

SOUTH DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION 2010 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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Welcome officially to spring and unofficially to Climate Change!!

With two thirds of the year 2010 behind us we are anticipating one of the most productive agricultural years for several decades. The only cloud on the horizon being the forecast of the worst locust plague for seventy five years.

The South Eastern corner of the country has experienced its wettest winter for fourteen years. Here in the Southern Highlands, the three months of winter delivered fifteen inches of rain, with five and six respectively in July & August.

Now in the first week of spring, one of the most extensive low fronts for twenty seven years, has brought about severe flooding throughout Victoria.

If you have the inclination and time to read a book titled **THE LONG SUMMER** (How climate changed our civilisation) by Professor Brian Fagan. It is well worth the read.

VICTORIAN BEEF FIELD DAYS

Boonderoo & Torr Down South Devon Studs opened their gates to visitors on Sunday January 31st.

Unfortunately it was a total fire ban day, with forecasts of extreme temperatures and high winds. Numbers of visitors were down, not surprisingly.

This was Boonderoo's first open day and they were rewarded by selling a bull to a local commercial breeder in the first half hour.

MEMBERS EXPORTS

Torr Down Hermes 3 semen was exported to Fiji, the first South Devon genetics to go to this country.

His third consignment of 250 straws of semen was also exported to the U.K. This largely due to the successes of his progeny in the show ring and with recent record breed auction prices at Society Sales.



**SEXTON SNOWDROP 553 (A Hermes 3 Daughter)
Supreme Interbreed Champion at Honiton Show**

U.S.A. PUBLICATIONS

Docile Cattle Better Earners (Courtesy The Weekly Times)

Nervous and aggressive cattle are a pain in the wallet, says Gary Fike, beef cattle specialist officer for the certified Angus Beef Brand in the U.S.A. That was the finding of a study presented to The Midwest American Society of Animal Science, in DesMoines, Iowa, U.S.A.

It was found that docile cattle in a feedlot, graded Premium Choice & Prime, at more than DOUBLE the rate of nervous to very aggressive cattle. They paid off with better performance, improved carcass merit and reduced morbidity and treatment costs.

Data was collected from nearly 50,000 cattle, from eighteen Iowa Feedlots, over eight years, to 2009. Calves were grouped into three categories, docile (DC), restless (R), and nervous to very aggressive (NVA).

Calves in the study had similar arrival weights, but the DC & R calves, were on average ten days younger than the NVA calves. DC calves gained 1.45 kgs / day compared to 1.36 kgs / day for the NVA calves, with a much superior marbling score.

After accounting for quality, yield, cost of grain, death loss and treatment costs the DC calves showed an average profit of \$46.63 per head, Whilst NVA calves made an average profit of \$ 7.62 .

Note-: Two South Devon Bulls, bred by Dr Jane Homan and sired by an Australian Poll Bull, Hermes 3 gained 1.75 & 2.40 kgs / day,

in a 100 day feed trial, at Wisconsin University. Their adjusted 365 day weights were 608 & 646 kgs.

Does this make them docile plus (DCP)! ?

CONCEPTION TO CONSUMPTION

(Extracts by Courtesy of NASDA)

In a study at the U.S.A. Meat Animal Research centre, (MARC) Clay Centre, Nebraska, it was found, that when both Hereford and Angus cows were joined to South Devon, Limousin, Simmental & Charolais Bulls, only the SOUTH DEVON weaned a calf crop of over 90 %, actually 92 %.

Breeding programmes world wide, use a South Devon Bull to produce a crossbred female that will generate higher milk yields, thereby increasing the growth potential of the calf to weaning. South Devons are the ideal breed to use in cross breeding programmes, where its extreme docility makes management easier and economically improves rate and efficiency of weight gain.

The most obvious benefit of any F1 cross of beef cattle, is roughly 12 – 14 % increase of gain, available through Hybrid Vigour.

The second cross also offers additional hybrid growth benefits. The commercial beef cow of the future, will be a combination of two or more breeds, strong in maternal traits, early sexual maturity, high fertility, calving ease, mothering and milking ability and an easy keeper with longevity.

In studies at MARC, comparing South Devons with sixteen other beef breeds, the South Devon had the highest Meat Tenderness score of all breeds. The research results showed that South Devons had very good marbling potential and produced meat that was very tender, flavoursome and juicy.

U.K. SHOW RESULTS 2010

The 1st National South Devon Show (similar to an Australian Feature Show), which replaced the now defunct Royal Of England Show, was held at the Royal Cornwall Showgrounds in June 2010, with over one hundred entries from twenty eight studs.



Goffe Cave Marius
Male & Supreme Breed Exhibit,
Owned by R.& S. Harvey Bred by R.& A. Ford



Kestle Tulip 79
Female & Reserve Breed Champion
Owned & Bred by R.K. Rundle

The above two animals also achieved the same honours at The Devon County Show, held at Exeter, in May 2010.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

(Extracts, courtesy The Weekly Times)

Professor Julian Cribb, science and Agriculture Author said that “Global food shortages and resulting conflicts are far more likely and pressing threats to humanity, than financial crisis or climate change.

Farmers will need to double their food output by 2050, using less land, water, energy and nutrients. Grazing industries and the worlds grasslands will play a vital role in meeting the Global Food Challenge. The food crisis is going to hit before major climate impacts in global terms. This will come when everything we need to produce food, is running out --- water, land, fertiliser, oil, science, fish and the climate in which agriculture was born”.

Professor Cribb said the world had slashed its agricultural research since 1970. He would like to see massive increases on the amount spent on agricultural science. We spend 40 billion a year on science against 1,500 billion on weapons. Commercial bodies were focused on research that would benefit their own profit, not research that addressed public or environmental good, or the farmer’s direct needs.

Localisation of food supply was essential. Professor Cribb admits it is a big challenge that will require a massive cultural shift.

The world needs to wake up and start planning now.

Editors Note-:

It appears that some countries in close proximity to Australia are already looking ahead to this crisis, by buying up our agricultural land, thereby securing their countries food source for the future.

It seems that our governments do not consider FAMINE a serious issue.

HERD PROFILE



Kirndeem South Devons were established in 2008. Kirndeem is located in southern New South Wales approximately 45km's north of Albury and 100km's south of Wagga Wagga.

Original progeny were purchased from Torr Down South Devons in Trentham, Victoria. Semen straws were used from Davelle South Devons, Tesbury and The Bend South Devons. Additional progeny were purchased from Lincoln South Devons in Victor Harbour, South Australia and from Tesbury, located at Camperdown in Victoria.

The cattle purchased have excellent structure, wonderful temperament, sound feet and high maternal values. This is what we are aiming for to enable us to produce very good progeny that will excel in the beef industry.

The cattle graze a wide range of lucerne, perennial pastures, native pastures and grazing cereals throughout the year.

Currently Kirndeem South Devons run 20 registered breeders, with plans to increase this to 60 as soon as possible. All cows will calve in the autumn so calving is completed ready for them to graze cereal crops. We have been doing this for the last two years with excellent growth rate for calves being achieved. The last lot of steers weaned at 7 months weighed 350kg with no additional feeding required. All straight South Devon

steers sold to date through Wodonga cattle yards have achieved \$2/kg. In the last week of August, Kirndeem sold two steers in the Wodonga market, topping the prices for the 300kg-400kg range and the 400kg-500kg range. A pure nine & a half month old weighing 405kgs made \$2.15.6 / kg, selling for \$873. A seventeen month R.Angus X South Devon weighed in at 510kgs selling for \$2.08 / kg making \$1,060. A pure bred cow @ 770kgs sold for \$1.67/ kg making \$ 1,287.00

The cattle are extremely quiet, very easy to handle in the yards and great mothers. It is for this reason alone why we have taken to the breed. We believe the South Devon breed with its excellent feed conversion efficiency and high maternal values will become a breed of the future in the Riverina.

We purchased Kirndeem in 2005, with both of us having mixed farming backgrounds. Along with running Kirndeem South Devons we both have jobs off farm. Shaun manages his own steel detailing business whilst Sheree works as an agronomist. Sheree is also a qualified science and agriculture teacher and recently taught at The Scots School in Albury. We have three beautiful children, Madeline who is 5, Thomas who is 3 and Jake who is 18 months old.

Kirndeem the farm was originally 32,000 acres in the 1880's. The stables were built and used for a Clydesdale stud. Kirndeem was one of the main stations in the Culcairn district. We plan to utilise the brilliance and the uniqueness of the stables to host our cattle for beef week and hopefully for future bull sales.

If you are in the area feel free to call in and see our animals as visitors are more than welcome. Alternatively Shaun can be contacted on 0427 261994 or Sheree can be contacted on 0427 261995.

You can also check out our new website: www.kirndeemsouthdevon.com.au which is in its final stages of completion.

SALE CATTLE

TORR DOWN

Poll Bulls, 2 years. The last sons of Acclaim & Majestic 3

2 poll sons of Marvel 3 in 2011

1 R. Angus X S.D. Heifer 18 months

BOONDEROO

1 Poll Bull 2 years by Torr Down Acclaim

1 R. Angus X S.D. Heifer, 2 years, ready to join.

Newsletter collated by John & Sue Harvey

