



- Participants are furthermore obligated to take full responsibility of nutritional and health requirement of the animals.
- Participants are obliged to keep comprehensive records of livestock i.e. Supplements, mating, weaning, treatments, vaccines, inoculations, injuries, mortality.
- Livestock in the project must be availed constantly for on-going inspection.
- Beneficiaries must implement a herd health program designed by local state veterinarians according to area specifications.
- Existing livestock must be kept separated from the benefited stock to avoid the dilution of the genetic pool.
- Participants must avail themselves to prescribed training programmes provided and/or coordinated by DARDLA.
- Farmers are obliged to insure the livestock.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS



- An advertisement will be published through various forms of media (local radio stations and local newspaper inviting applications).
- Application forms may be accessed from all the Agric Municipal Offices and/or District Offices of DARDLA
- All the applicants shall receive an acknowledgement of the receipt of their applications from the relevant Local Agricultural Municipal Manager within 7 working days.
- The short listed applicants will be informed of the scheduled farm assessments.
- Successful candidates shall be informed and the list of successful projects be published in the department's newsletter.

## REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN

**NB: THE LOAN SHALL BE REPAID IN KIND BY THE APPLICANT BY MEANS OF SETTLEMENT OF THE SAME NUMBER OF BREED (PROGENY/OFFSPRING) FREE FROM DISEASES AND INFECTIONS.**

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**dardla**

Department:  
Agriculture, Rural Development  
and Land Administration  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



## *Masibuyele Esibayeni (Livestock Improvement Programme)*



## INTRODUCTION

Through the livestock improvement programme, the department is responding to the concerns raised by livestock farmers at their exclusion from the benefits enjoyed by crop farmers, who are assisted through the country renowned Masibuyeles Emasimini Programme. Under the same programme, farmers are assisted with the indigenous Nguni Cattle, in a project that is collaboratively run with the University of Limpopo and the Independent Development Corporation. This programme started in 2011.

## IMPORTANCE OF LIVESTOCK

Livestock production plays a role in three aspects:

- They make a significant contribution to food production through the provision of high value protein-rich animal products;
- They indirectly support crop production through drought power and manure;
- They stabilize supply; and finally, they are the most significant source of income and store of wealth for smallholders, thereby providing access to food.

## PURPOSE OF MASIBUYELE ESIBAYENI

- To increase household level food security focusing on livestock production
- To commercialize livestock production in the Mpumalanga Province
- To improve the genetic material by supply of performance tested animals (bulls, buck, ram, boar) including production and quality management
- To re-introduce the Nguni cattle breeds in communal areas of Mpumalanga Province.

## IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

Since the start of the programme in 2011, 380 job opportunities have been created through construction of livestock handling facilities and appointment of herdsman. Over 70 projects with 3500 beneficiaries have been assisted through the loaning of 2283 animals. The livestock that was given to farmers in 2011 have multiplied. The beneficiaries were supposed to start repaying the loan in the third year however some have indicated that they are ready to start repaying in the second year. This implies that some of the farmers will start repaying from this financial year (2013/14)

## QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- The beneficiaries defined as historical disadvantaged individuals and/or communities (Legal South Africans: residents of Mpumalanga Province) who have proof of land ownership either right to occupy (RTO), lease and title deed.
- The farming area should be able to accommodate the proposed number of animals at scientifically recommended stocking rates. Recommendations are 600ha / 350ha for large stock and 150ha for Small stock. For pigs there must be a piggery house.
- Participants will be subjected to a selection process which will comprise of completion of an application form, short listing, interviews and on-site visit to verify information.
- The existing livestock (if any) in the farm must be certified free of any notifiable diseases for bull and heifer.
- There must be evidence that daily supervision of livestock will be ensured (herdsman).
- The farm should consist of facilities such as

fenced camps, water reticulation, handling facilities

- Beneficiaries are encouraged to have a brand mark.

## The funding model

It is a loan in kind which is over a 5 year period with technical support. The programme entails allocation of breeding stock to qualifying beneficiaries in ratios of:

- 1 bull : 30 heifers (Nguni special project),
- 1 bull : 25 heifers (bull & heifer project) ,
- 1 bull : 50 dairy cows
- 1 buck : 25 does
- 1 ram : 25 ewes
- 1 boar : 10 sows

All males are Stud animals to ensure the development of a top quality herd whose products can fetch better prices in the market. Capacity building and extension services are provided by DARDLA and UL staff in all key areas: reproduction management, veld management, health, institutional arrangements, financial management and access to market.

## EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Personnel of any of the participating institutions especially government officials and strategic partners are excluded from participation in the project.
- Part-time farmers with stable jobs are excluded from participation in the project.

## Requirements for successful participant

- Participants are obliged to sign the MoU and the contract.