

26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

It's been a while since our last newsletter in October 2015!

This may be the first time you have received a newsletter - the mailing/emailing list has just been revised and amended.

We still have a number of bulls available for purchase after several sales following our bull sale on 30<sup>th</sup> January. More information on the right.

While 2017 was one of the more challenging years weather-wise we have encountered in our 40+ years of farming in Western Australia, we and the stock came through in good order.

The start of 2018 has been somewhat challenging also but we have been farming long enough to know that we have to deal with what Mother Nature sends our way, so we do. All mobs are receiving some supplementary feeding to compensate for the poorer nutrition value of the paddock feed. *(And as this is being prepared on Sunday evening, the heavens have opened and there's steady rain falling!)*

Best wishes for a successful and fulfilling 2018 - working with Mother nature where you can.

Jim and Pam

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### Please tell us if:

- \* You would rather not be on our mailing list *(we don't mind sending it if you are interested even if you don't need bulls!)* ;
- \* You would rather we contacted you by email.

### Available Ardcairn Bulls:

All have sound structure, been semen tested and morphology assessed, all have been vaccinated with Ultravac 7 in 1, Vibrovax and Pestigard.

**Bovine Johnes Disease:** in line with the protocols introduced in July 2016, our on-farm biosecurity plan was completed with our vet before 30 June 2017 and the faecal check test results last month were all negative. Our J-BAS Status remains at J-BAS 8: **We feel it is vital, as stud producers selling bulls and mated females, that we retain the J-BAS 8 status to give assurance to our clients.**

All bulls are also free by test or pedigree from the four Genetic conditions: AM, NH, CA and DD.

The list of bulls available is included or attached. If you would like/need a copy of the full catalogue, please let us know and we will pop one in the post.

We welcome visitors to have a look at these bulls so please ring to arrange a time if you find you need a bull - or bulls - for your mating programme.

### Mobs on Maybenup:

- One mob of sale and keeper bulls
- One mob of mixed age pregnant cows
- One mob of pregnant M heifers
- One mob of N (born 2017) bulls
- One mob of N heifers and steers
- One mob of older herd bulls
- One very small mob of three bought bulls and our pet cow, W450, who produced a calf in early January! (She is the oldest cow on the farm - born in late 2000 and is permitted to dance to her own rhythm!

## Calving approaches!

The M heifers will start calving from around 9<sup>th</sup> April; the cows from around 12<sup>th</sup> May = there's always the ones who will come a wee bit earlier or later than their due date!

Calving should be completed by mid-June for the heifers and mid-July for the cows.

The Safety Zone Calf Catcher which we imported from the USA is ready for its third season on Maybenup, this year attached to an electric quad - much quieter than the petrol driven one. The catcher has been invaluable in reducing calving time stress!

It's always an interesting time of year to see how last year's mating decisions work out. Jim selects the bulls to be used in the AI programme after much consideration of the many AI catalogues.

Matesel is used to allocate which sire goes with which dam, both for the AI programmes and the natural back-up bulls. We have been happy with the results of this computer programme over the last few years so continue to use it.

## Call of the Reed Warbler

We are both reading this very interesting book by Charles Massy and we attended a day at Williams where he was the lead speaker on "Regenerative agriculture".

The book contains lots of stories about what farmers across Australia are doing to improve their land and chapters on transforming the earth which is becoming more essential with every day that passes.

We started on one aspect featured in the book - Holistic Management - twenty years ago when we moved to Maybenup and have seen many of the regenerative things happening on the farm.

It's what gets us up in the morning and keeps us enthused.

The book is well worth a read and may herald the next evolution in agriculture.

## Some words to perhaps ponder?

Those of you with computers will be well aware of the huge number of websites willing to send you their newsletters. One we look at from time to time is from Kit Pharo, an extraordinary cattle man in USA.

A recent one included 'The Three Cs' which we thought worth sharing:

**Circumstance** are where you are right now. You had no control over some of your circumstances. Circumstances of your birth and childhood, for example, are not the result of any choices you made. Other circumstances, however, are the consequences of choices you have made.

**Choices** are what you make happen to alter your circumstances. The choices or decisions you *don't* make can have just as big an effect on your circumstances as the choices and decisions you *do* make.

**Consequences** are the result of your choices, or lack thereof. Consequences can be good or bad - depending on the choices you made - or didn't make.

You can't go back in time to alter your circumstances. You can, however, change your future circumstances. The decisions you make (or don't make) will have a profound effect on your future and the future of your family business. This is a responsibility that should not be ignored or taken lightly. Your kids and grandkids are hoping you make the right decisions. Don't be afraid to take control of your future.

*Some 'quotes worth re-quoting' from Kit:*  
Every choice you make has an end result - Zig Ziglar

The choices we make determine our destiny - Brandon October

Success is simply a matter of luck - ask any failure - Earl Wilson.

I owe my success to having listened respectfully to the very best advice - and then going away and doing the exact opposite - G K Chesterton