

MSA Award winners

New South Wales

Bunalo Pastoral Co



Ardsley Pastoral



Barry Trethowan



Category

MSA Feedlot NSW

Average MSA index

66.37

Compliance

100%

Key drivers to deliver excellence in eating quality

- **Use premium commodities for nutrition:** Cattle receive high-quality feed – including a steam-flaked barley-based ration to improve digestibility.
- **Well-trained staff for low-stress handling:** Daily cattle checks and calm handling reduces stress and improves eating quality outcomes.
- **Effective backgrounding program before feedlot entry:** A two-week introduction program with soft feeding and pasture rotation helps cattle transition smoothly into the feedlot, minimizing stress.

Number of head

5,000 SCU Feedlot

Production system

Backgrounding and feedlot (fully shaded)

Category

MSA Non-Feedlot Band 1 NSW

Average MSA index

64.74

Compliance

97%

Key drivers to deliver excellence in eating quality

- **Consistent management practices:** Regular weighing, careful mob management and set stocking help maintain stable performance and consistent MSA results, year after year.
- **Selecting steers for calm temperament:** Calm cattle reduce stress across the mob – minimizing risks like dark cutting while improving weight gain and overall carcass quality.
- **Data-driven decision making:** Collecting and reviewing carcass feedback and weight data enables early intervention, continuous improvement and informed management decisions.

Number of head

700 Angus steers

Production system

Steer trading

Category

MSA Non-Feedlot Band 2 NSW

Average MSA index

62.90

Compliance

100%

Key drivers to deliver excellence in eating quality

- **Maintain good soil health:** Barry emphasizes biologically active soil to ensure plants are mineral-rich plants – supporting cattle to express their genetic potential.
- **Pasture diversity:** Uses a multi-species pasture mix (clovers, chicory, phalaris, lucerne) and rotates steers weekly to allow pasture recovery and ensure consistent high-quality feed.
- **Cull for temperament:** Selecting bulls with good temperament and low birth weight while spending time with cattle during weaning and fattening reduces stress. This improves safety and contributes to better eating quality.

Number of head

200 Angus steers

Production system

Breeding and finishing



Bunalo Pastoral Company's Daniel Salvato, Ellie Scott and Stacey Smartt



Missy and Roger Wilkinson with some of their Angus steers



Barry Trethowan with some of his Angus steers