

# LRF NEWS



16<sup>th</sup>  
LRF

Stockman School  
9-11 October 2024  
Aldam, Free State



REMINDER

## LRF NEWS

### Exciting Developments in the Beef Genomics Program: Phase Two Underway

We are thrilled to announce that Phase Two of the Beef Genomics Program (BGP) is now officially underway! This marks another significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to revolutionize the Southern African beef industry through the adoption of cutting-edge genomic technologies. For those who may be unfamiliar, the BGP is a collaborative initiative between Government, Industry, Higher Education Institutes (HEI), designed to enhance the genetics of Southern African beef populations. By bringing together a diverse array of industry stakeholders, including both Emerging and Commercial farmers, our common objective is to elevate the competitive relevance of our beef on the global stage.

In Phase Two, our focus is squarely on advancing genetics over the next few years through the building of reference populations by supporting genotyping and collecting phenotypes of difficult and expensive to measure traits, specifically feed efficiency and meat quality. This will result in improved estimates of genetic merit facilitating identification and selection of superior breeding stock. We are committed to fostering industry-wide acceptance of effective and fully commercialized genotyping services provided by South African service providers. We recognize that the pace of technological advancement in genomics is rapid, which is why our mission remains to bridge the gap between Southern African standards and global best practices. By doing so, we can ensure that our region remains at the forefront of supply chain excellence in Beef Genetics.

As we embark on this exciting journey, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of the BGP thus far. Together, we will continue to drive positive change and innovation in the Southern African beef industry.

Stay tuned for more updates as Phase Two progresses!

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## Stockman School Early Bird Registration

Are you looking to enrich your leadership skills and become part of a dynamic community of learners? Then the LRF Stockman School from October 9th to 11th, 2024 is the place for you!

Register before July 31st, 2024, and get a fantastic discount of R500.00! That means you'll only pay R6450.00 for the "standard participant" option.

The offer includes:

- Standard accommodation
- Meals
- Access to all sessions and activities

Don't miss this opportunity to sharpen your skills, forge new bonds, and surround yourself with the best in the field of leadership.

Visit [www.lrf.co.za](http://www.lrf.co.za) today to book your spot!



**16<sup>th</sup> LRF Stockman School**  
**9-11 October 2024**  
Aldam, Free State

Join us at the Livestock Registering Federation's (LRF) annual Stockman School from 9 to 11 October this year, as we explore the theme "Be a resilient stockman". This event promises to equip cattle farmers with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in challenging times.

**Secure your spot with our early bird entries!**  
**Book on or before 31 July 2024**  
**PAY ONLY R6 450 (VAT incl)**  
Includes accommodation, meals and attendance  
Only applicable to 'standard sharing' option

**Normal prices (VAT incl) applicable as of 1 August 2024**  
Standard sharing **R6 950** | Luxury single **R9 700**  
Students **R5 950** | Camping **R6 200**

[www.lrf.co.za](http://www.lrf.co.za) | Charmainé Alberts: +27 82 922 3747 | [charmainedalberts@gmail.com](mailto:charmainedalberts@gmail.com)

  herdmaster\_breedplan  **Veeplaas STOCK FARM**

# CALENDAR

## MAY 2024

14-17 - Nampo expo

24-29 - Royal Show

## JUNE 2024

4-5 - Animal Breeding  
Diploma Course for Livestock  
Producers

6 - HerdMASTER Course

12 - LRF Members' Meeting

14 - Braford AGM



Top and Bottom: Stockman School 2023

## Summary of the LRF FREE online course: Animal breeding - A global overview: where are we heading

Dr. Michael Aldridge's presentation underscores the global shift towards sustainable breeding practices. He emphasizes the importance of balancing profitability, societal responsibility, and environmental impact in breeding objectives. Specifically, he discusses strategies to mitigate methane production in livestock through genetic selection, utilizing current indexes and emerging technologies. Despite progress, challenges in phenotyping remain a global concern.

Watch the recording here: <https://youtu.be/bezs-EQsM74>



## UPCOMING COURSE

### Unlock the Power of BREEDPLAN: LRF Free Online Course

Join us on June 4th, 10:00 – 11:00, for an exclusive online course on "Unlocking the power of BREEDPLAN – your tool for success" presented by Boyd Gudex. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills. Register now: <https://forms.gle/asTjzy7mxrxWC58JA>

# HERDMASTER/BREEDPLAN NEWS

## Process for migrating to HerdMASTER 5 (HM5)

- Download HM5 from: [Download HerdMASTER Now - HerdMASTER \(une.edu.au\)](https://www.une.edu.au)
- Select the Bundled installer package (Online)
- Double click the download to install and follow the prompts.
- Restore a backup from HerdMASTER 4 onto HerdMASTER 5
- See the how to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-6LGjBH4y4&t=308s>

### Take note:

1. The backup is not backwards compatible and a backup from HerdMASTER 5 can't be restored on HerdMASTER 4. Once you have restored your backup on HerdMASTER 5 continue using HerdMASTER 5.
2. You do not have to uninstall HerdMASTER 4 immediately. You can uninstall at a later stage once you are happy that all your data in HerdMASTER 5 is correct and working.
3. The licensing system is currently being updated. For the time being please make use of the 30day free trial registration. Once the licensing has been updated communication will be sent out.



## When Should You Genotype Your Animals?

We are often asked when the best time is to genotype an animal. ABRI Extension Services recommends genotyping your animals as young as possible, with DNA samples collected at birth, branding or weaning.

Genotyping provides you with a range of information. This includes:

- Certainty regarding parentage.
- Knowledge of genetic condition and/or qualitative trait status.
- Higher accuracy EBVs (if Single-Step BREEDPLAN is available for your breed).
- Additionally, submitting DNA samples for young animals gives you sufficient time to deal with any issues or re-sampling requirements that may arise. This is vital if you have a hard deadline to meet, such as genotyping requirements for a National Sale.

To read the full Beyond the Black Box Newsletter: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=6f3c76fa10e0a51f77d90a295&id=c38d4255a1>

For advertisements in the LRF/BREEDPLAN monthly newsletter, please contact Mrs Izaan du Plooy at [office@lrf.co.za](mailto:office@lrf.co.za).

Vir advertensies in die LRF/BREEDPLAN maandelikse nuusbrieff, kontak gerus vir Mev. Izaan du Plooy by [office@lrf.co.za](mailto:office@lrf.co.za)

## **BREEDPLAN validated by science**

BREEDPLAN is an objective, science-driven analysis that has had its accuracy and value to cattle producers validated in numerous scientific studies across multiple breeds and countries (some examples listed below). This is made possible by the Animal Genetics & Breeding Unit (AGBU), who regularly publish BREEDPLAN research and developments in international scientific literature. A list of this literature is available from the [AGBU website](#).

By publishing in scientific journals, the BREEDPLAN methodologies are reviewed by international scientists to ensure scientific rigour. This scientific rigour is further enhanced by the input of AGBU and BREEDPLAN Technical Committee scientists who work across multiple livestock species and thus can use the best of the knowledge obtained from each of these industries to enhance BREEDPLAN.

Examples of studies that have validated the accuracy of BREEDPLAN\*:

- BREEDPLAN Single-Step Evaluations
- Angus Australia Sire Benchmarking
- Australian Brahman Breeders Association
- Herefords Australia validation of Single-Step BREEDPLAN
- Durham Shorthorn
- Beef and Lamb New Zealand Beef Progeny Test
- Harper Adams University (UK) study 1 and study 2

\*All titles listed above full articles can be found on the BREEDPLAN website under 'Research' <https://breedplan.une.edu.au/research/>