Quintberg Brahmans

This herd is the result of 34 years of dedicated line breeding. The genetic foundation from Sugarland, Rexcra, Loxacra and the combination of these in Bos Blanco cattle drove this programme.

Sien julle by die Sale of the Roses in Maart en die Brahman Nasionale Veiling in Oktober!

Dr. Wynand v.d. Berg 082 491 1423 | quintberg@gmail.com
In today’s world animal breeders are exposed to cutting edge and revolutionary technological developments on a daily basis. Latest technology to improve selection includes new selection tools such as DNA technology for paternity testing and determining genetic defects. Even more recent breeders have been exposed to the potential of genomic selection to improve their livestock.

Firstly people such as Darwin were captivated by basic concepts of the variation he observed in plants and animals. He strived to find answers and formulated theories on heredity and the changes in the populations he studied. Robert Bakewell was more practical in his approach and made the first attempts at selection of animals to improve certain characteristics.

In this article a few interesting references regarding the establishment of theories and principles that are today accepted as a given are discussed. It should also be a token of appreciation for the long and sometimes laborious history of animal breeding and selection.

**Earliest times**

While Greek philosophers showed interest in the process of reproduction and the heredity of traits in the sixth century before Christ, their theories were mostly based on speculation rather than observation. Aristotle (384-322 BC) had a theory regarding the creation of life that was based on the complete contribution of a predetermined form or image. Hence the reference to the *homunculus* (“small human being”). The “human being” was transferred to the mother, who merely provided an environment for growth.

This led to the further question of why all offspring were not male, after which Aristotle’s theory was expanded to explain that in the case of female offspring there was definitely an interference in the womb during pregnancy, because “good mothers had sons”. For many years during this period, several other misplaced theories were accepted and regarded as correct, but at least there was scientific thinking about how and where life started.

With the arrival of the Middle Ages the church controlled all intellectual thoughts and a dark period for science commenced. There was no easy way out for children born with genetic defects, which was blamed on the devil. Superstitions often claimed the lives of these children and
Darwin formed his theory. The experiments with which to study the basis of heredity during the same time when mathematics at a local school, was busy with experiments Gregor Mendel, a trained scientist and monk who taught Genetics as science went to Darwin. Darwin and therefore all recognition for the However, Wallace was not of the same class and standing as described an evolution theory focusing on natural selection. Wallace came to the same conclusion as Darwin and also during the same time a young man named Alfred Russell environment and environmental changes over time. Darwin had an intense interest in variety within species and was fascinated by the differences between birds and the plant life he witnessed on 15 islands. Darwin described his theory of “natural selection” based on adjustment to the study. Microscopes were improved, chromosomes could be studied and karyotyping followed, which meant that the chromosome counts of species such as chickens, cattle and sheep were also known. This period represented a boom for science in several areas and, with the accompanying technological development, major contributions followed. In the 1950s the work of Rosalind Franklin, Watson and Crick led to the description of the double helix structure of DNA with the various base pairs. The work was published in the well-known Nature Journal and contains the following words regarding the order of the DNA: “It has not escaped our notice that the specific pairing suggests possible copying mechanisms for the genetic material.” Watson and Crick received the Nobel prize in 1962 for their contribution and during this period the replication of DNA was studied in order to decipher the functions of RNA and the so-called genetic code. The result was that the order of the 20 amino acids, as we know it today, could be described by the combinations of adenine, guanine, thymine and cytosine. Quantitative theory In the earliest times shepherds and livestock farmers selected animals according to colour variations and observations. In Biblical times Jacob unknowingly made a good choice by keeping the multi-coloured sheep when his father-in-law gave him the choice. Robert Bakewell, whom is often referred to as one of the first livestock breeders, selected these animals according to phenotype. Additive variation could not be explained at the hand of Mendel’s laws, and therefore was it difficult to understand that mating between two good parents could only deliver an intermediate phenotype. Johansen established the basic formula for animal breeders in 1903 with his description of “P = G + E”. He considered environmental factors as the factors which would determine the phenotype and by 1906 additive variation was also described by Yule. Karl Pearson approached the concept of heredity with models and rejected Mendel’s ideas. This led to a dispute among researchers, and only in the early 19th century Fischer showed with statistical methods that both Mendel’s laws of heredity and the concept of additive variation are compatible. In this way an understanding was established for genes and heredity, and the distinction between additive and non-additive variation. By 1930 the basic principles for quantitative breeding were established with the contributions of Sewal Wright, Haldane and Fischer, and today these principles are still taught to students in animal science across the world. The possibilities of heredity and co-variances are calculated with performance information that was mostly limited to experimental data and research stations. Lush and Hazel, who are often referred to as the “fathers” of the quantitative theory, described the theory for selection indices in the early 1940s. The simple comparison of “I = Bx, +bx 2 ... bxn”, where “b” was the characteristic and “x” the value of the characteristic, was the basis for the development of biometric methodology, better known as mixed animal methodology (BLUP), by Henderson and his colleagues. Theory and practice Modern computer technology was necessary to apply the mixed animal methodology as breeding value estimates outside the classroom and the researchers’ domain. The development of computer technology was undoubtedly the
key to genetic breed evaluation and the commercialising of estimated breeding values for the livestock industry. At that stage the only element that was still lacking for the optimal selection of farm animals, was proper, accurate records – and many of them!

The implementation and development of animal recording systems in the late sixties started relatively slow, but breeders gradually realised its benefits. One of the most important reasons for the tremendous genetic progress that occurred in the dairy industry, was the establishment of milk recording schemes.

In South Africa performance testing programs date back to the late fifties for dairy cattle and early sixties for beef cattle. Contributions by livestock experts such as the belated Prof Jan Bonsma, established functional efficiency in the livestock breeding industry. The value of objective selection and the use of data was established among breeders over time, and theory and practice systematically moved closer to each other.

The future?

We progressed from Aristotle’s preconceived ideas of heredity to animal breeding as a science with specialised practices for the breeder. As we are moving towards an era of DNA tests and genomic information, the end is most definitely nowhere in sight!

SF0813 History of animal breeding

Article courtesy of Stockfarm, Vol 3 No 3, Aug.-Oct 2013
When you’re serious about quality

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An important scientific discovery of the early 1900s was that most of the traits of economic importance in livestock are influenced by genetic and the environmental factors. The contribution of genetics to animal performance is of particular importance from the perspective of sustainable improvement. In fact, geneticists working with livestock have quantified the proportion of difference in performance among animals that is attributable to genetics and this is presented by a statistic called heritability. Thus, heritability provides a good guidance on the effectiveness of selection as a way to improve performance. A general rule of thumb is that:

- Highly heritable traits are more responsive to selection (e.g. growth)
- Lowly heritable traits are often difficult but not impossible to improve (e.g. fertility)

South African (SA) Brahman stud breeders have been selecting for different traits for some time now. It is perhaps time to look back and assess the progress achieved thus far. Two important concepts should be introduced before delving into the nitty-gritties. The first concept is genetic change which refers to any change that is made on a trait as a result of selection irrespective of whether the change is desirable or not. The second concept is genetic improvement and it refers to desirable genetic change. Thus, the most important goal of a breeder is to effect genetic improvement.

Looking at the genetic trends from based on the 2013 BreedPlan Brahman genetic analyses; it is evident that average breeding values for growth has increased e.g. 200-day, 400-day and 600-day weights. The genetic trends for days to calving and gestation length, on the other hand, indicated an increase in average breeding values from 1985 to 1995 and no apparent trend from 1996 to 2012. All these changes were brought about by selection decisions that were made by individual breeders who might have placed different emphasis on different traits in their breeding programme.
A pertinent question could be asked; have these genetic changes given rise to more profitable SA Brahman cattle? A scientific answer to this question should be based on assessment of the genetic trends for overall or aggregate breeding value (i.e. economic selection index). Fortunately, the SA Brahman society working together with BreedPlan has developed economic selection indexes that provides aggregate breeding values; a single figure that should be used for selection. The three economic selection indexes for South African Brahman animals are:

(i) Brahman Rangeland Grazing Index,
(ii) Brahman Wean Index and
(iii) Brahman Feedlot Index.

It is recommended that Brahman breeders embrace these newly-developed economic selection indexes. In-depth discussion of the Brahman economic selection indexes will be covered in future articles.

Take home messages:

- SA Brahman breeders should focus on genetic improvement for profitability. This goal is only achievable when economic selection indexes are used.
- The SA Brahman economic selection indexes are the most appropriate tools for multiple trait selection.
- The rate of genetic improvement is reliant on accurate recording of performance and pedigree data. Thus, emphasis should be placed on both quality and quantity of data.

Cambio genético
mejora genética
EN EL GANADO BRAHMÁN SUDAFRICANO

A principios de la primera década del siglo XX se realizó un descubrimiento científico importante, el cual establecía que la mayoría de las características económicas relevantes en la ganadería están determinadas por los factores genéticos y medioambientales. La contribución de la ciencia genética en la mejora animal tiene una importancia particular desde la perspectiva de una mejora sostenible. De hecho, los genetistas que trabajan en el campo de la ganadería han cuantificado la cantidad de diferencias en el rendimiento de los animales atribuible a la genética – esto se presenta en una estadística llamada “Estadística de Heredabilidad”. De esta forma, la heredabilidad proporciona una guía adecuada sobre la efectividad de la selección como forma de mejora del rendimiento. La regla general establece que:

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PROVIDING THE TOUGHEST, HARDEST, BEST TEMPERAMENT BULLS & COWS, GRAZING ON SOUR FIELDS, FOR THE ADVANTAGE OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN COMMERCIAL BREEDERS

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Los factores de heredabilidad elevados son más dados a la selección (p.ej.: Crecimiento)
Los factores de heredabilidad bajos son a menudo difíciles, aunque no imposibles, de mejora (p.ej.: Fertilidad).

Los criadores de sementales Brahmán de Sudáfrica (SA) llevan seleccionando determinados factores desde hace ya un tiempo. Quizá sea hora de mirar atrás y evaluar el progreso alcanzado hasta la fecha. Sería importante introducir dos conceptos relevantes antes de entrar en el meollo de la cuestión. El primer concepto es el de cambio genético, el cual se refiere a cualquier cambio realizado en una característica como resultado de la selección, ya sea el cambio deseado o no. El segundo concepto es el de mejora genética, el cual se refiere al cambio genético deseado. Así, el objetivo más importante de un criador es conseguir la mejoría genética.

Al mirar a los factores genéticos basados en los análisis genéticos del Plan de Cría Brahmán 2013, resulta evidente decir que la media de los valores de cría relacionados con el crecimiento ha aumentado, p.ej.: peso corporal a los 200 / 400 / 600 días. Por otra parte, las características genéticas para los días de parto y la duración de la gestación, indicaron un incremento en la media de los valores de cría entre 1985 y 1995, y ningún factor aparente entre 1996 y 2012. Todos estos cambios provocaron decisiones de selección llevadas a cabo por criadores individuales que quizá dieron importancia a factores diferentes en sus programas de cría.

Podría hacerse una pregunta pertinente: ¿Estos cambios genéticos han incrementado las posibilidades de beneficios del ganado Brahmán en SA? Una respuesta científica a esta pregunta debería basarse en la evaluación de los factores genéticos respecto a valores de cría generales o totales (p.ej.: el índice de selección económica). Afortunadamente, La Sociedad Brahmán de SA, la cual trabaja conjuntamente en un Plan de Cría, ha desarrollado unos índices de selección económica que proporcionan valores de cría totales. Una figura simple que debería usarse en esta selección. Los tres índices de selección económica para los animales Brahmán en Sudáfrica son:

1. Índice de áreas de pastoreo para los Brahmán,
2. Índice de destete de los Brahmán y
3. Índice de cebaderos para los Brahmán.

Se recomienda a los criadores de Brahmán que se adapten y acepten estos índices de selección económica recientemente desarrollados. En futuros artículos se tratará de forma extensa los índices de selección económica de los Brahmán.

**Conclusiones finales:**

- Los criadores de Brahmán de SA deberían centrarse en el uso de la mejora genética para mejorar la rentabilidad. Este objetivo sólo puede conseguirse cuando se usan los índices de selección económica.
- Los índices de selección económica de los Brahmán en SA son la herramienta más adecuada para la selección de múltiples factores.
- La tasa de mejora genética se basa en el registro minucioso de información relativa al rendimiento y al pedigrí. De esta forma, se enfatiza tanto la calidad como la cantidad de la información.
Eric Bilse
SISAL AND BILSES BRAHMANS

Eric Bilse was one of the stalwarts of the Southern African Brahman industry. His knowledge and great love for cattle and particularly the Brahman led him to become one of the premium Brahman breeders in South Africa.

Eric began with the Sisal Brahman Stud in 1960, having purchased his first Brahmans from Attie Marais and Barry Orpen. He then imported Brahmans on eight separate occasions from Edgar Hudgins, JDH Corporation, Howard Parker’s V8 Ranch and Mr Mayronne of Louisiana. Bulls such as JDH Crato L Manso 130, MN Mayro Manso 516, and MN Mayro Manso 713 together with Banco Sir Special 114/70 purchased from Louis Bosman of Douglas played a huge role in the development of Eric’s Brahman cattle.

Eric was not only a true cattlemen but also a master at breeding, feeding and showing. He was a dedicated showman always manning his exhibit with the utmost enthusiasm. In 1976 he won the Rand Show Gold Cup with Sisal 294, the first Brahman to achieve this award. He followed this by being awarded the Rand Show Gold Cup again in 1980 with the cow Bilse’s 219. By this time Eric had started his second stud, the Bilse’s Brahman Stud after having given the original Sisal Stud to his daughter Yvette and her husband Dave De Marrilac.

Bulls of renown that Eric Bilse bred included, Bilses 84, Bilses 139, Bilses 472 and Bilses 372, a Banco 114 son. These bulls, together with the grand old dames, Miss V8 150 and JDH Lady Hudgins Manso 418, feature in the pedigrees of most of the Bilse’s Stud sires and top cows.

Eric Bilse also bred red Brahmans, establishing a herd in 1970 based on the HK brand of Henry Clay Koontz. Eric and Barry Orpen travelled to the U.S.A. together and were responsible for the importation of other Koontz cattle to South Africa. The bull Swazi was bred out of the magnificent cow HK 637.

Eric also served on the Brahman Council and was always available to breeders with advice and help. He had great empathy for young breeders, often assisting them financially to get their breeding programs off the ground. He imparted his knowledge freely to those that required it.

Eric Bilse strove to breed functionally efficient cattle, steering away from extremes and many well-known and successful breeders today based their herds on Bilse’s genetics. His contribution to the South African Brahman gene pool is legendry.

Louis Bosman
BOSBRO BRAHMANS

Louis Bosman’s entry into Brahman breeding dates back as far as 1962 when the Bosman brothers became interested in Brahmans.

Louis Bosman and Jannie Bosman were the Bosman brothers who farmed on the Bosman Estate in the Griekwastad and Douglas region.

Bosman Estate covered a large area – as many as 15 farms in the Douglas district – that included cattle, irrigation and sheep farms.

The Bosman brothers’ Brahman herd originated mainly from the Norris Cattle Company in Florida. They acquired 100 cows and several bulls in partnership with the Norris Cattle Company in 1972.

Bosman Estate also joined the red Brahman ranks by importing an exceptional red bull, HK Vernon 999, a son of HK Vernon 498. This bull made a large contribution by bringing very good growth and muscling to the herd.

Bosbro Brahman’s, under leadership of Louis Bosman, had much success with their breeding and promotion policy across the whole of South Africa, as well as in the neighboring Namibia and Botswana. They were very successful at shows, where their high quality cattle and excellent preparation made them worthy opponents.

Louis was very involved with the Society and served on the Brahman Council, where he was Vice-President for many years.

Louis Bosman served on several boards of directors, like Vleisentraal and Douglas Co-op, where he made valuable contributions.
A.J. (Alph) Coetzer  
CODE BRAHMANS

Alph Coetzer, not only a foundation member at the inception of The Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of South Africa on 7 November 1957, served on the Brahman Council for an unbroken 27 years and was president of the Society from 1966 to 1986. During his tenure on the Brahman Council, Alph also served as the Brahman representative on the Council of the SA Stud Book Association from 1958 and as an Executive of SA Stud Book from 1963.

The enthusiasm and dedication of the founding members and Councillors of The Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of SA has to be lauded and appreciated. The leadership required had to be resolute and determined. Many obstacles and hurdles had to be overcome, principles and direction established. Alph Coetzer was the spearhead, leading and guiding the SA Brahman Industry through the incredible expansion years.

During his tenure as President of The Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of SA the number of Brahman breeders increased from 177 in 1968 to 1396 in 1984 with 90,000 registered Brahmans. In 1973 the Brahman Bureau was formed and in 1975 the Brahman Society’s own offices were opened and an Executive Secretary was appointed. 1977 saw the full-time employment of a Technical Officer and a second Technical Officer in 1980. Mr Dave Morley was appointed in 1973 as technical and public relations officer and in 1975 as Executive Secretary.

In 1985 the Brahman Building was constructed and became the home of SA Brahman Society in 1986.

Alph Coetzer was not only a leader and ambassador for the Brahman Breed, dealing with Agricultural Institutions, Government, and other Breed Societies locally and overseas, he was an enthusiastic and dedicated breeder. He imported a number of Brahmans in 1957 from the Norris Cattle Co. and later imported Brahmans from J.D. Hudgins as well. In 1962 he imported the bull NCC Sir Commander 13.

Alph was a great believer in the performance recording of Brahman cattle and believed that this should be compulsory for all Brahman breeders.

Alph was a member of the Judges Panel elected in 1965 that first took the reins for the training of Brahman Judges. He was also very enthusiastic about showing his cattle and attended many shows during his time with great success.

Jürgen Cranz can undoubtedly be named “The Pioneer of Southern African Brahmans” having had the foresight and the courage to import an unknown breed to our shores on 4th of January 1954.

Jürgen and his wife primarily travelled to the USA to purchase Santa Gertrudis cattle in order to cross-breed commercial cattle. However they were advised by an official of the Agricultural Ministry in Washington to rather look at the American Brahman as the Santas would prove to be very scarce and too expensive. The Cranz’s there and then decided to travel to the American Brahman Breeders’ Association in Houston where they met Harry Gaydon the then secretary of the ABBA.

Even after being told by the highly revered and respected Prof. Jan Bonsma, whom they met at the Houston show “to leave the Brahman - as our Afrikaners were better”, Jürgen was not completely convinced and decided to continue with his plans.

After visiting various Brahman breeders, Jürgen purchased seven Brahman bulls and ten heifers from Edgar Hudgins as well as a bull from Vernon Frost. These cattle were off the veld, so to speak, as Jürgen was not interested in the fattened show cattle.

Jürgen and his wife travelled with the cattle that were contained in wooden stables on board the Velma Lyke, having to attend to them himself. The three week trip from New Orleans to Cape Town involved back breaking work for Jürgen and his wife. They got to know the cattle really well and by the time they arrived in Cape Town Harbour they had all become friends.

The offloading and quarantining of the Brahmans proved to be arduous as the dock workers as well as the Veterinarian that attended them were afraid and rough handed. This led to considerable criticism of the breed and news footage of the offloading was screened throughout the country. The cattle were then transported to SWA/Namibia by cattle truck with Jürgen seated on lucerne bales between his Brahmans. On arrival at the farm the cattle were tame.

Messrs’ Boet Nel and James Gregory of Natal visited Jürgen soon after and a bull from that importation was purchased by James Gregory and transported to Natal. This was the first Brahman to find a home in the Republic of South Africa. This importation led to a flood of other imports over the next 3 years vis. 49 Stud bulls and 159 stud Brahman females.

Jürgen was primarily a commercial farmer and kept a small...
Brahman stud herd. He was the first breeder to exhibit Brahmans, which he did at the Windhoek show. The Brahman became very popular and in great demand. Jürgen sold the majority of his herd in 1970 but retained 15 of his best heifers and 21 bulls.

Jan de Wet
NAMIBIA

Jan de Wet had made an important contribution over decades to agriculture, not only in the former South West Africa, but also in the present day Namibia. We wish to acknowledge his contribution to the livestock sector. He was a leader with vision in many respects. Those of us who had the privilege of attending meetings with him will agree that he could sum up a situation very quickly and firmly steer towards a smooth course of discussions and decision making. He retained this gift and ability till a high age – always adaptable; never stereotyped. One of his singular characteristics was that he constantly built bridges and relationships.

Jan de Wet was the founder and first chairman of the Meat Producers’ Society, the forerunner of the LPO in Namibia. Other influential positions in which he served are:

- He had from the start been actively involved in organized Agriculture, beginning as Secretary of the Otjose Farmers’ Association to Gobabis’s Regional Agricultural Union Chairman in the nineties.
- Chairman of the former SWAAU, as well as chairman of the NAU.
- Founder member and first chairman of Swameat which today is Meatco.
- Chairman of the Livestock Improvement Board.
- Minister of Agriculture in the transit Government.
- He was an enthusiastic stud breeder of Brahman cattle and was elected to Council for many years. He also served as President of the Namibian Brahman Association.
- Founder member of the Central Namibian Stud Breeders’ Association, of which he was the first Chairman. During that time he led Namibian stud breeders to an own independent level.
- One of his last contributions was to act as judge at the Windhoek show in 2011 at the age of eighty-two.
- We honour Jan de Wet for all the years he had served on the Council of South Africa Brahmans.
- Through all the years he attended all our Council Meetings at own cost.

De Wet was an outstanding Brahman breeder who never refrained from buying the very best stud sires in South Africa.

Theo Dicke
DICKE BRAHMANE

Theo Dicke could quite easily be defined as “The walking encyclopaedia on Zebu cattle”.

Theo obtained His B.Sc.Agri. under the tutelage of Prof. Jan Bonsma. Bonsma taught him to observe cattle thoroughly, especially with regard to fertility and functional traits.

Theo’s introduction to the Brahman was when he and his father used cross-bred Brahman bulls on their commercial cows and later after marrying Marie, daughter of the John Warren of Gravelotte who had been breeding Brahmans since 1956. Theo and Marie bought three registered cows with calves at foot from John.

Theo then travelled extensively to Brazil, Cuba, Paraguay, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and the USA. During his travels he concentrated on determining the unique genetic traits of the Nellore, Guzerat and the Indu Brazil. The purpose was to use the positive traits of these Zebu types in order to breed cattle that would be better adapted to the harsh conditions prevailing in Africa.

Theo (a larger than life character) and Marie’s travels led to many long lasting friendships and contacts not only for themselves but for the S.A. Brahman industry as a whole. They were great ambassadors.

Theo served on the S.A. Brahman Council for 12 years, was Vice-President for some time and in 1986 he represented the President at the World Congress in Cartagena, Colombia. On this occasion Theo was instrumental in the establishment of the Brahman World Federation. Theo also represented the Brahman at the SA Stud Book Association.

Theo’s accomplishments within the S.A. Brahman industry are numerous as he has been passionate about this wonderful breed. He has played a key role in the development of Brahman judges and judged Brahmans in Cuba, Kenya, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana. He was also the Chairman of the training Committee for many years and spearheaded the upgrading of the Brahman training manual and the development of the Bradex system.

Theo and Marie were also very keen to participate at shows as they believed that the show ring was the best forum in which to promote their cattle.

Not only is Theo an accomplished Breed and Inter-breed Judge with a wealth of knowledge, he can quote on pedigree lines of both Grey and Red Brahmans as well as the other Zebu breeds going back to the first imports of Brahman/ Zebu cattle to South Africa.

The S.A. Brahman industry owes much to the knowledge, effort and dedication Theo has imparted and still continues with today.
Ike Eksteen
LECRAN BRAHMANS

Ike Eksteen’s love for the Brahman breed made him turn to the breed in 1982. His preference lay with the red Brahman.

His farming enterprise was very intensive and he ran his whole herd on 120 ha.

Ike always strove for the best and through artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET) he generated good genetics in his herd.

He loved participating in carcass competitions and won many prizes with pure Brahmans and by so doing boosted the breed in the beef industry.

He was also a very good show exhibitor and his dedication and thorough preparation made him a very formidable opponent.

His love for the Brahman made him a good ambassador – he promoted the breed in several areas of the beef industry.

Ike Eksteen was elected to the Brahman Council in 1988 where he made a valuable contribution, not only towards training, but also in the presentation of courses, both in South Africa and the neighboring countries as far as Zambia.

His enthusiasm was impressive and the way he went ecstatic in the presentation of his lectures was exciting and contagious.

Reg Hunt
HUNT BRAHMAN STUD

Reg Hunt will always be remembered for his strong opinions and fiery personality, a no-nonsense man who always stood his ground.

He was of the opinion that the various Zebu breeds were separate entities in their own right and that cross-breeding them with the American Brahman would have a negative effect. His policy from the start of his Hunt Brahman Stud herd was to breed the Brahman as pure as possible.

Reg started the Hunt Brahman Stud in 1959 after making a study of the various options available at the time and decided to import the best in-calf Brahman heifers from GL Paret, V8 Ranch and Boot Ranch. In fact Reg imported the entire GL Paret & Sons’ show string. Later in the sixties he discovered the Sugarland Ranch and they became the sole source of all his subsequent importations.

Bulls that Reg imported included Mr V8 825, Sugarlands Poncrrata 100, Sugarlands Suville 74 and 84 and the two legendary bulls, Sugarlands Loxicratra 63 and 115; both were sons of Loxi Gamel de Manso 55.

These bulls made a huge impact on the Brahmans in the Hunt herd as well as Brahman in South Africa, together with other bulls bred by Reg. These included the infamous HBS 131 and HBS 112 as well as HBS 148/79, HBS 164/88, HBS169/89 and HBS198/94.

Reg Hunt’s promotional slogans were: “Hunt Bull Power – your most important investment”, and “Great Sires breed Great Sons”. He said it all and his legacy still remains today.

Reg passed away on 16 June 1998, having left to his sons genetics that still has and in the future will have great influence on the Brahman in Southern Africa.

Possibly the greatest tribute to Reg Hunt came from Bob Parish, the then President of The American Brahman Breeders’ Association: “On behalf of the American Brahman Breeder’s Association, let me offer our sincere condolences and sympathy to the family of Reg Hunt and The Brahman Cattle Breeders’ Society of South Africa. Reg was a premier Brahman Breeder, respected the world over as well as a dear friend to many of us. Reg left an enormous legacy of breeding and advancing Brahman cattle. He will not be forgotten, as the Brahman world is a better place because of his unique contributions.”

We honour Reg Hunt for his dedication and the valuable input he made to the Brahman breed in Southern Africa.

J. F. Japie Kluyts
KLUYTS BRAHMANS

Japie Kluyts was an experienced cattle breeder, who, after farming with stud Afrikaners and commercial cattle in the Marken region, switched to a Brahman stud in 1974.
BRAHMANS
BONVU

In Africa for Africa

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FANIE V.D. MERWE
Cell: 082 751 5890
STEYN'S BRAHMANE

Productions Sale
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Wolmaransstad Showgrounds

First Time Genetics Available
His first breeding animals were bought from the Mineral Range stud, but he later imported an exceptional group of red and white animals from the USA.

His show performances were legendary, especially with progeny from a very good bull, I McKellar Negro 2/644, which he had imported.

He made an exceptional contribution to the industry, not only in providing good red genetics to South Africa, but also to Botswana.

He was a strong leader, leading from the front by action and example.

His calmness and discretion stood him in good stead and he was elected President for two years from 1992 to 1994.

His knowledge of the Brahman very soon made him play a leading role in the industry, in the Training Committee, as well as in the show ring as judge.

Japie leaves a rich legacy through his dedicated involvement with the training of young breeders and judges.

Attie Marais bought his first Brahman bull from Jurgen Cranz, Namibia, after which Brahman fever really got hold of him.

He farmed in the vicinity of Ladysmith in Natal, and was assisted by his capable wife, Lea, who shared his love for Brahmans.

Attie initially crossed the Brahmans with his Afrikaner stud cows and was so impressed with the exceptional results, that he decided to import registered Brahman animals himself. He bought 2 bulls and 5 females from Norris Cattle Company in Florida in 1956. He also imported a very special bull, JGT Resoto Manso 239 (Blacky) from Jack Garret in Florida. This bull had a large influence on his stud and the Brahman breed.

Norris Cattle Company offered him a partnership and supplied him with stud bulls and cows. The Brahman industry benefited substantially from the exceptional genes.

Attie’s enthusiasm and keenness was contagious and his ability to show and market the Brahman was of special value to the Brahman industry. He showed countrywide – all over Natal and also as far as Johannesburg, where he won several prizes and presentations. His performances drew much attention in the media, such as Landbou Weekblad and Farmer’s Weekly.

He was Brahman Judge for many years and also involved with the training of judges and young breeders.

Attie served for many years on the Brahman Council where he made a significant contribution.

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Manie and Beatrice Maritz are undeniable pioneers in the history of Brahman breeding in S.A.

When they became interested in Brahman breeding around 1960, they did not have the money to pursue their interest. And that was where the heart- rending story of two remarkable like-minded people, sharing and living their dream to become leading Brahman breeders, started.

It was pure will power and perseverance that led to their resounding success.

Manie was once bar man in a hotel, later on worked as manager of the Silverton hotel and in 1965 they bought their first farm, near Thabazimbi.

To supplement their cattle farming he later had to take up employment with the Roads Department and Beatrice remained on the farm, taking care of their beloved Brahmans.

A few years later, he also worked for a large marketing company, where he had the privilege of gaining invaluable hands-on experience in that field.

He resigned and against all expectations held the first and very successful Brahman sale in S.A.

The Maritz couple’s very special relationship with their Brahmans is apparent from their many enthusiastic accounts of their late afternoon visits to their “Brahman friends”. Manie once even spent a whole night in a sealed container with 21 Brahmans bought in America, to calm them down.

Manie and Beatrice also got into showing and won many championships. He was also elected to Council.

They sold their cattle – very reluctantly – when they became older and to use Manie’s own words: “Our cattle and show trophies will forever be our most precious memories.”
Nico Meyer

LORIZA BRAHMANS

Nico Meyer only registered as a member of The Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of SA in 1969 although he had family ties with the Brahman through Lewies Claassen, his wife’s uncle, since 1957. From the outset Nico obtained Brahmans from pioneers of the Brahman industry such as James Gregory, Attie Marais, Barry Orpen and Hans Herbst.

Nico also imported 3 heifers from the Stuart herd in the USA and a Hudgins bull, and later added heifers from Howard Parker’s V8 herd as well as a bull from Sugarlands. In 1994 another bull was added from JD Hudgins together with an Imperator-bred bull.

Nico stated: “In order to be a successful cattleman you must regard your work as an act of love”.

It is with this philosophy that Nico took to cattle farming and the development of the Loriza herd into one of the biggest Brahman stud herds and genetic pools that exist in Southern Africa today. Loriza genetics is present in most of the Southern African Brahman Stud herds that exist today.

Nico Meyer has no misconceptions about the Brahman breed and has striven to improve, develop and promote the Brahman in Southern Africa especially in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. The Loriza herd took the lead in the performance testing of Brahmans in South Africa from the outset and has been awarded the Pick & Pay/Breedplan/Landbouweekblad cow group of the year in 2003, 2004, and 2005, as well as Stud breeder of the year in 2003 and 2012.

Nico served on the Brahman Council for 3 terms under the Presidency of Alf Coetzter. There he was instructed to found the Training Committee and later co-opted Japie Kluys and Theo Dicke to assist him. Nico was a Brahman judge for many years until his retirement.

Nico Meyer had been involved with the showing of Loriza Brahmans since 1970 at the Pretoria, Vryburg, Lichtenburg and Thabazimbi shows, achieving great success. Nico believes that their annual production sale, offering more than 100 bulls, was the “yardstick” by which the quality of the Loriza Brahmans can be measured.

Dave Morley

Executive Secretary of The Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of S.A.

Dave Morley was involved with the Brahman industry from 1963 to 1988, first as livestock expert at SA Stud Book and Livestock Improvement Organisation and later as the first executive Secretary of The Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of South Africa.

Dave gained experience under the experienced and watchful eye of Abe Marshall the then General Manager of SA Stud Book and LIO. It was on a trip with Abe that Dave was introduced to the Brahman on the farms of Attie Marais and Barry Orpen.

In 1973 Dave was appointed in a technical and public relations capacity with the Brahman Society and offices were rented in Bloemfontein. Dave was then appointed as Executive Secretary of the Society. At the time the membership stood at 724 from 273 in 1971. This was a tremendous growth period for the Brahman that went on to reach an ultimate high of 1396 in 1984.

It was during this time that Dave served the Brahman with distinction, dedication, drive, honesty and integrity. There were many changes, developments and appointments. These included the establishment of the SA Brahman Bureau, the opening of the Brahman’s own offices that were rented and then the construction of the Brahman Building in Bloemfontein.

In 1983, the Society’s Silver Jubilee year and the 6th National Championship Show in Pretoria saw 1000 Brahmans entered by 96 exhibitors.

Dave also saw to the Brahman being represented for the first time at the Sampi and Nampo harvest days in 1977 as well a computer processing of data in 1981.

From the humble beginning of an office rented by the Society, the appointment of Dave Morley as a technical and public relations officer and Mrs A Greyling as typist/secretary, the Brahman Society grew and blossomed into what it is today.

Today Brahman breeders benefit from the administrative ground work structured and implemented by Dave, the Council during his tenure and his staff.
Proven Sires

JCE 08 133
JDH SR. LIBERTY MANSO 847/5
JDH MR. WOODMAN MANSO 578/6
JDH LADY NELDA MANSO 485/5
Sire: DIDOR JDH MR. MANSO 03 397
JDH MACKEN MAN MANSO 564
DIDOR JDH. MISS MANSO 00 309
JDH LADY MANSO 924 1
Animal: JURIS MR WOODMAN JDH V8
SUGARLAND'S ESTO 53 115
V8 MR. 565 2
V8 MISS 707 1
Dam: MATSULAN MISS MENANTS
MATSULAN PRESLEY
MATSULAN MISS JDH. LOX MANSO
MATSULAN MISS JDH. LOX MANSO 5 84

JCE 04 14
JDH MANSO GRANDE 412
JDH MANSO GRANDE 488
JDH LADY BOSTWICK MANSO 459
Sire: DIDOR JDH MR. MANSO DIDOR 335
JDH SIR BRAKTON MANSO 78 4
JDH MELEYE MANSO 352
JDH MISS VANILLA MANSO 259 3
Animal: JCE JDH 488 MANSO
HBS HUNT'S CHAMPION HBS 146 79
H.B.S. HBS 112
H.B.S. LADY HUNT 139 76
Dam: MATSULAN MISS HELEEN V
V8 MR. 565 2
MATSULAN MISS DIAMANT V
MATSULAN MISS LANA 23 85

KONTAK
JURIS BRAHMANE
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078 220 4402 | 014 766 0032
Because we know what it means to you, we’re here for you to **prosper**.

People across South Africa have been telling us what it means to prosper means to them. As you can see, everyone has their own definition. Invariably, it’s about more than money. It’s about wanting a better life, one that tells a story of substance. We understand. That’s why, at Absa, the products we offer, the services we render, the loans we make and the advice we give are not just there to help you live, they’re here for you to prosper. What does “to prosper” mean to you? Please visit absa.co.za/prosper to let us know.