

So You're a Teenager and You'd Like Your Own Lowline Stud? Five teenagers share a little of their lives ..

When 15 year old **Henry Pinfold** visited Araawa Stud in Canterbury, NZ, and bought two Lowline cows, he already had decided what would best fit his small acreage and big ambitions. Impressed, owner Penny Harmer offered him the chance to work Sundays with her on her show team, entering him in both the local Ellesmere show, and the New Zealand Royal a couple of weeks later.

Henry spends his school holidays mustering on a high country sheep station with his own dogs, and is a natural stockman, but he'd never done anything like this.

"He just put his mind to it and worked," says Penny. Came Ellesmere Show, and a blustery day with oilskins flapping. Henry stepped up brilliantly and Araawa Centrefire won the Small Breeds bull class and was second in the Interbreeds.

Then at the NZ Royal at Christchurch, where judging as well as leading was required in the Cattle Handler's class, Henry finished 3rd equal. He is now a stud owner, NZ's first ALCA Youth Member and his Lowline cows have had two heifer calves. Henry's advice to young people wanting to go into Lowlines. "Work hard, save your money, do your research and spend time with an expert."



Henry Pinfold, 3rd in the handlers at NZ Royal, gained these skills in just a few weeks.



Lucy Kuipers with a calf at her mentor Tammy Breuer's Allambie Stud.

Lucy Kuipers of Elle Kay. "I was 12, in my first year of high school, and had joined the school's agricultural show team. I was about to enter my first parader's competition and was terrified of the big cows.

Emma Germany found me a Lowline saying "Have fun, enjoy yourself, and good luck." I walked out of the ring with a third place ribbon, in love with Lowlines and determined to get one for myself."

After looking without success, Lucy met Tammy Breuer at a field day and Tammy helped by finding an animal that fitted her rather small budget. This was the pregnant Trangie M458, Marmalade, with bull calf, Jack.

"My initial capital came from the sale of two steers I had raised from calves and my personal savings topped up by Mum and Dad."

"Tammy has helped me all the way even lending me Allambie Silka when I was considered to young to lead my own young bull in competition. My whole family became involved going to the little country shows together and really enjoyed the atmosphere. We found it a great way to spend time together. Even Lana got involved and before all this, she was definitely **non-cow**. Tammy always claims that her cow Claremont gave Lana her first cow kiss. Our herd has grown and Lana and I are now partners. Last year we had nine Lowlines (reduced now by sales) and I am looking forward to showing Elle Kay bred animals this year."

Ashleigh Kuipers of Wigram Stud aged 12.

"I decided to get Lowlines mainly because of their size and good nature and got two because they are herd animals and prefer to be with others.

My parents financed me to buy Ausbred Lou Lou from Shannon Lawlor and then we leased Ashdanvid Elizabeth from Larry & David Shaw.

Later my parents brought Beth for me. Today I have four cows, my original two heifers, two bull calves and two heifer calves.

I was 11 when I started showing and my first show was Canberra Royal in 2008. I learnt how to do it with help from Julie and Sarah Meszaros, Sarah Howard, Cassie Pope and Larry Shaw.

Some interesting things that I have been involved with is the cattle camp at Meszline Stud and the workshops that the Promotion Group held last year.

I advise anyone thinking of getting Lowlines to do some workshops and camps first or go with people to help at shows. Then get at least two Lowlines which are in different age groups so they don't compete against each other. Decide on a name for your stud and pick a stud colour that no one else has. Then get all your buckets and halters in that colour to identify your stuff easier. Ask lots of questions so you can learn more about cattle and showing them."



Ashleigh Kuipers (no relation to Lucy) with her first calf, Wigram Holly, born October 9th 2008. Dam Tyrilly Harriet and sire Murrumbong Mr Bojangles.