

Ankole embryos sell for **R102 500**

- By Martin & Claire Joubert



The South African record price for embryos sold was shattered on the 4th of September 2019. Four embryos of the Ankole cattle breed were sold at the Stud Game Breeders' auction for an astounding R102 500 each to Philip Botha from Leliepan Farming. The embryos represented a mating of the magnificent late Dyambo, an Ankole bull owned by President Ramaphosa of Ankole Stud Ntaba Nyoni, combined with top Ankole cow Akira, owned by Dr Morné de la Rey and Simon Hodgson of Ankole Genetics Stud.

President Ramaphosa became interested in Ankole when he visited the Ugandan president, Yoweri Museveni, in 2004. Museveni offered to sell him some of the cattle, but the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries prevented the importation, citing inadequate disease control measures in Uganda.

Determined to solve the problem, Mr Ramaphosa began by enlisting the assistance of Dr Morné de la Rey, a reproductive veterinary specialist and Director of Embryo Plus, whom has been extensively involved in embryo transfers, especially in Boran cattle. They then purchased 43 Ankole cows from Museveni and shipped them to Ol Pejeta in Kenya,

where Embryo Plus runs an embryo quarantine station. The cows were artificially inseminated, and the embryos flushed and sent to South Africa. Here they were transferred into recipient or surrogate cows, which were then quarantined for two months.

The breed has gained considerable traction since its official debut in South African markets in 2017 where the highest priced bull, Maximus, sold for R640 000 and highest priced cow, Kyasha sold for R540 000. The Ankole Cattle Breeders' Society is one of the fastest growing breed societies with already over 25 members. The South African Ankole national numbers are roughly 1000 cattle. The insatiable demand for Ankole in South Africa can be explained by key factors, including but not limited to, their unique and regal appearance, hardiness which allows them to be farmed anywhere, low veterinary input and feed input, disease resistance, internal and external parasite resistance, ease of handling, heat tolerance, crossbreeding potential, quality of milk and meat, to name a few. President Museveni of Uganda has been on the forefront leading the cause to conserve this dying breed and

has in a short time, improved the milk and meat yield of Ankole bloodlines substantially. These cattle are productive cattle with large frames and rich milk with butter fat of up to 10%, and the quality of meat is high in poly unsaturated fats and Omega 6 and 9 oils and low in cholesterol. Their longevity is outstanding with individuals living up to 30 years of age and having over 25 calves under Ugandan conditions. They leave a low carbon footprint, have low impact on the environment and can maintain themselves on very little nutrients and water. They have not only survived the harshest African conditions but have thrived.

The Ankole breed with its diverse genetic variety of colours and horn shapes attract an array of South African enthusiasts all over the country. Ankole are a breed like no other cattle breed with their wide range of versatility. Besides their obvious visual aesthetic draw of their magnificent horns and aforementioned traits of hardiness, this multipurpose breed has the added angle of tourism potential and is already found at wedding venues, wine farms as well as game and cattle farms.



LIVESTREAM

OUR LIVE ONLINE AUCTIONS VIA OUR APP / WEBSITE WITHIN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

DOWNLOAD OUR APPS TO BID ONLINE ON A VARIETY OF AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONS



DIEWINKEL

Jaco Pretorius
082 454 4026



VEEWINKEL

Victor Matfield
082 332 3355



WILDWINKEL

Hans Coetzee
083 742 1128

