

MSA Award winners

Queensland

Canning Downs South



Category

MSA Feedlot QLD

Average MSA index

65.97

Compliance

99%

Key drivers to deliver excellence in eating quality

- **Fully shedded feedlot design:** The shed design neutralises environmental stress by keeping cattle cool in summer and warm in winter – improving health and productivity through weight gain, and marble score.
- **Sourcing cattle from a single vendor:** This ensures a consistent and reliable supply chain and avoids co-mingling issues – reducing stress and improving performance uniformity.
- **Including fresh orange pulp in the ration:** The orange pulp provides health benefits (lowers Bovine Respiratory Disease risk) and enhances eating quality.

Number of head

9,400 SCU Feedlot (Wagyu steers)

Production system

Feedlot

Hughes & Sons Pty Ltd



Category

MSA Non-Feedlot Band 1 QLD

Average MSA index

61.18

Compliance

97%

Key drivers to deliver excellence in eating quality

- **Good nutrition and low-stress handling:** High-quality forage crops (oats and lucerne) and supplementary feed, combined with calm handling, helps maintain animal health and eating quality.
- **Inducting weaners into yards before grazing:** Settling and educating cattle in yards before moving them to forage crops reduces stress and improves adaptation.
- **Keeping cattle in consistent mobs:** Avoiding mixture of different lots or age groups minimizes social disruption and stress, supporting better weight gain and carcass quality.

Number of head

200 Angus and Hereford weaners, 50 Angus/Charolais cross-breeders

Production system

Finishing

G & M Gray Family Trust



Category

MSA Non-Feedlot Band 2 QLD

Average MSA index

61.61

Compliance

95%

Key drivers to deliver excellence in eating quality

- **Good nutrition and low-stress environment:** Prioritizes quality feed and ensures cattle remain calm, which supports better growth and eating quality.
- **Avoid over-stocking and provide supplementary feed in dry conditions:** Maintaining appropriate stocking rates and supplementing with cotton seed and lick blocks during dry seasons helps cattle maintain condition and meet market standards.
- **No use of Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGP's):** This aligns with EUCAS and grassfed market requirements, opening premium market opportunities and supporting MSA compliance.

Number of head

250 Hereford breeders

Production system

Breeding and finishing



Canning Downs South Pty Ltd founder, Chris Shaw (far right), with his nephews and niece (from left), Jack, Chris and Sarah Shaw, pictured in the CDS Feedlot sheds



David Hughes and Tessa Baker and their sons – Brendan and George Hughes plus dog Wilson



Glen Gray with his dog, Bessi, and some of his Hereford herd