



Minutes of a General Simbra Breeders Meeting, held at Afridome, Parys and on Zoom 9 September 2021, at 10:00

1. Opening

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. André van Wyk.

Mr Tito Vorster, President of the Simbra Cattle Breeder's Society acted as chairman.

2. Attendance Register

Present:

Mr Tito Vorster (President); Mr Pieter Meyer (Vice-President); Mr Kobus Bester (Breed Director); Mr Andrew Brink Snr; Mr Andy Brink; Mr Neil Pretorius; Mr Eugene Marais; Mr Riaan van Zyl; Mrs Maraldi Steenkamp; Mrs Daleen van Zyl; Mr Danie van Vuuren; Mr Christiaan Boucher; Mr Hendrik Grobbelaar; Mr Willie Lubbe; Mr Andre van Wyk; Mr Pieter Louw; Mr Chris Richter; Mr Lourens Muller; Mr Carl Rautenbach; Mr Foeta Lourens; Mr Matthew Kinghorn; Mr Jaco Mare; Mr Cornelis Derksen; Mr Arne Grobbelaar; Mr Hennie Viljoen; Mr Richard Venema

Zoom:

Mr Rhinus Steenkamp; Ms Linley Jones (Due to a power failure, not all zoom participants has been indicated on the system)

Apologies:

Mr Llewellyn Angus; Mr Rick Dell; Mr Gawie Coetzee; Mr Bles de Klerk; Mr Fanie Mare Jnr; Mr Graham Curren

3. Breed Improvement

Mr. Meyer presented a brief insight into the status of membership, animal numbers and performance recording statistics within the Simbra Cattle Breeders Society. Genetic and phenotypic trends for certain traits were shared, with acknowledgment given to improvements seen in Days to Calving.

The presentation will be circulated to all members.

The following important proposals were presented to the members for approval:

3.1. **Proposed amendments to the Simbra Breeding Policy** (with acknowledgement to the inputs from prof Frikkie Nester) were presented with the following objectives:

3.1.1. Be more accessible to new breeders with their current herds in addition to the current open herd book Cum system.

3.1.2. Improve sought after genetic diversity.

- 3.1.3. The breeding policy will assure that the breed percentages of a studbook proper animal will still adhere to international standards in that no SP animal will have more than 6.25% foreign blood composition.

Mr Thys Meyer proposed that we accept the proposed breeding policy with immediate effect.

Secunder: Mr Carl Rautenbach

3.2 Simbra Economic Indexes

- 3.2.1 Specific focus on improvements on carcass characteristics and meat quality in the Self Replacing Wean index.
- 3.2.2 Feedlot index also sees improvements in carcass characteristics but some concern around mature cow size being considerably high.
- 3.2.3 Namibian Self Replacing Grassfed Index sees improvements on carcass characteristics, but we are going to place more emphasis on Days to Calving with the aim of improving fertility.

No questions were raised over the indexes.

3.3 Simbra genomics data collection plan

It is of utmost importance to have a well-structured properly linked and accurately recorded Simbra reference population.

- 3.3.1 Identify most influential animals within the breed.
- 3.3.2 Sires of all calves to born from 1 September 2022 are to be genotyped.
- 3.3.3 Identify animals with outlier traits (Diversity is important to allow progress).
- 3.3.4 Collect proper performance data with special focus on difficult to measure traits.

Proposal: Mr Thys Meyer propose that the sires of all calves born from 1 September 2022 to be genotyped.

Secunder: Foeta Louwrens

The Simbra data collection plan with goals and target dates was presented to the meeting.

3.4 DNA collection and recording system (DNA Pipeline)

- 3.4.1 The LRF DNA Pipeline serves to take the administrative burden out of DNA testing by creating a link between the Society and the laboratory or service provider.
- 3.4.2 The Society will aim to streamline the registration process and increase accuracy of data recorded and turn-around time between receiving results and having animals registered on the system.

3.5 Crossbreed project

A crossbreed project is considered by the BIC for implementation, and breeder who have Simmentaler and/or Brahman studs and are willing to participate in the crossbreed project were requested to run animals in the same contemporary groups.

4. Ken Jou Mark (Mr Lourens Muller)

Gave insight into the "rules of the game" for seedstock production. Presented research on profit margins from a study done by Kansas State University. Take home message was that focus on the farm needs to be shifted from chasing production to chasing cost reduction.

5. Finances and Budget (Mr Kobus Bester)

5.1. The purpose of discussing the finances and more specific to get approval for the 2022 budget is to comply with section 6.4.3 of the Simbra constitution.

5.2. Financial position of the Society **as at 31 August 2021**:

5.2.1. **Bank balance R1,357,000**

5.2.2. Debtors: **93% of Simbra members have already paid their accounts**, and Kobus Bester thank the Simbra breeders for the prompt payment of their accounts and call on the members owing R 137 194 make payment as soon as possible.

5.2.3. The Society **budget for a surplus** this financial year.

5.2.4. Events like the Simbra Heifer Carnival and the Simbra Spring Showcase is important to aid the finances of the Society.

5.2.5. Important aspects to take note of:

5.2.5.1. Society income is related to numbers, animals and breeders – thus the success of our breeders is of utmost importance

5.2.5.2. Additional sources of income for the society are very important, and the following services will be implemented to aid the finances:

5.2.5.2.1. DNA Pipeline

5.2.5.2.2. Web based sales platforms

- Semen
- Commercial animals
- Stud animals

Mr Kobus Bester advised the meeting to consider **an increase in the Simbra marketing fee from R2 to R5 per registered female**.

Proposer: Mr Lourens Muller

Secunder: Mr Riaan van Zyl

Mr Kobus Bester requested to:

Increase membership fees, levies and service charges for 2022 by 7%.

Increase the budgeted expenses based on 2021 actuals by 5% except for:

- Office rent.
- Breed inspector training.
- Travel and accommodation.

Which will have to be managed according to what is required in the best interest of the breed.

The following items has not been budgeted for:

- Travel expenses for breeder, study group or club support.
- Shows and auctions
- Meetings (General Breeders meetings or Annual General Meeting)
- Council member Expenses
 - Meetings
 - Travel and Accommodation
 - Honorariums

Propose to accept: Mr Lourens Muller

Secunder: Mr Willie Lubbe

6. Inspections (Mr Tito Vorster)

Inspection to register Simbra cattle is compulsory. A traditional inspection where an inspector merely approves or disapprove the cattle is a lost opportunity. Travelling cost is a sunken cost that adds no value, it is however unavoidable.

Mr Tito Vorster shared an idea that inspections become an opportunity for breeders to get together and achieve the following:

- a. One of the farmers in the area hosts the event. This affords the host the opportunity to “showcase” his or her animals. The host can also share his challenges and successes with the breeders present. Each of the participating farmers will get an opportunity to host such events.
- b. Other than just doing inspections the breeders can also showcase their stud sires and progeny of these sires. These animals can be discussed amongst the breeders. An inspector does inspections of all farmers in a specific area, but to minimize costs the farmers in the area also attend the inspection and a “day event” is made from it.
- c. Thereafter the inspector and participating farmers go to the next breeder in the area. This way the daily costs for the inspector become less (costs shared between breeders) and the breeders get the opportunity to learn from one another. Although this might not be practical for all breeders, the practice is encouraged.

Mr Tito Vorster suggested that:

- **Breeders carry the cost of inspections (day fees, travel and accommodation).**
- Those people who wish to use the above proposed method are free to do so and share costs. It will add value and be cheaper.
- Those breeders who wish to have individual inspections are also free to do so, provided that they accept that they will be solely responsible for the inspection costs associated therewith.

Proposed: Mr Christiaan Bouwer

Secunder: Mr Riaan van Zyl

A document outlining the procedure and all relevant information pertaining to inspections will be drafted and circulated with specific reference to:

- **Approved inspectors on the panel**
- **Proposed/prescribed fee structure**

7. Regional Representatives and Clubs (Mr Pieter Meyer)

Pieter Meyer made a plea to get regional representatives and clubs mobilized. It is not up to the society to start a club or to force people to open their clubs to new people. Be creative with the time and activities of the clubs. One of the benefit of clubs is breed promotion. Clubs provide opportunities for mentorship, those people who

are willing to be in a mentorship position where they are willing to speak to and help upcoming farmers, please contact Mr Kobus Bester. Use the opportunity to help each other.

8. AI Bulls (Mr Kobus Bester)

A brief discussion was held on what the needs of Simbra breeders are in terms of AI bulls. It was very clear that there is as definite need for:

- Proven bulls
- Young bulls

Council will consider the needs of the members and will revert with a proposal with regards to AI bulls.

9. Simbra Calendar

Kobus Bester informed the meeting that the Council has accepted a protocol to regulate the calendar planning to avoid calendar issues where Society activities clash with breeder activities as was experienced with the SSS dated coinciding with the Auctions of Kleine Monde, Malemba and Simchris.

To avoid overlapping of calendar date of the society's members and society activities, it was decided the calendar will be managed with preference to existing established annual calendar events from previous years. It will be carried over in accordance with ISO8601. This protocol for calendars is available on the website.

10. Progress feedback concerning AGM 15Jan2021 decision and the resulting legal action (Mr Tito Vorster)

Mr. Tito Vorster explained the current legal standing pertaining of the restructure of the Simmentaler and Simbra Cattle Breeders Societies follows:

- a. The Council of the Simbra Society have done everything possible to cooperate with the implement of the decision in respect of the restructure of the Society and the division of assets which was supported by 90% of the members at the AGM in January 2021.
- b. We could not even succeed to hold a meeting with the Simmentaler President, who was tasked to together the Auditor and I the implementation the restructure of the Society as approved by 89.5% of the members present at the Annual General meeting held on 15 January 2021.
- c. For the months of January and February 2021 we received outstanding service and cooperation with the office under the leadership of Mr. Phillip Lee.
- d. I was eventually invited to attend a Council meeting of the Simmentaler Council in early March 2021. The outcome of the meeting was merely a confirmation that there was no intent by the Council, led by specific members of the Council, to further any cooperation with Simbra Society on the implementation of the restructure. We were also informed that they would no longer render registration services to the Simbra Society.

After further discussions and alternative considerations, Mr. Vorster requested the members mandate the Council to proceed with a court application against the Simmentaler Society.

Proposed: Mr Daleen van Zyl

Secunder: Mr Lourens Muller

The chairman thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned.