

# Early growth focus eases winter woes

SAM WHITE

A COUPLE of tough winter seasons has forced the hand of one Blayney producer to re-think his Angus operation.

Chris Stonestreet, "Fernside", Blayney, chooses to sell his cattle as weaners these days, rather than growing them out to yearlings.

And it's worked well for him and his wife, Patricia, he said.

They run about 600 breeders on the property, but the herd used to be smaller.

"Now that we are selling our cattle as weaners we are able to run a few more breeders because the weaners don't need as much feeding like they do when they are older," he said.

This year they will be keeping half of their heifer drop to eventually replace some of their older breeders.

For the past 15 years, the Stonestrees have been using Karoo Angus genetics.

Mr Stonestreet said they had the type of bull he was looking for,

with high marbling and high growth rates for the feedlots.

"I'm very happy with the Karoo bulls we have. They have been performing exactly the way we were told they would be," he said.

The game plan for his herd is still the same as it was when he started breeding 15 years ago, although he said now it's mostly about "fine tuning".

Mr Stonestreet said he was concentrating more on higher growth rates and marbling, to coincide with his decision to sell weaners.

"I breed my cattle so they are able to grow at a good rate in feedlots or in the paddock," he said.

"The bulls I use already have the marbling so I'm not too worried about pushing that."

For the past two years he has been selling through the Central Tablelands Livestock Exchange, Carcoar.



Chris Stonestreet (right) with his father, Peter, "Fernside", Blayney, and their Angus cows with calves.



He said because he used the Karoo bulls the buyers already knew they had good marbling, and combined with his choice to increase growth rates, the competition for his weaners was strong at this year's Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale.

"I also like to breed the ease of doing that my cows have into the heifers," Mr Stonestreet said.

"I want them to be good milkers if people choose to breed with them."

Joining starts on October 15 and

this year they would be trying a different method.

"We do have a good conception rate at the moment, but we will be splitting the mob into smaller numbers with just one bull servicing a particular mob," Mr Stonestreet said.

He usually yard weaned the calves before selling them at eight months old, but last year sent them to market straight from their mothers.

Even though it probably would have been better for the buyers if they were already weaned, he said it was certainly easier on the farm to send them straight off their mothers.

"We don't weigh our weaners before we sell them, so I'm not sure about the weight they go to market at, but if I think the steers look ready to go they are sent," Mr Stonestreet said.

"I also send the smaller heifers that may be taking a little longer to grow and keep the better ones for my herd."

The cattle are all fed on natural pastures, although the cows do get fed hay during winter if it is needed.

"It's another reason I like Karoo bulls. They breed cattle that are able to get on with the job of gaining weight in the paddock," Mr Stonestreet said.

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## Agricultural Group

**Twynam  
2010 Angus Bull Sale**  
Friday August 20, 12 noon  
Jemalong Station, Forbes  
Offering 65, 2 year old Bulls

**Twynam Bull Sale - You take the pick of our Bulls**

**Explanation of the Paired Sale Process**

Jemalong has been breeding Angus for Twynam's internal requirements for 25 years.

This season our sale date is **August 20**. Recognising that we breed bulls for our own company needs whilst also promoting our bulls externally, at this year's sale Twynam will auction 11 lots of paired bulls. Bulls in the paired lots have been carefully selected and matched on the basis of their breeding, physical appearance, and EBV's. These lots will be auctioned in the usual manner. At the fall of the hammer the successful purchaser of these paired lots will nominate which one of the two bulls they wish to purchase.

The remaining bull will then be retained by Twynam for use in Twynam's internal herd. The second bull will definitely not be available for private sale after the auction. These bulls have valued genetics and only one of the bulls offered to the twin selling program will be available to the successful buyer. No Twynam properties will be bidding at the auction.

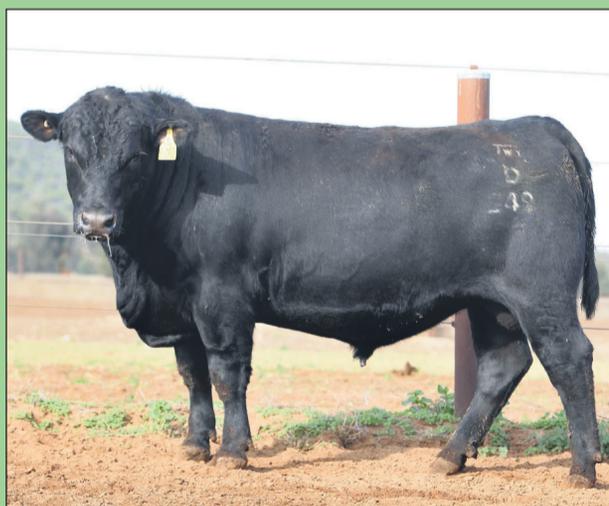
**In essence buyers are getting the opportunity to take the first pick of our bulls.**

The remaining 42 bulls will be auctioned in the traditional single selling format.

Take Your Pick

Lot 1A Twynam D249

Lot 1B Twynam D286



Twynam D249

Twynam D286

June 2010 Angus GROUP BREEDPLAN

	Gest Len. (days)	200D Wt. (kg)	400D Wt. (kg)	600D Wt. (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Days to Calve	Mature Cow Wt (kg)	Carcase Wt. (kg)	EMA (sqcm)	IMF (%)
EBV	-4.2	+47	+80	+107	+15	+0.4	-4.3	+79	+54	+4.1	+2.4
Acc%	59	71	71	68	46	75	39	61	61	54	50

BREEDOBJECT \$INDEX VALUES			
Long Fed/ CAAB	Heavy Grass Fed Steer	Short Fed Dom	Terminal
+130	+87	+75	+74

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EBV	-4.4	+52	+87	+109	+20	+1.1	-1.4	+78	+64	+8.5	+1.5
Acc%	56	70	71	87	48	74	45	60	60	55	51

BREEDOBJECT \$INDEX VALUES			
Long Fed/ CAAB	Heavy Grass Fed Steer	Short Fed Dom	Terminal
+123	+96	+87	+88

Your chance to get the bulls that have increased Twynam's bottom line

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