

HEREFORD

Journal
2026



SA HEREFORD

SINCE 1917



HEREFORDS KRM POLL



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KRM Zondo 180103 has made a very positive impact on our herd. Essentially, he has consistently bred a medium framed animal with great length, excellent growth and carcass traits without increasing frame size. Zondo progeny have taken top spot on our sale string year after year.

The South African beef industry is based on a cow calf operation to supply calves to the feedlot industry. The input costs required to produce these calves need to be as low as possible in order to make the most profit. The selection process in the KRM Hereford herd is tailor made to produce progeny which will maximise profit with the lowest input costs.

KRM Hereford bulls are selected to maximise profit per hectare instead of maximising profit per animal. The cow herd is supplemented phosphate lick for 9 months of the year. In winter a protein energy lick is used to get the cows through the harsh winters on the natural veld. In recent years condition scoring has been introduced to eliminate animals not adapted to this herd management system.

The selection pressure on the cow herd plays a vital role in ensuring that the bull calves that are selected to do the growth test should be of a type that perform on grass. The growth test also plays an important role in this selection process. Firstly, the poor performers are eliminated, then important data such as scrotal circumference, height length ratio, eye muscle area, fat distribution and slaughter percentage are collected which assists to make herd selection decisions. Bulls which finish the 84-day growth test when the bulls are around 12 months of age in a lean condition or which lack muscling and width are culled irrespective of growth rate. Only the best homebred bulls are selected for inclusion in our breeding program to ensure genetic progress. Suitable bulls from other herds are also introduced from time to time and their progeny are also subjected to the same selection criteria and management.

Sale Report 29th Annual Production Sale

13 Hereford bulls sold for an average of price R54 461.54. The top selling bull KRM Zondo 230018 was sold to Glenfillan Livestock of Mr. Gregg Sephton from Barkly East for R105 000. KRM Zondo 230057 sold to Driel Farm Trust of Mr. Lionel Zunkel from Bergville in KZN for R65 000. 8 Registered Hereford open heifers were sold for an average price of R15 487.50. The top priced heifer sold to Toffee's Farming of Mr. Grant Wiehahn of Dordrecht for R16 800. Many thanks to all the buyers and bidders for their support last year.

KRM Zondo 230018 top selling DNA tested homozygous poll bull selling to Greg and Chris Sephton of Tynside, Barkly East. This bull was tapped and is part of KRM's AI program.



KRM Zondo 230057 sold to Driel Farm Trust in Bergville, KZN which belongs to Lionel Zunkel and Sons. This bull was tapped and is also part of KRM's AI program.



KRM Zondo 230075 was retained for use in the KRM Herd by AI and natural service. This bull has a dark red colour, a smooth straight hair coat that sheds easily, full pigmentation, exceptional width, great topline and easy fleshing. We consider these traits crucial to breeding Herefords that contribute towards breeding the ideal beef carcass.



Annual Bull Sale
Denwood Dordrecht

Wednesday
26 August 2026 12h00

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JAARPROGRAM 2026

FEBRUARIE

10: Raadsvergadering
18 – 22: Riversdal skou

APRIL

24 April – 2 Mei: Bloemfontein Skou
27: SA Stamboek Elite funksie
28: Raadsvergadering & AJV

MEI

12 – 15: Nampo

JUNIE

2: PP Mong Trust Produksie veiling
25: Swartland Veeboere bul veiling

JULIE

7: Griffin Production Sale
16: Southern Berg Pure Breed Sale
31: Kuruman veiling

AUGUSTUS

26: KRM & HBH

SEPTEMBER

3: Syferpan
1-4: Swartland Skou
8 – 11: Nampo Kaap
9: Colesberg Bulveiling
11: Nagenoeg Poenskop Hereford veiling
15: Kevlynn and Dunedin Sale
17: Bonhaven Sale
23: Puttergill Farming Production Sale

OKTOBER

13: Raadsvergadering
15: Outeniqua Interras veiling



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BULL SALE

17 September 2026
Carrickmoor Tarkastad



The Remarkable Traits That a Hereford passes onto it's offspring...

Fertility/Early Maturing/Adaption/Food conversion/
Temperament/Heterosis Efficiency.



Justin Phillips 082 495 6097 | Paul Hobson 082 652 4724 | www.hobsonandco.co.za

Letter from the President



Aan ons lede, mede-Raadslede, telers, personeel, en die vele gewaardeerde vennote wat die Herefordras ondersteun

In my lewe was dit een van die groot eerbewyse om hierdie ras en Genootskap vir drie dekades op die Raad te dien, en die afgelope agt jaar as President. Deur Herefords het ek lewenslange vriende regoor Suid-Afrika en die wêreld gemaak. Ons familie, en veral ons ouers, het internasionaal bekend geword deur hul verbintenis met hierdie merkwaardige ras. My broer en ek het nog altyd 'n diep verantwoordelikheid gevoel om daardie nalatenskap voort te sit, selfs al het ons professionele belange verbreed. Na baie vervullende jare het die tyd aangebreek om uit te tree en ander belangstellings na te streef. Die ras sal egter altyd deel wees van ons lewens en ons harte, en sal ons op 'n ondersteunende wyse betrokke bly op plase, by geleenthede, en deur Herefords, waar ons kan, te bevorder.

Ek wil opregte dank uitspreek aan my mede-Raadslede, nie net diegene wat tans dien nie, maar almal wat oor die jare hul tyd en talente gegee het. Julle vrywillige toewyding het die ras se reputasie, wat oor eeue opgebou is, ook hier in Suid-Afrika, beskerm, en verseker dat ons steeds doeltreffende, funksionele Suid-Afrikaanse Herefords teel wat in die werklike wêreld werk.

To our members, fellow Council members, breeders, staff, and the many valued partners who support the Hereford breed

It has been one of the great honours of my life to serve this breed and Society for three decades on Council, the last eight years as President. Through Herefords I have made lifelong friends across South Africa and around the world. Our family, and especially our parents, became internationally known through their association with this remarkable breed. My brother and I have always felt a deep responsibility to continue that legacy, even as our professional interests broadened. After many fulfilling years, the time has come for me to step down and pursue other interests. The breed, however, will always be part of our lives and our hearts, and we will remain involved in supportive ways on farms, at events, and by promoting Herefords wherever we can.

I want to express heartfelt thanks to my fellow Council members, not only those currently serving but all who have given of their time and talents over the years. Your voluntary commitment has safeguarded the breed's reputation built over centuries, also here in South Africa, ensuring we continue to breed efficient, functional South African Herefords that work in the real world.

'n Spesiale woord van waardering ook aan ons Sekretaresse, Liezel, vir haar onbaatsugtige toewyding en ondersteuning oor die jare, en aan ons vele eksterne vennote wie se bydraes ons impak versterk.

Vir hierdie Joernaal, dankie aan die Promosiekomitee en Liezel, ons adverteerders, outeurs, fotografe, ontwerpers, en almal wat gehelp het om die 2026-uitgawe saam te stel. Julle pogings hou ons storie vars, relevant en trots sigbaar.

Ons is gelukkig om by 'n ras met sulke blywende sterkpunte betrokke te wees. Herefords is bekend vir hul temperament, vrugbaarheid, moedereienskappe, voerdoeltreffendheid en karkaskwaliteit. Hulle presteer op gras en in voerkrale, floreer in diverse Suid-Afrikaanse omgewings, en voeg waarde by in kruisteling deur basterkrag, groei, en aanpasbaarheid. Daardie veelsydigheid is 'n steunpilaar van kommersiële winsgewendheid en aanpasbaarheid, van die Hoëveld tot die Karoo en verder.

Ons genetiese vooruitgang bly 'n punt van trots. Die Genootskap was 'n vroeë aanvaarder van genomika, een van die eerstes in ons bedryf wat genomiese inligting in teelwaardes inkorporeer het. Ons gaan voort om ons beeste te DNA-tipeer en publiseer robuuste, ekonomies relevante teelwaardes om leiding en ondersteuning aan seleksie te gee. Hierdie werk, ondersteun deur toegewyde telers wat noukeurige rekords neem en die wetenskap koester, hou Herefords aan die voorpunt van objektiewe, data-gedrewe verbetering, en verseker die ras se langtermyn mededingendheid.

A special word of appreciation also to our Secretary, Liezel, for her tireless dedication and support over the years, and to our many external partners whose contributions amplify our impact.

For this Journal, thank you to the Promotions Committee, our advertisers, authors, photographers, designers, and everyone who helped compile the 2026 edition. Your efforts keep our story fresh, relevant, and proudly visible.

We are fortunate to steward a breed with such enduring strengths. Herefords are renowned for docility, fertility, maternal ability, feed efficiency, and carcass quality. They perform on grass and in feedlots, thrive in diverse South African environments, and add value in crossbreeding through hybrid vigour, growth, and adaptability. That versatility is a cornerstone of commercial profitability and resilience, from the Highveld to the Karoo and beyond.

Our genetic progress remains a point of pride. The Society has been an early adopter of genomics, among the first in our sector to incorporate genomic information into breeding values. We continue to DNA type our cattle and publish robust, economically relevant breeding values to guide and support selection. This work, supported by dedicated breeders who record diligently and embrace science, keeps Herefords at the forefront of objective, data driven improvement and ensures the breed's long term competitiveness.

Die bemaking van ons storie is ewe belangrik. Ons betrek aktief ons belangstellende gehore deur skoue, veilings, boeredae, beoordelaarskursusse, jeugontwikkeling, druk- en digitale media, en ons aanlyn- en sosiale mediakanale. Ons moedig elke teler aan om betrokke te bly: wys jou beeste, deel prestasieresultate en kliëntesukse, en help ons om nuwe produsente te bereik wat by Herefordgenetika kan baat. 'n Konstante, professionele teenwoordigheid, veral op sosiale platforms, help die mark om te sien wat ons reeds weet: Herefords voeg waarde by en presteer.

Soos ek die leisels oorhandig, is my vertroue in die toekoms onwrikbaar. Ons sien talentvolle jonger telers wat na vore kom en vars energie op die Raad, en 'n duidelike pyplyn van genetika wat vrugbaarheid, funksionele doeltreffendheid, en winsgewendheid balanseer. Met die kwaliteit van diere in baie van ons kuddes en die doelgerigtheid van die mense agter hulle, is die Genootskap goed geposisioneer vir voortgesette groei.

Dankie weereens aan elkeen vir julle ondersteuning, vriendskap en betrokkenheid by die ras. Ek wens al ons lede, vennote en vriende 'n vreugdevolle en voorspoedige 2026 toe. Mag jou weidings groen wees, jou kalwers sterk wees, en jou Herefords voortgaan om te doen wat hulle die beste doen; om konstante en volhoubare waarde toe te voeg tot Suid-Afrikaanse beesvleisproduksie.

Herefordgroete
Dr Hinner Köster
President, South African Hereford Society

Marketing our story is equally crucial. We are actively engaging our interested audiences through shows, sales, field days, judging courses, youth development, print and digital media, and our online and social media channels.

We encourage every breeder to stay involved: showcase your cattle, share performance results and customer successes, and help us reach new producers who can benefit from Hereford genetics. A consistent, professional presence, especially on social platforms, helps the market see what we already know: Herefords deliver and perform.

As I hand over the reins, my confidence in the future is unwavering. We see talented younger breeders stepping up, fresh energy on Council, and a clear pipeline of genetics that balances fertility, functional efficiency, and profitability. With the calibre of animals in many of our herds and the character of the people behind them, the Society is well positioned for continued growth.

Thank you, once again, to each of you for your support, friendship, and stewardship of the breed. I wish all our members, partners, and friends a joyful and prosperous 2026. May your pastures be green, your calves be strong, and your Herefords continue to do what they do best; to add consistent and sustainable value to South African beef production.

Hereford greetings
Dr Hinner Köster
President, South African Hereford Society

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The Six Largest Studs



Dr CW Scholtz
Zuikerkop Herefords
No. of animals - 714



HW De Waal
Loheim Herefords
No. of animals - 662



DJ van Breda
Ja-Niel Herefords
No. of animals - 415



Peter Louwrens
Malina Herefords
No. of animals - 393



CS Puttgerill
Herefords
No. of animals - 301



JAG Botha
Nagenoeg Herefords
No. of animals - 278

SA Stamboek/Unistel Elite Toekennings

2026



KRM Music 14-92

PP Mong Trust
082 947 0701 | bertus@ppmong.co.za
Congratulations Bertus Mong!

Die Koei **BMH 15-0110** is 'n medium raam koei van 650kg. Rachel Lego 06-22 se moeder BMH 06-0022 was tydens die Herefords se Nasionale Kampioenskappe vir 2008, 2011 en 2014 (skeepsreg) die Nasionale Grootkampioen koei. Sy het 8 kalwers met TKP van 370; 100% gespeen en almal goedgekeur vir die ras vir stoet. Al ons koeie is genomies getoets om stambome te bevestig met meer akkurate EBV's.

SA Studbook Elite Bull Growth Test

2026



BMH240030

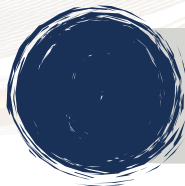
PP Mong Trust se veeboerdery is sedert 1979 in die rûens van die Overberg Wes Kaap geleë. Die natuurlike weiding is suurveld en fynbos. Dit word aangevul met aangeplante medic en hawerweidings. In die somermaande wei die beeste op koring, kanola en garsstoppellande.

BMH 240030 het reeds sy plek in die top 100 vir die ras gevul. BM Lego Boxer 22-07 spog met 'n GDT indeks van 147 (6de), Speen Maternaal Indeks 131 (5de), Voeromset verhouding indeks 160 (1 ste), RTU Oogspiergrootte indeks van 119 en Skrotum indeks van 136. Sy moeder BMH 22-0007 was al Grootkampioen koei by Bloemfontein skou en haar moeder BMH 15-0110 is vanjaar as die Elite koei vir die ras aangewys.



Bertus en PJ Mong

SA HEREFORD AWARDS



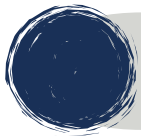
Herd that has received the most **cow** awards (Elite, Superior, Excellent) over the past **year (02/02/2025)**

- PETER LOUWRENS FARMING PTY LTD**
1 X Silver, 4 x Bronze
- PP MONG TRUST**
2 x Gold, 1 x Silver
- MR K.P MILES**
1 x Silver, 2 x Bronze



Herd that has tested the most **bulls** under farm growth test (Bulls completed test) over the past year **(01/07/2023 - 30/06/2024)**

MR D.J. VAN BREDA
59 Bulls



Herd that tests **3 or more bulls** in central growth test with lowest FCR **(01/07/2023 - 30/06/2024)**

MR C.W. SCHOLTZ
35 Bulls, beste drie met gem VOV van 4.14



Herd improved ICP
MOORCROFT SI & SONS
84 Days



Personality of the year
LAWRENCE MOORCROFT



PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR: LAWRENCE MOORCROFT

Lawrence Moorcroft was born 8 years after the establishment of the Syferpan Hereford Stud and grew up in the years when Syferpan was the Premier Horned Breeder in the country and the Hereford Industry was booming.

Early photos show Lawrence’s keen interest in the Herefords and subsequently he soaked up pedigrees, Hereford history and discussions about Herefords like a sponge. Anyone who knows Lawrence can testify that he is a wealth of knowledge not only about Herefords, but also Brahmans, Endurance horses, Border collies, the cattle industry and Cricket.

Lawrence being a very humble and reserved man never offered an unasked-for opinion about any topic, but was always very willing to share his knowledge to those who asked and became a trusted mentor to

many young and not so young breeders. He also helped those young breeders by giving them access to Syferpan Genetics by selling older proven cows or gifting semen from his vast collection of saved semen from prominent bulls of yesteryear.

Lawrence has a special way with children and ended up being the hero of many aspiring young Hereford breeders, my own children included. In their eyes he is the Superman of Herefords.

I can’t think of a more deserving person as the Hereford Personality of the year and I am proud to call him my mentor and my friend!

~ Harley van Rhyn

~ Harley van Rhyn

ERE-LEWENSLANGE LEDE

Heide Köster
Kevin Miles
Willem de Waal

In erkenning vir hul lewenslange toewyding en uitsonderlike bydraes ter bevordering van die Herefordras.



COW OF THE
YEAR

KRM 14-92



BULL OF THE
YEAR

SLM 14-06



COW FERTILITY AWARD

CATEGORY	BREEDER	ICP
11-30 COWS	P.C EUSTACE	361 days
	HOEKLAND HEREFORDS	368 days
31 – 60 COWS	GANZEKRAAL HEREFORDS	359 days
	K.P MILES	362 days
61 – 100 COWS	GRAVIC FARMS PTY LTD	359 days
	PP MONG TRUST	362 days
100+ COWS	KENRUSSMARK CC	367 days
	MR D.J. VAN BREDa	374 days
	DR C.W. SCHOLTZ	379 days

DIE BOER SE **BESTE** BOD
THE FARMER'S **BEST** BID

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012 460 9916

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Johann Vossler - 083 627 1491

MPUMALANGA / GAUTENG / KWAZULU-NATAL
Sakkie Fourie - 082 802 2125

OOS-VRYSTAAT / EASTERN FREE STATE
PJ Müller - 060 966 9340

**SENTRAAAL-VRYSTAAT / CENTRAL FREE STATE /
NOORD-KAAP / NORTHERN CAPE**
Allan Sinclair - 082 528 0059

NOORDWES / NORTH WEST
Ruaan Viljoen - 083 414 4792

**OOS-KAAP / EASTERN CAPE / NOORD-KAAP /
NORTHERN CAPE / WES-KAAP / WESTERN CAPE**
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Proven Sires

Animal ID	Animal Name	Calves Born	Calves Weaned	Calving Ease	Calf Growth	Milk	Maintenance	Fertility	Cow Value
HVR 090017	RENEGADE 0917	189	131	83	120	100	103	79	108
WDW 080082	WDW080082	241	153	101	100	94	122	91	104
WDW 070079	VICTOR	100	94	98	95	104	95	95	114
SLM14-06	Syferpan 406	142	98	112	87	117	106	100	102



Hoekland Renegade HVR09-17 - 2019



Locheim WDW08-82 - 2019



Victor WDW07-79 - 2020



SLM 14-06 - 2021

PROVEN SIRE REQUIREMENTS

- Bulls born since 2001
- Must be alive and/or have semen available
- Used in at least 3 herds
- At least 75 calves with weaning weights

SELECTION VALUES

- Cow value >90
- Calving Ease >80
- Calf Growth >90
- Milk >90
- Maintenance >80
- Fertility >80 maintenance acc >40%

Hall of Fame

Animal ID	Animal Name	Calves Born	Calves Weaned	Calving Ease	Calf Growth	Milk	Maintenance	Fertility
JR T 0018	RENDITION T18 85	453	284	94	102	122	123	55
KRM A 0012	APEX A12	483	260	107	109	65	99	139
TH H 0057	RENEGADE H57	394	255	96	105	119	117	68
KRM 010048	PRIDE 01 48	367	241	119	93	131	118	75
KJA 010103	LEMOENVLEI OKER	306	158	127	94	125	91	130
KRM 020018	KENRUSSMARK	260	107	105	111	111	89	93
WDW 080082	LOCHEIM	282	195	101	101	89	119	89
HVR 090017	HOEKLAND	189	82	82	115	99	105	97



Vicedale Rendition T18- 2019



Kenrusmark Apex A12 - 2019



Kenrusmark Pride 01-48 - 2019



Lemoenvlei Oker - 2020



Kenrusmark KRM02-18 - 2021



Locheim WDW08-82 - 2021



Hoekland HVR 090017 - 2022

HALL OF FAME REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have at least 75 offspring weaned
- Used in at least 3 herds

GENETIC CRITERIA:

- Selection values >80
- (Accuracy of selection values >50%, except Maintenance acc >40%)

Elite Vleisbees

STREEKSTOEKENINGS 2025

NAAM	STREEK	TOEKENNING
D.J. VAN BRED A	WC	GOLD
GANZEKRAAL HEREFORDS	WC	GOUD
KENRUSSMARK CC	EC	GOLD
PP MONG TRUST	WC	GOUD
J.F. OTTO	NW	SILWER
C.W. SCHOLTZ	EFS	BRONS
EDE FARMING	MP	BRONZE
J.F.L. KRUGER	NC	BRONS
K.P. MILES	EC	BRONZE
C.S. PUTTERGILL	EC	MERIT
E.W. KÖHNE	KZN	MERIT
GRAVIC FARMS PTY LTD	KZN	MERIT
LOUWS BOERDERY TRUST	WFS	MERIETE
MOORCROFT SL & SONS PTY	EC	MERIT
P.C. EUSTACE	KZN	MERIT
PENHOEK FARMING	KZN	MERIT
PETER LOUWRENS FARMING PTY LTD	KZN	MERIT

Baie geluk aan die telers met
uitstaande toekennings!



ZUIKERKOP

HEREFORDS



BUILD ON LEGACY, BREED FOR THE FUTURE

WILLEM SCHOLTZ | 083 385 0990 | willem@zuikerkop.co.za

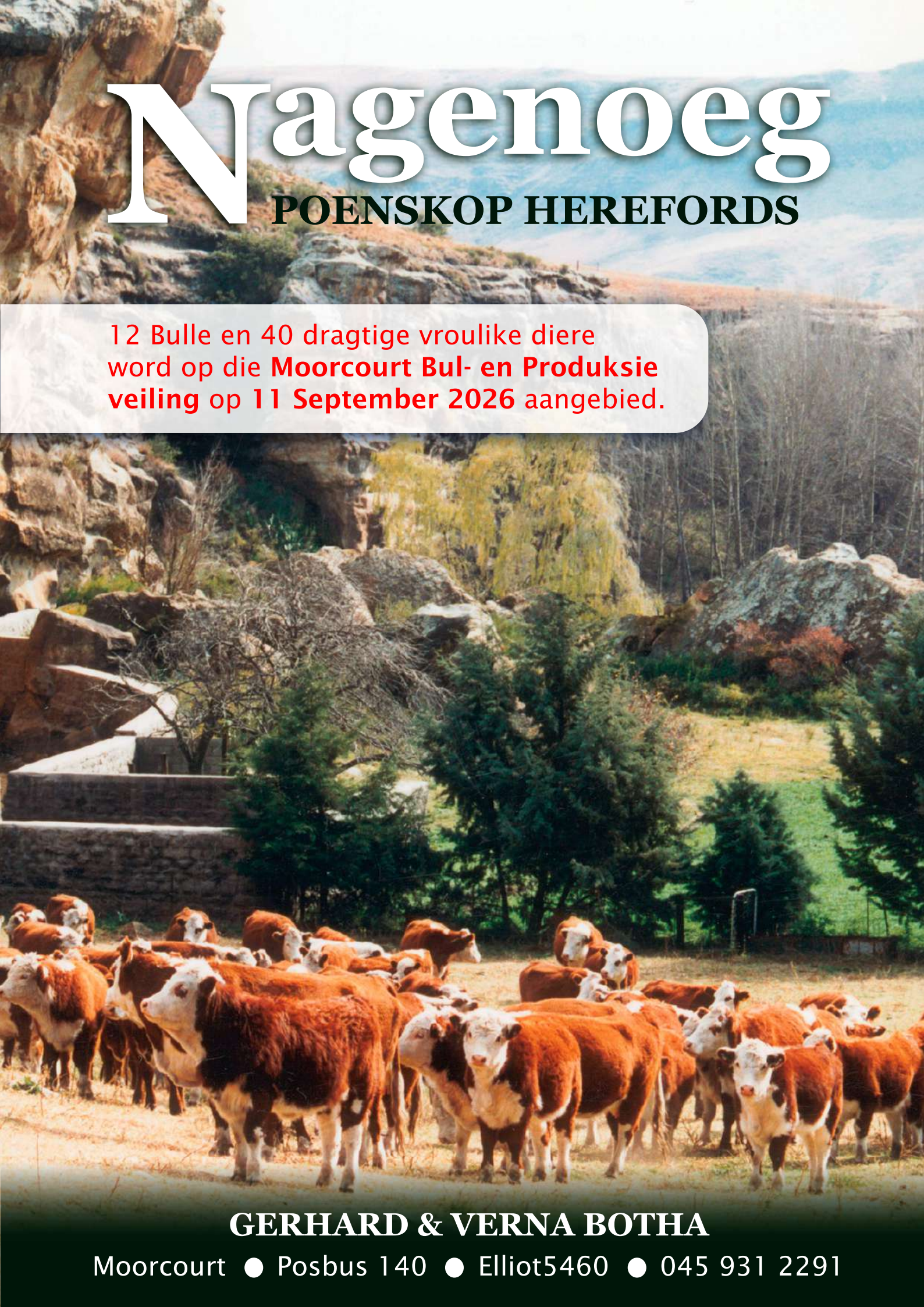
DR. CARL SCHOLTZ | 083 305 0668 | drscholtz@zuikerkop.co.za

Hereford Sale Report

The 2025 Hereford sale season demonstrated steady demand for quality genetics across South Africa, with a number of auctions achieving strong averages and high clearance rates. Bull sales remained the standout feature throughout the season, consistently attracting competitive bidding and delivering solid prices. Top prices reached a peak of R125 000, while several other sales achieved prices above R100 000, indicating sustained confidence in superior Hereford breeding stock. Average bull prices generally ranged between R45 000 and R75 000, reflecting a stable and reliable market across different regions and production systems.

SALE NAME	DATE	STUD NAME	OFFERED	SOLD	HIGHEST PRICE	AVERAGE
SWARTLAND VEEBOERE	26-Jun-25	JA-NIEL Herefords	3 Bulls	100%	R55 000,00	R53 000,00
		Locheim Herefords	12 Bulls	10	R115 000,00	R62 700,00
MALINA HEREFORDS	18-Jul-25		18 Bulls	100%	R125 000,00	R75 000,00
KURUMAN SALE	01-Aug-25		5 Bulls	3	R48 000,00	R44 600,00
GRIFFIN HEREFORD SALE	06-Aug-25		16 Bulls	100%	R64 000,00	R45 500,00
KRM HEREFORD SALE	27-Aug-25		15 BULLS	13	R105 000,00	R54 461,54
			10 Open Heifers	8		R15 487,50
SYFERPAN HEREFORD SALE	04-Sept-25		9 Bulls	100%	R60 000,00	R48 000,00
COLESBERG BULL SALE	10-Sept-25		3 Bulls	100%	R30 000,00	R26 666,00
BONHAVEN HEREFORD SALE	10-Sept-25		20 Bulls	100%	R90 000,00	R58 000,00
NAGENOEG HEREFORD SALE	12-Sept-25		5 Bulls	100%	R55 000,00	R45 000,00
KEVLYNN PRODUCTION SALE	16-Sept-25		5 Bulls	100%	R60 000,00	R53 000,00
OUTENIQUA AUCTION	17-Oct-25	Ganzekraal	1 Bull	100%	R35 000,00	
LEMOENVLEI HEREFORD SALE	09-May-25		Pregnant Cow & Calf		R23 500,00	R19 147,00
			1 Bull	100%	R32 000,00	
PP MONG TRUST SALE	03-Jun-25		15 Bulls	12	R55 000,00	R42 500,00
			11 Cow & Calf	9	R22 000,00	R19 142,86
			10 Heifers	2	R14 000,00	R14 000,00

A notable trend was the high number of sales achieving 100% clearance rates, particularly for bulls, highlighting strong buyer participation and demand. Female categories, including cows with calves and heifers, showed more variable results. Overall, the 2025 season can be regarded as positive and consistent, underpinned by continued investment in performance-driven genetics. The results reaffirm the Hereford breed’s value in commercial beef production and its adaptability across diverse farming conditions.



Nagenoeg POENSKOP HEREFORDS

12 Bulle en 40 dragtige vroulike diere word op die Moorcourt Bul- en Produksie veiling op 11 September 2026 aangebied.

NAMPO 2025



The 57th NAMPO Harvest Day, proudly presented by Grain SA and held from 13 - 16 May 2025 at NAMPO Park. With a record attendance of 87 191 visitors over four days and hosting more than 900 exhibitors, NAMPO 2025 once again proved to be the significant convergence point for the grain sector, the broader Agri-value chain, and a critical engagement platform to explore solutions and discussions for the agricultural industry. Various exhibitors use the NAMPO Harvest Day as a platform to launch new products and innovations to the agricultural industry. With air traffic totaling 377 aeroplanes and 69 helicopters predominantly form the business sector, the sky above NAMPO was as busy as the ground below – a clear symbol of the reach, relevance, and reputation this event has built over decades.

SA Hereford Genootskap het weer met trots 'n uitstalling in die Beeskompleks gehad. Groot belangstelling is gelok met die uitstaande diere van Zuikerkop.

Baie dankie aan Zuikerkop Herefords vir die diere, asook die kruisingkalwers in die kraal. Tydens die interras-beoordeling het die Hereford koei 'n 6de plek behaal.



Beoordelaars: Kevin Miles (snr) / Herman Vigne (jnr)

Vertoners: BM Herefords, Ja-Niel Herefords, Locheim Herefords, Zetler Herefords

VROULIKE WENNERS

Verskalf Kampioen	WDW24019
Reserwe Verskalf Kampioen	WDW24018
Intermediêre Kampioen	WDW23099
Reserwe Intermediêre Kampioen	HZ24003
Junior Kampioen	WDW22195
Reserwe Junior Kampioen	BMH23061
Senior Kampioen	WDW18140
Reserwe Senior Kampioen	BMH20123
Groot Kampioen Vroulike Dier	WDW18140
Reserwe Groot Kampioen	WDW23099

MANLIKE WENNERS

Bulkalf Kampioen	BMH24030
Reserwe Bulkalf Kampioen	HZ24024
Intermediêre Kampioen	WDW23122
Reserwe Intermediêre Kampioen	WDW23156
Junior Kampioen	WDW23024
Reserwe Junior Kampioen	DVB23021
Senior Kampioen	BMH21104
Groot Kampioen Bul	WDW23024
Reserwe Groot Kampioen	WDW23122

HEREFORD KAMPIOENE



WDW23024



WDW18140

BLOEMFONTEIN SKOU

29 April 2025

Beoordeelaars: Harley van Rhyn (Snr) & Thys Grobler (Jnr)

VROULIKE WENNERS	
Kampioen Verskalf	ZK24-26
Reserwe Verskalf	ZK24-05
Intermediêre Kampioen vroulik	ZK23-136
Reserwe Intermediêre Kampioen vroulik	ZK23-177
Junior Kampioen vroulike dier	BMH22-118
Reserwe Junior Kampioen vroulike dier	DVB22-140
Senior Kampioen koei	BMH20-06
Reserwe Senior Kampioen koei	BMH20-98
Groot Kampioen Vroulike dier	BMH22-118
Reserwe Groot Kampioen Vroulike dier	BMH20-06

MANLIKE WENNERS	
Bulkalf Kampioen	ZK24-117
Reserwe Bulkalf Kampioen	ZK24-40
Intermediêre Kampioen bul	DVB23-138
Reserwe Intermediêre Kampioen bul	ZK23-95
Junior Kampioen bul	BMH22-119
Reserwe Junior Kampioen bul	DVB23-55
Senior Kampioen bul	DVB21-45
Reserwe Senior Kampioen bul	ZK22-22
Groot Kampioen bul	DVB21-45
Reserwe Groot Kampioen bul	DVB23-138
Oppeerste Hereford Kampioen	DVB21-45

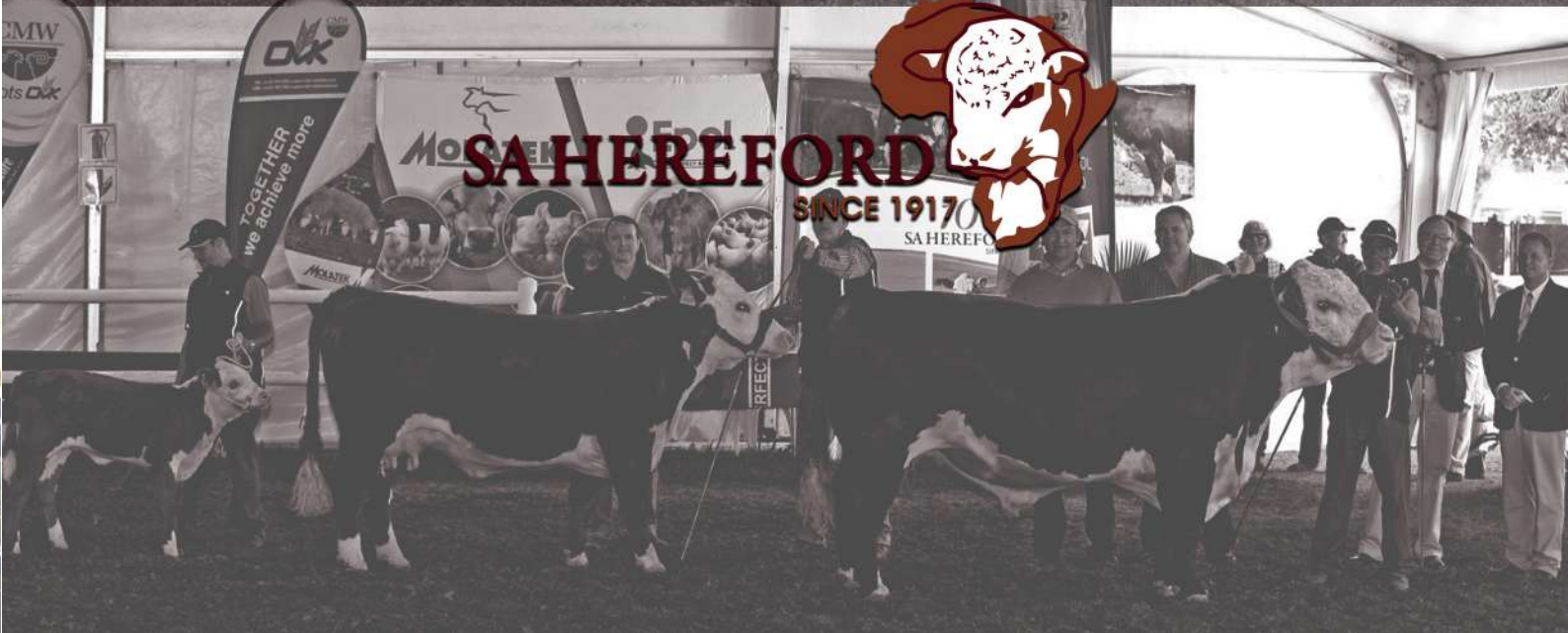
HEREFORD KAMPIOENE



SAVE THE DATE

SA Hereford
National Championships

Swartland Show
SEPTEMBER 2027



RIVERSDAL SHOW



Intermediate Champion and
GRAND CHAMPION - BMH22118
Breeder: Bertus Mong



Senior champion and
SUPREME CHAMPION - DVB21045
Breeder: Danie van Breda

Judge - Harley van Rhyn and Miles Dicke

FEMALE WINNERS

Heifer Calf Champion	DVB24010
Reserve Heifer Calf Champion	BMH23145
Intermediate Champion	BMH22118
Reserve Intermediate Champion	DVB23008
Junior Champion	DVB22156
Reserve Junior Champion	DVB22140
Senior Champion	BMH20098
Reserve Senior Champion	DVB21038
Grand Champion Female Animal	BMH22118
Reserve Grand Champion	DVB23008

MALE WINNERS

Bull Calf Champion	BMH23133
Reserve Bull Calf Champion	DVB24017
Intermediate Champion	BMH22119
Reserve Intermediate Champion	DVB23021
Junior Champion	BMH22092
Senior Champion	DVB21045
Reserve Senior Champion	BMH21104
Grand Champion Bull	DVB21045
Reserve Grand Champion	BMH23133



Thys 082 566 2692 | Liezel 082 922 4616
tweelingboerdery1@gmail.com
Soutpan | Vrystaat



Official
2025
Judges



Yayo Aguirre



Peter Sykes



Jens Michael Jensen



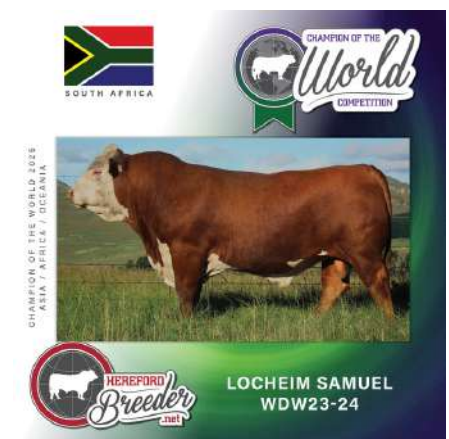
Cary Crow



GOLD: Australia (7 points)



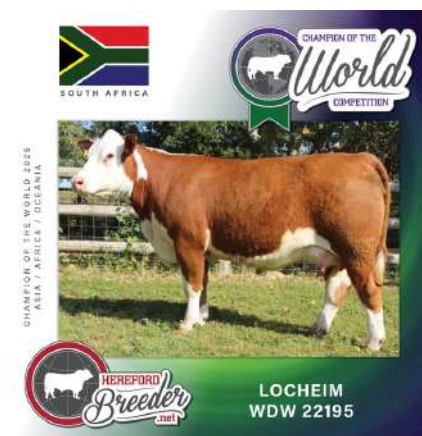
SILVER: New Zealand (5 points)



BRONZE: South Africa (4 points)

Judge's Selections for Gold:

Yayo Aguirre (Uruguay) - NEW ZEALAND | Peter Sykes (Australia) - HOME JUDGE
Jens Michael Jensen (Denmark) - AUSTRALIA | Cary Crow (USA) - AUSTRALIA



GOLD: South Africa (9 points)



SILVER: Australia (5 points)



BRONZE: New Zealand (3 points)

Judge's Selections for Gold:

Yayo Aguirre (Uruguay) - SOUTH AFRICA | Peter Sykes (Australia) - HOME JUDGE
Jens Michael Jensen (Denmark) - SOUTH AFRICA | Cary Crow (USA) - SOUTH AFRICA

**HEREFORDS IN
BIG SKY
Country**
YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE.

19th WHC Conference Review

■ Larry Feeney
SecGen WHC

The **World Hereford Conference** is a premier international event held every four years, bringing together global Hereford cattle breeders, enthusiasts, and industry leaders to discuss breed improvement, genetics, and marketing

The event opened with the World Hereford Council Business Meeting taking place at the Basie Ballroom at the Marriot Downtown Kansas City on Tuesday October 22nd. This event was smoothly chaired by Mr Dale Venhuizen, Conference Chairman and owner of the renowned "Churchill Herefords", which had just some weeks previously secured in excess of \$10 million on the sale of the cow herd. With delegates from some twenty countries a wide range of issues were discussed.



These included a number of house keeping issues, financial reports, gene editing issues, a discussion on Global regulations impacting genetic exchange and an application and presentation from the Hereford Cattle Society, UK, to host the 20th World Hereford Conference in 2028. This invitation was accepted with enthusiasm by all the delegates. 2028 will surprisingly be the first occasion the event has been held in Hereford, UK, considered the home of the breed since World Hereford



inaugural Conference held there in 1951. A comprehensive update on multi-country evaluations (research on PACE/NZ, Australia) was provided which indicated some considerable success and clear indications that further progress on world evaluations is possible in the years ahead. Following a report and review of the previous five years, the Secretary General was reappointed to the position up until 2028.



In the days prior to the meeting above and also in the days following, some eleven groups of very enthusiastic Young Hereford teams from seven member countries across the Globe, had been participating in a number of competitive tasks. A similar event in NZ in 2020 had proven to be an outstanding success. The aim of the events is to build on the NZ experience encouraging the participation of Hereford youth in gaining additional skills and learning from each other with the added opportunity to gain friends and contacts across the world. All of the participating teams are to be congratulated on their performances and on their overall contribution to the event by their sheer presence. It is perhaps a sobering thought that these young cattlemen could possibly be the last generation to engage in cattle

husbandry given the hostility to the livestock industry by certain elements of the climate lobby. A drop of 7.5 million cattle in the EU since 2015 which includes a drop of 250,000 beef cows in Ireland alone is a worrying trend. Let's hope some measure of levity prevails in the coming years to avoid the cud-chewing cow becoming extinct like the mammoth of the past. The AHA vision "build more pounds of quality beef and more production-efficient females with fewer resources than otherwise possible, via the breed's inherent genetic advantage" gives much hope for the future.





The AHA and attendees at the conference were fortunate to have available so many highly respected individuals who are pioneers and leaders in their respective fields of research to share their insights with those in attendance. These talks were carefully interspersed with country reports from the various countries participating in the event which provided an insight into the demands on the Hereford breed to perform across five continents and in a multiplicity of economic and climatic conditions.

The hugely attended evening at Arrowhead proved to be an exciting knees up event providing a most relaxed atmosphere for visitors and locals to get to know each other and enjoy each others company outside the more scientific ambience of the Basie Ballroom. Certified Hereford beef ensured a satisfying meal before the dancing began.

The AGM of the AHA caught my attention not only by the huge attendance at the event but by the use of the event to recognise the contribution of individuals and families to the progress and success of the Hereford breed across the US over the years. Videos of individuals and family members talking of their experience of building up and maintaining their herds through good times and less prosperous times were inspiring. So often such dedication to the breed is only recognised when the individuals have passed on rather than when they are still in good health to enjoy the acclaim.

Every WHC event offers an opportunity to hear of new developments and scientific advances in research into animal husbandry. It is therefore especially important in a challenging environment for

cow-calf husbandry that Hereford breeders keep abreast of these advanced insights and developments in order to apply that knowledge where appropriate on return home. The Evolution of American Hereford Association Research from 1999 through to 2025 outlined at page 31 of the World Conference event guide illustrates the huge body of work completed and still in progress. No other Hereford Association in the world, particularly in Europe, has access to the resources necessary to engage in such an extensive research programme. The AHA has generously offered access to this research and any of its promotional materials to any of the World Hereford Council members who may find it useful.



I have been fortunate to attend each World Hereford Conference, nine in all, held since 1992 which was held in Cape Town, South Africa. Each event has provided a new insight into the host country or into the extraordinary varying conditions in which the Hereford breed continues to thrive and expand in a changing world.

In an intro letter reprinted in the Conference Guide, I suggested the AHA "have put together what promises to be a most informative, entertaining and exciting event". I am pleased to say that the actual event surpassed my expectations by a long shot. The contribution and support of sponsors in hosting such an event cannot be overlooked and is much appreciated. I found the AHA to be a very well-oiled machine that appeared to cover all the angles in an unflappable way. Staff moved through the attendance in a most unobtrusive way quietly guided by Executive Vice President Jack Ward. A sincere thank you to Jack and his team Shane, Stacy, Taylor Belle, Amy and all the crew for their dedication and tedious preparation. The staff have the obvious support of the AHA board in their endeavours. To Dale Venhuizen my thanks for his assistance and guidance through a successful business meeting of the WHC at the outset of the event.



Those in attendance at the various pre and post tours were very complimentary of the itinerary and the individual herds which opened their operations to the visitors and shared with them their insights and hospitality. □



LOCHEIM

Herefords

SWARTLAND VEEBOEREVEILING
25 JUNIE 2026



WDW23-129 Locheim Bolt Performer (Vader WDW2023)



WDW23-156 Locheim Hotspot (Vader WDW 2017)



WDW23-122 Locheim Superbul
(Vader KRM 19-29)



WDW23-155 Locheim Jumpstart
(Vader WDW 2023)



WDW23-90 Locheim Daylight
(Vader WDW1909)



WDW23-104 Locheim Small Town Kid
(Vader Small Town Kid)



WDW23-119 (Vader KRM 19-29)



WDW23-24 Locheim Samuel
(Vader WDW2023)

Junior- en Groot kampioen
Swartland Skou 2025

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Cattle Farming Made... Profitable, Enjoyable and Sustainable



The fact that the average age of cow-calf producers in South Africa is over 60 tells me that most cow-calf businesses are not as sustainable as they should be, which tells me they are not as profitable and enjoyable as they should be.

■ **Kit Pharo**
Pharo Cattle Company

Pharo Cattle Company sells over 1000 grass-developed breeding bulls every year. Our headquarters are located in eastern Colorado (noted by arrow), where we get 300 to 350 mm of precipitation. However, we have cooperative cowherds in 13 states (noted by stars). Our seedstock program consists of Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, South Poll and Heat-Tolerant Composites.



Agriculture that is not profitable and enjoyable will never be sustainable. A business is only sustainable if it can be passed on from one generation to the next. The fact that the average age of cow-calf producers in South Africa is over 60 tells me that most cow-calf businesses are not as sustainable as they should be, which tells me they are not as profitable and enjoyable as they should be.

I believe the cow-calf portion of the beef industry – around the world – is at a major turning point. What has worked so well

for the last 20 years will not work for the next 20 years. Those who are the quickest to adapt and change will be in the driver's seat. Those who are the slowest to change will get left behind or run over.

In the U.S., the cost of cattle farming inputs doubled between 2010 and 2024. DOUBLED in just 14 years – and the cost of inputs is still increasing. I believe we are seeing something very similar in South Africa and other places around the world. The chances of this trend reversing are very slim.

Because of extensive drought in North America, the number of beef cows is lower than it has been for 50 years. This has created record-high cattle prices. Cow-calf producers can do many things wrong and still be profitable. Because FMD outbreaks have severely disrupted the beef supply chain in South Africa, prices here are also at record-high levels.

No one knows how long these high calf prices will last – but we all know they won't last forever. When calf prices fall, what will happen to the cost of inputs? I'm pretty sure the cost of inputs will continue to increase. What if they double again? Will survival require change?

Much has changed in the last 20 years, and yet most of today's cow-calf producers operate as though nothing has changed. People, for the most part, are afraid of change. As silly as it sounds, many would rather fail doing what they have always done than succeed if success requires change.

$$\text{PROFIT} = \text{INCOME (Production} \times \text{Market)} - \text{EXPENSES}$$

In agriculture we have very little, if any, control over the market value and the prices we receive. The only two things we have control over are our production and our expenses. Reducing expenses is a great way to increase profits. The easiest money you will ever make is the money you don't spend – and it is tax free.

Increasing production is also a great way to increase profits – but ONLY IF you increase production per hectare, NOT per animal. For the past 50 years, cattlemen around the world have bred and selected almost exclusively to increase production per cow.

As a result of this incessant selection for bigger and bigger weaning weights, bragging rights have increased, cow size has increased, stocking rates have decreased, cost of production has increased – and profits have decreased. The first step most producers need to do to maximize profits is to **STOP** focusing on kilos per cow (bragging rights) – and **START** focusing on kilos per hectare (profit).

The most profitable cattle farmers around the world have one thing in common. Without exception, they strive to make the most efficient use of the available forage resources on their farm. This has nothing to do with what breed of cattle they have. It has everything to do with making the most of every drop of rain and ray of sunshine that falls on the land they control.

The three keys to making the most efficient use of your available forage resources are 1) **Planned Rotational Grazing**, 2) **Matching Your Production Cycle to Your Forage Resources** and 3) **Matching Cow Size and Type to Your Forage Resources**. I will briefly discuss these three keys.

Planned Rotational Grazing

After building some cross fences and piping some water, we started rotational grazing in the summer of 1994. The first rule of thumb is to move cattle fast when the grass is growing fast, and slow when the grass is growing slow. The second rule of thumb is to put the highest number of cattle in the smallest possible area for the shortest period of time.

One of the benefits of rotational grazing is reducing and eliminating supplemental feeding. The only time our cows receive

anything other than free-choice sea salt is when the snow is too deep or too crusted for them to graze through. Rotational grazing has also improved our rangeland. We have improved forage quality, quantity and diversity.

The biggest benefit to rotational grazing, however, has been the ability to increase total beef production per hectare. A novice grazer will be able to easily increase beef production by 50%. Several graziers have been able to double beef production per hectare. That's like having someone give you another farm for free.



Above is a picture of the Las Damas (The Ladies) Ranch in the Chihuahuan Desert of northern Mexico. The ranch on this side of the fence has been practicing rotational grazing since 2005. Compared to where he started, Alejandro Carrillo has quadrupled grass and beef production! **That's amazing!**

Matching Your Production Cycle to Your Forage Resources.

For the most part, your production cycle involves calving and weaning. You should be calving in sync with your very best forage resources. If your cows are gaining weight prior to calving, it will be easy to get them bred back with their next calf.

You can and should wean early (90 to 120 days of age) during a drought. A cow's nutritional requirements are drastically reduced when her calf has been weaned. You can wean later if you have adequate forage resources. There are huge benefits to leaving calves with their mothers until they are 10 months of age.

Matching Cow Size and Type to Your Forage Resources

I want a herd of cows that can produce and reproduce strictly on what my farm is producing. I don't want to spend any money on any outside inputs. Contrary to what most cattle farmers believe, we can come very close to achieving this with the right size and type of cows.

Let's begin this section by reviewing a few basic facts.

1. At least 65% of annual cow cost is spent on feed and pasture.
2. Seventy percent of the feed a cow consumes is strictly for maintenance. Only 30 percent goes toward production.
3. Bigger cows eat more than smaller cows. They require more feed for maintenance (survival).
4. Heavy milking cows also require more feed for maintenance – even when they are not lactating. This is due to the genetic makeup of their visceral (internal) organs. Put another way, heavy milking cows have a big engine that requires high octane fuel – even when they are not lactating.
5. There is a direct straight-line correlation between cow size and cost of production. Cattle farms with the biggest cows are the least profitable.

Most cattlemen in North America, Australia and South Africa believe their cows are too big. Why do most cattlemen have cows that are too big? For 50 years, they have been single-mindedly focused on increasing kilograms per cow (bragging rights) – instead of on kilograms per hectare (profit). Do big cows always wean the biggest calves?

Average Cow Wt.	Average Weaning Wt.	Percent Cow Wt. Weaned
565	280	49%
615	277	45%
660	267	40%
700	271	39%
770	260	39%
770	260	34%

North Dakota State University divided their cowherd into five groups based on size. It is a well-known fact that smaller cows can wean a higher percentage of their own weight than big cows. Big cows should be able to wean bigger calves than small cows. However, in a real-world environment, big cows struggle to meet their maintenance energy requirements. Consequently, they will produce smaller calves and fail to breed back.

Pictured below are two 10-year-old cows on my home ranch in eastern Colorado. We require our cows to calve at two years of age and every year after that. A cow must wean a calf every year to stay in the herd. We never make an excuse for a cow or give her a second chance.



We have spent the last 40 years requiring our cows to do more with less. We have increased our stocking rates. Our only supplement is sea salt. We only feed hay when the snow is too deep or too crusted to graze through. We do not vaccinate our cows or treat them for parasites.

These are our conclusions.

1. Low-Maintenance Energy Requirement is the most important trait to select for. Maintenance requirement is a factor of size, growth and milk. Low-maintenance requirement has a huge effect on fleshing ability and fertility.
2. On a scale of 1 to 9, we prefer cattle with a 3 to 4 Frame Score. Frame score is very indicative of maintenance requirements.
3. Mature Cow Weight of 500 to 565 kilograms. This is what our 3 and 4-frame cows weigh. Our 3 and 4-frame cows often weigh more than 5 and 6-frame cows, because there is more cow and less air space under the cow.
4. We also need cows with tremendous volume and capacity.

Pictured below are two of our mature herd sires. Notice their thickness and masculinity. Masculine bulls produce feminine cows.



Some of the Hereford bulls that's been used in our seedstock program.



Since we sell breeding bulls in some subtropical areas, we have been experimenting with several heat-tolerant breeds and breed combinations to better fit those environments. We are trying to minimize the use of Bos indicus breeding because most Brahman cattle are too big

and inefficient for our program. Brahman-cross cattle also have a lower level of fertility. In the U.S., Brahman-cross calves are discounted.

For the most part, we have been experimenting with Bos taurus breeds of cattle that have Spanish or African origins. These breeds include Mashona, Creollo, Romosinuano, Tuli and Senepol. We are crossing these heat-tolerant breeds to our slick-hided Red Angus cattle. The bull pictured below is 50% Red Angus, 25% Mashona and 25% Romosinuano.



As stated earlier, I believe the cow-calf portion of the beef industry – around the world – is at a major turning point. What has worked so well for the last 20 years will not work for the next 20 years.

Those who are the quickest to adapt and change will be in the driver's seat. Those who are the slowest to change will get left behind or run over. There will always be advantages to being ahead of the curve – and consequences for being late. □

Hereford

OORSPRONKLIKE GENETIKA

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MARBLING



This is a short but certainly not comprehensive discussion about marbling and an attempt to provide some facts around certain issues about marbling.

■ **Phillip Strydom**
Department of Animal Sciences Faculty of Agrisciences,
Stellenbosch University

The role of marbling in the eating experience of beef and other red meats is well established. However, I get the impression that claims about the benefits of marbling are often quoted without sufficient scientific support and this may confuse the consumer and in the end work against the efforts to promote marbling as a quality trait in beef and other red meat species. This is a short but certainly not comprehensive discussion about marbling and an attempt to provide some facts around certain issues about marbling.

Marbling is the fine, evenly distributed flecks of fat found through muscle. While fat in the form of phospholipids is found within muscle tissue (cell membranes), marbling fat occurs in the spaces between muscle bundles. It is one of the three fat depots of the carcass, the other two being subcutaneous fat – on the surface of the

carcass - and intermuscular fat found between major muscle groups. It is also important to note that these fat depots are laid down in a different sequence during the animal's life. Intermuscular or seam fat is normally deposited at a higher rate at first, followed by subcutaneous fat and then marbling fat. However, deposition of fat depots in this order does not mean that one depot will stop being deposited when the other accelerates its deposition, but will rather continue to be laid down. This is of course important in the context of striving for optimum levels of marbling, also called the "taste" fat, because in most cases it means that there is also an abundance of "waste" fat in the carcass when this point is reached.

Marbling contributes the eating experience of red meat through positive effects on the consumer's perception of tenderness, juiciness and flavour.

Some studies claim that marbling explains 20 to 35% of the variation in general eating quality, but others are more conservative stating figures of 10 to 15%. These figures also vary as they were measured using different levels of marbling. The mechanism involved in improvement of tenderness is three-fold: Marbling fat reduces the bulk density of a steak meaning there is less muscle structure (resistance) to bite through or to chew the meat. Secondly, marbling fat has a lubricating effect, which stimulates salivation and enhance the perception of juiciness and flavour, which will also contribute to the perception of better texture and overall eating quality. Thirdly, marbling fat is deposited in the connective tissue structure and reduces the connective tissue toughness as marbling increases. We have now mentioned the experience of tenderness together with juiciness and flavour, and it is difficult to separate the three from each other when discussing marbling as the effect is integrated. It is however interesting to note that the positive effect of marbling on flavour and juiciness (taste panel scores) increases as level of marbling increases, but there is a turning point or plateau at about 15 % marbling fat. This is important when considering that breeds such as pure and crossbred Wagyu show marbling fat levels in the upper 20's and even 30's (%). Certain studies indicate that a minimum level of marbling required to improve flavour is 3% and above 8% is required to show an

effect on texture. Savell and Cross (1988), researchers from the USA, established a window of acceptability and report a dramatic increase in palatability scores by consumers when marbling increases from 0 to 3 %. Between 3 and 6% the increase in response is still positive but not as dramatic. Above 6 - 7% the response to increasing levels of marbling tapered off further. In addition, above 7.3% health-conscious consumers started to protest against too much visual fat, which they related to health problems. Therefore, the window of acceptability for marbling was set at 3 - 7.3%. Fifteen % marbling, as indicated earlier may be recommended for niche markets, e.g. Eastern countries where eating culture in relation to portioning and culinary methods differ from Western countries.

The quality of marbling and contribution to eating quality is not only defined by the level but also by the deposition pattern. Equal distribution of marbling as small flecks of fat across the steak surface area is most important. Large islands of fat may contribute to total fat or marbling level, but are visually unappealing and cause inconsistent eating experience with either exposure to too much or too little fat.

The response of consumers to visual fat in raw steaks should carefully be considered especially in certain Western markets.



Consumers will often respond negatively when confronted with high levels of marbling in uncooked steaks. This response is driven by the negative connotation to visual animal fat. Consumer studies performed in the 90's in Australia confirmed that consumers preferred beef with the lowest fat trim (subcutaneous fat) and, interestingly, marbling fat had a larger influence on perception of "fatty meat" than fat trim/subcutaneous fat thickness. Consumers responded consistently (linear scale) negative concerning "liking of raw appearance" and "expected eating quality" over ranges of marbling scores 1-3 (marbling fat 4 to 7%). On fat-trim there was no negative response between 2 and 5 mm fat cover and a negative response was recorded only when fat thickness increased from 5 to 10 mm. Consumers believed that lean trim meat does not only look more appealing but will also taste better. Interestingly, this negative response made a 180° turn when consumers tasted meat without being exposed to the raw cuts. Consumer panel MQ4 scores (used in Australia as collective response to tenderness, juiciness, flavour and overall liking) showed a 4-8 % increase in overall score even with a small range of marbling levels from score 0 (no marbling) to 3 (5.4 – 7.0 %). This corresponds to the study by Savell and Cross in the USA.

The composition of fat is important when considering the nutritional value and contribution to the health status of the consumer. Saturated fatty acids (SFA), commonly associated with animal products, are often blamed for their contribution to health problems such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. However, today we know that the SFA's, stearic acid and palmitic acid (comprising

about 45% of the total fatty acids (FA) of muscle) does not raise plasma cholesterol, while the SFA, myristic acid, does, but only comprise about 3% of the total muscle FA. Mono-unsaturated fatty acid (MUFA) and poly-unsaturated fatty (PUFA) are generally regarded as "healthier" fatty acids. Any fat, also in meat, consists of different proportions of these three groups of FA (apart from other co-structures of fat) which give the fat its unique physical (e.g. melting point), chemical and nutritional characteristics. The composition of animal fat in terms of the said fatty acids may also vary across animals within breed, between breeds and feeding regimes but only to a limited extent across fat type/depot, viz, marbling, subcutaneous fat and seam fat (intermuscular). Therefore, the claim often made that marbling fat is healthier than other fat (in the same animal) is not true. True marbling fat is high in SFA and MUFA (almost in equal proportions) just like subcutaneous and seam fat. In most cases, high levels of marbling is associated with high levels of the specific MUFA, oleic acid (30-40%, particularly if it was associated with high levels of grain feeding). Oleic acid (MUFA) levels are followed by slightly lower levels of SFA's, palmitic (~30%) and stearic acids (~15%). PUFA are generally represented in much lower levels in any animal fat compared to PUFA and SFA, and this fact also applies to marbling fat. PUFA mostly presents itself in phospholipids as part of cell walls. For this reason, the proportion of PUFA's within muscle decreases (diluted) as marbling level increases, because of the decrease in contribution of FA in the cell walls. When considering these facts, an article in a local Sunday newspaper in October 2018 stating that Wagyu meat has higher levels of omega 3 and 6 PUFA's than salmon (fish) is quite off the mark.

In fact, when meat is trimmed clean of external fat, higher marbling means that total fat intake increases, both SFA and MUFA, and that could (potentially) become a health concern. As stated earlier, some American studies showed that maximum marbling levels of 6 to 7% is about the upper limit for compliance with dietary and health guidelines. These recommendations obviously have to be considered in the context of portion size and other factors, but it is also important to note that products currently on the shelf may exceed 30 % marbling. When considering the effect of diet on PUFA and the different types of PUFA (omega 3 and 6), grass feeding will cause a favourable (health-wise) increase in omega 3 to omega 6 PUFA ratio, but once again the favourable effect of this change will be diluted at high levels of marbling because an increase in marbling fat coincide with increase in mainly MUFA, but also SFA's at the cost of PUFA's.

Quite interesting information was found in a local study where beef steaks with very high (30%), medium (4.5%) and low (2.5%) muscle fat/marbling were analysed for contribution of types of fatty acids on a weight basis. This (weight basis) is in contrast to presenting FA values on a % basis which often look very impressive but does not give an account of the actual intake of FA when consuming a 200 or 300 g steak. The study showed that consuming the very highly marbled steak would result in about 6 times higher total fat intake compared to the medium marbled steak. This ratio also translated into more or less 6 times higher intake of MUFA and SFA. Consequently, the "bad" SFA, myristic acid, but also the "good" SFA's palmitic and stearic acid were just below or above 6 times higher levels and the "friendly" MUFA, oleic acid, slightly higher than 6 times in

highly marbled steaks. However, due to the dilution effect of marbling, despite the higher total fat (and FA) in higher marbled steaks, the PUFA ratio was only 3 times higher. Interestingly, the favourable PUFA, CLA, was also almost 6 times higher, but long chain PUFA's, known for many health benefits, were undetectable in highly marbled steaks. Although many secondary factors play a role when considering health guidelines for fat consumption, the rule of thumb states that not more than 30% of total calories consumed per day should be from fat and not more than 10% from SFA. Considering these guidelines, consuming a 200 g highly marbled steak will mean that the daily quota for calories from any fat has been reached and the proportion from SFA's has been exceeded. We may therefore need to re-consider the way highly marbled beef is consumed and scale down on portion size like in Eastern cultures.

Just a short note on where marbling fat comes from and what factors are involved in its expression. Marbling fat as it is seen in steaks are mature adipocytes, in other words a cell specialised solely for the storage of fat. Adipocytes develop from pre-adipocytes, which in turn develop by differentiation from multipotent stem cells, multipotent meaning, the cells can develop into a number of cell types such as cartilage, muscle or fat cells. There are various factors that could influence the initial and subsequent development of stem cells into adipocytes and the subsequent "filling" of adipocytes to appear as marbling fat in the final product. For a given weight and time on feed, heifers will have higher marbling than steers which in turn have more than bulls. Calves castrated just after birth will have higher marbling than those castrated at weaning.

The use of implants and beta agonists will also influence marbling. While the results of various studies are not conclusive, there is strong evidence that implants and more so beta agonists (salbutamol, zilpaterol) will inhibit the deposition of muscle fat. Interestingly, one study showed that steers implanted with oestrogens had lower marbling scores than those implanted with androgenic or combination implants. It seems that early life restriction of nutrients, e.g. protein restriction prenatal and preweaning will increase adipocyte numbers and therefore the potential to marble. Weight loss later in life followed by weight gains has a compensatory or accelerated effect on the filling of adipocytes, therefore higher marbling occurs in such cases. Factors that influences the growth (filling) of mature adipocytes (marbling fat cells) are mostly genetics and nutrition. The right genetics will provide an animal with a predisposition to lay down marbling fat. Extended periods on high energy diets will lead to the expression of marbling and this will take place at a higher rate/level in animals with marbling genetics. Those without the predisposition will show proportionally higher increase in subcutaneous fat. Multiple genes influence marbling and the effect of each gene is small in relation to total variation in the trait. However, it is possible to locate regions (QTL) on a chromosome that are associated with differences in the marbling phenotype. Furthermore, with whole genome mapping, genes with specific effects on marbling are identified and selected for.

In summary, marbling certainly contributes to good eating quality. However, consumers need to be educated to accept that visual fat in the form of marbling translates to good eating quality, but always within certain limits. Consumption of steaks with extreme levels of marbling should signal health threats. Marbling fat is not healthier than other fat in the same animal and consumers should be guided by recommended calorie intake in the form of fat when selecting marbled steak portions. □



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- 10 ML SOUT
- 1 ML PEPPER
- 3 MIDDELSLAG-AARTAPPELS, GESKIL
- 3 GEELWORTELS, GESKIL
- 2 UIE, GESKIL
- 2 TAMATIES, GESKIL
- 1 BLOKKIE BIEFEKSTRAK, VERKRUMMEL
- 375 ML KOOKWATER
- 10 ML BRUINSOUSPOEIER
- 25 ML KOUE WATER

Kluitjies

- 100 G (200 ML) BRUISMEEL
- 3 ML SOUT
- 50 G (60 ML) BOTTER OF MARGARIEN, BY KAMERTEMPERATUUR
- 50-60 ML KOUE WATER
- FYN GEKAPTE PIETERSIELIE VIR GARNERING

Metode

1. SNY ALLE OORTOLLIGE VET EN SENINGS AAN DIE VLEIS AF. SNY DIE VLEIS IN BLOKKIES.
2. MENG DIE KOEKMEELBLOM, SOUT EN PEPPER EN ROL DIE VLEISBLOKKIES IN DIE MENGSEL.
3. SNY DIE AARTAPPELS IN BLOKKIES, DIE GEELWORTELS EN UIE IN SKYFIES EN DIE TAMATIES IN KWARTIE.
4. PLAAS DIE VLEIS EN GROENTE IN LAE IN 'N GROOT KASSEROL.
5. LOS DIE BIEFEKSTRAK IN DIE KOOKWATER OP.
6. MENG DIE SOUSPOEIER MET DIE KOUE WATER EN ROER DIT BY DIE BIEFAFTREKSEL.
7. GOOI DIT OOR DIE VLEIS-EN-GROENTEMENGSEL.
8. SIT DIE DEKSEL OP EN BAK DIE KASSEROL ONGEVEER 2 UUR BY 180 °C. DIE OOND HOEF NIE VOORAF VERHIT TE WORD NIE.

Kluitjies

1. SIF DIE BRUISMEEL EN SOUT SAAM.
2. VRYF DIE BOTTER OF MARGARIEN IN TOTDAT DIT SOOS FYN KRUMMELS LYK.
3. VOEG NET GENOEG WATER BY OM 'N SAGTE, HANTEERBARE DEEG TE VORM.
4. VERDEEL DIE DEEG IN 6 TOT 8 EWE GROOT STUKKE EN ROL ELKEEN IN 'N BALLETTJIE.
5. PLAAS DIE BALLETTJIES OP DIE VLEIS-EN-GROENTEMENGSEL.
6. SIT DIE DEKSEL OP EN BAK NOG 20 MINUTE, OF TOTDAT DIE VLEIS SAG IS EN DIE KLUITJIES GAAR EN GOED UITGERYS IS.

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Polled Testing in Hereford Cattle



For Hereford cattle, a breed characterised by its hardiness, identifying polled animals through genetic testing has become an essential tool for cattle farmers.

■ By ZooOmics

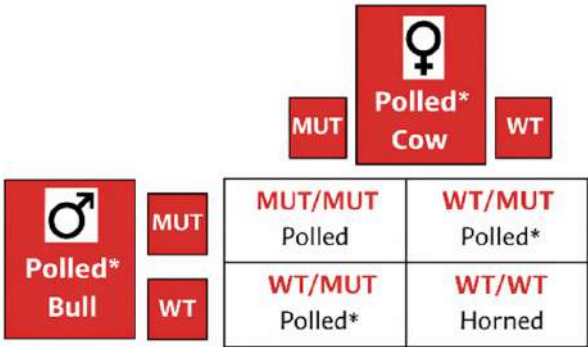
In modern cattle breeding, the polled (naturally hornless) trait has gained significant attention. For Hereford cattle, a breed characterised by its hardiness, identifying polled animals through genetic testing has become an essential tool for cattle farmers. Polled testing not only helps reduce the risks associated with horned cattle, such as injuries to animals and handlers, but also allows for more accurate and informed breeding decisions to be made. By understanding the genetics behind polledness, cattle farmers can efficiently plan matings to produce healthier, easier-to-manage herds while maintaining the breed's performance and hardiness.



The Genetics of Polledness

Cattle, along with other Bovidae, were always naturally horned. This was a useful trait to have as it provided the cattle with a first-line defence mechanism against predators and also allowed them to assert their dominance against other cattle.

Polled cattle do not grow horns. This phenotypic trait has been genetically linked to well-characterised mutations such as the Celtic variant on bovine chromosome 1 (BTA1), along with other independently arising polled mutations identified in different breeds. A genetic test can detect the specific insertion-deletion (indel) mutation that determines whether cattle are polled (MUT/MUT), horned (WT/WT), or heterozygous (WT/MUT). The polled gene is one that is inherited in an autosomal dominant manner, meaning that an animal will only need one copy of the polled allele to be hornless. It should be noted that heterozygous animals (WT/MUT) are typically polled (no horns) but may exhibit scurs, depending on additional genetic and sex-influenced factors. Interestingly, some breeds appear polled even when they are homozygous horned (WT/WT) for the Celtic mutation, indicating that there are other polled mutations that exist. In Bos Taurus breeds, however, the polled trait is almost always inherited as a dominant characteristic over horned.



From Dehorning to Polled Breeding

There are several cattle breeds that are naturally horned. Traditionally, dehorning and disbudding have been common practices to prevent injuries sustained by other cattle and humans. However, these procedures (which include, but are not limited to, surgical and chemical methods) have proven to be a welfare concern, as they have led to a significant increase in animal stress and risk of complications, as well as management costs, while negatively impacting production. Breeding polled cattle provides a humane alternative, eliminating the need for routine dehorning while improving herd safety and operational efficiency.

Polled Gene Types

Genotype	Status	What it Means for Breeding
MUT/MUT	Homozygous Polled	Always polled, will only produce polled calves.
WT/MUT	Heterozygous Polled	Usually polled or scurred, can produce polled or horned calves.
WT/WT	Homozygous Horned	Always horned, will only produce horned calves.

Debunking Myths

In the past, many commercial breeders believed that polled cattle were inferior to horned cattle when it came to certain characteristics. As a result, polled animals were excluded from breeding programs, especially in breeds where horned cattle were the majority. However, modern research has largely disproven these concerns. It has been found that polled cattle have improved significantly when it comes to genetics. In many traits, including weight, growth, muscle and fat traits, as well as meat quality, polled animals now match, and in some cases surpass, their horned counterparts.

Breeding Strategies and Genetic Diversity

While the move toward polled breeding has many benefits, it must be approached with the thought of preserving genetic diversity in mind. Simply selecting polled animals without considering their relatedness can lead to inbreeding, which increases the risk of reduced fertility, slower growth, lower disease resistance, and other health problems within the herd. To avoid these issues, breeders should combine polled selection with strategic breeding practices that help maintain genetic diversity.

Genetic testing is a powerful tool in this process. By identifying whether an animal is homozygous polled, heterozygous polled, or homozygous horned, cattle farmers can make informed mating decisions that maximise the chances of producing polled offspring while reducing the risk of inbreeding. Over time, this enables herds to steadily increase the frequency of the polled gene without compromising overall genetic health. In addition, selecting high-quality animals based on both genetic and production traits ensures the herd remains productive, resilient, and capable of performing at high levels, while transitioning toward predominantly polled genetics.

Industry Trends and Economic Benefits

As the beef industry continues to evolve, the move toward polled cattle reflects a growing commitment to both animal welfare and practical, efficient farm management. Genetic testing has made it possible to confidently identify true polled animals, allowing cattle farmers to make

informed decisions that permanently reduce the need for dehorning while improving safety for animals and handlers alike.

Genetically polled animals, particularly homozygous polled bulls, are in higher demand and more often than not can be sold at premium rates. This encourages cattle farmers, by providing an economic incentive, to include polled genetics in their programs.

For traditionally horned breeds, polled genetic testing will allow for a steady increase in the mutant copy of the polled gene amongst the herd, without sacrificing breed quality, performance, or genetic diversity.

By combining DNA testing with responsible breeding strategies, farmers can build herds that are safer, more marketable, and better aligned with the expectations of a modern, welfare-focused beef industry.

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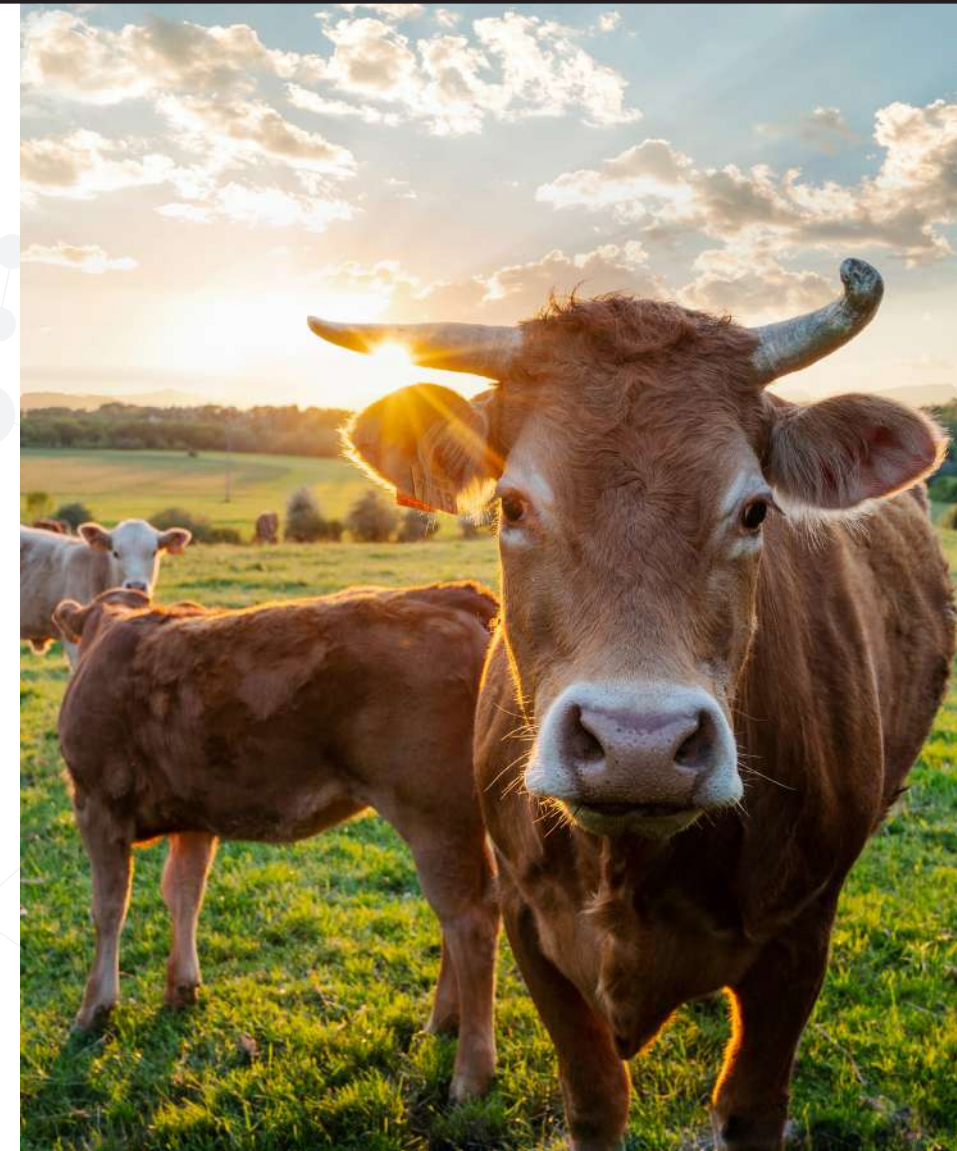
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APPLICATIONS

- Parentage analysis
- Identification of economically important traits
- Dairy evaluation
- Genetic improvement of pure lines



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Manure Scorecard For Free Ranging Beef Cattle



Manure scoring is a valuable tool to determine the quality of nutrition the grazing animal has recently consumed.

■ Deur Dr Louis du Pisani

Manure scoring is a valuable tool to determine the quality of nutrition the grazing animal has recently consumed and is used to either adjust the supplementation regime to prevent loss of body condition score during critical production phases and to prevent production losses. It can also be used as an indicator of the condition of the paddock the animals are currently grazing and whether moving to fresh grazing is required.

The production of beef cattle is directly correlated to:

1. the amount of grazing material ingested and
2. the amount of nutrients extracted from the material ingested.

This in turn is directly correlated to the digestibility of the grazed material, although the intrinsic nutrient density of the pasture also plays a role.

The digestibility of tropical grasses is correlated with their fibre content. The higher the fibre content, the lower the digestibility, the slower the rate and quantity of pasture ingested, and the lower the amount of nutrients extracted from the ingested pasture.

There are especially two minerals used in lick formulations to improve the forage intake and rate of digestibility under free ranging conditions, i.e., phosphorous and nitrogen (specifically non-protein nitrogen, i.e., urea). Using licks unnecessarily can be costly, resulting in a waste of money. On the other hand, inadequate supplementation leads to production losses, which also impacts negatively on profitability.

The quality of beef cattle diets is also influenced by the quality of the grazing available. Manure scoring can also be used to assess when the herd needs to be moved to fresh pasture or when the stocking rate is too high. The less the fluctuation of diet quality, the better rumen health and the entire process of nutrient extraction from the ingested forage. As soon as more than 50% of the observed dung heaps have a score of less than 3, it must be considered to move the livestock to fresh grazing.

Monitoring intervals of at least once every week is recommended. Under conditions of ultra-high-density grazing, short duration grazing, etc., daily monitoring is advised. Special attention is required during the last trimester of pregnancy, the first two months of lactation and during the transition period between autumn and winter. Variations in manure counts within the herd (ranging from 1 to 4) are a symptom of limited lick space for the cattle in the herd.



POO SCORE 1

- Distinct dung rings, firm, stacked up to 5 cm high.
- Dark brown to black in colour
- Rough structure – Undigested plant fractions visible in the dung
- Access to inferior quality forage that is inadequate in protein, carbohydrates and high/low quality fibre.
- Less than 5% protein and <55% TDN – poor digestion rate and slow rate of passage through the intestines (TDN - total digestible nutrients)
- Supplementation needed or adjust the current supplementation regime and/or move to fresh grazing.
- Rumen health is poor.

POO SCORE 2

- Soft rings starting to form.
- Dark brown in colour
- Some undigested fractions in the dung
- 5% – 7% protein and 60% TDN - digestion rate and/or diet quality

starting to deteriorate – monitor dung condition more regularly

- Starting to show signs of protein deficiency – start systematically with supplementation or adjust the current supplementation regime





POO SCORE 3 (IDEAL)

- Dung heap is soft and still shows some structure.
- Dark green to light brown in colour
- Look out for the small depression in the centre of the dung ball.
- Little to no undigested fractions in the dung
- 8% – 10% protein and 62% - 70% TDN – ideal digestion rate and diet quality
- Adequate protein - current supplementation optimal (if supplementation is provided)

POO SCORE 4

- No structure in the dung and less than 2.5 mm thick
- Dark green to light brown in colour
- More than 10% protein and >70% TDN – high digestion rate and good diet quality
- Excess protein and carbohydrates, but low in fibre - rate of passage through intestines is high with a decreased rate of absorption of nutrients
- No supplementation is required, or current supplementation rates are excessive - adding roughage to the diet will improve nutrient absorption.



POO SCORE 5

- Dung soft and scattered - diarrhoea.
- Light green in colour
- >12% protein and >70% TDN
- Often a symptom of very lush and actively growing pastures, with low dry matter content and low nutrient absorption, or a rumen whose health is severely compromised by a feeding disorder, i.e., acidosis and/or elevated levels of internal parasites, i.e., conical fluke, coccidiosis, etc. □

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Kan die primêre produsent bydra tot die verbruiker se eetgenot?



Die term vleisgehalte sluit komponente in soos produkveiligheid (chemies en mikrobiologies), gesondheid, welsyn en etiese praktyk, maar in hierdie kort bespreking sal ons hoofsaaklik fokus op die oorblywende komponente: hoe vleis op die rak vertoon en eetgehalte.

■ **Phillip Strydom**
Departement Veekunde, Stellenbosch Universiteit

Die term vleisgehalte sluit komponente in soos produkveiligheid (chemies en mikrobiologies), gesondheid, welsyn en etiese praktyk, maar in hierdie kort bespreking sal ons hoofsaaklik fokus op die oorblywende komponente: hoe vleis op die rak vertoon en eetgehalte. Laasgenoemde kan ons definieer as sappigheid, smaak en sagtheid. Hierdie twee eienskappe – hoe dit lyk en hoe dit proe bepaal of die verbruiker dit by die verkooppunt beoordeel (kleur, vetinhoud) en of die verbruiker weer terug sal kom om weer te koop.

Daar is 'n gesegde in die wynbedryf dat swak wyn van goeie druiwe gemaak kan word maar dat goeie wyn nie van swak druiwe gemaak kan word nie. Hierdie gesegde geld ook vir vleis en daarom word daar dikwels verwys na die belangrikheid van alle prosesse en faktore betrokke by vleisproduksie vanaf bevrugting tot verbruik (conception to consumption), dus 'n lang ketting met skakels wat onderling van mekaar afhanklik is.

Indien 'n spesifieke deel van hierdie waardeketting afgesonder moet word as meer belangrik as die res, dan is dit sekerlik die proses en omstandighede waar spier (die dier direk voor slag) omgeskakel word na vleis (18 – 24h na slag). Hierna is die proses van veroudering of rypwording bepalend vir die finale eetgenot, net soos by die proses van wyn en goeie kaas. Tog, net soos met wyn en kaas is die vooraf-prosesse, by vleis dus voor en tydens slagting, bepalend hoe die vleis se kwaliteit sal ontwikkel. Daarom speel die primêre produsent ook 'n rol by vleisgehalte.

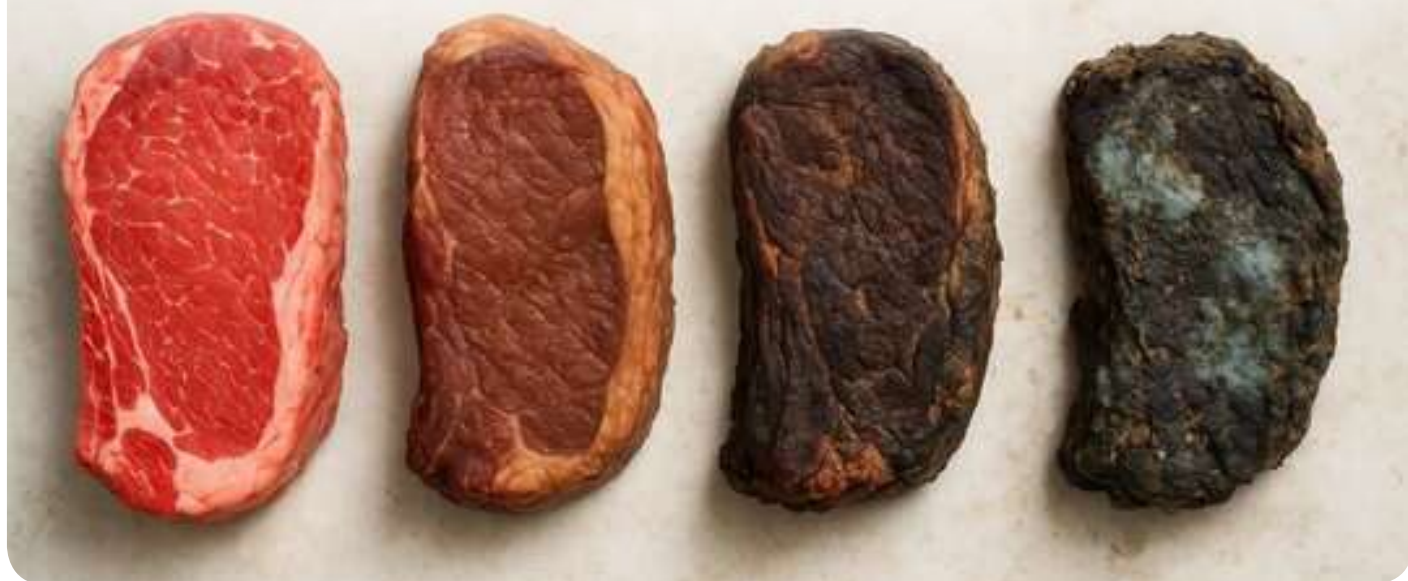
Genetika binne en tussen rasse kan op drie maniere vleisgehalte beïnvloed, naamlik die invloed wat genetika het op temperament en die direkte invloed van genetika op eetkwaliteit en spesifiek sagtheid en marmering. Alhoewel dit steeds 'n sensitiewe onderwerp is, is daar tog oor jare verskeie navorsingsresultate wat wys dat vleis van indicus rasse oor die algemeen minder sag as dié ander rasse is. By "ander rasse" word inheemse of Sanga rasse asook inheemse sintetiese rasse (Bonsmara) ingesluit. Laasgenoemde rasse word dikwels verkeerdelik as indicus rasse gedefinieer. Veroudering van vleis is hoofsaaklik afhanklik van 'n ensiemstelsel genaamd die kalpaïen sisteem, ook bekend as "calcium dependent protease system", of CDP. Kortliks werk dié sisteem met ensieme wat die afbreek van die spier struktuur bevorder (dus versagting meebring) en ensieme wat teen hierdie proses werk en dus rypwording vertraag.



Indicus rasse vertoon oor die algemeen 'n minder gunstige balans tussen die twee ensieme en dit neem vleis dus langer om dieselfde vlak van sagtheid te bereik. Hierdie eienskap is egter genetiese gekoppel en daar is ook deur navorsing bevind dat die genetiese variasie (en dus geleentheid vir genetiese verbetering) vir hierdie eienskap groter is binne die indicusrasse as binne nie-indicusrasse. Seleksie vir sagtheid en ander kwaliteitseienskappe was altyd problematies aangesien dit hoofsaaklik deur nageslagtoetse gedoen kon word, maar met nuwe ontwikkelings in genomika soos "Genome-wide association studies" of GWAS kan vordering op hierdie gebied vinniger plaasvind. Dit bly egter belangrik om 'n balans te handhaaf tussen produksie, reproduksie en kwaliteitseienskappe.

Marmering, of binnespiers vet dra by tot eetgehalte deur die persepsie van sappigheid en smaak wat dit skep asook die verdunningseffek wat dit op die spierbindweefsel se negatiewe effek op sagtheid het. Marmering is 'n bespreking op sy eie, maar ons kan eers daarby volstaan deur te sê dat, benewens die Wagyras, die normale produksiesisteem in ons land wat fokus op die slag van jong relatief maer diere (in vergelyking met bv. die VSA) nie gunstig meewerk tot die marmeringsproses in karkasse nie. Die derde eienskap wat beide met genetika en produksiepraktyke te doen het, is temperament.

Diere met 'n swak temperament, groei nie net swak nie, maar sal uiteindelik ook 'n slagdier produseer wat meer vatbaar is vir voorslagspanning soos tydens vervoer en tydens die wagtyd by die abattoir. Sulke diere sal meer geneig wees om met lae energievlakke (spierglukogeen) by die slagpunt aan te kom wat die omskakeling van spier na vleis kortwiek. Tipiese kwaliteitsdefekte as gevolg van lae spierglukogeen is donker vleis ("dark cutters") wat nie net onaantreklik is as gevolg van die besondere donker kleur (donker maroen) van die vleis op die rak nie, maar ook 'n swak raklewe het tydens vakuumveroudering – die lae suurgehalte (hoë pH) is ideaal vir die groei van slymvormende (groen slym) bakterieë wat bederf en af-reuke (swaelwaterstof) veroorsaak. Sekere toestande veroorsaak ook dat veroudering ingeperk word omdat ensieme nie optimaal funksioneer nie.



Indien produsente stoorosse direk bemark (dus nie aan voerkrale speenkalwers verskaf nie) is praktyke voor slag net so belangrik as om diere aan te hou met goeie temperament. Selfs diere met gunstige temperament kan ook fisiologiese spanning ondergaan en ook blootgestel word aan die moontlikheid van donker vleis. Tipiese praktyke waarop daar gelet moet

word is voldoende voer tot so na aan slagting as moontlik. Derhalwe moet die bymekaar maak en wagtydperk voordat diere gelaai word beperk word met inagneming dat diere dikwels by abattoirs ook 'n wagtyd sonder voer deurgaan. Hiermee saam is die goeie en rustige hantering van diere belangrik en gaan ook gepaard met goedontwerpte hanteer- en laaifasiliteite.

Vervoerafstand, bestuursvermoë van die bestuurder en laaidigtheid (beide te min en te veel) is belangrike faktore waarna gekyk moet word. Spanningsfaktore werk normaalweg saam om 'n uitgeputte dier by die slagpunt uit te bring. So byvoorbeeld moet ander faktore waaroor minder beheer uitgeoefen kan word, soos temperatuur en ander klimaatsfaktore tesame met faktore wat beheer kan word beskou word.

Die laaste twee faktore waaroor die produsent beheer (of ten minste 'n mate van beheer) het, is groeitempo tesame met slagkondisie en die gebruik van groeibevorderaars. Alhoewel klimaatstoestande nie altyd beheer kan word nie en byvoeding by veldbeeste winsgrense kan beïnvloed sal 'n goeie positiewe groeitempo vir die laaste maande voor slagting positief bydra tot

vleissagtheid. Sulke toestande gaan normaalweg ook gepaard met goeie spier- en vetkondisie en mag selfs by ouer diere (B-ouderdom) bydra tot binnespierse vet (marmering) en dus smaaklikheid en sappigheid.

Indien produsente diere self voer, dus 'n klein voerkraalsisteem of hoë vlakke van byvoeding by die afronding van diere gebruik, word hierdie voer dikwels as volvoer of ten minste 'n HPK aangekoop. Indien kwaliteit 'n saak van erns is, moet die produsent daarop let dat sulke voere dikwels groeistimulante bevat soos beta-agoniste (verskeie bekende handelsname wat nie vermeld sal word nie) wat 'n ernstige negatiewe effek op vleissagtheid sal hê alhoewel dit dalk die produksiedoeltreffendheid sal bevoordeel. Hierdie voerkomponente

werk ook negatief op die CDP sisteem in (die ensieme wat veroudering veroorsaak) en vertraag dus die versagtingsproses van die vleis benewens ander negatiewe effekte wat dit kan hê soos dat dit diere meer spanningsvatbaar maak en die waterbindingsvermoë van vleis negatief kan beïnvloed.

Die primêre produsent word nie altyd direk vergoed vir sy bydrae tot produkkwaliteit nie, maar indien in ag geneem word dat die produsent wel 'n positiewe bydrae kan maak dat die produk gunstig ontvang en geniet word, maak sy insette baie saak in die groter geheel van volhoubare produksie. Hierdie is maar bloot 'n paar aspekte waaraan aandag gegee kan word om uiteindelik die beeld van rooivleis, in hierdie geval beesvleis te verbeter. □

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Wat skuil in die bos vir Bulkopers?

Die eerste voorvereiste vir enige veeprodusent is natuurlik dat duidelike doelwitte gestel moet word om die pad aan te dui tot volhoubare wins. In die geval van vleisbeeste begin en eindig dit by 'n doeltreffende en natuurlik winsgewende koeikudde.



■ Japie van der Westhuizen
SA Stamboek en Diereverbeteringsvereniging

Daar word vertel dat George Bernard Shaw 'n voorstel van 'n skone Isadora Duncan ontvang het. Sy het aangedui dat 'n kombinasie van haar skoonheid en sy hoë intellek die perfekte kind behoort voort te bring. Hierop het die briljante Shaw gevra wat die gevolg sal wees indien die kind sy liggaam en haar brein erf (uit: Hesketh Pearson se Bernard Shaw: His Life and Personality (p. 310-311)).

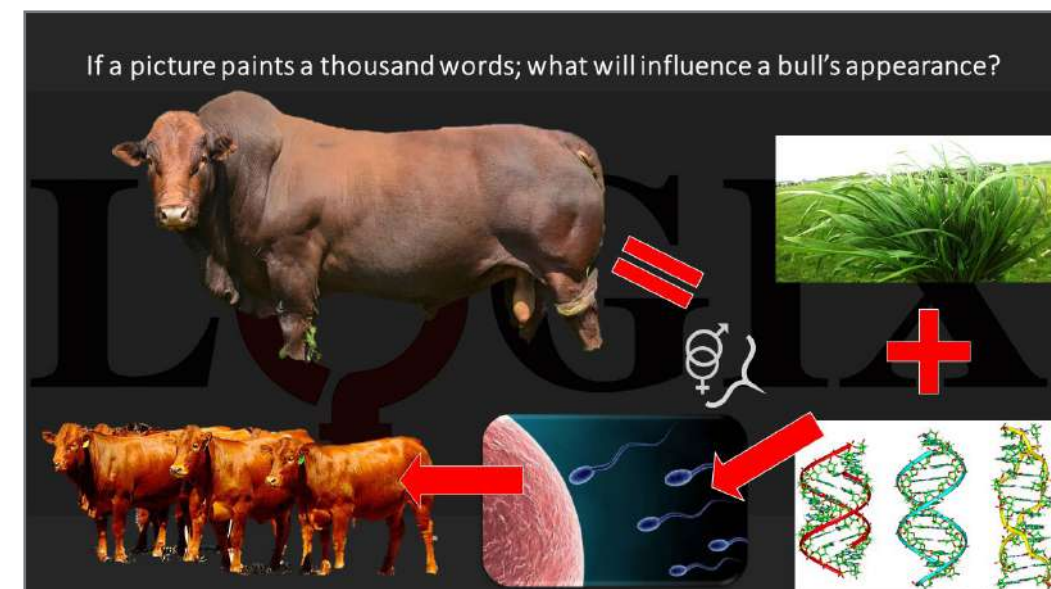
Bulkopers kan natuurlik baie keuses maak wanneer hulle die besluit maak watter bulle die beste sal werk as vaders van die volgende generasie koeie in hulle kuddes. Goedkoop-koop kan ook baie duur-koop wees omdat so 'n besluit bloot op die voorkoms van die bul berus. Inderwaarheid 'n groot waagstuk deur om aanvanklik 'n paar rand te spaar.

Alhoewel die belangrikste voorvereistes vir suksesvolle teling van vleisbeeste reeds oor en oor herhaal word, vind dit nie altyd byval by 'n gedeelte van die kopersmark vir bulle nie. Dit is snaaks hoe 'n ieder en elk baie duidelike vereistes stel, en dit ook deeglik kontroleer, by die aankoop van 'n bakkie, trekker of ander implement, maar 'n bul koop op voorkoms sonder enige ander waarborge. Dikwels is die handelsmerk ook net 'n baie goeie namaaksel, amper soos die skoene en ander handelsware wat jy by iemand op 'n vlooiemark of sypaadjie koop met 'n baie goeie nagmaakte "Nike", "Adidas", "Billabong" of "North Star" kenteken op. Niemand wat ernstig is sal 'n ultra marathon met so 'n stel hardloopskoene aandurf nie. Tog is daar bulkopers wat die toekoms van hulle kuddes op die spel plaas deur bulle te koop sonder kennis of so 'n kuddevader die korrekte handelsmerk is en óf dit wat voorgehou word voor die kooptransaksie wel sal teel soos belowe word.

Die eerste voorvereiste vir enige veeprodusent is natuurlik dat duidelike doelwitte gestel moet word om die pad aan te dui tot volhoubare wins. In die geval van vleisbeeste begin en eindig

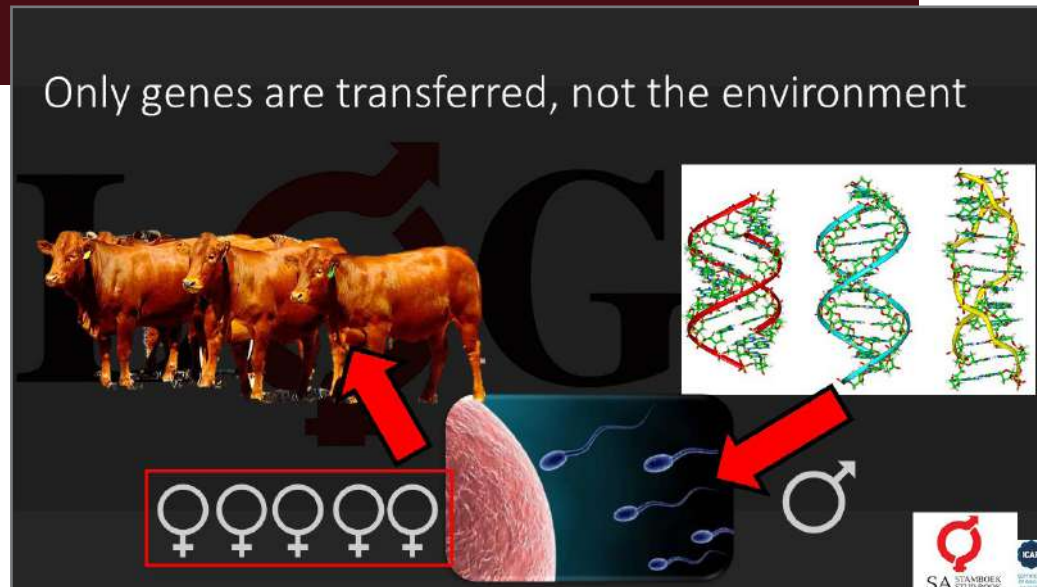
dit by 'n doeltreffende en natuurlik winsgewende koeikudde. Koeie wat dus met die minimum insette die maksimum uitsette en 'n gesogte produk lewer. Kortliks kom dit neer op lae onderhoud koeie wat elke jaar vroeg in die seisoen kalf sonder probleme, goed vir hulle kalwers sorg deur genoeg melk, en wat groeikragtige kalwers voortbring. Alhoewel daar verskille tussen kopers kan wees vir die mees gesogte bulkeuse, behoort dit die ruggraat te wees van vleisbeesteling om winsgewende vervangingsverse te teel. Natuurlik sal enige poging tot 'n volhoubare kruistelingsprogram bulle bevoordeel wat kalwers sal voortbring wat nageslag daarstel om doeltreffend in 'n voerkraal te presteer en die karkas sal lewer wat in die kraal van die handel en verbruiker val.

As mens dan na die prentjie van 'n bul kyk, behoort jy te weet dat sy voorkoms (en natuurlik eie prestasie en die verwagte prestasie van sy nageslag) die gevolg is van sy genetiese samestelling (wat hy geheel en al van sy ouers af ontvang) en die effek is van die omgewing op voorkoms. Die omgewing is hoofsaaklik voeding maar ook ander faktore maak natuurlik 'n bydrae.



Figuur 1 is 'n voorstelling van die faktore en hoedanig die genetiese meriete (samestelling) oorgedra word na die bul se nageslag toe.

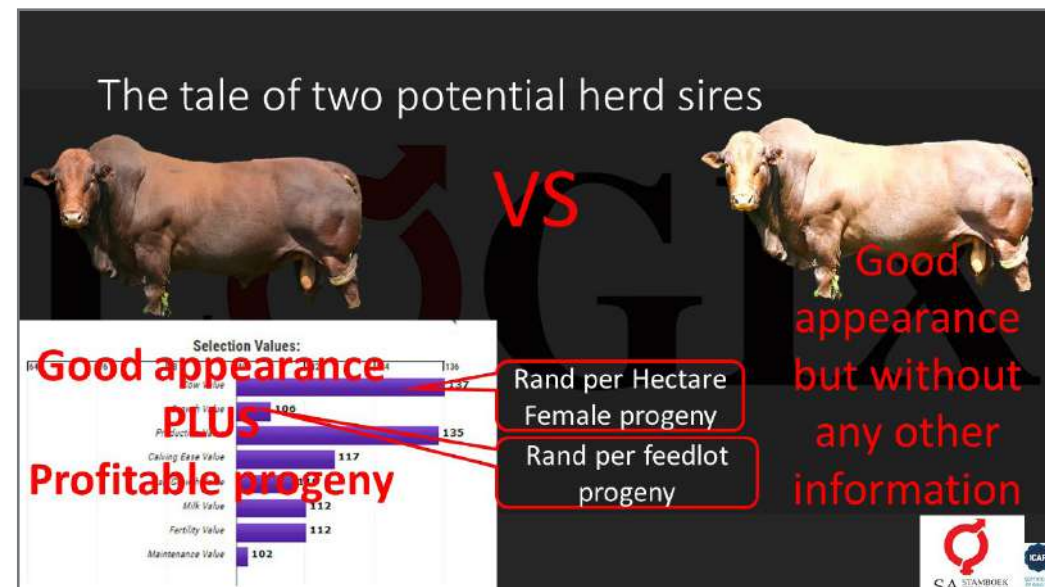
In wese kom dit daarop neer dat dit wat jy sien van die bul slegs 'n gedeelte van die totale prentjie skets. Daar is soveel meer onder die enjinkap. Die vraag is dus, ho-veel van die voorkoms, die bul se ma se prestasie, sy eie groeiprestasie en ander eienskappe word werklik aan sy nageslag oorgedra. Net gene word oorgedra, nie die omgewing nie. Dit word geïllustreer in **Figuur 2**.



Elke potensiële bulkoper kom te staan voor 'n keuse. Twee bulle is te koop en beide voldoen aan sy vereistes vir funksionele bouvorm, het ooglopend dieselfde "handelsmerk", met ander woorde kan gekoppel word aan 'n spesifieke tipe en word aangedui as voorbeeld van 'n spesifieke ras. In die een geval kan die handelsmerk bo alle twyfel bewys word, selfs met die nodige DNS sertifisering en kan die bul se stamboom nagegaan word. Ten opsigte van die handelsmerk weet

jy presies wat jy koop, Toyota, Ford, VW of Isuzu, ook die kleur is duidelik. In die ander geval is alles duidelik wat jy sien, maar die handelsmerk was opgeplak deur die verspreider wat die namaaksel so na as moontlik aan die ware Jakob wil laat lyk. Daar kan ook geen waarborg gegee word aan die koper nie. Die bul wat die werklike handelsmerk verteenwoordig kan ook ander detail deurgee, naamlik wat hy kan oordra aan sy nageslag ten opsigte van die eienskappe wat werklik 'n verskil

sal maak aan hulle winsgewendheid. Tipies kan die koper die katalogus oopmaak en die spesifikasies lees sodat hy 'n ingeligte besluit kan maak.

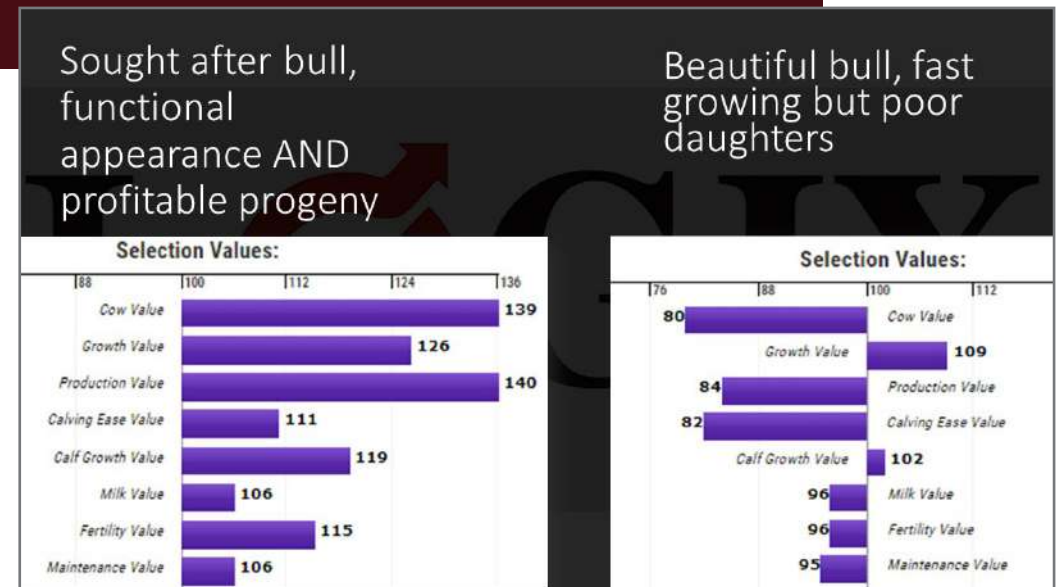


Figuur 3 illustreer die verskille tussen twee bulle.

Natuurlik kan die bul sonder 'n behoorlike CV ook 'n goeie kopie wees, wie weet. Oor die algemeen is hy egter 'n gelukspakkie met risiko. Geen ernstige vleisbeesprodusent kan die risiko dra nie.

Een manier waardeur voornemende bulkopers seker kan maak 'n bul voldoen aan hulle vereistes is om die bul se meriete te gaan opkyk op die **Webwerf: www.SABeefBulls.com**.

Figuur 4 vergelyk die winsgewendheid van twee bulle van dieselfde ras deur hulle genetiese (BLUP) meriete te vergelyk, soos dit aangebied word vanaf **SA-BeefBulls**.

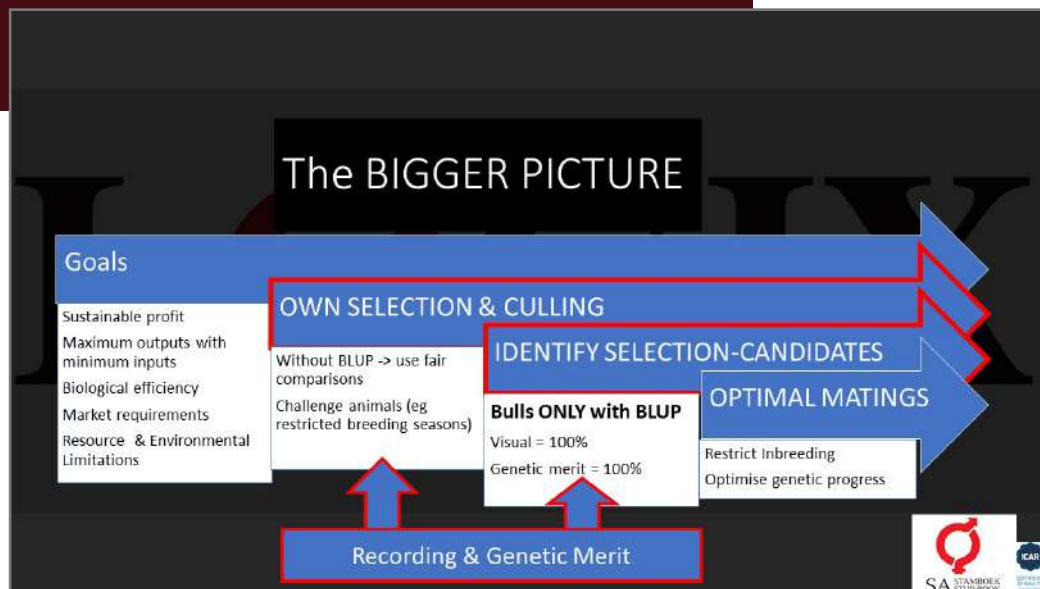


Die bul waarvan die genetiese meriete aan die koper se behoeftes voldoen, en visueel reg is, sal vrugbare, groeikragtige dogters teel wat maklik kalf, genoeg melk het en wat nie oormatig groot sal wees nie. Dus is hulle uitsette goed in vergelyking met hulle eie onderhoud. Die tweede bul het wel groeikragtigheid en is gespierd maar sy dogters sal nie naastenby so winsgewend wees soos die eerste bul nie omdat hulle tekortskiet met kalwingsgemak, vrugbaarheid, min melk het en hoë onderhoud verg.

Enige vleisbeesboer behoort altyd die groter prentjie in gedagte te hou en sy risiko's te beheer. Dit begin in die eerste plek by behoorlike doelstellings en die noudesette navolging daarvan. Die voortdurende seleksiedruk op vroulike diere word die beste toegepas indien

hulle ook onderwerp word aan sekere beperkings, soos kort paarseisoene, en regverdige vergelykings. Met ander woorde toets- of kontemporêre groepe. Enige stoetboer behoort sy vroulike diere te selekteer op hulle BLUP syfers omdat hy weet dat prestasie, as sulks, die gevolg is van die genetiese meriete en die omgewingsinvloede. Bulkeuse behoort te berus op die genetiese meriete van die bul omdat dit die gedeelte van die seleksieproses is waar die risiko die hoogste is. Dit geld vir kommersiële produsente sowel as stoetboere. Die dae van raai is verby. Sodra die regte seleksiekandidate (die diere met die regte genetiese meriete wat by die boer se doelstellings pas) geïdentifiseer is, lê die verantwoordelikheid by die boer om die parings te laat plaasvind wat inteling beperk en volgehoue seleksie moontlik maak.

Hierdie prosesse word voorgestel in **Figuur 5**



George Bernard Shaw was inderdaad reg. Goeie voorkoms is baie belangrik, maar die risiko van besluite behoort nie net daar te lê nie. Goeie boerderypraktyke moet risiko in ag neem as die toekoms van 'n koeikudde op die spel is. Die spreekwoord lui: Dit is beter om die voël in jou hand te hê as tien in die lug. Die Engelse vertaling is dalk meer ter sprake, naamlik: "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush". Moontlik is die bul met die gepaste CV meer werd as twee bosbulle. □



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Ideale Kondisietelling en Voeding vir Veilingsbulle



Liggaamskondisietelling (LKT) is een van die mees belangrikste bepalers van die verkoopswaarde en na-verkoop prestasie van vleisrasteelbulle wat dikwels misgekyk word. Kopers wil bulle hê wat sterk en atleties lyk, nie maer of oorvoed nie.

■ **Dr Hinner Köster**
Hinner Koster Consulting Pty Ltd

Liggaamskondisietelling (LKT) is een van die mees belangrikste bepalers van die verkoopswaarde en na-verkoop prestasie van vleisrasteelbulle wat dikwels misgekyk word. Kopers wil bulle hê wat sterk en atleties lyk, nie maer of oorvoed nie. ‘n Gebalanseerde LKT ondersteun vrugbaarheid, uithouvermoë, strukturele gesondheid en oorgangssukses wanneer bulle uit hul ontwikkelingsfase na teeltroppe op natuurlike weivelde beweeg.

Die ideale liggaamskondisietelling (LKT) op ‘n skaal van 1–9

Die wyd gebruikte LKT skaal in Suid Afrika vir beeste wissel van 1 (uitgeteer) tot 9 (uiters vet). Vir verkoopsgereed teelbulle voor hulle in kuddes by vroulike diere geplaas word, moet daar vir ‘n LKT van 5.5–6.5 gemik word, met 6 as ideaal. Hierdie telling verskaf genoeg energiereserwes vir die gewigsverlies wat tipies tydens die eerste teelseisoen plaasvind sonder om vrugbaarheid, beweeglikheid, of hitteverdraagsaamheid in gevaar te stel. Jonger bulle loop die risiko van swak semenkwaliteit en lae dekkingskapasiteit. Over bulle het meer waarskynlik probleme met gesondheid en termoregulering.

Vetneerlegging, en hoekom dit saak maak

Oorgekondisioneerde bulle lê oortollige vet in sekere dele van die liggaam neer wat help met visuele bepaling van oortollige LKT.

- Bors en nek: Indien oormatige vetaanpakking in hierdie deel voorkom, dui dit op algehele oortollige kondisie. Dit voeg hittelading by en kan beweeglikheid verminder.
- Stertwortel en flanke (area tussen laaste rib en heup): sagte, sponsagtige vet in hierdie dele is ‘n maklike visuele aanduiding vir LKT ≥ 7 .
- Oor die ribbes en ruggraat: ‘n gladde, plat voorkoms sonder tasbare ribbes dui op LKT ≥ 6.5 –7.
- Skede en skrotum: vet in en rondom die skrotum belemmer hitteverlies en verhoog die testikulêre temperatuur, wat semen motiliteit en morfologie kan verminder. Vet in die skede kan penisverlenging belemmer en die risiko van beserings verhoog.

Impak van oorkondisionering

- Vrugbaarheid en semen: Isolering van vet rondom die skrotum benadeel termoregulering wat die agteruitgaan van semenkwaliteit tot gevolg het.

Veranderings in voeding beïnvloed spermatogenese oor ongeveer 60 dae, so skade (of verbetering) wys met ‘n vertraging.

- Uithouvermoë en dekkingsvermoë: Oortollige gewig en swak fiksheid verminder uithouvermoë. Bulle raak vinnig moeg en dek minder koeie.
- Hoef- en beengesondheid: Swaar bulle wat op hoë-stysel diëte uitgegroeï is, is meer geneig tot sagte en/of uitgroeïhoewe, laminitis en witlynsiekte—probleme wat dikwels na verkoop opduik wanneer hulle meer op weiding moet beweeg.
- Na-verkoop “ineenstorting”: Bulle wat op warm (hoë-stysel diëte) rantsoene afgerond is, verloor dikwels vinnig kondisie op slegs natuurlike weidingsdiëte, wat kopers teleurstel en teelprestasie verminder.
- Koperpersepsie: Slim kopers diskrimineer toenemend teen “skouvet” bulle op veilings wat dalk nie in op-die-plaas teelprogramme hou nie.

Impak van onderkondisionering

- Vrugbaarheid en puberteit: Maerder jong bulle (LKT ≤ 4) bereik dikwels later puberteit, het ‘n kleiner skrotumomtrek en produseer minder sperms.
- Uithouvermoë: Lae reserwes beteken bulle raak vroeg moeg wanneer hulle moet teel wat lei tot meer ongedekte koeie.
- Strukturele en gesondheidstekens: Prominente ribbes en ruggraat dui op stres of swak bestuur. Kopers interpreteer dit dikwels as ‘n rooi vlag vir algehele prestasie.

	BCS 4: BORDERLINE
	BCS 5: MODERATE
	BCS 6: GOOD
	BCS 7: FLESHY
	BCS 8: OBESE
	BCS 9: VERY OBESE

Verkoopvoorbereiding: goeie ontwikkeling (spiergroei), maar moenie soos in voerkrale afrond nie

Die doel met die ontwikkelingsfase is liggaamsraam, spiere en gesondheid—nie vet nie. Mik vir konstante, matige groei (ongeveer 0.9–1.1kg/dag) op 'n goeie weidings-uitgroeiprogram met genoeg konsentraataanvulling wat weidingskwaliteit op enige gegewe stadium komplimenteer om gewenste groei te handhaaf:

- **Energie:** Gebruik veselgebaseerde energiebronne (hoë kwaliteit hooi of kuilvoer, plus neweprodukte - bv. sojadoppe, koringsemels en laer vlakke van chop/mielies) eerder as hoë mieliegebaseerde rantsoene. Dit bevorder 'n rumen wat maklik na 'n weidingsdieet oorskakel.
- **Proteïen:** Groeiende 12–24 maande oue bulle benodig tipies 11–13% goeie kwaliteit ru-proteïene (100% DM basis) in die totale dieet. Dit kan aangepas word met hoë-kwaliteit ruvoer en/of aanvullings soos nodig.
- **Minerale en vitamien:** Verskaf 'n gebalanseerde minerale/vitamien voormengsel met voldoende kalsium en fosfor (ongeveer 1.5–2:1 Ca:P), plus kernspoorminerale vir vrugbaarheid en hoefgesondheid—koper, sink, seleen en mangaan, en vitamien A, D en E, sowel as Biotien. Begin of handhaaf 'n hoëgehalte spoormineraalprogram 60–90 dae voor die verkoop om spermatogenese te ondersteun en oorweeg 30–40% van die spoorminerale in die organiese vorm.
- **Sout en water:** Sout (Na en Cl) aanvulling en voldoende skoon water is nie onderhandelbaar vir inname en termoregulering nie.

- **Oefening en vloeroppervlak:** Gee bulle ruimte om te loop en hul hoewe en bene te versterk; Vermyn lang periodes op sagte oppervlaktes alleen. Maak hulle gereed en vul konsentrate aan op veld en in kleiner kampies eerder as krale.
- **Liggaamskondisie monitering:** Doen praktiese kondisiepunttellings elke 30 dae en hou bulle binne die LKT-venster van 5.5–6.5.

Oorgang van bulle na natuurlike weivelde na aankoop

Hoe 'n bul in die eerste 4–8 weke na aankoop bestuur word, bepaal hoeveel van sy genetiese potensiaal in sy vroulike diere se dragtigheidssyfers reflekteer:

- **Afskaal-voeding:** As die verkoopbulle se voerprogram konsentrate ingesluit

het, verminder dit geleidelik oor 2–3 weke terwyl die bulle aan die nuwe plaas se voerprogram gewoond gemaak word. Skielike veranderings veroorsaak inname dalings en oormatige gewigsverlies.

- **Weidingskwaliteit dryf aanvulling:** Op goeie jong lenteweiding kan energie en proteïen voldoende wees vir volwasse bulle; jong bulle wat nog groei, mag 'n 1–1,8kg/dag weidingsvriendelike konsentraat benodig met nutriente wat die spesifieke weiding komplimenteer en inname daarvan stimuleer. Op dormante of lae-gehalte weiding/ruvoer, voorsien 'n proteïen/energie/minerale-aanvulling (byvoorbeeld 1–1,5kg/dag produksielek – tipe en hoeveelheid sal afhang van die seisoen en weidingskwaliteit) om 'n LKT van ten minste 5 deur die teelseisoen te handhaaf.

- **Minerale en vitamien:** Gaan voort met 'n volledige minerale/vitamien mengsel met voldoende koper, sink en mangaan (oorweeg organiese/gecheleerde bronne rondom die teelseisoen), sowel as seleen volgens plaaslike regulasies en vlakke in weidings, en vitamien A en E, veral waar weidings verweer of laag in karoteen is.
- **Water, hitte en skaduwee:** Hittestres ondermyn libido en semenkwaliteit. Verskaf skaduwee en volop skoon water om testikulêre temperatuur en algehele inname te beskerm.
- **Gesondheid en teelgereedheid:** Doen 'n teelgereedheidstoets voor bulle by teeltrop gesit word, parasietbeheer en behoorlike inenting; dit beskerm prestasie. Onthou, semenkwaliteit en -kwantiteit weerspieël die laaste twee maande van bestuur.
- **Bestuursverwagtinge:** Bulle verloor dikwels 10–15% van hul liggaamsgewig in hul eerste teelseisoen. Om by 'n ware LKT van 6 by die aankoop van die bul te begin, laat met die regte bestuur toe dat LKT nie maklik onder 5 hoef te val nie.

Hoekom bulle met die regte kondisionering (“die middel”) die beste behoort te verkoop

Kopers beloon bulle wat atleties en duursaam lyk. Oorgekondisioneerde bulle laat rooi vlae lig oor hoewe, vrugbaarheid en aanpasbaarheid. Ondergekondisioneerde bulle dui op lae uithouvermoë en swakker bestuur. Om 'n LKT van ongeveer 6 te bereik en daar te hou by verkoopstyd en in die teelseisoen, bring koperpersepsie in lyn met biologiese prestasie. Die beloning is minder probleme ná die verkoop, hoër konsepsietempo, en tevrede kliënte wat volgende jaar vir meer bulle terugkom. □



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■ John Eustace

A System Built on Practical Efficiency

The Eustace family operates a diversified farm in Underberg, beneath the Southern Drakensberg.

The farm integrates cropping and livestock across arable fields and highland sourveld, receiving an average annual rainfall of about 850 mm. They produce maize, soya, greenfeed, and hay while managing a Hereford stud, a commercial Braford herd, and a Merino flock. This mix optimizes resources and supports sustainability. Cropping and livestock contribute equally to profit and are structured in a circular, regenerative cycle to maximize land health and productivity.

"We don't pamper our livestock. We breed cattle that work, by adapting cattle genetics to environmental realities," says

John Eustace. In sourveld environments with poor winter grazing, Herefords are strategically used as part of a crossbreeding program that maximises productive use of the agricultural platform to bring meaningful profit per hectare.

Why Herefords Fit

The farm follows a low-input, performance-based strategy in which cattle need to thrive on sourveld, or natural grassland, for up to 10 months each year with minimal supplementation. Hereford genetics have proven exceptionally well-suited to these conditions and have been integral to the operation since 1947, when Charles Eustace established the Arbor Hereford Stud after observing their efficiency, consistency, and robustness in England and Australia.

A central principle of the Eustace system is the rigorous selection and culling of cattle based on their ability to perform under challenging conditions. Hereford cows on the farm achieve conception rates of 85 to 90 percent and maintain calving ease above 97 percent. These cows produce calves annually for at least eight years and remain productive for over twelve years. Heifers are only bred if they weigh 300kg or more at mating, and animals that do not meet these standards are culled, ensuring that the herd becomes progressively more efficient and self-sufficient.

Achieving these outcomes requires sound management, including balanced nutrition with mineral supplementation, routine herd health protocols, and rotational grazing to preserve veld condition. Careful breeding timing, regular reproductive assessments, and low-stress handling further support herd performance.

Unlocking the Power of Crossbreeding

The most significant contribution of Herefords within the Eustace system is their effectiveness as a crossbreeding tool, as Hereford-crosses offer a high degree of predictability and uniformity. By crossing Hereford bulls with Brahman-influenced cows, the farm produces Braford-type cattle. "For us, the ultimate crossbred animal is the F1 Brahman-Hereford," says John Eustace, 2018 National Cattle Farmer of the Year. "Each year, through careful selection, we aim to maintain that balance by breeding slightly more Hereford-influenced cows back to Brahman bulls, and vice versa. This allows us to consistently capture the benefits of the Braford cross. From the Hereford side comes efficiency, temperament, carcass quality, and early maturity, while the Brahman contributes

hardiness, adaptability, maternal strength, and mobility. We have seen how this combination unlocks hybrid vigour where cattle outperform both parent breeds in key economic traits".

From Veld to Feedlot: Converting Resources into Profit

The advantages of Hereford crossbreds are clear across all production stages. In summer, cattle graze mountain veld with rotational grazing, maintaining condition and fertility with minimal supplements. In winter, they graze crop residue, converting low-value feed into output, while supporting soil health and nutrient cycling. Steers and some cull cows are finished in the feedlot using on-farm produced maize and silage through the winter. "While a purebred or composite-breed system may be simpler to run, the hybrid vigour of a Hereford and Brahman cross-bred system is seen in their efficient feed conversion, as measured in the weaning and carcass weights, with steers achieving daily gains of about 1.6 kg, and reaching finishing weights of 475 to 480 kg in roughly 150 days," says John. Their calm temperament, thanks to Hereford genetics, also simplifies handling, reduces labour, and improves performance.

To this operation, the crossbred Hereford has offered three key financial and strategic levers:

1. Their relatively early maturity shortens the finishing period, improving turnover and cash flow, while carcass quality increases overall market value. This approach enables the farm to capture value at every stage of the production cycle by utilising cattle that are both biologically efficient and commercially predictable.

2. Having a livestock engine that thrives on veld, crop residue or in the feedlot, gives strategic flexibility to change marketing timing and production strategies if needed, which derisks the business.
3. Finally, Hereford-influenced cattle have earned a reputation for producing high-quality beef, and their consistency and ability to finish well make them especially attractive to buyers. This has led to sustained market interest, ongoing orders, and a business model that withstands economic fluctuations.



Herefords as a Strategic Crossbreeding Tool for the Future

The Eustace family's multi-generational Hereford experience is clear on this KwaZulu-Natal farm, where Herefords are more than a legacy breed. "I have been fortunate to share my passion for livestock with my father, Pat. His mentorship and deep appreciation of cattle have inspired me and made the crossbreeding journey especially rewarding. As agriculture faces pressure to produce more with fewer resources, adaptable, efficient systems become increasingly important. For us, the Hereford has been a strategic tool to safeguard the profitability, resilience, and sustainability of the business & I hope to pass this regard of the breed to the next generation." □

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Hereford Crossbreeding



Hereford crossbreeding offers a balanced combination of resilience, productivity, and meat quality—making it a valuable tool for modern beef production systems.

Hereford crossbreeding is a widely used strategy in beef production to improve herd performance and profitability. The Hereford cattle are known for their adaptability, docile temperament, and excellent meat quality, making them ideal for crossbreeding with other breeds such as Brahman, Angus, or Simmental. By combining the strengths of different breeds, farmers can produce cattle that perform better under a variety of conditions.

One of the main advantages of Hereford crossbreeding is **hybrid vigour (heterosis)**. This results in improved growth rates, fertility, and overall hardiness of the offspring. For example, crossing Herefords with Brahman cattle often produces animals that are more heat-tolerant and resistant to parasites, while still maintaining good meat quality.

Another benefit is **improved efficiency and adaptability**. Hereford crosses tend to thrive in diverse environments, including harsh grazing conditions. They are also efficient converters of feed, which helps reduce production costs. Additionally, their calm temperament makes them easier to handle, lowering stress levels and improving animal welfare.

Finally, Hereford crossbreeding enhances **carcass quality and market value**. The breed is well-known for producing tender, well-marbled beef, and when crossed with other breeds, this quality is often retained or improved. This leads to better prices at market and increased profitability for producers.

Healthy Calves Don't Happen by Accident: Three Critical Control Points That Demand Teamwork



Productive and profitable studs leverage the improved production of healthy calves to weaning and beyond by strategically targeting disease and mortality at three stages of a calf's life.

■ **Dr Cornelis Pauw**
Technical veterinarian, Afrivet

One of the big reasons calves are so fragile is because they are born with an immature immune system. Their immune system cannot effectively fight off disease, and they are wholly dependent on the colostrum from the dam to bolster their immunity as their immune system develops over the coming months.

Multiple studies have shown that around 66% of all morbidity within the first six months and almost all of the first-year mortalities occur within the first month of life. Furthermore, calves that experienced disease within the first month of life, on average, weigh 16 kg less at weaning compared to those that remained healthy. Fortunately, the opposite is also

true, healthy calves under good welfare conditions consistently outperform their diseased and stressed counterparts over the long-term in average daily gain (ADG), milk and meat production, disease resistance and fertility.

Productive and profitable studs leverage the improved production of healthy calves to weaning and beyond by strategically targeting disease and mortality at three stages of a calf's life. First, everything before the calf is born, the prenatal period. Second, the 24 hours before and after birth, the perinatal period. And third, the first month of life, the neonatal period. Managing these periods well requires not only attention to detail, but coordinated effort across genetics, nutrition, health and daily husbandry.

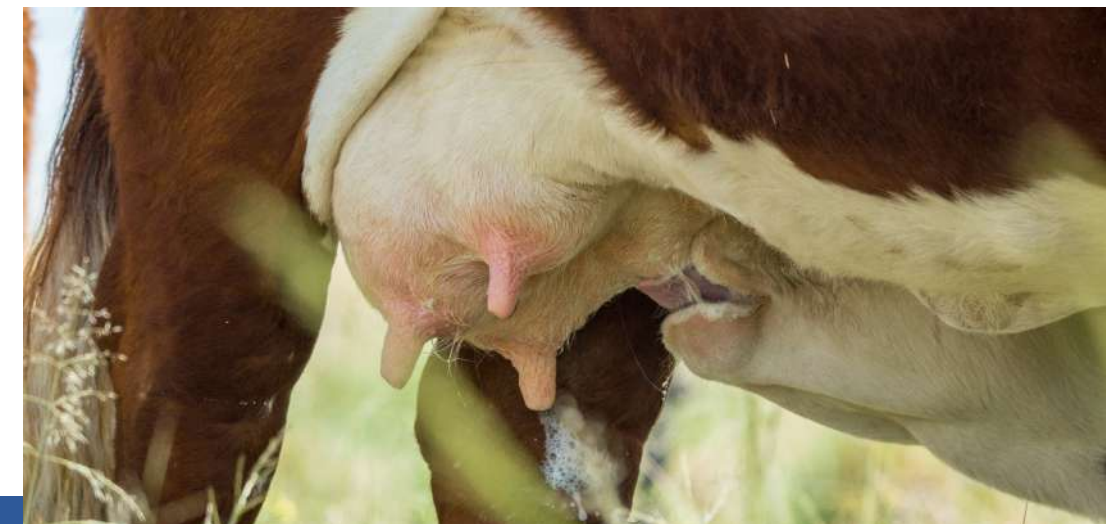
Factors common across all 3 periods

Before examining the distinct management priorities of these critical periods, it is important to clarify two concepts that underpin calf health across all stages: colostrum and environmental hygiene with biosecurity. These factors exert continuous influence on disease risk, resilience and performance throughout early life and carries over to the entire farming operation. Even though colostrum management is the single most important determinant of calf health, it cannot succeed in isolation – no single link forms a chain.

Colostrum is the most influential nutritional and immunological investment in a calf's life that primes it for future health and production. Colostrum is a highly complex biological fluid containing high levels of antibodies, immune cells, proteins, growth factors, hormones, vitamins, minerals and fat. Calves absorb the antibody-rich colostrum directly through specialised 'gaps' in their intestines. This ability starts declining from birth to around 24 hours when total 'gut closure' occurs. However, to ensure adequate transfer of passive immunity the calf ideally needs to suckle as much colostrum as possible within two to eight hours from birth. Colostrum still contributes meaningfully to calf health long after gut closure by supporting intestinal integrity, enhancing resistance to intestinal disease and modulating immune function and growth. This is the

reason that colostrum production slowly transitions into milk and is not just a once-off secretion.

Equally foundational to calf health is the environment in which the calf is born and raised. Neonatal disease is seldom the result of exposure to a pathogen alone, rather disease results from the interaction between pathogen load and immune competence. For this reason, even apparently healthy adults and calves can act as reservoirs and amplifiers of pathogens. These pathogens then contaminate the environment. Contamination of the calving environment, the dam's udder, feeding equipment, bedding and personnel can dramatically increase early-life pathogen challenge. Importantly, high levels of environmental contamination can overwhelm even calves that have achieved adequate passive transfer of immunity. In contrast, clean, well-managed environments reduce infectious pressure, lower the severity of disease when it does occur and improve the effectiveness of all other interventions. Biosecurity extends beyond environmental cleanliness, encompassing animal and worker flow, age segregation, prevention of cross-contamination between calves of different ages and consistency of hygiene practices.



Prenatal

One of the most important prenatal control points in attaining healthy calves is to ensure conception starts with good genetics and a healthy sire and dam. Genetics are after all the foundational building blocks of a live animal. Part of selecting good genetics is to be certain of the production goals and select appropriately for those traits. Selecting against dystocia is probably one of the most important factors to consider for calf (and dam) health, especially in heifers. Venereal diseases like trichomoniasis and vibriosis are detrimental to herd fertility and need to be appropriately screened for and managed along with breeding soundness evaluation of bulls.

Other management strategies to prioritise are to plan your calving season and then apply a short, goal-directed breeding season accordingly. As part of optimising breeding season and conception, the nutritional status of the dam is critical. Ideally, cows should be at a body condition score (BCS) of 2.5/5 and on a rising plane of nutrition to calve down at a BCS of 3.5/5. Bulls also need to be in a BCS of 3-3.5/5 at breeding to ensure optimal performance. Furthermore, mineral and vitamin deficient cows and bulls also experience subfertility. It is recommended to supplement vitamins and minerals two months before breeding in both bulls and cows. This allows time to produce healthy, motile sperm and supports a well-functioning reproductive tract that promotes successful implantation. Vitamins and minerals also support immune function and make the parent stock less susceptible to disease and thus indirectly aids in controlling the environmental pathogen load as well. Achieving optimal pregnancy rates in

heifers require separate management from cows. They have different nutritional requirements and require different bulls. It is advisable to start the heifer breeding season at least two weeks before the cows. There are two main reasons for this: Firstly, heifers are still growing and require a longer inter calving period to recover after weaning their calves and ensure that they will reconceive during rebreeding with the cow group. The other reason is that heifers tend to have colostrum of poorer quality compared to cows. Calving down first thus ensures that their calves get exposed to fewer pathogens and promotes calf health.

Good nutrition during pregnancy is critical to ensure normal foetal development that will yield strong calves that stand and suckle soon after birth. Furthermore, good nutrition and appropriate mineral and vitamin supplementation throughout pregnancy results in high quality colostrum. Further improving colostrum quality requires appropriate vaccination prior to calving, targeted against farm-specific, laboratory-diagnosed pathogens.

Perinatal

The next critical control point is the 24 hours before and after birth of the calf. This is where a lot of battles for survival are won or lost. The three most important points here are preventing dystocia (or at the very least intervening early and effectively), ensuring that the calving environment is clean and that sufficient colostrum is timeously consumed. Interference during the first 24 hours of life should be kept to a minimum. This will reduce the risk of disturbing the cow-calf bonding and colostrum intake. However, in some instances interference is crucial to save lives as in dystocias or weak calves not suckling early.



Dystocia is one of the most important causes of death and disease in young calves. It can cause direct death or result in weak calves eventually being born. Dystocia calves take longer to reach sternal recumbency, to stand and to suckle. All of these negatively affect the calf's ability to adequately consume colostrum. Dystocia also results in an impaired ability to absorb the colostrum that is consumed. This means that even if the calf consumes an adequate amount of colostrum, it doesn't absorb all of it. This combination frequently results in failure of passive transfer of immunity and predisposes the calf to disease. Selecting against dystocia traits and intervening early and effectively if dystocia occurs is clearly important to ensure healthy calves.

The perinatal period is also where any gross congenital abnormalities (birth defects) will be picked up. Recording these are important for determining possible heritable (genetic) abnormalities or identifying teratogens (infectious, toxic or deficiencies causing birth abnormalities) that have affected the herd or may pose future risks.

Clean calving environments have a lower pathogen challenge compared to dirty ones. This reduces calf exposure to common pathogens responsible for most calfhood diseases. Other environmental management strategies include grouping and segregation of cow-calf pairs. By not having calf ages differ more than 30 days, younger calves are less exposed to pathogens from older calves reducing the challenge. Heifer-calf and cow-calf pairs should also not be mixed.

Colostrum quality doesn't matter if the calf doesn't suckle and drink it. On well-managed farms with healthy calves, the

calves start suckling within two hours of life. If they don't, strategic intervention ensures that they get their colostrum within the critical eight hours of life.

Neonatal

The neonatal period is our last critical control point for raising healthy calves due to the high incidence of disease and mortality within this period. The first important aspect of the neonatal period is processing the calf. This should ideally occur within the first 24 to 72 hours of life. This is a stressful event for the calf and needs to be carried out as efficiently and stress-free as possible. The usual procedures are ear tagging, weighing, basic health examination and finalising the calf's records for all calves that did not need any intervention within the first 24 hours. This is also the ideal time to give the calf some additional supportive care where appropriate. A mineral, vitamin, amino acid and energy supplement may further support development and help mitigate the negative effects of handling stress.

Neonatal calves face many health threats. Along with congenital abnormalities, the most common calf diseases are gastro-intestinal disease (diarrhoea), respiratory tract disease (pneumonia) and navel ill. Navel ill may also progress to joint ill and liver abscessation. By knowing and accurately identifying these threats, one can adapt one's management strategies to be targeted and thus more effective at controlling and preventing these challenges. Early intervention also limits the long-term losses from these diseases.

Bringing everything together

Records are the language through which farmers, veterinarians and advisors collaborate effectively – “if you cannot measure it, you cannot improve it” – adapted from Lord Kelvin. Records precede all effective management strategies. Accurate, up-to-date and consistent records provide the reference point against which performance is evaluated and problems are identified. Without reliable records, improvements cannot be demonstrated and recurring challenges remain poorly understood. No farming operation—regardless of system or scale—can sustainably succeed without good records.



Conclusion

Studs that consistently perform well do not manage calves by chance—they manage them deliberately, collaboratively and intensively. Healthy calves are the result of meticulous planning and rigorous implementation from a group of professionals – veterinarians, nutritionists, pasture scientists, laboratories and committed farmers. Getting these foundational principles right reduces disease, treatments and losses across the whole farm. □

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Voerkraalafrondding



Onsekerheid is nie 'n nuwe verskynsel nie, maar vir produsente met vee is dit 'n tasbare realiteit. Makro ekonomie en die impak van bek-en-klouseer skep uitdagings wat buite enige beheer lê.

■ **J. Mouton**
MOLATEK Tegnies

Onsekerheid is nie 'n nuwe verskynsel nie, maar vir produsente met vee is dit 'n tasbare realiteit. Makro ekonomie en die impak van bek-en-klouseer skep uitdagings wat buite enige beheer lê. Prysskommelings binne drie weke kan veroorsaak dat netto inkomste met tot R2000/kalf verander. Dit sal dus nie wys wees om die besluit om te voer al dan nie op 'n eenmalige datapunt te neem nie. Kyk eerder mediumtermyn en of dit inpas by die totale onderneming se bestuur. Juis daarom is dit noodsaaklik om dié faktore waaroor ons wél beheer het, konsekwent en korrek te bestuur.

Sedert 2010 het MOLATEK 26 volledige voerkraalstudies met beeste en skape uitgevoer. In hierdie studies is alternatiewe grondstowwe, bestuurspraktyke en voerbyvoegsels geëvalueer. Sommige projekte het tot nagraadse kwalifikasies gelei, terwyl waardevolle, praktiese insigte vir plaasvlaktoepassing gegenereer is.

Daar word altyd gestreef na die goedkoopste rantsoenopsie, maar lae koste beteken nie noodwendig hoër winsgewendheid nie. Kuilvoer dien as 'n goeie voorbeeld. Hoewel kuilvoer teen R800/ton in die bunker aantreklik lyk in vergelyking met hooi (±R2 000/ton) en graanpryse (± R3200/ton), bevat dit ongeveer 70% vog.

Op 'n droëmateriaalbasis beloop die koste ongeveer R2 400/ton. Vergelykings moet altyd op die basis van droë materiaal geskied om werklike vergelykings te kan tref. Kuilvoer bly 'n waardevolle komponent van afrondrantsoene, maar oormatige insluiting kan droë materiaal inname beperk en ondoeltreffende “watervoorsiening” word weens 'n vals beeld van 'n “goedkoop” rantsoen. In 'n MOLATEK-studie waar speenkalwers uitsluitlik op kuilvoer afgerond is, was die staantyd 226 dae, spoormineraal probleme het voorgekom en 'n verlies van 32 sent in die rand is aangeteken.

Tabel 1.
Ekonomiese prestasie van goedkoper rantsoene

Behandelings	Netto inkomste vir elke R 1 aan voer spandeer
Verlaagde proteïen	R0.13
Standaard afrond	R0.26
Verlaagde proteïen en energie	R0.08

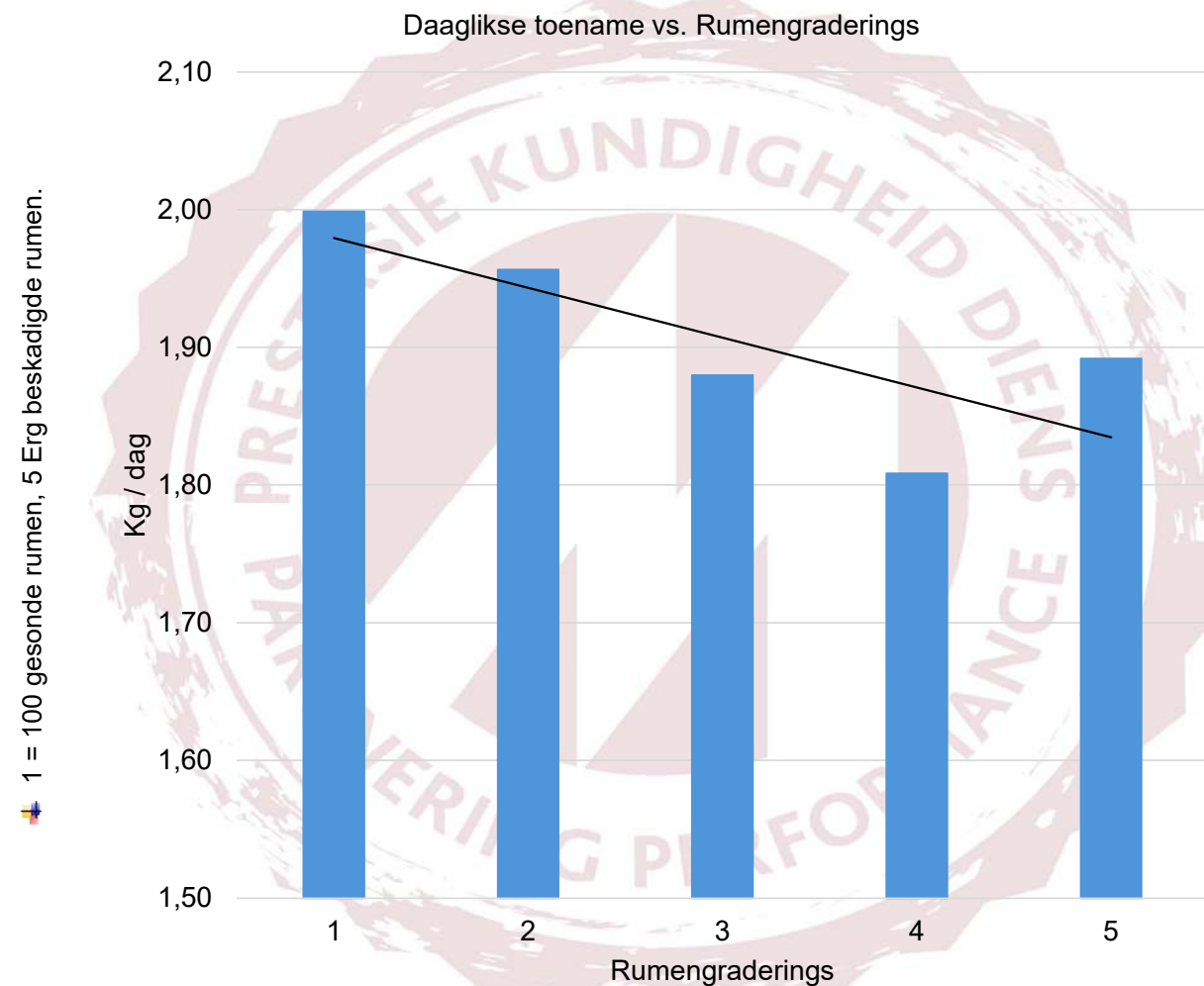
Teenoor dit staan die waarde van goed bestuurde, volledig gespesifiseerde rantsoene. In 'n beesafroundstudie is 'n standaard BEESVET 33+ (V17357) rantsoen vergelyk met 'n rantsoen waarin 25% hoë kwaliteit lusern ingesluit is, ook met BEESVET 33+. Hoewel die lusern-rantsoen 7% duurder was, is 'n 17% hoër netto inkomste behaal. Dieselfde tendens is tot 'n groter mate in kleinvee studies waargeneem, waar diere meer sensitief is vir ruvoer kwaliteit.

In 'n verdere studie is goedkoper rantsoene aan ou koeie gevoer deur proteïen- en energievlakke te verlaag deur swakker kwaliteit ruvoer in te sluit, 'n praktyk wat dikwels by ou koeie gevolg word. Hoewel die rantsoen met slegs laer proteïen dieselfde daaglikse groei as die kontrole (Standaard MOLATEK BEESVET 33+, V17357 rantsoen) getoon het, was die rantsoen met verlaagde proteïen én energie se groei 28% swakker. Tabel 1 wys dat hierdie “goedkoper” rantsoene se netto inkomste aansienlik laer was weens swakker voeromsetverhoudings. Dit bevestig dat voeromsetverhouding die primêre drywer van winsgewendheid is, terwyl daaglikse groei nie noodwendig 'n goeie aanduiding van ekonomiese prestasie is nie.

Verbeterde rumengesondheid speel 'n sleutelrol by rantsoene met voldoende en kwaliteit ruvoer. Ruminante is ruvoerbenutters en is ontwerp om ruvoer te kan verteer. Lae ruvoer insluitings verhoog die risiko van rumensteurings, veral asidose. Rumengraderings is 'n goeie aanduiding van bestuursvlak en rantsoenkwaliteit. Figuur 1 toon duidelik dat diereprestasie afneem namate rumenskade toeneem, met 'n gepaardgaande toename in sekondêre long- en lewerprobleme.

Rumengraderings tydens 'n studie



Figuur 1. Rumengraderings versus diereprestasie

In 'n ander studie wat klem geplaas het op geleidelike aanpassing en 'n minimum van 12% ruvoerinsluiting tot slag, is tot 14 % beter ekonomiese prestasie behaal, hoofsaaklik weens verbeterde voeromsetverhoudings. Daaglikse toenames was soortgelyk. Die praktyk om ruvoer tydens die finale afrondfase drasties te verlaag, is teenproduktief en lei tot verminderde prestasie. In hierdie fase behoort die fokus eerder op proteïen-energie-verhoudings te wees as op laer veselvlakke.

Hoewel alle aspekte van voerkraalvoeding nie hier volledig bespreek kan word nie, geld die volgende riglyne:

- Beide kafeteria- en volvoerstelsels kan suksesvol toegepas word, met volvoer as voorkeur.
- Heel mielies is ongeskik vir grootvee en slegs onder spesifieke omstandighede vir kleinvee toepaslik.
- Daar is geen onderskeid te tref tussen wit en geel mielies vir voerkraal afronding nie.
- Hominey chop is 'n uitstekende energiebron indien voginhoud reg bestuur word vir beesvoerkraal.
- Verpilling versus los voer verbeter gerief, maar beïnvloed nie diereprestasie vir dieselfde rantsoen formulering by skape nie.
- Rantsoene bo spesifikasie bied geen ekonomiese voordeel nie, veral met betrekking tot oormatige natuurlike proteïen.
- Skoop, koel en maklik toeganklike drinkwater is krities.

Die gebruik van MOLATEK HPC 820 (V28271) of MOLATEK BEESVET 33 + (V17357) vir beeste of MOLATEK SKAAPVETMESKONSENTRAAT (V14344) by kleinvee, vorm slegs een komponent van 'n winsgewende voerkraal. Konsekwente dag-tot-dag bestuur, minimale drastiese veranderinge en die keuse van geskikte diere is ewe belangrik. Sekere diere pas eenvoudig nie by voerkraal omstandighede aan nie, en die tydige verwydering daarvan voorkom waardeverlies.

Ontledings toon dat die uitskot van die swakste 5% presteerders teen dag 14 'n netto verbetering van minstens R50 per oorblywende dier tot gevolg gehad het, grootste afwykings was op dag 28 wat tot R184 per dier effek getoon het. Daar kan nie sondermeer 'n harde reël neergelê word en sal verskil van omstandighede.

Die riglyn is dat 'n kalf wat op dag 21 nog nie positief reageer het en aangepas is nie eerder uit die kraal verwyder word.

Voerkraalaf ronding is nie 'n ingewikkelde proses nie; die kern van sukses lê in die konsekwente en gedissiplineerde toepassing van beproefde praktyke. 'n Konstante rantsoen, saamgestel uit roumateriale van hoë en betroubare gehalte, is 'n ononderhandelbare vereiste vir optimale ekonomiese prestasie. Die Molatek Tegniese Adviseur-span beskik oor die kundigheid en praktiese ervaring om produsente hierin te ondersteun en staan gereed om leiding te bied in 'n tyd waarin vetmesting gunstig is. □

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INJECTION TECHNIQUES

Key Recommendations for Beef Cattle Producers

■ Credit to www.beefresearch.ca

Restraint

- 

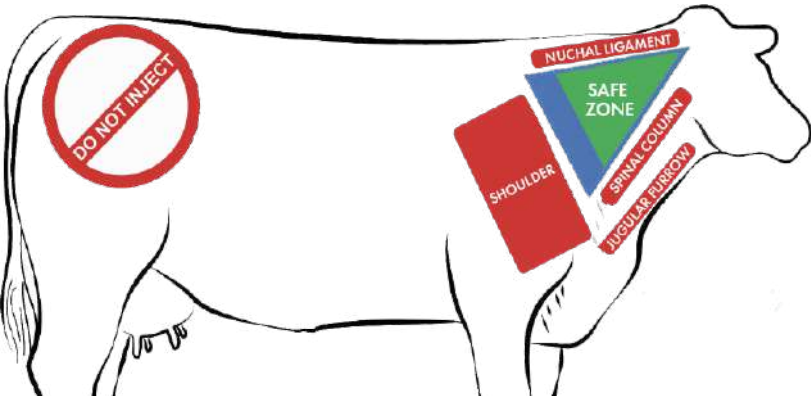
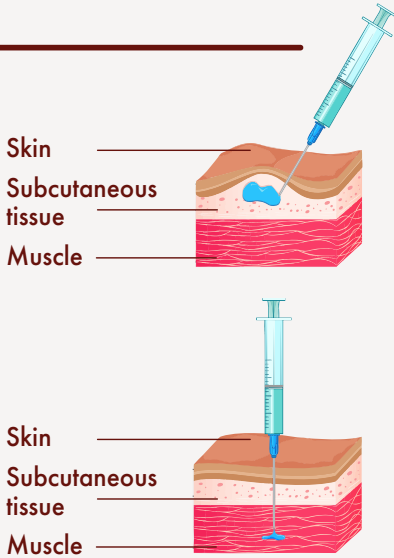
Ensure cattle are **safely restrained**, allowing easy access to the neck and preventing unnecessary movement by the animal.
- 

Improperly restrained cattle are at a **higher risk** for tissue trauma, needle breaks, improper injection technique and incorrect injection location.

Routes of Administration

Subcutaneous (SUB Q): Subcutaneous injections are placed just under the skin in the safe injection zone. The needle should be inserted at a 45-degree angle to the animal. Always follow label instructions for recommended dose and route of administration (ROA) for the product being used.

Intramuscular (IM): All intramuscular injections should be given in the neck muscle in the safe injection zone. The needle should enter at 90 degrees, or perpendicular to the animal into the muscle tissue. Always follow the label direction for ROA.



- Intramuscular injection
- Subcutaneous injection
- AVOID injection

Needle Size

Choose an appropriate needle size to ensure the product can be delivered with minimal tissue damage based on size of the animal and ROA. Choose the smallest gauge needle that can effectively deliver the medication. See the table below for specific guidelines.

Class of Cattle	Route of Administration	Needle Gauge	Needle Length
Calves < 500 lbs	Intramuscular	20-18	1 inch
	Subcutaneous	20-18	1/2 - 5/8 inch
Cattle > 500 lbs	Intramuscular	18-16	1 - 1.5 inch
	Subcutaneous	18-16	1/2 - 3/4 inch

Hygiene

- 

Keep equipment clean and in good working order to prevent tissue trauma and abscesses.
- 

Inject through clean hide, being careful not to drag bacteria and debris into the tissue.



Volume and Location

- 

Recommended maximum volume per injection site is **10 ml (cc) per site**. Increasing the volume of medication injected into one location impedes absorption and excretion of medication.
- 

Ensure a **hand-width between injection sites** when administering multiple injections.



Record-Keeping

Keep these records every time you inject an animal:

-  Animal identification and date of treatment
-  Reason for treatment
-  What drug and dose
-  Route of Administration (ROA)
-  Withdrawal time
- Second dose date (if required)

Scan for a list of downloadable record keeping templates.
VerifiedBeef.ca/records



Scan for a short how-to video on injection best practices.
BeefResearch.ca/injections



Broken Needles

Broken needles are an animal care and food safety concern as they can migrate causing infection, pain or damage to internal structures. Take the following precautions to prevent broken needles:

Before Injecting

- ✓ Change your needle every **10-15 injections**.
- ✓ Inspect needles **before each injection** to ensure they are not burred, bent or dull.
- ✓ **Never attempt to straighten** a bent needle; dispose of it and replace it with a new one.

After Injecting

- ✓ Check the needle to ensure it is not bent and no part has broken off. This includes when using **remote drug delivery devices** such as dart guns.
- ✓ If the needle or dart is **broken or missing**, record this information and the associated animal.
- ✓ Documentation of a broken or suspected broken needle **must be included** in any transfer of ownership or management records (e.g., shipping documents, invoices). If documentation isn't possible, the animal should be euthanized or slaughtered for personal use to **uphold consumer standards for safe, quality beef**.

When documenting a broken or suspected broken needle, the following should be recorded:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① Date | ① Planning for how the animal will be used or marketed |
| ① Animal ID | ① Procedure to ensure animals are identified and shipped with appropriate documentation or excluded from shipment |
| ① Location of suspected broken needle on the animal | ① Withdrawal time is considered as the entire life of the animal |
| ① Type of needle | |



Scan for access to the VBP+
Broken Needle Record Template

VerifiedBeef.ca/needle



The proof is in the progeny



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Hereford
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Carl Miles: 073 330 5579
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50 Hereford &
Angus Bulls

Disposal of Used Needles



- ✓ **Appropriate Containers:** Containers should be puncture-resistant, leak-proof, strong, durable and clearly labeled.
- ✓ **Local Regulations:** Comply with regional laws on sharps disposal.
- ✓ **Environmental Impact:** Follow needle disposal guidelines to minimize harm to the environment, especially in rural areas where contamination could affect water and wildlife.
- ✓ **Safety:** Proper disposal prevents disease spread and injury.

Disposal methods may vary depending on regional guidelines. To the right are the **best, good and acceptable disposal practices** for needles used in beef cattle production.

Following best practices ensures the safest approach, while good practices are effective. Acceptable methods should be used only when other options are unavailable.

BEST PRACTICES

- Use designated sharps containers.
- Check if local landfill accepts agricultural sharps waste.
- Drop off at local veterinary clinics or designated sites.

GOOD PRACTICES

- Consult with a veterinarian about disposal practices.
- Incinerate if permitted and appropriate incineration equipment is available (standard burning barrels are not incineration equipment).
- In some cases, local pharmacies or emergency services, including fire halls, may accept agricultural sharps waste. Check your area for availability.

ACCEPTABLE PRACTICES

- Dispose of sharps in laundry detergent bottles (or other thick plastic containers) that are clearly labeled and secured.

Syringe Cleaning

Proper syringe cleaning is essential to maintain hygiene and prevent cross-contamination on the farm. If possible, designate specific syringes for each product and use only with that product. **Syringes should not be cleaned with soaps or antibacterial agents, as they may affect the efficacy of vaccines.** Syringes used for antibiotic injections may contain residue that can affect vaccine efficacy.

- 1 **Pre-rinse:** Immediately after use, rinse the syringe with warm water to remove any leftover substances.
- 2 **Disassemble syringe:** Separate the barrel, plunger and needle (if reusable).
- 3 **Wash with hot water:** Clean all parts using hot water and a cleaning brush.
- 4 **Dry:** Hang the syringe upside down or place it on a clean towel, ensuring it is fully dry before reassembling.
- 5 **Store:** To prevent contamination, store syringes in a clean, dry place that is separate from medications or feed.

Scan for a short video on proper syringe cleaning.

BeefResearch.ca/
clean-syringes



ADDING POWER TO YOUR HERDS!



SYFERRPAN

Herefords

Bulls available on the Border Angus & Hereford Auction
3 September 2026

James Moorcroft 072 343 8747

PHOTO COMPETITION 2025



OFFICIAL JUDGE DANIEL SEMPE

daniel@sempe.com.ar | www.sempe.com.ar

WINNERS CATEGORY: Hereford Bulls

1st Place - Stanger van Rhyn (Hoekland Herefords)

This is, by far, the strongest image in terms of atmosphere and storytelling. The point of view from behind the bull, looking out towards the dramatic sky and mountains, creates a powerful sense of depth and freedom. The warm light brings out the animal's muscle and silhouette perfectly, capturing the raw spirit and vastness of the South African land. It feels wild and honest. That's what I always look for in my work.



2nd Place - Harley van Rhyn (Hoekland Herefords)

Beautiful scenery: two bulls grazing quietly by a water dam, with layered hills in the background. It's peaceful and shows the harmony between livestock and this wide, untamed environment. Colours are rich and natural. If anything, the bulls are a bit small in the frame, so they don't dominate as much as I like for this kind of subject. But the mood is wonderful.



3rd Place - Pieter Campher (Ganzekraal Herefords)

Technically neat, with soft light and a calm feeling. The big old tree frames the bull nicely and tells a simple rural story. It's a good portrait but feels more static compared to the others — less drama, less movement. Still, it shows the gentle side of this land's cattle.



4th Place - Pieter Campher (Ganzekraal Herefords)

Both bulls stand proud, but the background (the house and the garden) distracts a bit. Light is quite harsh too, so the hair texture flattens in places. It's a fair photo but, among this batch, it's the least atmospheric.



5th Place - Pieter Campher (Ganzekraal Herefords)

This shot has great impact because of the bull's direct eye contact with the camera. You can feel the attitude and strength of the animal. The fences and open field show the reality of cattle life out here. Good light, sharp details a solid documentary image that stays true to the rural life I've seen during my years wandering these lands.



WINNERS CATEGORY: Hereford/cross weaners/heifers

1st Place - Kevlynn Herefords

This photo stands out for its exceptional composition and warm lighting that enhances the texture and quality of the calf's coat. The Hereford is shown in a strong pose, with a clear view of its conformation — straight topline, deep body, and classic white face. The mountain background adds depth without distracting from the animal. This image captures the breed's adaptability and strength in rugged environments, highlighting the Hereford's signature traits: hardiness, balance, and docility.



2nd Place - Theuns Botha

An impressive landscape shot that manages to maintain focus on the Hereford herd. The composition is balanced, the lighting is natural, and the animals are well spaced across the scene. It reflects the breed's group behavior and their ability to thrive in open, extensive grazing systems. The backdrop enhances the sense of scale and rural authenticity. A strong entry that speaks both to the beauty of the animals and their environment.





3rd Place - Hoekland Herefords

A vibrant and visually striking image. The contrast between the red and white coat of the Herefords and the yellow flower field creates immediate visual interest. The mountain range adds scenic value. While the animals are slightly less posed, the photo effectively showcases the Hereford's calm disposition and ability to adapt to diverse natural settings. It is both artistic and representative of the breed's elegance.

4th Place - Kevlynn Herefords

This image clearly captures the animal's structure and depth, thanks to the excellent side profile and natural stance. The lighting is well controlled, and the Hereford's features are easily identifiable — broad forehead, strong legs, and solid frame. However, the darker background lacks the environmental context seen in higher-ranked entries. Still, it's a technically well-executed image that communicates the Hereford's strength and quality.



5th Place - Hoekland Herefords

The animal is well-framed and positioned, displaying good breed characteristics such as muscle tone and balance. However, the lighting is a bit harsh and the color palette of the dry field doesn't allow the Hereford's red and white coat to stand out as much as in other photos. The overall setting feels flat, although it does reflect the breed's capacity to perform in arid environments.



WINNERS CATEGORY:

Hereford cow & calf / Hereford cross cow & calf

1st Place - Kevlynn Herefords

It's the best in terms of composition, lighting, and focus. The Hereford is well-centered and in a natural setting, highlighting its rustic, strong character. The sunset light enhances the colors and gives depth to the image, making it visually appealing and representative of the breed in its natural grazing environment.



2nd Place - Ganzekraal Herefords

The night or twilight scene with cows in a mountainous landscape provides a strong aesthetic and natural value, showcasing the breed in a different environment and highlighting its hardiness and adaptability to varied conditions. The lighting and ambiance give it a special character, ideal for showing the breed in its natural environment at different times of day.



4th Place - Puttergill Farming

Although the technical quality is good, the composition is a little weaker than the previous shots. The cow in the water with her calf provides a natural and spontaneous moment, but the lighting and focus are not as striking. However, it still serves a purpose in showcasing the Hereford's adaptability to different environments.

3rd Place - Puttergill Farming

It presents a group of animals in a spacious landscape, with good depth and natural lighting. The mother and her calf in the foreground offer a good example of the breed's nurturing and social character. The composition is balanced and reflects the typical South African environment, highlighting the breed's character in an extensive livestock environment.



5th Place - Ganzekraal Herefords

Although the evening scene with the sunset and the cattle in the field is artistically appealing, the technical quality and sharpness of the animals are inferior to the other photos. Furthermore, the lighting and focus do not highlight the specific characteristics of the Hereford breed as much, so it ranks last in terms of photographic representation.



MEET YOUR OFFICIAL JUDGE FOR 2026

Zonnelieze Roeloffze



Founder of Grow Up Agri Media, a South African-based business specialising in livestock photography, videography, and agricultural marketing. Her work focuses on capturing animals in a way that highlights both visual appeal and commercial value, with a strong emphasis on structure, condition, and authenticity.

She has worked closely with breeders, breed societies, and agri-businesses across South Africa, developing a keen eye for what makes a livestock image stand out. Her approach combines technical precision with an understanding of the industry, ensuring each image tells a clear and compelling story.



www.growupmedia.co.za
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zonnelieze@growupmedia.co.za

Photo recognition to Commercial farmers

Bruce & Leroy Philips



2026 PHOTO COMPETITION

The SA Hereford Society will be hosting a "Hereford shots" contest every second week for all photography enthusiasts. Entries for each category will be judged by Lisa Verwey. The top 3 photos will then compete for a "people's choice" award on the SA Hereford Cattle Breeders' Society Facebook page and Instagram.

The winning photo from each category will receive a SA Hereford gift.

All pure Hereford (stud or commercial) and Hereford cross animals with the trademark white face can enter.

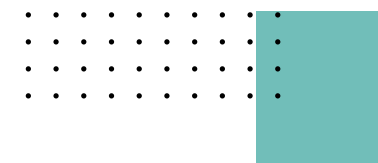
Entries open 2 June - 09 June 2026 Winner announced 12 June 2026	Hereford bull
Entries open 16 June - 23 June 2026 Winner announced 26 June 2026	Hereford weaners/heifers Hereford cross weaners/heifers
Entries open 30 June - 07 July 2026 Winner announced 10 July 2026	Hereford cow & calf Hereford cross cow & calf

All photos must be sent via WhatsApp to 082 922 4616.

For more information about the photo competition send an email to hereford@studbook.co.za

We can't wait for your photos!!

Cattle Genetic Testing



Identity:

- DNA Profile and Parentage Testing
- 50K Illumina Bovine BeadChip

Characteristics:

- Polled
- Milk Production

Single Mutation Tests:

- Congenital Myasthenic Syndrome (CMS)
- Pompe Disease
- Myostatin (F94L, nt821, Q204X)
- Bulldog Dexter



cattle@unistelmedical.co.za
021 007 5617

Germany Report 2025

This year is under the impression of very good prices for our beef. The price per kg-slaughterweight increases in the last 2 year up to 50% in comparison to two years before. This has some influence to the prices for our cattle at our sales.

The year started with the beef-cattle-bull auction in February. At this sale the Hereford-Bulls reached the highest average-price of all participated breeds with € 6.200. The highest price for a Hereford-bull at this auction was € 7.500.

In April at the National Beef-cattle-heifer sale, the 4 Hereford-Heifers averaged € 3.325. The top-seller was a 2023 born heifer in calf. She was sold for the price of € 5.400.

Our association has a strong following among young breeders. We have therefore decided to appoint a young breeders' coordinator. Paul Kienow has taken on this role and will be the contact person for young breeders and will coordinate activities.

In July, Jens Reimers' Hereford bull Matty T 274 won overall victory across all beef cattle breeds at the Tarmstedt exhibition.

August in Saarland at the farms of the Gitzinger and Backes families. The breeders' meeting was followed by the general meeting. After more than 20 years on the board of the German Hereford Association, Monika Spechtmeyer did not stand for re-election. Dirk Kienow was elected as the new first chairman by the general meeting.



In October, a small delegation consisting of Carsten Schmidt and Maximilian Schäfer traveled to the USA to attend the World Hereford Conference.



We are looking forward to next year, when we will celebrate 35 years of the German Hereford Association and host our national show in July.

Carsten Schmidt



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**BETTER
YOUR BEEF
HEREFORD**

Canadian Hereford Association Report

Canadian Hereford breeders have been enjoying strong cattle markets this year, driving enthusiasm at seedstock sales in the spring and into the fall.

The Canadian Hereford Association has been collaborating with the Canadian Angus and Charolais Association on the Heifer Select project. The initial project, announced in March 2024, recruited 21 commercial Angus and Hereford producers (representing 10,000 head of cattle) as part of a four-year initiative to support commercial beef producers in making informed decisions about replacement heifers. These cattle were genotyped and followed across the beef production chain, linking performance at cow-calf operations, feedlots, and packing plants with the Canadian Angus Association's genomic evaluations for highly accurate genomic predictions for growth traits, carcass quality traits, and female reproduction traits.

Canada sent two teams to the World Hereford Conference Young Breeder Competition in Kansas City. The two teams placed 3rd and 4th overall, with team member Brandon Fraser placing as the 3rd overall individual. The Red Coats team finished third in all but one competition, with the National Selects team taking home Reserve in Team Fitting and Meat Animal Evaluation. The teams learned a lot over the course of the week and made connections with young breeders from around the globe.



Entries for fall Hereford shows are up this year, with excitement around the Hereford breed building. The Alberta Hereford Showcase is excited to offer the Queen of Hearts Youth Herd Builder event again this November, with approximately 200 youth entered to win one of approximately 20 Hereford influence heifer calves. The Canadian Hereford Association looks forward to attending Farmfair International and Canadian Western Agribition this fall and connecting with international visitors.

The new Canadian Hereford Foundation is nearing its final stages of development, with launch anticipated by the end of the year. This new Foundation will expand the opportunities available to the Canadian Hereford breed to fund youth development, research projects, and other initiatives. The Canadian Hereford Association will continue to work with the Keith Gilmore Foundation to deliver scholarships to Canadian youth pursuing futures in agriculture and the Hereford breed. The second annual National Select Sale will take place on Wednesday, November 26 during Canadian Western Agribition as a fundraiser for the new Foundation.



The Canadian Junior Hereford Association hosted its annual junior show, Bonanza, in Alberta during July 2025. Approximately 200 youth attended the show, with many more cattle entered. New to the event this year was an overall Supreme Champion conformation class, bringing together the champion from the Open Show, Bred & Owned Show, and other conformation shows throughout the week. The inaugural Supreme Champion Female was Chula-Vista Krista 113K and the Supreme Champion Bull was Blair-Athol 82K Casino 157M.

Weather conditions across the country were varied this year, with certain regions receiving more rain than they'd experienced in years, while others battled drought and wildfires across the country. Although many producers are entering a rebuilding phase with some moisture this year, drought has decreased the Canadian cow herd substantially over the past several years. Combined with beef demand continuing to exceed expectations for price limitations, cattle prices are expected to remain strong into the fall and new year.

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Irish Hereford Breed Society Country Report 2025

The Irish Hereford Breed Society has had a very successful 2025, with many new members joining the society and an extremely successful year of sales being completed. We remain the second biggest beef breed used in Irish dairy herds, meaning that Ireland's recently expanded dairy sector is a major market for Hereford breeders.

Spring Hereford bull sales 2025

Hereford breeders in Ireland had a fantastic spring for selling bulls, both at home, and at society sales. The society sales kicked off with the Premier sale in GVM Tullamore on Saturday 22nd March.



Champion 2025 – Kye Ranger 034 with breeder Padraig McGrath, Judge Mr. Brian Clarke, Catherine McGrath, Next Gen Judge Colin Burke and Tennyson Egar (Irish Hereford Prime).



Reserve Champion 2025 – Balleen Some Machine with breeder Thomas Brennan, handler Michael Barrett, Judge Mr. Brian Clarke, Tennyson Egar (Irish Hereford Prime) and Next Gen Judge, Colin Burke. Sold €7,400.

With a high-quality entry of 32 bulls present, there was a strong clearance, with 75% of

bulls being sold, to an average of € 5,040 (up from €4,000 in 2024). The top price of the sale was Country Crest Brooks HH, purchased by a Northern Irish Pedigree Hereford breeder for €8,600.



Top priced bull – Country Crest Brooks HH with Niall Maguire and Oisín Cassidy. Sold €8,600.

National Hereford Show 2025

The National Hereford Show 2025 was again held at the National Livestock Show - Tullamore Show on Sunday 10th August. The show was a great success with over 170 Hereford cattle entered and a continuous large crowd of spectators. It was our pleasure to welcome Mr. George Harvey from Harveybros Herefords, Scotland, to join us and judge the National Hereford Show 2025. George did a fantastic job, judging extremely difficult classes, very efficiently. We are grateful to the Harveys for making the journey & joining us at our National Show.

Supreme National Hereford Champion: John, Beatrice and Eric Appelbe, Clonakilty, Carrigroe, Cork. Appel Uno PP. 12060. DOB: 01/03/2024. Sire: Solpoll 1 Lawman (P). Dam: Appel 1 Pretty Daffy.



Champion 2025 – Appel Uno PP

Supreme National Hereford Reserve Champion: Sean, Gary and Evelyn McKiernan, Corlismore House, Ballinagh, Cavan. Corlismore Beauty 298 HH. 81298. DOB: 09/07/2024. Sire: Allowdale Rambo 475. Dam: Corlismore Beauty 031.



Reserve Champion 2025 – Corlismore Beauty 298 HH

Genetic Gems 2025

The fifth annual Genetic Gems Sale was also held for the first time, online over the weekend of Friday 8th to Monday 11th August. The sale saw a top price of €5,300 and an average sale price of €4,383.



Keenagh Nicola 583 PP sold for €5,300

Autumn Hereford bull sales 2025

The successful spring bull sales continued into the autumn, with the Autumn Premier Show & Sale in GVM Tullamore on Saturday 11th October. Following a successful spring for bull sales, a smaller entry of 19 bulls was presented. The sale achieved a clearance of nearly 60% of the bulls present to an average price of €5,545.45, up from the 2024 average of €3,770.

Top price of the sale was achieved by National Champion (and Mr. Michael Dullea's Sale Champion), Appel Uno PP from the Co. Cork herd of John Appelbe and was purchased by a Pedigree Hereford breeder for €9,100. Uno was sired by Solpoll 1 Lawman and is out of Appel 1 Pretty Daffy, a Netherhall 1 Oz Daffy sired cow.



Autumn Premier Sale Champion 2025 – Appel Uno PP with breeders John & Eric Appelbe, Next Gen Judge Jack Larkin and Judge Mr. Michael Dullea.

Reserve Champion went to the youngest bull in the sale, and National Hereford Bull of the Year, Gurteragh Superstar 1156 PH, from the herd of Michael O'Keeffe, Co. Cork. This August 2024 bull was sired by Mullaghdoopoll 1 Finnian and bred from Kingsgrovepoll 1 Laer Kylie – a Normanton 1 Laertes ET sired dam. He sold for €5,000 to a pedigree breeder in Co. Offaly.



Gurteragh Superstar 1156 PH with breeder Michael O'Keeffe, Next Gen Judge Jack Larkin and Judge Mr. Michael Dullea. Sold €5,000.

The second highest price of the sale, €8,600, went to Glaslough Batman HH, from Nigel Heatrick's Co. Monaghan herd. Batman is sired by stockbull, Balleen Hitman and is out of Glaslough Zara, a Ballyaville Ger sired cow.



Autumn Premier Sale second top priced bull – Glaslough Batman HH with breeder Nigel Heatrick. Sold €8,600.

National Hereford Calf Show 2025

The National Hereford Calf Show 2025 was held on Sunday 9th November in the new venue of Central Auctions, Roscrea. The event was very successful with over 100 calves entered, making for strong competition across all classes. The National Hereford Calf Show has become an excellent shop window for Pedigree Hereford breeders to showcase their young stock. The Pedigree class judge was Mr. Basil Bothwell, from Co. Cavan, doing an excellent job judging the 10 classes.

Supreme Hereford Female Calf Champion – John Appelbe. Appel Firecracker PP. 12127. DOB: 05/11/24. Sire: Fisher 1 Profile P456 PP. Dam: Appel 1 Daffy.



Champion 2025 - Appel Firecracker PP with breeder John Appelbe, Judge Mr. Basil Bothwell, Mr. Nigel Heatrick IHBS President.

Supreme Hereford Male Calf Champion – Drumm Family. Crowenstown Rolex HH. 90040. DOB: 24/01/25. Sire: Conmelvin Ollie. Dam: Grianan Orange A974.



Champion 2024 - Crowenstown Rolex HH with breeders Elisa and Tara Drumm, Judge Mr. Basil Bothwell and Mr. Nigel Heatrick IHBS President.

IHBS Premier Heifer Show & Sale

The Irish Hereford Breed Society held its second Premier Heifer Show and Sale on Saturday 13th December in GVM Tullamore Mart, Co. Offaly. A quality showing of 33 heifers were turned out for the sale, with a representation from all four provinces making the journey.

The pre-sale show went off very smoothly, with judge, Mr. Jack Wilson, of the Lisrace Hereford herd in Co. Fermanagh, tapping out Co. Westmeath breeders, T & A Fitzgerald's heifer,

Grianan Cooperobin C 033 HH as sale Champion. This stylish heifer was sired by Pulham Powerhouse and out of homebred cow, Grianan Cooperobin 712 (a Grianan Parker daughter). She sold for €5,000.



Heifer Sale Champion 2025 – Grianan Cooperobin 712 with breeders Anselm & Tom Fitzgerald and Judge Jack Wilson. Sold €5,000.

Standing at Reserve Champion was Pdraig Farrell's heifer, Cave Hill Dolly HH. Half-sister to the Champion, Dolly is also sired by Pulham Powerhouse, and is out of Cave Hill Éabha. Dolly sold for €3,800.



Reserve Champion 2025 – Cave Hill Dolly HH with breeders Patrick & Liam Farrell and Judge, Jack Wilson. Sold €3,800.



Top Price 2025 – Glaslough Crystal 2 HH with breeder Nigel Heatrick. Sold €5,900.

The sale was a success, finishing with 21 of 33 sold to an average price of €3,890. Top price on the day, €5,900, was for Nigel Heatrick's heifer, Glaslough Crystal 2 HH. Crystal was sired by stock bull, Cill Cormaic Quinlan and out of Glaslough Texas, and is a full sister to last year's sale champion, Glaslough Yoselin.

Certified Hereford Beef Scheme – Dawn Meats

In conjunction with Dawn Meats, the Irish Hereford Breed Society is now operating a Hereford Beef Bonus Scheme, offering a 30 cent per kilo bonus for in-spec pedigree Hereford cattle — a valuable incentive for our pedigree producers.

Irish Hereford Prime Beef

Irish Hereford Prime, continues to go from strength to strength. The brand currently processes around 86,000 head of Hereford cattle per year, offering bonus payments to members supplying eligible cattle through approved processors.

In 2024, 74,000 of these animals were under 30 months of age and met all specification targets to receive the bonus. On average, heifers were slaughtered at 23.7 months with a 270 kg carcass, steers at 25.4 months with a 319 kg carcass and 80% of all cattle graded O= or better.

Hereford Prime beef continues to be sold across local supermarkets, restaurants, and export markets in Europe. The company also plays an important role in promotion and education — sponsoring calf promotions, bull sales, research trials, heifer exports, and numerous local agricultural shows throughout the year.



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BMH 220007
BM RACHEL LEGO 15-110

DAM - BMH 220007
BMH 240030
BM LEGO BOXER 22-07



HEREFORD GROOTKAMPIOEN KOEI BLOEMFONTEIN SKOU 2024

VLEISSENTRAAL - SA STAMBOEK ELITE BULGROEITOETSKLAS 2026 - HEREFORD

109	COW VALUE	115	GROWTH VALUE	WEAN DR.	WEAN MAT.	COW FERT.
122	FERTILITY VALUE	124	CARCASS VALUE	120	119	116
				89%	87%	82%

108	COW VALUE	WEAN DR.	WEAN MAT.	ADG	FCR	EMA	Fat
133	GROWTH VALUE	136	131	147	160	119	118
		86%	83%	84%	85%	85%	84%
National Rank:		13th	5th	6th	1st		

Prestasie meting vir presisie boendery

32STE JAARLIKSE VEILING 02 JUNIE 2026



In veeboerdery word diere tradisioneel fenotipes (sigbare eienskappe) en genotipes (genetiese samestelling) geselekteer. Genomiese BLUP-teelwaardes, kan meer akkurate beraamde teelwaardes bepaal. Genotipiese evaluering verhoog die akkuraatheid van teelwaardes tot ongeveer 90%, wat produsente in staat stel om meer ingeligte seleksiebesluite te neem.

Ons kliënte kan daarom diere selekteer en aankoop volgens genomies-ondersteunde teelwaardes, wat groter sekerheid bied oor die genetiese potensiaal van elke dier. Die stoetbulle

en teelkoeikudde van PPMONG TRUST is 100% genotipes getoets, wat die betroubaarheid van genetiese inligting verder versterk. Met genotipiese beoordeling kan diere doelgerig geselekteer word volgens produksiebehoeftes, insluitend bouwvorm, tipe en funksionele eienskappe. Hierdie metode maak dit moontlik om ook verborge genetiese eienskappe beter te voorspel, eienskappe wat nie altyd sigbaar is in die dier se fenotipe nie.

Die teeldoelwitte van PPMONG TRUST fokus op voortdurende genetiese verbetering. Deur die genomiese teelsyfers van die stoetkudde te ontleed, kan produsente duidelik sien hoe seleksie vir belangrike produksie- en funksionele eienskappe toegepas word.

Vir produsente wat hul kuddes geneties wil verbeter, bied PPMONG TRUST-bulle en -koeie betroubare genetika gebaseer op moderne genomiese evaluering.

Kudde en ras gemiddeldes								
	Eienskap		EBV Kudde		EBV Indeks		EBV Ras	
Voorspeen groei	Geboorte gewig		1.02		98		0.85	
	Speen gewig		24.4		113		18.1	
	Geboorte Mat.		0.69		96		0.50	
	Melk(Sp.Mat.)		12.2		108		9.2	
Naspeen groei	NaSpeen gewig		45.0		113		34.4	
	Volwasse gewig		54		114		36	
	GDT		211		115		143	
	Voeromset		-95		113		-76	
Vrugbaarheid	Skrotum		23.3		111		16.4	
	Vers vrugbaarh.		-4.8		98		-6.4	
	Koei vrugbaarh.		-2.6		101		-2.4	
	LankLewendh		43.4		110		38.9	
Raam	Hoogte		36		113		25	
	Lengte		52		113		35	
Karkas	Uitslag%		0.33		113		0.08	
	RoovleisProd		4.5		115		1.0	
	Marmering		-0.88		96		-0.60	

Genetiese tendense vir groeitoets en karkas eienskappe																									
Kudde																									
Gebrte Jaar	Groeï						Raam						Karkas				Seleksie Waardes								
	Voeromset			GDT			Skrotum			Hoogte			Lengte			RTU Aantal	Oogsp. EBV EBVi	Vet EBV EBVi	Marmering EBV EBVi	Karkas Waarde	Groeï waarde	Prod Waarde			
	Aantal	EBV	EBVi	Aantal	EBV	EBVi	Aantal	EBV	EBVi	Aantal	EBV	EBVi	Aantal	EBV	EBVi										
2024	3	-102	118	40	201	113	40	24,3	113	40	35	112	40	48	111	40	1,78	113	0,44	105	-0,85	96	113	111	103
Ras																									
Gebrte Jaar	Groeï						Raam						Karkas				Seleksie Waardes								
	Voeromset			GDT			Skrotum			Hoogte			Lengte			RTU Aantal	Oogsp. EBV EBVi	Vet EBV EBVi	Marmering EBV EBVi	Karkas Waarde	Groeï waarde	Prod Waarde			
	Aantal	EBV	EBVi	Aantal	EBV	EBVi	Aantal	EBV	EBVi	Aantal	EBV	EBVi	Aantal	EBV	EBVi										
2024	3	-102	118	129	187	110	132	22,0	109	138	32	108	138	45	108	121	1,35	109	0,08	102	-0,77	97	110	107	102

HEREFORDS Ja-Niel

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GENETIKA VIR DIE TOEKOMS

Swartland Veeboere veiling: 25 Junie 2026