



ALC UPDATE

What a difference 12 months can make in the real world! This time last year we were talking about wide spread rains and good cattle prices to come, we had just left The International Beef Show in Rockhampton Queensland and the mood was upbeat.

Things are running a little different this year with a large part of the North and West of our country missing out on rain for the year. This coupled with some thoughtless decisions by politicians to cripple our live export market has caused an oversupply of cattle being sold into the south and east of the country, with cattle prices in free fall until the cattle supply steadies. The message this drives home to me, is that we have no control on outside factors, so we must get it very right inside our own boundary to be in a position to jump unexpected hurdles that confront us along the way. Management and genetics will play a pivotal part in the outcome.

Dry times are nothing new to people in these regions. I have seen these innovators many times before, with adapted genetics behind them, manage their way through hard times to come out the other side as strong as ever, less a little bit of skin they lost on the way.

We will see adapted cattle and adapted people working together once again to come out winners.

As always the rain will return and the prices will lift as the supply steadies in the not too distant future.

Although a later start than usual, the eastern regions have received good rain for the season with up to 50mm falling this week in areas. We have been fortunate enough to have good seasons on our properties leading to some promising results in production.

At ALC we have finished our pregnancy testing with a pleasing result of 87% in calf. We are very happy with this as all cows have weaned a calf and rebred while lactating with **only 21 days of green feed**. Our first rain fell at the end of January. Another great result is 86% of 2 year old heifers and 34% of yearling heifers were pregnant on 90 days of mating which finished before the rain.



All done on dry feed!

I believe these cattle that can function without waiting for green grass are essential to Northern Australia as being illustrated to us right now. I don't see any fancy money being paid for the so called "right article", "flat back" and so on at present. The "right article" for us, is an animal that can survive and produce, with the least amount of input, through all seasonal conditions.

Our focus now is to market all non producing females and allow the remaining cattle to utilize the pasture we have. All cattle running on our properties will be young cattle growing in body weight or females growing pregnancy and later calves.

Our 3rd ALC bull sale will be held on Wednesday 3rd of July at Gundaroo. This year's sale will consist of our first ALC branded bulls, and we are very proud of what



we have to offer. The bulls have done extraordinarily well and have hit puberty earlier than ever before – they are ready for work. We have collected our final scrotal measurements and weights and Louise will be kept busy submitting the information to Breedplan. ALC does not believe in grain feeding bulls for sale, so as usual the bull will be presented straight off grass in pens of 10 to 15 head and sold under the Helmsman bidding system. This gives buyers plenty of time to walk through and select bulls whilst analysing the data supplied without pressure. It is an informal and relaxed environment. 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.

For more information on reading ALC bull catalogues go to www.alcbrahmans.com.au and click on "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 on display while entering "Gundaroo".

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. Please feel welcome to bring other interested producers.

If semen is what you'd prefer for this year's mating, please go to our web site www.alcbrahmans.com.au and click on "Semen/Bull Sales" tab, then go to "Semen Sales".

Hope to see you soon at "Gundaroo",

Kind Regards,

Alf





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"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination". Nelson Mandela.

ALC BULL SALE - WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY 2013



ON PROPERTY - "GUNDAROO" NEBO QLD
8AM INSPECTIONS 10AM START

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