

2025 PROGRAM

LRF 17th Stockman SCHOOL!

**Smart Stockmanship:
Back to basics**

8th to 10th October 2025

Aldam Holiday Resort

Program subject to change

8 October 2025: WEDNESDAY

SESSION 1:

- 08:00 - 08:15 Welcoming (Main hall)
- **Mr Johan Styger (Chairman of the LRF)**
- 08:15 - 09:10 The status of the red meat industry
- **Mr Wandile Sihlobo (Chief Economist at Agbiz)**
- 09:10 - 10:10 Getting ready for exports, meeting market requirements. What is expected of the producer?
- **Dr Gerhard Neethling (General Manager of Red Meat Abattoir Association) & Mr Gerhard van der Burgh (Senior Analyst: BFAP & Managing Director: IVIS)**

SESSION 2:

- 10:55 - 11:50 The future of beef cattle genetics in the beef value chain
- **Prof Bob Weaber (Professor and Head, Eastern Kansas Research and Extension Centers at Kansas State University)**
- 11:55 - 12:45 Effective veld management for sustained production - back to basics
- **Dr Louis du Pisani (Independent Grazing Consultant)**

8 Oct 2025 Wednesday Afternoon Sessions

SESSION 3:

- 13:45 - 14:40 The strategic importance of public R&D for the competitiveness of the beef industry
- **Prof Norman Maiwashe (General Manager: ARC - Animal Production)**
- 14:40 - 15:30 Bull sub-fertility: How to minimise this risk
- **Dr Stephen Hughes (Veterinary Specialist (Repro) at Howick Veterinary Clinic)**

SESSION 4:

- 16:10 - 17:00 Value of a bull pack
- **Dr Christian Duff (Chief of Operations at ABRI)**
- 19:00 DINNER (Aldam Restaurant)

9 October 2025: Thursday

SESSION 5:

- 08:00 - 08:15 Opening (Main hall)
- **Mr Thys Meyer (Vice-Chairman of the LRF)**
- 08:15 - 09:10 What is the value of testing for feed efficiency on profitability?
- **Dr Nina Casagrande (Global Partner Manager, Vytelle)**
- 09:10 - 10:00 Rumen development - Feeding a ruminant from birth through to slaughter
- **Ms Erin Graham (Technical Manager & Continuous Improvement Specialist at Molatek, RCL Foods)**

SESSION 6:

- 10:50 - 11:45 Conception and re-conception: The crux of livestock farming
- **Dr Douglas Bruce (Veterinarian at Bargrove Veterinary Group, Zimbabwe)**
- 11:45 - 12:35 Surviving difficult times by making use of alternative feed sources
- **Prof Cletos Mapiye (Associate Professor in Meat Science at Stellenbosch University)**

9 Oct 2025 Thursday Afternoon Lecture Sessions

SESSION 7:

- 13:40 - 14:50 Practical session at the kraals
- 1 Selecting cattle for functional efficiency
- **Mr Kobus Bester (Director of the LRF)**
 - 2 Practical animal health
- **Dr Douglas Bruce (Veterinarian at Bargrove Veterinary Group, Zimbabwe) & Dr Danie Odendaal (Owner of Veterinarian Network)**
- 15:00 - 16:45
- 1 Managing cash flow in your livestock farming enterprise
- **Mr Mornay Verster (Owner of Le Roc Brangus)**
 - 2 Best practice guidelines for proper vaccine handling
- **Dr Schabert Froneman (Technical Manager, Ruminants at Zoetis)**
 - 3 Traceability - Let's sign you up
- **RMIS representative**
 - 4 Key performance indicators in your cow/calf operation
- **Mr Johan Styger (Chairman of the LRF)**
- 19:00 Evening Function: Prize-giving & Dinner (Main Hall) - Dress code: Semi-formal
- **Mr Kobus Bester (Master of Ceremonies)**
Key note: Importance of breed societies to drive genetic change to meet future demands
- **Prof Bob Weaber (Professor and Head, Eastern Kansas Research and Extension Centers at Kansas State University)**

10 October 2025: Friday

SESSION 8:

- 08:00 - 08:10 Opening (Main hall)
- **Mr Mecki Schneider (Director of the LRF)**
- 08:10 - 09:05 Selecting for cow maternal performance
- **Prof Bob Weaber (Professor and Head, Eastern Kansas Research and Extension Centers at Kansas State University)**
- 09:05 - 09:55 Disease overview: The changing landscape
- **Dr Danie Odendaal (Owner of Veterinarian Network)**

SESSION 9:

- 10:25 - 11:20 Breeding cattle for the beef consumer - The latest understanding and developments
- **Dr Christian Duff (Chief of Operations at ABRI)**
- 11:20 - 12:10 Producer perspective: Getting the basics right makes you succeed
- **Mr Mornay Verster (Owner of Le Roc Brangus)**

