

## THE HIDE SHOULD BE THICK

Thick and loose hide plays a far more important role than is generally realised. According to (Maree, 1977), a thick, vascular and sensitive hide with a well developed subcutaneous muscle for twitching of the skin promotes cooling and serves as a tick and insect repellent. (Borstlap, 1985) in his Omatjenne Interbreed Test -stressed the value of a thick hide to enable to adapt body temperature and breathing to hotter climates.

The hide thickness (double fold measurement in mm) of yearling pedigree bulls measured at growth test stations (ARC, Newsletters - 1992/95 data) with the number of tested bulls in brackets (min. 50 bulls per breed):

Afrikaner (169)	19.4		SIMBRA (93)	18.
Bonsmara (1738)	17.0		Pinzgauer (207)	17.
Santa Gertrudis (320)	16.5		Nguni (66)	16.
Brahman (214)	16.3		Simmentaler (777)	16.
Drakensberger (173)	16.2		Sussex(134)	15.
Hereford (84)	14.9		Limousine (106)	13.
Charolais (50)	13.7		Angus	13.

In addition to a smooth haircoat we advocate a thick, loose hide. To measure thickness of hide take the hide, directly behind the shoulder, between your thumb and forefinger and you will immediately realise whether the skin is thick and pliable or thin and papery.

(From a presentation by P Massmann at a Simmentaler World Congress)