

KEY ATTRIBUTES

Key ingredients for successful beef production are:

- **Adaptability to the environment**
- **Production potential**

EFFICIENCY

The Brahman's improved efficiency of production over other breeds is closely linked to its unique digestive system attributes

- The ability to recycle nutrients through the blood stream and saliva promotes digestion
- Reduced water intake means reduced urination resulting in less nitrogen loss and high blood nitrogen levels
- Maintenance of higher intake level of low quality feed
- Low maintenance requirement
- Slower rate of protein turnover enables muscle and body tissue development to continue of low feed intake
- Brahman's remain productive longer
- Reduced sulphur demand for hair growth means more available for amino acids associated with growth and production.
- Lower rumen liquid volume and higher rumen bacterial fat results in higher levels of energy rich compounds in the blood stream.



HEAT TOLERANCE

Tolerance to heat is a major economic factor in tropical beef production. When the body temperature rises cattle become stressed, resulting in reduced feeding time and feed intake, increasing water consumption, wasted energy panting, poor meat quality and even death.

The Brahman's heat tolerance is controlled by:

- dark pigmented skin dissipates internal sweat
- increased number, efficiency and size of sweat glands
- sleek coat which reflects sun
- increased area of loose skin
- slower metabolic rate which means less heat generated



FERTILITY

An animal's reproductive performance is closely linked to its adaptability and nutritional levels. Studies have demonstrated that Brahman's have a greater reproductive response to improved levels of nutrition than other breeds because of their ability to close down their reproductive system as a survival mechanism when under stress. Under adequate levels of nutrition, Brahman's fertility will equal that of other breeds.



DISEASE RESISTANT

Disease resistance is a major adaptive characteristic. Brahman cattle exhibit a superior immunological memory. That is, they show a stronger immune response when challenged by disease long after the initial exposure. It is believed that the Brahman's protein metabolism is better directed and less affected by stress factors. It can focus its protein synthesis onto production of more white blood cells and antibodies to fight the disease attack.

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PARASITE RESISTANT

The Brahman's resistance to cattle tick is of major economic importance because of less chemical use and increased weight gain. The Australian Brahman's resistance to cattle tick is related to :

- immune response prevents ticks developing
- reduced tick burden on pasture and on animals
- sleek coat does not favour attachment of tick larvae
- chemicals in sweat gland act as repellent.

Resistance to tropical internal parasites is also linked to their support immune response and ability to tolerate stress.

FEEDLOT PERFORMANCE

Outstanding results have been achieved by Brahman cattle in feedlots. Four groups (total of 1039 head) of North Queensland Brahman cattle finished through Aronui feedlot achieved weight gains from 3.13 to 2.38kg/head/day over 100 days and showed feed efficiency rating up to 54% above the feedlot average.

While these results are exceptional, growth rates of over 1.8kg/day over 100 days are common.



HIGH YIELDING CARCASE

The Australian Brahman's impressive production performance on the hoof is backed up by an equally impressive performance as a carcass.

- Lower rumen content means higher dressing percentages

Superior yield of saleable meat is a result of:

- Excellent muscle development
- Uniform even fat cover
- Less intramuscular fat which means less waste

HIGH GROWTH RATES

On grass or grain in feedlots, Australian Brahmans have demonstrated an ability to achieve high growth rates and excellent feed conversion.

Their low maintenance requirements means there is a greater proportion of intake available for growth and their efficient digestive system means they can maintain higher intake levels of low quality feed.



THE BOTTOM LINE – YOUR PROFIT

To achieve maximum benefit from the cattle you produce you need...

- Production efficiency • Marketing Flexibility • Acceptable risk

...because your greatest profit centre is inside your boundary fence. If your cattle are not as profitable at home they won't make it up once they leave.

- On grass or on grain • Jap Ox or Korean
- Local trade or live export • In good and poor seasons

For further info contact: The Australian Brahman Breeders' Assoc.

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