

ARC National BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT HERD OF THE YEAR AWARD

HERD INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE – 2014

- Herd Name : _____
- Owner Name : _____
- Contact person : _____
- Tel. No. : _____
- Cell no. : _____
- E-mail address: : _____
- Breed : _____

1. Performance testing of your herd:

- a. From which year are you doing performance testing on your herd? _____
- b. Please indicate in table 1 which traits are recorded in your herd.

Table 1 : Number of animals recorded in the herd. (* See note on last page)

TRAIT	NUMBER OF ANIMALS RECORDED IN 2013
Birth Weights	
Cow weights at calving	
Weaning weights	
Cow weights at weaning of calves	
12 Month (365 or 400 days) weights - Heifers	
12 Month (365 or 400 days) weights - Bulls	
18 Month (540 or 600 days) weights-Heifers	
18 Month (540 or 600 days) weights -Bulls	
Bullstested in on-the-farm (Phase D) growth tests	
Bulls tested in central (Phase C) growth tests	
Total number of bullstested (Phase C and D)	
% bull calves weaned tested in Phases C and D	
RTU scanning: Number of animals scanned(including bullstested in Phase C or D)	

Scrotum circumference (including bulls tested in Phase C or D)	
Pelvic measurements	

2. Please indicate in table 2 the reproduction performance of your herd.

Table 2: Reproduction performance of the herd. (* See note on last page)

TRAIT	NUMBER OF ANIMALS FOR CALVING YEAR 2013
A. Number of cows and heifers mated	
B Number of cows and heifers calved	
C. Calving percentage (B/A x 100)	
D. Number of calves born dead or died before weaning	
E. Number of calves weaned	
F. Weaning percentage (E/A x 100)	
	NEWEST HERD AVERAGES*
Heifers age at first calving	
Average ICP (all calvings)	
Days since last calving	

*See last the note on the last page of this questionnaire for supporting reports.

3. What are your breeding objectives for the herd, with reference to specific traits? Motivate answer please. Describe the environment of your farm briefly, e.g. vegetation type and abundance of grazing/feed throughout the year, prevalence of diseases and rainfall per year.

4. How do you make use of Performance Test data and BLUP breeding values in order to achieve the abovementioned objectives?

- 4.1 Breeding plan/strategy (Which cows/heifers are mated with which bulls):

4.2 Selection of bulls and heifers:

4.3 Testing of young bulls:

4.4 Culling of cows:

5. What progress has been made in achieving the above mentioned objectives, with reference to specific traits? (Please illustrate as far as possible with figures and/or graphs of the applicable data, breeding values and monetary values (R/c).

6. Furnish details of your use of the following breeding techniques and aids for breeding and management?

6.1 AI (Which cows / heifers, number of cycles / period, etc)

6.2 Computer programmes (E.g. BeefPro, GenePro, Herdmaster, etc.)?

6.3 Embryo flushingsand transfers (Which animals, how many animals, etc.)

6.4 Breeding Seasons (Number, period, etc.)

6.5 Management practices regarding pasture management and supplement nutrition.

6.6 Management practices regarding herd health.

6.7 Marketing of animals

7. In which ways and at how many events have you been involved the past 3 years in promoting performance testing amongst other breeders, emerging/commercial farmers and/or the industry in general? (E.g. farmer's days/information days held, talks/demonstrations given, articles written, assistance to buyers in the choice of bulls and females, etc.).

8. In which ways and at how many eventshave you been involved the past 3 years in performance testingandimprovement activities? (E.g. member of technical/advisory Committee, attendance of farmer's days, attendance of courses, etc.)

9. In which ways and at how many events have you been involved in the training and/or mentoring of emerging, new and/or young farmers?

10. Any additional information motivating the award?

11. Particulars of the farm(s) where the herd are kept:

- 11.1 Province where the farm(s) is: _____
- 11.2 Farm name(s): _____
- 11.3 Nearest town: _____

Signed

Date

Notes:

Please attach supporting reports for the information provided in Tables 1 and 2 above. Logix or Intergis users can attach the Breeding Herd Selection Report [Reports > Production / Performance > Breeding Herd Selection Report] or the Breeding Herd Selection Report in BeefPro [Reports> Inspections and Selection > Breeding Herd Selection]. Breedplan users can attach the Herd Report and the Completeness of Performance report.

Please send the completed form and supporting reports to:

Mr. Frans Jordaan at FransJ@arc.agric.za or fax 012 6729002 to reach us on 30 June 2014.