

CHAIRMANS SPEECH BCBS AGM 2016,MOGWOONI

Welcome to all of our members to the 66th AGM here at Mogwooni and thank you to Jackie and Mandy Kenyon for hosting us and we look forward to the rest of the day.

I would like to start by saying how we have lost a great man and invaluable member of our society George Aggett. If ever there was a man who epitomised the saying "actions speak louder than words" then it was George. From embarrassing us all at the show with his numerous winnings on his first attempt at showing to leaving us all green with envy whenever one visited Kifuku, his steely eyed appraisal of all and everything will be truly missed. Georges family have kindly donated a trophy in his memory for the best female in the 2.5 to 3 year old category which was won by a stunning white heifer of Georges which went on to win the overall female champion at the last show which is very fitting. There will be a memorial for George at the Aero Club on Sunday 13th November starting at 11:00am which I am sure will be an emotional yet fond farewell to a good man. Can we please all stand and hold a minutes silence in his memory.

Minutes silence

The society has had an active year with visits by members to Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi and the Boran is alive and well in all of these countries. Good relations have been built in these countries and the outlook on potential exports and imports from Zimbabwe looks particularly encouraging. Whilst in Zimbabwe Giles and myself also attended the Zimbabwe Boran society inaugural sale with 93 lots of Boran and Boran crosses for sale with 86% of the animals being sold. Top prices were \$6300 for a South African bred bull and \$2400 for Boran cow and calf. We also attended a regional Boran meeting with breeders from Zim, Namibia, and South Africa all being present and we seem to be finally getting close to achieving the same goals.

The bi-annual Livestock Breeders show was held in July this year with the Borans doing us all proud apart from the odd runaway bull causing some excitement in the crowd. Congratulations to all the members who exhibited assisted and attended and to Suyian for scooping the Supreme Champion bull for the second show in a row and the pressure is now on for a hatrick of wins at the next show. Jimmy Brooks as ever keeps the whole show running and thank you to Jimmy. Special thanks go to the show committee and the executive committee who all put in their time voluntarily as well as Shaban and the Huduma team for their efforts

The embryo export market continues to be delayed in government bureaucracy but Giles continues to work hard on this and his efforts are not unnoticed. The continued sticking point seems to be the use of the new F&M vaccine, which the Kenyan vet dept assures us is under trial, which should then open the next door to getting the

embryo project back on track. It is worth noting that Simon Hodgson also does a huge amount of work from the South African end as well

Aidan Hartley has brought some much needed life into the modern promotion of the Boran and the facebook page which he updates regularly now has over 3600 followers or likes. Please help Aidan keep this page relevant by sending him any pictures of your cattle and do a bit of self promotion for free. Aidan also produced a very good newsletter and a second one based around the show will be out soon.

Breeders had an active year with a total of 933 head being registered from July 2015 until June 2016. Keep up the standards and get your cattle registered and well done to you all. While Kenya is the home of the Boran we are swiftly being overtaken by countries which imported their Boran from here not so much in the overall quality but in the recording and record keeping of the Boran. The world is a changing place and is up to us as a society to keep up to date with what the buyer wants and this will be discussed in more detail later.

Thank you to our sponsors today, Vital Kenya Ltd as our title sponsor and please take the time to visit their tents and listen to what they have to say. I hope next year will be a better one , particularly as far as Laikipia is concerned and the rains arrive in gusto soon

ADOPTION OF COMMON RECORDING SYSTEM

We all as stud breeders already keep records of our animals ranging from the bare minimum to highly detailed stud records needed to make on the farm decisions. As a society we need to decide what the objectives of the society are and how we achieve these objectives. First and foremost it is to breed a correct Boran and maintain the standards set by our predecessors. I believe we do this very well, better than other boran breeding countries and the system here does not need to change. However if we are producing the best Borans then we should be pushing these for sale to export markets as in reality the local stud market is pretty poor. How does one then convince someone that firstly the Boran is better than the Brahman, Bonsmara, Beefmaster or any of the other dry land beef producing breeds and then how does one convince them that the Kenyan Boran is better?

We need to as a society to start using a recognised recording system which can give us fair comparisons between herds and help identify the best producing animals within your herd. As this is what we are all trying to do anyway why not get some help to do so? Breedplan is an Australian developed program which is now offers all beef cattle breeders the potential to accelerate genetic progress in their herds and to provide objective information on stock they sell.

BREEDPLAN is the national beef recording system in Australia, New Zealand, Namibia, Thailand and the Philippines. Its use is increasing in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa, Hungary and South America. BREEDPLAN uses an advanced, modern genetic evaluation system (based on Best Linear Unbiased Prediction (BLUP) technology incorporating multi-trait analysis procedures) to produce estimates of breeding values (EBVs or EPDs) for recorded cattle across a range of important production traits. BREEDPLAN technology can be used at a number of levels, such as within-herd analyses for individual breeders, across-herd analyses for members of a breed association (or breeding group) or international genetic evaluation where breed associations from a number of countries pool their data for analysis. The rationale for this is simple - the larger the population of cattle being evaluated the higher the chance of finding elite genetic material which can then be rapidly disseminated using modern artificial and natural breeding techniques.

I have been in contact with Dr Michael Bradfield who runs Breedplan SA and he is very excited on the potential of the BCBS to come on board if we choose to do so. We are not reinventing the wheel here but simply sending the information we already collect to BREEDPLAN for them to process and give us some records back which have a recognised relevance. The minimum they need is only a weaning weight but the more you send the better the records and evaluation you get back. One attraction of using BREEDPLAN is that one can send them records in excel format which most of us should have already and those who are already using computer programs can produce immediately. They also have their own cattle management software, Herdmaster, which they have offered at a discounted rate of \$400 to buy and then a cost of \$125 per year thereafter.

Currently Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe have their own in house Breedplan systems and the Namibians have agreed to set up a Kenyan boran system and collect our records if we want them to do so until we are able to do this in house. They currently do the same for Angola and Botswana.

Costs- Annual membership fee of \$17-50 per breeder depending on your herd size.

Herd fee- per animal \$2.75 covering the costs for all transactions carried out for that animal

Late Registration fee of \$5 for all calves older than 180 days that have not had their birth notification submitted.