

LRF News

The LRF has held its 2nd strategy session with Tony Frost from Cirocco strategy management. The meeting at Aldam was well attended, with valuable contributions made by all members. The LRF board decided not to hasten the process and will ensure that all industry role players are involved to buy into the new strategy for the future. We will also engage with the broader industry and include the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research counsel, Universities and all stake holders before finalizing the new strategy. Members are encouraged to provide their communication to our office. If they have not received a Questionnaire please contact Jeanine at- office@agribsa.co.za

Breedplan

Breedplan and the University of the Free state are holding an Staff course for staff members & leading producers on the 8th and 9th of December at the UFS. The course will include the basic understanding of breeding principles, breeding objectives, understanding contemporary groups & linkages across herds. Latest developments regarding Beef Genomics programs, diagnostics of bulls and cows will be a major part of the course. A certificate will be issued to participants.

LRF BEEF GENOMICS PROGRAM,

As per the business plans we require the following from all BGP participating Societies:

Sequenced Animals

13 November Identified the 6 most influential animals to be sequenced. Four animals will be sequenced for Brahman, and three each for Simmentaler, Simbra, SantaG and Limousin

30 November Samples for sequencing to be provided to Biotech Platform at ARC Irene

Budget

13 November Provide a complete number and list of animals, as per your business plan to be genotyped, against budget

Use the following updated financials: R3500 for the 800K Chip, R1800 for the 150K chip and R760 for the 7K chip

Quarterly report:

Society program managers to provide their quarterly reports (Q2) ASAP. Jacque Els will provide a sample report. The Q3 report must be provided by the 20th January 2016

Next year's Plan

To be provided by the 20th January 2016

Herdmaster

We have spent the last month finalizing/standardizing all trait codes in HerdMASTER to be used by all members over Southern Africa. This will be included in our Beef genomics documentation. During this tough time in drought many users are using the efficiency report to decide which cows to be culled out of their herd. We are also still busy integrating our respective webpages between South Africa\Australia and New Zealand. Users are welcome to use Link.

Stockman's School

The Theme for this year's school was reproduction & meat quality. The Stockmans school was over-subscribed and attended by delegates from all over all of Africa including guests from the USA and Australia. The main message is that producers need have breeding seasons and to match their breeding season with the period of high feed. The current drought being experienced in many parts of Africa makes a breeding season mandatory.

We are already planning next years Stockman's School that will be held from the 12-14 October 2016. The theme for Next year is "meat quality drives profit".



BGP Program

Our R30 million over 3 year period BGP program is now over-subscribed. We would like to thank all pioneer breeders in the societies for supporting this project. A bimonthly newsletter is being sent to all participants. Please let the office know if you would like to be on the distribution list. Participation in this BGP program will immediately make you a 4-5 star completeness of performance recorder. Please contact Jeanine Labuschagne (081 8444 853) or office@agribsa.co.za for details

Training

Moving to genomics training, Bloemfontein University 8-9 December, Please book your place. Cost R750.

Presenters / Lecturers: (1) Dr Mike Fair (2) Dr Linky Mahlako (3) Prof Frikkie Nesor (4) Mnr Johan Styger (5) Mnr Thys Meyer (6) Dr Michael Bradfield

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