

Newsletter Summer 2015



Photo: stud sire Dunlop Park Hamish H72 waiting to greet visitors

Celebrating 40 Years

To our friends, clients and fellow Angus breeders,

Welcome to our 2015 Newsletter. This year is a milestone for us, it is our 40th anniversary, and we invite you to our 2015 sale to see what our breeding program has achieved. If you can't make it then do call in sometime during the year and of course share the obligatory cup of tea with us.

We hope that you find this newsletter interesting. We have a couple of interesting articles on bull management and feeding written by some friends of ours, a little bit about our history (there will be more in the 2015 catalogue) and some information about our annual sale on March 24th.

After a difficult year for the beef industry in 2014 things seem to be on the up in 2015. The Australian cow herd will need to rebuild its numbers after a sharp decline last year. If you are looking for breeding females we generally have surplus heifers available in spring. We would much prefer to see our genetics used in Australian herds rather than be sold overseas as has happened in the past few years.

Best wishes for 2015

Patricia, Brian and Dorothy, Ian and Judy Stewart

Dunlop Park Annual Bull Sale: Tuesday March 24th

Viewing from 10am, helmsman sale begins 11.30am, BBQ after the sale

Bull management for production efficiency – Robin Thompson

Achieving at least 65% of cows calving in the first three weeks after the planned start of calving ensures an even line of calves, less time spent observing calving cows and better utilization of feed (by better matching demand with supply). And it gets the herd well on track for at least 95% overall.

This of course cannot be achieved without the cooperation of both bulls and cows and their manager to ensure feed of sufficient quality and quantity is available to them at the right time and that they are not challenged by parasites or lack of micronutrients. Taking this as read the following words focus on the bull side of the partnership.

The ideal condition for a bull two months before mating is condition score three, because semen is produced about six weeks before it is used. Last minute feeding to improve body condition may be too late for the manufacturer's delivery schedule. Over-fat bulls (score 4 or 5) should be let down gradually, well before joining as over-fatness can interfere with the heat exchange function of the testicles resulting in infertility. Over-weight bulls also put more strain on their legs and spine predisposing them to breakdown during joining.

Last minute dieting, or lack of energy supply over the six weeks before mating should also be avoided. Energy and protein is required for effective reproductive function. When it comes to bull testicles big is better with a scrotal circumference of at least 360mm ensuring the owner of said circumference can service at least 50 cows in six weeks. Bull libido or sex drive is measurable and found to be heritable. A specific test can be undertaken to provide a libido ranking.

Bulls with low libido will service fewer cows over a longer period thereby reducing the number of calves or increasing calving spread. Social position within the bull herd can affect libido with the less dominant bulls displaying low libido.

In getting the most out of your investment in bulls consider purchasing those with the largest testicles, mating bulls in groups with individuals of similar age or position in the social hierarchy and annually checking them for structural (skeletal and testicles) soundness.

Feeding bulls – Peter Ball

When NASA launch a mission to the stars they rarely leave the rocket on the launch pad for a year or use the fuel that just happens to be handy or discounted at the time.

Preparation is important, as is octane.

The same can be said for shooting for the stars with calving rate and the preparation of the bulls for the mission ahead.

The investment in genetic merit and future calves is only realised when the bulls are given the resources they need to reach their potential.

The trouble is it's all too easy to set and forget, to park the males and let stocking rate take of feed on offer and feed quality. This is a crude tool. Significant monitoring, willingness to change paddocks, to prepare paddocks or to make up the difference with supplementary feed may all be required.

Condition score can slip some way before it becomes visible, so looking at the pasture, assessing the energy or octane status and its supply, gives us the best clue as to what preparations need to be taken.

The aim is a bull that's adequately fed, not over fat, and not underfed especially in the six to eight weeks before launch. The target is a bull of condition score 3, and not above 3.5.

A bull weighing 800 kg might require 81 mega Joules of metabolisable energy per day just to stay in good condition. A younger growing bull at 500 kg might require at least the same to fuel growth and maintenance, or up to 110 mega joules of metabolisable energy per day to put on a kg a day.

This doesn't happen without paying attention to feed quality and supply, and dead pasture or rough old hay won't do it for the young bull.

Remember good quality green feed may contain 11 megajoules of metabolisable energy per kg of dry matter. Poor quality silage or hay may be only 9 to 9.5. At these levels the animals can't eat enough of the feed to meet a high energy demand.

Mature bulls can cope better with lower quality feed, but even here if condition score slips below 2.5 high feed quality in the order of 11 megajoules of metabolisable energy is required to bring them back to spec.

Your mission is their mission. Plan to have them well fed as well as eager, and not in danger of mission failure in the form of reduced calving rate or extended calving period.

Celebrating 40 Years

Bruce and Patricia Stewart founded the Dunlop Park stud in 1975 purchasing the first bull and females from Roy Nicholas' Springvale stud at Sassafras. Springvale, with over 25 years of breeding history, was based on leading Australian and New Zealand bloodlines, such as Terinallum, Currawidgen (Wallah), Kahlua, Mangatoro and Overshiels (now Te Whanga). This was a strong base on which to build a quality Angus herd and it was enhanced by the purchase in 1977 of the pick of Roy's Springvale breeding cows.

The Australian beef herd in the late 1970's and 1980's was rapidly evolving with the introduction of American genetics aimed at producing larger faster growing cattle. In many herds the classic Australian grass fed genetics (easy doing feed efficient animals) were lost. Dunlop Park however infused the new genetics into our herd without losing the link to the past. Today many of our cow families still retain the Springvale lines in their pedigrees.



Dunlop Park sale bulls in 1978

Over the years several new cow families have been added to the herd, including the Lynn family (from Merrigrange), Zinnia family (from the Metro stud) and the Umbra family (from Creekton). Besides using some leading US sires such as QAS Traveler and New Trend 802 bull introductions have been from studs such as Taloooby in New South Wales. In recent years we have used several AI sires from leading British herds and in 2014 we had our first calf drop from a pure New Zealand bull, Waimata Sky High.

The Dunlop Park herd now consists of 120 breeding females and the breeding goals first established by Bruce and Patricia remain the same; to produce a profitable feed efficient grass fed animal with the carcass and calving ease qualities that Angus have always been renowned for.



Some of our 2015 sale bulls

Dunlop Park Annual Bull Sale

Tuesday March 24th - 11.30am

On property Helmsman Auction

Selling agents: Roberts Limited, Elders Limited

Viewing from 10am on sale day or prior to the sale any time by appointment

A BBQ lunch will be available after the sale.

Features

4 sons of leading UK AI sire Aynho Rossiter Eric B125

2 sons of Dunlop Park Edinburgh E31

The last 6 sons of Dunlop Park Blackmore B73 to be sold

4 grandsons of Talooby Zulu Z98

Some examples of our sale bulls



Rossiter Eric son Jasper Eric J29



Talooby Zulu Grandson Jenolan J122



Blackmore son Jerilderie J18



Edinburgh son John Rebus J59

Catalogues: If you would like a catalogue please either send us your name and address, phone (03 64 269 239 or 0400 950 872) or e-mail: bstewart1@iinet.net.au Our address is 'Dunlop Park' 4938 Frankford Main Road, Thirlstane, Tasmania 7307

Please send me a Dunlop Park Sale Catalogue

Name:

Address:

Postcode: