

ARC National Beef Cattle Improvement Herd of the Year Award

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HISTORY

The Advisory Committee of the National Beef Recording and Improvement Scheme approved the ARC Beef Cattle Improvement Herd of the Year Awards in March 1997. ABSA agreed to sponsor the award on a national level.

This is the 16th year that the awards will be presented on a provincial (previously regional) level

as well. The ARC National Beef Cattle Improvement Herd of the Year Award is arguably the most prestigious award in the SA beef cattle industry.

The national winner's main prize is a visit to the annual conference of the Beef Improvement Federation in the USA.

This is the first year that herds of all beef breeds qualify for the award, irrespective of the

service provider (ARC, South African Stud Book or Breedplan), the breeders' society used for registration, performance testing and breeding value estimation.

The ARC has also decided to extend the finalists to include herds in other Southern African countries to be considered, along with the provincial winners, for the award of overall winner.

PURPOSE OF AWARDS

- To acknowledge breeders that perform well on criteria related to performance testing, genetic improvement, breeding and management.
- To encourage cattlemen to improve the efficiency of their enterprises.
- To promote participation in performance testing.
- To promote sound breeding and management principles in the beef cattle industry.

- To demonstrate the practical benefit of performance-testing by means of identifying outstanding herds.

IDENTIFYING THE WINNERS

Several criteria are used to select the finalists in each province:

- The herd must participate in performance testing with one of the service providers (ARC, SA Stud Book or Breedplan) that the relevant breeders' society uses for registration, performance testing and breeding value estimation.
- At a minimum, the birth, weaning and cow weight (at calving and/or at weaning) must be recorded in the herd.
- At a minimum, the 12- and/or

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Chris Purdon
Veejay Angus
Eastern Cape



Arthur de Villiers
Arcadia Bonsmaras
Free State



Gideon Brits
Beefmaster Alliance
Gauteng



Danie Olivier
Hotvoor Bonsmaras
KwaZulu-Natal



Philip de Waal
Loheim Herefords
Western Cape



Peter & Nick Farrant
Culmpine Bonsmaras
Limpopo



Kerneels J van Rensburg
Nooitverwag Beefmasters
Mpumalanga



Jan Hattingh
Salerika Simmentalers
North West



Jan van Zyl
Kroonvee Brahmans
Northern Cape

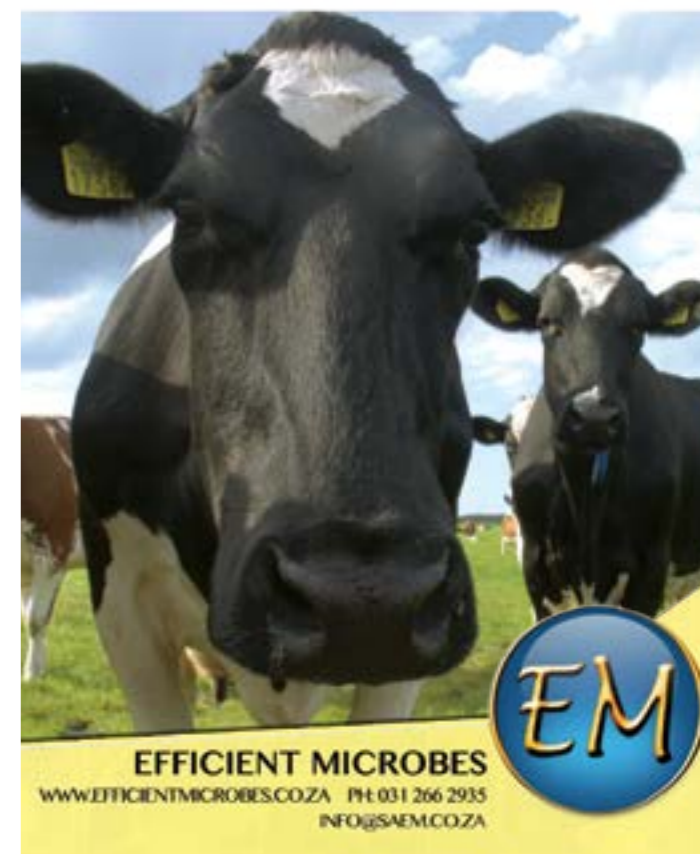


Joggie Briedenhann
Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras
Namibia (non-SA countries)



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← 18-month weight must be recorded.

- At least 20% of the weaned bull calves must be tested in Phases C or D (not applicable to breeds using Breedplan as service provider).
- All data must be submitted promptly and accuracy must be within acceptable norms.
- The herd must consist of at least 50 cows.
- The average ICP for all the cows in the herd may not exceed 415 days.
- The average age at first calving for all the cows in the herd may not exceed 36 months.
- The average elapsed time since last calving for all the cows in the herd may not exceed 415 days.
- At least 96% of calves must have been born alive.

• **To select the provincial and national winner from the finalists, the following aspects are considered:**

- The level of participation of the herd in performance testing regarding the various phases and traits concerned.
- The level of reproductive performance of the herd.
- Breeding objectives for the herd.
- The genetic progress and genetic level of the herd.
- The application of performance test data and BLUP breeding values in selection, breeding and management of the herd.
- Application of modern scientific breeding techniques in the herd.
- The involvement of the owner in performance-testing activities and promoting of performance testing.
- Mentoring and training of new and/or emerging farmers by the owner of the herd.
- The herd size.

The national winner is selected from the nine provincial winners and the non-SA winner by the Manager: Beef Cattle Improvement in consultation with the Senior Manager: Animal Breeding and Improvement at the ARC Animal Production Institute.

The performance of the herd, especially relating to reproduction, is the most important consideration in selecting the winner.

The national winner is announced at the ARC National Beef Performers Awards ceremony at the Spring Show in Pretoria.

The provincial winners and the non-SA winner for the 2013 ARC National Beef Cattle Improvement Herd of the Year Award are presented below.

Congratulations to these breeders. We wish them all the best in the running for the national winner!

The 2013 ARC National Beef Cattle Improvement Herd of the Year Award – provincial winners

Province	Owner/Contact	Herd name & breed	Town	Cell no.	Email	Number of cows	Ave. age first calving	Ave. ICP (days)	Ave. Reprod. Index
Eastern Cape	Chris Purdon	Veejay Angus	Cathcart	082 879 2744	cpurdon@vj Angus.co.za	450	35	379	100
Free State	Arthur de Villiers	Arcadia Bonsmaras	Vrede	082 564 8912	amdev@zipnorth.co.za	824	29	398	107
Gauteng	Gideon Brits	Beefmaster Alliance	Nigel	082 457 2816	gideon@beefmasteralliance.com	900	26	374	120
KwaZulu-Natal	Danie Olivier	Hotvoor Bonsmaras	Vryheid	083 229 9195	hotvoorbonsmara@bundunet.co.za	458	32	380	106
Limpopo	Peter & Nick Farrant	Culmpine Bonsmaras	Vaalwater	082 822 8935	culmpine@stud.co.za	99	34	377	105
Mpumalanga	Kerneels Jansen van Rensburg	Nooitverwag Beefmaster	Ermelo	082 651 2783	nooitverwagbm@gmail.com	420	34	376	103
North West	Jan Hattingh	Salerika Simmentalers	Delareyville	083 274 4493	leeuwpan@mweb.co.za	272	24	376	NA
Northern Cape	Jan van Zyl	Kroonvee Brahmane	Olifantshoek	082 444 5222	jan@kroonvee.com	441	33	428	NA
Western Cape	Philip de Waal	Locheim Herefords	Moorreesburg	082 783 0011	locheim@xsinet.co.za	146	28	374	113
Non-SA countries	Joggie Briedenhann	Hartebeestloop Bonsmaras	Stampriet, Namibia	00264 81 231 6169	jbried@joggie.com.na	480	27	386	115