

Beefmaster breeders visit the Eastern Cape

The Beefmaster Breeders Society encountered friendliness, great hospitality – and some impressive herds on its annual tour.



Every year, the Beefmaster Breeders Society organises a tour to visit breeders in different parts of the country. This year the destination was the Eastern Cape. The excitement was palpable as the bus left the rendezvous point at CBC school in Bloemfontein, at 10am on 11 March.

Breeders came from all over – Ermelo, Middelburg, Vrede, Lichtenburg, Ladysmith, Parys, Kriel, Wolmaransstad and Amersfoort. And they shared stories of how early they had had to get up to catch the bus – some started their journey as early as 2am!

The bus arrived in Barkly East at about 4pm that afternoon, and those on the bus met up with the rest of the group at the lovely Mount Shadows Hotel, situated among majestic mountains.

Here, the society held a quick board meeting while the rest of the group got to know each other better.

The first port of call the following morning was Jaco Vorster's cattle farm. And those present could only be impressed by what they saw – cows with healthy calves and strong, broad, lengthy heifers, all of a type well-suited to the area.

THE LASATER WAY

Something that stood out as participants visited each herd – if you follow the Lasater philosophy with breeding, your herd will become adapted to the environment.

And the better adapted a herd of cattle is to the environment in which it's farmed, the less stress there will be on management to generate the maximum of profit from that herd.

Jaco also showed a group of 50 young bulls running under hard conditions that are in a Phase D performance test.



ABOVE:
Irilla facilis
doluptat. Ut
lamconulla
commy nim vel
iuscin utpatio
conullaor susto
odoluptat at dit
auguerit in henisl
utet, conullam
PHOTOS:
CREDIT????

Not far away was a younger herd belonging to Anton Reabow. He's on the right path on a sourveld farm, breeding a herd to be watched in the future.

ENCOURAGING

What was encouraging to the group of mostly breeders was that so many of the local farmers accompanied them on their tour. This interest can only be good for the future of the breed.

Next stop was Komga, where two of the oldest Beefmaster herds are found. These are Amberdene and Hart, owned respectively by Pierre Hart and Graham Hart. Both herds beautifully demonstrate the Beefmaster ideals.

The cattle are well-adapted to their environment. The standard of the bulls and cows is superb and

they aren't pampered.

Females drop their first calves at two years, and need to pay their way every year by producing a calf, or they sacrifice themselves.

Pierre also showed a group of 'rough' cows that were suckling

After a night in Queenstown, the breeders visited Llewellyn Maclean's Daybreaker herd. He's been breeding Beefmasters for just over 20 years in a very hard and dry area on the Tarkastad side of Queenstown. And, needless to say, his cattle are hardy and well-adapted to these severe conditions.

IMPRESSIVE

From Llewellyn Maclean's farm the group made the long trip up the Penhoek Pass to visit Justin and Geoff Stretton. What beautiful cattle in a dry area with

IF YOU FOLLOW THE LASATER BREEDING PHILOSOPHY, YOUR HERD WILL BECOME ADAPTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Beefmaster calves – the degree of prepotency of the breed was clearly evident.

ONE TO WATCH

Neighbour Pat Bailey then took breeders around his Impact herd. Although the herd is young, the quality of the cattle is good. So much so, one of the established breeders on the tour reckoned this is a herd to be watched.

severe winters!

Their Creative herd is also one of the original Beefmaster herds in the country and is therefore well established.

The group was shown part of every herd on the farm, and the young bulls were impressive, as were the calves and young heifers.

Next the breeders visited the Ivukile herd of Dries de Klerk on the way to Aliwal North.



Other important Beefmaster events in 2013

07/05	Tait & Prohen Beefmaster Auction – Ottosdal
14/05	Nampo – Bothaville
24/05 – 2/06	Royal Show – Pietermaritzburg
09/07	Beefmaster AGM – Parys
10/07	National Auction – Parys
17/07	Makiti Auction – Makiti
18/07	North West Club Auction – Lichtenburg
19/07	Shawe Viewing Day – Dundee
24/07	Milestone Beefmaster Auction – Bethal
26/07	Trimaster Auction – Heilbron
30/07	5 X 5 Beefmaster Auction – Amersfoort
31/07	Human Beefmaster Auction – Steynsrus
31/07	Beefmaster Alliance Open Day – Nigel
01/08	ME Muller & Seuns Auction – Dundee
01/08	Beefmaster Alliance Auction – Nigel
06/08	Petana Farmers Day – Wolmaransstad
07/08	Elmic Beefmaster Auction – Vrede
08/08	Shawe Beefmaster Auction – Dundee
13/08	Alzu Beefmaster Auction – Middelburg
13/08	Petana & Oktavia Beefmaster Auction – Wolmaransstad
14/08	Central Beefmaster Sale – Westminster
20/08	Sandspruit & Amakosi Beefmaster Auction – Ladysmith
21/08	Bos Blanco Beefmaster Auction – Kroonstad
22/08	Quardsen Beefmaster Auction – Senekal
23/08	Bulls on Grass Sale – Queenstown
27/08	Midlands Beefmaster Sale – Somerset East
28/08	W0 Beefmaster Auction – Vrede
01 - 06/09	Pretoria Show – Pretoria
03/09	Ivukile Beefmaster Auction – Burgersdorp
05/09	Oos Vrystaat Veldbulkklub Auction – Vrede
05/09	Corbett Beefmaster Veiling – Sterkstroom
11/09	Trigon (Sarwipi, Snowy River, Dunel) Auction – Greylingstad
12/09	East Coast Sale (Amberdene Impact, Hart) – Komga
17/09	Jela Beefmaster Auction – Klerksdorp
19/09	Super 6 Beefmaster Auction – Bela Bela
20/09	Barkly Beefmaster Auction (CW Hardie) – Barkly East



ABOVE: Irilla facilis doluptat. Ut lamconulla commy nim vel iuscin utpatio conullaor susto odoluptat at dit auguerit in henisil utet, conullam

LEFT: Irilla faciliis doluptat. Ut lamconulla commy nim vel iuscin utpatio conullaor susto odoluptat at dit auguerit in henisil

What a lovely setting, with a dam surrounded by poplar trees starting to get their autumn colours beneath a krans typical of the area. This is sheep and cattle country in a drier area where conditions are severe.

Dries went to a lot of trouble to show the group his cattle. Once again, they enjoyed seeing quality cattle with good young bulls and sires.

SHARING IDEAS

For up to 50 Beefmaster breeders, as well as commercial cattlemen, to be together for three full days, either enjoying the cattle and hospitality of fellow breeders, travelling in the bus from farm to farm, chatting over meals in the evenings, was a unifying experience – and

great for the breed.

The farmers had the opportunity to share ideas and ask questions of each other, and this can only benefit their own farming operations, as well as the Beefmaster breed.

BUYER SATISFACTION

Breeding bulls for the environment in which you farm means that what you sell will be adapted to that environment, which leads to buyer satisfaction.

Buyer satisfaction is the encouragement that any breeder needs for them to want to breed an even better animal for the market.

The Beefmaster Cattle Breeders Society of SA would like to thank all the breeders of the Eastern Cape who went out of their way



to host the tour and make this a special event for everyone who participated, for their hospitality and friendliness.

We would also like to thank everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to go on the tour.

We look forward to see you again next year.

• Contact the Beefmaster Cattle Breeders Society of SAs on 056 817 2404, or beefmastersa@telkomsa.net

ABOVE: Irilla facilis doluptat. Ut lamconulla commy nim vel iuscin utpatio conullaor susto odoluptat at dit auguerit in henisil utet, conullam