

2014 October Oddments



Ardcairnie Angus

Dear Cattle folk on our mailing list,
It's been a while since our last newsletter sent by Australia Post. In the meantime we have tried to regularly update our website:
www.ardcairnieangus.com.au
and hope that those of you with access to computers have found it of interest.
Recently, we had an email from Brian Wehlburg who will be running a Holistic Management Course in WA starting next month and continuing through next year—details overleaf. Jim has attended a session or two with Brian and found him an excellent teacher so if you are at all interested in finding out more about Holistic Management, this is your chance.
Compared to last year, 2014 has delivered the goods in terms of enough rain in sufficient quantities from the first rains in late April (after the driest summer we can remember for a while) to not only keep the grass growing but to fill the dams as well. The two bores that were drilled and equipped played their part in keeping water to stock through the late summer/early autumn and are still being used from time to time now.
We do very much hope that wherever you are, your season has been, and is, what you needed.
Kind regards.

For Jim and Pam McGregor

On the home front: our families are well with the grandchildren growing (as they do!!) and continuing to be a delight. The orchard is flowering so we look forward to some fruit in the summer. The 'lawn' is persisting amidst some weeds, the spraying for fire control is done.

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Rainfall at Maybenup 2014

After the break at the end of April, there has been just under 14 inches of rain this year. Still quite a lot below what we were told was the average Kojonup of 20 inches/year, but it has come at the right time!

A little bit more would be welcome as we have just installed a new water tank off the new hayshed at the south end!

2015 Bull Sale

Date for your diary:

Tuesday 3rd February

come anytime after 11am; sale starts 1.30pm, If you'd like to see the bulls in the paddock before the sale, just ring!

The cattle

Mating concluded early October so now all the cows and calves are in one mob; pregnancy testing of them scheduled for 17th November. The J heifers had their day on 15th October!

For the first time, we used a Fixed Time AI programme with the first calvers (61 H girls) so it will be interesting to see the results next month. There were 58 heifers and 101 cows AI'd so Jim had a busy time over three weeks each time with the 11 day FTAI in between!

The J bulls are still running with some steers and their 600 day weights and scans will be done 12th November; after the Breedplan report is received, we will make final decisions on keeper and sale bulls. There are some sires of these bulls that will be in short supply in WA as well as sons of proven sires. The catalogue will be posted in January and will also be available on line through the Angus website.

Holistic Management Training Course

First session Tuesday and Wednesday 18th and 19th November in Balingup
(Numbers permitting)

Many of our readers know that we use Holistic Management Decision Making in our lives both on the farm and in our personal lives.

Certified Educator Brian Wehlburg of Inside Outside Management, brings a wealth of experience to the training. Trained by Allan Savory in Africa, Brian currently produces pastured beef, pork and eggs on his property on the Mid North Coast of NSW. Brian is originally from Africa where he trained tribes people; since moving to Australia, he has worked with indigenous Australians, graziers on both small and large properties and hobby farmers.

Brian is a passionate advocate of what Allan Savory's Holistic Management can do to help you achieve goals in relation to improving your soils, the environment and your quality of life. The courses are action packed learning events which using Allan Savory's thinking will help you increase profitability, better your soils and pastures, reduce weeds and pests and give you better time management and communications.

The course is based on four two-day sessions covering the following core Holistic Management topics:

Session One (18/19 November 2014): Introduction; history of Holistic Management and its success; how we think and change—power of paradigms; ecosystem function—how nature functions holistically; incorporating livestock as a tool for making change to our environment; diagnosing the root cause of problems; what is causing biodiversity loss.

Session Two (To be arranged January 2015): Review ecosystem function and the tools; Holistic diagnosis of environmental problems; the change process—how people change; personal profiling—what moves you; conventional decision making; Holistic context formation and goal setting; discovering the testing matrix; testing decisions using a testing matrix; testing decisions—personal examples; time management.

Session Three (To be arranged February 2015): Review and photos; Mastering the basics for Holistic Grazing planning; feed budgets and plant monitoring; paddock walk and practical feed budgeting; complete case study for growing and non-growing season grazing plans; complete personal grazing plan; electronic spreadsheets for grazing planning.

Session Four (To be arranged March 2015): Introduction to Holistic Financial Planning; small business financial plan example; communication exercises; review non-growing grazing plan; biological monitoring theory; paddock walk—set up as bio-monitoring site; introduction to Holistic Land Planning and Key Line; review; evaluation.

The contents outline is a guide only and may be changed as the course evolves to suit specific needs. There will be elements of Financial Planning introduced throughout the first three sessions to create solid learning around the financial session, in session four.

Sessions would be ideally set 6 to 8 weeks apart to allow for implementation and learning in participants personal lives. Between sessions, access for clarification through email and telephone is encouraged as well as organised teleconferences between sessions to keep learning happening and resolve any blockages to progress.

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