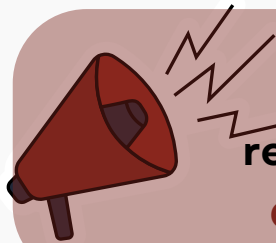


LRF NEWS



**The LRF recently
revamped our website**

Go look: www.lrf.co.za

LRF NEWS

Unlock your livestock breeding potential with the Livestock Registering Federation's (LRF) Animal Breeding Diploma Course, in collaboration with the University of Free State. Learn cutting-edge techniques and best practices on April 16-17, 2024, at UFS Experimental Farm, Bloemfontein. No prior experience required. For R3800 per person (VAT inclusive), enjoy lunch and network with industry experts. Hurry, spots are limited! Registration ends April 12th, 2024. Visit <https://www.lrf.co.za/courses/> or contact 081 844 4853 / office@lrf.co.za. Elevate your livestock breeding skills and agricultural pursuits. Join us in Bloemfontein for an enriching educational experience!

Missed our FREE Online Course 1 on "Data Quality for informative EBVs & Genetic Improvement"? Don't worry! You can catch the recording on our YouTube channel. Watch now: <https://youtu.be/dZdI54b10UA> Enhance your understanding of data quality in genetic improvement at your own pace.

What we discussed:

- Understanding the importance of data quality in genetic improvement
- Best practices for data collection, management, and validation
- Techniques for analyzing and interpreting EBVs effectively
- Practical insights and case studies for real-world application

The Livestock Registering Federation (LRF) Technical Services Newsletter is a biannual publication for members of the LRF in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. The March 2024 issue of the LRF-TS newsletter is now available and contains a wealth of information on technical issues relating to livestock improvement, as well as news from the LRF's members societies and office. The newsletter is available on the LRF website. Follow the link to read more: <https://www.lrf.co.za/technical-services/lrf-ts-newsletter/>

and **ANIMAL BREEDING**
Genomics
COURSE

16-17 APRIL 2024

Presented by the Livestock Registering Federation in collaboration with the University of the Free State.

Held in Bloemfontein, at the UFS experimental farm.
Ideally suited for livestock producers.

Cost: R3 800 per person (Incl. VAT)
Entries close Friday, 12 April 2024



IN THIS ISSUE

LRF NEWS

Read More - Page 1-2

CALENDAR

Read More - Page 2

HERDMASTER/ BREEDPLAN NEWS

Read More - Page 2

We are thrilled to announce that the Livestock Registering Federation (LRF) is joining SASAS to impart their wisdom at the Student Industry Day on 4 April! The LRF is an umbrella body for many of the large cattle breed societies in Southern Africa - they serve eight beef cattle societies in South Africa, 22 beef cattle societies in Namibia, and 15 beef cattle societies in Zimbabwe. We are dedicated to uniting, promoting, and protecting the interests of its members and the broader industry. With a rich heritage and commitment to self-imposed standards of performance and conduct, the LRF plays a pivotal role in advancing livestock registration, production data recording, genetic progress, and breeding practices. For more information, visit our website at www.lrf.co.za.

HerdMASTER News

HerdMASTER 5 release is underway. More information on the release date will be available soon!

CALENDAR

April

16-17- LRF Animal Breeding diploma course for livestock producers

May

14-17 - NAMPO expo

BREEDPLAN Tipsheet Mature cow weight

Why record it?

- Mature cow weight (MCW) influences profitability.
- Cow Feed Requirements – lighter cows eat less and = lower feed req. & less expensive to maintain.
- Cull Cow Values – Heavier cows = higher returns of cull cow.
- Achieving an appropriate balance between cow feed requirements and cull cow values is important

How to record it?

- Mature Cow Weight EBVs are calculated from the live weight performance of mature cows.
- Recorded at the same time you record the 200 day weight of a cow's calf.
- BREEDPLAN will only analyse the weight of a mature cow if the cow has a calf with a valid 200 day weight recorded and this 200 day weight was recorded within two weeks of when the mature weight of the cow was taken.

How to interpret MCW EBVs?

- Animals with higher, more positive Mature Cow Weight EBVs would be expected to produce progeny with a higher mature cow weight than animals with lower Mature Cow Weight EBVs.
- The optimal level of Mature cow weight EBV will depend on the individual herd and its breeding objective(s).

Considerations?

- Record to the nearest kilogram.
- Use accurate scales, avoiding guessing or estimating.
- BREEDPLAN can analyze up to 4 weights per cow.
- For temperate breeds, cow needs to be older than 2.4 years when the first weight is taken; for tropical breeds, it's a minimum age of 3.0 years.
- BREEDPLAN only analyzes MCW performance if the first valid weight is taken before the cow turns six.
- Correct management group info is crucial for MCW performance analysis.
- Optionally, submit cow condition scores with MCW info for potential future use in EBV calculations.

How to submit?

Use any of the following methods:

- The BREEDPLAN compatible Microsoft Excel template (available to download in the HerdMASTER on the BREEDPLAN website and from your society website).
- A BREEDPLAN compatible herd recording computer program, such as HerdMASTER.
- The web services area offered on some breed society websites.
- Scan the QR code to view the full tipsheet

