

NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Criteria for participation in the Nguni oxen trial

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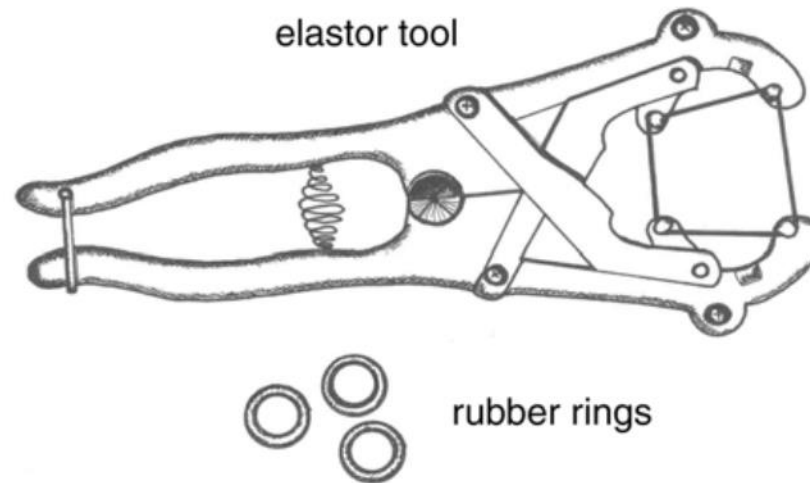
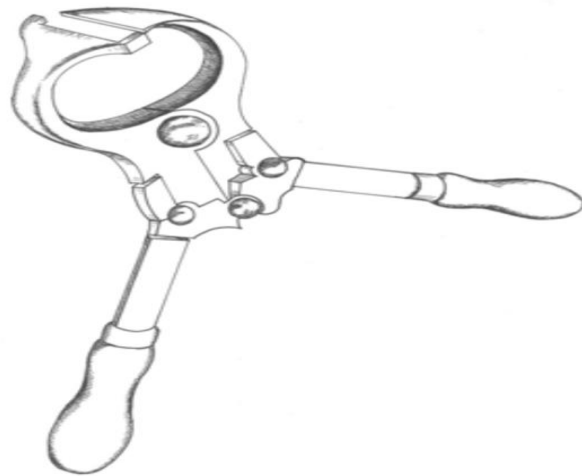
Participation

- Commercial farmers (40%) and IDC beneficiaries (60%)
- The IDC beneficiaries from all districts of the North West province
- Farmers will be given a chance by form of rotation annually
- Mr Andrew Mathe identifies farmers with the help of Agricultural advisors.



Selection of animals

- Genotypic evaluation and visual appraisal - by Mr Herman Nel and Ms Khomotso Kgaswane with the assistance of Mr Andrew Mathe
- The participating oxen must be **castrated** and be between the ages of **10 to 14 months** with an Nguni genotype



- Animals must be well identified with a **tattoo and a brand mark**
- Selected animals will be paint marked for identification during collection
- Animals bought from **auctions** will not be considered for selection



Castration

- Castration of a bull (male) calf is the process of removal or destruction of the testicles.
- A steer is a castrated male calf raised for beef.

➤ *Methods of castration*

1. Rubber ring

2. Burdizzo



Collection

- The DoA will assist with transport for collection
- Collection from farms will be based on number and distance from farm to farm
- Farmers must have **loading facilities** if not they must deliver animals to the nearest Livestock centre, e.g. Bojanala will use Klipkuil LIC and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati will use Melton LIC
- Collection and intake of oxen is normally done **first week of December** annually



Conclusion

- Identification of oxen is of vital importance (Mainly Branding)
- Calves should be castrated at an early age.
- Indemnity forms to be signed by both farmer and Agric advisor upon collection







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