

ENTRY FORM

2009 NATIONAL BEEF CATTLE FARMER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Requirements and Procedure

- The competition is open for participation by any beef cattle farmer.
- The participant must personally complete the form and sign the declaration at the end of the questionnaire.
- The selected finalists must be willing to host the judges on their respective farms to display aspects such as record keeping, grazing management and different cattle herds.
- The **2009 competition** will be based on the participant's latest calving season or calving seasons.
- Information submitted by participants is confidential.
- The decision of the judges is final and no reasons or comments pertaining thereto will be provided to the participants.
- The closing date of the competition is **21 August 2009**. Fax completed questionnaires to **Lulu Cooper at: 032 – 944 6636 or post to Lulu Cooper, Voermol Feeds, P.O. Box 13, Maidstone, 4380**.

Judging of the competition will be carried out by the Department of Animal, Wildlife and Grassland Sciences from the University of the Free State and it will be co-ordinated by the Voermol Technical Department.

Only submit information that is available and verifiable. If you cannot answer a question, leave it blank. Where you have a choice, mark the relevant block with a ✓.

1. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1.1 Initials and surname: _____

1.2 First name: _____

1.3 Name of farm: _____

1.4 District: _____

1.5 Postal address: _____

1.6 Contact details:

Land line: _____ Cell number: _____

Email: _____ Fax number: _____

1.7 Person (referee) who nominated you:

1.8 Contact details of referee:

Land line: _____ Cell number: _____

Email: _____

2. PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISED AGRICULTURE

2.1 Are you a member of the local farmer's association?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------

NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
----	--------------------------

2.2 Name of the farmer's association: _____

2.3 Are you a member of a study group?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------

NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
----	--------------------------

2.4 Name of the study group: _____

2.5 Are you a member of the RPO?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------

NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
----	--------------------------

2.6 Are you a member of any other producer organisations?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------

NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
----	--------------------------

2.7 If you are, name the producer organisations:

2.8 Briefly describe your participation in organised agriculture (e.g. on local, provincial and national level):

3. **RESOURCES AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT**

- 3.1 Total farming area: _____ ha
- 3.2 Area of natural grazing: _____ ha
- 3.3 Area of cultivated pastures: _____ ha
- 3.4 Area of cash crop residues (stover): _____ ha
- 3.5 What is the long term average rainfall/year? _____
- 3.6 What is your carrying capacity in ha/LSU? _____
- 3.7 What is your current stocking rate in ha/LSU? _____
- 3.8 Briefly outline your grazing management system:

4. **BREEDING MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 According to which criterion do heifers and cows get culled?

- 4.2 Briefly describe your breeding goals:

- 4.3 Where do you buy your bulls? _____

5. **REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 Breed: _____

- 5.2 Breeding season:

Heifers

Date bull put to heifers: _____

Date bull out from heifers: _____

Number of days heifers were with bull: _____

Cows

Date bull put to cows: _____

Date bull out from cows: _____

Number of days cows were with bull: _____

5.3 How many cows (or heifers) do you put to one bull? _____

5.4 Calving season – mark appropriate block.

Only one calving season per year

Two calving seasons per year

5.5 Fill in the numbers of your latest calving season or seasons. If available, fill in the age groups separately. If numbers of different age groups are not available, combine under “Cows”.

- **Participants with one calving season per year:** Supply numbers of the latest calving season. Fill in column **A** only.
- **Participants with two calving seasons per year:** Supply numbers of the latest two calving seasons and fill in columns **A** and **B**.

	A	B
Fill in calving season (months & year) →		
Heifers – first time put to bull:		
Number put to bull		
Number calved		
Number of calves weaned		
First calf heifers – heifers that calved once:		
Number put to bull		
Number calved		
Number of calves weaned		
Cows:		
Number put to bull		
Number calved		
Number of calves weaned		

5.6 Weaning date: _____

Average age of calves at weaning: _____ days

5.7 Average weaning weight of calves: _____ kg

5.8 How many replacement heifers are taken into the herd annually? _____

5.9 Age of heifers first bred with the bull: _____ months

5.10 Weight of heifers at the start of the breeding season: _____ kg

5.11 Average mature cow mass at the start of the breeding season: _____ kg

5.12 Do you do pregnancy tests?

 YES

 NO

Date of pregnancy test: _____

How many days after the breeding season is the pregnancy test done? _____

Name and telephone number of person who did the test:

5.13 Do you do an annual fertility test on bulls?

YES

NO

If yes, name and telephone number of Veterinarian:

How many days before the breeding season is the fertility test done? _____

5.14 Are bulls tested annually for sexually transmitted diseases?

YES

NO

5.15 Do you have a herd health programme?

YES

NO

6. **FEEDING MANAGEMENT**

6.1 Fodder flow and grazing management of females: Indicate only the main types of grazing such as natural veld, cultivated pasture (e.g. Smuts finger), crop residues, hay etc.

Summer: _____

Winter: _____

6.2 Briefly describe your feeding practices before and during the breeding season:

Bulls: _____

Heifers: _____

Cows: _____

6.3 Briefly describe your:

Summer lick programme: _____

Winter lick programme: _____

7. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

7.1 Do you use a financial programme for record keeping?

YES

NO

7.2 If yes, name the programme (software): _____

7.3 Do you set up an annual budget for the beef cattle enterprise? YES NO

7.4 Do you have a way of measuring the profitability of your cattle farming enterprise?

YES NO

If yes, how much profit have you made over the past year? Complete one or more of the following:

Interest earned on capital invested %

Gross margin / LSU

Gross margin / breeding cow

Profit / hectare

Any other measure

7.5 Briefly describe your marketing strategy:

8. **STAFF MANAGEMENT**

8.1 Do you have a job description for each worker? YES NO

8.2 Do you have a training programme for staff? YES NO

8.3 If yes, briefly describe the training programme:

9. **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the above information is correct.

Signature of participant: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____