A breeding program based on fertility, quality, uniformity, performance and consistently producing cow families.

P.B. Fenech
Breeders of Quality Beef Type Grey Brahman

Editorial

Beef 2009 the eighth of Australia's National Beef Expos marks 21 years since the inaugural event.

The Expos have always been a very successful Brahman promotion and we look forward to 2009 continuing in the same vein.

We have over 300 head of cattle in the stud Brahman show. Judging will take place on the Wednesday before a three judge panel comprising of Brett Kirk, Hazelton Brahman stud, Middlemount; Reade Radel, Kandoona Brahman stud, Injune; and Ian Galloway, Cootharaba Hereford and Duarran Brangus studs, Roma.

The National Carcase Competition, which is being conducted at 20 different meat processing plants throughout Australia, has attracted considerably more Brahman entries than last time. Presentation of awards takes place on the Monday afternoon prior to the Prime Cattle and Beef Industry awards dinners.

Entries in the Prime Cattle Competition do not close until March 27, however with the ABBA incentive of $1000 for the highest priced Brahman entry in each class and some hard work by our Commercial Brahman Promotion Committee, we are very confident of an excellent display of what Brahman cattle can produce in both the grass and grain fed classes.

Make sure you call at the Brahman Compound in the Trade Show area. We are located at site 167 on the northern end of the showgrounds where we will have a 60m x 25m covered display as well as a smaller outside display area. We will have an area to sit down and relax and have a cup of tea or coffee and we thank Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness for their sponsorship of the Brahman Compound.

Nineteen studs will have 43 pens of cattle on display in the compound and we estimate over 20 members will have individual or combines trade display sites of their own.

Details of the social events and seminars programme appear elsewhere in this issue. Ticket bookings can be made on line at www.beefaustralia.com.au. Please give our exhibitors your support by attending Beef 2009.

Editor
The return of the monsoon season in the north and north west was welcome, but I don’t know about the giant flush of flood waters that was to follow. This immense run off from the gulf rivers has not been seen for many years. With such a vast area of country underwater for so long it could be months before grass and legumes respond for whatever cattle survived. I have been in touch with a number of members in the hard hit areas and all seem to be holding up to the harsh conditions.

Big Country sale vendors will be holding their breath for fine weather as the sale heads for a second attempt. Northern vendors will be looking for a quick response from Main Roads, for repairs to roads and bridges to be able to transport their animals to the sale.

The Summer Brahman Sale fared better this year, with the big heavy falls of last year holding off. The bulls ended up with a higher clearance and average on last year.

Beef 2009 is fast approaching and to date Brahman entries stand at 300 head. Judging will be Wednesday 6th May and no doubt will be one of the finest showings of Brahman seedstock. The Brahman Compound is full with seventeen vendors showcasing their animals plus other members with stands around the grounds.

Beef Expo is world renown, talking to Brahman Breeders at the World Congress in Texas last year, they were certainly well aware of the Beef Expo event.

Due to complications from the big wet, the unveiling of the plaque for the first Zebus to be introduced into the North by Mr. McDowall, will now be held at our Gold City Sale in October.

A reminder of our Brahman Commercial Breeding Female Show and Sale set for Tuesday, April 7th at the Gracemere Saleyards, we need members support for another successful event.

John Atkinson
Despite a dramatic start to the year, MLA predicts that Australian cattle prices will strengthen during 2009, particularly for young cattle and cows.

The lower Australian dollar, better seasonal conditions, increased restocker and feeder demand and tight young cattle supplies are expected to offset the impacts of the global financial crisis, falling economic growth and the US return to Korea.

MLA economist Tim McRae said: "The turbulent trading conditions and subdued cattle and export prices that the industry weathered over the latter half of 2008 may continue for another few months, although co-products markets will probably endure these conditions for much longer."

It would be a case of ‘waiting it out’ while importers run down inventories, credit markets thaw out, currencies stabilise and underlying consumer demand is assessed.

“As the fallout from the global financial crisis starts to settle and stability returns to markets, the Australian beef industry should be on a firmer footing. From the second quarter, the worst of the current trade disruptions should be behind the industry,” said Mr McRae.

MLA predicts that the national herd will reach 28.58 million head by June 30, 2009, three percent higher than the previous year.

Herd rebuilding will constrain growth in beef supplies in 2009 and competition for available cattle will be robust, especially from exporters.

"On the export front, we’re expecting solid demand in markets where currencies have appreciated the most against the Australian dollar," Mr McRae said.

Shipments to Japan are expected to rise by three percent to 375,000 tonnes. Exports to the US are forecast to rise by 38 percent to 325,000 tonnes swt, due to strong demand in the fast food sector and lower US cow beef supplies.

In the domestic market, beef consumption and consumer spending on beef is likely to trend down, due to reduced foodservice sales and consumers shying away from high-priced cuts at retail.

Mr McRae said overseas demand for Australian live cattle is forecast to remain strong, particularly from Indonesia and the Middle East/North Africa. However, with an estimated 150,000 head lost in the North Queensland flooding, herd rebuilding efforts in the north are expected to constrain available supplies for the live export trade in 2009, with total exports back six percent on 2008 levels.

"Over the medium term, however, the recovery in herd numbers and rising South East Asian demand will serve to boost the live trade," he said.

A market report from store and prime sales around Queensland follows.

NORTH QUEENSLAND

CHARTERS TOWERS

Tony Bowen, Landmark said no auction sales had been held for the year, due to the wet conditions. He said that 80 percent of the Charters Towers region had received between 500mm and 1000mm of rain for January and February, which had pushed a lot of marketing programs back until later in the year.

Tony forecasts that prices should improve once the country dries out, due to supply and demand factors.

"It’s such a good season that people will want to hold onto cattle to put a bit more weight on them," he said.

"There’s also good demand from restockers in central and western Queensland because there’s been such a good start to the season."

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

GRACEMERE

Paul Wells, Primac said prices had generally been lower at the start of 2009 because of a lack of confidence due to the global economic downturn.

“People are reluctant to accept the new prices,” said Paul.
“Last year they were getting 170 to 180 cents for heifers and now they’re getting 120 to 140 cents because the meatworks have dropped their prices from 350 to 280 cents,” he said.

“Because the market is still in freefall people are reluctant to sell and are waiting till the market finds a bottom.”

Paul said the country around Rockhampton looked magnificent following 250mm of rain in the first two months of the year.

Gracemere store sale yardings have generally been smaller and closer to 2000 head rather than 3500. At the first sale for the year in January, Day Grazing Co, Marylandys, St Lawrence sold 42 No.7 grey Brahman steers to a top of 174c/kg to avg 171c. The two pens averaged 362kg and $622. The Day’s No.6 and No.7 joined heifers made 162c/kg to realize $583/hd.

Rates for the 2000 head yarding of primes on February 6 were described as “firm”. K. and C. Randall, Gogango offered 80 head of 540kg red Brahman bullocks which sold for $852 or 158c/kg. A top quality pen of grey weaner heifers from Kelly Hyden, Kiddill Plains, Moura was knocked down for 177c/kg or $350/hd. Heifers from Nev Olive, Balinga, St Lawrence made 137c/kg or $639/hd.

EMERALD

Close to 2400 stores were offered at the first sale for the year in January. Adrian and Tammy Esmond received $528 or 176c/kg for their 300kg red Brahman steers.

SOUTH QUEENSLAND

MONTO

Selling kicked off in January with a 755 head yarding of prime cattle. Eddie and Debbie Streeter, Fairy Springs, Dawes sold heavy red Brahman cows for $810 (134c). Brahman cows from the Younger family, Langley Flats made 132c/kg, weighing in at 560kg to return $740/hd. Trade heifers from Kerain and Therese Gilvears went for $580 (154c). A line of 60 Brahman steers from Shayne and Helen Mossman, Yalwarra, Ubobo sold for $520/hd or 158c/kg.

The first February prime sale yarded 500 head, with strong competition from processors and restockers. Red Brahman bullocks, 575kg, from Bruce Loveday went for $895/hd or 155c/kg. Cedarvale Pastoral sold 515kg steers for $780 and No.7 steers for $585 (154c). No.8 steers from Yalwarra returned $505 or 175c/kg. Victor Roberts offered 300kg red Brahman heifers that went for $425 or 141c/kg.

MIRIAM VALE

The market eased for the small yarding of 360 head at the January sale. John and June Marriage, Calliope, received $545/hd for their 18-month-old Brahman steers, and red Brahman steers from Laurie Rule, Rules Beach, made $450. Scott and Rachel Rule, Rules Beach, sold a pen of cows and calves for $735/unit.

BUNDABERG

Neil Callaghan, Callaghan’s Livestock, sold his property at Rosedale had received 475mm of rain since new year’s day, with nearby neighbours receiving up to 850mm.

“We’ve got the best grass and the best season since 1980,” he said.

He told me that two sales had been cancelled due to the wet weather and it looked like more rain was on the way. At the January 13 sale, Teyes Bros, Lakes Creek paid 154c/kg or $946/hd for red Brahman bullocks from Teebar, Rosedale; and 158c/kg ($955) for No.7 red Brahman steers from the Ryan family, South Kolan. The Ryans’ steers were also snapped up by Wide Bay Feedlots, Kilkivan, for 160c or $826. The feedlot also outlaid 160-165c (avg $686) for 20-24-month-old steers from K. and M. Goatham, Bundaberg. Also off to the feedlot were 12-15-month-old steers from W. Jensen, South Kolan. They sold for $505 or 171c/kg.

A Hervey Bay restocker paid $456 (179c) for 10-month-old grey Brahman steers from Lindsay McLean, Rosedale.

Emdee Enterprises, Branch Vale, Mt Perry offered eight-month-old weaner steers, which sold to F. Davey, Bundaberg for $408 (183c). Emdee’s same aged red Brahman heifers went to McBride Holdings, Killdean, Gin Gin for $306 (175c).

ROMA

Prices fell for most descriptions in the 5000 head yarding of stores on January 20.
We welcome all Cattle Producers and Brahman breed enthusiasts to inspect our display at Beef 2009.

Progeny of a number of these impressive Sires are among those available for inspection at our cattle site.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

LANCEFIELD Beefy Brahmans

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Palmvale Cadet, a polled red son of Batandra Eric, topped Rockhampton’s 2009 Summer Brahman Sale in February, selling for $26,000.

The two-year-old red from Keiran and Beth Streeter’s Palmvale stud, Marlborough is out of the Lanes Creek Red Ranger cow, Palmvale Miss Pablo 1815. He was one of three bulls purchased by Charles Lund, Laglan Pastoral Co, Clermont.

It was the third year running that Palmvale has sold the highest priced red bull at the Summer Sale, their six-head 2009 draft averaging $7333.

The annual event averaged $3613 for 184 Brahman bulls, up $580/head on the previous year despite wet conditions again impacting on cattle and buyer numbers.

Eric and Val Nobbs, Lyndhurst, Biloela paid $24,000 second top price for Shamrock Ian Manso, offered by Glenda Owen, Shamrock stud, Lower Wonga. The 30-month-old full Hudgins bull is by JDH Riddell Manso (imp) and out of the JDH Floyd Manso (imp) cow FBC M Francis Manso. The Nobbs also paid $13,000 for his full ET brother Shamrock Iceman.

Lee and Gillian Collins, Wandilla stud, Marlborough offered the used sire PBF Silverdale Manso, a fully imported blood son of Mr V8 730/5 (imp). The four-and-a-half year old was snapped up by Ross and Val McLaughlin, Mt Ramsay, Baralaba for $14,000. The McLaughlins paid $9000 avg for three bulls.

The six-year-old JDH Sterling Manso son, Brahrock Achiever, sold to Glen Schultz, Hillview stud, Mt Larcom for $11,000 and was offered by Terry and Susan Connor, Timbrel stud, Rockhampton.

Mar-Sue Investments, Cremorne, NSW paid $11,000 for 28-month-old Long Acres P Egan from Hinchliffe and Sons’ Long Acres P stud, Bouldercombe. The polled red by Mt Callan Ben was out of a Rodlyn Banjo cow. Mar-Sue Investments also took home $6000 Kupala Earnest, a polled grey offered by William and Tracey Tapp, Lonesome Dove, Wowan.

Alma Diego, a grey Tropical Cattle Rexcrata VC Manso son, was the top seller from Stan and Lesley Sorley’s Alma stud, Bell. He was one of three bulls knocked down to Shadyland Pty Ltd, Inala, Moura for $6583 avg.

South African blood bull NCC Billy made $8000, going to the Kent family, Gin Gin. The red NCC Serengeti son was offered by Nobbs Cattle Co, Inverrio, Duaringa. Their draft included $7500 NCC Stalemate, a red Tartrus Remount son purchased by Laglan Pastoral Co.

Another NCC-prefixed bull, NCC Dakar, made $7750, however he was offered as a used sire by the Woodard family, Glenwood, Dingo. The three-year-old by Letoken Revolution was purchased by Shadyland.

Five bulls were knocked down for $7500 including the highest priced herd bull Muan 2438, a polled Valuce Red Prince son from Muan Pastoral, Biggenden.

The last lot of the sale, Ngamba Mr Ven Red Manso went out the gate at $7500. He was...
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Good result despite rain at **Summer Brahman sale**

purchased by Lirossa Pty Ltd, Sarina and catalogued by Roma Moss, Ngamba stud, Duri.

Rosetta Grazing, Collinsville selected five new sires including $7500 K Allan Regal Lad, a Carinya First Edition son from the Hair family’s K Allan stud, Bauple. Eckford Holdings, Phenros Station, Julia Creek paid $7500 to secure Wilarandy S Mr Rad, a three-year-old red son of JCC Radical, from the Turner’s Wilarandy S stud, Wooloolga.

Ross and Val McLaughlin paid $9333 avg for three bulls, including two used sires at $7000 each, Carinya Kinkade and Jaffra Mr Viscount. Bill and Kay Geddes, Doonside, Rossmoya took home the polled red Somerview Red Dragon son, Rathlyn 8972, for $7000. The same price was paid by T. and T. Symonds, Sarina for the used sire Glengarry Wentworth, offered by K Allan stud. Another used sire to go for $7000 was Brahrrock Alex The Man, a Datapack Manso son offered by the Trigger family, Hopewell stud, Biggenden purchased by the Gelhaar family, Ingoldsby.

Starbra Leader Manso, a polled 22-month-old son of Brahrrock Mr Leader, was sold for $6250 to D. and K. Black, Langley, Middlemount.

Bulk buyers included Taranga Grazing, Bloomsbury, 10 bulls at $2300 avg; P. and A. Finger, Mayden Park, Clermont, nine at $2139; K. and C. Jones, Spreyton Station, Julia Creek, eight at $2375 and Wololla Partnership, Wololla, Jericho, eight at $2094.

Ainslee McArthur, President, Isolated Children’s Parents Association (ICPA) Capricornia Branch of the Air, is pictured receiving the cheque for $8,900 as the ICPA’s share of the Brahman Week Semen Auction from ABBA President John Atkinson.

The other beneficiary of the Brahman Week Semen Auction, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, was represented by Ian Lovegrove, RFDS Board member pictured receiving a cheque for $8,900 from ABBA President John Atkinson.

Philip Mann, Tropical Beef Technology Services (left) celebrating a few Christmas drinks with Brian Burns, DPI and ABBA President John Atkinson.

Catching up over a few Christmas drinks are Dick Holroyd, DPI; Russell Miller, Yeppoon and Geoff Angel, Glengarry Brahman stud, Rockhampton.
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Eddie & Debbie Streeter p 07 4167 8961 e fairysprings@bigpond.com
Wandilla heifer attracts $10,000 at Summer sale

Quality females sold to a top of $10,000 at the 2009 Rockhampton Summer Brahman Sale where 79 registered breeders averaged $3030.

The result was up by $657 on the previous year, however the number of females offered was well down due to the wet conditions.

Attracting the best money was Wandilla Jane 786/8, a 25-month-old red daughter of Kandoona Utai (Lancefield D Robinson) and Wandilla Jane 666/7 (Mt Callan Bronco). The heifer, who has a +32 EBV for 600-day growth, was offered by Lee and Gillian Collins, Wandilla stud, Marlborough and sold to David Simpson, Solo stud, Rockhampton.

Reldarah Destinee, a polled red from the Schubel’s Reldarah stud, Gin Gin attracted second top price of $7000. The daughter of Roseborough L Red Monte had been running with Somerview Topgun and was purchased by A. Gillies, Scrubby Mountain Grazing, Goomborian. She was one of four heifers sold for $4875 avg by Reldarah stud.

Wandilla averaged $4217 for 15 females, their draft including $6500 Wandilla Martina, a red two-year-old daughter of Wandilla Waterloo. She sold to Regan Jensen, Monto who invested in eight head at $3969 avg. His other purchases included $5750 Carrinyah Park Lady Jan Manso, a JDH Mr Manso 258/4 (imp) heifer out of the JJ Dos Press 8 (imp) cow, Kenrol Janna, offered by the Bartolo’s Carrinyah Park stud, Nebo; and $5250 Wandilla Lily 792/8, another unjoined Wandilla Waterloo daughter.

Darren Wood, Woodstock Brahmans, Mt Jukes took home two unjoined Kandoona Mellow (HK Passport) heifers, paying $6000 for Wandilla Jane 740/8, and $5250 for Wandilla Train 666/8.

Malcolm Davison, South Sea Plantations Ltd, Tehillim, Greenmount paid $5500 for the Wandilla Waterloo heifer Wandilla Grace 737/8, one of six heifers purchased for $3792 avg.

Charles Lund, Laglan Pastoral Co, Clermont invested in nine heifers at $3444 avg, his top purchase being the $5000 polled red, Carrinyah Park Lady Lee, a 19-month-old grand-daughter of Lancefield D Revolution.

The Dunn family, Somerton, St Lawrence invested $5000 in Reldarah Kirra, a polled 18-month-old red by Roseborough L Red Monte. Trevor Shelley, Mt Power, Nebo paid the same rate for Kupala Maggie 3rd, a 42-month-old grand-daughter of JDH Patton Manso (imp) with a heifer calf at foot by JDH Martin Manso 879. She was catalogued by William and Tracey Tapp, Lonesome Dove, Wowan.

Justin and Steven Ensby, Renco Cattle Co, Greendale, Dululu gave the nod at $4500 for Timbrel Miss Sandy Manso 334, an 11-month-old JDH Casa Grande Manso (imp) heifer from Terry and Susan Connor’s Timbrel stud, Rockhampton. Another $4500 sale was Palmvale Fontencot Girl, a 21-month-old product of Mr Fontentot 311 (imp) and Palmvale Uptown Girl, offered by Keiran and Beth Streeter, Palmvale stud, Marlborough. She was bought by Chris McCarthy, Stockman stud, Boonah and Peter Tuxworth, Halgenaes stud, Ingham in partnership. The Rawlings family, Locabran Red Brahmans, Coleyville paid $4500 for Kangarin Aegina, a rising three-year-old by Alma Park Mr Fyrish, from Nick Dudarko’s Kangarin stud, Biloela.

Glenda Owen, Shamrock stud, Lower Wonga, took home three head including $4500 Carrinyah Park Serena Manso, a 16-month-old FBC D Matrix Manso heifer, and the $4250 red Mr Winchester Magnum 999 (imp) heifer Palmvale Joanne 2433.

Bulk buyers included Gavial Cattle Co who paid $1756 avg for eight heifers.

Top priced Brahman heifer, the $10,000 Wandilla Jane 786/8 pictured with buyer, Fiona Noakes, Solo F Brahmans, Marlborough, who purchased it on behalf of her parents Dave and Marie Simpson, Solo Brahmans, Rockhampton, and vendor Lee Collins, Wandilla Brahmans, Marlborough

Top priced Brahman heifer, the $10,000 Wandilla Jane 786/8 pictured with buyer, Fiona Noakes, Solo F Brahmans, Marlborough, who purchased it on behalf of her parents Dave and Marie Simpson, Solo Brahmans, Rockhampton, and vendor Lee Collins, Wandilla Brahmans, Marlborough.
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Throughout the history of breeding cattle, beef producers have successfully improved the quality of cattle and increased the profitability of their business through selection and genetic improvement.

“Genetics, however, is a extremely complex and evolving subject”

Nevertheless, studies have shown that the application of basic genetic principles can have a major impact on the quality of the herd and the productivity of the beef enterprise.

Furthermore, since stud breeders are largely responsible for the production of seedstock they have a significant influence on the quality of cattle available to the beef industry. Subsequently, further knowledge of basic genetic principles may allow a better understanding of selection tools and programs available to stud and commercial producers.

INHERITANCE

With minor exceptions, each animal receives half of its genes from its sire and half from its dam.

Thousands of pairs of genes exist in each animal but since only one member of each gene pair comes from each parent the particular combination of genes is determined purely by chance.

Some reproductive cells will contain more desirable genes for economically important traits (ERT’s) than others and the union of reproductive cells (eggs and sperm) containing high proportions of desirable traits (functional and ERT’s) results in a superior animal.

“The random combination of genes creates widespread differences in the offspring”

Some individuals will be genetically superior, some average and others inferior. The selection of genetically superior animals provides the opportunity for the introduction of qualitative (simply inherited) and quantitative (multigenetic) traits that lead to herd improvement.

QUALITATIVE TRAITS

Examples of simple traits in beef cattle include hair colour, horned v’s polled and various inherited abnormalities. Very rarely do these traits involve environmental interactions (eg drought conditions have no bearing on polled v’s horned cattle).

The principle of inheritance of qualitative traits can be demonstrated through the polled v’s horned traits where two alleles at a single locus control the presence or absence of horns (Diagram 1). The allele for polled (P) is dominant to the horned allele (p) although the dominance is apparently not complete and sex linked modifying genes can also intervene (eg scurs).

Polled v’s horned trait shows how alleles interact in a trait with dominance. Bull (a) is homozygous dominant which means it has two polled alleles (PP). Cow (a) is homozygous horned (pp) which means she has horned alleles and 100% of the offspring will be heterozygotes (Pp). If heterozygous heifers (Pp) are mated to the horned bull (b) it would result in 50% heterozygous polled (Pp) and 50% homozygous horned (pp). If the heterozygous polled heifer (Pp) is mated to the heterozygous bull (c) there would be three possibilities: 25% homozygous polled (PP); 50% heterozygous polled (Pp) and 25% homozygous horned (pp). The ratio would be 25%: 50%: 25% and the phenotypic ratio would be 75%:25% polled to horned.

With Brahman's the situation is more complicated with the presence of the scur gene. Scurs is another type of inheritance interaction which is sex linked. Sex influenced trait expression occurs when phenotypes are different with the same gene type. In male cattle, the scur allele is dominant and in the female it is recessive. Thus, if a male or female are homozygous at the scur loci, then they will be scurred.

If they are heterozygous at the scur allele, then the males will be scurred but the female not. “Readers are referred to the Brahman Journal, June 2003 to obtain further information on the inheritance of scur (Sc) and aflican (Af) genes.

QUANTITATIVE TRAITS

As the name implies multiple traits involve many genes and the environment also plays a major role in the phenotypic expression (appearance and/or performance).

“Quantitative traits are more difficult to predict than qualitative traits”

Sometimes the animals phenotype provides limited information about the genotype. For instance, bulls with the same genotype raised on inland pastures v’s coastal pastures can result in noticeable differences in the phenotype expression for size and carcass weight which needs to be considered when evaluating bulls from different environments.

Most quantitative traits are measurable ie they are continuous traits which means there are numerous possibilities for the phenotype expression of the trait. Therefore, the genetic improvement of quantitative

DIAGRAM 1: SIMPLIFIED ILLUSTRATION OF POLLED AND HORNED MATINGS AND POTENTIAL OFFSPRING

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2009 : 50 YEARS OF BREEDING BRAHMANS

VALE : Mr Albert Scheinberg, founder of Mogul Brahman Stud
passed away 30 December 2008 - aged 96 years
traits (eg muscle definition and growth pattern) poses quite a challenge. Meeting these challenges, however, is very important because many of the economically relevant traits (ERT’s) such as carcass yield meat characteristics, feed efficiency and tenderness are inherited quantitatively.

CORRELATED TRAITS

The correlation between traits measures the tendency to vary in the same direction (positive correlations) or opposite correlations (negative correlations).

The maximum positive correlation is +1.0 indicating that both traits vary in the same direction unit for unit. A correlation of 0 means that the two traits are completely independent. The largest possible negative correlation is -1.0 indicating that the two traits vary in opposite directions.

Both phenotypic & genetic correlations are important

The genetic correlation is that portion of the correlation between two traits that is due to inheritance.

The effect of one trait on the other trait can be complimentary (positive) or disadvantageous (negative). For instance, as selections are made for increased birth weight, weaning weights and yearling weight are increased. Vice versa, as selections are made to decrease birth weights, weaning & yearling weights are usually decreased.

The phenotype correlation is simply the correlation between phenotypes eg there is a positive correlation between body size and body weight whilst there is often a negative correlation between large frame score and early maturity.

Phenotypic correlations are usually influenced by inheritance and environment eg large frame score and reduced reproduction efficiency in low nutritional environments.

The implications of genetic correlations for some traits are shown in Table 1.

HERITABILITY

Heritability estimates (statistical ratios) are used to define genetic change or phenotypic variations due to additive genes that contribute to differences of individuals in a given population.

For instance, weaning weight has a medium-high heritability of 0.30 – 0.50 which means that 30-50% of the difference between weaner cattle are caused by additive genes. If a trait has low heritability (eg reproduction) this indicates that there is a low involvement of additive genes and/or that the environment has a much larger influence on the trait. High heritability indicates that additive genes play a relatively large role in the trait change.

The higher the heritability of a trait, the more rapid the change

Average heritability estimates for some traits in beef cattle are shown in Table 2. Actual heritabilities for a particular trait can be expected to vary between herds depending on the genetic variability within the herd, the differences in the environment and reliability of estimates.

Based on medium-high heritability estimates, selection should be reasonably effective for most traits. However, traits vary for functional and economic importance, thus trait selection needs to include economic, functional and heritability considerations.

Gross Frequency

Gene frequency is the proportion of a gene in a given population. The most important single factor to alter gene frequency and making genetic change is selection.

For instance, with qualitative traits (eg coat colour) the frequency of the gene causing black or mixed colours which once was quite high in Brahmans is now fairly low because breeders are selecting against cattle carrying these genes. Despite this discrimination, these colours have not been eliminated since the rarer the gene becomes the more difficult it is to reduce its frequency.

Selection is the driver for gene frequency and genetic change

Changing the frequency of genes that affect quantitative traits is inherently more complex than those affecting qualitative traits because many more genes involving a number of traits are involved.

Basically the frequency of traits (simply inherited and multigenic) can be changed in four ways: mutation, chance, selection and migration. Breeders have no control over mutation and chance which are random and often not recognised.

Trait Selection

Selection is the process of introducing the most desirable genotypes that will leave offspring that are beneficial to the herd and enhance business productivity and profitability. After several generations of selection for certain traits the more desirable genes become more frequent and the less desirable genes become rarer with the result that the overall genetic and phenotype merit of the herd increases.

Two concepts are involved in selecting traits:

- Single trait selection and its weaknesses
- Multiple trait selection and its complexities

Single Trait Selection

Single trait selection is when all selection pressure is placed on one trait (eg polled, tenderness, coat colour) and other traits are overlooked. Single trait selection can produce rapid change (eg frame score) but
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Mark & Tarsh Allen  Kariboey Valley Thangool Qld 4715  ph 4995 1208  kariboeyvalley@activ8.net.au
can provide undesirable changes in correlated traits eg increased frame score results in increased maintenance requirements because these traits are genetically related. Larger cattle require more feed. An increase in the mature size from 600kg to 700kg results in a 10-15 per cent increase in maintenance feed requirements. This correlated change results in increased feed requirements and a higher plane of nutrition which may mean that these animals are not suited to some environments.

High maintenance cows in a poor nutritional environment often results in low condition stock that are slow or late calvers. Other examples of undesirable changes from single trait selection is the positive correlation between increased birth weight and calving difficulties and the negative correlation between increased size and puberty.

Size affects the weight required for puberty and mating age of heifers, eg a 750kg cow will produce heifers that have a mating weight of 495kg compared to 430kg for a 650kg cow and 330kg for a 500kg cow.

There is limited place for single trait selection since it can often be at the expense of economically relevant traits. Subsequently, single trait selection (eg polled v’s horned) could compromise the productivity and profitability of the business if important ERT’s are overlooked (eg scale, meat yield).

MULTIPLE TRAIT SELECTION

Selection of beef cattle often involves the consideration of several traits at one time, ie multiple trait selection.

“Quantitative trait selection poses several challenges”

Firstly, as additional traits are emphasised in a selection program, the rate of improvement in any one trait decreases unless there is a strong positive correlation between traits.

Secondly, there can be unfavourable correlations between many of the economically relevant traits eg there is a negative correlation between calving ease and weaning weight, ie calving weight tends to decrease as calving ease increases. Subsequently beef selection programs need to fully consider those traits that lead to herd improvement and increased productivity.

Breeders may take several approaches to trait selection, ie tandem, independent selection and index selection. Each of these approaches have strengths and weaknesses.

TANDEM SELECTION

This is the simplest approach to multiple trait selection which involves the selection of one trait, then a second and so on. Selection pressure is placed on a single trait until the herd performance reaches a predetermined target at which point emphasis is applied to a further trait eg an emphasis on polled cattle followed by gene star and temperament etc.

“The number of traits selected in a particular timeframe is obviously limited”

Problems include placing too much emphasis on one trait which can be at the expense of other important traits and may restrict genetic improvement. A further concern is that emphasis on one trait can produce unfavourable changes in correlated traits which can limit genetic progress. Usually selection is re-emphasised on the most important traits.

INDEPENDENT SELECTION

Here several traits are considered simultaneously and a minimum acceptable phenotype is set for each trait. When individuals fall below a minimum standard they are culled regardless of their phenotype merit in other traits.

Genetic progress using independent selection can be limited due to ‘forced culling’ requirements for disease (eg Pompes) and/or physical and physiological normalities (eg stringhalt and reproduction disorders) which restricts the opportunity for genetic improvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Heritability description</th>
<th>Heritability (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reproduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conception</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>5 - 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days to calving</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semen quality</td>
<td>med - high</td>
<td>26 - 44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gestation length</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth weight</td>
<td>med - high</td>
<td>35 - 45 (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning weight</td>
<td>med - high</td>
<td>30 - 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 day weight</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain - birth to weaning</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>16 - 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearling gain (pasture)</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 day weight</td>
<td>med - high</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18mth weight (pasture)</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 day weight</td>
<td>med - high</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature cow weight</td>
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<td>25 - 40 (39)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carcase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carcase weight/day of age</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rib fat 12/13th rib</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rump fat P8 site</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>18 - 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intramuscular fat %</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>22 - 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eye muscle area</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dressing percent</td>
<td>med - high</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenderness</td>
<td>med</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail beef yield</td>
<td>med - high</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yield % carcasse weight</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Australian Record Herd Bull Price Sold at Elrose Invitation Brahman Sale, November 2008. Thank You to Paul and Brigid Fenech, PBF Brahmans, Sarina, for purchasing this eye catching, “potential packed” bull.

Our appreciation is extended to all Buyers and Bidders from 3 States who attended our Sale under difficult seasonal circumstances. Thank You greatly for your support. Again our Sale proved most affordable for buyers at both stud and commercial level.

Yes, we’ll be there and we look forward to showing you our quality Brahmans.
for independent selection due to reduced stock numbers.

Another drawback of this method is that as additional traits are considered, the emphasis on priority traits may be relaxed thus lowering the standard and compromising progress in the key traits.

Determining the appropriate selection standards may prove to be difficult for some breeders due to limited access to objective data. Where standards are available, the application of independent selection approach is quite popular but its use can be limited when a number of interrelated traits are assessed.

**SELECTION METHOD INDEX**

If the selection index method (eg EBV’s and EPD’s) is based on accurate unbiased information and economically relevant traits (ERT’s) it is more effective and will result in more rapid genetic improvement than other approaches (ie tandem and independent selection).

“Several traits can be considered at one time”

The animals selected for breeding are those with the highest scores based on prioritised traits. Those animals with the lowest scores are culled. The advantage of the selection index method include the:

- Identification and assessment of key ERT’s simultaneously
- Inclusion of heritabilities for each trait
- Incorporation of known genetic and phenotype relationships amongst traits
- Inclusion of the relative economic importance of each trait
- Availability of suitable programs (eg Breed Plan) supported by breed societies.

To successfully execute this technique it is important that the producer identifies closely with the market requirement and client needs. It is also noted that some traits are non measurable and selection needs to consider techniques to evaluate these traits (eg visual assessment).

Given that the bottom line of most beef operations is profitability, the standards and traits selected should initially identify with the needs of the industry.

**MIGRATION**

This term is used to describe the process of introducing high levels of new genetic material into the population. It involves the introduction of groups of individuals or superior individuals with the primary objective of acquiring seedstock with a higher frequency of desirable traits and thereby raise the genetic and phenotype merit of the herd through genetic change.

Migration can change gene frequencies and raise the genetic merit of a herd very rapidly if this technique is highly selective and practised effectively. Results are dependent on:

- The proportion which the new animals constitute of the entire herd
- The difference in genetic material (or frequency of superior genes) between the new animals and those previously in the herd.

An important aspect of migration is the identification and availability of superior seedstock to improve the genetic merit more rapidly than improving the herd through years of breeding. Long term benefits obviously depend on the effectiveness of initial selections, future breeding programs and selection management.

The use of multiple AI sires or purchased bulls and ET/IVF programs is usually a combination of selection and migration to allow the introduction of different gene frequencies.

Obviously migration can be a costly investment if the animals used are average or below average in their capacity to improve the genetic base. Studies show that stock that perform below their herd mates in one herd tend to be substandard in most herds.

**GENETIC OUTCOMES**

The decision making skills of the stud breeder greatly impacts on the genetic quality of the herd and the market acceptance of subsequent progeny.

Understandably, sire selection and emphasis on various traits will differ between studs. Each producer will have their own environmental and economic circumstances and breeding goals. These factors will impact on the approaches taken to genetic selection.

Nevertheless, actual progress in the genetic merit is occurring at a greater rate than the past because of the increased understanding of genetics, ongoing research and the application of new information into sophisticated models and decision support systems. This has allowed the identification, measurement and utilisation of economically relevant traits and the selection of superior seedstock to allow genetic improvement.

The final outcomes of improved knowledge of genetics rests with individual breeders thus the direction and effectiveness of genetic change depends on individual decisions. An important point is that with every selection action there is a performance reaction. Subsequently, individual judgement is necessary to ensure that positive actions outweigh negative reactions. It is also important to recognise that the market competitiveness of the beef industry is primarily based on the production of meat from grazing systems and that genetic improvement needs to continually focus on functional traits as well as economically relevant traits to maximise the efficient conversion of pastures to meat.

“Selecting quality genetics to provide a better future in the beef industry”

**APPENDIX – DEFINITIONS**

Gene – refers to the basic unit of inheritance and is a particular segment of the chromosome.

Chromosomes – are long strands of protein which contain DNA. Cattle have 30 pairs of chromosomes and each animal inherits one pair from its sire and the other pair from the dam.

Genotype – is the genetic makeup of the animal.

Locus – is the location of the gene on the chromosome and allele refers to the functional possibilities that can be present at a locus.
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We look forward to making new acquaintences and catching up with old friends.
Selection - Basic Genetics

 Alleles – these can affect traits by themselves but can also affect phenotype expression by interactions with other alleles. Alleles interact in two ways referred to as dominance and epistasis.

 Phenotype – is the appearance of the animal (eg red v’s black colour) and phenotype expression can be physical (observable) or performance (measurable).

 Qualitative – traits (simply inherited) – involves one or two genes at a few loci with little involvement of the environment. It involves simple traits with discrete categories (eg coat colour, polled v’s horned cattle).

 Quantitative traits (multi or polygenic) – involves many genes and loci with close interaction with the environment which causes these traits to vary in a continuous manner (eg weaner and yearling weights).

 Variation – differences in phenotypic expression due to a trait. Non genetic variation is due to environmental factors.

 Environment – refers to external factors (non genetic) that impact on performance (eg climate, nutrition, health and management). When environmental influences are not properly accounted for the accuracy of breeding value estimates are reduced.

 Heritability – this is a measurement (statistic) of variation between animals due to genetic differences between individuals for that trait (ie the efficiency of transmission of parental superiority (or inferiority) from one generation to the next). It is the proportional differences between animals due to additive genes.

 Additive gene action – the effect where the expression of a trait is controlled by one or more genes each of which act in an additive manner

 Dominance – complete dominance is when inheritance is due to one allele completely masking the expression of the other allele at the loci (eg red/black colour which black is dominant to red). Other types of inheritance include partial, no dominance and over dominance.

 Epistasis – refers to inheritance that is due to genes interacting with other genes at other loci which overrides dominance.

 Homozygote – refers to individuals that are carrying a pair of alleles that are alike (eg PP for polled or pp for horned)

 Heterozygote – refers to individuals carrying unlike pairs of alleles (eg Pp) and one allele is dominant.

 Estimated Breeding Values (EBV’s) – are an estimate of an individual’s true breeding value for a trait based on the performance of the individual and/or close relatives. EBV’s are a systematic way of combining performance information on the individuals and siblings and the progeny of the individual.

 Many thanks for lifelong experience

 As the 2008 Edgar Hudgins Scholarship participant, I would like to take this chance to thank everyone involved with the scholarship. It took a lot of money and time from many people to make this opportunity of a lifetime possible for me. From the interview panel, ABBA, to Hudgins Ranch and all my new friends in America, who made me feel part of their family. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

 The great experiences I had in the United States are far too many to mention here, but some of the highlights included showing for Hudgins ranch at the National show, buying the high selling lot at the JS Genetics sale, artificial breeding programs, visiting a Brahman ranch in Costa Rica, having a photo I took published on the cover of the October Brahman Journal and Hurricanes ‘Gustav’ and ‘Ike’. I would have to say that, by far the most valuable part of the scholarship is the contacts I have made, many of whom will be friends of mine for life.

 I strongly encourage all suitable applicants to apply next year (probably avoid going during hurricane season though) I hope that this opportunity exists for young Brahman enthusiasts for many years. It has proved very beneficial for me, both in a business sense and personally. I may have never had a chance to get to America, let alone see and experience everything I did.

 Yours sincerely, Terry Randell

 Left to right: Coleman Locke, Brian Zuniga, John Coleman Locke, Terry Randell, Bob Hudgins, Bill Hudgins, and J’Boone Koonce in the J.D. Hudgins office with Manso
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An Australian record price for a Brahman herd bull opened proceedings at the Elrose Invitation Brahman sale at Elrose Station, Cloncurry, the final sale for the Brahman breed in 2008 held in late November.

Lot 1, the impressive poll Elrose Mockingbird entered the sale ring amid much speculation from studmasters and commercial cattle producers about his valuation in a market which had suffered a downturn since the spring stud selling season commenced in September. At 912kg, the strong bodied, 25 month old son of Brahrock White Hawk Man showed ample physical sire appeal, enough in fact to overcome his herd bull status in the minds of a number of very astute Brahman bull breeders. Bidding kicked at $10,000 and progressed steadily with master cattleman Eric Nobbs, Lyndhurst stud, Biloela and polled specialists Kelvin & Margaret Maloney, Kenilworth Stud, Mt Coolon among the contestants. However, all their bidding was trumped at an Australian Brahman herd bull record $42,000 by Paul Fenech, PBF Brahmans, Sarina. Paul had enjoyed a most successful, record breaking on-property bull sale in late October and had been looking for a quality poll sire for some time. "He’s the best I’ve seen here or overseas," Paul said. "His best qualities are rarely found in polls, his combination of sire style, volume and correctness are impressive so I expect he’ll add a new dimension to the poll Brahman industry in Australia."

Rodger & Lorena Jefferis of Elrose Brahmans and invited vendors the Radel family of Kandoona Red Brahmans expected a harder sale than their 2007 event. Conditions throughout the vast cattle breeding centres of Julia Creek, Cloncurry and into the Gulf, McKinlay, Bouli and across into the Northern Territory had worsened from dry to droughted during the year, and their sale was the last of a long season of Brahman auctions. Their expectations were realised, however studmasters and steer breeders from areas enjoying more favourable seasons rallied strongly to the opportunity to buy quality seedstock from the two renowned studs at somewhat reduced prices. Dalby, Gin Gin, Charters Towers, Georgetown, Clermont, Mackay, Nebo, Ingham, Comet, Dingo, Bajool, Sarina, Springsure, Longreach, Kingaroy, Hughenden and Katherine and Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory all featured among buyer addresses.

Bidding highlights throughout the sale resulted in sales of $42,000, $34,000, $32,000, $30,000 (twice), $28,000, $18,000, $17,000 (twice), etc. and an average of $10,050 for the 39 sale star sires. Eighteen bulls sold at prices of $10,000 and over. It was the middle market which was soft, however, Rodger Jefferis & Reade Radel were pleased that repeat buyers and a sizeable number of...
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first time sale buyers had smiles on their faces after the event. “The current dry conditions here have allowed a wider spread of sale bulls to new buyers this year,” Rodger said. “It broadens our client base for the years to come.”

Local Brahman breeder Janice Allison, Broadlands, McKinlay defied the season and invested $34,000 in her herd’s future when she purchased Elrose Sammy. This 866kg, 134 sq cm EMA rising 2yo sire is backed by outstanding EBV’s for weight and carcase values and comes from a highly fertile damline.

The sale’s heaviest milk tooth bull, Elrose Socrates, 874kg at 2yo and with an eye muscle of 140 sq cm, made $30,000 selling to Rob & Una Oates, Mt Brett, Comet. Further into the sale an impressive young son of Lancefield Signature, Elrose Certain Sign, also made $30,000 selling to Barry & Liz Miller, Rhondhu Stud, Mingela. The Millers also outlaid $17,000 for Elrose Rajah later in the sale.

The Kandoona reds topped at $32,000 for 2yo Kandoona Sideline. He was purchased by Dalby studmasters Noel & Manny Sorley of Mt Callan stud. The Sorleys also invested $16,000 in the upstanding HK Magnetic son, Kandoona Mikado, a half brother to $60,000 and $55,000 sale sires.

Brian & Glenda Kirkwood, Somerview Red Brahman, Charters Towers travelled to the sale and selected the smart sire prospect Kandoona Max, a son of Lancefield Magnetism for $28,000. Brett McCamley, Fern Hills, Bajool bid to $16,000 for the poll Kandoona sire Colony, a 25 month old son of Kandoona Citizen.

Colin Delahunty, Rockwood, Hughenden also selected a son of HK Magnetic, Kandoona Maze, bred out of a Lancefield D Robinson cow for $8,000, one of three reds he purchased at the sale.

Elrose Lucky Strike, the best weight for age bull in the Sale, 876kg at 22 months, was the subject of strong bidding competition. Another quality Elrose Significance son, he was knocked down to the Elliott Family, Wirilla, Winton for $18,000. The Elliotts put together an impressive line of 6 bulls averaging $7,000 at the sale.

It is rare to find eye muscle areas exceeding 140 sq cm in any sale line-up, so Elrose Set Up, a son of Elrose Significance which scanned a 144 sq cm EMA at under 2yo was certain to catch the eye of beef breeders. He made $17,000 selling to Jim Bauer & Family, Elanora Park, Gin Gin.

The young poll sire Elrose Barocca, at 19 months showing good breed and beef style, sold to the Squire Partnership, Wharton Creek, Springsure for $16,500, one of six bulls they purchased at the sale.

Invited vendor Elizabeth Radel, Kandoona Red Brahman along with Robert & Jacqueline Curley, Gipsy Plains, Cloncurry; Bevan Radel, Kandoona Red Brahman and Eric Nobbs of Lyndhurst, Biloela were pleased to see the strong beef quality of the sale’s bulls from start to finish.

Ray Fleming and Janice Allison, Broadlands, McKinlay were at the Elrose sale. Janice bid to $34,000 to secure Elrose Sammy.

Invited vendor Elizabeth Radel, Kandoona Red Brahman along with Robert & Jacqueline Curley, Gipsy Plains, Cloncurry; Bevan Radel, Kandoona Red Brahman and Eric Nobbs of Lyndhurst, Biloela were pleased to see the strong beef quality of the sale’s bulls from start to finish.

Rob & Una Oates, Mt Brett, Comet purchased the sale’s heaviest milk tooth bull, Elrose Socrates for $30,000.

Damian Chaplain, Wynberg, Cloncurry and Clayton Curley, Gipsy Plains, Cloncurry catch up after the sale.
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Sav. Lady Koma 276/4
Sire: JDH Mr. McGowen Manso 737/3

Sav. Missy 84/7

Sav. Missy 84/1

Sav. Missy 84/2

PBF Paddy Boy Manso 390

+ JDH Mr. Manso 449/1

Pregnant recips by + JDH Mr. Manso 449/1

Sav. Lady Koma 276/1

Sav. Missy 84/7

Sav. Lady Koma 276/5

Sav. Lady Koma 276/4

Sav. Missy 84/2

Sav. Lady Koma 276/3

Sav. Lady Koma 276/2

Sav. Lady Koma 276/1

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- KC Gregory Manso 160/2 × Cross Fire 02/2
  + JDH Atari Manso 601/1 daughter
- Lady H Madlyn 601 × Cross Fire 02/2
  APL: Jack Madison Man 444/8 daughter
- JDH Lady Laney Manso 673/3 × Mr KC Union Mando 54/0
  + JDH Prescot Manso 82/6 daughter
- JDH Lady Enner Manso 606/5 × Mr KC Union Manso 54/0
  JDH Sir Atari Manso 6 daughter
- JDH Lady Lamson Manso 656/3 × Mr KC Union Manso 54/0
  + JDH Madison Manso 737/4 daughter
- JDH Reba Manso 903/4 × Mr KC Union Manso 54/0
  + JDH Remington Manso 784/2 daughter
- JDH Lady Lamson Manso 656/3 × Mr KC Justice Manso 847/5
  + JDH Madison Manso 737/4 daughter
- JDH Lady Manso 817/2 × Mr KC Justice Manso 847/5
  JDH Mr Rocket 514 daughter
- JDH Lady Manso 605/3 × Mr KC Justice Manso 847/5
  JDH Mr 440/1 daughter

Cross Fire 02/2

Mr KC Union Manso 54/0

Mr KC Justice Manso 847/5

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Grandson of + JDH Sir Liberty Manso 847/5
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AGENTS

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Alister McClymont was in attendance at the sale and selected three sires. His top purchase at $14,000 was Elrose Prominent, an 848kg milk tooth son of Elrose Significance. Dean Rasmussen & Marilyn Hansen, Droonoodoo stud, Kingaroy were delighted to purchase Elrose Ambit, a superbly bred Lancefield Ambition son for only $12,000. “We expected to go a lot further to buy him,” Dean said of the impressive sire prospect.

Reg Underwood, Bunda stud, Katherine, Northern Territory was also in the bidding action paying $11,000 for Elrose McMaster from the first crop of sons of PBF McCulloch Manso. David & Julie McCamley, Lancefield Brahman's, Palmalmal, Dingo purchased two bulls including, at $10,000, a rising 2yo son of FBC Mr Rafter Manso, Elrose Regiment. $10,000 was also needed by Peter Woodhouse & Family, Beeantha, Nelia to secure Elrose Majority, at 21 months a sire of enormous potential.

Bulk bull buyer action was led by Steve Gaff, Oceanic Cattle Stations, Northern Territory. He selected 37 bulls at an average of $2,905, very good value buying for the quality on offer. Brodie & Company, Cloncurry took home 22 bulls averaging $3,115 while Bernfels Pastoral Company of Winton and A.C. Klijn of Chirn Park each signed off on 11 bulls at average of $3,455 and $3,590 respectively. Seven bulls each went to local beef producers Hacon & Sons, Granada, Cloncurry and Laurie Blacklock & Family, Julia Creek. Peter Hacon’s reds averaged him $5,000 while a $3,645 average was recorded by the Blacklocks.

David & Joy Deguara, Hamdenvale stud, Simla bid to $7,500 for the sale top price heifer, Elrose Carolyn. She is a stylish type carrying the Novatel/Ambition cross. Ed & Dawn Solari of Lochlea Brahman's put together a nice quality group of 3 grey Elrose heifers. Elrose Cheeky, a long, correct type, was their top purchase at $5,000. Dean Rasmussen & Marilyn Hansen of Droonoodoo stud, Kingaroy also bid to $5,000 for the classy Lancefield Ambition daughter, Elrose Lady.
SOUTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH OF ABBA

GYMPIE BRAHMAN FEMALE SALE

9.30AM SATURDAY 6TH JUNE
GYMPIE SALEYARDS

The Sale Not to Miss!

Web catalogue available mid April

For further information or entry forms please contact
LANDMARK Gympie 07 5483 0230  ELDERS 07 3840 5529  SULLIVAN LIVESTOCK Gympie 07 3840 5529
Australia’s one stop shop for all things beef cattle related, Beef Australia 2009 will open for business on Monday 4th to Saturday 9th May, 2009 in Rockhampton, Central Queensland.

Industry education activities feature including a five-day Westpac Property Tour programme, a four and a half day Seminar programme, a four day Trade Fair showcasing over 400 exhibitors, and Australia’s International Genetics Marketplace.

Judging of the country’s largest gathering of stud cattle, the Beef Australia 2009 Landmark Stud Cattle championships will take place from Tuesday, 5 to Thursday, 8 May followed by the Junior Judging program on Friday 8 May 2009.

The Interbreed Competition and Champion of Champions Parade will be held on Thursday afternoon in Centre Ring with a ‘Stud Groom’s Send Off’ planned in the XXXX Retreat Bar, a huge B double truck that turns into a fully functional 2-story bar with a stage and big screen.

The Junior Led Steer Competition will be held on Tuesday morning at the start of the championships while Friday’s Junior Judging program will feature Young Judges, Young Paraders and the Charbray Society’s School Team’s judging.

The 4 day spectacle featuring over 2000 head from around 30 breeds will be showcased in the Centre Ring of the Rockhampton Showgrounds.

Overseas buyer delegations will have a unique opportunity to view Australia’s best seed stock from the International Lounge at the edge of Centre Ring with the Landmark trade display directly underneath.

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 30 countries attending.

The nation’s premier prime beef cattle competition, the Beef Australia 2009 Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness Beef Cattle Championships will feature a dozen classes which represent the dominant Australian beef markets and include various weight categories for crop or pasture fed cattle, grain assisted or lot fed cattle, and cattle destined for the European Union markets.

Judges Anthony Coates, Eidsvold Station, Queensland and Terry Nolan, Nolan Meats, Queensland will be looking for evenness across the pen in terms of market suitability, confirmation, finish and optimum weight for age when they judge the Championships on Monday, 4 May 2009 at the Gracemere Exhibition Centre. Trophies will be awarded that night at a gala presentation dinner at the Rockhampton Showgrounds. The Championships concludes on Tuesday, 5
Established in 1988 with a focus on structure, soundness, fertility, udders, temperament and ability to perform in adverse conditions

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**KENROL DREAMER 0159**
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**Cows have been sourced over the years from**
K Park, Lancefield, Kenrol and Warraka

**Embryos sourced from America**

**AI programs have utilized a huge range of bulls both from America & Australia.**

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May 2009 with the Sale of Champions and Feature Sale at the Gracemere Exhibition Centre.

Another important element of the Championships is the Young Commercial Judges Competition that will be judged by Rob Sinnamon, Yugilbar Station, NSW on Monday, 4 May 2009.

Twenty one participating processors from every state in Australia have ensured that location was no barrier for producers wanting to enter the Beef Australia 2009 ANZ/MSA National Beef Carcase Competition which was specifically designed to meet both export and domestic markets. A committee composed of beef industry representatives, practitioners, processors and Meat and Livestock Australia developed the judging system utilised in the competition from the Australian Beef Carcase Appraisal System.

Trophies will be awarded to the winning pen in each class and to the overall Champion Carcase and Reserve Champion Carcase at a presentation function on Tuesday, 5 May 2009. Meat Standards Australia will also award a trophy for MSA eating quality to the winning group of three carcases in all classes and a trophy to the winning individual carcase in each class.

A great entertainment mix featuring rodeos, horsemanship clinics and demonstrations, RuralCo’s Angry Anderson concert, a Great Debate, bush poets and local and interstate street theatre acts also features at the Expo.

Five on site restaurants and a large variety of catering outlets will ensure that patron’s appetites for beef dishes ranging from MSA steaks through to snags, curries and roast beef rolls will be met.

Celebrity chefs will also be cooking up a storm on the Demonstration Stage in the Beef Central Pavilion while daily fashion parades in the Kidman Pavilion will showcase styles from classic country through to cutting edge.

There’s also fabulous functions’ including the Queensland Country Life Beef Industry Awards Dinner, the gala WIN TV Beef Ball, the Suncorp Sportsman’s Lunch and the intriguingly titled ‘Beauty and the Beef’ luncheon (just for the ladies!)

Primary School tours are just one of the elements in the extensive school’s program being offered which includes art and multi media competitions, an art and craft activities area, junior judging for both stud and commercial cattle competitions and a ‘Kids in the Kitchen’ competition.

Rockhampton, Queensland 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 07 4922 2855.

Beef Australia 2009 will celebrate 21 years since the inaugural Expo in 1988 and looks set to break the attendance record of 60,000 people recorded at Beef Australia 2006. For full programme details visit www.beefaustralia.com.au
Value buys at Wilangi

Australia’s leading sale of grey Brahmans, the Wilangi Invitation Brahman sale, held for the 21st time at Charters Towers at the end of November, provided bull buyers with an excellent selection of beef types at good value prices.

The large offering of 345 bulls and 18 heifers failed to clear in full, as sale agents and vendors encountered an air of cautiousness among cattle producers leading up to the sale. This, combined with the drought conditions existing at the time in Queensland’s north west and into the Northern Territory, traditionally a big bull buying area for the Wilangi sale, restricted sale attendance and bidding. Principal sale vendors Ron & Bev White of Wilangi Brahman stud, Marlborough believe the sale result reflected the economic uncertainty existing in business currently throughout Australia. “Although a few regular buyers were not in a position to buy this year the clearance was still 88%, very creditable for such a large offering,” Ron White said. “It was the support of a number of long time repeat buyers which underwrote the result this year and they bought their bulls at tremendous value.”

The influence of volume buyers was again the key to the sale’s success with 11 prominent Central and North Queensland cattle producers, all repeat purchasers, accounting for 234 bulls. “This level of repeat buying support is a significant measure of the performance of these bulls in the industry spanning over 20 years,” Ken McCaffrey of McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing said.

Wilangi and invited vendor studs El Ja, Brahrock, KP, Wallace, Raglan, Apis Creek, Viva and Olive staged the sale over a night and day sessions. The sale’s heaviest bull, Raglan Mr Eric at 990kg, topped the night time “Stud’s Under the Stars” section realising $20,000 and selling to the Katherine Rural College campus of the Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory. This son of JDH Sir Leno Manso scanned an EMA of 141 sqcm and showed tremendous length. The 31 month, 966kg blue grey sire El Ja Buster Manso returned a scan of 142 sqcm EMA. He sold to Ron & Bev White of Wilangi Brahmans for $18,000. Lot 1 of the sale Brahrock Hero, an impressive type by JDH Riddell Manso was a $17,500 purchase for Pat Hills, Amaroo, Theodore.

Leo & Dora Barba of South Townsville claimed the sale’s top price bull with a $21,000 bid for El Ja Big Mac Manso, a 910kg Full Hudgins son of JDH Mr Manso 757. El Ja also recorded excellent sales of the well bred, 20 month old sire El Ja Big Time Manso at $14,000 to Walthum Pastoral Investments, Clermont and of the rising 2yo strong beef quality sire, El Ja Casper Manso which sold to Julatten studmaster, Bill Moul of Mt Louis Brahmas for $13,000.

Wilangi sold two sires at $12,000. AJ & Pam Davison, Viva Brahmas, Middlemount selected the 873kg JDH Mr Boswick Manso son Wilangi Xtreme Manso while John & Cheryl Randell, Crinum stud, Tieri took home Wilangi Xerox, a long and strong bodied sire, at that figure. Delaym Pastoral Company
of Charters Towers invested $12,000 and $11,500 in two attractive El Ja sires at the sale, while Peninsula cattle producers Graham & Lyn Elmes, Butchers Hill, Lakeland returned to the sale to purchase four bulls topping at $12,000 for a long bodied, 912kg white grey sire from the El Ja team.

Northern Territory Brahman breeders, Paul & Debbie Herrod, Katherine Livestock, Katherine outlaid $12,000 on a dark grey, full Hudgins, heavy boned sire prospect, Wallace Sir Gregory. The Herrods also paid $7,500 for another Wallace sire, the strongly muscled Wallace Gambler.

The Wells Family, Bogewong, Longreach purchased well, securing a rising 2yo, 820kg son of successful sire Lancefield Signature for $11,000. This bull, El Ja Buddie Manso, weighed 820kg scanned an EMA of 128 sqcm and shows exceptional sire potential.

Eleven thousand dollars was also needed by Jennifer McCamley, Tartrus Brahmans, Marlborough to secure Wilangi Xtra Look Manso, a red/grey bred sire of great weight performance and carcase quality. The sale’s other red/grey sire, KP Montgomery, a poll scurr son of Tartrus Redmount made $10,000 selling to local grazier IF Axford, Eumara Springs, Charters Towers.

Wilangi sold well credentialled stud sires each at $7,500 to Day Grazing Company of St Lawrence and to Hewitt Pastoral Enterprises of Taroom.

Leading commercial cattle producers from Central, Western and Northern areas enjoyed the opportunity to select purebred herd bulls from such a large sale line of consistent, beef quality types at prices, on average, $900 cheaper than the 2007 sale. Heading the volume buyers was Sheahan Land & Cattle Company, Esmeralda Station, Croydon. They put together a line of 46 bulls averaging $2,325. Graeme Acton, Acton Land & Cattle Company invested in a total of 39 registered and herd sires for Millungera Station, Julia Creek. His draft averaged $2,835. Dudley Anning, Pretty Plains, Hughenden too shopped well, outlaying an average of $2,415 for 30 bulls. Galloway Plains Pastoral Company, Calliope will see an influence on their herd from the 22 registered and herd sires they purchased at the sale averaging $3,430. An outstanding line of 19 strong weight performance and excellent carcase quality bulls went to astute cattlewoman Mrs Margaret Fisher, Talawanta Station, Normanton. Her purchases averaged $4,050. Simon Camm, Camm Agricultural Group purchased 15 bulls averaging $2,100.

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Value buys at Wilangi

for Longton Station, Pentland while other drafts were put together by Tom Sheahan & Company, Valley of Lagoons, Ingham (10 bulls averaged $3,450), Jabbejo Pty Ltd, Clermont (8 bulls averaged $3,875), Riverside Pastoral Company, Nebo (8 bulls averaged $5,500) and Watts Pastoral Company, Collinsville (8 bulls averaged $3,065). Brad & Jane Saunders, Charlevue, Dingo outlaid $8,000 to claim the Sale’s top price herd bull, a strong bodied, smooth muscled Wilangi bull.

STUD HEIFERS TOP AT $18,000

The attractive line of young stud heifers met a solid market at the Wilangi sale. The $18,000 section topper is a 10 month old daughter of JDH Sir Parker Manso sold by the El Ja stud. Bred out of a highly successful damline, she sold to Charters Towers Agency Geaney’s Livestock. Paul & Brigid Fenech, PBF Brahman, Sarina re-invested some proceeds of their recent highly successful annual sale when they paid $15,000 for Brahrck Miss Atlas Escamil, a beautiful 13 month old daughter of popular sire JDH Atlas Manso.

Tony & Trish Brown, Pioneer Park Brahman, Mackay bid to $12,000 for El Ja Deva Manso, a stylish heifer by FBC Calvin De Manso. Brian & Cindy Hughes, Lanes Creek Brahman, Georgetown are always on the lookout for quality heifers to strengthen their breeding lines. They selected two superbly bred Brahrck heifers at the Sale paying to $6,000 for a JDH Sir Winston Manso yearling heifer. $6,000 heifers were also purchased by Paul & Debbie Herrod, Ponderosa Stud, Katherine and Barry & Liz Miller, Grass Hut, Mingela.

Stud Heifers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>GROSS</th>
<th>AVERAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Registered Sires</td>
<td>$631,000</td>
<td>$5,260</td>
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<tr>
<td>178</td>
<td>Herd Bulls</td>
<td>468,000</td>
<td>2,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Stud Heifers</td>
<td>101,000</td>
<td>5,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>316</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
<td>88% Clearance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Agents: Elders, Landmark, Brodie & Company and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing.

Cambodian group returns to select heifers

Representatives of the 7NG Group Ltd from Cambodia, from left Cheang Bony; Chea Heng and Managing Director Srey Chanthou are pictured with livestock exporter Fraser McFarlane after inspecting Brahman heifers for shipment to Cambodia.
BRAHMAN COMMERCIAL BREEDING

FEMALE SHOW & SALE

Tuesday, 7 April 2009 GRACEMERE SALEYARDS

CLASSES
1. Cow & calves (under 10 years of age)
2. PTIC cows under 10 years of age - Vet Certificate and tag essential
3. PTIC Heifers under 3 years of age - Vet Certificate and tag essential
4. Yearling Heifers not more than 380kg (10 - 20 mths of age)
5. Weaner Heifers not more than 300kg (under 10 mths of age)

PRIZES $2000 PER CLASS
• 1st: $1000 + trophy
• 2nd: $600 + trophy
• 3rd: $400 + trophy
Champion Pen $1000 + trophy
Reserve Champion Pen $600 + trophy

FOR ENQUIRIES, ENTRY CONDITIONS AND ENTRY FORMS CONTACT YOUR PREFERRED GRACEMERE SELLING AGENT
Elders 4927 6122  •  Landmark 4927 6188
RF Duncan & Co  4922 3837
Brian Dawson Auctions  0417 667 668
Fanning Rural Agencies  4933 1387
Savage, Barker & Backhouse  4927 1677

ENTRY CONDITIONS
1. Purebred Brahman of good quality.
2. Straight colour (reds and greys).
3. Entry fee $20 (plus GST) per pen.
4. 1% of gross to ABBA.
5. All entries in the show and the sale in half deck lots. Weaners 18, yearlings 14, PTIC heifers 12, PTIC cows 10, cows and calves 8.
6. All entries to be effectively dehorned or polled.
7. All cattle for genuine sale.
8. All entries to be at the Gracemere Saleyards by 1pm Monday, 6 April and penned for judging by 4pm.
9. All classes to be sold open auction.
10. The committee reserves the right to exclude entries not considered to be of a satisfactory standard or consistent with the entry conditions from competition. Any entries so excluded shall be sold at the completion of the sale.

JACANA BRAHMANS

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Brahrock Avenue

JDH Mr Manso 93/3

Brahrock Settler
awaits the Brahman seedstock fraternity at our 2009 sale. The catalogue of 60 red heifers is the largest offering of its type at a single vendor Brahman sale and will be accompanied by 70 red males. This offering is a combination of the forces of the Brahman gene pool from across three countries.

The very best of the red American, South African and Australian genetics and their combinations will be on offer and we strongly recommend your attendance. And so it’s with a great deal of pleasure that we display our latest red and grey sire acquisitions on these two pages……..envisage the next generation.
Thousands of tickets for Beef Australia 2009 activities are now on sale with organizers reporting record interest from people keen to get amongst the action at Australia’s National Beef Exposition.

Seminars, workshops, lunch and breakfast speaker sessions and the ever popular Westpac Property tours are among the ticketed events that form part of the huge Beef Australia 2009 program of activities.

The Beef Australia 2009 ticketing program is available to download from www.beefaustralia.com.au with a number of options available to purchase tickets including a secure online web link.

Beef Australia 2009 will celebrate 21 years since the inaugural Expo in 1988 and looks set to break the attendance record of 60,000 people recorded at Beef Australia 2006.

SEMINARS

Beef Australia is committed to presenting the latest industry information, experience and innovation. International and domestic speakers present the key issues facing the beef industry both now and in the future with a focus on practical solutions and information exchange.

Tickets will cost no more than $10/person. James Lawrence Rooms 1 and 2 are at the Rockhampton Showgrounds.

MONDAY, 4 MAY

James Lawrence Room 1 - 1pm-5pm: Fortune favours the prepared. Gracemere Saleyards - 10am-12pm: Practical stock handling.

TUESDAY, 5 MAY

James Lawrence Room 1 - 9am-10am: Assessing cattle health and reproductive status, presented by the Australian Veterinary Association. 10.30am-1pm: Future Beef - smart science, new technologies, profitable beef businesses, presented by the DPI&F. 2pm-4pm: Beef CRC Forum.

James Lawrence Room 2 - 9am-12pm: The role of advertising and marketing to position beef. 1pm-3pm: Grazing Foundations: healthy soils and pastures. 3.30pm-5.30pm: Seminar and Young Ambassador awards presentation sponsored by Rabobank.

WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY

James Lawrence Room 1 - 10am-12.30pm: Beef Business: Opportunity or challenge? Sponsored by ANZ. 1.30pm-5.30pm MLA Frontier Forum chaired by Don Heatley, MLA.

James Lawrence Room 2 - 9am-11am: Beef CRC Forum. 11.30am-1.30pm: marketing your stud: The digital shopfront. 2pm-5pm: The Ruby Connection: Women in business. Sponsored by Westpac.

THURSDAY, 7 MAY

James Lawrence Room 1 - 8.30am-12.30pm: MLA Frontier Forum. 1pm-3.30pm: Who gets the farm? Sponsored by Suncorp. 4pm - 6pm: Looking after yourself.

James Lawrence Room 2 - 9am-11am: Strategies for diversifying your farm income. 12.30pm-3pm: Hoof to Hook in 2020.

FRIDAY, 8 MAY

James Lawrence Room 1 - 9am-12pm: Putting profit into the beef industry. 1pm-3pm: Property management tools for 2020.

James Lawrence Room 2 - 8.30am-3pm: Key Turners Forum. Sponsored by Rabobank and MLA.

FUNCTIONS & DINNERS

MONDAY, 4 MAY

Beef Industry Awards Dinner, sponsored by Queensland Country Life. Venue: Sydney Kidman Pavilion - The Branded Restaurant, 6.30pm. Acknowledging the efforts and achievements of innovators and leaders within the Australian beef industry across the sectors of production, processing, retailing, transport, marketing and R&D, this dinner brings together key players in the industry.

Australian Beef Cattle Championships Dinner, sponsored by Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness. Venue: The Heritage Grill at Beef Central, 6.30pm. Presentations to entrants in the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness Beef Cattle Championships are a feature of this dinner.

ANZ/MSA National Beef Carcase Competition. An Awards presentation will be held from 4.30pm - 6.30pm in the James Lawrence Pavilion, Room 1 at the Rockhampton Showgrounds. All participants are encouraged to attend. Please book online, tickets free of charge.
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TUESDAY, 5 MAY
AIM Breakfast. Venue: Ascot Stonegrill at the Showgrounds, 7.00am
Rotary Breakfast. Venue: The Heritage Grill at Beef Central, 7.00am

WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY
“The Bull-dust Luncheon” brought to you by Nudgee College. Venue: The Heritage Grill at Beef Central, 12.00pm. Shake off the chalk dust and head along to this luncheon, where you will be entertained by highly respected Poets; Noel Stallard & Dennis Scanlon. The lunch is open to all comers, but in particular a great occasion for Nudgee Old Boys and friends of Nudgee to get together.

THURSDAY, 7 MAY
Rural Press Club Breakfast. Venue: Sydney Kidman Pavilion - The Branded Restaurant, 7.00am. The Rural Press Club plays host to a diverse range of guest speakers bringing to the forefront some of the issues that impact on Rural Queensland. During Beef Australia 2009 the Rural Press Club breakfast will aim to do the same, presenting an iconic Australian beef producer to speak about the industry, its past and future.

FRIDAY, 8 MAY
Beauty and the Beef Luncheon. Venue: The Heritage Grill at Beef Central, 12.00pm. A fabulous afternoon of fine dining and fantastic entertainment. The speaker line up of Kacie Lord, Sam & Jenny Bailey and comedian Fiona O’Loughlin will have you laughing along with them and nodding in agreement as they recount stories about their lives and families in regional Australia.

Suncorp Sportsman’s Lunch. Venue: Sydney Kidman Pavilion - The Branded Restaurant, 12.00pm. ‘Rugby League vs Rugby Union - which is the ultimate game?’ Come along and enjoy a memorable afternoon of anecdotes, tall stories and tour antics with Rugby League legend Shane Webcke and Australian Rugby Union Legend Tim Horan. A not to be missed function for all those die hard League and Union fans.

FDC Hats & Heels Cocktails. Venue: International Lounge Function Room, 4.30pm - 8.00pm. Whether you’ve spent the day walking around the Expo or in the Key Turners Forum, relax and wet the dust by having a few drinks at the RNA Future Directions Committee’s ‘Hats and Heels Cocktail Party’ or simply enjoy some local entertainment and an afternoon on the VIP deck.

SATURDAY, 9 MAY
WIN Television Beef Ball. Venue: Sydney Kidman Pavilion with pre dinner drinks served at the XXXX Retreat Bar at 6.30pm. Beef Australia’s gala ball only happens once every three years. A glamorous celebration of the beef industry along with an unforattable night of fine dining and great music makes this a night not to be missed.

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Kamir
Bizzy
Fern Hills
Tarramba
Elrose
Ooline
Hazleton B
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Solo F
Rockley
Solo
Delta Grove
Halgeneraes
Wandarri
Wilangi
Wilarandy S
Wallton Downs
Neslo

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness
I love my Brahman Mum!
Laramee heifer the best seller at Laidley

A total of 43 heifers averaged $1733 at the 11th Anniversary Invitation Female Sale held at Laidley Saleyards on January 17.

The Lockyer Valley fixture peaked at $4750 for the Hudgins-blood heifer Laramee El Jumbo, offered by Larry and Megan Rauschenbach, Laramee stud, Laidley. The 15-month-old daughter of Bremer Vale Sampson Manso (JDH Bryan Manso) and the Elefante cow, Blenheim View Jumbo, was secured by David Manley, Taringa.

The Davey family, Starbra stud, Gunalda invested $4500 in the polled full US-blood heifer L Vee Fancy D Esto, from Jim and Lenore Flanagan’s L Vee stud, Minden. The 14-month-old was by JME Mr Esto 28 and out of the Mr International 50/1 female Lancefield D Fancy Dream. The Flanagans also sold $3500 L Vee Navesto, another polled JME Mr Esto 28 daughter, to John Claydon, Broandah stud, Bonalbo, NSW. Mr Claydon also paid $3000 for Bremer Vale Cindy V Manso, an in-calf Wilangi Verb heifer from Mike Peters’ Bremer Vale stud, Rosewood.

Vera Fitzgerald, Blenheim Ridge stud, Blenheim invested in three new breeders, bidding up to $2500 to secure Laramee Grand Pop, a two-year-old by FBC Mr Grande Manso 158D.

Cows from the Miller family’s Milldale stud, Mt Whitestone, sold well; all were by the JDH Denver De Manso 818/7 (imp) bull, Milldale Denver, and had been running with $19,000 Brahrock Ascent. Six-year-old Milldale Sabrina 1078 sold to Peter and Brenda Milne, Warmbrahs stud, Warwick for $2500; five-year-old Milldale Martina 1083 sold to Mark Flanagan, Blenheim for $2250; and seven-year-old Milldale Delilah went for $2250 to Olive Liul.

Gavin and Donna Boardman, Callemondah stud, Cooyar paid $2250 for Bremer Vale V Pearls Manso, a Wilangi Verb heifer in calf to Bremer Vale Sir Andre JNR Manso.

Two cows and calves averaged $1875, the top sale being $2000 Broandah Miss Skye, a July 2005-drop daughter of Elrose Specialty offered with a heifer calf at foot by Clukan Webcke Manso. She was one of three head purchased by Allan Ford, Caloundra.

The major buyer was Bradley Wood, Coleville who took home seven heifers including the $2250 polled red, Ad Jess Little Princess, a Roseborough L Kyle daughter offered by Ivan and Leilani Voss, Ad Jess stud, Rosevale.
SELLING HEIFERS AT
TOOWOOMBA PREMIER BRAHMAN FEMALE SALE
18 April, 2009

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Overseas demand for healthy, quality Australian cattle in 2008 delivered record returns and surging volumes with a 20% increase in live cattle export numbers and a record-breaking A$644 million contribution to the Australian economy.* Australia exported 869,545 cattle last year, an increase of 150,000 from the 719,482 head exported in 2007.

The total value of all livestock exports, including cattle, sheep and goats was A$974 million for the year.

“The live cattle trade from Australia contributed a record A$644 million to the Australian economy last year,” said MLA Livestock Exports Manager, Michael Finucan. “This record revenue for Australia demonstrates the importance of the livestock export industry to our farming families and communities and to our trading partners, particularly Indonesia which took its largest ever volume of Australian cattle last year.

“Australian cattle are well known for being high quality, healthy and disease-free. They’re well-cared for on the Aussie farm, during the voyage overseas and in in-market feedlots. This reputation for quality and commitment to animal welfare is helping drive demand and volumes.”

Indonesia remains Australia’s largest live cattle export market taking 651,196 head (75% of total exports), up from 516,992 head in 2007 and valued at A$419 million. This is a 26% increase on 2007 volumes, and the largest ever yearly volume of cattle sent to Indonesia.

“Indonesia is a key industry partner and demands high quality, healthy Australian cattle to ensure its growing communities have access to affordable protein. Australian cattle are well suited to the Indonesian climate and the Indonesian livestock industry is investing in animal welfare programs and infrastructure,” said Mr Finucan.

The Israel and Libyan markets continue to grow, with Israel the second largest market for Australian cattle, taking 44,109 head and Libya close behind with 38,113 head. It is anticipated these markets will continue to remain strong in 2009.

The Russian market opened in 2006, and is now the fourth largest market for Australian live cattle exports, taking 100% breeding animals in order to rebuild their herds and improve their domestic production. In 2008 Russia took 20,071 head of breeding cattle with a value of A$53 million.

Overseas demand for Australian live cattle is forecast to remain strong, particularly from Indonesia and the Middle East/North Africa. These markets are still expanding and are realising the benefit of the lower Australian dollar. However, herd rebuilding efforts in the Northern Territory are expected to constrain available supplies for the livestock export trade in 2009, with total exports forecast to drop back six percent on 2008 levels.

Cattle are transported to overseas markets by sea, with accredited Australian stockmen caring for all livestock during the voyage and accredited Australian veterinarians on board all voyages to the Middle East. All animals have constant access to food and water, with room to move around and lie down. In 2007/08 over 99.9% of cattle arrived fit and healthy at their destination after being well cared for during the voyage.

*Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics
OWNERSHIP OF OUR EXCLUSIVE AMERICAN & AUSTRALIAN GENETICS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO BRAHMAN GENETICS - ABBA #4354

TROPICAL CATTLE

2008 RATIONALIZATION AND CREATION OF AN ELITE STUD HERD OF GREY AND RED REGISTERED COWS

BRAHMAN WEEK RESULTS

Congratulations... Glengarry stud selling Lot 785 by Tropical Cattle Amos Manso $28,000. Lot 786 by Tropical Cattle Rifleman Manso $18,000, Lot 787 Tropical Cattle Rifleman Manso $18,000
McLennan Partnership Lot 23 out of Tropical Cattle Lady A Manso 2922/2 $30,000
The sire of 'Rifleman', JDH Winchester Manso (Imp US) also has progeny performing well on the American Show Circuit for the Forgasan family at JD Hudgins Inc. The above sires and female were bought privately on "The Orient"

Our thanks... to all our Registered stud stock buyers. Commercial bull buyers this year who took home in excess of 300 head of herd bulls

Beef 2009... Errol Cole is taking a show team to Rockhampton to display cattle representative our quality herd
Although our builders have been held up with "The Wet!!" infrastructure for accommodation on property sales is continuing - pens are being constructed. Overnight accommodation is also available for visiting buyers. Buyers can be met at Townsville or Cairns International airports. Private aircraft at Ingham airport. The popular 10% discount remains on purchases for all previous buyers. Freight rebates available with Schmidt's Livestock Transport.

STUD PRINCIPALS: John & Sue Joyce
Glenprairie features on Beef 2009 property tour list

One of the highlights of Beef Australia is the property tours programme that allows visitors to the region the opportunity to see a variety of working cattle properties and research facilities for themselves.

Glenprairie is listed as one of the property tours which will be held on Thursday, 7 May and is sponsored by Westpac.

Glenprairie is of historic significance as it was one of the earliest stations to be established in Central Queensland.

The 114,000 acres of grazing plains east of Marlborough has been certified organic since 1999 and is home to the GE McCamley Group’s Certified Organic Beef Enterprise. Sir Graham McCamley developed Queensland’s premier organic cattle company at Glenprairie where 15,000 organic Brahman cattle are bred and fattened for retailers and supermarkets.

There are an additional 8,000 organic cattle among those run on other GE McCamley Group properties.

Justin & Simône Wickham head the 8-person team committed to maintaining the strict protocols vital to the Certified Organic status of Glenprairie beef.

Annual audits assess the property’s compliance to these criteria, which prohibit the use of any chemicals, including growth promotants (HGPs) and fertilisers, at any stage of production. Weeds and regrowth are controlled by mechanical means such as blade ploughing and pasture improvement.

The GE McCamley Group aims to move into the production of organic grain on another property Tartrus that is managed by Jennifer McCamley. This grain will be used to value-add to Tartrus and Glenprairie’s organic beef enterprise.

Sir Graham about to take Gordon Wyland aboard his helicopter

In 1953 a previous owner built a 25-mile bank to create ponded pasture on the vast estuarine plains of Glenprairie. Wildlife abounds in this fertile coastal system, with birds such as swans, ducks, geese, Jabiru and the endangered Yellow Chat prospering alongside Glenprairie’s cattle.

After a pleasant journey along the Bruce Highway you will arrive on the expansive plains of Glenprairie that separate imposing mountain ranges. Morning tea will be served on the shady lawn while Sir Graham McCamley introduces you to Glenprairie and its organic beef operations.

Next you’ll make the short walk to the yards to look at Glenprairie’s organic cattle including herd bulls, trade herd steers, females and weaners. Following the bank that dissects the property, the bus will then take you right through Glenprairie’s plains where you might see some of the feathered wildlife.

Back at the homestead, lunch will give you a great chance to ask questions and talk with your fellow passengers. Information about the property and organic farming as well as photos of Glenprairie’s paddocks will be on display.
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Quality or quantity - can you have both?

It’s a well known fact that it can take several years to realise any benefit from genetic improvements you make in your herd.

So being able to use early life indicators to enhance the performance of your cattle is set to be a boon for the northern beef industry.

Following on from CRCI, the Beef CRC’s northern breeding program is now generating data which aims to improve the profitability and productivity of beef businesses years in advance.

David Johnston, Principal Research Scientist from the Animal Genetics Breeding Unit (AGBU) at the University of New England in Armidale said data from the northern breeding program is now being used to discover the genetic linkages between carcass quality and lifetime reproductive performance.

“During CRCI we generated large numbers of cattle from both Brahman and tropical composite bulls to look at whether it was possible to improve the quality of beef produced in northern Australia,” Dr Johnston said.

“We were able to show industry that things like nutrition, pre- and postslaughter management as well as processing techniques could all affect the quality of the carcass.”

But for every steer a bull produces he also leaves a heifer, said Dr Johnston. While producers can now improve the performance of the steer there is still little information about whether it could affect the reproductive performance and adaptive traits of the daughters.

“Reproduction is a major profit driver for beef production. If people are making selection decisions to improve yield, meat quality and/or carcass weight, it’s important to know that the sisters will also perform,” Dr Johnston said.

The project, being run on four research stations in Queensland and involving cattle from some of Australia’s biggest cattle producers, will wrap up in 2010 when all the cows have had the opportunity to wean six calves.

Dr Johnston said the scale of the project would not have been possible without the continued support of the Northern Pastoral Group (NPG). The NPG includes Australian Agricultural Company (AACo), Northern Australian Pastoral Company (NAPCO), S Kidman and Co, McDonald Holdings (MDH), Stanbroke, Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC), C & R Briggs ‘Cona Creek’, S & M Halberstatter ‘Mandalay’ and GE & J McCamley ‘Tartrus’, Queensland.

“The NPG gave us access to large groups of cows that could be multiple-sire joined and then DNA fingerprinted for parentage. As we were dealing with reproductive traits which are lowly heritable, we needed each sire to generate between 20 and 30 daughters.”

He said there were two reasons why they used four different research stations.

“When you’re measuring traits like ‘age of puberty’ and reproductive performance, you have to guarantee 100 percent bull security. The research stations provided that.”

The research stations also provided a cross-section of environments.

“From ‘Brian Pastures’ at Gayndah through to ‘Belmont’ at Rockhampton up through the coastal spear grass of ‘Swans Lagoon’ at Ayr to the Mitchell grass plains of ‘Toorak’ at Julia Creek, the stations represented a wide range of production systems available in Queensland.”

Dr Johnston said while they still don’t have any final conclusions, early indications suggest there aren’t any great antagonisms between carcass and meat quality traits and lifetime reproductive performance.

Besides the reproductive performance of the cattle, researchers are also looking at indicators of adaptation.

Dr Johnston said a team of scientists have collected a whole range of information from the cattle to determine whether certain measures can be taken on young females just after weaning to predict how they will perform later in life.

The measurements include tick scores, faecal egg counts, buffalo fly lesion scores, rectal temperature, coat type and coat scores.

“We want to find out whether heifers that have high rectal temperatures when they’re young are more likely to drop out of the herd than those heifers with a lower rectal temperature,” he said.

Dr Johnston said they are looking at the genetic basis of these traits to see if they are genetically correlated with the lifetime reproductive performance of the females.
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“Ultimately, we want to discover whether there are groups of sires carrying certain copies of genes whose daughters are more prone to dropping out of the herd when compared to the progeny of other bulls.”

Dr Johnston said learning more about the early indicators of performance will help producers make decisions about breeding selections earlier than they can currently.

“In a breeding sense, it’s difficult to have to wait five or 10 years to compare one sire to another. Rather than replacing or culling cows which don’t perform, producers will be able to use the sires which they know will leave them the type of daughters that have greater longevity or greater reproductive performance.”

Dr Johnston said while the drought and rising input costs are probably at the forefront of every producer’s mind, genetics is one way of making improvements in the long term.

“If we can just get the commitment from industry when it comes to performance recording, it is possible to make genetic improvements year after year, generation by generation,” said Dr Johnston.

“That way we’ll make the industry even more sustainable than it is today.”

Dear Members

John, Julie & Bryan D’Este of Destys Red Brahmans of Quirindi NSW. Would like to thank all the Queensland Brahman studs that we visited, on our trip in January.

Most of all we would like to thank Mark & Tarsh Allen of Kariboe Valley Brahmans at Thangool for all their help and friendship when John took ill out at there place. We really appreciate it.

We would also like to thank the following studs: Muan, Reldarah, Fairy Springs, Kenrol, Batandra, The Rivers, Palmvale, Fern Hills, Rockley, Topline, Kangarin, Neslo and Roseborough for all there friendship, hospitality and of course showing us their cattle.

We all thoroughly enjoyed it, we will catch up again.

We are sorry to those that we missed we may come and meet you on the next trip.

We would also like to thank the ABBA staff for showing us around the office.

Yours Sincerely

John, Julie, Bryan D’Este, Destys Red Brahmans
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Dehorning best practice

by Alan Laing DPI&F NORTHERN MUSTER ISSUE 20

In 2007, MLA produced a booklet entitled “A guide to best practice husbandry in beef cattle – branding, castrating and dehorning.” It is authored by Ross Newman and is very well put together with appropriate photos and diagrams.

WHAT IS DEHORNING?

Dehorning is the removal of the horns from cattle. It is a labour-intensive, skilled operation with important animal welfare implications.

Cattle can have horns of different length, shape and size, but all horns are detrimental to cattle from a welfare and production perspective, and pose a potential safety risk to cattle handlers.

Tipping (removal of the insensitive sharp end of the horn) is not dehorning. It does little to reduce the disadvantages of having horned cattle, for example it does not reduce bruising, and tipped cattle can still be a danger to other cattle and handlers.

WHEN TO DEHORN

The younger that cattle are dehorned, the better both for the calf and for the operator. Young calves suffer less pain and stress, have less risk of infection and have better growth rates. They are also much easier to handle and to restrain.

DEHORNING AND ‘THE CATTLE CODE’

Sect 5.8.1. To minimise pain and injury all horned cattle should be dehorned as young as possible, preferably prior to weaning, and at a suitable time to reduce fly worry.

After dehorning, cattle should be inspected regularly for the first 10 days, and any infected wounds treated. In those situations where flies are a problem, a suitable fly repellent should be applied at the time of dehorning.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Dehorning is best done in a calf cradle that allows good access to each horn site. Good restraint minimises the duration of the procedure and pain to the calf, reduces the risk of wound contamination and makes it easier for the operator.

WHICH DEHORNING INSTRUMENT?

The dehorning instrument used will depend on the age of the calf:

- hot iron – under two months old
- dehorning knife – 2–3 months old
- scoop dehorners – 2–6 months old
- cup dehorners – 2–6 months old

Animals over six months old*

- guillotine dehorners – horn tipping only
- surgical wire – horn tipping only
- tippers – horn tipping only
- horn saw – horn tipping only

*Horn tipping only unless under the direction of a veterinarian.

Caustic dehorning chemicals must not be used. They can spread into the eyes if the skin gets wet.

ANATOMY OF A GROWING HORN

YOUNG CALF

The horn grows from the skin around its base – at different rates with different breeds. The horn bud is usually free-floating in the skin over the skull base in calves less than about two months old.

As the calf gets older, this horn bud attaches to the skull bone and a small horn forms.

OLDER CALF

After the horn bud attaches to the skull, the horn grows out from under the skin. It becomes a bony extension of the skull with the hollow centre of the horn opening into the frontal sinus. The brain lies directly under the frontal sinus covered by a thin layer of bone.

Dehorning after the horn attaches increases the risk of entering the frontal sinus and subsequent infection.

THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL DEHORNING

Applies to all methods. Because the horn grows from the skin around its base, you must remove or destroy a complete ring of hair (1cm wide) around the horn base.

Check that the excised ring is wide enough because some horn will grow if the ring is not complete. A 1cm wide ring of hair is enough – any more will make a larger wound, cause avoidable pain, and delay healing.

Contact Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)
Ph: 1800 023 100

The whole booklet is worthy of a place on any cattle property.
NBS Rascally Manso 034-7

Come and see Rascally and the rest of the NBS team at the BRAHMAN CLASSIC SALE site at BEEF 2009.

www.nbsbrahmans.com.au
MSA grading at JBS Swift & Co in Townsville commenced in April 2008. The introduction of MSA grading provides an opportunity for producers to receive a 10c premium for 0-4 tooth cattle that grade “boning room 10” or better. This premium has the potential to improve beef business gross margins.

Under the Value In Beef project, DPI&F staff are working with a number of producer groups to improve compliance rates of cattle consigned to MSA markets. This includes 3 MLA funded producer demonstration sites (PDS’s) which have been set up in Western Queensland, Charters Towers and the Burdekin regions.

The MSA PDS groups have producers partnering with DPI&F, MLA and JBS Swift & Co with the primary aim of improving MSA compliance rates. This includes:

- reducing the percentage of cattle that do not meet company specifications for weight, dentition and fat cover and are therefore ineligible for MSA grading;
- reducing the percentage of cattle which become MSA "ungrades" due to pH and/or meat colour;
- increasing the percentage of cattle receiving a premium by grading into boning room 10 or better.

The MSA PDS project will improve skills and understanding of MSA grading, plus analysis and interpretation of MSA feedback. It also provides opportunities for producers to participate in "on property" demonstrations of cattle performance monitoring and strategies to achieve MSA compliance. Each PDS has a key site. However, compliance data and management strategies from other properties within the group are also addressed. The results and progress of these sites will be reported annually in the Northern Muster, and in due course field days will be held (watch this space!).

Since June two of the sites have made progress in reducing the percentage ungrades due to pH and meat colour. At Lisgar (Burdekin group), three consignments have been sent in targeting MSA premiums since June 2008.

In the first consignment (3.5 year old steers), less than 3% made it to Boning Room 10 or better and 66% were ungrades from high pH or meat colour.

In the third consignment (2.5 year old steers), less than 2% were ungrades due to high pH and 45% made it to Boning Room 10 or better. However, 53% made it to Boning Rooms 11 to 14 – close, but not close enough for the premium.

The following changes were made

- reduced age
- finetuned stockhandling in the month prior to and up to trucking
- managed paddock nutrition

Other practices underway at Lisgar include the longer term strategy of using genetics to improve MSA performance through

- increasing growth rate will reduce age at turnoff and therefore ossification
- increasing marbling
- increasing rib fat cover
- Improving nutrition pathways to reduce age of turnoff is also part of ongoing management. Further improvements are expected in this herd's MSA performance over time.

At Trafalgar in the Dalrymple shire, there has been a high level of compliance with company specs, so the greater majority of cattle have been eligible for MSA grading. Of those eligible for MSA grading the percentage "ungrades" in the August consignment was 41%. This was reduced to 12% in the October consignment, as a result of improved paddock nutrition, fine tuning stock handling and reducing time in the yards prior to trucking.

It should be noted that some of the better MSA results have come from cattle consigned from Western Queensland. This is despite 10-12 hours travel time to the meatworks.

The key factors which impact on whether cattle grade boning room 10 or better, include ossification, marbling, hump height, carcase weight and rib fat. These factors (which affect eating quality) will be discussed in future articles. For more information go to www.msagrading.com.au

Working with producers to achieve MSA premiums from Northern Muster ISSUE 20

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This project, also known as the Epigenetics Project, lead by the DPI&F, studies the deviation from traditional Mendelian inheritance patterns in beef cattle.

This deviation can result from the expression of a gene being dependent upon whether it was inherited from the male versus the female parent (imprinting). It could also result from certain environmental conditions leading to permanent changes in gene expression.

Epigenetic inheritance can have significant effects on growth, behaviour and health traits. The susceptibility of epigenetic inheritance to environmental effects can compromise conventional quantitative trait loci (QTL) utilisation strategies.

Therefore, these epigenetic interactions add as yet unaccounted for variation into beef cattle production systems. This results in breeding and production inefficiencies, especially in the predominant tropical breeds in Queensland.

This deviation from the conventional genetic model has been highlighted in a number of studies worldwide. To date there has been no concerted effort to understand the mechanisms for these interactions that impact significantly on tropical beef breeds and production outcomes. Similarly, strategies for producers to manage these influences within breeding programs have yet to be developed.

The understanding and application of this proposed cutting-edge internationally collaborative research has the potential to greatly enhance permanent genetic gain in Queensland’s tropical beef cattle breeds.

**CENTRAL HYPOTHESIS OF PROJECT**

Our central hypothesis for this project is that many traits of economic importance in beef cattle

- appear to be affected by genes with imprinted or other epigenetic effects, and
- lack of identification of these genetic mechanisms will sustain unrecognisable variation and production system inefficiency.

Therefore, unique Australian & USA resources and expertise are being combined to -

- Better understand the biology associated with epigenetic influences affecting reproduction, growth, carcass and adaptation traits of Bos indicus-Bos taurus crossbred cattle;
- Specifically investigate all aspects of growth from pre-natal and early post-natal development to feeding-finishing systems and to integrate these influences on cow reproduction, productivity, mature size and longevity; and
- Formulate strategies for producers to manage these epigenetic influences within beef cattle breeding programs to increase precision and reduce variation in these key production traits and end-product quality, resulting in increased efficiency and ultimately, increased profitability.

**SPECIFIC RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES**

(i) Prenatal characterisation of growth and development in Bos indicus and Bos taurus cattle

This component of the project is being lead by Prof. Stefan Hiendleder, University of Adelaide. This project will evaluate placental and embryo-foetal development and birthweight/calf size among reciprocal cross F1 Brahman x Angus beef cattle.

(ii) Postnatal characterisation of growth, reproduction, behaviour and carcass traits in Bos indicus x Bos taurus resource cattle herds

This component of the project is being lead by Assoc. Prof. Andy Herring, Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M University (TAMU). This component will conduct quantitative trait loci (QTL) scans (reproduction, growth, basic industry carcass traits and behaviour) in the TAMU McGregor Genomics Project Herd (Reciprocal F2 Nellore (N) x Angus (A) Resource Herd) – birth to slaughter in males and birth to ~10years of age in females.

(iii) Industry purchased Brahman heifers

This component of the project is being lead by Dr. Brian Burns, Animal Science, Delivery, DPI&F in conjunction with Prof. Stefan Hiendleder, University of Adelaide.

Approximately 22 industry Brahman heifers, located at the DPI&F’s Brigalow Research Station, Theodore are presently being artificially inseminated to either a -

- Breed average Angus GROUP BREEDPLAN 600 day growth EBV sire, or a
- Breed average Brahman GROUP BREEDPLAN 600 day growth EBV sire.

These dams and progeny will be used in sensitive gene identification and expression studies.

(iv) Evaluation of gene markers for growth, carcass, temperament and cow fertility with associated epigenetic effects in a tropical environment

This component of the project is being led by DPI&F and is being conducted at the Lisor Droughtmaster Stud (Robert and Donna Rea), Home Hill, Queensland. The day-to-day collection of data from this herd is being managed by Alan Laing, DPI&F, Ayr. This GROUP BREEDPLAN Droughtmaster Herd will be used as a benchmark and validation herd to better understand the mechanisms for these epigenetic interactions that impact significantly on tropical beef breeds and production outcomes.

**WHAT WILL BE DELIVERED?**

- A better understanding of the genetic potential of individuals; and
- Strategies for producers to manage these epigenetic influences within breeding programs.

These outputs will allow beef producers to increase precision and reduce variation in key production (reproduction, growth and carcass), adaptation (cattle tick and gastrointestinal worm resistance) and temperament traits and end-product meat quality, resulting in increased efficiency and ultimately, increased profitability. This is especially important as branded beef food products continue to increase in demand.

This project is strongly supported by the Droughtmaster Stud Breeders Society.
Glengarry Brahman

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Australia’s poetic image as a land of drought and flooding rain could not have been truer in early 2009. While Victoria experienced devastating bushfires, 62 percent of Queensland was flood affected with estimates that the damage bill could exceed $210 million.

While Top Enders are accustomed to the monsoonal wet season, ongoing rain since January 1 has meant that communities such as Normanton and Karumba have been isolated for six to 10 weeks, instead of the usual three.

Sarah Nelson said they received 698mm of rain in January and a further 300mm in the first two weeks of February, creating the worst flood in living history at Cowan Downs, 180km south of Normanton. At the time of writing, 40,500 hectares of the 73,000 ha property was completely underwater. She said of the 8000 Brahman cattle on the fattening block, about 5000 would be directly affected by the floodwaters.

“We know there will be substantial losses but won’t know the full extent until we can get at them,” said Ms Nelson.

“It’s estimated that thousands and thousands of cattle will die in these floods and that will be a huge loss for the cattle industry in the Gulf.”

At the time of writing the Nelsons were awaiting the next flood peak to come down the Cloncurry River and Dismal Channel system.

“Because it’s been overcast for six weeks we still haven’t grown any feed. The cattle that aren’t drowning are dying of exposure from standing in water.”

Apart from the lost income the Nelsons also face significant infrastructure repair costs and have been lobbying the State Government for assistance in-line with that given to 2008 North Queensland flood victims. To date, they have had to pay $900/hour out of their own pockets to hire a helicopter to do a fodder drop.

Jacqueline Curley from Gipsy Plains, 64km north of Cloncurry, said the Cloncurry River had a history of flooding once every 11 years, but this year had produced three major floods within five weeks.

The property has gone from battling its worst drought in 40 years to receiving 1015mm of rain for the first six weeks of 2009.

Mrs Curley said about a quarter of the property was underwater, but they were fortunate that most paddocks had some ridge country for cattle to escape the rising waters.

“It’s been wet the whole time. We had 20 wet days during January and didn’t move a wheel for five weeks. We’ve had a lot of exposure losses and the cattle are all scaly and scabby and footsore. The stock have suffered quite a bit but we are very lucky compared to people in the Gulf,” she said.

The Curleys expect losses of about 5 percent, mainly due to exposure.

“That’s because we had two systems go through with 70 kilometre an hour winds and driving rains. Without that cold, driving wind and rain, losses would have been minimal.”

She said the extended wet should result in a good body of grass, however the forage would need to be tested to determine its nutritional value and decide whether supplementation was needed.

“After the ’74 floods we had no protein in the grass, it had all leached out of the grass and the topsoil,” Mrs Curley said.

One benefit of the drought preceding the flood was that little debris was washed downstream, saving fence lines from extensive damage.

Barry and Tammy Hughes run 5000 head on 80,000 ha breeding block, North Head, located 60km from Forsayth. Barry said they had experienced the second highest flood on record, with the Gilbert River peaking at 9m in early February.

“We have 3500 breeder age females in a paddock rotational system so this will put pressure on our mid-March shift,” says Barry.

“We are hoping that we can get some respite soon so the country dries out and we can fix fences.”

Although he expects losses to be minimal, he said a severe infestation of buffalo fly was causing concerns, and he expected that outbreaks of three day sickness could occur once the water recedes.
MR. H MADDOX MANSO 684
SIRE: +JDH MR. MANSO 360/1 - DAM: LADY HERITAGE "TORI" MANSO 173

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2008 Sugar Classic Grand Champion

Mr. H Morton Manso 964/7
Sire: Mr. H Maddox Manso 684

2008 Sugar Classic Champion Get of Sire
Sire: Mr. H Maddox Manso 684

2009 INTERNATIONAL SALE CONSIGNMENT
Lady H Moriah Manso 961/7
Sire: Mr. H Maddox Manso 684 • Dam: Lady H Double Bling Manso 755
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2008 Jambalaya Classic Intermediate Champion
2008 Sugar Classic Grand Champion

Lady H Lisa Manso 947/7
Sire: Mr. H Maddox Manso 684

Lady H Slugger Manso 022/48
Sire: Mr. H Maddox Manso 684

2008 Hunt County Fair Reserve Calf Champion
2008 Sugar Classic Calf Champion

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We’ve also had plenty of scalding in our calves, with up to 65 percent of the coat affected in a lot of cases. The worst part is that you can’t do a thing for the poor buggers.”

He said North Head had not received a mail service for more than eight weeks but had benefitted from two helicopter drops of basic supplies and medicine.

Dallas Daley, Caiwarra Station, Julia Creek said they had been deluged by 940mm of rain in the first six weeks of 2009, more rain than they had received in the past eight years. Although the property’s channel system was flooded, losses were expected to be fairly minimal at Caiwarra. However, 150 calves and a small number of steers and stud cows on agistment north of Julia Creek had perished.

Despite the boggy conditions the Daleys hoped to be able to muster the channels on horseback during the third week in February, weather permitting.

Joan Harriman said their property Reedybrook, on the headwaters of the Burdekin River north of Greenvale, had experienced the third highest flood this century, following 1155mm of rain.

Although their cattle were safe on the basalt ridges, the flooding meant a short-term loss of production from their black soil fattening country.

“Our house paddock, which is one square mile, is underwater and our lake paddock adjacent to the river has been covered for three weeks,” said Mrs Harriman.

“The grass may shoot, but we get heavy frost up here and it won’t grow too much before winter. The grass is also covered with debris and sediment that sets like concrete.”

She said the flooding meant that cattle would either have to be sold or agisted due to the reduced carrying capacity from their alluvial flats.

Oriente Maggiolo, Bendamore stud, said they were “pretty well isolated” after receiving 4.5 metres of rain at their Mourilyan-district property. Although they were used to the flooding and didn’t lose cattle she said it meant production setbacks because of the loss of pasture and the fact it was too wet to distribute fodder.

“A land of drought and flooding rain

Einasleigh River bridge on the Georgetown-Mt Surprise section of the main gulf highway. This bridge has held up food supply to Georgetown and further west for 7 weeks. Photo: Robyn Lethbridge

Norman River outside Normanton on Kurumba Road. Photo: Robyn Lethbridge

Ethridge River bridge on main highway to Mt Surprise

Cloncurry River
2009 Cooperative training schedule

Australian Agricultural College Corporation and Beef Breeding Services

Artificial insemination courses
20 – 23 April – Berrigurra, via Blackwater
9 – 11 June – Narayen, via Munduberra
7 – 9 September – Swans Lagoon, via Ayr (subject to change)

Pregnancy diagnosis courses
18 – 20 May – Narayen, via Munduberra
15 – 17 June – Berrigurra, via Blackwater
27 – 29 July – Swans Lagoon, via Ayr (subject to change)

Custom delivery
Locations for alternative delivery are also being sought – if you can assist, please contact Beef Breeding Services on 4936 0212

NB
Courses subject to change, dependant on environmental conditions and demand.
BREEDPLAN – Improving your bottom line

**by Philip Mann TROPICAL BEEF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (TBTS)**

One of the keys to financial success in business is minimizing costs while maximizing returns for your product or service. The business of Beef production, of course, is no different but it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, let alone increase, profits with ever increasing input costs and very variable beef prices. It is, therefore, increasingly important that anything e.g tool, product or service, that is available to help the beef producer to improve the efficiency of production is explored, evaluated and implemented into the production system when it is cost effective to do so.

BREEDPLAN is one of many cost effective tools that is available to help improve the efficiency of beef production. BREEDPLAN is a genetic evaluation system for beef cattle that has been available since 1985. It enables the Seedstock producer to identify superior genetics for the economically important traits for fertility, growth and carcass. These superior genetics can then be passed on to the commercial herd through performance recorded sires that possess the genes that best match the breeding objectives of the production system they enter.

If fertility can be improved to increase the number of calves produced from the same number of breeders in a shorter time frame, those calves reach target market weights at an earlier age and a higher proportion of those calves meet carcass specifications, then efficiency of production has been improved and potentially higher returns received.

While there may be other ways to achieve this outcome with the current level of genetics in your herd e.g nutrition, improving the genetics for traits of economic importance is the most cost effective way of doing it to make most efficient use of your resources i.e no additional inputs required.

Cattle that have been performance recorded with BREEDPLAN have their genetic merit displayed as Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) for individual traits. EBVs are expressed in the units in which they are measured e.g growth EBV in kilograms, and are relative to the genetic base for the breed i.e an animal with +40 600-day growth EBV is 40kg genetically heavier than the genetic base to which it is compared.

The Brahman breed currently have 15 EBVs calculated under which the genetic merit of performance recorded cattle can be expressed. Of these 15 (refer table 1), 1 is related to calving traits, 5 are for growth and maternal traits, 2 for fertility traits, 5 are for carcase traits and 2 are trial EBVs for Flight time (Temperament) and Tenderness. As such, there is ample scope to select sires that will posses the correct genes to lift the genetic level of your herd for the traits that you consider are economically important provided, of course, the Seedstock producer is recording the traits you require.

EBVs are best used to compare breeding stock (in most cases sires) to determine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1 : BREEDPLAN EBV’S CURRENTLY CALCULATED FOR THE BRAHMAN BREED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brahman BREEDPLAN EBV</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth weight (kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk (kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-day Growth (kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-day Growth (kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-day Growth (kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature cow weight (kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrotal size (cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days to Calving (days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcass weight (kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye Muscle Area (sq. cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rump fat (mm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rib fat (mm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Beef Yield (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenderness (kg SF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight Time (sec)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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We recruit Agribusiness Managers from rural and regional Australia, and look for a background in farming as well as a specialist knowledge of agribusiness finance. It means that when it comes to talking about beef, our people can offer in-depth financial solutions that are specifically relevant to your industry.

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BREEDPLAN – Improving your bottom line

which will be more suitable for moving your herds’ genetics in the same direction as your breeding objectives. When you try to compare sale bulls that don’t have EBVs, you have little information about how their calves will perform and which bull will in fact have a beneficial impact in your herd on those traits you consider economically important.

While EBVs are still only estimates of an animals’ true breeding value, some information is better than none! For more information regarding BREEDPLAN EBVs please contact Tropical Beef Technology Services (TBTS) on (07) 4927 6066 or email philip@tbts.une.edu.au

TBTS offers a ‘Closer to your Clients’ workshop package for current BREEDPLAN Seedstock herds which provides an effective means of explaining the use of EBVs to your clients. If you would like to take advantage of this workshop, please return the ‘Expression of interest’ form that has recently been mailed to all BREEDPLAN herds or otherwise download the form from the TBTS website http://tbts.une.edu.au

Congratulations

Billie-Jean and John Claydon (nee Svensson), Broandah Brahman stud, Tunglebung were married on the 13th December 2008 at “Undercliff” via Bonalbo NSW

A record year for Aussie beef exports in 2008

from MLA Meat & Livestock Australia

Despite a slow start to the year, an appreciating Australian dollar through to July and the onset of the global financial crisis, the volume of Australian beef and veal exports reached a record high in 2008.

According to figures released by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, exports for the 2008 calendar year reached 957,479 tonnes – 2 percent higher than 2007 when 941,400 tonnes were exported and surpassing the previous record high of 953,932 tonnes set in 2006.

MLA’s chief market analyst Peter Weeks said while Australia’s three largest export markets - Japan, the US and Korea - still made up the bulk of beef exports, a feature of 2008 was a surge in demand from “second tier” markets such as Russia and South East Asia.

“Russia emerged as Australia’s fourth largest beef market in 2008 with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) taking a record 72,035 tonnes, almost all of which went to Russia,” Mr Weeks said.

South East Asian markets also performed well with surges in demand from Indonesia (up 23 percent to 33,019 tonnes), the Philippines (up 314 percent to 14,143 tonnes), Singapore (up 46 percent to 8,061 tonnes) and Malaysia (up 87 percent to 6,183 tonnes).

“These results were assisted through lower competition from other exporting countries, such as Brazil, which assisted Australia’s exports to the region,” Mr Weeks said.

Japan easily maintained its place as Australia’s largest beef export market in 2008, with exports falling 4 percent year-on-year, to 364,302 tonnes. Whilst exports for 2008 to Japan remained 10 percent below the record volume of 405,794 tonnes in 2006, it was still a very strong result given lower grainfed beef supply, the higher A$ during the first half of the year and increased competition from the US later in the year.

In Korea, Australia’s third largest market, increased competition from US beef during the second half of 2008 contributed to a 15 percent decline in Australian exports for the calendar year, to 127,207 tonnes.

“However this remains 104 percent over the export volumes seen prior to the US being locked out of the Korean market, which demonstrates that Australia is well placed to hold much of the gain that has been made during the US absence,” Mr Weeks said.

While exports to the US for 2008 fell to their lowest level since 1997, the final three months of the year saw a sharp turnaround as the fall in the A$ gave impetus to a 23 percent jump in exports during that period.
Mon 4 May | Tues 5 May | Wed 6 May | Thurs 7 May | Fri 8 May
---|---|---|---|---
Junior Commercial Judging | Trade Fair | Trade Fair | Trade Fair | Trade Fair
Cutting Competition | Commercial Cattle Sale | International Reception | Stud Cattle Interbreed |
Rodeo 7pm | Rodeo 7pm | Rodeo 7pm | Guy McLean Show 7pm | Great Debate
Seminars Programme | Seminars Programme | Seminars Programme | Seminars Programme |
Property Tours | Property Tours | Property Tours | Property Tours |
Commercial Cattle Awards Dinner | Celebrity Chefs and Beef Cooking Demos | Celebrity Chefs and Beef Cooking Demos | Celebrity Chefs and Beef Cooking Demos | Celebrity Chefs and Beef Cooking Demos
Beef Awards Dinner | Premium Beef Restaurants | Premium Beef Restaurants | Premium Beef Restaurants | Premium Beef Restaurants

**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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b) Standard bull with your brand 
c) Image of your bull and brand

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2009 BRAHMAN SALE DATES

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LONGREACH BULL SALE
20 March at Longreach Saleyards
Elders

WA BOS INDICUS INVITATION BULL SALE
1 April at Collina Yards, Narngulu WA
Elders, Landmark

BRAHMAN COMMERCIAL BREEDING FEMALE SHOW & SALE
7 April at Gracemere Saleyards
Brian Dawson Auctions; Elders; Landmark; Fanning Rural Agencies; Ray White Rural; Savage, Barker & Backhouse; R.F. Duncan & Co

TOOWOOMBA PREMIER BRAHMAN FEMALE SALE
18 April at Toowoomba Showgrounds
Elders, Landmark, GDL

PONDEROSA BRAHMAN SALE
Late May at Katherine
Landmark, NT Land & Livestock

GYMPIE BRAHMAN FEMALE SALE
6 June at Gympie Saleyards
Elders, Landmark

LANCEFIELD RICHMOND FIELD DAY BRAHMAN BULL SALE
19 June at Richmond
Ray White Rural, Richmond; Landmark, Richmond; Matthew & Janelle McCamley, Lancefield M

WALSA INVITATION BOS INDICUS SALE
5 August at Broome WA
Elders, Landmark

BIZZY INVITATIONAL BULL & FEMALE SALE
5 September at Grafton
Ray Donavan, George & Fuhrmann

GREAT WESTERN FEMALE SALE
5 October at the Great Western
Elders, Landmark

ROCKHAMPTON BRAHMAN WEEK SALE
5, 6 & 7 Oct at Gracemere Saleyards
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