Bull Breakdown in Western Australia

Background Information

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.

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

Reference List:

1. Australian Brahman Breeders' Association Ltd. Phenotypic Standard of Australian Brahman Cattle: Version 06 [pdf]. Australian Brahman Breeders' Association Ltd [cited 2020 Jun 16]. Available from:
http://www.brahman.com.au/download/ABBA_Phenotypic_Standard_of_Aust_Brahman_Cattle.pdf.

I consent for the information in this survey to be used for academic purposes.   Yes   No

<u>Herd Information</u>
Property Location (shire):

Herd size (approximate number of breeding-age females):

Number of beef bulls in breeding herd:

Briefly Describe your joining policy used in the last 12 months

◯ Single sire mating, limited joining period

◯ Single sire mating, year-round joining

◯ Multi-sire mating, limited joining season

◯ Multi-sire mating, year-round joining

◯ Other (please specify) _____

When adding beef bulls to your breeding herd, besides price and availability/location, on what basis do you choose these bulls? Tick each box which you consider to be essential criteria

- [ ] Breed

- [ ] Conformation

- [ ] Microscopic (on farm) semen quality

- [ ] Microscopic (laboratory) semen quality

- [ ] Disease-free status (e.g. BVDV)

- [ ] Bull-testing certificate

- [ ] Genetic Information

- [ ] Temperament

- [ ] On advice of an advisor (vet)

- [ ] On advice of an advisor (other than vet)

- [ ] Other (please specify, separating answers with a comma)

        _____

What is the main purpose for breeding on your farm?

- ○ Stud

- ○ Meat

- ○ Other (please specify) _____

When do you normally sell a beef breeding bull, presuming he has performed satisfactorily?

○ After a set number of seasons (please specify how many)

_____

○ At a set age

○ On advice of an advisor (vet)

○ On advice of an advisor (other than vet)

○ Other (please specify) _____

How many beef bulls from your breeding herd left the property in the last 12 months?

○ 0

○ 1

○ 2

○ 3

○ >3

Of these beef breeding bulls, were any sold, slaughtered or lost before the usual end of their useful life ('premature cull')?

○ Yes

○ No

If you answered yes to the previous question, please complete the table on the next page in regards to any bulls sold, slaughtered or lost prematurely.

If you answered no to the previous question, you can skip the table on the next page.

Bull Information *Please add as many rows to the table as you require

	What was the breed of the bull? (for crossbred bulls, name the predominant breed/breeds in the cross. If not known type 'Unknown')	Reason for premature culling. (answers may include: death, unsatisfactory calves, injury affecting breeding, disease status, bull testing results, illness/poor health, poor conformation, etc.)	Nature of the injury. (answers may include: N/A, penis, sheath, legs/back, testes/scrotum, etc.)	Sheath conformation before the injury. (please enter the number that corresponds to the picture in appendix 1)	Any relevant additional information.
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

<u>Personal Information</u>
Name (optional, required for entry into raffle):

Email (optional, required for entry into raffle):

Name of Murdoch Student that encouraged participation (if applicable):
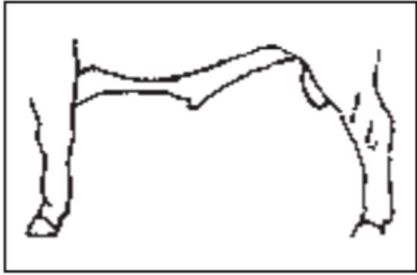
I am willing to answer follow-up questions in regard to my responses at another time.
Yes   No

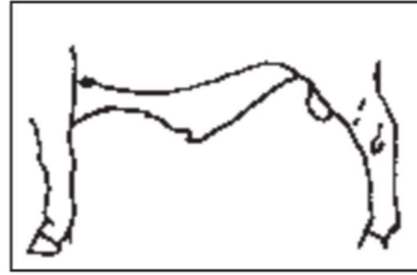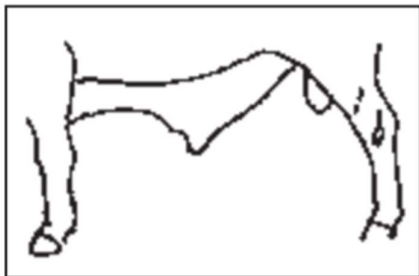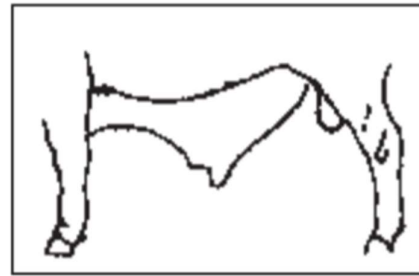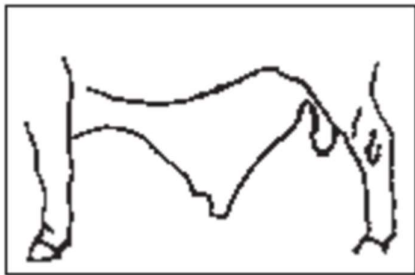Thank you for your time, your response is greatly appreciated.

Appendix 1

Score 1

(1)

Score 2

(1)

Score 3

(1)

Score 4

(1)

Score 5

(1)