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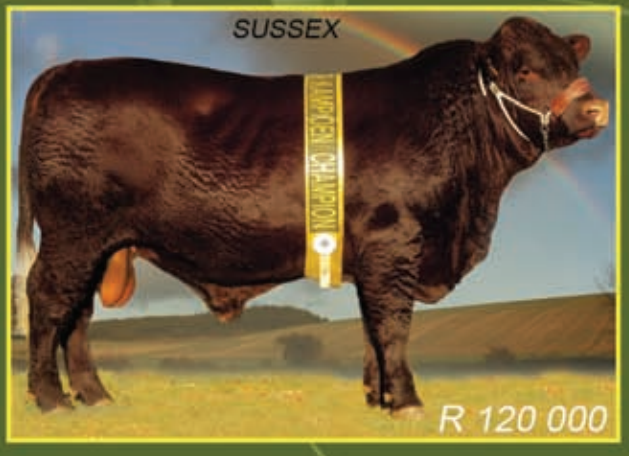

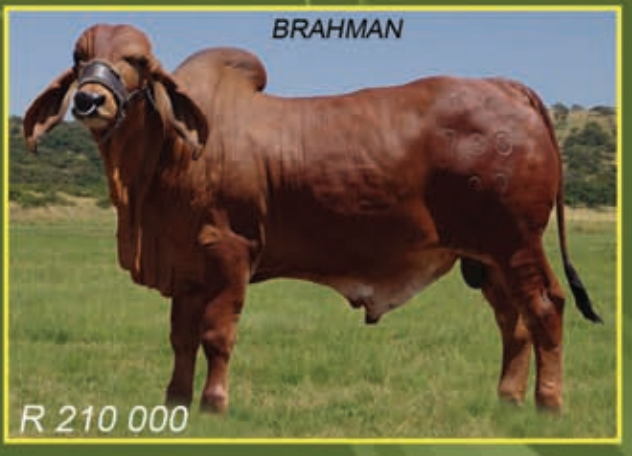

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Tulis in Australia

Extracted from Zimbabwe's own breed - Tuli - 1995

When research at Australia's National Cattle Breeding Station, Belmont, led by Dr. John Frisch, identified the need for the introduction of tropically adapted breeds that were unrelated to Brahman, and that would complement that breed's attributes, Africa was scoured for suitable cattle breeds. After careful evaluation the most suitable candidates were found to be the Boran from Kenya and the Tuli from Zimbabwe.

The most important factors in their favour were productivity, high fertility and adaptability to hotter regions. Both breeds have long histories as beef producers in a harsh environment, and this fact along with their extreme genetic differences from previously introduced breeds has lent weight to the project. The radical difference in genetic make-up between the Tuli and all the breeds presently found in Australia is the key to the Australian's enthusiasm for the breed.

The hybrid vigour of Bos indicus – Bos taurus crosses has been well documented, Offspring have the combined benefits of high growth rate and fertility of the The hybrid vigour of Bos indicus – Bos taurus and the stress resistance of the Bos indicus. However research indicates that following generations don't have the performance potential of the first cross. To maintain hybrid vigour after this initial cross a third genetically unrelated breed must be introduced, ideally with the stress resistance and production potential of the first cross. The Australians believe the Tuli offers cattlemen greater scope to use crossbreeding to produce animals suited to their environment, management practices and target markets.

Getting them there: The Embryo Project

The Tuli was introduced to Australia in 1990 by CSIRO (the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization) and the Boran and Tuli Consortium (a group of 23 beef producers who had responded to a public advertisement), through the use of embryo transfer. Embryos were collected from purebred registered Tuli donors in Zimbabwe, washed and frozen and implanted into Australian bred recipients, on Cocos (Keeling) Island. Embryo transfer began in August 1988 and continued for 5 months.

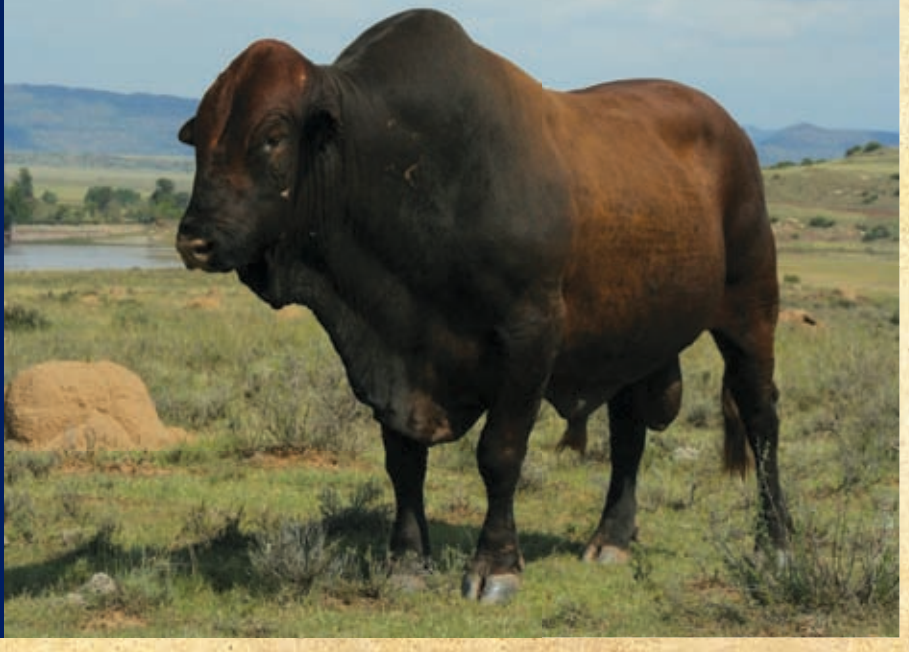
All health tests on the recipients and calves for African and Australian diseases were negative and the 74 calves which resulted from the project, once cleared for transportation to Australia, were loaded on board a giant Russian "Antonov" aircraft and were off loaded at Tullamarine Airport on March 2, 1990.

Tulis are now being multiplied and are undergoing comprehensive evaluation for productive and adaptive attributes at Belmont, on the properties of Consortium members and elsewhere. The breed is being evaluated for growth, fertility, carcass composition and meat quality, resistance to ticks, intestinal worms, heat, drought, susceptibility to parasitic disease and bacterial infections and suitability to Australian conditions.

The research information so far available has encouraged the Joint Venture partners (CSIRO and the Consortium) to release the Tuli to other beef producers.

Filling a Niche

The Queensland and Northern Australia cattle industries are dominated by the Brahman breed which thrives in the hard environment, but does not always fulfill the rancher's requirements for fertility and good temperament. This is one the niches where the Tuli can play an invaluable role in improving the efficiency of beef production, by maximizing hybrid vigour and improving fertility in crossbred offspring.



According to Dr. John Frisch, the CSIRO principle research scientist, about 30% of the cattle in Northern Australia are high grade Brahman with an additional 50% having some Brahman content. The simplest and quickest way to increase the efficiency of beef produced in many of these herds is to maximize hybrid vigour.

"The less the degree of relationship, the greater the hybrid vigour. Because the genes of the Boran and Tuli are unrelated to existing cattle here the degree of enhanced productivity from hybrid vigour is expected to the be high, from 5% - 25%,", says Dr. Frisch. "Their potential to boost production across Northern Australia is enormous and could easy be in the order of A$100 million a year."

It seems the Tuli has already captured the imagination of the ranchers in this area and demand for Tuli genetics is strong.

The profitability of beef production in Northern Australia is highly dependant on the use of productive "easy-care" cattle that satisfy the needs of a range of markets. The Tuli is seen to fill these requirements, some of which are: that the cattle should be productive – growing and finishing at such a rate that they reach market specifications at the desired age without the need for extra management inputs, high reproductive rates even under tough conditions, cows should calve without difficulty, rear their calves without assistance, be free from physical defects and have a desirable temperament. They should have high resistance to the stresses of that region, particularly ticks, heat, worms, eye disease and poor nutrition.

Research results from Belmont, Australia

Research in Australia has found that when used in cross breeding programmes Tulis can enhance productivity by contributing to an increase in growth rate, reproductive rate and "easy-care" characteristics. As part of an evaluation programme carried out at the National Cattle Breeding Station, Belmont, Boran and Tuli bulls have been crossed to cows from a wide range of breed types including Brahman, British, Belmont, Drought master and Charbay. Some information is available from the first two calf crops born on Belmont since introduction of the Borans and Tulis into Australia in March 1990.

Boran and Tuli crossbred calves from any tropically adapted cow breeds have been found to be relatively small at birth and are born without difficulty. They are vigorous and have high survival rates. Tuli crossbred calves from British cows are also relatively small and vigorous.

Growth of the Tuli crossbreds from each of the cow breeds used in the evaluation study has shown that the more distantly related the parent breeds the greater is the growth advantage of the resulting offspring. The greatest advantage in growth arises when the Tuli bulls are crossed to the first cows of other breeds. The increase in growth rate have been achieved without having to cross a breed of large mature size and without having to resort to dipping and drenching. Tuli crossbreds were found to have high resistance to ticks.

Heifer crossbred calves from each of the cow breeds reach sexual maturity at a younger age than do the corresponding straight reds from the same cow breeds. Tuli crossbred bulls have high testosterone levels (the sex-drive hormone), larger testes and higher sperm production, all indicators of high reproductive capacity.

Fertility Research Work at Belmont

Semen was collected from the bulls at an average age of 15 months and its quality assessed by analyzing sperm motility, sperm concentration and the ratio of live to dead sperm in the ejaculate. A point score ranging from 0 – 100 was used and the higher the score the more fertile the semen. Semen quality were derived from 133 bulls born at Belmont at the end of 1991. All the bulls were reared together and treated alike from birth.

Semen Quality Scores for Tuli Crossbred Bulls at Belmont, Australia
Bulls at Belmong, Australia

Dam Breed	Advantage Tuli
Belmont Red	+ 21
Interbred Hereford/Shorthorn Cross	+ 6
Brahman	+ 25
Brahman Derived	+ 32

Data from 145 heifers showed that for each genotype more Tuli cross heifers were cycling (i.e. had reached sexual maturity) at about 15 months of age. The proportion of heifers cycling represents the proportion capable of becoming pregnant at that age.

In the Belmont Red and the Brahman dam group, Tuli and Boran crossbreds cycled at a lower live weight than the respective straight reds.

None of the straight bred, interbred Hereford x Shorthorns or interbred Brahmans was cycling, preventing comparison of live weights at sexual maturity within these dam groups.

Percentage of Heifers Cycling at 15 Months of age in Belmont Trials

Dam Breed – Belmont Red		Dam Breed – Brahman	
Sire Breed		Sire Breed	
Belmont Red	21%	Brahman	4%
Boran	18%	Boran	20%
Tuli	36%	Tuli	22%
Dam Breed – Interbred Hereford x Shorthorn		Brahman delivered	
Sire Breed		Sire Breed	
Hereford shorthorn	0%	Brahman delivered	0%
Boran	14%	Boran	14%
Tuli	33%	Tuli	42%

Weight Gain Work at Belmon

Straight bred progeny (Interbred Hereford x Shorthorn, Belmont Red, Brahman cross and Brahman) sired by straigh red bulls were compared to the progeny of Boran and Tulis Bulls from the same dams. Within each dam breed, crossing to the Boran or Tuli resulted in an increase in live weight.

The slaughtered bulls were selected mainly for high growth characteristics, while the Boran and Tuli crossbred progeny were selected without regard to any characteristics. Growth records from 256 animals were used.

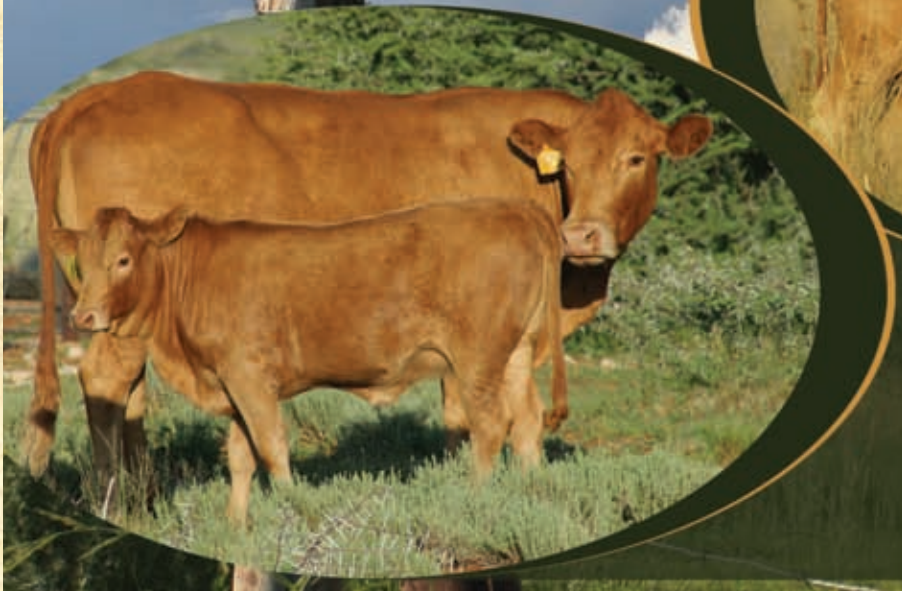
Low live weigths of all the groups are a reflection of the severity of the environment in which they were reared. Despite the severe drought in Queensland, the Boran and Tuli crossbreds outperformed the respective straightbreds.

All animals were reared together and treated alike. None were treated for internal or external parasites or were offered any supplementary feed.

Comparison of Tuli Live weights from Different Dam Breeds at 12 Months

Dam Breed – Belmont Red		Dam Breed – Brahman	
Sire Breed		Sire Breed	
Belmont Red	217kg	Brahman	227kg
Boran	224kg	Boran	232kg
Tuli	224kg	Tuli	232kg
Dam Breed – Interbred Hereford x Shorthorn		Brahman delivered	
Sire Breed		Sire Breed	
Herford shorthorn	171kg	Brahman delivered	216kg
Boran	217kg	Boran	238kg
Tuli	205kg	Tuli	236kg

SA Record priced bull H05 89



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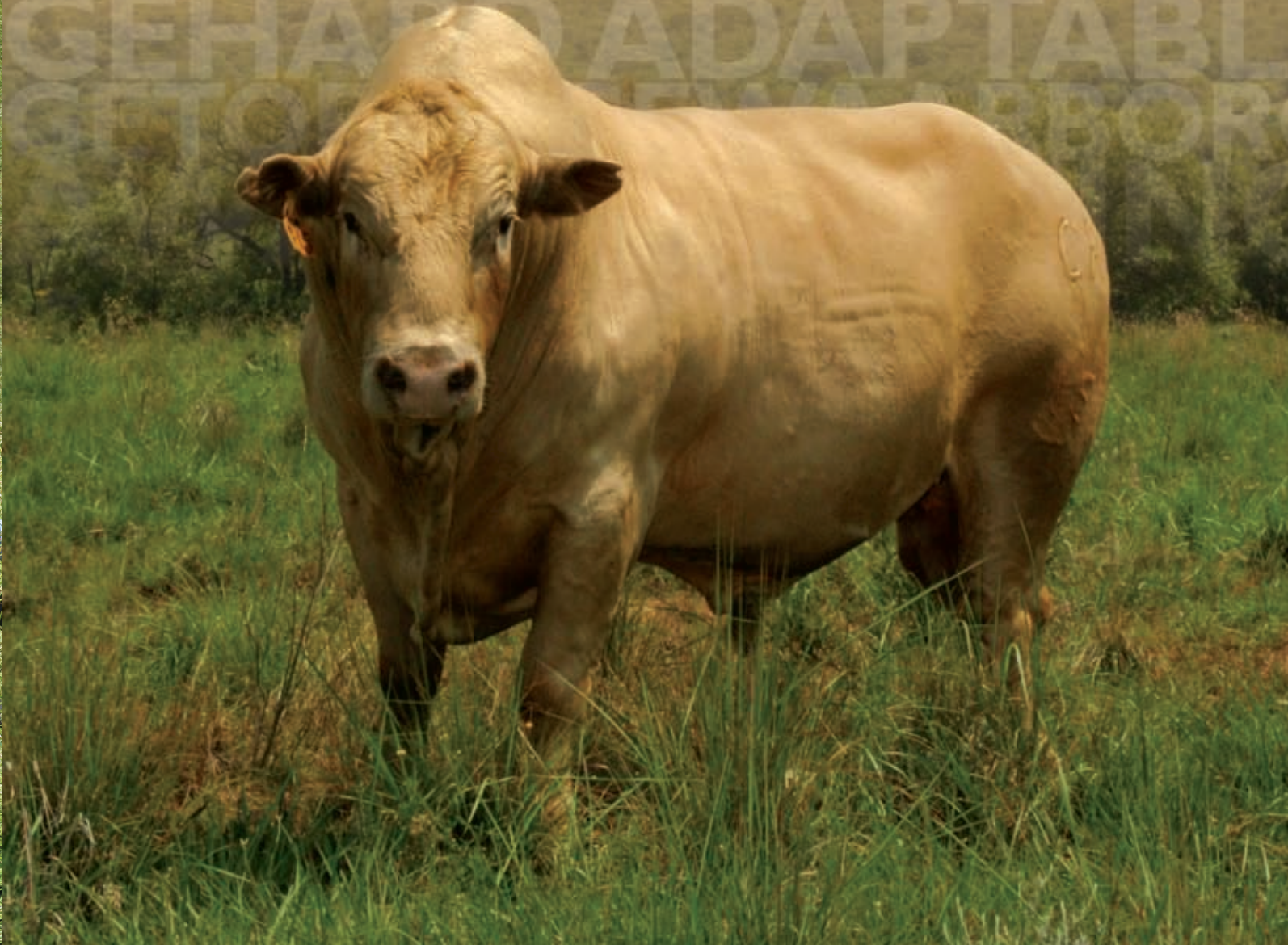


Tuli's Vaarged in Namibia

Bossie Coetzer van Okahandja, Namibia

My Chameleon Tuli Stoet in Namibia het in 2003 tot stand gekom met 17 koeie en kalwers wat ek by wyle oom Abel Rautenbach van Reitz gekoop het. Maar lank voor die koop van daai eerste Tuli's het ek al die Tuli-ras begin ondersoek.

Laat ek myself eers voorstel. My naam is Bossie Coetzer en ek, my vrou Jackie en ons twee dogters, Kayla en Caitlin, is die eienaars van die Chameleon Tuli Stoet. Ons boer 195 km noord van Windhoek, tussen Okahandja en Otjiwarongo, aan die ooste kant van die nasionale pad. Ons plaas se naam is Hortensia en is geleë in die Kalahari-kom. Ons gemiddelde reënval is 350 mm per jaar en die weiding is oorheersend soetgrasveld.

Ek het my landboudiploma aan die Glen Landboukollege verwerf. Ek het reeds as student die verskillende beesrasse begin ondersoek en toe al besluit dat ek eendag my eie Tuli Stoet wil hê. Ná afloop van my studies het ek die geleentheid gehad om in Botswana te gaan boer. Ek het Kweneng Ranches bestuur met plase in die Tuli-blok en in Sentraal Kalahari. In totaal was ek in beheer van 36 000 ha in Botswana. Hier het ek weer met die Tuli's in aanraking gekom. My buurman in die Tuli-blok het Tuli's gehad. Hy het nie 'n stoet gehad nie, maar hy het die diere suiwer gehou. Ek het sy verse gereeld teen ons grensdraad gesien en was aangenaam verras met hul kondisie, selfs in droë jare.

In Januarie 1999 het ek teruggekom Namibia toe om my eie plaas te koop. Dit is ook in 1999 toe ek vir Jackie ontmoet het. Sy en 'n vennoot het Chameleon Safaris besit. In 2000 het ek haar vennoot se 50% aandeel van Chameleon Safaris uitgekoop en so het my lewe 'n nuwe rigting ingeslaan. Vir volgende klompie jare het ek Namibia ook as toergids leer ken en op die manier my veldkennis verder uitgebrei.

In 2003 het ek my eerste plaas in die Okahandja-omgewing gehuur en my Tuli's vanaf Suid-Afrika ingevoer. Ek het ook 'n bul by Cornelis Rautenbach gekoop. Die eerste paar jaar was die stoetboerdery maar moeilik en nuut vir my. Ek het nie altyd geweet wat om wanneer te doen nie. Dit het gevoel of daar niemand was wat my kon raad gee nie. Om alles te kroon het my nuwe koeie die verkeerde tyd in die Vrystaat gekalf, en so het ek maar stadig die kalfseisoen van die koeie reggeskuif totdat hulle uiteindelik in die regte maande gekalf het. My eerste kalweroes het reeds uitstekende slagosse geproduseer.

Naspeurbaarheid

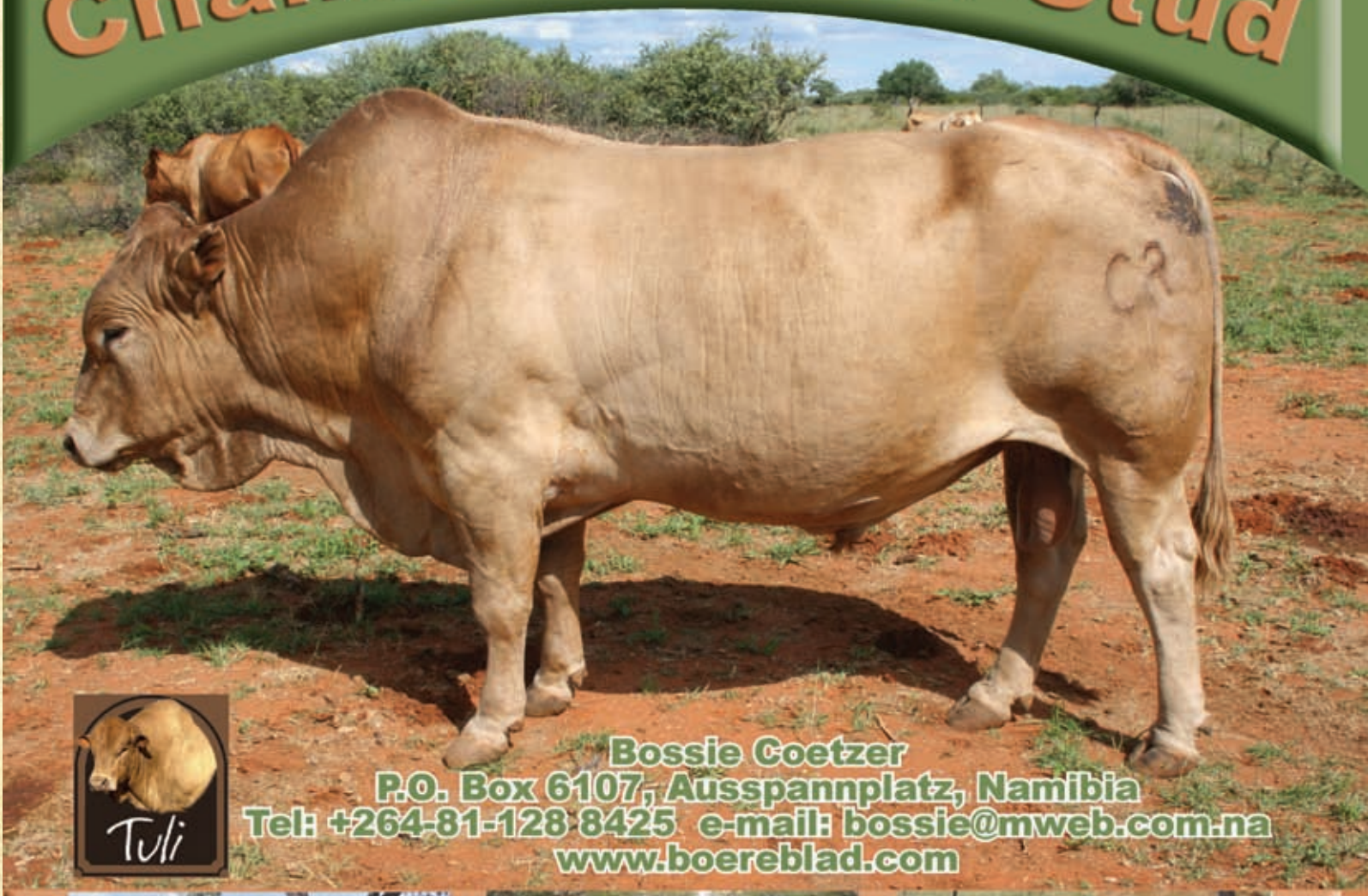
In Namibia word meer as 90% van die vleis wat geproduseer word uitgevoer, 'n groot gedeelte daarvan na Suid Afrika en die res na Europa en ander kleiner nismarkte. As gevolg hiervan is daar sekere vereistes deur die EU aan die boere in Namibia gestel.

1. Volgens die FANMeat-skema moet alle diere nagespeur kan word tot by die plaas van oorsprong. Daarvoor is 'n oorplaatjiestelsel in plek gebring, wat vereis dat alle diere van oorplaatjies voorsien word voordat hulle jou plaas verlaat. Daardie oorplaatjie bly aan die dier se oor totdat hy geslag word en verteenwoordig rekordhouding, onder meer oordragte na nuwe eienaars ens. Jou brandmerk en reeksnommer verskyn ook op die oorplaatjie. Sodoende is 'n dier wat op 'n veiling gekoop word se plaas van geboorte volgens die brandmerk bekend. Die FANMeat-skema is nou in die proses om na 'n doeltreffender elektroniese oorplaatjiestelsel oor te skakel.

2. Die EU oftewel Meatco vereis 'n karkas van 230 kg tot 260 kg, wat beteken dat 'n dier wat tussen 52 en 55% uitslag minstens 450 kg moet weeg wanneer hy geslag word. Verder word verkies dat diere nie ouer as 4 tand moet wees wanneer dit geslag word nie. Die ideaal is 'n gradering van AB2 en 'n karkasgewig van tussen 230 en 260 kg. Vir diegene wat nie weet nie, 'n AB is 'n dier met 2 tande en die 2 verteenwoordig

Farm Hortensia

Chameleon Tuli Stud



Tuli

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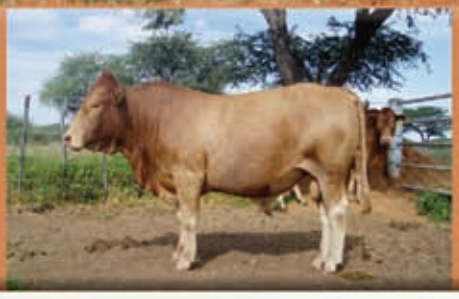

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vetbedekking oor die hele karkas, terwyl die 0 dui op geen vetbedekking nie en die 6 dat ‘n dier oorvet is.

Wat beteken die FANMeat-skema vir my as Tuli-teler?
Met my beperkte ondervinding van Tuli’s wil dit voorkom of my diere tussen 20 en 26 maande ‘n B-gradering haal. In die laaste twee jaar het ek met die gereelde weeg van diere agtergekom dat hulle as volg presteer:

- By my kommersiële kruiskuddes, verteenwoordigend van twee van die grootste rasse in die land, is die speenmassa gemiddeld 236 kg op 7 maande en by my Tuli’s was die gemiddeld 228 kg op 7 maande in 2007, met die swaarste Tuli op 281 kg en die ligste Tuli op 145 kg.
- Op 20 maande was dit egter ‘n heel ander storie. My Tuli-osse was op 24 maande swaarder as my kommersiële osse met my swaarste Tuli-os wat 494 kg op dié ouderdom geweeg het.

Die gewigte van my 12 maande oue tollies alleen lyk soos volg :

- Hierdie diere is in die laaste week van Februarie geweeg. Die behandeling wat hulle ontvang het, was presies dieselfde. Die gemiddelde massa van die Tuli’s op 12 maande was 283 kg met die swaarste tollie op 328 kg en die ligste een op 240 kg.
- Die ander diere se gemiddelde massa was 300 kg met die swaarste een op 387 kg en die ligste op 233 kg.

Aan die hand hiervan wil dit vir my voorkom asof die Tuli’s geweldige groei beleef ná die eerste somerreën.

Een ding wat my egter bekommer, is dat dit wil voorkom of die ander diere ‘n beter uitslagpersentasie handhaaf van rondom 57% teenoor die Tuli’s se sowat 53%.

Vir my in Namibia is dit belangrik om met ‘n ras te boer waarvan die koeie hul kalwers kan grootmaak in ‘n droë jaar en ook al die kalwers wat gebore is, kan speen. Verder moet hulle goeie moederseienskappe hê om hul kalwers teen roofdiere te beskerm. Die Tuli het tot dusver baie goed gevaar in al hierdie opsigte. Ek het sedert 2003 nog net 5 Tuli-kalwers verloor wat deur jagluiperds gevang is, terwyl ek in my ander kuddes 10 diere in net een jaar (2008) verloor het.

Verder het die Tuli’s vanaf my tweede jaar dat ek met hulle boer ‘n 81% kalf- en speenpersentasie gehandhaaf.

Opsomming
Vir my is dit belangrik om met ‘n goeie moederras te boer wat vir my osse kan produseer en aan die slagvereistes in Namibia voldoen. Ek glo die Tuli kan dit met gemak doen. My Tuli-kruisosse vaar beter as die suiwer Tuli’s. My oogmerk is om daarom net Tuli- of Tuli-kruiskoeie aan te hou en mettertyd weg te doen met al die ander kruisraskoeie op die plaas.