

World Jersey Cattle Bureau (WJCB) Africa Report 2026

Collated by Dai Harvey WJCB Africa Vice President

With assistance from Jamlick Anampiu, Brian Lewis, Dr Roulox Odhiambo, Tessa Opperman, Barnabas Chitalu, Renny Chemtai., Nathaniel Makoni, Paidamoyo Chadoka, Ross Kinsman and the RJA&HS (Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society) D4D (Dairy for Development) team

Summary :

2026 has been another year of substantial growth of the Jersey cow across Africa, mainly through the breeding of cows through Artificial Insemination as the with thousands of calves being born. The supply of Lives animals from South Africa, both pure and cross breeds has stopped due to Foot and Mouth disease. The reduction in cost of sexed semen and its increase in conception rates may well provide further growth in the attractiveness of the Jersey on the continent.

The WJCB conference is happening in South Africa in September 2026, with both pre and post tour including a Africa Jersey Forum meeting in Zambia. WJCB has one anchor National member Jersey South Africa on the continent. Building on this foundation by expanding its reach through Associate countries, Life members and the Africa Jersey Forum continues promotion and marketing of the breed across the continent continues.

South Africa

1. Total Dairy herd – 403,623 (ICar)
 2. Total Registered Jersey Herd – 31 484 (SA Jersey)
 3. Number of Jersey straws imported in last two years – 2025 = 660,367 & 2024 = 795,033
 4. Number of local bull Jersey straws sold used/produced in Country. 2025 = 21 500 & 2024 = 22 000
 5. Details of Jersey club and activities. – One show was held in Feb 2025 – Southern Cape Championships. Jersey SA then suspended all shows & sales due to Foot and Mouth outbreak. National Show in October 2025 cancelled due to FMD
 - 6 Other details – Technical services were delivered on a request basis due to the Foot and Mouth Disease. If an area had a new outbreak services was suspended until further notice on the disease was received
- Nampo Cape was attended in September in 2025 – we had a joint venture with CRV Xseed to promote local AI bulls during the event.

Zambia

Zambia milk market potential is huge as the nation's milk production is estimated to be 600 million per annum against a national milk requirement of 1.5 billion litres per annum (i.e. 40 % deficit).

1. Total Dairy herd in commercial production – approx. 50,000
2. Total Jersey Herd – approx. 10,000 – 60 % in smallholder and emergent sector
3. Number of Jersey straws imported in last two years – 2025 - 14,195 & 2024 = 3,900
4. Number of local bull Jersey straws sold used/produced in Country. No local stud
5. Details of Jersey club and activities. – Herd Book and Dairy Association national herd cooperation highly successful in promoting the breed, across the country. Winner receiving the Simon Boas Memorial Jersey Jug. The Africa Jersey Forum to be held in Zambia in Sept 2026 with over 400 framers worldwide attending.

Mozambique

1. Total Dairy herd – 1,100
2. Total Jersey Herd - 620
3. Number of Jersey straws imported in last two years – 1,200
4. Number of Jersey straws used/produced in Country. - none
5. Details of Jersey club and activities. - none
- 6 Other details - Mainly one large scale vertically integrated farm producing and processing milk.

Tanzania

Out of 40.6 million cattle in the country, 96.5% are Tanzania shorthorn zebu (TSZ) and 3.5% are improved/cross breed dairy cattle. Annual milk production in Tanzania is 4.2 billion litres of milk, 33% is a contribution from 1.4 million improved/cross breed dairy cattle (MFL, 2026).

1. Total Dairy herd in commercial production – 1.4 million
2. Total Jersey Herd – approx. 15,439 high grade, from this number around 604 are pure Jersey herd (NAIC, 2025). The number of Cross breeds over 150,000 mainly in the coastal region.
3. Number of Jersey straws imported in last two years 3,315 jersey semen straws which 1,615 were sexed semen and 1,700 conventional semen straws (MLF, 2026). The semen was imported from Denmark, Netherlands, USA, South Africa and New Zealand.

4. Number of local bull Jersey straws sold used/produced in Country. In the past two years, NAIC-Arusha produced and distributed 20, 677 jersey semen straws in Tanzania. All these were conventional jersey semen straws used to inseminate cows in Tanzania.

5. Details of Jersey club and activities Currently there is no Jersey club in Tanzania. However, an opportunity to establish the club exists due to the fact that there few smallholders and medium scale dairy farmers with interest of Jersey breed in Tanzania

Kenya

The industry is driven primarily by smallholder farmers owning 1-6 cows and produce nearly 56 % of total milk and constitute roughly 80% of all dairy producers (KDB). The average yields range from 7-9 litres of milk per cow per day in smallholders' system but exceed 15-25 litres per cow per day in intensive setup

1. Total Dairy herd – 5.2 million

2. Total Jersey Herd – 212,000

3. Number of Jersey straws imported in last two years – 6,970 and 10,788 straws of Jersey semen in 2024 and 2025 respectively

4. Number of Jersey straws used/produced in Country. - 44,708 and 13,132 straws 2024 and 2025 respectively. A total of 30,451 and 33,620 straws of Jersey semen was distributed in 2024 and 2025 respectively. There are a total of 262,579 straws of Jersey bull semen in stock from forty-one (41) bulls available in the country (MoALD, 2026). A total of seven (7) Jersey active Jersey bulls are standing in both semen production centres

5. Details of Jersey club and activities. The Jersey cattle Society of Kenya formally the Jersey cattle Society of East Africa was registered in 1936 with the objects of encouraging the rearing and improving the breeding of Jersey cattle, to maintain the purity of the breed and to carry out registration of all Jersey cattle with the Kenya stud book among others. Currently the Society has 78 active ordinary members who are smallholder farmers and 10 Corporate members who comprise of dairy inputs providers. The Corporate members support the Society during the field days and they are allowed to display their products free of charge in return. The affairs of the society are managed and administered by a Council elected from ordinary members during the Society annual general meeting. The Society carries out regular activities every year to promotes the Jersey breed that includes:

- Regular field days. These are knowledge sharing forums where visiting guest speakers are invited to talk on topics that would assist the farmers improve on the productivity of their cattle.
- On –farm challenge. The judging motivates the farmers and informs them on areas for improvement.
- Showing the cattle in agricultural shows that are held annually across the country.
- Inspection of Jersey cattle in view of registration with the Kenya stud book.

- Society Participates in the recruitment of breeding bulls for the semen production Centres.

The future of Jersey herd was expected to grow as Plans were underway by the Government to shift from quantity-based to quality-based payments for milk and the move is hoped to benefit the Jersey breed immensely due to its high quality milk. The Society has already noted an upsurge of demand for Jersey heifers which is very exciting.

Malawi

1. Total Dairy herd – 20,000
2. Total Jersey Herd – 6,000
3. Number of Jersey straws imported in last two years – 2024 12,575 2025 11,108
4. Number of Jersey straws used/produced in Country. – None and Used – 2024 – 5,704 2025 8,276
5. Details of Jersey club and activities. – Promotion of Jersey and Jersey xbred. Use of Jersey bulls and natural service.

Rwanda

1. Total Dairy herd: 1,440,676 cattle populations
2. Total Jersey Herd: 244,915 Jersey cross (17%)
3. Number of Jersey straws imported in last two years: 96,183
4. Number of Jersey straws used across the country: 54,381 Strows
5. Details of Jersey club and activities. In Rwanda, Jersey Cattle breeders Association has been established and aimed at:
 - Promoting Jersey breed awareness and Promotion across the country
 - Sensitisation dairy Jersey on best practices in breeding and general farm management
 - Linking farmers with various stakeholders in the entire value chain in the dairy sector across the country.
 - Encouraging and mobilizing farmers on climate smart agriculture dairy farming practices

Zimbabwe Jersey statistics

Total Dairy herd 70,584

Total Pure Jersey Herd 7,764

Total Jersey Crosses 21,334

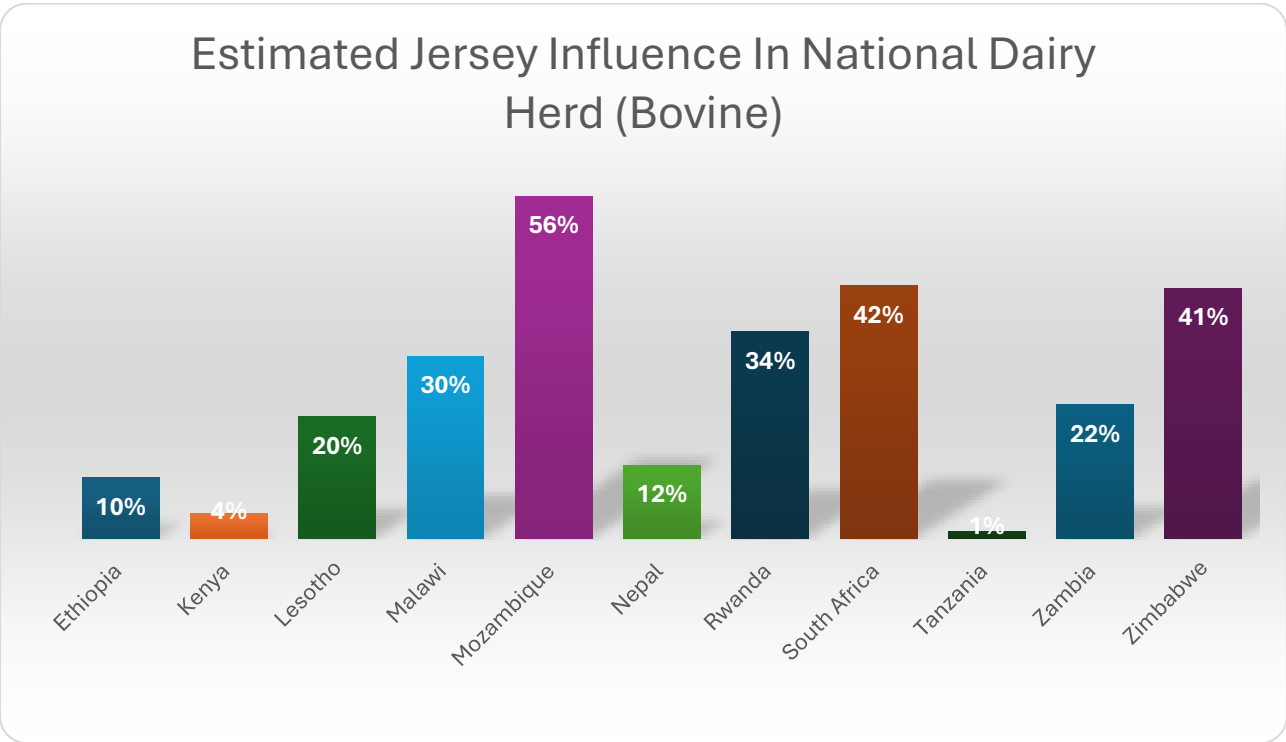
Number of Jersey straws imported in last two years TBA

Number of Jersey straws used/produced in Country. TBA

Details of Jersey club and activities.

- 1. Member sensitisation was done during regional meetings.
- 2. Structure set up - work in progress in alignment with Association organisational structure.
- 3. A database of the jersey farmers is being consolidated.

Country	National Commercial Dairy Herd Cows Est.	Jersey X Herd Best Est	% Jersey	AI Straws Imported 2024	AI Straws Imported 2025	Local Prod 2024	Local Prod 2025	Est Usage 2024	Est Usage 2025	Est Jer Calves to AI 2025	Est Jer Calves to AI 2026	Est Cost Saving Vers Importing Cattle - Annual \$
Ethiopia	3,500,000	350,000	10%	5,000	12,000	141,229	312,500	127,229	224,569	42,410	74,856	\$67,413,110
Kenya	5,200,000	212,000	4%	6,970	10,788	44,708	13,132	30,451	33,620	10,150	11,207	\$10,096,150
Lesotho	2,000	400	20%	400	300	0	0	300	200	100	67	\$60,100
Malawi	20,000	6,000	30%	12,575	11,108	0	0	5,704	8,278	1,901	2,759	\$2,485,301
Mozambique	1,100	620	56%	1,000	1,200	0	0	1,500	1,200	500	400	\$360,500
Nepal	916,750	110,010	12%	10,000	2,225	262,620	465,286	232,758	351,115	77,586	117,038	
Rwanda	720,338	244,915	34%	98,183	0	0	0	40,278	14,101	13,426	4,700	\$4,243,726
South Africa	1,200,000	500,000	42%	795,033	660,367	21,500	22,000	816,533	682,367	272,178	227,456	
Tanzania	1,400,000	15,439	1%	2,600	3,315	19,200	20,677	21,325	23,992	7,108	7,997	\$7,204,708
Zambia	50,000	11,000	22%	3,900	14,195	0	0	2,800	4,300	933	1,433	\$1,290,933
Zimbabwe	70,584	29,098	41%	2,000	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000	667	667	\$600,667
										426,959	448,581	



Jersey X Cows Estimated 2026 AJF and Nepal

