

A WORD FROM OSWALD

PRESIDENT: NGUNI CATTLE BREEDERS' SOCIETY



31 March 2020

Dear Nguni members,

We are all now fully aware of the difficult circumstances our whole beloved country is in at present. These circumstances will likely stay for longer and get more difficult than we have at this stage, but as far as circumstances allow us, the council and office will try to continue with our work as good as we can.

As Nguni farmers, it is very important for each one of us to have an offset for all our animals – it is the lifeline of our business.

Therefore, we have a huge focus on feedlots in our strategy. We must build positive relationships with the various feedlots. Also, we need to put best practices in place so that there is demand for our animals and no discrimination against the breed.

To make this a reality, quite a bit of work has already been done and much more work lies ahead. In a brief summary, this is where we stand:

- Kick-off discussions were held with Dewald Olivier from the Feedlot Association to determine the sentiment, positive and negative, on handling Nguni cattle at feedlots.
- Discussions took place with experts on best practices for the Nguni breed at feedlots. They agreed to share their research findings with the society – what a great platform for setting best practices in place.

From these discussions it became clear that a “recipe” per feedlot will have to be developed as the circumstances per area and per feedlot vary greatly. All of the following aspects need to be taken into account when developing best practices.



What does the road ahead look like? A team, under the guidance of Dewald and Bakie de Beer, will visit all the areas' feedlots to establish best practices per area. The team will consist of a council member, a representative from our strategic partner and farmers from that specific area.

May I please urge you to be involved in this? If you would like to be part of the team for your area, feel free to contact Bakie de Beer, as he will head this up from the council side. It is critical that our farmers are involved, as you understand your area the best and can give invaluable input. We would like to schedule these visits as a matter of urgency – **please give your names through to Bakie de Beer at bakie.de.beer@gmail.com.**

As the research per area is completed, the team will compile a guide on best practices for that area. We will share this with our members. The process will not stop there. We will continue to strengthen the relationship with the feedlots and incorporate any new learnings into the guide.

I strongly believe that this is the right approach to follow and through our combined effort we will be able to create a sustainable offset channel for the Nguni breed.

Regards,
Oswald Jannasch

Huge focus on creating demand for Nguni cattle at the feedlots.

Cooperation between the society, farmers, experts in the field and feedlots is key to success.

Be part of the teams to research best practices per area.

We will create sustainable offset for all our animals.

