

## **WELCOME TO THE McCARRON CULLINANE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** **March 2009**

### **WEATHER**

Extended periods of hot weather and no rain during January and February were finally broken earlier this month with falls of much needed rain. Falls in the Orange district varied, with falls to the south, north and west from 30-70mm, but lighter to the east of 20-30mm. A flurry of activity followed, with farmers sowing early fodder crops and now awaiting follow-up rain. Ground water is once again a problem for some as dam levels diminish and good run-off needed to replenish supplies. The western and northern areas of NSW, along with Queensland are enjoying a huge season following big summer rains. Many of the broadacre farmers in these areas will only need a minimal sowing rain to join up a full profile of subsoil moisture. The southern half of NSW and also parts of Victoria are still desperately dry, with many livestock producers sourcing agistment to the North. Unfortunately the forecast looks to remain dry for the remainder of March, so hopefully April will bring the much needed break.

### **CATTLE**

**PRIME CATTLE:** Increased numbers of prime cattle in most saleyards this week were caused by improved prices for all grades. Restocker activity has created extra competition for younger cattle, although their presence was also felt in the plainer cow lines. Extra demand for export cattle has also helped fuel the dearer market as the seasonal demand in Japan and Korea becomes stronger. Expect the export cattle to improve during the autumn months as finished cattle are scarce and the Aussie dollar is still relatively low. Feedlot orders have increased, especially for trade steers 320-400kg and a rise in grainfed cattle prices will hopefully create extra demand for heavy feedlot steers 400-500kg.

CTLX Carcoar has enjoyed yardings of 2000 plus cattle at its regular fat cattle sales for the past four weeks. Each week the market has experienced slight gains, influenced by the rain throughout the state in early March. This week 2080 mixed quality cattle were yarded. Vealer steers lifted 10c to sell from 160-205c/kg with most going to restockers. Heifer vealers were firm selling from 150-180c/kg, whilst

medium trade weight heifers rose 2c to range from 140-175c/kg with some higher yielding types to 180c/kg. Yearling steers made good gains, attracting extra interest from the feedlot sector to lift 7c and sell from 155-190c/kg. Diminishing stocks of finished trade cattle are seeing the return of southern butchers to compete on the quality yearlings. Heavy steers to feedlots lifted 5c to average 165c/kg. Bullocks rose slightly with sales from 155-172c/kg most averaging 162c/kg. Increased demand for medium-heavy D3 cows have them selling from 118-135c/kg and heavy D4 cows were firm topping at 138c/kg. Light bulls sold from 120-140c/kg, heavy bulls 135-158c/kg.

**STORE CATTLE:** prices have remained strong throughout February and March, following the good falls of rain in the north of the state. The more recent rain in the central regions has added to the demand. The regular monthly CTLX store cattle sale held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> attracted 5000 head, made up mostly of quality weaners from the local area. Quality lines of PTIC cows and heifers were scarce, as were well bred lines of cows and calves. The large numbers advertised attracted an excellent field of buyers from around the state and QLD. The weaner steers met strong competition selling from \$380-\$56/hd, or liveweight 200-220¢/kg. Yearling steers made from \$520-\$720/hd or 170-190¢/kg. Weaner heifers were well represented and sold from \$300-\$480/hd, yearling lines were helped by feedlot orders selling from \$450-\$550/hd. Limited number of PTIC females topped at \$840/hd while cow and calf units sold from \$780-\$1175.

The next monthly store sale at CTLX will be held on THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, due to Good Friday. A special **weaner sale** will also be held next month on FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, with approximately 6000 local tableland weaners expected.

### **SHEEP & LAMBS**

Lamb prices have continued on a dearer trend this week as processors battle over a shortage of good quality lambs. Lightweight lambs have also enjoyed strong competition from restockers and feedlotters spurred on by recent rain, lower grain prices and an anticipated short supply of finished lambs in the winter months. Trade lambs are becoming scarce as

producers take advantage of improved feed availability and cheaper grain to take lambs onto heavier weights. This reflected in the markets with some trade and supermarket buyers competing for the light end of the heavy export lambs to secure supplies. Lightweight lambs were \$6 dearer to sell from \$45-\$74/hd to restockers, lightweight lambs to slaughter had a similar rise to average \$78/hd or around 395¢/kg cwt. Trade lambs lifted \$3-\$5 returning \$80-\$113 to average 428¢/kg for the lighter end and up to 453¢/kg for the heavy trade. Export lambs were up \$6 and generally sold from \$90-\$130/hd with top price of \$152 recorded at Bendigo, most averaged around 455¢/kg cwt.

There has been solid demand for sheep, with dwindling numbers keeping processors active as they attempt to keep their plants operating. Heavy weight sheep are scarce, with the majority of the mutton market being made up of light to medium types. Most mutton grades were \$2-\$3 dearer, lightweight merino ewes selling from \$14-\$35 and medium ewes from \$32-\$50 to average 195¢/kg cwt. The small number of heavy ewes offered sold from \$50-\$60 to average 200¢/kg. Medium weight wethers were from \$40-\$62/hd, averaging 215¢/kg cwt. Sheep prices are expected to remain high over the coming months due to lower numbers in the paddocks.

**The NLIS sheep tag colour for 2009 is WHITE.**

## **REAL ESTATE**

### **Rural Property**

Four superb 40 Ha blocks have come onto the market just 5 minutes drive from Orange. The subdivision is on the property 'Reyfield' out the Icely Road, There is a brand new sealed road leading to the blocks and power is available to each block. The views from each block are excellent, each one a little different. Building sites have been selected allowing for privacy between each block. Prices start from - \$660,000.

Another property to keep in mind is 'Mundawora Park'. Located 24 km's from Orange on the Bowen Park Road. This property has 1<sup>st</sup> class improvements including a 4 bedroom home in excellent condition overlooking a creek and lucerne flats, substantial machinery sheds, a modern 2 stand woolshed, steel cattle yards and sheep yards. The property is ideally suited to cattle production or prime lamb production. Price - \$1,350,000.

## **Residential Real Estate**

### **3 Burreburry Crescent \$339,000**



#### **You won't find bigger or better value**

- 4 big bedrooms and 2 bathrooms with great storage as well
- 2 separate and spacious living areas- both with great northern sun
- Excellent galley style kitchen with dishwasher, gas cooking and huge walk-in pantry
- The year round comfort of ducted reverse cycle air conditioning
- Rear yard access, large private garden with a gorgeous cubby and double sized garden shed included
- A wonderful area and just a stroll to Calare school

Lucy Eccleston 0427 624 755

### **22 Burreburry Crescent \$336,000**



#### **Lovely leafy location**

- Stylish updates have transformed this spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home
- Great new bathroom, great new ensuite
- Great new kitchen with fabulous Smeg gas stove and dishwasher
- Very private garden with new timber entertaining deck off the kitchen
- Quietly located in tree lined street adjacent to playing fields and just a stroll to Calare Primary School

Lucy Eccleston 0427 624 755

## GENERAL

Changes to the sheep industry are quickly approaching with **Mandatory Transaction Tagging (MTT)**, commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. All sheep and goats must have a transaction tag (indicating PIC number) applied each time there is a change in ownership after they leave the property of birth, linking it back to its last property of residence and the NVD. This means every time a sheep is traded it must have a tag applied and you cannot remove any previous tags. In practice a sheep traded 4 times in its life should have 4 tags. NSW agents through our industry body the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association (ALPA) have written to all state ministers, as well as federal minister Tony Bourke lodging our strong opposition. Unfortunately we have little support, the state DPI's are for it, as is AMIC, Sheepmeats Council (your peak industry body as a producer), Safemeat, Animal Health Australia, Wool Producers and EU Countries. Be aware if this does not work at an acceptable level we will be faced with RFID's in sheep.

### **'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) campaign.**

We now all carry mobile phones with us throughout our daily routines. It now can be used as a vital tool if we are involved in an accident or fall critically ill, by simply storing the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during an emergency under the name 'ICE'. Thus in an emergency situation, emergency service personnel and hospital staff can quickly contact the right person or relative. Please pass this concept onto family and friends as it is catching on quickly.

## CONTACTS

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*Best regards, The McCarron Cullinane Team*

*In producing our newsletter, our agents obtain information from many sources including but not limited to: MLA, The Land, Queensland Country Life, Weekly Times and ALPA.*

**Our next Horse and Saddlery sale** will be held on Saturday 18 April at CTLX Carcoar. Saddlery will commence at 11am, followed by the Horse sale at 1.00pm sharp. We have received very positive feedback from buyers and sellers who are in favour of the Saturday sale.

**Reminder Notice** – Clearing sale this Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 'Morningdale' Borenore. The sale will commence at 11:00am, (at Borenore turn into Radneges Lane, adj Hillside Orchard), there is a full listing of articles for sale, along with some photos available on our website [www.mccarrons.com.au](http://www.mccarrons.com.au)

PS. apologies for missing February Newsletter – too busy taking care of all our important clients!!!

## NEXT SALES

### **CTLX Carcoar Prime Cattle Sale**

Every Tuesday 8:30am

### **CTLX Carcoar Sheep & Lamb sale**

Every Wednesday 11:00am

### **CWLE Forbes Prime Cattle Sale**

Every Monday 9:00am

### **Midstate Sale Yards Forbes Sheep & Lamb Sale**

Every Tuesday 11:00am

### **CTLX Carcoar Store Cattle Sales**

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each month (due to Good Friday change of day to Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009)

**Special Weaner Sale** - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### **CTLX Carcoar Horse & Saddlery Sale**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009