MEDIA RELEASE

Tocal Students Prepare for this year’s on-site Cattle Sale

Tocal’s second onsite weaner sale will be held on Saturday 23 March commencing at 11.00am at Tocal.

“This is the second time we have sold a large group of cattle on site and it is something we have been working towards for a long time”. Tocal’s Principal, Dr Cameron Archer said

A total of 310 head of cattle will be offered for sale comprising 120 Brangus heifers, 140 Brangus steers 25 Charolais cross heifers and 25 Charolais cross steers.

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

“The 2012 sale was really successful and it is hoped that this sale will be equally successful”, Dr Archer said.

“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. Tocal stock have been carefully bred over many years with only good quality bulls being brought in. Much attention is given to fertility, temperament, conformation and growth rates.

“Having a sale of this nature gives a focus for the property’s operation and also gives direct feedback to students on the commercial reality of farming. Tocal training has always focussed on commercial farming and the financial aspects 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.

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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All bidders to register on site before the auction. Cattle can be viewed from 9am Saturday 23 March.

Conducted by agent
First National Real Estate
Max Bailey

Information:
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20 Brangus heifers (12 mths)
100 Brangus heifers (8 mths)
140 Brangus steers (8 mths)
25 Charolais X heifers (8 mths)
25 Charolais X steers (8 mths)