Welcome to the latest edition of Rumevite News, from Ridley AgriProducts. Once a quarter we’ll aim to provide you with interesting articles on beef cattle and sheep nutrition that will help you in planning the season ahead.

Australia is a large country with different pastoral zones. Therefore at Rumevite, we have re-launched Rumevite news to cater for Australia’s two distinct pastoral markets. Rumevite News includes a Northern News and Southern News section, to provide livestock producers with the right nutritional advice, at the right time.

Rumevite is excited to deliver relevant, up to date information. If you would like to see anything covered in our newsletter, please contact us.

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- Rumevite Beef Weaner Pellet
- Rumevite Northern Bull Grower Pellet

Products in Season:
- Rumevite Stud Ram Ration
- Rumevite Bull Developer

Contact us:

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Website: www.ridleyagriproducts.com.au
Reducing methane emissions in the northern cattle herd
Matt Callaghan, Technical Manager Beef/Sheep

Approximately 11% of Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to methane emissions by livestock. The majority of the national cattle herd is located in northern Australia and since this portion of the herd has lower productivity rates compared to other regions, the methane emissions from the northern herd are significant.

While agriculture is currently exempt from the carbon tax, this may change into the future and there will be opportunities for producers to interact with the carbon market (eg. Carbon Farming Initiative commencing July 2013). Whichever way you look at it, there appears to be growing momentum to curb methane emissions from ruminants.

Attempts to reduce methane emissions at present are focusing upon a wide range of areas including genetics, rumen microbiology, forages, production systems and dietary additives. While a number of dietary strategies that reduce methane emissions have been identified, applications that require high inputs capital, labour and intensive management are unlikely to provide a widespread solution for the northern cattle herd.

One possible solution is the use of dietary nitrate in dry season supplement blocks. Nitrate has been demonstrated to both reduce methane emissions and replace urea as a nitrogen source. However most of the research in this area has been conducted on small ruminants (sheep / goats) and generally on much higher quality diets than typically consumed by cattle during the northern Australian dry season. Furthermore nitrate can potentially become toxic if nitrite accumulation occurs during the progression of nitrate to ammonia by rumen microbes.

In October 2012, Ridley will begin research in conjunction with James Cook University and CSIRO aimed at demonstrating whether nitrate blocks can (a) safely replace urea and (b) deliver an effective dose to reduce the enteric methane emissions of cattle consuming low quality tropical forages without negatively impacting on safety, animal productivity, grazing distribution and the landscape. This project is funded by Ridley AgriProducts and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Carbon Farming Futures Filling the Research Gap Program.

This project will initially examine these questions in a controlled manner prior to rolling out into paddock trials under normal management practices. The project runs over the next couple of years and we will keep you informed of developments.
2012 Kidman Springs Field Day
Will Gell, Rumevite Category Manager

The Victoria River Research Station (VRRS) is the Northern Territory’s principal pastoral research station. The station is nationally significant as a rangeland and cattle production research site located in the semi arid tropics of northern Australia. The VRRS operates as a functional cattle station, with a number of rangeland and cattle research and demonstration programs underway at any time.

On Wednesday 1st and 2nd August 2012, the biennial Northern Territory Government Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries Kidman Springs Field Day was held at VRRS.

This year’s theme, “Local Research, Local Knowledge” reinforced the importance of northern pastoral research programs and the importance of their applications for the northern grazing industry. Presenters covered a vast range of important grazing themes and producers shared their experiences from their involvement in research projects and the application of outcomes to their properties.

A total of 73 attendees converged on Kidman Springs from the NT, QLD and WA’s Kimberly district to attend. Of those in attendance 30 were pastoralists who combined manage an area of approximately 42,000 km2.

Some of the interesting topics covered at Kidman Springs included:
- Maintaining land condition without compromising on profitability
- Crossbreeding to improve production
- Polled genetics
- Effective strategies to reduce breeder mortality
- Growing steers- factors effecting performance
- Brahman breeding- selecting high fertility herds
- Profitable supplementation strategies in northern Australia
- Effective use of fire to control woody thickening

Ridley AgriProducts (Ridley) Matt Callaghan was asked by the NT Department of Resources, to present on “Profitable Supplementation Strategies in northern Australia”. This theme raised lots of positive discussion and gave many graziers the chance to utilise Matt’s knowledge to help solve their problems. Matt’s three key supplementation strategies related to:-

1. Wet Season Phosphorous Supplementation
2. Strategic Weaning
3. Dry Season Supplementation

All three strategies play a vital role in improving breeder condition, which will subsequently helps to improve conception and calving rates.

Some graziers were surprised to discover that the some of the least adapted supplementation strategies in northern Australia are often the most profitable. For instance, on Phosphorous (P) deficient country, wet season P supplementation is by far the most profitable form of supplementation to pastoralists over a 2-3 year period.

Matt’s presentation ranked the impact of supplementation strategies in terms of economic return and explained the nutritional basis of each point with practical examples. This approach sparked lots of positive discussion and most in
attendance agreed that supplementation in northern Australia is critical to the success of most grazing enterprises.

One producer from the NT said “that although wet and dry supplements are indeed a cost to my operation, supplementation helps generate the return I need. They are a necessity for profitability and I consider supplements as a fixed cost in my grazing business”.

The importance of effective supplementation strategies in northern Australia has resulted in a number of industry trials, two of these include:

- The MLA funded ‘Brunchilly’ Phosphorous Trial
- The MLA funded study on Reducing Breeder Mortality in northern Australia.

The later study found, that two of the most important interventions are P supplementation and breeder management during the dry season, which includes the use of a dry season supplement.

Follow the link below to hear Matt Callaghan on why effective supplementation is important in northern Australia and which strategies are the most profitable.

http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201208/s3562390/htm
30% Urea + P

“The dry block engineered for northern Australia”

Used and recommended by Australia’s northern pastoral leaders:

“In my experience, the hard Rumevite 30% Urea + P block is the most cost effective and appropriate block for northern Australia’s range of soil and country types”

Alastair Henderson – BVSc

Over a career spanning 35 years, Alastair Henderson has spent most of his professional life in the pastoral cattle and sheep industries of northern Australia as a station employee, a respected veterinarian and as a manager with operational and profit responsibility for major pastoral groups and single client operations.

For more information please call your rural reseller, Ridley AgriProducts Townsville on (07) 4774 7500 or your Ridley Territory Manager:

- NT/ WA  Mark Lavers  0429 726 623
- North QLD  Bec Shephard  0409 575 974
- Central QLD  Ben Carew  0467 819 780
- Sth QLD  Caroline Mantova  0427 928 955

or visit us at www.agriproducts.com.au
Rumevite® Staff - “Hein Pretorius”
Territory Manager - S.E QLD

I was born and raised on a farm in the bread basket of Africa, previously known as Rhodesia and now known as Zimbabwe. Our farm produced beef and dairy and employed close to 220 people. At the time the country was involved in a bitter conflict with Russian and Chinese backed freedom fighters and the Rhodesian government. Life was very different back then and learning how to handle semi automatic rifle was more important than learning to ride a bicycle. My family left for South Africa just before the government of the day decided to confiscate white owned farms.

After a compulsory spell in the South African defence force I saw service in Angola and Mozambique. At the completion of my stint in the army I completed a Marketing and Sales degree whilst working for a trading Bank. Farming is in my blood and after the completion of my studies; I started as a trainee operations manager on a tobacco farm in the eastern parts of South Africa, working through to becoming the general manager.

Shortly after my wife and I got married, we migrated to New Zealand, where I joined the Bank of NZ as a Business analyst. After a few years, the lure of farming got the better of me and I started as a herd manager on a 950 cow dairy farm in the South Island of New Zealand. During the following years I worked myself into the position of Operations manager on a 1500 dairy cow farm. As mating is a very important part of getting cows back in calf on a seasonal calving farm, both our daughters were born at the commencement of calving season in the South Island.

One cold night in August of 2003, I was busy picking up calves in the snow, I slipped and fell flat on my back, whilst I was making snow angels and cursing in the cold, I realised that snow was never meant for an African and decided to look up the balmy weather of Queensland.

My wife and I decided to take up residence in Toowoomba and I joined a harvesting and haulage company as the Operations and Marketing manager.

Two years ago the opportunity came up to join Ridley AgriProducts (Ridley) as a Territory Manager in South East Qld. My territory stretches from Brisbane in the east to Mitchell in the West. As always, my focus remains looking after Ridley’s customers by providing quality solutions and a high level of service. It’s important all Ridley customers receive value for money and the right nutritional advice when it is needed.

To book an appointment with Hein Pretorius, please call him on 0438 052 939
**Products in Season**

**Rumevite® 30% Urea + P**
An 86% protein (30% urea) and phosphorus block for cattle grazing high volumes of dry pasture or stubble.

**Features & Benefits**
- High urea to supplement mature, fibrous feed.
- Contains balanced levels of phosphorus plus macro and micro minerals.
- “Hard” consistency to assist regulating intake.
- Weather resistant block

**Available in:** 20kg, 40kg or 100kg blocks

**Rumevite® Beef Weaner Pellet**
A pelleted grain ration for supplementing beef weaners or lot feeding cattle weighing 120-300kg liveweight.

**Features & Benefits**
- High quality grain ration presented as a pellet.
- Contains bypass protein.
- Balanced levels of calcium, phosphorus, trace minerals and vitamins.
- Contains Rumensin® to improve growth rate and feed conversion efficiency.
- Contains Tylan® as an aid in the prevention of liver abscess.

**Available in:** 20kg, Bulk Bags or Bulk

**Rumevite® Northern Bull Grower Pellet**
An energy and protein pellet for supplementary feeding of weaner, growing or mature bulls in northern Australia.

**Features & Benefits**
- Low risk pellet – contains very minimal grain so it can be safely fed under low input systems
- Can be fed either daily or 2-3 times per week in troughs. Alternatively feed ad lib in self feeders
- Based on vegetable protein meals – typically a combination of vegetable protein meals which may include cottonseed, canola, soybean, copra or sunflower meal
- Balanced levels of calcium, phosphorus, trace minerals and vitamins
- Contains added fats and oils to enhance coat shine
- Contains Rumensin® to improve growth rate and feed conversion efficiency.

**Available in:** 20kg, Bulk Bags or Bulk
Ridley AgriProducts - Northern Feed Mills

Ridley AgriProducts (Ridley) has a reputation for producing high quality products for its customers.

It is important Australia’s northern producers are supplied products that stand up to the demands of the northern pastoral environment.

To ensure Ridley consistently manufactures suitable products, Ridley:

✔ Is Feedsafe Accredited
✔ Has industry leading technical managers
✔ Tailors its diets to the demands of your livestock and your environment

For Australia’s northern livestock producers, Ridley’s feed mills produce:

**High Quality Stock Feeds**
- Pellets
- Meals
- Steam Flaked rations

**High Quality Supplements**
- Molten blocks
- Molasses blocks
- Loose licks
- Concentrates

Ridley AgriProducts has the ability to customise supplements and stock feed diets to suit your livestock requirements.

Please contact Ridley AgriProducts to discuss these options.
Finish, Fatten, or Fail – Meeting Your Market’s Needs
Tim Harrington, Ruminant Technical Manager

The profitability of commercial producers will be influenced by genetics (specific breed type or best combination) to meet optimum frame size and muscling whilst matching nutrition requirements to meet market specifications.

Identifying and meeting the nutrition requirements of the animal at key stages allows genetic potential to be realised. There are three important growth phases underpinned by nutritional influences.

Optimal nutrition in Phase 1 is critical to prepare the animal for future development. For example, calves (less than 200kg) that have had a severe growth restriction early in life will not fully recover and tend to have a small frame, little muscling and high fat content i.e. short and fat! Although this can occur with both sexes, it will be more noticeable in heifers than steers as they tend to mature earlier. Beware of buying light weight cattle (less than 200kg) to finish.

If an animal has had a good start to life and then experiences a nutritional restriction during Phase 2, on returning to good feed they will exhibit compensatory gain and will ‘catch-up’ with animals that have been on good feed throughout life. However, fat deposition will be delayed and the animals will have a slightly leaner carcass. Most of our domestic beef is supplied from steers from Phase 2.

Phase 3 is the ‘finishing’ phase where the animal is mature and is filling out (muscle cells) and depositing fat. Fat deposits can be found in the body cavity (gut-fat) and carcass (subcutaneous, inter-muscle or seam fat and intra-muscular fat or marbling). Market requirements will dictate the weight at which cattle should be slaughtered.

Finishing systems:
There are various ‘finishing systems’ a producer may implement which broadly fit into two categories:

1. “Grass-fed” includes pasture; summer crops (e.g. rape/turnips); silage or grain-assist (grain-mix or pellets).
2. “Grain-fed” includes lot-feeding in specific containment areas.

Regardless of finishing system, primary considerations should include:
- Animal Health (vaccinations, drenching etc)
- Feed Budgeting (cost of producing pasture, forages, supplements)
- Cattle buying and selling prices
- Nutrition
  - Careful introduction to new feed type (including summer crops)
  - Feed-test pastures/silages to better match nutrient requirements to growth phase
  - Match diet to growth phase
Balanced nutrition is critical to the success of a feeding programme. Typical scenarios include:

1. **Filling feed gaps – silage, hay and supplementary feed in the form of a balanced grain-ration or a nutritionally balanced pellet.** Ensure that stock also have a plentiful supply of palatable hay or straw. Alternatives include Rumevite Grain Balancer pellet to mix with grain, Rumevite Beef Weaner pellets (for stock weighing less than 350kg) or Rumevite Beef Finisher pellets (for stock weighing more than 350kg).

2. **Plentiful green pasture, high in energy, protein and moisture content.** Ensure adequate mineral supplementation to help prevent deficiencies that can occur when grazing immature pastures. Also, ensure stock have a plentiful supply of palatable hay or straw to slow down the rate of passage and assist with absorption of nutrients. Alternatives include Rumevite All Weather Minerals and Rumevite Fermafos loose lick.

**Mite Control in Feed**

Louise Edwards, Regulatory Affairs and Technical Product Manager

Pest infestation of grains and animal stockfeeds is a common problem that we all face. A multitude of factors contribute to the spoilage of grains and feed such as ambient temperature & humidity, quality of raw materials, manufacturing & packing processes, storage conditions (pallet distribution, storage conditions & duration, stock rotation, cleanliness).

Mites are a common pest problem particularly in grain and animal feed storage areas. Although small in size, mites can multiply quickly and cause enormous problems. Mites cause damage by consuming the germ of the grain and also spreading mould. Under favourable summer conditions (30°C, high humidity), mites can undergo a rapid population explosion. Indeed, a mite can complete its life cycle in 8-12 days. Mites tend to be more obvious in grains or animal feeds with high moisture content and/or contaminated with mould. Signs of a heavy infestation include an apparent dust on and in the vicinity of stored grain or animal feed. A lemon-flavoured odour is often smelt which is synonymous with the ‘Lemon-scented mite’. In some cases of heavy infestation, handlers may experience itchiness and in extreme conditions allergic reactions.

There are a number of different strategies and technologies available to control and prevent pest and mould contamination in grain and animal feed storage areas. Chemical strategies include the use of insecticides and fumigants of which there are a large range available within the marketplace. Before implementing any chemical treatments or strategies, it is important that expert technical advice is sought. Non-chemical strategies can be easily implemented to assist in the control and prevention of mite contamination:

- Management of temperature and moisture in storage areas through ventilation/ aeration (i.e. <20°C, <55% relative humidity)
- Ensure moisture of grains does not exceed 12%
- Implement and adhere to strict hygiene practices when handling and/or storing grains and animal feeds
- Regular inspection for pest infestation with the immediate removal of any infested materials
Grain Market Update - How is Australia positioned?
Stephen Howells, Procurement Manager

Grain pricing in Australia is affected by two key drivers; what is happening internationally and what is happening domestically.

In the last few months, our domestic pricing of grain has been driven by what has been occurring in our overseas markets. Recent increases in grain prices are due to the drastically reduced production forecasts for all crops including wheat, corn and soybeans in the US due to their long period of hot and dry weather. This pricing issue has been compounded by other competing export origins such as Russia and the Black Sea region which have been rainfall deficient, with crops there progressively reducing in yield concerns about the volume of exportable surplus from that region.

All of these raise issues for a number of reasons across grains and meals.

- All of the concerns in the Black Sea should be laid to rest as Russia announced that they will utilise emergency stocks to stabilise domestic prices there & there is no need for an export ban. The Ukraine also said there is no need to ban exports because everyone exporting from there has agreed to quotas. Keep an eye on this though; things there can change very quickly.
- Interestingly, even though things in the US are not any better than expected, prices have stabilised as a result of a move from speculation of how things ‘might’ be, to how things ‘actually’ are. This has resulted in lower volatility in international markets.
- It is difficult to see a lot of downside from here, even as US harvest pressure keeps world prices in check, with a reduced global crop & plenty of sales being made currently due to historically high prices for sellers, at some point higher prices will have an impact, reducing demand. We could potentially see this in first half of next year when global stocks tighten further.
- Domestically, in the run up to our harvest, we are seeing the usual concerns around new crop as we look for rainfall in many areas across the country. This is keeping values supported locally.

Currently, Australia’s projected crop size is matter of conjecture. The USDA has our Wheat crop at 26MMT; this is too high & should be reduced in October’s monthly update. ABARE have the Wheat crop at 22.5MMT, this is now at the upper end of expectations as we remain dry in some key areas of the country. WA is deficit rainfall & this is reducing their prospects by the day, as their crop gets smaller, this increases the pressure on the East Coast to have a reasonable crop. It will also increase the export requirements on the east coast to make up the shortfall, so expect price pressure to remain solid.

Growers are not engaging the market to sell grain just yet, waiting to get one more rain it would seem. The difficulty now is the structure of the market. $300/mt plus wheat is telling the grower to ‘sell the bejesus out of this thing’ (technical term!), but the global production situation also says you may well see rallies in Q2 next year on the back on Nthn Hemisphere production concerns. The trade look at the structure & say that all that selling will pressure the market, so wait for the selling & lower prices, but if new crop production does have a hiccup, the next stop could be the moon!
Rumevite Testimonial - Warren Russell, Melrose Merinos

How long have you been preparing rams for show? I have been feeding rams for show preparation for 16 years.

Farm Background/History: The Russell family settled at ‘Melrose’ in 1880 and began breeding fine wool sheep based on Tasmanian bloodlines. Jack and Mel Russell registered a merino stud in 1934 and John Russell registered a poll stud in 1995.

Industry achievements: 2000 Victorian ewe of the year and 2010 Victorian Ram of the year. ‘Melrose’ is currently selling 100 + rams a year, clients regularly win clip of the sale and clip of the month in the Elders wool sale catalogue.

How long have you been with Rumevite? Three years we have been using the Rumevite Stud Ram Mix

What do you like about Rumevite Stud Ram Mix? It’s a good product and consistently a quality feed. I also like the reasonable turnaround and price point.

What are your thoughts on the future of the wool industry? Stud sheep breeding and selling has always been competitive, but you need to excel in a number of areas to maintain your position in the market place. What’s important is a high quality product that performs in the paddock with strong genetics that lift performance of clients flocks, combined with good marketing. At the moment, 2011 and 2012 has seen good demand for rams, because of higher demand for wool and better seasonal conditions that make running sheep more attractive. However, like all markets there will be ups and downs but I believe there is an exciting future for wool production.

Pictured above; Warren, Alex and Emma Russell with their Reserve Victorian ewe of the year, a champion superfine poll March shorn ewe and their champion fine poll ewe.
**Products in Season**

**Rumevite® Bull Developer**
A supplementary pellet designed for preparation of bulls from weaning through to sale or show.

- Palatable grain ration presented as a pellet containing customised ingredients suitable for preparing bulls.
- Contains Rumensin® to improve growth rate and feed conversion efficiency.
- Contains Tylan® as an aid in the prevention of liver abscesses.
- Contains Acid-Buf®, a natural rumen buffer.

**Available in:** Bulk

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**Rumevite® Stud Ram Ration**
A balanced grain ration for the preparation of stud sheep for show and sale.

**Features & Benefits**
- Palatable ration based on steam rolled grains and lupins.
- Contains quality lucerne and cereal chaffs.
- Contains molasses to aid palatability.
- Contains an acidifying agent to reduce the risk of urinary calculi (water belly).
- High levels of bypass protein.
- Balanced levels of calcium, phosphorus, trace minerals and vitamins.

**Available in:** 20kg or Bulk Bags
Gavin & Kirrily Iseppi run the Red Angus seed-stock operation GK Red Angus on Queensland’s Darling Downs. Gavin & Kirrily have had a life long association with Beef cattle and after travelling to North America in 1993 established their Red Angus herd with imported Canadian Genetics.

Gavin said “We aim to produce 50 to 60 high quality Red Angus calves each year, selling the majority of bull calves into central & northern Queensland at approximately 10 to 12 months of age. We also market over half the female progeny to other stud Red Angus Breeders Australia wide. In order to gain exposure to the potential market place, we endeavour to annually show a select group of cattle from the heart of the herd.”

“This year we exhibited our team right across the Eastern seaboard, at Sydney, Rockhampton’s Beef 2012, The Red Angus National Show & Sale in Dubbo, Brisbane & we will finish the year by attending the Melbourne Royal in September.” Gavin said

GK Livestock show cattle are fed a Rumevite steam-flaked ration and the Iseppi’s swear by this mix. Kirrily explained that “there are a lot of factors involved when showing, but good nutrition is the basis to having a successful show team. The Rumevite mixes are a very palatable feed and the cattle gain & grow extremely well on it. We hand feed the stud ration to the show cattle. Any commercial cattle that are being finished including our show steers are fed on a Rumevite finisher in self- feeders”.

GK Livestock bred & exhibited the Heavyweight champion carcass at the 2010 Brisbane Royal Show. Australia’s premier steer show. This 12 month old steer also won the MSA meat standards eating quality award and he was fed Rumevite Steam-flaked Beef finisher for around 120 days.

The GK Livestock cow herd is also supplemented on the Rumevite loose lick supplement, “Pro-Phos” through winter and into spring. The Iseppi’s find that their cows bounce back and recover from winter much faster, when the season breaks.

Recent 2012 successes with GK Livestock have included winning:

- Best Red Angus exhibit, 5 breed championships, Most Successful Red Angus exhibitor and member of the Interbreed Champion Pair at the 2012 Sydney Royal Show. Their bull, GK 26 Federer F23 paired with a Victorian Red Angus cow to win the prestigious Hordern Trophy (Supreme Beef Pair).

- Seven Championships including Junior and Grand Champion Red Angus bull and top ten finalist in the Interbreed bull, with a team of six at Rockhampton’s Beef 2012.


The Iseppi family have had an outstanding show season this year which will be very hard to top, but they have no doubt the exposure they have gained, has benefited both their business and the Red Angus Breed.

Gavin & Kirrily always look forward to sorting through the weaners at the end of November, or the start of December and starting the process all over again in the New Year.

For more information on GK Livestock, please find them at:

www.gklivestock.com.au
This year the Droughtmaster National sale celebrated its 53rd year of selling bulls to Australian cattlemen. In that time the sale has gone from strength to strength, starting with 64 bulls at the inaugural sale in 1960 to 550 bulls that were presented for this year’s sale on the 11th and 12th of September. As always the “Drinks with Droughties at Dusk” held the night before the sale was a great success and was attended by over 400 people. This is always a great place to catch up with vendors and buyers and discuss the Droughtmaster breed which is taking the Australian beef industry by storm.

This year buyers took advantage of the DN. Sales NEW personal travel rebate of $500 to purchasers who buy five or more bulls and live more than 1000kms from the sale yards. The generous freight rebate of up to $300 per bull was also available again this year.

The 2012 DN. Sale offered over 500 carefully selected bulls by 101 vendors from 10,000 plus registered cows. There were bulls to suit everybody’s budget and bulls sold to 3 states including Western Australia.

This outstanding success has been achieved mainly due to a couple of things; the ability of DN. bulls to perform in all types of country and to produce cattle that suit all domestic, export and live export markets. The second is the unmatched assurances and values that vendors provide. These include stringent vet checks (ACV certificate), scanning results and vaccinations second to none, all bulls are tested to ensure they are not BVDV persistently infected animals, all are tick treated so they are clean to travel to all parts of Australia and vendors guarantee pedigree integrity and that all bulls meet the “Droughtmaster Standard of Excellence”.

This generated a very successful sale result:
- 192 buyers
- 90% clearance rate
- 53% of bulls sold for less than $5,001
- 492 bulls sold into three states
- $6,763 average

Rumevite is proud to be associated with the DN. Sale, which is recognised as “Australia’s Premier Droughtmaster Bull Sale”.

http://www.droughtmasternational.com/index.html