



HerdMASTER 4 Tip Sheet

SA BRAHMAN DOCILITY SCORING METHOD

SA BRAHMAN DOCILITY SCORING METHOD

It was decided that the SA Brahman Society change their scoring system to be similar to the Namibian system as from 12 July 2013.

The scoring system will now be 9 – Docile and 1 – Aggressive, and the trait code will be TN.

“Bad temperament in cattle is an occupation health issue and most beef producers are becoming more aware of needing to remove stirry or aggressive animals from the herd. Both from handling the animals themselves and their effect on the rest of the herd producers certainly do not want to buy cattle with poor temperament

“Bob Dent – Bob Dent Cattle Services.

Docility in cattle is the way cattle behave when being handled by humans or put in an unusual environment such as being separated from the mob in a small yard. What we define as poor docility is a survival trait in the wild – fear of anything unusual and the desire to escape. In domesticated cattle it is exhibited as flightiness. Importantly, docility is a highly heritable trait and can be improved genetically.

Docility EBVs are expressed as differences in the percentages of progeny that will be scored with acceptable temperament. Higher, more positive Docility EBVs are more favourable. Eg. A bull with an EBV of +20 would be expected to, on average, produce more progeny with acceptable docility than a bull with an EBV of -10.

Docility is scored between 60 and 400 days of age. The recommended time of scoring is at weaning or shortly afterwards. The advantage is that all calves should have had similar treatment so variation in handling prior to scoring should be minimal.

SA Brahman Docility Scoring Method (Yard)

(Compiled by Former Technical Advisor Mike Bentley)

1. When

Before weaning (to eliminate weaning stress). The whole group must be scored and mark show animals with a management code.





2. Facilities. A smallish holding pen to prevent too much movement from weaners. .

- A larger kraal adjacent to the above gives weaners room to move.

3. Technique- Appraiser stands in larger kraal +- 8 meters from inter-leading gate and +- 4 meters away from the path which the weaner is going to take past the appraiser.

- With no noise and minimum labour, let each weaner (one at a time) leave the

Holding pen and pass the appraiser.

Score	Code	Description
9-8	Docile	Weaner walks or trots past showing no anxiety. Follow it with your eyes and see its reaction at the end of the kraal, if it walks and stands passively.
7-6	Restless	Weaner moves faster past you showing signs of restlessness.
5-4	Nervous	Weaner moves faster past you showing signs of nervousness. Follow it with your eyes, if it runs to the furthest corner and hide behind the 9 and 8 scored animals (standing head up and peeping under them).
3-2	Flighty	Weaner passes you at speed turning its head towards you and may blow at you. It will probably bowl over the 9 scored animals in its effort to get behind the 9 and 8 scored animals.
1	Aggressive	Weaner passes at speed, showing signs of aggression towards appraiser, threatens to charge.



SA BRAHMAN DOCILITY SCORING METHOD (CRUSH)

Crush Test: animals are put up a crush and individually held in the crush for about 30 seconds.

Criteria for scoring Docility using the Crush Test:

Score	Code	Description
8-9	Docile	Mild disposition, gentle and easily handled, stands and moves slowly during handling, undisturbed, settled, somewhat dull, does not pull on head-gate when in crush, exits crush calmly.
6-7	Restless	Quiet, but slightly restless, may be stubborn during handling, may try to break out of crush, pulls back on head-gate, some flicking of tail, exits crush promptly.
4-5	Nervous	Manageable but nervous and impatient, a moderate amount of struggling, movement and tail flicking, repeated pushing and pulling on head-gate, exits crush briskly.
2-3	Flight	Jumpy and out of control, quivers and struggles violently, may bellow and froth at the mouth, continuous tail flicking, defecates and urinates during handling, frantically runs fence-line and may jump when penned individually, exhibits long flight distance and exits crush wildly.
1	Aggressive	May be similar to 3 (flighty), but with added aggressive behaviour, fearful, extreme agitation, continuous movement which may include jumping and bellowing while in crush, exits crush frantically and may exhibit attack behaviour when handled alone.

Submission of Docility Data



Docility can be submitted electronically via HerdMASTER or the adjusted Breedplan template.

In HerdMASTER (please update to latest version), make sure the test type and score range is set up prior to recording and generating Docility data. For more information on these procedures, contact the HerdMASTER Office at 012-667-5258.

Trait Code	Trait Code Desc	Valid Values
12F		[1-50]
BCS	Body Condition S	
CC		[1-10]
CE		[1-5]
EMA		[20-200]
FAT	Fat Depth	
FRM	Frame Score	
HH		[80-180]
IMF	Intramascular Fat	
LM		[A-,A.A+,B-,B.B+,C-,C.C+,D-,D.D+]
MBL		[0-12]
NIS		[1-10]
NUR		[1-3]
PSF		[1-50]
REA	Rib Eye Area	
REASON		[A,B]
RMP	Rump Fat	
SC		[1-5]
SS		[20-50]
TN	Docility	[1-9]
UDR		[1-5]
US	Imported	

Set-up in HerdMASTER:

The template for submitting Docility data contains 3 spreadsheets – 1. Instructions for completing and submitting the information, 2. Examples of what it should look like and 3. A blank sheet to use for completing your own data.



Submitting Weights&Scanning Information [Compatibility Mode] - Excel

FILE HOME INSERT PAGE LAYOUT FORMULAS DATA REVIEW VIEW

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

U3 : 8

1	Mgmt	Analysis	Wet	Cow	--- Castrate ---	Scrotal	Hip	Ultrasound Scanning				Accreditation	Docility	Extra Trait # 1	Extra Trait # 2	Extra Trait # 3	Extra Trait # 4	Ext								
2	Grp	Indicator	Dry	Cond	Flag	Date	Size	Ht	P8 Fat	Rib Fat	Eye Muscle	IMF%	IMF-No	Number	Score	Grp	Code	Value	Code	Value	Code	Value	Code	Value	Coc	
3														8												

Docility Score
Record the docility score of the animal. Animals should be scored by either a crush or yard test. Scores are entered as 1 to 9.

Instructions | Example Data Submission | Performance Template

READY 100%

08:53 AM 2013-08-08

DOWN LOAD THE DATABASE FROM-www.brahman.co.za/ / BREED IMPROVEMENT /TEMPLATES

Contact the Society Office with any questions.