MEDIA RELEASE

Tocal Students Prepare for Cattle Sale

Tocal’s inaugural weaner sale will be held on Saturday 24 March commencing at 11.00am at Tocal. Tocal’s Principal, Dr Cameron Archer said ‘This is the first time we have sold a large group of cattle on site and it is something we have been working towards for a long time’.

A total of 270 head of cattle will be for sale including Brangus steers, Charolais cross steers and heifers, Brangus weaner heifers, Brangus yearling heifers and 18 month old Brangus heifers.

‘The cattle have been prepared by Tocal staff and students and we have been planning for this sale for many months’, Dr Archer said. The sale will be conducted by auctioneers Scott Bailey and Nathan Thirkell. Nathan is a Tocal ex student and is with Max Bailey of Singleton.

According to Dr Archer, ‘The College sold some small groups of heifers at Tocal Field Days last year and they brought very good prices. We are confident that this sale will also provide a good return. The Tocal Beef Section is run as a commercial enterprise and we aim to maximise our profits from it which we then invest back into its operation and student training. The Tocal stock have been carefully bred over many years with only good quality bulls being brought in. Much attention is given to temperament and growth rates.’

He also said that ‘Having a sale of this nature gives a focus for the property’s operation and also gives direct feedback to students as to the commercial reality of farming. Tocal training has always focussed on commercial farming and making money out of agriculture.’

The Tocal property has a long history of producing quality beef cattle. For over 80 years it was a renowned stud farm run by three successive generations of the Reynolds family. The property now calves over 550 composite cows based upon an Angus-Brangus cross as well as the use of a terminal Charolais sire. ‘Because the cattle have been bred in the Lower Hunter they are likely to perform well locally and if they are taken further west they will also do well,’ Dr Archer said.

The high fertility rate of the Tocal herd means that the property has surplus females each year as well as steers. The success of the small sales at the Field Days demonstrated that there was strong local interest in Tocal cattle so it is now our plan to hold an annual sale.

It is fitting that the sale will be held in the Bruce Urquhart Skills Centre. The late Bruce Urquhart was responsible for establishing the College’s beef cattle herd in 1965 and was a strong proponent of training students in practical farming and the realities of commercial farming.

The animals will be sold in small lots of 4 to 11 head, which will be attractive to those with small holdings. Even smaller lots can be negotiated if desired by buyers. All bidders must register before the sale and the cattle can be inspected from 9am on sale day. All weights will be displayed on the day of the sale.

For further information contact:
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Tocal College

Tocal inaugural on-property weaner sale

110 Brangus weaner steers
30  Charolais x weaner steers
20  Charolais x weaner heifers
50  Brangus weaner heifers
40  Brangus yearling heifers
20  Brangus 18mth old heifers

Saturday 24 March 11am

All bidders to register on site before the auction. Cattle can be viewed from 9am Saturday 24 March.

Conducted by agent Max Bailey

Information:
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