



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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MEDIA STATEMENT

KZN DARD UNLEASHES THE POTENTIAL OF THE BEEF CATTLE SECTOR

MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, attended a farmer's day for beef cattle farmers at Wasbank near Dundee. The farmer's day was organized by the UP GEORGE farm which is said to be the second largest breeder of Bonsmara cows in Africa.

The Bonsmara breed is the only beef in the world created through a well-documented crossbreeding programme with the aid of objectively recorded performance data. The Bonsmara was bred at the Mara and Messina Research station between 1937 to 1963 by scientists under the watchful eye of Prof Jan Bonsma. The name BONSMARA was derived from Prof Bonsma's surname and Mara where first crossbred calf cows. The first Bonsmara bulls were made available to commercial cattle breeders in the 1950's and soon were widely spread across South Africa and the rest of the world. This led the formation of the BONSMARA breeder's society in 1964. This has contributed to the reality that BONSMARA proudly succeeded in becoming the strongest and most professionally administered beef breed in South Africa. These are most prominent of beef breeds with over 120 000 registered BONSMARA cattle in South Africa.

UP GEORGE farm owner Lawrence Ralph was very excited and optimistic with Government reaching out to commercial farmers to bridge the gap between the two economies of the emerging and commercial farmers and he had this to say " We urge Government to facilitate the demarcation of the land claimed closest to our farms so we could link up with them and assist them with our skills and expertise" MEC Xaba said. The Department is going to continue meeting with commodity associations to best bridge the gap of the two economies and access information, skills and expertise from industry captains to the entrant farmers".

The MEC also committed that the Department is going to assist this farmers day annually as it will be a platform for all beef farmers to exchange ideas, share knowledge and network maximally.



MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, accompanied by MEC for KZN Health Dr Sibongiseni Dlomo and Commercial farmers Mr Thube Zondi and Mr Ndamase arriving at Up George Farm for a Farmers Day event and Tour



MEC Cyril Xaba pointing out a Bonsmara Cow



Mr Thube Zondi informing the MEC's and Farmers about the family tree of these Bonsmara Cattle



MEC Cyril Xaba unpacking more about his new agrarian transformation strategy to livestock farmers



The group of Farmers who attended Up George Farmers Day

For more information please contact Lelethu Manentsa (KZN DARD) on 071 492 5716 or lelethu01@gmail.com