Breed characteristics

Cow characteristics

Bull Characteristics

Afrikaner, the core of crossbreeding

Champion in the ox system

Afrikaner stands his ground in the feedlot

Afrikaner, the drought tamer

Proven master in meat quality

Afrikaner in symbiosis with game

Afrikaner and Global Warming
The Afrikaner

Breed characteristics

The Afrikaner is a Bos Taurus Sanga indigenous to South Africa

- **Birth Weight**
  The Afrikaner gives a light calf at birth (30-35 kg) and facilitates the birthing process, especially in heifers.

- **Meat quality**
  - The Afrikaner has a double gene for meat tenderness which, together with the excellent marbling, makes the breed’s meat very tender and juicy.

- **Market Ready**
  The Afrikaner with a medium frame has the ability to round-off from the veld and produce natural beef (veldvleis). However they also feed excellently on a cheap ration.

- **Parasite-resistance characteristics**
  The Afrikaner has a thick skin with strong subcutaneous muscles which give excellent protection against crawling and flying ectoparasites.

- **Tick contamination**
  The Afrikaner has an inherent resistance to ticks. This characteristic can greatly improve by way of selection and holds great promises for the future.

- **Eye protection**
  The Afrikaner has deep-placed eyes with movable eyebrows which offers protection against midges, flies, moths and solar radiation.

- **Handling of heat**
  The Afrikaner has a thick skin and short glossy coat which helps with heat radiation.
The Afrikaner

- **Walking Ability**
  The Afrikaner has excellent walking ability and strong hard hooves which enables them to walk up mountain slopes and graze in sandy plains.

- **Veld utilization:**
  The Afrikaner is very hardy and can maintain a reasonable condition in prolonged drought times by not only eating grass, but also eating leaves.

- **Temperament**
  The Afrikaner has a good temperament and breeds progeny that are easy to work with.

- **Longevity:**
  The Afrikaner can easily serve (and be served) up to 12 years and its good teeth enable them to still maintain their condition even at an elderly age.

- Well adapted in difficult circumstances.
- Natural resistance to particularly tick-related diseases.
- Long productive life.
- Fertility: As veld cattle, the Afrikaner is the cattle breed that showed the greatest improvement in ICP over the last 10 years. (Prof. F. Nesser, University of the Free State)
- Ease of calving - because of the roofy rump, the Afrikaner's birth canal is spacious. Low birth weight of calves makes distochia an absolute rarity.
- Low calf mortality. Calf weight varies between 30-35kg and calves are vigorous.
- Excellent mothering ability (protects calves and looks after them) and milk production.
- Good temperament.
- Medium frame size, thus low maintenance requirements and high economic efficiency.
- Ideal cattle breed for extensive meat production.
- Excellent damline for crossbreeding.
- Outstanding walking ability.
- Good cow efficiency (calf weight / cow weight).

Trials conducted at Glen Agricultural College showed that 100 Afrikaner cows with calves were able to perform better than 80 Taurus cows with calves on similar grazing, due to their low maintenance needs.

In a similar trial at NWLOI large frame cows were compared with Afrikaner cows. Although the large frame cows weighed 20% more, they needed 38% more surface area to meet their nutritional needs.

Cow characteristics
Bull characteristics

- Long productive life.
- Helps decrease the frame size to obtain a better adapted animal.
- Exceptional ability to adapt in a wide variety of environments.
- Outstanding crossbreeding benefits.
- Good libido.
- Small calves at birth.
- Progeny are quickly market-ready from the veld at an appropriate age to deliver ideal carcasses.
- Shorter feeding periods in intensive feeding programs.
- Top quality meat for domestic and export markets.
- Prolapse and sheath problems are minimal (trails at the University of Pretoria).
AFRIKANER -

the core of crossbreeding

- Animal scientist propagate the idea that the cattle industry should be divided into father- and damlines. The industry therefore requires a damline with a small to medium frame which can be paired with a large frame bull to produce a heavy weaner calf. The Afrikaner cow complies 100% with this.

- Calving problems are almost unknown in pure as well as Afrikaner-hybrid-cows which are served by other breed’s bulls, because of the fact that the Afrikaner has the ability to inhibit calves weight and also its outstanding conformation. In a hybrid-trial with large frame bulls on Afrikaner cows, the average birth weight increased by 3kg (36kg) without any calving problems experienced in 300 births.

- One of the benefits of an Afrikaner bull in a crossbreeding program is also lower birth weight.

- The Afrikaner cow has of the main maternal characteristics namely; fertility, milk production and growth rate, thus cow efficiency and with that a protective urge towards their calves. They also carry this over to their crossbred progeny. Outstanding fertility performance and productivity is obtained with Afrikaner two-breed rotational crossbreeding systems at Vaalhartz, Mara and Sandveld research stations (JM Lepen). Further trials by Prof. F.J.C. Swanepoel and N.H. Casey found that Afrikaner x Bos Taurus hybrid-cows averaged a 30% advantage over their purebred control groups in production per cow (mated).

- Afrikaner hybrid-calves are very uniform which can be marketed either from the veld or the feedlot. The farmer therefore has more marketing options.

- The Afrikaner thus also carries his good adaptability-qualities over to his progeny. The result - a crossbred animal which is better adapted to extensive veld conditions.

- Low-input cattle like Afrikaner cattle decrease the input costs of dipping, dosing and lick-supplements. Trials have shown that Afrikaner cows’ lick intake per head is only 48 to 54% of that of large frame cows, while the average body mass only differed by 100kg.

- In a crossbreeding program the Afrikaner contributes to better the meat quality grading and not necessarily lower carcass mass.

The state and the ARC recommend that indigenous breeds and specifically the Afrikaner cow be used as damline within breeders’ crossbreeding programs. There are current trials underway at Vaalharts to identify ideal crossbreeding. New farmers, emerging farmers and existing commercial farmers should strongly consider transforming their basic cow herd to the Afrikaner cow-line.

The recommendation is that all progeny should be marketed, but that there should be kept to primary crossbreeding. You cannot afford not to utilize these benefits. Afrikaner cows or bulls in a crossbreeding program place the cattle farmer on a profitable road.
• One of the more profitable systems is the marketing of cattle from veld grazing. The Afrikaner meets this as they are ready for marketing in the shortest possible time and is the only breed that can be rounded-off from the veld at the most desirable age to produce the ideal carcass. Trials by Dr. H.J. Meaker in the table below proves just this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeds</th>
<th>No. of animals</th>
<th>Av. Mass (kg)</th>
<th>Start of test</th>
<th>Completion of test</th>
<th>Av. Carcass mass (kg)</th>
<th>% of animal ready for marketing 2.5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaner</td>
<td>AFR</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>188.3</td>
<td>446.1</td>
<td>222.2</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaner crosses</td>
<td>AFR X</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>191.9</td>
<td>471.0</td>
<td>236.6</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonsmara</td>
<td>BO</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>294.9*</td>
<td>518.4</td>
<td>277.1</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahman</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>212.2</td>
<td>491.1</td>
<td>272.7</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahman crosses</td>
<td>BR X</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>203.5</td>
<td>513.0</td>
<td>284.2</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahman x Simmentaler</td>
<td>BR X SIM</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>256.3</td>
<td>610.2</td>
<td>333.2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahman x Hereford &amp; Angus</td>
<td>BH/BA</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>238.9</td>
<td>534.6</td>
<td>292.9</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drakensberger</td>
<td>DRAK</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>199.3</td>
<td>522.7</td>
<td>287.1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simmentaler</td>
<td>SIM</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>231.0</td>
<td>561.0</td>
<td>306.6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex x Angus</td>
<td>S/SA</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>202.0</td>
<td>497.2</td>
<td>270.0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINISHING OF OXEN ON VELD AS INFLUENCED BY BREED TYPE:

*Trial: Eversley Experimental farm, Dundee – Dr HJ Meaker*
the champion in the ox-system

- The Afrikaner carries these good rounding-off from the veld characteristics over to its crossings, especially with early maturing breeds such as the Hereford, Angus and Sussex and oxen can be marketed from the veld as early as 18 months of age.
- Tests undergone at the Omatjenne Research Station, proved the Afrikaners to be the best out of five breeds in terms of grading. Due to a better grading, the income per carcass of the Afrikaner Cattle was the highest: 15% higher than that of other breeds and 26% higher than that of the fourth breed.
- An alternative way of marketing is to round-off 20 or 30 month old oxen for a period of 60 days on cheap roughage and concentrates. The following tables show the results of oxen which were rounded-off by Dr. P.M. de Kock on this system. The veld-oxen were prepared on veld grass, sugar bean hay and lick.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Commencing weight</th>
<th>End weight over 60 days</th>
<th>Kg Increase</th>
<th>Increase per day/kg</th>
<th>% Slaughtered</th>
<th>Carcass weight</th>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>986</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>51.34</td>
<td>290.67</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>R7541.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>990</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>54.41</td>
<td>299.26</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>R7780.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>291.50</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>R7579.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>54.46</td>
<td>275.02</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>R7150.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Commencing weight in kg</th>
<th>End weight over 60 days</th>
<th>Increase kg after 60 days</th>
<th>% Slaughtered</th>
<th>Carcass weight</th>
<th>Increase per day</th>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>893</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>52.69</td>
<td>352.89</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>ABI</td>
<td>R8648.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>912</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>53.41</td>
<td>312.45</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>ABI</td>
<td>R7455.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>928</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>286.20</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>R7011.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>951</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>53.42</td>
<td>296.48</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>ABI</td>
<td>R7263.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It appears that the Afrikaner cattle can produce natural beef (veldvleis) with a definite higher profit margin which enables the farmer to produce healthy, tasty and juicy meat to the consumer. It is therefore not necessary to be dependent on weaner calf prices nor on feed costs to market profitable beef. However, it is important to breed with the right breed: the Afrikaner, either in its pure form or as a hybrid with other breeds. Choose the logical indigenous breed - The best bred Afrikaner Cattle.

**AFRIKANER STANDS**

**his ground in the feedlot**

The Afrikaner has a shorter feeding period in intensive feeding programs (about 90 days). Other breeds’ feeding period ranges from 110-150 days to reach the same grading. It is particularly good if feed margins drop. The frequency with which the Afrikaner calves sojourn in the feedlot is faster (four times compared to three times a year of other breeds).

Hybrids between the Afrikaner and European breeds do particularly well in the feedlot with the advantage of better meat quality, not weaker grading and not necessarily lower carcass mass (De Bruyn 1991).

Afrikaner Cattle have a very favourable feed conversion ratio. Feed conversions of average 6.1 and lower are achieved.

The breed does particularly well where farmers feed a high percentage of roughage with concentrate feed. The Afrikaner is therefore sought after by farmers whom use their own roughage and concentrate feed and thereafter market their animals on A2 - A3 grading.

As feed rations are so expensive, Dr. P.M. de Kock from Pronk Afrikaners did a full test for rounding-off of Afrikaners for a slaughter-oxen competition during Thabazimbi Agricultural Show.

Two groups were placed in the feedlot:

Fed oxen: Weaned at 210 days (7 months) and fed for 90 days with a cheap ration of lucern and osma rounding-off maize.
AFRIKANER STANDS

his ground in the feedlot

These calves were slaughtered at 10 months
Fed oxen - Weaner calves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Weaning weight</th>
<th>Weight after 90 days</th>
<th>Increase in weight after 90 days</th>
<th>Kg carcass weight</th>
<th>Increase (kg per day)</th>
<th>% Slaughtered out</th>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Price per carcass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z30</td>
<td>225kg</td>
<td>380kg</td>
<td>155kg</td>
<td>213.56kg</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>56.65</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>5766.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>240kg</td>
<td>425kg</td>
<td>185kg</td>
<td>242.62kg</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>57.09</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>6540.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>220kg</td>
<td>370kg</td>
<td>150kg</td>
<td>211.12kg</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>57.06</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>5700.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>200kg</td>
<td>370kg</td>
<td>170kg</td>
<td>212.08kg</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>57.32</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>5726.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary:
Average daily gain: 1.83kg per day
Total income 4 oxen: R23 733.27
Total expenditure 4 oxen over 90 days: R13 146.00
The 2nd test was done with 19 month old Afrikaner oxen
Fed with a cheap ration over 60 days of lucerne and Osma and slaughtered at 21 months of age.

Fed oxen 19 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Starting weight kg</th>
<th>End weight after 60 days</th>
<th>Increase after 60 days in kg</th>
<th>Increase per day in kg</th>
<th>Carcass weight</th>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>% Slaughtered out</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>287.05</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>57.41</td>
<td>R7750.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>284.6</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>56.92</td>
<td>R7684.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>302.5</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>R8167.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>262.56</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>54.70</td>
<td>R7089.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFRIKANER STANDS

his ground in the feedlot

Summary:
Average daily gain: 1.88kg
Total cost over 60 days: R6 322.00
Total income of the group: R30 690.94

If R/kg purchase weight is calculated on the initial weight, it comes to R37 500.00 @ R14.00/kg live weight.
Total expenditure = R53 964.00
Total income = R45 424.21
Total profit = R460.21
Profit/carcass = R57.52

Therefore this trial proves that Afrikaners successfully perform in a feedlot with 1.86kg/day increase on a cheap ration and the farmer can be the marketer of his own product and does not have to be ruined by low weaner calf prices. But note: Intensive feeding of calves purchased can still be done at a slight profit of R57.52 per carcass. Other participants in the slaughter competition in Thabazimbi mentioned that up to R2000 loss per carcass was suffered on animals of foreign breeds, fed with standard rations.

AFRIKANER –

the drought tamer

- The Afrikaners are medium frame cattle with low self-maintenance needs. In mixed veld where summer and winter lick is provided, the Afrikaner cows’ intake was only 48-54% of the large frame cows, whilst the body weight differed by average 100kg.
- The Afrikaner has the ability to utilize pasture with relatively low nutrient. The table below illustrates the effect of different feed flow programs on income. (C de Brouwer)
• Afrikaner Cattle have the ability to utilize veld grass as well as leaves and possess good rumen capacity.

• Afrikaner cattle can survive without water for as long as 48-72 hours.

• These cattle have outstanding walking and climbing abilities in mountainous areas.

• The Afrikaner Cattle can handle high temperatures well because of their short hair and thick skin which is ideal for handling heat through evaporation and radiation. The prominent air sinuses in the skull and eyebrows protect the brain from overheating and nervous disorders in these animals.

• The Afrikaner has a long productive life expectancy. The animals have strong teeth so that cows at 14-16 years of age are still able to utilize dry pasture optimally.

• The Afrikaner’s resistance to external parasites, because of their short glossy coat and thick skin (the thickest skin of the indigenous breeds in South Africa), ensure that ticks and skin mites have minimal impact on them. The fewer the ticks, the less diseases and anaemia and thus the stronger their resistance against nature’s elements.

• Because the Afrikaners are African cattle, they developed resistance throughout the ages against diseases that kill foreign breeds. The healthier the cattle, the longer they keep their condition and the greater their resistance to the elements, especially in drought times.

• The Afrikaner feeds well and even if the veld grass is finished, they can survive on a cheap roughage ration and only the necessary licks.
AFRIKANER

proven master in meat quality

In trials between Afrikaner Cattle and other breeds with regards to carcass quality, the following was revealed:

With the Afrikaner the specific meat and cut-yield of the more expensive cuts (hindquarters) were higher than the other breeds. Muscle-to-bone ratio was very much the same as other breeds and total carcass fat was lower than some of the other breeds (Irene/Vaalhartz - Messrs PE Strydom, JF de Bruyn, JH Vermeulen and E Nel). With the sensory-quality-characteristics of the meat like aroma, juiciness, taste and tenderness, the Afrikaner has no equal. The table below shows the meat tenderness results of the Afrikaner, British and European breeds as sensory evaluated and determined by instron resistance meter. (De Bruyn et al. 1986)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BREED</th>
<th>Sensory*</th>
<th>Cutting resistance**</th>
<th>Cutting resistance***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaner</td>
<td>3,05</td>
<td>141,5</td>
<td>90,32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Breed</td>
<td>3,17</td>
<td>130,8</td>
<td>84,29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Breed</td>
<td>2,19</td>
<td>190,0</td>
<td>130,31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Scale out of 5 (5 = softest 1 = toughest)
** Oven-baked sample
*** Cooked in a plastic bag in a pot of water for 1 hour at 180 °C

During the DNA analysis by Genetic Solutions of Australia the “Gene Star “ tenderness marker was used to determine the frequency for tenderness of South African indigenous breeds. The results are shown in the table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RAS</th>
<th>GETOEKS SONDER GENE</th>
<th>EEN GEEN AANWESIG</th>
<th>DUBBEL GEEN GEEN AANWESIG</th>
<th>FREKWENSIE VAN GENE (5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaner</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonsmara</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drakensberger</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nguni</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuli</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Afrikaner therefore has a dual DNS tenderness gene which, in conjunction with marbling, makes the breed’s meat tender and juicy.

In a study on natural beef (veldvleis), it appeared that the Afrikaner was on top of the list and is thus the ideal indigenous breed to produce natural beef (veldvleis). The Afrikaner’s meat quality and in particular the tenderness, was singled out by Dr. Schutte of the RPO. Results are shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Percentage animals with 0, 1 of 2 copies of the gene</th>
<th>Frequency of gene for meat tenderness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaner</td>
<td>0 ( %) 7 * ( %) 93 ** ( %) 96%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonsmara</td>
<td>1 ( %) 6 * ( %) 93 ** ( %) 96%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drakensberger</td>
<td>0 ( %) 36 * ( %) 64 ** ( %) 82%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nguni</td>
<td>2 ( %) 28 * ( %) 70 ** ( %) 84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuli</td>
<td>17 ( %) 22 * ( %) 61 ** ( %) 72%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahman</td>
<td>18 ( %) 50 * ( %) 32 ** ( %) 57%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus</td>
<td>1 ( %) 21 * ( %) 78 ** ( %) 85%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 ( %) 28 * ( %) 70 ** ( %) 84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFRIKANER -

in symbiosis with game

With the increase of many game farms, many game farmers are looking for an indigenous breed which will thrive in one camp with game. The Afrikaner Cattle have certain unique adaptability-characteristics that make it ideal to live in symbiosis with game.

The Afrikaner shows strong resistance to African-related diseases, parasites and temperature differences. Their thick skin with short, smooth, shiny hair handles external parasites very well. Their flexible skin, prominent eyebrows and sinuses also handle the heat extremely well. Apart from these exceptional adaptabilities, the Afrikaner is also known for their ability to walk long distances for food and water in the heat of our African sun. A more ideal extensive indigenous breed one will not find.

By way of natural selection the Afrikaner developed certain genetic traits which make them very resistant to diseases. Observations in recent years have shown that the Afrikaner’s resistance is strong against lumpy skin disease, red water, malignant catarrhal fever and to a lesser extent in heartwater. On the farm of Mr. Leo Martiens in the Thabazimbi Bushveld, about eighteen cattle died due to malignant catarrhal fever in 2003. He then purchased thirty Afrikaner cows as roughage consumers on his game farm and since then no cases of malignant catarrhal fever amongst the Afrikaner Cattle have occurred, but yet amongst the other breeds. Many other farmers have had the same experience.

Another outstanding resistant characteristic of the Afrikaner is the prominent eyebrows, oval, sensitive eyes with long eyelashes and the amber pigmentation. Furthermore, Blue-eye is also a rarity in the Afrikaner. The moth which transfers this disease especially from blesbuck, find it difficult to lay the eggs in the Afrikaner’s eye due the above characteristics.

The grazing strategy of the game farmers should be of such a nature that there is that balance between his grazers and browsers, as it is worked out for the specific farm. Cattle are primarily grazers and because buffalos, white rhinos and hippos are expensive, cattle can be used, especially in acidic or mixed veld, to maintain the balance with browsers.

As the Afrikaner is very hardy and resistant to diseases and external parasites, it is the ideal breed to use in symbiosis with game. So the game farmer then also produces high quality soft, juicy natural beef (veldvleis) for the meat market. This makes farming in its entirety much more profitable.
AFRIKANER -

and global warming

It is predicted that climate change will have an adverse effect on continents in the Southern Hemisphere.

Adverse effects of global warming will include high environmental temperatures, nutritional stress and changing patterns of animal diseases. Afrikaner cattle will also be affected, but as an indigenous breed, can easily adapt.

Temperature, solar radiation, humidity and wind all have a direct effect on ruminants, whilst the digestibility of feed intake, quality and quantity of the grazing, pests and diseases, which will also be directly influenced by climate change, all of which will have an indirect effect on ruminants.

High temperatures and solar radiation reduce feed intake to reduce the heat which occurs during digestion. High temperatures also reduce grazing time, while sweating and water intake increases. Other factors involved in thermal comfort include the skin of the animal (thickness, structure, thermo-insulation, heat absorption and reflectivity) and physical characteristics (size, shape and surface). The Afrikaner has been exposed to such high temperatures for centuries and has developed mechanisms to adapt in such environments. Functional characteristic of the Afrikaner is large skin surface per unit body weight and a short coat that is bright and shiny to reflect heat. The Afrikaner has an oval conformation with a hump, prominent eyebrows and large sinus cavities which help with cooling and reflection. The Afrikaner is also likely to have increased rumen capacity to utilize low digestible grass. The Afrikaner’s resistance to diseases, internal and external parasites will also play a big role in the future.

Cows with Afrikaner genetics can increase the production efficiency in extensive cattle farming (and thus decreasing the carbon footprint of beef).

- Cow efficiency of cows with Afrikaner genetics proves it.
- The table below by Dr M Scholtz and M Mokolobate also prove it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dam breed</th>
<th>Sire</th>
<th>Weaning weight</th>
<th>Number of lactating cows</th>
<th>Kg Calf weaned/LSU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaner</td>
<td>Afrikaner</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaner</td>
<td>European breed</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European</td>
<td>European breed</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global warming will require us to farm with more adapted genotypes and the Afrikaner will have an important role to play here.

Be wise, choose the **Afrikaner**!