

PERFORM



TE MANIA ANGUS
BREEDING BETTER BEEF

JANUARY 2010



100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Our century (and a bit) old woolshed is being prepared to host our first bull sale at Mortlake on March 19.

And while we have made some major changes to create what we believe will be a benchmark sale venue, we have focused on maintaining its historic integrity as we have increased its functionality.

You can preview the Te Mania Angus sale team, and our new bull-selling centre, on February 1 when we host our Stock and Land BeefWeek field day at Mortlake.

Visit the home of sires such as Te Mania Berkeley B1 along with the most outstanding sale team we have ever assembled and talk to us about your breeding program.

There is also the opportunity to purchase some of the breed's most cutting-edge females, offering elite performance to fast-track the genetic profile of your herd.

This is the only place these elite females are available for sale and an opportunity not to be missed.

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SOUTHERN AUTUMN BULL SALE

19 MARCH 2010



AN OLD WOOLSHED **WITH NEW IDEAS**

Our 30th on-property sale – and the first at its new location in Mortlake – will see an innovation in our selling technique.

For the first time, bulls will be auctioned with their image up on the big screen, rather than in a sale ring.

All sale bulls will be on display just metres away in their sale pens, but instead of coming into the woolshed, and into a ring, each bull will be individually highlighted on large LCD screens inside the woolshed.

Our move to Mortlake might have seen us needing to adapt to a new way of selling bulls, but it has not impacted on any of our breeding principles.

Genetics for improving profitability.

Our aim is to improve the profitability of all the enterprises that are, at various levels, associated with beef product containing Te Mania Angus genetics.

The objectives we use to achieve this aim are by producing sound, fertile cattle with high growth rates and excellent carcass and fertility attributes.

Our cattle must be able to perform for us and our clients, providing you with a premium price and a better result on your bottom line.

With us now running all our cattle in the one location, clients, and potential clients, are able to observe the herd in the one visit.

All Team Te Mania return lease sires live at Morangarell, the home of the Te Mania Angus head office.

Stud sires and females will be on view on bull sale day and the BeefWeek Field Day.

However, some of the semen sires have had to return to Total Genetic Livestock semen collection centre, due to unprecedented semen sales.

Their full details are available online at www.temania.com.au.

Te Mania Angus matings are all assisted with the use of TGRM (Total Genetic Resource Management).

TGRM objectively joins females to males to statistically get the best possible outcome for each joining period.

We are currently using the Long Fed \$Index as one of our frontiers with TGRM.

The other is the inbreeding coefficient, so we are always trying to minimise inbreeding while maximising genetic gain.

Pretty simple really, but it does take a very sophisticated computer program such as TGRM to accurately calculate the outcome.

After we have all the joining electronically calculated through the science of genetics, we

individually scrutinise each joining to ensure the subjective knowledge we possess is also being included in the mating results.

This may be just noticing whether TGRM has joined a particular bloodline we know to suit another.

Overall this is giving us massive genetic gain (an average annual increase of \$5 for the Long Fed \$Index for our herd, up until 2007).

But the message is clear: The Te Mania Angus gene pool is using a combination of the latest technology and good-old paddock practice to ensure the cattle we have for sale – bulls and cows – are the best the breed has to offer and target current market demand.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF YOUR CATTLE BUSINESS.



TE MANIA BERKLEY BI

Bulls of this calibre represent the next generation of your cattle business. BI is an outstanding fellow, with smooth, sleek skin and a large frame. He is in the top 1 pc of the breed for all the \$Index values, with a whopping figure of \$156 for the Long Fed/CAAB market. He is also in the top 1 pc of the breed for Calving Ease (dtrs), Gestation Length, 200, 400 and 600 Day Weight, Days to Calving and Carcase Weight. A Trait Leader for three traits, this magnificent bull is an exciting addition to the Te Mania Angus AI Sire listing.

In addition to BI (who does not wear blue and yellow pyjamas), you can also choose from more of Australia's leading Angus sires to design the future of your herd.

Whether you are after great carcase, calving ease, growth, fertility or a combination of the lot, the Te Mania Angus AI Sire list has the bull to help you breed better beef.

All sires listed in our AI catalogue are free of Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM) and Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH).

The identification of Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM) and Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH) in the Angus breed, caused us to downgrade a considerable number of our stud cows.

However, Te Mania Angus became aware of the problem in time to identify very suitable donor

cows, put them into production for our 2009 joining and maintain our numbers by ET.

Our ET program goes from strength to strength and in our most recent flush we achieved some outstanding results – a bonus when we were trying to replace all the AM and NH carrying females' progeny.

As a further safeguard, we have also undertaken extensive DNA testing of the bloodlines suspected to be carriers of these genetic conditions.

Fortunately we have cleared some outstanding Future Direction cows and are able to continue using them knowing they do not carry either of the conditions.

All female carriers of the two problem disorders have been either sold or relegated to our

recipient herd.

All Te Mania Angus Sires (owned by TMA) who are carriers have been culled, and their semen taken off the market.

Fawn Calf Syndrome

Over the years we have identified several bloodlines through our Team Te Mania progeny test program which carry this genetic condition.

Once identified we have always immediately stopped using or selling semen from a suspect carrier, and we believe this action will mean neither we, nor our clients, will be much effected when the results of the DNA testing for Fawn Calf Syndrome are announced.



Successful cattle production is not simply a matter of genetics and pasture, says Scott Stewart.



Scott pictured in front of mixed aged cows being prepared for artificial insemination.

While it is both of these things, linking them through a successful fertiliser regime on his Birregurra property Araluen has served to enhance both.

For the past two years he has applied liquid fertilisers across his 1214-hectare property.

Scott says concentrating on soil biology as opposed to tonnes of dry matter – which had also served to boost crop production – has reaped benefits across his entire operation, which is geared in equal parts to beef and cropping.

To emphasise his point he points to a massive crop of canola, stretching out a plant that finally

stops above his head.

“That’s not just rainfall, it’s a healthy, vigorous plant,” he says.

And while crop tonnages may be at best-yet levels, pasture production too is giving many reasons to smile.

“A better, healthier, vigorous plant produces that healthy mineral exchange from the soil into the animal,” he says.

Since using a liquid fertiliser program Scott says oral supplementary licks and injections such as copper and selenium have disappeared from the pages of his farm profit/loss statement.

“Now the majority of all those trace elements we’ve been deficient in and which have been locked up in the soil because of years spent using acid-based fertilisers, our cattle are getting through grazing these soils.”

Annually Scott applies liquid calcium and all phosphorus, nitrogen and trace elements via foliar spray and liquid injection.

They are sourced from China and local suppliers and are mixed on-farm.

He also uses a base product of calsap – a calcium and molasses mix – to boost soil pH.

“The molasses seems to feed microorganisms and bring up the sugars in the plant,” he adds.

Plant sap tests are taken three to four times a year at certain growth stages, and any deficiencies are noted and corrected.

“There’s no point in saying I’ll chuck on 100 kilograms of nitrogen and make it grow; you think of the plant like a person: you have an ailment, you get something to fix that particular problem.” Scott’s fertiliser model has resulted in increased microbe activity and also greater root development.

“Root development is the big key: we see stubble break down, the microbes get into it and transpire it through the soil, making it more soluble.”

Input costs – and Scott says therefore risk – have both plummeted, falling 40 per cent.

“The less you spend, the less you expose yourself to risk.”

We’ve now got the ability to grow kilos of meat,

Great Scott, what a good approach

By Sheena Coffey, *Stock & Land*, November 2009

For Scott Stewart, farming with “blinkers on” has never been an option. His goal is to take hold of any chance to value-add to his Angus breeding and cereal cropping operation Araluen at Birregurra.

“We’ve just got to maximise every inch of what we’ve got and that’s the only reason I think we can hang in here,” Scott says.

The Stewarts run 1000 Angus breeders and have been part of Team Te Mania for seven years.

This program has resulted in fast genetic gain, boosted further by the use of artificial insemination over 600 breeders annually, “because there’s always a better way”.

“We’re tapping into the best genetics and have the raw data in front of us before we even use the genetics,” Scott says.

Genetic decisions are made based on growth, structural correctness, birthweight, marbling and femininity – to meet the commercial needs of lotfeeders but also to breed herd replacements.

Recently they have used Te Mania bulls X60, Unlimited, Africa and Ada. Steers are currently sold at about 450 kilograms and 15 months to the Rangers Valley feedlot at Glen Innes in northern NSW.

This year, however, Scott is not sure which direction they will go and questions whether the cost of feeding-on will

be rewarded in sale dollars. Instead, he says they might hedge their bets and sell a portion to backgrounders, retaining reduced numbers to feed-on.

Traditionally however, value-adding to steers has been a profitable way of doing business, with steers gaining about 1.3kg daily on lucerne and pasture.

Female progeny, not used as replacements, are fattened and sold locally to make way for the cowherd, which is joined twice yearly for autumn and spring calving. All females have their first calf by two years of age and can be turned out the other end by their fourth calf, preferably in the Team Te Mania Online Auctions Plus Commercial female sale.

The herd is joined roughly in equal parts, but Scott says breeder numbers are juggled to maximise numbers on feed when it was most abundant.

“We’ve now got the ability to grow kilos of meat, not just grass.”

Calves are weaned at nine months for the autumn-drop portion at about 320kg, while the spring-drop calvers, who come off the summer flush of feed and whose mothers have begun to lose some of their milk, are weaned at six to seven months, at about 250kg.

The Stewarts started cropping three years ago – principally barley, wheat and canola – with the cropping enterprise now accounting for roughly half of the 1214-hectare operation. And that could increase as Scott weighs up the returns from cattle in the short to the medium term.

“Do I hang up more cows and put more crop in, or just slug it out and cop another year of low prices hoping the cattle job will improve?” he says. “I think where we

are currently we can diversify in and out of one or the other fairly quickly.”

Grazing and cropping programs operate to benefit each other. When Scott first began cropping three years ago he started out by direct sowing barley into existing pastures in late September, lightly grazing it in late October for a week, before closing it up for harvest. The crop yielded five tonnes a hectare. This year more than 400ha were grazed, with terrific results in the northern country.

The story was not the same however; in the southern high rainfall country where there had been a “few casualties”, Scott admits. They have learnt in a dry year the program can be very successful in the southern country but it will become a permanent fixture in the northern country.

He feels there is some improvement in yield where plants are grazed, particularly due to better plant nutrition and stronger immune systems, with spotted mildew and stripe rust almost erased.

“We’ve seen some remarkable figures where things have been grazed and fungicides really haven’t been used.”

Supplementary feeding in autumn has also been dramatically reduced, stocking rates increased and pastures used as a maintenance ration, which again served to reduce input costs.

The business is continually evolving at Araluen, with alternatives and diversification built into future direction.

“We’d like to stay in the cattle industry, but if it means in the future for us to justify our existence here and be a viable operation, we will consider anything because I think we’re mad if we don’t,” Scott says.

SOUTHERN AUTUMN BULL SALE SUMMARY

19th March 2010

January 2010 Angus GROUP BREEDPLAN

Lot	Tag	Sire	Calving Ease				Growth & Maternal					Fertility		CWT 650d	300 KG CARCASE					\$INDEX			
			Dir	Dtrs	GL	B Wt	200	400	600	M Wt	Milk	SS	DC		EMA	Rib	Rump	RBY%	IMF%	LF	HGF	SFD	Term
1	D0368	TE MANIA AFRICA A217 (AI)	-1.2	+1.1	-2.0	+7.4	+49	+96	+118	+95	+18	+2.8	-3.7	+65	+8.4	-0.9	-0.4	+1.7	+1.9	\$137	\$109	\$99	\$96
2	D0177	LEACHMAN BOOM TIME	+1.1	+2.3	-3.6	+2.9	+44	+74	+94	+76	+14	+1.3	-4.6	+60	+3.4	-1.0	-1.0	+0.8	+1.3	\$101	\$84	\$74	\$69
3	D0309	BONGONGO BULLETPROOF Z3	+0.9	+1.1	-2.6	+7.9	+56	+101	+127	+80	+23	0.0	-1.8	+71	+7.8	+0.1	-0.5	+0.8	+2.8	\$164	\$111	\$102	\$98
4	D0110	TE MANIA ADELBERT A216 (AI)	+0.5	N.A.	-4.8	+5.3	+54	+88	+110	+71	+15	+3.0	N.A.	+62	+3.2	-0.9	-0.6	+0.5	+1.3	\$118	\$95	\$86	\$79
5	D0009	LEACHMAN BOOM TIME	-2.6	+0.5	-4.0	+6.2	+55	+90	+113	+99	+12	+0.3	-3.6	+68	+3.4	-0.7	-0.8	+0.6	+1.3	\$105	\$87	\$78	\$81
6	D1236	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	-1.5	+3.0	-3.3	+5.8	+49	+86	+111	+88	+18	+2.6	-5.7	+62	+5.6	-0.3	-1.1	+1.2	+1.7	\$124	\$100	\$87	\$85
7	D0210	TE MANIA XAMINED X60 (AI) (ET)	+1.3	+1.8	-3.6	+6.5	+43	+91	+115	+109	+14	+1.7	-4.4	+65	+5.0	-0.6	+0.1	0.0	+1.9	\$123	\$94	\$83	\$82
8	D0704	TE MANIA BADMINTON B41 (AI)	+0.5	+1.2	-5.6	+5.2	+51	+83	+103	+90	+17	+2.6	N.A.	+55	+1.2	+0.3	+0.3	-0.8	+2.1	\$110	\$80	\$73	\$67
9	D0036	TE MANIA ULONG U41 (AI) (ET)	+4.3	+2.8	-6.1	+2.5	+35	+77	+98	+78	+14	+2.8	-6.4	+42	+5.1	-1.1	-1.4	+1.3	+1.0	\$108	\$95	\$83	\$75
10	D0308	ARDCAIRNIE MIDLAND Z57	+5.4	+1.4	-4.3	+2.7	+35	+66	+87	+96	+11	+1.7	-3.8	+55	+4.3	+0.6	+1.0	-0.3	+2.4	\$105	\$75	\$62	\$64
11	D0114	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	+4.0	+4.6	-6.7	+2.1	+45	+98	+117	+94	+16	+2.4	-5.5	+68	+5.1	-0.6	-0.7	+0.1	+2.7	\$145	\$104	\$97	\$84
12	D0085	TE MANIA AFRICA A217 (AI)	+1.8	+3.3	-5.3	+3.6	+43	+92	+111	+95	+16	+2.1	-5.8	+59	+6.8	-1.3	-1.0	+1.4	+1.9	\$131	\$106	\$97	\$87
13	D0096	DUNOON MIDLAND A017	+3.2	+3.1	-4.4	+3.9	+46	+79	+103	+101	+12	+2.8	-4.6	+62	+4.9	-0.4	-0.9	+1.2	+1.2	\$107	\$95	\$81	\$79
14	D0039	BONGONGO BULLETPROOF Z3	+6.4	+3.9	-4.5	+0.9	+31	+68	+85	+52	+20	0.0	-3.5	+55	+5.5	-0.5	-0.4	+0.4	+2.5	\$125	\$82	\$76	\$69
15	D0099	TE MANIA WIZARD Z220 (AI) (ET)	+5.7	+2.8	-5.2	+1.2	+33	+79	+96	+81	+14	+2.4	-4.3	+56	+5.5	-0.9	-1.0	+0.5	+2.0	\$118	\$88	\$81	\$72
16	D0139	TE MANIA ALONZO A678 (AI)	+0.7	+1.3	-4.6	+4.1	+38	+81	+101	+87	+16	+2.1	-5.9	+61	+6.9	-0.5	+0.1	+1.1	+1.1	\$109	\$94	\$84	\$80
17	D0077	TE MANIA AFRICA A217 (AI)	-0.8	+2.3	-5.8	+7.5	+57	+104	+127	+106	+20	+2.7	-5.6	+64	+6.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.5	+2.4	\$145	\$110	\$101	\$95
18	D0240	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	+2.4	+4.1	-4.3	+3.6	+48	+90	+116	+95	+16	+1.2	-4.1	+75	+8.1	-0.4	-1.3	+2.0	+1.6	\$136	\$113	\$98	\$95
19	D0272	TE MANIA BADMINTON B41 (AI)	+0.4	+1.2	-4.5	+6.9	+52	+95	+114	+105	+17	+2.4	-5.1	+62	+3.1	-0.4	-0.5	0.0	+2.1	\$120	\$92	\$86	\$79
20	D0316	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	-5.0	+4.6	-6.0	+1.8	+44	+70	+95	+80	+16	-0.4	-4.8	+55	+3.3	0.0	-0.8	+0.3	+2.2	\$117	\$86	\$72	\$69
21	D0329	TE MANIA XAMINED X60 (AI) (ET)	-2.5	-0.2	+0.5	+6.4	+36	+77	+97	+92	+17	+1.9	-4.1	+62	+6.6	0.0	+0.5	+0.5	+2.0	\$110	\$82	\$73	\$75
22	D0421	DUNOON MIDLAND A017	+1.7	+1.4	-1.9	+3.6	+40	+72	+93	+96	+11	+1.4	N.A.	+63	+6.2	-0.6	-0.6	+1.4	+1.1	\$97	\$87	\$74	\$75
23	D0428	TE MANIA UNLIMITED U3271 (AI) (ET)	+1.9	-0.4	-2.1	+3.6	+36	+73	+98	+89	+17	+2.0	-2.2	+62	+5.1	+0.6	+0.3	-0.3	+2.5	\$120	\$81	\$69	\$71
24	D0434	BONGONGO BULLETPROOF Z3	+4.0	+2.1	-1.9	+3.9	+38	+65	+86	+52	+17	-0.5	-1.3	+52	+5.0	-0.3	-0.4	+0.7	+1.6	\$110	\$78	\$70	\$67
25	D0439	TE MANIA ADA A149 (AI)	+0.9	+1.5	-2.1	+5.1	+43	+83	+109	+113	+18	+1.7	-3.1	+73	+7.6	-1.5	-1.6	+1.8	+1.2	\$113	\$100	\$85	\$88
26	D0445	LEACHMAN BOOM TIME	-1.5	+1.6	-1.8	+5.3	+48	+77	+104	+97	+14	+1.4	-4.8	+56	+0.7	-0.8	-1.0	-0.2	+1.6	\$99	\$77	\$65	\$68
27	D0522	TE MANIA AFRICA A217 (AI)	+1.8	+2.9	-4.9	+4.1	+46	+94	+117	+100	+17	+3.2	-5.2	+63	+4.9	-1.4	-1.2	+0.9	+1.7	\$128	\$104	\$94	\$86
28	D0555	BONGONGO BULLETPROOF Z3	+5.4	+2.1	-5.0	+2.6	+36	+69	+92	+73	+20	-0.7	-2.1	+55	+4.9	-0.6	-0.5	+0.4	+1.9	\$113	\$81	\$71	\$69
29	D0596	TE MANIA MODEST Z565 (AI)	+1.5	+1.1	-2.7	+3.6	+42	+64	+97	+43	+17	+1.5	N.A.	+46	+2.6	-0.1	-0.4	+0.1	+1.8	\$102	\$71	\$66	\$57
30	D0599	LEACHMAN BOOM TIME	-1.7	+1.3	-2.1	+5.5	+51	+87	+110	+86	+14	+2.4	-3.8	+68	+4.3	-0.3	-0.3	+0.4	+1.6	\$115	\$90	\$80	\$80
31	D0634	LEACHMAN BOOM TIME	-4.5	0.0	-1.8	+5.6	+48	+78	+112	+112	+15	+1.4	-3.8	+65	+4.7	-0.4	-1.0	+1.3	+0.7	\$93	\$88	\$68	\$84
32	D0638	TE MANIA ANAKIE A845 (AI) (ET)	+0.7	+1.8	-4.5	+5.5	+44	+81	+104	+88	+17	+0.9	-4.8	+55	+5.9	+0.3	-0.2	+0.4	+2.0	\$122	\$91	\$80	\$78
33	D0673	TE MANIA BADMINTON B41 (AI)	-1.4	+0.1	-2.5	+5.2	+45	+81	+102	+88	+16	+3.4	-4.3	+61	+5.5	-0.5	-0.8	+1.1	+2.0	\$118	\$92	\$81	\$79

Full listing available in our Southern Autumn Bull Sale Catalogue

129	D0995	TE MANIA ZION Z99 (AI) (ET)	-0.5	+2.6	-3.5	+6.1	+46	+83	+105	+96	+17	+1.8	-3.5	+59	+3.8	-0.9	-0.7	+0.6	+1.4	\$106	\$87	\$78	\$76
130	D1006	TE MANIA XAVIER X76 (AI) (ET)	+2.8	+2.3	-2.2	+3.1	+31	+59	+78	+69	+15	+0.9	-3.1	+51	+5.6	+0.1	+0.6	+0.3	+2.2	\$107	\$74	\$64	\$62
131	D1014	TE MANIA MODEST Z565 (AI)	+0.8	+0.3	-1.8	+4.7	+38	+70	+89	+73	+14	+0.8	-2.8	+57	+6.1	0.0	+0.8	+0.3	+2.3	\$115	\$80	\$70	\$70
132	D1043	TE MANIA ALONZO A678 (AI)	+0.4	+1.5	-3.4	+4.3	+39	+78	+98	+91	+18	+2.2	N.A.	+59	+4.2	-1.5	-1.1	+0.7	+1.1	\$98	\$84	\$76	\$72
133	D1046	ARDCAIRNIE MIDLAND Z57	+3.4	+1.7	-6.1	+4.5	+41	+80	+97	+92	+11	+1.6	-5.4	+54	+4.3	+0.9	+1.1	-0.4	+2.5	\$118	\$84	\$76	\$70
134	D1059	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	+4.5	+4.6	-4.6	+1.7	+37	+77	+94	+67	+15	+1.1	-3.6	+64	+5.7	-0.3	-0.5	+0.6	+2.0	\$122	\$89	\$82	\$72
135	D1211	TE MANIA YELLAND Y578 (AI)	+2.9	+1.6	-3.8	+3.1	+38	+74	+94	+73	+18	+2.4	-2.9	+61	+5.8	+1.3	+1.3	-0.5	+2.8	\$129	\$84	\$75	\$69
136	D1217	TE MANIA YELLAND Y578 (AI)	+2.1	+1.5	-3.7	+3.4	+39	+67	+88	+67	+18	+1.1	-2.3	+55	+4.4	+1.1	+1.2	-0.6	+2.5	\$117	\$75	\$66	\$63
137	D1234	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	+4.3	+3.7	-4.7	+0.6	+36	+66	+86	+57	+18	+1.2	-5.1	+56	+5.5	-0.6	-1.3	+1.3	+1.6	\$113	\$89	\$78	\$69
138	D0404	LEACHMAN BOOM TIME	-0.6	+2.6	-2.1	+4.2	+43	+70	+93	+83	+11	+1.9	-4.7	+54	+1.9	-0.1	+0.2	-0.1	+1.3	\$92	\$74	\$62	\$64
139	D0620	TE MANIA YOU YANG Y838 (AI) (ET)	+0.2	+0.6	-0.7	+5.3	+35	+57	+82	+71	+17	+2.4	-3.9	+50	+7.6	+0.6	+0.2	+1.4	+1.5	\$104	\$84	\$66	\$71
140	D0801	TE MANIA ALONZO A678 (AI)	-0.4	+1.4	-3.4	+5.9	+41	+82	+107	+104	+16	+2.0	-4.8	+56	+7.4	-0.6	-0.6	+1.6	+1.0	\$109	\$98	\$83	\$86
141	D0058	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	+3.5	+3.5	-5.6	+3.1	+48	+90	+119	+109	+18	+2.0	-4.3	+73	+4.7	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	+2.5	\$137	\$101	\$86	\$84
142	D0064	TE MANIA AFRICA A217 (AI)	+1.7	+1.2	-4.6	+4.1	+44	+85	+113	+100	+18	+1.7	-3.6	+65	+7.9	-0.1	-0.1	+1.0	+2.3	\$138	\$104	\$88	\$90
143	D0119	TE MANIA WIZARD Z220 (AI) (ET)	+5.8	+2.8	-5.3	+1.0	+32	+82	+99	+84	+14	+2.9	-4.6	+59	+6.2	-1.0	-0.8	+0.6	+2.0	\$121	\$93	\$84	\$75
144	D0147	TE MANIA UNLIMITED U3271 (AI) (ET)	+3.2	+2.4	-2.8	+3.8	+41	+82	+107	+92	+18	+3.4	-4.1	+66	+5.0	+0.6	+0.7	+0.1	+2.4	\$131	\$95	\$82	\$78
145	D0290	TE MANIA AFRICA A217 (AI)	+0.3	+1.0	-4.5	+5.2	+49	+95	+123	+110	+18	+2.4	-3.8	+72	+8.7	-0.5	-0.1	+1.2	+2.3	\$144	\$112	\$96	\$98
146	D0375	TE MANIA XAMINED X60 (AI) (ET)	+2.3	+1.7	-2.3	+2.9	+26	+58	+75	+71	+17	+0.6	-3.5	+50	+5.2	+0.5	+2.2	-0.6	+2.4	\$103	\$67	\$59	\$56
147	D0393	TE MANIA AMBASSADOR A134 (AI)	+0.3	+3.5	-2.0	+6.1	+39	+69	+90	+79	+14	+1.4	-5.0	+51	+4.7	+0.1	+0.7	+0.1	+2.1	\$111	\$80	\$69	\$68
148	D0395	TE MANIA BADMINTON B41 (AI)	+0.3	+1.3	-3.2	+4.4	+49	+80	+106	+103	+16	+1.9	-3.9	+66	+4.1	-1.1	-1.3	+0.7	+1.8	\$112	\$90	\$76	\$78
149	D0488	TE MANIA AMBASSADOR A134 (AI)	+0.5	+3.2	-2.7	+7.3	+43	+79	+102	+97	+13	+2.2	-6.1	+57	+5.4	+0.2	+0.8	+0.1	+2.5	\$125	\$91	\$78	\$77
150	D0490	TE MANIA XAMINED X60 (AI) (ET)	+2.5	+1.7	-2.8	+2.6	+29	+60	+78	+71	+17	+0.3	-3.4	+53	+5.5	+0.6	+2.1	-0.6	+2.5	\$108	\$70	\$61	\$59
151	D0491	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	+5.7	+4.7	-6.5	-0.3	+37	+72	+94	+62	+19	+0.6	-4.7	+62	+5.8	-0.7	-0.3	+0.7	+1.9	\$123	\$92	\$80	\$73
152	D0537	TE MANIA YORKSHIRE Y437 (AI)	+2.1	+4.5	-5.3	+4.0	+53	+93	+115	+93	+19	+1.6	-4.3	+71	+4.0	-0.1	+0.1	-0.3	+2.6	\$138	\$98	\$90	\$81
153	D0595	RENNYLEA XPONENTIAL X555 (AI) (ET)	+1.2	+3.5	-4.5	+3.1	+31	+61	+80	+68	+12	+1.0	-4.6	+50	+5.4	-0.3	+0.4	+0.4	+1.8	\$102	\$76	\$64	\$62
154	D0619	TE MANIA ALONZO A678 (AI)	-1.1	+1.5	-3.4	+5.6	+42	+86	+112	+105	+14	+2.4	-5.0	+63	+5.5	-1.0	-0.5	+0.6	+1.4	\$112	\$93	\$80	\$82
155	D0657	TE MANIA BADMINTON B41 (AI)	+2.7	+1.5	-4.5	+3.2	+45	+73	+94	+79	+15	+2.6	-3.5	+56	+1.7	-0.8	-0.9	-0.1	+1.5	\$100	\$78	\$69	



TOXIC SPERM A HIDDEN PROBLEM ?

By DAVID S BEGGS, BVSc MVS

Did you know that it takes up to about 70 days to make, package and deliver sperm from the time a cell first divides in the testicle until it fertilises an egg?

This has serious implications. If I did something that stopped the formation of new sperm for a week, the result would be a lack of sperm in the ejaculate for a week.

The trouble is, that this week of infertility might not occur for another 60-70 days, long after the insult I gave to the bull was forgotten.

Similarly, if I did something to the bull that killed off all the sperm undergoing formation in the testicles, there would be no viable sperm for up to 70 days.

It's quite difficult to kill off all the sperm undergoing formation in a testicle, but it's really easy to damage sperm slightly, and believe it or not, damaged sperm is more dangerous to herd fertility than dead sperm.

As part of sperm formation, several feet of DNA must be very carefully folded and packaged down to a minute size and stored in the sperm cell.

This takes a long time (weeks) and the process is very delicate.

If there is an interruption when the sperm is being packed up, chances are that it will not unpack correctly either.

This is called "Toxic Sperm".

These sperm are quite capable of swimming and fertilising an egg, but the egg so fertilised will never produce a calf – it will die when it gets to the DNA unpacking phase of development.

These "toxic sperm" are dangerous because they waste eggs.

Eggs can only be fertilised once.

If you have two bulls in a paddock, and one is releasing toxic sperm, then every egg that bull fertilises is a guaranteed non-pregnancy.

The other bull cannot compensate in the way that he perhaps could if the first bull had a penile injury and was unable to serve cows at all.

So, what causes toxic sperm ?

Herein lies the problem.

It is minor insults that damage sperm enough to make it toxic, while major insults will tend to kill it off altogether.

Sperm damaged in a major way (and for example cannot swim or fertilise an egg) can easily be compensated for by good sperm. Minor damage can cause bigger herd fertility problems than major damage.

"Insults" that can cause toxic sperm include:

- Prolonged stress (cortisone is released into the blood and this causes toxic sperm)
- High temperatures (testicles hang down for a reason) caused by fever or sitting down too much
- Diet (especially high grain diets) and various toxins

At a practical level, toxic sperm causes might include prolonged transport, the stress of moving farm into a new social group, disease, lameness, and high grain diets.

After these events, the bull will look perfectly normal, and may not start to produce toxic sperm for several weeks.

I worry that this is a vastly under-diagnosed problem.

Let's say Farmer Fred purchases a bull, and in hot weather ships it to his new farm (which takes two days). On arrival it is bashed around for a week by the senior bulls. This might cause a toxic sperm event such that there will be a two-week period of toxic sperm starting in 40 days.

Which, of course, is likely to be during the joining period.

Preventing Toxic Sperm

Here are two ways to help avoid toxic sperm causing problems on your farm:

(1) Own and have control of the bull for 70 days before joining.

This will give the bull time to settle in, and if the bull is in your control for that time, you should be able to identify any likely "Toxic Sperm Events" that might occur.

(2) If a bull has a potential "Toxic Sperm Event" (ie the bull gets sick, lame etc) give him 70 days off.

Remember that a bull that was lame for a week is likely to be at best infertile, or at worst toxic at some unknown time in the next few weeks.

Better safe than sorry.

EBVs help to make life as easy as ABC

When you are juggling more than 40,000 hectares across three properties to produce between 1100-1200 calves annually and 1000 steer yearlings – and 18,000 hectares of grain – getting it right gets very serious.

Which is why Walgett's Michael O'Brien likes to make all the tough decisions himself.

When it comes to his Angus herd that means using Group Breedplan as the blueprint for an annual bull-buying strategy, which is the linchpin of his business.

For Michael it all comes down to genetics because he is ruthless in the turnover of his breeding herd – from the traditional bottom 10 pc cull to as many as 25 pc of the cowherd.

"EBVs give me a solid start, which I can add to the bloodlines I am looking for and then round it off with a physical assessment," Michael says.

"Recommendations took me to Te Mania Angus as a gene pool and the progeny I have been producing using their bulls, and the demand for them, is what keeps me there," he says.

In the latest Angus Group Breedplan figures, Mortlake, Victoria, based Te Mania Angus had more than double the number of trait leaders than the next best-ranked stud.

"I don't see them as estimated breeding values," Michael says. "For me they are justifiable values. They are an objective guide to what particular genes can offer your bottom line.

"And you have to start somewhere, so why not start with the best product available?"

Michael is a born and bred farmer but he has a clinical, almost ruthless approach to the cows he does, and does not, keep.

"We are self replacing and yes, sometimes we have to replace them all," Michael says.

"Subject to season, and market opportunities, we make decisions that provide the best possible result for our business," he says.

"Emotion runs a very distant second here. We are all about getting calves on the ground and then handing them over to the next people in the food chain.

"We wean them onto oats and barley fodder crops on our two cropping properties and try to turn them off between 10 and 16 months, when they are weighing 300-400 kilograms, with our primary buyers backgrounders and feedlots.

"Beyond that age and weight I don't want them here because the next season's calves are already on their way."

Right now Michael has 1200 breeders on The Brigalows, his cattle property, and he is very happy with the quality he has built up over the past decade since he made Te Mania Angus his genetic partner.

He says, with confidence, he has some of the finest black Angus on the eastern seaboard – and says that can be backed up by the return competition he has from buyers.

"We are on a winner with these cattle, and these genetics," Michael adds.

"Walgett is fantastic country, give us some H2O and we can do anything. This was once a very strong sheep grazing area but today is dominated by sheep, cattle and dryland farming. There are people breeding Angus cattle where they were not breeding any cattle 10 or 15 years ago," he says.

"In the 1960s we were dryland farming, before switching to no-till in the '90s and running in parallel with our cattle makes us as secure as a farming enterprise can be."

The one important thing Michael would like to see change this year is the US economy.

He believes that is the foundation for the recovery from the global financial crisis.

"It would be great to see the US pull its financial finger out, but its credit system is so chaotic," he says.

"But if the economy really does turn the corner it will be more good news for both beef and grain prices."



Michael O'Brien (left) with Chris Clemson, Clemson Hiscox, Walgett.

While he waits for more economic stability, Michael has his feet firmly on the ground and autumn calving in his sights.

His split-calving program between autumn and winter gives him a steady turnoff and has allowed him to accelerate his calving percentage through management strategy and selecting bulls with the calving traits he needs.

"Obviously the more calves we get on the ground the better, and working with Te Mania Angus we now consistently get a conception in the high 90 per cent range," Michael says.

"Our herd is all naturally mated, so we have demand for bulls on a steady basis, which is why I am a regular buyer at both the Te Mania Angus southern autumn on-property sale and at its spring sale in Walgett," he says.

"Te Mania Angus has delivered what I want, and what my customers want.

"I have the figures to prove what it has done for me, and they have the EBVs to prove where they are taking the industry."

DATES TO REMEMBER

1 FEBRUARY 2010
BEEF WEEK OPEN DAY
MORTLAKE

18 MARCH 2010
TEAM TE MANIA
ONLINE COMMERCIAL
FEMALE SALE

19 MARCH 2010
TE MANIA ANGUS
SOUTHERN AUTUMN
BULL SALE – MORTLAKE

The Gubbins and McFarlane families in conjunction with Team Te Mania members invite all breeders and their agents to an informal dinner on the eve of the bull sale following the completion of the Team Te Mania commercial female sale

Please reply to Te Mania Angus if you are able to join us for dinner.

T: 03 5264 1606 or **E:** admin@temania.com.au



TE MANIA ANGUS
BREEDING BETTER BEEF

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