

LOGIX BEEF ELITE AWARDS 2024



SA Stud Book is the organisation on the forefront of technology in Africa and our stud breeders' animals are bred to be extremely well adapted and profitable. The complete cycle is covered by the Logix Elite Herd Awards: From measuring weights to evaluation of cows' fertility, to the use of genetically superior animals in the herds for the creation of the following generation.

The Logix Elite Awards identify the top Elite Stud Herds in South Africa. The awards' requirements are very strict and the herds that receive awards, are truly outstanding. The herds that receive Platinum, Double Gold and Gold awards, are the top 10% of stud breeders in the country. They meet strict requirements, ensuring that they are truly outstanding, have been in the stud industry for years and make use of the best available technology. Their animals also have superior performance. Points are awarded for timeliness and completeness of measurements and the successful use of this information to improve management and increase general profitability of the herd.

Table 1: Awards and requirements for participation

AWARD					
Platinum	Double Gold	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Merit
Top 10 Herds	>78%	>68%	>63%	>58%	>40%
Herds must meet the following minimum requirements: - Minimum herd size of 100 for Platinum and Double Gold award, and 80 for Gold - At least 3 years in the stud industry - Participate in growth tests - Previous year's award was Silver or better for Platinum and Double Gold, and Bronze or better for Gold			Top 20% of all stud herds over all breeds that participate in recording	Top 30% of all stud herds over all breeds that participate in recording	Merit Herds
EVALUATION PERIOD					
Unless otherwise stated, all weights and measurements recorded between 01 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 were evaluated. Only growth tests that were completed in this time period, were considered. Reproduction data is according to the latest data that was available when the evaluation was done.					
Herds and Animals that are excluded from the awards					
- Herds that do not actively participate in Logix Production Recording (i.e. only do registration of animals). - Herds that did not record any new births during the Elite Year. - Suspended Herds - Embryo calves - Imported animals - FAF (first acceptance) animals					

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Checklist: What are points awarded for?

Points for most sections are determined on a percentage basis, where the number of animals that have been measured out of the possible number of available animals, is taken into account. All possible animals should therefore be measured for maximum points. Furthermore, the inventory list of the herd should be up to date on Logix to ensure that the percentages are based on the correct number of animals.

The timeliness of data submission is also important, because it is not worth measuring and weighing animals and then not using the data to improve the herd.

Matings and Calvings

1. Record all matings on mating lists. It will also be easier to identify cows that skip. (5 marks)
2. Full marks are awarded to herds with average age at first calving of less than 30 months (10 marks).
3. If, on average, cows calve again within one year, full marks are awarded (30 marks).
4. Record births on Logix within 30 days (5 marks).
5. Weigh calves within 3 days and cows within 14 days of birth (10 + 3 marks).
6. Prove parentages with DNA (10 marks) or genomically (10 + 5 marks).
7. 5 marks are awarded for 1 or more live animals in the herd with a genomic profile.

Weights

1. Weigh all calves and dams at weaning and on the same day. (30 + 18 = 48 marks)
2. Weigh calves post-wean for 20 marks:
 - Heifers and bulls on farm at 12 and/or 18 months
 - Bulls and heifers weighed in growth tests are also taken into account.
3. If all possible bulls are measured in an on-farm test, an additional 15 marks are awarded.
4. For an intensive intake test, an additional 8 marks are awarded.
5. Animals with RTU scans to measure meat quality traits, receive a maximum of 6 additional marks.

Herd Size

The average herd size of most stud herds, independent of breed, is more or less 150 animals. Above average herds receive more marks, simply because it takes a lot more time and effort to handle a larger herd's data. Full marks are awarded to herds with more than 1000 animals.

Genetic merit of the herd

1. Bulls: Use bulls with above average Cow Values (25+ marks).
2. Cows: Retain heifers of cows with high Cow Values.

Many Herds only measure fertility traits. Some of these Herds have also qualified for a merit award, when herd size and genetic merit of parents were taken into account.

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Limpopo
Andries Riekert

Bonsmara
VBL 0699358



VENTURE BEEF & LIVESTOCK

Trait	Description	Herd Value	Herd Score	Max Score
RECORDING				
Section Total		79.4%	119.1	150
Mating List	Percentage births from recorded matings	88.0%	4.4	5
Parentage Verification	Percentage calves with verified parentage	12.5%	1.3	10
Genomic Testing	Number of genomically tested animals	3	5	5
Birth Weight	Percentage of calves weighed at birth	100%	10	10
Dam Weight at Calving	Percentage of dams weighed at calving	100%	3	3
Weaning Weight	Percentage of calves weighed at weaning	90.0%	27	30
Dam weight at Wean	Percentage of dams weighed at weaning of calf	97.2%	17.5	18
Post-Wean Weight	Percentage of calves with post-wean weights	84.8%	17	20
Growth Tests	Percentage of calves in growth tests	79.3%	11.9	15
Intake Measurements	Number of calves measured for intake	23	8	8
RTU Measurements	Percentage of calves in growth tests measured for RTU	100%	6	6
Herd Size	Total number of active animals	114	8	20

REPRODUCTION				
Section Total		52.8%	26.4	50
Heifer Fertility	Average age at first calving	28m	10	10
Cow Fertility	Average ICP between last two calves	438d	8.9	30
Days since Last Birth	Percentage cows with days since last birth > 365d	24.4%	3	5
Birth Notification	Average number of days to record births	31d	4.5	5

GENETIC MERIT				
Section Total		68.2%	68.2	100
Cows	Average Cow Value of cows	104.4	32.6	50
Sires	Average Cow Value of sires	106.1	35.6	50

TOTAL	71%	213.7	300
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