

30 November, 2018

## New class beefs up Australia's richest cattle competitions

Australian beef producers now have the chance to stake their claim on almost \$60,000, with entries opening today for the RNA's Paddock to Palate Competition presented by Mort & Co and 2019/20 Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge.

Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, the RNA's Paddock to Palate Competition is the nation's richest beef competition of its kind, with \$46,000 in prize money. Australian Wagyu producers will also cash in with the RNA Wagyu Challenge offering \$10,000.

The Paddock to Palate Competition is the largest performance challenge in Australia, attracting more than 700 head of cattle last year despite crippling drought conditions affecting Queensland.

Beefing up the competition numbers in 2019 will be the addition of a new HGP (Hormone Growth Promotant) free export class and increased entry weights for Classes 37 and 38.

Class 37 entry weight has increased from 420kg to 460kg and Class 38 entry weight has increased from 380kg to 400kg.

RNA Beef Cattle Committee Chairman Gary Noller said the changes were in response to recent industry trends.

"We have been listening to our exhibitors and closely watching the industry and demand for the HGP free product is increasing both domestically and internationally," he said.

"The RNA is a very proud champion of the Australian beef industry and our Paddock to Palate Competition and Wagyu Challenge set a benchmark for the industry, while also acknowledging the efforts of primary producers.

"The beef industry is forever changing and challenging, whether it's climate, biosecurity and evolving markets, and it's a testament to our exhibitors to see the unfaltering quality of the cattle across the three phases."

More than 120 head of cattle are expected to be judged across the new non HGP three phased competition, which similar to Class 37 and 38, comprises of the best aggregate weight gain over 120 days; a carcass competition and a MSA eating quality competition.

The exhibitor who polls the highest aggregate score across the three categories is awarded the overall prize at a presentation during the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) Beef Week, with David and Prue Bondfield taking out this year's Class 37 100 day export for their Charolais and David Crombie winning Class 38 for his Angus-cross Ultrablack/Santa.

Entries for the Paddock to Palate Competition close on 18 January 2019. The competition is capped at 777 head of cattle for Class 37, 518 head for Class 38 and 280 head for Class 40, so producers are encouraged to get in early.

The Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge is also welcoming entries into its 2019/20 competition, to be held across 400 days from May next year.

Almost 170 head of cattle were entered into the 2018/19 competition, which is now at the halfway mark, with the four phased competition comprising best aggregate weight gain; a carcass competition; carcass value and finishing in a beef taste off.

The 2017/18 winner was crowned at this year's Ekka, with Alan Hoey taking out the title for the second time with his Wagyu F3+.

Entries for the Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge close 19 April 2019, with the overall winner to be crowned in August 2020.

Entries are open to Wagyu and Wagyu-cross cattle (minimum 50 per cent Wagyu blood), with nominations capped at 259 animals.

The feedlot phase of both the Paddock to Palate Competition and Wagyu Challenge will be held at Mort & Co's Grassdale Feedlot in Dalby. The prize pool, key dates and sponsors for 2019 are listed below.

## Paddock to Palate Competition

### Class 37 export 100 days – prize pool:

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
Sturrock Trophy for the RNA and Mort & Co Class 37 Overall Winner	1st	\$5,000
	2nd	\$2,500
	3rd	\$1,500
Rabobank Class 37A Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Steers	1st	\$3,000
	2nd	\$1,500
	3rd	\$500
Zoetis Class 37A Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$1,500
JBS Australia Class 37B Pen of 6 Carcass Competition	1st	\$3,000

	2nd	\$1,500
	3rd	\$500
JBS Australia Class 37B Champion Carcass	Ch	\$1,000
JBS Australia Class 37B Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Ch	\$500
Thompson Longhorn Class 37C MSA Eating Quality	1st	\$400
	2nd	\$200
	3rd	\$100
Super Butcher Class 37C Highest Individual Index Score	1st	\$500

### Class 37 export 100 days – key dates:

- Induction to Grassdale Feedlot: Friday 1 March 2019
- Weigh in: Tuesday 12 March 2019
- Weight out: Thursday 20 June 2019
- 2019 Field Day: Tuesday 25 June 2019 at Grassdale Feedlot, Dalby
- Presentation of Awards: During Ekka Beef Week

### Class 38 trade 70 days – prize pool:

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
The Ken Crotty OAM Trophy for the RNA and JBS Australia Class 38 Overall Winner	1st	\$5,000
	2nd	\$2,500
	3rd	\$1,500
Elanco Animal Health Class 38A Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Steers	1st	\$3,000
	2nd	\$1,500
	3rd	\$500
Elanco Animal Health Class 38A Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$1,500
Grant Daniel & Long Class 38B Pen of 6 Carcass Competition	1st	\$3,000
	2nd	\$1,500

	3rd	\$500
Super Butcher Class 38 Champion Carcass	Ch	\$1,000
Super Butcher Class 38 Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Ch	\$500
Thompson Longhorn Class 38C MSA Eating Quality	1st	\$400
	2nd	\$200
	3rd	\$100
Performance Feeds Class 38C Highest Individual Index Score	1st	\$500

### Class 38 trade 70 days – key dates:

- Induction to Grassdale Feedlot: Tuesday 2 April 2019
- Weigh in: Friday 12 April 2019
- Weight out: Friday 21 June 2019
- 2019 Field Day: Tuesday 25 June 2019
- Presentation of Awards: During Ekka Beef Week

Proud sponsors of the 2019 Paddock to Palate Competition (Classes 37 and 38) include Mort & Co; JBS Australia; Zoetis; Elanco Animal Health; Rabobank; Grant Daniel & Long; Virbac; Super Butcher; Performance Feeds Pty Ltd; Thompson Longhorn; Queensland Country Life; and Zee Tags.

### Class 40 HGP Free export 120 days

	Placing	Prize
Class 40 Paddock to Palate Overall Winner	1st	First Ribbon
	2nd	Second Ribbon
	3rd	Third Ribbon
Class 40A Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Steers	1st	First Ribbon

	2nd	Second Ribbon
	3rd	Third Ribbon
Highest Individual Weight Gain – Class 40A	1st	Association Sash
Class 40B Pen of Six Carcass Competition	1st	First Ribbon
	2nd	Second Ribbon
	3rd	Third Ribbon
Champion Carcass – Class 40B	Ch	Association Sash
Reserve Champion Carcass – Class 40B	Res Ch	Association Sash
Class 40C MSA Eating Quality Competition	1st	First Ribbon
	2nd	Second Ribbon
	3rd	Third Ribbon
Highest Individual Index Score – Class 40C	1st	Association Sash

### Class 40 HGP Free export 120 days – key dates:

- Induction to Grassdale Feedlot: Monday 11 February 2019
- Weigh in: Thursday 21 February 2019
- Weigh out: Friday 21 June 2019
- 2019 Field Day: Tuesday 25 June 2019 at Grassdale Feedlot, Dalby
- Presentation of Awards: During Ekka Beef Week

## 2019/20 Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge

### Class 39 export 370 days – prize pool:

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
The Australian Wagyu Association Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge Overall Winner	1st	\$2,000
	2nd	\$1,500
	3rd	\$1,000
Zoetis Class 39A Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Wagyu Steers	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150
Performance Feeds Class 39A Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$450
Zee Tags Class 39B Pen of Six Carcass Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150
Thompson Longhorn Class 39B Champion Carcass	Ch	\$500
Thompson Longhorn Class 39B Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Ch	\$300
Virbac Class 39C Pen of Six Carcass Value Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150
Queensland Country Life Class 39C Highest Scoring Carcass Value Animal	1st	\$450
Class 39D Beef Taste Off Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150

## Class 39 export 370 days – key dates:

- Induction to Grassdale Feedlot: Wednesday 15 May 2019
- Weigh in: Thursday 6 June 2019
- Weigh out: Wednesday 10 June 2020
- 2020 Field Day: Tuesday 23 June 2020
- Announcement of overall winners: During Ekka Beef Week 2020

Proud sponsors for the 2019/20 Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge (class 39) include Mort & Co; JBS Australia; Zoetis; Elanco Animal Health; Rabobank; Grant Daniel & Long; Virbac; Performance Feeds Pty Ltd; Thompson Longhorn; Queensland Country Life; Zee Tags; and the Australian Wagyu Association.

To enter the competitions or for more information please visit:

<https://www.ekka.com.au/competitions/animals/beef-cattle/paddock-to-palate-competition>

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