**Breeding Plan**

**Fullblood herd:**

1. **Focus 1st on Marbling and Marble Score**:
* This is the profit driving trait of Wagyu
* You need a salable carcass that has marbling to generate a premium, otherwise you might as well be breeding Angus.
1. **Focus 2nd on your choice of a few traits equally justifiable:**
	* **Carcass Weight**
		1. Larger carcass weights allow for maximizing efficiencies of slaughter costs & processing, feed bunk/ feedlot space, and steady beef supply
	* **Rib Eye Area**
		1. The largest source of revenue from the carcass, drives carcass profitability
	* **Marble Fineness**
		1. Fineness of marbling drives premiums and appeal to high end chefs and customers
		2. Fineness of marbling drives flavor; the more fine marbling in meat means there is more marbling cell wall which while cooked creates Wagyu’s unique flavor.
	* **Residual Feed Intake**
		1. Feed costs commonly account for more than half the cost of production from birth to slaughter.
	* **Growth traits**, 200 Day, 400 Day, 600 Day Weights
		1. Reducing DOF (Days On Feed) is a key factor in remaining profitable and competing with high marbling Angus and other breeds

**How to accomplish gains in these areas:**

1. **Use Australian Breedplan**
	* Largest Wagyu EBV/EPD database outside of Japan
	* More than 84,000 dams and 10,000 sires recorded, 6,700 AUS Meat Marble Score recorded, 5,800 Carcass Camera recorded carcasses (MS, MF, REA), 28,000 Weaning Wts, 24,000 400 Day Wts
	* Now offers Genomic Testing based on all this data for traits including MS, MF, CW, REA, 200D Wt, 400D Wt, and 600D Wt
	* 50K SNP profile based genomics (Cattle Industry Leading Technology)
	* Highlights strengths and weaknesses of cattle numerically allowing for easier management and mating
2. **Use/Invest in high reliability sires backed by actual carcass data** (>80% Reliability for MS)
	* Or a variety of sons of elite high reliability bulls
	* Young sires should be genomic tested to reduce risk and increase reliability
3. **Maintain or invest in a variety of Maternal lines or Cow families**
	* Use high proven female maternal lines: think Suzutani, Okutani, Yuriko, Chisahime, Hikokura, etc. This minimizes your risk of failure carcasses
	* Different maternal lines have different strengths that can be complimenting and successful crosses
	* Increases your herds marketability (Seedstock)
	* Manages inbreeding
4. **Genomic Test your entire herd of Fullblood/purebred cattle**
	* Identifies top and bottom of your herd
	* Identifies strengths and weaknesses of individual animals
	* Adds value by creating higher accuracy EBVs for all cattle tested
5. **Use Corrective mating**, breeding complimentary cattle to one another to eliminate flaws or weaknesses.
	* Use carcass bulls on females with size and growth, and maternal/growth bulls on females that need size and milk.
	* Evaluate matings individually, often times Wagyu take 2-3 generation of carcass bulls on females that retain size and growth well like the Hikokura maternal line.
6. **Make separate matings for Terminal use and Replacement use.**
	* Terminal matings should focus more on key carcass traits (MS, MF, REA, CWT)
	* Replacement matings should focus on growth and maternal traits
7. **Plan on killing animals to verify the genetics you have and are breeding**
	* Create sizeable contemporary groups for meaningful data (>10 head, same sex, 2 common reference sires, born in 3 week window, and must be fed and slaughter in the same system for the same period of time)
	* Steer 80% of bulls, to prove the value of your top 20% remaining bulls each year
	* Creates value thru carcass data
	* Shows your cattle’s strengths or weaknesses
	* Allows for creating better matings in the future
	* Submit your carcass data to Breedplan to increase your EBVs accuracy
8. **All of this will allow you to share and compare your Wagyu Cattle to other Elite breeders around the USA and Globe.**
	* Either your cattle will prove themselves to be elite, average, poor
	* This allows you cull poor ones, better utilize the average, and flush or market the very elite cattle for more value.
	* It also allows for you to identify better or complimenting genetics that can be bought or acquired to improve your herd.

**Other Useful Data/Thoughts:** What data says I should do all this?