

Black Fox BULL-etin



November 2019

The absence of long-awaited rain and extremely dry circumstances, limit the activities that ideally need to be executed now.

The group of 54 heifers earmarked for artificial insemination (AI) are gradually being prepared to join the breeding program. This involves the creation of an upward growth curve, a metabolically positive period, which significantly increases the conception rate. It is indeed challenging to attain this goal, with the environmental factors as it is at present. A good rain shower will bring welcome relief to the intense heat of the past week and will initiate growth of the most precious commodity of all, GRASS. This is the most critical factor to positively influence the upward growth curve which is so critical.

The heifers – earmarked for artificial insemination (AI) – are moved to the best available camp and the supplemental supplementation is optimized. If AI takes place early November, the expected calving time would be middle August 2020 with weaning taking place in April 2021.

All the animals in the Black Fox stud have had their second round of immunizations. This was done against blackquarter and Moraxella bovis (Red eye). We added another administration of Vit A, which is important in the prevention of eye infections.



Weaners (one year old) and 18-month-old heifers are immunized against infectious miscarriage, using RB 51. The herd will once again be tested for the presence of infectious miscarriage, although this herd – for the past 25 years – did not show a single case of positive infectious miscarriage in an animal.

Currently there'd been 60 births recorded with no problems at any of the births. The average weight of these calves ranged

between 29 and 36kg, weighed within three days after birth.

Last year's artificial insemination was very successful. Beautiful, black, vigorous calves are being born. The expected weaner mortality – with the average for the breed at 1.4% – is a lot less in the Black Fox herd.

Taking good care of the animals and ongoing observation and monitoring by committed staff, is the crux of our business. No effort is spared in correctly diagnosing and treating any unwell animal's disease.

The bulls used for breeding have been identified and fertility evaluation will take place shortly. We've selected the bulls together with the well-known Danie Bosman, keeping in mind what type of animal we want to breed, considering phenotype and breeding values.

Bulls available to prospective buyers are being maintained and we expect to see an increased interest with the change of season and with the breeding season speedily approaching.

Turning the attention to our White Dorper herd, there are 109 ewes with beautiful lambs. They have all been immunized for bluetongue and have been treated against internal parasites, with the young lambs being treated for the milk tapeworm specifically. Grazing conditions are near depleted, supplementary dry matter is made available to maintain the condition of the adult sheep and to stimulate growth in the young lambs.



Our prayer is for support, insight, wisdom and strength to face this challenging time. I am thoroughly aware of the destructive drought in other parts of our country, with dire consequences to animal and human.

I believe in God and trust God, my prayers will be heard.

Johann Fourie