

NEWSLETTER



BONHAVEN

Introducing Our Breeds - Angus



Hornless cattle were found in the Scottish counties of Aberdeen and Angus long before 1800. These cattle were known as Angus doddies. Hugh Watson was responsible for founding the Aberdeen Angus breed in 1842. Cattle were hornless, bred for their beef and were either black or red hided. Today, the Angus is the largest breed of beef cattle in the world. This phenomenal gene-pool as well as the choice breeders have of either breeding with black or red cattle, their calving ease and the fact that they are genetic dehorners make Angus the breed of choice for registered and commercial cattlemen around the globe.

In the USA, there are more Angus cattle registered every year than all other breeds put together. Genetic selections made by the world's best cattlemen are based on case studies, science and common-sense. They have pioneered a way forward for people around the world to take advantage of their successes. There are too few commercial cattlemen in South Africa making use of the Angus Advantage and there are too many commercial cattlemen in South Africa who have yet to apply any common-cow-sense. Chasing fads is not progressive, re-inventing the wheel is a waste of time, ignoring science is stupid and pot luck bush breeding is archaic. Angus is not a fad, it's a four-century old institution.

The first importation of Angus into South Africa was in 1895, when ten Aberdeen-Angus cattle arrived on the farm of Mr J Newburg in the Free State. These animals by their own obvious high qualities, crossed well with the native breeds, and slowly wormed their way into the good graces of astute stockmen. The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Breeders' Society of South Africa was founded in 1917. Today, Angus bulls are used extensively in cross-breeding programmes in every South African province as well as Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. The Brangus (5/8 Angus 3/8 Brahman) has gained popularity in areas where heat tolerant and tick resistant cattle are raised. The annual growth rate of 10% in SA Angus membership bares testimony to the quality of the cattle and the integrity of the breeders.



The BonHaven Black Angus Division consists 100% of Mequatling cow families.

The breed has developed into an animal which is born light and hornless, and then grows into a moderate framed animal with abundant milk, unequalled carcass and great fertility. The Certified Angus Beef (CAB) programme has been established in South Africa as the first beef brand which is based on a single breed. Pick 'n Pay stores around the country stock this highly sought after beef.



De-Panne Maxima 076 - SA National Champion in 2009 and current BonHaven Herd sire. He sells on the 2011 Sale.

Highlights include - Being awarded the Pat Mossop Gold award for Fertility on several occasions.
- Selling BonHaven Vagabond for R50 000 to Pieter van der Spuy, Philadelphia, WC on our 2008 Sale.
- Exporting 20 Angus cattle to Gobabis, Namibia to establish a registered herd for Joey and Hannelie Coetzee.
- Having the 2009 SA National Grand Champion Bull, De-Panne Maxima 076, as our in-herd sire. He will be a feature on our 2011 Sale.
- 8 years of successful bull and semen sales.

Herman Vigne manages the BonHaven Beef Cattle



Mequatling Chief Running Bull 03175 has had a tremendous impact on the BonHaven Red Angus Division.

Angus Division in Tarkastad, Eastern Cape.

Forthcoming attractions include the Big Sky Open Day on 13 July 2011 as well as the 8th Annual "Best of Both" Cattle Sale on August 4th.

PJ Budler is proud to serve on the SA Angus Council and is a junior Angus Judge.



BonHaven World Class 07118 topped the 2010 sale at R40 000.



BonHaven Vegabond 0652 topped the 2008 Sale at R50 000. He is out of the same cow as World Class and Lulu 0523, BonHaven's 2011 show cow. Both Lulu 0523, the dam of these outliers, Lulu 0147, will be on the 2011 Sale.

BONHAVEN BEEF CATTLE

time that is spent on it without fatigue setting in. This is because it never really feels like a job. We all know that knowledge and experience adds to success. Therefore the more interest and time that is spent on the programme, the more successful it will be. Yes, I am aware of many businessmen who practice farming as a sideline or a hobby and make a success of it. This is usually because his hobby is run in the same way as his business is as his passion is business. This might all sound like quite a mouthful, but I believe it makes a point.

The small-stock farming industry is a lot rosier today than it was a few months ago and especially more so than this time last year. If we only consider the activity around meat and wool prices in the last five or six months, small-stock farming is starting to look like a more than viable business. Wool prices are at their highest ever level now, peaking at an incredible average of R85.74 for clean wool with some clips going as high as R118.80/kg (greasy).

The wonderful rainfall experienced by the majority of the provinces this season has made the whole picture even rosier. Yes, I know that a lot of us farmers tend to stick our necks out a bit far by paying excessive prices for land, breeding stock and especially rams. Perhaps it is that our industry is eternally optimistic. Purchasing additional vehicles and other luxuries on the other hand might not be such a great idea.

Maar ek wil n klip in die bos gooi! (I'd like to throw something out there!) I am certainly an optimist, but I do try and always be a realist too. Let us dig a little into the archives where 60 years ago our fathers and grandfathers were being paid a Pound for a pound. In other words one pound of wool sold for one British Pound at the wool sales. This doesn't sound like much, but back then a luxury car cost only 600 Pounds, and it took the fleeces of only 150 sheep to pay for that vehicle. Today we'd have to share 2800 sheep to pay for a similar vehicle.

I am not running down today's wool industry at all as it is still one of the most profitable industries within agriculture. We could use the afore mentioned analogy in referring to any of the agricultural sectors in South Africa. That is the reality. There is an increase in predator populations, which are enjoying government protection and in turn emptying our wool bales and abattoirs which are what is supposed to keep us in business.

A further issue is that labour is becoming expensive and skilled labour, very scarce. These factors are putting huge pressure on smaller producers who were previously very strong economically. Stock theft is also playing its part.

Let us try and view this scenario differently without becoming negative. 'n boer maak n plan... We need to start looking at serious alternative methods we can apply to ensure that we remain buoyant in the future. We have traditionally been people who have a need of being the kings of our little dung heaps. We are going to have to start applying alternative methods of ownership and management by looking at the bigger picture.

Amalgamation might be a curse word for some, I believe that it could perhaps be the key word. This could be the key to cutting down overhead costs, infrastructure, vehicles and implements. In all divisions of a programme there can be savings by applying the practice of co-operation.

Perhaps if our passion changes from ownership to stewardship we will be able to maintain our amazing culture and lifestyle.



Andre du Toit

is the General Manager of BKB's Livestock Division



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LIVESTOCK - 2011 kicked off on a high note

The year kicked off on a high note for livestock. On both small and large stock, prices and demand remained on an upward trend. Supply was short and contributed to record prices for the right quality. Together with high wool prices, livestock offered very good income to producers. In a difficult year for most agricultural commodities, livestock farming showed its worth.

The coming months will pose various challenges regarding higher maize prices and other inflationary pressures on input costs. However, given a projected economic growth for 2011 of 3-4% I cannot be anything but optimistic. With the right competent team to support it, livestock producers should look towards a successful 2011. In this regard the success of BKB's livestock division is very much a team effort between producer, marketer and various industry and Breeders' Society's.



Johan du Plessis

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THE SMALL STOCK GUY

Farming is a way of life!

I strongly believe that one needs to choose to be a farmer for the love of it and not just to make money. Like everything in life, one can only make a success out of farming if one is passionate about one's programme. The more passion there is in a programme the more



Dr. Alan Bougardt

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No Fences

Driving on the highway towards Vanderbijlpark, I notice a sign saying "No Fences". The words conjure up numerous images and thoughts on this theme. So... what exactly is it that is now no longer contained or herded? Why can't these farmers put boundaries in place for their livestock? What would happen if one of them suddenly appeared in front of me? My mind shifts a gear from livestock to my own life and business as I contemplate the value of boundaries. Are "fences" enablers or barriers to development and ultimately to success? Or are they different things to different creatures at different times? I speedily gravitate towards the latter.

As with cattle, it is advantageous to have boundaries, to be provided with the allotted parameters within which to move. A cow in a cattle squeeze may experience momentary anxiety, but the outcome benefits it and everyone else in the value chain. The cliché "rules are for fools and for the discretion of wise men" is more often quoted by the arrogant versus those who are truly wise. It's within borders that I enjoy security and the confidence of a home base, from which I can dream, imagine and scope my next steps. It is here that my needs are met, and I'm positioned to not only survive, but to thrive.

I think back on an illustration I once heard about a father and son who farmed in the Karoo. They spent significant time performing running repairs to the farm's fences. The son one day decided to go and farm in Australia. A number of years later the father flew to Australia and then chartered a flight to his son's farm. Flying towards and over the farm, he noticed that there were shoddy, makeshift and in some instances no fences. After warmly greeting his son, he enquired about this. The son responded by stating that he doesn't focus on the fences, but more on digging deep wells at the centre of the farm. His rationale for doing this was that if you provide the livestock with everything they need and ensure green pastures, they have no need to stray. He further added that this does not remove his responsibility and hands-on approach with the livestock and that their on-going protection would always be a priority.

However, the local reality we have to contend with is not necessarily about the cattle wandering, but more about keeping external dangers and risks at bay. Fences are protection, for us and our livestock... against the enemy that would come in and steal, kill and destroy.

I need boundaries to keep the enemy out! By staying alert and responsive to the Keeper's lead, unnecessary distractions and heartache are avoided. By listening for His voice, I safeguard my life, my family and my business from divisive strategies and fiery darts. Flourishing in my God-given purpose and calling, I pioneer new approaches, methodologies and innovative processes that are held high as industry best practice. I am allowed a spacious space to roam free while enjoying growth and an abundance of opportunity.

The warning of "No Fences" represents a place of liberty, but with it comes responsibility and accountability.

It's a wide view with a Big Sky...

BONHAVEN BEEF CATTLE

RED BRAHMAN & BRAFORD DIVISIONS
Cullinan, Gauteng

12 bulls for Sale by Private Treaty

Including sons of: **Chrisel CVA 97 118, Jamanlee JZH 5 03 & Chadwick Downs Grandeur (Australia)**



Chrisel CVA 97 118



Jamanlee JZH 5 03



Chadwick Downs Grandeur (Australia)



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LIVERFLUKE

Know The Parasite

Worm parasites of economical importance for the stock farmer are classified in three main groups generally referred to as:

- Liver fluke differ in many aspects from nematodes and cestodes
- It is difficult to treat them within a normal roundworm/tape worm treatment regime or programme
- For effective control the life cycle, habitat and occurrence must be taken into account
- Liver flukes are dependent on water and the presence of their intermediate host fresh water snails for their existence
- The population pressure can increase hundred fold in high rain seasons
- Cattle are more resistant to liver fluke infestation than sheep
- In general animals do not develop meaningful

resistance to liver fluke infestation

Fresh Water Snails Are The Intermediate Hosts

- The free living miracidium must find and penetrate a fresh water snail (the intermediate host) within one hour to survive
- The specific fresh water snails, (*Lymnaea* spp) are active mainly during
- late spring (when minimum temperatures are above 10°C), summer
- and autumn
- They hide in the mud when temperatures drop below 10°C to hibernate
- A miracidium develops into a number of cercaria in the snail that emerges from the snail after approximately one month
- The cercaria then develops into hardy encysted metacercaria that can survive in water for prolonged periods
- Primary hosts ingest the infective metacercaria when they graze in infested marshes or drink infested water
- Young liver flukes hatch from the cysts in the gastrointestinal tract
- They migrate through the intestinal wall, through the abdomen and penetrate the liver.

Severe Damage - Immature Stage

- Liver fluke targets the bile ducts in the liver
- The immature penetrates the liver wall and migrate through the liver tissue while feeding on blood
- Extensive damage is caused to liver tissue and hemorrhage occurs
- Tissue damage and hemorrhage cause widespread scar tissue formation.
- Resulting in poor blood supply, hardening of bile duct walls and the whole liver
- A dramatic loss of liver function results from the infection

Severe Damage - Adult Stage

- Adult liver fluke in bile ducts causes obstruction
- Poor bile distribution negatively impact on digestion tempo and nutrition utilisation
- Production of animal is directly suppressed
- Lower grade chronic infestation in cattle can be inconspicuous
- Untreated chronic infestation can be present throughout all seasons
- Adults produce eggs that infest pastures

Deaths

Three economical important type infestations
Chronic infestation Sub-acute infestation Acute infestation

When untreated animals have low level infestation throughout the year

When untreated chronic infestation is supplemented with further infestation and become acute. Acute infestation is contracted from severely infested pastures with very high populations of metacercaria. Occurs mostly in resilient cattle with resistance. Symptoms seldom observed in cattle may cause deaths in sheep but not in cattle. Mainly in sheep and usually fatal but rarely fatal in cattle. Loss in weight, anemia and 'bottle jaw' often seen in sheep especially deaths occur before any symptoms of illness is detected

Production Losses

Infested beef cattle
i) Liver fluke infestation resulted in a 8,27% drop in ADG
ii) and a loss of 0,5kg/steer/day weight gain

Treatment - Manage Marshy Areas

- Marshy type pastures are ideal habitat for the liver fluke life cycle
- It is natural habitat for fresh water snails
- Leaking water troughs can also house fresh water snails
- Water birds bring the snails in on their feet
- Avoid these pastures during the active or infective stages by camping it off or drain off the water
- Keep water troughs clean and prevent water leakage

Seasonal Occurrence

Climatic conditions play a critical role in the occurrence of liver fluke

Indications in Mpumalanga:

- Presence of fresh water snail (S)
- Presence of the infective stage (I)
- Regional temperatures
- Rainfall variations

Recording weather conditions for a specific farm is a good aid in developing a strategic deworming programme for liver fluke

Strategic Treatment

- Is important when the intermediate host (fresh water snail) is not active and only the adult liver fluke is present in the host
- This is the best time to use remedies that are effective against the adult stage only for control
- Treatment of adult liver fluke is important to limit the production of eggs and resulting infestation of pastures with eggs
- Hereby infestation levels are reduced during the active season when the fresh water snails are active



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The Ownership Element of the BBBEE Scorecard

Introduction:

As discussed in our previous article we will from now on discuss the individual elements of the BBBEE Scorecard. As a refresher we list the elements and their weightings again:

- Ownership: 20%
 - Management Control: 20%
 - Employment Equity: 15%
 - Skills Development: 15%
 - Preferential Procurement: 20%
 - Enterprise Development: 15%
 - Socio-Economic development: 5%
- In this article we will

Granulation Technology Of Micro Feed Additives Improves Feedlot Performance Efficiency

An independent, scientific monensin feedlot study was recently conducted at the North West Department of Agriculture, Potchefstroom, as part of an extensive evaluation programme to find alternative monensin sources for the beef cattle industry.

Monensin is an ionophore that serves to create a more favourable environment in the rumen of the animal for the optimum utilisation of especially higher energy levels consumed by intensively fed animals to reduce harmful effects such as rumen acidosis.

The study concluded that granulated micro additives manufactured with more recent granulation technologies showed excellent performance in feedlot diets to improve feedlot performance efficiency.

The same animal performance results were observed between a current available monensin source used as a control and this newly granulated monensin product. This confirms that a high quality alternative monensin source is now available for the first time to the ruminant feed as well as intensive beef and lamb producing industries.

Both products tested are EU approved monensin sources and used for enhancing the performance of animals. Both products and their active molecules were subjected to stringent EU registration trials and procedures, a

prerequisite before being accepted as brand specific approved products. The 103-day study involved 60 animals (40 bulls and 20 heifers = 20 bulls plus 10 heifers for each monensin treatment). Overall performance was excellent with no difference between the two monensin products. Average daily gain (ADG) was +/- 2kg and feed conversion rates (FCR = kg feed/kg gain) of +/- 5.16 (when feed consumed is taken at 100% dry matter) for both bulls and heifers have been achieved across treatments.

A similar study using 4552 feedlot animals was conducted in 2004 in Canada by an independent veterinary research group, the Feedlot Health research group – the largest feedlot consulting group in Canada.

The Canadian study showed higher slaughter weights and average daily gains in favour of the new granulation technology type product, according to Bio Agri Mix, a Canadian company engaged in research, development and marketing of animal health products.

According to Bio Agri Mix, the specific new granulation technology type product also had low dust levels and some distinct advantages with regard to flowability and mixability. These results and observations were similar for mixability characteristics in the South African study, and also in favour of the new granulation technology type product.

look at probably the most difficult element for farmers to score points on: Ownership.

The reason I say the element is difficult is based on the fact that there is a lot of misconceptions about the Ownership aspect of BBBEE. The most important misconception is that farmers must "give away" ownership of their farms or a portion of their farms. For this reason it is important that we look at how the points for the element are scored and what farmers can do to score points for this element.

Composition of the Ownership Element

This element is divided into three subcategories; Voting Rights (5 points), Economic Interest (7 points), Realisation Points (8 points). There are also 3 Bonus points that can be earned.

If we start with the Voting Rights points (5) it boils down to the fact that if a farmer sells 25% + 1 share of his business to a black person or group of black persons and they have the voting rights (25% + 1 Vote) he will earn 3 points and if 10% of the votes is in the hands of black women, he will earn the additional 2 points.

Looking at the Economic Interest, the same principle applies, if 25% of the economic interest (shareholding) goes to black people a total of 4 points will be earned and if 10% of the interest goes to black women a further 2 points will be earned. If 2.5% of the interest goes to the indicated groups in the table a further one point will be earned.

The Realisation Points is an acknowledgement by the DTI that the process cannot be implemented overnight and allows for a ten year phasing in period. It implies that the full 8 points will be earned once the black people have the 25% shareholding.

The Bonus points are earned if 10% of the shareholding are for black people who have not previously benefitted from

an empowerment scheme (2 points) and if 10% of the beneficiaries are from the groups indicated in the table (1 point).

The AgriBEE Scorecard makes provision under Ownership that a farmer can earn the full 20 points if he sells 30% of his farm(s) to black people.

Discussion:

The problem with Ownership is that it touches the heart of every farmer and it is a difficult concept to think that that he may now have co-owners and decision makers on the farm. For this reason it is important for farmers to investigate all the alternatives and make sure that he comes up with a workable solution for his farming set up.

This is not an element you look for quick fixes, more people have burnt their fingers with a rushed solution that came back to bite them.

My advice to farmers is to think rationally and very clearly before they jump onto an Ownership deal. There is a big difference between a person that is your employee one day and your partner the next. Make sure you know who you are dealing with and they you can go a long way with the person/people.

It is important to note that nobody implies that that farmer must give away the shareholding, it must be bought, but the immediate argument is that future partners have limited funds to invest. Farmers must discuss their plans with their bankers as the banks are committed to make BBBEE investments. There are normally specialised units within the banks that can advise you.

When it comes to Ownership, my advice is caution!! And remember it must make business sense!!