

# SIREMATE™

Our Sire-Mate and Flexi-bull programs offer large and small herds simplistic systems to multiply out the best proven sires in the Angus breed today, and using Flexi-bull you can avoid the lag that we often see between the old and new generations of bulls, without the drag on cashflow.

We have had many of our larger clients using this system for a number of years now, and I can't tell you the buzz we get when we see someone take it by the horns and run with it. Some of our larger clients like Werribee Agriculture (WAG), Reekara Park (King Island), Panshanger (Tasmania) and Toronga Station on the Hay Plains have done an incredible job with this system. Travelling around visiting clients is a good way for us to get customer feedback and look at the unique issues that face each breeder, and one thing is clear: we need to do a better job communicating with people about Sire-Mate and potential mating strategies. Sometimes I can be a bit of a purist, so I understand clients that keep saying to me "we need to keep it simple Harry". So, I want to assure you: we can help keep it simple! In fact we see our job as putting together a very complex set of decisions and producing a very sophisticated world class product and wrapping this into a very, very simple mating plan. It can be done and is being done successfully by some very large and smaller herds, both are making significantly faster genetic gain than the average Angus herd.

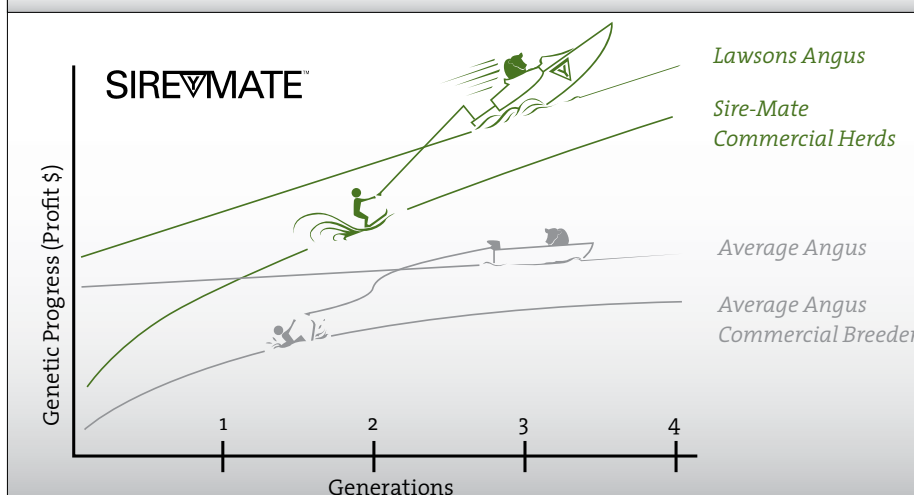
## A few Sire-Mate tips

- Sire-Mate is not a set of rules, it is a flexible mating plan. The Sire-Mate schematic plan that we print is a guide only, there are lots more options, and it's more to help develop a plan than a rigorous system that has to be adhered to.
- Keep sight of the main objective – multiplication of superior sires
- By keeping some simple records (sire group) on females, you can make some very powerful decisions
- Sire-Mate enables herds to accelerate progress and avoid high rates of inbreeding, using a generation 'skip' system. It's no different in principle to the PLANNED BREEDING PROGRAM in operation at Lawsons Angus and Gardiner Angus Ranch (GAR).
- Don't get hung up on rules, you won't get fined by the Angus Society!
- Sire-Mate is used to provide information for future mating decisions and marketing females and steers. Many customers are now demanding this information, that's what counts

## Sire-Mate Mating tips

Again, these are just a few suggestions and by no means take these tips as the only options. If you are concerned you have used too much "036" or "Precision" bloodlines and are struggling to fit these in to your plan then we urge you to give us a call to help construct your breeding plan rather than chase something with inferior genetics just to be different. We have a large number of outcross bulls that will give you some good opportunity to provide additional pedigree breadth. For example, for daughters of 036, 1407 and Precision lineage cattle, you can use bulls like Solution, Pono V346, Schwarzenegger, Convergence and Romeo and Wilsons Down Equator V191. Solution is now one of the elite bulls in the Angus breed with phenomenal calving ease, high growth and high marbling. Solution is the number one bull used at Gardiner Angus Ranch and is breeding some very productive daughters that will be heavily sought after. His sons are available this spring and at next year's Annual Production Sale at the end of March 2009. Solution over Pinnacle, Future Direction and Predestined daughters for example will take any program to new heights. We have recently purchased back Lawsons Payload X951 as a proven sire from Mike Gadd. Payload X951 has been used heavily this autumn along with Equator V191, so there are lots of good things to come. Our advice remains that you should keep focused on your EBV criteria and don't compromise these objectives chasing outcross bulls, there is plenty of room in most commercial herds to continually multiply the best proven bulls in the breed and we need to keep focused on our breeding goals. Balancing calving ease, high growth, cow efficiency and meat quality is far easier than ever to achieve in commercial herds than ever before with the sires we now have available.

## LAWSONS ANGUS CLIENTS MAKE FASTER GENETIC GAIN



## Some common Sire-Mate questions

### Question 1:

#### Do I need to start with group A?

No, this layout is more an example of how you can go about planning your program, rather than a set recipe.

### Question 2:

#### When you multiple sire mate with young bulls how do you know if some of the bulls produce better calves than other bulls?

Our simple answer is that it doesn't matter and it's not economic to find out for a commercial beef herd. If you have done your initial selection well and these bulls fit your particular criteria, then don't complicate your program unnecessarily. Sure, if you progeny tested all these young bulls some of their individual EBVs would improve, some would get worse. However, you have to keep the end goal in mind and not get bogged down in proving these sires to the next level. What we are really trying to achieve is to shift the genetics of the whole herd as efficiently as we can. If we go back to single sire mating and individual ID and mate your best bulls to your best cows then sure we may produce a few more superior individuals, but you will also have a longer tail wagging behind you. By the time you spend years trying to establish which one of the bulls in the group is superior we would have discovered a better proven sire to take you forward, so you have to ask yourself is the cost of collecting all the information at commercial level worth the result. What are you going to do with the information? We need to continue to progeny test and systems to continually identify and multiply superior proven sires, but at the same time we need to be able to provide our commercial clients with simple solutions so they can make progress efficiently and still be able to get on and focus on the other aspects of running their business. In our view SIRE-MATE offers massive genetic progress in a very simple system.


### Question 3:

#### If I have used bulls from Sire Group A do I have to choose another sire group to mate these daughters?

No, generally where it is practical and where you can find the bulls in another sire-group that fit your criteria we will recommend you select bulls from another group (B, C or D), as this allows us to 'skip' a generation and lower your inbreeding rate, however, if this is not practical for whatever reason, don't be alarmed, it's actually very hard to get inbreeding levels to high rates at commercial level. For example, if you used a son of B/R New Design 036 the daughters would be grand daughters of 036, so if you used another son of 036 over these daughters that would give you an inbreeding coefficient of 6.3%. Both of these scenarios are OK for one generation, but if you keep going with this type of scenario you will increase the proportion of recessive genes and increase the likelihood of recessive linked diseases that may be floating in the Angus population. Most geneticists agree that after 10% inbreeding some levels of inbreeding suppression can form. For more information on managing inbreeding rates in commercial beef herd "[click here](#)"

### Question 4:

#### Is inbreeding more important than EBVs?

Short answer, is they are both important, it's how you balance them to optimize genetic gain that is critical to your breeding strategy. To me it's the same argument as structure and EBVs, both important and you never take your eye off either of them, but we guarantee if you just chase outcross bulls or bulls with perfect feet as your number one criteria you won't make genetic progress for other important economic traits as a breeder with a more balanced view. That's not the same thing as saying "It's not important", more about how you go about tackling the issue and ensuring you still make rapid progress. Another way I often look at this issue is I see many breeders so paranoid about inbreeding that they outcross to the detriment of their breeding objectives just to go after pedigree breadth. This I struggle with; yes we do introduce some out cross sires to provide some breadth in our program, but we try and do this in a way that we are still doing our matings and taking our clients in the direction we are heading and not taking a backward step. An example of this is if your breeding goals were to have all this year's bull purchases at >+90 for 600 Day growth and \$90 on Jap B3 Index and you were contemplating purchasing a bull <+85 on 600D and less than \$80 on Jap B3 because he was an outcross I would strongly recommend you look at re-jigging your mating plan so you didn't have to make this sort of sacrifice in genetic gain. A similar argument applies for price; you often see progeny of the latest sires making more dollars in sales just because they are new and different (as opposed to being genetically superior). I often see astute breeders sitting back picking up sons of the best proven bulls in the world that have been around for a few years for very little money. These buyers know how to make genetic progress cost effective! Sometimes you need to sit down and do a bit of planning, but we believe there are lots of good options for breeders within our herd and there is plenty of scope to manage in breeding without falling off the pace with genetic progress. Again, if you have concerns or struggling to find your next move please give us a call. 

<b>Sire Group A</b> New Design Line	<b>Sire Group B</b> Precision Line	<b>Sire Group C</b> Expectation Line	<b>Sire Group D</b> Other Sires
B/R New Design 036 Ythanbrae Henry VIII Bon View New Design 1407 GAR Prime Design Ythanbrae New Design 036 U84 Ythanbrae True Blue N33 VDAR New Trend 315 Bon View New Design 208 Perry Power Design 715 GAR Integrity GAR Casper GAR Authority GAR Predestined Lawsons GAR Fairdinkum Z197 Rito 2V1 of 2536 1407	GAR Precision 1680 GAR Paramount 8908 GAR Pinnacle 7708 GAR Everest 9409 CA Future Direction GAR Yield Grade Ythanbrae GAR Precision U28 "Calculator" Ythanbrae GAR Precision V527 Lawsons Buckshot X410 Lawsons Tank X1235 Ardrossan Direction X3 GAR US Premium Beef GAR Retail Product Lawsons High Grade Z440	GAR Expectation 4915 Ythanbrae GAR EXT T4 GAR Encore Lawsons Beyond Expectation W821	RockN D Ambush 1531 GAR Grid Maker GAR Payload 3674 GAR Evas Convergence 3403 GAR Evas Consistence 3803 GT Sentry Bon View Spectrum 1176 SS Traveler 6807 T510 N Bar Prime Time D806 BT Ultravox 297E BCC Bushwacker 41-93 Connealy Lead On Gardens High Mark Tehama Schwarzenegger N600 GAR Solution Ironwood New Level Ythanbrae Pono V346 Lawsons Tank X1235
Daughters from sire group A can be mated to sons of sire groups B, C or D.	Daughters from sire group B can be mated to sons of sire groups A, C or D.	Daughters from sire group C can be mated to sons of sire groups A, B or D.	Daughters from sire group D can be mated to sons of sire groups A, B or C.