Kalahari RESEARCH STATION
The Centre for Small Stock Performance and Progeny Testing

Kalahari Research Station resorts under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, Directorate Research and Training.

HISTORY
The history of the farm dates back to 1920. It was owned by various owners because of enormous livestock mortalities (mainly caused by internal parasites) experienced on the farm. The farm’s original name is Rohrbeck No. 128 in the Mariental district but since 31 January 1958, the farm is officially known as Kalahari Research Station. It is situated approximately 28km northeast of Stampriet on the Leonardville road and the size is 10215ha. During May 1958, the first cattle were placed on the farm and at the beginning of 1959, the first three technicians assumed duty.

During August 1964, it was decided to establish a black Karakul sheep stud, since that was the main farming activity in the south of the country. For a start, stud animals were transferred from Gellap-Ost Research Station and Neudamm Agricultural College. In 1984, the entire stud was transferred to Neudamm.

It was also during the 1960’s that the well-known white Karakul sheep was developed at the station; of the descendants are now used for breeding at Gellapur-St Research Station.

Over the years, many different research projects and evaluations were conducted at Kalahari Research Station. This includes the breeding of livestock, the influence of different kinds of livestock on the pasture, the feeding of supplements, the treatment of internal and external parasites in livestock and ostrich farming.

Some interesting facts
- Number of camps: 153
- Jackal proof fences: 82km
- Stock proof fences: 155km
- Water pipelines: 90km
Kalahari Research Station is also known as the centre for performance and progeny testing of mutton, karakul and goat rams.

**PROGENY TESTING OF KARAKUL RAMS**

Progeny testing together with individual and pedigree performance is an accurate selection method. With this test it is possible to establish the breeding value of Karakul rams as early as 18 months of age.

**CENTRALIZED PERFORMANCE TESTING OF MUTTON AND GOAT RAMS ON THE VELD**

Performance testing data is an important selection tool for the selection of superior mutton sheep. The performance of animals in terms of adaptability and average daily gain on extensive rangeland is evaluated. The results are then used to help potential buyers and breeders to select the better genetic rams at auctions.

**Table 1 Production and auction data from 1988 till 1999.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Dorper</th>
<th>Van Rooy</th>
<th>Damara</th>
<th>Boer goat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of tests</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rams taken in</td>
<td>2036</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Losses</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>2.73</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Culled on index</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rams on hoof</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rams on auction</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rams sold</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Growth tests

**Courses at Kalahari for commercial and communal farmers:**

- Karakul lamb description
- Artificial insemination for small stock
- Pasture management