EVERYONE CAN EAT KOSHER - BEN PEKUAH MEAT

AK Farming heralds the introduction of vastly superior quality, strictly Kosher beef and lamb at significantly lower prices than currently exist anywhere in Australia and probably internationally. The meat produced is derived from a unique specialized breed of ancient cattle and sheep, Ben Pekuah, which was last consumed by Jews over one thousand years ago.

Unlike any other Kosher animal, Ben Pekuah permits the hind quarters to be eaten as well as the forequarters. This allows for many of the choicest cuts of meat, such as eye fillet, porterhouse rump and leg of lamb, to be accessible to the Kosher market for the first time commercially. These unique breeds therefore enable substantial price reductions due to the utilisation of economies of scale.

By raising the quality of Kosher meat to the highest standards of even non-Kosher, and by lowering its price, AK Farming seeks to not only attract existing customers of Kosher meat but Jewish customers who would like to eat Kosher but are precluded from doing so either because of the exorbitant price, or poor quality compared with the non-Kosher equivalent. Now, everyone can eat kosher.

RABBINIC AUTHORITY

Rabbi Meir G Rabi
All of AK Farming’s activities have been supervised by Rabbi Meir Rabi. A highly learned and respected Rabbi of international repute, he has successfully developed a Kosher supervisory and certification business, It's Kosher which certifies a large number of kosher products throughout Australasia. He also supervises the kosher functions of some of Melbourne’s most renowned caterers and a variety of restaurants and eateries in Melbourne. (See http://www.kosherveyosher.com/)

Extract of letter dated 8 June, 2014

Rabbi Dr Shalom Coleman CBE AM HON LLB JP
Hon. Life President Organization of the Rabbinate of Australasia (ORA)
Emeritus Rabbi: Perth Hebrew Congregation

It is my pleasure to support the efforts of Rabbi Meir G. Rabi regarding matters of vital importance to the Jewish Community as a whole involving Kashrut, Assimilation and Intermarriage in order to strengthen and encourage….

I wish him success in all his endeavours….

With blessing.
Rabbi Dr Shalom Coleman CBE AM JP

NOTE: Copy of full letter available

The most pre-eminent living ultra-orthodox Rabbi of this generation, Rabbi Chaim Kanievski, of B’nei Brak, Israel, was asked in writing in 2010 whether a Ben Pekuah animal could be eaten today. In a Published response, he writes:

It may be eaten in the ideal situation. Indeed, Rav Sherirah Gaon did exactly this at the wedding feast of Rav Hai (his son), as is documented in the HagahosAshri in the chapter BehemahHamekasheh.

In a subsequent meeting with Rabbi Rabi in July 2014 Reb Chaim expanded on this with a series of Q&A and he fully endorses that BP can be developed as a commercial proposition. NOTE: Copy of full letter available

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THE SCIATIC NERVE
The ancient Rabbis taught that the ‘sinew’ referred to is the sciatic nerve which runs down the hind quarters of animals. As there is some confusion and disagreement as to which is the precise nerve referred to, the Jewish laws of Kosher state that to eat the hind sections of a properly ritually slaughtered Kosher animal, it must not contain any nerves, veins or sinews.

Therefore, whilst it is technically possible to consume the hind quarters of Kosher animals according to Jewish law, this can only be done by an exhaustive and comprehensive, manually labour intensive process of physical extraction. (This process is known as ‘porging’.)

For this reason, the hind quarters of Kosher animals, which universally comprise the choicest cuts of meat such as eye fillet, rump and tenderloin, have almost never been commercially available in the Kosher market. Where it is, the cost is exorbitant.

WHAT IS BEN PEKUAH?
A Ben Pekuah animal is the salvaged live fetus of a cow or ewe that has been ritually slaughtered according to Jewish law. Where two such fetuses are salvaged and survive to mate, their progeny retain the same special status as the parents.

Jewish law provides for certain explicit dispensations with respect to their consumption. Principally, these include:

- The hind quarters may be eaten.
- Every Ben Pekuah animal is deemed Kosher with no inspection of internal organs required. (Approximately 20% of animals slaughtered ritually are deemed non Kosher because of adhesions on their lungs).

The last recorded consumption of Ben Pekuah is found in the writings and teachings of the leading scholar and authority of his generation, the famous Rav Hai Gaon (939 – 1038 AD). He maintained a herd of these special animals and would seek opportunities where many people were gathered for rejoicing, such as weddings, and serve Ben Pekuah meat to the guests.

All AK Ben Pekuah animals are fully grass and pasture fed, except where drought conditions will require supplemental feed.

JACOB FIGHTS AN ANGEL
It all starts with the mystical story laid out in Genesis 32:24.

Jacob is alone in the desert at night. The Torah (Bible) records that a man – some say an angel – wrestled with him until the breaking of the new day. When the sun came up Jacob discovered that he had been injured in his thigh. Thereafter the Torah states a most unusual law:

_Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob’s thigh in the sinew that shrank._ (Genesis 32:32)

IDEOPENDENT AUDIT & FULL DNA TRACKING – A REVOLUTION IN KOSHER MEAT
Unfortunately, there have been many examples of meat substitution in both the general and Kosher meat markets around the world. In order to ensure that all AK meat is strictly Kosher, a number of recording and tracking safeguards and programs have been implemented.

An independent Exemplar Global Level 4 High Risk Auditor in the National Food Safety Auditor Scheme has been contracted from the outset, to diligently authenticate all Critical Control Points in the animal welfare, Kosher slaughter and DNA tracking of the program. These include:

- Every beast has been managed and prepared for slaughter in accordance with Temple Grandin’s principles of livestock behaviour and humane slaughter.
- Every beast in the programme has been slaughtered by an expert Shochet (ritual slaughterman) with more than 15 years’ experience within the strictly orthodox Kosher communities. Qualifications, experience and letters of reference have all been verified.
- Meat of every slaughtered beast in the programme was consumed both by the Shochet and Rabbi Rabi.
- The harvested foetus were all verified by a qualified experienced vet to be non-fully gestated (as required by Jewish Law for Ben Pekuah).
- Comprehensive tracking of fetuses utilizing fully audited and cross checked written records are maintained and include monitoring and verification of all activities is in accordance with independent ISO 19011:2003 standardised guidelines and practices.
- All these steps are overseen and verified by AK’s supervising Rabbi, Meir Rabi (see over).
- DNA from hair samples taken from every donor animal to the initial breeding program as well as every calf born, so that there can never be any dispute as to the Kosher authenticity of the progeny.

WHO WE ARE
Chairman – Peter James Nixon, AO
Peter has life long, extensive experience in running and operating various farms and farming activities, was a Federal Member of Parliament for over twenty years, a founding partner of Southern Cross Broadcasting, and inaugural AFL Commissioner.

PARTNERS
John and Tim Buxton are fifth generation cattle and sheep livestock farmers located in Bundalaguah, Victoria with over 30 years experience in successfully running the family’s cattle and sheep farms.

Chris Nixon is a fifth generation farmer on a 1000 ha beef and dairy farm at Orbost and manages a further 1200 ha beef property in East Gippsland, Victoria with over 30 years experience.

Stephen Bloch is a trained accountant with nearly 30 years experience in the accounting profession and business consulting and management. His long term clients include the Glenwill Group and Tigcorp Pty Ltd.