



National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Organisation

Relevance of the South African Carcass Classification Systems Input from NERPO

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Emerging cattle producers in South Africa

- Commercially – oriented on private land holding (117 935*)
- Commercially – oriented on communal land
- Subsistence farmers (482 270**)

* Number of households owning 11- 100 cattle in Census 2011

** Number of households owning 1 – 10 cattle in Census 2011



Profile of the livestock producer



- Gender: Male (88%)
- Average age: 54 – 60 years
- Education: 4 – 6 years
- Employment: Pensioners



Profile of the livestock producer

- No. of cattle:
 - 7 – 17 on communal land; sell 2 – 3 per annum
 - 40 – 60 on private land; sell 6 – 12 per annum



Weaners from emerging farmers private & communal land



Cattle from communal land at an auction



Profile of livestock farmer

- Reasons for keeping cattle
 - **Commercially oriented farmers:**
 - Sales (auctions, local butcheries, speculators) – application of classification?
 - Savings
 - Home-slaughter (for ceremonies, etc.)
 - **For subsistence farmers:**
 - Savings
 - Sales (only in times of cash need)
 - Home-slaughter (for ceremonies, etc.)



Purpose of classification?

- Communication tool - not intended to indicate what is bad or good
- Who is it meant to serve and for what purpose?
- Deal with variation and group like with like - **120 combination**
- Who do these combinations talk to?
- Incorporation of the new knowledge

