



ALC UPDATE

At the writing of our last newsletter in February, the rain had just started to fall. We were grateful for the rain but unfortunately it stopped and forgot to start again. That's life in the dry tropics! With areas to the west of us still waiting for any rain, I am thankful for what we have received and do feel for those who have missed out for another year. With the feed on Tondara and Gundaroo rapidly drying off, we have been in "sell mode" for the last couple of months. Our 12 month rainfall to date is 370mm, a long way from our average of 650mm. The amount of rain is not as important to us as the timing of the rain and the last two years have seen the wet season starting in late January to February. Unfortunately,



this is after our joining periods have finished. Cows are expected to get back in calf while lactating and losing condition while grazing on very poor quality pasture. This is a huge ask but some females manage and some don't. Our job in the genetics business is to find the ones that do and dispose of those who fail.

As the Geneticist's tell us, where there is variation and heritability, we can make genetic selection. Dry weather certainly gives us plenty of opportunity for selection.

The pregnancy testing and weaning is all complete on Gundaroo and Tondara and the lead of the empty cows have been sold already. The pregnancy test results are back on last year but much better than I expected considering available feed, quality of feed and cow body condition during the joining period. As I said earlier, the rain fell after the joining period had finished. ALC herd at Gundaroo had an amazing result of 83%. Inherent fertility and adaptability really plays a key role when the going gets tough. Tondara pregnancy test was 73%. Only 6% down on last year following two consecutive failed wet seasons. Our goal is 75% so we fell just short, but considering the available feed, it is not a bad thing this year. Cull cows are making good money and in dry times we need more cash and fewer cattle. Looks like the predictions of LA Nina is on the way, good season's, good prices and increased production, and good times are very close. Let's hope they are right!



I am very comfortable with the shake out our breeders have endured over the last couple of years and confident only the best genetics remain to build a stronger future. This rigorous selection for fertility at low running costs has ALC cow herd placed in the top 10% for Days To Calving EBV at -7.9, and top 10% for Jap Ox and Live Ex \$ Index's for the Brahman breed. It is encouraging to see those genetics being expressed regardless of seasonal conditions.

Talking genetics, ALC will present 100 bulls at our **annual bull sale** to be held this year on property at "Gundaroo" Nabo on **Tuesday 5th July**. Amongst the sale team will be 22 head of polled or scurred bulls. The bulls are in good condition and are ready for work. As always, ALC bulls are presented off grass with no supplementary feeding. ALC and our clients value cattle that work off grass, hence the reason we make all our selection off grass and give our clients the opportunity to do the same.

As usual, the bulls will be sold under the Helmsman bidding system. For a detailed description of how this year's bidding system will operate, please go to our web site www.alcrahmans.com.au and click on the "Semen/Bull Sales" tab. This page will also be printed in the catalogue. The Helmsman bidding system gives buyers plenty of time to walk through and select bulls, whilst analysing the data supplied, without pressure. All bulls will have four generations of female fertility data available as well as age of puberty and scrotal measurement. EBV's for growth, scrotal size and days to calving are also presented.



We are pleased to announce that the entire draft of sale bulls have a better than breed average Days To Calving EBV.

This year's sale bulls average Days To Calving EBV is in the top 10% for the breed sitting at -8.2. The sale bulls average in the top 10% for the breed for Jap Ox \$ Index at 42 and Live Ex \$ Index at 39. Their average Scrotal Size EBV is in the top 20% for the breed at 1.3. These traits are responsible for 70% of profit in a beef producing herd. ALC is proud to supply our clients with the relevant data to ensure our bulls will contribute to the profitability of their herds.

For more information on reading ALC bull catalogues go the "Semen/Bull Sales" tab on our web site. The catalogue will be available online the week before the sale. If you do not have internet access please feel free to contact Louise or Alf for more information, to discuss which bulls will best suit your requirements or a catalogue. Our door is always open.

If semen is what you'd prefer for this year's mating, please go to our web site www.alcrahmans.com.au and click on "Semen/Bull Sales" tab, then go to "Semen Sales".

Hope to see you soon at "Gundaroo",
Kind Regards,

Alf





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We would like to expand the contact list for our newsletter distribution.
We would appreciate email or postal addresses of progressive and interested people.
If you would like to discontinue your ALC subscription please notify me, *Louise...*

A big thank you to those who requested the change from postal to email version of the newsletter, it is very helpful and much appreciated, *Louise...*

"You can always find a reason not to do something" - GJM

ALC BULL SALE – TUESDAY 5TH JULY 2016



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