

LOGIX SMALL STOCK ELITE AWARDS 2024



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N.C. SEBASTIAO

Trait	Description	Herd Value	Herd Score	Max Score
RECORDING				
Section Total		6.5%	9.8	150
Birth Weight	Percentage lambs born alive with birth weights (measured within 3 days after birth).	60.0%	1.8	3
Wean Weight	Percentage of lambs weighed at weaning.	0%	0	70
Post-Wean Weight	Percentage of animals with post-weaning weights out of the total number of animals that could have been weighed.	0%	0	30
Growth Tests	% rams that participated in growth tests out of all rams that could have participated.	0%	0	20
Flock Size	Number of active ewes in the flock that have lambed.	10	1	20
Pedigree Information	Completeness of pedigree information of lambs born during the Elite Year.	100%	7	7

REPRODUCTION				
Section Total		62.8%	31.4	50
Age at First Lambing	Average AFL of ewes that lambed for the first time, in months.	18m	5	10
Ewe Fertility	Average Interlambing Period of ewes, in days.	276d	18.4	30
Days Since Last Birth	Indication of the timeliness of sending in the ewes's reproduction information.	10.0%	4	5
Birth Notification	Average number of days from the actual birth of the animals to the creation date on Logix.	126d	4	5

GENETIC MERIT				
Section Total		86%	86	50
Ewes	Average Genetic Merit Index (LMI) of active ewes older than 243 days	106.5	30.8	40
Rams	Average Genetic Merit Index (LMI) of sires of lambs born during the Elite year.	111.2	55.2	60

TOTAL	42.4%	127.2	300
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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 being covered by the Logix Elite Flock Awards: From measuring weights to evaluation of ewe fertility, to the use of genetically superior animals in the flocks for the creation of the following generation.

The Logix Elite Awards identify the top Elite Stud flocks in South Africa. The awards' requirements are very strict and the flocks that receive awards, are truly outstanding. The flocks that receive Platinum, Double Gold and Gold awards, are the top 6% 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 flock.

Table 1: Awards and requirements for participation

AWARD					
					
Platinum	Double Gold	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Merit
Top 10 Flocks	11 - 20th Flocks	>70%	>60%	>50%	>40%
Top 3% of all Flocks Also meets the following requirements: • Minimum flock size of 100 • Atleast 3 years in the stud industry • No outstanding invoices • Previous year's award was at least Silver		Top 4% of all stud flocks over all breeds that participate in recording	Top 20% of all stud flocks over all breeds that participate in recording	Top 30% of all stud flocks over all breeds that participate in recording	Merit Flocks
EVALUATION PERIOD					
Unless otherwise stated, all weights and measurements recorded between 01 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 were evaluated. Only growth and wool 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.					
Flocks and Animals that are excluded from the awards					
• Flocks that do not actively participate in Logix Production Recording (i.e. only do registration of animals). • Suspended flocks			• Embryo lambs • Imported animals • FAF (first acceptance) animals		

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Checklist: What are points awarded for?

Points for some sections are determined on a percentage basis, where the number of animals that have been weighed 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 flock 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 flock.

Recording

1. Weigh all the lambs at birth and weaning (73 points for mutton breeds, 63 points for wool breeds).
2. Also weigh lambs after weaning for a further possible 30 points for mutton breeds and 20 points for wool breeds.
 - Ewes and rams on-farm for 270-day weights.
 - Rams weighed in growth tests and rams and ewes weighed in wool tests are also included here.
3. Growth test (mutton breeds) : If all possible rams are measured in a growth test (farm or central), an additional 20 points are awarded for mutton breeds.
4. Wool test (wool breeds) : % animals that participated in wool tests out of the total number of animals that could have participated, weighed separately for rams and ewes: Where at least 90% of the ewes participated, 25 points, where less than 20% participated, only 5 points, with a sliding scale in between. Where at least 70% of rams participated, 15 points are awarded, with only 3 points where less than 10% of the rams participated, with a sliding scale in between. If all possible animals participated in wool tests, a full-house of 40 points is earned.
5. Record pedigrees as accurately and complete as possible. Points are rewarded according to the percentage of lambs born during the Elite Year where both parents are known.

Flock Size

Larger flocks get more points, simply because it takes a lot more time and effort to handle large flocks' data. Maximum points are awarded for flocks larger than 1000, 1 point for flocks smaller than 40, and on a sliding-scale in-between.

Reproduction

1. Age of 1st lambing : Average AFL of ewes that lambled for the first time during the Elite Year. Points are awarded based on the standard deviation (SD) of the flock's average AFB from the specific breed's average. Full marks where flock's average are less than 1 SD unit below the breed average, and only 0.5 point where flock's average are more than 2.5 SD units above the breed's average.
2. Interlambing Period : The flock's average ILP (in days) during the Elite Year. Points are also awarded based on the standard deviation of the flock's average ILP from the breed average. Maximum points are awarded when the flock's average is 2 Standard Deviation units below the breed average, and only 1 point when the flock's average is more than 2.25 Standard Deviation units above the average of the breed.
3. Days since last lambing : It's easy to earn 5 points here, simply by sending in new lambings of ewes as soon as possible. Flocks are penalised based on the % of ewes in the flock with a DSLM above 370: Full points are awarded for <5%, 0.5 points for >70%, and a sliding scale in between.
4. Birth notifications : Here too, full points can easily be earned by timeously registering lambs' births on Logix. Full points are awarded where the average time between the birth date and create date on Logix is less than 90 days, while only 0.5 points are awarded for an average above 250 days.

Genetic merit of the flock

Points for Genetic Merit are awarded on a sliding scale; full points are awarded where the flock's average LMI is above 112, and only 3 points for an average LMI below 88.

1. Rams: Use rams with Selection Indices above 100 in the herd (30+ points).
2. Ewes: Cull ewes with inferior Selection Indices - this will ensure that the index average is higher.

There are many flocks where only fertility traits were measured; some of these flocks have qualified for a merit award, when flock size and genetic merit of parents were taken into account.