



BRISTOW BONSMARA NEWS LETTER 2012

Greetings to all you cattle farmers. Only some of us have had reasonable rain this year. I hear mostly of low rainfall and a looming drought, We have had less than half our average rainfall here in Louis Trichardt and it's going to be a long tricky year for most of us here in the bushveld. Droughts are a cyclical fact of nature which will visit periodically, in my experience usually about every 10 years. I remember the devastating drought in the early 60's when my father was still alive and remember the barren earth and whirlwinds taking dust into the sky. The early 80's and early 90's were difficult years too. For the next 2 decades we were spoilt with some good seasons and no droughts and now it seems we are in for another one of those humbling, testing times. I guess the good times could not last forever and the cycles have caught up with us.

40th ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

It is an unbelievable realization that this year will be our 40th annual production sale. I dug out the sale catalogue for our 1st Annual Production sale with a faded photograph of some cows on the cover.

Date: 4 July 1973

Venue: Gaaroskraal

On offer: 90 Bulls

110 Cows

Breeding: F3, F4 & F5.

Situated: 10 Miles South of Louis Trichardt.

It was an impressive catalogue with pictures of cattle on every second page.

Immediately apparent in the catalogue was the lack of data as we know it today, the only available data was the animal's ID # and F generation, Sire & Dam and the only measured data was the animals' weight, which for the bulls ranged from 510 to 780kg.

Highest priced Bull was R2 100 average R1 024 and females R1 100 with an average of R566.

On the first page was the following foreword written by Prof. Jan Bonsma:

"It gives me great pleasure to write this introduction to the catalogue for the sale of Mr. John Bristow's Bonsmara cattle. The conformation, quality, adaptability, type and temperament of Mr. Bristow's cattle is a realization of one of my life's ideals in the genesis of the Bonsmara breed. Before the onset of World War II, I had already co-operated with the late Mr. Ridge Bristow, the father of Mr. John Bristow in laying the foundation of the breeding programme to be followed and for the selection of the breeding animals to be used in this herd.

As early as 1956 a previous minister of Agriculture, during an inspection trip through the Northern Transvaal, told me that he had not yet seen a better herd of cattle on a large cattle ranch in South Africa, and that we should commence immediately in making these animals available to farmers in the Northern Transvaal and the Northern Cape. Mr. John Bristow was fortunate in that his farm was situated close to Mara Research Station, and on his farm I progeny tested some of the most promising bulls later used on Mara, amongst others the bull 406, which was one of the outstanding bulls used in the genesis of the Bonsmara breed. This bull 406 sired, amongst others, the bull Mara Edelheer T 342 born on the 13-06-1954. The Bristow herd contains the best of the Bonsmara bloodlines. The quality, confirmation, growth potential, milk production as well as the eventual weight and temperament of this herd will impress all potential buyers. These cattle present the desired ideal. They are the product of a breeder's creative urge, and the fruits of painstaking selection and breeder's capability.

My very best wishes accompany you all in your effort to expand the breed even further by the sale of good Bonsmara cattle, a functionally efficient jewel to be treasured by all beef cattle farmers in our country."

This was when the Bonsmara hub was here in the "N. Transvaal" and the farmers days at Mara were national events opened by the Minister of Agriculture. The Bonsmara was a new and exciting breed.

40th PRODUCTION SALE SPECIAL OFFER

With Arthur de Villiers having set the precedent of making top genetics available on an occasion like this. I feel that I also need to do something special.

I spoke to Arthur who agreed that it was the right thing to do and had no objection to me using his idea. I will follow his example and offer the 20 top cows in my herd:

I will offer the two best cows from each of the years from 2000 to 2009. An offer of the 20 best cows in the herd in appreciation of the support we have had from buyers over the last 40 years.

I will invite other Bonsmara breeders in Limpopo to help with this selection. If any other breeders would like to be involved in this process please contact me. This final selection will be done after the 20th May when I am back from inspecting cattle in Australia.

DETAILS OF 2012 SALE

Date: Wed 20 June 2012

Time: 11h00

Venue: Bandelierkop (Vleissentraal Sale pens.)

ON OFFER:

Herd Sire	1
BULLS –	30
TOP COWS –	20
Other females -	60
Erasmus females –	40

BULLS

JRB05-017 The herd sire for sale this year is a bull I have been coveting for years, I spotted him as a weaner and was impressed by his breadth and capacity. He also has an excellent temperament. I went on to use him extensively in the herd and it is time now for him to move on. At my bull inspection this year the better bulls came from him with 5 Bulls scoring 7 plus and above.

His father JRB01-75 was a fleshy bull short on the leg with a lot of length (L:H = 1.25) He was used in both the Natal & Molopo herds. Has N190 on his Sires side and JRB95-73 On his dam's side. Both these bulls had near perfect conformation. His dam was a productive cow; received awards for both "excellent" in 2008 and "Elite" in 2010.

Most of the young bulls on sale come out of the following sires:

JRB05-17 Herd sire on sale this year (see description above)
JRB04-54 a very long bull who comes out of IVY96-379 line. A bull with capacity and adaptability. The dame here JRB97-54 is also on outstanding cow and was awarded "Excellent" and "Elite" awards for her productivity. I am keeping back an excellent young bull from this Sire.

JRB03-25 The top Bull on sale a couple of years ago now with Graham Mulders in Zambia. Has an excellent young bull on sale 09-67. Showing the adaptation & muscling of his sire

JRB04-008 now in Potchefstroom with Johan de Jaager, also has some promising young bulls on sale.

The younger bulls are between two and a half and three years old. For the last couple of months have received a production lick on the veldt. They are a hardy group of bulls, well adapted with good coats good masculinity and muscle.

All the cattle have been on virulent Heartwater & anaplasmosis veld.

Older bulls will be sheath washed and all bulls fertility tested.

All females on sale will be pregnant or have a calf at foot.

All sale cattle will be tested free of CA & TB.

It is also a pleasure to have the Erasmus & Seuns once again as guest sellers with their top quality females.

ACCOMODATION

Lalapanzi: 015-516 5455 or 0824941155

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- ❖ CATALOGUES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST OR ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES.
www.vleissentraalbosveld.co.a
www.bonsmara.co.za
www.bristowbonsmara.com
- ❖ LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE SALE.

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