

## **A minute with Farmer Fred cattle**

FF: Come with me while I check the rain gauge; I think we had a reasonable fall last night.

Ronald Rogainer: Maybe you can tell me about your cattle as we do so.

FF: Absolutely, they are my pride and joy. Each animal has been bred on the property, all are individually branded and ear-tagged, and the bloodlines are first class. They command a good premium at the market because they are high quality beasts.

Ronald Rogainer: They seem fairly quiet with you near them, is that the case for everyone?

FF: They are used to me, but I never become complacent. Every so often a bull will get a little agitated for no apparent reason and I keep my distance. I try to never turn my back on the bulls or on mothers with their young calves. The mothers will occasionally have a small rush at you but mostly because they are protecting their calf.

Ronald Rogainer: Anything special we should do during the rogaining event?

FF: Be sensible. Don't walk through a paddock where I keep my bulls. Don't walk through the middle of a large group of cows especially with calves. Instead pass them with plenty of room to spare and they will tend to ignore you – you will find that faster in the long run. If you do happen to be close to a group of cows, it does not hurt to talk quietly so they are reassured rather than getting stirred up. It is only natural that a quiet soothing voice will relax them, and again save you some time.

Ronald Rogainer: I occasionally see cows on the road, is that important?

FF: Sure, I always like to hear if there are cows on the road around here. Out on the main road where cars travel fast, they are a real hazard to drivers and cows. On the tracks they can be easily managed if you let me know. Most farmers around here can identify their own cattle from a distance. I hope you boys can tell a black Angus from a brown Hereford or a white Murray Grey! Pretty basic stuff.

FF: 9 miles overnight, that will make the anabranch flow. Anyway, you go along and set your course and I will see you again next month.