

GROWTH TEST RESULTS OF CHAROLAIS X NGUNI

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The trail was conducted on behalf of the Charolais and Nguni Breed Societies. The cross bred calves were kept up to weaning at the ARC farm at Loskop-south near Groblersdal.

At the ARC-Irene Bull Testing Centre the ten Charolais X Nguni cross bulls were tested under intensive feedlot conditions with regard to growth performance and feed efficiency under commercial feeding and slaughter conditions for a period of 119 days. The animals were fed individually in order to determine individual feed efficiency and growth per day (ADG).

A balanced dry feedlot ration was provided with 13.5% crude protein and 8% crude fibre which provide 11MJ ME/Kg energy on a dry matter basis available ad lib. Water was freely available.

Animals were selected for slaughter as soon as they have reached the best market condition by visual assessment and weight.

The animals were slaughtered and sampled at the ARC-Irene Meat Industry Centre.

Table 1: Growth performance of Charolais X Nguni

Test period : 119 days

Bull nr	BW kg	Starting weight kg	Final weight kg	ADG g	FCR kg
C239	29	195	386	1605	5.25
C241	30	200	418	1832	4.91
C243	28	171	349	1496	5.21
C245	34	190	355	1387	5.47
C253	33	178	379	1689	4.27
C254	38	205	391	1563	5.83
C256	37	189	355	1395	5.46
C264	36	186	383	1655	5.05
C265	39	189	410	1857	4.89
C268	40	192	366	1462	6.06
Average	34	190	379	1594	5.24

Feed conversion ratio and growth rate of the Charolais X Nguni crosses where good.

Feed conversion ratio is a very important measurement for the feedlot industry and beef producer in South Africa.

The combination of the two pure bred beef breeds showed us the good qualities of both breeds when it comes to the end product that is meat for our South African market.