



Bannaby holds nerve, buys big

KEITH Kerridge waited until the last possible second to make his final play for Vermont Dream B227.

Bidding for the 3½-year-old cow from the renowned Dream family started at \$5000.

"And it went to \$20,000 in a heartbeat," said underbidder, Michael Jones, Aberdeen Estate stud, Fitzroy Falls.

At \$44,000, Mr Jones thought he had her – at least for a split second.

But then Mr Kerridge bid \$45,000 – having last bid back around \$12,000 – sending a message to every bidder around the ring that he wanted this cow.

It set a new Australian auction record for an Angus cow, smashing the previous record of \$38,000 – held by a daughter of US sire, BT Right Time 24J, grandsire and sire respectively of the sale's \$40,000 and \$37,000 bulls.

Mr Kerridge, who travelled down with manager, Glynn Langford, and agent, Steve Ridley, Elders Goulburn, said

they'd spent their time going over the offering and identifying the animals with the most to offer the Bannaby herd.

Vermont Dream B227 was near the top of the list – though he admitted he hadn't expected her to sell for anywhere near as much.

"She's really one of those cows that could do just about anything – she's got the structure, the confirmation and the numbers," Mr Kerridge said.

B227 is by Ardrossan Connection X15 and from Vermont Dream Y301, a granddaughter of the cow that started the Dream line, Banquet Kiwi Dream.

Mr Kerridge said the cow had been joined to Vermont Right Time D508 and would then be flushed.

Vermont stud part-owner and manager, Graham Winnell, said cows like B227, gave a stud entry to the breed's top level.

"Cows like that are the next generation of Angus."

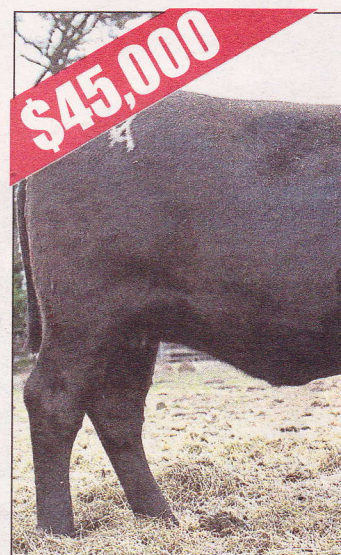
Bannaby bought up big at the dispersal, securing 21 female lots and 20 embryos.

Other key purchases included Vermont Dream E145 for \$20,000 – a BT Right Time 24J daughter from Y301; 2½-year-old Vermont Kite C240 for \$12,000 – a Te Mania Unlimited daughter from a Kite cow, with a Vermilion New Design L805 daughter at foot – and two-year-old heifer, Vermont Champagne D056, (artificially inseminated to Te Mania Infinity 04379) for \$10,000.

An investment banker with a background in agricultural economics, Mr Kerridge has been slowly building his Bannaby stud for the past seven years with strategic investments in good females and embryos and now runs about 120 stud breeders alongside close to 900 commercial cows.

The stud is already trading bulls privately and could start its own on-farm bull sale as soon as next year.

– SALLY WHITE



Three-and-a-half-year-old cow, Ver

Chan

By TERRY SIM

NSW breeders raided the cream of the offering at last week's Vermont Angus dispersal, at Penshurst, Victoria – believed to be one of the highest grossing beef dispersals in Australia.

Buyers from north of the border secured the three highest-priced animals of the draft, including a \$45,000 cow from the renowned Dream family that set a new Austral-

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