

LRF NEWS

Gear up for the 17th Annual LRF Stockman School!

We are thrilled to invite you to the 17th LRF Stockman School, an unmissable event that will take place from 8th to 10th October 2025. This year, we're embracing the theme "Smart Stockmanship: Back to Basics", focusing on the fundamental principles of livestock production while incorporating practical, forward-thinking strategies to meet today's challenges.

packed with insightful lectures delivered by leading experts from South Africa and around the globe. From cutting-edge research to tried-and-tested practices, these sessions will offer something valuable for everyone. In addition to the lectures, attendees will enjoy hands-on practical sessions where theory meets practice. These activities are designed to deepen your understanding and give you actionable skills you can take home and implement straight away. For those looking to delve deeper, we'll also feature engaging breakaway sessions where smaller

groups can explore specific topics, interact directly with experts, and exchange ideas with fellow delegates.

HERDMASTER/ This incredible three-day event promises to be **BREEDPLAN NEWS CALENDAR** 13TH MAY 2025 LRF FREE ONLINE COURSE www.lrf.co.za

IN THIS ISSUE

• STOCKMAN SCHOOL

MONTHLY TIPSHEET

LRF COURSES

DATA SUBMISSION ON

EXCEL SPREADSHEETS

LRF NEWS

BGP2 UPDATE

LF VEESKOOL STOCKMAN SCHOOL

The LRF Stockman School is more than just a learning event—it's a chance to connect with passionate individuals, exchange knowledge, and gain fresh perspectives to elevate your stockmanship skills. Space is limited to 200 delegates, so make sure you secure your spot! For more details on the LRF Stockman School and what to expect, click on the

link below. Let's get back to basics and discover smarter ways to approach stockmanship—see you there! How to Register for the 17th LRF Stockman School:

Bookings are now open! Secure your spot at the 17th LRF Stockman School by

clicking the link below to book. To confirm your booking, complete the registration form and submit your proof of payment to Charmaine Alberts. Take advantage of the early bird registration: register before 31 July 2025 to receive a R500 discount on your booking fee! Bookings close on 1 October 2025 or earlier if capacity is reached. Email: charmainealberts8@gmail.com / Phone: +27.82.922.3747

Stockman School Register Here! Information

ONLY SPACE FOR 200 DELEGATES Smart Stockmanship: Back to basics 8th to 10th October 2025 Aldam Holiday Resort Early bird special!

Only pay R6,950 (save R500, only applicable to Full registration), ends 31 July Erin Graham -Technical Manager at Molatek Prof Bob Weaber -Dr Louis Du Pisani -Dr Doug Bruce — Specialist Agri Consultant **Kansas State University FOR MORE INFO:** https://lrf..co.za/stockman-school/ Charmainé Alberts +27 82 922 3747 charmainealberts8@gmail.com

Year 1 of the second phase of the Beef Genomics Program (BGP2), denoted Year 4, ran from April 2024 to March 2025, with eight breed societies, under the

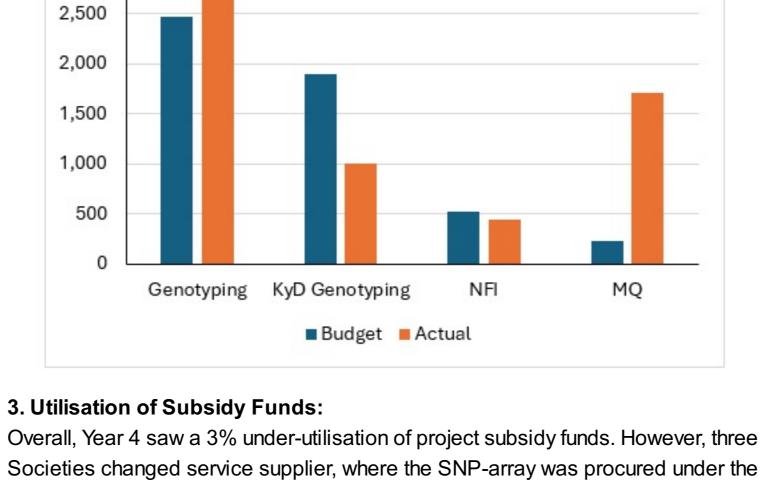
LRF's auspices, actively participating in the initiative. The below report provides a key summary of BGP2 Year 4's outcomes. 1. Management Summary BGP2 officially started on 1 April 2024 when TIA paid the funding for Y4 over to

LRF BGP2 Year-End Report

the ARC. During the first 60 days, the BGP team focused on the implementation of SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) required for execution and negotiations related to SNP array procurement where-as the respective Societies established their respective plans. Given the fact that all performance was executed subsequent to the start-up, the collective performance as reflected below is testimony to a great professional and dedicated effort by each Society and the LRF team in close liaison with the BGP

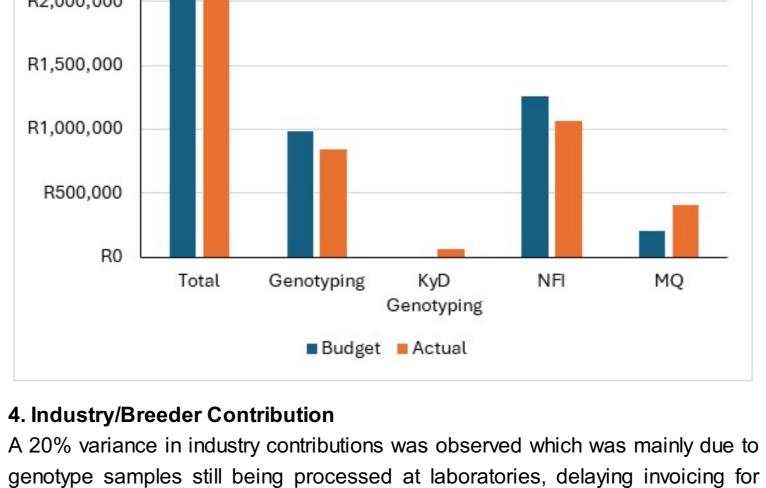
team at ARC BTP. 2. Tests Conducted: Genotyping tests exceeded budget, partly due to the reallocation of Net Feed Intake (NFI) funds. NFI tests, which are costly and require strict data structures, fell

15% below budget, prompting breed societies to shift funds towards increased genotyping and meat quality assessments. Meat quality testing significantly outperformed expectations, with 1,712 tests conducted—six times the budgeted amount. 3,000



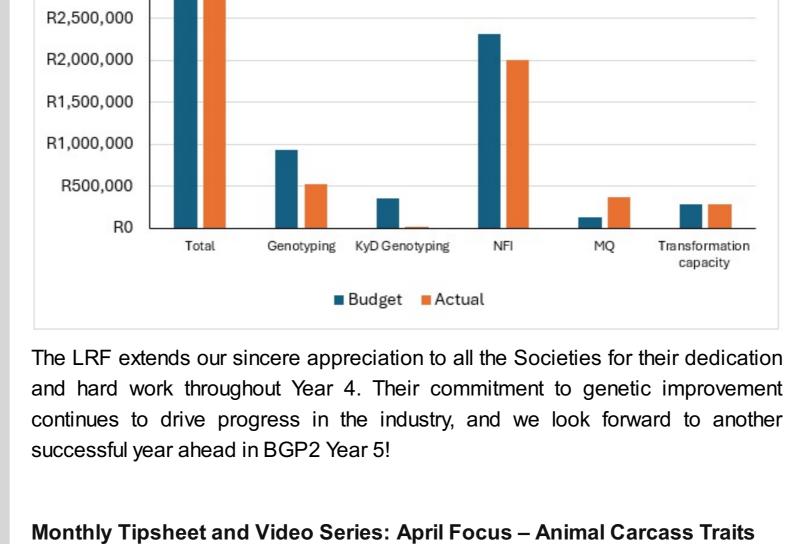
Project. After taking this into account, fund utilization will be above budget.

R2,500,000 R2,000,000



breeders and societies. Pending approvals for BTP to use Neogen's GGP SNParrays have also contributed to the shortfall. Once these processes are completed, the variance is expected to correct.

R4,000,000 R3,500,000 R3,000,000



Each month, the LRF focuses on a key trait, explaining why recording matters, how to record accurately, and how to submit your records to your breed society. It's all the information you need, presented in an easy-to-follow one-page tipsheet and

a concise video! March's spotlight was on Days to Calving. If you missed it, don't worry—catch up now! Access the one-page tipsheet and 2-minute video below to stay informed and up-to-date.

Days to Calving Video Days to Calving Tipsheet For April, our focus is on Animal Carcass Traits **What are Animal Carcass Traits?**

Animal carcass traits Includes Real-time Ultrasound (RTU) scanning data and abattoir carcass data. Animal carcass traits (eye muscle area, subcutaneous and

Why is it important to record Animal Carcass Traits? Recording and submitting carcass trait data enables BREEDPLAN to calculate carcass trait EBVs. Carcass trait EBVs allow identification and selection based

on carcass merit. Carcass traits are moderate to highly heritable, thus selection

for carcass traits can contribute to relatively fast genetic improvement in these

• Eye-muscle area: A good indication of overall muscling (saleable meat yield)

• Rib- and Rump fat: Measures of fat cover which is also an indication of onset

intramuscular fat) are measured using RTU scanning and are an indication of the

- of puberty and may be correlated with female fertility, early maturing and easier marketing off the veld. • Intramuscular fat: Indication of meat quality (tenderness, flavour and juiciness).
- Requirements for RTU Scanning • RTU data can be recorded on animals that are between 300 – 800 days of

Scanning data must be recorded by a BREEDPLAN accredited ultrasound

scanning technician. • Bulls and heifers (scan all animals as far as possible). Animals must be scanned within a contemporary group.

• Most animals are scanned around 600 days of age.

age when measured.

actual carcass yield and quality.

traits.

of the animal.

• Animals must be in good condition, to pick up the variation in measurements between the animals (usually from March to June). **Carcass EBVs**

Eye muscle area (cm²): Rib fat (mm):

Carcass Traits Tipsheet

Time: 17h30 – 18h30

- Estimate of genetic difference between animals in eye muscle area at 12/13th rib site in a standard weight steer carcass. • Estimate of genetic difference between animals in fat depth at the 12/13th rib
- site in a standard weight steer carcass. Rump fat (mm): • Estimate of the genetic difference between animals in fat depth at the P8 rump site in a standard weight steer carcass. Intramuscular fat (differences in percentage):

• Estimate of genetic difference between animals in intramuscular fat (marbling)

Carcass Traits Video

To watch the three-minute video and access the one-page tipsheet on recording and understanding Animal Carcass Traits, click the links below:

at the 12/13th rib site in a standard weight steer carcase.

LRF COURSES **Mastering Contemporary Groups and Linkages** On the 23rd of April 2025, the LRF hosted its third free online course of 2025,

delving into Contemporary Groups and Linkages. Presented by Dr Mario

Beffa and Izaan Du Plooy from the LRF, the course explored the ins and outs of

contemporary groups and linkages —why they're critically important, how to form

groups correctly, and the vital role they play in genetic evaluations.

If you missed the live session, don't worry! You can access the recording on our YouTube channel **Contemporary Groups and Linkages Live Recording**

Next Free Online Course: Data Submission on Excel Spreadsheets **Date:** 13th May 2025

Presenter: Izaan Du Plooy (the LRF) and Jody Young (Technical Officer at Simbra Breed Society) The LRF's next free online course will provide guidance on submitting recorded

data using the BREEDPLAN-provided Excel spreadsheets. Led by Izaan Du

Plooy from the LRF, the course will explain which forms to submit for traits

recorded, ensuring that participants fill in the documentation correctly. Additionally,

the session will highlight common mistakes to avoid to ensure accurate data submission. Jody Young, Technical officer of the Simbra Breed Society, will also be joining the session to share insights on the do's and don'ts of data submission, helping breeders improve the accuracy of their records. Don't miss out!

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance by filling out the Google form below

RSVP Data Submission Course

The LRF has uploaded a step-by-step guide on recording and submitting Days to

Submitting Days to Calving data

HerdMASTER/BREEDPLAN NEWS HerdMASTER:

Calving data to the breed society. This video walks you through the process in HerdMASTER, ensuring your records are accurately recorded and successfully submitted.

Watch it now!