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ROCKY REPRO
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Editorial

Our BIN project is progressing very well. As we reported earlier we did not extend our agreement with CSIRO to use the Belmont herd in the third round of joinings at the end of last year. We were able to replace the Belmont breeder numbers with extra heifers at the properties of our commercial co-operators Mark and Belinda Wilson, Banana Station and Rob and Annie Donoghue, Baranga Grazing, and we thank them very much for their co-operation.

Using the commercial co-operators gave us the added bonus of increasing the number of AI calves we produce. Pregnancy testing of the third round heifers has been completed and we have a total of 844 heifers pregnant to AI bulls based on scanning and foetal aging.

BIN FIELD DAY

We are planning another BIN project field day at Banana Station on Tuesday April 16th. We will have 376 steer weaners from the second round joining on display in sire groups as well as the first round steers.

The 400 day and 600 day weights for the first round calves as well as carcase and ovarian scan data will have been analysed and will be presented at the field day.

We also used 100 straws of semen from some of the bulls used in the Beef CRC to improve the linkage of our data to the Beef CRC database.

All of the co-operator properties have had very good rain in recent weeks so our BIN cattle are doing really well with no losses.

The importance of this project has increased considerably since it was first conceived due to the way the technology has developed. It is now very much about contributing to the accuracy of the prediction equations for the markers rather than validating other peoples work and it will only be people with good quality data sets like our BIN data that will get real advantage out of using the marker technology.

When linked to the Beef CRC data, the Australian data will be by far the best in the Brahman world. There may be opportunities to combine with overseas data in the future for the benefit of the Brahman breed worldwide.

Apart from the Angus breed, no other breed in Australia and particularly our tropical competitor breeds will be able to take advantage of the marker technology than we will.
President’s paragraph

This year, 2013 has started as a difficult year for much of Queensland and for many of our members. Some were recovering from fires in the north before Christmas, much of the western areas have not received rain and are facing drought, while the area within a couple of hundred kilometers of the coast experienced record rainfall with devastating flooding in some areas and the BJD issue continues to hang over us.

During December the full realization of the BJD eradication programme, particularly the quarantine, on members and some of our clients became evident.

This resulted in the Council taking the position that we could not support the continuation of the eradication programme. It was decided that the Council would advocate that BJD become a producer managed disease however it was also decided to advocate for active monitoring for BJD through abattoir sampling.

Herds found to be infected would work with Biosecurity to limit the spread and use the Silirum vaccine.

John Croaker representing the Australian Brahman Breeders’ Association and Wallace Gunthorpe representing the BJD Action Group are members of the BJD Industry Advisory Committee which was established by Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries John McVeigh in early January.

The Association strongly supports the establishment of the Queensland Cattle Industry Biosecurity Fund which will in the first instance provide compensation/financial assistance for the people affected by the BJD regulations.

We have put forward a submission to the Minister proposing realistic compensation for cattle destroyed and loss of income resulting from quarantine.

The third joining of heifers in our BIN project has produced 844 pregnancies which was very pleasing.

Weaning of most of the second round calves will take in April and we are planning a field day at Banana Station on Tuesday 16th April where the calves will be displayed.

Andrew Olive
January 2013 brought back memories of the summer of 2011 as parts of the Queensland went under water due to the influence of ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

The State Emergency Service responded to approximately 7500 requests for assistance across Qld since the beginning of the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event on 21 January 2013. The worst hit areas were Bundaberg, Gayndah, Mundubbera and Rockhampton, with Gympie and Laidley also experiencing flood events.

Flooding caused some stock losses and small disruptions to meatworks’ kill schedules but nowhere near the extreme impacts seen in 2011. Sadly, while some coastal areas were under water, north western and south western parts of the state missed out on rain entirely and remain in drought or near drought conditions.

Rodger Jefferis, Elrose, Cloncurry said they had received about 75mm of rain from October to mid-February but the rainfall events, of about 12mm each, had been too small to deliver any useful grass growth over summer.

Dry conditions in the south-west saw the Roma saleyards offer 10,525 head at their store sale on February 12. Thankfully, good numbers of feedlot and restocker buyers meant that prices were strong, especially for medium and heavy weight steers.

An unexpected blip on the radar for beef producers and agents was a front page report in The Australian in February saying the RSPCA hoped to ban the sale of cattle through saleyards within the next three to five years. The report stated that new RSPCA guidelines proposed that all livestock be consigned direct to works or sold online, to reduce stress on animals.

However the animal welfare organisation has since issued a statement refuting those claims. It said: “Australia is not calling for a ban on saleyards. Significant improvements to address animal welfare concerns at saleyards have been made in recent times and we will continue to work with saleyard operators to achieve further improvements across the wider industry.” The prime objective

“While RSPCA Australia strongly encourages the direct consignment of farm animals because of the inherent stress caused by multiple transport and handling, we recognise that for many producers saleyards will continue to be part of the supply chain.”

Variable weather conditions across the state have been reflected in market prices for stores and prime cattle. A round-up of 2013 saleyard activity follows:

NORTH QLD

CHARTERS TOWERS

At the time of writing, in mid-February, north-west graziers were still waiting for long overdue summer rain. Tony Bowen, Landmark, said Charters Towers was very dry, although areas further west were more severely affected.

“Pentland has had only 17mm for the entire wet season,” he said.

“Waters are drying up very early this year and cattle are being pushed back to major dams and water points, putting further pressure on limited grass supplies.”

He said dry conditions were causing uncertainty in the market with producers unsure whether to reduce numbers or hold cattle in the hope of late-summer rain. While the usual gallery of processors, lot feeders and trade buyers have been attending the weekly Charters Towers sales, a shortage of store buyers has caused values to drop in recent weeks.

Agents yarded 976 head at the 30 January Combined Agents Prime and Store Sale. The yarding consisted of 96 prime cattle and 880 stores. Costello and Sons, Macossan sold a line of 155 grey Brahman No.2 steers which peaked at 169.2c/kg to return $390. The line averaged 154.2c/kg, 190kg and $292 per head.

The same vendor offered 279 grey and red Brahman No.2 heifers which sold to 106.5c/kg and $320 per head. They also sold a line of red Brahman steers which peaked at 169.2c/kg to return $390. The line averaged 154.2c/kg, 190kg and $292 per head.

Bullocks were quoted as 4-6c dearer and heifers 2-4c dearer at the February 6 combined agents’ sale. On offer were 650 head including 224 prime cattle and 426 stores.

Bullocks from the Knuth family, Glencoe, Charters Towers topped at 164.2c/kg. They weighed 612kg to return $1006/hd.

In the store section, a good line of 314 grey and red mostly No.0 maiden speyed heifers were offered by Welcome Downs Cattle Co, Lyndhurst, Einasleigh. The 300kg heifers sold to a top of 125c/kg, averaging 116.6c/kg or $350/hd.

The February 13 sale assembled 584 prime cattle and 336 stores. Bullocks were quoted as 5-8c easier, heifers 6-9c easier, lighter cows 6-8c easier and heavy cows were up by 6-8c/kg.

Pedracini Grazing, Scartwater, sold the top prime bullocks which weighed 555kg to return $884 per head at 159.2c/kg. Max Kelso, Richmond, sold 339 bullocks of which 250 were high grade grey Brahmans. They topped at 154.2c/kg and the line averaged 142.2c/kg, weighing 487kg to return $692/hd.

Welcome Downs Cattle Co, Einasleigh, presented the best trade heifers, 403kg, which made 115c/kg or $464/hd.

“Beautiful, soft” 202kg red Brahman steers from the Burdell family, Alligator Creek, went for 156c/kg to realise $316 a head, Mr Bowen said.

SARINA

The market was easier for 155 stores on January 19. Peter Hayes, Hayes and Co, reported that one highlight was the sale of 15-month-old Brahman steers for $480. They were knocked down to Kevin Reeves, Sarina. Ken Jensen, Mt Ossa, also received $480 for his 15-month-old steers, purchased by local buyer Kelvin McArthur. Laurie Taylor, Sarina, paid $365 for six-month-old Brahman steers offered by Matrons Farms, Sarina.

CENTRAL QLD

GRACEMERE

Heavy rain and flooding on the Central Queensland coast restricted numbers at the February 1 sale to just 310 head. The market remained strong to more expensive for all lines of cattle. Cliff and Kathy White, Homehill Station, Glenroy sold 560kg Brahman bullocks to 176.2c/kg to return an average of $987/hd.

The February 8 sale offered 903 head. Nobbs Cattle Co, Duaringa, sold a quality line of Brahman cattle including 48 cows and calves which sold for an average of $860 per unit. They also sold a line of red Brahman heifers to a top of 156.2c/kg, weighing 266kg to return $417/hd.

March 2013 | 3

with Lindel Greggery
EMERALD
Selling kicked off on January 17 with 3100 head yarded, many drawn from northern and north-west Queensland. Local vendor HSE Pastoral, Venture Downs, Emerald, sold 466kg Brahman bullocks to 165c/kg or $770/hd to average 159c/kg. Cows from Venture Downs made 141c/kg, weighing in at 431kg to return $608/hd.

The late-January sale yarded 1600 head comprising 600 prime cattle and 1000 mixed quality stores. Colinta Holdings offered 88 500kg Brahman cows from Meteor Downs, Springsure. They sold for 140c/kg or $701/hd.

SOUTH QLD
ROMA
The January 17 prime sale yarded 929 head. The Mason family, Teeswater, Mitchell topped the market with a 670kg Brahman steer that went for 177c/kg to return $1187.

MURGON
Flooding postponed two sales but local and North Burnett producers managed to yard 650 head for sale in early February. A Cloyna vendor received 150c/kg or $773 for his Brahman cows.

TOOWOOMBA

THE OTTO FAMILY, Boggomoss, Taroom received 158c/kg for 22 Brahman cows offered at the February 11 sale. The line peaked at $943/hd, averaging $876 and 556kg.

BIGGENDEN
Heavy Brahman cows from M. Ashby, Goodnight Scrub, peaked at $983 or 151c/kg at the February 11 Burnett Livestock and Realty sale which yarded 1416 head.

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Wilangi success at 25th Sale

A strong sale result appropriately marked the staging of the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale at the end of November at Charters Towers. Sale vendors Ron & Bev White of Wilangi Brahman Stud and their invited vendor studs El Ja, Brahrock, Raglan, Wallace, Apis Creek and Viva presented a magnificent offering of grey Brahman stud sires, herd bulls and high quality commercial breeder females which filled the Dalrymple Saleyards selling pens and provided an impressive display for the Brahman breed.

 Buyers operated from as far away as the Central Burnett, Julia Creek, the Atherton Tablelands, Northern Goldfields, Central Queensland, Proserpine, Ingham and local areas. Among the excellent crowd of buyers were cattle producers who had attended and purchased at the inaugural Wilangi Sale in 1988. “We are very pleased with the buying support considering the tough conditions in the industry at the moment,” Ron White of Wilangi Brahman Stud said, “and it was good to see many of our great, loyal friends who have been strong supporters of this sale’s cattle for years.”

Vendors took on the challenge of offering nearly 300 lots, an increase of 10% over 2011, however they were rewarded with a 90% clearance rate for bulls and 100% for females, and a gross of nearly $1.1 million. Selling was quick with auctioneers Ken McCaffrey of McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing and Troy Trevor and Brad Passfield of Queensland Rural placing the offering in 6 hours. The great attraction of the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale with its large, even lines of well bred, high quality bulls was evident in the buyer ranks as six leading northern cattle industry family...
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Selling 5 Heifers at Gympie Brahman Female Sale 1st June 2013
enterprises accounted for over 120 bulls at the sale. “It’s always a sale where volume buyers will get excellent value for money because of the size of the offering and consistency of quality,” Auctioneer Ken McCaffrey said.

The first registered sire offered at the sale, Raglan Marcus, made $16,000, the equal top price of the sale. This 950kg, beautiful bodied son of Carinya Titan was purchased by Richmond cattleman Rob Flute of Chatfield Station. Mr Flute put together a very impressive line of 5 strong sires at an average of $11,800 from the sale. Included also in his purchases was another Carinya Titan son, Raglan Mr Pradosh at $14,000, and at $10,000, the Wilangi Xtreme Manso son, Viva Lennon.

Sale vendors AJ & Pam Davison of Viva Brahman Stud invested some of their sale proceeds to claim the other $16,000 equal top price bull, Brahrock Intercept. This 2 year old, stylish prospect carries a strong pedigree and attractive bone, length and muscling. Alan Williams, Riverside Pastoral Company, Nebo was at the sale and took a liking to the young draft of bulls from Wallace Brahman Stud. He paid $12,500 for Wallace Mr Kenzey and $11,000 for Wallace Mr Kelly. Both are 26 month old, 800kg plus sons of the successful sire, El Ja Amos A Manso. Raglan Mr Peatea, an 876kg son of Brahrock Slogan was another purchase for Riverside at $7,500.

Day Grazing Co., Marylands, St Lawrence selected well in their $12,000 top purchase, Wallace Mr Kimono. This 2yo is highly credentialed. A milk tooth, he scales 834kg, scanned a 138 sqcm EMA and shows an excellent combination of breed quality and beef performance.

Leading Clermont cattleman David Dennis, Walthum Pastoral Company outlaid $11,500 for El Ja Granville Manso, a son of JDH Sir Tobe Manso, one of four, strong carcase quality bulls he purchased. Also in his purchases at $9,000 was Brahrock Calvin, a dark grey, 915kg, masculine son of JDH Sir Winston Manso and at $7,000, El Ja Frederick Manso.

Graeme Acton and his son Tom, who have recorded exceptional beef industry success with progeny of bulls they have purchased at this sale over many years, were substantial buyers this year putting together a most impressive line of 21 bulls averaging $4,860 for Millungera Station, Julia Creek. Their purchases are long and strong bulls of excellent natural muscling and weight performance. Among their bulls were Raglan Mr Posidon at $9,500, Wallace Mr Kellog at $9,000, Wallace Mr Kingdom at $8,500, Apis Creek Snow at $5,000 and the quality blue grey sire Wilangi R Ambidextrous at $5,000.

When the auctioneer ‘knocked down’ Lot 154 it was announced that the bull was the 7,000th lot sold over the 25 year history of the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale. To mark the occasion successful purchasers (left to right) Yasmin and Jack Mann of Mann Beef Pty Ltd, Charters Towers received a special presentation prize from sale vendors represented by Ron & Bev White of Wilangi Brahman Stud, and the Sale’s Major Sponsor, NAB Agribusiness, represented by Senior Agribusiness Manager, Darren Kuhl.
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M & B Davison Investments, Moondah, Prairie selected an attractive El Ja sire by JDH Sir Tobe Manso for $8,500 that shows great length, bone and breed quality. Raglan Brahman Stud sold $8,000 sires to Charters Towers grazier Dan Goodwin & family of Lascelles Station, to Koolyn Pty Ltd of Charters Towers and to Galloway Plains Pastoral Company of Calliope, while the Parkinson family, Tiny Downs, Middlemount also paid $8,000 for a rising 2 year old, well bred Wallace sire.

Peter & Judy Costello, Fanning Downs, Charters Towers put together a line of 12 bulls. Their top purchase at $6,000 was the 839kg El Ja Garnet Manso. El Ja also recorded two $7,000 sales for sons of JDH Sir Tobe Manso. They sold to Charters Towers buyers EC Berryman and Kamarooka Partnership. The 830kg, milk tooth bull Viva Linton was also a $7,000 purchase and went to Central Queensland grazier Pat Moran of Marlborough.

The large herd bull line up was topped at $7,000 by a 2yo, lengthy, white grey Wallace bull. He sold to Peter & Melissa Hill of Marlborough. David Fryer, Railview, Prairie was active in the bidding on quality herd bulls selecting a $5,500 bull out of the Raglan draft and a $5,000 bull from Wilangi’s team. One of the features of the sale, and indeed for the stud sale industry, was the sale of the 7,000th lot since the inception of this event. The 7,000th sale was recorded as the auctioneer ‘knocked down’ Lot 154, Wilangi Adonis at $2,500 to Mann Beef Pty Ltd, Lochwall, Charters Towers. Jack & Yasmin Mann were pleased to accept a special presentation of an RM Williams leather travel bag from sale vendors Ron & Bev White of Wilangi Brahman Stud to mark the history making occasion. Mann Beef were major buyers on the day selecting a line of 20 bulls for Reay Station, Hughenden. Other volume buyers included David & Judy Camm, Natal Downs, Charters Towers 21 bulls, the Martel Trust, Charters Towers 13 bulls, Hedley Dahl, Charters 20 bulls and David & Lydia Dennis, Maryvale Station, Charters Towers 10 bulls.

QUALITY FEMALES FEATURE BRISK BIDDING

A special sale line of 121 breeder females offered in half-deck pen lots attracted good interest from local, central and southern buyers. A pen of 10 blue grey No.0 and No.9 PTIC heifers from Wallace Brahmans topped the section at $1,800 per head. After a spirited bidding duel, they sold to Peter Freegard of Roma. Another pen of 10 PTIC cows from the Wallace line made $1,400 per head to the bid of the Lusk family, Weary Bay Grazing Trust, Charters Towers.

A beautiful line of 59, No.0 and No.1 chance mated Wilangi heifers sold to a top of $1,000 per head and averaged $891 per head.

Looking over the Wilangi Grey Brahman offering are Patrice, Matt & Kelsey Jones, Milestone Brahmans, Charters Towers

Barbara Davison and Nathan Butcher, Moondah Station, Prairie make their sale selections prior to the start of the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale

Sale vendor AJ Davison, Viva Brahman, Middlemount chats with buyers Marilyn and Laurie Blacklock, Haddington Station, Julia Creek following a successful sale. The Blacklocks are great supporters of the Brahman breed and purchased bulls from the first Wilangi Sale at Charters Towers in 1988

John Griffiths, Allandale Station, Homestead and Peter Murphy, Gregory Springs, Hughenden were among the bidders at the Wilangi Sale
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Wilangi success at 25th Sale

while a deck of No.1 unjoined Viva Brahman stud heifers made $700 per head. Jim Rogerson of Yaamba was the major buyer of females with 34 head.

The sale event featured an excellent Beef Producer Forum and NAB Agribusiness Wilangi 25th Celebration Dinner, and all registered bidders received a sale souvenir tote bag. “As always Ron & Bev White and the other sale vendors put on a professional event of benefit to the northern cattle industry,” Ken McCaffrey said, “It is a great credit to them that this sale, after 25 years, remains as relevant today as ever and is the sale that has been the most influential in the Northern Australian beef industry.” “It’s no fluke, the cattle perform for those who use them,” he added, “it’s a rare achievement to complete 25 Sales and sell over 7,000 lots and the cattle industry up here recognises that.”

25TH ANNIVERSARY PRIZEWINNERS

A special attraction of the sale was the presentation of a number of buyer prizes made possible by the support of the sale’s valued sponsors – NAB Agribusiness, Zee Tags Australia, Kenna’s Charters Accountants, Bayer Australia Ltd, Holliman’s Rural Supplies, Barmount Station Feedlot, CQ Helicopters, Riverina (Australia) Pty Ltd, Ancare Australia Pty Ltd and One Steel Limited. Winning buyers were Mann Beef Pty Ltd, David & Lydia Dennis of Maryvale Station, Camm Agricultural Group, Acton Land & Cattle Company and Roxanne Olive.

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

SALE RESULTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<td>Registered Bulls</td>
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<td>$5,115</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>Herd Bulls</td>
<td>381,000</td>
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<td>251</td>
<td>TOTAL BULLS</td>
<td>969,000</td>
<td>3,860</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Commercial Females</td>
<td>117,600</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL $1,086,600

CLEARANCE – BULLS 95% CLEARANCE – HEIFERS 50%

Regular buyers at the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale, Nerida, Richard & Gaye Luck, Junee, Dingo again travelled to Charters Towers to invest in the proven beef bloodlines on offer

Attending the Wilangi Sale were David Healing, Doongarra Station, Charters Towers and his father Colin Healing, Warraree, Charters Towers. Colin purchased nine bulls at the inaugural Wilangi Sale in 1988

Troy Trevor of Queensland Rural assists Central Queensland visitors to the Wilangi Sale, David Kemp accompanied by Harry & Jill Kemp, Lotus Park, Nebo

A feature of the Wilangi 25th Anniversary Brahman Sale was the selling of a selection of 120 high quality commercial Brahman heifers. This pen of young Wilangi heifers made $950 per head selling to Bush Holdings
A two hour beef industry forum, held as part of the Wilangi 25th Anniversary Sale festivities, kept producers up to date with the latest market opportunities for Brahman beef.

Staged at Charters Towers’ Dalrymple Saleyards on November 29, the forum heard from guest speakers Ben Maher, private client manager, Mort and Co; MLA manager Market Information and Analytics, Tim McRae, and MLA market analyst Europe, Ben Larkin.

Mr Maher said Mort and Co fed 150,000 cattle a year through Grassdale Feedlot at Dalby and Pinegrove Feedlot at Milmerran, also joint venturing to feed a further 50,000 head in northern NSW.

They feed for a range of domestic and export markets and have been seeing more and more Brahman come through their feedlots, with pleasing results.

Mr Maher said one of their major clients, Acton Land and Cattle, used Wilangi bulls in their herd and was achieving premium results because of the high quality genetics. Data compiled from more than 40,000 Brahman fed through Mort and Co feedlots showed that the Wilangi-infused cattle outperformed other Brahman, as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Avg DWG (kg)</th>
<th>Avg consumption</th>
<th>Conversion as fed</th>
<th>Dry matter Conversion</th>
<th>Avg cost of gain</th>
<th>Avg health costs/hd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wilangi-infused</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>14.21</td>
<td>6.87</td>
<td>4.82</td>
<td>$1.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Brahman</td>
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<td>7.35</td>
<td>5.23</td>
<td>$2.06</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr Maher said Brahman matured early when grain fed, often being finished by the 70 to 80 day mark and was achieving premium results because of the high quality genetics. Data compiled from more than 40,000 Brahman fed through Mort and Co feedlots showed that the Wilangi-infused cattle outperformed other Brahman, as shown in the table below.

Tim McRae, MLA, gave the audience a snapshot of world beef markets, saying international consumers needed to “regain confidence and start to trade up in beef preferences”.

Mr McRae said the Australian herd was rebuilding and was approaching 30 million head due to several consecutive wet years. Adult cattle kills are also predicted to increase, tipped to reach 8.025 million in 2014.

On the demand side, he said conditions for beef exports were slightly weaker in Japan, due to the high Australian dollar, competition from the United States and consumer caution. The South Korean market is also tipped to fall, influenced by a huge increase in pork sales, competition from the US and a spike in Korean cattle kills.

Mr McRae said the United States market had the potential, by 2015, to become our largest export market. Most of Australia’s trade to the US is made up of frozen manufacturing beef and in 2012 the indicative 90CL imported beef price for Australian product averaged 202US¢/lb CIF, the highest annual average on record.
Australian beef exports to the US for 2013 are forecast to increase by 14% year-on-year, to 255,000 tonnes shipping weight (swt), following on from the 34% increase in 2012. The 31,000 tonne increase for the year is almost equivalent to the increase in Australian production forecast for 2013.

While the strong Australian dollar and increasing competition from countries such as India was making beef exports more difficult, he said opportunities were emerging for grain fed beef in the EU market.

Ben Larkin, MLA market analyst Europe, said Europe had 500 million consumers with an annual beef consumption of 8.5 million tonnes. Up until 2010 Australia historically exported about 8000t of beef to the EU, most grass fed, with access constrained by quotas and tariffs.

However a new tariff-free Grain Fed Beef Quota has been introduced, jumping from 20,000t initially to 48,200t from 1 August 2012. Australian grain fed beef sales to the EU increased by 63% from September 2010 to November 2012, an additional $40 million in sales. Grass fed beef sales also increased by 4% during that period.

To access the EU export market cattle must be EU accredited under the EUCAS system, meaning they are HGP-free and come from EU-accredited properties. Mr Larkin said the opening up of the EU market and the introduction of Coles’ HGP-free beef policy meant producers now had more marketing options for feeder cattle and EU cows.

“As the EU herd increases, Australia can take advantage of other EU quotas that have been historically under utilised and not accessed by Australia,” he said.

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Sale visitors to the 25th Anniversary Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale enjoyed a magnificent Celebration Dinner under a beautiful starlit sky on the eve of the sale at Dalrymple Saleyards, Charters Towers.

One hundred & eighty sale patrons were treated to a superb roast meal with beef supplied by JBS Australia, delightful dinner music from Justin Borg, a few short speeches acknowledging the significant Anniversary occasion, and the cutting of a specially made 25th sale year cake. The dinner event was sponsored by NAB Agribusiness and organised by Mandy White of Wilangi Brahman Stud.

NAB Regional Agribusiness Manager Mr Greg Roberts offered his bank’s congratulations to the Whites of Wilangi and to the sale’s invited vendors on achieving the milestone of 25 years of sales, and the sale of 7,000 lots. Mr Roberts said that he, along with many cattle producers of Central and Northern Australia, recognised the importance of the Wilangi Sale as a leader in contributing to the progress of the cattle industry across the north of Australia over many years.

Wilangi Stud Principal Ron White thanked the large crowd for their attendance and acknowledged with gratitude the support of sale buyers, the Charters Towers Regional Council and his fellow sale vendors. “We are delighted to see in the crowd tonight a number of cattle producers who purchased bulls from our first sale here in 1988,” he said, “and who have been regular buyers ever since.”

The mayor of the Charters Towers Regional Council, Mr Frank Beveridge and a number of shire councillors were also in attendance at the dinner.

During the evening the sale vendors presented auctioneer Ken McCaffrey of McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing with a framed 1988 catalogue of the inaugural Wilangi Sale in honour of his contribution towards the success of the feature sale event over its 25 year history.
Special Thanks / Big Country Sale

• Milestone Brahman Stud
• Erneston Brahmans
• 2AM Pastoral Co
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A special thank you to McCaffrey’s, Geaney’s, Rob Murray (Elders), all buyers, bidders and under bidders for your continued support in 2013

Maru Finn Manso

Sold for $18,000
Sold to Andrew & Anna McCamley, 2AM Pastoral Co.

Maru Kacie Manso

Sold for $6,500

Top price female sold to Matt Neilsen, Erneston Brahmans.

Emanuel & Tracey Mifsud
Koumala Q 4738 p: 0407 121 812
Email: marubrahmans@bigpond.com
Australian Brahman Breeders Association Life Member Rodger Jefferis says being at the helm of the association during its “golden period” was a real privilege.

“Receiving Life Membership is a great honour and is also very humbling as no one has any such recognition in mind when contributing to any organisation,” Rodger said.

The principal of Elrose Brahman stud, Cloncurry was president of the ABBA from 2004 to 2007, following six years as vice president, and has served 17 years on the Technical Committee and six years as chairman of the Brahman Commercial Promotion Committee.

Rodger was encouraged to join the ABBA council by the late Jeff McCamley and said he had “great admiration for Jeff’s “calm, clear and thoughtful input over the years”.

“My time as president meant considerable periods away from home and I can never thank my family enough - Lorena, Grant and Brooke - for carrying the extra burden during my term,” he said.

Rodger’s presidency coincided with a very vibrant and exciting period for Brahmans, with many milestones reached. The 2006 Rockhampton Brahman Week Sale achieved a record gross of $6,498 million for 1038 bulls, selling two bulls for an equal top price of $90,000. The sale’s $6230 average was also remarkable, although this was eclipsed the following year by a record $6664 average for 911 head.

“There were records all round that year (2006) with the Big Country sale hitting a $2 million gross and a record combined Brahman auction sale gross of $22.6 million,” Rodger said.

“The Brahman National Championships in Charters Towers also had the greatest ever yarding and exceptional prices. You might say those years drove the Brahman numbers in the beef industry to saturation point.”

On the international front, Rodger accompanied a large group of Brahman breeders to Colombia for the 2006 World Brahman Congress, and Memorandum of Understanding Agreements were signed with Sarawak, Sabah and Thailand.

“Shipment of bulls and females went to Sabah for the cattle under palm project and bulls and females were also shipped to Brazil during this period,” Rodger said.

Another key milestone was the release of findings from an eight year research project conducted by the Beef Cooperative Research Centre at Armidale, NSW.

“In recognition of the importance of the Brahman breed and its contribution to the Australian beef industry the whole ABBA council travelled to the CRC in Armidale to attend the launch of the findings.”

Rodger said another initiative he was proud of was the establishment of the Brahman Commercial Female Sale in Rockhampton, which provided an avenue to promote and market the Brahman cow as “the greatest asset a cattleman could have”.

Other memorable events were a successful field day at Eulogie, hosted by the ABBA and the Santa Gertrudis Breeders Association, and the ABBA’s first Youth Leadership Workshop.

“Brahmans were also the first to have a breed display tent at Beef Australia, so you can see that my period as ABBA president was a very vibrant and exciting time for the breed.”

However the early 2000s were not without challenges.

“From day one the introduction of Meat Standards Australia (MSA) has caused, and continues to cause, an unfair market bias against Brahmans in the store market,” Rodger said.

“The introduction of a cuts based system greatly assists Brahmans to grade nowadays but most Brahman breeders ignore MSA and concentrate on grass fed Jap Ox, the market where Brahmans are undoubtedly king.”

He said the Beef Australia 2012 restaurant, where 5000 steaks were fed over four and a half days and all but two of the 96 Brahman bullocks graded MSA, should have put the quality and tenderness issue squarely to bed.
Life Member Rodger Jefferis recalls vibrant times at ABBA helm

“But it seems the flat back preference is etched in stone,” he quipped.

Rodger said he hoped that northern beef producers would stay true to Brahmans despite the uncertainty in live export markets.

“The live export ban dealt the breed a massive blow, with northern producers feeling pushed into introducing a cross to help create a southern market option,” he said.

“I fear that this move could result in cattlemen turning away from what has made the northern industry profitable and cause a drop in whole herd profitability as a result.”

His advice to those starting out in the breed was to measure as many traits as possible and try to balance a phenotype with a genotype.

“In other words, we need to focus on breeding what the market needs, rather than that which is easy to market. I am sure that economic drivers will turn producers back to the efficiency of Brahmans and we need to be able to demonstrate how the breed has improved while they were away.”

Rodger said today’s Brahmans had benefitted from decades of herd improvement, displaying excellent muscle and weight gain ability.

“We are without doubt the most efficient low cost breed and research shows that the most fertile Brahmans females can outperform the best of any breed. Our challenge is now to make the most use of their genetics,” he said.

Brahman genetics give EU steers the edge at Wandoan

Beef producers Darryl and Sue Newton and sons are finishing their EU cattle earlier thanks to an infusion of Brahman blood in their Hereford based herd.

Darryl and Sue and sons Wayne and Robert operate 2087 hectare breeding block Westering, at Meandarra, and 5548 ha fattening block Big Valley, near Wandoan.

They run 850 Hereford, Santa/Hereford and Brahman/Hereford cross breeders on the two properties, turning off EU steers and heifers through JBS at Dinmore.

In the past the Newtons have tried many breeds over their females and are currently using Brahman bulls as well as Santa Gertrudis over their heifers and Charolais as a terminal sire.

Darryl Newton said the Brahman cross animals were performing best due to their performance over winter, which enabled them to be market ready a month earlier than other crossbreds.

“If we have a dry winter the Brahman crosses are the first steers we put on the truck in spring,” he said.

“They get going quicker, walk further, forage better and hold their condition better through the winter.”

Son Robert added that the Brahman/Hereford cross dams were “very good cows”.

“They’re a fair bit tougher, they are better foragers and cross well with everything else we use,” he said.

Westering, which consists of mainly open box type country with native grasses, is purely a breeding block. The steers and heifers are weaned in March/April at eight to nine months of age and trucked to the family’s brigalow block, Big Valley, for growing out.

This year, because of a dry winter and severe frosts, the cattle were finished on grain for an average of 70 days.

“It can be hard to finish on grass during July, August and September so if grain prices are cheap we’ll put three decks into a fifteen acre paddock and finish them off on grain,” Darryl Newton said.

They were fed a mix of sorghum, feedlot concentrate, cottonseed meal and bentonite, the blend hammer milled and fed out in grain bins in the paddock.

Robert Newton said grain finishing was pretty quickly, at less than two years old, at least less than a tonne and averaged $1150,” he said.

“Because we stack them in there it also frees up our other paddocks, which is another advantage.”

Darryl Newton said their best EU steers this year had been grain fed for 60 days, dressed out at 290-320kg at 20 months of age, and peaked at $1250. He said the steers usually had a dressing percentage of 52-55% with a fat cover of 11mm at the P8 site.

He sources Brahman bulls from the Roma Tropical Breeds Sale and the Rockhampton Brahman Week Sale, with an average spend of $4500.

“Breadth, length and a good backside” were the most important characteristics when selecting bulls for their herd, he said.

The family has been very happy with the performance of Brahman sires from Keith and Annabelle Wilson’s Samari Plains stud at Roma.

“One bull of theirs I’ve been using for the past seven years and have got 60 to 70 calves a year by him,” Darryl Newton said.

Through regular pregnancy testing and strict culling for fertility, the herd is achieving a high calving rate of 93%.

Rodger was presented with Life Membership at Beef Australia in May 2012, along with Brett Coombe, Brett Kirk and John Atkinson. John will be profiled in the June issue of Brahman News.
Summer heat, dry conditions and a shortage of feed affected the clearance rate at the Laidley and District Brahman Breeders’ 15th Annual Invitation Female Sale on Saturday, January 19.

Sale secretary Tony Zischke said the Laidley Saleyards event attracted 34 registered bidders, with 35 of the 50 lots selling to record a 70 percent clearance.

The top price of $1500 was achieved on five occasions. The first to sell for that rate was Milldale Paris, a July 2006-drop daughter of Yenda Wentworth, in calf to Milldale Hamish. The grey cow was offered by George and Margaret Miller, Milldale, Mt Whitestone.

Rod and Lyn Sperling, Rodlyn, Bell received $1500 each for their polled red heifers Rodlyn Miss 37/11, by Lancefield D Zest, and Rodlyn Miss 57/11, by Muan A Jake.

Also going for $1500 were two grey heifers from Kath and Ken Burton’s Petrie Park stud, Inglewood. They were Petrie Park Kamita Manso, a two-year-old daughter of Mr WT Karu Boy 20/1 (imp), and Petrie Park Alya De Manso, a two-year-old heifer by homebred sire Petrie Park Julio De Manso. Both had been running with Petrie Park J Rex Manso.

The Lockyer Valley sale attracted new and repeat buyers. The Hunter family, Hunterway Brahman stud, Nanango took home four head at $1250 average.

New buyer EH and S Systems, Hazeldean, invested in three head at $1250 avg and paid $500 for a 10 straw semen package from Palmvale Nightrider, offered by Lynn Walther, Roseborough L stud, Lowood.

Paul Scheiwe, Lockyer Charolais stud, took home four females at $1000 each, and repeat buyer Steven Clark, Flagstone Creek, was the successful bidder on two of the top priced heifers.

Linda Orr, Two Sevens stud, Bell was the lucky winner of the red heifer Erderei Candle Lite at the Laidley and District Brahman Breeders’ 15th Annual Invitation Female Sale. Linda is pictured with Reiner Vresk, Erderei stud, Yuleba, who donated the heifer, and sale committee president Wayne Pitkin. Proceeds from the raffle tickets were donated to the Royal Flying Doctors’ Service.

Linda Orr, Two Sevens stud, Bell was the lucky winner of the red heifer Erderei Candle Lite at the Laidley and District Brahman Breeders’ 15th Annual Invitation Female Sale. Linda is pictured with Reiner Vresk, Erderei stud, Yuleba, who donated the heifer, and sale committee president Wayne Pitkin. Proceeds from the raffle tickets were donated to the Royal Flying Doctors’ Service.

Laidley and District Brahman Breeders’ Invitation Female Sale committee president Wayne Pitkin (centre) is pictured with vendors (from L to R) Ken Burton, Petrie Park, Inglewood; Lyn and Rod Sperling, Rodlyn, Bell; and Kath Burton, Petrie Park.

Contracting, Thornton, and the third prize of six bags of Riverina stock feed was won by Viv Zahnow.

Mr Zischke said the sale committee would like to thank all bidders, buyers and sale sponsors.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parasite Type</th>
<th>Cydectin Long Acting Injection</th>
<th>Dectomax® Injection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Castle Tick</td>
<td>51 days</td>
<td>28 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barber's Pols Worm</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>Up to 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nematode Worm</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>Up to 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lungworm</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>Up to 28 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Brown Stomach Worm</td>
<td>112 days</td>
<td>Up to 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach Hair Worm</td>
<td>72 days</td>
<td>Up to 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Intestinal Worm</td>
<td>21 days</td>
<td>Up to 21 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sucking Lice</td>
<td>133 days</td>
<td>No Claim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No known impact on dung beetles*

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Many calves & lasting friendships birthed in ET vet’s illustrious career

Cattle embryo transfer (ET) pioneer Dr Daniel Jillella says it is the hospitality of Brahman breeders and other stud breeders he will miss the most when he retires from veterinary practice in the near future.

“I’ve enjoyed wonderful hospitality from the Brahman breeders, they have treated me like a close friend,” he said.

“I never stay in motels, I stay with my clients and have been part of their family, and that has meant a lot.”

Dr Jillella, who turns 74 in April, was born in south east India where his family had a small herd of Brahman cattle. When his hopes to become a doctor were dashed he decided to study “the next best thing” and became a veterinary surgeon.

His first job in 1961 was as an animal husbandry extension officer and he later worked in a vet hospital before completing a Masters degree at Madras Veterinary College. This was followed by work in a semen collection centre and lecturing at the School of Animal Reproduction in Mandapeta, Andhra Pradesh.

A pivotal moment in his career occurred in 1972 when he was awarded a scholarship to study animal reproduction, genetics and animal breeding at the University of Queensland (UQ) in Brisbane. This led to work at UQ as a tutor in the Department of Animal Production, and the opportunity to undertake doctoral studies part time under the supervision of Dr Allan Baker who had just returned from England as a Cambridge University Postdoctoral Fellow.

“Embryo transfer was just coming up, Dr Baker had just got back from Cambridge University and was looking for someone to work under him,” Dr Jillella said.

His PhD focused on finding a complete non-surgical technique to recover and transfer cattle embryos, and was the catalyst for a long career as Australia’s leading cattle ET and AI practitioner, teacher and researcher. Dr Jillella has published more than 30 research papers, addressed numerous international conferences, worked as a Professor at the University of Chapingo in Mexico, where he established an ET laboratory, and supervised many PhD and Masters students at UQ.

In the early 1980s, when Australia opened up the protocols to allow Brahman bull imports from the United States, ET provided the ideal technology to maximize these high value imported genetics.

Dr Jillella was the first vet to specialise as an ET consultant in Australia’s stud beef industry, travelling huge distances to conduct on-farm ET programs. While most of his work was centred in Queensland, his services also attracted clients from the Northern Territory, NSW and Victoria.

“Vic Deguara (Savannah Brahman stud) was the first to contact me, in 1983 or ’84, and from then on we did ET in his stud cows. Royce Sommerfeld (Brahrock) started soon after, in about 1985, and it grew from there,” Dr Jillella said.

He said ET advances over the years included more sophisticated drugs for follicle stimulation and synchronization of oestrous, and better embryo freezing techniques.

“In the early days we had a success rate of about 50 percent, now it averages about 60 percent and can get up to 70 percent at times.”

“When we first started, the freezing technique wasn’t well established and now it has been perfected. Now embryos are being frozen by ‘direct transfer’ method where you don’t need to wash the embryo when it comes out of the nitrogen tank. Instead, it can be transferred into the recipient cow just like AI, and I have trained quite a lot of stud breeders so they can do it on their own now.”

It currently costs between $300 and $500 to produce a live ET calf however the cost is falling due to better flushing rates and more pregnancies.

Dr Jillella said he had worked with many cattle breeds and in his experience Bos indicus and Bos indicus cross donors produced the most number of embryos.
Many calves & lasting friendships birthed in ET vet’s illustrious career

One career highlight was achieving 17 live calves from a single flush of one donor cow at Emmanuel and Tracey Mifsud’s Maru Brahman stud, Sarina.

“We once got 96 embryos from one flush, that was from one of Paul Fenech’s cows,” he added.

As well as consulting on-farm, in 1996 Dr Jillella established an embryo transfer centre, Embryo Transfer Services of Qld, at Lowood in the Lockyer Valley. DPI Queensland has approved the centre as an Artificial Breeding Centre and it is also accredited by AQIS to export semen and embryos. It has trained more than 50 national and international vets, animal science graduates and cattle producers on ET techniques. It has also been the home base for Dr Jillella’s D&R Brahman stud. In preparation for retirement his herd has been reduced from 20 cows to two, but Dr Jillella said he had “tanks full” of frozen embryos, which he plans to sell at a later date.

His Lowood centre is up for sale and Dr Jillella said he would love to train a young vet to take over the practice. He then plans to write a step by step guide to embryo transfer so that beef producers can carry on his work and conduct their own on-farm ET programs.

“I want to leave something behind me, I’ve accumulated so much knowledge and experience over the years and I don’t want to take it with me when I go,” he said.

Dr Jillella is also keen to spend some more time at his home in Moggill in Brisbane and enjoy the company of his wife, daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. His other two children and two grand children live in the United States.

Dr George Jacobs judges Kamphaeng Saen Thailand Beef 2012 Cattle Show

Dr George Jacobs, Mogul Brahman Stud, Maclean NSW judged the Kamphaeng Saen Beef Cattle Show at the Kasatsart University Campus, Thailand in December 2012.

The show which is organised by the Beef Cattle Association of Thailand attracted 80 Brahman entries from throughout Thailand.

Dr Jacobs said there were 30 bulls and 50 females exhibited with good numbers participating in the junior classes.

He said the cattle were of a high standard showing good Brahman characteristics and plenty of beef.

“It was pleasing to see the quality of the cattle and improvements made since I was last at this show in 2006 and it was also pleasing to see the Australian bloodlines represented in the cattle on display” Dr Jacobs said.

The Grand Champion Male award went to the Calf Champion which Dr Jacobs described as very well grown and very correct, and it created quite a bit of excitement in the crowd when he was named champion.

The Grand Champion Female award went to a beefy red heifer from the junior classes.

Dr Jacobs said it was a great honour to be invited to judge the Kamphaeng Saen Show and he thanked the President of the Beef cattle Association of Thailand Mr Soonthorn Nikomrut for his hospitality during his visit.
Acidosis and laminitis can be significant disorders of beef cattle fed high grain–low roughage diets or high grain–high acid roughages.

When highly fermentable carbohydrates (eg grains) are fed to stock the production of total rumen organic acids increases and pH decreases increasing the risk of digestive disorders (eg acidosis).

Acidosis classically occurs when stock are suddenly changed from high roughage diets (eg 100 per cent pasture) to high concentrate–low roughage diets (eg 65 per cent grain and 35 per cent roughage). Changes to the level, type and composition of the grain ration is also a common cause of acidosis. With stock that are unaccustomed to grain diets, even low levels of supplements can cause problems.

The common symptoms of acidosis include reduced chewing, erratic appetite, decline in feed intake, diarrhoea, swollen feet and hocks and lameness (laminitis).

This article outlines the primary nutritional factors that cause acidosis and laminitis and the importance of good feed management.

**ACIDOSIS**

Acidosis is a pathological condition associated with the accumulation of ruminal acids or the depletion of alkaline reserves in blood and body tissues. Ruminal acidosis develops in cattle that have digested relatively large amounts of unaccustomed feeds rich in highly soluble carbohydrates.

“Acidosis increases morbidity and markedly reduces production”

The production of large quantities of ruminal organic acids (volatile fatty acids – VFA’s) decreases rumen pH, simultaneously weakens the buffering capacity of the rumen and reduces the intake, digestion and fermentation of roughages.

Acidosis can be divided into two categories, acute and subacute depending on the metabolic insult (Table 1).

Subacute acidosis is caused by an increase in the total level of organic acids whilst acute acidosis is caused by an increase in specific organic acids (eg lactic acid) (Appendix).

Clinical signs and problems associated with subacute and acute acidosis are outlined in Table 1.

**NUTRITION AND ACIDOSIS**

Dietary and feed management factors can have a significant impact on the pattern of feed intake and the incidence of acidosis.

The critical causes of acidosis include:

- The period of introduction of high grain diets (ie grains introduced too quickly)
- When grain adjusted stock have interruptions to normal intake patterns (eg wet weather)
- When there are changes in the ingredients in the ration (eg type of grain)

**TABLE 1 – SIGNS AND AFFECTS OF ACIDOSIS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBACUTE</th>
<th>ACUTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occurrence</strong></td>
<td><strong>Occurrence</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• May involve a number of stock in a group and can have production and economic implications.</td>
<td>• Generally involves a small number of stock within a group of stock that are affected by subacute acidosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If not corrected and stock are continually challenged, stock develop secondary problems and/or acute acidosis.</td>
<td>• Production and economic implication depends on the severity and number of stock involved with limited success to treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Signs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Clinical Signs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduced feed intake, reduced appetite, diarrhoea and depression.</td>
<td>• Scouring, diarrhoea, toxemia and “downer” syndrome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increased nasal discharge and coughing.</td>
<td>• Paracute cases may result in coma and death in 8-12 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Swollen hocks and feet.</td>
<td>• Symptoms develop within 8 hrs and the onset of metabolic clinical acidosis peaks around 36 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lameness due to swollen hocks and feet.</td>
<td>• If the blood pH drops too low this can result in death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Further Problems</strong></td>
<td><strong>Further Problems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If unrecognised can cause long term secondary issues eg foot disorders, lameness and liver abscesses.</td>
<td>• Hypocalcaemia resulting from calcium malabsorption, laminitis from the release of histamines and endotoxins in the blood, rumenitis and liver abscesses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Both acute and subacute acidosis cause laminitis and lameness however, foot disorders (eg laminitic rings, extended toes and abnormal horn formation) may not be observed until 4-8 weeks after the metabolic insult. If unrecognised can cause long term secondary issues eg foot disorders, lameness and liver abscesses.
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Further possible causes of acidosis are as follows:-

- Diets high in fermentable carbohydrates
- Feeding “fast” grains or over processed grains
- Changes in the palatability, dry matter and composition of the ration
- Sudden changes in the level of feeding grains
- Insufficient and/or changes in the roughage of the diet
- Roughage too finely chopped ie insufficient long roughage
- High intakes of grain and wet acidic roughages (eg corn silage)
- Unsuitable feeding systems allowing “surge or slug” feeding
- Inadequate mixing of the ration
- Feeding mouldy and poor quality roughages that restrict intake

The amount of ruminal acidity is measured by pH readings. In high roughage diets (eg tropical pasture based systems) the pH level is relatively stable between 6.2-7.0. “Below pH 6.0 fibre intake and digestion decreases”

With high grain – low fibre diets, chewing decreases, the production of saliva buffers is reduced and organic acid production exceeds the buffering capacity of the rumen.

The critical pH value for subacute acidosis is 5.0-5.5 and 5.0 and less for acute acidosis. With acute acidosis, ruminal pH plummets due to excess production of lactic acid ie more lactic acid is produced than can be metabolised by the liver (Diagram 1 and Appendix).

“Lactic acid is 10 times stronger than other rumen acids”

The accumulation of acid causes an influx of water from the tissues of the gut causing the common symptoms of acidosis, scouring and diarrhoea.

Continued “metabolic insult” increases acid build up causing ulcers in the rumen which results in the infiltration of bacteria into the blood that cause liver abscesses. Acid damage to the ruminal epithelium allows the passage of endotoxins, histamines and probably other compounds which disrupt normal blood circulation and the process of cornification leading to inflammation of the laminal wall and foot disorders (Diagram 2).

“Vascular destruction in the hoof results in laminitis”

**LAMINITIS AND LAMENESS**

Laminitis, caused by acidosis, is an important predisposing factor to feet disorders and severe lameness.

Although some diseases (eg mastitis, metritis, foot rot) cause the production and endotoxins and histamines, nutritional mismanagement resulting in metabolic and digestive disorders is the primary cause of laminitis (Diagram 2).

“Laminitis is the aseptic inflammation of the dermal layers inside the hoof”

Laminitis can be defined as acute and subacute depending on the severity and duration of the condition.
Nutrition - Acidosis and Laminitis

Depending on the severity of acidosis, the endotoxins and histamines released increase vascular constriction and dilation which increases blood pressure causing seepage through vessel walls and mechanical damage. These processes ultimately cause corium damage and breakdown of the laminae.

As the laminae layers are broken down, configuration of the pedal bone relative to the corium and dorsal wall changes causing compression of the soft tissue between the bone and sole. This results in haemorrhage, thrombosis and eventually a necrotic area in the solar region of the foot.

Signs of acute laminitis include haemorrhages, discolouration of the hoof and softening of the horn texture. Claw lesions are associated with the production of inferior quality hoof horn thus changing the conformation of the foot (eg sole flattening and hoof overgrowth).

With subacute laminitis, the process can be long and slow and the damage is not immediately observable. Nevertheless, because the horn is damaged this eventually leads to feet disorders.

Other factors which aggravate lameness include unfavourable climatic environments and ground surfaces that cause mechanical damage. Excess body weight and poor leg and feet structures increase trauma stress levels and accentuate mechanical and vascular damage caused by laminitis.

“Foot trimming and lameness can indicate feeding and/or structural problems”

NUTRITION AND LAMINITIS

Non structural carbohydrates (NSC) are highly fermentable and feed high in starch and sugars should not exceed 40 per cent of the diet if high quality long roughage is not available to stock.

Consideration also needs to be given to the physical form of the feedstuff, the composition of the ration and the rate of feeding (Table 3).

As with acidosis, the incidence of laminitis is reduced by good feed management. By trying to maximise growth rates, weight gains and body condition some producers walk a fine line between appearance and sick and lame stock.

“Feed management has a significant impact on laminitis”

| TABLE 3: FORAGE AND CONCENTRATE FACTORS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incidence of Acidosis/Laminitis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forage Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer →</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage Particle Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Digestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Forages and High NSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrate Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starch Digestibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Fibre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffer / Bentonite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sudden changes in the ration and “slug” feeding of highly fermentable carbohydrates are the primary cause of reduced fibre intake and digestion, decreased rumen buffering, increased levels of ruminal acids and decreased rumen pH.

The level and type of fibres has a significant effect on saliva production and rumen pH. Fibre stimulates chewing which increases saliva production. Buffers in the saliva neutralise organic acids produced by the fermentation of carbohydrates (roughages and concentrates).

“Grains have a faster rate of fermentation than roughages”

Highly processed “fast” grains are more difficult to feed than low processed “slow” grains (Table 4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 4: DIGESTION RATE OF DIFFERENT GRAIN SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast Grains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dry rolled wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Steam flaked maize / sorghum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Finely ground barley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dry rolled maize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cracked barley/oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dry rolled sorghum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Whole oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow Grains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Acidosis occurs when rumen acids produced exceed the ability of liver to metabolise surplus amounts of acid. Feed management is the key to reducing the incidence and severity of acidosis/laminitis. Some preventative measures are as follows:-

• Knowledge and evaluation of the rations ingredients and composition.
• Use feeding systems that allow the correct delivery and safe intake of concentrates.
• Avoid “slug” or “surge” feeding (ie 2 allocations of 2-3kg of concentrates).
• Select “slow” grains in preference to “fast” grains (eg oats v’s wheat).
• Avoid highly processed grains (eg flaked maize).
• With “fast” grains incorporate an additional source of fibre in the ration (eg oaten chaff).
• Use a combination of grain sources. Blended “slow” grains with “fast” grains reduces feeding disorders.
• Use a “step-up” program when introducing stock to changes in the diet (ie 10% increments of grain over a period of 10 days).
• Adapt stock to high levels of concentrates starting with low levels (10-15 per cent) and gradually increase to 30-35 per cent of the diet using increments of 10 per cent.
• Use high quality long roughage to reduce the need for high intakes of fermentable carbohydrates.
• Ensure that the ration is properly processed and mixed.
• The inclusion of bulking agents (eg bran) are lower in starch and can replace 20 per cent of the grain component in the ration. (Note: high levels of bran and pollard can cause digestive disorders).
• Various additives (eg mineral buffers) can reduce the severity of acidosis and assist stock to adjust to grain diets.
Nutrition - Acidosis and Laminitis

• Feed consistent grain mixtures and avoid rapid changes in the type and level of ingredients.
• Avoid feeds that are contaminated and spoilt (eg mouldy).
• With changes in grain type, restart introductory-adaptation programs.

BOTTOM LINE
Feed management affects rumen health which influences foot health and laminitis. Ration formulation requires a balance of feeds that optimise fermentation and saliva secretion to minimise the possibility of excess acid production.

The ration ingredients should comprise of slower fermentable carbohydrates combined with suitable levels of high quality roughages to maximise fibre and dry matter intake.

It is essential that stock are introduced to different diets and feedstuffs gradually and the number of changes and interruptions to feeding programs are minimised.

Successful feeding of high grain – low roughage diets involves sound feed management and the use of feeding systems that prevent surges in the consumption of highly fermentable carbohydrates.


APPENDIX

DIAGRAM 1(A): RUMINAL PH AND ACID CHANGES (ACUTE ACIDOSIS)

Note: A pH level below 5.0 in acute acidosis. With the build up of lactic acid and the progression of acidosis the overall level of organic acid increase due to higher levels of lactic acid. Increases in lactic acid dramatically reduces rumen pH and increases the severity of acidosis.

DIAGRAM 1(B): RUMINAL PH AND ACID CHANGES (SUBACUTE ACIDOSIS)

Note: A pH of 5.0-5.5 is regarded as subacute acidosis. The reason for the drop in rumen pH is the accumulation of organic acids caused by over-production and decreased absorption. Subacute acidosis can develop into acute acidosis with continued feeding of fermentable carbohydrates (ie metabolic insult).

Photos taken at Kenrol Brahman Stud, Gracemere QLD
BRAHMAN COMMERCIAL BREEDING
FEMALE SHOW & SALE
Tuesday, 9th April 2013
CQLX GRACEMERE

CLASSES
1. PTIC Heifers under 3 years of age - Vet Certificate essential
2. PTIC cows under 10 years of age - Vet Certificate 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)
6. Calf recorded/registered Heifers up to 20 months. *not eligible for Championships

PRIZES $1000 PER CLASS
1st : $500 + trophy • 2nd : $300 + trophy • 3rd : $200 + trophy
Champion Pen $500 + trophy • Reserve Champion Pen $300 + trophy

FOR ENQUIRIES, ENTRY CONDITIONS AND ENTRY FORMS CONTACT YOUR PREFERRED GRACEMERE SELLING AGENT OR ABBA 07 4927 7799

Elders - 4927 6122
Landmark - 4927 6188
RF Duncan & Co - 4922 3837
Brian Dawson Auctions - 0417 667 668
Fanning Rural Agencies - 4927 0558
Savage, Barker & Backhouse - 4927 1677

ENTRY CONDITIONS
1. Pure bred Brahman of good quality.
2. Straight colour (reds and greys).
3. Entry fee $55 (inclusive GST) per pen.
4. 1% of gross to ABBA exclusive of GST.
5. All entries in the show and the sale in half deck lots. Weaners, yearlings, PTIC heifers, PTIC cows 8, cows and calves are divided.
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 1.00pm Monday, April 8 and penned for judging by 2.00pm. All classes to be sold open auction.
10. The committee reserves the right to exclude entries not considered to be of a satisfactory standard or consistent with the entry conditions from competition. Any entries so excluded shall be sold at the completion of the sale.
11. Classes 1 & 2 may be in calf to bulls of other breeds.
12. Calf 3 calves must be by Brahman bulls.
13. Class 6 entries must be calf recorded at the time of nomination and may be registered and transferred at the expense of the vendor within 28 days of the sale. *not eligible for Championships.
Results at better end of expectations

Vendors and selling agents at the Big Country Brahman Sale at Charters Towers in early February knew they were in for a hard sale as beef industry conditions in the north and north west of the state leading up to sale day were the worst encountered for many years.

“A combination of extreme dry conditions across much of the north’s grazing country, poor cattle market prices and demand, negative flow-on effects from the diminishment of the live cattle export trade and the negative effects of poor publicity on the Brahman breed as a result of the BJD incident all impacted buyer response this year,” sale co-agent Ken McCaffrey of McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing, Rockhampton said.

“It was notable that buyer numbers were well down from the northern goldfields areas and from Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Richmond and Hughenden districts. “On the other hand the sale’s marketing programme, and strong offering of high quality bulls, did attract buyers from as far away as New South Wales, Northern Territory and the Darling Downs,” he added.

Over the two days of selling 211 red and grey bulls were cleared at an average of $3,700, 15 stud heifers averaged $3,335 and 12 semen packages averaged $1,835 for 5 straw lots. The bull clearance was 85%, while heifers and semen lots achieved an 80% clearance. Selling agents’ expectations of a hard sale were tempered by overall sale results that were at the better end of their expectations.

“We have to acknowledge those buyers who, although under pressure from seasonal and cattle market issues, took the opportunity to invest in these quality bulls,” Jim Geaney of Geaney’s said, “our marketing work on behalf of our vendors resulted in the best possible outcome for our vendors in these current industry circumstances. Our efforts on buyer contact were evident in the fact that the sale recorded its best ever response from volume buyers, with our six leading bidders accounting for 96 bulls from the offering. Another four buyers took 26 bulls, so it was those cattle producers who underwrote the clearance of the sale to some reasonable level.”

$15,000 TOP RED GOES TO ROMA

The well bred, young, poll, red sire Wattaview Galaxy sold for $15,000 to top the red bull section of the sale. This smooth bodied, excellent red coloured bull was sold by the Russo family, Wattaview Stud, Mourilyan to Keith and Annabelle Wilson, Samari Brahman Stud, Roma. The Wilsons also shopped well earlier in the sale outlaying $4,000 for a high quality sire prospect from the Somerview draft of Brian and Glenda Kirkwood.

First time sale vendors Noel and Dallas Daley, Caiwarra Stud, Julia Creek achieved a $13,000 result for the first bull of their large sale team. Caiwarra Monto, a poll by KP Monty of excellent beef and breed quality,
was purchased by Brett and Susan Kirk, Hazelton Pastoral Company, Middlemount. David and Julie McCamley also purchased an eye catching, poll red sire out of the Caiwarra draft paying $10,000 for Caiwarra Galroy, a 21 month old bull with a double cross of Tartrus Redmount in his pedigree.

Gavin Scott, Rosetta Pastoral Company, Collinsville took home an outstanding poll bull, Rathlyn Charles for $9,500. At 28 months of age this long bodied, strong boned sire scaled 902kg and scanned an EMA of 134 sqcm. Murray and Gillian Webster, TMG Brahmans, Katherine, N.T. invested in 4 good quality red sires at the sale. Their top purchase at $7,000 was Somerview Salvador, a long bodied son of The Rivers Robinson. The Websters also paid $6,000 for a solid 2 year old poll bull from Caiwarra’s team.

Brian and Cindy Hughes of Lanes Creek Stud, Georgetown presented the sale’s largest offering. Their top red section sale at $5,500 was Lanes Creek Waratah, a well made young son of Wandilla Zulu out of one of the stud’s leading cowlines. This well muscled, strong carcase quality bull sold to PJ & S Webber of Giru.

Jim Atkinson, Atkinson Developments Pty Ltd, 12 Mile Station, Greenvale put together a very impressive line of 10 bulls from the sale’s red section averaging $3,350. His top purchase at $4,500 was the 27 month old poll, Somerview Kelly. Raymond Matthews, Ouchy Alva Pastoral, Julia Creek also secured 10 red bulls paying up to $4,000 on three occasions for bulls from the Somerview, Hamdenvale and Whitaker drafts.

Poll Price Heads Grey Bulls

An attractive 2 year old poll sire prospect, backed by a combination of Elrose Stud’s top grey poll breeding, recorded the $22,000 top price of the grey section of the sale. Elrose Fair Play, a son of Elrose Trademark and out of a cow by the poll sire Lancefield Moreton, took the eye of Bill and Lawson Camm, Cambil Stud, Proserpine who bid strongly to secure him. The bull’s excellent bone, strength of topline, softness of finish and real sire appeal instilled confidence in vendors Rodger and Lorena Jefferis of Elrose Stud to proclaim Fair Play as the best poll bull they had offered for sale.

100 lots later in the sale, Manuel and Tracey Mifsud of Maru Brahmans, Sarina produced the $18,000 second top price bull of the sale, Maru Finn Manso. A rising 2 year old of 790kg sired by JDH Mr Echo Manso, this fellow is very correct, long and shows excellent sire style. He was purchased by Andrew and Anna McCamley, 2AM Pastoral Company, Capella relaying bids to the sale ring through Elders Stud Stock Officer, Robert Murray. A sustained bidding duel saw John and Dianne Brownson of Burdekin Brahmans, Charters Towers pay $12,500 for Savannah Durack, a 26 month old, stylish bull of great natural beef type. Durack was a member of the draft of first time sale vendor Vic Deguara of Savannah Brahmans, Eton.

Fellow first time Big Country Sale vendors Clint and Robyn Whitaker, Whitaker Brahmans, Mundubbera were also amongst the higher prices with their team of grey bulls. Three lots from the end of the sale, their 21 month old poll son of Eureka Creek Marksman, Whitaker Mr 415 made $9,000 selling to Barry and Tammy Hughes, Tambar Brahmans, Forsayth. Then the last lot of the sale, Whitaker 481, a rising 2 year old, quality herd bull sold for $7,500 to Michael Clark, Ibis Creek Pastoral Co., Mt Coolon. The 878kg, 28 month old Whitaker Mr 383, that had scanned an eye muscle area of 138 sqcm, made $7,500 selling to the Faint

Results at better end of expectations

Buyer Matthew Neilsen, Erneston Brahmans, Woodstock and Vendor Manuel Mifsud, Maru Brahmans, Sarina admire the $6,500 Top Price Heifer, Maru Kacie Manso

Buyer Brett Kirk of Hazelton Pastoral Company, Middlemount and vendor Noel Daley, Caiwarra Brahmans, Julia Creek with Caiwarra Monto, the $13,000 second top price red bull of the Big Country Brahman Sale

Buyer Matthew Neilsen, Erneston Brahmans, Woodstock and Vendor Manuel Mifsud, Maru Brahmans, Sarina admire the $6,500 Top Price Heifer, Maru Kacie Manso
family, Karmoo Pastoral Co., Clermont. He is a beautiful strong bodied bull of excellent head and sire appeal.

Top selling grey in the Lanes Creek draft at $8,500 was the potential packed, rising 2 year old son of JDH Prophet Manso, Lanes Creek Prominent Manso. Backed by excellent Group Breedplan EBV’s for weight and carcase performance, this youngster is bred out of a highly successful cowline. Brian and Cindy Hughes of Lanes Creek were delighted to see the bull go to the high quality Clukan Stud herd of Steve and Theresa Taylor, Jambin. Earlier in the sale Lanes Creek also sold a son of JDH Sir Ermis Manso out of the same family line for $7,500 to Hillrise Pastoral Company, Proserpine, and a smart young sire of great beef and breed credentials to Appleton Pastoral Co., Bulliwallah, Charters Towers for $6,500.

David and Julie McCamley, Lancefield Brahmans, Palmalmal, Dingo presented a superb line of 6 well bred grey bulls and they were in keen demand by noted cattle producers. 2AM Pastoral Co., Capella purchased their top seller at $8,500, Lancefield D Pattenson, one of four full brothers in the sale by JDH Sir Paul Manso. Another of these brothers, Lancefield D Prospector, was a $7,000 valuable buy for leading Proserpine district cattle producers Bill and Clive Davies of Rangemore Pastoral Company. Rangemore also paid the same price for Elrose Mocassin, a son of JDH Modelo Manso showing extra length and strong muscling. The Appleton family of Bulliwallah purchased two Lancefield bulls including, at $5,000, the excellent poll sire Lancefield D Amla.

Opening the sale up on the grey day was the draft from Charles McKinlay’s Chasmac Stud and Carl Morawitz’s Stewart Park Stud. This attractive line averaged $5,500 and sold to a top of $8,000 for Chasmac Park James Manso, a rising 2 year old of 788kg and 132 sqcm EMA. This well grown, natural high beef performance bull sold to Don and Lincoln Condon, Conjuboy Pastoral Co., Greenvale, one of a tremendous line of 10 grey sires they selected at the sale.

Calvin and Genevieve Kelly, Bulloak Stud, Bowen recorded a $6,500 sale for Bulloak Romeo, a young poll bull of excellent temperament, that is bound for the paddocks of Barry and Tammy Hughes’ Tambar Brahmans, Forsayth, while the Deguara family, Pindi Brahman, Calen also paid $6,500 for Akama Ciscoe, another super quiet son of Lancefield Burton Manso.

Although burdened with very dry conditions on their north west Queensland cattle property holdings, Laurie and Marilyn Blacklock showed their support for the sale offering by putting together a line of 7 bulls at the event. Their top purchase at $5,500 was Whitaker Mr 381, a 788kg son of the A.B.B.A. Sire Of The Year, Eureka Creek Marksmen.

Burdekin Karlton, a 22 month old, white grey sire of obvious breed quality and natural beef performance credentials made $5,500 selling to Gavin Scott, Rosetta Pastoral Co., Collinsville. This son of PBF Heinekin Manso, offered by the Brownson family’s Burdekin Stud was certainly one of the buys of the sale.

Results at better end of expectations
SOUTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH OF ABBA

Gympie

BRAHMAN FEMALE SALE

The Sale Not To Miss!

9.30AM SATURDAY 1ST JUNE 2013
GYMPIE SALEYARDS

★ PRE SALE INSPECTION ★
FRIDAY 3.30PM - 5PM
COMPLIMENTARY DRINKS & SAVORIES 5 - 6PM

★ ALL CATTLE ARE PRE-TREATED FOR TICK CLEARANCE ★

Web catalogue available mid April at www.brahman.com.au
Volume buyers at the sale shopped well, recognising the excellent value for money on offer. Prominent among them were Appleton Pastoral Co. (35 bulls), Troy Smith (17 bulls), Turley Cattle Co (12 bulls), Ouchy Alva Pastoral (12 bulls), Conjuboy Pastoral Co. (10 bulls), Atkinson Developments P/L (10 bulls), etc.

**PROPHET DAUGHTER TOPS HEIFERS**

A 17 month old grey heifer by JDH Prophet Manso offered by Maru Brahmans, Sarina topped the female section of the Big Country Sale at $6,500. Maru Kacie Manso is one of three full sisters that the stud sold at the sale. Young northern Studmaster Matthew Neilsen, Erneston Brahmans, Woodstock was the successful purchaser of the top heifer. $5,000 was needed by the Fenlon family, Spring Hill Stud, Rockhampton to purchase the Full Hudgins bloodline heifer, Pola Bear Darlene. This young daughter of JDH Duke De Manso enjoyed a successful show career in 2012 including a ribbon at Beef 2012. Damien and Leah Sturdy, Akama Brahmans, Gargett sold two daughters of Lancefield Burton Manso to Charters Towers Studmasters. Burdekin Brahmans purchased Akama Popcorn for $4,500 while Ian Berryman of Winddancer Brahmans took home Akama Sweet Sugar for $4,000.

$4,000 was also paid by Sue Hammer, Annavale Brahman Stud, Charters Towers for the polled heifer F+T Nell Manso, a daughter of the polled sire Lanes Creek Sydchrome.

Two 5 straw packages of poll semen from the imported bull LV Marble Head 69 sold for $4,500 ($900/straw) each, to top the genetics offering of the sale. This 2013 exclusive release was in high demand from studmasters looking to diversify their poll genetics. A package sold to Savannah Brahmans of Eton and another went to Bill and Kay Geddes of Milman. The Geddes’ had earlier outlaid $2,500 each for two 5 straw packages of JDH Boone De Manso, a full brother to the celebrated USA sire JDH Sir Lawford Manso.

Last year’s $60,000 high selling bull for the Brahman breed in Australia, FBC Megatron Manso had two packages of semen sell for $2,000 each ($400/straw). KR & DM Bush Family Trust, Kennedy and Seven Mile Brahmans of Septimus were the buyers.

Agents: Geaney’s and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing.

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**SALE RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Top</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Red Brahman Bulls</td>
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<td>$3,750</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>Grey Brahman Bulls</td>
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<td>$3,675</td>
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<td>TOTAL BULLS</td>
<td>781,000</td>
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<td>6,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Stud Heifers</td>
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<td>3,335</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Semen Lots</td>
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<td>1,835</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>TOTAL HEIFERS &amp; SEMEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>238</td>
<td>TOTAL SALE</td>
<td>$853,000</td>
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</table>

CLEARANCE – BULLS 85%
17TH WORLD BRAHMAN CONGRESS 2014
SOUTHERN AFRICA

DATES:
Congress: 6 - 11 April 2014
Pre Congress Tours: 30 March - 5 April 2014
Post Congress Tours: 11 - 17 April 2014

LOCATION:
Parry, Free State Province,
South Africa

CONTACT AND REGISTRATION:
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www.brahman.co.za
+27 66 212 7047 +27 82 447 7718
Online registration 1 March 2013 on www.brahman.co.za.

BRAHMAN IN AFRICA

SOUTHERN AFRICA
HOME OF THE BIG FIVE
Variation in Age & Weight of Puberty in Tropical Cattle

A major research project within the Cooperative Research Centre for Beef Genetic Technologies (Beef CRC) has provided a very useful insight into the variation that exists in the age and weight at which tropical cattle reach puberty in Northern Australia. Previous to the Beef CRC, very little research had been done in this area, with one of the primary objectives of the Beef CRC project to investigate what effect genetics had on the age of puberty and consequently what opportunities may exist to improve fertility rates in Northern Australia through genetic improvement.

PROJECT DESIGN
A total of 2115 heifers were involved in the project (1007 Brahman and 1108 Tropical Composites). The heifers were born in Northern Australia on 7 co-operator properties (4 Brahman and 3 Tropical Composite (TC)) and at “Belmont Research Station” which breed both Brahman and TC. Genetic linkage, across properties of origin and year within genotypes was generated by the use of AI. The heifers were generated over 4 and 3 years for Brahman and TC respectively. The heifers were allocated according to genotype, property of origin and sire to one of the following four properties “Toorak” Julia Creek”, “Belmont” Rockhampton, “Swans Lagoon” Ayr and “Brian Pastures” Gayndah at weaning. Belmont and Toorak ran both Brahman and Tropical Composites while Brian Pastures only had Tropical Composites and Swans Lagoon with the harsher environment only had Brahmans. At each location all heifers from the same year of birth were managed as a single cohort (group).

The heifers were ovarian scanned by the use of real time ultrasound by an experienced scanner to determine when the first Corpus Luteum (CL) was observed on an ovary. When a heifer had recorded a CL she was deemed to be pubertal. The heifers were scanned every 4-6 weeks after they had reached 200 kg or at the first scanning opportunity if they were over 200 kg at their entry into the project. At each ovarian scan the heifers were weighed, P8 fat measurement was recorded and a condition score was given. All heifers were kept in the project until they had a recorded CL, which in some cases was after 2 mating opportunities.

RESULTS
Analysis of the Beef CRC results across all four properties shows that there was a large range in both the weight and age at which the heifers reach puberty in both Brahman and TC. There was a difference of 29 months from when the youngest heifer till the oldest heifer reached puberty whereas a difference of 289 kg was recorded between the lightest and heaviest animals when the first CL was recorded as shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at first CL (Months)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11 - 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight at first CL (kg)</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>196 - 485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When looking at the distribution in age at when the heifers reached puberty, the effect the environment and production system has on when the heifers cycle was can be observed. Figure 1 shows there is a small number of Brahman heifers reaching puberty in the first wet season after weaning, followed by only low numbers until the next wet season when the majority of heifers reached puberty at two years of age and are going into mating. The last heifers that did not reach puberty until the next wet season at nearly 3 years of age. The TC heifers had a similar pattern to the Brahman heifers except there were more heifers reaching puberty in the first wet season and only a few animals had not reached puberty at the end of the second wet season.
LOCATION DIFFERENCE
The location of the property on which the heifers were run had a large effect on the puberty traits in both breeds. In TC, the heifers at Toorak and Brian Pastures had a similar age and weight of first CL, whereas the heifers at Belmont were significantly older and heavier. In Brahman, the heifers at Belmont and Toorak were significantly younger than those at Swans Lagoon at the age of puberty, even though the heifers at Swans were significantly lighter when they reached puberty. At Belmont, where the Brahmans and TC were run in the same cohort there were no differences in age or weight at puberty between the breeds.

BIRTH-MONTH DIFFERENCES
Birth month had a significant effect on the puberty traits. As the heifer’s birth month became later in the calving season (i.e. from August to April) there was a trend for age at first CL to increase. On average, early born heifers (i.e. August to September) reached puberty by approx. 20 months of age, coinciding with the end of their first postweaning wet season (i.e. May). For late-born heifers (i.e. February to March), the average age at puberty was delayed until the following May, at approx. 26 months of age, suggesting that heifers that did not achieve puberty before the start of their second postweaning dry season were significantly delayed in reaching puberty. This can have a dramatic impact on the number of heifers that have reached puberty going into mating.

GENETIC EFFECTS
One of the key outcomes of the Beef CRC research was that both age at first CL and weight at first CL were shown to be under significant genetic control in both Brahman and TC. Heritability estimates for age at first CL were 0.57 for Brahman and 0.52 for TC while the heritability estimates for weight at first CL were 0.56 for Brahman and 0.46 for TC. Further analysis revealed that there was a difference due to genetics of 5.6 months in age of puberty between the top and bottom Brahman sire included in the research trial. Although not as high, there was a 3.1 month difference in age of puberty between the top and bottom sire in the TC.

CONCLUSIONS
There is a large variation in the both the age and weight that heifers reach puberty in tropical cattle, with both genetic and environmental influences having an effect. Age of puberty can be significantly delayed in late born calves and also in environments that limit growth rates particularly during the dry season. Therefore, management can be used to reduce the age of puberty by controlling month of birth, duration of mating period and supplementary feeding pre-pubertal heifers prior to mating. However, significant improvement can also be made by including selection for improved reproduction into a breeding program. This can be best achieved by recording female reproductive performance information with BREEDPLAN for the calculation of Days to Calving EBVs (particularly reproductive information for maiden heifers), and careful consideration of Days to Calving EBVs when selecting both sires and dams for use within a breeding program.

Further information is available from Paul Williams at TBTS in Rockhampton on (07) 4927 6066 or paul@tbts.une.edu.au.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2: MEAN OF HEIFER PUBERTY TRAITS BY LOCATION AND BREED</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tropical Composite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at first CL (days)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Brahman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at first CL (days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight at first CL (kg)</td>
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‘We are frontier people,’ Asa Townsend told reporters at Sydney airport on 25 July 1956.

Asa and his son Ray had just flown to Australia from Florida ‘to find a ranch here. The States, with its 160 million people, is getting mighty crowded. Why, here in Australia, you have still got some space to move around. The outback parts of Australia are like the American frontier of 100 years ago. We hope to find a place out there, where there is lots of land and lots of opportunity’ Asa said.

For more than two centuries, ever since Asa’s forebears had migrated from England to colonial America, the Townsends had moved southwards to always be at the newest edges of settlement. In 1911 the family settled near LaBelle, in south central Florida.

By the 1950s the Townsends thought that they were getting crowded out of Florida. They had always been ranchers but now their country was too valuable for cattle. They had switched to vegetable farming but their hearts were not in it. They loved working with cows but not with cucumbers.

Asa and his wife had five adult children that they wanted to settle on the land. Asa also felt a responsibility for a large extended family, but he knew that if he was going to find land for them all it would have to be on some new frontier. He thought first of Argentina but ruled out that country because of its political instability. He then thought about Australia.

So, in 1956 Asa and Ray, his eldest son, flew into Sydney to begin a search for a ranch in the land Down Under. They wanted wet and swampy country, like the Everglades. They didn’t find what they wanted in Queensland but a Brisbane agent suggested to the two men that they should have a look at the Northern Territory.

Asa and Ray didn’t want to drive on what to them was the wrong side of the road, so they walked across the street to a taxi rank. There they negotiated with one taxi driver to take them to the Territory. They set out and the trip went well until they got to Camooweal, where the taxi driver bailed up.

‘There’s wild blackfellows out there’ he said, as he looked west across the plains toward the Territory. ‘This is as far as I go. I’m not going to cop a spear.’ Eventually, a new deal was negotiated and the men proceeded.

It’s now part of the Territory legend that the taxi took Asa and Ray as far as Dunmarra, in the middle of the Territory. There, they shared a warm beer with publican Noel Healy. ‘You’re wasting your time. You won’t find country like that up here’ Healy told them.

A quick glance toward the nondescript lancewood scrub surrounding Dunmarra convinced the Townsends that Healy would be right. Regretfully, they gave up the search for an Australian ranch. However, they did fly home with a lot of books and magazines about the outback. It was ‘cowboy heaven,’ Ray Townsend thought.
In 1961 the family decided to try again, after hearing a visiting expert speak about the possibilities of Australia’s north. Asa sent two of his sons, Ray and Bob, to have another look at Queensland.

Again the search was fruitless but, just as they were about to give up, the brothers heard of a station called Stapleton, near Adelaide River. It was a huge area that sprawled across the Top End, from Adelaide River township to the sea at the Daly River mouth. It was for sale for very little money.

Ray and Bob flew to Darwin and went straight to the office of the agents, Dalgetys. There they heard a woman ‘turning the air blue.’ The woman was Stapleton’s owner, the defiant pioneer Winnie Bright. ‘She was complaining about how she couldn’t get ringers to work for her.’ Bob Townsend remembered. ‘I can’t carry on, I have been trying to sell the place but nobody wants to buy it’ Winnie said (expletives deleted!)

Bob said ‘We’ll come out and work for you, we’ll have a look around and if we like it we’ll buy it.’ The two men spent a fortnight or so in Winnie’s stock camp. They quickly decided Stapleton was right for them.

‘I was in love with it’ Bob recalled. ‘It had a huge amount of wet country that we knew from our Florida experience could be very productive. But it also had a balance of high and dry country that made it better than Florida. And I saw young fat cattle there, at the end of the Dry season. Florida country wouldn’t produce cattle like that’ Bob said.

The brothers agreed to buy Stapleton on behalf of the family. The price was just 16,000 pounds for about 900 square miles. ‘It was a fair price, the station had been on the market for a long while because nobody else wanted it. And things weren’t good in the Australian cattle industry at that time’ Bob said. By October 1961, the deal was
done and Stapleton belonged to the Townsend family.

Before long, the whole family had sold what they owned in America and moved to the Territory. For them, there was no going back. They forsook the comfort and security of Florida to live, at first, in tents and tin sheds at Wangi. Undaunted, they got stuck into developing their new station, building yards, putting up fences, making roads and bringing the thousands of feral cattle under control.

Local people watched cynically and laid bets about how long it would take the Townsends to go broke. ‘That country is not worth spending money on’ said the old timers.

The Townsends proved them wrong, in spades. In 1962 they brought in the first Brahman to be used in a Territory commercial herd. It was the beginning of a transformation of the northern cattle industry.

Dr Goff Letts was District Veterinary Officer, Northern Region. ‘Since 1959 I had been experimenting with a Brahman bull at our Beatrice Hills research farm’ Goff recalled in 2011. ‘The bull got beautiful calves and it was obvious to me that Brahmans were the way to go up here. But local cattle people wouldn’t have a bar of them, there was a lot of prejudice against the Brahmans. ’

‘So, I was delighted when the Townsends brought their first Brahman bulls over from Queensland in 1962. Those Brahmans proved what the breed could do and, before long, other people were following the Townsend’s lead.’

‘It was a logical move for us’ Bob Townsend said. ‘We had used Brahmans in Florida and we knew how they would boost productivity. The first lot of bulls we got in 1962 went very well, when their first calves hit the ground they just grew, much quicker than Shorthorns. So then we got some Brahman cross heifers’

Stockman Micky Markham helped walk the heifers out to the station from the Adelaide River railway yards. ‘It was a four day walk’ Micky said. ‘With Shorthorns, we were used to having to push them along but with these Brahmans we had to get in front to steady them down, they walked along so well. We could see that the country suited them.’

The Brahmans were probably the Townsend’s most far-reaching innovation, but there were many others. They showed how air boats could be used on the swampy country; they used stainless steel barbed wire to fence their wet country because it would not rust away in a year or two; a little later they were using aircraft and vehicles to muster into portable yards. Most revolutionary of all, they brought the scrubber cattle under control and began systematically managing their country.

Before very long, the Townsends were making money. They had arrived in their Cowboy Heaven.

The Townsends had shown how ‘rubbish country’ could be made productive and valuable. It wasn’t long before the people...
Frontier People come to Cowboy Heaven

who predicted failure were buying country north of Katherine so they could do what the Townsends had done. Stapleton eventually became LaBelle, Welltree and Wangi stations, as well as Litchfield Park.

It's now fifty years since the Townsends arrived on their newest frontier. The Territory, the whole of north Australia, is a very different place now. The Townsends have been well to the fore among the people who have made the difference.

From the new book, ‘Cowboy Heaven’ by historians and writers Peter and Sheila Forrest, published to commemorate the Townsends’ fifty years in the Territory. The book tells the amazing Townsend story, in 272 pages and with the aid of more than 350 photographs. It’s a story of adventure and modern pioneering that transformed the Top End’s cattle country. Hard cover.

Price $65 including postage within Australia (packed in a protective mailing carton).
Available direct from Peter and Sheila Forrest - (08) 8941 0435, or email history@forrest.net.au
New Technology: MateSel - Optimised Mating Allocations

Deciding which bull is mated to which cow is a standard, every-day management decision that is faced by all seedstock and commercial beef breeding enterprises. While being an every-day practice, its importance should not be understated as it is a critical decision point which has a significant impact on both the rate of genetic improvement and inbreeding levels (or genetic diversity) being observed within a herd.

MateSel is a new breeding tool shortly to be released by BREEDPLAN that enables breeders to optimise the breeding outcomes for their herd by creating a suggested mating list based on a list of candidate sires and dams.

The underlying MateSel "engine" was developed by Professor Brian Kinghorn, School of Environmental and Rural Science, University of New England. MateSel has already been implemented in the American pig breeding industry to great effect with sustainable genetic gains being achieved while maintaining genetic diversity; all resulting in improved profitability.

MateSel will be a valuable addition to the BREEDPLAN suite of tools. It will provide beef cattle seedstock producers with a mechanism by which they can objectively optimise mating allocations to reflect their breeding goals and create long term, sustainable genetic improvement within their breeding program. The optimised genetic improvement that is targeted is based on a nominated selection index, while constraints are applied on inbreeding to ensure genetic diversity is maintained or improved.

The MateSel tool is currently progressing through its final stages of field testing. Once the final revisions are implemented, a commercialisation strategy will be finalised and communicated to Breed Societies and BREEDPLAN members. It is anticipated that it will be made available to members of Breed Societies who both publish selection indexes and operate on ABRI’s ILR2 software program during early 2013.

In addition to the standard MateSel product, a more sophisticated "bells and whistles" version of MateSel will also be available to those breeders that want to go the extra step with designing their breeding program and mating allocations. It is envisaged that this will involve some form of consultation and be available at an additional cost. However, it is predicted that the standard version of MateSel will suit 95% of BREEDPLAN herds.

**USING MATESEL**

One of the major benefits of MateSel is that it is entirely tailored to fit the breeding program for each individual seedstock operation. Consequently, when using MateSel, seedstock producers are required to specify a range of information regarding the structure of their breeding program and details of their breeding objective for utilisation by the MateSel program.

The information required by MateSel can be broadly broken into two key areas.

- **Nomination of candidate sires and dams for use in the breeding program**
  - The list of candidate sires and dams available for the upcoming joining season is required. This can range from a very specific list of individual animals that have already been selected for use within the upcoming season, through to a broader list of potential animals that could be used within the joining season. MateSel is fully integrated with each Breed Society database and therefore has the ability to select default groups of animals as candidates. For example, all active females on a herd’s female inventory or all sires listed in the online semen catalogues.

- **Outline of Breeding Program and Breeding Objective**
  - The specifics of the breeding program and breeding objective need to be defined. This involves such things as:
    - Nominating a "target" selection index
    - Selecting a breeding strategy ranging from "High Gain" to "Diversity".
    - Advising maximum numbers of matings for each sire (AI and Natural)
    - Advising minimum cow mob size for the natural mating groups
    - Specifying which sires can be used on heifers compared to mature cows or both. Also, if applicable, specifying which sires and dams are dedicated to an AI program.
TIPS ON SUPPLYING YOUR PHOTOS TO ABBA

Before taking your photo check that your camera is set on the HIGHEST resolution.

Make sure to take the photograph of the animal side on and standing as square as possible. Attract the animal's attention so their head is slightly turned to camera and their ears are forward. Make sure to include all of animal, do not cut off feet or ears.

Try NOT to take photo in long grass and AVOID taking photo of animal in front of a cluttered background if possible.

Ideally take the photo in full sun with the sun BEHIND the camera and avoid shadows across animal.

DO NOT COLOUR CORRECT OR CROP YOUR PHOTOS - supply original images.

When attaching JPG photos to emails please label them by their name or lot number and which sale they are for.

Send photo at “ACTUAL SIZE” via email (ie. not Skydrive).

If large photos send one at a time, rather than all at once.

If the photos are for use in the Brahman News or Brahman Graphics please email to: liz@brahman.com.au

If the photos are for Online Sale Catalogues only please email to: jan@brahman.com.au
New Technology: MateSel - Optimised Mating Allocations

In the initial release of MateSel, it is envisaged that this information will be submitted to staff at BREEDPLAN using a Microsoft Excel template whereby the BREEDPLAN staff will conduct the MateSel analysis and return results to the seedstock breeder. However development is underway to provide a MateSel web-interface where seedstock breeders can enter information via a secure member login. This will allow each breeder to undertake MateSel analyses for their own herd, in their own time, without the need for a middle-man or consultant.

**EXAMPLE MATESEL REPORTS**

Following each MateSel analysis, seedstock breeders will be provided with a MateSel report that contains a suggested mating list sorted by both sire and by dam, as well as a range of summary reports illustrating the predicted outcomes of the suggested matings. A csv file containing the mating allocation list will also be provided. These reports will be made available via the secure member login facility available on the BREEDPLAN website.

Further information is available from Paul Williams at TBTS in Rockhampton on (07) 4927 6066 or paul@tbts.une.edu.au.

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<th><strong>DAMS</strong></th>
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Revision to Reportability of Australian Brahman Fertility, Carcase and Mature Cow Weight EBVs

At the request of the Australian Brahman Breeder Association changes have been made to the minimum accuracy threshold for Fertility, Carcase and Mature Cow Weight BREEDPLAN EBVs for non-recorded animals. If an animal or its progeny has a record for the trait then their EBV will be published if it meets an accuracy of 20%. The changes to minimum accuracy thresholds are shown in Table 1.

The revised approach to reporting of the fertility, carcase and MCW EBVs will result in a greater number of young or “new” animals with reported BREEDPLAN EBVs for the traits above. These changes will assist breeders in selection for Fertility and/or Carcase attributes, particularly in younger animals.

These changes were implemented in the January 2013 Brahman GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis and therefore will be applied to all future BREEDPLAN analysis and sale catalogue extracts.

If you have any questions about these revisions please contact Paul Williams Brahman Technical Officer – (07) 4927 6066 or paul@tbts.une.edu.au

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**TABLE 1:**

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<tr>
<th>BREEDPLAN EBV</th>
<th>Previous Accuracy Threshold</th>
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<td>Mature Cow Weight (MCW)</td>
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<td>Carcase Weight (CW)</td>
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<td>Rib Fat (Rib)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rump Fat (P8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Beef Yield (RBY)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</table>
The developments in embryo transfer technology over the last 30 years have expanded enormously the benefits of genetic improvement in farm animals.

For much of that period in Brazil multiple ovulation embryo transfer (MOET) was the reproductive method most commonly used for beef and dairy cattle. The animal is given multiple hormone injections to stimulate and multiply her ovulations, after which it undergoes multiple inseminations.

Then in the year 2000 the production of bovine embryos in vitro left the research laboratories and for the first time anywhere in the world became a commercial proposition. Brazilian scientists in collaboration with the livestock industry developed many different culture media for the bovine IVF process, and tested them on many thousands of animals.

By 2003 IVF was recognised by most Brazilian farmers as an important additional method of animal reproduction. Initially it was the preferred choice only when sexed semen was being used, because of the increased efficiency of laboratory fertilisation. However over time the economic advantages of IVF generally became apparent. One dose for semen can fertilize 150 eggs using IVF, whereas using MOET the same dose would yield a handful of embryos at most. Eventually bovine IVF became the preferred reproductive method in Brazil for many breeds, including Brahmans.

This was especially so after improvements were made to the hormone treatments that were available to synchronise the ovulation of the recipient cows. These improved treatments substantially increased the efficiency of both IVF and artificial insemination, by reducing the losses attributable to non-cycling cows.

In this way Brazil became the world leader in bovine IVF technology and still produces more embryos in vitro than any other country.

Over the same period as these scientific advances were occurring in Brazil, animal health improved significantly, due to the general availability of vaccines and a better understanding of the nutritional requirements of the animals.

The result of this happy concurrence of events was an exponential increase in the quality of dairy and beef herds in Brazil and a significant increase in farm incomes.

IGT’s mission is to bring to Australia the latest developments in bovine IVF technology and know-how, in the expectation that it will be recognised here, as in Brazil, as an important additional method of animal reproduction. The team that IGT has assembled offers unparalleled experience in both the commercial application of the bovine IVF process and the management of large scale breeding programs.

I myself was one of the pioneers of the veterinary use of ultrasound techniques, which are an integral part of the bovine IVF process. In recent years I have directed many of the largest embryo technology projects in Brazil. One of these was Project Grendene, the largest genetic improvement program ever undertaken for the Nelore breed, involving more than 40,000 head of cattle. Through improvements in cell culture, laboratory and field techniques, I was able to increase by 6% the pregnancy rate that was achieved by that Project.

Lorivaldo Landim, who is an IVF Scientist at IGT, has spent the last 6 years working as a research technician in the two largest private in vitro laboratories in Brazil, and is a specialist in cell culture and the cryopreservation of IVF embryos.

Working with us is Fernando Lopes, whose speciality is the aspiration of oocytes (eggs) in the field. In the last 6 years he has worked as a field veterinarian in a number of private in vitro laboratories in Brazil.

To the extent necessary, IGT is able to draw on the additional resources of Laboratory Alfavitro in Brazil, in which I am a partner, and which last year produced more than 200,000 IVF embryos.

This laboratory is also a world leader in the embryo vitrification process, as a result of the technology that it has developed in partnership with scientists from the US, Canada and Brazil, and has now exported to 9 different countries. This new technology for the transportation of oocytes and embryos is used by IGT in Australia, and allows us to transport bovine eggs for up to 20 hours, and IVF embryos for up to 48 hours, without compromise to their quality. This development is of great importance in countries like Australia and Brazil, where distances are so great.

From a personal viewpoint this is an extremely exciting time in which to be involved in the livestock industry in Australia, which I feel is poised to undergo very quickly the same sort of revolution that I saw unfold at a much slower pace in Brazil over the last 30 years.
Congratulations...

Scott Sorley and Coralie Hawton were married in Toowoomba on 16th November 2012. Scott is the son of Noel and Manny Sorley, Mt Callan Brahman, Dalby. Coralie is the daughter of Rob and Dianne Hawton of Jandowae. They have made their home at Mt Callan.

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23 March at Silverdale Saleyards
Elders • Landmark • Hayes & Co

**BRAHMAN COMMERCIAL BREEDING FEMALE SHOW & SALE**
9 April at CQLX Gracemere

**TOOWOOMBA PREMIER BRAHMAN FEMALE SALE**
27 April at Toowoomba Showgrounds
Elders • Landmark • GDL

**GYMPIE FEMALE SALE**
1 June at Gympie Saleyards
Elders • Landmark • Sullivan Livestock

**BIZZY INVITATIONAL BULL & FEMALE SALE**
7 September at Grafton Saleyards
George Fuhrmann • Ray Donovan

**ROCKHAMPTON BRAHMAN WEEK SALE**
7, 8 & 9 October at CQLX Gracemere
Elders • Landmark

**GOLD CITY BRAHMAN SALE**
18 October at Charters Towers
Elders • Landmark

**ROMA TROPICAL BREEDS SALE**
24 & 25 October at Roma Saleyards
Elders • Landmark • GDL
Introducing our NEW! range of ABBA promotional products

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- BRAHMAN USB FLASH DRIVE 2GB (Double sided red and grey) $12.00
- ABBA HAT PIN $5.00
- TOTE BAG $15.00
- CAR SUNSHADE (Designed to fit a range of windscreen) $25.00
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- ABBA STUBBY COOLER $5.00
- LADIES POLO SHIRT $25.00
- MEN'S POLO SHIRT $25.00
- KIDS POLO SHIRT $5.00
- KIDS POLO TATTOO $0.50

Visit our website www.brahman.com.au to view our entire range of ABBA promotional products
## Australian Brahman Breeders' Association Ltd Order Form

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<td>Ladies Polo Shirt (Available in Hot Pink &amp; Jade - Sizes 8 to 24)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<td>8235</td>
<td>Ties - Plain Tie Centred Logo</td>
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<td>8256</td>
<td>Ties - Bull Head Repeated</td>
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<td>$20.00</td>
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<td>8275</td>
<td>ABB A Embroidered Cap (Navy with white trim &amp; maroon logo)</td>
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<td>8238</td>
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<td>Keyring - Ear Tag</td>
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<td>8239</td>
<td>Pewter Keyring - Brahman</td>
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<td>Pewter Keyring - Bull on Chain</td>
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<td>$10.00</td>
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<td>8241</td>
<td>Pewter Letter Openers</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$5.00</td>
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<td>Pewter - Teaspoons</td>
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<td>$10.00</td>
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<td>Badges - Silver bull on stand - ABB A</td>
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<td>Hat Pin (enameled round)</td>
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<td>Bull Statues - Pewter (6cm x 5cm)</td>
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<td>$9.95</td>
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<td>Small Tray</td>
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<td>Placemats (set 6)</td>
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<td>Coasters (set 6)</td>
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<td>USB Brahman Bull Flash Drive (2G)</td>
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<td>Lanyard</td>
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<td>$1.50</td>
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<td>Car Sunshade</td>
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<td>ABB A Stubby Cooler</td>
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<td>ABB A Brahman Temporary Tattoo</td>
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<td>Breeding Calculator</td>
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<td>8201</td>
<td>Progeny &amp; Performance Cards</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>8202</td>
<td>Pedigree &amp; Produce Sheets</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8203</td>
<td>Register of Renown Books</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8204</td>
<td>Show/Display Cards</td>
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<td>$0.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>8207</td>
<td>Christmas Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>8218</td>
<td>Beef Cattle Book</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$95.00</td>
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INDEX

Brahman Commercial Breeding
Female Show & Sale............... 29
Bungoona Brahman................. 5
Fenech Brahman................. 7
Gympie Brahman Female Sale..... 33
Inventia Genetic Technologies Pty Ltd...... 25
Maru........................................ 17
Mogul.......................................IBC
NCC..........................................BC
Rockhampton Junior Beef Show..... 2
Rocky Repro............................IFC
Virbac.....................................9, 11, 15, 21
World Brahman Congress 2014........ 35
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