

PEPPERCORN



BELTED GALLOWAY STUD

"Doma"

608 Barrington East Rd
Barrington NSW 2422

T: 6 12 6558 4227

F: 6 12 6558 4339

E: belties@belties.com.au

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Peppercorn Zula

'the Next Generation Galloway'

Wins the NZ Royal Show Again!

Peppercorn Zula, Australia's first live Belted Galloway export, has enhanced Australia's breeding reputation yet again by winning all the top awards at this year's Royal New Zealand Show.

Held in Christchurch, the Galloways and Belted Galloways were judged on Wednesday 14th November in blizzard conditions. The Interbreed classes were judged on Thursday 15th November. Peppercorn Zula, shown by his new owner Rob Hall of Lilliesleaf Belted Galloway Stud located in Gore, NZ, won the following classes:

- Supreme Champion Galloway
- Champion Galloway Senior Bull
- Bull - 2 years and over
- RAS Award - Gold Medal
- Breeders Group (Bull and two females, any age)
- Placed 6th (out of fourteen) Meat & Wool Cup – Interbreed class

Peppercorn Zula, now three years of age, was bred and then exported to New Zealand in June 2006 by Terry and Karen Pierce of Peppercorn Belted Galloway Stud at Barrington NSW

www.belties.com.au

Studmasters: Terry and Karen Pierce

ABN: 36 325 301 635

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Australia. Zula's debut showing at the Royal New Zealand Show 2006 saw him first recognized as New Zealand's supreme example of the breed.

Judged by Barry McAlley, the man currently co-ordinating the 2008 World Galloway Congress in New Zealand, Peppercorn Zula was declared the obvious winner of the section.

"However, what was the more important thing was how he performed in the interbreed classes," says McAlley. "He was the highest placed Beltie in an interbreed class at a royal show in NZ since the 1960s."

"I must admit Zula has come on leaps and bound since I saw him last year. Then, I thought his main deficiency was a lack of masculinity about the head. Now, I joke that he must have had cosmetic surgery over the last twelve months - he's made up a lot of ground. He's now a very good all-round bull."

"Its easy to find that belties can lack muscling in the hindquarter," continues McAlley. "What took my eye is that Zula has a good hindquarter, a straight topline and neat front shoulders. He walks well, has bright eyes and is interested in life."

"I could make the criticism that Zula lacks frame size but the fact is that beef breeds are heading that way. Zula is a medium sized bull. He could very well be ahead of his time."

"Zula could be a very good carcass animal. He was in high show condition at a time when he should have been out with the cows. It's unnatural for Belties and Galloways to have excessive muscling like the Belgian Blue and others. Zula was good and flat across the top, probably with a very good eye muscle, deep in the flank and not too heavy in the brisket. I think he would hang a good carcass and dress very well.

McAlley was unsure at first whether or not the other judges would rate Zula as highly as he did. "In the Interbreed Senior Bull class, I placed him third. I thought I was sticking my neck out but the other breed judges, some who were Australian, had also rated him just as highly, somewhere in the top six positions. So I didn't feel so isolated. But when all the comparisons between judges were finalized, Zula was placed sixth [out of fourteen exhibits]."

While its clear that McAlley thinks Peppercorn Zula is a very good bull, he does not see a financial advantage in exporting a live animal to any country these days. "You have to be pretty careful from what you select overseas. But the balance to that is in New Zealand getting a new bloodline. The genetic bank is pretty small for Belted Galloways.

Clearly, Rob Hall of Lilliesleaf Belted Galloway Stud sees things much differently. Last year, he paid an undisclosed five-figure sum for the privilege of becoming Peppercorn Zula's new owner. However, Peppercorn Belted Galloway Stud retains semen rights for Peppercorn Zula, now available worldwide.

"Zula's probably the Galloway that's done the best for the breed at any show in New Zealand to date," says Hall. "He has set the standard."

"Zula's biggest achievement is that he holds his own when competing with other breeds. He came sixth out of fourteen animals in the Meat & Wool cup that is the pinnacle class of the

show.”

“There were lots of positive comments from judges and impressed breeders of all breeds. The main comment seemed to be how good he was across the loin and down into the back leg. They thought he was a decent bull.”

Greg Stuart, president of the Galloway Cattle and Beef Marketing Association in Australia, is very happy with Peppercorn Zula and Peppercorn Belted Galloway Stud’s achievements in general.

“Zula’s win is a confirmation that the carcass qualities being sought by Australian breeders are actually available here from domestic full blood genetics,” says Stuart.

“We have become increasingly better at identifying these genetics and we need to continue building on that.”

“The qualities that Zula is putting into his progeny demonstrate this. The Peppercorn breeding strategy is a good example of what can be achieved.”

“Zula’s current success provides us all with a excellent platform to celebrate and encourage the highest quality genetics achievable here in Australia.”

Peppercorn Zula’s genetics are of the highest order. His sire is Peppercorn Wisdom (Senior Champion Bull Sydney Royal Show 2004, Grand Champion Belted Galloway Bull Sydney and Brisbane Royal Shows 2003). His dam is Peppercorn Ursula (Reserve Senior Champion Female Canberra Royal Show 2001).

His maternal grandsire is Peppercorn Rosco, winner of Sire Progeny groups and, who has to date, produced three royal champion bulls, most notably Peppercorn Xtra (Supreme Belted Galloway Exhibit, Grand Champion Bull and Senior Champion Bull, at Canberra Royal Show 2006), as well as champion females. Peppercorn Rosco, at almost twelve years of age shows no signs of not continuing to do so.

“Showing Zula is not as important to me, as is having him as a successful breeder,” says Hall, also a respected champion Angus breeder. “ His first set of calves are now on the ground. They are only a few months old, so it’s still a bit early to say but they are a tidy little set. There is a lot of potential there. Zula’s got the qualities that can carry on. I’m pleased with what he’s done so far.”

“What I like best about Zula is that he knows his job. He’s a bull that checks and serves his cows quickly and efficiently.”

“Certainly, he’s proving to be the bull that we wanted in our breeding programme.”

Hall intends on showing Peppercorn Zula at next year’s New Zealand Royal Show. “ I think he would compete very well in the interbreed classes as he matures. He has all the necessary qualities. He’s still only a young bull and has a lot of growing and maturing to do. He has unknown potential,” Hall thinks. “I think Zula will grow out to be a force to be reckoned with.”

If Peppercorn Zula does win the 2008 New Zealand show, he achieves for New Zealand what his paternal grandsire, Mochrum Kingfisher, did back in the 1990s for Scotland when Kingfisher was the Supreme Belted Galloway bull three years running. The 2008 show will be watched with keen Australian interest to see if Peppercorn Zula can join this exclusive club.

McAlley comments, "When I visited the US show earlier this year, I would have placed Zula in the top three animals. Now when I judged in Scotland¹ a few weeks ago, I wouldn't have given him the overall champion - I gave that to a female² - but I would have thought that he would have compared extremely well with the bulls that were there. Certainly Zula is the style of animal that compares very well internationally."

Zula's historic win this year has again cemented Peppercorn Belted Galloway Stud as superior Australian breeders. Peppercorn cattle have now won royal shows around Australia and in New Zealand for ten³ consecutive years.

Perhaps the last word best comes from the man who has created the Peppercorn phenomenon. He sits quietly in the background watching what New Zealand is doing with his bull.

"It's great to know that Zula's good enough to have taken out all the top honours again, to have reclaimed his titles - and that he did it all again with more competition than last year," says Terry Pierce. "It makes the expense and effort of exporting him well worth it. I'm very happy."

Word Count: 1409 words

Please direct enquiries to writer Andrew Monaghan on 02 9879 7880 (international enquires 6 12 9879 7880) or email info@costumehouse.com.au

For more information and background on Peppercorn Belted Galloway Stud and Peppercorn Zula, please visit their website www.belties.com.au and go to the articles page in particular.

For full cattle judging results of the 2007 NZ Royal Show, please go to <http://www.theshow.co.nz/2007-show/results/> and download the results for Wednesday 14th November.

Barry McAlley, Rob Hall and Greg Stuart were interviewed by phone on Monday 19th October⁴ 2007

¹ The Pedigree Belted Galloway & Registered White Galloway Show and Sale. It was held Friday 26th October 2007 at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas, Scotland. Barry McAlley is also the current secretary of the Belted Galloway Society of New Zealand.

² *Mosstonmuir Johan* was shown by Joyce Rennie and sold with a calf to W. Landers for 4,400 gns (approximately AUS\$10,870 or NZ\$12,595)

³ Erratum – Peppercorn Belted Galloway Stud have been showing for only eight consecutive years commencing in 2000 (amended 26th November 2007)

⁴ Erratum – The interviews were conducted in November, not October as stated (amended 26th November 2007)

General Information on Belted Galloways:

Belted Galloway cattle are an ancient Scottish breed known for their excellent feed convertibility, high fertility and mothering ability, and their low-fat, healthy meat. In recent years, Galloway beef has come to the attention of the wider cattle community with their significant wins in numerous carcass competitions. Belted Galloway cattle were first imported into Australia by Sir Reginald Reed in 1973.

The following jpg files are supplied with this media release:



Peppercorn Zula with owner, Rob Hall of Lilliesleaf Belted Galloway Stud, at the 2007 Royal New Zealand Show



Peppercorn Zula , New Zealand's Supreme Galloway Bull 2006 and 2007 at the 2007 Royal New Zealand Show



Peppercorn Zula with owner, Rob Hall of Lilliesleaf Belted Galloway Stud, in the interbreed line up at the 2007 Royal New Zealand Show



Peppercorn Zula with owner, Rob Hall of Lilliesleaf Belted Galloway Stud, in the interbreed line up at the 2007 Royal New Zealand Show



Peppercorn Zula, New Zealand's Supreme Galloway Bull 2006 and 2007 at the 2007 Royal New Zealand Show



Peppercorn Zula with owner, Rob Hall of Lilliesleaf Belted Galloway Stud, with judge Barry McAlley (behind) at the 2007 Royal New Zealand Show