

LRF NEWS

18th LRF Annual Stockman School:

The 18th Annual LRF Stockman School is set to take place from 7–9 October 2026 at the Aldam Holiday Resort in the Free State. This year's theme, "Unlocking the Beef Value Chain", promises to deliver fresh insights into one of the most vital sectors of livestock production.

Widely regarded as a highly anticipated event, the Stockman School draws both local and international speakers and participants, making it a hub of knowledge-sharing and networking. Known for its educational depth and practical focus, it equips attendees with tools and strategies they can apply directly in the field. If you're passionate about the beef industry, this is an event you simply won't want to miss.

Please note that Stockman School is registered for CPD Points!

View the programme and access the registration form off of our website or contact Charmaine Alberts for more information:

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HERDMASTER & BREEDPLAN NEWS

CALENDAR

- 7-9th October 2026: Stockman School

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Stockman School
Registration Form

Stockman School
Programme



Monthly Tipsheet and Video Series: July Focus – BREEDPLAN Guide to Selection Indexes

We are excited to announce the next monthly tipsheet and video for our 2026 series. Each month, a one-page tipsheet and video will be released covering all the information you need to know! For June, our focus was on **EBV Accuracy**.

Access June's one-page tipsheet and 2-minute video below to stay informed and up-to-date.

EBVs Accuracy Tipsheet

EBV Accuracy Video

For July, our focus is on **BREEDPLAN Guide to Selection Indexes**

What are Selection Indexes?

- BREEDPLAN calculates Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) for a range of economically important traits.
- While BREEDPLAN EBVs provide cattle producers with a comprehensive range of information regarding the genetic merit of an animal, it can be difficult to identify the appropriate level of emphasis to be placed on each EBV to achieve maximum profitability.
- BreedObject Selection Indexes are a tool that help to solve this dilemma.
- The BreedObject software combines the BREEDPLAN EBVs for an animal with an economic weighting (based on costs of production and returns on outputs) to produce selection index values.
- As selection indexes balance the relative growth, carcass and fertility genetic merits of each animal, they can identify the animals that are most profitable for a particular production system.
- Thus, selection indexes enable cattle producers to make selection decisions that account for both the short term profit generated by a sire through the sale of his progeny, and (where applicable) the longer term profit generated by his daughters in a self-replacing cow herd.

What selection indexes are available?

- A number of breed societies publish selection indexes that are designed to cater for the commercial market production systems of general relevance in each particular breed.
- These selection indexes are intended for use by both stud & commercial producers.
- A general description of the selection index(es) available for each breed society can be found in the Help Centre on the BREEDPLAN website.

Interpreting Selection Indexes

- The selection index value for an animal is effectively an EBV of the animal's profitability in that particular commercial production scenario and market.
- Ranking seedstock animals on their selection index value sorts them based on their progeny's expected profitability for the targeted production system.
- Selection indexes are expressed as "net profit per cow mated".
- For example, if we compare a bull with an Index of +R500 with a bull that has an Index of +R300, we can estimate that the difference in net profit from the progeny of the bulls would be:
= ½ x difference in Index
= ½ x (500-300)
= R100 per cow mated
- Note: We need to multiply by ½ because only half the progeny's genes come from the sire).
- If these two bulls were each joined to 150 cows during their breeding life, the difference in their selection index values would equate to a R15 000 (150 x R100) difference in profitability between bulls.
- It is important to note that this difference includes profit across the entire production chain from joining to slaughter and, if a self-replacing selection index, also considers the long term profit generated by a sire's daughters.

Using Selection Indexes

- BREEDPLAN recommends using selection indexes as part of a selection strategy which also includes other selection tools (e.g. EBVs and visual assessment).
- By initially ranking animals using an appropriate selection index, beef producers ensure balanced selection for traits important to their production system.
- The BREEDPLAN best practice guide to animal selection is to:
 1. Identify the selection index of most relevance.
 2. Rank animals on the selection index.
 3. Consider the individual BREEDPLAN EBVs of importance.
 4. Consider other traits of importance.

Access July's one-page tipsheets and 2-minute video below to stay informed and up-to-date.

Selection Indexes
Tipsheet

Selection Indexes Video

BreedLOGIC Database Search

BreedLOGIC Database Search is coming soon to the LRF member breed societies across Southern Africa, providing a modern and intuitive way to search breed society information. Users will be able to explore animals, pedigrees, members, sales information and genetic evaluation data through a powerful platform designed to make finding and analysing information easier.

During the introductory period, BreedLOGIC Database Search will be available alongside Internet Solutions, allowing users to access and explore the new platform while continuing to use the existing system. This overlap period provides an opportunity to become familiar with BreedLOGIC's features and gradually transition to the new platform.

BreedLOGIC Database Search represents an important step forward in how breed society information is accessed and shared across Southern Africa. Breed societies, together with the LRF and ABRI, look forward to supporting members throughout the transition and helping them make the most of the platform's enhanced capabilities.

The BreedLOGIC Knowledge Base is the central repository for BreedLOGIC Database Search help and support resources. Accessible via the Support & Resources section within the platform, the Knowledge Base contains user guides, FAQs, instructional videos and a downloadable booklet, with additional content being added over time. The Using BreedLOGIC Database Search booklet is a great place to begin, bringing together all user guides and key support information in a single document.

BreedLOGIC Knowledge
Base

Using BreedLOGIC
Database Search Booklet

LRF Online Courses

July's Online Course:

On the 28th of July 2026, the LRF hosted its seventh free online course of 2026, delving into the topic: Driving Genetic Progress with BREEDPLAN, presented by Catriona Millen and Fiona Macarthur from ABRI. This course delved into understanding Breeding Objectives and your business, using BREEDPLAN information in animal selection as well as utilising BREEDPLAN to its full potential.

In case you missed the live session, catch up with the course recording on our YouTube Channel

July Online Course Recording

HerdMASTER/BREEDPLAN NEWS

HerdMASTER

A reminder, for helpful HerdMASTER tutorials covering topics like imports, troubleshooting, tipsheets, and more, please follow the link provided to access all the resources you need. These guides are designed to make your experience smoother and more efficient, don't miss out on the support available at your fingertips.

For any assistance or queries, contact Jeanine at
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