

Stud pioneers exports

The old adage that what people gain out of something is proportionate to what they put into it has certainly rung true for Terry and Karen Pierce of Peppercorn Belted Galloways.

The couple saw Belted Galloways for the first time on a trip to the USA.

The couple was living in Sydney at the time but later moved to the property where they now live, near Gloucester.

"We started a long evaluation process for which breed would best fit our smaller block and kept on coming back to the Belties," Mr Pierce said.

"I just could not see why more stud breeders were not buying into the breed."

The Pierce's first purchase was at Wodonga in 1996 where they bought a bull and five females, one of which was in calf and another with a calf at foot.

The calf from the pregnant cow has since proven to be an excellent bull and his progeny has been shown by the Pierce's with outstanding results.

From this fairly modest start, their passion for the breed has taken them a long way over the past few years.

They have taken a quantum leap from carting their animals all over the country where they have won champion, grand champion and supreme exhibit ribbons at Royal Shows, to be the first stud to export a live Belted Galloway from Australia, to neighbouring New Zealand.

During a trip to the isles



BEST BULL: Belted Galloway bull Peppercorn Zula with Terry Pierce. Zula has been exported to New Zealand for breeding opportunities.

to "test the water" the Pierces travelled the length and breadth of the country sharing information about their Belties and attempting to generate interest in their stud with a presentation on their laptop computer.

They visited more than 17 studs and impressed with their strong corporate image, from their stud logo dress and accessories to the quality of the informative presentation.

After arriving home the Pierce's decided to embark on an ambitious plan to

take a live bull to New Zealand. After months of red tape and protocol, during which the bull spent 120 days in Melbourne where he underwent exhaustive health tests, the big day arrived and in June Mr Pierce finally took the flight out with the bull.

The bull was not just any bull. Peppercorn Zula is the grandson of Mochrum Kingfisher.

Born in November 2004, his sire is Peppercorn Wisdom, grand champion at Sydney and Brisbane Royals in 2003.

His dam is Peppercorn Ursula, reserve senior champion at Canberra in 2002 in a class of nine and without a calf.

Always focused on the quality of the herd, the Pierces wanted to send abroad what they considered to be the best they had.

Zula is a correct young bull, with an excellent temperament.

He displays great muscling from shoulder through to hindquarters, has a strong straight topline and stands up straight on good legs and feet.

He is an extremely alert young bull with a good head.

At 18 months of age he weighs 445kg, is 107cm long, 46cm wide, is 43cm from hip to pin, stands 127cm high and has a scrotal circumference of 34cm.

Zula will reside at the Tararua Breeding Centre for semen collection, before heading to the South Island to service two studs.

In November Zula will make his debut at the Royal Christchurch Show, where the Pierces hope to further their showing prowess.