

Background to Survey

Background to Survey (this is an exact copy of what is included at the start of the survey)

Aim: We are researching beef breeding bulls in beef and dairy herds in south west of Western Australia, to find out about their loss from breeding, how many and why. This survey includes general background information about the farm, and specific questions about premature loss, sale, or slaughter of breeding bulls.

This information will help to understand the reasons for turnover of breeding bulls in the south west of Western Australia. The benefit of this information will be to help prioritise further research aimed to provide producers, with methods for reducing turnover of breeding bulls and therefore decrease costs. A summary of the results of this study will be distributed to various organisations, including; breed societies, the WA Landcare Network, Western Beef Association, rotary WA and Natural Resource Management Organisations.

There is a specific focus on how sheath score relates to these different causes of premature culling, as this is an area with little research, but has been suggested to be related to premature culling.

There is an online version of the questionnaire and a word document with a table. The questionnaire allows for information about three bulls lost in the past 12 months to be entered, the table allows you to include more than three bulls. If you find it easier, however, you can complete the questionnaire multiple times (After your first submission, you only need to complete location, herd size and number of beef bulls in the herd information section).

Eligibility: Participants in this survey should live in the South West, Great Southern or Wheatbelt regions of Australia and have a herd size of at least 100, with at least one beef breeding bull. This survey should take around 15mins. This survey will close on the 17th May 2021. Completion of this survey will enter you into a raffle to win a \$100 prize.

This study has been approved by the Murdoch University Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval 2020/161). If you have any reservation or complaint about the ethical conduct of this research, and wish to talk with an independent person, you may contact Murdoch University's Research Ethics & Integrity on Tel. 08 9360 6677 (+61 8 9360 6677 for

overseas studies) or e-mail ethics@murdoch.edu.au. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

Link to survey: https://murdochuni.sydney1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZlmAn4Cw2ffDRX

Disclaimer: Your personal information will be kept confidential. Responses will be deidentified for the purposes of data analysis and reporting.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, Michael Craske, at: 33170658@student.murdoch.edu.au or my supervisor, Associate Professor Pete Irons, at: P.Irons@murdoch.edu.au