

Elite genetics for buyers

Q UEENSLAND *Country Life's* popular Beef Week 2013 will be an important day for the Kaimkillenbun-based Burenda Angus Stud. They have chosen the day to launch their 'Burenda Blacks' breed of Bos Indicus-infused Black Angus cattle.

Their open day will begin at 8.30am, with Federal Member for Maranoa Bruce Scott launching the 'blacks' at 11am.

Manager Jonathan Schmidt said it would be a fitting occasion to have Mr Scott officiate, given that he started his working life as a jackaroo on Burenda Station at Augathella in 1965.

"Our open day is always a special event for Burenda Angus at Dalby Downs," Jonathan said.

"This year will be no exception with over 1100 head of cattle on display, including 130 Angus bulls catalogued to sell at Roma on August 28. The bulls will have their catalogue lot numbered eartags and will be displayed in small mobs for easy inspection.

"The draft is made up of 75, two-year olds, 50, 18-month-olds and five yearlings.

Jonathan said the bulls were run on grass and leucaena and had been on oats for the past several weeks.

Pens of autumn cows and calves will be displayed, together with several hundred spring-calving heifers and cows. Selected PTIC heifers to calve in

late July and August will be offered for sale on the day, along with some Angus and Brangus paddock bulls.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to inspect next year's sale bulls in their working clothes while they are on oats," Jonathan said.

Other attractions at the open day will include:

- John Chapman of SEQ Genetics, who will be flushing some donor cows providing a commentary and question and answer session. He will also be demonstrating Burenda's latest preg-scanning equipment and sexing some of the calves in utero.
- Dalby Rural Supplies will have extensive displays of equipment and supplies with representatives on site all day.
- Astute cattlemen will be invited to assess the weight of a yearling Angus heifer with the winner receiving \$1000 credit at the stud's Roma sale on August 28. The heifer will be independently weighed by GDL at 3.30pm.

Bulls line up for Roma

THE good season experienced this year at Dalby Downs hasn't been shared equally throughout the state – a harsh reality well recognised by Burenda stud principal Jonathan Schmidt.

For this reason, Jonathan will offer relaxed terms at this year's Burenda bull sale at Roma on August 28

for buyers who purchase volume numbers or come from drought-declared areas.

For buyers of two or more bulls, extended terms will be offered – half down and half in six months. Buyers located in a drought-declared area will have the six-month terms extended to 12 months, with no interest billed in either case.

Additionally, there will be a discount to buyers of two or more bulls on a sliding scale – 2 percent for two bulls and up to 10pc for 10 bulls.

"These are genuine offers by Burenda to help our clients in this difficult year," Jonathan said.

Jonathan said the draft represented a great mix for buyers who prefer to grow their acquisitions in their own environment before joining.

"It's a great way to obtain top bloodlines for a minimal outlay," he said.

"At our Roma sale last year, more than 30pc of the bulls sold for less than \$4000, and this year we are expecting there will be a considerable number of very good bulls sold for between \$3000 and \$4000."

About half of this year's offering are by the top Te Mania sires in Australia. Bulls sired by Te Mania Berkley B1 and Te Mania Africa A217 consistently average \$8000 to \$10,000 at the Te Mania bull sales.

"Te Mania Angus test thousands of animals through their 'Team Te Mania' program, and it is the benefit of this tremendous exercise that is available

to buyers of Burenda bulls that are sired by the likes of Berkley and Africa," Jonathan said.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for buyers to acquire the sons of these great sires at half the price in Roma. And for those buyers seeking USA bloodlines, there are some stand-out sons of Mohnen Dynamite, Sitz Jackson 431T, Gar Solution and TC Franklin 619."

The ages of the bulls are also varied this year, ranging from 12 to 25 months. About half of this year's catalogue are two-year-olds. The balance are 17 to 19 months, with about five yearlings.

All bulls presented at the sale have been treated with Pestiguard 7-in-1, botulism, three-day sickness and vibrio vaccines, as well as tested for tick fever, treated for lice and declared pestivirus free.

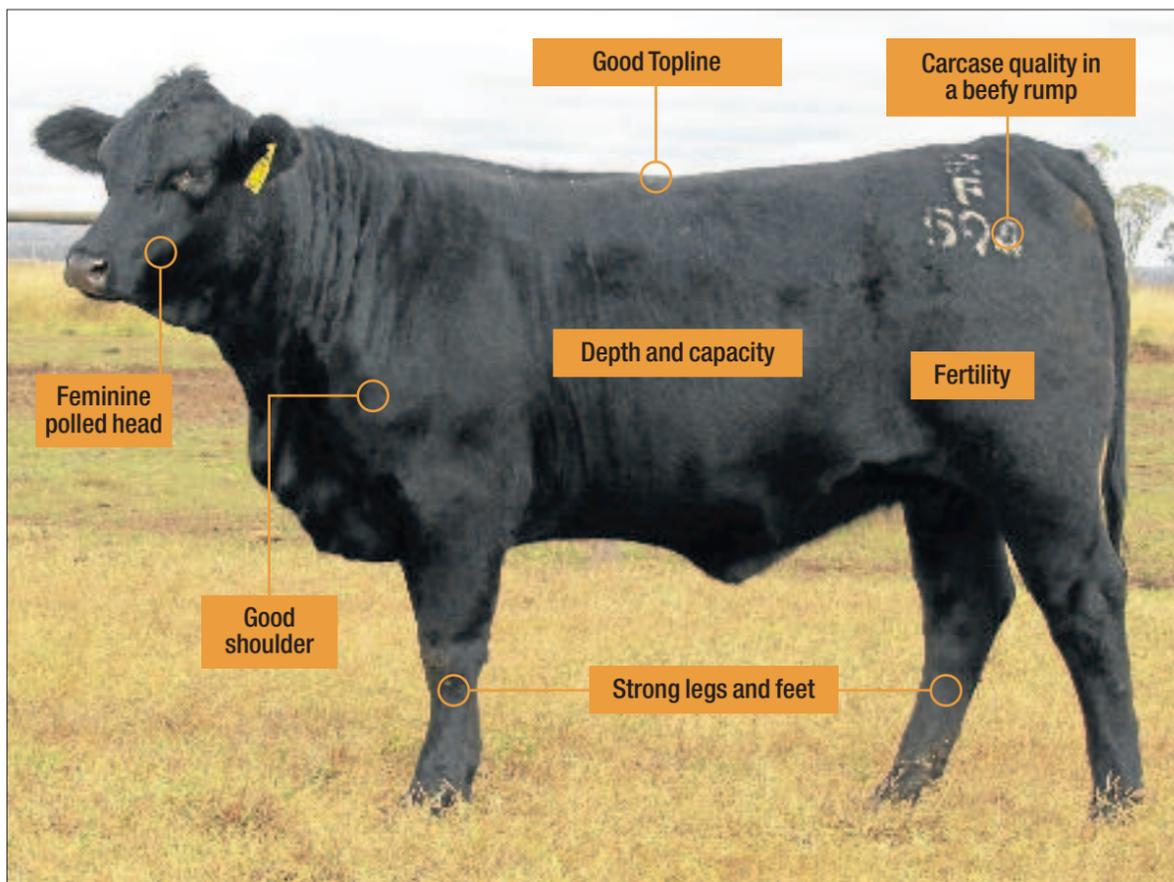
All bulls have been semen tested and passed satisfactorily for soundness by John Chapman of SEQ Genetics.

Burenda offers extended terms and volume buyer discounts



Burenda Angus manager Jonathan Schmidt welcomes guests to their open day on July 18 to inspect bulls for the Burenda sale at Roma on August 28.

Burenda's new black



BURENDA Angus is poised to launch a new style of progeny, geared to producers demanding higher Angus content in the lines of Brangus cattle that have been bred at the Kaimkillenbun stud for the past decade.

Three years ago, Burenda adjusted its breeding program to produce Brangus animals with up to 82pc Angus content.

The Brangus breeding herd will produce up to 50-60 bulls for sale each year.

The progeny are now launched as Burenda Blacks, and the first 18 to 24-month-old bulls will be available for sale in early 2014. They will be priced from \$2500 to \$4000.

Burenda manager Jonathan Schmidt said the graduated Angus content of the Brangus breed provided bull buyers with choices that they can tailor to suit their environmental and commercial needs.

"In the future, more young cattle will move south from the north and west. This is the reason that well-informed operators will turn to producing a product with a higher Angus content," Jonathan said.

"It is an opportunity not to be missed and Burenda Blacks can play a profitable

part in the industry."

Jonathan said fertility was an important component in Burenda's breeding programs, and they have had excellent feedback from buyers of the bulls.

"Equally important are the growth traits and carcase quality traits, and we strongly believe these are the factors which provide our clients with the extra money when they sell their cattle.

"The bulls are grown on leucaena and grass and finished on oats. Silage is fed to even out periods when the other feed is limited. We aim to grow our animals at a steady consistent rate so that at 24 months, the bulls have averaged 1.1kg per day for whole of life.

"Females must produce a calf on the ground by 25 months of age – no second chances. Following this practice we now have a herd of highly fertile breeders.

"Heifers are bred to two rounds of AI. Mop-up sires are run with the females for two cycles. In today's business and commercial world, we are confronted with the term 'productivity' by politicians and the media at every turn. Our firm belief is that to beef producers this is nothing new."

Betting on black pays off big time

BLACKBUTT cattleman Peter Scott says today's tough economic climate means beef producers have an overriding imperative to stay in the black.

"Our aim is to produce top-quality feeder cattle in the range of 450-480kg and have them gone within 18 months."

To achieve these goals, the Scott family's production techniques have changed significantly from the days when the family ran Herefords and Santas before converting to Angus bulls.

When introducing Angus bulls to their breeding herd, the Scotts looked for temperament and exceptional growth characteristics.

Their search for good Angus bloodlines led them to the Kaimkillenbun-based Burenda Angus Stud, near Dalby.

Rather than use herd bulls, they chose stud bulls because of their traceable bloodlines and genetics. Among their early purchases was a quality Burenda bull who achieved excellent progeny – a 100 percent calving rate and superb growth characteristics, maximising hybrid vigour, coupled with that "wonderful Angus temperament", in Peter's words.

Last year Peter attended the Burenda sale

in Roma and purchased another Burenda bull, an outstanding young sire prospect who met all of their selection criteria – strong growth characteristics, good bloodlines, stance, good looks and temperament.

When the overall cattle market suffered early this year because of a culmination of factors including a severe drought in North West Queensland and the fallout from the live cattle export ban in northern Australia, rather than succumb to a subdued market, the Scotts attempted to maximise their returns and ventured into the 'farm-gate to plate' market, branding and selling their own beef to selected outlets and the domestic market.

"The fact that we were offering guaranteed 'chain of custody' grassfed Angus beef made the considerable task of establishing a beef brand and market outlets much easier," Peter said.

"In the eyes of the consumer, Angus stands for premium quality. However, the real success was the carcase yield of the Angus-cross cattle, including those by our first Burenda bull.

"Our cattle had been reared on native and improved pastures and finished on summer forage sorghum – an ideal management

program for the domestic market."

With carcase yields from their Burenda progeny of 56 to 57pc and bone-out rates above 76pc, they could not have been happier with their decision to introduce Burenda Angus bloodlines to their red breeding herd.

"More importantly, the meat presented beautifully with low fat and superb colour – exactly what the consumer is demanding," Peter said.

"From a financial perspective, the decision to market our own beef brand has seen us achieve yields well above the feedlot buying price. We have cattle which are clearly in demand from feedlots, as well as giving us the option of maximising our returns by selling our own Angus-branded beef.

"Our decision to concentrate on breeding Angus-cross cattle has paid dividends and has clearly mapped our future production strategy.

"My father's decision to buy our first Burenda bull was a significant and strategic decision which has clearly paid dividends.

"I have no doubt that the proven Burenda Angus bloodlines will continue to be a strong part of our breeding program because of results already achieved."

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