

Voermol National Beef Cattle Farmer of the Year 2010





Introduction

- Upbringing
- Schooling
- Harvesting
- 2001 Start Working
- Farm History

Goals

- To look after our animals
- To produce the heaviest weaners under natural conditions
- To have a good fertile herd
- To look after our natural resources to the best of our ability, because without them nothing takes place. (e.g.: veld, water)

Every breed has its place. Why have we chosen these breeds?

- **SIMMENTALER**

- ❖ Excellent growth
- ❖ Excellent milk
- ❖ Good temperament
- ❖ Good carcasses
- ❖ Good cross breeding
- ❖ Good mothering ability

- **BRAHMANS**

- ❖ Excellent for crossing
- ❖ Excellent mothers
- ❖ Easy calving
- ❖ Longevity
- ❖ Parasite resistant

You need to farm with cattle that work for you.



Breeding Season

All Animals

- ✓ Multimin and Vitamin A, 2 weeks before calving and bulling

BULLS GET

- ✓ Vibrio
- ✓ Sheath washed
- ✓ Fertility Tested

- HEIFERS GET

- ✓ Vibrio
- ✓ C.A at 4-6 Months



- ✓ The Bulls get put with the heifers on 20th October and taken out on 5th January.
- ✓ The Bulls get put into the cows on 1st November and are taken out the end of January.
- ✓ All the heifers and First calvers are mated in their own groups.



Calving and Calving Prep

- Cows receive disease control vaccine 6 weeks and 2 weeks prior to calving.
- They also get Multimin and vitamin A, 2 weeks prior to calving and bulling.
- Cows uddering up receive \pm 12KG's of hay per day.
- Cows get 1.2KG's Production lick until green grass.
- Other cows remain on a protein 45 lick/ on veld.

- Calves get castrated at a few days old.
- At about 1-1.5 months of age they get
 - 1st Quarter Evil vaccine
 - Dehorned by gas
 - 1st dosing with endotape
 - 1ml multimin
- At 4-5 months of age the calves get
 - 2nd endotape dose
 - 2nd Quarter Evil vaccine
- At 4-6 months they get
 - C.A vaccine
- Calves are weaned at 6-8 months





Autumn Calving

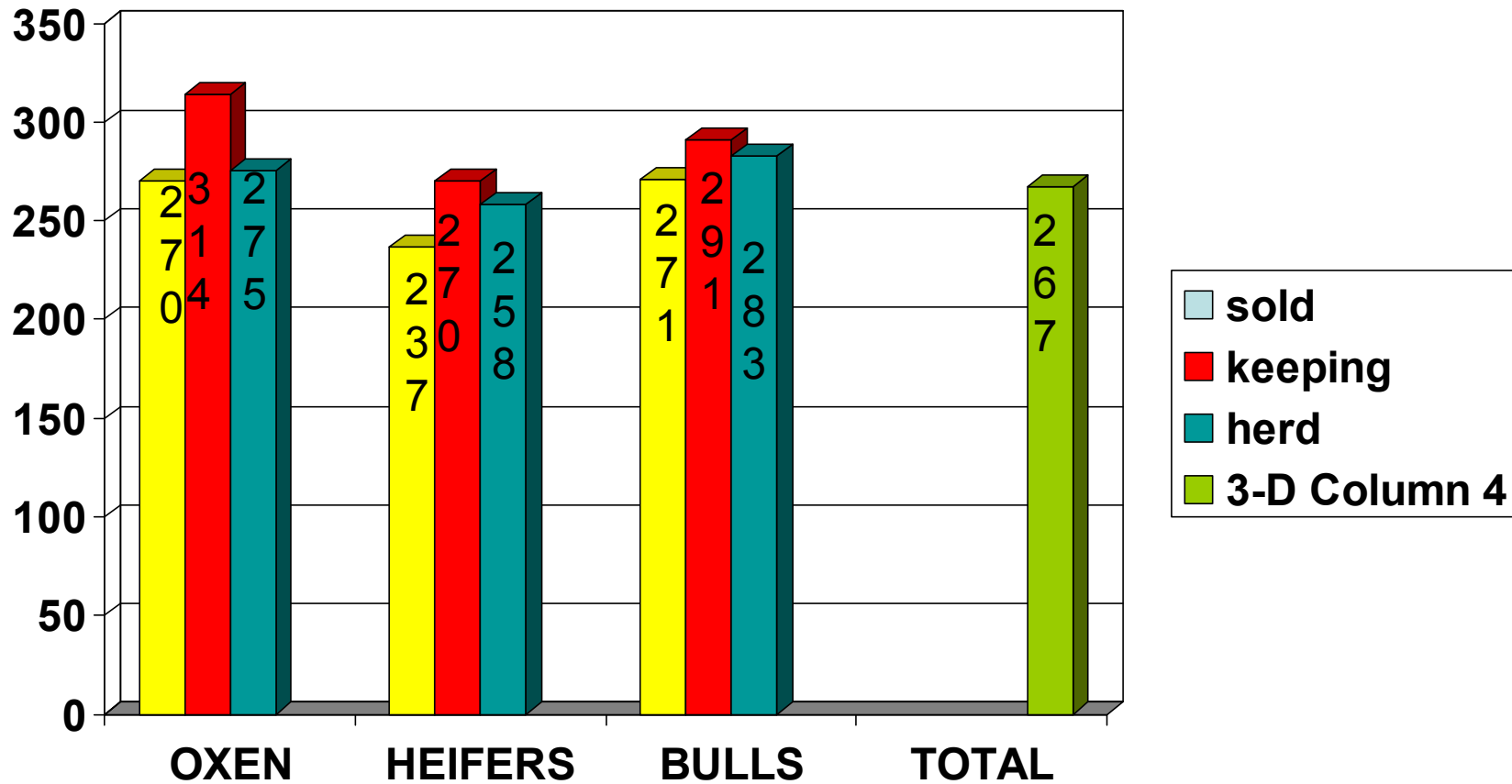
- Bought in cows
- Run autumn calvers where we can't run bulls
- Breed May, June, July
- Get Multimin and Vitamin A, 2 weeks before calving
- Calve February, March, April



Weaners

- Selection
 - Appearance
 - Conformation
 - Feminity (Heifers)
 - Structural Faults
- Vaccine
 - Rift Valley
 - Anthrax
 - BVD live

Weaner Weight Averages 2011



- Branded
- Stud Tattooed

- Weaners receive a weaner lick with natural protein and veld.
- Heifers, oxen and bulls are split up and are run on veld through the winter.



Mateable Heifers and 18 month old Bulls

- Quarter Evil vaccine
- 2nd BVD live vaccine
- Lick on veld



Bulls

- We breed our own Bulls from Registered Simmentaler and Simbra Stud sires.
- We use them as 2 year old bulls and they are then sold as 3 year bulls at the EG Bull sale which is held in August each year.
- We buy in Brahman bulls









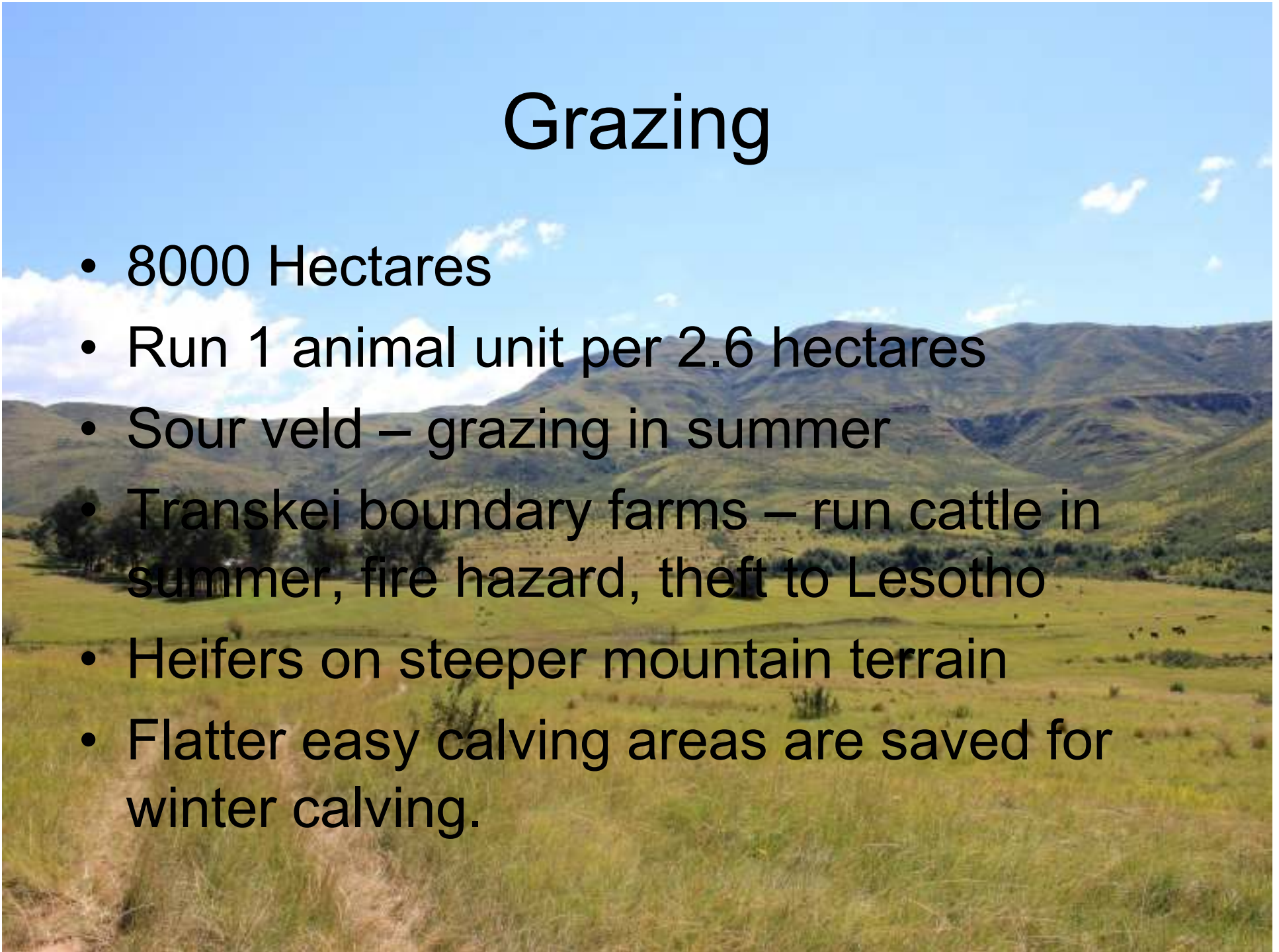


Stud Cows

- We bought the Simmentaler Stud in 2000
- Simbra Stud started in 2004
- To cut our costs on Buying Bulls
- Stud cows are AI for 25 days at the beginning of the season.
- Last breeding season we AI 70% of our Stud cows in those 25 days.

Grazing

- 8000 Hectares
- Run 1 animal unit per 2.6 hectares
- Sour veld – grazing in summer
- Transkei boundary farms – run cattle in summer, fire hazard, theft to Lesotho
- Heifers on steeper mountain terrain
- Flatter easy calving areas are saved for winter calving.



- No grazing system – try give camps at least 45 days or more rest
- Graze our camps of herds of up to 250 cows per herd
- Large herds – quick moving/more rest
- Make about 5000 round bails per annum
- Sell enough to cover production costs
- **FREE HAY**



Licks

- Summer
 - P6 + 10% cotton oil cake.



- Winter
 - Start early (depends on season)
 - Protein 45% for cows and unmated heifers and bulls
 - Performer 30 for young bulls and weaners
 - Production lick for cows – start calving

Management

- Dad and I run things
 - 28 Staff members
 - 2 herdsman per farm
 - Horses
 - Boundary farms - staff count everyday
 - Twice week – we count and feed lick
- Seeing your cattle as often as possible to limit problems

- Herdsman work 7 days a week with the Friday, Saturday and Sunday off the following week.
- They are on duty every 2nd weekend.



Summary

At the end of the day we are beef farmers.
But grass comes 1st. Without grass no
production will take place.

Look after your animals like they are your
kids and they will look after you.

What you put in is what you get out.

