



# HAZELDEAN LETTER



## Exciting line-up this Spring

The Hazeldean Northern Performance bull sale in Queensland on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August will be followed by our Spring sale at home base Hazeldean, Cooma on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September and will see the final drafts of bulls from Hazeldean coming on to the market this year. We have sold in excess of 200 bulls so far this year and with the conclusion of the Spring sales we should be on track to clear around 450 bulls for 2005.

The Hazeldean Angus commercial female sale held at Hazeldean in May again broke an Australian record for commercial females when the top pen of 2.5 year old heifers sold for \$2600 per head. This result gives us further confidence our breeding program is providing the commercial industry with an unequalled product and that the Hazeldean bloodline is worth dollars to those that own it.

Our breeding program continues to focus on those things that matter most to commercial beef producers. All our cows calve unassisted at 2 years of age and breed back each year. We have imposed this requirement religiously for 25 years and coupled with selection for low birthweight, large testicles, shorter gestation length and shorter days to calving, **we continue to lift the number one driver of profitability – REPRODUCTION. We then build on this base those traits that ice the profit cake.** This philosophy is illustrated in the genetic trend graphs where Hazeldean is superior to breed average for all traits relevant to maximising the number of live calves.

We have continued to step up our AI and ET program and this year have implanted 400 embryos and performed 1500 inseminations.

We spend a great deal of time selecting the sires for our program to compliment our cow herd and produce bulls that provide Hazeldean clients with the most profitable offspring possible. As the majority of our breeding is done via AI and ET, and we use yearling bulls to back up, we need retain very few bulls each year thereby maximising the number and quality of bulls in each of our sales.

Do not come to Hazeldean if you wish to select from bulls that have spent half or more of their lives in front of a feed trough. Our sale bulls are presented in the 600 to 700kg weight range, off grass with the exception of the last 2 months prior to sale if the season is lacking. Anyone can produce 900kg bulls at 18 months if they really set their minds to it but it is not in the long term best interests of the bull nor the new owner.

Come to Hazeldean if you want bulls that are grown out in the environment in which they are expected to perform in later life and are produced from a large scale breeding program that does not compromise. You will also get unparalleled back up from our strategically located properties and managers with our no questions asked guarantee that will get a replacement bull to you as soon as possible.

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*Todd Landes, Lantran, with assistant Beck, who implanted 100 embryos at Hazeldean in May 2005.*

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# Angus at Hughenden

Reay and Lindy Cowan are serious about their cattle. They live at Woodbine, a 30,000 acre property 60km south east of Hughenden in north west Queensland. The Cowans purchased Woodbine in 1980 and use it solely for the production of beef cattle.

The country varies from open black soil Mitchell grass plain to partially cleared sandy clay spear grass country, with established buffel grass and stylos. The property has good water supplied from sub-artesian bores. The average rainfall is 475mm - most of this falling between November and March. Summer temperatures get up to around 38 degrees C. on average and in winter they experience a few light frosts, but the days are generally mild.

The breeding herd at Woodbine is currently about 1200 females. About 70% are crossbred with a minimum 50% Brahman content – the rest are higher grade Brahmans.

*"We aim to turn off steers at around 350-380kg to suit southern fatteners or feedlots at around 15-18 months."* says Reay.

The cattle are fed a protein supplement mainly in the latter half of the year when the grass loses a lot of its feed value. Also minerals and some urea are fed through water medicators.

Until 1994 the Cowans ran a high grade red Brahman herd, when they introduced some British and European bulls.

*"We started using Angus bulls in 1996 and were introduced to Breedplan figures, which we now use extensively, in conjunction with visual assessment, when selecting for the traits we want."*

*After inspecting several Angus studs and speaking to commercial producers who are using Hazeldean bulls in country not unlike our's we decided to purchase some Hazeldean bulls. Having visited Hazeldean at Cooma we were very impressed with the simple and practical approach used by the Litchfields in shaping their stud's direction. In particular we were impressed with the early scrotal development in their bulls and in general with the entire Hazeldean herd."*

*The first bulls were purchased from the 2000 Hazeldean Northern Performance bull sale at Toowoomba.*



*Above: Reay and Lindy Cowan.*



*Above: Six month old weaners out of Brahman cows - some of the first crop by Hazeldean Weatherford W366, bought at the 2003 Northern Performance Sale. Average weight 235kg.*

*The Hazeldean bulls and their progeny have impressed us in that they are quiet, practical, easy going cattle. This has led to more Hazeldean bulls joining our herd every year since. We now purchase at Hazeldean's Queensland base, Myall Plains."*

The bulls are used over the Woodbine higher Brahman content females with very good results. However, in general, the Cowans do not think pure angus cattle are suitable for their climate but the Brahman-Angus crossbred progeny handle the conditions well.

**The fact that the bulls are grown out and acclimatised in the paddock is a real plus for us, as they are ready to work as soon as they arrive at Woodbine."**

A number of Angus cross bulls are kept for use at Woodbine and over other family herds, totalling around 5000 females. They also use some pure Brahman bulls over the 'softer' females. The heifers are joined as yearlings with good results.

The Cowans cattle cannot really be classed as Brangus Reay says, as alot of the cattle are out of crossbred cows of various breeds.

The bulls are joined from November to February, and the females are pregnancy tested with all non-performers culled.

*"The Hazeldean infused cows have excellent temperaments, are very good mothers and hold their condition well under the conditions here."*

**The conception rates, particularly for the mature cows, are very good even in the lighter years. A lot of credit for this must go to the fertile background of the bulls.**

*The integrity of the Litchfields, together with the guarantee that comes with the bulls makes our Hazeldean bulls a very attractive investment. We are planning another trip to Myall Plains in August this year."*





# Benchmark Senepol and Senegus Sale Preview

The first Benchmark Senepol and Senegus sale was held last August as part of the Hazeldean Northern Performance bull sale, at Myall Plains near Nindigully, QLD. 12 purebred Senepol bulls sold to average \$6500 and 34 Senegus bulls averaged \$2500.

We continue to be impressed with Senepols - their heat tolerance is remarkable - both the Senegus and Senepol cattle graze happily in the heat of a mid summers day while the Angus seek the shade. The performance of the Benchmark Senegus steers in the Kerwee feedlot has also been very encouraging plus the positive comments from purchasers of both Senegus and Senepol bulls.

*“Cattle feedlot performance of the Benchmark senegus steers was well above average for the group. Having entered 40kg lighter, after 206 days on feed they had gained more weight than the average.....They were extremely quiet and easy to handle. I really am impressed by these cattle”*  
**Jim Cudmore, Kerwee Feedlot, near Toowoomba**

We made a trip to Florida and the US Virgin Islands in July last year to inspect the original Senepol herds as well as the larger herds on mainland USA. Our Benchmark herd has been developed from embryos and semen imported from these herds and it was a well worthwhile visit to see the cattle and environments in which they live.

The AA company has invested heavily in the Senepol breed, identified by the company as being the most appropriate breed for northern Queensland, having the attributes of excellent carcase qualities (100% Bos Taurus), tick and heat resistance.

We are continuing to breed up to enlarge our Benchmark herd, selecting carefully for animals that will perform best in northern Australia. We believe that the Senepol and Senegus are a viable and better option for cross-breeding than Bos Indicus and are confident they will make a major impact on future northern beef cattle breeding.

**At this year’s sale we will offer 8 purebred Senepol bulls, 40 black Senegus bulls, 11 red Senegus bulls, plus Senepol and Senegus heifers PTIC... all by the best Senepol bulls in the breed.**

**Please come and see these impressive cattle and talk to some of the producers using them.**

*“The Senegus bulls have been in with the cows for a month now and are going very well. They are holding up the best of any bulls and are working well even in the heat of the day when everything else is under a tree camped. They don’t care if it’s 40 degrees and they’re in the sun.”*  
**Alex Sullivan, Mt. Driven, St. George, QLD**



Above: Senegus Sale bull 03-198



Above: Senepol Sale bull 03-17

# Visit to Senepol Herds USA 2004

Since deciding to invest in the Senepol breed three years ago, we planned to visit the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands where the breed developed. Having said she would *never* go on another cattle tour, when I mentioned that I had to go to the Caribbean to see some cattle, Libby suddenly seemed to find renewed interest! So in late July last year we headed off.

Before visiting the island, we first went to see Art Martinez at Prime Rate Ranch in the centre of Florida who runs one of the largest Senepol herds on mainland USA. Martinez has his own herd but also imports donor females in a joint venture with the Gaspieri family, owners of the Castle Nugent herd on the island of St. Croix.

Once reaching Florida, the cows from Castle Nugent are flushed and the embryos sold in mainland US and overseas. We were impressed with the cows we saw at Prime Rate Ranch and the outstanding sons and grandsons of Castle Nugent sires. Many of our cattle are the result of Castle Nugent embryos from this source.

We also visited Sebastiao de Aguilar at his Sacramento Farms Ranch close by. Sebastiao also has a ranch in Brazil where the Senepol breed is well proven and popular and we were impressed with the scale and length of some of these females.

We have also purchased semen and embryos from Sacramento.



*Above: Analy bulls graze in tropical heat on the wet side of St. Croix.*

Senepols have been an established breed on St. Croix for well over 100 years. The breed results from an infusion of Red Poll genetics into the N'dama cattle that had been imported to the island from Senegal in west Africa to pull drays and operate the sugar crushing mills.

N'dama cattle were not good milkers nor particularly good eating, but were very well-adapted to the hot, tick infested climate of St. Croix.

The first introduction of Red Poll genetics occurred in the late 1800's with the purchase of a bull called Captain Kidd from Trinidad. The combination of genotypes proved to be particularly complimentary and the resulting offspring outstanding. This new breed was found to have all

the attributes of both the British Red Poll – good milking, carcase and docile temperament as well as the heat and tick resistance of the N'Dama. It was also 100% Bos Taurus. The Senepol breed was on its way.

Another interesting feature of the breed is that the two most prominent breeders of Senepol on St. Croix were both (and very early on) committed to the ideals of performance testing. When many breeders on mainland US were still swept up in the showing and eyeballing mentality, the breeders of the Analy and Castle Nugent herds were selecting cattle on measured weight gain. Although we would have excused this remote location (more noted for rum and slaves) as a good reason for some old fashioned thinking, the opposite was the case. Implementing the principles of performance testing through the breed's developmental phase must have had an enormous and positive effect on the breed's productivity. Today, we happily reap the benefit of the islander's foresight.

In the last few years the breed has attracted an even greater degree of interest. This is because it is one of the few breeds capable of producing high quality beef in regions previously thought to be the exclusive domain of the Bos Indicus.

As the world becomes more particular in its tastes, and products of all descriptions are required to meet tighter and tighter specifications, premiums for high quality beef are now achievable. The Senepol breed will help ensure these premiums are as likely to be achieved by producers in tropical and sub tropical regions as those located in more temperate climates.



*Above: Senepol females at Castle Nugent, on the dry side of St. Croix.*



# Hazeldean Commercial Female Sale, PTIC Heifers to \$2,600

## Sale Results

159 females sold to a top of \$2600, **an Australian commercial female record at the on-property Hazeldean female sale.**

The top pen of 10 x 2.5 year old heifers PTIC were purchased by the Bacon family from the Hunter Valley, who are putting together a top class Angus herd. Over the last few years they have purchased Hazeldean cows from Chris Zulumovski. They also purchased the second pen at \$1800.



Above from left: The Bacon family - Stephen and Julie, Neil and Carol, and Ashley and Sharon - buyers of the top pen of 2.5 year old heifers. Above right: Top pen of 2.5 year old PTIC heifers.

**“We have seen how they perform and we just wanted to stick with these wonderful females”** said Ashley Bacon, following the sale. Although he paid top dollar for the cows, he said he was **“over the moon”** with having purchased the 2.5 year olds.

## Sale Breakdown

**39 x 2.5 year old heifers averaged \$1783**

**50 x 8.5 year old cows averaged \$951 and topped at \$1040**

**62 x heifer calves averaged \$541 and topped at \$600**



Above: Hazeldean Autumn Bull Sale 2005, Cooma NSW.

## Sale Snippets

At the Goulburn Annual Feature weaner cattle sale at the end of April, Steve Merriman from Yass sold a pen of 6-8 month old Angus steers by Hazeldean and Narrengullen bulls for \$630.



Long term Hazeldean clients Bernie and Gail Harding sold their run of Angus steers to a top of \$684 and average of \$654 – the best for the sale.

Congratulations to Jim and Marilyn Barry who topped the Cooma Calf and Weaner sale in April with Hazeldean blood yearling steers selling for \$790.



# Hazeldean Property Updates

## Hazeldean South Australia Update - Winter 2005



*Hazeldean SA Manager, Tony Brooks.*

2005 got off to a very dry start with all areas of South Australia sorely in need of rain. With most of our pastoral clients looking forward to good lambing percentages, rain was badly needed to keep them going. Fortunately the late break in the second half of June was a good one with excellent rainfalls recorded in many pastoral areas.

February saw our annual Bull Sale at Lucindale where we sold 70 bulls to an average of \$3,700 and to a top of \$10,500 for a son of BT ULTRAVOX. I thank our clients for their strong support.

The South Australian Merino Field Days were held in March with East Bungaree and Hazeldean having displays on the

property at Booborowie. Both studs displayed a selection of rising one-year-old rams that will be for sale in September. The 2004 drop East Bungaree and Hazeldean sale rams were shorn in April in preparation for spring sales and came off the board in very good condition. The average FD of the Hazeldean rams was 17.3 and East Bungaree's was 19.2. I have also selected the on-property sale teams with the

East Bungaree Team displaying tremendous growth and bone, exactly what our clients are looking for. Progeny of one sire in particular, EB 9-340, are outstanding and there will be a number of his sons in the sale.

The Hazeldean team is also a quality team of rams, displaying wool that is soft, free-growing, nourished and beautifully crimped. They are also structurally correct and displaying the plain bodies needed in this state.

**Our on-property ram sales will both be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Both sale teams will be on display in mid-August or at any other time by appointment.**

I look forward to catching up with you all throughout the year.

## Hazeldean Queensland Update - Winter 2005



*Hazeldean QLD Manager, Corey Parker and wife Mel.*

Currently Myall Plains is running 830 head of cattle and 650 head of sheep. The sheep numbers have dropped due to the restructuring of Myall Plains, allowing us to breed more bulls.

The rams will now be bred at "Rosevale" at Hay NSW and sent to us as weaners so they have time to grow out and acclimatise.

Rainfall so far this year is 224.5mls. We didn't have a single drop for April but had 63mls of great soaking rain in May and another 50mls in June. We have been very lucky

in this little pocket of Qld for the last 12 months, but we do feel for those people still suffering severe drought throughout Qld and NSW and we hope they receive enough rain soon to see them out of drought for some years to come.

We have increased the amount of pasture we were planning to sow this year. We have

now planted 755 ha which is now responding well to recent rain. The pasture we sowed early in 2004 had a really good response to the December rain. We cut hay from it late in January this year. The hay was beautiful in quality and went just over a bale per acre.

The Senepol and Senegus bulls are grazing it and have been since late January and are performing really well.

We had success again at this year's St George show with our 2004 Senepol heifers winning Champion pen of feeder heifers.

Again we are very happy with the weaning weights of our Senepol/Senegus calves with the bulls AVE 290kg and the heifers 270kg.

In this year's sale as well as our Angus, Senepol and Senegus bulls we are pleased to be offering a selection of Senepol/Senegus heifers PTIC.

We hope the remaining months of 2005 are kind and fulfill everyone's needs.



# Hazeldean Property Updates

## Hazeldean Riverina Update - Winter 2005



*Hazeldean Riverina Manager,  
Tony Graham.*

June 2005 has come around very quickly and once again saw us in the middle of yet another drought covering a large area of Eastern Australia. Up until the late June rain we had a total of 73mm and nothing since February 5.

As a result we were all weighing up options as to where we go now with stock numbers etc. Nevertheless, the Hazeldean stock once again proved their resilience and doing ability under less than ideal circumstances and carried on regardless until the excellent falls of 50mils plus in the second half of June.

At our most recent shearing all mature sheep cut an average of 8kgs at 20.5 micron. So even in the drier conditions they maintained fleece weight. The ewe hoggetts were in-shed tested and came back with some pleasing results. Of the 1700 tested 1000 were below 17 microns while still maintaining a skirted fleece weight of just under 4kg. In that group 4 bales were 16.1 micron and 1 bale at 15.2.

Hazeldean Merino sires are providing good results with some exciting young reserves coming through. Sons of 0.12946, 9.10104, 1.5858 and 1.4884 are performing well with their progeny showing excellent results.

April 19 saw our second Hazeldean Riverina Bull sale with 56 APR & HBR bulls sold to an average of \$2600. Many repeat buyers purchased and we were pleased with the presence of 13 new clients. The bulls looked great, having benefited from the 12 month period at "Rosevale". The Hazeldean philosophy of breeding animals adapted to their environment and conditions obviously paying dividends.

Our water and fencing program is continuing with a further 10kms of laneway and pipeline completed to date making stock movements and management easier for all concerned.

This year's rams are growing out well and promise to be the best we have presented here to date. Sales this year will be as last year with private selections in September and November. We look forward to seeing all clients some time in the coming year.



*Above: Hazeldean Managers during property inspections at managers meeting, Rosevale, May 2005. Left to right: Tony Brooks (SA), Corey Parker (QLD), Tony Graham (Riverina), Jim Litchfield, and Noel Chesham (Monaro).  
Right: Hazeldean Riverina Bull Sale, April 2005.*



# Hazeldean Angus

Spring Bull Sale 2005

Tuesday 6th September  
Hazeldean, Cooma, NSW

**70** APR & stud bulls



## ENQUIRIES

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# Northern Performance

Bull Sale 2005

Tuesday 23rd August 2005  
Myall Plains, Nindigully, QLD

**120** bulls

Including

**Hazeldean Angus**

60 APR stud and commercial bulls

**Benchmark Senepol**

60 Senepol, Black Senegus and Red Senegus bulls

25 Senepol and Senegus heifers PTIC



## ENQUIRIES

**Corey Parker** Tel 07 4625 9681

**Jim Litchfield** Tel 02 6453 5555 Mobile 0417 676 561

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