



## LRF NEWS

**Welcome Back and Happy New Year from the LRF!**

Happy New Year! We hope your holiday season was filled with joy, rest, and meaningful moments. As we step into 2026, the LRF team is excited for the year ahead. This year promises fresh opportunities for learning, collaboration, and growth.

We are preparing an inspiring lineup of courses, workshops, and interactive events designed to strengthen your skills and widen your knowledge. Be sure to stay updated with our social media and website so that you don't miss out on these exciting opportunities. We look forward to reaching new milestones side by side throughout the year. As always, we encourage you to reach out to the LRF team with any questions, thoughts, or suggestions!

Here's to a year of progress and success. Wishing you a vibrant and fulfilling 2026!

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### LRF NEWS

- RMIS TRACEABILITY UPDATE
- MONTHLY TIPSHEET

#### HERDMASTER & BREEDPLAN NEWS

#### CALENDAR

- 17 FEB 2026: LRF FREE ONLINE COURSE
- 25 FEB 2026: LRF AGM

[www.lrf.co.za](http://www.lrf.co.za)

### LRF Annual General Meeting 2025

We are excited to announce that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on February 25th in Bloemfontein. This is a significant event for the LRF, and we encourage all members to attend. Attending the AGM is crucial as it provides an opportunity to stay informed about the company's performance, strategic direction, and future plans. It also allows you to voice your opinions, ask questions, provide feedback, and influence decisions.

### RMIS Report Phase 2 of the Traceability Platform

In November 2025, the Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) launched Phase 2 of its Traceability Platform, marking a major step toward full livestock traceability in South Africa. This phase introduces the capture of Global Location Numbers (GLNs), movement data sharing, traceability reporting, and disease tracking across the value chain.

To ensure inclusivity, RMIS also rolled out the free RMIS Movement App, which enables producers without digital systems to record animal movements directly from their GLN. Phase 2 further brings secure API integration with leading farm, auction, feedlot, and abattoir management systems, including HerdMASTER, eliminating duplicate data entry and strengthening compliance with export protocols. With the launch of Phase 2, the RMIS Traceability Platform now offers practical solutions to some of the industry's most persistent challenges: Carcasses can now be tracked back to their origin, enhanced data integrity strengthening compliance with export market protocols, and timely tracing of outbreaks, giving the industry faster insight into where and how diseases are spreading.

Together, these developments lay the foundation for realtime disease control, reliable export certification, and inclusive participation across all levels of the red meat industry. For the full article and more information, click the link below:

[Full RMIS Traceability Report](#)

### Monthly Tipsheet and Video Series: January Focus – Performance Recording

We are excited to announce a new monthly tipsheet and video series. Throughout 2026, our monthly tipsheets will focus on practical aspects of performance recording, EBVs, genetic improvement, and BREEDPLAN tools to help breeders strengthen herd management and decisionmaking. Each month, a one-page tipsheet and video will be released covering all the information you need to know! For January, our focus is on **Performance Recording – Getting it Right**.

The phrase "rubbish in – rubbish out" highlights that the reliability of BREEDPLAN EBVs depends on the quality of submitted performance data. This tipsheet outlines 8 common recording issues and provides solutions and steps to avoid them.

#### 1. Inadequate Planning

Inadequate planning leads to recording performance data inconsistently, reducing the value of the information collected.

##### Solutions:

- Become a "proactive" performance recorder.
- Incorporate performance recording into the standard management of your herd.
- Plan data collection ahead of time.

#### 2. Poor recording of recipient dam information

When recipient dam details are missing or different breeds are used in embryo transfer (ET) programs, BREEDPLAN cannot properly analyse ET calves.

##### Solutions:

- Use recipient dams that are all the same breed when running an ET program.
- Ensure adequate recipient dam information is recorded.
- Use recipient dams that have been used in previous ET programs.

#### 3. Unverified Outliers

An outlier is a performance record that differs greatly from the group average. If outlier reports are ignored the data remains unverified and is excluded from future BREEDPLAN analyses, reducing the accuracy of herd results.

##### Solution:

- Verify/Correct all outlier reports as soon as you receive them.

#### 4. Inadequate recording of important traits

Failure to record key traits results in less reliable EBVs.

##### Solutions:

- Record all traits that are important to you.
- Do not rely on pedigree recording to generate EBVs.

#### 5. Over Management Grouping

Placing calves into small management groups (1–2 animals) prevents fair comparison of calves' performance, reducing accuracy of genetic evaluations.

##### Solutions:

- Understand the criteria that automatically form contemporary groups in BREEDPLAN.
- Only submit management groups for non-genetic factors (e.g. sick animals).

#### 6. Inadequate management grouping

Poor management grouping will result in BREEDPLAN not being able to differentiate between calves that have had different levels of management or feeding. This results in less accurate and misleading EBVs.

##### Solution:

- Provide management groups for animals that have been treated differently to their peers and have performed differently due to the non-genetic factors

#### 7. Small Contemporary Groups

Small contemporary groups result in animals having too few "similar" peers for comparison. Therefore, their performance data cannot be effectively analysed by BREEDPLAN.

##### Solutions:

- Restrict calving periods to 6 - 8 weeks.
- Run as many calves as possible under the same management conditions.
- Weigh all animals in a management group on the same day.

#### 8. Single Sire Contemporary Groups

When calves in a contemporary group come from a single sire, BREEDPLAN cannot compare them with calves from other sires, making it difficult to accurately calculate EBVs.

##### Solutions:

- Use more than one sire in each particular joining.
- Consciously manage the herd so that more than one sire is represented in each contemporary group.

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

[Performance Recording Tipsheet](#)

[Performance Recording Video](#)

## LRF Online Courses

### January's Online Course:

On the 20th of January 2026, the LRF hosted its first free online course of 2026, delving into the topic: Performance Recording Made Simple. Presented by Izaan du Plooy from the LRF, this course covered the performance recording timeline, calving seasons, and when, where, and how to record key traits of importance.

### Next Free Online Course: February 2026

Make sure you don't miss out on our next free online course on Submitting performance records to the society

**Date:** 17 February 2026

**Time:** 17h30 – 18h30

**Presenter(s):** Izaan du Plooy (LRF) & Jody Young Grant (Simbra Breed Society)

**RSVP:** Please fill out the Google form below:

[RSVP Feb Online Course](#)

## HerdMASTER/BREEDPLAN NEWS

### HerdMASTER:

#### HerdMASTER 5 Training

Unlock the full potential of your HerdMASTER 5 skills with our exclusive online training—don't miss this opportunity to level up your expertise!

Secure your spot for just R900 for both modules:

Module 1: 3 Feb 2026

Module 2: 10 Feb 2026

Both Module 1 and 2 will be presented online from 9h00 to 11h00.

Book now, contact Jeanine to request the registration forms!

Email: [jeanine@lrf.co.za](mailto:jeanine@lrf.co.za)

Cell Number: +27 81 844 4853

## HerdMASTER 5 ONLINE TRAINING

**MODULE 1:**  
3 February 2026

**09:00am – 11:00 am**

- Introduction
- Overview
- Site Options
- Concepts and General Tools
- Property Setup
- Worksheets and Filters
- Record Matings
- Recording Preg Test
- Recording Calves (Add Animals)
- Electronic Submissions of Registrations to Society
- Recording Fates/Cancellations
- Electronic Submissions of Cancellations to Society
- Recording and Submitting Days to Calving (DTC) information
- Using Yardsheets

**MODULE 2:**  
10 February 2026

**09:00am – 11:00 am**

- Recording and Submitting Days to Calving (DTC) information
- Recording Weights and Electronic Submissions
- Recording Traits and Electronic Submissions
- Creating and Using Action Templates
- Recording Multisires
- Recording and Using Embryos
- Adding Animal Movements
- Treatments
- Universal File Import Utility
- Reports
- Using RMIS in HerdMASTER

**R900 for both modules incl. VAT**

For more information contact Jeanine:  
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### BREEDPLAN:

#### Dr Brad Crook's Retirement from ABRI

The LRF would like to bring to the attention of our members that after 25 years of dedicated service, Dr Brad Crook will be retiring from ABRI in January 2026. Dr Crook has been an extraordinary contributor to ABRI and the wider industry. As Manager of Genetics Research and Development, he championed innovations that have transformed genetic evaluation, including the introduction of Single-Step BREEDPLAN. This breakthrough, combining SNP genomic data with phenotypic breeding values, has been a game-changer for breeders striving to make more informed and effective selection decisions.

Dr Crook leaves a lasting legacy of innovation, scientific rigor, and progress. His efforts have laid strong foundations that will continue to support ABRI's mission well into the future. The LRF extends its heartfelt gratitude to Dr Crook and wishes him all the best in his retirement.