# Manchee Ag

YY Yamburgan Shorthorns

WW Warenda Santa Gertrudis

2007 News

## Welcome

Welcome to the Manchee Agriculture annual newsletter. We hope that the season has broken for you and that the long awaited rains are helping to alleviate the pressure.

The diverse challenges we all face in our day to day decision making is a way of life that provides plenty of challenges for all of us. We wouldn't have it any other way. These challenges, in actual fact, are what drive us to produce better, more efficient cattle and to produce more kilos per acre.

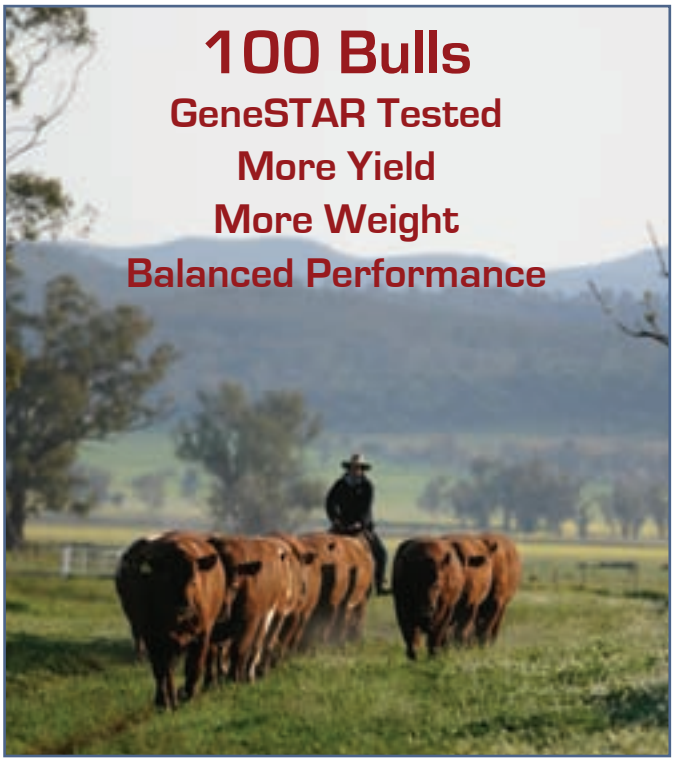
During the last 12 months of dry weather, the ability of our females to continue to return a positive pregnancy test and rear a well grown calf has been evident. This year, Manchee Ag, returned a positive pregnancy test rate of 91% across all 800 joining age females.

The sale bulls this year have had a tougher preparation than usual but came through the summer without assistance, running on dried off pasture improved country. It wasn't until the autumn that a supplement was given and only at a maintenance rate. It is expected that the bulls will have approximately 2 to 2 ½ months on an oat crop before the sales.

We believe, with the use of our superior genetics that are bred in a commercial environment where no animal is pampered, Manchee Agriculture bulls will out perform in your operation, boosting profit.

"We pride ourselves in the consistency and predictability of our cattle. The sire lines we use reflect this and have done for many generations. This is then passed onto you, the commercial cattle producer, through a consistent and predictable line of progeny that breed above themselves.

John & Liz Manchee
Principals
Manchee Ag




**50**
Warenda Santa Gertrudis Bulls
20th August 2007

**50**
Yamburgan Shorthorns Bulls
29th August 2007

## Inside

# One bull, 180 cows in 18 months.



Warenda Santa Gertrudis claimed a new record in 2005 breeding the worlds first 8 star GeneSTAR tenderness tested bull. The bull, Warenda Q54, sired by Warenda Mexico, was sold at the Annual On-Property bull sale for $6,000 to innovative beef producer, Ashley Adams, 'Darracourt' Blackall in central Queensland.

Ashley, his wife Margaret and son Ian, run a large scale beef cattle operation utilizing GeneSTAR technology and incorporating three properties covering 69,500 acres. Ashley purchased three top ranking GeneSTAR tenderness bulls which had an average of 7 stars the first year he attended the Warenda sale.

"In the past I have found it difficult to find a seedstock producer who is utilizing the GeneSTAR technology and who can offer a consistent line of bulls, together with the other attributes I am looking for, which are weight for age, temperament and muscling. But I have certainly found it with the Warenda herd." Ashley said.

Ashley joined Warenda Q54 as a single sire to 60 top star rated females. After this, Ashley joined him to another 60 females and the bull remained in good working order. By the end of the second joining, Q54 held his condition and received a third mob of 60 cows.

John & Nick Manchee with Ashley Adams on Darracourt

Overall, Warenda Q54, settled 180 cows in a period of 18 months all before he was 3.5 years old. He also weighed over 900 kg at this stage. Ashley said there was 60 to 70 percent of calves born within the first cycle and was impressed with the vigor of not only Warenda Q54 but of all the Warenda bulls. Warenda Q54 is one of only 7 bulls of any breed from across the world to receive 20 or 21 stars from a possible 24 stars. Eight stars each for marbling, tenderness and feed efficiency.

Ashley described his opinion of the bulls after the first working season as highly fertile, easy doing, thick, sound and exceptionally quiet. "Temperament to me, is almost the most important attribute, as I believe firmly it correlates highly with tenderness," said Ashley.

Ashley is confined to a wheelchair after an accident over 25 years ago. This however has not stopped him from becoming a very prominent figure within the beef industry. We have never met such an enthusiastic and committed beef producer that is not directly involved with the production of seedstock.

Ashley joined the Warenda sires to females which had all been GeneSTAR tested for both marbling and tenderness. Tenderness, in Ashley's opinion, will be the major factor in increasing profit margins within the beef industry. He has formed an alliance with Chris Greenwood from Morganbury Meats as Chris is trying to source only cattle that are GeneSTAR tested with a minimum of 5 stars for tenderness.

With the introduction of the Value-Based Marketing (VBM) system which is currently being trialed by Cargill and South Burnett Meats, focus has shifted away from a grid relying on yield to one supplying tender beef to consumers. Ashley is marketing his brand which has a minimum

John with Warenda Quicksilver (P) purchased for $13,000

GeneSTAR rating of 5 stars as TendaBeef. The brand is currently sold in local butcher shops in Central Queensland and the alliance with Morganbury Meats will expand it further. As the TendaBeef brand expands Ashley is looking to increase supply from other producers who utilize the GeneSTAR technology.

Ashley returned to the Warenda sale the following year and purchased another 4 sires. The GeneSTAR technology had progressed quickly to include further marbling and tenderness markers. The sires he purchased had an average of 4 stars for marbling and 7 stars for tenderness. The highest available rating at that time was 8 stars for each marker, a maximum of 16 stars per animal.

The bulls purchased include sons of Warenda Mahogany, Wilgaroon Teddy Bear and Warenda Mexico. Warenda Quicksilver, a son of Warenda Mexico, is breeding very well over the 'Darracourt' females, lifting the softness and muscle content of the calves and retaining an extremely quiet temperament.

Ashley has combined excellent management, nutrition and genetics to produce a balanced beef breeding operation. Ashley is keeping the important balance between weight for age, fertility and a premium product.

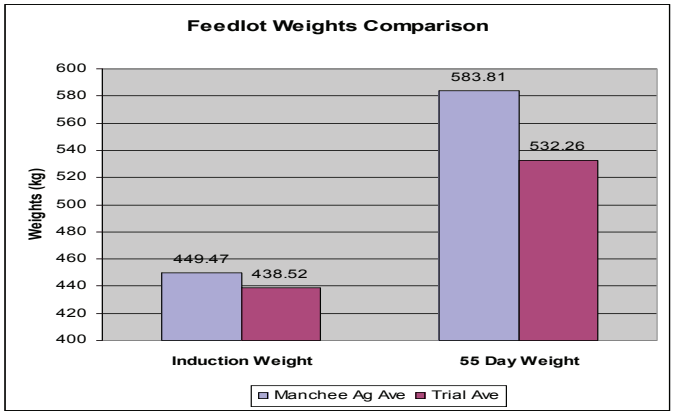
## Stop Press

*Ashley Adams & The Nudgee College have entered a GeneSTAR tested steer by Warenda Q54 in the Ag Show steer comp being held in early September. He is a 19 star animal (4* marbling, 7* tenderness and 8* feed efficiency). We wish them the best of luck in this competition!*

# RNA 100 Day Trial 2007

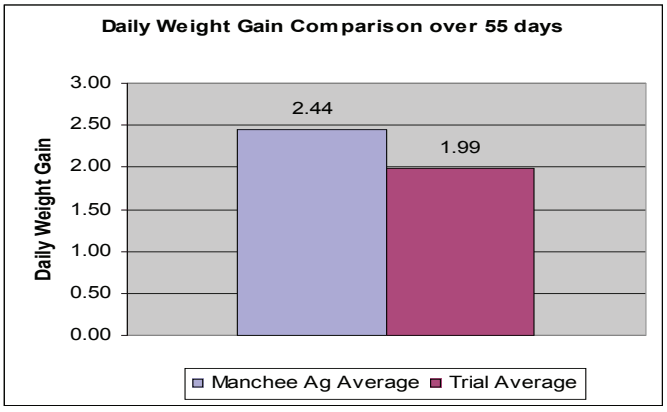


Manchee Agriculture has again entered the Royal National Agricultural Show (RNA) 100 day feedlot trial carried out at Launcell's Feedlot at Drillham in Qld. There are three pens entered, two Warenda Santa pens and one Yamburgan Shorthorn pen. The first table below compares the average induction weight and 55 day weight of Manchee Ag steers compared to all animals entered. The second table shows the daily weight gain comparison between the Manchee Ag steers and the trial average weight gain. The difference is .45 of a kg per day.




The steers had and average age of 17.5 months and the shorthorn steers were sired by Yamburgan Dazzler 16th and Waukaru Goldmine, and the Santa steers were sire by Warenda Mexico, Warenda Mahogany and Aberdeen Darwin.

Duncan Sturrock, Launcells Feedlot Manager, was impressed with the steers and said "I have always been impressed with the Manchee Ag steers ability to fit into the specified market. I have been interested to see the productivity the Manchee Ag steers offer to a feedlotter, they are efficient and very consistent"




The competition is considered to be the leading 100 day Feedlot trial for producers to benchmark animal's performance. Steers are inducted together and run under the same conditions and judged on the carcass quality as well as the weight gained in the feedlot and a taste test judged by a panel of industry relevant judges. There are 7 major breeds represented including Shorthorn, Santa Gertrudis, Brahman, Angus, Hereford (inc Poll) and Charolais.

We have entered various feedlot and carcass competitions with very consistent results. We feel that these results are very beneficial as once the steers enter an independent feedlot competition they are treated in an identical manner. Entering these competitions is very rewarding and an ideal opportunity to benchmark ourselves against the best stud and commercial producers within the industry.


Liz with the Reserve Champion Carcass at the 2005 RNA 100 Day Feedlot competition.

## Results: From the Last 8 Years

### RAS 120 Day Feedlot Competition
Highest Dressing % Steer (60.82%) 1999

### 1999 RNA 250 Day Feedlot Competition
Reserve Champion Carcass in 1999

### RNA Coles Supermarket Competition
Reserve Champion Carcass in 2002
Champion Pen of 3 in 2002
Champion Carcass in 2003
2nd Pen of 3 Steers 2003
4th Pen of 3 Steers 2003

### RNA 100 Day Feedlot Competition
Top weight gain steer of the trial (2.88 kg/day)
Reserve Champion Carcass in 2005

### RNA 'Beef Taste Off" 100/d Feedlot Comp.
1st 'Beef Taste-Off' Taste Test 2004
2nd 'Beef Taste-Off' Taste Test 2005

### Shorthorn Beef Killara Feedlot Trial 2005
1st place on hook (David Hardy & Family)
2nd place on the hook ( Manchee Ag)

John with the steers entered in the 2005 100 Day Feedlot Competition.

## Yamburgan Bull Sale Preview



YY

**New sire 'Lockyer' Dominates Yamburgan Sale Draft**
***High Growth, Fertility & Yield***

We are increasingly happy with the choice to purchase The Grove Lockyer in half possession share with The Grove. Lockyer was Grand Champion Shorthorn Bull at the 2005 Brisbane Royal Show.

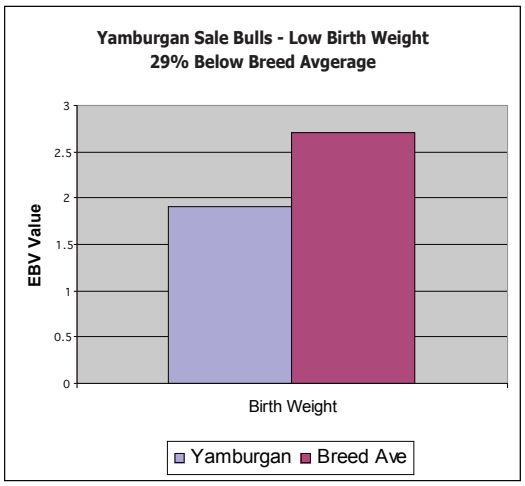
This is the first year we have offered sons for sale and they dominate the sale team with 22 bulls being offered on the 29th August. The bulls are on forage oats and are structurally correct, extremely thick, long bodied bulls with a very quiet temperament. They have inherited the leading traits from their sire including high growth, large EMA's and scrotal size and above average IMF%.

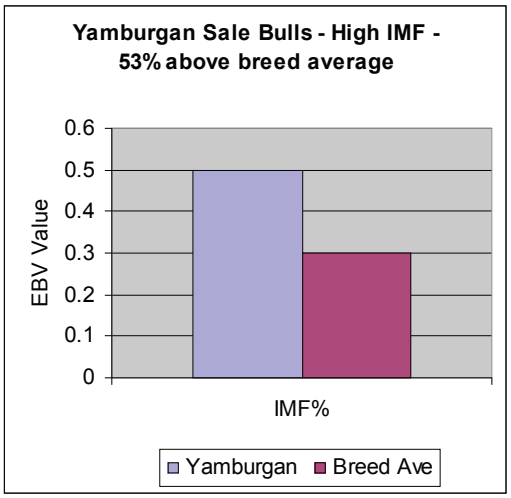
At Eidsvold Show, Yamburgan Lockyer 2nd (P) (Lot 1), won Senior Champion Interbreed Bull. The judge, Mr Ed Streeter, was impressed with the growth and softness of his Senior Champion Interbreed Bull at Eidsvold. Yamburgan Lockyer 2nd was also shown at the annual Longreach show and was awarded Reserve Senior Champion Bos Taurus Bull. Six Lockyer bulls will be at the 2007 EKKA.

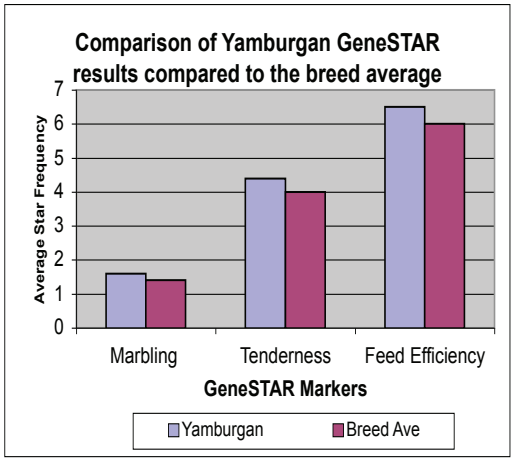
The Grove Lockyer – 22 sons in the 2007 Sale.

Weebollabolla Whitie (SFA) – 10 sons in the 2007 Sale
High IMF% – High GeneSTAR Marbling

***Yamburgan – proven genetics that perform, all year, every year since 1947.***




**50** Yamburgan Shorthorns Bulls
1pm
29th August 2007

## Brisbane Champ, "Jester (P)" Dominates Warenda Sale

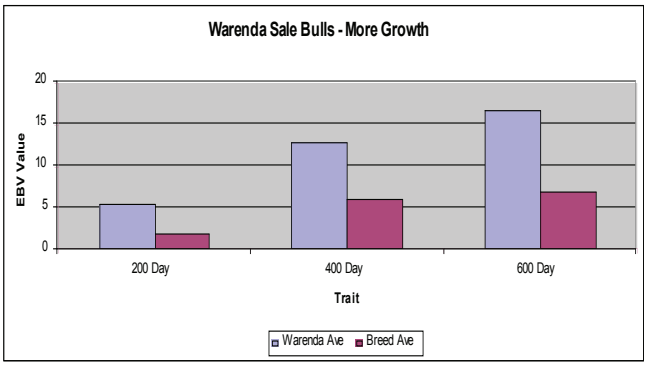
***More Weight, Meat & Yield.***

The choice to retain Wilgaroon Jester (P) as a sire has been the right one. Not only was he an exceptional 2 year old bull winning Brisbane Royal Grand Champion Bull in 2004 but he has been a very consistent sire.

This year is the first draft of bulls by Jester to be offered for sale on the 20th August. He will be represented by 15 sale bulls of which 11 are classified.

The leading son is Warenda Sahara (P). Sahara was exhibited at the Eidsvold Santa Gertrudis Feature Show and won Junior Champion Bull at 19 months of age, weighing 878 kg with an EMA of 130 sq/cm. Standing second & third to him were Warenda Sampsonite (P) & Warenda Sentry (P), both also by Jester.

Sahara was also exhibited at Longreach Show and was awarded the Supreme Exhibit of the show. Sahara, along with 4 other Jester sons, will be exhibited at the 2007 EKKA.




Wilgaroon Jester (P) – at 18 months.

**50** Warenda Santa Gertrudis Bulls
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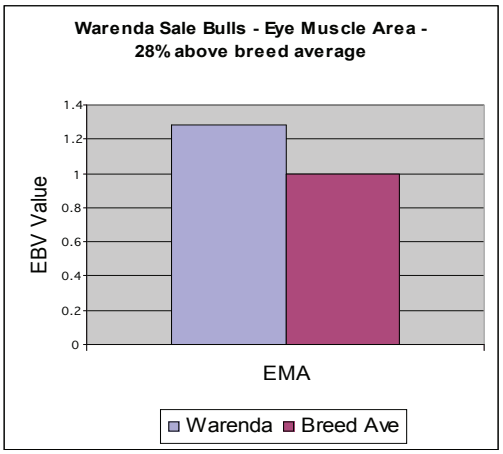
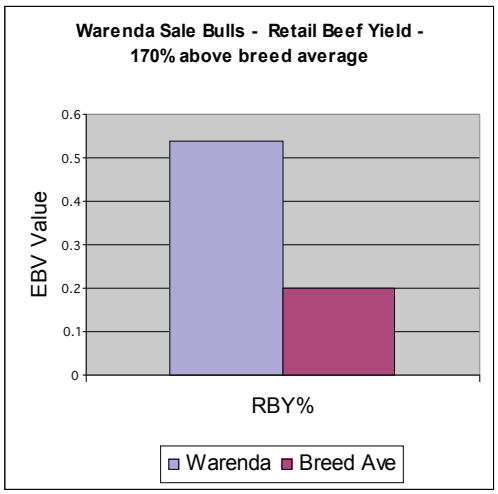
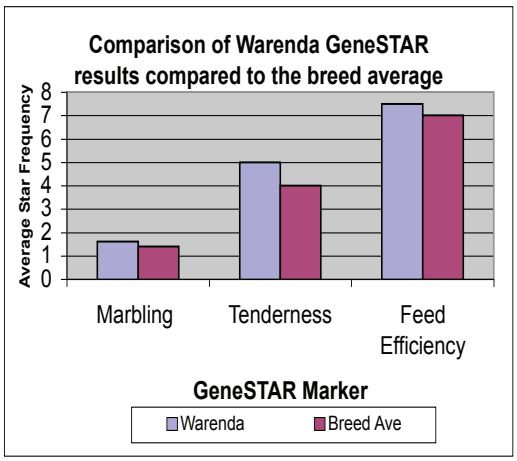



***Warenda - The Leaders in Tenderness - Growth & Carcass***

## Warenda Bull Sale – Monday 20th August – 1pm

Lot 1 – Warenda Sherlock (P) S50 M T FE

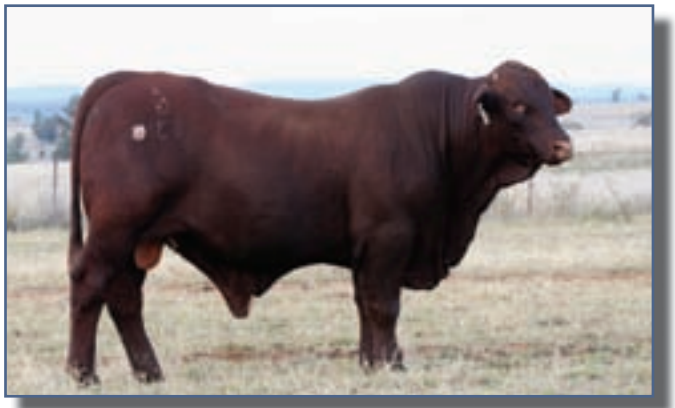
Lot 2 – Warenda Sahara (P) S200 M T FE

Lot 3 – Warenda Sampsonite (P) S116 M T FE

Lot 4 – Warenda Sentry (P) S134 M T FE

Lot 6 – Warenda Seceptre (P) S60 M T FE

Lot 23 – Warenda Santos S40 M T FE

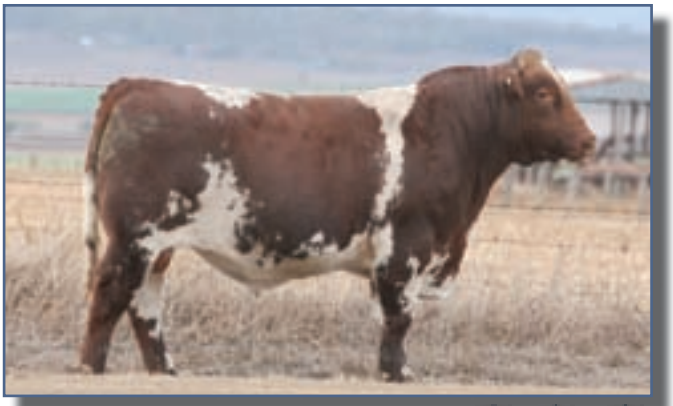


Lot 30 – Warenda Swagman (P) S316 M T FE

Lot 40 – Warenda Stalwart (P) S208 M T FE

## YY Yamburgan Bull Sale – Wednesday 29th August – 1pm YY

Lot 1 – Yamburgan Lockyer 2nd A17 (P) (APX) M T FE



Lot 2 – Yamburgan Lockyer 8th A30 (P) (APX) M T FE

Lot 3 – Yamburgan Lockyer 18th A124 (P) (APX) M T FE

Lot 4 – Yamburgan Lockyer 19th A133 (P) (APX) M T FE

Lot 7 – Yamburgan Lockyer 15th A98 (P) (APX) M T FE

Lot 15 – Yamburgan Allan Donald 8th A258 (H) (SFA) M T FE

Lot 45 – Yamburgan Mittiebah 25th A139 (H) (APX) M T FE

Lot 51 – Yamburgan Mttiebah 28th A80 (P) (APX) M T FE

## Summer Growth & Winter Chills

Cold winters that last up to 5 months of the year mixed with a high summer rainfall has both advantages and disadvantages. However, Anthony and Mara Grills & their family, through careful stock selection and grazing management has tripled the size of their operation since 1994.

They run 700 head of Shorthorn cross females and 9,000 merinos over their 4 properties in the New England district of Guyra. Soil types run from rich basalt to lighter granite mixed loam country at around 1,300 meters above sea level. Depending on the soil and pasture management, stock are run according to the conditions under set stocking rates.

"We trailed Shorthorns in 1997 over our Hereford based females and we were pleased with the added growth of the steers and maternal strengths of the females. Today all our bulls are now Shorthorn," said Anthony.

With 35 to 40 inches of summer rainfall, production off grass is important and the shorthorns do not disappoint. The Grills stock 3 steers to 4 acres over this period with growth rates from 1.5 to 2kg per day.

John & Anthony inspecting some Yamburgan sired yearling heifers.

"The advantages of Shorthorns for our style of management are that we can receive feedlot premiums for our young stock due to the growth rates or if the season or price does not go our way we can keep the steers and fatten into bullocks," said Anthony.

A Yamburgan Warrigal Sired Yearling Steer.

Conditions throughout the cold months in 'Guyra country' are some of the most difficult in Australia with minimum temperatures dropping well below zero. To survive such extremes Anthony believes that breeding females must have natural doing ability, softness and structural correctness – all which contribute to fertility. "Our females must return in calf and our heifers all calve down at 2 years of age," said Anthony. "For this reason it is imperative that we purchase bulls that are sound, fertile and come from a breeder who operates by the same principles as we do."

"We have used 10 Yamburgan bulls over the last 7 years and have been very happy with the growth and fertility of the progeny," said Anthony.

Calves by a son of Yamburgan Mittiebah 3rd.

## Happy with the Extra Growth

Hamish Paton amongst a mob of 450 Angus – Murray Grey & shorthorn Cross weaners.

Hamish & Abby Paton of "Fellow Hills", Holbrook NSW have set themselves high goals for their feeder steer operation over the next 5 years with the aim to increase their feeder steer out put from 72 to 85 tonnes per year through the use of genetics and with out an increase in production costs.

Hamish & Abby own 3,500 acres and lease a further 1,500 acres on which they run a breeding herd of 400 females producing 450– 500kg feeder steers to the feedlot market with around 2,500 acres of winter crop including wheat, canola, oats and Lucerne.

Hamish purchased his first Yamburgan bull from the 2005 sale. The bull was joined to 70 head of 2nd calving females with a 92.5% PTIC success.

"The shorthorn calves have come through the drought better than the other cattle. From this stage on I expect them to perform better than both the pure angus and angus Murray Grey cross calves,' said Hamish.

## The Green Feed Trap

By Rick White, BVSc – Director Technical Services. Livestock Central

Many parts of Australia are now experiencing a flush of green feed for the first time in a long time. As much as this is a welcome sight, there are traps for the grazing animal which need to be taken into account in order to avoid set-backs through loss of feed conversion efficiency & disease.

Green pasture is generally an excellent source of energy & protein but the nutrient balance required to maintain optimum health & productivity is not always as it should be. The lack of nutrient balance can significantly reduce the animal's ability to convert the available feed into meat, progeny, milk or wool. Scouring is often seen in animals grazing fresh green feed & their growth rate can be reduced. In many cases, they will actually lose weight.

The reduced nutritional value of a flush of green feed may also impact on the animal's natural ability to resist parasites and disease at a time when these challenges can be quite high. Worm eggs which have been dormant in the soil or pasture for in some cases, many months, can hatch in response to the changed conditions.

Infective larvae from these eggs can be ingested by grazing animals in a little over a week after rain. Production losses and in some cases deaths (particularly in sheep) can occur if steps are not taken to protect the animals.

Diseases such as pink eye, bloat, respiratory infections and foot problems are often encountered at this time and the incidence of leptospirosis and clostridial diseases such as pulpy kidney and black leg can be prevalent.

Animals "not doing" when grazing fresh green feed are often seen as "normal" but this is not the case. The veterinary, animal nutrition and production team at ELMS (Elders Livestock Management Solutions) have identified factors limiting production at this time and developed an advanced management system to help cattle and sheep producers overcome setbacks from green feed.

The ELMS Advanced Green Feed & Fodder Crop Management protocol contains nutritional, health and management measures designed specifically to maximise productivity and allow the animal to achieve its genetic potential in this time of seasonal challenge.

An integral part of this system is the ELMS Green Feed Supplement Powder Lick which is a specially prepared blend of carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals designed specifically for supplementation of livestock grazing fresh green pastures.

Saving feed, improving feed conversion efficiency and limiting disease has benefits in terms of the number of animals we can run per hectare and the productivity of those animals but also helps reduce the demands placed on our country, improving the sustainability of grazing operations.

## Purchase of Narralda Aladdin

Yamburgan purchased Narralda Aladdin A048 for $38,500, an all breeds record price in Western Australia. Aladdin was purchased from Alex, Heather and Darren Burrow, Narralda Stud, Denmark,WA. He weighed 1080 kg at 23 months of age. He is by Narralda Ledger W48 and out of a very influential cow in Narralda Thelma V132.

Aladdin is an exceptionally balanced bull with a tremendous topline and hindquarter, very correct structure and an easy doing ability. He has done exceptionally well since his arrival at Yamburgan and he is joined to 45 top females. His first line of bulls will be available in 2009.

L to R – John, Alex Burrows, Dennis Roberts and Scott Hamilton.

Narralda Aladdin A048 – at 23 months

## Nick at Junior School 2007

In January 2007, our son Nick attended the Santa Gertrudis Junior School. He paraded his Heifer Warenda Snuggles (P), by Warenda Mexico (P) out of last years successful show cow Wilgaroon Reba (P). Congratulations to all for a great week.

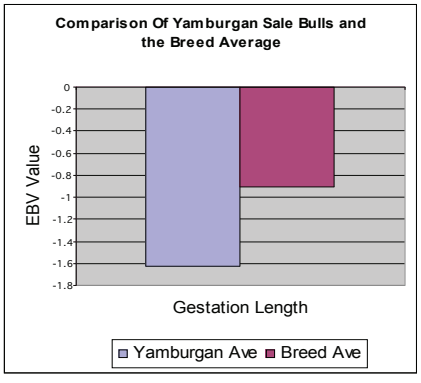
# Managing Female Fertility



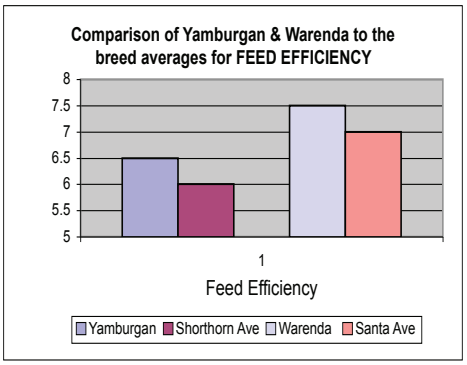
The fertility of a breeder herd has a significant impact on the profitability of a beef breeding business. Most astute cattle breeders know that if they can wean a higher percentage of calves from a set number of females and over a defined period they are almost certain to make more money. The fertility of the breeding herd is one major aspect that impacts on the number of claves weaned.

Female fertility is a complex trait with many factors intertwining to result in either a calf or no calf. There are too many factors to mention in one article but they can be broadly grouped under: genetics, nutrition, management, disease.

Managing female fertility can be done in a variety of ways. Manchee Agriculture utilise the concepts outlined below. It is with the utilisation of these practices that we believe we have one of the most fertile female herds possible. It is always satisfying to see the calves hit the ground quickly and to maintain a pregnancy test rate of over 90% every year.

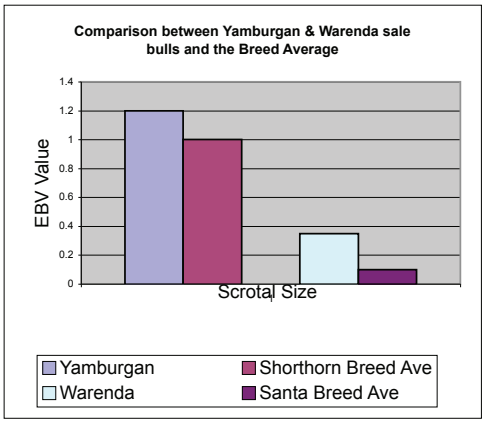



A critical part of our female fertility management and our production system is genetics. We need animals that can convert grass to beef efficiently, can take advantage in the good seasons as well as survive and continue to reproduce in drought. Identifying these animals has been the most important objective.




The genetics we have used over the past 10 years in both the Yamburgan and Warenda herds has been obvious to us in the dry times. Our females are more efficient than they were 10 years ago, they have the ability to forage more extensively, get in calf, raise a calf with a shorter gestation length and maintain their body weight during drought. This has been demonstrated in our latest set of GeneSTAR results with a 7 star average for feed efficiency. The survivability of our herd is vital for maintaining profitability and to take our business forward.

The use of Breedplan's fertility Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) are an important part of our management of fertility. The scrotal size EBV estimates the genetic difference between animals in scrotal circumference (cm) at 400 days of age. Increased scrotal size is associated with increased semen production in bulls and earlier age at puberty of bull and heifer progeny. Other Breedplan EBV's that are of importance to fertility management are gestation length and days to calving.




Soil fertility and female fertility go hand in hand. Mineral deficiency is widespread in Australia and can lead to reduced fertility and it is our practice to use fertiliser on grazing country. If the mineral status is unknown animals can be treated with copper, selenium and cobalt.

## Managing Female Fertility



These minerals are known to increase fertility and are available as licks, boluses and injection. The management of pasture and cropping country is done with the focus on utilizing the grass and crop more effectively to increase conception rates, cattle numbers and stocking rates.

Controlled mating is the management technique of exposing females to bulls for a restricted period of time. The benefit of controlled mating is to concentrate the number of cows raising calves under the best possible nutritional conditions (ie best season). Cows which calve early in the season generally raise calves that are more profitable as they are exposed longer to the best nutrition and therefore are sold sooner as they are heavier earlier. These females are also the more profitable cows as they wean a heavier calf each year, gain the benefit of better nutrition for a longer time while lactating and carry more condition into the next joining thus conceiving earlier.

One of the most common management techniques for female fertility is pregnancy testing. The main reason for pregnancy testing is to identify cows and heifers that have had a failed mating (empty pregnancy test). These females can then be removed from the breeding operation as is

standard practice for Manchee Agriculture.
Weaning is a strategy that can be used to improve female fertility and links closely to monitoring the female's condition score. Many producers wean based on time (ie 6 to 9 months) but should consider weaning depending on the condition of their breeders.This is most important in times of poor nutrition, lower quality country and intensive grazing operations. Weaning based on the condition of breeders allows them to carry the condition into their subsequent calving and joining.

Disease relates closely with management as most diseases that effect fertility can be prevented and managed. Treatments such as 5 in 1 and 7 in 1 vaccine controlling Leptospirosis, Vibriosis, Pestie Virus and treatment for external and internal parasites are given annually to all animals (bulls and females) at least two months prior to joining.

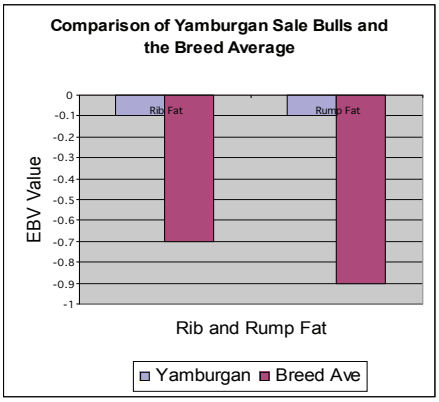
**How condition at calving affects time to first heat**

| Condition score at calving | Time from calving to first heat (days) |
|---|---|
| 3 | 46 |
| 4 | 40 |
| 5 | 34 |
| 6 | 28 |

If a cow is provided with increased rations after calving she will begin to cycle sooner.
Cows in better condition at joining have higher conception rates.
Cows gaining weight during joining have higher conception rates than cows losing weight.

Table 1.0: *Relationship between condition score and days to first heat. Source: Christian Duff, Tropical Beef Technology Services.*

In conclusion we can see that female fertility is a multifaceted trait that is not all genetic. This article only touches on a few components to female fertility management and has allowed us, in the environment we are in, to increase profitability from all females.




## 10 Reasons to buy Manchee Ag Bulls

1. All sale bulls are bred with focus on commercial reality – no compromise.
2. 100% of Manchee Ag sale bulls have GeneSTAR markers.
3. All Manchee Ag cattle are performance recorded.
4. 94% of sale bulls have traits in the top 20% of the breed.
5. All Manchee Ag sale bulls are prepared on forage crop.
6. All Manchee Ag sale bulls have an independent assessment of structural soundness, temperament & are fully guaranteed.
7. All Manchee Ag sale bulls are semen tested & have a semen morphology certificate.
8. All Manchee Ag sale bulls are fully vaccinated and drenched.
9. All Manchee Ag cattle are from a JD Protected Zone.
10. All Manchee Ag sale bulls represent over 40 years of breeding excellence.

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