



Ardcairnie Angus

May Musings

Wednesday 6th May 2020

Hello cattle people,
It's been a while since there's been a newsletter emailed or posted from Ardcairnie Angus so we thought it was time to touch base in these very different Covid 19 times. We hope you are all managing to stay safe and well; for most of us as farmers, we are used to working from home and "isolating" much of the time so that has made life less stressful for us all.

Livestock farming continues as the year rolls on. Calving started here on 31st March, a couple of weeks earlier than our planned due dates, but that happens. On that first day, three heifers calved bringing four calves with heifer number two having twin bull calves. One of them is now being fostered by heifer number 8 to calve - a dead calf resulting from a very narrow birth canal and a head coming folded back. Our vet Kate managed to relax the heifer and pull the calf - we had thought a caesarean operation would be necessary. Since then, the second calvers who had a fixed time AI programme on 30th July 2019 have kicked into gear, again ahead of their due date of 6th May. Thank heavens for the range of negative EBVs for Days to Calving and Gestation Length that spreads out calving of the these 70 second calvers from one day to close to two weeks!

Sires of the 2020 calves

Calving is always an exciting time to see what the progeny of new AI sires to the Ardcairnie herd look like.

New sires for this 2020 calving include Yon Full Force, Exar Monumental 6056B, Musgrave Mediator, Baldrige 38 Special, Bruin Torque, Bush's Wind Chill, Millah Murrah Nugget N266 and Koojan Hills Kaiser N91.

In addition there are five new paddock sires - four home bred in Ardcairnie N36, Ardcairnie N52, Ardcairnie N285 in the heifer mob, and Ardcairnie N298 and Coonamble Kevin N444 in the cow mob. And again, interesting to see their progeny.

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A dry few months?

Maybenup has had one of the longest dry spells we have experienced since we moved here from Denbarker just over 22 years ago. The calendar year of 2019 gave us 265mms (10.5 inches) and that's about half of what the average was in 1998. Since October's 17.5mms, there's been 5 in November, zero in December and January, 17 in February, 11 in March and zero in April. 8mms on 4th May has been followed by 18.5mms this morning in the south gauge; north gauge 5kms had 9mms and then 13mms.

Four dams have been cleaned out, two drains enlarged and one dam needing two excavators still awaits their arrival. Our local contractor has been working all hours around the district. Our furthest east dam is dry so another local contractor is carting water to the tank there to supply the calving heifers with water - there's dry feed in that paddock and a little breakfast of pellets each morning has kept them growing and strong.

The bull sale on 4th February - while there wasn't our usual clearance, prices were good and several bulls have sold since.

There are still 22 available should the need arise through the 2020 mating season. Details included. Check the website to download all the details of the 22.

If you need a bull and would like to have a look please don't hesitate to ring us to arrange a time - 0417 942 326



The dam in Cattle paddock on the afternoon Tuesday 5th May 2020 with the weaner heifer mob after 9mms rain Monday afternoon

Same dam morning of 6th May 2020 after 13mms overnight



Mobs on Maybenup in May!

With our planned grazing management, the number of mobs is kept as few as possible with bull mating time (July, August, September) being the exception when there's 3 mating mobs for 3 weeks, 10 for six weeks and 7 mobs for another three. At the moment, there are 6 mobs all up - calving heifers, calving cows, weaner heifers, weaner bulls, sale bulls and herd bulls (set-stocked). The five mobs are moving round their grazing cells, leaving 79 paddocks with no stock and time to recover and grow - if the rain keeps coming!

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Maybenup, 22327 Albany Highway, Kojonup WA 6395

22 Bulls available from 29th April 2020

*If you'd like to see the bulls, please ring Jim and Pam,
or Jamie Hart of Elders Kojonup on 0427 910 955*

Lot	Bull	SIRE	Reserve	Lot	Bull	SIRE	Reserve
13	P56	COUNSELOR	\$4,000	39	P190	CAPITALIST	\$4,500
15	P66	F96	\$5,000	42	P205	KH K46	\$4,000
17	P74	SURE FIRE	\$5,500	46	P219	K156	\$4,250
18	P81	F96	\$5,000	49	P234	DVAI	\$4,500
22	P93	CON CAP	\$4,500	51	P243	KH K46	\$4,000
23	P96	CON COMM	\$4,750	52	P247	KH K46	\$4,000
26	P108	CON CAP	\$5,000	54	P292	J27	\$4,500
28	P120	CON COMM	\$5,000	56	P303	GENERATION	\$4,500
31	P132	CON COMM	\$4,000	57	P305	KH K46	\$5,000
32	P146	SS NIAGARA	\$4,500	59	P316	KH K46	\$4,750
34	P160	BR M59	\$5,000	61	P323	L49	\$5,000

COUNSELOR is CONNEALY COUNSELOR

SURE FIRE is G A R SURE FIRE

CON CAP is CONNEALY CAPITALIST 028

CON COMM is CONNEALY COMMONWEALTH

SS NIAGARA is S S NIAGARA Z29

BR M59 is BLACKROCK M59

CAPITALIST is LD CAPITALIST 316

KH K46 is Koojan Hills Reality K46

DVAI is Deer Valley All In

GENERATION is V A R Generation 2100

F96, J27, L49 and K156 are Ardcairnie Bred