

## WEANERS ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT PRICE INCREASE

**D**uring the first week of Agra's weaner auctions, about 7200 weaners were sold for a total of N\$21,3 million. It is anticipated that a total of 12 000 weaners will be sold during this year's series of weaner auctions, which is slightly more than the numbers sold last year (11 229).

During the auction at Gobabis, where 1800 calves were sold, prices jumped to up to N\$16,35 per kg for tollies. At preceding auctions held at Outjo, Otjiwarongo, Rehoboth and Grootfontein, weaner calves came under the hammer for up to N\$15,50 per kg. This compares very favourably to the 2005 weaner auctions, where prices averaged just under N\$9,00 per kg compared to this year's anticipated average of at least N\$14,00 per kg, marking an increase of 55%. Should the remaining weaner auctions which are scheduled to take place before the end of August, remain at this level, it is anticipated that prices per head will log in at an average price of N\$2 940 compared to N\$1 890 obtained during 2005.

The weaner auctions start yearly during July and end during August.

According to Agra's, Senior Manager, Livestock, Pieter Hugo, commercial and communal producers alike, welcome the good prices achieved during the auctions, which result in an improved profitability of weaner breeding and production. This will be to the benefit of Namibia as a whole.

According to Hugo, it is anticipated that the

turnover of the remaining weaner auctions hosted by Agra during August will add another N\$12 million to the N\$21 million achieved during the first auctions. This achievement reinforces the prominent role played by Agra in the industry, who is by far the largest livestock auctioneer in Namibia.

According to Kiep Lepen, Manager, Stud Services of Agra, weaners sold were generally of high quality. It was notable that a

fairly large number of calves weighed in at 200kg or less, nevertheless not compromising quality. Participation at the annual weaner breeders' competition was very good and according to Lepen, the top quality weaners again highlight the exceptional quality of Namibia's cattle. In addition to numerous regional prizes for the various sub-categories, the overall winner of the weaner auction will receive a cash prize of N\$6000 as well as 20 bags of lick. In Agra's next newsletter the final results with a brief overview of all auctions, will be published.



*Brahman and Brahman cross breeds of exceptional quality were part of the weaners that came under the hammer during the current series of weaner auctions presented by Agra.*

## LOVEDALE FARMING EN PIET JACOBS KOMPLIMENTEER KARAKOELBEDRYF MET TOP GENETIESE MATERIAAL

**D**ie gesamenlike karakoelramveiling van Lovedale Farming cc (Mnr Malcolm en John-Willie Campbell) en Mnr Piet Jacobs wat op 26 Julie te Keetmanshoop plaasgevind het, het karakoelramveiling tot 'n verdere hoogtepunt gevoer. Al 67 ramme wat aangebied is, is verkoop teen 'n gemiddelde prys van N\$9 385. Mnr Jacobs se ramme is

vir gemiddeld N\$10 636 verkoop. Hy het die duurste ram verkoop. Die spesifieke ram is verkoop vir N\$20 000 aan Mnr Rossouw Strauss van die plaas Ukamas, Ariamsvlei. Lovedale Farming cc se ramme is vir gemiddeld N\$8 117 van die hand gesit. Verskeie ramme is verhandel teen pryse bokant N\$10 000.

Agra het die veiling in die Canyon Hotel

aangebied waar 45 kopers deelgeneem het aan hierdie prestige veiling. Dalties Greeff van Agra was die afslaer.

Mnr Pieter Hugo, Senior Bestuurder Lewendehawe, Agra, het tydens die veiling die telers geloof vir die uitstaande gehalte wat op die veiling aangebied is. Hy het verwys na hierdie karakoeltelers wat genetiese ingenieurs van formaat is. Daar is met passie

*vervolg op bl. 2*

# REDAKSIONEEL

**O**ns woon en boer in 'n land met top lewendehawe produsente, wat kwaliteit produseer waarop ons trots is en wat met vrymoedigheid in 'n wêreldmark kan kompeteer.

Die jaarlikse reeks speenkalfveelings van Agra het rekordpryse opgelewer. Daar word met verbasing oor die N\$15 per kg, wat behaal word, gepraat. Die vraag het by my opgekom of dit nie miskien realistiese pryse is vir die uitstaande gehalte wat aangebied is, wat ons produsente nou kry en verdien nie. Die landbou insetkoste styg voortdurend terwyl die produsenteprys nie in verhouding dieselfde styging toon nie. Produsente wat statistieke byderhand het, sal kan getuig dat vleispryse vir die afgelope aantal jare redelik konstant gebly het, teenoor die stygende insetkoste. Ons is dus saam met die speenkalfprodusente bly vir die "goeie" pryse wat behaal word.

Die Karakoelbedryf het eweneens getoon dat ons land met 'n unieke hoë kwaliteit produk boer waarop ons trots en die wêreld jaloers is. Twee van ons land se voorste Karakoelramtelers (Lovedale Farming CC en Piet Jacobs) het tydens 'n Karakoelramveiling, hoogstaande teelmateriaal tot die bedryf beskikbaar gestel. Rekordpryse is vir uitsoek teelmateriaal betaal. Gemeet in die waarde van hierdie unieke produk is die rekordprys van N\$20 000 vir 'n uitsoek Karakoelram nie te veel gevra nie.

Soos voorspel het velbrande, vroeër as wat verwag is, ernstige afmetings begin aanneem. Ons glo dat ons boere die nodige voorsorg getref het en sal tref om toekomstige brande te voorkom of te beperk. Onberekembare skade is reeds aan groot hoeveelhede hektaar kosbare weiding aangerig. Paraatheid is die wagwoord vir die vinnige bestryding van veldbrande. Dra sorg dat alle moontlike bestrydingsmaatreëls in plek is. Dit is verblydend om te hoor van die wedersydse fisiese en onbaatsugtige ondersteuning wat aangebied is tydens brande. Ons sal mekaar noodwendig in getalle moet ondersteun om te verhoed dat, soos iemand dit gestel het, "ons land afbrand."

Soos belowe verskyn 'n volledige artikel oor Salmonella in hierdie uitgawe. Dit is noodsaaklik om kennis te neem van die kontrole en voorkoming hiervan.

Lesers se positiewe reaksie op die hoofartikel oor waardetoevoeging in die vorige uitgawe word waardeer. Ook die skriftelik kompliment uit die suide is bemoedigend. Stuur u bydraes en reaksie aan die bemerkingsbestuurder van Agra, Mev Birgit Hoffmann by Privaatsak 12011, Windhoek of per e-pos aan [birgith@agra.com.na](mailto:birgith@agra.com.na)

*Gedagte vir die maand: Thomas Jefferson, derde VSA president (1743-1826) het gesê: "Ek hoop dat ons wysheid saam met ons mag sal toeneem. Mag ons daardeur leer dat hoe minder ons ons mag gebruik, hoe groter ons wysheid sal wees."*

*Koöperasiegroete*

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## LOVEDALE FARMING EN PIET JACOBS

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en groot fokus in hierdie twee stoeterie oor jare genetiese bouwerk gedoen, wat daartoe aanleiding gegee het dat 'n aanbidding van hierdie formaat gemaak kon word.

Dit komplimenter volgens Mnr Pieter Hugo, die karakoelbedryf geweldig. Juis in die stadium wat die bedryf baie bedag is op laegraadse pelse wat aangebied mag word, weens die ongekende hoë pelspryse wat tans geld.

Dit is verblydend dat vanaf die voorpunt in die bedryf (vanaf hierdie twee stoeterie waar die "genetiese ingenieurswese" plaasvind) genetiese materiaal die bedryf binnevloei, wat 100% in lyn is met die teeltdoelstellings van die bedryf.

Hy het dit verskeie male tydens die veiling beklemtoon dat die eienskappe wat die SWAKARA pels in die buiteland vestig, naamlik die unieke patroonvormende eienskappe (haar- en haarfollikelrangskikking), die gesogte tekstuur en glans van die karakoelhaar asook die korter haarlengte, juis tydens die veiling in die boonste grade te koop aangebied is. Dit is beskikbaar aan elke karakoelboer om in te koop en dit verder te gaan vermeerder en te versprei in die bedryf.

Die Namibiese pels word met trots onder die naam SWAKARA bemark. Hierdie handelsmerk het die afgelope tyd spreektaal geraak in die internasionale pelsbedryf.

Die Namibiese karakoel telers het egter juis nou 'n groot verantwoordelikheid om met uiters streng seleksieprosesse te verseker dat die uniekheid van SWAKARA behou en uitgebou word.

Veilingsmateriaal, soos aangebied op hierdie veiling, komplimenter hierdie proses en stel genetiese boustene tot die beskikking van die res van die Namibiese telers om te help bou aan die swart diamante se status, aldus Mnr Pieter Hugo.



**Mnr Daniel Motenga, (middel) 'n bekende Karakoel produsent tydens die Karakoelramveiling van Lovedale Farming cc en Mnr Piet Jacobs.**

### Donkies moet gesien word

*Dit is verpligtend dat weerkaatsers aan donkies se ore aangebring moet word om sigbaarheid in die nag moonlik te maak. Die oorplaatjies is nou by alle Agra takke beskikbaar. Dit kan ook handig te pas kom vir wild wat byvoorbeeld op veilings aangekoop word om dit vir trofeejagters uitkenbaar te maak.*

# PREVENTING DISEASE IN GOATS IN NAMIBIA

Dr Stan Miller, Animal Health consultant, Course presenter and Co-ordinator

**D**isease prevention requires good care of the livestock, especially appropriate management and nutrition as well as an effective program for vaccination, deworming and dipping.

Diseases can have various causes. Some of these causes are germs such as bacteria, viruses and fungi. The following is a brief list of situations that could result in goats becoming sick.

## **Dirty surroundings**

Keeping goats in a dirty kraal could result in them eating or drinking food or water contaminated with droppings. These droppings may contain germs or parasites that could make the animals sick. Try to clean out kraals where possible. Remove manure regularly.

## **Poor condition**

If your goats are in poor condition or if you are not feeding them well they can become sick easily. Supplement goats' rations with extra feed during winter and remember that pregnant does (bokooie) need more food to produce healthy kids.

## **Stress**

Stress plays an important role in causing disease. Animals tend to get sick if they are very stressed. Overcrowding, under feeding, transportation and management procedures such as tail docking, castration, ear-tagging all cause stress. Try to reduce stress by treating the animals in a relaxed manner. Avoid overcrowding. Make sure they have adequate food. If you are transporting them, make sure they have enough water, that they do not become too hot/too cold and also do

not load too many goats on one truck.

## **Not vaccinating animals**

Vaccinating goats against diseases that occur frequently in your area can help to prevent certain diseases. It is usually more economic to vaccinate your animals than to treat or cull sick animals. If not vaccinated before giving birth they will not be able to pass on protection to their young through their first-milk. This could result in some kids becoming very sick a few days or weeks after being born. It is also important to vaccinate does against tetanus, esp. if the castration is not done hygienically, because then the kids will also be protected against this disease. Obtain veterinary help to decide what vaccines to use and when to use them.

## **Lambs/kids not suckling enough**

In order for the kids to receive enough protection they should be allowed to suckle as much as possible from their mothers, especially in the first day or two. Allow the does to stay with their kids for the first days after giving birth. If you have extensive grazing try to keep the kids with their mothers at night so that they may be allowed to suckle.

## **Not checking new animals**

Buying goats to replace or increase your flock without checking them carefully could bring all kinds of diseases onto your farm. Make sure that you buy from a dealer you can trust and check the goat properly to ensure that it carries no diseases. If you are unsure about what to look for, ask your local animal health technician/stock inspector or veterinarian for help.

## **Ear-tagging, tail docking and castration**

These practices are used by most small-stock farmers in the management scheme for their kids. Care must be taken during these operations to prevent kids from becoming sick - esp. getting tetanus. Therefore, keep the wound areas clean and check them regularly. Use a wound/antiseptic powder if necessary. Always boil your instruments, such as knives, for at least 15 minutes before you use them on your animals. Wash and boil the instruments again if they become dirty while you are using them and before you continue to use them.

## **Worms**

When goats have a high number of worms they are usually not productive and tend to lose weight. This can also put them at risk of getting diseases. If you notice signs of worm infestation such as weight loss, diarrhoea or paleness of the eyes and gums then you should de-worm your animals. Make sure you use the correct remedy. If you see no improvement after de-worming, consult your local veterinarian or stock inspector.

## **Ticks and mites**

Ticks and mites can cause many problems in the case of goats. Certain ticks can cause paralysis and also damages the skin. Mites cause mange which can lead to high production losses for farmers through skin-damage and can even lead to deaths. Treat your goats for ticks and mites. Try to follow a program for strategic dipping (if necessary) or use topical or injectable anti-parasitic remedies.

A proposed immunisation program for Goats will be published in the next issue of The Ring.

## **DRENCHING: (Large- and small stock)**

*The AGRA Livestock Specialist reminds you to dose your animals every 6-months against de-worming to prevent illness and mortality. Remedies are available in liquid fluid to be injected under the skin or can be dosed through the mouth depending on the product that you choose to use. It is important to know that the remedy must be at all times kept cool / at room temperature. It is crucial to read the enclosed reference leaflet so that the correct administrative procedures can be followed. Contact any Agra livestock official for further advice on this very important management practice.*

## **REMINDER**

**Rynand Mudge se Wit Brahman Veiling  
verskuif vanaf 22 September na  
19 Oktober om 11:00  
te Agra/Standard Bank Ring, Windhoek.**

**Paresis Produksie Veiling verskuif vanaf  
26 September na 13 Oktober om 11:00,  
Agra Veilingskrale, Otjiwarongo.**

## INNOVATIVE TRAINING COURSE FOR FARM WORKERS

**T**he Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), in partnership with Agra, presented its first one-week Practical Farming training course for farm workers.

A total of 22 farm workers attended the course at the CCF headquarters outside Otjiwarongo. Aimed at improving the farm worker's understanding of farming production principles and systems as well as providing hands-on practical training, this course is geared to include people often left out of the training process due to literacy limitations, said Mr. Gunther Roeber, who designed the course. In addition to tackling topics such as cattle husbandry, herd and pasture management, vaccination programmes and animal health, conservation training on the role and value of predators, predator kill identification and conflict resolution were also dealt with.

Farm workers form an integral part of any successful functioning farming operation; as such, it is critical that they become efficient and effective team players in the farming team and community.

Bonnie Schumann, course coordinator at CCF, said 'the group worked extremely hard, and were very motivated to learn and participate. Feedback from the group has been extremely positive and we have already set dates for the next course, which will be run in September.



*Mr & Mrs Hengombe and their farming team, now well equipped with knowledge.*

The Cheetah Conservation Fund is a Namibian non-profit trust, dedicated to the long-term survival of the cheetah and its ecosystems.

Since 1990, the organisation has developed education and conservation programmes based on its bio-medical cheetah research studies, published scientific research papers and has presented educational programmes over 120 000 outreach school learners, donated over 230 Anatolian livestock guarding dogs to commercial and communal farmers as part of the CCF innovative non-lethal livestock management programme, and has established a cheetah genome resource bank of cheetah sperm, tissue and blood samples.

Research into cheetah biology and ecology has greatly increased our understanding of the fastest land animal and education programmes for schools and the farming community help change public attitudes to allow predator and humans to co-exist. However, despite the many successes of CCF programmes, the cheetah is still Africa's most endangered big cat.



## GELUK aan ons UITHALERKOKKE!

Die Vleisraad van Namibië het vir alle uithalerkokke die geleentheid gegee om hul beste Namibiese lamsvleisresep in te stuur en sodoende 'n kans te staan om ongelooflike pryse te wen!

Die Vleisraad van Namibia wens **Lichen Engelbrecht** van Windhoek geluk as die wenner van die kompetisie.

Geluk ook aan **Miriam Swanepoel** van Windhoek sy wen die tweede prys en **Jennifer Janse van Rensburg** van Omaruru wen die derde prys.

Die Vleisraad van Namibië bedank alle deelnemers wat aan die kompetisie deelgeneem het.

Hou die pers dop vir toekomstige kook avonture met Namibiese Lam.

Die Vleisraad van Namibië kan gekontak word by: tel: +264 61 275840 of besoek ons webtuiste by [www.nammic.com.na](http://www.nammic.com.na)



# PREVENT SALMONELLA TO ENSURE CONTINUES EXPORT OF NAMIBIAN BEEF

Dr. Jessey Kamwi, Chief Veterinarian, Veterinary Public Health  
Directorate of Veterinary Services Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

The expectations of European and other consumers are high with regards to food safety and quality of their food. They expect modern production systems to provide full transparency on animal health, food safety issues, environmental standards of production and animal welfare.

There are new EU Regulations on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs which makes it a requirement that foodstuffs should not contain micro-organisms, or their toxins or metabolites in quantities that present an unacceptable risk for human health. In these new requirements the levels for Salmonella in a given sampling area must be zero. Currently, in the event that Salmonella is detected, slaughtering hygiene, a review of process controls and of origin of animals should be improved.

- Salmonella is a bacterial cause of food poisoning worldwide. They are common commensal of all animals and birds. There are about 2000 different strains of Salmonella bacteria, but only about 10 strains cause problems in humans.
- Salmonella is found in the intestinal tracts and waste of livestock, poultry, household pets, birds and other mammals. Environmental sources of the organism include water, soil, insects, factory surfaces, kitchen surfaces, animal feces, raw meats, raw poultry and raw seafood to name a few. Despite strict sanitation practices in food processing plants, it is virtually impossible to guarantee that raw meat or poultry will be Salmonella-free.
- Salmonella infections can be life-threatening for the very old or very young or for persons already weakened by serious disease. Some of the symptoms or complaints due to acute Salmonella food poisoning are nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, chills, fever or headache. Although some of these cases can be fatal, symptoms usually last for 3-5 days.

## Control/prevention of Salmonella contamination of carcasses/meat at abattoirs:

Most export abattoirs in Namibia are HACCP certified. HACCP is a systematic approach to food safety (identification, evaluation, and control of food safety hazards), made of 7 principles which aims to prevent or minimize hazards from occurring at every step of production/processing etc. Implementation of such a system is now compulsory in the EU. The food business operator is responsible in ensuring that the products that are produced in his/her establishment are safe and fit for human consumption and are of a high quality. Protecting the consumer from the different hazards (biological, chemical or physical) that could contaminate meat and meat products are the responsibility of the abattoir manager. The veterinary officials check for compliance of this assurance. Salmonella contamination of meat and meat products is one of the biological hazards that should be prevented due to its effect on humans.

The following are some of the hygiene practices that could minimize or prevent contamination of meat during slaughter and processing:

- Personnel working in the abattoir and cutting plant must be free of communicable diseases and must have regular medical checkups (once or twice a year staff members are tested for Salmonella, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, e.g. venereal diseases) to confirm that they are not carriers of, or suffering from communicable disease.
- The water used for production/processing etc. at abattoirs must be potable, i.e. fit for human consumption (enforced by law). The water at abattoirs is tested regularly to check for possible bacterial contamination of water.
- Adhering to good manufacturing and hygienic practices during production, (slaughter, cutting, packaging etc.) wearing protective clothing, covering of hairs, mouth and beards, regular

washing of hands during production and between handling each carcass or product and after using the toilet etc.

- Adhering to good manufacturing practices by ensuring there is no contamination of the carcass during dehiding as the hide usually is dusty and often soiled with feces.
- Ensuring that the alimentary tract is secured so as to avoid spillage of alimentary tract contents during evisceration
- Training of personnel in the various skills and regularly refresher courses
- Constant supervision of staff members to ensure adherence to hygienic practices
- Wetting of the hide prior to slaughter; a practice not acceptable to many as the wet hide could be a source of contamination during dressing (dehiding).
- Slaughter of cattle with clean hides (in a number of European countries, cattle with dirty and soiled hides are not presented for slaughter due to possible contamination of the meat during the dressing procedure).

## Control of Salmonellosis on the farm (principles of control include prevention of introduction and limitation of spread within a herd):

- The majority of Salmonella infections in a herd and over a period of time are symptomless. Animals shed Salmonella through saliva, nasal secretions, urine, milk and feces posing the greatest problem in controlling spread of Salmonella, as they contaminate water bowls/troughs, feed and feeding troughs, oral treatment equipment etc.
- Stress situations that precipitate clinical disease, include irregular or deprived access to feed and water, minimal levels of nutrition, prolonged transportation, parturition, subclinical ketosis, sudden ration changes, hypocalcaemia, ration maladaptation, inadequate bunk space

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