



angus web update

performance genetics with heritage

FROM THE STUD PRINCIPALS

What difference a year can make. With good prospects coming out of drought in the north last year the break didn't come for the southern states and then we had record wet seasons in Queensland and on the NSW coast.

Cattle markets see-sawed around a brittle Australian dollar without hitting any record highs but remaining stable enough.

Grain prices eased a bit and prospects for feedlots improved over the previous tough year. And then came the global economic meltdown.

Frightened world markets, especially some that were traditionally seen as being outlets for Australian beef product, began to suffer credit shortages and slowing demand, so export prices stalled. Even the domestic market was affected with little growth as consumers looked to tighten their belts and pay off debt.

Then to top it all off we saw the emergence of genetically related recessive defects in some strains of Angus cattle.

While all these things have created much consternation in the cattle industry there are some very positive aspects that have emerged from all this and much of it should give confidence to beef producers prepared to focus on targeting markets that can be met from their production system.

Take a line through the very buoyant lamb market. A 50 percent increase in Middle Eastern demand and strong markets in China and the USA have combined with lower sheep numbers to create sustained demand seeing grassfed lamb prices above 400c/kg over a period of weeks.

And while cattle feedlot numbers may be down, the shortage of finished cattle from the south has seen good demand for

domestic vealers and even large operations such as Rockdale at Yanco are adapting and marketing more grassfed cattle.

Tim McRae of MLA will be covering many aspects of the marketing situation world wide and prospects for the future when he speaks at our Open Day on July 17th.

The management of genetic defects and a precise procedure for breeding it out of seedstock herds was the quick response from Angus Australia and, as well as the information already published, Emma Weatherley will summarise the state of play and be available to answer producers' questions at the Open Day.

As if markets and economies are not enough, the pressure on livestock producers to understand the repercussions of Emissions Trading is another factor in management decisions. Roger Heggarty will be outlining where the latest research on methane production is taking us.

With all the factors now having to be considered by producers, the basic facts remain the same. As a business, beef production is a question of maximising the number of kilos of beef produced per hectare in a form that will allow it to be sold into the most profitable market sector.

Whatever your management system or target market is, the genetics you select in your bulls have a very marked influence on how well you meet those production objectives and market specs.

In a project run in Queensland to improve compliance rates of grassfed cattle for MSA Grading, project leader Alan Laing summarised the importance, along with nutrition and handling, of genetics in production when he said, "The long-term strategy of using genetics to improve performance through increased growth rate to reduce turn-off age and ossification, increase marbling and rib fat cover (using BREEDPLAN) is also expected to improve compliance rates over time." ▶

ANGUS WEB OPEN DAY

Friday, 17th July 2009 • Stratton, Guyra NSW

9.30 am	Morning Tea
10.00 - 10.35am	Market Trends in the Beef Industry <i>Tim McRae, MLA</i>
10.40 - 11.15am	Methane Emissions in Cattle & ETS <i>Roger Heggarty, UNE</i>
11.15 - 11.45am	Managing Recessive Genetic Defects <i>Emma Weatherley, Angus Society Australia</i>
11-45 to 12 noon	Supplementation for Marketing Cattle <i>Pro-Beef</i>
12.00 - 1.00pm	Complimentary CAAB Beef lunch
1pm onwards	Bull Inspections

To assist with catering, please RSVP to Lock Rogers (02) 6779 1675

ARTHROGRYOSIS MULTIPLEX (AM OR CURLY CALF SYNDROME)

AM is a lethal genetic defect. The name is derived from Greek, with Arthrogyrosis literally meaning 'curved or hooked joints'. Multiplex indicates there are multiple abnormalities associated with the condition.

For the condition to be expressed the defective gene needs to be present on both sides of the pedigree and both the sire and dam need to be a carrier.

How is the condition inherited?

Research in the U.S. and Australia indicates that AM is a simply inherited recessive defect. This means that a single pair of genes controls the condition. For this mode of inheritance two copies of the defective gene need to be present before the condition is seen; in which case you may get a calf with AM. A more common example of a trait with a simple recessive pattern of inheritance is black and red coat colour.

Animals with only one copy of the defective gene (and one copy of the normal form of the gene), that appear normal, are known as "carriers".

Note: The number of reported observations of possible AM calves is very low and there is certainly no need for panic.

THE AM STATUS OF ANIMALS IS BEING REPORTED USING THE FIVE CATEGORIES BELOW:

AMF	Indicates that the animal has been found to be free of the mutation after it has been tested for the causative mutation. This animal is homozygous, meaning that it has two copies of the normal variant (or allele) of the gene. This animal is unable to transmit the AM mutation to its progeny.
AMC	Indicates that the animal has been found to be a carrier of the mutation after it has been tested for the causative mutation. This animal is heterozygous for the mutation, meaning that it has one mutant allele and one normal allele. This animal will pass the AM mutation on to approximately half of its progeny.
AMS ___%	Indicates that, based on pedigree information supplied by the breeder, the animal is suspected to be a carrier of the mutation but has not been tested for the causative mutation. The higher the indicated percentage, the larger the chance the animal may be a carrier. To verify the status of this animal, Angus Australia recommends that AM testing be undertaken prior to using this animal for breeding purposes.
AMFU	Indicates that the animal is expected to be free of the mutation based on pedigree information supplied by the breeder of the animal. However, this animal has not been tested for the causative mutation and Angus Australia gives no guarantee as to the animal's "free" status.
AMA	Although affected calves are rarely tested, they would be homozygous for the mutation and have two copies of the mutant variant of the gene. These calves will be dead at birth.

What happens when carriers are mated to other animals?

Carriers, will on average, pass the defective gene form to a random half (50 %) of their progeny.

When a carrier bull and carrier cow is mated, there should be a 25% chance that the progeny produced will have two normal genes and consequently will never pass on the defective gene. There should be a 50% chance that the mating will produce a carrier. However, there could be a 25% chance that the progeny have two copies of the defective gene. Reports from breeders show lower than expected numbers of affected (dead) calves and therefore it appears that there may be some other factors influencing the percentages indicated above.

This is under investigation. If animals tested free of the defective gene are mated to carrier animals the AM condition will not be expressed. All calves will appear normal, but approximately half (50%) could be expected to be carriers.

From the Principals, continued

The ability to breed cattle that have high compliance with market requirements we see as a principal objective of supplying bulls to our customers and that means providing bulls with a range of genetic traits for various markets and sound structure and fertility to keep calving percentages up.

We think you will find this year's sale bulls, selected from a forcibly reduced base, to contain bulls that will meet your requirements and we welcome you to the Open Day, to inspect these bulls and hear some very interesting speakers on subjects that are very critical in today's production environment.

And if you are visiting the New England area during Northern Beef Week you are most welcome to call in to any of the studs to look at our bulls or our cow herds. Just give us a call and let us know what time you might be passing through.

Lock, Andrew & Sam

EASTERN PLAINS

This year at our annual on-property Eastern Plains Angus Bull Sale, we will be offering 50 bulls.

Having recorded our driest Autumn in two decades, we had little choice but to begin bull preparation as early as April.

Our 2009 draft of sale bulls are by the following AI sires:-

- **Hyline Right Time 338**
- **GAR Predestined**
- **B/R Ambush 28**
- **BT Equator 395M**
- **B/R Genesis 65R**
- **Ardrossan Connection X15**
- **Ardrossan Admiral A2**

BULL TESTING

Again this year we have put our bulls through a rigorous testing process to select the final yarding, ensuring a quality line-up of bulls. This has included the following tests:-

- In response to the recessive genetic conditions of Arthrogyrosis Multiplex (AM) and Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH) we have DNA tested all sale bulls to identify carriers of the gene. ►

Eastern Plains Continued..

All bulls offered in our catalogue have tested as AM Free (noted as AMF against the bull in our catalogue) and NH Free (noted as NHF against the bull in our catalogue).

- PI Ear Notch Test to identify any Persistently Infected (PI) animals for Pestivirus - all bulls tested negative and were then vaccinated with Pestigard.
- Semen Morphology Test to identify the number of normal sperm cells per 100 sperm cells (scored as a percentage).
- All bulls have a physical inspection by Cattle Vets Accredited Veterinarian, Dr David Willis, New England Veterinary Centres, to examine and palpate the reproductive organs and conduct the semen tests for each bull.
- Physical inspection of each bull by Dick Whale, Independent Breeding and Marketing Service, for structural soundness.
- Assessment of Breedplan traits for weight, carcass and fertility EBV's.
- Joining performance of bulls, used as yearlings, in the Eastern Plains commercial and stud female herds.

INVERELL BLUE RIBBON WEANER SALE APRIL 2009

This year we followed up on our success at the last years' Inverell Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale (where Eastern Plains weaners were awarded Champion Pen of Angus/Murray Grey Steers) where, from a total yarding of over 4000 head, Eastern

Plains bred weaners were awarded the Champion Pen of Angus/Murray Grey Heifers for the sale.

We look forward to catching up again at the WEB Angus Open Day at "Stratton", on 17 July and our bull sale, Tuesday 4 August 2009.

WATTLETOP

WATTLETOP DEALS WITH AM

Like many other Angus seedstock herds, Wattletop has taken quite a hit through our systematic testing for Arthrogyrosis Multiplex (AM). So far we have lost 10 'C' sale bulls and 31 'D' bulls. We've identified 31 AMC cows and as yet have only tested a few 'D' heifers.

All 2009 Sale Bulls are either tested AMF or carry the status of AMFU (explanation on page 2).

Wattletop will offer 93 top bulls at our 2009 sale on Wednesday 5th August.

Sires represented are:-

- **Wattletop Zoomer Z171**
- **Wattletop Aconites A95**
- **Wattletop Direction A171**
- **Wattletop Anson A366**
- **Wattletop Axon A42**
- **Hyline Right time 338**
- **BT Equator 395M**
- **B/R Ambush 28**
- **LT 598 Bando 9074**
- **Booroomooka Theo Y370**

WATTLETOP COW SALE

Wattletop achieved 100% clearance selling all 44 lots offered on Auctions Plus for an average of \$1665 to a top of \$2800.

Top price cow was Wattletop B179 by Ardrossan X3 from a super New Design 036 cow, U185.

B179 was purchased by Russell Connor of Coolarmagh Angus, Cowper on the Clarence River. At the time of writing, Russell's property is entirely under floodwater. Fortunately Russell has been able to move all his cattle to nearby higher ground including his five newly purchased Wattletop cows.

Once again the major volume buyer was Renato Gaspari of Coot's Creek Angus at Hall near Canberra who bought 25 cows and heifers for an average of \$1544 to a top of \$1800.

Coots Creek have now bought 92 Wattletop females from the last 3 sales.

Another repeat buyer, Darby Blackley from Gundapark Angus, Wandoan bought 6 cows for an average of \$1933, including the second time price of \$2600 for Wattletop Usual B303 who has a long fed/CAAB index of 115 and IMF of 2.2 (both top 5%).

TIMELY RAIN

Wattletop has enjoyed a pretty good autumn while Stratton, where we prepare our sale bulls 23ks west of Guyra, has been very dry with only 7 inches this year. That is to last week when we gratefully received 65 mm which will help the one paddock of established triticale. The second paddock planted 3 weeks later at the end of March, still hasn't germinated.

We are also about to lay nearly 5 kms of pipe to upgrade our stock water, in particular 3 paddocks that we are unable to use at the moment.

WEB BULL SALE DATES 2009

Eastern Plains

Tuesday 4 August • 11am

50 two year old bulls

Andrew White

Ph 02 6779 4237

Fax 02 6779 4251

Email: easternplains@bigpond.com
www.easternplainsangus.com.au

Bald Blair

Tuesday 4 August • 2pm

45 two year old & yearling bulls

Sam White

Ph 02 6779 2141

Fax 02 6779 1800

Email: white.sam@bigpond.com
www.baldblairangus.com.au

Wattletop

Wednesday 5 August • 12pm

93 two year old bulls

Lock Rogers

Ph 02 6779 1675

Fax 02 6779 2007

Email: wattletop@northnet.com.au
www.wattletop.com.au

FROM THE STUDS

BALD BLAIR

This year at Bald Blair we will be offering about 45 Angus Bulls for sale. There will be 40 two year old Bulls and 5 yearling bulls on offer. Bulls on offer will include sons of:-

- **B/R Ambush 28**
(an outcross pedigree to the Precision Line)
- **Temania Unlimited VTM U3271**
(an outcross pedigree to the Precision Line)
- **Temania Ulong VTM U41**
(an outcross pedigree to the Precision Line)
- **Rito 2V1***
- **Ardrossan Connection NAQ X15***
- **Ardrossan Admiral A2 NAQ A2**
- **Alberda Traveller USA 416**
(an older outcross pedigree)
- **GAR Retail Product**
- **Bald Blair Highmark Z58**
- **Bald Blair Direction A10**
- **Bald Blair Connection A28***

(*only sons tested free of AM will be offered for sale)

QUALITY CONTROL

All bulls offered for sale will be free of the recessive genetic defect Arthrogyrosis Multiplex (AM, or Curly Calf Syndrome, denoted AMF or AMFU). All those tested will have been DNA Tested through the Angus Society of Australia.

All bulls will have undergone inspection by our independent structural assessor Dick Whale prior to being put in the catalogue.

In addition all bulls have been ear notched to determine that they are not persistently infected carriers of pestivirus, and in addition have received initial vaccination and a booster of the pestigard Vaccine.

All bulls have been vaccinated with 7n1 and Lepto and Vibrio Vaccinations, in addition to receiving drenches for internal parasites and fluke, that is Cydectin Pour On and Fasinex 240.

All bulls have undergone a Semen Morphology Exam.

In addition all bulls have recorded all breedplan data from Birth, 200 day, 400 day to 600days. The most recent EBV's available will be used for our catalogue.

The Bald Blair Herd is a Monitored Negative 3 NJDMAP Herd, Certificate No. NC090109.

BALD BLAIR COMMERCIAL ANGUS HERD RESULTS

Between 15 and 20 Yearling Angus bulls are used as yearlings each year in the Bald Blair commercial herd. These bulls are then offered for sale as two year olds, generally making up Pen 1 bulls each year.

The steer progeny of these bulls are grown out at Bald Blair and destined for the long fed feedlot market targeting the Japanese market. Steers are reaching their specifications for entry into that market, 450 to 500 kg from as early as 14 months of age, with 70 head out of 200 head being sold into that market as early as October each year for the last three years.

RECESSIVE GENETIC DEFECTS (AM)

In response to the identification of Arthrogyrosis Multiplex (AM or Curly Calf Syndrome), a simple recessive genetic defect, at Bald Blair we have tested all those offending pedigrees in both bull and cow lines. Only those with such pedigrees that are tested free of the defect (denoted AMF) will be offered for sale at this years Auction, along with those animals that do not have offending pedigrees (denoted AMFU). Regretably, this year the number of those bulls testing to be carriers of this defect has been significant, with the result being less bulls being offered for sale.

While frustrated, our response to this has been pragmatic in that those females that are tested carriers will be transferred to our commercial herd, where they will subsequently be mated to AMF or AMFU bulls only and carry on as productive females in the herd. As this defect will only manifest itself when two carrier animals are mated together, the quickest, simplest, easiest and most commercially sensible response in our commercial herd is only to mate to AMF or AMFU bulls as stated earlier. Overtime the recessive gene will be bred out of the commercial herd.

To keep things in perspective, it must be remembered that failure to assess and then vaccinate for clostridial diseases like Lepto and other diseases like Pestivirus can have a more significant immediate impact on your herd profitability than can carrying a simple recessive genetic defect on one side of the pedigree only.

More explanation s on AM can be found on Angus Australia website.

SPECIAL GUEST CHEF AT WEB OPEN DAY

Chef, Victor Raszewski, who is currently the Head of Hospitality at Armidale TAFE and who also owned Victor's Restaurant in Armidale, will use CAAB beef to showcase some recipes and cooking methods to demonstrate what a fantastic product CAAB is.

Join us for lunch at the WEB open day at Stratton and taste for yourself, beautifully prepared and cooked Angus Beef that can be produced from the genetics on display at the WEB open day.

**For catering please
RSVP to Lock Rogers
02 6779 1675.**

AI SIRES OF WEB SALE BULLS

Ident	Animal Name	Eastern Plains	Bald Blair	Wattletop
USA416	Alberda Traveller		✓	
NAQX15	Ardrossan Connection X15	✓	✓	
NAQA2	Ardrossan Admiral A2	✓	✓	
NGMY370	Booroomooka Theo Y370			✓
USA 14188956	BR Ambush 28	✓	✓	✓
	B/R Genesis 65R	✓		
USA14237157	BT Equator 395M	✓		✓
USA13395329	GAR Retail Product		✓	
USA 13395344	GAR Predestined	✓		
USA13058662	Hyline Right Time 338	✓		✓
USA 9074	LT 598 Bando 9074			✓
USA 14088249	Rito 2V1 of 2536 1407		✓	
VTMU41	Te Mania Unlimited U41		✓	