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Robert & Jacci Campbell

EXCELLENT!

Good news! Our participation in the Beef Improvement Association's Seedstock Producer of the Year 2000 competition resulted in a "Certificate of Excellence" award. Independent judges Tim Hollier [DNRE, Wodonga], Rod Manning [Vet, Mansfield] and Dane Martin [beef farmer, Yarck] also provided us with a comprehensive report on our stud business. Their encouragement and advice has been extremely helpful to us. Given that we were competing with the Australia-wide winners [Te Mania Angus, Colac] and runners-up [Weeran Angus, Hamilton]

we are proud of our achievement. We are also determined to do better next time we enter. One of the judge's recommendations was that we develop our own "web" page. We hope to have this in place before Christmas. We are also intending to place the catalogue for our 19 April 2001 sale "on-line" through a facility provided by the Angus Society of Australia.

Invitation

You are cordially invited to our "Certificate of Excellence" free field day on Friday 24 November 2000 at 1.00 p.m.

The theme of the day is "Making dollars and sense of your beef enterprise."

We have selected speakers on a range of topics from "interpreting performance records" to "beef marketing" with soils and pasture experts in between. [See below]. Refreshments provided. Please join us for a great day.

SEEDSTOCK COMPETITION FIELD DAY - GUEST SPEAKERS

You have a great opportunity to hear the latest from the best at our free field day on 24 November. Speakers and subjects are down to earth and there will be plenty of opportunity for questions.

PROFESSOR MIKE GODDARD — School of Agriculture & Forestry, University of Melbourne

"Making dollars and sense of seedstock performance information". What to look for, what it means to your business and how it can make you more money.

JOHN GRAHAM- Pastoral and Veterinary Institute, DNRE Hamilton, Victoria

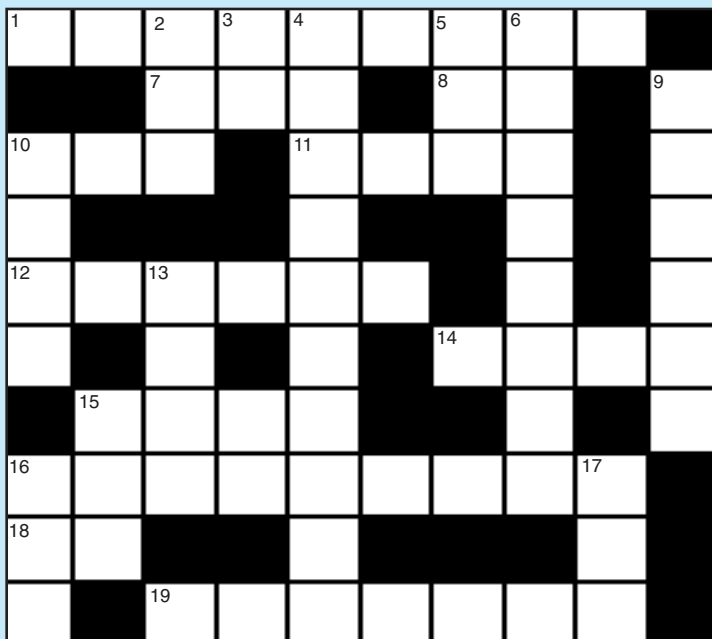
"Making dollars and sense of beef-cattle grazing management." How to optimize use of your most inexpensive cattle feed —pasture. Seasonal grazing strategies for best effect. What to do now to prepare for next autumn.

BRIAN GARRETT — Private consultant.

"Making dollars and sense of your soils". How to make best use of your most valuable farming asset [next to yourself and your family]. Sustainable topsoil and sub-soil management to address salinity, acidity, low-fertility and compaction risk.

PAUL IRVINE—Cargill Foods Australia, Wagga Wagga, NSW

"Making dollars and sense of your beef marketing". As a producer of a premium product, how to achieve a premium return. The importance of quality-assurance and the consumer perspective. The future of Certified Australian Angus Beef TM in Australia and overseas.



Win-Win

UP TO 10% OFF

ARE YOU ALREADY A WINNER?

Just 22 words could earn you 2.5% off the price of every animal you purchase at our 2001 sale in April [\$62.50 on a \$2,500 bull] in a no-obligation offer. All you have to do is complete the adjoining crossword and return it to us by 1 December 2000. There will be two more opportunities for you to earn a 2.5% discount prior to the sale, making 7.5% in total [or \$187.50 on a \$2,500 bull]. In addition all previous purchasers at our 1998, 1999 and 2000 sales automatically qualify for a 2.5% discount as valued clients. All replies will be acknowledged. Have a go! [as they say].

CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

- 1. Angus Group.....performance data
- 7. Australian Tax Office
- 8. and off
- 10. Rib and Rump EBV s
- 11. Stocking(DSE/Ha)
- 12. Estimated Breeding(EBV s)
- 14.or less
- 15 Concrete reinforcing.....
- 16.Australian Angus Beef TM
- 18. Time or place
- 19.ease EBV s

DOWN

- 2. Consume
- 3. Embryo Transfer
- 4. Road. Location of our sale facility
- 5. feeding
- 6. Amusing brief story
- 9. A grass we do not want
- 10. Trait leaders are in the topper cent
- 13. Stare
- 15. Metropolitan (abbr.)
- 16. Scotch..... A great old Angus bull
- 17. Man s best friend

EUROA ANGUS WEEK

Preparations are well underway for the Angus summer sale season start at Euroa, 1-8 December 2000. We have again been part of a small group working alongside the Agents to make Euroa Angus Week sales something special for vendors and purchasers alike. The Certified Australian Angus Beef TM dinner will be held at the Old Flour Mill on Friday 1 December. Guest speaker will be "ready-to-eat-meal" guru Lennard Poulter. Call Helen McDougall on 5790 4387 for tickets. [\$66 per head including drinks]

Another feature will be the agent-endorsed "pen description cards." These cards will enable vendors to provide extra details on breeding, drenching, vaccination etc for potential purchasers. You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Premium prices are the likely result!

2000 SALE OUTCOME

Extraordinary value for bull buyers and keen competition for females were the feature of our on-property sale in April this year. An almost total clearance of bulls for a top of \$5250 and an average of \$2100 saw bulls going to other studs in addition to commercial buyers. Females were in great demand. Blackmore Stud at Wangaratta paid top price of \$3500 for a six-year-old cow with a bull calf at foot. Brendan Simpson of Ballarat and Trevor Lyons of Moama were volume buyers. We will have a similar range of quality stock in our 2001 sale.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

Opportunities always will be present throughout our lifetime. We must, however, have the foresight to recognize their possibilities and, secondly, the commitment and courage to transform them into a successful reality.

Source: USA Angus Journal, September 2000.

RESEARCH REPORT - GRAZING MANAGEMENT

SILVERGRASS [VULPIA] CONTROL

Winter spraying of improved pasture invaded by silvergrass with a combination of simazine and paraquat increases the clover composition and controls silvergrass for up to 5 years. Chris Nichols, Pasture agronomist with DNRE at Hamilton provided many useful tips on silvergrass control in the May 2000 Grassland Society newsletter. Silvergrass is one of the worst agricultural weeds, affecting pasture production and persistence and hence farm profitability. It is a voracious user of water and nutrients but has very low nutritional value to grazing stock. Spraying in May/ June or August/September is equally effective. Simazine rates vary from 0.8- 1.5 litre/Ha depending on soil type [heavy clays need most]. Paraquat rates vary from 125-200 ml/Ha depending on the amount of annual grass in the pasture. Soil moisture must be sufficient to enable the simazine to act via the root system. May/June spraying also reduces capeweed and barley grass. July/August spraying precipitated all sorts of problems. Crash grazing of paddocks prior to spraying is recommended. Withholding periods – stock 14 days and for cutting, 21 days.

For further information: Chris Nichols [03] 5573 0900

P.S. Don't forget the fertilizer. Silvergrass thrives on low-fertility sites.

PHOSPHOROUS – WHERE DOES IT GO?

The reason we apply phosphorous [P] to pastures is to get higher returns per hectare – through higher stocking rates because we can grow more pasture. Richard Simpson of CSIRO Canberra and his associates provided a comprehensive report on phosphorous in the September 2000 Grassland Society newsletter. This report answered questions raised in the May 2000 GSV Annual Conference. In particular, how much phosphorous was needed to maintain stocking rates and how much was actually taken off farm in produce. Optimum investment in P, in addition to increasing profit, improves pasture composition and enables rainfall and land resources to be used more effectively. [However we also need to remember that higher stocking rates demand better management, may precipitate higher peaks and troughs in feed supply, and require plans to cope with severe droughts.]

Of the superphosphate applied each year only 10-20% is incorporated into the current years pasture, 30-40% becomes available over the next months or years and in most soils, 50% becomes "fixed". 100Kg/Ha of superphosphate [1 large bag per acre] provides only 1-2 Kg of pure phosphorous [P] per Ha. Pasture yielding 10tonne/Ha of dry matter per year contains 25 Kg of P – most of which is derived from the 40-50% residual phosphorous and recycled plant material and animal excreta. The message? If fertilizer P is applied and the extra pasture that is grown is not eaten, the money invested in fertilizer is largely lost. If you are starting from a low-fertility: low stocking rate base, firstly establish your target carrying capacity [N.B. remember that extra stock and their running costs could be twice the cost of the fertilizer input] and do a budget.

Further information: Richard Simpson [02] 6246 5364.

SOME INTERESTING AVERAGES

Analysis of the thousands of records for the most recent Australian Angus Breedplan directory revealed the following averages.

How do your cattle compare?

Birth weight	35.3 kg
200 day weight	232 kg
400 day weight	353 kg
600 day weight	498 kg
Mature cow weight	608 kg
Heifer P8 fat [500 days]	6.5mm
Bull P8 fat [500 days]	4.3mm
Carcase RBY% [300 kg]	65.3%
Scrotal size [400 days]	34.6cm

Source: June 2000 Angus Group Breedplan Directory

PITHY COMMENTS FROM PITA ALEXANDER

Rule of Holes

- First Rule - When you are in one – stop digging and get out.
- Second Rule - Don't waste time trying to sell the hole – you have at least had a tax deduction for it.
- Third Rule - Destroy all records concerning the hole – down the hole.
- Fourth Rule - Sell all hole digging equipment – immediately.
- Last Rule - From this point on always listen to spouse from the outset.

A THOUGHT

Ever wondered where you obtained the energy to get out of bed on those cold, dark winter mornings? It came from the sun! Plants, using energy from the sun, created cellular material subsequently consumed by ourselves and our animals as food. Our digestion of this cellular material [plant and animal] reverses the process releasing energy to keep us active and warm.

CALVING EASE

Good spring rains in 1999, a reasonable autumn break, followed by a mild winter and exceptional spring growth this year has precipitated a spate of "horror" stories about difficult calvings this spring, particularly in heifers. Even the "easy-calving" Angus breed has experienced trouble. Obviously the environmental effect has been paramount. It serves to remind us that spring calving can be tough on heifers and must be carefully managed (more next newsletter). However we should not forget about the genetic influences on calving ease. EBVs are available to guide us in seedstock selections to maintain and improve calving ease. We also need to consider the genetic relationships between calving ease and related traits. The June 2000 Angus Group Breedplan directory outlined the following genetic correlations for calving ease [N.B. perfect correlation is + or - 1.0]

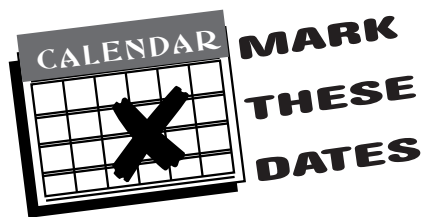
- | | | |
|--|-------|--|
| 1. Calv Ease (DIR) : Birth Wt | -0.40 | |
| 2. Calv Ease (DTRS) : Birth Wt | +0.14 | |
| 3. Calv Ease (DIR) : Gestation Length | -0.20 | |
| 4. Calv Ease (DTRS) : Gestation Length | +0.07 | |
| 5. Calv Ease (DIR) : Calv Ease (DTRS) | -0.50 | |

This means that:

1. Calving ease (direct) decreases as parent birth weight EBV's increase.
2. Calving ease in the next generation (daughters) increases as parents birth weight EBV's increase [conversely low birth weight EBV's of parents are correlated with calving difficulty in the next generation because low birth weight heifers tend to have low overall growth rates and may not develop into easy calvers].
3. Calving ease (direct) decreases as gestation length increases i.e. with longer gestations, calf birthweight increases, resulting in more calving difficulty.
4. Calving ease in the next generation (daughters) increases as parents gestation length EBV's increases – similar to 2 above.
5. Calving ease in the next generation decreases as their parents calving ease EBV's increases i.e. easily born [little] heifers may not be easy calvers.

Message: A quick-fix low birth weight EBV "easy-calving" bull may precipitate problems in the next generation because of the strongly negative correlation between calving ease [direct] and calving ease [daughters]. Although calving ease only has low heritability, breeders are wise to consider both the CE [direct] and CE [daughters] when looking at a sires pedigree to improve calving ease in a self - replacing herd.

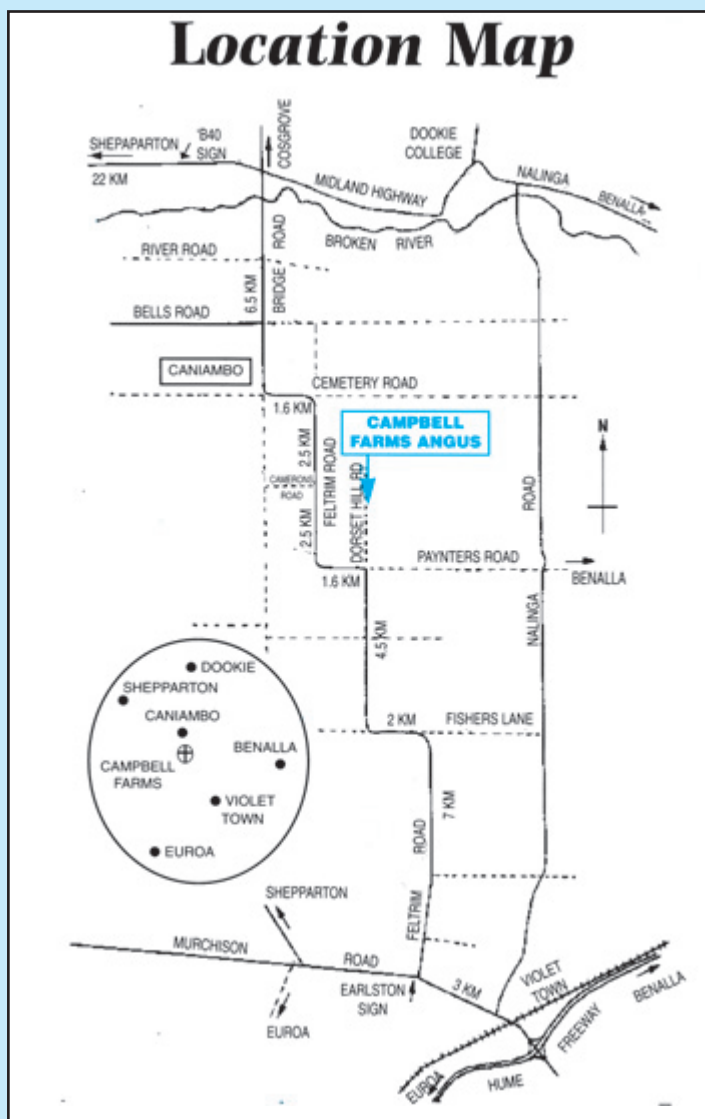
NB: Most young bulls have insufficient genetic information to generate their own calving ease EBV's. However, their parents, grandparents, etc. EBV's are a good guide. Talk to us about calving ease if this is a concern in your herd.



Friday 24 November 2000 – 1.00pm
Seedstock Certificate of Excellence Field Day

Friday 2 February 2001 – 9am to 6pm
Beef Week Open Day- Display of sale bulls.

Thursday 19 April 2001 – 1.00pm
Annual On-property Sale - bulls and females



CAMPBELL FARMS ANGUS

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VICTORIA. AUSTRALIA

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