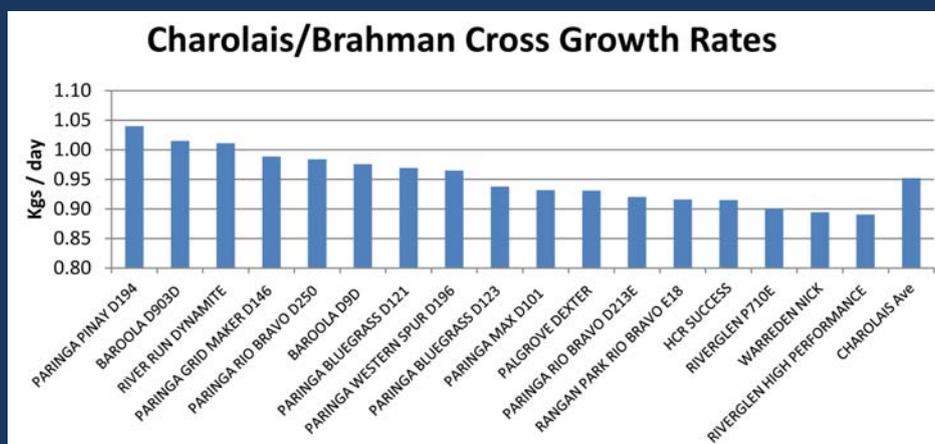
Results Support the Charolais Advantage

Research conducted by the Charolais Society shows that there is considerable variation in the birth weight of Charolais and Brahman cross progeny. The average birth weight across the progeny of 17 sires was 33 kgs. Brahman cows have the ability to reduce the weight of their calves relative to other breeds.



Research progeny were weaned in May 2012 and the average growth rate to weaning was 0.95 kgs per day. The progeny of a number of sires was above average with Paringa Pinay leading the group with 1.4 kgs per day. Baroola D903D and River Run Dynamite were also high performers with progeny gaining 1.1 kgs per day. The progeny of Riverglen High Performance grew at an average 0.88 kgs. There is a gap of 160 grams per day between the sires with the highest and lowest growth rates.

Over 680 days from birth to market this could equate to a difference in value of 108 kgs or \$326 per head. When this amount is multiplied over 40 head per year then the difference is \$13,056 per year or \$52,224 over four years of a bull's working period.



This difference in value between the highest and lowest performing sires in the trial is why it is so important for bull buyers to use BREEDPLAN Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) when purchasing bulls. EBV's are available from the Society's website. Further results will be available on the website as the study continues.

Visit www.charolais.com.au for more information



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