



## Heaven On Earth Farm

### Kanuka Full Blood Stud

### Northland

An article By Rob Maskell

In 2019, Heaven on Earth Farm made the decision to downsize and semi retire.

We sold our Purebred Wagyu herd of over 100 animals, to a great variety of farms around NZ. Many animals went from Northland to Southland, a big trip.

We kept one Purebred cow, Rosie, to be the matriarch for our new venture which is to be a boutique genetics farm with Full Blood Wagyu.

Rosie is exceptional, runs the herd well and assists in births. She's also getting calves onto teets for the first time. She's nearly a full blood, with only one purebred bull in her family's history.

We kept our **Full Blood Bull** Shogun 246 who is now 14 years old. He's first generation genetics from TF147, the famous bull from Shogo Takeda's farm in Texas USA.

We started to search for **Full Blood Heifers** and eventually purchased 9 full blood registered heifers with some in calf for excellent genetics.

We now have two **Purebred Cows** and two **Purebred Steers**.

We are in our second season and can give a short report on our experience with **Full Blood Wagyu** versus the sold **Purebred** herd.

There are very little differences between the two types, in temperament, growth rates, full grown weights and general health without hoof issues.

Conception rates, live births and unassisted births are still 100%, as with the purebred herd. They carried to full term.

We now have a replacement bull, ShogunSan1. He is Shogun 's first full blood son. Eventually Shogun will run out of steam, though it still seems very strong.

The whole herd lives together including the bulls. The bulls are very quiet together. ShogunSan1 is breeding age now but there aren't any struggles between father and son.

The full blood herd is registered in NZ and Australia.

There is a lot of office and genetics work to get all registrations together.

The purpose of the KFB Stud is to keep the genetic details clear and clean, so buyers know exactly what they're buying without doubts.

Heaven on Earth farm is 50% flat and 50% very hilly. The cows remain fit and health with all the climbing.

During the birthing season, we keep them on the flat. I have in the past carried a newborn 40 kg calf up a 60% incline in the steep bush back to mum. Don't want to repeat that.



Changing to full blood animals was very expensive but since it is a small boutique herd it didn't break the bank. We now have a very useful genetic pool for other breeders to draw from.

The stud also sells Shogun's semen. Last year a 1000 straws were sold to a Japanese buyer. This year we collected 600 straws and we're selling mainly small quantities at present.

The semen is high viability according to the collecting company. Even though Shogun is 14 years of age it hasn't affected his fertility.

In spring we mow and make mini bales usually about 300 and wrap them for winter feed. The bales are a mix of Kikuyu, Plantain Major, Glover, Linseed and a small amount of dog daisies.

This year we have had to feed out only a few times as the grass growth has been very good. Late September, early October is often when we feed to feed out.

During fall and winter we feed out olive pruning from our orchards also. The animals love this and is a natural dewormer. We very rarely have to deworm our mature animals.

Overall, the transfer from a large herd down to a small full blood herd has been quite painless physically. The biggest effort and most time spent, has been in the **Genetics Testing and Registering.**

**Heaven on Earth Farms would like to form a Bull Consortium with four other small breeders where we can rotate bulls using the 5 year cycle the Japanese use.**

Studs with Registered high quality bulls should contact us at [heavenonearthnz@gmail.com](mailto:heavenonearthnz@gmail.com)

**Rob Maskell  
Trustee for  
Heaven on Earth Farms  
Northland**