

ALC UPDATE

Ironically, the season this past twelve months has been a replica to the previous one (a nutritional drought), however we have pushed our breeders even harder by shortening the joining period further.

Last winter we had early frost followed by light spoiling rain which made the feed turn black, with very little energy or protein value. Because of this, all our cattle lost body condition through the dry. Our females worked hard this past mating period to reconceive during a period that had no usable rain and do so while lactating. By early November, I was urging Alf to start supplementing the breeders at Gundaroo with dry lick, but he stated he wanted to apply the pressure to ensure genetic selection of only the most resilient animals.

Not only did we give our breeders no supplement, but and at the same time, we reduced days exposed to a bull by 10 days on the cows. So all cows were wet while being joined for 90 days (pulling bulls on 30th December 2019). Maiden heifers were joined for 60 days (October/November). ***Our number one breeding objective has always been fertility. Females that rebreed rapidly, regardless of season, while lactating, with no supplements encapsulates the ALC Breeder herd.***

Our conception rate this year at Gundaroo sits at 82% (including wet 2yo calvers) which is up 5% on last year's pregnancy test. This came as a pleasant surprise and we are happy with this result. The pregnant females that remain in our herd after this year therefore, are truly fertile and adapted animals and it gives us confidence in the direction we have chosen to take our Brahman genetics. Our first decent rainfall arrived in January this year. We now have an adequate body of grass to get us through the next dry season and our cattle are gaining body condition once again.

The bulls for sale this year were trucked from Gundaroo to Tondara 12 months ago and will be trucked back to Gundaroo one month prior to the sale. They have come through an extreme nutritional drought so have had to prove their resilience. This is because Tondara was also hit with a frost and spoiling rain so the feed also turned black. The feed was the worst for nutritional value than we have ever seen on the property since owning it and the bulls had never looked so poor. Fortunately, January saw a turnaround in the season and the bulls have powered ahead ever since.

The last of the performance data has just been submitted to ABRI. The scrotal size measurement at 400 day's is a better reflection of early puberty at lighter body weight so this is the scrotal measurement we have been submitting over the past 5 years as opposed to the 600 day scrotal measurement.

COVID-19 has brought much destruction, devastation and uncertainty in its path. **Due to the uncertainty of what travel restrictions and social distancing rules will apply by early July, we won't be making a final decision on the format of our sale until early June.** At this time, up-dates will be distributed through our ALC newsletter which is also available to view from the ALC Brahmans website. Early June we will also be providing up-dated sale information on the "2020 ALC Bull Sale" page of our website. ALC advertising campaign will take place in June, also providing sale information.

Either way, we will be selling the bulls on Friday 3rd of July:

On property "Gundaroo" Nebo, in a Helmsman format with the inclusion of online bidding option

OR if restrictions force it, solely online with videos of each bull included with the catalogued information.

This year's sale will consist of well over 100 bulls, many of which are either polled or scurred. They are well grown and are ready for work. As usual, the bulls will be presented straight off grass. 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. All bulls are sire verified, poll tested, semen and morphology tested, and WA eligible (J-BAS score 7).

The catalogue will be available online from the ALC Brahmans website 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 to be posted.

Regards,
Louise



ALC BULL SALE 3RD JULY 2020



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Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts. – Winston Churchill



December 2019- ALC 2yo calvers top & ALC Cows below



March 2020- ALC 2yo calvers top & ALC Cows below



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