



agriculture  
& rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## Bartlow Combine Research Station

---

Bartlow Combine Research Station is located within the Umkhanyakude District Municipality, approximately 40km from Hluhluwe and 46km from Mkuze.

### Postal address:

Private Bag X 6020, Hluhluwe, 3960

### Physical address:

D42 Bartlow Combine

Telephone : 035-562 1099

Situation: S27° 54' 36 63

E32° 03' 28 87

Elevation: 400m

Rainfall: 600 mm/annum

Topography: Undulating

Size: 2200 ha



## **THE PAST**

The Bartlow Combine Nguni Cattle Breeding Station was established in 1954 and the Bartlow herd, which played a significant role as a foundation to the breed in South Africa, found a home (Gertenbach & Kars, 1999).

Due to topography, poor soil potential and lack of water, conditions are not conducive to any form of crop farming. Livestock and game are the recommended farming activities. The predominant farming activities in the area are extensive beef and goat production and game farming.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION**

This research station falls mainly within 2 Bioresource Groups (BRGs), namely BRG 20 (Dry Zululand Thornveld) and BRG 22 (Lowveld), both which are dry Bushveld vegetation types. The Lowveld areas generally lie below 450 m altitude, with flat to undulating topography. The higher regions of the farm are located within BRG 20 and have steep and rugged topography. Four Bioresource Units (BRUs) are found within these BRGs. In the Lowveld region, RSa1 (Pongola-Mkuze), Sta2 (Ntabeyezulu) and STa3 (Mhlosinga) are found. The BRU UVa3 (Ngweni) is the only BRU to dominate the higher altitude areas.

Mean annual rainfall within these units ranges from 605mm in the lowveld to 710mm in the thornveld. Rainfall mostly occurs in the summer. Mean maximum January temperature for this farm is 31°C while mean minimum July temperature is 7°C. No frost is experienced at Bartlow Combine. Water resources in this area are extremely limited and are poorly distributed.

## **RESEARCH STATION PROGRAMME**

There is one research component at the Research Station, namely animal science, with farm services as the support component.

More detail is supplied under the relevant research directorates.