



**Ardcairnie
Angus**

2016 bull sale
Tuesday 2 February
 On-farm
 Albany Highway
 Kojonup
 From 11am, sale 1.30pm

2015 October Observations

8th October 2015

To all on our mailing list

This may be the first time you have received one of our occasional Ardcairnie Newsletters. We do email it to those who would rather have it that way, so please don't hesitate to let us know—contact details below.

Many farmers in WA this year are experiencing quite a tough season as far as finishing rains are concerned and Kojonup is no exception. However, we have learnt over the years that we have to deal with what Mother Nature throws at us and we will be making some decisions over the next week or so.

On the plus side, we are happy with the way the stock are looking after the autumn, winter and early spring. Switching to a high protein pellet (28% crude protein) for the younger stock over autumn/early winter has contributed to that; while more expensive than the normal pellets we use as a supplement, it has been a worthwhile change.

Mating is complete for this year and the bulls now relaxing after what we hope is a job well done! The next jobs are pregnancy testing for heifers (Thursday 22nd October), and cows (Monday 16th November), 200 and Mature Cow Weights for this year's calves and their Mums (first week November) and the 600 day weights and scans for 2014 born heifers and sale bulls (Thursday 12th November).

We hope the season finishes well for you all, and wish you and yours a very safe and happy 2016. We look forward to contact with you then.

For Jim and Pam

Mated females for sale:

First: There are 26 heifers on agistment between Bridgetown and Nannup and they will be available direct from that farm as soon as possible after they are pregnancy tested on Saturday 31st October—say 20 plus or minus depending on the results!

Second: the heifers at home will be pregnancy tested on Thursday 22nd October and any surplus to our requirements will be available and buyers will have to move them off Maybenup as soon as possible after that date.

Third: The cows are due to be pregnancy tested on 16th November and depending on results, there could be some PTIC cows available. Again we would expect any PTIC cows available to be moved from Maybenup as soon after 16th November as possible. Empties are generally sold direct to the abattoirs. Price is \$1400 + GST/head for the heifers reflecting the trade at the moment but also (in our opinion!) the quality of these females (and yes, we are biased!). Cow price still to be determined. If you are interested in acquiring some Ardcairnie females, please contact us (details below left) as soon as possible and certainly before 22nd October

National Review Bovine Johne's Disease (BJD)

Animal Health Australia, on behalf of the National BJD Management Plan and the State and Territory Chief Veterinary Officers, is this year carrying out the process of this review. Two discussion papers were prepared and submissions invited; several public forums have been held, with the last one in Perth on September 11th—and that was very well attended by over 70 people, mostly beef producers. One suggestion of concern for WA is to remove our BJD Free Zone status (though WA has the power to decide to retain that if they so wish). The final document is now being prepared and should be available for public comment from mid-October for three weeks. Check what's happening and make a submission if you feel strongly about any proposals in the final document. Just google National BJD Strategic Plan Review for up-to-date information.

Our contact details:

- Jim and Pam McGregor
- Phone 08 9831 0401
- Fax 08 9831 0404
- Mobile 0417 942 326
- Email MAYBENUP@bigpond.com
- Web page ardcairnieangus.com.au

Mobs on Maybenup

Mating time is always when there are the maximum number of mobs on Maybenup but now that that's over, the mobs carried are:

One mob of cows and calves

One mob of herd bulls and some K steers

One mob of K bulls (born 2014)

One mob of K heifers (born 2014)

Rainfall on Maybenup

Not the most plentiful in 2015! However averaging between the two gauges 5km apart, we have had:

January 0.0mm

February 10.0mm

March 28.4mm

April 60.1mm

May 22.3mm

June 39.6mm

July 50.0mm

August 37.6mm

September 30.0mm

Total so far: 278mm

Or in the old terms—just over 11 inches.

Changes at Maybenup

Nothing stays the same at Maybenup!

The first of two changes made last summer in feeding was the use of the high protein pellets to supplement the dry feed into a more balanced ration.

The weaners were given 1.25 to 1.5 kg/day/head and the pregnant heifers about the same starting one month before calving. All three mobs responded well and no hay was fed.

The cows and the young weaner heifer/steer mob had biochar mixed with their minerals. Was it worth it? Who knows because we didn't have a control mob, but there is some evidence biochar reduces methane production in the rumen and helps the efficiency of the rumen. Whether the volume they consumed was high enough to have an influence we don't know but we will probably do it again this coming summer.

2015 bull selling season:

With what we thought were plenty bulls left after the sale in February, demand meant that we sold three older bulls as well as the rest of the 60 two year olds to assist clients—it is very satisfying for us to be able to help when required. We look forward to next year!

Ardcairn Angus is a member of



to ensure good information from our performance recording

The 2016 Sale Team

There are plenty different sires' progeny to choose from in the sale team mob. Of course, decisions about which will make the keeper and sale teams are not made until after the Breedplan report from the processing of the 600day weights and scans information, the BVDV ear notch, semen testing and morphology results are received and the structure and conformation checked. At the moment though, there are just over 90 in the mob from eleven AI sires and nine home bred sires. The bloodlines of some of these potential sale bulls will be in short supply in WA but we will await all the results before we prepare the catalogue in early January.

Sires of the mob at the moment include Highlander of Stern and Matauri Reality from New Zealand, P A Power Tool, Connealy Confidence and Sydgen C C & 7 from USA, Coonamble Elevator, Ardrossan Casino, Booramooka Inspired and Waitaro Pio Federal from Australia as well as one from UK, Oakchurch Field Marshall. Sires of the home bred sires include Te Mania Berkley, Lawsons Dinky-Di, Te Mania Infinity (NZ), Connealy Sullivan, Connealy Impression and grandsons of two Angus Young Sire Scheme sire Booramooka Design Y120. As always, lots of variety for us as well as for our clients to minimise inbreeding chances.

Ardcairn Angus will continue to only use or offer for sale bulls that are tested non-carriers of the four genetic conditions for which there are tests available in the Angus breed. This means no chance of the condition expressing itself even when there are potential carriers in the female herd. Our choice, our expense but we would not expect our clients to take less than we use at home!

Angus Sire Benchmarking Program

The aim of this program was to test about 40 young bulls each year nominated by members and joined by AI to about 2000 females. The bulls used in the program give a broad cross section of the best bulls being offered to the Australian industry and internationally. Initially funded for three years, the scheme was extended for another three years and Cohort Six is now underway. In total, the project will generate approximately 6,000 progeny, with 3,000 steers tested for feed efficiency and slaughtered after feedlot finishing to contribute carcass and meat quality data. In addition, fertility and calving ease data is being recorded on about 3,000 female progeny.

All sires, and progeny, have DNA samples collected to enable the evaluation of future DNA markers or genotype tests with Angus cattle raised and assessed under Australian conditions. This will help quantify the contribution of the DNA markers allowing them to be incorporated into Estimated Breeding Values.

Ardcairn Angus nominated Ardcairn F96 for the Third Cohort and have been pleased with the results thus far. He is the son of a home bred bull, Ardcairn B59 who was a son of Booramooka Design Y120, a bull whose semen was available through the Angus Society Young Sire Program some years ago.

There were 40 sires in Cohort 3; results for F96 show him as placed 7th for Birth Weight EBV with 20 progeny, 17th for Gestation Length with 12 progeny, 21st for 200 day weight with 23 progeny, 18th for 400 days with 11 progeny, 10th for 600 days with 12 progeny, 2nd for EMA with 22 progeny, 12th for IMF again with 22 progeny, and 9th for NFI with 8 progeny.

When nominations were called earlier this year for Cohort 6, Ardcairn J27 was nominated and was accepted. Acceptance means organising 100 straws of semen to be collected and sent over east for allocation to the co-operator herds. While Ardcairn has to pay a reasonably substantial nomination fee, the cost is reduced through co-investment by Meat and Livestock Australia (Beef Improvement Nucleus (BIN) program) and Angus Australia.

Ardcairn J27 is a son of USA sire Sydgen Trust 6228.