

BULLOCK HILLS
BHS
SIMMENTAL

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Welcome.

Since Bullock Hills Simmental was established in 1995, our Simmentals have made many changes to the type of cattle we now breed.

Artificial breeding has enhanced this progress to enable us to breed suitable European cattle for a medium rainfall area and to adapt to market requirements.

We greatly appreciate the support and interest you have shown us.

This newsletter outlines the direction Bullock Hills Simmental is pursuing and also what is happening generally on the cattle front.

Yours sincerely,
BRAD & SYLVIA PATTERSON AND FAMILY

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BULLOCK HILLS SIMMENTAL UPDATE.

This 2006 year has probably been one of the most difficult for livestock producers. Throughout WA, except for those along the south coast, rainfall for this area has been minimal for early winter but average for July and August.

Summer rains in January and March gave a reasonable green pick of perennials and summer weeds, allowing most stock to be in very good condition by early winter. With minimal rain during May and June, feed supplies dwindled quickly and any accessible areas of tagasaste were opened up and supplemented with straw and some hay. As always, harsher climatic conditions will speed up selection pressure meaning some cows will have to go once the calves are weaned.

At Bullock Hills, we have continued our extensive artificial breeding programme despite the season, having been encouraged by new genetics coming through in the past 2 years and client response, still opting for a late May/June calf. On the South African side, we have our first fully imported embryo calves on the ground. The South African sire Three Sixes cattle are finding their place in this

environment. Nacobi calves are included in this years calf drop and look promising. This years semen sires have seen proven Australian sires Grimich Park Stynes and Grimich Park Primus and Bullock Hills Woosha are used back over the South African progeny with some Shawacres Nacobi and BHR Three Sixes still being used on older cows.

With the recent programme, some of our best performing cows have been flushed to sires that will suit our environment.

Our selection criteria still places paddock performance as one of the most important choices after a female is classed at weaning. All heifers are mated at 14-15 months and their ability to be back in calf 12 months later is critical not only to our commercial herd but equally as important in the stud. Along with this she must be able to maintain a healthy calf and keep herself in reproductive order.

Seasons like the one at present fast tract any selection process and in the long term will always increase herd performance.

- BRAD PATTERSON



GRIMICH PARK STYNES

Sire Ebony Park Pedro
Dam Grimich Park Aelphi



GRIMICH PARK PRIMUS

Sire Alva Koort Jigger
Dam Piggot Range Ignatia



THANK YOU FROM BHS.

We greatly appreciate the interest shown in our cattle and would like to thank those who purchased at auction or privately, especially buyers and under bidders at the Brunswick Supreme Bull Sale.

Auction purchases by:

- ☞ N C Trigwell
Nu Plains Simmental
Boyanup
- ☞ RH & SJ Manning
Busselton
- ☞ RM & MMC Italiano
Rosemont Park Simmental
Harvey
- ☞ T & R Johnson
Esperance
- ☞ J & L De Val
Toodyay
- ☞ L C Freedman
City Beach

We would value and look forward to any feedback on bull or progeny performance.



BUYERS OF TOP PRICE BULLS

RH & SJ Manning (Busselton) and Norm Trigwell (Nu-plains Stud Boyanup).

Both purchased for \$6,750.



LEFT
Clementine the heifer is going to her first Royal Show. She had never met a horse before and couldn't wait to give Mundy a big kiss!

RIGHT
Jenna and Hayden at the SA Expo.

SA HEIFER EXPO

Jenna Patterson (below, left) was selected to take the Trans-Tasman trip to New Zealand as a representative of the Simmental entrants at this year's *South Australia Junior Heifer Expo*. Jenna accepted and plans to go to New Zealand in the first half of next year to study the New Zealand cattle industry.

This was Hayden Patterson's first year of attending the Expo (below, right). He participated in intermediate categories, including judging and parading on the last day. It was very rewarding. He really enjoyed his time and meeting new people in South Australia.



DEMAND IN DRY TIMES FOR FAT STOCK.

The widespread dry in Australia, which is within eight weeks of becoming a major drought, has finally forced large numbers of cattle and sheep onto the market, leading to the obvious fall in sale yard prices for store stock.

It's simply a matter of supply and demand. Supply has increased due to a shortage of paddock pasture and conserved fodder and demand for stores by backgrounders and grass fatteners has diminished quickly for the same reason.

Apart from the pastoral regions and south coast of WA, every agricultural shire is experiencing a tough time and everywhere south of the gulf country, the season in the eastern states has hit the wall.

From the "best break in 25 years", the season north of Adelaide has collapsed with weeks of hot, dry winds knocking crops and pastures for six.

Victoria is experiencing a green drought with

very low levels of water in farm dams and whilst some pockets are enjoying an average season in the north west of the state, most of NSW has gone from fair to desperate in eight weeks.

Southern Queensland is a dust bowl, although confined areas of winter crops hold some promise after local storms. Localised storms have been the order almost everywhere but a big, widespread rain hasn't been seen for over a year in most parts.

The price for plain, lightweight cows, many with young calves at foot, has collapsed and vendors of lightweight yearlings are at the mercy of buyers with grass.

There are however, many who argue that making money in tough times is easier than the so called "good times". In years of plentiful feed, all cattle fall into the fat stock category, irrespective as to carcass weight. The two drafts of slippery, fat 360kg vealers going over the hooks or into the pens simply make up the numbers for a day's kill.

In times of drought, when huge numbers of unfinished cattle are coming forward, the exceptional pens are the lofted or supplemented cattle which meet the market's specification. Neither the heavyweight hotel and restaurant trade or supermarkets can use store cattle for anything but grinding. The buying order won't read "140kg HCW, dry, dark meat colour, 3mm P8 fat".

They can and will, compete strongly for cattle with the weight and fat cover they require when supply is restricted. Spending an extra \$100/head on supplementary feed and consignment to custom feeding for 70 days can yield handsome dividends.

In these dry times, breeders and fatteners are not the only people looking to the heavens. Exporters and domestic buyers know that the mad Spring panic to kill the light weight vealers will soon pass and they will be forced to pay higher prices for quality cattle or lose their long term orders.

BULLISH MARKET OUTLOOK.

Bearing in mind that the two most significant factors affecting agricultural commodities, politics and the weather, can't be predicted with any accuracy, indications point to a bright short to medium-term outlook for Australian beef on the world stage.

The re-appearance of American beef in Japan appears to be confined to the millions of "beef bowl" consumers who take an average of 11 minutes to order, eat and pay for a bowl of rice, beef strips and sauce.

Irrespective of the "safest, bestest" rubbish coming from the American exporters and NCMA, Japanese consumers simply don't trust US beef or US exporters to do the right thing and protect them from the possibility of transmissible disease.

Australian beef and offals are recognized as being safe and recent taste-tests indicate an "as good as or better than" American table beef. The only problem is that we can't supply enough of the stuff.....and we're talking tongues, short rib, chuck, thick skirt, diaphragm, and not high quality table beef.

There is a misconception that Japan is our largest market for high quality product. It ranks #2 in fact and is similar to Korea in product requirements but Australia's largest and most lucrative market in the United States.

The US takes a large quantity of our manufacturing beef to mix with their 150 day trimmings for the massive hamburger trade, however the Japanese and Koreans are no match for the Americans when it comes to paying for grass fed and short fed primal steaks.

Disneyworld for instance, uses four containers every week of exclusively Australian 120 day chilled, sliced beef.

The most significant competitors Australia will face in the medium term for our major markets will be the Mercusor nations of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay and China in the longer term.



LEFT

Woonalee Lady Suzi V9 and Bullock Hills Woosha are part of this year's embryo programme.

The flush was successful and we will be implanting embryos later this year. Lady Suzi is a strong, thick, moderate female and very correct.

Woosha will refine her progeny.

LIFE FOR LACHLAN ON A KIDMAN STATION.

I attended the SA Junior Heifer Expo in 2004 and 2005, and on the second year I won the Quinyambie Station work experience award. Because of the seasonal work program at home and at the station, I waited until March this year and flew over to begin the first round of mustering. Quinyambie is about 3,000,000 acres, situated in South Australia about 200km NNW of Broken Hill (NSW). The station spans about 300kms long North to South, the eastern border being the dog fence and the New South Wales border. The station gets to 120km wide in sections, and is about 150km from the Flinders Ranges.



The land is part of the Strzelecki Desert, and has continuous sand hills running east west. The flats between the red sand hills are clay based soils that grow salt bush, mulga, bloodwood and other native scrub. There are mass amounts of wild turnip over the flats and the hills, and are the main feed on the station. 2005 was a good year for average rainfall, and getting little rain the first half of '06, the excess turnip was extremely important and great roughage for finishing fat cattle. There are no natural water points on the station, and all bores are motor and mill filled troughs from the artesian basin.

Quinyambie has a 12,000 head capacity on average, due to restricted stock numbers in SA. The breeding consists mainly of Santa Gertrudis and Shorthorn, although there was the odd Brahman and Angus. Most cattle are mustered twice a year and therefore have a fairly good temperament, although I got flattened the first day I was in the yards and I never heard the end of it. We muster on Honda XR250s, with a two-way radio strapped to our chest, a camelback and a saddlebag for first aid and lunch. A gyrocopter contractor mustered with us, who has a radio and GPS guidance.

We usually mustered to a water point and then to a holding yard, and eventually to a trucking yard (cattle yard). The longest muster in one day I did was 25km, but on average most walks were about 18km. We usually went on camp for about two weeks, and each morning up at 5:30am and off on the bikes as soon as the sky started to lighten. My bike didn't have a light so I often sat close behind another bike, but at 0 degrees it's hard to keep up. We usually were able to knock off by five, except when in the yards with bigger mobs. The manager came out to draft sometimes, each of us ringers taking turns in the crows' nest, and when you draft one the wrong way it's a six pack.



All calves get marked, tagged, branded, castrated and scalped, and the steers also get a compudose. The weaners always got trucked back to the homestead yards where we marked and branded the clean skins and walked them to a separate paddock. All fat cows (dries) and steers get separated in the yards, with the cows sold anywhere they could (Roma, Millicent etc.). The steers were exported in April, but this year's steers were trucked in June, and not kept till April next year. Basically, if there isn't enough feed to carry the steers through, they're custom fed until they reach a dressed weight of 300kgs. Quinyambie purchases 40 bulls a year from another Kidman station.



The Kidman Company now runs 170,000 cattle over 11 stations, and in the last few decades have narrowed down a lot, from a variety of enterprises to now solely cattle. I worked with a good group of ringers - all within two years of my age. The head stockman Ben Daly is well respected has management potential, and I learnt a lot from him. I learnt a lot out of the station experience and I encourage anyone who wants to learn more in the cattle industry to consider station work.

- LACHLAN PATTERSON

2006 CALENDAR

NEWDEGATE FIELD DAY

6th & 7th September

PERTH ROYAL SHOW

30th September - 7th October

SPRING LAMB FESTIVAL

28th October (Katanning)

ALBANY SHOW

10th & 11th November

BREEDING POLICY

Established on Hamelin Park bloodlines in 1995, the focus of Bullock Hills Simmental stud is to produce seed stock cattle which performs in a typical West Australian commercial environment. A short coat, eye hooding and above all, docility are essential characteristics for our cattle.

Longevity requires athleticism, conformation and correct foot structure. Profitability is governed by fertility, ease of calving, muscularity and fat content in a carcass.

We believe we are producing the cattle to meet your expectations.

