

Volume 9 June 2025

Benelkay Santos Catch Up

Welcome

Welcome to the 2025 Benelkay Santa Gertrudis Newsletter. The year has again been a mixed one with a great seasonal break in November and December where we received 100mls of rain in both consecutive months. This allowed us to plant Grain and Forage Sorghum, which has been a great result, putting some much-needed grain in the silos and giving us plenty of extra forage for our cattle herd.

January and February were reasonably dry but March to May have seen solid rain falls in our area and giving us one of the best Autumn breaks we have had in a long time.

Although this has been testing our patience trying to finish our winter crop plantings, we have had strong season with good oat crops, plenty of moisture and fat cattle.

So, all in all a good season to be a cattleman.

High Performance in Feed Lot Trials

The (SGBAA) Santa Gertrudis Breeders Association Australia have been conducting a feed lot trial with Santa Gertrudis steers. These trails are showed fantastic results for weight gain and fat cover on the cattle killed for both the domestic and export trade.

With the trade class posting 2.2kg/ per day and the export an average

daily gain of 2.4 kg /day

A superb event at Pakaderinga Pastoral feedlot near Kingaroy, QLD unfolded with a panel of impressive data highlighting the conversion efficiency, consistency and quality of the Santa breed. Further kill data will be released when it comes to hand.

When looking at breeds of cattle the breeder must consider their country and the environment where their cattle are run. Their end goals for their cattle and the markets they want to sell to. They also need to be honest with themselves when they consider these realities. Many people will just go to certain popular breeds as their mates are doing that or the agent will direct them that way because of the cents per kilo that they receive and it is easier for their agent to market, totally understandable. But what breeders need to look at is Weight for Age. Cattle breeding is all about how much money is in your pocket when you sell your cattle, not the highest cents for kg.

That is where Santa Gertrudis pays the bills with increased weight for

age and hybrid vigor, fertility and doing ability. Hybrid vigor from crossing two British breeds together is of a lower rate. Using a Bos indicus breed over British or Euro is a free twenty percent extra weight for doing very little, important to reflect on in the current economic climate.

Female Opportunity

For anyone interested in future Young Santa Gertrudis Breeders, contact us for a Sale Date or keep a look out on The Eastern States Sale AuctionsPlus around the end of June or early July, or contact Elders Gunnedah for more information. Benelkay will be offering around 50 unjoined commercial females on AuctionsPlus. These heifers are of a high quality and in excellent condition and present very well, they are only being sold as they are surplus to our needs. They range from 16 to 18 months old, unjoined so that you can join them to the bulls of your choice.



Open Day

We will be holding our Open Day on Friday the 1st of August between 10am and 3pm for Agents, Clients, and anyone interested in looking at the breeding program at Benelkay. At this year's open day come and have a casual look through the 2025 Sale Bulls. They will be presented in the display pens outside the yards so you can get a good look at the animals and give them a walk around at your own pace. These Open Days are always a great opportunity to view the sale bulls without the pressures of Sale Day. It gives Agents and clients time to walk through our stock without the interruptions Sale Day can sometimes bring. Hot tea and coffee will be served on the day and a tasty steak sandwich around lunchtime, all are welcome.

Testimonials

James Wippell "Mayfield" Bundella NSW "I like Benelkay Santos, they are good all-round cattle, they calve easy making them terrific mothers, possess great temperament, feed conversion and market suitability and acceptance. They are low maintenance cattle that perform on good feed but can also handle heat cold and tough conditions" my whole breeding operation is based around Benelkay Bulls.

Tim O'Gorman "Yule Park" Gunnedah NSW. "Benelkay Bulls

produce strong healthy calves meaning a higher percentage from birth to weaning and ultimately more profit in our pocket. Weight equals profit and we are extremely happy with the weights our crossbreed cattle are attaining." "Our breeding program is based exclusively on Benelkay Bulls. Good honest breeders with good honest cattle."

This Year's Sale

As we move into our Sixty Forth year of breeding Santos, and Fifty-Four years since we registered Benelkay Santa Gertrudis Stud number 810. It will also be our Fourteenth On Property Bull Sale. This year's sale will be held on Thursday 21st August at 1.00pm. This will be Thursday, the last day of Ag-Quip this year. Benelkay will present the best 40 of the 2023 bull calf drop. They will be rising two year olds

ranging between 22 and 26 months old. Half of these bulls have been tested Homozygous (PP), with nearly all the bulls having been Sire DNA genetically verified. This year's bulls are an even line of strong dark polled bulls with plenty of breed character, depth, and thickness. Produced by one vendor and sold at one venue which is the home of our breeding operation. Being the top forty bulls from the 2023 calf drop this represents the top 20 percent of the male calf drop. The other 80 percent are grown out into bullock weight or high feeder steer weights. There will be bulls suitable for heifer joining as well as a strong run of straight-out cow bulls with power and thickness, that our cattle are widely known for. Auctions Plus will be operating again this year and if for any unforeseen reason you cannot make the sale you will have the option to operate through Auction Plus or agents on the phone.



Please remember to register at least twenty-four hours before the sale on the Auctions Plus web site, you will have to do this if you want to actively bid. Therefore, we strongly suggest that breeders interested in purchasing should inspect the sale team before the sale in case of unforeseen circumstances that may prevent you from attending. Details of all the lots will be on the Auctions Plus Website plus videos of the bulls for your viewing closer to the sale and on our own web site.
www.benelkaysantas.com.au



Sale Bulls Info

This year's 40 quality run of strong, dark red, neat sheathed, heavy boned, Polled Bulls will have all the attributes our clients look for every year in a sire for their herds, Stud or Commercial.

Our Sale Bulls will have their Breedplan figures to help assist you in the selection of the sires to suit your breeding objectives. They will have raw data figures for Weight, DWG, Scans for EMA, Rib / Rump Fats and Scrotal. The bulls will be Semen collected by Caitlin Warner Australian Premier Genetics and Morphology Tested, at The University of Sydney Camden Campus.

It is pleasing to get, as we do every year (50% out of the Sale Bulls) with the quality they carry to test as Homozygous Poll PP.

We believe this is the highest percentage of homozygous PP in any Santa Gertrudis sale in Australia. The results of these tests will be made available on our website and in our Sale Catalogue and Supplementary Sheet. Sale Bulls will also have 7 in 1, Vibro, Multimin, AD and E and all the usual drenching treatments they receive every year, so you can buy with confidence. These bulls are ready to go to work. The sale team has been running in two separate mobs on mixed species grasses from January to March 2025, then have been run in paddocks with grazing oats in conjunction with a lightly supplemented mix. As always, our bulls are bred to perform in the paddock not in the show ring.

Sires Represented

This year's sale team will be once again represented by a strong sire battery. Leading sires Yarrawonga M134 (PS) who we have sold sons to \$50,000 and Burrumurra Boss (PP) with sons selling to a top of \$30,000 are both represented again. Yarrawonga Quicksilver (PP) who presents an outstanding small line of dark long bodied (P) sons with strong breed type. Strathmore Ripper (PS), Nioa Quartermaster (P),



Bullaminka Remington (P).



We have four new sires represented this year continuing our quest to ever improve our sire battery. Cree Papalii S146 (PS) Strathmore Senator S498 (P) Dangarfield El Nino E119 (P) Benelkay Sniper S266 (P). All these new bulls with their out-cross genetics have added to the stud's genetic diversity with the results that can be seen in the outstanding sons on offer this year by them.

Invitation

We look forward to seeing our many friends Agents and Clients on Thursday 22nd of August 1.00pm at our 13th Annual Bull Sale. As we draw closer to sale day, we will keep you abreast of any updates or changes that we may need to advise you of. Accordingly, if you would like to visit us for a pre-sale inspection of the bulls and or our herd on the 1st of August from 10am to 3pm at our Open Day or at a time that suits you, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Sale Contacts

For further information you can also contact:

Nick Hannaford 0417 201 460
(State Livestock Manager)

John Glover 0428 486 887
(Territory Sales Manager)

Rob Galton 0458423030
(Livestock Agent/ Territory Sales Manager)

Brian Kennedy 0427 844 047
(Elders Stud Stock)

Scott Cooper 0427 674 411
(Auctioneer, Elders Stud Stock)

To like us on Facebook and Instagram, just visit our website. www.benelkaysantas.com and if you follow our social media sites you can find out all the latest news and images of sale bulls, sires, and dams leading into our sale.

Wishing everyone a great season
Warmest Regards
Andrew & Jules Orman
Benelkay Santa Gertrudis
0427 435 201

