



MEDIA RELEASE



Vleissentraal/SA Stamboek ELITE

Bull Growth Test Class: 30 April 2018, Bloem Show

Vleissentraal and SA Stud Book are proud to announce that the wheels are already turning for the 2018 ELITE Bull Growth Test Class that will take place during the Bloem Show. The proud successes of the past will be built on and the impact of the event even further enhanced.

Vleissentraal and Stud Book would again like to acknowledge those Stud Breeders focusing on accurate and diligent recording of economically important traits and the use of breeding values for selecting their animals. Both organisations would also like to place emphasis on the importance of functional efficiency as it is being assessed by the platform created through the annual ELITE Bull Growth Test event. This event is a major contributor to awareness of the joint importance of genetic merit for traits of economic importance and visual appearance of breeding animals.

The procedure to be followed for the 2018 Vleissentraal/SA Stud Book Bull Growth Test Class will be as follows:

- Bulls that took part in central or farm growth tests are eligible for participation. SA Stud Book already supplied a list of bulls, conforming with the minimum requirements, to each relevant Breeders' Society.
- Breeders' Societies have a free choice to nominate a bull of their breed deemed to be worthy candidate and potential winner, based in its functional appearance and good performance figures.
- The procedures and rules for judging at the Bloem Show are as follows:
 - All the bulls will be assessed by the panel of judges.
 - The panel of three judges then have a choice to pick five bulls with each having a chance of being the ultimate winner of the class. Each of these bulls will then receive a rosette from Vleissentraal to indicate being one of the top five.
 - Hereafter the judging panel will only consider the ultimate winner from the group of five bulls by picking between one and three bulls as being eligible to win the class. Should they decide that more than one bull should have an equal chance, the winner will be decided on by virtue of its performance and breeding values based on the predetermined ranking by SA Stud Book. The choice is therefore with the judging panel on how many bulls to be subjected to the performance ranking. If the panel decides that only one bull, from the group of five, should be the winner, it will win the competition outright. Therefore, performance, in combination with BLUP breeding values will only come into play should two or three bulls be put forward.

Vleissentraal and SA Stud Book have the same objective, namely to enable Stud Breeders to show the best of the best to make fellow stud breeders and commercial producers aware of the advantages of objective measurement and functional efficiency in potential herd sires and the impact they have on economical red meat production.

Jointly released on 1 November 2017 by

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