



Agri Benchmark beef and sheep

09/13/2016

Agri Benchmark beef and sheep local and international network

Industry Sector: Cattle And Small Stock

Research Focus Area: Livestock Production With Global Competitiveness

Research Institute: University Of The Free State, Department Of Agricultural Economics, Thünen Institute Of Farm Economics (Braunschweig, Germany)

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Research Team:

| Title | Initials | Surname | Highest Qualification |
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Final Report Approved: 2017

Aims Of The Project

- To uphold and maintain the Agri Benchmark international and local networks. We established a fully functional local Agri Benchmark network for sheep and beef in South Africa. We are now able to simulate “what if” scenarios and compare beef and sheep farms locally. This is however an ongoing project and will continue to grow as time proceeds and industries develops.
- To include small scale farmers in the local network and to develop the Agri Benchmark model to be more inclusive. Over time the inclusion of small-scale farmers became unsustainable. This is mainly due to government subsidies differ too much between parties assisting small-scale farmers. The inclusion of 2 beef and 2 sheep farms per year will help the network to grow stronger over time to be more inclusive and representative of South Africa

Executive Summary

The Agri Benchmark initiative refers to international comparisons and benchmarking of productivity, costs and income pertaining to livestock production, especially beef and sheep. This concept can also be applied to South African conditions by establishing a local network for local comparisons and to feed the international model with up to date data for international comparisons.

The local comparisons can also be used to benchmark local farms with each other. The farms are selected according to specific regions and then calculated as typical farms. The modelling and analyses

have various features that can be used by beef and sheep producers. The results within the model can be used for further sensitivity analyses and “what if” scenarios as well as a database to answer specific questions.

The Agri Benchmark and UFS project comprises of beef and sheep networks where the aim was to establish a local beef and sheep network. This in turn could feed the international model for comparisons. In 2014, we started data collection for our local beef and sheep network. A total of 17 typical usable farms were included into the local network for comparisons for beef and sheep. In 2015, we had a number of strategic sessions with various roll player to discusses the way forward and how Agri Benchmark can contribute more within the agricultural sector.

It was concluded that there is a need for a local network for beef and sheep. In 2015, we will start with the local beef network to be reprehensive in South Africa. The local network plans to grow each year by 2 to 3 farms, so in due time a well-established network will be in place in South Africa. Benchmarking can play a tremendous role in developing farmers. Once the benchmarking process is started we can benchmark farmers on various productivity levels, this will show where the shortcomings or problems occur within the farming scenario. For example; If we are benchmarking two or more commercial and one of the farms returns in lower then, the other the investigation can start quick and easy. Is it in terms of cost structures, management etc., by this meaning; if there is a low lambing percentage what is wrong? It can be above normal losses; more must be spent on animal medicine or problems with heard composition.

The inclusion of the “what if” scenarios contributed tremendously to the livestock industry, these scenarios include increases in farm level labour costs, increases in production cost and risks in livestock farming (drought, predation, changes in input and output prices). Agri Benchmark helped the livestock industry in obtaining reliable and relevant information and answers to burning questions within the livestock sector. All repots can be seen in the appendixes of this report.

We would like to thank the RMRDT for helping us in achieving our goals and making a difference in South African agriculture. Agri benchmark still remains a project in the Unit of livestock Economics at the University of the Free State. We hope to submit future projects to the RMRDT as the networks grow over time.

To conclude, Agri benchmark is a divers project with a large variety of outcomes as illustrated in the appendixes. Agriculture in South Africa will in the future become more challenging and Agri benchmark can help illuminate champagnes by comparing farming bossiness and running “what if” scenarios to improve agriculture in South Africa.

Popular Article

Article to follow later

Please contact the Primary Researcher if you need a copy of the comprehensive report of this project – HN van Niekerk on vnierkhn@ufs.ac.za

📁 Cattle and Small Stock, Livestock Production, with global competitiveness

📄 2016, Niekerk, Paper, UFS

< Epitope mapping of two heartwater proteins

> Genomics for the South African Beef industry

DEADLINES for RESEARCHERS 2021

Proposals for 2021: TBC

Progress reports: 28 Jan 21

Final reports: 29 Jan 21 Final includes comprehensive report and popular article

COMMITTEE MEETINGS for 2021

RMRDSA CSS Planning - TBC

Project Committee - TBC

Pork Planning - TBC



Calendar

| < Apr 2021 > | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Tur | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

PORK Priority Areas

Cattle & Small Stock Programmes

1 Sustainable natural resource utilisation

2 Improvement of Livestock production and forage

3 Management of agricultural risk to create a resilient Red Meat sector

4 Sustainable health and welfare for the Red Meat sector

5 Enhancement of production and processing of Animal Products

6 Consumer and market development of the Red Meat sector

7 Commercialisation of the emerging sector

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