



Journal
2025

Fertile, profitable veld cattle | Vrugbare, winsgewende veldbees



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29th
Annual Production Sale

Wednesday
27 August 2025

On the Farm Denwood, Dordrecht at 12:00
GPS: S31 28' 22.53" E26 50' 23.98"

EDWARD & KIM CLARK

Cell 082 573 0223 | Home 087 550 1558
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RUSSELL & ELLEN CLARK

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rtclark@adept.co.za



Registered animals on offer at auction:

20 Bulls | 10 Open Heifers | 10 Pregnant Cows

A note from the Editor

Die realiteite van veeboerdery en die toekoms van die Tuli

Met die aanvang van die nuwe jaar was dit duidelik dat die samestelling van hierdie joernaal 'n uitdagende taak sou wees. Die land se brose ekonomie en die toenemende finansiële druk op veeboere as gevolg van stygende insetkoste en dalende produkpryse is 'n harde werklikheid waarmee ons te doen het.

Tussen 2017 en 2024 het die koste van sleutelinsette skerp gestyg en ten spyte van hierdie skerp toename in insetkoste, het die prys van speenkalwers net met 3,1% gestyg.

Sout (per 50g) **+58%**



Minimum loon (per dag) **+79%**



Diesel (per liter) **+92%**



Fosfaat (per 50kg) **+94%**



Ureum (per 50kg) **+124%**



Speenkalwers **+3%**



The VKB reports for these years reflect the significant impact of these cost increases on farmers' budgets and sustainability. The challenges are real.

Wat die Tuli-ras betref, speel hy tans 'n betekenisvolle rol in die vleisbedryf, maar daar is ruimte vir groei. Die voorspelling van 'n geleidelike styging in vleispryse later vanjaar bring hoop, alhoewel die sikliese aard van die bedryf aanhou uitdagings bied. Een van die grootste uitdagings waarmee die bedryf te kampe het, is egter doeltreffende bemerking. Myns insiens sal die Tuli Genootskap in die komende jare 'n sterker fokus moet plaas op

die aktiewe bevordering van die ras se voordele. Dit sluit in gerigte veldtogte om die bewustheid van die Tuli-ras se voordele onder verbruikers en produsente te verhoog, asook samewerking met sleutelrolspelers in die bedryf om sy posisie te versterk.

Through strategic marketing and innovation, the Tuli breed can not only play a greater role in local farming but also be recognized internationally as a premium choice for beef. The potential is there – now is the time to fully realize it. By purposefully improving underperforming herds, performance figures and the overall image of the breed can be strengthened.

Telers moet aangemoedig word om die breër prentjie van kuddeproduksie te oorweeg, eerder as om slegs op individuele gewigte of massatoenames te fokus. Hierdie benadering kan help om langtermyn-doelwitte en winsgewendheid te bereik.

Ten slotte, soos Kit Pharo tereg sê in sy skrywe **Commit to your future**: "We all have dreams and aspirations. Unfortunately, most people never become committed to their dreams and aspirations – because they are afraid they might fail. If you never commit to something, you will always find an excuse for not doing it. In contrast, if you are totally committed to something, you will tolerate no excuses."

What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail? I encourage you to make a list of things you would do if you knew you could not fail. Once you have done this, I challenge you to pick one of those things and make it happen! What have you got to lose? Ask yourself, "What's the worst that can happen?"

Met hierdie ingesteldheid en die regte strategieë kan boere voortgaan om Tulis van topgehalte te teel en die bedryf na nuwe hoogtes te neem.

Sukses aan almal wat hul toekoms met dapperheid aanpak!

Charl van Rooyen

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Council

2024/25

Dave Mullins
Councillor

Stephen Mains-Sheard
President

Ben Raath
Vice President

Jim Bredenkamp
Councillor



Ed Clark
Councillor

Christo Rothmann
Councillor

Werner Gouws
Councillor

Dave Marais
Technical Advisor

Presidential report

2024 was a challenging year economically. With ever increasing input costs and declining meat prices, it hasn't been an ideal environment in which to farm. Most of our breeders farming in the northern parts of the country have suffered severe drought conditions but fortunately have received good rains in the early part of 2025. May these rains continue.

Fortunately our Tulis have the ability to manage these difficult situations and this is going to place our wonderful breed in a very good position well into the future.

The Tuli Growth Initiative has been gaining momentum. All the participants have received their first quotas of livestock the total of which amounts to 315 females and 21 bulls with a valuation of R6 529 342.00. Not only does this create an opportunity for growth but also increases our visibility in this sector and in so doing increases the value of our Tulis. I foresee this initiative continuing to grow with more partners and farmers joining the TGI with the ultimate goal of creating more commercial and stud Tuli farmers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the councillors who are acting as mentors as well as Dr Florence Nherera-Choduke for her dedication and support. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking FREF (FirstRand Empowerment Foundation) for assisting and partnering with us in this venture. It's highly appreciated.

We will be hosting our 3rd National Sale at the Lettie Fouché School on the 1st May 2025. This year council has made the decision to open the sale to 10 Stud sires and cows up to the age of 6 years as well as in calf and open heifers. We feel this will give members an opportunity of purchasing animals from a broader genetic base. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Willem Pretorius who sold the top priced pregnant heifer OV 21025 for R38 000 and to Ben Raath who sold the top priced open heifer DKH 22029 for R31000 at the 2024 sale.

In addition to this our annual Wine and Hunting packages auction will be held on the 30th April at the Lettie Fouché School. This is a great initiative where 25% of the profit is donated to the school which assists neurodivergent children. On this note I would like to thank Ben & Sarina Raath for their dedication, time and effort that you put into driving this initiative. This project is highly beneficial to the society as well as supporting the school.

We are immensely proud of congratulating Ed Clark from HBH Tulis for his cow HBH 090171 which has been selected as one of SA Studbooks Elite Platinum Cows at SA Studbooks National Elite awards. Well done Ed.

We are extremely proud of our bull TT 2210 being nominated to represent the Tuli breed at the Vleissentraal/SA Studbook Farm Growth Test Class Competition on the 28th April 2025. We hope to do the Tuli breed proud.

I would like to thank Mr Charl Van Rooyen and his daughter Adria (Seventyfour Design) for the professional way you compile our journal. Thank you to all our advertisers who assist us in presenting this showcase Tuli journal.

To our Breed Director, Mr Dave Marais who has taken on his responsibilities with such a positive attitude. Your enthusiasm is infectious, well done and keep up the good work.

On behalf of myself as well as all the members, I would like to thank our secretary Mrs Teresa Rust for taking on her new role with such a positive attitude. Thanks to our Secretariat, Claus Kempen as well as all the Studbook personnel for your dedicated service. To all the council members whose hard work helps to ensure that our Tuli assets carry on increasing in value, a huge thank you.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you the members for your support. We as council have your interests at heart.

May 2025 be a year that we find ourselves farming in more favourable conditions. Stay positive and God bless. ■



PRODUKSIEVEILING

1ste week in September

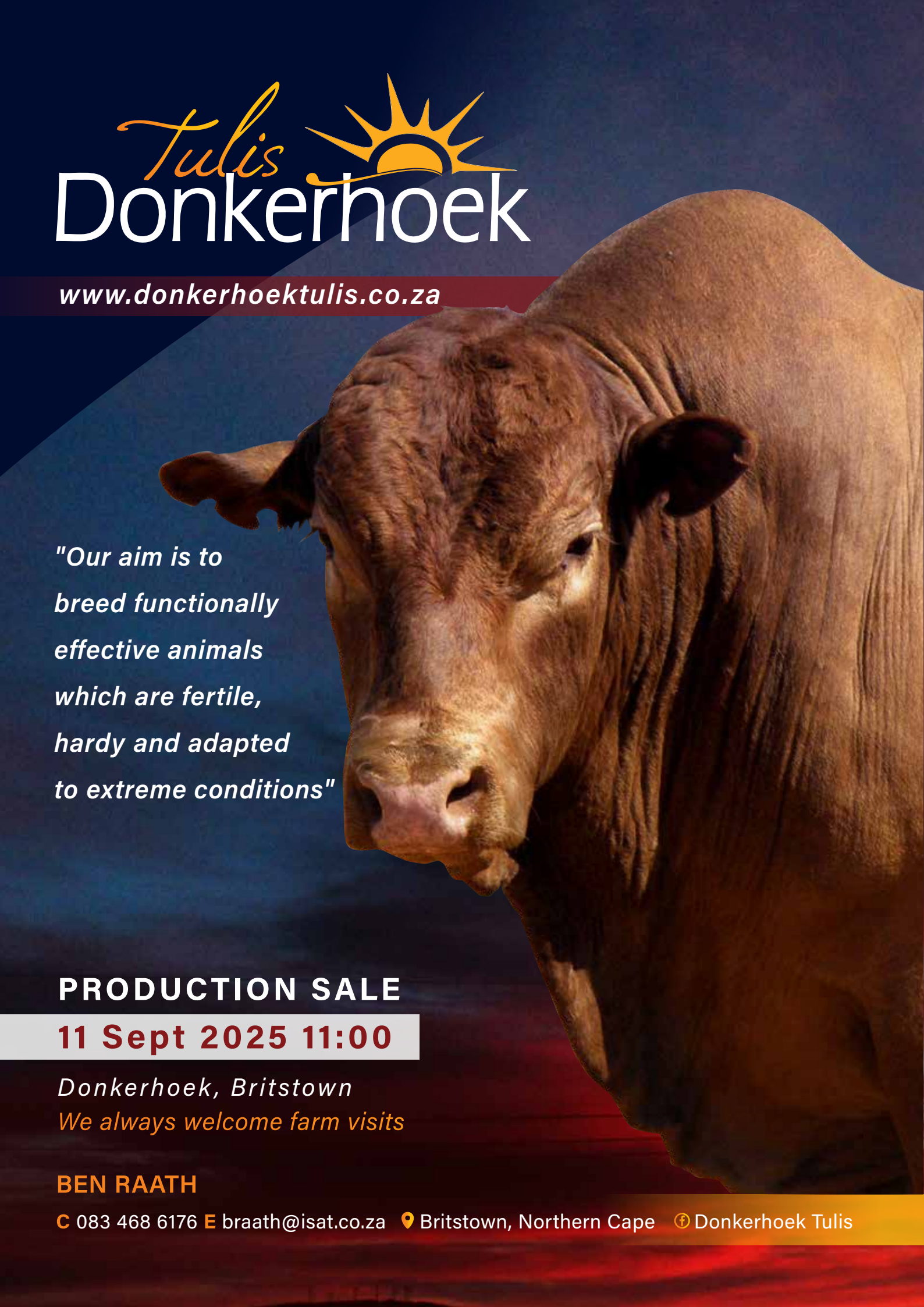


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breed functionally
effective animals
which are fertile,
hardy and adapted
to extreme conditions"*

PRODUCTION SALE

11 Sept 2025 11:00

Donkerhoek, Britstown

We always welcome farm visits

BEN RAATH

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Cattle have a dual role:

Efficient grass conversion and land improvement

Introduction

The current goal of cattlemen and academics focuses on maximum production per animal. This results in the practice of selective grazing together with the use of extraneous inputs (feed; antibiotics; chemicals) in order to boost the “productivity” of high requirement genotypes. This is neither ecologically nor economically sustainable.

Paradigm shift required

All involved in cattle production need to change their goal from “maximum production per animal” to “maximum sustainable profit per hectare”. The management and breeding practices will be very different for the two goals.

Missing keys

Stocking rate is the most important determinant of profit per unit of land.

A combination of high stocking rate and high fertility results in maximum profit per unit of land.

Growth should be considered in relative and not absolute terms. The individual that grows fastest relative to size (regardless of size) is the most efficient grass / feed convertor. The problem with larger frame individuals is that, although they need to grow in proportion to size, they cannot eat in proportion to size. Smaller frame individuals have a larger relative intake making them more efficient.

There is a mutually beneficial relationship between cattle and grass IF certain management and breeding principles are implemented. Grass productivity and grass harvest efficiency are dramatically improved under a grazing regime of time-controlled non-selective grazing and high animal impact.

EVERYTHING in cattle breeding and management revolves around body condition. Breeding and management decisions influence, and are influenced by, body condition.

Fat meat contains much more energy per kilogram than lean meat. Therefore, lean individuals will have larger absolute gain. This is currently misinterpreted to mean that the larger and leaner animals are better feed convertors. In reality the opposite is true. The individual that is heaviest or grows faster relative to its mature size (fatter; fuller package) is the most efficient.

Contrary to conventional belief, fertility is highly heritable. The main determinants of fertility are hormonal balance and body condition. Body condition is influenced by inheritance (inherent body condition) and nutrition. Both hormonal balance and inherent body condition are highly heritable making fertility highly heritable. The challenge is using genetically discerning selection criteria.

Inbreeding (half-brother to half-sister) of naturally selected (environment determines the appropriate genotype) individuals is desirable (concentration of desirable genes). Inbreeding of conventionally selected individuals is undesirable (concentration of undesirable genes).

Overgrazing is not the result of too many animals, but rather the time in and out of an area. →

Grazing management

The most appropriate form of grazing is: The most animals possible in the smallest area possible doing the severest grazing possible together with the most soil surface disturbance possible followed by an APPROPRIATE (grass recovery; animal nutrition) recovery period. This requires animals to be managed at very high stock density (UHDG).

The easiest and most cost effective way to implement Ultra High Density Grazing (UHDG) is via the use of electric fencing – strip grazing with a cross wire that is moved several times per day.

There is no doubt about the fact that non-selective grazing will negatively impact body condition and individual animal performance. This is particularly true for conventionally bred cattle that are selected for absolute growth. The following practices need to be implemented in order to mitigate a drop in body condition:

- The use of genotypes with high inherent body condition. These are the smaller, early maturing genotypes – not the result of ARC performance tests based on absolute growth, size and so-called feed efficiency.
- Appropriate grazing management:
 - Frequent moves to fresh grazing – several moves per day. This allows a larger daily intake.
 - Shorter recovery period in fast growth (high rainfall) environments where grasses lose nutritive value quickly. This is particularly relevant during calving and breeding. Grazing still needs to be non-selective. Areas that are intensively “overgrazed” in one season need a longer recovery period the following season. This can be incorporated into the dry season reserve necessary for seasonal rainfall areas.
 - Preferential grazing ahead of the main herd for high requirement animals such as pregnant yearling heifers.
- Calve, breed and wean during the period of highest nutrition. This may require weaning early (four months) in order to allow cows to calve in optimum body condition.
- Effective rumen supplementation (urea, protein, etc.) allowing rumen microbes to break down fibre resulting in an increase in grass intake.
- In cases where the genotype used has poor inherent body condition production feeding (above maintenance) will be economically feasible where stocking rate is increased multiple times allowing a high return on investment (land and cattle).

Selection

Selection must be based on a foundation of inherent body condition (high relative intake) and hormonal balance (testosterone in males and oestrogen in females). It must be understood that a high relative intake and early sexual maturity are both positively related to a smaller frame. Therefore, selection for absolute growth and size will negatively affect fertility.

The traits required for veld productivity are:

Inherent body condition:

- Smaller frame size
- Climatic adaptation
- Disease and parasite resistance
- Individual appetite

Hormonal balance

Optimum milk

High meat : Bone ratio (high dressing percentage)

Easy-care attributes:

- Calving ease
- Mothering ability
- Temperament

Selection criteria

Current selection criteria being used are largely inappropriate and not genetically discerning with the emphasis on man deciding what is desirable or undesirable. The result is discord between animals and their environment. The only way harmony can be achieved is by allowing nature (environment) to decide the best genotype.

The following selection criteria will ensure a sound foundation as well as high practical fertility (inherent body condition plus hormonal balance):

2 + 3 Cows

Cows calving at two years of age and reconceiving for their second calf at three must be the nucleus from which bulls are selected.

Bull yearling maturity

Yearling weight / Hip height
Package fullness (assessed visually)

Yearling bull breeding ability determined by multi-siring

Accelerate natural selection by closing the herd and inseminating as many cows as possible with the most fertile bull/s and replacing such bull/s as soon as possible with the younger generation.

Summary

The Tuli, as originally selected, has unique features even when considered amongst the Sanga breeds. These include meat : bone ratio, solid colour, polledness and inherent body condition. Do not sacrifice veld productivity in an effort to compete with other breeds in regard to feedlot productivity. A veld productive genotype can be fattened on veld or in a feedlot post backgrounding.

In order for cattlemen to achieve “maximum economically and ecologically sustainable profit per unit of land” they will need to mimic nature in terms of breeding (accelerate natural selection) and management (enhance natural processes). ■

“ Do not sacrifice veld productivity in an effort to compete with other breeds in regard to feedlot productivity ”



Photo: Acacia Mountain Tulis



**Helena
Malherbe**

083 261 3106
Kimberley

 **Malu Tulis**



GEHARDE. VRUGBARE TULI'S
vanaf die veld



DE WET & MELANIE HUMAN | 082 800 1430 | BLOEMFONTEIN

Die natuurlike koei

***Boerdery staar 'n
opdraende stryd in die
gesig en sal die status quo
moet vervang met lesse
geleer uit die natuur.***

Die fokus moet skuif na grondgesondheid en aangepaste (natuurlike diere). Dit is die eerbare ding om te doen vir ons land sowel as die voedselproduserende gemeenskap in die hele wêreld. Daar is nou genoeg kennis en mentors wat die baanbrekerswerk gedoen het om hierdie nuwe era te betree. Is jy reg daarvoor?

Onkunde was die oorsaak van die vernietiging van grondgesondheid sowel as om die (kunsmatige) koei afhanklik te maak van sy meester. Die koei het die teiken geword van die illusie dat groter is beter, sonder navorsing wat dit ondersteun. Hierdie was veral fataal vir die kommersiële koei/kalf produsent.

Omdat 'n koei 'n integrale deel is om ons weidings te verbeter moet sy 'n tipe verteenwoordig wat herlewing komplimenteer eerder as om groot te word in 'n kunsmatige omgewing sodat sy oor tyd epigeneties die vermoë oordra aan haar nageslag. Die natuurlike koei sal hierdie doel dien.

Die vraag is: Wat is n natuurlike koei?

Dit is 'n dier wat kan bestaan op dit wat die plaas produseer, met minimale ekstra insette en nog steeds 'n redelike produksie handhaaf. 'n Dier wat min arbeid benodig. 'n Dier wat se onderhoudskoste minder is as die industriestandaard. Hoe is dit moontlik? Jy moet 'n dier se DNA verstaan en dit tot sy volle potensiaal benut.

In die wilde natuur word alles gedryf deur natuurlike seleksie. Daar het 'n dier ten doel om te oorleef en te reproduseer (en natuurlik om as voedsel te dien) en in daardie volgorde. Dus is haar hele DNA pakket gefokus op daardie twee aspekte. Haar DNA is gefokus op 'n ligte geboorte massa sodat sy en die kalf oorleef. 'n Dier met 'n melkproduksie wat nie inmeng met haar energie behoeftes om vet reserwes op te bou om weer dragtig te raak nie. 'n Dier wat weet watter gras om te vreet wat die nodige voedingstowwe en minerale bevat vir haar eie oorlewing. →

Photo: Gouwsberg Tulis

“ Ek is oortuig die natuurlike koei is 'n "self starter".

Sy ken haar opdrag goed.

Ons moet haar net toelaat om koei te wees.

”

Die natuurlike koei het die regte bouwvorm vir gemaklike kalwing, wat lang afstande kan aflê na water toe en maklik beweeg om weg te kom van roofdiere indien aangeval. 'n Dier wat droogtes kan hanteer en laastens 'n DNA basis het vir siekte en parasiet weerstandigheid.

Die natuurlike dier het geen behoefte aan swaar speengewigte, of aan baie melk, of 'n groot oogspier area, of om vining te groei of om 'n sekere "eye appeal" te hê om die mensgemaakte "ideaal" te bevredig nie. Hierdie is mensgemaakte begeertes (doelwitte) wat op die lang termyn die koei weggevoer het van haar eeue oue pad na perfeksie, wat nooit sal gebeur nie, omdat die omgewings toestande voortdurend verander. En om te oorleef moet sy aanpas.

Oor tyd het ons 'n dier geskep wat afhanklik geword het van sy oppasser. Sy lewe in 'n kunsmatige wêreld in plaas van 'n natuurlike wêreld. Hierdie is vererger deur 'n prestasie teorie gepropageer deur almal dat groter is beter. In die stoetbedryf het beter syfers die einddoel geword om aan die kommersiële boer 'n dier se waarde op papier te wys.

Hierdie era het die boer gedryf om te selekteer vir groter speenmassas sowel as karkas eienskappe/kwaliteite. Dit was gepropageer dat omdat speenkalwers

per gewig verkoop word swaarder noodwendig meer winsgewend is. Wat ongelukkig ook waar is, is dat soos wat die gewig opgaan kom die prys per kilogram af. Wat ons vergeet het is wat dit kos om die ekstra 50-60kg kunsmatig (hetsy kruipvoer en of beter voeding aan die ma) by 'n kalf se gewig te sit. Hulle wat die hoë gewigte propageer sit nooit langs die veilingsring en aanskou die "real world" nie.

Die natuurlike koei van 450-480 kg met 'genoeg melk' kan 'n 180-200 kg kalf speen wat die hoogste waarde per kilo gee, met die meeste wins.

Hierdie fokus op speenmassas en karkas kwaliteite het die natuurlike koei verander in 'n groot oneffektiewe dier. 'n Dier wat se onderhoudsbehoefte so groot geword het dat sy nie meer genoeg rugvet het wat haar kan dra deur die droë tye van die jaar nie. Ons het 40 jaar verloor deur te fokus op die propaganda buite die boerdery arena. Die besigheidsmense, die korporatiewe gemeenskap, wat bestaan net omdat daar boere is.

Kan jy terugdraai? Kan jy nie se vir almal wat hierdie kunsmatigheid aanvuur tot nadeel van jou wat elke dag op die plaas is en probeer om winsgewend te boer om vir jou mense te sorg en nog iets weg te sit vir jou oudag.

Ek is oortuig die natuurlike koei is 'n "self starter". Sy ken haar opdrag goed. Ons moet haar net toelaat om koei te wees. Haar jaarlikse onderhoudskostes sal dramaties laer wees as die kunsmatige dier wat afhanklik is van duur hooi en ander supplemente, hoë arbeidskoste en chemiese middels om parasiete te beheer.

Hierdie gaan 'n tyd neem, maar hoe gouer ons begin hoe beter.

Dink bietjie hieraan. In die natuur waar die mens nie inmeng nie sien ons nie dat sê byvoorbeeld 'n springbok groter en groter word nie. Daar is geen uitskieters of agter blyers nie en daarom bly die springbok die toets van die tye weerstaan. Die kleur variëteite het ingekom toe die mens inmeng. Die springbok in die Kgalagadi Oorgrenspark lyk nog steeds soos toe ek as 'n klein seuntjie die eerste een (en dit is lank gelede) op 'n foto gesien het.

Grondgesondheid is nuwe N1 vir beesboerdery in die wêreld en daarvoor het ons natuurlike beeste nodig om die pad geteer te hou. Geniet die reis.■



WOLHAARKOP Tuli's



Uit die Kalahari, vir die Kalahari

Jim Bredenkamp
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Postmasburg, Noord-Kaap

Wat kom?

*Seisoenale voorspellings werk,
maar hoe goed werk dit?*



Eerstens moet mens dalk eers dink aan hoe goed vaar die meer bekende daaglikse weervoorspellings – dit wat ons elke dag op die nuus van hoor, wat die Vox meisies vir ons vertel, en wat die vele “weather apps” op ons fone vir ons wys. Die waarheid is, weervoorspellings werk ook, en dit werk sommer baie goed! Die voorspellings vir “môre” is veral baie goed, alhoewel ek al gehoor het iemand kla dat “dit het niks by my gereën nie, al het die Weerdiens gesê daar is ‘n 30% kans vir reën!” Ek sal sê die weervoorspellings vir ons in SA is baie goed tot omtrent so ‘n week se kant vooruit, daarna raak dié voorspellings minder bruikbaar. Om die waarheid te sê, is daar ‘n welbekende limiet vir hoe lank vooruit mens die weer kan voorspel – en hierdie limiet is hier by 14 dae rond. So, as daar ‘n limiet is van omtrent twee weke vir weervoorspellings om te werk, hoe op aarde is dit moontlik om dan te wil voorspel hoe dit die hele somer gaan wees!?

Eerstens is dit belangrik om te weet dat die manier hoe die weer se voorspelling verwoord word, is baie anders vir seisoenale voorspellings – ‘n weervoorspelling het baie detail.

‘n Weervoorspelling klink tipies so: “Oormôre gaan dit 32 grade Celsius wees met enkele donderbuie (‘n 30% kans!) in die laatmiddag oor Gordonia.” ‘n Seisoenale voorspelling het baie minder detail, en klink dalk so: “Hierdie seisoen is daar ‘n goeie kans dat dit droog kan wees tydens die hoogsomermaande oor die oostelike helfte van die land.” Verder, behalwe vir die detail verskille, is daar ook belangrike verskille in die mate van hoe goed die twee tipes voorspellings vaar.

‘n Goeie beginpunt is om te dink aan korrelasies – die verwantskap tussen twee veranderlikes, soos byvoorbeeld tussen ‘n reeks voorspellings en die ooreenstemmende waarnemings. Vir “môre” se voorspellings is die korrelasie hoog, seker naby 0.9 vir temperature en omtrent 0.7 vir reënval, dalk nog bietjie hoër. Op die seisoenale tydskaal is die ooreenkomstege waardes omtrent 0.7 en 0.5 respektiewelik vir temperature en reënval.

Verder werk weervoorspellings omtrent ewe goed dwarsdeur die jaar, terwyl met seisoenale voorspellings dit eintlik die beste vaar in die somermaande oor die somerreënvalgebied, en maar swakkerig tydens die winterreënvaltydperk. Omdat seisoenale voorspellings groot beperkinge het, is dit ook nodig om dit uit te druk as waarskynlikhede, en die populêre manier is om voorspelde waarskynlikhede toe te ken aan tipies drie kategorieë. Hoe word die voorspellingskategorieë van ondernormaal en bo-normaal bereken? Seisoenale voorspellings word gewoonlik uitgereik met waarskynlikhede vir sekere kategorieë van reënval of temperatuur. Voorspellings word dikwels met drie kategorieë gegenereer: bo-normaal, ondernormaal en die naby-normale kategorie (hierdie kategorie lê tussen die twee ander kategorieë). Seasonal Forecast Worx (SFW) produseer voorspellings vir reënval en maksimum temperature vir hierdie drie kategorieë, maar, deur streng verifikasie-werk en teoretiese analise, blyk voorspellings vir die naby-normale kategorie eenvoudig nie vaardig genoeg te wees om dit saam met voorspellings vir ons streek aan te bied nie. Dit impliseer dat die bo- en ondernormale (buiteste) kategorieë meer bruikbaar is, so ons ondersoek dit verder.

Eerstens, hoe word die drumpels vir die (meer voorspelbare) bo-normale en ondernormale kategorieë verkry? Ons gebruik ‘n stel her-voorspellings of waargenome data, albei wat oor verskeie dekades strek, om hierdie drumpels te bereken. Die meeste voorspellingsentrums gebruik die sogenaamde gelyke waarskynlikheids (ewe waarskynlikhede) kategorie-benadering waar elk van die drie kategorieë 33.3 persent van die data verteenwoordig, insluitend die naby-normale kategorie. Die SFW-benadering vir die drie kategorieë is só dat die naby-normale kategorie 50 persent van die data verteenwoordig, terwyl die twee uiterste kategorieë elk 25 persent verteenwoordig. Hierdie benadering bied die gebruiker voorspellings van uiterste seisoene. Daarom is die waarskynlikheidsverspreiding vir die drie gelyk-waarskynlike kategorie-geval 33.3% – 33.3% – 33.3%, maar vir die

SFW-geval is die waarskynlikheidsverspreiding 25% – 50% – 25%. In die afwesigheid van betroubare voorspellings (voorspellings word as betroubaar beskou as die waarneming binne die kategorie val so dikwels as wat die waarskynlikheidsvoorspelling impliseer), is dit die beste om 'n sogenaamde klimatologiese voorspelling te gebruik.

Vir die SFW-voorspellings is 'n klimatologiese voorspelling vir 'n 25 persent kans van bo-normaal, 'n 50 persent kans van naby-normaal, en 'n 25 persent kans van ondernormaal om plaas te vind – aangesien dit is hoe die data oorspronklik in die drie kategorieë verdeel is. Dit sê vanself dat sulke klimatologiese voorspellings van weinig nut is vir 'n voorspellinggebruiker aangesien dit nie duidelike rigting gee nie (bv. 'n droogte wat meer waarskynlik is as 'n nat seisoen), maar dit is steeds beter as 'n voorspelling wat nie betroubaar is nie!

Om in meer detail hieroor te lees, besoek die Facebook blad van Seasonal Forecast Worx of skandeer die QR-kode hiernaas:



Voorspellings vir beide “môre” se weer en hoe dit moontlik kan wees hierdie somer, word die beste gemaak deur wiskundige modelle van die bewegingsvergelykings van die atmosfeer. Vir sulke modelle om die beste te kan werk vir seisoenale voorspellings, moet mens kan vasstel hoe die aarde se oppervlak moontlik kan verander oor die volgende maande. Dis vernaam die see-oppervlak se verandering wat krities belangrik is vir seisoenale voorspellings om te kan werk, vernaam hoe oseaanografiese verskynsels by name El Niño en La Niña, verwag gaan word om te ontwikkel. Sonder hierdie verskynsels sou seisoenale voorspellings oor Suider-Afrika nie moontlik gewees het nie. Ons weet egter dat die kanse vir droogte in die somer vergroot met El Niño en die kanse vir 'n nat seisoen vergroot met La Niña – so hoekom het ons dan hierdie wiskundige modelle nodig? Die antwoord is dat

nie elke El Niño of La Niña ontwikkel op presies dieselfde manier nie, en verder gebeur hulle vir alle praktiese doeleindes aan die anderkant van die aardbol plaas, en die invloed daarvan op ons seisoen verskil ook nog van jaar tot jaar.

Wat is op die oomblik aan die gang?

Ons bevind ons tans in 'n swak La Niña tyd, maar die voorspellings is dat ons binnekort in 'n neutral toestand gaan inbeweeg, met ander woorde daar is dan nie 'n El Niño of 'n La Niña nie. Ongelukkig is dit hierdie tyd van die jaar, wanneer ons ons in die herfseisoen bevind, nie 'n goeie tyd om sinvol El Niño of La Niña voorspellings te maak nie vir die komende somer nie – eers hier teen mid-winter of selfs 'n bietjie later is sodanige voorspellings die moeite werd om te maak. Wat ons reënval voorspelling vir die herfstydperk oor die somergebiede betref, wys die modelle dat ons eerder 'n nat herfs as 'n droë herfs gaan beleef. Ongelukkig kan ons nie nou al sê wat met die volgende somer gaan gebeur nie, maar die wintervoorspellings oor die Kaap seureer dat die winter daar eerder droog as nat sal wees. ■



Die Universiteit van Pretoria reik maandeliks seisoenale voorspellings uit, gewoonlik hier teen die tweede week van die maand, en kan hier gekry word:
tinyurl.com/ForecastProf

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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 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.

“ *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.* **”**

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. ■