



Boran Cattle Breeders Society Boran & Beef Judge Willem Pretorius



Willem Pretorius

It is an honour and a privilege to conduct the judging at the Kenyan show and I accept the invitation with appreciation

My son and I are farming in the Free State (Currie cup country) where we cultivate maize, wheat, potatoes and soya under irrigation and dry land.

I started breeding Simmentalers in 1968 and Simbra in 1985.

I began judging in 1968 and had the privilege to judge in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Germany and South Africa.

Currently I am a Senior Interbreed Examiner (Beef and Dual purpose) as well as a Senior judge of various breeds (beef examiner, Dual purpose and Dairy).

I also had the privilege to judge the Slaughter classes at various shows for the National Carcass competition.

I have been one of the judges, judging the National Dairy - Man of the year competition in R.S.A. for the last 5 years.

Boran Cattle Breeders Society

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The Boran as a breed has prospered these last couple of years. Demand for the breed continues to grow as it proves itself under African conditions. Kenyan Borans have continued to be exported to our neighbours, especially Tanzania and Uganda. As ranches become developed in these countries, Borans are the choice of Breed. Bulls are imported to improve the local indigenous cattle and heifers to form new studs.

Tanzania is showing great promise as 80 Borans, heifers and bulls, moved from Laikipia to Manyara Ranch. Mark Taylor took his Woragus Boran Stud from Kenya and has set up near Iringa, Southern Tanzania and Jan Ulyate with her Ndakaini stud is not far. They are providing bulls for the local TZ farmers and generally promoting the breed. Being close to the

Zambian border Mark has opened up relations with Zambian Boran breeders once again.

The last Boran bulls to be imported by Zambia were in the early 1980's. Recently Mark sent both bulls and heifers from Iringa, providing a renewed interest in Kenya Borans there. As a result the BCBS is now in close liaison with the Zambia Herd Book and Boran Society.

There will be a delegation visiting over the Show which hope to select a good load of bulls to go down. Uganda has continued to import Kenyan Borans and have always supported the Brookside Breeders Show. This year will be no exception and we hope to see them at the Bull Auction ring, helping to raise the prices.

Last year, with the Show postponed, the Ugandans supported the OlPejeta Field Day

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and Bull Sale with great enthusiasm. They helped to get the prices over the KShs. 200,000 mark and took 4 good bulls to Uganda. With new ranches being developed in Uganda, we are receiving orders for large numbers of heifers and bulls, which we hope will come to fruition later this year.

The Boran in South Africa is going from strength to strength. Up until the end of 2006, South Africa had imported about 2000 Boran embryos from Kenyan studs during the previous 12 years. Their appetite for Borans has yet to be satisfied as Ibeef producers throughout the country realise the potential of the breed. They have been multiplying the breed through ET, semen and cross-breeding, but many producers are still looking for new genetics. Those breeders that invested in the Boran in the early stages have prospered tremendously with breeding stock at sales reaching record prices. Bulls have frequently surpassed the KShs. 3 million mark at sale, and females over KShs. 1 million, such is the demand.

To this end, Ol Pejeta is spending over KShs. 12 million in a modern quarantine area with Embryo Transfer facility. By the 2nd. half of this year, Ol Pejeta should have the new Centre operating and more embryos being exported to Southern Africa by the end of 2009. The BCBS have invited a well known Beef-breed Judge, Willem Pretorius, of South Africa, who comes highly recommended by our Zambian compatriots. He will tour the Boran ranches after the show and hopefully assist in promoting the breed back home.

In order for Kenyan Breeders to be involved in the export markets, it is essential that they exhibit their quality animals at the Brookside Livestock Breeders Show where a growing number of interested parties from all African countries visit. At the same time, as Breeders of this highly efficient Kenyan beef animal, we must strive to increase our numbers to satisfy the growing demand, yet retain the quality and the traits that have put the Boran at the top of the beef market in Africa.