



VPI Lord Patriot 9025, bred and raised in the Virginia Tech herd, is one of the first four cattle from the U.S. to be sold and exported to Australia.

Virginia Tech Exports Bull To Australia

A bull from Virginia Tech at Blacksburg is the first Angus and one of the first four cattle to be sold and exported to Australia. The bull, VPI Lord Patriot 9025, recently arrived at Australia's Cocos Island, the first quarantine station opened in that country.

During the nine months preceding his exportation, Lord Patriot underwent a series of health and performance tests in both the U.S. and Canada. The 1,980-lb. bull will stay in quarantine at the Cocos Island center until March while undergoing further health tests.

Lord Patriot was sold to Andrew and Mary Gubbins III of the Te Mania Angus Stud. Gary Minish, professor in animal science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, said the bull had the exact traits the Gubbins were looking for. In Australia, he explained, cattle mature early and have a smaller frame. The Gubbins' wanted a bull with good height and weight and, according to Minish, this particular bull is, on the average, about three inches taller than the tallest in Australia. Minish, who is also in charge of Tech's purebred beef cattle program, became acquainted with the Gubbins in 1979 while he was judging Australia's National Angus show where the Gubbins' bull won the championship.

After completing an examination of the bull, Chuck Grove, regional manager for the American Angus Assn., said he considered the bull "to be an excellent representative of American Angus cattle." The bull, he said, is a product of sound management as well as superior genetics and he is completely sound on his feet and legs and moves with a great deal of agility. He is an alert and masculine bull, Grove said.

According to Minish Lord Patriot was the top offspring in Tech's breeding program. His pedigree is superior; he is the son of a national champion, Sayre Patriot.

This is the first opportunity the U.S. has had to sell bulls to Australia, Minish said, adding, "We are honored that our bull was chosen." △