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At the cutting edge ...
STOCK & LAND



END OF AN ERA

VICTORIA'S Angus industry is about to undergo a massive shakeup, with leading studs Witherswood, Yancowinna and Anvil deciding to disperse herds in sales later this year. **MORE P6**



Angus shake-up as studs sell

BY ANDREW MILLER

SOME of Victoria's most prominent Angus bloodlines will go under the hammer later this year as three of the State's leading studs hold dispersal sales.

Anvil Angus, Acheron, Yancowinna, Cape Paterson, and Witherswood, Taminick – the home of Australia's most expensive Angus bull – have confirmed dispersal sales for October and November.

Each of the stud principals said the decision to disperse their herds was made on personal grounds.

"We are at 81 years of age," John and Joan Woodruff said.

"It isn't a decision we have taken lightly but we will be happy to see our genetics made available to other breeders to advance their operations."

The Woodruffs have been breeding cattle for 28 years and founded Witherswood 20 years ago.

The sale will take place in mid-October, with 400 females to be offered, consisting of cows and calves, donors, weaner heifers and recipients with embryos.

It will be followed by the regular bull sale, in March 2019.

Witherswood Angus was part of a consortium which purchased Millah Murrh Kingdom K35 in September, 2015 for \$150,000, which set an Australian record price for an Angus bull.

Anvil stud principal Stephen Handbury said he

intended to keep running a commercial operation.

Mr Handbury said he was dispersing the stud for family reasons.

"It's not an easy decision but at the end of the day, it's family first," Mr Handbury said.

He said he and his wife Melissa had a son with autism, and the facilities in rural Victoria were no longer adequate to assist him, so they were moving to Melbourne.

He stressed he would not be changing to Wagyu.

"Angus cattle work for us, and we are not changing to Wagyu, full stop," he said.

Mr Handbury said he had been running Anvil for about 15 years.

The dispersal, of 1000 lots, would take place over two days, on November 14 and 15, with Anvil keeping some animals back for its commercial operation.

"We have a number of cow families which are exclusive to us, we have built them up over the past decade, and they perform extremely well," he said.

Yancowinna's herd will go under the hammer in October.

Stud stock consultant Dick Whale said Yancowinna would offer 300 females, 20 embryos and 40 bulls.

He said principal Dennis Ginn was retiring from the stud sector, due to ongoing health problems.

Yancowinna had been running for about 40 years

and Mr Ginn would continue with a commercial herd.

Mr Whale said Mr Ginn was a former president of Angus Australia and in his time, had bred cattle to suit all markets.

"He was one of the initial suppliers to the Certified Australian Angus Beef (CAAB) brand," Mr Whale said

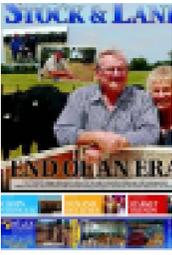
"He has been conscious of the carcass as well as maternal attributes of the Angus breed."

Yancowinna's dispersal sale will take place on October 21 and 22.



It's not an easy decision, but at the end of the day, it's family first.

Stephen Handbury, Anvil Angus



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SALE SUCCESS: Anvil Angus 2017 Spring sale, with Elders stud stock representative Ross Milne, Merlewood Angus stud consultant Willie Milne, principal Stephen Handbury, and Rodwells Yea manager Adam Mountjoy.