

Key practices

The key practices are aimed to keep waste at a minimum and the maximisation of resource use in the agricultural cycle.

- Using animal manure for fertilising land reduces the need for chemical fertilisers and lowers production costs.
- Implementing mixed crop-livestock systems creates a symbiotic relationship between livestock and crops, where crop residues are turned into valuable feed, and animals' manure is used as fertiliser for the next crops.
- The innovative use of precision farming technology effectively reduces water wastage and optimises the efficient use of various agricultural resources.
- Integrating diverse species of trees into the farm, a practice known as agroforestry, significantly increases biodiversity, assists with vital soil regeneration, and efficiently sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby combating the adverse effects of climate change.
- Creating renewable energy through the conversion of food waste via bio-digestion can power farm machinery. Anaerobic digestion converts food waste into a renewable energy source that can be used to power machinery.

Benefits

Implementing circular farming benefits both producers and the environment: restoration of natural ecosystems.

- Increased resource productivity and reduced production costs as a result of more efficient resource use.
- Higher revenues resulting from the production of diversified and higher-quality agricultural products that consistently command premium prices in the market.
- Greater availability of raw materials, such as composts and organic fertilisers.
- Reduced environmental impact and restoration of natural ecosystems.

Challenges

Farmers are usually risk adverse and 'seeing is believing'. Adopting new practices are a risk without seeing results of it to be effective as a general rule. The initial investment of circular farming is also strenuous, for it requires the incorporation of components that are expensive to acquire, such as infrastructure and technologies needed, for example, precision farming technology or converting methane gas into energy

are expensive. This investment might be too big for smaller producers to achieve without assistance. Training and education are essential in the implementation of circular farming. Knowledge and skills are required to adopt the methods required for circular farming successfully.

The future of circular farming

Investing in the modernisation of agriculture is important for it is an essential part of the South African economy. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) believes that a more circular farming sector will improve food security. This model will also contribute to agriculture sustainability and the protection of natural environment and ecosystems, while still being profitable.

In conclusion

The circular farming model has the ability to improve agricultural practices whilst still benefiting the farmer financially in the long run. It utilises products normally dispersed off and converted into valuable renewable resources used to produce high quality products and improving soil quality and environmental cycles. ■

*For more information please contact:
Hàno Higgs by email HiggsH@ufs.ac.za*



Lucas & Petro Robertson

E-pos lekkerdroom@gmail.com

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Red meat industry report:

Strengthening growth & profitability

The Red Meat Industry Report marks the beginning of a series of industry insights developed under the 2030 Red Meat Industry Strategy, launched in November 2022. The strategy aims to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the South African red meat industry by addressing key challenges such as animal health and welfare, environmental sustainability, and market access.

This series of reports will establish a benchmark for data collection and dissemination, providing stakeholders with actionable insights to drive growth and profitability beyond 2030.

Domestic market trends

In 2025, slight price increases are expected for both beef and sheep meat, contingent on maintaining disease-free status and securing market access. Domestic red meat prices generally follow global trends but tend to respond more slowly and remain lower than those of key international competitors. This pricing dynamic is influenced by meat quality variations and export destinations, with Middle Eastern markets offering lower premiums for high-quality cuts compared to the US, Mexico, and South Korea.

Key challenges facing the South African red meat industry include high feed prices and reduced consumer purchasing power. The beef-to-maize price ratio is projected to recover to between 14.5 and 15.5 in 2025, driven by marginal increases in domestic beef demand and slightly lower production levels. Capitalizing on rising global demand and higher international prices will be crucial, making sustained market access a top priority. Additionally, mitigating animal disease outbreaks, particularly Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), remains imperative for securing South Africa's foothold in global trade.

Beef production dynamics

Between 2016 and 2022, South Africa's beef production exceeded domestic consumption despite a decline in slaughter numbers. Cattle slaughtering declined from nearly 3 million in 2016 to 2.5 million

in 2022, primarily due to herd rebuilding efforts following the 2015/16 drought. However, 2024 has witnessed a production increase, reaching 777,706 metric tons—a result of a 7.3% rise in slaughter numbers and higher average slaughter weights. Imports of live cattle from Namibia and Botswana have further bolstered production levels.

Sheep meat production and price trends

Sheep meat production followed a similar pattern to beef, experiencing a downturn during and after the drought period. In 2024, domestic sheep meat prices have softened due to increased slaughter volumes and subdued demand. However, production is expected to rise in 2025, approaching 100,000 tons, supported by slaughter volumes exceeding 5 million head. A-grade sheep prices are showing upward momentum, indicating potential price increases in the coming months.

Global market developments

Global demand for red meat is set to rise, fueled by economic recovery, population growth, and constrained supply in key exporting countries. In November 2024, international beef prices increased by 8% year-on-year, reflecting supply challenges in major producing regions such as the US, Europe, Japan, and China. China, the world's largest sheep meat consumer, continues to drive demand, while Australia reported a 12% increase in lamb production and a 42% surge in mutton production in 2023. International sheep and lamb prices have since shown signs of recovery, with strong import demand from the Middle East, China, and the US.

Conclusion

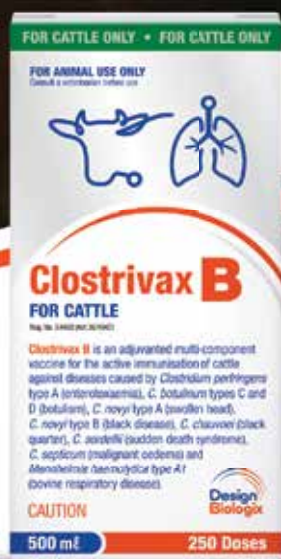
Despite economic pressures, the South African red meat industry remains resilient, with opportunities for growth in both domestic and international markets. Strategic interventions focusing on disease control, market access, and cost management will be key to sustaining long-term profitability.

For more information, contact RMIS. ■



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Where do our beef cattle breeds come from?

Origin of cattle in Africa

The domestication of livestock enabled the development of agriculture, and thus initiated a revolution in human civilization. The extinct wild ox, or auroch, is the common ancestor of both taurine (*Bos taurus*) and zebu (*Bos indicus*) cattle. Cattle were domesticated approximately 8,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent and Indus valley from where they spread to North Africa alongside other farming technologies (see Figure 1 for domestication routes of cattle). They stayed in the northern parts of Africa until around the 7th to 6th millennium Before the Common Era (BCE).

The first African cattle were probably humpless taurine types from the East, which migrated to the west and southwards. The first humped zebu appeared in East Africa in the second millennium BCE. The dispersal of cattle to sub-Saharan Africa was however delayed, probably due to them not having sufficient resistance to the harsh environmental conditions and diseases that they encountered. That resulted in a lag of several thousand years, until they were sufficiently adapted and could survive the challenging new environment. These adapted and highly resilient populations of cattle thus reached East Africa only about 5,000 to 4,500 BCE and Southern Africa about 3,000 years later. A late migration to Southern Africa (approximately 1,500 BCE) brought zebu types as far south as the Zambesi river, where hybridization between the taurine and indicine types gave rise to the Southern African Sanga cattle breeds. The distribution of these cattle types in Africa is indicated in Figure 2.

Evidence of the first indigenous cattle farmers in South Africa (SA) includes mixed farming in the northern and eastern parts of the country. These farmers typically kept a range of domesticated animals, grew crops, and also worked with metals. In the south western parts of SA, historic reports suggest livestock farmers with large herds (more than 10,000 animals) focused solely on their animals.

The South African beef cattle industry currently includes African taurine, African indicine, recently introduced European cattle, and numerous composites of these types. Through decades of selection, and some crossbreeding, indigenous and locally developed beef cattle breeds now possess distinctive biological and adaptive features.

Modern South African cattle types

The two auroch subspecies that gave rise to modern cattle, were from the Near East (taurine cattle) and India (indicine cattle), respectively. Currently, both taurine and indicine cattle (as well as their hybrids) are common across South Africa. The classification of these modern cattle breeds can however, be quite confusing.

Cattle breeds are generally classified into two main types; namely humped and humpless. The exotic humpless cattle are classified as *Bos taurus*, and include British and European breeds such as the Hereford, Charolais and Pinzgauer. These modern breeds are

not indigenous to Africa, and are relatively new additions to the Southern African beef cattle landscape.

Humped cattle are further divided into two groups. The zebu types (such as Brahman cattle) have thoracic humps and are also not indigenous to Southern Africa. The indigenous cattle of Southern Africa are collectively known as Sanga cattle, and are easily recognized by their cervico-thoracic hump. The Sanga is an intermediate type of cattle, which is a cross between *Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus*, and is also classified as *Bos taurus africanus* cattle. Examples of Sanga breeds include the Nguni, Afrikaner and Tuli breeds. Although these are popular, well-established breeds, their exact origin and genetic composition remains uncertain. →

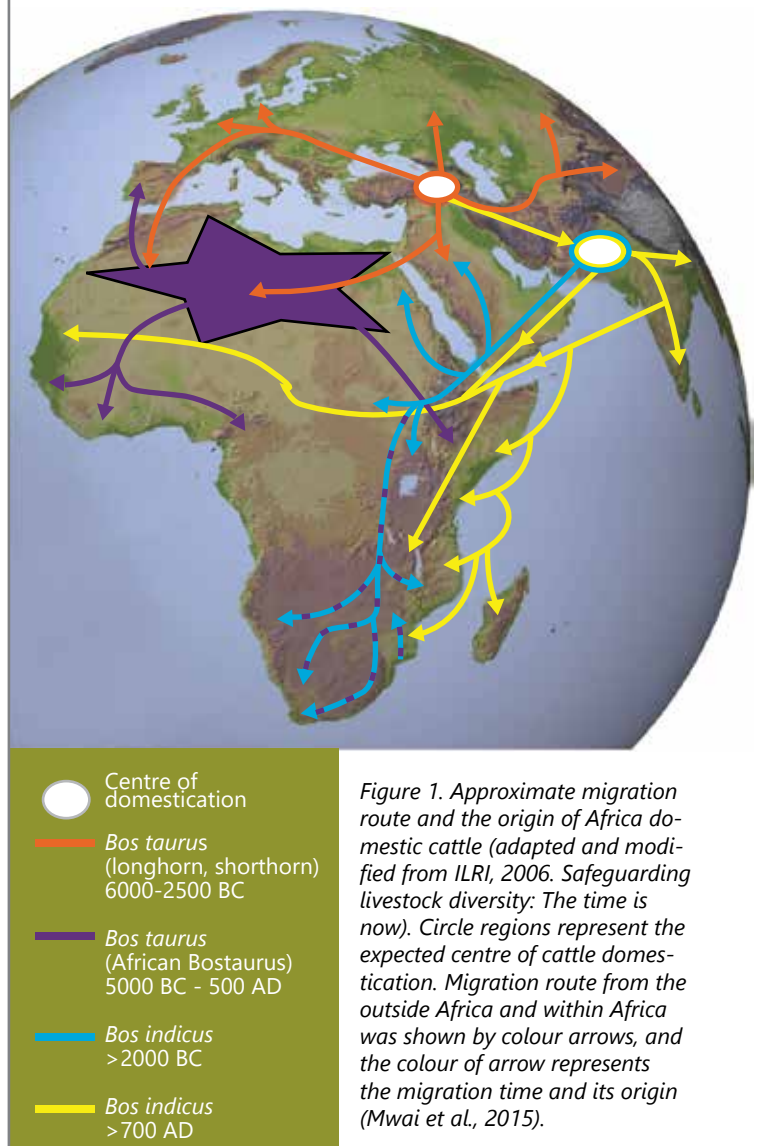
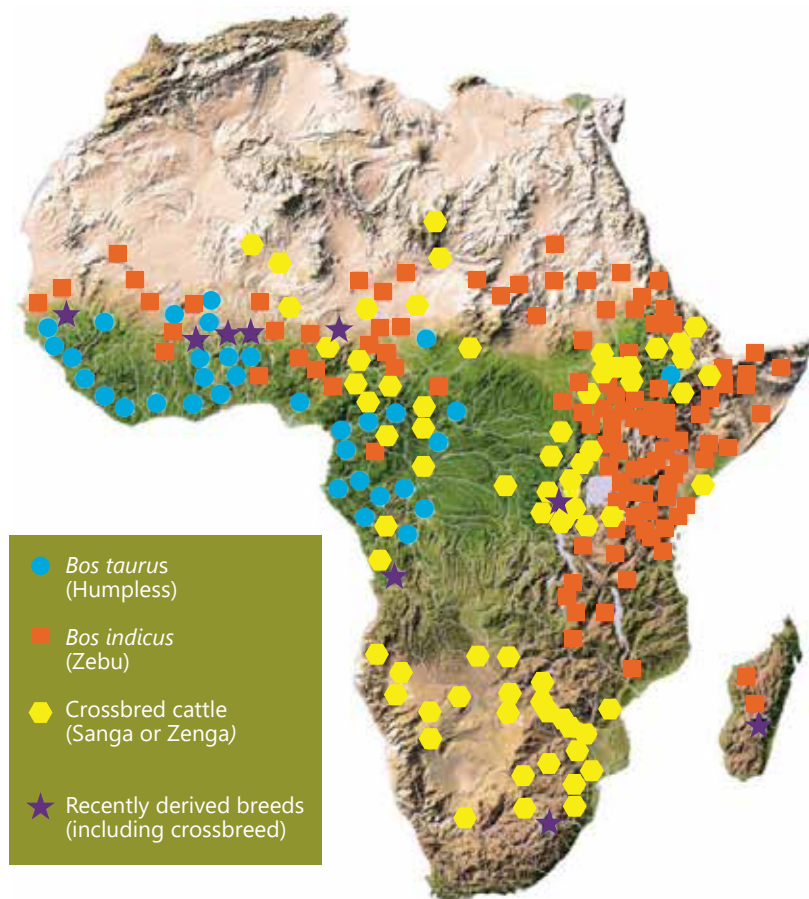


Figure 1. Approximate migration route and the origin of Africa domestic cattle (adapted and modified from ILRI, 2006. Safeguarding livestock diversity: The time is now). Circle regions represent the expected centre of cattle domestication. Migration route from the outside Africa and within Africa was shown by colour arrows, and the colour of arrow represents the migration time and its origin (Mwai et al., 2015).



Conclusion

Indigenous and locally developed cattle breeds play a crucial role in the food security of the South African population. They are farmed with across various sectors within the beef production value chain – from communal and smallholder systems to commercial and stud farms. These breeds are known for their superior adaptive characteristics and their suitability to extensive finishing practices. As climate change becomes a greater reality, affecting agricultural practices and livelihoods, local genetic resources will become even more valuable. It is thus important to invest in the promotion and genetic improvement of locally adapted Sanga breeds. ■

Sources:

Ajmone-Marsan, P, Garcia, J.F, Lenstra, J.A. & the GlobalDiv consortium., 2010. On the Origin of Cattle: How Aurochs Became Cattle and Colonized the World. *Evolutionary Anthropology*. 19:148–157.

Mwai, O., Hanotte, O., Kwon, Y. J. & Cho, S., 2015. Invited Review - African Indigenous Cattle: Unique Genetic Resources in a Rapidly Changing World. *Asian Australasian Journal of Animal Sciences*. 28, 911-921.

Van Marle-Köster, E., Visser, C., Sealy, J. & Frantz, L., 2021. Capitalizing on the Potential of South African Indigenous Beef Cattle Breeds: A Review. *Sustainability*. 13, 4388. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13084388>.

Figure 2. Distributions of indigenous cattle in sub-Saharan Africa. Marks on the map represent African cattle distribution, and each mark shows the type of cattle which inhabit the region. Cattle of North Africa and imported commercial cattle breeds are not shown in this figure (Mwai et al., 2015).



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TKP: 394 (7) D
GSI: 107





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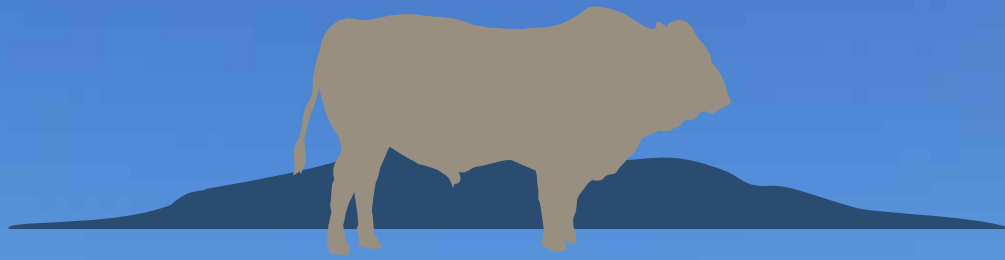
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The new Stuarts' Tracks & Scats of Southern Africa mobile app is a handy tool for deciphering the tracks, trails, droppings, bird pellets and other signs left by more than 250 mammals, birds and reptiles passing through the African bush.

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NAMPO 2024

Nampo, wat plaasgevind het tussen 14 en 17 Mei 2024 was weereens 'n groot sukses! Werner Gouws van die Gouwsberg Tuli stoet het die geregistreerde diere uitgestal en Stephané Roos van Roos Tuli stoet, het die kruis diere uitgestal.

Die diere is die "spul" waarom alles draai! Now, you can put your money where your mouth is.

Ons is baie trots op die goeie kwaliteit diere wat ons telers ten toon gestel het. Die getal besoekers en navrae wat ons ontvang het, getuig daarvan. Dit is nou maar net so, niemand kan by 'n mooi dier verby stap, sonder om te gaan staan en te kyk nie. Dit is hoe ons gesprekke begin.

Soos gewoonlik, kom ons diere direk van die veld af, aangesien ons nie met hulle skou nie en met die Tuli se mooi natuurlike temperament, kon ons na die derde dag, selfs aan hulle vryf.

Ons het baie goeie navraag gehad, nie net reg oor Suid Afrika nie, maar ook vanaf verskeie Afrika lande en selfs ook Australië en Argentinië. Dit is ook opvallend om te sien hoeveel jong boere in die Tuli begin belangstel en navrae rig.

Die Tuli is verseker besig om 'n stewige marktaandeel in ons tans sukkelende ekonomie, as winsgewende veldbees, oop te trap, of moet ek sê oop te kalf.

Graag wil ons ook as Genootskap, ons dank betuig aan die Nampo komitee, vir die platform wat elke jaar vir ons as beesboere geskep word, om ons pragtige diere, op 'n wêreldklas Landou-tentoonstelling te mag uitstal. Ons is regtig trotse Suid-Afrikaanse boere! ■



Bul, koei en kalf van Werner Gouws (Gouwsberg Tuli's).



Kommersiële Tuli kruis diere van Stephané Roos (Roos Tuli stoet).



Die Tuli se rustige temperament is al met eerste kruisings sigbaar.



Besoekers by ons stalletjie saam met Ben Raath (Vise-President) heel links en Dave Marais (Tegniese Adviseur) heel regs. Die besoeker is van links na regs, Letta Bopape (Tuli Growth Initiative), Robert Thema (The National Livestock Farmers Association SA), Dr Florence Nherera-Chokuda (Tuli Growth Initiative) en Brenda Maaroganye (The National Livestock Farmers Association SA).



'n Groep studente wat kom navraag doen het.

BIE AANLYN op topgehalte

Tuli-genetika met

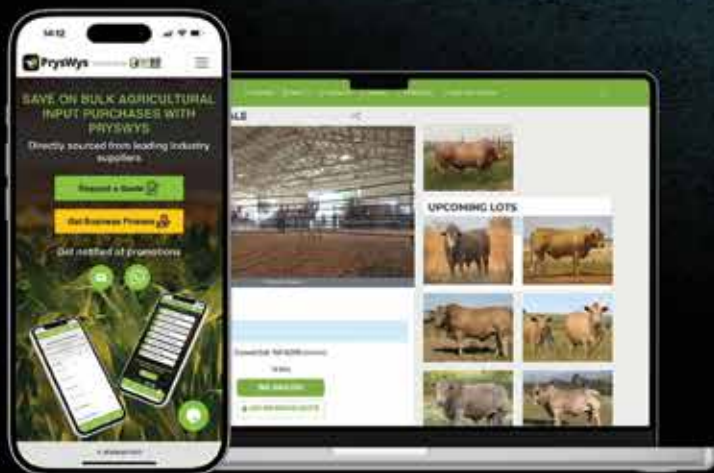


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Tuli Growth Initiative

The Tuli Growth Initiative was launched in Bloemfontein in August 2024.

The participants were selected after a thorough due diligence process. There was much excitement and anticipation as the project went live after two years of development and fundraising. The participants are spread across six provinces: one in the Western Cape, two in the Northern Cape, five in the Eastern Cape, one in the Free State, two in Mpumalanga, and two in KwaZulu-Natal.

Breeding stock was purchased for the participants during September and October 2024, as well as February 2025. There was much jubilation as the stock was offloaded at the various farms. The animals are settling down and adapting well.

Each participant has a mentor, and overall oversight is provided by the Tuli Technical Advisor, Mr. Dave Marais, and the Project CEO, Dr. Florence Neherere-Chokuda. Dr. Florence has vast experience in this field and a very clear vision for the goal of commercialising former small-scale farmers.

Record-keeping, reporting, and financial management are paramount to the success of the project. Dave Marais is developing systems and structures for these processes to be conducted on a monthly basis. Marketing in the best interests of the participants is also critical. We look forward to the first weaners being ready for sale in April/May 2025.

The participants are all eager for information and knowledge, and their enthusiasm is infectious. Those who farm in close proximity to each other are already helping each other and sharing their experiences. Mentorship visits are happening monthly, and mentors are in regular contact with their participants.

Most excitingly, the news is spreading. There is significant interest in the project, and many other farmers are asking how or when they can become participants. The potential is enormous, and we look forward to expanding our efforts over the coming years. ■



Wikkel jou boude en koop Roos genotika



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Auction Results

TULI NATIONAL OPEN 2 May 2024		
	Average price	Highest price
Registered heifers	R20 667	R31 000
Registered heifers (pregnant)	R25 154	R38 000

GOUWSBERG 30 May 2024		
	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R46 071	R80 000
Registered heifers	R15 076	R20 000
Registered heifers (pregnant)	R20 900	R28 000
Commercial bulls	R36 400	R46 000
Commercial cows (pregnant)	R20 642	R24 000

LANGLYF & NONNIE 4 June 2024		
	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R57 700	R90 000
Registered heifers (pregnant)	R23 300	R30 000
Registered cow & calf	R20 000	R20 000
Registered cows (pregnant)	R21 000	R42 500
Commercial bulls	R51 100	-
Commercial cow (pregnant)	R17 500	-
Commercial cow & calf	R17 500	-



Lot 34 sold for R65 000 to Jan Kageler en Philip Reed from Zimbabwe at HBH's auction.

HBH 28 August 2024		
	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R48 308	R65 000
Registered cows (pregnant)	R19 333	R27 000
Registered heifers	R15 000	R18 000

ALPHA & OMEGA 23 May 2024		
	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R42 200	R60 000
Registered heifers (pregnant)	R15 625	R21 500
Commercial bulls	R39 200	R50 000
Commercial cows (pregnant)	R16 000	R16 000



CHK180220 sold to Colin Raath of Acacia Mountain Tuli's

SHASHI 6 August 2024		
	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R42 860	R48 000
Registered cows (pregnant)	R20 320	R24 000
Registered cow & calf	R20 334	R24 000
Registered heifers	R13 322	R22 500
Registered heifers (pregnant)	R21 380	R22 500
Commercial cows (pregnant)	R18 667	R18 800
Commercial heifers	R11 600	R12 400



ST210030 sold to the Tuli Growth Initiative

CASMAN

4 September 2024

	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R45 000	R55 000
Registered cows (pregnant)	R17 600	R23 000
Registered heifers	R10 500	R16 000
Registered heifers (pregnant)	R18 420	R23 000
Commercial bulls	R30 000	R30 000
Commercial cows (pregnant)	R17 000	R19 000
Commercial heifers	R9 700	R11 500
Commercial heifers (pregnant)	R15 625	R18 000



CHK 19-33

CHK19-33 is verkoop aan Volker Rugheimer
(Alpha Omega Namibië Tuli)

GLEN HEATH

25 September 2024

	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R52 750	R80 000
Registered cows (pregnant)	R21 666	R25 500
Registered heifers	R21 000	R22 500

Lot 1 sold for R80 000 to Avondale Tuli Stud



GH22-96

TIP TREE & AVONDALE

17 September 2024

	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R68 926	R130 000
Registered heifer (pregnant)	R24 071	R36 000
Registered heifer	R14 000	R14 000
Registered cows (pregnant)	R22 000	R27 000
Commercial cow (pregnant)	R16 212	R17 500
Commercial heifer (pregnant)	R16 368	R21 000
Commercial cow & calf	R19 625	R20 000

TT 2256 was sold for R130 000



TT 2256



Top price bull on Go West sale sold for R180 000 from
Donkerhoek Tulus to Amelia Tuli Stud

GO WEST

18 October 2024

	Average price	Highest price
Registered bulls	R63 389	R180 000
Registered cows	R21 500	R22 000
Registered cow & calf	R27 500	R32 000
Registered cows (pregnant)	R22 000	R31 000
Commercial cow (pregnant)	R17 821	R20 500
Commercial heifer (pregnant)	R20 028	R23 500
Commercial heifer	R14 453	R20 000
Commercial cow & calf	R21 833	R24 750

2024 Annual awards ceremony



Christo Rothmann receives the trophy from Charné van Wyk (left) and Ilané van Wyk (right).

TULI HERD OF THE YEAR

HAT TRICK FOR CHRISTO

At the annual dinner of the Tuli Cattle Breeders' Society of South Africa, held in Bloemfontein, Bushman's Mountain Tuli Stud proudly clinched the Tuli Herd of the Year trophy for the third consecutive year.

This award is calculated based on the SA Studbook Elite Herd competition criteria. Points are distributed as follows: one-third for data recording, one-third for breed fertility and days since the last calf, and the final third for the average cow values of the herd.

Well done Christo!

Awards

Tuli herd with the most awards notified on Logix

WINNER Ganna Aar Boerdery - Giel van Niekerk (Total: 13 - 3 x Gold, 5 x Silver, 5 x Bronze)

Tuli herd with the highest percentage of bulls born

(That participated in a farm growth test)

WINNER Tiptree Tulis - Stephen Mains-Sheard (100%)

Best cow value (herds with less than 100 female animals)

Calculation will be based on all female animals in the herd, two years and older.

1ST Zweibach Tuli Stud - Dr Coenraad Slabber (109)

2ND Amelia Tuli Stud - Leslie Cook & Son (108)

3RD Profyt Tuli Stud - Abel Rautenbach (103)

Best cow value (herds with 100 and more female animals)

Calculation will be based on all female animals in the herd, two years and older.

1ST Wolhaarkop Tuli Stud - Jim Bredenkamp (110)

2ND Langlyf Tuli Stud - Albie Rautenbach (106,14)

3RD Gouwsberg Tuli Stud - Werner Gouws (107)

ARC National Elite Cow

(Sponsored by Farmer's Weekly)

The Tuli cow, CR 13 0104, of Cornelis Rautenbach was crowned the winner for the Tuli breed. The cow has excellent reproduction figures, she is 11 years old with 8 calves and her age at first calving is 37 months. She has an average intercalving period of 351 days. The cow also has outstanding breeding values that are better than the breed average for growth and milk production.



Congratulations to Cornelis who really put effort into complete performance testing. Complete performance testing facilitates more accurate selection for traits of economic importance within the herd, but even more importantly - it's the contribution to the genetic improvement of the breed as a whole. The accuracy of performance figures on the auction catalog also improves and enables buyers to make more informed selection decisions when purchasing superior genetics.

Vleissentraal SA Stud Book Elite Bull growth test class

Stephen Mains-Sheard from Tiptree Tuli's represented the Tuli's at the Vleissentraal SA Stud Book Elite Bull Growth Test Class for Phase C & D tested bulls at Bloem Show during May this year with TT22010.

Bulls that qualify, on achievements, in central and farm growth tests are nominated through the Tuli Cattle Breeders Society and participates in this competition. The purpose of this test class is to bring the right perspective to a valuable contribution in performance testing and to advance the correct and balanced use of performance data in the show ring.



TT22010
Tiptree Tuli's

Trailblazer / Logix regional awards 2024

The Tuli Society proudly congratulates its members for their remarkable achievements and the prestigious awards presented during the ceremony on 31 October 2024.

DOUBLE GOLD

Christo Rothmann - Bushmans Mountain Tuli Stud

GOLD

Jim Bredenkamp - Wolhaarkop Tuli Stud

Ben Raath - Donkerhoek Tuli Stud

Colin Raath - Acacia Mountain Tuli Stud

Stephen Mains-Sheard - Tiptree Tuli Stud

SILVER

Lucas Robertson - Lekkerdroom Tuli Stud

Werner Gouws - Gouwsberg Tuli Stud

Helena Malherbe - Malu Tuli Stud

Albie Rautenbach - Langlyf Tuli Stud

Cornelis Rautenbach - Nonnie Tuli Stud

Abel Rautenbach - Profyt Tuli Stud

Dave Mullins - Avondale Tuli Stud

Ed Clark - HBH Tuli Stud

BRONZE

Herlu Rautenbach - Carroll Tuli Stud

Casper Kriel - Casman Tuli Stud

Gordon Gilfillan - Glen Heath Tuli Stud

Willem Pretorius - Orangeview Tuli Stud

Margi Harvey, Russel & Joanne Kruger - Shashi Tuli Stud

SA Stud Book Elite Cows PLATINUM COW



HBH 090171
HBH Tuli Stud

We are delighted to congratulate Ed Clark of HBH Tuli Stud on the remarkable achievement of his cow, HBH 090171, being recognised as one of SA Stud Book's Elite Platinum cows in this year's National Elite awards.

This honor is reserved for one cow per breed, selected based on outstanding production, reproduction, and genetic merit as evaluated through the Logix Beef database. Such an accomplishment is truly commendable. →



PRODUKSIEVEILING
3 Junie 2025 | 11:00
Avoca, Reitz

ALBIE RAUTENBACH
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E raueasy@gmail.com



Streng seleksie word geplaas op
VRUGBAARHEID & VELD AANPASBAARHEID

Gemiddelde TKP van kudde is 367 dae
BLUP vrugbaarheidswaarde van 114

Interras vers kompetisie TARKASTAD

Die interras vers kompetisie maak deel uit van die Tarkastad Landbouskou en deelnemers is hoofsaaklik boere uit die Oos-Kaap en omgewing. Daar is n afdeling vir stoet sowel as kommersiële diere en word verder opgedeel in twee klasse naamlik koei en kalf asook vers.

Colin Raath van Acacia Mountain Tuli's het vanjaar weggestap met die beste vers, A22 71, in die stoet afdeling.



A22 71
Acacia Mountain Tuli's

“Agriculture is our wisest pursuit because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness.”
- Thomas Jefferson -

Foto: HBH Tuli's



MERENSIA GROENEWALD 082 255 6173



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HARTWATER, ROOIWATER EN
GALSIEKTE GROND IN Limpopo



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Coen Slabber 082 416 3853, Pretoria, Gauteng
Piet van der Merwe 082 952 1084, Pretoria, Gauteng
Henk Brand 071 599 5888, Boksburg, Gauteng
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Zippo Lambrecht 082 396 9071, De Wetsdorp, Free State
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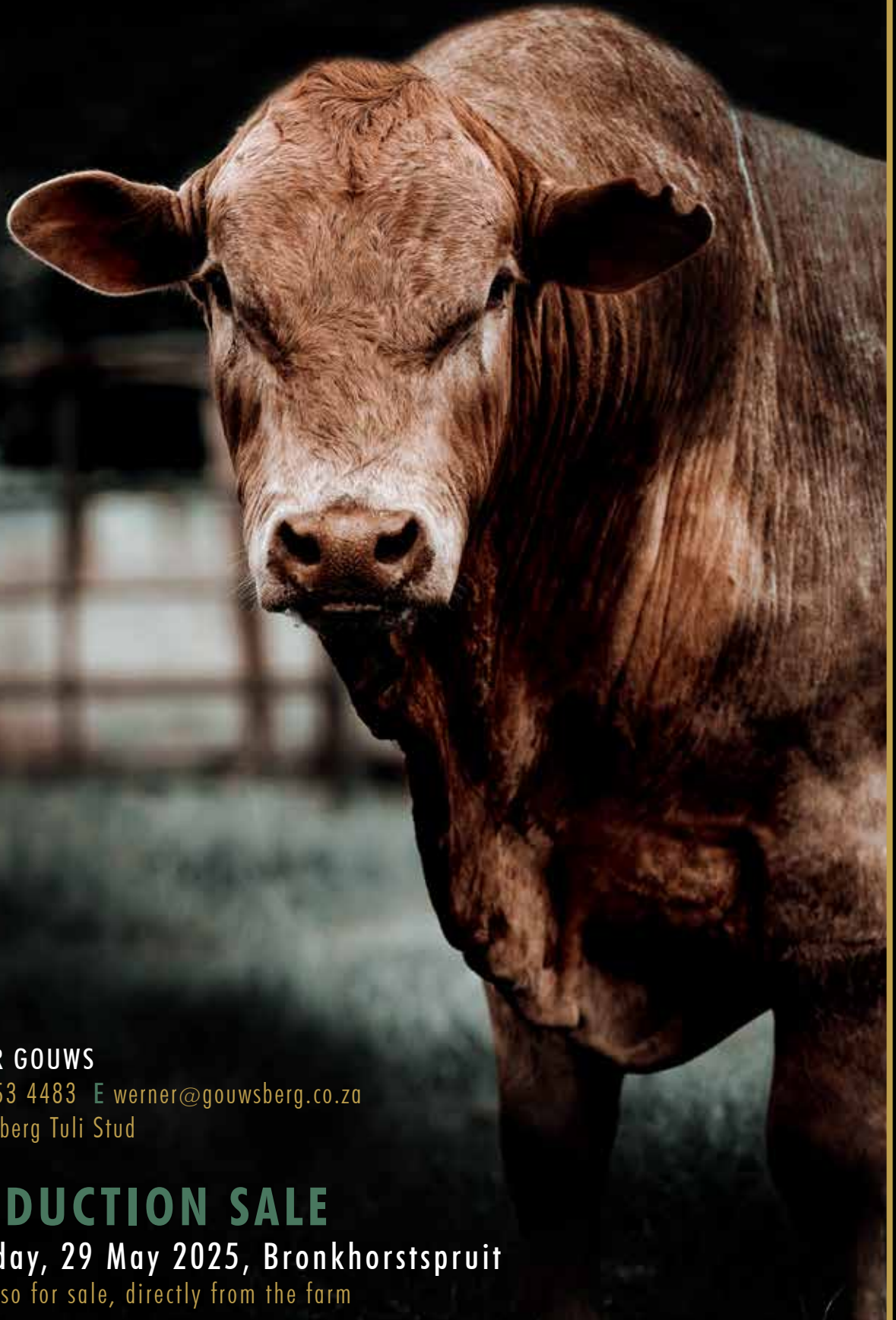
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