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Final curtain for iconic Angus stud

■ Witherswood prepares last bull sale

IT is almost the end for one of the North East's premier bull studs, with Witherswood Angus due to hold their final bull sale next month.

With mixed emotions, John and Joan Woodruff – who began Witherswood 25 years ago – will sell 65 bulls, boasting genetics from Millah Murrah Klooney K42, Matauri Reality, Mar Innovation, Millah Murrah Kinngdom K35 and Witherswood Bos K0092.

“Following a great deal of contemplation, the decision was made to disperse the entire herd,” John said.

“It is not a decision we have made lightly.”

In October last year, Witherswood held the first phase of their three-stage dispersal, selling 440 females.

The second phase will be the bull sale, held on-property on March 19, followed by the sale of the farm itself.

“This year's sale draft are possibly the most even line up of bulls we have offered to date, and despite a hard, dry season, they are presenting extremely well,” John said.

“The Witherswood method has always been to use superior genetics, with emphasis placed on structure, growth, fertility and muscle.

“Structural assessment has always been a crucial part of the program, and we have strived to remain fo-

cused on what clients want.”

John and Joan Woodruff began Witherswood Angus 25 years ago, based at Taminick in Northern Victoria.

They developed their breeding herd of 350 registered cows using the best available Australian and imported genetics.

Following almost three decades developing their

herd, in 2015 Witherswood Angus joined a consortium to buy Millah Murrah Kingdom K35 for \$150,000, the most ever paid for an Angus bull at the time – catapulting their genetics forward.

But, sadly, it is time to sign off on Angus breeding.

“We are grateful for the people we have met throughout our time in the industry, and will miss the friends we have made along the way – we will also no doubt miss being around the cattle every day,” John said.

To the future generations in the seedstock industry, John advises to “have the patience to continually improve, buy the best females you can afford and use the best bulls to advance your program”.

John and Joan intend to spend their retirement spending some more time with their family and 11 grandchildren.



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GOODBYE ANGUS: John and Joan Woodruff, from Witherswood Angus, will complete phase two of their stud dispersal next month with their on-farm bull sale to be held on March 19.