



Welcome to **KNOWLA LIVESTOCK** December 2024

# Christmas

## NEWSLETTER

As we contemplate the year that was, our sale was again a highlight as the commercial market promises to improve but continues to fail to deliver. With both weaner and feeder steer prices halved from 2022 levels our sale outcome was always going to be back, so to receive the support and outcome was very gratifying. Stud interest was again prominent on the better bulls with interstate competition a feature. Front end prices maintained the levels of 2023, but people operating to lower budgets could also get good bulls throughout the catalogue. Once again, we had a complete clearance, an issue going forward as Angus bull numbers available in the marketplace continue to increase exponentially.

The experts all have us entering an era of record export demand for Aussie beef, but that has not transpired into higher grids from processors yet. There is no doubt we are still in a 'supply driven' market situation where both feed lots and processors have plenty to choose from. There appears to be plenty of cattle out there – and a big percentage of them are breeding females. As ever, the better genetics that are presented well perform best in the marketplace.

From a seasonal perspective it doesn't get much better than it is leading into Christmas. A great season for our improved species up until the last few weeks, and our naturalized grasses are now at their best as well. We are on target to reach our annual rainfall average and its distribution throughout the year has been very good.

Next year's sale team are progressing nicely. 400 day weights have been submitted for the older group with freeze branding and scanning about to happen. The younger group are weaned with 200 day weights submitted and with genomic DNA samples collected from both groups.

A number of new sires are represented within the drafts, headlined by the first sons of the \$190,000 Knowla So Right S48. He has decent groups in both age groups, and they will be in the front pens. The So Rights have a little more growth than we anticipated, but still maintain the volume and thickness we expected. Also catching our eye in the younger group is the first draft sired by the \$240,000 Landfall Signature S1755. The Signature's deliver exceptional calving ease and moderate growth and excel for their predicted carcass attributes.

USA semen sire Baldrige Versatile makes his debut with a smaller draft in the older age group. They display excellent temperament, above average growth and should provide very high IMF. They should figure prominently in the front pens and there will be more on the way over the next couple of years.

The Landfall New Ground N90 sons, Landfall New Ground R1496 and Rennylea S861 have one of the larger drafts between them. They are easy doing and moderate in growth and are both very strong for EMA with above breed average IMF predictions.

Also new are sons of the two Nobleman N127 AI sires, Knowla Superior S44 and Paringa Statesman S115. They combine with our standing N127 sire, Revolution R190 to provide a decent draft of calving ease and carcass adding sons. Old N127 himself also has a small sample in the mix. Likewise, the grandsire, King K306 has his staple draft returning once again for the sixth consecutive year.

Without doubt though, leading the return sires is the draft representing Lawson's Rocky R4010. They impress in both age groups, with more bone and volume than this year's Rocky draft. We retained the standout Rocky son from this year's sale draft, Territory T133, but there are a number that we rate in his class for the 2025 sale.. In particular, a group of ET calves in the younger mob from donor female Dandaloo N76 are outstanding. Also back again this year, Baldrige Alternative has a nice draft of embryo calves, and Te Mania Parenthesis P446 has a couple of impressive sons in the older group. Monty and his son R108 also have a number in the mix.

### *Join us at the World Angus Forum*

Coming up in May the World Angus Forum comes to Australia for the first time since 1997, and we are excited to be able participate in it. We have two pens of steers entered in the Angus Shootout Feedlot competition and have stud pens booked for Angus Forum Expo to be held at Tamworth on May 3rd and 4th. We anticipate that we shall have a small sample of our sale bulls at the Expo. With over 300 head already booked along with numerous trade displays, activities and information sessions this event promises to be a once in a lifetime opportunity not to be missed.

**MARK THE DATE**  
**17th Annual Sale**  
**FRIDAY JULY 25th 2025**



*Thanks to all those supporters that made our sale a huge success.*

- 81 Angus bulls average \$18,557 • 6 PTIC stud heifers average \$20,000
- 97 unjoined commercial heifers average \$2,216.





## Another outstanding sale

Interstate stud competition and strong local commercial support produced an outstanding result at our sale. Whilst the seasonal conditions were a step up from last year the downturn in autumn weaner sale prices were reflected with many clients operating within specific budgets.

Bulls topped at \$44,000 when Knowla Ultimate U50 was purchased online by Nutrient's Tim Woodham on behalf of Bendigo based Merridale Angus stud who operated in conjunction with Crawford Angus at Tumut. The losing bidder was another Victorian based Angus stud. Sired by Dunoon Prime Minister out of donor cow, Designer Q90, U50 was one of six full flush yearling brothers that averaged \$27,666. Ultimate U52 was purchased by Coolie Angus at Merriwa who outbid a Queensland based Angus stud at \$36,000. Another flush brother went to Segenhoe Angus Stud at Scone for \$20,000.

All up, 81 bulls sold from 81 offered to average \$18,556. Local repeat clients were very active throughout the sale. The Gooch families purchased two bulls to a top of \$30,000 for Times Up T126, whilst the Stidolph families also paid to a top of \$30,000 and secured three bulls between them for their Bulladelah and Waukivory properties. Matt and Rachel Windrum, Monkerai, paid \$26,000 for their choice as did Macka's Pastoral Gloucester. Prominent local families, the Blains, Johnstons, Cameron Laurie and the Kerripit partnership all secured two bulls each.

Repeat clients, Don and Alison Cameron, Glenora, Walcha, paid \$32,000 for the Prime Minister son, Times Up T155, and also selected a son of K.Revolution R190. Other successful Walcha purchasers included Joe Berry, Buri West, who selected a K.Monty M186 son at \$24,000, and the Kermode family who put together a draft of four to a top of \$20,000.

Hunter Valley repeat clients included Tollua Cattle Company at Singleton who paid \$32,000 for their choice, another K.Monty M186 son, whilst Tarin Grove farms at Lostock paid to \$30,000 for a K.Quantum Q41 son. Blackjack Pastoral at Mount Rivers loaded their choice at \$28,000, a Farrer Maxwell M99 son. Bowers Cattle and Ag at Singleton put together a draft of three bulls and secured two pens of commercial females.

Volume buyers included Ellerston Station, Moonan Flat who loaded eight to a top of \$20,000 whilst MCL trading at Nowendoc selected five new sires. Glenbuddah, Walcha, put together a draft of seven bulls.

The bidding pace did not slacken when the females entered the ring with six stud heifers selling to \$32,000 and averaging \$20,000. Shayne and Cooper Clark, Middlebrook Scone secured the top lot and put together a draft of three heifers whilst the Sepos Family, Cenrim Ag at Allworth were successful with two lots.

The sale was completed with 97 unjoined commercial heifers selling to a top of \$2,400 and averaged \$2216 to fulfil a complete clearance for the sale.



Brian Kennedy (Elders), Jack and Georgia Laurie and Paul Dooley with the \$44,000 Knowla Ultimate U50.



Second top price secured by Coolie Angus, Ultimate U52.

## Steers continue to perform

The Merriwa Woolworths feedlot trial was held at Alexander Downs this year and our steers represented us very well once again. Seventy pens of three steers from throughout northern NSW were fed together for 100 days, and then analyzed for weight gain, live confirmation, health, market suitability, carcass score and overall profitability making for a very comprehensive trial. With two pens we were placed third and fifth at the liveweight judging and collected the Reserve Champion individual award. Our top team went onto be placed sixth for MSA index, third on the carcass, third for overall for profitability, culminating in winning the Overall Champion Team award. It is very pleasing for us to see our steers perform so well in such an industry relevant trial.

We continue to supply steers to Pymble Ladies College for them to compete at the Scone Schools Beef Bonanza. The girls again prepared them very well and won a hotly contested class on the hook against predominantly Euro cross steers.



Carcass class winner at Beef Bonanza Knowla Uzzi.



Merriwa Woolworths Trial Overall Grand Champion Pen.

## TACE Enhancements

Each December, Angus Australia takes a step forward in advancing our genetic evaluation by updating and enhancing the TransTasman Angus Cattle Evaluation (TACE). For 2024, a major part of these TACE enhancements is the introduction of two new traits: Mature Cow Height (MCH) and Mature Cow Body Condition (MBC). Previously categorised as research breeding values, these traits have now been elevated to full Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs). We have been collecting and submitting data for MCH and MBC, with the first submissions coming from the 2021 Spring calving females. These traits are recorded alongside Mature Cow Weight (MCW), which has been a long-standing part of our data recording procedure. We now have cows with several recorded daughters, as well as their own records for MCH, MBC, and MCW within TACE. Furthermore, this data significantly enhances our understanding of sire lines, by providing high-accuracy information on sires with multiple recorded daughters, offering more precise and informed genetic decisions.

So, what have we learned? After collecting all this data, we clearly identified variation does exist within our cow herd and the total Angus population within Australia, confirming that these traits can be selected for. The heritability of these traits are 0.51 for MCH, 0.21 for MBC, and 0.43 for MCW, demonstrating that genetic selection can drive meaningful change. Heritability refers to the proportion of the variation in a trait that can be attributed to genetics, rather than environmental or management factors. In other words, it measures how much of a trait can be passed from parents to their progeny. The other side of the coin is that these three traits are genetically correlated. Correlation refers to the relationship between two traits, indicating how changes in one are associated with changes in the other, ranging from 0 (no relation) to 1 (perfect relation).

MCW is highly correlated with both MCH (0.83) and MBC (0.87), while MCH and MBC have a weak correlation of 0.21. This means that cows can achieve similar weights through different combinations of height and body condition. This is especially important when selecting sires, as it highlights the need to look beyond weight alone and consider the balance between frame size and body condition. Interestingly, 60% of our cows are breed average or better for MBC, indicating a greater level of body condition in our herd. At the same time, we are right on breed average for MCH, reflecting a balanced approach to maintaining both size and condition within our cow herd. This data highlights the progress made in shaping our herd that aligns with our environmental constraints – Bulls for your markets, Cows for your country.

Where to from here? We will continue to record MCH, MBC, and MCW within our cow herd to better describe the mature cow body composition of our genetics, and ultimately, the bulls we offer for sale. While carcass Rib & Rump Fat EBVs have long been used as a proxy for selecting softer, easier-fleshing females with additional fat cover, MBC EBVs now provide a trait specifically designed for this selection pressure. The correlation between MBC and Rib & Rump Fat EBVs is weak, at 0.3 and 0.19 respectively, indicating that while there is some genetic relationship, these traits uniquely describe different aspects of fat composition. If your breeding objective is to influence the body condition score of mature females, the MBC EBVs are the most direct and effective tool for driving that change. By continuing to record and analyse MCH, MBC, MCW, and all other traits, we provide clients with the tools to make smarter bull purchasing decisions, enabling the development of cow herds tailored to various environments, production systems, and market demands.



*Wishing everyone  
a prosperous and happy  
Christmas and New year.*



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