



In the field: Richard McFarlane with the plaque Wellington Lodge received for its achievements at the Suncorp Certified Australian Angus Beef Quality Awards.

A winning herd at Wellington Lodge

WELLINGTON Lodge, in its 160th year, has been recognised as having some of the most tender and flavoursome beef in Australia.

The Angus stud, which has been in the McFarlane family since 1845, was awarded the best overall performance in the Autumn 2005 Suncorp Certified Australian Angus Beef Quality Awards.

It was also awarded a certificate of excellence in the best overall marbling compliance category.

One of the breeding objectives of Richard, Keith and Janet McFarlane is to increase the marbling content of the meat.

"You can't see too much of the marbling in the meat, but it gives the meat its tenderness and flavour, it has no cholesterol so it's

the good fat," Richard said.

Richard attributes the stud's success to being a part of Te Mania for the past nine years.

"The herd improved 100 per cent after we joined team Te Mania, we were run of the mill before that," Richard said.

"We took it on full-on and that is probably why we have leapt ahead - we are using better genetics in our cows and the results are unbelievable."

Richard said team Te Mania was a stud in Victoria that had come up with an idea to test bulls differently and now had between 30 and 40 member studs and about 40,000 cattle nationally.

"This was the sole thing that got is into gear and helped us to out-

perform others," Richard said.

The entire herd at Wellington Lodge is now artificially inseminated and because of their involvement with team Te Mania they use quality semen for top class genetics.

"Sometimes we are using \$25,000 bulls, and it's not costing us as much because we are leasing them from team Te Mania," Richard said.

"We sell most of our meat to Japan ... we don't show cattle or sell bulls here, so we have no way to prove that we're doing something successful here, this award proves that."

The awards were presented at the Australian Beef Industry Foundation dinner, held recently in Sydney.