

## **COMPARISON of PROFITABILITY of MERINO SHEEP and SABLE**

Assume 200 ha of Karoo Land 16 ha/LSU = 12.5 LSU

### **From Sheep**

12.5 LSU = 88 sheep x R610/sheep =

**R 53 705**

The price for sable trophy males has been steady at about R 60 000 for a few years and is unlikely to change greatly.

Good quality females are selling in a range between R 120 000 and R160 000 (2016)

Will female prices move lower? There is every indication that they won't, but if they do reduce to be on a par with the trophy price, will sable still be more profitable than sheep?

### **From Sable at R 60 000 per female**

Purchase 1 sable breeding bull @ R100 000 and 10 cows @ R 60 000	R 700 000
Sell 88 sheep @ R 1 000	-88000
Build 8 km game fence@ R45 000/km	<u>360 000</u>
(breeding camp 50 ha and bull camp 150 ha)	Total cost R 972 000
Amortised at 10% over 10 years	R155 500

12.5 LSU = 31 Sable consists of

- 1 bull
- 10 cows
- 10 heifers
- 5 bigger bulls
- 5 young bulls

Sell half males @ 18 m for R 20 000, remainder as trophies for R60 000

Therefore males sell for an average of R 40 000

Sell females at 18 to 24 months for R 60 000

10 cows produce 5 bull + 5 heifer calves per year

Therefore sell an average of 5 bulls and 5 heifers each year

Income	5 x R 60 000 plus 5 x R 40 000	R 500 000
Expenditure	21 in breeding herd x R 5000 feed	-105000
	10 bulls x R 500 feed	-5000
	31 x R 2 500 vet costs	-77500
	Investment amortised	-155500

**R 157 000**

Note: Although it would be possible to run a bull herd in 150 ha this size has been chosen only for purpose of illustration in this example. Normally hunting would take place in a bigger area. Mortality of 2% for sable and 5% for merinos has been ignored.

**Conclusion: If sable females sell for R60 000, a sable herd can generate more or less 3 times what merino sheep would. At higher sable prices this differential would be wider.**