

eclipse®

COMBINATION POUR-ON FOR CATTLE



Bill Varcoe

PROPERTY:

Narrawa Pastoral Co. Robe, SA

MAIN FARMING ACTIVITIES:

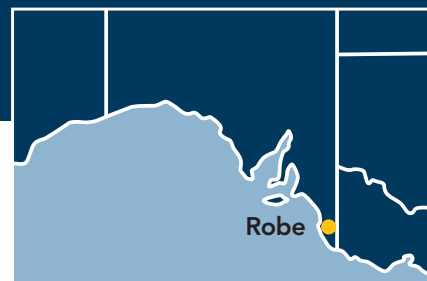
Angus Beef production

SIZE OF THE ENTERPRISE:

15,000 acres

NUMBER OF CATTLE:

1,200



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Bill Varcoe has grown the 3,000 acres he inherited from his father into an impressive 15,000 acre cattle enterprise, running over seven properties with 1,200 Red Angus cattle, which he exports overseas or sells locally.

While all within South Australia, Bill's properties are spread over 110kms, meaning he can face different climatic conditions over a number of properties at any one time, and consequently could be dealing with a different parasite mix on each property.

The fourth generation farmer is the first to admit he "runs his cattle pretty hard", so he needs an efficient and effective drench he can rely on.

Previously a Dectomax® Injection user, incorporating Merial's ECLIPSE Combination Pour-On for Cattle into his drenching program was a strategic move for Bill, as he wanted to break out of his current drench routine and ensure he was getting the most efficient kill of all the major worms present; including any resistant to the single-active drench he had previously been using.

"ECLIPSE contains two drench actives – abamectin and levamisole – instead of just one, so I thought it had to work. We had started

hearing reports that worms were developing a resistance to the traditional single-active drenches." As an EU accredited exporter, it is important that Bill's Red Angus cattle put on weight quickly so he can sell them off faster and potentially at a higher price.

"We made the switch to ECLIPSE and have had a really good result," says Bill.

Since using ECLIPSE Bill has also found his cattle join quicker, and he reports a dramatic improvement in joining times and rates since using ECLIPSE.

"Our breeders join much faster after using ECLIPSE on them. We changed the southern end of the operation over to a spring drop and cut a month off the mating time – and have seen a significant improvement," says Bill.

Farming is truly in the family for Bill, who works with his wife Deb, and veterinarian daughter Libby and son Aaron. Bill hopes that Aaron, who is already in the farming business, and Libby will one day take over the current Narrawa Pastoral operation.

