

SPRING 2004

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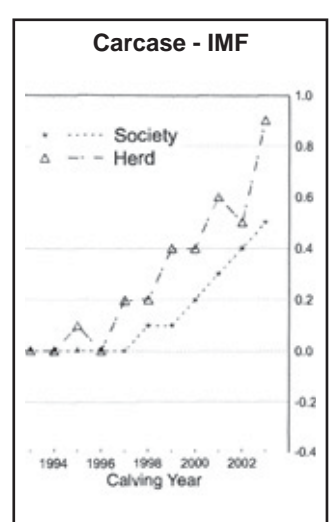
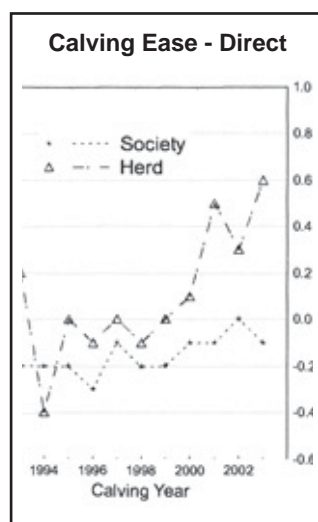
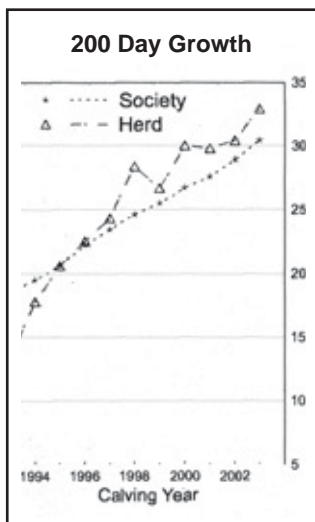


Robert , Sarah, Jacqui, Kaitlin and Tony

GOOD, BETTER, BEST,..... The Value of Independent Assessment.

The arrival of the June 2004 Angus Group Breedplan report brought welcome news of the improving genetic strength of our herd. The graphs below are examples of the comparative information provided for our herd alongside the averages for all performance-recorded Angus herds in Australia. Significantly our figures include all our commercial and APR cattle alongside our stud animals, whereas many stud herds only record their best Herd Book animals with the Angus Society. Our good is certainly becoming better.

Another independent analysis of our genetics that is most encouraging is the Angus Society Progeny test information on our bull Emulation V536. First starting in 2002 with the birth of his AI calves at the Trangie Research farm in NSW [there were 12 bulls selected from all over Australia in the test], the steer calves have recently been slaughtered as rising two year olds and had their carcasses assessed. The heifers that are about to calve will be recorded for calving ease, udder conformation and calf growth rates. The Estimated Breeding Values [EBVs] for V536 now list him as a breed Trait-leader [top 5% category] for growth, significantly above breed average for both eye muscle area [EMA] and marbling [IMF], and the BEST Herd Book Angus bull in Australia for net feed efficiency [NFI] -a potential boon for both graziers and feed lotters. We are eagerly awaiting the December 2004 EBVs for his complete data analysis. With one of his sons topping our sale this year [beating O36, Future Direction, Stockman 365, Explorer O15E etc sons] and excellent grandsons now on the ground, this too augers well for the future.



Invitation to NLIS Field Day at Campbell Farms

Reserve some time on Tuesday 7 September 2004 to visit us and see the broad range of NLIS technology that is available to help you with your on-farm cattle management and profitability.

The recent BSE outbreak in the US reinforced to us how important a system for the permanent identification and tracking of cattle and carcasses in Australia is for maintaining food safety, disease control and export market access. In addition to these industry issues, we are learning how to best use the system on farm.

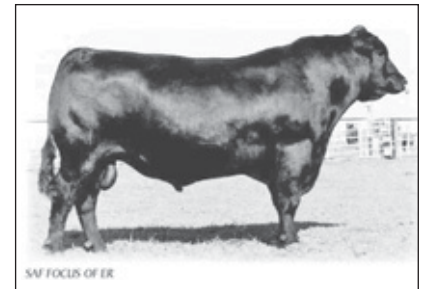
Performance, breeding, nutrition, marketing and benchmarking data is now more simply available to help us with our on-farm and pre-sale management strategies [not to mention tracking of stray or possibly stolen stock]. Analysis of carcass feedback data will also help us drive genetic improvement.

The one-stop-shop field day will feature explanations, displays and demonstrations of panel readers, stick readers, weighing systems, databases and computer software packages available for use on farm. The day starts at 9am [see map on page 4] and concludes at 4pm for a cost of only \$5 per head - with children free. Morning and afternoon tea and lunch [Certified Australian Angus Beef] are provided. Reservations and enquiries to Kate McCue of DPI Warrnambool. Phone 03 5561 9902, fax 03 5561 9988, e-mail mccue@dpi.vic.gov.au, post 78 Henna St, Warrnambool 3280 or contact us here at Caniambo. Make it a date – we will have some cattle on display too.



Our FOCUS calves are coming.

The [USA] Sydenstricker Genetics advertisement in the August 2004 US Angus Journal [pictured] gives a good indication of the current estimate of the genetic worth of SAF Focus of ER. With semen priced at 250% over his nearest rival and over 400% more than his sire [SAF Fame] he is obviously considered exceptional at home. We were fortunate to secure semen in 2002 and have a good selection of embryo calves on the way. Focus has 5 trait-leading EBVs – for calving ease of daughters, 200, 400, and 600 day growth plus milk, and a Japan B3 Index of +\$106 [better than the highest 1% of the breed]. He is also one star for marbling and two stars for tenderness. An impressive performance indeed. Watch this space!



Always available from Sydenstricker's	
Leachman Boom Time	\$20
SAF Connection	\$16
SAF Focus of ER	\$50
SydGen Sterling 0298	\$20
SAF Focus J30	\$14
SAF Directive	\$20
Circle A Fame 9493	\$16
Big Elban of SydGen 3023	\$16
VDAR New Trend 315	\$15
SAF Fame	\$12
SAF Choice Plus 8275	\$15
SydGen Refocus	\$20
SydGen Prestige 1316	\$20
Free shipping on orders totaling over \$500.	
All A.I. certificates \$40.	
Call 573-581-1225	

Campbell Farms secure an imported Gardiner Angus Ranch [GAR] USA cow.

With a pedigree that reads like a who's who of International Angus genetics and a beautiful February 2004 heifer calf at foot by Ythanbrae Henry VIII U8, Lawsons GAR Precision X231 is a worthy addition to our genetic profile. From an imported embryo by the outstanding sire GAR Precision 1680, with maternal grandmother the legendary Rita 5H11, X231 has quickly settled in after purchase at Lawson's mature cow dispersal sale in April. Now part of our embryo collection program and with several calves already "underway", we are looking forward to seeing the progeny of this world-class Angus cow alongside our homebred calves.

ANGUS YOUNG SIRE PROGRAM

In an attempt to arrest the increasing domination of the Australian Angus gene pool by USA genetics, the Angus Society has instituted a Young Sire Program to identify and prove the best young Angus bulls in Australia. Two major benefits will emerge. First the better targeting of our cattle to our environment and international markets and second, the development of an export in live cattle, semen and embryos with potentially the best Angus cattle in the world.

These opportunities are underpinned by the undisputed excellence of the Angus Group Breedplan performance assessment program together with the \$index calculations. Structural and temperament assessment standards will also be applied to short-list the best dozen Australian sires available each year. Semen from them will then be used throughout the country and Breedplan data collected on the progeny to identify the truly elite animals. Widespread use of the young bulls will more than double Australia's current rate of genetic progress and help to offset the ever-increasing cost-price squeeze we are all experiencing. We will be participating in the proving program. Contact us if you would like to also (45 cows for AI minimum).

2004 Sale Results

A son of homebred sire Emulation V536 topped our annual production sale in 2004. The bull Emulation X23 had a Japanese B3 \$Index figure of \$105 that was in the top 1% of the whole Angus breed in Australia and New Zealand. Alan and Ailsa Fox of Merton purchased the bull for \$6000.

Peter Sier of Yea paid second top price of \$5000 for a son of B/R New Design 036 out of a Scotch Cap 9440 daughter. This bull also had \$Index values at the top of the breed. Other sire lines that were strongly supported were Shady Brook Explorer 015E and CA Future Direction 5321.

A sale feature was the opportunity for one registered bidder drawn "out of the hat" to select a pregnant heifer of their choice. The winners were Lex and Sandra Finlay of Tamleugh North who had their name chosen from nearly 90 people in the draw. They selected a heifer by Emulation V536 out of a Waitapu Jubilee [NZ] daughter. To cap things off the heifer produced a healthy bull calf by Te Mania Ulong U41 a week after they got her home. He will no doubt be put to good use in the Finlay's 50-cow herd in the not too distant future.

Many new buyers attended the sale along with a strong field of repeat purchasers. Volume buyers were all repeat buyers and included Don Howie of Mansfield who purchased 4 bulls to a top of \$2250, Douglas Lithgow of Swanpool who purchased four bulls to a top of \$4250 and Jamie Ramage of Ramage Rural, Earlston who purchased a bull and five females to a top of \$3500.

Clearance rates were very strong with 100% of the females and 95% of the bulls going to new homes. The average price for the bulls was \$2875 and the females \$1655.

Campbell Farms Principals Robert and Jacci Campbell and their son Tony were delighted with the sale result that was well up on last year's drought affected sale.

2005 sale
Monday 4th April 2005.

THE WAY WE WERE - A REMINDER OF PROGRESS

ERMITRE OF HAYMOUNT



Reserve Supreme Champion, Perth, Scotland 1959
Sold for 7000 gns to Staley and Blue Sky Farms, USA
International Grand Champion Bull, 1960
Re-sold in the USA for \$300,000



A historic occasion at Perth in 1963 when Lindertis Evulse sold for the breed record price of 60,000gns.

(L to R) Charlie Gorn at the halter, buyers Gar Douglas and Jack Dick of Black Watch Farms, New York, USA, Lee Leachman, Ankony Farms New York, leading buyer, Clint Tomson, Chicago, and sellers, Sir Torquil and Lady Munro, Lindertis, Kirriemuir.

HEIFER MANAGEMENT - PART VI (final)

Achieving a successful calving on or about the heifer's second birthday is the key performance indicator of heifer management. The second major test is that the heifer is back pregnant again within 90 days. These are the fertility measures that underpin the profitability of your enterprise.

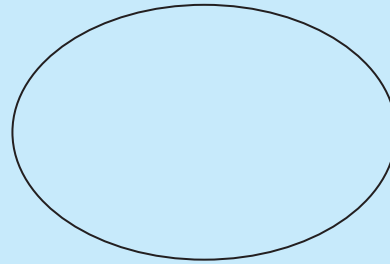
You can reasonably expect that 5% of your heifers will require assistance at calving – sometimes a few more and sometimes less depending on the sex of the calf and seasonal conditions [there will be more assisted calvings with spring calving and with bull calves].

Heifers often start calving a few days earlier than expected, so be ready. Have them in a paddock that is easily kept an eye on and with ready access to yards with a crush that can open at least on one side. Maintain the "fit not fat"/plenty of exercise regime of late pregnancy. Look for signs of rapid udder enlargement [springing] and softening of the vulva. These sometimes occur weeks ahead of calving and at other times only within the last few days – there are no "rules". Heifers will often spend more time than usual sitting down in the few days before calving.

Uterine contractions will precipitate restless behaviour from the heifer – tail switching, tail held out, back arching, back foot stamping. Once the cervix is dilated [evident from the emergence of the "water bag"] the contractions will commence in earnest. Time is now of the essence. Allow only about 2 hours for this final phase – particularly if there are no signs of "progress". The diagrams below show some of the abnormal presentations that can occur. All of these will prevent calving occurring naturally.

Call your vet if you are uncertain about what to do at any stage. Allow a maximum of ten minutes to correct an abnormal presentation or to apply traction. If you do at-

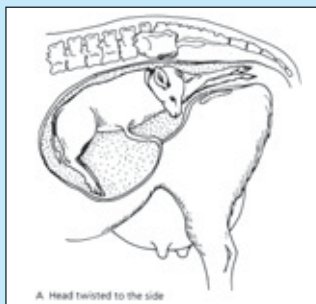
tempt assistance, be aware of the oval shape of the internal pelvic opening [see diagram].



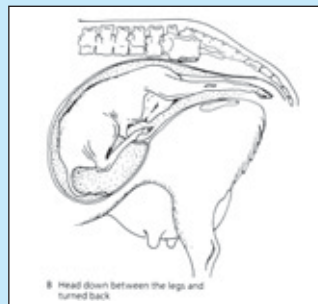
Approximate shape of pelvic opening

This means that once the head and shoulders of the calf are through, the back end of the calf should come through **side on**. Gently rotate the calf's upper body to achieve this. Remember always to use liberal quantities of obstetrical lubricant if you attempt assistance in any way.

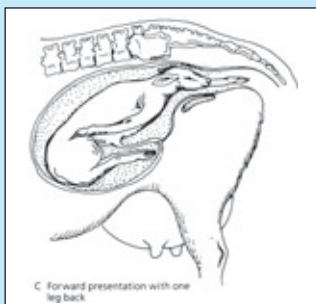
ABNORMAL CALF PRESENTATIONS



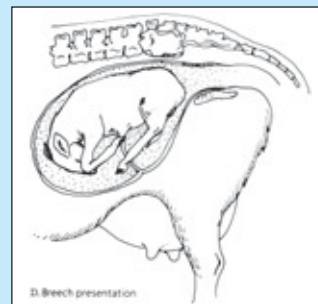
A. Head twisted to the side



B. Head down between the legs and turned back

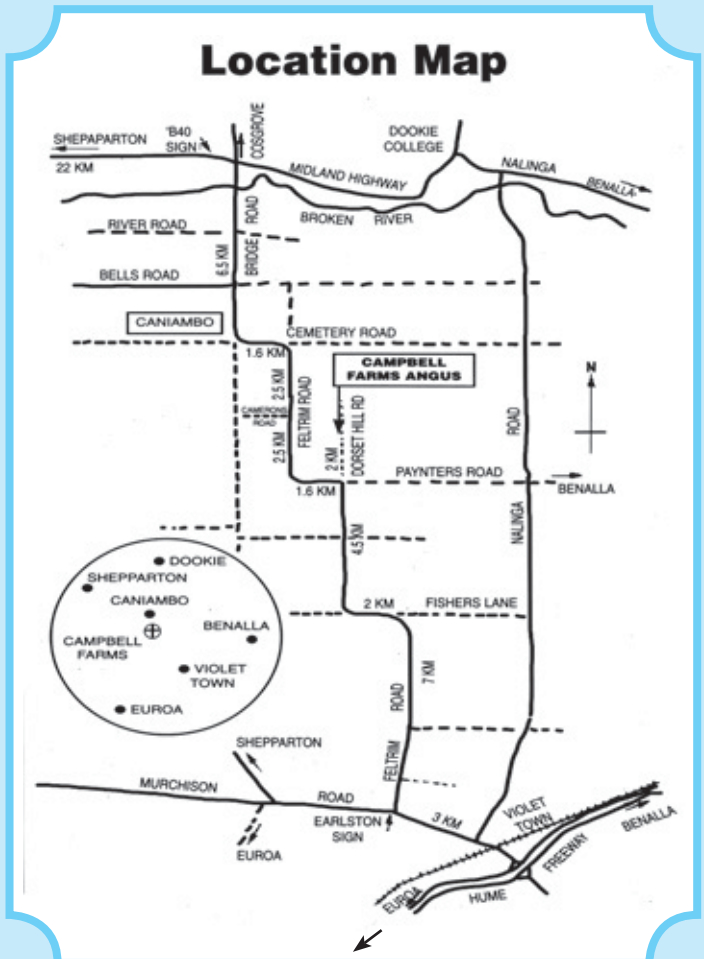


C. Forward presentation with one leg back



D. Breech presentation

*Diagrams courtesy of 'Stock Diseases' by Dr A Brightling BVSc, MVS. (Publisher Inkata Press)



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