BREEDPLAN produces genetic trend reports for individual herds and for Breeds. These give snapshots of genetic progress, with environmental effects taken out.

I thought it may be of interest to have a look at the trend (A) for a few key traits for one Breed as an example. I have then related the trend to what we see in a sample of bulls (B) and steers (C).

Hereford has been selected, because we have steer data from the CRC (thanks Wayne Upton) and bull information from Glen Innes bull sale (thanks Bob Freer).

### Changes in sale bulls

At Glen Innes Hereford bull sale in Northern NSW, the bulls have been weighed and scanned for many years. Table B shows the changes from 1994 to 2001 in weight, fat depth and eye muscle area, age is constant. This clearly demonstrates the trends as shown by BREEDPLAN in graph A.

### CRC Steer results - Benchmarking

From 1994 to 2001 some Hereford BREEDPLAN studs, with cooperating commercial herds, bred steers for use in the CRC research program.

They were finished for the Local, Korean and Japanese markets. Table C (right) shows the average turnoff carcase specs for the steers, and the average EBVs of their Sires.

This provides some benchmarking of the outcome commercial breeders can expect from using bulls with such EBVs. It also gives some indication of the commercial effect of the genetic trends described above. Note that the Sires were ‘92 to ‘95 drop and are still a little heavier and more muscular than the current average of the ‘00 drop.

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