

## QLD 2016 Branch Report

The last 6 months of this year have been the best for several years both weather-wise and with very good cattle prices in the yards, and at stud sales - following virtually 5 years of ongoing drought in much of the state.

While recent heavy rains have improved the outlook for much of the state, there are areas which have still missed out, and for many of those who received substantial rains it has been too long coming, as they are concentrating on survival and recovery with greatly reduced herd numbers.

Ingledeew and Greendale studs again attended the annual Farmfest exhibition back in June '16, but unfortunately there was an acute absence yet again of the western bull buyers due to the ongoing drought they've been through. It will take time for them to recover and come back looking for breeders. That said, our bull sale numbers lifted somewhat later in 2016, and it was much better than in the previous 2 years which really copped a lack of activity.

Provided that we don't slip back into drought conditions, we expect to see good demand in the year ahead due to the need for producers to rebuild their herds which have been decimated by the huge numbers which have been drawn out of a lot of the State with the significant uplift in prices, and of course the dry conditions.

There is a great lack of mature breeding cattle as the producers have been forced to take advantage of the good prices available with weaners making up a large proportion of the yardings. Some agents have reported during the past year of selling the same beast several times in a month with profiteer traders looking to capitalise on stock shortages.

Our main target remains selling purebred Salers into commercial bull buyers of all the main breeds for the purpose of gaining greater production through fertility, calving ease, temperament, and weight gain through their muscling trait which ensures increased kilos of beef for the number of head produced, in addition to the breed's hardiness and adaptability to extreme weather conditions. They are certainly survivors and producers in difficult times.

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