

DORPER NEWS

MAY 2019

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to our new members – Wallace Ruzvidzo, Ant Donahoe, Tristan Shaxton, Christine Zimbango, Farai Maruza, Paul Stewart, Tawanda Tandi, N Van Heerden, Setfree Nkomo and Pearson Ndabaningi. Apologies if I have omitted anyone, we've all been busy, welcome to you all and trust you will see the benefits of being a member of our Society!

Grateful thanks extended to Rose Van De Ruit of Bramber farm, Ruwa, and Maree Osborne of Blue Gums, Macheke, who together with their experienced teams, ran fully subscribed SHEPHERD'S COURSES, in February and April respectively. Participants were put to the test with respects to the hands-on management of your flock. Such positive responses and huge interest from your various employees, as seen by the results of the exam. All participants received their attendance certificates, many of whom achieved distinctions. They took home their notes for referral, and we hope they continue practicing what they have learnt.



LEFT : Proud participants of the Blue Gums, Macheke course, showing off their Certificates.

The respective employers by now, should be seeing the benefit of the investment they made, with the way the flock is now being handled on a daily basis.

We do believe the training they receive from experienced operations, is most beneficial to your flock, some small changes may make all the difference.



LEFT : Participants of the February 2019 course, held at Bramber Farm, Ruwa.

Please, Owners, read the manual your sheperd's took home. Understand the content and bring your questions to the **Hands on Field day on 17th June 2019.**



Course content was very varied, encompassing all day to day matters relating to sheep, and the monitoring and work that should be applied.

Weighing, injecting, dosing, checking for worms, taking temperatures, trimming hooves, dipping, tail docking, and even a post mortem at Blue Gums, due to an unfortunate stillborn lamb, of 6kg.

5 point check, sick, old, condition, food etc.

Hands on learning, is a great way to ensure the person walking with your flock, knows what to look for to ensure your investment is looked after.

Please ensure you have a 1st aid box for your sheep.
Thermometer is an absolute MUST HAVE!!

DIARY FOR 2019

2 shepherd's courses, as planned – completed.

UPCOMING – ONE DAY hands on course, covering many of the contents of the 4 day shepherd course. Aimed at the Owner/manager of the flock.

VENUE; BRAMBER FARM, RUWA – Monday 17th June, start 8.30am

Cost USD\$20, payable in USD cash or RTGS at rate on day paid

Bookings preferred, for catering purposes. Cost includes Tea and Lunch

All payments to : DORPER SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

NMB BANK – BORROWDALE #26193368

Please send your POP to 0772601174 or kagelerheather@gmail.com

PROVISIONALLY SET FOR OCTOBER 2019 : The next course to be held will be the Basic Course – which is DORPER BREED STANDARDS, This will help you improve the quality of your flock, reasons for culling, basic vaccinations, performance recording, body scoring, growths rates etc. This is a 4 day course, and we hope to be able to visit other flocks for reference, during this course.

For people who may be interested in STUD Breeding – Part of the minimum requirement is to have done the two BASIC COURSES, and one ADVANCED COURSE.

Subs to join the DORPER SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, will remain at USD\$40/annum, payable in USD\$ or RTGS at the rate of the day. Details as per above.

SHEEP MANAGEMENT CALENDARS

For maximum effectiveness these should be planned to fit in with veld or pasture growth patterns. These will vary with each producer and climatic zone. As is often the case, sheep are often not the main enterprise in a Zimbabwe farming operation. If one exceeds the grass production capacity, with a shortage of forage, incidence of disease and mortality will become uncontrollable and affect profitability.

This will also be determined on what type of breeding cycle you choose for your flock.

Some people choose to allow the ram in all year round, this does have drawbacks, as lambs are born any time during the year, when nutrition may not be at its best, but more-so the stimulus of the presence of the ram is reduced among the ewes if he is always present.

Otherwise, one may tend to select from Spring lambing, which is when most animal species are naturally born, and the ewe is able to attain its full milk production level on summer grass, as opposed to Autumn lambing, where a good level of nutrition is provided during the ewes pregnancy and lambs will be born in dry conditions.

In situations that allow for high levels of nutrition, there are systems in place for each ewe to lamb down 3 times in 2 years, increasing productivity greatly, especially if twins are common. This system does require higher nutritional input than Zimbabwean conditions ordinarily gives.

If you have any items of interest, questions or suggestions , for possible printing in next newsletter, please feel free to email them to us.

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