

Meet Australia's Best Producers

International Delegate Host: David Kent, Cattle Farmer, Kangaroo Valley, NSW



Angus Cattle

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I live in Kangaroo Valley and have bred Murray Grey and Angus cattle over the past 35 years. My ancestors were farmers so maybe that's where the interest comes from. This has always been my passion, even at high school I studied Agriculture and was heavily involved in the livestock programme.

For the past 30 years I've been involved with the Sydney Royal Easter Show particularly in the steer competition where I have exhibited and stewarded. There are many reasons why I enjoy being involved with the Show. Professionally it gives me the opportunity to talk to other producers about their farm practices and the future direction of the beef cattle industry especially in genetics, management and marketing. It's great to see how things are progressing. It's also a very enjoyable experience giving you the chance to meet others and catch up with past friends from a broad cross-section of the rural and city community. The beef industry is going very well in 2016, and on the world-wide scene we're looked upon very favourably here in Australia.

At the Show I am involved in introducing international delegates to Australian cattle producers. Depending on which breed they are interested in, I introduce them up to suitable exhibitors. I'm a proud Aussie and I get a buzz out of meeting new people and showing them around. We've got a lot to show and I think the delegates really enjoy themselves. It's good to see the Show from their perspective. I didn't know what to expect when we introduced the first International Delegates Programme, but we received a lot of positive feedback. It's important to remember we're all in this together.



A lot of great contacts and friendships came from meeting overseas visitors at the Show. Recently I was invited to go to Canada to visit Farmfair International, one of Canada's top agricultural shows. The plan is to visit a few farms in Alberta, take in the show and, of course, catch up with half a dozen Canadians who I met at the Sydney Show. I'm looking forward to seeing their cattle, and finding out about new technologies at their newly introduced Beef Tech event.

For producers like me, it's so important to be involved with the Sydney Royal Easter Show, because it helps you to keep up with technology, provides a forum where you can chat to other breeders, and ultimately assists you in whatever you're aiming for. Understanding what's out there is so important.

In this industry, you really need a passion for what you do. Recently the beef cattle industry has been very strong but there have been some very hard years too – you need a lot of perseverance. Some days are very tough, but if you stand back and look at what you have, it looks pretty good. It's a great way of life.

For more information, or to register your interest in meeting other Australian farmers such as David, please visit:

<http://www.rasnw.com.au/sydney-royal-competitions/competitions/cattle/general-information/international-delegate-program/>