

Meatmaster Newsletter:

Is there a more any other way than to start this newsletter with a huge sigh? I'm sure each and everyone will agree with me when I say, "WHAT A YEAR!" Every year has its challenges, but 2020 was on an unprecedented level. There were challenges galore in the agricultural sector as well – locusts, ongoing droughts and predators, to which two more species can be added, namely warthogs and bush pigs entering new areas. And so much more that I don't even want to mention. However, the one thing all farmers have in common is hope; and so we carry on, heads held high and with our faith in God.

Office:

Moving our office really could not have been better planned than what has happened this year. Who would have guessed that this year would turn out so topsy-turvy? But the fact that we moved our office at the beginning of the year was a very big advantage for our breed. The drawback was that Lizanne did not get any COVID-19 leave, but the benefit for the Society was that there was no delay in its day-to-day tasks. The Council kept in touch with the office and with one another via WhatsApp, and a council meeting was even held in this manner. The Council would like to thank Lizanne for the good year. Although there were many challenges, working with you was such a joy. To my fellow members of the Council, thank you so much for putting your nose to the grindstone to make 2020 a good year for the breed – one that each of us can be proud of. We still have a lot of work ahead of us to improve structures, but thank you so much for what we have already been able to accomplish. To Mr P.W. van Heerden, who resigned as board member, thank you very much for all of your input, not only this year but also all the years you have been at the helm of affairs as president. We wish you well in your new profession. Mr Van Heerden is still a member of the Society and is co-opted in some areas.

Please note that the office will be closed from 9 December 2020 to 8 January 2021. Lizanne will still be available on her cell phone to members for urgent matters.

INSPECTORS' GATHERING:



An inspectors' gathering was held at Mr Edmin de Klerk's farm at Klerksdorp. An inspectors' gathering is regarded as very important, as it is an opportunity for inspectors to make sure that they are consistent within the breed, across all the provinces. It can happen very quickly that, within a province or region, the influence of one or two inspectors drives the animals in that region to a particular type. There were many discussions about the breed, about what happens at auctions, how to make some procedures run more smoothly, etc. And it is with GREAT EXCITEMENT that I can inform you that the one decision that had consensus was that the breed standards are 100% correct. No changes need to be made; the breed standards should simply be adhered to

and should be applied at auctions and farm inspections. Also, we need to remember that we are farming in Africa and our animals should be between the African and the European type of animals. Animals that lean more towards the European type will be scrutinised against. Our standard principle of "if we fall, we fall to the Africa type" remains the inspectors' motto.

To conclude this section, I want to mention that the solidarity and shared vision of the team of selectors that attended the gathering are something I hope and pray will be preserved within the breed. Someone mentioned to one of the breed protectors that this event had given him so much hope for the future. The solidarity among the ambassadors of the breed, even when there is so much conflict within his community, gave this person a feeling of being home. Ladies and gentlemen, such stories are wonderful to hear! Thank you to that person for sharing his story.

FARM AND AUCTION SCREENINGS:

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank all of the inspectors who have made inspections at farms and auctions over the past year. It is a difficult task, and will always remain a difficult one, but it still is such an important one. We know that

some of you have travelled thousands of kilometres and inspected countless animals this year. These are precious hours you have been away from your own farm and family. Thank you so much for your willingness to perform this ungrateful task, sometimes even accompanied by harsh opposition and criticism.

Should you require a farm inspection, please contact Lizanne at the office.

AUCTIONS:

One of the main features of the past year was the excellent prices. The Society would like to thank everyone who has paid auction commission to the Society. We even have non-members who have paid their 1% commission to the Society, for auctions not held under the protection of the Society. To these people, our deepest gratitude. With the current finances of the Society being very healthy, we have decided to reduce the commission fees to 0.5%. This is just another way in which we would like to thank you.

Please note the following changes to arrangements for auctions:

1. In the past, ewes had to be scanned pregnant for auction.
The new decision is that they do not have to be scanned pregnant. With the type of sheep we farm with, the inspectors can easily identify infertile types of ewes and discard them. Another reason is that the Society cannot take responsibility for a ewe that has been scanned pregnant and then aborts or re-absorbs. Even breeders feel that although an animal is six weeks pregnant, they would rather stipulate only that she has been with a ram, instead of certifying her as pregnant – for their own and the buyer's safety.
2. At auctions, animals will only be selected according to breed standards. There is no difference in selection between registered animals or commercial animals.
3. The term "Under protection of the Society" is discarded completely, as the Society cannot really offer protection. It will only be stipulated that it has been "Inspected by the Society".

Our membership has increased very well throughout the year, and we are grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to promote the breed. Thank you so much!

Our current membership number stands at 167, of which 65 are registered with SA Studbook.

NB: There are four Society auctions throughout the year to which anyone can take his/her animals:

20 March at Fire and Wine – Pretoria

24 June at Upington Showgrounds

12 August at Bloemfontein – national auction

October – Loeriesfontein

Should you be interested in selling at these auctions, please remember to contact Lizanne.

The auction dates for the entire year ahead appear on the last page of the newsletter.

FINANCE:

I am thankful to be in the position that I can tell you that the financial position of the Society is very healthy. This year, we were able not only to build on our savings account as a buffer during the difficult times, but also to keep the buffer and at the same time start to reimburse the inspectors for their transport to auctions, selections and farm inspections. The general feeling is, money in the bank is good, but we want to plough the money you pay to the Society back into the

industry and to you. So, we are drawing up a marketing budget for 2021 and, as previously mentioned, reducing the auction commission from 1% to 0.5%.

JOURNAL:

We would like everyone to start gathering their journal material so that we can bring out the journal as early as possible. You can submit your material from the end of January so that we can start compiling the journal. It has been standard practice that the journal is ready for Nampo (mid-May), but for 2021, we will try to bring it out even earlier. Anyone who would like to publish an article is welcome to contact Lizanne or myself and talk to us about your idea. The cost will be passed on to you in January. Please help us build a strong photobank that we can use throughout the year for the journal, websites and other marketing materials we are planning on bringing out.

ETIESE KODE:

1. Die Genootskap bestaan uit telers met gemeenskaplike belange wat onderling afhanklik is van mekaar en wat verantwoordelikhede deel vir die welvaart van die ras, die Genootskap en medetelers, derhalwe is enige handeling wat die Genootskap, ras of medetelers tot nadeel strek, onetiese optrede.
2. Onetiese optrede kan onder andere die volgende insluit:
 - 2.1 Strydig met die letter en gees van die grondwet, verordeninge, maatreëls en ander vereistes wat van krag is optree;
 - 2.2 Lasterlike of skadelike uitlatings ten opsigte van die Genootskap, sy ampsdraers of medetelers maak
 - 2.3 Onbetroubare en/of vals inligting aangaande oerskap, prestasie, gesondheid en vrugbaarheid van diere verskaf;
 - 2.4 Ter wille van eie gewin, diere met verborge genetiese en/of ander defekte vir teeltdoeleindes verkoop;
 - 2.5 Die kwaadwillige en/of ongegronde dwarsboming van aksies wat op die vooruitgang en bevordering van die ras, Genootskap en mede-telers gemik is;
 - 2.6 Die doelbewuste en kwaadwillige weerhouding van inligting wat die ras tot voordeel en/of tot nadeel kan strek;
 - 2.7 Die doelbewuste toepassing van praktyke wat reeds as nadelig en nie bevordelik vir die ras beskou word.
 - 2.8 Enige handeling of optrede wat neerkom op die doelbewuste belemmering van die teeltvordering van medetelers
3. Die etiese kode impliseer verder dat 'n teler sy of haar kennis aangaande die ras, teling en bestuur na die beste van sy/haar vermoë sal verbreed en aanwend tot voordeel van die ras.

UNITY IS STRENGTH:

In 2012, Mr Danie Visser drew up a code of ethics for us. The breeders felt it was necessary to have such a document to strengthen the team spirit among us and to remind the inspectors that we are ONE team. In point 2.2 of the code of ethics, it is stated that a person should not indulge in “defamatory or harmful statements with regard to the Society, its office bearers or co-breeders”. I want to appeal to every one of you to adhere to this. The breed is growing at a tremendous rate, and the demand for the breed is growing enormously in the commercial industry.

But let us not miss the mark now that things are starting to go so well. Let's maintain our solidarity. If there is someone who is squabbling, let's explain to them that there is room for everyone within the Society, and maintain our unity.

Let's not make ourselves guilty of luring people away from auctions by saying bad things about other people. Share information of your animals or auction with such a person, but let the customer decide where he/she wants to buy. Solomon the wise tells us in Proverbs 6 that one of the seven things that YAHWEH detests is to sow discord. Therefore, I would like to appeal to you to view other breeds as competition, and if someone within the breed is doing well, we are all glad about it with them. There is more than enough room in the sky for us all.

COURSES AND INFORMATION DAYS:

This year, only one course could be held – at Mr Nico Grobler at Ventersburg. After previous courses had to be cancelled due to the pandemic in the country, the demand for this one was very high. More than 50 people showed interest in attending the day. Nico and his team had polished and changed the flow of the Beginner and Junior Course a little, and the feedback from the course attendees was extremely positive. Thank you to Nico Grobler, W.F. Strydom, Uncle Klaas Grobler, Dr Hercu van Niekerk, P.W. van Heerden and Rachel Fouche. Judy Strydom, Marissa and Sonia Grobler made the food for all the course participants.

Two information days were held:



A student course was held at the CUT farm at Bloemfontein. 32 students attended the event. Prof Pieter Fourie and Mr J.W. Morrison were in charge. Animals were borrowed from Mr Andre Conradie. The Society provided books and materials for the course, and each of these students will receive a certificate. The lecture was received very well by the students, and Prof Fourie mentioned that there was a lot of enthusiasm among the students.

A Meatmaster course was also presented to the NWU over two days. On the first day, 82 students attended a lecture at the Gariep Dam's Forever Resort. Day 2 involved practical work and explanations with animals, where Mr Jean du Plessis and Mr Clynton Collett described the breed phenotypically to the students, with the reason for the selection of particular traits. The students were provided with the opportunity to ask questions, and in-depth discussions were held with some of the students who truly emanated a very positive image.

We would like to thank all the parties involved for the sacrifice of giving up your time to address our future farmers and thus plough back into the agriculture.

We aim to present more courses in 2021. Should you plan to attend such a course, please contact Lizanne so that we can keep you informed of the arrangements. In this way, we can also plan where there is a need for courses.

NB: If any of you have done a Senior Course in the past and have not yet received your certificate, please contact Lizanne at the office so that she can send you one.

CONCLUSION:

As 2020 is coming to an end, one hardly knows whether one should look forward to 2021 ... or will 2021 say, "2020 was nothing ... watch me!" I say this with a bit of humour, but I think it is clear that times are now changing at a very fast pace. For good or for bad ... that is something everyone will have to decide for themselves. The verse in Matthew 6:34 where Jesus says to the crowd, "do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own", is especially applicable for today. Your best planned intentions for the future may turn against you in the blink of an eye due to these uncertain times. However, one thing remains certain: our faith and our trust in YAHWEH – our Heavenly Father. This is true also for the approaching festive season, when Christians celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus the Messiah. Let's make time during this festive season for the people we love. As livestock farmers, we didn't really have a lockdown period. We all operated normally, only with much more stress. Let's have a lockdown with our families now. Time with loved ones is as uncertain as the freedom out there; we don't know whether it will be there tomorrow. Remember, it is not just how you will remember them, but also how they will remember YOU.

Love and blessings to all of you. May 2021 be a more reassuring, joyous year for all of us. May God bless your life, family and farm in honour of His wonderful Name.

Meatmaster greetings

Mario du Preez

Meatmaster Auctions 2021		
Date	Auction	Place
3 December 2020	Grasveld Meatmasters	Farm Besterkraal, Kroonstad
30 January 2021	Didymus Meatmasters	must submit application
4 February 2021	Transveld Meatmaster Club	Fire and Wine Auction Complex
25 February 2021	Collett Farming	La Rochelle, Venterstad
11 March 2021	Sterkfontein Meatmasters	Bloemfontein
18 March 2021	Noordwes Meatmaster Auction	Mahemsvlei, Klerksdorp

18 or 25 March 2021	Sutherland Karoo Meatmasters	Sutherland Showgrounds
20 March 2021	Society Auction	Fire and Wine Auction Complex
14 April 2021	Grasveld Meatmasters	Farm Besterkraal, Kroonstad
24 April 2021	B3 Genetics	Bela-Bela Auction Complex
15 May 2021	Ochre Meatmasters	Pienaarsrivier, Bela-Bela
19 May 2021	Badeveen Trust	Farm Damaskus, Delareyville
22 May 2021	GHM Compion Meatmasters	Twee Riviere Auction Complex
22 May 2021	Developing farmers	Castle de Wildt, Modimole
19 June 2021	Tommie Bissett	Twee Riviere Auction Complex
5 June 2021	Dorrland Auction	Parys
24 June 2021	Recorded auction	Upington
31 July 2021	Transveld Meatmaster Club	Thabazimbi Showgrounds
12 August 2021	Nasionale Auction	Bloemfontein
2 September 2021	Transveld Meatmaster Club	Fire and Wine Auction Complex
22 September 2021	Sterkfontein Meatmasters	Bloemfontein
8 or 15 October 2020	Surherland Karoo Meatmasters	Sutherland Showgrounds
9 October 2021	Best of Africa	Twee Riviere Auction Complex
23 October 2021	Anridel Meatmasters	Bloemfontein
8 December 2021	Grasveld Meatmasters	Farm Besterkraal, Kroonstad