The Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association (ARCBA) has recently released statistics on beef cattle registrations for the 2007 year. There were 141,414 herdbook cattle registered, 58,812 pedigree cattle entered in secondary registers and 2,652 registrations entered in a new category of export cattle. The aggregate of 202,878 is the second highest total achieved in the last eleven (11) years. Executive Director of ARCBA, Dr Arthur Rickards said that this was an exceptional outcome in a year which many have classed as the worst drought on record.

Dr Rickards said the high numbers indicated the resilience of the registered sector and the strength of the demand for registered genetics.

Bull sales were buoyant throughout 2007 despite the adverse conditions demonstrating that the commercial industry recognises the importance of the long-term genetic improvement that registered bulls offer.

In August, 2007 ARCBA held a seminar at the Ekka on the opportunities for export of registered cattle. ARCBA’s strategic objectives include seeing Australia emerge as the leading country in the export of registered cattle genetics. Standards for export are being developed by the Australian Cattle Genetics Export Agency (ACGEA) and these were used for the first time in 2007 for 2,652 cattle exported to Russia. This side of the registered industry is expected to record a five-fold growth in 2008 with strong demand coming from many countries but particularly Russia, China and Turkey.

ARCBA expects its members to have a buoyant year in 2008.

ARCBA also released its Membership statistics this week. ARCBA represents 40 cattle breed societies and 11,083 registered cattle breeders – up by 32 on 2006.

The International Livestock Resources & Information Centre (ILRIC) has recently joined ARCBA as a corporate member.

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