

### **ALC UPDATE**

Well another year has rolled around already!! We are fortunate enough to say that for December “Gundaroo” has received 30mm of rain and Tondara 250mm. We always class rain before Christmas as a real bonus.

The feed at Tondara before this rain was very low in protein and energy so the breeders were working hard, as body condition declined rapidly. This is when we need confidence in our cattle, working consistently hard for us, regardless of what Mother Nature throws our way.

Gundaroo pastures have been reasonable all year so body condition has been good. I have noticed a lot of cows cycling one month earlier than they did last year which is very reassuring the genetics are going in the right direction. Speed of reproduction is our major profit driver.



At ALC all calves are born before December 10 so we have gone through all breeder mobs and slaughtered all cows that failed to deliver a live calf. ALC has a zero tolerance for cows that do not produce a live weaner and rebreed every year. All breeders at ALC will deliver a live weaner and rebreed while lactating to stay in the herd. This allows only the working end of the herd to enjoy the green period and plays a very important part in cash flow and genetic gain.

Our goal at ALC is to have 75% of calves born by October 15. This year ALC achieved 83% which has made us very happy. This coupled with the observation of heats moving earlier make the future look very bright. We must keep the bar high and maintain the pressure!!

Another evaluation we make this time of year is weight and scrotal measurements on this year’s sale bulls at the end of the dry season. We take this opportunity to identify genetics that perform on our worst nutrition as we believe that if we breed cattle that do well in the tough going, the good times will take care of themselves. Reality is that we spend more time with poor nutrition in the dry tropics than we do in good nutrition.

We had our first ALC bull sale at Gundaroo in August this year. The sale was held within six weeks of moving both cattle, and our family from Belah Valley to Gundaroo. Talk about get a lot done in a short period, the pace was on!! Due to the help, encouragement and can do attitudes of some family and good friends “Gundaroo” was “Sale Ready” on time. The temperament of the bulls was again a real stand out with people moving freely between pens of bulls all day with some bulls having to be nudged to stand up for inspection. It is gratifying to see good cattlemen sorting through mobs of gentle cattle and using the extensive information supplied. To say the least, the day went smoothly and bulls were sold to new and repeat buyers. The support from these people is deeply appreciated.



ALC Sale Team: Jamie Bowman, Alf and Louise Collins, Mark Tobin.

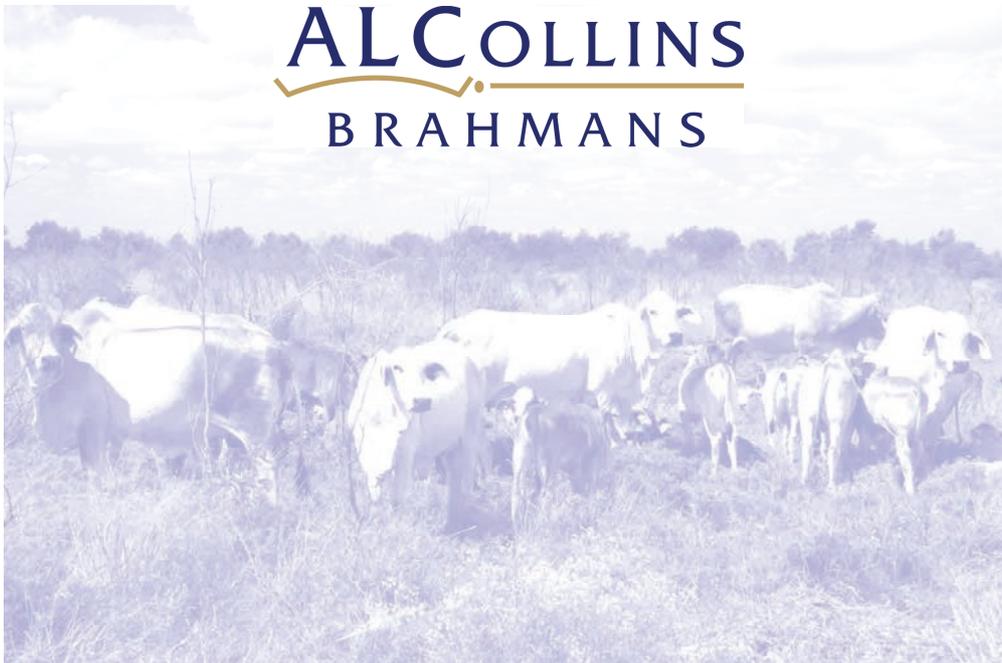
From all at ALC we would like to thank you for your support during 2011 and wish you a Merry Christmas and an enjoyable New Year.

Alf, Louise and Family.

### **ALC SALE DAY**



# ALCOLLINS BRAHMANS



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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...*

*“A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains” Dutch Proverb*



Heath, Tom and Ellie in their “new” pride and joy “Blue Bull”.

## **Results of our first ALC 2011 Bull Sale at Gundaroo**

Top Price \$6,300 AAco

Sale Average \$3,520

ALC's first bull sale was held at “Gundaroo”, Nebo on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011. On offer were 62 Brahman two year old bulls along with a handful of Charbrays and Composites.

Clients bid on bulls in a relaxed atmosphere, with plenty of time to make their selections under the Helmsman bid system. We were happy with the sale average of \$3,520. Bulls sold from \$2,750 to \$6,300 and went to all regions of Queensland and as far South as Boorowa in NSW.

The sale catalogue consisted of a solid three generations of fertility data on the Dam's side along with two generations of fertility data on the Sire's side. ALC clients were provided with a weight and scrotal measurement at 600 days of age along with EBV's and age of puberty on all bulls. It's rewarding to know our clients utilise the depth of data provided. Also pleasing, was to hear the many comments regarding the impeccable temperament of the bulls. They came straight from the paddock to the sale, in working condition, certain to grow with no setbacks at their new homes. They have been bred and raised at a low cost per kilogram, and do not disappoint on grass anywhere.

We are committed to supplying top service to our clients and pride ourselves in providing predictable, fertile, grass-raised genetics.

Thank you to everyone who attended our first ALC Bull Sale. We appreciate your support and look forward to an exciting future together.