

Mashona Cattle Newsletter July 2015

Hello Mashona Enthusiasts,

Hope your cattle are maintaining their condition, and that things are quiet on the ground.

It has been a busy few months with 3 field days being held in our region. Thanks to Helen Lock, Machiki Farm, Macheke. Maree Osborne, Blue Gums Farm, Macheke, and Carmen Stubbs, Tsanga Farm Headlands. Field Days were held in conjunction with Coopers and also invited were Surrey Abattoir, Vet Department, Police and other interest groups. Thanks to Coopers for the donation to the Mashona Society!

These field days were very successful and are part of our ongoing effort to help spread the word about good cattle management and how Mashona cattle can be used to achieve this. It was also a good opportunity to meet the neighbours and establish comms with the dedicated cattle people in the area. Have a look on face book "Mashona Cattle Zimbabwe" to see some pictures.

Grading up of your cattle

The respective Cattle Society is the custodian for an 'Open' Herd Book for the breed of cattle being represented by the Society.

The Society recognises the limited number of stud breeders in the country and also, importantly, recognises the vast array of cattle genetics available in Zimbabwe. Hence the Society supports an 'Open' Herd Book which promotes the influx of new genetics into the Herd Book.

To this end, the cattle can be upgraded by the introduction of new genetics from both the male (bulls) and the female (cows).

In order to be a registered breeder of cattle, a breeder must first register with the relevant Cattle Society. The requirements to register are as follows:

The Zimbabwe Herd Book (ZHB) maintains the breed data for the Cattle Society and any breeder interested in participating in the Stud Book will also need to register with ZHB through the relevant Cattle Society.

There are four steps involved in progressing from a foundation animal (Appendix A) to a fully registered stud animal (SP, Studbook Proper).

In accordance with the requirements of the Cattle Society, animals must be inspected and be approved into their respective categories

A foundation animal (Appendix A) is a phenotypically (visible features) true to type animal. The Cattle Society accepts both male and female animals which meet this requirement.

The upgrading system from Foundation (Appendix A) to Studbook Proper (SP) is as follows:

<u>Grade of Male</u>	<u>Grade of Female</u>	<u>Eligible Grade of Progeny</u>
Parent	Parent	<u>Subject to Inspection</u>
Foundation, A	Foundation, A	B
Foundation, A	B	B
B	Foundation, A	B
B	B	C
Foundation, A	C	B
C	Foundation, A	B
C	B	C
B	C	C
C	C	SP
SP	C	SP
C	SP	SP
SP	SP	SP

In other words, progeny are eligible for a grade higher than that of the lowest parent.

In addition to registering with the ZHB, other requirements include:

- Payment of an annual levy per animal over one year of age;
- Submission of birth records for registered cows within 60 days of birth, providing calf identity, sex, date of birth and calf sire and dam identity.
- Provide all fertility records including abortions, stillbirths, and records for calves died soon after birth and for calves not for registration (i.e., not true to type, unknown sire, etc).

The Cattle Society also promotes the submission of basic performance figures in a bid to work towards providing estimated breeding values (EBV's) for animals in the herd.

Mashona Society

Senior Inspectors

Carmen Stubbs, Mark Stubbs, Maree Osborne. Dr Holness, Dr Jackson, Dr Beffa, Andy Huck

Junior Inspectors

Milton Makumbe, Helen Lock, Richard Stubbs

Learner Inspector

Jaco Erasmus, Danie Erasmus, Everson Dahwa, Ephram Maranga, Matola Watch, Sarah Huck and Barius Libele

Inspector Training Program

2 inspectors with 2 juniors

a) First Inspection, juniors listen and ask questions

b) Second inspection, junior inspectors inspect with a seniorIf proficient name is put forward as an inspector

c) Third inspection, inspect with an inspector

The Society has its brand and will be calling for inspections so that animals can be identified and branded accordingly.

Brand elongated m

North, m at the top, SP

East, 3 for Appendix A

South, w for appendix B and

West, E for appendix C.

To book an inspection please contact Carmen on clstubbs@zol.co.zw and cc to Maree osborne@zol.co.zw

National Bull Sale

Friday July 31st 2015 at C.C.Sales Mt Hampden 10.am (viewing on Thursday 30th July.)

On offer is a Mashona Bull!!!!!! Come and join in the fun.

Here is picture of the bull, and a photo from Carmen's Field Day



26.07.

