

Romagnola

AUTUMN 2010



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Welcome to the Autumn 2010 edition of the Romagnola Breeders Society Newsletter.

I would like to start by taking this opportunity to thank Dick and Rosemary Jeremy for hosting our 2010 AGM at their property "Lone Pine" just outside of Miles at the end of March. It was great to see members from both Queensland and New South Wales in attendance and was the perfect setting for Dick (one of our former Presidents and Life Member), to present long standing member Rob Burkin with a Society Life Membership. Rob along with his wife Judy and their family have been instrumental in shaping the Romagnola Breeders Society and the breed as we know it today, here in Australia. Rob was one of the founding members and has held various positions on the executive committee over the years. I thank Rob and Judy for their tireless efforts and congratulate them both on Rob's life membership.



With a busy work schedule, I was unable to attend the Judging of the Romagnola's in the 'Other Recognised Breeds' section of the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year, however was able to inspect the cattle during the week that were proudly exhibited by Paula Lawes and Garth Wilson. I would like to thank Paula and Garth for exhibiting their cattle at the Easter Royal and for flying the flag for the breed at this event.

I have again been speaking to members about up coming sales, field days and shows where Romagnola cattle will be for sale and on display. As always I encourage breeders to take part in these events to help promote the breed and take the opportunity to speak to interested cattle people throughout Australia.

It appears that 2010 is off to a fairly good start in many areas, with good rain to help fill creeks and dams, and grow plenty of grass. I can only hope that this is the start of a welcomed change that will continue throughout the year.



Dick Jeremy presenting director Rob Burkin with his Life Membership.

May I wish all members the very best for 2010.

Regards

James Pullen

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Feature Stud

Sunnydale Romagnolas

The Romagnola breed is in safe hands if passionate young stud master Matthew Black is anything to go by.

In 2007, Matthew's family purchased General Brick son, Robur Kingpin from Rob and Judy Burkin's Robur Romagnola stud at Kingaroy. Kingpin was purchased to go over a line of Greyman cows however his list of duties grew when Rob mentioned that Kingpin was a led bull and may be shown. Matt successfully campaigned the sire in his local area of Lismore and has contested several Led Steer events with his progeny. This culminated in a second place at the 2009 Lismore Carcass competition.

Matthew has since bought two cows and two heifers from Col and Helen Berndt's Carramar Romagnola stud at Maryborough. He has retained homebred sire Sunnydale Dominic for stud duties and he is extremely impressed with the Romagnola / Greyman calves which they sell mainly through the Lismore Saleyards.



Romagnola Geyman cross steer. Second in heavy weight carcass competition at Lismore show.

Grafton Show at the beginning of May was the first outing in 2010 for Matthew and his team of two bulls and two heifers. Matthew had a very successful day, placing first in two of his European All Breed Classes. His heifer "Carramar Denim" was awarded 'Reserve Champion Female' of the show. He is looking forward to presenting his cattle at the Ekka in early August and Lismore Show later in the year.



Carramar Lavender & Sunny Dale David at Alstonville show.



New Performance Test Station Opened in Italy

On June 11th 2009, the annual meeting of ANABIC members was held at ANABIC, near Perugia in Italy. It was on this occasion that the new Performance Test Station was inaugurated and named after former Romagnola breed expert Lucio Migni. Many Australian breeders will remember Lucio as the judge who presided over the Romagnola ring at Beef 2000 in Rockhampton. The Romagnola breed was saddened world-wide when Lucio lost his brave battle with leukaemia in 2005 at such a young age.

These pictures show the new structures that farmers visited during the inaugural young bull's auction on June 23rd. Thirty-two Chianina, Marchigana and Romagnola yearling bulls were sold with prices between 3000 and 6 400 euros.



After a general decline in cow numbers over the past two decades the aforementioned breeds seem to have stabilised. Registered cow numbers as at December 2009 are as follows:

- 512 registered Romagnola herds with approximately 8000 cows
- 1549 registered Chianina herds with approximately 22000 cows
- 2498 registered Marchigana herds with approximately 24000 cows.



Information taken from ANABIC Newsletter No 5.

National Romagnola Show Champions from Italy 2009



Senior Bull
Quarzo della Radice



Senior Female
Fardini Quieta



Junior Bull
Ulisse della Mezza Cá



Junior Female
Tosca della Querce



From the Accountant's Desk



by Tania Haynes

Water Facilities Tax Concessions

Who can claim the water facilities tax concession?

The water facilities tax concession can be claimed by primary producers and irrigation water providers (for expenditure incurred on or after 1 July 2004). An irrigation water provider is an entity whose business is primarily the supply (other than by using a motor vehicle) of water to primary producers.

What is a water facility?

A water facility is plant or a structural improvement, or an alteration/addition to plant or a structural improvement, that is primarily for the purpose of conserving or conveying water.

For expenditure incurred on or after 1 July 2004, a water facility also includes:

- capital repairs to plant or structural improvements that are primarily for the purpose of conserving or conveying water, and
- a structural improvement, or an alteration, addition, extension or capital repair to a structural improvement, that is reasonably incidental to conserving or conveying water.

Examples of a water facility are dams, earth tanks, underground tanks, concrete or metal tanks, tank stands, bores, wells, irrigation channels or similar improvements, pipes, pumps, water towers, windmills and extensions or improvements to any of these items.

What can be claimed?

You can deduct one-third of the capital expenditure you incurred on a water facility in the income year in which you incurred the expenditure and one-third in each of the following two years. You must reduce your deduction if the facility was not wholly used to carry on a primary production business or for a taxable purpose.

If you are an irrigation water provider, the expenditure must have been incurred primarily for the purpose of conserving or conveying water for use in primary production businesses. The deduction must be reduced to reflect any time when the facility was not wholly used for a taxable purpose.

What happens where expenditure is recouped?

Any recoupment of the expenditure is included in your assessable income. As the expenditure on water facilities is deductible over three income years, special rules apply to determine the amount of any recoupment to be included in assessable income in the year of recoupment and in later income years.

How does a partnership claim the deduction?

These deductions are not available to a partnership. Costs incurred by a partnership are allocated to each partner who can then claim the relevant deduction in respect of their share of the expenditure.

Disclaimer: This is a general overview of the Water Facilities Tax Concessions and it is strongly recommended that you consult your taxation advisor for matters relating to the above and your individual situation.



by Dr Ced Wise. B.V.Sc., MS., Diplomat A.C.T., M.A.C.V. Sc.

Breeding Soundness Examination of Bulls

In past years many seed stock producers have had their bulls semen tested prior to sale. Typically this test involved a physical examination, palpation of the scrotum and its contents, measurement of scrotal circumference and examination of collected semen for sperm motility and morphology.

Because these tests were done 'crush side' the accuracy of the semen morphology part of this examination was very poor and hence it has been decided to have only accredited technicians do this examination.

In my opinion this is a very positive move. But somewhere in the implementation of this change it seems to me that it is been either 'over-sold' to or 'over-bought' by producers. The following is taken directly from the Executive Summary NAP3.117 Bullpower.

The first Bullpower project (DAQ. 104) related pre-mating measures of physical, seminal and behavioural traits to calf output in Bos Indicus derived bulls. Sheath and testicular traits, such as scrotal circumference and testicular tone, dominance hierarchy and sexual behaviour in serving capacity tests were generally not related to calf output. The strongest associations with calf output were with semen quality, mainly sperm morphology. However these traits only explained 35-57% of the variation in calf output. Other factors, such as bull behaviour, may affect calf output.

If sperm morphology is an important determinant of calf output, then delivery of adequate normal sperm to the site of fertilization may be critical to maximize calf output of bulls of desired genotype.

There are key reasons why bulls may not be able to provide adequate normal sperm to the site of fertilization: viz.

- Bulls have poor semen quality. This may be permanent or temporary. In bulls with permanently poor semen quality, the condition may be innate or acquired. In the majority of cases, the reason for this is not apparent but could be an inability to adapt to the environment. Temporary reductions in semen quality may be from stress, relocation, poor environmental adaptation, obesity and disease.*
- Bulls have good semen quality but have suppressed mating ability through social dominance, lack of sexual motivation or impaired mating ability due to mechanical impediments such as lameness, serving ability or sheath problems.*



- Herd dispersion effects may restrict bulls that are physically and reproductively sound having contact with females thus reducing conception rates and with more calves born later in the calving season.*

As can be seen sperm morphology had the strongest association with calf output but it doesn't explain all or even half the variation seen. Also as stated, poor semen quality can be permanent or temporary and to my mind the flip side is also true i.e. good semen quality can also be temporary.

In summary I think it is a positive move that where semen morphology examinations are deemed necessary that they only be done by accredited technicians. My concerns however are that many bull-buyers now assume that if the bull they buy has passed his pre-sale morphology test that he will be fertile for life; or if a newly purchased bull is taken home and fails a single morphology test he will be sub-fertile for life. - Both positions are simply not true. Sure, some bulls will remain fertile for life and some will

be sub-fertile or even sterile for life, but this cannot be determined or guarantee from any test or tests available today and certainly not a single sperm morphology test.



Animal Health

Pregnancy Diagnosis in Beef Cattle

Dr Sandi Jephcott President Chinchilla Veterinary Services

Pregnancy diagnosis in cattle is a very important component of the annual program of any rural business focusing on the breeding aspect of cattle production. It is also an extremely important component of a cattle veterinarian's business. The producer and the cattle veterinarian should have common economic and production goals.

The image of the vet at the tail end of a cow, glove in hand has been a long and enduring one in the eyes of the farming community, but this image is now under threat. New advances in technology and changes in state government legislation are opening the area of pregnancy diagnosis to non-veterinarians.

Historically, pregnancy testing or diagnosis has been an 'Act of Veterinary Science'. This means that the procedure can only be legally performed by veterinarians for fee or reward. In recent years, many of these acts have been reviewed Table 1 as shown on www.chinchillavet.com.au.

WHY PREG TEST?

Generally producers wish to identify the pregnancy status of their herd for several reasons, including:

- The identification and marketing of unproductive stock as a major source of income. This is generally referred to as 'empty testing', although in tightly managed herds late conceivers are also culled.
- As a management tool measuring the productivity of the herd; identifying any problems early (6 weeks after bulls are removed); and drafting the herd and applying nutritional regimes according to the expected pattern of calving. Whole herd pregnancy diagnosis allows the producer to estimate the income generating potential of the herd over the coming two years and manipulate stocking rates according to seasonal conditions. With the introduction of NLIS, this information maybe scanned directly into a database which may improve record keeping, reduce transcription errors and reduce the time spent keeping records.
- In extensive areas of northern Australia it is used to 'control mate'. It maybe easier to draft cows according to foetal age at a certain time of the year rather than try and locate and remove all bulls from a paddock.
- Using the Australian Cattle Vets (ACV) National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Scheme to increase the market value of pregnant breeding females or empty feedlot heifers.
- Reactive pregnancy testing as a result of poor branding percentages.
- Identification of heifers, or other breeders, that have been mis-mated due to 'neighbours' bulls.
- Drought management.
- Identification of females suitable for live export or artificial breeding programs.
- Measuring the success (or otherwise) of artificial breeding programs.

WHY USE A VET?

- Early identification of any fertility problems caused by disease, nutritional deficiencies or bull problems.
- Professional management advice. For example, pregnancy diagnosis will assist with herd modeling, including numbers of heifers required for joining (heifer retention rate) and culling age for mature breeders. Spreadsheet models show that the lower the pregnancy rate, the higher the heifer retention rate necessary to maintain herd structure.
- Use of ACV National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Scheme
- Speed and accuracy
- Legislative requirement

EXAMPLES OF THE REASONS FOR A POOR PREGNANCY RESULT

Controlled mating in Southern Australia

The foetal aging pattern should reflect 60-70% of cows becoming pregnant in the first 3 weeks of the breeding season and around 85-90% being pregnant by 6 weeks. An obvious gap in foetal age may point to a temporary bull breakdown.

Continuous mating in Northern Australia

Extreme variation in foetal ages in breeding herds in northern Australia maybe due to poor rainfall pattern and quantity in the previous two years. This results in irregular calving and conception patterns the year prior to the pregnancy test. In simple terms, look at the calves on the cows and if there is a large range in their ages and size, then expect to get a drawn out calving pattern next season.

CURRENTLY RECOGNISED METHODS USED TO DIAGNOSE PREGNANCY IN CATTLE

1. Return to Oestrus:

A mated cow that is seen to come back into oestrus will usually indicate that conception has failed to occur. This method, though heavily relied upon by cattle producers, particularly in the dairy industry, has proven to be unreliable due to the difficulty in ensuring all heats are observed and the finding that 7-10 per cent of pregnant cows will show signs of oestrus despite being pregnant.

2. Hormone Testing:

Two hormones have been used for diagnosis of pregnancy, progesterone and oestrogen, however, for various reasons neither have proven to be accurate. They are also expensive and cannot age the foetus so are rarely used in the beef cattle industry.

3. Rectal Determination of Pregnancy Status:

Rectal palpation of the reproductive tract has been the standard method of pregnancy diagnosis for almost 60 years. Currently, the most popular and effective methods of determination of pregnancy status in cattle are manual rectal palpation or B-mode ultrasonography. When performed by experienced personnel, both these techniques can provide a very accurate diagnosis of pregnancy status in addition to information about the gestational age of the foetus.

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To be consistently accurate with rectal palpation, it is important to have a logical and disciplined routine in combination with well refined tactile skills. These tactile skills are developed by regular and repeated pregnancy diagnosis.

DETERMINING THE STAGE OF PREGNANCY

It is generally accepted that estimation of stage of gestation can be extremely accurate between day 35 and day 65. As the pregnancy progresses, the precision of ageing is reduced. This is in part due to individual animal variation and to difficulties in palpating the whole foetus. It is commonly found that for pregnancies between 84 – 150 days, accuracy may be limited to two weeks of the true gestational age and four weeks in pregnancies from 150 days till term. It is also important to appreciate that cows will naturally show variations in gestational length (up to three weeks either side of predicted calving date), which can further add to the possible incorrectly predicted calving date.

THE USE OF ULTRASOUND FOR PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS

The use of ultrasonography in bovine reproductive work is rapidly increasing. The technique involved the standard approach of introduction of the transducer into the rectum by hand or a technique where the transducer is introduced into the rectum of the cow attached to a rod or introducer.

1. Type of ultrasound

Brightness or B mode ultrasound technology (frequency probe 3.5 or 5 MHz) is best suited to bovine reproductive work. Doppler ultrasound has been promoted to the farming community as an option for 'Do It Yourself' pregnancy testing, but its accuracy to achieve this goal in cattle is questionable.

2. Use of introducer

The recently developed technique of introducing the transducer into the rectum, via the use of an introducer, has revolutionised pregnancy diagnosis in cattle. The advantages of this technique are related to less stress on palpator and cow, and to a lesser extent, a 'seeing is believing' concept for farmers/producers. This approach has been further complemented by the development of portable ultrasound machines worn as a backpack unit and video goggles that allow the image to be projected in front of the operator's eyes.

Limitations to ultrasonography

Transrectal ultrasonography is most accurate for diagnosing and aging pregnancies between about 35 days and 120 days of gestation. The precision of diagnosis in regards to aging will be influenced by the skill and experience of the operator.

In the second and third trimester the usefulness of ultrasound, particularly with an introducer is reduced, due to the foetus moving cranial and ventral as it grows, hence failure to detect a gravid uterine tract doesn't imply a non-pregnant animal. The cow may indeed be non-pregnant, but equally she may be very heavily pregnant with the uterus unable to be visualised due to its ventral position. It is strongly recommended that any cow ultrasounded, particularly using an introducer, that is not determined to be pregnant, be examined by a manual rectal examination to conclusively diagnose the pregnancy status.

Using ultrasonography for very early diagnosis of pregnancy, ie 35 days gestation, may result in larger losses between pregnancy testing and branding, when compared with pregnancy testing undertaken later in the gestational period.

Ultrasonography using an introducer must be performed carefully, taking into consideration the welfare of the cow being examined and the safety of the operator. The rapid insertion of a rigid rod into the rectum increases the likelihood of rectal perforations as the quick insertion may not allow for rectal contractions and spasms to pass.

THE NATIONAL CATTLE PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS SCHEME

The NCPD Scheme has been developed over a number of years to promote excellence in the skills of pregnancy diagnosis among cattle veterinarians. Cattle veterinarians that have passed a practical examination conducted by an accredited examiner are then accredited to use the following tags (and others not illustrated) on cattle they pregnancy test for their clients.



Red & Yellow = over 4 months pregnant Blue & Red = under 4 months pregnant Green & White = not detectably pregnant

Further Reading

Readers interested in more information on pregnancy diagnosis in cattle are referred to the book, Pregnancy Diagnosis in Cattle which is available from the Australian Cattle Vets (ACV) office (07) 3423 1799. This book covers southern and northern beef cattle and dairy, and is a detailed account of why, how and what to pregnancy test; facilities; preventing injuries; interpreting results; foetal development; guidelines for schools and the National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Scheme (NCPD).

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Commercial Focus

Echuca, Victoria

Bryan Robinson is a busy man. Not only has he been in the stock agency game for nearly 30 years, he has also been building a herd of Romagnola cattle which now total around 20 cows plus progeny. These cows are run alongside a commercial herd of European/British/Dairy composite cows which are all mated to Romagnola bulls.

Echuca is set within an irrigated pastoral and agricultural district on the Murray River, directly north of Melbourne and just across the river from the New South Wales border town of Moama. Many of the cattle operations there aim to produce vealers whose specifications may vary slightly but on today's market end up at domestic abattoirs at around 340 – 400kg live returning \$2.20 kg. The area's cow-herd has moved in recent years from an FI Angus/Friesian cow to a more British – based female. Bryan has used a few European bulls and seen many used in his client's herds. Limousins came and went however Brian saw very good results from the Charolais infused calves. It is the "all-aroundability" of the Romagnola cattle however that has seen him pursue this cross. Bryan had actually used a Romagnola bull in the late 1970s with great success however he had little to do with the breed again until 3 or 4 years ago, when he read an ad in "The Weekly Times" advertising the last of Arthur Kirkby's stud Romagnola cows. In all he bought 7 females and a bull down from the NSW stud and his admiration for the Romagnola was ignited once more. He is a passionate cattle breeder and passionate about his Romagnolas. He has since purchased more Romagnola cattle from Paula Lawes and Garth Wilson at Walcha saying that these females are "perfect in the udder, feet and are extremely intelligent".

The bottom line for Bryan however is that the Romagnola makes more money for him and does it without any fuss. "The thing with the Romagnola offspring is that the turnoff vealer females make the same money as their male counterparts - the European cross heifers make up to \$100 more than a straight-bred British heifer calf. The Romagnola cow's ease of calving and subsequent offspring's exceptional growth rate from birth are most impressive. The Romagnola is an extremely functional animal producing us great commercial results." Bryan concludes.

Photos from Echuca, Victoria





Deniliquin, Victoria

John and Peter Favalaro from "Uambi" near Deniliquin in Victoria are hoping that a change of seasons will see their move to using Romagnola bulls pay off. Three years ago the brothers purchased the first of their Romagnola bulls from Bryan Robinson at Echuca. Whilst the Favalaro's were happy with their existing Charolais sires, they decided to give the Romagnola breed a go after hearing about them from Bryan.

The Favalaro's grow about 5 000 acres of wheat and canola and were running up to 300 Santa Gertrudis / Angus cross cows before the unprecedented dry hit southern Australia in recent years. Their historically safe farming country saw only half their country planted to crop in 2008 and nothing sown in 2009. After a wet summer, John said that their planned wheat planting in coming week will have a good sub-soil moisture profile.

The breeder numbers have been cut back to about 120 cows which are all mated to Romagnola bulls. The progeny from this cross were sold a little earlier than hoped last year however this year's crop are very impressive and will be sold at Echuca saleyards directly in to the vealer market at around 350kg live. The cows are run on dry land lucerne country, which sees the calves sold off mum at about 10 months of age.

John is impressed with the weight gain of the calves whilst on their mothers, and the intelligent nature of the cattle. The Favalaro's certainly plan to maintain the Romagnola as their cross breeding sire.

Photos from Echuca, Victoria





Commercial Focus Cont.

Linville, Queensland

The Haynes family operates a breeding and fattening operation at Linville in the Brisbane Valley. The majority of heifers are sold as weaners through the Toogoolawah Saleyards with most being purchased by feedlots. A small number of heifers are retained as replacements each year. The steers that are retained are grown out and then finished on improved scrub country for the Jap Export market.

"We were first drawn to the idea of using a Romagnola bull after we had a Brahmagnola heifer born in 2004 sired by a Brahman bull out of a Romagnola cow that I purchased from Rob Burkin of Robur Romagnolas" Tania Haynes said. "That heifer was always in the pick of the replacement heifers. As a cow we were impressed with her milking & mothering ability and her ability to maintain herself throughout the drought with a good calf at foot."

The Haynes family has since purchased a bull from Romagnola Beef Genetics at Roma to go over both high grade Brahman and Brahman/Euro cross females. "The calves are born small so calving is never an issue even from heifers. This year our first line of Brahmagnola heifers will be joined in the Spring and the steers have already been put into our finishing paddocks so we are looking forward to the results there." Tania said.

Photos from Linville, Queensland

Brahmagnola heifer 7 mths



Brahman cow with brahmagnola heifer calf



Droughtmaster X cows with Romagnola X heifer 7 mths



Romagnola/Charbray X steer 9 mths



Brahman cow & brahmagnola steer 7 mths



How to supply a photo for print

There is a saying, a picture is worth a thousand words, so a good photo can make your advertisement or story stand out from the crowd.

When taking your photos to supply for any type of print, whether it be this newsletter, the newspaper or for your advertising agency to print promotional media for you, you need to consider a few facts.

Firstly, go into the menu of your camera and find the size of the picture, if it is on the smallest size available, change this to the largest size available. By doing this you are creating a file size of approx. one to two megabytes or larger. Using the smaller size you will come up with approx. 70 kilobytes.

Using the largest size photo you will not fit as many photos on the camera memory card, but you will have decent photos for reproduction.

When taking the photo, don't zoom right into the subject, leave a bit of room around the four sides, the graphic artist can zoom in on their computer.

Make sure you have the subject in focus, if you are on automatic mode, a green spot or such will appear, once this spot is not flickering, you are in focus. If it won't stop flickering, maybe the flash is required.

Go out and practice some photos, put them on your computer and zoom into them, if they pixelate (break up) this is the quality you will get when using them in high resolution printing jobs. If it is still clear, you've done well.

Hope this helps, happy clicking.



Society Photo Competition Winners

1st Place - Paula Lawes & Garth Wilson

2nd Place - Tania Haynes



Participants





Member's News

The beginning of March 2010, saw two firsts for Matt and Anna Ahern. The highest 24 hour rainfall total was recorded at "Bulala" measuring 9 inches on the old scale and the first "Ramses" bull calf to be born outside of Italy arrived the same day!

In all, seven calves were born from IVF embryos imported into Australia by Romagnola Beef Genetics. The legendary "Ramses" is represented by 4 bulls and 1 heifer. These calves are exceptional and are testament to the theory that "sires and dams are born not made". "We are extremely excited by the genetic gain we feel these calves will provide us and our clients in coming years", Anna Ahern said. "They are extremely thick, stylish, calm calves which importantly handled all the rain and heat that followed their arrival with ease."

A further two calves, one bull by "Brama" and a heifer from the much-admired "Ivanhoe" will bring genetic diversity to the Romagnola breed in Australia. We have admired the progeny from these bulls in Italy for sometime now so we look forward to using their progeny here in Australia," Anna Ahern said.

"We place equal importance on damlines and we were fortunate to have been able to select from Italy's leading cows in order to produce these embryos. Luna, Fiaba, Pavona and Europa are elite cows that are equivalent to the best cows of any breed anywhere in the world."

For now, Matt and Anna will sit back and watch the calves grow in what can only be described as the best season ever at "Bulala".



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Reminder to members:

Any cattle being exhibited at Agricultural Shows as Stud Cattle must be registered on the Herd book of the Romagnola Breeders Society.

Age limits on registration of cattle – from discussions at the last General Meeting and the current Directors Meeting the Age limits on registering cattle has been changed as follows:

0 – 18 months – standard fee for registration

18 – 24 Months – standard fee for registration + late fee

After 24 months – Letter required to be sent to the Board

This will be changed in the Regulations.

Lifetime Registration on Bulls

From discussions at the last General Meeting and the current Directors meeting the phrase associated with Lifetime Registration of bulls will now be as follows:

“No Annual Inventory Payable”.

Office Reminders

Forms - I have had quite a few members ask me for different forms that are required throughout the year. All forms that you need to send in are available through the website. These include:

- Membership Application
- Romagnola Calf Registration form
- Inactive Females
- Semen Register
- Embryo Register
- Application for AI Sire
- Application for Donor Dam

These forms can be found by going to the website www.romagnola.com.au and choosing Forms in the main menu. Simply click on each link and the forms will open.

However if you are unable to access the forms please call the office and I will send them to you either by post, fax or email.

Inactive Females – As you have all just completed your annual Herd Inventory I would like to remind you that females can be removed from your inventory list throughout the year by simply completing the Inactive Females form. By doing this as we go throughout the year it will ensure that your inventory is up-to-date at year's end.

Tania Haynes
Executive Secretary



Show Circuit

Clermont Cattleman Challenge

– success for Carrie Downs at Clermont 2009

The aim of the Clermont Cattleman challenge, held in Clermont, Central Queensland is to produce steers most suited to the heavy domestic trade the following year. There are three parts to the competition which are achieved after the pens of steers have spent time on grass and grain:

- Highest weight gain on grain
- Single steer most suited to the heavy domestic trade judged on the hook with the target dressed weight of 320kg, a P8 fat measurement of 10mm and milk or two teeth.
- Pen of three steers most suited to the heavy domestic trade judged on the hoof at Clermont Show

The competition suggests an entry weight of about 250kg live with the five Romagnola/Santa/Angus steers from "Carrie Downs" weighing in at 255kg.

Twelve graziers from the Belyando area entered a pen of 5 steers each, with the steers spending the first nine months of the competition on grass in the same paddock at Cantaur Park, Moranbah. Carrie Downs steer's averaged 0.647 on grass whilst the best pen registered 0.743 grams per day.

All the steers were then fed for 70 days on grain. The Carrie Downs steers averaged a very pleasing 2.194 kg per day on grain standing a close second behind the top pen who had a daily gain of 2.222kg per day. The average daily gain on feed for the competition was 1.869kg per day. It was at this point that the exhibitors had to select one steer for the carcass competition, three for the hoof section and one to be dropped out.

The carcass section of the competition followed where each exhibitor was tested as their selected steer was scored against the heavy domestic grid. The Carrie Downs steer obtained maximum points for reaching the target weight of 320kg dressed but was placed 6th because of a fat depth of 17mm.

The pen of three steers judged at Clermont Show, some 12 months after they first entered the competition, saw a second place for the Romagnola cross steers. These steers were sold at the show auction and topped the sale for their section.

A taste test was then conducted with the rib fillet from each selected carcass entry. More accolades for Carrie Downs as they placed third after some quite discerning palates had had their fill!

Peter Turner says "this was a valuable exercise to gain knowledge on the performance of his cattle against other breeds under commercial conditions. It demonstrates that the Romagnola cross are amongst the best in the business."

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Clermont Cattle Camp

Peter Turner

The Romagnola Breeder's Society places a strong emphasis on supporting our rural youth and was proud to be joint sponsors of the Clermont Cattle Camp held in central Queensland this year.

Over Easter, sixty participants attended the Camp which was conducted by Southern Queensland Institute of Tafe Rural teacher Dugall McDougall. The camp was co-ordinated by a dedicated group of locals led by Jean Bridgeman.

In three days sixty children ranging from six years to seventeen were exposed to a range of areas in the cattle industry. Guest presenters included:

- Dr Tes Guilfoyle spoke on animal health issues and disease.
- John Burnett conducted an interesting session on commercial cattle and live weight evaluation.
- Terry Randall "Crinum" Capella spoke on the selection of cattle for presentation in the show ring.



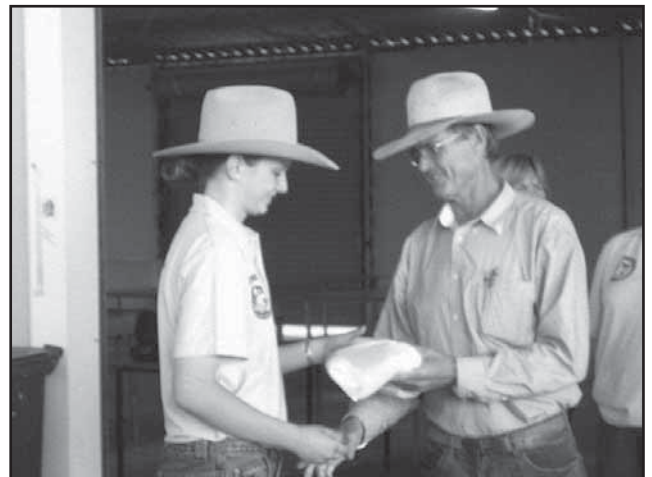
Mark Turner taking time out from the cattle camp.

All participants had to assess commercial steers and speak on why they selected them. A junior parader's competition was then conducted by Alisha Finger "Meadowbrook" Dysart with classes for each age group.

Local Romagnola breeder Peter Turner from "Carrie Downs" attended the camp with his sons Ryan and Mark. Mark presented his bull Carrie Downs Ducati in the 13 to 15 age group parader's competition. In his duty as Romagnola Society representative, Peter presented the following age group winners:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Under 9 | Dean Fogarty |
| 9-13 yrs | Loretta Hicks |
| 13-15 years | Emma Holzwart |
| 15 and over | Ryan Holzwart |

Overall junior judge was Ria Garside
Herdsperson Award: Tamara Finger



Peter Turner presenting Tamara Finger with Herdsperson Award at cattle camp.

The camp was conducted efficiently and smoothly with many of the children present set to take the cattle world by storm after their three days of fun, friendship and learning!



13-15 year paraders.



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Member Websites



- The Romagnola Breeders Society is offering the opportunity for members to have their own webpage attached through the Society's website.
- The Society's role here is to provide a platform for you. Please take the time to think about what you would want to see on your webpage. How can this page best represent you, your cattle and your business?
- The annual fee will be an upfront fee and will include the hosting cost and 3 updates in the year.
- Please contact Tania Haynes 0428 256 558, info@romagnola.com.au





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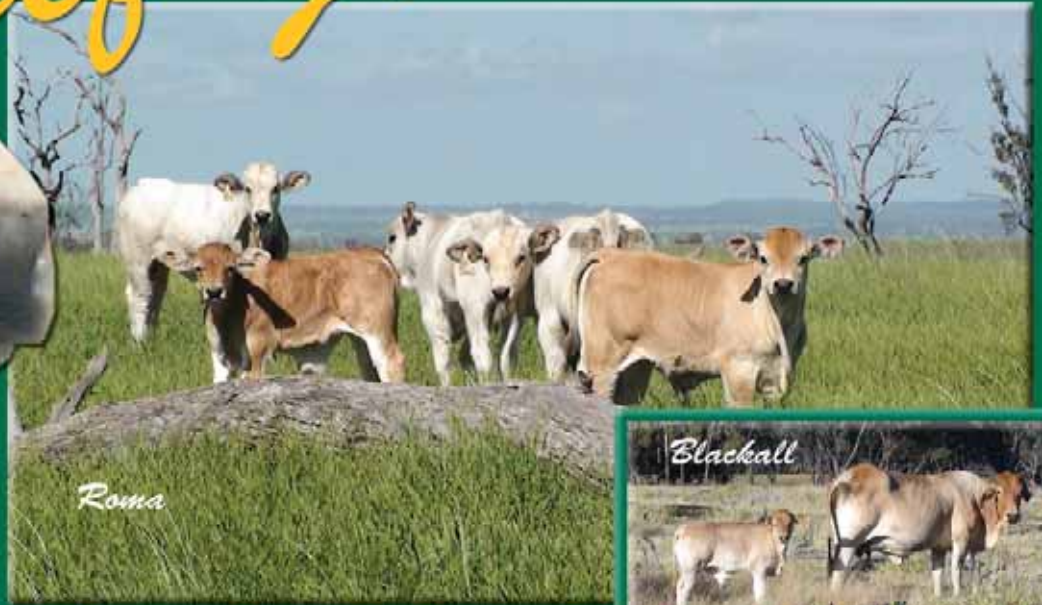
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