



Predictable, Functional Genetics....

Fertile, Gentle, Growthy & Adapted....

CBV (Collins Belah Valley) has taken the initiative to inform its current as well as future customers of its quarterly progress through a newsletter. We feel it is important to share information and receive feedback to continue to produce superior genetics and keep our customers highly profitable. Our aim for this first newsletter is to give an overview of CBV to those who are unfamiliar with the operation.

Future newsletters will contain CBV philosophies backed by years of data as well as views from outside sources.

CBV Brief History

CBV commenced in 1981 with Alf and Wendy Collins at “Belah Valley”, Marlborough. The CBV herd was selected out of a family partnership of purebred brahman cattle. Over the following 20 years Alf and Wendy’s focus was land improvement and breeding adapted cattle to

supply genetics that made a difference to margins in the commercial world. Alf and Wendy Collins were the sole managers of CBV, along with the help of family members through the years. Alf Jr has been involved full time in the business since 1988, and took

over full management with his wife Louise in 2001, working in partnership with Alf and Wendy. In 2002 CBV expanded their commercial operation by purchasing “Tondara”, Collinsville, which is managed by Josh and Sarah Howland.

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CBV Breeding Objectives

1. Identify, devise and provide genetic solutions to commercial requirements.
2. High reliability genetics – optimizing reproduction, adaptation and speed of growth, in naturally gentle cattle.
3. Constant evolution of management and analysis strategies, to ensure stated objectives are reached in an acceptable time cycle.
4. Nett commercial result is clean affordable animal protein, produced profitably in an environmentally friendly system.
5. Continue a global search for good advice, innovation and research in genetics, management and extension.
6. A transparent and accurate reporting system to our clients and students, of CBV strategies and results of genetics, management, marketing and analysis.
7. Dedication to commercial substance – not shadows. The market place for seedstock and carcass production is often littered with shadows. To achieve genetic gain, knowing the difference is important.
8. Apply the above diligently, and with good intent.

“To achieve genetic gain, knowing the difference is important”

CBV Update

What a month! Louise and I are very excited about the arrival of our second son Tom James on November 11th. Louise and Tom are doing very well and Heath doesn't mind the 'little fella' either.

We have just finished weaning C1 (cows that calved in the first month of calving) and I am extremely happy with the calves. Mostly by 00-9254 Tom Estadio, 97-7507 Tom Estrada, 00-9189 Mover Shaka and 96-7085 Bonus. We can really see the Tom muscles and temperament in the calves. I have noticed a lot of cows cycling in the first two rounds of mating so it looks good for these cows to stay in C1 or some C2 cows are moving forward. This is encouraging because that is exactly what we aim to achieve, cows that calve and

fore the raining. We think measure for feed effi-



tle will stick seasons. Last pregnancy tested all breeders left to calve and slaughtered those who had lost calves or pregnancies. There is only a handful of cows left to calve and calving will be finished by December 10.

Josh and Sarah Howland (managers of “Tondara”, Collinsville) have done the same with the breeders there. All we are running now is weaned cows, wet cows or springers so no grass is going to

freeloaders. Josh and Alf Snr are busy renovating pasture and planting more stylo and improved grasses.

Hopefully some rain will follow.

We have receive over the last cattle are after a dry



been fortunate to 125mm at CBV month so the steaming ahead year.

We would like to welcome Greg Knight to our management team at “Belah Valley”, and Joshua Ward at “Tondara”.

*Could you please inform us if you would prefer to **not** receive this newsletter. In the future we would prefer to distribute the newsletter by email. If you are happy to receive it by email could you please forward your email address to alfcollinsjr@bigpond.com.au . We are more than happy to post newsletters if email does not suit. It would also be a huge help if you could inform us of anyone else you think would enjoy our newsletter.*

From all the CBV team we would like to wish you Merry Christmas and Happy Wet New Year.

Alf Jr

Profit and Progress... Economy of Production and Marketing...

Breeding for profits is simple really—just a series of sieves and slides—set up the selection sieves, and slide the losers out to the beef plant... fast!

Alf Collins Snr, Alf Jnr and families, have intensified the selection pressure yet again in the constant evolution of genetics. **“Make a difference to the margins”** is the focus of every aspect of the breeding program at “Belah Valley”.

Location of the CBV herd is “Belah Valley” at Marlborough, just an hour north of Rockhampton, in the dry Tropics. Uncertainty of weather in this region is well known, with 15 of the last 18 years being extremely dry, averaging 563mm (22.5 inches). Three summers were extremely wet at 997mm average (39.9 inches). 1992 to 1995 averaged 356mm. Stocking rates over those years ran between 1500 and 2200 head, on 2000 hectares.

Regardless of the severity of the seasons, CBV demanded a calf and a pregnancy for every year of cow ownership.

Yes, sure, there have been some savage cuts to the herd at times. The nett result has been constant improvement in growth, reproduction, thrift and survival.

Operational costs are kept at the same level as our clients commercial operations, demanding low maintenance cattle, with no dips, drench, sprays, or fancy feedstuff used.

Just grass, economy, speed of production and reproduction, then analysis, keeps the genetics focused on real commercial targets.

To achieve these targets all cattle have been mated for steadily shorter and earlier periods. For the past 16

years, the CBV cattle crop has been completed by December 15. This means that matings have often been completed before any significant summer rain. Only the best breeders can make it through this system.

Cows must also deliver their calf to the weaner yard – to have a calf and only part raise it is never good enough. At times this has seemed tough, but we live in a tough environment, with snakes, dogs, eagles, parasites and others stressors. Our clients too, all run with the same stressors. We supply genetics that really work.

At CBV all weaned cows pregnancy tested positive are kept, regardless of age. There are some

“Breeding for profit is simple really—just a series of sieves and slides—set up the selection sieves, and slide the losers out to the beef plant... fast!”

cows that will lose their pregnancy or new calf. All these losers are trashed... converted to cash, fast, at the beef plant.

Our management demands of no dips, sprays, drenches, or fancy foods at Belah Valley, have resulted in the best resistances and adaptation, evolving in all production traits.

The nett result in genetic terms, is an extraordinary group of cattle, with very high production at very low costs per unit of production.

Good temperament is of very high significance at CBV, and newly introduced young bulls are subjected to intense scrutiny for natural good temperament in the paddock and yards. Their progeny are similarly scrutinized at tagging, branding, and weaning.

All CBV production is based on grass and shrubs, some times good grass, often very poor grass. This is a natural and effective sieve for nett efficiency, very close to our clients’ operational ranges across Australia, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

We believe, at CBV, that cattle need to have high production, reproduction and survival skills of their own, on whatever groceries that grow naturally and cheaply.

Our aim is to have the cattle work hard to keep us, rather than us working to keep them. The unpredictability of the cattle grazing business around the world demands this adaptation, to build a profit.

This same cattle industry demands rapid acceleration and carcass on some limited feed resources, and short seasons. CBV has aimed for, and achieved, exactly these requirements.

A significant percentage of the herd has been assessed in the chillers each year, for yields and carcass traits. This is kept in true perspective, as nothing more than an interesting hobby. One day we may see some genuine reward for carcass traits.

There are no more rewarding traits in management and marketing than adaptation, fertility, temperament and speed of growth, independent of raw size. These traits will ensure production, “on time” to specifications, with high predictability.

Predictability, and “on time”, seem a lot like profit and progress to us.

BREEDING FOR PROFIT IS SIMPLE, REALLY...

CBV SALE BULLS

At "Belah Valley" Marlborough

♂ 160 #3 Sale Bulls

♂ 110 #2 Sale Bulls

At "Tondara" Collinsville

♂ 100 #3 Sale Bulls

♂ 40 #1 Sale Bulls

All bulls have Group EBV's, Scrotal Measurements and Reproductive History for two generations on Dams and GrandDams.



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CBV is committed to ensuring a quality product to its customers. All feedback and enquiries are very welcome.