

BLACKMORE WAGYU BEEF

Blackmore Wagyu Beef History:

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Introduction

In 1988, David Blackmore discovered two purebred Wagyu females at a research facility (Granada) affiliated with Texas A&M University in the United States. The sire lines had been exported to the USA for research into meat quality in 1976.

Traditionally a protectionist industry, Japan operated on a quota system that shielded and supported Japanese farmers in the production of its native cattle, Wagyu. However with its large population, limited land for farming and the trend of young people leaving farming for the city, Japan needed quality beef imports to meet local demand.

In 1991, the government changed the beef quota system to a tariff system, which allowed the rest of the world to compete directly with Japanese farmers. These reforms resulted in a significant increase in shipments of Australian beef to Japan.

In 1988, Blackmore secured an exclusive agreement to import embryos and semen into Australia, along with two live bulls, from a small cattle herd that had been bred from four bulls exported to the USA for this 1976 research. These cattle become known as American Purebred.

In 1992, during trade discussions between the Japanese government and the US government it was decided to allow the first ever, live full-blood Japanese Wagyu females to be exported out of Japan. Through his strong relationship with Japanese Wagyu breeders, Blackmore secured the exclusivity of these genetics and imported a large number of embryos and semen into Australia for Australian clients. The largest group of cattle belonged to one of Japan's premier breeders Mr. Shogo Takeda. The cattle are known as Japanese Fullblood and are recognized around the world as the only cattle containing no contamination of inferior genes.



Mr. Shogo Takeda and Mr. David Blackmore

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Mr. Takeda was later expelled from the Association of Japanese cattle producers, for exporting over 40 head of Japanese cattle to the United States. According to the Association, Mr. Takeda refused to heed the advice of a leading industry group and continued to export. Mr. Takeda was the first ever member to be expelled by the Association.

It was only a short period until 1996 that Japan allowed Wagyu genetics to be exported. Blackmore does not expect any further genetics to leave Japan due to Japanese farmer and breeder groups on the Japanese Government to restrict further exports that would protect their unique bloodlines.

A council for the protection of Prime Japanese Cattle genes was set up by the industry as a domestic organization to minimize the loss of prime Japanese cattle stock to other countries by emphasizing to farmers the importance of Japanese Cattle genes.

Since this time, Blackmore has imported more than 80 percent of the Japanese Fullblood Wagyu genetics into Australia and has produced his own 100 percent Japanese Fullblood Wagyu cattle (as opposed to cattle cross bred with other Australian breeds).

Through his relationships with leading beef importers, Blackmore is one of the few Westerners privileged to be invited to Japanese bull studs, agricultural research centers, universities, prominent breeder farms, feed facilities and abattoirs.

As such Blackmore has a strong understanding of Japanese Wagyu genetics, breeding trends and farming methods and has been successful in adapting these methods to suit Australian farming conditions, whilst retaining the uniqueness of the famous Japanese Wagyu beef qualities.



Mr. David Blackmore with his fullblood Wagyu herd.

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