



NGUNI

This breed from the past for the future is one of only three true indigenous South African cattle breeds. The Sanga cattle (*Bos Taurus africanis*) originally found along the East coast of Southern Africa are known as the Nguni, and they were found wherever the original African Nguni tribes settled (Swaziland, Zululand, Mozambique, Zimbabwe). The Nguni's survival after exposure to infectious diseases for many centuries, attests of an acquired tolerance to these conditions.

The Nguni is a small to medium framed animal with a wide range of colours and colour patterns. Different ecotypes developed in the different agro-ecological regions and this diversity is maintained within the breed.

Research and performance recording revealed that the Nguni:

- is highly fertile with a long productive life
- is the most resistant to ticks of all breeds in South Africa and it shows tolerance to tick borne diseases
- is an excellent dam line for crossbreeding, with no calving difficulties the Nguni and crosses perform well in feedlots
- has meat tenderness characteristics similar to or exceeding that of exotic breeds
- shows higher proportion of total weight and meat in the high priced cuts compared to exotic breeds at the same subcutaneous fat level
- has increased nitrogen recycling back to the rumen, which improves microbial growth and organic matter digestion, reducing the nitrogen requirement on low quality pastures, and therefore needs little or no supplementation during winter.

Although there is no such thing as a universal breed, the Nguni has found its way to almost every livestock production region in South Africa over the past few years. The breed is selected on functional efficiency and breed characteristics, while maintaining its inherent traits. It is an adapted, low maintenance, breed that will ensure sustainable, economic beef production in South Africa in the face of global warming.

The Nguni was recognised as a developing breed in 1983 under the Livestock Improvement Act (1977) of South Africa, and a Breed Society was established in 1986. It is currently numerically the second largest seed stock beef breed in South Africa.

Classification in terms of the Animal Improvement Act: Declared Landrace breed.

NGUNI BEESTELERSGENOOTSKAP CATTLE BREEDERS' SOCIETY

Telefoon | Telephone: 051 448 7302/3
Faks | Fax: 086 696 9362
E-pos | Email: louise@nguni.co.za | liezel@nguni.co.za
Webtuiste | Website: www.nguni.co.za

Postnet Suite 6, Private Bag 30004
Danhof, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9301

