

## LRF NEWS

### Announcement of new Chairperson for the LRF

The LRF is pleased to announce that, at the recent Annual General Meeting, Mr Wayne Porter was unanimously elected as Chairman of the LRF for the next two-year term to focus on administrative issues. We are equally pleased to confirm that Mr Thys Meyer will continue to serve as Vice Chairman, driving the current and future Beef Genomics Projects and stud industry representation through the Stud Breeders Federation (SBF), ensuring valuable continuity within the leadership team.

We congratulate Mr Porter on his appointment and wish him every success as he takes on this important responsibility. We are confident that under his leadership, supported by the Vice Chairman and Board, the LRF will continue to grow from strength to strength. We would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Mr Johan Styger for his longstanding service and exceptional dedication as Chairman.

His commitment, leadership, and tireless efforts over the years have played a significant role in strengthening the LRF and positioning the organisation for continued success. His contribution has left a lasting impact, and we are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and passion he has invested in serving our members and the wider industry.

### LRF Annual General Meeting 2025

The LRF is pleased to confirm that the AGM was successfully convened on the 25th of February. The meeting provided an important opportunity to reflect on the past year, share key updates, and outline the organisation's priorities moving forward. During the proceedings, leadership presented an overview of operational performance, strategic focus areas, and developments within the industry. The meeting emphasised the importance of sound governance, and continued alignment with the needs of our members. Maintaining strong relationships within the livestock sector remains central to our mission.

Following the AGM, members gathered for a general meeting focused on current matters and priorities for the months ahead. The participation and contributions from those in attendance were greatly appreciated and will help guide decision-making and planning.

As we move into the new year, the LRF remains committed to serving its members with integrity, transparency, and purpose. We thank all who attended and contributed to the success of the meeting, and we look forward to continued cooperation and progress in the year ahead.

### Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Report

During the LRF AGM, Mr Kobus Bester, LRF Board Director and SBF Chairman, provided a brief overview of the current status of the FMD outbreak and control in the country, and negotiations with relevant authorities to establish and strengthen public-private partnership structures (Joint Operations Command centres – JOC's, at district, provincial and national levels) to combat the outbreak of FMD, which has been declared a national disaster.

### Monthly Tipsheet and Video Series: February Focus – Completeness of Performance Herd Rating System

We are excited to announce the next monthly tipsheet and video for our 2026 series. Each month, a one-page tipsheet and video will be released covering all the information you need to know! For January, our focus was on **Performance Recording – Getting it Right**.

Access January's one-page tipsheets and 2-minute video below to stay informed and up-to-date.



For February, our focus is on **The Completeness of Performance Herd Rating System**

#### Completeness of Performance Herd Rating System:

- The "Completeness of Performance" herd rating system assesses the quantity of pedigree and performance information that has been submitted to BREEDPLAN by an individual herd.
- While ultimately EBV accuracy values provide an indication of the reliability of an animal's EBVs, one of the key factors affecting the accuracy of EBVs is the quantity of performance information that has been recorded with BREEDPLAN.
- The "Completeness of Performance" star rating provides both stud and commercial producers with an assessment of how much performance records have been submitted to BREEDPLAN by a herd.

#### How is it calculated?

- The star rating for a herd is calculated based on the proportion of calves within the herd born in a fixed 3-year period that have performance recorded for each trait.
- Different criteria are used within each individual breed depending on the importance attached to the various traits.
- Each herd receives a star rating on a 0 – 5 scale (including half stars) that summarises the relative "completeness" of their performance information.
- The higher the star ratings, the more complete the data recording for the specific herd is. A star rating of 3 or 3.5 indicates submission of reasonable information, 4 or 4.5 comprehensive information and 5 complete information.

#### How to improve your rating:

- Work out which traits you are not recording, and which are of interest to you.
- Work out which traits you are recording but could record a greater percentage of animals.
- Make management changes to enable you to record these traits.
- Register all your calves.
- Ensure all calves have a sire, a dam, and a date of birth recorded with your breed society.

Access February's one-page tipsheets and 2-minute video below to stay informed and up-to-date.



## LRF Online Courses

### February's Online Course:

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, the LRF hosted its second free online course of 2026, delving into the topic: **Submitting Performance Records to the Society**. Presented by Izaan du Plooy from the LRF and Jody Young from the Simbra Breed Society Office, this course covered the different methods of data submission to breed societies, BREEDPLAN compatible templates as well as management and contemporary groups.

### Next Free Online Course: 17 March 2026

Make sure you don't miss out on our next free online course on **BREEDPLAN EBVs: What to know?**

Date: 17 March 2026

Time: 10:00 - 11:00

Presenter(s): Fiona Macarthur from ABRI

RSVP: Please fill out the Google form below:

[RSVP March Online Course](#)

## HerdMASTER/BREEDPLAN NEWS

### HerdMASTER:

#### RMIS in HerdMASTER 5

- The RMIS functionality in HerdMASTER 5 is live.
- Update to the latest version of HerdMASTER 5 – version 5.0.0.11.8.

#### Tutorials on how to use the RMIS functions on YouTube:

1. Setting up HerdMASTER 5:

[Setting up HerdMASTER Video](#)

2. Using the RMIS Basic Transfer Option:

[Using RMIS Basic Transfer Video](#)

3. Using the RMIS Select Animals to Move Option:

[Using RMIS Select Animals to Move Video](#)

4. Tipsheets on using RMIS in HerdMASTER 5, follow the below link and search for RMIS

[Tipsheets on Using RMIS in HerdMASTER 5](#)

### BREEDPLAN:

#### Big news for Simbra breeders across Southern Africa

For the first time, genomic (DNA) information has been incorporated into the February 2026 Simbra BREEDPLAN evaluation - a major step forward for the breed.

The integration of pedigree, performance data, and DNA into one analysis brings breeders earlier, more dependable predictions, especially for traits that only become measurable later in an animal's life.

By continuing to record performance and strategically genotype key animals, Simbra breeders can unlock the full potential of Single-Step BREEDPLAN.

#### Advantages for Simbra Breeders

1. **Higher EBV accuracies at a younger age**  
When young animals are genotyped early in life, they can achieve higher EBV accuracies sooner - particularly for traits that are expressed later in life, such as fertility and carcass traits. This allows breeders to make more confident selection decisions earlier.
2. **Improved accuracy for small herds**  
Breeders with smaller herds are often limited by small contemporary group sizes, even when good pedigree and performance data are available. Genotyping allows these animals to gain additional accuracy through their genetic relationships with the wider genotyped population.

Smarter, stronger decisions for the future of Simbra breeding start now!

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### HERDMASTER & BREEDPLAN NEWS

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