

ALC UPDATE

It's always a busy but exciting time of year for us at ALC. As the wet season draws to an end, **it is a time for assessing our results from the previous year and planning how we will manage for the year ahead.** Grand final day rolls straight into pre-season training, to put it into football terms. Pregnancy testing is all done, weaning almost complete, sale cattle drafted and bulls sorted for sale or replacements for our own herd.

After our driest 12 months on record last year, we were fortunate to get a break in November / December. The pastures responded beautifully and cattle have done extremely well on the fresh growth it provided. Unfortunately, the rain then stopped and January / February had some very hot weather which left us with dry feed a little earlier in the year than would be ideal, but something to work with going forward.



As tough times often create opportunities, in July last year we were elated to **purchase Brides Creek Station at Blackall**, as well as find agistment on two other properties, which allowed us to maintain our numbers throughout the dry. "Brides Creek" has had an extremely good season, permitting us to send dry cattle that way, to adjust numbers on the breeding properties; "Gundaroo" and "Tondara". We had planned on bringing all agistment cattle back this month, however lack of rain, means 400 breeders will remain on agistment this year.

Although the rain let us down again this year on "Gundaroo" and "Tondara", the genetics sure delivered. Mating is 90 days on cows and 60 days on heifers from 1st October. Wet rebreed results came in at 89% over four properties, averaging from 87% to 92%, including 2yo calving heifers. Weaners were 20kg heavier than last year, at 7 to 8 months of age. The two-year-old calvers alone really impressed us, with an 86% wet rebreed. The weaners were almost as big as their amazing little mothers. Next mating will be shortened by 2 weeks on all breeders, to raise the bar a little higher. Yearling pregnancy test this year came in at 64% with no supplementation and an average joining weight of 260kg. This shows that our combined selection for fertility and age of puberty is bearing fruit.



With 70% of profit coming from fertility in the cattle breeding business, we are very excited in the genetic gain the herd is delivering, regardless of weather patterns. ***Our approach is to measure, manage and select for heritable, economically important traits (not fashion). This helps manage our costs and production in this variable and unpredictable climate we operate in.***

Stock days per hectare per 100mm of rain, Breedplan Days-to-calving, Scrotal Size, and Growth EBV's along with Jap Ox and Live Ex Dollar Index's, are tools we use to assist us in managing our pasture health and genetic gain, ensuring we achieve our long-term goals. After this year's evaluations, it is very pleasing to see gains in all the above. Rainfall figures are in for the wet, so **we will now adjust stocking rate to match carrying capacity with the rain we have received.**

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

I have had a lot of people ask me about my thoughts on **Genomic EBV's**. ALC's approach, is to aim for high accuracy in our genetic program. This means raw data is submitted on all animals born in the same calving year. They are measured until 600 days of age for growth, scrotal size, age of puberty. Breeders have Days-to-calving and Mature Cow Weight data entered. All sires also have DNA submitted to add to the Genomic EBV. Thus, thousands of records are lodged every year. We believe, to achieve high accuracy EBV's, like most things in life, there are no short cuts. With low accuracy, you must expect a lot of unpredictability. As mentioned previously, we have enough variability with weather, we don't need it in our breeding program. Predictability is where the real game is. ***In short, Genomic EBV's are only useful if backed by substantial numbers of phenotypic data from heritable, economically important traits. A one-off DNA sample submitted, doesn't cut it! Accuracy does matter!***



Elley & Alec—"Brides Creek"



Tony Carrett



Liam & Emillie—"Tondara"

We were very fortunate to have some great young couples joining the ALC team last year. Alec Howard and his fiancé Elley are managing "Brides Creek". Congratulations to Alec and Elley on the birth of their second child Alec Jnr recently. Liam Tapiolas took over management of "Tondara" from Tony Carrett. Big shoes to fill, but Liam is handling it well. Congratulations Liam and Emillie for their wedding to take place at the end of this month. Louise and I would like to thank Tony and Iria for their huge contribution and enthusiasm over the last 12 years and wish them all the best for their own business. We sure are grateful to have had them as part of our journey. Tony is still mentoring Liam, so we still get the pleasure of his company at "Tondara" occasionally.

After an enjoyable couple of days drafting sale bulls and keepers last week, it became particularly apparent, how much more saturated our herd is becoming with 2yo calvers, polled/scurred genetics, and generations of faultless calving records. **The 2022 ALC Bull Sale will be held on property "Gundaroo" Nebo on Thursday 7th July.** The sale will be conducted via Helmsman Auction onsite and interfaced with AuctionsPlus online simultaneous bidding. Over 90 bulls will be on offer and as usual, will be presented straight off grass. They are mature and ready to work. The catalogue will be available online from the ALC Brahmans website two weeks before the sale and will consist of the usual multiple generations of fertility data from the Dam and Sire sides as well as the sale bull's EBV's and index's, age of puberty, scrotal measurement and poll status. All sale bulls are sire verified, semen and morphology tested. **For more information regarding the sale, please go to www.alcbrahmans.com.au**



From the ALC Brahmans team, we would like to wish everyone a very **Happy Easter**.

Alf



Success is an accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing.
— Pele

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