



ALCOLLINS BRAHMANS



'Wishing you a Merry Christmas'

ALC UPDATE

Time sure flies when you're having fun!! This year has passed very quickly. For the most part we have had a reasonable year as far as nutrition with decent falls of rain in the middle of the year but the heat has made the country look brown once again. I guess we had to get back to reality at some stage. I can remember just as many brown Christmas's as green ones so we always manage for rain after Christmas and take any rain before Christmas as a real bonus. The last three years have been great for this. It is in these dryer years we get to sort the top females from the average. All cows have the same opportunity to rebreed while losing body condition. Some will manage and some will not, so it makes for an easy decision which lines we need to keep in our breeding program.

At ALC we have done our final round of mustering before the end of the year and all cows that were pregnancy tested in calf but failed to deliver a live calf have been sent to the meat packer. This takes care of the non performing animals and saves grass for cows still working, not to mention the cash flow! The rest of the breeders will **need to wean their calf and rebreed while lactating** to retain their spot in the herd regardless of how the season turns out. As I said earlier, this year will be a fair challenge, with low nutrition and falling cow body condition, only the cream will rise to the top. These are the genetics we aim to keep reproducing.

This time of year we do a couple of measurements to see how we are travelling in terms of production. Our aim is to have 75% of our calf crop on the ground before October 30. This year ALC achieved 81%, right on track. We also do our 400 day weights on heifers and weights with scrotal measurements on bulls. The bulls and heifers this year are 50 kg's heavier than last year and an amazing 87% of bulls have hit puberty (27cm scrotal measurement) already! This is the best result ever so we are very excited about this.

ALC is excited to announce two new semen sires available for this year's breeding season.

CBV 06-4269 Aristovivo
(Top 5% Days to Calving,
Top 1% Scrotal Size
EBV for the Brahman Breed)



CBV 06-4269 Aristavivo



CBV 10-7694 Poll-position

CBV 10-7694 Poll-position
(PP Poll Tested,
Top 1% Days to Calving
EBV for the Brahman Breed)

Both bulls are very complete in all genetic traits including growth and fertility traits with good muscling and excellent temperament. These bulls are doing an excellent job for us at ALC.

Please click on the link <http://www.alcrahmans.com.au/bull-sales/semen-sales/> to see full information on these bulls and other semen sires available. **AI is an excellent, affordable way to capture some of our top genetics for use in your own herds.**

Temperament has been a major focus of ours for many years. As labour costs and availability becomes more of a challenge, we find ourselves handling a lot more cattle with less people. More often than not, Mum, Dad and the kids, which I find very rewarding. This also highlights the need for gentle cattle for the ease of getting the job done and having a lot of fun in the process. ALC cattle get worked with horses, motor bikes and dogs so when our bulls arrive at their new homes they are accustomed to however our clients work their cattle.

From all the team at ALC we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe WET New Year.

Alf



CBV 06-4269 Aristavivo

SIRE	DAM	Age 1st	#	Calving	G.SIRE	G.DAM	Age 1st	#	Calving	% 200	% 400	% 600	% SS	% DTC
		Calf	Calves	Interval			Calf	Calves	Interval					
01-0465	99-8328	3.1	5	383	95-7085	96-6890	2.8	4	382	+21	+33	+48	+2.5	-6.4

CBV 10-7694 Poll-position

SIRE	DAM	Age 1st	#	Calving	G.SIRE	G.DAM	Age 1st	#	Calving	% 200	% 400	% 600	% SS	% DTC
		Calf	Calves	Interval			Calf	Calves	Interval					
06-4928	99-8602	2.8	11	373	95-6276	92-4921	3.0	13	357	+22	+35	+38	+0.9	-11.0



Recently ALC Brahmans hosted a group of producers attending a Breeding EDGE Workshop in Nebo. The Breeding EDGE workshop was coordinated by DAFF staff and presented by John Bertram, Breeding and Genetics Consultant and Alan Laing, Futurebeef Senior Extension Officer with assistance from Lauren Williams and Jim Fletcher, Futurebeef Extension Officers.

During the workshop, producers were asking where they can buy Brahman bulls with genetic information and Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BBSE) including sperm morphology (% Normal sperm). The Beef CRC has found a strong relationship in Brahmans between sperm morphology or % Normal sperm and return to oestrus after calving. Higher % normal (above 70%) in young bulls produce daughters that return to oestrus sooner after calving and the daughters reach puberty younger.

The Beef CRC outcomes recommend using a balance of all genetic traits including scrotal size EBV plus % normal sperm.

We at ALC are **considering** this as a tool in the total genetic tool kit both as a further opportunity to apply the sound science achieved here in Australia, as well as benefiting our herd and that of our clients. The opportunity to produce more fertile daughters does not mean we will be mating them younger, but that they will have cycled in advance of our mating's and therefore go in calf earlier in the mating period to our select sires. It is always a pleasure to mix with already competent cattle producers trying to do things just that little bit better! At ALC we enjoy these information sharing days very much.



Results of our second ALC Bull Sale at Gundaroo in 2012

Top Price \$10,000 - Roger and Lorena Jefferis

Sale Average \$3,500



ALC's second bull sale was held at "Gundaroo", Nebo on Tuesday 3rd July 2012. The day ran smoothly with the super efforts from family, friends and staff. It was a huge success with 63 head of two year old grass-raised Brahman bulls sold to generate a clearance of 89 percent and an average sale price of \$3,500 with purchase prices ranging from \$2750 to \$10,000.

Clients bid on bulls in a relaxed atmosphere, with plenty of time to make their selections under the Helmsman bid system. The top price bull was a polled bull with excellent data for growth and fertility and was secured by Roger and Lorena Jefferis, Elrose Station, Cloncurry, via phone bid. Also destined for Cloncurry were 11 bulls bought by the Lynch family of Tara Station. Unable to attend, however happy for Alf to select 10 bulls on their behalf, were Russell and Donna Lethbridge, Werrington, Einasleigh. Another volume buyer was AA Co, purchasing 30 bulls. The majority of buyers were repeat clients however it was gratifying to see a number of new faces on the day.

The sale bulls came straight from the paddock to the sale, in working condition, certain to grow with no setbacks at their new homes. They have been bred and raised at a low cost per kilogram, and do not disappoint on grass anywhere. Through more selection pressure applied than ever before, we were extremely proud of the bulls we presented for sale.

One of the general comments as always, by people at the sale, was the beautiful temperament of the bulls as people walked through the pens all day. One thing that made us extremely happy was to see all our clients utilising the data we supplied three weeks prior to sale, with many turning up with a catalogue full of highlighted circles and marks, matching the bull data to their breeding objectives. The sale catalogue consisted of a solid four generations of fertility data on the Dam's side along with two generations of fertility data on the Sire's side. ALC clients were provided with a weight and scrotal measurement at 600 days of age along with EBV's and age of puberty on all bulls.

On the day, we were encouraged by the fact that the final results on the bidder board reflected the categories in which we drafted the bulls. It appeared that everyone left the sale attaining the number of bulls they needed, well with-in their budget range.

As always, it's a real pleasure to spend the day with like-minded cattlemen in pursuit of excellence in their management and breeding systems. We would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement. The loyalty and commitment of our clients, keeps us equally committed to produce genetics that will help them achieve their genetic and more importantly, economic goals into the future.

We are already excited about next year's bulls, which will be the first of the ALC branded calves that were born and bred at Gundaroo. The rate of growth has already astounded us as they take advantage of this amazing season.



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



Alf Jnr and Louise Collins
ALC Brahmans
Collins Cattle Co.
“Gundaroo”
M/S-328, Nebo QLD 4742

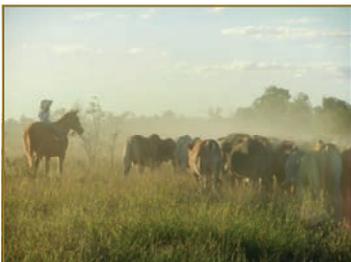
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We would appreciate email or postal addresses of progressive and interested people.
If you would like to discontinue your ALC subscription please notify me, *Louise...*

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“Success is not the key to happiness; happiness is the key to success”. “If you love what you are doing, you will be successful”. Buddha.



Mustering S’12 ALC Weaners in June.

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

RAINFALL RECORD CHART

Date	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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