

# NGUNI CATTLE BREEDERS' SOCIETY OFFICE REPORT FOR 2016



**Yolanda Venter** (Office and Technical)  
**Maki Moshao** (Inspections and Administration) & **Louise du Toit** (Finances)

## Our members and their animals for 2016:

Members (as on 29 January 2017)	256
New members that joined in 2016	7
Resignations in 2016	57
Female animals (as on 29 January 2017)	32 183
Male animals (as on 29 January 2017)	10 099

## TECHNICAL

Seven sales were held under the auspices of the Society in 2016. All the data of these animals were verified to ensure that they meet the minimum breed standards of the Society. Reinstatements were done for seventy-six animals. One Registered Nguni bull and fifteen Registered Nguni cows were exported to the United Arab Emirates. The breeders were Breslau Nguni's and Rous Brothers. Two AI bulls of Mr Freddie Besselaar were approved.

In April 2016, forty doses of semen were exported to Namibia from an approved AI bull. Embryo plus handled the exportation.

## PROJECTS

### Sernick Feedlot Project

A Nguni feedlot project was conducted at Sernick Feedlot, near Edenville. The aim of this project was to determine the reasons for the discrimination against Nguni animals in the feedlot and to determine whether this practice is fair to the breed.

This project also aims to investigate the optimal finishing of Nguni steers and what feeding regimes could alleviate the discriminatory practices applied by feedlots against the Nguni.

The specific objectives for the projects were:

- To determine the optimal feeding period, linked to live and carcass weight(s).
- To determine the effect of age and maturity on feedlot performance.
- To determine the optimal feeding regime and ration, suitable for Nguni steers
- To record composition changes linked to carcass suitability for different market segments by using weight and ultrasound recordings.
- Linking available BLUP breeding values to feedlot performance (progeny).
- Using the information for the determination of markets and alternative feedlotting for Nguni cattle.

**BEEF GENOMICS PROJECT**

The Nguni Society joined the Beef Genomics programme and several meetings and workshops were attended. The Society collected more than 173 DNA samples from identified animals and three semen straws of identified sequence bulls.

**INSPECTIONS**

Inspection applications	177
Inspections done	140
Annual inspections for animals approved	4 360
Animals failed inspections	320
Animals stood over	142
Special inspections for animals approved	143
Special inspections for animals failed	3
Appeal inspections	None

**COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING**

The Nguni society was involved in the following exhibitions:

Nampo  
Mega Week  
Free State RPO Congress  
Lesotho Expo (The Society's first Nguni's were sold at the Expo by Mr Hannes du Toit).

A calendar and journal were compiled and distributed to the breeders. The journal is also published on the website.

**MEETINGS**

Four council meetings were held in Bloemfontein during 2016. An Inspectors refresher course and the AGM were held on 10 and 11 November at Maselspoort. A Strategic session was also held after the inspection refresher course. An evening function was held afterwards.

**TRAINING**

A Beginners Course was held at the Potchefstroom College of Agriculture from 23 to 25 February 2016. Twenty-eight third-year students attended the course. The practical was held at Bandini Farms just outside Potchefstroom.

The Jacobsdal Agricultural High School Information day was held on 2 March 2016 at the school. Twenty-five grade ten learners attended the day.

A three day Beginners course was held at the University of Limpopo for fifty-six fourth-year Agriculture students from 5 to 7 April 2016. The practical was held at the Research farm of the University and also at Mr Lukie Steenkamp's farm at Potgietersrus.

A short course was presented for about fifteen Nguni beneficiaries (Gauteng IDC project) on 26 May 2016.

A Beginners course was held on 4 October 2016. A Junior Inspectors course was held on 5 and 6 October 2016 at Bloemfontein. The practical was held on the farm of Mr Andre Nel near Brandfort. Nine people attended the courses and eight people passed as junior inspectors.

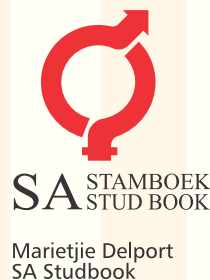
**OFFICE**

**Yolanda Venter attended the following meetings:**

- Voermol/SA Studbook Breeding Symposium
- Free State RPO Congress
- Nampo meeting
- Large stock forum - SA Studbook
- SA Studbook AGM
- Discussions regarding changing of cow values

**Louise du Toit attended the following courses:**

- Payroll and HR requirements
- PwC annual post-Budget Speech panel discussion
- Annual Tax Seminar
- Tax and Labour law and payroll



Maki Moshao attended an occupational health and safety meeting held by SA Studbook.

The office manager, Yolanda Venter, attended the 34th Annual Congress of the South African Society for Agricultural Technologists (SASAT) at Upington on 6 to 8 September 2016. She also presented a poster with the title: "The inheritance of coat colour genes in Nguni cattle". She was awarded first place for the best poster presented.

The Nguni Society was awarded the second place for the compilation of the best SA Studbook annual report for 2015 (out of sixty-four breeds from SA Studbook).

The annual audit was done by PwC during October. The Society's finances are in a healthy condition. A very good report was received from the auditors.

The drought had a negative effect on membership of the Society, but breeders are still positive about the breeding of Nguni's, especially in drought and harsh conditions. ■

**Yolanda Venter**  
Office Manager