

COVER STORY FOR JOURNAL VOLUME 20: TAFELSIG NGUNIS

Nurturing Excellence in Nguni Cattle Breeding

Tafelsig Nguni Stud is a thriving cattle farm managed by a dedicated father-son duo, Cedric and Joshua Stoch. Starting with a modest nine cows from the old Sinrad herd, our herd has expanded to a robust 450 cows, solidifying our enduring legacy of excellence in Tafelsig Nguni cattle breeding.

In the early 1990s, we expanded our herd by acquiring cows from the Bartlow Combine and the northern Transvaal, thus incorporating diverse genetics to enhance the quality of our Tafelsig Nguni cattle.

Despite the challenges of our sourveld area, where rainfall is limited to only four to five months, our cows not only thrive but also adapt remarkably well. Through the implementation of intensive grazing techniques, we manage to sustain a stocking rate of two cows per hectare during winter. This approach yields an impressive weaning rate of 380 kg of beef per hectare.

Our selective breeding program places a strong emphasis on longevity, fertility, and performance while never compromising on type. When selecting replacement females, we carefully choose cows that have consistently proven themselves over the years, guaranteeing longevity within our Tafelsig Nguni herd. Fertility is of utmost importance to us, as we breed retention females and heifers with the goal of calving at 2 years of age. Non-conceiving animals are promptly culled from the herd. Additionally, we prioritize

performance, with a particular focus on achieving appropriate growth and milk performance values.

Tafelsig Ngunis functions as a mixed farming operation, integrating wheat and cattle within a crop rotation system. Wheat serves as our primary cash crop, and we subsequently utilize mixed medic pastures for cattle grazing. Throughout the summer, our cows graze on wheat stubble lands, allowing us to optimize resources and enhance efficiency.

Our success is firmly rooted in our deep connection to the land and our unwavering commitment to continuous improvement. As a fourth-generation farm, we possess a profound understanding of the Nguni breed. Our dedication to breeding adaptable and high-performing cattle has established us as a trusted name, highly sought after by farmers nationwide.

Looking ahead, our goal is to preserve the rich heritage of the Nguni Cattle Breed while actively contributing to its growth. We are committed to inspiring and empowering a new generation of Nguni cattle breeders, ensuring a prosperous future for the breed and the farmers who depend on them.

We invite you to join us on this exciting journey as we continue our unwavering dedication to nurturing excellence in Nguni cattle breeding, ensuring a brighter future for both the breed itself and the farming industry.

