

Breed Society Reports, February 2022

Dorper: At present we have 75 members on our books with three of those being Dorper stud breeders. The aim this year, among other things, is to continue to inspect members flocks and have been encouraging them to register their animals with ZHB by giving them the necessary information to bring to ZHB as was agreed in meetings last year.

In the near future (late March) we are planning to hold a field day with a visiting Dorper consultant that is being brought up from South Africa. He will also be doing several field inspections. Exact dates and details will be advised when we have them finalized.

A basic Course and another shepherds course are also in the process of being put onto our calendar. There is a good demand for breeding stock and meat prices appear firm.

Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe: The Society currently has 27 Ordinary Members and 9 Stud Breeders. Members are in the process of renewing their membership for 2022 and the deadline for payments is 31 March 2022. The 1st Council Meeting was held on 27th January 2022. There were no performance records submitted by members.

Current activities include:

- i. Following up on renewal of membership and updating Ordinary members list; and
- ii. Preparation for Regional Training Sessions scheduled for April 2022.

Future activities include:

- i. Goat Indaba preparations. Indaba scheduled for July 2022;
- ii. Promotion of Market Access ; and
- iii. Breed promotion – part of training sessions to include Indigenous Breeds Standards

Ayrshire: Represented by one breeder. Appendix C and SP now total 21 registered females and upgrading still in progress.

Bonsmara: The Society remains unchanged as far as membership is concerned, however a new breeder is currently in the process of registering a decent sized herd, and will be looking at increasing these numbers in 2022.

Breeders are being encouraged to ensure completeness of submissions.

No major activities planned or taking place at this stage.

Positive on-farm demand for breeding bulls and females continues.

Boran: The breed continues to grow in Zimbabwe. The Boran has proved itself and continues to thrive in the harsh Zimbabwean conditions and has become a very popular breed with huge demand.

Breeders: Membership has increased once again this year and now stands at 59 Active members and 2 Ordinary Members.

Inspections: 21 Breeders were Inspected in 2021, a total of 1213 animals passed inspection. There were several breeders who were not inspected and will be inspected in 2022.

Registered Animals: As of 3rd December 2021, there were 4,860 Registered Boran, this number will increase as there are some breeders whose Inspected animals have not been updated in the system.

The AGM: The AGM will be held on Friday 1st July at CCSales. After the AGM at 2pm will be the Viewing of the 2022 ZBBS Sale animals

ZBBS Sale: The Annual Zimbabwe Boran Breeder Sale will be on the 2nd July and held at the CCSales pens at MT. Hampden from 10:00 AM. The sale will be both a live Auction and a Live Online Auction.

Field Day: A Field and Training day is planned in the near future but no date has been fixed at this time.

Brahman: The Brahman breed continue to dominate the cattle industry in Zimbabwe. This is because of its resistance to disease and hardness in the veldt. The rains did delay causing some alarm and despondency within breeders. When we were fearing for the worst season, the heavens opened and what a welcome relief.

Breeders: 2021 saw 17 new breeders joining the Brahman Breeders Society. This has taken the number of registered Brahman breeders in Zimbabwe to 74. As earlier pointed out the high number of new breeders joining the breed shows a great interest in the Brahman breed, also the record prices the breed is getting from public and production auctions serves to confirm the Brahman as the breed of first choice. Two breeders were deregistered by ZHB.

Registered Animals: As of 1st January 2022, there were 5716 registered Brahman females and 2,625 registered Brahman males representing a national total of registered Brahman herd in Zimbabwe of 8,341.

Submitting of data: ZHB and the Brahman council would like to encourage breeders to submit performance data. This is crucial for the scientific evaluation of breeding animals. Yes, the physical appearance of an animal is still very important for a buyer, however today's buyers are getting to use performance data as one of the tools when buying breeding animals. This is going to be a big factor in the future when buyers are considering which animal to buy at a auction. There are only plus or minus ten Brahman breeders submitting performance data to ZHB, this has to improve. The Brahman breed is the biggest

breed in the country as such breeders should start to see value in performance data and scientific evaluation of their animals.

Trainings and field days: ZHB and Brahman council have lined up training sections for Brahman breeders in order to help breeders understand some issues related to stud breeding. Issues like posting birth notifications, inspection of animals before they are moved from calf book to stud proper registered. Mario will start with the Gweru training on the 1st of March 2022 in Gweru. The next train will be the following day on the 2nd of March in Esigodini. Breeders are encouraged to attend these training sessions as they are very important. There will be field days organized by Brahman breeders, the details will follow.

Sales: A number of breeders production sales are coming up this year. Tich Mujuru, Phillip Reed, Jeffrey Sommer, Morgan Sibanda and Ruvala Brahmans (Pilosoff) will be having their production sale this year. Mr Mujuru (Nala Brahms) will have their production sale on the 14th February, Phillip Reed will have his on the 1st June in Gweru show grounds.

National Sale: All bulls and heifers going to the national sale this year should have both their parents DNA verified, this requirement will be strictly enforced without any exception. The council proposed to send 50 Brahman bulls to the national sale, no specific number of heifers has been set. However, this year heifers going to the national bull sale should be bulling heifers.

We are confident that the Brahman breed will continue to grow as more and more farmers turn to it as their choice. There is a scare of January disease that was recently detected in Mat South Nsinza district. A stud breeder did lose some cattle. Dipping of animals is emphasised.

Droughmaster: One stud breeder - Double L Droughtmasters which is performance recorded using Herdmaster. Breed society activities are nil.

Mashona: We had a good turnout at our AGM in November and the talk by Prof Lawrence was very well received. It is available to read on our Mashona website. Copies of the Mashona Handbook, Animals Feeds of Central Africa and Mashona Membership fees payment will all be available at ZHB and Dr Bruce's offices. Membership is \$20 per year. Inspections are planned for May and two field days are being planned for the year with continued promotion of the Mashona.

The Mashona Cattle Society WhatsApp group will be open to members only.

Members are considering the potential of putting animals on the National Breed Sale and Tuli sale (pending invite). There is a unabated demand for Mashona heifers.

Nkone: A very successful Field Day was held at Shangani Ranch and Inspections carried out at Shangani Ranch, West Nicholson (Drummond), Anglesea and Matopos Research Station at Matopos and Troy and Tara Maidwell at Umvutcha, Umgusa.

The new members' cattle inspected will more than double our existing numbers of registered Nkone and is a great boost for the breed. Once all have completed the registration process, we will have 7 registered breeders and hopefully about 350-400 head of registered cattle.

Grateful thanks to Dr. Japie Jackson and Dr. Mario Beffa for their presentations at the Field Day and their help at all inspections.

Two studs, HAVE Hook Nkone and Mahenye Nkone, have imported two South African bulls, the first new imports for many years. They will have considerable positive impact on our relatively small, inbred breeding herd in Zimbabwe.

A Nkone Field Day is planned to be held in Mashonaland this year to introduce the little known Nkone to farmers in this area.

Santa Gertrudis: Membership remains at one stud breeder and potential of two more registered breeders in the near future. Performance records are regularly updated on HerdMASTER. Strong links are maintained with breeders and the Society in SA.

Simmental and Simbrah: Compliments of the 2022 season. The Society would like to share their condolences to Dr Michael Bradfield family, we pray for strength and guidance for them all.

The Society remains unchanged as far as membership goes. Breeders have been reminded to have their levies in by end of February. Our AGM is planned to be held in March with discussions on what will be available for the up-and-coming National sale and a field day. Simbra weaners continue to sell well on CCSales, and prices of all stock seemed to have improved slightly to last year 2021.

We have confirmation from Dr Mario Beffa that Australia have planned to combine a Simmental Breed run which will include Zimbabwe data hopefully this month. We continue to push for Simbra to follow suit. With this positive information we hope the society members will feel encouraged to enter as much data as possible for their studs and submit it on time.

Mr Obert Chinhamo has concerns over the continued open Artisanal Mine holes in Matabeleland. This season he has already lost 3 pedigree Simmental cows and 5 calves.

Tuli: TULI SOCIETY OF ZIMBABWE

1. Society Membership (i.e Ordinary Members and Stud Breeders)
 - Ordinary Members – 3
 - Stud Breeders – 19

2. Registered Cattle

(a) Total: - 3347 animals

- Levy List Registered: - 1977
- Calf Book: - 1370
- Male: - 1025
- Female: - 2322

❖ Status of Performance Recording and Genetic Evaluations

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY	MEMBERS	DETAIL
A	9	Data is coming in regularly – fairly complete
B	4	Some data coming in but intermittent
C	2	Poor data returns if at all
NEW WITH DATA	3	Have entered animals and there is activity
NO DATA	1	Registered and nothing further

❖ Payment of Levies for 2021 – 13 paid up, 2 outstanding Q3 & Q4, 1 outstanding Q3 & 1 still collecting data

❖ Return of Levy list for 2022 – 14 breeders have returned the Levy List or engaged with ZHB, 3 breeders have not returned the Levy List and there has been no communication to date, 2 are new breeders.

❖ Breed Society Activities – Current

1. Review of membership forms and new members package to assist with data collection- in final stages after meeting with Mario
2. Updating of constitution in progress
3. AGM and General Meeting set for 24th February 9 a.m.
4. Update our ordinary members list – Florence working on it with Society
5. DTC data being collected by some breeders
6. Tuli cattle Federation has been launched. Anne Cooke from Zimbabwe is current president Anne Cooke, Grace Tambo is the secretary. Website has been setup as has international WhatsApp group. New projects are to get a regional combined EBV run and funding for the reference population for genomics.
7. Members are starting to engage with the idea of using to Neogen and SNP samples to get parentage and genomics done with the hair card. First queries have been made.
8. We have 5 newer breeders who are engaging well

❖ On the planning board for 2022

1. Monthly/Quarterly data collection analysis of each breeder
2. Regular training days – Herdmaster
3. 2 Field Days

Wagyu: The Society only has one active breeder and member at this stage, with another currently looking at joining the group.

A decision has been made to pursue registration with the South African Wagyu Society at this stage whilst membership is limited in Zimbabwe – since the sad passing of Dr Michael Bradfield, Breed Director of Wagyu in South Africa we have been put in touch with Elandri De Bruyn of Wagyu SA and discussions are underway.

Breed promotion activities will be planned for the future, and it is hoped that the first locally produced Wagyu beef will be made available to the Zimbabwe market during the first half of 2022.