

16/10/92

BRAMBLETYE FARM
P.O. Box 537
Armidale 2350. NSW
Tel. 067 75 1220
Fax 067 75 1311

LOWLINE

BREEDERS OF AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE

NEWSLETTER NO 1

Dear Fellow Member,

As it is now almost two and a half months since the Association was formed, it is timely for me to produce a newsletter to bring everyone up to date with progress to date. Hopefully, as we grow, the Newsletter will graduate to being a more formal periodic Bulletin and include input from each of you and from invited outside experts in our industry. In fact, if you have information of interest even now, please feel free to forward it to me and I will ensure that it is included in the next edition, to be sent out in Jan 93.

BUSINESS FIRST

1. DRAFT CONSTITUTION

The draft constitution in the form that you will have received if you have paid your joining fee and first year's subscription, is now with Corporate Affairs and our Public Officer, who is monitoring progress with our incorporation, has assured me that the Association will be formalised within a fortnight from now. Mr Peter Maxwell, a Sydney Patent Attorney, and friend, has the full details of our logo and as soon as I am able to forward to him, details of our incorporation, will take the necessary steps to register (patent) the logo, for the exclusive use of this Association and it's members.

As was agreed at the inaugural meeting of the Association, the draft constitution is but an interim one, to be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting, August, 1993. To ensure that we do it properly, I would ask all members to study the draft constitution as it now stands and if they wish to propose any amendments, to do so as soon as possible, by writing to me. This will give me time to put such proposed amendments together before calling together a Committee to review the draft constitution in an overall sense.

Please note that your proposals, if any, only relate to Section A, REGULATIONS, which is the section of importance to Corporate Affairs. Section B, STANDARD DESCRIPTION OF AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE, remains very much in draft form and I hope to soon seek cooperation and advice to ensure that this section is meaningful and rational.

2. MEMBERSHIP

It is my duty to remind all members, that if they wish to play a part in the proceedings of the Association, and have a vote, that they must be financial. There are still a few who

indicated a desire to join with us, who have not yet sent in their cheque to cover the joining fee and first year's subscription made up of \$50.00 joining and \$60.00 annual sub. I must ask those members to forward their monies to :-

Mr Des Owens

Secretary/Treasurer. ALCA.

P.O.Box 4234.

Kingston. ACT 2604.

Tel. 06 2956661 (H)

06 2953292 (B)

Fax. 06 2953258

In turn, Des will forward to you, your copy of the draft constitution, a current list of members and a receipt.

3. REGISTRATION

All members will, I am certain, see the Registration of all our cattle as the matter of the highest priority and that it be done absolutely correctly, of the greatest importance. I must please ask that we all be patient as the data is well on it's way and although it has taken much longer than I had hoped, the delay has simply been caused by the workload being sustained by Dr Peter Parnell, who is doing it all for us.

I guess that as an association, we could have come up with some scheme of registration of our own accord, but as was agreed at the inaugural meeting, to do it the way we are, that it with the support and cooperation of Trangie, is a much better way, and by guaranteeing four generations of documented parentage for all animals, under a Departmental letterhead and signature, gives our stock complete evidence of their pure breeding as well as a credibility and increased potential value.

I spoke with Dr Parnell today, and he informed me that all the registration certificates were with the typist and that we could expect them within 10 to 14 days. I would appreciate it very much if members would refrain from ringing Dr Parnell, not because he would be annoyed if people were to do so, but rather to avoid many and varied expressions of interest being put forward to complicate the issue.

4. STOCK IDENTIFICATION

As soon as the registration certificates have been issued, it will be my task to put the HERD BOOK together and I am looking forward to seeing it all take shape.

To facilitate that endeavour, I will need to know the identification year and ear tag numbers for all cattle, male and female, which I will then correlate with the records of sale from TRANGIE and GLENN INNES. Assuming all goes to plan, the data that you provide to me should match the data

from the Department. If it doesn't, then I will seek cooperation from all quarters to see that the data is balanced accurately.

To that end, could I please request from all members save for those who have purchased cattle from me (I will have that data anyway) that they send to me, as soon as possible, a return of all stock purchased from either Trangie or Glen Innes. Please show, date of purchase, ear Tag No, Year identification letter, Sex and if the data is at hand, date of birth.

At this stage, I do not need to know the identification of any stock born on your properties. Whilst I will need that data shortly, I see that as the second stage in the development of the HERD BOOK and I am also aware that the 1992 calving season is not yet complete.

5. TATTOOING

Because, as the preceding paragraph has indicated, calving is now in progress, it won't be long before members will wish to both tag and tattoo their 92 drop. From our experience of now 2 calvings with LOWLINE, and noting their size, I think that all will agree that when the calves are first born, the ears are simply too small to tattoo without risk of puncturing an ear vein. Notwithstanding, because the Dams tend to be generous with their milk supply, and many do not mind which calf suckles the teat, it is important to tag the calf at a very early date, to ensure that the calf is correctly identified with the REAL mother.

For what it is worth, the Pullars' tag all calves at about 48 hours, after the mothering up operation is confirmed, and at the same time, we weigh them, and record hip and wither heights, length and girth. If you have a lot of wire netting fences, and calves being as inquisitive as they are, it may even pay to tag both ears as it is not uncommon for conventional tags to be caught in such fences and pulled off. If you have several calves and that happens to more than one, then you run the risk of an identification problem.

The ears seem to be of an acceptable size at about 6 weeks to 2 months and, that is when I believe that the tattooing should take place. If you can do it earlier, then so much the better.

When you start the tattooing exercise, please consult the instructions contained within the draft constitution and take much care. The reason I say take much care, is that once the tattoo is in place, it cannot be altered and it MUST be done correctly if registration is to be approved and stock not disqualified. A recent case in the New England highlights the reason why tattooing must be done correctly. At a sale

of bulls of a particular breed, put forward by several studs, a judge was employed to verify the registration of all bulls, by checking tattoos against the registration certificates. To the dismay of one very well known and successful breeder, tattoos on 10 of his bulls showed differences from the claimed records, and whilst there was no suggestion of cheating, rather an error by the farmhand who did the tattooing, all those bulls were disqualified from the sale. Not only was the loss conservatively estimated to be in the region of \$100 000.00, those bulls were removed from the herd book of that society and as they now stand, are worth meat value only.

Now, before anyone tattoos the right ear of the calves, please send to me your proposed Tattoo prefix. This prefix will identify your stud and cannot be duplicated by another. Whilst it may be unlikely that this will happen at this early stage of our proceedings, sod's law says it could and I hope that you will cooperate with me as soon as possible so we can get it right.

I will need from you, 3 letters and it would be prudent to submit a second choice just in case another member chooses the same and his/her letter arrives a day before yours. As soon as I have your prefix letters, and confirmed no duplication, I will let you know by phone or fax.

When you do start to do the tattooing, remember that the PREFIX letters go in the RIGHT ear of the calf. The left ear is reserved for the YEAR IDENT LETTER and the calf's number, as explained in the constitution.

If you possess tattoo pliers that require each letter/number to be placed individually, note that it is easy to make a mistake. Most people with these type of pliers check the tattoo on a piece of cardboard to see that it is correct, before attacking the animal. Further, each ear has 2 veins which are prominent and because the ears are so small, it is not difficult to pierce one. This naturally causes bleeding, albeit minor, but flowing blood is liable to remove the ink you are trying to insert in the puncture marks and the tattoo in that case, may be ineffective.

If the advice above seems patronising to some, please accept my apologies, but I feel certain that not all members will have been through this exercise before and they may appreciate what I have written.

6. HERD BOOK

As soon as the registration details for the foundation herd is at hand, I will hasten the construction of the HERD BOOK. This book will contain a wealth of data pertinent to our

membership and our cattle. Again, to ensure that it is done correctly, I will be regularly seeking your cooperation.

To compile the book correctly will take time and concurrent with it's production, we will need to compile a number of important forms such as registration (for all cattle born on farm rather than at Trangie or Glen Innes), Transfer, Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transplanting (including Flushing and storage of Embryos), Births, and several more. Most of these are in various stages of compilation now, but before they are formalised, I will have each approved and endorsed by our Council members.

While all this is taking place, I would ask all members to ensure that they take pains to maintain their own records for all their stock.

That completes the business end of this newsletter. If any member should have any queries on any matter and not necessarily restricted to the above, he/she should feel free to call or write to me and if I can't find the answer, then I will find someone who can.

AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS

As President, my main aims for the first year of our operations are to produce an accurate HERDBOOK, with all the associated forms and certificates. If this can be achieved by say the end of March of 93 then I believe we will have made excellent progress.

My next aims, but to be done concurrently, are to see that the draft constitution is finalised and ratified and to have Section B of the constitution drafted and endorsed by Council ready for ratification at the Annual General Meeting of 1993. The latter will take careful drafting and the assistance of people better qualified than me and I will certainly be seeking such support.

In the not too distant future, we as an Association must appoint Judges, but I feel that we must achieve most of the target aims listed above before doing so, if only to show that we have our house in order and that we know what we are doing. If anyone has any thoughts on this matter, I would welcome that advice. It seems to me that the selected judges must be highly respected within the Cattle industry, geographically placed to meet our needs as we grow and most importantly, be willing to do the job fairly and firmly.

PUBLICITY AND DISPLAY

During the last 3 years or so since I started this exercise, a

deal of publicity has been generated in papers such as the LAND, on radio and on TV. The most recent exposure was a coverage by NBN Television (Newcastle and Northern NSW) which gave a 4 minute, detailed coverage of my herd on the evening news broadcast mid week and followed up by a repeat on the following Saturday morning.

Some of you will be aware that I took 4 heifers to the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo in Feb, 92 which was most enjoyable and successful and I will be going again next year, along with the Stebbins family, from Victoria.

There are quite a few other shows similar to Seymour that we should perhaps consider, such as the TOCAL show in the Hunter Valley and I hope that we could coordinate our efforts in a growing way to ensure that we attend at as many of these shows as possible.

Clearly, in the future, and it will take time, we must aspire to the ROYALS. I was invited this year to the Royal Melbourne Show, not to be judged as a breed per se, but rather to exhibit my Cattle (then BOUTIQUE) within the Alternative Farming Section. My budget didn't extend that far for this year, but now that the Association has been formed, perhaps we should make every effort to show some of our better stock under the Association's umbrella. I feel certain that this would be a stepping stone to our being accepted by the RAS in our own right.

Comments please.

Last but not least, I don't believe it is too early for us to look toward future marketing, not only to expand our number of breeders Australia wide in the stud sense, but also to properly promote and market the inevitable numbers of steers that will arrive in future years. The SUITABLE FOR THE FAMILY FREEZER slogan seems to have received initial acceptance and indeed, a fortnight ago, I slaughtered a steer for our own consumption to prove the point for ourselves. At 15 months he weighed in at 278Kg and on the hook, 155Kg, which is right in line for percentage of dressed to live weight expected. The taste.....Ahhh, just like that other unnamed black breed, lean, but finely marbled and succulent.

Des Owens has 2 steers in an oat paddock in Canberra right now, but soon to be slaughtered under controlled conditions and to be covered by the Canberra media (TV) and I hope David Barnett will also write nice things about the event, and the tasting. I must add that the Pullars insist on being invited to the taste test!

I guess that it is not out of place for me to say that our start as an Association has been a humble one, but one which I and others believe to have tremendous potential.

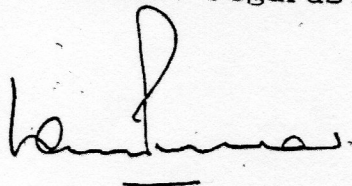
For me personally, it has been a rewarding experience and an enjoyable one. What started out as a hobby has now grown to a serious pastime and I am delighted that at last, my dreamed of Association is now a reality. Since my wife Erica and I have become BUSHIES, albeit in an area where my forebears gained their pardons in 1921 and are considered to have been pioneers, we have made strong and valued friendships within the farming community. Their advice, teaching, patience and support over the last four and a half years has helped us to achieve competence and made us realise just how much there is to learn.

Now I add to that list of friends all those people who, during the last 18 months or so, have shown interest in our small cattle and the concept of our breeding plans. Many of those people are now members of this Association and unless I am a poor judge of character, I cannot see this recently joined group failing to succeed.

I am convinced that open and friendly communication does wonders for an organisation such as ours and I would encourage members to talk with each other to exchange ideas and learn. It follows that if a member has ideas that he/she might wish to put forward, that he/she should feel free to do so, to promote healthy debate, for the betterment of the Association.

I look forward with much enthusiasm to working for and with you all.

My kindest regards.



Ian Pullar.
Armidale.
16 October, 1992