



ZIMBABWE HERD BOOK

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Zimbabwe Herd Book National Breed Sale 2020

By all accounts, the 52nd Annual National Breed Sale hosted by Zimbabwe Herd Book (ZHB) and held on 20th August 2020 was a tremendous success.

An exceptional yarding of four Boer Goat bucks, 71 bulls and 105 heifers representing five beef breeds were on offer. Credit and deep appreciation are extended to the long-standing inspectors John Crawford and Dr Japie Jackson who appraised each animal and ensured that only those that met the highest standards of their respective breeds were accepted for the Sale.

The Covid-19 restrictions necessitated several changes, not least a postponement of the Sale by three weeks. Other significant changes included the requirement to close the event to the public, and only 50 registered buyers were allowed onsite on the day.

For the first time, the Sale was both a simultaneous live and online event, accommodating buyers that could not attend the sale in person.

In his opening address in the muted atmosphere, John Crawford, Chairman of ZHB, gave accolades to the breeders for their foresight and dedication to stud breeding, as a three-year old bull on offer is the result of planning, selection and mating that happened four years previously.

Once the buyers had assembled, the Sale got off to a strong start. However, the atmosphere was markedly different from previous years given the reduced number of people at the venue and the interruptions to the smooth flow of chanting by the auctioneers to assist online buyers who experienced connection problems.

The average price for the Boer Goat bucks was ZWL 64,375, representing a softening in real terms relative to previous years.

Only fifty-five bulls were sold (one was withdrawn due to lameness and 15 were not sold) and was the lowest number of bulls sold in recent years. However, the average bull price was ZWL 339,455, representing the highest USD-equivalent price attained since 2009 (Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2).

Demand for heifers was firm and 87 were sold for an average price of ZWL 173,011 (18 were not sold). Like the bulls, the USD-equivalent price paid for heifers was the highest since 2009.

The top price paid was for a Ruvale Beefmaster bull, which sold for ZWL 650,000, followed by ZWL 600,000 for a Portelet Estates Brahman bull. The third highest price of ZWL 590,000 was paid for an OD Brahman bull.



Above: Ruvale Beefmaster, Lot 67, 17/84VR, earned top price



Above: Portelet Estates Brahman, Lot 113, 17/99PE, second highest earner



OD Brahmans Lot 108, 17/27OD, above with his handler, and later, having a snooze, proved camera-shy on preview day. He earned third highest price at this year's sale.

Out of the five beef breeds, the two outstanding Simmental bulls bred by PJ Erasmus stud had the highest average (ZWL 437,500), followed by Beefmaster (ZWL 375,000) and Brahmans (ZWL 348,243).



Above, the two outstanding Woodsgift Simmental Bulls, lots 61 and 62, 17-1PJE and 17-15PJE, bred by PJ Erasmus

Bidding for the Beefmaster heifers was strong and the average price was ZWL 203,846, followed by Boran (ZWL 190,000) and Brahman (ZWL 166,972) (see Table 2).



Above: Boran Bulls, Forrester Estate Lot 88, Right, Lots 90 and 91, Hook Borans

Table 1. Number of stud animals sold (No) and average prices (ZWL and USD equivalent) obtained at the Zimbabwe Herd Book National Breed Sale 2009 to 2020

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bulls	No	127	130	100	113	107	93	65	71	89	99	97	55
	ZWL									4,518	6,719	32,263	339,455
	USD	2,129	2,915	3,235	2,964	3,340	3,244	3,064	3,053	3,012	3,054	3,226	3,395
Heifers	No	58	75	55	75	61	54	18	41	49	71	105	87
	ZWL									2,478	3,593	14,938	173,011
	USD	1,430	1,635	1,263	1,516	1,496	1,522	936	1,235	1,652	1,633	1,494	1,730
Bucks	No									3	3	3	4
	ZWL									1,283	1,633	8,000	64,375
	USD									856	742	800	644
Rams	No	15	23	13	19	9	10	7	8	8	6		
	ZWL									975	2,150		
	USD	672	572	1,338	1,114	1,214	1,308	1,221	1,316	650	977		
Ewes	No	35	33		19	5	10	15	12	6	4		
	ZWL									300	600		
	USD	378	463		494	475	613	367	325	200	273		

Table 2. Number of stud animals and average prices obtained by breed at the Zimbabwe Herd Book National Breed Sale 2020

Breed	Bulls		Heifers	
	Number	Price	Number	Price
Beefmaster	5	375,000	13	203,846
Boran	8	260,625	2	190,000
Brahman	37	348,243	72	166,972
Simmental	2	437,500		
Tuli	3	316,667		



Tuli Bulls – Lot 48, Zviko Tuli, Lot 53, Jambo Tuli.

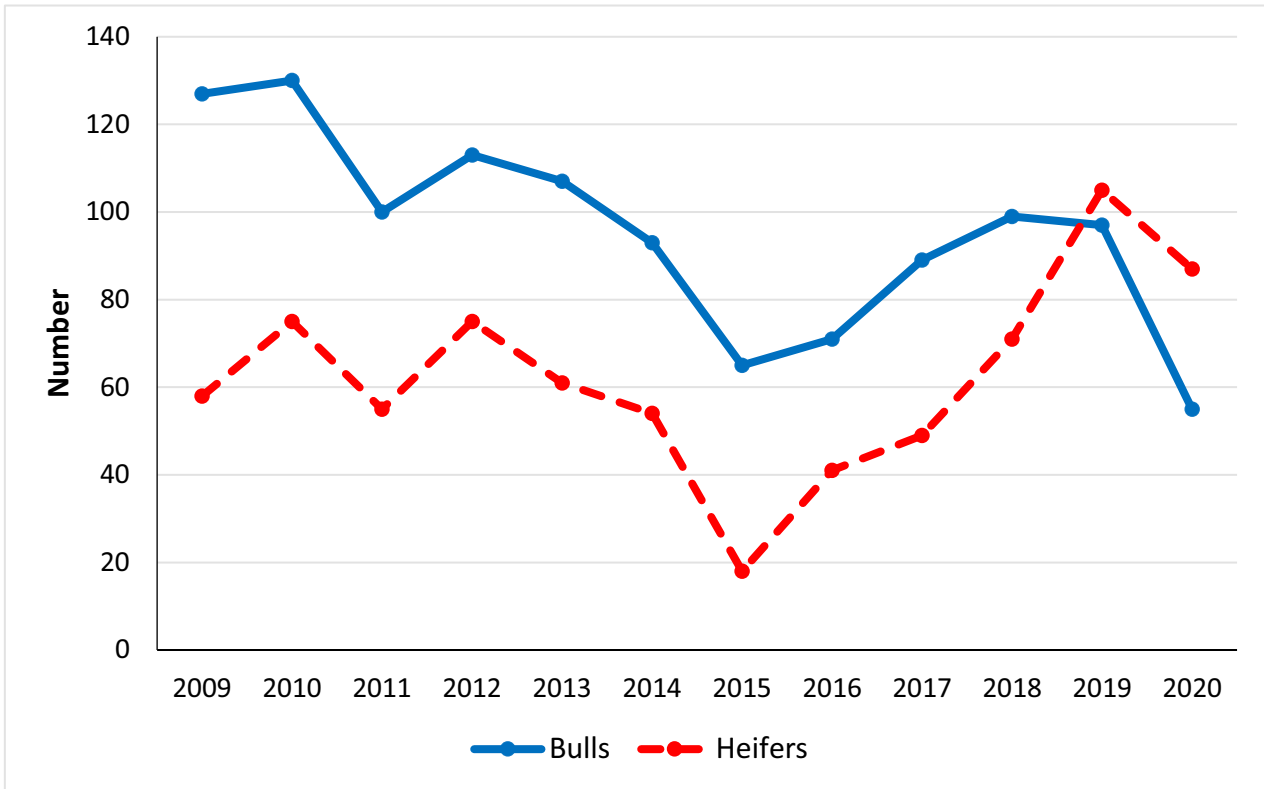


Figure 1. Number of bulls and heifers sold at the Zimbabwe Herd Book National Breed Sale, 2009 to 2020

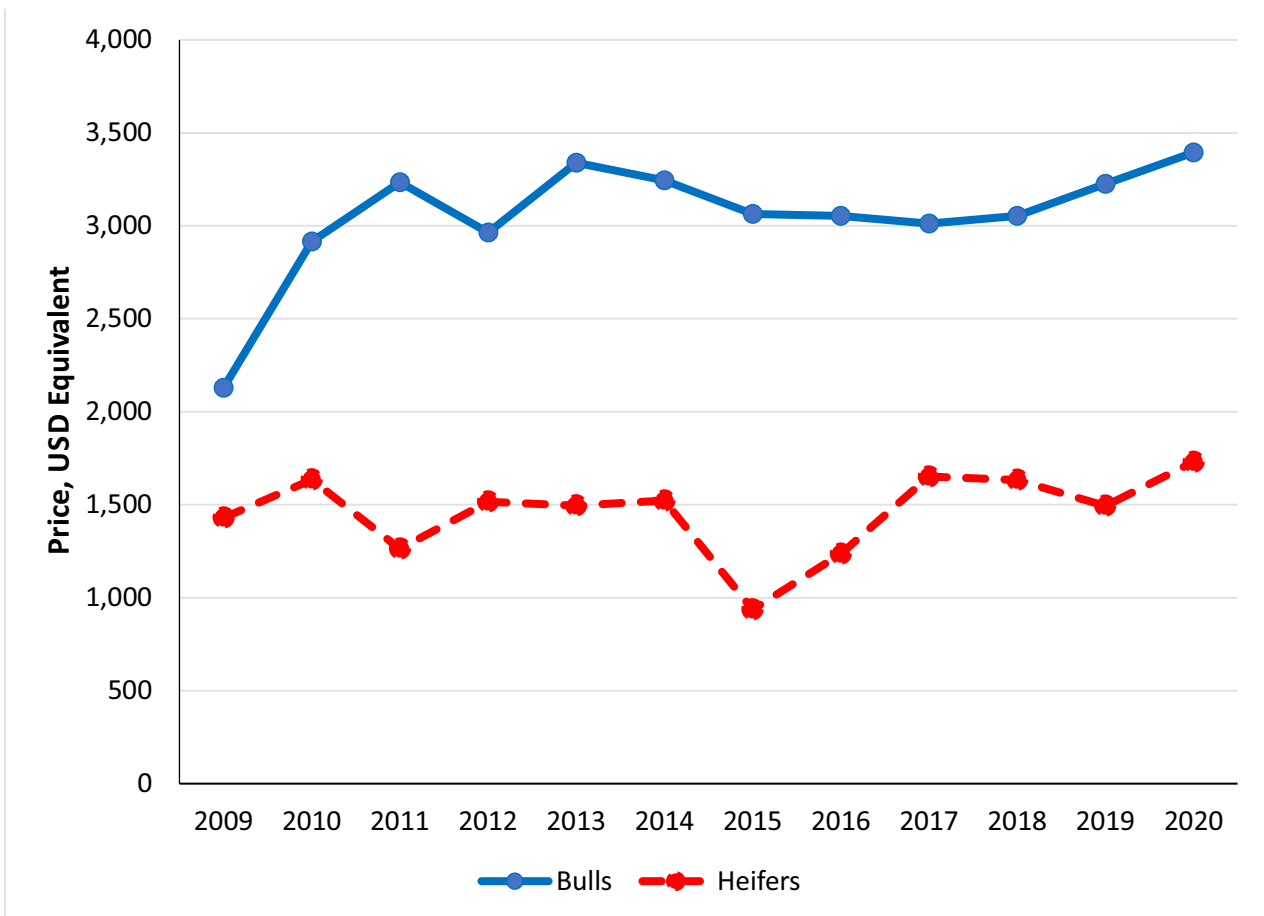


Figure 2. Average USD-equivalent price of bulls and heifers sold on the Zimbabwe Herd Book National Sale, 2009 to 2020

A small selection of other photos taken on the first Preview Day 18 August

To see more pictures, go to <http://www.livestockzimbabwe.com>



