

MA Manchee Ag

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Yamburgan Durham Shorthorns

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MA Durham Tropicals

2012 News

Welcome

Welcome to the 2012 Manchee Agriculture newsletter.

The 2011 bull sale saw a 30% increase in bulls offered, 72 bulls averaged \$7228 with a repeat clientele of 83%. This year will also see an increase of bull numbers to 80 with the inclusion of our first offering of Durham Tropical bulls.

The Cargill/Teys Producer Alliance has seen 202 steers feed at Jindalee Feedlot since its inception 10 months ago with another 75 steers due to exit in June (with full carcass data submitted to Breedplan). Grant Garey, General Livestock Manager and buyer for Cargill/Teys, has been happy with the overall performance of the steers. The steers have performed well in the feedlot with an average daily weight gain of 2.03 kg/day over an average days on feed of 109 days. If you would like to participate in the alliance please contact us.

This year we have continued our commercial benchmarking by nominating steers in two separate steer trials, the NSW Beef Spectacular and the Primex Pacific Beef Carcass Competition. This information is vital to us and our clients allowing us to assess new genetics against other industry leaders.

In the spring of 2011 we embarked on the biggest AI program we have run. We inseminated 525 cows to both imported sires including Crooked Post Grissom and Hiwiroa Jack F41 and current Australian trait leading sires including Y Ossie D59, Y Poseidon D176, TG Kookaburra, Belmore Jackeroo.

In May of last year we travelled to New Zealand for the National Beef Expo. Liz judged the Shorthorns, Charolais, Queen of Hearts Heifers and Interbreed sections. This trip also allowed us to visit NZ Breeders where we saw a very impressive young bull, Hiwiroa Jack F41, by Belmore Jackeroo and out of Austins Phillis O447. He is the best Jackeroo son we have seen and his correctness, muscle, weight for age, smooth front and sire appeal was what impressed us. We have since imported semen.

Being runners up in the NSW Farmer of the Year competition was another way for us to benchmark ourselves within the rural sector and it was our belief in the beef industry and use of innovation, research and development that impressed the judges. We would recommend participation in this event to everyone as the application process makes you look at your operations bigger picture.



Yamburgan Grissom G31 (P) is a standout individual in his contemporary group of 51 bulls, his actual birth weight was 39kg. His dam is from one of our best performing female lines.



Crooked Post Grissom 24T (IMP CAN) - The calving ease and carcass sire whose progeny are showing great potential. 8 sons sell on the 29th August 2012.

Our website has continued to receive a huge amount of hits and the launch of our You Tube channel has compounded this online interest. Our You Tube channel includes videos of sale cattle, client testimonials and John speaking on anything from female fertility to steers competition success. To view the channel visit our website and look for the You Tube link.

More recently we held the Yamburgan Shorthorn Blood Production Sale on AuctionsPlus. Quality young breeders were sought after with first calf heifers topping the sale at \$1,350 and offered by Ben & Mandy Swain, Gunnedah, NSW. Cows and calves topped at \$1,240 for a pen of 2-3 year old cows selling to Jeff & Chris Hall, Parkes and the top priced PTIC heifers made \$1,060 selling to Simon & Kelly Earl, Warren. Greenhills Pastoral Company sold 330 kg weaner Shorthorn X Charolais steers to \$690.

Enjoy, John & Liz Manchee

8 INDUSTRY LEADING
FEEDLOT & CARCASS
AWARDS IN TWO YEARS



Beef cattle breeding is about profit, just like any other business. Our job as seedstock producers is to constantly achieve a profitable bottom line for our clients. Our breeding philosophy is simplistic - **fertility and weight for age** - the two biggest profit drivers. The more things you try to select for, the less genetic progress that will be made.

Profitability starts with reproduction and that is why breeding an economically efficient factory, 'the cow', is so important. Reproduction doesn't effect the processor and yet, more often than not, it is the processor that dictates our price. Second to reproduction in terms of profitability is growth for age and thirdly, carcass quality. Due to processors being price makers we see a tendency for cattlemen to select these traits in the reverse order and to focus on revenue with little consideration to the cost of production, which could be considerable.

Lionel began pregnancy testing in the early 1960's and since that time our Shorthorn herd has maintained between 90-95% in calf - a very good result over 53 years and a testament to the Shorthorn breed. Our challenge now is to increase that level through better management, nutrition and genetics. Over a herd of 800 breeders a 1% lift in fertility returns \$4,800 (8 calves @ \$600) but a 10% lift will return an extra \$48,000. This means a big difference in profit no

matter what breed, colour or price you receive for weaners. It will pay a mans wages for a year or in our case a young boys education. Keep this in mind the next time you are selecting a herd sire and the operation producing your bulls.

We have been saying for years that your environment will determine the maturity pattern, weight for age and fertility of your cow herd. By consistently selecting for fertile females that wean calves with weight for age you will, by natural selection, eliminate unproductive cows. Cows that are later maturing and high growth will struggle to re-breed and maintain condition score, year in, year out. The early maturing cow will go to fat more quickly and will result in fat deposited in the udder, impeding milk production and rearing a reduced weight calf. This female may also struggle with fertility as she will be less inclined to re-breed due to excess fat deposits. The medium maturity cow will maintain condition in a wider variety of environments due to a moderate maintenance requirement, thus being more fertile and will rear a profitable weaner that will fit more market opportunities. This female has the ability to produce a live calf for 10 years and will also return 33% more than her earlier maturing counterparts as a cast for age cow (medium cow - 600kg x 1.50 c/kg = \$900 versus smaller cow 450kg x 1.50c.kg = \$675 equating to a 33% difference).

Continued....

Profit Starts with a Live Calf.... by a cow getting in calf early, calving easily and to produce ample milk to rear a good calf - EVERY YEAR.

Wedge shaped females will pass this trait onto their calves which will present for birth in the narrowest form.

Slope of pelvis from hip to pin creates a larger calving canal and directly effects calving ease. A calf will be able to elongate during birth if it has the same traits as it's mother..

Fertility is the profit driver for live calves on the ground. Females must calve every year.

Udder structure is of utmost importance. It should be well attached and have a distinct division between quarters. A large udder **does not** indicate a better milking ability. Each teat should be evenly placed and be a suitable size for a new born calf. It is extremely unprofitable for a calf to die due to its mothers large teats.

A quiet, sensible temperament will improve mothering ability, growth in the calf, feed conversion and meat quality.

A broad muzzle will indicate width of pin allowing easier calving and will help maintenance.

A good slope of shoulder is vitally important to the calf's presentation. The shoulder from the wither to the point of the shoulder should have good slope. If the shoulder angle is too steep, it inhibits the calfs ability to extend its front legs and neck during birth, slim lining it's shape.

The shape of the calf is heritable and will be determined by the shoulder and pelvic structure of its parents. With the correct selection of well structured bulls, calving ease and fertility can be increased.

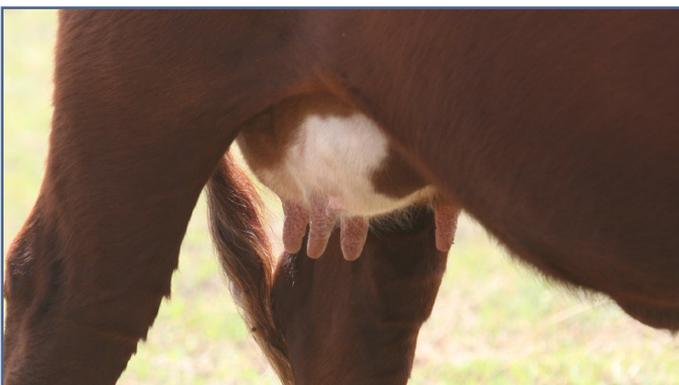


The two major genetically controlled inputs for a cow herd are mature cow size indicating dry matter intake and milking ability. Females with a larger body mass will require a higher feed intake reducing condition score and stocking rates. Higher milk females carry higher maintenance costs whether an animal is lactating or not, because higher milk potential cattle have higher maintenance gut and organ mass than lower milk cattle.

Too many people confuse high maternal cattle with having to be very high milk. Milk should only fit the environment and high maternal cattle should be expected to be PTIC in calf, in good condition with a healthy, above average weight calf at weaning. A producer must also be careful because growth and mature cow weight are correlated, so blindly selecting for growth without paying attention to fertility will lead to increased cow size, maintenance cost and lower fertility, therefore lowering profit.

Females are feminine for a reason. Femininity, enables a cow to perform her task of being a 'cow factory'. An efficient factory will be economically viable for a long period returning more profit. The more feminine females are also the ones that produce better male and female progeny as their basic breeding fundamentals are correct and this is passed onto their progeny. Profitability starts with the female herd producing calves.

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The Lockyer Legacy

Lockyer has left a legacy in his cattle. His progeny and grand progeny have won anything from national carcass competitions to the Urquhart Trophy at Sydney Royal. His daughters are some of the best females here at Yamburgan.

We would like to congratulate Keith and Vicky Ridley for winning Champion Shorthorn Bull at Beef Australia with another son of Yamburgan Lockyer 13th. Y Lockyer 13th has sired champions at Sydney Royal, Adelaide Royal, Dubbo National and Beef 2012.



Lamph Family - Making Huge Gains

Patrick and Lou Lamph have been purchasing Yamburgan bulls for the last 18 years and have been focusing on improving fertility, carcass traits and management ease.

John has been classing this herd of cattle for the past 15 years and has been very proud of the genetic gains that have been achieved. It all starts with a profitable female herd.



"Having purchased our first Yamburgan bull 18 years ago we have continually seen an improvement in the females retained and the yield in our steers."

Lou Lamph, Carinda, NSW.



17 month old Durham Tropical steer. Live weight of 756kg, carcass weight (HSCW) of 456kg, a DWG of 2.68 kg/day, 97 sq/cm EMA and salable meat yield of 68.4%

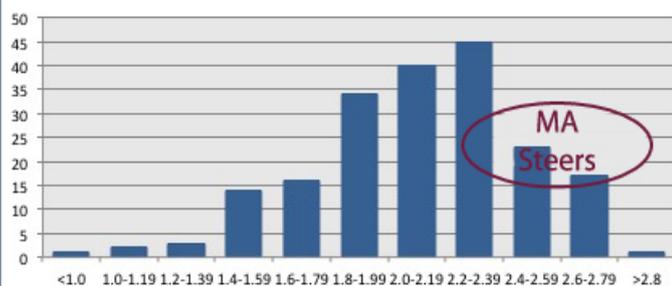
The 2012 Beef Spectacular Feedback Trial saw some interesting results for our only pen entered. Although the pen of milk tooth Durham Tropical steers were within specifications on induction they all exceeded the maximum carcass weight (HSCW). The pens average daily weight gain was 2.44 kg/day, placing them 4th overall. Three of the 5 steers had a marble score of 1 and had fat between 10 and 18 mm, which was within specification. If these steers weren't in a competition they would have exited the feedlot with less than the required days on feed making them extremely profitable.

This years results follow on from our very successful 2011 Beef Spectacular results where MA steers were Reserve Champion Pen, placed 1st and 3rd in the feedlot performance section and were the most profitable pen of steers returning \$110 per head more than the trial average.



16 month old Durham Tropical steer. Live weight of 739kg, carcass weight (HSCW) of 432kg, 100 sq/cm EMA, 1 marble score and saleable meat yield of 69.8%.

2012 Beef Spectacular Feedback Trial Average Daily Weight Gain (kg/hd/day)



Durham Tropical Program

"First DURHAM TROPICAL bulls will be offered at our bull sale on AUGUST 29th"

Our Durham Tropical program goes from strength to strength. Bulls have been sold into the Alice Springs region, Mitchell and Westmar in Qld and to the North West of NSW.

Whilst the Durham Tropical cattle show practical bos indicus traits such as walking ability, heat tolerance and foraging ability, their fertility is in line with bos taurus cattle. We have lifted the pregnancy test rate from 87% in our Santa Gertrudis herd (in 2005) to 92% in the Durham Tropical females this year. Our Durham Tropical program has been developed from a base of females with 100% fertility. Recent feedlot feedback has seen marbling increase by over 50% maintaining our focus on hardy cattle with eating quality.



Current leading Durham Tropical sire MA Jester D281. He had the equal highest EMA scan in his contemporary group of 112 bulls.

Our current leading sire in the Durham Tropical program is MA Jester D281. His genetics combine well with the Warrendale Mexico Durham Tropical bloodlines. Wilgaroon Jester (D281's sire) adds massive yield and muscle whilst Mexico, being the highest GeneSTAR tested Santa Gertrudis sire for tenderness, adds softness and meat quality.

Geoff Steinbeck, Excell Genetics Tamworth, has been processing all Manchee Ag sires for the last 10 years, said that the fertility in Wilgaroon Jester and his sons is exceptional for a bull of any breed. The collection from MA Jester D281 was some of the most virile semen he has seen.

DURHAM TROPICAL cattle are....



- ✓ MSA COMPLIANT
- ✓ BOS TAURUS
- ✓ HEAT TOLERANT
- ✓ HIGH FERTILITY
- ✓ MEAT QUALITY

As owners of animals involved in the CRC and MLA 3000 young animals project we will be among the first in Australia to receive the new genomic breeding values. In February 2012 we submitted 53 DNA samples from this years sale bulls.

The project invited beef breed societies and breeders to participate in the genotyping of 3,000 young animals to predict their breeding value using the new genomic prediction equations (molecular breeding values or MBV). Around 110 breeders representing 11 different breeds applied to be part of the project launched by the Beef CRC and MLA and will see the commercial rollout of the trial to use genomics to predict breeding values with commercial relevance.

Beef CRC CEO Dr Heather Burrow said the oversubscription of samples to the 3000 young animal project reflected the importance and value of genomic prediction.

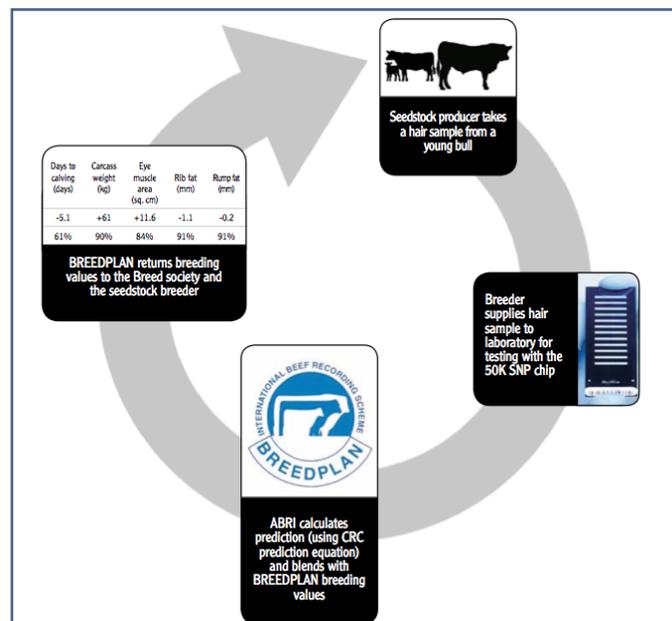
“With the genomic prediction equations developed from the new 700K SNP chips, we will deliver a world-first product to identify the genetic qualities for hard-to-measure production and reproduction traits across breeds,” Dr Burrow said.

Dr Hans Graser, Director of AGBU, who is coordinating the project through the Beef CRC, said “The accuracy of these genomic predictions will vary across breeds and across traits. We are still in the process of calibrating their accuracy for all Breedplan traits. They will be tested using the industry sires which were genotyped in 2011.”

If shown to be robust, the predictions will help commercial bull buyers to identify which bulls are most suited for their production systems with greater confidence. They will also improve the accuracy of all Breedplan traits. The new blended genomic breeding values will include hard to measure traits such as carcass and meat quality, net feed intake and male and female reproductive performance in tropical cattle.

MLA's Manager of R&D Strategy Dr Rob Banks said the key advantage for breeders was to gain a genetic insight into the qualities of young animals that do not have any performance data recorded.

“You can't at present, for example, measure days to calving on a young bull but if you could use Breedplan genomic data



Commercialisation of new genomic breeding values for Australian beef cattle

to predict days to calving with improved accuracy, that would really help in the decision making process for selecting the top animals,” Dr Banks said.

Dr Burrow said the value overall to the industry was to improve the accuracy of selecting the next generation of young sires.

“Once the genomic predictions have been calibrated in Breedplan, the technology will help Australian producers increase their rates with genetic gain,” she said.

“The critical thing is that this product has been developed and tested on Australian animals in Australian production systems.”

Dr Burrow said the inclusion of genomic information would continue to improve breeding accuracies with increased levels of performance recording in industry herds.

The table below will give some idea of what to expect with regard to accuracies as presented by Prof Mike Goddard at Beef 2012. The table shows averages across all breeds in the CRC data and the will differ slightly between breeds.

CRC Trait (all breeds)	Accuracy of MBV*
Net Feed Intake	0.43
Tenderness	0.33
Scan Fat depth Carcass IMF	0.27
Scan EMA	0.30
Carcass weight	0.16
Hip height	0.30
Live weight 400 day	0.36
Accuracy of MBV	0.36

*Molecular Breeding Values

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MA BEEF Bull Sale - Wednesday 29th August - 1pm

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YAMBURGAN OSSIE G26 (P)
A thick son of Oscar from the same female line as retained sire Yamburgan Ossie E65. This female line produces muscle.

SELECTION INDEXES	\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)	+\$42	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)	+\$34	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)	+\$47	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	-6.3	-	-2.5	+3.1	+27	+50	+60	+63	+2	+3.1	+42	+6.6	-0.3	-0.1	+1.8	+0.8		
Acc	44%	-	54%	73%	70%	64%	64%	53%	47%	54%	56%	47%	53%	54%	52%	51%		



YAMBURGAN HERCULES F526 (P)
Excellent pedigree including Lockyer, Mitiebah, Theodore and Legend blood. A very thick, sound young bull.

SELECTION INDEXES	\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)	+\$39	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)	+\$31	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)	+\$47	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	+1.0	-	-2.1	+2.9	+30	+40	+48	+47	+1	+2.2	+37	+5.6	-0.3	-0.4	+1.1	+0.3		
Acc	42%	-	53%	75%	71%	63%	63%	51%	42%	48%	53%	42%	50%	50%	55%	45%		



YAMBURGAN OSSIE G10 (P)
A slick coated young sire with excellent carcase EBV's and a pedigree combining Oscar, Lockyer and Quilpie.

SELECTION INDEXES	\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)	+\$35	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)	+\$27	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)	+\$41	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	-2.9	+3.2	-2.4	+2.6	+26	+38	+45	+44	+3	+1.2	+33	+6.0	+0.2	+0.3	+0.6	+0.7		
Acc	46%	41%	55%	72%	70%	65%	65%	54%	54%	54%	57%	48%	54%	54%	53%	51%		



YAMBURGAN OSSIE G58 (P)
An exciting young bull with an excellent set of figures. The combination of Oscar and Theodore has produced an outstanding bull. His full brother sold to Weebollabolla in 2011.

SELECTION INDEXES	\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)	+\$53	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)	+\$40	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)	+\$62	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	+0.7	+5.0	-4.0	+2.1	+33	+45	+53	+53	+3	+1.2	+38	+6.6	+1.3	+1.7	+0.1	+1.0		
Acc	47%	42%	58%	75%	72%	67%	66%	56%	53%	58%	58%	48%	53%	53%	52%	51%		



YAMBURGAN OSSIE G34 (P)
A very thick young bull with a lot to offer. His pedigree combines traditional Foxer blood with Oscar.

SELECTION INDEXES	\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)	+\$27	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)	+\$25	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)	+\$35	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	-6.2	-	-2.1	+3.3	+27	+38	+50	+49	+1	+1.5	+33	+5.7	-0.4	-0.4	+1.4	+0.6		
Acc	42%	-	52%	72%	68%	61%	62%	50%	46%	50%	52%	43%	48%	48%	47%	46%		



YAMBURGAN OSSIE G11 (P)
A very strong top lined and thick hind quartered young Oscar son that combines his muscling with softness.

SELECTION INDEXES	\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)	+\$27	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)	+\$27	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)	+\$32	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	-9.5	-	-1.3	+3.8	+25	+43	+57	+42	+2	+1.7	+38	+5.9	-0.8	-1.0	+1.9	+0.5		
Acc	43%	-	53%	74%	71%	65%	64%	52%	49%	52%	55%	45%	52%	53%	51%	49%		

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MA BEEF Bull Sale - Wednesday 29th August - 1pm

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YAMBURGAN MITTIEBAH F90 (P)
An excellent Theodore son with an outstanding set of figures. His pedigree combines Lockyer and New Legend on the dams side. Ranked first for Northern Marernal Index.

SELECTION INDEXES		\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)		+\$56	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)		+\$46	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)		+\$72	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	+2.5	+3.3	-1.8	+4.4	+39	+54	+72	+65	+4	+2.6	+47	+6.0	+1.1	+1.1	+0.2	+0.6		
Acc	52%	49%	64%	74%	67%	64%	64%	57%	55%	55%	57%	53%	57%	57%	57%	55%		



YAMBURGAN WINSTON F206 (H)
An extremely thick Churchill son that is easy doing. He is from a very productive female line and is still in production at 11 years.

SELECTION INDEXES		\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)		+\$36	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)		+\$33	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)		+\$49	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	-	-	-	+4.3	+35	+46	+62	+59	-1	+1.5	+42	+5.0	-0.2	0.0	+1.0	+0.6		
Acc	-	-	-	75%	72%	64%	64%	52%	50%	49%	54%	40%	48%	48%	46%	44%		



YAMBURGAN OSSIE F259 (P)
A very thick son of Oscar with great carcass EBV's that will only strengthen after scanning. A full brother sold to John & Lyn Nitschke, Carlton Stud, SA, in 2011.

SELECTION INDEXES		\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)		+\$30	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)		+\$27	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)		+\$36	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	-5.8	-	-2.4	+2.4	+23	+37	+46	+38	+3	+0.5	+35	+7.0	-0.4	-0.3	+2.1	+0.3		
Acc	44%	-	53%	75%	72%	66%	65%	53%	51%	53%	56%	45%	52%	53%	51%	49%		



YAMBURGAN HECTOR F351 (P)
A deep bodied bull that combines carcass and fat coverage well. He is an Achilles son to watch.

SELECTION INDEXES		\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)		+\$33	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)		+\$29	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)		+\$45	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	-	-	-	+3.7	+28	+38	+55	-	+12	+0.7	-	+2.8	+0.3	+0.3	-0.2	+0.8		
Acc	-	-	-	61%	60%	57%	56%	-	49%	46%	-	40%	51%	51%	49%	46%		



YAMBURGAN MITTIEBAH F284 (H)
Another outstanding Theodore son that combines with the Legend bloodlines well. A bull with a great front for breeding calving ease.

SELECTION INDEXES		\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)		+\$47	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)		+\$36	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)		+\$59	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	+5.9	+3.2	-2.1	+1.8	+30	+40	+53	+51	+6	+1.8	+38	+4.1	+0.7	+0.5	-0.1	+0.3		
Acc	51%	48%	64%	75%	73%	67%	66%	58%	56%	55%	59%	52%	56%	57%	56%	54%		



YAMBURGAN HECTOR F143 (P)
An outstanding son of Achilles with great length of body and an easy doing ability. The Achilles's progeny have scanned well.

SELECTION INDEXES		\$Value	Ave
Heavy Domestic Index (\$)		+\$36	+\$28
Export Maternal Index (\$)		+\$27	+\$27
Nth Maternal Index (\$)		+\$48	+\$36

	CE	Dir	CE	Dtr	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	CWT	EMA	Rib	Rump	RBW	IMF
EBV	+2.7	-	-1.3	+2.6	+29	+37	+51	+56	+9	+0.5	+36	+3.5	+0.9	+1.3	-0.4	+0.7		
Acc	40%	-	51%	75%	72%	65%	65%	53%	53%	50%	55%	42%	51%	51%	49%	47%		

In March this year we travelled to South Australia which was a very rewarding trip. We travelled over 5000 km and visited 10 properties with most of them vastly different to what we call home. It was very rewarding to see our breeding adapting to these climates. Most places we visited were feeding some stock but were counting down the days until the winter rain was due, around Anzac Day.

On our arrival to the great southern state we travelled to the fertile peat soils near Allendale East, Peter Caskey's property. The property is situated on the southern sea board with a few kilometers of ocean frontage. It was mind boggling to us that his soil was able to catch fire from a spark and not be put out without heavy rainfall. Peter has developed 'Little Ampie' into a highly productive breeding and fattening block with functional cows.



John with Mike Newton and Evan Flint. Pictured at Evan's property near Kingston SE.

From here we travelled north west towards Robe to David & Bec Hurst's. David & Bec run a White Suffolk sheep herd and a Shorthorn stud, Lake Hawdon. Their property is very unique as it has water drains to filter water off their country in winter to allow pasture growth and to minimise salinity. Quite the opposite to what we have been doing here with water retaining banks put in place. The water table is within 12 feet of the surface and it is common for the lucerne to have its roots in the water table and be green all year round. David purchased one of the first sons of Y Mittiebah 3rd, Y Coolabah, who is still working at 10 years of age.



John and Keith Higgins with first calving heifers at Avenue Range, SA.

We travelled with Mike Newton from Miller John & Whan, to both Evan Flint's and Keith Higgins properties which are both near Kingston. Evan's property is not far from Kingston where we were on limestone country. Evan has a fantastic line of females by Y Coolabah 4th, a Y Mittiebah 3rd son. These females had large volume with length and functionality. Evan had been out checking 'pots' early in the morning and served fresh lobster for lunch. A big treat for us! This wasn't unusual so far on this trip, we also had lobster for lunch at Peter Caskey's. Both very delicious.

Keith is near Avenue Range, more inland. Although we had only travelled about 40 km from Lake Hawdon the country was vastly different, more undulating and sandier soils. Keith has a purebred Shorthorn herd and we saw an impressive mob of first calving heifers with calves at foot. Their functionality was obvious with the heifers having good udders and structure with volume.

Robbie Starling is primarily a sheep man with the cattle the second enterprise on his property near Kingston. He joins 6000 Merino ewes and 500 cows annually and has used JR Legend and TG Oscar in recent years with success. Robbie purchased his first Yamburgan bull in 2003, a Lockyer son.

Commercial cattleman Max Schleuniger has a 300 cow operation, also near Kingston. We saw a very good line of cows with medium frame and Max selects for good weight for age, low mature cow weight, low birth and positive fats.



John with Bob Adam looking towards Gulf St Vincent from Fleurieu Peninsula at Wild Dog Creek, Mt Compass, SA.

Wangolina Station is synonymous with good wine and Shorthorn cattle and is run by John Goode and family. We came home with a couple of cases of the renowned Sauvignon Blanc white. John believes in the strength of the JR Legend line and has used a large number of his sons and grandsons.

Brothers David and Richard and father John Gould have a mixed farming enterprise producing beef, wheat and sheep at Lucerndale. The Gould family join 1000 females and have one of the most impressive herds that we saw in South Australia. They have used Broughton Park bulls for many years and by the line of weaners we saw, with much success.

Continued...



Lyn & John Nitschke and Yamburgan Everest who they purchased at our 2011 sale for \$28,000.

From the south east we travelled to the Fleurieu Peninsula, south of Adelaide, where our first stop was at the Southcote Stud on the outskirts of Victor Harbour. Anthony Green, Southcote manager, showed us the amazing property that is owned by the Roach Group. The late John Roach was a good friend of Lionel & Rania and it was nice to finally see Southcote. We saw a good lineup of weaner bulls including some by Y Ossie D59.

Wild Dog Creek, comprising of 400 cows, is situated at Mt Compass and is run by Bob Adam for the Simpson family. Again the properties had amazing views and cattle to match. The Wild Dog Creek cattle can be traced back to the famed Calrossie stud from England. The cows were calving while we were there with good sized calves and feminine, moderate framed females with good spring of rib. Bob purchased Y Dazler 17th for \$17,000 in 2004 and he has bred extremely well. We would like to pay tribute to Bob's management over the years, they are a great herd of cows.

Another interesting property was that of John Croser at Rapid Bay on the Fleurieu Peninsula. This is a beautiful part of the world although very dry when we were there. John and Yvonne have some of the best ocean views with his property looking west to the Gulf of St Vincent. We had a fantastic meal at the Leonards Mill restaurant at Second Bay.

Our stay with John & Lyn Nitschke, Carlton Stud gave us a chance to see their cattle at Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills as well as sample the local produce by visiting the Beerenberg Jam Factory. It is always great to talk cattle with someone as passionate as Lyn.

On our return towards home we visited Karen Tonkin and her parents, Neville and Ann Nicolle at Parrakie which is nearing the boarder and Pinnaroo. Primarily, this is a breeding and fattening block for their territory property, 'Mulga Park'. Their cows show great volume and easy do-ability with a homebred bull Riverside Goldship, breeding exceptionally well.

We travelled home via Broken Hill and it was interesting to find out that our November flood water was still two weeks away from the Menindee Lakes, taking nearly 4 months to travel the 1000 km.

New Sires for 2012

Hiwiroa Jack F41 (IMP) was imported after we saw him in New Zealand at Jim Symes and Tymothy Plumbers property. We were impressed with Jack F41's front, well laid in shoulders, good length of neck with a very sirey head. He is one of the best fronted Jackeroo sons we have seen with a strong top line.



Hiwiroa Jack F41 (IMP NZ) - Our newly imported NZ sire.

The last few months has seen the introduction of another two new bulls, both from South Australia, which will be used in the spring of 2012. Bundaleer Formula One was purchased for \$19,000 at the Naracoorte Bull Sale. On our SA trip in March we purchased South Bundara Dividend D224. A proven sire with exceptional carcass, soundness and do ability. His breeding is a cross of Y Mittiebah 3rd and CP Winning Drive.



South Bundara Dividend D224 - Bought privately in SA.



Bundaleer Formula One - Purchased for \$19,000 at the 2012 Naracoorte Bull Sale.

By Dr Christine Jones

Organic carbon is the basic building block for all life on - and in - the earth. We cannot live without it. Neither can our soils.



Historical Losses of Soil & Soil Carbon

In little over 200 years of European settlement, more than 70 percent of Australian agricultural land has become seriously degraded.

The world's soils hold three times as much carbon as the atmosphere and over four times as much carbon as the vegetation. With 82% of terrestrial carbon in soil (compared to only 18% in vegetation), soil represents the largest carbon sink over which we have control. Soil is also the world's largest store of terrestrial diversity, with over 95% of life forms being underground (that is, only 5% of biodiversity is above ground). The most meaningful indicator for the health of the land, and the long-term wealth of a nation, is whether soil is being formed or lost. If soil is being lost, so too is the economic and ecological foundation on which production and conservation are based.

"A 0.5% increase in soil carbon on 2% of agricultural land will sequester all Australia's CO₂ emissions"

On average, 7 tonnes of topsoil is lost for every tonne of grain produced. In addition to the loss of soil itself, there has been a reduction of between 50% and 80% in the organic carbon content of surface soils in Australia since European settlement.

Losses of carbon of this magnitude have immeasurable economic and environmental implications. Soil carbon is the prime determinant of agricultural productivity, landscape function and water quality.

The carbon and water cycles are intrinsically linked. Humus holds approximately four times its own weight in water. The most beneficial adaptation strategy for climate change would therefore be one that focuses on increasing the levels of both carbon and water in soils.

Building New Topsoil

The essential first step to rebuilding topsoil is to maximise photosynthetic capacity. A permanent cover of perennial plants provides an ongoing source of soluble carbon for the soil ecosystem, buffers soil temperatures, inhibits weeds, reduces erosion, improves porosity, enhances aggregate stability and water infiltration, slows evaporation and 'conditions' the soil.

Sequestering humified carbon in soils represents a practical, permanent and productive solution to removing excess CO₂ from the atmosphere. By adopting regenerative soil-building practices, it is practical, possible and profitable for broadacre cropping and grazing enterprises to record a net sequestration of carbon in the order of 25 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of product sold (after emissions accounted for).

It would require only a 0.5% increase in soil carbon on 2% of agricultural land to sequester all Australia's emissions of carbon dioxide. That is, the annual emissions from all industrial, urban and transport sources could be sequestered in farmland soils if incentive was provided to landholders for this to happen.

Farming & Health

The best national health policy is good agricultural policy. In reality, the farming sector sits at the centre of a complex, capital intensive supply chain focussed largely on production. Decisions are based on the cost of inputs and the anticipated value of outputs. Rarely is the nutritional value of the product considered. The health dimension has tended to be viewed as a technical problem that can be fixed by pharmacological magic bullets.

Interestingly, when people are asked which factors are of greatest importance to them personally, good health nearly always tops the list. Contrary to popular belief, good health is not determined by the quality of our medical system. Rather, it is closely linked to the nutrient content of food - which in turn is linked to the ecological health and organic carbon content of the soil in which food is grown.

Routine premature deaths by degenerative conditions such as cardiovascular disease and cancer have become promi-



ment when they were once relatively uncommon. The cancer rate, for example, has increased from approximately 1 in 100, fifty years ago, to almost 1 in 2 today.

Livestock & Methane

Wetlands, rivers, oceans, lakes, plants, decaying vegetation (especially in moist environments such as rainforests) - and a wide variety of creatures great and small, have been producing methane for millions of years. A clear distinction needs to be made between natural methane from ruminants and man-made methane from industrial sources. For example, a medium-sized whale produces methane emissions equivalent to 40 cows. There are international policies in place to protect whales and other methane producing wildlife, as well as protecting and enhancing methane-producing ecosystems such as wetlands and rainforests. The natural methane produced in the rumen of pasture fed livestock is not man-made - and is not increasing.

Global atmospheric levels of methane have remained relatively constant over the last ten years, despite increased ruminant numbers worldwide. This finding raises questions about the relative contribution of ruminant livestock to global methane levels and suggests that other sources and sinks may be playing a more significant role. The largest single source of methane worldwide is wetlands [22%], followed by coal, oil and natural gas [19%].

Mycorrhizal Fungi

Soil benefits in many ways from the presence of living plants year-round, due to reduced erosion, buffered temperatures, enhanced infiltration and markedly improved habitat for soil biota. Significantly, it is the photosynthetic capacity of living plants (rather than the amount of dead biomass added to soil) that is the driver for soil carbon accumulation.

The soluble carbon exuded into the rhizosphere by perennial groundcover plants and transported deep into soil by mycorrhizal fungi, provides energy for the vast array of microbes and soil invertebrates that produce sticky substances enabling soil particles to be glued together into lumps (aggregates). When soil is well aggregated, the spaces (pores) between the aggregates allow the soil to breathe, as well as absorb moisture quickly when it rains. A healthy topsoil should be 'more space than stuff', that is, less than 50% solid materials and more than 50% spaces.

Conclusion

The longer we delay undertaking changes to land management, the more soil (and soil carbon and soil water) will be lost, exposing an increasingly fragile agricultural sector to escalating production risks, rising input costs and vulnerability to climatic extremes.

For more information visit Dr Christine Jones' website, Amazing Carbon - www.amazingcarbon.com.



"The Yamburgan bulls have worked well for us, they have put a lot of length and weight into our cattle."

Angus McGilvray, Mitchell, QLD.

Primex Pacific Beef Carcase Competition

This year we entered three pens of steers in the Primex Pacific Beef Carcase competition with early results showing outstanding performance by the Manchee Ag pens. We entered one pen of Durham Tropical steers sired by Wilgaroon Dunkirk D522 and two pens of pure bred Shorthorn steers that were sired by Yamburgan Zeus D79 and Narralda Aladdin. Results for the competition will be announced on the 15th June at Primex 2012.

Manchee Ag Steers	
Average Entry Weight	377 kg
Average Daily Weight Gain	2.6 kg/day
Average Rib Fat	9.5 mm
Dentition	100% milk tooth
Average HDCW	308.12 kg
MSA Grading	100% graded
Average Return per Head	\$1,217.16



Pictured left is a Durham Tropical steer sired by Wilgaroon Dunkirk D522 and on the right the pure bred Shorthorn steer is sired by Yamburgan Zeus D79.

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MA

Bull Sale - Wednesday 29th August

It is the combination of practical breeding principles including fertility, calving ease, weight for age and carcass quality that sets Yamburgan apart when it comes to our strength in all selection indexes. MA believes in the utilisation of large contemporary groups to allow animals, that meet our tough selection criteria, to be identified and offered at our sale.

- 8 CROOKED POST GRISSOM 24T
- 23 THE GROVE OSCAR
- 14 YAMBURGAN CHURCHILL G26
- 12 YAMBURGAN CASSIUS CLAY C108
- 11 BROUGHTON PARK THUNDER C23
- 7 NARRALDA ALADDIN

PLEASE NOTE: Bulls were scanned (in their contemporary group of 51 and 82 bulls) on the 25th May with full EBV's available at the end of June.



YAMBURGAN GRISSOM G28 (P) (AI)
Outstanding carcass bull, plenty of length & growth. Dam is an Aladdin cow.



YAMBURGAN GRISSOM G47 (P) (AI)
Dam is a consistent breeding Moira cow from the same female line as G28.



YAMBURGAN GRISSOM G56 (P) (AI)
An outstanding sire prospect out of Y Jill 179th, a Lockyer daughter.



YAMBURGAN GRISSOM G38 (P) (AI)
Dam is a full sister to Y Lockyer 19th, used in the stud last year.



YAMBURGAN GRISSOM G60 (P) (AI)
A more moderate Grissom son with excellent carcass development.

*"First sons of CROOKED POST GRISSOM
sell at our bull sale on AUGUST 29th"*

YY

Lionel & Rania Manchee
02 6794 4540

Publication of
Manchee Agriculture

MA

Manchee Agriculture

John & Liz Manchee
"Wallah" Narrabri NSW
02 6794 4825
John 0427 944 825
Liz 0427 936 213

WW

Email:
liz@manchee.com.au
john@manchee.com.au

Web Site: www.manchee.com.au