# Keeping Farm Records

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#### The use of farm records?

- Keeping and using farm production and financial records is an essential component of farm management.
  - Evaluation: These records are used evaluate the performance of the whole farm enterprise or how each of the individual farm enterprises (cattle, sheep, goats, crop) are contributing to the overall progress of the farm.
  - Management: Record keeping is a guiding tool to a farmer. It helps with monitoring of farm activities or work and whether they are going according to his/her plans. E.g. is my breeding program followed.
  - Planning & Budgeting: records allows the farmer to plan properly and to do realistic budgeting. Thus, future financial decisions are always guided and made based on real information of the farm. E.g. decision to purchase a bull, water tank, etc.
  - Support services: A farmer with a proper record keeping system has more opportunities when seeking Agricultural support services. These include, financial assistance (donor, loans), and technical advise (Mentorship, training).

- Livestock register
  - Number, performance (ICP),

|     | Individual<br>animal | Animal Rema      |        | Calf 1: Information |   |               |         | Calf 2: Information |       |               |         | Calf 3: Information |     |               |         |
|-----|----------------------|------------------|--------|---------------------|---|---------------|---------|---------------------|-------|---------------|---------|---------------------|-----|---------------|---------|
| No. | FAN Meat<br>tag#     | Categor<br>Y     | ks     | DOB<br>(m/y)        |   | Tag #         | Remarks | DOB<br>(m/y)        | M/F   | Tag #         | Remarks | DOB (m/y)           | M/F | Tag #         | Remarks |
| 0   | 2880/0779            | Cow<br>(example) | Calved | 1/17                |   | 4245/74<br>56 |         | 1/18                |       | 9707/25<br>35 | Sold    | 1/19                |     | 4689/854<br>3 |         |
| 1   | 2887/0543            | Bull             |        |                     |   |               |         |                     |       |               |         |                     |     |               |         |
| 2   | 2667/8528            | Heifer           |        |                     |   |               |         |                     |       |               |         |                     |     |               |         |
| 3   | 2564/5652            | Cow              | Calved | 2/17                | М | 4568/52<br>65 | Sold    | 2/18                | III - | 8756/63<br>37 | Weaned  | 2/19                | М   | 9658/256<br>4 | Sold    |
| 4   | 4689/8543            |                  | calved | 2/22                | F | 5623/8<br>931 |         | 1/23                | F     |               |         |                     |     |               |         |
| 5   |                      |                  |        |                     |   |               |         |                     |       |               |         |                     |     |               |         |
| 6   |                      |                  |        |                     |   |               |         |                     |       |               |         |                     |     |               |         |
|     |                      |                  |        |                     |   |               |         |                     |       |               |         |                     |     |               |         |

#### Livestock sales records

- Best time to sell
  - Demand Appropriate animal class/category
  - Price trends Best price
  - Market place best

| Date of<br>Sale | Place of Sale | Animal class<br>(e.g. weaner,<br>ox, cow, ewe,<br>wether) | lag No.   | Weight<br>(kg) | Price/kg<br>(N\$) | Quantit<br>y sold | Total<br>earning<br>(N\$) | Remarks |
|-----------------|---------------|---|-----------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| 1/1/2018        | Agra/Gobabis  | weaner  | 6665/8614 | 150            | 33                | 1                 | 4950                      |         |
| 1/2/2018        | Agra/Gobabis  | weaner  | 2589/8145 | 200            | 36                | 1                 | 7200                      |         |
| 8/2/2018        | Karoo/Gobabis | weaner  | 3564/8642 | 170            | 35                | 1                 | 5950                      |         |

- Purchase records
  - Inputs , Livestock
    - Least cost, trends, budgeting

| Date     | Item purchased | Unit Price<br>(N\$) | Quantity | Total cost<br>(N\$) | Remarks |
|----------|----------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|---------|
| 5/2/2017 | Supervax       | 580                 | 2        | 1160                |         |
| 8/2/2018 | Supervax       | 620                 | 2        | 1240                |         |

- Health records
  - Health history
  - Medicine records
  - Health program

| Date<br>(d/m/y) | Vaccination Treatment (Name of (Name of vaccine) medicine) |          | Type of Animal<br>(Cattle/Sheep/G<br>oat) | I Animaic | ID of<br>Treated<br>Animal(s) | Entire Cattle<br>Herd /Goats &<br>Sheep Flock<br>Vaccinated<br>Yes/No? | Remarks   |
|-----------------|--|----------|---|-----------|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 8/2/17          | Supervax   |          | Cattle                                    | 75        |                               | Entire herd  |           |
|                 |  | Disulfox | cattle                                    | 1         | 5643/656<br>5                 |  | Diarrhoea |

# **Cattle monthly inventory**

| Animal         |     |      |     | M   | onthly Ca | attle Num | bers (Yea | ar: | )   |     |     |     |         |
|----------------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Category       | Jan | Feb  | Mar | Apr | May       | Jun       | Jul       | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Remarks |
| <u>Cattle</u>  |     |      |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |         |
| numbers:       |     |      |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |         |
| Cows           | 20  | 19   |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |         |
| Young Females  | 5   | 5    |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |         |
| Nursing Calves | 12  | 11   |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |         |
| Bulls          | 1   | 1    |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |         |
| Young Males    | 3   | 2    |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |         |
| Oxen           | 0   | 0    |     |     |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |         |
| TOTAL:         | 41  | . 38 | 0   | 0   | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |         |

| Animal             |      |     | 1   | Monthl | y Cattle | Deaths, | / Losses | (Year: | )   |     |     |     |         |
|--------------------|------|-----|-----|--------|----------|---------|----------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Category           | Jan  | Feb | Mar | Apr    | May      | Jun     | Jul      | Aug    | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Remarks |
| Cattle<br>numbers: |      |     |     |        |          |         |          |        |     |     |     |     |         |
| Cows               |      | 1   |     |        |          |         |          |        |     |     |     |     |         |
| Young Females      |      |     |     |        |          |         |          |        |     |     |     |     |         |
| Nursing Calves     |      | 1   |     |        |          |         |          |        |     |     |     |     |         |
| Bulls              |      |     |     |        |          |         |          |        |     |     |     |     |         |
| Young Males        | <br> | 1   |     |        |          |         |          |        |     |     |     |     |         |
| Oxen               | <br> |     |     |        |          |         |          |        |     |     |     |     |         |
| TOTAL:             | 0    | 3   | 0   | 0      | 0        | 0       | 0        | 0      | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |         |

## **Monthly Goat inventory**

|                  |     | Monthly Goat Numbers (Year:) |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
|------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
|                  | Jan | Feb                          | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |  |  |
| Goat<br>numbers: |     |                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| Adult does       | 50  | 50                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| Young            |     |                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| does             | 25  | 25                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| Kids             | 45  | 47                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| Wethers          | 15  | 10                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| Bucks            | 2   | 2                            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| Bucklings        | 0   | 0                            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| TOTAL:           | 138 | 133                          | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |  |  |

|             |     | Monthly Goat Deaths/ Losses (Year:) |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
|-------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|             | Jan | Feb                                 | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |  |
| <u>Goat</u> |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| numbers:    |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| Adult       |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| does        |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| Young       |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| does        |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| Kids        |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| Wethers     |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| Bucks       |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |
| Bucklings   |     |                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |

| Grazing<br>managemen     | ıt:               |  |                                    |   |                                  |              |          |  |            |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|--|------------|
| Camp<br>name/num<br>ber: | Camp<br>size (ha) | Carrying<br>capacity<br>(LSU or<br>SSU/ha) | Number<br>of<br>animals<br>in camp | Animal category (e.g. cow, ewe, weaner) | Entry<br>date<br>(animals<br>in) | (animals     |          | Other activities in camp (e.g. bush control) | Remarks    |
| Camp A                   | 214               | 1<br>LSU:18ha                              | 36                                 | cows                                    | 8/1/2017                         | 8/2/201<br>8 | 3 months | Bush<br>thinning                             | Overgrazed |
|                          |                   |  |                                    |   |                                  |              |          |  |            |
|                          |                   |  |                                    |   |                                  |              |          |  |            |