

Burenda Bulls Pulling Their Weight at Argyle



**Megan and Tim Allen
"Argyle"
Mundubbera Qld**

Long term Burenda clients, Tim and Megan Allen of Argyle Mundubbera Qld, have established a very successful EU grazing enterprise spanning over three properties in the South Burnett area.

Running 500 angus breeders on Cheltenham Mundubbera, and a further 350 brangus breeders on their Mt Perry breeder block. A combination of Burenda bred angus bulls and brahman bulls from the Kirk's at Gayndah have been used in both herds over the last 10 years with outstanding results.

The angus progeny from Cheltenham have been performing extremely well with average weaning weights close to 300kg over the last few years. The weaners are trucked home to Argyle which is used as the grower and finisher property for all of Tim and Megan's progeny. These progeny are grown out on predominately buffel based pastures for around 10 months and then a portion of the heifers are selected for replacement breeders and the remaining heifers and steers are finished on improved irrigated pasture.

A combination of rye grass and clover under 3 centre pivots have been the success behind the finishing of these cattle.

The Allen's have realised that if they wanted to attract a premium or better price on average for their cattle they needed to reduce their turn off age and produce a 0-2 tooth EU and MSA carcass. This improved pasture and clover over the winter and early spring period has enabled them to achieve this.



Rye grass and clover combination at Argyle

A uniform run of 290 angus and angus cross steer progeny achieved an average weight of 310kg with 8-12mm of fat on a \$3.80 EU and MSA grid with an excellent 98% compliance rate. These steers were killed last year in late October early November through Teys at Beenleigh.

With the 2013/14 summer period being drier than normal the Allen's needed to plan for the coming dry winter and as part of their overall drought management strategy a selection of 400 No 3 branded angus steers had been put on agistment near Condamine. These grew out well with the smaller 300 having an average weight of 400kg and in late February 2014 and were sold to Teys Feedlot at Condamine for an good price of \$2.15/kg in a very depressed cattle market. The remaining 100 steers were carried through until March 2014 and sold as bullocks on a \$3.90/kg EU grid.



A run of 300 angus cross heifers are currently finishing under two centre pivots totalling 170acres of rye grass and clover pasture. These heifers will be sold around September/October and they expect most to grade EU or MSA.

Credit needs to be given to Tim and Megan Allen for establishing not only a very successful breeder, growing and finishing operation in the Mundubbera area, but for also taking the plunge and purchasing their first 3 Burenda Angus bulls back in 2004 in what had traditionally been a very Bos Indicus area.

