

March Bonnibelt Belted Beef Newsletter



Please note: If you no longer wish to receive our newsletters, please hit reply and put UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

Otherwise, we hope you will enjoy March's newsletter.

We also hope you are well and are enjoying the more moderate weather wherever you are. So far this year, Australia has experienced all sorts of extremes, heat and shocking fires in WA and our home state of SA, cyclones and floods in NT and Qld, severe storms in NSW and Vic, whilst Canberra has the politicians! It appears only Tasmania is safe! On the home front, it's very, very dry like so much of the southern part of Australia. I think we had 1 mm of rain for the whole of February! We are fortunate though to have plenty of stored feed. The dry Lucerne Tony has been establishing has also been keeping the stock in good condition.

On another note, some of you may be familiar with our website and the fact that we put up a new thought each month. This month's quote is indicative of how we try to run our farm and produce. It was taken from 'sommee cards'. It goes

"I am sorry you were born in a place where a natural plant that treats symptoms of cancer, AIDS, pain etc is illegal. But man-made poison in your food is OK!"

I then asked my web master Ross, if he could easily find an appropriate picture to go with it and he did, it was perfect! Once again he made me laugh as, unfortunately, it depicted the situation only too truly. Check it out at <http://bonnibeltstud.com.au/> and you will see what I mean.

Average Weight per side for the last quarter has been 85 kgs whilst the lambs have been 30 kgs.

Beef and Lamb Availability: Thanks to our Beltie colleague, who follows the same farming principles that we do, we are on top of our waiting list and at present have some beef that isn't fully assigned with a delivery day of the 22nd April and then nothing until maybe June/July. We are at the stage of being able to accept some new clients if you know of anyone that is interested. As for the lamb, unless your name is on the list, there is nothing till August.

Lamb price rise: As at the 1st April, 2015 there will be a 50c per kg rise on our lamb to \$6.80 a kg. This is partly due to some increasing expenses but also due to the high market prices over the last couple of years. We can actually get more from the saleyard but we are trying to keep the price increase at a minimum knowing that we will retain our current valued customers for years to come.

Cryovacing: Some of you have asked if Males do Cryovacing and yes they do, at \$1 a bag regardless of size or weight. You don't need to have all of your beef done; only what you may want to set aside for your camping trips.

Hides: We have a couple of unique hides coming back from the tanners within 6 weeks, including a Target hide. Once they've arrived, we'll put them on the website.

On the 21st January we saw the arrival of our second ever set of triplets to one of our Dorper ewes by Victor, our Damara ram. This trio and their mum, have remained with the herd out in the paddock and are doing exceedingly well. The first set was in our early days and mum was a Merino, we lost 2 🐺 to foxes. Like a lot of sheep farming areas, we have problems with foxes and their love of grabbing new-borns. Apart from the great meat and the self-fleecing properties of the Damara cross Dorpers, we love the Damara's group/herd mentality and that they are extremely protective of their young resulting in not one lost lamb to foxes in all our time breeding them. So you can see why we're very excited with these arrivals! Not to mention the cuteness factor 🥰 They are all girls and will be staying. I have attached some pictures of them at 2 days, 2 weeks and 1 month old. As you can see, Mum and girls are doing extremely well. And we are a bit proud.

Easter is not far away resulting in a lot of people on the roads in a short space of time. Tony and I are working that weekend and we hope not to see you on the job. So take care and stay safe.



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