



ZIMBABWE HERD BOOK

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Dear Breeder

Herewith a synopsis of salient issues discussed at the ZHB Council Meeting held on the 25th of January 2024.

A total of 19 breeders (17 in-person and 2 online) attended the meeting. 17 breeds were represented as well as auctioneers and the Department of Veterinary Services.

John Crawford requested to step down as Chair and Anne Cooke has taken over in the interim. Council agreed to reestablish an Executive Committee comprising John Crawford, Anne Cooke, Willian Hundermark, Philip Reed, Obert Chinhamo and Mark Hook. The Executive Committee will meet more regularly and direct the affairs of the Herd Book.

ZHB Annual Levies

It was proposed that the fees remain the same for 2024: Herd levies will remain at \$100 per herd, Per capita fees \$5 for manual and \$4 for electronic.

National Breed Sale

The National Breed Sale will be held on Friday 26th July 2024 at CC Sales, Mount Hampden.

- Sale entries close 30th of April.
- All animals (male/female) to be parentage (Sire and Dam) verified.
- Bulls to be Semen tested and certified vaccinated against vibrio.
- Inspections will be done by inspectors approved by ZHB unless societies want to undertake their own inspectors.
- Similar breeds such as Simbrah/Simmental be put in pens close together.

Beef School: 17th to 19th of September, in Bulawayo

2024 is the Year of the Tuli and we will be showcasing the Tuli Breed.

Theme: **The Bottom Line**, *Streamlining Costs to Enhance Profitability*.

ZHB Report

The Herd Book and status of stud industry continues to grow and in 2023 the Herd Book registered a net increase of 17 breeders. The stud industry is currently represented by 233 breeders across

16 breeds (one sheep, one dairy and 14 beef) with 25,694 registered animals. The Herd Book anxiously awaits clarification on the future of the Ntunteni Dorper and Tuli studs.

The office actively seeks to update Societies Herd Books and includes:

- Timely submission of all returns (birth notifications within 60d, fates, inspection reports and levy returns
- Intense follow-up on levy returns and payments and non-respondents have been notified that their herds have been inactivated.
- Confirmations of registration status of animals sold by public auction
- Promotion of the use of mating predictor under Internet Solutions

Chairman, Council and Breeders have and continue to make representation to authorities appealing for a pragmatic approach to the control of foot and mouth disease, noting that blanket bans on movements were severely impacting production, breeding and trade and eroding viability of stakeholders. And of late, representations have been regarding the introduction of VAT on livestock.

Import Permits

A request was sent to the Chief Director, Dr P Makaya, DLVS, regarding issuance of permits for the importation of breeding bulls and requesting to allow ZHB to comment on import applications and to restrict import permits for breeding bulls to two registered bulls per breeder/importer. This follows the issuance of a permit to a breeder to import 70 Brahman bulls. Council expressed concern regarding the potential impact of this importation on the bull market.

Kind regards
Mario Beffa
Manager