



**CATTLE BREEDERS SOCIETY  
BEESTELERGENOOTSKAP™**

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## **News Brief – February 2007**

The Finance and Administration Sub-committee of Council met in Bloemfontein on 1 February 2007 to review the organization of the new office, the staffing workload and other concerns relating to the interface between the office, the members, and Studbook. We also spent some time addressing the backlog of breeder queries.

What is clear to us, is that we have some complex problems concerning our office resources and our capacity to provide a quality service to members. A simple comparison with another breed society reveals the following:

	<b>OTHER BREED</b>	<b>NGUNI</b>
Membership	350	370
Cattle	102 000	40 000
Inspectors	80 senior, 60 junior	20 senior, 20 junior
Per capita fee	R27-00	R22-00
Fee revenue	R2.75 million	R880 000
Management	Breed Director	Nil
Office staff	6	2

The figures are approximate, but what they illustrate is that we have to service more members with considerably fewer resources. The fact that many of these are new breeders means that even more time needs to be spent inducting them into the stud administration process and the rules of the society. And as you can see, without a significant increase in the per capita fee, or dramatic growth in the number of registered cattle in members' herds, we simply cannot afford a breed director. This means that the work of a breed director has to be undertaken by council and sub-committee members, on a voluntary basis and in their own time.

The sustainability of this is open to question, but until such time as we have the finances to better resource our office, council members have agreed on the need to work as a team, and to assist each other in meeting the range of demands facing a breed society and its administrative office. In the meantime, we have also appointed, on a casual/part time basis, Michiel van Niekerk, an ex breed manager of the Limousin Society, to assist us in improving the organisation of the office and making recommendations regarding systems. He will also be helping in the development of a policy and procedure manual. In Yolanda and Louisa, we have two willing and competent people, who are doing the best they can under some difficult circumstances. We will give them as much support as we can, but we also request that breeders assist by following the right procedures and channels.

With regard to the latter, it is important to stress that as breeders, we are in a “direct dealing” relationship with SA Studbook. This means that all birth notifications, cancellations, queries about certificates etc need to be referred directly to Studbook. Otherwise, double handling of information, and time consuming cross referrals are incurred. In working through the backlog of breeder queries, it becomes clear that many of these arise from a lack of adherence to procedures (eg late birth notifications), and some regrettably from poor herd management practices. We are developing and refining existing rules and policies into a comprehensive user manual for breeders, and once this is issued, we believe a more disciplined approach to transgressions of the rules will be necessary.

On the communications front, we have contracted with a service provider to redesign and update our website. The purpose of this is twofold. The website incorporates a public domain to promote the breed and provide information about Nguni cattle, and a password driven member section where access to society documents will be available, where specific breeder information can be accessed, and from which batch sms and email messages can be distributed. We expect this initiative to greatly improve communication between Society and breeders.

Lastly, we advise with regret, that both Stian van As and Auvinus Martens informed us this week that they have tendered their resignations from Council with immediate effect. To ensure continuity in the interim, Kevin Watermeyer will take charge of the technical/inspection portfolio and Barry Tapson will assume responsibility for the training portfolio. Mike Greyling has agreed to assist Kevin by taking on the role of national coordinator of the inspection process. We are also pleased to advise that Naledi Roberts has accepted appointment to council in a co-opted capacity, and will be taking over the promotions and marketing portfolio.

Please confirm your email address with the Nguni office by sending a blank email to [nguni@studbook.co.za](mailto:nguni@studbook.co.za)  
Bevestig asseblief u epos adres met die Nguni Kantoor deur 'n epos te stuur aan [nguni@studbook.co.za](mailto:nguni@studbook.co.za)

Kind regards to all of you.

9<sup>th</sup> February 2007