

LRF NEWS

Time is running out! Join Us for the 17th LRF Stockman School – October 2025

Just over a month to go until the unforgettable experience at the 17th Annual LRF Stockman School, taking place from 8th to 10th October 2025. This year, we're focusing on "Smart Stockmanship: Back to Basics". This incredible three-day event promises to be packed with insightful lectures delivered by leading experts from South Africa and around the globe. From cutting-edge research to tried-and-tested practices, these sessions will offer something valuable for everyone. In addition to the lectures, attendees will enjoy hands-on practical sessions where theory meets practice. These activities are designed to deepen your understanding and give you actionable skills you can take home and implement straight away. For those looking to delve deeper, we'll also feature engaging breakaway sessions where smaller groups can explore specific topics, interact directly with experts, and exchange ideas with fellow delegates.

The LRF Stockman School is more than just a learning event—it's a chance to connect with passionate individuals, exchange knowledge, and gain fresh perspectives to elevate your stockmanship skills. Space is limited to 200 delegates, so make sure you secure your place!

For details on the 17th LRF Stockman School programme, click on the link below. Let's get back to basics and discover smarter ways to approach stockmanship—see you there!

How to Register for the 17th LRF Stockman School:

Bookings are now open! Secure your spot at the 17th LRF Stockman School by clicking the link below to book. To confirm your booking, complete the registration form and submit your proof of payment to Charmaine Alberts.

Bookings close on **1 October 2025** or earlier if capacity is reached.

Email: charmainealberts@gmail.com / **Phone:** +27 82 922 3747

[Stockman School Programme](#)

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CALENDAR

- 9th SEPTEMBER 2025
LRF FREE ONLINE COURSE
- 8-10th OCTOBER 2025
LRF STOCKMAN SCHOOL

www.lrf.co.za



Monthly Tipsheet and Video Series: August focus – Net Feed Intake (NFI)

Each month, the LRF focuses on a key trait, explaining why recording matters, how to record accurately, and how to submit your records to your breed society. It's all the information you need, presented in an easy-to-follow one-page tipsheet and a concise video!

July's spotlight was on Docility. If you missed it, don't worry—catch up now! Access the one-page tipsheet and 1-minute video below to stay informed and up-to-date.

[Docility Tipsheet](#)

[Docility Video](#)

For August, our focus is on Net Feed Intake (NFI)

What is NFI

- The difference between the expected and actual feed intake.
- How much feed an animal actually consumed compared to how much feed it is expected to consume at a given phase of production.

Why Record NFI

- NFI is a great way to measure feed efficiency.
- More feed efficient animals consume less feed for the same level of production.
- Feed efficiency is an economically important production trait.

Eligibility for testing

- **Age:** Between 210 and 700 days (at start of test period).
- **Sex:** Bulls, steers or heifers can be tested. Different sex groups should be separated.
- **Animal group requirements:** Minimum of five animals bred from a minimum of two sires with a minimum of two progeny per sire.
- **Test station:** Data must be collected from a test station accredited by the LRF.

NFI EBVs

- Estimate of the genetic difference between animals in feed intake at a standard weight and rate of weight gain when animals are at a specific phase of production.
- BREEDPLAN produces two EBVs related to feed efficiency:
 - Net Feed Intake (Post Weaning) - 200 days of age or older.
 - Net Feed Intake (Feedlot Finishing).
- Both NFI EBVs are calculated from information collected in feed efficiency trials, the animals are just tested at different ages.
- Expressed as kg of feed per day (kg/day).

Interpreting NFI EBVs

- Lower, or more negative, NFI EBVs are more favourable.
- For example: A bull with a -0.7 kg/day NFI EBV would be expected to produce progeny that eat less feed per day than the progeny from a bull that has a +0.5 kg/day NFI EBV (when the progeny are of similar weight, growing at a similar rate, and are in a growing phase).

[NFI Tipsheet](#)

[NFI Video](#)

LRF COURSES

August's Online Course: Selection Indices

On the 26th of August 2025, the LRF hosted its seventh free online course of 2025, delving into everything you need to know on Selection Indices. Dr Boyd Gudex from the Agricultural Research Business Institute (ABRI) gave an informative session on how selection indices are used to support more effective and informed breeding decisions.

If you missed the live session, don't worry! You can access the recording on our YouTube channel:

[Selection Indices](#)

Next Free Online Course: Using BREEDPLAN for Genetic Improvement: Southern African Case Studies

Date: 9th September 2025

Time: 10h00 – 11h00

Presenter: Catriona Millen from ABRI

RSVP: By clicking on the below link and filling out the Google form

[RSVP to Course](#)

HerdMASTER/BREEDPLAN NEWS

HerdMASTER:

Feedback on Support:

Share your experience with HerdMASTER support. Have you recently received help or guidance with HerdMASTER from the LRF team? We're looking to better understand how our support has served you — and how we can make it more effective. Please take a moment to complete this quick Google Form to share your feedback.

Your insights are invaluable in helping us improve HerdMASTER assistance and tailor future resources to your needs.

[Feedback on HM Support](#)

How to turn off automatic updates:

Stop your HerdMASTER 5 from automatically searching for updates.

To do this:

- Open HerdMASTER 5
- Navigate to Setup/Site Option
- On righthand side of *Program Settings*, uncheck the box next to *Check for updates on start*
- Click *Save* on the top right and close

You will manually need to check for updates when convenient

To do this:

- Open HerdMASTER 5
- Navigate to Help
- From the dropdown select "Check for updates"

Important: You will not have access to the latest bug fixes and enhancements until you have updated to the latest version of HerdMASTER 5.

[HerdMaster Tutorial](#)