

ALCOLLINS BRAHMAN



Another excellent grazing year has been experienced!! Three years in a row, how long can it last? At Gundaroo the season was almost perfect for grazing, but light

enough to keep us on our toes. Each time the grass dried off we received another inch or two of rain. This made for very strong feed, and cattle did extremely well, but by the end of February, we were hoping for more rain before winter. Gundaroo received 175mm for March which did the job nicely, but the catchments for the Connors River and Funnel Ck received a hell of a lot more, resulting in the third highest flood in history. Tondara was much the same with a slow start and then a lot of rain from January on. With cow body condition rapidly declining the benefit of a tight calving period, stylos, and adapted genetics were implanted firmly in my mind yet again. With these tools we can withstand most of what the climate throws our way without incurring unnecessary costs.

All things considered, our production year (which ends about now), has been very successful, with weight gains on dry cattle from September until March of 0.76 kg/hd/day on grass and pregnancy test results of 80% at Tondara and 91% at Gundaroo. This was achieved with a maturing of 105 days on the cows and 90 days on heifers.

All ALC cows must wean a calf and rebreed, while lactating, on time or the old "calf or carcass" rule applies. No excuses!! Our target is for non producing females to be sold before the end of the production year.



As we have stated before, our aim is to breed cattle that perform in the tough times, and the good times will take care of themselves. This year was a very good example of that.

Louise, our three children and I just spent a week at Beef 2012. It is a credit to the organisers and I would like to congratulate them on a great event. It was great to catch up with people from all over the world whom we have not seen for years and also many friends and clients from Australia. There was certainly a positive vibe coming from genetic researchers, economic analysts, producers and even our new state politicians. It was a real pleasure to be a part of this event, and meet with enthusiastic people.

The future for our industry is looking very positive!! Increasing global demand for beef, decreasing \$AU, low interest rates and strong seasonal conditions has all the indicators moving in a positive direction.

We now need to concentrate on keeping costs at a minimum and production up to capitalize on this rise in prices, if indeed there is one. Local supply seems to have more to do with our price than most other factors. **Tools we need to keep up this momentum, are good management systems and the right genetics. Remember genetic gain is permanent and cumulative in either direction.** It is important to get the right genetics with enough information to be confident your investment will take your herd and more importantly, profit margin, in the right direction heading into the future. Getting this right will save all producers years in genetic gain.

Our 2nd ALC bull sale will be held on 3rd of July at Gundaroo.

Next week we will collect our final scrotal measurements and weights and Louise will be kept busy submitting the information to Breedplan.

We are very proud of the bulls we have for sale this year as they are looking better than ever before. ALC does not believe in grain feeding bulls prior to sale date, so as usual the bulls will be presented straight off grass in pens of 10 to 15 head. This year we will be using the Helmsman bidding system as per prior years. This gives buyers plenty of time to walk through and select bulls and analyse the data supplied, without pressure, in an informal environment. All bulls will have three generations of female fertility data available as well as age of puberty, scrotal size and EBV's for growth, scrotal size and days to calving.

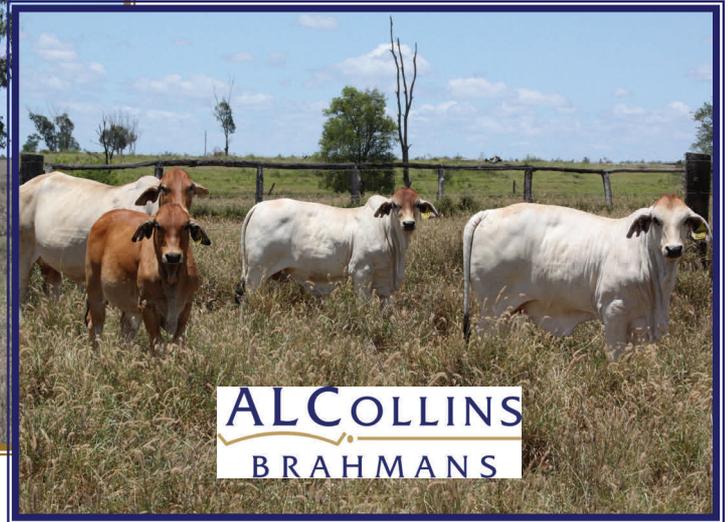
For more information on interpreting ALC Sale Catalogue go to www.alcbrahmans.com.au and click on the "semen/bull sales" tab, then go to, "how to read ALC sale catalogue". Catalogues will be available online mid June. If you do not have internet access please feel free to contact Louise or myself for more information, to discuss which bulls will best suit your requirements or a catalogue. Our door is always open.

On sale day we will have sires on display, as well as groups of cows viewable whilst entering the property. **ALC sale days are about two things - matching genetics to meet your requirements and goals, and meeting with leading like minded cattlemen from around Australia**, so please feel welcome to bring other interested producers and friends.

Hope to see you soon at Gundaroo, Kind Regards,

Alf





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

Ph: (07) 4956 8385
Int: 61 7 4956 8385
Fax: (07) 4956 8382
Alf's mobile: 0438 356 050
Louise's mobile: 0458 356 177

E-mail Alf Jnr: alf@alcbrahmans.com.au
E-mail Louise: louise@alcbrahmans.com.au
VISIT - www.alcbrahmans.com.au

We would like to expand the contact list for our newsletter distribution.
 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...*

"Everything should be made as simple as possible but not one bit simpler". Albert Eistein

New additions and improvements at ALC ...



New sign at the front entrance



New house yard fence



Our first ALC weaners in a freshly pulled paddock.