



ALC UPDATE

Time has sure passed rapidly this last twelve months and sale time is almost upon us already! After consecutive dry years and rolling twelve-month **rainfall** average reaching as low as 243mm in January last year, I am delighted to be able to report a reasonable wet and good pasture growth for this season. From October to December we received 100mm of rain which is absolute gold in our system, as this is during our mating period. The weather was extremely hot during that time so the grass didn't grow a lot, but was of good quality. By the end of February things had started to dry off and with pasture in minimal supply, an exit plan was being developed to reduce stock numbers.

Then, along came **Tropical Cyclone Debbie** in the last week of March. 416mm in three days was not quite what we ordered but we were happy to have the rain. We grew a year's grass in the month of April, so all things considered, TC Debbie did us a lot more good than harm. Both our properties "Tondara" and "Gundaroo" felt the full force of TC Debbie with the eye of the storm passing close to "Tondara" and falling a lot of timber on fences. "Gundaroo" had only moderate wind but a cloud burst in the catchment of the Connors River (which runs through "Gundaroo"), received 1,100mm in 12 hours and took flood heights to new records. It was amazing to see the force mother nature has when she means business. We were fortunate to only have fence damage and lose a pump. Some of our near neighbours were not as lucky and lost houses, yards, vehicles, cattle and horses. With water going places it has never been before, it caught many of us by surprise. Fortunately, no lives were lost and the clean-up continues.

On a brighter note, **pregnancy testing on "Gundaroo" and "Tondara"** is complete and weaning will be all done next week. This time last year we were talking about results being down a bit on previous years and the benefit of using tough years as a selection tool to find truly adapted, fertile animals. The hard work has paid off, with the combination of rain during the mating season and relentless genetic selection for fertility, these females have astounded us with this year's results. "Gundaroo" breeder's pregnancy tested at 88%. This result is including the first re-breed on 2-year-old calvers which was 83%. Considering all the breeders are lactating whilst being joined, therefore in declining body condition, we find this result very pleasing. We had a record 42% of yearling heifers fall pregnant this joining season to top it off.

"Tondara" breeder's pregnancy tested 94% which is a record for that property since we have owned it. "Tondara" breeders must also produce a healthy weaner and conceive while lactating to maintain their position in the breeder herd. Consequently, the last three years of dry weather has seen some vigorous culling of those who failed. The result is a herd of extremely reliable

genetics. As our grass reserves don't allow us to retain all those pregnant cows at "Tondara", we have taken the opportunity to fine tune the herd a little more and take off the last month of pregnancies, bringing the herd to a 90-day calving period. Exciting times in the pursuit for functional genetics.

At ALC, we have always had the philosophy of select and manage for the tough times and the good years will take care of themselves. This has really hit home this year. It's amazing what happens when you add rain!

Our **annual ALC Bull Sale** to be held on property at "Gundaroo", Nebo on **Tuesday 4th July** is not far away. The next few weeks will see us semen morphology testing, poll testing, finalizing Breedplan data and catalogue, then sorting bulls ready for sale. As usual, at ALC the bulls are presented in good condition, off grass, with no supplementary feeding. We believe, as do our clients, this is the only way to select genetics to work under pasture conditions – "in their working clothes"!

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.alcbrahmans.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.

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.

ALC ranks extremely high in the Brahman Breed for fertility trait EBV's such as DTC and SS along with Jap Ox \$ index and Live Ex \$ index, so this is a great opportunity to add genetics to your herd that will have an impact on profitability for your business into the future.

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

Look forward to meeting you again at Gundaroo.
Kind Regards,

Alf





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*Life is lived in the present. Yesterday has gone, tomorrow is yet to be.
 Today is a miracle - Anonymous*



Northern view from Gundaroo house



Eastern view from Gundaroo house



Western view from Gundaroo house



**ALC
 BULL SALE**
**TUESDAY
 4TH JULY
 2017**
**ON PROPERTY -
 "GUNDAROO"
 NEBO QLD**
**8AM INSPECTIONS
 10AM START**



Southern view from Gundaroo house

Sire paddock in foreground then sale bull paddock in background with some bulls on the island in the middle and the remaining on the small strip on the near side.

Economically Proven - Predictable, Fertile, Grass-Raised Genetics...