



Herd refinement along brand bloodlines a premium enterprise

ALTHOUGH 2014 cattle prices seem a world away from the current market, the return has been positive both years for Angus producers Dennis and Susie Stewart, Cugong Station, near Condobolin.

Last year none of their cattle sold under \$1000 a head – including females – a profit Mr Stewart said stemmed from

being part of the Te Mania brand.

Most of their steers are grown to meet feedlot specifications, and all attract a 10 cent premium on market prices, he said.

The Stewarts steers were sent to lotfeeders Rangers Valley, near Glen Innes, who normally finished cattle for the domestic and Japanese markets, and

Steve McKay at Yanco, who mainly supplied supermarkets, Mr Stewart said.

“We do always get a premium on saleyard prices, so that’s variable year-on-year, but the reputation of the Te Mania cattle is guaranteed, it’s enough for people to want to come and buy them,” he said.

“It’s nice to have your stock in

demand and the fact we’re providing large lines is a help, too.”

The “ready acceptance” of black cattle in the feedlot market was also comforting, he said.

“There are some feedlots that won’t take anything but Angus; our cattle are representative of the breed, they adjust easily to

the feedlot situation and are easy to handle, and they’re a good beast to work with.”

The Stewarts are pictured checking seven- to eight-month-old weaners that would be held until September/October, when they would hopefully achieve the feedlot weight of between 380 and 420 kilograms.

– SIMONE NORRIE

In general terms agriculture is in a great place; whether you’re wool, lamb, cattle or if you have debt it’s low interest rates, it’s an unusual combination and it’s a great time to be a farmer