



Namibian Brahman Breeders Society

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INFORMATION FOR NEW BREEDERS

THE BRAHMAN BREED:

The Brahman breed 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 crossbred 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.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY:

- Membership can be obtained by submitting a completed application for membership form, which can be found in the internet: www.brahman.iway.na , 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.

FEES:

- The entry fee 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 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 are permitted to register Brahman cattle in this country.
- The Society's Herd Book consists of **two** sections, viz. 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 Brahmancattle. 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 18 (eighteen) and 48 (forty-eight) months. There will be no maximum age for the inspection of Appendix A females and imported Brahman animals.
- 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.

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 send to the NSBA for cancellation.

GENERAL:

- 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!
- Knowledge of the breed and the operation of the Society is an essential ingredient in attaining success in the breeding of Brahman cattle.

FURTHER TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Study the Constitution of the Namibian Brahman Breeders Society (NBBS).
- NBBS breeders will also have to be a member at the NSBA (NSV). Contact the Namibian Stud Breeder Association (NSBA) to register a brand and stud name.
(Tel: + 264 61 235168 or Email: nsba@iway.na)
- Make sure you have the requirements to register, tattoo and brand for the animals.
- Buy registered animals approved by the NSBA (NSV).
- Animals between the age of 18 and 48 months will be selected for inspection (keuring) by a society inspector. In practice, most breeders select animals with about 30 months for inspection.
- Unregistered /uninspected (“ongekeurde”) animals purchased will have the risk of being rejected and hence not be taken up by the stud register.
- Make sure that the breeder where you purchase animals is a registered breeder.
- Check the correct procedure for importing animals or semen. Import- / Exportforms 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.
- 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.
- 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.

<u>TABLE: REQUIREMENTS FOR MINIMUM Inter-calve-period (ICP) FOR COWS</u>		
<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

- 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 (NSV) and costs are recovered from you as a breeder.
- Attend courses at e.g. education- and BREEDPLAN courses.
- Contact a board member, society inspector or an experienced breeder in your area and ask for advice.
- Be involved in the activities of the NBBS.
- 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