

# eclipse®



## COMBINATION POUR-ON FOR CATTLE



### Leon Quilliam

**PROPERTY:**

Winnaleah, NE Tasmania

**MAIN FARMING ACTIVITIES:**

Angus Steers and Angus Hereford cross and shorthorn

**SIZE OF THE ENTERPRISE:**

720 Hectares



## Some cattle producers don't realise they have a parasite resistance problem.

**Leon Quilliam, the manager at Muirhead Enterprises' "Ortawenah," has seen it all before during 25 years on the 720 Ha property, but has continually found better ways of keeping the cattle and cropping business profitable.**

"We're always trying to put as much weight on the cattle as we can in as short a time as we can, turning over as many cattle as possible to earn maximum dollars at the end of the day while managing down our costs," he explains.

But in managing farm costs, this veteran farmer fears that some cattle producers may be leaving the farm gate open to a potentially greater cost: the silent scourge of drench resistant parasites.

"I'm afraid cattle producers have become a bit complacent about drench resistance. I think there may be a lot of people out there who have a problem but don't know about it, or don't want to know about it, because they see managing parasites properly as something they'd do if they could afford to," he says.

"Drench resistant parasites translate directly into lost kilograms of beef coming straight off their bottom-line. Even with a mild case they haven't noticed, it could easily be costing them 50 cents per beast per day. If you have a thousand head of cattle that means you're losing over \$180,000 in earnings each year and the chances are, without regular testing, you may have absolutely no idea that money's walking out the door."

Muirhead Enterprises runs a British breed program using Angus steers for feedlots and Angus Hereford cross and shorthorn for Greenham's in Smithton. As new animals are bought and transported to the property they're treated for everything necessary including external and internal parasites.

"If we see a mob of cattle that just don't look like they're doing all that well we get some testing done to see just what the problem is," he reveals.

In addition to regular testing for parasites, Leon Quilliam's team at Muirhead Enterprises has upped the ante against drench-resistant parasites by switching to ECLIPSE Combination Pour-On for Cattle.

According to Quilliam, the selection of a combination drench was the key. Combination drenches include two or more broad-spectrum actives that work together to effectively kill resistant parasites, since it's much less likely that worms will be resistant to two actives at the same time.

Leon is making time to share the accumulated wisdom he and others have acquired over the years through local cattle producer discussion groups.

He's hopeful that farmers' discussion groups and improved awareness through rural media will get the message across to Tasmanian cattle producers. Usage of single-active drenches instead of combination drenches could be leading producers towards parasite resistance a lot faster.

"The unfortunate thing is that, because they're drenching the same old way and think they're safe, some cattle producers don't realise they have a parasite resistance problem, simply because they don't test for it."

"My message to cattle producers is if you don't think, or don't know if you have a problem, do a test and find out, because you could easily save yourself a lot of money."

