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Presidents Brief:

Welcome to Issue 9 of our newsletter for June 2016. By now most studs will have mated their does for the coming breeding season.

I am aware that some breeders were involved with semen and embryo transfers, with some kids already on the ground. Here's hoping for a successful breeding season.

This year at the AGM, Stephen Andrews stepped down from the committee after a number of years' service to the association. I would personally like to thank Stephen for his service and contribution to the association and the Boer goat industry. I would like to welcome Christine Carleton to the executive and thank her for accepting the challenge and allowing herself to be nominated.

As a result of the presentation by Sharon on behalf of SIL, and the impending change of SIL inputter for the association, all members are to use a standard format for animal identification for any new stud additions from now.

This format is as per the following example:

1234.1601

Your Stud number (four digit 1234) allocated by SIL, followed by a decimal point then the number with the first 2 digits representing the year (16), and the remainder of the digits being the animal number given by you (usually 01 would be the first kid born in your stud for 2016).

If nothing else, the ear tag for this year will have 1601 or 16555. If you already have printed tags that run on from one year to the next then you will need to write a 16 in front.

If you have any concerns over this please communicate directly with me for clarification.

Over the past few months I have been impressed to hear how our breeders from both stud and commercial sector have been working together to secure export orders.

A well-known Hamilton company secured an export order from Nepal for 5,000plus frozen Boer goat semen straws. After purchasing 10 Boer bucks from Association members they then asked for a further 10 bucks, not an easy task when the genetic difference was factored in. The company was very impressed with the speed of delivery and the way our members worked together to make it happen. Due to the late timing of the tender the order was not completed but both companies are continuing discussions with the view to a continuation in 2017.

Another export order for 5 bucks and 17 does bound for New Caledonia entered quarantine on 4th August for a month.

New Caledonia has not had new genetics for quite some time and with the added problem of no current protocol, unable to fly that number on a commercial passenger aircraft and the very poor image of sea freighting livestock this has been a project that has been on the go for 18 months. Talking to the project co coordinator, they indicated that MPI have been very helpful but very conscious about public opinion on sea freighting livestock to the point that a New Caledonia vet will be flying to Auckland, meeting up with the ship and accompanying the goats for 5 days. Once again comment was made about how well the 6 breeders have worked together to make this happen with very strict testing and transport logistics to overcome.

Before acceptance of this order the New Caledonian buyers wanted photos of 7 bucks and 20 does to choose from along with full 5 generation pedigrees for each. They then worked through over 150 different matings to work out how different the genetics were.

This export order has been in progress for over 18 months with probably over 100 emails, countless photos and pedigrees, a very exacting and demanding protocol and everything having to be approved by MPI.

The latest export order is from an Australian exporter for as many Commercial fullblood to 2nd cross Boer does at over 30 kg. This has moved from an enquiry to a positive probable order as the exporter is taking a large amount of Saanen does as well. As we have had enquiries in the past for in excess of 3,000 F2 does this order is strategically important for both sectors as it is for a number between 150 – 500 which is much more manageable and will enable all concerned to work through the logistics, do it well, learn from the process and may well lead to an ongoing order.

While exporting is not for everyone, we all need to respect each other's points of view.

Some Executive members and Export Project Co coordinators have been on the receiving end of some Goat Industry people's personal rants. If these people put their efforts into growing a sustainable industry instead of bullying the people who are trying to put options in place for all, then maybe everyone would be winning!

To put things into perspective the commercial goat meat people have had over thirty years to build a sustainable industry paying realistic money to farmers and breeders for their product – has this ever been the case?

If we want our sector of the Goat Industry to grow, then supporting both domestic and International enquiries is important to our survival. The Australian Boer Goat Association has struggled to survive on meat works pay outs, the same as us, but over the past few years has reaped the benefits of chasing export orders.

To anyone who receives an export enquiry for stud or commercial Boer goats and needs help to progress it to a sale, then do not hesitate to call me. I know most of the other Executive members are also willing to help.

Regards

Brian Loughhead
NZBGBA President

2016 NZBGBA South Island Boer Goat Championships.

This year we are pleased to announce that our judge is Kobus Lotter, from South Africa. Kobus is one of the top 5 Boer goat judges in South Africa and is looking forward to his visit in NZ with his wife Loretta.

Thank you to Stephen Andrews for being our Head Steward once again and our stewards Heather Johnson, Colin Winterburn, Julia Allaway and Anna James.

Show dates are Wednesday 9 Nov to Friday 11 Nov, with goats being penned on Tuesday night and able to leave the show grounds after 5pm on Friday night.

Show entries are now open, you can follow the below links to make entering easy:

<http://www.theshow.co.nz/images/schedule-downloads/GOAT%20SECTION.pdf>

http://www.theshow.co.nz/images/schedule-downloads/Sheep_Specialist_EntryForm_2016_Editable.pdf

http://www.theshow.co.nz/images/schedule-downloads/SummaryofEntry_Livestock_2016_Editable.pdf

http://www.theshow.co.nz/images/schedule-downloads/Membership_EntryForm_2016_Editable.pdf

We encourage you to get your entries in early please and support the Canterbury Group, in conjunction with the NZBGBA, in obtaining Kobus to judge the South Island Boer Goat Championships.

We have booked a dinner at the Lone Star at Bush Inn, Riccarton at 6pm on Wednesday 11 November. All welcome. RSVPs will be taken closer to the time.

BREEDERS WORKSHOP

Immediately following the show, on Saturday 12 November the Canterbury Group are hosting a Breeders Workshop at Guy & Jenny Bassett's, Sheffield. Meeting at 10am for morning tea at their house at 1532 Tramway Road, Waddington, Sheffield and travelling to the neighbour's covered yards at 10.30am.

Lunch will be approximately 1pm for an hour. Returning to the yards at 2pm until approx. 4pm and then followed by refreshments and a BBQ tea for those who can stay.

We hope that this gives exhibitors from further away a chance to participate for some or all of the BW but still be able to get home again in reasonable time on Saturday.

Further details will be sent closer to the time.

Kobus Lotter – South African Boer Goat Judge

Kobus owns the highly successful Doornpoort Boer Goat Stud in Willowmore, South Africa and also runs Persian and Dorper sheep.

For a quick overview of Kobus you should look at the website vanrooyenskraal.co.za

Kobus is a member of the Quattro Group who manages their own genetic sales and is heavily involved in the Willowmore Show which has regularly hosted 600 Boer goats over 3 days of judging. Kobus has on many occasions judged shows and held schools in Australia over the past 8 years including the Australian Boer Goat Association National Show in Sydney.

Kobus travels the world to judge and impart his knowledge on the Boer Goat. He has judged the South African National Boer Goat Show, often travels to the UAE, Reunion Island and many South American countries.



Kobus Lotter on right



Willowmore judging school doe



Willowmore Karoo

To ensure that your show is a success all breeders should consider entering the show or offering your assistance to the Canterbury Group.

Please contact Philippa Loughhead 03 314 8184 or Jenny Bassett 03 318 3665

2016 NZBGBA AGM



After a successful AGM and an evening of great food and drinks the following morning was spent with our generous hosts Jozefa and Phil who are the owners of the Garing Wylaars Stud based in Lyttleton.

As you can see from the pictures the goats have a wonderfully scenic but exposed view of the surrounding harbour.

Currently run on a commercial basis the does have to be hardy to survive. With a small but growing list of clients looking for their goat meat the stud is also in the position of selling any excess at the local farmers market.



Building a Boer goat legacy in the Eastern Cape

For four generations, the Jordaan family from the Swaershoek Valley near Somerset East in the Eastern Cape has played a central role in the development of the now internationally acclaimed Boer goat breed. The following story outlines the progress one South African breeder, Jac Jordaan has made with his award-winning Boer Goats.

'WE MUST ALWAYS STRIVE TO BE IN THE TOP 5% OF BREEDERS'

"Some guys play golf or go fishing on weekends. I take my Boer goats to a show, or go to an auction," says Jac Jordaan (37) of the farm Grootvlakte in the Swaershoek Valley. "Boer goats are the flagship of my business, and include 700 ewes." The farm also has 2,500 Merino ewes, 200 Bonsmara x Beefmaster cows and a game/hunting component on 10, 000ha.

The Boer goat's central position in Jac's operation underscores not only his passion for Africa's most famous meat goat breed, but his drive to produce the best Boer goat genetics in the world.

"Just 5% of the best-performing people in any business make money. The rest do so-so," says Jac, who owns the Jac Jordaan Boer Goat stud, the last of the historic Jordaan family Boer goat studs. "When I returned [to the family farm in 2009], I decided to always strive to be in the top 5% of Boer goat breeders."

BORN INTO A LEGACY

Farming Boer goats on Grootvlakte is part of the family's history and began with good neighbourly cooperation. In the 1920s, a farmer Theuns Jordaan, not directly related, was working on developing the breed, using indigenous genetics, on his farm Hopevale. Jac's great-grandfather, Joe, was able to use some of Theuns Jordaan's best rams in his own flock of Boer goat-type animals.

In 1946, the Jordaan's on Grootvlakte began marketing rams and by the time the Boer Goat Breeder's Association of South Africa was registered in the late 1950s, they had a respected Boer goat flock.

Jac's grandfather, Jan, became a renowned Merino breeder, and steered the family's Boer goat legacy with diligence. In 1962, he produced the Junior Champion Boer goat ram at the inaugural SA Boer Goat Championships. By the time Jac's father, JR took over Grootvlakte, the Boer goat had become a national livestock treasure, and in 1976 the farm produced both the SA Grand Champion Ram and Reserve Grand Champion Ram.

BOER GOATS IN HIS BLOOD

Jac was born in 1978 and his childhood was defined by livestock shows where Boer goats were judged and inspected with great passion, a process he enthusiastically re-enacted as a boy on Grootvlakte. When we were young children, the goats kidded around the house. We used to catch the little six-week old rams and showed them at the top of our voices, he recalls.

When he was 10, his father rewarded his obvious passion for the breed with a stud ewe whose offspring he diligently recorded with an ear tag system. Her genetics continue to play a role in the Jac Jordaan stud today. In 1992, when Jac was just 14, he completed his junior Boer goat judging course, a foundation on which he would further develop his knowledge throughout high school.

When he completed high school at Somerset East's Gill College, he went on to study accountancy at the University of the Free State, eventually obtaining a CTA. He then travelled to England to earn foreign currency. When he returned to South Africa, he spent three years in Port Elizabeth completing his articles, and then worked for an accounting firm in Somerset East.

In 2009, Jac's father, by this time a respected Boer goat judge and inspector, left Grootvlakte for Somerset East to work as a livestock agent for BKB, making space for his son to take over the farm. We're all old-school farmers here in the Swaershoek, and our view is that you have the land for 30 years in order to pass it on to the next generation. That's your job,' Jac explains.

QUALITY GENETICS

Jac believes that success in any agricultural venture depends on adding value to products, and he is always on the lookout for genetics that will positively influence his flock. In 2010, he purchased an influential ram from Lukas Burger of Griekwastad that contributed significantly to the development of longer bodies and muscular, better-shaped heads in his flock.



The type of animal Jac focuses on the breeding must be compatible with the demands set by the Indian traders in KwaZulu-Natal, who purchase up to 80% of his slaughter goats.

They aren't looking for short dumpy goats. They want something higher on the leg, he explains. These market requirements complement the demands that the environment place on the conformation of his goats, which need to be well-balanced and mobile to cope in the rugged, sweet thorn-

dominated Swaershoek Valley. When Jac returned to the family farm, he began increasing the size of the flock – from 120 ewes to the current 700, of which over 500 are registered stud animals – to establish a more diverse genetic base.

We now have more ewes, which mean we have more choices and more options. I have seven different blood lines, he says. This improved genetic diversity has allowed him to use more self-bred rams, while the implementation of an artificial insemination (AI) programme four years ago has made it possible for him to utilise younger rams effectively in order to drive genetic progression.

I decided to rather hold back my best rams every year for my own breeding. Every ewe on the farm gets mated individually, and I don't just throw a ram into a flock and hope for the best. AI means I can use many young rams so I can have quicker generational turnover. So, if a ram is two-tooth, then I already have kids from him and I can see what his offspring looks like. And that makes genetic progress so much faster.

WEANING PERCENTAGE HAS GONE FROM 110% TO 160%

BREEDING AND KIDDING

Before mating, ewes are run extensively on rugged terrain with little to no supplementation. In extreme drought, however, such as that experienced in 2015/2016, they receive protein blocks and some maize on the veld. Only mature ewes are artificially inseminated; maiden ewes are first put to the ram at 35kg, between eight and 12 months. Ewes are mated in four flocks to kid in February (150), April (150), July (150) and August (250). Following the AI procedures, rams are put to the flocks for three weeks to cover any ewes that may not have been successfully artificially inseminated.

Three weeks before kidding, the groups are returned to Grootvlakte. Here, the kidding process is managed intensively in small camps, before twins, triplets and their mothers are transferred to lambing pens. Ewes with single lambs are left in the camps.

After three weeks, the ewes are merged into groups of 30 ewes (with single lambs), 15 ewes (with twins) and eight ewes (with triplets). Ewes with multiple kids are supported on a portion of the 94ha of pastures. According to Jac, moving to a more intensive management approach in terms of kidding has dramatically improved the flock's weaning rate. My weaning percentage has gone up from 110% to 160%. It's been worth my while to put in the extra effort and time.

EFFECTIVE MARKETING

Success in the Boer goat industry demands equal dedication to breeding, feeding and marketing, says Jac. Successful marketing requires an understanding of the trends and demands of the industry, and this means involving oneself in breed management structures, as well as consistent show and auction attendance. Jac, who is on the management committee of the Eastern Cape Boer Goat Club, says the showing of his top rams remains a critical marketing component prior to auctions. His successes have included Rambo (the 2014 SA four-tooth Champion ram that sold for R50 000 in 2015) and Marlborro (the 2014 and 2015 Eastern Cape Grand Champion ram and 2015 Reserve World Champion ram, which sold for R70 000 in 2015)

My best rams almost never go to the ewes (although their semen is used for AI). They need to go to shows and advertise the stud. They are here as ambassadors and for publicity.

Success has bred success. Achieving well at auctions has served as effective marketing, and this has led to greater interest and demand. The 120 rams and about 200 female animals that Jac sells each year are marketed at a number of auctions, including the Oude Meester Auction in Kroonstad, held in January. His fellow breeders who also market at this auction include Danie Schoeman (De Rust), Tommie van Kerken (Somerset East), Hendrik Botha (Somerset East) and Gerald Calitz (Ventersdorp).

In January this year, Jac sold the second, third, fourth and fifth highest priced rams on auction. His goats are also marketed at the East Cape Veld Ram Auction in Graaff-Reinet, where 45 veld-adapted rams are marketed. According to Jac, the fact that all five of the rams that he entered last year were successfully selected and marketed, proved the hardiness of his Boer goats, and was very pleasing.

Note:

Jac Jordaan is the fourth-generation Boer goat breeder on the family farm Grootvlakte, in the Swaershoek Valley near Somerset East in the Eastern Cape.

Reproduced curtesy of the South African Boer Goat Association

INTERESTING APP

Colin Winterburn and Julie Allaway have found an interesting app (available on Android & iph) called MEAT CUTS by Meat & Livestock Australia, the marketing and R&D Service Company for Australia's cattle, sheep and goat producers.

A handy little app that helps you decide what cuts of meat you want from your goat when getting it processed. Once you click on a particular part of the goat, for example leg, there are 5 cuts that can come from this. Then click again and it will describe the particular cut and how best to cook it.

It even has recipes for each cut! Check out "Spiced Roasted Goat" under the Leg Bone-In category. MLA also has another couples of apps called STEAKMATE (cook the perfect steak) and ROASTMATE (cook the perfect roast).

South African record Boer Goat – R210, 000



On a NZ / South African Rand exchange rate this is \$NZ20, 000

Bred and sold by Lukas Burger – South Africa



