

Allora designs Canada bound



By **BRAD COOPER**

Group Beef Writer

(07) 3826 8200

THE picture displayed on this page may not be the clearest, but it's good enough to show the extreme conditions experienced in the harsh environment of an icy Canadian winter.

This is where Allora stockyard designer and manufacturer Thompson Longhorn is exporting its famous steel configurations and cattle handling technology and passing the ultimate test that only extreme climates can pose.

In November last year, Thompson Longhorn installed and commissioned a fully automated core processing facility at a 5000-head private feedlot at Pincher Creek in the heart of Canada's cattle country in southwest Alberta.

Thompson Longhorn managing director Byron Wolff said with Australia so far ahead of Canada and the United States in the use of electronic identification device (EID) technology, overseas markets enormous promise for his business and the industry as a whole.

"Three years ago we got involved in some trial work the Government of Alberta was doing in relation to improving the speed of commerce with EID systems in cattle because of our ongoing involvement with the high-technology end of animal handling," Mr Wolff said. "Since then, our business over there has just continued on."

When Thompson Longhorn was commissioned to design, manufacture and install a facility for the 5000-head feedlot, it presented a series of challenges which the Thompson Longhorn team took on and met.

The client was assisted in funding



Feedlot workers in Alberta, Canada, put the Thompson Longhorn yards through their paces in sub-zero temperatures.

the project with Thompson Longhorn through an innovative scheme developed by the Government of Alberta's Agriculture and Rural Development department to help producers implement EID technology.

The Agri-Business Automation and Lean Manufacturing program is designed to stimulate new investment and capital expansion to enhance Alberta's ability to supply agriculture and agri-food products by improving the productivity of producers and processors through cost reductions

and/or increases in operational efficiencies.

The program encourages the adoption of best practices and new technologies and state-of-the-art processes that improve food safety, food quality and increase value and market access.

"We manufactured everything at our factory here and then put it in a 40-foot shipping container and shipped it to Vancouver and then via rail to Calgary and on to Pincher Creek," Mr Wolff said.

"We sent one of our specialist

installers from here and utilised some local contractors to install it.

"The day we ran the first live cattle through and commissioned it, the temperature dropped to -17C.

"Designing a system to withstand Canada's extreme weather conditions produced its own series of challenges.

"We had to make modifications to our equipment to deal with the freezing conditions and the problems it can cause.

"For example, cattle manure and urine here dries out, but over there it

The day we ran the first live cattle through and commissioned it, the temperature dropped to -17C.

freezes and becomes an obstacle.

"But we didn't go in there completely blind; 18 months ago we sent equipment over and installed it in a test facility so we could see how it withstood the winter and that helped us make a few design changes as well.

"There are a lot of similarities between Canadian and Australian producers because we both have extreme climates and rely a lot on exports and we both have small populations."

Mr Wolff said Australia's early adoption of EID systems and advancements in the field meant it was well ahead of Canada and the US in the cattle identification and traceability stakes.

"It's an emerging market and we think there are a lot of opportunities for our type of products and we are optimistic our work in Canada will facilitate us into the American market," Mr Wolff said. "We've partnered with distribution company, Integrated Traceability Solutions (ITS) Global, and they are distributing our products in Canada and the US."

● Thompson Longhorn will be at Beef Australia 2012 at sites 99 and 103.

Workshops look at stocking rates

BEEF producers are reminded about a series of stocking rate workshops at various Queensland locations to continue until May.

The series is especially timely as the dry season sets in and producers throughout Central and Northern Queensland consider adjustments to their carrying capacity.

Principal extension officer Bob Shepherd said the main focus was to provide graziers with an objective method to calculate the sustainable stocking rates of their paddocks, and how to understand and monitor changes in land condition at a paddock scale.

The first of the workshops by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) was held at the Spyglass Research Station in Charters Towers on March 27.

● Further workshops will be held on:
April 27: The Brook (Lynd Hwy, Charters Towers)
April 30: Double D (Kilcummin Rd, Clermont)
May 2: Carinya (Craven Rd, Alpha)
May 3: Mt Pleasant (Strathalbyn Rd, Bowen)
May 15: Kinrara, Gunawarra Road, Mount Garnet (via Glen Dhu).

Attention all Sheep and Wool Growers and Breeders

Be a part of this years'

LANDSBOROUGH FLOCK EWE SHOW
2nd JUNE 2012 @ Muttaborra Race Course

Celebrating 50 years

Entries are now being taken in all sections/classes for **SHEEP & WOOL**
(Eligibility for entry to sheep sections is open to ALL sheep)

For further information:

Sheep Section:
George Hetherington
(07) 4658 5624

Wool Section:
John Hain (07) 4658 9080

Secretary, Jill Dyer (07) 4651 3347 e: jill.dyer@bigpond.com



Rural, Industrial & Commercial Sheds



Machinery Sheds
(3 sides enc)

Visit our website
www.statewidesheds.com.au

40' x 20' x 10'	\$7412	60' x 50' x 16'	\$26,522
60' x 25' x 12'	\$13,002	80' x 50' x 16'	\$32,430
40' x 30' x 10'	\$10,185	100' x 50' x 16'	\$38,430
60' x 30' x 14'	\$14,631	80' x 60' x 16'	\$38,652
60' x 40' x 12'	\$18,653	100' x 60' x 16'	\$45,689
60' x 40' x 16'	\$19,443	120' x 60' x 18'	\$54,326
80' x 40' x 16'	\$24,065	140' x 70' x 18'	\$83,349
100' x 40' x 16'	\$28,687	160' x 80' x 20'	\$101,892

Above prices incl. GST
Fully fabricated 15° roof pitch

Simple D.I.Y.
Assembly instructions
Prices for cyclone rated sheds available on request



STATE WIDE SHEDS

13 Purvis Lane, Dubbo, NSW 2830 Family owned & operated
Phone (02) 6884 4355, Fax (02) 6884 2442, A/H (02) 6882 7584



WESTCO - TRUCK OF THE WEEK

Salesman Bill Hanton of Westco Toowoomba would like to thank Robbie Bain of Roma on the purchase of a Fuso 10.4 GVM Cattle Truck fitted with a crate. The truck will be used to keep cattle on the move between properties and saleyards. All the staff at Westco Toowoomba again thank the Bain Family for their business and support.

NEW FUSO 1024

- CRUISE CONTROL
- DRIVERS SIDE AIRBAG
- HILL START ASSIST
- 30,000KM SERVICING
- ISRI DRIVERS SEAT
- CREW CABIN AVAILABLE
- **CATTLE TRUCKS IN STOCK**

See us at...
BEEF AUSTRALIA 2012
May 7-12 Rockhampton



BUY NOW

WESTCO
TRUCKS ARE OUR BUSINESS

TOOWOOMBA
(07) 4631 4000

ROCKHAMPTON
(07) 4923 1000

MACKAY
(07) 4952 7777

TOWNSVILLE
(07) 4774 5366

CAIRNS
(07) 4080 7500

Mercedes-Benz Trucks

www.westcotrucksales.com.au

