

Karakul Producers Acknowledged

The Annual General Meeting of the Karakul Producers' Forum took place at the Canyon Hotel in Keetmanshoop on 27 August 2003. A total of 34 producers and guests attended the Meeting.

Guest speaker, Mr. Berndt von Kunow, addressed the Forum on the 100 year existence of the karakul industry in Germany. Mr. Jeremy Duffield presented a paper on the relationship between curl development, hair length and the price of pelts.

Further discussion points raised included the availability / quality of karakul wool sold in South Africa and the marketing of grey pelts.

As in the past, the Meeting was closed with a glamorous dinner, this year hosted by the Karakul Council, Agra and Standard Bank Keetmanshoop.

Awards were made to Agra's Top Ten Producers, each selling more than 400 pelts at the highest average price. The winners, in alphabetical order, are:

1. A&H Farmpartners
2. Duvenhage JH
3. Grobbelaar JJ
4. Jacobs PJH
5. Karsten GT
6. Lovedale Farming Co.
7. Meyer JT
8. Steenkamp P
9. Van Wyk LC
10. Visser Boerdery

Awards were also made to the top SWAKARA producer, A&H Farmpartners, and runner-up, Mr. JJ Grobbelaar.

The Elite ram auction, at which 80 Karakul, 11 Boerbok and 10 Van Rooy rams were offered, took place the following day, 28 August 2003. Although the average price was lower than the previous year's price it was encouraging that, despite difficult times, 97.5% of the Karakul offering was sold.

Auction results as follows:

BREED	OFFERED	SOLD	% SOLD	AVG. PRICE (N\$)	HIGHEST PRICE (N\$)
Karakul	77	75	97.50	2,562.00	6,250.00
Boerbok	17	11	64.71	2,772.73	5,250.00
Van Rooy	10	1	10.00	1,000.00	

A karakul ram, bred by Mr. PA Karste, fetched the highest price of N\$ 6,250.00 from buyer Mr. D. Motinga.

In retrospect, it can be stated that the event was truly most successful.