Northern BIN Steer Project Update

The Droughtmasters Stud Breeders Society (DSBS), Australian Brahman Breeders' Association (ABBA) and a consortium of Santa Gertrudis Breeders are currently conducting a joint progeny test project with funding assistance from the Meat & Livestock Australia Donor Company under the Beef Information Nucleus (BIN) program. This joint Northern BIN Steer Project has utilised the steer progeny from a second MLA funded project *'Enabling genetic improvement of reproduction in tropical beef breeds (Repronomics)'*. The project has currently purchased six cohorts of steers from Spyglass and four cohorts of steers from Brian Pastures. The Northern BIN Steer Project will provide data which will assist in the implementation of a Multi-Breed database and a future Tropical crossbred analysis. This is possible as the Brahman and Droughtmaster steers (at Spyglass and Brian Pastures) and also Santa Gertrudis steers at Brian Pastures have been run together since birth, having only been split during the joining period of their dams in the Northern BIN Steer Project.

To date the Northern BIN Steer Project has purchased 2,277 steers, with a breakdown of breed and calving year shown in Table 1. The sires of the project steers are either proven sires with a large number of registered progeny (few of which have been performance recorded with BREEDPLAN) or young up and coming bulls. The 942 Droughtmaster steers are by over 100 Droughtmaster sires (representing 35 different stud prefixes). Of these steers 1729 have been carcase scanned and over 1800 have carcase data collected in the Abattoir.

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Table 1: Breakdown of steers origin and number per year

Cohort	Year	Brahmans	Droughtmaster	Santa Gertrudis	Total
Spyglass	2013	59	47		106
Spyglass	2014	95	66		161
Spyglass	2015	99	107		206
Spyglass	2016	135	127		262
Spyglass	2017	111	105		216
Spyglass	2018	106	128		234
Spyglass	2019	126	118	6 Beefmaster	250
Brian Pastures	2015	55	37	63	155
Brian Pastures	2016	45	53	65	163
Brian Pastures	2017	50	42	54	146
Brian Pastures	2018	61	58	51	170
Brian Pastures	2019	73	54	81	208
	Total	**816**	**942**	**223**	**2277**

Kill Data

Spyglass no18 steers

Spyglass number 18 steers were backgrounded at Narayen Research Station with the hope of being turned off as grass as Jap Ox steers. After a failed wet season and not being successful in acquiring the new lease agreement for Narayen Research station the steers were sent to Barmount Feedlot on the 18th November to be finished on grain. The Spyglass Brahmans and Droughtmasters were run in separate pens at Barmount feedlot. The steers were weighed and carcase scanned on the 29th January for P8, rib, EMA and IMF. The Droughtmaster steers averaged 521 kg with an average daily weight gain of 1.35kg per day with scans of P8 fat 11mm, Rib Fat 7 mm, EMA 67 and IMF 2.7%. When the steers were weighed and scanned it was wet and had been for a few days leading up to the day, which may have affected the weights and the low weight gain. The steers were slaughtered at Teys, Lakes Creek on the 17th March with the Brahman steers averaging 308 kg and the Droughtmasters 322.7kg. Of the 156 Droughtmaster steers, 109 grade Boning group 1-8, 16 9-11 and 2 animals did not grade, which gave a total of **86% grading boning group 1-**8.

Table 2 shows the raw average and maximum and minimum for the Droughtmaster Steers

Table 2: Spyglass 2018 Droughtmaster Steers Slaughter results

	Carcase Weight	P8 Fat	Rib Fat	EMA	MSA Marble	$ value	Hump Height
Min	252	8	2	60	150	1655.84	80
Max	392	21	16	118	410	2645.33	145
Average	**323**	**12**	**7**	**79**	**290**	**2168.81**	**108**

Brian Pasture No 18 Steers

Brian Pastures number 18 steers were backgrounded at Narayen Research with the Spyglass steers and trucked to Barmount Feedlot on the 18th November with the Spyglass steers. Unlike the Spyglass steer the Droughtmaster, Brahman and Santa steers were run together in one pen due to the lower number of animals in the cohort. The steers were weighed and carcase scanned on the 29th January for P8, rib, EMA and IMF. The Droughtmaster steers averaged 544 kg with an average daily weight gain of 1.43kg per day with scans of P8 fat 11mm, Rib Fat 7 mm, EMA 72 and IMF 3.2%. As with the Spyglass steers it was wet and had been leading up to the data collection which may have affected the weights and a reason for the low weight gain. The steers were slaughtered at Teys, Lakes Creek on the 17th March with the Brahman steers averaging 299.5 kg, Santa's 359.2kg and the Droughtmasters 333.6kg. Of the 56 Droughtmaster steers, 44 graded boning group 1-8, 11 9-11 and 1 animal did not grade, which gave a total of **79% grading boning group 1-8**. Table 3 shows the raw average and maximum and minimum for the Droughtmaster Steers

Table 3: Brian Pastures 2018 Droughtmaster steers Slaughter Results

	Carcase Weight	P8 Fat	Rib Fat	EMA	MSA Marble	$ value	Hump Height
Min	271	8	3	62	160	1801.35	85
Max	385	23	18	96	370	2598.08	145
Average	**334**	**13**	**8**	**78**	**278**	**2238.62**	**112**

A total 183 Droughtmaster steers were slaughtered between the Spyglass and Brian Pastures cohorts, from 20 sires representing 15 different studs and an average weight of 326 kg's. The Steers average value was $2190.17 at $6.72 per Kg.