

# Boran – the beef industry's best-kept secret

**T**ICKS have a significant impact on the health and productivity of cattle in Australia.

In fact Meat and Livestock Australia's recently released Priority list of endemic diseases for the red meat industries report placed cattle tick as the number one disease impacting the Australian cattle industry.

Cattle; bush and scrub (paralysis) ticks are a major cause of death and illness in herds.

Julia Jose said in August 2014 she and her husband John moved to Kidogo Farm, a small property east of Gympie.

She said with its abundance of native pasture, good water and fencing, it was perfect for running a small herd of beef cattle.

Located in a high rainfall area, the warm, moist conditions favoured ticks.

"The previous owner had run miniature Belted Galloways," Julia said.

"The poor animals were covered in ticks and prone to anemia and skin lesions. They required ongoing pesticide treatments," she said.

"Our research in pursuit of a solution to the tick problem, led us to the Boran.

"This small-to-medium sized ancient African breed was reputed to have an outstanding resistance to ticks, and an excellent resilience to biting insects and disease.

"This, along with their general hardiness, quiet disposition and first-rate beef quality meant that we'd found the perfect cattle for our farm and lifestyle."

Over the past four years Julia said their growing

herd of Boran has demonstrated a phenomenal genetic resistance to ticks.

She said through thousands of years of natural selection and selective breeding they have developed the traits necessary to repel ticks.

Such as ticks having difficulty attaching to the Borans' short, shiny coats, and an oily secretion from their skin helps them to repel ticks and other insects.

"By running Boran on our property we have found a sustainable and chemical-free means of controlling ticks and tick-borne diseases," Julia added.

"We have also found much more — our hassle-free, low maintenance herd has made owning cattle easy and brought us enormous pleasure," she said.

"Unlike other *Bos indicus* breeds, the Boran has a calm and gentle nature, they are inquisitive and friendly, and show genuine interest and contentment in being around people.

"They enjoy nothing more than a good back rub or scratch behind the hump."

The Boran's wonderful temperament and strong herd instinct makes them easy to handle.

Julia said this; along with their resistance to ticks, pests and disease make them the perfect choice for the hobby farmer, cattle breeder and organic beef producer.

She said Australian Small Boran Incorporated (ASBI) was a society striving to raise awareness of the "fabulous



traits" of the breed.

"Its members share our passion for the Boran,

recognising the enormous appeal and potential of this special breed."



**A hardy, small to medium size breed with a wonderful nature and an affinity for people.**

Renown for their quiet disposition; low maintenance; resistance to pests and diseases; high fertility; easy calving and tender meat – the Boran are the ideal choice for the hobby farmer, breeder and organic beef producer.

Visit the ASBI website for further information about Boran cattle

[www.austsmallboran.com.au](http://www.austsmallboran.com.au)

