

SMALL CATTLE BREEDS - Boran & Nadudana

Like the calm & friendly nature

Around 10 years ago Lesley Slade, owner of Kenlea Nadudana Stud, moved her small herd from the Hunter Valley in NSW to Proserpine in Queensland. 'The move to the tropical climate was no problem at all,' says Lesley. 'The cattle are hardy and well adapted to the tropical conditions.'

'Up here there are obviously a lot of very big cattle in the beef industry but the small Nadudanas have still created interest and, over the 10 years I have been here, I have made sales in an area from north of Cairns and as far south as the Kingaroi area.'

'I am also proud to have supplied the foundation stock for three new Nadudana studs - two on the Atherton Tableland and one near Townsville.'

'This proves that these small cattle certainly have their place in the Queensland cattle scene. People with small land holdings, like myself, like the calm and friendly nature of the Nadudanas. They are small and easy to handle and do not need huge infrastructure like trucks, yards and loading races. They are also a great size for someone wanting to do their own home kills. Their carcase is not so big that you have to buy a whole

new freezer.

'Nadudanas are tick and bloat resistant and they also have the benefit of longevity. One of my cows here on my small farm is 18 years old and still breeding successfully,' says Lesley. ■

The ancient cattle breed of Borans originally came from Africa and for many centuries were prized by the Masai tribal people in the area around what is now Kenya. When European farmers moved into the area, they quickly recognised the breed's incredible hardiness and, over the years, the Kenyan ranchers further developed the breed.

With the continual desire to improve tropically adapted cattle for Australia's northern cattle industry, the breed came to the attention of the CSIRO. Initially as a research project, the CSIRO introduced Borans into Australia's tropical cattle breeding program in 1998. The project was based in Rockhampton, Qld, and led by DR John Frisch.

In the following years the breed quickly affirmed its reputation for hardiness. In the ABC Television program, 'Catalyst' screened in 2011, it showed that the scientists involved with the research



Nadudana is known to be one of the oldest breeds of small cattle in the world.



Boran cattle are recognised for their great ability to survive under harsh conditions.

are amazed at the Boran's many strengths in harsh conditions.

The growth of the Boran as a commercial breed for the extensive cattle industry will be a slow and steady progress. In the meantime, for small farmers, the breed makes a wonderful choice for small herds due to their calm temperament. The

breed is ideal for the novice, as the cows have easy calving. It is also a beneficial characteristic of the breed that all animals have great tick and parasite tolerance. They have a tremendous food conversion efficiency. Hybrid vigour is also apparent when they are crossed. Borans are also noted for their meat tenderness. ■

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