



Media Release

For Immediate Release

To: All Media

Date: 2 April 2019

Attention: News Editors/ Agricultural writers

The Agricultural Research Council received renewed Certificate of Quality from International Committee on Animal Recording (ICAR).

Pretoria: The Agricultural Research Council received a renewed certificate of quality from International Committee on Animal Recording (ICAR). The ARC was awarded the certificate of Quality after an audit was conducted at the ARC Animal Production campus on 11-15 March 2019. The audit was conducted by Mr Juho Kyntäjä, a technical auditor from the ICAR. Mr Kyntaja gave the Animal Recording and Improvement Schemes a thumbs-up after they complied with the international standards set out by the ICAR, an international body established to set guidelines and quality assurance for farm and animal recording and improvement practices.

The certificate of quality is another milestone for the ARC to assist emerging livestock farmers in adopting and applying the available beef recording and improvement technology to increase the productivity and profitability of their herds through improved management practices and accurate selection for economically important traits.

South African livestock (beef, dairy, small stock, pig and poultry) farmers take part in the Animal Recording and Improvement schemes with the aim of recording properties of economic importance of their animals and to use the information derived to enhance the productivity of their herds and flocks. All information is kept on the INTERGIS and is accessible by farmers and other interest groups.

ICAR is a non-governmental organisation whose aim is to promote the development and improvement of identification, performance recording and evaluation of farm livestock. This is achieved primarily through the establishment of rules and standards, specific for the purpose of identifying animals, the registration of their parentage, recording their performance, evaluating their genetics, and publication of such. With its guidelines and services, ICAR helps the creation of quality based animal production systems around the world, connected systems that are beneficial to its members, as well as farmers, legislators and consumers. ICAR is acknowledged worldwide as “the global standard for livestock data” and provides its members with a Certificate of Quality for specific services.

After every 5 years ICAR conducts an audit for all accredited members to ensure that they continue to comply with the standards for certification. Renewal of the ICAR Certificate of Quality entails a physical visit by an auditor to inspect the member's facilities and recording processes, and ensure that they comply with the standards for certification.

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About the Agricultural Research Council

The Agricultural Research Council is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation in support of the agricultural sector. The ARC provides diagnostic, laboratory, analytical, agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation and advisory services, food processing technology services as well as various surveys and training interventions. For more information visit the ARC website at: www.arc.agric.za