



KALAHARI BEEF FREE RANGE BEEF SPECIFICATIONS

SECTION A: LIVE ANIMAL PRODUCTION

1. THE PRODUCT

Kalahari Beef Free Range produced from healthy, responsibly medicated animals, reared under free-range conditions and adhering to the following specifications.

1.1 SOURCE

From farmers who are known for good management of their herds, farming by traditional, natural methods, have good record systems and do not use a feed lot, growth promoters, and routine antibiotics and feed animal by-products and is based on the following 5 freedoms:

Freedom from hunger and thirst – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

Freedom from discomfort – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area. This includes natural shelters on extensive ranges. Farming with well adapted animals for a particular area is also strongly recommended.

Freedom from pain, disease or injury – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Freedom to express normal behaviour – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of an animal's own kind.

Freedom from fear and distress – by ensuring conditions and care which avoid mental suffering.

1.2 BREED

Only beef breeds are allowed. Crosses with dairy breeds are not allowed. Well adapted breeds with at least 50 % indigenous genetics are highly recommended. This is important as this will help in reducing the amount of medication used as well as increase the sustainability of the beef farming operation.

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1.3 SEX

Steers and females.

Bulls with no permanent incisors are allowed.

Bulls with one or more permanent incisors are to be actively excluded.

1.4 CARCASS MASS

200 – 300 kg cold dressed carcass.

1.5 CLASSIFICATION

Age class – A, AB and B (Up to 4 permanent incisors 36 months)

C grades are allowed when specifically ordered provided that they are of good quality with good confirmation (3) and fatness (1-4). No emaciated animals allowed.

Fat class – 1 to 4

1.6 CONFORMATION

Confirmation must be a 3 to 5.

1.7 FAT COLOUR

Fat should have a creamy to slightly yellow fat. Carcasses with prominent yellow fat must be excluded.

1.8 DAMAGE

Zero damage allowed. Free from congenital abnormalities.

1.9 IDENTIFICATION

All animals must be identified according to the current legislation. Individual animals should be marked with an ear-tag to identify each animal for record keeping and management purposes.

2. FARMING METHODOLOGY FOR FREE RANGE

The nature of free range farming is that it must consist of extensive farming conditions, with cattle being allowed to roam and graze on natural and/or planted

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pastures 24 hours per day for their entire life, from birth to slaughter. Pastures and any supplementary feed must be of a good quality and well balanced in order to provide the correct levels of required minerals, vitamins, protein and energy and to maintain full health and vigor. Thus, these animals are allowed to express all patterns of normal behaviour and association in free environment.

No landless, feed lot or zero grazing system allowed.

Natural or cultivated pasture is to be the main source of nutrition for animals. Animals may be supplemented on the pasture or veldt to meet nutritional needs, as long as the feed does not contain any form of artificial growth promoter or animal by-products. This means no tallow, chicken litter, fish meal, bone meal, carcass meal etc.

2.1 GENERAL FARMING METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 Should animals be bought in from an outside farm at whatever age, the farmer is to ensure full compliance to all the specifications at both farms. An animal must, however, be bought in at such an age that the producer, supplying Kalahari Free Range Beef, will have the animal for at least 90 days before slaughter.

2.1.2 The use of routine antibiotics, hormones and growth promoters is expressly forbidden during the entirety of the animal's life.

2.1.3 Supplementary feeding is allowed as long as the animals still have immediate access to natural grazing or cultivated pasture. This supplementation may be a full ration, mineral lick and production lick. In order to prevent substitution of the natural grazing by supplements it is recommended that only third of the intake of the animal should be supplementary diets. In cases where extreme, of the ordinary drought or a natural disaster is experienced, the relevant Kalahari Beef Technologist must be informed to make special arrangements. These arrangements will be done in writing and signed off by the Kalahari Beef Technologist, the farmer and the abattoir. This arrangement will be valid a set length of time after which such an arrangement will expire.

2.1.4 Supplementary feed can consist of licks with added minerals, urea, good quality hay, concentrates and/or any other acceptable forms of supplementation, but the animal must still be exposed to the extensive free range grazing conditions. Concentrates may only comprise 30 % of daily intake or 1 % of body weight to prevent substitution of pasture.

2.1.5 No chemical additives are allowed, such as growth promoters (including medication) **except vitamins, minerals and urea.**

2.1.5.1 No added hormones (feed additives, implants, injections or any other means of administration examples; zeranol, zilpaterol and trenbolone acetate).

2.1.5.2 No added antibiotics and ionophores (monensin, lasalocid, salinomycin, etc.).

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2.1.5.3 Antibiotics may only be used for therapeutic reasons (for instance when the animal falls ill). Sick animals should be treated appropriately and without delay. When animals have been treated with antibiotics, double the registered withdrawal times is needed and must be documented. In the case of prescription medication, a prescription of a registered veterinarian must be kept on file.

Note: In the case where tissue/urine/faecal samples are found to contain residues of agricultural-and stock remedies above the prescribed maximum residue limit or in the case of off label use of a substance, the farmer may be liable for any damages incurred by Kalahari Beef or our customers. It is therefore the responsibility of the farmer to ensure that any feed or medication given to animals comply to these standards.

- 2.1.6 Feed is not to contain any feedstuff known for excess heavy metal and pesticide disposition (also relevant to drinking water).
- 2.1.7 Feed and lick bins/troughs must be cleaned regularly, ensuring that old and damp feed is removed to prevent souring.
- 2.1.8 Accurate written records of all supplementary feed, fed to animals on the farm, must be kept regarding:
- Ingredient composition (%).
 - Feed invoices.
 - Monthly feeding program, indicating the quantities of the different feeds fed per animals/camp.
- 2.1.9 All supplementary feed must be stored securely, in order to prevent the risk of contamination and be clearly identified.
- 2.1.10 **Drinking water:** Clean and fresh drinking water is to be made available to animals at all times. Drinking troughs must be cleaned on a regular basis to eliminate the growth of algae and the deposit of waste feed and other contaminants.
- 2.1.11 Predator management should follow the guidelines set out by the booklet “Predators and Livestock Farming, A Practical Farmers’ Manual for Non-lethal, Holistic, Ecologically Acceptable and Ethical Management” as referred to in the “Kalahari Beef Production Guidelines”.
- 2.1.11.1 Kalahari Beef strongly discourages farmers to use any means of indiscriminate predator management such as the use of gin traps, poisoned baits and pack dog hunting.
- 2.1.11.2 All current legislation pertaining to predator control must be adhered to.
- 2.1.12 Animals in this program may be brought off veld and kept in pens/kraals for the following reasons:

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- Medical treatment, processing or any other form of examination.
- Adverse weather conditions. Maximum penned time of 1 week is allowed.
- Marking/tagging of animals.
- Awaiting loading for transportation.
- Predator management during calving season.

After completion of these processes, the animals must be returned to veld.

2.2 PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Pasture management must be to such a level that the pastures/veld is maintained and improved over time. On natural pasture or in combination with planted/irrigated pastures, a carrying capacity should be calculated and managed to keep the optimum number of animals (LSU or kg) per hectare must be followed. Where pastures are irrigated water usage must also be managed in a legal and sustainable way.

2.3 ANIMAL HEALTH

- 2.3.1 Medication must only be used where the health and welfare of the animal requires it. General prophylactic use of medicines must not take place.
- 2.3.2 All veterinary medicines must be securely locked away in a dry, cool cupboard. Where required, supply refrigeration for certain medicines (e.g. vaccines).
- 2.3.3 Sick animals must always be segregated from other animals and treated accordingly.
- 2.3.4 Keep accurate written records of all veterinary medicines administered, regarding:
- Diagnose / Reason for treatment
 - Date administered & withdrawal period.
 - Specific medicine(s) used & dosages.
 - Animal information.
 - Veterinarian's recommendation / check.
 - Name of person who administered medicine(s).
- 2.3.5 All prescription veterinary medicines must be as directed by a veterinarian and must be used in accordance with legislation and the manufacturer's specifications.
- 2.3.6 **Minimum withdrawal period:** The minimum withdrawal period for appropriate veterinary medicines must in all instances be twice the period, prescribed by the manufacturer.
- 2.3.7 **Anti-microbial drugs:** The prophylactic (preventative) treatment with any anti-microbial drug is not allowed in this program.
- 2.3.8 **Growth stimulates:** All growth stimulants, either hormonal or anti-microbial and administered in whatever way to the animal, are prohibited in this program.

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- 2.3.9 A comprehensive pest control program must be in place, ensuring effective control of vermin, flies, rodents and other pests where applicable.
- 2.3.10 All veterinary equipment must be stored and used under clean and hygienic conditions.

2.4 ACCOMMODATION (CAMPS)

- 2.4.1 A veld/pasture camp rearing system must be followed for all animals in this program at all times. These camps must be of such a size to allow continuous availability of fodder. A grazing plan should be available stating camps, carrying capacity, biomass / animal units as proof of sustainability.
- 2.4.2 A landless or typical "feedlot" production system is not allowed.
- 2.4.3 Animals in this program may be brought off pastures/veld and kept in pens only for the following:
- Medical treatment, processing or any other form of examination.
 - Adverse weather conditions.
 - Marking/tagging of animals.
 - Awaiting loading for transportation. (Max time allowed 48 hrs.).

After completion of the first three processes, the animals must be returned to veld immediately.

- 2.4.4 During confinement in a pen, allow minimum 4m² per animal as guidance.
- 2.4.5 Free access to pens and/or covered houses without confinement will be allowed, provided that the animal still has the choice of continuous access to veld/pastures.
- 2.4.6 In all instances (camps, pens or houses), the construction to be done in such a way that injury to animals will not occur. The slope of ground to be such as to ensure free draining and not be susceptible to flooding. Animals must have access to a well-drained resting area and to natural or constructed shelter.
- 2.4.7 Camps must be properly secured in containing animals. All fences must be sound, safe and maintained in good functional order.
- 2.4.8 Suitable hospital pens with shelter/shade must be provided for ill or injured animals.
- 2.4.9 Follow good "Stockmanship" practices, by regular (at least weekly) inspection of animals, in-time identification and treatment of injured and/or sick animals, immediate fixing of broken fences, troughs, etc.

3. TRANSPORT (FARM TO ABATTOIR)

- 3.1 Animals to be loaded for slaughter must comply to the following:
- Be fit and healthy.
 - It is good practice to withdraw water at most 4 hours before loading to prevent animals slipping and injuring themselves during transport due to wet conditions underfoot. However all animals must have free access to clean drinking water 4 hours before loading.

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- 3.2 Animals to be gathered herded and coaxed onto trucks without screaming, beating, prodding, kicking, etc. as not to excite animals. Adequate loading facilities should be available.
- 3.3 Truck construction: To be done in such a way that falling or bumping of animals during transit will be minimised. "Compartmentalisation" of bigger trucks is recommendable. A steel grid on the floor will prevent slipping.
- 3.4 Driving to be done in such a way, that gentle stopping and cornering is done.
- 3.5 Off-loading at the abattoir preferably to be done on a hydraulic scissor type ramp. Ramp should not have a slope bigger than 300mm with the horizontal. No kicking, prodding, shouting or beating shall take place.
- 3.6 Use of electrical cattle prods should not be used wherever possible. Where they are used, action plans must be drawn up to stop their use.

4. TRACEABILITY THROUGH PRODUCTION PROCESS

- 4.1 For traceability purposes, the supplier must establish and maintain an animal's stock register. The following information regarding each individual animal must be recorded in this register:
 - Date of birth or date animal has been procured.
 - Sex and breed.
 - Details of origin. If not born on the farm, indicate the name and address of person from whom the animal was obtained.
 - Identification number or marking of the animal.
 - A detailed record of the medical treatment and vaccination of the animal (See also 3.3.4).
 - The date, on which the animal was either sold, sent for slaughter or died.
 - If the animal died, indicate cause of death.
- 4.2 Animal identification
 - Each individual animal must be clearly and permanently identified, by making use of an official method of identification (e.g. ear tag numbering, tattooing etc). Also ensure full compliance to be "Brand" mark requirements of official national legislation.
 - All relevant records and information for a specific animal must be kept on file.
 - The identification mark must at all times be visible and there shall be no evidence of tampering with the identification marks on the animals.
- 4.3 Declaration of Origin and Transportation of Animals: Animals, ready for slaughter, may only be removed from the farm if accompanied by a **Declaration of Origin (Appendix A)**. This form, and a statement on a form already in use (e.g. "Verwyderingsertifikaat"), must be completed and signed by the producer (or an authorized person) or an equivalent national Origin / Movement certificate.

The producer will keep a copy of the Declaration of Origin, while the other copy will accompany the specific truck to the dedicated abattoir. This abattoir will only accept animals for Free Range slaughter that are accompanied by a

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Declaration of Origin. If the load of cattle is not accompanied by the declaration, that load will be treated as standard cattle.

5. PROCESS AUDITING

In order to ensure full compliance to above-mentioned specifications, the Free Range Beef Program will be submitted to annual General Audits by a recognized, independent Auditing Body, for example PWC as appointed by Kalahari Beef / NWK, on a random number of Free Range Beef farms.

6. PENALTIES

On receipt at the abattoir, if any of the animals do not comply with abovementioned, they will not be eligible for Kalahari Beef Free Range Beef Product. These animals may be either sent back, or slaughtered and downgraded. All premiums in payments may then be nullified.