



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

UP GEORGE CATTLE AUCTION SALE IN WASBANK

The farmers' turnout at this year's annual Bonsmara cattle auction sale which was organised by the Up George Cattle Farm in Wasbank, was reported to have exceeded expectations.

The organisers said they were ecstatic about the turnout of farmers from South Africa and neighbouring countries such as Namibia and Botswana, to mention but a few.

The auction, which was held for the 17th consecutive year, attracted both emerging and well established commercial farmers who are into cattle farming.

More interestingly, the organisers said that scores of black farmers are seen to be developing a keen interest in auction sales and they have noticed a change of mind and attitude from the entrant farmers as they are no longer just spectators but are becoming active buyers in the auction.

This new trend was unconceivable back in the day when the auction was founded by Mr. Lawrence Ralfe in the mid-90s.

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in the KZN, Mr. Cyril Xaba, was impressed with the auction which also attracted mayors and parliamentarians from around the Province.

He said that the growth of black farmers is inevitable in the cattle and livestock sector in general, if commercial farmers are on board. The Department has committed to support the annual farmers day held at the farm as a platform to springboard conversation between the emerging and commercial farmers in this sector. MEC Xaba stated that this is the beginning of a bright future for hardworking small-scale farmers in the Province.

Well over 70 Bonsmara bulls went under the hammer in this year's auction including 50 heifers in-calf.

The price range for Bonsmara was between R24 000 to R210 000 each depending on the quality, lifespan and the age of the beasts.

The auction collected more than R5 million in total sales and judging by the eagerness in buyers, more would have been earned had some cattle not been withdrawn due to certain quality issues.

The Bonsmara are particularly breeding cattle with an estimated lifespan of 8 years. They are mainly breezed cattle which are massive and fit. They breed with any form of cattle and are suitable for any weather conditions in South Africa.

The next auction will be held in the first week of July next year.



MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, arriving at Up George Auction Sale accompanied by Zinto Nxele, a Livestock Farmer



MEC Cyril Xaba greeting Mr Lawrence, the owner of Up George Bonsmara Farm



MEC Cyril Xaba on a tour around the farm with Zinto Nxele explaining the auction processes



MEC Cyril Xaba together with Mnambithi Local Municipality Mayor Clrr Vincent Madlala during the Auction Sale