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PLAY YOUR PART

You can help to promote the Australian Lowline breed by joining your promotion group and helping out with its activities. Find out what your local group is doing at www.lowlinecountry.com under Promotion and other Groups on the dark blue menu.



ASSOCIATION FEES

All prices in Australian dollars and inclusive of Australian GST

MEMBERSHIP

Joining Fee: \$110
Annual Membership: \$165
Commercial Membership: \$33
Junior Membership: \$16.50
Cattle Transfers: \$33

REGISTRATIONS

Bulls: \$38.50
Females: \$38.50
Donor AI Sire Registration: \$55
Recording of Embryo Flush: \$16.50

BULL LEASE

Between two ALCA members: \$66

MISCELLANEOUS

Member's Website Logo Fee: \$55
Foundation Herd Book:
\$11 plus postage
Hard Cover Lowline Folders:
\$11 plus postage
Mailing Labels: \$0.11 each

SPREAD THE LOWLINE MESSAGE BY WEARING GENUINE ALCA GEAR

Lowline Badges: \$5.50
Lowline Caps \$15
Fully Reversible Vest: \$45
Wool Mix Vest: \$55

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NO BULL If you're ever worried about getting lost in the back paddock, take along your favourite cow. Cattle have built-in compasses according to researchers from the University of Duisburg-Essen (in the middle of the Rhine-Ruhr industrial area of Germany where they have a lot less cattle than we have in Queensland, or the Waikato or Victoria for that matter.) But Professor Hynek Burda and his team didn't set out to study cattle. Their field is the mole rat, a blind and naked underground animal which navigates using an internal magnetic compass fuelled by a few crystals of magnetite, the most magnetic of all naturally occurring minerals. The mole rat always builds its sleeping nest in the southern side of its home. Wondering if humans had a similar but unrecognised magnetic sense which affected their sleeping position, Burda, and his team fired up Google Earth to check camping grounds around the world to see how people slept. The tents were hard to see and the people inside them even harder. But there were loads of cattle in the surrounding paddocks, which were far easier to identify. "We just stopped looking on people and started to looking on cows." Burda said. More than 8,500 cattle later, the team concluded that cattle grazed and rested facing either magnetic north or magnetic south. Where-ever the sun, what-ever the wind, more than two thirds of the cattle were always on a north/south axis. From satellite height no-one could be sure whether individual animals were facing north, south, or both, so colleagues in the Czech Republic checked their findings against close quarter observations of roe deer. Once again, there was a definite north-south orientation, and... wait for it... the deer definitely had their heads pointing north. "Amazingly, this ubiquitous phenomenon does not seem to have been noticed by herdsman, ranchers, or hunters," the researchers wrote in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal. Is cattle's magnetic orientation a relic from a time when their ancestors navigated their way across the endless and featureless grasslands of Europe and Asia? Should the research should be confirmed, as some scientists have suggested, by strapping magnets to the heads of cattle to see whether they lose their sense of direction? Which way do our Southern Hemisphere developed cattle face when eating and resting? In the interests of science, I'd be grateful if you'd all spend a few weeks observing your Australian Lowlines to see whether they eat and sleep facing, north, south or every which way. Please register your findings on my poll "Magnetic Orientation of Cattle" at www.lowlinecountry.com

-Phil LaBrie