

Charolais EXPRESS

April 2011



Progress update on Southern BIN Project



The weights of 405 calves have been recorded within the Southern Bin project.

The average calving weight for the progeny was 42.5 kgs and the variation around this was -5.5 to + 6.5 for the various sires. The calves averaged 1132 mm in height at weaning with variation from -38 to +48 mm. Weaning weights averaged 244 kgs with variation over a -25 kg to +16 kg range.

Scan results on weaners should not be compared to scans on post 300 day animals. The average scan for P8 fat at 200 days was 3.1 mm with a range of -2 cm to + 1 mm. The 200 day rib fat scan was 2.7 with an average range of -2 to +1 and these were correlated with 200 day P8 fat depth. The 200 day scan for eye muscle area produced an average of 48.2 cm with an 8 cm average range of -4 cm to +4 cm.

The average crush score was 2 with variation of -1 or + 1. The average flight time was 1.7 seconds. The slowest average was 0.8 seconds and the highest average was 2.3 seconds; the average range was therefore -0.9 to +0.5 seconds.

The scores and times will be correlated to meat quality traits once the progeny have been slaughtered. These results will change as the project progresses as the sires of some progeny are still to be positively identified through a DNA parentage test.

Planning is underway to hold a workshop at Larnoo later in the year so that members can view the animals and work through the results in more detail.



News from the office

From the President

Stud stock sale prices have been strong this year due to the better than average seasonal conditions on the east coast. Members in the west have had a very tough twelve months due to lack of rain and we do hope it is their turn in the very near future.

The Southern Charolais Bull Sales commencing with Mt William and Delamere have been most successful with sale averages well above those of 2010.

We welcome **Warren Miller** and **Michael Osborne** who have joined the Charolais Society Board. Warren Miller who has been living and farming in Undera, Victoria has recently been appointed Stud Manager of Airlie Charolais, New South Wales. Warren who has been a valued member of the Charolais

Society of Victoria Committee was nominated by the New South Wales Regional Committee to fill the position of Federal Councillor vacated by Bill Dunlop. We all wish him well in his new positions. Michael Osborne was elected president of the South Australian Branch at the March AGM.

The Charolais Board visited two farms involved in the Southern BIN project during March. Will Lecky of Heatherly and Andrew Fulford of Larnoo pointed out weaners from the various sires and discussed their feeding regimes and management. The conditions are very good for maximising the genetic potential of the animals in the project. The results are starting to role in and we are looking forward to seeing the 300 day weights. The northern BIN project is also underway. Over 600 Brahman cows were inseminated in Dec/Jan.

The pregnancy test results indicate that we will get approximately 490 calves.

We are working on a new five-year strategic plan for the breed and the board members would welcome your input. We will be gathering input from a wide cross section of our membership as well as from other industry stakeholders.



New General Manager



Terence Farrell has joined the Society as the new general manager. Terence has a diversified background in agriculture including experience in the sheep, cattle and grains industries. He has worked with NSW Agriculture as a product development officer in the lamb industry. He also has experience as a policy and research manager with the Grain Growers Association.

Terence has a PhD in Meat Science, Statistics and Agricultural Economics and has been a lecturer at the University of New England. His PhD research was focused on valuing meat quality attributes for ten muscles from Limousin and Wagyu grain fed steers. He has also been involved in a number of research projects that valued innovations in agriculture particularly in the meat processing sector, farming systems and grazing sectors.

Terence will be travelling in the regions in the next six months and members are encouraged to meet with him or call him at the Armidale office number or email gm@charolais.com.au

The Society is calling on members to ask their commercial clients for copies of MSA feedback sheets on Charolais and Charolais cross cattle. You can scan and email the MSA sheets or fax copies of the MSA sheets to the Charolais Office. **Fax: 02 6771 1561** or email gm@charolais.com.au

Slaughter Data Request

The Society would like this data to analyse the MSA traits on the commercial animals and crosses. In particular we wish to examine the numerical relationships between weight, muscle area and fat.

The Society will upload the information into a data set using a unique property code and retain only the post code of the supplier and the abattoir name in the dataset.

Contact Terence Farrell at the Charolais office for more information.

HMF Fees

The **10% discount** on HMF ends on 30th June 2011. Fees are the standard rates between July and September. Late fees will be incurred from October 1st.

NEGS & Moona Plains get together for the girls!

Moona Plains Charolais Stud at Walcha in the NSW New England region has started an exciting new cattle program with the New England Girls School (NEGS) in Armidale.

NEGS has run their own Charolais stud since the mid 1990's with the school's Cattle Club students actively involved in preparing and showing Charolais Stud cattle and led steers at selected country and Royal shows over the years. The Cattle Club also includes students from the St Johns Junior School (NEGS Junior School). The maintenance manager at NEGS, Lyall Cameron has ably assisted the students with the Cattle Club since its inception.



Some of the five Moona Plains heifers provided to the students for showing.

A new era has commenced with the involvement of Moona Plains Charolais. Initially Moona Plains has provided five Charolais heifers to the school for showing. These heifers and some select Donors are going to enter a breeding program for NEGS' own Charolais Stud. The breeding program will involve the Cattle Club students and also students from the Agriculture classes with the help of Ag teacher Mrs Donella Tutt.

This program will involve the students in all aspects of stud breeding from genetics and structural soundness to day to day husbandry issues as well as the involvement of some of Australia's top cattle technicians in their respective fields. It is the access to these industry experts that will be of great interest and benefit to the students.

NEGS is nearing the completion of a new Livestock Centre which will benefit both the Equestrian and Cattle Club students.

It is hoped in the near future to hold a youth camp for young Charolais enthusiasts once these new facilities are completed.

The Charolais cattle from Moona Plains include some imported embryo progeny from the world renowned Lindskov-Thiel herd (LT) in South Dakota, USA. Moona

Plains is the only Charolais Stud in Australia that has had access to embryos from LT. These include some of the best available Polled genetics.

Brent and Nancy Thiel from Lindskov-Thiel will be coming out to Australia in August this year and will be visiting Moona Plains at Walcha for a field day. It is hoped to incorporate a visit to NEGS as well.

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Cape Grim win!



Audrey and Robert Scott of EJ Anthony and Son have won two classes of the Circular Head hoof and hook completion with steers produced from Charolais bulls crossed with Red Angus cows.

Audrey and Robert Scott run 140 head of cattle on their farm which is located at Greenhills near Stanley in the northwest of Tasmania. Audrey uses Charolais bulls for “that little bit of extra carcass weight.”

Her steers won the 220-340 kg and 340-439 kg classes of the hoof and hook competition. She also won overall champion with the winner of the export class.

The champion steer weighed 711 kgs live and produced a 420 kg carcass to place it among the top four animals for dressing percentage (59%). The fat measurements were 16 mm for P8 and 10 mm for rib. The MSA marbling score was 670 and the eye-muscle area was 107 square cm. The low ossification score of 150 was a testament to the breed’s ability to produce export weights at a younger age.

The winning steer in the 220 to 340 kg class weighed 303 kgs HSCW, with a P8 fat of 10mm, rib fat 8 mm and a marbling score of 400. Its eye muscle area was 91 square cm.

Mr Craig Waldron from Waldron Livestock Marketing and Buying Service judged the competition. His ability to select the winner of both the hoof and hook competition was a strong confirmation of his skills. Any one who has judged hoof and hook competitions will know how hard it is to match the winners in both sections.

The Scott’s have consistently sold their cattle to the nearby Greenhams’ abattoir for the Japanese export market. Audrey and Robert have been featured in a promotional campaign for the Cape Grim region in the December 2010 issue of the Women’s Weekly.



Audrey Scott with the winning carcass.

An opportunity to be “Closer to Your Clients”

2011 will once again provide Charolais Breeders with an opportunity to become “closer to your clients” by hosting an educational workshop on-property.

The workshop is facilitated by the SBTS team and involves a mix of practical discussions and yard demonstrations. Sessions include discussion on the effective selection of breeding cattle, an overview of the genetic selection tools available and practical demonstrations of how to use EBVs and selection indexes when choosing bulls. Your clients will also be shown how they can use the on-line Charolais database search facility to find the “best” bull or bulls from your herd for their herd’s requirements.

Since this workshop initiative was released in 2007, SBTS have undertaken 32 “Closer to Your Clients” workshops across all States of Australia (apart from Tasmania). Additionally, 3 have been conducted in New Zealand in 2010 with a further 8 scheduled for 2011.

In 2010 “Closer to Your Client” workshops were held at **Vernola Charolais**, Tandarra VIC and **Kenemere Charolais**, Cobbitty NSW. Both events were well attended by interested producers. This was demonstrated by the interactive discussions that took place and the multitude of questions that were asked. A highlight was the range of animals with full sets of EBVs and Selection Indexes that both herds put on display for demonstration purposes.

A flyer further outlining this initiative including an Expression or Interest form will be mailed to all Charolais BREEDPLAN herds shortly. In contrast to previous years, herds will have the option to run the standard full day program (subsidies cost \$990) or up to a half day custom program by selecting from a range of informative sessions (subsidies cost \$650).

Information on the standard full day “Closer to Your Client” package is currently available on the SBTS website (<http://sbts.une.edu.au>).



IMPORTANT DATES

Sydney Royal Show	14-27 April
Charolais Society AGM 10am Pearson Room, Sydney Showground	15 April
Sydney Royal Show , 9am Charolais Judging	16 April
Topline Charolais Sale, RAS Showground Amphitheatre	16 April
Clermont Junior Cattle Camp Jean Bridgeman M: 0429 856 115 E: morbridgenorth@bigpond.com	18-21 April
WA Youth Camp, Brunswick Showground Trish Cabassi T: 08 9525 4147 E: cabassi1@bigpond.com.au Alice Bowen T: 08 9272 3105	28-30 April
Kingaroy Charolais Feature Show Margaret Ferguson T: 07 4164 4030	30 April & 1 May
Violet Hills On Property Sale Daryl Jenkins, T/F: 02 6359 3221 E: violethills@ipstarmail.com.au	5 May
National Beef 2011 Bendigo, Vic.	18-22 May
Rosedale 22nd Annual Sale Michael & Jenny Millner T: 02 6368 2735 E: millner@rosedalecharolais.com.au	19 May
ANC Charolais Casino Sale - 50 Bulls Agents: George & Fuhrmann David O'Reilly : 0428 299 743 Andrew & Norah Cass T: 07 4628 2109 E: anccharolais1@bigpond.com	4 June
Charolais and Charbray Classic Sale 10am Primex, Casino Richard Harms T: 02 6663 3177 or Agents: Ramsey & Bulmer T: 02 6662 6662 George & Fuhrmann T: 02 6662 2500	17 June
QLD Region Youth Conference & Heifer Show Kelly Skillington M: 0407 968 022 E: skillingtons@hotmail.com Jemma Postle M: 0438 727 349 E: jemma_branchview@bigpond.com	7-10 July
Charolais Celebration Dinner 2011 Hilton-On-The Park, Melbourne Sue Pike T: 03 9417 4759 E: sue.spp@bigpond.net.au	16 July
Kandanga Valley Charolais 8th Annual On Property Bull Sale John & Roz Mercer T: 07 5484 3359	23 July
Coolabunia Charolais Classic Invitational Sale D & G Livestock (Doug Haig) M: 0402 317 500	30 July
DSK 18th Annual Charolais and Angus Bull Sale 1pm Gunnedah Saleyards Chris Knox M: 0427 600278 or Helen Alexander, M: 0438 600278	11 August
Brisbane Royal Show (EKKA)	11-20-August
AgQuip Field Days, Gunnedah, NSW	16-18 August
Lilydale Invitational Sale, Toogoolawah Qld Ross Sticken T: 07 4697 5132	20 August
Wakefield Charolais Bull Sale - on property 1pm, 50 bulls for sale. Greg Frizell T: 02 6778 1346, M: 0427 781 346	25 August
Ascot Charolais Inaugural on Property Bull Sale Jim Wedge & Jackie Chard, T: 07 4667 3999, M: 0419 714 652	27 August
Royal Adelaide Show	2-10 September
Royal Melbourne Show	24 September-4 October
Perth Royal Show	1-8 October
Royal Launceston Show	7-9 October
Royal Hobart Show	19-22 October

Industry Sires Genotyping Project

The Beef CRC, in conjunction with Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), is currently undertaking a project to collect DNA genotypes on approximately 1700 sires that have been widely used within the beef industry. To date, they have received samples on approximately 1500 sires across a range of breeds.

More specifically, the Charolais Society of Australia has submitted samples for exactly 100 Charolais sires for this project and includes all sires used in the Charolais Progeny Test (i.e. Charolais Beef Information Nucleus).

The Beef CRC, in conjunction with MLA, has paid for all associated costs for samples collected to date. These costs include DNA extraction, ongoing DNA storage, genotyping, database development/maintenance and data analysis. Additional sires can be submitted for genotyping for approximately \$160 per head.

A list of Charolais sires currently included in this project is available from the Charolais Society website in the "Recent News" section (www.charolais.com.au).

From the sample provided on each sire, high quality DNA will be extracted by the University of Queensland Animal Genetics Laboratory and one sample prepared for long term storage for future research. The other sample will be sent to a Beef CRC collaborating genomic laboratory (CSIRO or DPI Victoria) where a 50k SNP chip panel will be used to genotype the animal.

The genotypes will then be stored on a National Beef Genomics database where they will serve as a valuable resource for the development of DNA based technologies. Amongst other uses, the first function of the genotype data will be to enable the independent validation of Beef CRC developed prediction equations for genomic breeding values for a number of traits in each of the

major beef breeds within Australia, including Charolais. It is also envisaged that this resource will be used to further validate the horn/poll DNA recently developed by the Beef CRC and commercialised by the University of Queensland Animal Genetics laboratory.

For further information regarding the Industry Sires Genotyping Project please contact the Charolais Society of Australia or Christian Duff, Charolais SBTS Technical Officer.



Revision to Charolais Selection Index

Over the past 12 months, the Charolais Society of Australia has collected feedback on the 3 Charolais Selection Indexes (**Domestic**, **Export** and **Live Export**) that were implemented in October 2009. The purpose of this feedback collection was to evaluate whether the Selection Indexes were appropriate for current beef markets and production systems. This is normal industry practice and is essential in order to maintain the relevance of the Selection Indexes.

As a result of this feedback, a new **Northern Terminal** Index has also been developed to replace the Live Export Index.

The **Northern Terminal** Index estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for an example commercial herd in Northern Australia (i.e. Brahman cows) targeting the production of grass finished steers for the Jap Ox market. Steers are sold direct to slaughter at 630 kg (345 kg HSCW and 5 mm P8 fat depth) at 28 months. All progeny are slaughtered. In response to industry feedback positive emphasis has been placed on finishing ability.

In contrast, both the **Domestic** and **Export** Indexes have remained unchanged.

The revision will be implemented in the March 2011 Charolais GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis and will be included in herd reports, on the Charolais online search database (i.e. Internet Solutions) and in EBV files for loading into herd recording programs (e.g. HerdMaster).

More detailed information (in the form of a "Tip Sheet") regarding the Charolais Selection Indexes is available from the Charolais Society website (www.charolais.com.au) or BREEDPLAN website (<http://breedplan.une.edu.au>)

Should you have any queries regarding Charolais Selection Indexes, please do not hesitate to contact Christian Duff, Charolais SBTS Technical Officer by phone on (02) 6773 2472 or email christian@sbts.une.edu.au.



YOUR NEWS & EVENTS

Queensland Region Presidents Report 2010

by Margaret Ferguson

Highlights for the past 12 months were the Ekka and the Gympie Feature Show. The Gympie feature show which was held in May 2010, organised by a small group headed by Paula Warren of Elridge Charolais, proved to be extremely successful in terms of both the promotion of the breed and in the participation of breeders. Congratulations to the organising group and to all exhibitors.

The success of the inaugural Ekka Spectacular bull sale demonstrated how a calculated risk can pay off. Managed by another working group headed up by Keith Glasson, it proved to be a huge and positive promotional event. The work done last year has given us a blueprint for making this an annual affair. Congratulations and thanks to all those who worked hard on the event and who presented bulls for nomination. Jim Wedge was elected president of the QLD region at the AGM. Committees in the region are working on the 2011 Ekka and Beef Australia 2012 exhibition.



Jim Wedge - Queensland President

Introducing the SA President & Councillor

Michael Osborne is the new President and Councillor for South Australia. He is from a family farm which is located at Millicent in South Australia. The family farm runs beef cattle and prime lambs.

Michael has worked as a woolclasser around South Australia. He and his wife Julie run Ryeland and White Suffolk sheep studs which have been in LAMBPLAN since 1994 and also run a small commercial White Dorper flock. Julie also works as a Kindergarten Teacher in Millicent. Their cattle herd has about 160 shorthorn cows mated to Charolais bulls for vealer production. In the past they have run Angus cows and Charolais' with good results.

Western Australian Region AGM Report

February 2011

Rod Ingram reported that there was a good attendance at the Perth Royal Show.

The region is working on a Charolais only Bull sale for this year. Rod thanked everyone for their help during the year and thanked Belynda Quilty in particular for taking on the publicity and newsletter tasks. Andrew Cunningham thanked Rod for his work as Chairman of the Society for the past three years.

Rod Ingram has stood down as President and Robin Yost was voted in as the new President. The newly elected Vice Presidents were Aimee Court and Rod Ingram. Gretchen Smith was elected as Treasurer and David Ellis was returned as Federal Councillor.

Victorian Region Report

Chas Armytage

Excellent weaner sales in January preceded some great bull sales in February and March. Charolais cross weaners made up to \$200 a head more than last year at sales across the state.

Our Victorian Region, Merial and Stock & Land Weaner Competition attracted plenty of interest across the six sales selected. Steers at Wodonga made \$915 (Rangan Charolais), and heifers at Yea made \$975 (Ashwood Park). As the fat market improved into February, some great sales were recorded with Grenville & Roslyn Burger of Peshurst selling 10.5 month cross bred steers, weighing 495kg @ 235c realising a wonderful \$1160 per head.

Members' bull sales were all well up on last year with an average increased of around \$1000. Ashwood Park conducted their first stand alone sale which was very successful.

Please mark your diaries for upcoming events: National Beef Expo in Bendigo (18-22 May), and the Charolais Celebration Dinner at the Hilton in Melbourne (16 July). We also hope to have our feature show at Whittlesea in November this year.

We wish Warren Miller well on his move back to NSW and thank him for his time served with the Vic Region. Also, a big thank you and best wishes to Michael Mikic who has resigned from the committee due to ill health.



Supreme Estella!

Crathes Estella 3 takes out Supreme Female at 2011 Sydney Royal Show.

The Charolais Society congratulates Roz and Keith Glasson on winning this prize.

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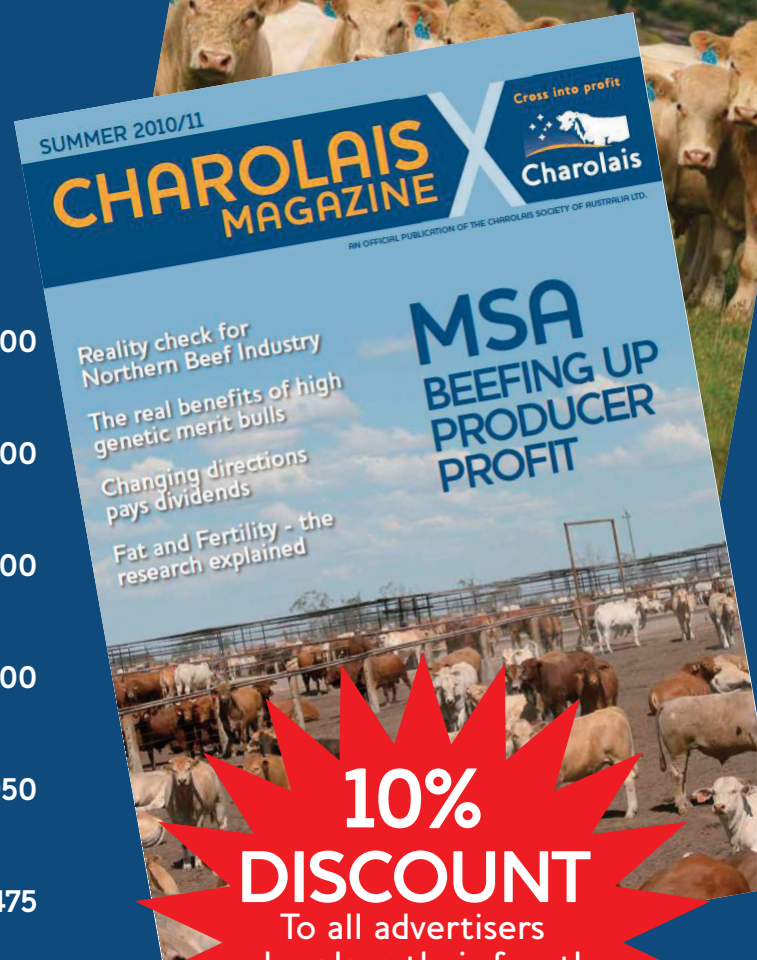
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