

November 24, 2016

Worth the weight as RNA raises the steaks

Australian beef producers will have the chance to 'steak' their claim on almost \$60,000 in prize money, with entries opening today for the RNA's Paddock to Palate Competition presented by Mort & Co and the 2017/18 Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary next year, the Paddock to Palate Competition is tipping the scales with \$46,000 in prize money, making it the nation's richest beef competition of its kind.

Meanwhile, Australian Wagyu producers will also cash in next year, with \$10,000 in prize money up for grabs in the 2016/17 Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge.

The 330 day Wagyu competition, which was launched in March, is nearing the halfway mark after attracting 16 entries in its first year, with the winners to be crowned at an awards presentation breakfast at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) on Friday 11 August, 2017.

The Paddock to Palate Competition, which will also crown its winners at the breakfast, saw almost 800 head of cattle entered this year, with Riverglen Pastoral Company taking out Class 37 and RB & KK Lamoureux winning Class 38.

The three phased competition comprises best aggregate weight gain over 100 days (70 days for trade); a carcass competition and an MSA eating quality competition, with the exhibitor who polls the highest aggregate score across the three categories awarded the overall prize.

Entries into the Paddock to Palate Competition must be in by Friday 3 February, 2017, but with the competition capped at 777 head of cattle for Class 37 and 518 head of cattle for Class 38, beef producers are encouraged to get in early.

The Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge is also calling for entries into its 2017/18 competition, which will be held across 370 days, commencing in June next year.

The four phased competition comprises best aggregate weight gain; a carcass competition; carcass value and finishing in a beef taste off – a palate competition where a portion of striploin is cooked and judged.

Entries are open to Wagyu and Wagyu-cross cattle (minimum 50 per cent Wagyu blood) and nominations will be capped at 259 animals (37 pens), with exhibitors able to enter three pens each comprising seven steers, with the best six judged.

Entries close Friday 21 April, 2017, with the overall winner crowned at Ekka 2018.

RNA Beef Cattle Committee Chairman Gary Noller is encouraging beef and Wagyu producers to get their entries in well before the closing dates, to avoid missing out.

“The competitions allow some of the nation’s top beef and Wagyu producers to showcase their high quality stock and promote their product to the consumer, so they are well worth entering,” Mr Noller said.

“The RNA is a very proud champion of the Australian beef industry and our Paddock to Palate Competition and Wagyu Challenge set a benchmark for the industry, while also acknowledging the efforts of hard working primary producers.

“The competitions are regarded as the most comprehensive beef supply chain competitions in the nation, as they follow the product all the way from the paddock to the consumer,” he said.

The feedlot phase of both the Paddock to Palate Competition and Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge will be conducted at Mort & Co’s Grassdale Feedlot in Dalby.

Proud sponsors for the 2017 Paddock to Palate Competition include Mort & Co; JBS Australia; Zoetis; Elanco Animal Health; Rabobank; Grant Daniel & Long; Virbac; Performance Feeds Pty Ltd; Thompson Longhorn; Super Butcher; Queensland Country Life; Black Truck Sales; Zee Tags and the Australian Wagyu Association.

The prize pool and key dates for 2017 are listed below:

Paddock to Palate Competition

Class 37 export 100 days – prize pool:

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
Mort & Co Class 37 Overall Winner	1st	\$5,000
	2nd	\$2,500
	3rd	\$1,500
Rabobank Class 37A Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Steers	1st	\$3,000
	2nd	\$1,500
	3rd	\$500
Black Truck Sales Class 37A Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$1,500
JBS Australia Class 37B Pen of 6 Carcass Competition	1st	\$3,000
	2nd	\$1,500

	3rd	\$500
JBS Australia Class 37B Champion Carcass	Ch	\$1,000
JBS Australia Class 37B Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Ch	\$500
Thompson Longhorn Class 37C MSA Eating Quality	1st	\$400
	2nd	\$200
	3rd	\$100
Super Butcher Class 37C Highest Individual Index Score	1st	\$500

Class 37 export 100 days – key dates:

- Weigh in: Thursday 7 March, 2017
- Weight out: Thursday 15 June, 2017
- Weight gain awards and tour of Grassdale Feedlot: Tuesday 20 June, 2017
- Announcement of overall winners: Friday 11 August, 2017

Class 38 trade 70 days – prize pool:

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
JBS Australia Class 38 Overall Winner	1st	\$5,000
	2nd	\$2,500
	3rd	\$1,500
Elanco Animal Health Class 38A Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Steers	1st	\$3,000
	2nd	\$1,500
	3rd	\$500
Elanco Animal Health Class 38A Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$1,500
Grant Daniel & Long Class 38B Pen of 6 Carcass Competition	1st	\$3,000
	2nd	\$1,500
	3rd	\$500

Thompson Longhorn Class 38 Champion Carcass	Ch	\$1,000
Thompson Longhorn Class 38 Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Ch	\$500
Thompson Longhorn Class 38C MSA Eating Quality	1st	\$400
	2nd	\$200
	3rd	\$100
Performance Feeds Class 38C Highest Individual Index Score	1st	\$500

Class 38 trade 70 days – key dates:

- Weigh in: Friday 7 April, 2017
- Weight out: Friday 16 June, 2017
- Weight gain awards and tour of Grassdale Feedlot: Tuesday 20 June, 2017
- Announcement of overall winners: Friday 11 August, 2017

2017/18 Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge

Class 39 export 370 days – prize pool:

Sponsor/Section/Class	Placing	Prize
Class 39 RNA Paddock to Palate Wagyu Challenge Overall Winner	1st	\$2,000
	2nd	\$1,500
	3rd	\$1,000
Class 39A Best Weight Gain for Pen of Six Grain-Fed Wagyu Steers	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150
Class 39A Highest Individual Weight Gain	1st	\$450
Class 39B Pen of Six Carcass Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300

	3rd	\$150
Class 39B Champion Carcass	Ch	\$500
Class 39B Reserve Champion Carcass	Res Ch	\$300
Class 39C Pen of Six Carcass Value Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150
Class 39C Highest Scoring Carcass Value Animal	1st	\$450
Class 39D Beef Taste-Off Competition	1st	\$500
	2nd	\$300
	3rd	\$150

Class 39 export 370 days – key dates:

- Weigh in: Thursday 8 June, 2017
- Weigh out: Monday 12 June, 2018
- Weight gain awards: Tuesday 19 June, 2018
- Announcement of overall winners: Friday 10 August, 2018

To enter the competitions or for more information please visit:

<https://www.ekka.com.au/competitions/categories/paddock-to-palate>

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