



**DITT Select Brahman & Composite Female Reduction Sale
Auctions Plus sale # 529
Wednesday 4th August @ 10.00am NT/10.30 Eastern/8.30am
WA**

Total of 150 Females to be sold on an individual basis

** an excel document detailing the full particulars such as age, pregnancy status, horn status and all EBV's will be downloadable from the Auctions Plus Website under catalogues/documents here:

<https://auctionsplus.com.au/auctions/cattle/ditt-female-reduction-sale/76365>

Sale Notes:

- Vendor:** Department of Industry, Tourism & Trade
- Properties:** Douglas Daly Research Farm (DDRF), Beatrice Hill Research Farm (BHRF) & Victoria River Research Station (VRRS, Kidman Springs)
- PIC:** TKDG0079 -DDRF, THDG0065 -BHRF
TBVR0036 - Kidman Springs/VRRS
- Delivery Points:** On Station, however for movements below tick lines - DDRF & BHRF will be trucked to Bridge Creek yards with clearing and holding @ purchaser's cost. Kidman Springs/VRRS will be trucked to Phoenix Park again with clearing and holding @ purchaser's cost please check carefully for property of origin in your purchases.
- Please Note:** 150 lots is a lot to navigate on the auction page, I strongly urge you to utilise the filter and sort function of the excel catalogue and look closely at the tips/suggestions mentioned later in this document.



The Lots on offer -

Douglas Daly Research Farm:

- 86 head **Select Brahman Females** of mixed pregnancy status to be sold on an individual basis.
Lots 1 – 86

Kidman Springs (Victoria River Research Station):

- 14 head **Select Brahman Females** of mixed pregnancy status to be sold on an individual basis.
Lots 87 – 100

Douglas Daly Research Farm:

- 38 head **DITT Tropical Composite Females** of mixed pregnancy status to be sold on an individual basis.
Lots 101 – 138

Beatrice Hill Research Farm:

- 12 head **DITT Tropical Composite Females** of mixed pregnancy status to be sold on an individual basis.
Lots 139 - 150

*** All lots are individual and will be live at one time – please make use of the favourites option to keep track of your lots. I also strongly recommend the use of the bid limit function where you mark your lots with a maximum and let the system take the bidding for you.



- Location DDRF:** 213km NW of Katherine
107km Sth of Adelaide River
1492km NW of Mt Isa
- Location BHRF:** 313km NW of Katherine
1596km NW of Mt Isa
- Location Kidman Springs:** 340km SW of Katherine
1621km NW of Mt Isa
- Delivery Period:** 5th August – 13th August. However, purchases will be invoiced the day of sale.
- Delivery Contact:** Gretel Bailey - Preston DITT Katherine 0448 771 449
- BJD Status:** J-BAS 7 (A copy of the biosecurity plan is available on request.) ** WA Eligible
- Tick Status:** Clearing for tick will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Please note that DDRF and BHRF are within the restricted zone for Parkhurst Tick and require clear dipping to move south. All other costs and clearing arrangements are on the purchaser's account.
- Pregnancy Status:** All females have been faithfully pregnancy tested via ultrasound by Non Veterinary Providers within the DITT staff and as such no guarantee is offered.
- Terms:** Intending buyers - please be advised Elders terms are strictly CBD unless debt can be accepted by a nominated agency or an approved Elders account and limit is in place.



Guidance:

This sale will not close out before 45 minutes have elapsed. There are a large number of lots for buyers to keep track of so I have 2 suggestions that may help.

1) Utilise the limit bid function by selecting your lots and entering your upper limit price. The auction will only take you one bid over the other bidder and only hit your limit if the underbidder takes you there.

2) you can select your favourite lots and just concentrate on those. If you feel you are being confused or distracted by lots that you have no interest in. Please register with Auctions Plus <https://auctionsplus.com.au/register> if you intend to bid on your own computer/device.

Assistance:

If anyone requires assistance with bidding or has queries, please feel free to contact:

Paul McCormick

Area Manager - Elders Katherine

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Selected Brahman and Composite Cows

The DITT have been selecting for fertility traits within the Brahman breed for the last 30 years and the Composite herd was bred out of this in the early 2000's.

Each year the program produces around 100 Brahman and 100 Tropical Composite females. As early puberty is one of the traits the breeding program is selecting for, the females are all exposed to mating as yearlings. The approximately 20 replacements for the Breeder herds are selected out of the animals that successfully raise their yearling calf and are sound in all other aspects including temperament and conformation. All the remaining females who are not selected as replacements, successfully raise their 2yo calf and are have a sound temperament and conformation are presented in the sale. The older cows have been allowed to miss one calf but apart from that, must wean a calf every year to stay in the herd.

The bulls that are used in the Breeding program are ranked at 12 and 18 months old by their weight, scrotal size, percent normal sperm and dam performance. The top bulls are selected to mate with the DITT breeder herds while the bulls left over after the selection, once they have been culled on temperament, conformation and performance, are presented in the annual bull sale.

The idea of the sales is to make animals with high fertility and adaptation to the NT environment available to the Northern cattle industry.

The program pushes for early puberty and females that will reconceive while lactating whilst only receiving grass pastures and standard lick provisions (urea in dry, phosphorus in wet).

The Composite herd began as 56.3% Brahman, 12.5% Africander, 12.5% Tuli, 6.3% Shorthorn, 6.3% Charolais and 6.3% Hereford but has evolved over time with selection.

How to read this catalogue

Estimated Breeding Values (EBV) and raw data have been supplied for each bull, along with a photo. The following provides a summary of what each EBV means and how to interpret them. EBVs are estimates of an animals' genetic merit for a particular trait. They highlight the genetic differences between animals and take into account not only the animal's own performance, but also the performance of all its recorded relatives, as well as the relationships between traits. EBVs are expressed as the difference between an individual animal's genetics and the genetic base to which the animal is compared (i.e. compared to the breed when BREEDPLAN started recording that trait). They are reported in the units in which the measurements were taken (e.g. kilograms for the weight EBVs). Always compare an EBV to the current breed average EBV for that trait. Table 1 below shows the current breed averages for each EBV trait reported in this catalogue.

Table 1: Breed Average EBVs for 2019 born Brahman calves. The breed average of +19 kg for 200 day Wt suggests that the Brahman breed has increased the average weaning weight since the 90s when BREEDPLAN first started recording Brahman EBVs.

June 2021 Brahman BREEDPLAN																				
Name/ID	Gestation Length (days)	Birth Wt. (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Mat Cow Wt (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Days to Calving	Car-case Wt (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq.c)	Rib Fat (mm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF (%)	Percent Normal Sperm	Flight Time (secs)	Shear Force (kgs)	Jap Ox Index (\$)	Live Export Index (\$)
Breed Avg. EBVs	-0.3	+2.5	+19	+27	+37	+41	-1	+0.9	-2.1	+22	+2.6	-0.3	-0.4	+0.6	-0.1	+0.0	+0.01	+0.0	+30	+27

Birth weight EBV

Calf birth weight is the biggest genetic contributing factor causing calving difficulty in heifers. Small or moderate Birth weight EBVs are more favourable. An animal with a below breed average Birth weight EBV, is more likely to produce lighter calves at birth. A negative birth weight EBV means that they will produce calves with an average birth weight that is lower than when BREEDPLAN started recording this trait. This is not necessarily a problem.



200 day weight EBV (200 day)

This EBV is a measure of an animal's early growth to weaning (i.e. when the animal is 200 days old). Larger, more positive EBVs are favourable. For example an animal with a 200 day Wt EBV of +20 will produce heavier calves at 200 days of age compared to an animal with a 200 day Wt EBV of +10.

400 day weight EBV (400 day)

This EBV is a measure of an animal's growth to a yearling (i.e. when the animal is 400 days old). Larger, more positive EBVs are favourable. For example an animal with a 400 day Wt EBV of +30 will produce heavier yearlings at 400 days of age compared to an animal with a 400 day Wt EBV of +20.

600 day weight EBV (600 day)

This EBV is a measure of an animal's growth to 18 months (i.e. when the animal is 600 days old). This EBV is the most applicable growth EBV for the feeder live export market. Larger, more positive EBVs are favourable. For example an animal with a 600 day Wt EBV of +40 will produce heavier steers at 18 months of age compared to an animal with a 600 day Wt EBV of +30.

Mature Cow Weight EBV (Mat. Cow Wt)

Mature cow weight EBVs are estimates of the genetic difference between cows in live weight at 5 years of age. They are an indication of cull cow values and cow feed requirements, as generally speaking, lighter cows eat less, therefore have lower feed requirements. Typically in northern environments, moderate mature cow weights are considered more favourable. Bulls with large Mature Cow Wt EBVs should be viewed with caution for Northern production systems.

Scrotal Size EBV (SS)

Scrotal size EBVs are estimates of the genetic differences between animals in scrotal circumference at 400 days of age. This is an important fertility trait. Increased scrotal circumference is associated with increased semen production in bulls and earlier age at puberty in bull and heifer progeny. Increased scrotal circumference also has a favourable relationship with days to calving, with bulls with larger scrotal size tending to have daughters with shorter days to calving. Larger, more positive Scrotal Size EBVs are more favourable.

Days to Calving EBV (DTC)

Days to Calving EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in days from the start of the joining period (i.e. start of mating) until the subsequent calving. This EBV promotes cows that calve earlier in the season compared to those that calve later, hence is a very important fertility EBV. Variation in days to calving is largely due to difference in the time taken for females to conceive after the commencement of the joining period. The Beef CRC data has found that one unit difference in the Days to Calving EBV is approximately equivalent to 1% difference in the weaning rate of female progeny. An animal with a DTC EBV of -5 days will produce daughters that return to cycling sooner after calving compared to an animal with a DTC EBV of +5 days. Lower, or more negative Days to Calving EBVs are more favourable.

Live Export Index

Estimates genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for a self-replacing commercial herd (run in a tropical environment) targeting steers for the live export markets. This index assumes steers are pasture grown until entry to overseas feedlots and then feedlot finished for 120 days before being marketed at 470 kg live weight (250 kg HSCW and 10 mm P8 fat depth) at 26 months of age. Daughters are retained for breeding.