SEMEN SALES

LARGE RANGE OF BRAHMAN & BRANGUS SEMEN IN AUSTRALIA.

GREY BRAHMAN SIRES - DEEDS, ASHTON, PISTOLERO (P), AMBASSADOR (P), BRANDON, DOS PRESS, GALAXY...

RED BRAHMAN SIRES - VALENTINO, DERRINGER, MONTECORE, REBEL, JUSTO, GOVERNOR, JEFFERSON...

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Natural disasters, commencing with flooding in Queensland, northern NSW and Victoria and Cyclone Yasi in north Queensland have impacted a number of our members.

No doubt the clean up and recovery will continue for some time to come and our thoughts and best wishes are with them.

Hopefully the cycle has changed and we can look forward to a few years of above average seasons, without the extremes.

Improved cattle prices, in spite of the high A$ and the experts prediction of a tight supply situation should give confidence for prices to remain strong for some time to come.

The long term trend however of rising costs and risks associated with many agricultural industries, including the beef industry require that the quest to improve efficiency must continue.

Embracing technology will be an important component of this quest.

The Council’s decision to hold a Genetic Directions Forum in March is designed to ensure we are positioned to take advantage of new and emerging technologies.

Improving the accuracy of selection for the traits that drive profitability for commercial producers will deliver faster genetic progress and hence efficiency of production.  Our BIN project is another part of this strategy.

We have just over 600 cows in calf by AI with the CSIRO naturally mated cows not yet preg tested, so our first round of joining has been a success.

While the benefits of this project are some way off, it is an important step in improving our members access to the new DNA marker technology.
I am honoured to have been elected President of the Association and I thank my fellow Councillors for their support.

We are fortunate to have experienced an excellent wet season over wide areas of Australia with only the south west corner of WA missing out.

Some members were unfortunately affected by the extreme weather events, flooding from Cairns through to Victoria and Cyclone Yasi in North Queensland. Our hearts and thoughts are with those affected and we hope the positives outweigh the negatives.

The end of the bull selling season has been a difficult one with buyers being selective in their purchases.

I was fortunate to be able to travel to Thailand with Matthew McCamley in December to attend the Beef Cattle Association of Thailand Show and Field Day. I would like to thank the BCAT officials Mr Soonthorn, Mr Bunjong and Meatha Success for their hospitality. Thailand has many keen and committed Brahman breeders who showed a lot of interest in the Australian Brahman.

Our Genetic Directions Forum and Workshop on March 28 & 29 is an important event for the Association. It is part of the Council’s strategy to ensure our breed is positioned to take the best advantage of opportunities in the Australian beef industry of the future.

Our Beef Information Nucleus/Progeny Test project has successfully completed the first round of joinings. We will be calling applications shortly for the second round of joinings later in the year.

I would encourage members to consider nominating bulls for inclusion in the project. We are looking for 20-25 bulls again this year plus 4 backup bulls for the CSIRO herd.

It is important we evaluate the top bulls in the breed in this project if we are to take full advantage of the opportunity it provides us with as well as ensuring we get full value from our investment.

I would also like to encourage members to support the Brahman Commercial Breeding Show and Sale on April 12. It is one of our showcase events which highlight the strength and quality of Brahman females as well as their importance to the Northern beef industry.

The Brahman female market has been particularly strong this year with seasonal and pasture conditions still very good, this sale will be an excellent opportunity to take advantage of the market.

Marlborough Feature Show on April 16 and Alpha Feature Show on May 17 & 18 will be excellent opportunities for members with show teams to help promote the breed and I hope they get plenty of support.

I look forward to meeting as many members as possible at our events throughout the year.

Andrew Olive
The cattle market is off to a bullish start for 2011, according to Elders Charters Towers agent David Roberts.

“It’s opened pretty close to where it shut last year, despite smaller yardings due to weather conditions.”

Mr Roberts said following months of flooding, Cyclone Yasi then swept through, causing further isolation of property owners. Many, until recently, had been cut off for months in what has been a very stop/start kick-off to the regular beginning of year sales.

“Regarding numbers, if the season keeps coming like this, which I expect it will, then we won’t fire off until about March.”

In terms of live exports Mr Roberts said he expected the market to be similar to 2010.

“Due to the new guidelines, the market is going to continue on the same. There is also international turmoil to consider.

“Last year we had a couple of boats head for Egypt carrying heavier cattle, but the political situation over there a still concerning.

“I think the Indonesian market is still quite active and there are other markets opening up, including Turkey, but that is still in the early stages of development.”

MLA statistics for January reflect this slight downturn.

Australian beef and veal exports for January declined 7% year-on-year, to 41,561 tonnes swt. While January is traditionally the lowest month for beef consignments, with many Queensland processors closed for annual maintenance, the extensive flooding and associated logistical disruption to both beef and cattle movements across the state contributed to the decline in beef shipments.

With a jump in cattle supplies during the second half of January and most processors back operating, beef exports are anticipated to increase considerably in February, provided no further disruptions to supplies.

On a more positive note, releasing MLA’s 2011 Cattle Industry Projections, Tim McRae, MLA’s manager, Market Information and Analysis, said the outlook for grassfed producers in 2011 was encouraging.

Exceptional seasonal conditions and positive market signals point to a good year for most cattle producers in 2011, as surging cattle prices combine with a growing global demand-supply imbalance.

“Looking ahead, the fundamentals indicate that we are entering a period of rejuvenated demand, lower global beef stocks and higher prices, which will serve to help offset the impact of the currently high Aussie dollar,” Mr McRae said.

“But in the grainfed sector, rising grain and feeder cattle prices, the sluggish Japanese grainfed market and high A$ will put a squeeze on margins.”

A roundup of early 2011 sales follows:

**SOUTH QUEENSLAND**

**BIGGENDEN**

Biggenden sale on February 10 was described as “an absolute cracker”. A high quality yarding of 1694 head was penned. Of this 78 Brahman steers, mostly milk and two tooth from Duaringa, sold for an average of 183c or $750.

A sale highlight was Greg and Barbara Line, Myee, who sold a pen of 13 Brahman steers for 185.2c/kg, weighing 354kg to return $655 per head.

**TOOGOOLAWAH**

The January 7 sale at Toogoolawah saw a rain-reduced yarding of 327 head penned for the first sale of the year.

David and Troy Lindsay, Caboolture, had a good result selling Brahman bulls, 24 months, for $1450 to Ken Klein of Woodford, and for $1350 to Dallas Richter, Gregors Creek.

**MORETON**

Trade and feeder cattle continued to realise strong rates at the February 15 sale, while export cattle also met with strong demand and sold well. N. Mather, Brisbane, sold Brahman heifers for 185c, weighing 455kg to return $840.

**MURGON**

The market at Murgon on February 15 for export and trade cattle continued to forge ahead. A pen of 590kg Brahman steers from Byee sold for 185c/kg or $1094 and 187c/kg or $1022.

The Scanlan family, Gayndah, sold Brahman cows for 159c/kg, weighing 585kg to return $931.

**ROMA**

Cattle numbers returned to more normal levels in mid-February, at 1204 head. A full panel of processor buyers pushed prices 3c/kg higher on average.

Herbert Hall, Charters Towers, sold 651kg Brahman steers to 188c/kg to return $1225.

A sale highlight was Greg and Barbara Line, Myee, who sold a pen of 13 Brahman steers for 185.2c/kg, weighing 354kg to return $655 per head.
GIN GIN
In line with other centres the market was very strong at Gin Gin on January 24, with a yarding of 500 store cattle. Ken and Wendy Warren sold well grown Brahman No.0 steers to $525.

Bill and Rex Neubecker sold red Brahman steers, 18 months, to $640 and David Neubecker sold a quality pen of Brahman No.0 steers to $520.

Dan and Rachel Tobin sold fresh grey Brahman heifers from $480 to $545.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND
EMERALD
The Emerald prime and store mid-February sale offered an improved quality line-up. There were some particularly good cow sales, with Don and Kay Gordon, Burnmeadows, Emerald, selling 594kg Brahman cows for 154c/kg, returning $916.

GRACEMERE
A quality yarding dominated by larger lines of cattle saw numbers rise to 2119 head at Gracemere on February 11. Averages for all classes rose across the board.

Sale highlights included the Creed family, Old Station, Raglan, selling a draft of top quality red Brahman No.9 steers to top at 184c, weighing 477kg, returning $772.

Morrie Woodard and family, Duaringa, sold a pen of top quality Brahman weaner steers to top at 220c, weighing 258kg and returning $596.

LONGREACH
Longreach started the western sales run with a bang on February 9. An earlier sale at this venue than in previous years, the new date had great vendor and buyer support.

Cam and Sharon Tindall, Darr River Downs, Longreach, consigned 100 prime Brahman cows, selling for a high of 154c/kg.

Wendy Buntine, Strathfinella, Longreach, sold Brahman steers to $525.

Rejuvenated demand and higher prices signal strong 2011 for beef

Exceptional seasonal conditions and positive market signals point to a good year for most cattle producers in 2011, as surging cattle prices combine with a growing global demand-supply imbalance.

Releasing Meat & Livestock Australia's 2011 Cattle Industry Projections, Tim McRae, MLA's Manager, Market Information and Analysis, said while the outlook for grassfed producers in 2011 is encouraging, times will remain tough for the grainfed sector.

"With the unfortunate exception of southern WA, drought-breaking rains and above average cattle prices provide an opportunity for financial improvement for grassfed producers, particularly breeders.

"Looking ahead, the fundamentals indicate that we are entering a period of rejuvenated demand, lower global beef stocks and higher prices, which will serve to help offset the impact of the currently high Aussie dollar."

"But in the grainfed sector, rising grain and feeder cattle prices, the sluggish Japanese grainfed market and high A$ will put a squeeze on margins.

Mr McRae said although markets and prices are expected to be stronger this year, producers still face some difficult decisions. "Producers now have a tough balancing act on their hands: rebuilding their drought and in some cases flood-depleted herds while at the same time maintaining cash flows, reducing debt and capitalising on the expected better markets."

But, overall, livestock and export markets are expected to be in better shape than a year ago.

"Most of the world's major cattle herds are declining at a time when demand is increasing. Already this year we've seen US Choice fed cattle prices 25% higher than a year earlier, a tangible sign of the supply-demand imbalance."

Australian beef and veal exports in 2011 are forecast to reach 953,000 tonnes cwt, up 3% on 2010. "Much of this growth is expected to occur in Australia's emerging markets, led by Russia, Middle East and South East Asia."

US competition in North Asia is expected to further intensify and may see Australian exports fall in Korea, but remain steady in Japan. Exports to the US are expected to post a modest recovery as local supplies tighten.

Despite surging export markets, demand in the domestic market is expected to remain resilient, underpinned by population and income growth.

With the easing of the drought the Australian cattle herd is forecast to enter an expansion phase, increasing by 2.6% in 2010-11 to 274 million head. Beef and veal production is forecast to rise 2.5% in 2011 to 2.19 million tonnes cwt, due to higher slaughter and increased average carcase weights - a result of the improved seasonal conditions.

"These increased supplies and the high Aussie dollar will be more than offset by strong domestic and export demand, hence cattle prices - both young and heavy export grades - are projected to average higher for the year."

"The high Aussie dollar continues to be a big concern as is the drought in WA, increased competition from US beef in North Asia and continuing economic weakness and risks in the US, Japan and the EU."

Market access conditions will continue to drive the live cattle trade in 2011, as the trade remains constrained by the restrictions in Indonesia. The Middle East is anticipated to offset some, but not all, of this impact.
Reproduction programs increase calving numbers

In Northern Australia, cattle production can be boosted using reproduction programs to increase fertility, calving percentage and weaning rates.

How Cue-Mate® can help

Cue-Mate® is a Y-shaped intravaginal device with two detachable silicon pods containing the hormone progesterone, which is used to induce cycling and oestrus.

The silicon pods are gill-shaped to provide a larger surface area for release from the device and absorption of the progesterone by the cow. The device is inserted into the cow’s vagina using a simple applicator designed for the purpose.

With a Cue-Mate®, the dose can also be halved when a blank pod is substituted on one of the arms – ideal for heifers. The wishbone can also be cleaned for re-use and replacement pods, with or without progesterone are readily available.

Using Cue-Mate® in AI programs

Artificial insemination programs are more complex, but offer the advantage of genetic improvement to the herd. Detecting heat in Brahman breeds is difficult, as it tends to be relatively short, and often occurs at night. Programs referred to as Fixed Time Artificial Insemination (FTAI) have been developed that allow for cows to be inseminated without the need for oestrus detection.

Brahman cattle (Bos indicus) are suited to the tropics but are not highly fertile. Typically, heifers are slow to get in calf, with 30% conception from yearling mating quite normal. It’s also difficult to get 1st calf heifers back in calf, and often cows will only rear a calf in alternate years. Programs that encourage the resumption of cycling during the early post-partum period are of benefit. If a producer can get cows pregnant so that they calve when feed is plentiful, survival of the calf is far more likely.

Using Cue-Mate® in heifers – natural mating

Heifers must be in good condition and need to be approximately 63% of mature body weight. To induce Brahman heifers to cycle, a Cue-Mate® with a single active and a blank pod is inserted for 8–10 days. Veterinarians will usually give an injection of equine chorionic gonadotrophin (eCG) such as Pregnecol® at the time of Cue-Mate® removal that will stimulate follicle growth and then release of the ovum at oestrus which follows. Natural mating is used in this program, so adequate bulls must be available to serve the heifers as most will come into heat (oestrus) a day or two after the Cue-Mate® is removed. Where heifers are under target weight, in poor condition or on a falling plane of nutrition, conception rates are likely to be poor.

For further information

Contact Bayer Animal Health, PO Box 903 PYMBLE, NSW 2073
Toll Free: 1800 678 368 www.bayeranimal.com.au
The central and northern Australian stud cattle selling season commenced 2011 in spectacular fashion at Charters Towers last week with bulls selling to $40,000 and sale averages bettering last year’s by nearly 40% at the Big Country Brahman Sale.

Sale agents Geaney’s and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing encountered difficult and uncertain marketing conditions in the sale lead-up, with a Cyclone Yasi induced postponement of a week, however they were pleased to see a very strong panel of buyers from as far away as the Northern Territory, Darling Downs, South Burnett, Roma, Emerald, Aramac, Rockhampton, Sarina, Nebo, Conclurry, Atherton Tablelands, Clermont, Winton and Collinsville join local cattle producers and studmasters supporting the sale.

“We had a much stronger lead in the sale this year, especially in the greys, and studmasters and leading commercial cattle breeders really responded to the outstanding quality on offer,” Ken McCaffrey of McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing.

The sale average for the red and grey bulls of $5,115 is a 37% increase on 2010, way above the expectations of the sale agents. “This sale, in its lifetime of 18 years, has built up a very loyal clientele of northern buyers who appreciate the opportunity to source the breed’s best beef performance bloodlines, from many of Australia’s leading studs, right on their own doorstep,” Jim Geaney of Geaney’s, Charters Towers said. This statement is endorsed by a perusal of the sale’s buyers’ list showing the highly recognisable names of many prominent northern beef industry families including the Appletons of Bulliwallah; Blacklocks of Haddington, Camms of Chudleigh Park, Elliotts of Wirilla, Knuths of St Pauls, Pedracini’s of Lornevale, Williams’ of Riverside, Scotts of Rosetta, Keoughs of Welcome Downs, Frys of Arafura and others.

Big Country quality fires bidding

CARINYA BUYS TOP TARTRUS GREY FOR $40,000

John & Dawn Kirk, Carinya, Gayndah travelled a long way to the Big Country Brahman sale and found a sire prospect of enormous potential to add to their high quality stud enterprise. The 25 month old Tartrus Fremont Manso by JDH Fredrick De Manso and out of JDH Miss Cindy Manso, was their selection, and they had to bid strongly to a sale topping $40,000 to secure him. Fremont is a well balanced, strong carcase quality sire type, one of four sons of Fredrick that Jennifer McCamley of Tartrus Brahman presented in the sale. They averaged $17,000.

Earlier in the day Gerald Elliott, Wirilla, Winton outlaid $21,000 for Lanes Creek Parkhurst Manso, a 910kg blue grey son of JDH Sir Parker Manso, that shows a lot of length and real sire presence.

Bill and Lawson Camm, Cambil stud, Proserpine paid $19,000 for Maru Tyrone Manso, an impressive 776kg 2yo sire prospect by JDH Mr Echo Manso. Tyrone was one of an outstanding line of seven full flush brothers that Emanuel and Tracey Mifsud of Maru Brahman, Sarina offered at the sale. They created strong interest from studmasters and bullock breeders alike who were impressed with their consistency of beef and breed qualities and evenness of type.

Geoff and Scott Angel, Glengarry Brahman, Kunwarara also invested in one of the Echo brothers paying $18,000 for Maru Javas Manso while another, Maru Preston Manso, went to the Gayrose Brahman stud of Warwick at $15,000. The Mifsuds were delighted to record a $12,430 average for...
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this team of full brothers. Ron and Raymond Matthews, O’Connell Brahman stud, Richmond also selected a JDH Mr Echo Manso sire from the Maru draft, out of a different damline, for $13,000.

Lancefield D Davis at $17,000 was the most expensive purchase of the magnificent line of five bulls selected by Alan Wiliams for Riverside Pastoral Co, Nebo. This well bred bull by Lancefield D Doncaster scaled 822kg and is from a very fertile damline. Riverside also purchased two Tartrus grey sires, both exhibiting wonderful beef qualities and softness of finish.

Doug and Helen Keough and their son Stan of Welcome Downs Cattle Co., Einasleigh bid to $14,500 for Tartrus Friar, at 22 months the youngest bull of the Tartrus draft. He is another of the eye catching sons of JDH Fredrick De Manso.

Peter and Rhett Camm, Camm Cattle Co., Lolworth, Pentland put together an exceptional line of 17 bulls at the sale comprising 6 reds and 11 greys. Their grey line was topped at $12,500 with the purchase of Maru Theodore Manso, one of the in-demand Echo sons. Other greys for the Camm draft came out of the Clukan, Raglan, Lanes Creek, Crinum and Christo’s Way sale teams. Craig McCamley, Selma, Emerald was at the sale and invested $11,500 in a dark grey, strong bodied 2yo by JDH Fredrick De Manso from Tartrus stud, while Peter Quinn, Essex Grazing Co., Middlemount put together a great draft of six grey sires averaging $6,165. His line, featuring bulls of a lot of length and natural beef qualities, was topped at $11,000 by the rising 2½ yo Signiture Baton Rouge Manso, a well muscled son of JDH Mr Manso 506/2, offered by Russell and Joelene Byrne, Signiture Brahmans, Ingham.

Scott Angel, Glengarry Brahms, Kunwarara and Emanuel Mifsud, Maru Brahms, Sarina with the $18,000 bull, Maru Javas Manso

Finalising the $7,000 sale purchase are Dan Beauchamp of Ingham and Clayton Curley, Gipsy Plains, Cloncurry

Big Country quality fires bidding

Elders Winton Manager John Mawhinney (left) came across from Winton with his client Gerald Elliott, Wirilla Station to purchase Lanes Creek Parkhurst Manso for $21,000 from Brian Hughes (right), Lanes Creek stud, Georgetown
2011 PRIVATE TREATY FEMALE SALE OFFERING

SIRES REPRESENTED
JDH WESTIN MANSO 80/1
JDH MR MOSLEY MANSO 368/1
JDH MR WOODMAN MANSO 578/6
JDH MR SHANNON MANSO 185/1
JDH MELANSON MANSO 973/6
JDH MR BRETT MANSO 175/6
JDH WOODSON DE MANSO 206/7
JDH MR MANSO 956/2
JDH MR HOOKS MANSO 352/7
JDH PALESTIMO B MANSO 782/6
PBF PADDY BOY MANSO 390
PBF HENNESSY MANSO 682/6
PBF ORYON MANSO 939/7
PBF HARPER MANSO 853/7
PBF SAFIN MANSO 29/7

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SALE RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>Average</th>
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TOP 10 BIG COUNTRY BULL PRICES

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<th>Purchaser</th>
<th>Greys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tartrus Brahmans</td>
<td>John Kirk &amp; Co</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lancefield D Brahmans</td>
<td>Samari Plains Stud</td>
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<td>Maru Brahmans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerview Stud</td>
<td>Camm Cattle Co</td>
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<td>Lancefield D Brahmans</td>
<td>Riverside Pastoral Co</td>
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<td>Gayrose Brahman Stud</td>
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TOP 10 BIG COUNTRY HEIFER PRICES

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<td>J &amp; B Murray</td>
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<td>Radella Brahmans</td>
<td>Energy Brahmans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tartrus Brahmans</td>
<td>T Randell</td>
<td>4,500</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huonfels Brahman Stud</td>
<td>P &amp; S Curley</td>
<td>4,500</td>
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Big Country quality fires bidding

LANCEFIELD TOPS REDS AT $27,000

A polled, heavy muscled sire from the Lancefield stud topped the red section of the Big Country Brahman sale. David and Julie McCamley presented the 822kg son of Bizzy Brutus, Lancefield D Bollanger and he was the centre of strong attention from studmasters. Keith and Annabelle Wilson, Samari Plains, Roma bid by telephone to $27,000 to secure the bull, after having inspected him as a youngster at the McCamley’s Dingo property.

Brian and Glenda Kirkwood, Somerview Red Brahmans, Charters Towers offered the sale’s largest draft of red bulls and they were keenly sought by buyers. Their draft topped at $18,000 for a 795kg, heavy boned son of Palmvale Brooklyn. He was purchased by the Camm Cattle Company, Lolworth, Pentland. The Kirkwoods also achieved a $7,500 sale for Somerview Bentley, a polled Brooklyn son from a strong damline. This long bodied, well muscled, strong sirey type was purchased by the Hick Family, Bezuma Pastoral Company, Julia Creek, regular buyers of high quality reds.

Alan Williams and family, Riverside Pastoral Company, Nebo shopped well in purchasing Hamdenvale Red Ranger, a very attractive, deep and soft muscled sire of superb red/grey breeding for $8,000. This same price was also paid by Tony and Beth Kendall, Koon Kool, Hughenden for Lancefield D Raider, an eye catching, poll sire of great bone, length and breed quality.

The first bull in the draft from Brian and Cindy Hughes’ Lanes Creek stud, Georgetown displayed excellent weight for age. At 25 months and 920kg, Lanes Creek Xtrata was a $7,500 purchase by the Camm Cattle Company.

The Curley Family, Gipsy Plains stud, Cloncurry sold four polled red bulls at the sale. The top of their draft at $7,000 was the 2½ yo Gipsy Plains Abacus purchased by Dan and Sally Beauchamp of Ingham. Their youngest offering Gipsy Plains Indian, a 2yo, realised $6,000 selling to Lornevale Cattle Company, Georgetown.

The polled popularity continued in the draft of the G.I. Brahman stud of Muttaburra. Their top sale at $6,500 was G.I. Legend purchased by Eddie and Debbie Streeter of Fairy Springs stud, Bowen.

HEIFERS SELL TO $9,000

An impeccably bred young grey daughter of JDH Datapack Manso out of a Meryl line Lancefield cow, offered by Tony and Trish Brown’s Pioneer Park stud of Mackay topped the heifer section at Big Country. She was a $9,000 purchase for Southern Queensland Peter Camm, Camm Cattle Company, Lolworth, Pentland put together a very impressive draft of 17 top class red and grey bulls form the high quality Big Country Brahman Sale offering.

BIG COUNTRY LEADING VENDOR AVERAGES (3 OR MORE BULLS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
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<td>Lanes Creek Stud</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gipsy Plains Stud</td>
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</table>
TROPICAL CATTLE
BEEF BRAHMANS

★★ GREY POLLED PROVEN OLD AUSSIE GENETICS ★★
★★ GREY HORNED AMERICAN GENETICS DIRECT FROM JDH, HUNGERFORD, USA ★★

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BIG DOCILE POLLED GREY BRAHMANS MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE

86 recipient cows carrying polled grey IVF Brahman calves

The brand that signifies superior quality
breeder Bradley Frohloff, a new enthusiast for the Brahman breed. He also outlaid $6,000 for Windy Hill Olga Beth Manso, a 14 month old JDH Karu Manso heifer bred out of a top performing PB Fenech bred cow.

Peter Butler and family of Georgetown invested $8,500 in a quality 11 month old heifer by JDH Mr Echo Manso offered by Robert Mifsud’s Radella Brahman stud while the red females were topped at $7,000 by Tartrus Mystique, a 20 month old daughter of the celebrated sire, KP Monty. This lovely heifer was purchased by Terry Randell, Crinum, Tieri.

Blue Dog stud and Radella stud also sold young grey heifers at $5,000. Blue Dog’s Mr RB 240/2 Bombon heifer sold to John and Beryl Murray of Prairie while Tom Male, Energy Brahman, Calen took home the Radella heifer by JDH Boetcher Manso.

Patrick and Sally Curley of Charters Towers invested $4,500 to secure a polled red heifer from Huonfels, by Mr Winchester Magnum 999.

Jim Geaney and Ken McCaffrey said the results of their Big Country sale provides the Brahman industry with a most positive outlook for 2011. “On the back of this sale result, Brahman seedstock breeders who are utilising the better beef performance genetics and who present their cattle in appropriate condition at sales should be confident of strong sale results for the rest of this year,” Ken McCaffrey said.

Agents: Geaney’s and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing.
SingVac® offers the best protection against botulism available with a single dose. A QDPI-conducted study proves it¹. In the trial, SingVac produced the highest levels of protection, and was the only vaccine that gave 100% protection against clinical signs and death from botulism challenge 59 weeks after vaccination². Also, SingVac is the only vaccine that offers protection within 35 days of a single dose; other single dose vaccines take 3-6 months to protect previously unvaccinated animals³.

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². Longrange has a registered claim for the prevention of botulism for 1 year only.
³. Longrange label 51492/0609 states: “A single dose of this vaccine will give protection, on average, within 3-6 months of an initial dose”.
⁴. Clostridium botulinum type D antibody levels [ELISA OD (450)X100]
⁵. Longrange botulinum Vaccine 51492/1198 used in trial.

¹SingVac is a registered trademark of Virbac Australia. Longrange® is a registered trademark of Pfizer.

Brahman Christmas Celebrations

Cancer Council of Queensland representatives Carmen Hockey and Kim Walters and Mater Foundation representative Lyn Sibley (right), are pictured with ABBA President Andrew Olive after receiving cheques for $5628.33 being their share of the proceeds from the 2010 Rockhampton Brahman Week Charity Semen Auction

ABBA Council members Bill Smith, WH stud, Kuranda Qld; Paul Herrod, Ponderosa stud, Katherine NT and Tony Fenech (right) FBC stud, Wowan are pictured with Brett McCamley, Fern Hills stud, Bajool Qld

Council members John Atkinson, Laguna stud, Proserpine Qld and David Harch (third from left) Danarla stud, Wooroolin Qld are pictured with Scott and Geoff Angel, Glengarry stud, Kunwarara Qld

Greg Fawcett (centre), Beef Breeding Services, Rockhampton is pictured with Justin and Steven Ensby, Renco Cattle, Duluлу Qld

Dr Richard Holroyd, Principal Research Scientist, DEEDI, Rockhampton is pictured with ABBA Treasurer, Brett Coombe, Roxborough stud, Moura

Matthew Noakes, Solo F stud, Marlborough Qld is pictured with ABBA Council members Rodger Jefferis, Elrose stud, Cloncurry

BOOK EARLY! DON'T MISS OUT!

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Cruchfield figurehead will be sadly missed

Gioia Crane, the principal of one of Australia’s oldest Brahman studs, Cruchfield, passed away on November 30, 2011, aged 83, and will be sadly missed.

Gioia was well known and well liked within the Brahman industry and enjoyed attending the South East Queensland Brahman Branch meetings and mixing with fellow Brahman breeders.

Born in Varese in northern Italy on June 14, 1927, Gioia was the daughter of Helen and Joseph Sapio – her father being an opera singer of some note. Following her parent’s divorce, Gioia moved to New Zealand with her mother, and in the 1950s the family relocated to Australia, settling in the Lockyer Valley.

On October 20, 1956 Gioia married Ken Crane, and the couple had 10 happy years together until Ken’s untimely death from cancer.

Cruchfield Brahman stud at Hattonvale was registered by Gioia’s mother in 1968 and has been operated by Gioia for many decades, with the assistance of stud manager for 25+ years, Joyce Periera, and farm manager Jim Lacey.

Joyce said Gioia received great satisfaction from the stud, with significant milestones including achieving Pompes-free status, exporting Brahmans to Vietnam, and utilising tenderness gene marker technology in her 200-strong herd.

“She really enjoyed doing the AI programs and was always up for new challenges and following things through to see how they worked out. She tried for a long time to get South African bloodlines and we have just started using them to widen our genetic pool,” Joyce said.

As well as strong repeat paddock sales, Cruchfield regularly sold cattle at Rockhampton Brahman Week, Roma and Gympie fixtures, and was a foundation and ongoing supporter of the Laidley Brahman Female Sales.

The stud will continue to be operated, as a Trust, under the guidance of Joyce Periera.

In her spare time Gioia was a talented portrait painter and also attracted keen demand for the ceramic dolls she created, knitting and hand-stitching all the clothes to individualise each doll.

She was also a valued member of the Laidley Catholic Parish and generously supported those in need.

Father John Conway, who delivered the homily at Gioia’s funeral, said Gioia was willing to share her life with others but remained an intensely private person.

“She was not in a hurry to open herself to just any passersby. To know Gioia, you almost had to earn that sacred trust of being invited into her life and her story, but in so doing Gioia would no doubt give generously of herself for those who shared that life,” John said.

Tartrus Special Sale of 900 heifers

Jennifer McCamley of Tartrus Station, Marlborough has announced details of the Tartrus Special Female Production Sale to be held on Tuesday 3rd May 2011.

It is planned that a total of 900 top quality, selected heifers will be offered, comprising 100 stud registered heifers and 800 red and grey Brahman and Charbray commercial heifers. The sale will take place at the Inverrio Selling Complex, Duaringa, 92kms west of Rockhampton on the Capricorn Highway, providing easy access for buyers from all areas of the state.

The outstanding line of 800 No. 0 commercial heifers will be drafted to suit all buyer requirements and offered in lots from pens of 5 heifers to full deck lots.

Approximately 350 grey heifers, 250 reds and 200 Charbrays make up the line. “This is the entire run of Tartrus No. 0 heifers,” Jennifer McCamley said, “we have taken out those that are not up to our standards for breeder replacements and they will go to the meatworks. The balance are beautiful, young, sound females of great genetic strength and backed by superior paddock performance over many decades.”

Selling agents Queensland Rural, Charters Towers and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing, Rockhampton said the sale offers a unique opportunity for studmasters and commercial cattle producers to secure breeders from a select, one brand line of cattle that has established and maintained its position at the leading edge of the Brahman breed for nearly 50 years. “It is rare that breeder female lines such as this come on the market,” Troy Trevor, Queensland Rural, Charters Towers Manager said. “They carry a wealth of breeding and this sale offers all producers the scope to really upgrade their breeding herd, re-stock with top quality females, or establish their own replacement bull breeding herd on a foundation of these proven successful bloodlines.”

A catalogue will be produced for the sale outlining pedigrees of the stud registered heifers and also providing details of the lots of the commercial heifers (lot size, colour, number of polls, etc.)

Full details are available from McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing, Rockhampton 07 4922 6311 or Queensland Rural, Charters Towers Troy Trevor 0408 502 576 or Brad Passfield 0400 981 223.
2011
ROCKHAMPTON
JUNIOR BEEF SHOW
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ROCKHAMPTON SHOWGROUNDS

An interesting, informative, inspiring and fun filled three days. Catering for all levels of experience and all ages up to 25 years.

Contact the Australian Brahman Breeders’ Association for entry forms on 07 4927 7799 or email abba@brahman.com.au
Buyers, vendors and the sale bulls and heifers took the extremely muddy conditions of the Dalrymple Saleyards in their stride at the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale at Charters Towers in late November, posting a very successful sale result with increased averages, a $25,000 sale topper and a clearance of the large offering of in excess of 99%.

Inclement weather during the week of the sale certainly caused sale vendors some headaches, as they endeavoured to present their quality sale teams to a strong panel of buyer prospects in yard conditions where anything less than knee high gumboots was unsuitable attire. However, buoyant sale ring bidding during the sale indicated that cattle producers came to the sale determined to buy, and their knowledge of the good reputation of the Wilangi Invitation sale bulls, combined with their “muddy” pre-sale inspections armed them for sale ring bidding action.

Sale gross, average, top price stud bull, top price herd bull, clearance rate, and buyer registration numbers all bettered the 2009 sale result, which delighted the sale’s principal vendors Ron and Bev White of Wilangi Brahman stud and their invited vendor studs of Brahrock, El Ja, Raglan, Viva, Apis Creek, Wallace and KP. “We initiated a few changes to our long standing sale this year in an effort to improve it for our bull buying clients,” Ron White, “it is pleasing to see that they have responded positively to these initiatives and we will continue to assess other ways that this sale will progress in servicing the needs of leading cattle breeders and stud stock buyers.”

Sale agents McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing and Queensland Rural auctioneers Ken McCaffrey, Troy Trevor and Brad Passfield sold the 252 lot offering in under five hours. “It was the most attractive, tidiest line of sale bulls at this sale for some time,” Ken McCaffrey said, “hence we had quick starts, good bidding competition on all lots, a super clearance rate and, at the end of the day, a 6% rise in prices over last year.” Bulls sold from $2,000 to $25,000 and stud heifers from $2,000 to $10,500, endorsing the sale’s long held reputation as a market catering to all buyers and budgets.

Sale year ends positively as Wilangi values rise
ENTRIES CLOSE
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11 MARCH
2011

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FEMALE SHOW & SALE
Tuesday, 12th April 2011
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CLASSES
1. PTIC Heifers under 3 years of age - Vet Certificate and tag essential
2. PTIC cows under 10 years of age - Vet Certificate and tag essential
3. Cow & calves (under 10 years of age)
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
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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. Pre-treatment for tick clearance from CQLX Gracemere is optional but recommended. In the event of entries catalogued as pre-treated failing to clear the vendor will be liable for feeding and dipping charges. Two treatments are recommended.
9. All entries to be at the Gracemere Saleyards by 1pm Monday, 11 April and penned for judging by 2pm.
10. All classes to be sold open auction.
11. 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.
The 982kg, 3yo son of JDH Mr Brooks Manso, El Ja Top Shelf Manso, topped the sale at $25,000. This impressive sire type of great length and muscularity had been lightly used in Vendors Les and Helen Donald’s El Ja stud, and they have also kept a full brother to him, so their high assessment of these genetics is backed by their own actions in already utilising these bloodlines. Bidding developed into a two way battle between Bill & Lawson Camm of Cambil Brahman, Proserpine and Jacko Shepherd of Queensland Rural, Mareeba who was bidding on the phone under instructions from his clients Barry & Debbie McPaul, Douglas Creek Brahman stud, Daintree. The McPauls claimed the bull with their final bid of $25,000.

A younger son of JDH Mr Brooks Manso, also from the El Ja stud, was the second highest seller at $11,000. El Ja Estimate Manso, at 20 months scaled 822kg, and is bred out of an imported Hudgins cow by JDH Sir Mari Manso 557/4. This eye catching, white grey prospect was purchased by the Kelly Brothers of Lochinvar Grazing Co., Brandon.

The damsire of El Ja’s $11,000 bull, JDH Sir Mari Manso 557/4, also featured in the sale as the sire of an impressive line of seven bulls offered by Royce & Beryl Sommerfeld’s Brahrock stud. This strong beef and breed quality backed line attracted excellent inspection from prominent cattle producers and recorded an average of $7,145. Among them was Brahrock Addition, an 890kg, 26 month old sire that scanned a big 137sq cm EMA. He was purchased for $9,500 by Neville & Matthew Edwards, Mira Cattle Co. for their Rolleston district property, Coorumbene. The Edwards’ invested in three powerful sires at the sale including, at $8,500, a full brother to their $9,500 purchase, and also a 900kg plus, big muscled bull from El Ja at $6,500.

$7,500 was needed by Ron Brown & Family, Gunnerside, Hughenden to secure the rising 2yo sire Wallace Sir Image Manso from Stewart and Kerry Wallace’s stud. This soft, long bodied, blue grey is a direct son of sire legend JDH Sir Gregory Manso. The Browns, long time supporters of this sale, also bid to $6,500 for a lengthy, square bodied, blue grey son of Marri from the Brahrock draft. Appleton Pastoral Co., Bulliwallah, Charters Towers set their sights on another of the sons of JDH Sir Marri Manso in the Brahrock team, and bid to $7,500 to secure him. At 22 months he was one of the youngest bulls in the stud section showing exciting potential. Three herd bulls were also purchased for Bulliwallah.

Central Queensland cattleman Lindsay Barlow, Barlow Cattle Company, Dingo travelled up to the sale and outlaid $7,000 for Viva Weston, a highly credentialed son of Wilangi Riddle. This long and square, dark grey bull sold by Alister and Pam Davison weighed 852kg at sale time at 28 months.

Andrew & Roxanne Olive’s Raglan stud sold their lead bull Raglan Mr Jarvis to Hewitt Cattle Co., for $6,500 while also achieving a $6,000 sale for Raglan Mr Elroy. This 800kg, 2yo was purchased by Sunny Park Partnership of Clermont, one of five stud bulls they purchased at the sale. They also paid the same money for Wallace Mr Ingham, an attractive youngster of good breed and beef qualities.

Ken Muller, Pluto Pastoral Co., Proserpine, a regular buyer of bulls from this sale again shopped well, averaging $6,000 for two stud bulls. He purchased the well bred, dark grey sire Wilangi Zambo by Wilangi Quiz, and a 945kg son of JDH Mr Brooks Manso from the El Ja stud.

Others to purchase stud bulls in the $6,000 to $7,000 range included Herbert Hall Pty Ltd, Charters Towers, TV Fairfax, Albro, Central Queensland visitors attending and purchasing at the Wilangi Sale included Joyce and Graham Bolton, Cooinda, Dingo, who took home five bulls

Clermont and Ibis Creek Pastoral Co., Mt Coolon, while young Central Queensland cattleman Sandy McCartney bid to $6,000 for KP Montague, a red/grey bred bull and a brother to current high profile Brahman industry sire, KP Monty.

Max Meehan, Woodlands, Woodstock and Majella Meehan, Traxford Pty Ltd, Giru were both purchasers at the Wilangi Invitation Sale

Dingo cattle producers Justin Bolton, Cooinda and Lindsay Barlow, Araluen both invested in top quality bulls at the sale
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- Suitable for flood affected pasture

Name: __________________________  Contact number: __________________________
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Terms and conditions. 1. Claim on purchase in store at your local reseller. 2. No mixed pallets. 3. Vouchers valid for one purchase per person. 4. Pallet must be purchased in one transaction. 4. Reseller to retain copy of the voucher and post/fax or email to Ridley Sales & Support at Level 4, 565 Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000 | P: 1300 666 629 | e: customerservice2@ridley.com.au
The sale’s large and impressive line of herd bulls, presented in eye catching, even pens of three bulls, topped at $6,000. These honours went to the Wilangi stud whose sale draft found strong competition from large and small beef operators from widespread areas west to Mt Isa and Cloncurry, south to Central Queensland and north to the gulf and tablelands.

The Bolton Family, Cooinda, Dingo are repeat buyers of the big, strong, heavy muscled Wilangi purebred herd bulls and they claimed the section topper. In total they purchased four Wilangi herd bulls and a Wallace herd bull at an average of $4,500. Stewart and Kerry Wallace enjoyed excellent buyer demand for their draft of 16 herd bulls. They sold young bulls at $5,000 (twice) and $4,500 (three times) to average $3,656 for their draft of rising 2yo’s.

Mick Sheahan of Sheahan Land & Cattle Co. again endorsed the paddock and progeny performance of bulls from this sale by selecting 46 bulls from this year’s offering. A leading volume buyer at this sale for some years now, the Sheahans select well, at good value. This year’s bulls will go to Richmond property, Tweedsmuir, before travelling north to the company’s gulf district cattle station.

McMillan Pastoral Co., Cloncurry purchased a strong, impressive line of 26 herd improvers from the sale while the Hewitt Cattle Co., Charters Towers, the Martel Trust, Charters Towers and Lawn Hill & Riversleigh Pastoral Holdings, Mt Isa were all buyers of 10 or more bulls.

$10,500 TOPS HEIFERS

A young Brahrock heifer by the celebrated sire JDH Datapack Manso topped the female section of the Wilangi Invitation sale realising $10,500. She sold to Mary Lewis, Inverrio, Duaringa. Another Central Queensland studmaster, Adam Gunthorpe, Tarramba, Banana also bid on the phone to pay $4,500 for Brahrock Miss Data Empress, a heifer carrying the valuable Datapack/Madison cross. The Butlers of Georgetown purchased two quality young heifers with attractive pedigrees. They paid $4,500 for a Brahrock daughter of JDH Sir Luigi Manso, and $4,000 for a stylish El Ja heifer by JDH Mr Manso 886/2.

Sale year ends positively as Wilangi values rise

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Agents: Landmark and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing

Congratulations...

Russell and Joelene Byrne (nee Crisp), Signature Brahmans, Ingham were married on the 11th September 2010 at the Mercure Inn, Townsville and have made their home at “Milton Dale”, Ingham.

Bridal party from left: Paul Ahern, Lindy Condon, Troy Trevor, Jamie Butler, Clayton Kerr, Kristy Johnson, Trevor and Caroline Crisp

Lee and Gillian Collins of Wandilla, Marlborough are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Anna to Robbie, son of Maurie and Anne Hick of St Elmo, Julia Creek. Both families wish them every happiness
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Hardworking Brahman breeder went out on a high

Showing the champion Brahman bull and best pen of bulls at the 2010 Roma Tropical Breeds Sale last October, and achieving the top grey price at the sale, were proud moments for Lockyer Valley studmaster Len Fischle.

Sadly, the Brahman sale was to be his last as Len passed away in a farm accident on December 3, leaving behind wife Adele, daughters Jodie, Leah and Amanda, and three granddaughters.

Born Leonard Arthur Fischle in Brisbane on January 9, 1949, Len and his elder sister Coral were the only two children of Madeleine and Arthur Fischle. The family lived close to the Everton Park knackery and, along with mate Joe Foxlee, Len would buy horses from the abattoir, riding and showing them before on-selling.

In his younger days Len tried his hand jackarooing at Gainsford near Charters Towers, and after marrying Adele Thompson in 1972 the couple bought a small block at Caboolture where they bred and showed stud ponies, Appaloosas and Quarter Horses.

Although he spent about a decade with Telstra as a linesman, the call of the land was always strong and Len’s CV included stints as a farmhand at Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton; working for Brahman breeders Clive Palmer and Gioia Crane and, lastly, driving bean harvesters for Mulgowie Farming Co.

Len’s Twinview Brahman stud was established following the family’s move to Forest Hill and the stud was founded using cows from the Qld Agricultural College’s Lawes Brahman stud dispersal. Although not large in size, Twinview used the best AI genetics available to establish a small but high quality herd.

“We sold a few bulls at Rocky and two at Roma last year and Len was chuffed to win the champion bull in Roma and the champion pen. He rang me from the sale and he was very excited,” Adele said.

She described her late husband as a hard worker who had many friends, with more than 200 people attending his funeral in Laidley.

“He was a good mate to most people and would do anything for his friends, sometimes to the detriment of things around here, because he was always going off to help other people,” she joked.

“He was a gentleman and an all round good bloke and he loved his family very much.”

His daughter Leah said her father could be tough but also had a lesser-seen soft and loving side.

“He could also be incredibly funny,” she said.

“Dad was very particular about the temperament of a cow, and he always said ‘if it stands on tip toes and is a bit too alert with you’ it goes to the meatworks.”

His workmates said “Lenny” would be remembered as a hard worker, a practical joker and a storyteller.

Longtime friend Joe Foxlee said Len was a great friend who was intensely focused on breeding good Brahmans.

“He was pretty dedicated to his stock – they were his life,” Joe said.

Adele said Len was always on the quest to breed the perfect Brahman and used to “pour over” The Brahman News with great relish.

“One thing I miss about him is his memory; he had a terrific memory for cattle - who owned them, their bloodlines and so on. He had lots of mates in the Brahman industry.”

100 year sale celebration at Elrose

Rodger & Lorena Jefferis, son Grant and daughter Brooke are looking forward to welcoming stud breeders and cattle producers to Elrose Station, Cloncurry on Monday 30th May to celebrate 100 years of Jefferis Family settlement of Elrose Station.

Among the features for the day, Elrose will be staging an auction sale of stud sires and heifers as well as commercial females.

Fifty outstanding stud sire prospects will be catalogued for the sale, along with 25 stud heifers, PTIC to leading bulls. Producers will also have the opportunity to purchase purebred commercial grey Brahman cows with 500 selected to go under the hammer in half deck and deck load lots.

“We did not stage an annual sale last year,” Rodger Jefferis said, “and have reserved our leading sale sire prospects for this 100 year event. The combination of a selection of excellent stud sires, beautiful stud heifers out of our A.I. programme, and a large line of proven, high quality commercial grey breeders will showcase the depth of our grey Brahman enterprise and give all studmasters and commercial breeders the opportunity to secure our bloodlines.”

Rodger & Lorena are very excited about the quality of their sale line-up of stud sires. High quality sons of proven sires Lancefield Burton Manso, Lancefield Moreton, Elrose Significance, PBF McCullough Manso, Lancefield Billionaire Manso and the first sale sons of Elrose Dominance and Lancefield Randolph are included in the draft.

For further information contact: Ken McCaffrey 07 4922 6311

100 year sale celebration at Elrose
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The relationship between carcass temperature, ageing and ultimate tenderness was a critical discovery during the development of MSA. It transformed some of the myths about postslaughter handling into hard fact, and has become a critical piece of knowledge underpinning MSA reliability.

Beef CRC scientists already knew that the temperature of a carcass in the hours after slaughter affected how quickly and how well the meat tenderised, but were unsure how much warmth was ideal, and for how long it should be present.

Professor John Thompson (pictured), Adjunct Professor of Meat Science, University of New England said tenderness through ageing is caused by enzymes called proteases, which break down tough protein chains in the meat.

“The warmth of the meat affects how fast proteases work. Beef CRC researchers found how long it takes before they stop working,” he said.

To assess the situation, researchers used striploins from 15 dairy-cross cattle and subjected them to various treatments.

The only constant was that lactic acid levels in all cuts were allowed to reach a pH of less than 5.6, to avoid confusing the effects of pH with the effects of temperature.

In two basic treatments, meat was held at either 37°C or 15°C until the correct pH was reached, and then aged at 1°C for 21 days.

Three other treatments were also applied. Cuts were held at 15°C until the correct pH was reached, and then reheated in a 37°C water bath for either 21, 85 or 205 minutes before being aged for 21 days in the chiller.

“The results were telling us that we were onto something,” said Professor Thompson.

“The meat subjected to 37°C heat to bring down pH levels reached the required acidity three times faster than meat at 15°C.”

At the same time, tenderness, measured as shear force, of the meat subjected to higher temperatures was 13 per cent better than the 15°C treatment on the first day.

By Day 3 however, the rapid tenderising of the 37°C treatment had stopped, while the 15°C treatment continued to gain in tenderness up to Day 12, when it was about 20 per cent more tender than the meat subjected to higher temperatures.

Professor Thompson said they discovered that very little was gained by reheating the meat.

“Basically it had reached its ultimate pH by the time it was reheated, and tenderness was not affected enough to warrant the extra treatment,” he said.

“What the experiment taught us was that the higher the temperatures after slaughter, the faster the activity of the enzymes that degrade protein and contribute to what we call tenderness.”

But enzyme activity burns out more quickly, too, so that ultimately greater tenderness is achieved by letting the enzymes work more slowly, over a greater length of time.

However, if ageing is not a requirement, the experiment also showed that a degree of tenderness can be reached faster under warmer post-slaughter temperatures.

The knowledge has subsequently been used to refine the MSA pH/temperature window, a critical point in every MSA pathway.

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Today’s beef producers face many different management challenges including increased herd sizes and larger cattle which impact on herd health particularly leg and feet structure and lameness.

Lameness has a positive genetic correlation to reduced performance

Foot and leg problems can be a major herd problem due to reduced performance (weight gain and reproduction) resulting in lower productivity and increased economic losses.

Fig 1 illustrates the four main groups of factors which can directly lead to lameness or which interact and subsequently intensify minor stimuli sufficiently to cause subacute or acute lameness.

Nutrition, environment, disease and genetic influences combine with management factors to predispose stock to lameness.

Foot and leg conformation have less predictable heritability (0.8-0.16) than the measurable performance traits (eg mature weight 0.50). Nevertheless, structural traits and problems are heritable and need to be fully considered when purchasing and breeding seed stock.

“Foot problems compounded by poor leg structure cause lameness”

In order to fully understand lameness it is advantageous to become familiar with the anatomy of the foot and the basic structure of the legs, shoulder and hindquarter.

FOOT STRUCTURE

The conformation of the foot (Fig 2) should be short and steeply angled, high in the heel and even clawed. The sole should be somewhat concave with the majority of weight placed on the hoof wall.

The anatomy of the foot (Fig 2) indicates the complexity of the structure and clearly demonstrates why structural faults and problems lead to foot damage and lameness.

Foot defects (eg scissor and corkscrew claws) are genetic (inherited) and overgrown feet is generally a sign of poor leg structure and/or nutritional problems.

FOOT ANGLE AND DEPTH

Studies show that higher claw angles are positively correlated with increased herd life of bulls. The ideal angle is about 45-55 degrees. Deviation from this angle usually indicates poor leg structure (eg sickle or straight hocks and weak pasterns).

Defective feet generally worsen with age and problems are accentuated with poor feed management (eg overfeeding grain and insufficient minerals) and challenging environments (too abrasive or wet).

Heel depth is related to foot angle and deeper heels with sufficient angle reduce the incidence of lameness. Heel

FIGURE 1 : PREDISPOSING CAUSES OF LAMENESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENETIC</th>
<th>LAMENESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(structure, conformation)</td>
<td>(poor feed management)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| INFECT (bacteria, virus) | NUTRITIONAL |
| (climate, ground surface) |

FIGURE 2 : CROSS SECTION OF THE FOOT

- Coronary Band – is normally soft and shiny and grows at the rate of 5 millimetres per month. This is an area that can be easily penetrated by foreign objects particularly between the toes
- Bulb – is the continuous with the coronary band and is composed of soft rubber horn.
- Wall – is smooth and shiny and consists of a very tough tubular horn
- Coronary Cushion – is a mass of elastic tissue and veins beneath the coronary band. When the animal moves, the cushion pumps blood through the foot and back into the body.
- Lamellae – there are hundreds of tiny ridges in the lower part of the inside wall which are attached by fibres to the coffin bone.
- Periople – is the area where the skin meets the coronary band. It is here that lamitis is often first noticed.
- Corium – sometimes called the ‘guide or dermis’ produces hoof horn (wall). The health of the corium establishes the quality of the hoof produced. Reduced quality leads to foot damage and lameness. Extreme concussion to the corium due to poor leg structure creates sensitivity, pain and lameness.
- Coffin Bone – sometimes called the pedal bone is suspended within the corium and when damaged or stressed causes severe lameness.

FIGURE 3 : EXAMPLES OF FOOT DEFECTS

- White Line – is a greyish area where the sole meets the hoof. Its function is to separate sensitive tissue from non-sensitive tissue. It is an area that can be easily penetrated by foreign objects, particularly with faulty foot structure
- Digital Cushion – is situated inside the bulb and functions as an elastic shock absorber. It also forces blood back into the limbs as the animal walks.

Foot defects (eg scissor and corkscrew claws) are genetic (inherited) and overgrown feet is generally a sign of poor leg structure and/or nutritional problems.

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depth is also related to the slope of the pastern (Fig 4).

**FIGURE 4 : FOOT & PASTERN STRUCTURE**

(a) Correct  (b) Too much angle  (c) Too straight

Long slopping claws or short block claws indicate too much or not enough pastern angle and can indicate structural faults of the pastern or the upper limbs (eg shoulder too straight). Incorrect angle of the pastern causes the hoof to wear abnormally which affects the mobility and performance of the animal. Shallow heels can lead to bruising and increase the chances of damage and infection.

**WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION**

While standing the weight should be distributed between the front and hind legs.

“Most lameness (85 per cent) involves the hind feet”

A simple calculation will indicate how much weight is carried and clearly demonstrates why the foot can be easily stressed. With a 460 kg heifer, approximately 260 kg rest on the forelegs and 200 kg on the hind limbs (Fig 5). This means a weight of 100 kg per hind leg or 50 kg per claw (Fig 5). Note: this means that substantial pressure is placed on a few square centimetres of the corium under the pedal bone.

With heavier animals (eg bulls) twice as much weight can be transferred to the foot and hooves (eg a mature bull can transfer 200 kg per hind leg and 100 kg per claw). When servicing a cow these weights are increased even further. Subsequently sensitivities in hind legs and feet reduces reproduction.

During locomotion, the centre of gravity ("G") shifts from side to side (Fig 5 and Fig 6) and the weight bearing by each hind claw varies with the movement.

“The majority of hind leg lameness involves the outside claw”

The outside claw of the hind legs bear the burden of the continuously changing weight load during locomotion. This may be the reason that these claws are more often damaged.

The outer hind claw is more heavily stressed which explains why the outside claw is larger than the inside claw and the heel is deeper and the sole thicker. Despite these adaptations the results of poor leg structure leads to an increased incidence of lameness.

The front feet bear weight load changes more evenly but when problems do occur the inside claw is usually the most affected.

**DAMAGED FEET**

The foot is protected by the hoof and its outer structures (Fig 2). The hooves are the first line of defence against foreign objects and infection. Foot damage can also be caused by internal factors such as poor feed management and disease (Fig 1).

**LEG STRUCTURE**

Abnormal structure of the hindquarter, shoulders and legs alters weight distribution, leading to stresses, inflammation and impaired function (ie walking and serving ability).

Structurally correct stock have a free moving gait (locomotion) with the hind feet stepping into the front footprints. Over or understepping of the hind feet is an indication of structural leg problems.

“Structural problems increase the incidence of lameness”

- Front End
  + Shoulders

The angle between the shoulder blade/shoulder/elbow should be 90-95o (Fig 6). Angles greater than this (eg straight shoulder) reduce shock absorption causing a short-choppy gait. With straight shoulder bulls the top of the shoulder blade is prominent above the backbone and the stock have high-open shoulder blades instead of smooth shoulders against the ribs.
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Selection - Structure & Lameness

Fig 9 shows the degree of inward (cow hocked) or outward (bow legged) deviation from the hocks. Normal limbs (a) facilitate straight locomotion with the bigger outer claw carry the greater share of the weight load.

Viewed from the back, the leg should be vertical. Stock with their hooves rotated outwards (cow hocked) can have uneven growth of the outside claw. Stock that are wide at the hocks with their feet turned inwards (bow legged) can suffer increased levels of stress and strain on the ligaments causing lameness and permanent damage.

“A high percentage of bulls are culled due to lost mobility”

Viewed from the side (Fig 10) straight hind legs (post legged) is a serious fault which leads to arthritis in the hocks, hips and joints.

FIG 9: REAR VIEW OF HIND LEG STRUCTURE

(a) Normal  (b) Bow Legged  (c) Cow Hocked

Straight legged bulls are often clumsy servers and can suffer high incidences of damage to the penis. Too much angle through the hocks (sickle hocked) whilst undesirable is not as serious a problem as post leggedness. Sickle hocked bulls are also clumsy servers particularly at the dismount.

Both post leggedness and sickle hocked conditions adversely affect the bulls servicing capacity and lead to an earlier ‘breakdown’ in the life of the bull.

NUTRITION

Feed management will be discussed in a later article titled “Acidosis and Laminitis”. However, incorrect energy and protein balances and mineral/vitamin deficiencies play a clear role in lameness.

All rations should be balanced for calcium, phosphorous for good bone health. Other helpful minerals for foot health include zinc, copper, molybdenum and manganese.

Rations need to include the correct levels of fibre and the fibre should have the right physical form and particle size to increase chewing which produces saliva (buffer) which aids digestion.

Depending on the grain source, the non structural carbohydrates should not exceed 40 per cent of the ration. Feeding incorrectly processed grains with inadequate levels of fibre causes metabolic disorders and lameness.

“Arthritis is accentuated when young bulls are fed high grain rations”

Overfeeding protein can cause the abnormal growth of the hoof. Conversely defective diets produce poor wall growth. Intensively feeding increases body weight subjecting joints, legs and feet to greater weight loads and stresses.

DISEASE

The most common bacterial cause of lameness is foot rot. Foot rot is characterised by a necrotic lesion in between the claws (interdigital) which may extend into the soft tissues of the foot causing swelling and lameness. If not treated promptly and correctly, foot rot (and other foot diseases) can pose grave consequences for the infected animal.

“Mortalities may be low but mobility and economic loss is high”

Preventative measures include foot bathing (eg copper sulphate, Epsom salts) and treatment with injectable antibiotics as prescribed your veterinarian.

Stock with poor leg/feet structure are more prone to foot injuries and infection.

ENVIRONMENT

The importance of environment should not be overlooked particularly for sale bulls held in small enclosures. Foot lesions vary in type and severity depending on the climate and the abrasiveness of the surfaces the animal walks on.

Hot, dry climates harden the hoof which may increase the resistance to trauma but causes the hoof to be more brittle. On the other hand excessively wet conditions soften the hoof and these conditions favour invasion by bacteria and foreign objects.

SELECTION OUTCOMES

Lameness and poor performance due to structural faults is considered a major herd health problem which reduces herd performance. Only reproduction is more important reason for selective culling. Furthermore, lameness and faulty leg/feet structure can accentuate reproducton problems.

Factors such as disease, unsuitable environments and poor feed management can play an interactive role in the incidence of lameness.

Genetic factors have a significant role in lameness. Whilst heritabilities are low (0.08-0.16) specific problems can have medium (0.30) heritabilities.

It is noted that several conformation traits have a strong correlation to lameness (Table 1). Heritabilities and genetic correlations between feet and leg conformation and herd life are shown in Table 2.

BOTTOM LINE

The genetic (inherited) component of minimising lameness can be significantly improved by selecting for desirable foot and leg conformation traits.

Breeders are subsequently urged to take special note of the leg and foot structure through visual assessment and performance data if available.

Ongoing, intense selection for structural correctness will substantially reduce the incidences of lameness and improve the overall performance of the herd.

TABLE 2: FOOT AND LEG HERITABILITIES AND GENETIC CORRELATIONS WITH HERD LIFE (SOURCE: ATKINS ET AL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Heritability</th>
<th>Genetic Correlation with Herd Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feet &amp; Legs</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>+0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foot Angle</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>+0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heel Depth</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>+0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone Quality</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>+0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Legs - side</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 1: GENETIC CORRELATION BETWEEN LAMENESS AND FOOT AND LEG STRUCTURE (SOURCE: ATKIN ET AL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Heritability</th>
<th>Genetic Correlation with Feet / Legs</th>
<th>Genetic Correlation with Foot Angle</th>
<th>Genetic Correlation with Rear Legs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lameness</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>+0.46</td>
<td>+0.59</td>
<td>+0.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Reedybrook Station, 90km inland from Cardwell suffered significant damage from Cyclone Yasi.

Home to George, Joan and Brian Harrimans Reedybrook Brahman stud, the property suffered extensive damage to fencing, windmills, tanks and yards.

Joan Harriman said it will take months to repair the fences before they can start to muster and assess cattle losses.

"The whole area has lost 50% of the ironbark trees plus a percentage of the after timber", Joan said.

Fortunately all of the homes in the area were spared but some experienced minor damage and lost shed roofs. Joan said many of their paddocks were inaccessible due to fallen timber and will need bulldozers to clear pathways for the cattle to come through.

We did feel like the “forgotten people”, Joan said as the whole area had no communications and no one came inland to check on the properties.

"We were completely isolated, it took 3 days to clear the fallen trees from the road", Joan said.
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Improved female reproductive performance of beef herds in Northern Australia is an important means of increasing profitability.

Genetic improvement of this trait in industry has generally been limited due to the late expression of traits and their low heritability. The Beef CRC has conducted extensive research into this area to find early female indicator traits for whole of life female reproductive performance. Age of puberty has been identified as a potentially suitable trait for this purpose. Age of puberty was measured in the research as the age at which a Corpus luteum was detected via ovarian scanning at 4-6 week intervals commencing when the average of 200kg lwt. was achieved.

In Brahmans, the Beef CRC research has found that age of puberty has a heritability of 53% and is highly correlated (0.86) with days to calving measured on the first calf of heifers mated at 25-27 months. The same research has also provided indications that selection on age of puberty in Brahmans will result in reduced time for cows to return to oestrus following calving and have a higher frequency of ovulations prior to weaning (in younger cows at least). While these results are very encouraging for genetic improvement of female fertility we also need to know if selection to improve this trait will have associated trade offs with other economically important traits.

The Beef CRC research has looked at answering this question. This research used a total of 2159 heifers of two genotypes (1027 Brahman and 1132 Tropical Composites) that were bred on cooperator properties in Queensland and Northern Territory and raised on the research properties of “Toorak”, “Belmont” and “Swans Lagoon” (Brahman) and “Toorak”, “Belmont” and “Brian Pastures” (Tropical Composites). The Tropical Composite was made up of 50% tropically adapted Bos indicus and Bos taurus e.g. Brahman and Belmont Red and 50% non-tropically adapted Bos Taurus. In addition to the age of puberty, these heifers were measured for a range of adaptive, growth and body composition traits from weaning through to joining at 27 months of age. A further 2216 paternal steer half sibs to these heifers were also used in the research and measured for growth and body composition, on grass and in the feedlot, and slaughtered to determine carcase and meat quality traits. A total of 53 Brahman sires and 50 Tropical Composite sires were represented in the male and female progeny.

A particular focus of this research was to determine genetic correlations between the heifer traits for puberty and adaptation and those of steer performance, carcase and meat quality i.e. can we improve steer performance without compromising female performance and adaptation in the Northern beef industry?

In relation to selection for improved female reproduction using age of puberty and steer carcase and meat quality traits, the initial results of significance are:

- Increased RBY% in feedlot finished steers (-0.55)
- Reduced feed efficiency of feedlot steers (-0.60)
- Reduced (darker) meat colour in feedlot finished steers (0.73)
- Reduced hip height (frame size) in feedlot finished steers (0.50)
- For Tropical Composite, reducing the age of puberty in females is genetically correlated to;
  - Increased marble score of feedlot finished steer carcase (-0.49)
  - Reduced steer carcase rump fat (0.43)
  - Increased serum insulin like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) of feedlot finished steers (-0.58)

While some antagonisms exist between the improvement of female fertility in terms of reduced age of puberty and steer traits (mostly Brahman) many carcase and meat quality traits can be improved through selection without compromising selection efforts to improve female fertility. Of particular importance for Brahman is the ability to select for reduced Shear force for improved meat tenderness.

Further data in relation to a female’s whole life reproductive performance and correlation to economically important traits for both sexes will be analysed in the near future. The results from these analyses will confirm if the current correlations remain or if better early indicator traits exist to enable selection for improved female fertility in the Northern beef herd.
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Measuring breeder performance to improve performance and long term profitability

by Felicity Hamlyn-Hill Northern Muster August 2010

Profitable beef businesses of the future will be those that have already started some years earlier to improve the inherent fertility of their herd through monitoring performance, identifying problem areas and making sound management decisions.

For long term profit, breeder performance can be maximised if:

- each cow conceives early in the mating period and calves within an interval of one year or less;
- each cow successfully rears its calf to weaning;
- each calf weaned meets desired weight targets.

Due to the length of the gestation period the average cow must re-conceive within 12 weeks of calving, to produce calves within an interval of one year or less.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Problem areas</th>
<th>Key strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy (approx 284 days)</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>Nutrition, genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calving to cycling (6 weeks)</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>Nutrition, genetics, disease control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling to conceiving (6 weeks)</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>Nutrition (inc spike feeding), genetics, early weaning, seasonal mating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12 mths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To make progress the first step is to measure reproductive performance.

While the ultimate test of a cow’s performance is that she successfully rears her calf to weaning, determining problem areas in is this complex process is more difficult. There a number of reproductive measures that can be used, some of which are listed in the following tables. Level or intensity of management and reproductive history will determine which of these measures are most useful and relevant to the individual business. Producer partners in the Value in Beef project have found that different measures are relevant under different management scenarios with specific objectives and targets. The Cashcow project aims to determine which measures of breeding herd performance are best related to business profit (Fordyce pers comm.). Outcomes from this project will be delivered when the Cashcow research is completed.

Seasonal mating and foetal aging together are paramount for accurate measurement of breeder performance, and for identifying areas for improvement.

Individual NLIS identification is necessary for tracking lifetime performance. Foetal aging 12-13 weeks after bulls have been removed will identify all current pregnancies in seasonally mated herds. With continuous mating, foetal aging will not pick up all pregnancies plus it is harder to define the mating period unless “late” pregnant cows are culled.

MEASURING HEIFER PERFORMANCE

From recent CRC research we know age and weight at puberty are highly heritable. This means genetic progress can be made in these traits.

Once in calf, first calf heifers experience the energy drain of lactating while still growing. This leads to weight loss and failure to re-conceive. However there are those heifers which are more fertile and do re-conceive. These are the heifers that should be producing the breeding females of the future.

MEASURING MATURE COW PERFORMANCE

Body condition at time of calving is a major factor determining a cow’s ability to conceive while lactating. While the ability of a cow to conceive while lactating is influenced by nutrition and mating management (to prevent dry season lactations), we now know this trait is highly heritable. This means genetic progress can be made in female breeding cattle in this trait.

The link between mature cow weights, the average pasture quantity and quality and body condition score is essential when establishing breeding objectives. Remember though that the bulls contribute the most to genetic progress. This is due the number of calves they sire in a lifetime. Objective selection of key traits such as fertility and growth is strongly recommended.

Weaning percentage can be calculated in various ways and this makes it difficult to compare between herds. For consistency it should be: number of calves weaned / number of cows mated to produce those calves (inclusive of pregnancy tested empty females).

Cows which calve regularly are likely to continue to do so. For some producers knowing the percentage of cows calving regularly from year to year is of value in measuring herd performance, and for identifying mothers of future breeders.

Foetal aging will give a profile of the conception pattern, and hence calving pattern. This is useful for determining the percentage of cows conceiving early in the mating period, and whilst lactating. This information is useful in seasonally mated situations where fine tuning performance is the objective. Replacement heifers should be preferentially selected from these early conceiving cows and conversely, calves from late conceiving cows should be considered cash flow.

TABLE 1 : MEASURING HEIFER PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure (heifers)</th>
<th>Problem areas</th>
<th>Key strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at joining /Age at calving</td>
<td>Age/Weight at puberty</td>
<td>Nutrition, genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heifer conception %</td>
<td>Weight at puberty</td>
<td>Nutrition, genetics, disease control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st calf Heifer conception %</td>
<td>Condition score at calving</td>
<td>Nutrition (inc spike feeding), genetics, early weaning, seasonal mating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mating period/calving spread</td>
<td>Body condition score, sub fertile and infertile bulls</td>
<td>Genetics, bull fertility (BBSE), season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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EVERYONE YOU NEED TO SEE IN ONE PLACE, AT ONE TIME AT BEEF AUSTRALIA 2012.

Every three years the Australian beef industry and their international counterparts meet in Rockhampton, Queensland for a week of innovation, collaboration, inspiration and celebration. Beef Australia 2012, Australia’s national beef exposition features national stud, carcass and commercial competitions, several thousand live cattle from over thirty breeds, hundreds of trade displays, dozens of seminars and tours and hospitality second to none.

INNOVATION will be showcased at the International Genetics Marketplace which features live cattle, the latest genetics research and developments, a Business Lounge, and technical displays and seminars hosted by Australian and international experts. The Marketplace is designed to put you in touch with the best Australia has to offer from her tropical and temperate adapted beef herds.

COLLABORATION and networking opportunities are led by a free Business Matching Program called Handshakes provided by the Queensland Government in partnership with the Australian Trade Commission. The program provides an ideal opportunity for Australian enterprises and specialists in the livestock industry to explore business prospects and meet face-to-face with international agribusiness companies seeking to do business in Australia. Meeting facilities are available at the Expo along with interpreter services.

If you’re aged between 18 to 35 there’s a program just for you too – an International Exchange called Generation Next between Australia and beef producing countries including Canada, Brazil and the USA.

INSPIRATION from the best minds in the beef industry – both nationally and internationally – can be found at the new International Beef Genetics Conference and in the 4 day seminar program. Practical inspiration via a first hand look at the operations of central Queensland’s most innovative stud and commercial producers is also available by joining a full or half day property tour while you’re at the Expo. And then enjoy the end product in one of the premium beef restaurants – we promise you won’t be disappointed!

CELEBRATION opportunities include the new Beef Australia Big BBQ where chefs from around the world will be showing their flair at the grill. Kick up your heels at the end of the week at the community concert, another new initiative for 2012 where the local community and Expo goers can come together to celebrate the week that was. We make you a promise – be it around the bar, at our Gala Ball or at one of our fabulous functions we’ll guarantee you a ticket to a good time.

CONTACT DETAILS - For regular updates on Beef Australia 2012 visit the website www.beefaustralia.com.au
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Cows with long intercalving intervals are not as profitable to the business as cows which conceive early in the mating period and while lactating. By the time empty (and late pregnant) cows can be identified and sold they have represented a cost in pasture consumption, lick consumption, and handling.

Acceptable losses conception to weaning will depend on how extensive and tightly managed the operation is. In extensive situations, some may view greater than 10% losses as unacceptable. Diseases that cause conception and/or pregnancy failure include vibrio, trichomoniasis, leptospirosis, pestivirus and neosporosis.

### INCLUDING WEANER INFORMATION

Other important measures are weaning weight and percentage of calves weaned at the first round. Weaning weight is a component of reduced age of turnoff, necessary for targeting premium markets. Reducing age of turnoff in turn increases the importance of fertility. Most producers would like as many calves as possible weaned at the first round. A significant “spread” of weaners is not as profitable as a tighter spread. A higher percentage of weaners at first round gives cattle a good start for earlier turnoff.

### MEASURING PROFITABILITY

A fertile herd makes a significant contribution towards long term profitability. Increased reproductive rates enables greater selection pressure on replacement females and thereby greater opportunity for genetic progress and increased profitability.

Marketing non performers results in short term profitability. To improve long term profitability, the fertility of a herd needs to improve.

One way of measuring the profitability of a herd is to calculate Gross Margin per Adult Equivalent (GM/AE) and Gross Margin/Breeder. The GM/AE can be compared against other herds and also within the herd (for both male cattle and female cattle). Different classes, or ages of female cattle can be compared. The GMs for groups of females in the breeding herd may range from $30.00 to $150.00 or more. This is ultimately driven by fertility, assuming acceptable survival rates. The weight of weaner produced will impact on male GM, and is also related to female fertility.

The Breeding Edge workshop covers aspects of this article in more detail. If interested contact your local beef officer.

### TABLE 2: MEASURING MATURE COW PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure (heifers)</th>
<th>Problem areas</th>
<th>Key strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conception %</td>
<td>Condition/weight, lactational anoestrus, bulls, reproductive disease</td>
<td>Nutrition, genetics, vaccination, seasonal mating, strategic weaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branding %</td>
<td>Foetal and calf losses (disease, genetic defects, cow factors, predators, stress)</td>
<td>Eliminate problem cows (and don't breed from daughters) Predator control Disease control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning %</td>
<td>All of above</td>
<td>All of above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet cow conception %</td>
<td>Lactational anoestrus, condition/weight</td>
<td>Seasonal mating, nutrition, genetics, genotype</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conception pattern (ie % early conceptions in mating period, spread in conception by month)</td>
<td>Bulls (infertile, sub fertile), reproductive diseases, poor nutrition</td>
<td>Bull fertility (BBSE), vaccination (for vibrio, etc) Adjustment to mating times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercalving interval (ICI)</td>
<td>Condition/weight, anoestrus Bulls, disease</td>
<td>Nutrition, genetics, strategic weaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% losses conception to weaning</td>
<td>Foetal and calf losses</td>
<td>Vaccination, Nutrition, genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeder / Mature cow weight</td>
<td>Mature size vs pasture availability</td>
<td>Breeding Objectives matching environment and animal requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 3: MEASURING WEANER PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure (heifers)</th>
<th>Problem areas</th>
<th>Key strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average weaning weight (1st round, 2nd round)</td>
<td>Time of calving, low inherent growth rates Nutrition Dry season lactations</td>
<td>genetics, seasonal mating, nutrition (inc spike feeding)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion weaners 1st round</td>
<td>Calving creep (later and later calves due to season, disease, and long ICI)</td>
<td>Nutrition, genetics, vaccination, seasonal mating, strategic weaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of calves weaned / cows mated</td>
<td>Time of calving, Low growth Nutrition</td>
<td>All of above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton Drill</td>
<td>Navy or Green</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton Drill</td>
<td>Embroidered Navy, Maroon, Green, Grey or Royal</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucket Hat</td>
<td>Navy &amp; Green</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brushed Cotton</td>
<td>Suede, Gold Emb. Navy, Maroon, Green, Black &amp; Royal</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADULT POLO SHIRTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed</td>
<td></td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy, Maroon or Green</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Colour</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue/Red, Blue/Aqua, Stone or Mustard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELT BUCKLES</td>
<td>Pewter - Small</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pewter - Large</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BADGES</td>
<td>Silver bull on stand</td>
<td>$ 5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULL STATUES</td>
<td>Pewter - 6cm x 5cm</td>
<td>$ 25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pewter - 6cm x 9cm</td>
<td>$ 45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pewter Cow &amp; Calf - 6cm x 9cm</td>
<td>$ 25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Bronze Bull - Polled &amp; Horned</td>
<td>$235.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIES</td>
<td>Plain - Centred logo Navy, Maroon or Green</td>
<td>$ 20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bulls Head Repeated</td>
<td>$ 20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Navy/Blue, Maroon/Gold, Navy/Gold or Green/Gold</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottle Opener / Keyring</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pewter Keyring</td>
<td>Brahman / Bull on chain</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pewter Teaspoons</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round 8” sticker</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahman stickers</td>
<td>Clear or white</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pewter Letter Openers</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Umbrella</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarves</td>
<td>Maroon or Blue</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Book</td>
<td></td>
<td>$13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native &amp; Adapted Cattle book</td>
<td></td>
<td>$28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Australian Brahman book</td>
<td></td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Control of Vibriosis and Trichomoniasis

Vibriosis and trichomoniasis are prevalent venereal diseases of the extensive cattle herds of northern Australia and are characterised by causing low fertility in heifers.

These diseases present a similar epidemiological pattern. It is not uncommon for both diseases to exist on the one property and even in the one animal.

For practical purposes, infection is only transmitted venereally for both diseases. In endemically infected herds the fertility of cows may be only slightly below normal, but infertility is seen to a greater degree in each successive group of heifers that are mated. Bulls carry both organisms in the prepuce and there is good evidence that permanent infections are more common in older bulls.

VIBRIOSIS

Caused by Campylobacteriosis fetus type 1 and subtype 1. Disease is known as Campylobacteriosis but for obvious reasons is still referred to as ‘Vibrio’. Infection causes no outward signs of illness. In females there may be increased vaginal mucus for a short time, which may be cloudy. Repeated return to service occurs but this is not normally noted under extensive conditions. It is more usual to find a low level of conception and a widened period of conception when pregnancy diagnosis is carried out. After a successful conception up to 10% of females can abort, most commonly at 5 to 7 months of gestation.

Permanent changes can occur in the oviducts in some cows leading to permanent infertility.

Infected females develop a resistance to the disease over time so that where the condition is endemic the overall disease rate drops, but reinfection can occur. Heifers exposed to infected bulls will show the highest rate of infertility within a particular herd.

A high proportion of heifers return to service for 3 to 5 months and eventually become pregnant. In controlled mating herds the return to cycling may be after the bulls have been removed.

A variable number do not become pregnant. Pregnancy diagnosis should be used to eliminate these animals because they are reservoirs of infection.

Heifer vaccination can lead to significant improvements in fertility in infected herds. However, there are often practical difficulties in extensive herds in following the procedures which require 2 premating vaccinations to be given 6 weeks apart, with the second dose being given about 6 weeks before mating. An alternative program for heifers that are sexually mature is to give a single 5 ml dose of Vibriovax (CSL) 6 weeks before mating.

Bulls can be transiently or chronically infected. There appears to be no natural immune response in the bull. Bull vaccination involving two doses 4 to 6 weeks apart with annual revaccination has been shown to clear infection and greatly reduce their susceptibility to reinfection.

RECOMMENDED CONTROL MEASURES

- Either give heifers two premating vaccinations at 12 and 6 weeks before mating, or give heifers that are sexually mature a single 5 ml dose of Vibriovax (CSL) 6 weeks before mating.
- Join maiden heifers only to maiden bulls.
- Test for pregnancy and foetal ageing after joining maiden heifers. Eliminate those that are not pregnant and likely to be reservoirs of infection. Also remove the less fertile animals that conceived late as indicated by foetal ageing testing.
- Vaccinate maiden bulls twice 4 to 6 weeks apart, with the second dose being given 6 weeks before mating is due to commence.
- Vaccinate all herd bulls annually.
- Where possible, cull bulls at 6 to 7 years of age.

TRICHOMONIASIS

Trichomoniasis is a venereally transmitted disease of cattle caused by Trichomonas fetus. It is prevalent on extensively managed properties in Queensland.

Conception rates of heifers in one study improved from 40% to 95% when uninfected bulls were used. Other studies have estimated losses of up to 17.5%. Abortions occur in the first five months of gestation and have the effect of lengthening calving patterns. Infections do not normally persist for more than a few months in non-pregnant females.

Chronic uterine infections and mummified foetuses are seen in herds with trichomoniasis. Sometimes an odourless discharge with particles of mucus/pus is seen.

In bulls the organism lives in secretions around the penis and prepuce. Older bulls do not readily eliminate infection and are therefore more significant in perpetuating the disease. There is some evidence that young bulls (under 4 years) are resistant to infection.

RECOMMENDED CONTROL MEASURES

- Join maiden heifers only to maiden bulls or at least to bulls less than 4 years old.
- Eliminate non-pregnant heifers using post-joining pregnancy diagnosis.
- Consider other control measures that have been used successfully in more intensive herds, such as:
  - Destocking/restocking
  - Using artificial insemination rather than bulls
  - Operating a two herd system exposed/unexposed
  - Removing infected bulls and providing cows with sexual rest for 90 days.
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Brahmans take Interbreed double at Bell

Brahman entries took out the Supreme Tropical Interbreed male and female awards at the 2011 Bell Show.

Judged from the Brahman, Brahmosins, Braford, Charbray and Droughtmaster entries, the Supreme Male awards went to Whitaker Mr Avo, shown by Clint and Robyn Whitaker, Whitaker stud, Mundubbera.

Rod and Lyn Sperling, Rodlyn stud, Bell, took out the Supreme Female award with Rodlyn Miss 76/06 after being named Senior and Grand Champion Female in the Brahman classes.

Judge Allan Oxlade, Bioka stud, Emu Creek Qld, made Whitaker Mr Avo Junior and Grand Champion Bull. The Whitaker stud also took out the Junior Champion Female award with Whitaker Miss Pebble and Rodlyn took out the Senior Champion Male award with Rodlyn Wrangler.

Vanessa Bambling (right) sashed the Supreme Tropical Male of the Bell Show, Whitaker Mr Avo held by owner Clint Whitaker, Whitaker Brahman, Mundubbera. Also pictured are Tropical Interbreed judges Arthur Bambling, “Penwhaupell”, Gayndah and Allan Oxlade, Bioka stud, Emu Creek

Tropical Interbreed judges Arthur Bambling, “Penwhaupell”, Gayndah and Allan Oxlade, Bioka stud, Emu Creek sash the Supreme Tropical Female, Rodlyn Miss 76/06 held by stud groom Les Lee
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