LOT	FREEZEBRAND	WEIGHED 19.2.	2020 BOONAROO BULL SALE 2020 Sire Ca	ving Ease Star
1	P49	732kg	Calving Ease, top 5% growth Kasbah	
2	P94	788kg	Top 5% growth Kasbah	
3	P57	780kg	Calving Ease, growth, muscle, fat cover GPS J6	\bigstar
4	P100	786kg	Calving Ease, growth, muscle Revenue	
5		kg	WITHDRAWN	
6	P236	790kg	Growth, fat cover, fertility Bartel K129	
7	P295	808kg	Growth in the top 2% of the breed Jive J126	
8	P263	790kg	Trait leader for Calving ease, growth & muscle Keystone K21	
9			WITHDRAWN	
10	P203	722kg	Short gestation, high growth, marbling Lackey	
11	P120	682kg	ET brother to Lot 12 Lackey	
12	P114	754kg	Calving Ease ET brother to Lot 11 Lackey	\mathbf{X}
13	P119	756kg	Calving Ease, fertility Bartel K117	
14	P19	694kg	Calving Ease, growth, fertility, muscle, fat Kasbah	
15	P113	738kg	Calving Ease, growth, fertility, muscle, fat Revenue	
16	P201	698kg	Calving Ease, growth, fertility, muscle Lackey	
17	P153	822kg	Growth, fertility, muscle Kansas	
18	P301		WITHDRAWN	
19	P209	778kg	Growth, fertility Keystone K21	
20	P130	768kg	An outstanding all-rounder, Kansas	*
21	P297	746kg	Top 4% of the breed for growth Jive J126	
22	P313	726kg	Growth, muscle & fat cover Kalari K96	
23	P121	762kg	ET CALF Short gestation, growth, fat cover Freedom NZ	
24	P167	724kg	Top 1 % in the breed for growth GPS J6	
25	P96	678kg	Calving ease, growth, milk, fertility & marbling Lackey	\bigstar
26	P2		WITHDRAWN	
27	P22	712kg	Calving Ease, growth & milk, muscle & marbling Lackey	\bigstar
28	P10	708kg	Calving Ease, growth, muscle & marbling Kasbah	
29	P91		WITHDRAWN	
30	P286	736kg	Calving Ease, growth, muscle & marbling Bartel K129	*
31	P219	800kg	Calving Ease, growth & marbling Keystone K21	
32	P230	718kg	High growth, muscle and fat cover Kalari K96	
33	P107	712kg	Outcross genetics Steakhouse 489 NZ	
34	P46	734kg	Calving Ease, growth, milk & fertility Kasbah	*
35	P269	696kg	Short gestation, milk, growth, marbling Lackey	A
36	P111	738kg	Calving Ease, growth, fertility Stoker NZ	\mathbf{X}
37	P108	698kg	High growth Lackey	A
38	P244	824kg	Calving Ease, high growth and milk Kernal K72	*
39	P30	kg	WITHDRAWN	A
40	P320	674kg	Calving Ease, high growth & muscle Lackey	*
41	P101	kg	WITHDRAWN	
42	P82	778kg	Short gestation and growth Freedom NZ	
43	P48	660kg	Calving Ease with growth Lackey	
44	P28	702kg	Calving Ease with growth, scrotal, fat cover Kasbah	*
45	P192	kg	WITHDRAWN	
46	P146	704kg	Eye muscle with fat cover Stoker	

47	P137	760kg	High growth, outcross genetics	Freedom NZ	
48	P258	664kg	High growth	Keystone K21	
49	P247	696kg	Calving Ease, growth & high milk	Lackey	
50	P267	676kg	Good growth, calving ease & milk	Livewire L12	
51	P158	728kg	Twin to Lot 52	Kansas	
52	P159	700kg	Twin to Lot 51	Kansas	
53	P41	728kg	Calving Fase	Kashah	
54	P26	664kg	Calving Ease	Kasbah	
55	P291	744kg	Calving Ease	Bartel K129	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$
56	P189	714kg		Joyner M1/7	$\overline{\checkmark}$
57	P20	712kg	Calving Ease	Kashah	
58	P80	700kg	Calving Ease	Lackey	$\widehat{\mathbf{A}}$
59	P260	736kg	Calving Ease		$\widehat{\mathbf{A}}$
60	P105	784kg	Has a pink eye scar	Livewire L12	
61	P271	684kg	Calving Fase	Kernal K72	
62	P325	742kg	Growth in Top 4% of the breed	Keystone K21	
63	P170	722kg	Calving Fase. Fat cover ton 5%	Jive J126	
64	P155	664kg	Big scrotal, all-rounder	Livewire L12	
65	P179	704kg	Top 13% of the breed for Eat cover	Kansas	
66	P25	674kg	Top 19% gestation length	Freedom N7	
67	P318	720kg	Calving ease with growth & fat cover	Kansas	
68	P37	728kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt	h and carcase Lackey	
69	P123	746kg	Ton allrounder for short gestation & g	rowth Lackey	
70	P280	kg	NITHDRAWN		
		-			
71	P243	738kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt	h and carcase Bartel K129	
71 72	P243 P140	738kg 732kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12	*
71 72 73	P243 P140 P55	738kg 732kg 652kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah	
71 72 73 74	P243 P140 P55 P126	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117	
71 72 73 74 75	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12	★ ★ ★
71 72 73 74 75 76	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 Ith fat cover Livewire L12	★ ★ ★ ★
71 72 73 74 75 76 77	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12	★ ★ ★ ★
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 678kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P268	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 678kg 688kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 2% of the breed	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P245 P268 P43	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 678kg 678kg 688kg 728kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wit WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 2% of the breed Calving ease with growth	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 81 82 83	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P268 P43 P331	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 678kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 2% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 83	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P245 P268 P43 P331 P138	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 678kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 25% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 83 84 85	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P245 P268 P43 P331 P138 P109	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 678kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg 710kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wit WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 25% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN Calving Ease and milk	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 82 83 84 85 86	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P268 P43 P331 P138 P109 P299	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 678kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg 742kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 25% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN Calving Ease and milk WITHDRAWN	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 83 84 85 86 87	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P268 P43 P138 P109 P299 P235	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 678kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg 710kg 662kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wit WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 25% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN Calving Ease and milk WITHDRAWN Calving ease and eye muscle	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas Bartel K129	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P43 P331 P138 P109 P295 P297 P138 P109 P295 P297 P298 P138 P109 P299 P235 P47	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 714kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wit WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 25% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN Calving Ease and milk WITHDRAWN Calving ease and eye muscle Moderate calving ease and high grow	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas Bartel K129	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P268 P43 P331 P109 P295 P268 P43 P331 P138 P109 P235 P47 P311	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 714kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 662kg 722kg 722kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wit WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 25% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN Calving Ease and milk WITHDRAWN Calving ease and eye muscle Moderate calving ease and high grow Short gestation, high growth	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas Bartel K129 th Kasbah Lackey L27	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P331 P138 P109 P295 P291 P138 P109 P2935 P47 P331 P237	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 714kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 728kg 662kg 728kg 646kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wi WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 25% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN Calving Ease and milk WITHDRAWN Calving ease and eye muscle Moderate calving ease and high grow Short gestation, high growth Good scrotal, good fat cover	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas Bartel K129 th Kasbah Lackey L27 Livewire L12	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 87 88 89 90 91	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P268 P43 P331 P138 P109 P295 P297 P331 P138 P109 P235 P47 P311 P237 P98	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 714kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 6662kg 728kg 646kg 646kg 642kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wit WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 25% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN Calving Ease and milk WITHDRAWN Calving ease and eye muscle Moderate calving ease and high grow Short gestation, high growth Good scrotal, good fat cover	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas Bartel K129 th Kasbah Lackey L27 Livewire L12 GPS J6	
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 83 84 85 86 87 88 87 88 89 90 91 92	P243 P140 P55 P126 P246 P85 P59 P29 P142 P245 P331 P138 P109 P295 P235 P47 P311 P237 P98 P199	738kg 732kg 652kg 720kg 714kg 714kg 678kg 688kg 728kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 742kg 728kg 662kg 722kg 728kg 646kg 642kg 642kg	Top allrounder for calving ease growt Top 4% for growth Calving Ease, top 17% fat cover Calving Ease, growth, milk & muscle Calving Ease, growth, milk, muscle wit WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN WITHDRAWN Growth in the top 25% of the breed Growth in the top 2% of the breed Calving ease with growth Top 12% of the breed for 200 growth WITHDRAWN Calving Ease and milk WITHDRAWN Calving ease and eye muscle Moderate calving ease and high grow Short gestation, high growth Good fertility, good fat cover Short gestation, high milk & fertility	h and carcase Bartel K129 Livewire L12 Kasbah Bartel K117 th fat cover Livewire L12 Keystone K21 Lackey L27 Freedom NZ Kansas Bartel K129 th Kasbah Lackey L27 Livewire L12 GPS J6 Bartel K129	

0/	D17	706kg	An all-rounder, growth muscle and fat cover Kashah	
94	F 1/	700Kg	An air-rounder, growth muscle and fat cover Rasball	A
95	P39	658kg	Calving ease, fertility & fat cover, marbling Kasbah	X
96	P197	722kg	Growth & fat cover, marbling Keystone K21	
97	P338	688kg	Short gestation, low birth weight, huge growth Kernal	*
98	P233	676kg	Short gestation, low birth weight, huge growth Lackey	
99	P330	700kg	Calving Ease, high milk, big scrotal Keystone K21	*
100	P67	646kg	Calving ease, high eye muscle area & fat cover, marbling Lackey	*
101	P97	654kg	Calving ease, Scrotal, high eye muscle area & scrotal size Lackey	
102	P78	732kg	Calving ease, Short gestation, growth high fat & fertility GPS J6	*
103	P92	630kg	Calving ease, , high eye muscle area & scrotal size Freedom NZ	*
104	P184	648kg	Calving ease, Short gestation, high fat Kalari	*
105	P249	640kg	All-rounder, high milk Keystone K21	
106	P300	654kg	Well balanced data Kalari K96	
107	P70	634KG	Calving ease, high milk Freedom NZ	\bigstar
108	P252	672kg	High growth, carcase weight Kansas	
109	P279	708kg	Growth in the top 20% of the breed Kalari K96	
110	P211	650kg	All-rounder with high milk & scrotal size Keystone K21	
111	P163	626kg	Calving ease, Short gestation, high fat & fertility Kalari	
112	P145	666kg	Short gestation, high milk & calving ease Joffa	
113	P164	676kg	Short gestation, good growth Lackey L27	
114	P171	680kg	Calving Ease, Short gestation, & fat cover Kansas	*
115	P143	704kg	Short gestation, high growth & milk Livewire L12	\checkmark
116	P27	722kg Good	allrounder growth calving ease, carcase 44CM SCROTAL Gravity G1	13 🔶
117	P229	754kg	Good allrounder 39CM SCROTAL Kansas	\mathbf{x}

Bulls have been drenched with Dectomax Injectable on 16.12.2019 Vaccinated with Pestigard twice (protection from Pestivirus) Ear Notched to detect persistantly infected Pestivirus Carriers Vaccinated with 5 ml Vibrovax twice (protection from Vibriosis) Vaccinated with 7in1 three times (is used to prevent Leptospirosis and major clostridial diseases) Vaccinated with Piliguard and given Arrest Easy dose (is used in combination to prevent Pink Eye)

All bulls have been fertility tested, semen morphology has been conducted and found to be of a fertile level.

Please read the article on the next page to gain some understanding of **the effects on bulls fertility through management between now and joining.**

Crushside semen evaluation has been completed by Nationwide Artificial Breeders. The semen from all sale bulls has been evaluated microscopically and meets the required standards for progressive motility, concentration, morphology, infection and percentage of live sperm. These bulls achieved normal erection with no evidence of injury. A satisfactory result gives a high chance of fertility, However, please observe your new bull in action when first out with his cows, he must complete his service with a thrust to be successful. To manage risk, rotate your bulls after the first 6 weeks where possible Technician: Drew Pickford Mobile : 0428 925 255 Semen Analysis 2006 The University of Sydney



Biography:

Dr. Colin Palmer is an Associate Professor of Theriogenology (Animal Reproduction) at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Originally from Nova Scotia, Dr. Palmer worked in mixed practices in Ontario and British Columbia and has owned/operated a practice in Saskatchewan. Dr. Palmer along with his wife Kim and children Lauren, Emily and Carter run a herd of purebred Red Angus cattle under the KC Cattle Co. name.

This article is really a continuation of two previous articles, Breeding Bull Management Summer 2009 and Tips on Managing the Newly Purchased Bull Spring 2015. In the 2015 article I wrote that the two main causes of declines in semen quality were heat and stress. By far the most common cause ofheat is fat in the neck of the scrotum. Fever, local inflammation, hernias and extremely hot weather are much less prevalent. Feeding high energy diets from pre-weaning up to the yearling stage doesn't appear to result in as much scrotal fat accumulation compared with feeding similar diets after 16 to 18 months of age. Breed and genetic line probably influence where and how fat is laid down as much as anything. British breeds, or British breed-based cattle; particularly, Herefords and Speckle Park are more prone to scrotal fat accumulation. Angus accumulate fat in the scrotal neck and also under the skin of the entire scrotum causing the testicles to look plump with almost no scrotal neck. The temptation to overfatten bulls for sale as two-year olds is the root cause of many problems - obesity has also been linked to poor sex drive, lameness and premature culling. Advantages assumed by buying a two-year old over a yearling bull can easily be lost due to overfeeding.

Stressors associated with increases in sperm abnormalities have to be of at least 3 or 4 day duration. Persistent pain from lameness or fighting injuries, bad weather, or perhaps dehorning have all been demonstrated to cause substantial declines in the proportion of normal sperm due to stress. The appearance of sperm exhibiting the distal midpiece reflex appear first and may be the only abnormality in cases of mild, short-lived stressors. Sperm exhibiting the distal midpiece reflexes can appear in substantial numbers and almost completely disappear within as short as a 3 week window. More severe or long-standing stressful events will result in the appearance of different sperm defects arriving in the sperm picture in a sequence dictated by where the defect occurred in the sperm production process. Very long standing stressors such as a bad foot rot continue to affect many stages along the sperm production process; therefore, a number of different sperm defects will be present; for example: distal midpiece reflexes; proximal droplets; pyriform heads and nuclear vacuoles.

Other causes of poor sperm morphology include genetics, toxins, season, puberty and nutrition. There are a few inherited sperm defects such as the Dag defect and the Tail Stump defect where high numbers of sperm are affected and a genetic link has been proven. Fortunately these are relatively rare. For many other defects a genetic basis has been proposed, but not substantiated. Complicated modes of inheritance and variable expression of the defect are a large part of the reason that a genetic link remains suspected at best. For instance, several of the abnormal sperm morphologies that are suspected of being heritable when in large numbers, may also appear in small to moderate numbers usually with other sperm defects as a result of some other disturbance of sperm production. The temptation to point fingers at the breeding program, therefore, should not be your first response.

Puberty requires a few to several months to be completed. The onset of puberty is marked by a low sperm concentration and a high proportion of abnormal sperm. Once sexual maturity has been achieved the bull is able to produce a concentrated semen sample and should have greater than 70% morphologically normal sperm. At the onset of puberty there are a variety of sperm abnormalities present including abnormal head shapes, tightly coiled midpieces and proximal droplets. As puberty progresses proximal droplets become the most prevalent

Causes of Abnormal Sperm Morphology

abnormality. Proportions of proximal droplets can be as high as 30, 40, 50, or even 60%; usually with a smattering of other defects. By and large, the pubertal sperm picture is the reason for the Decision Deferred category on the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP) breeding soundness evaluation form. This classification implies that the bull will likely have a Satisfactory classification soon, but is not Satisfactory on the day of the test. A Decision Deferred classification doesn't seem as final as an Unsatisfactory, "the bull is no good", classification. Proportions of proximal droplets can decline rather quickly within 3 weeks to a month, so retesting in due time is recommended. Sperm with the proximal droplet are not capable of fertilization and it appears that when there are large numbers of proximal droplets even the normal appearing sperm have poor fertilizing potential. Using a bull with high numbers of proximal droplets for breeding has been proven to result in low conception rates. Puberty and scrotal circumference are closely related with bigger testicles being predictive of puberty beginning at an earlier age. Bulls with large scrotal circumferences and pubertal sperm pictures, i.e. proximal droplets, likely are experiencing prolonged puberty. A pubertal sperm picture is not a "rusty load". The "rusty load" term was coined for bulls that accumulate, or build up sperm in their tubular duct system. These are usually older bulls that continue to store sperm during periods of sexual rest rather than clean out old sperm daily with urination. The typical scenario at semen testing is a large volume of semen (30 plus mL), containing lots of dead sperm with detached heads.

Although cattle can breed year round there is a seasonal effect on sperm production which is especially evident in northern climates. More bulls will fail their semen test during the winter and early spring months than during the late spring and summer. This can be problematic for those hosting early spring bull sales. Seasonality may also be confounded by nutrition – feed quality in the winter often falls short of lush summer pasture. Seasonal/ nutritional sperm pictures usually present with a smattering of defects with some bulls being more affected than others.

With bull sale season peaking in March and turnouts on many commercial operations not occurring until mid-June to mid-July there are many circumstances that can have a negative effect on sperm quality. Over the last couple of years I have had the opportunity to retest more than a few bulls within a few to several weeks after delivery to their new homes. A few, probably less than 5%, of these bulls fail my breeding soundness evaluation due to poor semen quality. Two things that must be kept in mind is that: 1) a breeding soundness evaluation is only a snapshot in time; many things can happen after that; and 2) stress can have a negative effect on semen quality that is variably expressed amongst individuals. Many years ago I was freezing semen on a fancy show dog that sired many litters, but I could never collect a freezable quality sample while he was being shown. My best advice for bull buyers is to try to minimize stress amongst your newly purchased bulls. Branding, fighting, protection from inclement weather, nutrition (feed, minerals, vitamins, water quality and quantity), and even new surroundings can all be sources of stress for your bulls. I suspect that these stressors are even worse for yearling bulls and akin to the stress of weaning. If stress in inevitable allow enough time for your bulls to acclimate before retesting, say 2 or 3 months.

In closing: Don't just think about bull management think of yourself as a manager of semen production and distribution!