



**BESTUURSBOEK  
MANAGEMENT BOOK**

**Inheemse Poena Profyt  
Indigenous Polled Profit**

## IMPORTANT POINTS FOR DETERMINING A CALVING SEASON

The animals' requirements must be taken into account before any decisions with regard to mating can be made.

Cows with calves have high nutritional requirements and the cows have to reconceive. The guideline is that cows should calve down 6 weeks before onset of the growing season

Cows in the early stage of pregnancy do not have high nutritional requirements and it makes sense that this period coincides with the dry season.

From 6 weeks before calving the cows requirements again increase. Cows should be in a good condition during this period as conception rates in the next mating season will be negatively affected by cows in poor condition at this time.

Weaner calves: Heifers and young bulls need good grazing if they are to achieve their full potential. Between weaning and twelve months is a period where breeders often fail to maintain growth. One often weans beautiful calves and is shocked at their condition a month later. This loss in condition is due to weaning stress. Supplementary feeding may be necessary to minimize this weight loss. **Remember these young bulls are**

**your product that you sell and your heifers are your “factory” of future production.**

It is therefore very important to determine when to commence mating. Due to Performance Testing requirements it is a good idea to have a calving season if you do not already have one.

### **ACCEPTABLE MATINGS**

SP-Bull or Cow X other breed – Basic cow (if approved)

SP Bull x basic cow = Appendix A cow (if approved)

SP bull x Appendix A cow = Appendix B Cow/bull (if approved)

SP-Bull X B-cow= SP-cow/Sp-Bull (if approved)

B-Bull X SP cow= SP-cow/Sp-Bull (if approved)

A mating of a B bull with a B cow will result in Appendix B calves

Each breeder chooses which bull to mate with certain cows. There are many methods to determine this, but it is important not to lose sight of the longterm goal of herd improvement.

## **FROM BIRTH TO ADULT ANIMAL**

\*give the calf a tag or ear notch. Use tattoo as a permanent method of identification.

\*weigh the calf within 3 days of birth.

\*Weigh the dam at birth (if possible)

\*submit birth notification details within 90 days to SA Studbook

\*weigh cow and calf at weaning

\*weigh calf at 12 months and/or 18 months

Bulls begin with phase D tests before or at 12 months (contact the office or your Stud Book field officer for further information).

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION TO MARIETJIE CABELL** (marietjiec@studbook.co.za)

## **4 INSPECTIONS**

The scheduling of inspections is the breeder's responsibility. The list of senior inspectors and the fees payable are available from the office.

Animals can be inspected from the age of 13 months. This is not recommended by the Society as animals can still change considerably before they reach adulthood. The recommendation is to inspect heifers at 15 months or older. Bull inspections must be delayed as long as possible within the constraints of when they are due to be sold.

At inspection animals are approved, rejected or held over for reinspection later.

There are a number of reasons to reject/cull animals. Below is a list with their appropriate codes:

CODE	CULLED ON INSPECTION
1	Black colour
2	Solid white above the underside
3	Under/overshot jaw or skew mouth
4	Abnormal hooves or hoof growth
5	Hollow, sway, hunch or roach back
6	Laterally twisted spine
7	Congenital kink in upper third of tail
8	Frizzy or woolly summer coat
9	Double muscled
10	Under size for age
11	Hypoplasia and scrotal defects
12	Sheath (fleshy/heavy) and prolapse
13	Age at first calving >39 months
14	Inter calving period > 730 days
15	Not well pigmented
16	Any hereditary defect
17	Wild temperament
18	Permanently watery eyes

19	Devils grip
31	Rangy no depth
32	Too large or pony type
33	Coarsely boned
34	Flat or roofy rump
36	Sickle-, upright- or cow hocks
37	Bandy-, x-legged or pigeon-toed
38	Upright or sagging pasterns
40	Poor udder and teat development
41	Unnatural gait
42	Weak constitution
43	Weak muscling

The following points will help a breeder to evaluate his own cattle:

### **HEAD**

Broad straight muzzle with jaws that meet evenly. Overshot or undershot jaws are not acceptable.

**Nose:** The nose must be well pigmented with two well developed nostrils.

**Ears:** Ears must be small; neat with short hair (hairy ears are an indication of crossbreeding).

**Eyes:** The eyes of a Tuli must be oval with good long eyelashes. The eyes should not be perma-

nently watery. Badly formed eyes and eyelashes are not desirable but are not necessarily a reason for rejection.

**Poll:** The poll of the animal must be neatly between the ears. Animals with horns obviously do not have a poll and these animals must have neatly formed Sanga type horns. (Approximately 10% of Tuli have horns. Breeders must try to keep horns to a minimum as this has economic implications.)

**NECK:** The neck should flow neatly into the shoulder. In female animals it needs to be smooth with small wrinkles and dewlap. Bulls' necks are usually a bit heavier and slightly darker in colour as compared to the rest of the animals' coat. Bulls' necks become thicker once they mature and have a well-defined hump and dewlap.

**TOPLINE:** The animal needs a good straight back. Females must have defined eye muscles without them being over-defined. Swayback or hunchback animals are to be rejected. A good topline is one of the Tuli breed's strong points.

**LENGTH AND DEPTH:** These two attributes go hand in hand. If one is lacking the animal does not look in proportion. Good depth is highly desirable and the animals must neither be so short as to look compressed nor too long, resulting in hollow back.

**HIND QUARTER:** The hind quarter must be well fleshed. It should have good length from hip-bone to pin bone with a sloping rump. The muscling in the rump should be well defined. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the animal is not lacking muscling at the flank nor above the hock, especially in bulls.

**HIND LEGS:** The hind legs need to be well developed, with a fine bone structure. The animal must not be excessively cow-hocked or bandy-legged. Legs that come straight down from the thurl are ideal as this gives enough space for the udder in cows or the scrotum in bulls. The hind legs viewed from the side should not be sickle-hocked or have upright hocks.

**FEET AND HOOVES:** Good hooves are essential. Young bulls with weak hooves are inclined, as they increase in size and become heavier, to develop problems. Hoof problems are rarer in females but this does not mean that one does not look at female hooves. Select animals that have sufficient hoof depth. Animals with pasterns that are weak or dislocate must be culled.

**CAPACITY:** Capacity is not always thought of as important but it is one of the traits that contribute the most to the overall weight of the animal. Length and depth without capacity will result in light weaners. Steer clear of narrow animals as they breed lighter, weaker calves.



**FOREQUARTER:** Tuli should have a broad deep chest with well attached shoulders that do not stick out above the topline. There needs to be adequate fleshing behind the shoulder. Animals with shoulders that are too loose or that exhibit “devils grip” need to be culled.

**FRONTLEGS:** Tuli front legs must be straight from the shoulder. Although X –legs or bandy legs do occur, where this is excessive they must be culled.

**SHEATH:** The bull must have a good sheath free of any defects. A sheath that descends at an angle of 45 degrees is rarely a problem. A sheath that hangs vertically tends to be a problem and should be culled. A bull’s sheath should not hang above an imaginary line drawn between the knee of the front leg and the hock of the hind leg.

**SCROTUM:** Tuli bulls must have a well developed scrotum. Although a 45 degree deflection of attachment from the norm is allowed it is undesirable and should be avoided. A bull with a scrotum that has torsion of greater than 45 degrees or where the epididymis is twisted (koeksister) should be culled. Do NOT be too hasty in culling an animal on scrotal defects as the development of the scrotum in many young bulls is such that they look abnormal until they are older and then one sees that the scrotum is indeed normal.

**VULVA/TEATS:** Heifers must have a well developed vulva. It is best to compare vulvas of different animals within the group since vulva development is age dependant. The vulva of a heifer that is cycling will be more prominent than that of a heifer that is not cycling. Cows should have a small neat udder with four neatly positioned teats. The teats should be pigmented and thin enough for a newborn calf to easily grasp. Bottle teats develop as the cow grows older and probably will not be seen at inspection and the breeder should then cull these animals.

**TAIL/TAILHEAD:** The tailhead attachment must be neat and preferably flush with the sloping Sanga rump. The tail must reach two thirds of the way to the ground and have a well developed switch (brush). The tail may not have a congenital kink in the upper third of it.

**CONSTITUTION:** This is one of the most important attributes of a beef animal. We all want animals that produce well and maintain their condition. Therefore it is important to compare the constitution of animals within a herd. There are invariably animals that are in better condition than the rest of the herd. The animals with weaker body condition scores should be sold. Remember constitution is the ability of a producing animal (i.e. a cow with a calf) to maintain her body condition. A good producing cow's body condition varies whereas a poor

producer is always fat since she does not raise a worthwhile calf.

## **BREED STANDARDS**

Breed standards are included in this booklet but it must be borne in mind that Council will identify problems and make changes to these breed standards to address these problems.

Heifers must calve for the first time within 39 months of birth. Thus a heifer should be 3 months in calf by the time she is 33 months old. (For exceptions a written request must be forwarded to Council for their consideration.)

Cows are allowed a maximum ICP of 730 days between the first and second calves. Thereafter she needs to maintain an ICP of 630 days or less.

## **2. STANDARDS THAT SHOULD BE ADHERED TO:**

**Female:** Female animals do not need to have a specified index but must pass inspection. Thus she must not be exceptionally large or small. The most important attribute of a female animal is that she calves within the required time and thereafter maintains a good ICP. Furthermore she needs to wean a good calf. Cows with poor fertility and that wean weak calves must be removed from the herd. These animals should rather be slaughtered than sold to commercial farmers. Good animals that do not meet breed standards,

and surplus animals, should be the animals that get sold on the commercial market if they are not to be retained in the stud industry.

**Male:** Male animals must have an average (weaning and 12 month and/or 18 month) index of 90% or better. Bulls must be purebred and must be approved by inspectors. All stud sires must have DNA profiles and parentage must be confirmed where possible. Breeders must be aware that not all approved bulls have the potential to be used in a stud. Thus make sure that the bull that you buy/use is going to make a contribution to the genetics of your herd. The fact that he is an SP bull is not enough.

In the case of bulls that are earmarked for AI the owner must submit an application to Council. Council members will look at the animal's statistics and evaluate the performance of his progeny. The bull will be reinspected and the inspector(s) will make a recommendation to Council.



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