

## FIVE MOWAG GELBVIEH SIRES AT GINGIN

The Mowag Gelbvieh bulls will be the first stud presenting at the Gingin Bull Sale on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March due to the breed achieving the highest average price at last years' sale. Mowag Zeus sold for \$6,800 to Lyndon Watson of Dongara. The five Mowag bulls available this year continue to demonstrate the outstanding breeding achievements at the WA College of Agriculture Morawa. Prospective buyers will need to be early if they wish to purchase a Mowag Gelbvieh as the five sale bulls are the only animals still available. All other new season bulls have been sold privately.

In spite of the drought conditions staff at the College are surprised by how well the cattle have maintained condition with minimal hand feeding. This desirable trait combines with their ideal cross breeding with British breeds to produce higher yielding carcasses. Calves demonstrate higher weaning weights and dressing percentage.



Included in the Gingin sale is Mowag Alfred (lot 2), an outstanding sire exhibiting physical traits of depth and volume which is backed up with great EBV arithmetic. Alfred is by High Plains V Man, the College's main prime sire of Perth Royal Show champions, and dam Mowag Clare 128 the daughter of Sydney Royal Show Champion Mowag Astill.

The Mowag team combines something for everyone; Mowag Acme (lot3) is a polled bull with great conformation and excellent growth rate who is suitable for mature cows. Mowag Aggie (lot 1) and Mowag Ajack (lot4) are polled bulls with very low birth weights ideal for use over heifers, while the exceptionally quiet tempered Mowag Africa (lot 5) would be suitable for both young and mature cows.

Geoff Baines, technical officer in charge of the stud explained that the cattle programme is a popular choice with students at the College. Each year the Year 12 students are required to choose between sheep, cattle and pigs for their specialised studies in animal production and marketing. "Few students find working with large animals daunting, he said. "The cattle are selected for temperament and students feel safe to undertake herd management tasks. The new cattle complex completed in 2006 provides a safe handling environment. Students come with varying levels of animal handling experience but by the end of the course all develop the confidence and skills required to handle and lead.", he concluded.

The College guarantees the productivity of the Mowag bulls with fertility tests conducted annually and veterinary certificates are available.

Further information can be obtained from the College office on 99711158 or after hours from Geoff Baines 99711148 or John Barrett 99711264. Electronic enquiries may be forwarded to [Morawa.AC@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Morawa.AC@det.wa.edu.au)

Lorraine Madden – School Officer