

MANAGEMENT BOOK



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Tuli Cattle Breeders' Society of South Africa

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1. IMPORTANT POINTS FOR DETERMINING A CALVING SEASON:

Before a farmer can make a decision regarding a calving season, he needs to understand the environment in which he farms. He needs to know that animals under certain conditions may require certain needs. Cows with calves will have high nutritional requirements to produce milk for the calf and whilst being able to re-conceive. The guideline is that cows should calve within 6 weeks of the start of the growing season.

Cows in the early stage of pregnancy do not have high nutritional requirements and it makes sense that this period coincides with the dry or dormant season.

From 6 weeks before calving , the cows requirements increase. Cows should be in a good condition during this period as conception rates in the next mating season will be negatively affected by cows in poor condition at this time.

Weaner calves: Heifers and young bulls need good grazing if they are to achieve their full potential.

Between weaning and twelve months, is a period where breeders often fail to maintain steady growth. Calves **3**

with good weaning weights can often lose condition due to the stress of being weaned from their mothers. Supplementary feeding may be necessary to minimise this weight loss during this period. **Remember these young bulls are the “product” that you sell and your heifers are the “factory” of your future production.**

The factors mentioned above are therefore very important to determine your calving season. Due to compulsory Performance Testing requirements it is a good idea to have a calving season, if you do not already have one.

2. ACCEPTABLE MATINGS

* (if approved)

- SP-Bull or Cow X other breed – Basic Cow *
- SP Bull x basic cow = Appendix A Cow *
- SP Bull x Appendix A Cow = Appendix B Cow/Bull *
- SP Bull X B Cow= SP Cow/Bull *
- B Bull X SP Cow= SP Cow/Bull *
- B Bull X B Cow = B Cow/Bull *
- B Bull X A Cow = A Cow *
- B Bull X Basic cow = Basic cow *

Every breeder decides for themselves with which cow or which bull they want to breed. There is also several programmes that can assist you with that, as well as with the progeny. The average of your herd will also improve your long term breeding values. Kindly send mating lists to the Office.

3. REQUIREMENTS FROM BIRTH TO ADULT ANIMAL:

Give the calf a tag or ear notch. Use tattoo as a permanent method of identification.

- Weigh the calf within 3 days of birth (if possible, rounded off to the nearest kilogram).
- Weigh the dam within seven days of birth (if possible).
- Submit birth notification details within 90 days to SA Studbook
- Weigh cow and calf at weaning (between 151-270 days)
- Weigh calf at 12 months (between 271-450 days) and/or 18 months (451-634 days)

The recording of wean and one of 12/18 months weights are compulsory for animals born 1 January 2017.

Take note: At weaning, need weight of weaner and weight of dam and one of 12 or 18 month weights. If any of these have been omitted, the system will automati- **5**

cally cancel the animal at 24 months of age. The more weights, the better!

Optional:- Bulls begin with Farm growth tests before or at 12 months (contact the office or your Stud Book field officer for further information). **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION TO MARIETJIE CAMPBELL OR LOAD ONTO LOGIX YOURSELF.** (marietjie@studbook.co.za)

4. INSPECTIONS:

The organising of inspections is the breeder's responsibility. The list of senior inspectors and the fees payable are available from the office. Female animals can be inspected from the age of 12 months and bulls from 18 months. Although, this is not recommended by the Society as animals can still change considerably while they are still growing. The recommendation is to inspect heifers at an age of 15 months or older. Bull inspections must be delayed as long as possible within the constraints of when they are due to be sold. At inspection animals are approved, rejected or held over for re-inspection at a later stage. There are a number of reasons to reject/cull animals.

Below is a list with their appropriate codes:

SECTION	CODE		REJECTION CODES 14/2/2023
General	13	TUL	Age first calving < 39 months
	14	TUL	ICP of <760 days between any 2 calves, 3 calves and more an avg ICP <570 days
	16	TUL	Any hereditary defect
	17	TUL	Wild temperament
Type / colour/ hair	1	TUL	Black colour or Brindle
	2	TUL	Solid white above the underline
	8	TUL	Frizzy or woolly summer coat
	15	TUL	Poorly pigmented
	20	TUL	Any signs of impurity
	44	TUL	Not phenotypically Tuli
Head	3	TUL	Undershot-, overshot jaw or skew mouth
	18	TUL	Poor eyes or eye brows
	23	TUL	Permanent watery discharge from the eyes
Back to tail	5	TUL	Hollow, sway, hunch or roach back
	6	TUL	Laterally twisted spine
	7	TUL	Congenital kink in upper third of tail
	19	TUL	Devil's grip
	25	TUL	Excessive droopy rump
	34	TUL	Flat rump
Legs / hooves	4	TUL	Hoove size or abnormal hooves
	21	TUL	Patella fixation
	36	TUL	Sickle-, upright- or cow hocks
	37	TUL	Bandy-, x-legged or pigeon-toed
	38	TUL	Upright or sagging pasterns
	41	TUL	Unnatural gait
	33	TUL	Coarsely boned

SECTION	CODE		REJECTION CODES 13/3/2023
Scrotum, sheath & udder	11	TUL	Hypoplasia or scrotal defects
	12	TUL	Fleshy sheath or prolapse
	26	TUL	Under developed female genitals or udder
	40	TUL	Poor udder-, teat development & placement
Muscling / Constitution	9	TUL	Excessive muscling (double muscled)
	42	TUL	Weak constitution
	43	TUL	Poor muscling
Size	22	TUL	Under weight for age
	24	TUL	Excessively large or pony type
	31	TUL	Too high on the legs with no depth

GOOD CODES 14/2/2023			
Muscling	50	TUL	Good muscling
Maleness	51	TUL	Good maleness
Constitution	52	TUL	Good constitution
Hair coat	53	TUL	Good hair coat
Balance	54	TUL	Good balance
Hooves	55	TUL	Good hooves

5. STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The following points will help a breeder to evaluate his own cattle:

HEAD:

- **Muzzle:** Broad muzzle with jaws that meet evenly. Overshot or undershot jaws are not acceptable. Muzzle must be straight, skew jaws are not acceptable.
- **Nose:** The nose must be well pigmented with two well developed nostrils. An imaginary line must run from the top of the head, between the eyes in the middle down to the middle of the mouth.
- **Ears:** Ears must be small, neat and well on the sides of the head. Bull must have small ears with short hair (hairy ears are an indication of crossbreeding). Cows generally have larger ears than bulls.
- **Eyes:** The eyes of a Tuli must be oval with good long eyelashes that point downwards. Examples of bad eyes are eyes that are; round, shallow, pop-eye, Chinese, permanently watery and short eye lashes that bunch.

Deviations thereof are not desirable, but are not necessarily a reason for rejection.

- **Poll:** The poll of the animal must be neatly placed between the ears. Animals with horns obviously do not have a poll and these animals must have neatly formed Sanga type horns. Approximately 10% of Tulis have horns. Breeders must try to keep horns to a minimum as this has economic implications.

NECK:

The neck should flow neatly into the shoulder. In female animals it needs to be smooth with small wrinkles and moderate dewlap. Bulls' necks are usually a bit thicker and due to hormones, can be hairier and slightly darker in colour compared to the rest of the animal's coat. As bulls' mature they develop a well-defined hump and dewlap.

TOPLINE:

The animal needs a good straight back with a well-

defined, but not excessive eye muscle. Swayback or hunchback animals are to be rejected. Tuli must have a well-developed eye muscle as it is one of the Tuli breed's strongest attributes.

LENGTH AND DEPTH:

These two attributes go hand in hand. If one is lacking the animal does not look in proportion.

Good depth is highly desirable and the animals must neither be so short as to look compressed, nor too long, resulting in a hollow back.

HIND QUARTER:

The hind quarter must be well fleshed. It should have good length from hipbone to pin bone with a sloping rump. The muscling in the rump should be well defined. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the animal is not lacking muscling at the flank, nor above the hock.

HIND LEGS:

The hind legs need to be well developed, with a fine

bone structure. The animal must not be excessively cow-hocked or bandy-legged. Legs that come straight down from the thurl are ideal as this gives enough space for the udders in cows or the scrotums in bulls and balanced weight placement on the hooves. The hind legs viewed from the side should not be sickle-hocked or have upright hocks.

FEET AND HOOVES:

Good hooves are essential. Young bulls with weak hooves are inclined, as they increase in size and become heavier, to develop problems. Hoof problems are rarer in females, but this does not mean that one does not look at female hooves.

Select animals that have sufficient hoof depth and an easy gait. Animals with pasterns that are weak or dislocated must be culled.

CAPACITY:

Capacity is not always thought of as important, but it is one of the traits that contribute the most to the overall weight of the animal. Length and depth without capacity will result in light weaners. Steer clear of narrow animals as they breed lighter, weaker calves.

FOREQUARTER:

Bulls should have a broad deep chest with well attached shoulders that do not stick out above the top line. There need to be adequate fleshing behind the shoulder. Animals with shoulders that are too loose or that exhibit “devils grip” need to be culled. The same applies to female animals, although females are lighter built in the forequarter and wedged toward the hindquarter.

FRONT LEGS:

Tulis front legs must be straight from the shoulder down to the ground. Although X-legs or bandy legs do occur, special care needs to be taken. Animals that are excessive must be culled.

SHEATH:

The bull must have a good sheath free of any defects. A sheath that descends at an angle of 45 degrees is rarely a problem. A sheath that hangs vertically tends to be a problem and should be culled. A bull's sheath should hang above an imaginary line drawn between the knee of the front leg and the hock of the hind leg.

SCROTUM AND TESTES:

Tuli bulls must have a well-developed scrotum. Scrotal circumference should be measure and compared to breed

standards of an animal at that age. Although a 45 degree deflection of attachment from the norm is allowed, it is undesirable and should be avoided. A bull with a scrotum that has a torsion of greater than 45 degrees or where the epididymis is twisted (koeksister) should be culled. Do NOT be too hasty in culling an animal on scrotal defects as the development of the scrotum in many young bulls is such that they look abnormal until they are older and then one sees that the scrotum is indeed normal.

VULVA/UDDER AND TEATS:

Heifers must have a well developed vulva.

It is best to compare vulvas of different animals within the group since vulva development is age dependant.

The vulva of a heifer that is cycling will be more prominent than that of a heifer that is not cycling.

Cows should have a small neat udder with four neatly positioned teats. The teats should be pigmented and thin enough for a newborn calf to easily grasp. "Bottle teats" develop as the cow grows older and probably will not be seen at inspection. Therefore the breeder should cull these animals if cow develops "bottle teats".

TAIL/TAILHEAD:

The tailhead attachment must be neat and preferably flush with the sloping Sanga rump. The tail must reach two thirds of the way to the ground and have a well developed switch (brush). The tail may not have a congenital kink in the upper third of it.

CONSTITUTION:

This is one of the most important attributes of a beef animal. We all want animals that produce well and maintain their condition. Therefore it is important to compare the constitution of animals within a herd. There are invariably animals that are in better condition than the rest of the herd. The animals with weaker body condition scores, should be sold.

Remember constitution is the ability of a producing animal (i.e. a cow with a calf) to maintain her body condition. A good producing cow's body condition may vary, whereas a poor producer is always fat since she does not raise a worthwhile calf. These cows are 'beauty queens' and do not add value to your herd.

BREED STANDARDS:

Breed standards are included in this booklet, but it must be borne in mind that Council will identify problems and make changes to these breed standards to address these problems.

- Heifers must calve for the first time within 39 months of birth.
- Cows are allowed a maximum ICP of 760 days between the first and second calves.
- Cows with 3 or more calves must maintain an ICP of 570 days or less.
- Cows are not allowed to exceed 760 days between any two calvings.
- Cows are not allowed more than 760 DSLC (Days since last calving).
- Animals with a wean index, within their contemporary group, of less than 90 for bulls and 80 for heifers within their contemporary group will be culled. This applies to all animals born since 1 September 2017.
- Cows with a wean index, within their contemporary group, of less than 80 over 2 successive calves will be cancelled. This applies to all calves born since 1 September 2017.
- The recording of wean and one of 12/18 months weights are compulsory for animals born since 1 January 2017. The recording of cow weight at wean is mandatory from 1 February 2020.

The more weights, the better!

6. STANDARDS TO WHICH PUREBRED BREEDING SHOULD COMPLY:

From 1 January 2023 all herd sires must have a Genomic profile and paternity verification is mandatory.

7. AI BULLS AND EMBRYO COWS

When Council receives a request to register a bull/ cow as an AI Bull or an Embryo Cow, Council will study the bull/ cows breeding value indices, as well as the performance of his/ her progeny and if they are satisfied, they will arrange for the animal to be re-inspected. The inspector/s will then recommend to Council with reasons why this bull/ cow as an AI bull/ Embryo cow should be approved or disapproved.

For any further enquiries, kindly contact the office at 051 410 0958.

Tuli greetings