

**ANGUS NEWS** >>> advertising feature**Sold on fast finish from hardy steers**

PURCHASING Angus weaner steers has now become an annual ritual for Ross and Jeanette Wilson of "Cotties Run", just outside Bathurst.

That's largely thanks to some advice from some well-regarded Angus contacts in the area who highlighted the overall benefits of the breed to the couple.

"We were sold on Angus by John Reen who runs Karoo Angus at Meadow Flat," Dr Wilson said.

"John and his daughter, Annie, sold us on the virtues of the Angus years ago and that's just what we have stuck with."

Dr Wilson said he had also received some other advice on other potential breeds to finish on the property.

"I've had a few people say, 'why don't you try whiteface', but I think John's influence and his confidence that the Angus breeds well,

grows well and also is a hardy animal, made me consider Angus.

"We get a bit of snowdrift here and I think the general feeling is that they stand up to the harsher or variable conditions where we are a lot better than the whiteface."

The couple acquired a pen of 26 Angus weaner steers for \$560 at their regular selling centre, Central Tablelands Livestock Exchange (CTLX), recently, and said it was an ideal time to purchase.

Mrs Wilson said their purchase this year had two benefits – to finish them, and also to keep down the pastures, which had been growing excessively over unusually wet summer and autumn months.

Pictured is Jeanette Wilson with the Angus steers they are finishing on "Cotties Run" this year.

**Angus appeal reaps good returns**

By NICK HEYDON

ANGUS cattle form a vital arm of a multi-enterprise operation on "Cotties Run" at Bathurst.

Indeed for owners Ross and Jeanette Wilson, their Angus cattle provide a strong commercial focus.

While they have a specific butcher market for some Dexter cows with calves that they also run on the property, it is their finishing of Angus weaner steers that offers them good returns at the markets.

The couple recently purchased 26 Angus weaner steers at their regular selling centre the Central Tablelands Livestock Exchange (CTLX) to finish on their 80-hectare property this year.

Choosing the Angus as a breed came down to several factors, but it appears to have been a decision which has

complemented the overall operation, as well as Ross Wilson's career.

His profession off the farm is as a doctor at Bathurst hospital and their property – five minutes outside town – allows ease of access between his two offices.

It may be fair to assume that time would be a luxury for any doctor and this would be especially so with a farm to run as well.

Yet Dr Wilson said he and Jeanette had achieved a pretty good balance between the two.

"It gets really frantic at lambing time, which we're just coming into now," he said.

Dr Wilson said the Angus cattle are just one aspect of the farm but nevertheless an important one.

"We usually run about 25 Angus steers to finish, and we also run 14 Dexter cows and calves, as well as stud Suffolk and Southdown sheep;

we have 120 breeding ewes between the Suffolks and the Southdowns," Dr Wilson said.

Particular benefits of Angus cattle, he said, largely culminated in the fact they were appealing to buyers.

**“The market likes the Angus, and they also finish well on our country, and we roll them over reasonably consistently to keep the grass down.”**

– Ross Wilson, "Cotties Run", Bathurst

"The market likes the Angus, and they also finish well on our country, and we roll them over reasonably consistently to keep the grass down," he said.

Their pasture varieties on "Cotties Run" consist mostly of native grasses, as well as a couple of old phalaris paddocks.

Dr Wilson said when considering an ideal weight and time at which to

sell the Angus steers each year, the decision was greatly influenced by their stock and station agent.

"I'm always guided by our stock and station agent (in terms of weight gain)," he said.

Dr Wilson said he had been particularly impressed at the good temperament of the Angus cattle and at how well they handled.

"We're not expert cattle people but we've never had any troubles," he said.

"Our cattle-handling facilities are good, but not more than the basic and we put them through very easily."

As for the Dexter cows with calves also run on the property, the Wilsons see them as an important aspect of the enterprise.

"We've always had the Dexters and we took them through the drought," Dr Wilson said.

"We find we have a market for the Dexter steer calves because their size suits a lot of the butchers who want to buy a smaller cut.

"Commercially though, we probably do better out of the Angus overall."

"If we think they're sized up enough, I can get the stock and station agent out to the property and he lets me know whether I need to leave them for another three or four weeks, or whether the market is good now.

"We're always guided by our agent as to what he feels the market wants at present."

He said this was an additional benefit of being so close to town.