

# LIVESTOCK



**TRADITIONAL THINKING:** Northern Rivers Hereford breeder Peter Hall is preserving the genetics of one of the world's oldest purebred Hereford herds.

## English Herefords deliver beef bonus

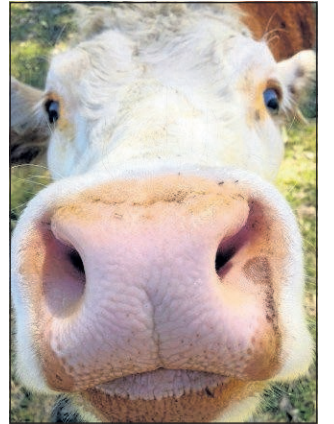
HEREFORD breeder Peter Hall says he has been very pleasantly surprised by the level of enquiry for the traditional English beef animal.

"Of course the real reason Herefords became so popular and had so much of an influence on cattle breeding around the world is the eating quality of the beef they produce," Mr Hall said.

"What these traditional English Herefords provide is an eating experience that can be linked to the great and unequalled tradition of English roast beef.

"It is very encouraging just how many boutique meat retailers are seeking something different and special to offer their customers. They are certainly asking about how they can source traditional Hereford beef."

Mr Hall said the 'traditional' Hereford was significantly different to the 'mod-



A traditional Hereford.

ern' Hereford.

"I certainly consider them to be two different breeds," Mr Hall said.

"The traditional Hereford is much shorter legged but it still has a terrific amount of beef on a very solid, brick shaped body.

The breed is described as medium sized, with cows weighing 450-550kg and bulls 750-850kg.

# Cotmore Herefords restored

BY MARK PHELPS

NORTHERN Rivers NSW traditional Hereford breeders Peter and Hellen Hall are on a mission. It's one that involves rebuilding and preserving the genetics of one of the world's oldest purebred Hereford herds, based on the bloodlines used in the family's herd originally bred in England in the late 1700s.

The ambitious mission is also about ensuring the original genetics of the globally influential Hereford breed

are protected as part of an 'insurance herd' for the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in the UK.

Mr Hall, who runs the 60 head Cotmore Hereford stud herd on the highly productive creek flats near Tunglebung west of Casino, said rebuilding the traditional herd had involved years of detective work and tracing the original bloodlines to cattle herds in both the UK and Australia.

"The mission was always to track down the original

Hereford bloodlines of the cattle in the original 1780s herd from Cotmore in England and then reproduce cattle with the very genetics that made the breed so popular in the first place," Mr Hall said.

"Once we able to identify some of those herds, we were able to obtain about 100 traditional Hereford embryos that were descended from the family herd."

According to Mr Hall the turning point for the breed was in the 1970s, when North American genetics were

introduced into Hereford herds across the globe including Australia. Although far more commercially successful particularly in terms of productivity and weight, some highly desirable traits were better expressed in 'traditional' rather than the now 'modern' animals, he said.

"In about 1780 Richard Hall was among a small band of Herefordshire farmers that saw the potential in a breed of cattle that is now known as the Hereford," Mr Hall said.

"Richard and his descend-

ants bred and registered these cattle for nearly 150 years and Norman Hall (Peter's father) was destined to take over the herd. However, in 1929 the Great Depression struck and Norman emigrated to Australia penniless.

"In fact, the story goes that an aunt back in England left him five pounds in her will. He used to say everything he achieved in Australia was as a direct result on that small start."

Mr Hall said knowing this family connection dating

back to before the official recognition of the Hereford breed, had always resonated with him during his time in corporate life.

"We've spent our retirement tracking down the Cotmore bloodline," he said.

"It's quiet a feeling to look at a sketch of the very influential bull Cotmore from 1836 and knowing the cattle we have been able to produce using very sophisticated technology in the paddocks here are from the same highly prized bloodline."

## ALMA DROUGHTMASTER & BRAHMAN COMPLETE DISPERSAL

**SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**  
**Dalby Saleyards - Sale commences 10am**

107 Droughtmaster Females - Calves at foot or PTIC  
55 Red & Grey Brahman Females - Calves at foot or PTIC  
5 Droughtmaster Sires • 1 Brahman Sire  
35 x 1 to 2 yr old Droughtmaster bulls  
4 x 1 to 2 yr old Brahman bulls.



Property to be auctioned 14th December Clearing sale 17th December

Contact Blake Munro 0427 210 634, Andrew Meara 0427 210 634 or Owner Stan Sorley 07 4663 1239

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