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Welcome to our first newsletter for 2018. It is very hard to believe that it will be Easter in 1 1/2 week's time!

We are very dry here and as usual for this time of the year, we could do with a lot more rain. We just pray it comes before any lightning strikes. Whilst Summer is almost over as far as the hot days go, it is always the threat of those lightning strikes that cause us to be on edge. It appears to be the cause of some of the devastating fires in Victoria this week. NSW has also taken a hiding with the fires with not only losses of homes, sheds and equipment but also large numbers of stock. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

**Life on the farm - Farewell Ezakia** On the 11th of February, we had to put down one of our red beltie breeders. Like most of our cows, Ezakia was a gentle girl but was succumbing to cancer. She had delivered a healthy red boy in December but we knew she was not going to be with us for much longer despite all our efforts. Our concern was then to make sure her calf, who we nicknamed "Red" (for obvious reasons J) to get as much nutrition and milk as possible as his mamma didn't have much. Enter Lara, daughter of one of our matriarchs, Zahara. Lara's calf is 16 days younger than Red and with a bit of perseverance, she allowed him to suckle, which was fantastic as poor Ezi didn't have much. Both calves are doing very well as is Lara who is loving the extra grain she is getting for being a great Mum.



Bonnibelt Lara with her babes

**Salami Lovers:** For those that love Kalleske's mettwursts, I will be putting an order in just in time for Easter with a delivery day of Thursday the 29th March. So if you love those 5 foot mettwursts, 4 foot pepperonis, beersticks and twiggys, contact me for prices which are the same as before Christmas. I will need to let Kalleske's know the bulk of the order by this Friday the 23rd March, but they will allow me to add a few more early Monday morning. I do apologise for the late notice, time has just got away with me again.

**Average weights** for a side of beef for the quarter is 80 kgs whilst a whole trimmed lamb is 27 kgs.



**Upcoming price rise:** Unfortunately, due to the ever increasing farm's expenses, we need to put our prices up. So as the 1st July, 2018, prices will be as follows:-

Beef – Whole or Sides \$9.00 a kg dressed weight  
Mixed Quarters \$9.20 a kg dressed weight

Lamb \$8.00 a kg trimmed dressed weight, whilst Tray-packing costs will remain the same.

**Slight change in butcher:** As of now, the main butcher that cuts up our meat has left Males but he has been training up the other young butcher there in to what to expect from our clients. We hope you won't be able to tell the difference, however, if when you get your meat and you have any concerns, please contact me straight away.

Have a very safe and happy Easter from myself and Tony.



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