

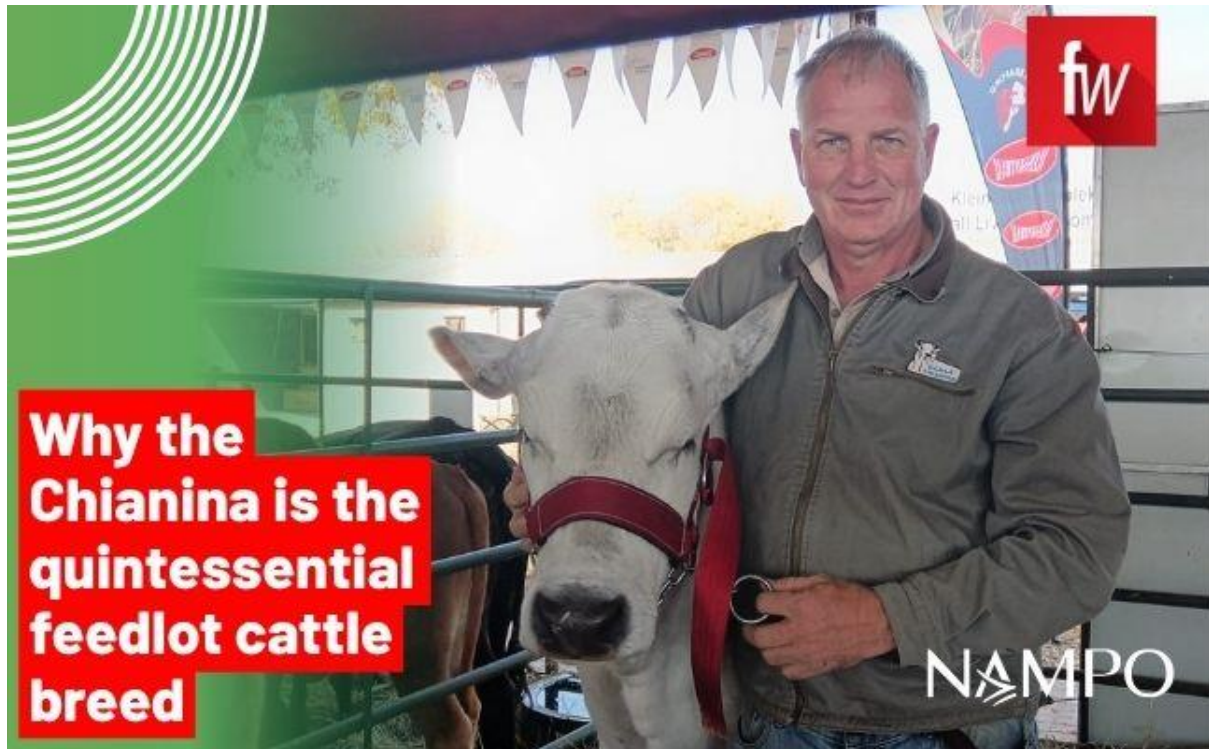
‘Chianina: the feedlot industry’s dream’

By Annelie Coleman

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With its outstanding feed conversion rates and high dressing percentages, the Chianina is the ideal breed for feedlots and beef production.



Christiaan de Jager, founder of the first Chianina stud in South Africa, says that the breed’s high dressing percentages and feed conversion ratios make it the optimal breed for feedlots and commercial beef cattle farmers.

Photo: Annelie Coleman

Christiaan de Jager, who founded the first Chianina stud in South Africa, told *Farmer’s Weekly* at Nampo 2025 that the breed was the “feedlot industry’s dream”, due to its outstanding feed conversion rates and dressing percentages of between 63% and 65%.

It is also an ideal breed for extensive production, said De Jager, due to its walking ability.

“The Chianina’s [...] walking ability [is] comparable to that of game species, such as the kudu and eland. [Its strong legs] enable them to walk long distances between grazing areas and water sources in semi-arid areas,” he said.

The breed’s black skin makes the Chianina resistant to extreme heat, said De Jager.

“The Chianina is a hardy animal, with incomparable resistance to pests and parasites,” he said.

Despite their large size, with bulls often reaching heights of over 180cm at the shoulder, the breed is even tempered.

The Chianina is exceptionally adaptable, and performs well under a wide variety of conditions in Southern Africa, said De Jager.

In South Africa, there are currently 28 Chianina registered stud breeders.