

farmer's weekly

SERVING AGRICULTURE SINCE 1911

10 & 17 APRIL 2026

FARMERSWEEKLY.CO.ZA

FOCUS ON TULI

INDIGENOUS CATTLE THAT PROSPER IN AFRICA



Shashi Tuli Stud continues its legacy of excellence in cattle breeding

The stud produces functional, adaptable, and commercially efficient Tuli cattle suited to modern beef production systems.

The Shashi Tuli Stud was founded by Margi Harvey in 2014 as a tribute to two men who played a defining role in the development of the Tuli breed in Southern Africa: her late father-in-law Len Harvey, and her late husband Don Harvey.

The Harvey family's connection to the Tuli breed stretches back decades. Len was instrumental in the early development and registration of the Tuli breed in 1962, helping establish one of Southern Africa's most respected indigenous beef breeds. His outstanding contribution to agriculture in Zimbabwe was recognised internationally when he was awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1969.

Today, Shashi Tuli Stud continues this legacy in the Eastern Cape, focusing on the breeding of functional, adaptable, and commercially efficient Tuli cattle suited to modern beef production systems.

Margi leads the operation with the support of her daughter Joanne, her son-in-law Russel Kruger, and her son Daryl and his wife Paula Harvey, while Don Schwartz plays an integral role in the day-to-day management of the farm. Together, the team remains committed to building on the Harvey family's long-standing tradition of excellence in cattle breeding.

A BREED DESIGNED FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Tuli breed, developed in Zimbabwe, is widely recognised as one of the most adaptable and functionally efficient beef breeds in Southern Africa.

Tuli cattle were developed through rigorous natural selection under extensive African conditions, resulting in animals that are exceptionally well suited to challenging environments.

Key characteristics of the breed include:

- Exceptional fertility;
- Ease of calving;
- Strong maternal ability;



The Tuli was developed in Zimbabwe and is adapted superbly to Southern African conditions. SUPPLIED

- Adaptability to heat and parasites;
- Efficient growth on natural veld;
- High-quality beef production.

Across Southern Africa, well-managed Tuli herds regularly achieve:

- Weaning percentages of 85% to 95%;
- Calving intervals averaging 365 to 395 days;
- Birthweights typically between 30kg and 35kg, contributing to excellent calving ease;
- Weaning weights of 200kg to 230kg under veld conditions;
- Average daily gains in feedlots of 1,4kg to 1,7kg per day.

These characteristics allow producers to maintain high productivity with relatively low input costs, making the breed particularly attractive for commercial beef operations.

BREEDING PHILOSOPHY

At Shashi Tuli Stud, the breeding philosophy centres around functional

efficiency rather than extremes.

The objective is to produce cattle that perform consistently under real-world farming conditions, rather than animals bred solely for show-ring traits.

Selection criteria focus on:

- Fertility and reproductive efficiency;
- Structural soundness and longevity;
- Moderate frame size and efficient growth;
- Strong maternal traits;
- Adaptability to extensive grazing systems.

Particular emphasis is placed on fertility, widely regarded as the most economically important trait in beef production. A productive cow must be capable of producing and weaning a healthy calf every year while maintaining condition on natural veld.

DATA-DRIVEN GENETICS

While traditional stockmanship remains essential, Shashi Tuli Stud also integrates modern performance recording and estimated breeding values (EBVs) into its breeding programme.

EBVs allow breeders to evaluate genetic potential beyond what is visible, particularly in areas such as:

- Growth performance;
- Maternal traits;
- Calving ease;
- Fertility indicators.



SHASHI
— TULI STUD —

This combination of visual appraisal, performance data, and functional testing ensures that bulls sold from the stud carry reliable and predictable genetics.

For buyers, this provides greater confidence in the long-term value of the animals they introduce into their herds.



Bulls sold from the Shashi Tuli Stud carry reliable and predictable genetics and achieve excellent results in crossbreeding. SUPPLIED

ADAPTABILITY TO EASTERN CAPE CONDITIONS

The Eastern Cape presents a range of environmental challenges, including variable rainfall patterns, fluctuating grazing quality, and parasite pressures.

The Tuli breed's natural resilience makes it particularly well suited to these conditions.

At Shashi Tuli Stud, herd management focuses on:

- Efficient veld utilisation;
 - Carefully balanced nutritional programmes;
 - Preventative herd health management;
 - Detailed record-keeping and performance monitoring.
- These practices support optimal animal

health, fertility, and productivity, while ensuring the herd remains well adapted to the natural environment.

FERTILITY: THE FOUNDATION OF PROFITABILITY

In commercial beef systems, fertility drives profitability. The stud prioritises cattle capable of maintaining high conception rates, short calving intervals, and strong weaning percentages.

The goal is simple: a productive cow that raises a healthy calf every year with minimal intervention.

Balanced milk production is also an important consideration. Excessively high milk production can increase maintenance requirements, particularly under extensive conditions.

For this reason, Shashi Tuli Stud selects genetics that provide sufficient milk for strong calf growth while maintaining cow efficiency.

CROSSBREEDING AND HYBRID VIGOUR

One of the greatest strengths of the Tuli breed lies in its performance in crossbreeding systems.

When used in commercial herds, Tuli bulls commonly contribute:

- Improved fertility;
- Strong hybrid vigour;
- Higher calf survival rates;
- Improved adaptability;
- Good weaning weights.

These benefits make Tuli genetics particularly valuable for producers seeking to improve overall herd efficiency and resilience.

FEEDLOT PERFORMANCE AND MEAT QUALITY

Tuli-influenced calves are also well regarded within the feedlot sector.

Their moderate frame size and efficient metabolism often result in:

- Consistent average daily gains of 1,4kg to 1,7kg per day;
- Efficient feed conversion ratios;
- Well-balanced carcasses with

good dressing percentages. Combined with the breed's naturally calm temperament, this results in low-stress handling and improved meat quality for the end consumer.

SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE FARMING

Sustainability remains a key focus of the Shashi Tuli Stud operation.

The breed's natural efficiency allows producers to maintain productive herds while minimising environmental impact.

Management practices prioritise:

- Responsible grazing management;
- Efficient use of natural resources;
- Disease prevention and biosecurity;
- Long-term environmental stewardship.

By combining adapted genetics with sustainable farming practices, the operation aims to contribute positively to the long-term future of South African beef production.

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF THE TULI BREED

In addition to producing quality breeding animals, Shashi Tuli Stud remains committed to supporting the broader agricultural community.

The team actively shares knowledge and experience with fellow farmers, particularly those interested in introducing Tuli genetics into their own herds.

CONCLUSION

For commercial cattle producers, profitability ultimately depends on fertility, adaptability, and efficiency. These are the traits that have defined the Tuli breed for more than half a century.

At Shashi Tuli Stud, the focus remains firmly on breeding cattle that deliver consistent results under real farming conditions – animals that calve easily, raise strong weaners, and thrive in Southern Africa's demanding environments.

By combining proven bloodlines, modern genetic evaluation, and practical stockmanship, Shashi Tuli Stud continues to build on the Harvey family's legacy, supplying bulls that add real value to commercial herds and help farmers produce more kilograms of beef per hectare with fewer inputs.

*Phone Russel Kruger on
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russelk@redalert.co.za.*



MAY			
NEXT GEN SALE	Kimberley Veemark, Northern Cape	8 May	POSTPONED 3106
ALPHA OMEGA	Essex, Burgersdorp, Eastern Cape	27 May	Alwyn Marx 083 448 7870 Gert Schmidt 084 941 1395
JUNE			
NONNIE & LANGLYF	Avoca, Reitz, Free State	2 June	Cornelis Rautenbach 082 371 4390 Albie Rautenbach 082 959 5759
JULY			
GOUWSBERG	Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng	24 July	Werner Gouws 082 853 4483
AUGUST			
SHASHI	Shashi Farm, Macleantown, Eastern Cape	5 August	Margi Harvey 082 569 2074 Russel Kruger 082 558 9740
NATIONAL	Bloemfontein, Free State	14 August	Dave Marais 072 205 3816 Zippo Lamprecht 082 396 9071
HBH	Denwood Farm, Dordrecht, Eastern Cape	26 August	Ed Clark 082 573 0223 Ian Sheard 082 410 1712
SEPTEMBER			
CASMAN	Boshof Veekrale, Free State	4 September	Dave Marais 072 205 3816 Casper Kriel 082 805 0926
DONKERHOEK	Donkerhoek Farm, Britstown, Northern Cape	10 September	Dave Marais 072 205 3816 Ben Raath 083 468 6176
TIPTREE & AVONDALE	Hobson & Co, Makhanda, Eastern Cape	15 September	Stephen Mains-Sheard 082 323 4286 Dave Mullins 082 299 7953
GLEN HEATH	Glen Heath Farm, Middelburg, Eastern Cape	23 September	Gordon Gilfillan 083 545 8653 Danie Lombard 082 463 8822
OCTOBER			
GO WEST	Kimberley Veemark, Northern Cape	16 October	Dave Marais 072 205 3816 Colin Raath 082 320 2863
NOVEMBER			
MALU	Schweizer-Reneke, North West	28 November	Dave Marais 072 205 3816 Helena Malherbe 083 261 3106

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SHASHI

TULI STUD

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RUSSEL

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Award-winning Tuli breeder lays out four factors for success

Of the various Sanga-descended breeds we now have in South Africa, the Tuli is an established, reliable breed known for its proven beef genetics, and is now found in stud and commercial cattle operations nationwide.

Christo Rothmann spoke to **Henning Naudé** about the four key factors for running an award-winning Tuli stud under challenging conditions.

When the Agricultural Research Council announced the winner of the 2025 National Beef Cattle Improvement

Herd of the Year award, the recipient was not from a cattle farming region, but an area rather known for its small-stock.

Christo Rothmann, operating Bushman's Mountain Tuli out of the Nama-Karoo near Venterstad in the Eastern Cape, says that a need arose to move away from sheep due to stock theft and high concentration of predatory animals. This left him facing an enormous challenge: maintaining cattle in high-heat, low-feed-availability conditions. The answer: Tuli cattle. Rothmann established the Bushman's Mountain

Tuli stud on his farm, Dankbaar, in 2004 after evaluating several breeds, including Bonsmara, Beefmaster, and Nguni, against his primary criterion of calving yearly and producing cattle that have consistent profitability regardless of what the Karoo conditions might throw at them.

"My operation relies on a set of requirements that allow you to identify and eliminate cattle that will not produce in the long run. As time goes by, your herd adapts, and you are left with the top genetics that are incredibly adaptable and keep producing calves year after year," he says.

Rothmann explains that there are four breeding goals that he must accomplish for the stud to remain at optimal production: keeping a stringent inter-calving period, weaning heavy

RIGHT:

Christo Rothmann of Bushman's Mountain Tuli Stud on his farm Dankbaar near Venterstad. Rothmann has now entered his 21st year as a Tuli breeder.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



calves, getting calves up to feedlot condition, and balancing maintenance costs with output to remain profitable.

SELECTIVE BREEDING

Rothmann follows a strict breeding programme that ensures only the most productive cows and heifers remain. To achieve this, he implements one breeding season where calving must occur between 1 October and 31 December.

“If a cow calves on the 1st of January, I remove it and send it to the abattoir. For the operation to remain in balance, the herd must produce in harmony,” he says.

He adds that his inter-calving period must remain under 385 days.

His breeding programme does not just aim to retain the most productive female animals, but also focuses heavily on bull characteristics. Rothmann mates all his cows and heifers in one large camp with all his breeding bulls, using exclusively natural mating.

Rothmann’s herd currently consists of 250 bulls at various stages of growth, 200 females held back for further breeding, and an additional 250 females currently in calf.

“The bulls compete to mate the females. The females also seek an ‘alpha-male’ among the bulls who can produce offspring with the best characteristics. Facilitating this can allow you



to do DNA tests to determine which bulls are actively mating each year,” he says.

Dankbaar Farm is about 8 000ha in size, with camps averaging 600ha. When the mating season arrives, the bulls must endure harsh terrain and steep elevation to seek out females. This plays a

crucial role in determining which bulls have the capability to persevere in challenging conditions to mate, and therefore possess the desirable bull characteristics for further breeding.

Rothmann applies a similar method to his feeding programme. He utilises high-density grazing as an additional factor that contributes to seeking out the hardest, most reliable Tulus. Despite the size of his camps, he grazes large herds within these 600ha camps with an average stocking rate of 12 LSU/ha that allows him to not only retain soil health, but also determine which animals are most determined to seek out pasture.

Rothmann does not provide any supplementary feed and only provides a salt lick with trace minerals.

Due to the constant rotation of stud animals in Rothmann’s herd, traceability and measurable evaluations are crucial. He has created his own database, which contains records and metrics for growth and feedlot performance values gathered from Phase D testing.

Rothmann uses these metrics to determine which animals are retained and which are sold. He immediately markets about 40% of his male cattle to the feedlot, and the remaining 60% are then put through Phase D testing, during which at least 5% are removed based on results. The remaining 55% are then grown out up to two-and-a-half years old, at which point Rothmann puts them through a selection process, and another 5% are removed to be sold. On average, he ends up marketing 50% of the males he started with. His female cattle go through the same process, but Rothmann sells about 75% of his females to the commercial and stud markets.

‘AS TIME GOES BY, YOUR HERD ADAPTS, AND YOU ARE LEFT WITH THE TOP GENETICS THAT ARE INCREDIBLY ADAPTABLE’

In addition to Phase D metrics, he utilises best linear unbiased prediction (BLUP) figures to provide a data foundation to evaluate animals against benchmarks that extend beyond his own herd, and to identify breeding values in prospective purchases. “Data within my own herd is easily accessible

FAST FACTS

The Nama-Karoo region can see summer temperatures of over 40°C, while winter temperatures can fall well below 0°C.

The first Tuli cattle were imported to South Africa in 1976 from Zimbabwe, owing to the Tuli breeding project headed by Len Harvey.

Through years of selective breeding, Tuli cattle are now naturally polled.





ABOVE:

Utilising a high-density grazing strategy, Rothmann implements competitive grazing as a tool to identify the most resilient cattle in his herd.

through the personal record keeping I implement, but BLUP plays a crucial role as a comparative tool with other Tuli herds and other cattle breeds. I mainly utilise BLUP figures when considering prospective genetics I want to buy in," he says.

Rothmann adds that the most important BLUP figures are closely tied to his breeding goals, which mainly focus on optimal birthing, weaning weight ratios in relation to the dam, and production indices that use cow values to help determine how productive the offspring will be.

WEANING RATIO AND CONDITIONING

Rothmann's cows must wean calves at more than 50% of their own body weight at 205 days. He says this benchmark is feasible due to the Tuli's maternal characteristics and their adaptability despite varying feed availability.

The average weaning weights have settled at 210kg for heifer calves and 240kg for bull calves. He highlights that these numbers were maintained through an eight-year drought that reduced many surrounding operations to a shadow of their former size. The mortality remained low throughout and he now maintains a weaning percentage of 92%.

"Calves must reach feedlot condition at weaning; you are simply not competitive with the market average. Your income-per-kilogram metric is essential," he says.

Rothmann adds that if his weaner calves reach condition, the feedlot pays a premium for above-average feedlot performance and average daily gain. He adds that this is crucial to remain profitable and plays an important role in constantly striving to improve the herd's capabilities as a top-performing feedlot beef breed.

MAINTENANCE AND FUTURE GOALS

The last of Rothmann's foundational goals entails finding a careful balance between input and production output. His drive to keep a strict calving season allows for zero discrepancies in overall weaner growth progress, and ensures that any unproductive cattle in the herd can be removed before they become a potential risk factor in the future.

"If your operation does not produce every year and reach the minimal growth conditions, your profitability is immediately affected. Not just in the short term; it can have a ripple effect in the future. We rely on a strict inter-calving period and a competitive environment to bring the best genetics forward. The pursuit to identify and utilise the best of what the Tuli breed has to offer allows us to farm in harsh conditions without compromise," he explains.

Rothmann hopes to better optimise his high-density grazing approach in the near future, with plans to add more water sources and expand camps to facilitate better grazing availability, while retaining a competitive factor for his breeding season. His future marketing goals will allow him to host his own online auction, where fellow farmers can experience some of the best Tuli genetics on offer.

Rothmann takes a unique approach to producing hardy, adaptable Tulus that allows him to continue striving for optimal growth and competitive breeding even in the most challenging conditions.

Email Christo Rothmann at christo@sizanani.com. **FW**

RIGHT:

Rothmann applies a strict calving season of three months. Any cows that calf even a day late are sent to the abattoir.



Profitable cattle for the Karoo

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SA Stud Book Elite Silver

2022

SA Stud Book Elite Gold

SA Tuli Herd of the Year

2023

SA Stud Book Elite Double Gold

SA Tuli Herd of the Year

ARC National Beef Cattle Improvement Herd of the Year finalist

2024

SA Stud Book Elite Double Gold

SA Stud Book Elite Northern Cape Regional winner (all breeds)

SA Tuli Herd of the Year

2025

SA Stud Book Elite Double Gold

SA Stud Book Elite Northern Cape Regional winner (all breeds)

SA Tuli Herd of the Year

ARC National Beef Cattle Improvement Herd of the Year Winner



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Zimbabwean farmers reshape Tuli breeding

Zimbabwe's indigenous Tuli cattle are gaining ground as breeders prioritise resilience over sheer size. Leaders like **Anne Cooke** and **Phillip Reed** use genomics and artificial insemination to refine this fertile, docile breed. Perfectly adapted to the Highveld's sourveld, the Tuli offers a low-maintenance, cost-saving solution for sustainable Southern African beef production. **Clemence Manyukwe** reports.

Small beginnings grow into a lifelong farming vocation



BELOW:

Lack of land, especially after the country's agrarian reform, restricts Tuli breeders' operations in Zimbabwe.

PHOTOS: ANNE COOKE

When Anne Cooke married in 1996 and relocated to her husband's farm, she soon realised that she had a passion for farming. Her husband, Kevin, suggested to her that they buy 20 Tuli-cross heifers and a bull.

Cooke, chairperson of the Zimbabwe Herd Book and the Tuli Cattle Federation of Southern Africa, says that what started as a way to keep her busy grew into a lifelong vocation, and the birth of her Zimbo Tuli Stud.

The Tuli, indigenous to Zimbabwe, thrives in the country's harsh environment. According to Cooke, there are currently 2 800 registered animals in Zimbabwe, and 26 breeders.

Cooke says her husband was the manager at Dunottar Farm in Harare South when they got married. Their herd of 20 Tuli-cross cattle were kept on her father-in-law's farm in Featherstone, Mashonaland East, before they were moved to the Cookes' leased farm in Beatrice.

After losing the lease on that farm, they eventually moved back to Harare South, where they now run 150 breeding cows and 300 head in total.

A LIFE SHAPED BY TULI

Cooke says breeding pure Tulis has become her lifelong vocation, and is a calling that blends science, tradition, and resilience. She also says that she remains committed to strengthening the Tuli's place in Zimbabwe and across Southern Africa.

"The Tuli captured me from the beginning. Their adaptability, fertility, and gentle temperament made them a joy to work with and a perfect fit for Zimbabwe's climate. Over the years, my herd grew steadily, guided by careful selection, performance recording, and a commitment to genetic diversity," she says.

Cooke uses real-time ultrasound scanning and enhanced estimated breeding values in her operation. "These became part of my routine,





LEFT:
The Tuli is naturally adapted to Zimbabwe's harsh environment.

ensuring that each generation was stronger and more resilient than the last," she says.

Cooke calls careful genetic selection her turning point. This leads not only to thriving cattle, but to a legacy built on efficiency, fertility, and sustainability. She says estimated breeding values have allowed her to select bulls with larger scrotal circumference at an early age, which correlates with early maturity in the female offspring of those bulls.

Through fixed time artificial insemination, the Cookes have identified bulls with shorter gestation length in their female offspring, allowing for better fertility.

Digital data recording, genomics, and structured performance analyses guide Cooke's selection decisions.

According to Cooke, success is measured not only in herd size, but in performance indicators, such as fertility rates, inter-calving intervals, growth, and carcass quality. "Data analysis is my compass, helping me identify

top-performing animals and make informed breeding choices," she says. Cooke says managing nutrition and parasites starts with breed choice.

NUTRITION MANAGEMENT

Zimbabwe's indigenous Tuli is naturally resilient. Supplementation is only required when conditions demand it, making her operation sustainable and practical.

In winter, to sustain herd condition until the rain returns, nutrition is strategically managed by utilising crop residue, bolstered by targeted protein supplementation.

MANY CHALLENGES

As with all farmers, Cooke faces many challenges. "Zimbabwe's land reform meant that we lost any form of controlled paddocks, and at times we have had to move cattle long distances," she says.

"However, the adaptability of the Tuli has allowed us to continue despite these upheavals. Border closures due to foot-and-mouth disease has also restricted trade, and maintaining breed diversity requires constant effort."

She adds that she meets these obstacles with resilience, advocating for policy alignment, encouraging breeders to adopt modern tools, and ensuring indigenous genetics remain part of the country's national herd.

Cooke says beyond the science and the strategy, there is a simple joy that keeps her grounded.

"When the world is driving us crazy, there is no better place to unwind than out in the veld, sundowner in hand, surrounded by my cattle.

"It is in those quiet moments that I am reminded why I chose this life," she says.

FAST FACTS

The Tuli is indigenous to Zimbabwe, and has naturally evolved to thrive on poor-quality sourveld grazing where larger, imported breeds often struggle to maintain condition.

Zimbabwean studs utilise real-time ultrasound and DNA testing to verify parentage, and select for superior carcass quality and early maturity.

Top breeders like Phillip Reed achieve conception rates of more than 90% by using fixed time artificial insemination and strict culling of non-productive cows to ensure maximum efficiency.



LEFT:
Zimbabwean Tuli breeders often bring in South African genetics to refresh and strengthen their bloodlines.

How Tuli genetics decouple performance from climate stress

Stuart Burl of Mushangwe Estate in the Midlands has bought Tuli cattle from many top breeders, including Philip Reed (*see story on page 37*).

He started his cattle breeding journey with Charolais, but changed to Beefmaster, before finally settling on the Tuli, which he says is better adapted to the Highveld conditions of his farm.

Burl, whom has been farming since 2007, consistently achieves conception rates of between 80% and 90%, even during drought years. He currently runs 200 breeding cows on his farm, and 10 bulls. Burl says that the Tulis are valued for their calm, docile temperament, and are easy to manage, handle safely in pens, and cause fewer problems for workers.

He says the breed is also very relaxed compared to other breeds.

In the Highveld, Tulis maintain weight better than other breeds, and show better resistance to common pests, parasites and diseases. Regardless, Burl dips his cattle against ticks every week using a spray race. In terms of feed, Burl bales 20 000 hay bales every year for winter. He also has about 25ha planted to maize, which is used to make silage. The silage is stored for winter, and helps his cows maintain optimal condition.

Bulls are run with cows in January, February and March before they are removed from the cowherds. Cows are then allowed to gestate and recover from birth without the bulls present.

As Tulis are smaller than their European counterparts, the cows birth easily. Their lighter size also means they graze more gently on the Highveld's poorer sourveld grass, Burl adds.

Once born, pedigree calves are DNA tested

by Unistel in South Africa to confirm parentage. "I have about 70 full SP appendages, and many Tulis of A, B and C grade. Most of our herd is thus not yet a full pedigree Tuli, but we are getting there," he says.

Burl says he has specific bulls that run with the pedigree herd because he is a new breeder, and so his pedigree herd is still growing.

He says he has been bringing in different bloodlines to his farm, some of which he has bought at the national bull sale.

Some of these bloodlines include those from Odonia Tulis and KZ Tulis (both in Zimbabwe), and from Reed.

Cattle are kraaled at night, and receive hay and silage in their pens.



RIGHT:

Tulis are generally smaller than their European counterparts and the cows birth easily.

SUPPLIED

Tuli genetics leading Zimbabwe's promising beef revival

Philip Reed, owner of Anivai Tuli Stud, began breeding Tulis in 2010, and was attracted to the breed due to its productivity and valuable traits like fertility, hardiness, and adaptability.

Through the years, Reed has updated his stud, situated in the Midlands Province, with the use of artificial insemination and top South African and Zimbabwean Tuli genetics.

"As the Tuli comes from Zimbabwe, it is completely adaptable to our environment and it is one of the most fertile animals available to farmers. All of its good traits are money-saving traits to the farmer," he says.

Reed says there are some top commercial farmers whose primary cowherd includes Tuli-type cows that are crossed with Brahman and Beefmaster bulls.

He adds that the Tuli is an exceptional option for crossbreeding programmes, given the hybrid vigour it provides. Reed currently runs Tuli and red and grey Brahmans on his farm.

"We try and inseminate every cow every year. I use a lot of fixed-timed artificial insemination (FTAI) on my cows," he says.

Once a cow calves, she is provided with a supplemental ration to help her raise a healthy calf and conceive again quickly thereafter.

To keep ticks at bay, Reed dips his animals regularly. They are also dewormed twice a year, and receive all recommended vaccinations.

As in South Africa, foot-and-mouth disease is a pressing problem. "I've tried to overcome this by using double fencing and implementing strict biosecurity measures," he says. "Nothing is 100% foolproof, but every little bit helps.

He says the most significant investment he has made in his Tuli breeding programme is the use of FTAI, which he has been doing since 2013. FTAI uses a precise schedule of hormone treatments to synchronise the cycles of an entire group of cows, ensuring they all ovulated at the exact same moment. This allows a technician to inseminate the whole herd at a pre-set time.

He implements a strict selection process, which he says has allowed him to keep and breed his best animals every year. Out of every 70 in-calf cows, Reed's selection criteria only allows him to keep 50, thereby forcing him to eliminate the bottom 28% from his herd. "My herd has one of the lowest inter-calving periods in Zimbabwe, due to the good nutrition provided to them," he says. Their high fertility also plays a significant role in this. "We have always achieved very high conception rates of 88% or more in the Brahmans and 90% or more in the Tulis.

These results have allowed our herds to expand rapidly and we now have to limit the number of cows we have due to the lack of grazing.

"This has allowed for us to sell a bigger number of females, and we have concentrated on quality rather than quantity," says Reed.

When choosing animals to sell, Reed goes through all data and records, including growth performance.

Cows that are not in calf are usually selected at this point, but with conception rates higher than 90%, this pool is small. He then looks at growth performance of the calves (kilograms/day of weight gain).

"I then look at the inter-calving period of the cow. Once we have made that selection, I separate the chosen culls from the others. To limit the pool of cattle I keep even further, I then go through the herd and select based on the visual conformation of the cows. It is a very strict process and only the best get to remain," says Reed.

*Email Farmer's Weekly at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Zimbabwe Tulis. **FW***

BREEDING REGENERATION

"We aim to steward indigenous Tuli cattle genetics in harmony with nature."



Herlu Rautenbach +27 72 392 6340

carroll.tuli@gmail.com www.carrolltuli.com

Lichtenburg, North West



Learn more about us:

'Tuli can take beef production to the next level'

The Tuli beef cattle breed's remarkable fertility, extreme stamina and unique genetic composition make it a most excellent choice for beef production in Southern Africa. According to Tuli stud breeder **Dr Hannes Human** from Gobabis in Namibia, this indigenous breed, developed in Zimbabwe, is ideal for optimum production under strenuous African farming conditions. **Annelie Coleman** reports.

BELOW:

Tulis and Tuli crosses cope excellently with long-distance walking under extensive farming conditions and could easily traverse long distances between watering points and grazing areas while still maintaining top condition.

PHOTOS: DR HANNES HUMAN

The Tuli's excellent beef qualities, coupled with a docile nature and superior genetics specifically selected to successfully endure harsh African production conditions, have made the breed a prime choice for beef production with minimum input and optimum output. This is according to Dr Hannes Human, stud Tuli breeder from Namibia.

Human and his son Jürgen-Leigh run two Tuli studs in the Gobabis district. Hannes's Kapit-Yt stud is kept on the farm Ombu-Ondana, while Jürgen-Leigh's Whaddon stud is kept on Otjimukandi.

The two studs are run as part of a single business unity named Human Boerdery.

"The Tuli Cattle Breeders' Society of Namibia [Tuli Namibia] was officially established on 7 June 2010 in Windhoek and registered with the Animal Improvement Association and the Namibian Stud Breeders' Association. There are currently three breeders registered with the society. Applications from a further three breeders are currently awaited," Hannes explains.

Tuli Namibia also forms part of the Tuli Cattle Federation of Southern Africa. The federation was created to represent and





serve the needs of Tuli breeders, farmers and Tuli enthusiasts across the region.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTION

"The indefatigable Tuli represents the endurance and vigour shaped by thousands of years of evolution on the African continent. The development of the breed started in the 1940s in Zimbabwe. The objective was to develop an indigenous breed out of the local Sanga cattle that could succeed under the demanding and tough Southern African farming conditions. In 1955, the Tuli was registered as a Zimbabwean indigenous breed," says Jürgen-Leigh.

THE TULI IS KNOWN FOR ITS HIGH-QUALITY, TENDER, AND FINE-TEXTURED GRASSFED BEEF

Hannes adds: "We became involved with the breed at the end of 2009. In our search for Afrikaner bulls for crossbreeding with our South Devons, a good friend gave me some reading material about the Tuli and advised me to consider the breed.

"We ended up visiting Cornelis Rautenbach's stud in the Free State. The Tulus we bought from him formed the core of our herds, and the decision in favour of this outstanding breed was the best investment we could ever have made. From there on we never looked back. Later we also introduced genetics obtained from André Botes in North West, as well as Leslie Cook and Son, who run their Tulus in the Northern Cape."

STAMINA AND ENDURANCE

The true value of the Tuli came to the fore during the drought of 2023/24, which put

beef cattle producers in Namibia to the test. With an average rainfall of 120mm in two years, compared to an average of 380mm per annum, the country found itself in the grip of one of the worst droughts in 100 years.

However, the Tuli's adaptability, stamina, non-selective grazing habits and incomparable African genetic composition meant that the Human herds pulled through relatively unscathed. The fact the herds made it through the 2023/24 drought without any mortalities underpins the true value of the breed. An added bonus was the fact that the Humans continuously maintained a stocking rate of 1 LSU/16ha.

"The Tulus fared brilliantly throughout the drought. With a little more energy lick than normal, all the animals made it through the drought without any mortalities. That says a lot about the Tuli cattle breed. The fact that we maintained a sensible stocking rate also added to our Tulus' brilliant performance," says Hannes.

GROWING INTEREST IN THE BREED

Hannes and Jürgen-Leigh concede that the Tuli is still a relatively unknown and small breed in Namibia in terms of numbers. However, through ongoing promotion, such as participation in local shows, slaughter ox competitions and farmers' days, the breed is becoming more and more visible, resulting in a marked increase in interest.

A local farmer who introduced the Tuli to his herd told Hannes: "These lucky packet cattle [referring to the colour variations in the breed] is going to leave deep footprints in our country."

The Tuli comes in four basic coat colours: red, gold, ivory and dun.

WALKING ABILITY AND EASE OF CALVING

Most commercial cattle farmers in Namibia operate a weaner-steer farming system on a 50-50 basis. Depending on prices and rainfall,

ABOVE:

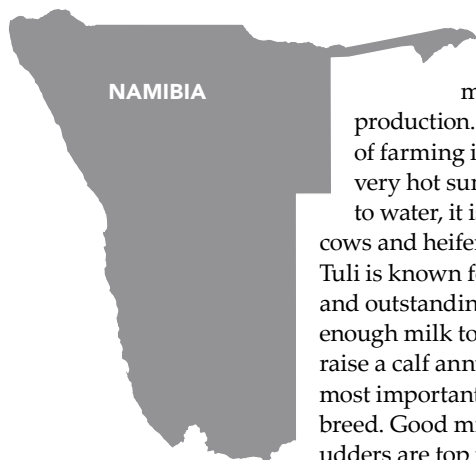
Tuli cows are outstanding mothers. Calving problems among Tulus are virtually unknown, and the cows have ample milk to successfully drop and raise a calf every year, even in less-than-ideal conditions.

FAST FACTS

The Tuli has been bred over decades to meet all the challenges nature can throw at them under Southern Africa's challenging farming conditions.

Tulus were bred from indigenous African cattle in order to develop animals with outstanding stamina, strong hybrid vigour and enough endurance to maintain top production under all possible conditions.

According to Dr Hannes Human, stud Tuli breeder from Namibia, the Tuli showed its mettle during the devastating drought that hit the country in 2023/24.



the ratio changes regularly. The communal sector is mainly focused on weaner production. Due to the extensive nature of farming in Namibia with large camps, very hot summers and long distances to water, it is extremely important that cows and heifers calve on their own. The Tuli is known for calving ease, small calves, and outstanding mothering abilities, with enough milk to comfortably drop and raise a calf annually. Fertility is one of the most important building blocks of the Tuli breed. Good milk capacity and well-formed udders are top priorities for breeders.

"The current national inter-calving period [ICP] of the Tuli breed stands at 434 days, but it should be borne in mind that breeders have been keeping bulls out of the herds due to the drought in 2023/24, and that has negatively affected ICPs. The total ban on imports from neighbouring countries such as South Africa and Botswana due to the foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks does pose a difficulty for Namibian cattle producers in terms of access to genetics, but we fully support all measures to keep our country free of the dreaded disease," says Jürgen-Leigh.

PEST AND DISEASE RESISTANCE

The Tuli breed's resilience and outstanding

adaptability, coupled with fertility, tick- and disease-resistance, heat tolerance, productivity and longevity, make the Tuli the first-class choice for crossbreeding, according to Hannes. The breed's hybrid vigour also adds to its impressive performance in crossbreeding concerns.

Due to their harsh, extensive farming environment, the Human team prefers mature cows to weigh between 420kg and 580kg. The medium-framed Tuli cows are ideally equipped to cope with the extensive farming environment. Large-framed cattle usually are the first to fail under the stress conditions caused by drought, and the consequent increase in maintenance requirements of such animals pushes input costs up significantly.

Dressing percentages of pure Tuli steers vary between 57% and 63%, while Tuli x South Devon steers regularly give results above 60%.

"The cow is the engine of any successful cattle farm – don't try to go 4 x 4 when 2 x 4 will do just as well, if not better," Hannes points out.

Although the Tuli is known as an early-maturing breed, Hannes and Jürgen-Leigh prefer heifers to be put with the bulls at two years of age. They normally maintain a ratio of two bulls per 50 cows or heifers in the commercial herds, and one bull per 30 cows or heifers in the stud herds. An average pregnancy rate of 95% is maintained in both stud and commercial herds.

BELOW:

Tuli cattle are prized for their high-quality beef, characterised by moderate marbling, tenderness, fine texture and flavour. Namibian beef is exported through export abattoirs like Meatco to various high-end markets such as the EU.



THE BULLS EXCEL

As far as bulls are concerned, the Humans prefer animals weighing between 700kg and 880kg.

"Remember, the bull must take care of himself and also service females in camps as large as 350ha or bigger. Smaller bulls effectively maintain themselves under extensive conditions. Walking ability, good testicles and outstanding conformation are important aspects when selecting bulls. Fact of the matter is that the ideal bull does not exist, but each bull is expected to breed progeny that perform better than he has," says Hannes.

The father-and-son team put a lot of emphasis on the selection of top-performing and functional animals. One of their priorities is to select for polled genetics. Only polled bulls with slight scurs are allowed at auctions. Naturally polled cattle reduce the workload in a cattle herd considerably.

"Because we farm on vast tracts of land with huge camps and relatively long distances between grazing areas and watering points, we need a robust breed with a strong walking ability. Temperament-wise, the Tuli is an extremely calm and quiet animal to work with. This is a very important issue for producers farming under extensive conditions. We require cattle that remain even-tempered, even if they have not had contact with humans for a relatively prolonged period," says Jürgen-Leigh.

"Our cows and heifers can sometimes become a bit feisty directly after calving, but that has very little to do with temperament and more to do with mothering ability and the protection of the calf. The Tuli's overall composition makes it a truly no-nonsense and pleasant cattle breed to work with."

HIGH-QUALITY BEEF

The Tuli is known for its high-quality, tender, and fine-textured grassfed beef. The meat is moderately marbled. Namibia is a net exporter of beef to high-end markets such as the EU, and the use of additives is therefore strictly forbidden and regulated by the state. This adds significantly to the breed's competitive edge on a very competitive market.

Beef steers are mainly marketed to the Meatco and Beefcor businesses; both are EU-approved abattoirs. A third export abattoir,



Savanah Beef, has already started trial runs, pending EU approval. All three of these large abattoirs are centrally located near Windhoek and Okahandja, which keeps transport costs to and from the market at an acceptable level. Namibia is a vast and outstretched country, and having abattoirs in the centre of the country is a true bonus for livestock producers.

Kapit-Yt and Whaddon stud animals are mainly marketed through the annual BXB Elite Auction held in Windhoek. In terms of animal exports, live animals and semen are regularly exported to Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Email Dr Hannes Human at whaddon@africaonline.com.na. **FW**

ABOVE:

The Humans prefer bulls weighing between 700kg and 800kg. They need a bull that can remain fit and still service cows even in camps as big as 350ha.

BELOW:

According to Jürgen-Leigh Human, the Tuli is unsurpassed as far as mothering abilities are concerned, and is widely recognised for its exceptional fertility. The cows actively protect their calves against predators.



Positive growth in fledgling Tuli stud

Our Leeu-Kuil stud is located on a farm near Middelburg in the Eastern Cape. The stud was established in 2025 and we are currently on 39 heads.

We are extremely privileged and thankful to have a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)-free herd.

Due to the fact that we have a relatively newly established stud and with the main focus being to increase our stud's head count, FMD does not have a major impact on our stud. With commercial cattle, it is a different story.

There are quite a few immediate benefits one can expect from our bulls: improved fertility and calving rates, enhanced calf survival and maternal ability, better adaptability and hardiness, improved temperament, and ease of handling. We are excited about our current bloodline in our stud.



The foundation of Leeu-Kuil Tuli's thriving in the dry Karoo. SUPPLIED

This year we were thrilled to deliver our first calves. We are privileged to have built our stud from the top Tuli stud breeders in South Africa.

Our operation has started with a solid foundation and we are particularly enjoying the building phase.

There is positivity about our bloodline and we believe that our stud operation can still achieve great success in the foreseeable future.

The anticipation is to see significant growth in our stud within the next five years by improving our genetics and bloodline as best and as fast as possible.

The intention is to build on our foundation and grow year-by-year.

We are convinced that the Tuli breed will play a major role in the future of South African food security.

It is fair to say that the Tuli breed punches well above its weight, and I believe that more and more farmers will recognise the Tuli breed's potential every year.

Phone Derick Pretorius (Pa) on 082 903 8339.



Contact details: Derick Pretorius - 082 903 8339

Ismail Ameen's journey with Tuli cattle

Our farming operation is based between KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State, in the foothills of the Drakensberg – a beautiful yet demanding environment.

Working with Tuli cattle runs deeper than just performance; it's also very personal. Our grandfather always valued Tuli and dreamt of farming them, but circumstances didn't allow it. Today, pursuing that vision and seeing his wisdom realised is incredibly special.

Tuli suit our environment perfectly. Their adaptability, fertility, and efficiency reduce reliance on expensive inputs, enabling sustainable farming.

Our breeding philosophy blends traditional traits like strong maternal ability and resilience with modern breeding tools to meet the demands of today's beef industry. It's about balance: combining what we've learnt over generations with contemporary tools to produce functional, efficient cattle. It all starts with cows. We focus on females with strong maternal instincts, good milk production, and the ability to

raise healthy calves every year. Bulls are selected for growth and carcass traits.

Structural soundness, fertility, and overall conformation and balance ensure animals can perform efficiently under our conditions.

Our main priority is fertility, aiming for high conception and reconception rates, a calving interval close to 365 days, and high weaning percentages, all while maintaining breed standards of medium-framed, productive animals suited to mountainous terrain.

Crossbreeding has always been part of our family's farming approach, using Brangus, Angus, Limousin, and Brahman bulls. Each breed has strengths, but we often found that improving one trait came at the expense of another, especially fertility and conception rates.

Introducing Tuli bulls has improved conception rates and overall productivity without sacrificing calf quality.

Tuli perform well in feedlots, converting feed efficiently, and their docility reduces stress on

themselves and the farmer.

Lower stress levels also enhance growth, health, and meat quality.

Over the last 10 years, we've acquired diverse, high-quality genetics from respected Tuli breeders, giving us a strong foundation. We're now focused on breeding cattle with balanced maternal traits, adaptability, and growth, aligned with our conditions.

In five years, we aim to be a respected stud breeder in the region, known for reliable, high-quality Tuli genetics while promoting the breed to all farmers, from rural and emerging farmers to established commercial producers.

Support from initiatives like the Tuli Growth Initiative and FirstRand Empowerment Fund, alongside family guidance and my wife's unwavering support, has played a meaningful role.

For us, this is more than just a business; it's legacy, purpose, and faith in the path ahead. It's about honouring our grandfather by continuing a dream that's becoming a reality.



FROM AFRICAN SOIL, RESILIENCE RISES

Rooted in the fertile landscapes of KwaZulu-Natal and the open plains of the Free State, iFarm Tuli is an emerging name in quality commercial and stud Tuli cattle breeding—delivering genetics that perform, cattle that last.

DRIVEN BY A PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE

and a commitment to genetic integrity, we are building a herd that reflects the true strength of the Tuli breed fertility, adaptability, and efficiency under Southern African conditions. Our cattle are born to thrive, built to endure, making them a reliable choice for progressive farmers.



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📞 082 978 6321

✉️ ifarmtuli@gmail.com

📍 Garden Farms, Newcastle (KZN)
Vanger Farms, Memel (Free State)



Tuli stud thriving in harsh Northern Cape

The Cook family farms in a family trust. The farms are situated just north of the Orange River, about halfway between Hopetown and Douglas.

Leslie and Kevin Cook are the fourth generation of the Cook family, who originally started farming in the area in 1867, in the historic strip of Griqualand that was then called New Albany. Both of them have university degrees in agriculture.

About half of the property consists of open Karoo veld on very shallow soil of 5cm to 15cm, on top of limestone *banke*. The other half consists of grassveld on Aeolian red sands of varying depth of between 40cm and 100cm.

The average rainfall is 280mm per year. The climate can be harsh, with summer maximum temperatures reaching 43°C and winter minimum temperatures plummeting to -5°C. The farms are more suited to sheep farming and were farmed as such in the past.

After the sustained good rains of the mid 1970s, the Cooks' late visionary

father decided to get some cattle to 'tame' the grass for the sheep. They were mainly Afrikaner-cross cattle, and he alternated between South Devon and Afrikaner bulls. In 1982, he saw an advert with a striking Tuli bull, advertising the first production sale of Tuli cattle in South Africa. He bought a young bull at this sale.

When the calves from that bull were born, the family was hooked! They struggled to source more bulls as there was no Tuli society then. After eventually finding the Moutons and Rautenbachs, who were of tremendous help to them, they were on their way.

The late Cook father and Kevin were invited to a meeting at the Pretoria Show, where the Tuli Cattle Breeders' Society of South Africa was formed, Leslie recalls. Among those present were the Clark, Rautenbach and Kriel families, who are still today making positive contributions to the breed.

The Cooks bred up their herd by using quality, registered Tuli bulls. They co-operated with certain breeders in purchasing shares in very good genetic material, and also obtained a bull from one of the best Tuli lines in Zimbabwe at a dispersal sale in Limpopo.

Due to the harsh climatic conditions, they have had to select for hardiness and adaptability. They have recently become aware of the possible importance of a fat layer in harsh, brittle environments and have started using a bull strong for this trait. They

also select for milk, calf growth and length of body for added weight.

Amelia Tuli's is part of the GO West Group. Their auction is taking place on 16 October at 11am in Kimberley.

Phone Leslie Cook on 076 617 6471, or Kevin on 082 806 4146, or email lcookkmb848@gmail.com or kevinc@vectotrader.co.za.



We mean business!

Leslie & Kevin Cook

CELL 076 617 6471

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CELL 082 806 4146

EMAIL kevinc@vectotrader.co.za

GO WEST AUCTION: 16 October 2026



Tuli breeders use embryo flushing with great success

Embryo flushing and artificial insemination are tools being used by top Tuli breeders to enhance and multiply top genetics in their herds.

How Alpha and Omega Tuli Stud prioritises functional genetics

Alwyn Marx, owner of the Alpha and Omega Tuli Stud, farms in Burgersdorp in the northern Eastern Cape. Marx works alongside his friend and fellow farmer Gert Schmidt. Marx started farming Tulis in 2002, on the recommendation of another friend, the late Stefan van Wyk.

"Stefan did the marketing for the Tulis that year, and on his recommendation, I started a small herd. I have never regretted it," says Marx.

According to him, the Tulis are remarkably well adapted to his area and farming conditions.

"Tulis handle drought and dryness very well, and performed better than the larger animals we had at the time," he says.

"In those years you didn't see many Tulis around, different from now where a lot of farmers in the area started to realize the advantages of the Tuli and you see them everywhere. So in those early years we struggled to get good genetics and decided to start an embryo program with the best cows we could find."

Alwyn uses a mix of natural breeding, artificial insemination (AI) and embryo flushing.

In terms of donor selection, Alwyn says they choose animals that have a proven record of long-term production.

"Longevity is critical; animals that can produce consistently, live long, and pass on strong genetics. We especially value cows over 10 years old that continue to perform well," he explains. "Ultimately, fertility and long-term productivity remain the most important factors in our selection process."

He adds that while estimated breeding values and other indices are important, functionality in an animal is far more critical.

"At the end of the day, production is key. We select animals that are structurally sound and capable of producing calves consistently. They must be able to produce a certain amount of grams weanerweight for

each kg cow weight carried per year"

According to Alwyn, traditional embryo flushing tends to produce slightly better-quality embryos, which explains the higher conception rate, but in-vitro fertilisation generally produces a higher quantity of embryos while using less hormones."

"However, environmental factors such as climate also play a role," he says. "In more moderate conditions where temperatures doesn't differ too much, the embryo flushing success



rate is sometimes a bit better. However, this is only based on my personal observation."

Alwyn says that it is good if a cow can become pregnant again after being flushed two to three times.

"Over-flushing, especially in young cows, can negatively affect performance later on. It is better to focus on proven, mature animals that have already done their part for embryo work. That is why he would rather do in vitro in younger cows" he says.

ABOVE:
AML 109 (Rhino)
SUPPLIED

How Bloodline Tuli Stud uses IVF to multiply ‘golden oldie’ genetics

Zippo Lamprecht, a well-known name in the cattle industry, runs the relatively new Bloodline Tuli stud, alongside Adriaan Lamprecht, in the southern Free State. The stud currently consists of 46 female animals.

“The Tuli is a low-maintenance Zimbabwean breed that fits well into a holistic farming system,” says Lamprecht.

While the stud primarily uses natural mating, Lamprecht recently introduced embryo flushing to accelerate genetic progress.

“When establishing the stud, strict selection criteria were applied: cows had to show above-average milk production, growth, and fertility. Preference was given to proven older cows (the so-called ‘golden oldies’), many of which were elite animals from established breeders,” he explains.

According to Lamprecht, using proven cows has enhanced the success of his flushing programme.

“Instead of producing one calf per year through natural breeding, embryo flushing allows multiple offspring from a single cow in a year, significantly accelerating genetic progress,” says Lamprecht.

The Bloodline Tuli Stud uses in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) to inseminate recipient cows. The eggs are collected from top donor cows and fertilised in a laboratory.

“Typically, four to six embryos can be produced per session. IVF offers advantages such as reduced hormone use and the ability to flush cows even when they are up to three months pregnant,” says Lamprecht.

Lamprecht currently achieves a conception rate of between 40% and 60% in his embryo

flushing programme, which largely depends on whether the embryos are fresh or frozen.

In terms of the selection of recipient cows, Lamprecht says that older cows that have calved at least three times, are fertile and have good milk production are ideal donors.

“She also needs to be improving in body condition,” he says.

“Breed compatibility also plays a role, with better results often seen when similar or related animals are used.”

He adds that temperament is also essential. “Calm animals reduce stress during embryo transfer and improve success rates.”

After transfer, Lamprecht uses heat detection aids to help him determine whether the embryo has implanted. “Embryo flushing is expensive, but it’s worthwhile because you can multiply top genetics rapidly and improve herd quality.

Advances in technology also allow efficient semen use and sexed semen selection for desired offspring.”

Lamprecht follows strict biosecurity measures, with dedicated equipment used for each animal to prevent disease spread.

“The overall success rates average around 40%, although results can vary widely due to factors such as weather and recipient condition,” says Lamprecht.

“Embryo flushing also enables breeders to replicate successful genetic combinations and experiment with new ones, producing multiple progeny from top cows in a single year.”

Red Grass Valley’s high-density grazing and embryo strategy

Theodore and Malherbe Oosthuizen runs Red Grass Valley Tuli, which is situated between Dealesville and Hertzogville in the Free State. Red Grass Valley Tuli is a family business, and for the past 10 years, says Oosthuizen, has been practicing high-intensity grazing to optimise profit per hectare.

“During this period we have more than doubled the carrying capacity of the farm while running a variety of different cattle breeds,” he says. “What became very clear over the years, however, is that the Tuli outperformed all the other breeds on the farm in this high-density grazing environment.” Oosthuizen particularly mentions the Tuli’s

ability to maintain condition, their exceptional fertility and the consistently higher conception rates in both the Tuli herds and with Tuli bulls as outstanding qualities of the breed.

“We therefore decided to invest in the Tuli breed, with the specific goal of identifying animals that perform exceptionally well under high-density grazing while still delivering individual profitability,” he says. While natural mating forms the biggest part of the Red Grass Valley Tuli stud’s breeding programme, Oosthuizen has been using artificial insemination (AI) and embryo flushing and transfer over the last few years to multiply the

genetics of their best performing animals and to identify top-quality animals to produce exceptional offspring year after year.

"We are very selective with the cows we put into our embryo programme," says Oosthuizen.

Only female animals that meet the following strict criteria qualify as donors:

- Phenotypically very correct (8–9 out of 9);
- BLUP figures that are not far from the breed average (especially not below 90);
- Has calved and weaned every calf she has produced;
- Weans 45% and above of her own bodyweight;
- All her calves have passed inspection for stud performance (SP);
- Intercalving period (ICP) of 380 days or lower.

"We will continue to flush a cow for embryos as long as she produces good-quality embryos and we still need more progeny from that specific genetic line," he says.

Red Grass Valley Tuli's embryo work is handled by Absolute Genetics.

"They flush the cows every 14 days, produce the embryos and also implant the embryos into recipient cows. They are true specialists in this field and extremely professional in their record-keeping and in the preparation of recipient cows. Because Absolute Genetics also exports

embryos, traceability and biosecurity are non-negotiable for them, something we value highly." According to Oosthuizen, the number and quality of embryos produced varies from cow to cow and is not necessarily linked to age or genetic profile.

"We measure the success of our embryo

programme not by pregnancy rate at scanning, but by the number of living calves we ultimately wean.

Our long-term average stands at 40%. Even with the costs of producing these calves through embryo transfer, we still see excellent value because the high-quality genetics we are creating will have a major

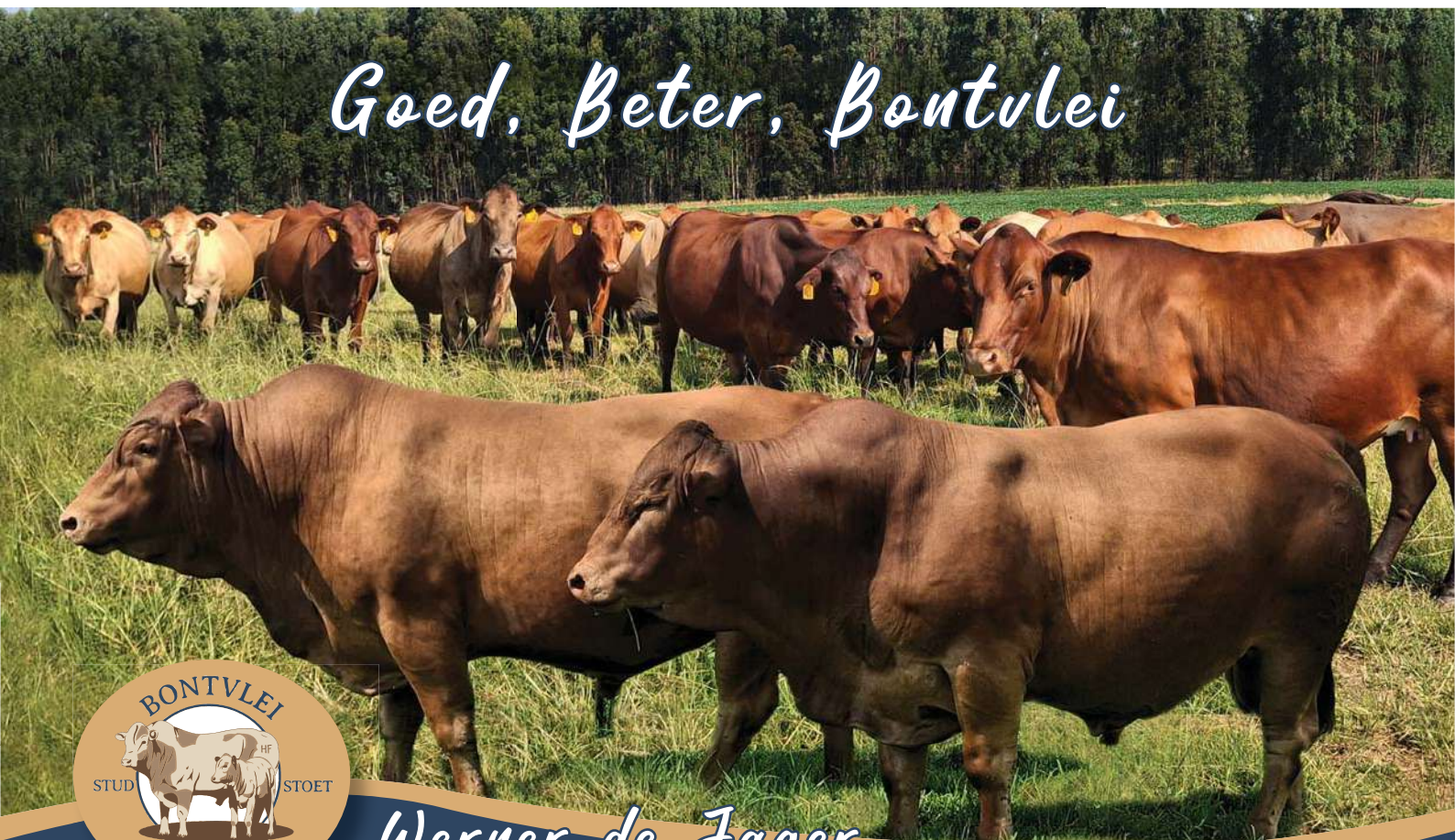
positive impact on both our own herd and on the herds of buyers in the future.

"We are excited about the progress we have made and believe that combining high-intensity grazing management with modern reproductive technologies such as embryo transfer is the best way to develop superior Tuli genetics that are truly adapted to intensive production systems."



ABOVE:
Optimus (R20-208),
one of our stud sires.
SUPPLIED

Goed, Beter, Bontvlei



Werner de Jager

☎ 082 926 4565 ✉ wernerdejager67@gmail.com 📍 Carolina

Tuli Growth Initiative calls for bold partnerships to unlock Africa's livestock future

Dr FV Nherera-Chokuda, CEO of the Tuli Growth Initiative (TGI), says the TGI proves that indigenous genetics are a powerhouse for inclusive growth.

The Tuli Growth Initiative (TGI) is demonstrating how farmer-led development, grounded in private partnership, indigenous genetics, mentorship, and practical systems, can deliver on South Africa and Southern Africa's priorities for livelihoods, climate resilience, and inclusive growth.

From the snow-capped Drakensberg where Ismail Ameen farms, to the fiery hills of Mooi River where the Hlanganani Livestock Farmers' Association is rebuilding community herds, the geographical spread of TGI farmers reflects the diversity of Southern Africa's production systems.

In the sweetveld of the Southern Cape, Mathemba Mapuma, Moses and Prudence Mniki, Mikhali Ceza, and Nthando Thembanani are building better quality Tuli herds.

Grancia Fortuin operates on the Free State savannah grasslands, while the Tuli herds of the Fortuin family thrive in the harsh Kalahari Desert. In Mpumalanga's sourveld, Karabo Puswe and the Morodi brothers manage tick-resistant herds.

A co-operative led by Jacobus Swart is advancing production in the Western Cape, and in the Karoo, the Temenga brothers continue to demonstrate resilience and tenacity under arid conditions. Across these diverse environments, one message stands out: the Tuli breed is for diverse peoples and diverse landscapes.

ADAPTATION WRITTEN IN THE GENES

The success of TGI lies in the biology of the animal. Phenotypic traits such as heat-tolerant coat types, pigmentation, and natural tick resistance enable cattle to perform under harsh conditions.

These visible traits are matched by strong genetic attributes, including heritability of fertility, milk production,

low maintenance requirements, and high weaning ratios. The presence of the polled gene further improves animal welfare and management efficiency. Field performance confirms this genetic strength. A cow in Waka Temenga's herd cycled within 21 days post-calving and conceived successfully. In the Kalahari, Gert Fortuin recorded a 360kg cow weaning a 297kg bull calf at seven months.



Hlanganani Livestock Farmers Association in Mooiriver on pasture with their Tuli herd, engaging with TGI and Studbook technician. SUPPLIED

Mapuma's cow nursed three calves simultaneously and still recovered to breed again, demonstrating exceptional maternal capacity and resilience. In Mpumalanga, the herds of Karabo Puswe and Collen Morodi show strong natural tick resistance, reducing reliance on chemical inputs and lowering production costs.

ADVANCING SOCIAL EQUITY

Beyond productivity, TGI is advancing social equity through inclusive, community-based models.

The Hlanganani study group in Mooi River, comprising 28 families and 28 youth, has developed a herd of high-quality Tuli-type cattle and is now supplying breeding stock within its own community. This model of restoration and shared growth reinforces a fundamental principle: where there is social equity, a nation prospers.

Youth and women empowerment are further strengthened through internship programmes supported by FREE, creating pathways for skills development, employment, and leadership in the livestock sector. However, under-investment remains a major constraint. An estimated R1 trillion is required to unlock Africa's livestock potential. Frameworks such as AU Agenda 2063, CAADP 2035, AfCFTA and South Africa's AAMP 2030 provide a clear roadmap, but implementation will depend on coordinated investment and strong public-private partnerships.

COLLABORATION

Expert Tuli cattle breeders Stephen Mains-Sheard, Ben Raath, Christo Rothmann, Ed Clark, Jim Bredenkemp, and Dave Mullins, together with their teams, continue to play a critical role in farmer

development and knowledge transfer.

The initiative also acknowledges funding support from the FirstRand Empowerment Fund and collaboration with key industry partners, including the Tuli Society, the Agricultural Research Council-KyD programme, SA Stud Book, the National Livestock Farmers Association-South Africa, and Qinisa Initiative on Greenhouse Gases.

The foundation has been laid, and the results are clear: farmers across Southern Africa are proving that livestock, built on indigenous genetics, can drive resilience, productivity, and inclusive growth.

The call from TGI is unequivocal: livestock must be prioritised as a central pillar of agricultural development, supported by investment in genetics, regenerative rangeland management, and competitive value chains.

Email admin@tuligrowth.org, or phone 078 745 5727.



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Tuli society members



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WILDROCK	Charles Pieterse	084 444 0306	charles@lawproc.com	Louis Trichardt
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WESTERN CAPE				
LEKKERDROOM	Lukas Robertson	0726144403	lekkerdroom@gmail.com	Caledon

TULI NATIONAL AUCTION

DATE:
14 AUGUST 2026

VENUE: LETTIE
FOUCHÉ SCHOOL

TIME: 11AM



4TH TULI NATIONAL AUCTION

Strictly selected Bulls and Females
(all production stages)
Semen and Embryo lots



Tuli
WYNVEILING

MERK DIE DATUM
13 AUGUSTUS 2026

Ons Jaarlikse Tuli Wynveiling skuif van
einde April na Augustus.
Hou die spasie dop vir meer inligting.

In samewerking met
Lettie Fouché Skool etc.

Kontak: Ben Raath - 083 468 6176
Tuli Beestelergenootskap van SA

ENQUIRIES: Zippo Lamprecht **082 396 9071** /
Dave Marias **072 205 3816** / Allan Sinclair **082 528 00529**



Northern Cape

The auction is presented under the auspices of the Tuli Breeders' Society of South Africa, SwiftVEE and Vleissentraal Northern Cape
Visit the website at tulicattle.co.za, Facebook page Tuli Cattle Breeders' Society of SA, or Instagram at [tuli_cattle_breeder_society](https://www.instagram.com/tuli_cattle_breeder_society)

The Tuli advantage: cattle studs delivering superior beef quality

With the same breeding objectives, two Tuli operations in different areas of the Eastern Cape, the Tiptree and Avondale studs, are aligned to produce cattle tailor-made for a successful beef enterprise.



Tulis are very adaptable and can be found all over South Africa, often thriving in environments not ideally suited to beef farming. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

The Tiptree and Avondale Tuli studs are situated in the Eastern Cape, in the Elands River Valley and Alexandria, respectively.

Our studs are aligned because we have the same breeding objectives. We strive to breed a type of animal that will assist our clients in achieving a profitable beef enterprise.

shorter in the leg and well-muscled, with sufficient width throughout.

We believe what our commercial clients are looking for are hardy, fertile bulls that will produce good weaners and replacement heifers. This is what we are striving to achieve without affecting the positive attributes of the breed. Tulis are very adaptable and can be found all

over South Africa, often thriving in environments that are not ideally suited to beef farming. They have the ability to browse and convert low-quality roughage into high-quality beef.

INHERENT GENES

Fortunately, neither of the studs has experienced foot-and-mouth-disease (FMD). Feedback from farmers in South Africa and

Zimbabwe, reported that the animals had negligible clinical symptoms.

The cattle might be slightly off colour for a couple of days, but bounce back quickly. There seems to be an inherent gene in the indigenous breeds that makes them less susceptible to viruses and parasites. As far as figures are concerned, we select

bulls where the figures range between 90 and 110 and we avoid both high and low extremes. There is less chance of excessive variance in their progeny.

GENOMICAL TESTING

We have been using genomics for the past three years. All our herd sires as well as sale bulls are genomically tested for parentage verification, and to ensure there are no myostatin or detrimental mutation genes present.

The Tuli genomic reference population is now large enough to ensure that our genomic data is more accurate.

The Tuli has the best intercalving (IC) results out of all the indigenous breeds at 398 days. Our IC average is 373 days, and age at first calving is 29,5 months.

Our bulls are of a type that will benefit commercial breeders in a crossbreeding programme, especially when crossed with *Bos indicus* and *B. taurus*-type animals.

The Tuli's temperament is incredible and they are easy to work with, have strong maternal instincts, and are highly protective of their calves against predators. We are very confident that the Tuli breed has a good long-term future.

Phone Stephen Mains-Sheard on 082 323 4286, or email crosswayfarm@gmail.com. Phone Dave Mullins on 082 299 7953, or email mullins@isat.co.za.



The type of bulls being bred are well balanced with sufficient muscle and lots of capacity.

The Tuli's low-input, high-output characteristics assist breeders to achieve that goal.

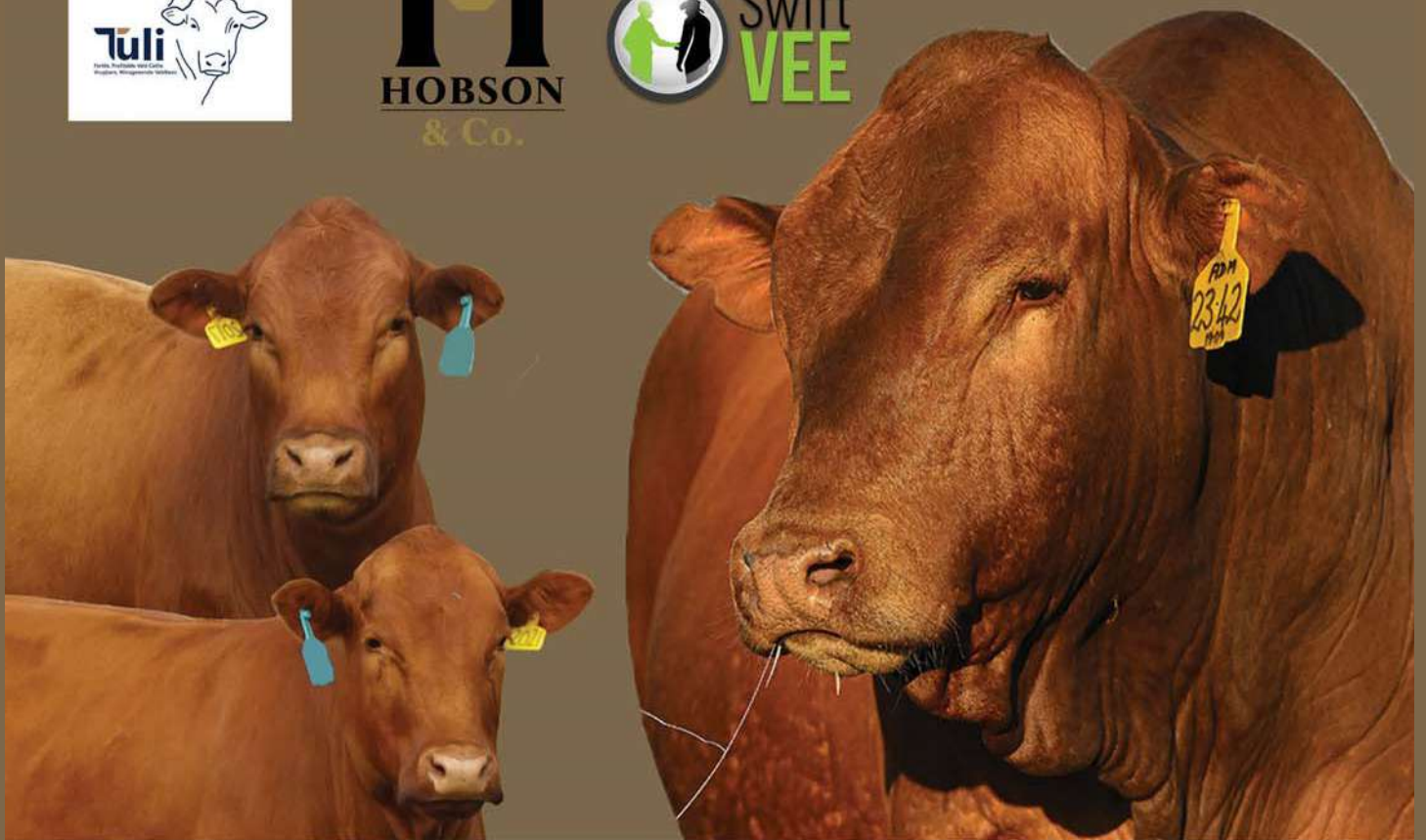
Both studs strive to breed bulls that are first and foremost phenotypically correct, and then we look at the figures, focusing particularly on fertility, milk, calf growth, production, and carcass values. We are producing bulls that are slightly

TIP TREE & AVONDALE TULI AUCTION

15 SEPTEMBER 2026

12:00 | GRAHAMSTOWN AUCTION YARD

30 Registered Bulls
35 Registered Females
100 Commercial
Tuli Type Females



Stephen Mains-Sheard 082 323 4286

Dave Mullins 082 299 7953 | Paul Hobson 082 652 4724

Why Tuli genetics are gaining ground in South Africa

In an era of climate volatility, Gouwsberg Tuli stud prioritises local adaptability over expensive feedlot performance. From the Karoo's sparse forage to Highveld extremes, Tuli cattle maintain fertility and condition with minimal intervention. By focusing on functional, medium-framed animals, **Werner Gouws** has developed a low-maintenance system where the environment, not high-cost inputs, drive the selection for profitability. **Hanlie du Plessis** reports.

From the dry plains of the Karoo to the sourveld of the Highveld, Tuli cattle are proving their value as one of South Africa's most adaptable beef breeds.

At Gouwsberg Tuli Stud, situated near Bronkhorstspuit in Gauteng, Werner Gouws combines veld-based selection, performance testing, and practical management to breed cattle that deliver under real farming conditions.

For decades, the emphasis was on maximising output under controlled conditions – higher weaning weights, faster growth, larger frames. But, in a production environment now shaped by climate variability, rising feed costs and increasing disease pressure, that model is being tested.

Today, consistency, adaptability and efficiency are emerging as the more reliable drivers of profitability.

From the arid expanses of the Karoo to the sourveld of the Highveld and the mixed grazing systems of the bushveld, producers are recognising that cattle must be able to perform under the specific conditions in which they are farmed – not under idealised scenarios.

It is within this context that the Tuli breed is experiencing renewed interest.

BUILT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONDITIONS

The Tuli is not a new breed, nor is it a recent innovation. Its strength lies precisely in its long history of development under Southern African conditions, where natural selection, combined with careful human intervention, has shaped an animal well suited to a wide range of environments.

Unlike many breeds developed under more temperate or controlled systems, the Tuli was selected for functionality. Survival, fertility and efficiency were not optional traits, they were prerequisites. This history is reflected in the

breed's ability to perform across South Africa's diverse climatic regions.

In the Karoo, where rainfall is low and grazing is sparse and unpredictable, Tuli cattle are widely recognised for their ability to:

- maintain body condition on limited forage;
- walk long distances in search of grazing;
- reproduce consistently under nutritional stress.

It is no coincidence that some of the largest populations of Tuli cattle in South Africa are found in these arid regions.

AT GOUWSBERG, THE STRATEGY CENTRES ON MAXIMISING THE VALUE OF SUMMER GROWTH WHILE PREPARING FOR WINTER SCARCITY

"The fact that so many Tuli herds are concentrated in the Karoo tells its own story," says Gouws. "If a breed can perform there, you know it can perform anywhere."

Yet the breed's adaptability extends well beyond dry environments. On the Highveld, where sourveld grazing presents a very different set of challenges – including sharp seasonal fluctuations in nutritional value – the Tuli has shown equal ability to adjust.

"They are incredibly versatile," says Gouws. "Whether it's Karoo veld, bushveld or sourveld, they adapt to what is available. That's what makes them so valuable."

A FARMING JOURNEY SHAPED BY OPPORTUNITY

The story of Gouwsberg Tuli Stud reflects many of the broader themes currently shaping the beef industry: adaptation, learning,

FAST FACTS

Dominantly polled genetics can result in over 80% polled calves in a single generation, reducing labour and stress.

Bulls undergo a Phase D growth test, proving they can gain roughly 80kg on natural grazing without intensive supplements.

Tuli cattle excel at converting poor-quality forage into production, ensuring consistent reproduction, even under nutritional stress.



and a gradual shift toward more sustainable systems. The farm Klopeiland, situated just outside Bronkhorstspuit, was not originally intended for agriculture. Purchased in 1991 by Gouws's father, a local businessman, the land was earmarked for residential development.

But, long before any plans for development could materialise, another interest took root.

Gouws recalls how his father, even during his business years, would stop the car whenever they passed cattle grazing along the roadside.

"He always had a love for animals," says Gouws. "We would stop and just stand there

started building from there." Gouwsberg Tuli Stud was formally established in 1996.

FROM COMMERCIAL HERD TO BREED FOCUS

Like many developing operations, it began with a mixed commercial herd comprising Beefmaster, Brahman and Limousin-type cattle sourced from neighbouring farms.

However, it soon became clear that this system had limitations, particularly under the sourveld conditions of the Highveld.

"We wanted to improve the base herd, reduce input costs and find a breed that could really



and admire them." That early exposure sparked a fascination that would later shape his career. In 1994, while still at school, Gouws took his first step into farming. Working as a waiter, he saved enough money to purchase 20 pregnant cows at a local auction.

His father supported him by buying a bull, allowing him to establish a small herd on the family farm.

At the time, it was a modest venture, but it laid the foundation for what would eventually become a registered stud.

"That was the beginning," he says. "We didn't know where it would lead, but we

handle our environment," explains Gouws.

The fact that the farm was operated on a part-time basis added another layer of complexity. Labour-intensive systems and high-maintenance cattle were simply not viable.

The search for a more suitable breed led to extensive research and farm visits. A defining moment came during a visit to the Blomvlei farm of well-known breeder Stefan Weltz in Tonteldoos, near Dullstroom.

"What stood out immediately was the temperament and the balance of the animals," recalls Gouws. "They were polled, well-muscled, and the cows had a clear femininity. The bulls

ABOVE:

The Tuli's strength lies in its long history of development under varying Southern African conditions.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

were alert and curious – and we were impressed.” That visit, he recalls, marked a turning point.

THE TULI TRANSITION

In 1997, the first two Tuli bulls – Jumbo and Boomerang – were introduced into the herd. The results were immediate and visible.

“More than 80% of the calves were born polled with smaller ears,” says Gouws. “The influence of the Tuli genetics came through very strongly.”

The practical benefits were equally significant. “The Tuli bull proved to be the best de-horning iron you could ask for,” he adds.

Encouraged by these outcomes, Gouws expanded his investment in 1999, purchasing four additional bulls from the Jambo stud in Zimbabwe

preparing for winter scarcity. During the peak growing season, surplus grass – primarily *Eragrostis* (Smuts finger grass) – is cut and baled to create a reserve of roughage. Once harvested, the fields are fertilised and incorporated into a high-density grazing system. Cattle are moved strategically to ensure optimal utilisation of regrowth while promoting veld recovery.

“We cut, bale, fertilise, and then bring the cattle back,” says Gouws. “The idea is to use every bit of grass as efficiently as possible.”

This integrated approach offers several advantages:

- it captures and stores surplus feed during peak production;
- it reduces reliance on purchased inputs;

- it maintains herd condition during winter.

Importantly, the system is aligned with the natural strengths of the Tuli.

“These cattle don’t need to be pushed,” says Gouws. “They are efficient. They convert what’s available into production.”

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

While adaptability remains a cornerstone of the breeding programme, Gouws places strong emphasis on measurable performance.

A key component is the use of a Phase D growth test, an extensive veld-based test applied to young bulls shortly after weaning.

Depending on environmental conditions, the test runs between 84 days and 270 days, during which bulls

are expected to gain approximately 80kg under natural grazing conditions.

“This is where you see the real performance,” explains Gouws. “Not in a feedlot, but on the veld.”

Following the test, bulls undergo ultrasound scanning to assess carcass-related traits, including:

- fat cover on the ribs and rump;
- eye muscle (loin) area;
- intramuscular fat (marbling).

For Gouws, this data is essential in identifying animals with true genetic potential.

“It’s imperative that red meat producers record these measurements,” he says. “If you don’t measure, you can’t improve.”

SELECTION UNDER PRESSURE

At Gouwsberg, selection is not based on ideal conditions, but on real-world performance.

“We don’t create a perfect environment



ABOVE: Tuli stud farmer Werner Gouws combines veld-based selection, performance testing, and practical management to breed cattle.

at the national auction held at the Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum, near Cullinan in Gauteng.

That, he says, was really the foundation of their stud. Over time, the herd was systematically transitioned toward pure Tuli breeding, supported by structured selection and performance recording.

MANAGING SEASONAL EXTREMES

Operating on the Highveld requires careful planning around seasonal variability.

The sourveld system is characterised by a relatively short window of high-quality grazing during the summer months, followed by a prolonged period of declining nutritional value.

“In our area, you have about four months of abundant grazing,” explains Gouws.

“After that, you need a strategy.”

At Gouwsberg, that strategy centres on maximising the value of summer growth while

for the cattle,” adds Gouws. “We let the environment do the selection.”

Animals that fail to meet the required standards are slaughtered.

From there, the focus focus is on these elements:

- fertility and reproductive consistency;
- structural soundness;
- adaptability to veld conditions;
- temperament and functionality.

Females, in particular, are expected to perform without exception. “A cow must produce a calf every year. That is the core of profitability,” he says.

MENTORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Gouws is quick to acknowledge the role of mentorship in his development as a breeder.

He credits Stefan van Wyk for guidance on selection practices and assistance with stud registration, as well as Lesley Bergh for support with performance recording systems.

“Farming is not something you do alone. You learn from others,” he points out.

Today, he is committed to passing that knowledge on. As a council member of the Tuli Cattle Society of South Africa, he plays an active role in the Tuli Growth Initiative, that aims to expand the footprint of the breed among both commercial and stud producers.

“The future of the breed depends on new farmers coming in,” he says.

A BREED FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

As climate variability becomes a defining feature of South African agriculture, adaptability is emerging as a key selection criterion.

The Tuli’s ability to perform across different environments – from the Karoo to the Highveld – positions it well within this context.

It is not simply a matter of survival, but of sustained productivity under variable conditions.

“You need cattle that can adjust,” emphasises Gouws. “Not just survive, but produce.”

ADVICE FOR NEW ENTRANTS

For prospective Tuli farmers, Gouws offers practical advice.

“There are two main ways to get started,” he says. “You can buy from established stud breeders to secure top genetics, or you can build up from good commercial females.”

However, he emphasises the importance of investing in quality bulls.

“If you want to make quick genetic progress, you must buy proven bulls.”

He also cautions against selecting for excessive frame size.

“The Tuli is a medium-framed animal,” he says. “If the frame gets too big, those animals are the first to struggle in drought, and



fertility is usually the first thing you lose.” From a small herd started by a schoolboy to a structured stud operation, Gouwsberg Tuli Stud reflects a broader shift in South African beef production.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The focus is no longer on maximum output under ideal conditions, but on consistent performance under real ones.

“I am passionate about the Tuli. The breed fits our system. It’s a low-maintenance, fertile breed that adapts to different climates and grazing.”

In a sector increasingly shaped by uncertainty, that adaptability may prove to be the most valuable trait of all.

Visit gouwsbergtulis.co.za. **FW**

ABOVE:

Sustained productivity under variable conditions and the ability to adjust are the key strengths of Tuli cattle.

The Tuli: a resilient African breed

With a 2 000-year lineage, Zimbabwe's Tuli cattle are a cornerstone of sustainable beef production. Renowned for natural polling, tick resistance, and exceptional marbling, this docile breed thrives in harsh climates. Their high fertility and maternal efficiency make them a premier genetic resource for resilient, low-input farming across Southern Africa.

Tuli cattle are a hardy and adaptable breed originating from Zimbabwe in Southern Africa. Known for their resilience, fertility, and excellent meat quality, Tuli cattle have become a valuable genetic resource for beef production in both tropical and subtropical regions. Their ability to thrive under harsh environmental conditions makes them a preferred choice for sustainable livestock farming.

ORIGIN AND HISTORY

The Tuli breed traces its roots to the Sanga cattle of Southern Africa, which are believed to have developed from the interbreeding of indigenous African cattle with Zebu-type cattle introduced from Asia. According to DNA testing, the genetic lineage of Tuli cattle has existed for more than 2 000 years, making it one of the oldest and most stable African cattle breeds.

THEIR SMOOTH COAT ALLOWS THEM TO PERFORM WELL IN HOT CLIMATES

The breed was formally developed in the 1940s at the Tuli Breeding Station in Zimbabwe's Gwanda district. The goal was to create a breed that could withstand heat, drought, and disease while maintaining high productivity.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Tuli cattle are medium-framed animals with a smooth, sleek coat that helps them tolerate high temperatures. Their coat colour ranges from golden yellow to red or light brown or dagha and white.



Tuli cattle produce tender, well-marbled beef with excellent flavour and texture. FW ARCHIVE

They have a small hump, typical of Sanga breeds, and a short, broad head with a calm expression. More than 90% of Tuli cattle are naturally polled (hornless), which reduces the risk of injury among animals and simplifies handling.

Their conformation is well-balanced, with strong legs, a straight back, and a good carcass structure that supports efficient meat production.

ADAPTABILITY AND HARDINESS

Tuli cattle are renowned for their ability to thrive under extensive conditions across a variety of habitats. They show natural resistance to tick-borne diseases, parasites, and viral infections, making them ideal for low-input farming systems.

Their smooth coat and efficient thermoregulation allow them to perform well in hot climates. The breed's longevity and ability to maintain productivity over many years further enhance its economic value.

FERTILITY AND MATERNAL TRAITS

Tuli cattle exhibit excellent fertility and reproductive efficiency. They are known for easy calving and strong maternal instincts. Cows possess picture-perfect udders with ample milk production, ensuring healthy calves and good weaner weights. Their high fertility rates and consistent calving intervals make them a reliable choice for both smallholder and commercial beef operations.

PRODUCTION TRAITS

Tuli cattle produce tender, well-marbled beef with excellent flavour and texture. Their carcass quality and conformation are highly regarded, contributing to superior meat yields. The breed matures early and converts feed efficiently, reducing production costs. Their excellent marbling enhances meat juiciness and taste, making Tuli beef competitive in premium markets.

Phone Teresa Rust on 051 410 0958, email teresa@stemma.co.za, or visit tulicattle.co.za.

Tuli is the breed we've been looking for!

The Roos Tuli Stud is located in the Mamusa district in the North West province, just next to the old Bophuthatswana homeland's Taung, and we lie in a heartwater area. We are part of the Next Gen Tuli group, which consists of seven dynamic Tuli studs.

Our Tulis run on sweetveld with lots of *vaalbos*, and the soil is phosphate-poor.

My fiancé Andrew farmed Tulis in Zimbabwe, and shared the great traits of this breed with us. It is a fertile animal that performs well under almost all conditions – exactly what we've been looking for!

The ideal bull is functionally sound, medium-framed, and will add genetic value to improve any commercial cowherd.

A bull's figures and visual appearance need to complement each other. The animal must present adequate growth while passing on the values of fertility and low birthweight and maintenance.

The ideal cow has the ability to



Back, from left: Jan Paul Strydom, Clarissa Strydom, Stephané Roos and Andrew Webster. Front: Saartjie (left) and Kobus Roos. SUPPLIED

produce a marketable calf every year, whilst maintaining adequate condition to reconceive and carry herself through the winter months, receiving minimal inputs from the farmer. This would imply that she is of a frame size that is suitable for the conditions she is exposed to and that she has a sound inter-calving period of 365 days.

With the help of Logix, we gather information that can help us select the best animals.

Birthweights, weaning weights, dam weights, udder confirmation, weights at 12 and 18 months, as well as field tests like Phase D are used as tools to gather data to select animals and improve our herds.

We also farm commercial cattle, mostly comprising Simbra, Tuli and Charolais crossbreeds. We found that when we cross a cow with a Tuli bull, the result is an outstanding weaner.

Another advantage of a Tuli crossbreeding programme is ease of birth and the polled trait. Due to their unique genotype, Tulis offer maximum hybrid vigour in a crossbreeding programme.

With temperatures rising due to climate change, it becomes more important to farm heat-tolerant cattle. In the midday heat, the Tuli can be seen grazing contentedly, while cattle with larger frames and thicker coats will stop eating due to heat stress. From north to south, east to west, the Tuli is the best! It's hardy, fertile and adaptable.

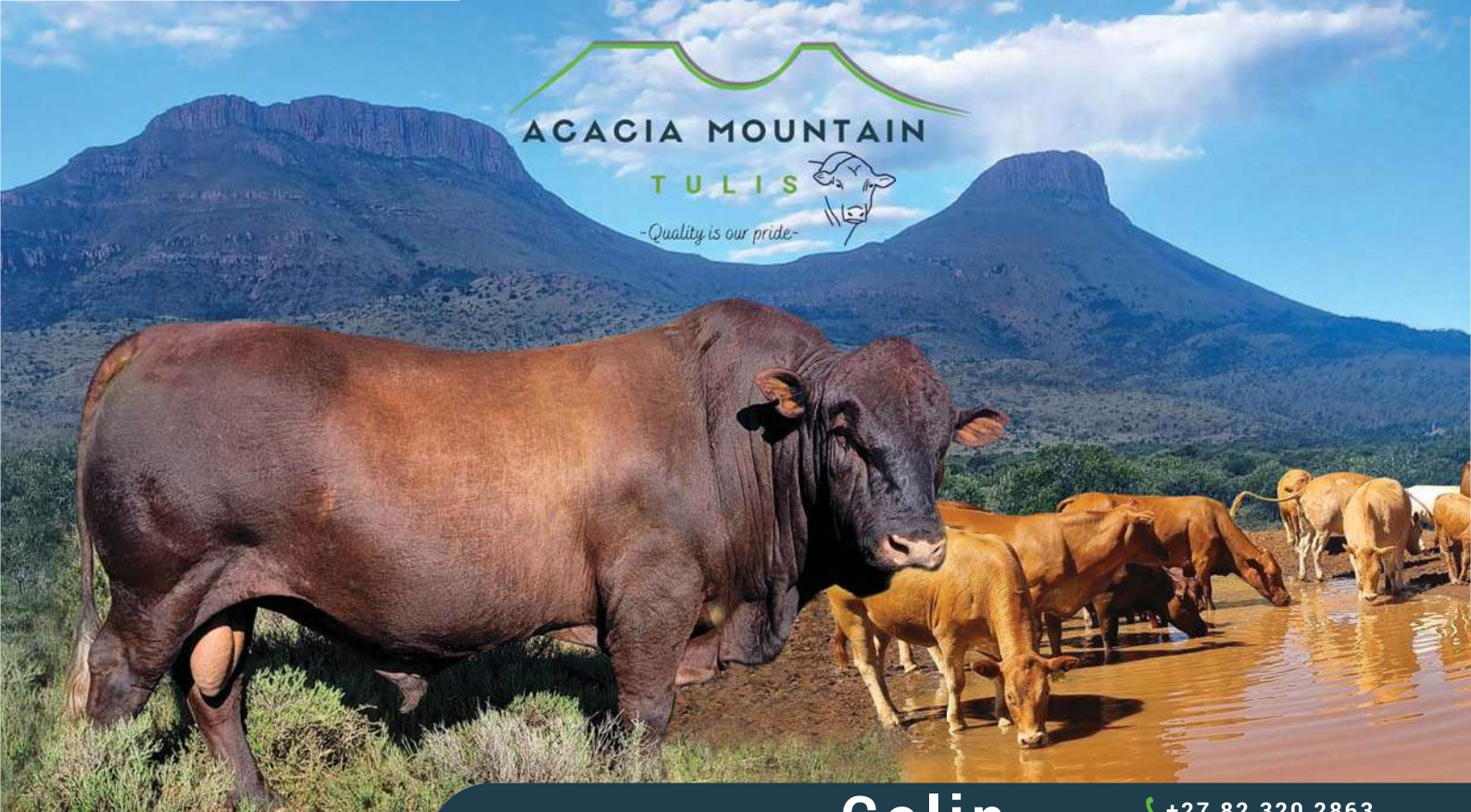
Tuli cattle is our passion



STEPHANÉ ROOS

T 083 306 6002 / 082 563 5776 | E steph_roos@hotmail.com

Schweizer-Reneke



PRODUCTION AUCTION
Friday 16 October 2026
GO WEST KIMBERLEY

**Colin
Raath**

+27 82 320 2863
 info@petbirds.com
 Acacia Mountain Tuli
 Tarkastad, Eastern Cape

PROMOTIONAL ARTICLE

A trusted source of efficient genetics

Our vision and philosophy is to breed efficient, fertile and adaptable Tuli cattle that perform under real South African conditions. We focus on the traits that matter most – fertility, hardiness, and functional efficiency, while incorporating performance data and estimated breeding values to ensure consistent genetic progress.

Our aim is to produce versatile, well-balanced animals that combine adaptability with growth, without sacrificing the low-input advantages of the Tuli breed.

Key questions to ask yourself:

- Are your cattle adapted to your farm?
 - Which cows never miss calving?
 - Which animals hold condition without extra feed?
 - Which ones rarely need intervention?
- Those animals determine your



true genetic benchmark, more than any breed standard.

For a commercial farmer looking to introduce our genetics into his crossbreeding programme, he/she can expect to improve fertility and reproductive efficiency, better calving ease and calf growth, adaptability, and

longevity. That will assure more profit.

In five years' time, I would like to see my herd even more functional and fertile. I also want to be known as a trusted source of hardy, efficient genetics for stud and commercial breeders.

The Tuli is uniquely positioned for what South Africa is facing: hotter, drier and more unpredictable weather conditions.

Tuli cattle handle heat extremely well, maintain fertility under stress, and perform on natural veld. That makes it ideal for sustainable beef production,



Tuli cattle handle heat extremely well, and perform on natural veld. SUPPLIED

with minimum inputs. Efficiency is more important than size. The future isn't about the biggest animal, but about:

- calving every year;
- consistently raising a calf; and
- doing it with minimal supplementation.

That directly translates into more kilograms of beef per hectare, which is what food security depends on.