QLD 2017 Branch Report

The last year has been a testing time with ongoing drought conditions from last year’s AGM until this year. We had temporary breaks with moderate rain falls in March, June and late October, but little in between. There has been a litany of failed summer and winter crops in many of the cropping area, and much of the west has suffered parched conditions throughout. Stock numbers available for sale are now at a low.

Ingledew and Greendale Salers exhibited a selection of bulls and cows in June’17 at the annual Farmfest 3 day field days event securing the sale of a couple of both cows and bulls. Despite average prices having lifted considerably in recent years for all cattle, this was not reflected by any increase in the volume of buying enquiries from producers. We are still receiving rave reviews from users of our bulls regarding calving ease and temperament, but this is not converting to increase sales numbers.

We are turning our focus to producing purebred Salers fat steers and heifers from oats and fodder sorghum crops which will be supplemented by income from purebred breeding animals, rather than the reverse focus we’ve aimed for previously. By demonstrating the quality Salers carcase production through the saleyards and meat buyers, we expect our breeder sales will increase. The Salers functionality message has to be driven home.

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