THE HORMONAL MAIL

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ABN 20862399797

140 PHILIP DRIVE,
TEDDINGTON, QLD. 4650.
PHONE: 0741297029/0411201879.
Email:gewyatt@bigpond.com
Website:www.classiclivestock.com.au

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our 74th. quarterly newsletter. It's hard to believe we have done so many. Getting something new for each edition continues to be a challenge and I apologise for the repetition that happens regularly. However, it is also encouraging to occasionally have readers say that it is good to get some reminders of our system and general practical information about cattle from time to time. I just hope it isn't too many too often. I hope we can keep finding some new topics to discuss in this changing world that may be of interest to most of you, at least. Also, please feel free to suggest topics that may be of interest to the cattle breeding community. We are continually looking for new information to pass on, but as I have said, it is a challenge.

It is our aim to keep sharing whatever information we are able to pick up during our life's journey with those of you who are interested. As we near the end of our lives, we feel there is so much valuable information that has been passed down over the years and continues to be relevant to this day for the cattle breeder who is observant and in "tune" with their animals. We can see no advantage in us not sharing this with other interested producers/breeders over the time we have left in this world.

Quite a lot of the practical "cowboy wisdom", as Gerald Fry called it, has been lost in recent years in a sea of technology and science-based research. This will always be an important part of the growth and development of the industry and the use of ever new technology puts a lot of information at our fingertips very quickly to speed up our decision-making processes. However, we should not lose site of the consistent and repeatable messages that our cattle give us every time we see them. They are messages that are given on the spot, immediately, when we observe our cattle and when we can read their messages, it will usually save us time and money by being able to act or select then and there.

WHAT'S (BEEN) HAPPENING

*The five day course that we held at the Claremont Showgrounds and Saleyards in August ended up being quite successful from our perspective and we hope it was also the case for those who participated. We ended up with 14 people attending for the 5 days and 3 others for shorter periods. We would like to thank all those who attended for their interest and enthusiasm and the way they worked together as a group and especially Calvert and Anne, two breeders from Jamacia, who travelled here especially to attend the course. Albert and I hope that all those who attended had an enjoyable and rewarding week. We were certainly rewarded by the way the group went out of their way to work with us and make the course a memorable experience.

*I would like to thank Rosie Robertson for her on the spot work she did in sourcing the cattle for us and arranging for the feed for them as well as several other logistical needs we have to run the course. Unfortunately, the unseasonal wet weather meant we couldn't get all the cattle we would have liked to have had in to the yards. Also, many thanks to those breeders who kindly supplied or offered to supply cattle for us to work with.

* We cannot express enough thanks to Brett Kinnon for again making his cattle yards and cattle available for our final day of the course. This is a pivotal conclusion for the course because it gives those attending the opportunity to bring together their learnings from the previous days in a different environment and real-life scenario.

*I would also like to thank Albert's wife, Dorothy, and my wife Ellen for the work they did in providing the day time meals for all those who attended. It takes quite a lot of organising to cater for nearly 20 people and ensure their culinary needs are met.

*Albert and I are hopeful that our health will continue to be good enough for us to hold more courses in the future. Unfortunately, reality is telling us that we are not quite as young and active as we once were so we are just taking it a year at a time at present. We are considering future options and may reduce the length of the courses to three or possibly two days. This would probably mean less hands-on practice. I think the thing that makes the running of the courses most challenging for us is whether we are going to get enough participants. This year we only had 6 definite starters 10 days prior to the starting date and two of those were the couple from Jamacia. Having said that, we also appreciate that many of you who would like to attend often aren't in a position to do so or know whether you can until very close to the date. Our dilemma occurs because of the amount of preparation required to run the course and the time it takes to meet the expectations of those attending in terms of logistics and support materials.

*As well as holding the 5 day course at Claremont, we have done evaluations in New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Queensland over the last 3 months. We have also held field day/workshops at Murgon in Qld. and at Romsey in Victoria which were well attended by 12 – 15 people. This number is good because it gives everyone a chance to get around the crush and see the things we are evaluating the cattle for as well being able to get up and close to see how we linear measure. We also accepted an invitation to do a short presentation at the Agvention field day/workshop held in early September that was run by the Kadanga Farm Store. This was an excellent day that was attended by 120+ people, who heard a range of speakers talking about a range of regenerative and organic agricultural practices.

* Over the next three months we plan to go to Central Qld. and Charters Towers next week to do more evaluations with breeders. We have also been invited to again join Dick Whale and Roger

Evans to present at the JAD Speckle Park stud's a "Day in the JAD yards" 911 Loombah Rd, Yeoval NSW on Friday the 22nd. November.
Last year's event was very well attended and proved to be a great day of sharing a range of practical information on the breeding and selection of high quality cattle.

*If you are interested in having a field day near you or would like to host one, please let myself or Albert Hancock (0417244057/0267334666) 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.

* We are continuing to put together requirements for anyone interested in becoming a registered evaluator and at this stage it will require attendance at one of our past or future long courses and supervised evaluation of a number of cattle (500 – 1000 depending on previous experience) with one of our registered evaluators. Our evaluators will be operating as private consultants mainly and work together when needed to run courses, field days etc.

*Kookabookra Red Poll Stud has bulls for sale - **see end of newsletter** - so if you are interested, please call Rachel on 02 6733 4666 or 0432 581 493.
*We have a set of linear measuring calipers available for sale for $100.00. They are a set made by Gerald Fry in the USA so have the spirit levels built in for more accurate measurements.

*We are continuing to have plenty of interest in the latest version of our book "A Vision Tender" and this has been most encouraging. The main changes are around the format of the book and all the relative evaluation traits etc. remain the same. We have added a little more information on different thoughts on our system and omitted some of the more company orientated parts. The book can be bought on line off our website – classiclivestock.com.au or by emailing us directly.

*****We are also happy to promote sales for any breeders, stud or otherwise, who would like to put them in our newsletter, so please let me know the details.
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PLAN TO PLAN

I thought I would touch on another topic I have discussed somewhat in previous newsletters again, not only because of its importance, but also because it is the basis needed to build a herd on. I am, of course, referring to planning and many of you are familiar with and have very sound plans for your cattle enterprise.
Prior to plans, we need aims/goals for developing our herd in the direction that we believe will be most successful. Then we need to have a plan(s) that will provide a pathway to achieving our aims and /or goals. Plans though, are things that need constant attention and refining, reviewing etc. on a regular basis to ensure the success of your business. As a rule, the more well thought out and therefore direct your plan is, the more likely it is to get you the outcomes you are aiming for. However, there is also the need for a degree of flexibility to be able to reduce risk and loss from left field factors that are unpredictable and often the result of Mother Nature giving us a reality check.
When we are looking at our aims/goals and considering the ones that are going to suit us best, we can start with a very generalised approach and then boil down our choices until we have a plan that will meet our aims. By that, I mean that if we are starting our business from scratch and I know most of you have been operating your businesses for a lifetime, we can look at, firstly, what would be the most adaptable breed to focus on in my environment. Because

cattle are not indigenous to Australia, we don't have any that are historically fully adapted to our climate, so what I suggest to newcomers to the industry is that they find a climate that is closest to the one they plan to operate in and look at the indigenous breed that originated in that climatic region.

However, cattle have been bred and acclimatised to Australian conditions for many generations now so it is not that difficult to find a breed here that does well in a similar climate to the one you are planning to breed in.

In most countries, including Australia, breeders have spent time and effort breeding cattle to suit localised conditions so some careful research will assist in finding a breed that is already acclimatised to your conditions. Just digressing a little while I think about it, we have seen a lot of breeds moved around our country and used in a variety of climatic conditions to find the one that requires least maintenance in a particular area. One way to speed up the adaptability of a new breed to a region is to introduce it through AI or Embryo transplanting. That way the calf spends all its gestation period in a cow that is already acclimatised to a region and this certainly helps that calf to adapt to these new conditions much quicker than introducing a bull from a different climate that has to adapt to that climate prior to serving local cows. Remember also that the feed that a cow eats during her pregnancy will be the feed that her calf will do best on during its lifetime.

So, we've decided on a breed. Now we need to look at what market we are going to produce an animal for. Will they go straight to the works at weaning, be fattened on the property, be sold on to a re-stocker or ultimately aimed for the feedlot industry, whether straight from its property of birth or via a re-stocker.

Once this is decided, then there are a range production traits to consider and whilst they will be affected to some degree by what your market is, there are a number that are generally considered to be constant, regardless of their end outcome. These especially refer to getting a live calf on the ground and then grown out to meet its desired market in the best possible condition. The following are just some of these factors to consider:- Fertility, Calving ease, Femininity/Maternal traits, Masculinity, Maintenance, Meat production, Milk production, Feed conversion rates, Temperament, Calving rates.

There is a process that I have described in a previous newsletter and is in our book, 'The Vision Tender" that I have found to assist a lot in working out the most important things and the things that you value most with your herd.

Start by making a list of the things you consider most important to have in your herd similar to the one above. However, your list may not be exactly the same or even close to this one. It needs to reflect you aims/goals and the plan you have to achieve them. When you have the list, work through it to prioritise what is most important for you to have in your herd. Ask yourself if the first item you have listed is more important than the second, the third and so on. Do this until you come to one that may be more important than the first one, then go through the same process with that item and it may then replace the first item you had on your list. Continue this process until you have prioritised all the items/traits on your list. Then you have a basis to fully develop your plan and what are the first and most important items/traits that I need to improve in my herd.

The final step is to give each item/trait a score between one and ten with one being the least and ten being the best in your herd at present. For example, if fertility is currently, say, a seven out of ten, ask yourself what you need to do to improve it to an eight and how am I going to achieve that. Ask yourself questions like what type of bull do I need to find to get that improvement or what trait do I need to select for more diligently to improve my

cow herd? Never underestimate the power of questions and if you don't get an answer from asking a question one way, then find a way to reframe it until you get the answer you are comfortable with.

BREED OF THE QUARTER

HECK

I thought that as a follow up on the piece on Aurochs in our last newsletter, I would discuss one of the breeds that have evolved, albeit not all that successfully, in breeding cattle that are supposedly close to the original Aurochs. The Heck was developed through breeding programmes managed individually by Heinz and Lutz Heck in the 1920's in Germany. It was a result of their attempt to breed back the extinct aurochs (Bos primigenius).

However, controversy surrounds not only the methodology used and the level of success of the programmes, but that it was developed under the Nazi regime in Germany at the time and this has added to its controversy. There are considerable differences between Heck cattle and the aurochs in build, height, and body proportions. Furthermore, there are other cattle breeds which now resemble their wild ancestors at least as much as Heck cattle. Heck cattle are a hardy breed of domestic cattle that have resulted from attempts by the Heck brothers to breed back the extinct aurochs from modern auroch-derived cattle in the 1920s and 1930s. This though, is the first recorded attempt to bring back the auroch. The result was a breed called the Heck cattle, with some resemblance to the original species. More recently, as mentioned above, attempts have been made to achieve a breed that is closer to the auroch.

The Heck cattle are a hardy breed of domestic cattle which are raised for grazing projects, in zoos and for agricultural works.

The Heck brothers believed that creating a look-alike and showing both species next to each other would help to show the differences between the two species. Apart from that, they also believed they could re-develop the species and therefore to correct the mistake man made when killing the species off.

The Heck brothers worked separately to create their breeding program. Lutz Heck was the director of the Berlin Zoological Gardens, and Heinz of the Hellabrunn Zoological Gardens in Munich.

They each announced their success only eleven years after they started their breeding experiments. In the breeding back attempts, both brothers used a different selection of cattle breeds. In Berlin, Lutz Heck used Spanish Fighting Bulls with other breeds Whilst Heinz Heck crossed Hungarian Grey Cattle, Scottish Highland, Brown Swiss, Murnau-Werdenfels, Angeln, German Friesian, Podolic and Corsican breeds. The resulting animal's configurations were largely similar. The Berlin breed later was lost because of the hardships in the times after World War II and modern Heck cattle are descended only from the Hellabrunn (Munich) breed. At the end of the 20th century, other so-called primitive breeds were crossbred with Heck cattle to come closer to the aim of creating a cattle breed that resembles the extinct aurochs in external appearance.

Characteristics

A typical Heck bull should be at least 1.6 m (5.25 ft) high and a cow 1.4 m (4.60 ft), with weights of 600 - 900 kg (1,300 - 2,000 lb). Heck cattle are twenty to thirty centimetres shorter than the aurochs they were bred to resemble. However, cross-breeding efforts continue to increase the size and weight of the breed, particularly in Germany.

The Heck bulls were not much larger than the bulls of most breeds of domestic cattle, while wild aurochs bulls are believed to have often exceeded 1000 kilograms (2,200 lb). So, the African

Watusi cattle were then brought into the herd. The result was a somewhat larger animal, but it also caused infertility among the cows, a signal of the genetic divergence that had occurred between these populations of Bos over the millennia. Heck cattle were first bred outside a zoo in 1980. There were 88 registered at that time.

Continued crossbreeding with these animals resolved the infertility in the cows.
Heck cattle are a hardy, rustic breed that are easy to care for and have low nutrient requirements. It is a large and robust creature that can live outside all year round, and they can cope with temperatures well below freezing for an extended period of time. Heck cattle have been domesticated and are used to prevent spontaneous reforestation (such as sucker growth), but also to maintain delicate habitats.
They have shorter legs and a much longer trunk than in the aurochs. Their head is comparatively small and short. Both bulls and cows usually have horns that are curved upwards and outwards.
Cows and bulls may are usually of a dark colour and often have a lightly coloured saddle. Black cows are not unusual as are lightly coloured bulls.

Distribution
Today, there are about 2000 Heck cattle in Europe and few elsewhere. Near Lelystad in Holland, there are about 600 Heck cattle free roaming without human interference. There are others in a reserve near Berlin. There are also Heck Cattle at a couple of other nature reserves in Germany. There were about 100 registered in France in 2000.

Controversy
Even though trying to bring back extinct species may seem commendable, "breeding back" is a controversial procedure in the scientific community. The general consensus among biologists today is that the Hecks' original methodology used to "recreate" the aurochs was flawed, given that once a genetic lineage is gone, it cannot be "bred back".

On the other hand, Heck cattle are considered by many the most suitable cattle breed for low intensity grazing systems in certain types of nature reserves, due to their ruggedness and lack of need for human care. Heck cattle today are propagated in some places to fulfill the role of extinct megafauna in the ecosystem. However, there is uncertainty as to what ecological niche the aurochs themself filled in past ecosystems.

According to the laws of genetics, it is impossible to recreate an extinct species. However, Heck cattle is a new species that probably bears a strong resemblance to the prehistoric aurochs.

Heck cattle are not used commercially for milk or meat production. They are used in grazing projects, in zoos and agriculture. They are well adapted to a wide variety of climates. They are capable of coping in the wild with very cold temperatures or nutrient-poor food. They are comparatively aggressive in temperament.

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ONE-LINERS PLUS

To follow on from I said at the beginning of this newsletter, sometimes it is helpful to be reminded of bits and pieces that we have forgotten so please bear with me while I re-hash a few comments on things to look for or be aware of when working with your cattle.

*Excess body length usually means a lack of body depth.
*The smaller the area between a line from the knees to the hocks and the underbelly, the greater the heart girth.
*Heart girth is directly related to factors such as feed efficiency, fertility, adaptability, the ability to handle stress, and lack of health issues.
* A heifer will grow a very tiny ring on her hooves every time she cycles. Rings will stop once she gets pregnant. If she aborts, she will cycle again and the rings will start showing up again.
*Similarly, white rings on the horns of a cow will usually tell you if she has aborted just like it indicates periods of infertility in a bull.
*The front of the stifle bone on a bull needs to be directly under the hooks so that he can carry his weight when he is serving a cow.
*In the tropics, ideally look for a large heart girth shaped like an oval “()” to dissipate heat while in the cooler climates, look for a large heart girth shaped like a big round "O".
* Gestation length determines calving ease. A 280 day gestation equals a 4 kg. (ten pound) less birth weight than a 285 day gestation.

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.

Bull Flyer_1_PRINT.pdf

MAIN CATTLE BREEDS USED IN THE TA

LIMIA

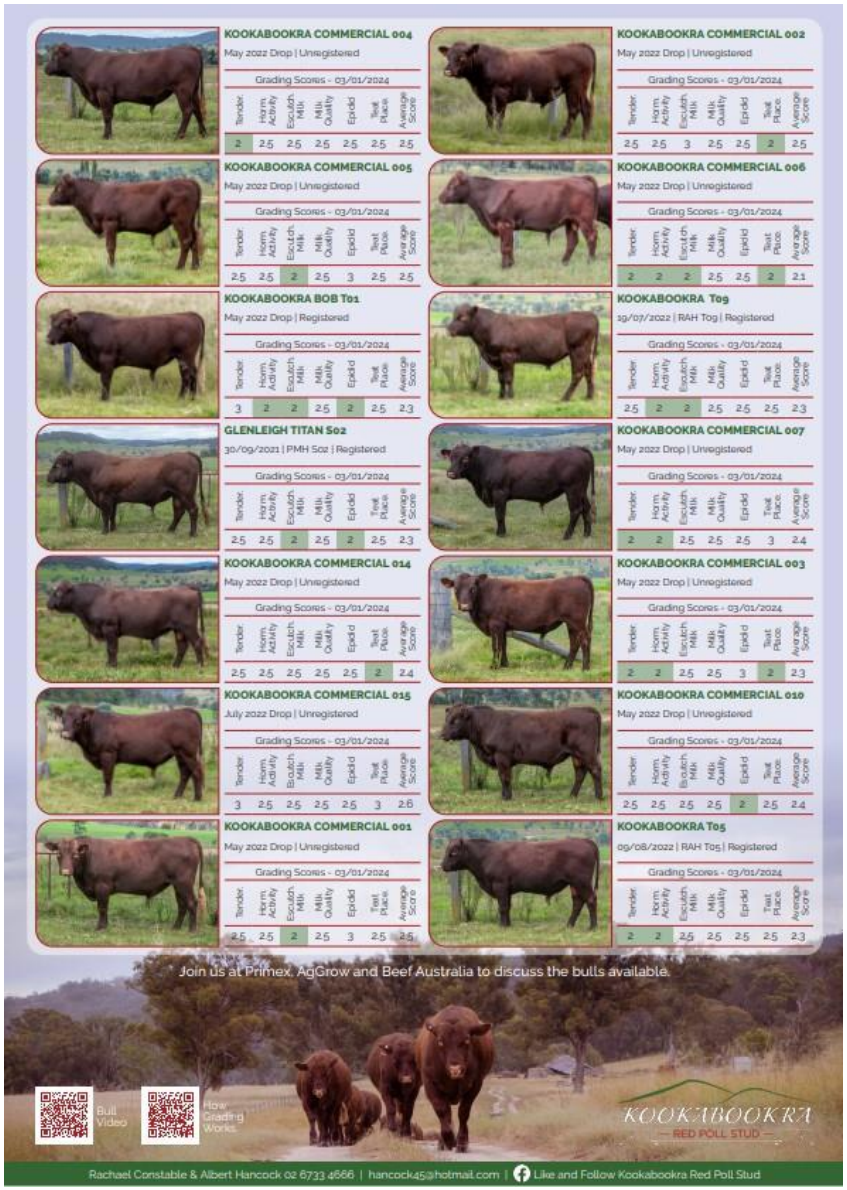
MAREMMANA PRIMITI

PODOLICA

SAYAGUESA

DESIRED END RE

AUROCHS 2.0



KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 004
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 002
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2.5	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	2	2.5

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 005
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2.5	2.5	2	2.5	3	2.5	2.5

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 006
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2	2	2	2.5	2.5	2	2.1

KOOKABOOKRA BOB T01
May 2022 Drop | Registered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
3	2	2	2.5	2	2.5	2.3

KOOKABOOKRA T09
19/07/2022 | RAH T09 | Registered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2.5	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3

GLENLEIGH TITAN S02
30/09/2021 | PMH S02 | Registered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2.5	2.5	2	2.5	2	2.5	2.3

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 007
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	2.4

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 014
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2.4

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 003
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2	2	2.5	2.5	3	2	2.3

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 015
July 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	2.6

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 010
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	2.5	2.4

KOOKABOOKRA COMMERCIAL 001
May 2022 Drop | Unregistered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2.5	2.5	2	2.5	3	2.5	2.5

KOOKABOOKRA T05
09/08/2022 | RAH T05 | Registered

Grading Scores - 03/01/2024

Tender	Horn Activity	Escutch. Milk	Milk Quality	Epidid	Test Place	Average Score
2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3

Join us at Primex, AgGrow and Beef Australia to discuss the bulls available.

Bull Video

How Grading Works

KOOKABOOKRA
RED POLL STUD

Rachael Constable & Albert Hancock 02 6733 4666 | hancock45@hotmail.com | Like and Follow Kookabookra Red Poll Stud