

Te Mania to \$15,000

By RUTH CASKEY

STRONG bidding from new and repeat buyers helped Te Mania Angus reach a top of \$15,000 at the stud's annual northern spring bull sale at Walgett saleyards last Tuesday.

Seventy of the 85 bulls offered sold in the auction for an average of \$5285 and a clearance of 82 per cent, with all remaining bulls sold after the sale.

Minnamurra Pastoral Company, which has properties in the Bylong Valley, Gunnedah and Walgett districts as well as Cunnamulla, Queensland, was the volume and top-priced buyer.

The \$15,000 Te Mania Hibbard was a 24-month-old bull by Tuwharetoa Regent, from Te Mania Moongara, weighed 780 kilograms and had estimated breeding values (EBVs) of +51 for 200-day, +94 for 400-day, +128 for 600-day weight and +3.7 for intramuscular fat.

Minnamurra purchased four of the five highest priced bulls, spending \$13,000 on Te Mania Hark, and purchasing Te Mania Harmonic and Te Mania Harbison at \$10,000 each.

Te Mania Hark, a 24-month-old bull by Tuwharetoa Regent from Te Mania Boortkoi, weighed 750kg and had EBVs +4.0 for birthweight, +48 for 200-day, +82 for 400-day and +110 for 600-day weight.

The company, which runs cattle at "Glenrowan", Gunnedah, "Cortina", in the Bylong Valley, "Old Boorooma", Walgett and "Oinmurra", Dirranbandi, and "Noorooma", Cunnamulla, in Qld, purchased 11 bulls in total, averaging \$8818.

Minnamurra Pastoral Company general manager Dennis Power said all Te Mania bulls would be sent to "Cortina" for use in the company's artificial insemination program.



Minnamurra Pastoral Company general manager Dennis Power, "Glenrowan", Gunnedah, with Te Mania Angus stud co-principal Hamish McFarlane and the top-priced bull, Te Mania Hibbard, which sold for \$15,000.

The company runs between 8000 and 9000 breeders across the five properties, with the focus on improving the female line.

Daryl and Grant Ford, Ford Cattle Company, Tea Gardens, purchased the third highest priced bull, parting with \$12,000 for Te Mania Haugh, another 24-month-old bull by Tuwharetoa Regent from Te Mania Boortkoi.

Weighing 780kg, Te Mania Haugh had EBVs of -4.7 for gestation length, +82 for 400-day, and +108 for 600-day weight.

There was a number of volume buyers at the sale, including Belinda Duddy, "South Callandoon", Goondiwindi, Qld, who purchased nine bulls for an average of \$3777, and David and John Goodman, "Eulalie", Mungindi, who purchased eight bulls for an average of \$3250.

Michael O'Brien, "The Brigalow", Carinda, purchased five bulls for an

average of \$5700 and Fred and Lindy Swanson, "Forest Glen", Coonabarabran, and Ben and Pru Coulton, "Getta Getta", North Star, purchased four bulls each.

Stud co-principal Hamish McFarlane said the families were happy with the sale, saying the \$5285 average was solid in the current market and tough seasonal conditions of the area.

"The Walgett area has been doing it tough. Some people are into their third year with no crops in," he said.

Mr McFarlane was particularly impressed with the performance of Tuwharetoa Regent sons, with 13 bulls selling for an average of \$6961.

"A lot of our own home bred sires performed really well, and the Regent sons did well," he said.

The sale was conducted by Clemson Hiscox and Company, Walgett, with Paul Dooley, Tamworth, auctioneering.