Hi Everybody ,

Unfortunately we have not been able to make it this year so this is a brief note to let you know what has been happening down here.

Well… its been a reasonable year considering, like everywhere else we have had less than ideal weather. The tail end of a long dry summer followed by a dry autumn and when the rain finally got here it was too cold for it to be much use. Things did green up eventually but spring has been cold and dry until this month….where we've had a good couple of decent rains. We are very grateful as although hay and silage production has been poor we are, for the time being, looking ok.

Hopefully those of you in drought affected areas have received some rain or get some relief soon.

As with everywhere else I'm guessing, cattle prices have been right down, due to cattle being shipped in extremely cheaply from interstate because of the drought.

We have had to hold on to last years calves or give them away so to speak so we have been a bit overstocked. Prices are gradually going up and it will be a relief to offload the excess stock shortly.

This spring has bought us our first crop of embryo transfer calves.

Having purchased some embryos from John Drysdale, we transferred 25 embryos into our Angus cattle last year with a live return of 13 calves. We are very happy with the calves and I think there are going to be some very nice bulls amongst them. Although, we are a little disappointed with only getting 3 heifers, even the Salers cows we AI'd have all dropped bull calves, I guess that’s the way it goes….

One noted occurrence was the arrival of twin bull calves to one of our Salers cows AI to the bull "Legacy", we have never had twins before, cow and calves doing exceptionally well.

We have just started to get calves from our own bull this last week or so with one Pure Salers and three Salers /Angus cross calves.

Ironically so far all the cross breeds are female….

All of the Angus cows having ET calves have calved easily.

The Angus in calf to the Salers bull so far have calved very easy also with weights around 34kg. We have weighed all our calves this year.

Well I'm not sure what else to tell you. We would love to have been there in person.

I've included a couple of pics I took with my phone this afternoon in the rain unfortunately they are not real good but something for you all to have a chat about.

If there is anything anyone would like to ask about don't be shy we would love to hear from you. I have included my number.

Just a final note, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support and patience. Starting out can be a little daunting and you guys have been great. Thanks.

Regards ,

Nathan and Kate Rabe Valley View Salers

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