

BORAN CATTLE BREEDERS SOCIETY

Chairman's Report on Namibia visit, August 2010:

25th. August met at Windhoek airport by Peter and Nola Mutschler. Visited the local sale arena with beef cattle, including the first Boran bulls, bred by Peter, for auction the next day.

Jimmy Brooks flies in that evening;

26th. JB and myself attend a meeting with 3 of the Namibian Boran breeders (Peter Mutschler, Kaspar Gunzel and Chris Coetzee) and Eloff Muller, (President SA Boran Society). Peter in the Chair, asking which way Namibian breeders should go – register with Kenya Stud Book or SA? Chris Coetzee had purchased his Borans from SA and would continue registering with them, though wished to keep pure Kenyan lines.. The others had got Kenyan embryos through Embryo Plus, and expressed interest in keeping with the Kenyan standards. What did Kenya have to offer that SA could not? Basically, we explained, Namibia would be better off keeping to the Kenyan Boran which was more suited to the conditions, more commercially orientated compared to SA's concentration on stud breeding .

Later attended the bull auction in Windhoek. Disappointing – few bulls sold and prices in general were down with bulls averaging N\$ 20,000 (KSh. 200,000) mostly for commercial use – plenty of Brahman, Brangus, Simbrah, Charolais, Simmental, Bonsmara etc.

PM – drove with Peter and Nola to their farm, "Highlands, just outside the town of Grootfontein, 450 kms" north of Windhoek– an easy afternoon's drive! Peter, an ex-dairyman (very successful Holstein dairy in NFD country!) has taken on Borans as an alternative, when Namibian Gov. removed the milk processing plant from his area.

27th. Inspected Peter's Borans. Eloff Muller, and Chris Coetzee in attendance. Peter entered a joint partnership with Morne of Embryo Plus who supplied embryos originating from Kenya, sons of bulls like 786 (KPO), 3094 (K6K), 622 (KPO), Gianni 2812 and Marula 25. We saw some excellent stock on the ground.

28th. Boran Open Day on Peter's farm. About 15-20 farmers from the area visited. Most had no idea what the Boran was about. GP started with a presentation on Boran, emphasizing the Kenya Boran as a commercial animal bred to produce beef off the veld. Peter showed his crosses to point out the Boran's stamp and how well they looked in the dry conditions. All cattle had access to a protein lick which the Boran were getting fat on.

Pm – drove to Kaspar's ranch, about 100 km south of Grootfontein. Kaspar is an extremely successful Brahman and Simmental Stud breeder – producing both bulls and females for the auctions. His animals are in demand and he fetches the highest prices. He is wondering why he has gone into Boran – which so far have only cost him! Again he is in a joint partnership with Morne, using the same genetics as Peter. His system is ideal for Borans and they will prove themselves eventually.

29th. Kaspar and Stefanie. Inspected their Borans.

30th. To Andrew Jamieson, ranching just south of Otjiwarongo on the main B1 highway between Grootfontein and Windhoek. His was a large ranch with a crossing program to produce beef for the export market through "Nambeef", the equivalent to what was KMC. Also started with

embryos from Morne, same genetics as the others. Inspected. He will find the Boran crosses are ideal for his method of beef production.

Pm collected by Chris and Marian Coetzee in Windhoek and drove 300 km south to his farm west of the town of Mariental.

31st. Looked at Chris' Borans – all from live purchases of bulls and heifers in SA. Some large types, but with good depth. He has invested heavily but will prove himself as a formidable bull breeder. Very dry but sweet-veld country. His Boran were fat on the protein lick. He had Boran bulls working on Afrikaner cows, producing impressive calves – some of the best crosses we saw. These will go a long way to impress the Namibian cattleman.

Results of inspections:

Peter Mutschler:	Bulls:	Foundation	2
		Purebred	8
		Pedigree	2
Females:		Foundation	5
		Purebred	10
		Pedigree	2
Total			29

Kaspar Gunzel:	Bulls:	Foundation	1
		Purebred	5
Females:		Purebred	3
		Pedigree	2
Total			10

Andrew Jamieson:	Bulls:	Purebred	3
	Females:	Purebred	3
		Foundation	1
Total			7

Great emphasis was put on sound feet and legs. Walking ability will be very important in the Namibian dry conditions.

Below are some photos of cattle we saw:



Highlands Farm – Peter and Nola Mutschler:

Son of K6K 3094.

Good type of bull for Namibia



Peter Mutschler – 2 bulls by Marula 25 and Gianni 2812

Note condition of the animals – from protein lick.

Note truck tyres turned inside-out for licks.



Peter Mutschler –

dry bushveld on his farm – plenty of grass.



Peter Mutschler :

KPO 622 x KIM 45
Daughter. Perfect medium framed
female for his conditions.



Kaspar Gunzel:

Boran x Simmental bull on maize
stover. Far better than any
'Simbrah' we saw!



Kaspar Gunzel:

Boran heifers by KPO 622 and
KPO 1017



Kaspar Gunzel:

Boran bull embryo calf brought up by Jersey recipient.



Chris Coetzee:

Standing amongst his top stud cows running with bull 042 bred by Simon Hodgson



Chris Coetzee:

Boran bull running with Afrikander cows and the crossbred calves.



Chris Coetzee:

Dry bushveld country with red sandy soil.

Boran bull with Afrikander cows

Finally, on the last day we had time to visit a Boer Goat breeder and Dorper Stud farm, both neighbours to Chris. These would be useful contacts for anyone interested in importing rams/bucks and Chris has offered his help in selecting/organizing.

Both Jimmy and I were looked after extremely well by all our hosts for which we are very grateful. We thank them for their time put aside to show us their farms and livestock, and for driving us endless miles around Namibia. We hope one day to be able to return the hospitality with a visit to Kenya. All are most welcome.