



BEEF-BULLETIN

HEAR IT FROM THE BULL'S MOUTH

October 2026

September was a month filled with expectations, with the remarkable realisation of the highest aspirations. Drakensberger breeders are being rewarded for lifelong dedication, accurate record-keeping, credibility and correct selection principles. Well done to Carel Nel with his bull Grasmunt Koning, which was sold at the SHDK auction for R575,000.00.

The 6+ Auction and the Black Hills Auction were a tremendous success, once again demonstrating dedicated breeders and willing buyers. What is the motivation for buying the animals? "Looks"? Phenotype, for the purists among us. Breeding values? Which breeding values are YOUR specific choice? What is your objective with them, what is your plan? What do you want to achieve, and how long do you intend to take to get there?

Naturally, it is a shorter route to buy proven animals, provided that they are a means to an end. What is the end goal? To make the appearance of your animals typical of the breed. "You can see that this bull comes from such-and-such a stud." Some of our breeders have already established this, while others want it. They can achieve it; there is competition, and it is healthy.

The movement within the Drakensberger breed is happening. There is a growing sense of pride, there is unity around breed principles, the animals are being correctly projected by the Marketing Committee, and it is being noticed.

It is indeed high time for this success within the Drakensberger breed. Well done, and once again congratulations on the highest prices achieved, record prices achieved, and the sale of all animals at the auctions. The opportunity to sit back after the auction, knowing that the planning has led to success, is well deserved.

Drakensberger cattle can now be found in Graaff-Reinet, and a Drakensberger bull is on its way to Laingsburg. To give the current herd, which is another breed, a bit of a fright!

Why is the Western Cape different? Is it the mass of water from the oceans on either side? Is it the fact that three little boats landed in Table Bay in 1652, and that Black cattle were already present at the time? With good meat, which multiplied and, typical of the nation, moved out onto the plains. Until who knows where.

Why is everything in Cape Town so expensive? They don't have enough roads, they have too many cars, they are too "posh" for me, walking around with their noses in the air. (Fortunately, there are exceptions here and there.)

What is wrong with the Western Cape, which is much like a baby with colic: If it isn't wet, it is full of wind!

What is wrong with the Western Cape is that there are no Drakensbergers there!

Wishing everyone prosperity and a safe journey.

JF

**With thanks to
Waldberg, our
October sponsor**

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15 September 2021

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Deadline for November Newsletter:
23 October 2026

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News Snippets

Birthdays

Congratulations to everyone celebrating their birthday:

- 9 October - Elias Pangane
- 10 October - Henk Delpont
- 10 October - Hans Schutte
- 12 October - Derick Orsmond
- 13 October - Eduan Naude
- 15 October - Frannie du Toit
- 16 October - Louis Botha
- 22 October - Liesel Foster
- 23 October - Johan Uys

Please share your news with us!

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Advertisements or opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Drakensberger Society.

Unistel DNA-tests

The Society was able to negotiate a special discount with Unistel for DNA tests on profiles and paternities. The prices are as follows:

Unistel DNA tests	Cost per animal for profile (VAT incl.)
Normal price for 2026 < 30	R 282.56
More than 30 (-5% discount)	R 268.43
More than 60 (-7.5% disc.)	R 261.36
More than 120 (-10% disc.)	R 254.30

Contact Unistel for more information, and remember to specify the breed for the special discount to apply.

WHATSAPP GROUP:

Join our WhatsApp group. We share important news, but it is not a "spam" group or a chat group. Click on the link



(on your mobile phone):
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LZrhtyvdjr42IOAT-Z1tRCr>



PHOTO FRIDAY

Do you have a beautiful photo of your Drakensbergers that you would like to share with us? Please send it to drakensberger@studbook.co.za
We would love to share Drakensberger photos on our social media every Friday. This beautiful photo was sent to us by Pieter-Jan Pienaar.

JOIN US ON OUR
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with Carel Nel

My father was a sheep farmer. He also had cattle. Anything, really. Later, he also had Brahman crosses, which I hated with a passion. They had the ability to “make” gates wherever they wanted one. Yet I was very fond of cattle. My grandfather gave me an orphan calf, which over time became a milk cow that I milked myself. With my army savings, I bought five pregnant Jersey heifers at R12.25 per heifer. And when they calved, my first milk cheque was also my first farming income. 1968. It was also my first lesson in inbreeding.

Anita and I got married in February 1974. My parents moved to town. My father sold the cattle and divided the land we would inherit in advance, so that everyone knew where they stood. I WANTED to farm with cattle, a pure breed, but I didn't know which breed. I wrote a letter to the Agricultural Research Council, describing my veld and land situation, and two weeks later Oom Danie Bosman replied to me. Drakensbergers are the breed, he answered. What does the cattle look like, and where does one get the cattle? Make contact with Tannie Raai Hills at the office in Volksrust.

Now it was the four of us brothers together. Yulanda Stud. We got our very first cattle at Meulstroom and Trutersrust. Later, 50 cows from Rietkol from Oom Piet de Villiers. The brothers who were not farming withdrew, my eldest brother retained Yulanda, and I started the Grasmunt Stud.

In 1979 there was an Agricultural and Food Show in Pretoria. There was no showing involved. It was simply an exhibition of the highest-producing animals per breed from breeders who had started with basic Performance Testing. You received a layout map showing where each animal was in the various stalls. Twelve Drakensbergers represented the breed. Something about the animals on the map caught my attention. Two days later, back home, the penny dropped. Three-quarters of the animals were from the Dwarsspruit bloodline.

I phoned Oom Koos Botha. I said nothing about Pretoria, only that I would like to buy five female animals each from him and Oom Jaap. They didn't have any, was the immediate answer. But then I played a successful trump card. “If you cannot help me, I will build my Drakensberger future on the Meulstroom line.” Oom Koos then asked me to give him a few days before I went to Meulstroom. The following Monday, Oom Koos phoned and said they would help me. We didn't sleep that night, and on Tuesday morning, as the sun came up, Anita and I knocked on his front door.

Tannie Wilma made a delicious breakfast. Oom Jaap arrived, and when it came to selecting the animals at Oom Koos's place, I stood there looking rather foolish. What did I actually know? And then something happened that I will NEVER forget. Oom Koos told Oom Jaap to select the animals for me. And at Oom Jaap's place, the roles were reversed. Oom Koos did the selecting.

I also learned a priceless truth from him: *****“NEVER USE A BULL WITH MUSCLE KNOTS.”**** Myostatin did not yet have a name at the time.

The Drakensberger cows proved their abilities, and within two years another breed had to stand aside. I participated in Phase C tests annually. First at Irene and later at Glen, selecting mainly for Feed Conversion. Long-term benefits.

Several Gold Merit Grasmunt bulls represented the breed at Interbreed Performance Class Shows. Within the Standard of Excellence lies the guarantee for the purity of the Drakensberger in the future.

During my 50 years with Drakensbergers, the breed has improved and changed phenomenally, simply through shifts in emphasis in the points



allocated to the meat characteristics of the breed, while still remaining within the Standard of Excellence. I still have photographs of bulls that were top stud bulls 50 years ago, but which would NOT pass inspection today. Just to show where we came from and what we have achieved.

As far as breeding policy is concerned, our foundation is our breed standard. Then correct phenotype is important to me, measured against my eight “B”s, as well as Functionally Efficient reproductive animals. Fertile maternal lines and, equally importantly, correct bulls from top cows build a herd and generate your income.

Science warns against animals that are more than 6% inbred in terms of reproduction, which becomes compromised, and the figure is shown in your genomic report. Well, mine looks like Blood River, and even the late Oom Danie Bosman could confirm that my herd continued to improve in reproduction despite the figure.

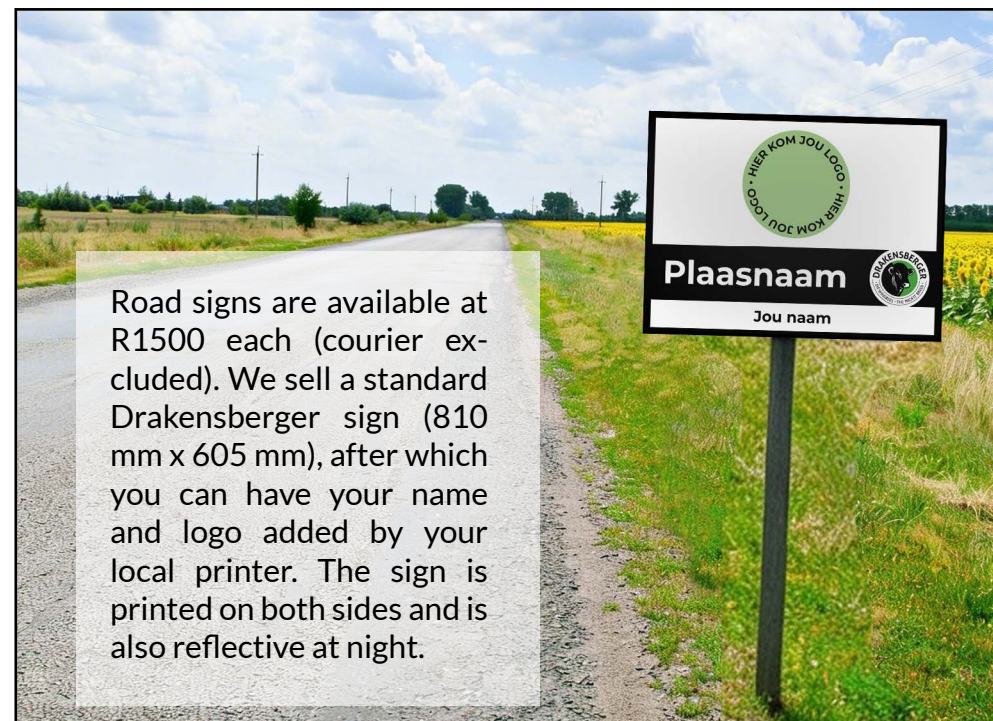
As an example: Cow CL 0969, which was 32% inbred (fortunately not planned), had 13 calves over 15 years, received the Farmers Weekly award and Gold from Stud Book. She had 100% inspection approval, and because of her genetic dominance, all her calves carried her phenotype, regardless of the bull.

Certainly, over time, bulls were bought in very selectively. An inbred bull, or a distantly related bull, whose genetic dominance from an unrelated herd had to leave its mark and bring the characteristics I was looking for into my herd.

For example, Star 3, 23% inbred, had parents that were brother and sister. His son, Grasmunt Prisma, out of Grasmunt Priscilla (the Farmers Weekly cow), was the last Supreme Champion Drakensberger at the last National Championships in 1999.

This confirms that bringing together breed purity, genetic dominance, phenotype and reproduction is a basic recipe for success.

Planning, management and selection under the control and guidance of my Creator have, over 50 years, led to a Grasmunt Koning, who also belongs to HIM. All praise, thanks and honour to HIM alone for this wonderful milestone in Grasmunt’s history.



Lend me your EARS!

We had two Afrikaans articles recorded, and they can be listened to on Spotify or YouTube. They are enjoyable to listen to while you are travelling, waiting somewhere, or perhaps even to lull you to sleep!

At this stage, it’s only available in Afrikaans.

If there’s enough interest in an English version, we can discuss it.



Follow this link to Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/yc4uktpH>

Follow this link to YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/38cdhtus>



A legacy that lives on

Sires that continue making an impact in the Drakensberger breed today

Marike Hillocks, Geneticist, SA Stamboek

A bull may leave the breeding herd, but his genetics can remain for generations. Every calf gains half the genetics that it carries from its sire, and when a sire produces sons and daughters that each continue to contribute to the breed, his influence can continue long after he is gone. Over time, some sires become deeply embedded into a breed, not simply because they were widely used, but because their descendants continued to be selected and used by breeders.

So which sires are still leaving their mark in the Drakensberger breed today?

By looking at the Genetic Contribution (GC) scores and Additive Genetic Relationships (AGR), it provides an interesting opportunity to look back and ask which sires from the past are still making their mark in the breed today. AGR tells us about the genetic relationship between a sire and the current population (common ancestry), while GC tells us how much of that sire's genetics are directly contributing to the current population.

Essentially:

GC: How much of his genetics are still here?

AGR: How strongly is his family still connected to today's animals?

Looking at these population descriptors together gives us a glimpse into the genetic legacy of influential sires. By studying the calves born in 2025, we can identify the ancestral sires that are still making a mark. These are more than just names on a pedigree. They represent genetic lines that continues to contribute towards the Drakensberger breed.

The Sires Behind the Numbers

The sires highlighted in this article were identified using EVA, a program developed by NordGen. EVA uses pedigree information to calculate different measures of genetic contribution and relationship, helping to identify animals that have had a lasting influence on a population. For this analysis, the pedigrees of the calves born in 2025 of the Drakensberger breed were studied to identify the ancestral sires whose genetics are still represented in today's calves.

For breeders, this provides valuable insight into the long-term impact of breeding decisions and encourages greater consideration of their lasting influence on the population. A sire's importance does not end when his own breeding career does. His real legacy can be seen in the generations that follow. A successful sire may leave behind daughters that become productive breeding females, sons that enter other herds as breeding bulls, and descendants that continue to perform well under different management conditions. In this way, the influence of a sire is not measured only by the number of calves he produced himself. His legacy is also reflected in the generations that followed.

Meet the Sires

The results provide a fascinating look into the sires whose genetics have remained present in the Drakensberger population. The ten sires with the highest Genetic Contribution (GC) scores to the 2025-born calves are shown in Table 1. What immediately stands out is the age of some of these genetic lines. The sires in the list were born between 1970 and 2004, meaning that genetics from bulls born more than 50 years ago are



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still represented in the pedigrees of calves born today.

This is a good reminder that the influence of a sire does not necessarily disappear when his own progeny stop being born. If his sons and daughters are retained and used for breeding, his genetics can continue to move through the population, generation after generation.

As you look through the table, keep in mind that these figures tell a story about genetic influence and ancestry. They do not, on their own, indicate which sire was the best performer or which bloodline should be preferred. Instead, they show which ancestral sire genetics have remained most strongly represented in the current Drakensberger population.

BUFFALO-VALLEY HOTSHOT 2 stands at the top of the list, with a GC score of 4.29. Born in 1979, he is more than four decades removed from the 2025 calves, yet his genetics remain represented in the current population. He produced 372 recorded progeny, of which 162 went on to produce progeny themselves. This illustrates how a sire's influence can extend well beyond his own generation.

Close behind is BUFFALO-VALLEY EAGLE MT351, born in 1974. His GC score of 4.03 is particularly noteworthy given his age. With 224 progeny, including 116 progeny that went on to reproduce, his genetics have had an opportunity to move through several generations.

At the top of the list in terms of age is KRANSPOORT 117, born in

Table 1. Sires with the highest GC score, their AGR, birth year, IDs and progeny information in the Drakensberger breed

Nr.	Animal name	ID	Sire ID	Dam ID	Birth year	AGR	GC	Progeny	Progeny with progeny
1	BUFFALO-VALLEY HOTSHOT 2 (A38819) 79	BV110D	BV99D135	D6590	1979	6.17	4.29	372	162
2	BUFFALO-VALLEY EAGLE MT351 (A15342) 74	BV99D135	D2 110007	–	1974	4.60	4.03	224	116
3	KRANSPOORT 117 (D 9727) 70	D2 110007	–	–	1970	3.17	3.17	224	116
4	BUFFALO-VALLEY STAR 3	BV 880014	BV110D	BV 810285	1988	6.95	2.96	232	102
5	GRASMUNT BLOMBERG 2 82	CL 820013	CL7936D	JD 210997	1982	3.76	2.84	157	55
6	YULANDA CAREL (A20525) 75	NL1D1	53 D 0009	–	1975	2.79	2.69	130	62
7	GRASMUNT BANDOM	CL 950063	CL 890030	CL 870025	1995	5.18	2.67	342	133
8	BUFFALO-VALLEY JULY	BV 990173	DSK 960020	BV 960040	1999	4.92	2.52	480	156



1970. His GC score of 3.17 is a striking example of how long genetic influence can persist in a breed. Another interesting case is BUFFALO-VALLEY STAR 3, born in 1988. Although his GC score of 2.96 is lower than that of the first three sires, he has the highest AGR in the group at 6.95. This indicates a strong genetic relationship between this sire and the current population through common ancestry.

The list also shows that genetic influence is not limited to the oldest sires. GRASMUNT BANDOM, born in 1995, has a GC score of 2.67, while BUFFALO-VALLEY JULY, born in 1999, has a GC score of 2.52 and the highest recorded number of direct progeny in the group, at 480.

Influence is About More Than Only the Number of Calves

One thing to note about these results is that the sire with the most progeny is not necessarily the sire with the highest GC. For example, BUFFALO-VALLEY JULY has 480 recorded progeny, more than any other sire in the top ten, but his GC score is 2.52. In comparison, BUFFALO-VALLEY HOTSHOT 2 has fewer progeny, at 372, but has the highest GC score at 4.29.

Genetic contribution is not simply a count of how many calves a sire produced. What matters is how his genetics have continued to be represented in the population through subsequent generations. A sire may produce many calves, but if relatively few of those animals are retained

for breeding, his genetic contribution can decrease over time. Another sire may have fewer direct progeny, but if his sons and daughters are repeatedly used as breeding animals, his genetic influence can become more widely represented in later generations.

This is where the “Progeny with Progeny” column becomes particularly noteworthy, giving an indication of how many of a sire’s direct progeny themselves went on to contribute to the next generation.

A Legacy Measured in Generations

These results show that the genetic history of a breed is much longer than the breeding career of an individual bull. The 2025-born calves carry pieces of the genetic history of sires born in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s. Through sons, daughters and successive generations of descendants, these genetics have continued to move through the Drakensberger population.

For today’s breeder, this provides an opportunity to look at pedigrees from a different perspective. A name appearing several generations back may still represent a meaningful part of the genetic make-up of the animals being bred today. And that is what makes an influential sire’s legacy so interesting: the bull may be gone, but his genetics can still be found in the cattle walking the veld today.



SA Stud Book Genomic Service for Beef Cattle

BGP2 funds for year 3 are approved and paid over by the funder. For the third and final year of BGP2, the funder will subsidise genomic tests with R420-00. SA Stud Book will subsidise an additional subsidy of R104-00 for SA Stud Book Breeders. Therefore, the total costs to the Breeder will be R549-00 excl. VAT. There are no deviations from the original BGP2 proposal as approved at the start of the 3-year project. SA Stud Book is ready and awaits samples for year-3 of BGP2. Contact drakensberger@studbook.co.za.



Women Farmers Helping Shape the Cattle Industry

(Landbouweekblad, 3 September 2026 – Salomé van den Berg)

Behind every fence, among the dust and silence of the Free State fields, stand women who not only farm but also help shape the industry. Jodee Neuman (39) from Vrede carries a family farm across generations into the future, and Willa Coetzee (25), also from Vrede, wants to strengthen the industry. Together they speak of the same things: women's special intuition, the relentless pressure, and the preservation of family farms that are not measured only by growth.

JODEE NEUMAN

'An Unquenchable Love for the Farm'

Qualifications: Chartered Accountant (and subsequently worked in financial reporting for Absa)

Farms with: Drakensberger cattle, Merino sheep and crops (maize and soybeans)

Where does your love for cattle farming come from?

Farming has been in my blood since childhood. We always rode around with my father in the bakkie, walked among the bulls, threw maize to the sheep and played in the wool during shearing time. We attended auctions every year and spent weekends and holidays on the farm. My father, Rodney's, love for the Drakensberger led to my love for cattle farming. He has a passion for the breed. Later, as I began investing more time and energy in the farming – among the cattle in the veld, but also on paper, through genetics and figures – that love was only strengthened.

What advantages do women bring to cattle farming and agriculture?

As a woman farmer, you look at people, animals and the land with a deep sense of responsibility. Women bring a natural maternal instinct and empathy to cattle farming. When I look at a cow, I keep this in mind. It is not only about how big her calf is or how much milk she produc-



Jodee farms with Drakensbergers as part of the Neuman family farming operation.

The Neuman women's love for the cattle industry lives on from generation to generation. Jodee is on the right, with her mother, Cory, with Zoe, on the left, and her sister, Natalie, with Taylor. Zoe and Taylor are Jodee's daughters. Jodee's aunt, Helene, has also been a financial pillar of support for 45 years.



es, but also about what it takes out of her to raise that calf. Has she become pregnant again? This is an important part of sustainable cattle farming: not only asking how much an animal can give, but also whether she is healthy, strong and well enough to be able to do it year after year.



How does the pressure of farming affect you?

We farm in partnership with God. It is something you become very quickly aware of in farming, because there are so many things that are beyond your control. The pressure can be intense. There are droughts, prices that are not always in your favour, rising input costs, foot-and-mouth disease... It brings great uncertainty.

You carry the worry with you, but you still have to get up every day, make decisions and trust that things will get better again. That pressure forces you to continually adapt.

Farming has taught me to do my part – plan, work hard and make responsible decisions – but you have to accept that certain things are simply beyond your control. Then it is your faith that keeps you going.

How do you keep all the balls in the air?

In English, people say, “it takes a village to raise a kid” – and I have four! I am very fortunate that my husband, Kevin, supports me.

Furthermore, there is a whole team of family members and people around me whom I can rely on. No one has to try to do everything alone to prove that they can do it. As a woman, wife and mother, the secret mostly lies in planning ahead. I try to plan the week in advance – meals that can be prepared and frozen beforehand, lifts for the children, their matches and school activities, and then, of course, everything that needs to be done on the farm.

Holidays make it easier, because our children really enjoy being on the farm. Then I don't have to choose between being a “mother” and a “farmer”. The children can be part of the life that I love. They don't only see the hard work, but also experience the joy, the nature, the animals and the privilege of growing up on a farm.

What sacrifices do women farmers make that others don't see?

One of the biggest sacrifices is the emotional burden that one sometimes carries. A woman doesn't only carry her own worries, but often those of her husband and the farm as well. Financial pressure, droughts, diseases,

difficult seasons and major decisions come home with you. At the same time, you are a mother, and you don't necessarily want the children to carry those worries with them as well. I try to create a home that feels safe and stable, even when there is a great deal of uncertainty behind the scenes.

Then there is the invisible work – administration, wages, paperwork, record-keeping, marketing, organising, staff and the hundreds of little things that happen behind the scenes. It may not always look like “farming”, but without it, the farm cannot function. Women are not always in the foreground, but are the quiet strength that holds everything together behind the scenes.

What is the most difficult part of farming, and what do you wish people understood better?

I wish people had more understanding of the great uncertainty that a farmer lives with every day. You can plan, invest and work hard for an entire season, but ultimately there are so many things over which you have no control. The rain, drought, fires, diseases and markets don't care how many hours you have worked or how much you have invested in that season. There is a family, employees and generations of hard work behind the farming operation – and every season brings its own hopes, risks and uncertainty.

What do you teach your children about the value of land, hard work and farming?

Land is not simply something you own – it is something you are responsible for. You have to look after it, respect it and hopefully leave it in a better condition one day than when you received it.

They must also understand where food comes from and how much hard work goes into something that may seem obvious to other people. On a farm, you learn that hard work is not always rewarded immediately. You can do everything right and still be hit by a drought, fire or disease, but the next morning you get up and carry on again. And perhaps most



importantly: they must learn to get their hands dirty and help wherever it is needed.

What are you most proud of?

What my grandfather Hymie and his brother, Sam, started, and what my father, Rodney, and his brother, Leonard, built up over the years, has not become something of the past. We are still building on it today. Behind what our family has today lie more than 50 years of breeding decisions, hard work, good years as well as many difficult years. My sister, Natalie, shares this love just as strongly. Our roles in the farming operation may not look the same, but we share the same pride in what has been built before us and the same desire to be part of what still lies ahead. I am proud of the achievements and the breeding material that has been built up over all these years, but I am even prouder that we are still a family farm.

What is the most valuable lesson you learned from your father?

If you do something, you must do it properly. You cannot always control what the outcome will be, but you can control how much effort, time and attention you put into it. You must look after your things properly. Save money wherever you can. Every rand you save is money made.

My father also taught us to be passionate about what we believe in. Most importantly, your name and your word must mean something. What you do and how you treat people will remain long after any achievement.

When the farm gates close at night and everyone thinks the day is over, what does a woman farmer carry in her heart and mind?

A woman farmer's mind never switches off completely. You think about your husband, children, the farm, the people who work with you and everything that needs to happen tomorrow. Amid all the worries, there is also a great deal of gratitude. Gratitude for this life, that our children can experience it with us, and that we were able to spend another day doing what we love. The gates may close, but a woman farmer's heart

remains on the farm for a little while longer.

Do you regard living in a remote area as an obstacle?

Living in a remote area means that you don't always have everything immediately available to you. You have to plan ahead, make your own plans and learn to make do with what you have. Some of the greatest opportunities also lie in this. The farm teaches you independence. When something goes wrong, someone has to come up with a plan. You learn not to take everything for granted and to appreciate the people around you.

For children, it offers space and freedom, which are becoming increasingly scarce these days. They can be outside, ride along in the bakkie and be among the animals. They learn about nature, responsibility and the reality of life and death, without anyone giving them a formal lesson about it. Then there is the community. In the countryside, you know that if there is a fire, drought or crisis, people will show up. You are sometimes far away from many things, but the farm also teaches you how few of those things you actually need to live a rich life.

What would you still like to achieve?

My father always said that we don't have to improve on what he built in order to be successful. If we preserve it, look after it and one day hand it over to the next generation, we have already achieved something. It is easy to measure success by growth – more land, more cattle, bigger auctions or better figures.

But maintaining a family farm across generations, through good and difficult times, is an achievement in itself. Naturally, I still want to grow, learn and make my own contribution. Yet my greatest goal is not to prove that we can do better than the generation before us. If the flame is still burning strongly when we eventually hand it over to the next generation, that is success.

What would you like to leave behind?

It is important that our children can one day say that they learned to work hard, treat people with respect and be grateful for what they have.



They must understand that a farm, a family name and a farming operation are not something you are entitled to simply because you were born here. They come with a responsibility. I hope our family will always remember that there is not just one way to be part of a legacy. Not everyone's roles have to look the same to be meaningful. A family farm never belongs to just one generation. For a while, it is your turn to look after it, and you want to use that turn well.

WILLA COETZEE

'I look forward to the milestones that lie ahead'

Qualifications: Animal Production at Stellenbosch University

Farms with: Bonsmara and Drakensberger herds on the farm Rondehoek near Vrede

Where does your love for cattle farming come from?

We hunted from a young age and spent almost every weekend or holiday in a nature reserve. Although we lived in town, my father, Dr Hannes Coetzee, made a great effort to raise us outdoors. My main sport at school was horse riding and I spent a lot of time on farms. When I started studying, I worked on farms every holiday and was exposed to game, milk production, Boer goats, sheep and feedlots. My father said it would be a good way to discover where my passion lay. The industry is versatile, interesting and exciting. My lecturer, Dr Jasper Cloete, always said: "Farm with what appeals to you."

What advantages do women bring to cattle farming and agriculture?

Women's maternal instinct means that they can work wonderfully with animals. It is an asset that helps them care for animals attentively, be patient and, at the same time, act firmly. Women often feel an intense responsibility for the welfare of the animals, which leads to a dedication to the animals' health and performance. This can be a major advantage



Willa worked on farms during her holidays as a student and looks forward to the farming journey that lies ahead of her.

to any farming operation, because the better the animals perform, the better the farming operation does.

How does the pressure of farming affect you?

It makes even the smallest decisions more difficult. You constantly try to predict and manage every possible outcome, but the challenges remain enormous. The uncertainty and unpredictability can place severe pressure on any farming operation. Much of it is, however, beyond our control. One can only try to turn that pressure into motivation and keep moving forward.

What sacrifices do women farmers make that others don't see?

I haven't been farming for very long yet, and I know there are still many hard lessons ahead. People may think that you sacrifice your femininity when you enter the farming world, but I believe that it is precisely a strength from which a farming operation can benefit greatly.



What is the most difficult part of farming, and what do you wish people understood better?

There is no “stop button”. Your responsibility towards the farming operation and the living animals is constant and unceasing. Yet it is also a great privilege to be part of it and to have so much to care for.

What would you like to teach others about the value of land, hard work and farming?

I try to show anyone the value of the industry. It is usually surprising to people how closely intertwined farming is with everything around us. Every decision can influence so many different aspects. It is important that people realise how significant a role agriculture plays in our daily lives.

What are you most proud of?

We farm very methodically, and I am proud that we do things thoroughly. We will spend time and energy building or caring for something properly. There is never a “baling twine solution”. We pay attention to every small thing, because this ensures that the bigger picture comes together properly.

What is the most expensive lesson you have learned?

Never be afraid to ask. Never allow your farming operation to suffer because of your pride. I quickly learned to reach out to fellow farmers, mentors and advisers. Know what you don’t know. There is great value in being willing to learn from people who have already walked the road.

When the farm gates close at night and everyone thinks the day is over, what does a woman farmer carry in her heart and mind?

*"Never be afraid to ask.
Never allow your farming
operation to suffer because
of your pride."*

Women tend to be very critical of themselves. When the gates close, all the day’s decisions run through your mind again. You wonder whether you did everything correctly and try to make sure that you gave your best. In our hearts, however, we also try to have confidence in our abilities and in the work we do.

Do you regard living in a remote area as an obstacle?

Because they are so remote, communities actually look out for one another. Everyone is spread out, and people take every opportunity to come together. An auction or a meeting quickly becomes an opportunity for the community to socialise. It remains important to participate and be involved. The Vrede community welcomed me warmly and I felt at home very quickly. That is one of the special things about the countryside – people are willing to look after one another.

What would you still like to achieve?

My farming career has only just begun. It is therefore both frightening and exciting to realise that there are still many milestones ahead of me. I want to move forward in a way that will build a successful farming operation that I can be proud of. I would like to play a meaningful role in the industry that will promote, strengthen and protect it.

What would you like to leave behind?

I hope to prove that I ****can****. That I can build myself up and make good use of the wisdom of the people around me. Furthermore, I want to be a valuable member of the community and do my part. I want people to know that I can do the work thoroughly, that I am willing to learn and that people can rely on me.



AVERAGE PRICES AT AUCTIONS 2026

OTVL Bull Auction (OTDK) - 22 July

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	6	R75 000,00	R54 166,67

Rouvus Auction - 23 July

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	26	R115 000,00	R74 000,00
Pregnant heifer	5	R31 000,00	R27 800,00
Commercial heifer	2	R72 500,00	R72 500,00

D'Hofstee Total Sale - 24 July

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	15	R150 000,00	R63 166,67
Cows	1	R25 000,00	R25 000,00
Heifers	48	R19 500,00	R14 333,33
Cow & Calf	16	R26 000,00	R24 125,00
Pregnant cow	62	R37 500,00	R24 048,39
Pregnant cow & calf (3 in1)	5	R28 000,00	R26 000,00
Pregnant heifers	14	R22 500,00	R20 142,86
Commercial cow & calf	6	R23 500,00	R23 500,00
Commercial pregnant cows	6	R23 000,00	R19 833,33
Commercial open heifers	2	R10 000,00	R10 000,00

Neuman Broers Auction - 6 August

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	44	R270 000,00	R97 500,00
Pregnant cows	10	R36 000,00	R26 600,00
Commercial pregnant cows	112	R23 000,00	R21 339,29

Talman & Calela Auction - 12 August

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	21	R125 000,00	R75 238,00

SHDK Auction - 20 August

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	20	R575 000,00	R86 100,00

NW Drakensberger club Auction - 3 September

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	17	R180 000,00	R65 352,94
Commercial pregnant heifers	9	R17 500,00	R16 666,67
Commercial open heifers	5	R13 500,00	R13 500,00

6+ Auction - 10 September

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	24	R135 000,00	R90 208,33
Pregnant cow	4	R25 500,00	R24 375,00
SP cow & calf	14	R25 500,00	R23 678,57
Commercial open heifers	2	R21 000,00	R21 000,00

Nagenoeg Auction - 11 September

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	1	R50 000,00	R50 000,00

Black Hills Auction - 23 September

Item	Sold	Highest	Average
Bulls on auction	22	R200 000,00	R88 181,00
Commercial open bulls	2	R50 000,00	



PLATINUM



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BEEF-BULLETIN 15

October 2026



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
FREE STATE		
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 Delport (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
Bethlehem		Dano van Zyl - 083 385 8285 - Vleissentraal marketer
MPUMALANGA		
Volksrust	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
MPUMALANGA (continued)		
Amersfoort		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
KWAZULU-NATAL		
Luneburg	Udo Beneke (Council member) 082 797 8088	
NAMIBIA		
Aroab	Gerrit Maritz	
Gobabis		Piet de Wit, +264 81 128 9716 - Beefmaster marketer
NORTHERN CAPE		
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

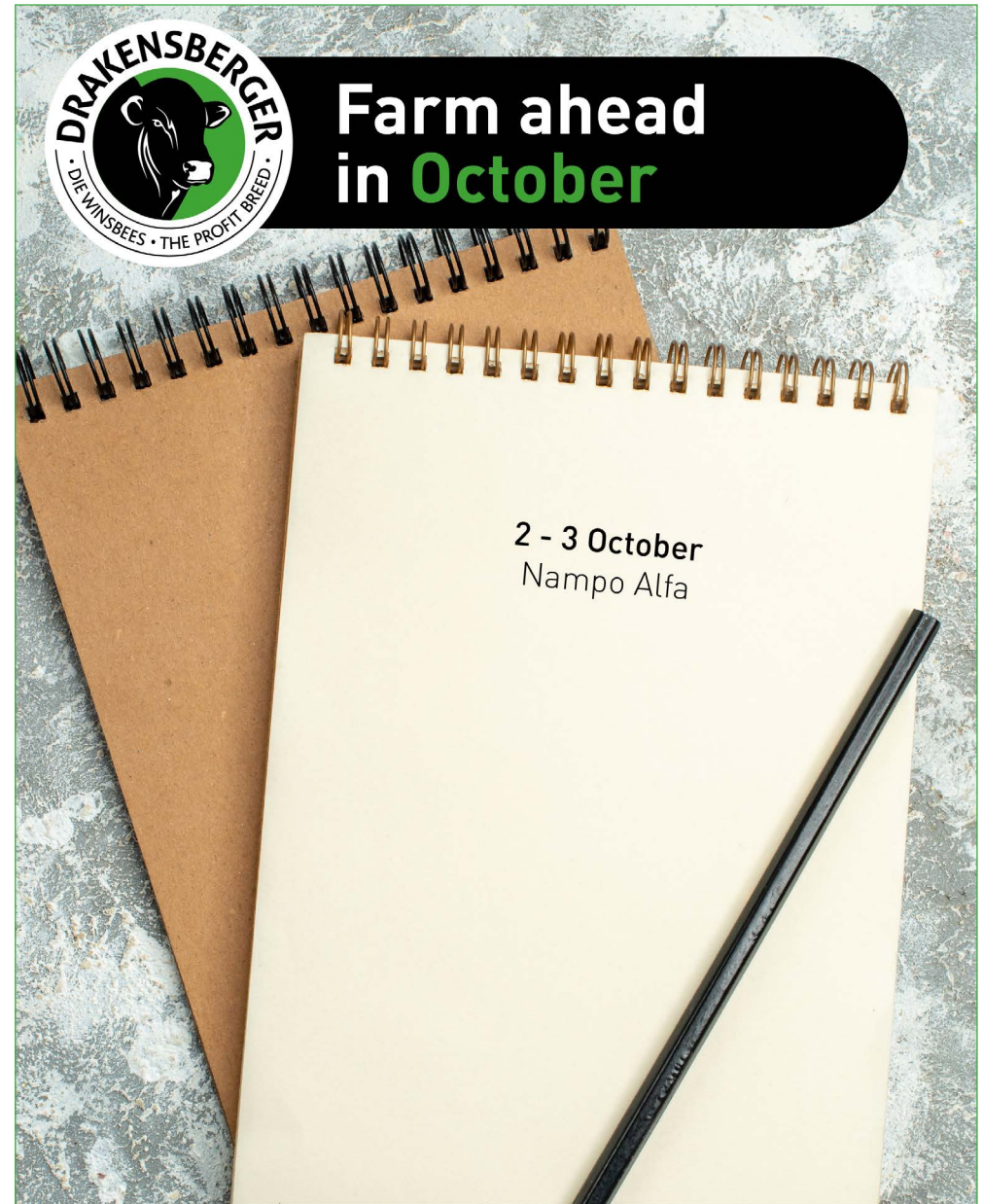


Feedlot contact numbers

(continued)

NEAREST TOWN / REGION	DRAKENSBERGER FARMER / COUNCIL MEMBER	FEEDLOT BUYER / AGENT
NORTH WEST		
Potchefstroom	Willie Landman (Council member) 083 257 8511	
Louwna	Stuart Collen	
GAUTENG		
Potchefstroom	Jean vd Merwe (Council member) 082 719 7521	
Derby	Charlie van Schalkwyk	Barco van Niekerk - 072 384 9057 - Buyer & auctioneer Theo Coetzee - 082 600 8374
KAROO / SOUTHERN FREE STATE AND EASTERN CAPE		
Zastron	Liesel Foster (Council member) 082 373 2427	
Southern Free State & Eastern Cape		Pieter Kloppe - 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.



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October 2026

