

Speckled with cattle wisdom

BY BRIDIE SHEATHER

SPECKLE Park is truly transforming the future of beef farming, inspiring even seasoned farmers like 80-year-old Harry Henry and his wife Meryl from, Oakfield, in Clifton to make the switch - and never look back.

For Mr Henry, the decision wasn't just practical, it was personal.

He has witnessed firsthand how these cattle thrived with remarkable growth and resilience, standing strong no matter the weather.

"We have 120 Speckle Park cows and 40 Droughtmaster cows we cross with the Speckle Park. They are all beautiful 'growthy' cattle," Mr Henry said.

Across the 316 hectare property the Henry's are eager to see where the breed heads in the future.

"I plan to stay with Speckle Park and keep my Droughtmasters, because that cross is my favourite.

"I sell straight to the feedlot, which is only four kilometres down the road, I actually sold one lot of heifers to a guy and he was going



Harry Henry from, Oakfield, in Clifton made the switch to Speckle Park cattle and has never looked back. Picture supplied

to turn them straight over but he decided to keep them because he noticed what great cattle they were.

"I think that's all people need to do is try the breed then they realise just how

wonderful the breed is and how well they can add to your herd."

With interest sparking for meat specifically from Speckle Park cattle, Mr Henry has had no worries selling his

steers, the self replacing mob he currently runs has been successful in showing traits of traditional Speckle Park cattle and top meat qualities.

"We have had Speckle Park for five years now, the cows

are extremely good milkers, they make even calves with no ups and downs in their growth and they hold their weight even with the calves on them.

"The feedlots are starting

to take them now, I think when people first started with the breed they were putting them over everything and anything and now we are just starting to get the straight breed back and people are only putting them over good quality cattle.

"I think the same happens with every breed, people start to cross them and they lose their qualities, but if we keep them a straight bloodline or cross them with only good cattle than the result is only good calves."

The above average rainfall in the area has meant grass in the area is growing thick and fast.

"We have been lucky here and the winter has been good, we have a nice ground cover of clover and then feed three foot high above that, it's just beautiful."

"I run things pretty carefully here, we are not overstocked, our cattle get good amounts of feed and it shows in their growth.

With no plans to take things easier in the future, Mr and Mrs Henry are adamant they will keep doing what they love to do.

HILLVIEW

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