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Hello and welcome to September 2016's newsletter. This year sure is going fast! With what was a horribly late start for the crops due to the wind and no rain, to what we are experiencing now with lots of rain and in some parts of SA, far too much in too fast a time! Australia is definitely a country of weather diversity. Our crops and future food for the cows and sheep are looking fantastic and Tony's pasture trials are doing well and being watched closely by quite a few groups now.

Average Weights: As we didn't send any animals off in July and August, the average this time is taken over the last 6 months. For a side of beef, it is 89 kgs and the trimmed weight for a whole lamb is 26 kgs .

Beef and Lamb availability: At this stage it looks like the beef maybe fully booked out before Christmas. If you are on the pre-organised list and I haven't contacted you - I will shortly. If you aren't and wanting some soon, contact me, just in case there is a postponement. As for the lamb, that is definitely booked out up until after Christmas. There will be more going off in January if you want to be added to that list.

2016 Galloway World Conference: As some of you are aware, we were away overseas for a few weeks in July and August and whilst away, we attended the 5 day Galloway (which Belted Galloways are a part of) World Conference that was held in Gretna Green, Scotland. There were a total of 234 delegates coming from 15 countries, 34 from Australia. The attendance was far, far bigger than the organising committee had expected and they did a fantastic job. It was strange to catch up with Australian breeders that we know, but on the other side of the world and even stranger meeting Aussie breeders that we haven't even met in Australia!!! Talking to other breeders from other countries and how they raise and run their small to large operations was very interesting. Tony was approached by a Scottish gentleman who had seen our Zaky and was very interested in seeing if we had any export semen from him - we are now working on that one!

There were quite a few farm visits spreading out over 100 to 150 klm radius, however, unlike most of Australia, the fields were not flat. There was some very extensive planning involved to be able to move the large number of people over high ground. You will have to check out the attached photo to see how it was done :-) We saw some great cattle and meet some lovely people. We even got to go to the Edinburgh Tattoo, which has been on my bucket list since I was a kid. Needless to say we had a fantastic time.

The next world conference will be held in Adelaide in 2018 at the time of the Royal Adelaide Show and we will be holding a farm visit for all the delegates. It will be quite an experience for us and we are looking forward to welcoming them to SA.

If you are ever in Scotland and needing a reasonably priced B & B at 30 GBP pp per night, we can recommend Dunmar just outside of Invergarry. Marion does not have a website and does not advertise through any booking sites. We happened to be touring with no set plans or accommodation and in an area that had multiple major events happening and no accommodation to be found. We found her by driving past and noticing that she did not have a "NO Vacancy" sign up, so we pulled in and had a very comfortable room with ensuite for a couple of nights with a lovely cooked breakfasts in the mornings. We were quite spoilt. We can highly recommend her. If interested, her details can be found at http://www.bonnibeltstud.com.au/resources-links.html and please say "Hi" for us.

Until next time, be happy and stay safe.

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