



## Breeding detail gives results

ALL good things come at the right time and joining season is here.

All cattle producers who join for a spring calving have just put bulls to cows or are close to doing so.

Cows have young calves on them now and are nearing peak lactation.

The young calves are starting to draw heavily on the cows' calcium and phosphorous levels which are crucial for milk production but even more important for reproduction.

Production is one of the key components for success and the cattle industry is no different.

For example, every day that your cow is not in calf it costs you roughly \$1.80/day depending on what market you are breeding for.

All of a sudden those supplementary licks and formulas don't seem so dear anymore, especially if it contributes to getting cow back in calf 15-30 days earlier. Rain helps too.

The health of bulls is also important - they need to be in good condition but not overfat.

A bull's reproductive factory takes about two months from the time sperm starts until ready to be used.

The bull's testicles need to be checked out; perhaps a quick chat to the vet could be time well spent.

It's always a good idea to monitor what's happening in the paddock for the first week or so to make sure that your bulls are serving your cows.

Try and note the cow's ID and date



**READY TO WORK:** Mike and Lee-ann Ryan of Kabrevale Charolais produce quality bulls that are ready to work. Photo: Contributed

to see if she returns in about 19-23 days with 21 days being the average.

By doing this you make sure that if there is a problem you are onto it early enough to do something about it.

Bulls at Kabrevale Charolais have had an ideal preparation on oats and hay and are in top working condition.

Our draft of bulls this year has been as good as we have ever bred.

It is pleasing our bulls didn't disappoint our buyers.

We thank our clients for their continued confidence and purchase of our charolais bulls in 2011.

We look forward to discussing your requirements with our 2012 draft of bulls. These bulls will be ready from the end of July 2012 onwards.

This season we will be joining some selected Kabrevale females to Red Angus and Senepol bulls, as well as increasing our joining of polled charolais bulls.

Phone Mike and Lee-ann Ryan Kabrevale Charolais, Monto, 0408 410 618 or 0423 939 739.

# Producers breathe new life into soils

INTERNATIONALLY respected agronomist Brett Irvine of Carbon Chasers Agriculture travels the world providing advice to farmers and last week addressed a workshop at Blue Rocks, Mundubbera.

Mr Irvine spoke about introducing biological farming into current management practices at the Building Better Soils workshop.

Primary producers who attended were interested in innovative approaches to managing soil, improving soil health and building soils that will support farming for generations to come.

Finding the right combination of chemistry, physical management and biological methods that are best for the hip pocket and the environment are on Mr Irvine's agenda.

"Biological farming is commercially viable and has a big future because it makes it cheaper to produce good quality fruit," Mr Irvine said.

Removing compaction layers and growing deeper roots would enhance the quality and flavour of crops.



**FINE ROOTS:** Brett Irvine shows Mundubbera Better Soils workshop participants the fine roots which are beneficial to quality fruit production. Photo: Sue Harris

"When I dig down I want to see lots of fine, small roots, not big roots," he said.

"Lots of fine, deep roots give crops resilience.

"When the biological system is working well there is a symbiotic relationship between the plants and the organisms in the soil.

"The aim is to create aerobic soils, not anaerobic ones. "It's all about oxygen."

On-farm practice changes that will lead to improved sustainability and healthier soils are eligible activities for Better Catchments incentive funding.

Funding for up to \$3000 is currently available to horticulture producers in the Burnett Mary Region.

Only producers who attended the workshop are eligible to apply.

## IN BRIEF

### Yields up

SUMMER crops have seen a major jump in yields in the 2011-12 season according to the Australian Crop Report.

ABARES executive director Paul Morris said, despite the overall favourable outlook, some producers of summer crops in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales had suffered hardship because of the untimely heavy rainfall and flooding.

However yields outside flood areas are expected to be above average and summer crop production is forecast to be the highest on record.

Total summer crop production is forecast to rise by 18% in 2011-12 to 5.4 million tonnes; a good outlook for cotton and grain sorghum yields.

## Business drives state manufacturing

BIGGENDEN Engineering Works, established in 1995, is the result of more than 16 years' growth.

Last year the company redefined its image under the trademark BigEng to define its products and services.

"Our mission is to be able to achieve our potential in our community through our people and resources in general and specialised engineering services, products and materials markets," Biggenden Engineering owner Julie Chapman

"Our vision is to achieve industry best practice and be recognised as an industry leader in our core manufacturing sectors which include transport, agriculture, mining, earthmoving, construction and infrastructure through a process of continuous improvement."

Biggenden Engineering Works has a number of strategies in place to achieve its business goals:

■ Continually working in the pursuit of excellence;

■ Integrated management systems to endorse products and services;

■ Flexibility and reliability;

■ Integrity in business relationships and dealings;

■ Service and back-up support to the highest standard;


■ Active and responsible community members.

Biggenden Engineering Works is committed to the future of the next generation through ongoing training programs for the community in apprenticeships and traineeships each year.

The company is undertaking further training in advanced welding principals for its tradesman.

"Our goal is to improve our business capability to increase the amount of business won; to strengthen supply chains; and to create new employment in the region," CEO Glen Chapman said.

To contact Biggenden Engineering Works, phone 4127 1123 or email bigeng@bigpond.com.



## TopX Eidsvold Saleyards

### Hollywell Road, Eidsvold

# Fat and Store Sale

**- Wednesday 7th March -**

For all bookings or enquires contact  
**Brett Miller on 0428 797 938**

**Dipping & Feeding Available**

**Numbers May Change Pending Weather!**

Contact: Brett Miller 0428 797 938 • Tony Pearce 0459 632 443 • Sam Doust 0457 752 892  
59 Moreton St., Eidsvold Q 4627 Email: eidsvold@topx.com.au  
"Old Values, New Ways"

## KABREVALE CHAROLAIS

### BULLS FOR SALE

#### POLLED AND COMPOSITES

Kabrevale Charolais invites you to inspect our bulls in the paddock at a time convenient to you. Please feel free to arrange an inspection, or discuss your requirements, by contacting Mike and Lee-ann Ryan on **0408 410 618 or 0423939739**



**Kabrevale Future**

*"Our aim and focus is to produce sound, functional, fertile cattle that tick all the boxes."*



Proudly Australian made

#### OUR SERVICES

- Fully equipped Machine Shop
- Materials Processing Solutions
- Hydraulic Service Solutions
- Structural Steel Fabrication
- General Welding & Fabrication
- Mobile Welding & Breakdown
- Onsite Repair & Maintenance
- Construction & Mining work

**Biggenden Engineering Works**

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