

# THE HORMONAL MAIL

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER OF  
CLASSIC LIVESTOCK  
MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

NUMBER 63

January 2022



**MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES**

ACN 092435571

P.O. BOX 1181,  
MARYBOROUGH, QLD. 4650.

PHONE: 0741297029/0411201879.

Email: [gewyatt@bigpond.com](mailto:gewyatt@bigpond.com)

Website: [www.classiclivestock.com](http://www.classiclivestock.com)

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022. We would like to wish you all a safe and prosperous year ahead and let's hope that we all get more of our freedom back this year and can get on with our lives.

If nothing else, it does look like the cattle industry will continue to boom here in Australia, at least. I hope producers in other countries are also faring well. The boom prices are usually the result of some disaster or other and this is the case here at present after several years of drought or floods that have reduced the size of the national herd quite significantly. Unfortunately, while the big prices are great, they come with consequences. Because breeding herds have been reduced so much, now that there is an availability of feed, producers are naturally looking to restock as quickly as possible. To this end, any female that can have a calf will be put to the bull. As a result, quite a lot of females that would normally be culled for a whole range of negative production reasons are now being kept and bred from. The obvious outcome from this is that the overall herd quality will be reduced and then reflected through the end product in the retail market. The quality level can't help but be reduced and so there could well be a backlash from the market. This is something that the industry can ill afford given the competition that is always increasing, especially now that synthetic meat products are becoming available.

In many ways the industry is caught between a rock and a hard place. If the herd is not rebuilt rapidly, other products will replace beef and if it is rebuilt quickly at the reduction in product quality, consumers will again look elsewhere for a more palatable product.

What we would do is encourage breeders to select an elite quality herd from their highest producing cows and mate them with bulls that are as good or better so that your best genes are conserved and can then be used to replace the poorer producing cattle that you were forced to breed from originally as soon as possible. The time taken to selectively mate in

this way will be well and truly repaid in the longer term.

### **WHAT'S (BEEN) HAPPENING**

\* I guess the biggest and also most disappointing decision we have had to make recently was to postpone the 5 day evaluation course we were hoping to hold from the 18<sup>th</sup>. Oct. The uncertainty that is the result of the COVID – 19 restrictions has forced us to make this decision to, amongst other things, allow those who had indicated their intention to attend to reschedule their next month or so. Apart from the volatility of the overall COVID – 19 situation, the current information we had was that the breeders from NSW who were coming would not be able to attend and apart from this we did need the 4 – 5 people from there to make up the numbers to justify holding the course.

\*Despite the above, we are determined to hold the course in Clermont in late March - early April or most likely the first week in May next year when we hope that with vaccinations etc, borders will be fully re-opened again. Unfortunately, with Easter falling over the second and third weeks in April and then Anzac Day on the last Monday of that month, there are some limitations we need to work around in setting available dates. I have spoken with the Clermont saleyards and have their dates and taken those into consideration with the above. I am just waiting to get confirmation from the Clermont Show Society so that we can finalise a date as soon as possible. I would like to thank you for your patience in this matter and hope that all of you who had intended to attend will still be able to do so and anyone else who would like to attend would be most welcome to do so.

\*The COVID – 19 lock downs have continued to make travel difficult for us. We have not been able to visit New South Wales so apologise to those breeders in that state that we were hoping to catch up with in September. If the current travel requirements remain in place or are eased, we are planning to visit NSW around mid-February and catch up with as many producers in that state as possible.

\*Just to repeat, we are still very keen to hold more one day field days over the next few months as soon as border restrictions etc. are lifted. If you would like one in your area, please let myself, Albert Hancock (0267334666) or other company directors know and we will get it under way. We would like to be as flexible as possible in our future planning and would welcome and appreciate any input that you can provide for us in this regard.

\*Coodardie Brahman bulls and females are now available for private sale and an online catalogue is available on their website – [www.coodardie.com.au](http://www.coodardie.com.au).

\*We now have linear measuring callipers available for sale for \$100.00 plus freight so if you are interested, please let me know.

\*We remain keen to get some marketing of graded cattle going and are happy to advertise for any of our clients here in the newsletter or on our website.

\*VALE – MIKE O'BRIEN - It was with regret that we learnt of the passing of one of our company directors, good friend and committed Brahman breeder, Mike O'Brien on the 12<sup>th</sup>. December at his property, Coodardie, in the Northern Territory after battling health challenges for several months. He passed away peacefully in the end at home where he belonged with his family, beloved Brahmans grazing outside his window and his faithful "Coodardie" dog. Mike and his family have been staunch supporters of the Classic system for many years and have stuck with a breeding plan they developed over 45 years ago and had the courage to stick with it despite all the breeding "fads" that have come and gone in the industry over those years. A unique personality who cannot be replaced in our lives or in the industry.

#### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

\*We also remain happy to promote sales for other breeders and would like to put them in the newsletter, so please let me know the detail.

.....

## **BREED OF THE QUARTER.**

### **RETINTA** (Andalusian Brown)

I thought we might have a look at less common breed of cattle in most countries again this quarter and I hope that some of you are familiar with these cattle and can get a little out of this article.

Certainly, if you are in Spain, you will know these cattle well because it is the most populous breed in that country with a high concentration in Extremadura and West Andalusia, where the breed originated. They are closely related to the Alentejana and may even be essentially the same breed through a shared descent from the Transtagana.

The Retinta is a member of the *Bos Taurus* species and is believed to have originated from a combination of Andalusian Red, Extremadura Red and Andalusian Blond. It is an indigenous breed to the south and southwest of the Iberian Peninsula where red skinned cattle have lived since ancient times.

Retinta means dark red, which refers to the typical mahogany red colour of the breed. It is solid in colour, with no other markings though the nose and feet are usually quite dark. The horns are lyre-shaped and yellow or greenish yellow with dark ends. Body size varies greatly with environmental conditions from region to region. Mature cows can range in weight from 850 to 1,300 lbs. and mature bulls can weigh anywhere from 1,450 to 2,200 lbs. The largest variety is the "Tamerone," which is bred in the region of Cadiz in the extreme south of Spain.



provided by SENASA Argentina



Photo courtesy of Asociación Argentina de Criadores de Ganado Raza Retinta, The Retinta is an authentic Andalusian breed. The first herd book was started in 1933 and a breed society was formed in 1965. A new herd book was established in 1976. Between 1975 and 1982, the Retinta became specialized as a maternal breed with crosses with other breeds such as Charolais, Limousin, Hereford, Shorthorn and Santa Gertrudis. The Retinta were originally a draft animal, but like many similar breeds in Europe are now used nearly exclusively for meat production. Those of you who have seen the traditional running of the bulls and bull fights in Spain will recognise many of the Retinta characteristics such as the straight horns in the animals used in those events.



Characteristics include:-

- a) variations in their size and development between regions with

lighter colored animals being found in the coastal areas.

- b) heat tolerance
- c) parasite and disease resistance
- d) maternal instincts with adequate milk, calving ease, fertility, longevity.
- e) Hardiness
- f) Good feed conversion
- g) Longevity
- h) Good beef yield and quality

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MORE ABOUT OURSELVES**

Unfortunately, there are times when I can't help myself and so have added a bit more stuff about how we can do some work with ourselves to increase our creative powers and add quality to our lives. My apologies to those of you who find these lapses I have to be a waste of time or intrusive or whatever.

I would like to explain a little about the power of our unconscious minds and how we so often ignore it, usually to our detriment though we often don't even ever realise what we have missed. Our unconscious minds have a wealth of information way above anything we can retain at a conscious level. In fact, all our life experiences are stored there. Unfortunately, most of us, myself included, are too frightened to explore it to any extent because of what we might find out about ourselves that we don't want to hear or know because it will be the truth. Don't forget though that this could be both positive or negative. Also know that whatever response we get from our unconscious, when we ask questions similar to those listed below, that we can reframe them so that they give us something positive that we currently don't have.

Most of us don't really understand the power of our unconscious mind. Our conscious mind is that thing that controls us during our waking hours. However, after 16 – 18 hours, it runs out of steam and has to rest/sleep. So, what keeps us alive while we are asleep? What keeps us breathing, our heart beating, our digestive system working? It is our unconscious mind.

Another example of its role/power. Most of us have had experiences when we are doing something and someone asks us a question.

We know, we know the answer, but just at that time we can't think of it. So after struggling to remember it for a few minutes, we just give up and go back to what we are doing. Then, out of the blue a few minutes, hours, days etc. later, it just pops into our mind. What happens is that our unconscious mind knows we have the answer. Imagine your brain as a filing cabinet full of all your life experiences, skills, knowledge etc. Your unconscious knows the answer is there so it searches until it finds it. Then, regardless of what you are doing, it will put the answer in your conscious mind.

As we understand the relationship between the conscious and unconscious minds, we become more comfortable with maintaining a dialogue between the two.

This will enable us when we ask ourselves to ask if there is any part that objects to a change to encourage an awareness of, and calibrate, the unconscious signals and create a mediation between the conscious and unconscious that will give us the best possible outcome.

We often ask ourselves questions – how do I do this? or we tell ourselves we can't do things. This approach often only reaches us at a conscious level. If we just change the wording slightly, i.e. reframe it, then it will attract the attention of our unconscious mind. The same applies when we keep asking ourselves the same questions. Our conscious mind says, well, I've already given you the answer to that. Keep asking the same question and you will keep getting the same answer. Reframe the question and it will often attract an unconscious mind response. e.g. with the above – how do I do this? When I do this what will I be doing that I haven't done before? Or, about things we think we can't do – If I do this, what will I be doing? Or when I do this, what will I have done?

We can ask what prevents us from having our desired outcome right now?

What is the positive intent of feeling how I feel now? (It might be, as we discussed, our body telling our mind that we just need to take it easy today).

Unconscious, what do you get out of stopping me from wanting to get up and going today?

Why?  
 What would you rather have me doing?  
 Identify the area the most pain/discomfort is in.  
 Become familiar with it.  
 What colour, shape, size is it?  
 Can I change any of these? i.e. size, shape or colour  
 What would happen if you had it (the motivation to get up and going) right now?  
 What would happen if you didn't?  
 What causes your present state to remain?  
 Unconscious, why don't you want me to do anything right now?  
 If you did want me to do something, what would it be?  
 The following are other useful questions to ask to assist in getting closer contact with one's unconscious.  
 What have you done in the past to change how you feel at that time?  
 What did you do?  
 What allowed you to do it?  
 What did you see, hear, feel, smell, taste, do and think?  
 What did you focus on and how?  
 How did you make the change?  
 What was the pattern or patterns you used?  
 What were you thinking about specifically?  
 How did you change the image? Was it bigger, smaller, coloured etc.?  
 What did you ask yourself? (Was it the last one? Would it make me ill?)  
 What did you do to get yourself to change the intensity, situation feeling etc.?  
 What would you have to do?  
 Ask questions like:  
 If you could, how would you create the possibility?  
 If you could, how would you imagine it to be?  
 What would it take for you to get to there?  
 What would you have to change to get there?  
 How will you know when you have it or get there?  
 What will be different?

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE EVERLASTING COW**

At the risk of boring you in this article by repeating information I have discussed previously, I would like to further expand on

the topic I mentioned in the editorial in regard to herd re-building. Over the last few months and still now and no doubt in many cases for years to come, many producers who were the victims of extreme weather conditions over recent years are carrying out the time-consuming task of selecting stock to re-build their herds. Unfortunately, as I mentioned previously, it is not so much a case of selecting new breeding stock, but just getting their hands on any breeder that is available. This means that previous selection criteria are overlooked just so that breeders can get stock onto their pastures and get their cash flow happening again. Of course, this is a priority and must be done regardless. However, it has a long term and negative impact on the industry as a whole as I mentioned above.

What I would like to re-enforce is some ideas, a plan for the future, so that you as a breeder can do something to preserve the years of breeding that is lost when you are forced to sell your herd. Give yourself some sort of an insurance policy against the possibility all those lost years.

The time to start is at the first onset of the possibility of a severe weather event such as a drought. Start planning and start early. The 7 P's – prior preparation and planning prevents piss poor performance. Our company advocates the running of a small elite herd of cows that will produce the sires for your main herd. I have outlined the advantages of having such a herd previously. Sure, it will take some work initially, especially to select the cows who do best in your environment and then to find a bull or bulls at least as good as your cows. If you haven't got one now, then search the country for the one(s) that you need – linear measure them to confirm that you have the right one(s).

You will not have to buy another usually high-priced bull again. You will be producing better than you can ever buy. The main part of the plan when adverse conditions strike is to plan a selling program as much as the situation will allow. The bottom line is that you do not sell your elite herd, or at least, not all of them.

Plan to keep the best because they are your insurance policy against losing your years of

building the genetics that suit you and your environment the best. The cost of keeping them will ultimately be repaid. Certainly, you end up with as few as 10 or less cows and your best bull. But, given the average, when you restock, you are going to have at least 5 excellent bulls carrying your years of genetic development to immediately start rebuilding your once great herd. Whether you have to buy in feed to keep those few cows and bull alive during that time or can arrange agistment, you will be repaid. You will still have that core nucleus of blood-lines that you have spent your life developing and perfecting.

What are some of the features to consider when selecting those cows that should never leave your property? Many of these you will be familiar with because I have discussed them previously. However, I would like to just re-enforce them again here. Cows (or bulls either, for that matter) should never be culled because of age. If they are fit, healthy and functioning and have the traits I will mention here now, they are like having your own licence to mine gold.

Their value is immeasurable.

These few cows in every herd have a calf every 12 months. She calves in the first 21 days of the breeding period. She is never sick and survives on grass and hay. She produces 55-65% (or more) of her body weight each year. Her body weight varies insignificantly. She sheds her hairs at the first lengthen of days in spring. She has a sleek shiny feminine hair coat. Insects (internal or external) are not a bother to her. She is adapted to the environment. She makes money every year. She produces heifers that can rebuild the herd. Her daughters perform the same as their mother and grandmothers. Her gland system (endocrine's) functions with perfection. This is indicated by many things such as the slickness and oiliness of her hair, its soft, velvety feel, the size of her greasy spine, the prominence of her adrenal, thymus and pancreatic swirls and her milk lines and patterns. Her genetics are who she is and should be preserved by not overly outcrossing her. These cows are the ones with tender, palatable meat and

reproduce the same. They are the only ones that can produce great bulls (when mated to great sires) that can sire the desired progeny. Sadly, there is only a very small percentage (maybe less than 10%) of our cattle herd that fits this category.

She is smaller in frame size, 550 to 600 kg., much wider in the rump area, balanced from back to front with a deep wide chest. She will perform the same each year regardless of the weather or grass conditions. She is a much more efficient convertor of grass to meat or milk than bigger, heavier cows whose endocrine system is over worked to produce similar results.

The confirmation of the cow we are looking for will be such that she has a top line and heart girth that is at least a match in length and circumference with the heart girth being longer ideally. The size of the heart girth determines if the reproductive qualities of the cow are supported. With the heart girth circumference equal to the top line length the shoulders will be wide and deep enough and the cow will be a low maintenance cow. She will also have an adequate size loin muscle.

Her shoulders will be the same width as the length of the rump. She will have enough width between the front legs for a well-developed and wide, deep chest for easy maintenance.

The highly productive cow will have a neck that is a third of her overall length. If the neck is longer than that, her body is too long and she will be a high maintenance cow. Femininity is not a long slender, feather neck on the cow. The long slender neck will get more milk, but energy requirements increase. The long slender neck and a tight heart girth are always associated together (high maintenance).

Femininity and fertility are the keys to your highly productive female. These factors are totally defined beginning with the rump area of the cow. The rump width of the cow will be two and a half inches plus wider than the length of her rump. Looking from behind only the stomach is wider than the rump. The flank will be very deep exhibiting high maternal traits. Fertility is directly linked to the width

and depth of the rump. Without the wide, deep rump, fertility is low and will suffer with slow calving through the life of the cow.

The cow with a narrow rump cannot be feminine or reproductively sound because of low hormonal production. Hormonal production is the key to the most highly productive cows. The narrow rump is an absence of red meat and a higher maintenance cow. The ideal cow's rump will be almost half as wide as she is tall at the hip.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### GENETICALLY UNSTABLE?

As a young bride on a limited budget, June was always conscious of getting the best possible value for every dollar spent of food. Confronting the burly butcher at the local butcher shop, she said she wanted a piece of beef with no fat and no bone.

"Lady," came the gruff reply, "we've been trying to grow them like that for years, but they just keep falling over".

\*\*\*\*\*

#### BOOTS FIRST

This guy was lonely and so he decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a centipede that came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box home, and found a good location for it and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to the bar for a drink. So, he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to Franks with me and have a beer?"

But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again' "How about going to the bar and having a drink with me?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet.

So he waited a few more minutes thinking about the situation.

He decides to ask him one more time; this time putting his face up against the centipede's house and shouting, "Hey in there! Would you like to go to Frank's place and have a drink with me?"

A little voice came out of the box...." I heard you the first time! I'm putting my bloody shoes on."

\*\*\*\*\*

An old German Shepherd starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old German Shepherd thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep sh\*\* now!"

Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old German Shepherd exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder, if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees.

"Whew!," says the panther, "That was close! That old German Shepherd nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a squirrel, who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes.

The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther.

The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now, the old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?"

But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says...

"Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!"

Moral of this story... Don't mess with the old dogs... Age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery!

Bull Sh\*\* and brilliance only come with age and experience.

.....

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your continued interest in our newsletters, our website and our book. Please feel free to order one of our books and become familiar with the CLMS system and the directions we are taking in the overall scheme of animal and food production for human consumption.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US ABOUT ANY ITEMS IN THIS NEWSLETTER, ON OUR WEBSITE OR IN OUR BOOK. WE WELCOME PRODUCER INPUT AND INTEREST AND WANT TO INVOLVE YOU IN WHAT WE ARE DOING.**

Disclaimer: - Information contained in this newsletter is believed to be true and accurate at the time of publication. Classic Livestock Management Services is not liable to any person or organisation, whether in negligence or otherwise for anything published in, or omitted from this publication.