



# MY FARM

Volume 6

SEP 2023

## **ADAPTABLE, RESILIENT AND DELICIOUS: THE BRANGUS**

**Discovering  
the Angus**

**An Alternative  
Treatment to  
African Horse Sickness**

**Optimal Bull Preparation for  
Successful Auctions**

**Livestock Nutrition**

**Sowing Understanding**

Photo credit: Le Roc Brangus

# CONTENTS



## 08 ADAPTABLE, RESILIENT AND DELICIOUS THE BRANGUS



16

## DISCOVERING THE ANGUS



20

## OPTIMAL BULL PREPARATION FOR SUCCESSFUL AUCTIONS

## 03 FOREWORD

*By Tinus Havinga - Director of FarmSpace*

## 05 LIVESTOCK NUTRITION

*Exploring the Potential of Forage Quality  
for Ruminants*

## 11 AN ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT TO AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

*Advertorial - by Ecovet*

## 13 SOWING UNDERSTANDING

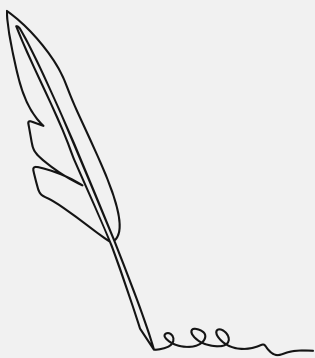
*The Pivotal Role of Producers in the New  
Agricultural Era*

## 24 AUCTIONS AND EVENTS

## BE IN THE KNOW



# FOREWORD



Dear readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of MyFarm Magazine, where we delve into the vibrant world of agriculture, exploring the ever-changing landscape of our beloved industry. As we gather here once again, we are reminded of the undeniable truth that the agricultural market is no stranger to volatility. Over the years, we have faced numerous challenges, witnessed economic fluctuations, and navigated through unpredictable times. Yet, amidst all this, the unwavering spirit of our farming community has shown its resilience, adaptability, and strength.

Today, we stand at the precipice of yet another season, filled with its own set of opportunities and obstacles. The auction industry, like the rest of the country, gears up for what we affectionately call the "silly season." As we embark on this new chapter, we do so with cautious optimism and an unyielding determination to forge ahead. Undoubtedly, we have experienced our share of uncertainties, and the agricultural market has seen its ups and downs. But, let us not lose sight of the invaluable lessons we've learned through it all.

While prices may have dipped, and challenges may have seemed insurmountable at times, we've witnessed the enduring spirit of farmers who have persevered and adapted to change. It is during these trying times that we find the true essence of our industry—resourcefulness, solidarity, and a passion for nurturing the land that sustains us.

In the face of every challenge, there is an opportunity for growth. As we witness signs of livestock prices turning for the better, we embrace this as a beacon of hope, illuminating our path ahead. The resilience of the agricultural community is reflected not only in the market's recovery but also in the unity we foster to support one another.

Through MyFarm Magazine, we endeavor to celebrate the stories of success, innovative practices, and the unwavering optimism that defines the heart of our agricultural community. We believe in the power of knowledge-sharing and empowering each other with

insights and wisdom that can propel our industry forward.

As we move into this new season, let us remember that change is a constant in our lives, but our ability to adapt is what will sustain us in the face of volatility. Together, we can overcome any obstacle, find solutions to new challenges, and create a brighter future for agriculture.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. As we explore the realm of agriculture and the auction industry, let us remain united in our pursuit of progress and prosperity. Together, we can sow the seeds of positive change and cultivate a bountiful harvest for generations to come.

Wishing you a fruitful and uplifting season ahead!

Warm regards,

*Tinus Havinga*

DIRECTOR OF FARMSPACE

# RUGER

BH 18 637

Son of Picasso GF 10 23

ON AUCTION  
5<sup>th</sup> of August



**PRODUCTION  
AUCTION**

*Saturday*

05 AUG 11am

40 SP females  
10 SP bulls  
50 cross bred boran females

#### BENEFITS OF BUYING BORAN FROM US

- Pedigrees are DNA verified*
- Largest registered Boran herd in the world*
- Unparalleled genetic diversity*
- Quarantine assistance for exports available*
- Free transport to select destinations*
- Guaranteed weaner calf buy back at a premium*



**THE BULL RING  
AUCTION HOUSE**

**SUMMER  
SALE**

*Tuesday*

10 OCT 11am

30 SP females  
20 SP bulls  
10 cross bred boran females

THE BULL RING AUCTION HOUSE | DAVEL

THE BULL RING AUCTION HOUSE | DAVEL



**HURWITZ  
STUDS**



**QUARANTINE  
CENTRE**



**GREEN STAR  
CONTRACTORS**



**SILAGE  
AFRICA**



**HURWITZ  
FEEDLOT**



**HURWITZ  
BEEF**



**HURWITZ  
WILDLIFE**

Simeon Hurwitz 082 415 5448 | Jarren Hurwitz 082 412 3393  
[www.hurwitz.co.za](http://www.hurwitz.co.za) | [www.boranauction.co.za](http://www.boranauction.co.za)



# LIVESTOCK NUTRITION

## Exploring the Potential of Forage Quality for Ruminants

By: Elna de Lange  
BSc(Agric) Animal Science  
Researcher @ GOAL Sciences

In the sprawling landscapes of South Africa, where farmers and their livestock coexist, lies a vital component that underpins the well-being of our valuable livestock – forage quality. South Africa's climate varies across regions, with semi-arid to arid conditions in the interior and different rainfall patterns across the country. Grasslands dominate the central high regions, with different types of grassland ecosystems based on rainfall and soil characteristics, one of South Africa's main forage resources.

In this article, we briefly look into the importance of forage quality for ruminants, uncover the factors that shape it, and offer practical guidance to help farmers improve the nutrition of their livestock. Let's explore the world of forage quality.

### The Essence of Forage Quality:

Imagine the grazing fields as a buffet table spread out before our ruminant livestock. Forage quality will determine the nutritional value, palatability and intake of this abundant feast. Further factors

determined by forage quality are the composition of nutrients, digestibility, and overall suitability of the forage for ruminant consumption. A well-balanced diet built on high-quality forage empowers livestock to thrive, ensuring optimal growth, reproduction, and overall vitality.

### Exploring the Factors:

The quality of forage available to ruminants is influenced by a multitude of factors, each playing a crucial role. Firstly, the selection of



### Factors influencing forest quality

- Species and cultivars
- Local climate
- Forage nutrient management
- Forage maturity
- Grazing management
- Harvest and storage



appropriate forage species and cultivars is paramount. Advancements in genetics have been instrumental in developing forage varieties that are specifically tailored to meet the nutritional requirements of ruminants, ensuring optimal nutrient provision.

Secondly, the local climate of the region holds significant importance. Different forage species are adapted to thrive in specific temperature and rainfall conditions. Understanding the climate and its impact on forage growth aids in selecting the most suitable varieties that can flourish in the given environment.

Thirdly, the stage of growth or maturity of the forage is a determining factor in its nutrient value, digestibility, and intake for animals. As forage matures, its quality gradually decreases due to an increase in fibre content, resulting in reduced digestibility. Timely harvesting of forage at its peak nutritional value is crucial to ensure optimum nutrient intake for ruminants.

Fourthly, effective nutrient management strategies, such as soil fertility assessment and targeted fertilization, play a vital role in promoting robust forage growth and optimizing nutrient uptake by plants.

By understanding the nutrient requirements of forage crops and implementing appropriate fertilization practices, farmers can enhance the nutritional composition of the forage.

Fifthly, grazing management techniques, including rotational grazing, offer substantial benefits to both forage plants and ruminants. Rotational grazing allows forage plants to recover and regrow, ensuring a continuous supply of high-quality nutrition for ruminants. By carefully managing grazing patterns and providing adequate rest periods for forage recovery, farmers can maintain an optimal balance between forage utilization and regeneration.

Finally, the timing of forage harvest is a critical consideration. Harvesting forage at the right stage of growth captures the peak nutritional value, just before the decline in quality sets in. Additionally, proper storage techniques should be employed to preserve the nutrient content and overall quality of harvested forage, ensuring its long-term suitability for ruminant consumption.

By comprehending and effectively managing these multifaceted factors, farmers can make informed decisions and implement practices that significantly enhance the

quality and nutritional value of forage, ultimately benefiting the health and performance of their ruminant livestock.

### Practical Approaches to Enhancing Forage Quality:

So how can farmers enhance forage quality and unlock its benefits for their ruminant companions? Soil testing and nutrient management strategies enable farmers to tailor fertilization practices to optimize nutrient availability in the soil. Selecting forage species and cultivars that are well-suited for the local environment and ruminant nutritional needs ensures a wholesome diet for livestock. Effective grazing management techniques, such as rotational grazing, promote sustainable forage growth and allow for ample recovery periods. Additionally, implementing proper harvesting techniques and timing can maximize nutrient content and preserve forage quality for ruminant consumption.



### Approach to Livestock Nutrition:

While forage quality is of paramount importance, supplementary feeds can play a role in meeting the specific nutritional needs of ruminants. By carefully considering the deficiencies in forage and providing balanced supplementation, farmers can ensure their livestock receive a well-rounded diet that supports optimal health and productivity.

In conclusion, forage quality stands as a fundamental pillar in the realm of livestock nutrition in South Africa. Its profound impact on the health, growth, and overall well-being of ruminants cannot be underestimated. Through a careful understanding and management of factors such as forage species selection, climate adaptation, growth stage, nutrient

management, grazing techniques, and harvest timing, farmers have the opportunity to elevate the nutritional value of forage and unlock its benefits for their cherished livestock. By prioritizing and enhancing forage quality, farmers can pave the way for a sustainable and prosperous agricultural future, where thriving ruminants roam the sprawling landscapes of South Africa.



# Ons dek van saad tot skuur

Vir 'n verpligting-vrye kwotasie, kontak  
jou makelaar of stuur 'n e-pos aan  
**[agri@kingprice.co.za](mailto:agri@kingprice.co.za)**

**[kingprice.co.za](http://kingprice.co.za)**



# ADAPTABLE, RESILIENT AND DELICIOUS

## THE BRANGUS

**By: Suné Bartman**  
(MSc Agric Production Physiology and Product Quality)

**U**S ranchers in the early 1900's were always looking for new ways to improve the genetics of their cattle herds, constantly seeking desirable beef-type animals that would not only survive in the adverse conditions they faced, but thrive in them! It was this need that led to the brilliant idea of crossing two well-known, popular beef breeds that would produce a composite breed in which the superior characteristics of both parent animals would be optimised.

The two breeds they decided on were the Brahman – popular due to its resistance to disease, exceptional hardiness, and outstanding maternal instincts – and the Angus - known for their superior carcass qualities and highly fertile females. This new breed was aptly named the Brangus, and high expectations were held for the endless possibilities that this breed could prove to bring to the industry. Much of the early crossbreeding was done at the USDA Experiment Station in Louisiana, however a few of the larger ranches and some

individual breeders in other parts of the United States and Canada were also carrying out experimental breeding programs. As the experiments continued, the researchers and private breeders noticed that these animals grew faster and had more meat than many of the popular British beef breeds of the time, all while retaining the ability to thrive under adverse conditions. When the genetics of the Brangus was stabilised at 3/8's Brahman and 5/8's Angus, the optimal combination of the traits of two highly successful parent breeds was obtained. These animals typically have a short, broad head and a smooth coat, they are polled and medium framed and can either be red or black in colour.

Photo credit: Le Roc Brangus



**O**n July 2nd, 1949, the early breeders – coming from 16 different states and from Canada – came together in Oklahoma to establish the American

Brangus Breeders Association, later renamed the International Brangus Breeders Association (IBBA). The name was, however, changed yet again in 1956, to the International Brangus Breeders Society, who by 1978 had more than 1800 active members, and roughly 150 000 registered Brangus animals. Since then, the Brangus breed has proved very successful, as is evident by their growing popularity in many parts of the world, including South Africa.



Photo credit: Le Roc Brangus



**T**he Brangus cattle we have in South Africa today come from a variety of different origins; in 1963, several imports of live Brangus

cattle from the United States of America (USA) to South Africa were made – this was the first time this breed has ever been imported to the country. However, in addition to this, South African breeders have also been crossbreeding their own Brahman and Angus cattle to produce Brangus animals. Furthermore, Brangus semen and embryos have been imported on a regular basis since the establishment of the South African Brangus Cattle Breeders Society (SABCBS), increasing the genetic variability of the Brangus gene pool we have in South Africa by allowing for a consistent introduction of new genetic material into the local population.

**The Brangus cattle breed is quite beloved among the cattle farming community and has occasionally been described by farmers as “the ninth wonder of the world”.**

**T**he first Brangus stud in South Africa was established in 1963 by Mr. Raymond Green of Ladysmith. In 1976, in order to gain recognition of and awareness for the breed, the first Brangus Club was established! Ten years later, in 1986, the South African stud Book Association accepted the constitution and breeding methods of the Brangus breeder's society of South Africa, and later that year the breed was officially recognized by the registrar of livestock improvement, as well as the South African stud book and livestock improvement association. Currently, the association boasts with roughly 158 members, and with more than 40 000 registered Brangus animals. This makes them one of the few growing breeds in SA, currently being the 4th largest breed in the country.

The Brangus cattle breed is quite beloved among the cattle farming community and has occasionally

been described by farmers as “the ninth wonder of the world”. In addition to their incredible hardiness, Brangus cattle have a gentle disposition and the ability to thrive under the typical climatic conditions we find across South Africa. They are extremely versatile, and go through breeding and calving with great ease, whilst also portraying wonderful maternal and milking abilities. The Brangus cow does not only adapt in challenging environments, she actually thrives - particularly under extensive veld conditions. As the majority of slaughter animals are produced under such conditions, optimal performance on the veld is crucial in order for the cattleman to make a profit.

Efficient cows are the foundation of a profitable beef herd; the Brangus cows superior maternal and milking abilities enable her to produce calves with remarkable weaning weights – which is exactly where the money lies.

Over the years, prevailing droughts have proven that the Brangus cow has incredible perseverance, still producing decent calves or falling

pregnant within the first 6 weeks of the breeding season, despite the unideal conditions. The calm temperament and low management demands of the Brangus cow furthermore make her easy to manage, and capable of caring for herself in any of the various climatic conditions across South Africa. This breed is considered to be extremely versatile, establishing themselves as high performers on pasture, in the veld and in the feedlot. They have proven highly resistant to heat and high humidity, whilst still being hardy under conditions of cool and cold climate, in which case they seem to produce enough hair for sufficient protection against the cold.

In terms of meat and carcass quality, the Brangus is yet again a stalwart; scientific results have shown that 98% of all Brangus carcasses are classified as tender or super-tender - one of the most sought-after qualities of the current consumer market. Attributes such as this, along with marbling scores and flavour, are well-known traits associated with a Brangus carcass.



Photo credit: Le Roc Brangus

Furthermore, the Brangus has the ability to produce heavy carcasses of exceptional quality, without being excessively fat. This provides the optimal carcass for consumers who prioritise juiciness and flavour, while still catering to the needs of the health-conscious consumer who prefers a lower fat to meat ratio.

O

Overall, combining the hardiness, disease resistance and incredible maternal instincts of the Brahman breed with the superior

carcass quality, fertility, maternal and milking ability of the Angus has provided the beef industry that excels beyond expectation. The Brangus has given to beef farmers over the world a treasured asset that provides endless promise and enduring benefit – one that is profitable, fertile, sustainable, well adapted and all-round excellent.



Photo credit: Le Roc Brangus







# AN ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT TO **Eco-Vet** *AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS* **Advertorial\***

The 2023 African Horse Sickness season left many horse owners, breeders and stable yards searching for an alternative treatment to the dreaded African Horse Sickness disease (AHS) – a highly infectious, fast acting and absolutely devastating disease. The virus, spread by infected insects (biting midges) most commonly affects horses, donkeys, mules and zebras, and is predominantly spread during the cold winter months in South Africa. The infected midges impact the horse on many levels, often causing high cyclic fever, swelling of the face, cardiac disease, and often respiratory issues associated with slow, heavy breathing and coughing.

Dr Niven, given his decades of work with horses and other animals - having had many horses of his own - developed a regime to assist in the treatment of African Horse Sickness (AHS) by combining registered Eco-Vet remedies, namely Eco-Heal, Eco-Heart and Eco-Lungs to assist the horse's own immune system in fighting the disease, naturally! The product regime was particularly formulated to strengthen the horses' own immunity, whilst presenting no known side-effects, an inability to overdose and its dynamic capabilities to work in combination with other chronic medication, as well as alongside other Eco-Vet remedies – thereby offering a holistic treatment approach.

## ECO-VET BACKGROUND

Eco-Vet was established in 1997 by Dr Alex Niven, a qualified veterinarian and homoeopath, with one goal in mind, to create affordable yet effective medicine for animals – from household pets to horses, and other agricultural livestock.

For additional information: [www.ecovet.co.za](http://www.ecovet.co.za) | 012-460-4808

Throughout Dr Nivens's career, he has been committed to treating animals with homoeopathic medicine, now known as the Eco-Vet range, which is registered with the Department of Agriculture. The Eco-Vet range consists of over 30 natural remedies that assists animals with a wide variety of acute to chronic conditions – from persistent scratching and fear, all the way to epilepsy, arthritis, and African Horse Sickness.

At Eco-Vet we continue to take pride in the quality and standards of our products, our mission remains to provide an alternative and affordable range of medicine for animals!

*"My boy Blu came down with AHS recently, and it wasn't looking good. The vet didn't think he was going to make it, so we fought tooth and nail for his life. A couple days in, we came across Eco-Vet, and the Eco-Vet protocol. We got our hands on the products as fast as we could and started dosing him. By day 8 his temperature finally broke. I am so grateful for the yard owner and her team for how they fought for his life when I couldn't be there, and for Eco-Vet which clearly made all the difference."*

– Vicci & Blu







# DAMESKONFERENSIE

IN VENNOOTSKAP MET TOTAL ENERGIES

1 - 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

PLEK: DORINGBOS, BFN

*Kaartjies beskikbaar op*



**R350 per dag /pp**

*Chic Boerwin*



**TotalEnergies**



# SOWING UNDERSTANDING



## The Pivotal Role of Producers in the New Agricultural Era

By: Enrike Maree  
BScAgric Animal Science  
@ GOAL Sciences: Research & Communications Officer

With the dizzying variety of choices confronting today's consumers, markets are undergoing a rapid evolution. Once fringe, niche markets have surged to prominence, reshaping the entire consumer landscape. Products now cater to an astonishing range of needs, from dietary restrictions to taste preferences, and an array of values, driving the consumers' voices to become pivotal in influencing a host of sectors, including agriculture.

This occurrence of transformative change has given rise to "consumer-based agriculture," a paradigm shift in farming where consumer preferences and values sit squarely at the center of production. This seismic shift is starkly evident in places like South Africa. Though comprehensive scientific literature quantifying shifting consumer trends is sparse, the transformation in consumer awareness and marketing campaigns around animal welfare and eco-conscious food choices is palpable and potent.

Nowhere is this transformation more evident than in the rise of vegetable-based proteins and dairy substitutes. An emerging environmental consciousness, further fuelled by persuasive marketing campaigns, has led to a pervasive belief among consumers that animal-based products are significant contributors to climate change, while plant-based alternatives hold the key to mitigation.

This narrative, while compelling, is not devoid of controversies. Research exploring the environmental impact and health benefits of plant-based foods is still a burgeoning field, and the nuanced scientific findings often elude the average consumer. Despite this knowledge gap, the demand for "green" products, including ethically labeled animal-based products such as "sustainably sourced", "hormone-free" or "free-range", continues its upward trajectory.

This profound shift in consumer demand has significant implications for the entire agricultural sector. Farmers are now faced with the imperative to overhaul traditional livestock practices and supply chains or risk fading into obsolescence. However, these adaptations are not without their hurdles. In regions like South Africa, where the farming community is often bereft of the necessary financial support for such drastic shifts, this change poses a severe economic conundrum: to risk market share by sticking to traditional methods or to invest significantly in transforming operations and potentially function at a loss during the initial phase?

The economic implications extend even further. Dairy substitutes, although championed as environmentally friendly options, often bear a higher price tag. This raises crucial concerns about affordability and potential nutritional deficiencies, especially in a world where undernourishment coexists with obesity. Significant shifts in food affordability and availability can upset this nuanced delicate balance with far-reaching implications. In countries like South Africa, which wrestle with some of the highest levels of wealth disparity in the world, the repercussions of these shifts could be severe.

Against this backdrop of complex change, producers are finding themselves tasked with a new responsibility – that of educators. It has become increasingly crucial for producers to engage actively with consumers, shedding light on their practices, and helping consumers make more informed choices

**Here are some strategies that producers can adopt to foster a deeper connection with consumers:**

## **Transparency and Traceability**

Implementing systems that enable consumers to trace the origin of their food can promote trust and loyalty. QR codes linking to a webpage with detailed information about the product's journey from farm to shelf could be an effective method.



## **Leveraging Technology**

Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) could provide consumers with virtual farm tours, offering an immersive insight into the realities of food production without having to leave their homes.

## **Sustainability Reports**

Regularly published reports outlining the environmental and social impacts of their operations can help producers demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.

## **Consumer Feedback Channels**

Creating platforms for consumers to voice their opinions, ask questions, or provide feedback can lead to more consumer-centric practices.

## **Participation in Community Events**

Actively participating in local events, fairs, or forums can foster a sense of community and provide an excellent platform for direct consumer interaction.

Navigating this new landscape requires a delicate balancing act between consumer knowledge, producer adaptability, and the realities of agriculture. The dialogue between consumers and producers will chart the course of this ongoing evolution. The dynamic that emerges from this interaction will shape not only the food on our plates but also the economic, environmental, and societal sustainability of the agricultural industry. As custodians of the land and our food, producers have the unique opportunity – and the responsibility – to shape the future of food through informed and engaged connections with consumers. With these initiatives, the agricultural sector can sow the seeds of understanding, bridging the gap between producers and consumers, and paving the way for a more sustainable future.





GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE SOME OF THE **BEST GENETICS**



 Hatarifarming

# 2023

DORMER VEILING

30 SP Ramme, 40 SP Ooie  
200 Kommersiële Ooie

# HATARI

DORMER VEILING | 16 SEPTEMBER 2023

PREMIUM GENETICS



**16.09.2023**  
SAVE THE DATE

BE-HUMAN  
BLOEMFONTEIN



Steyn Steenekamp 0824388991 | Henri Naudé 079811096 | Marius Eksteen 0825612917

---

# DISCOVERING THE ANGUS

---

By: Suné Bartman

(MSc Agric Production Physiology and Product Quality)



Photo credit: RC Angus

During the early 1800s, England's agricultural sector underwent a massive transformation that would forevermore change the way in which they operate. This transformation was so powerful it was aptly called the British Agricultural revolution, reaching its peak around 1808. In this time, major strides were made in boosting the production of food in order to meet the rising demands and living standards of the British people. These transformations were linked to major agricultural advances such as crop rotation, the more productive use of arable land and selective breeding practices – the latter of which played a crucial role in the development of the amazing and diverse Angus; superiorly known for being “more than just a breed, it's a brand” – Angus Society of South Africa.

During this time, a small framed, polled cattle breed from North-East Scotland had gained immense popularity among the English, who firmly believed that the most delectable meat came from the northern side of the border.

More specifically, these mostly-black cattle were from the Scottish regions of Angusshire – where the cattle were referred to as “Doddies” – and Aberdeenshire – where they were called “Humlies”. The Aberdeen Angus breed (or Angus as they are known internationally) was founded predominantly by three Scottish cattle breeders who were very passionate about improvements in animal husbandry, widely gathering stock and producing cattle of outstanding quality and character.

One of these, laird Hugh Watson from Angus County, is considered the founder of the breed, precisely selecting only the best black and polled animals for his herd – his strict selection criteria only included animals that would produce high-quality meat, were docile, and easy to raise. A vast majority of the Angus cattle alive today can trace their ancestry back to two of his animals; his favourite bull, Old Jock, who was named as the number one bull by the Scotch Herd Book, and Old Granny, a pristine cow that produced 29 calves in the 35 years she was in his care.



In 1824, a man named William McCombie from Aberdeenshire, the county just above Angus, established a sizable herd of cattle derived from Watson's bloodlines. With utmost dedication and hard work, McCombie continued to refine the breed, meticulously keeping records during the entire process. When McCombie was satisfied that this breed has been perfected, he actively promoted these animals throughout England and France, where they became known as the Aberdeen-Angus cattle. As their reputation soared, they were also introduced to the American West, specifically in Kansas and Missouri, to improve the beef market in those regions. Today, Black Angus cattle have attained the status of being the most favoured beef breed in the United States, with a staggering 324,266 animals registered in 2005.

**Over the years, the Angus has become a leading international beef breed due to the excellent quality of its meat, the fact that it is polled, and its good feed conversion ratio, which means it is able to reach an acceptable marketing weight in a short period.**

The potential of animals with the abovementioned traits in a country such as South Africa is what prompted Charles Newberry, a farmer from the Free State, to import the first ten Black Angus cattle to South Africa in 1895. Due to their remarkable and evidently superior traits, as well as the significant economic advantages achieved when crossbreeding them with native cattle, these animals slowly but surely won over the favour of stockmen. As a testament to their growing popularity, the Angus Cattle Breeders Society of South Africa was formed in 1917 with just 12 members, solidifying their presence and recognition in the country.

Since its humble beginnings, the Angus breed has grown with leaps and bounds in South Africa. Over the past century, the decision to improve the beef qualities of native breeds by crossbreeding them to Angus cattle have proven to be utterly successful, and as such they have become a favourite option for farmers looking to better their herds. At present, Angus cattle are extensively utilized throughout South Africa, and there are several distinctive traits that serve as trademarks of the Angus breed, contributing to their exceptional performance in the South African market.

Angus cattle are homozygous polled, meaning they naturally lack horns—a highly desirable trait for ease of handling and reduced risk of injury. The polled gene is inherited as a dominant characteristic in all Angus offspring, making them inherently hornless. This genetic advantage serves as a natural dehorner eliminating the need for manual horn removal procedures. Horns, if present, can often lead to bruising, tearing, and severe injuries for both the animals and their handlers. By choosing Angus cattle, one demonstrates a commitment to good animal care, prioritizing the well-being and safety of both the animals and those who handle them.

Additionally, Angus cattle demonstrate lower birth weights, facilitating easier calving and minimizing the incidence of dystocia. Angus cows also exhibit exceptional milking abilities and demonstrate proficiency in rearing their calves, making them highly sought after for breeding purposes. The calves produced from Angus cattle are vigorous, lively, and strong, with the instinct to get up and suckle within moments of being born. The milk of an Angus cow is sufficient to the point that she can easily wean a calf each year that more than exceeds half her body weight.

**The Angus cow excels at her job, whether she just had her first or her fourteenth calf - the ability of an Angus cow is nearly- and not at all unusual for 12- and 13-year-old Angus cows to still be productive.**

---

---

---

**The breed also boasts impressive growth rates, enabling Angus cattle to efficiently reach optimal weights. They display early maturation and high carcass yields, with well-marbled meat.**

---

In South Africa, the cattle are usually market-ready by the time they reach twelve to fourteen months of age. Angus cattle have earned a reputation as a carcass breed, and the superior meat quality of Angus carcasses commands significant demand in the market, appealing to discerning consumers. They offer natural marbling, resulting in flavourful and tender beef that aligns with the market's demand. The heritability of marbling is moderately high, and selecting for marbling also improves tenderness. Utilizing Angus cattle with their superior marbling ability enhances beef tenderness and boosts consumer acceptance. Additionally, research indicates that Angus sires can be chosen to produce progeny with a higher likelihood of grading AAA, without compromising feed efficiency, animal growth, or sacrificing carcass quality by increasing yield grade.

Their widespread use in crossbreeding aims to enhance carcass quality and milking ability in breeds that may lack in these areas. Furthermore, Angus cattle exhibit resilience against harsh weather conditions, showcasing their adaptability and hardiness - they will thrive under any weather circumstances with minimum intervention. They are undemanding in terms of care and maintenance and are known for their amiable nature. These distinctive features collectively contribute to the Angus breed's success and prominence in the South African cattle industry.

Despite the more well-known black coat of the Angus, they can be either black or red in colour. The development of the red colour variation in Angus cattle is believed to have occurred when Scottish breeders imported predominantly red Longhorn cattle in the eighteenth century for the purpose of breeding larger draught oxen. Another theory suggests that Watson, a prominent breeder, chose to focus on breeding for a black coat despite having Angus cows of various colours

In America, the Red Angus and Black Angus are considered distinct breeds, however besides the coat colour no genetic differences exist between the two, extending to the meat qualities as well. In South Africa, Red Angus cattle are preferred by producers, as evidenced by the more than seventy percent of Angus cattle listed on SA Studbook being red. This could be due to the claims that animals with red coat colours are less sensitive to heat stress, with a reduced risk of cancer and sunburned udders. Conversely, in the rest of the world, more than ninety percent of listed Angus cattle are black.

Angus cattle have evolved beyond being just a breed; they have become a recognizable brand in the beef industry. The global market demand for Angus Beef presents limitless opportunities for the Angus breed, with the industry expanding rapidly. Angus cattle have achieved international prominence, being the dominant breed in countries such as the USA, Canada, Argentina, New Zealand, and Australia. Remarkable advancements have been made in this breed, maintaining favourable birth mass while significantly improving other growth factors and unsurpassed fertility.

**While the Aberdeen-Angus breed traces its origins to Scotland, it thrives in South Africa due to its exceptional meat quality, maternal abilities, and various other traits, making this breed an asset to the South African beef industry and its future.**



Photo credit: RC Angus





# GOLF DAG

**22 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**Inskrywings nou 00P!**

BEPERKTE AANTAL PLEKKE BESIKBAAR.  
BESPREEK NOU OM SEKER TE MAAK JY MIS NIE  
UIT NIE.

Vir meer inligting kontak Tianke by  
[info@agriculturedotgolf.co.za](mailto:info@agriculturedotgolf.co.za)



Fondse word ingesamel vir landelike  
veiligheid, in samewerking met Vrystaat  
Landbou.



# OPTIMAL BULL PREPARATION FOR SUCCESSFUL AUCTIONS

**BY: SUNÉ BARTMAN**  
(MSC AGRIC PRODUCTION PHYSIOLOGY  
AND PRODUCT QUALITY)

In the world of bull auctions, the relationship between buyer and seller is a delicate balance of give and take. Both the buyer and seller act in the best interest of their own farms, often with conflicting expectations. This difference in expectations can lead to communication gaps between what buyers want and what breeders can offer. However, with clarity, planning, and effective communication, this gap can easily be overcome.

As a commercial cattle farmer, the most critical factor determining the profitability of your beef herd is the number of calves you can market annually. This, in turn, is largely influenced by the fertility of your herd, which is strongly affected by your choice of bulls. The bull's mating abilities, semen quality, scrotum circumference, physical condition, health, and genetic potential all play a role in the buyer's decision-making process during an auction. Therefore, these factors should also be of importance to the seller and considered when preparing bulls for auction.

Bulls must first be physically capable of mating with all the cows assigned to them. They should have the necessary stamina to walk behind cows, eat sufficiently, and be in good physical condition for multiple matings.

***A good practice for sellers is to have bulls walk a daily two-kilometer distance at a steady pace for about three months before an auction.***

This allows the seller to identify and treat any injuries, hoof, or joint problems in the bulls. It will also build the bull's physical endurance and stamina while ensuring that any additional feed provided converts into desired muscle, instead of unwanted fat.

Furthermore, each bull used for breeding purposes must have viable semen. Semen quality and quantity play a crucial role in the overall calf percentage of your herd, making it a high priority for potential buyers. To determine this, semen samples from each bull presented for auction should be sent in for analysis. Factors such as colour, density, movement, volume, deviations from normal semen morphology, and the presence of any foreign cells should be considered. A comprehensive semen analysis report will give buyers confidence that the bull they purchase will perform and reproduce as needed, while providing sellers with an opportunity to showcase their bulls at their best.





Buyers are also inclined to purchase bulls with a larger scrotum circumference. The scrotum should be symmetrical, not too long, and undivided at the bottom. Scrotum circumference has a significant impact on the age at which a bull's calves reach puberty and is a highly heritable trait. Therefore, breeders and/or sellers should pay attention to these traits in their breeding policies and adjust breeding targets accordingly.

The medical aspect of auction preparation is particularly important. A seller must ensure that all necessary vaccinations are administered at the correct times, and long enough before the auction. Some vaccinations, such as those for brucellosis, anthrax, BVD, and trichomoniasis, can cause a fever reaction that can harm sperm cells and affect fertility. It is common practice not to vaccinate bulls less than 6 weeks before the planned breeding season, as that is about the time it takes to replenish sperm reserves. Also, it is important to note that these "live" vaccines should preferably not be administered simultaneously. The timing of the auction relative to the breeding season should be taken into account in the vaccination program.



Parasite control, both internal and external, is also crucial to presenting an animal in good condition that performs well. Liver flukes, in particular, are a worrisome internal parasite that interferes with normal hormone production and can have a range of reproductive consequences. Therefore, a good parasite control program is essential for both sellers and buyers. Furthermore, testing for reproductive diseases is a non-negotiable point; buyers must ensure that any bulls they consider have been tested for the necessary reproductive diseases and insist on the physical test results. Such tests can be considered insurance policies if needed.

One of the biggest and most controversial aspects of auction preparation is the issue of supplementation. It is a fact that well-fed bulls tend to perform better and achieve higher auction prices compared to slightly thinner, unconditioned counterparts. Preparing bulls with proper supplementation before the breeding season is critical, as it is a very stressful and physically demanding period for the bull. A bull must have enough fat reserves to sustain itself during that time, as an underfed bull cannot perform its job properly. However, improper and excessive supplementation - which may still produce an impressive-looking bull during an auction - can have long-term consequences for the bull's fertility and health. Such a bull may mislead the buyer into believing that they are acquiring a healthy and well-performing animal, only to later realize that it breaks down and performs poorly in the field. This has caused significant damage to buyer-seller relationships in the past.

***There is, therefore, a significant difference between "fattening up" and "preparing" for an auction; an over fattened bull with a fat deposit around the scrotum will have much lower semen quality. This fat deposit is also, for all practical purposes, a permanent phenomenon.***

When the supplementation ration is too warm - meaning high in fermentable and carbohydrate-rich energy sources - and presented too quickly, significant damage is done to the digestive system. This metabolic disease is called rumen acidosis. In such cases, the bull's rumen will produce excessive acids without the rumen microbes being able to adapt systematically. This causes irreversible damage to the membrane lining the rumen, which is responsible for the absorption of nutrients. Consequently, such an animal will gradually show a reduced appetite and weaken in condition. In severe or advanced cases, animals can even die from this condition. However, it is possible to prepare your animals for auction and keep them in good condition in a way that minimizes the risk of rumen acidosis.

***The key aspect is to ensure that additional feed for your bull is provided over an extended period, allowing the animal to gradually gain condition without overwhelming the rumen with sudden high-energy sources.***

Experts recommend putting bulls that will be auctioned on a protein and energy lick six months in advance, while a good-quality roughage remains the majority of the ration. At about three months before the auction, the ration can be adjusted to provide a larger proportion of high-energy feed to optimize their condition, as well as to compensate for the "exercise" bulls undergo during that time to become fit. Three weeks before the auction, supplementation can gradually be scaled back, and a digestion modifier such as BrowsePlus can be added. This will help the bull adjust more easily from the field and feeding conditions they are accustomed to the new environment they will be moved to.

The successful preparation of bulls for auctions is a critical factor that affects the relationship between buyer and seller. By following proper auction-preparation methods, sellers can ensure they present bulls that perform optimally and meet buyers' expectations.

***Sellers must also be willing to share honest and accurate information about their bulls, while buyers, in turn, must be honest about their expectations and requirements.***

The future of the cattle industry and the promotion of genetic progress are ultimately influenced by the trusting relationship between buyer and seller, where both parties act in the best interest of the industry as a whole. By working together and ensuring proper preparation of bulls for auctions, we can ensure the growth and long-term prosperity of the cattle industry.





# 1<sup>ste</sup> BLACK HILLS PRODUKSIEVEILING

WOENSDAG - 27 SEPTEMBER 2023 - 11:00

JONKERSDAM - STANDERTON



DRAKENSBERGER  
STOET

*'n Bul van 'n besluit*



Onder beskerming van  
Drakensberger Genootskap



VOLLEDIGE VEILINGSREËLS IS BESKIKBAAR BY: [WWW.BKB.CO.ZA](http://WWW.BKB.CO.ZA)

AFSLAERS:  
BKB LIMITED  
61 GRAHAMSTOWN RD, NORTHERD,  
PORT ELIZABETH, 6001  
BTW NR.: 4100101338  
REG NR.: 1998/012435/06

NAVRAE:  
CAROL DAVEL 082 331 1811  
WILHELMUS LAMMAN (EENNAAR) 082 267 0511  
JEAN VAN DER MERWE (EENNAAR) 082 719 7521  
AFSLAER: BILLY LYONS 082 785 5498  
BKB, STANDERTON: 017 712 2132



[WWW.BKB.CO.ZA](http://WWW.BKB.CO.ZA)

**BKB**

The United Voice of Agriculture  
Die Verenigde Stemme van Landbou

# A U C T I O N S & E V E N T S

2

August  
11:00

Vova Droughtmaster Sale

[Read more](#)

2

August  
11:00

Strydfontein, Aliwal  
Noord

Valley Droughtmasters

[Read more](#)

5

August  
11:00

The Bull Ring Auction  
House, Ermelo/ Davel

Hurwits Production Auction

[Read more](#)

5

August  
11:00

Bona Bona, N 12

Overvaal Ile De France Club  
Auction

[Read more](#)

17

August  
11:00

Vastrap Farm

Vastrap Boran Production  
Auction

[Read more](#)

19

Augustus  
11:00

Afridome, Parys

Droughtmaster National  
Auction

[Read more](#)

19

Augustus  
11:00

Fire and Wine Area,  
Pretoria

Jakaranda Ile De France  
Auction

[Read more](#)





# A U C T I O N S & E V E N T S

23 Augustus 11:00 Skeefkop, Clocolan Durow Sussex & Droughtmaster 27th Production Auction [Read more](#)

26 Augustus 11:00 La Rhone, Tulbach LaRhone Auction [Read more](#)

29 Augustus 11:00 Sun City Nasional Corn and Soybean Congress [Read more](#)

7 September 11:00 Ventersdorp Hotspot Sale [Read more](#)

14 September 11:00 Harrismith Africa Droughtmaster Eastern Study Group [Read more](#)

22 September 07:00 Agriculture Dot Golf Event [Read more](#)

22 September Fouriesburg Brandwater Bull Sale [Read more](#)



