

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Drakensberger Cattle Breeders Society of South Africa



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Report of the Drakensberger Cattle Breeders Society and the Board's
endeavours during 2016/17

INTRODUCTION

Politics in South Africa is a game played by a few rich families and politicians seem to benefit from this, while state departments are going technically bankrupt - the game continues, regardless. What a mess! We still have to make sense of it all, in the best interest of the future of our beautiful country.

2017 started on a positive note as far as rainfall is concerned, and forage is recovering well after the drought of 2015/16. Weaner prices skyrocketed - up to R34.00 per kg or R8 000.00 per calf is no longer far-fetched. Record mealie and soy bean harvests are imminent and it is hoped that these record prices will also reflect in our auction prices.



BOARD

The board functions well and four board meetings were held - two in Parys, one in Bloemfontein and one in Vrede. Six teleconferences were held between members of the executive management and further matters were dealt with by means of e-mails, telephone and WhatsApp. The executive committee and board members spent many hours on the society's business. **Willie Landman** is vice president, manages the budget, serves on all the committees and is responsible for promotion of the breed together with Alda Fourie. He is also the board member for the eastern part of North West and Botswana. **Rodney Neuman** also serves on the executive committee, manages the sponsors and all payments done by the society. He is also responsible for the National Auction and Eastern Free State. Dr Johann Fourie serves on the executive committee, is the convener of the technical committee and responsible for research projects and the western part of North West and the Northern Cape. He is also a patron of the National Auction. **Fanie van Dyk** is the board member responsible for Nampo activities and spends the whole week there. His region is the Southern Free State and the Karoo. **Pikkie Uys** represents Mpumalanga and manages the annual selection course at Gryshoek. He is also a patron of the National Auction and is involved with genetic planning and the arrangement of selection tours. Henk Delpont is the board member for Northern and Western Free State, is our Studbook representative and also involved with genetic planning. He also ensures that our Nampo exhibition area is clean and ready for action. **Jean van der Merwe** is board member for Gauteng and our man for technology. He is involved with our new website and the regular update thereof. Jean is active on Facebook and ensures that the world knows of events as they happen. Jean is also involved with the annual selection course, Nampo and the arrangements for the National Auction. **Louis Botha** is responsible for KwaZulu-Natal and is involved with the annual refresher course of the selection panel. He is also a patron of the National Auction. **Dr Bobbie van der Westhuizen** is the Studbook representative on the board. **John Roos** is honorary president of the Society.



SECRETARIAT AND ADMINISTRATION

Ronandé Wiese is our secretary and apart from all her tasks at the office, she attended all of our meetings and also attended Nampo. I would like to thank her for her hard work and positivity every day. Wilanna Coetzer very efficiently attends to all our enquiries at Studbook. The two ladies at the secretariat who deals with our finances are Eleanor de Jager (debtors) and Yvonne Binding (responsible for all payments and financial management). They are doing excellent work and we would like to thank them in this regard.

FINANCES

As is reflected in the financial statements, the funds are being managed meticulously. The budget is prepared and managed by Willie Landman. All payments are approved by Rodney Neuman. Debtors exceeding 120 days are problematic and we had to take action in this regard.

TECHNICAL

Dr Johann Fourie is the convener of the technical committee who had a meeting in Pretoria at the office of SA Studbook. Dr Japie van der Westhuizen, dr Bobbie van der Westhuizen, dr Johann Fourie, Magiel Blom, Eli van der Merwe and dr Frik Barnard were all present. Dr Bobbie van der Westhuizen will report in more detail. Two meetings (one in Parys and one in Vrede) were held regarding breeding value guidelines and composition of cow values with dr Bobbie van der Westhuizen and dr Helena Theron on behalf of Studbook, dr Johann Fourie, Willie Landman, Magiel Blom, Henk Delpport and Pikkie Uys on behalf of the Board. Danie Bosman was also present and provided exceptional inputs. Frik Roux and Eli van der Merwe also participated. The composition of cow values was amended and was already indicated in the genetic report of March 2017. The breeding value guidelines have been compiled and there is enough room for variation within the breed. It is, however, important to remember that it is only a guideline and not a requirement.



RESEARCH

Various studies are in progress. At the University of Pretoria, prof Esté van Marle-Köster and dr Carina Visser are busy with studies regarding double skin (dermatosparaxis), double muscling, marbling, colour variation and white above the belly line. Roelin Grobler already progressed far with a study about the hornless gene with inputs by Derick Orsmond. At the University of the Free State, prof Frikkie Naser contributes to a study that analyses testes circumference/volume in young bulls in growth tests. The study is done by Adri O'Neill and will be of great value when completed. Liesel Foster obtained her PhD following a three year study on lick composition and the results of animal production. Ms Lené Pienaar of the ARC did a study on the composition of breeds.

BEEF GENOMICS PROGRAMME (BGP)

Workshops were attended by dr Johann Fourie, Magiel Blom, Henk Delpport, dr Liesel Foster and Derick Orsmond. Our breed's frame of reference will be done in the next year and a thousand profiles will be available.

BREED PROMOTION

Ms Alda Fourie was responsible for planning, coordinating and implementation of promotional activities, which included Veeplaas and Farmers Weekly packages and radio interviews. She also oversaw the Farmers Weekly supplement which was published in the first week of May 2017 - thank you to all the advertisers who made this supplement possible. Sponsors once again made a huge contribution to our breed promotion and here Alda and Rodney Neuman took the lead. The following activities took place:



Nampo

Nampo offers a big marketing opportunity each year. Henk Delpport and Pieter Esterhuizen is in charge of the exhibition and everything is clean and freshly painted, with new banners. Thank you to them both. Fanie van Dyk, Piet de Villiers and Ronandé Wiese were at their posts every day. Gawie and Frik Roux provided the bull, cow and calf for the inside exhibition. Willie Landman and Jean van der Merwe provided the cross-calves for the outside kraal. Henk had carry bags made to hand out and breeders who acted as sponsors were Delram, Rouvus, Black Hills, Black Fox, Mambane, Hymgert, Frelon and Cumin.

Information days

- The Fox in the Hills information day was held on 2 July 2016 at Rooipoortjie, Potchefstroom and about 150 guests attended the day with Danie Bosman as speaker.
- Neuman Broers had their information day at Newlands, Vrede with good attendance. Various speakers performed and dr Hannes Dreyer was involved with the arrangements.
- Rouvus information day was held before their auction with Danie Bosman as speaker.
- The 6+ Breeders had their information day on 20 August 2016 at Helderfontein, Brandfort.
- Marthinus Willemse hosted the Free State study group for their information day on 1 February 2017 at Memel.
- The Gryshoek (ETDC) information day was held on 8 March 2017 and is a resounding success with more than 200 guests and various speakers. Many cattle and sheep were also on display.



Other activities

- Rouvus had an exhibition at the Senekal show.
- Amersfoort Gholf Day (ETDC) with Corné van der Merwe and Pikkie Uys.
- Petrus Taljaard put exceptional animals on display at Ermelo show.
- Bronkhorstpruit had a schools' day where Jan Ehlers exhibited a bull.
- Dr Johann Fourie put animals on display at Hartebeesfontein.
- At Hekpoort Johan van Staden and Martin van Wyk participated.
- Delram is one of the sponsors at the annual Cherry Festival and the cycle tour is relayed through his farms and past his Drakensbergers.
- The third year UP agricultural students visited Rosedale Vrede on 5 October 2016 where Louis Botha and Rodney Neuman discussed the Drakensbergers with them. Dr Hannes Dreyer arranged this visit.
- The Studbook Logix Beef Cattle Forum hosted information days in 2016 where awards in the classes Gold, Silver and Bronze were conferred. Edwin Schroeder is the winner for KwaZulu/Natal and Black Hills for the northern region - Platinum herds.
- Bloemfontein show 2016 – Rouvus participated in the growth test class with GR130073. Rouvus' cow GR060606 is the Landbouweekblad Platinum cow.
- At the Jacaranda show 2016 in Pretoria, Jan and Elna Dhooge's D'Hofstee herd was selected as the Gauteng winner of the herd competition. HN040080 of the Neuman Broers is the Farmers Weekly cow.
- 2017 Logix Beef Cattle Days were already held and Rouvus (Gawie and Frik Roux) was selected as the Free State Platinum herd, and Black Hills (Willie Landman and Jean van der Merwe) as winner for the Northern region. Both these herds are part of the top 10 herds over all breeds who do animal recording with Studbook. Good luck to them for their participation in the competition where the National Herd for 2016/17 will be chosen. Herds receiving Gold awards are Neuman Broers (Hymgert), LA Neuman (Frelon), Edwin Schroeder (Bollie), Frannie du Toit (Turfkuil), Fanie van Dyk (Brakenjan), Carel Nel (Grasmunt), Freddie Wasserfall (Otjiwa) and Magiel Blom (Embee). Silver is awarded to dr Liesel Foster (Quaggafontein), Jan Dhooge (D'Hofstee)



and Dr Hans Schütte (Hansel) and Bronze to Dr Johann Fourie (Black Fox), Kobus and Francois Weideman (Bloubosput), Jan Ehlers (Kwars), Johannes Retief (Nadau), Bezuidenhout Broers (Swartbult), Henk Delport (Delram), Eli van der Merwe (Blyde) and Dries van der Walt (Erfenis).

Youth shows

Johan and Nelmarie van Staden is involved with 2016 Youth Shows participation in Lichtenburg (27 April), Bekker in Magaliesburg (11 Mei), Wagpos in Brits (20 Julie), Jacaranda show in Pretoria (1 September) and the National Youth Show on 1 October in Morgenzon. Morgenzon Agricultural Academy displayed three of their Drakensbergers at the Balfour and Morgenzon shows.

SELECTION AND SELECTION TRAINING

Carel Nel is our big induna when it comes to selection/grading. The new year was kicked off with a selection course at Gryshoek under auspices of Piet de Villiers. He is assisted by Pikkie Uys and Jean van der Merwe. Willie Watermeyer and Petrus Taljaard lent a hand with the practical segment. Eight out of 22 candidates passed the course. The selectors' refresher course was held in Vrede with a meeting and grouping for tours done by Pikkie Uys (six tours altogether with 25 selectors on tour). Danie Bosman leads the discussion and during the practical session at Neuman Broers, Carel Nel and Louis Botha also participate. The selectors drove 14 000 km on the annual selection tours and I wish to thank everyone for this mammoth task and the good ambassadors they are for the breed.

Selections done this year

Selection	Bulles evaluated	selected	Heifers evaluated	selected	Appendix Register A evaluated	selected
Special	463	298	110	88		
Annual	437	304	1 244	1 077	280	190
Total	900	602	1 354	1 165	280	190



MEMBERS AND FIGURES

Numbers

In the aftermath of the 2015/16 drought and its influence on our members and numbers, the information on 01 July 2016 was as follows:

Members	63
Special members	8
Female animals already calved	4 144
Heifers older than 24 months	1 621
Heifers between 12 and 24 months	1 351
Heifers younger than 12 months	1 486
Bulls older than 24 months	976
Bulls between 12 and 24 months	891
Bulls younger than 12 months	1 096
Total	11 965
Age First Calf (AFC)	34 months
ICP (Inter Calf Period)	422

Herds with more than 25 cows:





16 herds with ICP less than 400 days.

22 herds with ICP between 400 and 450 days.

6 herds with ICP between 450 and 500 days.

4 herds with ICP more than 500 days.









New members who joined

-  Dr Christo Smith of Saldanha.
-  Infracor Drakensbergers - Derick and Liesel Orsmond of Pretoria/Carolina.
-  Emmerentia Boerdery of Abrie Cronjé, Vrede.
-  Dr Sampie Smith of Klerksdorp, our latest recruit.



SPECIAL MENTION

Persons whom I specifically would like to thank for their contribution:

-  Dr Hannes Dreyer of SAVBRSA.
-  Danie Bosman, a specialist consultant.
-  Dr Bobbie van der Westhuizen of SA Studbook.
-  Dr Helena Theron of SA Studbook.
-  Ms Wilanna Coetzer of SA Studbook.
-  Freddie Wasserfall as President of SA Studbook.
-  Johannes Retief as representative in the Karoo.
-  Piet de Villiers for training of learners.

AWARDS FOR 2017

AS van Niekerk Shield for herds with less than 100 cows with best ICP:

Black Hills 370/85

Embee Trophy for herds with more than 100 cows with best ICP:

Neuman Broers – 384 days/130 cows

Pfizer Trophy for the bull with the best FCR (Feed Conversion Ratio):

Delram Drakensbergers with D140126 4.91/1

AECI Trophy for herd with best improvement:

Black Hills

Eppie Nel Trophy to a person rendering outstanding service:

Johan van Staden & family

Rouvus Award for the herd with the best wean breeding values:

Gawie Roux



THANK YOU

All glory and gratitude to our Lord who entrusted us with everything. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our success this year. Thank you to the executive committee - Willie, Johann and Rodney - for your support, to the Board for your contribution and to every member whose reaction was always positive. Thank you to all our ladies who are always prepared and organised to assist. To Linda - I don't have enough words to thank you for all your patience and understanding over the years and especially the last 12 years. I conclude with the words of the old national anthem:

"In thy power, Almighty, trusting, did our fathers build of old - strengthen then, O Lord, our children, to defend, to love, to hold. That the heritage they gave us, for our children yet may be - bondsmen only to the Highest, and before the whole world free. As our fathers trusted humbly, teach us, Lord to trust Thee still. Guard our land and guide our people, in Thy way to do Thy will."

Magiel Blom

May 2017