

ADDENDUM 4

GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND SOP'S FOR CATTLE FARMERS.

Explanation of bullet items: First part of item provides the reason or explanation for the action, whereas the second part is a test for the farmer to establish whether he/she adheres to the practice.

1. GENERAL AND REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

- Record keeping: All animals are individually identified and recorded.
- To prove ownership: All animals are marked with the registered brand mark according to the Animal Identification Act, No 6 of 2002.
- A defined breeding season is the basis of effective management: The breeding season coincides with the rainy season, i.e. the period when nutritive value of the pasture is at its best.
- Sufficient energy reserves in the herd as measured by condition scoring are vital, especially for effective breeding, and when inadequate the herd is supplemented in consultation with a nutritionist: Condition scoring of bulls and cows are regularly done, particularly at the onset of the breeding season and supplemented if necessary.
- Bull - cow ratios are maintained: A ratio of 1 to 25 is maintained in every separate herd.
- Fertility of breeding bulls: All breeding bulls are tested for mating ability and semen quality before the breeding season.
- Sexually transferable diseases: Sheath washes or scrapes on bulls are performed annually.
- Diseases that can cause poor conception, abortion or weak calves: Cows are vaccinated against such diseases in consultation with the veterinarian.
- Breeding success monitored by a veterinarian: Rectal pregnancy or scan diagnosis is done by the veterinarian 8 weeks after the breeding season.

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- Twenty percent of cows or more not pregnant: Further tests are done to determine cause of low pregnancy rate.
- Culling of non-pregnant cows: Non-pregnant cows are removed from the herd and considered a necessary bonus to supporting herd income.

2. HERD HEALTH AND BIO-SECURITY

- Maintenance of herd health is key to a successful enterprise: A veterinarian should visit the farm bi-annually at least.
- Calf mortality before 3 months of age is an important reason for poor weaning percentage: Good management practices are applied to limit early calf deaths.
- Some diseases and parasites (internal and external) are more often encountered in specific areas: Annual vaccinations and a parasite control program should be applied according to regional requirements and in liaison with the veterinarian.
- Farmers selling weaned calves to feedlots may want to have a market advantage compared to others: A specific vaccination program is applied before weaning for that purpose.
- Herds may be at risk of being exposed to CA and TB: The herd is tested annually for CA and all heifers are vaccinated against CA between 4 and 8 months of age with an efficient, approved remedy. The herd is tested at least every 5 years for TB (also consult Section 7.3 of the Code).
- Precautionary measures are required to prevent diseases being imported into the herd: A quarantine program to keep incoming animals separate is followed. All incoming animals have a suitable certificate of negative test results or are of a certified clean, closed herd.

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- Stock remedies and medicines should be registered, correctly stored and used before transpire date: All medicines and stock remedies are registered, stored and applied according to prescription.
- Prescribed medicines with a specific application are under the control of the veterinarian profession: All prescription medicines are obtained and applied under prescription from a veterinarian.

3. ANIMAL WELFARE

- Specific management and predator control practices cause unnecessary stress, pain and discomfort and should be avoided, and all animals treated humanely: Only animal welfare compatible practices are followed, including those followed during emergency slaughtering (also consult Section 7 of the Code).
- Well-designed infrastructure and correct application of prescribed procedures of animal handling equipment will go a long way in ensuring minimum stress and the general wellbeing of animals: Only correct treatment and handling equipment (e.g. crush, clamp, branding, demobilizer, calf puller etc) and loading and transport procedures are used.

4. FEEDING AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT

- Correct nutrition of the herd because of cost and when animals can be marketed largely determine the success of the enterprise: Feeds and supplements for specific herd components, animal requirements and seasons are formulated under the control of a nutritionist.
- The condition of the pasture (rangeland) should receive constant attention with the goal of continuous improvement through dedicated management: A recognized pasture grazing and resting program (e.g. rotational program) according to stocking rates proposed for the area is followed (also consult Section 6.2 and 6.5 of the Code).

- Bush encroachment and invasion of alien species pose a threat to pasture condition, ecosystem resilience and water conservation: A dedicated bush encroachment and alien species clearing program is used (also consult Section 6.4 of the Code).
- Water sources should be protected and enhanced quantitatively and qualitatively as measures to support pasture condition, sustainability, drought management and protection against pollution: A dedicated program is implemented to maximise water use and conservation to reach these goals (also consult Section 6.5 of the Code).
- Prevention of soil erosion and reclamation of eroded areas will become obligatory rather than optional according to the NDP: Dedicated programs of maintaining rangeland condition to prevent soil erosion and reclamation of eroded areas by natural and mechanical means are followed.

5. REPLACEMENT HEIFER PROGRAM

- Replacement heifers receive priority treatment, including pasture access, and are managed separately until the breeding season: A dedicated program is applied.
- Replacement heifers require specific vaccinations to allow long term immunity: A dedicated vaccination program is implemented.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

- A knowledgeable and dedicated person must control the storage and usage of agro-chemicals, stock remedies and drugs on the farm: All agro-chemicals, stock remedies and drugs are correctly stored and used and when expired, whether containers are empty or not, safely removed and disposed off according to prescription.

- Dead animals can be a health hazard to humans, animals and the environment: An accepted procedure of burning, burying or feeding to carnivores is followed. Animals suspected of anthrax infection should not be burned as this can release spores into the environment.
- It is unlawful to feed ruminant by-products and declared prohibited ingredients to cattle: No animal waste, prohibited ingredients and by-products of animal origin are included in any formulated feed or supplement.
- Potential hazardous waste can pollute the environment, water sources and food chain: Potential hazardous waste is meticulously disposed of according to Act regulations or prescription (also consult Sections 6.5 and 6.6 of the Code).

7. LABOUR PRACTICES

- A number of labour associated laws direct labour rights and management (consult Section 10 of the Code): Employee contracts, minimum wages, working hours, child care, recreation facilities, codes and miscellaneous procedures adhere to labour associated laws.
- Employees are entitled to basic needs in their living and work environment: Housing, water, electricity, sanitation and protective clothing and equipment are provided.

8. LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Any occurrence of a controlled or notifiable disease must be reported to the local state veterinarian immediately.

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Ensure compliance to at least the following Acts and Regulations:

- Animal Protection Act, No 71 of 1962
- Animal Disease Act, No 35 of 1984 (including the Animal Disease Regulations, R.2026 of 1986)
- Animal Improvement Act, No 62 of 1998
- Animal Identification Act, No 6 of 2002
- Fertilizer, Farm Feeds and Stock Remedies Act, No 36 of 1946
- Stock Theft Act, No 57 of 1959
- National Water Act, No of 1998
- Environmental Management and Protection Act of 2002
- Labour and Basic Conditions of Employment Act of 2002
- Meat Safety Act, No 40 of 2000
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, No 181 of 1993
- Road Transport Regulations
- Codes
- SANS 1488 Humane Transport of Livestock by Road
- SANS 1469 Humane Handling and Facility for the Protection of Livestock at Shows, Auction Sales, Vending Sites and Pounds