South African BREEDPLAN
Success continues!

Nearly 50% of the total beef membership in South Africa and all societies in Namibia (16 beef, 5 smallstock and 2 Equine) now use the ABRI and BREEDPLAN recording systems. South Africa’s largest society, the SA Holstein, also recently decided to use the ABRI registry system.

However, the hard work continues. The databases we inherited left a lot to be desired and it has taken ABRI staff many hours to help us clean up database problems. Our Brangus and Braford members are now in the process of including historic breed composition information into their databases. To get decent reproduction EBVs a female inventory system is required and societies are hard at work with their members to send in the required information.

Despite the data problems the systems are functioning extremely well. Our web systems are very popular and the hit rates continue to grow every month. Especially encouraging has been the rate of adoption and understanding of selection on EBVs by our members. Central performance and on farm growth tests are fast becoming a thing of the past as producers realize that selection on EBVs and whole herd recording is the way to go.

We have nearly 400 HerdMASTER users (see p. 18). I believe that our success can be attributed to the good local support we have been able to provide. Pierre Joubert is our full-time support person. Though the program is initially a bit of a challenge to new users they quickly come to grips with the functionality if they are prepared to persevere. Societies are now receiving a flood of electronic submissions, both registration and performance data.

Our Southern African BREEDPLAN Societies are keen to work toward combined genetic evaluations. Our environments are very similar and I believe that in many instances the types of cattle we use are similar as well. The Brahman and Limousin societies are leading the way and have already been in communication with their Australian counterparts.

Finally, we look forward to the World Angus Congress to be held in South Africa. BREEDPLAN will undoubtedly have strong representation at this congress. We believe that 2005 will be a good year for BREEDPLAN and wish all BREEDPLAN clients throughout the world a successful, happy and prosperous 2005.

Michael Bradfield

Internet solutions hits another record

ABRI’s Internet Solutions information system for its livestock breeding clients hit another record in January 2005 with 1.34 million page enquiries. This represents a 40% increase on January 2004. The service received just 10,000 enquiries when it was launched in July 2000 and so the growth can only be described as spectacular. The star performer in January 2005 was the American Hereford Association, their application received an astronomic 243,214 enquiries. Other breeds to hit an all-time high in January in Australia were Hereford/Poll Hereford, Limousin, Shorthorn, Droughtmaster and Red Poll. In North America highs were achieved by Canadian Angus and American Braunvieh. South African Brahman hit a record, and in the UK Angus, Shorthorn and Simmental were at record levels.

Online information worldwide on:
- Pedigrees
- Breeding values
- Sales Catalogues
- Progeny lists
- Livestock photos
- BreedObject
- Membership enquiry
- Mating predictor
- Internet registrations
- Performance data entry

Internet hits in January 2005: