



Namibian Brahman Breeders Society

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INFORMATION FOR NEW BREEDERS

THE BRAHMAN BREED:

The Brahmanbreed originated in the Southern States of the United States of America. In the development process a system of upgrading was applied utilizing pure breeds from India, and the local breeds of cattle found in that areas. The Indian breeds that are regarded as being the ancestors of the Brahman were mainly, the Nelore, Guzerat, Gir and Red Sindhi, while the local breeds in those areas were mostly Shorthorn, Hereford, Texas Longhorn, etc. The objective was to create a breed combining the superior adaptive characteristics of the Indian Bos Indicus animals, with the excellent beefing qualities of the British Bos Taurus breeds.

The American Brahman was the result of this upgrading process. This breed has achieved remarkable success in the United States, as well as in many other countries to which it was exported, both in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Established in 1924, the American Brahman Breeders Association has its offices in Houston, Texas.

Though mainly found in grey or red colours, variations in colours are also encountered, ranging from dark grey to white, dark to light red, red speckled and white speckled. Apart from this divergence in colour patterns, the long loose hanging ears, the characteristic hump, the sloping rump and an abundance of loose hide, make the breed easy to recognize. The breed, classified under the Bos Indicus group of cattle, is highly adaptable in hot, humid environments, as well as extensive dry areas.

The Brahman's ability to adopt heat is quite phenomenal, while the measure of hybrid vigour that it transmits to its crossbreed progeny, is without doubt one of the most outstanding attributes. In the majority of commercial cattle in Namibia, the influence of the Brahman is very apparent. This truly emphasizes the important role that the breed plays in the red meat industry in the country.

THE BRAHMAN IN NAMIBIA:

Strangely enough, the first imported Brahman purebreds ever to set foot on the southern continent of Africa arrived in 1954 to then South West Africa. In order to place the breeding of Brahman on an organized footing, the breeders of those days founded the South West African Brahman Club. This Club then affiliated to the Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of South Africa, and the South African Stud Book Association registered the locally bred Brahman cattle in

Bloemfontein. The Club also organized shows for Brahman cattle, Brahman days and courses, and generally saw to the promotion of the breed in the country.

When South West Africa became independent in 1990, Brahman breeders decided to end their affiliation with the Brahman Breeders Society in South Africa. Accordingly, the South West Africa Brahman Club disbanded, to be replaced in February of 1992 by the Namibian Brahman Breeders Society, an independent body corporate.

At this time, breeders of various breeds of cattle and small stock in Namibia decided to establish an organization to cater for the registration requirements of locally bred pedigree. This led to the founding of the Namibian Stud Breeders Association (NSA), in January 1992. Subsequently, this association has handled the registration of all Namibian bred pedigree Brahman cattle at its offices in Windhoek.

The Namibian Brahman Breeders Society (NBBS) is one of the largest cattle breed societies in the country, with a membership of over 100 members. The Council of 6 members, assisted by a secretary, controls the affairs of the Society. The office of the Society is in Windhoek.

THE NAMIBIAN BRAHMAN BREEDERS SOCIETY:

The Namibian Brahman Breeders Society conducts its business on a non-profit basis, to promote through all possible means the breeding and improvement of the Brahman cattle and to safeguard the purity of the breed. In the execution of its activities and duties, a prime objective of the Society shall be to foster interest in Brahman breeding and to promote commercial beef cattle production in Namibia. The Society does comply in all aspects (when or where applicable to the Society) with the laws and statutes of the Republic of Namibia and is obligated to comply to the Society's constitution at all times. The Society reserves copyright on all information generated from the Society's data base and provided for by its members. The ownership of this information shall be vested in the Society and availability of any data must be in accordance with a decision by Council.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY:

- Membership can be obtained by submitting a completed application for membership form, which can be found on the internet: www.brahman-namibia.com, together with the prescribed fee to the NBBS.
- Every member must register a prefix or herd name for his/her exclusive use. The choice of such prefix rests with the person applying for membership.
- Every member must also register a set of herd identification letters for his or her exclusive use. The choice of herd identification letters rests with the applicant. Such letters may consist of a letter or combination of letters; these letters serve to identify the breeder of an animal.
- Upon applying for membership, it is important that the applicant furnishes the NBBS with the GPS coordinates to his or her farm/s.
- The application for membership form makes provision for the applicant to supply the abovementioned information.
- It is obligatory for a new member to attend the "Information Day for new breeders/members" and the AGM within the first two years of his membership. The board has the right to suspend his/her membership, should he/she not do so.

- Within three (3) years from date of admission of membership, each member shall attain a minimum of twenty (20) registered females in his herd of which each must be twenty-four (24) months or older, failing which, the membership will be cancelled.

FEES:

- The entry fee of N\$10000 + 15% VAT payable upon joining the NBBS is a one-time payment.
- The Society's fee structure is based on per capita system. Members are levied annually in respect of each fully registered and/or recorded animal in his/her possession.
- An annual subscription fee is payable by all members.
- Certain fees may be levied where an animal is reinstated, or birth notifications or transfers are submitted later than the prescribed period.
- Please note that all fees are subject to revision from time to time.

REGISTERING BRAHMAN CATTLE:

- Only persons that are fully paid-up members of the Namibian Brahman Breeders Society and the Namibian Stud Breeders Association (NSBA) are permitted to register Brahman cattle in this country.
- The Society's Herd Book consists of two sections, a fully Registered Herd book (SP), and an Appendix Section.
- Only animals of which both parents are fully registered, or the dam an Appendix B female, may be eligible for registration in the Fully Registered Section (SP).
- Phenotypical, unregistered Brahman females may be recorded in the A Register of the Appendix Section. The female progeny of these animals may be recorded in the B Register of the Appendix Section. Male and female progeny of Appendix B females may be registered in the Fully Registered Section (SP).
- The registration process in respect to all animals commences when the breeder submits a duly completed birth notification to the NSBA. Books or forms for this purpose are obtainable from the NSBA.
- Inspection is a pre-requisite for the registration and recording of all Brahman cattle.
- The stipulations in respect to the registration of all animals, as laid down in the Society's constitution, will apply.

IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS:

- The NBBS official form of identification of registered and recorded cattle is by means of tattooing in the ear and branding on the body. The identification of a Fully Registered or Recorded Brahman animal consists of the following:
 - a) Herd designation letters, to identify the breeder of an animal;
 - b) Year numbers, e.g. 98 denoting 1998, to indicate the year of birth; and
 - c) A sequence number to identify the animal.
- Herd designation letters, year and sequence numbers to be tattooed in the ear within 60 days of birth.
- The same herds designation letters, year and sequence number to be branded on the body within nine months of birth.

THE NAMIBIAN STUD BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

The NSBA started in 2003 and caters at this stage for 22 breeds. The NSBA is responsible for capturing the relevant animal data and process the data in the required formats. Breeders submit data electronically via e-mail to the NSBA which will there be processed. All animal data is captured and transferred electronically to the breeders. The NSBA will make estimated breeding values available to breeders via `Group Analysis Reports`, `Within Herd Reports` and `Interim Reports`. The NSBA will assist as well with the import / export of animals. The ABRI registration program enables the NSBA to assist the Meat Board regarding the import and export of animals. It is compulsory to NBBS members to be a member at the NSBA. All information and the relevant documents can be obtained on the NSBA website www.nsba.iway.na or for further information you are welcome to contact the office directly Tel: +264 61 235 168.

BREED STANDARDS / EBV OBJECTIVE TABLE

All information on the breed standards and EBV's can be found on the NBBS website, please have a look. Please also have a look at the strategic plan of the NBBS attached.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS:

- Upon joining the NBBS, new members are urged to do all in their power to acquaint themselves with the Brahmanbreed and the workings of the NBBS and the NSBA. The Society offers courses to the members on a regular basis, where instruction is provided on the conformation of Brahman cattle, judging procedures and other aspects pertaining to the breed.
- It is strongly recommended that new members make a detailed study of the Society's Constitution! It is compulsory for the members of the Society to stick to the rules of the Constitution.
- The rights and privileges of every member of the Society shall be personal to him or herself and shall not be transferable. This shall include the following:
 - a) to attend all general meetings of the Society and in the cases indicated above, have the right to vote at such meetings;
 - b) to apply for the registration or recording of Brahman cattle in accordance with the stipulations of the Constitution;
 - c) to consult and make use of the Society's official reports;
 - d) to have at their disposal all the rights, privileges and obligations as determined by the Constitution;
- CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NBBS MEMBERS:

In order to be a successful stud breeder of the prestigious Brahman breed, you must adhere to certain standards of conduct and prescriptions. This will determine how you as a breeder deal with

 - The Administration
 - Handling your animals
 - Valuation of buyers / customers
 - Respect for fellow breeders

- Support of Society

To be sustainable and successful, a breeder must have the following qualities.

1. Knowledge - Brahman Constitution

- Breed standards
- Genetic development
- Rules of the Brahman Society

2. Punctuality / accuracy with regard to ALL record keeping and information required.

3. Training: New as well as experienced breeders must equip themselves with knowledge and information by attending training courses and breeders' days.

4. Ambassador: Be always an ambassador for the Brahmanbreed and Brahman Society.

Summary:

- Gratitude to your fellow breeder/s
- Honesty regarding information and data
- Credibility
- Compassion - take an interest in your breed, customers, buyer satisfaction
- Knowledge regarding market trends, new tools, breeding developments.
- Sharing - sharing knowledge and experience for the benefit of the Brahmanbreed.
- Subordination - the breeder is never greater than the breed, breed standards and rules
- Loyalty - to everyone who helps you build your success
- Visionary - see the bigger picture and know where the Brahmanbreed and breeder/s are headed

If you are not willing to honestly subordinate yourself to disciplines and rules, do not harm yourself and the Brahmanbreed - do not start breeding!

INFORMATION ON INSPECTION:

- We kindly request that you fall into the suggested inspection program of the NBBS and that you keep your animals ready on the day of inspection.
- The following facilities are required for an inspection and must be available and in working condition (cattle yards, cattle chute / cattle race and the cattle crush with head clamp) and that the animals are sorted. An inspector has the right to cancel the inspection should the facilities or the cattle required not be in order as requested by the society. Breeders will be liable for all costs if these requirements are not met and another appointment has to be made for inspection.
- Tattoo numbers may be read while the animals are in the cattle chute. The identification of each animal will be checked.
- Inspection of animals for registration in the Herd Book Proper Section and for recording in the Appendix Section shall take place between the ages of 548 (five hundred forty-eight) and 1460 (one thousand four hundred and sixty days) days. There will be no maximum age for the inspection of Appendix A females and imported Brahman animals.
- The inspector will work out a program and choose his route to save costs. Please participate in his program schedule, your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Should you require inspection outside of the proposed program, the breeder will be liable for all resulting costs.

- Please keep a copy of the inspection list so that you can compare it later with your levy list.
- The certificates of animals which are imported must be sent by you to the NSBA. The levy list with all the cancellations must be in the NSBA office on or before the 31. May of that year. Your levy list can be downloaded on the NSBA webpage.
- Breeders who cancel animals for inspection must also please send the reason for cancellation to the NSBA office.
- Please make sure that all your animals are fully/correct in the registration system of the NSBA and not marked as a “hanging animal”. Animals which are still “hanging” during inspection will be cancelled in the registration system.
- The society encourages you to participate in performance testing and to have mating seasons, and to send in data to the NSBA for days-to-calve EBV evaluations i.e. the date of bulls in and the date of bulls out from the cow herd.
- If you wish to discuss the inspection with the inspector, you are welcome to do so. Your participation will be welcomed. Potential stud bulls and animals for the NBBS annual National Auction can be identified and discussed during inspection. We recommend that bulls with an average mark of 7 and female animals with an average mark of 6 be identified, but you are free to arrange that a senior Brahman judge "screen" the animals again before the National Auction on your own cost. The day of screening for the National Auction the bull must have a mark of 7 for general appearance and female animals must have a mark of 6 for general appearance, irrespective of what score the animal obtained during inspection. Inspectors will send the IDs of the identified animals for the National Auction to the NBBS office after inspection.
- The NBBS TKP requirements that heifers should be pregnant at the age of 30 months and cows should have a TKP of 450 days or less. Please see table below.
- The society also sees the inspection service as a link between breeder and society. If you want to do a herd classification, please contact the office.
- Only registered bulls may be sold.
- If an animal scored a mark of 4 in general appearance, or four 4's or three 3's or two 2's or one 1 on the inspection card, the animal will be rejected (“afgekeur”).
- The name of the inspector in charge and all relevant information about the inspection will be sent out to the breeder/s every year in March.

SCANNING PROGRAM:

The NSBA together with NBBS also offers a scanning program for breeders who want the animals to be scanned. The application form for scanning an inspection will be send out to the breeders every year in December. As soon as the program has been set up by the NSBA, the breeder will be informed about the date of scanning and the inspector in charge.

NBBS COURSES:

Knowledge of the breed and the operation of the Society is an essential ingredient in attaining success in the breeding of Brahman cattle. The Society offers yearly courses to gain knowledge about the Brahman breed and the inspection process. These courses will

give each attendant the opportunity to become an inspector or judge themselves. All relevant information about the courses and the process of how to become an inspector or judge can be gained on the NBBS website.

The NBBS also offers an “Information Day for new breeders”. It is compulsory for new breeders/ members to attend that day within the first 2 years of his/her membership.

NATIONAL AUCTION:

The NBBS offers a yearly national auction where every breeder is welcome to sell their Brahman. As stated under the “INSPECTION” section, there are criteria animals have to fulfil. Together with the national auction the Society will also host a symposium on the same day. If you would wish to have further information on the national auction you are welcome to contact the office. An invitation with all information and criteria will be send to you as well in the second half of the year.

PERFORMANCE TESTING:

The NBBS recommends all breeders to do performance testing (“prestasi-toetsing”). Gaining EBVs on your animals will surely be of advantage for your stud. The more you know about your animals the better you can manage your stud. Please have a look at the LRF test plan attached.

TRANSFER AND/OR CANCELLATION OF REGISTERED AND RECORDED BRAHMAN CATTLE:

- When selling animals, the seller must submit the relevant registration certificates to the NSBA, with full particulars of the buyer and the date of transfer.
- When animals die, or are sold for slaughter, the relevant registration certificates must be sent to the NSBA for cancellation.
- The same is relevant for buying animals in Namibia or elsewhere. Please contact the NSBA office to make sure that the office is notified about the transfer and has all relevant documentation for it.
- All import / export documents can be obtained on the NSBA website.

DNA TESTING:

- Herds identified for yearly NBBS DNA spot checks will be identified by the NSBA (every 500th registered calf determines the herd). The Brahman Society identifies 10% of the calves born from October to March or at least a minimum of 6 calves per herd. If calves cannot be offered for testing due to death or sale or whatever reason, only the office may assign new IDs. It is the responsibility of the breeder to inform the NBBS office at least 14 days in advance of the inspection.
- Calves which could not be offered to the inspector on the day of inspection, will be cancelled.
- Should a breeder fail to have the calves on site on the day of inspection, the office and the inspector must be informed prior to the day of inspection and it will be the responsibility of the breeder to make another appointment with the inspector to collect the samples. Breeders will be liable for all costs in consequence of these appointments. The samples for DNA testing must reach the NSBA office within 90days after the original

inspection date. Should a breeder / stud wish to cancel the inspection for that year, the samples must reach the NSBA office latest on the 30. November of that year. Thereafter the calves will be cancelled. It is the responsibility of the breeder to arrange an appointment with the inspector to collect the samples and all costs arising shall be for the account of the member concerned.

- Only the inspector can take the samples for DNA testing and hand it over to the NSBA. When DNA tests are requested by the NBBS for the determination of parentage, the costs in consequence of these first tests shall be borne by the society. However, should such tests reveal erroneously recorded parentage (more than 30%), the costs of all subsequent DNA tests that may arise as a result hereof shall be for the account of the member concerned.
- The registration of a Brahman animal younger than 36 months at the time a DNA test was requested by the society, shall be cancelled *per se* if the DNA test should provide proof that the recorded parentage of such animal is incorrect. In cases where the animal is 36 months and older at the time the DNA test is requested, the animal shall retain its original registration status but the pedigree of the animal shall be amended to reflect the absence of one or both of the animals parents. This will also be the case for any parentage verification test that is done automatically as part of any genetic or genomic sampling or sequencing.
- In cases where a breeder requests a DNA test for the purpose of eliminating any doubts regarding the parentage of an animal/s, and such DNA test rendering proof that the recorded parentage of the animal concerned is indeed incorrect, the breeder shall have the opportunity to try to find and verify the correct parent(s) and to have the pedigree of the animal amended likewise. Should the breeder be unable to find and verify a parent of an animal younger than 36 months at the time of the first DNA test, the registration status of the animal shall be cancelled. For animals 36 months and older at the time of the first DNA test, the registration status shall not be cancelled but the animal shall retain its original registration status but the pedigree of the animal shall be amended to reflect the absence of one or both of the animals parents.
- Breeder and inspector will get the relevant calves ID numbers from the NBBS office. Only the office can identify a calf for DNA test, not the breeder or the inspector.

BGP:

The NBBS has committed itself to implement the latest technologies in breeding. Therefor the Beef Genomic Project, consisting of 15 members actively participate in the BGP has been founded. All breeders are requested to join and send in their stud animals' data. About 70% of the NBBS performance data comes from the BGP members, which aim it is to obtain genomically supported breeding values (GEBVs). The performance test data should be as complete as possible to get meaningful genotyping results. The data is collected and evaluated at the LRF.

GENOTYPING:

- Bulls from of the 01.10.2021 and calves from of the 31.07.2022 must be genotyped!

- Subject to what is stated herein before, where DNA tests for the determination of parentage are requested by the NBBS and such DNA test(s) deliver proof that the recorded parentage of the animal/s concerned is indeed incorrect, the member/breeder shall have the right to submit an appeal in writing to the NBBS within 30 (thirty) days of the date of such notice.

IMPORTANT GENERAL ASPECTS:

- Please note, that the following minimum fertility requirements table is for your information only.

As per decision on the AGM 2023, the maximum age for the first calf is 42 months.

TABLE: REQUIREMENTS FOR MINIMUM Inter-calve-period (ICP) FOR COWS

<u>Cow age</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>ICP</u>
12 months		
24 months		
36 months / 3 years		
42 months max first calve		
60 months / 5 years	2. calf	730
72 months		
78 months / 6.5 years	3. calf	638,8
84 months		
96 months / 8 years	4. calf	608,3
114 months /9.5 years	5. calf	593,1
120 months		
132 months / 11 years	6. calf	584
144 months / 12 years		
150 months / 12.5 years	7. calf	577,9
156 months / 13 years		
168 months / 14 years	8. calf	573,6
180 months / 15 years		
186 months / 15.5 years	9. calf	570,3
192 months / 16 years		
204 months / 17 years	10. calf	567,8
222 months / 18.5 years		565,8
240 months / 20 years	12. calf	564,1

- Be sure to know the minimum fertility requirements that female animals must comply with. Cows and heifers that do not comply will automatically be cancelled.
- Plan to have a minimum herd size of 40 female animals as soon as possible. This will enhance performance recording and make selection easier.
- All stud sires and bulls used in artificial insemination programs in your herd must have a DNA analysis for paternity determination. DNA analyses are done by the NSBA and costs are recovered from you as a breeder.

- Table minimum standard for scrotal circumference of NBBS

SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE = SCROTAL SIZE = SS	
Mass (kg)	Minimum Standard SS (mm)
200 - 224	180
225 - 249	200
250 - 274	215
275 - 299	230
300 - 324	240
325 - 349	250
350 - 374	260
375 - 399	270
400 - 449	280
450 - 499	290
500 - 549	305
550 - 599	315
600 - 649	325
650 - 699	335
700 - 749	345
750 - 799	355
800 - 849	360
850 - 899	370
900 - 949	380
950 - 999	390
1000+	400

- Please remember to notify the NSBA of births within 90 days. Births notified later than 90 days but within 180 days will be accepted, but a late birth fee will be charged. Births after 180 days will not be accepted for registration. Though female animals will have a chance to be register as Appendix animal if they pas' inspection.
- The Rules and Regulations pertaining to the recording and registration of Brahman females in the Appendix Section, as defined in the Constitution of the Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of South Africa, differ from the Appendix Section Rules and Regulations as defined in the Constitution of the Namibian Brahman Breeders Society.
- Accordingly, the registration status of Namibian bred Brahman females registered in the Appendix Section of the Herd Book of the Brahman Cattle Breeders Society of South Africa shall alter upon the records being transferred from the South African Stud Book Association to the appointed registering authority in Namibia. The registration status of

such animals shall henceforth be accepted and recognised by the Namibian Brahman Breeders Society and the local registering authority as follows:

Brahman South Africa		Brahman Namibian Brahman
Appendix C	equals	Appendix A
Appendix D	equals	Appendix B
Appendix E	equals	Herd Book Proper (SP)

- Appendix A: Unregistered Brahman females over the age of 18(eighteen) months, which show the phenotypical characteristics of the Brahman breed shall, subject to inspection by a Society Inspector, be eligible for recording in the Appendix A Section of the Herd Book.
- Appendix B: The female progeny, sired by a fully registered Brahman bull out of an Appendix A Brahman female and complying with the Society's Standard of Excellence and all other registration requirements shall be eligible for recording in the Appendix B Section of the Herd Book.

FURTHER TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Study the Constitution of the Namibian Brahman Breeders Society (NBBS). The Constitution is your guide to a successful stud and will give you all the dos and don'ts for Brahman breeding.
- NBBS breeders will also have to be a member at the NSBA. Contact the Namibian Stud Breeder Association (NSBA) to register a brand and stud name. Your contact person is Danae Hayward. Tel: + 264 61 235168 or Email: hayward@iway.na
- Buy registered animals approved by the NSBA. Unregistered /uninspected ("ongekeurde") animals purchased will have the risk of being rejected and hence not be taken up by the stud register.
- Animals between the ages of 548 (five hundred forty-eight) and 1460 (one thousand four hundred and sixty days) days will be selected for inspection (keuring) by a society inspector. In practice, most breeders select animals with about 30 months for inspection.
- Check the correct procedure for importing animals or semen. Import- / Export forms to be found on the NSBA website: www.nsba.iway.na . All imported animals must be offered in Namibia again for inspection by a society inspector.
- Purchase preferably performance-tested animals and participate in performance testing (BREEDPLAN).
- Make sure to know the financial commitments as a member, e.g. annual membership fees and charges on your herd.
- Contact a board member, society inspector or an experienced breeder in your area and ask for advice if you need help and be involved in the activities of the NBBS.