



# BEEF-BULLETIN

HEAR IT FROM THE BULL'S MOUTH

March 2025

December 21 marked the longest day and shortest night of the year, signifying the midpoint of the traditional summer season, which now appears to occur later in the year. Unfortunately, the anticipated robust grass growth has not been observed in all areas. Droughts, which are beyond our control, pose significant challenges and cause considerable stress.

As the season advances, Drakensbergers continue to demonstrate their resilience, with calves growing and gaining weight, thus reinforcing their reputation as the 'Profit Breed'. In today's competitive farming environment, it is essential to adopt the perspective that profit should be measured as Kilograms per hectare rather than Kilograms per animal.

Drakensbergers are medium-frame beef cattle, well-

adapted for temperature regulation, tick resistance, and possessing a calm temperament. Their black hooves resemble those of game animals, enabling them to traverse long distances for grazing. This walking ability is crucial for functionally efficient cattle.

Upcoming selection tours will provide an opportunity to identify and discuss these animals, with some being recommended for the national auction in June. The genetics offered at the auction will serve to enhance existing herds.

Best wishes to all Drakensberger members and breeders. I take great pride in farming with Drakensbergers.

Best wishes  
Johann Fourie



With thanks to **Sambesi**,  
our March sponsor



*Soos moedersmelk...*



Volg ons op Facebook vir veiling datums

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## Index

Letter from the President	1
Sponsor of the Month	2
Promotion of Selectors	3
Inspector Tour Dates	3
Kaptein for the win	4
Free State Study Group Report	6
Let's talk farming	7
Feedlot Contact Numbers	9
Stud Breeders	11

**BEEF-BULLETIN**

March 2025

2



# Promotion of Junior Selectors to Senior Selectors

## 5 & 6 February 2025

Melissa Blom

It is a great privilege for us at Drakensberger SA to announce the promotion of new Learner, Junior, and Senior selectors. The nominees were meticulously evaluated by our esteemed Senior Selectors: Mr. Carel Nel, Mr. Fanie van Dyk, Dr. Johann Fourie, Mr. Jean van der Merwe, Mr. Willie Watermeyer, Mr. Callie Watermeyer, and Mr. Louis Botha.

The candidates demonstrated thorough preparation for the theoretical exam and effectively showcased their animal evaluation skills to the experienced senior selectors, successfully overcoming this challenging assessment.

We are pleased to extend our hearty congratulations to the following individuals on their promotions:

- Neëls Wilken (promoted from Learner to Junior Selector)
- Ruben Schütte (promoted from Learner to Junior Selector)
- Bertus Nel (promoted from Junior to Senior Selector)

These individuals have proven themselves ready for the responsibilities associated with their new roles. We look forward to their continued contribution of enforcing the breed standards. Congratulations to all involved!

*The candidates demonstrated thorough preparation and effectively showcased their animal evaluation skills.*



**Neëls Wilken**

Promoted from learner to Junior Selector



**Ruben Schütte**

Promoted from learner to Junior Selector



**Bertus Nel**

Promoted from Junior to Senior Selector

## Inspector Tour Dates for 2025

**PLATO: 26 - 28 February**

Tour guide: Fanie van Dyk (082 774 4952)

**MPUMALANGA: 3 March**

Tour guide: Piet de Villiers (073 143 3985)

**NORTH WEST & GAUTENG: 10 March**

Tour guide: Willie Watermeyer  
(073 640 6151)

**CENTRAL FREE STATE: 17 - 19 March**

Tour guide: Udo Beneke (082 797 8088)

**FREE STATE: 17 - 18 March**

Tour guide: Carel Nel (082 828 1984)

**EAST FREE STATE: 24 - 25 March**

Tour guide: Johann Fourie (082 772 7716)

**KWAZULU-NATAL: 25 & 26 March**

Tour guide: Louis Botha (082 825 2431)

**NORTHERN CAPE & NAMIBIA:**

**30 March - 1 April**

Tour guide: Callie Watermeyer  
(083 458 1204)

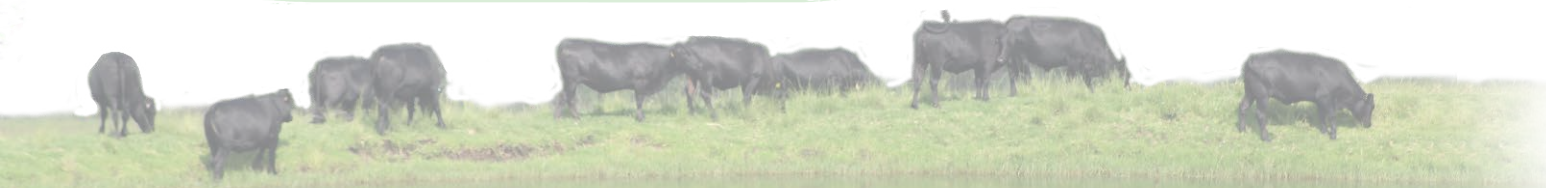
**KAROO & CAPE: 6 - 7 May**

Tour guide: Liesel Foster (082 373 2427)

**BEEF-BULLETIN**

March 2025

**3**



# KAPTEIN *for the win*

*We talked to Monja a little about where it all started:*

"It started when I was looking for something to do outdoors with my elderly German Shepherds (Brako, Zoya) and found a way out of the office. Or no, it was probably innate, always in the back of my mind as you get older. But by 2014 I had done a cattle production short course, and started researching cattle breeds further and made contact with family (farmers or with a hand in a farming industry). And a few breeders in Gauteng and the surrounding area. And so I made a decision – the Drakensberger. It is an indigenous breed, so already disease-resistant and can maintain itself in Southern Africa, medium-framed, easy to manage (a requirement because with my lack of experience – the cattle must be able to manage themselves!), and good temperament – I don't want a cow chasing me around.... And the shiny black one looks so nice.

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Congratulations to Monja Esterhuizen of Mobaza Drakensberger Stud. Her bull, BZ220005 - Kaptein, has been selected by DrakensbergerSA as the bull that will represent the breed in Bloemfontein at Vleissentraal and SA Stud Book's ELITE bull growth class this year.



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↓ *A few of Mobaza's cattle*



↓ *Monja Esterhuizen*



↓ *Brako looking at the cattle*



And the slogan – The Profit Breed, makes you think.

So I visited the Buffalo Valley auction in 2014, and Jan Dhooge was there and gave me some advice. I didn't buy, but afterwards I called John Roos and bought my first Drakensbergers – two Golden Oldies (2006), three-in-one. The Mobaza Drakensberger Stud (from my and the dogs' names) started. By 2015 I had acquired more animals from Piet de Villiers, Carel Nel, Dr Johann Fourie and Petrus Taljaard. The herd was still under co-management in Gauteng, but circumstances were difficult and they moved south, to the Brandfort district. My two Golden Oldies made their contribution until 2023 and 2024!

The cattle continue and it is a long road, longer than one would have thought. But this is a road with real-life realities, events, impacts – different from my profession. And that is why I have the cattle. And to connect with good people and build relationships that give you a different perspective and then, you cannot farm without a relationship with the Creator. But thank you for people like Piet de Villiers, Carel Nel and Frannie du Toit who are happy to share their advice and experience with you.

Like where bull BZ220005 Kaptein (from a first purchase from Piet De Villiers, P140051 Marina; and a descendant of Carel Nel Grasmunt purchase), can now show his mettle through performance, selection and genetics in Bloemfontein. With the help of Grasmunt's experienced people. You feel proud to be able to offer a quality animal and keep our breed's name high. What a privilege!"

Once again, congratulations and good luck with the preparation for the big day. May it, like the rest of your farming experience, be a positive experience.



# Free State Study Group Report

## 8 February 2025

Christo Nel

On the 8th of February 2025, the Free State Drakensberger Study Group held its annual meeting on the farm Lusthof of Mr. André Roux in the Edenville district.

The attendance was good with 35 registrations, including quite a few new members.

Our host, Mr. André Roux and his wife Hannetjie, went out of their way to make the day special with the help of their children and professional caterers.

The father of the study group, Mr. Piet de Villiers, opened the day for us in the appropriate manner after which the speakers gave very informative talks.

The main speaker was Dr. Izak Hattingh van Villiers, who also farms with Drakensbergers himself, and he informed us of the prevailing threatening diseases, the latest parasite remedies and vaccinations.

Mr. André Groenewald from Farmspace and Bloutand Cattle Tracking spoke about their ear tags that can count and monitor your cattle via a base station. Mr. Evert Kleynhans from Telviedre voere and Agricol discussed cattle licks and planted pastures.

Our last speaker was Mr. J.P. Theunissen from Theunissen Drakensbergers who gave a talk about the relationship between stud and commercial cattle farmers.

We looked at beautiful, functionally efficient cattle and the day ended with a delicious meal and socializing.

We would like to thank the sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. André Roux, the Drakensberger Society, Bloutand Cattle Tracking, Theunissen Drakensbergers and everyone who participated in the day.

## FAST FACT

How much do Drakensbergers eat per day? A cow needs 2-3% of its body weight in feed. This is an average of 12kg of dry matter for a cow of  $\pm 475$ kg. Although this varies with the seasons, a cow will eat approximately 40kg of green veld grass to consume 12kg of dry matter.



Source: <https://www.landbou.com/landbou/produkte-en-dienste/drakensberger-die-ideale-veldbeesvenoot-20200907>



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YOUTUBE**

On our YouTube channel you will find a variety of videos with advice and interesting information.

Have a look at <https://www.youtube.com/@drakensbergers/videos>



**BEEF-BULLETIN**

March 2025

6



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# LET'S TALK FARMING

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I am Bertus Nel. I have a mixed farm consisting of cattle, sheep and sowing in Verkykerkop in the Eastern Free State. We have been farming in the area for about 15 years.

My passion is cattle. I farm with Drakensberger cattle and wool Merino sheep.

We also market our own product from the farm. We know that scale is important in today's time in terms of profitability to operate a farm sustainably, but we try to farm more intensively and to create opportunities for ourselves with what we have.

We have expanded over the last few years with a feedlot and also to sell high quality organic meat directly to the end consumer from the farm.

That way we get a lot more for our product and a much better profit margin. We want to get to a point where we can offer very good quality to clients by focusing on organic meat and good service delivery to the end consumer. From farm to table.

Our vision is to be able to process the amount of calves and lambs we wean in a year ourselves and deliver them directly to the end consumer.

We are very focused on quality and make sure we do everything 100%

*We want to offer very good quality to clients by focusing on organic meat and good service delivery to the end consumer.*

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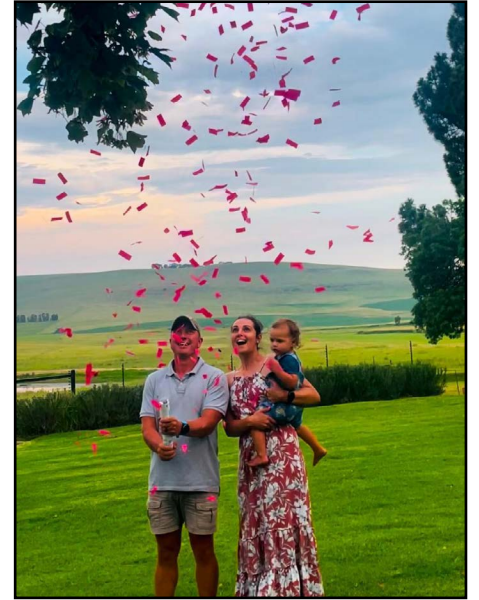
right in terms of legislation, regulations, health etc.

It is a competitive market and we try to stay competitive with our organic model, attention to detail and perfect packaging.

The farm complements itself with the sowing, livestock production and now the Drakensberger deli that is added.

We also have a cattle stud to help us identify the best animals in terms of meat, fertility and profitability.

Our long-term approach is to try to farm profitably but also in a more intensive way. Our family farm strives to achieve a lot more and always wants to improve where we can!



Would you like to talk to Bertus about his farming? Send an email to [bruwershoek@gmail.com](mailto:bruwershoek@gmail.com)



Have you started farming in recent years? We would like to hear from you! Tell us about your experience and share some photos. We would love to feature it in our next newsletter. Send an email to: [drakensberger@studbook.co.za](mailto:drakensberger@studbook.co.za).

**DO YOU EVEN FARM?**





# Feedlot contact numbers

Here is a list of board members, successful breeders and sellers of Drakensberger weaners and feedlot buyers. Contact any of these individuals for advice or a second opinion or price.

NEAREST TOWN / REGION	DRAKENSBERGER FARMER / COUNCIL MEMBER	FEEDLOT BUYER / AGENT
<b>FREE STATE</b>		
Brandfort	Fanie van Dyk (Council member) 082 774 4952	Johan Botha - 082 856 4409 - Karan
Vrede	Rodney Neuman	Arend Munnick - 071 540 9913 - Various feedlots
Ficksburg	Henk Delpont (Council member) 083 300 1131	Thys Fourie - 083 225 4146 - Beefmaster
Welkom	Christo Nel	Jan du Toit - 082 555 4221 - Marketer
Kroonstad	Gawie Roux	Michael Bezuidenhout - 073 370 7291
Harrismith	Jakob Tsabalala 083 974 9706	
Koppies		Pierre Boutser - 082 499 7997
Betlehem		Dano van Zyl - 083 385 8285 - Vleissentraal marketer
<b>MPUMALANGA</b>		
Volkstrust	Pikkie Uys (Council member) 082 857 5022	Arnold Durr - 082 902 3916 - Karan
Ermelo/Middelburg	Petrus Taljaard (Council member) 082 493 4137	Hein - 076 862 0797 - Buyer Karan David Harris 082 573 7979 - Buyer Rockdale Industrial (Pty) Ltd

NEAREST TOWN / REGION	DRAKENSBERGER FARMER / COUNCIL MEMBER	FEEDLOT BUYER / AGENT
<b>MPUMALANGA (continued)</b>		
Amersfoort	Koos van Niekerk	Sakkie Fourie - 082 802 2125 - Various feedlots
Standerton		Pieter Swanepoel - 083 440 1423 - Chalmar and other Carel Davel - 082 331 1811 - BKB PM Swart - 083 948 3345 - OVK Gert du Preez - 082 449 5263
<b>KWAZULU-NATAL</b>		
Lunenburg	Udo Beneke (Council member) 082 797 8088	
<b>NAMIBIA</b>		
Aroab	Gerrit Maritz	
Gobabis		Piet de Wit, +264 81 128 9716 - Beefmaster marketer
<b>NORTHERN CAPE</b>		
Klerksdorp/Tosca	Johann Fourie (Council member) 082 772 7716	
Kuruman	Bossie Rens	
Kuruman	Werner Vermeulen	Freddie Markam - 082 920 8893 - Karan Beef, Kuruman
Danielskuil	Franco Joubert	
Deben	Werner Vermeulen	
Zeerust		Coenraad Boshoff - 078 950 5876



# Feedlot contact numbers

(continued)

NEAREST TOWN / REGION	DRAKENSBERGER FARMER / COUNCIL MEMBER	FEEDLOT BUYER / AGENT
<b>NORTH WEST</b>		
Potchefstroom	Willie Landman (Council member) 083 257 8511	
Louwna	Stuart Collen	
<b>GAUTENG</b>		
Potchefstroom	Jean vd Merwe (Council member) 082 7197521	
Derby	Charlie van Schalkwyk	Barco van Niekerk - 072 384 9057 - Buyer & auctioneer Theo Coetzee - 082 600 8374
<b>KAROO / SOUTHERN FREE STATE AND EASTERN CAPE</b>		
Zastron	Liesel Foster (Council member) 082 373 2427	
Southern Free State & Eastern Cape		Pieter Klopper - 082 807 3752 - Karan Beef Kobus Barnard - 084 202 5205 - Pedriam Trust Blaine Dormehl - 081 889 9486 - Vleissentraal

If you have feedback about good prices, advice or good buyers, please contact us to add the names here, in order to equip our fellow farmers with the right advice and contacts.

## Points

to discuss with the buyer / feedlot

- Date of delivery
- Average weight of group
- Birth dates (period)
- Ratio of number of bulls and heifers
- Vaccinations received and deworming
- Weaning date
- Minimum / maximum weight of group
- Are animals dehorned / castrated?



## STAY UP TO DATE

Stay up to date with all our news, and become part of the Drakensberger communication channel: Send a WhatsApp to:

<https://wa.me/message/MFAUMIBMHBIBB1>

OR Telegram: <https://t.me/DrakensbergerSA>

Contact us

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<https://drakensbergers.co.za/>

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**BEEF-BULLETIN** **10**  
March 2025



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**BEEF-BULLETIN** 12  
March 2025

