



Nuusbrief / Newsletter



“Celebrating 10 Years of Senepol in South Africa”

This newsletter serve as a communication tool between and among breeders of Senepol and to inform people interested in the Senepol Breed. Any contribution to the contents of the newsletter is welcome and will be appreciated. U kan ook bydraes lewer deur gebeure en inligting rakende die Senepol ras in Suid Afrika aan die sekretaresse te stuur.

Senepol Breeders Society established

On 15 October 2010 at Bast Plaats in the Vryburg region the South African Senepol Breeders Society was formally established. This milestone in the development of the Senepol breed in South Africa was achieved almost ten years after the first Senepol cattle set foot on South African soil in November 2001.

Cattle numbers now and then:

Cattle numbers 2001

Number of Herds	Number of Female (>2yr)
2	21

Cattle numbers 2009

Number of Herds	Number of Female (>2yr)	Average Birth Weight
22	842	34,3 kg

Fase C resultate (2009):

Aantal Bulle	Eind Gewig (Kg)	GDT (g)	VOV (kg/kg)	Skrotum (mm)
14	427	1694	6.24	339

National Senepol Auction—9 April 2011, Circle C Ranches near Excelsior

The Senepol National Auction which takes place on Saturday the 9th of April 2011 at Circle C Ranches at 11h00 near Excelsior will provide buyers the opportunity to source excellent Senepol genetics. Various Senepol breeders will offer 25 pure bred Senepol bulls and 25 female SP and Appendix animals. Don't miss this unique opportunity if you consider introducing Senepol genetics into your herd.

Senepol
The right breed for our
time

March 2011

Special points of interest:

- National Auction at Circle C, Excelsior on 9th April 2011
- Visit us at Nampo 2011
- 2011 marks 10 Years of Senepol in South Africa
- Welcome to new breeders: Chris Nel (Harrismith), Jaco Botes (Humansdorp), F. Odendaal (Vrede), SP Nel (Excelsior) and Wilhelm Oosthuysen (Bothaville).

Inside this issue:

History of Senepol Cattle	2
Senepol in Botswana	3
Senepol in Namibia	4
Characteristics of the Senepol	5
Why I breed Senepol	6
General News	6

History of Senepol Cattle in South Africa

By now most interested parties are well aware of the origin and development of the Senepol breed, but the history of the Senepol cattle in South Africa, albeit that they have only been here for 10 years, is not very well known.

Dr Barry, a veterinarian from Malmesbury, originally obtained permission to introduce Senepol cattle to South Africa in 1996/7, intending to import embryos from the U.S.A. He had not done so within the appointed time and the permission for the establishment of the Senepol breed in South Africa was to be cancelled.

Mr Charl Hunlun from S.A. Stud Book told members of the Red Poll Cattle Breeders' Society about the Senepol cattle and that the permission was about to be withdrawn. The Red Poll breeders decided that, since the Senepol was



Majuba—one of the first bull calves to be born in South Africa

originally bred from the Red Poll, they would like to establish the Senepol breed in South Africa under the auspices of the Red Poll Cattle Breeders Society of South Africa. Permission for this endeavor was granted by the Registrar at the time, Mr Keith Ramsay, and by S.A. Stud Book, and so began the search for suitable genetics to import.

Mr Johan van der Nest met with the secretary and was very helpful in giving her information about the Senepol breed and the contact details of Dr. Stan Coley, a veterinarian in the United States of America who was very involved with the Senepol breed there. The secretary contacted Dr. Coley on numerous occasions regarding semen and embryos for possible import to South Africa, but unfortunately, once he had received the protocol from South Africa, he informed her that the available embryos and semen did not comply.

The search continued, but in the mean time, members decided to establish the S.A. Senepol Club under the auspices of the Red Poll Cattle Breeders' Society of South Africa. On 10th August 2000 the club was formally established, with

nine founding members, during an open meeting held in Bloemfontein. A.B Butler was elected Chairman, A.P. van Zyl additional member and C. Butler, secretary of the Red Poll Cattle Breeders' Society, was appointed secretary.



Group of cows just after they were off loaded on Chris van Rooyen's farm near Brandfort in the Free State after release from quarantine

After making enquiries and arrangements, Basil Butler and Chris van Rooyen visited Zimbabwe during October/November 2000 to look at and also select live animals for import to South Africa. The process was set in motion and Basil applied for, and was granted, a permit for the import of 27 live animals from Zimbabwe. Unfortunately arrangements for the export of the animals and quarantine in Zimbabwe did not go very smoothly and this led to several delays that necessitated the renewal and re-application for the import permit in South Africa.

In the mean time the first Annual General Meeting of the S.A. Senepol Club was held on 29th March 2001 where Basil Butler was re-elected Chairman and Chris van Rooyen was elected additional member. In late June 2001 Basil and Chris again undertook a trip to Zimbabwe to sort out the problems causing the delays and the cattle were able to enter quarantine in Zimbabwe on 26th July 2001.

Once in quarantine, some of the animals tested positive for the disease T.Parva and were not allowed to continue. One cow and two calves also died in quarantine. A week before the cattle were to be released to come to South Africa there was an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in Zimbabwe and all borders were closed for the movement of live animals. The cattle remained in quarantine in Harare until special permission was

obtained from the South African Department of Agriculture to bring them in.

Basil and Clayton Butler travelled to Harare to make the final arrangements move the cattle and to bring the calves through separately on a trailer. Finally the cattle were loaded for the journey at 10.00 p.m. on Wednesday 21st November 2001. When they reached Masvingo in Zimbabwe Clayton had to take over driving the truck, because the driver informed them that he was not allowed to drive in South Africa.

They reached the South African border at around 6.30 a.m. and were refused further entry into South Africa due to the Foot and Mouth disease. No amount of explaining or presentation of the special permission would convince the official on duty that they could



PM 10—at the first National Senepol Auction in 2006 at Bast Plaats, Vryburg

indeed come through. While they were detained at Beit Bridge, Basil feared that the calves might die of heat exhaustion, so told the guard that he needed to move the vehicle in order to get some air flow through the trailer. This was request was not well received and when he tried to move the vehicle, he found himself at the wrong end of an R4 rifle! Despite this, the wellbeing of the animals was more important to him, so he drove around the parking area for a short while to cool the calves down. Finally, after a 5 hour delay, they were allowed to continue the journey to Johannesburg, arriving at the quarantine station late Thursday night.

The cattle were released from quarantine on Friday 21st December 2001 to start their new life and form the basis upon which the Senepol breed was established in South Africa.

Charmaine Butler

Did you know?

Senepol in Botswana

From this to this, that's how I can sum up the development of Baybot Ranching's little herd in Botswana.



It all started in 2006, when I was looking for a bull/breed to give some uniformity to my mixed bunch of 'boerkoeie'. I realized that it's an important decision, as it will affect the future composition of my herd. I started looking for something that was different, but at the same time practical, low input and adaptable to our harsh climate, where summers are hot, long and humid (and full of parasitic creatures) and winters are short and dry, in addition to very dry and long spring months. Severe Heartwater and Anaplasmosis (Gallsickness), is also a constant reality, not to mention flies and their offspring: Spykerwurms!!! I devoured any information I could find about different cattle breeds and became amazed at how different breeds' praises were sung by their promoters, but yet many were saying the same

thing. I realized that at the end of the day what one wanted was a highly adaptable breed, which performs with the minimum inputs. I became so confused about all the choices that one day I ended up on the internet "Googleing" the words: "Tropically adapted Taurus" and low and behold, out popped the name "Senepol"...the rest is history as they say.

I became completely convinced when the next weeks' issue of Farmer's Weekly, contained a supplement on SA Studbook and included amongst the pages, a small quarter page advert of the SA Senepol Club stared back at me. After speaking to Stephan Botha and Charmaine Butler and after visiting Stephan to see these beasts, I was hooked and convinced and with both their kind and selfless assistance, our first embryo calf was born on 21 January 2008 and yes that is the bull calf featured above.

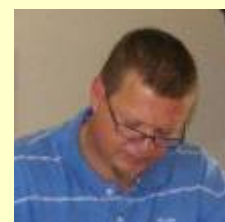
Since then our herd has grown steadily, with our own self bred Appendix B and SP calves, which have arrived this past summer. We were also proud to sell two of our initial embryo bulls as yearlings for P18 000.00 each to a local Veterinarian, who is also a commercial farmer. Their progeny already numbers more than 50. All in all I reckon there may be in excess of 150 Senepol or Senepol influenced cattle in Botswana. The breed and it's crosses has not disappointed and are thriving on grass and seasonal licks only, hulle weet nie hoe proe 'n mielie nie and numerous visitors refuse to believe that these cattle are not fed at all. Interest in the breed is very strong amongst commercial farmers, but being the only Senepol breeder in Botswana, is challenging, as we're unable to satisfy the inevitable "het jy bulle?"

Botswana, being a preferential supplier of beef to the EU, is experiencing tremendous growth and interest in cattle farming, but the biggest challenge remains changing the mind set away from the traditional breeds that are very popular here, being Brahman, Simmentaler and Charolais. Communal farmers are employing commercial practices more and more and I believe that the Senepol may just become a household name as Batswana are often progressive and eager to learn. There is also a definite trend away from Indicus breeds to adapted Taurus breeds. The embryo transfers we conducted is a foreign and new concept and as a result, we ended up being featured on Botswana's equivalent of Agri TV!!! Even the fact that the breed is polled seems to be a big point of interest amongst communal farmers and the Senepol's ability to prosper in extensive conditions, coupled with the fact that it is derived from an African breed, is music to their ears.

I believe that all good things come to those who wait and it's never more true than with our special breed and it's development. I am confident that the demand for Senepol will grow, provided we continue to build a strong foundation with integrity and by supporting the direction the breed is taking in establishing a Breed Society and to continue to work hand in hand with past and present board members and leaders to promote the breed as a no nonsense, tough and well adapted breed, aimed at improving commercial herds in Southern Africa.

By Allan Botha

Lobatse, Botswana



Het u geweet? Senepol in Namibië

Saai Senepol – 'n Na-aan Skepping(s)-belewenis in Namibië

'n Kort oënskou van 'n rasvestigings teelpad steeds onder konstruksie.

Agtergrond

Hierdie skrywe dek spesifiek die tydperk vanaf November 2007, toe die eerste Senepols Namibië ingebring is, tot op hede. Die groter storie van die 10 jarige vestigings herdenking van die Senepol in SA, sal sekerlik in hierdie nuusbrief gelees kan word.

Verskuiwing & Vestiging

As praktiese uitlewing van 'n passie en roeping, en met die ondersteuning van Stephan Botha en Dr. Udo Mahne, word net meer as 70 Senepol tipe beeste (30+ suiwer en die res opteeldiere) teen einde 2007 vanaf Brandfort (SA) na Outjo distrik (Namibië) verskuif.



Benjamin, RO 06-0035. 'n Hercules embryo seun, wat goue meriete op Fase C behaal het en kort na verskuiwing gekies was om die Senepol op die Prestasie interras klas in Pretoria te verteenwoordig. Tans in gebruik in eie kudde sowel as by meer as een opteelprojek. Semen beskikbaar.

Aanpasbaarheids toets

Die diere slaag dié toets uitstekend deurdat hulle vanaf groengras weiding (vanweë vroeë somerreën) na 'n bogemiddelde droeë laat winterveld toestand skuif.

Met die eerste reën (wat toe eers in middel Jan 2008 val), staan ons net verstom oor die gemaklike aanpassing – sonder verlies aan reproduksie en konstitusie, wat meer as net

kers vashou by die plaaslik aangepaste beeste.

Aanvangs-behoefte

'n Bekende veekundige en interras beoordelaar, Mnr. Willie Grobler, (nie 'n spesifieke voorstander van rooi beeste nie) noem sommer vroeg al die pertinente behoefte na poenskop, gladde haar, goeie temperament, vroeë veldafgrond tipe beeste.

Hy sê as ons 'nou vir hom 30 sulke goeie bulle het – verkoop hy hulle dadelik'.

Dit spel die uitdaging uit: om so spoedig moontlik in hierdie aanvraagsg rigting te teel en voorsien.

Aanbiedings & Skoue

'n Senepol aanbieding [met inhoud: oorsprong, verspreiding, kenmerke/sterkpunte, kommentaar van bekende beeskeners, erfdwang & basterkrag, vleiskwaliteit en reproduksie praktyke] word aan die volgende Bees Studiegroepe oorgedra:

Excelsior Bees Studiegroep (net suid van Etosha wildreservaat)

'n Senepol aanbieding word vroeg in 2008 aan 4 Stoetbeesboere (verteenwoordigend van die rasse: Brahman; Sanga/Nguni; Bonsmara en Brangus), 3 kommersiële beesboere en 1 veekundige van Meatco oorgedra.

Mopanie Bees Studiegroep (Kamanjab omgewing)

'n Soortgelyke Senepol ras aanbieding word gedurende Jan 2010 aan 6 beesboere en 1 veekundige oorgedra.

Later die jaar word dit opgevolg met 'n groepteel aanbieding as een manier om reproduksie praktyke grond toe te bring.

Baie positiewe stimulasie en terugvoer vloei uit hierdie aanbiedings, soos duidelik geïllustreer deur minstens 4 direkte opteel geleenthede/

projekte soos onder 'Aanwas' aangedui.

Skoue

'n Senepol bul, koei met kalf en dragtige (F1x Bonsmara) 21 mde oue vers, word vertoon:

Outjo (Sep 2008)

Die Senepol vers word eerste geplaas met baie positiewe kommentaar in 'n interras klas van 9.

Otjiwarongo (Okt 2008)

Slegs 'n tentoonstelling (sonder beoordeling) en ras besprekings geleentheid met baie goeie belangstelling en navrae



RO 06-0575 (F1 x Sussex) met F2 verskalf. 'n Sprekende voorbeeld van 'n medium raam funksionele vroulike dier met puik uier en spene wat lyk of sy nog beter teel as wat sy self is.

oor bulle wat tot op hede nog moeilik voorsien kan word.

Artikel – Agriforum

'n Senepol raspromosie artikel word ook in Des 2008 in hierdie mees gesaghebbende Landbou glanstydskrif in Namibië geplaas, met positiewe dekking en stimulasie.

Aanwas & Opteel

Daar word gelyklopend gewerk met embryo programme, KI projekte en natuurlike teling. Ekself is hiermee besig, asook 'n groep beesboere wat op een of ander manier deel in die potensiaal wat die Senepol bied.

Het u geweet? Senepol in Namibië

In 2010 is 'n vennootskaps ooreenkoms aangegaan met Nico & Toks Liebenberg van Bothaville . Met hul voortreflike visionêre benadering t.o.v. die uitbreiding van die Senepol ras, het hul meegewerk om 90% van die SP diere uit Namibië terug te skuif na SA. So kan ons help realiseer aan 'n plan om grootliks m.b.v. embryo spoeling die behoefte te vervul om die Senepol genepoel so vinnig en goed as moontlik uit te brei.



S 08-0650 (F1 x Bonsmara). Sprekende voorbeeld van bostaande funksionele vroulikheid en vleis eienskappe wat hier uit Namibiese Bonsmara geteel is. Soortgelyk aan die vers wat die interras eerste plek op die skou behaal het.

Kort opsomming van opteel getalle in Namibië:

Dit is van groot belang om die onderstaande deelnemende opteel boere wat almal vriende geword het, te noem [Naam, plaas, omgewing & ras waarmee opteel] – elkeen dra 'n baie belangrike en unieke deel by in die vestiging van 'n breër genetiese basis vir die Senepol ras:

Pieter Krone, Arcadia, Outjo, Sanga/Nguni

Jasper (Snr. & Jnr.) Brand, Keerweder & Aimeb, Outjo, Brahman/ Bonsmara/ Afrikaner

Petrus & Elize van Niekerk, Springvale, Summerdown, Gobabis, Bonsmara

Dr. Helmke Sartorius von Bach, Beulah, Kamanjab, Bonsmara

Japie Avis, Hohenfelde, Outjo, Bonsmara

Met nog kalwers oppad en inaggenome die opteeldiere wat by myself aangekom het, is daar sover met die hulp van bogenoemde boere nagenoeg 260 Senepol verwante

opteel diere op die grond in Namibië.

Doel

Vestiging en uitbreiding van 'n geharde ekstensief aangepaste funksionele moederlyn wat beesboerdery vir betrokkenes 'n genietlike belewenis maak. Kenmerke van die ras soos die dominante poenskap, gemaklike temperament (help met KI, daaglikse bestuur en waarneming), mooi uiers en spene met genoeg melk dra alles hiertoe by.

Vir my persoonlik is daar 'n tweeledige doelwit voor oë:

1. 'n Bydrae in die teel van wêreld standaard en gesogte Senepol teelmateriaal
2. Help skep aan 'n praktiese en navolgenswaardige veeboerdery model, geskoei op die basis van om te "Lewe en boer volgens God se plan" oor die hele spektrum van voornemende -, bestaans-boere tot op doeltreffende kommersiële veeboerdery vlak.



S 1132. Wie sou kon raai dat die Ma van die vers 'n swart Sanga koei is. Nog 'n pluimpie vir die erfdwang van die Senepol. Benjamin (op foto 1) is die pa.

By die Manga (drukgang) – waar denke dade word

Hier in Namibië is dit nog makliker om na aan die skepping, en in afhanklikheid, na aan jou Skepper, volgens Bybelse rentmeesters norme te leef. Die Beesboerdery word as agent gesien om by mense uit te kom (hulle is immers vir God die belangrikste) en verhoudings te bou met die oog op 'n ewigheidsperspektief.

Chris, Jessie, Jac-Louis, Sienta-Mari & Christof van Rooyen

Chairos, Outjo, Namibië



Chris van Rooyen

Senepol presteer in Slagos kompetisies

Gedurende 2008, 2009 en 2010 presteer die Senepol besonders in plaaslike slagos kompetisies.

In 2009 in Magogong behaal Basil Butler (Calcrete Stoet) die algehele eerste plek met sy slagos AB 07-0120 op die "Magogong Skou 2009 Slagos Kompetisie" Die os weeg 970kg, slag 66% uit en verkoop vir R 13 000 aan 'n plaaslike slagter.

Die Butler's het self van hierdie kruisskywe gaan terugkoop en verklaar die eetervaring as besonders met die kruisskuif wat 'n ekstra groot eetbord kant aan wal lê.



AB 07-0120 van Basil Butler behaal eerste plek op die Magogong Skou 2009 Slagos Kompetisie (970kg)



Tiekie Mulder van Bloemhof (Tiekelos Stoet) wen die Bloemhof Vetveeveiling vir die afgelope 3 jaar met sy ongewisselde Senepol slagosse.

Die wenos (18 maande oud) vir 2010 weeg 642kg en verkoop vir R 7788.

Tiekie wen ook vir die afgelope 3 jaar die prys vir die hoogste bod per kg behaal op 'n groep van 10 speenkalwers swaarder as 200kg met sy Senepol speenkalwers.

Die wengroep van 2010 weeg gemiddeld 223 kg.

Tiekie verklaar ook dat 'n Senepol vers wat hy van die veld geslag het nadat sy haar been beseer het as "die lekkerste vleis wat ek nog geëet het met uitstaande binnespiers marmering".

Hierdie resultate onderskryf dat die Senepol ras 'n uitstaande karkas aan die haak lewer en dat waar daar diere beskikbaar is kopers bereid is om 'n premie te betaal.

Leerling Beoordelaarskursus—Bastplaats Vryburg

Op 15 en 16 Oktober 2010 is die eerste beoordelaarskursus van die Senepol ras in Suid Afrika aangebied deur die bekende interrasbeoordelaar Willie de Jager. Die kursus is aangebied by die Calcrete Senepol Stoet van Basil Butler te Bastplaats, Vryburg distrik.



Verskeie lede woon die twee dae by om meer insae in die karaktertrekke van die idiale Senepol te kry.

Willie de Jager het ook gedurende die kursus spesifiek klem gelê op al die eienskappe wat 'n dier moet besit wat noodsaaklik is vir ekstensiewe vleisbeesboerdery met die uitsluitlike doel om goeie vleis aan die haak te produseer.



Characteristics of the Senepol.

- solid red colour, ranging from dark red to a lighter ginger colour
- in general have a very short hair coat type
- are naturally polled
- have good eye and skin pigmentation
- a docile temperament - being easily managed and handled in extensive conditions
- reach puberty early
- females are renowned for their ease of calving and calves for their fast 'get up and go' vigour
- heifers will calve as two year olds under normal management conditions
- longevity is well documented, breeders often still efficiently producing calves well into their teen years
- average birth weight of calves is 34 kg
- Medium framed
- bulls have a high libido, are fertile and aggressive breeders from an early age
- Senepol offers crossbreeders excellent hybrid vigour from a tropically adapted Taurine breed
- A pure Bos Taurus breed with superior heat tolerance

- Senepol have an excellent immune response. This fact has been largely attributed to the N'Dama influence. N'Dama cattle are highly resistant to the Tsetse fly, a carrier of the disease Bovine Trypanosomiasis (Sleeping sickness).



First cross Senepol x Bonsmara heifer at 5 months — (note: smooth hair coat, BW 31 kg)
Sire KL 04-27 (Senepol) x KD 06-004 (Bonsmara)



Second cross Senepol/Bonsmara x Senepol bull calf at 2 months — (note: polled, smooth hair coat, BW 29 kg)
Sire KL 07-30 (Senepol) x RO 04-007 (Bonsmara/Senepol)

Hoekom Senepol?—Pieter van Wyk (Riversdal)

“Ons is nou al vir die afgelope 5 jaar betrokke met die Senepol ras.

Ek het 'n paar geregistreerde diere wat ons hoofsaaklik uit embryos bekom het. En dan het ons heelwat hulpstamboek diere wat ons verkry het uit 'n opteelprogram wat ons volg deur Rooipoenskop vroulike diere as basiskoeie te gebruik.

Dit is verassend hoeveel belangstelling die ras lok. En ek dink dit is as gevolg van sy uiterlike voorkoms wat regtig 'n mens se oog vang veral die gladde hare en dun vel en die feit dat die dier 'n geel-rooi kleur het, is altyd populêr in ons land.

Die bulle vertoon natuurlik baie mooi manlik en die vroulike diere vertoon baie mooi vroulik. Dit is ook die res van die eienskappe van die ras wat jy nie altyd kan sien nie, wat my beindruk. Soos byvoorbeeld dat dit poenskop dominant is, meer melk het as die gemiddelde vleisbees, baie goeie temperament, goeie insek & bosluisweerstand het, goeie hitte-bestand en maklike kalwing. Dit is maar van die eienskappe wat ek dink wat die ras ook baie populêr in kruisteel-programme sal maak.

Ek is baie opgewonde oor die ras en ek dink dit is 'n ras met baie groot potensiaal in ons land net soos hy hom in ander lande al bewys het.

Groete



PIETER VAN WYK
VETKRAGGA BOERDERY “

Semen beskikbaar

Indien u belangstel in semen vir KI doeleindes kan u vir Charmaine Butler kontak by info@senepolsa.co.za of 071 364 0076. Die volgende bulle is beskikbaar:



39 J
Photo: Sacramento Farms

39 J	R80-00
6003 J	R120-00
SCR 3051	R120-00
WC 950 K	R120-00
RBS 9704	R120-00
CN 5480	R120-00

Nuusbrief / Newsletter

"Celebrating 10 Years of Senepol in South Africa"

Senepol Newsletter
PO Box 2335
Vryburg

Phone: 071 364 0076
E-mail: info@senepolsa.co.za



On a lighter note:

What was the bull doing in the pasture with his eyes closed?

Bull-dozin'

Die webblad is 'n handige hulpmiddel om belangstellendes na te verwys vir inligting oor die Senepol ras. Die webadres is <http://www.senepolsa.co.za>

Breeders can advertise animals and/or auctions in this newsletter. Please contact Boetie Hattingh at boetie@vodamail.co.za or 082 306 2469. We aim to publish a newsletter every three months

Om oor na te dink:

Ek weet wat Ek vir julle beplan, sê die Here: voorspoed en nie teenspoed nie; Ek wil vir julle 'n toekoms gee, 'n verwagting!

Why I breed Senepol—Bruce McIntosh (Parys)

My farm is in the North East Free State between Parys and Viljoenskroon where we have good natural grazing as well as some Smutsvinger lands. Rainfall averages 630 mm per annum. In 2002 I started breeding Bonsmara cattle for beef using commercial females and a Stud Bull. I was satisfied with the results but experienced some calving problems with heifers and also wished that the Bonsmara was a polled animal.

I considered starting a Bonsmara stud but quickly realised that this was a mature market and any new breeder would have to invest major resources to become a recognised factor.

I also experimented with some Nguni cattle purchased from the ARC herd sale in Groblersdal. Whilst I have the greatest respect for these hardy and easy breeding cattle, I was disappointed in the weaner weights and the prices offered by the feedlots.

In searching for a solution I set standards for my

ideal cattle that included the following:

Bos Taurus, proven fertility, smooth coat, red colour, naturally polled, passive temperament, easy calving, wean weight of 230kg plus and calf weight less than 34 kg on average.

I was unable to find a breed that met all these requirements and decide to cross my commercial Bonsmara cows with Red Poll Stud bulls to see if I could achieve my goals. When I mentioned this decision to Michael Jansen, a Red Poll breeder, he informed me that Basil Butler was having success with this same cross breed in the Vryburg area. I visited Basil and was impressed by his results.

Unfortunately, I found that too many of my Red Poll/Bonsmara crosses had a fairly woolly coat and were carrying too many ticks as a result. I was ready to give up but Basil invited me to visit him again and take a look at the

Senepol cattle which he had brought in from Zimbabwe.

I quickly realised that these cattle had all the attributes I was looking for as well as exceptional heat tolerance and great quality beef. I purchased two Stud Bulls and started breeding up appendix animals, mostly out of my Bonsmara/Red poll crosses. I have also purchased several appendix and stud animals and I am very satisfied with the results.

At last I have found my ideal cattle!

