**Sprys 2024 Sale Report**

The Spry family celebrated a milestone on Wednesday last week at their 60 Years of Breeding Bull Sale where bulls reached $40,000.

Held on property “Ardlui” Wagga Wagga, the sale was opened by Spencer Morgan, The Grove Shorthorns, Condamine Qld, who reflected on the Spry family’s contribution to the Shorthorn breed internationally as well as Australia.

” Gerald and his team have always been leaders in the drive to keep Shorthorns relevant in today’s beef industry”, he said.

A large crowd were in attendance to witness an outstanding draft of Shorthorn & Angus bulls which were very much industry focused. Shorthorns had a 100% clearance (45/45) to average $13,667.

While the family’s contribution to Shorthorns was perhaps best recognized, their commitment to Angus has continued to broaden their footprint in the seedstock sector in recent years and was also evident in the sale’s $40,000 top price bull.

The top priced Shorthorn bull, Sprys Thermal Energy T80 was sold to Munuka Farming, Greenways SA. The 21 month old Muridale Thermal Energy 15A son weighed 792kg and ranked in the top 2% for carcase weight with a figure of 21.7, top 10% for weaning weight and top 15% for yearling weight, rib eye area, fat & marbling.

Tom Gould, from Manuka Farming said the bull would be used as an artificial insemination sire throughout the family operation. “We needed a good growth, moderate birth weight bull” he said. The family runs a 500 cow, self replacing herd also with 60 years of breeding behind it.

The 2nd top priced Shorthorn bull, Sprys Down Under T72 sold to Outback Shorthorns, Culcairn and Buckingbong Station, Narrandera for $36,000. Also by Muridale Thermal Energy 15A, the red 758kg, homozygous polled had a 40cm scrotal and was in the top 10% for maternal weaning weight, docility, fat depth and had calving ease, milk and maternal calving ease figures in the top 15% along with an All Purpose Index of 121.29 (top 10%).

7 Thermal Energy 15A sons averaged $19, 751 in the sale.

Lot 2, Sprys Patriot T12 was sold to the Tippett family from Dean Vic for $26,000.

Buckingbong Station was the volume buyer of the sale, purchasing another 6 bulls to average $8714. One of the stations managers, Tom Hand, said the line of bulls suited their change in breeding direction as they were adding growth and muscling and liked the longevity of Shorthorn bulls. The operation runs 4000 Angus breeders on 9300 hectares across 3 properties at Adjungbilly, Narrandera & Oberon. The weaner steers go into their feedlot for finishing while the heifers were retained for breeding.

A package of 4 embryo’s from Sprys Miss Heritage P140 by Sire Sprys Down Under S77 were purchased by the Perkins family, WE Livestock for $600 per embryo with all proceeds for promotion of the advantages of using Shorthorns in crossbreeding. Outback Shorthorns, Culcairn also offered a package of 4 embryo’s from Outback Ann R22 by sire Sprys Goldenrod P39 and were purchased by Moricom Orchards, Leeton for $1400 each.

Overall 45 of 45 Shorthorn bulls sold to average $13,667 while 19 of 34 Angus bulls sold to average $9900 and All three Angus/Shorthorn bulls sold to $7000 to average $6666 and both embryo packages were sold.

The sale was conducted by H Francis & Co, Wagga Wagga and Elders with Paul Dooley as Guest Auctioneer and the online auction interface from AuctionsPlus.