

NGUNI CATTLE BREEDERS' SOCIETY OFFICE REPORT 2010

Yolanda Venter, Office Manager



**Maki Moshao (Office Assistant), Yolanda Venter (Office Manager),
Louise du Toit (Financial Officer), Elmarie du Preez
(Administrative Officer)**

A few years ago we all thought 2010 is still far in the future. Well, 2010 has passed and after a very busy year in the Nguni Office, we are looking forward to 2011.

A breeders' society is one of the most important organisations for any stud breeder and consists of a group of people that promote the breed, formulate policies and implement these policies. The Nguni Cattle Breeders' Society's objectives are as follows:

- To bring members together in an organized manner.
- To serve as the custodian of the Nguni breed and strive towards the preservation and improvement of the genetic production potential of the breed.
- To put ethical standards in place for all involved.
- To attend to the various functions that the society is obliged to carry out such as training, technical assistance, promotion, financial and administrative functions.

The Society must promote the breed and improve genetic production potential. It must compile and maintain a minimum breed standard which is based on visual appraisal for genetic defects and conformation (based on functional efficiency) and for reproductive performance. It is important to promote the use of Nguni cattle genetics as paramount in the sustainable production of beef.

During 2010, 240 inspections were done by 26 Senior- and 34 Junior-inspectors.

All this administration was handled by Maki Moshao and did not include

special-, appeal inspections or sale screenings. There were 21 auctions held under the auspices of the Society and as the average prices indicate, it was indeed a very good 2010 for sales of our animals.

Bulls	R17 500
Cowes with calves	R10 000
Pregnant cows	R8 400
Pregnant heifers	R9 200
Open heifers	R6 900

Elmarie du Preez handled the new member administration where a total of 56 new applications for membership and 63 resignations were received during 2010. Currently we have 427 breeders registered at the Society. The website was redesigned and updated. Please visit the website at www.ngunicattle.info and any requests or suggestions are welcome.

The Society's finances are in a very sound position and are well managed by Louise du Toit, the Society's financial officer.

Graham Hallowell was contracted to assist the office in drawing up catalogues for auctions under the auspices of the Society and cleansing of the database. This relieved the other staff to attend to other regular matters.

The office is, furthermore, involved in different activities like training members, information days, maintaining breeding standards, updating by-laws and Schedule G2, handling inquiries telephonically, by email or by visitors, imports, handling problems with programming at Studbook, etc. Exhibitions were held at Nampo and Mega Week where great interest was shown in the breed.

At present there are 45 118 female and 17 518 male animals registered on the database. If we look back over the past 25 years we're proud of what has been achieved, but can still improve over the next years.

The Nguni breed is a versatile breed and is the trump card in any farmer's hand for sustainable beef production and adapted genetics. Together with its unique advantages it is the natural choice for informed managers of beef production systems. With your cooperation we can make this Society even better and make our breed indispensable.

Yolanda Venter
Office Manager