

ALC UPDATE

2021 is turning out to be another year of very variable **rainfall** with many reports of extreme differences within short distances in most areas. It is great to see some of the areas that have missed out over the last few seasons getting under some good falls, but I feel for those nearby who are still waiting for a break. Gundaroo has received 77mm for 2021 and 182mm for October 2020 to April 2021 taking our 12-month rainfall down to 292mm. This is the lowest rainfall for any 12-month period we have ever experienced since owning Gundaroo. Not a good spot to be at the end of the wet season! Tondara on the other hand, has been under the monsoonal rains from the North and is experiencing an excellent season receiving over 600mm for the same period. We will now review our carrying capacity on each place and start to adjust stock numbers accordingly.

The **health of our soil and pasture** over the properties we graze on, we take very seriously. I believe, the ingredients to sustainable and profitable grazing businesses, is having the right people, using the right genetics and maintaining healthy soils/pasture.

Our **mating season** on our breeder herds on both properties are the same; 90 days on lactating cows (Oct-Dec) and 60 days on maiden heifers (Oct-Nov). Weaning is done March to April so calves are 7-8 months of age at weaning every year. No supplement is fed to breeders at Gundaroo. This program puts maximum pressure on females to conceive while lactation and before rain, most years.



Again, this year our breeders didn't fail to deliver with **conception rates** at (ALC) Gundaroo 86% overall, including lactating 2yo calving heifers. These heifers alone impressed me, with a 76% rebreed. It is rewarding to see our relentless, no excuse selection criteria bearing fruit and delivering consistency, regardless of rainfall. Those cows who fail, make for a healthy cash flow. Genetics developed in this system, have not only benefited ourselves, but our clients' herds from areas ranging from wet to dry tropics. *There is a lot of talk about early puberty and fertility in the cattle breeding world but hard to find herds, especially 'Brahman herds', actually getting runs on the board in this area. I really take my hat off to this group of cattle and the future excites us to see where they take us.*

Tondara herd also achieved 86% pregnant on the back of a dry mating period. All that didn't conceive will be slaughtered before the end of June, making room for the producing animals to take us forward.

The accumulative effect of genetic selection for heritable traits, was evident this week after drafting this year's bulls for sale and future sires. We are particularly excited to see substantial improvement in the female fertility, DTC, Scrotal Size EBV, speed of growth and age of puberty. *'Traits that improve profitability'.*

The **upcoming ALC sale bulls** born at Gundaroo have been grown out at Tondara since weaning. Data has been collected during that time for 200, 400 and 600 day growth EBV and serial scrotal measurements for age of puberty. Scrotal size information is submitted at 400 days (in October) to Breedplan to ensure we are finding the animals that are developing early and before the onset of good nutrition. It is this selection on the bull side, along with the intense pressure we put on our breeders, that is key to producing adapted, consistent genetics for Central and Northern Australia. ***'We can't rely on the weather to deliver but we can rely on the genetics to get us across the line'***.

The 2021 ALC Bull Sale will be held on property "Gundaroo" Nebo on **Thursday 8th July**. The sale will be conducted via Helmsman Auction onsite and interfaced with AuctionsPlus online simultaneous bidding. This means that all bulls will be on offer for the duration of the sale and the sale will end according to a timer countdown. There will be over 100 bulls on offer, 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. For more information regarding the sale, please go to www.alcrahmans.com.au

The **catalogue** will be available online from the ALC Brahman's website two weeks 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.

Louise and I will be attending **Beef Week 2021** so if you are in town, we would appreciate the opportunity to catch up over a coffee, cold drink or a meal. We can be contacted via mobile - Alf: 0438 356 050 or Louise: 0458 356 177. The best thing about Beef Week, is bringing beef producers together every 3 years. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Alf



Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny. – C.S. Lewis

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