

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO COMBATTING STOCK THEFT .

The **SA Feedlot Association** (SAFA) urges all industry role-players to co-operate by playing their role in combatting stock theft.

Stock theft alone stripped the economy of R378 million during the 2010/2011 period with goats to the value of R36 million, sheep to the value of R85 million and cattle to the value of R256 million stolen. This scourge is on the increase in both the commercial- as well as the emergent farming sectors throughout most of our country.

In recent times some SAFA members grazing herds have also been targeted resulting in large financial losses and horrific pain and suffering to the animals.

The increase in stock theft cannot be attributed only to non performance of the Stocktheft units but largely to the **non-compliance by industry role players** who do not ensure that livestock are properly identified. Livestock buyers, farmers, speculators, stock-auctions, feedlots and abattoirs can be or are unknowingly recipients of stolen livestock and are thereby transgressing the law and legally liable to a fine or prosecution.

The Animal Identification Act, (Act 6 of 2002), makes provision for the **compulsory marking of livestock** and the **Stock theft Act, (Act 57 of 1959)** specifies the movement of livestock. Both these Acts have been put in place to support the industry and SAPS to combat stock theft and make it easier to recover them. It appears that a large part of the livestock trade does not comply with the determinations of these Acts and does not comply with the basic requirements to prevent stock theft. The **SA Feedlot Association** encourages all its members to comply strictly with the requirements of these Acts

“Many stock theft court cases are lost because of disputes regarding the positive identification of stolen livestock and the ability to prove ownership. If an animal is marked with a registered brand or tattoo, disputes will be avoided.” says Brig Singh (Stock theft Unit, head office).

The **SA Feedlot Association** would like to urgently encourage all it's members ;

- To refuse to purchase any livestock directly from a farmer or from an auction sale that are not marked with a registered a **unique brand mark registered in the owners name and applied to all livestock purchased** in the prescribed manner as described in the *Animal Identification Act, (Act 6 of 2002)* and
- To insist that a completed **‘Document of Identification’** and a **‘Stock Removal Certificate’** accompany each and every transaction.
- To encourage **all livestock buyers, auctioneers , other feedlots and abattoirs to confirm livestock ownership and refuse to take ownership of livestock that are not marked or where the necessary ‘Document of Identification’ and ‘Stock Removal Certificate’ do not accompany each transaction**
- To ensure that all **‘Documents of Identification’** is kept on record for 12 months

The SA Feedlot Association requests that all the **Red Meat Industry Forum** member organizations urgently play an active role in stock theft prevention and further requests that the Stock theft Units strictly apply the *Animal Identification Act, (Act 6 of 2002)* and the *Stock theft Act, (Act 57 of 1959)* **to specifically all buyers of livestock without exception and with immediate effect .**

Once all stakeholders as well as all the relevant government departments from national to local level become actively involved in the application of these Acts then more stock thieves will be convicted and the negative impact of stock theft on the South African Livestock Industry will be reduced.

SA Feedlot Association | *Legislation available at* www.redmeatsa.co.za