

# Research benefits breed

## Spotlight on Speckle Park eating quality

**MINNAMURRA/JAD  
SPECKLE PARK  
ADVERTISER CONTENT**

TWO of Australia's leading Speckle Park studs have taken breed research and development into their own hands, and their efforts and investment are proving the breed's merits.

The central west New South Wales studs, Minnamurra Speckle Park at Coolah, and JAD Speckle Park at Yeoval, have carried out everything from feedback trials to university meat research, even gathering feedback from leading chefs regarding the quality of Speckle Park beef.

The two studs starred on ABC TV's Landline program in March, and as a result, more commercial beef producers are now considering Speckle Park.

According to Minnamurra Speckle Park general manager, Dennis Power, their Speckle Park/Angus-cross steers consistently produced Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grades in the top 25 per cent in NSW, and yielded 3-5pc higher than other British breeds.

"Speckle Park are unique in their ability to produce high-yielding carcasses that also contain excellent marbling and an even fat cover," Mr Power said.

Wingham Beef Exports livestock manager, Stephen Moy, provided feedback that Minnamurra Speckle Park-cross cattle had proven to have higher than expected marbling.

"Cows and young cattle have consistently met high MSA grading," Mr Moy said.

"They have achieved up to

MSA 8 in their grain-fed cattle and many others at MSA 3 to 4-plus."

JAD Speckle Park principals, Justin and Amy Dickens, conducted meat research through the University of Newcastle in 2023, demonstrating the low fat melting point of Speckle Park beef and high levels of omega-3 fatty acids.

They have also carried out feedlot trial work that demonstrated high feed conversion rates among Speckle Park-cross steers, compared with other breeds at the same feedlot over the same period.

"The Speckle Park-cross steers converted at 5.7:1 for 173 days, compared with 6.6:1 for another breed represented in the trial," Mr Dickens said.

Minnamurra Speckle Park exited 130 Speckle Park-cross steers from a feedlot in July 2024 after 103 days on feed, for an average feed conversion (dry matter) of 4.92:1.

More recently, JAD Speckle Park has launched the 'Why Speckle Park?' Podcast, where Mrs Dickens has interviewed stakeholders throughout the supply chain, including producers, butchers, agents, meat brand owners, and chefs.

"The podcast has been really well received, far better than I ever expected when we set out on the journey," Mrs Dickens said.

"It is great to share the great story of Speckle Park via this popular platform, where people can hear experiences straight from the horse's mouth."

Both Minnamurra and JAD studs have also been committed to fully perfor-



Speckle Park-cross steers are producing impressive results for both feed conversion efficiency and eating quality on feed at Minnamurra's Mount Mill feedlot, Coolah, NSW. Picture supplied



An example of the marbling on a 100 per cent grass-fed JAD Speckle Park purebred heifer. Picture supplied



Research by the University of Newcastle has confirmed the low fat melting point and high omega-3 fatty acid levels of Speckle Park beef. Picture supplied

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**Minnamurra Speckle Park general manager Dennis Power, Coolah, NSW**

mance recording their large stud herds.

Both studs hold Breedplan Five Star Completeness of

Performance Ratings, an indicator of the large amount of raw data they submit to Breedplan, to help improve

the accuracy of estimated breeding values (EBVs) for their animals.

"We both have a strictly commercial focus with our studs, and highly value the role of data and measurement to help improve the overall quality, and ultimately the eating experience, of the beef product we produce," Mrs Dickens said.

"We are equally fussy around structural soundness and docility in our animals, in order to ensure

longevity of the animals we produce and send out into the industry."

Minnamurra Speckle Park will host an open day and private treaty bull sale on Friday, September 5, at Mount Mill, Coolah, while JAD Speckle Park will host their second annual JAD Speckle Park and Angus bull sale at Rolleston in Queensland, on Friday, August 22.

■ For more information, visit [minnamurra.com.au](http://minnamurra.com.au) and [jadstud.com](http://jadstud.com)

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