

July 3, 2026

Western Downs beef producers dominate Ekka prime and feeder cattle competition

Three beef producers from Queensland's Western Downs have taken out Grand Champion titles at the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Prime and Feeder Cattle Competition held at the Dalby Regional Saleyards today.

More than \$30,000 in prize money was awarded across the competition, with standout performances from Daryl McNamara (Tara), Talbingo Pastoral Company (Dalby), and KH & JC Knudsen (Chinchilla).

Daryl McNamara secured the Grand Champion Grass or Pasture Fed Pen with his Angus cattle, while Talbingo Pastoral Company took out the Grand Champion Grain or Grain-Assisted Fed Pen with crossbred cattle. In the newly introduced feeder classes, KH & JC Knudsen were awarded Grand Champion Pen of 10 for their Santa Gertrudis.

All three Grand Champion entries were sold through selling agent Grant Daniel Long.

This year marked the first time the competition had been held in Dalby, following a one-year hiatus that allowed the RNA Beef Committee to redesign the competition to better reflect commercial industry practices.

A record number of entries were received this year, with 907 head of cattle entered, up from 161 in 2024 - an increase of more than 450 per cent.

RNA Beef Committee Chair Gary Noller said the changes had strengthened the competition by better aligning it with commercial beef operations.

"The competition at Dalby Regional Saleyards is linked to a live sale, so the judging results have real commercial impact – strong performance can mean stronger prices for producers," he said.

"The introduction of feeder classes has broadened the competition and made it more representative of the full beef supply chain.

"We're also seeing more cattle entered in the competition coming from accredited feedlots, reflecting closer alignment with commercial beef production standards.

"The record number of entries this year shows the refreshed competition has been very well received by the beef industry."

The winners will be celebrated tonight at the Ekka's inaugural Prime and Feeder Cattle Dinner in Dalby, expected to host more than 170 guests including producers, feedlotters, processors, agents, exhibitors, sponsors and industry stakeholders.

RESULTS

Grand Champions

Grand Champion - Grass or Pasture Fed Pen: Daryl McNamara

Grand Champion - Grain or Grain Assisted Fed Pen: Talbingo Pastoral Company

Grand Champion - Pen of 10: KH & JC Knudsen

Grass & Pasture Fed Pens of 3 Heifers presented by the Queensland Government, Department of Primary Industries.

Class 2 Pen of 3 Heifers – 431kg to 480kg

2nd: U8J Cattle Company

1st: The Robin Bruggeman Family Trust

Reserve Champion - Pen of 3 Heifers Grass or Pasture fed: U8J Cattle Company

Champion - Pen of 3 Heifers Grass or Pasture fed presented by the Queensland Government, Department of Primary Industries: The Robin Bruggeman Family Trust

Grass & Pasture Fed Pens of 3 Steers presented by the Queensland Government, Department of Primary Industries.

Class 5 Pen of 3 Steers – 431kg to 480kg

2nd: The Robin Bruggeman Family Trust

1st: The Robin Bruggeman Family Trust

Class 6 Pen of 3 Steers – 481kg to 530kg

2nd: KH & JC Knudsen

1st: Daryl McNamara

Reserve Champion - Pen of 3 Steers Grass or Pasture fed: Daryl McNamara

Champion - Pen of 3 Steers Grass or Pasture fed presented by the Queensland Government, Department of Primary Industries: The Robin Bruggeman Family Trust

Grass & Pasture Fed Pens of 6 Steers

Class 7 Pen of 6 Steers – 400kg to 530kg

1st: U8J Cattle Company

Class 8 Pen of 6 Steers – 531kg to 620kg

3rd: KH & JC Knudsen

2nd: Mills Family

1st: Daryl McNamara

Class 9 Pen of 6 Steers – 621kg to 740kg

3rd: KH & JC Knudsen

2nd: KH & JC Knudsen

1st: KH & JC Knudsen

Reserve Champion - Pen of 6 Steers Grass or Pasture fed: KH & JC Knudsen

Champion - Pen of 6 Steers Grass or Pasture fed: Daryl McNamara

Grain or Grain Assisted Fed Pens of 3 Heifers presented by the Queensland Government, Department of Primary Industries

Class 10 Pen of 3 Heifers – 380kg to 430kg

3rd: Burke Group

2nd: Burke Group

1st: ANC Cattle Co

Class 11 Pen of 3 Heifers – 431kg to 480kg

3rd: Waluca Farming

2nd: Waluca Farming

1st: ANC Cattle Co

Class 12 Pen of 3 Heifers – 481kg to 530kg

3rd: TG & KR Apelt

2nd: Harvey Black Group

1st: JD & KL Wilkes

Reserve Champion - Pen of 3 Heifers Grain or Grain Assisted Fed: ANC Cattle Co

Champion - Pen of 3 Heifers Grain or Grain Assisted Fed: JD & KL Wilkes

Grain or Grain Assisted Fed Pens of 3 Steers presented by the Queensland Government, Department of Primary Industries.

Class 13 Pen of 3 Steers – 380kg to 430kg

3rd: G Morgan & Co

2nd: Ashley & Kellie & Kipp Shay Remy Barron

1st: Ben, Jess & Leo McMahon

Class 14 Pen of 3 Steers – 431kg to 480kg

3rd: Darren Gunther

2nd: ANC Cattle Co

1st: Melanie Wellsteed

Class 15 Pen of 3 Steers – 481kg to 530kg

3rd: Melanie Wellsteed

2nd: Harvey Black Group

1st: JD & KL Wilkes

Reserve Champion - Pen of 3 Steers Grain or Grain Assisted Fed: Ben, Jess & Leo McMahon

Champion - Pen of 3 Steers Grain or Grain Assisted Fed presented by the Queensland Government, Department of Primary Industries: JD & KL Wilkes

Grain or Grain Assisted Fed Pens of 6 Steers

Class 17 Pen of 6 Steers – 531kg to 620kg

3rd: Harvey Black Group

2nd: Golden Pastoral Holdings

1st: G Morgan & Co

Class 18 Pen of 6 Steers – 621kg to 740kg

3rd: Condabri Beef

2nd: Talbingo Pastoral Company

1st: Talbingo Pastoral Company

Reserve Champion - Pen of 6 Steers Grain or Grain Assisted Fed: Talbingo Pastoral Company

Champion - Pen of 6 Steers Grain or Grain Assisted Fed: Talbingo Pastoral Company

Feeder Pens of 10 Heifers

Class 19 Pen of 10 Heifers – 320kg to 400kg

3rd: Bidson Pastoral Company

2nd: Redford station - ACC

1st: C & J Varidel Trading

Reserve Champion - Pen of 10 Heifers: Redford station – ACC

Champion - Pen of 10 Heifers: C & J Varidel Trading

Feeder Pens of 10 Steers

Class 21 Pen of 10 Steers – 320kg to 400kg

3rd: Barb and Phil Neilley

2nd: C & J Varidel Trading

1st: Barb and Phil Neilley

Class 22 Pen of 10 Steers – 401kg to 500kg

3rd: KH & JC Knudsen

2nd: RJ & FM Duff

1st: Merv Slack

Reserve Champion - Pen of 10 Steers: Barb and Phil Neilley

Champion - Pen of 10 Steers: KH & JC Knudsen

The 2026 Royal Queensland Show presented by the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) is celebrating a remarkable milestone this year – the 150th anniversary of the state's biggest and most loved event. For generations of Queenslanders, the Show is an iconic and cherished tradition that epitomises a true sense of community spirit. Since the first show in 1876, the Ekka has been proudly revered for bringing the country to the city each year and forms a rich part of Queensland's social and cultural heritage.

Follow us on socials for exciting updates on what's planned for the Ekka's 150th celebrations.



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