



Nuusbrief / Newsletter

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 sekretaris te stuur.

Sale of Corran Judy SC96-231 (Maria)

Senepol female genetics climbed to new heights this week with the announcement of a private treaty sale of the well known embryo donor cow "Maria" by the Ro-Eh Senepol stud of Chris van Rooyen to the Greenpak Senepol Stud of Bothaville for the record price of R 150 000.

Corran Judy SC96-231, by most regarded as the best Senepol cow in South Africa, is one of the original animals imported from Zimbabwe by Chris van Rooyen and Basil Butler. She was one of the first Senepol females in South Africa to be approved as an embryo donor and subsequently produced a registered progeny of 24 females and 15 males with many more still in the process of registration out of the 150+ embryos she produced. Chris van Rooyen's vision in renaming Corran Judy SC 96-231 to Maria thus proved to be very appropriate as she can rightly be seen as the mother of the Senepol breed in South Africa.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Chris and Greenpak Trust. Chris we know that it was very difficult to part with such an animal so close to your heart but as always you put the Senepol breed first in making a decision. To Greenpak Trust you have secured superb genetics for your Senepol stud and may she fulfill your wildest dreams.

To quote a student interviewed recently at the KKNK in Outshoorn on the escalating price of beer: "Oom, dit bly 'n bargain!"



Corran Judy SC96-231 (Maria)



Senepol
The right breed
for our time

April 2009

Special points of interest:

- *Maria sold!!*
- *Trichomoniasis explained*
- *Slick gene locus found*
- *Phase C—the basics*
- *Welcome to new breeders: Theuns Vlotman (Brandfort), Thomas Stewart (Port Elizabeth) and SP Els (Excelsior).*

Inside this issue:

<i>Trichomoniasis</i>	2
<i>The Weatherman</i>	3
<i>Slick hair gene found</i>	3
<i>Voeromset evaluering (Fase C)</i>	5
<i>How to tail bleed your cattle</i>	6
<i>General News</i>	6

Did you know?

Trichomoniasis

Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease of cattle which can cause infertility through early embryonic death and abortion. The disease is caused by a protozoan parasite, *Tritrichomonas foetus*. The organisms which cause the disease are found in the genital tracts of cattle with transmission occurring during mating.

The disease can also be spread, to a lesser extent, by contaminated equipment used for calving or artificial insemination (AI), or if contaminated Trichomoniasis has an insidious onset in a herd.

The first sign of a problem may be an extended calving season with a greater number of cows calving late in the season. The pattern of the disease will depend on how many bulls are in use and the proportion of bulls that are infected. If pregnancy testing is carried out routinely, a reduced pregnancy rate may provide the first indications of a problem. Typical pregnancy rates in affected herds in Australia may be from 60–80 per cent, depending on the duration of the mating period.

Embryonic death usually occurs shortly after conception, in which case, the cow simply absorbs the dead embryo and comes back on heat. It may, therefore, appear to an observer that an affected cow is simply having long cycles. If the affected embryo (calf) survives longer, abortion may occur, but usually before five months of gestation. These early abortions may also remain undetected with the apparent problem diagnosed as herd infertility. A carrier state of the disease exists in both cows and bulls.

Carrier bulls show no outward signs of the disease, with the organism establishing itself in microscopic folds of the skin that line a bull's penis and the lining of the sheath. Older bulls, in particular, with their wrinkly penises can harbour large numbers of parasites, and are more likely to be infected than younger bulls. Nevertheless, all infected bulls should be considered permanent carriers of the disease, since the bull's immune system seems unable to rid bulls of the infection once it has become established.

In contrast, infected cows usually recover without treatment within about 3–5 heat cycles after an abortion. If bulls are still running with them, they will then conceive and calve normally. However, immunity in

females following infection is short-lived and reinfection may occur after a few weeks if cows are re-exposed to an infected bull. If previously infected females are reinfected in the next breeding season, they can abort again.

To confirm a diagnosis of trichomoniasis, specimens need to be collected from bulls, preferably after at least two weeks sexual rest, as this allows the number of organisms (if present) to build-up in the prepuce, thereby increasing the chance of detection.

Cows that have been pregnancy-tested as empty, are known to have aborted, or have a uterine discharge, should also be sampled. Samples should be taken using a long pipette attached to a 20 ml syringe or another suction device. In bulls, the pipette should be inserted into the sheath and up beside the penis. The sample is then collected either by gently scraping or flushing with a quantity of saline. Testing for both trichomoniasis and vibriosis is usually done on the same sample collected from the bull's prepuce. In cows, a sample is taken from the vagina in a similar manner.

The sample is then expressed immediately into a special culture medium which ensures that the organism will survive until it reaches the laboratory. There is no approved, effective treatment or commercial vaccine for trichomoniasis available.

Under exceptional circumstances, localised treatment applied into the prepuce can be attempted in high-value bulls. Most treatments are considered risky and are not recommended because they do not eliminate the infection, they only reduce the number of organisms present. In the vast majority of situations, the best strategy is to cull all infected bulls.

Treatment of cows is generally unnecessary as cows usually recover without treatment with 12 weeks of sexual rest following calving. However, there have been rare cases where cows have carried the infection for longer periods.

The following steps will aid in the eradication of the disease from infected properties:

- Ensure that all internal and external fences are stock-proof.
- Separate all bulls from cows and young stock.
- All bulls should be tested four times at weekly intervals after a minimum of one week's sexual rest; before they can be assumed to be negative.
- Cull all positive bulls.
- Pregnancy test all joined cows two months after the bulls have come out, and cull all empty cows.
- Pregnancy test all joined cows again at six months after the bulls come out, and cull all empty cows.
- All cows with vaginal discharge, or any that abort, should be investigated for the presence of the disease.

For the next breeding season, options available include:

- Use artificial insemination rather than natural mating.
- Natural mating using only virgin bulls.
- Use natural mating and replace positive bulls with virgin bulls, or young bulls less than three years of age as they are less able to transmit disease. (This is mainly included as an option for large herds, where it is too expensive to replace all bulls at once. The use of all virgin bulls is preferred, where possible.)

When introducing bulls to a property, it is good practice buy them in advance of when they are needed. They should then be quarantined on arrival, and given two doses of vibriosis and leptospirosis vaccine a month apart, prior to their use in the herd. Unless you can obtain assurance, preferably a vendor declaration that these vaccinations have been done, always complete a vaccination program yourself. Controlling other reproductive diseases such as vibriosis (campylobacteriosis) and leptospirosis with appropriate vaccination programs will make trichomoniasis easier to detect. Accurate breeding records, pregnancy testing, and a tight joining period, are essential in diagnosing a reproductive problem in your herd.

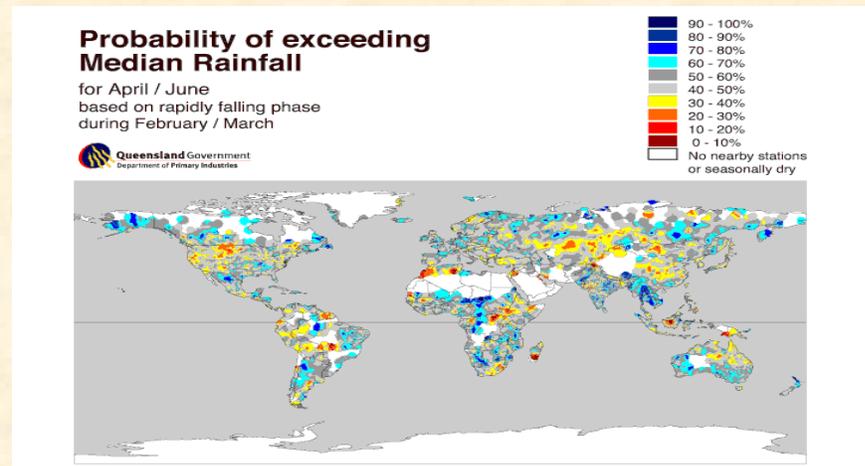
Agfact A0.9.64. First edition, 2004

Bob McKinnon District Veterinarian Tamworth. Belinda Walker Veterinary Officer,

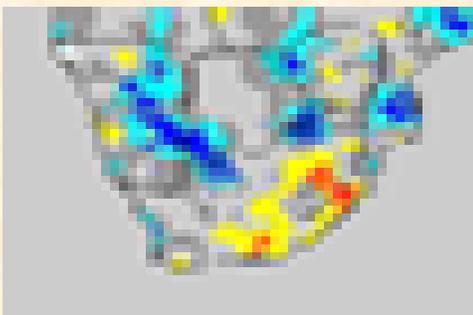
The Weatherman

According to the long term prediction of the State of Queensland (Environmental Protection Agency) the sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean is sharply falling. As we all know, this phenomena has a direct impact on our South African weather patterns, as such included is a prediction map of Southern Africa as produced by the State of Queensland (Environmental Protection Agency).

Based on a Rapidly Falling Southern Oscillation Index phase at the end of March 2009 there is a 10 to



Rainfall prediction for the World. *Printed with permission.*



Close up of the South African region.
Printed with permission.

50% chance of getting median rainfall throughout most of South Africa for April to June. This means that for example Bloemfontein will have a 30 to 40% chance of getting 60 mm of rain in May. If this downward trend continues throughout autumn the outlook for early spring rain is not very favourable. For more information please go to <http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au>

According to the Environmental Protection Agency autumn is a key time for establishment of climate phenomena such as El Nino and La Nina

SLICK HAIR GENE LOCUS FOUND

In 2003 Dr Tim Olsen presented evidence that supported the existence of a major gene, the slick hair gene, dominant in mode of inheritance that is responsible for producing a very short, sleek hair coat. The gene is found in Senepol and Criollo cattle and is linked to lower observed rectal temperatures in these cattle (T.A. Olsen et al, 2003). A further paper published in February 2007 *Animal Genetics* 38, has isolated the slick gene locus assignment to bovine chromosome 20 (BTA20) and localised to the DIK4835 – DIK2930 interval (M. Mariasegaram et al, 2007). With this information it is now possible for a gene marker to be developed to enable heterozygous carriers of the slick hair gene to be identified. Whether enough commercial interest exists and whether such a test is cost effective to develop remains to be seen.

For a single gene effect that is dominant in mode of inheritance, the best way to identify homozygous and heterozygous carriers continues to be observing cross bred progeny as the segregation would be expected to be approximately 50%. Given that the slick hair gene is so close to being fixed within Senepol, a gene marker test would aid in selection to achieve complete fixation (homozygosity) of this trait within a population or the entire breed. Interestingly, for some more than others, the comparative map of the homologous regions of Bovine (BTA20) and Human (HSA5) chromosomes in the region of the slick hair locus indicates a potential link between slick cattle and male pattern baldness. Suddenly being slick might not be all that bad!

As published in the Australian Senepol Association Newsletter July 2008

Embryos from America.

The embryos from America is available from Stephan Botha at steef@mweb.co.za or 0828809215. Breeders can also now identify animals that they want to have flushed and match the donor to a donor bull of their choice for import in 2009. The donors available are listed below. More information on the donors is available on <http://www.senepolcattle.com> and <http://www.sacramentofarms.com>. The arrangements can be done via Stephan Botha.

www.senepolcattle.com and <http://www.sacramentofarms.com>. The arrangements can be done via Stephan Botha.



WC950K
Photo: Sacramento Farms

Donors	RGD	Sire	Sire/Dam	LINE
WC 8466	1115244	WC 864	WC 24V	WC_WCS
2P	1114694	WJ WIZARD	WC 850	WC_WCS
992J	1103790	CN2225	CN 473	CN
H 6710	1103042	CN 6132E	ASL 193S OMEGA 65Y	ASL_WC_CN
5E	1073413	HBC HOTSTUFF 25A	WCS 603	ASL_CN_WC_WCS
73F	1077845	WC 918B	HBC HOTSTUFF 25A	WC_WCS_ASL
J6615	1109168	WC 850	FOUND	WC_WCS
74K	1108789	WJ WIZARD	HBC HOTSTUFF 3D	WC_WCS
J6613	1109160	WC 850	FOUND	WC_WCS
109G	1080411	WC 754A	HBC CHIEFTAIN 3A	WC_ASL
SCR 3024	1114536	WC 754A	CN5480	CN_WC_WCS
SANP J10 - J6617	1109156	RAB NEXT GEN S416	CO 500	CN_WC
10J	1109664	DUKE HF 8728	ENGEL FACE CN 2431	CN
26N	1114528	WJ WIZARD	AC 761	CN_WC_ASL
K 6167	1112919	CN 5480	AC 761	CN_WC_WCS
J 6003	1106816	WC 744A	WC 220E	WC_WCS
G6518	1103896	EL GENERAL AV 189	CNBA 2284V	CN
H6905	1109167	CN 4716	AC 761	CN_WC
LZ219	1112237	RBS 9704G	WCS 440	CN_WCS
LZ221	1112255	RBS 9704G	CN 4635	CN

Breeders can now identify animals that they want to have flushed and match the donor to a donor bull !

Semen beskikbaar

Daar is nog semen vir KI doeleindes beskikbaar. U kan hiervoor ook direk met Stephan Botha skakel by steef@mweb.co.za of 0828809215. Die volgende bulle is nog beskikbaar:



SCR 3051N
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

VOEROMSET EVALUERING (FASE C) HULPMIDDEL TOT VOEROMSETDOELTREFFENDHEID BY VLEISBEESTE

Al vir jare is dit bekend dat 'n driekwart van Suid-Afrika se vleis deur die voerkraal bemark word. As gevolg van ons land se beperkte kapasiteit om voldoende kwaliteit vleis vir die mark, deur die jaar, vanaf natuurlike weiding te produseer het tot gevolg dat voerkrale konstant 'n groot rol speel in Suid-Afrika se vleisproduksie.

Behalwe vir die aankoopprys van kalwers is voer die grootste uitgawe van 'n voerkraal. Voeromsetdoeltreffendheid is 'n belangrike faktor om vleis koste-doeltreffend te produseer. Produksiedoeltreffendheid is 'n produksie van insette en uitsette. Fase C is die enigste fase waar voerinnome (as maatstaf van biologiese insette) direk gemeet word op



individuele diere en voeromsetdoeltreffendheid (VOV) dus getoets kan word. Die direkte meting van voerinnome en berekening van VOV is steeds die akkuraatste metode om teelwaardes vir hierdie eienskap te beraam. In hierdie opsig vervul Fase C toetsing dus steeds 'n baie belangrike plek in die Skema.

Sentrale groeitoets (Fase C van die Skema) waar jong bulle direk na speen onder intensiewe toestande (groeirantsoen) geëvalueer word.

Daar is in totaal 11 toetsentrums wat verspreid is oor die land. Hier word amptelike voeromsetevaluering gedoen.

Bulle word gewoonlik net na speenouderdom (151-248 dae) toegelaat tot die sentrums en volgens gewigsgrense van elke ras. Byvoorbeeld Senepol tussen 220 – 270 kg.

Die bulletjies word vir 28 dae aangepas by die nuwe omgewing en voeding. Die tydperk van toetsing is net 84 dae. Met an-

der woorde die bul is net ± 4 maande weg van die plaas. Dit is 'n klein gedeelte van die bul grootmaak tydperk. Die res van die tyd kies die teler self die voeding waarop hy die bul markgereed maak.



Die Fase C rantsoen is 'n standaard rantsoen wat spesifiek geformuleer is om liggaamsgroei te weeg te bring en is dieselfde vir al die Fase C toetsentrums. Die rantsoen met sy spesifieke samestelling verseker optimale skeletale en orgaan ontwikkeling, met minimum vetneerlegging. Diere met genetiese afwykings t.o.v. hoefgroei en kroniese opblaas, sal dus geëlemineer word.

Na afloop van die Fase C toets (evaluering) is daar meer inligting beskikbaar, bv. Gemiddelde daaglikse toename (GDT), liggaamsmates soos skrotoomvang, liggaamshoogte, liggaamslengte, ultrasoniese meting van vetdikte, marmering en oogspieroppervlakte. Volgens die bul se prestasie t.o.v. tydgenote word 'n goud, silwer of brons-toekenning aan hom toegeken en die bul word só gebrand. Telers heg groot waarde aan die evaluering en kry baie inligting waarop hy 'n bul vir sy eie behoeftes, volgens sy eie doelwitte kan identifiseer.

Elke jaar word daar vir elke ras, bulle geïdentifiseer waaruit een bul die ras verteenwoordig in die Prestasietoetsklas by die Pretoria Skou. Dit bly altyd 'n sigbare plek om die ras te bemark.

Koeikuddes word in die meeste gevalle ook onder ekstensiewe toestande getoets. Die evaluering van aanpasbaarheidseienskappe onder ekstensiewe

toestande kry dus voldoende aandag in die Skema.

Aspekte om in gedagte te hou wanneer 'n bul vir Fase C ingeskryf word, is om die bulletjie weke voor die tyd effektief te proesseer, m.a.w. alle inspuitings en doserings, soos voorgeskryf, toe te dien. Speen die kalwers 'n paar dae voor hul by die toetsentrums afgelaai word (om speenskok te absorbeer). Wanneer 'n bul teruggeneem word na die plaas, moet die dier stelselmatig aan nuwe voedingstoestande blootgestel word.

(Volgende uitgawe Veldbul toets)



Deur Siebert Vermeulen—Landbou Navorsingsraad

Nuusbrief / Newsletter

Senepol Club
PO Box 29808
Danhof
9310

Phone: 082 306 24569
Fax: 051 403 3015
E-mail: hattingh@premier.fs.gov.za



On a lighter note:

Ek het twee koeie, en besluit om hulle Een en Twee te noem, die goeie ding is as een dood gaan het ek darem nog Twee oor

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

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

Om oor na te dink:

Hiervan is ek oortuig: geen dood of lewe of engele of magte of teenswoordige of toekomstige dinge of kragte of hoogte of diepte of enigiets anders in die skepping kan ons van die liefde van God skei nie, die liefde wat daar is in Christus Jesus ons Here

(Rom 8:38-39).

How To Tail Bleed Your Cows

1. Screw the Vacutainer needle onto the needle holder.
2. Insert the Vacutainer tube into the other end of the needle holder until the stopper touches the back portion of the needle. Do not puncture the stopper. Hold these assembled materials in one hand.
3. Lift the cow's tail with the other hand.
4. Insert the needle about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep and perpendicular to the tail at the under side, midline and at about 3 to 6 inches from the base of the tail. In this region, there is a longitudinal, midline ridge of skin through which you push the needle.



5. Blood will appear at the junction of the stopper and the back portion of the needle once the vein is punctured. If it does not appear, pull the needle out slightly and insert in a different direction until the vein is punctured.
6. Once blood is seen, push the tube onto the needle. Be sure to keep the needle under the skin since vacuum will be lost if not. The vacuum will pull blood into the tube and if lost, blood cannot be collected. Use a second tube if this happens.
7. Collect 2 cc or more of blood.
8. Withdraw the needle from the skin and remove the tube from the tube holder.
9. Label the tube with the animal identification.
10. Place the tube in an ice rack or refrigerator until shipment.
11. Discard the needle into a "sharps" container and re-use the needle holder. Use a new needle for each cow