

Top genetics and passion drive success at goat stud

By Janine Ryan

|

23 July 2025 | 12:05 pm

Christiaan Labuschagne established the Hakuna Matata Stud in Hoopstad, Free State, in 2024 and currently farms Boer and Savanna goats. In a short space of time, the stud has achieved numerous accolades due to Labuschagne's investment in top genetics.



The Class 14 Savanna Doe Kid 45kg+ category at the 2025 World Boer Goat, Kalahari Red and Savanna Championships held in Bloemfontein. On the right are the Labuschagne family and staff members Johannes Tsokoane and Alfred Selemogo of the Hakuna Matata Stud, which took first place.

According to Labuschagne, he began farming goats due to the high economic returns from goat farming, especially regarding high kidding rates.

A love for animals

One of the aspects that stands out in Labuschagne's operation is his love for his animals. He says that while the goats belong to him 'on paper', he always talks to his staff about "our goats". He also places tremendous emphasis on the handling and care of his goats, which he says must be kind and gentle.

The biggest problem for everyone on the farm – from Labuschagne and his wife and children to his staff – is that they all fall too deeply in love with the animals.

The goats are considered part of the family, and each one has a name and is loved. Labuschagne says spending time among his goats is a form of therapy for him.

“If I’ve had a tough day interacting with people, there is nothing better than walking among my goats. When they brush up against you or nibble at your pants, you feel fulfilled,” he says.

It’s difficult for him to sell his goats, but he believes that the fact he is selling top-quality animals at a premium means something.

“I’ve seen it in life; if a person is given a dog for free, it is often the case that they don’t look after the animal because they got it for nothing. When they pay a bit of money for that dog, they look after it,” he explains.

Good money for good genetics

Labuschagne believes the same is true for someone who is willing to invest good money in genetics when buying stud goats.

“So, then we give [our animals] a kiss on the nose and carry on. You have to hope and trust they are going to good people with the same passion. I really believe they won’t purchase a stud goat and not look after her,” he adds.

If you want to read the full story on Christiaan Labuschagne and the Hakuna Matata Stud, buy the latest issue of *Farmer’s Weekly* on shelves now.