Flight Time Recording

The flight time test was developed by the CRC for Cattle and Beef Quality. Flight time is a measurement of the time it takes an animal to pass through two light beams (1.7 to 2 m apart) when leaving the crush through the head bale (see picture below). An animal that has a shorter flight time is considered to have poorer temperament to an animal with a longer flight time.

The CRC has also found that animals with a longer flight time (more docile) will generally:
- Grow faster in feedlots to achieve higher final and carcase weight.
- Have more tender meat (measured by shear force and MSA consumer taste panel testing).

BREEDPLAN members are encouraged to record the flight time of their weaners in preparation for the generation of a flight time EBV. Flight time recording units can possibly be borrowed from the CRC depending on their work load. Those wishing to borrow a CRC unit should contact Christian Duff - Tropical Beef Technology Services (07 4927 6066).