



CBV 100 Day Ox



# CBV BULL SALE

## WEDNESDAY 7TH JULY

ON PROPERTY

“BELAH VALLEY” MARLBOROUGH QLD

...Make the Trip.. **BE THERE!**

**8AM START,**  
**HELMSMEN BID 10AM-2PM**



Predictable, Functional Genetics....

Fertile, Gentle, Growthy & Adapted....



CBV 04-2351 Tom Magnate

Unable to Attend?

*Alf Jr and/or Alf Sr are happy to select bulls on your behalf; please contact us.*

*We may be able to arrange to have your bulls included on a truck to your area, from sale day.*



CBV 02-0612 Atomic

- ✓ *Our entire sire group, breeding herd, and whole herd data is on display*
- ✓ *Incentives for Volume Purchases*
- ✓ *Supreme Grass-based Genetics*
- ✓ *Extensive Commercially Significant Data*
- ✓ *These bulls will not fall to pieces when you get them home*



Visit [www.cbv.com.au](http://www.cbv.com.au) for a “Belah Valley” road map and a Bull Sale Catalogue will be available for viewing mid June.

### Inside this Issue:

CBV Update	2
Adaptation; the final arbiter of profit.	3
Wills Family Success using CBV Genetics	4
Soil microbes destroy cattle methane	<i>Keva Gocher</i> 4
Fertility Control Technologies For Cattle	<i>Prof. Michael D’Occhio</i> 5
Contact CBV	6

## CBV Update

This wet season has arrived late, then did not let up for 10 or 12 weeks. Our cattle were in lighter condition than we were comfortable with following on from boom and bust 2009. During the first six months of the financial year, our cattle were severely taxed, from last season's low value grasses. Solid rain started around Christmas, and did not let up until the end of March. It was a stressful 8 or 10 months for cattle, with extra dry then extra wet. A bit of adversity sure gets a bloke focused.

Now for some good news in the preg-tests.

We have been focused on ensuring next year's calf crop, and achieving speedy turn-off of non-pregnants in this financial

year. Preg-testing at CBV gave us an overall 86 percent; a clear gain on last season at 84 percent. In a rough year, we get both ends of success, and see more empties in first and second calvers especially. We are always in awe of the front end of the herd that continues to rebreed regardless of the season. CBV demands a pregnancy every year regardless of the severity of season... **ON TIME!**

Our No. 8 heifers preg-tested at 88 percent. These heifers will be finished calving by October 31, having been mated from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> January. They started light, but look pretty good now. We halved the number of 2 year-old bulls used on them and shortened the mating period a bit as well; this will help sort out the winners from the losers. The DNA profiles of progeny will tell an interesting story later in the year.

The winner in a tough year is the high level of adaptation and resistance bred-in within the CBV herd. Nature gives us some magic tools to work with. The prize is on-time, early pregnancies.

Our job was aided by solid legumes supporting the washed out grasses later in the season. That is not insignificant in these boom and bust seasons, especially at "Tondara", on lighter country. Legumes are not all that obvious in a wet year, until the grass values diminish, and then you can see the advantages for breeders, hanging on better than we had hoped. This does not happen easily; it needs close management to keep the pasture mix healthy, with stock pressure and controlled rest. It is all worthwhile.

Late mating can give us a whole list of unpalatable results. That is a "no-go" option for us. Financial ripples downstream are considerable and can go on for years. Some of the negatives are; a late calf crop, late season weaning, light cows at preg-test and weaning, delayed marketing of empties, and stressed breeders again next season. 50 kilograms per head lost off a breeder herd takes a lot of catching up. (Ref CBV

Newsletter 7, page 3, 50kg Plus or Minus)

None of that is good for cattle, country, or business.

I believe we need to be very wary about poor nutrition in the grass ahead of us in all the regions with heavy rainfall this year. In our case we will not extend the mating season. We are better off taking a low percentage preg-test, on time, and enjoy a high cash flow from selling the empties, a low stocking rate that helps land and herd health, and therefore no down-stream economic ripples. There are plenty of young cattle in the system to take advantage of the extra space and feed accessibility. At least, this is how it usually pans out for us....Be vigilant.

**Our annual CBV Open Day and Bull Sale is on again at "Belah Valley", Marlborough, Qld. Bulls will be ready for inspection at 8 AM Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 with the Helmsman Bid System operating from 10AM to 2PM**

For the CBV Bull Sale Catalogue, Road Map, Accommodation Listings, and Contact Details; Visit; [www.cbv.com.au](http://www.cbv.com.au). The Catalogue will be available for viewing mid June.

Please phone or fax us if you do not have web access. We can forward the CBV Bull Sale Catalogue or other information via fax or mail directly to you.

Please invite your family, friends, and neighbours if they are interested in an introduction to CBV cattle and management. You will be most welcome.

If you are unable to attend, contact Alf Sr or Alf Jr to select bulls on your behalf. Often they can be included with other bulls to your region, saving freight costs. Attractive incentives apply for mobs of 10 or more bulls and in deck lots up to eight decks. Please contact CBV for more information.

Alf Jr sends his regards. He is flat out because of the extended Wet, and asked me to cover this Update.

Make the most of the Wet season. A fair bit of WA has missed out, and our thoughts are with those folk. Warm regards to you all, Alf Sr.



*Alf Collins Sr*

*'I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labours of the people under the pretense of taking care of them'.... Thomas Jefferson, Third US President (1743 – 1826)*

***We welcome our 20th Grandchild and 7th Grandaughter Reina Elizabeth Alidè McFadzen***

*Little sister for Tim, Lachlan, Fletcher and Lawson.*

*Reina is the 5th child for Glenn and Vashti McFadzen. Vashti published our first 8 issues of the CBV Newsletter.*



***A mans greatness can be measured by his willingness to be kind ... ~ W.G. Plunkett ~***

Adaptation *is* Fitness for Function.  
What *is* your goal? Survival? Profit? Growth?  
Let's look at; Creation, Construction, Adaptation.

The last eight weeks have brought some amazing rains; amazing that such a broad area is influenced by just a couple of low pressure systems, TC Olga and TC Ului that continued to track slowly inland, with useful 'follow-up' rain-fall since.

2009 was an interesting year. We hear of the 'good old wet seasons', but only see a few in a lifetime. The reality is that we are very thankful for the falls, mindful of the six or eight dry months preceding Christmas. Protein and energy were missing in most pastures. By April, the die was cast for the ensuing year on several fronts.

- Pasture volume was up, and feed values were poor.
- Stocking rates were high, from a strong reproduction rate from previous seasons.
- Stock sale prices were low on a historic basis.
- The Australian dollar was high on the back of mining and extraction resource sales.
- Political activity in economics was at dizzying heights, riding on the back of spin and delusion.
- Poorly adapted cattle were a drag on per hectare costs and risks.

2010 has some of those characteristics. Interestingly, cattle prices are high in USA and Brasil. Consumers are freeing up their spending constraints to a degree, in most of the areas that we market into. Pastoral conditions are strong over wide areas of cattle country in eastern and northern Australia.

**Adapt and Adopt...** Certainly, all areas of Australia get tough years, based on the above points. I am certain that we all get our turn too, at redeeming our circumstances. **That will be in our own hands.** Our responsibility is to constantly **adapt and adopt**, and to apply to our management and cattle... In our hands, *again*.

To those who think politicians will save or solve anything, think again. They, unfortunately, have rarely taken responsibility for a business; or responsibility for anything other than self-preservation. I mention them because they impinge on us sometimes; **and we adapt.**

The fact that we live on a desert island, a long way from markets must be recognized, and dealt with. Extreme and unpredictable weather is reality; **and we adapt.**

*The logical solution is to **take the initiative**; to be creative, be constructive; to breed **highly adapted cattle**, selected for precisely the right reasons, on a low cost basis. Cattle with reproduction speed, longevity, early puberty, rapid growth, heavy fleshing, and naturally quiet temperament all add up to deliver low cost beef.*

**Remember - Our responsibility is to produce beef cheaply enough per hectare and per kilogram. Then we are always profitable. Every time we save \$1000 off our cost of production, we have the effect of making \$1300, as it is not taxed, simply saved. That widens our margin every time we save a dollar. Good target.**

**Initiative... and responsibility...** CBV cattle are selected for three decades, based on low input costs. At CBV our cost per kilogram is controlled, and **'bred-in'**.... Every

CBV bull has reproduction data available for four generations when we draft our keepers and cutters. This information is valued by our clients on Sale Day.

***We use data on quiet temperament, dry season do-ability, wet season do-ability, puberty threshold, fleshiness, sire data, cow family endurance, number of calves, calving intervals, and EBV's for growth, scrotal size, and Days to Calving.***

Satisfactory traits affecting reproduction and survival are always the **easiest** traits to achieve, when operating on a low cost basis. More stress means easier sorting. Nature is magnificent if you let it help. With highly adapted cattle we are close to Nature.

Visit [www.cbv.com.au](http://www.cbv.com.au) ('About CBV' tab), then open '**CBV All Sires**'. This list is astounding reading in the Brahman world. These sires represent commitment to the standards that keep costs low, and yields high, for generations, on both sires *and* dams. Please phone or email CBV if you need some explanation of the data presented. You will find this information unequalled in the Brahman world.

CBV cattle are not treated for ticks, worms, and flies. All the benefits of adaptation and resistance are built in. Progeny are measured in large mobs of 500 to 1000 head, on basic grazing at commercial cost.... *Follow the tabs for charts, and articles in our past CBV Newsletters at: [www.cbv.com.au](http://www.cbv.com.au) They are open, practical, and complete.*

What I have described is a very dedicated plan to deliver genetics that are **'all substance' to commercial cattle** breeders. Our own commercial herds have been built on these standards. It is our sincere effort to foster profitability regardless of external influences, with a combination of tight management, and proven genetics. We are not swayed by fashions or folk-lore.

CBV Bull Sale will be held at "Belah Valley", Marlborough, on Wednesday July 7, 2010. We will conduct a Helmsman Bid system, so that everyone has time to consider the cattle and their selections. There is no pressure. We are confident that the genetics on offer will add another strong link in your production chain. Make the effort to attend, and judge for yourself.

It is an interesting day, with the opportunity to enjoy the company of some very keen cattle breeders and finishers. We will have 50 sires close by, and several hundred breeders handy, all pregnant **on time**, and not one free-loader on the place.

From our experience and observation we believe bulls must come from generations of rigorous management to be **competent genetics**. Adapted cattle are the **survivors of rigor... They deliver....**

- **Brahman Quality equals Fitness for Function**
- **Adaptation; the final arbiter of profit**
- **What is your goal... Survival? Profit? Growth?**
- **Try Creation, Construction, Adaptation**
- **Simple and Effective.**
- **Just do it.....**

Alf Collins Sr



---

## ***Wills Family Breed Steer Success at Beaudesert Red Steer Show & Sale February 13th 2010***

---

Wills Family Breed Steer Success at Beaudesert Red Steer Show & Sale .....

Jenny Wills and family entered a pen of six steers on Feb 13, in the class "Pen of steers for future export". They won First Prize, and were awarded Champion Pen of the Day with the same six steers. They were sired by the polled CBV 01-0388, from Greyman cows (Murray Grey/Brahman cross), at Aratula, Q. What made their win notable was the low cost of production, off grass. ***They were simply fleshy, quiet natured, growthy, "good doers"***.

Agents and cattle producers at the Show & Sale thought the steers were grain fed, and were surprised that they had been on grass only, for their lifetime. The Wills family have a very practical and demanding regimen for all of their cattle; 'produce and prosper, on what grows naturally'.

The Wills family has been heavily involved in Veterinarian services in SE Qld, as well as production of equine feeds and supplements from their own factory, 'Equilibrium Australia'; ([www.equiaustralia.com.au](http://www.equiaustralia.com.au)) these days managed by their daughter Catherine Graham, and son

Andrew Wills. Their Equilibrium products are marketed through Australasia, and expanding. Company founder, the late Lex Wills (ref;CBV Newsletter #6) wrote "*the formulation of Equilibrium was not developed for 'the market'; it was developed **for the horse***".

Therein lies their success; practical and cost effective solutions, dealing directly with needs, regardless of fashion. For CBV, it has always been a pleasure to be associated with their philosophy and pursuit of excellence. Congratulations Jen, Catherine and Andrew.



---

## ***Soil Microbes Destroy Cattle Methane***

***By Keva Gocher***

Agricultural science has found the greenhouse gas methane can be absorbed by soil.

Sydney University research on native grasslands near the Snowy Mountains has found healthy soil bacteria absorb more methane per day than a cow produces in an entire year.

As the nation grapples with climate change policies, his research shows livestock are a sustainable farming option on native grasslands near the NSW Snowy Mountains as soil bacteria absorb more methane than livestock produce.

"We have a good news story and the farming community needs good news stories," says Professor Mark Adams, agricultural sustainability researcher and Dean of Agriculture at Sydney University.

"Typical methane production by beef cattle is round about 60 kilograms of methane per year, and some of the high country soils are taking more than that out of the atmosphere every day, so one hectare is taking out, or oxidising more methane than a cow produces in a year," says Professor Adams.

He says methane from grazing animals has captured world attention, but policy makers are ignoring the other

side of the story that some soils will take more methane than livestock emit

"Government need to look at both sides of the equation, same was as they are spending a lot of money on trying to figure out a how much methane the grazing stock are producing, let's spend a bit of money working out how much methane the soils are going to take out of the atmosphere," he says.

He says low intensity grazing, and sensible fire management, are the keys to success and sustainability for both the environment and farming.

"This is a part of the Australian landscape where we can say that **grazing is a methane neutral or even methane positive land use.**"

"(The native grassland) are organically rich, well drained, well structured soils and we have a lot of great bacteria living in those soils that are doing the work for us," he says.

**In this report:** Professor Mark Adams, dean of agriculture, Sydney University.

***Article courtesy of ABC Rural Network***

---

***The force of Natures impacts aid selection.....This equates to superior genetics and economics...  
~ Alf Colins Sr ~***

Dear Alf,

Thank you for phoning to inquire about fertility control technologies for cattle.

At present, the deslorelin implant is undergoing further evaluation as a reversible fertility control in heifers but I am not involved in this work. We did develop a deslorelin implant that suppressed fertility for around 12 to 14 months in heifers and cows but at the time the cost would have been around \$35 to \$40 which was too expensive for use in cattle.

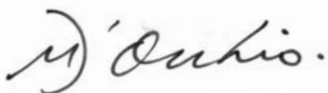
A technology is not available for longer term (12 to 24 months) fertility control in heifers and cows. We are in discussion with MLA and the USDA to conduct a study in heifers using GonaCon™. This is a vaccine which has proven very effective in deer, bison and some native animals, and it has suppressed fertility for up to 3 years with a single vaccination. This is quite spectacular and it would be great if it produced similar results in cattle. We will not know for 8 to 10 months if the vaccine shows promise in heifers and cows.

Another approach that we are studying with colleagues in the USA is the permanent destruction of reproductive cells in the pituitary gland of cattle. This is more ambitious and it will be another 10 months before we know whether to continue with this research.

Unfortunately it will likely be at least another 2 - 3 years before a practical, long-term fertility control technology will be available for cattle. But I could be wrong if something of which I am not aware emerges, which would be great for industry.

I would be please to discuss this further at any time.

Regards,



Professor Michael J. D'Occhio  
Head, School of Animal Studies  
The University of Queensland  
Ph: +61 7 5460 1257  
Fax: +61 7 5460 1236  
Mob: 0417 638 420  
Web: [www.animal.uq.edu.au](http://www.animal.uq.edu.au)



**Professor Michael D'Occhio** is known to some of our readers, from his leading research role within CSIRO, based at the Rendell Laboratory, from 1986 to 1998, then for a short time at University of Central Queensland 1999 to 2001, and now at The University of Queensland since 2001. He is a noted researcher in reproduction physiology and endocrinology of international standing. He has led "World's First" technology, and has never lost his gift to relate his results to practical and cost effective cattlemen.

Logically, he has risen to his current position as; Head, School of Animal Sciences, at the University of Queensland. I encourage you as readers to get to know this innovative scientist, and his fields of research. We intend to continue contributions from this field, in the CBV Newsletter.

During those years at CSIRO, his enthusiasm for meaningful research, and hands-on interaction with cattlemen earned him our highest respect. We have been fortunate to be involved with Prof. D'Occhio, on some groundbreaking research at CBV as a cooperator. Prof Kinder, (visit; [www.cbv.com.au](http://www.cbv.com.au) - CBV Newsletter 8) and Dr Vercoe (CBV Newsletters 6 & 9) along with Dr Frisch and Chris O'Neill were also very encouraging. For the past 25 years we have been stimulated and encouraged by the constant interaction with Michael and his broad pool of scientific friends from all over the world. CBV anticipates more involvement in reproduction and efficiency research in the future, under Professor D'Occhio's guidance.

The concept of non-surgical management of reproduction in extensive herds has several applications, and, I believe, worthy of our collective attention..... **Alf Collins Sr**

For all Newsletter articles, visit CBV Website; [www.cbv.com.au](http://www.cbv.com.au) and follow the Newsletter Archives link.

# CBV Newsletter

139 Von Allmen Road  
Pink Lily, Qld 4702  
Australia



*predictable functional genetics...*

**Alf Jr & Louise Collins**  
"Belah Valley"  
P.O. Box One  
Marlborough  
Qld 4705 Australia

Ph: (07) 4935 6222  
Int: 61 7 4935 6222  
Fax: (07) 49 35 6177  
Mobile: 04 3835 6050

[alfcollinsjr@bigpond.com.au](mailto:alfcollinsjr@bigpond.com.au)

**Alf Sr & Wendy Collins**  
484 Eichelberger Street  
Rockhampton  
Qld 4701  
Australia

Ph: (07) 4926 5165  
Int: 61 7 4926 5165  
Fax: (07) 4928 2521  
Mobile: 04 1972 6420

[alfcollins@bigpond.com.au](mailto:alfcollins@bigpond.com.au)

**Mick & Lara Conaghan**  
"Gundaroo"  
M.S 328  
Nebo  
Qld 4742 Australia

Ph: (07) 4936 8385  
Int: 61 7 4936 8385  
Fax: (07) 4936 8385  
Mobile: 04 0787 1316

[conaghans@harbousat.com.au](mailto:conaghans@harbousat.com.au)

**Tony & Iria Carrett**  
"Tondara"  
M.S. 239  
Bowen  
Qld 4805 Australia

Ph: (07) 4785 3468  
Int: 61 7 4785 3468  
Fax: (07) 4785 3468  
Mobile: 04 3985 3468

[tondara1@bigpond.com](mailto:tondara1@bigpond.com)

**CBV is committed to supplying quality genetics to our clients. We would appreciate your feedback and thoughts on our cattle and publications.**

Visit: [www.cbv.com.au](http://www.cbv.com.au)



- **CBV Newsletters, articles and graphs can be accessed directly from our CBV website.**
- **Pass them on to your family and friends.**
- **Stimulate discussion and the exchange of information.**

We would like to expand the contact list for our newsletter distribution. We would appreciate email or postal addresses of progressive and interested people.

Email: [dallas.hogan@bigpond.com](mailto:dallas.hogan@bigpond.com)

Post: Dallas Hogan, CBV Newsletter, 139 Von Allmen Rd, Pink Lily, Qld 4702.

If you would like to discontinue your CBV subscription please notify me,

*Dallas...*