

Ayrshire

Joernaal 2020 Journal



Grace Valley

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PROUDLY PRESENT our recent **Show winners!**



Grace Valley Reality's Helbent

Gold cup winner
National Champion 2017 & 2015



Grace Valley Burdette's Bella

Reserve Gold cup
National Champion 2019

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FROM THE | VAN DIE President

Jan Wessels

As mentioned in the previous annual report, the Ayrshire breed is thriving in South Africa. Our numbers of registered animals has risen and the finances of the Ayrshire Society are looking really good. A fine maize harvest is anticipated, and our milk prices were competitive in the past month. A lively programme was planned for 2020, particularly with the National Championships that would have taken place in the Cape in October. A youth tour for overseas students was planned, an invitation was sent to a foreign judge... And then Covid struck...

Who would ever have predicted that a virus from China would create such havoc across the world? The world ground to a halt, and in South Africa we wait to see what our fate will be. Thousands of deaths are expected, and whether our shaky economy will survive this storm is debatable. Times are uncertain!

Council meetings were cancelled, the office had to close and the National Championships and most other planned activities have also been wiped away. Fortunately, we could continue our daily activities on the farms, and the flow of the milk value chain was not disrupted.

I trust everyone will have an opportunity during lockdown to realise what is really important in life. Family, parents and children, and friends had to keep apart, making us realise how significant our relationships are.

Soos in die vorige jaarverslag genoem, gaan dit goed met die Ayrshire-ras in Suid-Afrika. Ons getalle in geregistreerde diere het gestyg en die finansies van die Ayrshire Genootskap lyk werklik goed. 'n Goeie mielieoes is op hande, en ons melkprijs was die afgelope jaar kompetend. 'n Druk program is vir 2020 beplan, veral met die Nasionale Kampioenskappe wat in Oktober in die Kaap sou plaasvind. 'n Jeugtoer vir oorsese studente is beplan, uitnodigings is aan 'n oorsese beoordelaar gestuur... En toe kom Covid...

Wie sou kon voorspel dat 'n virus afkomstig uit China soveel amok oor die wêreld sou saai? Die wêreld het gaan stilstaan, en ons in Suid-Afrika wag om te sien wat ons lot gaan wees. Derduisende sterftes word verwag, en of ons wankelrige ekonomie hierdie storm gaan oorleef, is debatteerbaar. Onsekere tye!

Raadsvergaderings is afgestel, die kantoor moes toemaak, en die Nasionale Kampioenskappe en die meeste ander beplande aktiwiteite is ook van die baan. Gelukkig kon ons op die plase voortgaan met ons daaglikse aktiwiteite, en is die vloei van die melkwaardeketting nie onderbreek nie.

Ek hoop elkeen kon in hierdie grendeltyd kans kry om te besef wat werklik belangrik in die lewe is. Familie, ouers en kinders, en vriende kon nie besoek word nie; dan besef ons hoe belangrik verhoudings vir ons is.

Ek glo ons gaan sterker hier uit kom, en hopelik kan ons volgende jaar ons skedule hervat. Telers moet onthou van die genomiese toetse en subsidie wat hulle daarvoor kan ontvang.

I believe we will emerge from this revitalised and will hopefully resume our schedule next year. Breeders must remember the gnomic tests and the subsidy they can receive.

On the lighter side, Council and the members wish to congratulate Jill Finlayson on her eightieth birthday that was celebrated in June. Walter also celebrated his eightieth birthday last year and we congratulate both on the important milestone they have reached. The Society wishes them health and good fortune; may they long be spared for the Ayrshire family. The Council also wishes to thank Mr Franz Homsèk, who served on the Council for a long time, for his contributions while officiating as a Council member. We wish him good luck for the future with his new career!

So 'n bietjie aan die ligter kant wil die Raad en die lede net vir Jill Finlayson gelukwens met haar 80ste verjaarsdag wat in Junie gevier is. Ons wil beide haar en Walter, wat ook verlede jaar sy 80ste verjaarsdag gevier het, gelukwens met die groot mylpaal wat hulle behaal het. Die Genootskap wens hulle alle voorspoed en gesondheid toe en mag hulle vir baie lank vir die familie gespaar bly. Die Raad wil ook van die geleentheid gebruik maak om mnr Franz Homsèk, wat lank op die Raad gedien het, te bedank vir sy insette in die tydperk wat hy die amp as Raadslid beklee het. Alle voorspoed word hom vir die toekoms met sy nuwe loopbaan toegewens.



TOP 10

GROOTSTE KUDDES

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------|
| 1 | ANTON HOMSEK FAMILIE TRUST | 1641 |
| 2 | FAIRFIELD DAIRY FARMING | 1551 |
| 3 | GISANTO BOERDERY | 1295 |
| 4 | HUGUENOT FARMS | 1053 |
| 5 | RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD | 1032 |
| 6 | KYKSAAM AYRSHIRES | 618 |
| 7 | PE LOUSBER | 610 |
| 8 | SPIES BROERS AYRSHIRES | 602 |
| 9 | VICKERS FARMING (PTY) LTD | 590 |
| 10 | STORMSVLEI FARMS | 572 |

Meesuid

Jan Wessels | 082 872 5878 | NAPIER



MEESUID JW 1542

Algehele wenner On Farm Challenge 2019

10 529 kg Melk; 388 kg BV; 3,69 BV; 320 kg Prot ; 3,04 % Prot



MEESUID JW 10042

2014 Wenner - On Farm Challenge | 2019 Hoogste Produserende koei
2019 Elite Platinum Melkkoei van die Jaar

16707 kg Melk; 557 kg BV; 3,33 % BV; 591 KG Prot; 3,54 % Prot

Showcase

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

25 - 26 April 2019

Judge: Duncan Hunter

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Our judge Duncan Hunter from the United Kingdom arrived the day before the judging. Although numbers were less than previous Nationals, but the quality of the cows was of a high standard.

Seven exhibitors and 38 animals were on the show. The heifer classes were shown on the evening of Thursday 25th April. The champion heifer was Grace Valley Burdette's Eva from Kevin Lang and was the Winner of the under 12 months class.

The Reserve champion – Rhino Ridge Supreme Wilma 11th

Cow classes were on the morning of Friday 26th April.

The first class, cows 2 – 2 ½ years winner was bred by Edmund Els and from the famous Wilma family.

The class 2½ - 3 years showed well by Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd, RFF Yule Tide 40, ending up being Reserve intermediate champion.

The next class 3 – 3½ years won by Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd was placed as Honourable Mention.

The Young Cow Champion, Raigmore Emilia 5th

come from the 3½ year old class.

A big stylish daughter of Nexus Dreamer going back to the family of the famous show cow in Canada, Blackadder Emily 2nd.

There were few Senior cows and the winner and only entry in class 4 – 5 years, was Raigmore Doreen 34th, a daughter of Terrace Bank Free Beer out of one of the oldest families at Raigmore, and was placed as Senior and overall Grand Champion.

The judges comment was “she was not the biggest, but the most correct cow on show”

The Reserve Senior Champion Cow and Reserve Grand Champion was the leader in the class 5- 6 years old Grace Valley's Burdette Bella from the herd of KD Lang. The prize for the National Udder Champion, went to Raigmore Doreen 34.

Thanks to Olene Van Vuuren from the Ayrshire Society for a well run and successful National Championship 2019 Show. English judge Duncan Hunter did an excellent job with the explanations for his placing in the classes. Those who attended, some travelling long distances, experienced an enjoyable show.

>>> by Walter Finlyson

RESULTS

CLASS 1: HEIFER 6- 9 MONTHS

- 1 Grace Valley Burdette's Eva, KL18104 Owner: KD Lang - Sire - Palmyra Try -Star Burdette
- 2 RFF Wallflower 87, WDA18087 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd Sire - Maple Dell Burdette Dempsey
- 3 Rhino Ridge Supreme Wilma 12th, BE18028 Owner: Rhino Ridge Ayrshires - Sire - Sandyford Supreme

CLASS 2: HEIFER 9-12 MONTHS

- 1 Rhino Ridge Supremes Wilma 11th, BE18022 Owner: Rhino Ridge Ayrshires - Sire - Sandyford Supreme
- 2 RFF Lou 10, WDA180127 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Palmyra Try-Star Burdette
- 3 Grace Valley Burdette's Bianca KL 18051 Owner: KD Lang - Sire - Palmyra Tri-Star Burdette

CLASS 3: HEIFER 12 – 15 MONTHS

- 1 RFF Cherry Pie 98, WDA 18004 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty)Ltd - Sire - Sandyford Supreme

- 2 The Ridge Predators Zaany, EHE18007 Owner: EH Els - Sire - Forever Schoon Predator
- 3 Raigmore Lana 298, HE 18002 Owner: Raigmore Trust - Sire - Sandyford Supreme

CLASS 4: HEIFER 15 – 18 MONTHS

- 1 RFF Beatrice 64, WDA 17286 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Web Ayr Garmin
- 2 RFF Soetvelde Juniper 27, WDA 170290 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Sandyford Supreme
- 3 Grace Valley KL17154 KL17154, Owner: KD Lang - Sire - Forever Schoon Predator

CLASS 5: HEIFER 18 – 21 MONTHS

- 1 RFF Desera 20 WDA 170173 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Palmyra Berkley Reagan
- 2 Grace Valley Dreamer's Lara, KL170124, Owner: KD Lang - Sire - Nexus Dreamer
- 3 The Ridge Predators Tiara 2, EHE17044, Owner: EH Els - Sire - Forever Schoon Predator

CLASS 6: HEIFER 21 – 24 MONTHS

- 1 Grace Valley Dreamer's Tiger, KL17066 Owner: KD Lang - Sire - Nexus Dreamer
- 2 The Ridge Predator's Sasha, EHE 17023 Owner: EH Els - Sire - Forever Schoon Predator

CLASS 7: SIRE PROGENY: 2 HEIFERS UNDER 24 MONTHS, ONE SIRE, OWNED BY EXHIBITOR

- 1 KD Lang
- 2 Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd
- 3 EH Els

CLASS 8: 3 HEIFERS, UNDER 24 MONTHS, BRED BY EXHIBITOR

- 1 Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd
- 2 KD Lang
- 3 EH Els



HEIFER CHAMPION - GRACE VALLEY BURDETTE'S EVA



RESERVE HEIFER CHAMPION - RHINO RIDGE SUPREME WILMA 11TH

CLASS 9: HEIFER 2 -2 ½ YEARS

NO ENTRY

CLASS 10: COW IN MILK, 2½ YEARS AND YOUNGER

- 1 Rhino-Ridge Platinum's Wilma 9, BE17003 Owner: Rhino Ridge Ayrshire Sire - Tri Star Platinum
- 2 BVT1701, BVT 170001 Owner: Barti Volschenk - Sire - Maple Dell O Dixon
- 3 Raigmore Lana 295, HE17003 Owner: Raigmore Trust -Sire-Forever Schoon Predator

CLASS 11: COW IN MILK, 2½ - 3 YEARS

- 1 RFF Yule Tide 40, WDA160137 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd -Sire-Libby's Lochinvar
- 2 RFF Prudam 18, WDA 16094 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Terrace Bank Free Beer
- 3 RFF Wallflower 72, WDA 160078 Owner: Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire- Maple Dell O Dixon

CLASS 12: COW DRY AND IN CALF, 4 YEARS AND YOUNGER

NO ENTRIES

CLASS 13: COW IN MILK, 3 - 4 YEARS

- 1 Raigmore Emilia 5, HE 15007 Owner: Raigmore Trust - Sire -Nexus Dreamer
- 2 Cullin Hills Tupet Tupet's Jumper, BJM16003 Owner: BK Macaskill - Sire - Lessard Jumper
- 3 The Ridge Predator's Reas, EHE16008 Owner: EH Els - Sire -Forever Schoon Predator

CLASS 14: UDDER CHAMPION UNDER 4 YEARS

RFF YULE TIDE 40



YOUNG COW CHAMPION - RAIGMORE EMILIA 5



RESERVE YOUNG COW CHAMPION - RFF YULE TIDE 40

CLASS 15: COW IN MILK, 4 - 5 YEARS

- 1 Raigmore Doreen 34, HE 140013 Owner: Raigmore Trust - Sire - Terrace Bank Free Beer

CLASS 16: COW DRY AND IN CALF, 4 YEARS AND OLDER

NO ENTRY

CLASS 17: COW IN MILK, 5 - 6 YEARS

- 1 Rhino - Ridge Drew 2, BE 14039 Owner: Rhino Ridge Ayrshires- Sire -Grace Valley Burdettes Jazzman

CLASS 18: COW IN MILK, 6 -8 YEARS

- 1 Grace Valley Burdette's Bella KL120080 Owner: KD Lang -Sire - Palmyra Tri Star Burdette

CLASS 19: COW IN MILK 8 YEARS AND OLDER

- 1 Raigmore Japonica 89, HE 100119 Owner: Raigmore Trust - Sire - Palmyra Tri Star Burdette

CLASS 20: COW, ANY AGE, WHICH HAS PRODUCED 50 000 KG MILK

NO ENTRY

CLASS 21: UDDER CHAMPION OVER 4 YEARS

Raigmore Doreen 34



SENIOR & GRAND CHAMPION COW & NATIONAL UDDER CHAMPION - RAIGMORE DOREEN 34



RESERVE SENIOR & RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION COW - GRACE VALLEY BURDETTE'S BELLA

GROUP CLASSES

CLASS 22: GROUP OF 2 AYRSHIRES, ANY AGE - SAME HERD

- 1 **RAIGMORE TRUST**
2 **RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD**

CLASS 23: GROUP OF 5 COWS, ANY AGE, BRED BY EXHIBITOR

- 1 **RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD**
2 **RAIGMORE TRUST**

CLASS 24: GROUP OF 3 AYRSHIRE HEIFERS/ COWS, UNDER 3 YEARS

- 1 **RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD**

CLASS 25: SIRE PROGENY: 2 Ayrshire Cows, same herd

- 1 **RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD**

South African Assignment

>>> by Jamie Keenan

Following a request from some South African Ayrshire Breeders for a Youth member from our organisation to travel to Bloemfontein to prepare cows for their National show, Jamie Keenan volunteered to go and here he speaks of his experience in South Africa.

2019 has certainly been a year to remember for me. I was lucky to work at the National Ayrshire show in Bloemfontein in South Africa, a change I was not going to turn down. This meant a great deal to me to be given the chance to work abroad as I never had this experience before.

On the 21st of April I began my trip from Dublin airport with my first of three flights to Bloemfontein.

On arrival I met Edmund Els who funded and look after me over the next twelve days. He took me to the apartment I was staying in to rest from the long journey. The next day we headed to the show grounds where I met the South African breeders and got to see all the great Ayrshire entered for the show who I would have the pleasure of working with. It was thunder and lightning with real heavy rain the first two days which had me worried because all I had packed with me was shorts! Luckily enough it was great weather from then on.

I started my day on Wednesday clipping cows and calves for Edmund Els who had some lovely Forever Schoon Predator and Sandyford Supreme Ayrshires. I also clipped some lovely animals for Kevin Lang who had some lovely stylish Palmyra Burdette daughters. That night I went out for a meal with all the exhibitors who all made me feel so welcome. It took some of them a while to adjust to my accent, but in their defence, everyone struggles with it!

The next day was the start of the show with the calves being judged at 5pm, which was a great time for me as I wasn't rushed in my clipping. There were some lovely strong, stylish calves on show, and I was certainly pleased as I clipped the Junior Champion, Grave Valley Burdette Eva which was owned by Kevin Lang and also the Reserve champion, Rhino Ridge Wilma 11 owned by Edmund Els. It was a quiet night on Thursday as everyone wanted to be fresh for the business end of the show on Friday.

On Friday morning, I got to work early as the show started early. When you're working with good animals it makes my job easy and it certainly was easy for me. I had more joy as I fitted



the Reserve Grand Champion of the show which was another Burdette daughter owned by Kevin Lang. Walter Finlayson's Raigmore Doreen 34 was Grand Champion. The show was judged by Duncan Hunter who did an excellent job as we all know he would. I didn't envy his job as the breeders showed their cattle to the highest standard and had lovely animals that would do well at any show.

After the show the celebrations began. I got to meet more people involved in the South African Ayrshire Society who all made me feel so welcome especially JD Marais and Wikus Van Der Merwe. I certainly got my share of the local food and drinks.



Jamie with Duncan and Edmund at most southern Point in the African Agulhas



Table Mountain overlooking Cape Town

The following day Edmund, Duncan and I set off on a 9-hour drive through the Karoo down to Cape Town. The drive was spectacular from beginning to end. On the following day after a great rest from the long drive the previous day we visited Table Mountain which looks over all of Cape Town. I can honestly say it was the best sights I have ever seen in my life and I felt extremely grateful to have been able to see it in person. The sights we saw all round Cape Town were unforgettable and if I were rich enough, I would most definitely move here.

On the Monday morning we went visit Rhodes farm group which was where the Grand Champion from the show stays. The farm was unbelievable and nothing like I had ever seen before. That made a long-lasting impression on me about how farming is done in South Africa which would impress all farmers across the world. We also had a wonderful visit to see the herd of Jan Wessels. We then set off towards our last scenic stop which



Rhodes farm group

happened to be the most southern point in the African Cape Agulhas, where the Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean meet.

This trip was a once in a lifetime experience and I have memories I will keep with me forever along with friends I have made on the way. This was all made possible by Edmund Els who couldn't have done enough for me and Duncan. I honestly couldn't thank him enough for not just giving me the opportunity, but also making it the best trip I will most probably ever be on!



On Farm CHALLENGE

- Brian Macaskill

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It was my privilege to judge the 2019 on farm challenge, but to be judging well known herds owned by gold cup winners and judges was a daunting thought.

I started off with the Grace Valley herd in Natal, this was a great opportunity to prepare myself for the farms I would be visiting. The cows were well presented and of a high quality from old cows down to the heifers. I really enjoyed having the time to view these animals and discuss them with Kevin.

After an early morning start the following day I was met by Edmund in a cold and wet Cape Town. My first herds here would be the RFF group, Edmund Els and Walter Finlayson. A quick glance at the cows waiting I knew I had some work to do. Big cows, lots of rib, good udders, great feet, legs, nothing that stood out as a cow that shouldn't be there. The new facilities here were impressive and I would have liked to have had more time to look at all the other animals, but we had a long drive ahead of us to get to Dieter's farm. Being

pasture based these cows were very different to the previous farm. Smaller, functional cows but very correct. I will always remember this herd for great udders and uniformity an easy winner for the group class.

After spending most of the night going through all my notes and photos I was still undecided on a champion cow. My last two herds were those of Jan Wessel's and Thom du Plessis, this is where I found my champion cow, these were really great cows, some of which I would love to see in the show ring.

On the flight home I was reflecting on the past week, I had met new breeders, seen their farms and systems along with some really great animals, but what struck home again was the passion and friendships that we have in the Ayrshire breed.

I would like to thank Olene for all the organising and Edmund for the support and taking me to all the herds. Thank you to the breeders that participated and the effort you put in.



Heifers

1. Raigmore Emilia 10 - HE1810 - Raigmore Trust
2. Meesuid JW 8042 - JW 180042 - JW Wessels
3. Grace Valley Gentleman's Mandy - KL17161 - KD Lang
4. RFF Anabella 112 - WDA1806 - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd
5. Rhino Ridge Supreme Wilma 12th - BE 1828 - Rhino Ridge Ayrshires
6. Eenheid - EA 1710 - Eenheid Ayrshires

Cows 2-3 years

1. Grace Valley Dreamer's Silver - KL 16154 - KD Lang
2. Rhino Ridge Platinum's Wilma 9th - BE 1703 - Rhino Ridge Ayrshires
3. RFF Jessie - WDA 17188 - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd
4. SBA 1802 - WDW 18102 - Spies Broers Ayrshire Stoet
5. Eenheid 1680 - EA 1680 - Eenheid Ayrshires
6. Meesuid 16089 - JW 16089 - JW Wessels

Cows 3-4 years

1. RFF Soetvelde Bonnie 5 - WDA15248 - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd
2. SBA 15153 - WDW 15153 - Spies Broers Ayrshire Stoet
3. Eenheid 160070 - EA 1670 - Eenheid Ayrshires
4. Grace Valley Jumper's Pearl - KL 1617 - KD Lang
5. The Ridge Predator's Reas - EHE 1608 - EH Els
6. Raigmore Emilia 6 - HE 1608 - Raigmore Trust

Cows 4-6 years

1. Meesuid JW1542 - JW 1542 - JW Wessels
2. Cullin Hills Simbads Luttete - BJM 14003 - BK Macaskill
3. RFF Truitjie - WDA 14142 - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd
4. The Ridge Beth - EHE 1524 - EH Els
5. Grace Valley Dreamer's Champagne - KL 1410 - KD Lang
6. SBA 1543 - WDW 1543 - Spies Broers Ayrshire Stoet

Cows 6+ years and older

1. SBA 1061 - WDW1061 - Spies Broers Ayrshire Stoet
2. Grace Valley Budette's Tiger Cat - KL 1311 - KD Lang
3. Meesuid 13085 - JW 13085 - JW Wessels
4. Eenheid EA1316 - Eenheid Ayrshire
5. Kleynrivier JS0092 - JS 0992 - EH Els
6. RFF Secret 41 - WDA 13005 - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd

Progeny

1. Spies Broers Ayrshire Stoet - Warrior
2. Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Reagan
3. JW Wessels - Alaska
4. KD Lang - Dreamer
5. EH Els - Predator
6. Raigmore Trust - Platinum

Champion Cow - Meesuid JW 1542, JW Wessels

Reserve - RFF Soetvelde Bonnie 5, Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd



Ltr: Brian Macaskill Judge with Hantie Marais (Ruggedwear) Barti Volschenk (Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd, Reserve winner. Overall winner of the On Farm Challenge - Mr Jan Wessels. (Napier)



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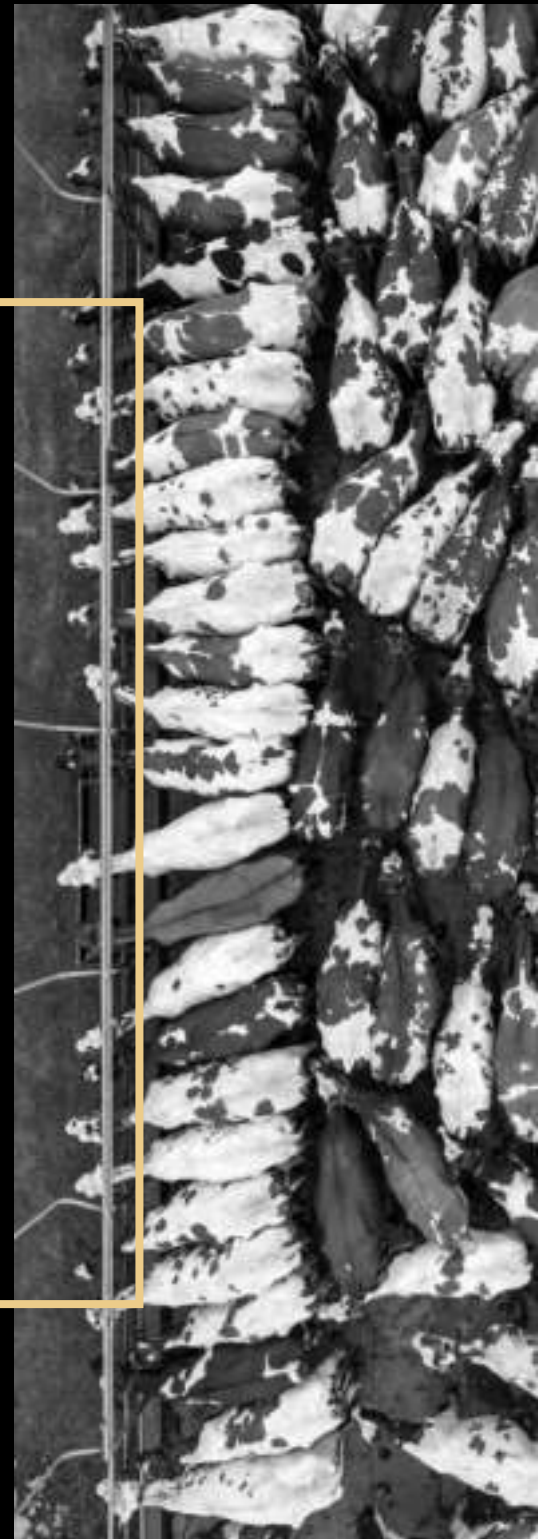


GENETIC STATUS

of the South African
Ayrshire Population

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>>> Dr BE Mostert, SA Stud Book





Genetic Levels of the Active SA Ayrshire Population

The number of active Ayrshire cows and heifers that participated in the July 2019 Logix Milk Genetic Evaluation, was 3 501. In Table 1 the distribution of these cows and heifers per country of sire is indicated. Most bulls used by Ayrshire breeders, are South African bred bulls (99 bulls). Most cows and heifers (42%) are, however, born from Canadian bulls, with Canadian and USA bulls producing most daughters per bull (28 and 24 daughters / bull, respectively). There were only 67 daughters from the Nordic countries and 23 daughters of Nieu-Zeeland sires active in South Africa at that stage.

| Country of Sire | Number of Bulls | Number of Daughters | % Daughters | Daughters/ Bull |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| CAN | 52 | 1458 | 42 | 28 |
| FIN | 3 | 66 | 2 | 22 |
| GBR | 13 | 133 | 4 | 10 |
| NZL | 3 | 23 | 1 | 8 |
| SWE | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| USA | 17 | 405 | 12 | 24 |
| ZAF | 99 | 1415 | 40 | 14 |

Table 1: Number of sires and daughters of the active SA Ayrshire population per country of sire.

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In the following histogram (Fig 1) the genetic levels of the active cows and heifers are indicated per country of sire. The EBVs of heifers are mid-parent values, based on the sires' MACE (international) EBVS in the case where sires do not have official EBVs from the South African Evaluation yet.

Daughters of the Finnish sires have the highest genetic levels for production, udder health and the Logix Merit Index, while the daughters of the Swedish and Nieu-Zeeland sires have the highest genetic levels for fertility. For longevity the best genetic levels can be observed for daughters of Nieu-Zeeland sires and sires from the United Kingdom. The lowest genetic levels for production can be observed for daughters of the South African sires, while daughters of Nieu-Zeeland sires had by far the lowest genetic levels for udder health. For fertility the lowest levels can be observed for daughters of Canadian and USA bulls, with daughters of Canadian and Nieu-Zeeland sires having the lowest genetic levels for longevity. With regards to the total merit index (LMI), daughters of South African sires had the lowest levels, followed by daughters of USA and Nieu-Zeeland sires.

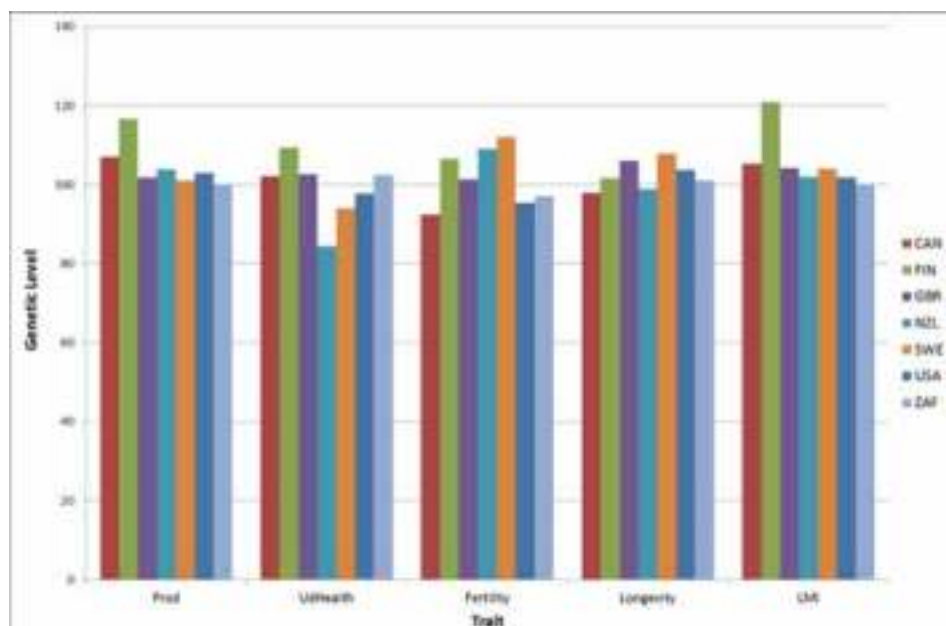


Fig 1: Average genetic levels of active SA daughters per country of sire.

The genetic profiles of the active cows and heifers of the SA Ayrshire population, as well as their sires, are indicated in Fig 2.

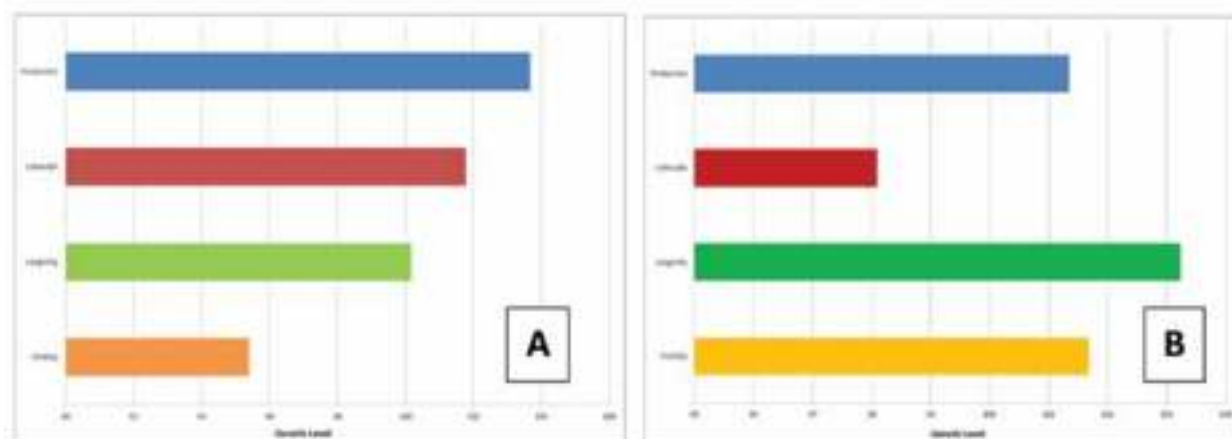


Fig 2: Average genetic levels of (A) active SA cows and heifers and (B) bulls used in the SA Ayrshire population.

It can be seen that the South African cow population are strongest with regards to their genetic levels for production, followed by that of udder health, with the lowest genetic levels for fertility. Bull selection, however, focussed more on longevity and fertility, with least emphasis on udder health. SA breeders therefore made wise bull selection choices to improve the weakest points of their population.

Genetic Trends for the SA Ayrshire Population

In the following figures the genetic changes that occurred in the South African population over time, are indicated. These trends were calculated by averaging breeding values of measured cows per year of birth.

Significant genetic increases can be observed in the production traits of the SA Ayrshire population since 1983 (Fig 3). Milk 305-day lactation yield increased by 44.45kg/year, giving a total improvement of almost 1 500kg over 33 years that can be attributed to genetic improvement. Butterfat 305-day lactation yield

increased with 1.5kg per year and protein yield with 1.3kg per year, rendering total improvements of 50kg and 43kg in butterfat and protein 305-day yields, respectively, over 33 years.

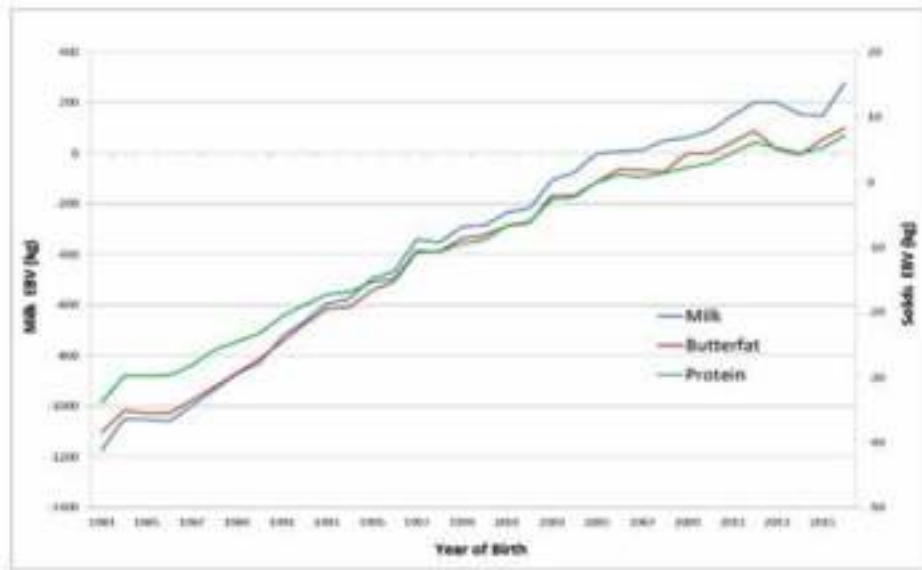


Fig 3 : Genetic trends for production traits of the SA Ayrshire population.

With regards to butterfat and protein percentages (Fig 4), it can be seen that both decreased slightly over the years, with around 0.003% per year. This amounts to a total decrease of 0.11% over 33 years. However, the slope of decrease clearly became less severe since the early 2000s, when breeders put more emphasis on improvement of solids instead of selecting for milk yield only.

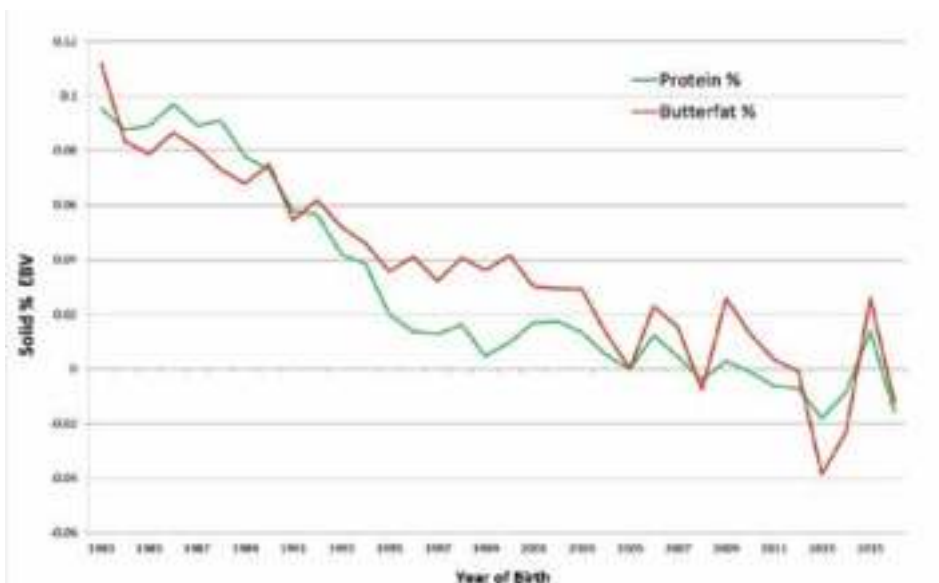


Fig 4 : Genetic trends for butterfat and protein percentages of the SA Ayrshire population.

Somatic cell counts have been recorded in South Africa since 2000, with breeding values for somatic cell score presented to the industry in 2004. An improvement in somatic cell score can be observed in the last decade. Ayrshire breeders therefore succeeded to improve mastitis resistance of their herds genetically in the last two generations.

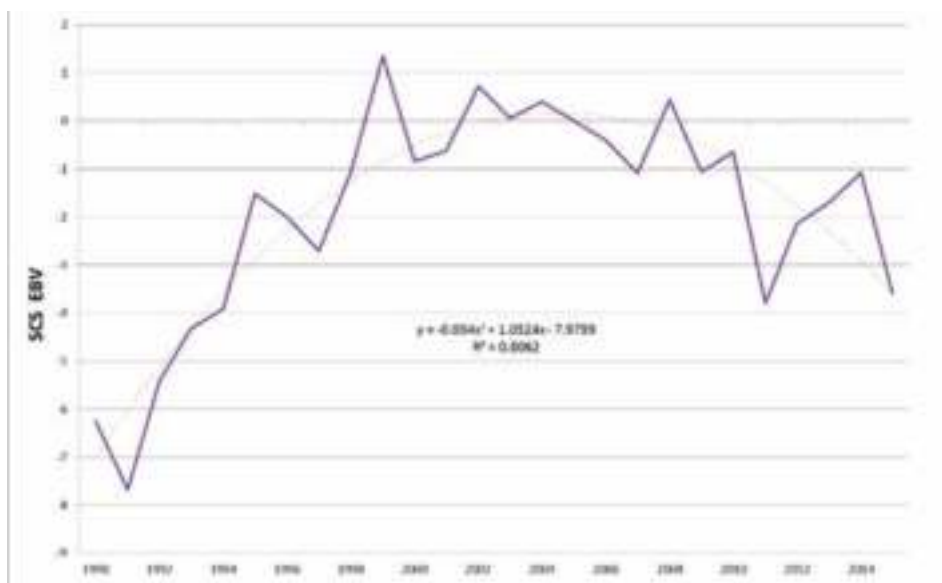


Fig 5 : Genetic trend for somatic cell score of the SA Ayrshire population.

In Fig 6 the genetic trend for calving interval of the SA Ayrshire population is indicated. Calving interval, as indicator trait of fertility, increased by 0.89 days per year, rendering a total increase in calving interval of 32 days since 1980. This indicates a deterioration in fertility of the SA Ayrshire population over the years. However, fertility has only been included in the total merit indices of the Ayrshire breed since 2012, which will certainly slow down the rate of deterioration for those breeders that use the indices for selection of their animals and bulls to be used in their herds.



Fig 6 : Genetic trend for calving interval of the SA Ayrshire population.

Functional herd life (longevity) improved with 0.88 units/per year from 1975 to 1991, but decreased at a gradual rate of 0.006 units/year since then (Fig 7). Breeding values for this trait were only introduced in 2012 for the SA Ayrshire

population and were therefore only included in the total merit indices since then. Improvement in functional herd life should therefore be observed in the genetic trends of herds where the selection goal also put emphasis on longevity.



Fig 7 : Genetic trend for functional herdlife of the SA Ayrshire population.

Inbreeding of the SA Ayrshire Population

The rate of inbreeding for the SA Ayrshire population, is indicated in the following figure.



Fig 8 : Average inbreeding per year of birth for the SA Ayrshire population.

Inbreeding increased at a rate of 0.15% per year since 1980. The average inbreeding coefficient for animals born in 2018, is 6.3%. The rate of inbreeding is still within the recommended level (< 0.1 -0.2% per year) for maintenance of genetic diversity.

In Fig 9 the average inbreeding per country of sire can be seen. Bulls from Canada, South Africa and the USA are most related to the South African population, with bulls from the Nordic countries causing least inbreeding.

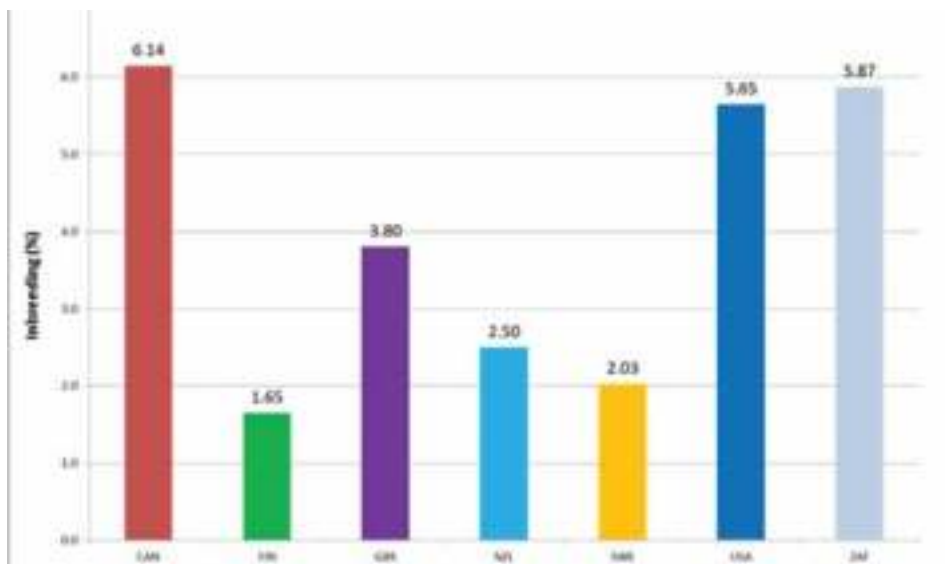
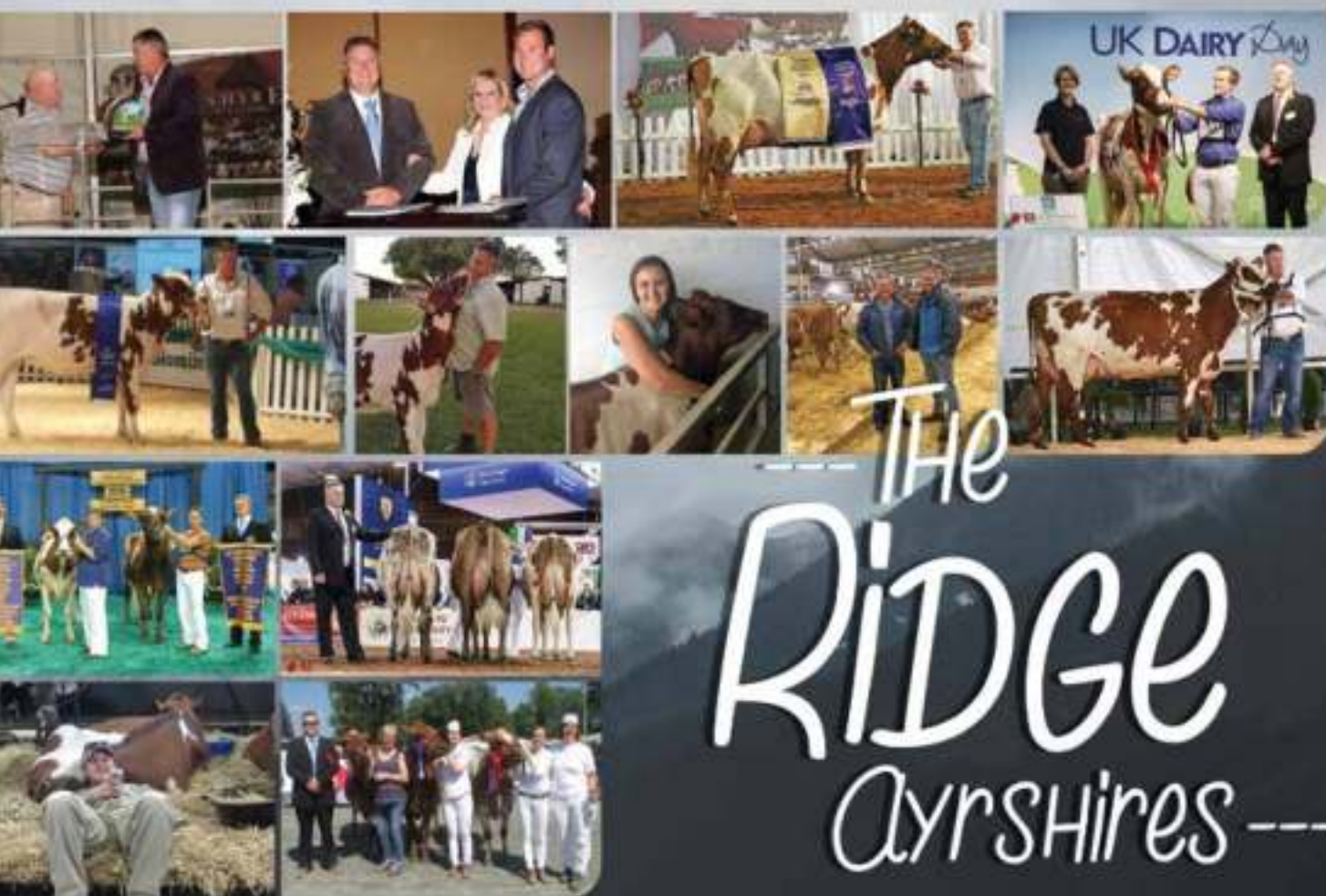


Fig 9 : Average inbreeding levels of active SA daughters per country of sire.



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AJV & prysuitdelings- funksie



Die Genootskap se ledevergadering het saamgeval met die Sandringham Agri-Expo Live Stock by Stellenbosch die 10de Oktober 2019. Vertoners, verwerkers, asook Mary Creek van Amerika is verwelkom by die vergadering. Tydens die ledevergadering is twee raadslede herkies om op die raad te dien. Graag wil die Genootskap ook mnr Dieter Spies, nuutverkose lid tot die raad gelukwens by die Ayrshire span.

Mnr Wessels het aan die lede die goeie nuus meegedeel dat die genootskap met intreding tot die 2020 finansiële jaar, bydraende lede tot die 3c melkfonds, 'n gedeelte van hul heffings gaan subsidieer.

25





MILK PRODUCTION *Awards* 2018

TOP 10 COWS

26

| # | Name | Owner | Kg Milk | Kg BF | % BF | KG Prot | % Prot |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-------|------|---------|--------|
| 1 | Meesuid JW 10042 | JW Wessels | 16707 | 557 | 3,33 | 591 | 3,54 |
| 2 | RFF Brown Beauty 44 | Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd | 16087 | 554 | 3,41 | 499 | 3,41 |
| 3 | RFF Peggy 95 | Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd | 13977 | 535 | 3,83 | 453 | 3,24 |
| 4 | Meesuid JW 10031 | JW Wessels | 13974 | 477 | 3,42 | 474 | 3,39 |
| 5 | Meesuid JW 12002 | JW Wessels | 13866 | 414 | 2,99 | 485 | 3,5 |
| 6 | RFF Atlanta 2 | Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd | 13848 | 492 | 3,55 | 427 | 3,08 |
| 7 | RFF Tulip 43 | Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd | 13755 | 483 | 3,51 | 436 | 3,17 |
| 8 | RFF 15022 | Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd | 13663 | 502 | 3,67 | 476 | 3,48 |
| 9. | RFF Rhoda 57 | Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd | 13575 | 603 | 4,44 | 456 | 3,36 |
| 10 | Meesuid JW 110012 | JW Wessels | 13576 | 456 | 3,36 | 469 | 3,46 |



Barti Volschenk with Jill Finlayson



Highest producing cow, Meesuid JW 10042.
Jan Wessels receives his award from Jill Finlayson

TOP 10 HERDS

| # | Name | number animals | Kg Milk | Kg BF | % BF | KG Prot | % Prot |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|---------|-------|------|---------|--------|
| 1 | PE LOUBSER | 34 | 9904 | 395 | 3,98 | 395 | 3,1 |
| 2 | RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD | 596 | 9238 | 364 | 3,94 | 305 | 3,3 |
| 3 | JW WESSELS | 183 | 8249 | 301 | 3,7 | 289 | 3,5 |
| 4 | ANTON HOMSEK FAMILIE TRUST | 42 | 7582 | 316 | 4,2 | 243 | 3,2 |
| 5 | HEUNINGBERG AYRSHIRES | 73 | 6460 | 254 | 3,92 | 217 | 3,3 |
| 6 | KD LANG | 162 | 6452 | 302 | 4,7 | 206 | 3,2 |
| 7 | MS WENTZEL | 69 | 6134 | 250 | 4,0 | 202 | 3,3 |
| 8 | BK MACASKILL | 38 | 6130 | 296 | 4,8 | 201 | 3,3 |
| 9 | SPIES BROERS | 450 | 5835 | 240 | 4,2 | 199 | 3,4 |
| 10 | JAWILCO AYRSHIRES | 95 | 5538 | 233 | 4,2 | 177 | 3,2 |



Dieter Spies



Kevin Lang



Brian Macaskill



Kobus Marais



Jan & Merolyn Wessels



Barti Volschenk & Merolyn Wessels - Productions

94AY7665 **PALMYRA POWER REMSBERG**

Anmar Peter Power x Palmyra BendigBerkely x Des Chamois Poker



Dam: Palmyra Berkely P Ruth-ET - 4-Year-Old

Remsberg is bred from four generations of EX cows. His dam is a fantastic cow that was Grand Champion Ayrshire at the 2017 and 2018 International Dairy Shows at Madison. Remsberg's sire and maternal grand sire have impressive scores for the health traits – Remsberg is bred to sire long lasting cows with low SCC and very good fertility.



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SANDRINGHAM *Show*

>>> 10 -12 OCTOBER 2019



Biggest Dairy show and Beef Cattle Interbreed Championships

A total of 15 cattle breeds competed in the Cape Agri Show Arena for the two most prestigious titles as FNB Dairy Queen and BKB Red Meat King/Queen. The winners of these two titles walk away with prize money R10 000 each.

Livestock is particularly popular for the FNB Dairy Interbreed Championships, which is supported by the largest three dairy breeds, the Holstein, Ayrshire and Jersey Breeders' Societies. A highlight was the participation of international judge Mary Creek of America, who described the participating animals as "outstanding".

Media released by **Isabeau Botha**

29

Class 16: Heifer < 12 Months

- 1 Raigmore Dani 3 HE1816 Owner Raigmore Trust -Sire - Duo Star Gentlemen Red
- 2 Rhino Ridge Reagan Wilma 13th BE1859 - Owner EH Els - Sire - Palmyra Berkley Reagan
- 3 RFF Beryl 37 WDA 18247 - Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Palmyra Tri-Star Burdette

Class 19 Heifer 12 Months and under 16 Months

- 1 Raigmore Emilia 10 HE1810 Owner: Raigmore Trust - Sire - Palmyra Tri-Star Burdette
- 2 RFF Rosy 3 WDA 18170 Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Palmyra Tri-Star Burdette
- 3 RFF Wallflower 87 WDA 18187 - Owner - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Maple Del Burdette Dempsey

Class 22: Heifer 16 Months and <24 Months

- 1 Rhino-Ridge Supreme Wilma 11th - BE1822- Owner EH Els/ R Blom - Sire Sandyford Supreme
- 2 RFF Prudam 34th WDA 18080 Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Palmyra Tri-Star Burdette

Class 25: Heifer 20 Months and <24 Months

- 1 RFF Cherry Pie 98 WDA 18014 - Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Sandyford Supreme
- 2 RFF Beatrice 64 WDA17286 - Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Web Ayr Garmin
- 3 Raigmore Heather 17 HE 013 Owner Raigmore Trust - Sire - Tri-Star Platinum

Class 28: HEIFER CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION

RFF CHERRY PIE 98

RAIGMORE EMILIA 10

Class 38: Junior Cow, 2 Years and 2 Years 6 Months

- 1 RFF Desera 20 WDA 17173 Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Palmyra Berkley Reagan
- 2 RFF Peggy 125 WDA 17100 - Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Forever Schoon Perfecter
- 3 The Ridge Lovely 2nd EHE 1741 - Owner EH Els - Sire - Forever Schoon Predator

Class 41: Junior Cow, 2 Years 6 Months < 3 Years

- 1 The Ridge Platinum's Wilma 9th - EHE 1703 -Owner EH Els - Sire - Tri-Star Platinum
- 2 Raigmore Lana 297th - HE17012 Owner Raigmore Trust - Sire - Tri- Star Platinum

Class 44: Junior Cow, 3 Years < 3 Years and 6 Months

- 1 RFF Prudam 18 WDA 16094-Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd Sire - Terrace Bank Free Beer
- 2 RFF Sylvia 48 WDA 16116 - Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd Sire - Terrace Bank Free Beer
- 3 RFF Yule Tide 40 WDA 16137 - Owner - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd Sire - Libby's Lochinvar

Class 47: Junior Cow, 3 Years 6 Months and < 4 Years

- 1 RFF Soetvelde Bonnie 5 WDA 15248 Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Libby's Lochinvar
- 2 BVT 815 - BVT 815 Owner BS Volschenk- Sire - Terrace Bank Free Beer
- 3 The Ridge Predators Reas EHE 1608 Owner EH Els - Sire - Forever Schoon Predator

Class 50: JUNIOR UDDER CHAMPION

RFF BERRYL 37

Class 53: JUNIOR CHAMPION COW AND RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION COW

RFF PRUDAM 18 - RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD

RFF SYLVIA 48 - RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD

Class 75: Senior Cow, 5 Years and under 6 Years

- 1 Raigmore Jemina 139 HE 1506 Owner Raigmore Trust - Sire - Blackaddar BB Kellogg

Class 78: Senior Cow, 6 Years and older

- 1 RFF Secret 41 WDA 13005 Owner Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd - Sire - Palmyra Tri-Star Burdette

Class 81: SENIOR UDDER CHAMPION COW

RHINO RIDGE REAGAN WILMA 13TH

Owners - E Els/R Blom

Class 84: SENIOR CHAMPION COW AND RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION COW

RFF SECRET 41 - RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD

RAIGMORE JEMINA 139 - RAIGMORE TRUST

Class 87: BREED GRAND CHAMPION AND RESERVE BREED GRAND CHAMPION

RFF PRUDAM 18TH - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd

RFF SYLVIA 48 - Rhodes Food Group (Pty) Ltd



HEIFER CHAMPION: RFF CHERRY PIE 98
RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD



RESERVE HEIFER CHAMPION – RAIGMORE EMILIA 10
- RAIGMORE TRUST

JUNIOR UDDER CHAMPION RFF BERYL 37 -
RHODES FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD

JNR CHAMPION COW RFF PRUDAM 18

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION COW RFF SYLVIA 48

SNR UDDER CHAMPION COW - E Els/R Blom
RHINO RIDGE REAGAN WILMA 13TH

SNR CHAMPION COW RFF SECRET 41 - RHODES
FOOD GROUP (PTY) LTD

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION COW RAIGMORE
JEMINA 139

GRAND BREED CHAMPION | JNR CHAMPION COW
- RFF PRUDAM 18

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION RFF SYLVIA 48



SEMEX'S SIRE LINEUP STRONGER THAN EVER!



Lady In Red Parnais Impala VG-B6 CAN
Sire: DES FLEURS PARRAIN

| | SIRE | PEDIGREE | LPI | MILK | CFP | HERD LIFE | SCS | MASTITIS RESISTANCE | CALVING ABILITY | CONF | MAMMARY | F&L |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------|------|-----------|-----|---------------------|-----------------|------|---------|-----|
|  | 0200AY01056 | DES FLEURS PARAGUAY | VALPAS x ROCKSTAR x ORRARYD | 3255 | 1760 | 184 | 103 | 100 | 98 | -1 | -2 | -1 |
|  | 0200AY01073 | DE LA PLAINE WATERLOO | VALPAS x BURDETTE | 3220 | 1478 | 156 | 105 | 101 | 96 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
|    | 0200AY01039 | DES COTEAUX RAFTING | FACET x MORDICUS x POKER | 2854 | 676 | 48 | 109 | 103 | 102 | 11 | 8 | 9 |
|   | 0200AY01062 | DES ERABLES IDOL | BLINK x PATRIOTE x OBLIQUE | 2826 | 641 | 84 | 104 | 101 | 100 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
|   | 0200AY00784 | KAMOURASKA BIGSTAR | SITUATION x JUPITER x PETERSLUND | 2839 | 800 | 48 | 107 | 98 | 100 | 13 | 13 | 9 |
|  | 0200AY01035 | DES FLEURS PARRAIN | ROCKSTAR x ORRARYD x POKER | 2965 | 802 | 99 | 104 | 106 | 96 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
|   | 0200AY01042 | MISYL TARZAN | BIGSTAR x LANDSCAPE x NORMANDIN | 2719 | 1031 | 41 | 103 | 99 | 101 | 9 | 8 | 4 |

Source: CDN GPA 20*APRIL

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Once you've received your *Genetic Test Results*

>>> Mark Carson, Genetic Solutions Manager, Semex

Genomic testing through Semex Elevate® has become a valuable tool to measure a herd's genetic program performance, and to make inventory decisions. With a simple tissue sample, we have the power to estimate not only a single heifer's potential contribution to the herd, but we can access a generations' genomic data to build breeding management strategies in Semex's mating program OptiMate™.

Where is the value of genomic testing and the subsequent results? The combination of sexed semen and better reproductive management protocols gives herds the opportunity to manage their animal inventory differently. Heifer matings are now the most critical matings. You're able to maximize genetic progress via sexed semen, giving you up to 85% female calves from your first lactation heifers. This creates management challenges that genomic testing through Elevate can alleviate.

Using your genomic results to sort through your herd's inventory is common. This data can dictate which animals get sexed, conventional or beef semen, and help balance your future heifer inventory. After pedigree errors found by genomic testing are corrected, one of the first decisions that needs to be made is based on ranking heifers from highest to lowest genetic value. Industry indexes such as GTPI and GLPI are commonly used to sort through genomic data. Although these indexes help to rank animals on a national level, they may not reflect the herd's genetic needs and goals. It is suggested that a herd work with its genetic advisor to build a custom index, putting weights on the trait your herd deems important. Semex has a program called SemexWorks™ that allows dairy herd managers to build a custom index that fits their herd's genetic goals. A custom index allows for a simple top to bottom ranking of animals, without getting weighed down in sorting through sub traits.

33



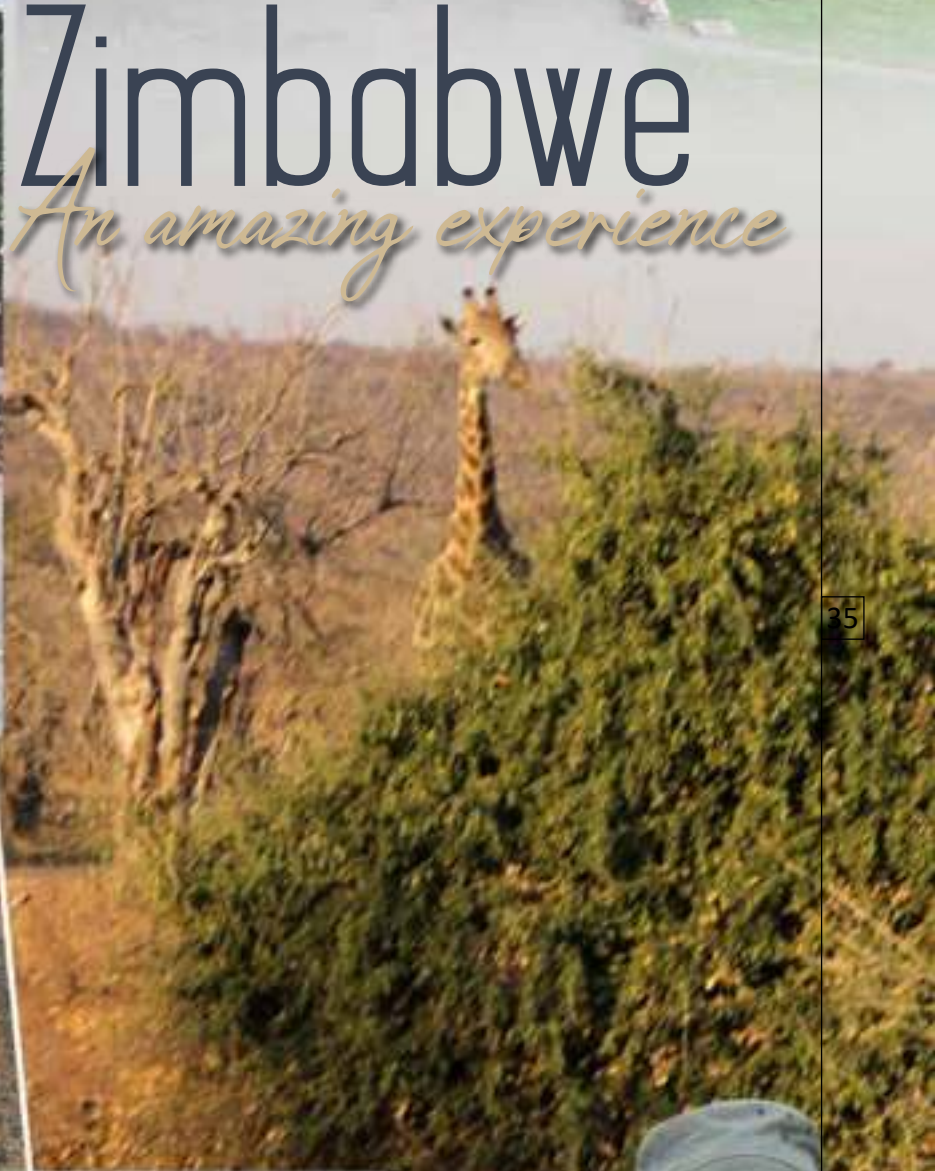
Once you've gotten your herd's index of choice picked, its time to make inventory decisions. Genomic testing helps provide a ranking, but you must also account for herd and business management decisions that will impact current and future needs. Pregnancy rates, age at first calving, heifer rearing costs and herd internal growth and expansion needs are just some of the many factors that need to be accounted for. Combining the genomic ranking with proper inventory accounting will help to select animals to get sexed, conventional or beef semen, as well as culling, and in some cases IVF or an ET strategy. To help with these decisions, Semex developed a tool called the Elevate Solver that combines genetic and herd management information, to help develop the best strategy for the herd. This will drive up genetic gain, as your highest animals will contribute to the next generation.

34

One area that can be difficult decision to make is breeding older cows productive cows to beef semen, because genetically they index lower than their younger herd mates. If the system is set up correctly, those older cows have already contributed to the next generation by producing high genomic females based via use of genomic selection and sexed semen. Your goal with these cows changes. Your new goal is to keep this cow in the herd as long as possible by using high fertility semen, including beef semen. To get the maximum out of your genetic results, a herd must accept the fact that younger animals will make up the bulk of the future replacements.

To get the most out of your genomic results, it's recommend you work with a trusted genetic advisor who knows how to get the most out of the technology and challenges the herd management to think about how their genetics are being managed now and into the future.









Not many people can say that they've had a board meeting outside in the bush, while a herd of elephants are feeding close by. Definitely a first for the Ayrshire Society of SA.

The board members and their partners were invited by Kevin Lang to his Bumbusi Camp in Hwange Park in Zimbabwe, and were treated to warm African hospitality.

An idyllic setting....

Stone and thatch houses set amongst huge mohogany trees with a winding stone path lit by hanging lanterns.

Interiors straight from the trendiest décor magazines. Taking a bath under a full moon, with elephants just outside the shoulder height reed wall between you and them, will always feel like a movie star moment.

Hosted by Kevin, his son Caiden, daughter-in-law Kimberley and staff members Chris, Talent and Bigson. We were treated to a fire that keeps going all day long to ensure you can enjoy a warm cup of tea/coffee anytime you feel like it.

Game drives, bush walks under supervision, sundowners with breath taking views (as far as the eye or binoculars can see) from the rooftop of a game vehicle, supper at a surprise location or on our last night – a straw carpet unrolled on the sand for the last stargazing under a full moon.

A warm heartfelt thank you for sharing a place you love so much with us. I will often think back to our visit to Bumbusi, a place where, for a while, you could rest your soul and just breathe in the beauty.

- Merolyn Wessels

Op uitnodiging van Kevin Lang is besluit om die Augustus raadsvergadering by sy Lodge, Bumbusi te hou.

Donderdag 15 Augustus 2019, vroegoggend land ons met 'n gevoel van groot opwinding in Johannesburg om die volgende vlug te haal na Victoria-Falls lughawe. Daar was gereël dat die vlugte so moet beplan word dat almal by die lughawe sou ontmoet vir die 3 uur reis na Bumbusi. Kimberley, Kevin se skoondogter het ook van die lughawe saam met ons na Bumbusi gery.

Van die groeplede moes bietjie langer wag vir almal se vlugte om te land. Die bussie wat Kevin vir ons gereël het was luuks toegerus met lugreëling en sagte sitplekke. Teen dié tyd was almal moeg en dors en die eerste stop was by 'n primitiewe winkeltjie of padstal waar die manne bier kon koop vir die lang pad wat voorlê.

Die pad waar ons afdraai, na ons bestemming, was grondpad. Hoe dorer die manne geraak het, hoe meer het die houer met die leë bierbottels begin skud soos ons met die grondpad ry. Naderhand was dit so geraas en gerittel dat ons mekaar nie meer kon hoor nie. Laat middag sluit ons by Kevin aan vir die laaste rit na ons blyplek. Die manne het die Land Cruiser begin pak en die tasse op dak staan gemaak. Gelukkig het Jan gereeld opgespring om te kyk of die bagasie nog daar is. Sterk skemer bereik ons die lodge en word verwelkom deur Kevin se seun, Caiden en personeel.

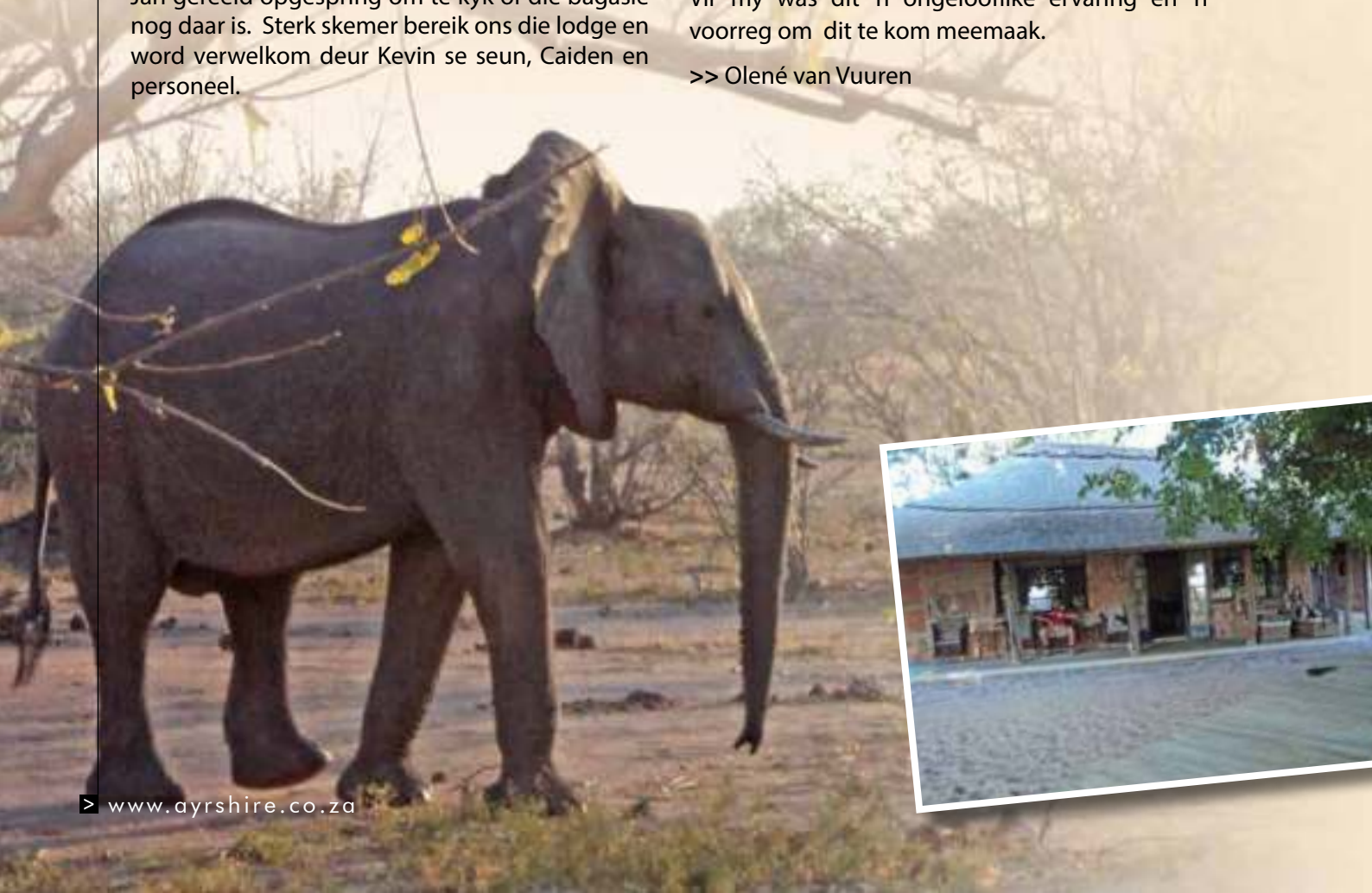
Die volgende oggend net voor die aanvang raadsvergadering, is almal vroeg uit die vere vir die eerste wilds rit. Ek en Walter het agtergebly by die kamp en ek het toegesien dat hy gereeld sy tee en beskuitjies kry. Na afloop van die vergadering, het almal ietsie koud geniet teen die Afrika hitte. Wat 'n gesig toe 'n trop olifante by die kamp kom water drink het. Hulle so naby en lewensgroot verby beweeg, dat jy amper aan hulle kon vat. Dié Vrydag was ook die verjaarsdag van JD Marais en die volgende dag was Fires s'n. Albei is lekker bederf met koek en 'n braai Vrydagaand wat Caiden en Kimberley as verrassing gereël het. Nadine (JD se vrou) het gesorg vir 'n lekker potbrood en is daar heerlijk om die kampvuur gelag en gekuier.

Elke dag met sonsondergang is ons groep na 'n uitkykpunt geneem vir "sundowners". Die huisies se ligte is van sonkrag afhanklik. Saans as jy na jou huisie terugkeer, skyn net 'n flou liggie langs jou bed. As die ligte uitdoof, word jy ingesluk deur die nag se donker en in die stilte is daar 'n geknak van boomtakke, soos die groot voete geruisloos deur die kamp beweeg.

Dankie aan Kevin en familie. Ons is ook dankbaar vir die diens van Talent, Chris en Bigson wat elke dag beleefd met 'n glimlag na ons behoeftes omgesien het.

Vir my was dit 'n ongelooflike ervaring en 'n voorreg om dit te kom meemaak.

>> Olené van Vuuren





18th

SA CHEESE FESTIVAL

an ever-innovative success

The 18th South African Cheese Festival from 26 to 28 April 2019 was a huge success according to the organisers, exhibitors and visitors. Everyone agrees: This was the best festival ever. Indeed, it is not every day that the Dairy Product of the Year and the Gin of the Year visit together at one festival!

Johan Ehlers, Chief Executive Officer of Agri-Expo, says the SA Cheese Festival is established as South Africa's most popular outdoor food experience. This celebration of cheese and related

products is offered by Agri-Expo since 2002 and presented at Sandringham outside Stellenbosch for the past nine years. "This year's festival was an ideal gathering of innovative products, good organisation and a great atmosphere."

According to Ehlers, a highlight was the high standard of products – of which the SA Dairy Product of the Year and the Gin of the Year for 2019 testify. Belnori Boutique Cheesery's St Francis of Ashisi (a 50/50 goat's and cow's milk cheese) and Deep South Distillery's Cape Dry Gin could be tasted during two Tasting Room sessions. "This gin won a gold medal at the London Spirits Competition on Tuesday 30 April 2019, and was also awarded Gin of the Year 2019 out of more than 300 entries."

Ehlers says the festival, with a capacity of 10,000 people a day, was sold out the earliest ever for the Saturday. "Agri-Expo, along with the exhibitors, is delighted with the tremendous buying power at this year's festival. We attribute this to the quality and affordability of the products."

The great variety of exhibitors is, according to Ehlers, an important reason for the growing success of the festival. "We had a record number of more than 170 exhibitors this year. In addition, about a third of them were new participants."

New festival experiences: From buffalo mozzarella to boutique gin and insect ice cream

Annually, commercial and artisanal cheeseries from all over the country as well as from abroad bring more than 20 tonnes of cheese to the SA Cheese Festival. This year, one of the highlights for festival goers was the increased participation of international cheeses, especially



from Italy and the Netherlands, with which local products could be compared. A brand-new addition to the Cheese Emporium was the Food Lover's Piazza with everything Italian – offering Italian cheeses, olives, Provolone, Prosciutto di Parma, pasta and pesto, as well as Italian hospitality in abundance.

Ehlers says exhibitions of artisanal cheesemakers, from across the country, are unique to the SA Cheese Festival. "A number of small cheesemakers have again been invited to showcase their unique handmade products as part of our #Support #SmallCheeseMakers project in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA) and Absa."

One of these participants was Ciao Ciao, a brand-new cheesemaker that opened only ten days before the festival. According to co-owner Maurizio Odiema, their buffalo mozzarella and fior di latte sold very well. "We have already received interest from a well-known retailer as well as assistance with the application for an export permit."

Another novelty was the dedicated Craft Canopy exhibition area with a wide variety of wines, beers, sparkling wines and boutique gins – available at the festival for the first time.

The Tasting Room was a great favourite among visitors. Well-known chefs such as Pete Goffe-Wood, The Food Fox Ilse van der Merwe, Lapo Magni and The Kate Tin Katelyn Allegra offered six pairing demonstrations daily. Visitors could enjoy cheese with wines such as SA's top Chenin Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc, beer and even chocolate, as well as experience what makes Prosecco different to Champagne.

Visitors could test and buy innovative creations of some 50 exhibitors' niche and alternative products as part of the Cape Made Taste the Alternatives project this year, thanks to a partnership with the WCDoA. Interesting innovations included abalone pie, kombucha vinegar, free-range chicken biltong, pickled periwinkle, rooibos vodka and insect ice cream made from EntoMilk™! More than 30 recipes combining cheese, bread and alternative products were specially developed for cooking demonstrations offered daily in the Cape Made Kitchen. Visitors who attended these sessions each received an exclusive recipe book as a gift. Interested parties can download the recipe book from the SA Cheese Festival website.

An exhibition masterpiece

The SA Cheese Festival was awarded several times as the 'Best Consumer Exhibition in Africa' (larger than 12 000m²) by AAXO (Association for African Exhibition Organisers), as well as the Cape Winelands 'Festival of the Year' in 2018.

Ehlers says it is a privilege for Agri-Expo to be honoured by the exhibition as well as the tourism industries. "This year, we were also overwhelmed with positive feedback from many visitors, exhibitors and partners about new festival experiences created, the grounds layout and the atmosphere," says Ehlers.

First-time festival-goer Theo Kleinhans of the Helderberg summarized many festival-goers' experiences with his comment: "It is one of the best organised festivals we have ever attended. From arrival to parking and security was excellent. The stalls were neat and there was enough seating."

Exhibitors awarded

The organisers awarded the best exhibitions in seven categories – including a new exhibitor, Diesel & Dust Craft Beer. The winners were Ladismith Cheese (Commercial Cheese); Kasselshoop Cheese (Boutique Cheese); Diesel & Dust Craft Beer (Alcoholic Products); Las Paletas Artisan Lollies (Related Products); Busy Bee Apiaries (Alternative Products); Piroshka's Flammkuchen (Gourmet Lane); and Western and Southern Cape Angus Club (Milk Factory/Animal Lane).

Ehlers praised all the exhibitors for their innovative products, festival discounts and personal interaction with visitors.

The 19th SA Cheese Festival will take place from Saturday 25 April to Monday 27 April 2020 at Sandringham Estate outside Stellenbosch. Visit www.cheesefestival.co.za for more information, follow the SA Cheese Festival on Twitter @SACheeseFest, Facebook @SACheeseFestival or Instagram @sacheesefest, or contact Agri-Expo at tel 021 975 4440 or admin@agriexpo.co.za.

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2020 *World Conference*

AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND VISIT
12 - 30 January 2020

Edmund and I arrived in Melbourne after a long flight via Dubai on Emirates Airline. Day one was a free day so we took a tram ride (also free) to the famous MCG Cricket and Tennis home ground of Australia.

We joined the other 120 Conference members for supper on the beautiful Melbourne Riverfront, not far from our hotel. The next day we visited the Mundem Farms. They have a large mixed herd of Ayrshire, Jersey and Holstein. They also run an elite Ayrshire Show herd. Their show cows were already at the show, The Australian International Dairy Week 2020, near Shepperton, which we visited later in the week. The Mundem family, originally from New Zealand, moved to Araluen Park Southeast of Melbourne. The entire family of four sons and a daughter are involved, but the Ayrshires are Karl's passion! Monday 20 January saw the three buses and visitors plus Ayrshire enthusiasts from all four corners of the world travel to Up State Victoria and the city of Greater Shepperton. The next day was an early start for Tatura, a wonderful venue for showing cattle.

The judge, Francois Beaudry, and his wife Helen, from Quebec Canada, were on the tour with us. He certainly had his work cut for some strong classes! Heifer champion was Parkville Rockstar Lorna. His young cow Champion was Hillcrest Jumper Lorette 2nd from Boldview Farms.

The Senior Champion and Grand Champion were Hillcrest Ambush Bangle a daughter of Bonnie Brae Ambush. I was informed that the breeders, G & K Wilson, used semen from this sire following the World Conference Show Winner in Bloemfontein 2012.

The class 7 years and older was won by two outstanding cows from the Munden Farms, Rockvale Reality Locket placed first and Magic Park Shady Maiden placed second. The following two days spent on judging the Jersey and Holstein classes.

The meeting of the World Conference took place on the morning of 22 January in the Parklake Hotel. On Friday 24 the tour left Shepperton to travel north via Jerilderie to Wagga Wagga for lunch. Unfortunately this part of Australia has been suffering an awful drought for more than two years and not a blade of grass was to be seen. It's unimaginable what the poor sheep, of which there were plenty, had to survive on.

That evening we arrived in Canberra after visiting

the home of the Werombi and Werombi Vale herds. On Saturday we visited to the Australian Parliament and the amazing Australian War Memorial, which had a magnificent exhibition of the conflicts and pays tribute to all who had perished in the Great Wars. The next day was Anzac Day and a visit to the historic village of Carcoar for lunch and a festivity. The evening was spent in Bathurst at Rydges Hotel which overlooks a famous motor racing circuit on Mount Panorama.

On Monday morning our coaches were on their way via the Great Western Highway through the Blue Mountains to Katoomba where most of us took part in the cable car and scenic railways rides.

Sydney lay ahead of us where we booked into the Novatel in Darling Harbour.

Tuesday 28 January meant an early start to the south coast via the National Park to Kiama Kiama, which is home to the Australian Ayrshire Registration Centre. After lunch we visited Mayfield farms near Berry. This is the home of Paul and Vicky Tims and Regal Park Ayrshires owned by the Mayo family (David Mayo was our judge in South Africa in 2012 at the Bloemfontein Nationals). We also visited the Gordonvale Ayrshires. The next and final day of the conference the buses travelled to Camden and included a visit to Woodburn Park Ayrshires and morning tea at the historic farm and former home of Denbigh Ayrshires.

That evening all of us attended a farewell dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour, marvelling at the skyscrapers' beautiful lights.

A hug to say "THANK YOU AUSTRALIA" for a memorable conference!

TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND

The following morning Edmund and I flew to Wellington, New Zealand, where we were met by Selwyn Donald who looked after us on visit to Feilding about 250 kilometres northwest. Unfortunately, the show where Edmund was due to judge had to be cancelled owing to an outbreak of bovine Mycoplasma.





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From Feilding, Selwyn took us to the farm where his Ayrshires are kept – also very impressive animals.

On the following day he drove us to Taranaki to stay with our wonderful hosts, Gordon Glentworth and his wife. This gave us the opportunity to walk through his high performing herd. I always admire how he and Jonathan manage his well run farming and dairy enterprise. A visit to Gordon would not be complete without a visit to the New Zealand Ayrshire Bull run by Gordon.

With beginning of genomic testing there were fewer bulls than on previous visits. After a much appreciated visit, Gordon sent us on our way to stay with friends in Taupo.

New Zealand is truly beautiful and the drive there was exquisite with few cars on the road. While in

Taupo, we visited the herds of the Baxter family where there were many good cows of similar breeding to ours in South Africa. Afterwards we travelled north to visit one of the oldest herds in New Zealand, Kiteroa, owned by Wally Lynda and family, close to the attractive city of Cambridge. This was a very uniform herd of quality Ayrshires.

Cambridge is the centre for race-horse breeding farms - picturesque studs in paddocks in lovely surroundings. The following day I left Edmund to travel to Auckland by bus - oh, what a long journey - to stay with friends who used to be my neighbours in SA when I farmed. They finally retired to Snells Beach a totally unspoilt area north of Auckland. Edmund moved on and had the opportunity to meet with Vince Stein of Brookview Ayrshires and other Ayrshire breeders living on North Island.



We would also like to congratulate Edmund Els who was nominated as **President of the Ayrshire World Federation** by the executive meeting held during the Conference.

Congratulations

BY NICHELLE STEYN

WHY PLASTICS MATTER

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When a farmer considers entering the processing sector of the value chain, packaging is one of the daunting tasks that lies ahead. In an era where sustainability and economics play a huge role in the decision-making process and ultimate success of a business, it is important to start off right by using packaging that is not only environmentally friendly, but also recyclable. Recycling is an important part of our South African culture. This might not be apparent when one looks at the routines of individual households, but this industry is largely driven by economics.

The plastics recycling industry is well developed in South Africa. The country has an input recycling rate of 43,7% when it comes to plastics, well above Europe's recycling rate, which currently stands at

31,1% and is largely demand driven. "As long as there is a market for the recyclate, it will be collected and recycled," says Annabé Pretorius of Plastix 911.

ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS

Pretorius says the main packaging materials, namely high-density polyethylene (HDPE i.e. milk bottles), low-density and linear low-density polyethylene (LDPE and LLDPE i.e. milk sachets), and polystyrene (PS i.e. yoghurt tubs) are widely recycled in South Africa. "In our country, recycling means that the recyclable waste is collected, sorted, and reprocessed into a raw material in South Africa again. HDPE milk bottles are probably the single most recycled product in South Africa. Close to 80% of all milk bottles made and distributed are recycled into raw material again."

Pretorius says it is important to keep packaging clear (colourless) or white. "Labels must be easily removed." She suggests opting for stretched wrap-around labels that are easy to remove. Even things like the neck ring and closure should be considered. "The lighter the colour of the neck ring and closure the better," she says.

THE BUCK DOES NOT STOP THERE


"Dairies should also educate and encourage the consumer to place their recyclable packaging in a recycling bag, and to make sure that it is collected and managed well." Pretorius says that if one can utilise some of the recycle in products that are used by the dairy, this is first prize. Recycled HDPE, LDPE, and polypropylene (PP) should not be used for food contact again, but will make excellent fencing poles, pipes, and even damp course for new buildings. Shrink film and pallet wrap can also be made from recycled materials."

She thinks that initially, there are no real financial benefits to opting for such packaging, but in the long run it could help promote the overall principles that guide the business and the dairy industry. "Making use of such packaging will most certainly help to reduce the business's carbon footprint. It all contributes to a better planet and more responsible consumer lifestyles."

Pretorius advises farmers to read the *Design for Recycling* guidelines published on the packagingsa.co.za website. "It is a good starting point if you are not yet sure about your product development." She invites farmers to contact Plastics SA about the recyclability of a product if there is any doubt.



BASIC CRITERIA when choosing packaging that can be recycled:

- ➔ no or minimum pigment;
- ➔ minimum printing;
- ➔ labels that will easily come off during the recycling process or, better still, that are fully compatible;
- ➔ closures and neck rings that are compatible; and
- ➔ if foil seals are used for milk, yoghurt, or other dairy products, that the glue/adhesive stays with the seal and comes off cleanly. 

NICHELLE STEYN is a freelance agricultural journalist with more than five years' experience in writing articles for the agricultural sector. She has a standing column in *The Dairy Mail* and writes for several other well-known publications in the industry. Contact her at nichellesteyn07@gmail.com

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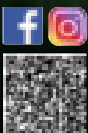
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