

## **Boran**

We have a stud herd of 125 Boran cows, inspected by the [Boran Cattle Breeders Society](#) and registered with the Kenya Stud Book, which produce animals for breeding and meat. The best bull calves are selected for sale to other breeders. Surplus heifers may be sold or may be transferred to the commercial beef herd as breeders.

The Boran is a breed that has evolved over centuries in the Horn of Africa. Over the last 100 years it has been taken up by commercial cattle breeders and selected for improved performance as a beef animal. Although the Boran is considered to be a zebu (*Bos indicus*) breed, genetic studies indicate that it does have some influence from *Bos taurus* breeds, both modern and antique from Europe and the Middle East but also from an African *B. taurus* breed not found in the Asian zebus. The Borans to be found over Central and Southern Africa as well as in the USA and Australia all come from the improved breed as developed in Kenya.

Our Boran stud has been in existence since the late 1980s and we have bought in breeding stock from Segera, Mogwooni, OI Pejeta, Mutara, Lolldaiga, Suyian, Solio, Kakuzi, Stanley & Son and OI Jorai. Currently, we use both bulls and AI. The semen for AI is old stock from Mutara, going back to bulls born in the 1970s.

We have won trophies at the Livestock Breeders Show and Sale with Champion and Reserve Champion Junior Bulls and placed First in the Progeny Class (at least 2 bulls and a heifer, all from the same sire) in 2004 and then again Champion Junior Bull in 2009.

Koru is not typical Boran country, with high rainfall, 1650 mm/annum, sour grazing and steep hills. The success of our Boran herd however, attests to the adaptability of the breed to produce in very varied conditions.