



RED MEAT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SA

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23 October 2017

RMRD SA awards their scientists

RMRD SA will award their scientists at a prestigious event to be held on 24 October 2017 at the Agricultural Research Council, Irene.

Scientists were nominated in four categories and the awardees for 2017 were:

Category Veteran Researcher: Prof Garreth Bath

Prof Bath is a senior veterinarian and emeritus professor at the University of Pretoria who has done a lot for the red meat industry nationally and internationally - especially with regards to small stock production animals and health. He is co-developer of the internationally acclaimed FAMACHA© system and the initiator of the FIVE POINT CHECK for the targeted selective treatment of small ruminants, as well as designing and promoting sustainable, holistic, integrated parasite management systems for sheep and goats farmers world-wide.

Category Outstanding contribution to research: Prof Michiel Scholtz

Prof Scholtz is a specialist researcher in Applied Animal Breeding with the ARC-Animal Production Institute at Irene and also an extraordinary professor in Animal Breeding in the Department of Animal, Wildlife and Grassland Sciences at the University of the Free State. Prof Scholtz's research is aimed at linking the different disciplines of animal production. The success of these initiatives is demonstrated by his current research initiatives and its value for livestock farmers and contribution to food security. He also involved students in his research with the aim to build capacity and to ensure proper succession planning.

Category Young Researcher: Ms Motshabi Mokolobate

Ms Mokolobate was a team member of a RMRD SA funded project and used some of the results in her MSc dissertation at the University of the Free State entitled "Novelty traits to improve cow-calf efficiency in climate smart beef production systems". The research findings make a contribution to the knowledge base in the field of animal breeding and selection for competitive and sustainable climate smart beef production systems. The emphasis will move from increased production to increased efficiency of production and reduced environmental impact.

Category Research Project: Ms Hester Vermeulen and team

Ms Vermeulen is the Divisional Manager of Consumer Analysis at The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) and a PhD student at the University of Pretoria. The South African consumer market is characterised by socio-economic and cultural diversity. Food expenditure patterns, behaviour and preferences differ significantly between the various socio-economic subgroups. Together with her research team the project aimed to improve the effectiveness of the red meat industry in meeting the needs of the modern consumer within South Africa as a developing country with socio-economic diversity.

Red Meat Research and Development SA (RMRD SA) is an umbrella organisation with the mandate of research and development under the auspices of the Red Meat Industry Forum (RMIF). RMRD SA's research mission is to ensure that the South African Large and Small Stock Meat Industries have the technology and knowledge to deliver products, in a profitable and sustainable manner using cutting-edge scientific advancements to maintain their global competitiveness.

For more information contact the research office of RMRD SA or the researchers directly.

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Members of the media are welcome to attend the function to be held on 23 October 2017 at 09h00 in the Ralph Hirzel Auditorium, Meat Industry Centre, ARC-Irene.



Prof HC Schönfeldt
Research Manager: RMRD SA