

Conclusion

What does a breeder expect of a breed in a cross breeding program?

- The breed must be well adapted to any environment under all conditions.
 - Must be fertile (cows with brief inter calving periods and bulls with a large scrotum circumference).
 - The breed must have sound production characteristics (sufficient milk, must wean heavy calves, calves must grow fast, must be able to convert fodder into meat and must not have too large a frame).
 - Desirable carcass qualities (heavy carcass weight, high slaughter percentage and carcass meat yield).
- Quality meat (tender, juicy and tasty meat) It is very clear that Braunvieh is indeed the breed for any cross breeding program. The breed should however be used on a much wider scale and is still not enjoying the recognition that it justly deserves.*

This is the breed to lead the beef industry. Braunvieh put it all together: Maternal, Muscling, Marbling and Performance

BR
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Cross breeding with Braunvieh

The Braunvieh is particularly suited for cross-breed purpose:

The Braunvieh has a immediate positive impact on any type commercial cattle breeds in cross-breeding. Crossbreeds have more milk, good udders and teats also improve building structure and constitution with weaners having a higher bodyweight than the norm.

Braunvieh calves have good meat characteristics, grow fast and have a good feed to weight ratio – winners in the feedlot. Braunvieh makes any cattle breed more tranquil, increases the growth tempo and puts more money back in the farmers's pocket at weaning age.

Braunvieh – and Braunvieh cross calves reach weaned weight for the weaner market at the age of between 4 to 6 months. Cows subsequently wean quicker and money reaching the farmer's pocket faster.



Adaptability

Research done as far back as 1951 at the Omatjenne Research Station in Namibia on animals running on the veld, proved that the Braunvieh has the potential to become one of the leading cattle breeds in South Africa (Borstlap 1996). This research pointed at various outstanding breed characteristics. Adaptability was researched and the breathing tempo of various breeds was measured. After a walk of 3 km the Braunvieh's breathing tempo was the lowest of all the breeds, which is a very good indication of adaptability. Added to that, the Braunvieh had the advantage of a short hair coat, dark pigmentation, black hooves, sound teats and low external parasite infestation. Also as regards eye diseases



the Braunvieh had the lowest percentage of all the breeds that were researched (Borstlap, 1996). Eye cancer, for instance, is extremely rare in the Braunvieh breed. It is therefore understandable that in all areas of the country, even in the arid regions of the Karoo, breeders are achieving much success with the Braunvieh.

Reproduction

During the experiment at Omatjenne the same management system was applied for all breeds and again the Braunvieh came out tops – of the 12 breeds that were measured Braunvieh counted among the three best breeds. The Braunvieh had a calving percentage of 79.2% on veld conditions. Nutrition plays a significant role in the fertility of animals and can be improved by virtue of a sound management system (Borstlap, 1996).

Meat quality

The meat quality traits of the Braunvieh were determined both physically and bio chemically as well as by means of taste and smell and all facets compared very well with the commercial group.



The experiment proved that Braunvieh meat was significantly more tender than the average of the other breeds and crosses that were measured at the Meat Science Center at Irene (actual measurements were taken). The general acceptance of Braunvieh meat was, according to an experiment panel, somewhat better than the commercial results (Claassen and de Bruin 1994).

