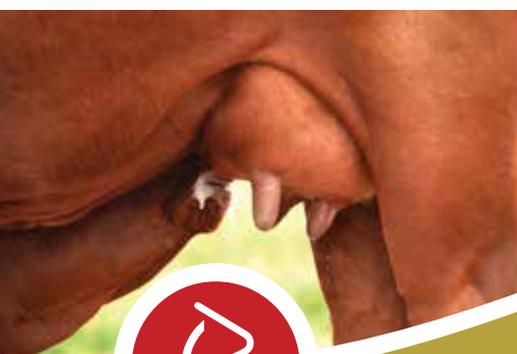


Bonsmara in Namibia



Le
de TOUR.
Bonsmara

The bearer of the yellow jersey

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Foreword

By Nico Visser, President

The year 2018 started under trying economic and weather circumstances, but is already past the halfway mark. Rainfall for the 2017/18 season was marginally better than the previous season but came late in most parts of the country. Livestock prices for cattle are stable, but are overshadowed by the continuing problems at Meatco and the small stock marketing scheme which is hampering sheep farmers.

We are however privileged and must remain positive because of the following:

- We are farming with Bonsmara cattle, scientifically bred out of the Afrikaner, Hereford and Shorthorn and performance tested since 1964.
- Excellent prices were achieved at Bonsmara Auctions countrywide in May, June and July 2018.
- A highly successful Breeders day was hosted at Hochfeldstreek Bonsmaras during June 2018.
- A Bonsmara bull was sold at the Up George Auction in South Africa for N\$ 1.8 million drawing attention all over the world.
- Genomics will bring more accurate breeding values, making it easier to market stud animals.
- 8 Senior Selectors were trained and accredited by SA Studbook to handle Phase-D tests in Namibia.

It remains a fact that Bonsmara bulls and female animals are in high demand. With the market to Angola slowly picking up again and the possibility of exports to Zimbabwe, it is important that we carry on breeding adapted animals to cater for the SADC region as well as our local market.

We are farming in challenging yet exciting times and the following quote of Albert Einstein must be a reminder to all of us.

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”

I sincerely hope that the “Tour de Bonsmara” marketing drive, this guide and the communal Bonsmara farmer’s days planned for later this year will serve to the benefit of the greater farming community in Namibia. I also want to encourage every farmer in Namibia to keep on producing grass fed beef to convince the whole world that “they must eat Bonsmara meat”.

Bonsmara greetings
Nico Visser

Tour de Bonsmara

Bearer of the yellow jersey

We constantly need to remind ourselves that farming is not getting easier in our current social- and political environment and to top it off, higher input costs and lower profit margins do not contribute positively either.

Therefore we need to think carefully when making certain farming decisions as it has become a special skill to farm profitably in the current environment. However, there are certain decisions that can make things a bit easier for us. One of those easier decisions is the breed we choose to farm with.

When choosing a breed for your farming needs, a proper scientific study of different breeds needs to be conducted. You need to set some clear breeding goals for yourself as well as decide what type of farming will suit your area and environment the best. Secondly one needs to weigh the positives and negatives of different breeds against each other and decide which traits of a specific breed will help you to reach your breeding goals.

With the above in mind, we would like to introduce the Bonsmara as the all-rounder breed, that will fit into any production system in Namibia.

We invite you to a jam-packed journey as we “Tour de Bonsmara” with unlimited information on the Bonsmara breed. We will take you from the beginning to the end, showing you why the Bonsmara is the bearer of the yellow jersey when it comes to beef breeding in Namibia!

Introducing the Bonsmara

The development of the Bonsmara - from Mara, a small research station to international acclaim.

The Bonsmara was bred at the Mara and Messina Research stations between 1937 and 1963 by scientists under the watchful eye of Prof. Jan Bonsma.

The name Bonsmara was derived from Prof. Bonsma’s surname and Mara, where the first crossbreed calves were born. He exercised crossbreeding experiments in about 20 commercial herds in different parts of South-Africa, to finally



Edelheer T342

One of the first top Bonsmara bulls bred and made available to breeders.

establish the best performing crossbred beef breed, which consists of 5/8 Afrikaner and 3/8 Exotic Hereford/Shorthorn.

The first Bonsmara bulls were made available to commercial breeders in the 1950's and soon the Bonsmara were widely spread across South-Africa. In 1964 the Bonsmara Breeders Society of South-Africa was formed by Mr. Rex Ball and soon other African countries followed. Today the Bonsmara is a recognised breed in more than 15 countries around the world.

Thanks to Prof Bonsma, the Bonsmara is the only beef breed in the world created through well-documented crossbreeding programmes with the aid of objectively recorded performance data.



The Bonsmara in Namibia

In 1970 the first Bonsmara cattle were brought into Namibia by Peter Becker. On 25 November 1976 the Bonsmara Club in Namibia, namely the "SWA Bonsmara Club" was established. Soon the SWA Bonsmara Club had 45 active registered breeders, and after 41 years of breeding, 14 of these breeders are still breeding well-adapted Bonsmaras.

Today we are one of the leading cattle breeds in Namibia and called the Bonsmara Cattle Breeders Association of Namibia. With 39 active breeders and approximately 13,000 registered Bonsmara cattle as well as numerous commercial farmers all over the country.



Hochfeldstreek

BONSMARAS

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AG-04-175

SB 07-73



Rangepaste mediumraam bulle
wat op die veld kan gedy ...

Ons teelddoelwit is om voortdurend te selekteer vir
veldaangepaste mediumraam diere met redelike **bespieroing**, goeie **diepte**,
kapasiteit en **vrugbaarheid**.

Veilingbulle is almal getoets vir gesondheid, vrugbaarheid, vaderskap en meer.



Harry Erasmus Sel: 081 122 9003 • Tel: 062 581 855 • harrye@iway.na • Plaas Kuwinamab, Dordabis-omgewing

OKAMAJA BONSMARAS

GESCHWISTER SIGWART FARMING

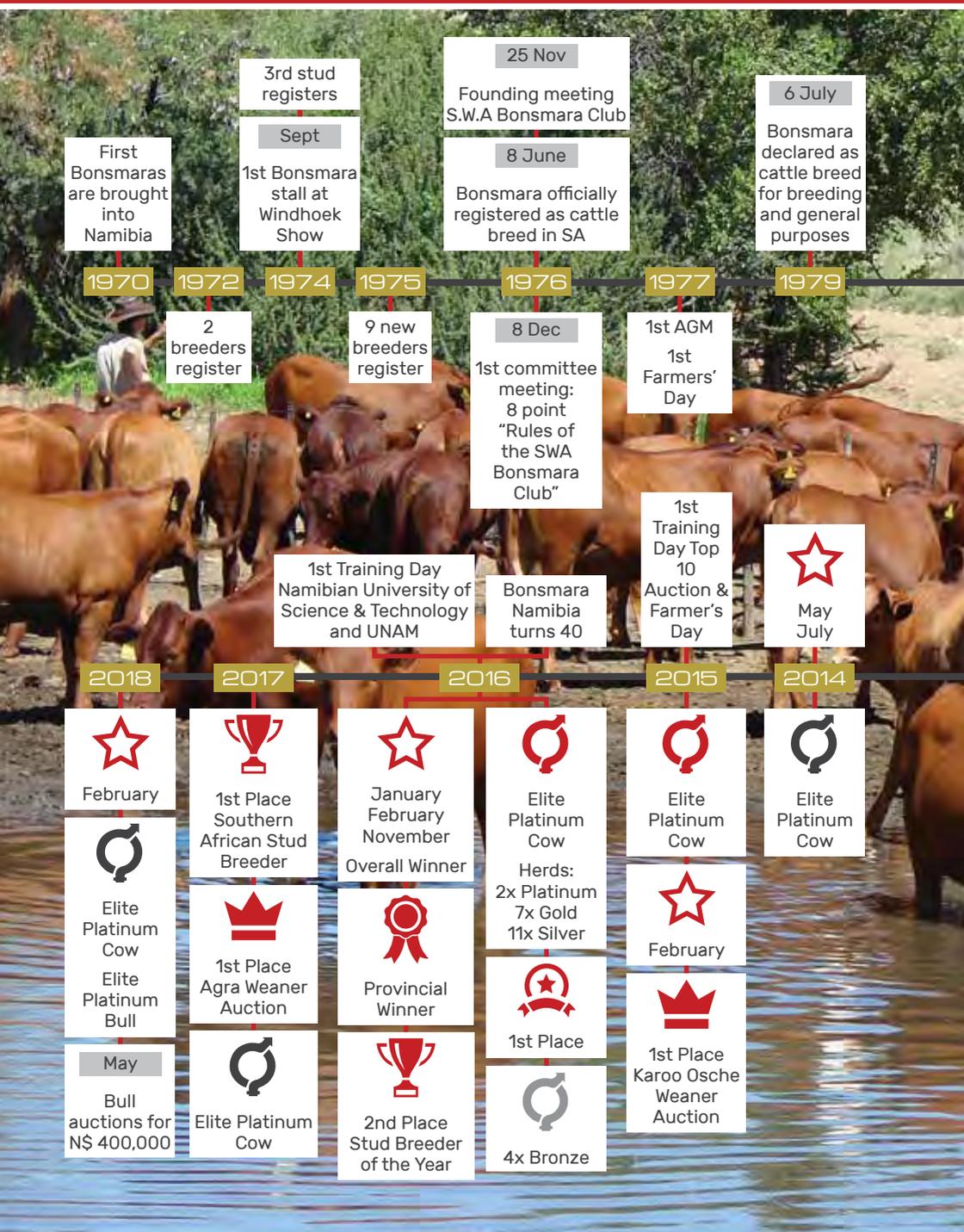


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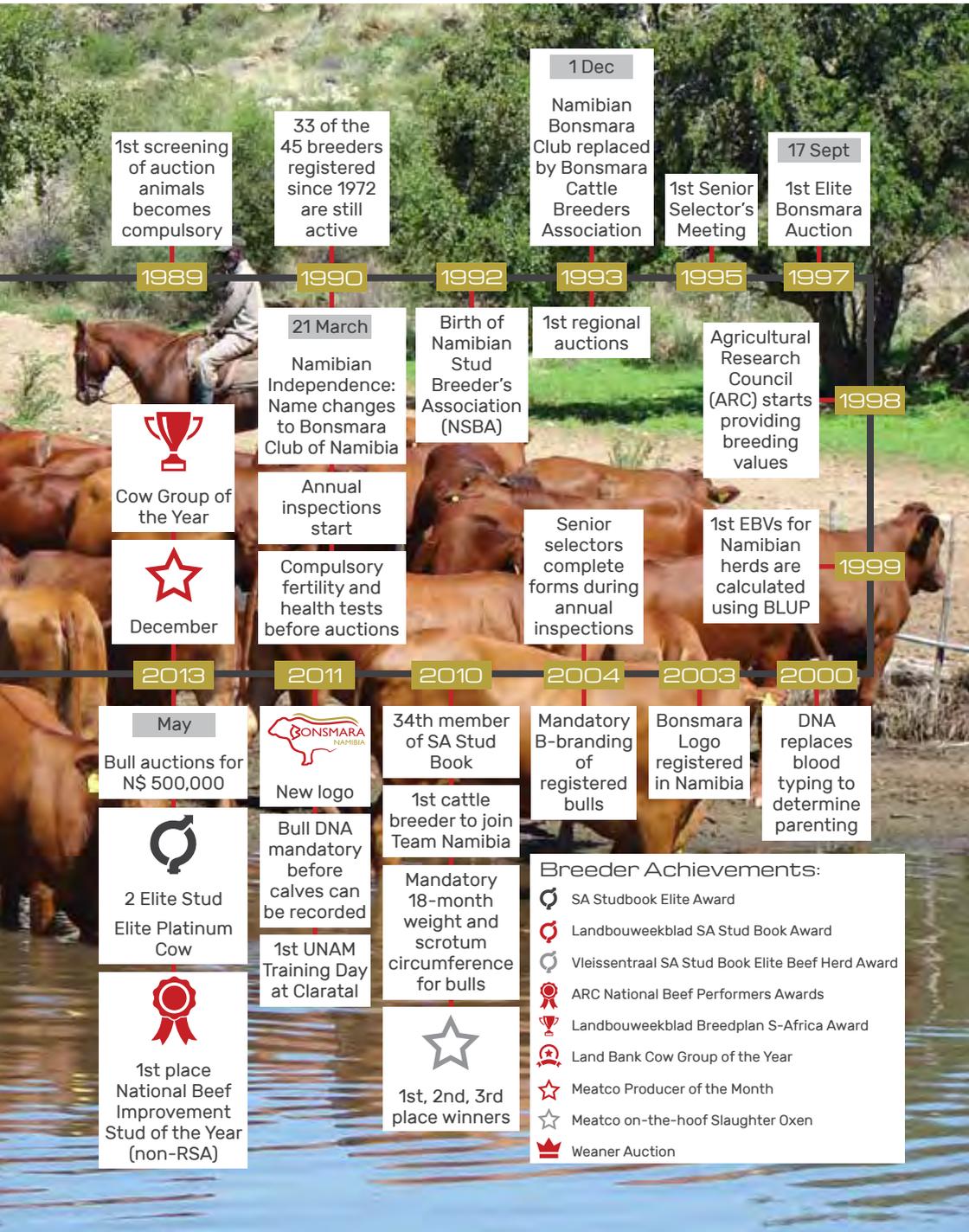
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Okamaja Farm: +264 62 518323
GM Sigwart: +264 62 505213

Then until now...



<p>1970</p> <p>First Bonsmaras are brought into Namibia</p>	<p>1972</p> <p>2 breeders register</p>	<p>1974</p> <p>3rd stud registers</p> <p>Sept</p> <p>1st Bonsmara stall at Windhoek Show</p>	<p>1975</p> <p>9 new breeders register</p>	<p>1976</p> <p>25 Nov</p> <p>Founding meeting S.W.A Bonsmara Club</p> <p>8 June</p> <p>Bonsmara officially registered as cattle breed in SA</p>	<p>1977</p> <p>1st AGM</p> <p>1st Farmers' Day</p>	<p>1979</p> <p>6 July</p> <p>Bonsmara declared as cattle breed for breeding and general purposes</p>
<p>2018</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>2014</p>	
<p>February</p> <p>★</p>	<p>1st Place Southern African Stud Breeder</p> <p>🏆</p>	<p>January February November Overall Winner</p> <p>★</p>	<p>Elite Platinum Cow</p> <p>🔄</p> <p>Herds: 2x Platinum 7x Gold 11x Silver</p>	<p>Elite Platinum Cow</p> <p>🔄</p>	<p>Elite Platinum Cow</p> <p>🔄</p>	
<p>Elite Platinum Cow</p> <p>Elite Platinum Bull</p> <p>🔄</p>	<p>1st Place Agra Weaner Auction</p> <p>👑</p>	<p>Provincial Winner</p> <p>🏆</p>	<p>1st Place</p> <p>🏆</p>	<p>February</p> <p>★</p>	<p>1st Place Karoo Osche Weaner Auction</p> <p>👑</p>	
<p>May</p> <p>Bull auctions for N\$ 400,000</p>	<p>Elite Platinum Cow</p> <p>🔄</p>	<p>2nd Place Stud Breeder of the Year</p> <p>🏆</p>	<p>4x Bronze</p> <p>🔄</p>	<p>1st Place Karoo Osche Weaner Auction</p> <p>👑</p>	<p>★</p> <p>May July</p>	

We've come a long way



1st screening of auction animals becomes compulsory

1989

33 of the 45 breeders registered since 1972 are still active

1990

1 Dec
Namibian Bonsmara Club replaced by Bonsmara Cattle Breeders Association

1993

1st Senior Selector's Meeting

1995

17 Sept
1st Elite Bonsmara Auction

1997

21 March
Namibian Independence: Name changes to Bonsmara Club of Namibia

Annual inspections start

Compulsory fertility and health tests before auctions

Birth of Namibian Stud Breeder's Association (NSBA)

1st regional auctions

Senior selectors complete forms during annual inspections

Agricultural Research Council (ARC) starts providing breeding values

1998

1st EBVs for Namibian herds are calculated using BLUP

1999


Cow Group of the Year


December

2013

May
Bull auctions for N\$ 500,000


2 Elite Stud Elite Platinum Cow


1st place National Beef Improvement Stud of the Year (non-RSA)

2011


New logo

Bull DNA mandatory before calves can be recorded

1st UNAM Training Day at Claratal

2010

34th member of SA Stud Book

1st cattle breeder to join Team Namibia

Mandatory 18-month weight and scrotum circumference for bulls


1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners

2004

Mandatory B-branding of registered bulls

2003

Bonsmara Logo registered in Namibia

2000

DNA replaces blood typing to determine parenting

- Breeder Achievements:**
-  SA Studbook Elite Award
 -  Landbouweekblad SA Stud Book Award
 -  Vleissentraal SA Stud Book Elite Beef Herd Award
 -  ARC National Beef Performers Awards
 -  Landbouweekblad Breedplan S-Africa Award
 -  Land Bank Cow Group of the Year
 -  Meatco Producer of the Month
 -  Meatco on-the-hoof Slaughter Oxen
 -  Weaner Auction

The Bonsmara Cow

A productive, efficient cow

In today's time and age we are a bunch of technology junkies and we constantly try to get answers from the internet, Facebook and social media. So that's exactly where I started to search for the right answer to a very difficult question that I've asked myself a couple of times in the past: Is the Bonsmara cow indeed the most efficient cow to breed with, are there some concrete facts to back this decision or are we as Bonsmara breeders just arrogant by saying it is the most efficient breed?

So I started out by Googling: What exactly defines the most efficient cow? The answer that I got from Dr. Google: Beef cow efficiency is defined as the ratio of output (kilograms of calf weaned) to input (the amount of feed eaten).

So practically what that means is that the most efficient cow herd is determined by the number of calves and the weight of calves weaned, these in turn are influenced by the pregnancy rate of the herd, the calf survival rate to weaning, the milk production of the herd and the calf's growth potential. The major input driving these characteristics of an efficient cow is feed. So it makes sense to say that the cow herd that can effectively convert the least feed into the most kilograms of calves is the most effective cow herd.

Taking in mind what the definition of an efficient cow is, brings me to the point that I realised that a cow herd in Namibia, under our extensive farming environment and conditions, cannot be an efficient cow herd if it is not functionally efficient.

Functional efficiency in cattle means animals that are capable of producing and reproducing from the veld, with the minimum effort, input cost and physical day to day work.

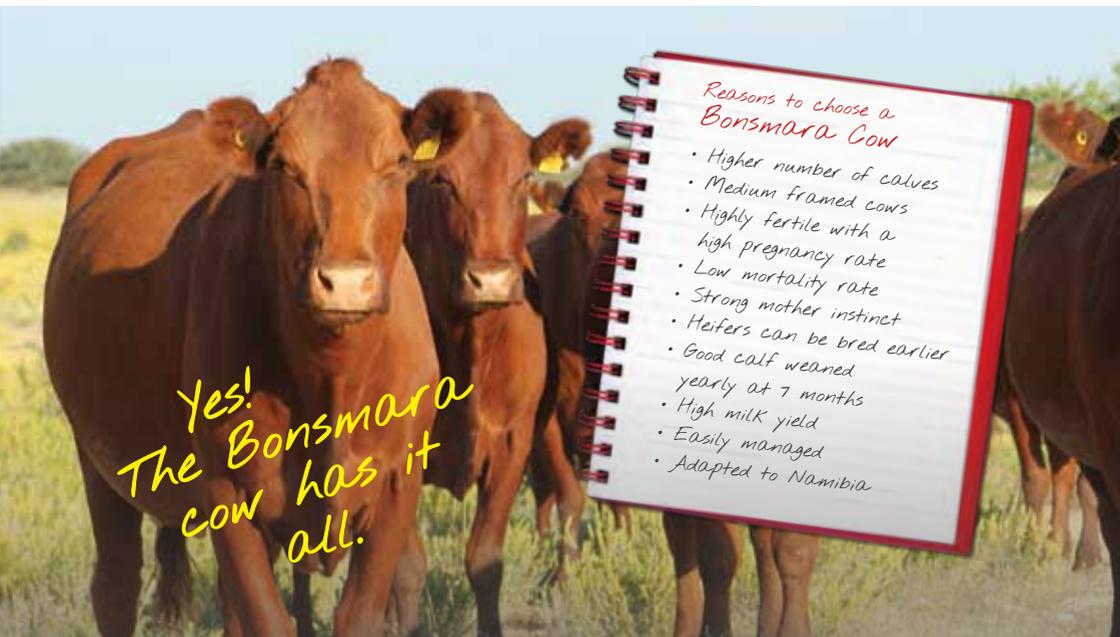
Still I ask myself: Is the Bonsmara cow the most effective cow to farm with?

Let's look at a few characteristics of a Bonsmara cow:

- An average Bonsmara cow in Namibia weighs between 450kg to 500kg, which classifies the Bonsmara cow into the frame of being a medium framed cow.
- A Bonsmara cow must have an inter-calving period of no more than 730 days and should rear at least two of any three consecutive calves. In practice this means that a cow can be given one chance to skip bearing and rearing a calf and no more. Currently the Namibian inter-calving period for the average Bonsmara cow is 411 days, which means that even

- in tough, dry years our cows still managed to produce a calf each year.
- The average Bonsmara cow is highly fertile and this trait is being advanced and maintained through strict selection standards.
 - An average Bonsmara cow weans a calf at 45% of her own body weight at the age of 7 months. Milk production is widely known to play a large role in the weaning weight of a calf which means that a Bonsmara cow has good milk abilities under extensive conditions.
 - A Bonsmara cow is energy efficient and has a good feed conversion ratio. She is therefore able to convert poor pastures and sometimes not adequately available pastures into good milk for her calf while maintaining her condition.
 - An average Bonsmara cow reaches puberty at the early age of 12 -18 months. In Namibia the average age for first calf is 32 months. A heifer that has not produced her first calf by the age of 39 months is deemed not fit and inefficient.
 - On average Bonsmara cows are known for their ease of calving meaning low mortality rates due to not being able to calve on its own.
 - A Bonsmara cow has very good mothering abilities and looks after her calves under extensive conditions. She is good tempered which makes it easier to handle them as well as dehorn and castrate the calf.
 - The Bonsmara cow is well adapted and one can find breeders all over Namibia who all farm under different extensive conditions. While every condition is unique, you will find that the Bonsmara cow adapts to her environment and produces under these extensive conditions.

Keeping the definition of an effective cow in mind and all the characteristics that a Bonsmara cow has, can we say that it is the most effective cow to breed with?



Overall Femininity

- Head should be feminine and refined.
- Cow should exhibit overall femininity.

Hips and Pelvis

- Hips and pelvis structure should be deep and wide.
- Pelvis should be slightly dipped downward, for ease of calving.

Overall Body Capacity

- Must be deep with plenty of capacity.
- Spring-of-rib should exhibit good capacity.
- Adequate width between front and hind legs.

Straight Topline

- Topline should be straight with no spinal protrusions or bumps.

Shoulder Width

- Should have good shoulder width, indicating good capacity in the rib cage.
- The shoulder width should not exceed the rump, cow must have a perfect wedge form.

Capacity in Hindquarters

- The rump should be deep, wide, long and level in its top.
- Cows with greater rump width are more fertile, have good calving ability, and mature earlier.

Hooves and Legs

- Legs should be squarely set underneath each corner.
- Front legs should not be Bucked-kneed or Calve-kneed.
- Back legs should not be cow-hocked, sickle-hocked or post-legged.

A Good Udder

- Should have uniform quarters and small teats.
- Udder should be tucked neatly away between the hind legs.
- Poor udder conformation reduces udder longevity.

ANDRÉ FRETORTUS
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Selecting a functional and efficient cow



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Edward Hansen
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Bulle altyd beskikbaar op die volgende veilings



Top 10 Bonsmara
Jaarliks in Julie
Agra Krале Otjiwarongo



Gobabis Bonsmara
Jaarliks in Augustus
Agra Krале Gobabis



G8 Bonsmara
Jaarliks in Augustus
Agra Bank Windhoek Ring



Mega Bonsmara
Jaarliks in September
Hochfeld Agri Krале



HAR175-0349



Emok
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A tree is strong because of its roots

- AFRICAN PROVERB -



Cordova Bonsmara

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10 view bulls for sale

The Bonsmara Calf & Weaner

Adapted for profit

Books have been written and various opinions given about the subject of an ideal weaner, with each breed trying to claim bragging rights to the top spot, with the only measure being an assumption based on the weight of the calf at weaning stage.

Beef breeding in Namibia is mostly done in extensive farming conditions. This means that our agricultural production system uses small inputs of labour and capital relative to the land that we farm on. As farmers we are not in control of our input costs for example lick, diesel, transport etc. To make matters worse, our destiny regarding our income is in the hands of external factors like the feedlots or abattoirs making the farmer a “price taker”.

As the operational cost of farming is increasing gradually, the farmer is under increased pressure to produce meat albeit at a far lower profit margin and the only way for him/her to survive is to either reduce costs or to increase profits. In a typical cow / calf production system the income is derived from the marketing of weaners with the income being based on weaner weight at the lowest possible input costs.

The Bonsmara system is based on a corrected weaning period of 205 days or roughly 7 months. At weaning stage the calf is weighed with the mother so as to determine the cow efficiency. Weaning weight as a stand-alone number is meaningless unless these weights are compared to weights from animals from the same contemporary group taken during the same period and on the same production unit. This information is then used to determine the breeding values. Here we are very fortunate to breed with Bonsmaras as our breeding values can be compared to breeders in comparative environments, with accurately documented data gathered over years. Weaning weight in any other context is a product of your environment and of your management style.

What determines a profitable cow / calf production system under extensive farming conditions in Namibia?

Jim Leachman, an American cattleman and founder of Leachman Cattle Company who at one stage sold over 3000 bulls a year, changed from farming with a big frame animal to a medium frame animal and since then there has been a tremendous shift to medium frame cattle the world over.

A medium frame cow is a cow that weighs between 480 kg to 510 kg. For every 4 big frame cows you will be able to stock 5 medium frame animals! This relates to a 25% increase in stocking numbers with the possibility of

marketing 25% more weaners thereby increasing your production income per hectare.

This cow should be a low maintenance cow that is well adapted to your environment and be functionally efficient and be highly fertile, giving birth to a strong and healthy calf every year and the calf should have a low birth weight for ease of calving.

In short, strong genetic traits from the low maintenance cow will ensure that she produces a low maintenance calf with equal or similar traits. Your aim should be to have a cow that will wean 50% of her own body mass. Now for a cow of 480 kg this means a calf of 240 kg within 7 months.



In the quest of producing a heavier weaner we tend to think as a producer we need to farm with a bigger or heavier cow, but a heavier cow means more food, longer inter-calving periods and a whole bunch of money consuming consequences that you need to avoid as far as possible.

You need to make this mind shift to move from chasing a higher weaning mass to attaining a weaning mass determined by your environment in order to increase your profit before the calf leaves your farm gate.

As mentioned, your weaning weight is largely a product of your management and of the environment that you are farming in.

So what exactly determines the best weaner then?

- 1. The use of a well-adapted, performance tested, registered bull in your herd**
Buy the best bull you can afford, any Bonsmara breeder in your area can assist you with the ideal registered Bonsmara bull for your herd.
- 2. A uniform cow herd**
Opt for medium framed cows that are uniform in size and type with good depth and capacity and good udders.

3. **Weaning weight ratios**

Weigh your cows and calves at weaning and keep proper record of all weights taken, this must form an integral part of your herd evaluation.

4. **Carcass uniformity**

Monitor the cows and calves visually on a regular basis, to determine which cows produce a better calf.

5. **Milk production**

Calves born in the same season should be compared with each other and cows with lighter calves should be evaluated for their milk production/ or lack thereof. A strong and healthy calf needs a mother with sufficient milk.

6. **Patience**

Be patient. Patience is the companion of wisdom and by applying basic principles you will move in the right direction!

Auction houses and feedlots in Southern Africa are all in agreement that the majority of buyers always pay a premium for uniformity and quality and that the Bonsmara rates as a preferred breed. Its calm temperament, excellent meat quality and an above average daily weight gain are but some of the attributes that make the Bonsmara weaner a sought after commodity.

The Bonsmara has also done exceptionally well in the 2017 SAMIC Carcass Competition, occupying the first 6 spots overall! The results over the last 8 years where a Bonsmara was national winner for 8 out of 8 years in the single carcass category and 7 out of 8 years winner in the group carcass category shows that the Bonsmara has the perfect carcass for the market's demands.



Remember, these oxen were subjected to the same criteria when they were calves and they came out tops!

A Bonsmara weaner is top in its class, end of story. The sooner you realise that the best weaner is not necessarily the heaviest weaner, but rather the weaner that meets all the above expectations and consist out of a bunch of good qualities as a whole, the faster you will be on the road to a more profitable production system.

5 ★ vir winsgewende en
ekonomiese vleisproduksie

- ★ **Temperament** - Uitstaande, maklik om te hanteer (beter presteerders)
- ★ **Zebutipe-gehardheid** - Handhaaf homself onder die moeilikste winter- en droogte toestande
- ★ **Aanpasbaarheid** - Uitmuntende lae-koste ras wat optimaal produseer in enige omgewing van die veld tot in die voerkraal
- ★ **Uitstekende groeivermoë** en voeromset-verhouding
- ★ **Superieure moeders** - Maklike en gereelde kalwings met lae interkalfperiodes (Bonsmara het die meeste superieure koeie van alle rasse)

Tzaus

Bonsmara

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Precision Agriculture

From a Namibian Perspective

"There is much talk about the term 'precision agriculture', but do we really know what it means or include? I myself sometimes wonder what the best or most accurate description is, especially in a Namibian context," says Christo Viljoen, head of FNB Agri and Tourism. In the accompanying article he sheds light on the term and how precision agriculture can be applied in a practical manner to Namibian agricultural conditions.

Definition of precision agriculture

Precision agriculture is described as the use of –

- management
- information – record-keeping and measuring (technical, financial)
- technology
- natural resources

to maximise profits and to minimise risks, thus optimising the potential of the farm.

Why precision agriculture?

Food security - Increased production and a higher quality product in the long term. In a world where the demand for food is drastically on the rise due to population growth and an increase in spendable income, it is Namibia's and other countries' priority to pursue a stable economy and society.

Profitability - Increased profitability, productivity and effectiveness (doing the right things right the first time). The trend in Namibia is that costs rise faster than income, resulting in a cost squeeze. Therefore agriculturists have to apply all input as effectively as possible to increase productivity and profitability to accomplish sustainability and progress.

Risk management - To measure is to know. In this way overgrazing, for example, can be limited and the negative results of droughts on agriculture be mitigated or prevented.

Sustainable agricultural practices - Our natural resources (water, land) are limited, irreplaceable commodities. They have to be managed as circumspectly as possible. Air pollution is something especially climatologists are very concerned about. Climate change is a reality and results in unpredictable weather patterns.

Environment friendly agricultural practices - Agriculture in Namibia, like in most other countries, is not isolated from other industries. We are interdependent. The challenge is to protect and foster nature's natural balance.

At first glance the reader might find it strange that a financial institution like us at FNB Agri enter into a discussion of a technical nature. Let us explain.

Our motto or philosophy is “your partner in sustainable agriculture”. We believe it is our duty and privilege to do the following:

- Share knowledge and information with the general agricultural public. We do this by acting as speakers at agricultural events and by writing articles such as these.
- Plough back into the agricultural community by means of sponsorships.
- Approve responsible financing (the difference between good debt and bad debt).
- Promote agriculture in order to help ensure sustainability. We are ambassadors of agriculture and facilitate a positive image and message of agriculture.
- Take part in discussions or even facilitate them to understand the challenges of agriculture and to search pro-actively for solutions.

If agriculture wins, everybody wins. It does not work the other way around. If we can contribute to ensure increased and sustainable profitability of agriculture, we succeed largely in our mission. Increased profitability makes it easier to approve responsible financing. The result hereof is increased wealth and a better life.

From this article it should be clear what precision agriculture is not or to clear up some misperceptions. Precision agriculture is not –

- unaffordable – a proper computer and accounting program as well as an electronic scale are a good start
- complicated – the above is easy to understand and user friendly
- the most expensive technology or implements – the largest and most expensive tractor or implement is not always necessary, and
- limited to a single aspect but is a compilation of a few aspects.

It is a holistic approach requiring deliberate decision and effort. It is not necessarily easy but the benefits exceed the cost in the long run as well as the effort and time which is lost through conventional agricultural practices. Many of our farmers are already applying precision agriculture one way or another. Refine it and measure progress.



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The 7 Basic Principles

Precision Farming

1. **Gather information**

Start by gaining as much information on different cattle breeds in Namibia as possible. How are they farmed with and what production systems are they effective in?

Make informed decisions when you decide to purchase animals. Know the advantages and the drawbacks of the breed you decided on, set yourself some clear goals as to where you would like to see yourself in five years. Will this specific breed help you to reach those goals, if not, what can be done to change that?

2. **Apply basic animal husbandry**

- De-horn your calves;
- Castrate your males properly;
- Ear tag them properly with an identification number;
- Brand them correctly;
- Match the mothers with the calves;
- Write down the calves birth date;
- Weigh your calves at different intervals;
- Get yourself a proper program to manage all this data with.

3. **Evaluate your cows and weaner calves.**

By doing a cow/calve evaluation every year before calves are sold as weaners you will be able to identify cows that produce below or above average calves every year, not only on weight but on phenotype too.

4. **Buy the best bull you can afford**

Don't settle for less. Buying the best you can afford is the easiest way to improve the genetics in your herd.

5. **Get a proper vaccination program**

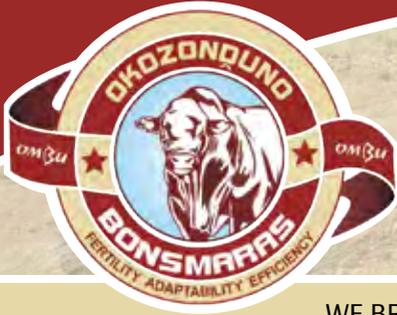
A sick cow with internal parasites cannot produce a proper calve. She needs to be healthy and in ideal condition to look after her calve properly.

6. **Get a proper basic lick program**

You will waste your money if you buy the wrong lick at the wrong time.

7. **Manage your finances**

Draw up a budget, plan your cash flow and keep proper records of your finances. No financial institution will lend money to you if you cannot supply them with proper figures for your farming activities.



Vetumbuavi Mungunda
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Inoo Mungunda
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WE BREED WITH PASSION FOR
FERTILITY, ADAPTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

Find us at the G8 Auction, 31 August 2018
or visit us at the Bonsmara Information Day, 6 October 2018 at Okozonduno Bonsmaras



ONDOKA

Bonsmara

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ernidefries@iway.na



The Bonsmara System

Ensuring that you buy quality

Taking the rich history of research into consideration, when looking at the Bonsmara breed, it was decided from the beginning that cattle must be visually evaluated and selected on their economic characteristics as well as functional efficiency.

The current Bonsmara system was therefore put in place in 1964 and is still resting on the following 4 pillars:

A. Genetic material

A large genetic pool of Bonsmara type animals exist in Namibia which can enter the bottom of the ladder as Basic cows and their progeny can progress through Appendix A and B to SP (Studbook proper) by mating them with SP bulls.

B. Machinery

Bonsmara Namibia Minimum Breeding Standards for female animals requires the following:

1. A heifer must calve before 39 months for the first time
2. Any calving interval must not exceed 730 days
3. A cow must rear at least 2 of any 3 calves up to weaning age
4. A cow may not wean more than 2 calves with an index below 90

For inspection at least 2 indices (Wean and 12 or 18 months) are compulsory and must be above 90 and contemporary groups must be presented together.

Bonsmara Namibia Minimum Breeding Standards for male animals requires the following:

1. Post Wean Growth Test (Phase B)
Three indices (wean, 12 and 18 months) above 90
2. Post Wean Growth Test (Phases C & D)
Three indices (wean, ADG and kleiber) above 90
3. Measuring of scrotums at 18 months is compulsory and corrected scrotum measurements must be on the inspection sheet.

All animals put up for inspection will be inspected by a Senior and Junior inspector of the society and animals will be visually appraised for functional efficiency together with their official performance data.

Female animals who do not meet the mentioned criteria will be cancelled as registered animals and can only be sold as commercial animals. All rejected

bulls are slaughtered and all the selected bulls' paternity must be verified by DNA. Only after passing minimum breed standards as well as visual inspection a bull must be branded with a trademark Bonsmara ⚡ on his right shoulder.

C. Marketing

Bonsmara cattle may not compete in show events, but can be exhibited. Before an auction, animals are screened again by Bonsmara inspectors and performance data endorsed for the auction to be hosted under the auspices of the Breeders Association. Farmers days and promotional days are hosted at all major auctions. Bonsmara Namibia is also very active on all the social media platforms as well as in printed media.

D. Manpower

The implementation of the Bonsmara system rests primarily with the breeders and is based on their dedication and integrity. We are proud of the fact that all our breeders are trying their utmost best to breed well adapted cattle that meet the demands of commercial farmers as well as feedlots.

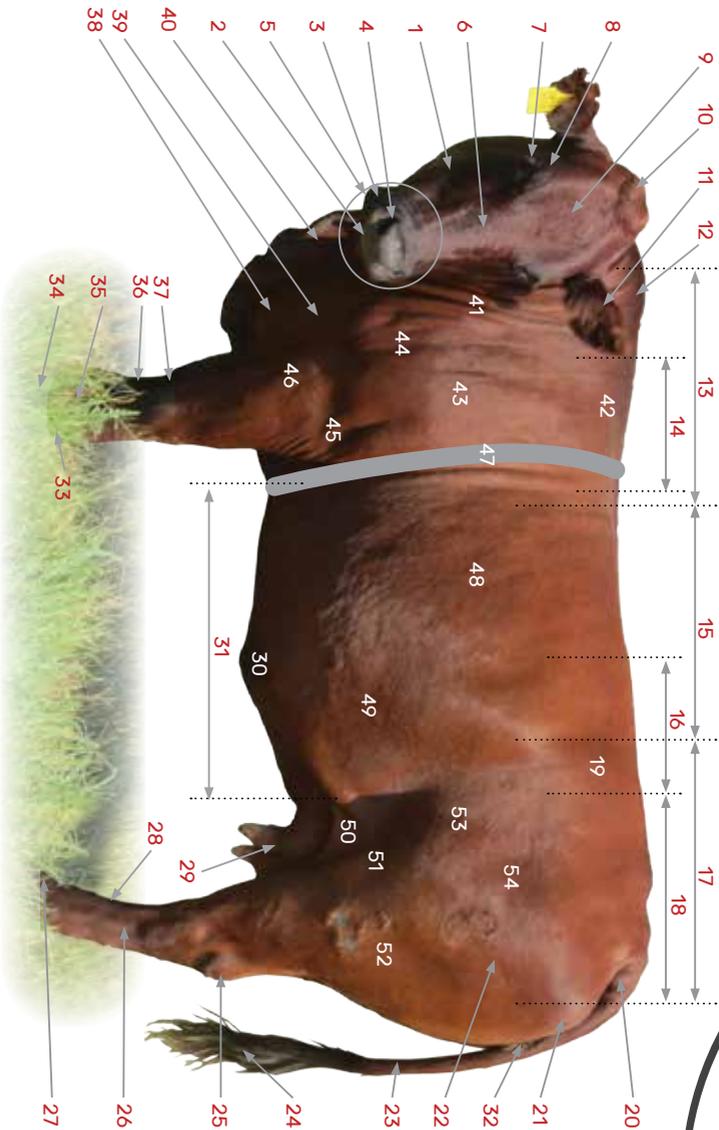
All of the above brings me to the subject of "Will the Bonsmara system ensure that a buyer buys a quality bull?" There are not many guarantees in life. It is therefore important that if you farm with cattle that you try and minimize the surprises and uncertainties when buying a bull. The Bonsmara system will provide and assist you with exactly that. Buying a registered Bonsmara bull gives you peace of mind and comes with loads of benefit.

Henry Ford once said *"You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do"*, so now is the time to invest in the Bonsmara breed because its reputation speaks for itself.



The Bonsmara Cow

- 1 Cheek / Wang
- 2 Lower Jaw / Onderkaak
- 3 Mouth / Bek
- 4 Nostril / Neusgat
- 5 Muzzle / Neusspieël
- 6 Nasal bone / Neusbeen
- 7 Eye and eye socket / Oog en oogkas
- 8 Eyebrow-ridge / Oogbank
- 9 Forehead / Voorkop
- 10 Poll / Horngkroon
- 11 Ear / Oor
- 12 Hump / Skof
- 13 Forequarters / Voortyf
- 14 Chine / Karnebeen
- 15 Mid Piece / Middelstuk
- 16 Loin / Lende
- 17 Hindquarters / Agtertyf
- 18 Rump / Kruis
- 19 Hip Bone / Heupbeen
- 20 Tailsetting / Stertwerel
- 21 Pin Bone / Sitbeen
- 22 Thigh / Dy
- 23 Tail / Stert
- 24 Tail switch / Stertkwas
- 25 Hook / Hak
- 26 Cannon bone / Pybbeen
- 27 Hoof Crown / Hoefkroon
- 28 Shank / Skeen
- 29 Udder / Uier
- 30 Navel / Naevel
- 31 Barrel / Romp
- 32 Vulva
- 33 Dew Claw / Byklu
- 34 Hoof / Hoef
- 35 Pastern / Kootgewrig
- 36 Cannon Bone / Pybbeen
- 37 Kneel / Knie
- 38 Brisket / Borsstuk
- 39 Chest / Borskas



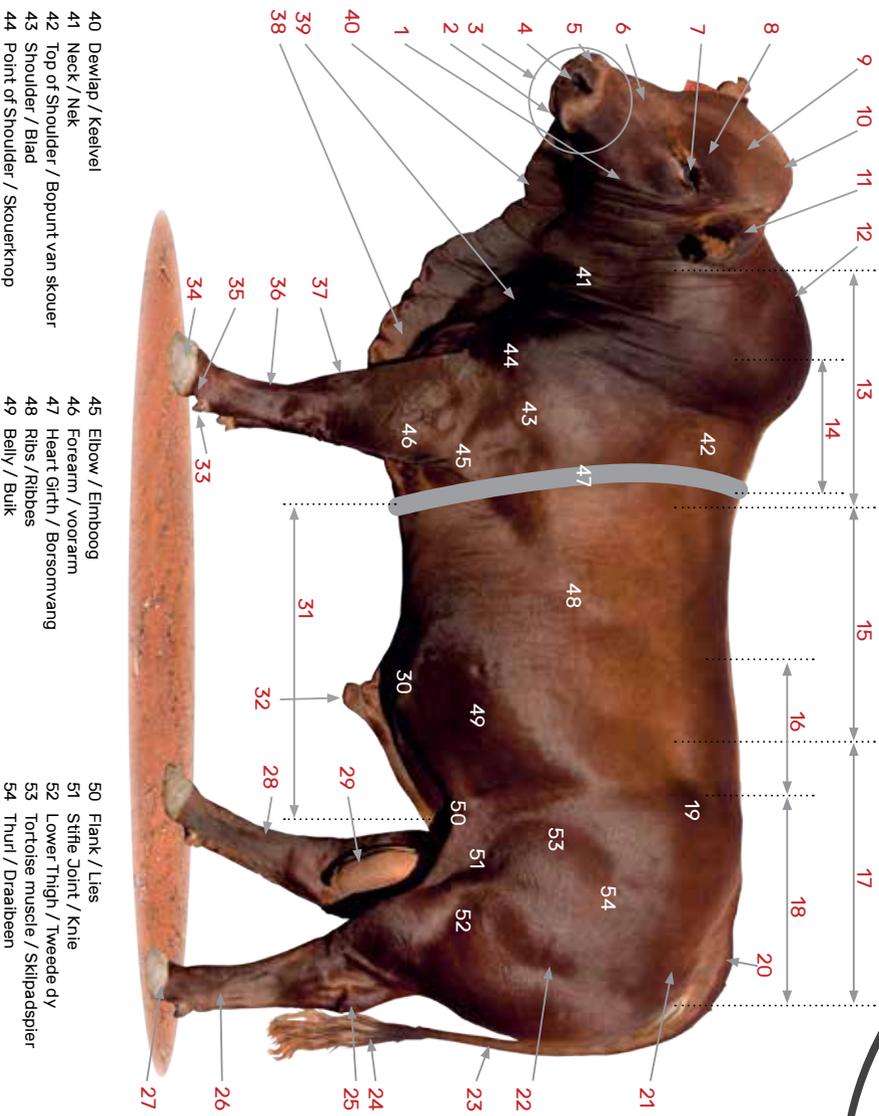
- 40 Dewlap / Keelvel
- 41 Neck / Nek
- 42 Top of Shoulder / Bopunt van skouer
- 43 Shoulder / Blad
- 44 Point of Shoulder / Skouerknop

- 45 Elbow / Elmbong
- 46 Forearm / Voorarm
- 47 Heart Birth / Borsomvang
- 48 Ribs / Ribbes
- 49 Belly / Bulk

- 50 Flank / Lies
- 51 Stifle Joint / Knie
- 52 Lower Thigh / Tweede dy
- 53 Tortoise muscle / Skilpadsplier
- 54 Thurl / Draalbeen

The Bonsmara Bull

- 1 Cheek / Wang
- 2 Lower Jaw / Onderkaak
- 3 Mouth / Bak
- 4 Nostril / Neusgat
- 5 Muzzle / Neusspigel
- 6 Nasal bone / Neusbeen
- 7 Eye and eye socket / Oog en oogkas
- 8 Eyebrow-ridge / Oogbank
- 9 Forehead / Vorkop
- 10 Poll / Horringkroon
- 11 Ear / Oor
- 12 Hump / Skof
- 13 Forequarters / Voortyf
- 14 Chine / Kambeen
- 15 Mid Piece / Middelstuk
- 16 Loin / Lende
- 17 Hindquarters / Agterlyf
- 18 Rump / Kruis
- 19 Hip Bone / Heupbeen
- 20 Tailsetting / Stertwortel
- 21 Pin Bone / Sitbeen
- 22 Thigh / Dy
- 23 Tail / Stert
- 24 Tail switch / Stertkwas
- 25 Hook / Hak
- 26 Cannon bone / Pypbeen
- 27 Hoof Crown / Hoefkroon
- 28 Shank / Skeen
- 29 Scrotum / Skrotum
- 30 Navel / Naevel
- 31 Barrel / Romp
- 32 Sheath / Skede
- 33 Dew Claw / Byklo
- 34 Hoof / Hoef
- 35 Pastern / Koedgewrig
- 36 Cannon Bone / Pypbeen
- 37 Kneel / Knie
- 38 Brisket / Borsstuk
- 39 Chest / Borskas



- 40 Dewlap / Keelvel
- 41 Neck / Nek
- 42 Top of Shoulder / Bopunt van skouer
- 43 Shoulder / Blad
- 44 Point of Shoulder / Skouerknop

- 45 Elbow / Elmbong
- 46 Forearm / voorarm
- 47 Heart Girth / Borsomvang
- 48 Ribs / Ribbes
- 49 Belly / Bulk

- 50 Flank / Lies
- 51 Stifle Joint / Knie
- 52 Lower Thigh / Tweede dy
- 53 Tortoise muscle / Skilpadspier
- 54 Thurl / Draalbeen

The Bonsmara Bull

Investing in your future

"To buy a bull that is not performance tested and not registered is like gambling with your future."

These are the words Dr. Joggie Briedenhann brings to the platform each and every year during the Bonsmara Association's training day with the students of University of Namibia.

When thinking about the statement one often wonders what exactly does it mean? The true meaning of that statement will never make sense if you do not realise that buying a bull is one of the most important decisions you will ever make in your farming career. The right bull can forever change your herd, but the wrong bull can ruin your farming career. The progeny of any bull that you will bring into your herd will be 50% of each offspring produced by him for each calving season.



What specifications must a proper bull then comply with?

A proper registered bull must first of all be fertile, be well adapted and be able to serve at least 35 cows in a mating season. The second important requirement is that a bull must be healthy and free of any sickness and venereal diseases, and lastly a bull must contribute positively to the total production of your herd.

In light of the above explanation of the specifications of a herd bull, let us look at the following 10 requirements a registered Bonsmara bull must comply with.

A registered Bonsmara bull:

- Will have a pedigree dating back more than 50 years
- Will be either a studbook proper bull (SP) or a 2nd generation bull (B)
No rejected bulls may be sold and must be culled
- Will have a proper certified catalogue on auction and will be auctioned off under the auspices of the Bonsmara Breeders Association of Namibia
- Must have a dam that meets all minimum breeding standards
- Must go through the Bonsmara system, selection process and screening before an auction
- Must be performance tested – “to measure all is to know all”
- Must have performance test data, pedigrees, breeding values and reproduction data
- Must have its paternity confirmed by means of DNA
- Must have a bull breeding soundness certificate certified by a veterinary surgeon
- Must have a ♂ brand on his right shoulder

We can then say with peace of mind that a registered Bonsmara bull complies with all the requirements to be a proper herd bull and by buying a registered Bonsmara bull you are no longer gambling with your future but rather making a proper investment in it.

The benefits of buying a registered Bonsmara bull are endless and it comes with a certain kind of assurance and peace of mind. Find a breeder near you and make the right decision! Buy a registered Bonsmara bull for your herd!



Nothing fancy...

just Bonsmara

 **millekena**
BONSMARA
Gebalanseerde Teling



Telephone • 063 275 339
Nick van Wyk • 081 273 8182
Jako van Wyk • 081 692 6164
millekenabonsmara@gmail.com



E Freyer & Seuns

*Bonsmara
– in die kol*



Stoetbul EFC 13-70
"Buddy"

Heiko Freyer

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Bulle jaarliks beskikbaar by

WESTELIKE
Bonsmara Veilings

Elke Junie in Windhoek
&

Begin November op Aub.

The Genomic Bonsmara

The future of breeding

Lately the new buzz word for the newest technology in the beef industry is Genomics. Before we can understand why Genomics is important, we need a bit of background on the topic.

What exactly is Genomics?

You've most probably heard about DNA and genes, maybe you are aware that you've inherited many of your traits from your ancestors. These traits are determined by your genes, which are organized within our cells into chromosomes. Genomics is the study of an entire set of genes in a living organism. While genetics looks at single gene traits, Genomics look at all genes and how they interact to influence the development and growth of an organism. That's basically what Genomics is all about, determining your traits and from whom you've inherited them... and so much more.

Bonsmara Namibia joined hands with our bigger brother in South Africa,



Bonsmara SA and invested in Genomics during 2012. This investment in the future of the breed was made by gaining access to the genomic profiles of influential breeding animals to establish a reference population. The breed has an enormous volume of performance testing data available on economic important traits.

The Bonsmara was thus in an ideal position to identify the most influential breeding bulls and females in the breed and add them to the reference population. These animals already had highly accurate BLUP breeding value predictions.

According to SA Studbook the Bonsmara system is the ideal system to form an accurate foundation for genomic selection, as it is compulsory to routinely measure traits of economic importance.

In April 2015 the BGP (Beef Genomic Programme) which was funded by the Technology Innovation Agency was established and this took the establishment of a reference population a notch up. In 2017 the Bonsmara breed has taken the lead with the release of the very first Genomic BLUP breeding values for beef cattle in Africa.

What is BLUP and EBVs?

The BLUP system calculates how much of each animal's performance is due to its genetic breeding merit and how much is due to the environment in which it has been raised.

This assessment of breeding potential is expressed in units known as Estimated Breeding Values, or EBVs and it is the common way of selecting animals for economic important traits. Accurate pedigrees and compulsory performance testing are the cornerstones of reliable EBVs.

The constant improvement in genetic prediction methodology has over many years, led to more accurate predictions in the inheritance of certain traits. After decades of using the BLUP system and EBVs, phenomenal progress was made in the beef cattle industry, but the time has come to further enhance progress and reliability.

The BLUP system and EBVs have the following shortcomings:

- Accuracy is low on traits that are lowly heritable, but economically very important, like fertility and longevity.
- The inability to determine, with reasonable accuracy the EBVs of young animals and subsequently long generation intervals and possibly slow genetic improvement.
- Low, "early" accuracy on traits that can only be accurately determined late in life like the maternal values of an animal.
- Low, "early" accuracy on traits that can only be accurately determined once the animal is slaughtered like marbling.
- Traits that are expensive to record, like residual feed intake and feed conversion rate, are done by a few breeders only. The volumes of performance testing data for these traits are thus limited.
- EBVs do not make provision for gender specific inheritance of different traits. The current inheritance estimation of 50% from mother and 50% from father is only an assumption.



The beef cattle industry is constantly searching for methods to improve the profitability and efficiency of the industry.

Breeders want to more accurately predict the genetic merit or breeding values of cattle in order to breed better cattle and for the farmer to convert the genetic merit into a “financial” merit. Genomic analysis of cattle and the subsequent benefits to the industry was the next logical development.

The Bonsmara was the first breed in Southern Africa to establish Genomic Enriched Breeding Values for the breed during July 2017. It means that each animal receives a Genomic Enriched Breeding Value (GEBV) that is based on its relationship with all other animals in the Bonsmara breed, provided they have genomic profiles. These breeding values are updated on a monthly basis as new data becomes available.

Animals with genomic profiles have the following advantages compared to animals without genomic profiles:

1. Accuracy of breeding value predictions is much higher on lowly heritable traits like fertility and longevity.
2. Young animals can be genomically profiled to increase the accuracy of their BLUP breeding value prediction. For instance, young bulls with high genetic merit can be used earlier and will shorten the generation
3. Traits that are difficult to measure accurately early in an animal’s life like maternal values, marbling, net feed intake and feed conversion rate can be more accurately determined early, if genomic profiling is done.
4. One of the significant advantages of Genomics is that it will be known what gene combination a young animal received from its parents, given that the genomic information is known. Does this animal take more after the mother or the father?



Why do we say we are investing in the future with Genomics?

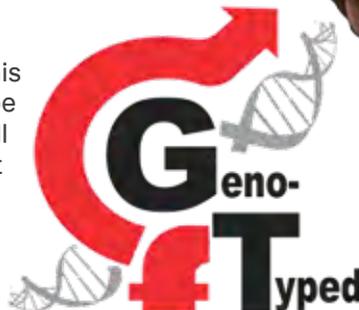
When selecting an animal with genomic enriched breeding values we are selecting an animal for a certain trait with greater accuracy. This is especially true for traits that can only be measured on one of the two sexes, like the genetic merit of cows to restrict the birth weight of their calves, to wean heavier calves, to calve early in season as a heifer and subsequently each calving season as can be determined by breeding values for calving ease, milk, pre-wean growth, age at first calving and calving interval. Traits that are traditionally only recorded on bulls, like feed intake (and the efficiency of converting it into growth) and traits associated with ultrasound scanning like eye muscle area and marbling gain a lot through the inclusion of genomic information in the BLUP breeding value predictions.

Animals can be selected for a certain trait at a much younger age than with only BLUP values which requires at least 3 generations of accurate measurements to be trustworthy.

Genomic breeding values are of high importance in the beef industry as it ultimately will ensure that we will accelerate the genetic progress much more accurately and ultimately select much more effectively for only the traits of economic value, ensuring better food security in the near future.

Currently this is still a very new “tool” of technology to wrap one’s mind around, but it doesn’t matter how we look at it and from which side, it will most certainly play a huge role in the future of the Bonsmara.

In the near future this will no longer only be a buzz word, it will be an integral part of our Bonsmara system.



Charlottenberg & Naos Bonsmaras

Henning & Barbara du Toit • 081 420 1369 • cardiac.whk@gmail.com



*Both Charlottenberg & Naos Bonsmaras,
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Bonsmaras



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The bulls that take Hangala Bonsmara forward
The undiscovered jewels of Northern Namibia - Seeing is believing

Bonsmara Events

Upcoming Auctions & Information Days

2018

AUGUST



- 30 **G8 Bonsmara Auction**
Agra Auction Pens Windhoek
Agra, Kiep Lepen 081 124 0648
J Briedenhann 081 231 6169



SEPTEMBER



- 13 **Mega Bonsmara Auction**
Hochfeld Agri
J von Dewitz 081 279 6625



- 13 **Gobabis Bull Breeders Association Auction**
Karoo
J Jordaan 081 284 6370



- 22 **Bonsmara Information Day**
Hangala Bonsamara, Otavi
André Mouton 081 148 8355



OCTOBER



- 6 **Bonsmara Information Day**
Okozonduno Bonsmaras
Inoo Mungunda 081 294 3791



- 11 **Paresis Auction**
Agra Auction Pens, Otjiwarongo
12 Agra, Kiep Lepen 081 124 0648
Ben Mouton 081 122 8503

NOVEMBER



- 7 **Western Bonsmara Auction**
Aub
Agra, Kiep Lepen 081 124 0648
Thomas Horn 081 147 8919



- 16 **Northern Bull Auction**
Grootfontein Agra
Agra, Kiep Lepen 081 124 0648
Ben Mouton 081 122 8503

Bonsmara Events

Upcoming Auctions & Information Days

2019

APRIL



Southern Bull Auction

Mariental

Agra, Kiep Lepen 081 124 0648



Training Day

Windhoek

For emerging farmers and students

Bonsmara Office nambons@iway.na

Keep an eye on the media for dates

MAY



Farmers Day & Production Auction

Hartbeestloop Bonsmara, Stampriet

Joggie Briedenhann 081 231 6169



JUNE



Western Bonsmara Winter Auction

Windhoek

Agra, Kiep Lepen 081 124 0648

Thomas Horn 081 147 8919

JULY



Top 10 Bonsmara Production Auction

Otjiwarongo

Agra, Kiep Lepen 081 124 0648

Ben Mouton 081 122 8503



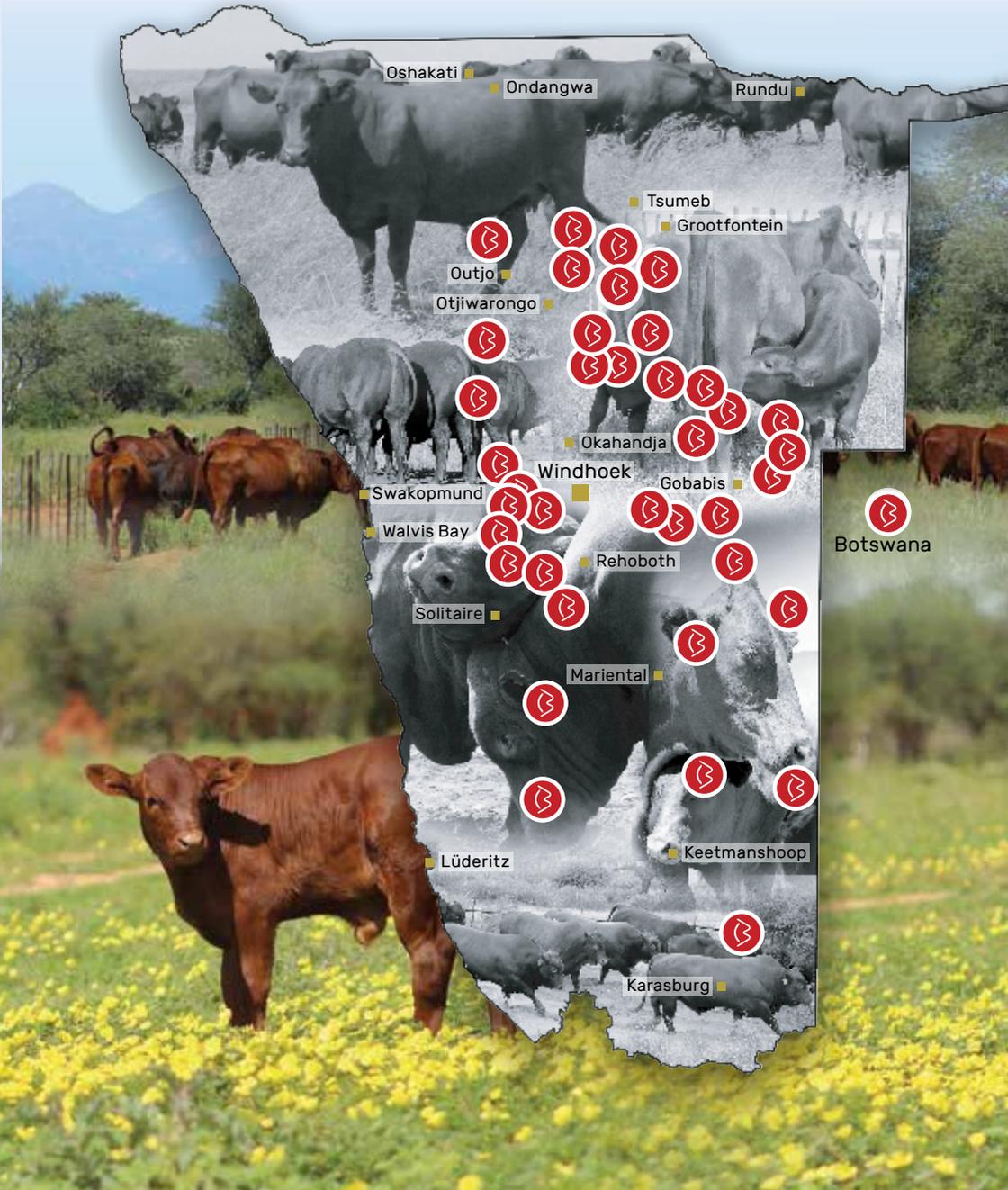
Bonsmara Breeders

Find a breeder near you

Stud Name	Breeder	Area	Telephone
Millekena	Jako van Wyk	Aranos	081 273 8182
Jomar Bonsmara	Johan van Rooyen	Aroab	063 280 677
Hackette Bonsmara	Koos Raubenheimer	Botswana	+267 72 88 5681
Erasmus Bonsmara	Harry Erasmus	Dordabis	081 122 9003
Cattle Country Bonsmara	Hano Swart	Gobabis	081 147 7349
Cordova Bonsmara	Etienne Jooste	Gobabis	081 371 1599
Helku Bonsmara	Heidi Oestlund	Gobabis	081 127 0946
Moslabon Bonsmara	Boetie Labuschagne	Gobabis	081 368 6838
Tokat Bonsmara	Nico Steenkamp	Gobabis	081 349 2455
Nabibis Bonsmara	Juan Coleman	Helmeringhausen	081 124 0889
Emok Bonsmara	Edward Hansen	Hochfeld	081 124 1657
Hochfeldstreek Bonsmara	Streicher & Hella Coetzee	Hochfeld	081 129 8387
Okamaja Bonsmara	Siegfried du Toit/Jörg Sigwart	Hochfeld	081 304 6511
Stokkies Bonsmara	Stokkies von Dewitz	Hochfeld	081 279 6625
Springputz Bonsmara	Dr Thelma von Schauroth	Karasburg	081 124 9117
Pick A Dream Bonsmaras	Bertus & J.C Olivier	Keetmanshoop	081 275 0525
Charlottenberg Bonsmara	Dr Henning du Toit	K. Hochland	081 420 1369
Colorado Bonsmara	Henk Meyer	K. Hochland	081 124 0939
Hoanob Bonsmara	Heiko Freyer	K. Hochland	081 127 1602
Hochland Bonsmara	Hans Deloch	K. Hochland	081 324 8150
Terraro Zucht Bonsmara	Thomas Horn	K. Hochland	081 147 8919
Zunica Bonsmara	Nic & Sunja van Heerden	K. Hochland	081 261 7308
Gocharus Bonsmara	Hendrik de Klerk	Koës	081 352 0505
Komaweer Bonsmara	Dawie Möller	Leonardville	081 124 5385
Tuauana Bonsmara	Steve Katjuanjo	Leonardville	081 128 1294
Herero Bonsmara	Okomumbonde Research Station	Okakarara	081 247 5637
Ondoka Bonsmara	Erni de Fries	Omaruru	081 249 9005
Hangala Bonsmara	Dr Leake Hangala/André Mouton	Otavi	081 148 8355
Odussa Bonsmara	David Botha	Otavi	081 128 4844
Haikali Bonsmara	Ranga Haikali	Otjiwarongo	081 127 1753
Okozonduno Bonsmara	Junius Mungunda	Otjiwarongo	081 127 6181
Ons Bonsmara	Otto Shikongo	Otjiwarongo	081 129 9783
Wagner Bonsmara	Ben Mouton	Otjiwarongo	081 122 8503
Tzaus Bonsmara	Dries Venter	Outjo	081 240 6546
Retsu Bonsmara	Tsumis Research Station	Rehoboth	081 239 8309
Rima Bonsmara	Richard Theron	Rehoboth	081 128 2273
Hartebeestloop Bonsmara	Dr Joggie Briedenhann	Stampriet	081 231 6169
Kalahari Bonsmara	Dr Joggie Briedenhann	Stampriet	081 231 6169
Schumacher Bonsmara	Marc Schumacher/Nico Visser	Windhoek	081 124 0741

Bonsmara Breeders

Find a breeder near you



MOSLABON BONSMARAS



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GOBABIS / OMAHEKE
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Est. 2015

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Schumacher
Bonsmaras

Deel van die
WENNER SIRKEL



MARC SCHUMACHER +264 811 240 741
NICO VISSER +264 811 241 168



Bulls up for auction



Bulls up for auction



TON150003

Farm Arnhem 540, Leonardville District
Dawie Moller 081 124 5385
dawie@dmrail.com



D.L.Moller - dawie@dmrail.com - (+264) 81 124 5385

Our hardy bulls will be available at



Bonsmara Auction
30 August 2018
Windhoek

50 Reasons

Why the Bonsmara wears the yellow jersey

Farming with Bonsmaras can easily be compared to the Tour de France. In the Tour de France there are stages that are more difficult than others, some are uphill battles and some are easily managed. In some the cyclists do well, in some they do even better and then there are some stages that their performance is only average. It's the overall performance from the beginning to the end that determines who wears the yellow jersey.

Farming with Bonsmara is a win-win situation as you take the overall performance of the breed into consideration. The Bonsmara wears the yellow jersey for the following 50 reasons, as the Bonsmara outperforms other breeds in these "stages".

1 Only documented breed

The Bonsmara is the only documented, scientifically bred cattle breed today. No other breed can lay claim to this.

2 "To measure all is to know all"

It is compulsory to do performance testing for all registered Bonsmara breeders. All measurements are based on traits of economic importance and all data is gathered since the beginning of the Bonsmara. Imagine the large database that we can use to our benefit to measure these traits against!

3 Adaptability

Originally bred for the drier areas of Southern-Africa, the Bonsmara has proven itself not only in these areas, but are adapted and found all over the world today.

4 Flourish on the veld

All over Namibia the Bonsmara flourish in extensive conditions and can be marketed from the veld with only a mineral lick in summer and protein-maintenance lick in winter.



5 Prosperous in any farming system

Whether it is a typical cow-calf production system, an ox-system, a replacement heifer breeding system, as a purebred or as a crossbreed, the Bonsmara prospers in each of these systems and adds value to each of these systems.

6 Genetic availability

Animals are readily available on auctions and from farmers across the country and you can find a large variety of different types of animals within a large gene pool on your doorstep.

7 Minimum breeding values

Strict minimum breeding standards for reproduction, milk production, growth, functional efficiency and structural soundness are applied by the breeders.



8 Temperament

The Bonsmara is generally good-tempered and breeders strictly select against bad temperament. This is a highly heritable trait.

9 The Bonsmara system

The Bonsmara system is a unique system that ensures that a registered Bonsmara goes through different selection criteria, thus ensuring you get the best genetics available.

10 A unique inspection system

The Bonsmara has a unique inspection and selection system. An animal can only be registered once it went through the system and was selected by our senior selectors for functional efficiency and structural soundness.

11 Independent senior selectors

Senior inspectors are independent and have the necessary accreditations. Inspectors gather frequently amongst themselves to sharpen their skills and to debate issues that may arise.

12 Bonsmara auctions

All Bonsmara animals on auction are auctioned under the auspices of the Bonsmara Cattle Breeders Association with a complete certified catalogue.



13 Screening of auction animals

All Bonsmaras on auction must be screened the day before the event, thus ensuring you buy quality at an auction.

14 Breeding soundness certificate

All Bonsmara bulls sold must be accompanied by a bull breeding soundness certificate, certified by a veterinary surgeon to ensure a bull is fertile and free of venereal diseases.

15 Compulsory scrotum measurements

The size of a bull's scrotum plays a major role in the fertility of a bull. It is compulsory to measure the size of a Bonsmara bull's scrotum and the size must comply with strict minimum breeding standards.

16 Paternity testing

All Bonsmara bulls must have its paternity confirmed by means of DNA.

17 Serving ability of a Bonsmara bull

Masculinity and libido play a major role in the serving ability of a bull and therefore it is part of the strict selection criteria for a bull. A fertile Bonsmara bull can easily serve 35-40 cows in a mating season of 3 months.

18 ♂ - brand

All registered Bonsmara bulls must have a ♂ - brand on the right shoulder.





19

Heat resistance

The Bonsmara has a coat enriched with blood vessels and sweat glands. Their coat is shorter and smoother, their skin is thicker and their sinus cavities are bigger making them more adaptable and heat resistant.

20

Longevity

A Bonsmara cow can easily reproduce under extensive conditions up to the age of 12 – 14 years and bulls can still serve up to the age of 10 years and older.

21

Natural parasite resistance

The Afrikaner influence ensured that the Bonsmara is more tick resistant, due to its shorter coat, thicker and blood-vessel enriched skin and sebum that's secreted by the sebaceous glands.

22

Fertility

On average Bonsmara cows are highly fertile and this trait is being advanced and maintained through strict selection standards.

23

Medium-framed breed

An average Bonsmara cow in Namibia weighs between 450kg and 500kg which classifies it as a medium-framed breed, making it ideal for the Namibian environment.



24

Mothering abilities

The Bonsmara cow is very popular amongst commercial breeders for the pure fact that they have exceptional mothering abilities, have good milk production, look well after their calves and are easy to handle.



25

Good milk production

A Bonsmara cow is energy efficient and has a good feed conversion ratio. She is therefore able to convert poor pastures and even inadequate pastures into good milk for her calf while maintaining her own body condition.

26

Cow efficiency ratio

On average a Bonsmara cow will produce a healthy calf every year on the veld and wean a calf of 7 months at a minimum of 45% of her own body mass.

27

Ease of calving

Bonsmara cows are known for their ease of calving, thus meaning lower mortality rates due to not being able to calve on her own. Certain speciality bulls are also selected to be used on heifers, ensuring ease of calving.

28

Early Puberty

A Bonsmara is a medium-framed breed that reaches puberty at the early age of 12 -18 months. In Namibia the average age for first calf is 32 months.

29

Excellent conception

Bonsmara cows usually stay in good condition throughout the calf rearing season and therefore come into season quickly after calving, thus having a superb re-conception record.

30

Strong hereditary characteristics

Economic traits such as adaptability, milk production, hardiness, good mothering abilities, longevity and growth potential are strongly hereditary in the breed.



31 **Good quality weaners**

Time and again Bonsmara weaners win the national weaner competitions throughout the country and they achieve higher prices than most other breeds.



32 **Growth test and veld bull tests**

More bulls are tested in official growth tests than in any other breed. Extensive veld bull testing is mostly done for farmers that prefer veld tested bulls.

33 **Early market readiness**

Bonsmara weaners adapt easily in the feedlot and are ready to be slaughtered after just 90 days. In the ideal feedlot circumstances the Bonsmara grows up to 2kg per day.

34 **Feed conversion ratio**

Feed efficiency is one of the most important factors in the profitability of a feedlot. According to studies done by the LNR, the Bonsmara has some of the best feed conversion ratios and are seen as the most economic breed in the feedlot.



35 **Fat dispersion**

One of the main reasons the Bonsmara does well in the carcass competitions is its early and uniform fat dispersion.

36 **Oxen from the veld**

In extensive circumstances a Bonsmara farmer can easily slaughter his oxen from the veld as AB-, B2- or B3-grades.

37 **Ideal carcass size**

Market research has proven that the end user prefers a carcass that weighs between 215kg to 240kg which is exactly the A-grade Bonsmara carcass weight.

38 **Slaughter percentage**

Scientific research has proven that the Bonsmara carcass easily obtains a slaughter percentage of 55% to 60%.



39

Meat Quality

A direct relation exists between the temperament of an animal and the quality of meat it produces.

40

Bonsmara heifers

Currently there is a greater demand for Bonsmara heifers than can be supplied in the market. Bonsmara heifers are very popular and one can create a stable market for yourself by adding value and selling off good quality heifers ready for the bull, or certified pregnant heifers.



41

Bigger herds, greater selection

The average Bonsmara stud herd consists of 65 and more cows and there are over 1 million Bonsmaras registered with SA Studbook. This means a greater selection can be made amongst superior genetics.

42

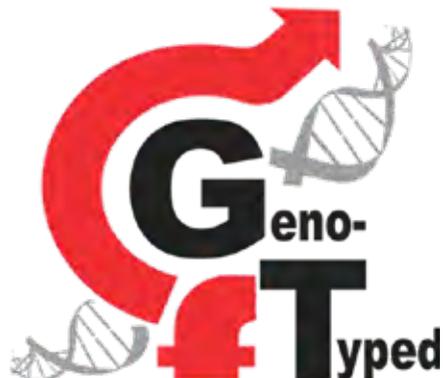
Research

The Association and the breeders are constantly busy doing more research on the breed.

43

Genomics

The Bonsmara was the first breed in Southern Africa to establish Genomic Enriched Breeding Values during July 2017.



44

Reasonable prices

Whether it is a heifer, cow or bull, Bonsmaras are readily available at good prices.

45

Integrity and trust

We are proud to say our breeders truly strive to operate with absolute integrity and trustworthiness. These are some of the most valuable assets any farmer can possess.

46

Efficient board

The board of the Bonsmara Association consists of 4 permanent members and a permanent secretary that runs our office. The board members work together to ensure progress in the breed.

47

No show policy

Bonsmaras may be presented at a show, but may not take part in the competitions.

48

Promotion and information days

Once or twice a year a breed promotion day or information day is hosted by the Bonsmara Association of Namibia. These days are full of informative content aimed at the betterment of the breed.

49

Training

The Bonsmara Association of Namibia has committed itself to provide training for young and upcoming farmers and students. Since 2013 we have hosted two training days for students each year.

50

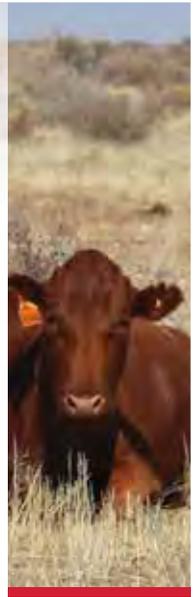
Mentorship

Some breeders have committed themselves to being mentors for young and upcoming farmers, and are committed to creating a stable future for the farming environment.





*'If they can
make it here,
they can
make it
anywhere!'*



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