

KENNY'S CREEK BULL SALE INTRODUCTION

While we have been comparatively lucky to have a few breaks in Boorowa this season, we are very conscious of the fact that it has not been an easy year for many of our clients.

At Breakfast Creek Station we continue to use our own genetics extensively through the herd. We inseminated some 2,000 females to our bulls and will calve down 1,300 females in winter 2018. Last year's calving at Breakfast Creek of 700 heifers saw 98% calve unassisted with only 2% needing assistance mostly with mostly legs back and breach. We have been very pleased with how our female sales on Auctions Plus, with our lots frequently topping sales. Cows and calves sold to \$2,650/unit and cows/heifers PTIC selling to \$2,500/head.

Our involvement at The Mount feedlot continues. The feedlot capacity has increased from 4,000 to 5,000 head with a continued focus on a domestic 100 day program and a mid fed program which takes cattle to 150 days for the Chinese market. The feedlot is still predominantly Angus cattle which we buy back from clients wherever possible under our Buy Back Program (see back page for details). Suitable cattle have been harder to find in recent months with a plethora of lighter cattle available but cattle in the 380 to 450kg bracket typically lacking. Ration pricing is understandably under pressure to the point we are looking at the possibility of prices for roughage exceeding grain next year. When the rain does come we expect to see a further contraction in supply of cattle and with high ration costs the economics of feedlotting become much more challenging.

Our meat processing business KC Natural has continued to diversify with beef exports into new markets and the ramping up of our lamb productions. We have just begun productions at Hilltops abattoir in Young where we will be targeting a grass fed, hormone free, anti-biotic free Angus beef program for the United States. Beef processing in Young will give us much better access to local cattle than previously sending cattle to northern NSW production at Cassino.

On the international front there has been a lot of movement. Australian exports have been strong on the back of a depreciating dollar and solid international demand. Trade wars incited by the USA and wilfully taken up by China have a long way to play and it remains to see the effect of a global glut in pork will have on beef prices. In the US feedlot numbers remain at all time highs and despite increased productions US domestic prices have held which has broadly supported other international markets.

During my recent trip to the USA I was fortunate to get a broad overview of the lamb and beef markets and to see some of the best genetics in the country. Seeing different sires was of course important but seeing their genetics on the ground and the breeding philosophies of LT Angus, Connealy and SAV was invaluable. I think I expected to come back from the USA with a different view on our program and what we are doing. If anything I am more resolved that our current approach is correct – a primary focus on carcass without compromising on growth or fertility.

TO THE BULLS...

In the preparation of these bulls I believe there are two things that separate our bulls from others in the breed. Firstly, each bull is given a full veterinary supervised serving test. This is a demanding and time-consuming process but critical for understanding each bull's ability to serve.

Secondly, we focus on making these cattle true to type by not supplementary feeding them. Despite the tough season we have minimised supplementary feeding of the sale bulls to approximately six weeks during the Autumn period where they were fed with DDG pellets. No bulls at Kenny's Creek have been fed on whole white cotton seed. Beyond this they have been fed exclusively on grass and it was only due to the challenging climatic conditions that we undertook the DDG pellet feeding. In doing this these bulls are ready for joining in spring.

In the sale we have 29 lots bred by Kenny's Creek Angus using artificial insemination, these include Kenny's Creek H16, H147, K2 and J223. All of these bulls display a balance of growth and carcass which we prize in our stud and commercial herd.

We continue our focus on high performing cattle and the sale features:

- 38 bulls below breed average for birth weight
- 21 bulls in the top 20% for 400 day growth
- 13 bulls in the top 5% for EMA
- 19 bulls in top 10% for IMF

Sires of bulls in the sale include Black Pearl for his standout lot 10 M155 who we like for calving ease (+3.3), birthweight (+4) and growth (+86 for 400 day).

There are eight sons by the calving ease sire Reality. The bulls are moderately framed, have positive fats, good carcass traits and will suit as specialist heifer bulls

The first son by Kenny's Creek J223 is lot 7 M239. He has positive calving ease (+2.2), below average birthweight, 400 day (top 10% of breed) and 600 day (top 5%) weight, backed up with positive fats and above average EMA and IMF.

We look forward to seeing you at the sale and if you would like to view the bulls before please contact myself or Adam.

Sam Burton Taylor
Kenny's Creek Angus
Spring 2018