

LRF NEWS

LRF Office Closure Notice

The LRF Office will be closed for the festive season from Friday, 12 December 2025 and will reopen on Monday, 5 January 2026.

For any urgent HerdMASTER queries during this period, please contact Jeanine Labuschagne at jeanine@lrf.co.za. Kindly note that responses will be subject to availability while the office is closed.

We appreciate your understanding and wish you a joyful holiday season!

Welcoming our New Data Processor – Riëtte Venter

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Riëtte Venter has joined the LRF team as a Data Processor. Based in Potchefstroom, Riëtte will be positioned to support Breed Societies with their member's data processing requirements including capturing birth notifications, fates, performance and mating records and preparing catalogues.

Riëtte will also be supporting the LRF by providing HerdMASTER support. Beyond this, Riëtte will contribute to the smooth running of the organisation through a wide range of administrative tasks, from preparing breeder packs and handling queries to processing reports and updating records.

Riëtte's expertise will strengthen our ability to deliver accurate data, seamless support, and valuable services to our members. We would like to offer a warm welcome to Riëtte to the LRF family!

The establishment of the Stud Breeders Federation (SBF)

We are delighted to announce the establishment of the Stud Breeders Federation (SBF), a united identity formed through the collaboration of the South African Stud Book and Animal Improvement Association (SASB) and the Livestock Registering Federation (LRF). This federation represents a significant milestone for the stud breeding industry, ensuring that the collective interests of breeders, producers, and all stakeholders are promoted and protected at the highest level.

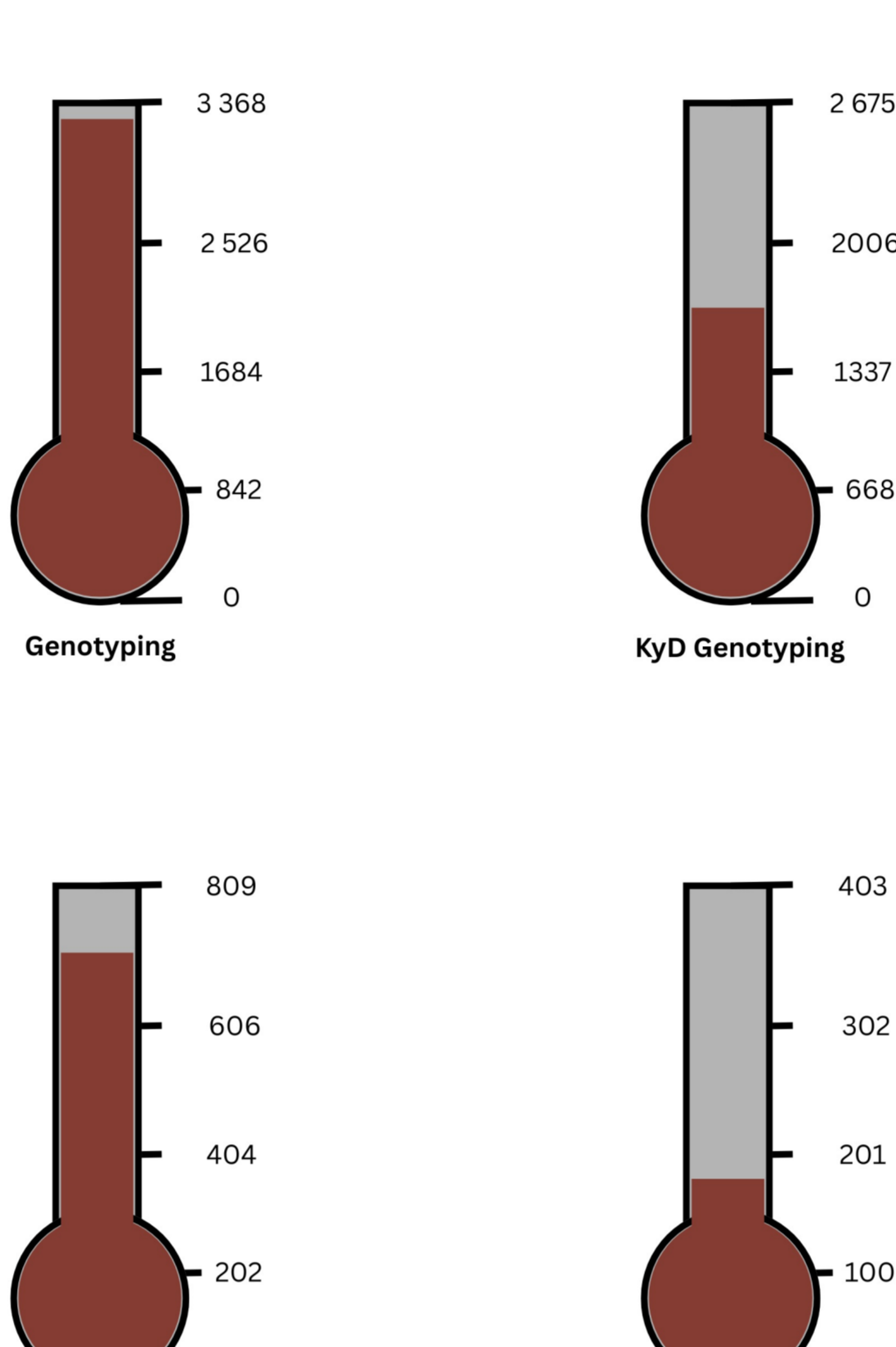
As a non-profit entity, the SBF will engage across the entire breeding, meat, milk, and wool value chain, with a strong focus on sustainability, profitability, and responsible practices. Guided by its directors, the federation is committed to advancing traceability, supporting proactive animal health policies, and endorsing quality-driven grading systems. By working closely with government, industry partners, and producers, the SBF aims to build consumer confidence, strengthen local markets, and open opportunities for cross-border trade.

BGP2 Quarter 3 Report

Year 2 of the second phase of the Beef Genomics Program (BGP2), denoted Year 5, is running from April 2025 to March 2026, with six breed societies, under the auspices of the Livestock Registering Federation (LRF), actively participating in the initiative. The following report offers a comprehensive summary of BGP2, reflecting progress up to Quarter 3 of Year 5.

An important milestone achieved in Q3 of Year 5 is the local procurement of the Neogen GGP100K and GGP50K Indicus Chips. The Bio-Tech Platform (BTP) pipeline is now open to conduct genotyping as part of the local genomic analysis strategy for LRF breeds. The LRF is preparing a BTP-genotyping SOP for its members participating in BGP2, providing breed societies with clear guidance on all requirements for submitting samples to the BTP.

The project-to-date (PTD) results show that genotyping is progressing well, with 3,338 samples submitted against a budget of 3,368, representing 99% achievement. KyD genotyping has achieved 57% of its target, with 1,514 samples submitted out of the 2,675 budgeted. Breed societies are confident of meeting targets in the next quarter with the opening of the BTP pipeline. Net Feed Intake (NFI) tests are progressing well, with 707 samples submitted against a budget of 809, reaching 87% completion despite their complexity and cost. Meat quality remains the most underperforming area, with only 177 samples submitted out of 403 budgeted, resulting in 44% completion to date.



Monthly Tipsheet and Video Series: November Focus – 400-Day Weight

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!

October's spotlight was on Gestation Length. If you missed it, don't worry—catch up now! Access the one-page tipsheet and 2-minute video below to stay informed and up-to-date.

[Gestation Length Tipsheet](#)

[Gestation Length Video](#)

For November, our focus is on 400-Day Weight

What is 400-Day Weight?

- The live weight of an animal at approximately 400 days after birth.
- A measure of animal's growth from birth to 400 days (yearling).
- Measured in kilograms (kg) to the nearest kg.

Why Record 400-Day Weight?

- Live weight is an important economic factor.
- Recording 400-Day Weight enables BREEDPLAN to calculate 400-Day Weight EBVs.
- Weight EBVs (Birth Weight, 200-Day Growth, 400-Day Weight, 600-Day Weight and Mature Cow Weight) are genetically correlated.
- Important for breeders turning animals off as yearlings.

How to record 400-Day Weight?

Can be measured within the age range of 301 to 500 days after birth to accommodate management practices:

- A weighing date should be chosen such that the average group age is approximately 400 days after birth.
- Weigh ALL yearlings on the same day.
- BREEDPLAN will correct for the number of days prior to or post 400 days within this age range.

How many 400-Day Weights measurements does BREEDPLAN use?

- BREEDPLAN analyses up to two 400-Day Weight measurements to calculate the 400-Day Weight EBV.
- It is not required to record two 400-Day Weight measurements, however this will increase the accuracy of the 400-Day Weight EBV.
- If two 400-Day Weight measurements are recorded, BREEDPLAN recommends a minimum of 30 days between each measurement and that all animals in the group are weighed both times.

400-Day Weight EBVs

- Estimate of the genetic differences between animals in liveweight at 400 days of age due to their genetic potential for growth.
- A prediction of the animal's genetic potential for growth to yearling (400 days). Reported in kilograms (kg).
- The larger the group of animals weighed together for 400 Day Weight, the more accurate the 400 Day Weight EBV.

Interpreting 400-Day Weight EBVs

- Larger, more positive 400 Day Weight EBVs are generally more favourable.
- For example: A bull with a 400 Day Weight EBV of +50 kg would be expected to produce heavier calves at 400 days of age (or yearling) compared to a bull with a 400 Day Weight EBV of +30 kg

Access the one-page tipsheets and 2-minute videos below to stay informed and up-to-date.

[400-Day Weight Tipsheet](#)

[400-Day Weight Video](#)

HerdMASTER/BREEDPLAN NEWS

HerdMASTER:

As we approach the upcoming office shutdown, we want to remind all HerdMASTER users to verify the status of their licenses. If your license is set to expire during this period, please take a moment to ensure it is up to date to avoid any disruptions.

You can easily check your license expiry date by clicking on Help | About, the expiration date will be displayed in middle to the left of the window that appears.

During the Office shutdown period, please direct all HerdMASTER queries to jeanine@lrf.co.za. Emails will be responded to as availability permits.

BREEDPLAN:

BREEDPLAN Version 7: A New Era in Genetic Evaluation

We are excited to announce the rollout of BREEDPLAN Version 7, marking a significant step forward in genetic evaluation technology. The implementation is already underway, and we anticipate completing updates for all clients over the coming months. You will be notified as your system transitions to V7.

This upgrade has been made possible through collaborative efforts by staff at the Animal Genetics & Breeding Unit (AGBU) and the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI).

What does this mean for you?

While you won't see immediate changes in your Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs), this upgrade is a major investment in the future. BREEDPLAN V7 introduces a more dynamic and robust modelling framework, designed to accommodate both conventional and emerging traits seamlessly.

Historically, BREEDPLAN analysed a predefined set of traits. With V7, we break free from those limitations. The new system allows for:

- Integration of emerging traits such as methane emissions and disease resistance as they are developed.
- Greater flexibility in incorporating a range of phenotypic measurements for each trait.
- Future-proof technology that ensures BREEDPLAN remains modern, efficient, and ready for innovation.

This upgrade positions BREEDPLAN to continue to lead the way in genetic evaluation, offering breeders the tools to adapt to evolving industry needs and sustainability goals.

Stay tuned for further updates as we continue the rollout. Together, we're building a smarter, more adaptable future for livestock breeding.