

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN SANTAM/LRF STUD PRODUCER OF THE
YEAR COMPETITION 2026**

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM:

LRF advisory committee:

Prof Frikkie Naser and Breed Society Representatives

University of the Free State

*The Committee would like to acknowledge the Beef Improvement Association of Australia for their help in
setting up this competition.*



BREEDPLAN®
Genetic Evaluation



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ORGANISERS AND ENTRANTS

THE COMPETITION:

LRF, who, under their discretion, will appoint a management committee and a project manager to manage the competition, and organize the Santam/LRF Seed Stock Producer of the Year 2026 Competition.

The competition is open to all beef Seed Stock Producers in all geographic regions of Southern Africa who sell any genetic material.

RE-ENTRY FOR PAST WINNERS:

Previous Overall winners, excluding those who have won in the past 5 years (2021 – 2025 winners), are welcome to re-enter for this year's stud breeder of the year competition.

THE JUDGING PROCESS

Societies are requested to nominate qualifying breeders. A separate panel selects the National Seed Stock Producer of the Year from among the finalists. The judging panel normally comprises of seed stock producers, as well as delegates from the breed societies and other accomplished leaders in the meat industry. Judges will be asked to declare any conflict of interest.

A client survey will form part of the judging. In the entry form, each entrant is asked to provide the names of five of their clients, in order of preference, for this purpose.

NO DISPUTES PLEASE:

In the unlikely event of a dispute arising during the running of the competition, the decision of the organizing committee shall be final. Naturally, the judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the nomination of prize recipients.

PRIZES

The finalists will be invited to attend the LRF Stockman School Gala event that will be held on the 8th of October 2026 at the Aldam Resort (Ventersburg), to receive their awards.

The overall winner will receive R25 000.00 in cash and a free ticket to attend the LRF Stockman School in 2027. The runner-up will receive a cash prize of R10 000.00.

QUESTIONS?

If any entrant has any questions or concerns during the running of the competition, they are advised to contact:

1. Prof Frikkie Naser
Email : neserfw@ufs.ac.za
Tel: +27 (0) 51 401 2211
Sel: +27 (0) 83 677 6910
2. Your Society

SANTAM/LRF

SEEDSTOCK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR 2026

ENTRY FORM

Entries close Friday 17 July 2026

Please do not waste time on the appearance of your entry, as only completed information (data) is important!

The following information is needed to assist in judging your entry. *The information supplied will be regarded as confidential.*

Unless stated the information supplied should relate to cows and heifers joined in 2024, calves dropped in 2025 and bulls sold in 2025-2026 (or in the last 12 months).

Please read carefully the Memorandum of Understanding between Organizers and Entrants.

Please send your genetic trends with this application form.

INFORMATION ON YOU AND YOUR SEEDSTOCK ENTERPRISE:

NAME: _____

STUD/HERD NAME: _____

1. HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE SEEDSTOCK BUSINESS? _____

2. WHAT IS YOUR COMPLETENESS OF PERFORMANCE RATING IN YOUR STUD (IF AVAILABLE)? _____

3. WHAT IS YOUR NORMAL ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CYCLE?

- JOINING SEASON/S (LIST CALENDAR MONTHS): _____
- CALVING PERIOD/S (LIST CALENDAR MONTHS): _____
- WEANING (LIST CALENDAR MONTH): _____
- BULL SALE(S) (LIST CALENDAR MONTH): _____

4. WHAT IS THE TYPICAL STOCKING RATE USED IN YOUR SEEDSTOCK ENTERPRISE (EG. DSE/HA, KG/HA, LIVESTOCK UNITS/HA):

5. WHAT IS THE AVERAGE RAINFALL IN YOUR DISTRICT (MM OR INCHES / ANNUM): _____

6. WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE JOINING PERIOD USED IN YOUR SEEDSTOCK HERD?

COWS _____ (WEEKS) MAIDEN HEIFERS _____ (WEEKS)

7. WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AGE OF HEIFERS WHEN FIRST JOINED?

_____ MONTHS

8. WHAT WAS THE APPROX. DISTRIBUTION OF ALL CALVES BORN ACROSS THE CALVING SEASON IN 2025?

NB. IF MORE THAN ONE CALVING SEASON, PLEASE SHOW FIGURES SEPARATELY FOR EACH CALVING GROUP.

	FIRST 0-3 WKS	3-6 WKS	6-9 WKS	9-12 WKS	12 + WKS
HEIFERS	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %
COWS	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %	_____ %

9A. DO YOU PREGNANCY TEST YOUR BREEDING FEMALES? * YES * NO

IF YES, WHAT WAS YOUR MOST RECENT PREGNANCY TEST RESULT (%)?

NUMBER OF FEMALES TESTED PREGNANT _____
NUMBER OF COWS EXPOSED TO BULL / AI _____ x 100

PLEASE SHOW YOUR CALCULATIONS: _____ x 100 = _____

IF POSSIBLE, DO THE CALCULATION SEPARATELY FOR MAIDEN HEIFERS AND COWS

MAIDEN HEIFERS _____ % COWS _____ %

9B. WHAT IS THE INTER CALVING PERIOD BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND CALF? _____

9C. AVERAGE ICP? _____

10. WHAT WAS THE WEANING PERCENTAGE ACHIEVED AT YOUR LAST WEANING:

NUMBER OF CALVES WEANED IN 2024/2025 _____
NUMBER OF COWS EXPOSED TO BULL / AI _____ x 100 =

PLEASE SHOW YOUR CALCULATIONS: _____ x 100 = _____ %

IF POSSIBLE, DO THE CALCULATION SEPARATELY FOR MAIDEN HEIFERS AND COWS

MAIDEN HEIFERS _____% COWS _____%

11. LIST THE APPROXIMATE AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NATURAL SERVICE BULLS USED AT THE LAST JOINING SEASON:

AGE	< 2 YO	2 YO	3 YO	4 YO	5 YO	6 YO	7 YO	8 YO	>8 YO
NUMBER OF BULLS:									

12. WHAT IS THE TYPICAL JOINING RATIO USED FOR NATURAL SERVICE BULLS

(I.E. NO. FEMALES EXPOSED PER BULL?):

13. DO YOU USE LINE BREEDING? WHAT PROCEDURES DO YOU PUT IN PLACE TO LIMIT INBREEDING IN YOUR HERD?

14. DID YOU CONDUCT AN AI PROGRAM IN 2024, 2025 OR 2026? * YES * NO

IF YES, EXPLAIN THE CRITERIA YOU USED TO SELECT AI SIRES:

15. DID YOU CONDUCT AN EMBRYO TRANSFER PROGRAM IN 2024, 2025 OR 2026? * YES * NO

IF YES, EXPLAIN THE CRITERIA YOU USED TO SELECT ET DONOR FEMALES

16. DESCRIBE THE GOALS/OBJECTIVES OF YOUR BREEDING PROGRAM (I.E. WHAT TYPE OF ANIMALS YOU ARE STRIVING TO PRODUCE FROM YOUR BREEDING PROGRAM) – ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY

17. DO YOU USE ANY OF THE AVAILABLE GENETIC RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE MEAT QUALITY OF YOUR HERD (I.E. ULTRASOUND SCANNING OR PROGENY TESTING)?

* YES * NO

IF YES, HOW DO YOU USE THESE RESULTS TO IMPROVE THE MEAT QUALITY OF YOUR HERD?

18. DO YOU SEND A COMPLETE MATING LIST TO YOUR SOCIETY THAT INCLUDES A BULL IN DATE, COWS THAT CALVE AND THE NON CALVERS?

* YES * NO

IF YES, PLEASE COMMENT ON YOUR REPRODUCTIVE EBV'S, EITHER WITH DAYS TO CALVING OR OTHER CRITERIA.

19. BRIEFLY COMMENT ON THE DIRECTION OF GENETIC CHANGE ACHIEVED IN YOUR HERD OVER TIME, AND HOW YOU ASSESS THE CHANGE.

PLEASE ATTACH YOUR GENETIC TRENDS.

20. PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT OR BREEDING STRATEGIES USED IN YOUR ENTERPRISE

(ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY).

21. DO YOU CURRENTLY GENOTYPE (SNP) ANY ANIMALS? * YES * NO

IF YES, PLEASE INDICATE WHICH % OF YOUR HERD IS GENOTYPED AND WHY YOU THINK GENOTYPING IS IMPORTANT?

INFORMATION ON YOUR SEED STOCK MARKETING PROGRAM:

22. LIST THE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF BULLS YOU SOLD IN 2025 - 2026 BY DIFFERENT SELLING METHODS:

SALE TYPE	No. OF BULLS SOLD
ON PROPERTY AUCTION ON PROPERTY PRIVATE TREATY MULTI VENDOR SALE (OFF-PROPERTY) OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE) _____	
TOTAL BULLS SOLD	

23. HOW DO YOU SELECT THOSE CALVES TO BE RETAINED AS SALE BULLS?

24. APART FROM BULL SALES, INDICATE WHAT OTHER FORMS OF SEED STOCK ARE SOLD BY YOU?

* BREEDING FEMALES * EMBRYOS * SEMEN

* OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY): _____

25. INDICATE WHAT PRE-SALE CHECKS YOU CONDUCT PRIOR TO SELLING BULLS:

* BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAMINATION (BY VET)

* BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAMINATION (CONDUCTED YOURSELF)

* SERVING CAPACITY / ABILITY TEST

* OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE): _____

26. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE TERMS OF THE GUARANTEE PROVIDED TO PURCHASERS OF YOUR SALE BULLS.

27. DO YOU HOLD A PRODUCTION AUCTION? IS THIS A COMBINED AUCTION WITH OTHER BREEDERS?

28. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE NATURE OF YOUR BULL SALE CLIENT BASE, THE ENVIRONMENTS THEY OPERATE IN AND THE MARKETS THEY TARGET:

29. HOW MANY OF YOUR BULLS WERE SOLD TO SEED STOCK (STUD) CLIENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR (2025/2026)?

30. HOW MANY WERE SOLD TO COMMERCIAL CLIENTS? _____

31. LIST THE APPROXIMATE PROPORTION OF BULL SALE CLIENTS BY DISTANCE FROM YOUR PROPERTY:

DISTANCE FROM YOUR PROPERTY:	APPROX. PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS
WITHIN 25 KM	
25 – 50 KM	
50- 100 KM	
100-200KM	
> 200KM	

32. DESCRIBE WHAT ADDITIONAL CLIENT SERVICES YOU OFFER:

33. WHAT DEVELOPMENT DO YOU OFFER YOUR WORKERS THAT WORK WITH YOUR STUD?

34. LIST THE NAMES AND TELEPHONE CONTACTS OF 5 OF YOUR CLIENTS THAT CAN BE CONTACTED IN A CLIENT SURVEY, WHICH MAY BE USED TO ASSIST IN THE JUDGING PROCESS (IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE)

1. NAME_____PHONE_____
2. NAME_____PHONE_____
3. NAME_____PHONE_____
4. NAME_____PHONE_____
5. NAME_____PHONE_____

35. LIST ANY POSITIONS YOU HOLD RELEVANT TO THE SEED STOCK OR CATTLE BUSINESS AND ANY RESEARCH, EXTENSION OR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO (E.G. VIA BREEDPLAN, THE ARC, LOCAL SHOWS OR BREED SOCIETIES)

36. DESCRIBE HOW YOU WOULD MEASURE SUCCESS IN THE SEED STOCK BUSINESS?

37. DID YOU ATTEND ANY SOCIETY/LRF OR ANY OTHER COURSES OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS? * YES * NO

IF YES, PLEASE NAME THE LAST 3 YOU ATTENDED?

DECLARATION

I, _____ have read the competition schedule and the memorandum of understanding between organizers and entrants, and understand the conditions of entry and the judging criteria. I have accurately completed each page of the entry form and agree to host a field day on my property should I win the competition. I support the competition's focus on education and enter it with goodwill, knowing that should any disputes arise the decision of the organizing committee will be final. I also understand that the competition or its organizers or sponsors cannot be held responsible for any injury, accident or loss of production that may occur as a result of entering. I agree to allow the relevant breed society to provide the competition judges with a copy of my most recent BREEDPLAN herd report to assist them in assessing the genetic progress achieved in my herd.

SIGNATURE

DATE

DON'T FORGET TO:

1. Complete and sign the above declaration.
2. Include a copy your most recent catalogue/bull sale information, client newsletter, etc.
3. Please note that it is up to each participant to confirm that his or her competition form has been received.
4. Are your genetic trends attached?

Please send your completed form to:

Prof Frikkie Nesor

Email : neserfw@ufs.ac.za

Tel: +27 (0) 51 401 2211

Sel: +27 (0) 83 677 6910

Namibian breeders must please send all entries to the NSBA.

ENTRIES CLOSE
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026 AT 5:00 PM