



Access to top genetics without spending up big

GARRY Hall can't justify spending \$20,000 or more on bulls, so he leases them instead.

As part of Team Te Mania, Mr Hall is able to satisfy his sire needs without needing to spend big dollars to access top genetics.

Following the 2008-09 drought, Mr Hall became involved in the program.

"We skip ahead a generation in genetic gain because we are using the latest bulls from Te Mania," he said.

The alternative was to purchase bulls at \$20,000 and greater but Mr Hall said he could not justify the expense.

"I couldn't compete with the top price although I would have liked to access the genetics," he said.

Mr Hall compared the cost of purchasing bulls at \$5000 to \$7000 each with the cost of leasing them for the three-year-period offered as part of the Team Te Mania deal.

"Ultimately, the costs were on par, so the benefit was getting the latest genetics because we were turning over our bulls

every three years," he said.

Costs like transport from the Victorian border were also factored into his comparative equation.

Mr Hall said any bulls that brokedown were replaced by Te Mania so he only had fully fit sires in his battery.

Besides the benefits of group marketing, the knowledge sharing between members was positive and goes a long way to improving the viability of their operations.

Mr Hall (pictured) said he was using a combination of leasing bulls and artificial insemination (AI) in his annual joining program.

"Straws at \$13 are a fantastic deal," he said

"We get reasonably good conception rates but still back up with a natural joining."

The females are chemically-co-ordinated to cycle at a certain time and all are inseminated during that period.

Costs included \$30.85 per cow for the drugs and insemination, plus travel of \$200 per day.

— STEPHEN BURNS



Calves are weaned for a minimum of 10 days and introduced to people, horses and dogs.



The Hall family working Angus cattle on "The Mole", Warren.