

## \$20,000 Bull...



That's right! A Devon bull has brought \$20,000 in Australia. And there's no question that Australian Devon president Bob Crawford believes in the breed. What follows is an excerpt from the news release.

Bob & Jo Crawford have just finalised the purchase of a sire package from Peter & Tricia Knight which included \$20,000 for a yearling Poll Devon bull.

The Crawfords run 2,000 Angus and Devon females on properties in the Crookwell and Moulamein districts. They sought to broaden the genetic base of their Mount Lookout Devon herd and the Coonabarabran based Belar herd of the Knights offered the range of types and breeding that appealed. Previously they had purchased Belar females to build their numbers and have been extremely impressed with the way they performed and the type of their progeny. Some of these cows are now 16 years old and still producing.

Bob is convinced that Devons are an extremely important part of his management plans. Their temperament and ease of handling continually amaze him as does the high quality local trade carcasses they produce. The fact that they have been able to source quality poll bulls means the herd will be mainly polled.

The yearling bull purchased was not originally for sale but he impressed the Crawfords enough for them to keep pestering Mr Knight until he came on the market.

Belar B141 (P) is a meaty son of some of the best lines in the Belar herd. He is a mix of a line that was developed from early NZ lines crossed over long established Australian lines.

Mr Knight said that he is not willingly letting B141 go even at that price. "To be quite honest, I was not interested in selling him. I only gave in to the Crawfords because I knew he was going to a great home and would do a lot of good in their herd. I would also always have the option of buying back some of his progeny if the need arose."

Bob & Jo regard their purchase as a good investment in the future of their herd and the breed. "We are prepared to pay the same price for Devons as others do for different breeds, especially as we know just how well they perform." Said Jo. "For too long breeds such as Devons have been overlooked in the rush to go black."