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AGRA CO-OPERATIVE LTD MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

AGRA KOÖPERATIEF BPK SE LEDE NUUSBRIEF



## STOETVEE BLY SKITTER

### AGRA NEWS

Met die wêreldressie steeds 'n werklikheid en in ons midde, was die verwagting dat stoetvee nie die rekordpryse van die verlede sal oorskry nie. Min het ons geweet dat 2009 in die annale van die geskiedenis bekend sal wees as dié jaar waarin Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras 'n bul vir 'n fenomenale rekordprys van N\$ 280 000 sou verkoop het. En bowenal word die gemiddelde prys van alle bulle verkoop ook merkwaardig oortref. Die algehele positiewe in die landboubedryf het ongetwyfeld bygedra tot hierdie uitsonderlike prestasies wat behaal is:

Ten spyte daarvan word landbou steeds gekonfronteer deur faktore wat die boerdery-omgewing negatief beïnvloed naamlik:

- Nimmereindigende stygende produksiekostes
- EPA-handelsooreenkoms met betrekking tot marktoegang na die EU wat nog nie gefinaliseer is nie
- Uitkoms van Meatco se toekomstige sakestruktuur steeds onbekend
- Impak van die kleinveeskema op die oorskakeling van veeboerderystelsels in die Suid
- Prysverhogings in elektrisiteitsvoorsiening in Suid-Afrika
- Finansiële onvermoë van produsente om bosindringing grootskaals aan te spreek
- Toename in plaasmoorde
- Toename in veediefstal en algehele misdaad
- Effek van HIV op die arbeidsmag
- Gebrek aan kundigheid by ontlukende produsente
- Agteruitgang van die infrastruktuur op hervestigingsgronde a.g.v. 'n gebrek aan kennis en ondersteunende kapitaal
- Voorspelling van 'n ondergemiddelde reënjaar a.g.v. die El-Nino verskynsel wat sy opwagting gemaak het

Daarteenoor is daar positiewe aspekte wat produsente behoort aan te spoor om doeltreffendheid van produksie te verhoog soos onder meer:

- Nuwe finansieringskema deur Meatco wat verslagting plaaslik aanmoedig
- Daling in brandstofpryse
- Daling in rentekoerse
- Stabiele slag-en veilingspryse vir vee
- Ongekende behoefte na landbougrond
- Beskikbaarheid van fondse vir belegging in die landbou

- Behoefte na vee vanuit Angola.
- Aksies t.o.v. kennis oordraging

Na die aanvanklike verwagting dat 2009 slegs 'n gemiddelde stoetveeveilingsjaar sal wees, was die verbasing uiters groot toe die jaar teen alle verwagting in omswaai na een van die mees suksesvolle stoetveeveilingsjare ooit. Hierdie positiewe word ook weerspieël deur die statistieke soos vervaar in die Namibiese Stoettelersvereniging se jaarverslag van 2009. Sedert 2000 het die getal telersgenootskappe na 27 (75.49%), die aantal telers na 501 (129%) en die aantal geregistreerde diere na 66 659 (119,93%) toegeneem. Die grootveegetalle alleen het gestyg van 33 918 na 35 827 (5.6%). Die voortgesette groei in getalle ten opsigte van nuwe genootskappe, telers en diere wat by die NSV aansluit is 'n spreekwoordelike voorbeeld van die optimisme wat daar in die stoetbedryf heers.



**Die Bonsmara bul HART 06 93 van Joggie Briedenhann, die duurste bul wat in 2009 verkoop is vir N\$ 280 000.**

Die grootste uitdaging vir die veebedryf is egter dat die kommersiële sektor by wyse van die beskikbaarstelling van kennis gestimuleer moet word om te groei. In dié verband gaan verskeie instansies voort met kennis oordraging aan ontlukende produsente. Veral die NLU, boereverenigings, studiegroepe en individue is aktief betrokke by projekte waarvan die doel is om kennis oor te dra. 'n Voorbeeld is die "Emerging Farmers Support Programme" waar individue soos Bertus Kruger, Wolf van Wielligh, Arnold Gaseb en andere waardevolle voorligtingswerk onder hervestigde produsente doen. Die sukses wat reeds behaal is om produsente se diere saam te voeg ten einde weiding- en kuddebestuur te vergemaklik is merkwaardig. Agra self het verlede jaar 'n professionele dienste

afdeling begin met die doel om die vaardigheid van produsente ten opsigte van kennis, vermoëns en houding te verbeter. Hierdie afdeling lewer 'n omvattende diens wat strek vanaf diens aan die kommunale produsente, ontlukende produsente, kommersiële produsente, stoettelers en instansies wat by landbou betrokke is. Daar sal ook op die jonger generasie kommersiële produsent sowel as die nuwe generasie professionele deelydse produsent gefokus word. Solank almal beseft dat die kundigheid van die Namibiese vleisprodusent verbeter sal moet word, met die doel om kuddeproduktiwiteit te verbeter sodat daar 'n groter mark vir geneties meerderwaardige teel- en kuddebulle in ons eie boerdery-omgewing geskep kan word. Neem die effektiwiteit van die kommersiële landbousektor egter af sal die stoetbedryf ook kwyn.

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## EDITORIAL



“Sterkte vir die jaar wat voorlê, die stukkie wat nog oor is” – is een van die algemene groetwyses aan die begin van die jaar. Soms troos dit ‘n mens egter as jy in Februarie nog vir iemand ‘n voorspoedige jaar kan toewens, asof dit die jaar so ‘n klein bietjie rem en jou laat besef dis eintlik nog vroeg in die jaar, veral as jy al voel of jy alweer kan doen met verlot!

Vir Agra hou die jaar baie opwinding in en vir die afskop is almal betrokke by die proses om Agra te omskep van ‘n koöperasie na ‘n openbare maatskappy. In die omsendskrywe rakende die omskepping word gesê: “Dit is wêreldwyd bewys dat besighede slegs met volhoubare groei suksesvol kan bly. ‘n Boom wat ophou groei, kan nie oorleef nie. Dit dwing maatskappye om voortdurend innoverende maniere te vind om in kliënte se veranderende behoeftes te voorsien. Groei impliseer ook verbeterde waarde, dus vir Agra om relevant te bly, moet dit ‘n fondasie wees waarop lede waarde kan bou.” Ons vertrou dat ons teen 24 Maart 2010 die toestemming van tweederdes van Agra se lede sal hê om te kan voortgaan met die omskepping. Inligtingsvergaderings word landwyd gehou in die eerste week in Februarie. In hierdie uitgawe gee ons egter nog vrae en antwoorde wat aan lede meer duidelikheid kan gee.

Ons gee ‘n terugblik op die stoetveeëilings van verlede jaar en deel nog nuus uit die ou jaar. Ons gaan ook voort met ons tegniese artikels en sal van die volgende uitgawe, soos die ruimte dit toelaat, weer ons arbeidsartikel en bydraes vir die dames voorsit.

Perikle het gesê: “Moed is nie die afwesigheid van vrees nie, moed is om bang te wees en tog voort te gaan.” Ons wens u voorspoed toe vir die jaar en moed om alle uitdagings die hoof te bied.

Onthou dat u welkom is om enige inligting, voorstelle, versoeke of kommentaar rakende die *Ring* aan ons te stuur na Agra se Senior Bestuurder: Korporatiewe Aangeleenthede

Me Birgit Hoffmann, Privaatsak 12011, Windhoek of per e-pos aan birgith@agra.com.na

Groete tot die volgende uitgawe!



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Dit behoort elke produsent te motiveer om ook sy of haar verantwoordelikheid te aanvaar ten opsigte van kennis- en tegnologie-oordraging.

Die vernietigende effek van bosindringing op weidingsekosisteme bly egter steeds die vernaamste faktor wat volhoubare en winggewende boerdery kniehalter. Bosbekamping is ‘n geweldige duur proses maar hoe langer dit uitgestel word hoe langer vat dit om voordeel daaruit te trek. Om geld te spandeer om die drakrag van landbougrond te verbeter is tans waarskynlik die beste belegging wat ‘n produsent kan maak. Onthou net dat nasorg ewe belangrik is. As dit nie gedoen word nie kom indringerbos baie vinnig terug en word alle goeie werk ongedaan gemaak. Geen produsent kan dit bekostig om geld so te verkwis nie. Dit is egter verblydend om te sien dat baie produsente met drakragherwinningsprojekte besig is. As dit gebeur neem die drakrag van die natuurlike weiding, wat die goedkoopste bron van veevoer is, asook die getalle kommersiële teeldiere toe en tesame met kennisoordraging lei dit tot die verhoging van kuddeproduktiwiteit en -effektiwiteit. Soortgelyk behoort dit weer die behoefte na goeie bulle te verhoog wat stoettelers sal aanmoedig om meer winggewende diere vir die Namibiese mark te teel.

Teen alle verwagting in het die 2009 stoetveeëilings weereens besondere hoogtepunte opgelewer. Soos die vorige jaar, is die rekord vir die duurste bul weer oortref, maar hierdie keer met die ongelooflike bedrag van N\$ 110 000 (N\$280 000 teenoor N\$170 000). Om dié prestasie nog meer indrukwekkend te maak is die gemiddelde prys per bul ook oortref met 19.15% (N\$ 28 713 teenoor N\$ 24 097). Die Hartebeestloop Bonsmaraveiling van Dr Joggie Briedenhann het grootliks tot hierdie indrukwekkende prestasie bygedra, toe alle rekordboeke herskryf is deurdat die vyf duurste bulle in 2009 op hierdie veiling verkoop is (N\$ 280 000, N\$ 170 000, N\$ 165 000, N\$ 160 000 en N\$140 000). Veels geluk aan Dr Joggie Briedenhann met hierdie uitsonderlike prestasie wat trouens nie maklik geëwenaar sal word nie. Die allemintige rekordprys van N\$ 280 000 is deur Wagner Bonsmaras van Ben en Corlia Mouton en Okamaja Bonsmaras van Jörg Sigwart en Robbie Daubersmith betaal. Die ander kopers was Edward Hansen, Tollie van Tonder en Nic van Wyk, Ponk O’Kennedy en Duiker Investments. Baie geluk aan bogenoemde kopers met die top genetiese materiaal wat aangeskaf is en voorspoed word julle toegewens.

Daar is gedurende 2009 ‘n totaal van 29 stoetveeëilings deur Agra landwyd aangebied. Dit is ook so dat die aantal veilings in die toekoms minder behoort te word aangesien daar steeds gepoog word om van die veilings te kombineer en die aanbod groter te maak. Strategies is dit vir telers beter om by ‘n groter groep telers in te skakel as om op jou eie te probeer veiling hou. Die 739 bulle wat vanjaar verkoop is, is die derde meeste bulle wat nog ooit aangebied was. Die 853 bulle van 2006 en die 752 bulle van 2008 wat verkoop is, sluit natuurlik veilings in met totale uitverkope van stoeterye. Die 739 bulle wat vanjaar verkoop is, is dus opsigself ‘n merkwaardige prestasie veral as daar in ag geneem word dat die bulle vir ‘n indrukwekkende rekord gemiddeld van N\$ 27 672 van die hand gesit is. Hierdie getal sluit ook die bulle in wat op die staatsveilings verkoop is. Indien slegs die gemiddelde bereken word van bulle wat op die res van die stoetveilings verkoop is, is die gemiddelde ‘n allemintige N\$ 28 713. Hierdie gemiddelde is gevolglik ook die gemiddelde wat vir rekorddoeleindes gebruik sal word aangesien dit ‘n akkurater aanduiding is van wat in die bedryf aangaan.

Die primêre faktore wat bulpryse normaalweg beïnvloed is kwaliteit, politieke stabiliteit, die jaarlikse reënval, beskikbaarheid van weiding asook die slagveen- en speenkalfpryse. Sowat 150 grootveestoettelers en kommersiële produsente het gedurende 2009 diere deur Agra stoetveedienste bemark teenoor die 100 van verlede jaar. In totaal is daar 1 820 (teenoor die 1773 van verlede jaar) diere deur Agra Stoetveeëilings bemark.

Die volgende 10 grootveestoeveilings spog met die hoogste omsette behaal gedurende 2009:

Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras	N\$ 3 839 750
Top 10 Bonsmara	N\$ 2 129 600
Northern Select Bull and Female Sale	N\$ 2 060 750
Central Select	N\$ 1 920 000
Namibia Genetics	N\$ 1 736 600
Superior Genetics	N\$ 1 704 000
Northern Select	N\$ 1 541 600
Hochfeld Gesamentlike Produksieveiling	N\$ 1 175 000
Westelike Bonsmara	N\$ 1 121 200
St Blaize Brahman	N\$ 920 000

Veels geluk aan die telers wat 'n bydrae gemaak het om van bogenoemde veilings 'n sukses te maak. Daar is vanjaar aansienlike insette gelewer om die aanbod op veilings groter te maak deur telers op veilings saam te groepeer en dit met baie groot sukses. Groter veilings hou uiteraard verskeie voordele vir beide koper en verkoper in:

- Kwaliteit van die aanbod verbeter
- Groter variasie en keuse van bulle is beskikbaar
- Groter aanbod lok meer potensiële kopers
- Advertensiekostes is aansienlik laer omdat meer telers betrokke is
- Borge meer geneë is om as borg by groter veilings betrokke te raak a.g.v. groter blootstelling
- Vervoerkostes is laer omdat kopers geneig is om hul jaarlikse aankope op een veiling te doen
- Stoeveidienste se kostes vir die aanbieder van die veiling is ook laer

Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras en gasverkopers het dus vanjaar die hoogste omset (N\$ 3 839 750 teenoor verlede jaar se hoogste omset van N\$ 2 359 000) behaal. Dit word gevolg deur die Northern Select-telers as groep, wat vanjaar 'n totale omset van N\$ 3 602 350 behaal het. Hierna volg die Top 10 Bonsmara veiling, wat 'n nuwe veiling is, met N\$ 2 129 600. Al drie hierdie veilings word gekenmerk deur 'n top aanbieding, uitstekende advertensie en promosie, indrukwekkende katalogus en deeglike en getroue nasorgdiens aan kopers. Dit was ongetwyfeld die wenresepte tot die sukses van hierdie groepe telers. Die prestasie van die onderskeie telers is maar net weer eens 'n bewys dat kwaliteit diere, kwaliteit advertensie en kwaliteit menswees ongetwyfeld die sleutel tot suksesvolle en winsgewende stoeveling is. Die dae is verby dat telers net fokus op die teling van diere op die plaas en dan van iemand anders verwag om die diere te bemark.

Die spogprys van N\$ 280 000 wat deur die Bonsmara bul HART 06 93 van Joggie Briedenhann behaal is, is soos reeds genoem die duurste bul wat in 2009 verkoop is. Die tweede tot vyfde duurste bulle kom ook uit die stalle van Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras. Die pryse wat hier behaal is, is N\$ 170 000 (HART 06-74), N\$ 165 000 (HART 07 37), N\$ 160 000 (AEJ 06 107) en N\$ 140 000 (HART 06-58). Na hierdie uitsonderlike prestasie van Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras volg die pragtige bul NUL 05 7 van 'n jong Limousin teler Eandro Lottering wat tydens die Windhoek skouveiling vir N\$ 100 000 aan Sigi Wilckens verkoop is terwyl die Bonsmarabul AG 02 72 van Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras soortgelyk N\$ 100 000 behaal het. Vervolgens die beproefde Wit Brahman stoetbul van Hagen Eggert wat aan Volker Hoth van Kamanjab verkoop is vir N\$ 96 000. Ander uitsonderlike prestasies is die Bonsmara bulle HART 07 25 (N\$ 85 000) en HART 06 55 en AG 03 353 wat beide vir N\$ 80 000 van die hand gesit is, die beproefde wit Brahman stoetbul

van Mecki en Brigitte Schneider wat vir N\$ 70 000 verkoop is, die Simmentalerbul HP 05 39 van Horsti en Renate Riedel wat N\$ 67 000 behaal het, 'n seun van Clawa die beproefde Wit Brahman stoetbul van Mecki en Brigitte Schneider wat vir N\$ 66 000 verkoop is, die Bonsmarabul HART 06 62 wat vir N\$ 65 000 van eienaar verwissel het, Tollie van Tonder se Bonsmarabul TON 06 40 wat vir N\$ 64 000 verkoop is, 'n Simmentalerbul van Mike Krafft wat N\$ 62 000 behaal het, vier Bonsmara bulle van Hartebeestloop wat N\$ 60 000 behaal het, 'n Simbrabul van Diethelm Metzger wat tydens die Central Select vir N\$ 60 000 verkoop is, 'n Wit Brahman bul van Mecki en Brigitte Schneider wat vir N\$60 000 verkoop is, nog 'n Hartebeestloop Bonsmarabul wat N\$58 000 behaal het en 'n beproefde jong Bonsmara stoetbul van Ben en Corlia Mouton wat verhandel is vir N\$ 55 000. Verder is daar nog 'n Simbrabul van Diethelm Metzger wat vir N\$ 53 000, 'n Brahmanbul van Günther Hellinghausen vir N\$ 52 000, 'n Brahmanbul van Eberhard Fischer vir N\$ 51 000, 'n Simbrabul elk van Diethelm Metzger en Arthur Baggot Smith junior vir N\$ 51 000, 'n Sussexbul van Cobus van der Merwe vir N\$ 51 000, nog 'n Bonsmarabul van Hartebeestloop wat vir N\$ 50 000 en een Brahmanbul elk van Günther Hellinghausen, Mecki en Brigitte Schneider en Fred en Uta Redecker wat ook vir N\$50 000 van eienaar verwissel het. Insgelyks is daar 38 bulle wat vir N\$ 40 000 en meer verkoop is terwyl 131 bulle vir N\$ 30 000 en meer verkoop is.

Vir die tweede agtereenvolgende jaar stap die Limousin met die louere weg as die ras wat die hoogste gemiddelde prys behaal het. Vanjaar is 15 Limousinbulle vir 'n ongelooflike gemiddeld van N\$ 32 600 van die hand gesit. Baie geluk aan elke Limousin teler wat 'n bydrae gemaak het, in die besonder Eandro Lottering wat 'n bul vir N\$ 100 000 verkoop het. Hierna volg die Simbras (46 bulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 31 739), Bonsmaras (227 bulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 29 447), Brahmane (217 bulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 29 069), Sussex (21 bulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 28 857), Simmentalers (122 bulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 26 552) en die Charolais (6 bulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 26 333). Neem 'n mens die getal bulle in ag wat deur die Bonsmara en Brahman telers verkoop is, is die gemiddeldes wat behaal is uitsonderlike prestasies. Baie geluk ook aan hierdie telers.

Vanjaar is die bordjies verhang en het die Bonsmara telers die meeste bulle verkoop (227) gevolg deur die Brahmane (217) wat die afgelope twee jare die meeste bulle verkoop het, Simmentalers (122), Simbras (46) en die Santa Gertrudis met 40 bulle. Hierdie jaar is gekenmerk deur die groot poging wat Bonsmara telers geloofs het om die ras te bemark met gevolglik suksesvolle resultate. Harde en eerlike werk word altyd beloon. Baie geluk aan die Bonsmaras en meer spesifiek sekere telers wat groot insette in die verband gelewer het. Verlede jaar was die Brahmane in die eerste plek met 248 bulle gevolg deur die Bonsmaras met 207 bulle.

Die gesogste prestasie bly uiteraard steeds dié teler wat die hoogste gemiddeld per produksieveiling behaal. Hierdie uitsonderlike prestasie gaan vir die tweede agtereenvolgende jaar aan Dr Joggie Briedenhann wat tydens die Hartebeestloop Bonsmaraveiling 37 bulle vir 'n ongelooflike gemiddeld van N\$ 62 000 van die hand gesit het. Verlede jaar se rekord was 18 bulle vir N\$ 51 000. Die stelling is verlede jaar gemaak dat hierdie rekord nie maklik oorskrei gaan word nie. Wel gedaan Dr Joggie, niks vervang kundigheid, kwaliteit, harde werk en opoffering vir mede telers en produsente nie. Hierna volg Tollie van Tonder (2 Bonsmara bulle vir gemiddeld N\$ 48 500: Bonsmara Nas.), Eberhard Fischer (2 Brahman bulle vir N\$ 46 000: Brahman Nas.), Cobus van der Merwe (2 Brahman Bulle vir N\$ 40 000: Brahman Nas.), Diethelm Metzger (14 Simbra bulle vir N\$ 39 000: Central Select),

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Arthur Baggot Smith junior (3 Simbra bulle vir N\$ 38 333: Superior Genetics), Fred en Uta Redecker (10 Brahman bulle vir N\$ 36 200: Central Select), Ulla van Biljon (2 Simmentaler bulle vir N\$ 36 000: Northern Select), Günther Hellinghausen (7 Brahman bulle vir N\$ 35 571: Northern Select Bull and Female Sale), Mike Krafft (2 Simmentaler bulle vir N\$ 35 000 Windhoek Skou), Hardus Breedt (3 Simbra bulle vir N\$ 34 333: Windhoek Skou), Ben Mouton (2 Bonsmara bulle vir N\$ 33 500: Bonsmara Nas.) en laastens Mike Krafft (9 Simmentaler bulle vir N\$ 33 222: Superior Genetics). Benewens die besondere prestasie van Dr Joggie Briedenhann (37 bulle vir N\$ 62 000) is die prestasie van Mecki en Brigitte Schneider (29 Brahman bulle vir gemiddeld N\$ 31 964) en Stephan Voigts (23 Simmentaler bulle vir gemiddeld N\$ 29 695) ook indrukwekkende prestasies wat genoem moet word gedagtig aan die getal bulle wat beide hierdie telers verkoop het.

Die Hartebeestloop Bonsmara Produksieveiling van Dr Joggie Briedenhann en Nico Visser was weer eens 'n spoggeleentheid wat deur talle boere vanuit alle hoeke van die land bygewoon is. Benewens die voortreflike veilingsresultate was die kennisoordraging ewe indrukwekkend en op 'n baie hoë vlak. Stoettelers, kommersiële- en ontluikende produsente het almal baat gevind by die wetenskaplike en praktiese inligting wat gedeel is. Die professionele aanbieding van die boeredag en die veiling was, soos verlede jaar, werlik 'n poging om op trots te wees en 'n voorbeeld vir almal. Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras en alle aktiwiteite rondom hierdie stoet, verwysende na die wetenskaplike stoeteling en kennisoordraging, verleen 'n nuwe dimensie tot die stoetbedryf waarby elke veeprodusent in die land baat behoort te vind.

'n Ander suksesverhaal is die Top 10 Bonsmaraveiling wat vir die eerste keer te Otjiwarongo aangebied is. Onder die bekwame leiding van Ben en Corlia Mouton het Ernie de Vries, Dries Venter, Robbie Dauberschmidt, Edward Hansen, Ingo Halberstadt en Jörg von Dewitz die uitdaging aanvaar om op Otjiwarongo 'n Bonsmaraveiling aan te bied. Nodeloos om te sê, hierdie veiling was 'n reuse sukses te danke aan die harde en innoverende werk van veral Ben Mouton. Elke teler het sy kant gebring wat betref die kwaliteit van bulle wat aangebied is. Die bulle is vooraf geselekteer en moes aan sekere minimum vereistes voldoen wat betref voorkoms, tipe en prestasie. Daar is ook streng veeartsenykundige vereistes deur Dr Axel Hartman voorgeskryf. 'n Baie insiggewende inligtingsdag is die dag voor die veiling aangebied. Verder is die borge ook geleentheid gebied om uitstallings te hou wat voldoende blootstelling aan hulle verleen het. Almal by name die telers, borge, veearts en Agra as agent het saamgewerk om van hierdie veiling 'n sukses te maak. Die verkoopsentasie van die veiling was 100%. Daar is onder andere 56 bulle vir gemiddeld N\$ 25 982 van die hand gesit. Die 30 stoetkoeie en -verse het gemiddeld N\$ 9 193 behaal terwyl die 65 kommersiële verse gemiddeld N\$ 6 092 behaal het. 88% Van al die diere is deur boere vanuit die noorde van Namibië aangekoop. Hierdie veiling is 'n bewys dat met harde, eerlike, opregte werk en seën enige iets in die lewe bereik kan word.

Die indrukwekkende prestasie wat tydens die Central Select veiling behaal is, was verseker een van die hoogtepunte van die jaar. Behalwe dat 'n 100 % verkope behaal is, is die 65 Simbra- Brahman-, Simmentaler- en Limousinbulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 29 538 verkoop. Die kwaliteit was voortreflik en die bulle was almal veilingsgereed en het goed vertoon. Baie geluk aan Diethelm Metzger, Fred en Uta Redecker, Stephan Voigts, Sigi Wilckens asook Sigi von Lüttwitz.

Die Superior Genetics veiling het ook geskiedenis gemaak en was ewe indrukwekkend deurdat 74 bulle aangebied is waarvan sowat 59 bulle vir

gemiddeld N\$ 28 881 verkoop is. Hierdie aandveiling was weereens 'n reuse sukses en 'n geleentheid wat lank onthou sal word. Verder het die Superior Genetics groep telers 'n doelwit daargestel om in die toekoms tot 100 bulle aan te bied.

Benewens die bulle wat aangebied is vestig die Namibia Genetics groep telers hulself as dié veiling waar top kwaliteit kommersiële vroulike diere aangebied word. Vanjaar is 158 verse vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 6 083 verkoop.

Die Brahman Nasionale velling is vanjaar ook gekenmerk deur top kwaliteit bulle wat aangebied is. Onder andere is daar 19 bulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 37 052 van die hand gesit.

Die Northern Select veiling te Grootfontein was ewe indrukwekkend veral as in ag geneem word dat dit die tweede laaste veiling van die jaar was. Tydens hierdie veiling is 31 Brahman bulle vir 'n gemiddeld van N\$ 32 322 verkoop terwyl die 7 Simmentaler bulle vir gemiddeld N\$ 31 571 van eienaar verwissel het.

Verder is daar 9 veilings (Oostelike Santa Gertrudis, Top 10 Bonsmara, Central Select, Hochfeldstreek Bonsmara, St Blaize Brahman, Khomas Gesamentlike Produksieveiling, Omatjenne, Okomumbonde en Uitkomst) wat 'n 100 % verkoopsentasie behaal het.

In 2009 is 'n verkoopsentasie van 88.09% behaal deurdat 1 820 diere van die 2 066 diere wat op grootveestoetveilings aangebied is, verkoop is.

Gedurende die jaar het Barend Dorfling by Agra Stoetveedienste aangesluit. Sy primêre funksies behels die volgende:

- Besoeke aan stoettelers om kuddeklassifikasies te doen, die nageslag van teelvaars te evalueer, aanbevelings te maak ten opsigte van die aankoop van potensiële stoetbulle asook om potensiële veilingsdiere te identifiseer.
- Behulpzaam te wees met die professionele aanbieding van stoetveeilings asook advies aan kopers te gee ten opsigte van aankope.
- Kuddeklassifikasies by kommersiële produsente te doen en aanbevelings te maak t.o.v. die keuse van bul aankope.
- Skakeldienste te doen.
- Diere te werf vir uitvoere na buurlande.
- Diere te werf vir Agra se E-veilings wat tydens die Windhoek skou geloods is.
- Beoordeling van kalwers op speenkalfveilings.
- Keurings van stoetdiere vir genootskappe te doen.

Dit is vir Agra Stoetveedienste 'n groot voorreg om die dienste van 'n bekwame persoon soos Barend te kon bekom. Voorspoed word hom toegewens. U kan vir Barend skakel by 081 127 88 06.

**Kostes is ongelukkig 'n uitgawe wat vandag in berekening gehou moet word en daarom sal Agra nie meer kan voortgaan om van hierdie dienste gratis te verskaf nie. Die tariewe wat van toepassing sal wees is N\$ 3-00 per km en N\$ 500-00 per dag.**

Teen die einde van die jaar is Agra se Webtuiste so opgegradeer dat dit veilingkatalogusse asook fotos van veilingsdiere kan akkommodeer. Telers kan dus in 2010 fotos van veilingsdiere aan die stoetveekantoor stuur vir plasing op die webtuiste.

Die Stoetveedienste kantoor het op 1 Junie 2009 na Mose Tjitendero nr. 4 in Olympia verskuif. Die doel daarmee was om beter kommunikasie met kliënte, wat nie deur die dag beskikbaar is nie, te bewerkstellig en dit vir die personeel veiliger te maak om na ure te werk.

## OPSOMMEND

- Bonsmara, Brahman, Simmentaler en Simbra Bulle bly steeds die populêre keuses by kommersiële produsente.
- Gemiddelde bulpryse was hoër as wat aanvanklik verwag is.
- Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras het verstommende hoë pryse behaal.
- Top kwaliteit diere is in 2009 op die veilings aangebied.
- Die vraag na goeie kwaliteit kommersiële vroulike diere, veral Bonsmara en wit Brahman verse groei steeds.
- Die vraag na kwaliteit kuddebulle onder die geleedere van die kommersiële produsente styg steeds.
- Probleme met die indiening van vrugbaarheidsertifikate word steeds ondervind.
- Akkurate inligting in die katalogusse raak al belangriker vir die koper.
- Die bemerking van diere asook die veilings word al beter gedoen.
- Aktiwiteite rondom veilings brei uit in 'n poging om potensiële kopers na veilings te lok.
- Veilingsinligting van sekere telers word nog steeds nie betyds ontvang nie.
- Probleme word steeds gevind met kopers wat onderneem om internet betalings te doen.

## UITDAGINGS AAN DIE STOETBEDRYF

- Daar rus steeds 'n verpligting teenoor elke produsent om 'n program van bosbestryding toe te pas. Die natuurlike hulpbron bly steeds die goedkoopste voedingsbron vir diere en daarom is veldherwinning 'n prioriteit ter bevordering van volhoubare veeproduksie.
- Sekere hoë potensiaal gebiede is geskik vir die aanplant van voergewasse of die vestiging van aangeplante weidings. Die beskikbaarheid van bykomende voere of hooi verminder risikos en maak die afronding van diere moontlik.
- Organiese veeboerderypraktyke behoort meer ondersoek te word.
- Namibië is 'n land van omgewingsuiterstes en daar moet dus 'n balans tussen produksie-omgewing en markbehoefes verkry word. Om te produseer wat die omgewing jou toelaat is 'n volhoubare langtermyn strategie.
- Streef daarna om goeie betrekkinge met werknemers te handhaaf. Verhoog hulle vermoëns, effektiwiteit en produktiwiteit deur kennisoordraging. Bekwame en gemotiveerde werkers bevorder doeltreffende kudde- en algemene plaasbestuur.
- Maak seker dat die gesondheidsinligting van u diere by die veiling beskikbaar is.
- Implementeer die korrekte afrondingspraktyke. As u onseker is skakel 'n kundige op hierdie gebied en maak seker dat u nie bulle te veel pamperslang nie.
- Maak van Agra se webtuiste gebruik om goeie fotos van u beste veilingbulle op te plaas.
- Maak gebruik van Agra se e-veilings om diere te bemerk veral surplus teeldiere of beproefde stoetbulle wat u moet vervang.

Kiep Lepen  
Agra Stoetveedienste

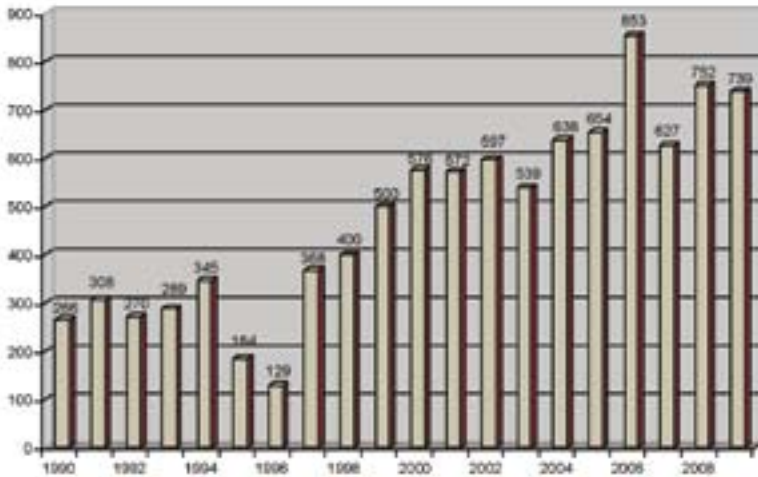
### Opsomming per ras van 2009 Bulveilings:

Ras	Aantal	Gemiddeld	Totaal	Duurste	Verkoper	Koper
Afrikaner	4	8 000.00	32 000.00	15 000.00	Neudamm	L A Lensing
Angus	3	13 333.33	39 999.99	17 000.00	G J G Vermeulen	S F Louw
Beefmaster	6	23 833.33	142 999.98	30 000.00	R v/d Merwe	F Oosthuizen
Bonsmara	227	29 447.13	6 684 498.51	280 000.00	Hartebeestloop	Mouton & Dauberschmidt
Brahman	217	29 069.12	6 307 999.04	96 000.00	H B Eggert	A V Hoth
Braunvieh	16	15 693.75	251 100.00	28 000.00	L de Jager	Ministry
Charolais	6	26 333.33	157 999.98	35 000.00	B A Calitz	Q J Webb
Hereford	7	21 500.00	150 500.00	27 000.00	H Kebbel	M Wucher
Limousin	15	32 600.00	489 000.00	100 000.00	E Lottering	S Wilckens
Nguni	9	14 777.78	133 000.02	20 000.00	E Schmidt von Wuelisch	H W Giess
Santa	40	18 875.00	755 000.00	32 000.00	B A Human	Oosthuizensrust cc
Simbra	46	31 739.13	1 459 999.98	60 000.00	D Metzger	Leeukop Boerdery
Simmentaler	122	26 552.46	3 239 400.12	67 000.00	H Riedel	Dr O F C Herrigel
Sussex	21	28 857.14	605 999.94	51 000.00	St Blaize	Lemke Ranches

to continue on page 6...

continued from page 5...

**Aantal bulle verkoop 1990 - 2009**

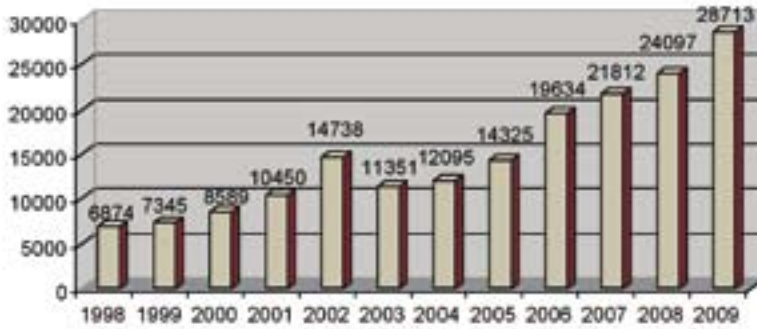


In Maart se Ring sal 'n opsomming van die bulveilinge en die verkoopsentasies van elke veiling verskyn.

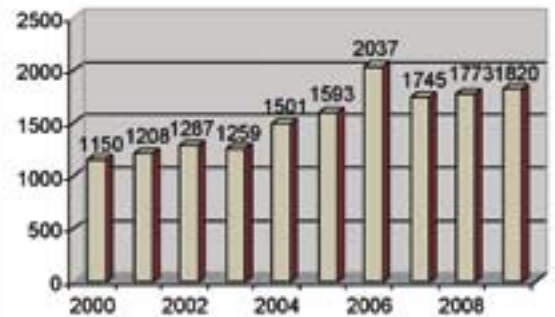
Skakel Agra Stoetveedienste by  
Tel: 061 - 252 973

[www.agra.com.na](http://www.agra.com.na)

**Gemiddelde Bulpryse (NS)**




**Beesgetalle per jaar bemark**



# Produksieveiling

**agra** **Francois & Wallace Theron & Kobus van Wyk**

**26 Februarie 2010**  
**11:00**  
**Agra/Bank Windhoek Ring**



**15 GEREKISTREERDE  
BOERDOX RAMME  
20 GEREKISTREERDE  
STOET & KUDDE BOERDOX OOIE**



**15 GEKEURDE WIT DORPER RAMME  
13 GEKEURDE WIT DORPER OOIE**



**30 GEKEURDE VAN ROOIJ RAMME  
80 GEKEURDE VAN ROOIJ OOIE**



**10 SAANEN MELKBOKKE**

**1 Van Rooij Ramme  
& 1 Boerdok Ramme  
sal geveilig word om 'n geleidelike tempo!**

Kley Lepens: 081 534 9046

Berhard Verweyden: 081 534 0770

Kobus van Wyk: 081 252 9730

© pos: freejack.agra@gmail.com



# AGRA

## OMSKEPPING VAN KOÖPERASIE NA MAATSKAPPY

AGRA NEWS

### Wat beteken “omskepping”?

Dit beteken dat die besigheidsvorm van Agra verander van 'n koöperasie na 'n maatskappy.

### Waarom glo die raad van direkteure en die bestuur van Agra dat die omskepping belangrik is vir Agra?

- Versterking van die kapitaalbasis van Agra.
- Likwiditeit van beleggings: Lede kan hulle toegedeelde aandele verkoop.
- Aandeelhouders ontvang belastingvrye dividende in plaas van belasbare bonusse.
- Kontinuiteit van aandeelhouing (dit word nie gekanselleer wanneer 'n persoon boerdery staak nie)
- Met die omskepping word die lede beloon wat die koöperasie die meeste ondersteun het.
- Breëbasis bemagtiging.
- Verbeterde mededingendheid.
- Lede kan deel in toekomstige winste van Agra vir so lank as wat hulle aandeelhouders bly, selfs al sou hulle boerdery staak.
- Die Agra aandele is 'n belegging wat kan groei in waarde as Agra voortgaan om te groei as 'n besigheid.

### Wat is die goedkeuringsvoorwaardes vir die omskepping?

3 stappe van goedkeuring word benodig. (a) Twee derdes van die lede van Agra moet die omskepping skriftelik goedkeur. (b) Twee derdes van die lede teenwoordig op 'n behoorlike gekonstitueerde algemene vergadering van Agra moet ten gunste daarvoor stem (c) Die Registrateur van Koöperasies moet die omskepping goedkeur.

### Hoe sal die omskepping die waarde van my belang in Agra beïnvloed?

Die lede se aandeelbelang en ledefondse sal op die omskeppingsdatum omskep word in aandele in die nuwe maatskappy op 'n basis van 1:1. Die opgeloopte winste van Agra soos op 31 Julie 2009 sal omskep word in aandele gebaseer op die omset van elke lid met Agra oor die afgelope 6 finansiële jare. Dit beteken dat 'n lid wat byvoorbeeld 'n gemiddelde besigheid van N\$100,000 per jaar met Agra gedoen het sal dienooreenkomstig 'n groter getal aandele kry uit die opgeloopte winste in vergelyking met 'n persoon wat gemiddeld net vir N\$10,000 per jaar met Agra besigheid gedoen het.

### Wanneer wil Agra die omskepping doen in 'n maatskappy?

Die algemene vergadering wat belê moet word vir die goedkeuring van die omskepping is beplan vir 31 Maart 2010. Indien dit goedgekeur word sal die omskepping gedoen word binne die 4 daaropvolgende maande.

(mits Agra 2/3 van die stemme van al die lede ontvang ten gunste van die omskepping).

### Wat moet ek doen as ek ten gunste van die omskepping is?

'n Omsendbrief wat die omskepping verduidelik is gepos aan elke lid. Aangeheg tot die omsendbrief is 'n stemvorm wat ingevul en onderteken moet word deur die lid. Hierdie vorms moet aan die naaste takbestuurder oorhandig word of gefaks word na: (061) 2909227, nie later nie as 24 Maart 2010.

### Wat kan ek doen as ek nie ten gunste van die omskepping is nie?

Die bogenoemde stemvorm maak voorsiening vir 'n “ja/yes” of 'n “nee/no” stem. Ons wil egter 'n beroep op u doen om u naaste takbestuurder te kontak of die Agra helplyn te skakel by (061) 2909222 om enige bekommernisse te bespreek voordat u teen die omskepping stem.

### Met wie kan ek praat as ek vrae het oor die omskepping?

U kan die naaste takbestuurder kontak of u kan die helplyn skakel by (061) 2909222 wat oop sal wees vanaf 08h00 tot 16h30 Maandae tot Vrydae, uitgesluit publieke vakansiedae. Hierdie helplyn sal beskikbaar wees tot 24 Maart 2010. Agra sal ook landwyd publieke vergaderings hou in Februarie 2010, waar direkteure en lede van bestuur aan lede sal verduidelik wat die beweegredes is vir die omskepping van die koöperasie in 'n maatskappy en wat die voor- en nadele is.

### Waar kan ek uitvind wat my belang in Agra sal wees nadat die omskepping plaasgevind het?

Die voorlopige aantal aandele wat aan elke lid toegeken gaan word is by die takke beskikbaar. Die waarde van die aandele per lid word ook aangedui in die brief wat ingesluit is by die omsendbrief.

### Waar kan ek aandele koop of verkoop nadat die omskepping plaasgevind het?

Na die omskepping sal Agra intern of met behulp van 'n aandelemakelaar 'n aandeelverhandelingstoonbank skep. Aandeelhouders wat aandele wil verkoop sal die verhandelingstoonbank in kennis stel en potensiële kopers kan aandele koop deur die verhandelingstoonbank.

### Is daar enige beperkings op wie aandele mag koop of aan wie aandele verkoop mag word na die omskepping?

Daar is geen beperkings oor wie 'n aandeelhouer mag word nadat die nuwe maatskappy tot stand gekom het nie. Alle aandeelverhandelings moet egter geskied deur die aandeelverhandelingstoonbank.



A Natural Evolution



## **Wat is die gevolge van die omskepping op my stemreg deur my aandele in Agra?**

Die verhouding van jou aandele tot die totale uitgereikte aandele van Agra sal die persentasie van jou stemreg bepaal by 'n aandeelhoudersvergadering van Agra. Stemreg sal beperk word tot 'n maksimum van 5% per aandeelhouer om 'n situasie te voorkom waar 'n buite-instansie 'n groot aantal aandele opkoop om sodoende aandeelhoudersvergaderings te beïnvloed.

## **Hoe sal ek deel in die toekomstige winste van Agra?**

Agra sal in die toekoms dividende verklaar uit winste wat gedurende die jaar genereer is nadat toekomstige kapitaal- uitgawes en reserweverpligtinge in ag geneem is. Aandeelhouders sal dus 'n gedeelte van Agra se wins ontvang in die vorm van 'n dividend. Dividende is huidiglik nie belasbaar in Namibië nie. Elke aandeelhouer sal deel in dividende in verhouding tot sy aandeelhouding.

Indien Agra winsgewend besigheid bedryf sal die waarde van die aandele oor tyd toeneem. In 'n geval waar 'n aandeelhouer besluit om sy aandele in Agra te verkoop sal hy die groei in die waarde van die aandele kan realiseer oor tyd.

## **Sal aandeelhouders 'n gewaarborgde dividend ontvang elke jaar?**

Nee, die verklaring van 'n dividend en die bedrag daarvan kan nie gewaarborg word nie en sal bepaal word deur die wins vir die jaar asook die toekomstige kapitaal en reserweverreistes.

## **Gaan Agra gelys word op die Namibiese aandelebeurs?**

Dit mag in die toekoms gebeur maar die raad van direkteure en die bestuur het besluit om nie die roete op hierdie stadium te volg nie.

## **Hoe sal die prys van 'n aandeel in Agra bepaal word?**

Die prys sal bepaal word deur aanbiedings om te koop en te verkoop deur die verhandelingsbank. Die netto bate waarde van Agra volgens die jongste gepubliseerde finansiële state behoort 'n aanduiding te gee van die minimum prys waarteen 'n aandeel behoort te verhandel.

## **Wat sal gebeur as ek al my aandele in Agra verkoop?**

Wanneer jy jou aandele in Agra verkoop het sal jy nie meer 'n aandeelhouer van Agra wees nie en sal jy ook nie in toekomstige dividende wat Agra mag verklaar deel nie en jy sal ook nie meer kan stem op aangeleenthede wat Agra voorlê aan aandeelhouders vir besluite nie. Jy sal wel aankope kan maak by Agra en besigheid doen met Agra op dieselfde terme en voorwaardes as enige ander persoon van die publiek. Jy kan ook weer 'n aandeelhouer word deur aandele te koop deur die aandeelverhandelingsbank.

## **Kan ek my Agra aandele behou as ek ophou boer?**

Ja. Jy sal 'n aandeelhouer van Agra bly selfs as jy ophou boer, aangesien aandeelhouding nie beperk word tot boere nie.

## **Wat word van my aandele in Agra as ek sterwe?**

Jou aandele sal deel vorm van jou boedel en sal bemaak word of verkoop word volgens die bepalinge van jou testament.

## **Kan enige persoon in die toekoms 'n aandeelhouer word van Agra?**

Agra beperk sal 'n publieke maatskappy wees en aandeelhouding in Agra sal nie beperk word tot byvoorbeeld aktiewe boere nie. Nie-

Namibiërs sal ook geregtig wees om aandele in Agra te koop.

## **Hoe kan nuwe boere aandeelhouders in Agra word na die omskepping?**

Dit sal nie nodig wees om 'n aandeelhouer in Agra te wees om met Agra besigheid te doen nie. Jou besigheidsterme sal ook nie bepaal word op grond van die feit dat jy 'n aandeelhouer is of nie. Nie-aandeelhouders sal nie op ander terme besigheid doen as aandeelhouders van Agra nie. Sou jy egter 'n aandeelhouer wil word in Agra kan jy aandele koop van 'n gewillige verkoper deur die aandeelverhandelingsbank.

## **Kan enige persoon of maatskappy (wie nie by landbou betrokke is nie) beheer kry oor Agra in die toekoms?**

Dit sal moontlik wees dat 'n buitestaander 'n groot aantal aandele van bestaande aandeelhouders kan koop.

Die raad beveel egter aan dat die stemreg van 'n aandeelhouer beperk word tot 5% wat sal voorkom dat 'n aandeelhouer met sy/haar groot aandeelhouding 'n aandeelhoudersvergadering sal kan manipuleer.

## **Wie sal die direkteure wees van Agra na die omskepping.**

Die eerste Raad van Direkteure van Agra Beperk sal bestaan uit die direkteure van die Koöperasie onmiddelik voor die omskepping. Die raad van direkteure sal dan jaarliks herkies word deur die aandeelhouders by die Algemene Jaarvergadering.

## **Hoe sal my kliëntnommer by Agra deur die omskepping beïnvloed word?**

Jy sal jou Agra kliëntnommer behou. Let daarop dat 'n persoon wat met Agra op rekening besigheid doen 'n kliëntnommer ontvang ongeag of die persoon 'n lid / aandeelhouer is of nie.

## **Hoe sal my lidnommer deur die omskepping beïnvloed word?**

Jou Agra lidnommer sal verval. Dit sal nie nodig wees om aandeelhouernommers toe te ken nie, aangesien die aandele- sertifikate genommer is en aandeelhouders van Agra sal geïdentifiseer word na aanleiding van die aandele sertifikate.

## **Wat is Agra se visie vir bemagtiging?**

Agra glo dat sy gediversifiseerde aandeelhouerbasis dit een van die breedste bemagtigings maatskappy in Namibië maak. Baie vorig benadeelde persone van kommunale areas asook opkomende swart boere is alreeds lede van Agra en sal dus ook aandeelhouders word van Agra beperk.

## **Sal die personeel van Agra ook aandeelhouders word?**

Die raad van direkteure glo dat 'n aanspreekstelsel waardeur personeel geregtig is om aandele in 'n maatskappy te kan opneem, 'n effektiewe meganisme is om personeel te vergoed en om kwaliteit personeel te behou. Dit is egter nie deel van die omskeppingsproses nie en dit is iets waarvoor besluit moet word deur die raad van direkteure en die aandeelhouders nadat die omskepping afgehandel is.

## **Wat gebeur as die lede van Agra of die Registrateur van Koöperasies die omskepping nie goedkeur nie?**

Agra sal voortgaan in die huidige besigheidsvorm.

Vir enige navrae kc  
061 - 290 9222





**AGRA NEWS**

# AGRA'S THIRD SOCIAL REPORT SHOWS THEIR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT

By this time, Agra members should have received their Agra social reports.

As Birgit Hoffmann, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs states in the report: "We realize how privileged we are to operate in a prosperous and harmonious community, all contributing to each other's success in one or the other way", we consider ourselves also privileged to be able to share this information with our members.

This report shows that Agra did not only hand out cash but Agra and its subsidiaries the Karakul Pelt Centre, Auas Vet Med, Safari Den and Auas Wholesale were actively involved as partners in business and development.

In fulfilling its social responsibilities and public commitments during the year, Agra presented various projects and training programmes to the public, supported farmer association days, communal and commercial shows and agricultural training and development. Agra also invests in

its staff by means of various developmental programmes, a streamlined recruitment process, individual interventions and performance management.

The report states that Agra believes that each and every person having access to agricultural land has a responsibility towards the nation to optimally utilise all available resources for production. This can only be achieved by a concerted effort of all stakeholders. As the prosperity of our country is close at our heart, we support initiatives that focus on human development and the sustainable utilisation of our natural resources. We target the broad farming community with the main aim of enhancing the continued improvement of production and maintenance of the fragile natural resource base.

If you have not yet received an Agra social report or would like to have another copy of the report, you are most welcome to contact me. Any comments on the social report would also be very welcome.

Albé Snyman




**AGRA NEWS**

# AGRA CONTINUES TO PRESENT PUBLIC LECTURES DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

During 2009, Nine Agra Public Lectures attended by 342 farmers were presented. Continued positive feedback received and the demand for further knowledge motivates the ongoing presentations of Public Lectures. Agra is inspired by the farmers' commitment to improve production and management practice through the application of gained knowledge, and especially the demand for more opportunities of acquiring a solid basis for farming.

In the past, Agra focused on informing on general farming principles and approaches. It was decided to build on this foundation and to address selected topics in further detail. The first Public Lectures in Gobabis, Outjo and Windhoek will focus on product knowledge of a variety of veterinary and nutritional supplementation products required for livestock production. A two-day course on Karakul pelt production is scheduled to be presented in Keetmanshoop on 18 and 19 May. Furthermore, Agra will address specific needs identified by presenting additional tailor made Public Lectures.

The Public Lectures are presented in addition to the regular "Farmers' Ladder to Success' lectures in Windhoek.



**Agra Public Lectures  
- 2010 -**

Oshakati	- 26 February
Gobabis	- 19 March
Outjo	- 09 April
Windhoek	- 21 April
Keetmanshoop	- 18 May

For more information contact  
Gunther Roeber at 061 2909337 or  
[guntherr@agra.com.na](mailto:guntherr@agra.com.na)



# LUCKY WINNERS OF THE AGRA BIRTHDAY PROMOTION

## AGRA NEWS

Mr Marius Theron of Otjiwarongo and Mr Werner Kandjoze of Omaruru were the two lucky winners of the Corsa utility vehicles that were given away as first prizes in the Agra Birthday Promotion.

The drawing of the names of these two winners was done after the Agra Annual General Meeting on 27 November. From a "bakkie-load" of entries, the CEO, Peter Kazmaier and the Senior Manager: Retail and Wholesale, Arnold Klein, under the supervision of Agra's internal auditor and while the members were looking on, drew the cash slips of the winners. Clients had to spend N\$1 000 or more to be entered for the competition.

At the handover of the cars during the Christmas market at the Auas Valley Shopping Mall on 4 December, the two elated winners both stated that they have been clients of Agra for years. Marius and his wife, Helesia do their shopping for the farm at Agra Otjiwarongo and Werner usually shops at Agra Karibib. None of them has won prizes before. Marius said: "In my forty four years of life I have never won anything and by shopping at Agra I also won a fifty dollar voucher and a braai set this year!" Mr. Kandjoze, a big man, stated that he plans to sell his Corsa because it is a bit too small, but he was just as excited about winning such a big prize.



Marius and Helesia receive the keys for their Corsa from Agra's Operations Manager, Tobie Barlow



Werner Kandjoze gets into his new car



# AGRA STAFF MEMBERS GIVE BIG

## AGRA NEWS

Hearing children's voices singing Christmas Carols and seeing the gratitude on their faces for small gestures of goodwill, is a big reward to the giver. Agra staff members and visitors to the Auas Valley Shopping Mall experienced this on Friday 4 December, with the launch of the PMK Social Project by Agra staff.

After personally witnessing the needs of and inputs made to help the less fortunate, Agra staff initiated a project to help needy children on a more sustainable basis. Contributions in cash or in kind will be done monthly by staff members. The CEO of Agra, Mr Peter Kazmaier is the patron of the project. To launch the project, Christmas

gifts from Agra head office staff members for 130 kids were handed over to a group of children. The children sang Christmas Carols to add to the festive spirit of the Christmas market in the Auas Valley Shopping Mall.

Additionally to the Christmas gifts, a large amount of groceries were also handed over to organizations selected by Agra staff members.



In the picture, Patrick Kaaheke, project coordinator brings a message before the children and Agra staff sang together



# DIE NUWE GRASBOEK

## VELDMANAGEMENT

Het u geweet dat die groot naaldgras *Enteropogon macrostachys* 'n baie smaaklike gras is wat goed op versteurde gronde groei en van die klam omgewing van omurambas en vleie hou? Dit is dus by uitstek geskik vir veldherwinning in die Otjozondjupa streek.

Lees hierdie en ander interessante feite in die nuwe grasboek "Grasses of Namibia", geskryf deur M.A.N. Müller en opgedateer deur Johan van Eck in 2007. Bestel u boek, asook 'n uitgebreide artikel oor "Die volhoubare bestuur van weiveld in Namibië" vir N\$150 by AGRA Professionele Dienste. Bel vir Marieta Grobler by 061-2909208 of stuur 'n e-pos aan [advies@agra.com.na](mailto:advies@agra.com.na) en ons sal u boek na u naaste AGRA tak toe stuur.



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18 February	Veld management during the rainy season	Dr. Axel Rothauge
25 February	Infectious diseases of livestock (part 1)	Dr. Rainer Hassel
4 March	Introduction to farming finances	Günther Roeber
11 March	Veld quality and lick supplementation in the rainy season	Dr. Axel Rothauge
	Principles of breeding and cross breeding	Pieter Hugo
	Infectious diseases of livestock (part 2)	Dr. Rainer Hassel
Dates will be announced	Identification and value of grass and bush species (veld practical)	Dr. Axel Rothauge
	Functional efficiency of beef cattle (practical)	Kiep Lepen
	Basic immunology and vaccines	Dr. Rainer Hassel
	Veld quality and lick supplementation in the dry season	Dr. Axel Rothauge
	External parasites and remedies for their control	Dr. Rainer Hassel
	Cash flow planning	Günther Roeber
	Measuring carrying capacity of the farm	Dr. Axel Rothauge
	Internal parasites and remedies for their control	Dr. Rainer Hassel

### Registration Fee

**N\$100 per person, per lecture which includes:**

- lecture handouts in English or Afrikaans
- light refreshments

### Enquiries/Bookings

**Contact:** Ms. Marieta Grobler  
**Telephone:** 061 - 290 9208  
**Email:** [advies@agra.com.na](mailto:advies@agra.com.na)

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# ZOONOTIC DISEASES

## PART 4

### ANIMAL HEALTH

#### Zoonoses caused by Fungi

##### 1) Ringworm (Dermatophytosis)

Ringworm occurs commonly in dogs, cats, horses, cattle, sheep and rodents. It is a fungal infection of the superficial layers of the skin caused by *Trichophyton*, *Microsporum* or *Epidermophyton* species of fungi. It is a direct zoonosis, transmitted by direct contact with infected animals or asymptomatic carriers. The disease is also referred to dermatomycosis, dermatophytosis or superficial fungal infection. No worms are associated with Ringworm. Fungi form spores which can infect the environment, bedding and equipment, like grooming equipment. These spores are very resistant and can survive for a very long time and spread the disease. Usually young animals and children are affected, especially if they are malnourished. Children pick up the infection through direct contact with pets, esp. cats. Veterinarians and kennel workers are also at risk to contract the disease. If older animals or adult humans are affected, it is usually an indication of some underlying immunodeficiency. Vitamin A deficiency can increase the susceptibility to ringworm.

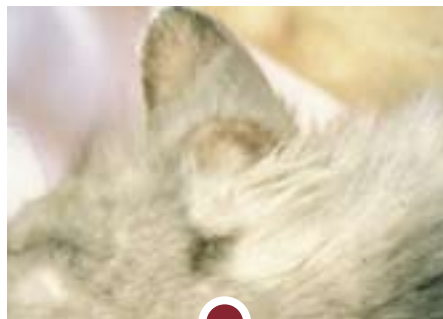
#### Transmission:

- The cat is the most common source of infection for humans.
- The disease is transmitted through fungal spores which penetrate the superficial layer of the skin.
- Spores can be picked up either by direct contact with an infected animal, from the infected environment or from infected equipment.
- Warm moist weather favors fungal growth.
- Overcrowding of animals in stables or kennels, vitamin A deficiencies, poor condition and malnutrition are contributing factors.

**Symptoms:** Ringworm lesions are very superficial skin lesions and form typically round, oval or irregular ring shaped areas, which are reddened due to inflammation, show hair loss and develop crusts and scales, resembling dandruff. Most cases are not associated with any irritation or itch, and mostly occur on the head, face and arms.



Dog with extensive facial dermatophytosis



Two ringworm lesions on the ear of a cat



Close up: fungal skin infection



Human dermatophytosis (ringworm) lesions

#### Prevention and Control:

- Isolate and treat infected animals, esp. pets in close contact with humans.
- Consult your veterinarian for the treatment of infected pets.
- Reduce contact with pets, esp. children and pets.
- Destroy bedding of infected animals.
- Animals which have been in contact with known infected animals should receive preventative treatment.
- Grooming equipment, leads, collars must be sterilized.
- Prevent overcrowding in kennels and catteries, esp. where stray animals are kept.
- Ensure that animals receive sufficient amounts of a complete well balanced diet so that they are in good condition and do not suffer from deficiencies, which may affect their immune system.

## 2) Systemic Fungal Infections:

They are not important in this country.

### Food Borne Diseases Zoonoses and Food Poisoning

Products of animal origin like red meat, milk, eggs, poultry, fish and other sea food are part of daily human nutrition. In the previous chapters mention was made of some specific animal diseases, which can be transmitted to man, via infected food.

Food Poisoning specifically refers to disease conditions, which follow very rapidly upon the consumption of food contaminated by biotoxins produced by certain bacteria as they multiply rapidly. Animals which shed these bacteria for example in their milk or faeces play an important role in food poisoning in man. Bacteria commonly associated with food poisoning are **Staphylococcus aureus** and **Salmonella**.

**Staphylococcus aureus:** These bacteria cause a classic form of food poisoning. Milk produced by cows suffering from mastitis caused by **Staph. aureus** contains large numbers of these micro-organisms. When this milk is kept at 20°C, rapid multiplication and toxin production occurs. Heating will kill the bacteria, but will not destroy the toxins. 2 – 6 hours after ingestion humans suddenly develop symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain, lasting generally for 6 – 24 hours.

**Salmonella:** Food poisoning as a result of **Salmonella** contamination is the result of ingestion of food containing large numbers of these bacteria. Symptoms develop 6 – 36 hours after consumption and are characterized by severe diarrhoea and moderate abdominal pain. Fever, nausea, vomiting and headache also occur commonly. Symptoms can persist for up to a week. The more bacteria are present in the contaminated food, the faster the onset and the more severe the symptoms will be.

Practically all animals can be carriers of these bacteria without showing any symptoms and can act as sources of infection. This applies to mammals, reptiles, birds and even insects. Carriers mainly excrete the bacteria in their faeces. This also applies to human carriers. Water becomes contaminated and contaminated water in turn can contaminate food. Food often becomes contaminated during processing. The bacteria can penetrate eggs if the shell is cracked, becoming a potential source for human infection when eaten or even when handled.

Water turtles, rats, mice and other rodents, as well as water fowl can be responsible for contamination of water.

Milk and meat can become contaminated during processing, handling and storage, with **Salmonella** originating from dairy cows, rats, mice or humans. When work surfaces, hands and equipment become contaminated by infected food, the contamination can be spread in this way to other food. The bacteria are readily killed by heat during cooking.

#### Prevention and Control:

- Healthy animals, healthy workers and strict hygiene, including frequent hand washing and disinfection as well as cleansing and disinfection of equipment and utensils, during handling and processing of food.
- If food is kept below 4°C bacteria do not multiply actively.
- Heat treatment by pasteurization, sterilization, cooking or UHT treatment will kill the bacteria, but not any toxins already produced.

# ZOONOTIC DISEASES CONCLUSION

**Emerging and re-emerging zoonoses and disease forming organisms of public health concern.**

**Zoonoses are generally defined as diseases occurring naturally in animals that are transmissible to humans.**

Infectious diseases have helped shape the course of human history and there is every indication that these diseases will continue to be significant global events. A number of driving forces and social changes are now creating an unprecedented environment that favours the expansion and perhaps even acceleration of a group of these diseases termed emerging and re-emerging zoonoses.

The term “emerging disease” has a fairly broad definition and in general includes any one of three disease situations:

- A known agent appearing in a new geographic area
- A known agent or its close relative occurring in hitherto unsusceptible species
- A previously unknown agent detected for the first time

With all three categories the majority of diseases emerge into humans from an animal source. 75% of all emerging diseases that have affected people over the last 20 years have occurred as a result of animal disease forming organisms or pathogens moving into the human host. Examples



**Ebola virus**



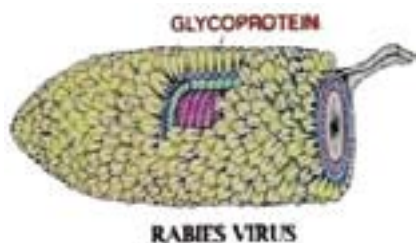
**Human Monkeypox lesions**

of recent emerging zoonoses include Ebola Virus, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE, Mad Cow Disease), Nipah Virus, Rift Valley Fever, Alveolar Echinococcosis, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Monkeypox.

The emergence and re-emergence of zoonotic diseases present challenges not only to veterinarians but to all professions concerned with public health. The 21<sup>st</sup> century holds the threat of even more emerging diseases, fed by an ever increasing human population. When overpopulation and crowding occur water shortages develop, hygiene cannot be maintained and malnutrition develops, leading to disease and epidemics. The ultimate objective therefore is to protect and preserve

to continue on page 14...

both human and animal health. Unfortunately, as new zoonotic diseases emerge, they tend to take centre stage and become the focus of our attention, often causing severe panic or even hysteria, sometimes out of proportion to the real threat and remove the focus from well established serious zoonoses like rabies and hydatid cyst disease that affect and kill thousands of people annually worldwide.



● (schematic presentation)

People with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) are much more susceptible, in general, to zoonotic diseases, including tuberculosis and related mycobacterial infections, toxoplasmosis, cryptosporidial enteritis, food borne Salmonella infections and other enteric organisms; Campylobacter, Listeria and Yersinia. It is possible that other zoonotic diseases that are dormant or infrequent, like leptospirosis, plague, glanders, melioidosis and pseudoglanders may emerge in individuals with AIDS or other immunocompromising conditions. AIDS-like infections have been described in lions and tropical cats of Africa as well as in domestic cats, generally associated with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) infections. None have caused human disease.

In Australia and Malaysia new diseases have been reported in horses and swine that also affect humans. They are caused by a morbillivirus, a measles-like virus related to Canine Distemper and Rinderpest viruses. Another virus killed many wild felids in a zoo in Egypt. Many emerging viral diseases that have a rodent or unknown animal host have caused devastating fatal diseases in humans in Africa and South America, like Lassa Fever and South American Haemorrhagic Disease in Argentina and Bolivia. In Africa Ebola Fever and Marburg Disease, the latter a dormant monkey disease, have caused death in patients and medical personnel. Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever has caused death in African travelers and abattoir workers in the Middle East.

The death of veterinarians in the western USA from plague, and reports of serious illness in veterinary technicians and cat owners, has focused attention on both domestic and feral cats and the larger mountain lion and bobcats as carriers of this ancient disease. Dogs and wild canids are likewise involved in plague regions in the USA. The involvement of cats since the 1970s is evidence of zoonotic diseases in a changing environment. The plague bacterium *Yersinia pestis* may be more adapt to finding new hosts or new foci as seen in other emerging diseases.

The



*Yersinia pestis* bacteria; fluorescent microscopy

Hantaan virus complex was first noted in 1951 in Korea, where it caused a haemorrhagic disease also affecting the kidneys. Various forms of the disease exist worldwide, and it is a major public health problem in China.

The bacterium *Capnophaga canimorsus* which occurs naturally in the mouth of dogs and cats can cause disease and even death in persons suffering from other debilitating conditions like alcoholism.

The exposure to animals kept as pets is steadily increasing and also the types of animals kept as "exotic pets" is also increasing, which in turn increases the danger of disease transmission. Another source of infection is exemplified by the SARS epidemic caused by a novel coronavirus that appeared in southern China in 2003, first among food preparation workers exposed to civet cats and other "exotic animals" during their preparation as "special foods".

Microbes continue to evolve and adapt and now, with the tremendous acceleration and expansion of global trade, human movement and travel, and the increasing global population of both people and animals, the microbes have an even greater opportunity to adapt, change and be transported to new hosts and ecosystems often with catastrophic results. Changes in our weather, climate, ecosystems, animal production systems, economic development and land use continue to alter the dynamics between hosts, vectors and microbes in new ways.

Humans have altered their behaviour and lifestyles and in doing so they have increased their risk of becoming exposed to zoonotic pathogens. Other factors which have favoured the emergence and persistence of zoonotic pathogens include changes in medicine and industry, the growing number of elderly people, greater number of individuals suffering from immunosuppressive diseases, a shift to world urbanization and an increase in the number of people living in poverty and social disruption. In addition we are now concerned about the growing number of pathogens that are acquiring resistance to antimicrobial substances and the reduction of resources in support of veterinary public health infrastructure and services.

There is a new appreciation today for the growing range of factors creating conditions for the emergence and re-emergence of zoonotic pathogens, and they include:

- Movement of animals; Livestock and poultry, exotic animals, consumption of bush meat, live animal markets.
- Ecologic changes.
- Travel and commerce
- Human demographic changes and behaviour.
- Technology and industry; food production and processing, globalization of food supplies, changes in food processing and packaging.
- Microbial adaptation and change.
- Breakdown in public health measures.
- Terrorism

It is clear that infections will continue to emerge and that many

infections will be zoonotic and this emphasizes the importance of close co-operation between the veterinary and human health professions in combating these threats. While the task is large, it is essential to human survival.



### Common sense or hysteria?

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Dr Rainer Hassel  
Animal Health Consultant



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# RANGELAND MANAGEMENT IN SUMMER

## VELD MANAGEMENT

### 1. Maintaining perennial grass vigour

Most of Namibia, especially its savannas and woodlands, receives summer rainfall. About 95% of total annual precipitation falls during the summer months October to May and more than 80% from January to April. Vegetation grows more rapidly during this hot-wet period than at any other time of the year and re-grows readily after defoliation by higher animals (farm livestock, wild game animals), insects (locusts, termites) or fire. The vegetative growing period during the rainy season in summer is thus an opportunity to maximise vegetation yield so that sufficient grazing is available now for animals to grow rapidly and reproduce, to carry over a big grass surplus into the dormant season in winter, and to rehabilitate the veld. These aims are achieved by, primarily:

- Maintaining the vigour of perennial grasses,
- Keeping rainwater on the farm, and
- Thinning encroaching bushes.

### Perennial grasses dominate veld in good condition

Perennial grasses are the dominant plant component in pristine savannas and dry woodlands; the major veld types in Namibia. Perennial grasses comprise as much as two-thirds of all plants found in this veld (Figure 1) and more than 90% of all grasses. However, rangeland mismanagement has depleted them in many farming areas. Over-utilized perennial grasses die out within 2-4 years and are replaced first, by annual grasses and weeds and later, by woody plants (bush encroachment) (Figure 1).

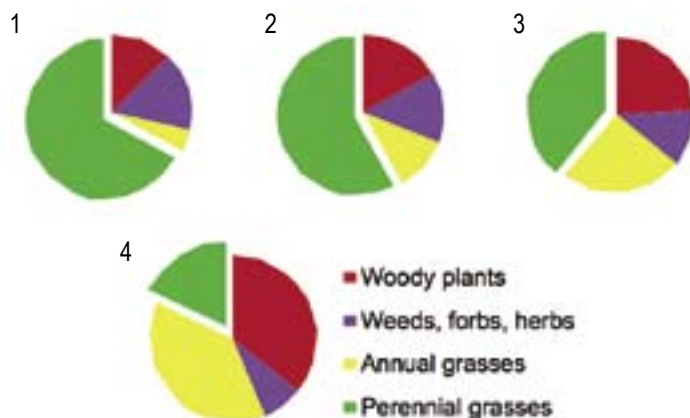


Figure 1: Structural changes in a savanna caused by intensified grazing. Stocking rates increase from 1-4 from 15-20, 20-50, 50-80 to >80 kg animal mass/ha (equivalent to about 30, 10-20, 5-10 and <5 ha/LSU)

### Over-utilization changes the composition of the grass sward

Apart from these structural changes in the vegetation, the grass sward also undergoes a species change in that the desirable, highly preferred grasses are replaced by less desirable and unpreferred grasses (Figure 2).

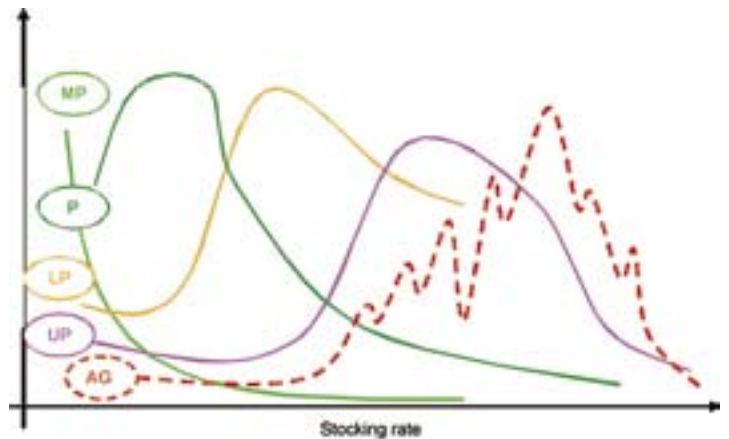


Figure 2: Compositional changes in a savanna grass sward due to over-grazing, illustrating the rise and demise of perennial grasses<sup>1</sup>:

- MP = most preferred species (e.g. *Antheophora pubescens*, *Brachiaria nigropedata*, *Digitaria spp.*, *Panicum spp.*)
- P = preferred species (*Schmidtia pappophoroides*, *Melinis repens repens*, *Centropodia glauca*, *Eragrostis lehmanniana*)
- LP = least preferred species (*Stipagrostis uniplumis*, *Eragrostis rigidior*)
- UP = unpreferred species (*Aristida stipitata*, bristle-grasses generally)
- AG = annual grass species (*Schmidtia kalahariensis*, *Eragrostis cylindriflora*, *Enneapogon cenchroides*, *Aristida stipoides*).

The "most preferred" perennial species are leafy, nutritious and potentially highly productive grasses that are extremely sensitive to grazing. A good stand of "most preferred" grasses is only possible at very low stocking rates (<25 kg animal mass/ha; <18 ha/LSU). Economic conditions mostly preclude such low stocking rates and consequently, these species have become extinct on most Namibian livestock ranches because the long-term stocking rate exceeded their defoliation tolerance. However, their occasional occurrence in the veld is a sign that soil and environmental conditions are still favourable to support a healthy grass sward.

The "preferred" perennial grass species are much liked by cattle, sheep and grazing game animals and are relatively tolerant of defoliation; able to withstand stocking rates of 40-50 kg animal mass/ha ( $\pm 10$  ha/LSU). These grasses should be the foundation of any extensive ranching enterprise. If they have disappeared from the veld, it should be a priority to re-establish them. Most of these species are known for their tolerance of drought and respond positively to the occasional fire.

The "least preferred" perennial grasses are dominant on farms with a long-term stocking rate of 50-80 kg animal mass/ha (6-9 ha/LSU). They are bulky, tough and stalky grasses. In summer, animals utilize mainly their seedheads (inflorescence) and only take stalks and leaves in winter, when digestibility is poor. Thus, their photosynthetic factory is minimally affected in summer and these grasses flourish and increase in abundance, but this leads to declining animal production. They are

<sup>1</sup> : If you don't know the different grasses, get the book "Grasses of Namibia" from AGRA Professional Services! Phone 061-2909208.

useful drought reserves. However, *Stipagrostis uniplumis* is surprisingly susceptible to drought and has a short lifespan (probably <7 years). It seeds prolifically and re-establishes easily, maintaining its stand despite adverse conditions.

“Unpreferred” perennial grass species are true pioneers that establish on degraded soil and under extremely adverse conditions. Their abundance indicates poor and unsustainable veld management. They cannot support acceptable levels of animal production as they are too unpalatable to be utilized to any great extent. They are, however, very valuable as ground cover, preventing soil erosion and local aridification.

The abundance of annual grasses depends on rainfall and competition by perennial grasses. They need repeated, light rain showers to germinate and establish and cannot compete against well-established perennial grasses. They only become more abundant as the grass sward weakens. When immature, most annual grasses are palatable and nutritious. However, they grow and mature quickly, losing much of their nutritive value and palatability. Dead standing annual grasses make poor fodder that does not meet the maintenance requirements of ruminants. Good stands form a dense mat (cover) in the dry season that inhibits germination of seeds in the subsequent rainy season. It requires trampling by animals to chop up the mat, turn it into mulch and create favourable germination conditions.

### Growth cycle of perennial grasses

The first veld management priority of a livestock farmer is to farm with perennial grasses in general. The second priority is to ensure that the more preferred perennial grass species are more abundant than the less preferred perennial grass species. How then, can the vigour of perennial grasses be maintained? To answer this, one first has to examine the growth cycle of a perennial grass plant (Figure 3).

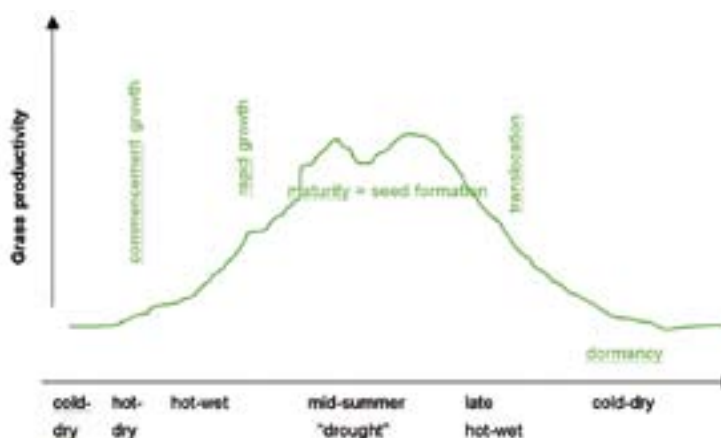


Figure 3: Idealized growth cycle and growth rate of a perennial grass plant, indicating five different phases

### Grass productivity

Figure 3: Idealized growth cycle and growth rate of a perennial grass plant, indicating five different phases

Commencement growth of a perennial grass tuft is initiated by rising night temperatures and increasing daylight length; independent of rainfall (i.e. during the “hot-dry” season). The plant draws on reserves accumulated in its “crown” (top part of roots and basal growth points, Figure 4) to grow

stalks and leaves. Since these reserves are limited and soon depleted, commencement growth is not sustainable unless it rains. It produces the first “green flush” so much-loved by animals that they go chasing around the farm in September, looking for greens to eat after the long, dry winter and become thinner in the process. Repeated defoliation of grasses by grazing at this phase accelerates reserve depletion and stops grass growth.

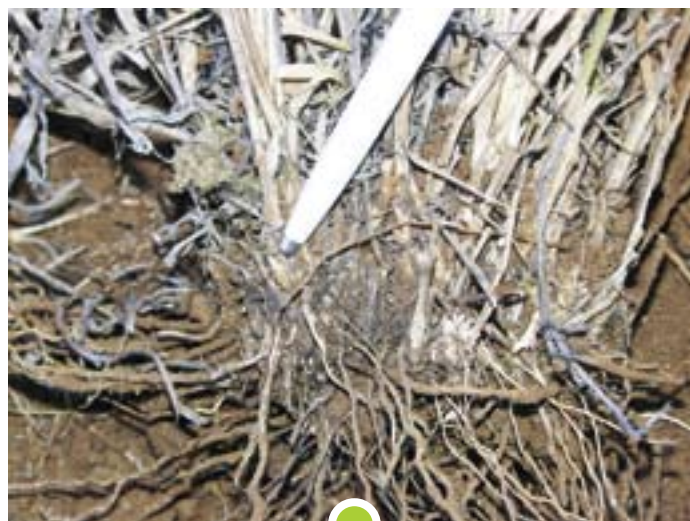


Figure 4: The compact, dense, fibrous “crown” of a *Schmidtia pappophoroides* tuft with clearly visible basal growth points (tiller buds, at pen tip) that originate from just below the soil surface and are thus well protected from grazing. Note the rhizosheath around the roots that aids moisture absorption and may, in some grass species, house nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

Once the rainy (“hot-wet”) season starts, active photosynthesis in the leaves and stalks results in rapid plant growth. The rate of growth depends mainly on rainfall (very little on soil fertility) and is often interrupted by a typical “mid-season drought” in January (north-central) or February (southern Namibia). Namibian grasses use the  $C_4$ -pathway of photosynthesis that enables them to keep on photosynthesizing despite intense solar radiation and with relatively little moisture. The downside of this adaptive process is that more structural compounds are produced that reduce the digestibility of  $C_4$  grasses compared to temperate-area  $C_3$  grasses. Moderate defoliation by grazing during rapid growth is beneficial as it stimulates tillering (the formation of new stalks) and increases production. Repeated and severe defoliation decreases the photosynthetic capacity of the plant as leaves are removed faster than they can be replaced. This “second bite” by animals that stay in a camp or grazing area for too long, weakens the plant severely and may cause it to die off if repeated for 2-3 seasons. Different grass species have different tillering patterns and grass abundance can be manipulated by grazing during tillering. Since the tillering patterns of Namibian grasses are not known yet, no more specific grazing recommendations can be given than to avoid a “second bite” during the rainy season.

The health of roots mimics the health of leaves. If the leaves are small and weak, so is the root system and the tuft re-grows only slowly. In contrast, a healthy, vigorous tuft has a healthy, large root system and is able to re-grow quickly after grazing (Figure 5).

to continue on page 18...



**Figure 5:** The root system of an over-grazed (extreme left) and ungrazed grass tuft (extreme right) at the same stage and under identical conditions. The middle three tufts experienced typical grazing pressure.

At some stage of the rainy season, determined by a combination of day length, favourable growing conditions, genetic make-up of the plant and defoliation intensity, the stalks (grown tillers) of a perennial grass turn reproductive and produce a seedhead or inflorescence. The inflorescence of flowering grass is most convenient to identify different species. It is supremely adapted for pollination and distribution of seeds by wind (e.g. *Stipagrostis uniplumis*). Seeds can also be distributed by animals (e.g. *Setaria verticillata*) and may even burrow into the soil (e.g. *Heteropogon contortus*). In some grass species, viable seeds are formed without fertilization (apomixis). The seed of most perennial grass species require after-ripening for 6-12 months to improve germination. Grass seed does not stay viable for long, losing viability after 3-5 years. Seeding is relatively unimportant for the survival of perennial grasses as parts of the crown can stay alive for decades, even centuries. However, seeding becomes important when tufts die or grasses are re-introduced to barren areas.

When a stalk turns reproductive and sets seed, its leaves are fully mature and stop photosynthesizing, even though they stay green and show no signs of senescence. The stalk stops growing and ceases production. It means that it has recovered fully from previous defoliation and all reserves have been replenished. Therefore, to maintain the vigour of a perennial grass plant, it should only be re-grazed when it sets seed.

In the translocation phase after flowering, organic nutrients are transported from the leaves to the crown where they are stored as reserves to fuel future growth. Translocation rapidly reduces the nutritive content of the above-ground parts of the tuft. Severe grazing at this phase may prevent the plant from laying down sufficient reserves so that next season's commencement growth is inhibited.

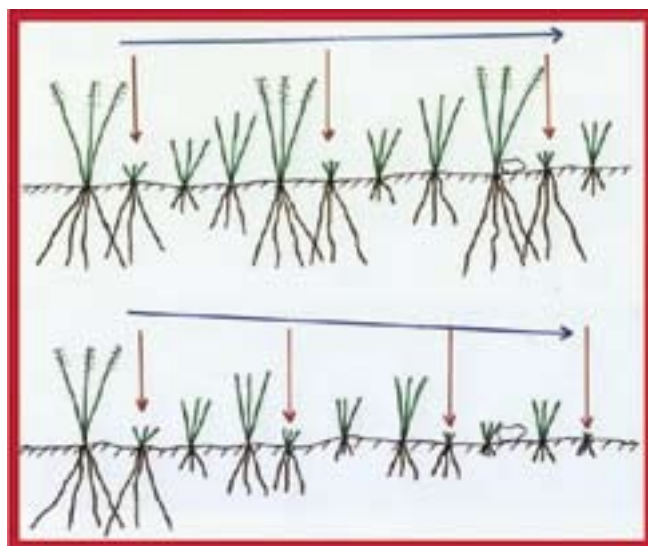
Hereafter, the grass tuft enters dormancy, usually initiated by the first frost and supported by the desiccation of soil and plant because the rains have ended. Hardly any metabolic activity occurs during the cold-dry season and the grass tuft does not re-grow when grazed. It is important to note that the perennial grass tuft does not "rest" in winter; it does not replenish its reserves and it does not recover from previous defoliation. That happened before flowering, during the rapid growth phase. The implication for grazing management is that everything that can be eaten is already there at the end of the rainy season; nothing more will be

produced. In fact, the standing fodder progressively loses nutritive value by leaching and oxidation. If the accumulated fodder is not enough, animals will go hungry and starve. In desperation, they will dig out grass tufts to eat roots, thus killing off the plant. It is therefore vitally important to determine the carrying capacity of the veld at the start of the dormant phase so that animal numbers can be adjusted to the available standing fodder, a topic to be addressed in a later edition of the "Ring".

### Maintain vigour of perennial grasses

Maintaining the vigour of perennial grasses, especially of preferred species, requires adequate recovery periods after every grazing opportunity so that the grass sets seed before it is re-grazed. This recovery can only happen during the rainy season. A farmer should therefore not plan the summer grazing rotation in advance in the office, but should periodically evaluate each camp or grazing area to decide, which one has best recovered from previous grazing and is ready to be grazed again. In this system of "open rotation", weaker camps that take longer to recover will automatically enjoy a longer recovery period, while better camps will be utilized sooner and more often.

If a farmer is forced repeatedly during a rainy season to use camps in which the perennial grasses have not set seed since the previous grazing, it is either a poor rainy season and grasses do not have enough moisture to grow, or the farmer has too many animals. In both cases, the number of animals should be reduced rapidly to balance feed demand and supply better, otherwise animal production will suffer and perennial grasses will become over-grazed (Figure 6). If this happens 2-4 seasons in a row, the preferred species will die out and the rangeland, grazing animals and farmer will be left poorer. Contact AGRA Livestock agents or e-auctions@agra.com.na to arrange for the emergency disposal of livestock.



**Figure 6:** The vigour of perennial grass tufts is maintained if they receive adequate time to recover to seed after grazing during the rainy season (top). Vigour declines if the recovery period is too short and tufts are grazed again before they have set seed (below). Red arrows represent grazing and blue arrows tuft vigour.

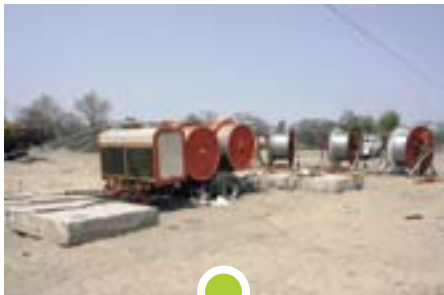
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Animal Production Advisor



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...temporarily anchored in the ground ...



... before being pulled up and tensioned by a special hydraulic engine.

During the last quarter of 2009, AGRA's Professional Services advised NamPower on the control of bush and trees in the transect underneath the Caprivi Link Inter-connector 350 HVDC powerline. While the powerline was still being constructed, Dr. Axel Rothauge of Agra PSD drove the whole transect from Gerus near Otjiwarongo to the Mururani Gate to the Kavongo, to assess the state of woody growth in the transect. Being a rangeland scientist, he also kept a keen eye on the state of the surrounding farmland.

The characteristics of the transect on each of the 61 individual farms affected by the powerline, involving 57 different owners as well as the Mururani Traditional Authority, were determined. A bush control plan was compiled subsequently and presented to affected land owners on 1 December 2009 near Otavi for comments and approval. Agreement was reached speedily and the plan will be implemented in January 2010 already, when an arboricide applicator team will start spraying woody growth and re-growth on the Gerus – Mururani transect with Access™. Dr. Rothauge will train the spraying team prior to commencement to do a proper and effective job, adhere to safety procedures, limit spillage and lateral damage and generally adhere to Forest Stewardship Council guidelines. Negotiations are on-going to deliver a comprehensive, long-term vegetation management plan to NamPower, as it is foreseen that a single bush control exercise will not suffice to achieve NamPower's objective of easy access to their powerline, especially in the densely bush-enroached and wooded north-eastern areas of Namibia. This is an example where the involvement of AGRA Professional Services created a win – win situation between NamPower and the farmers and land users over whose land the powerline was constructed.



A NamPower construction worker scales one of the 42 m high towers to check on the tension of the newly-installed electricity conductor cable.



A ground transect that is cleared of bush and trees and provides easy access to the powerline, yet does not interfere with farming operations, is an essential requirement of NamPower.



The NamPower Caprivi Link Interconnector powerline avoided cutting through scenic and valuable kaaat (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) forests in the Kavango region.