

ALC BRAHMANS



ALC UPDATE



Happy New Year! A little late I'm sorry. We have been really busy the past six months keeping in front of the dry weather. I am very happy to report, in the two week period from the end of January to beginning of February, we received 230mm at "Gundaroo" and 300mm at "Tondara" so the pressure is off for now. I hope most of you have had a break also.

As the dry continued to bite, we were selling down our herd to manage grass as best we could. We started with any females calving later than November; all last year's weaner steers went, along with breeders that lost pregnancies during the current calving season. This has reduced our numbers to a point that now with rain; we are recovering rapidly in our pastures. Fortunately, the cattle market was strong as we started our sell down. I do feel for those who had to start selling due to the dry before the market corrected.



The positive, is the herds have had a good clean up and after this year's pregnancy test, any cattle not suited to tough times, will be exposed and sold. The heifer joining finished at Christmas before any rain and the pasture had no protein or energy, so that will be a good test for them. We will pregnancy test the heifer mobs in the next couple of weeks. I'm sure as always, some cattle will shine and some will fail. Our job is to find the ones who work regardless of the weather. The breeder herds were low on body condition this year, especially two year old calving heifers, so re-breed on these will be a very good test. Their joining period will be completed on dry weather with 10 days of green grass at the end, along with extreme sand flies due to the flooded river. Interestingly, we have observed cows cycling, while losing body condition and lactating, all through the joining on dry grass. I believe this is where adapted genetics, selected for fertility, really stand out from the rest!



Another positive in dry times, is that it brings forward any water improvement plans. As the river went dry at "Gundaroo", we equipped a new bore and ran 12kms of pipe, distributing water through paddocks and on to the house. With a few more additions, we will have "Gundaroo" not reliant on any natural water holes and better water distribution, to even out grazing pressure.

Louise has been busy in the office generating new graphs on the ALC herd. If you are interested in having a look, go to the ALC website in the graphs section under the genetics tab. www.alcbrahmans.com.au



ALC now has a Facebook page. www.facebook.com/alcbrahmans Social media is all new to us, but we will keep up-dates and news leading up to our bull sale in July on this page, so if you use Facebook, please like/share the page to follow. We will continue to use Newsletters, our website and email for those who don't use Facebook.

I hope we all continue to see some follow up rain in the next couple of months along with reasonable cattle prices. Looks like good times ahead.

Kind Regards,

Alf





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"Nothing is ever achieved that stays in a dream" - Anonymous



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