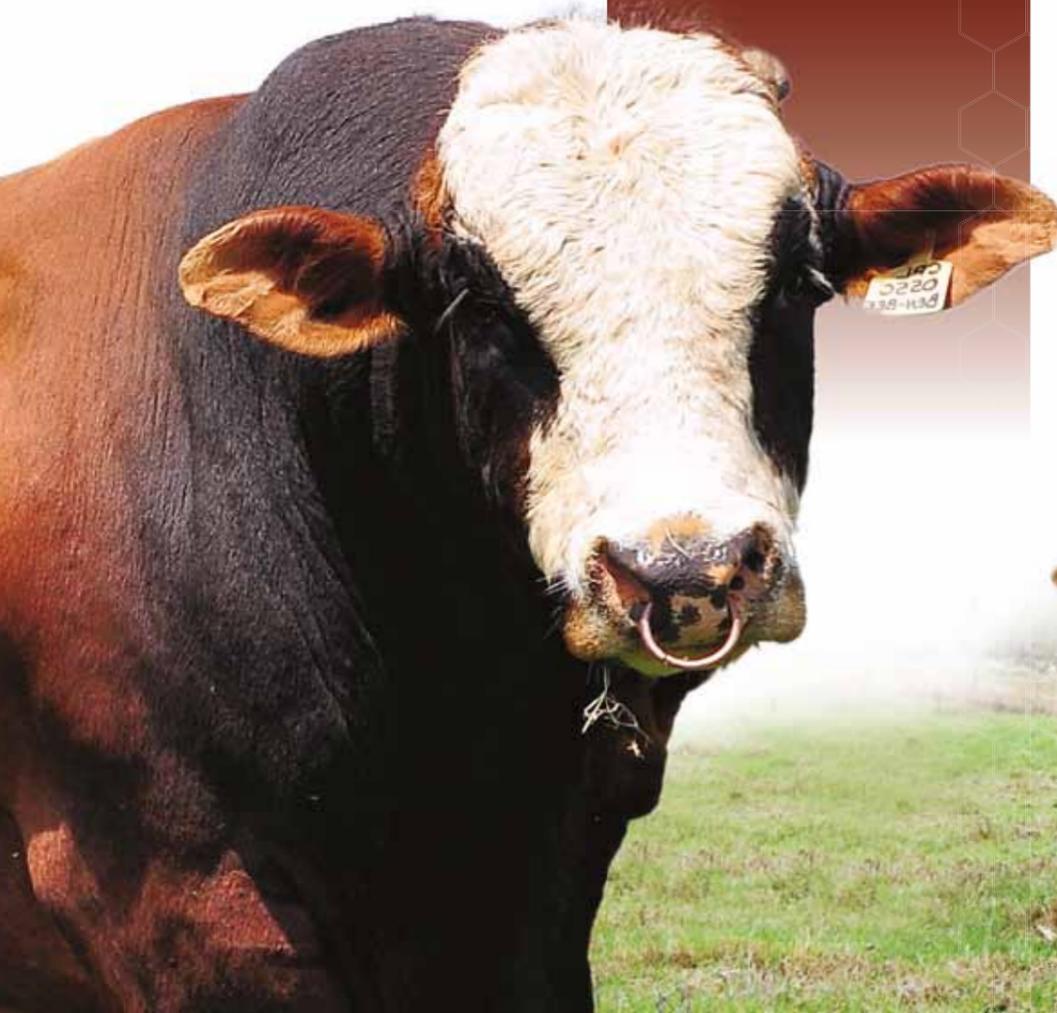


BREEDPLAN- a selection tool that works for Delft



At Delft we decided to put the Science of modern animal breeding to the test using the world's most advanced genetic evaluation system. Though we only purchased the very best we also needed an objective way of improving our cattle. We thus made a conscious decision to deliberately follow a selection policy based on Estimated Breeding Values (**EBV's**).

Despite the traits being somewhat antagonistic, all bulls and cows at Delft were selected on **EBV** for high weaning, yearling weight and moderate birth weight (thus ensuring ease of calving in heifers). All bulls are also screened according to strict visual/structural assesment after meeting minimum **EBV** criteria, thus ensuring that only the very best bulls are used both visually, and on performance.

It is clear from the genetic trend graphs of our herd that this selection policy has worked. **EBVs** for weaning weight shows an improvement of 7kg per weaner, whilst birth weight has remained stable. Note, in a herd that sells or purchases bulls from outside it is impossible to manipulate these figures. We are therefore not only making more money but the benefits are being passed onto our commercial clients. A 7 kg increase in weaning weight, at today's prices means an increase of R105 per weaner. With 100 weaners in your herd this is a whopping R10,500 rand benefit. Furthermore, unlike feed that needs to be purchased every year, this benefit does not disappear and is in fact cumulative.

Delft will over the next few years be expanding the testing of its suite of traits. This will further increase the economic value to commercial bull buyers. We are already putting a big emphasis on reproduction data, scrotum circumference and we will be ultrasound scanning this year's yearling bulls.

Purchasing a good bull is the biggest decision that a commercial producer can make. More than 87.5% of the commercial herd will reflect the bull's genetics in only three generations. The Delft policy is that you cannot second guess a bulls breeding value. We only sell the very best bulls to ensure that you, our valued client, gets the benefit of our breeding policy.



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Produksie Veiling

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