



CLYNTON COLLETT

~ superior genetics ~

SUPERIOR GENETICS NEWSLETTER ~ Issue # 1

By CLYNTON COLLETT



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WELCOME



Welcome to the first Edition of my **SUPERIOR GENETICS NEWSLETTER!**

I trust you will find the information both interesting and thought provoking. As always I welcome and appreciate all feedback and look forward to a continuous sharing of constructive ideas and opinions that will help build and enhance our Breeds and Studs for a prosperous future.

If there are any questions or specific topics you would like me to discuss, please email them to info@collettgroup.com and I will attempt to answers and discuss them on my Website and in future Newsletters.

THE YEAR TO DATE

The year has indeed rushed ahead and we are already halfway to Christmas. On our family side we have been blessed with the wedding of our daughter, Angelique, to Mario du Preez and the two of them have joined us on the farm to help us with our farming activities and our Stud Breeding in general.

It is also mainly thanks to Wayne and Craig from the COLLETT GROUP, and their much better knowledge of the Internet and Information Technology, that Superior Genetics is able to bring you the information we are sure you will enjoy.

We have been very pleased with all the interest shown in our various Studs and this was demonstrated by the good turnout we had for our Production Sale in February. We were blessed with very good prices and also a 100% sale. NAMPO has also come and gone and we were unfortunately not able to obtain a stall this year. Next year we hope to have a stall where we will be able to have our Breeds on display so as to make them available for viewing to the people in the north of our Country.

We believe we will see the enthusiasm for our Breeds continue into the second half of the year. Thank you to all our buyers, fellow Breeders and supporters for all your ongoing support of the past years.



ABOUT MY WEBSITE

On my Website you can find News Highlights about the Breeds I specialize in, what is happening around the World regarding these Breeds and outstanding Breeders in these fields. The Events Calendar will inform you about upcoming events and past events should you wish to enquire about the outcome.

The About Section gives you an overview of myself, the Farming Business and my Family that assists in driving my Stud Breeding efforts.

The Articles Section contains Power Point Presentations (soon to be converted to a Breed specific Manual) on Afrino's and Meatmasters that you can download and view. Then there are Articles that I wrote for various Farming Magazines and related Publications, you are welcome to download and print these.

The Breeds Section contains specific Breed related information regarding my Stud and how to Breed for Profitability. This information will be updated in the near future where I will be sharing more details with you.

The Achievements Section gives you an overview of my track record and how the individual Breeds have performed over time. The Gallery Section contains photos related to my Studs and Farming related information.

The Sales and Services Section provides you with information about our Yearly Production Sales and what we currently have on offer.

To browse through the contents of each information category please make use of the 'Content Navigation Menu' on the LEFT or the '<<Previous | Next>>' buttons at the bottom of the Information Area.

Should you have any difficulty using the Website please send an email to info@collettgroup.com and you will be assisted ASAP.



STUD BREEDING IN GENERAL

I am convinced that, more so than ever before, Stud Breeding for the sake of just being one of an elite group and owning animals with a registration paper, is changing to one of an elite group of Farmers that in future will be totally committed to breeding a type of animal that will put their commercial Breeders in a position to farm more profitably.

Being outspoken about the harm that showing has caused the Stud Breeding Industry, it is gratifying to see that more and more Societies are attempting to steer the show ring into a more representative arena of the type of animals they are trying to breed, or even distancing themselves from showing altogether.

It is also good to notice the increasing number of societies that are leaning towards Production Sales or animals raised under natural conditions. On the negative side however, it is rather disturbing that there are still Rams that are run under veldt conditions but then fed and prepared for the sales at the end. In my mind this is defeating the object and in many cases we are just taking the self feeders out of the stables and putting them in the veldt. Who or what are we trying to bluff? Hats off to the Sheep, Cattle and Goat Societies that are prepared to present and sell their animals at the Sales straight off the veldt in a natural condition and totally un-groomed. It is encouraging to hear just how satisfied the buyers of these Breeds are and they are undoubtedly going to go from strength to strength.

A serious matter of concern to me is the production evaluation figures we are receiving from the various departments of the ARC (Animal Research Council). The first part of my concern is that there are not enough Stud and Commercial Breeders that understand the figures that are made available to them. The second part of my concern is that Stud Breeders are not fully aware of just how important the accuracy of their data is. Not enough emphasis is laid on having correct and enough management groups so as to effectively get the grouping of animals to be compared as accurately as possible. My last concern that I have taken up with the ARC, and that I hope I can get answers for, is the accuracy of the data we receive back from them. For certain Breeds certain changes will undoubtedly have to be made in order to get an accurate analysis of the more profitable individuals.

With excellent new Sheep Management Computer Programs available we can look forward to easier Data Capturing, sharing of Information and accurate Analysis to help us with our selections.



MEATMASTER



It has indeed been a great privilege to be associated with the development of this fantastic Breed. As a result of our entire selection strategy being profit orientated, we are not only making huge progress regarding profitability, but we are also managing to get together a truly phenomenal group of Stud Breeders.

Because of the popularity of the Breed we only have one major problem at present, which is an inadequate supply of acceptable breeding stock to offer new Breeders. Having such a problem is however great testament to what the breed has managed to achieve in such a short time. We therefore continue to appeal to Dorper and Damara breeders that would like to buy Meatmasters to consider using their own genetics and start their own breeding programs. In fact all Breeders can consider the various genetics at their disposal to start breeding Meatmasters. We are having very good reports back from Dorper Breeders and various Wool Sheep Breeders on the excellent results they are having by using Meatmaster Rams on their various Breeds.

Two aspects on the negative side to please keep in mind

- (i) There are certain Meatmasters inclined to go through fences and go on their own. We appeal to all Meatmaster Breeders to cull all sheep that do not have a herd instinct and remain in their bunch. Remember that this is one of our few cull faults.
- (ii) The second problem we are having is that, due to the popularity of the breed, all cross-breeds and undesirables are referred to as Meatmasters in a bid to get them sold. Please be extremely careful when buying Meatmasters that they meet our Breed standards and are of the correct type.

We look forward to a very exciting future with the Meatmasters.



AFRINO



The Afrino Breed has also experienced very good sales for the first six months of the year. Although the Breed has found it extremely difficult in the past to market itself successfully due to the fact that they are never shown, fed or pampered in any way, potential buyers never got to see their true potential.

Now, as more and more breeders are farming with them, their potential as true money makers on the dual purpose side is being realized. Once someone has started with Afrino's in an area it is very interesting how the Breed just seems to go from strength to strength in that area because of the success the Breeders have farming with this truly productive dual purpose Sheep.

We are also receiving more and more interest in the Afrino from overseas and as Stud Industries the World over become more production orientated and less show and feeding orientated, the Breed's popularity will undoubtedly increase. This unique combination of fat tailed type crossed with Merino and Mutton Merino has the ideal composition to make it the success it is already proving to be.



POLLED NGUNI



With our polled Nguni Stud all things are going according to plan and the Calves born in the spring of 2004 are looking very good. The three Polled Bulls we are using are doing exceptionally well and we remain very enthusiastic concerning the good quality Polled Nguni's we are managing to collect. By the end of this year we aim to sell off the remaining horned Ngunis. By that stage we should have at least 100 pure Polled Nguni females. I am definitely looking to improve the amount of milk in some of our Cows as there is not enough milk for some of the Calves. Interestingly enough this is a problem I am having more with the horned Cows in our herd.

In 2006 we should have some very promising Polled Bulls to offer. As we are also very production minded with our Ngunis, I can promise all buyers that these will be Bulls from Cows with a good record and capable of weaning Calves of a good weight. With our Breeding of Polled Ngunis we have by no means sacrificed type and have found most our polled Nguni's to be exceptionally true to the Nguni type. I am convinced that the Nguni Breed has a bright future on condition the Breed is not side tracked by petty issues and are in a position to get Breeders who will work together regarding the marketing and the long term future of the Breed.



SUPERTALER ~ *the NEW BREED!*



Something new, something different... and most decidedly to me a great challenge. This totally new Breed has undoubtedly got something different and challenging to offer the diligent Breeders of South Africa.

Combining the genes of our extremely well adapted Nguni Cattle with their resistance to ticks and other diseases, their fertility and very good heat tolerance with the tremendous meat qualities and attributes of the Pustertaler gets me very excited. Imagine the potential we have to select a Cattle Breed tough and hardy enough to survive and reproduce on our natural grass pastures and supply beef of a superior quality tenderness, taste and marbeling to an ever more demanding market.

The increasingly health conscious red meat consumer of today is crying out for just such a product. In the future there will most definitely be value added, and a premium paid, for a beef product that can be produced rich in quality, taste and tenderness, yet totally natural and healthy. This will be the demands of an ever growing health conscious generation. No growth stimulants, no grain products, no chemicals and no hormone supplements!

The Supertaler will indeed be a challenge to the Breeders for them to combine all the best genes from the two Breeds being used in the process. Here again all will depend on the quality of Breeders the Society can manage to get together.

Right now things are looking very promising as the Breed has the backing and support of a very strong registering authority and society like the Simentaler and Simbra Society. With their knowledge, infrastructure and inspection service we will be capable of much faster progress than would be the case if we were totally on our own.

Supertalers have undoubtedly the genetic capabilities to make them a sort after Breed worldwide.

We have got the Breeders, the Society, so let's just make it happen!



WHAT'S LYING AHEAD

On the farm La Rochelle we are busy with the construction of brand new Cattle and Sheep yards. We would like to thank Marcel, a fellow Supertaler and Meatmaster Breeder from Glendoone, Lady Grey for the excellent plans he has provided us with. He is willing to supply these to anyone needing them and I would really like to recommend them to all breeders wishing to build sheep and cattle yards in the future. Please contact me for further details in this regard.

We will be attending a Supertaler gathering on the farm of Mr. Hardus Steenkamp, of Ellisras where we hope to learn more about the breed and consult with other Breeders regarding the future of the Supertaler. Please contact me should you need any information regarding this day.

You will also be kept informed of a Meatmaster day to be held for all interested parties during the month of September.

We will be leaving for Australia on July 6 and will be returning on the 24th. While out there we will be visiting the SAMM Studs of Bruce and Debbie Nulty and Scott Jeffries, and also the Afrino and SAMM Stud of Megan Heddle. They are all in South Australia. The Afrino stud of Evan and Ruth Maddock in Western Australia will also be visited, along with the Dorper Stud of Adrian Veitch. These are all studs we have had long relationships with but hopefully we can also visit some of the other Studs in possession of South African Breeds. We also intend helping with the promotion of Meatmasters and also sow the seeds of what we are doing with the Supertaler in South Africa.

Be sure to catch a full report on my Australian trip in my next Newsletter...

Due to the year round demand for Meatmasters, Afrino's and Nguni's I will most likely have to cancel my Production Sale in September. We will however have a good supply of Rams and we invite all buyers to contact us in time should they be needing rams at that stage.



... and FINALLY

A word of thanks for your keen interest in Stud Breeding and the information I am sharing with you. I appreciate you taking the time to read my Newsletter and I will continue to provide you with ongoing information regarding successful Stud Breeding and all relevant future developments.

I wish you the best of luck in your projects and should you wish to contact me please do so without hesitation, my contact details are listed below.

With best regards,

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