

## ENTRY FORM

### 2009 NATIONAL SHEEP FARMER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

#### Requirements and Procedure

- The competition is open for participation by any sheep 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 sheep flocks.
- The 2009 competition will be based on the participant's latest lambing season or lambing 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 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"/>
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NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2.2 Name of the farmer's association: \_\_\_\_\_

2.3 Are you a member of a study group? 

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2.4 Name of the study group: \_\_\_\_\_

2.5 Are you a member of the RPO? 

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2.6 Are you a member of any other producer organisations? 

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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/SSU? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.7 What is your current stocking rate in ha/SSU? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.8 Briefly outline your grazing management system:

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### 4. **BREEDING MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 According to which criterion do replacement ewes and mature ewes get culled?

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- 4.2 Briefly describe your breeding goals:

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- 4.3 Where do you buy your rams? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 5. **REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 Sheep Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

- 5.2 Do you use "teaser rams"? 

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If yes, how many days before the breeding season? \_\_\_\_\_

- 5.3 Are young ewes mated separately from mature ewes? 

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- 5.4 How long is the mating season, i.e. for how many days are ewes with rams? \_\_\_\_\_

- 5.5 How many ewes are put to one ram? \_\_\_\_\_

- 5.6 Lambing season – mark appropriate block.

2 Lambing seasons per year (spring & autumn)

Only a spring lambing season

Only an autumn lambing season

3 Lambing seasons in 2 years

Any other system

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

5.7 Fill in the numbers of your latest lambing season or seasons. If young ewe numbers are available, fill them in separately in the table. Should young ewe numbers be unavailable, combine under "Mature ewes".

- **Participants with one lambing season per year:** Supply numbers of the latest lambing season. Fill in column **A** only.
- **Participants with a spring and autumn lambing season:** Supply numbers of the latest two lambing seasons. Fill in columns **A** and **B**.
- **Participants whose ewes lamb 3 times in 2 years or any other lambing practices:** Give numbers of the latest 3 lambing seasons. Fill in columns **A**, **B** and **C**.

Fill in lambing period (month & year) →	A	B	C
<b>Young ewes (first time mated):</b>			
Number put to ram			
Number of young ewes that lambed			
Number of lambs weaned			
<b>Mature ewes:</b>			
Number put to ram			
Number of ewes that lambed			
Number of lambs weaned			

5.8 Briefly describe your management practices during the lambing season:

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5.9 Do you make use of A.I.?      YES       NO

5.10 Age of young ewes at first mating : \_\_\_\_\_ months

5.11 Are young ewes required to reach a minimum weight before the first mating season?

YES       NO

If yes, what is the minimum weight? \_\_\_\_\_ kg

5.12 At what age are "old ewes" culled? \_\_\_\_\_ months

5.13 Average age of lambs at weaning : \_\_\_\_\_ days

5.14 Average weaning weight of lambs: \_\_\_\_\_ kg

5.15 Are your ewes scanned?      YES       NO

How many days after the rams are removed are ewes scanned? \_\_\_\_\_

Name and telephone number of person who conducted the scan:

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5.16 Are breeding rams tested for fertility before the mating season?

YES       NO

If yes, a, name of Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

How many days prior to the mating season are fertility tests conducted? \_\_\_\_\_

5.17 Do you have a flock 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:

Rams: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ewes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6.3 Briefly describe your feeding programme during late gestation and lactation:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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 sheep enterprise?  YES  NO

7.4 Do you have a way of measuring the profitability of your sheep 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 / SSU

Gross margin / breeding ewe

Profit / hectare

Any other measure

7.5 Briefly describe your marketing strategy:

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8. **STAFF MANAGEMENT**

8.1 Do you have a job description for each worker?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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8.2 Do you have a training programme for staff?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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8.3 If yes, briefly describe the training programme:

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9. **WOOL PRODUCTION**

9.1 Wool production according to the latest broker reconciliation statement. Only applicable to wool breeds.

How often do you shear sheep?

Annually

8- Monthly

Other

What is your average wool production per sheep sheared? \_\_\_\_\_ kg raw wool

Average clean yield of wool clip: \_\_\_\_\_

Average micron of wool clip: \_\_\_\_\_

10. **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the above information is correct.

Signature of participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_