

Meet Australia's Best Producers

RAS Cattle Committee Chair: Greg Watson, Cattle Farmer, Gunnedah, NSW



Greg Watson (on the left) with his son Adam Watson (right)

"In farming, you need to give everything you've got."

I have an Angus cattle stud in Gunnedah with about 150 animals. I went to Wagga Agricultural College, and I've also lived in Sydney, Albury and Richmond, so I've moved around a lot. My great-grandfather farmed in the Campbelltown area, so farming has been in my family for many generations. I have always worked within the farming industry. I was a breed classifier with the Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society, then I worked in the commercial chicken meat industry for over 27 years in senior management roles. At the moment I have another job in addition to operating my stud, but I'm very close to becoming a full-time farmer.

My first involvement with the Sydney Royal Easter Show was at the age of seven, when my grandfather and my father were exhibitors. I won my very first championship ribbon for a black rooster I exhibited, and I have not missed a Show since.

From a personal point of view, my involvement with the Show is very much part of my family tradition, but it also stems from a love of breeding good cattle. We've shown many types of livestock at the Show over the years including horses and poultry, but I enjoy breeding and showing cattle the most. In my family we've always had the attitude that if you're going to be in this business then you need to give it everything you've got, and to strive to be the best. It just gets in your blood.

My father was a Councillor with the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW [RAS] and when he retired I was lucky enough to be invited to stand for Council, and subsequently was elected. I consider



myself very lucky to be an RAS Councillor but I also feel privileged to be able to follow in my father's footsteps.

It's important that the Show keeps evolving. I'm always looking at new ways to improve the Show and find new directions for it to go in. Back in the old days everyone just came to buy their next bull. Now with international delegates coming to the Show, it gives us a chance to show what we've got. Our cattle here in Australia are some of the best in the world, so having overseas visitors helps make the Show well known internationally.

I don't exhibit every year at the Show, but when I do it's my Angus cattle, and I also show poultry along with my son. Having him involved in the farming business means he can keep an eye on the place whenever I'm away. The Sydney Royal Easter Show has always been a leader in terms of having the best livestock, and it also has the support of the best breeders. It's the top Show not only in NSW, but in Australia too.

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

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