

December 15, 2022

## RNA cattle competition key to stud success

Australian beef producers have the chance to collect valuable data to benchmark their cattle and boost their business, with entries now open for the RNA's 2023 Paddock to Palate Competition and 2024 Wagyu Challenge presented by JBS Australia.

The competition is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year and offers almost \$55,000 in prize money.

RNA Beef Committee Chair Gary Noller said the RNA had been running carcass data competitions at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) since the mid-1970s and had kept up with the latest protocols.

"For the beef taste-off phase of the Wagyu Challenge, everything is done to protocol following Meat Standards Australia and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries standards, so we know each piece of wagyu is cooked exactly the same to be judged," he said.

"That same sort of integrity is applied to each phase of the competition across all classes, so the weight gain and carcass phases are commercially relevant and updated regularly to meet carcass specifications and reflect what the demand is in the commercial industry.

"Our competition offers more phases and more areas of detailed data than any other beef supply chain competition in the country."

Exhibitor Ben Mayne from Texas Angus said the data from the competition had been important for their breeding operation.

"The RNA Paddock to Palate Competition is an excellent commercially relevant feeder/carcass competition that allows us to benchmark our Angus cattle against some of the best seedstock and commercial operators in Australia," he said.

"We use the competition results in our marketing to show our Queensland clientele, and in the last couple of years we've had people come back to us and say since we're obviously performing where they need to be, they want to use our genetics.

"People see our estimated breeding values and then see what we've done in the competition and they know it's not just all about figures, it's actually proven performance as well and we've had some pretty big pastoral companies come on board as a result."

The Paddock to Palate competition features three classes – 100 day export, 70 day trade and 100 day Hormone Growth Promotant (HGP) free export.

Each class comprises three phases which are best aggregate weight gain held at JBS Beef City feedlot west of Toowoomba for Paddock to Palate and Smithfield Cattle Co's Sapphire Feedlot at Yelarbon for the Wagyu Challenge; a carcass competition; and an MSA eating quality competition.

The Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge also includes a beef taste off judged by some of Queensland's best chefs, making it a four phased competition.

The exhibitor who polls the highest aggregate score across all phases is awarded the overall prize at the Paddock to Palate Beef Awards Dinner presented by JBS Australia during the 2023 Royal Queensland Show (Ekka)'s Beef Week.

Entries close Friday 27 January 2023. To enter go to <https://www.ekka.com.au/competitions/animals/beef-cattle/paddock-to-palate/>

Proud sponsors of the Paddock to Palate Competition and Wagyu Challenge include JBS Australia, 3D Genetics, Australian Wagyu Association, Coopers Animal Health, Elanco, Rabobank, Smithfield Cattle Company, Thompson Longhorn, Queensland Country Life, and Zoetis.

**The competition prize pool and key dates for 2023 are listed below.**

**Class 37 Export (100 days) – prize pool:**

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
Sturrock Trophy JBS Australia Class 37 Overall Winner	1st	\$2,500
	2nd	\$1,700
	3rd	\$1,100
	4th	\$800
	5th	\$550
Class 37A Rabobank Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Steers	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$500
	3rd	\$300
Class 37A Rabobank Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$750
Class 37B JBS Australia Pen of 6 Carcass Competition	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$700
	3rd	\$300
Class 37B JBS Australia Champion Carcass	Champ	\$750
Class 37B JBS Australia Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Champ	\$500
Class 37C Zoetis MSA Eating Quality Competition	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$700
	3rd	\$300
Class 37C Zoetis Highest Individual Index Score	1st	\$500

**Class 37 Export (100 days) – key dates:**

- Delivery of animals: Friday 3 March
- Competition start day: Wednesday 8 March
- Final weighing day: Friday 16 June
- Field Day at Beef City: Tuesday 20 June
- Announcement of overall winners at the Ekka: Thursday 10 August

**Class 38 Trade (70 days) – prize pool:**

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
Ken Crotty Trophy JBS Australia Class 38 Overall Winner	1st	\$2,500
	2nd	\$1,700
	3rd	\$1,100
	4th	\$800
	5th	\$550
Class 38A Elanco Animal Health Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Steers	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$700
	3rd	\$300
Class 38A Elanco Animal Health Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$750
Class 38B Pen of 6 Carcass Competition	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$700
	3rd	\$300
Class 38 Champion Carcass	Champ	\$750
Class 38 Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Champ	\$500
Class 38C Coopers Animal Health MSA Eating Quality Competition	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$700
	3rd	\$300
Class 38C Coopers Animal Health Highest Individual Index Score	1st	\$500

**Class 38 Trade (70 days) – key dates:**

- Delivery of animals: Monday 3 April
- Competition start day: Thursday 6 April
- Final weighing day: Thursday 15 June
- Field Day at Beef City: Tuesday 20 June
- Announcement of overall winners at the Ekka: Thursday 10 August

**Class 39 Wagyu Challenge (400 days) – prize pool:**

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
Australian Wagyu Association Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge Class 39 Overall Winner	1st	\$1,750
	2nd	\$1,000
	3rd	\$750
Class 39A Smithfield Cattle Co. Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Wagyu Steers	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150
Class 39A Smithfield Cattle Co. Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$450
Class 39B Australian Wagyu Association Pen of Six Carcass Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150
Class 39B Australian Wagyu Association Champion Carcass	Champion	\$500
Class 39B Australian Wagyu Association Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Champ	\$300

Class 39C Pen of Six Carcass Value Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150
Class 39C Highest Scoring Carcass Value Animal	1st	\$450
Class 39D Smithfield Cattle Co. Beef Taste-Off Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150

**Class 39 Wagyu Challenge (400 days) – key dates:**

- Delivery of animals: Monday 17 April 2023
- Competition start day: Wednesday 10 May 2023
- Final weighing day: Thursday 13 June 2024
- Field Day at Sapphire Feedlot: Monday 17 June 2024
- Announcement of overall winners at the Ekka: During 2024 Ekka Beef Week

**Class 40 HGP Free Export (100 days) – prize pool:**

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
Rabobank Class 40 Overall Winner	1st	\$2,500
	2nd	\$1,700
	3rd	\$1,100
	4th	\$800
	5th	\$550
Class 40A Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Steers	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$700
	3rd	\$300
Class 40A Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$750
Class 40B Pen of Six Carcass Competition	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$700
	3rd	\$300
Class 40 Champion Carcass	Champ	\$750
Class 40 Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Champ	\$500
Class 40C Coopers Animal Health MSA Eating Quality Competition	1st	\$1,000
	2nd	\$700
	3rd	\$300
Class 40C Coopers Animal Health Highest Individual Index Score	1st	\$500

**Class 40 HGP Free Export (100 days) – key dates:**

- Delivery of animals: Friday 3 March
- Competition start day: Tuesday 7 March
- Final weighing day: Thursday 15 June
- Field Day at Beef City: Tuesday 20 June
- Announcement of overall winners at the Ekka: Thursday 10 August

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ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

# MEDIA RELEASE



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