

Feedlots paying for quality

LEONGATHA

TOP quality lines of Red Angus cattle made the premium price for steers and heifers at Leongatha on Monday.

The Stevens Egan Johnston feature store sale comprised of 3220 cattle, many of which were annual drafts.

More than 100 Red Angus steers and a further 40 steers were offered by the Heggan family from Bingiwarri and they fetched the top per-kilogram price for both categories.

Their lightest pen of eight steers, which weighed 264kg, recorded 412c/kg, the best value of the day.

A pen of their medium-weight unjoined heifers made 403c/kg or \$1260.

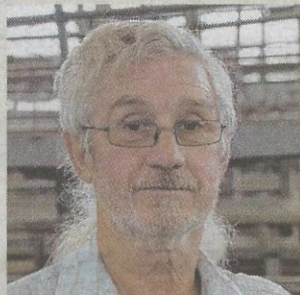
The Heggans also offered two pens of PTIC Red Angus cows, due to calve next month, which made a top of \$2470.

Overall, heavyweight pens, which weighed more than 400kg, made between 260c/kg and 309c/kg.

The top price of 309c/kg was for a pen of 22 Angus, which weighed 417kg.

Medium-weight steers, weighing 320-380c/kg, made a top of 373c/kg for 22 Angus for

THE YARDSTICK



Max Anthony, Leongatha South

Bought 15 Angus steers, 598kg, \$1560 (261c/kg).

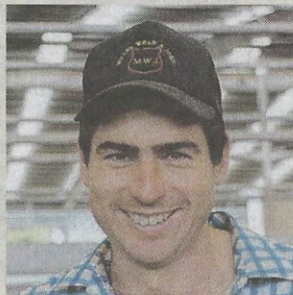
"I bought them because they were cheaper on the day than I would've expected. I will keep them until the market improves and the cattle fatten."



Coral Donat, Mardan

Sold 14 Angus steers,

348kg, \$1170 (336c/kg). "They are 9-10 months old and in pretty good condition. I thought it was a fairly good price for them. We usually sell most of our younger cattle in the spring."



Campbell Ross, Warragul. Commission buyer

Bought 200 mixed breed steers and heifers. Steers to \$1200 and heifers to \$1100.

"Happy with the prices for how the market is at the moment. They were good quality and will go into a feedlot."

22 Angus from account Pilkington and Toohey from Sandy Point.

Most heifers made 240c/kg-300c/kg.

As the weights got lower, the per-kilo value increased with the best-quality pens of small heifers making more upwards of 320c/kg.

John Tuffin from Toora offered his large annual draft of Hereford, Angus and Hereford-Angus steers and heifers and they sold to "reasonable prices".

Mr Tuffin's 74 steers made a top of \$1420 for a pen of heavy Hereford-Angus while a pen of the crossbreeds also topped his heifer offering, of 58, at \$1120.

"Clearly the prices are a lot

down on last year but I've been breeding cattle for 40 years and those sky-high prices don't come around very often," Mr Tuffin said.

"You should never waste your time on things you can't control and in this case that is the prices. For where the market is, I thought my cattle sold well on the day."

TOPLOTS

STEERS

K&L Heggan, Binginwarri: 8 Red Angus, 264kg, \$1090 (412c/kg).

Pilkington & Toohey, Sandy Point: 22 Angus, 324kg, \$1210 (373c/kg).

F&C Cameron, Phillip Island: 15 Angus, 301kg, \$1060 (348c/kg).

R&C Donat, Mardan: 14 Angus, 348kg, \$1170 (336c/kg).

T&C Hulls, Leongatha South: 21 Angus, 335kg, \$1080 (322c/kg).

Greenwald Pastoral Co, Foster: 20 Angus, 321kg, \$1030 (320c/kg).

C&W White, Foster: 10 Angus, 362kg,

\$1160 (320c/kg).

D Hall, Foster: 22 Angus, 417kg, \$1290 (309c/kg).

Walkerville Farms, Walkerville: 20 Angus, 384kg, \$1185 (308c/kg).

HEIFERS

K&L Heggan, Binginwarri: 16 Red Angus, 312kg, \$1260 (403c/kg).

F&C Cameron, Phillip Island: 23 Angus, 295kg, \$1000 (338c/kg).

Brentcorp: 16 Red Angus, 314kg, \$990 (305c/kg).

R&J Taylor, Walkerville: 22 Angus, 367kg, \$1110 (302c/kg).

J Geri, Buffalo: 19 Angus, 330kg, \$980 (296c/kg).

SEJ auctioneer James Kyle said the older cattle were making 280c/kg on average.

He said prices were about what he expected.

"It was better quality yarding than normal because we tried to take out a lot of the crossbred cattle that have previously been sold at this sale," Mr Kyle said.

"People were buying for the quality so after looking at prices from Pakenham last week, I think this was a fairly good sale."

Mr Kyle said feedlot competition was key, especially those who would not usually buy out of South Gippsland such as Jalna Feedlot.

— ALICE POHLNER