SALE OFFERING

80 PURE HUDGINS GREY SIRES
10 OUTSTANDING FEMALES

Pre-Sale Inspection Day
Saturday 20th September at 11am

4th ANNUAL BULL SALE:
25th OCTOBER

P.B. Fenech

SIRES REPRESENTED AT OUR BEST SALE OFFERING YET

- JDH SIR FURNARI MANSO 217/1
- JK MR SUGAR CRATA 206
- JDH WESTIN MANSO 80/1
- JDH MR CHURCHILL MANSO 167/1
- PBF PADDY BOY MANSO 390
- PBF BEAUMAN MANSO 332
- JDH MR MELANSON MANSO 973/6
- JDH PALESTIMO R MANSO 787/6
- JDH WOODMAN MANSO 578/6
- JDH MR SHANNON MANSO 185/1
- MR V8 730/6 "TOM CAT"
- JDH BRETT MANSO 175/6
- JDH SIR RIGBY MANSO 603/3
- JDH MARRI R MANSO 356/6

Don't miss our Female Genetics Sale 28th June, 2008

As I write this editorial the 14th World Brahman Congress held at Fort Worth, Texas has just concluded. Congratulations to Kevin Bryant, Chairman of the World Congress organising committee and Chris Shivers, and Armalinda Ibarra, Am.B.B.A. Executive Vice-President and Recording Secretary on a job well done.

The Congress I believe has highlighted the tremendous progress the Brahman breed has made worldwide, particularly in the last 10-15 years.

We now have in all Brahman breeding countries a genetic resource placed squarely in the mainstream of beef production. Genetic progress is made by exploiting the differences in animals and we have the diversity to continue to make progress.

What is also clear, I believe is that to take the Brahman breed to the next level we need to work harder on the economically important traits to the commercial producer that you can’t see by looking at the cattle. That is not to say that we should stop paying attention to the basics of conformation and structural soundness, however traits like feed efficiency where we already have an advantage over all other breeds, female reproduction and carcase quality traits, including tenderness are the areas where there are still real gains yet to be made.

While that area remains a challenge, the good news is that technology in the form of gene markers is likely to make the job easier.

Climate change and seasonal variability is likely to see an increasing proportion of the world’s beef supply move towards the tropical regions. This fact is being recognised by research institutions with an increasing focus on tropical beef production.

They will be producing the tools to make our job easier, it is up to us to use them.

Editor
President’s paragraph

It's not every day I get the opportunity to write this column from Texas. However, before I continue on, back to Australia.

Congratulations must go to the organising committee and all the vendors who made our Brahman Commercial Breeding and Female Show and Sale a great success. As we all know the prices exceeded all our expectations, and the purchasers were certainly impressed with the quality of the yarding.

On to Texas, our travelling group are certainly enjoying the beautiful lush countryside and the hospitality of the Americans, as we travel around the different ranches. One farm of interest was Byron Vassberg’s “Kallion Farm”, his aim is to breed bulls for tenderness to meet the top end beef market. Any bulls that don’t need this gene marker goes to the meat works, and he seemed very determined to make this a success.

We have had the pleasure of the company of Annaleise Zahl, our Edgar Hudgins Memorial Scholarship winner for last year. During our stay and she has certainly been an outstanding ambassador for Australia and made a lasting impression on our American friends. Annaleise will be a hard act to follow.

The Congress and our visit has allowed us to communicate directly with Brahman breeders throughout the World and compare our breeding programs and objectives. I am confident we can be very proud of the direction our Brahman industry is heading and I think we can look forward to increasing international interest in our cattle.

John Atkinson

Have you seen our new website?
www.brahman.com.au

Search the ABBA Pedigree & Performance database for over 500,000 animals

New articles of interest: General • Reproduction • Meat Science • Nutrition • Selection

See samples of Brahman Graphics designs: Banners • Business Cards • Advertisements

Download many high quality Brahman images • Up to date sale catalogues & events calendar

View our promotional items online • Browse member web pages

...simply a click away

The growth and development of the Australian Brahman has been described as the greatest livestock revolution in history.

Since their introduction in 1933, Brahman cattle numbers have grown to over 4 million head or 15% of the national herd. Brahman genetics through crossbreeding and derived breeds has helped in over 50% of Australia’s beef cattle population
While once the preserve of “alternative” lifestylers, organic products are gaining more widespread acceptance and demand globally, fuelled by the rising social consciousness of environmental issues.

Type the word “organic” into ebay.com.au and you will be offered everything from skincare to nappies, fertilizer to food items. Retail chains such as Target now sell organic cotton clothing, underwear and manchester and our major supermarkets retail organic fruit, vegetables and meat alongside mass produced products.

In 2005, the value of the world organic market was estimated to be SUS30 billion, with predictions that it will rise to SUS100 billion by 2015.

Interestingly, Australia has the biggest certified organic land mass in the world, with at least 10 million hectares certified, and our organic food industry is worth S200–$250 million per year domestically and a further S50–$80 million annually in exports.

Organic meat makes up around 44 per cent of this market, and from 2001 to 2005 the farm gate value of organic beef alone jumped from S32 million to S60 million.

Our largest producer, OBE Beef Pty Ltd, is 100 percent owned and operated by Australian organic farmers, predominantly from the Channel Country. It defines organic production as producing beef in a natural environment without the use of chemicals, growth promotants, pesticides, non-organic fertilisers, feed additives or introduced feeds.

According to Jaime Newborn from the Biological Farmers of Australia association, processors are currently paying 420c/kg for milk and two-tooth trade cattle and 390c/kg for export cattle over 280kg. While 70 percent of organic beef is consumed domestically, export opportunities remain strong, particularly to the United States. Jaime said good seasons in central and western Queensland meant producers would be holding back numbers until June/July due to a shortage of kill space.

With much of the developed world blindly trudging down the path of genetically modified products and intensive production systems, Australia’s open rangelands provide many unique opportunities for capitalizing on clean and green grassfed beef production.

NORTH QUEENSLAND

CHARTERS TOWERS

Shaun Flanagan from Landmark has kept me informed of some interesting sale results from Charters Towers.

Landmark held a special store sale on April 4 which yarded 1610 steers, 725 heifers, 27 cows and calves, drawn from as far away as Mareeba, Georgetown, Ingham and Ayr, as well as local areas.

The top selling steers were a pen of 254kg No.8 Brahmans from Lascelles Pastoral Co, Lascelles, Charters Towers, which made $463 or 182.2c/kg. Their No.7 steers, 327kg, made 175.2c to return $573/head. Le Feuvre Farming sold 378kg No.6 Brahman steers for $564 (149.2c).

A pen of No.8 heifers from Sandy and Judy Knuth, Glen Kathleen, Woodstock, sold for 146.2c/kg, weighing in at 165kg to return $236. The Thomson family sold No.6 Brahman heifers for $427 (138.2c) and cows and calves from Long Gully, Georgetown returned $741.

Shaun said the May 2 store sale was even dearer, with strong support from buyers across the state including Charleville, Dalby and Rockhampton.

The Brazier family sold 40 No.8 Brahman steers (253kg) for 174.2c/kg or $440/hd, while a line of 182 No.7 red Brahman steers from Moor Moor Pastoral Co, Delta Downs, Normanton sold well. They were knocked down for 162.6c/kg, realizing $462.

The top heifers were red Brahman from Blackdown Pastoral Co, Blackdown, Chillagoe. The 390 head draft of No.8s averaged 137.3c/kg and peaked at 156.2c/kg, with an average price of $242/hd. A high quality pen of No.7 heifers from KLD Pastoral Co, Kirkland Downs, Charters Towers, made $373 after being knocked down for 134.2c/kg.

Matthew Geaney, Geaney’s Livestock, reported that the combined agents sale yarded 2424 head on May 7, with heifer prices up on previous sales. Wrotham Park, Chillagoe, marketed a huge line of 1079 No.6 and No.7 Brahman heifers, averaging 205kg. They sold to 146.2c/kg to average just over $248/head. A pen of Brahman store steers from the Hutton family, Ulgula Park, Charters Towers, topped the steer market at 150.2c. They weighed 346kg to come back at $520.

Matthew said prices were firm for all descriptions, at the May 14 sale, except for...
Toowoomba sale heifers off to Malaysia

Grey grand-daughters of JDH Mr Boswick Manso (imp) shared sale honours of $5000 at the second annual Toowoomba Premier Brahman Female sale, held on Queensland’s Darling Downs on April 26.

The offering of 85 registered grey females, 30 registered reds and three semen lots achieved 86 per cent clearance and a female average of $2115, with a feature of the sale being the purchase of 11 heifers by Sabah Department Vet Services & Animal Industry, Malaysia.

Don and Julie Hurrell, HH Park stud, Gympie outlaid $5000 equal top price for Kenrol Miss Congeneality 2226, an 18-month-old heifer by Brisbane Royal Show champion Kenrol Boszee Manso and out of Kenrol Genee 0123 (Mr V8 440/4). She goes back to Kenrol’s leading donor females Miss Congeneality 031 and Kayla 02, and was offered with two straws of semen from WR Mr Sid 305 (imp). The Hurrells also bid to $4250 to secure Kenrol Lady Jane, one of the first daughters of $25,000 Kenrol Mr Bert to be offered, and featuring a +55 EBV for 600-day growth. Ken and Wendy Cole averaged $3500 for eight head, with each lot including two straws of semen from imported sires.

Sharing equal top price was Condor Miss Bossie Manso 360, one of eight heifers sold for $3031 average by Wal Shepherd, Condor stud, Beaudesert. The 18-month-old was by Condor Bostwick Manso 253 and out of the JDH Madison Man Manso (imp) cow Condor Anna Madi Manso 291. She will join Eungai stud, based at Erawan Pastoral Co, Maroon.

Condor also sold two heifers to Sabah Vet Services, Malaysia, who purchased 11 grey heifers for $2750 average. Topping the Malaysian buyer’s consignment was $4500 full Hudgins heifer Condor Demi Wattle Manso 356, a daughter of JDH Ernesto De Manso (imp) with +40 EBV for 600-day growth. Sabah Vet Services’ other purchases included $4000 Kenrol S Miss PJ 2209, a 14-month-old by US import MSP Sir Petty John 588, offered by Sandy Cole, Kenrol S stud, Gracemere. They also invested in three Kenrol heifers at $2750 average, four from Wandilla stud and one from Milldale.

The top selling red was $4500 GI Marietta Faith, catalogued by Ron, Grace and Kelvin Harriman, GI stud, Muttaburra, whose draft of six averaged $2833. The polled 18-month-old, who is the first offering by Lanes Creek Galaxy (Tartrus Gallant), was snapped up by Steve & Julie Austin, Jandowae.

Andrew and Roxanne Olive, Raglan stud, Raglan paid $4250 for Milldale Pixie 24/6, a Brahrock Ascent daughter from the Miller family’s Milldale stud, Mt Whitestone. The Millers soon reinvested their earnings by paying the same amount for Kenrol Miss D Manso 2272, a Mr D Bar 101/1 (imp) heifer out of a JDH Madison Man Manso (imp) cow.

Drewe and Leith Curtis, Coe’s Creek C stud, Gympie, took home the Mr V8 666/3 daughter Kenrol Miss Manso 0289 for $4250. Her dam, Idano Miss Manso 291 is a half sister to multiple Dam of the Year Kenrol Kayla 02.

Lee and Gillian Collins, Wandilla stud, Marlborough sold a mixture of reds and greys, peaking at $4000 twice and averaging...
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Don’t miss this opportunity, secure your booking before the post-Christmas rush.

Lock away your valuable genetics, call BBS today.
Spaces will be limited!
Also talk to BBS about other services such as:

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Get ready for the 2008 season!
Toowoomba sale heifers off to Malaysia

$2604 for a dozen females. Their highest priced red, Wandilla Empresse 782/8, was a Kandoona Mellow daughter out of a Billabong Robbie cow and sold to Darren Wood, Woodstock stud, Mt Jukes. Their highest priced grey, a Yoman 1142/4 heifer with a +49 for 600-day growth, is destined for Malaysia.

Ross and Natalie Olive, Olive stud, Gogango outlaid $3500 for Walubial MM Lady Banksia Manso, a full Hudgins daughter of FBC T Baxter Bros Manso offered by Margaretta Morgan, Walubial stud, Condamine. Scott and Vicki Hayes, Yenda V stud, Mundubbera, paid the same price for Gl Rosette Gaye, a polled 15-month-old by Bungoona Mr Ambassa.

Jarvis Collins, Autobreed Brahmans, Tungamull kicked off the sale by bidding $3500 for Lot 1, Wandilla Empresse 659/8, a red Kandoona Utai heifer with a +52 EBV for 600-day growth.

The top selling semen package at $1500 was purchased by Keiran and Beth Streeter, Palmvale stud, Marlborough. It consisted of 15 straws of semen and 15 registrations from NCC Jupiter, offered by Graham, Bev and Craig Beissel, Baiden, Wallumbilla.

Judge Andrew Olive, Raglan Stud, Raglan presented Margaretta Morgan, Walubial Stud, Condamine with the voucher for Prolix product to the value of $500 sponsored by Prolix for exhibiting the Champion female in the senior female section judging.

Mark Scholes, Landmark, Toowoomba, Rob Bonson, Ridley Agriproducts, Toowoomba and Toowoomba Premier Female Sale Organising Committee Chairman, Allan Oxlade, Bioka Stud, Emu Creek are pictured before the sale.

Melissa Holloway, Better Blend Stockfeeds, Oakey, presented Lee Collins, Wandilla Stud, Marlborough with the voucher for Better Blend product to the value of $300 for exhibiting the heifer placed second in the junior heifer section judging.

Brad Young, Butlers Toyota, Toowoomba, presented Glen Oppermann, Tango Stud, Gayndah with a voucher for Ridley product to the value of $300 sponsored by Butlers Toyota for exhibiting the Champion Junior heifer.

Rob Bonson, Ridley Agriproducts, Toowoomba, presented Wendy Cole, Kenrol Stud, Gracemere with a cheque for $500 for exhibiting the second place getter in the senior female section judging.

Debbie and Bruce Godden, Ego Stud, Gympie discussed sale prospects with vendor George Miller, Milldale Stud, Mt Whitestone, before the sale.

Lee Collins, Wandilla Stud, Marlborough, pictured with Manny and Noel Sorley, Mt Callan Stud, Bell.

ABBA Junior Vice President Shane Bishop and his wife Sandra (left), Garglen Stud, Gympie, Gympie Sale Organising Committee Chairman, Royce Sommerfeld and his wife Beryl, (centre) and ABBA Senior Vice President and Sale Judge, Andrew Olive, Raglan Stud, Raglan had an in-depth discussion on market prospects before the sale.
RENOWNED REDS

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$105,000 KP Monty ~ his first heifers sell...

TARTRUS LANCEFIELD SALE
MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Tartrus Station, Marlborough, Qld
Jennifer McCamley 07 4938 0120  www.tartrus.com
cows, which eased. A draft of 149 prime 604kg Brahman bullocks from Philipson Holdings peaked at $926/hd.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

GRACEMERE

Agents reported that the market eased slightly for the 4533 head offering of stores on April 11. Iain and Anneli Day, Liddesdale, Nebo received $566/hd or 150c/kg for their 70 No.6 grey Brahman heifers that had been joined to Charolais bulls. Grey heifers, 495kg, from Kelly Hyden, Kiddell Plains, Moura, made $684 (138c).

At the following week’s sale John and Trevor Mlyrea, Mannersley, Calliope offered a pen of good quality 329kg Brahman feeder-type heifers. They sold for $515 or 156c/kg.

The market was fully firm at the last sale in April, where the Chapman family, Wycheproof Cattle Co, Calliope received $943/hd (158c) for three pens of prime 597kg Brahman bullocks.

A pen of 237kg No.7 grey Brahman heifers from the Appleton family, Gracemere, went for $488 or 149c/kg.

Prices dipped by 5-10c/kg for meatworks cattle at the May 9 sale. A line of 118 No.6 steers from the Hoffman family, Desmond Station, Collinsville sold from 144-146c/kg to return $669/hd.

EMERALD

Good quality weaners were a feature of the late April store sale that penned 2700 head. Good quality red Brahman weaner steers from the Randell family, Crinum, Tieri, were knocked down for 187c to return $531/hd.

Values were down by 2-6c/kg for the 1100 head yarding on May 7. Brahman bullocks from Brett and Sue Brant, Selina, Emerald made $1059/hd or 157c/kg and 517kg trade steers from Jeff and Sandy Dubby, Collie Blue, Springsure went for $817 (158c). Mike and Vicki Donovan, Coolibah, Capella, offered 421kg Brahman heifers and they went for $581 (137c).

LONGREACH

A line of Brahman weaner heifers topped their section at the April 16 sale, peaking at 172c/kg and averaging 152c. They were trucked in from Hacon and Sons’ Killala Station at Boulla.

BLACKALL

The prime and store sale on April 17 offered 2100 head to a firm to dearer market. Kevin and Bev Gillaspie received $1073 or 156c/kg for their 687kg Brahman bullocks. Brahmans and Brahman cross cattle made up most of the 3950 head yarding at the April 24 special store sale. The Webber family trucked in 1500 No.6 Brahman steers from Nardoo, Cloncurry and went home with 145c/kg in their pocket.

BUNDABERG

Neil Callaghan, Callaghan’s Livestock, said he was pleased to be back on deck after spending six days in Bundaberg Hospital with complications from a cattle drafting accident. He was lucky not to lose the use of his fingers after they were jammed in the gate of the crush and then succumbed to a dangerous bacterial infection.

Neil said prices in the saleyards had come back a bit in the past two months. On April 4 Emdee Enterprises, Branch Vale, Mt Perry sold some good quality No.8 red Brahman steers and heifers, all sired by bulls from Neil’s Turramurra Brahman stud. The tops of the steers sold for 224.8c/kg or $447 to John Peek, Bundaberg, with another pen going for $451 (174.8c). Emdee’s two pens of heifers went for 189.8c/kg or a top of $437, knocked down to Paul and Rick Arnicar, Bundaberg.

At the April 29 sale Biggenden Meatworks paid $646 (135c) for speyed No.5 red Brahman heifers from CT Dawson Holdings, Teebar, Rosedale. Teys Bros, Lakes Creek, paid up to 130c/kg or $687/hd for Teebar’s speyed red Brahman cows, while their two pens of No.7 grey Brahman heifers sold to the Gibson family, Bundaberg for $568.

R.A, Slean and Son, Miara, Yandaran received $384 (158.2c) for their No.8 red Brahman steers at the May 13 sale.

Alice Fahey married Matt Edwards on 3rd May, 2008 at her family home property, “Nettle Creek”, Copmanhurst NSW. Alice and Matt have made their home at “Glenfillan”, Jandowae, Queensland.

Congratulations
MOGUL PERFORMANCE BRAHMANS

AT OUR 40th SYDNEY ROYAL SHOW

MOGUL MISS I WITTLESEA 2ND
Supreme Brahman Exhibit
Senior & Grand Champion Female

MOGUL VALPERY
Junior & Grand Champion Bull

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MOGUL FIELD DAY
SATURDAY 21 JUNE

Guest Speakers
Technology Displays (including pregnancy sexing)
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Females did the breed proud at the first Brahman Commercial Breeding Female Show and Sale, held at Gracemere Saleyards in Central Queensland on April 15.

In officially opening the prestigious new event, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) chairman Don Heatley said the Brahman breed was the lifeblood of the northern Australian beef industry.

“We now have a Brahman that is a brilliant animal and that’s thanks to the work of far sighted people over the past 30 years,” Mr Heatley said.

The show and sale attracted 800 head of fine quality commercial Brahman females, the 70 pens judged by Geoff Wagstaff, Bellalea, Conondale and his associate judge Ross McCamley, Lancefield, Dululu. The five classes ranged from weaner heifers under 300kg through to yearlings, p.t.i.c. heifers and cows, and cows and calves, with the 800 head averaging an excellent $950.

Strong bidding saw cows and calves peak at $1850, p.t.i.c. cows sell to $1750, p.t.i.c. heifers top at $1650 and unjoined heifers reach a high of $1150.

The judges had their toughest time in Class 2, with a whopping 36 pens entered in the Brahman yearling heifers (under 380kg) section. It was from this class that came the champion pen, a blue ribbon line-up of 14 red Brahman yearling heifers entered by Stephen Lamb, Dingley Dell, Biloela. Mr Lamb also scored second place with a pen of 14 grey yearling heifers. Both drafts went on to sell for $1150/head, going to B. and E. Graham, Bargray stud, Rockhampton. The Grahams also invested $850/hd in the third placegetters in that class, 14 greys from the Larsen family, Sedars Park, Banana.

However, the equal top price of $1850 went to the Jefferis' cows and calves (under 10 years of age). The winning pen of 11 greys was bred by Rodger and Lorena Jefferis at their Maxwelton property, Artesian Downs. The Jefferis’ also entered the second placed pen in that class, with the two pens selling for $1750/hd to New Moonta Pastoral, Gin Gin.

The reserve championship went to the winner of Class 4 for p.t.i.c. cows under 10 years of age. The winning pen of 11 greys was bred by Rodger and Lorena Jefferis at their Maxwelton property, Artesian Downs. The Jefferis’ also entered the second placed pen in that class, with the two pens selling for $1750/hd to New Moonta Pastoral, Gin Gin.
BEEFAUSTRALIA 2009
AUSTRALIA’S NATIONAL BEEF EXPOSITION

ROCKHAMPTON QUEENSLAND 4-9 MAY 2009

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Contact Details
For regular updates on Beef Australia 2009 visit us at our website www.beefaustralia.com.au

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Fax 07 4921 3787
Email beefexpo@beefaustralia.com.au
Office 134 William St Rockhampton

Photos credits: Marc Coombe, Kent Ward (Qld Country Life), The Morning Bulletin.

 accommodation
As premium accommodation during the week of Beef Australia 2009 will be limited, we recommend you book early by calling our co-ordinated booking service, Rockhampton Tourist & Business Information on 1800 805 865.

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Sat 9 May
Beef Ball

An Australian Government Initiative

www.beefaustralia.com.au
Commercial females impress at new C.Q. show and sale

years) from Class 5. The two pens of nine head sold to New Moonta Pastoral and Rosehill Pastoral Co, Biggenden. The Jefferis family penned 44 cows and calves in Class 5, averaging $1630 and collecting first and third placings in that class.

Hamdenvale Brahmans, Simla Station, Mackay won Class 3 for p.t.i.c. heifers under three years of age, their 12 greys selling for $1600 to New Moonta Pastoral. The Gin Gin EU-accredited grazing enterprise also paid $1600 for the second placegetters in that class, 12 greys from Robert Oates, Mt Brett, Comet, and $1650 for the third placegetters, 12 greys from Fenech Grazing, Craiglea, Wowan.

Class 1 for weaner heifers under 300kg attracted five entries, with the Davison’s Viva Brahman stud, Lumeah, Middlemount taking out first and second placings with two pens of 18 greys. They sold for $600 to Andrew Hill, Shawnee stud, South Middlebrook, Nundle, NSW and for $550 to Wallace Cattle Co, Brigalow, Marlborough.

Brian and Glenda Kirkwood, Somerview, Charters Towers, presented 105 head in four classes, collecting third placings in the weaner heifer and p.t.i.c. cow classes. Their best prices included returns of $1050/head for cows and calves and $1025 for p.t.i.c. cows.

Other good rates were $1300 for a pen of cows and calves offered by Robert Oates, $1000 for yearling heifers (under 380kg) from S. and K. Wallace, and $1000 for p.t.i.c. heifers (under three years) from Mt Stuart, Capella.

Out of 52 registered bidders, the major buyer was New Moonta Pastoral which purchased nine pens (92 head) for a top of $1850 and average of $1581.

The Graham family took home five pens at an average of $870, and six pens at $758/ hd average went to Bill and Kay Geddes, Doonside, Milman. The Geddes’ purchases included four pens of grey yearling heifers from the Wallace family, Brigalow, Marlborough at $800-$1000/head.

Robert White, Anglewood, Marlborough paid up to $950/hd for four pens including three pens of grey yearling heifers from

Rodger & Lorena Jefferis, Elrose Cloncurry are pictured with their winning pen of PTIC cows which also took out the Reserve Champion pen award. The cattle were from the Jefferis’ Maxwelton property, Artesion Downs and sold to New Moonta Pastoral Co, Gin Gin for $1750 per head

ABBA President John Atkinson (third from left) present the trophies and prize money cheques to the exhibitors of placegetters in the PTIC heifer class, from left, Robert Oates, Mt Brett, Comet (second), Will Fenech, Fenech Grazing, Craigleigh, Wowan (third) and Jarrod Deguara, Simla Station, Mackay (first)

Alistair and Pam Davison, Viva Stud, Lumeah, Middlemount, are pictured with their winning pen of weaner heifers which sold to Andrew Hill, Nundle, NSW for $600 per head
Every quest has a beginning...
buyers’ list, paying $1400 for cows and calves from Elrose and $525 for heifers from Sandy Knuth.

A beef industry forum on Managing Meat Quality was held in conjunction with the sale, with noted speakers including Rodger Jefferis and representatives from MLA, Meat Standards Australia, Swift Australia and Catapult Genetics.

**RESULTS**

Class 1, Weaner Heifers under 300kg: Viva stud, Lumeah, Middlemount, 1 and 2; B. and G. Kirkwood, Somerview, Charters Towers, 3. Class 2, Yearling Heifers under 380kg: S. Lamb, Dingley Dell, Biloela, 1 and 2; P. and J. Larsen, Sedars Park, Banana, 3. Class 3, PTIC Heifers under 3 years: Hamdenvale Brahms, Simla Station, Mackay, 1; Robert Oates, Mt Brett, Comet, 2; Fenech Grazing, Craighleigh, Wowan, 3. Class 4, PTIC Cows under 10 years: R. and L. Jefferis, Elrose, Cloncurry, 1 and 2; B. and G. Kirkwood, Somerview, Charters Towers, 3. Class 5, Cows and Calves under 10 years: R. and L. Jefferis, Elrose, Cloncurry, 1 and 3; Robert Oates, Mt Brett, Comet, 2.
Our 2008 Sale Sire Strength is SENSATIONAL
GRACEMERE, MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER
LANCEFIELD Beefy Brahmans
• Scott 07 4937 1160 • David 07 4987 3068 • Matthew 07 4937 1180 • Andrew 07 4985 2894
www.lancefieldbrahmans.com.au
The availability and price of stockfeeds is influenced by various domestic and international factors which impact on farm profits and the purchasing power of beef producers.

Whilst the ABARE Outlook (07-08) for winter cereals was better than the previous year, the estimated production is expected to be 42 per cent below the five year average.

Since this production prediction, adverse seasonal conditions led to a further deterioration in the winter crop potential. Subject to seasonal conditions and the area sown the 2008-2009 yields are expected to increase.

The Queensland and NSW 2008 sorghum crop forecast predicted an increase of 80 per cent on the previous year. The anticipated yields however may have to be revised downwards following excessive rainfall in central Queensland in February 2008 despite the bumper yields in south east Queensland.

Additionally, it is predicated that the increased cost of fertilizer and fuel will seriously affect the areas sown to winter and summer crops in 2008-2009.

The area of cotton is estimated to have declined significantly (56 per cent) due to lack of irrigation water and areas sown are the lowest since the 1982-83 season.

Subsequently, variable crop harvests, increased costs and fluctuations in supply will negatively impact on the price beef producers have to pay for stockfeeds.

Note:
1) The table clearly demonstrates the percentage rise in the cost of feed grains delivered in bulk to Sydney (Land Rural Press)
2) Regional prices (per tonne) for whole grain (March 2008) clearly indicate the increased cost of grain to beef producers eg corn ($420); Barley ($375); Triticale ($390); Oats ($450), Sorghum ($305)
3) The price rises are accentuated even further when producers purchase processed grains from feed merchants (eg $500-$535/tonne - Feb 2008).
4) Furthermore the competition from the biofuel sector and increased global demand for grains and protein meals suggests that the present high costs of stockfeeds (Table 1) are unlikely to drop in the medium - long term (2009 - 2012).

CONTEXT
To enable stock to reach their full production potential they must be properly fed as young stock for growth and adult stock for performance (milk and/or meat).

Where cattle require supplementary and/or production feeding properly balanced by product feeds can provide suitable alternatives to the more expensive traditional feedstuffs.

Often poor quality roughages are low in feed nutrients (ie energy, protein, minerals) and due to low digestibility and reduced total dry matter intake (TDMI) insufficient nutrients are available for growth and production.

Where there are adequate quantities of roughage nutrient intake can be improved with fortified molasses diets.

These diets can be formulated to supply additional energy, minerals and protein to improve the growth and production of various categories of stock.

INGREDIENTS
The key ingredients in fortified molasses diets include molasses, true protein, urea and minerals.

MOLASSES
Molasses comprises of plant sugars and when fed at moderate levels is a suitable source of energy for beef cattle. It is also a useful source of sulphur which is essential when feeding non-protein nitrogen (npn) diets. Cane sugars are more soluble than grain starches which is advantageous when feeding urea (npn).

### TABLE 1: INCREASED PRICES OF FEED GRAINS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Barley ($/T)</th>
<th>Oats ($/T)</th>
<th>Sorghum ($/T)</th>
<th>Maize ($/T)</th>
<th>Wheat ($/T)</th>
<th>Triticale ($/T)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differences ($) 01-07</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differences (%) 01-07</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Australian Commodity Statistics (2007)

### TABLE 2: NUTRIENT VALUES OF MOLASSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ME (MJ/kg DM)</th>
<th>CP% (crude protein)</th>
<th>CP% (crude fibre)</th>
<th>DM% (dry matter)</th>
<th>P - phosphorus (g/kg DM)</th>
<th>Na - sodium (g/kg DM)</th>
<th>Mg - magnesium (g/kg DM)</th>
<th>S - sulphur (g/kg DM)</th>
<th>K - potassium (g/kg DM)</th>
<th>Ca - calcium (g/kg DM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 - 12</td>
<td>2 - 3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 1kg of molasses = 0.6 litres; 1 gal = 7kg; 1 litre = 1.5kg
Wallace Cattle Co.

‘Commercial Values rise to the Occasion’
‘No. 7 Commercial Brahman heifers av $850 top of $1000

Special Thanks to Bill and Kay Geddes ‘Doonside’ and Rob and Mandy White ‘Langdale’ Pastoral Co for showing they appreciate the value and recognise the future of quality Brahman females

Stewart & Kerry Wallace “Brigalow” Marlborough Q 4705
Phone 4938 9153 • Mobile 0407 660 284 • Email wallaceco@activ8.net.au
Molasses Rations for Beef Cattle

Low in true protein, phosphorus (P) and sodium (Na) (Table 2), npn – molasses rations require supplementation with these key nutrients.

**Energy is the most limiting & important part of a cows diet**

Molasses contains adequate levels of calcium (Ca) and when combined with phosphorus supplements containing calcium there is no need for further calcium supplementation.

**MOLASSES TOXICITY**

Molasses is most effectively utilised in rations with adequate roughage intake and the molasses intake does not exceed 25% of the diet (eg a 500 kg cow consumes 2.5% of her weight (ie 12.5 kg DM) and can effectively use 3 kg of molasses).

Molasses toxicity can be a serious issue with high molasses intakes (ie greater than 40 per cent DM) particularly if the molasses is diluted and/or fermented.

The symptoms of molasses toxicity are rapid breathing and muscular weakness followed by staggering, coma and death.

In high molasses diets with cows grazing succulent pastures, scouring and bloating can be a problem.

**TRUE PROTEINS**

Most proteins are broken down in the rumen by micro organisms and the products produced are used for production and maintenance.

**Protein is the second most limiting nutrient in a cows diet**

Protein sources differ in the rate they are digested (degraded) in the rumen. It is suggested that protein sources (particularly the protein meals) that are less degradable in the rumen (Table 3) are more beneficial for highly productive stock particularly when they are grazing low quality pastures. Selection of protein sources need to be based on availability, price and the ease they are incorporated into molasses mixtures.

**UREA TOXICITY**

Urea can be highly poisonous if intakes are greater than 3 per cent of the mixture particularly if the stock are unaccustomed to npn diets. Symptoms include rapid breathing, uncoordinated gait followed by rigidity/paralysis and rapid death (within 2 hours). Urea poisoning is caused by:-

- Inadequate mixing in the molasses
- Accumulation and intake of undissolved granules
- Excessive intakes of molasses – npn mixture
- Dilution of the molasses with water leading to drinking and high intakes
- Miscalculation of the amount of urea added to the molasses.

Remedies are only partially successful and quick action is essential. A suggested drench (limited success) comprises of 1 litre of vinegar followed after signs of recovery with ½ litre of molasses and ½ litre of warm water. Urea poisoning is reduced by:

- Gradual introduction of stock to npn – molasses mixtures
- Satisfying the mineral requirements of stock prior to feeding molasses and npn (reduces cravings)
- Thorough mixing of the correct levels of urea
- Limitors (eg salt) to avoid excessive molasses intake
- Sufficient troughs to allow easy access of stock
- Avoid feeding in wet periods and protect troughs from dilution by rain
- Molasses troughs should be located away from stock watering sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE OF PROTEIN</th>
<th>LOW</th>
<th>MEDIUM</th>
<th>HIGH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef meal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat meal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish meal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UREA TOXICITY**

Urea is 46 per cent nitrogen and 50 kg of urea theoretically contains the equivalent of 143 kg of protein (kg nitrogen x the conversion factor – 6.25 ie 23 kg N x 6.25 = 143.7 kg).

The rumen conversion of npn to protein depends on a number of factors, the most important are a suitable source of energy and sufficient sulphur.

Prilled urea should not be diluted with water

Prilled urea fertiliser is used at 2-3 percent by weight of the molasses (ie 20-30 kg/tonne of molasses). Urea must be introduced gradually, ie 0.5% week 1, 1% week 2, 2% week 3 and 3% week 4. (Note: at peak intake maximum intake should be less than 60 gms/cow/day).

**MINERALS**

Low quality roughages generally have low levels of minerals with reduced availability further limiting the intake of key nutrients for production. Minerals that are required in molasses – npn and low quality roughage diets include phosphorus (P), sodium (Na) and copper (Cu). The additional cost of mineral supplementation is generally offset by improved production and reproduction. The nutritional requirements for macro minerals are shown in Table 4.

**MOLASSES RATIONS**

Energy is the most limiting & important part of a cows diet

Molasses contains adequate levels of calcium (Ca) and when combined with phosphorus supplements containing calcium there is no need for further calcium supplementation.

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- 1 Third
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**Molasses Rations for Beef Cattle**

> **Note:** Mineral requirements are given as a range (Table 4). The higher values are for rapidly growing and lactating animals and the lower value for maintenance or low levels of production (see Table 5 for P and Ca examples).

**PHOSPHORUS (P)**

Phosphorus is essential for energy utilisation, bone health and conception rates. Poor intakes of phosphorus can lead to suppressed appetites, lower feed intake and reduced production and reproduction. Table 5 shows the P requirements for various categories of stock.

**SODIUM (Na)**

Very rarely are there clinical symptoms but sodium deficiencies can lead to reduced appetite and weight loss. Stock in tropical and subtropical climates where substantial sweating occurs have much higher sodium requirements than cattle in cool climates. Additionally, tropical grasses usually have lower levels of sodium than temperate grasses (e.g. the sodium content of kikuyu is only 1/10 that of ryegrass).

Salt intake should not exceed 5 per cent of TDMI which is far in excess of stock requirements. Stock have fairly good mechanisms to eliminate excess salt but high salt intakes can lead to digestive disorders.

**POTASSIUM (K)**

Potassium is closely related chemically and nutritionally to sodium. Whilst stock have high nutritional requirements for potassium, the high levels in molasses and tropical pastures reduces the need for supplementation in undiluted molasses diets.

**SULPHUR (S)**

Sulphur is necessary for optimal microbial growth and sulphur is particularly important in NPN diets. Fortunately sulphur levels are adequate in molasses reducing the necessity for sulphur supplementation. Where sulphur supplementation is necessary sodium sulphate, calcium and magnesium sulphate are suitable compounds.

**MAGNESIUM (Mg)**

Magnesium has a key role in numerous enzyme systems especially involving energy transfer and utilisation. Like calcium, magnesium reserves are mobilised from bone reserves. Whilst molasses and cottonseed meal have higher levels of magnesium than grains, with fast growing tropicals additional magnesium may be necessary 2 weeks prior to calving where there is “slow” calving syndrome in heifers (e.g. 100 gms Epson salts + 50 gms gypsum/animal/day).

**TRACE MINERALS**

As the name suggests, trace (micro) minerals are necessary in small amounts (i.e. mg/kg) for normal function but if fed in excess can be toxic. Subject to location the key trace minerals are copper and selenium.

### Table 4: Macro Mineral Requirements for Beef Cattle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>gms/kg DMI</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>gms/kg DMI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calcium (Ca)</td>
<td>2.0 - 11.0</td>
<td>Potassium (K)</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus (P)</td>
<td>1.0 - 3.8</td>
<td>Sodium (Na)</td>
<td>0.8 - 1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine (Cl)</td>
<td>0.7 - 2.4</td>
<td>Sulphur (S)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium (Mg)</td>
<td>1.3 - 2.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CSIRO 2007

**Note:** the rate adjustment shown is the amount by which you will need to multiply the figure given in Table 7 eg if you use DCP for 30 weaners you will need 2 kg (Table 6) x 1.12 (Table 5) = 2.24 kg DCP

Macro ammonium phosphate (MAP) and diammonium phosphate (DAP) are not recommended for stock since they contain fluorine and if fed for extended periods can cause fluorosis.

**Moderate intakes of undiluted molasses have insufficient levels of phosphorus**

Alternative sources of phosphorus include mono and dicalcium compounds which are low in heavy metals (fluorine and cadmium) and are mixed with molasses at 1-2 per cent by weight (Table 6).

### Table 5: Recommended Ca & P Allowances for Cattle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of stock</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Gain gms/day</th>
<th>P gms/day</th>
<th>Ca gms/day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weaner (growing)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (cow)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Requirements**

**Lactation Allowance:** In general add 1.9gms Ca and 1.4gms of P for each 1 litre of milk.

**Pregnancy Allowance:**

- Months 5 - 6: (2.3gms Ca & 1.1gms P)
- Month 7: (5.3gms Ca & 2.2gms P)
- Month 8: (8.7gms Ca & 3.6gms P)
- Month 9: (13.2gms Ca & 5.7gms P)

### Table 6: Suitable Phosphorus Sources and Adjustment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Phosphorus Content (%)</th>
<th>Adjustment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kynofos 27®</td>
<td>Mono and dicalcium phosphate (50 : 50)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buphos®</td>
<td>Mono and dicalcium phosphate (67 : 33)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palaphos®</td>
<td>Dicalcium phosphate</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>X1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCP</td>
<td>Dicalcium phosphate</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>X1.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the rate adjustment shown is the amount by which you will need to multiply the figure given in Table 7 eg if you use DCP for 30 weaners you will need 2 kg (Table 6) x 1.12 (Table 5) = 2.24 kg DCP.
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COPPER (Cu)
In certain localities low levels of copper can reduce reproductive performance. Where deficient, copper sulphate at the rate of 14 gms/2.5 kg urea can be included into the molasses mixture. A more effective source of copper is by injection. Like many minerals, copper can be lethal if administered incorrectly.

FORTIFIED MOLASSES
Urea-molasses supplements improve the nutritional intake of stock grazing low quality roughages. However, stock with high levels of production (growth/milk) require extra protein and minerals, ie fortified molasses mixtures.

Fortified molasses mixed on farm, can be an economic and nutritional alternative to higher priced stock feeds. Other options include a wide range of commercial molasses based products (eg Anipro 81c/L and Prolix 55c/L – Northern Rivers NSW - 2008).

When npn-molasses, mineral and protein mixtures are fed it is important to:
- Ensure that the stock have access to adequate roughage since fibre is necessary for rumen function.
- Commence with a mineral-molasses mix to prevent stock over eating initially to satisfy possible cravings for minerals.
- Incorporate the correct amount of urea, following an introductory schedule (previously discussed ie 3% over 4 weeks)
- Prilled not granulated urea must be thoroughly mixed in non diluted molasses plus minerals.
- Protein meals should be added last to ensure the npn and minerals are well mixed
- Intake should be monitored. With excessive consumption, the amount of urea in the mix needs to be reduced (ie maximum intake/cow/day = 60 gms). Any protein deficiencies as a result of lower urea content can be met with additional true protein.
- Prevent the possibility of diluted mixtures (rain) and excessive intakes (drinking).

BOTTOM LINE
If used correctly fortified molasses mixtures are a nutritional, economic feed for beef cattle grazing roughages low in energy, protein and key macro minerals. Nevertheless, fortified molasses rations require the following considerations:
- To meet the production requirements for high performance (growth and/or milk) additional true protein is required.
- For maintenance and low-moderate levels of production there is no value in including additional true protein if the ration contains 12-13 per cent crude protein.
- With diets with >10% CP there is little benefit in adding npn but minerals and true protein may be required for high performance.
- Urea utilisation requires the inclusion of a readily available supply of carbohydrates (energy) eg molasses.
- Energy utilisation is dependent on protein intake but excess true protein is an expensive energy source.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 7: FORTIFIED MOLASSES RATIONS ON LOW QUALITY PASTURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) 30 cows with calves at foot to improve lactation and reproduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) 30 cows in late lactation to improve condition score (CS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) 30 springing cows and heifers to improve CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) 30 weaners (200kg) to improve growth (Note: urea fed at a maximum of 2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE:
- These amounts should be fed twice per week (ie approximately 20.7 kg/cow/week (a,b,c) or 2.9 kg/day and weaners approximately 11.9/weaner/week (d) or 1.7 kg/day.
- Should stock consume their allocation do not provide extra mixture.
- Salt can be added to suppress intake.
- See Table 5 for phosphorus adjustment rates for the various P supplements.
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Multi-pronged approach improves meat quality

Maximising eating quality in tropical breed cattle was a key focus of the ABBA’s Managing Meat Quality forum held in Rockhampton in April in conjunction with the Brahman Commercial Breeding Female sale.

Meat and Livestock Australia general manager David Palmer provided an opening address that stressed the importance of meat quality, not only from a profitability standpoint, but in terms of maintaining the high quality reputation of Australian beef.

Meat Standards Australia manager Cameron Dart used the forum to launch MLA’s latest tips and tools fact sheet entitled “Maximising eating quality with tropical breed cattle”.

He explained that breed impacted on eating quality by up to 12 percent, and that the major impacts were on the striploin, cube roll, tenderloin and oyster blade primal cuts. Other factors that affected eating quality included HGP’s (9%), ossification (17%), marbling (10%) and saleyards (10%).

However, on-farm management of genetics, nutrition and weight gain could maximise eating quality of beef from tropical breed cattle.

Cattle should be kept on a rising plane of nutrition for at least 30 days prior to slaughter, as setbacks could have a significant impact on meat eating quality.

He also explained that good nutrition was vital throughout the life of the animal to slow the rate of ossification, therefore maximizing eating quality. It was also important to get animals to market weight at the youngest possible age.

Mr Dart said processors could further improve product by ageing primal cuts for extended periods or using tenderstretch hanging techniques. This involves suspending the carcase from the pelvic bone or through the iliosacral ligament so the leg drops at a 90 degree angle.

Forum speaker Ross Keane, general manager of JBS Swift, outlined the $10 million upgrade of its Townsville processing plant including its adoption of MSA.

“Initially the plant will focus on grading grassfed milk tooth and two tooth domestic trade type cattle, with up to 800 head processed weekly.

“At some future time, four and six tooth cattle might also be subjected to MSA grading, but at this point the focus will remain on Townsville’s younger kill,” he said.

Cattle meeting MSA requirements would receive a 10c/kg liveweight premium above the prevailing grid price.

JBS Swift also has plans to establish a Swift Premium brand for its domestic beef, underpinned by the MSA program.

Cloncurry stud and commercial cattleman Rodger Jefferis spoke to delegates about the value of grassfed beef and its profits drivers.

“The key economic drivers in any beef production system are survival, reproduction, weight gain, the cost of this gain, and product quality and market suitability,” said Mr Jefferis.

He said the cost of weight gain was influenced by feed efficiency, the cost of feed and the growth phase of the animal and he prompted producers to make use of EBVs when looking to improve feed efficiency and weight gain.

Mr Jefferis quoted figures from RCS that showed the cost of gain was less in lighter animals. Based on 100 livestock units with an average daily gain of 0.55kg, the cost of gain in steers 180-365kg was 48c/kg, compared with 73c/kg for steers 365-550kg. This equated to a gross margin of $46/ha/annum from the lighter steers and $18/ha/annum from the heavier steers.
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Multi-pronged approach improves meat quality

“Carryover cattle are costly. Early turnoff means you can reduce overheads, increase capital utilization and improve feed utilization,” said Mr Jeffers.

He said that improving yield was another way to increase profits and could be achieved by reducing fat and increasing muscle.

“Beef CRC works shows that a 450 kilo steer at $2/kg liveweight is worth $15 per head more in extra beef if you can get an extra one percent dressing percentage, and an extra one percent retail yield is worth $13 in extra beef.”

“Every increase in muscle score at the same fat level increases dressing percentage by one and a half percent and yield by one and a half to two percent,” he said.

“However, like all single trait selection, pushing yield to extremes will have negative impacts, particularly on maternal traits. There is also a negative correlation between increased yield and marbling and that is why both of these traits need to be measured and considered.”

The feed efficiency of the cow herd was another significant factor in profitability, with about 70 percent of available feed being used by the breeding herd for maintenance.

The fact that 85 percent of Brahmans tested for Feed Efficiency gene markers scored between seven and eight stars for this trait was a great advantage of the breed, said Mr Jeffers.

He said feed efficiency was becoming an absolute priority due to the ever increasing cost of grazing land and the escalating grain prices due to competition from the biofuel industry.

While the high cost of grain presented a challenge, it was also an opportunity for the grassfed beef industry, due to strengthening consumer interest in more “natural” products.

“Consumers are becoming more conscious of the origin of the food they eat and the natural grassfed concept is attractive,” he said.

“Grassfed beef production remains the most profitable, low risk form of production for most of Australia’s beef industry. With selection, management and meat science continuing to improve the quality and consistency of the product, and MSA underpinning consumer confidence, there will always be a market for high quality grassfed Brahman beef.”

Other speakers included Jason Strong, general manager of Catapult Genetics, who updated producers on the range of GeneStar DNA markers to identify specific meat quality traits. The suite of tests now includes tenderness, marbling and feed efficiency gene markers.

Subsequent to the forum, it was announced on March 19 that Catapult Genetics and Bovigen, which markets Catapult’s products in the US, Canada and Central and South America, had been acquired by Pfizer Animal Health.

“Now with Pfizer’s added resources and capabilities, we expect livestock producers will begin to see an enhanced range of genetic tools,” said Catapult Genetics CEO Gerard Davis.

Future genetic tests could one day allow cattlemen to better predict disease in individual animals, thus helping veterinarians and producers target medicines to livestock that need it most, said Pfizer Animal Health president Juan Ramon Alaix.

ABBA produces Calving Paddock Record book

Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness Specialist, Richard Brosnan and ABBA General Manager John Croaker are pictured inspecting first copies of the Association’s Calving Paddock Record book which Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness sponsored.

The pocket sized book will assist with recording of basic calving details as well as new traits including birth weight, calving ease and dam teat score.
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Visionary Victorian will be missed

by Lindel Greggery

Founding member of the Victorian branch of the ABBA, Grant Briant, has sadly passed away aged 68 after a long fight with a degenerative brain disease.

Grant was passionate about cattle and his Bri Brahman stud was the first in Victoria to be registered, joining the association as stud number 372.

After trading cattle for many years and working as a stockman at Newmarket Saleyards, it was the tough drought years of the late 1960s that prompted Grant to breed his own cattle.

“He had a vision and wanted to breed cattle that would be more resilient in tough conditions but still have the muscling and maturity at a young age to produce reasonable returns,” said his daughter Cathy.

Grant purchased the nucleus of his Brahman herd from Trafalgar and Orient studs in 1968, flying three bulls home by cargo plane from north Queensland.

His daughter recalled that the flight home was no picnic, as the cargo handlers were too inexperienced and afraid to work with the cattle.

“Dad used to tell the story of being told to sit in the cargo hold with the bulls, holding a gun, with strict orders to shoot them dead if they looked like moving,” Cathy said.

“Despite this, dad still had to pay for his own ticket.”

While two of the bulls were sold to recoup expenses, Grant retained one sire, Trafalgar Damdahar, who went on to be sashed champion Brahman bull at Royal Melbourne Show in the late 1960s.

The sire was used in Grant’s Bri Brahman and Bri Brangus studs, based at Beaconsfield, with progeny from both breeds collecting a number of awards at shows during the 1970s and 1980s.

“Cattle were dad’s one true passion and he could tell if something was wrong with them by watching the way they moved or held themselves. He nearly always knew how to fix the problem too,” his daughter said.

“Victoria was certainly pioneer country for Brahmans and Brangus in those days. But dad had this stubborn streak a mile wide, his dogged determination and his good sense of humour would never let this deter him.”

As well as being a successful stud cattle exhibitor, Grant was invited to judge Brahman and Brangus at a number of regional Victorian shows.

His diverse interests throughout his life included driving hot rod cars at the Nyora Speedway, breeding working dogs and drawing.

Grant is survived by wife Cath and daughters Cathy, Ros and Jane. The congregation at his funeral was asked to remember “the generosity, the determination, the practical joker who loved his cattle and had a great vision for cattle breeding in Victoria.”

Congratulations

Jodie Wilson married Ross McCamley on 15th March, 2008 at St Pauls Cathedral Church, Rockhampton.

Jodie and Ross have made their home at Lancefield, Dululu, Queensland.

Tracy Hardy Photography
The project will be conducted in three stages:

- The first stage is a desktop study involving further analysis of Beef CRC and industry data and a review of relevant literature. This study will provide important directions for stage two.
- The second stage involves field studies on commercial weaners from 10NT properties, drawn from the Barkly and Katherine regions.
- The third stage is to remove a small number of cattle from the commercial situation and conduct more intensive research trials in a controlled environment.

"We suspect that genetics is a major factor, but there are gaps in knowledge of the relative impact and importance of disease, parasites, temperament, husbandry procedures, etc."

The Beef CRC research data studied in Stage One of the project focussed on quantifying the impact of genetics on liveweight gain variation.

Ms Streeter said subsequent project stages aim to have a greater focus on environmental factors and give producers a more complete picture of what causes variation in liveweight gain within mobs.

"At the end of the day, we're looking for pieces of the pie of what affects weight gain in this environment."

"We suspect that genetics is a major factor, but there are gaps in knowledge of the relative impact and importance of disease, parasites, temperament, husbandry procedures, etc. in extensive northern cattle production systems."

The research team has also analysed stud herd data from some Northern Territory properties which provide some data which the large-scale field study is unable to measure, for example birth weight, birth data and maternal effects.

The first intake of weaners will be assessed over 12 months from April 2008 with assessment of the second intake beginning next year.

The Barkly and Katherine regions were chosen because they represent a large portion of the NT cattle population. A larger percentage of the herds will be drawn from the Katherine region because of the diversity of the production area with the Victoria River, Sturt Plateau, Roper Bar and Gulf districts.

There will be 250 male weaners, aged from 4-8 months, entering the trial from each of ten properties.

"We will attempt good control of the project under extensive conditions, selecting weaners from a single breeder paddock from each property, before randomly selecting progeny from that group," Ms Streeter said.

Once selected and tagged, the weaners will be run with the main steer herd.

The weaners will be assessed on four occasions = at weaning; 4-6 weeks post-weaning; and pre- and post-wet season - over a 12month period to coincide with mustering.

They will be weighed and the research team will collect a series of measurements and samples, including blood samples to test for pestivirus and three-day fever, faecal samples to test for internal parasites, tick and fly scores, flight speed for temperament and observations of impacts of husbandry practices.

Ms Streeter said only two herds would then be selected for study in the controlled pen environment.

This stage of the project will be conducted in collaboration with researchers of the University of Queensland and will focus on variability in feed conversion efficiency and rumen microflora between animals.

The project will only involve straightbred cattle due to the inability to accurately measure the level of heterosis in crossbreds in the extensive northern herds.
Glengarry has recently purchased 52 Full Manso Bred "BE OS" females.

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The Western NSW Brahman Group represented the Brahman Breed at the second Annual NSW Beef Spectacular held in Dubbo during early March.

This year the 3 day event attracted over 700 head of cattle, with 28 breeds represented.

Dubbo is situated almost in the centre of the state which provides an ideal location for such a progressive event. Major sponsors of the NSW Beef Spectacular include Rural Press, Suncorp, and the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) who provided a very informative and well organised show with breed societies, private and corporate groups displaying stands on the grounds in addition to seminars run by the MLA.

This year 3 studs represented the Brahman breed on judging day which included Liz and Jim Robinson, Langley Dale Brahms, Dubbo, John and Julie D’Este, of Jonjulbry Brahms, Breeza and also Nioka Brahman stud, Warialda.

On the day, Langley Dale Astronomer was sashed Junior and Grand Champion Brahman bull and Nioka Grandeur being awarded Junior and Grand Champion Brahman female.

The Western NSW Promotional Group had an information stand with promotional items, pamphlets and someone on hand to answer questions from other livestock breeders and curious by passers. Promotional Officer Michelle Klingner and husband Rodney, BooBah Brahms, Warialda along with representatives from the exhibiting studs, assisted with the stand also for the duration of the show.

The 2008 Edgar Hudgins Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Terry Randell, Crinum T Stud, Tieri. Terry is pictured (second from left) with the interview panel, Russ Boadle, QPD DPI Media Officer, Kay Becker, CEO Queensland Helicopter Rescue Service and Lloyd Howard, Karingal, Duaringa.
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An amalgamation between six leading Brahman studs has seen the formation of a new sale.

The announcement of the first annual Brahman Classic Sale, Gracemere Exhibition Centre, November 10 will see the joint forces of the FBC, NBS, Borilla Creek, NCC, Cambil and Topline studs stage this new and exciting sale event. In what promises to be a showcase of much of the world’s finest Brahman genetic material sourced from within Australia, the US and South Africa, the catalogue offering of 200 lots encompasses both red and grey genotypes. This new landmark industry sale and its date will be the last on the spring calendar at Gracemere for 2008.

All divisions of the Fenech families, Fenech Brahman Cattle Company, Fenech Grazing, Walz, Mifsud, Benson and Eastaway divisions are represented along with Tim and Sally North’s, NBS stud, Gympie and the Emerald based Borilla Creek prefix owned by Paul and Linda Oates. Adding weight to the ‘A’ list vendor card will be Brett Nobbs, NCC stud, Duaringa; Bill and Lawson Camm’s, Cambil stud, Proserpine and Alan and Lee-Ann Thomas’ Topline Brahman stud, Goovigen.

Commenting on the announcement Tim North said “Our goal is a unified approach to this sale, sharing in and promoting a common identity, Brahman Classic Sale. We’re not a group of breeders who’ll just turn up to sell at the same venue, it’s all about dedication, doing the job properly and being totally committed to offering a top quality product from the first to the last animal. Tim added that the sale group were all of the view that Gracemere is the obvious location and all emphatically agreed that the new sale date should not impact adversely on any other sale on the calendar.

“I was staggered by the great commitment everybody has displayed in launching the Brahman Classic Sale”. “No one had any issues with the Brahman Week sale, it’s a great sale, administered very well by the ABBA, provides an outstanding outlet for a great many studs and will continue to be one of the premier events on the Brahman sales calendar, as individuals we have all enjoyed great relationships with other sales outlets. As a group we are all keen to take charge of our marketing and see this as a natural progression in the growth and development of our individual businesses.”

Tim went onto explain how the idea of a sale was first instigated “Eighteen months ago Paul Oates and I talked about this concept. We were of a similar mind and he suggested that I approach other high profile breeders. Over the next few months we talked options and all agreed the offering needed to be of outstanding quality. We sought initial interest and talked to other breeders willing to join us in our vision, these were approached and all indicated their immediate participation”.

Early indications are that the offering is to be composed of 100 grey and 70 red bulls accompanied by 23 grey and 12 red females. There is also the possibility that genetic material in the form of semen, embryos and flushes will also go under the hammer.

by KentWARD
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The Western New South Wales Brahman Group organized an interesting and successful F1 and Crossbreeding Field Day in February.

Held at Michael and Susan Lytton-Hitchins’ Kyabra Station, Kentucky, NSW, the event featured cattle displays and information seminars, designed to boost the uptake of Brahman genetics.

Group promotional officer Michelle Klinger said show teams from Nioka and Kyabra studs were on display, as well as pens of stud cattle from Daroka Run and D’Estys. As well as its red Brahman heifers and cows and calves, Kyabra also exhibited pens of full blood Brasilian Gyrs.

Commercial cattle were also presented, including F1 Brahman/Angus and Gyr/Angus feeder steers, Gyr/Angus Jap ox bullocks and Charolais sired steers out of F1 females. The crossbreeding display also featured F1 Gyr/Angus heifers and F1 cows with calves at foot by Angus and Charolais bulls.

A knowledgeable lineup of guest speakers was assembled, led by North West NSW Breeders Group president Tim Nicolle, Nioka stud, Warialda. He outlined the ABBA’s commitment to the certified Brahman F1 female breeding program and spoke of the strong demand for F1 females in the state.

Bill Hoffman from the NSW Department of Primary Industries’ Grafton Research Station brought the crowd up to date with the latest developments in the research station’s F1 and F2 trials.

Meat science and gene marker technology were topics covered by Dr John Thompson from the Beef Cooperative Research Centre at Armidale. He said he hoped for more widespread adoption by meat processors of the tenderstretch hanging method which could produce significant improvements in eating quality in beef from tropical breed cattle.

Lunch consisted of delicious Brahman steaks generously supplied by Charles Lund’s Laglan Premium Beef.

Host for the day, Michael Lytton-Hitchins, detailed the beef crossbreeding program on 12,150 hectare Kyabra Station, which runs 2200 cattle alongside 23,000 ultra-fine Merino sheep. The granite-soil property has 900m of elevation and experiences up to four snow falls a year. Operated under Alan Savory’s Holistic Resource Management guidelines, it aims to run 1000 F1 females from an Angus base using Brahman and Brasilian Gyr bulls. Charolais bulls are used as a terminal sire.

Mr Lytton-Hitchins said he usually sold 430-500kg steers to lot feeders but a good season meant this year’s turnoff would be retained and sold at 700kg-plus Jap ox, direct to processors.

Elizabeth Fahey, Bizzy stud, Copmanhurst closed the educational session by speaking on Brahman history and breed development.

The field day concluded with afternoon tea and drinks and another chance to look over the cattle and study the promotional material in the customized ABBA gazebo and trailer.
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A multi-pronged strategy involving supplementary feeding, regular drenching and the use of implants has enabled Charters Towers cattleman, Peter Glenwright, to turn off Jap Ox bullocks at least six months sooner than in the past. Helped by his wife, Dal-Marie and children, Jess, 17, and Lyle, 15, Peter runs 3500 Brahman cross cattle, including 1200 breeders, on the family’s 28,000 hectare property, “Laroona”, near Charters Towers. Whereas his father was once happy to turn off 630 kg bullocks by three years of age, Peter now regularly achieves the same feat in just 24 to 30 months. “This property has been in the family for more than 40 years and Dad never sold bullocks less than three years old,” he said.

“So we always had a hell of a lot more cattle on the place while we were trying to finish them off. Now our aim is to turn off four-tooth bullocks dressing over 300 kg. In the last two years we’ve finished the bullocks on a molasses program in the paddock and 60 to 70 percent have made the target weight at 24 to 30 months.

“The three keys to our success are feeding, drenching and implants. These enable us to turn the steers off sooner and that allows us to spell our pastures for a few months, which in turn contributes to better weight gains and healthier pastures.”

The property’s black soil and 500 mm average annual rainfall – most of which typically falls from December to March – supports Forest Mitchell, black spear, Indian couch and buffel grass pastures. The herd is control-mated from December – heifers for three months and older cows for seven months – with the bulk of the calves born between October and May.

“We’re calving for about seven months altogether but we’re gradually tightening this up,” Peter said. “We’re aiming for three to four months but our breeder country is pretty hard so we’ll probably take a few more years before we get there.

“We pregnancy-test the heifers after mating. The empties are culled while the pregnant ones go into a fresh paddock where they get a dry lick and then a molasses mix containing wheat mill run, copra meal and Rumensin. The following January if they don’t come to the yards with a calf they’re culled.”

Rumensin is a registered feed additive which alters the composition of the microbial population in the rumen. Besides improving feed efficiency, Rumensin is scientifically-proven to improve growth rates and reproductive performance in grassfed cattle. It is also registered for the prevention of coccidiosis.

Steer calves are weaned and drenched in June and supplementary fed in with copra meal and wheat mill run and then “M8U”. The following January, they are implanted with Compudose 400, a long-acting implant which has a pay-out period of at least 400 days.

Yearling cattle are re-implanted with Compudose 400 the following January. “We’ve been using Compudose since 1995 and we’ve found that implanted steers gain at least an extra 20 kg a year,” Peter said. “Compudose is absolutely vital for getting our steers to the desired weight quicker.

“We feed our steers towards the end of the year so we can finish them by the following March. That allows us to spell our paddocks for about four months so we can bring the next lot of steers onto fresh feed. “We’ve been doing this for six years and it’s made a lot of difference in our ability to fatten cattle. Because they’re going onto fresh feed they gain weight a lot quicker.”

Finished steers are sold directly to meatworks. “We never have any trouble meeting the specifications,” Peter said. “Buying good quality bulls helps too.”

Dry licks and molasses supplements are mixed on-farm using “tried and true” recipes. “It’s a matter of experience and trial-and-error to know what lick suits your country and the needs of your cattle at any particular time,” he said.

“We find it more efficient and cost-effective to make our own licks and supplements. In dry times, if we’re feeding six tonnes of lick we’re saving $600 a week.

“We pre-buy all our own protein meals so we know we’ve got 12 months’ supply and we save money by buying it early in the year. Having a guaranteed supply enables us to keep the cattle on a constant lick right through the year, while mixing it as we need it means we can tweak the recipe any time we want to.”
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Brahmans achieved the second top price at the record breaking Longreach multi-breed bull sale in April.

The annual Elders-organized fixture set a record $14,000 top price for a Droughtmaster bull, however Brahmans weren’t far behind with a $12,000 price tag achieved.

Long-term Longreach sale vendors Keith and Annabelle Wilson, Samari Plains stud, Roma attracted the $12,000 second top price for Samari Plains Warrior, a red son of Muan Wrangler. Warrior boasted an eight star GeneStar rating for feed efficiency, six stars for tenderness and two stars for marbling and was purchased by Ashley Adams, Adams and Son, Darracourt, Blackall.

Mr Adams said Samari Plains Warrior was an extremely thick bull with a great temperament, but it was his GeneStar ratings and large eye muscle area that clinched the sale.

Mr Adams conducts a branded beef program called TendaBeef which has a strong focus on selecting bulls and females with high GeneStar scores for tenderness. His sire battery already includes red Brahmans Samari Plains 616, and he recently purchased 26 Simmental females for $2415 average, based on their tenderness scores. Santa Gertrudis bulls are also used in the program, with the aim of breeding bulls with a GeneStar tenderness rating of six stars or better.

The annual Longreach sale averaged $3368 for 276 tropical breed and European bulls, achieving a 91 percent clearance.

Superior $election

During late January all active calf recording members of the tropical breed associations received a compact disc (CD) titled Superior $election.

Superior $election refers to the use of genetic evaluation to make more accurate breeding selection decisions to ultimately increase the profitability of your herd. When it comes to breeding it is the genetics that are passed onto the next generation that are of most interest. Having a description of these genetics makes for Superior $election.

Genetic evaluation simply involves the recording of actual measurements against animals with known pedigree to identify superior genetics for commercially important traits. The information feeding into genetic evaluation is primarily collected by seedstock breeders however the resulting published information can be used by all cattle breeders to maximise the genetic gains for the Northern Australian beef herd. This herd includes approximately 13 million head across Queensland, Northern Territory and Northern WA. In turn, increased genetic gain means a more productive and profitable northern cattle industry.

Included in the CD are a series of producer case studies representing each of the six major breeds conducting annual genetic evaluations. These articles provide an insight into how some of Australia’s leading studs utilise BREEDPLAN. The herds featured are Elrose Brahmans Cloncurry, Eidsvold Station Santa Gertrudis Eidsvold, Triple B Brangus Dingo, Morelands Brafords Mackay, Tremere Belmont’s Moura, and Glen Fosslyn Droughtmasters Surat. As well as the case studies Superior $election includes further information on the benefits of BREEDPLAN.

In conjunction with the release of the CD Breeders also had a chance to win $1000 worth of Allflex ear tags thanks to generous support from Allflex. To enter the breeder simply had to complete the entry form which included the matching of quotes from the case studies with the stud principal from which they originated.

The lucky winners were the Boys family from Kallam Brahman, Nannella, Victoria. Jane Boys said they were “really excited by the win” and are now planning to order pre-printed customised tags for their stud herd.

For more information or if you would like to order a copy of the Superior $election CD please contact TBTS on 07 49276066 or office@tbts.une.edu.au
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Bulls to $4000 at WA’s BIG Sale

The second Western Australia Bos Indicus Group (BIG) sale, held at Narngulu in April, recorded a $2482 average for 49 bulls.

Top price of $4000 was paid for a son of Elrose Fascination offered by Reg and Carole Teakle, Oakvale stud, Northampton. First-time buyer David Robinson, Yinnetharra Station, Carnarvon, said he was impressed by the quality of the sale offering.

“Our cattle are based on Apis Creek bloodlines from Queensland and I believe that these bulls are equivalent in quality,” said Mr Robinson, who runs 3000 grey Brahman breeders.

Oakvale recorded the best sale average of $2675 for 24 bulls.

Sue Paterson, Birrahlee stud, Williams, sold six bulls to a top of $2800 to average $2550.

A son of Birrahlee Jasper at $2800 was the top seller from Andrew Della Vedova’s Drewella stud, Mettler. The polled bull sold to Elizabeth Easton, Watheroo, and was one of six sold by Drewella for $2367 average.

Catoby stud, New Norcia, offered only one bull, which was knocked down to Melrose Station at $2600.

Kathy Lovelock, Canterbury stud, New Norcia, averaged $2163 for eight head, the best seller a polled red purchased by Hillsprings Station, Carnarvon.

Four head from John Wesley’s Charleston stud, Southern Cross sold to $2400 to average $2000.

Volume buyer was Rachlan Pty Ltd, Newman, which invested in 11 head, taking four bulls each from Oakvale and Drewella and three from Birrahlee.

Mooloo Downs invested in three bulls to a top of $3000, and three each went to Yeeda and Yarlarweelor Stations.

MSA - making the world a more tender place

It’s taken 520,000 beef tasting samples by 75,640 consumers in six different countries, but now Meat Standards Australia (MSA) is ready to be taken to the world.

Up until now the MSA program was only ever used in Australia, but under a new name – Eating Quality Assured (EQA) – it will be used to deliver an eating quality assurance for Australian beef brands sold in key overseas markets.

MSA Manager, Cameron Dart said EQA is identical to MSA and was developed to address and satisfy global consumer expectations of beef while also delivering more information on product eating quality.

“MLA developed EQA to ensure the eating quality of the MSA-graded Australian beef that is exported to a diverse range of export markets. There is no doubt Australia beef brands are very well regarded overseas but there was no program underpinning the eating quality of the product in these markets – with EQA now there is,” Mr Dart said.

“The intention of the EQA trademark is for it to be used in conjunction with existing Australian beef brands in overseas markets. It is basically a quality seal that will provide purchasers with another level of certainty about the product.”

EQA will be first used by Australian exporters and beef brand owners in the US, followed by Japan and Korea. The EQA trademark can only be used on MSA-graded beef.

As expectations were thought to be remarkably different around the world, MLA researched consumers in Australia’s key export markets before EQA was rolled out.

“Through our in-market research we’ve been able to determine the importance of key beef attributes – tenderness, flavour, juiciness and overall liking. We also investigated the differences between cooking methods including grilling, roasting, shabu shabu and yakiniku,” Mr Dart said.

“The research demonstrated that consumer expectations for eating quality are virtually identical around the world and that the MSA process is able to predict and deliver what consumers expect.”

It is anticipated that participating Australian exporters and beef brand owners will be using the EQA certification in export markets during the first quarter of 2008.

Mr Dart said several processors and beef brand owners are working with MLA and individual exporters in their markets to differentiate their product using EQA under Industry Collaborative Agreements (ICA). ICA’s are where MLA and exporters share marketing and promotion costs equally to jointly promote the exporter’s beef brands. ICA activities can include training and seminars, trade show participation and retail and foodservice promotional activities.
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Email: johnny@doublejbrahman.com · www.doublejbrahman.com
Next year Beef Australia 2009, the 8th triennial National Beef Exposition will be staged 4th to 9th May, 2009 in Rockhampton, Queensland.

Beef Australia will be celebrating 21 years since the inaugural event in 1988 so get ready to compete, attend and celebrate one of the world's great beef cattle events.

Some major elements of Beef Australia 2009 will be the Landmark Stud Cattle Championships, the Commonwealth Bank Beef Cattle Championships, the National Beef Carcase Competition, a Trade Fair featuring over 400 exhibitors, and Australia's International Genetics Marketplace. Schedules will be available from Aug/Sept 2008. Call 07 4922 2989 to register your interest in receiving a copy or visit www.beefaustralia.com.au

Australia's National Beef Exposition will attract over 60,000 people from the general public to major players in the beef supply chain. Partnerships with Austrade, the Queensland Government, the International Livestock Resources and Information Centre (ILRIC), Meat and Livestock Australia, Quadrant Australia, peak industry bodies and breed societies will result in international delegations from up to thirty countries attending. Let your friends and colleagues from around Australia and the world know that there are sales and export trade outcomes to be gained from attending Beef Australia 2009!

Beef Australia 2009 will be jam packed with industry education activities including a five day Seminar & Property Tour programme. There's also celebrity chefs, premium beef restaurants, industry dinners and outstanding entertainment including concerts, rodeos, fashion shows and a Gala Ball.

Rockhampton, Qld hosts Beef Australia 2009. The 'Beef Capital of Australia' has a wide variety of accommodation options to suit all budgets but demand is high so book early by calling Rockhampton Tourist and Business Information on 1800 805 865.

Beef Australia has asked for $2.2 million from the government, but Mr Burke did not specify exactly how much the event would receive on an on-going basis.

Members of the Beef Australia Directors met with the Minister during a stopover trip to Rockhampton, discussing not only Beef Australia but the industry generally. Beef Australia chairman Geoff Murphy indicated that the committee was determined to continue staging a world class event triennially in Rockhampton Queensland. "We aren't benchmarking ourselves against other state events or major shows- we're looking to continue to be one of the truly great beef cattle events in the world"
When I asked a group of northern cattleman recently why they don’t use Australia’s National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation System BREEDPLAN in their stud operations, the answer was that “BREEDPLAN just breeds bigger cattle and we don’t want them any bigger”.

This raises a number of issues that need to be discussed. The first point to make is that BREEDPLAN doesn’t breed cattle, cattleman do. I concede however that in the explanation of this technology we (myself included) often focus a lot on growth. The fact is that breeding profitable cattle is a balancing act across many different traits, growth been only one. Note that BREEDPLAN does also have traits for fertility and carcase.

The second point is that we need to be careful to distinguish between “bigger cattle” (ie larger frames scores) as compared to “faster growing cattle”. BREEDPLAN measures weight at 200, 400, and 600 days so as to describe particular genetics for different segments of the growth curve. Extremely large framed cattle also often have a late maturity pattern meaning that they continue to grow well after 20 months (600 days) of age. This means that “yes” focusing selection only on high 600 Day Weight EBV’s (Estimated Breeding Value) could lead to bigger cattle – but it doesn’t have to!

BREEDPLAN also evaluates a mature weight EBV measured by recording cow weights at the time that their calves are weaned. This combined with the 200, 400, and 600 day growth EBVs allows us to identify genetics with a particular maturity pattern; for example genetics that have superior growth till 600 days and then taper off.

Figure one shows example growth curves of animals with similar 600 day weight but different mature weights. Note that higher mature weight animals do not always grow at the same rate as lower mature weight animals – thus the importance of considering all growth EBV’s (200, 400, 600 & MWT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANIMAL</th>
<th>200 DW</th>
<th>400 DW</th>
<th>600 DW</th>
<th>MATURE WEIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sire A</td>
<td>+22</td>
<td>+28</td>
<td>+40</td>
<td>+57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sire B</td>
<td>+13</td>
<td>+23</td>
<td>+40</td>
<td>+38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breed Average</td>
<td>+15</td>
<td>+21</td>
<td>+29</td>
<td>+34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: ABBA published sires with the same 600 day weight EBV but significantly different Mature Weight EBV. Note the importance of considering the mature weight EBV as the two sires have 19kg genetic difference for this trait whilst maintaining the same 600 day weight EBV.

In practical terms if your optimal age of turn off is 24-30 months, then some growth after 600 days (20 months) is still sought after. The genetics to be wary of however are those with significantly higher mature weight EBVs compared to their 600 day weight EBV; this indicates a later maturity pattern.

In conclusion the importance of a Mature Weight EBV should be clear, as it provides insight into the extended growth pattern of an animal’s genetics. This in turn allows us to distinguish between genetics that grow into “bigger” animals as compared to those that are simply “faster growing”. The problem is that there is a lack of stud BREEDPLAN members recording this trait in northern Australia. If a breeder is already recording weaning weight then it is a relatively simple job to also collect this information.

If you want to breed “better” cattle rather than “bigger” cattle then you need to consider the mature weight EBV. For more information please contact TBTS on 07 4927 6066 or office@tbts.une.edu.au

by Craig Croker TROPICAL BEEF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (TBTS)
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after 4 seasons at Steve & Theresa Taylors highly successful Clukan Brahman stud

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Wairuna Archer sired by Hamdenvale Mr Red

These bulls display every thing a great sire should, beef, bone, colour, great top line clean and tidy underline. They have sire appeal STAMPED all over them.

Wade & Sharon Clein, Bundarra Station, Nebo Phone 07 4950 7055 Mobile 0409 649 082
Long-time Mogul Brahman stud owner Dr George Jacobs and his manager Glen Pfeffer, who have consistently kept the breed flag flying in NSW, again dominated the small but high quality Sydney showing.

Under judging by former breed president Roger Jefferis, who operates a group of North Queensland cattle properties from his home base at Eirole, Cloncurry, Mogul stud, at Maclean, NSW, scored the grand championship double with two magnificent reds.

In the showing, which was noticeable by the absence of another regular exhibitor, the Fahey family’s Bizzy stud, Nettle Creek, Copmanhurst, NSW, the grand champion bull award went to junior champion Mogul Valperry, a Lanes Creek Revolution son, with no senior bulls shown on the day.

Mogul, celebrating its 50th anniversary, completed the double with grand and senior champion female Mogul Miss I Wittlesea 2, winner under 30 months, the same cow being grand and junior champion in Sydney last year, and reserve junior female Mogul Miss LC Fontenot.

Also sharing in the Brahman broad ribbons were Kim and Penny Weller, Blanco Ganado, Nabiac, NSW, who showed junior champion female Blanco Ganado Miss Snowgum and reserve senior female Blanco Ganado Miss Ladybird.

The Wright family, Iron Bark Stud, Lawrence, NSW, showed reserve junior bull Iron Bark Congo.

Breedplan EBVs are calculated from phenotypic differences between individual animals, and reflect the sum effect of all the genes that influence the trait in a given environment.

For many traits of interest to cattle breeders, phenotypic measurements are only available when the animal is yearling age or older. Some traits, such as marbling, cannot be measured directly in the live animal so we measure another trait that is genetically related to the target trait, such as % intramuscular fat as measured by ultrasound.

Gene markers identify the chromosome location or proximity of individual genes that influence a trait. In isolation, they may only account for a small amount of the phenotypic variation expressed for the trait.

A significant advantage of gene markers is that they can identify genetic merit for traits that are hard to measure on the live animal, such as marbling; they can be measured early in life, eg; at birth; and they are not reliant on phenotypic expression for measurement.

Gene marker information can be included with phenotypic information to calculate more highly accurate Marker-Assisted EBVs, or by providing marker-only EBVs for difficult to measure traits such as NFI where phenotypic measurement is difficult or costly.
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QUEENSLAND Country Life
**Understanding DNA Marker Technology**

**GENE MARKERS**

**Single-gene trait markers** - Markers for single gene traits such as diseases, red/black coat colour (Angus) myostatin (enhanced muscling) in Angus and Limousins, and horned/pollled (if/when available) are valuable selection/culling tools and can easily be incorporated into a selection program.

**Multi-gene trait markers** - Development of multi-gene trait markers to date has been based on the assumption that these traits are influenced by a small number of genes that have a large effect on expression of the trait, together with a large number of genes that collectively only have a small effect.

Current gene marker technology has been directed towards finding those genes of large effect, however, with the release of the bovine genome in 2006, the “few genes of major effect” theory appears to be an oversimplified explanation of the biology of multi-gene traits.

Firstly, with the exception of Tenderness markers, which appear to code for specific enzymes, the “large effect” genes haven’t eventuated and most traits need a large number of markers to account for any significant phenotypic effect.

Secondly, it appears that marker effects may be specific to a population (breed or genotype) and/or production system, and it cannot be assumed that the effect will be consistent when changing to different populations and/or production systems.

At present, 4 markers each for Marbling, Net Feed Intake (NFI) and Tenderness are being marketed in Australia by Catapult Genetics. Favourable copies of each marker are reported using a star system, with a maximum of 2 stars per marker (one for each allele of the target gene). For example, with the GeneStar Marbling test using four markers, an animal may have up to 8 stars – the greater number of stars, the greater number of favourable markers identified for that trait.

To be of value as a selection tool, breeders need to know what difference in trait performance is explained by the presence or absence of the markers - does their presence or absence influence phenotypic performance, and by how much?

Whilst the size of the marker effect is an important aspect in deciding whether or not a gene marker is of value, so is the frequency of the marker in the population – if frequency of the favourable marker is extremely high or extremely low in a population, then opportunity to select better animals is very limited.

For an example, a marker with a frequency of 98% means that only 2% of the population is available for alternate selection. Mid-range marker frequency allows more selection scope than extreme range marker frequency.

In the case of extreme frequencies, the cost-benefit of finding those few animals needs to be considered.

Thus, both marker effect and marker frequency is important information when deciding to invest in marker technology. A breeder needs to know both sides of the equation before making an investment decision.

**Validation** of the effect of markers have generally been conducted by the discoverer or commercializer where the results may not be available for public or scientific scrutiny.

Whilst it would be desirable for all marker effects to be validated against independent reference populations, the high cost of doing so for a large number of traits makes this unlikely.

Industry will most likely need to rely on validation based on “proof of effect” from the analysis of phenotype information being recorded on marker identified animals, (as few phenotypes will be routinely collected for difficult-to-measure traits such as Tenderness or NFI, validation will need to be planned in purposely set up and recorded research herds).

The discovery and commercialization of gene markers is ongoing, and it can be expected that commercialisers will be releasing an increased number of markers over the next 12 months – additional markers for traits that currently have markers available, and markers for a range of new traits that have not previously had markers available.

Because of the very small effect of most individual markers (requiring a large number of markers required to account for a reasonable effect), marker ratings, such as stars, will become increasingly clumsy to use and interpret. The best use of markers is to have them incorporated into the relevant EBV, if one is available.

**MARKER-ASSISTED EBVS**

Where a significant marker effect is found and validated, this information can be included in the calculation of Breedplan EBVs using procedures currently being developed by the AGBU.

These EBVs will be known as Marker Assisted EBVs (MA-EBV). The first MA-EBV, for Tenderness, is expected to be released by mid-year. For selection purposes, the fact they are marker assisted doesn’t affect how they are used – they should be used the same as conventional EBVs, but they will have a higher accuracy at a younger age.

Markers with unknown or no significant effect will not influence the calculation of marker-assisted EBVs, as they would get zero estimated effect in the prediction equation.

**DNA MARKER INFORMATION & THE SEEDSTOCK BREEDER**

Well researched and validated gene marker information can significantly increase the accuracy and prediction value of Breedplan EBVs by the calculation of higher accuracy Marker Assisted EBVs. It should not be viewed as an alternate technology.

If validated markers are available for traits of interest, and you are satisfied as to the cost-benefit of investing in those markers, then they are a useful add-on to your performance recording program.

Investment in gene markers that have not been independently validated and published as to their effect on phenotypic performance and frequency within a population must be considered a risk proposition.

If not convinced that currently available DNA marker technology offers a cost-benefit to your herd’s breeding program, it is a good idea to adopt a “wait, but be prepared” policy of collecting and storing tail hairs of important animals in the pedigree (eg. sires).

Those hair samples (which must been clean, dry and have the follicle attached) can then
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Understanding DNA Marker Technology

be tested at some future time when the effectiveness and cost-benefit of the tests are validated to your satisfaction.

USING DNA MARKER INFO WHEN BUYING BULLS

When buying bulls, the primary genetic selection tool should be Breedplan EBVs. Any phenotypic benefit derived from the marker will be reflected in the EBV.

Marker Assisted EBVs incorporating DNA marker information will result in EBVs of higher accuracy.

Marker ratings, eg star ratings, may or may not be useful information, depending upon:

- the relative value of a target trait to your production and marketing goals. For example, marbling has a high relative value for the Jap B3 market, but no relative value for the EU market. Similarly, the Tenderness genes are of importance to the Bos indicus breeds but less so to British breeds.

This information allows you to put some $$ significance to increased trait performance.

B - the effect that presence/absence of the marker will have on the phenotypic performance of your stock, under your production environment. For example, what increase in performance can you expect for each copy of a favourable marker? A quick A x B calculation brings the cost-benefit into focus.

C - the frequency of the marker in the breed/population you are working with. This indicates your chance of improving trait performance user marker selection. For example, if the frequency is extremely high or extremely low, the majority of animals will have similar marker profiles and selection opportunity is limited.

Bull buyers need to know the answers to the above questions before they can make an investment decision.

CHECK LIST WHEN CONSIDERING INVESTMENT IN MARKERS

- will the presence of the marker improve your profitability?
- how will it impact the traits you want to change - depends on gene frequency & size of effect?
- what is the opportunity cost of using/not using animals with favourable markers?
- can a similar rate of genetic progress be made using less costly technologies

Remember, DNA tests enhance EBVs, not replace them.

PRESENTING DNA MARKER RATINGS IN SALE CATALOGUES

Where available, marker assisted EBVs are the most effective method of presenting marker information to clients in a sale catalogue.

Providing marker ratings, eg. stars, of validated markers as an adjunct to MA-EBVs may be useful to reinforce the breadth of your performance recording strategy. Validated information on the size of marker effect should be provided as a footnote, along with current breed EBV averages.

Providing marker ratings on unvalidated markers, or markers known to have no significant effect is uninformative and will be misleading to clients.

CONCLUSION

- well researched and validated gene marker technology promises significant benefits for the beef industry, facilitating multi-trait selection at similar levels of accuracy to a progeny test, but at an early age and at much lower cost.
- Validation of effect and frequency of gene markers is required for traits across a range of breeds and production systems.
- the most apparent industry benefits of gene marker technology are to enhance the accuracy and timeliness of EBVs calculated from phenotypic data; to facilitate the calculation of EBVs for traits where live animal measurement is a constraint, eg; tenderness; or to provide phenotypic predictions for commercial animals.
- Breeders need to understand both the effect of a marker in the target production system, and its frequency in the target breed, before making an investment decision.
- Research is required to establish whether or not negative genetic correlations exist between marker-selected and unselected traits. For example, could selection for favourable tenderness markers in the Brahman breed be associated with reduced fitness such as tick resistance? A hypothetical question perhaps, but industry needs to know.
- DNA technology is a dynamic and rapidly evolving technology and breeders need to keep abreast of developments. Whole genome scanning, the next generation of DNA technology, will create further promises, selection opportunities and challenges.
Get the lot in stud stock

with Elders Breeding Services

The Queensland Breeding Services Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blake Munro</td>
<td>0428 862 469</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Croft</td>
<td>0429 626 069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Meara</td>
<td>0427 210 634</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Hartwig</td>
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<td>Michael Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Chambers</td>
<td>0407 671 022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Regan</td>
<td>0409 499 498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elders Breeding Services will provide you with:

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- AuctionsPlus to maximise your seedstock sale results
Stocking rates, productivity and profitability

We often hear the saying, ‘more cattle means more money’. But is this always the case? At Grazing Land Management and Nutrition EDGE workshops many producers have described how they have improved profitability by using conservative stocking rates.

This article uses three sets of data which explores this balance of stocking rates, productivity and profit. The first set of data from Galloway Plains shows the relationship between stocking rate and production. The next two data sets, from the coastal and inland Burnett add the finances to this relationship and show greater profit with less stock compared with heavy stocking.

**IMPACT OF STOCKING RATE ON BEEF PRODUCTION**

Figure 1, from the long running Galloways Plains grazing trial, demonstrates the relationship between stocking rate and animal production. Animal production can be measured in terms of individual animal production (kilograms per head) and production per unit area (kilograms per hectare).

From the graph we can see that at the ridiculously high stocking rate (for this type of country) of a beast to one hectare, the individual animal production is very low at 59 kg/hd/yr but the production per hectare is high (59 kg/ha/yr).

If we halve the stocking rate (ie from a beast to one hectare to a beast to two hectares), individual weight gain increases by 49 kg/hd/yr (59 kg/jd/yr to 108 kg/hd/yr). At the same time, gross production has dropped only 5 kg/hd/yr (from 59 kg/hd/yr to 54 kg/hd/yr).

If you reduce the stocking rate by half again (from 2 ha per beast to 4 ha per beast), your individual animal performance increases a further 25 kg/hd/yr from 108 to 133 kg/hd/yr while the production per hectare reduces by 21 kg/ha/yr from 54 to 33 kg/ha/yr.

**LESS CATTLE IS MORE PROFITABLE – COASTAL BURNETT**

From 1999 to 2002, a grazing trial was conducted on a commercial property in the coastal Burnett. The aim of this trial was to investigate the impact stocking rate has on the density of desirable native grasses in paddocks that have become dominated by blue couch. In this trial we split a commercial paddock (dominated by blue couch) into two paddocks of roughly equal size. One paddock (called the couch paddock) was managed at a stocking rate typical for the area. In the other (called the speargrass paddock) we reduced the stocking rate by up to half. We weighed the steers four times per year.

If all the speargrass paddock steers graded Jap Ox, therefore the $0.15 premium.

If we halve the stocking rate (ie from a beast to one hectare to a beast to two hectares), individual weight gain increases by 49 kg/hd/yr (59 kg/jd/yr to 108 kg/hd/yr). At the same time, gross production has dropped only 5 kg/hd/yr (from 59 kg/hd/yr to 54 kg/hd/yr).

**TABLE 1: GROSS MARGIN FOR FIRST DRAFT OF STEERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Couch</th>
<th>Speargrass</th>
<th>Speargrass premium #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddock area (ha)</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start no. (head)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End no. (head)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean SR (ha/hd) *</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start weight (av.)</td>
<td>317.5</td>
<td>327.3</td>
<td>327.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finished weight (av)</td>
<td>537.1</td>
<td>599.5</td>
<td>599.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated gain (kg/ha) **</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of gain/ha (at $1.30/kg or $1.45/kg #)</td>
<td>$113.5</td>
<td>$76.4</td>
<td>$85.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total purchase cost per ha (at $1.30/kg)</td>
<td>$167.0</td>
<td>$85.7</td>
<td>$85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on purchase cost per ha (at 10%/yr)</td>
<td>$33.3</td>
<td>$17.1</td>
<td>$17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable costs per ha (at $25/hd) ***</td>
<td>$14.2</td>
<td>$7.1</td>
<td>$7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Margin $/ha</td>
<td>$66.1</td>
<td>$52.3</td>
<td>$61.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes for Tables 1 and 2:
* The stock numbers in the paddocks varied during the trials.
** The accumulated gain is taken from each weighing and takes into account the changes in stock numbers.
***Variable costs include $20.00 freight, $3.50 levy, $1.50 tags, $10.00 husbandry.
# All of the speargrass paddock steers graded Jap Ox, therefore the $0.15 premium.
Searching the ABBA Pedigree & Performance Database for over 500,000 animals...

...is simply a click away

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Stocking rates, productivity and profitability

About $5.00 per ha or $330.00 for the paddock.

However, by the time the second draft of steers went through, the heavily stocked paddock was starting to lose condition. This required numbers to be reduced in the heavily stocked paddock. Even without a price premium, it is obvious that the lighter stocked paddock resulted in a better gross margin.

FEWER BREEDERS – BETTER PASTURES FOR THE SAME MONEY

A grazing trial during the mid to late 1990s investigated the impact of burning and spelling on pasture composition (increasing the palatable speargrass while decreasing wiregrass). To achieve this change, the stocking rate was reduced by a third in the demonstration paddock.

As you can see from the comparison below, you obviously produce less weaners when you cut your breeder numbers. But the reduction is not as great as you might expect. The weaning rate improved by 10% and the average weaning weight increased by 10kg. When variable costs for the breeders and weaners are taken into account, there is not a large difference in the gross margin.

When you take into account the money you have invested in your cattle and account for the interest on money tied up in these animals, then the gross margin is higher for the lighter stocked paddock.

In summary, heavier stocking rates can maximise returned in the short term. However, the net return may not be so high when the capital tied up in livestock and variable costs are taken into account.

The ultimate risk of pushing the stocking rate is that the country is exposed to degradation. Country that loses condition has a reduced carrying capacity. The result of this is a direct loss of production, higher maintenance costs (supplementation, weeds etc), rehabilitation costs (improving land condition costs money) or a combination of all three.

The quote from a grazier ‘I look after my pastures, the pastures look after my cattle and my cattle look after me’ seems to hold true for grazing enterprises.

### Table 2: Gross Margin for Second Draft of Steers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Couch</th>
<th>Speargrass</th>
<th>Speargrass premium #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddock area (ha)</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>69.5</td>
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<td>Start no. (head)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>End no. (head)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean SR (ha/hd) *</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start weight (av)</td>
<td>246.0</td>
<td>244.7</td>
<td>244.7</td>
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<td>Finished weight (av)</td>
<td>476.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated gain (kg/ha) **</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>78.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value of gain/ha (at $1.30/kg or $1.45/kg #)</td>
<td>$105.6</td>
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<td>$113.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total purchase cost per ha (at $1.30/kg)</td>
<td>$105.0</td>
<td>$80.1</td>
<td>$80.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on purchase cost per ha (at 10%/yr)</td>
<td>$17.1</td>
<td>$13.0</td>
<td>$13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable costs per ha (at $25/hd) ***</td>
<td>$11.5</td>
<td>$8.8</td>
<td>$13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Margin $/ha</td>
<td>$77.0</td>
<td>$80.2</td>
<td>$92.0</td>
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</table>

### Table 3: Gross Margins for a Breeder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Heavier SR</th>
<th>Lighter SR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddock area (ha)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production parameters</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of breeders</td>
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<td>Weaning weight (total) (kg)</td>
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<td>Weaner variable costs</td>
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<td>Tick fever vaccination ($/hd)</td>
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<td>Husbandry ($/paddock)</td>
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<td>Breeder variable costs</td>
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<td>Health ($/hd)</td>
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<td>Supplements ($/hd)</td>
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<td>Husbandry ($/paddock)</td>
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<td>Interest on cows ($/paddock) at 10%</td>
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<td>Bull residual value ($)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GM per ha</td>
<td>$19.38</td>
<td>$19.73</td>
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**Important information:** Eligibility criteria apply. Applications for finance are subject to the Bank’s normal credit approval. Full terms and conditions, including fees and charges, will be included in Loan Offer. Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124.
Aussie beef exports to Russia boom in first quarter

Australian beef is experiencing a purple patch in the emerging Russian market with exports to that country increasing 12-fold in the first three months of this year compared to the same period last year.

To the end of March Australia had exported 4,740 tonnes of beef to Russia.

The major reason for the dramatic increase has been due to a reduction in beef supplies from South America as a result of trade restrictions and high prices.

Meat & Livestock Australia’s Regional Manager for Europe and Russia, David Jones said that Australia was in a strong position to fill any void left by South American beef exporters.

“Australia’s reputation as a reliable exporter of clean, safe and high quality beef and the ability to supply a range of products to suit various sectors in the market has allowed us to satisfy the demands of the Russian beef market,” Mr Jones said.

“Our goal is to maintain the gains we have made through proving that Australia is a reliable supplier of quality beef. The Russian beef market has huge potential and we will be doing all we can to build and continue expanding Australian beef’s market share.

“An encouraging sign is that during the March quarter we’ve seen a significant increase in the volume of Australian silverside/outside, chuck and blade and thick flank/knuckle cuts sent to Russia - none of which were exported during the same three month period last year.”

South America is the largest exporter of beef to Russia, however several domestic issues have worked against their beef export industry recently. A foot-and-mouth disease related ban imposed in late 2005 has prevented several major Brazilian beef producing states from exporting beef to Russia. However, several Brazilian meat processing facilities were last week approved for export to Russia, but these facilities will not be able to export until the bans are lifted on the states – namely Moto Grosso do Sul and Parana - where these facilities are located.

Tighter cattle supplies, the rising Brazilian real and strong local beef demand have also led to significant increases in Brazilian beef prices; to levels close to or above Australian beef in most cases.

The Argentine government’s suspension of beef exports – Russia’s second largest supplier of beef products after Brazil – has also contributed to the recent increase in demand for Australian product in Russia. Argentine exports have resumed this week but remain under government limits and export taxes.

While Russian beef consumption remains low at 15.73kg/capita (54 percent below the 1991 level at the time of the USSR break-up), the United States Department of Agriculture has forecast total beef consumption to rise 40,000 tonnes in 2008, to 2.46 million tonnes.

Australian livestock export industry welcomes re-opening of the Egyptian trade

The Australian livestock export industry has applauded the Federal Government’s announcement of the resumption of the live cattle trade to Egypt, following the development of a new facility at the Egyptian port of Sokhna.

Sokhna Livestock Company’s brand new, high quality facility in Egypt will have livestock experts handle cattle from vessel to feedlot to processing in one location. This is known as a “closed system”.

“This is a result of considerable combined effort between the Australian and Egyptian Governments and the Australian livestock export industry,” said Cameron Hall, LiveCorp CEO.

“Our industry initiatives are clearly working and the Australian public and Federal Government can be confident that Australian cattle will be well cared for along the entire supply chain to Egypt.”

The system will also be fully auditable. Each animal will have an individual electronic tag device and will be scanned prior to leaving Australia and upon arrival at the feedlot in Egypt. This tag will be collected at the point of processing and verified back to the original animals on the shipment.

“The reopening of the trade clearly highlights the Australian livestock export industry’s commitment to leading world’s best practice and improving animal welfare through investment in training, education and development of facilities and infrastructure,” said Mr Hall.

“While it will be several months before the operational orders are finalised and in place to allow shipments to commence, Australians can be confident that there will be proper controls to ensure the welfare of Australian cattle exported to Egypt.

“In fact, under this system Australian cattle will be well cared for and managed under agreed procedures throughout the entire livestock export chain – from the farm in Australia to the processing facilities in Sokhna.”

Upon arrival at the new facility, cattle will disembark the livestock vessel and walk 800 metres to the shaded feedlot, where they will have access to feed and water. Once ready for processing, the livestock will walk 50 metres from the feedlot to the new modern processing facility.
## Promotional Items

### Caps
- **Cotton Drill**
  - Navy or Green .......................................................... $5.50
- **Cotton Drill - Embroidered**
  - Navy, Maroon, Green, Grey or Royal....................... $15.00
- **Bucket Hat**
  - Navy & Green ................................................................ $15.00
- **Brushed Cotton**
  - Suede, Gold Emb. Navy, Maroon, Green, Black & Royal..... $15.00

### Adult Polo Shirts
- **Printed**
  - Navy, Maroon or Green (size 16 - XXXL) ......................... $35.00
- **Tri-Colour**
  - Blue/Red, Blue/Aqua, Stone or Mustard (size 16 - XXXL).... $45.00

### Kids Shirts
- **T-Shirt**
  - Various bright colours (size 1 - 8) ................................ $10.00
- **Polo**
  - Various bright colours (size 1 - 8) ................................ $16.00
- **Printed Collar**
  - Navy, Maroon or Green (8 - 14) ............................... $35.00

### Belt Buckles
- **Pewter - Small** .......................................................... $15.00
- **Pewter - Large** .......................................................... $20.00

### Badges
- Silver bull on stand ................................................... $5.50

### Bull Statues
- **Pewter - 6cm x 5cm** ................................................ $20.00
- **Pewter - 6cm x 9cm** ................................................ $35.00
- **Pewter Cow & Calf - 6cm x 9cm** ............................... $20.00
- **Large Bronze Bull - Polled & Horned** ......................... $235.00

### Ties
- **Plain - Centred logo**
  - Navy, Maroon or Green ................................................ $20.00
- **Bulls Head Repeated**
  - Navy/Blue, Maroon/Gold, Navy/Gold or Green/Gold ......... $20.00

### Miscellaneous
- **Bottle Opener / Keyring** ........................................ $5.00
- **Pewter Keyring - Brahman / Bull on chain** ................ $5.50
- **Pewter Teaspoons** ................................................... $5.50
- **Round 8” sticker** ...................................................... $9.00
- **Brahman stickers - Clear or white** ............................. $10.00
- **Pewter Letter Openers** ............................................. $12.00
- **Golf Umbrella** ........................................................ $25.00
- **Scarfes - Maroon or Green** ...................................... $20.00
- **History Book** .......................................................... $13.50
- **Native & Adapted Cattle Book** ................................ $28.00
- **The Australian Brahman Book** ................................ $30.00

View online at www.brahman.com.au
CAT IT 28G LOADER, 2003, 1800hrs, quick hitch, forks & bucket
$185,000 + GST = $203,500

KOMATSU D275AX-5 DOZER, 2001, 6500hrs, SU blade, rippers
$885,000 + GST = $643,500

KOMATSU D155AX-6 DOZER, 2006 model, 550hrs, Sigma blade, multi shank ripper
POA

KOMATSU D61 EX-15, 2006-2007, 800hrs, 6 way blade, air ropes, rippers, 168hp
$280,000 + GST = $326,000

CAT 824G, 1998, ROPS cab with a/c, S Blade with twin tilt, ideal stick raking tractor
(Used photo only)
$300,000 + GST = $319,000

CAT 908 LOADER, 2000, 4700hrs, quick hitch, forks, GP bucket
$75,000 + GST = $82,500

2 x KOMATSU WA 95 LOADERS, 2005, GP bucket, quick hitch & forks
$60,000 + GST = $68,000ea

KOMATSU WA 380-5, 2003, 5600hrs, ECSS, ROPS cab with a/c, emergency steer, auto lube
$185,000 + GST = $203,500

CAT 143H, 2003, 6 wheel drive, to be fitted with rippers & push block
$205,000 + GST = $231,500

KOMATSU D65EX-12, 1999, 5100hrs, fitted with rippers and new tracks
$195,000 + GST = $214,500

CAT D6R SERIES 3, 2006 model, 1500hrs, SU blade, ripper
$380,000 + GST = $418,000

KOMATSU D85EX-15, 2005 model, air con cab, semi U blade, ripper control
$425,000 + GST = $467,500

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Elders, Landmark

ROMA TROPICAL BREEDS SALE
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Elders, Landmark, GDL

PB FENECH BRAHMAN SALE
25 October at “The Chase”, Sarina
Elders, Landmark, McCaffrey’s

TARTRUS LANCEFIELD SALE
27 October at Gracemere
Elders, Landmark, McCaffrey’s, Brodie & Co.

MOURA BULL SALE
28 October at Moura
Elders

NQ BRAHMAN BEEF SALE
6 & 7 November at Charters Towers
Elders

NORTH QUEENSLAND BRAHMAN CLASSIC SALE
10 November at Gracemere
Elders, Landmark

TROPICAL NORTHERN BRAHMAN BULL SALE
21 November at Mareeba
Elders, Landmark
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SCHOOL OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
YOUNG, active and extremely handsome, new age red male, likes attention from any source, well built, big boned but not overweight, very masculine and very enthusiastic seeks multiple hot-blooded lady companions for good times. Ready and willing to help populate the paddock. Open to all options and will travel for the right girls.

If you are wishing to meet me please contact Topline Ultimate Connections or come to throw your bid on myself or one of my buddies at

**BRAHMAN CLASSIC SALE**

Monday 10th November

at Gracemere Saleyards

TOPLINE MAGNUM RED MANSO 1189
@ 5 MONTHS
Prolific Producers

Miss Kayla B 0163
Miss Congeniality
Serendipity
Gene 0128
Gene 0116
Lady Nan
Cindy
Kayla
Serengetti
Batchelotte
Lady Marri
Lady Katrina
Geneva 0136
Gentle Genie
Bianca Manso
Kayla B 0165
Seresisters 0042
Miss Marri Manso

Thanks to Reg & Janelle Underwood, Bunda Station, Northern Territory for purchasing embryos from our leading donor females

Ken & Wendy Cole
07 4933 1405  0429 131 966  www.kenrol.com.au