



## Newsletter November 2020

Dear Brahman Breeders,

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in October and was very well attended by members. The incoming Council was elected at the AGM and held its first meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Elections for the various office bearers were conducted and Philip Reed was elected as the incoming President and Frans Briers was unanimously elected as the Vice President.

Dirk Odendaal, the outgoing Chairman, was given a vote of thanks for guiding the Society through some difficult challenges in recent years and his ongoing contribution to the Society is exemplary.

Other office bearers include:

ZHB Representative:	Bruce Ndlovu
Treasurer:	Phil Reed
Secretary:	Mrs Sharon Beffa
Training and Field Days:	Bruce Ndlovu and Frans Briers
Promotions:	Fred Bezuidenhout
Advertising	Kennedy Maguta

### Membership Fees and Levies for 2021

At the Council meeting held recently, discussions centred around planned Society activities for the coming year which includes training sessions, field days and inspections. A budget will be drawn up to accommodate these activities, as well as advertising and secretarial fees, and members will be advised of Membership Fees and Levies for 2021 in due course.

### Training and Field Days

The Society will arrange Training and Field days in Gweru, Bulawayo, Chinhoyi and Beatrice in 2021 and members will be advised of the calendar of events in due course. Training sessions will include discussion about the Brahman, what constitutes a sound breeding animal, inspections, and a review of stud breeding,



performance recording and data submission requirements for Zimbabwe Herd Book (ZHB).

### National Breed Sale (NBS)

Members of the Society had raised queries about the allocation of bulls for the NBS. After lengthy discussion at the Council meeting, it was agreed that:

- i) Only quality bulls will be accepted for the NBS;
- ii) First-time sellers will be eligible to enter one bull;
- iii) By the end of February each year, breeders must indicate their interest to the Society in entering bulls for the NBS;
- iv) Breeders must be in good standing with the both the Society and ZHB and have submitted requisite data, i.e. herd lists, inspections and birth notifications;
- v) All membership fees and levies must be paid and up-to-date;
- vi) A breeder may enter a maximum of ten bulls; and
- vii) Breeders may submit more entries than the number allocated for inspection.

Council will meet in early March to:

- a) Confirm the maximum number of Brahman bulls for the NBS;
- b) After taking into consideration first-time sellers, allocate remaining bulls based on the proportion of breeding females; and
- c) Council has the right to make the final decision on the number of bulls being allocated to each breeder and if the quota of 60 bulls is not filled, the Council also reserves the right to allocate an extra bull to a particular breeder after consultation with the Inspectors.

### Requirements for the 2021 NBS

Breeders are reminded about the requirement for DNA analyses to determine parentage for bulls being entered onto the Sale as well as the fertility restrictions and cut-off periods for 2018 born females.



### Brahman Breeders Society Statistics

66 Brahman studs with an average of 104 animals per stud are registered with ZHB.

The total number of registered animals is 4,994 and 2,039 animals are in the Calf Book. The breeding herd, estimated from animals over 3 years of age, comprises 441 males and 3,494 females.

The average age at first calving is 44 months, the maximum allowable period for 2018 born heifers, while the average calving interval is 498 days, compared with the maximum allowable interval of 485 days for animals born 2018 onwards. The average days since last calving is 551 days, reflecting a high inter-calving period and possibly late birth notifications.

Twenty-six (39%) studs have 15 or less breeding females while 35 (53%) have 30 or less breeding females.

### Performance Recording

The status of performance recording among Brahman breeders is very low, with 24 studs reporting birth weights and only four studs reporting 200d weights. The submission of performance records (weights at birth, 200, 400 and 600 days, scrotal circumference and days to calving) are pre-requisites for benefitting from genetic analyses.

### Southern African Brahman Evaluations

Further to an e-mail that was circulated to breeders in October, Mario Beffa reported on progress towards facilitating the participation of Zimbabwean Brahman breeders in the southern African Brahman evaluations and currently, the data for Zimbabwean breeders registered with South Africa is being mirrored onto the Zimbabwe database which will become the primary data source in future breed analyses.



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c/o Zimbabwe Herd Book

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### Brahman Breed Improvement Forum (BBIF)

Mario Beffa has been invited by the BBIF to participate in Forum meetings, the focus of which is on genotyping to facilitate inclusion of genomics in genetic evaluations, promoting the recording of residual feed intake, days to calving and docility and identification of common sires for linking herds.

### Animal Transfers

It was noted that many producers are purchasing pedigree animals in South Africa and Namibia. Members are reminded about the need to obtain transfer certificates in their names to facilitate transfer of these animals to the respective studs.

With kind regards,

Philip Reed  
President