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OFFICE:

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FAX:
+27(0) 86 458 0317
WEBSITE:
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farmer's weekly

6 MARCH 2020

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MOHAIR FARMER'S FORMULA FOR EXCELLENT SUMMER KID CLIPS

MONTHLY BAKKIE
PRICES REPORT

**EXPROPRIATION
WITHOUT
COMPENSATION**
THE SLIPPERY SLOPE TO
ECONOMIC POPULISM

ARMYWORM: KNOWING
ONE SPECIES FROM ANOTHER
IS VITAL FOR CONTROL

AWARD-WINNER'S JOURNEY
**FROM SEASONAL WORKER
TO SUCCESSFUL FARMER**

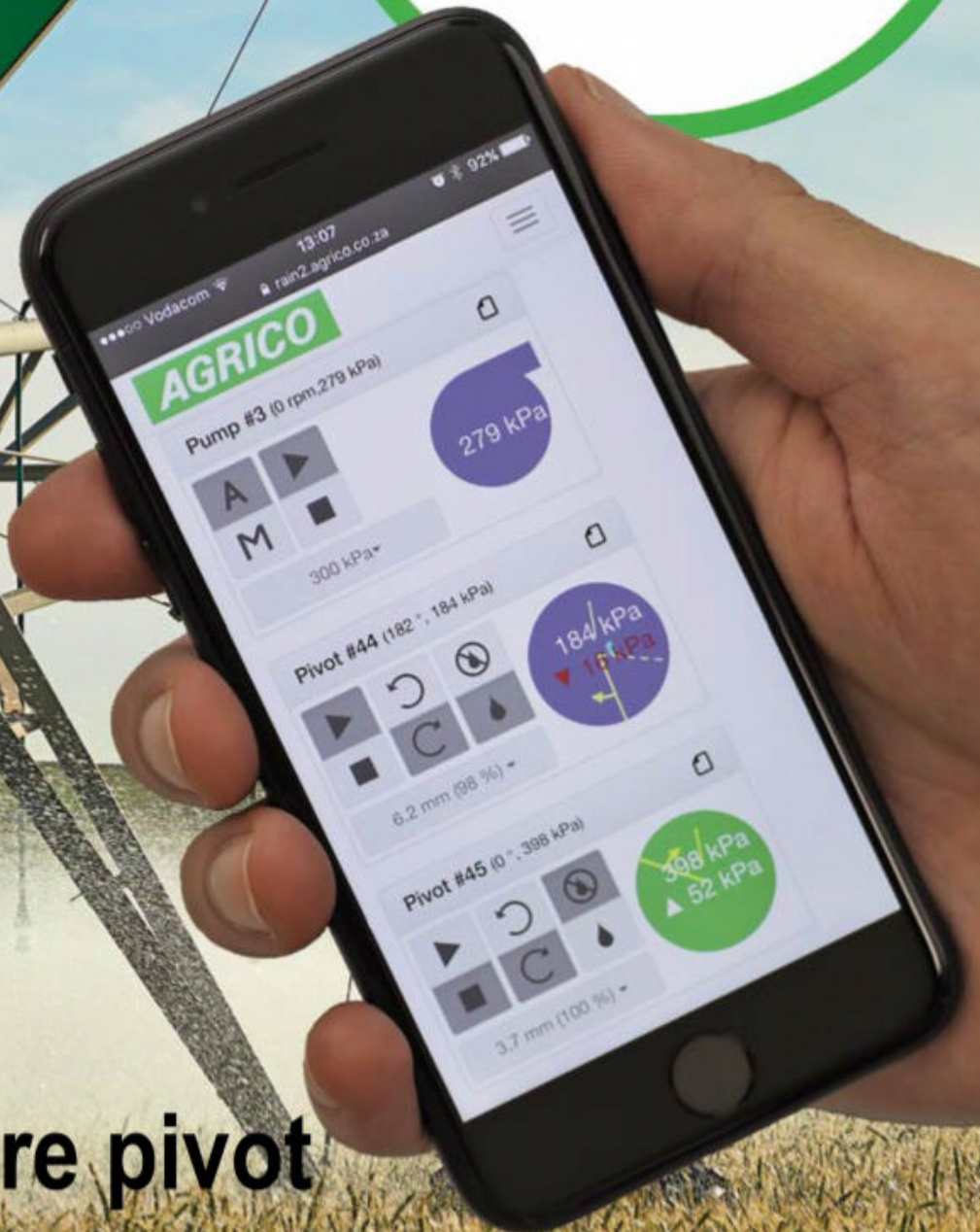
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**SALUTE TO A BABOON WHO
JOINED SOLDIERS IN WW1**



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The Agricultural Writers SA New Entrant to Commercial Agriculture winner in 2019, Dirk Louw, is showing that it is still possible to start farming from scratch. He spoke to Glenneis Kriel about what contributed to his success, his perseverance against all odds and his plans for the future (*see story on pg 30*).
LEON LOUW

COVER STORY:
Eastern Cape mohair producer Paul Webber has twice won the prestigious Daidoh Trophy Competition for the highest average price for a summer kid clip. Mike Burgess visited him recently on his farm to better understand his mohair production system (*see story on pg 34*).
MIKE BURGESS

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From the Editor

Corruption a top worry for youth

Young people in Africa are surprisingly optimistic about the future, given the high rate of youth unemployment across the continent. However, as results from a recent survey show, this generation is also disillusioned with corrupt, democratically elected governments and likely to prefer stability over democracy.

The Ichikowitz Family Foundation, a leading African foundation encouraging active citizenship across the continent, recently released the African Youth Survey 2020. The results were based on 4 200 in-depth, face-to-face interviews of Africans aged 18 to 24 years across 14 countries in East, West and Southern Africa.

According to the survey, African youth tended to be more optimistic about the future of the continent than the future of their own countries, with 63% unhappy with their own countries and 49% unhappy with Africa.

While the risk posed by the continent's youth unemployment crisis featured strongly, respondents indicated they were interested in creating their own jobs and opportunities. "The next African generation are entrepreneurs and self-starters who are resolute in their goals and ambitions: 76% want to start a business in the next five years, and over 60% have an idea for a business or social enterprise," the report said.

In fact, when asked what they would do if they were given US\$100 (about R1 500), 50% said they would invest the money in their own businesses. The sectors most appealing to these would-be entrepreneurs were the fixed retail sector (17%), with technology and agriculture tied second (both at 10%).

Regionally, interest in starting an agriculture-based business was as follows: South, 67%; East, 63%; and West, 76%. The highest overall interest in agriculture was amongst Ghanaian participants, with 86% saying they would like to work in agriculture.

Another major focus of the survey was on the perceptions young Africans had of politics and governance. It found that political failures had made this generation vulnerable to autocrats. "In a finding that mirrors trends across the globe's democratic and semi-democratic states, African youth appear ambivalent about the importance of democracy over economically stable, one-party states," the report stated. The sample was evenly split at 48% to 48% (the missing 4% was the percentage of respondents who answered 'don't know') on whether democracy or stable, one-party states were preferable. Based on in-country samples, there were clear indications of a preference for stability in states recently dealing with turmoil and conflict, while states preferring democracy tended to be currently stable. Respondents from South Africa were amongst those who chose stability (54%) over democracy (44%).

Overall, young Africans see infectious disease and terrorism as the continent's two biggest threats of the last five years, and reducing government corruption (26%) and creating new jobs (24%) as the most important things necessary for Africa to move forward over the next five years. ■FW



Denene Erasmus
Editor

farmer's weekly

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR Denene Erasmus (denene@caxton.co.za)
MANAGING EDITOR Janine Ryan (janiner@caxton.co.za)
NEWS EDITOR Julinda Schroeder (julindas@caxton.co.za)
ART DIRECTOR Vian Roos
DESIGNER Louis Kruger
CHIEF COPY EDITOR Paul Sulter
COPY EDITORS Fanie de Villiers and Yvonne Fontyn
DIGITAL EDITOR Sindira Chetty (sindirac@caxton.co.za)
OFFICE ASSISTANT Prenusha Moodley

SUBSCRIPTIONS

PRINT 087 405 2003 (subs@magsathome.co.za)
DIGITAL Visit farmersweekly.co.za, select 'Subscribe' and click on 'Zinio' or 'Magzter'.

EDITORIAL HEAD OFFICE

ADDRESS 368 Jan Smuts Avenue, Craighall 2196
PO Box 1797, Pinegowrie 2123
TEL 087 087 8878
EMAIL farmersweekly@caxton.co.za
WEBSITE farmersweekly.co.za
SOCIAL MEDIA @FarmersWeeklySA

JOURNALISTS

NORTHERN REGION
Pieter Dempsey 087 087 8787 (pieterd@caxton.co.za)
Siyanda Sishuba 087 087 7037 (siyandas@caxton.co.za)
CENTRAL REGION
Annelie Coleman, Bothaville
082 862 9897 (ann@btbits.co.za)
Sabrina Dean, Bloemfontein
082 222 9172 (sabrina@caxton.co.za)
KWAZULU-NATAL
Lloyd Phillips, Mooi River
084 505 9343 (phillips01@telkomsa.net)
WESTERN CAPE
Jeandré van der Walt, Cape Town
021 001 2432, 078 422 2441 (jeandred@caxton.co.za)

ADVERTISING

SALES MANAGER
Reinhard Lotz 087 158 0278 (reinhardl@caxton.co.za)
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Andy Nxumalo 087 087 7067 (andyn@caxton.co.za)
Erika Pienaar 021 530 8618 (erikap@caxton.co.za)
Francis Germishuys 087 158 0299 (francis@caxton.co.za)
Veliile Ncube 087 158 0298 (velilen@caxton.co.za)
AUCTIONS & CLASSIFIEDS
Natasha Kock 087 087 8899 (natashakock@caxton.co.za)
René Moonsamy 087 087 8900 (renea@caxton.co.za)
Layout artist: Chadré Oosthuizen

MARKETING

MARKETING MANAGER
Reinhard Lotz 087 158 0278 (reinhardl@caxton.co.za)
MARKETING COORDINATOR
Melanie Olivier 087 158 0280 (melanieo@caxton.co.za)

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The politics behind SA's property clause amendment

More than anything else, the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment Bill to change Section 25 to allow for broader application of the expropriation of property without compensation will signal a shift in the ANC's ideological direction towards economic populism, writes law expert **Prof Theunis Roux**.

The views expressed in our weekly opinion piece do not necessarily reflect those of *Farmer's Weekly*.

This article was first published by theconversation.com and can be accessed at bit.ly/39OxnON.

Theunis Roux is professor of law at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Before relocating to Australia in January 2009, he was the founding director of the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law. Email him at t.roux@unsw.edu.au.

“ It is hard to comment on a draft constitutional amendment that is apparently not in its final form. But the stakes surrounding the proposed change to Section 25 of the South African Constitution are too high to wait until the governing ANC sets out exactly how it wants to alter it.

As the draft Constitution Eighteenth Amendment Bill is currently worded, Section 25(2)(b) would be changed to provide that ‘a court may, where land and any improvements thereon are expropriated for the purposes of land reform, determine that the amount of compensation is nil’.

In addition, a new Section 25(3A) would be inserted, authorising Parliament to set out the circumstances under which such an order could be made, subject to the Constitution.

Existing commentary on this proposal has tended to split into two camps.

According to one view, expressed by the Constitutional Review Committee responsible for the draft Bill, the new Section 25(2)(b) merely makes ‘explicit that which is implicit in the Constitution’. Since any legislation enacted under the amended provision would be subject to the rest of the Constitution, all that the draft Bill does is clear the way for the long-awaited (and necessary) change to the ANC's willing-buyer, willing-seller approach to land reform.

According to another view, the proposed amendment sends needlessly worrying signals to an already jittery market. If the property clause as it stands provides for the payment of nil compensation, why gratuitously stoke local and foreign investor fears by amending it?

This second view has some merit. But the impact of the proposed amendment on investor confidence is not what should truly worry friends of liberal constitutionalism in South Africa. Improved prospects for liberal democracy depend on the re-legitimation of the country's racially skewed economic system. Redistributive land reform clearly has an important role to play in that.

Instead, friends of liberal constitutionalism should be worried about what the proposed amendment reveals about the fragility of the support for this form of government within the ANC.

THE REAL CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Superficially, the origins of the amendment lie in the ANC's need to project itself as the true custodian of the national liberation project. In the face of the left-wing populist challenge posed by the EFF, the ANC is simply monopolising the discursive space for that party's radical agenda.

This might be plausible, to a degree. But this interpretation treats the ANC as a unified actor with a single set of strategic priorities. This is patently not the case. The ANC is currently split between a pragmatic, market-respecting faction aligned to President Cyril Ramaphosa, and a radical economic transformation faction associated with Secretary General Ace Magashule. Decision-making in the organisation is therefore a reflection of the relative strength of those factions.

Against this background, the proposed amendment to the property clause is not so much a populist containment measure as a political wedge.

MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THE ANC'S PRAGMATIC FACTION SPUN THE AMENDMENT

The publication of the amendment followed a unanimous decision of the ANC's National Executive Committee. That the pragmatic faction in the party acceded to this change, however, should not be read as a wholesale endorsement of it.

As soon as the amendment was mooted, the pragmatic faction was essentially presented with a choice. Either they could oppose it, and thus take responsibility for any further loss of electoral support to the EFF, or they could embrace it, and in so doing accept a fundamental shift in the ANC's ideological direction.

The pragmatic faction's participation in the National Executive Committee's decision amounted to choosing the second option in this wedge. As such, it is very revealing about their assessment of the strength of support for economic populism, both in the ANC and in the country more generally.

That, more than anything else, is what friends of liberal constitutionalism in South Africa should be worried about.

THE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

Assuming that the public response to the draft Bill is overwhelmingly positive, there will be no stopping its adoption and the change to the ANC's attitude towards constitutional governance such a change would signal.

For the radical economic transformation faction, and by extension the EFF, this outcome would represent a clear victory. The moderate, liberal-constitutionalist party of former president Nelson Mandela would effectively be dead, and the country would be launched onto a new constitutional-populist trajectory.

On the other hand, if the public response to the draft Bill is mixed, or firmly against it, this would embolden the pragmatic faction to motivate for its withdrawal. Under this scenario, the failed constitutional reform process would arrest the momentum behind economic populism in South Africa, at least for the time being.

Even if the draft Bill is passed, there would still be some scope for the pragmatic faction to use the amendment to rededicate the ANC to the orderly land reform process it promised, but which has been waylaid by maladministration. Much would depend on how the pragmatic faction spun the amendment, and whether it was able to influence the nature of any ensuing land reform measures.

For all these reasons, the proposed amendment to Section 25 represents a critical juncture in South African constitutional politics.

The outcome of the current public consultation process will shape the nature of its constitutional democracy for years to come. ■FW



Farmer's Diary

STEVE BUISSINE

16 TO 18 MARCH

Breeding pigs

EFFECTIVE ANIMAL REPRODUCTION IS THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESSFUL PIG FARMING. THIS COURSE THEREFORE FOCUSES ON THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION (AI), FUNCTIONAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCURATE RECORD-KEEPING OF AI PROGRAMMES.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & EXPOS

23 TO 27 MARCH

Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa Conference, Stellenbosch University. Email deidre@iafrica.com.

26 TO 27 MARCH

Environmental Waste and Landfill Management, Emperors Palace, Johannesburg. Email admin@maphosam.co.za.

31 MARCH TO 1 APRIL

The Water Show Africa, Sandton Convention Centre. Email Brian Shabangu at brian.shabangu@terrapinn.com.

13 TO 14 APRIL

The Solar Power and Wind Renewable Energy Show, Cairo. Email Prima Castelino at prima.castelino@terrapinn.com.

COURSES & TRAINING

4 MARCH

Breedplan/Genomics, Ebuhlanti Wagyu, Marble Hall. Email office@lrf.co.za.

4 MARCH

Lucerne Hay Grading, Cradock. Email Sunet Vermeulen-Fenthum at sunet@lusern.org.

4 TO 5 MARCH

Aquaponics and Smart Greenhouse Technology Masterclass, Irene Dairy Farm, Centurion. Email connie@empiretraining.co.za.

5 MARCH

Cattle: Pregnancy Awareness, Muldersdrift. Email Lily Rothman at office@rltsafrica.com.

16 TO 18 MARCH

Engineering, Management and Operation of Extrusion Plants, Extrusion R&D Centre, Potchefstroom. Email Jaco Beetge at jaco@cfam.co.za.

16 TO 18 MARCH

Pigs: Artificial Insemination, George. Email Lily Rothman at office@rltsafrica.com.

21 TO 22 MARCH

The Building Blocks to Beekeeping, Johannesburg. Email David Fraser at david@beelife.co.za.

23 TO 27 MARCH

Practical Aquaculture, Aquaculture Academy, Grahamstown. Email info@aquaafrica.co.za.

2 TO 3 APRIL

Commercial Gourmet Mushroom Substrate Design, Cultivation and Business Plan, Durban. Visit mushroomacademy.com.

2 TO 3 APRIL

Pressure Pipeline and Pump Station Design, Apollo Conferencing Hotel, Randburg. Email Michael Phiri at info@luthandoskills.co.za.

3 APRIL TO 5 JUNE

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20 TO 24 APRIL

Tractor Operation and Maintenance, Buhle Farmers' Academy, Delmas. Email info@buhle.org.za.

SHOWS & FESTIVALS

5 MARCH

Agri Gauteng Golf Day, Silver Lakes Golf Estate, Pretoria. Phone Juanita da Matta on 071 457 2696.

6 TO 15 MARCH

Toyota SU Woordfees, Stellenbosch. Visit woordfees.co.za or agriexpo.co.za.

13 TO 15 MARCH

Knysna Timber Festival, Timber Village, Welbedacht, Knysna. Email info@timberfestival.co.za.

26 MARCH

Qualité Awards Dinner, Stellenbosch Town Hall. Email Yolandi de Wet at yolandi@yolandidewetpr.co.za.

8 TO 13 APRIL

The Rand Show, Johannesburg Expo Centre, Nasrec. Visit randshow.co.za.

25 TO 27 APRIL

South African Cheese Festival, Sandringham. Email Agri-Expo at admin@agriexpo.co.za.

IMPORTANT DATES

9 TO 11 APRIL

Indigenous Food and Beverages Expo, Matopos, Zimbabwe. Email Makhosi Mahlangu at africanfoodexpo@gmail.com, or visit africanfoodexpo.com.

23 APRIL

Global Cherry Summit, Sun Monticello Conference Center, San Francisco de Mostazal, Chile. Visit globalcherrysummit.com.

24 APRIL TO 2 MAY

Bloem Show, Bloemfontein. Visit bloemskou.co.za.

12 TO 15 MAY

Nampo Harvest Day, Bothaville. Visit grainsa.co.za/pages/nampo.

22 TO 31 MAY

The Royal Show, Pietermaritzburg. Visit royalshow.co.za.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST A MONTH IN ADVANCE.

Email Janine Ryan at janiner@caxton.co.za to place an entry. Please note that, due to limited space, publication of an event cannot be guaranteed. All entries are published at the editor's discretion.



ABOVE: This *Farmer's Weekly* reader grows around 41 different food crops in her backyard garden. Aubergine is one of her latest additions. SUPPLIED

Always keep trying!

People are usually hesitant to grow a food garden as they may feel that the crop will fail, but look what I have grown over my 51 years here in Pinetown in my small back garden!

I started with a packet of bush beans and a bag of compost, but failed miserably when most of the beans were pulled out as they emerged by hadedas, and the rest were devoured by locusts. I ended up with only two plants that gave a scanty crop of fresh green beans!

However, this did not deter me as I was determined to grow my own food crops. I continued putting in the effort, and now grow 41 different food crops and

herbs. My latest additions are bananas and the aubergines.

My three apple trees I planted from seed. They are now nearly 1,5m tall. They are growing very lush and green, but I doubt I will get a crop of apples as these trees need a cold winter and we only have two seasons here in Pinetown: summer and winter. We don't experience autumn or spring at all, and the temperature averages over 30°C to near 40°C. Even in June, the days are at 30°C-plus.

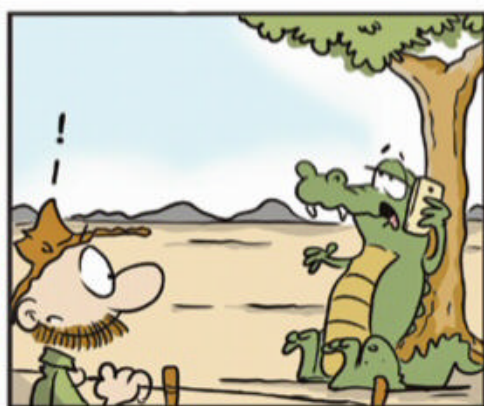
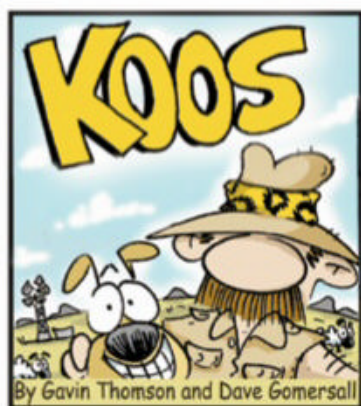
For all those would-be gardeners: try and grow everything, and remember if you fail, you can gain experience by trying again! Kind regards, Natalie Rowles, via email



BRONWYNNE VAN ROOYEN

A girl's best friend

Farmer's Weekly reader Bronwynne van Rooyen submitted this photograph of her daughter, Danielle, sharing a moment with her favourite ewe. Nine-year-old Danielle is an avid farmer with a particular passion for sheep, says her mother. The Van Rooyens are based in Lydenburg, Mpumalanga, and farm SA Mutton Merinos.



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Send your letters to: *Farmer's Weekly*, PO Box 1797, Pinegowrie 2123, SA, fax 011 889 0862, or email farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. The views and opinions expressed on the letters page do not necessarily reflect those of *Farmer's Weekly* or Caxton. Readers' letters will be published and edited at the sole discretion of *Farmer's Weekly*.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES



16 SEPTEMBER 1970

Drought adjustment

50 YEARS AGO

The following article was an abstract from a study concerned with the adjustments made by people who remained on their farms in Mills County, Texas, during a period of prolonged drought (1950 to 1957). It explained that the results of this study could be applied to South Africa to plan future programmes for drought areas.

Traditionally, the study area has been largely dependent upon agriculture. From census sources for 1950, 1954 and 1959, certain statistics can be obtained that may be used in determining what happened in agriculture in the area as a whole for this period.

In 1950, Mills County had 1 061 farms and ranches, as contrasted with 893 in 1954 and 767 in 1959, declines

of 16% and 14% respectively. With essentially the same amount of land remaining in agricultural production, the average farm size increased from 407 acres [about 164,7ha] in 1950 to 475,3 acres [192,3ha] in 1954 and 553,3 acres [223,9ha] in 1959. Only those farms and ranches that were 1 000 acres [404,7ha] or larger increased in number between 1950 and 1959. During this period, these larger farms increased by about 25%, with most of the increase occurring between 1954 and 1959.

While the number of farms was fewer in all other size categories, the largest proportionate decrease was in the smallest farms: 10 acres [4ha] or less. There is no doubt that the overall trend has been toward fewer but larger farming operations.

While livestock production remained important in the

ABOVE:

A drought-ravaged scene. In an American survey it was found that the overall trend during long periods of drought was toward fewer but larger farming operations. This photograph accompanied the article in our 16 September 1970 issue.

This article has been edited to adhere to the current style of Farmer's Weekly.

agricultural economy of Mills County, a major change was made in the type of livestock produced during the drought years. There were about the same number of cattle and calves on Mills County farms in 1959 and 1950, but fluctuations occurred in their numbers during the drought years.

In 1954, there were 1 500 fewer cattle and calves on farms than in 1950. Between 1954 and 1959, herds were built back up and in 1959 there were 21 557 cattle and calves as compared with 21 368 in 1950.

The biggest change occurred in the number of sheep and lambs and goats and kids produced. In 1950, there were 98 009 sheep and lambs in the county. Their number dropped off to 94 429 in 1954 and expanded by 1959 to 126 162. A considerable expansion took place in the production of goats and kids, raised mostly for mohair.

In 1950, there were 54 674 goats and kids enumerated on Mills County farms. They had increased to 77 599 by 1954, and by 1959, the number of goats had increased to 95 558.

Cotton and peanut production declined during the period under consideration. In 1949, there were 5 478 acres [2 216,9ha] planted to cotton, but only 2 645 acres [1 070,4ha] under cotton in 1954 and 1 862 acres [753,5ha] in 1959. Acres planted to peanuts fell from 1 793 acres [725,6ha] in 1949 to 889 acres [359,8ha] in 1954 and 796 acres [321,1ha] in 1959.

One of the effects of drought may be noted by taking into consideration the number of farms that were irrigated. The census lists only one irrigated farm in 1950, and the number increased under drought conditions to 19 in 1954.

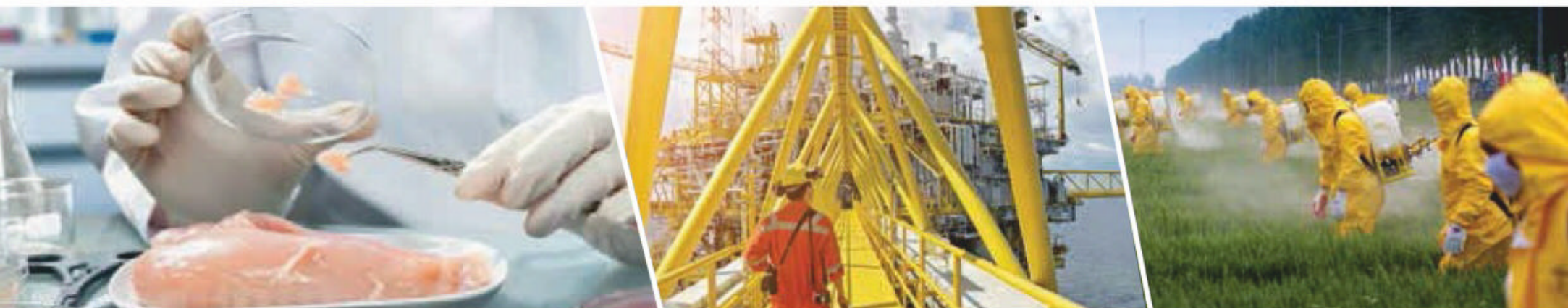
By 1959, when the drought was considered as definitely having been broken, the number of irrigated farms had declined to eight. That the prolonged drought necessitated many agricultural adjustments is evidenced by the fact that only 12% of the farmers farming in 1958 from whom information was obtained went through the drought years without making either a major production or operational change. ■ FW



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SA risks losing differential US trade agreements: Part 1



GLOBAL INSIGHT BY DR TINASHE KAPUYA

Dr Tinashe Kapuya is an agricultural economist. Email him at tinashekapuya@gmail.com.

In February, the US adjusted the list of developing and least developed countries it will consider for special and differential treatment.

Under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) countervailing duty (CVD) law and the subsidies and countervailing measures (SCM) agreement, least developed and developing countries are allowed to implement specific levels of product-specific and sectoral support, because any related trade-distorting measures are normally considered to be too small to have a significant impact on global markets.

For example, special treatment under the CVD law means that governments that are considering reciprocal and countermeasures through a 'countervailing duty' investigation must terminate such an investigation if the amount of the subsidy is less than a 2% *ad valorem* tax, or if the size of imports from the country is less than 4% of total imports.

In its new criteria, the US outlined three main parameters for the country under consideration: have an average gross national income (GNI) of not more than US\$12 375 (about R188 000) per person per year; account for a share of world trade of below 0,5%; and not be a member (or applying to become a member) of key institutions such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the EU, or the Group of Twenty (G20).

South Africa meets two of these criteria, according to 2018 estimates: it has a per capita GNI of US\$6 155,59 (about R93 000), which is half the threshold set by the US, and the country accounts for just under 0,5% of global trade. However, South Africa is a member of the G20.

These adjustments to US policy have several implications for South Africa. First, it is a developed country, at least according to the US. This means that the US can open countervailing investigations and tax South African goods that it deems to be receiving subsidies and other forms of support if such products are directly competing with US producers.

As a 'developed country' with no privileges of special and differential treatment from the US, South Africa has

to adhere to more stringent thresholds, that is, an *ad valorem* tax of less than, or equal to, 1%, and subsidised imports lower than 3% of the country's total imports.

The irony, however, is that while being subject to the new stringent thresholds, South Africa remains a relatively small economy on the global market, and offers little to no competition to the large industrialised economy of the US.

Unlike South Africa, other emerging markets such as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam became ineligible for special and differential treatment primarily due to their share of global trade being more than 0,5%.

CHINA

Meanwhile, China declared that it would refuse to give up 'special and differential treatment' as a developing nation at the WTO. It so happens that China still sees itself as 'the world's largest developing country'. However, the US has long argued that the WTO rules give China too much leeway to subsidise its industries, support state-owned firms, and discriminate against foreign investors. The US views China's forced transfer of technology and theft of intellectual property as key problems emanating from the WTO's lack of reform.

To keen observers, the new criteria set by the US have primarily targeted the likes of India, but especially China, both of which it considers too large and relatively advanced to be referred to as developing countries.

The US went as far as removing India from its list of generalised system of preference (GSP) in July 2019, a programme set up in the 1970s to offer developing countries' exports more favourable terms and low tariffs. As was the case with India, South Africa is now increasingly vulnerable to being suspended or graduated out of the US's two main preference programmes, namely GSP and the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA).

In the second article in this series, I will look at whether South Africa's designation as a developed country under the CVD law will have ripple effects and unintended consequences that will affect its future eligibility as a beneficiary under the GSP scheme and AGOA.

Agriculture versus mining: a historical perspective



AGRIBUSINESS PERSPECTIVE BY HAMLET HLOMENDLINI

Hamlet Hlomendlini is an agricultural economist. Email him at hamlethlom@gmail.com.

The rise of the mining industry in South Africa has had a significant negative impact on agriculture, particularly for black farming communities.

While to some extent agriculture and mining rely on each other to prosper, conflict between these two important sectors is not often talked about due to sensitivities around the causes of the conflict, which are rooted in the colonial and apartheid eras.

However, some farmer organisations, including Agri SA and TAU SA, have raised concerns about the harm done to farming by mining activities.

From their perspective, the water pollution by mines and acid mine drainage often lead to the contamination of groundwater reserves that agriculture relies on. This, in turn, leads to poor water quality, reduced crop yields, and health hazards for people and farm animals. Other areas of concern relate to the expansion of illegal mining activities, and the fact that mined land cannot be rehabilitated for any other activity after the mine closes.

These are very serious issues and require both industries, with government representatives, to come together and address them amicably.

In January, I attended a Business Economic Indaba, organised by Business Unity South Africa, where President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the main address to stakeholders from various industries, including agriculture and mining.

Prior to Ramaphosa's address, a representative from the mining industry used the platform to highlight the industry's success and drive the narrative that the mining sector was the main force on which the South African economy was built.

Notwithstanding the importance of the industry in South Africa's economy many years ago, the question now and in the future is this: at whose detriment did mining become such an important sector? To answer this requires a thorough understanding of the structure of the country's economy prior to the development of the mining industry.

I addressed this matter in my 2015 master's of agricultural economics degree dissertation, 'Key factors influencing

smallholder market participation in the former homelands of South Africa'. In the dissertation, I suggest that prior to the development of mining in the 19th century, South Africa was largely a farming country with an economy that was dependent on agricultural production from black farmers whose productivity was the envy of the white farming community.

DISMANTLING BLACK FARMING

People often think that the dismantling of black farming in South Africa started in 1913. However, it started earlier. It was the passing of the Mines and Works Act of 1911 and the Native Labour Regulation Act of 1911 that were used to force black farmers out of their farming operations to become migrant workers for white-owned enterprises, including the mining industry that the government at the time was developing and supporting.

Subsequently, this laid the foundation for the land acts of 1913 and 1936, which were major tools for completely dismantling black farming and forcefully taking these farmers' land.

The white farming and mining sectors were developed to the detriment of black farming. So, when people talk about how the mining industry built the South African economy, it is worth remembering that it was to the detriment of agriculture, particularly black agriculture.

While the structure of the agricultural economy has changed tremendously from what it was prior to the passing of these laws, it is worth noting that this sector is performing well, albeit facing many challenges. Year-on-year, agricultural growth contributes between 1,3% and 1,5% to the economy, a rate that is higher than the year-on-year overall growth of the economy. It is therefore important that agriculture, through its various stakeholders, should do more to communicate its success. The mining industry may be important, and it may even be important for building communities in South Africa, but agriculture is equally (if not more) important. It not only builds communities, but feeds and nourishes them.



ABOVE

Rapid population growth and the resultant urban expansion is putting pressure on high-potential agricultural land in South Africa – see story on page 24.

Weekly quotes

‘WE’VE SPENT BILLIONS OF RAND, AND NOW NEED TO LEARN FROM THOSE MISTAKES, NOT REPEAT THEM’

– Commercial farmer and Agricultural Development Agency founding member, **Kallie Schoeman**, reiterating that the lessons learnt from land reform in the past have to be corrected in the future (pg 22).

‘[...] it costs an exorbitant amount of money to control the hopper bands and the flying swarms’

– Operations and stewardship manager at CropLife SA, **Dr Gerhard Verdoorn**, stressing the importance of farmers regularly scouting their land to pre-empt any locust outbreaks, especially in the Karoo (pg 21).

‘WHILE [THIS BROUGHT] RELIEF, [THESE] FLUCTUATIONS ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE CHICKS’

– Ostrich farmer and chairperson of Klein Karoo Agri, **Joey Potgieter**, explaining how extreme weather conditions was contributing to the pressure felt by farmers in the ostrich industry (pg 17).

‘This hits local tobacco farmers hard [...]’

– Head of external affairs at British American Tobacco South Africa, **Johnny Moloto**, speaking about the impact of the illicit tobacco trade on the entire value chain (pg 20).

‘THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD TO PAY THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE MUST DO SO [...]’

– Chairperson of the African Farmers’ Association of South Africa, **Neo Masithela**, urging members to comply with the new minimum wage, despite the difficulties many have had with keeping their farming operations profitable over the past two years (pg 25).

GAME

Local wildlife price premiums continue to decline in 2020

The downward trend in price premiums for rare and exceptional game species has continued, with a four-year-old buffalo bull with a 41-inch horn span being sold for R900 000 last month.

According to wildlife economist Dr Flippie Cloete, the same bull would comfortably have achieved a price of between R4 million and R5 million three years ago.

“It’s safe to say that prices went down as much as 50% during this period,” he said.

Prices, nevertheless, were apparently beginning to stabilise, as was evident in the floor prices of high-value species, such as sable antelope, and the so-called colour variants, such as black impala and golden wildebeest.

The initial decline in these prices could be ascribed to supply significantly exceeding demand at the time, he said.

The high prices of the past had, to a large extent, been driven by new entrants to the industry.

**‘PRICES HAVE
FALLEN BY AS
MUCH AS 50%
IN THREE YEARS’**

“The industry was seen as a viable additional source of profits. [However,] the uncertainty [in] the industry, huge financial outlay and capital investment, caused a considerable number

of new entrants to exit.”

Cloete added that the current, more realistic, prices were likely to be more sustainable over the long term. However, the decrease could have a negative impact and inhibit growth, at least for the next year. Future sustainability depended on the industry’s ability to expand existing markets and explore new ones.

It was crucial for the local industry to regain its market share in trophy hunting in Africa. A considerable portion had been lost to Namibia.

“It’s also vital that the industry starts pursuing the market for game meat on national as well as international levels,” Cloete said. – *Annelie Coleman*

GOVERNMENT

KZN agri department again dogged by mismanagement claims

Both the KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union (Kwanalu) and the DA have highlighted concerns about ongoing service delivery failures at the province’s Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (KZN DARD).

This followed the provincial legislature’s Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) and the Auditor General’s (AG) Office recently identifying a variety of critical problems in the department.

Sandy La Marque, CEO of Kwanalu, told *Farmer’s Weekly* that following a meeting she had attended between KZN DARD and AG officials, she found it of “great concern” that the AG’s office had noted failures of the department’s management to “govern, account and be above reproach whilst dealing with public funds, amongst other [matters]”.

“Unemployment and poverty continue to increase [when] the agriculture sector, through clear and focused interventions, could provide the growth impetus needed in the province and country. This, however, would require a shift to ensure

sound governance, accountability, discipline, and true [service] delivery.”

Christopher Pappas, a DA member in the KZN Provincial Legislature and member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, said in a statement that a “dismal presentation” by the KZN DARD to the provincial legislature’s SCOPA in mid-February had been rejected by the committee.

In letters to KZN Premier Sihle Zikalala, Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, MEC of the KZN DARD, and Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha, chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, called for the KZN DARD to be placed under administration.

Other requests made by the DA were that Sithole-Moloi sign a performance agreement; that a skills audit be conducted of all KZN DARD employees and a lifestyle audit be carried out of all senior management; and that the department urgently present the outcomes of its forensic investigations along with its turnaround plan to the committee. Mack Makhathini, KZN DARD

spokesperson, said the department condemned Pappas’s statement “as devoid [of] the truth and [as having] malicious intentions”.

He said that while SCOPA had expressed concern about the lack of important details in the KZN DARD’s report to the committee, the committee had accepted that this was largely due to the fact that the newly appointed head of department, Siza Sibande, was not yet fully up to date on the turnaround activities of the department.

“The MEC and the chairperson of SCOPA have agreed to give [Sibande] and his team an opportunity to improve the responses and submit [these] in the next meeting.

“The [KZN DARD] is currently undergoing various forensic investigations by proclamations of the President and Special Investigating Unit. The department is currently strengthening [its] internal controls and risk management and audit capabilities, which were next to non-existent in the department when [Sithole-Moloi] took over as MEC.” – *Lloyd Phillips*

OSTRICHES

Another challenging year for ostrich farmers

South African ostrich farmers can expect another difficult year as a result of low rainfall, pressure on prices, and exceedingly high feed costs. While recent rainfall across parts of the Western Cape had provided some respite for producers in the Karoo, it had not been enough to break the ongoing drought.

This was according to Joey Potgieter, an ostrich farmer and chairperson of Klein Karoo Agri.

Potgieter added that although recent rain had improved veld conditions, it had had very little effect on irrigation dams, as these were still empty.

The significant fluctuation in temperatures had also been a challenge for farmers, especially those rearing ostrich chicks.

“We experienced temperatures in the mid-40s for days on end, which was then followed by low temperatures.

“While this [brought] relief, [these] fluctuations are detrimental to the chicks.”

RIGHT:
Ostrich chicks have been particularly hard hit by severe temperature fluctuations.
FW ARCHIVE



Potgieter added that the drought had been exacerbated by low producer prices and rising feed costs. The price of roughage, for example, which made up the bulk of ostrich feed rations, was particularly high, a fact he attributed to the amount of South African lucerne being exported to China.

Since the previous season, prices had risen between R500/t and R600/t, which was putting pressure on farmers' already tight margins, he said.

Potgieter added that the novel coronavirus outbreak in China had had a significant impact on South Africa's ostrich industry. “The outbreak of the virus [has]

curbed feather prices, as factories in China are [not operating].” He said the volume of feathers on the market was also increasing, as the industry was in its peak slaughter season. He estimated the price of feathers to be between 12% and 20% lower than normal.

As it was peak season for slaughtering, meat prices were also somewhat lower.

“Many farms [are still] under quarantine, [due] to the avian influenza outbreak, [which] means that meat from these farms, even pre-cooked meat, cannot be exported. All the meat ends up on the domestic market, [resulting in] price decreases,” he said. – *Jeandré van der Walt*

NAMIBIA

Namibia to benefit greatly from US beef exports

Namibia's red meat producers will benefit significantly from beef exports to the US, according to Thinus Pretorius, chairperson of the Namibian Livestock Producers' Organisation.

He said it had taken nearly two decades for negotiations to be finalised by the Meat Corporation of Namibia (Meatco).

“The agreement between [Namibia and the US] provides for the export of forequarter beef products. It will obviously considerably broaden our client base. The announcement came as a godsend, particularly in light of the past years' devastating drought,” he added.

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Namibia's deputy prime minister,

said in a statement that the agreement had been preceded by probably one of the longest protocol audits ever undertaken by the Food Safety and Inspection Service in the US and the Namibian Directorate of Veterinary Service. The audit had ensured that Namibia complied with all the import requirements of the US beef market and, based on the final audit report, the country had been granted access to the North American market.

Under the final approval agreements, Meatco would be exporting boneless raw beef products, such as primal cuts, and beef trimmings, as well as chuck and blade beef. It also provided for the exporting of chilled and frozen boneless meat, excluding offal.

The objective was to target the fast food industry and franchise companies such as McDonald's to provide maximum returns for Meatco and Namibian producers.

“This new market should encourage Namibian farmers to be more innovative to increase their production while maintaining standards and quality,” Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

Ronald Kubas, vice-chairperson of the Meatco board, said the Namibian livestock industry was worth about R3,9 billion annually. Meatco's shareholding in the industry was about 60%. The corporation constantly sought new and lucrative markets to ensure optimal returns for producers' investments. – *Annelie Coleman*

ANIMAL HEALTH

Industry welcomes lifting of auction ban, stricter protocols

While the industry has welcomed the lifting of the ban on auctions and a resumption of red meat sales, strict safety protocols mean that it cannot be business as usual.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (agriculture department) lifted the blanket ban on auctions and livestock gatherings, such as shows, last month. The ban was implemented after an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was reported in Limpopo in November 2019.

However, Thoko Didiza, minister of the agriculture department, said in a statement that the lifting of the ban was subject to certain preconditions.

Koos van der Ryst, chairperson of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation, said that with the lifting of the ban, self-regulation had become critical. "[If] the red meat industry wants to protect its markets, every producer in the country must assist us with this."

One of South Africa's largest beef exporters, the Beefmaster Group, welcomed the lifting of



the ban and the stricter protocols as a "positive step for the beef industry", which it estimated to be worth around R81 billion.

Roelie van Reenen, supply chain executive at the group, said: "We're also pleased to note government's progress in implementing more formal traceability structures through [a national] livestock identification and traceability system, which will protect the beef industry and give us access

ABOVE:
The stricter protocols introduced for the red meat industry have been widely welcomed.
FW ARCHIVE

to more global markets."

Paul Makube, FNB senior agricultural economist, said the lifting of the ban was good news for South Africa's economy as a whole, as the market could now return to normal.

He added that the ban had resulted in a supply imbalance that had affected producers, auctioneers, feedlots and other stakeholders across the value chain.

Van Reenen said Beefmaster had welcomed measures to ensure a healthier national herd, including the announcement that auctions would only be conducted under stringent conditions and that all livestock agents had to be registered with the Agricultural Produce Agents' Council.

Didiza urged all role players to implement measures to ensure animal health and safety.

"I wish to remind all livestock keepers of their responsibilities in terms of Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act of 1984," she said. – *Sabrina Dean*

VULTURES

Raised feeding platform may offer hope for SA's vultures

Research is being conducted into a possible solution to the declining numbers of Cape and bearded vultures, which are close to extinction in Southern Africa.

The research is being carried out by Prof Aliza le Roux, associate professor in the Department of Zoology and Entomology at the University of the Free State, which is affiliated to the university's Afromontane Research Unit (ARU), together with one of her students, Agnes Mkotywa.

The aim of the study is to establish the effectiveness of introducing raised feeding platforms for the 200 'vulture restaurants' in national parks across South Africa. Game rangers dropped off carcasses,

most of which were donated by nearby farmers, at these sites.

Le Roux said that the use of poisoned carcasses as bait for other predators such as jackals and caracals posed a serious threat to vultures. The raised feeding platforms would be established in an effort to encourage growth in South Africa's vulture populations.

She said the current structures were open, which resulted in black-backed jackal feeding on the carcasses at any time of the day and night.

"There's more feeding by the jackal than the intended vultures, and the current structures don't protect the vultures against the jackal." Jackal activity at the vulture

restaurants was significantly higher than elsewhere in the national parks, a fact supported by camera traps set by Dr Mpho Ramoejane, currently an ARU postdoctoral researcher.

"A raised platform that could exclude the jackal and still provide the vultures with a large landing [area] might work," Le Roux said.

Another finding was that carcasses were not dropped off regularly enough, which resulted in the vultures not being able to predict when food would be available.

The findings of the study would be published in peer-reviewed journals, and would also be communicated to SANParks management to address the problems, he said. – *Pieter Dempsey*

China poses a problem for Argentinian pear exports

Uncertainty is growing among Argentina's top fruit producers following the interception of exports to Brazil due to codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*), the loss of exchange rate competitiveness, and the introduction of pears produced in China on the Brazilian market.

Over the past year, Argentina exported around 300 000t of pears, with 33% of this being sold on the Brazilian market.

Pears accounted for 80% of Argentina's fruit exports to Brazil.

China produced a record pear harvest over the past season. According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the country harvested more than 17 million tons, which was 20% higher than the previous season. Moreover, Russia recently closed its borders to imports from China due to the novel coronavirus outbreak, which meant that more Chinese pears would be available on the global market.

The USDA forecast that China would sell approximately 500 000t of pears on the global market this

season, which was about 40% more than the 2018/2019 season. It added that Brazil was an important market, with around 100 million potential customers. – *Staff reporter*



ABOVE: Argentinian pear producers are concerned about their stake in the Brazilian market, as pears produced in China are being imported into Brazil. HANS BENN

Ugandan farmers accuse government of extortion

Horticulturalists in Uganda have petitioned parliament in that country to act against those officials who were extorting farmers. Aguse Kalimba, a grower and exporter of hot peppers, said that officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries were increasingly showing less interest in promoting quality produce, and concentrating instead on acquiring commissions.

These concerns were first raised in a meeting with the speaker of parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, who recently received a petition from farmers and exporters of fruits and vegetables.

According to tradingeconomic.com, 80% of all of Uganda's exports were agricultural products, and included coffee, cotton, oil and fish. Kalimba said officials tasked with inspecting crops for quality assurance often charged more than 600 000 Ugandan shillings (about R2 500) and did not issue any documentation.

Francis Mawejje, an exporter of fruit and vegetables in Uganda, said these fees were "being created by individuals in the Agriculture Ministry", and were not part of official government policy. He urged parliament to investigate implicated officials. – *Staff reporter*

In Brief

EUROPE

The European market has been hit by a severe shortage of white seedless grapes, according to Corné van de Klundert of Origin Fruit Direct, a Netherlands-based company.

The company said in a report that the shortages were due to the longer-than-usual monsoon season in India.

Van de Klundert said the bulk of white seedless grapes currently on the market had been imported from South Africa and Peru. He added that large volumes of these grapes were expected from India in the first two weeks of March, but that the market would remain tight until then.

UKRAINE

Ukraine, the world's top exporter of sunflower oil, has already increased its seaborne exports of sunflower oil by 61% at this stage in the 2019/2020 season. Seaport exports total 2,23 million tons so far, compared with the 1,38 million tons exported during the corresponding period last year. In the 2018/2019 season, Ukraine exported a total of 6,06 million tons of sunflower oil, according to the Ukrainian Sunflower Oil Producers' Association.

CHINA

China has approved imports of all poultry products, including live birds and breeding stock from the US, China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs announced recently.

This followed China's banning of poultry product imports from the US in 2015, as a result of the avian influenza outbreaks there.

In November 2019, as a concession to the US ahead of finalising the trade deal being negotiated, China lifted the ban on poultry meat imports. – *Staff reporter*

TOBACCO

Illicit trade, transformation top of SA tobacco companies' agenda

Since the long-standing Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa wound up its activities at the end of 2019, South African tobacco companies have focused on tackling key issues affecting the value chain.

Two of South Africa's largest tobacco product companies, British American Tobacco South Africa (BAT SA) and Philip Morris South Africa (PM SA), told *Farmer's Weekly* that the ongoing illicit trade in tobacco products was the single biggest threat to the national value chain.

Johnny Moloto, head of external affairs at BAT SA, which buys about 80% of locally grown tobacco leaf, said the illicit tobacco trade had resulted in a "dramatic decline" in demand for legal tobacco products.

"A drop in sales volumes for BAT therefore translates directly into reduced volumes for local

farmers and processors. This hits local tobacco farmers hard and, if not addressed urgently, would result in the loss of tobacco farming jobs and [threaten] the viability of the only processing plant in the country."

Similar sentiments were expressed by PM SA's managing director, Marcelo Nico, who said that according to data provided by the University of Cape Town's Economics of Excisable Products Research Unit, approximately one in three cigarettes sold in South Africa was illicit.

"In South Africa we work through our partners to purchase tobacco through an integrated production system securing contracts with farmers that agree prices upfront. This gives predictability for farmers, prevents speculation, and ensures traceability in the supply chain."

Nico said PM SA's own research had revealed that labourers on South African tobacco farms often had poor living conditions and this was a "pressing need". PM SA had since completed a project to provide workers with improved accommodation.

Moloto said that BAT SA wanted to see far greater transformation in South Africa's tobacco value chain.

"Emerging farmers and potential processors need access to skills and funding, among other things, to ensure they can build sustainable businesses and increase their economic potential," he said.

He added that BAT SA had joined the recently established South Africa Tobacco Transformation Alliance aimed at achieving these goals. – *Lloyd Phillips*

CANNABIS

Opening up of cannabis and hemp production welcomed

Plans to open up and regulate the commercial hemp industry in South Africa, while formulating policies for the cannabis industry, have been welcomed. These initiatives were recently announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation Address.

Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at Agbiz, told *Farmer's Weekly* that the plans were already part of the sectoral master plans being developed by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

He added that many African countries had recently reformed their cannabis regulations, changing the crop from being a prohibited drug to a source of income as an exportable commodity.

"Data from New Frontier suggests that South Africa has a market of US\$1,2 billion [about R18 billion] for

cannabis and its products as of 2018." Sihlobo said the country needed to take a value chain approach and emphasise economic inclusion, with well-regulated cannabis production being affordable to smallholder farmers. "South Africa should avoid being trapped in only primary production. The cannabis policy should also aim to enrich the value chain, including research and development, seed breeding, and biotechnology on the medicinal side."

He said the production of high-value, industrial hemp products needed to be supported to improve competitiveness in the niche clothing and textiles sector, in line with the country's industrial policy.

Nicol Jansen, chairperson for economics and trade at Agri SA's Centre of Excellence, said government needed to consider the entire value chain when designing policies for

the commercial farming of cannabis and hemp, especially as the focus would be on small-scale farmers.

"These farmers might not have access to all the inputs necessary to ensure a successful crop, [such as] fertilisers and water," he added.

It was also crucial that investment in any project included employment potential. "Job creation may be an outcome of secondary agriculture, where cannabis and hemp are processed, and products are produced and sold."

Jansen warned, however, that it was imperative that the commercial farming of hemp and cannabis did not interfere with food security.

"It's a risk that small-scale farmers may prefer to farm cannabis or hemp because of the potential cash incentive, which could negatively impact the farming of commodities needed for food security," he said. – *Pieter Dempsey*

LOCUSTS

South Africa prepared for possible locust outbreaks

The South African agriculture sector has already put plans in place to combat outbreaks of the brown locust (*Locustana pardalina*), an African migratory locust, according to Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, operations and stewardship manager at CropLife SA.

This followed a directive by the Botswana Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security that an outbreak had been reported in the country's Ngamiland area.

"Small outbreaks [of the brown locust] have already been reported and controlled in [regions of the Karoo, such as] De Aar and Richmond," he said.

According to Verdoorn, the recent band of tropical weather conditions had carried the locusts from the Democratic Republic of Congo via Angola to Southern Africa.

Soil temperatures of about 30°C, with atmospheric moisture levels of 30%, had formed ideal hatching conditions for the locusts. The insects were relatively easy

to manage directly after hatching, but posed serious challenges after reaching the hopper band and flying swarm stages, he said.

The bright red hatchlings were referred to as 'red jackets'. Verdoorn added that all possible precautionary measures had been taken by the industry and state. According to legislation, landowners were compelled to report African migratory locust outbreaks timeously to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Verdoorn said that the department had dealt with outbreaks efficiently in the past.

"The so-called red jackets can be managed comfortably by people on foot, but it costs an exorbitant amount of money to control the hopper bands and the flying swarms.

"That's why regular scouting is of such importance, especially in the Karoo," he said.

Efficient control of the locusts in the Karoo would prevent the swarms from reaching the central and eastern parts of the country,

where huge damage could be caused to grain production.

The insects were best controlled with pyrethroids, and relatively small amounts of the pesticide were needed to combat red jackets. The hatchlings were extremely sensitive to pyrethroids, while hopper bands and flying swarms were considerably more resistant.

"At this stage, the impact of the pesticide is relatively small, and research has shown that the insect ecology in the Karoo recovered within eight days after the application of pyrethroids," Verdoorn said.

According to CropLife SA, these locusts were not related to the desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) currently wreaking havoc on crops in East Africa.

There were six registered pesticides in South Africa to control the brown locust.

Verdoorn called on landowners to phone CropLife SA on 082 446 8946 as soon as an outbreak of the brown locust was detected. – Annelie Coleman

NAMIBIA

'Namibian dairy industry facing catastrophe due to drought'

Namibia's dairy industry is facing a crisis due to the ongoing drought, and is on the brink of economic catastrophe, according to Kokkie Adriaanse, chairperson of the Namibian Dairy Producers' Organisation.

Speaking to *Farmer's Weekly*, Adriaanse said intensive dairy operations in the country had been forced to cut production by 300 000ℓ since October 2019 due to economic difficulties caused by the drought.

The organisation had recently held talks with the Namibian government about the possibility of a subsidy for animal feed.

"We simply cannot afford to buy animal feed anymore.

"Exorbitant transport costs, coupled with increasing feed costs, have exacerbated the crisis," he said.

According to Adriaanse, production of animal feed crops at the Hardap Dam near Mariental had come to a standstill and crops were dying in the fields. Crops such as oats for silage and hay, silage maize and lucerne produced at the Hardap Irrigation Scheme formed the backbone of the dairy industry.

In November last year, agriculture's share of water supply from the dam had been reduced by 40%. The dam had dried up in January, and irrigation was subsequently halted. When dam levels rose in February this year, one million cubic

metres were allotted to irrigation farmers, but irrigation had again been halted on 16 February.

"If we can't continue irrigating the crops soon, the worst can be expected. The Hardap is solely dependent on rain. We desperately need water in the dam. It's a matter of life and death for the Namibian dairy industry," he said.

The drought, coupled with the fact that Namibian farmers had to compete with subsidised dairy products on global markets, had resulted in a markedly uneven playing field.

"We see short-term state animal feed subsidisation as vitally important to carry the industry through this disastrous drought," Adriaanse added. – Annelie Coleman

Agri development agency to invest R25 billion over 10 years

The recently launched Agricultural Development Agency (AGDA) plans to invest R25 billion in South Africa's agriculture sector over the next decade.

The funds would be used to create opportunities for new farmers and the transfer of skills from current to new farmers.

According to a statement by AGDA, the ultimate aim of the cross-sector, government-supported and private sector-led initiative was to create a successful land reform environment that ensured regional food security.

Leona Archary, head of the agriculture division at Bigen, would act as CEO of AGDA.

The two-year initiative, announced at the Presidential Jobs Summit in 2018, had 36 founding members, which included commercial farmers, small-scale farmers and agribusinesses, and was supported by the project management office of the Presidency, the statement said.

In a recorded message, played at the launch of the

agency at the recent Africa Agri Tech in Pretoria, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza welcomed the initiative shown by businesses and farmers to come together to solve agricultural and land reform issues.

THE AGENCY WILL TRANSFER SKILLS AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW FARMERS

"Financing is one of the biggest challenges for all farmers [...] While many have access to loan financing, there are not enough financial products [to] cover the range of farm sizes in South Africa in order to make them productive. We need to work together to find solutions to this problem."

Speaking at the event, commercial farmer and AGDA founding member Kallie Schoeman said the country had paid "school fees" for

land reform over the past 25 years, yet could not show many positive results.

"We've spent billions of rand, and now need to learn from those mistakes, not repeat them."

He said that agriculture was the vehicle for reconciliation in South Africa because it could "give people back their dignity".

"It will help people not to be dependent on [welfare grants], but [rather] start with basic farming, where they can produce food for themselves and then move on to becoming commercial farmers.

"We have enough farmers with goodwill who are prepared to adopt a small farmer and say 'let me help you'. We have commodity organisations that are well suited to give momentum [to such projects]. We have the land, regardless [of whether] it belongs to government, mines or traditional leaders. We have the whole value chain of businesses. It can be done."

A board would be established during the next few weeks, and the agency was expected to be fully functional by October. – *Lindi Botha*

Traceability and better genetics needed to elevate beef exports

A robust beef export industry could substantially increase the profitability of South African farmers, according to livestock consultant and CEO of Wagyu South Africa, Dr Michael Bradfield. However, investments in genetic improvement and traceability were needed to build a sought-after brand abroad.

Speaking at the recent Africa Agri Tech in Pretoria, Bradfield said the local livestock industry had much more potential than was presently acknowledged.

"We should be building a better export industry, but we don't have the reputation that countries like Brazil, Argentina and Australia have. We need to reinvent ourselves

as a livestock industry, putting full traceability in place to assure customers of a safe, quality product."

He noted that, on average, US farmers realised an additional R4 000/carcass for meat that was exported. "For the South African industry to get to this point, we would need to invest about 1,5% of the industry's turnover in the sector to get the export industry going."

He said the livestock industry's investment in research and development was among the lowest in the agriculture sector, at about 0,1% of turnover. He added that beef consumption in China was growing, especially as the country's pig herds had been decimated by African swine flu. This represented

an ideal opportunity for South Africa to export beef to China.

"There are many opportunities, but we have to fix our animal health and the perception of our products. The world wants to know what makes our meat different. Namibia can say their meat is traceable to source; we can't say that."

He added that a 1% improvement in livestock genetics would add an additional R4,5 billion to the industry within 10 years.

"We are making a lot of progress on the genomics project, but it requires a lot of funding. We [also] have the people who can adopt the technology and put it in place, and our feedlots are world-class." – *Lindi Botha*

'Simple data analysis will maximise benefits'

Farmers were inundated with new technologies, but speakers at the recent Africa Agri Tech in Pretoria warned against those that did not prove to have a clear benefit.

Peter Leppan, director of Proagrica, a provider of data-driven support solutions, said the challenge for the industry was using the data collected to make a positive impact.

"We need to be able to minimise on-farm costs by using the right technology. Currently, the situation is that we have disconnected systems, inefficient processes, isolated data and complex operations."

He said much work still needed to be done to standardise the data

so that it could be entered into a program that could analyse it and make useful recommendations.

Erik de Vries, director of technology and innovation company Agri Technovation, noted that 4% of Internet of Things devices were linked to agriculture. He said any variability in yields that could be assessed and rectified on a farm could result in great reductions in risk and improvement in profit.

"For example, we saw a 363% increase in a farmer's income after implementing a pick-logger system that could pinpoint how many oranges were picked from each tree in each field. This provided a yield map that could be

compared with an input and soil map, and ultimately provide a clear picture of what was happening on the farm."

Being able to mitigate risk was crucial for banks when considering loans, he said. "Technology can answer important questions about expected yields and costs."

Nate Heinrich, director of precision agriculture at John Deere, said the growing population and reduction in available land meant farmers needed to get much more from each crop planted.

"We're moving towards plant-level management, not just field, orchard or hectare. This makes it so much more important to gather data, analyse it and leverage it." – *Lindi Botha*

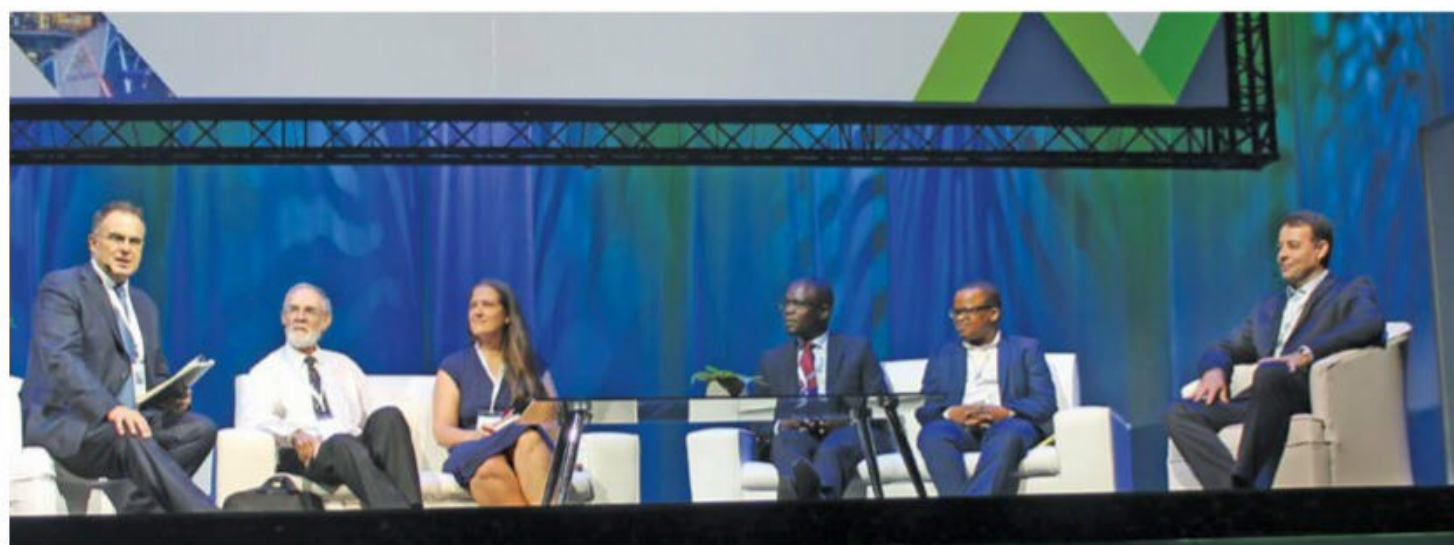
Strengthening SA's institutions necessary for economic growth

It is imperative to strengthen institutions in the agriculture sector to be able to realise growth. This was according to Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at Agbiz, who was taking part in a panel discussion during the Africa Agri Tech conference and expo held in Pretoria.

Other panellists were Prof Roelof Botha, independent economist, Prof Elmien du Plessis, associate law professor at North-West University, Prince Mashele, political analyst, and Chris Venter, chairperson of AFGRI Agri Services.

Botha said that unemployment was at the core of South Africa's problems, with 10,3 million people unemployed, and it was thus important to address growth in the agriculture sector to help address this issue.

Sihlobo added: "The focus needs to be on labour-intensive



ABOVE:
From left: Bruce Whitfield (radio personality); Prof Roelof Botha (independent economist); Prof Elmien du Plessis (associate professor, North-West University); Prince Mashele (political analyst); Wandile Sihlobo (chief economist, Agbiz); and Chris Venter (chairperson, AFGRI Agri Services).
SIYANDA SISHUBA

industries, [and] agriculture has the capacity. As we grow, we also need to focus on securing international markets to [protect the] future for the farmers who will be producing more with the utilisation of [new] technology."

Botha said that to increase export markets, South Africa needed to help strengthen the Southern African Development Community (SADC), an economic community that had a larger population than the US.

"We also need to fix logistics [issues] for export to BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa] countries, where [there are opportunities] for fresh produce," he said. Du Plessis said that land reform remained an important

consideration for foreign investors, and therefore needed to be carried out in an orderly manner. "We need to make it explicit that we're not changing the law, but [it's] a reclarification and recalibration of the social contract."

Mashele said South African farmers needed to think in the same way as those in progressive economies, such as countries in Asia, and plan for manufacturing niche products for export.

Sihlobo added, however, that for anything positive to happen, South Africa had to solve its domestic problems and strengthen its government institutions before it could match growth rates elsewhere in the world. – *Siyanda Sishuba*

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Rezoning of agricultural land a 'sad inevitability'

South Africa's ongoing population growth and urbanisation, and the resultant need to expand urban areas, mean that there will always be a demand for land for non-agricultural purposes. However, it remains essential to limit the rezoning of higher-potential agricultural land for such purposes.

This is according to Prof Theo Kleynhans of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Stellenbosch University, who is also a professional land valuer. He added that he was "not under the impression" that national demand for the rezoning of agricultural land was growing out of proportion to urban growth. "Due to the almost complete irreversibility of changing land-use from agriculture to non-agriculture, it is sad to see society lose agricultural land.

"The impact will be negative, but to ensure it is limited, all applications for the rezoning of agricultural land are evaluated

by provincial [agriculture departments] and, if necessary, the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development."

Darryl Jacobs, deputy director general of Agricultural Development and Support Services at the Western Cape's Department of Agriculture, told *Farmer's Weekly* that legislation was in place to balance the need for land for urban expansion with protecting agricultural land.

This legislation included the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act of 1970 (SALA), and the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act of 1983 (CARA).

"Besides a variety of other environmental and planning-related legislation by various role players, SALA should consent to the rezoning and formally exclude the specific land from the provisions of SALA before the Surveyor General's office will register the land as being rezoned for the specific change of land use," Jacobs said.

Kleynhans said information

required for an application to rezone agricultural land included a soil scientist's evaluation to determine the inherent production potential of the land, and an assessment by an agricultural economist to calculate the financial viability of a farming operation.

Janse Rabie, head of Agri SA's Natural Resources Centre of Excellence, said that with only about 2% of South Africa's land surface classified as high-potential agricultural land, the organisation was concerned about the rezoning of any medium and high-potential agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

Gerhard Schutte, CEO of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO), highlighted the important use of communal livestock grazing lands on municipal commonages surrounding many towns, and said the RPO would get involved in consultations wherever there were proposals to rezone these grazing lands for non-agricultural purposes. – *Lloyd Phillips*

EXPORTS

Coronavirus outbreak unnerving global trade

The deadly novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China, is one of the factors currently "unnerving" the global trading environment, according to Roelf Pienaar, managing director of Tru-Cape.

Pienaar and Conrad Fick, marketing director of Tru-Cape, briefed the media after their recent visit to Fruit Logistica in Berlin, Germany, about the latest trends at the fair and how these could affect South Africa's fruit industry.

According to Pienaar, South East Asia, especially China, was a highly significant market for South African fruit exports, especially apples such as the Fuji and Royal Beauty varieties.

"At the moment, from a trade and apple export perspective, [the

outbreak] is going to have a huge impact on trade in that region over the next few months," he said.

According to him, delays at that country's ports due to irregular working hours aimed at restricting the spread of the virus were affecting trade.

Fick added that a significant decline in the number of flights to China had accounted for a drop in tourist numbers, and this lag effect on the economy could have an impact on trade.

According to Pienaar, the situation had been exacerbated by a great deal of uncertainty as a result of China-US trade tensions. In 2017, US agricultural exports to China amounted to nearly US\$24 billion (about R362 billion). In 2018, this figure

had dropped nearly 50%, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

"Although it provides an opportunity for South Africa to ship more products to China, it also creates more competition on South Africa's more traditional markets, as the US now has to look for other markets. This is a macro factor that not only plays out in the pome fruit industry, but also [affects] other agricultural commodities."

Pienaar said the economic pressure that consumers faced worldwide was another factor affecting trade.

"In the UK, we witnessed the rise of discounter [retailers], putting the [large] retailers under pressure." – *Jeandré van der Walt*

Farmers urged to comply with new minimum wage

South African farmers are being urged to ensure that they comply with the increased minimum wage, which came into effect on 1 March.

Minister of Employment and Labour Thulas Nxesi said the new minimum wage for farmworkers was R18,68/hour, an increase of 3,8% on the previous rate of R17,97/hour.

Neo Masithela, chairperson of the African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA), told *Farmer's Weekly* that the past two years had been "difficult for the profitability of many of AFASA's members".

"Those who can afford to pay the new minimum wage must do so, and those who cannot afford to must first apply to the Minister of Employment and Labour for a concession to legally pay their workers below the new minimum wage."

He said that farmers should not abuse the concession system, however, because they would



not have functioning farming operations without their workers.

Masithela urged Nxesi to appreciate that some farmers really were in dire financial straits and required a reprieve from the new minimum wage to allow their operations to recover financially.

Neil Hamman, chairperson of Agri SA's Labour and Development Centre of Excellence, said that with South Africa's farming sector still struggling

ABOVE:
Farmers who cannot afford to pay the current minimum wage can apply for a concession.
FW ARCHIVE

with the negative impact of drought and other factors, "it's a relief for the agriculture sector that the 90% special dispensation is still in place".

This dispensation permitted the agriculture sector to pay 90% of the general national minimum wage, which rose to R20,76/hour on 1 March.

"Rising unemployment is the biggest driver of poverty. The impact of the minimum wage in this regard must be continually monitored and evaluated. Jobs can be protected by granting permission [for paying below the minimum wage] to farmers who cannot afford it at this stage."

Farmer's Weekly previously reported that Louis Meintjes, president of TAU SA, said that given South Africa's 29,1% unemployment figure for the last quarter of 2019, government needed to allow people who were prepared to work for less than the minimum wage as a farmworker, to do so. – Lloyd Phillips

New draft policy aims to strengthen agri education

The Draft National Youth Policy for 2020 to 2030, published in February by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, has called for agricultural colleges and schools to be established in every province, while agriculture faculties needed to be introduced or strengthened at universities and TVET colleges.

According to the policy document, the proposed interventions were cross-sectoral and aimed at effecting positive youth development on the local, provincial and national level to counter high unemployment.

Some of the interventions outlined in the policy for the various sectors, including agriculture, were providing young people with career information and guidance, giving them a second

chance to complete their education, outlining alternative pathways to attain training and skills, and providing the support necessary to transition to higher education. According to the 2019/2020 AgriSeta Sector Skills Plan and Strategic Plan report, the agriculture sector was working on partnerships to re-establish the agricultural colleges as suppliers of farm and agribusiness managers and technicians.

One of the strategies was to increase the capabilities of the 11 agricultural colleges around the country. This would be done through the establishment of a formal partnership between the sector, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (agriculture department), AgriSeta, the CEOs of the colleges and

their umbrella body, the Association of Principals for Agricultural Colleges, and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

The report stated that the colleges were in the process of being transferred from the agriculture department to the DHET.

"There are a number of challenges that need to be addressed, including funding for programmes required in the sector, neglected infrastructure and equipment, and the difficulty in establishing long-term plans during the transitional period.

"The [AgriSeta] will work with universities to provide support to colleges [and] identify learners who can be drawn into agricultural college programmes and work experience opportunities." – Siyanda Sishuba

Succession planning: delay it at your peril

It's tempting to put off the difficult job of succession planning. But if you wait too long, you could end up destroying a profitable business and harming family relationships.



BY PETER HUGHES

Peter Hughes is a business and management consultant with 30 years' farming experience. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Managing for profit.

I have often thanked my lucky stars that I wasn't born into a family business. Yes, I might have been worth much more money, but for every success I've seen, I've come across more failures.

Running any business is tough enough, but when you have family mixed up in it, the emotions involved often become so dominant that rational decision-making goes out the window. And when decisions are based on what's good for the family, not for the business, it's the beginning of the end.

Every family business has to face a hard reality: the owner will eventually die, or become disabled, retire or otherwise leave the company, and someone will need to step in and take over. Yet, time and again, chaos and family conflict arise over succession, particularly on family farms, where there is the added emotional complexity of heritage of the family home and land.

Implementing succession that maintains harmony and places the business in the best hands is the supreme challenge for every family-run operation. It needs informed and concentrated attention. Businesses are all different, and no two families are alike, so there is no standardised succession process. But there are a number of golden rules that pave the road for success.

THOROUGH PREPARATION

Succession planning is not something you do casually over a drink or two. It needs thorough preparation as early as possible. Family business expert Janice DiPietro of Forbes Boston Business Council in the US says that in 30 years of advising family businesses, she has never had a client who complained that he or she had started the succession process too early! The sooner that family members start understanding the three interlocking roles of which they are part – personal, professional and business – the better.

Family members need to fully comprehend the difference between family issues and business issues, and keep them separate. Many leaders of family businesses fail to understand and appreciate these overlapping roles.

To ensure the successful transition of family members will not happen if

it is dealt with informally; you need a written, regularly reviewed succession plan to which everyone has contributed. In order to get this done, the first step is to establish a 'family forum'.

The agenda at every family forum meeting must deal with 'family issues', 'business ownership' and 'management', separately. Members need to be reminded of the conflicts between these roles, and the importance of keeping them from impinging on each other.

FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE THREE INTERLOCKING ROLES: PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS

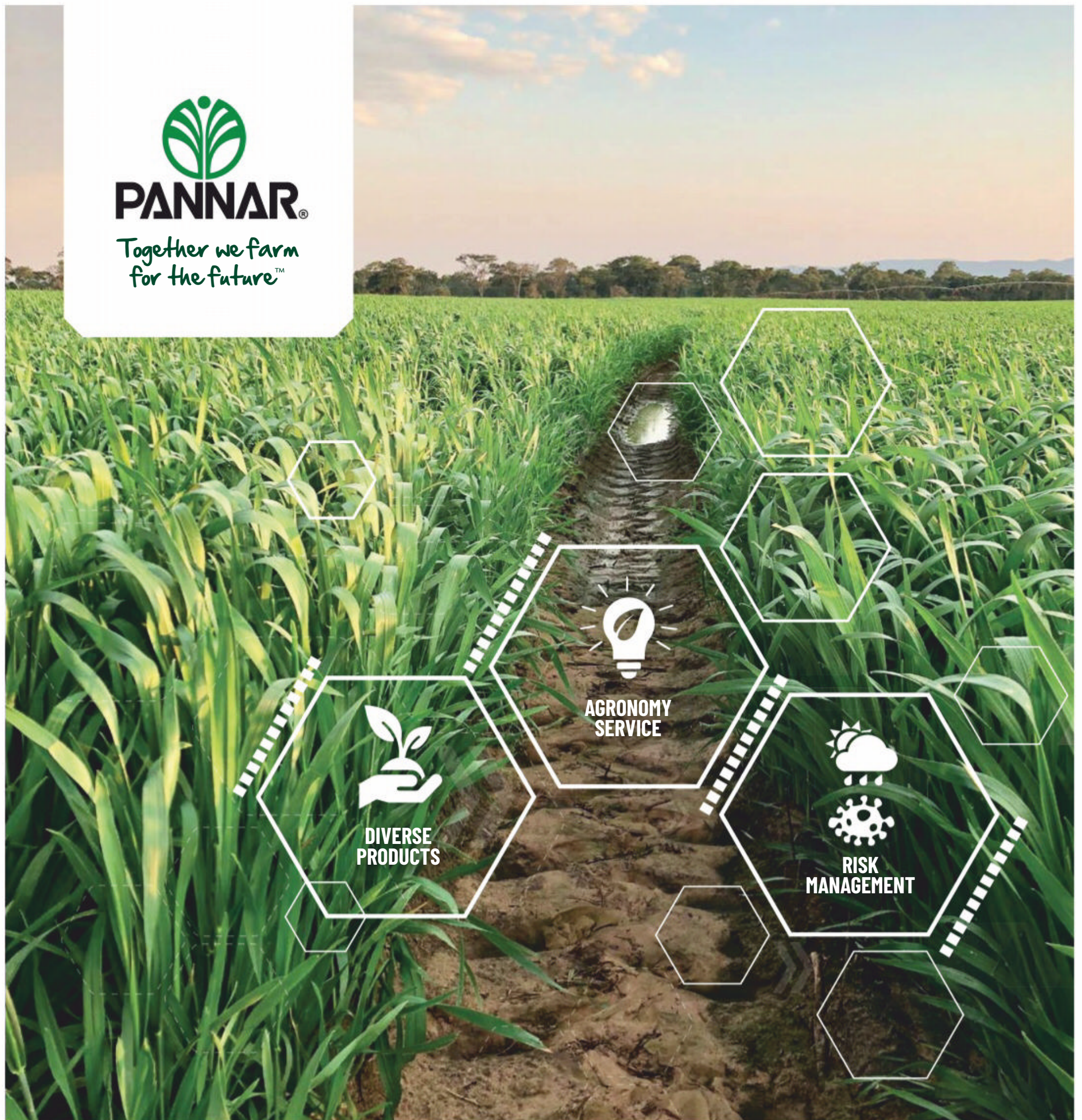
The replacement of ageing leaders in the business should be on the agenda of the family forum meeting. In fact, a replacement should always be lined up for a leader in case of illness or death.

Successors also need to be identified to manage the family interests at ownership, directorship and management levels. If family members themselves will fill these roles, it's essential to develop clear and sensible criteria for selection of successors. Importantly, they should be the same criteria that would be applied if the business were to recruit from outside the family; in other words, the family forum must be satisfied that the person has the right qualifications, job history, experience, and so on.

FORMAL PROCESS

What is needed is a carefully considered and drafted 'person-specification'. If you have difficulty composing this, call in a professional employment agency to help you wrap it up, and convince any dissenting family members.

Going through a professional and formal process to draw up this list of criteria will help ensure that properly qualified successors are appointed. It will also give family members the confidence that the selection process will bring in the best person for the job, and that it is sensible and fair. ■ FW



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The basics of applying labour law

Failing to comply with labour law holds a serious business risk, and employers should therefore be proactive and disciplined about compliance. It should also be remembered that the law is there to protect both employer and employee.



**BY CHRISTO
BESTER**

For all labour-related issues, phone the LWO Employers' Organisation on 0861 101 828.

Email the LWO at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Labour.



Compliance with labour law is essential for every farmer, regardless of the number of workers employed. Employers should go further than merely complying, however; they should use labour law to protect their farms and their rights as employers.

Employers have many rights in the workplace, but they also have a responsibility to enforce these rights.

WHAT EVERY EMPLOYER NEEDS TO DO

- In order to comply with labour law, every employer as a start needs to ensure that he or she has an employment contract in place with every employee. This is the most important document in the workplace, as it forms the basis of the relationship between employer and employee.
- Use fixed-term contracts carefully and in line with legislation. It is illegal to disguise what is actually permanent employment in the form of a fixed-term contract.
- Make provisions for deductions in the employment contract. No deductions, except for statutory deductions, can be made without the employee's consent.
- Specify your requirements regarding short time, rest periods, compressed working weeks and other time-related issues in the employment contract.
- Implement a formal retirement age.
- Ensure that every employee has a job description with achievable goals. Employees need to know what is expected of them and what standards apply to performance. Regular evaluation and training are crucial for achieving optimal work performance. Give recognition to employees who achieve goals and perform well.
- Pay at least the national minimum wage.
- Keep a copy of Sectoral Determination 13 in the workplace and make it available to employees.
- Display the posters of legislative summaries in the workplace; these are the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Employment Equity Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Ensure that your disciplinary code is relevant and up to date; this is

important for ensuring that there are clear rules in the workplace for employees to follow. When these rules are broken, you can apply discipline in accordance with the applicable sanctions as listed in the code.

- Use the disciplinary code to enforce the use of personal protective equipment.
- Verify if you are considered to be a 'designated employer' in terms of the Employment Equity Act and therefore must comply with certain requirements.
- Every farm is unique. Implement policies that are fair to address specific issues in your environment.
- Have regular consultations with employees, as effective communication creates an environment receptive to growth. This creates a platform for employees to discuss their thoughts, ideas and specific needs.

FARMERS CAN USE THE LABOUR LAW TO PROTECT THEIR FARMS AND THEIR RIGHTS AS EMPLOYERS

- Issue warnings in line with the disciplinary code.
- Be consistent when applying discipline to avoid discrimination in the workplace.
- Always follow the correct procedure, especially when the employment relationship is terminated.
- Implement an attendance register that records hours worked. The payslip should also reflect this information.
- Ensure that you as the employer are registered with the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Compensation Commissioner.
- Implement a grievance procedure to give employees the opportunity to bring any unhappiness or unsatisfactory working conditions to your attention.

As an employer, you would be well advised to get expert advice on how to comply with labour law. Mistakes can be costly, but you can limit them or even avoid them completely by obtaining professional help and being proactive. ■FW



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From seasonal worker to award-winning farmer

The Agricultural Writers SA New Entrant to Commercial Agriculture winner in 2019, **Dirk Louw**, is showing that it still is possible to start farming from scratch. He spoke to **Glenneis Kriel** about what contributed to his success, his perseverance against all odds and his plans for the future.



Most established farmers will say it would be near impossible to farm out their land [pay for the farm with revenue from production] under current production and market conditions. The odds, then, would be even lower for those not born into a farming family and their support network to offer guidance on production.

And yet, there are always outliers, like Dirk Louw, owner of Silver Moon Investments, who prove that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Louw was born in Opwag and grew up in Topline near Groblershoop in the Northern Cape. He started out as a general worker at a small shop in Hanover Park in the Western Cape after matriculating in 1995, but left the job after three years to look after his father, who had fallen ill. Louw struggled to re-enter the job market thereafter, but his fortune changed when he started doing seasonal work for André Smith at Malmaison, a farm near Groblershoop. Smith farms dried grapes for raisins, and also pecan nuts, maize and sheep.

"André called me in after the season and inquired about my plans for the future. He then committed to better equip me for the industry through skills development and training if I stayed on the farm," Louw recalls.

He began attending various table grape production courses and in 2002 acquired a driver's licence, which opened new career opportunities on the farm. He worked hard and proved a fast learner, and within a year was promoted to supervise the people under whom he had started out.

From there, he became more exposed to the management side of the farm, by dealing with staff affairs, and later also production management.

"Staff at Malmaison weren't envious of my success, as they knew I'd worked hard to get where I was. Besides, they liked my management style; I'm fair and transparent, so you know

FAST FACTS

- **Dirk Louw struggled to get a job, so started doing seasonal work at a farm.**
- **Thanks to his hard work and devotion, he rapidly moved up the ranks on the farm.**
- **His mentor, André Smith, has played a crucial role in Louw's farming success.**

what to expect from me, and I lead by example," Louw says. In testimony to his devotion and dedication, Louw won the junior management division of the 2007 Farmworker of the Year competition while working for Smith. Five years later, after getting his own farm, he took home the Senior Manager award.

He then went on to win Raisins SA's 2018 Upcoming Farmer of the Year Award.

TOUGH BEGINNINGS

Smith helped Louw look for land of his own, but prices were far too high. Then, in August 2008, after nine years of working for Smith, Louw became a beneficiary in a land redistribution farming project for an agricultural development transaction, and their paths separated.

"André and I parted on bad terms because he felt I couldn't continue working on his land if I had my own farm to take care of," recalls Louw.

"The other catch was that I had to share the 53,7ha farm, which had 20ha of old sultana vineyards that were no longer profitable, and only 1,5ha of productive sultana grapes, with nine other beneficiaries, and each of us had to make a full-time living from the farm, which was near impossible, as nobody drew a salary for quite some time."

The cracks started to show a few months later when some of the beneficiaries no longer showed up for meetings, poles of vineyards were stolen, and there

were incidents of sabotage, such as the opening of sluices and arson attempts. Undeterred, Louw bought 22 in-lamb ewes, which he later exchanged with their 24 lambs for a tractor. He also harvested old lucerne regrowth on 14ha of land on the farm, which he exchanged for a mechanical scythe, rake and baler.

Government helped him plant 10ha of wheat, but this was neglected and ended up becoming bird feed, leaving him with only the hay to sell to livestock farmers.

"Only three of the shareholders were still working, so there weren't enough hands on the farm," explains Louw.

After a year, he was at his wits' end and decided to patch things up with Smith.

"André and I evaluated the situation and came to the conclusion that I should either sell my shares to the others and forget I ever owned a farm, or buy out the others by either selling a part of the farm or getting a loan."

SOME OF THE BENEFICIARIES NO LONGER SHOWED UP FOR MEETINGS

The choice was obvious, as he had always wanted to farm. No bank, however, wanted to lend him money, so he ended up borrowing R90 000 from Smith and buying out the other shareholders. He committed to give them an additional R15 000 each over three years at a rate of R5 000 per year.

"I involved government and did everything as transparently as possible to prevent future backlashes," he says.

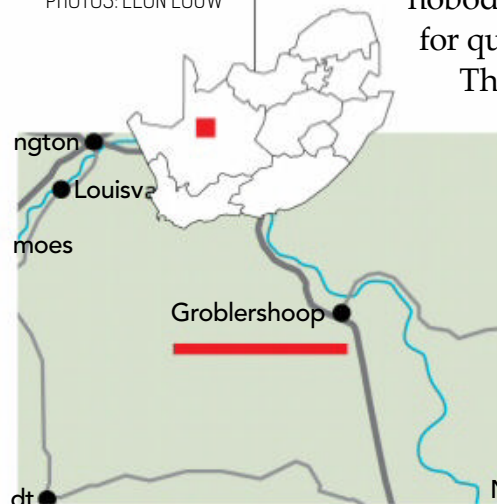
His situation improved markedly from this point. He invested R960 000 in the farm in 2010, which he used to establish 10ha of pecan nuts, and in 2012 sold 14,6ha of the land, allowing him to pay all his debt in 2013 and 2014.

"I had to make all kinds of plans to make ends meet. Without any money to buy new Massey Ferguson tyres,

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP:

Maize is produced on land that is not under permanent crops.

BELOW:
Louw has 300 ewes to add value to crop rotation and improve cash flow.
PHOTOS: LEON LOUW





I had to adapt the Massey Ferguson to fit it with second-hand Ford tyres. I even had to rebuild the tractor when it broke down. There were many times I felt like giving up, but was carried through by the encouragement and support of my wife, Reny, André, and people from the church,” says Louw.

A NEW SEASON

In 2013 and 2014, government funded the establishment of a 13ha Merbein vineyard on Louw’s farm, which he planted on land previously used for lucerne. During this time, he won a tender to supply 27 households in the local community with water, and used the income to add another hectare of vineyards.

Between 2014 and 2016, he established a further 10ha of vineyards with government aid, and during the 2016/2017 season started renting 21ha of land from government, planting 1ha of pecan nuts and 3,3ha of lucerne. He also planted lucerne between the planting rows.

‘WE USED OUR INITIATIVE TO STRETCH THE FUNDING’

The following season, he bought an additional 7,9ha of land consisting of 2,2ha of Sugraone grapes and pecan nuts, 4ha of Merbein grapes, and 1,3ha of Colombard grapes and pecans, and used the money he had won in the Raisins SA competition to plant 2,5ha of Selma Pete and 2ha of sultanas.

“It’s really difficult to get funding when you start out,” says Louw. “But it soon dawned on me that government and private companies were eager to invest in people who had a proven track record and made the best of the opportunities that came their way.

“The funding didn’t always cover the full costs, so André

1: Dirk Louw had to dig drainage canals in many of the lands to address salinity problems.

2: André Smith (left) has been supporting Louw since he started working on his farm as a seasonal worker in 1999.

3: The Agricultural Writers SA 2019 winners, from left: Dirk Louw took the New Entrant to Commercial Agriculture Award, while Nick Serfontein won the Farmer of the Year Award and Buks Nel took the Agriculturist of the Year Award.

4: Louw dries Merbein and sultana grapes to produce raisins.

Louw’s five tips for success

Create a strong support network: Dirk Louw identifies André Smith as a major contributor to his success, thanks to his role in mentoring and believing in him. But Louw has since also found support in various other places, such as the Northern Cape department of agriculture, Raisins SA, Oranjerivier Wynkelders, GWK, SA Droëvrugte, Van Der Watt Incorporated, Eygelaar Serfontein Rekenmeesters, Boegoeberg Water Users’ Association, Optimum Insurance, FNB, the Land Bank, Nulandis and Carl Baard.

Innovate: Hitting hard times is inevitable, but a farmer has to think out of the box to identify ways to survive.

Diversify: Louw has diversified his market and climatic risks by planting pecan trees and dried grape vineyards.

Maize is cultivated on lands not under permanent crops, in a rotation consisting of one-year of maize followed by three years of lucerne. He had 42ha under maize this season.

His cash flow has improved and he has added value to his farming system with 300 head of Dorper ewes. The sheep are sold from the farm gate and to Law Abattoir.

Keep records: Louw learned the importance of record-keeping while working for Smith at Malmaison. He has since also learned the importance of financial record-keeping and management.

“I pay a bookkeeper, financial expert and financial adviser to help me make well-informed financial decisions,” he says.

Social entrepreneurship: Louw lives a few hundred metres from an informal settlement. He consciously planted more dried grapes, especially early varieties, to create jobs in the area.

and I used our initiative to stretch it as far as possible. For example, he supplied me with poles and trellising material and I usually ended up doing most of the labour myself.”

THE FUTURE

Winning the Agricultural Writers SA New Entrant Award in 2019 took Louw completely by surprise.

“With all these people phoning and congratulating me, I started to think that I had actually made it,” he says.

It has also opened new opportunities. Government made funding available for Louw and a couple of other farmers to plant 100ha of maize and lucerne to enhance food security in the region. They only got to planting 70ha of the 100ha, however, because they ran out of time, missing the optimal window, and the cost per hectare did not justify planting the rest. Louw has also acquired funding

from a commercial bank to buy another 50ha of land, primarily aimed at maize and lucerne production, bringing his total area under production to 110ha.

One of his most ambitious plans is to shift from flood irrigation to drip or micro-irrigation.

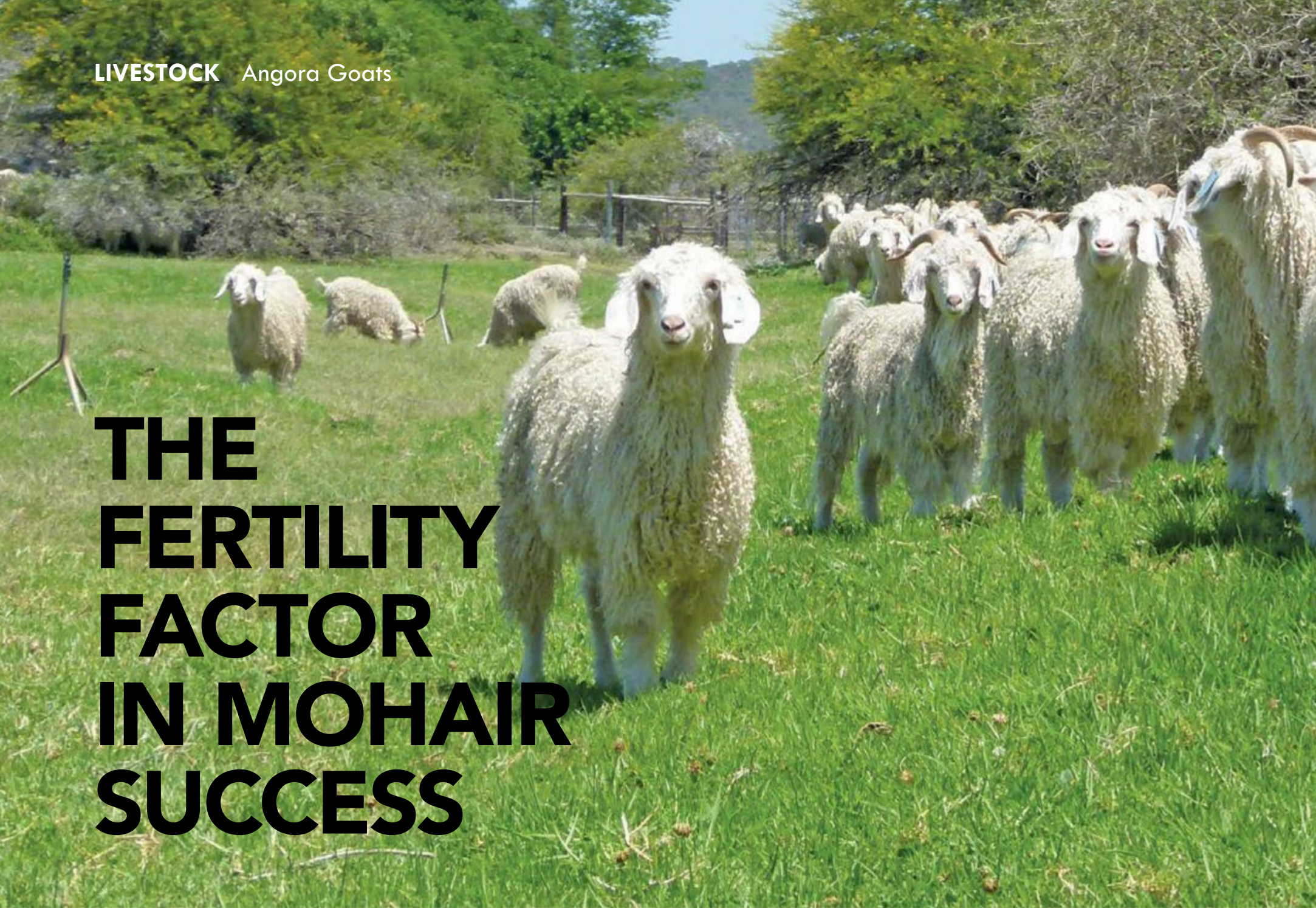
“I have access to water, but drip or micro-irrigation would greatly enhance my water-use efficiency and free up enough water to plant another 20ha of vineyards,” he says.

“I plant a seed mix between the pecan trees, which are spaced 6m by 12m, and either oats or vetch in the vineyard rows.

Vetch is a pod plant, so it helps to add nitrogen to the soil.”

His advice to aspiring farmers is to start at the bottom and familiarise themselves with what farming entails before going the full hundred yards. Besides this, they shouldn’t try to fly solo, but talk to other farmers and make use of the available support structures.

• Email Dirk Louw at louwdirk44@yahoo.com. ■FW



THE FERTILITY FACTOR IN MOHAIR SUCCESS

Eastern Cape mohair producer **Paul Webber** has twice won the prestigious Daidoh Trophy Competition for the highest average price for a summer kid clip. **Mike Burgess** visited him recently on his farm to better understand his mohair production system.

Paul Webber can look back on a memorable 2019 mohair season. He not only achieved the highest price of R621/kg for a bale of 24-micron good-style kid mohair in April, but ended up being awarded the Daidoh Trophy for the highest average price for a summer kid clip. Having won the same trophy in 2014 and being runner-up in 2015, it is safe to say that Webber is producing some of the most sought-after mohair in South Africa.

FAMILY FARM

Webber runs a mixed livestock operation on his 3 980ha Connaught property near Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape: 700 fertile Angora ewes share resources with 350 Dorper/Meatmaster ewes and 50 Bonsmara-type cows.

He is the seventh generation of his family to live in the Grahamstown region. His late father, Neil, who contracted polio as a child, farmed an 800ha farm, while his uncle, Brian, farmed Connaught from the mid-1960s.

‘A HIGH KIDDING RATE GIVES ME A FINE CLIP’

Webber attended Winterberg Agricultural High School in Fort Beaufort, where he matriculated in 1985 before completing two years of military service. He then returned to Grahamstown and assisted his father for a couple of years before accepting a managerial position on a Western Cape fruit farm.

In 1995, Brian invited him to join him on Connaught, where Angoras had become a central pillar of the farming operation. The two agreed to a 50/50 partnership and farmed successfully together until Brian's death in 2018.

Webber has continued on Connaught and says that his uncle's legacy lives on not only through the Angoras, but also in terms of what he taught him in relation to financial management and animal husbandry.

“He was careful with his money and had a saying that one should never spend more than one earns. He also insisted on not putting stress on animals, and believed that calm animals were more productive.”

Webber's Angoras are farmed predominantly in subtropical thicket comprising sweetveld



FAST FACTS

- Paul Webber won the Daidoh Trophy for the highest average price for a summer kid clip in 2014 and 2019.
- He believes fertility to be the most important selection criterion within his Angora goat production system.
- His 700 ewes wean between 600 and 650 kids per season, depending on the conditions.

and browsing plants such as *spekboom* (*Portulacaria afra*).

Although ideal for goats, the area is virulent heartwater veld and home to several toxic plants, such as wild jasmine (*Jasminum angulare*).

Ewes that are well adapted to Connaught's conditions exhibit good conformation, weigh between 40kg and 45kg, and produce strong mohair with a fleece weight of about 2kg.

"On this veld, smaller, fine goats don't do well, so I don't want to farm them," says Webber. "Because my goats are bigger, they may have stronger fleeces, but I score with fleece weight."

ABOVE: Washed and unclassed two-tooth Angora ewes on irrigated kikuyu pasture on Connaught in the Eastern Cape.

RIGHT: Paul Webber began farming Angoras in partnership with his uncle, Brian Webber, in 1995.
PHOTOS: MIKE BURGESS



According to Webber, the most important selection criteria for a flock of Angoras should always be fertility, as having a greater number of kids, with their fine mohair, increases the overall average fineness of the clip.

"I don't focus on *kapaters* [wethers]; they're sold at the two-tooth stage. My focus is ewes and kids, and if I have a high kidding rate, I'll have a fine clip regardless of the strength of the mohair I shear from my ewes," he explains.

Having more kids also ensures a broader genetic base from which to select replacement animals.



BREEDING

Webber now produces approximately 300 ram kids a year, which has enabled him to begin selecting his own rams, an advantage as they are well adapted to the area.

"It's difficult to bring animals here successfully," he says. "Goats from elsewhere often die of heartwater disease."

He now keeps up to 10 of his own rams each year for breeding and sells between 20 to 50, depending on demand. In addition, he buys in rams from Ben van der Westhuizen in Adelaide.



Webber uses five rams (a combination of older and younger) per 100 ewes, and his 700 ewes kid in August and September, and wean between 600 and 650 kids, depending on the season. The staff who manage the flocks are incentivised by being paid for every kid that can be shorn at weaning (six months).

There are over 50 camps on Connaught, and eight of these, all with adequate grazing and browsing, are used exclusively for kidding.

“Ewes go into these camps two weeks before kidding actually starts so they can settle,” explains Webber.

Maiden ewes that kid for the first time at two years do so

on irrigated kikuyu pastures before being transferred to the veld in groups of about 50 when the kids are six weeks old. During kidding season, all ewes receive a specially formulated production lick at a rate of 300g to 500g per animal. After weaning, the kids are given access to the same lick for between two weeks and a month, depending on conditions.

SHEARING

Shearing takes place twice a year, in May and October, and all mohair is marketed through fibre broker House of Fibre. The six-month-old kids (summer kids) produce fleeces that average between 800g and 900g, are B-length,

TOP: Connaught is in a virulent heartwater area, and the region has endured six years of severe drought.

ABOVE: An impressive two-tooth Angora ewe. The goats are washed and then put on kikuyu pastures for a few days before shearing to keep their mohair as clean as possible.

ABOVE RIGHT: The veld on the farm is characterised by subtropical thicket. The original farm has been increased by almost 1 000ha over the past 12 years with the purchase of adjoining land.

and have a fibre diameter of between 23 and 25 microns.

Before shearing, all young goats up to and including two-tooth animals, are washed with accredited soaps and conditioners to ensure a clean, ‘permed’ fleece. Once rinsed with water, they are put onto kikuyu pasture for a maximum of three days before being shorn.

“That’s where these [kikuyu] lands are gold for me, because I can keep the goats clean,” says Webber. “Washing them and then keeping them on kikuyu pastures before shearing has revolutionised my ability to produce top-priced mohair. If I put them on the veld, they get full of dust and thorns.”

After shearing, Webber carefully monitors the weather, as shorn Angoras are notoriously susceptible to sudden variations in temperature. If he is at all concerned about the weather, he collects and shelters the animals in seven sheds across the farm. Confining them is the last resort, however, as he believes that it detrimentally affects production.

• Phone Paul Webber on 046 622 2363. ■ FW

Medication

Paul Webber adheres to a standard inoculation regime for his Angoras, which aims to prevent *Pasteurella*-related conditions and pulpy kidney, amongst others. Goats on the veld are dosed for internal parasites two to three times a year, and all young goats that are removed from the kikuyu pastures are dosed. Dipping facilities are spread out on the farm to minimise the need to move and stress animals, and dipping takes place approximately every fortnight. The goats are also treated for lice after shearing.

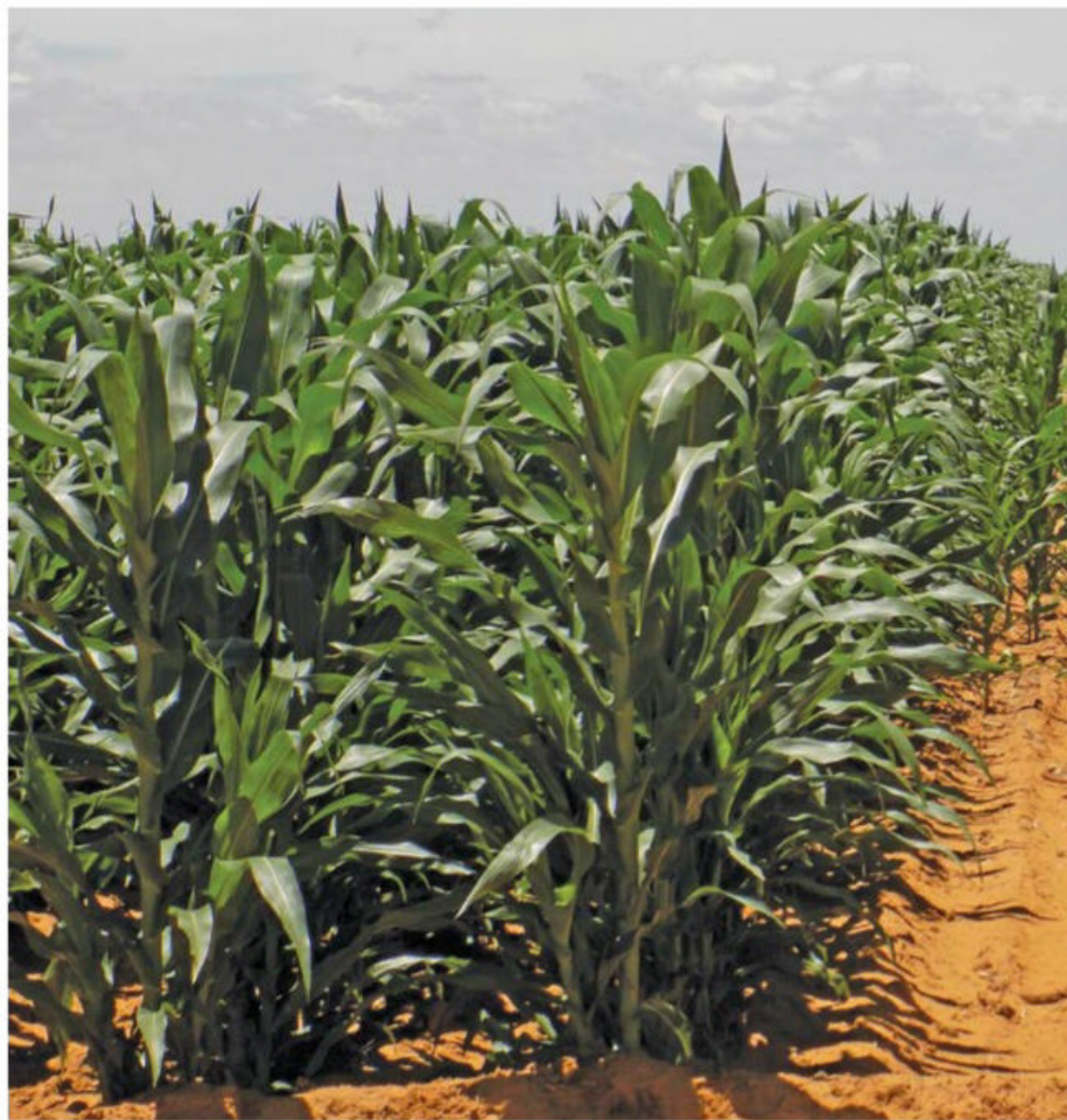


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Know your armyworm species

Effective control of armyworm begins with being able to differentiate between the various species. South African crop farmers need to learn and apply this skill, **Dr Annemie Erasmus** of the Agricultural Research Council's Grain Crops Institute told **Annelie Coleman**.

Three armyworm species occur in South Africa: the fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), the African armyworm (*S. exempta*), and the lesser armyworm (*S. exigua*). These insects' life cycles, behaviour and ecologies differ, and they feed on different crops, says Dr Annemie Erasmus, a senior researcher of entomology at the Agricultural Research Council's (ARC) Grain Crops Institute.

The lesser armyworm, for example, survives on broad-leaved plants, while the African armyworm feeds on grass species such as maize.

"It is essential for crop producers to familiarise themselves with the different species of armyworm to ensure

correct classification and effective control should an outbreak occur," says Erasmus.

FALL ARMYWORM

Fall armyworm (FAW) larvae were first collected in South Africa in 2017, mainly on maize lands. The pest can cause great devastation to a number of different crops.

Its life cycle varies between 24 and 30 days, depending on prevailing temperature and humidity, and the number of generations that appears in an area is determined by the number of dispersing moths.

FAW does not have a diapause (overwintering) stage. The moths lay eggs, which are dome-shaped, have a flat base and



DR ANNEMIE ERASMUS

curve upwards to a broadly round point, in batches on foliage. Up to 200 eggs in a batch have been recorded, and a moth can lay more than 1 000 eggs in her lifespan.

The female deposits a layer of furry-looking, greyish scales over the egg batch. The egg stage lasts two to three days.

Newly hatched larvae are green, but their colour changes as they mature. The smooth-skinned larvae range from light tan or green to nearly black, with three yellow-white lines



running down the back. On each side of the body are yellow lines and a wider dark stripe.

“FAW can be differentiated from other species by a predominant white, inverted Y-shape on the forehead between the eyes,” says Erasmus.

The duration of the larval stage can be as short as 14 days in summer. FAW larvae feed throughout the day and night.

Pupation normally occurs in the soil, with the larva constructing a cocoon out of soil particles, with silk to pupate in. But it can also web together leaf debris if the soil is too hard. The duration of the pupal stage is eight to 10 days in summer.

The mainly nocturnal moths have a wingspan of between 32mm and 40mm, and are strong flyers.

“The forewings of the male moth are shades of grey and brown, with triangular white spots at the tip and near the centre of the wing. The female forewings are less distinctly marked. The hind wings are silvery white in both

OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE LEFT: Fall armyworm was first detected in South Africa in 2017. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ABOVE: Both the fall armyworm and the African armyworm feed on grass species such as maize. ANNELIE COLEMAN

TOP RIGHT: Fall armyworm larvae have distinctive yellow-white lines and wide, dark stripes. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ABOVE RIGHT: The lesser armyworm moth has brown markings on its forewings. DIEDERICH VISSER

sexes. The duration of the adult stage is about 10 days,” she says.

AFRICAN ARMYWORM

The African armyworm is distributed widely in sub-Saharan Africa, and is a serious pest in countries north of South Africa.

African armyworm outbreaks are known for their unexpected sudden appearance, and this has led to the common name ‘mystery worm’. The name ‘armyworm’ describes the way the larvae march in large numbers away from sites where their food has run out.

“In Afrikaans, the African armyworm is called *kommandowurm* [commando worm] because the large numbers of larvae advancing are reminiscent of a commando of soldiers on manoeuvre,” says Erasmus.

Often, large areas of lawn, pasture or grass crops, such as maize and sorghum, are covered in dense colonies of larvae. This can happen virtually overnight.

FAST FACTS

- The life cycles, behaviour and ecologies of the fall armyworm, African armyworm and lesser armyworm differ markedly.
- It is crucial for crop producers to know the difference between the armyworm species for effective management during an outbreak.
- Farmers should contact the Agricultural Research Council if they detect any armyworm species.

Small outbreaks occur frequently in the high-rainfall areas of Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, but a large outbreak occurs only once every six to 10 years. The worst outbreaks in South Africa occur after late summer rain following drought.

Large numbers of birds congregating on the veld is usually a good indication of the presence of African armyworm, says Erasmus. The moths, which can be identified by their brown forewings, whitish hind wings and dark-brown patterns on the forewings, are capable of migrating thousands of kilometres, especially during outbreaks.

Their main migration flights start in the evening, and the insects ascend to 300m to 1 000m above ground level, moving downwind on the prevailing air currents.

In most parts of South Africa, infestations are usually due to moths migrating from warmer countries to the north, such as Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

'AN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IS ESSENTIAL'

The female moth lays her eggs in batches of between 100 and 400, and can produce up to 1 000 eggs in her lifetime. These hatch within three to six days, depending on air temperature and humidity. The larvae grow to 25mm in length, are blackish with green/yellow lines running the length of the body, and have a characteristic V-shaped mark on the front of the head capsule. Fully grown larvae pupate in the soil.

To ensure effective control, a farmer must detect the larvae early.

"If they're discovered when fully grown, using insecticides is generally not recommended, as most of the crop damage will already have taken place, and the likelihood that a second generation will emerge is small. Where larvae

move from one land to another, a furrow can be ploughed to create a pitfall where the larvae can be trapped, ploughed under, or controlled with insecticides."

FALL ARMYWORM VS AFRICAN ARMYWORM

Although closely related, FAW and the African armyworm have different behaviours and ecologies, says Erasmus. FAW rarely displays the armyworm behaviour of larvae massing and 'marching' across lands.

African armyworm, because it is indigenous to the continent, faces many natural biological enemies, including predators, parasitoids (insects whose larvae develop within the bodies of other arthropods, eventually killing them), and diseases. In contrast, FAW is likely to have arrived in Africa unaccompanied by its natural enemies, which enabled populations to increase unchecked.

However, researchers have found one local parasitoid that attacks the larvae. But Erasmus cautions that this by itself is not enough to control FAW.

"There's no single control measure to manage FAW effectively. Despite the good news about the egg parasitoid, an integrated management programme is essential to contain any invasion by pests such as FAW," she says.

LESSER ARMYWORM

The lesser armyworm is a highly dispersive, polyphagous (feeds on various types of food) species that is a pest of vegetable, field and flower crops. Susceptible crops include cabbage, tomato and cotton. Native to South East Asia, it is now also found in Africa, Australia and North America.

The lesser armyworm lacks a diapause mechanism and can only overwinter successfully in warm regions or greenhouses. The larvae feed on foliage and fruit, and often do so in large swarms, causing crop losses.

"This species seldom reaches pest status in maize, and there are no cultural control measures," explains Erasmus. "We're not sure if the larvae ever get to the stage where they move en masse, like the African armyworm. As they mature, the larvae become solitary."

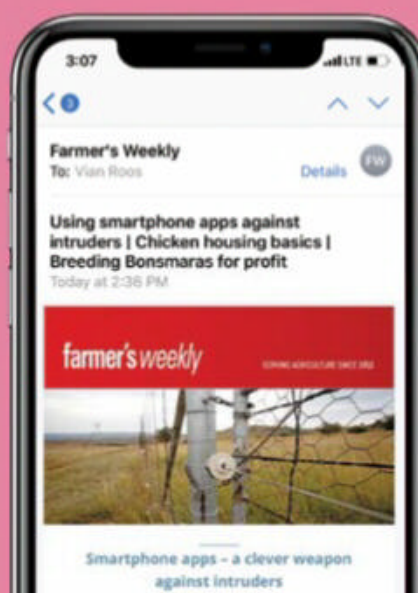
The moth of the lesser armyworm is pale grey, with brown forewing markings. The hindwings are white, with dark veins. The female lays up to 600 eggs in clusters of 30 to 100. The larvae become pupae in pupal cases in the soil, and moths appear 10 to 12 days later.

Erasmus urges farmers to contact the ARC if they see any armyworm, providing clear photographs for identification.

• Email Dr Annemie Erasmus at ErasmusA@arc.agric.za. ■FW

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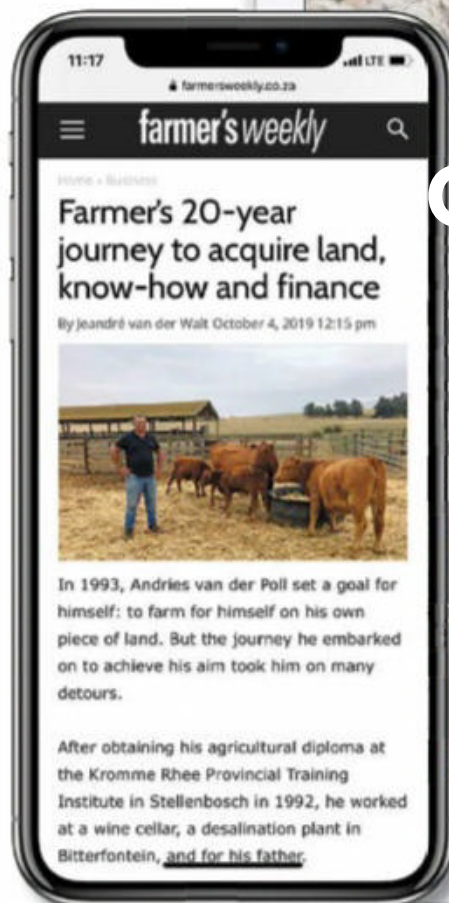


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We appreciate you on International Women's Day, 8 March.

KEEP GROWING.



Mom-and-daughter team's formula for farming success

On 8 March, the world will celebrate International Women's Day, and the role of women in agriculture is particularly evident at Temaretha Piggery. Excellence can be seen in each aspect here, and especially in the extremely dedicated **Mampe Mmeregi** and **Ntshieuwa Mevane**.



The magic happens when Mampe Mmeregi (60) and her eldest daughter Ntshieuwa Mevane (41) apply some serious strategic thinking to the plans for their operation, Temaretha Piggery. The mixed farming operation, with the piggery at its core, is located just outside Nigel, Gauteng.

While Mmeregi is the sole proprietor of the business, she shares managerial duties with her daughter.

The mother-and-daughter team employs 13 full-time staff members.

"Make no mistake, this is not an easy way to make money and we are not farming for free. We have graduated over many years on this farm to different levels of success.

"Once government sees that you are investing your own money into the farm and ploughing back profits into



building and improving the land, you can qualify for further assistance," says Mmeregi.

Mmeregi and Mevane continuously invest in their own skills and knowledge by attending courses, farmers' days and conferences, and by making use of corporate- and government-supported extension services. "Farming is not for everyone, and definitely not for those who just expect handouts," she adds. "However, we are very thankful for the opportunity and help government has provided us.

"In the past, we received a R3 million grant, but invested a lot of our own money into improving the herd, crops, and farm buildings. The assets we invested in cost us R15 million."

ABOVE: Temaretha, owned by Mampe Mmeregi (right) and her daughter Ntshieuwa Mevane, has received numerous awards for excellence over the years. It was the overall winner of the 2019/2020 Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's Female Entrepreneur Awards, and has received various provincial women in agribusiness awards since 2011. PHOTOS: LIZA BOHLMANN

Mmeregi was an administrator at the Kwadukathole High School in Katlehong for 20 years before embarking on her farming operation.

A conversation with one of the parents at the school got her interested in joining a farming co-operative, owned by a group of women who started a piggery.

"I left my job to join the group, but soon the disagreements forced us to disband. I decided with my husband to start our own farm and applied to the Department of Land Reform."

The farm near Nigel was allocated to Mmeregi and her husband, Gerson, in 2009.

But in 2010, tragedy struck when Gerson passed away.

"At that stage, we did not even have a plough, and only had five pigs, five goats, two chickens and a cow."

During this time, Mevane joined her mother on the farm. Mevane was in the process of divorce, and needed a change in her life. "We consoled each other and the farm really healed us both. Now I can't think of a better person to work with than my mother! This is the most fulfilling job I've ever had. You can grow something out of nothing, and that kind of success brings a lot of joy that no other therapy can bring," says Mevane.

MOVING FORWARD

Ten years on, the farm is still growing despite the hurdles they have had to overcome.

"When we were allocated a long-term lease contract by government, it did not include water rights. We also had to pay R110 000 ourselves to complete

the environmental impact assessment for the expansion of the piggery,” says Mevane.

However, she says, using the best-quality seed mitigates some of the risk involved in dryland production by improving yield potential. “We make use of Pioneer seed for our cash crops. Not only do we appreciate the product quality, but also the extension services and support offered by the Corteva Agriscience team. We work with Charles Makong, who gives great advice on crop production, and farming in general,” says Mevane.

Mmeregi and Mevane plant 130ha to maize and soya bean, as well as vegetables. With the help of Sylvester Montso, their crop production manager, they also grow *Eragrostis* on 45ha for feed and to sell to other farmers.

“We produce genetically modified maize and soya bean. We are especially pleased with our average maize yield of between 6t/ha and 7t/ha,” says Mevane.

In 2014, Temaretha was able to export 400t of white maize to Lesotho through the World Food Programme. The mother-daughter duo also farm 42 South African Mutton Merino sheep, 45 Boer goats and a few Beefmaster cattle. While the piggery requires the most work, it provides them with a good turnover and profit.

“The current housing is being upgraded to improve biosecurity. Our seven structures can house 250 sows, but we currently only have 200 sows in production,” says Mevane.

GIVING BACK

The operation has been accredited by AgriSETA since 2018, and each year, Temaretha accommodates one final-year student to gain practical experience for his/her qualification in animal production. “Emerging farmers from KwaZulu-Natal, KwaNdebele, Mpumalanga and Venda have come here to learn about farming,” says Mmeregi.



ABOVE: Farming pigs needs a hands-on approach. ‘You need to be present and keep your finger on the pulse,’ says Mampe Mmeregi, who is actively involved in the day-to-day running of the farm.

Mevane says respect lies at the centre of the pair’s relationship.

“We appreciate each other for our inputs. Sometimes your mom is simply your mom and her word is law, but she always listens to my ideas,” she says. “She is transferring her skills and wisdom to me. I am allowed to be my own boss to an extent, and we are in a position to help others by sharing our experience. It gives me a great sense of pride and satisfaction.”

Mmeregi’s advice to other farmers is to always look for opportunities and to be willing to change if need be. Being a hands-on manager is also important. “Supervision is part of good farm management and a crucial part of our farming success.”

She warns farmers against wastefulness.

“Don’t eat all your returns! Seventy percent must go back into the farm. Don’t waste your money on fancy cars or clothes; rather give to others.”

For Mmeregi, the most enjoyable part of farming with her daughter is the teamwork involved. “We constantly share our thoughts. To be the boss does not mean that you don’t need help or advice; even if you have to make the final decision. I am blessed to have the respect of my children and I also respect them.”

On International Women’s Day on 8 March, Corteva celebrates the achievements of women such as Mmeregi and Mevane. At Corteva Agriscience, we appreciate the role of every woman in agriculture ensuring continued progress and sustainable food security.

• Phone Corteva Agriscience on 012 683 5700.

PIGS

Feeding pigs: Part 1

Pigs cannot thrive on leftover scraps from the kitchen. To ensure healthy, productive and profitable pigs, feed them nutritious, balanced rations.

Pigs need to be fed differently at each stage of life, as their nutriment requirements change. Thus, boars and gestating sows, sows with piglets, young pigs three to 10 weeks old, and pigs being grown for slaughter at 60kg to 90kg live weight should all be fed different mixtures.

Feed mixtures for each pig class should contain the right quantities of digestible energy (DE), proteins, minerals and vitamins, and the various feedstuffs should be weighed correctly before mixing.

FEED SOURCES

The various feed sources include:

• Grain

Maize is high in DE and low in protein, and should comprise between 55% and 70% of the total feed mixture. This will provide between 60% and 80% of the total DE in the mixture and contribute 30% to 60% of the protein content.

Sorghum can be substituted for maize on an equal basis, provided that sweet sorghum (low tannin) varieties are used.

Feed-grade wheat can also be substituted for maize, provided its cost is not higher than 20% that of maize.

Its protein content is usually higher than maize, and its DE content lower. Using wheat instead of maize in feed mixtures can greatly reduce protein costs.

Grind the wheat coarsely before feeding it to the animals.

• Grain by-products

Wheat bran, maize bran, maize leaves, maize stalks and maize cobs can be used to dilute the DE content of the mixture. Wheat bran is the most popular of these; it is usually cost-effective and has a laxative effect on pigs.

• Plant protein sources

Soya bean oilcake and sunflower oilcake meal are usually included

in pig feed mixtures. The former has better quality protein and contains much less fibre.

Full-fat soya bean and sunflower seed meals have a high oil content, which produces soft fat in pig carcasses. For this reason, limit the quantity of these two ingredients in rations for finishing pigs if the feed also contains maize.

Lucerne can also be used to dilute the DE content of a mixture. As it has a high fibre and low DE content, do not overuse it.

• Animal protein sources

Fish meal is the best source of protein. It also has a high DE content.

Blood meal has very high nutritional value. However, do not use more than 5% in feed mixtures, as it is unpalatable. It can easily be burnt during processing, which has a detrimental effect on the quality of the proteins.

Carcass meal varies a great deal in composition and quality, as manufacturers use different products and processing methods. Again, heat damage during processing can downgrade the quality of the proteins.

• Calcium and phosphorus sources

Feed lime is an effective and affordable calcium source, but it contains no phosphate.

Monocalcium phosphate, dicalciumphosphate and bone meal are usually included as sources of phosphate. These also contain calcium, but in smaller quantities than feed lime.

• Waste products

These should be used with great caution in pig rations. Kitchen refuse and by-products from the bakery and other food-processing industries can contain toxic substances such as excessive quantities



ABOVE: The quantity and composition of feed will change depending on the age of the pig.
LADY DRAGONFLY

of salt and other additives that can be harmful to pigs.

Waste products are usually high in moisture (water) content and therefore have a very low nutritional value when fed in a wet form. For this reason, they should be air-dried thoroughly on a clean, flat, cemented area in the sun.

Begin by removing any undesirable material from the waste when it is spread out on the surface. Waste sometimes contains hard objects such as pieces of broken glass, which can injure pigs.

MAIZE SHOULD MAKE UP BETWEEN 55% AND 70% OF THE FEED MIXTURE

After drying, grind the waste in a hammer mill. The milled meal can then be used to replace part of the mealie meal when mixing pig rations.

Before using the waste-product meal, it is advisable to have it analysed for protein, fat, fibre, calcium and phosphate levels by a laboratory. Thereafter, get the advice of a pig nutritionist on how much of the dried waste meal can be included in a pig ration.

The next issue will cover the feed requirements of the various production classes.

• *Source: Kemm, EH. 2002. 'Guide to small-scale pig farming'. Department of Agriculture infopak. ■ FW*

Controlling *Gibberella* on maize, sorghum and wheat: Part 1

Fungal pathogens belonging to the genus *Fusarium* can cause severe damage, leading to yield losses and a drop in profits.

The past few years in South Africa have seen an increase in the occurrence of the *Fusarium graminearum* species complex infection (*Gibberella* rot) in maize, sorghum and wheat. The entire plant can be infected, leading to root, crown, stem and ear rot in maize, grain mould in sorghum, and head blight in wheat.

Sixteen fungal species occur in the *F. graminearum* species complex, and each can produce mycotoxins (nivalenol and/or deoxynivalenol). These can harm the health of people and animals eating heavily contaminated food over a long period.

The fungal pathogens in the complex also differ in virulence and plant part specificity (some pathogens infect only the roots or the stems, for example). Some species also occur only in specific areas in South Africa.

Currently, there is no way to remove mycotoxins from contaminated food crops. The best solution to reduce or limit mycotoxins in food is to control the *F. graminearum* species complex.

SYMPTOMS

The signs of *Gibberella* rot vary from one crop type to another. They are as follows:

• Maize

Visible fungal growth on a maize ear usually starts from the tip of the ear and spreads down to its base. Ears are more susceptible during the grain-filling stage and become less susceptible to infection as the ear matures.

Insects and birds feeding on the mature grain can expose the ear and make it more susceptible to infection through the wounds. The grain turns



ABOVE: In maize, *Gibberella* rot manifests as visible fungal growth on a maize ear. It usually begins at the tip of the ear and spreads down to the base.
SCOTT NELSON

pinkish-red, and quality is reduced. If the maize ears are severely infected, the grain will be unsuitable for food or feed.

Stem rot usually results in leaf damage as well.

Infected stems and roots also show a pink-red discolouration when cut open. Plants suffering from severe stem and root rot tend to lodge, leading to lower yield.

• Wheat

In South Africa, there are six *F. graminearum* species that infect wheat. The fungal spores that occur on the plant debris in the land infect the wheat rachis during the flowering stage.

A dark brown lesion appears on a single spikelet and the disease then spreads to the spikelets via the rachis. The spikelets become a bleached colour and the tissue dies.

The kernels shrivel up and may also be covered with fungal growth. Being much lighter, they can be blown out from the harvester, leading to yield losses.

If these kernels are used in the new season, germination will be poor, resulting in seedling wilt.

A brown discolouration may be seen at the base of the stem, and the rot will spread until the entire stem is rotten. This leads to weak stems and the plant will lodge, as in the case of maize.

• Sorghum

The symptoms are not as characteristic as on maize and wheat. Grain mould discolouration can be pink, grey, white or even black.

Stem rot symptoms are similar to those of maize, with pink or even purple discolouration of the internal stem tissue. Grain mould usually leads to loss of grain, severe grain discolouration, a decrease in grain size and weight, and reduced market and nutritional value.

In the next issue, we'll look at control measures.

• Source: Schoeman, A, et al. 2017. 'Gibberella on maize, sorghum and wheat'. ARC-Grain Crops Institute, Potchefstroom. ■ FW

Choosing the right lettuce variety

Iceberg lettuce has a good number of outer leaves, which help protect the head during transport and handling. This lettuce type is often sold in banana boxes, and varieties with darker leaves are preferred.

Quality is often determined by the stage of harvesting. As the lettuce becomes older, the appearance may not change, but the eating quality certainly does.

I once watched lettuce harvesting in California. A row of workers walked just in front of the harvester testing the quality of the produce before the packers placed it in boxes. Each quality tester would place a flat hand on the head of the lettuce, exert slight pressure, then cut the stem. If the head was too hard, it would be left on the ground.

Buyers for supermarkets who require individually wrapped lettuce heads choose varieties where only the head is of good quality; outer leaves are neither desired nor required.

HOME USE

If you plant lettuce for home use, avoid iceberg types, as the entire crop matures at virtually the same time (about 55 days from transplanting). This means you have a very short window to harvest them at the right stage and enjoy them at their best.

As a home grower, rather opt for leaf types, as these can be harvested earlier. Moreover, with so many varieties available, you can harvest individual lettuce leaves for up to two months.

If you would like to experiment with different types, buy a packet of seed mixture, then allow your favourite one or two varieties to go to seed and plant these.

COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

Apart from choosing the correct type for marketing, you need to select the variety that best suits your climatic conditions.



Different cultivars within a category vary in their seasonal adaptability. Some are widely adaptable, while others do well only under certain climatic conditions and in certain temperature regimes.

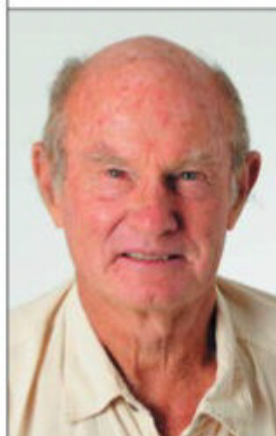
MAKE SURE TO CHOOSE THE VARIETY THAT BEST SUITS YOUR CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Disease resistance is another consideration. Humidity and rainfall can induce diseases such as downy mildew and bacterial spot. If you farm under these conditions, select varieties resistant to these diseases.

Some years ago, the Highveld went through an extended phase of early autumn rain.

ABOVE: Iceberg lettuce varieties are not recommended for the home garden, as the entire crop matures at the same time.

BILL KERR



BILL KERR

This resulted in extensive outbreaks of downy mildew and bacterial spot, and many farmers ended up producing unmarketable or low-grade lettuce heads.

The resistant varieties available at the time had slightly smaller heads and a lighter colour. Farmers had to choose to take a chance with the weather and plant a higher-yielding, darker variety, or a lighter-coloured variety with disease resistance in case of unfavourable weather.

If it was rainy, prices would spike and the lighter-coloured, but marketable variety would ensure a very high income. If it was a dry year, the darker varieties would be in demand, but market prices would be lower.

• Bill Kerr is a vegetable specialist and a breeder of a range of vegetables. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Vegetable production. ■ FW

Which variety?

Farmers and others directly involved in the fruit trade should be familiar with the names of the varieties on offer, even though this becomes more challenging with time.

If we think only of apples, the list becomes quite formidable. The old stalwarts, Starking, Golden Delicious and Granny Smith, are still around, but even these have changed somewhat.

MORE OF THE SAME

According to a recent FreshPlaza.com report on Cortina Farms, the challenge nowadays is to get to grips with the permutations of the same variety. A good example is Pink Lady apples. They started life years ago as Cripp's Pink; now there are Sundowner (also known as Cripp's Red), Lady in Red,

and Rosy Glow. There might be more that I'm not aware of.

Other popular 'red' varieties include Top Red, Royal Gala, Braeburn and Fuji.

Ricard Myburgh of Cortina Farms talks about new tendencies in the marketplace, such as a preference for 'greener' Goldens over the traditional yellow fruit.

THE CHALLENGES OF PRODUCTION

Of course, professional farmers are faced with a double challenge: the requirements of the market, and finding a variety that is high-yielding, sufficiently hardy, perhaps resistant to certain pests and diseases, and profitable.

Modern growing methods focus primarily on yield; in other words, getting optimal production from a given piece



MICHAEL CORDES

of land. To achieve this requires high technical skills coupled with the latest in production practices.

Growing fruit is a long-term undertaking; decisions made today will come into effect only in five or more years. This clearly implies that decisions on new varieties have to be considered very carefully. The cost of establishing 1ha of apples runs into hundreds of thousands of rand; it cannot be undertaken lightly.

When all is said and done, I wonder how many consumers out there really know the differences between the varieties; very few, I submit. If an apple looks good they will buy it, whether it is red, green, yellow or any combination of these.

• *Michael Cordes is an agricultural journalist, consultant, trainer and former farmer. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za.*

Subject line: Market floor. ■ FW

ADVERTISE IN THE SPECIAL NAMPO PREVIEW ISSUE 1 MAY 2020

FARMERS OFTEN MAKE THEIR BUYING DECISIONS BEFORE VISITING NAMPO.

The *Farmer's Weekly* Nampo Preview in the 1 MAY ISSUE aims to assist farmers in making these decisions by offering them a sneak-peek of the latest equipment to be exhibited at Nampo. This issue will also contain a detailed map of the stalls of those who advertised in the issue.

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Advanced new tractor tyres

New technology and design elements featured on some of the tractor tyres launched recently offer many benefits for farmers, including low soil compaction and financial savings through increased productivity and lower fuel consumption.

Denene Erasmus reports.

PneuTrac tyres by Trelleborg Wheel Systems are the result of years of work and research aimed at meeting the specific needs of fruit farmers. They combine the advantages of a radial agricultural tyre, namely efficiency, comfort and handling, with the wide footprint and traction benefits of a track.

Roots and topsoil in vineyards and orchards need to be treated with great care, which becomes challenging given the narrow spacing between rows of vines.

“PneuTrac delivers all the flotation of a conventional agricultural track while reducing the total width of the tractor compared with a standard tracked solution,” says Emiliana Vesco, a senior manager at Trelleborg.

FIELD TESTS

In field tests that were carried out to measure soil compaction on the surface as well as within the soil, PneuTrac tyres resulted in 30% less soil compaction at a depth of 10cm than that produced by other tyres of corresponding size. In addition, they demonstrated a 15% higher traction capacity and excellent stability on steep slopes, according to Trelleborg.

One of the main features of the tyre is the sidewall design, which uses CupWheel Technology by Galileo Wheel. This helps the carcass to sustain loads, while



simultaneously providing flexibility and an extra-wide footprint, resulting in very low soil compaction. The design allows the tread to work at 100% of its potential efficiency.

MULTI-ANGLE LUGS

Another recently launched tractor tyre is the AGRI STAR II radial. Brought out by Alliance Tire Group (ATG), the tyre was designed in close co-operation with farmers and dealers to deliver top performance on both the land and the road.

ATG says on its website that the AGRI STAR II features unique ‘stratified layer technology’ (SLT) to ensure superior traction even after prolonged wear, as

ABOVE: Trelleborg’s PneuTrac tyres combine the best of radial agricultural tyres and tracks, and have been selected by New Holland for some of the tractors in its T4 series.

DENENE ERASMUS

BELOW: Alliance Tire Group’s recently launched AGRI STAR II radial tractor tyres feature ‘stratified layer technology’, which offers a unique combination of multi-angle lugs.

ALLIANCE TIRE GROUP



well as D-speed rating (65km/h) and a seven-year warranty.

The SLT design offers a unique combination of multi-angle lugs, with each lug consisting of two layers with different angles. When the top layer is worn out, the bottom layer comes into action.

The second lug changes the tyre’s geometry and provides traction as effective as if the tyre were completely new.

Other advantages of the SLT system include:

- Improved anti-skidding, as two layers with different profiles increase the in-contact area;
- Dual step tie-bars that prevent lug shuffling and act as mud breakers, ensuring excellent self-cleaning;
- Overlapping central lugs for enhanced roadability;
- A special stubble guard and a wear-resistant compound that protect against damage and result in a longer lifespan.

For more information on the equipment in this report, email Denene Erasmus at denene@caxton.co.za.

Subject line: Equipment. ■FW



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- BOOKINGS CLOSE ON 17 APRIL 2020.
- These prices have been calculated based on the assumption that 16 or more people will be participating. Terms and conditions apply. To confirm your booking, a 50% deposit is due on registration. Deposit is non-refundable within 31 days of arrival.
- Full programme and registration forms are available online.
- * NOTE: *Farmer's Weekly* cannot allocate shared accommodation to parties not familiar with each other. Should you choose this package, please ensure that you include the name of the person with whom you wish to share.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Three nights' accommodation in a tented village at Nampo Park. Breakfast 'on the go' is included;
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- Farewell lunch on 14 May;
- *Farmer's Weekly* bag, scarf, beanie, and gloves, as well as the latest issue, a blanket, pillow and travel mug;
- Two farm visits, including to a crop and livestock farm.

PACKAGE EXCLUDES:

- Local transport and parking fees at OR Tambo International Airport;
- Expenses of a personal nature not included in the programme;
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- Visa application fees, where applicable.

INTERESTED PARTIES MUST BOOK BY 17 APRIL 2020.

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BOOKINGS & FLIGHTS: **LINDA TOERIEN**
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farmer's weekly



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Choosing the best time to breed your mare

There are pros and cons to breeding your mare at different times of the year, says **Dr Mac**.

While mares can theoretically come into season throughout the year, the breeding season in South Africa tends to start on 1 August, particularly for race horses, due to the time at which yearlings are generally auctioned at national sales.

Breeding is influenced by the length of the day, which gets longer towards springtime. This is a natural regulating mechanism that enables a mare to foal at the time of the year when there is sufficient grazing and she can produce enough milk to raise a foal. It is regulated by a protein hormone called melatonin.

Melatonin levels are lower during the daytime and higher at night. High levels of melatonin prevent the body from excreting gonadotrophin, which initiates the reproductive cycle.

As a result, mares usually come into season when the days get longer in spring. Those breeders who want mares to come into season before the beginning of spring can use lighting in their stables for an hour after sunset and an hour before sunrise. As soon as the mares start cycling, they can be mated. Mares generally gestate between 11 and 12 months.

AUGUST BREEDING

Using 1 August as the official beginning of the breeding season offers an advantage: yearlings born earlier will be bigger and taller than yearlings born later in the year, which means they will get a higher price on auction. (Yearlings are sold between the ages of one year and two years.

A yearling foaled in July/August 2020 can therefore be sold as a yearling from July 2021. This means that a Thoroughbred yearling, for example, sold at national yearling auctions early in the year will be at least 18 months old at the time of auction. It will be more physically mature than one foaled in, say, November 2020.) The difference the breeder may get in price will help him/her feed the mare and foal until the grass really comes through in October or November. However, for the average breeder, who has to currently cope with low prices for foals and the high cost of hay, it is wiser to hold back on breeding until the end of January or early February, so that the foals are born when the grass is particularly prolific and nutritious.

DISEASE FACTORS

Another important factor is African horse sickness (AHS). By law, all horses must be vaccinated annually. In-foal mares, however, should not be vaccinated in the last month of gestation. The vaccination period is from 1 June to 1 October. A mare mated in February will foal the following January, and it is therefore safe to vaccinate her in July/August, when she is at five to six months gestation. If she is mated on 1 August, she will foal around 1 July, which makes it difficult to vaccinate her during the advised dates. If she is vaccinated after she foals, she will not transfer maternal immunity to the foal.

Foals born in January are protected against AHS by the antibodies in their dams' milk.



ABOVE: It is a good idea to mate your mare so that she foals when there is sufficient grazing. This will ensure that she can produce sufficient milk to raise her foal, and saves you from having to buy in hay. JEAN LOUIS TOSQUE

This means they will be protected from January until June, which is when most midges are flying. Foals cannot be vaccinated until they are six months old. Those born in January can thus be vaccinated during the recommended time frame.

Besides these advantages, foals born in January can participate in showing in winter, when most shows occur north of the Vaal River. In the Cape, these foals are born when there is not much rain, and are robust enough to survive the chilly mud in winter.

The main disadvantage of mating in February is that it is close to the end of the breeding season; days start getting shorter in March and April, and some mares may thus stop cycling.

It is important to get mares checked by a veterinarian specialising in equine reproduction around the beginning of December or early January, to ensure they are in optimal breeding condition. This ensures that they will 'take' the first time they are mated. Pregnancy can be confirmed at 18 days.

• *Dr Mac is an academic, a practising equine veterinarian and a stud owner. Email her at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Horses. ■ FW*

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SAVOURY

Beetroot risotto

While risotto may be notoriously labour-intensive, this spectacular beetroot risotto recipe makes it worth the effort.

Serves four

6 beetroots
1,5l vegetable stock
60ml butter
1 onion, finely chopped
5ml fresh garlic, chopped
500ml Arborio rice
187ml white wine
45ml Parmesan cheese, finely grated
2ml salt
Pinch of black pepper

1. In a saucepan, add 5ml salt and enough water to cover the beetroot. Boil them in their skins until they are soft (about 20 minutes). Allow to cool, then peel.
2. Cut three of the beetroot into smaller pieces and pulp until smooth. Chop the remaining beetroot into small cubes.
3. Prepare the vegetable stock, keeping it hot while you begin the risotto.
4. Melt the butter in a pot, and add the onion and garlic. Sauté until the onion is soft and translucent.
5. Add the rice and stir well so that all the rice is covered with the butter mixture.
6. Add the wine and cook for around four minutes.
7. Add 250ml (1 cup) of stock to the rice. Mix to ensure that the rice does not adhere to the bottom of the pot, but don't overmix. Wait for most of the stock to reduce before adding another cup. Don't let the mixture become dry. Remember that the rice must remain al dente.
8. Once all the stock has been added and reduced, add the beetroot puree and mix well. Then add the beetroot cubes.
9. Add the cheese, salt and pepper. Stir well, and serve while still hot.



RING THE CHANGES

Instead of apples, use pears or tropical fruit such as mango or pineapple.



SWEET

Baked apple pudding

This simple yet delicious pudding is easy to make and requires only a handful of ingredients. It's the ideal dessert when you want something home-made and you're short on time.

Serves four

FOR THE PUDDING

2 large apples
400g puff pastry (store-bought)
Ground cinnamon

FOR THE SYRUP

125g butter
125ml caster sugar
2,5ml vanilla essence
187ml Sprite soft drink

PUDDING

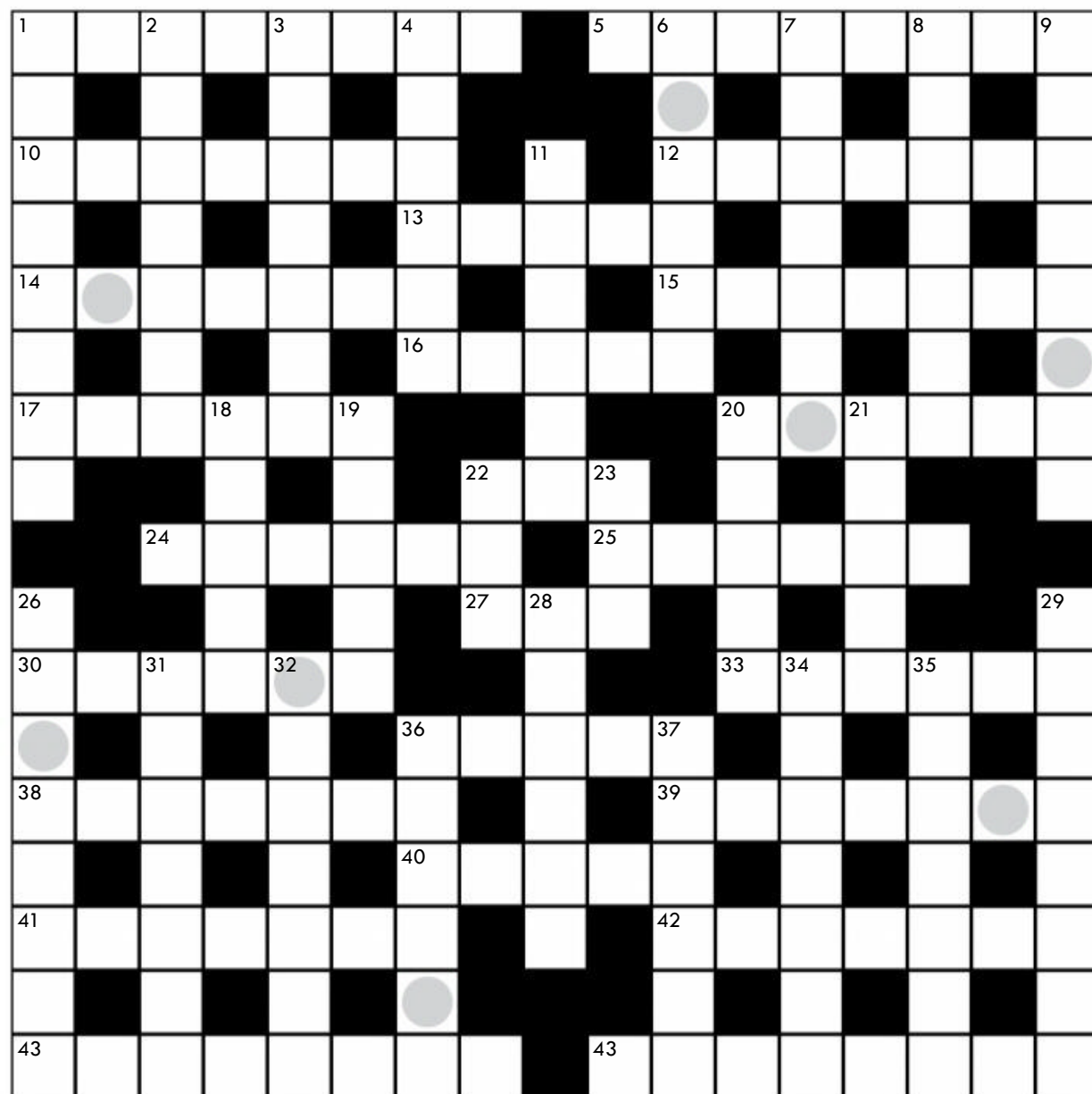
1. Preheat the oven to 200°C, and grease a small oven tray of about 18cm x 18cm.
2. Peel and core the apples. Cut into quarters.
3. Unwrap the puff pastry, unroll and flatten slightly with a rolling pin. Mark out four fairly large, right-angled triangles on the pastry, and cut them out.
4. Place two apple pieces on the widest side of each triangle. Sprinkle with cinnamon, and fold the triangle to enclose the apple pieces. Fold the two points towards the middle.
5. Place the folded triangles in the oven tray.

SYRUP

1. Over low heat, melt the butter and caster sugar until the sugar has dissolved.
2. Remove from the heat and add the vanilla essence and Sprite. Mix until well incorporated.
3. Pour the syrup over the pudding, and bake for 15 minutes. Turn the heat down to 180°C and bake for another 20 minutes.

These recipes were first published in *Vrouekeur*.

Crossword 359



ACROSS

1. Squid as used in Mediterranean cookery (8)
5. Scaly anteater of Asia and Africa (8)
10. Formal writings of facts or proceedings (7)
12. North American reindeer (7)
13. Vacuous; senseless (5)
14. Wild pig family member found in grassland, savanna and woodland in sub-Saharan Africa (7)
15. Italian dish of boiled cornmeal, grilled or fried and served with a rich sauce (7)
16. Period of activity of nocturnal animals (5)
17. Exaggerate or do too much (6)
20. Relating to all forms of animal life in an area (6)
22. Open country, meadow or pasture (3)
24. Long, narrow, stiff leaf (6)
25. Dried grape (6)
27. Substance that exudes from certain plants and hardens on the surface; adhesive (3)
30. Australian wild horse (6)
33. Excavate under water (6)
36. Cougars or mountain lions (5)
38. Sideways (7)
39. Refuse of a kitchen, brewery, etc, fed to pigs (7)
40. Flow out as from a spring (5)
41. Worrying or annoying constantly (7)
42. Gathered to one's support; reassembled (7)
43. Soak (8)
44. Relating to a succession of monarchs of the same family (8)

DOWN

1. Another name for the alligator apple (*Annona glabra*), a tree of tropical America (8)
2. Purple medick, a plant resembling clover, which is valuable as fodder for cattle (7)
3. Walked in a rhythmical military manner (7)
4. Give up one's employment (6)
6. View favourably or tolerate (6)
7. Great African ape, the largest anthropoid (7)
8. Country, capital Beirut (7)
9. By way of nerves (8)
11. Flock of geese on water or land (6)
18. The rhubarb genus (5)
19. Strangely (5)
20. Cooked in oil (5)
21. Useful (5)
22. Lower limb (3)
23. Upper limb (3)
26. Sea-ears (8)
28. In the greatest degree (6)
29. Carried out or arranged in a systematic way (8)
31. In a nervy state; tense (7)
32. Separating or restraining obstacle (7)
34. Insignia of royalty, such as a crown or sceptre (7)
35. One who keeps a daily record of events (7)
36. Difficult or dangerous situation (6)
37. Fortified wine from the Jerez de la Frontera area in Spain (6)

Crossword 354: 31 January 2020

ACROSS: 1. Superior; 5. Fletcher; 11. Caribou; 12. Strudel; 13. Marsh; 14. Loerie; 15. Voyage; 16. Bohea; 19. Nest; 23. Peke; 24. Rooster; 25. Pulse; 26. Intra-; 28. Assured; 30. Moss; 32. Lake; 35. Smolt; 38. Lumber; 39. Gallop; 40. Swift; 42. Trefoil; 43. Academy; 44. Ensilage; 45. Unsaddle.

DOWN: 1. Suckling; 2. Porkers; 3. Rabbit; 4. Ovum; 6. Lush; 7. Turbot; 8. Hydrate; 9. Relieved; 10. Perch; 17. Opossum; 18. Enteral; 20. Tills; 21. Bread; 22. Pride; 23. Petal; 27. Omelette; 29. Geophyte; 31. Summers; 33. Allseed; 34. Recoil; 36. Onion; 37. Papaya; 40. Slug; 41. Tarn.

MYSTERY WORD: Aviary

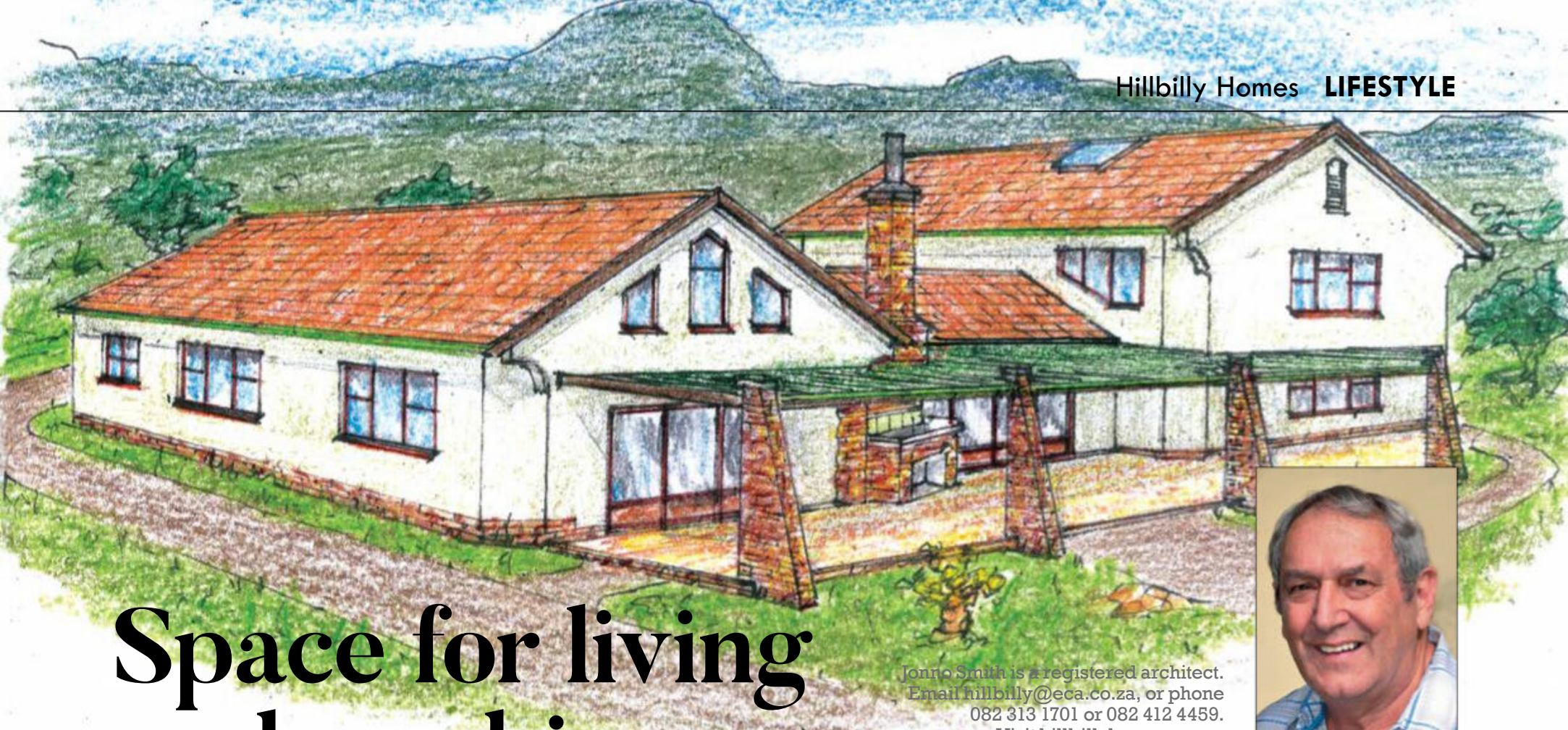
Sudoku Solutions: 28 February 2020

MEDIUM

8	1	2	9	7	5	6	4	3
6	3	7	4	8	1	2	5	9
9	4	5	6	3	2	7	8	1
5	6	1	7	4	3	8	9	2
7	2	4	1	9	8	5	3	6
3	8	9	2	5	6	4	1	7
1	7	8	3	2	4	9	6	5
2	5	6	8	1	9	3	7	4
4	9	3	5	6	7	1	2	8

DIFFICULT

3	8	4	7	9	2	5	1	6
5	6	9	3	4	1	7	8	2
2	7	1	8	5	6	3	9	4
9	5	7	1	3	4	2	6	8
8	2	3	9	6	5	1	4	7
1	4	6	2	8	7	9	3	5
7	1	8	4	2	9	6	5	3
4	9	5	6	7	3	8	2	1
6	3	2	5	1	8	4	7	9



Space for living and working

Jonno Smith is a registered architect.
Email hillbilly@eca.co.za, or phone
082 313 1701 or 082 412 4459.
Visit hillbillyhomes.co.za.
Please provide details of the
proposed development.



JONNO SMITH

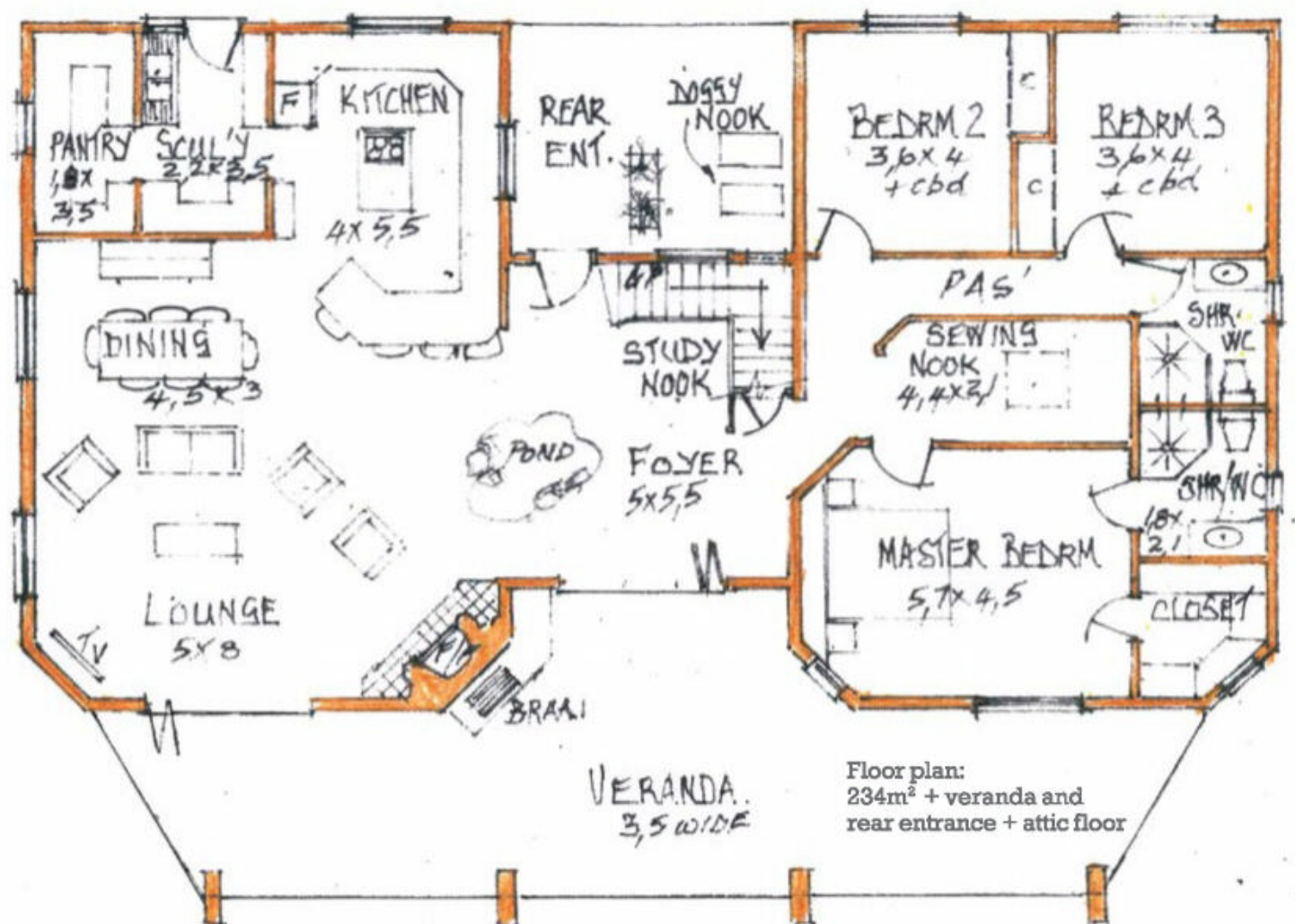
Dear Jonno,
My daughter, son-in-law and I have purchased a 400m² property in Otse, Botswana, and are in need of some ideas for style and building.

The dilemma: I like rondavels, but my son-in-law does not, and my daughter wants a double storey, or at least part double storey. The living area should be semi-detached.

The main bedroom must be en suite, and we need a work area for embroidery and sewing machines.

We have been told that sandbag building is the most cost-effective way to build, and of course there's plenty of sand available here in Botswana.

Kind regards,
Shirley



Dear Shirley,

The layout shown here comprises the sleeping quarters partly sectioned off from the living area. As always, the outside living area is a must-have.

Not shown on the plan is a possible attic area over the bedroom below. If required, I'll let you decide on its configuration.

Another possibility is that the bedroom wing can be placed over the living room area, making it a double storey, as per your daughter's wish.

The styling shown is moderately contemporary; it's easy to build and cost-effective. As for using sandbags for construction,

I just need to warn you that sandbag walls will distort over time (typically five to 10 years) according to changes in the weather: hot to cold, and wet to dry.

Using sandbags in place of regular bricks and mortar will save perhaps 50% of the cost of a brick-and-mortar wall.

The cost of the walls of a regular house is about 10% of the total. So in saving that 5%, you will end up with a home that starts to fall apart within 10 years or so, whereas bricks and mortar will last for hundreds of years. Kind regards,
Jonno

THE HITCHING POST



Dames van 70 jaar en ouer wat ook alleen en eensaam woon is welkom om aan my te skryf. Ek rook en drink nie en het respek vir dames wat eerlikheid waardeer en saam met my al die goeie dinge van die lewe wil geniet. As jy in Port Elizabeth of omgewing woon sal ek graag van jou wil hoor.

Te Lank Alleen E.C., 6070

I am a lady in my late 60s, but no one believes me! Your photograph will get mine. I'm tall, slim and active. I enjoy gardening and love all animals. I don't smoke or drink, and walk for exercise. I'm looking for a gentleman who is financially independent, with similar interests to mine.

Fauna & Flora, 3201

If, like me, you have lost your life partner and know that there is more to life than to be on your own, I would like to hear from you.

I am looking for a gentleman between the ages of 75 and 85, in reasonably good health, and with a sense of humour.

Good home cooking, gardening, reading and sewing are my forte.

I speak English and Afrikaans, and get on with people.

I am 74 years old, and have been a widow for three years.

Lady in Waiting, 1452

I am an independent woman, and work part-time. I am an attractive blonde with an outgoing personality, and love 1960s and 1980s music. I have a great sense of humour, and am a social wine drinker.

I'm looking for a single male friend who is independent and in his 60s or 70s. Age is just a number. I'm looking for someone who is outgoing, kind, loving and honest, and living in the Western Cape. I live in the Milnerton area. It would be great to hear from you. Please reply with a contact number.

**Happy Blonde,
Western Cape, 7435**

I am 53 and still look good for my age. I am a child of God, and love the Lord.

I am looking for someone of 56 or 57 years old, who is well-off, quite good-looking, and able to give his lady everything in life and look after her well.

He must treat her as a lady should be treated, and love children.

He should enjoy taking his lady on holiday to places she has never been before, and take her wherever she has to go. He must be a good-hearted man and ready to help others in need.

He should also enjoy having people around, and love to spoil his lady with surprises.

**Waiting for my
Dream Man, 1962**

How to place a post: The service is free, confidential and open to those over 18. Posts or replies cannot be written on behalf of someone else, and you must supply a pseudonym. Posts must not exceed 50 words and your address must be legible. Sign with your name and surname. Send your post to Hitching Post, PO Box 1797, Pinegowrie 2123 or email hitchingpost@caxton.co.za.

How to reply to a post: Send a response in a sealed, SA-stamped envelope and write the pseudonym of the person to whom it should be sent on the front cover in pen. Place this into a second SA-stamped envelope and send it to Hitching Post, PO Box 1797, Pinegowrie 2123.

HOLISTIC HEALTH

Boron for arthritis

Many scientists think that the virtual disappearance of the trace mineral boron from many diets has contributed to the rising rates of osteoarthritis.

Since the 1960s, scientists have noticed that in regions of the world where the soil and food supply contain less boron, the incidence of osteoarthritis is high (in up to 70% of the population); but in areas where the mineral is plentiful, the rate of arthritis is far lower.

Some studies found that arthritics had a lower level of boron in their blood, and an average of 50% less boron in their hips.

BORON SUPPLEMENTATION

In other research, osteoarthritis was induced in laboratory animals, which were then given boron supplementation. The arthritis was stopped in its tracks.

Studies on people have been equally positive. In one case, arthritis sufferers who received a boron supplement showed significant reduction in every marker of painful inflammation after just two months. Moreover, rebuilding of cartilage and bone was triggered.

All of this means that boron (and other nutrients) could hold the solution to arthritis pain, and possibly help prevent knee or hip replacement surgery.

Low boron levels could also explain why the supplements glucosamine and chondroitin, which are often taken for osteoarthritis, do not always work.

• *Johanita Louw farms vegetables and has had a lifelong interest in holistic nutrition. Email her at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Holistic health. ■FW*

Private Jackie Baboon's war

During the First World War, the pet baboon of Private Albert Marr followed the soldiers of the 3rd South African Infantry Regiment into the heat and horror of battle, writes **Mike Burgess**.

When, in 1915, Albert Marr from the farm Cheshire near Pretoria volunteered to fight in the First World War (1914-1918), his pet chacma baboon, Jackie, became a mascot for the 3rd South African Infantry Regiment, to which he was assigned.

As Marr went through basic training, Jackie (who, along with his master, was enlisted as a private) learnt to march, salute and even use cutlery and a tin cup in the mess, to the delight of the young soldiers.

IN ACTION

The first assignment of the 3rd South African Infantry Regiment (also known as the Transvaal Regiment) took place not in Europe, but in the North African desert. In collaboration with other South African and British units, they were to deal with the Senussi jihadists of Libya and Egypt. Led by the Grand Senussi, Ahmed Sharif as-Senussi, who had sworn allegiance to the Ottoman Turks, the jihadist army threatened British-controlled Egypt.

In the battle of Agagia in February 1916, Jackie saved Marr's life when he flung away an enemy hand grenade that had landed in their trench. Then, when Marr was shot in the shoulder during the same battle, Jackie tried to ease his pain by licking his wound until help arrived, an act of compassion that made a lasting impression on the men.

The Transvaal Regiment was thereafter transferred to Europe's Western Front. By this stage, Jackie was a respected uniformed member of the regiment who saluted officers, carefully lit cigarettes for jittery soldiers and scrambled out of the trenches when the men went on the attack.



ABOVE: Albert Marr and his pet baboon, Jackie, served together during the First World War. Despite both being wounded, they survived to return to the bushveld near Pretoria. MILITARY HISTORY JOURNAL

With senses evolved for the dangers of the African bush, Jackie was particularly helpful on sentry duty. A couple of barks and frantic tugs on Marr's sleeve would signify enemy troop movements.

Although the two survived terrifying battles, including Delville Wood in 1916, Jackie's luck ran out during a seminal battle of the war.

WOUNDED IN EUROPE

The Battle of Passchendaele, fought in Belgium in 1917, saw the Transvaal Regiment take a pounding from German artillery. Jackie was seen building a wall of stones to shield himself from shrapnel, but while doing this was hit in the shoulder and left leg, which hung from his body by a sinew. A sobbing Marr scooped the groaning and bleeding animal up into his arms and

made for the nearest dressing station, where he begged Colonel RN Woodsend of the Royal Army Medical Corps to save his life.

Woodsend set to work and noted that Jackie "lapped up the chloroform as if it had been whiskey". He then amputated the baboon's leg and dressed his wounds.

Jackie was transferred to a casualty clearing station, and when a high-ranking officer went to check on him, it is said he sat up and saluted him.

Marr and Jackie went on to survive the war, after which they set off for London, where they joined various parades and collected money for the Widows and Orphans Fund by charging individuals half a crown to shake Jackie's paw, and five shillings to kiss him.

A HERO'S WELCOME

After the war, Marr and Jackie were discharged with benefits and participated in victory parades in South Africa. Jackie proved to be highly popular, and was awarded the Pretoria Citizen's Service medal.

The two returned to Cheshire farm, where they tried to adapt to the normality of civilian life, despite severe shell shock.

In the early 1920s, a violent electrical storm swept over the area and Jackie suffered a massive heart attack. Marr died in the early 1970s.

• Sources: Serena, K. 2017. 'The story of Jackie the Baboon who fought in the trenches of World War I.' Retrieved from allthatsinteresting.com; Rossouw, S. 'Jackie, the baboon mascot of 3 SAI during the Great War, 1914-1918'. Military History Journal Vol. 16 No. 2, December 2013; 'Jackie; the South African baboon soldier of World War One'. 2017. Retrieved from samilhistory.com. ■ FW

5 insights into TONY DOLD

Tony Dold, manager of the Selmar Schonland Herbarium at Rhodes University, has poured a lifetime's passion for indigenous plants into his enthralling new book, co-authored with Susan Abraham, **CULTURES, CURES & CURIOSITIES: PLANT-LORE AND LEGEND OF THE EASTERN CAPE** (*Botanical Society, R390; email: gregory@botsoc-kirstenbosch.org.za*).

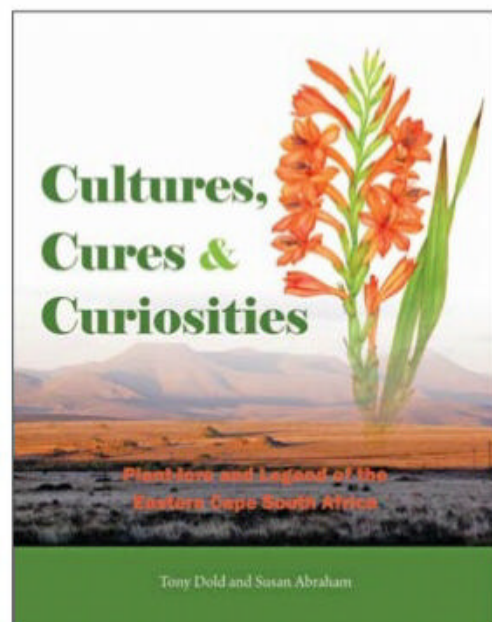
1. Plant hunting: I grew up in Ngcobo in the former Transkei, learning Xhosa when I was a child. So from early on, I picked up on how people find and use indigenous plants.

2. Tenacity: This book, a profile of 40 of about 220 widely traded local plants, was meant to be straightforward. But in hindsight, it was an insane amount of effort!

3. Forests: I trained at Saasveld but later worked as a technician in the Department of Botany at Rhodes. I then looked after the herbarium, where Michelle, the woman who would become my wife, walked in one day ...

4. Profile: Eastern Cape flora is treated like the poor relation of the Western Cape's, but there are plenty of fascinating plants here, and I'm determined to make sure people hear about them!

5. Fishing: We have two young kids who keep us busy, but if we can get away, I love going fishing at Mtati River Mouth. ■ **FW**



TONY DOLD

Farmer's Weekly's book reviewer, Patricia McCracken, is a features and investigative journalist.

Reviews

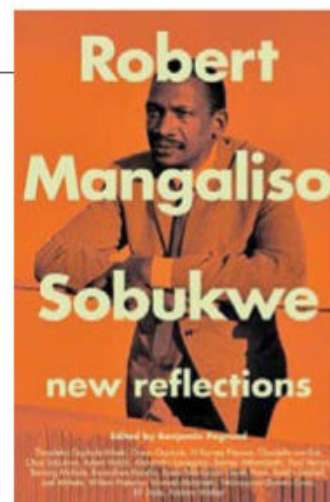
ROBERT MANGALISO SOBUKWE: NEW REFLECTIONS

edited by Benjamin Pogrud (Jonathan Ball, R270)

It's about 60 years since Sobukwe was imprisoned for leading the anti-pass campaign, but the politics overshadowing his role as PAC founder have tended to sideline him from the roll call of struggle heroes.

Some big names try to put that right in this collection of essays and reflection. They include Bonang Mohale ('Sobukwe as an inspiring metaphor for business') and Anele Nzimande ('Why is freedom such a bitter fruit?').

The book may represent some steps in the right direction, but it is hard to avoid Joel Mbhele's concern that Sobukwe is "in his grave, still paying a price for his integrity".



SO YOU WANT TO BUILD A STARTUP? *by Matthew Buckland (Tafelberg, R295)*

Building a digital marketing and media business was the ride of Buckland's life and won him the ultimate laurels: selling it for millions to the world-renowned Saatchi company. But Buckland never got to enjoy much of that triumph; he died of cancer about a year ago, aged 44.

His rollicking and sometimes poignant memoir clearly sends two important messages: the familiar follow-your-passion advice, and the less familiar, highly detailed guidance on how to do this.

'AN HOUR SPENT READING IS ONE STOLEN FROM PARADISE' – THOMAS WHARTON (1963 -)

Spotlight

Popular South African author Marita van der Vyver now lives in France, and her work is influenced by European events.

But her latest novel, **BORDERLINE** (Penguin, R280), brings her right back to her home country.

Theresa is given a diary and letter on the death of her ex-husband after 20 years in a mental institution following his experiences during the Angolan Border War. The diary was kept by him on the Border; the letter was written by a Cuban soldier, now dead, to his baby daughter. To build bridges with a former enemy, Theresa goes to Cuba to give the letter to the daughter. Insightful and quietly disturbing.



FIVE COPIES OF *BORDERLINE* to give away!

TO ENTER: Email the word BORDERLINE, your name, physical address and ID number to farmersweekly@caxton.co.za with the subject line Win a Book. Competition opens on 2 March 2020 and runs until 27 March 2020. Visit farmersweekly.co.za for full competition details and rules. Terms and conditions apply.

Get to know your family tree, and stay healthy!

As described in my previous article, MyHeritage is an online genealogy app that can be read and added to by users. It also has access to a number of national census records. The result is a vast and rapidly growing genealogical resource; the app currently has 109 million users, 3,8 billion family tree profiles, and 10 billion historical records, as well as supporting 42 languages.

IT'S ALL IN THE GENES

MyHeritage now offers DNA testing, a feature that should gain it even more followers. The procedure is simple: order the kit online for US\$79 (about R1 200), take a simple cheek swab, send it off to MyHeritage, and wait a month for the results. They will include a breakdown of your ancestors' ethnicity, the regions they came from, and

the percentage of your DNA associated with each region. The results will also reveal previously unknown relatives based on shared DNA.

To obtain this level of accuracy, MyHeritage relies on its unique 'founder populations' (groups of people whose ancestors lived in the same regions for generations, making their DNA highly characteristic of these regions).

You can choose whether or not to keep your DNA results private or share the information, allowing other users to find a common ancestor.

YOUR HEALTH

Arguably the most valuable feature of the DNA test is the attached health kit. This, together with a questionnaire, reveals what genetic health risks you are predisposed to.



GREG MILES

The tests are currently available for 18 conditions, including hereditary breast cancer, late onset Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, high blood pressure, heart disease, and Type 2 diabetes. Knowing this information allows you to take proactive measures such as early testing to detect any potential problem well in advance.

SEE THE INSIDE STORY

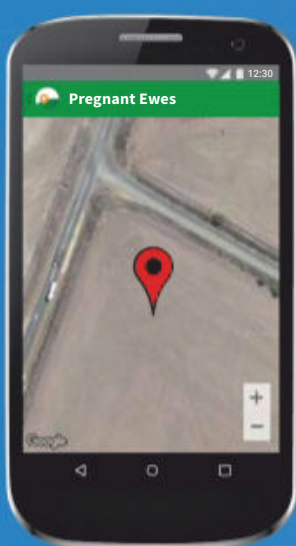
Visit bit.ly/MyHeritagedna (the address is case-sensitive) for a video showing how the DNA is evaluated at the MyHeritage laboratory.

The website stories.myheritage.com has stories of how DNA results reunited people with long-lost family members.

• *Greg Miles is a livestock farmer and Internet marketer. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za.*

Subject line: Online farmer. ■ FW

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Farms Sold

Walton Golightly lists recent farm sales as recorded by the National Deeds Office. Please note that each transaction is unique and the price may not reflect the agricultural value of the farm. Email Walton at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Farms sold.

LOOKING TO BUY A FARM? Submit a small advertisement under the heading FARMS WANTED in our yellow classifieds pages. Phone 087 087 8901 or email farmersclassad@caxton.co.za.

Eastern Cape



Elliot

Charlies Dodge (311ha) sold by Raraza Partners to Christoffel Botha for R1,6 million.

Port Elizabeth

- Little Chelsea (8ha) sold by TV Property Trust to Fourie Partners for R1 million.

Somerset East

- Riet Vley (192ha) sold by Dean Sprenger to Solron Estate for R2 million.

Steynsburg

- Bultfontein (428ha) sold by Jacobus Lombard to Kobus Lombard Trust for R1,2 million.

Stutterheim

- Kubusie and four other farms (totalling 213ha) sold by Johannes Bezuidenhout to Tyeks Security for R2,6 million.
- Larnaca (510ha) sold by Bolwana Farming Trust to High Tower Properties 11 for R1 million.

Uitenhage

- Kruisrivier (2,7ha) sold by Claudine Murray to Ignatius Schnetler for R900 000.
- Farm 583 (2,2ha) sold by Potgieter Partners to Gedultsrivier Geboue for R350 000.

- Witteklip (21ha) and Van Stadens River East (3,2ha) sold by Thomas Pretorius to Centrifuge Technology Services for R1 million.

Wodehouse

- Torenberg (452ha) sold by Nottingham Trust to Harvey Family Trust for R2,7 million.

Free State



Boshof

- De Put (368ha) sold by Cubipro to M&L Eiendomme Trust for R3 million.

Frankfort

- Taaiboschspruit (434ha) sold by unnamed seller to Andries Cilliers Boerdery for R6 million.

Harrismith

- Kapteinskop (512ha) sold by Hendrik Maritz to MN Property Trust for R6 million.
- Moffat (171ha) and Johns Rust (569ha) sold by Hernico Trust to Julia Trust for R13 million.

Heilbron

- Weldoet (164ha) sold by Bergh Kindertrust to Nappy Nation for R2 million.

Jacobsdal

- De Kiel Oost (193ha) sold by Beestekraal Boerdery to Barend Badenhorst for R600 000.

Koppies

- Kopjes Commonage (8,2ha) sold by Johannes van der Nest to Mmetisa Komane for R300 000.

Kroonstad

- Kalklaagte (391ha) sold by Ashley Whitfield Trust to Marizan Engelbrecht Trust for R22 million.

Marquard

- Karreefontein (219ha) sold by Uintjeshoek Trust to Wimpie Bosman Trust for R1,6 million.

Odendaalsrus

- Amandelklip (86ha) sold by Willem Botha Trust to Langkuil Trust for R17 million.

Gauteng



Johannesburg

- Klippoortje (5ha) sold by Rapid Dawn 1169 to Bliss Brands for R20 million.
- Koolbult (2,4ha) sold by Master Plastics to Aveng Africa for R950 000.
- Witkoppie (1,5ha) sold by Property Hunt to JT Group Developments for R2,2 million.

Pretoria

- Knopjeslaagte (1,1ha) sold by Wayne Locker to Raudzingana Trust for R2,6 million.

- Mooiplaats (8,6ha) sold by Nieuwkoop Family Trust to Gerrit van Nieuwkoop for R1,6 million.

- Doornrandje (12ha) sold by Applemint Property 2 to N14 Investment Holdings for R3,5 million.

- Strydfontein (8,6ha) sold by Bell Partners to Jordaan Partners for R1,6 million.

- Tiegerpoort (11ha) sold by Vermaak Partners to Q4 Commercial Properties for R3 million.

- Grootfontein (1ha) sold by Andrew Kerr to Nel Partners for R1,9 million.

- Kameeldrift (1,2ha) sold by Van der Walt Partners to Lize Venter for R1,5 million.

- Donkerhoek (6ha) sold by Jan Botha to Spring Forest Trading 559 for R8 million.

Randfontein

- Migalsoord (99ha) sold by Nel Partners to Avon Property Investments for R2,2 million.

- Vlakfontein (8,6ha) sold by Taljaard Partners to Synagogues JWC for R500 000.

- Hartsenbergfontein (2,5ha) sold by Hackett Property Trust to Rich Soil Resources for R2 million.

- Rietvallei (1,2ha) sold by Darin D'Oliveira to Northlands Group Holdings for R4 million.

- Elandsfontein (2,8ha) sold by Guillaume Rens to Ashen Investments for R3 million.

- Klipdrift (34ha) sold by Solmina Schutte to Daset Trust for R600 000.

- Vyfhoek (4,6ha) sold by BPBV Trust to JJ van Niekerk Trust for R140 000.

- Houtkop (2,2ha) sold by Shawu Beleggings to Barloworld for R12 million.

- Sterkfontein (4,3ha) sold by Rosenberg Partners to Kgabu Mashiyane for R570 000.

- Rietfontein (9ha) sold by J Correia & Bros to Hocom Property for R3 million.

- Klipdrift (48ha) sold by Salomina Schutte to Daset Trust for R900 000.
- Waldrift (9ha) sold by Annie Fell to Patel Partners for R780 000.
- Wilgespruit (4,8ha) sold by PLG Property to JH van Dyk Enterprises for R5 million.
- Bultfontein (396ha) sold by Johannes Koch to Van Schalkwyk Boerdery for R4 million.

KwaZulu-Natal



Ladysmith

- Klaarfontein (201ha) sold by Valencia Saaiboerdery to Impumelelo Communal Property Association for R2 million.
- Elandsklip (298ha) and Donkerhoek (126ha) sold by AJB Trading to Pitout Agri for R4 million.

Louwsburg

- Magut (11ha) sold by Magudu Macadamias to Pongo Nuts for R16 million.

Port Shepstone

- Lynwood (5,4ha) sold by Padayachee Partners to Grobler Partners for R470 000.
- Marburg Commonage No. 2 (20ha) sold by Hlabathi Transport to Madni Enterprises for R4,2 million.



Limpopo

Modimolle

- Nyathi (3ha) sold by Ludlan Investments to Rachwal Partners for R2,2 million.
- Roodekuil (21ha) sold by Abraham Zeilinga to Francois Marais for R1 million.
- Sterkrievier nedersetting (26ha) sold by Ferdinand Landman to Chrisinda van Deventer for R410 000.
- Noodhulp (8,6ha) sold by West Dunes Properties 331 to Boy Monareng for R875 000.

Ohrigstad

- Driehoek (1,3ha) sold by Dennis Stokell to Willem Botha for R525 000.

Tzaneen

- Lushof (5ha) sold by Pauline Stacey to Louina Oosthuizen for R2 million.
- La Gratitude (21ha) sold by Michael Beech to Woodlands Chickens for R1,2 million.



Mpumalanga

Komatipoort

- De Rust (2,6ha) sold by Labexchange to Hollander Partners for R2,5 million.
- Dolton (50ha) sold by Daarbo Boerdery to Citrosoft for R21 million.
- Tenbosch (4ha) sold by Klopper Partners to Elliwalk Family Trust for R530 000.
- Evert (23ha) sold by Big 5 Mac to Bonnie Braes Farms for R2,5 million.
- Symington (83ha) sold by Bugmaster Southern Africa to Megladon Trust for R4 million.
- Malelane (135ha) sold by Rietplaatz Landgoed to Rietplaatz Farming Two for R25 million.
- White River (1,2ha) sold by Colin Brain to Elizabeth Grimbeek for R3,6 million.
- Weltevreden (1,2ha) sold by Bonsberg Game Farm Two to Private Connection Tours & Safaris for R345 000.

Mbombela

- Stonehenge Farm (1,8ha) sold by Southern Storm Properties 161 to Next Level Exploration Trust for R3,3 million.
- Cairn (2,8ha) sold by Russell Lawson to Gladwin Maphanga for R400 000.
- Potloodspruit (24ha) sold by Van den Berg Partners to Johan du Toit for R2,2 million.
- The Rest (2,1ha) sold by Karen-Titia Lodewijks to Smit Partners for R7 million.

Northern Cape



Prieska

- Uitspan Pan (4 682ha) sold by Uitspan Trust to national government for R3 million.

Sutherland

- Jakhals Valley (527ha) and Exchange (155ha) sold by Koedoesfontein Trust to Marketpro Properties 32 for R1,5 million.



North West

Kuruman

- Alphen (606ha) sold by Baloka Trust to Lamprecht Partners for R3 million.

Vorstershoop

- Waterbury (1 365ha) sold by Laynes Partners to Ka'ingo Boerdery Belange for R8 million.



Western Cape

Caledon

- Farm 811 (6,2ha) sold by Trevor Leary to Dewan Henn for R3 million.
- Onrustrivier (44ha) sold by Hudd Management Services to Hudd Trust for R1,6 million.

Ladismith

- Spitzkop (309ha) and Miertjieskraal (296ha) sold by Lerm Partners to Nico Lerm Trust for R4 million.
- Dwarsdeur (551ha) sold by unnamed seller to Nico Lerm Trust for R4 million.

Malmesbury

- Jakkalsfontein (1,8ha) sold by JH Smit Trust to Maranatha Trust for R63 000.

Montagu

- Koenieskraal (539ha) sold by Daniel le Roux to Isabelle Nel for R1,5 million.

Piketberg

- Moutons Valley (2,8ha) sold by Mooifontein Plaas to Piketberg Mountain Farms for R2 million.

- Suikerbosrand (1,7ha) sold by John Rodgers to James Oldknow for R2 million.
 - Langberg (20ha) sold by Chestnut Hill Investment 50 to Piketberg Mountain Farms for R3 million.
- ### Riversdale
- Melkhoutefontein (9,2ha) sold by WC de Kock Boerdery Trust to Dopara Trust for R5,5 million.
 - Bauerskloof (276ha) and Melkhoutekraal (77ha) sold by Gideon van Eeden to Windsorfontein Trust for R4 million.
 - Bergfontein (41ha) sold by Cook Partners to Blomboskloof for R2 million.
 - Riversdale (3,5 ha) sold by Lodewyk Kleinhans to Vee Teg Konsultante for R170 000.
- ### Stellenbosch
- Firland (1,1ha) sold by Mercia van der Merwe to Jordaan Partners for R5,3 million.
 - Vergenoegd (66ha) sold by Vergenoegd Trust to Vergenoegd Property Holdings for R35 million.
 - Farm 262 (71ha) sold by Nonpareil to Mantry Plantation for R36 million.
 - Spier (43ha) sold by LRD Trust to Nwanedi Country Manor for R7 million.
- ### Swellendam
- Melk Hout Rivier (22ha) sold by Aubrey Bennett to KLAD Developments for R5,4 million.
 - Het Goed Geloof (263ha) sold by Sonkwasdrif Boerdery to Applethwaite Farm for R37 million.
 - Gelukshoop A (40ha) sold by Gideon Smith to Praxos 737 for R2 million.
 - Weltevreden (94ha) and Annex Weltevreden (167ha) sold by JAB Tradouw to Heathdene Investments for R8,5 million.



Auction Sales

17 February 2020	Price
Beef	
Weaner calves < 200kg	R34,50/kg
Weaner calves 200kg – 250kg	R34,50/kg
Weaner calves > 250kg	R28/kg
A-class	R25,50/kg
B-class	R23/kg
C-class cows (thin)	R20/kg
C-class cows (fat)	R17/kg
Slaughter bulls	R21/kg
Mutton and lamb	
Feeder lambs > 30kg	R33/kg
Slaughter lambs	R34/kg
Feeder ewes	R25,50/kg
Fat ewes	R24,50/kg
Goats	
Lambs	R38/kg
Ewes	R30,50/kg

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE CHRIS DERKSEN ON 082 807 5961

March Auction Calendar

Eastern Cape

10 MARCH

- Wauldby Dohne Merino Stud Ram Sale, Wauldby, Stutterheim. On offer: 50 rams. Phone Robbie Blaine on 082 424 5166.

Free State

4 MARCH

- Human Beefmaster and SA Mutton Merino Production Sale, Catherton, Steynsrus. On offer: 400 Beefmaster cattle, including 200 in-calf cows and 200 heifers (ready for mating); 540 SA Mutton Merino sheep, including 40 registered veld rams,

and 500 in-lamb commercial ewes (four tooth to full mouth); and eight alpacas (herd guards; wethers). Phone Wilbur Meyer on 082 349 3189.

7 MARCH

- The Great Out of Africa Meatmaster Sale, Afridome, Parys. On offer: 300 ewes and 30 rams. Phone Ian Grobbelaar on 060 965 6207.

12 MARCH

- Redfield Brangus Production Sale, Warden, Kroonstad. On offer: 30 + 30 cows with calves, 30 in-calf cows, 15 in-calf heifers, 20 3-in-1 cows,

15 open heifers, and 12 three-to six-year old bulls. Phone Piet Wessels on 082 857 7827.

KwaZulu-Natal

7 MARCH

- Lions River Brahman Production Sale, Lions River. On offer: 195 female animals and five bulls. Phone Rolf Aadnesgaard on 082 855 3840.

Mpumalanga

4 MARCH

- Westend Drakensberger and Merino Production Sale, Westend Landgoed, Morgenzon.

On offer: 70 + 70 cows and bull calves (3-in-1), 70 + 70 cows and heifer calves (3-in-1), 120 in-calf cows, 50 in-calf heifers and 550 in-lamb ewes (four to six toothed). Phone PM Swart on 083 948 3345.

North West

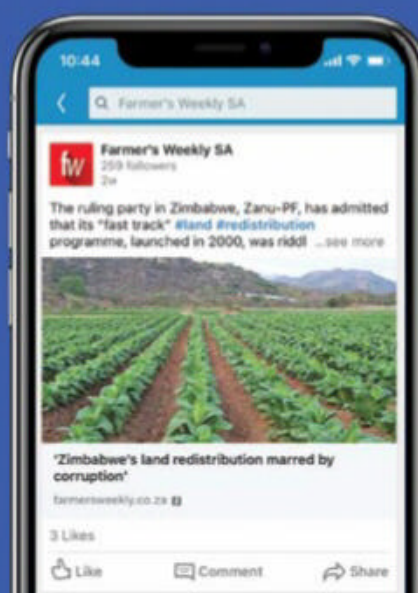
11 MARCH

- Ghaapseberg Boer Goat Production Sale, Vryburg Showgrounds. On offer: 30 stud and grade rams, 40 stud and grade ewes, and 40 commercial ewes. Phone Rudie van der Heever on 076 989 9166.

To place an upcoming auction event in the Classifieds Auctions section, contact Rene Moonsamy on 087 087 8900 or at renea@caxton.co.za, or Natasha Kock on 087 087 8899 or at natashakock@caxton.co.za. To list auction results in this section, email Janine Ryan at janiner@caxton.co.za.

GET THE LATEST
AGRI NEWS
VIA LINKEDIN

FOLLOW US AT FARMER'S WEEKLY SA



farmer's weekly

Light commercial vehicles

FIAT	
Fullback 2.4 Despec	R227 900
Fullback 2.4	R286 900
Fullback 2.4 D Double Cab 4x4 Auto	R573 900
Fullback 2.5 D Despec	R265 900
Fullback 2.5 D	R323 900
Fullback 2.5 D Double Cab	R461 900
Fullback 2.5 D Double Cab 4x4	R528 900
FORD	
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Base LR	R307 700
Ranger 2.2 TDCi XL	R381 700
Ranger 2.2 TDCi XL Auto	R395 000
Ranger 2.2 TDCi XLS	R413 000
Ranger 2.2 TDCi XL 4x4	R436 500
Ranger 2.2 TDCi XLS 4x4 Auto	R474 600
Ranger 3.2 TDCi XLS	R424 400
Ranger 3.2 TDCi XLS 4x4 Auto	R486 000
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Super Cab Base	R360 600
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Super Cab XL	R398 900
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Super Cab XL Auto	R411 800
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Super Cab XLS Auto	R450 300
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Super Cab XL 4x4	R449 000
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Super Cab XLS 4x4 Auto	R499 000
Ranger 3.2 TDCi Super Cab XLS	R448 800
Ranger 3.2 TDCi Super Cab XLS 4x4	R508 100
Ranger 3.2 TDCi Super Cab XLT 4x4 Auto	R600 400
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Double Cab Base	R362 400
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Double Cab XL	R428 200
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Double Cab XL Auto	R449 500
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Double Cab XLS	R480 800
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Double Cab XL 4x4	R477 300
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Double Cab XL 4x4 Auto	R497 500
Ranger 2.2 TDCi Double Cab XLS 4x4 Auto	R538 100
Ranger 3.2 TDCi Double Cab XLT	R573 100
Ranger 3.2 TDCi Double Cab XLT Auto	R604 600
Ranger 3.2 TDCi Double Cab XLT 4x4	R638 800
Ranger 3.2 TDCi Double Cab Wildtrak Auto	R645 200

(ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT AT 15%)

Products and prices were correct at the time of going to print and reflect prices as at 3 February 2020.

Ranger 3.2 TDCi Double Cab XLT 4x4 Auto	R653 200
Ranger 2.0 Turbo Double Cab XLT Auto	R544 300
Ranger 2.0 Turbo Double Cab XLT 4x4 Auto	R603 400
Ranger 2.0 BiT Double Cab Wildtrak Auto	R668 800
Ranger 2.0 BiT Double Cab Wildtrak 4x4 Auto	R717 500
Ranger Raptor 2.0 BiTurbo Double Cab 4x4 HR Auto	R836 700
GWM	
Steed 5 2.2 MPi Workhorse	R164 900
Steed 5 2.0 WGT Workhorse	R194 900
Steed 5 2.0 WGT Workhorse 4x4	R224 900
Steed 5 2.2 MPi Double Cab Base	R184 900
Steed 5 2.2 MPi Double Cab SX	R209 900
Steed 5 2.0 Double Cab VGT SX	R244 900
Steed 5 2.0 Double Cab VGT 4x4 Sx	R274 900
Steed 5E 2.4 Double Cab SX	R224 900
Steed 5E 2.4 Double Cab Xscape	R244 900
Steed 5E 2.0 Double Cab VGT SX	R264 900
Steed 5E 2.0 Double Cab VGT Xscape	R284 900
Steed 6 2.0 Double Cab VGT SX	R289 900
Steed 6 2.0 Double Cab VGT Xscape	R319 900
ISUZU	
D-MAX 250 C	R276 100
D-MAX 250 C Fleetside	R301 700
D-MAX 250 Fleetside	R323 200
D-MAX 250 Fleetside Safety	R334 700
D-MAX 250 4x4 Hi-Rider	R430 600
D-MAX 250 LE	R381 000
D-MAX 300 LX	R446 000
D-MAX 300 LX 4x4	R514 900
D-MAX 250 Extended Cab Hi-Ride	R385 800
D-MAX 250 Extended Cab X-Rider	R425 200
D-MAX 300 Extended Cab LX	R485 700
D-MAX 300 Extended Cab LX Auto	R501 300
D-MAX 300 Extended Cab 4x4 LX	R553 600
D-MAX 250 Double Cab Hi-Ride	R417 900
D-MAX 250 Double Cab X-Rider	R457 300

D-MAX 250 Double Cab X-Rider 4x4	R509 000
D-MAX 250 Double Cab LE	R461 800
D-MAX 300 Double Cab LX	R562 600
D-MAX 300 Double Cab LX Auto	R578 800
D-MAX 300 Double Cab LX 4x4	R637 700
D-MAX 300 Double Cab LX 4x4 Auto	R653 400
D-MAX 300 Arctic Crew Cab 4x4 Auto	R800 700
JMC	
Vigus 2.4 TDi	R211 880
Vigus 2.4 TDi Lux	R241 880
Vigus 2.4 TDi 4x4 Lux	R299 990
Vigus 2.4 TDi Double Cab Lux	R282 880
Vigus 2.4 TDi Double Cab SLX	R312 880
Vigus 2.4 TDi Double Cab 4x4 Lux	R348 990
Vigus 2.4 TDi Double Cab 4x4 SLX	R379 880
Vigus 2.4 MPi	R201 880
Vigus 2.4 MPi Lux	R231 880
Vigus 2.4 MPi 4x4 Lux	R292 880
Vigus 2.4 MPi Double Cab Lux	R251 990
Vigus 2.4 MPi Double Cab SLX	R282 880
MAHINDRA	
Bolero 2.5 NEF Maxitruck	R156 999
Bolero 2.5 NEF Dropside	R178 999
Bolero 2.5 NEF Loader	R176 999
Bolero 2.5 NEF	R187 999
Bolero 2.5 NEF 4x4	R218 999
Bolero 2.5 NEF Double Cab	R221 999
Bolero 2.5 NEF Double Cab 4x4	R250 999
Pik Up 2.2 S4	R207 499
Pik Up 2.2 S4 Dropside	R219 499
Pik Up 2.2 S4 4x4	R247 499
Pik Up 2.2 S6	R257 499
Pik Up 2.2 S6 4x4	R302 499
Pik Up 2.2 S6 DC	R312 499
Pik Up 2.2 S6 DC 4x4	R342 499
Pik Up 2.2 S6 DC Karoo	R322 499
Pik Up 2.2 S6 DC 4x4 Karoo	R352 499
Pik Up 2.2 S10 DC	R347 499
Pik Up 2.2 S10 DC 4x4	R377 499
Pik Up 2.2 S10 DC Karoo	R352 499
Pik Up 2.2 S10 DC Karoo 4x4	R382 499
MAZDA	
BT-50 2.2 D Double Cab HR SLX	R477 000
BT-50 2.2 D Double Cab HR SLE	R515 900
BT-50 2.2 D Double Cab HR SLE Auto	R537 500

BT-50 3.2 D Double Cab HR SLE 4x4	R585 100
BT-50 3.2 D Double Cab HR SLE 4x4 Auto	R600 200
MERCEDES-BENZ	
X 220 d Progressive	R642 103
X 250 d Progressive Auto	R694 025
X 250 d Progressive 4x4	R695 751
X 250 d Progressive 4x4 Auto	R723 811
X 250 d Power 4x4	R790 281
X 250 d Power 4x4 Auto	R818 341
X 350 d Progressive 4x4	R904 188
X 350 d Power 4x4	R973 188
MITSUBISHI	
Triton 2.4 Di-DC Double Cab	R519 995
Triton 2.4 Di-DC Double Cab Auto	R539 995
Triton 2.4 Di-DC Double Cab 4x4	R579 995
Triton 2.4 Di-DC Double Cab 4x4 Auto	R599 995
Triton 2.4 Di-DC Athlete Double Cab 4x4 Auto	R579 995
NISSAN	
NP 200 1.6 Base+Safety	R183 500
NP 200 1.6 Base+Safety AC	R201 100
NP 200 1.6 High	R241 100
NP 200 1.5 DCI Base+Safety AC	R249 200
NP 200 1.5 DCI High	R263 400
NP 300 Hardbody 2.4 4x4 Mid	R350 100
NP 300 Hardbody 2.4 Double Cab Hi-Rider	R324 800
NP 300 Hardbody 2.4 Double Cab Hi-Rider 4x4	R374 500
NP 300 Hardbody 2.5 Tdi Base	R240 300
NP 300 Hardbody 2.5 TDi Hi-Rider	R341 700
NP 300 Hardbody 2.5 TDi 4x4 Mid	R385 100
NP 300 Hardbody 2.5 TDi Double Cab Hi-Rider	R352 600
NP 300 Hardbody 2.5 TDi Double Cab Hi-Rider 4x4	R396 400
Patrol Pickup 3.0 Di 4x4	R652 000
Navara 2.3 D Double Cab SE	R504 500
Navara 2.3 D Double Cab SE Auto	R531 600
Navara 2.3 D Double Cab LE	R595 500
Navara 2.3 D Double Cab LE Auto	R608 600
Navara 2.3 D Double Cab Stealth	R602 800
Navara 2.3 D Double Cab Stealth Auto	R621 100

Navara 2.3 D Double Cab 4x4 SE	R590 900
Navara 2.3 D Double Cab 4x4 Stealth	R683 200
Navara 2.3 D Double Cab 4x4 LE Auto	R670 300
TOYOTA	
Hilux SC 2.0 VVTi	R273 100
Hilux SC 2.4 GD	R309 300
Hilux SC 2.4 GD-6 RB SR	R387 900
Hilux SC 2.4 GD-6 SRX	R408 000
Hilux SC 2.4 GD-6 SRX Auto	R425 600
Hilux SC 2.4 GD-6 4x4 SR	R453 400
Hilux SC 2.4 GD-6 4x4 SRX	R478 700
Hilux SC 2.4 GD-6 4x4 SRX Auto	R498 300
Hilux SC 2.7 VVTi RB S	R381 200
Hilux SC 2.8 GD-6 RB L50	R483 800
Hilux SC 2.8 GD-6 RB L50 Auto	R503 500
Hilux SC 2.8 GD-6 4x4 L50	R551 600
Hilux SC 2.8 GD-6 4x4 L50 Auto	R571 600
Hilux XC 2.4 GD-6 RB SRX	R419 800
Hilux XC 2.4 GD-6 RB SRX Auto	R437 400
Hilux XC 2.8 GD-6 RB L50	R524 000
Hilux XC 2.8 GD-6 RB L50 Auto	R543 700
Hilux XC 2.8 GD-6 4x4 L50	R593 800
Hilux XC 2.8 GD-6 4x4 L50 Auto	R613 800
Hilux DC 2.4 GD-6 RB SR	R448 400
Hilux DC 2.4 GD-6 RB SRX	R463 800
Hilux DC 2.4 GD-6 SRX Auto	R479 200
Hilux DC 2.4 GD-6 4x4 SR	R518 600
Hilux DC 2.4 GD-6 4x4 SRX	R540 000
Hilux DC 2.4 GD-6 4x4 SRX Auto	R565 000
Hilux DC 2.7 VVTi RB S	R413 500
Hilux DC 2.8 GD-6 RB L50	R593 800
Hilux DC 2.8 GD-6 RB L50 Auto	R613 800
Hilux DC 2.8 GD-6 4x4 L50	R664 400
Hilux DC 2.8 GD-6 4x4 L50 Auto	R686 200
Hilux DC 2.8 GD-6 4x4 GR-S Auto	R728 800
Hilux DC 4.0 V6 RB 4x4 L50 Auto	R730 800
Land Cruiser 4.0 V6 4x4 Pickup	R593 900
Land Cruiser 4.2 Diesel 4x4 Pickup	R631 600
Land Cruiser 4.5 V8 Diesel 4x4 Pickup	R722 200
Land Cruiser 4.0 V6 Double Cab 4x4 Pickup	R673 700
Land Cruiser 4.2 Diesel Double Cab 4x4 Pickup	R705 900
Land Cruiser 4.5 V8 Diesel Double Cab 4x4 Pickup	R791 500
Land Cruiser 4.5 V8 Diesel Double Cab 4x4 Namib Pickup	R911 500

VOLKSWAGEN	
Amarok 2.0 TDI Double Cab Comfortline	R556 600
Amarok 2.0 TDI 4Motion Double Cab Comfortline	R621 300
Amarok 2.0 BiTDI Double Cab Highline Auto	R615 100
Amarok 2.0 BiTDI Double Cab Highline Auto Plus	R674 400
Amarok 2.0 BiTDI 4Motion Double Cab Highline	R653 200
Amarok 2.0 BiTDI 4Motion Double Cab Highline Auto	R673 000
Amarok 2.0 BiTDI 4Motion Double Cab Highline Auto Plus	R732 600
Amarok 2.0 BiTDI 4Motion Double Cab Dark Label Auto	R709 700
Amarok 3.0 TDI 4Motion Double Cab Highline Auto	R760 000
Amarok 3.0 TDI 4Motion Double Cab Highline Auto Plus	R817 700
Amarok 3.0 TDI 4Motion Double Cab Highline Auto Canyon	R815 000
Amarok 3.0 TDI 4Motion Double Cab Highline Auto Extreme	R854 300



VENTERSDORP AUCTION GPS: S26°08'24.5 E026°43'41.3

**Total
Dispersal Sale
Farm &
Bonsmara herd!**

*Wednesday,
18 March 2020
at 11:00
at Grootbos, Ventersdorp*

trompie
Group

± 800 Top Bonsmara Cattle as well as 1400 ha of complete fenced cattle farm with 56 ha pivot irrigation and feedlot for 1000 cattle for sale

PROPERTY FOR SALE: (BKB EIENDOMME (EDMS) BPK offer the following property)

PROPERTY: (A) Remaining portion of the farm GROOTBOS 149 IP, district Ventersdorp, province North West. Size: 713,0714 ha. (B) Portion 5 of the farm GROOTBOS 149 IP, district Ventersdorp, province North West. Size: 713,0715 ha. Will be on offer as a unit.

Description: The entire farm has game fencing (in excellent condition). The farm consist of 2 irrigation lands (44 ha and 14 ha; each with Agrico pivot; 2 boreholes each with 30Kw submersible pumps that provide more than 100 000l/per hour; water is sufficient for die two pivots throughout the year). Water use certificate (23077233) available. Feedlot (for 1000 cattle; galvanized steel).

SELLING CONDITIONS (PROPERTY):

1. 10% Deposit at day of auction.
2. Guarantees for balance within 30 days of ratification.
3. Confirmation any time within 7 days after auction.
4. Possession by negotiation.
5. Full conditions are available.

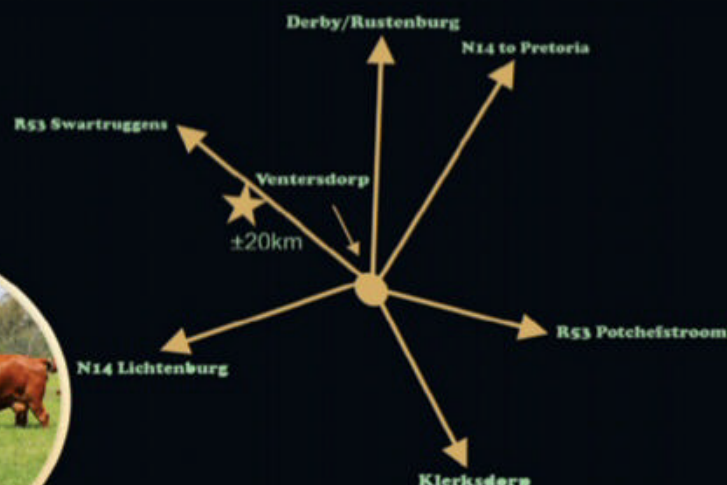
±260 Cows with 260 calves (3-in-1 will be classed separately).
±180 Cows (in calf).
±70 Heifers.
30 Bulls (from well known Bonsmara breeders).

NOTE: Excellent bulls. Gestation status and catalogue information will be available at day of auction.

Cement dam (for irrigation purposes). Cattle handling facilities (steel). 3 Zink dams (provide pasture camps with water). Eucalyptus plantation (11.3 ha). 15 Good planned natural pasture camps (with complete water provision). Radio tower (40m). Employees houses. Shed.

Excellent balanced farm!

ROETE: Vanaf Ventersdorp: Ry op die Derby pad (R30) vir 2.5km. Draai links op die Swartruggens pad (R53) en ry vir 22km. Draai links by plaas in. Vanaf Swartruggens: Ry op die Ventersdorp pad (R53) vir 66km. Draai regs by plaas in.



ENQUIRIES: Salty de Villiers 073 816 4956. Rudi Nagel 082 905 6066. **Auctioneer:** Jan Mostert 083 306 8408. BKB Louwid, VEREENIGING: 016 423 5377
For complete informatio, catalogue and conditions visit our website page : www.bkb.co.za





Quattro

Saturday 21 March 2020

- 11:00 Warmbath Stock Market GPS: S24°54'52.0" / E028°21'52.0"

Boer goat Production Auction

Offer:

15 Boer goat rams

120 Boer goat ewes

Enquiries: Kobus Potgieter (marketer) - 083 654 4594 / Carel Chalmers (marketer) - 082 896 9586

Terms & Conditions: 1. Payment: Only bank guaranteed cheque or electronic transfers on day of sale - NO CASH will be accepted. 2. VAT is payable. 3. Vleissentraal's Standard conditions sale (Rules of Auction) apply - available at: www.vleissentraalbosveld.co.za 4. Registration: All buyers MUST provide a copy of ID and proof of residence. 5. Consumer Protection Act - 68 of 2008, available at www.gov.za. 6. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any sale item before or during the sale without prior notice

BELA-BELA

VLEISSENTRAAAL BOSVELD - 015 491 3141

www.vleissentraalbosveld.co.za

Registered according to Act on Agricultural produce agent Act 12 of 1992 (Act 47 of 2003), Certificate 42



CLARENS AUCTION GPS: S28°23'44.4' E028°23'08.3'

Air Strip GPS: S28°23'44.93" E028°23'08.88"

On behalf of CIL TRUST the following will be on offer for sale on THURSDAY • 19 MARCH 2020 • 11:00 at Uyshuis Kiosk, Clarens



PROPERTY FOR SALE:
(BKB EIENDOMME (EDMS) BPK offer the following properties)

PROPERTY 1: Portion 22 of the farm Ha Sehapie 1840. District Bethlehem, province Free State. Size: 228.8497 ha. Description: Consist of 125 ha sandy loam lands. Remaining is natural pasture. Divided in 3 camps with sufficient water from equipped boreholes and cement dam. Shed. Old house on farm.

PROPERTY 2: Portion 32 of the farm Ha Sehapie 1840. District Bethlehem, province Free State. Size: 578.4413 ha. Description: 198 ha sandy loam lands. Remaining is natural pasture. Divided in 11 camps. Spring runs through farm with sufficient water from 2 equipped boreholes and 3 reservoirs.

Farms located North-East of Clarens in the picturesque East-Free State with high rainfall.

Trailers: 3 Trailers (flatbed). Semi-trailer (double-axle). Kole debulking trailer (12 ton). Henred Copelyn tipper. Henred Copelyn tipper (calf). **Vehicle:** Toyota D4D 2.5 (247000 km). **Harvester:** Case 2188 (7608 engine; 5120 rotor).

Harvest equipment: Case wheat table 1010 (25vt). Claas sunflower table (30vt; with Reel). Case bean picker. Table cart (3-axle). Table cart (2-axle). Case 2188 rotor.



Tractors: MF 8690 (Agent service record 8210 hrs; Autosteer). MF 7618 (Agent service record; 7400uur; Autosteer). MF 399. MF 265. John Deere 6900.

Trucks: Iveco 440 (mechanical horse). Afrit Interlink (with drop sides and sluices; not registered). SA Truck lowbed (4-axle; not registered). Tank trailer (3-axle; 30 000 liter; not registered). Nissan CK20 (cap needs attention).

Planters: John Deere (12 ry; 76cm; liquid). MF 555 (8 row; 76cm; liquid). Bramley wheat planter (12 row). Vetsak wheat planter (7 row). Soilmaster wheat planter (9 row).

Disc-, share- & tine equipment: Santa Izabel hydraulic off-set discs (48 disc). Baldan hydraulic double off-set discs (70 disc). Erdvark hydraulic off-set discs (28 disc). Safim hydraulic off set discs (24 discs). Disc (folded; with rollers; 9m). Kongskilde (6m; with rollers). Kongskilde (4m; with rollers). Agrico chisel plough (13 tine; with rollers). Super 18 chisel plough (7 tine; with rollers). 2 Rippers (5 tine). 2 MF frame ploghs (3 share). 11 Potato tipper bins. 4 Crop cultivators. **Fodder making Equipment:** Baler Gallignani (round baler). Falcon slasher (1,8m).

Other Farming Equipment: Cattle crate. 2 Honda water pumps. 2 Honda fertilizer pumps. 2 GIF mixing trailers (2000l). Amezone lime spreader (500kg). Van Zyl sift (40 ton/hour). Bean cutter V- shape blade (4 row). Water cart (6000l; with pumps). Irrigation pipes. Hardi sprayer (10 m; 3 point). Quantum sprayer (14m; 3 point). Hydraulic auger (with trailer; 35t/hour). Lime spreader (3 ton). Hydraulic crane (12v). Case 2388 concave (wheat and corn). Case 2388 separator drive. Case 2388 hydrostatic pump. 30 Drums (240l). Land Cruiser 1978 chassis (overhauled). Tuv 2.4D pipe cart (1980). **Workshop Equipment:** 2 Co2 Welders. Steel roller. Profile cutter. Equipment. Band saw. High pressure sprayer. Generator (3 phase; with motor).

SELLING CONDITIONS (PROPERTY): 1. 10% Deposit at day of auction. 2. Guarantees for balance within 14 das of ratification. 3. Confirmation anytime within 7 business days after auction. 4. Possession by negotiation. 5. Full conditions are available.

ROUTE: From Bethlehem: Drive on the Kestell road (N5) for 6km. Turn right on the Clarens road (S712) and drive for 14km. Turn left at Uyshuis Kiosk. From Clarens: Drive on the Bethlehem road (S217) for 12 km. Turn right at Uyshuis Kiosk.

ENQUIRIES: Douw van Wyk 083 458 7353. Schalk Burger 076 070 1411. **Auctioneer:** Jan Mostert 083 306 8408BKB Louwido. **BETHLEHEM:** 058 303 8552. For complete information, catalogue and conditions visit our web page : www.bkb.co.za

HOME & HECTARE
REAL ESTATE
At Home with Trust





AUCTIONS



TOTAL DISPERSAL

ELOFF DOHNE MERINO HERD

Auction 1: 18 March 2020 at 11:00

Auction 2: 26 August 2020 at 11:00

Van Koppe Farm, Harrismith | GPS -27.962926, 29.431190



On offer Auction 1:

- 400 Pregnant Dohne Merino ewes
240 x 2-tooth to 4-tooth | 80 x 6-tooth | 80 x mature
- 50 Bonsmara breeding cows in various stages of production



Contact:

Breeders: Koos Eloff 082 453 8217
Jaco Eloff 082 853 3321
Johan Eloff 082 785 9378

Agent: Marius Nel 083 983 7280
Auctioneer: Steven Mathews 076 865 0640

250 NGUNI

AAM & KZN Nguni Club Sale

Cows & calves
Cows in calf
Heifers in calf
Open Heifers
Trades

10am
Saturday 14 March

Mooi River saleyards KZN

Cathy Van Der Wath 083 584 9260 Colin Borgen 073 892 5717
Photo's, info, T & C's: www.aamkzn.co.za



KROONSTAD AUCTION GPS: S27°46.1549' E027°13.4517'

TOTAL DISPERSAL SALE OF JOHAN VAN ZYL'S MUTTON MERINO HERD

FRIDAY • 13 MARCH 2020 • 11:00
KROON BOMA • KROONSTAD

600 TOP FARMING SHEEP

480 MUTTON MERINO'S

300 Ewes (2 - 6 tooth; in lamb with singles).
100 Ewes (2 - 6 tooth; in lamb with twins).
80 Ewes (2 - 6 tooth; ran with ram).

120 MUTTON MERINO'S

120 Ewes (2 tooth to full mouth ; in lamb).

Note:
Gestation status
and catalogue information
will be available
at day of sale.

GUEST SELLERS
MAWELA MBELENGWA
BOS BLANCO



ROUTE

From Kroonstad:
Drive on the N1 direction Bloemfontein for 8km. Turn left at Kroon Boma.
From Ventersburg:
Drive on the N1 direction Kroonstad for 40km. Turn right at Kroon Boma.

ENQUIRIES: Piet Wessels 082 857 7827, Danie Roland 082 828 6892. Auctioneer: Rudy van der Westhuizen 079 418 4289
BKB Louw, KROONSTAD: 056 215 1851. For complete information, catalogue and conditions visit: www.bkb.co.za





AUCTIONS



Last 4 ERVEN on the MOOI RIVER (2 with houses). 8x Mooi River Park Erven

Fri. 13 March 2020 at 12:00 at 18 Amanzi street, Mooirivier Park, dist Potchefstroom on behalf of Nardus Conradie

2 Erven (558m² & 635m²) with houses on the Mooi River



An architect designed three storey house on the banks of the Mooi River with 23m riverfront. The owners are retiring and moving to Pretoria.

4x Erven borders the Mooi River and the other 4 plots have access to 3700m² river park



Panoramic views of the river & beautiful garden

VIEWING:
Fri. 6 March - 11:00 - 13:00
Thu. 12 March - 17:00 - 18:00

FINAL DECISION



Lots of exotic plants & large trees

VISIT: WWW.PLASE.CO.ZA

Clive Gardner Auctioneers:
018 290 9610
Hendrik Nel: 082 491 8289
Dandré Nel: 076 503 7900

Clive Gardner Afslaaers Auctioneers
www.plase.co.za cga@lantic.net

3 Schweizer Reneke / Christiana Game / Cattle / Pecan Farms (428ha, 711ha & 361ha)

Tue. 10 March 2020 at 12:00 at Schweizer Reneke Golf Club on behalf of Viska Trust & F P & T Accounting services Pty Ltd

Beautiful Game / Cattle / Pecan Farms



a) 428ha Game / Cattle Farm: A fully equipped Lodge (sleeps ± 23) & boma braai. Slaughter room & Cold room.

A) 428HA GAME / CATTLE FARM



Large variety of game a.o: Sables, Eland, Impala etc.

B) 711HA CATTLE / GAME FARM



Feedlot for 700 calves with large barn as well as 2 Game Camps

C) 361HA PECAN / CATTLE FARM



Water rights for 59ha. 25ha Pecan trees & planted grazing.

STUD CATTLE FARM



Bull stables & covered cattle pens. 350ha Planted grazing. 4 Camp system with 17 camps with water

Clive Gardner Auctioneers: 018 290 9610
Hendrik Nel: 082 491 8289
Dandré Nel: 076 503 7900

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VILLIERS AUCTION GPS: S27°08'27.0" E028°43'28.4'

ODENSIM STOETERY

Saturday • 21 March 2020 at 11:00 at Uithoek • Villiers



PRODUCTION AUCTION

www.bkb.co.za



ROUTE:
From Villiers: Drive o the R103 for 2.2km. Turn right on the Cornelia road (R103) for 15km. Turn right at farm entrance.
From Cornelia: Drive ob the Villiers road (R103) for 16km. Turn left at farm entrance.

Under auspices of the Society
info@simmentaler.org



190 Top Simmentaler Cattle

85 SP Cows with 40 Calves (possibly 3-in-1).
25 Cows with 16 Calves (possibly 3-in-1; Droughtmaster/Simbra x).
11 Simmentaler commercial Cows with 10 Calves (possibly 3-in-1).

Note:
Catalogue information will be available at day of auction. Gestation status will be available at day of auction.



**200 Dormers
30 Rams • 170 Ewes**

ENQUIRIES: Gert Burger 082 822 1952. Adriaan Odendaal 083 462 2148 (Owner). Riaan Odendaal 082 743 9832 (Owner). Kinnear Geldenhuys (Technical advisor)- 076 191 4318. Auctioneer: Johan van der Nest 082 574 4220. BKB Louw, FRANKFORT: 058 813 1071. For complete information, catalogue and conditions visit our web page.





AUCTIONS



KROONSTAD AUCTION S27°36'54.2" E27°23'41.2"



REDFIELD
B R A N G U S
Fertility • Trustworthy • Quality

BERNARD EN ANNALIZE HAASBROEK
THURSDAY • 12 MARCH 2020 • 11:00
FARM, WARDEN • KROONSTAD



2 ND PRODUCTION SALE

±150 TOP BRANGUS CATTLE

30 COWS WITH 30 CALVES
30 COWS (IN CALF)
15 HEIFERS (IN CALF)
20 COWS (3 IN 1)
15 OPEN HEIFERS
12 BULLS (3 TO 6 YEAR)

Under auspices of the Brangus Cattle Breeders Association.

Note: Outstanding Red Brangus cattle. All females are in calf from top stud bulls. Gestation status and catalogue information will be available at day of auction.

ROUTE

From Kroonstad: Drive on the Edenville road (R34) for 10km. Turn right at farm entrance.

From Edenville: Drive on the Kroonstad road (R34) for 30km. Turn left at farm entrance.

ENQUIRIES: Piet Wessels 082 857 7827. Auctioneer: Jan Mostert 083 306 8408. BKB Louwid, KROONSTAD: 056 215 1851
For complete terms and conditions visit : www.bkb.co.za



Dorper National Auction 2020

14 MARCH 2020 om 11:00

Conrad Herbst Kleinvee-centrum, Pretoria GPS: S25°48'14.6" / E028°23'01.9"

82 Dorper rams
160 Dorper ewes

26 White Dorper rams
49 White Dorper ewes



Kobus Potgieter (marketer) - 083 654 4594 / Allan Sinclair (auctioneer) - 082 528 0059

Attie Westraad (breed director) - 071 606 5625

Terms & Conditions: 1. Payment: Only bank guaranteed cheque or electronic transfers on day of sale - NO CASH will be accepted. 2. VAT is payable. 3. Vleissentraal's Standard conditions of sale (Rules of Auction) apply - available at: www.vleissentraalbosveld.co.za. 4. Registration: All buyers MUST provide a copy of ID and proof of residence. 5. Consumer Protection Act - 68 of 2008, available at www.gov.za. 6. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any sale item before or during the sale without prior notice.

PRETORIA

VLEISSENTRAAAL BOSVELD - 015 491 3141
www.vleissentraalbosveld.co.za

Registered in terms of Section 16(1)(b) of the Agricultural Produce Agents Amendment Act 2003 (Act no. 47 of 2003), Certificate no. 42



20 MARCH 2020 at 11:00
Lichtenburg Showgrounds

AHRBERG SIMBRAS

TOTAL DISPOSAL SALE

30 Cows & Calves (mostly 3 in 1)
10 Pregnant Cows
20 Heifers
2 Stud Bulls



Auction held under the rules of society. Visit our website for more info: www.studstocksales.co.za

Marius Nel 083 983 7280
Jamie Berger 084 410 3703
Steven Mathews 076 865 0640





AUCTIONS



AUCTION

LIQUIDATION

VLAKTE VERSPREIDERS CC (IN LIQUIDATION)

**765 HA FARM
+ 2 BED HOUSE
LIMPOPO**

Thursday 12 March 2020 @12pm

Mokkafontein Farm, Limpopo - On Site

Reg Fee: R25 000, Deposit 15.75% on Fall Of Hammer

072 360 7510

www.whauctions.com



AUCTIONEERS

AUCTION

SEQUESTRATION

INSOLVENT ESTATE - SCHMIDT J

**117 HA CROP FARM
AND LARGE HOUSE
LIMPOPO**

Thursday 12 March 2020 @12pm

Corner R516 and R33, Crecy, Limpopo - On Site

Reg Fee: R25 000, Deposit 15.75% on Fall Of Hammer

072 360 7510

www.whauctions.com



AUCTIONEERS

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- Air conditioned
- Tow Bar

****7-Day Money-Back Guarantee****

**Price
R 699900**

Navi 083 791 1611 | Shafi 0849718484

CLEARANCE SALE (farm sold)

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2020 - 11:00

at 'WILDBOS SAFARIS'

GPS: S 24°37'51.07" E 027°00'47.75"

**BRAHMAN, SIMBRA & other X cattle
2 bulls**

**42 cows with ± 20 calves at foot
(21 pregnant cows)**

TRACTORS: JD 6920 tractor (steel- & rubber tyres)

Orsi bush mulcher, tractor grader, Blitz feed mixer,

John Deere 213 & Fiat 540 tractors (for spares)

TOYOTA HI-LUX 2.4 (farm bakkie, registration paper available)

**Furniture; Slasher / Cutters; Chain block; Bush fire
fighter with Gx120 Honda 4.0 motor and pump;
Compressor; Plastic- & steel pipes; re-bar; 1000 lt
Water & 2200 lt diesel tanks .. MANY MORE ITEMS!**

**PHOTOS & FULL LIST @
www.vleissentraalbosveld.co.za**

Josef van Wyk (marketing official)

072 591 8290

Chris Keyter (auctioneer)

072 274 5159

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THABAZIMBI

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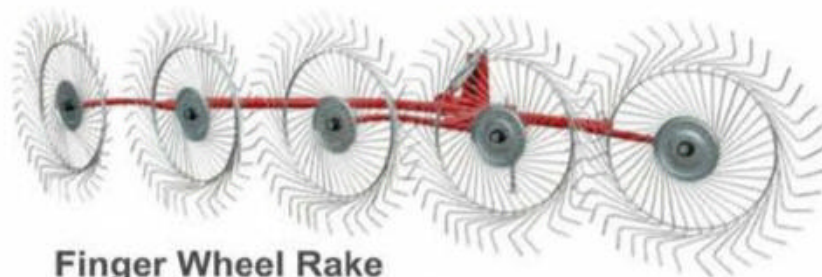
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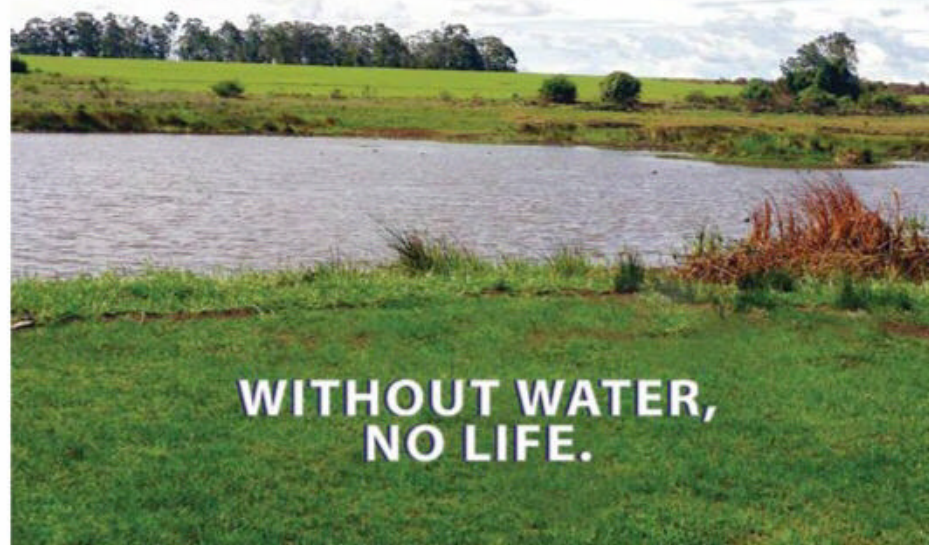
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SAVANNAH PORK, a subsidiary of Wolf Ranch Holdings is looking for the services of a **TOP CLASS PIGGERY MANAGER** for their newly acquired 300 sow unit near Molepolole, Botswana.

The successful candidate will report to the Directors & possess the following:

- Proven track record and contactable references.
- Proven understanding of modern piggery methods and husbandry including AI and semen tapping.
- Good understanding of feed regimes.
- Excellent knowledge of Bio -Security disciplines.
- Ability to lead the team, develop subordinates and have excellent working relationships with staff.
- Be willing and able to grow with the business.
- Sound knowledge of MS Excel, MS Word & Farm-Vision, or similar.
- Good reporting skills.
- Experience in overseeing a pig abattoir & pork processing an advantage.

Savannah Pork offers a company house, vehicle, medical aid and a package commensurate with experience in the necessary field.

All those that feel they fit the required criteria please respond in writing to ra@gm.co.bw



FOR ALL YOUR VACANCY ADVERTISEMENTS

Contact

Natasha Kock

Tel: 087 087 8899 | Fax: 086 513 9743 | natashakock@caxton.co.za

or

Rene Moonsamy

Tel: 087 087 8900 | Fax: 086 514 0032 | renea@caxton.co.za

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

rates

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Renè: 086 514 0032 | Natasha: 086 513 9743
Rowena: 086 513 6469
or post to classified Advertising,
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Pinegowrie, 2123

STYLE A

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Bookings, material and proof of payment must reach us 15 days prior to publication date. Deadlines may be brought forward in extreme circumstances without prior notice.

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When booking a Classified advertisement with Farmer's weekly, your advertisement automatically appear on our website: www.farmersweekly.co.za free of charge for the same period.

Classifieds can also be booked on-line.

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Free editorial

All auctions booked by the 10th of every month are automatically included in the following month's "Auction diary" free of charge. The Auction diary is published in the first issue of every month and is also available on www.farmersweekly.co.za.

Send us the results of your auction and Farmer's weekly will publish it. High-resolution photos of the top selling animals are welcome. Send your auction results to: farmersweekly@caxton.co.za.

Advertisements are subject to the following conditions

All prices must include VAT.

Only recognised abbreviations will be accepted.

Advertisements will be categorised according to the first product/service mentioned in the copy.

Farmer's weekly accepts no responsibility for quality of goods or services.

We merely bring Buyers and Sellers into contact with each other.

Farmer's weekly accepts no responsibility for any loss or damages occurred due to incorrect advertisements. We will however reprint advertisements free of charge if we were responsible for incorrect copy.

Farmer's weekly reserves the right to refuse the placement of an advertisement.

Errors and omissions must be reported within the first week of insertion.

A reference number must be quoted in all correspondence.

Credit applications will be authorised at the discretion of Farmer's Weekly and accounts are strictly 30 days.

Non-account holders are required to pay cash up front.

Credit will not be given for typographical errors which do not lessen the effectiveness of the advert and response to the advert is not guaranteed.

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Natasha Kock

Tel: 087 087 8899

Fax: 086 513 9743

natashakock@caxton.co.za



René Moonsamy

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0810 PRIME PROPERTY
1010 LEGAL NOTICES
1020 LEGAL SERVICES
1110 TENDERS
1210 PERSONAL SERVICES
1310 COURSES AND TUITION
1410 SPECIAL SERVICES
1510 EMPLOYMENT WANTED
1610 EMPLOYMENT OFFERED
1710 BUSINESSES FOR SALE
1810 BUSINESSES TO LET
1910 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
FARMS FOR SALE

2010 Eastern, Western and Northern Cape. 2020 Free State. 2030 Gauteng, Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga. 2040 KwaZulu-Natal. 2050. Namibia. 2060 Other

FARMS TO LEASE

2110 Eastern, Western and Northern Cape. 2120 Free State. 2130 Gauteng, Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga. 2140 KwaZulu-Natal. 2150 Namibia. 2160 Other

2210 FARMS WANTED
2310 PROPERTY FOR SALE
2410 PROPERTY FOR HIRE
HOLIDAYS & OTHER ACCOMMODATION

2510 Eastern, Western and Northern Cape. 2520 Free State. 2530 Gauteng, Limpopo, North West and Mpumalanga. 2540 KwaZulu-Natal. 2550 Namibia 2560 Other

livestock

2610 ALPACAS
CATTLE

2702 Afrigus. 2704 Afrikaner. 2706 Angus. 2708 Ayrshire. 2710 Beefmaster. 2712 Bonsmara. 2714 Boran. 2716 Bovelder. 2717 Braford. 2718 Brahman. 2720 Brangus. 2722 Braunvieh. 2724 Charolais. 2725 Chianina 2726 Crossbreed. 2728 Dexter. 2730 Drakensberger. 2732 Gelbvieh. 2734 Guernsey. 2736 Holstein-Friesland. 2738 Hugenoot. 2740 Jersey. 2742 Limousin. 2744 Nguni. 2746 Pinzgauer. 2748 Red Poll. 2749 Wagyu. 2750 Romagnola. 2754 SA Hereford. 2756 Sanganer. 2757 Senepoel. 2758 Santa Gertrudis. 2560 Shorthorn. 2780 Shorhorn

2762 Simbra. 2764 Simmentaler. 2766 South Devon. 2768 Supertaler. 2770 Sussex. 2772 SA Swiss Dairy. 2774 Tuli. 2776 Other. 2778 Dairy.

2810 SEMEN and EMBRYOS
2910 DONKEYS
3010 GAME AND HUNTING GOATS

3110 Angora. 3120 Boer goat. 3130 Kalahari Reds. 3140 Dairy goats. 3150 Savanna.

3160 Other

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3210 Thoroughbred. 3220 Riding and show horses. 3230 Draught horses. 3250 SA Boerperd. 3260 SA Miniature Horse. 3270 Other

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3410 MULES
PIGS

3510 Berkshire. 3520 Duroc. 3530 Large Black. 3540 Large White. 3550 Kolborek. 3560 Landrace. 3570 Minnesota. 3575 Other. 3580 Pig equipment.

3610 RABBITS
SHEEP

3704 Afrikaner. 3708 Afrino. 3712 Corriedale. 3716 Damara. 3720 Dormer. 3724 Dorper. 3728 Dorset Horn. 3732 Finnish Landrace. 3736 Ile de France. 3740 Karakul. 3744 Letellmark. 3748 Dohne Merino. 3752 Merino. 3756 Merino-Landsheep. 3760 Meatmaster. 3762 Nguni.

3764 SA Mutton Merino. 3768 Walrich-Merino. 3772 Pedi. 3776 Persian. 3780 South Down. 3784 Hampshire Down. 3788 Suffolk. 3792 Van Rooy. 3796 Vando. 3799 Other

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3802 Point of Lay. 3805 Amberlink. 3810 Australorp. 3815 Bantam. 3820 Broilers. 3825 Buff Orpington. 3830 Isa Brown. 3835 Hy-Line. 3840 Leghorn. 3845 Lohmann Brown. 3850 Minorka. 3855 New Hampshire. 3860 Rocket. 3865 Tokai Super Brown. 3870 Game cocks.

3875 White Rock. 3880 Wyandotte. 3885 Crossbreed. 3886 Other

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4010 GEESE
4110 TURKEYS
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4910 SLAUGHTERING EQUIPMENT
5010 FEEDS AND SUPPLEMENTS
5110 PIGEONS
5210 BEES
5310 FISH
5410 DOGS
5510 CATS
5605 QUAIL
5610 OTHER ANIMALS

crops

5710 GRAIN CROPS
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6110 TOBACCO
6210 PASTURES
6310 FRESH PRODUCE
6410 ORCHARDS AND VINES
6510 TREES AND TIMBER
6610 OTHER CROPS
6710 FERTILISER
6810 PESTICIDES
6910 SEEDS
7010 SEEDLINGS
7110 GENERAL FARMING REQUISITES
MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS

7204 Applicators. 7208 Compressors. 7210 Combined Parts. 7212 Distributors. 7216 Drilling machines. 7220 Earthmoving. 7224 Electrical machines and parts. 7228 Feed-mixers. 7232 Fertilisers. 7236 Generators and alternative energy. 7240 Grading machines. 7244 Harvesters & combines. 7248 Haymaking appliances. 7252 Irrigation equipment. 7256 Processing & Packaging

equipment. 7260 Planters. 7264 Ploughs. 7268 Pumps and boreholes. 7272 Seeders. 7276 Sorting equipment. 7280 Sprayers. 7284 Storage equipment, fridges & freezers. 7288 Tractors and tractor parts. 7292 Weeding appliances. 7296 Welders. 7298 General.

7299 Windmills and parts.

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7410 Aircraft. 7420 Bakkies. 7430 Boats and watercraft. 7440 Caravans. 7450 Motorcycles. 7460 Motor vehicles. 7465 Engines. 7470 Used engines. 7480 Spares and accessories. 7490 Trailers. 7495 Others. 7499 Used vehicles

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7510 Agents. 7520 Brokers. 7530 Financing. 7540 Insurance. 7550 Marketing. 7560 Security. 7570 Support systems. 7575 Other.
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7394 Nursery 7605 Books. 7610 Camping and caravanning. 7615 Field sports. 7620 Firearms. 7625 Furniture. 7630 Gardening. 7635 Handicrafts. 7640 Hiking and mountaineering. 7645 Music. 7650 Sport. 7655 Swapping. 7660 Travel. 7665 Water sports. 7670 For Sale. 7675 Appliances. 7677 Wanted. 7685 Other. 7680 Wanted to buy. 7685 Farm toys. 7692 Pest control.

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3 minutes with ...

Chris Burgess, editor-in-chief of *Landbouweekblad*

If you were given R30 million to invest in agriculture, either in new or existing farming activities or in the agriculture value chain, how would you spend it?

I'd buy a piece of land in my home province of the Eastern Cape and establish a practical research farm for regenerative agriculture to develop low-cost, sustainable farming practices. These are not only to keep our family farmers on their farms, but to develop appropriate practices to get the former homelands productive again. I'm convinced this could be an absolute game changer.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

Finish today's work today, because tomorrow will bring its own problems. I still struggle with that one.

If you were given carte blanche to effect one major change in South Africa tomorrow, how would you use this power?

I'd redirect the billions of rand wasted on bailing out failing state-owned enterprises and instead pay our millions of unemployed youth to work on rehabilitating our natural

resources: continual chopping out of invasive plants, cleaning rivers, doing erosion works, rehabilitating wetlands and invigorating our natural veld through shepherding. There's an infinite demand for this, and I think we grossly underestimate how destructive it is for our youngsters not to be productive.

Tell us something about yourself that most people do not know.

I'm fascinated by the history of the Eastern Cape. It's the one place on the African continent where black and white people have been living together the longest. I truly believe, despite the province's own grave problems, that many of our country's solutions will be found there.

What is your favourite South African dish, and who first cooked it for you?

Sheep offal and *umngqusho* (Xhosa samp and beans). My earliest memory of it is when it was prepared for the sheep-shearing team my father used to contract in from the then Transkei. ■ FW



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Fill in the grid so that each row and column, as well as each of the 3 x 3 squares, contains all the digits from 1 to 9. Look out for the answers to this week's Sudoku puzzles on next week's Crossword page.

MEDIUM

8	1			9	6			7
		3				9		
		4			7			
		2				1		8
						5	3	4
				1			7	
	7		4		5			1
	5				3			9
	3				9	6		

DIFFICULT

			2		9	3	7	
	6				7			9
2								6
								7
	1		5			6		
		5				8	2	4
1						7		
			9				4	
		7		4				5