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NORTHS BREEDING SOLUTIONS
Applications have been called for nomination of sires for the second round of our BIN/Progeny test project. The first round has produced 604 pregnancies by AI and 145 by back up bulls at Belmont.

A percentage of last years bulls will have some semen included in this years programme to ensure their quota of entries reached the required number of 25 and to give us year to year linkage.

There is a considerable amount of effort and expense going into the project and while we can do the work and produce the data, it will fall short of expectations if we do not get the next generation of breed leading sires entered.

The recent Applied Genomics for Sustainable Livestock Breeding highlighted the urgent need for performance data in order for the beef industry to be able to take advantage of the opportunities this new technology provides.

Huge advances continue to be made in the technical side of sequencing technology. There has been a 1 million fold decrease in sequencing costs relative to power in the last decade.

They are already using 700,000 SNP chips and whole genome sequencing as a routine procedure some consider is not far away.

Smaller 3,000 SNP chips "inferred" from larger 50,000 SNP chips to reduce costs are being used successfully in the dairy industry and it is envisaged this technology will flow on to the larger chips.

The poultry and dairy industries are already making much greater use of the technology because they have much more performance data available to develop the prediction equations upon which the technology relies for accuracy.

For the beef industry, it will improve the accuracy of the traits that can be measured and offers the most promise for improving accuracy of selection in the hard to measure traits.

Importantly however performance data is required from projects like our BIN project for the prediction equations of hard to measure traits to be useful.

As the technology develops it is possible tests for things like the polled gene, coat colour, genetic defects and parentage will be automatically included.

Editor

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Editor
It is great to see the good start to the wet season continue and hopefully those affected by flooding are getting over the clean up and pastures are recovering.

It was enjoyable to catch up with members at the February Summer Brahman Sale and share stories of wet weather and floods, and certainly a change from many recent February sales to be talking positively about the season. The uncertainty of buyers getting cattle home had an impact on the sale result.

The Councils Genetic Directions Forum and Workshop in March was an important initiative in helping plan our future strategies to ensure we can take full advantage of emerging opportunities.

I would like to thank all of the members who participated for their contribution.

The Brahman Commercial Breeding Female Sale in April, although short on numbers compared to last year produced an outstanding result with the average price of $1383 being $684 up on last year.

This is certainly a tremendous vote of confidence in Brahman females in the commercial industry.

Congratulations to the successful exhibitors and special thanks to major buyer Charles Lund for his sale support.

The Marlborough Feature Show was cancelled due to the wet conditions. Numbers at the Alpha Show were down on previous shows, but never the less a successful promotion and well supported by the local community.

It is now only 12 months to Beef 2012. The Association is planning another Brahman Compound and more details will be available shortly.

The Beef Expo’s have been a major promotional opportunity for both members and the breed generally and I would urge members to give some thought to how they can become involved.

Andrew Olive
March was a blistering month for cattle markets across the country, as demonstrated by two of the market’s major indicators. Both the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator and the Queensland Cattle Market Index experienced some of the highest peaks for some time.

Market commentators predict that the strong market will continue well into the second half of the season, with beef in short supply around the world.

Eastern Australia has experienced the best season it had recorded for many years and Australian producers are poised to cash in on this bullish market.

Depleted herds and top prime values have caused almost unprecedented demand for store cattle.

By late April prices and demand for prime cattle suited to the domestic supermarket trade remained at historically high levels and were almost unaffected by the soaring Australian dollar. Unfortunately, live export demand and values were not so lucky as the dollar’s rise hit hard.

This year most certainly has been one of tumbling records, some bittersweet.

The rainfall of 2010, which in turn became the flooding of 2011, delivered both promising and devastating outcomes.

The prolonged wet, which isolated producers and threw sale schedules into chaos, created periods of tight supply. With global beef prices strong, Aussie cattle markets reached extraordinary levels.

However, with record prices and boom times comes the inevitable price correction.

The strong Aussie dollar, increased supply and a change in the season have combined to see the cattle market index finally drop below the 200 mark.

There are still good quality cattle holding their own at most markets, but the challenge will be maintaining the supply of quality prime cattle as a drier season sets in down south.

**CENTRAL QUEENSLAND**

**LONGREACH**

The March 2 sale at Longreach again confirmed what a buoyant market it was with meatworks going from strength to strength. The combination of a lack of store cattle and an abundance of buyers was a recipe for sales success.

Brahman sellers to reap the benefits included: Bruce and Sue McClymont, Shadyside Grazing, who sold Brahman steers, milk and two-tooth to 179c/kg, averaging 548kg.

The Smith family, Depot Glen, Longreach, sold Brahman steers averaging 472kg for 184c to return $869.

Sandy and Amelia Williams, Rotherfield Grazing, consigned a quality line of Brahman cows which peaked 155c, weighing in at 498kg.

GI Brahman Stud, Muttaburra, sold a line of Brahman cows and heifers, with the cows reaching 157c, weighing 596kg to return $933, while the heifers weighed 537kg and sold to 171c to return $1075.

A consignment of Brahman cows and calves from Alan and Butter McClymont, Kensington Grazing, Longreach, returned $803/unit.

Good lines of Brahman steers drawn from the Muttaburra district were the highlight of the March 9 sale.

Pajingo Pastoral, Culloden, Muttaburra, sold a line of 168 Brahman steers to top of 187c, averaging 184c. They weighed in at 369kg to make $678.

Rob and Liz Pearce, Pearce Pastoral Company, sold a quality line of 543kg Brahman steers to a top of 186c.

The March 16 sale showed the market was holding its strength with a yarding of more than 2000 head.

Some of the highlights included: Boxgrove Pastoral Company, Vergemont, Longreach, consigned a top quality line of 12 decks of Brahman bullocks, topping at 184c. The 551kg steers averaged 179c/kg to return $985.

John and Lee Laidler, Kappa-Ki, Longerach, sold 410kg Brahman steers to 186c to average 183c/kg and return $734.

Hillgrove Pastoral Company, Reay Station, Hughenden, consigned 22 young Brahman cows and calves to return $958/unit.

The May sale yarded a whopping 5350 head.

Glen Conney, Airworth, St Lawrence, sold 355kg Brahman steers for 185c, or $658.

Hayfield Pastoral Company, Jundah, sold 196kg Brahman heifers to reach 201c or $396. The Brennan family, Sumana, Aramac, sold Brahman cows and calves for $918/unit.

**GRACEMERE**

The March 4 sale at Gracemere yielded good results, especially for the heavier slaughter lines.

Rob Oates, Comet, sold Brahman steers to top at 182c, weighing 491kg to return $877.

Kellie Hyden, Moura, sold Brahman cows to 160c, weighing 609kg and returning $975.

Lestree Downs, Clermont, sold 141 No.9 and No.0 grey Brahman heifers to average 184c, weighing 355kg to make $655.

A yarding of 2595 head was offered on March 11 and met with strong demand from processors.

Neville Olive, Balinga, St Lawrence, sold 73 Brahman No.0 heifers, peaking at 206c to average 188c and return $467/hd.

MB Rural, Ametdale, St Lawrence, sold 100 No.8 and 60 No.9 pregnant grey Brahman heifers. The top pen sold for 184c, weighing 449kg to return $827.

**BLACKALL**

The associated agents yarded 2000 head at the March 3 sale and both prime and store cattle attracted solid bidding.

A. and R. Coyne, Alpha, sold Brahman cows for 159c, weighing 587kg to make $934.
At the first weaner and store sale for 2011, held mid-March, the combined agents reported a quality yarding of 2600 head. The April 7 yarding of 4045 head included some excellent quality weaners and store cattle.

Baldy Bay Pty Ltd, Blackall, sold 663kg Brahman bullocks to 150c/kg or $995/hd. The draft averaged 148c/kg or $856/hd.

ROMA

Prices increased across most categories in early March. The slight rise in numbers to 2209 head was easily absorbed by processor buyers.

Shane Reiser, Tocal, Mitchell, sold 444kg Brahman cows to 158c/kg to return $701.

On April 28 the yarding at Roma reflected mixed quality with a few pens of well finished, well grown heifers.

Baldy Bay, Malvern Hills, Blackall, sold 617kg Brahman steers for 186c to return $1145.

MURGON

Ian Newsome, Across Country Real Estate and Livestock, reported some excellent sales for Brahmans at the weekly prime and fat sale on March 8.

Ron Kirk, Yenda, Gayndah, sold grey Brahman weaner heifers for a record price of 263.2c/kg, to local restockers A. and K. Curtis. The top pen of five heifers averaged 220kg and $579/hd.

Yenda’s 34 No.0 heifers, 310kg, averaged 236c/kg to return $731/hd, peaking at $771. They were purchased by The Hollows, Beaudesert, as replacement breeders.

More records were broken at the Feature Female Sale held on March 11. Mr Newsom said a pen of unjoined No.9 heifers offered by the Hiette family, Wondai, sold for $1410 to Cloncurry restocker Simon Hullock. The 450kg heifers were bred by David and Melodie Harch, Danarla stud, Wooroolin.

AUCTIONSPLUS

Cattle numbers rose during early March to 7000 head drawn from across the Far North and Central Queensland predominantly.

In Townsville, 20-30 month-old Brahman heifers, 290kg, made $535.

Ross and Natalie Olive used AuctionsPlus for the first time at the end of March. They marketed 144 10-14 month old grey Brahman heifers off their Marlborough property, Clifton.

Selling in two lines and weighing 200-300kg, the heifers met with strong demand and sold to a Charters Towers buyer for 234c.

Another good result was recorded in early April. Solway Pastoral Company, Tamworth, NSW, paid 206c for 228 Brahman heifers weighing 238kg.

Meanwhile, 234 red tag Brahman heifers sold for $800 and 196 blue tag heifers achieved $750 for Malcolm McClymont, Maxwellton Station.

In early May 9 Mick Chittick of Landmark Richmond sold 447kg PTIC EU Brahman cows for $715, on behalf of Euthella Grazing Co., Trivalore, Richmond.
RBWS Bulls photos taken at 19 months still in the paddock without grain

Burton Manso

Burgess Manso

Kamir BRAHMANS

Ric, Michele & Matt Dunn
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A 17-month-old grey daughter of Yenda V 18/7 achieved top price of $3750 at the 5th annual Toowoomba Premier Brahman Female Sale on April 16.

The sale topper, Milldale Elle 29/9, was offered by George and Margaret Miller, Milldale stud, Mt Whitestone and purchased by Scott and Vicki Hayes, Yenda V stud, Mundubbera. The heifer carried strong Yenda breeding on both sides, with her sire a son of Yenda Victory and her dam, Milldale Ellen 10/5, a daughter of Yenda Wentworth. Milldale also achieved the best sale average of $2550 for five head.

Overall, the sale averaged $1860 for 43 head. Pre-sale judging was conducted by Denis Bourke, Burradoo Brahman stud, Meandarra.

His winning pair of grey females comprised the top priced lot, and the equal second top priced lot, Milldale Impressive 27/9, who was named champion grey female. Impressive is a daughter of the polled sire Milldale Hamish 1/7 (JDH Heyworth Manso) and the Yenda Wentworth cow, Milldale Splendid, and secured $3250. This was paid by Morag Watt and Paul Hass, Tobermory stud, Westbrook, who also invested $2250 in Milldale Empress 24/9, an 18-month-old Yenda V 18/7 daughter out of a Yenda Wentworth cow.

The top priced red at $3250 was the polled Nioka Julie, offered by Tim and Vicki Nicolle and family, Nioka stud, Warralda, NSW. The 20-month-old daughter of Aintree TX War Baron was purchased by G. and B. Linde Pty Ltd, Linde stud, Sheldon. Another polled Aintree TX War Baron heifer, Nioka Jamila, sold for $2750 to Tobermory, helping set a $2208 average for the Nioka prefix.

J. and A. Hanson paid $2750 for Tangalooma Nectar, the top seller from Bill Dahlheimer’s Tangalooma stud, Brigalow. The 16-month-old heifer is by Wilttony Carbide and out of the Spring Valley Kryptonite cow Tangalooma High Light, and was in the third placed pair of grey females. Tangalooma averaged $1975 for 10 females, its draft including $2500 Tangalooma Nectar, a Starbra Crocka heifer purchased by I. and D. Mitchell, and part of the second placed pair of grey females. Other notable sales were Tangalooma Nettie, a $2500 Wilttony Carbide heifer bought by Peter and Joy Jenkinson, Roserae stud, Goomeri. Another Starbra Crocka heifer, Tangalooma Norma Jean, sold for $2250 to J. and A. Hanson, and was in the second placed pair of grey females.

Rodlyn Miss 51/09, a joined 19-month-old daughter of Crystal Vale Governer, was knocked down for $2750 to I. and R. Hansen. She was one of five heifers sold for $1650 average by Rod and Lyn Sperling, Rodlyn, Bell.

**Milldale heifer tops Toowoomba female sale**

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  Fairy Springs Embassy 26/7 (H)
  Fairy Springs Poloma 1270 (H)
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Selling 10 Bulls at Brahman Week
Dungil Tim Tam, the sole entry from Duncan Gillespie’s Dungil stud, Toowoomba, realised $2500. The 20-month-old Spring Valley Kryptonite heifer was purchased by Peter and Joy Jenkinson, who took home four head.

A 14-month-old red daughter of Billabong Campbell was the top seller from Andy and Marg Olsen’s Neslo stud, Taroom, at $2250. She was part of the winning pair of red females and was one of three heifers bought by I. and R. Hansen. However the red championship was awarded to her stablemate, Neslo 3194 PT Vero, a polled 15-month-old out of a BB Mr Sting Ray 10/0 (imp) dam, who went on to sell for $2000 to D. Bourke, Burradoo, Meandarra.

Maureen Claydon offered three Broandah Madison heifers from her Jack’s Pride stud at Wallumbilla, with Vince McAuliffe, Cayuse stud, Manilla, NSW, paying the best price of $2000 for the 23-month-old grey, Jack’s Pride Donna.

Bulk buyer at the sale was I. and J. Mitchell who outlaid $1594 average for eight females.

**JUDGING RESULTS:**


Winning pair of red females, sponsored by Virbac, $500 product, Neslo; 2nd, sponsored by Riverina Australia, $250 product, Rodlyn; 3rd, Nioka.

Champion red female: $125 product sponsored by Bayer - Neslo.

Letitia Nicolle, Nioka stud, Warialda NSW and Elders auctioneer Blake Munro, Toowoomba are pictured with the $3250 top priced red female, Nioka Julie bought by G & B Linde P/L, Sheldon QLD

Vendors Rod and Lyn Sperling, Rodlyn stud, Bell QLD are pictured with Lorelle and Darryl Schubel, Reldarah stud, Gin Gin QLD

Neil Gelhaar, Toowoomba QLD and Vince McAuliffe, Cayuse stud, Manilla NSW are pictured discussing sale prospects

Sale Committee Chairman Alan Oxlade, Bioka stud, Emu Creek QLD is pictured with Chas Tranberg, Valkyrie stud, Boyland QLD and Gina Perkins, Boyland QLD

Vendor Colin Chevalley, Coliana stud, Tenterfield NSW and Andy Olsen, Neslo stud, Wandoan QLD are pictured discussing the sale prospects
JDH SIR ALAMO
MANSO 126/7
Son of JDH Sir Lawford Manso

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Dr George Jacobs Mogul stud, Maclean, NSW, was the most successful exhibitor at the 2011 Sydney Royal Easter Show, collecting a string of championships.

Most notable was the supreme Brahman exhibit title for their grey female Mogul Miss DA Sasha. The daughter of El Ja Data Axcess Manso won the female over 30 months class before graduating to the senior and grand female championship and supreme exhibit. Sasha carried on her winning form from the 2010 Sydney Royal Show, where she was the junior champion.

The Sydney lineup was judged by Queensland Brahman breeder David Harch, Danarla stud, Wooroolin.

As well as collecting the supreme accolade, Mogul paraded the senior and grand champion bull, Mogul Yalumba, a red son of the imported Mr 3H XRay 825 and Mogul Miss Fontenot 4th.

Another Mogul red, Mogul Yahoo, won the 20-30 months class before claiming the reserve senior bull championship. He is by the polled sire Mogul Tesco and out of a Mogul Masarrati cow.

The junior bull championship was awarded to Colinta Bolivia, exhibited by Colinta Holdings, Brisbane. The grey son of imported sire Mr Jackal Manso 600/3 won the 9-12 months bull class. The import also sired the junior champion female, Colinta Carlosita, who also took the blue ribbon in the 6-12 months female class.

The reserve junior female championship went to Mogul Miss Indy Manso 38th, and the reserve junior male championship was presented to Mogul Zelan. Both were polled greys by El Ja Budwiser Manso. The prefix also claimed the blue ribbons for the Pair of Bulls and Sire’s Progeny.

Steven Sivewright, Diddine stud, South Lismore, paraded the reserve senior champion female, Bizzy Red Doll, a red daughter of Lancefield M Magnetism.

Sydney Royal Easter Show Grand Brahman bull, Mogul Yalumba held by Glen Pfeffer, manager Mogul stud, Maclean while Judge David Harch (second right), Danarla stud, Wooroolin is pictured with Sue Joyce, Tropical Cattle stud, Ingham and successful exhibitor Dr George Jacobs, Mogul stud, Maclean

Sydney Royal Easter Show Grand Brahman cow, Miss Mogul DA Sasha held by Glen Pfeffer, manager Mogul stud, Maclean (second right) while Michelle Jacobs, Mogul stud, Maclean (left) is pictured with Judge David Harch, Danarla stud, Wooroolin and Dr George Jacobs, Mogul stud, Maclean (right)

Judge David Harch (left), Danarla stud, Wooroolin is pictured with Michelle Jacobs, Mogul stud, Maclean while Sydney Royal Easter Show Brahman best exhibit, Miss Mogul DA Sasha held by Bryan Wright, Mogul, Maclean (second right)
New CSIRO research indicates that the amount of methane emitted from cattle fed on tropical grasses in northern Australia is up to 30 per cent less than figures currently used to calculate the northern cattle industry’s contribution to Australia’s greenhouse gas accounts.

Speaking at today’s Lansdown Field Day near Townsville, Queensland, CSIRO research leader Dr Ed Charmley said the findings would help to refine the nation’s greenhouse gas accounting.

“Measurements from cattle in CSIRO’s custom-built respiration chambers show that Brahman cattle fed a wide range of tropical grasses emit up to 30 per cent less methane than previously determined.

“While you always have to be cautious in extending lab data to the field and across an industry, we have been able to cross-check our findings with methane detecting laser systems used in the field.

“These findings, while not changing the actual emissions, could have significant implications for calculating the emission footprint of the northern cattle industry and also for Australia’s greenhouse gas accounts.

“Methods used to determine these national greenhouse gas accounts are regularly reviewed and if the new data are confirmed via this review process, future accounts will be adjusted to reflect the lower emissions for the northern beef herd,” Dr Charmley said.

With about half of the nation’s beef herd located in northern Australia, current greenhouse gas accounts indicate that methane from the northern cattle industry contributes about 4.5 per cent of Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions.

As a by-product of digesting plants, ruminant livestock such as sheep and cattle produce methane and, of those, beef cattle produce the most – about 200 grams a day, or about 1.5 tonnes of CO2 equivalents per animal every year.

“CSIRO research also shows that northern cattle fed on a diet of predominantly Leucaena, a legume tree, emit less methane than cattle grazing on tropical grasses,” Dr Charmley said.

“What this nutrition research is showing is that there can be win-win scenarios for the industry and the environment if we can redirect the breakdown of plant material in a way that reduces the amount of methane produced while improving the amount of energy or weight gain that animals get from their feed.

“We are addressing cattle methane emissions from several angles – from examining the gut microbes that produce methane from ingested pasture and alternative diets, to a landscape focus on northern Australia’s extensive grazing systems using state-of-the-art technologies, such as lasers and wireless sensor networks, to measure and model cattle methane emissions under tropical conditions.”

The Lansdown Research Station is a key part of CSIRO’s broader research programs on livestock production and emissions reduction in agriculture.

Lansdown Research Station is funded by the Australian Government’s Climate Change Research Program, Meat & Livestock Australia and CSIRO and is one of five national research hubs and demonstration sites for practical methane management on-farm.
A pen of 12 grey Brahman heifers from Gibham Pty Ltd, Strathmuir, Marlborough were judged the champions from an impressive lineup presented at the 2011 Brahman Commercial Breeding Female Show and Sale.

Held at the Central Queensland Livestock Exchange at Gracemere on April 12, the outstanding yarding of 402 quality breeding females was judged by Mark Wilson, Banana Station, Banana. Buyers were out in force, paying an average of $1383 for 402 head. This was close to double last year’s result, when 815 head averaged $699.

The champion pen, which placed first in the pregnancy tested in calf heifers under three years of age class, sold for $1550 a head to Peter and Kim Cheal.

Prices through the roof for commercial Brahman females

by Lindel GREGGERY
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The reserve championship was awarded to the yearling heifer class winners presented by Nick Dudarko, Kangarin, Biloela. The 14 well-bred reds sold for $1350/hd to Charles Lund, Laglan Pastoral Co, Clermont. Laglan Pastoral Co outlaid $341,300 at the sale, securing 20 pens of breeders and paying $1387/hd average for 246 head.

The top price of $2400/head was paid by Laglan for a pen of 14 grey yearling heifers from Brahman breed statesman Eric Nobbs, Lyndhurst, Biloela. The pen placed third in the yearling heifer class.

Lyndhurst heifers also placed second in the W heifers under three years class and collected the second top price of $2350/hd. The quality 12 head assembly sold to Bridget Freegard, Nardoo, Injune.

A pen of 18 grey weaner heifers from Lyndhurst topped the weaner heifer class and were knocked down for $1300/hd to Laglan.

Prices through the roof for commercial Brahman females

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At Landmark, the people you deal with have the right knowledge and experience to add real value to your business. We work with you to understand your expectations and to provide advice and resources to help prepare your livestock for the most effective and competitive marketing options.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Dalby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Lawton</td>
<td>Gympie</td>
<td>0409 370 513</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colby Ede</td>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>0417 265 980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Scott</td>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td>0418 961 041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Scholes</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>0409 229 651</td>
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</table>

landmark.com.au
Prices through the roof for commercial Brahman females

The Wallace family, Brigalow, Marlborough, presented the winning pen of eight cows and calves, the greys snapped up for $2300/hd by Laglan. Their runner-ups in that class, eight grey cows and calves from Fenech Grazing, Craigleigh, Wowan, went for $1800/hd to Laglan.

The winning pen of PTIC heifers under three years was yarded by George and Lorraine Bartolo, Carrinyah Park, Nebo, and they sold for $1300/hd to Laglan. The Bartolos were the largest vendors, selling 132 PTIC heifers and 14 yearling heifers for a gross of $179,000.

Dennis and Denise Quinn, Voewood, Calliope paid $1500/hd for the winning pen of PTIC cows under 10 years of age. The 10 greys were presented by John Roche and Lisa Wallace, Wieta, Middlemount. However the top priced pen in this section was 10 greys from Fenech Grazing which sold for $1650 to Laglan.
Prices through the roof for commercial Brahman females

The Quinn family took home 30 PTIC cows and 14 yearling heifers at an average price of $1493.

The 13 pens of PTIC heifers averaged $1381, 4 pens of PTIC cows averaged $1513, 2 pens of cows and calves averaged $2050, 10 pens of yearling heifers averaged $1386 and 2 pens of weaner heifers averaged $1150. Overall 402 head grossed $555,800 to record the excellent average of $1382.59.

Sale organising committee Chairman, Rodger Jeffers said it was an outstanding result and reflected the high quality of the offering and the strong demand for outstanding Brahman females.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>PTIC Brahman Heifers</td>
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<td>3rd: GM &amp; LJ Bartolo, Carninyah Park, Nebo</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>PTIC Cows</td>
<td>1st: John Roche &amp; Lisa Wallace, Wieta, Middlemount</td>
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<td>2nd: Fenech Grazing, Craigleigh Wowan</td>
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<td>3rd: Hamdenvale Brahman, Simla, Mackay</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Cows &amp; Calves</td>
<td>1st: SG &amp; KA Wallace, Brigalow, Marlborough</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2nd: Fenech Grazing, Craigleigh Wowan</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Yearling Heifers</td>
<td>1st &amp; Reserve Champion Pen: NP Dudarko, Kangarin, Biloela</td>
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<td>2nd: SJ Lamb, Dingley Dell, Biloela</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Weaner Heifers</td>
<td>1st: PEC &amp; Est. of VK Nobbs, Lyndhurst, Biloela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2nd: AJ &amp; P Davison, Lumeah, Middlemount</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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PTIC Females crack $1400 at Nettle Creek Commercial Female Sale

Quality females, excellent seasonal conditions and repeat buyer confidence proved to be a recipe for success at the 3rd annual Nettle Creek Invitational Commercial Female Sale held in Grafton on Saturday 26th February. The sale, instigated two years ago by Michael & Elizabeth Fahey, Bizzy Brahman Stud, Nettle Creek, Copmanhurst, saw 500 head of selected breeder females from the North Coast of NSW go under the hammer to achieve a total sale average of $986/hd. There were 12 vendors from the Copmanhurst, Grafton, Tabulam, Casino, Tyringham and Willawarrin areas.

A total yarding of quality replacement Bos Indicus cross females, no older than second calvers, met strong demand selling to Gloucester & Tullymorgan. The Fahey family sold 235 F1 Angus & Charolais x Bizzy Brahman females, ranging in age from 5-30 months, for an average of $971. Topping their sale at $1340/hd, was a pen of 20-28 month old PTIC F1 Angus x Brahman females selling to J & A Bransdon from Tullymorgan. 63 rising two year old (No 9’s), PTIC Nettle Creek F1 Angus x Brahman females averaged $1285. Repeat buyers of these females included Tracey Conroy, Pulganbar, who purchased a total of 23 heifers for a $1126 average, while Rowanne Investments, Southgate, invested in 17 F1 females for an average of $1075.

A pen of 6 PTIC Charbray females offered by R & S Page, Page Beef, South Grafton, topped the sale at $1400/hd. They sold to David & Dianne Bale of Grafton. The Pen’s sold a total of 82 Brangus and Charbray PTIC females for a $1253 average. This line up included 27 PTIC Brangus females purchased by Bob & Greg Moore, Kyogle. The Moore family also invested in a pen of F1 Brahman x Hereford cows and calves for $1120, offered by Sid Lane, Casino and a pen of Brahman cross females from Muirton Pastoral Co, Tabulam, for $1140. T & M Day, Mylneford, paid an average of $1220 for 13 PTIC Charbray females offered by Page Beef.

The Tyler Family, Tyringham sold 6 PTIC F1 Brahman x Hereford females for $1200 and a pen of 10 month old F1 females for $740 to Berrico Pty Ltd, Gloucester. Berrico also purchased another 6 F1 Angus x Brahman heifers from B & T Winter, Coaldale for $880.

Agents conducting the sale were Ray Donovan, Grafton and George & Fuhrmann, Casino. The sale will be held again in 2012 at the end of February.
Besanther Vale Mr Contor

29 December 2008

+ JDH MR UNION MANSO
JDH DOMINO MANSO 42
JDH MADHYO OTHELLO MANSO 879/1
S: * JDH SIR MARRI MANSO (IMP US) (H)
JDH GORDO MAXO MANSO 906
JDH QUEEN LILA MANSO
JDH MARRI HUDG MANSO

* TTT MR SUVA CRATA 450
+ JDH DATAPACK MANSO (IMP US) (H)
JDH LADY MIL MANSO

D: BRAHROCK DP ESCAMILA 3293 (AI) (ET) (H)
JDH MAGNIFICQ MANSO
JDH LADY ESCAMILA MANSO (IMP US)
JDH LA CROSSE MANSO

Caleb Weis and Family • 0427 233 354 • 07 4169 7770
A top price of $10,000 and a raffle prize heifer were the highlights at the Laidley Brahman Female Sale held on 26th February. This annual invitation sale achieved a 90% clearance to gross $87,310 and average $1782.

Topping the sale at $10,000 was the outstandingly bred Droonoodoo Miss Bracelette (AI) (ET) bred and offered by Dean Rasmussen, Droonoodoo Stud, Kingaroy. By super sire Lancefield Signature 9153, a son of Mr International 50/1ET, the heifer is from Elrose Precious 4984, a Brahrock White Hawk Man daughter bought by Droonoodoo for the top price at the 2007 Elrose sale.

The buyers, Gary and Sherylea Heitte, who run Barambah Stud at Wondai have been breeding Brahmans for four years on their 130 hectare property. “I just couldn’t go past the heifer for her impeccable breeding background, style and correctness” Gary said. They also snapped up the second top price heifer, Droonoodoo Treasure 367, by Elrose Ambit 5802 and out of Yenda Miss 341/5.

Mr Rasmussen easily scored the top sale average of $4250 with the sale of two more of his heifers for $2000 at the close of the sale. He was presented with the Tom Ziebarth Memorial Trophy, by sale committee chairman Wayne Pitkin, Pitana Brahman Stud at Blenheim.

A selection of females with top breeding where featured throughout the sale. These included the third top-priced Milldale Mary 32/9 selling for $2750 to the Werth family, Willroy Stud, Oakey. The heifer was offered by long time successful vendors George and Margaret Miller of Milldale Stud, Mt Whitestone.

The draw card of a raffle heifer at this year’s sale ensured there was standing room only in the sale complex as everyone waited in anticipation for the draw. An ecstatic David Laird, Bosdsaza Brahmans was the lucky ticket holder. The raffle heifer BremerVale Miss Jolleen Manso (AI) (ET), by FBC D Hoss Grande De Manso, from FBC W Jolleen Manso 114, was donated by Mike and Janelle Peters BremerVale Stud, Mt Walker.

A jubilant Mr Laird said of his win, “I bid on several females and missed out but ended up taking the best one home for free.

Major volume buyer was the Kirkwood Family Trust, Thornton, who took home six females to average $1500. Daniel Rauschenbach, Laramee Stud, Laidley went home with a semen package of 10 straws for $560 from the noted sire Yenda Wentworth, offered by the Milldale stud.

The Association welcomes anyone interested in participating in their annual sale to contact either Wayne on 07 5466 4340 A/H or 0407 693 296 B/H.

Expo Zebu Brazil

The Association partnered with Beef Australia to conduct a promotional stand at Expo Zebu, Uberaba, Brazil in May 2011.

The stand was coordinated by Stuart Donald, who also coordinated the in country arrangements for our World Congress delegation last October.

Over 20,000 people attended Expo Zebu this year and the promotional stand attracted steady enquiry.

Stuart Donald, Agriexpeditions, Brazil is pictured at the joint ABBA/Beef Australia stand at Expo Zebu

Loree Henrod, Ponderosa Stud, Katherine NT (right) attended Expo Zebu as part of her Nuffield Scholarship trip and is pictured addressing a group of Brazilian students about Australia
IN her first show as a new mum and with a thumping five-month-old bull calf at foot, Raglan Miss Dana took her responsibilities all in her stride to win top gongs in both the Brahman and interbreed judging at Alpha Show last week.

Exhibited by Andrew and Roxanne Olive and family, Raglan Brahmans, Raglan, the cow had a dream run, taking out senior and grand champion Brahman female, before going on to win Supreme Champion Beast of the Show.

The 44th annual Alpha Show hosted a Brahman feature show, attracting 40 entries from a number of studs throughout Queensland, and judged by Reade Radel, Kandoona Brahmans, Injune.

Though it was her debut in the showring as a proven breeder, Raglan Miss Dana is no stranger to the showring.

Sired by Brahrock Details, she was a robust young calf herself when her mum, Raglan Miss Donna, won grand champion female in Brisbane at the Ekka in 2008.

Raglan also won senior champion bull at Alpha with Raglan Mr Joshua and junior champion female with Raglan Miss Nikki.

Meanwhile, the 19-month-old grey, Whitaker Mr Avo, continued on his winning ways taking out both junior and grand champion bull.

Exhibited by Clint and Robyn Whitaker, Whitaker Brahmans, Mundubbera, Mr Avo’s latest broadribbon is another addition to the grand champion stash he’s already won this year at Toowoomba Royal Show and Mundubbera Show.

The Whitaker’s also won champion female calf with the grey Whitaker Miss Sweet Pea.

Rounding out the champion ribbons, Scott Angel, Glengarry Brahmans, Kunwarara, won champion male calf with Glengarry G Cassanova.

RESULTS

Champion Junior Bull <18 mths – Glengarry G Cassanova
Reserve Champion Junior Bull <18mths – Raglan Leonardo
Champion Junior Bull >18ths – Whitaker Mr Avo
Reserve Champion Senior Bull >18 mths – Glengarry True Grit
Champion Senior Bull – Raglan Mr Joshua
Reserve Champion Senior Bull – Glengarry Rescue
Grand Champion Bull – Whitaker Mr Avo
Champion Female Calf – Whitaker Miss Sweet Pea
Reserve Champion Female Calf – Glengarry Nardia
Champion Junior Female – Raglan Miss Nikki
Reserve Champion Junior Female – Whitaker Miss Pebbles
Champion Senior Female – Raglan Miss Dana
Reserve Champion Senior Female – Miss Ruby Red
Grand Champion Female – Raglan Miss Dana
Champion Brahman – Raglan Miss Dana
Supreme Champion Beast of the Show – Raglan Miss Dana
Most Successful Exhibitor – Raglan
Whitaker stud cleans up at Proston Show

by Lindel GREGGERY

Brahman cow Whitaker Miss Ruby Red was named the supreme interbreed exhibit at the 2011 Proston Show in March.

The August 2007-drop daughter of the 2009 and 2010 Dam of the Year, Whitaker Maggie, was sired by SRS Mr Profiler 729 (imp) and paraded with a calf at foot. She beat 106 stud entrants to claim the supreme interbreed championship for owners Clint and Robyn Whitaker, Whitaker stud, Mundubbera.

Whitaker Miss Red Ruby also took out the senior and grand female championship in the Tropical Breed section, which attracted 61 entrants from six breeds. The section was judged by Attitude Poll Hereford stud principal Peter Hayward, Jandowae.

Whitaker claimed most of the ribbons in the tropical section, with their Eureka Creek Marsksman progeny taking out the junior female championship (Whitaker Tycee); the reserve junior female championship (Whitaker Miss Pebbles); and the junior male championship (Whitaker Mr Avo).

The Whitaker’s reserve junior champion male, Whitaker Redmount, was an impeccably bred son of the two-times Dam of the Year and Tartrus Redmount 2365.

Another of Redmount’s offspring to come to the fore was the reserve senior champion female, Rodlyn Miss 76/06. The polled red daughter of Lancefield D Sonia was exhibited by Rod and Lyn Sperling, Rodlyn, Bell.

Students from St Joseph’s Nudgee College, Nudgee, were thrilled when Chudley Mr Placid was sashed the reserve champion senior male. The polled red by Chudley Cajun Steel is owned by Rob Walker, Chudley stud, Cooroy.

BOOK EARLY!
DON’T MISS OUT!

Bookings for SEPTEMBER 2011 Brahman News close Friday, 5th August. Advertising material due Friday, 12th August. Call Liz on 4921 2506 today!
Stud breeding with a commercial focus

Pasture fed polled bulls (17mths) for Rocky & Roma Sales

“Producing profitable beef from coastal pastures”
Strong buyers for Tartrus heifers

Buying interest from widespread areas of Queensland resulted in a highly successful sale result at the Tartrus Brahmans Special Female Production Sale held at Inverrio, Duaringa in early May. Vendor Jennifer McCamley offered a superb line of 848 No.0 grey and red Brahman and Charbray commercial heifers which attracted many compliments from buyers in attendance. The line was cleared in deck and half-deck lots in 45 minutes, averaging $892 and selling to a top of $1,350.

The top sellers were two, half deck pens of grey Brahman which attracted the eye of the Trigger family, Rosehill Pastoral Company, Biggenden. Ian, Athol, Ashley and Jared Trigger were in attendance at the sale and put together an impressive line of 172 commercial heifers, greys and reds, averaging $983.

Thuriba Grazing Company, Wowan selected 3 decks of the commercial heifers paying to $950 for a pen of greys. Shopping at the lead end of the greys was D & D Quinn, Voewood, Calliope who purchased two half deck pens at $1,300 and another at $1,200.

Beaudesert buyer LR Shirley returned home with 42 grey heifers while Leeson Cattle Company of Moura and Joe & Felicity Streeter, Woodbine Pastoral Company of Taroom each purchased two decks of red heifers. Leesons paid $900 and $850 for their quality heifers and the Streeters outright $800 and $750 for their pens.

One thousand and fifty dollars topped the red heifers on two occasions, with half deck lots selling to far northern cattle producers G Brown and A Young of Long Gully Station, Forsayth, and to Rosehill Pastoral Company.

Selling Agents Queensland Rural and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing said buyer demand at the unique, un-property sale was solid, as producers responded to the opportunity to secure the highly regarded Tartrus bloodlines. “The young line up of heifers presented very well and created a new auction level of values for a one vendor line of unjoined commercial heifers,” Queensland Rural Manager Troy Trevor said. “Values exceeded our estimations however buyers also would be very pleased with the quality of their purchases.”

In the stud section of the sale, an 18 month old daughter of the imported sire Mr 3X HK Oro Rojo topped proceedings at $18,000. She was one of six red Brahman heifers purchased by Elders stud stock representative Ed Chambers for Hilltops Pastoral Group. They also secured another high quality red by the same sire for $17,000 and a 2yo heifer by LB Mr Derringer Manso for $9,000. Ed Chambers was a busy man on sale day with his phone bidding also handling the purchase of Tartrus Robyn, a young poll red heifer for $7,000 on behalf of Firefly Brahmans of New South Wales.

Brian and Cindy Hughes, Lanes Creek Stud, Georgetown paid $14,000 for a 16 month old red heifer, Tartrus Jordanna.

Eight thousand and five hundred dollars topped the grey heifer section. Tartrus Cindy Manso, a 14 month old half sister to a $40,000 bull that Tartrus had sold at the Big Country Brahman Sale in February, realised that price selling to Caleb Weis & Family, Besanther Vale Brahmans, Goomeer. Earlier in the sale Jim Bauer and Family, Elanora Park, Gin Gin paid $8,000 for Tartrus Elie, an 18 month old grey daughter of NCC Elliot.

Matthew Neilson, Erneston Brahman, Majors Creek was at the sale and purchased lot 1, a well bred daughter of JDH Sir Watts Manso for $6,000 and Lot 56, Tartrus Cindy Manso, by the same sire for $5,500.

Also providing solid support in the stud section of the sale were John and Karen Jenkins, Namvara, Winton purchasing 9 heifers, Eric Nobbs, Lyndhurst, Bilboel, 5 heifers; Roger and Roslyn Nobbs, Wingara, Bauhinia, 7 heifers and Broadsound Brahman of Stanage Bay that put together an excellent line of 7 stud heifers averaging $4,715 on top of their purchase of a deck of red heifers from the commercial section. Barry and Tammy Hughes, Tambar Brahman travelled from Forsayth, North Queensland and purchased 4 Stud heifers while Andrew and Roxanne Olive of Raglan Brahman selected a high quality, well bred daughter of Tartrus Aristotie Manso for $6,000.

Agents: Queensland Rural and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing.

**SALE RESULTS**

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<td>949</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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The last few months have been such an amazing experience. In 2010, I was fortunate to receive the Edgar Hudgins Memorial Scholarship.

This led me on a trip to USA in early January 2011 where I was to spend the next 3 months travelling to different Brahman ranches across the country.

I arrived just in time for the Fort Worth Livestock Show and I was also lucky enough to get to San Antonio and Houston Stock Shows. 25 different Ranches and a few different collection and ET facilities, where I met some amazing people and saw some great cattle! I’ve learnt so much from all of the different places I’ve visited from their ranch history and management, to the development and adaptation of the breed in their environments, and the American Beef Industry. Before this trip, I didn’t know a great deal about the American genetics, but now I appreciate and understand them a much greater level.

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, particularly the families who I was lucky to be hosted by; I can’t thank them enough for the kindness and hospitality shown to me throughout my stay, and also those who took the time to show me their cattle and ranches.

I would also like to thank JD Hudgins Inc. and the American and Australian Brahman Breeders Associations for giving me this opportunity, to further my knowledge and understanding of the Brahman as a worldwide breed. In America, I’ve made friends for a lifetime, and have memories I will never forget! I encourage all young people to consider applying for this scholarship. It provides you with the time of your life filled with opportunities, experiences, people and cattle that shouldn’t be missed!!!

Letitia Nicolle, Edgar Hudgins Memorial Scholarship recipient at the Houston Livestock Show with O.W, Donna and Wes Schneider
Lotfed Brahmans worth their weight in gold

by Kim WHISSON

Brahmans are worth their weight in gold, just ask Craig Forest, manager of Saxby Feedlot at Kilkivan.

Alongside fiancé Jasmine O’Reilly, the couple assumed management of the operation in February 2010, working for owner and Brahman producers Eric and Lynne Slacksmith, Gladesvale Station, Richmond and Marcus and Shelly Curr, Yelvertoft Station, Mt Isa.

Mr Slacksmith and Mr Curr invested in the feedlot in April 2006 with a view to having somewhere to value add their cattle during dry seasons.

The cattle processed through the feedlot are from Mr Slacksmith’s and Mr Curr’s Northern and Western Queensland properties spreading from Mt Isa to Julia Creek and from Richmond down to Winton. The business also custom feeds cattle to boost turnover.

There is no doubt Mr Slacksmith, Mr Curr and Mr Forest are all firm supporters of the Brahman breed, believing them to be the best value for money in the business. And that opinion is backed up by the success rate at Saxby.

“It’s Brahman country up here, especially for breeders,” Mr Slacksmith said of their northern operations.

“In terms of the feedlot, the Brahmans adapt well – we hardly ever lose beasts.”

The breed had the lowest maintenance requirements of any to be processed through the feedlot.

“It doesn’t get cold enough here that it worries them and we have minimal troubles with excessive heat load, and general management is easier,” Mr Forest said.

He added that very few cattle required medical treatment and most problems were “fixed with a bale of hay”.

“Some feedlots are incurring medical costs of up to $20 per head or averaging at $12. We average at about 70c per head,” he said.

An often forgotten statistic, but it can mean the difference between making a profit and a loss.

Some feedlots operate with a margin of $30 per head, and excessive medical expenses could cancel out that margin.

“The management before they get here is also really important. On those extensive places up north, like Eric and Marcus’s, their management and husbandry has to be spot on. They have a time frame and it’s scheduled and they get the job done,” Mr Forest said.

“We rarely see any northern cattle with horns. They have been dehorned which takes away from time lost in the feedlot.

“Eric has some of the best Brahman cattle I’ve seen.”

The Brahman at Saxby have shown it is not just their hardiness that makes them a valuable breed.

These conversion figures from the feedlot are calculated with actual dry matter content of the rations fed to the varying mobs to make the comparison as accurate as possible.

Theoretically if all cattle are purchased at the same price ($1.80/kg) and weight (420kg), sold at the same rate ($3.80/kg HSCW), with the same ration price ($260) and the above figures are applied, along with a feedlot charge of 20c/hd/day, the figures should look like:

**BRAHMAN - 110 DAYS ON FEED**

Avg consumption/hd/day - 14.4kg

Avg weight gain/ hd/day - 2.3kg

Conversion - Ration @ 76.63% Dry matter

Avg medical costs/hd/110DOF - $0.45

COST OF GAIN = $1.717 per kg liveweight

**CROSSBRED - 110 DAYS ON FEED**

Avg consumption/hd/day - 16kg

Avg weight gain/ hd/day - 2.4kg

Conversion - Ration @ 74.86% Dry matter

Avg medical costs/hd/110DOF - $0.45

COST OF GAIN = $1.822 per kg liveweight

Based on the above figures, the crossbred steers have a greater gross return due to the additional weight gain, giving a nett profit of 11% on capital invested. The Brahman steers have a lower gross return than the crossbred steers, but return 13% on capital invested, or 2% more profit, due to the lower cost of gain driven by lower feed consumption and better feed conversion.
Lotfed Brahmans worth their weight in gold

Mr Forest said there were two key areas that should have a greater focus in regard to the feedlot industry: cost of gain rather than daily weight gain, and producer knowledge of target markets.

“We need to push the issue of cost of gain rather than daily weight gain. You can get great weight gain but it’s the cost of that gain that makes the profit and in turn provides sustainability of operation,” he said.

In regard to maximising profits, Mr Slacksmith said the Brahman breed certainly ticked the box.

“They are efficient converters - they don’t eat as much as a crossbred. And it gets back to dollars when you are feeding them.”

Mr Forest said in terms of market knowledge there were many producers with misconceptions about the breed.

“There are a lot of producers who think that Brahman’s don’t grade into MSA grids, Brahman cattle consistently grade into MSA grids because MSA is a cuts based grading system, not a breed based system.

“One thing that I think needs to be noted in some way is that many people go astray when feeding cattle because they think that feed and HGPs will make up for poor genetics.

“Everything we can do and use are only aids to the animal. A solid genetic base provides a strong foundation.”

Steers from Eric Slacksmith, Gladevale Station, Richmond, after 100 days on feed

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Congratulations to David and Julie McCamley, Lancefield D Stud, for selling the top priced red bulls at the 2010 Tartrus Lancefield Sale and 2011 Big Country Sale for $20,000 and $27,000. Both sires were sons of Bizzy Brutus (sold at RBWS 2007).

F1 SUPERMUMS
Nettle Creek genuine F1 PTIC heifers out of Bizzy Brahman stud cows sold at the 3rd Annual Nettle Creek Invitational Commercial Female Sale for $1340/hd. 75 PTIC rising two year old F1 heifers averaged $1300/hd.

BRAHMAN CROSSBREEDING ADVANTAGE
Congratulations to Bruce and Sandra Jorgensen, Mummulgum, who won the Best Pen of Bos Indicus Steers at the 2011 Casino Weaner Sale. These 10 month old weaner calves sired by Bizzy bulls out of Simmental cows weighed 355kg and sold for $835/hd.

“Heading towards the selling season with a great team of bulls”

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Offering 30 Red Brahman Bulls, 3 Select Red Stud Females, Brangus and Charbray Bulls.
Strong support from volume buyers helped vendors clear 45 of the 70 bulls under the hammer at an average of $2638, which was down slightly on last year’s average of $2745 when 20 bulls sold from 51 offered at the WA Bos Indicus Group Sale at Narngulu in April.

This year’s clearance of 64pc, compared to 39pc last year, was further improved with a number of the passed in bulls finding new homes after the sale.

Leading the way in the Brahman breed and topping this section of the sale at $4800 was the Wesley family’s Charlesville stud, Southern Cross.

Not only did the Charlesville stud take top price honours and offer the largest team, it also took top average honours as well. The stud averaged $2859 when it cleared 17 of its 20 bulls offered.

Attracting the most attention in the Charlesville run and ultimately the $4800 top price tag was the red, 18-month-old sire, Charlesville 1596, which showed good growth and length.

The well-structured bull, by Bizzy Revenge, was eventually knocked down to return buyers David and Merrilea Broad, Melrose station, Leonora.

The Broads, who run 700 breeders on the station, which surrounds the Darlot gold mine, were at the sale to buy replacement bulls for the herd after having not bought for two years due to the previous dry seasons.

Along with the top-priced Charlesville bull the Broads also went on to buy two other Charlesville sires, a grey bull at $3100 and another red bull at $2500.

The Broads also paid $2900 for an Oakvale bull later in the sale.

The Charlesville stud also achieved the second top price for the breed when Wendy Pens, Blue Pools, Moonyoonooka, purchased the deep, long-bodied, grey bull, Charlesville 1573 for $4200.

The 24-month-old sire was by Garglen Buff 6948.

Buying three Charlesville bulls each were DL & GM Robinson, Doorawarrah station, Carnarvon and Lake Violet station, Wiluna.

Also purchasing multiple bulls in the Charlesville team was Rex Ward, R & N Ward, Millrose station, Wiluna, who purchased two bulls at $3800 and $2700.

Offering the second largest team in the Brahman section were Reg and Carole Teakle, Oakvale stud, Northampton, who offered 19 and sold 11 under the hammer at an average of $2464 and to a top of $3400.

Topping the Oakvale team at $3400 was the red, 29-month old sire, Oakvale 2376 (P), when it was purchased by Rex Ward, R & N Ward, Millrose station.

Buying strongly in the Oakvale run was Joe Armstrong, Uralla station, via Onslow, who purchased six bulls from Oakvale at an average of $2233.

With the Brahman heifers the Canterbury stud, New Norcia, had on offer in the sale were Canterbury co-principal David Lovelock (left) and Kindillan Pastoral representatives Ali Clarke, Christie Blackmore and Dusty Clinic, Nallan station, Cue. During the sale Kindillan secured five Brahman heifers from the Oakvale stud, Northampton and after the sale they purchased the pen of four Canterbury Brahman heifers.
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Making the trip north from Williams for the sale was the Paterson family’s Birrahlee stud and once again buyers appreciated the bulls it had on offer clearing its team of eight bulls at an average of $2688 and a top of $3300.

The $3300 top-priced bull was secured by Rex Ward, Millrose station, who was on the lookout for Red Brahman bulls to use over his 1000 Droughtmaster-Brahman cross breeders, which they have just started mustering.

Mr Ward also paid $3200, the second top price in the Birrahlee team.

After being vendors earlier in the Brahman run the Charlesville and Oakvale studs turned buyers when both purchased bulls from Birrahlee.

The Charlesville stud paid $2200 for its selection, while Oakvale secured a sire at $3000.

Canterbury stud principals David and Kathy Lovelock, New Norcia, offered eight bulls in the sale and sold three under the hammer to a top of $2800 and an average of $2400.

Purchasing the stud’s toppriced bull, Canterbury 9504, was Wendy Pens.

Ms Pens also secured the $2600 top-priced bull from the Catoby stud and paid $2200 for a bull from the Ryvoan stud, which were both part of the Canterbury and Associated studs’ team.

Also purchasing from the Catoby and Ryvoan studs was Barklay Day, Tangadee station, Newman.

Mr Day paid $2400 for Catoby 9515 (P) and $2400 for Ryvoan 9544 (P).

Elders Midwest, Eastern Wheatbelt and pastoral regional manager Peter Storch (left), Oakvale Brahman stud principals Carole and Reg Teakle, Northampton, volume Oakvale buyer Joe Armstrong, Uralia station, Onslow and Landmark stud stock account manager Deane Allen. Mr Armstrong purchased six bulls from Oakvale during the sale to a top of $2400.
NBS dispersal grosses $800,000

Red females sold to a $20,000 high, heifer calves topped at $16,000 and grey females hit a $13,000 high on two occasions at the NBS Brahman Dispersal Sale, Gympie in March.

Tim and Sally North, NBS Stud, Gympie dispersed their entire red and grey female herd in an unreserved format witnessing a complete catalogue clearance to 54 addresses from across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

Established in 2004 the NBS prefix grew and developed a reputation in a relatively short time into a leading nursery and as a result the catalogue featured a battery of 40 nationally and internationally recognized red and grey bulls.

Focal to the offering were the ‘first release’ Hudgins sires, Mr Dwayne Manso, Peter Pan Manso, Sir Avery Manso, Sir Alamo Manso and Berkman Manso. The NBS and the Garglen prefixes hold the Australian semen rights to Mr Dwayne Manso and JDH Peter Pan Manso. Nearly half of all the joinings were to these two new import recruits.

In a breakdown of the result 33 cow and calf units averaged $6015 to top at $20,000; 70 joined females hit $8500 to average $3871; 10 red joined females averaged $5500 to sell to $10,000; five pregnancies averaged $2650 to sell to $3000; seven ET calves averaged $5857 to top at $13,000; 39 unjoined grey heifers averaged $3910 to hit $13,000 while six red heifers averaged $10,000 to top at $16,000.

Red donor, Lanes Creek Rivalee (AI) (ET) at four-years topped proceedings at $20,000. A daughter of Mr Winchester Magnum 999 (US) she sold with an impressive bull calf by Wandilla Zulu. Purchasing the outfit was Hilltops Pastoral Group Pty Ltd., Hilltops, Ma Ma Creek. Representing Hilltops, Tim Neville amassed 18 red lots from the sale for an average $8472.

Hilltops acquisitions included the nine-month-old polled calves, the $16,000 NBS Miss Rosie (AI) (ET) (Letoken Revolution) and the $15,000 NBS Pablo Jamaica (AI) (ET) (P) by Fern Hills Kingston (P). Another purchase was the $13,000 NBS Ms Pablo Princess (AI) (ET) (P) (six-months) by Kingston and the $10,000 NCC Yo Yo a four-year-old by NCC Serengeti (IMP SA).

These females will join a red nucleus of breeders that will be joined to the 2010 RAS champion, Mogul Witchita purchased privately from the Mogul Stud, NSW some weeks prior to the NBS dispersal.

The grey market topped at $13,000 on two occasions. First of these was the three-year-old NBS Tanya Manso 130/8 (IVF) (JDH Sir Dixon Manso) (US) with a bull calf by JDH Sir Alamo Manso (US) selling to Geoff and Scott Angel, Glengarry Stud, Kunwarara. Glengarry ended their day with four averaging $8000. Included in the Glengarry purchases was a $10,000 JDH Sir Dixon Manso daughter and calf. The other $13,000 grey was the maiden heifer, the 18-month NBS Miss Marsden (AI) (JDH Sir Winston Manso) (US) selling to Peter and Kim Cheal, Kurrabi, Emerald.
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Claude Wernicke and Barbara St Clair Matheson, Natal Stud, Kingaroy outlaid $10,000 for the six-month-old calf, NBS Ms Amazon Deed (ET) (JDH Mr Deeds Manso) (US). The other Natal purchases were two confirmed pregnancies that averaged $2625.

Volume buyers included the Gayrose Stud, Warwick taking six to average $5083. Bill and Kay Geddes, Doonside Stud, Milman, took home nine to average $4334 and Peter and Brenda Milne, Warnbrahs Stud, Warwick ended with six to average $4292. Garry Heite, Barambah Brahman, Wondai signed off on 10 greys to average $5750. Top of his selections was a $7500, two-year old daughter of LL Sugar Ely Manso 727 (US). Drew and Lisa Callander, Oakdale Stud, Sarina claimed 23 lots to average $2897 while Bill and Lawson Camm, Cambil Stud, Proserpine took six averaging $4750 and topping at $8000 for a three-year-old JDH Riddell De Manso (US) daughter.

Bill and Vicki Gabel, Avee Stud, Wowan selected two greys to average $6750 topping at $10,000 for the rising four-year-old NBS Felicity SE (IVF) (LL Sugar Ely Manso 727) (US) with a heifer calf by FBC D Boston Manso. The Brownson family, Burdekin Stud, NBS dispersal grosses $800,000.

Sally North (right) is pictured with Beryl and Royce Sommerfeld, Brahrock, Maryborough and Bill Geddes, Doonside Stud, Milman who bought 9 females for $4334 average
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NBS dispersal grosses $800,000

Charters Towers bought four to average $3625 while the Signature Cattle Company, Milton Dale Station, Ingham claimed five averaging $3500.

David and Julie McCamley, Lancefield D Stud, Dingo took home a trio for an average $5000.

John Atkinson, Cashmere Stud, Hughenden picked up a pair to average $5750 including the $8500 FBC W Janeen De Manso (ET) (JDH Lincoln De Manso) (US).

Brett Krafft, Tipperary Station, NT averaged $3167 for his trio while interstate interests Ron and Yvonne Carr, Bidgee View Stud, Narromine, NSW took four to average $3313; the Humphries family, Tallygarroopa, Victoria picked up three to average $6000 topping at $8500 for NBS Amuleetta (AI) (ET) (Riddell Manso) (eight-months); Glen Pfeffer, Manager, Mogul Stud, Maclean, NSW secured the $6000 unit NBS Lila Manso (IVF) (three years) a daughter of JDH Mr Abel Manso (US) with a heifer calf at side by Sir Winston Manso (US). The Reynolds family, Rockhaven Stud, Vacy, NSW took two at $3500 each.

Tim and Sally’s association with the breed will continue through their highly successful Brahman and Brangus semen import and artificial breeding business, Norths Breeding Solutions.

Vendors Kearin and Beth Streeter believe that Palmvale Miss Princess Jupiter 2690 is one of their best polled heifers to leave their Marlborough-based stud, and buyers at the Fassifern Valley Elite Brahman Sale agreed.

After a fierce bidding battle, the heifer was knocked down for $17,000 to Elders Rockhampton, bidding on behalf of Tim Neville, Hilltops Pastoral, Ma Ma Creek. Mr Neville, a multi-millionaire with diverse businesses around the world, is investing heavily in Thoroughbred and Brahman genetics to set up elite studs at his lavish Toowoomba district property, which is being developed from scratch with no expense spared.

In all, Hilltops Pastoral outlaid $113,750 or $7109 average for 16 red heifers, including 10 from Palmvale.

The Streeters averaged $8341 for 11 heifers, the top price going to Palmvale Miss Princess Jupiter 2690, an April 2009-drop daughter of NCC Jupiter and Palmvale Miss Prince 2250 (by Mr Winchester Magnum 999).

Overall, the March Silverdale Saleyards event recorded a $4130 average for 50 females. Also offered were six semen packages, which peaked at $1000.

Palmvale Joanne 2793, an unjoined Palmvale Cassanova 2268 daughter featuring a double cross of Winchester Magnum, secured second top price of $16,000. The polled red went to Hilltops Pastoral, whose purchases included $14,500 Palmvale Miss BJ Pablo 2771, an unjoined daughter of $60,000 Kandoona Big John and the Winchester Magnum cow Palmvale Miss WM Pablo 2269; $12,000 Palmvale Julie, a polled daughter of Kandoona Ukraine; $10,000 Palmvale Miss Pablo Jupiter 2689, by NCC Jupiter and out of a BB Mr Sting Ray 10/0 (imp) cow; and $6000 Palmvale Absolute Holly, a polled daughter of the show champion bull Palmvale Absolute Sting.

The top priced grey, at $7500, was El Ja Dimity Manso, an August 2009-drop heifer by JDH Sir Dixon Manso (imp) and out of the Lancefield Signature cow, El Ja Deena Manso. She was offered by Les and Helen Donald, El Ja, Theodore, and had been running with JDH Mr Abel Manso 517/6 (imp). El Ja Dimity Manso was one of two El Ja heifers snapped up by McKinlay and Morawitz, Stewart Park, Comet.

Hilltops Pastoral paid $7000 for Halgenaes Mildrid a red daughter of Helgenaes Alex, and in calf to HK Blueprint. She was offered by Peter Tuxworth, Helgenaes, Ingham, who averaged $3937 for four head.

The Dunn family, Kamir stud, Thangool, received $6000 for their JDH Mr David Manso (imp) heifer Kamir Zibibbo Manso, who is an IVF female from the high performing donor cow Shilla Park Lady Siena Manso 299. She was knocked down to A. and V. Gabel.

Hancock Pastoral paid $4000 for the JDH Sir Shank Manso 51/7 (imp) female Kamir Ethereal Manso, the first heifer to be offered from Pioneer Park Lady Sunline Manso.

Hilltops Pastoral liked the look of two polled Roseborough L Red Monte 64/2 heifers from the Schubel’s Reldarah stud, Gin Gin, paying $5250 for Reldarah Tasma, and $3500 for Reldarah Goldielocks.

Millionaire investor underpins exceptional Fassifern Valley sale

by Lindel GREGGERY

Elders Rockhampton Stud Stock representative Robert Murray is pictured with Kearin and Beth Streeter, Palmvale stud, Marlborough and the top selling female Palmvale Miss Princess Jupiter 2690 sold to Hilltops Pastoral Group for $17,000.
As Americans, we love getting The Brahman News and reading about the exciting Brahman events in Australia. We invite our Australian friends to subscribe to The American Brahman Review, a new magazine featuring Brahman cattle in the United States. Or, read it online anytime at www.brahmanreview.com.

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To all Brahman Members,

On the 27th of March, I was involved in an accident on our family property, Kangarin, that required being taken to the Brisbane Royal Hospital via Royal Flying Doctor, and placed in an induced coma in the Intensive Care unit for 14 days. I suffered burns to 40% of my body, 25% being 3rd degree; both of my arms, my back, my face and chest were affected. Skin grafts were taken from my upper legs and I was then moved to the Burns unit and recovered there for the following 2 weeks. I returned home on the 29th of April using much persuasion on the doctors and nurses, and although I now have a long road of rest, repair and treatment in front of me, everything is travelling extremely well. The business is operating as normal, as eventually I will be.

I have a renewed respect for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and high appreciation for the staff, nurses and doctors of the Royal Brisbane Hospital, who are extraordinary in their profession and were wonderful to me during my stay.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the Brahman members that rang with kindness and support for myself and my family. I have been overwhelmed with offers of assistance, and encouragement for a swift recovery, and the friendship and love that I have received is tremendous.

I would also especially like to thank Jodi and Craig McLennan, Steve Lamb and Ian Lamb and Mick Cox, for their ongoing support of my son Grahame to keep things ticking along while I was unable to, and Grahame for doing just that and doing it well.

And most of all, I would like to thank my beautiful wife Rhonda who was with me every step of the way, and will be long suffering in the months to come!

Yours Sincerely, Nick Dudarko.
2011 show success on the Southern Downs

Jack and Linda Gaiter and family of Ellenjay Pastoral Brahmans, Kooroongarra via Millmerran Queensland have had a successful few months travelling to shows on the Southern Downs.

The EJP Brahman 2011 show team are all progeny of Milldale Karson 1144. In only their second year of showing, though they still have much to learn, are very pleased with how their team has performed. Their bull EJP MR Angelo will be for sale at Tamworth Brahman Sale on September 17, 2011 and they are look forward to a bigger show team and more shows next year.

MILLMERRAN SHOW - 27/02/2011
Champion (EJP EL Karbonne) and Reserve Champion (EJP Eumekar De Manso) Junior Tropical Breeds Heifer. Reserve Grand Champion Tropical Breeds Female (EJP EL Karbonne). 2nd place Tropical Breeds Bull 16mths and under 20 mths (EJP Mr Angelo). 3rd place Interbreed Breeders Group.

WARWICK SHOW - 26/03/2011
Champion Brahman Bull (EJP Mr Angelo), Champion (EJP EL Karbonne) and Reserve (EJP Eumekar De Manso) Senior Brahman Female, Grand Champion Brahman Female (EJP EL Karbonne), Grand Champion Brahman Exhibit (EJP MR Angelo), Champion Breeders Group Tropical Breeds, Reserve Champion Breeders Group of Show and 1st place Tropical Sires Progeny.

GOONDIWINDI SHOW - 30/04/2011
Senior Champion and Grand Champion Brahman Female (EJP Eumekar De Manso), Senior Champion and Grand Champion Brahman Bull (EJP Mr Angelo), 2nd place Interbreed Breeders Group and Tash Gaiter won the Herdsman Award.

EJP Mr Angelo (Sire Milldale Karson 1144; Dam Lucknow Peninah) led by Mitchell Thomas. Angelo will be for sale at Tamworth Brahman Sale on 17th September

Ellenjay Pastoral 2011 Show team during judging at Warwick show in Tropical Sires Progeny class, front to back EJP Mr Angelo, led by Natasha Gaiter, EJP EL Karbonne, led by Mitchell Farley and EJP Eumekar De Manso led by Mitchell Thomas
Kenrol Dataman reigns supreme

Kenrol Dataman 0382 was named the senior and grand champion bull and supreme champion Brahman exhibit at the 2011 The Caves Show, held on May 1.

The Central Queensland event was judged by Adam Gunthorpe, Tarramba Brahman stud, Banana.

Dataman was exhibited by Ken and Wendy Cole, Kenrol stud, Gracemere, and is a son of JDH Datapack Manso (imp) and the well-regarded cow, Kenrol Serendipity 042.

The reserve senior bull championship went to Glengarry Recluse, shown by Scott and Geoff Angel, Glengarry, Kunwarara. He is a November 2008-drop son of Brahrock Faise. Glengarry also collected broad ribbons for the junior champion bull Glengarry D Max, who is a polled son of Glengarry Drummond, and for the reserve junior champion bull, Glengarry Quicksilver, by Elrose Eagle Hawk.

In the female section, the Angels collected the grand championship with their calf champion female Glengarry Nardia 1893, who is also by Elrose Eagle Hawk.

The reserve female calf championship went to Kenrol Miss Marri, by JDH Sir Marri Manso (imp).

Mr Gunthorpe awarded the senior female championship to Glengarry Alise 1748, a daughter of FBC W Jordan De Manso. Kenrol Georgeena Manso 0330, a May 2008-drop cow by FBC Jordan Manso (imp), claimed the reserve senior female championship.

Rockhampton Grammar School paraded the junior champion female, Hazelton K Tara, and the reserve junior female championship went to Arizona Crystal, paraded by Paul and Catherine MacKenzie, Arizona, Dingo.

In the bull calf section, the championship went to Glengarry G Cassanova, a Glengarry Bendigo son shown by Geoff Angel. The reserve ribbon was awarded to Kenrol Saffa, by the South African import Rio Power Manso 67 (imp).

The Exhibitor’s Group was won by Glengarry, with Kenrol taking the blue ribbon in the Dam’s Progeny Group with progeny of Kenrol Serendipity.

The champion pen of unled bulls or heifers was Brahman bulls exhibited by Peter and Sue Gray, The Rivers, Marlborough. The winning pair of unled purebred heifers was shown by Brent Williams, Diamond W, Gracemere.

Glengarry capped off a great day by parading the winning led milk tooth steer, 500kg and under.
The economics of beef operations demand that fertility, calving percentage and carcase yield and quality are the key production priorities, however, structural and functional soundness are the prerequisites for these functions.

Structural correctness is absolutely essential for functional efficiency. It is the most critical component of visual assessment because conformation is difficult to measure objectively.

Bulls that fail to service cows effectively and cows that have poor calving records and low weaning percentages have a minimal value to beef producers.

Structural defects and abnormal functions can also be passed on to future generations compounding problems and further eroding the functional efficiency of the herd.

**STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS**

The placement (not proportion) of bone has a considerable impact on the mobility and mounting ability of bulls and the calving ease of cows and heifers.

**FOREQUARTER**

In long striding cattle the angle of the scapula and the ground is about 45° and the angle between the scapula and the humerus is approximately 90°. (Figure 1).

The more upright the scapula (straight shouldered), the shorter the stride. Straight shouldered cattle frequently experience joint problems and pastern strains and neck and back problems.

Stock with excessive angulation of the pastern (e.g. greater than 45°) often have a shallow heel resulting in feet disorders (e.g. long toes) and discomfort due to swelling of the joints.

Poor shoulder structure (too open or too narrow) results in leg disorders (e.g. splayed or bowed), uneven weight distribution and increasing foot problems and disorders and the incidence of lameness.

**HINDQUARTER**

In a correctly structured animal, the angle of the stifle joint and the hock joint will be the same and the foot will be positioned directly below the hip joint (Figure 1).

The hip joint is the main weight bearing joint in the hindquarter. A flexible hock joint is equally important to absorb the pressures resulting from the considerable amount of walking in pasture based production systems. A flexible and correctly structured hock joint is also important for the mounting and thrusting action of bulls.

If the hock is forward of the pin bone the stock are sickle hocked which reduces mobility and causes shallow heels and long toes. Stock with insufficient angulation of the hock (straight legged) tend to place all the weight on the hip joint which can cause sudden lameness and arthritis of the joints.

**FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENT BULLS**

The key parameters for functional efficiency of bulls are the production of live fertile sperm, a high level of libido and the physical ability to service the required number of females in each mating period. These are the criteria necessary to produce stock that can contribute to herd improvement and an economically viable business.

"Seedstock must meet the commercial market realities"

Delays in the identification and elimination of poor conformation, structural faults and abnormalities reduces the genetic merit of the herd due to functional inefficiencies and the heritable nature of many defects. Table 1 provides a list of commonly known abnormalities in bulls.

**CONFORMATION**

The bulls frame score and muscle pattern should complement the cow herd, the factors of production (e.g. nutritional and herd management) and breeding goals of the business. The aim is to select well muscled bulls with the capacity to produce well muscled bull calves and fertile females.

"Bull selection should match market requirements and the production system"
Selection - Functional Efficiency

Functional bulls show depth, width, length and natural muscling which is related to weight gain, fleshing ability and meat yield. Tall slabby bulls with a low weight to frame score ratio, frequently lack natural muscle and have a low meat to bone ratio.

Functional bulls have heavy not course muscular development of the forequarter with masculinity of the neck and a good muscle pattern as the withers, shoulders, forearm, back and rump.

Physical fitness depends on structural soundness and proper nutrition. Common abnormalities that impair function (production and reproduction efficiency) are faulty legs and feet.

“Bulls have to be active & athletic”

Hip dysplasia, foot faults, structural weaknesses and defects in the joints and legs are not only moderately heritable, they diminish the working ability and life of bulls. Overfeeding young bulls with high levels of concentrates plays an important role in reducing the functional efficiency of bulls and contributes to the incidence of arthritis, low servicing capacity and ultimately early breakdown.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Reproductive efficiency is the major determinant of the profitability of beef operations. Assuring high bull fertility and function is crucial to successful breeding seasons with high pregnancy rates. Various defects/abnormalities of the reproductive organs reduce reproduction efficiency (Table 1).

DEFECTS OF THE PENIS

These defects cause serious fertility problems and are frequently only diagnosed after bulls fail to service cows successfully. Common problems are listed in Table 1. Bulls need to be examined 6-8 weeks prior to the commencement of the breeding season and observed during the breeding season.

DEFECTS OF THE SHEATH

Various factors cause prolapse of the prepuce (injury, infection, trauma, insect bites) however, functional and anatomical abnormalities predispose the prepuce to prolapse and preputial damage.

Structural abnormalities include pendulous sheaths (Photo 1), eversion of the preputial mucosa (Photo 1) and too much depth and width of the prepuce (Photo 2). Irrespective of the size of the sheath, poor attachments and weak muscular control are equally problematic (Photo 3).

TABLE 1: FUNCTIONAL CHECKLIST FOR BULLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERNAL GENITAL ORGANS</th>
<th>EPIDIDYMIC DEFECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enlarged seminal vesicles</td>
<td>Tumours, abscesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminal visiculitis</td>
<td>Epididymitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrotal hernia</td>
<td>Segmental aplasia and/or hypoplasia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TESTICULAR DEFECTS</th>
<th>LOCOMOTION DEFECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduced size and hypoplasia</td>
<td>Poor feet structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softness</td>
<td>Leg structural faults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrosis/hardness</td>
<td>Foot disease (eg footrot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal shape and placement</td>
<td>Arthritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptorchid</td>
<td>Luxation (eg stringhalt)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PENIS AND PREPUCE DEFECTS</th>
<th>LOW PERFORMANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete erection</td>
<td>Low semen quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deviation (eg corkscrew)</td>
<td>Poor libido</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoplasma (eg warts)</td>
<td>Unsuitable disposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacerations</td>
<td>Poor cow settling rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pendulous sheath</td>
<td>Low weight : frame score ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preputial mucosa eversion</td>
<td>Inability to transfer economically relevant traits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive navel folds</td>
<td>Poor weight gain of progeny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistent penile franulum</td>
<td>Calving difficulties and dystocia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive umbilical folds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That is, bulls exhibiting normal physical capabilities may still be incapable of settling cows because of poor semen quality.
“Subfertile bulls are as big a problem as infertile bulls”

Semen evaluation needs to consider volume, colour, motility and morphology of the sperm in conjunction with physical examination of the genitilia.

DEFECTS OF THE GENITILIA
Correct symmetry and size of the testicles and epididymis are absolutely vital to bull functional efficiency. Softening or hardening and distorted shapes can indicate serious impairment to fertility.

It is also important to consider the size and shape of the scrotum and recognise its role in spermatogenesis. The various thermo-regulatory mechanisms of the scrotum make it possible for spermatogenesis to take place at a suitable temperature (ie 4-5°C lower than body temperature).

Unsuitable size and structures (Table 1), overfeeding high carbohydrate diets (fat deposits in the scrotum) and severe climatic conditions (too hot/humid) can reduce reproductive soundness.

The scrotal skin is thin and has a sparse hair covering. Excessively cold conditions (extreme frosts) can reduce fertility and cause irreparable damage to the genitilia particularly the epididymis (ie tissue adhesions, affecting sperm mobility and blood circulation).

Pendulous scrotums are more prone to injury. The cremaster muscles in the spermatic cords that suspend, raise and lower the testicles may not be able to function properly with pendulous testicles.

The relationship between scrotum shapes and fertility has not been confirmed, however, abnormalities can impair blood supply and the efficiency of the thermo-regulatory mechanisms of the scrotum.

FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENT COWS
Poor calf performance is usually the results of inferior genetics, poor dam milk production, calf illtrift (disease) or a combination of these factors.

Functional efficiency also involves other factors (environment, management) which can complicate outcomes. Additionally, 1st and 2nd calf heifers should not be expected to perform at the same level as older cows.

Key performance criteria include, ease of calving, calf survival, good nursing ability, suitable weight at weaning, and early conception and reconception (Table 2).

“Beefy cows may not be the best cows”

Fertile females look feminine and their body reserves are channelled to calf growth and regular calving.

Functional cows have a profile of fertility. They are feminine in their front and hind quarter appearance.

CONFORMATION
The neck and shoulder should be smooth not coarse and free of heavy muscular definition. Over flesched withers and heavy shoulders are definite signs of poor feminity and fertility.

A feminine profile should show refinement from the head to the abdomen with a good depth and spring of rib to allow high food intake and rumen function.

“Structural soundness is important for locomotion and reproductive soundness”

Consideration should be given to the functional merit of a slightly sloping rather than a square rump. A square rump is less advantageous at calving and with bos indicus cattle carries no more beef than a slightly sloping rump. Individual muscles (glutens group, biceps femoris, semitendinosis, semi membranosis) are no lighter in the hindquarter of bos indicus females with a slightly sloping rump compared to a square rump.

The big advantage of a slightly sloping rump is the improved calving ability. Lowered pins and lowered position of the thurls enlarge the effective opening of the pelvis and allow

**TABLE 2 : FUNCTIONAL CHECKLIST FOR FEMALES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPRODUCTION</th>
<th>STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Suitable calving interval</td>
<td>• Suitable legs and feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Femininity and refinement</td>
<td>• Desirable slope of shoulders and hindquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adequate skeletal structure</td>
<td>• Adequate muzzle and correct mouth/jaw placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Suitable weight for age</td>
<td>• Good udder/teat size, shape and suspension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERFORMANCE</th>
<th>MARKETABILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Size relative to production system and environment</td>
<td>• Produces calves that meet market specifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Suitable milk production for feed conditions</td>
<td>• Potential to produce suitable seedstock (bulls/heifers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adequate condition score with proper nutrition</td>
<td>• Capacity to improve the genetic merit of the herd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adequate rumen and body capacity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Suitable disposition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERNAL</th>
<th>PRODUCTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Possess suitable mothering-nursing abilities</td>
<td>• Increases the level of economically relevant traits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sufficient milk for acceptable growth rates</td>
<td>• Produces calves that improve profits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Produces calves that are superior to previous generations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
flexibility of the sacro-iliac function subsequently improving the ease of calving. 

Structural problems subject the joints to excessive wear and stress that eventually reduces mobility and increases lameness. For example, poor hip structure, exhibiting too much slope from hook to pins increases the incidence of lameness.

Females with a small skeletal structure and pelvic area are more likely to have calving difficulties and an increased incidence of dystocia.

Large framed females have higher feed requirements and in nutritionally challenged pasture production systems may have delayed calving intervals reducing functional efficiency.

**REPRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION ORGANS**

Prolapses can occur before or after calving and can be vaginal or uterine in nature. A vaginal prolapse typically occurs in late gestation as calving approaches. Although vaginal prolapses can be corrected they often recur (eg at estrus).

Because vaginal prolapses have a genetic component, cows with this condition should be culled. Daughters of cows with this problem have an increased risk of experiencing vaginal prolapses.

“Feminine females have well developed sex organs”

Uterine prolapse usually occur shortly after calving and are associated with a difficult calving due to a disproportionate size of the calf relative to the birth canal or breach births. If properly repaired, females experiencing uterine prolapses may never have a repeat prolapse.

A major concern is making sure the cows rebreed in a timely manner. Studies show that cows with calving difficulties take longer to get back in calf due to delayed cycling and/or infection.

“**Udders are the most important production organ**”

Udder soundness affects milk production, milk consumption and subsequently calf weaning weights.

Proper udder attachment and the shape and size of the teats are important for an effective and productive life in the herd.

A sound udder should be firmly attached with a strong level floor and four properly formed teats proportional to the size of the udder (Photo 5).

Weak suspension results in pendulous udders (Photo 6) that are difficult for the calf to suck. Balloon or funnel-shaped teats are difficult to suck causing illthrift and poor growth rates (Photo 6).

**SELECTION OUTCOMES**

Structural abnormalities and disorders can cause production and reproduction problems and lead to reduced functional efficiency.

Subsequently, delays in the elimination of these abnormalities are extremely costly and unproductive in the long run due to the heritable nature of many of these defects.

In contrast, management strategies to improve functional efficiency improve calf quality and the genetic merit of the herd.

“**Recognising and eliminating abnormalities improves herd performance**”

Well designed corrective measures and their effective implementation can greatly enhance the productivity and profitability of the business.

Visual assessment in conjunction with objective performance data assists producers to make informed decisions and take action to eliminate genetic weaknesses and structural abnormalities that reduce functional efficiency.

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