



Benelkay Santas Catch Up

Welcome

Welcome to the 2026 Benelkay Santa Gertrudis Newsletter. The year has again been a mixed one in northern NSW, as many have said over summer, the drought donut in the Northwest just keeps getting bigger as summer progressed. So, there has been a lot going on with our breeding herds. Reducing numbers through the sale yards, agistment and the long hours that don't seem to end of mixing feed to keep livestock productive. But thankfully in the last three weeks most people in Southern, Western and Northwestern NSW have had strong rainfall. Like any dry period, it seems to patch in and eventually all of us get back to normality. Hopefully this is the start of better rainfall for all of us.

Benelkay Steers in Competition 2026

This year (SGBAA) Santa Gertrudis Breeders Association Australia have been conducting a feed lot trial with purebred and cross breed Santa Gertrudis steers. There have been over three hundred and fifty steers entered in the Santa Gertrudis Weight Gain and Carcass competition at the Freestone Feedlot Warwick. Cattle have been split on entry weights and are being prepared for a domestic 70-day feed or a 100-day

feed for export kill. On completion of feeding, the cattle will be processed under MSA specifications at Teys Beenleigh QLD. Benelkay has entered steers and lifetime supporter of Benelkay genetics James Wippell has also entered steers and heifers into the trail. So, we should get a good understanding of how our genetics and Sire lines are performing against other Santa Gertrudis breeder's livestock, once data is reviewed.

This competition is open to all commercial producers of Santa Gertrudis cattle, so if any commercial breeders would like to take part in these feedlot trails please have a talk with Andrew when we next catch up. It looks like this feedlot trail will become a yearly fixture. This will be a great opportunity to see how your cattle are performing against others in the same game as you and is also a good way of value adding your cattle when times present themselves and we can't finish them at home like we usually do. If we are going to be able to

promote Santa Gertrudis Genetics within the beef industry, we need valuable reliable information to promote the breed.

Entry rules are simple, the cattle must be at least fifty percent or purebred Santa Gertrudis Steers or Heifers and carry milk / two tooth.

Cross Breeding with Santa Gertrudis

When looking at breeds of cattle the breeder must consider their country and the environment where their cattle are run. Their end goals for their cattle and the markets they want to sell to. They also need to be honest with themselves when they consider these realities. Many people will just go to certain popular breeds as their mates are. Or maybe the agent will direct them that way because of the cents per kilo that they receive and it is easier to sell to market, totally understandable. But what breeders need to look at is Weight for Age. Cattle breeding is all about how much money is



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in your pocket when you sell your cattle, not the highest cents for kg. That is where Santa Gertrudis pays the bills with increased weight for age and hybrid vigor, fertility and doing ability. Hybrid vigor from crossing two British breeds together is of a lower rate. Using a Bos indicus breed over British or Euro is a free twenty percent extra weight for doing very little, important to reflect on in the current economic climate.

Open Day

We will be holding our Open Day on Friday the 31st of July between 10am and 3pm for Agents, Clients, and anyone interested in looking at the breeding program at Benelkay. At this year's open day, we invite you to come and have a casual look through the 2026 Sale Bulls. They will be presented in the display pens outside the yards so you can get a good look at the animals and give them a walk around at your own pace.

These Open Days are always a great opportunity to view the sale bulls without the pressures of Sale Day. It gives Agents and clients time to walk through our stock without the interruptions Sale Day can sometimes bring. Hot tea and coffee will be served on the day and a tasty steak sandwich around lunchtime, all are welcome.

Testimonials

James Wippell "Mayfield" Bundella NSW "I like Benelkay Santas, they are good all-round cattle, they calve easy making them terrific mothers, they possess great temperament, feed conversion and market suitability and acceptance. They are low maintenance cattle that perform on good feed but can also handle heat cold and tough conditions" my whole breeding operation is based around Benelkay Bulls. Tim O'Gorman "Yule Park" Gunnedah NSW. "Benelkay Bulls produce strong healthy calves meaning a higher percentage from birth to weaning and ultimately more profit in our pocket. Weight equals profit and we are extremely happy with the weights our crossbreed cattle are attaining." "Our breeding program is based exclusively on Benelkay Bulls. Good honest breeders with good honest cattle."

This Year's Bull Sale

As we move into our Sixty Fifth year of breeding Santas, and Fifty-five years since we registered Benelkay Santa Gertrudis Stud number 810. It will also be our Fifteenth On Property Bull Sale. This year's sale will be held on Thursday 20th August at 1.00pm. This will be Thursday, the last day of Ag-Quip. Benelkay will present the best 40 of the 2024 bull calf drop. They will be rising two-year-olds ranging between 22 and 26 months old. Half of these bulls have been tested Homozygous (PP), with all the bulls having been Sire DNA genetically verified. This year's bulls are an even line of strong dark polled bulls with plenty of breed character, depth, and thickness. Produced by one vendor and sold at one venue which is the home of our breeding operation.



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Being the top forty bulls from the 2024 calf drop, this represents the top 20 percent of the male calves. The other 80 percent are grown out into bullock weight or feeder steer weights. There will be bulls suitable for heifer joining as well as a strong run of straight-out cow bulls with power and thickness, that our cattle are widely known for. Auctions Plus will be operating again this year and if for any unforeseen reason you cannot make the sale you will have the option to operate through Auction Plus or Elders agents on the phone.

Please remember to register at least twenty-four hours before the sale on the Auctions Plus web site, you will have to do this if you want to actively bid. Therefore, we strongly suggest that breeders interested in purchasing should inspect the sale team before the sale. Details of all the lots will be on the Auctions Plus Website plus videos of the bulls for your viewing closer to the sale and on our web site. www.benelkaysantas.com.au

Sale Bulls Info

This year's 40 quality run of strong, dark red, neat sheathed, heavy boned, Polled Bulls will have all the attributes our clients look for every year in a sire for their herds, Stud or Commercial.

Our Sale Bulls will have their Breedplan figures to help assist you in the selection of the sires to suit your breeding objectives. They will have raw data figures for Weight, DWG, Scans for EMA, Rib / Rump Fats and Scrotal. The bulls will be Semen collected by Caitlin Warner Australian Premier Genetics and Morphology Tested, at The University of Sydney Camden Campus.

It is pleasing to get, as we do every year (50% out of the Sale Bulls) with the quality they carry to test as Homozygous Poll PP.

We believe this is the highest percentage of homozygous PP in any Santa Gertrudis sale in Australia. The results of these tests will be made available on our website and in our Sale Catalogue and Supplementary Sheet. Sale Bulls will also have 7 in 1, Vibro, Multimin, AD and E and all the usual drenching treatments they receive every year, so you can buy with confidence. These bulls are ready to go to work. The sale team has been running in two separate mobs. As always, our bulls are bred to perform in the paddock not the show ring.





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Sires Represented

This year's sale team will be represented by a strong sire Battery, with eleven Sires represented.

Strathmore Senator S498 (P)
Yarrowonga Tic Toc T626 (P)
Doorabeeba Sentry S024 (PP)
Yarrowonga Quicksilver Q680 (PP)
Strathmore Ripper R280 (PS)
Nioa Quartermaster Q34 (P)
Bullamakanka Remington R294 (P)
Cree Papalii S146 (PS)
Dangarfield El Nino E119 (PP)
Benelkay Sniper S266 (P)
Benelkay Showtime S204 (P)

Invitation

We look forward to seeing our many friends Agents and Clients on Thursday 20th of August 1.00pm at our 15th Annual Bull Sale.

As we draw closer to sale day, we will keep you abreast of any updates or changes that we may need to advise you of. Accordingly, if you would like to visit us for a pre-sale inspection of the bulls and or our herd on the 31st of July from 10am to 3pm at our Open Day or at a time that suits you, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Sale Contacts

For further information you can also contact:

Nick Hannaford 0417 201 460
(State Livestock Manager)
John Glover 0428 486 887
(Territory Sales Manager)
Rob Galton 0458423030
(Livestock Agent/ Territory Sales Manager)
Brian Kennedy 0427 844 047
(Elders Stud Stock)
Scott Cooper 0427 674 411
(Auctioneer, Elders Stud Stock)

To like us on Facebook and Instagram, just visit our website. www.benelkaysantas.com and if you follow our social media sites you can find out all the latest news and images of sale bulls, sires, and dams leading into our sale.

Wishing everyone a great season
Warmest Regards
Andrew & Jules Orman
Benelkay Santa Gertrudis
0427 435 201

