JUNE 2026

LRF NEWS

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18th LRF Annual Stockman School: Early Bird Registration

The 18th Annual LRF Stockman School is set to take place from 7–9 October 2026 at the beautiful Aldam Holiday Resort in the Free State. This year's theme, "Unlocking the Beef Value Chain", promises to deliver fresh insights into one of the most vital sectors of livestock production. Attendees can take advantage of the early bird ticket special — save R500 on full registration tickets if purchased before 31 July 2026.

Widely regarded as a highly anticipated event, the Stockman School draws both local and international speakers and participants, making it a hub of knowledge-sharing and networking. Known for its educational depth and practical focus, it equips attendees with tools and strategies they can apply directly in the field. If you're passionate about the beef industry, this is an event you simply won't want to miss.

Please note that Stockman School is registered for CPD Points!

View the programme and access the registration form off of our website or contact Charmaine Alberts for more information:

Cell Phone Number: +27 82 502 3747
Email Address: charmainealberts@gmail.com

Stockman School Registration Form | **Stockman School Programme**

Santam LRF Southern African Stud Producer of the Year 2026 Competition

Entries are NOW OPEN for the 2026 Southern African Stud Producer of the Year competition! The LRF, in collaboration with Santam, invites all cattle stud breeders — irrespective of breed — to enter this prestigious award.

The winner will receive:
• R25 000 in cash.
• A free ticket to attend the 18th LRF Stockman School in 2027.

The runner-up will receive:
• R10 000 in cash.

Entries close on the 17th of July 2026. The winner will be announced at this year's LRF Stockman School, occurring from the 7th to the 9th of October 2026.

To enter, complete and submit the entry form (which are available in English and Afrikaans on the website) by the 17th of July 2026 to:
Prof Frikkie Neser
- neserfw@ufs.ac.za
+27 (0) 51 401 2211

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your breeding excellence and be recognised among Southern Africa's top stud producers!

English Stud Breeder of the Year Entry Form

Afrikaans Stud Breeder of the Year Entry Form

Make My Bull Famous Competition

Would you like to see your top bull on the cover of Veeplaas magazine? Then enter the Make my bull famous contest! The number of lines of the top three entry goats by 10h00, 31st July will be reviewed by the organising committee of the LRF Stockman School. They will assess the finalists and select the winner.

To enter this competition post a photo of your bull on your Facebook OR Instagram page and tag @Livestock Registering Federation and @PlaasMedia. Use the hashtags #MakemyBullfamous2026 and #LRFStockmanschool2026

Monthly Tipsheet and Video Series: May Focus – EBV Accuracy

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 May, our focus was on Interpreting EBVs.

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

Interpreting EBVs Tipsheet

Interpreting EBVs Video

For June, our focus is on **EBV Accuracy**.

What is EBV Accuracy?
- Indication of the amount of information that has been used in the calculation of that EBV and the stability of the EBV.
- The higher the accuracy, the more likely the EBV predicts the animal's true breeding value. The lower the accuracy, the more likely the value of the EBV will change as more information is analysed for that animal, its progeny or its relatives.
- EBV accuracy is reported as a percentage (%) between 0 - 99%.
- Every EBV that is published by BREEDPLAN will have a corresponding accuracy figure.

Interpreting EBV Accuracy
BREEDPLAN provides the following which may be useful in interpreting EBV accuracy:

1. **Less than 50% accuracy:**
- The EBVs are preliminary. EBVs in this range will have been calculated based on very little information.
- These EBVs could change substantially as more direct performance information becomes available on the animal.

2. **50-74% accuracy:**
- The EBVs are of medium accuracy.
- EBVs in this range will usually have been calculated based on the animal's own performance and some limited pedigree information.

3. **75-89% accuracy:**
- The EBVs are of medium-high accuracy.
- EBVs in this range will usually have been calculated based on the animal's own performance coupled with the performance for a small number of the animal's progeny.

4. **More than 90% accuracy:**
- The EBVs are a high accuracy estimate of the animal's true breeding value.
- It is unlikely that EBVs will change considerably with addition of more progeny data.

What influences EBV Accuracy?
Many factors influence EBV accuracy including:

1. **The heritability of a trait**
- Portion of the phenotypic variation between individuals that is due to animal's genetics and that is passed onto the offspring.
- The higher the heritability of a trait the higher the EBV accuracy, all other factors being equal.

2. **The accuracy of the parents**
- An animal that has sire and/or dam with high EBV accuracy will generally have higher accuracy EBVs compared to an animal with parents of lower accuracy as more information is known about the relatives of the animal.

3. **The amount of performance information available**
- EBV accuracies will increase as more performance information is analysed for a specific trait.
- This includes performance information on the animal itself, as well as progeny and relatives.

4. **Contemporary group size**
- Animals that are in large contemporary groups will generally have higher EBV accuracy compared to those in small or single animal contemporary groups.

5. **Genetic correlation with other measured traits**
- Genetic correlations between traits are utilised to calculate EBVs and associated accuracies.
- For example, recording 200-day weight will also add information to the generation of the 400 Day Weight EBV.

Accuracy in Selection:
- Although the accuracy of an EBV should be considered, animals should generally be compared on EBVs regardless of accuracy as they are still the best estimate of an animal's breeding value.
- In the case where animals have similar EBVs, the animal with the higher accuracy may be less risky, assuming all other factors are equal.

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

EBV Accuracy Tipsheet | **EBV Accuracy Video**

Quarter 1 Year 6 BGP 2 Report

During Quarter 1 of Year 6, the Livestock Registering Federation (LRF) implemented several initiatives aimed at improving service delivery, sample quality and operational efficiency. These initiatives included strengthening quality control measures for South African samples submitted to the Biotechnology Platform (BTP), introducing a barcode-based system to enhance sample traceability, and conducting Breeder Guidance Programme (BGP) training sessions (BGP) for heat-treating samples prior to grading. The BGP was distributed to participating breed societies to ensure consistent sample handling practices. In addition, the LRF requested the involvement of technicians from the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to support KYD sample collection, with the objective of improving field sampling practices and enhancing overall sample quality.

To date, the project has achieved a total of 7,631 sample submissions against a cumulative target of 13,466 samples, reflecting an overall achievement rate of approximately 56.7% of the project target. Specifically, 6,833 samples have been submitted against a target of 5,717 samples, resulting in a shortfall of 1,206 samples. Although meaningful progress has been achieved, additional submissions are still required to meet the planned target. The KYD Genotyping component recorded 1,975 submitted samples against a target of 4,624 samples, representing the largest gap of 2,649 samples and indicating the need for targeted interventions to accelerate sample collection and submission. For the Red Feed Intake deliverable, 798 samples have been submitted compared to a target of 1,265 samples, leaving a variance of 467 samples. Similarly, the Meat Quality component has recorded 1,061 submitted samples against a target of 1,245, resulting in a shortfall of 323 samples. Overall, while progress has been made across all deliverables, sustained efforts in stakeholder engagement, improved sample collection processes, and increased participation will be essential to close existing gaps and improve overall project performance against set targets.

The below barometers provide a visual representation of each deliverable to date:

LRF Online Courses

June's Online Course:
On the 23rd of June 2026, the LRF hosted its sixth free online course of 2026, delving into the topic: Selecting for Maternal Performance, presented by Dr Bob Weaber (Kansas State University). This course delved into how to improve cow herd production efficiency and profitability, selecting for fertility and longevity as well as leveraging maternal heterosis.

In case you missed the live session, catch up with the course recording on our YouTube Channel:

June Online Course Recording

Next Free Online Course: 28 July 2026
Make sure you don't miss out on our next free online course on Driving Genetic Progress with BREEDPLAN.
Date: 28th July
Time: 10h00 – 11h00
Presenter(s): ABRI Extension Officer

RSVP: Please fill out the Google form:

RSVP July Course

HerdMASTER/BREEDPLAN NEWS

HerdMASTER
A reminder, for helpful HerdMASTER tutorials covering topics like imports, troubleshooting, tipsheets, and more, please follow the link provided to access all the resources you need. These guides are designed to make your experience smoother and more efficient, don't miss out on the support available at your fingertips.

For any assistance or queries, contact Jeanine at
+27 51 444 4853
Jeanine@lrf.co.za

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