SALE REPORT 2010

At our annual bull sale held on 12 October 2011, 23 Tuli bulls sold for an average price of R 28 000. The top priced bull, HBH 09-167 sold for R49 000 to Mr Alwyn and Harm Marx of Alpha en Omega Tuli from Burgersdorp. HBH 09-156 sold for R37 000 to Mr PW Michau of Ven Tuli from Cradock. 9 Tuli Cows in-calf sold for an average price of R 17 666. The top price cow was sold for R22 500 to Mr Gordon Gilfillan of Glen Heath Tuli from Middleberg. Other top price cows were sold to Mr Ray Brown from Maclear and to Mr Chris Hobson of RooibergTuli from Graff-Reinett for R22000 and R21 500 respectively.

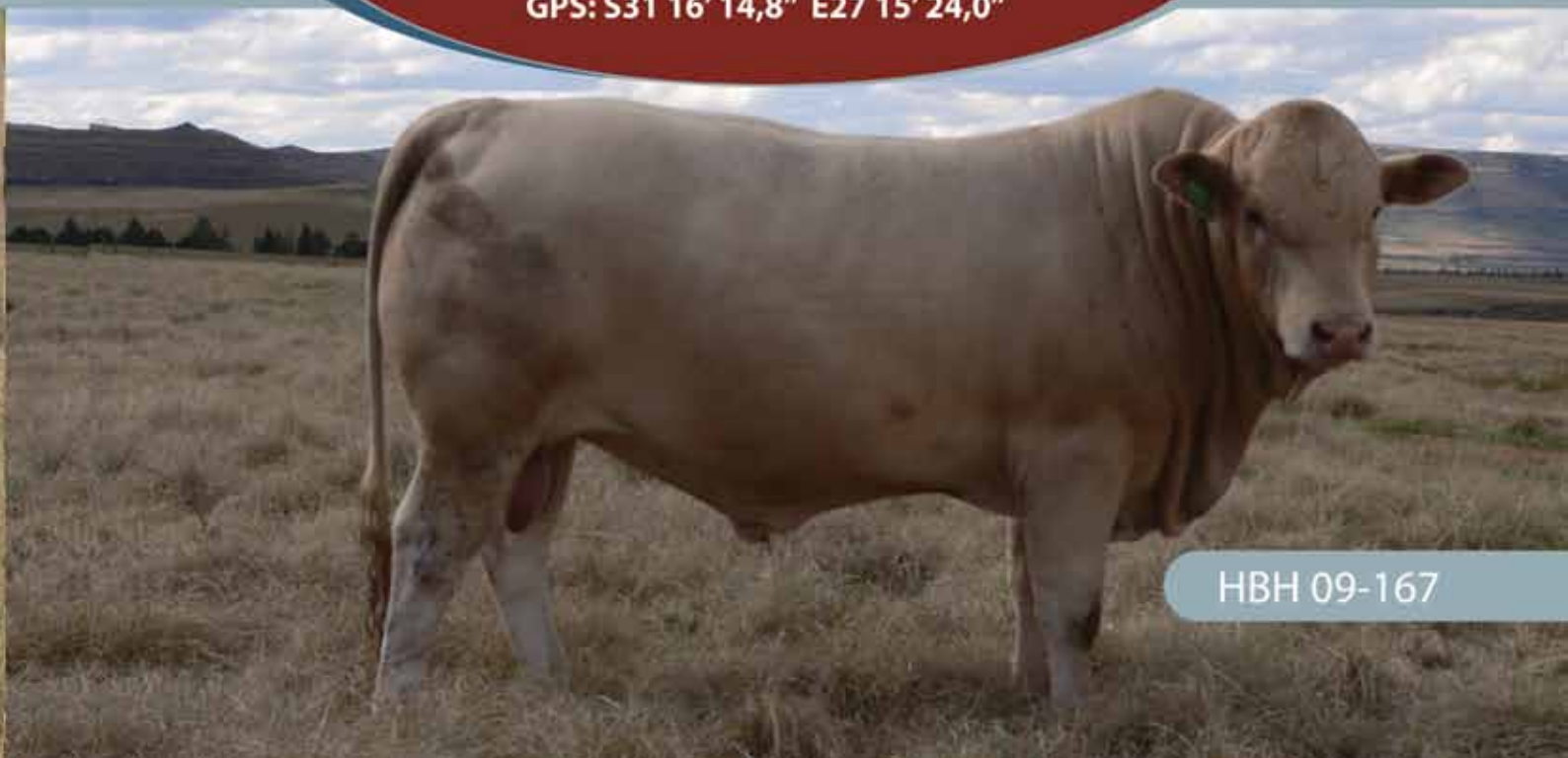
Our sincere thanks goes to all our clients for their valued support during 2011. We have no doubt that ourTuli-cattle will do extremely well for you. Be assured that we will continue to strive to give you even better value for your money in the future.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2012, 12 NOON

ON THE FARM HARTEBEESTHOEK, DORDRECHT

GPS: S31 16' 14,8" E27 15' 24,0"



HBH 09-167

Poenabul met voldoende pigment

12. Pigment

Donker pigment om die oë en neus is hoogs wenslik, so selekteer daarvoor. ‘n Tekort aan pigment verhoog die waarskynlikheid van waterige oë en son-geïnduseerde velkanker.

13. Kleur

Alle Tuli’s dra die gene vir al die kleure. Basiese kleure is geel, rooi en wit met ‘n lae persentasie vir dagha (grys). Geel is die oorheersende kleur. Na aanleiding van navorsing deur Dr. Bill Holloway van Texas A&M Universiteit, is bevind dat as jy ‘n geelbul met ‘n geelkoei paar vir vier agtereenvolgende teelseisoene sal jy statisties 2 geel, een rooi en een wit kalf kry. Dit is moontlik om ‘n rooi bul en rooi koei te paar en ‘n wit kalf te kry. Soortgelyk kan jy ‘n wit bul met ‘n wit koei paar en ‘n rooi kalf kry. As jy ‘n kudde rooi koeie het, koop ‘n rooi Tuli bul aangesien die nageslag oorheersend rooi sal wees.As jy in ‘n baie warm area boer met ‘n droë klimaat moet jy ‘n ligter kleur bul kies wat die hitte kan reflekteer. Soortgelyk sal donker bulle beter aangepas wees in koeler klimaatstreke.

Tulis kom voor in verskeie kleure skakering van wit, geel en rooi

14. Geboortegewig

Lae geboortegewig is een van die mees belangrikste kenmerke van die Tuli ras. Tulis het klein kalwers by geboorte. Baie van die groot kommersiële melkerye gebruik Tuli genetika om hul verse oop te maak. Tuli bulle word ook wyd gebruik in kommersiële vleiskuddes wat sukkel met geboorteprobleme. Tulis kalf, sonder hulp, in die veld. Selekteer dus vir bulle met ‘n geboortemassa van minder as 35kg.

15. Goeie genetika betaal, maar hoe bepaal jy die prys van ‘n goeie bul?

Te veel boere nader ‘n bulteler met die veronderstelling dat hul met kruisbeeste boer en daarom nie te veel geld wil spandeer op ‘n bul nie. Dis ‘n verkeerde uitgangspunt aangesien ‘n goeie bul die genetiese vooruitgang in jou kudde dramaties sal versnel.

Daar is ‘n gesegde dat die waarde van 8 speenkalwers gelykstaande is aan die prys van ‘n goeie bul. Sommige kommersiële telers gebruik die prys van 10 speenkalwers as ‘n riglyn aangesien hul besef dat “superieure” diere lei tot dramatiese genetiese vooruitgang wat weer op sy beurt tot verhoogde inkomste lei.

‘n Bul maak ‘n baie groot, belangrike inpak op jou kudde en dit kan positief of negatief wees – kies dus oordeelkundig!

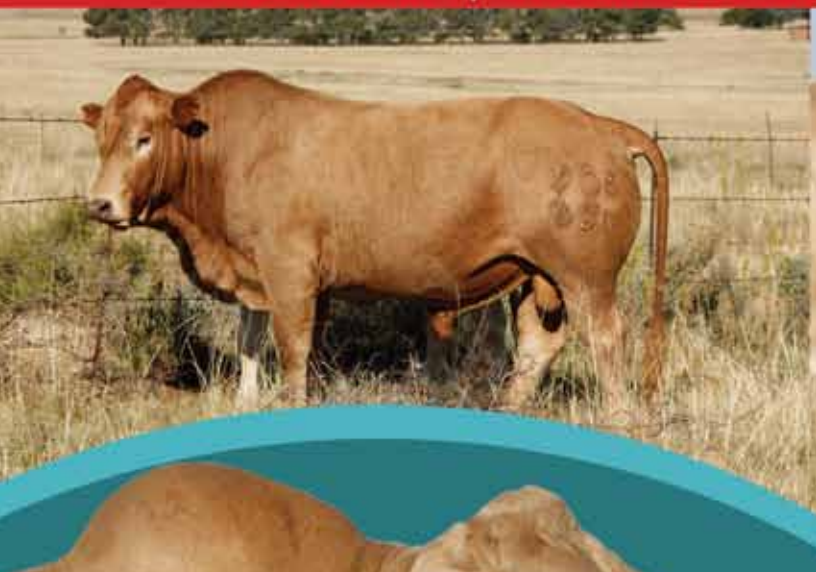
Riglyne vir ‘n onervare koper

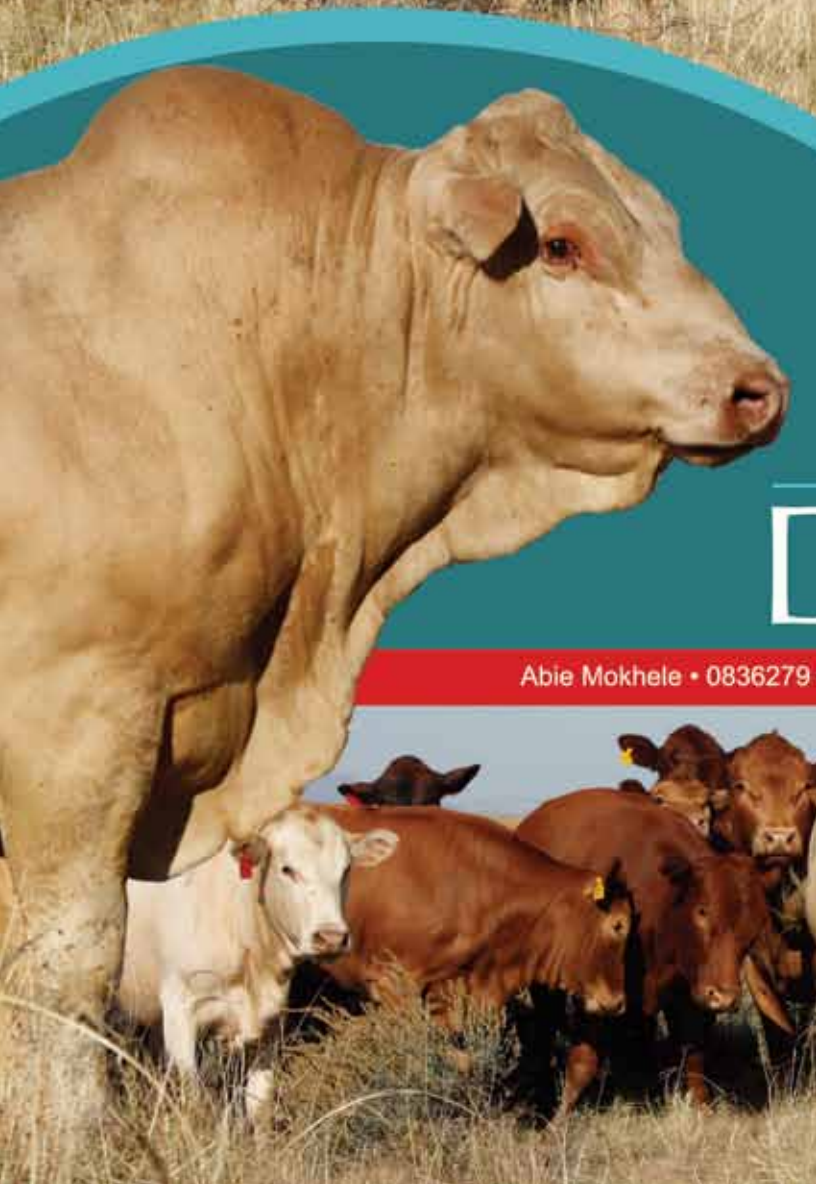
Hoe kies jy as onervare koper ‘n bul op ‘n produksie veiling?

Begin om vinnig deur die bulle te gaan en merk die bulle wat jou oog vang - dit mag soveel as 10 tot 12 wees. Gaan dan terug en kyk meer krities na jou keuses met die bogenoemde punte in ag geneem. Bestudeer die bulle se prestasie data soos in die katalogus gedruk, versigtig en elimineer dan sommige bulle totdat daar net 5 of 6 gunstelinge oor is. Op hierdie punt beveel ons dan aan om ‘n ervare boer/teler wie se oordeel jy kan vertrou te vra om jou te help om hierdie 5 of 6 bulle te plaas in volgorde van voorkeur.

Goeie genetika is lonend

POLLED | ADAPTABLE | FERTILE | HARDY





TULI STUD

DENBRAE

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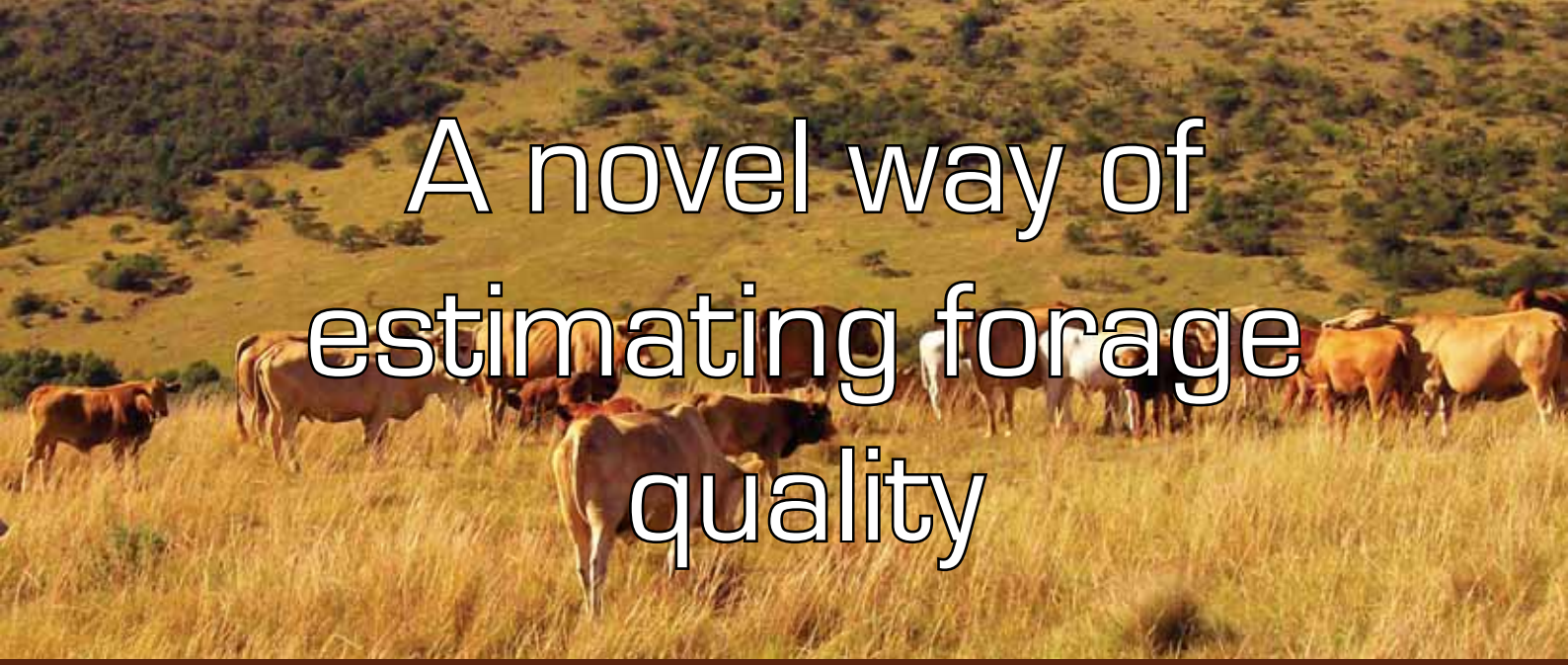

A novel way of estimating forage quality

Justin du Toit
Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute.

Livestock production from veld is determined largely by the quality and the quantity of the food they consume. However, the quality of veld plants can vary considerably for various reasons. Quality is higher in new growth, because structural compounds, such as cellulose, lignin, and hemi-cellulose, which are required to give plants rigidity, and to make them unpalatable to animals, are present in small amounts. Quality also varies across species, either because of the concentrations of the compounds mentioned above, or because of anti-quality compounds, such as tannins (usually in shrubs and trees), or unpalatable oils (in grasses such as Turpentine grass (*Cymbopogon* species), and Koperdraad (*Elionurus muticus*), and in shrubs such as the Camphor bush (*Tarchonanthus camphoratus*)). Also, quality varies spatially across the veld in response to soils and their parent material (e.g. shales produce low nutrient soils, while dolerite produces high nutrient soils). Quality is usually higher in low rainfall areas, and vice-versa.

Livestock obviously prefer high-quality food to low-quality food – cattle will usually graze a north-facing slope before grazing a south-facing slope, or select valleys and avoid mountains. Importantly, though, the quality of the food that animals consume is significantly higher than the average quality of the food on offer. This is because animals have the ability to select high quality food over low quality food. This is even the case if animals are grazed at very high densities – some low quality material will always be left behind.

Because animal performance is directly related to the quality of the food they are consuming, being able to measure veld quality would give a farmer some insight into how well animals might perform. However, measuring forage quality is a somewhat complicated procedure, which involves collecting forage samples and sending them to a laboratory. Here, the samples are subjected to various chemical procedures, and the quality is estimated, generally, in two ways. First, the protein content of the feed is determined (actually the nitrogen content, but this is closely related to the true protein content). Second, the amount of structural material is determined. Structural compounds vary in digestibility, from cellulose, which can be relatively easily digested by microbes, assuming enough nitrogen is present, through hemicellulose, lignin, and the completely indigestible silica. Silica is present in all grasses, but especially high in tall, strong grasses, particularly those that grow in vleis or other wet areas. Silica is also the compound that makes the margin of a leaf blade sharp.But even if we do test the quality of the veld, the results will not necessarily be of much value to a farmer. Firstly, the tests usually take a couple of weeks, and farmers don't need to know what their animals were eating several weeks ago. Secondly, the sample that we take from the veld may not necessarily represent the average quality of the veld, and thirdly, the sample that we take will probably not represent quite what the animals would have selected. On top of all this, forage quality assays are expensive.
So how can we estimate the quality of veld?

Robert Lyons, from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in the USA, and his colleagues have proposed a novel way of estimating forage quality in the veld, while cattle are feeding (it doesn't work for sheep, or other livestock). They noticed that there is a strong relation between feed quality and the physical appearance (texture) of cattle dung. Dairy cattle, for example, are fed very high-quality diets, and their dung is generally very fluid – to the extent of having virtually no texture at all. In contrast, the dung of cattle that are feeding on very low-quality feed, for example sourveld during winter, is highly structured. An underlying reason for this is that high-quality food is digested quickly, and travels fast through the gastro-intestinal tract (termed rate of passage). In contrast, the rate of passage of poor quality food is low. More water remains with quickly digested food than with slowly digested food, and hence the differences in appearance.

Very high-quality feed. If the dung pat moulds itself onto whatever it has fallen – grass, stone, etc – this indicates a protein level of greater than 20%, and a digestibility of 70 - 80%. By digestibility we mean the proportion of the consumed food that is digested and absorbed. A digestibility of over 70% is very high – it implies that of every kilogram of food that is consumed, less than 30% passes through the animal. Dung of this quality often has a greenish colour, and is often associated with cool-season grasses, such as ryegrass (*Lolium* species). The total nutrient availability (of protein and energy) exceeds the animals requirements for growth and maintenance and normal lactation demands, though highly productive dairy cows require feed of this quality to produce high levels of milk. Figure 1 represents dung in this category, and came from cattle that were eating high-quality ryegrass pasture.

Figure 1: Dung indicating feed of very high quality

Good quality feed. Dung from cattle eating forage of this quality will have some structure, and will not be as liquid as the dung described above. The top of the dung pat is usually formed into a tell-tale crater, which none of the other types of dung have. It indicates feed with a protein content of 10 - 17%, and a digestibility of 61 - 67%. Animals consuming feed of this quality are usually performing near maximum (though not dairy cows), and require no supplementation. Average daily gains (ADGs) of between 500 and 750 g can be expected from growing heifers and steers. The dung in figure 2 came from cattle that were eating low-quality ryegrass pasture (it was about four years old, and invaded by other grasses).

Figure 2: Dung indicating feed of good quality

Poor quality feed. Dung in this category generally arises from feed with a protein content of between 6 and 9%, and a digestibility ranging from 58 to 63% (there is a slight overlap with the digestibility values of the previous category). It is generally accepted that the minimum protein requirement of cattle is between 7 and 9%. The dung is obviously more structured, and forms into half-spheres, sometimes with loose folds. Feed that gives rise to dung of this type is satisfactory for the maintenance requirements of mature cows, but heifers and steers will exhibit low ADGs. Lactating cows are likely to lose weight, and may require supplementation if they are to re-conceive. Figure 3 represents this category of dung, and came from animals that were eating mixed-veld in autumn.

Figure 3: Dung indicating feed of poor quality

Very poor quality feed. Cattle eating very poor quality feed will produce dung that is particularly structured, and usually characterised by distinct rings. The digestibility of feed that produces this type of dung is less than 56%, while the protein level is likely to be less than 5%. All classes of cattle are likely to lose mass and condition when grazing on feed of this quality, although digestibility and intake may improve with protein supplementation. Figure 4 shows dung from cattle that were eating sourveld during winter. This technique of estimating forage quality is, naturally, not perfect (few methods are). For example, the activity levels of animals may influence the consistency of dung (the higher the activity the looser the droppings). Other factors such as breed, and the particular type of forage that is being consumed, will also result in variability in the consistency of droppings. However, the technique can certainly serve as a general guide to forage quality. Repeated observations of a particular herd on a particular farm can yield useful insight into changes in quality over the season, and serve as an early warning system to unexpected drops in feed value.

Figure 4: Dung indicating feed of very poor quality

Reference:
Robert K. Lyons, Richard V. Machen and Jerry W. Stuth. Evaluating Diet Quality Selected by Grazing Beef Cattle Using Photographic Guidelines. Agricultural Communications, The Texas A&M University System. http://stephenville.tamu.edu/~butler/foragesoftexas/grazing/foragequalityphotoguide.pdf

Donkerhoek Tulis

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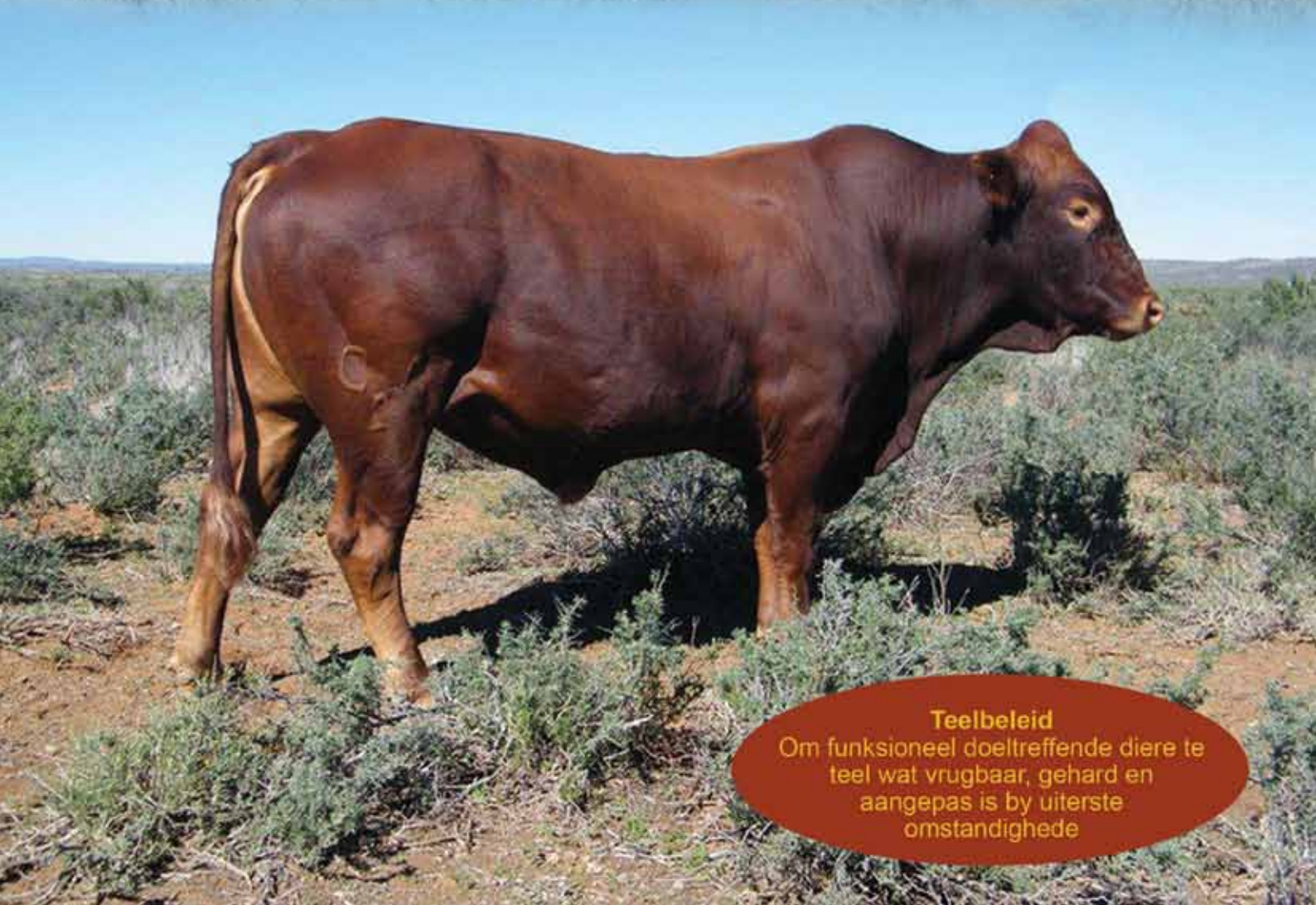


Teelbeleid
Om funksioneel doeltreffende diere te teel wat vrugbaar, gehard en aangepas is by uiterste omstandighede

GLEN HEATH TULI STUD

DEFINED BY NATURE/PERFECTED BY SCIENCE

Gordon Gilfillan

PO Box 408 • Middelburg • Eastern Cape 5900 • 083 545 8653 • 049 842 1317 • gk.gilfillan@gmail.com

Defined by Nature
Perfected by Science
GH
GLEN HEATH Tuli STUD

Bulls available on farm from 15 September 2012

Growing & Learning with Tulis...

It is with much gratitude that we find ourselves, in 2012, well down the road of "Life with Tulis" and we still revel in all that these precious bovines have to teach us as they share our daily lives. Visiting them in the veld and having the calves run to meet us for a joyous reunion, remains a highlight for all the members of our family. City friends comment on how relaxing it is to be with them.

2011 spring calves, sired by GNC 08 18, of Horseshoe Tulis.

Sometimes the Tuli ladies can spring a surprise or two! It was with huge delight that we welcomed our first 2010 Tuli calf, whose mother timed his birth to coincide perfectly with my birthday! We were amazed when we found he weighed 50kg at birth (glad human babies don't do that) and realised that his ears were larger than usual for a Tuli. Turns out his mum thought a visit to a Simmentaler bull in a nearby camp might be a good idea before we bought her….just as well she was old enough and large enough to cope with his birth!! Thus it is, that Badoli, the ox, had become a much loved member of our Tuli Treasure Chest. He insists on having a scratch whenever he spots us and we all love to oblige. He'll be 2 years old in May this year and weighs almost 700kg!

Badoli with Galpin Jnr & Sons

We realised that we would need to buy more females and were able to get them from our friend and fellow-breeder, Werner Gouws who farms in Bronkhorstspruit. They have proved to be a great asset to our herd as we build up our numbers. We have decided to take the longer route to breed the SP proper and are very satisfied with the quality of the 'B' calves that arrived in 2011 from our Appendix "A" cows. Johan Wagner, of Welbekend, who undertook the cartage for us, proved to be very reliable and we were delighted to find our new girls arriving calm and as unstressed as is possible when an overnight journey of over 1300km is undertaken.

Herd Sire AM 08 02.

As we keep up to date with the necessary information that is required by StudBook for performance testing, it is very rewarding to receive the results. Initially it was quite daunting to negotiate the Beefpro programme and the Logix website with my mouse, but thanks to the help (via fickle Telkom lines) of fellow breeder, Chris Hobson, I have survived these exercises! From the results we are able to assess the bulls and cows so that we know how to plan the future breeding.

It's exciting when one sees a good index and troubling when they're a little bit l-o-w. StudBook staff are always helpful and friendly...especially to grandmas like me, who get the data entered in the wrong format quite frequently!!

HORSESHOE Tulis

Dave Cawthorn · 043 683 2666 · 084 363 5392
PO Box 107 · Stutterheim · 4930

4th Production Sale

3 October 2012

horseshoe@telkomsa.net

2011 was quite a scary year as far as weather is concerned. For the first time in our lifetime, our large dam dried up in March…. all we saw was cracked mud. Then….in June….the rains came.... and came.... and came.... and every hollow place on our farm became a dam. Some farm 'roads' became streams and we spent quite a LOT of heave-ho time getting our bakkie out of what we thought was dry veld!! It was, however, happy heave-ho time, because of the relief of having the drought broken. The water table is healthy again and the whole farm is lush and green. The downside of this, is that ticks and other related mites, have risen to the occasion...literally….and we are having to be very vigilant about making sure that bovine tails and toots are not infested with ticks. Interestingly, we have found that our Tulis manage this invasion far better than the commercial cows in the herd do. Their resistance truly is remarkable and for that we are very grateful.

A sunset over the wet Kariega River Valley.

Doug and Guyu (9months)

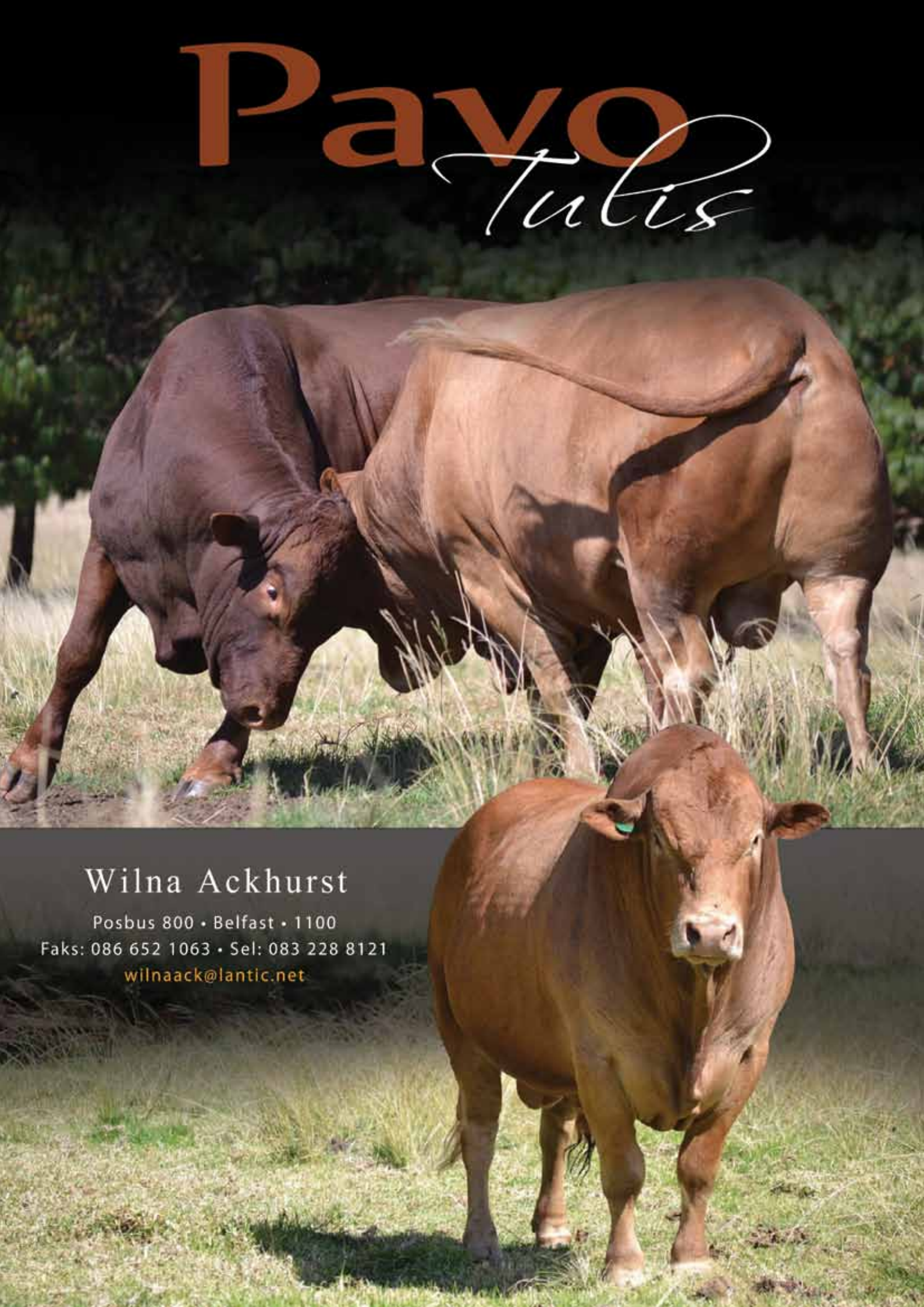
One of the bull calves born in 2009 has become a firm family favourite. We have unofficially named him Guyu, in honour of his original Tuli ancestors. He wears his 'Patch' badge of honour like Guyu Patch did in years gone by. Having been a member of the first crop of Tuli calves on our farm, he has, like his peers, become very tame and he insists on having a scratch whenever we appear in his territory. He also delights in having his ticks plucked and gets quite stoked when we do so. Although he is our youngest working sire, serving our commercial Angus and Limousin cows, he likes to think he's King Kong when round-up time comes and our older bulls are around. He announces his presence with great gusto and doesn't seem to notice that they are not at all threatened!

We were privileged this year to be able to leave the farm in our son's capable hands in order to attend the Tuli AGM in Bloemfontein, as well as visit the herds of the Rautenbach brothers, fellow Tuli breeders in the Free State. This was followed by an unexpected chance to visit Dullstroom with my daughter, who deposited me on the doorstep of the Blomvlei home of Stephan and Carmen Welz, just in time to be able to attend their annual sale. What memorable visits and happy interaction we all enjoyed !

May the rest of this year be kind to us all and may Tuli breeding go from strength to strength !

Cheers,
Edie and Doug Galpin
April 2012

Payo Tulis



Wilna Ackhurst

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Tuli Breeder Lands

Top Award

The society is very proud of Wilna Ackhurst who was awarded the prize for Top Female Entrepreneur (Export Markets) for 2011 by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries. She received a very smart round baler and a mower as part of her prize. Well done Wilna!

Bou maar behou

Oom Frans Burger, Eresa

Gereelde kalwings jaar na jaar
belangrike gene wat ons moet bewaar.
Hierna sorgvuldig geweeg en gemeet
Dan seleksie vir diere sonder 'n skeet.
'n Ander aspek is van grootste belang.
Nimmer die veldbees te pamperlang.
Soos 'n kruisingsprojek omsigtigend huiwer.
Bou eerder die ras met trots eg en suiwer
seker steeds heelwat geenvariasie.
Sonder die vreemde se foutebagasie.
Veral goed besin, eer jy dit waag.
Jy straks nie kosbare weerstand verlaag,
sodoend verhoudings met moeder natuur
Vir etlik geslagte erg te versuur.
Verlaag nie goedmoeds egtheidstandaarde.
Egtheid behels immers veel meer in waarde.
Bied veel meer vertroue as reën nie wil dans.
En teen siektes en plae, die betere kans.

Tuli

ZIMBABWE'S OWN BREED

FERTILE
DOCILE
ADAPTABLE
HARDY
POLLED
LONGEVITY

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ZIMBABWE TEAM TULI

The Tuli ~

News from its birth place

Anne Cooke
(President of the Tuli Cattle Society)

THE TULI SOCIETY

The last ten years have been challenging to say the least for cattle farming in Zimbabwe. With the attention to detail needed for pedigree herds this problem has been compounded. The Tuli Society sadly lost a number of breeders and some of the herds which are part of our Zimbabwean heritage.

Out of the dust however the Tuli Society has emerged, tougher, hopefully wiser and better equipped to handle the challenges before us. We are the most active cattle society in Zimbabwe and have concentrated on modernizing the industry. It is our aim to catch up with the rest of the world and get back to having the best of the best. It is a work in progress but steady steps are being made. Zimbabwe after all is the home of the Tuli.

The Tuli Society was reborn in 2009 with our first official meeting being held on the 24 November 2009. Petrus Erasmus was elected as President and Anne Cooke as vice. We had a total of 11 members present. The society has had regularly monthly meetings since and a number of field days. Now two years later we are still going strong, we have 12 registered breeders as well as two new breeders in the wings. Our current president is Anne Cooke and vice-president is Oscar Johnson.

MEMBERS

We have had a few new breeders join us and luckily a few of the older, more experienced breeders survived the fall out. These older breeders have a wealth of knowledge and are of great assistance to us. The new breeders have learnt fast out of necessity and the standard of animals being produced is excellent.

As of January 2012 we had 1485 registered Tulis. Our larger breeders have herds of between 250 and 350 animals. This is the second largest registered breed in Zimbabwe second only to the Brahman. There are still a couple of herds that have been unable to get their registrations up to date for various reasons; we hope it won't be too long before they can join us again. Our members are spread from Tengwe through Mashonaland to Gweru and Matabeleland, which is great news for prospective buyers as there is always a breeder not far away.

Late last year we did an inspection of animals at Matopas and are waiting for all the necessary paperwork to go through the correct channels. There were 62 Tuli females from Guyu genetics that could be brought back into the system, which is good news.

The remains of the Boomerang (Goodwin) herd are in small pockets around the country. We have already got some of these back on board through breeders who bought Boomerang stock and hopefully it won't be too long before Paul and Brian his son are able to contribute fully to the industry.

Sadly last year saw the passing of Brian Harvey and then within the year his wife Cherine succumbed to cancer. They were an integral cornerstone of the Tuli and the industry will sorely miss them. Unfortunately their daughter was unable to continue on the farm and the herd was sold at a general auction. The good news, which

luckily Cherine got to see before her death, was that the bulk of the herd was bought by registered breeders so their legacy will continue.

FIELD DAYS AND NEW INITIATIVES

The Tuli Society is endeavoring to promote the breed throughout the country. Farming margins have dropped considerably and management is not as easier as it used to be. One of the major issues is, having to pen animals at night to prevent stock theft. We have held a number of field days aimed at finding ways to cope with these problems. The Tuli has been identified as an integral part of the solution by farmers who want high profit for low input costs. The Tuli is being used increasingly as a cross in commercial herds with one of the strongest trends being the Tuli/Brahman cross.

Dairy/Tuli cross for the small scale farmer in tough conditions

One of our breeders has developed a dairy cross breed of the Tuli called the TeReX. This breed is made up of 50% Tuli and 50% Red Dane. It is ideally suited to dairy in the small scale sector in Africa. A project run by the National Association of Dairy farmers Zimbabwe and supported by Land O Lakes from the USA has seen hundreds of the TeReX heifers supplied to local farmers. The heifers are sold to the farmers who then have to pay for them over two years into a revolving fund which is used to purchase more heifers for farmers in the community. Some members of the Tuli Society are now also involved in supplying heifers into this project. These members are using sexed Red Dane semen on some of their Tuli cows to produce the TeReX heifers. This program is sustainable as all cattle are traded at market related prices.

Re-introduction of the Tuli to our small scale farmers

A local company purchased three Tuli bulls and allocated them to three different rural areas as prizes for a competition organised by the company. The company encouraged farmers to sell their cattle for slaughter to them in order to earn tickets in a raffle. Each time the prize was a pedigreed Tuli bull. It has been a successful venture and the competition has been repeated three times which is testament to the quality and adaptability of the bulls.

There is an ongoing program to introduce bulls for shared use by wards within a district to improve the quality of the local cattle. The Tuli is the bull of choice, again for its low maintenance, fertility, hardiness and adaptability.

The Makera Cattle Company initiative was to introduce Tulis in the rural areas and in so doing to help rebuild the quality of animals held by villagers. This was in order to start the commercialisation of cattle breeding in rural areas and unlock the real economic value of rural cattle which will subsequently improve rural livelihoods. From 2010 to date Makera has placed over 72 bulls into rural areas and the results are being seen on the ground with a large number of calves dropping since August 2011. There has been a very strong positive response from the community and many requests have been received from many other communities as well as the government officials for us to expand the area under the project to a national level and cover the whole Zimbabwe.

The last ongoing project is getting our export market opened up again. At this stage we still do not have a protocol for embryos, semen or live animals but it is being worked on from a number of angles. We are targeting the protocol for embryo exports first.

BULL SALES

The Tuli breeders have managed to keep bulls on the National Bulls Sale even through the toughest times and more recently have been going from strength to strength at the sale as its popularity increases. We have an additional bull sale "Magure Bull Sale" this year which will be held during the Harare show and is part of an ongoing bull comparison project run by John Crawford.

Visit our Website at www.tuli.co.zw and keep current with the day to day activities of the Society at - Tuli Cattle Society/Facebook.

RITS *Tulis*

GEHARD

GESPIERD

VRUGBAAR

MET BAIE MELK

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Kontemporêre Groepe vir Geboortegewig

Contemporary Groups for Birth Weight

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Agtergrond

Een van die belangrikste aspekte in prestasietoetsing en teelwaarde beramings is behoorlik gedefinieerde kontemporêre groepe. 'n Kontemporêre groep is 'n groep diere wat aan presies dieselfde omgewingstoestande blootgestel is, met ander woorde hulle is in dieselfde kudde, jaar en seisoen gebore en het presies dieselfde voeding en behandeling ontvang. Nadat aanpassings vir bekende effekte soos geslag en moederouderdom aangebring is, is oorblywende verskille tussen diere as gevolg van genetika en is dit moontlik om teelwaardes vir die eienskap te beraam op grond van daardie verskille. Die swaarder kalwers in 'n kontemporêre groep vir geboortegewig sal byvoorbeeld die hoogste geboortegewig teelwaardes kry.

Soms word kontemporêre groepe nie korrek saamgestel nie, soos byvoorbeeld swak of foutief gedefinieerde seisoene, te groot ouderdomvariasie, diere wat van een groep na 'n ander geskuif is en diere wat aan die verkeerde bestuurgroep toegeken is. Dit veroorsaak dat omgewingseffekte verkeerdelik aan genetika toegedig word. Indien kalwers wat byvoorbeeld op 'n plaas met goeie weiding groot word, in dieselfde kontemporêre groep geplaas word as kalwers wat op 'n plaas met swak weiding groot word, sal die kalwers op die goeie plaas se speenindekse almal hoog

Background

One of the main issues in performance testing and breeding value estimates is clearly defined contemporary groups. A contemporary group is a group of animals that are subjected to the same environmental conditions, in other words they were born in the same herd, year and season and they received exactly the same diet and treatment. After adjustment for known effects, such as sex and age of the dam are made, remaining differences between animals are due to genetics and is it possible to estimate breeding values for the trait based on those differences. The heavier calves in a contemporary group for birth weight will, for example, get the highest birth weight breeding values.

Sometimes contemporary groups are not correctly compiled, such as poor or incorrectly defined seasons, too large age variation, animals of one group moved to another and animals assigned to the wrong management group. These cause environmental effects to be wrongly attributed to genetics. For example, if calves raised on a farm with good pasture are placed in the same contemporary group as calves raised on a farm with poor pastures, the weaning indexes of calves on the good farm will all be high and they will get high breeding values, and vice versa for the other group. These breeding values are obviously not a true indication of their genetic ability.


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wees en sal hulle hoë teelwaardes kry, en omgekeerd vir die ander groep. Daardie teelwaardes is dan natuurlik nie 'n ware aanduiding van hul genetiese vermoë nie. Wanneer hierdie kalwers egter vir ander eienskappe (byvoorbeeld speengewig) gemeet word, of as hulle nageslag geweeg word, sal die teelwaardes verander en 'n meer korrekte aanduiding van hul genetiese vermoë gee.Kontemporêre groepe moet dus op so 'n wyse gedefiniëer word dat die speelveld gelyk is: omgewingsinvloede moet so na as moontlik aan dieselfde wees vir alle diere binne 'n bepaalde groep, uitgesonder daardie effekte waaarvoor daar aanpassings gemaak word (byvoorbeeld geslag en moederouderdom) in die evalueringsmodel. Korrek gedefiniëerde kontemporêre groepe saam met goeie genetiese koppelings tussen groepe, verseker dat BLUP die genetiese- en omgewingseffekte effektief kan skei binne 'n bepaalde groep.

Geboortegewig Groepkode

Vir BLUP ontledings van geboortegewigte, word kalwers tans in kontemporêre groepe ingedeel volgens kudde en geboortedatums van die kalwers. Tyd en ondervinding het egter geleer dat hierdie prosedure nie in alle gevalle voldoende is nie, en dat dit meer akkuraat deur die teler self gedoen kan word. Die huidige sisteem maak byvoorbeeld nie voorsiening vir kalwers wat swaarder of ligter as ander kalwers is bloot omdat hulle moeders op 'n ander plaas of in 'n ander bestuursgroep (met beter of slegter voeding as die res) was nie. Hoewel die huidige sisteem wel kalfseisoen in ag neem, is dit nie altyd voldoende om geboortegewig verskille tussen kalwers wat vroeg of laat in die kalfseisoen gebore is in ag te neem nie.

Telers kan nou self die geboortegewig kontemporêre groepe saamstel, ongeag wanneer die kalfseisoen van sy kudde presies begin en eindig. Dit word eenvoudig en maklik gedoen deur 'n nuwe veld, naamlik die geboortegewig groepkode in te vul saam met die geboortegewig van kalwers.Om dit vir 'n teler te vergemaklik om verstaanbare, unieke kontemporêre groepe saam stel, word die Geboortegewig Groepkode as volg opgemaak uit die jaar-, seisoen- en plaas/bestuursgroep:

*In die **eerste twee karakters** word die **jaar** waarin (die meeste van) die betrokke groep kalwers gebore is ingevul, byvoorbeeld "11" vir kalwers in 2011 gebore en "12" vir kalwers in 2012 gebore.
*In die **volgende twee karakters** word 'n kode ingevul vir die **seisoen** waarin die betrokke groep kalwers gebore is. Op grond van onlangse navorsing oor die invloed van maand van geboorte op geboortegewig, beveel ons aan dat **dieselfde seisoenkode toegeken word aan kalwers wat se ouderdom nie meer as twee maande verskil nie.** Indien 'n kalfseisoen byvoorbeeld 90 dae lank is, gee dan een seisoenkode vir die kalwers wat in die eerste 45 dae gebore is en 'n volgende seisoenkode vir die kalwers wat die laaste 45 dae gebore is. Vir hierdie doel gee ons die volgende agt seisoenkodes voor waaruit jy kan kies:

• Let asseblief op dat die maande van aangrensende seisoene oorvleuel. Dit is om voorsiening te maak dat jy die betrokke seisoenkode(e) kan kies volgens jou spesifieke kalfseisoen.

When these calves are measured for other traits or their progeny are weighed, the breeding values will change and will give a more correct indication of their genetic ability. Contemporary groups should thus be defined in such a way that the playing field is equal: environmental effects should be as close as possible to the same for all animals within a particular group, excluding those effects for which adjustments are made (e.g. sex and age of dam) in the evaluation model. Correctly defined contemporary groups together with good genetic links between groups will ensure that BLUP can effectively differentiate between the genetic and environmental effects within a particular group.

Birth Weight Group Code

For BLUP analysis of birth weights, calves are currently divided into contemporary groups according to herd and birth dates of the calves. However, time and experience has shown that this procedure is not always sufficient, and that it can be done more accurately by the producer himself. For example, the current system does not make provision for calves in the same herd that are heavier or lighter than other calves simply because their mothers were on another farm or in another management group (with better or worse food than the rest). Although the current system does take calving season into account, it is not always sufficient to account for differences between calves born either early or late in the calving season.

Breeders can now define the birth weight contemporary groups themselves, regardless of when exactly the calving season in his herd begin and end. It is simply and easily done by filling in a new field, the birth weight group code with the birth weight of calves.

In order for a breeder to compile understandable, unique contemporary groups, the Birth Weight Group Code is composed of the year, season and farm/management group as follows:

* In the **first two characters** the year of birth for most of the relevant group of calves is entered, for example "11" for calves born in 2011 and "12" for calves born in 2012.
* In the **next two characters** a code is entered for the **season** in which the group of calves is born. Based on recent research on the influence of month of birth on birth weight, we recommend that the **same season code is allocated to calves with age differences of not more than two months.** If a calving season is for example 90 days, the calves born in the first 45 days should receive one season code and a subsequent season code for the calves born in the second 45 days. For this purpose we give the following eight season codes for you to choose from:

* Please note that the months of adjacent seasons overlap. This is to enable you to choose the relevant season code(s) that suits your specific calving season. If your calves for example are born from 1 September to 30 November, then enter season code "ES" for calves born 1 Sep - 15 Oct and season code "LS" for calves born 16 Oct - 30 Nov.
• In the **last two characters** a free-choice code should be entered for the **farm and/or management group,** for

Indien jou kalwers byvoorbeeld van 1 September tot 30 November gebore word, dan gee jy seisoenkode "VL" vir die kalwers gebore 1 Sep – 15 Okt en seisoenkode "LL" vir die kalwers gebore 16 Okt – 30 Nov. Let ook op dat die Vroeë Somer seisoen die enigste seisoen is waar kalwers gebore in twee verskillende jare in dieselfde seisoengroep kan wees, byvoorbeeld kalwers gebore in Desember 2010 en Januarie 2011 se groepkode sal 10VS.. wees.
* In die **laaste twee karakters** word 'n vry-keuse kode ingevul vir die **plaas en/of bestuursgroep,** byvoorbeeld UA vir die kalwers van die plaas Uitkyk waar die koeie op Aangeplante weiding geloop het en UV vir die kalwers van die plaas Uitkyk waar die koeie op Veld weiding geloop het.

SEISOEN	KODE	KALWERS GEBORE IN MAANDE*
Vroeë Lente	VL	Augustus, September, Oktober
Laat Lente	LL	Oktober, November, Desember
Vroeë Somer	VS	November, Desember, Januarie
Laat Somer	LS	Januarie, Februarie, Maart
Vroeë Herfs	VH	Februarie, Maart, April
Laat Herfs	LH	April, Mei, Junie
Vroeë Winter	VW	Mei, Junie, Julie
Laat Winter	LW	Julie, Augustus, September

Voorbeeld
Kom ons gee 'n voorbeeld om bogenoemde te illustreer: 'n Teler met die naam Piet het twee plase, plaas B by Bethlehem en plaas E by Escourt. Op die Bethlehem plaas loop die koeie die hele kalfseisoen op aangeplante weiding en op die Escourt plaas op natuurlike weiding. Op die Bethlehem plaas kalf die koeie van 1 September tot 31 Oktober (2 maande). Op die Escourt plaas kalf die koeie van 1 September tot 30 November (3 maande). Die kalwers wat later in die seisoen op die Escourt plaas gebore word, is swaarder as die kalwers wat vroeër in die seisoen gebore word. Vir kalwers gebore in 2011 gaan Piet se Geboortegewig Groepkodes as volg daar uitsien:

* 11VLBA – 20**11** se **V**roeë **L**ente kalwers gebore 1 Sep – 30 Okt op die **B**ethlehem plaas op **A**angeplante weiding
* 11VLEV – 20**11** se **V**roeë **L**ente kalwers gebore 1 Sep – 15 Okt op die **E**scourt plaas op natuurlike **V**eld
* 11LLEV – 20**11** se **L**aat **L**ente kalwers gebore 16 Okt – 30 Nov op die **E**scourt plaas op natuurlike **V**eld

Hou in gedagte:
*Die invul van 'n Geboortegewig Groepkode is tans nie verpligtend op INTERGIS nie, maar telers word sterk aangeraai om, waar moontlik, dit aan te teken indien kalwers by geboorte geweeg word.
*Die maksimum ouderdomsvariasie wat toegelaat word vir kalwers met dieselfde Geboortegewig Groepkode is 60 dae.
*Slegs kalwers wat in dieselfde omgewing en tydperk gebore word, hoort in dieselfde groep. Waak egter ook daarteen om kalwers onnodig in klein kontemporêre groepies te verdeel. Probeer dus groepe so groot as moontlik te hou, mits die omgewing dieselfde is vir almal in groep. Indien 'n groep van 50 kalwers wat in dieselfde kalfseisoen gebore is byvoorbeeld in twee kontemporêre groepe verdeel moet word as gevolg van 'n seisoenseffek, is dit beter om twee groepe van ongeveer 25 kalwers elk te maak as om een groep van 48 kalwers en een van 2 kalwers te maak. (Poog om, sover moontlik, minstens 5 kalwers van 2 vaders saam in 'n groep te plaas).

example FP for the calves from the farm Fairview where the cows are on Planted Pastures and FN for the calves from the farm Fairview where the cows are on Natural Pasture.

SEASON	CODE	CALVES BORN IN MONTHS*
Early Spring	ES	August, September, October
Late Spring	LS	October, November, December
Early Summer	EU	November, December, January
Late Summer	LU	January, February, March
Early Autumn	EA	February, March, April
Late Autumn	LA	April, May, June
Early Winter	EW	May, June, July
Late Winter	LW	July, August, September

Example
Let us give an example to illustrate the above: A breeder named Peter has two farms, farm B at Bethlehem and farm E at Escourt. At the Bethlehem farm the cows are the entire calving season on planted pasture and on the farm at Escourt on natural pasture. On the Bethlehem farm cows calve from 1 September to 31 October (2 months). On the Escourt farm cows calve from 1 September to 30 November (3 months). The calves born later in the season on the Escourt farm are heavier than the calves born earlier in the season. For calves born in 2011, Peter's Birth Weight Group Codes will be as follows:

* 11ESBP - 20**11** **E**arly **S**pring calves born 1 Sep - 30 Oct at the **B**ethlehem farm on **P**lanted pasture
* 11ESEN - 20**11** **E**arly **S**pring calves born 1 Sep - 15 Oct at the **E**scourt farm on **N**aturally pasture
* 11LSEV - 20**11** **L**ate **S**pring calves born 16 Oct - 30 Nov on the **E**scourt farm on **N**atural pastures

Keep in mind:
* The completion of a Birth Weight Group Code is not mandatory at present, but breeders are strongly encouraged to record it, where possible, when calves are weighed at birth.
* The maximum age variation allowed for calves with the same Birth Weight Group Code is 60 days.
* Only calves born in the same environment and time period should be in the same group. Please beware not to divide calves unnecessarily into small groups. Try to keep groups as large as possible, provided the environment is the same for all calves in the group. If a group of 50 calves born in the same calving season is for example divided into two contemporary groups due to a seasonal effect, it is better to make two groups of approximately 25 calves each than to make one group of 48 calves and a second group of 2 calves. (Try to have, wherever possible, at least 5 calves from 2 sires together in a group).

BeefPro
In the next BeefPro update provision will be made on the Calving screen for the Birth Weight Group Code field. Provision will also be made for a new settings function (at Settings> Birth Weight Group Code) where the breeder himself can compile Birth Weight Group Codes with the above as guidelines. He can then choose a default code for a particular group of calves (similar to the Calving Seasons settings) and this code is then entered on the Calving screen in the Birth Weight Group Code field.

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BeefPro
In die volgende opgradering van BeefPro sal daar voorsiening gemaak word op die Kalwingskerm vir ’n nuwe Geboortegewig Groepkode veld. Daar sal ook voorsiening wees vir ’n nuwe opstelling funksie (by Opstellings > Geboortegewig Groepkode) waar die teler self Geboortegewig Groepkodes kan opstel met bogenoemde as riglyne. Hy kan dan ’n verstek kode kies vir ’n betrokke groep kalwers (soortgelyk aan die Kalfseisoen opstellings) en hierdie kode word dan ingevul op die Kalwingskerm in die Geboortegewig Groepkode veld.

Logix
In Logix het ons op die nuwe Geboortekennisgewing skerm voorsiening gemaak vir ‘n Geboortegewig Groepkode veld waar die kode ingevul kan word met bogenoemde riglyne.

Geboortekennisgewingsboeke
Telersgenootskappe sal, wanneer hulle nuwe geboortekennisgewingboeke druk, die Geboortegewig Groepkode moet byvoeg. Intussen kan telers wat nog ou boeke gebruik en die Geboortegewig Groepkode wil invul, met SA Stamboek skakel om te hoor waar op die vorm hulle dit kan byvoeg.

Historiese data
Die nuwe Geboortegewig Groepkode sal slegs geld vir kalwers gebore vanaf die 2011 lenteseisoen. Historiese data kan ongelukkig nie verander word nie. Let wel dat hierdie slegs ’n verfyning van die huidige stelsel is en dat daar nie verwag word dat dit ’n groot effek op huidige diere se teelwaardes sal hê nie, omdat teelwaardes in elk geval gedurig effens verander soos wat ander eienskappe of nageslag gemeet word.

---ooo---

Logix
In Logix we made provision on the new Birth Notification screen for a Birth Weight Group Code field where the code can be filled with the above guidelines.

Birth Notification Books
When they print new Birth Notification books, breeders’ societies will have to add the Birth Weight Group Code on the form. Meanwhile, farmers who are still using old books and want to record the Birth Weight Group Code should contact SA Stud Book to get instructions on where on the form they should record it.

Historical data
The new Birth Weight Group Code only applies to calves born from the 2011 spring season. Historical data can unfortunately not be changed. Please note that this is only a refinement of the present system and that it is not expected to have a large effect on the present animals’ breeding values, because breeding values change, in any case, as other traits or progeny are recorded.

---ooo---

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Sout	350 kg
Totaal	957 kg

Samestelling:	
Ruproteïen	47,5%
Vanaf NPN	95,6%
ME (MJ/kg)	3,8%
Kalsium (Ca)	4,1%
Fosfaat (P)	2,0%
Swael (S)	0,8%
Aanbevole inname:	350-500 g/dag

* Voergraad Ureum kan lei tot ureum vergiftiging indien dit onoordeelkundig gebruik word. Lees aanwysings op sak noukeurig.

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