

# Famous Laingsburg Lamb

*Karoo Lamb which comes from Laingsburg and its environment has a uniquely flavour thanks to the excellent grazing available.*

The sheep farms surrounding Laingsburg are covered with pasture that includes a wide variety of edible plants which give the meat its distinctive flavour. Karoo farmers have a history of moving their sheep from summer to winter grazing every year and this seasonal *trek* allows the veld to recover and remain sweet. The sheep are eager to graze on plants such as Karoo shrub, Bitou, *Slanghoutjies*, *Kapok* bushes and many more, some of which have medicinal value to improve the general health and digestion of human and animal alike.

Because of this healthy lifestyle lambs grow and develop quickly so that they are able to be slaughtered at a younger age (between 4 and 6 months), ensuring tender meat. Being younger, they can be marketed directly from the ewes and this limit weaning stress as well as the majority of diseases for which anti-biotics or dosing preparations would be required. The result is a product that is more tender, healthy, and tasty.

Flashes of lightning in the northeast herald the coming of summer and the sheep know instinctively that the sweet grass in the eastern part of this region is ripening. They are impatient to return to the summer grazing (in the east) where the veld responds quickly to the early summer rains bringing forth eight-day grass and *Boesman* grass. *Granaat* bushes (Karoo Gold) and *Slanghoutjies* are in bloom and all is ready for the long *trek* home.

The sensitivity of this area makes good veld management by the farmers essential and a lack of expertise could have devastating effects. Overgrazing must be prevented.

Laingsburg lies on the border between the summer and winter grazing areas where the surrounding region has a low rainfall of 75 to 100 mm per annum. This produces sweet pasture, which starts to grow quickly after summer rains, and raises unique lambs.