



Violet Hills Charolais

Summer Newsletter 2022

Seasons Greetings from all of us at Violet Hills. What a wonderful season it is over most areas with paddocks full of grass and the cattle market extremely strong. It is a very good time to be in the cattle business.

Our On Property sale last year (13thMay) had solid support with all bulls in the sale sold for an average of \$8369.00 with a top of \$15500.00 for VHV Q97E purchased by Kilkenny Charolais, Taroom, Qld. Bulls went to 5 states. We were pleased with the results and it allowed our regular clients as well as a number of new clients to purchase their bulls at reasonable prices. The sale was conducted by Elders Stud Stock with Lincoln McKinlay as the auctioneer. The Elders Bathurst branch provided excellent support.



We extend a very warm thanks to all of our supporters, both old and new. Our continued aim is to improve the profitability of our clients businesses.

12th Annual On Property Sale

Thursday 5th May, 2022, 1pm

Please note that we have gone back to the first Thursday in May

We aim to have 50 bulls, 19-20 months old for sale.

Elders Stud Stock and the Bathurst branch will be conducting and managing the sale, which will be on farm with facilities for bidding by phone as well as Auctionsplus. The catalogue and videos of all bulls will be on our website and on the Auctionsplus site. Most of the bulls are polled. There are some red bulls.

Change in Selection Index's.

The Charolais Society, " in their wisdom" has decided to change the published Selection Index's from Domestic, Export and Northern to Northern Maternal and Domestic Terminal. These index's are supposed to indicate the suitability of the animal for certain markets. I have found the original Domestic Index to be a good indicator of the suitability of bulls for the southern grass fed market. Our experience in producing cattle for the grass fed market leads me to have some doubts about the value of these new indexes. My advice to bull buyers is to back your stockmanship skills when selecting your purchases.

50 YEARS OF BREEDING CHAROLAIS

I would like to reflect on our journey over the last 50 years of breeding Charolais. I was first introduced to the breed by our Livestock lecturer, Prof. Neil Yeates, at the University of New England in the 1960's.

When the first Charolais semen became available in Australia, Kaye and I started an upgrading programme and joined the Charolais Society of Australia in 1972. An upgrading programme starts by using Charolais semen over another cattle breed resulting in first cross progeny. These progeny are designated as A grade Charolais. The A grade animals are then joined to Charolais to give second cross or B grade progeny. This process, when continued for another three back-crosses results in E grade Charolais that are deemed Domestic Pure and are identified with the letter E on their tattoo. Most Charolais in Australia resulted from this procedure and are designated as E grade or Domestic Pure.

Our first Domestic Purebred bull (VHVD1E) was born on the 16/8/1984. He was a moderate framed, easy calving bull whose progeny were easy to finish at a young age. This style of Charolais bull was not fashionable at the time as the major studs were chasing frame size by importing long legged, long headed, late maturing bulls from Canada. In our opinion, these imports did tremendous harm to our cattle industry and in particular the Charolais breed in southern Australia as they were very hard to finish, on grass, at a young age.

At this time our main enterprise was steer trading and we only had a small herd of Charolais, which were not much more than a "labour of love". It was a time when we realised the value of doing ability and the correct maturity pattern for finishing at a young age. **Long legs and long heads meant looking at the cattle for a long time.** Our harsh winters and variable seasons also helped in the selection process.

By 2000 the size of our enterprise had grown to the point that our son Sean joined the stud as a full partner and our daughter Kirsty took over the commercial herd as well as helping with the stud.

Our pedigree herd is in excess of 300 cows with a continued emphasis on producing easy care, polled cattle that are suitable for producing grass fed beef as well as feeder cattle. This is a continually evolving process as the industry requirements change. Violet Hills charolais are equally suitable for purebred or crossbred operations. While crossing over Angus cows is common (due to their availability), excellent results can be achieved by crossing over Herefords, Shorthorns and Murray Greys.



weaning age and are showing promise.

NEW STUD SIRE

Violet Hills Peronne (P) is one of our new stud sires pictured here prior to his second joining as a 3 year old. He is an easy calving, easy doing, homozygous polled bull. His first crop of calves are approaching

Regards from the Jenkins family

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