

Beef cattle at Tocal 360 - transcript

Hi I'm Mail Burke, I'm the Beef Manager here at Tocal College. I'm responsible for the beef cattle enterprise, the sheep enterprise and horses. Most of my job is coordinating the business of the beef enterprise and the training of students. The students help us with all our daily husbandry things we might have to do with the cattle, it could be mustering, fencing or doing some farm work.

[00:53] This set of yards we're working in is calving yards which is about a kilometre from the front of the property and we do a lot of our training here. The other set of yards is about another 5 kilometres out towards the back of the property which is Canobies yards.

[02:06] The property where the cattle are run is about 5,000 acres and it's mostly ... I suppose a third of it's good flat country, a third of its scrub and the other third's bush. The cattle are usually run on the better country will they got calves on them and when the calves come off they're run up into the bush - the cattle.

[02:36] Basically we run 420 breeder cattle, so we can have up to 1200 head on the place at one time. They are predominantly Brangus cattle which is $\frac{3}{8}$ Brahman and $\frac{5}{8}$ Angus. We run Brangus here because they're very suited to our climate which is a prolonged wet periods and prolonged dry periods. And we usually sell the calves straight off their mothers at about 7 to 8 months depending on the season.

[003:29] We've got mostly creeks and dams throughout the property which do run dry - this year we nearly ran out of water which was a first I think for the college - so we had a tight, very tight summer and then a really good spring. At the moment we're probably having the biggest season we've ever had so yeah it's a huge spring for us here so yeah it's going quite well.