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farmer's weekly

28 FEBRUARY 2020

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UNDERCOVER FARMING

- IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND GROWTH MEDIUMS
- THE PROS AND CONS OF SHADE NETS

**THE SHIFTING
TRADE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN SA AND
TRUMP'S AMERICA**

MERINO SUPPLEMENT
MEGA MERINOS' 133-YEAR LEGACY
OF BREEDING DUAL-PURPOSE SHEEP

EQUIPMENT
HOW TO MAKE YOUR
COMBINE HARVESTER
WORK HARDER

GREAT TALES
GUERRILLAS IN THE MIST:
FORGOTTEN BATTLES OF
THE ANGLO-BOER WAR

**MONTHLY TRACTOR
PRICES REPORT**

ISSN 0041848X



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COVER STORIES:
Undercover farming has become an important means for farmers to produce more with less space and water. In this issue, *Farmer's Weekly* explores the costs and benefits involved in establishing shade nets, as well as different greenhouse growing mediums and undercover irrigation systems (see stories from page 28).
DENENE ERASMUS



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From the Editor

SA is holding the rest of Africa back

While still considered by many foreign investors as the 'gateway into Africa', South Africa's dismal economic performance has been a drag on the rest of the continent, which, in 2019, was home to six of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies, namely Rwanda, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Tanzania and Benin.

There are a number of positive signs in the recently released African Development Bank's (AfDB) 2020 African Economic Outlook on the future growth of African economies. While the continent still has to grapple with deep inequality, high youth unemployment, and a disconnect between the skills required in the workplace and the type of education offered in schools and institutions of higher learning, signs of growth and reform are plentiful in many African countries, but not in South Africa.

As the report states, for the first time in a decade, investment expenditure, rather than consumption, accounted for more than half of GDP growth, which is a sign that investors are growing more confident about Africa's future prospects.

On a continent-wide basis, average economic growth remained stable in 2019 at 3,4% and was on course to pick up to 3,9% in 2020 and 4,1% in 2021. These rates are not only outpacing the rate of population growth, which for many countries is estimated at around 2%, but is significantly better than the expected rate of economic expansion in South Africa, where population growth, while lower than most other African countries at about 1,2% per year, still outstrips GDP growth. South Africa's expected GDP growth rate for 2020 was currently at between 0,5% and 1%, with general consensus tending towards the lower end of the range. Unfortunately, there's little to get excited about in the years to follow, with National Treasury expecting only a modest rise to about 1,7% per year by 2022.

Of course, the growth experienced in many other African countries is from a lower base than in South Africa, but based on the direction of growth trends, it is probably time for South Africa to get off its high horse and look north to see what it can learn from the rest of the continent. The AfDB report emphasises the continent's youth unemployment crisis and the reforms needed, especially in education, to address this problem. But, it says, the solution does not lie in simply increasing expenditure on education; this needs to go hand in hand with increasing the efficiency of education spending, which is much lower in Africa than in developing and emerging countries in Asia. According to the report, about 12 million graduates enter the labour market each year in Africa, and only three million of them find jobs. As a result, youth unemployment is rising annually. In South Africa, the youth unemployment rate is at about 55%.

The report recommends implementing policies to improve spending efficiency and education quality. It also highlights the need to improve the quality of teachers, expand access to schools in remote areas, increase incentives to invest in education, develop a demand-driven education system in sync with employers' needs, and invest in nutrition to help poorer children. ■ FW

Denene Erasmus
Editor



farmer's weekly

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US-South Africa trade: what does the future hold?

The recent decision of the US to remove certain countries from its developing country exemption list, coupled with other developments that may have an impact on the trade relationship between the US and South Africa, could have serious ramifications for South Africa's competitiveness as an exporter to the US.

Dr Moses H Lubinga, a senior economist for trade research at the National Agricultural Marketing Council, looks at how this scenario may play out for South Africa.

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

Email Dr Moses H Lubinga at HLubinga@namc.co.za.

“ The US, led by President Donald Trump's administration, recently updated the list of developing countries benefitting from its trade remedy laws. South Africa, China and India, among other countries, were removed from the exemption list. In addition, South Africa's preferential market access to the US is under review after the United States Trade Representative accepted a complaint from the International Intellectual Property Alliance that alleges South Africa's Copyright Amendment Bill and Performers' Protection Amendment Bill fail to “provide adequate and effective protection” of US copyrights. A negative outcome may result in South Africa losing its preferential market access under the African Trade and Opportunities Act (AGOA) and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

South African exports to the US may then be subject to the same general duties as products from other countries.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

The US is a key export market for South Africa, worth over R84,2 billion in total. With South Africa no longer a beneficiary of AGOA and GSP, it is imperative to understand how this country has been utilising the preferential treatment, particularly for agricultural products, and to measure the extent to which South Africa has been using the preferences when exporting agricultural products to the US. This will provide a direct indication of the negative implications for the country's agriculture sector as a result of the Trump administration's decision.

South Africa's agricultural exports to the US were worth US\$297,2 million (R4,45 billion) and US\$318,4 million (R4,73 billion) in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Analysing the trade data between South Africa and the US, it is evident that South Africa's utilisation of preferential benefits under AGOA was 85% in 2018, slightly better than the 84% recorded in 2019.

One hundred and four tariff lines were eligible for the AGOA regime, but some tariff lines did not use the preferential regime. An example was 'juice of any single fruit or vegetable'. While juice to the value of US\$120 898 (R1,8 million) was imported under the GSP regime in 2019, eight times more juice in value terms was imported without exporters claiming the AGOA or GSP benefits.

It is probable that exporters might not have been aware of this preferential treatment, hence did not claim it.



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Only 7% of the GSP regime was utilised in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Sixty-one tariff lines were eligible, and, on average, 83% of these used the regime during the two years.

About 10 tariff lines did not use the regime each year, despite being eligible. For instance, 'Tea or Mate extracts' were eligible for both regimes, but tea worth US\$2 161 (about R32 000) was not imported under either regime.

At product level, macadamia, wine or fresh grapes and oranges were, in that order, the top three agricultural products South Africa exported under AGOA, while sauces and preparations, vegetable seeds for sowing, and mixtures of two or more spices were the top three products exported under the GSP.

Amongst the top South African agricultural exports that claimed neither AGOA nor GSP preferential treatment, despite being eligible, were peaches and certain types of nuts (excluding groundnuts).

WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES NO LONGER RECEIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, OUR FARMERS FACE STIFFER COMPETITION

Given the overlapping nature of the AGOA and GSP regimes, and the fact that an exporter is at liberty to choose the most preferred regime, an overall utilisation rate was also computed, and found to be 92%.

This high utilisation rate may be due to the primary nature of South Africa's agricultural products destined for the US. A larger proportion of the products are not highly processed, implying that the costly and tedious process of meeting the strict rules of origin emphasised by the preferential regimes may not necessarily be a deterrent for exporters of South Africa's agricultural products seeking to gain access to the US market.

With the country at risk of no longer being eligible for this special treatment, the agriculture sector stands to lose out on the few but rewarding tariff lines that have been benefitting from these preferential regimes. ■FW



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Farmer's Diary

SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

13 TO 15 MARCH

Timber!

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CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & EXPOS

3 TO 5 MARCH

Animal Feed Manufacturers' Association Forum, Sun City. Visit afmaforum.co.za.

3 TO 5 MARCH

IPPS Annual Conference, Cradle Moon Lakeside Game Lodge, Muldersdrift. Visit sa.ipps.org.

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

2 TO 4 MARCH

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

2 TO 6 MARCH

Veld Management, Botanical Gardens, Pretoria. Email Frits van Oudtshoorn at courses@alut.co.za, or phone him on 071 866 1331.

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.

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.

3 APRIL TO 5 JUNE

Dassiesfontein Farmworkers Training Camp, Hardap, Namibia. Phone Jacobus Swartbooi on 081 637 7711, or email dassiestraining@gmail.com.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

9 TO 11 APRIL

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

‘Don’t always point to climate change!’

The following letter was submitted by *Farmer’s Weekly* reader Grahame McLeod, and concerns the article ‘SA’s drought vulnerability will hamper agriculture in 2020’, which was published in the 24 January issue. McLeod is a senior lecturer of agriculture at the Tonota College of Education in Botswana.

I would like to offer some comment on the aforementioned article. The article points to climate change as the cause of the ongoing bushfires in Australia. But is this true? All the articles and TV reports on these fires conveniently forget to mention two things: 1) the Eucalyptus tree, which makes up much of the forests in New South Wales and Victoria, is one of the most flammable trees on the planet, as the leaves of these trees contain a lot of oil; 2) climate change infers higher temperatures, lower rainfall and more frequent and prolonged droughts. But there has to be a spark in the first place for a fire to occur; heat and drought alone cannot produce a fire. So, what produces the spark? If there is drought, clouds will be absent and there will be no lightning, which is one of the major causes of fire. Some firefighters in Australia have now suggested that the

organic litter on the ground in Eucalyptus forests might have provided fuel for the fires. Such litter probably accumulated during years of good rainfall!

Fires have always been part of the Australian landscape, and because of this, Eucalyptus trees are adapted to fire since they sprout again quickly after being burnt.

DROUGHTS

The article also says that climate change is responsible for the droughts in Southern Africa. However, droughts have always been a feature of the climate over much of the region.

‘THERE IS NOW LESS WATER TO GO AROUND’

The article mentions three consecutive years of drought between 2014 and 2016. But no mention is made of the crippling drought of the 1980s when, in Botswana, there were six consecutive years of drought (from 1981 to 1987). There was another lengthy drought in the 1960s during which much of Botswana’s cattle herd was decimated.

A squash and a half!



Farmer’s Weekly reader Shiran Sadie sent in this photograph of a massive gem squash harvested by her father, Andrew Wicks, on his East London smallholding. The biggest squash he harvested weighed over 3kg! The squash pictured here is a slightly smaller, but still massive, 2,35kg.

The article also mentions that in 2019, parts of Southern Africa experienced the most devastating drought ever recorded. But what criteria are used to make this claim?

Is it the actual rainfall that occurred or the effect of the drought on the human population? If the second criterion is used, then it may not be too surprising.

The population of South Africa has probably grown by at least 50% since the severe drought of the 1980s; hence there is now much less water to go around for people and their livestock.

OTHER FACTORS

The article also does not mention other factors that result in droughts in Southern Africa, such as El Niño and the fact

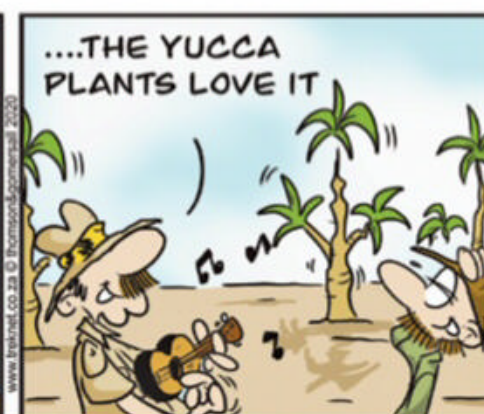
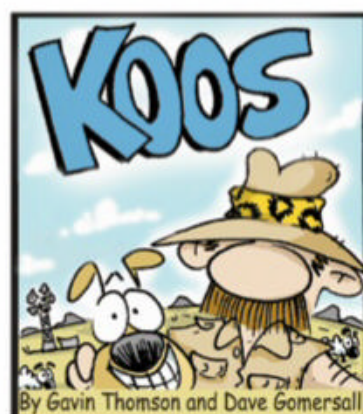
that drought and good rainfall cycles have always been a part of our climate. Recently, a Sky News reporter visited the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and claimed that it would soon dry up because of climate change.

The footage shows that parts of the falls are indeed dry; this would have convinced viewers outside of the region to believe that the falls will be completely dry in a few years’ time.

But the reporter visited the falls at the end of the dry season when the volume of water flowing over the falls is at its lowest. This was not mentioned in the broadcast.

It is time to have a more balanced view on climate change.

We hear so many doom and gloom stories and so much of what we hear is either exaggerated or half-truths.



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



8 APRIL 1970

Underground water storage

50 YEARS AGO

As temperatures around the world rise, the evaporation rate of water is also increasing. The concept of 'recharging' rainwater into boreholes to reduce the rate of evaporation was thus explored.

South Africa's most valuable natural resource is water. The scarcity of water prompted government to declare 1970 a water year, aimed at making every citizen water-conscious. Dr Charles Porszasz, a hydrologist with the Department of Water Affairs, in co-operation with Gordon Fraser, a geologist for Gypsum Industries, has worked out a general plan of investigation on underground storage, by means of recharging rainwater into boreholes after a heavy downpour. There is not enough information in South

Africa at present regarding the practicability of recharge and storage underground, and this programme is in the nature of a pioneering effort to determine feasibility.

The possibility of using this system on a national scale, to give maximum benefit to the country, must still be evaluated. Experiments are being carried out on Gypsum's property at Roedtan on the Springbok Flats, north of Pretoria.

Asked why this area was chosen, Porszasz explained that a very high rate of extraction of underground water from boreholes for irrigation purposes is found here. In view of the flat country, it is only possible to build shallow dams, with a consequently high rate of evaporation.

The area is known for its relatively high rainfall of a 'shower' type, which gives short, sharp run-offs.

ABOVE:

From left: Wim Jacobs, Gordon Fraser, director of Northern Gypsum, and Dr Charles Porszasz, hydrologist with the Department of Water Affairs, are looking on as water is being recharged into a borehole for underground storage in the Springbok Flats. This photograph accompanied the article in our 8 April 1970 issue.

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

This allows sufficient water for catchment to provide many individual recharge programmes, aimed at giving a general increase in the water table over a large area. Run-off that would have evaporated can thus be utilised.

Our country's temperatures are high, therefore the rate of evaporation is also exceptionally high. Because the infiltration of water into the soil is slower than the evaporation, their idea is to reduce this rate of evaporation, by storing water underground.

Fraser says that they do not bore special holes to recharge, but use existing ones.

The ideal borehole for recharge is the high-production borehole, whose yield has been reduced through overpumping or because of years of prolonged drought.

This does not include the borehole where reduced yield has been caused by the silting up of the feeder channels through excessive pumping. This sort of borehole would not be suitable for recharge.

Porszasz says that water conservation is receiving attention throughout the world today.

The idea of underground water storage originated in Texas in the US, where various experiments are being carried out. The aim is not only to save water, but also to use rainwater to freshen subterranean supplies.

The normal processes of water conservation involve purification of industrial water, which is a difficult procedure.

By recharging boreholes with rainwater, a natural process of freshening underground water is introduced. It is believed that many farmers in the country could do this on a small scale, and in a relatively inexpensive way.

The success of any project attempting artificial recharge is dependent upon many factors, however, such as the nature of the underground water resource, the supply of water for recharge purposes, the chemical and physical compatibility of the recharge water, the sediment content of recharge water and the amount of air entrapped in the recharge water. ■FW

Mixed bag of global grain market dynamics for 2019/2020



AGRIBUSINESS PERSPECTIVE BY WANDILE SIHLOBO

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The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the monthly update of its 'World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates' report in the second week of February. The commodities typically featured in this report are wheat, maize and soya bean.

As South Africa is generally a net importer of wheat, it is vital for us to understand global wheat supplies and other market developments.

In the 2019/2020 season, South Africa's wheat imports could increase 33% year-on-year (y/y) to 1,8 million tons, which is 13% higher than the five-year average import volume. The wheat supply situation was exacerbated by the decline in domestic wheat production, on the back of unfavourable weather conditions in parts of the Western Cape late in 2019.

THE FORECAST FOR SA'S COMMERCIAL MAIZE PRODUCTION IN 2020 IS 12,5 MILLION TONS

Fortunately, there are large wheat supplies on the global market. The USDA estimated that in the 2019/2020 season, global wheat production would reach 764 million tons, up 4% y/y. The 2019/2020 global wheat stocks were also estimated at 288 million tons, which was 4% higher than the previous season.

This means that global wheat prices could remain somewhat subdued this year, which would be beneficial for importing countries such as South Africa. The existing wheat import tariff in South Africa could, however, slightly reduce the gains domestic buyers would have enjoyed, but would somewhat cushion local farmers.

HIGHER MAIZE FORECAST

South Africa is a net exporter of maize, so there are two reasons for looking at the USDA data: to estimate South Africa's maize production for a particular season, and to obtain a view of global maize supplies, which partially influence domestic maize prices. With that said, the correlation

between global and South African maize prices tends to be weak in years of maize abundance on the domestic market.

The USDA forecast for South Africa's 2019/2020 maize production is 14 million tons, which is up 19% from the previous season. This data comprises both commercial and non-commercial production; hence, it is slightly higher than the local estimates recently released. The local estimate for commercial maize production for the 2019/2020 season is 12,5 million tons, which is at the lower end of market expectations.

If such a harvest materialises, South Africa could have over 1,5 million tons of maize for the export market. This would benefit maize-importing countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Japan and Taiwan, and countries in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) market, among others. These are all typical markets for South African maize.

Globally, however, maize production is set to fall 1% y/y to 1,1 billion tons. This will subsequently lead to a 7% y/y decline in stocks to 297 million tons.

While this will support global maize prices, the impact on the South African maize market is likely to remain minimal.

SOYA BEAN IMPORTS

On average, South Africa imports 550 000t of soya bean oilcake (meal) a year, of which about 97% comes from Argentina. The USDA forecasts that for 2019/2020, global soya bean production will amount to 339 million tons, down 5% y/y. As a result, 2019/2020 global soya bean stocks are down 11% y/y, estimated at 99 million tons.

With China now back in the market, this means soya bean and its product prices could be slightly elevated in the coming months, which is not good for importing countries such as South Africa.

Overall, this is a mixed bag of grain market dynamics. Global wheat prices could be favourable in the short term for importing countries and South African consumers. The same is true for maize, but the benefit will come from the anticipated improvement in domestic supplies. Meanwhile, the soya bean market could experience the opposite effect.

Ramaphosa's SONA gets the thumbs-down



POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE BY DR JAN VENTER

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Reactions to President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address (SONA) were similar in one way: nobody was satisfied.

The EFF came into the chamber dissatisfied and made a show of their lack of respect for democracy and our Constitution, at one point throwing bottles of water at other MPs.

The DA said this SONA showed that Ramaphosa chose the ANC over saving South Africa from economic disaster.

"This SONA speech was his moment. The perfect storm of a stalled economy, rampant unemployment, fast-disappearing investment, shrinking tax revenue and a failed state-owned power utility have meant that this decision could no longer be kicked down the road, as the president has been doing these past two years. We have reached the proverbial D-day for introducing the critical reforms needed to stave off an economic collapse," said DA interim leader John Steenhuisen.

He added that Ramaphosa understood this urgency, and also exactly what needed to be done. Since the start of his term as president, and particularly in recent months, economists, ratings agencies, opposition parties and even his own finance minister, Tito Mboweni, had been telling him the same thing: either you make bold economic reforms, even if this is politically difficult, or you sign the death warrant of our economy.

According to Steenhuisen, while Ramaphosa had made some moves in the right direction in his speech regarding Eskom, he had stopped far too short of what was required, as Eskom remained the biggest threat to South Africa's economy.

"The ANC's insistence on trying to resurrect it by raiding the pensions of government employees is madness. There is no 'financially sustainable' way to throw a quarter of a trillion rand of pension savings down a hole," he said.

African Christian Democratic Party leader Kenneth Meshoe said the party would oppose any motion for the money of government employees to be used to bail out cash-strapped Eskom.

"Civil servants [...] have worked very hard, but for them to be threatened that part of their pension fund will be used

to bail out Eskom is totally unacceptable, as far as we are concerned," he said.

Meshoe said they would have liked the president to outline government's plans on policy certainty, and that he had not fully addressed his plans with regard to this.

'A LOT OF ACTION' EXPECTED

Paul Mashatile, treasurer general of the ANC, said there would be 'much action' in the coming months following Ramaphosa's speech, particularly in creating jobs for the youth of South Africa.

"We are expecting to see a lot of action from the various players in our economy to improve economic growth," he said.

Dirk Hermann, CEO of trade union Solidarity, welcomed the steps announced by the president to decentralise power generation, and added that the next step was to make the transmission networks available to private generators.

MANY REJECT THE PLAN TO BAIL OUT ESKOM USING CIVIL SERVANTS' PENSIONS

He also said, however, that Ramaphosa had not addressed Eskom's "huge debt problem", which was currently at around R413 billion.

"We foresee a [major] clash between pension fund members and government, and Solidarity will be at the forefront of this fight," he said.

Hermann said it appeared that government had already decided to implement the National Health Insurance (NHI) plan before the public hearings were finalised.

"In view of this, Solidarity will instruct its legal team to start to prepare for a court battle to stop the NHI."

This SONA was not the 'decisive corruption fighter' we had hoped for and it was definitely not the 'strict economic reform' we need.

Ramaphosa seems caught between what he has to do and what the ideologues in his party or his faction want him to do.

I am afraid that South Africans will be the ones losing out in the not-too-distant future.



ABOVE

According to commentators, one of the key issues that needs to be debated during the public consultation and parliamentary process for the Draft Land Donations Policy is the question of who will assume ownership of any land donated. Clear guidelines on this matter are necessary to prevent a repeat of the type of “mismanagement and corruption” that has plagued state land holdings and leasing in the past, says Prof Ruth Hall of the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies – see story on page 18.

Weekly quotes

‘We are particularly delighted that the president recognised the challenges in logistics that could slow South Africa’s agricultural exports’

– **Dr John Purchase**, CEO of Agbiz, welcoming President Cyril Ramaphosa’s focus on finding solutions to congestion and inefficiencies at South Africa’s main ports (pg 14).

‘If you want to tax a 100% apple juice, then you may as well tax the apple itself’

– **Rudi Richards**, general manager of the South African Fruit Juice Association, responding to calls from a civic organisation to have government not only increase the so-called sugar tax, but also to extend the tax to include fruit juices (pg 15).

‘[...] these industries [...] require higher skill [levels], of which South Africa has a shortage’

– **Dawie Roodt**, chief economist at the Efficient Group, on the limited potential for agriculture to contribute significantly to job creation (pg 15).

‘What is not clear is what kind of rights the people [receiving] the land will have [...]’

– **Prof Ruth Hall**, of the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, on how it is not yet clear whether ownership of donated land via the proposed Land Donations Policy will be transferred to the state or to beneficiaries (pg 18).

‘Access to veterinary services in this country remains limited to those who can afford it’

– **Dr Jurgens Barnard**, Free State coordinator of the department of agriculture’s compulsory community service (CCS) veterinarian programme, on the importance of the CCS campaign to provide people in poor, rural areas with access to essential services (pg 21).

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Agri sector welcomes Ramaphosa's energy generation plans

In order to create an operating environment favourable for growth, President Cyril Ramaphosa vowed in his latest State of the Nation Address (SONA) to “fix the fundamentals” and put South Africa's economy on a path of inclusive growth.

In his address, Ramaphosa noted that South Africa's ports were congested and inefficient. He said a complete overhaul of the Port of Durban would be undertaken this year to reduce delays and costs.

Another important aspect for agriculture that Ramaphosa highlighted was that the process of issuing water-use licences would be reduced to 90 days.

Dr John Purchase, CEO of Agbiz, welcomed Ramaphosa's emphasis on inclusive economic growth to address the key challenges facing South Africa.

“We are particularly delighted that the president recognised the challenges in logistics that could slow South Africa's agricultural exports,” he said.

Purchase added that expediting the issuing of water licences



was also a positive contributor to agricultural expansion.

To stimulate inclusive growth in the agriculture sector, Ramaphosa announced that government would open up and regulate the commercial production of hemp products.

“This will provide opportunities for small-scale farmers, and [government will] formulate policy on the use of cannabis products for medicinal purposes, to build this industry in line with global trends,” he said.

According to BDS Analytics, a market research firm for

ABOVE:
In his recent State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighted several issues that will positively affect agriculture.
GALLO IMAGES/
JEFFREY ABRAHAMS

the global cannabinoid industry worldwide, legal cannabis spending would exceed US\$40 billion (about R595 billion) by 2024.

Referring to the electricity generation constraints experienced by Eskom, Ramaphosa said measures would be implemented over the next two months that would fundamentally change the trajectory of energy generation in the country. He said that the Integrated Resource Plan of 2019 would be given effect to allow for the development of additional grid capacity from renewable energy sources.

The changed attitude towards energy generation, including the move to renewable energy, was welcomed by the agriculture sector.

According to Omri van Zyl, CEO of Agri SA, it was one of the positive points of this year's SONA. “For agriculture, this is a game changer. Agri SA already has investors who are going to implement green energy in South Africa.” – Jeandré van der Walt

SUGAR

Darnall mill closure symptom of 'bleak' industry outlook

The recent announcement by Tongaat Hulett that it would mothball its Darnall Sugar Mill in KwaZulu-Natal was a manifestation of the “bleak baseline outlook” for South Africa's sugar industry, as highlighted in the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy's Agricultural Outlook 2019-2028 report.

The country's sugar industry was in “deep crisis”, due to the negative impact of factors such as tariff-free sugar imports from neighbouring eSwatini and the Health Promotion Levy, or sugar tax, which reduced the sugar industry's annual revenue by approximately R1,5 billion, according to the report.

The report added that the sugar industry had lost more than 70 000ha of sugar cane lands since 2009, with many farmers diversifying away from sugar cane into more profitable long-term crops such as macadamias, avocados and citrus. It was expected that a further 17 000ha of sugar cane lands would be lost over the next 10 years.

“It is envisioned that under the rather bleak baseline outlook, sugar mills might have to close in the coastal production regions. Decreasing cane production has, over more than a decade, led to decreased mill throughput, and milling and logistics inefficiencies putting severe pressure on milling companies’

balance sheets, as well as their relationship with their farmers and the communities in which they operate.

“The closing of some mills could increase the throughput of the remaining mills, but the additional transport cost to bring cane from mill-less production regions will have to be absorbed in an already stretched system, and it can be expected that considerable hectares will be lost in regions where mills close down,” the report said.

Farmer's Weekly previously reported that Tongaat Hulett had said that the decision to shut the mill was motivated by the company's intention to try to improve efficiencies and reduce operational costs. – Lloyd Phillips

LABOUR

'Agriculture is not the solution to SA's unemployment crisis'

Although South Africa's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 29,1% in the fourth quarter of 2019, the expanded definition, which included people who had stopped looking for work, indicated that unemployment had actually risen to a new record level of 38,7% (up from 38,5%), according to Dawie Roodt, chief economist at the Efficient Group.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) said in its recent report that employment figures had increased by 45 000 in the fourth quarter of 2019. However, Roodt said he believed this increase had not kept pace with the country's population growth.



ABOVE: South Africa's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 29,1% in the fourth quarter of 2019, with agriculture being one of the sectors that recorded the highest increase in employment.
JEANDRÉ VAN DER WALT

"With the growth in population, unemployment will also go up," he said, adding that based on this, the future for unemployed people in South Africa looked extremely bleak.

According to Stats SA, the formal business sector had recorded the largest employment increase, followed by agriculture. Roodt said, however, that job creation in agriculture was not sustainable,

as the sector was becoming increasingly capital-intensive.

"The nature of agriculture is also changing; it is becoming more and more automated."

Significant job creation typically occurred in the secondary and tertiary industries, he said.

"However, it is also these industries that require higher skill [levels], of which South Africa has a shortage."
– Jeandré van der Walt

SUGAR

Call for 20% tax on sugar-sweetened beverages

If the Healthy Living Alliance (HEALA) has its way, the existing 11% Health Promotion Levy, or sugar tax, on South Africa's sugar-sweetened beverages will be increased by government to 20% as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Lawrence Mbalati, programme manager at HEALA, told *Farmer's Weekly* that "the WHO says that a 20% tax is where more consumption decreases and more revenue increases are found".

"Our main call is for the unhealthy food and beverages industry to be held accountable for the products it produces, which contribute to South Africa's high rates of obesity and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and some cancers." Mbalati added that HEALA was urging the South African

public to lobby Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize to increase the sugar tax to 20% and extend this tax to fruit juices.

Rudi Richards, general manager of the South African Fruit Juice Association, said he was not sure why HEALA wanted to have a tax implemented on 100% fruit juices when these juices had no added sugar content.

"If you want to tax a 100% apple juice, then you may as well tax the apple itself. The sugar tax already applies to fruit nectars, fruit-flavoured beverages, and fruit squashes that have added sugar.

"Many manufacturers have cut back on the added sugar content by replacing it with non-nutritive sweeteners. It's mostly South Africa's lower-income consumers who will be negatively affected

by an increased sugar tax on non-100% pure fruit juices."

Richards stressed that the association would challenge any efforts to tax the natural sugar content of 100% pure fruit juices.

Responding to HEALA's call for an increase in the sugar tax, Trix Trikam, executive director of the South African Sugar Association, said that since its implementation in April 2018, the sugar tax had had a "deleterious effect" on the country's sugar industry.

"The industry's cumulative losses, as a result of the tax, stand at more than R3,6 billion.

"Any increase in the [tax] and its expansion to other products would be cataclysmic for the industry, which is currently in crisis due to a number of challenges threatening its sustainability and continued existence." – Lloyd Phillips

CITRUS

Problems at SA harbours continue to plague citrus industry

Inefficiencies at South Africa's harbours are costing the economy millions of rand every day.

Ongoing problems, including ageing and out-of-service infrastructure, staff shortages, prolonged industrial strike action and unnecessary red tape, have been described as a nightmare for fresh produce exporters, in particular citrus exporters, during the 2019 season.

While the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA) expressed hope that these scenarios would not play out again this year, there were still many challenges facing the harbours.

"The CGA has been actively engaging with the new management at Transnet and has welcomed recent steps taken to address some issues, such as procuring new equipment for the Port Elizabeth and Durban [harbours]. However, we understand that some of this equipment will only be delivered around May, which means that infrastructure

challenges are likely to continue hampering productivity at these ports," said Dave Watts, a national maritime consultant at the South African Association of Freight Forwarders.

He added that the citrus industry exported 126 million 15kg-equivalent cartons of citrus fruit to over 100 countries in 2019, bringing in more than R20 billion in export revenue and supporting 120 000 jobs.

The industry expected another bumper year in 2020, but it was likely that citrus export volumes would be negatively affected if the problems at the harbours persisted.

"This will inevitably result in reduced revenue for South African growers and exporters. And in the medium to longer terms, this will translate into job losses for the citrus industry and other sectors that rely heavily on the efficiency of our [harbours]."

Watts added that while conditions were looking promising at most of South Africa's harbours, the Port of Durban was still a major concern.



ABOVE: The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa has welcomed recent steps taken at the Port of Durban to address problems with infrastructure. FW ARCHIVE

"It's estimated that inefficiencies at the Port of Durban alone are costing the economy R6 million on an average day and R10 million on a bad day."

Watts noted that the outbreak of novel coronavirus in China was currently the "elephant in the room" in the citrus industry.

"China is a very important and growing customer. The reports of deaths and diagnosed cases in China are very negative, and from what we're hearing, it will last a while. If the ports there are not working properly as a result, then shipments could be hampered." – Lindi Botha

SOYA BEAN

Soya bean levy pays off with six new cultivars for SA

More than 95% of the statutory levy on the past year's soya bean harvest has been received from producers so far.

The breeding and technology levy on soya bean, approved by the former Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in June 2018 and administered by the South African Cultivar and Technology Agency, had been approved for two years with effect from 1 March 2019, and would be renewed at the end of February 2021. This was according to Corné Louw, economist at Grain SA.

He said the levy was R65/t for the first year and R80/t for the second year. These values were calculated

at 1,2% of the previous marketing year's average soya bean price.

The collected levies would be distributed to South African seed companies according to their market share, to be used for technology and cultivar development. This would allow local soya bean producers access to the latest genetically modified organism (GMO) technology and genetics.

"In the past, we've lagged behind South America and the US in terms of growth potential and yields. The new technology will significantly level the international playing field for local producers," Louw said.

As an offshoot of the levy, six new soya bean cultivars had been made available in South Africa in the 2019/2020 production season. In addition, Corteva and Bayer had already introduced new technology locally.

The soya bean industry was also keenly awaiting the finalisation of the official GMO regulatory process, he said.

In the past, soya bean producers made use of retained seed from their own harvests. According to the South African National Seed Organization, 80% of soya bean in the country was planted from farm-retained seed. – Annelie Coleman

Dutch poultry farmers ordered to keep birds indoors

The Netherlands' ministry of agriculture has ordered commercial poultry farmers to confine their birds indoors following reports of an outbreak of the highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in Germany.

It was feared that commercial poultry could contract the disease from potentially infected wild birds from neighbouring Germany, the ministry said in a statement.

It noted that the latest infection in Germany was closer to the Dutch border than those reported earlier, increasing the risk of infection from wild birds.

Reuters reported that the outbreak of the H5N8 virus was first confirmed in a bird in a backyard farming operation in Bretzfeld in the Baden-Württemberg region of Germany, according to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The virus killed 44 birds out of a flock of 69, the OIE said, citing a report from Germany's

food and agriculture ministry. "All poultry and captive birds have been culled and safely disposed of. No poultry, poultry products or captive birds have been dispatched," the report stated.

A case of H5N8 bird flu had also been confirmed in a wild bird in the eastern German state of Brandenburg in January, but no poultry on farms was involved, the ministry said. – *Staff reporter*



ABOVE: Poultry producers in central Europe are taking stringent measures to safeguard their flocks from the threat of an outbreak of the highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza in Germany. FW ARCHIVE

New model for profitable on-farm energy projects

Boosting sustainable on-farm energy projects by more accurately predicting their profitability is the topic of a recent paper by researchers at North Carolina State University in the US.

"Converting animal waste into electricity can be profitable for farmers, while also producing environmental benefits, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions," said Mahmoud Sharara, lead author of the paper and an assistant professor of biological and agricultural engineering at the university.

"One way is to develop co-operative anaerobic digestion systems that make use of waste from multiple farms," he said.

The researchers developed a computational model that told users how to maximise the economic return on anaerobic digestion systems, including where a system needed to be located, what its capacity needed to be, and how large a geographic area it needed to serve.

However, what set the model apart was the way it accounted for uncertainty, such as the future price of electricity produced and the efficiency of an anaerobic digester. The model was designed to run repeated simulations that accounted for variation in each area of uncertainty, according to sciencedaily.com. – *Staff reporter*

In Brief

COLOMBIA

Flower exports from Colombia could double to US\$3 billion (about R45 billion) a year over the next decade through the introduction of new species and the expansion to markets in Asia and Latin America, Iván Duque, president of Colombia, said recently.

Colombia was the world's second-largest flower exporter after the Netherlands, with about 660 million flowers of approximately 1 500 varieties, including roses, carnations and chrysanthemums, exported to the US, the UK and Mexico for Valentine's Day, according to the Colombian Association of Flower Exporters.

THAILAND

Thailand could lose its position as the world's second-largest rice exporter, as the country's rice export target was set at 7.5 million tons for 2020, the lowest in seven years.

The Thai Rice Exporters' Association blamed drought, a fluctuation in the local currency's exchange rate, and stronger competition from India, Vietnam, China and Myanmar for the decline in volume.

AUSTRALIA

Australia's new free trade agreement (FTA) with Indonesia would provide incentive for growers to export additional citrus fruit, said Citrus Australia's CEO, Nathan Hancock. He welcomed the ratification of the Australian-Indonesian FTA, saying that it would support current efforts to develop a new market for Australian growers. "Any global market that imports 10 000t of Australian fruit is significant, and these tariffs will help us meet that goal," he said. – *Staff reporter*

BUSINESS

Simba's acquisition of Pioneer Foods gets the go-ahead

The Competition Commission of South Africa has recommended to the Competition Tribunal that the proposed transaction in which Simba, a subsidiary of PepsiCo, intends to acquire Pioneer Foods Group Limited (Pioneer) be approved.

According to the commission, the transaction would result in significant public interest benefit for South Africa, which included the transfer of at least R1,6 billion in equity to workers, and was unlikely to result in substantial lessening of competition.

The commission recommended that the tribunal approve the merger subject to several public interest commitments, including a moratorium on merger-related retrenchments for a specified period, and

the creation of additional jobs at the merged entity.

Other recommendations were that significant investment be made into the operations of the merged entity and the agriculture sector; in the establishment of an enterprise development fund; and in an empowerment deal amounting to about R1,6 billion to promote a greater spread of ownership and participation by workers and historically disadvantaged South Africans.

'SIMBA WILL ACQUIRE A WORKHORSE'

Kobus Laubscher, an independent agricultural economist, said that as the transaction was approved by the Competition Commission,

it would have passed a very stringent test in which the particulars of such a deal in terms of its impact would have been thoroughly scrutinised.

"A deal of this magnitude needs to create net welfare, and will most certainly leverage the intellectual property of Pioneer to the next level, which in turn will benefit [South Africa's] agriculture [sector] in terms of market access and technological advancement.

"Simba will acquire a workhorse and not a luxury car. Within the bigger picture, suppliers to Pioneer will experience more open markets.

"This will most definitely create new value chains, and by so doing, will give effect to borderless markets," Laubscher said. – Pieter Dempsey

LAND REFORM

New Draft Land Donations Policy under scrutiny

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development needed to set the example by donating some of its own land to test the processes of the new Draft Land Donations Policy to ensure there were no unintended consequences, DA MP Annette Steyn told *Farmer's Weekly* recently.

The Draft Land Donations Policy was published on 7 February, and members of the public could comment on the policy for 60 calendar days from the publication date.

Prof Ruth Hall of the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies at the University of the Western Cape, and a member of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture, said the draft policy had emerged directly from the panel's report.

The policy would make provision for an expedited and clear mechanism for property owners who wished

to donate land, in addition to land being bought on the market for land reform purposes and the expropriation of land by the state.

Some land owners had previously wanted to donate land for land reform purposes, but had been unsuccessful due to the state's inefficiency in responding to offers of land donations, she said.

Prospective donors included entities with large property portfolios such as mining houses, religious organisations and agribusinesses.

According to Hall, government could engage with property owners who made land available for land reform purposes to possibly waive certain costs, such as transfer duties and conveyancing fees, in order to remove barriers to land donations.

She added that property owners could also donate land to specific pre-identified people such as farmworkers and neighbours,

or provide it to the state for redistribution. "What is not clear is what kind of rights the people [receiving] the land will have, whether the donated land will become state-owned [and the] beneficiaries will have to lease it, or [whether] these donations involve a transfer of private title [deeds] from the current owner to the beneficiary. This is a key issue that needs to be debated.

"A massive problem with government has been the mismanagement and corruption involved in state land holdings and leasing.

"Landowners will probably want to donate land when they have faith in the system and institutions to work in a fair and efficient manner," Hall said.

According to Steyn, the Agricultural Research Council held vast tracts of land that belonged to the state and were currently unutilised, and this would be a perfect starting point. – Siyanda Sishuba

INSECTS

Insect conservation vital for sustainable agriculture

Insects play an integral role in sustainable agriculture and maintain a range of ecological processes and ecosystem services.

This was according to Prof Michael J Samways, distinguished professor in the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology at Stellenbosch University.

Speaking to *Farmer's Weekly*, Samways said this included pollination, soil formation and control of insect pests. Bees and monkey beetles were particularly important in the pollination of flowering plants, he said.

Samways said that springtails, termites and beetles, as well as other invertebrates such as millipedes and woodlice, shred leaf litter, which made it available to fungi and bacteria to further break down, thus contributing to the cycling of nutrients. Tiny parasitic wasps and ladybirds were also important predators of insect pests.

He said there was a high level of awareness about the value of insect conservation in the agriculture sector. "We have regular meetings with sector



ABOVE: Insects play an important role in pollination and soil formation in South African agriculture.
PROF MICHAEL J SAMWAYS

[stakeholders] where we share information and together [try to] improve the way farming can be done, with the long term in mind. Many farmers who in the past have violated [the] sense of future-proofing the environment, have already gone out of business, and the land [has been] converted to wind farms, sustainable forestry, large-array telescopes and nature reserves."

While balanced grazing was beneficial to insect life, overgrazing was highly

damaging, and it took a long time for an overgrazed system to recover.

In South Africa, insects were, nevertheless, well-adapted to drought, making use of suboptimal habitats to tide them over during harsh climatic conditions. Fires were also harmful, but insects used fire refuges, such as kloofs, rocky outcrops and screes, to survive. After the fire had passed and vegetation had recuperated, they recolonised the veld.

Agricultural producers could contribute greatly to the conservation of insects by removing alien trees and other invasive plants from their land.

"By far the biggest impact, especially for water insects such as dragonflies, is [from] invasive alien trees. The Working for Water Programme has made a huge contribution to saving many aquatic insect species that might otherwise have [become] extinct.

"On land, invasive alien plants, overgrazing, pesticides, and too-frequent fires are all harmful to threatened insects," Samways said. – *Annelie Coleman*

AVOCADOS

'Avocado water use exaggerated in global media'

Following the recent global outcry about the amount of water used for avocado production, the World Avocado Organization (WAO) has hit back, saying that not only has water efficiency improved, but that the nutritional value of the fruit is proportional to its water consumption.

Xavier Equihua, CEO of the WAO, said technical improvements in avocado production over the past few years had ensured a substantial reduction in its water footprint.

"The amount of water necessary to produce 1kg of avocados varies between 600ℓ and 700ℓ. Technical improvements in irrigation, as well

as careful plant growth control, have reduced this figure by between 300ℓ and 400ℓ over the past decade.

"The current quantity of water may appear to be high, but compared with fruit such as bananas (790ℓ) or apples (822ℓ), the amount of water avocados requires [is] lower than the average on the fruit and vegetable market. Furthermore, no other food offers the same nutritional value for the per-litre amount of water used in [its] growth.

"If we take a tomato [for example], the vegetable that needs the least amount of water for production, the nutrients it provides are minimal compared with the avocado.

"Tomato production requires few water resources, but the energy contribution is not proportional," Equihua said.

He added that avocados adapted to different climate zones throughout the world.

"In fact, a large proportion of the zones where it is grown, such as Colombia and Mexico, have high percentages of precipitation and do not require irrigation in plantations.

"The majority of commercial farms in South Africa use efficient irrigation systems, and in dry zones such as Israel, farmers use desalinated water. In Peru, [farmers] irrigate with meltwater from the Andes." – *Lindi Botha*

GRAINS

Farmers face pressure despite bumper crop prospects

The good rainfall in many grain producing regions has raised the spirits of farmers, but despite the bumper harvest, producers still face numerous pressures, according to Jannie de Villiers, CEO of Grain SA.

Speaking to *Farmer's Weekly*, De Villiers said it had been “mostly wonderful to see the state of summer grains plantings” as he drove across the country to attend regional meetings ahead of the association’s annual congress, due to be held in March.

“We have the potential to take a massive harvest off the land this

year. But it does not rain money, and a good crop does not override the emotional pressure many of our farmers are dealing with.”

De Villiers also highlighted the fact that there were areas where drought continued to take a toll.

In addition, many farmers had been unable to plant their planned crops such as soya bean, as they had not received sufficient rainfall in time for the optimal planting window.

“There were also farmers in the north-western Free State who had ‘drowning’ damage to their maize crops,” he said.

LEFT: Ongoing drought conditions resulting in late plantings, among other challenges, continue to hamper the grains industry, despite good harvest prospects.
SABRINA DEAN

Issues highlighted during regional meetings included concern about expropriation without compensation, the unpredictability of the implementation of market mechanisms, such as the wheat tariff, and the soya bean breeding and technology levy.

De Villiers said the levy was now being collected for the second year and there was optimism about the prospect of new technologies being introduced to South Africa in time for the next planting season.

“We’re also seeing new seed companies coming to South Africa because of the introduction of this system,” he said.

De Villiers said the changes to the wheat grading system implemented over the past year were “putting money back in the pockets of farmers”.

He thanked role players in the milling and baking industries for their concessions, and was also upbeat about new wheat technology expected to be introduced in South Africa after the finalisation of trials and legislative approvals. – *Sabrina Dean*

RHINO

SA's private rhino owners face bankruptcy

Poaching, coupled with the ongoing drought in many regions and the economic downturn, has seen private owners of key populations of rhino across South Africa facing bankruptcy, threatening an animal welfare crisis in coming months.

This was according to Pelham Jones, chairperson of the Private Rhino Owners’ Association.

Jones said that as a result of the poaching of more than 8 000 rhino over the past 10 years, about 28t of rhino horn worth R9,3 billion had been smuggled out of South Africa by transnational criminal syndicates.

“Losses from the illegally killed rhino, including asset depreciation of live populations, total over R19 billion. [This figure] excludes

annual protection and security costs for national, provincial and private reserves of some R2 billion a year, plus management, veterinary and feed costs,” he said.

In addition, rhino farmers have suffered losses due to drought because they have to supplement feed, he said.

The negative outcome of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which took place in Geneva, Switzerland in August 2019, gave private rhino owners little hope or incentive to invest further, as the animals were becoming a liability, according to Jones. Rhino breeder Piet Warren of Piet

Warren Plase in Limpopo, who is also a member of the Limpopo Rhino Security Group, told *Farmer's Weekly* that international trade was the only hope for South African rhino and rhino farmers. “Selling a five-year old live bull on the local market could earn you roughly R90 000. However, if the rhino is farmed and the horn cut every second or third year, prices obtained from the Asian market would be around R300 000/kg, giving you a net value of R1,5 million for the same bull,” he said.

Warren added that even trading within South Africa posed a challenge as it was difficult to obtain the required permit from the Department of Environmental Affairs. – *Siyanda Sishuba*

Free State welcomes 12 new community service vets

The compulsory community service (CCS) year that all new veterinarians are required to complete after graduating is yielding positive results for government, communities, and even those new vets wanting to go into private practice.

This was the view of the Free State coordinator of the provincial CCS veterinarian programme, Dr Jurgens Barnard.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the province officially welcomed 12 new CCS vets for 2020 during a recent event at Glen College in Bloemfontein. The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, William Bulwane, told the group they were providing a vital service, especially in rural areas.

“Access to veterinary services in this country remains limited to those who can afford it. This programme reduces the burden on our people,” he said.

Barnard told *Farmer's Weekly* that the new vets were a determined and dynamic group, and were filling primary animal healthcare posts at offices across the province, including in QwaQwa, Bloemfontein, Lady Brand, Kroonstad and Frankfort.

Barnard said the work being done by the CCS vets was starting to make a noticeable difference to animal health in rural areas. The rabies and sterilisation campaigns for pets were particularly beneficial.

“It’s about creating a different way of thinking among rural communities about why sterilisation is good; helping people realise it’s better not having to deal with puppies and costs.”

Barnard said the programme also provided an opportunity for government to retain skilled vets. Three of the vets who served in the province last year had applied for state

veterinary positions and were waiting to hear from the national agriculture department.

Even CCS vets who intended to go into private practice benefitted from the community work they were doing, as they gained insight into how government animal health systems, processes and protocols operated. This included exposure to working with state-controlled or notifiable diseases.

“One of the biggest benefits is that at the end of the service year, you have fresh new blood going back into the private sector with knowledge and insight into how government processes work,” he said.

Barnard said he was hopeful that by next year, it would be possible to post CCS vets at additional sites in the Free State, including in the Fauresmith and Welkom areas. – *Sabrina Dean*

BUSINESS

Sappi under pressure in both local and global markets

Sappi Limited’s (Sappi) South African operations were not immune to various challenges that undermined the parent company’s financial performance in its first quarter ended 31 December 2019.

Sappi’s financial report for the period indicated that Sappi Southern Africa (SSA) had been affected by deteriorated market conditions across most of its product segments, especially dissolving wood pulp and domestic containerboard. “Market prices for [pulp] remained at historically low levels throughout the quarter and were US\$272/t [about R4 047/t] below that of last year. This decline was mainly driven by weak global textile markets and excess [viscose staple fibre] capacity. The containerboard segment struggled with low demand driven by high levels of converter inventory, a weak South African economy, and

ongoing drought in some citrus-producing regions,” the report said.

The local business was negatively affected by the country’s weak economy, which affected newsprint, tissue, and office paper sales. Declines that SSA experienced were in sales of R3,84 billion (2018: R4,98 billion); operating profit, excluding special items, of R324 million (2018: R1,21 billion); and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), excluding special items, of R618 million (2018: R1,44 billion).

The financial report said the parent company had been negatively affected by “unprecedented and markedly lower” global pulp prices. This undermined the “good performance” of Sappi’s European and North American packaging and specialties businesses,

and the “satisfactory results” from its graphic paper businesses.

Sappi’s sales of US\$1,3 billion (R19,38 billion) were 8,2% down on sales for the corresponding period in 2018 of US\$1,41 billion (R21,11 billion); EBITDA, excluding special items, of US\$139 million (R2,07 billion) was 29,5% down on the 2018 figure of US\$197 million (R2,93 billion); and its US\$24 million (R357 million) profit was 70,4% down on the US\$81 million (R1,2 billion) in 2018.

“Given the current low [pulp] pricing levels and uncertainty regarding the coronavirus and the impact this may have on trade flows and economic activity in China, we expect EBITDA in the second quarter of the financial year 2020 to follow the trend experienced in the first quarter,” the report said. – *Lloyd Phillips*

MAIZE

Flooding wipes out thousands of hectares of Free State maize

Maize farmers in the districts of Bothaville, Odendaalsrus and Wesselsbron in the Free State have lost thousands of hectares of maize due to flooding and consequent waterlogging, mainly due to the high water table.

This follows extremely high rainfall of between 400mm and 600mm received between the end of December 2019 and the beginning of February.

Chris Schoonwinkel, vice-chairperson of Grain SA's Maize Working Group, said that farmers in these areas had been subjected to both drought and flooding during the past five years.

"This has been exacerbated by low prices. I can tell you they are without hope and discouraged," he said, adding that the situation was a humanitarian crisis.

According to Schoonwinkel, who farms near Wesselsbron, the monetary losses suffered due to the flooding were almost impossible to quantify, but many farmers would have an uphill battle to recuperate from the disaster.

He added that the maize hit by the deluge would not recuperate.

Johan van den Berg, specialised crop insurance manager at Santam Agriculture, said that high rainfall, which had resulted in the flooding, formed part of the normal climatic variations in the western part of the summer grain production region.

ABOVE:
Vast areas of maize fields in the western Free State have been destroyed by flooding.
RETHA OTTO

He added that nature always "tended towards regaining an average balance".

Following below-average rainfall over the past few years, a natural balance could only be achieved through high rainfall, said Van den Berg.

At this stage, however, many parts of the summer grain production region had not reached the long-term rainfall average.

"For instance, drought conditions have been reported in certain districts in the eastern Free State," he said. – *Annelie Coleman*



BUSINESS

Depressed half-year results expected for Tiger Brands

Tiger Brands recently issued a trading update and statement indicating a strong possibility that its financial results for the six months ending 31 March 2020 would be more than 20% down from the corresponding period last year.

The statement said that Tiger Brands had experienced a "challenging first quarter" ended 31 December 2019. This was attributed to generally lower sales volumes and an inability to recover input costs, adversely affecting profitability.

In addition, the company's performance had been "significantly impacted" in its first quarter by ongoing challenges in its grains portfolio. The export division had also been negatively affected by an almost total lack of sales in Nigeria

due to Tiger Brands' ongoing legal dispute with a former distributor there.

"A continuation of the difficult trading conditions is anticipated in the second quarter with ongoing volume and pricing pressures [on] grains, while indications are that the quarter will be challenging for groceries. The performance of the export division will continue to be affected by the [...] legal dispute in Nigeria."

The statement added that Tiger Brands was in the process of finding bidders for its value-added meat products division. This division was allegedly found to have been the origin of the countrywide listeriosis outbreak that claimed over 200 lives and infected many more people from 2017 to 2018.

Farmer's Weekly previously reported that in April 2019, Tiger Brands had been issued with a court summons to defend itself against a class action lawsuit brought by people affected by the outbreak.

The statement said that Tiger Brands was currently engaged in pre-trial preparations.

Tiger Brands informed its shareholders that for the six months ending 31 March 2020, earnings per share (EPS) from total operations were expected to be down 36%; headline earnings per share (HEPS) from total operations were expected to be down between 30% and 37%; EPS from continuing operations were expected to be down at least 35%; and HEPS from continuing operations were expected to be down between 29% and 36%. – *Staff reporter*

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Traceability system needed *now*

The outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in South Africa in 2019, and their costly repercussions, demonstrate why our country needs a national livestock traceability system without delay.

The two outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) last year have caused havoc in the livestock sector. The first, in Limpopo in January, was followed by the almost immediate closure of the borders for meat exports and an associated drop in local red meat prices due to higher local supply.

Wool, mohair, milk, hides and skin prices were also negatively affected and the export of genetic material ground to a halt.

The second outbreak, also originating in Limpopo, occurred in November and is still not under control. Even more severe than the first, it was followed by a ban on auctions in the provinces bordering Limpopo, and soon afterwards throughout South Africa.

The cost to the industry of the first outbreak alone was estimated at R10 billion.

These outbreaks show just how desperately the industry requires a national cattle traceability system accredited by the South African National Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS-SA).

Several private companies provide livestock identification and management systems, but these do not necessarily link to one another. Capturing and managing the data is also problematic.

In response, the industry and government together developed an internationally recognised LITS-SA system and completed a policy document in 2018.

But the system has yet to be implemented by government.

It is now clear that the industry should be the implementation authority.

When the initial cattle traceability system was developed, it was proposed that the LITS-SA committee,



ABOVE: South Africa's livestock industry, together with government, developed an internationally recognised cattle traceability system in 2018. But government has delayed on implementing it.
FW ARCHIVE

made up of the National Animal Health Forum, the Red Meat Industry Forum, the National Stock Theft Prevention Forum, the national Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO), the National Emerging Red Meat Producers' Organisation (NERPO) and the South African Federation of Livestock Auctioneers (SAFLA), would be the competent authority.

It was further proposed that a new Section 21 company comprising the RPO, NERPO, the South African Feedlot Association, SAFLA, the Red Meat Abattoir Association (RMAA) and the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) be established. This would be independent during the initial phase of the cattle traceability system, but could become the delegated body once the programme was rolled out nationally.

DATABASE

A well-functioning database is key to any LITS system. Existing databases should therefore be examined to establish how they could be adapted for LITS purposes, and potential suppliers of database technology investigated.

It was proposed that the data of a specific animal remains

the property of the owner of the animal. Once the animal is sold, its data would become the property of the new owner.

Data about a specific animal should be managed under different security levels. For example, the full data of the animal (production, reproduction, movement, health and so forth) would be available only to the owner of the animal.

However, data on the movement of animals would be available to the competent authority once the system is running. In the case of an FMD outbreak, the competent authority would be able to trace all animal movements relating to the outbreak.

IDENTIFYING CATTLE

Also important is the ID number system used. Based on international guidelines, it is clear that only one system should be used, namely that of the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR).

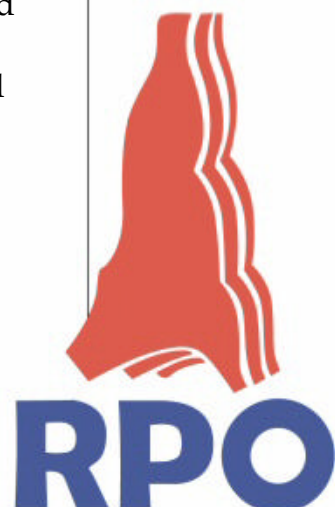
Accredited service providers will have to acquire tags from the accredited suppliers as indicated by the implementing authority.

Radio tags should be used for visual identification, and all tags, visual and electronic, should adhere to ICAR standards.

The current Section 6 (Identification Certificate) and Section 8 (Removal Certificate) should be adapted to include the individual IDs of animals. Other documents such as registration for the database and application to obtain ID number tags should also be designed.

The LITS-SA would be compulsory in South Africa, and no animals would be allowed to be traded on the formal market without individual IDs.

• Phone the RPO on 012 349 1102/1103, or email rpo@lantic.net.



This page is sponsored by the red meat industry

Let's get the red meat sector's house in order

The proposed national traceability system for the red meat industry could save South Africa's livestock producers billions of rand.



BY DR KOOS COETZEE

Dr Koos Coetzee is an independent agricultural economist. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Global farming.

According to John Purchase, CEO of AgBiz, the total cost to farmers of the recent foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak could be as high as R10 billion. While the government ban on livestock sales saw higher weaner prices for those farmers able to sell to feedlots, many small-scale farmers who are largely dependent on stock sales could not sell their cattle.

Koos van der Ryst, chairperson of the Red Meat Industry Forum (RMIF), says that, to date, only 17 animals have tested positive for FMD, but the entire red meat sector is being held to ransom.

The FMD outbreak is not the first, nor will it be the last. A map of South Africa available on the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform's website shows how the country is divided into an FMD-free area and a 'high surveillance' area. However, the border between the areas only really exists on that map.

Logically, you could stop the spread of the disease to the FMD-free area if there are proper fences and movement control of animals. But these fences are in a poor state of repair. I recently visited the Mapungubwe Game Reserve and saw cattle from Zimbabwe moving freely over a dry Limpopo River to graze in the park.

FMD holds no risk for people, but has resulted in countries banning exports of South African products or insisting on expensive processes before allowing exports.

NAMIBIA

While the industry should continue to put pressure on government to improve the control of animal movement, it is clear that government action will not solve the livestock industry's problems.

In neighbouring Namibia, the livestock industry implemented a national traceability system with great success. Small-scale and subsistence farmers are part of this system, which enables Namibia's livestock industry to export meat to the lucrative European markets.

A plan for the implementation of a national traceability system in South Africa was drawn up in 2018. Recently,

role players in the livestock sector met to discuss the proposed system. The Red Meat Producers' Forum estimates that such a system would cost between R5 million and R9 million a year to implement. This is small change compared with the estimated R10 billion loss from FMD. If the system can also limit stock theft, the benefit will exceed the cost many times.

**IT IS CLEAR THAT
GOVERNMENT ACTION
WILL NOT SOLVE
THE LIVESTOCK
INDUSTRY'S PROBLEMS**

Ultimately, participation in the system should be compulsory, but the steering team indicated that in its initial stages a voluntary system may be required. An easy way to ensure that farmers take part is to get feedlots, auction houses and abattoirs to accept only those animals that are properly identified. In addition, the cost per animal should be kept as low as possible.

A system with radio frequency identification devices is being considered, but it may be possible to achieve the same results with ordinary ear-tags. A cheaper system and the possible subsidisation of ear-tags for emerging farmers may get more farmers to co-operate.

OTHER ISSUES

With vegan campaigners highly active, farmers must ensure that they not only care properly for all their animals, but also that they are seen to do so. A single case of animals being mistreated or even perceived to be mistreated can result in adverse reports on social media.

The industry must continue to tell the good stories of livestock farming of red meat in as many ways as possible.

The RMIF's red meat advertising campaign, ably supported by the research of Prof Hettie Schönfeld and her colleagues at the University of Pretoria, is the best generic advertising campaign in South Africa. The industry should continue with this. ■ FW



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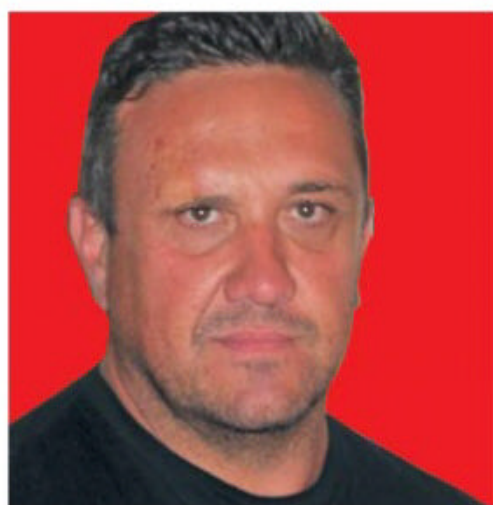
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Erecting timber pole infrastructure: Part 1

If you want your timber pole structures and fences to stand firm for years, you need to use good-quality poles and plant every one as firmly as possible. Here's how to do it properly.



BY SHANE BRODY

Shane Brody is involved in project management as part of an outreach programme aimed at transferring skills to communal farmers in parts of the former Ciskei and Transkei. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Communal farming.

Timber poles are widely used to build on-farm infrastructure such as livestock handling pens and livestock shelters. They are also ideal for fencing, with the poles being planted as anchoring structures to keep the rest of the fence taut and upright.

To ensure a sturdy, long-lasting structure, start off with quality materials. Cheap, substandard poles can end up rotting in the ground after a short time, while poorly galvanised corrugated iron and wire will rust in due course.

The answer is to use SA Bureau of Standards-approved materials, even if these are slightly more expensive. The extra cost is well worth it.

STRUCTURAL STRENGTH

The next step is to ensure that the timber poles are long and thick enough to carry the weight of the structure. For fences and livestock-handling facilities, the corner posts should be between 125mm and 150mm in diameter. Intermediate posts that merely support a fence line can be 75mm to 100mm in diameter.

For light sheds or housing structures, it is wise to use the 125mm- to 150mm-diameter poles, as these will carry the weight of the corrugated iron and roofing timber.

For a livestock camp or boundary fence, I usually buy 2,1m-long poles for intermediate poles, and 2,4m-long poles for anchor or corner posts. These can be 1,8m long in sheep-handling facilities.

PLANTING THE POLES

When planting poles, take note of the type of soil. Clay is best as it allows you to dig a uniformly shaped hole and makes it easier to compact the soil surrounding the pole.

Sandy soil is difficult to compact, so you might need to set the pole in concrete. (Use a fairly dry concrete mixture; this can be compacted more readily than a runny mixture and is less likely to crack later on.)

To ensure a longer-lasting structure, add another three coats of linseed oil or creosote to the section of the pole that will be below the surface of the soil.

When constructing fences, dig the holes perfectly square. They should be

400mm across and 600mm deep for intermediate posts, and at least 700mm deep for anchor posts at the corners. Ensure that you dig the holes straight down rather than at an angle.

Above all, don't be tempted to make do with a shallow hole because you've struck rock when digging. Use a heavy-duty crowbar to chip away at the rock, one layer at a time, until you reach the required depth.

Place the pole in the centre of the hole and make sure it's standing perfectly upright by using a spirit level (check on three sides of the pole).

**SANDY SOIL IS
DIFFICULT TO COMPACT
AND YOU MIGHT
NEED TO SET THE
POLE IN CONCRETE**

Press small clumps of soil evenly around the pole and compact the soil tightly with a heavy iron pole before adding more soil. Don't try to compact by filling the hole with stones, coarse gravel or muddy soil; this will not work. (Slightly moist earth compacts the best.)

Keep checking with your spirit level that the pole is standing straight.

Fill the hole completely, compacting as you go, and create a slope away from the pole to prevent rainwater from damming at the base of the pole.

With proper compacting, the pole should not move at all when shaken.

AVOID SHORT CUTS

It takes considerable effort to build a solid, long-lasting shelter or fence. But it's even more work (and a waste of money) to repair a poorly made structure that has fallen down! What's more, people or livestock can be injured if infrastructure suddenly collapses. Buy good materials and take the time to do the job properly each step of the way.

In the next article, I'll look at how to anchor fencing posts and the best way to secure poles to timber when building a livestock shelter. ■ FW



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Undercover farming: big investment, greater returns

With its reduced land and water requirements, tunnel farming is a viable option for farmers with little access to natural resources, says **Suzanne Oosthuizen**, managing director of the Undercover Farming Expo. She spoke to **Lindi Botha** about the unique benefits of undercover farming.



What are the environmental benefits of undercover farming?

The undercover farming industry prides itself on its low water usage. On the one hand, a hydroponic system uses as little as 30% of the water typically used to grow a similar crop on open land under irrigation. Evaporation in open-land irrigated systems has a negative effect on the producer's bottom line.

On the other hand, water supplied to an undercover farming system must often be filtered via expensive systems, as water sources close to cities or industries are prone to carry pollutants that would be unsuitable for applying directly to plants.

Irrigation in undercover farming systems generally consists of drip irrigation managed through a pre-set electronic system that also controls the interior climate (humidity, temperature and air flow). Every drop counts, and the system is largely computerised to avoid human error. Electricity power outages may play a role, but the larger operators in the industry are countering this by installing generators.

What are the key aspects of production in undercover farming?



SUZANNE OOSTHUIZEN

ABOVE: To produce a reasonable turnover, open-air farming requires a large area of land. In contrast, a fairly big and profitable undercover operation can be run on a relatively small property.

LINDI BOTHA

The ideal base for an undercover farming operation, especially one that specialises in fresh produce such as tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers or leafy greens, would be close to its market, which means just off the highway and near cities. Although the land required by a fairly large greenhouse operator might be only 5ha to 10ha, it commands a premium as it is close to the city, and this should be added to the cost of marketing.

Tomato, pepper and cucumber seedlings are planted in a growth medium and require drip irrigation. Depending on the type of product and greenhouse system, some plants grow up to 5m tall and produce between 5kg/m² and 8kg/m² more than on open land. Producers use a variety of growth media or substrates, but most opt for a mixture of coco peat and perlite for two or three growing cycles, steam-cleaning the media in-between cycles. Large operators with multi-span greenhouses often use rock wool in compacted, plastic-covered blocks for their plants.

Are pests and diseases a problem for a tunnel farmer?

Like all other farmers, greenhouse producers have to deal with diseases and insect pests. Fortunately, the almost sealed environment helps ensure that far fewer insect pests or birds get to the crops. Nonetheless, there are challenges such as humidity, which causes leaf defects and inhibits production, and several plant diseases that workers have to be on the lookout for.

Flying insects can enter when rooftop traps or doors are opened to release excessive heat build-up. Daily inspection is necessary to prevent major problems or heavy losses.

Integrated pest management is high on the list of large-scale undercover producers, and most apply specific chemical products only when absolutely necessary. Some farmers use methods such as planting lavender or other vegetation between greenhouses to repel insect pests.

What are the specific advantages of farming in greenhouses?

The initial investment cost of tunnel farming may seem high, but it's not much more than the cost of an economically viable piece of land with all the infrastructure and implements required for open-air production.

With proper planning and prior training of managers and staff, a tunnel operation producing a crop for a steady, established market would need, on average, between 20 to 30 months to show a return on investment. This is much earlier than one would expect when starting the average business.

With advances in technology, only a few assistants are necessary to operate a modern greenhouse. Employees are needed mainly to scout for pests, train up plants, or clean the area. During harvesting and packing, temporary workers with the necessary skills are usually employed.

In South Africa, undercover farming encompasses greenhouses (plastic tunnels and multi-spans) and shade netting. The former are located close to main markets in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, and the Eastern Cape and Western Cape. Farms with shade net structures are found in almost every province where table grapes, nuts, citrus, deciduous fruit, avocado, apples and berries can be grown. The netting protects against possible wind, hail and bird damage.

Have farmers and agricultural infrastructure manufacturers shown an increasing interest in tunnel farming?

The undercover farming industry started in South Africa in about 1937, when Dutch horticulturalists in this country started growing flowers in 'hoop houses' or tunnels they had built themselves. About a decade later, trials were carried out with vegetables, and this form of cultivation became popular. But it was in the 1990s that undercover farming really started taking off.

Since 2000, increasingly more people, some with a financial background, have taken up undercover farming because of its lucrative outcome.

YOU MAY SEE A RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN 20 MONTHS

The sudden growth of a middle-class income group, coupled with immense growth in the food services industry, especially restaurants adding vegetarian and vegan dishes to their menus, all contributed to an increase in the number of tunnel operations.

Unfortunately, no government department or associations in the sector can provide the actual number of hectares or farmers involved in undercover farming, or what the industry (including the many hectares of nuts, citrus, apples and table grapes under shade netting) adds to the GDP.

With an increased focus on healthy lifestyles, and beautifully dressed plates of food fresh from the garden, organisations have sprung into being that endeavour to create 'green city rooftops'. This is a splendid idea, but the challenge is that the owner of such a rooftop garden has to ensure that the system runs symbiotically with the environment.

Do you anticipate that more produce will be grown in tunnels in the future?

South Africa has just endured one of its worst droughts in

many years. But the unstable economy and some political aspects are putting people off of investing here. The largest undercover operators are mostly those who have expanded to retain their market share. Most South African suppliers of undercover farming infrastructure are local agents for European manufacturers and now supply Kenya, Ethiopia, Angola and Mozambique, where the growth in this sector in Africa lies.

The focus on saving water, coupled with the growth in demand for fresh produce, may encourage current open-land producers to consider undercover farming as the way forward.

In addition, specialised crops for pharmaceutical and beauty treatments, such as cannabis and essential oils, are coming to the fore, although these are grown in specific areas under specialised conditions.

Fresh produce tunnel farming should appeal to young people with a keen business sense and a hands-on approach, and they have the opportunity to take the sector forward.

What are the biggest challenges facing this industry?

Unfortunately the current exchange rate makes imported undercover farming infrastructure materials expensive for the beginner. In addition, load-shedding means that producers have to consider solar power systems, which increase initial investment. The best option for new entrants is to obtain land as close as possible to their markets. There is definitely scope in South Africa for those with the aptitude for undercover farming and its technologies.

A number of universities and technical colleges, as well as private businesses, offer theoretical and hands-on training courses in undercover farming.

• Email Suzanne Oosthuizen at suzanne@axxess.co.za. ■ FW



The costs and pitfalls of buying nets

Nets can significantly reduce climate-related risks, but may result in financial losses if farmers do not do their homework. This was the warning of experts who spoke to **Glennéis Kriel**.

The area under nets in South Africa is expanding rapidly as farmers try to reduce the risks associated with climate change, such as increased incidents of hail, sunburn and wind damage.

In the Western Cape alone, the area under shade nets increased from 559ha in 2013 to 3 092ha by the end of January this year, according to the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. The total area under tunnels and shade nets in the province increased from 2 814ha in 2017/2018 to 5 906ha at the end of January.

So, how economically viable is this investment? William Roberts, national sales and marketing manager of Knittex, is reluctant to provide precise figures, as returns depend on the cost of the infrastructure, what the structure will be used for, and climatic and production conditions.

"The return on investment might be realised within a year if a farm is subjected to a hailstorm, but can take longer when the nets are used to protect crops against sunburn," he says. "To my mind, the nets should pay for themselves within three years to make financial sense. In general, however, I've never met

a farmer who regretted installing nets. Most started small and then ended up buying more."

The use of nets may also have financial spin-offs from higher packouts of first-grade fruit. In the Villiersdorp, Vyeboom, Elgin and Grabouw regions, for example, the use of draped nets has resulted in greener Golden Delicious apples, which are in greater demand on the African market.

VARIOUS NETTING TYPES

The cost of a netting system can range from R250 000/ha to R400 000/ha, depending on the type of netting and structure, orchard shape, overall size, tree and net height, soil type and slopes, row widths and other requirements.

Prices may be up to 40% lower if farmers erect the structures themselves, but Roberts does not recommend this.

"Don't skimp on installation and infrastructure. Rather start small and ensure that everything is done properly from the start, than sit with exorbitant mistakes, such as infrastructure that collapses on an orchard."

James Reid, director of Red Ant Agri, points out that various types of nets and netting systems

ABOVE:
Nets being used to protect citrus crops near Robertson.
PHOTOS: GLENNEIS KRIEL

are available. Knitted nets work well in installations where they are stretched tight and movement is limited. For this reason, they are best suited to flat, fixed structures aimed at protecting crops against wind damage. These nets have a negative impact on pollination, making them ideal for fruit such as seedless soft citrus varieties, where cross-pollination is undesirable.

'MOST FARMERS START SMALL AND END UP BUYING MORE NETS'

Woven nets perform well in open-close structures that require movement. They are particularly suited to hail protection in areas where there is a risk of snow, or where there are trees sensitive to pollination.

"Farmers sometimes add up to 2m of space above trees to overcome pollination problems, but the bees still get disorientated because they use the sun for navigation. The problem is overcome with open-close structures, whereby the structures are opened during the pollination season," says Reid.

He adds that draped nets have become a popular option to protect



FAST FACTS

- Nets have been used successfully to reduce certain climate-associated risks.
- Nets change the microclimate in an orchard or vineyard and so affect crop management.
- The use of nets may, however, result in higher fungal and disease incidents.

older orchards against sunburn. Initially, old Granny Smith orchards were draped against sunburn, but producers are now also using drape nets on Golden Delicious and other cultivars. Nets should be draped over the trees after thinning, normally towards the end of November. In areas prone to hail, draping can be done after pollination.

Owen de Wet, technical adviser at Nulandis, estimates the cost of draped nets at between R90 000/ha and R120 000/ha, depending on the row widths.

“More netting is used than in orchards with fixed structures, as entire rows of trees need to be covered. Net Wizz, produced

ABOVE: Open-close nets are ideal for protection in areas where snow occurs.

ABOVE RIGHT: Nets are often used on wine grapes to protect them against birds.

by Red Ant Agri, is a machine that installs and removes the nets, or farmers can use a contractor to reduce costs.”

The Drape Net brand is reusable and does not require any infrastructure. It comes with UV protection, and if handled properly and tears are repaired immediately, the nets generally last seven years or longer, according to De Wet.

Knittex also manufactures waterproof nets with a reinforced membrane, called Knipol. These nets are used primarily for vegetable production in areas prone to wind and hail, as they are much stronger than ordinary plastic nets, says Roberts.

Open-close and roofed net structures are slightly more expensive than flat ones, as more netting is required to cover an orchard. Reid estimates that about 12% more netting is used in an open-close structure to give the nets the required movement. Open-close structures

also require special clips and fittings to join the nets, as well as equipment to open and close the nets. Basic hog rings, on the other hand, may do the trick with fixed nets.

ON-FARM CONSIDERATIONS

Ease of construction significantly affects installation cost.

Heavy clay and rocky soils, for example, are more difficult to work than loam soils. The same applies to slopes and the shape of the orchard.

“Rectangular orchards are much easier to cover and maintain than rows that end at angles, or orchards that have boundaries following natural water courses,” explains Reid.

The height at which the net is installed will also affect costs, as the price of poles increases exponentially the longer and thicker they get.

Orchard size is another consideration. Reid explains that orchards smaller than 2ha



require a higher proportion of outside poles and anchors relative to the inside poles, whereas very large orchards will require thicker cables and anchors than smaller orchards.

"In our experience, the sweet spot is somewhere between 6ha and 9ha," he says.

Side nets add to the cost of the structure, but the major additional cost is the area needed for internal roads for tractors and other machinery.

According to Reid, orchards with fixed side nets will require 10% to 15% more covered area for the same planted area than orchards without side nets.

MAINTENANCE

Nets require ongoing maintenance. During the first few years, maintenance is generally structural, such as ensuring that cables and wires are tensioned and anchors have not moved. Poles should also be inspected for mechanical damage or rotting.

"A [work] culture needs to be instilled where damage gets reported and fixed as soon as possible," says Reid.

Nets can last from eight to more than 20 years, depending on the quality of the net, its function, and environmental factors. Some insurance companies do not provide cover for nets older than eight years.

"I won't recommend the use of nets for longer than



20 years, especially not for hail protection, due to UV degradation. Most farms budget to replace their nets every 10 years," says Roberts.

Reid estimates that replacing nets typically costs about 30% to 40% of the initial installation cost.

PITFALLS

By installing nets, farmers are creating a different microclimate for their orchard, which will require different management from what they are used to. Failure to adapt can result in a loss of all the benefits associated with crops being under protection.

Wiehann Steyn, assistant general manager of the science division at Hortgro, says that shading trees has so far been found to result in more vigorous

ABOVE:
Draped nets are used specifically to protect established orchards against sun damage.
SUPPLIED

growth in plums and apples. Farmers can manipulate growth by adapting irrigation, pruning and fertilisation, and also by using dwarfing rootstocks, the latter in the case of apples.

Steyn adds that farmers should realise that nets are not a magic solution to all their problems.

"You won't be able to fix poor management problems with a net. And nets won't reduce your water usage by 50%, as is sometimes reported. Water savings will depend on the climatic conditions of your area, with warmer areas generally resulting in greater savings under nets. But this also depends on a farmer's personal efficiency in managing water."

Reid estimates that water savings are generally equal to the shade factor of the nets, as this is the percentage by which evaporation will be reduced.

The altered microclimate may also favour the development of weeds and bacterial and fungal diseases. Roberts, however, says that pest management is usually more effective when used under cover, as products are applied in a controlled, windless area.

Pesticides should always be checked before use, since certain chemicals, such as acid and sulphuretted substances, may shorten the life of the nets.

Reid advises farmers to speak to other producers about their experiences and use only reputable net suppliers and installers who do not cut costs on critical items such as anchors and poles to improve their competitiveness. The contractors should be involved from the orchard planning stage to avoid technical difficulties that may render the structure weak and push up the costs.

Planning should be based on extreme, not average, conditions.

"You may get snow only once in 15 years, but what if that snow comes next year?" asks Reid.

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To colour or not to colour?

Research has found that there is no added benefit to the use of coloured nets rather than monochromatic nets on deciduous fruit trees, according to Wiehann Steyn, assistant general manager of the science division at Hortgro.

He recommends the use of black nets on crops that are sensitive to sunburn, and grey, white or translucent nets when sunburn is not a factor, for example when the nets are used for protection against hail or bird damage.

Owen Wet, technical adviser of Nulandis, says farmers should generally use black drape nets for sun protection on green fruit, such as Granny Smith apples, and white nets on bicoloured fruit to avoid colour formation problems.

Steyn foresees that colour could become more important for aesthetic reasons.

"Farmers may, in future, be required to take care not to blemish areas renowned for their [natural] beauty with multicoloured nets."



Pannar's latest cultivars on show!



With multi-crop expertise and exceptional agronomic information on offer, Pannar's crop shows, known as Extravanzas, are a highlight on the South African grains industry's calendar.

The 2020 Pannar Extravanza series will be held in South Africa's maize production area from February to March. It gives farmers the perfect platform to see Pannar's latest products and interact with experts.

Pannar is supporting the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). Designated by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, IYPH 2020 is a major opportunity to raise awareness of how protecting plant health can help end hunger, protect the environment, and boost development.

Farmers will hear from Pannar's agronomists on how to keep crops healthy, protecting the benefits that plants provide to humans, wildlife, the environment, and the economy.

CROP TOURS

Pannar's tours will include detailed information on the company's latest products, as well as plant health recommendations:

- **White maize:** New hybrids with second-generation stalk-borer resistance; managing plant health.
- **Yellow maize:** Exciting new early and medium-early hybrids; managing plant health.

ABOVE:
The 2020 Pannar Extravanza gives farmers an opportunity to see the company's latest products and meet its experts and executives.
SUPPLIED



- **Irrigated maize:** An ultra-early white and yellow hybrid package; managing pests and insects.
- **Sunflower:** The conventional and Clearfield Plus hybrid package; disease signs, symptoms and management tips.
- **Soya bean:** Four exceptional new cultivars; managing diseases of economic importance.
- **Dry beans:** A new red speckled bean and a small white canning cultivar; diseases and management.
- **Forage crops:** Lucerne, annual ryegrass, perennial ryegrass, forage cereal crops, Japanese radish, forage sorghum and teff.
- **Make your best silage yet:** Maintaining silage health, the fermentation process, inoculants and pit face management.

- **Wheat:** An exceptional cultivar package; how to manage a wheat crop for top results.
- **Grain sorghum:** Hybrids for performance confidence.

BONANZA REWARDS

Place an order before 31 March 2020 to qualify for a prize.

MAIN EXTRAVANZA

Pannar's main Extravanza will be held at Pannar's Delmas research station on 26 and 27 February, and similar events will take place at the Kroonstad research station in the Free State and at Biesiesvlei in North West.

The Extravanzas cater mostly for commercial farmers, but the event at Biesiesvlei on 18 March will be aimed at smallholder and developing farmers.

- Delmas – 26 and 27 February;
- Kokstad – 4 March;
- Underberg – 5 March;
- Lüneberg – 10 March;
- Kroonstad – 11 March;
- Biesiesvlei Commercial Farmers' Day – 17 March;
- Biesiesvlei Smallholder and Developing Farmers' Day – 18 March;
- Winterton – 19 March;
- Karkloof – 31 March.
- Visit pannar.com/extravanza.



Many large undercover cropping operations use surprisingly low volumes of irrigation water, thanks to automated software systems and improved delivery technologies.

BOTTOM LEFT: Arrow drippers have been designed to get irrigation water directly to the root zone of plants.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The greater the changes to the ambient climate required, the more expensive the greenhouse system becomes.

PHOTOS: NETAFIM SOUTH AFRICA



Irrigation systems for undercover cropping

Maximising water-use efficiency in South African undercover crop farming operations has become both a financial and moral imperative. But selecting the most appropriate undercover irrigation technologies can be a challenge in itself. Three local experts shared their advice on this increasingly complex topic with **Lloyd Phillips**.



A quick look at 'irrigation systems' on the Internet reveals a bewildering array of options. They include the older technologies, the latest ones, and others under development that promise to be even more advanced than their predecessors or competitors.

Chris Barnard, a farmer and part-time agronomist at irrigation technologies manufacturing company Agriplas, cautions that before an undercover cropping operation invests in a new irrigation system or upgrades its existing system, its owners should carefully consider what the business hopes to achieve.

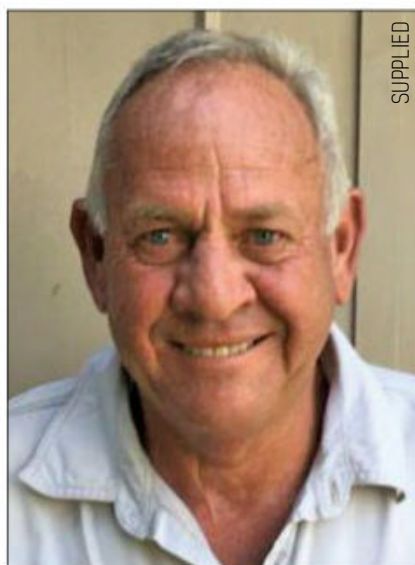
"With the focus being on the latest technologies for cultivating undercover crops, the basic principles for ensuring the long-term sustainability of an undercover operation are often forgotten. Hands-on management should never be substituted by automated equipment."

THE GROWING MEDIUM

Barnard says that efforts to maximise water-use efficiency will fail from the start if the irrigation system is not appropriate for the growing medium or substrate, such as peat moss, bark or perlite. This is especially so given that undercover crop production is highly intensive and makes use of small plant containers or bags.

Each container and its growing medium has limited water-holding capacity; generally, the smaller the container, the more often the water in the medium has to be replenished. To prevent over- or under-irrigation, the frequency and volume of each irrigation must be adjusted for the crop type, the size of the containers, and the characteristics of the growing medium.

"Irrigation water must be applied in such a way as to create a balance between the water and oxygen in the substrate. This will ensure that the plant's oxygen-absorbing and feeder roots can develop



CHRIS BARNARD



WILLEM BOTHA



DEON VAN ROOYEN



ABOVE: When planning an undercover cropping operation, a farmer should ensure that different systems, such as for irrigation, do not conflict with each other. AGRIPLAS

in specific areas within the substrate," says Barnard.

To determine whether or not the undercover crop is being over-irrigated, the grower should measure the volume of water that runs out the bottom of a plant container or bag and compare it with the volume of irrigation water applied. Excessive run-off could indicate that too much water is being applied and the plant's roots are at risk of becoming waterlogged.

However, the degree of run-off may not be telling the whole story. Barnard points out that the quality and water-holding characteristics of a growing medium deteriorate over time. This can result in compaction of the medium, leading to less

FAST FACTS

- Irrigation technologies for undercover cropping should achieve a balance between the water and oxygen content of the growing medium.
- Technologies have to be sufficiently robust to meet the rigorous demands of intensive undercover cropping.
- A computerised controller makes managing an undercover cropping system easier.

water run-off and waterlogging of the growing medium and roots. If, in this case, the farmer or manager calculates the irrigation requirements simply by monitoring water run-off from a container, he or she may end up over-irrigating the plants.

"The producer must regularly inspect some of the bags or containers by opening them to



assess the water content and level of deterioration of the growing substrate,” explains Barnard.

“In undercover cropping operations where automated measuring of electrical conductivity within the growing substrate is not available, the producer should closely examine the different depths within a plant bag or container. This proactive approach will ensure a sound knowledge of the water and nutrient status of the substrate, especially before the crop’s important phenological [physical] growth stages.”

PLAN THE ENTIRE SYSTEM

Willem Botha, marketing manager of irrigation solutions company Netafim South Africa, says the technologies available for undercover crop production are already highly advanced and will become increasingly more so. The diversity of this equipment, used for irrigation, nutrification, climate control and infrastructure, can cause technical and efficiency problems for a cropping operation if each system is installed independently of the others.

“Planning is very important to achieve a successful undercover farming project and it’s equally important that this planning be done holistically. Irrigation planning is only one part of the bigger picture. It’s essential to get the experts involved in all the systems to sit around the same

table to ensure that the different technologies can accommodate one another and work in sync to achieve high-precision undercover crop production.”

Botha cites the hypothetical example of planning an entire irrigation system down to the finest detail and installing it, only to find it cannot handle the fertilisation programme proposed by the crop nutritionists.

In this case, both the irrigation and fertilisation technologies will fail.

He adds that the main requirement is for equipment that ensures precise irrigation at the root zone of the plants, and applies an exact amount of nutrients to the plants.

“A crop grown in a soilless medium requires accurate, pulsed irrigation with consistent water quantity and nutrient content, delivered uniformly throughout the greenhouse.

“Undercover irrigation is applied using drippers, overhead micro-sprinklers, or overhead misting. An example of such equipment is arrow drippers, connected by micro-tubes to online drippers to ensure that water is delivered directly to a plant’s root zone.”

Other technologies he believes are crucial for irrigating, feeding and protecting undercover crops are high-end dosing systems capable of ensuring precise nutrification, and micro-

ABOVE: Even where high-tech, automated irrigation systems are used in undercover cropping operations, managers should inspect the growing medium regularly for water and nutrient status.

emitters for controlling the interior climate efficiently and reducing the threat of frost.

AUTOMATED IRRIGATION

According to Deon van Rooyen, sales manager at undercover growing solutions company Vegtech, key factors to consider before settling on irrigation and other technologies are the water, substrate and electricity requirements; the needs of the particular crops; and the impact of climatic conditions on the functioning of these technologies and the productivity of the crops.

“The more that you have to change the ambient climate to suit a plant’s needs, the more expensive your greenhouse system becomes. It, therefore, makes sense to grow crops in areas where minimal changes are needed to the ambient climate to meet the plants’ requirements.”

Van Rooyen says that in increasingly advanced undercover crop production operations, where technological automation is becoming ever greater, fit-for-purpose computerised controllers are essential. In his view, the capabilities of current greenhouse controllers lag behind the complex technologies they are meant to integrate and operate. And while a mid-range controller may be suitable for managing, say, an undercover blueberry-growing operation, sophisticated controllers are required to manage the production of crops such as medicinal cannabis.

“One of the most important aspects of good irrigation controllers is the planning and back-up support service offered by the company that manufactures or sells these products,” says Van Rooyen.

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SANSOR-certified seed: a guarantee of seed quality

SANSOR-certified seed has undergone extensive testing and complies with several quality standards to ensure that it offers the highest possible genetic potential as developed by the breeder. It can be planted in confidence by farmers.

Few industries have as many variables, and hence risk, as agriculture. Some variables, such as soil quality or disease, can be managed to an extent; others, such as the weather, lie beyond a farmer's control. Clearly, it makes sense to manage the variables that can be controlled in order to improve one's overall chances of success.

Seed falls into this category. By using seed of the best quality and highest genetic potential, farmers achieve two aims: they eliminate a potential source of crop failure, and increase the likelihood of reaping a profitable harvest.

LOOK FOR THE BLUE SEAL, BLUE LABEL AND SANSOR CERTIFICATE

Competition between seed companies is fierce, and any seed company wanting to stay in business must consistently produce seeds of the highest genetic potential and physical purity. Seed companies are thus prepared to take the extra step to certify their seed in order to have its quality confirmed by an independent body.

The South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR) is such a body. As an industry organisation, SANSOR protects



the interests of the seed industry locally and internationally. It has been the designated authority for seed certification in South Africa since 1989. Prior to this, certification was handled by the then Department of Agriculture.

Certification takes place under the guidelines of the South African Seed Certification Scheme, as well as the Plant Improvement Act (No. 53 of 1976). No company is legally compelled to certify a specific seed lot, unless certification of seed of the specific variety is mandatory in terms of the Plant Improvement Act.

SEED CERTIFICATION

The fact that a seed lot is sold by a registered company and a seed analysis report is available does not mean that the seed lot is certified. Certification involves a series of quality checks over several multiplication stages that take place over three or four seasons.

The production department of the seed company begins by planting the seed received from the breeder and registering with SANSOR. SANSOR then checks the origin and certifiability of the parent seed of the variety before accepting the seed production for certification.

Authorised seed company inspectors perform comprehensive quality checks at each stage, examining the plants to determine whether they meet the minimum requirements

for varietal purity and identity. This includes isolation distances, previous cropping, volunteer plants and off-types, all of which may compromise varietal purity.

The inspections are also monitored by officials from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

Finally, the seed company harvests, processes and packs the seed, and more checks are carried out to ensure that no admixing occurs. Each container is marked with prescribed information on SANSOR-supplied labels.

Certified seed is identified with uniquely numbered blue labels printed with the National Coat of Arms and the words 'SA-Certified Seed: SANSOR', and each container is sealed with a uniquely numbered seal. The seed is then sampled, after which it is analysed by a registered seed-testing laboratory to determine its germination percentage and physical purity.

The Variety Control Division of the DALRRD plants out a further sample to compare the variety's identity with a reference sample in its gene bank. If the seed lot meets the minimum requirements of the Seed Certification Scheme, including those for varietal purity, SANSOR issues a certificate. This, along with a distinctive blue seal and blue label, serves as proof that the seed is of high quality and will perform to its maximum potential.

• Email Kobus van Huyssteen at techoffice@sansor.co.za. Visit sansor.org.



Growth mediums for greenhouse production

Greenhouse farming is an intensive, high-yielding operation. Using the correct growth medium forms the basis of the operation, and mistakes in this area can cost a farmer dearly, according to producers and experts. **Lindi Botha** looks at which mediums work best for different crops.

Greenhouse farming presents a lucrative opportunity for hands-on farmers with an eye for detail. Quicker turnaround means a shorter time before return on investment, despite higher input costs. On the other hand, greenhouse farming is an exact science: what you put in can make or break the operation.

In most farming operations, the soil or growing medium requires more attention than

any other aspect. Tunnel farmers have a number of options, from coir peat to newer innovations such as perlite.

Whichever growing medium is selected, it should be of high quality and sourced from a reputable supplier.

STERILISED

“You’re setting yourself up for failure by using inferior products, or those that haven’t been sterilised properly,” cautions

ABOVE:
A combination of growth mediums can be used to get the ideal mix for a specific crop.
PHOTOS: LINDI BOTHA

Mbali Nwoko, the owner of Green Terrace, which cultivates peppers in greenhouses in Johannesburg.

She opts for a growth medium comprising sawdust and coir peat.

“I have several suppliers I rely on whom I can trust to deliver clean products. You can’t just use any old sawdust; it has to be sterilised properly to ensure there are no pathogens or chemicals that can harm the crops.

“The peat needs to have the correct pH levels and the salt

content mustn't be too high or it'll burn the roots of the plants."

BENEFITS OF COIR PEAT

Nwoko explains that the plants can be sterilised in the plastic bags they are grown in; there is no need to empty the bags, clean the contents, and repack everything.

"I put a spore kill product through the irrigation system, so it saves a lot of time and labour. I then simply plant the next crop directly back into the sterilised coir peat."

She adds that a growth medium is far more efficient than soil for crop production.

"You have complete control of what goes into the plant. The crops grow faster because you're controlling the whole environment and how many nutrients the plant gets. You can get between 90% and 100% of your expected yield because of this. None of the nutrients that are added to the growth medium are wasted; everything is absorbed.

"This isn't the case with soil, which has its own mineral composition that can interfere with the nutrients you add.

"There's also the added benefit of less weeding. So you save on labour."

THE RIGHT MEDIUM

Every crop has its own unique needs, and with the variety of growth mediums on the market, farmers need to balance cost and efficiency.

Lelanie Trollip, owner of Bark 'n Fibre Enterprises, which markets pine bark, coir peat and sphagnum peat, says that all three products can be used separately or blended together with additives such as lime and perlite to make specific blends for specific crops.

"A very efficient growing medium is either sphagnum peat or coir peat blended with pine bark. In this way, you get the best qualities of each product combined in one. The pine bark helps maintain aeration and structure due to its lignin, and the



ABOVE:
Perlite is used widely in seedling production and hydroponics.

ABOVE RIGHT:
Pine bark is ideal as a mulch.

sphagnum peat or coir peat adds humus and fibres, which have great re-wetting capabilities."

Perlite is the latest development in growth mediums. A volcanic glass (usually obsidian), it is mined and then subjected to heat. This causes it to expand significantly, creating a light, strong, beaded material that is ideal as a growing medium.

'YOU CAN'T USE ANY OLD SAWDUST; IT MUST BE STERILISED'

Eldon Kruger, marketing director of Pratley, which markets Grolite (a type of perlite), says that perlite promotes water drainage while maintaining optimal moisture conditions in the root zone.

"A common problem with seedlings is overwatering, which ultimately leads to root rotting. While draining excess water, perlite retains optimal moisture levels in the root



FAST FACTS

- The type and quality of growth medium used can make the difference between success and failure in greenhouse production.
- Regardless of its type or origin, a growth medium should always be sterilised before use.
- A combination of growth mediums provides the best production results.

zone of the plant, ensuring full root development. The product assists with aeration and prevents compaction of the soil or growing medium."

Trollip and Kruger give an overview of the various types of growth medium:

- **Grolite** is a hard-beaded, well-sealed perlite mined in KwaZulu-Natal. The ore is processed in proprietary furnaces near Krugersdorp, where it is crushed to sugar-grain size and passed through a specially designed furnace. The volcanic glass softens and expands into strong, lightweight glass beads.
- **Pine bark** is a locally sourced waste product from the timber and paper industry. It goes



through an intense thermophilic composting process to eliminate pathogens and prevent nitrogen drawdown. The composting process is kickstarted with an organic urea and molasses mix, the temperature is measured continuously to monitor the composting process, and the product is turned to aerate and accelerate the heat build-up.

- **Coir peat** is the husk of the coconut, left over after the oils and fruit have been removed. It is washed, milled and screened to provide a growing medium. Coir peat is sourced mainly from Mozambique, India and Sri Lanka.

- **Sphagnum peat** is partially decomposed sphagnum moss mined from peat bogs in Europe and Canada. Its large cell structure allows it to absorb air and water like a sponge. It absorbs nutrients and releases them over time as the plant requires them.

MATCHING THE GROWTH MEDIUM TO THE PLANT

- **Perlite** is used extensively as a growth medium in nurseries for seedlings or to assist with the rooting of cuttings in hydroponic systems. The product can be used on its own, mixed with other mediums, or mixed into soil to assist with aeration.

- **Pine bark** is used to aerate soils, as a mulch to control evaporation and weeds, or as part of a seedling, germination or potting medium.
- **Coir peat** can be used for hydroponics and long-term crops such as blueberries.
- **Sphagnum peat** is used in soil block production for seedlings. The clay content of the soil causes the soil block to stick together; the peat helps prevent this by reducing the density of the block and improving its structure.

ADVANTAGES

- **Perlite** increases fertiliser efficiency, which improves plant health and growth. The fertiliser is kept in the root zone, where it is taken up effectively by the plant. Plants grown in perlite therefore have an advantage, as water and nutrients are readily available.

Having passed through a high-temperature furnace, perlite is free of weeds and pathogenic microbes that could adversely affect the growth of the plant.

- **Pine bark** is lignitic (hard) and therefore keeps its structure and aeration without compacting.
- **Coir peat** is a type of cellulose (soft), but can retain its structure for fairly long due to its fibre content. It re-wets easily.

ABOVE: Sphagnum peat sourced from Latvia in Europe is supplied in different textures.

- **Sphagnum peat** is also cellulose, but can be combined with a coarse product to retain structure. It re-wets fairly easily. With its naturally low pH, it is ideal for crops such as blueberries.

EFFICIENCY

- **Perlite** provides better drainage in the root zone than coir peat does. Unlike coir peat, which is an organic material, perlite has passed through a high-temperature furnace, which renders it sterile.
- **Pine bark:** If it dries out, it becomes hydrophobic (repels water). A wetting agent is required to re-wet the product.
- **Coir peat** can have a very high salt content, and a buffering wash with a calcium nitrate water blend may be necessary.
- **Sphagnum peat:** It is better to use a peat where fibres 2mm and shorter have been screened out as the dust causes clogging.

CAN IT BE REUSED?

- **Perlite** can be reused due to its hard surface structure. Sterilising it with steam will make it last for several seasons. **Grolite** is even better in this respect. Coming from a particularly old volcanic deposit, it has a stronger surface structure than most ordinary perlites, which are mined from young volcanic regions. This reduces degradation during mixing.
- **Pine bark** can be reused, but needs expensive treatment.
- **Coir peat** can be reused two or three times.
- **Sphagnum peat** compacts when reused, so it is best to add 20% coarse bark to retain the structure of the growing medium.

COST

Perlite is more expensive, but this has to be balanced with the fact that it offers the potential of a higher crop yield than the other growing mediums.

Compared with the cost of perlite, pine bark is 50% cheaper, coir peat 35% cheaper and sphagnum peat 25% cheaper.

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“ Even in the land
of milk and honey,
things can
go sour. ”

My broker told me that.

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A new tractor range inspired by farmers, for farmers

The new John Deere 8 Series tractor range features robust, versatile machines designed to offer operators massive power and supreme comfort.

John Deere is a world leader in agricultural technology, and its new 8 Series tractors, with smart technology, testify to this.

The 8 Series includes the 8R, 8RT and 8RX tractors:

- The 8R tractors are equipped with wheels and deliver from 230hp to 410hp (169kW to 306kW).
 - The 8RT tractors have two tracks and deliver from 310hp to 410hp (231kW to 306kW).
 - The 8RX tractors, which have four tracks, range from 310hp to 410hp (231kW to 306kW).
- The largest model is the most powerful John Deere fixed-frame row-crop tractor available.
- All 8 Series tractors feature a Gen 4 4600 CommandCenter control screen, a StarFire SF6000 integrated receiver and AutoTrac for smooth automation guidance of precision tasks. The John Deere PowerTech 9.0-litre engine and choice of transmissions deliver straight-line pulling power and efficiency while ensuring excellent total fluid economy.

All models come with a variety of transmission offerings. The 8R wheeled models offer a selection of the proven 16-speed PowerShift transmission for simple, reliable mechanical power while the e23 PowerShift and the infinitely variable transmission (IVT) are also available.

The e23 PowerShift transmission with Efficiency Manager has 23 evenly spaced forward gears. The IVT allows operators to move smoothly from 0km/h to 40km/h, or any speed in between, including creeper speeds as low as 50m/h.



The IVT transmission features the new CommandPRO, an entirely new driving experience, and delivers seamless control of the tractor and its implements.

Producers can choose from a wide variety of axles, spacing, wheel and track sizes.

COMFORT

The 8 Series cab offers enhanced practicality and luxury and is the company's most spacious to date, with a 24% wider doorway than any other JD tractor. The cab has extra headroom, extra storage capacity and extra USB ports, and three comfort packages are available: Select, Premium or Ultimate.

The Ultimate option offers a leather seat with electronic controls, heating, ventilation, adjustable bolsters, pneumatic lumbar support and a massage. It can be swivelled 25° to the left and 40° to the right.

Other luxury features in the Premium and Ultimate packages include a 16,5cm touchscreen radio,

ABOVE: John Deere's 8 Series tractors include the 8R 410, the most powerful row-crop tractor (306kW) manufactured by the company. The 8 Series also features the most spacious and comfortable John Deere cab ever designed.
SUPPLIED

six speakers with a subwoofer, leather steering wheel, footrests and a fridge. All cab packages have a dual-tilt steering column.

Practical improvements across the 8 Series include better visibility, larger stairs, and a seat that rotates further, enabling the operator to watch the drawn implement easily.

SUPPORT

The 8 Series comes with five years' access to JDLink, with John Deere Connected Support to enable the owner to communicate with the tractor. The system also transmits data to John Deere Operation Centre on tractor location and performance for viewing on smartphone or desktop.

POWER

The 8 Series tractors can utilise a variety of large mounted and drawn implements, such as tillage and large-frame planters. They can be equipped with rear hitch options to handle up to 9 072kg.

Optional dual hydraulic pumps with 318l/min capacity on the 8R and 8RX models enable the operator to run large implements with high-demand hydraulic systems.

- *CommandCenter, StarFire, AutoTrac, e23, Efficiency Manager, JDLink and Connected Support are registered trademarks of John Deere.*
- *Phone John Deere on 011 437 2600.*



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JOHN DEERE



Auction of greenhouse facility in Carletonville

An agricultural development of ± 57 ha in Carletonville, with more than 12ha of established greenhouses, will fall under the hammer of Dynamic Auctioneers on Thursday 12 March at 11am.

Living Gold (LG), now in liquidation, is the owner of a greenhouse facility in Carletonville in North West. The property was used originally as a rose farm, but it can now accommodate various other crops, as well as up to 1 750 cattle.

As a going concern, this business is financially viable and is situated less than an hour's drive from Pretoria and Johannesburg.

The facility can accommodate most flower and shrub variants, as well as seedlings, herbs, cucumbers, peppers, chillies, tomatoes, beans and other vegetables. Even cannabis can be grown with ease.

ESTABLISHED FACILITIES

LG has more than 12ha of established greenhouses, and production can start within 10 weeks (based on 1ha after 10 weeks and 1ha every four weeks thereafter).

The local municipality is desperately seeking investment and will be accommodating to prospective investors.

LG is currently being rezoned as an industrial site and has ample water and electricity, as well as boilers to heat the greenhouses.

The premises are equipped with a fibre Internet connection.

Being based west of Johannesburg, the area has



a good climate, ample rain, and relatively mild winters.

The property consists of a main office building, carports, a workshop and storage unit, four boiler houses, a tractor shed, ablution blocks, additional offices, a pump room, a propagation building and offices, a cattle-handling facility, staff housing, three retention dams and five corrugated reservoirs.

The greenhouses are fitted with 2 132 plastic troughs (36m x 450mm); 190km of 50mm-wide heating pipes; 450km of 300mm-wide heating pipes; 10 circulation pumps; and 160km of water driplines.

All the farming equipment, trucks, trailers and tractors on the property are also on offer.

• *This is a property and loose asset auction; inventory available on request. Contact Daleen Smith on 086 155 2288 or at daleen@dynamiccauctioneers.co.za (terms and conditions apply).*

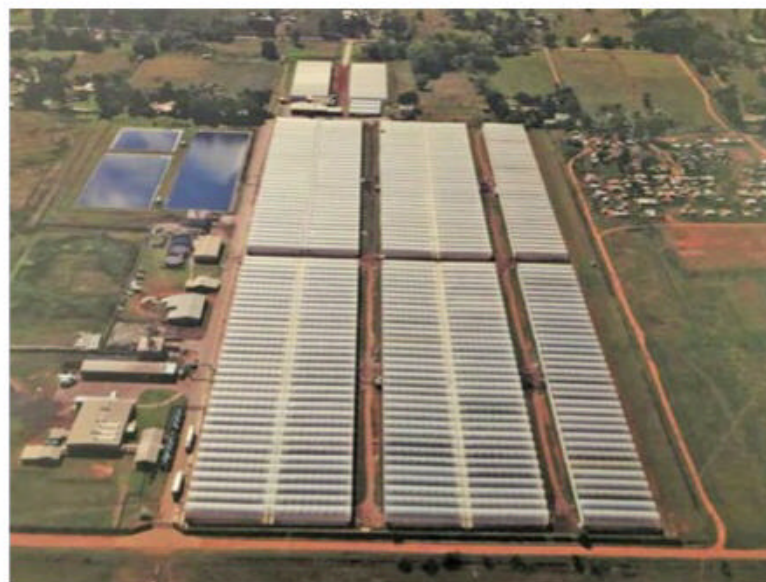
RIGHT, FROM TOP:

- In addition to the 12ha greenhouse facility, the property comprises offices, a workshop, boiler houses, a cattle-handling facility, staff housing and reservoirs.

- The pleasant and spacious property is situated on well-maintained grounds.

- This on-farm dam stores rainwater and purified mine water.

- Excellent access roads and infrastructure help to optimise the efficiency of the greenhouse facility.





Master Ref:
G544/2019



Terms and Conditions:

www.dynamicauctioneers.co.za

PUBLIC AUCTION ON SITE

Thursday 12 March 2020 @ 11:00

Plot 55 Waters Edge, Oberholzer, Carletonville



PROPERTY & LOOSE ASSET AUCTION

Property consist of ;

Established main office building, carports, workshop and storage unit, 4 boiler houses, tractor shed, ablution blocks & separate offices, pump room, propagation building & offices, cattle handling facility, staff housing, 3 retention dams & 5 corrugated reservoirs.

12 Hectares of greenhouse structures with 2132 plastic troughs (36m x 450mm), 190km heating pipes (50mm width), 450km of heating pipes (300mm width), 10 x circulation pumps & 160km plastic water driplines to name a few.

All farming equipment, trucks, trailers and tractors are also on offer.

± 57 HA

Greenhouse facility in

Carletonville, North West Province

Agricultural Development with more than 12 hectares established greenhouses which can be brought into operation/production within 10 weeks.

Contact us for the auction catalogue



MANAGEMENT

Don't allow change to catch you napping

At times, new developments might seem to come like a bolt out of the blue. But if you keep up with trends, you'll be forewarned of change and have time to adapt, writes **Roelof Bezuidenhout**.

The farming world has never been particularly receptive to rapid change. Farmers don't readily abandon a method that has always worked in favour of one they are not sure of or believe may be too expensive to implement. Less than a century ago, some grain farmers kept up to 50 oxen on the veld just to plough their lands, long after tractors had become an option. Today, despite the obvious benefits of drones, many farmers have yet to buy one.

GET OUT, MEET PEOPLE, AND UPDATE YOURSELF ON YOUR INDUSTRY

While some farmers certainly get hooked on technological innovations or gadgets long before these become essential for their particular businesses, it's also true that other farmers wait too long to fall in line with trends.

A good example of this is the seemingly sudden importance of traceability, animal welfare and good farming practices in the animal fibre industry.

Over the years, wool and mohair farmers were warned again and again that these would become more important, and non-compliant producers would suffer price penalties.

That day duly arrived, as if out of the blue, catching some unawares.

Regardless of what you produce or how isolated your farm is, you now have to be acutely aware that consumer markets are changing faster than anyone can predict, and that technology can keep tabs on your activities.

Some changes will come your way faster than others, and this calls for informed anticipation. It would be interesting, for example, to see how quickly the market for vegan hamburgers takes off and how it eventually affects the meat industry.

ISOLATION CAN LEAD TO IGNORANCE

For many farmers, keeping up with the news and staying abreast of technological and market developments is easier said than done. The reason is that they run one-person businesses that keep them on the move from dawn to dusk. They can get so absorbed in their day-to-day

ABOVE:

As farmers often spend days out on the farm from dusk to dawn, many find it difficult to keep up to date with current news and trends in the industry.

UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD

activities that they lose touch with what's happening out there in the wider world, despite the availability of the Internet.

It's not unusual for such farmers, especially on remote, extensive livestock farms, to go for days on end without seeing or even speaking to an outsider. These farmers can effectively become prisoners on their own farms, always working, always double-checking, and hardly ever going anywhere.

Keeping your own company is not conducive to gaining essential information. As difficult as it may be at times, you need to get out, meet people in the know, and update yourself on what's happening in your industry. This means not only price movements, but the latest trends on anything and everything that might have a bearing on your future as a farmer.

Anything less leaves the door open for unpleasant surprises that could cost you dearly in lost opportunities or added headaches in both the short term and the long term.

If nothing else, a little more information can overcome some of the paralysis that results from uncertainty. ■ **FW**

Growing Chinese cabbage

While deemed a 'weed' in countries such as Kenya and Zimbabwe, Chinese cabbage is a popular vegetable on local markets.

Chinese cabbage (*Brassica rapa* L. spp. *chinensis*), also known as pak choi, is produced mainly in Limpopo, North West, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

It is an annual, erect, leafy vegetable that can grow up to 30cm tall. The leaves are thick and tender, with heavy midribs.

The plant does best under cooler conditions, with an average temperature of between 18°C and 22°C during the early growth phase. It thrives in winter and should therefore be watered to ensure a high yield.

Chinese cabbage prefers well-drained soil with good structure, fertility and water-holding capacity, and a pH of between 5,5 and 7,6.

PRODUCTION

The plant is propagated from seed. Till the soil finely, using a garden fork or hoe. Use a chisel plough and disc to prepare the land at least six weeks before planting, so that plant residue is broken down before planting.

If a hardpan has developed due to repeated cropping, use tines to rip the soil to a depth of 450mm. On sandy soil, use a rotary hoe to prepare a good seedbed.

For direct seeding, open the planting furrow about 2cm to 3cm using a hand hoe. Sow the seeds 1cm to 2cm apart in the row and with an inter-row spacing of 15cm to 20cm. Sprinkle the seeds into the furrow and cover with 1cm to 2cm of soil.

Your fertilisation programme should be based on a soil analysis. When using chemical fertilisers, apply a 2:3:2 or 3:2:1 mixture at a rate of 50g/m of furrow

ABOVE: Chinese cabbage is popular on the local market, and can be grown in most of South Africa's provinces.
PETER JUNG



length, and spread it evenly in the furrow. Add LAN at a rate of 20g/m at the five-leaf stage.

Mix the fertiliser with a stick, water the furrow and close it. Repeat after one week.

When using poultry, pig or kraal manure, apply it at a rate of 10ℓ/5m furrow length.

How often you water will depend on the type of soil in your land. Sandy soil should be irrigated three times a week, sandy loam twice a week, and clay or clay loam once a week.

For a good leaf harvest, irrigate at a rate of 5ℓ/m²/day, and begin immediately after transplanting.

PEST CONTROL

Metasystox (oxydemeton-methyl), Tamavo (methamidophos) and Cymbush (cypermethrin) are commonly used to control insect pests in Chinese cabbage. Follow the instructions on the label carefully.

Pests can also be controlled by removing weeds and affected plants, and keeping the land clean.

The most important diseases affecting Chinese cabbage are downy and powdery mildew, club root and black rot. To control these, use clean seeds or remove infected plants.

HARVESTING

Harvest the leaves at the eight-leaf stage (between 60 and 95 days). Harvesting usually starts in mid-July and continues through November and until the peduncle has elongated and the first flower has opened.

Chinese cabbage is harvested by hand when the leaves are fully developed. The leaves are dislodged at the base.

• *Source: 'Chinese cabbage'. 2013. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Retrieved from nda.agric.za/docs/Brochures/chinese.pdf. ■ FW*

Post-harvest handling

Wash the leaves to remove soil immediately after harvesting for preparation for marketing. Because the shelf life for Chinese cabbage is short, store the fresh leaves in a refrigerator or a cool place. Cooked leaves can be dried and stored in a plastic container.

Chinese cabbage requires refrigerated transport and should be sold within two days of harvesting.

Lettuce: more varied than ever

Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) goes back a long way; it has been cultivated for more than 4 500 years. As with most vegetables, it looked very different when first discovered in the Middle East to the roundish, leafy vegetable we enjoy today.

Lettuce started off as an erect plant with prickly leaves and stems, a bitter taste, and copious quantities of latex. Today, the latex and bitterness emerge when the plants are old and start entering the reproductive stage.

New lettuce varieties are less likely to become bitter, and also have a far lower latex content.

LEAF LETTUCES ARE POPULAR, AS THEY LEND THEMSELVES TO SALAD MIXES IN PILLOW PACKS

Over the centuries, the original wild types have been bred into a wide array of varieties and a number of different colours, which makes them more attractive and, in some cases, more nutritious. The reddish hues contain anthocyanin, a valuable antioxidant.

Broadly speaking, there are four types of lettuce:

- **Iceberg lettuce**

Crisp head, or iceberg, lettuce is the most popular type in many countries. The name 'iceberg' was derived from the practice of shipping these vegetables from California to distant destinations covered in crushed ice.

There is also a particular variety called 'Iceberg', which was developed in 1894 by the US seed company Burpee.

The popularity of different lettuce types varies greatly from country to country. In South Africa, iceberg is the leader,



but its position is under threat from loose lettuce leaves sold in plastic packets. Carbon dioxide is used to prolong their shelf life.

Much of a heading lettuce such as iceberg is wasted, as the outer leaves, and sometimes the bitter, white inner leaves, are usually discarded.

Often, the lettuce heads on the supermarket shelf are too mature and hence hard and compact. To test for freshness, press on the head with your thumb; there should be a fair amount of 'give'.

- **Butter lettuce**

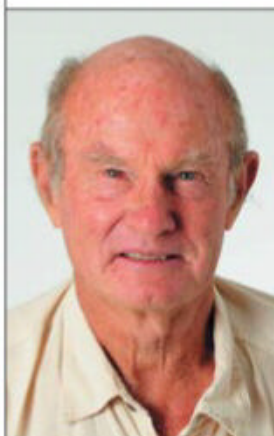
Butter lettuces are soft-leaved types that are smaller and earlier-maturing, and generally not as well adapted to harsh climatic conditions as other types. These are very popular in Europe.

Some varieties make a small head, but most are leaf or partial heading types.

- **Romaine or cos lettuce**

These long-leaved lettuces have an erect orientation and to some extent resemble Chinese cabbages. They form tight rosettes of leaves.

ABOVE:
Lettuce has become an important part of our diet.
BILL KERR



BILL KERR

- **Leaf lettuces**

Leaf lettuces are growing in popularity as they lend themselves to lettuce mixes in pillow packs. In addition to their colour variations, the various types have different textures and leaf shapes, which make for attractive mixtures.

NEW VARIETIES

There are a number of sub-categories of these main types, and definition starts to become a problem due to the different types readily crossing with one another. Despite causing a little confusion, this does provide scope for developing new varieties to make this crop even more popular.

Other leafy vegetables such as rocket and watercress are now also added to some salad mixtures. The addition of more varieties and species adds both to flavour and nutrition.

• *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*

Giving recognition

Recognition of a job well done is immensely important in human relations as well as in the workplace.

I don't mean insincere or artificial recognition, but the real thing: recognition that comes from the heart and is genuine.

A HALLMARK OF EXCELLENT LEADERS

This 'golden rule' applies as much in the fresh produce trade as anywhere else. It is something that the best leaders, and many people in business, understand and use frequently.

It applies to salespeople and their clients, as well as to retailers, large or small, when serving their customers. It applies no less to employers and employees, including farmers and their

workers. In short, it applies wherever human beings interact.

Psychologists and others have shown repeatedly that many people change jobs not for money but because of a lack of recognition or appreciation by their seniors.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING

Professional and savvy market salespeople get to know their farmers and buyers. They try to understand these people beyond the ambit of supplying a product at a certain price.

By better understanding their clients, they are able to give them recognition for the quality of their produce, or attaining a marketing objective, or any other notable achievement that deserves the praise. It's not an empty accolade they



MICHAEL CORDES

offer, but a real gesture which tells the recipient, "I recognise you and your good work, and I value your support."

SINCERITY

The key to all this is the word 'genuine'. Recognition and gratitude have to be sincere and not slapped on for effect. When it's genuine, the recipient will also respond in a sincere way.

Being insincere may, in fact, be worse than saying nothing at all. A buyer on a market is no fool. If a salesperson offers an insincere accolade, the buyer is bound to realise this, and may even walk away from a potential sale. On the other hand, if the recognition is genuine, the sale is virtually guaranteed.

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

Subject line: Market floor. ■ FW



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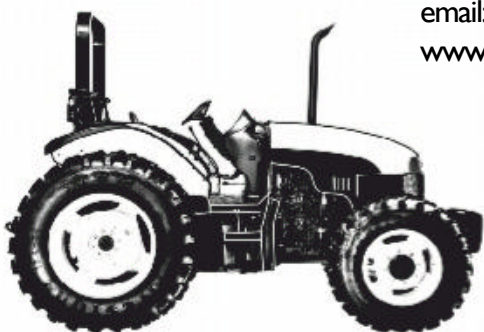
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*Incl: Aircon, Quickhitch & 17.5-25 L4 Tyres

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Oats ends fodder flow problems

A versatile small grain, oats was at one stage grown mostly for the grains market. However, due to its excellent nutritional value and dry matter production, it is now favoured as a grazing crop. A mixture of oats and a legume such as vetch offers an easily digestible, high-protein feed.

Oats (*Avena sativa*) has relatively good regrowth characteristics, which means that livestock producers can plant the crop to ensure sufficient green feed for winter.

A. sativa are divided into spring types (short growing season), intermediate types (medium-length growing season) and winter types (long growing season).

Spring types are not cold-dependent (they do not require vernalisation to mature) and will be ready for grazing much sooner than winter types. On the other hand, they produce less leaf mass than the other types and are thus not as popular for green feed cultivation. Only in cases where grazing is required soon is it advisable to cultivate spring types.

Intermediate- and winter-type oats have longer cold dependency before becoming reproductive. They produce large volumes of feed due to their stooling abilities, and continue production late into the season.

The sowing densities of spring types are between 25kg/ha and 50kg/ha on dryland and between 75kg/ha and 125kg/ha under irrigation.

Intermediate and winter types have sowing densities of 25kg/ha to 40kg/ha on dryland and 75kg/ha to 125kg/ha under irrigation.

The time of establishment will differ from one region to the next, but is generally from mid-February to mid-May. The planting window in colder areas is usually over by the end of April.

AN OATS-LEGUME MIXTURE

It is always advisable to plant a good legume crop in combination with green feed oats. Legumes offer numerous benefits, including nitrogen binding, an improvement in



ABOVE: GP Geldenhuys, who farms at Kanoneiland in the Northern Cape, amongst a stand of Magnifico oats in peak production. Planting dates should preferably be staggered to ensure that grazing is available for an extended period. SUPPLIED



the digestibility of the oats, and higher crude protein content.

Common vetch and grazing vetch are gaining popularity as legumes. The recommended sowing density is between 5kg/ha and 8kg/ha of vetch on dryland and about 16kg/ha of vetch under irrigation.

Plant the vetch component as 50% grazing vetch and 50% common vetch. The reason for this is that although grazing vetch possesses great regrowth ability, the seed is hard-coated, which means that germination takes longer than in the case of common vetch. The latter is soft-coated and germinates and grows very rapidly.

This mixture, combined with the oats, will ensure the presence of good volumes of grazeable common vetch among the oats during the first grazing cycle.

CULTIVARS

Agricol is regarded as a leader in summer and winter grazing crops, and offers the following oats cultivars to ensure quality green feed this winter:

• Pallinup/Dunnart

These spring-type oats are usually ready for grazing six to eight weeks after planting. They can also be considered for the quick production of silage or hay.

• Overberg

An intermediate type with a lower cold-dependence than true winter types, which will produce earlier. It is suitable for dryland and irrigation production, and can be utilised as grazing, silage and hay.

• Magnifico

This true winter-type oats is highly cold-dependent and usually produces palatable grazing from May to the end of September. One of the major benefits of this cultivar is its high yield potential.

• Oranjerivier mixture

This consists of 24% triticale, 24% Pallinup, 24% Overberg and 28% Magnifico. Agricol developed the mixture for sustainable production during winter. Because all the components in this mixture are in different maturity classes, the peak production time of each crop differs, which results in extended production. It can be used as a cover crop in orchards and fields, as well as for high-quality grazing for livestock.

• *Contact your nearest Agricol field agent for further details or visit agricol.co.za.*

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The BT 230 auger delivers impressive drilling power for pitting and fencing. Thanks to its standard 20mm connection it is compatible with a wide range of auger bits.



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Improved control and flexibility over grain revenue

The combine is the single most capital-intensive piece of equipment on a grain farm. Utilising as much of its capacity as possible is important to overall farm efficiency, writes **Stehan Cloete**.

A state-of-the-art combine harvester can never achieve its full potential if a farmer's in-field logistics support is unable to keep up with production flow.

With this in mind, AgriCAD, an innovative local implement manufacturer, has designed the MB mother bin series to ensure optimal harvester utilisation. The mother bin is a large trailer used as portable grain storage in the land.

It could be argued that if you have an idle harvester in

the harvesting window, you should probably have invested in a lower-capacity harvester.

**A 34-TON TRUCK
CAN BE LOADED
IN ABOUT
10 MINUTES**

A standing harvester means that you are extending your harvesting window and therefore a lower-capacity machine might have been a better fit.

ABOVE:
A farmer's choice of combine harvester should be supported by correctly chosen machinery for the loading and transport of harvested grain.
SUPPLIED

On average, the difference between classes can be as much as R500 000, which is just below 10% of the value of an average harvester, excluding the difference in header value. Investing unnecessarily means not only paying interest on a loan, but is also an opportunity cost.

Integrating a mother bin into your existing mechanisation package may mean that you can sell off a redundant machine. It will also ensure that your harvester does not stand idle and you are optimising your capital investment.



FLEXIBILITY

Having an AgriCAD mother bin on your farm means that you can now manage farm loading with a transport contractor. This gives you some flexibility in your grain market channel and could mean that you realise a better price for a portion of your crop and still maintain harvesting efficiency.

The mother bin comes with optional load cells and a printer that gives you in-field control over your harvest. Control over what was loaded prevents losses from theft and ensures traceability.

Loading time is considerably reduced; contractors' trucks need not spend time waiting at the headland.

The loading time on a 34t truck, from pulling in until leaving with its printed load details, is about 10 minutes.

ABOVE:

In order for combine harvesters to work at optimal capacity, farmers also need to invest in the equipment and processes that need to run alongside the combine during harvesting.

DENENE ERASMUS



STEHAN CLOETE

EQUIPPED FOR ROAD TRANSPORT

AgriCAD's mother bin is easily transported and has a narrow turning circle.

Transporting only when empty ensures that you do not have to dedicate a large tractor operating with the haulage team to move the mother bin between lands.

AgriCAD's mother bin is also equipped with LED floodlighting for night work, and can be transported on public roads with its roadworthy lights and chevron package.

SPECIFICATIONS

The AgriCAD MB mother bin series offers a number of significant advantages:

- The high-discharge capacity enables a 34t truck to be loaded in approximately 10 minutes.

- The 50m³ MB500 and 70m³ MB700 capacities create 40t and 58t surge tanks respectively.
- The standard discharge height is 4,2m.
- The modular design enables the welded components to be replaced without difficulty.
- The mother bin can be containerised in semi-knockdown form, reducing shipping cost.
- It comes equipped with a standard light box with chevron.
- A flood light on the discharge head enables night loading to be undertaken with ease.
- A tarpaulin is provided for protection against the elements.
- An optional weighing system with printer is available.
- *Stehan Cloete, a mechanical engineer, is the director of AgTech Africa. Email him at stehan@agtech-africa.com. Subject line: Equipment. ■ FW*

SAVOURY

Chicken and blueberry salad

Smoked chicken and feta add a savoury note to this salad, while the fresh blueberries give it a hint of sweetness.

Makes four servings

SALAD

250g (1 packet) lettuce

Handful of fresh rocket

Handful of fresh pea sprouts (optional)

A small quantity of oil

2 onions, finely chopped

5ml (1 tsp) fresh garlic, chopped

1 stick of celery, finely chopped

4 smoked chicken breasts, cut into strips

15ml (1 Tbsp) fresh parsley, chopped

1 round of feta, crumbled

Handful of pecans, roughly chopped

120g (1 punnet) fresh blueberries

Black pepper to season

SALAD DRESSING

30ml (2 Tbsp) lemon juice

45ml (3 Tbsp) olive oil

10ml (2 tsp) honey

Pinch of salt and pepper to season

SALAD

1. Place the lettuce, rocket and pea sprouts on a serving platter.
2. Heat a little oil and sauté the onion, garlic and celery. Add the chicken and sauté for another three minutes.
3. Remove from the heat and place on top of the lettuce on the platter.
4. Sprinkle the chopped parsley, feta, pecans and blueberries over the chicken, and season with freshly ground black pepper.

DRESSING

1. Mix all the ingredients together and serve with the salad.



These recipes were first published in *Vroukeur*.



SWEET

Baked granadilla tart

A double layer of sweet and tangy granadilla takes this summery dessert tart from tasty to tremendous.

Makes 12 servings

CRUST

437ml (1¾ cups) cake flour
187ml (¾ cup) icing sugar
90ml (6 Tbsp) finely ground almonds
2,5ml (½ tsp) ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt
125g (¼ block) butter
2 extra-large eggs
45ml (3 Tbsp) cold water

FILLING

250ml (1 cup) cream
45ml (3 Tbsp) corn flour
125ml (½ cup) caster sugar
115g (1 can) or 125ml granadilla pulp
6 extra-large eggs

GRANADILLA LAYER

115g (1 can) or 125ml granadilla pulp
30ml (2 Tbsp) water
5ml (1 tsp) corn flour

CRUST

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Combine the cake flour, icing sugar, almonds, cinnamon and salt in a mixing bowl.
3. Rub in the butter to form a crumbly texture.
4. Beat together the eggs and water. Add the liquid to the flour mixture and mix to form a dough.
5. Place the dough in a plastic bag and store in the fridge for one hour.
6. Sift the flour onto a surface or board and roll the dough out to about 3mm thick.
7. Line a rectangular or round (22cm-diameter) cake tin with the dough.
8. Bake the crust blind for 15 minutes. Bake for another seven minutes or until the crust is golden brown.

FILLING

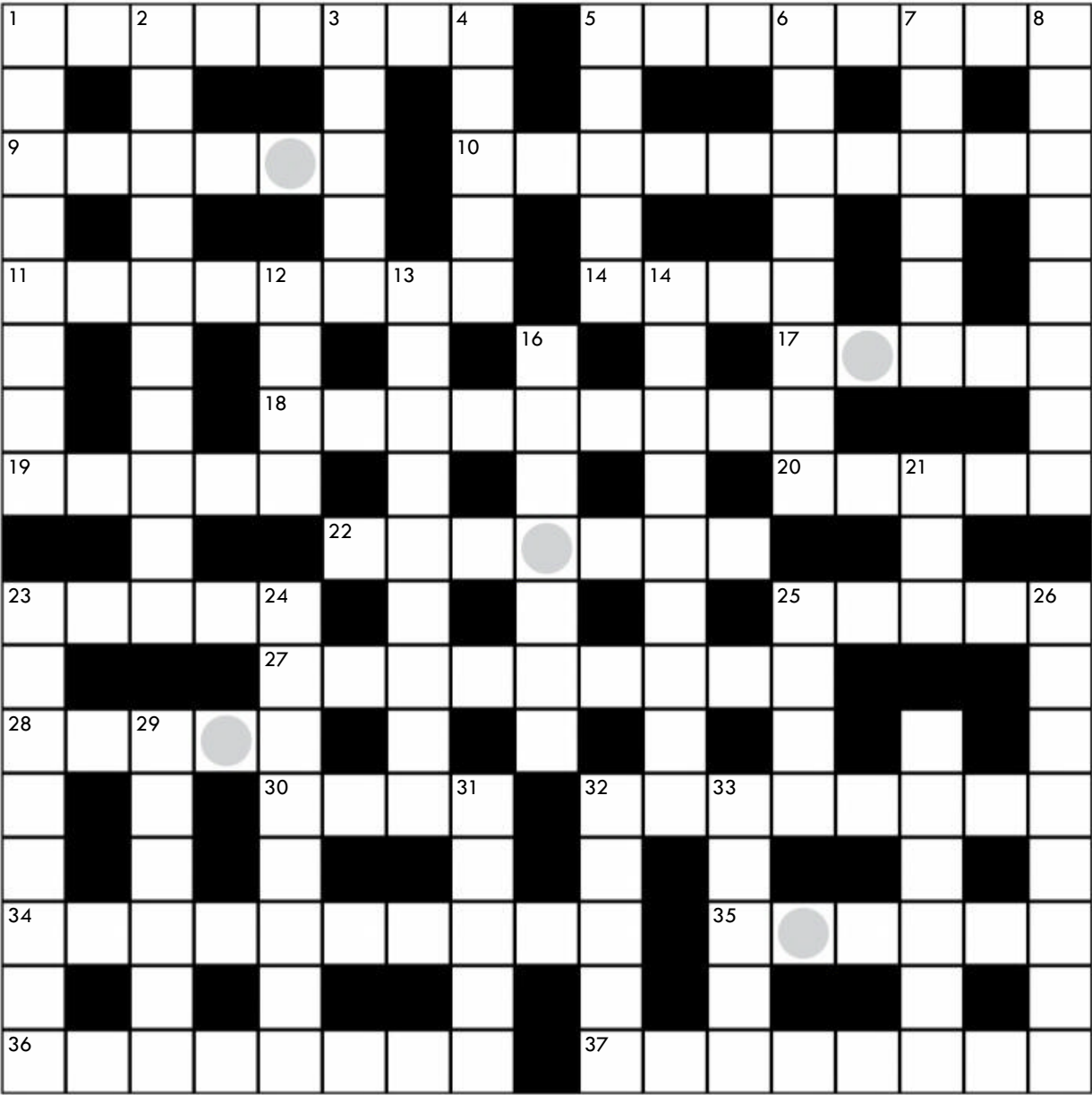
1. Pour the cream into a double boiler (or a glass bowl on top of a saucepan of hot water) over medium heat.

2. Combine the corn flour and caster sugar. Stir in the granadilla pulp to form a smooth mixture.
3. Beat the eggs and add to the granadilla mixture.
4. Add the granadilla mixture to the hot cream. Cook over a low heat to thicken. Take care that the heat is not too high as it will cause the mixture to curdle.
5. Spoon the filling into the crust.

GRANADILLA LAYER

1. Combine the granadilla pulp, water and corn flour in a bowl, mixing well to prevent lumps forming.
2. Microwave for two minutes on high, stirring continuously. Allow to cool slightly.
3. Spoon the mixture over the tart. Allow it to set and slice into wedges. Decorate with fresh berries or other fruit.

Crossword 358



ACROSS

- 1. Grazing lands (8)
- 5. Breeding of like with like; inbreeding (8)
- 9. Organism requiring free oxygen for respiration (6)
- 10. Originating naturally in a country (10)
- 11. Storms (8)
- 14. Male deer (4)
- 17. Dish of grated potatoes shaped into a pancake and fried (5)
- 18. Hors d'oeuvre of thin strips of raw meat or fish (9)
- 19. Cry of a horse (5)
- 20. Make cloth by crossing threads above and below one another (5)
- 22. Spiders' traps (7)
- 23. One using no animal produce at all (5)
- 25. Cold dish of mixed vegetables (5)
- 27. Relating to the care of women during pregnancy and childbirth (9)
- 28. Country, capital Niamey (5)
- 30. Examination (4)
- 32. Variety of dessert apple with firm, white flesh (8)
- 34. Growing from puberty to full maturity (10)
- 35. Ornamental clasp with a jointed pin (6)
- 36. Detach; divide (8)
- 37. Gathers in crops (8)

DOWN

- 1. Plant yielding coarse, green-skinned bananas (8)
- 2. Beating eggs (10)
- 3. Water grasses (5)
- 4. One from Bern? (5)
- 5. Skins of, especially larger, animals (5)
- 6. Cover with uncontrolled vegetation (8)
- 7. Fruits of the oak (6)
- 8. US national park located in the western Sierra Nevada of central California (8)
- 12. Per item (4)
- 13. Slow-moving creatures with dome-shaped, leathery shells (9)
- 15. Of parasites, carried by blood-sucking mites (4-5)
- 16. Any species of the composite genus *Ambrosia*, also called ragwort (7)
- 21. Crocodiles' American cousins? (10)
- 23. Plantation of grape-bearing vines (8)
- 24. Boreal (8)
- 25. Mark of an old wound (4)
- 26. Genus of herbaceous flowers to which carnations and pinks belong (8)
- 29. Those who look after horses (6)
- 31. Subject set or proposed for discussion (5)
- 32. Piece of ground or plot of land (5)
- 33. Yellowish fossil resin (5)

Crossword 353: 24 January 2020

ACROSS: 1. Sediment; 5. Smoulder; 10. Implant; 12. Gudgeon; 13. Tooth; 14. *Jonquil*; 15. Tarnish; 16. Ebony; 17. Crater; 20. Cougar; 22. Rye; 24. Salami; 25. Beluga; 27. Mob; 30. Merlot; 33. Endive; 36. Betel; 38. Ricotta; 39. Isthmus; 40. Snout; 41. Violets; 42. Taverna; 43. Senility; 44. Grosbeak.

DOWN: 1. Skipjack; 2. *Daphnia*; 3. Measure; 4. Nettle; 6. Mighty; 7. Underdog; 8. Dieting; 9. Ranchero; 11. Colony; 18. Trail; 19. Roast; 20. Calved; 21. Urged; 22. Rim; 23. Ebb; 26. Improved; 28. Outfox; 29. Redshank; 31. Raccoon; 32. Oatmeal; 34. Natives; 35. Immerse; 36. Basset; 37. Litter.

MYSTERY WORD: Aquifer

Sudoku Solutions: 21 February 2020

MEDIUM

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

DIFFICULT

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



A restaurant in the making

Dear Jonno,

I would like you to design a farm-style restaurant for me. I am situated 32km from Badplaas.

The facility should be able to accommodate approximately 50 people and it must have a veranda. The site is rocky, and indigenous trees are available for construction purposes. The roof should consist of IBR sheeting.

I need the following:

- Restrooms;
- Open kitchen;
- Scullery, pantry, cold room, and counters;
- Space for a DJ, as well as TV screens mounted on the walls.

I also hope to provide accommodation at a later date.

Kind regards,
Sipho



JONNO SMITH

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.

Dear Sipho,

Thank you for an interesting request for a gathering place. In the layout, I've provided enough space for entertainment activities besides the eating facilities.

While 50 people or more can be accommodated in the dance/dining area, the after-eating activities

can also be catered for. These could include watching TV, music and dancing. The space allows chairs and tables to be moved around to suit the occasion.

I've also provided a boma in the form of a chatting circle with a central fireplace. The veranda

you asked for can be positioned to ensure a good view and sunshine.

I have also added an important facility for a restaurant: an outside perishables storage shed.

As indicated, the parking area should be at the rear of the main building, where it is well out of sight.

The roof is segmented over the main dining/dance area for aesthetic reasons and to provide a feeling of being embraced. This is enhanced by the cut-off corners of the building.
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 photo 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

Coconut oil to fight viruses

Since news of the outbreak first started making headlines earlier this year, we have been inundated with messages about the dangers of the novel coronavirus (now officially renamed COVID-19).

Researchers are still trying to develop a vaccine, but you can take certain steps to help prevent you from contracting it. These include eating certain antiviral foods and using your common sense.

First, you need to focus on a healthy lifestyle, which is conducive to a strong immune system. This includes a nutritious diet, exercise and sleep.

THE FILIPINOS' SECRET

In 2003, the SARS-coronavirus broke out in China, resulting in more than 600 recorded deaths. Yet in the Philippines, a country of islands in close proximity to China and with its own Chinese population of about 80 million, only 14 SARS cases were recorded.

There were more SARS cases, and more fatalities, reported in Canada!

One of the theories put forward about the low number of SARS cases amongst the Filipinos was their use of mainly coconut oil for cooking.

The Philippines is the largest producer of the oil; about 70% of the world's coconut oil is exported from there.

Coconut oil is a powerful natural antiviral, with antibiotic properties. Its medium-chain fatty acids, and primarily lauric acid, are said to destroy enveloped viruses.

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

Of mavericks and spies on the run

MAVERICK AFRICANS

by Herman Giliomee
(Tafelberg, R350)

Giliomee's subtitle, 'The shaping of the Afrikaners', might make you feel as if you have visited this place with him before. In fact, he is taking a fresh perspective on a subject that still has plenty to give.

In *Maverick Africans*, he focuses much more within Afrikaner history, looking for the exceptional and the 'maverick' who shaped this diverse community that was forced into a single, overreaching identity.

The media, women, the church and the financial world are all broken down into elements of conformity, non-conformity and pioneering in one way or another.

An intriguing and thoughtful read.

BLACK 13

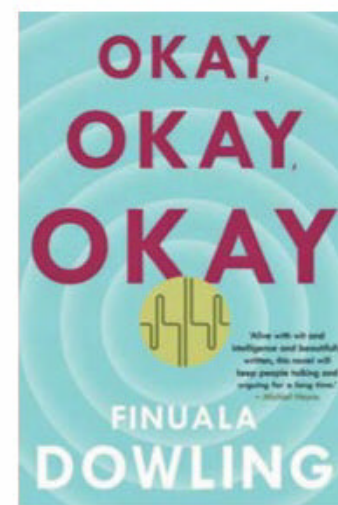
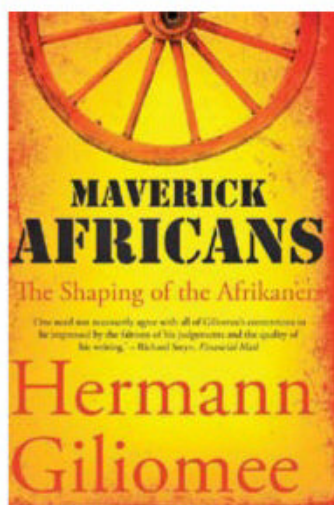
by Adam Hamdy
(Macmillan, R299)

When a chic lawyer tracks Scott Pearce down to a remote beach in Thailand, he isn't flattered; he's worried.

Ex-MI6, on a quest for answers to an investigation that got him fired, he is working under several layers of cover. Lawyer Melody Gold has been told that Pearce is the only man who can get her the answers she needs for a convoluted case, especially as her second choice, Pearce's best friend, has just met a brutal death.

The hot pursuit that follows her persuades Pearce to return to London, where he finds himself pitched into a world of glossy clubs, people trafficking and right-wing rallies.

Pacy, well characterised and very readable.



OKAY, OKAY, OKAY

by Finuala Dowling
(Kwela, R320)

Vida Landor is a top, international sound operator but battling to find work. Viwe Nonjinge is starting to climb the career ladder at a (somewhat) fictional Cape Town university and doesn't keep track of the horrors lying in wait for his student sister, Siphokazi.

Viwe's boss, Simon Landor, has moved into admin for a better salary but now feels like a sellout and not the head of effective communications, his title.

His late wife's unfinished thesis is also arousing new interest, not least because not even her doctor had believed she was truly sick.

When a wave of student rioting breaks out on campus, Simon's 'adopted' son Loyiso finds himself at the centre, while Simon has to struggle to find a discreet roof over his head.

Tartly observed and laugh-out loud witty, this book also asks some deep questions.

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

Online Farmer **LIFESTYLE**

Explore your genealogy online

MyHeritage is an online genealogy platform created in Israel in 2003. In 2012, it bought out one of its primary competitors, geni.com, and has continually expanded its services and records. In the process, it has acquired access to various national census records, which are invaluable resources for the company and its clients.

The platform has over 5,5 billion historical records, with more than 50 million added in January this year alone.

VARIETY OF PACKAGES

The basic MyHeritage plan, for up to 250 people, is free. Thereafter, you can choose from a number of packages and tailor this to your needs.



GREG MILES

The site is very easy to navigate and use. By clicking on the family tree, you can add a person along with his or her birth date and birth place, baptism and marriage dates and so forth.

People can be tagged in large family photographs and many profile pictures can be taken from one photograph.

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Family members can be invited to join the website by adding their email address. They can then explore the site, looking at family statistics, such as the most common boy or girl names, average life expectancy and age distribution.

Invited members can create a username and password to

visit the site but cannot make any changes unless promoted to 'Manager' by the site owner.

A pedigree map shows family members worldwide, and members can create and print various family charts for free and create descendant analysis charts.

The site also enables you to colourise black-and-white photographs.

I am thoroughly enjoying saving my heritage online with facts and photographs that are forever secure for the next generation to add to and cherish. To date, the Miles family website has more than 8 600 in the family tree.

• Greg Miles is a livestock farmer and Internet marketer. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za. Subject line: Online farmer. ■FW



Death in the mountains

Solitary graves on various farms bear witness to ambushes and skirmishes in the mountains of the north-eastern Cape during the Anglo-Boer War, and each town has a memorial to the fallen. **Graham Jooste** tells of some of the actions in this unforgiving region.

The Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) was fought on widely varying terrain. In the Stormberg and Drakensberg region of the north-eastern Cape, the battles took place in a landscape unsurpassed not only in splendour, but also in ruggedness and harshness. Death to the unwary was never far away for those who crossed the mountains on horseback.

Almost 300 British and Cape Colonial troops, about 80 Boer men, more than 700 Boer women and children, about 300 black civilians and an unknown number of black soldiers lie buried in the region that stretches from the Stormberg near Dordrecht up towards the Witteberg near Lady Grey and Herschel, close to the Drakensberg and the Lesotho (then Basutoland) border.

Politically and economically, this was a complicated area. Pro-Boer traders and farmers tended to do business across the Orange River to the north towards Bloemfontein, whereas those who were pro-British preferred Queenstown, King William's Town and East London.

GUERRILLA TACTICS

After the fall of Bloemfontein and Pretoria, the Boers changed their tactics and used smaller, mobile commando units to surprise and harass the British. This was the start of the guerrilla war, and Boer Commandos crossed the Orange River into the Cape Colony with the aim of triggering a general uprising among the Cape's Boer population.

After the Battle of Stormberg Junction in December 1899,

ABOVE: Commandants Willem Fouché (centre left) and Louis Wessels, surrounded by British officers at Stormberg at the end of the Anglo-Boer War.

Commandant JH Olivier and his mainly Free State Commandos decided to return to the Free State. The battle had been a resounding victory, and he had occupied the area for four months. Commandants Pieter Kritzinger, Willem Fouché and others remained behind to harass the enemy. By then, however, the British under Lt Col Harry Scobell were arriving in large numbers and pursued them relentlessly.

Kritzinger and Commandant Stoffel Myburgh captured Jamestown, the Boers sacked the place and cut it off from the outside world for a period.

A number of Boers were surprised by a British patrol on the farm Wildefontein, near Motkop, and three Cape Rebels were captured: Frederik Marais from Middelburg, 16-year-old

Petrus Coetzee from Cradock, and Cornelius Claassen from Darlington. They were taken to Dordrecht, tried by military court and sentenced to death by hanging. This was an example of the ruthless martial law administered by Lord Kitchener, commander-in-chief of the British forces, and was designed to discourage any Colonial Boer who was thinking of joining a roving commando.

The Battle of Labuschagne's Nek took place on the road between Dordrecht and Jamestown in March 1900. It lasted for four days and managed to keep the British forces from breaking through the pass to pursue the Boers, who were returning to the Orange Free State to link up with General Christiaan de Wet.

ALIWAL NORTH

Fouché proved to be one of the most skilled of the Boer leaders operating in the Aliwal North district. His commando survived off the spoils taken from enemy convoys and patrols, and he was a constant thorn in the side of the British.

Fouché ended up clashing with a particularly rebellious and independent young Boer leader, Piet Bester. After deserting from the Cape Police near Burgerdorp, Bester had joined a commando in the Steynsburg region, but soon formed his own fighting force of 20 young Boers and entered the area close to where Fouché was operating. The latter did not take kindly to Bester's ill-disciplined ways, however, and the two argued violently. It did not take long before Bester was on his way again.

After upsetting a small convoy, he and his men rested on the farm Koningskroon, on the Holspruit, to the north-west of Jamestown. There he made the fatal mistake of residing too long in one place. Scobell was informed and, with a large force, quietly surrounded the Boers. After a brisk skirmish, Bester was captured along with several of his men and taken to



ABOVE: A young Jan Christian Smuts, Anglo-Boer War fighter and the future prime minister of South Africa. Smuts nearly lost his life in one of the numerous skirmishes fought in the mountains of the north-eastern Cape. CREATIVE COMMONS

the British camp at Marsh Hill. Here he was tried by a military court the following day and sentenced to death by firing squad. He refused to be blindfolded and the firing squad in turn refused to pull the trigger with him looking them in the eye! They solved the problem

by turning him around and shooting him in the back.

Bester was buried in a shallow grave and after the war was reinterred in the Dordrecht cemetery.

The hard-bitten Fouché crossed the railway line at Reynier Siding between the Stormberg and Burgersdorp into open country. He was joined by Myburgh and 170 men, who clashed with the 220 Connaught Rangers of Colonel Maurice Moore between Aliwal North and Jamestown.

A sharp attack by Moore captured Myburgh's laager. Fouché dashed in and tried to rescue the situation, inflicting 30 casualties. The gallant Rangers held on until nightfall, when they were relieved by the Lovat Scouts.

A CLOSE CALL FOR SMUTS

News now reached Cape Town that Jan Smuts had crossed into the Herschel District of the Cape with a commando of 250 well-armed men. A running fight ensued during which three Boers lost their lives.

Four days later, on 11 September 1901, Smuts and his scouting party clashed with a larger British force at Moordenaarpoort. Smuts had his horse shot from under him, but slipped down a narrow gully and lived to tell the tale. He was then surrounded at Penhoek Pass, but after a number of hair-raising exploits, managed to break out. Thus began his epic 2 000km ride through enemy territory.

Fouché continued to show iron determination as a fighter and leader until the end of the war, despite the Boers' desperate situation. His interaction with one youngster shows something of this.

Pietie de Wet was just 14 when he and his mother were taken to a holding camp en route to a concentration camp. He managed to escape and made for the mountains around Zastron. Weak from hunger, he was discovered by a Boer farmer, who advised him to return to the camp. The youngster pleaded that he would be shot for escaping and said he wanted to join the closest commando.

HE WAS TURNED AROUND AND SHOT IN THE BACK

He was sent to Fouché, who looked at him, and liked what he saw. At the next ambush, he lent him a rifle and told him that if he shot a British soldier he could have a horse to go with the rifle. In due course, De Wet killed his first man.

Fouché later heard that his friend Izak Liebenberg had been captured near Graaff-Reinet and would face a charge of murder. Fouché was desperate to free him, but the overwhelming enemy forces in the area made it impossible. Liebenberg was hanged during a bungled execution.

When Fouché learnt about this he swore vengeance on everything English and was about to carry out his threats when the Peace of Vereeniging was signed, ending the war.

Fouché was among the last Boers to throw their rifles onto the surrender pile at Stormberg Station.

• *Sources: Oosthuizen, AV. 1994. Rebelle van die Stormberge. JP vd Walt; Jooste, GK and Oosthuizen, AV. 1999. So Het Hulle Gesterf. JP vd Walt.*

• *Graham Jooste is an author and historical researcher. Email him at farmersweekly@caxton.co.za Subject line: Great tales. ■ FW*



Breeding exceptional dual-purpose Merinos

Mega Merinos in the Colesberg district of the Northern Cape markets thousands of stud and commercial sheep annually, either from the farm or via selected breed sales. **Jacques Pienaar** told **Sabrina Dean** about his operation's history, breeding philosophy and plans for the year ahead.

The Mega Merinos story began more than a century ago, explains Jacques Pienaar. He is the fourth generation of his family to drive the Merino breeding legacy begun by his great-grandfather, Andries du Toit Pienaar, on the farm Klipplaatfontein near Colesberg in the Northern Cape in 1887.

His late father, Andries, had almost legendary status in the Merino industry, and the Pienaar family has received the title of Breeder of South African Champions in 19 out of 21 years of participation.

Adding to the accolades achieved by the family over the decades, Jacques Pienaar was named Young Farmer of the Year in the Northern Cape in 2006, and his father took the title of the National Sheep Farmer of the Year in 2010. Pienaar's son Andries Jr is now readying himself to take over the reins of the business.

"We are living our dream," says Jacques Pienaar.

LEGACY

A photograph of Pienaar at the age of four taken in 1975 shows him standing with one

ABOVE: Mega Merinos near Colesberg sells to clients across South Africa and Lesotho, as well as doing business in Australia.

PHOTOS: JACQUES PIENAAR/MEGA MERINOS

FAST FACTS

- The Mega Merinos ram, Incredible, sold for R170 000 last year.
- The Pienaar family has spent 133 years perfecting the art of breeding world-class Merinos.
- The ram Believer will be on offer at the National Merino Sale in August.

of his father's rams, Apollo, the top ram at the National Merino Show that year. "This is a passion that has developed since my childhood," he says.

Reflecting on the quality of their sheep, he recalls that there was a period during which his family walked home with



10 out of 12 national titles in the annual breed championships.

For many years up until 2018, Mega Merinos had so much on-farm business that they did not bother to send their stock to the annual National Breed Sale at the Botanical Gardens in Graaff-Reinet.

CLOSE CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS ARE CENTRAL TO THEIR SUCCESS

Pienaar finally made an appearance last year, and enjoyed a triumphant return: one of his rams, Incredible, was sold for R170 000 at the national sale. Pienaar's other rams also performed well, resulting

TOP LEFT: Jacques Pienaar (left) and his wife Engela.

ABOVE RIGHT: A photograph of Pienaar as a child with the ram Apollo, the winner of the 1975 National Merino Sale.

ABOVE LEFT: Incredible was sold for a record price of R170 000 last year.

in a final average price of R46 000 for nine rams sold.

"It all comes down to passion, knowledge, discipline, and the blessing of God," says Pienaar.

SCOPE OF OPERATIONS

If anything, Pienaar's passion for sheep and breeding has grown stronger since his childhood, and he still follows a hands-on approach. He is personally involved in day-to-day operations, meeting with the flock managers in charge of flocks of 1 500 sheep daily at 6.30am.

He also takes an active role in artificially inseminating approximately 3 000 ewes annually in groups of 250 at a time. He collects the semen from the rams himself, and participates in every other step of the synchronising and sponging process.

The family farming operation produces thousands of stud or stud-quality commercial Merinos each year and does business across South Africa, as well as internationally, through its operations in Australia. Animals are sold off the farm twice annually, in January/February and August/September, as well as at breed sales such as the National Merino Sale.

Pienaar has always dealt primarily in stud rams, and has sold as many as 800 in a year. However, after the recent drought and the decline in stock numbers, there has been an increase in demand for ewes and he has, therefore, focused on supplying this market for the time being.

CLIENT-CENTRED MARKETING STRATEGY

Relationships are central to the Mega Merinos' marketing strategy, and Pienaar believes this approach helps set the operation apart. The stud has spent decades fostering relationships with more than 400 clients, many from Lesotho. At the heart of this approach is the family's tradition of warm hospitality, and here Pienaar's



LEFT:
A sample of the
wool produced by
the Mega Merinos
ram, Incredible.

mother, Nora, and wife, Engela, play an integral part.

"My mother welcomes all the buyers and they first sit down to have coffee with her. Both my mother and Engela support me in the business," he says.

'A RAM MUST BE MANLY, WITH THICK LEGS AND A HANDSOME HEAD'

After establishing the traits the buyer is looking for, Pienaar selects a number of animals at various prices from a large selection of commercial or stud ewes, rams or lambs.

All animals available for sale will have undergone some form of performance testing.

"We test everything here. Rams spend 10 months in a veld test to make sure they are well adapted and hardy," he says.

They are then rounded off for two months prior to being sold, as Pienaar believes a buyer wants to take pride in the new ram he is driving home.

BREEDING PHILOSOPHY

Economics, genetics and ability all play a part in how Pienaar has structured his breeding goals over the years to tailor the ideal sheep.

His goal is a balanced sheep with an earnings ratio of 60% meat and 40% wool.

The wool must grow quickly, therefore the animal should be a productive meat sheep that is also highly fertile.

While striving for a smooth-skinned sheep with good-quality medium wool, he also emphasises the animal's conformation, which ultimately must translate into a top carcass and not in any way be compromised for better wool quality.

"It's not easy to put good wool on a well-built animal, but we've managed to get the blend right and can offer the best of both worlds," he says.

Reproduction is also important and Pienaar ranks fertility and good mothering traits as essential.

"The ability of our Merinos to survive and adapt on the veld comes from their genes," he adds.

Ewes are mated at 12 months and those that fail to conceive are culled.

"About 3% don't conceive the first time and I remove these from the flock," he says.

VISUAL SELECTION

Pienaar uses a form of natural selection to class all his lambs visually at three months of age. Any that do not meet his criteria based on a visual appraisal, for which he has developed a good instinct, are culled.

The animals that pass selection at this point are grown out in performance-measured trials. Rams and ewes are selected for their looks.

"A ram cannot be pretty. It must be manly, with thick legs and a handsome head," he stresses.

Pienaar says that breeding a good sheep requires attention to three main elements, namely genetics, animal health and veld management.

He is particularly pleased about the latest crop of rams he will be offering at the national sale in Graaff-Reinet on 13 and 14 August.

Pienaar believes in naming his top rams, and this year's list includes Believer, Imagine, Contender, Supreme and Master.

"How good can it be if it doesn't even have a name?" he asks.

He is especially excited about Believer, a ram he claims is the best he has ever bred.

"I'm very blessed to have bred him. He has that balance between conformation and wool that I'm striving for," he says.

• Phone Jacques Pienaar on 073 212 3574. ■ **FW**

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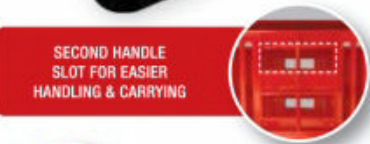
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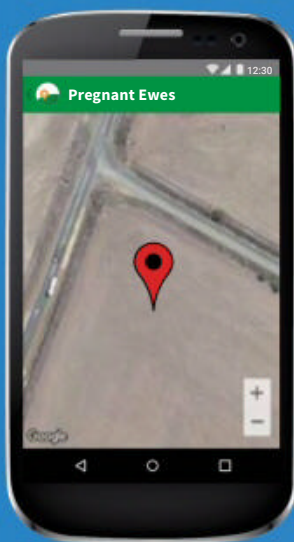
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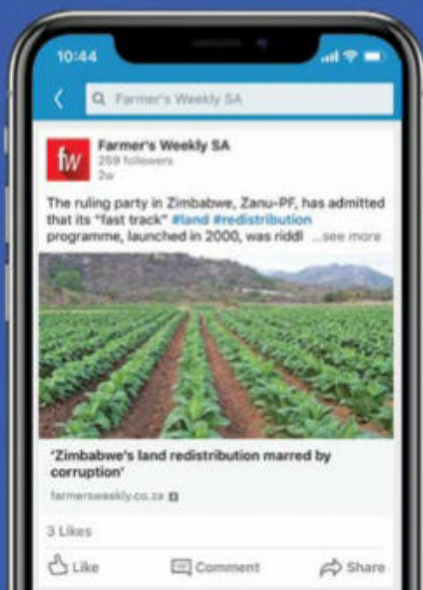


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Farms Sold

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



Humansdorp

- Farm 545 (15ha) sold by the Connie van Huyssteen Trust to Rita Pretorius for R3,3 million.
- Wolvekloof (500ha) sold by Conradie Partners to Three White Lions for R3 million.

Middelburg

- Groote Vallei (440ha) sold by Joyce Vorster to Peter Vorster for R900 000.

Queenstown

- Hopefield (348ha) sold by Tikologo Trust to Hangklip Valley Trust for R3 million.
- De Doorns (337ha) sold by Capricorn Investment Trust to Hangklip Valley Trust for R2,5 million.

Free State



Bloemfontein

- Georgia (440ha) sold by Jacobus van der Linde to Charlie Trust for R3,7 million.
- Damplaats (277ha) sold by Herbert Marais to Anridel for R2,6 million.
- The Cecil Retreat (21ha) sold by Josephus van Heerden to Big Five Transport for R3,5 million.

- Schuinshoogte (129ha) sold by Vanrena Boerdery to Bainsvlei Boerdery for R2,5 million.
- Hartebeestfontein (4,3ha) sold by Sola Gratia Trust to Catharina van der Merwe for R450 000.
- Usherwood (26ha) sold by Phillippus Bender to Silverton Properties for R700 000.
- Dyssel's Rust (22ha) sold by Henrina Lombaard to Adoforce for R1,5 million.

Parys

- Vaal Rock (27ha) sold by Schalk van der Merwe to Vaal Rock Trust for R2 million.

Reddersburg

- Straussfontein (863ha) sold by Daniel Maartens to WC Family Trust for R5,6 million.
- Slangfontein (263ha) sold by Cherangani Trade & Investment 40 to Country Inn Trust for R1,6 million.

Ventersburg

- Glen Ross (50ha) sold by Pieter Muller to Prins R Trust for R650 000.

Viljoenskroon

- Avondster (27ha) sold by Dawid Senekal Trust to Ochse Partners for R300 000.

Vredefort

- Willie (169ha) sold by Isinda 141 to Hendrik Pretorius for R3,4 million.

Wesselsbron

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

Gauteng



Johannesburg

- Welverdiend (10ha) sold by LC Malan Trust to Ramavhuya Partners for R750 000.
- Klipriviersberg (111ha) sold by Armadillo Development 303 to Meyersdal Nature Estate Homeowners' Association for R100 000.
- Elandsfontein (14ha) sold by Steinhoff Properties to Unitrans Supply Chain Solutions for R93 million.

Pretoria

- Elandshoek (8,6ha) sold by Anthony Castleman to Van der Merwe Partners for R760 000.
- Rooibank (21ha) sold by Thomas Vermaak to Hendrik Engelbrecht for R1,9 million.
- Derdepoort (2,1ha) sold by unnamed seller to Unite Properties for R4 million.
- Waterval (12h) sold by Theresa Hamilton to Petronella van Rooyen for R1,5 million.

- Knopjeslaagte (14ha) sold by Greenlands Capital Partners to Zuriworx for R17 million.
- Mooiplaats (4,4ha) sold by Aletta Strydom to Hercules Wium for R2 million.
- Witfontein (1,4ha) sold by Johannes Coetzer to Fountain Blue Properties for R4 million.
- Grootfontein (1ha) sold by Mopane Partners to Mangwajane-Ntsoaki Family Trust for R900 000.
- Hartebeesthoek (4,3ha) sold by Hocrand Trading to Sisonke-Bangithi Development for R1,3 million.
- Elandsfontein (18ha) sold by Armand du Toit to Duvenhage Partners for R1 million.
- Doornkloof (1,6ha) sold by Irene Mall to Resilient Property for R89 million.
- Kameelfontein (4,3ha) sold by Mordia Investments to Mikateko Manganye for R1,6 million.

Randfontein

- Elandsvlei (6ha) sold by Theron Partners to Stefnes Nortjé for R1 million.
- Olievenhoutpoort (6ha) sold by Brenda Holfeld to Millennium Studios for R23 million.
- Golden Valley (21ha) sold by Van Dyk Partners to Olyoly Investments for R1 million.
- Roodekrans (5,8ha) sold by Peter Lastrucci to Tapson Sadiki for R3 million.
- Cyferfontein (10ha) sold by Martha Diers to LMG Electro Mech for R1,5 million.
- Jachtfontein (78ha) sold by Gama Partners to Mthulela Family Trust for R1,2 million.
- Oudedorp (118ha) sold by Johannes Kotze to Potgieter Trust for R6 million.
- Olifantsvlei (12ha) sold by Whinyard Securities to Logan & Jessica Properties for R3 million.

- Mckay (12ha) sold by Barzalan Boerdery to Green Olive Business Management for R4 million.

KwaZulu-Natal



Kokstad

- Mount Nebo (104ha) sold by Temba Vezi to Nobuhle Mbili for R60 000.

Ladysmith

- Klaarfontein (614ha) sold by unnamed seller to Valencia Saaiboerdery for R1,3 million.

Pietermaritzburg

- Woodlands (13ha) sold by The Business Zone 2360 to Zanele Ludidi for R1,7 million.
- Broadacres (39ha) sold by James Stewart to The Jesson Trust for R23 million.
- Honigkrantz (20ha) sold by Voigt Partners to Dingos Animal Kingdom for R2 million.

- Hilton (8ha) sold by Sean Pattrick to Albida Trust for R7,6 million.
- Vaalkop And Dadelfontein (15ha) sold by Daisy Wheel Investments to Movito for R14 million.

Limpopo



Groblersdal

- Palmietfontein (172ha) sold by Walco Water Consultants to Palmietfontein Properties for R2,5 million.
- Brakfontein (6,6ha) sold by Marzyl Boerdery to Noordfed for R10 million.

Lephalale

- Rietspruit (4,3ha) sold by Roux Partners to Kaninvest 3111 for R1 million.
- Vucht (7,8ha) sold by Ruderchris Trust to Hendrik van Zyl for R490 000.

Marken

- Myngenoegen (8,5ha) sold by SR Magoda Trust to Altragatta Properties for R1,5 million.
- Belle Vue (600ha) sold by Joe Coetser Family Trust to VRB Boerdery for R6,5 million.
- Tweefontein (9,3ha) sold by Basani Mashau to N1 South Properties for R1,7 million.

Polokwane

- Rondebosch (21ha) sold by Gert van der Merwe to Ben van der Merwe Trust for R1,6 million.
- Tweefontein (3,3ha) sold by Van der Merwe Partners to Diemont Partners for R2,2 million.

Thabazimbi

- Welgevonden (500ha) sold by Shidzidzi Game Lodge & Conferences to Fairway Enterprises for R12 million.

- Spitskop (21ha) sold by Andries de Klerk to Venter Partners for R1,5 million.
- Uitval (409ha) sold by Jordan Family Trust to Laluka Safari Lodge for R7 million.
- Kwaggasvlakte (2,3ha) sold by Helen Myburgh to Adriaan Prinsloo for R2 million.
- Schuinskloof (224ha) sold by Petrus van Rooyen to Nobosmart for R4 million.

Tzaneen

- Broederstroomdrift (2ha) sold by André Boeke Family Trust to Ashvin Trust for R322 000.
- Yamorna (22ha) sold by Susara Jordaan to Bergren Trust for R8 million.
- Manorvlei (5,4ha) sold by Booysen-Salem Trust to Jesimate for R3,8 million.
- Lushof (9,4ha) sold by Cerva Partners to FMB Boerdery for R5 million.

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- All plains Game
- 5 Earth Dams & 5 Bore holes
- Pivot
- Elandsriver Pumping Rights
- 1200 Palm tree Plantation
- Hunting Lodge
- Conference Centre
- 7 Chalet's
- Eskom powered
- No land claims

PTN 2 FARM 241 VARKFONTEIN
TOTAL EXTENT: 352.4116 ha

- Guest house: 3 Bedrooms all en-suites (Custom Designed)
- Open plan entertainment areas
- Martini style automated heated pool
- Large deck & automated deck pool cover
- Designer kitchen
- Fully equipped gymnasium
- 4 x lock-up garages
- Landscaped garden
- 3 x 2 Bedroom chalet
- 1 x 3 bedroom chalet
- MX Track
- 3 Earth Dams • 5 Bore holes
- Eskom powered
- No land claims

RE OF FARM 241 VARKFONTEIN
TOTAL EXTENT: 399.4877 ha

- Lovely modern 2 bedroom thatch lodge that sleeps 4-6 people
- Heated pool overlooking a dam where animals drink
- Full bathroom
- Outdoor shower
- Additional separate bathroom
- Kitchen • Lounge
- Entertainment Area
- 1 x Earth dams • 3 Bore holes
- Lapa
- Cold storage
- Generator
- Eskom powered
- No land claims

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MARKET REPORT *

11 February 2020	Price
Beef	
Weaner calves < 200kg	R34/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)	R17/kg
C-class cows (fat)	R20/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

Droogfontein Merino Stud Production Sale

HIGHEST: (RAM) R40 000

Jamestown – The Droogfontein Merino Stud Production Sale was held on the farm Droogfontein on 30 January on behalf of Hansie and Johan Sauer.

The highest-priced animal was a ram, which was sold to George and Walter Price of Burgersdorp for R40 000. Rams achieved an average price of R9 912, while ewes averaged R1 650.

The sale was held by BKB, with Danie Strauss as the auctioneer. – *Gavin Isted*

BELOW: The highest-priced ram, which sold for R40 000, with (back, from left): George and Walter Price (buyers), Jan van der Walt (BKB) and Danie Strauss (auctioneer). Front: Johan Sauer (seller). GAVIN ISTED



To place an upcoming auction event in the Classifieds Auctions section, contact René 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.

Pine Grove Merino Stud Production Sale

HIGHEST: (RAM) R41 000

Dordrecht – The Pine Grove Merino Stud Production Sale was held on the farm Pine Grove on 28 January, on behalf of Peter and David Cloete.

The highest-priced animal, a ram, was sold to Julian Cloete of Indwe for R41 000. The second-highest, also a ram, was sold to Quinton Wiehahn of Dordrecht for R40 000. Rams sold for an average price of R11 027, ewes averaged R1 836, and in-lamb ewes averaged R2 049.

The sale was held by BKB, with Brandon Leer as the auctioneer. – *Gavin Isted*

RIGHT: The highest-priced ram, which sold for R41 000, with (from left): David Cloete (seller), Gary Trethewey (BKB), Peter Cloete (seller), Julian Cloete (buyer) and Pietjie Gwebane (handler).



BELOW RIGHT: The second-highest-priced ram, which sold for R40 000, with (from left): David Cloete (seller), Gary Trethewey (BKB), Peter Cloete (seller), Quinton Wiehahn (buyer) and Toto Potani (handler). PHOTOS: GAVIN ISTED



* At the time of publication, the ban on livestock prices had just been lifted. As such, this market report was compiled from trade figures and can be viewed as a guideline.

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4+200 (4) Cab	211	R2 150 500
4+250 (4) Cab	260	R2 593 250
4+320 (4) Cab	317	R2 991 725
4+400 (4) Cab	410	R3 605 250
CASE INTERNATIONAL		
JXT 45	34	R232 690
JXT 55	41	R279 766
JXT 75	55	R325 497
JXT 75 MFD	55	R327 750
Farmall JX 75 MFD Cab	56	R558 805
JX 80 MFD	59	R498 295
Basak 2080 N MFD	60	R415 854
Basak 2080 N MFD Cab	60	R474 850
Quantum 80 N MFD	60	R578 435
JX 90 MFD	63	R533 255
Farmall JX 90 MFD Cab	67	R686 547
JXM 90 MFD	67	R510 485
JX 95 MFD	71	R553 725
JX 95 MFD HC Cab	71	R739 795
Farmall JX 100 MFD	75	R638 198
Farmall JX 100 MFD Cab	75	R708 648
Farmall JX 110 MFD	82	R694 835
Farmall JX 110 MFD Cab	82	R766 667
Maxxum 110 MFD High	83	R1 090 051
Maxxum 125 MFD V-Line	93	R1 035 099
Maxxum 125 MFD V-Line Cab	93	R1 170 111
Maxxum 125 MFD High	93	R1 082 352
Maxxum 125 MFD High Cab	93	R1 410 135
Maxxum 140 MFD Cab	104	R1 393 895
Puma 140 MFD Cab	104	R1 619 545
Puma 155 MFD Cab	115	R1 710 855
Puma 180 MFD Cab	134	R1 938 440
Puma 210 MFD Cab	157	R2 158 320
Puma 225 MFD CVT Cab	168	R2 376 245
Magnum MX 250 MFD Cab	187	R3 332 404
Magnum MX 280 MFD Cab	209	R3 279 629
Magnum MX 310 MFD Cab	232	R4 206 076
Magnum MX 340 MFD Cab	254	R4 334 869
Magnum MX 340 Rowtrac Cab	254	R4 945 691
Magnum MX 380 MFD CVT Cab	280	R4 925 987
Magnum MX 380 Rowtrac CVT Cab	280	R4 880 516
STX 400 (4) Cab	300	R5 311 114
STX 450 Quadtrac Cab	335	R5 470 271
STX 500 (4) Cab	373	R5 620 922
STX 500 Quadtrac Cab	373	R6 166 178
STX 600 (4) Cab	448	R6 450 613
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MT 865 E Track	403	R7 331 250
MT 875 E Track	440	R8 050 000
CHERY		
RD 254 (4)	18	R138 920
CLAAS		
Talos 210 (4)	53	R417 450
Arion 410 CIS (4) Cab	63	R1 150 000
Talos 230 (4)	65	R457 700
Axos 340 C (4) Cab	74	R902 750
Axos 340 CX (4) Cab	74	R948 750
Arion 430 CIS (4) Cab	77	R1 366 200
Arion 620 C (4) Cab	96	R1 437 500
Arion 610 T4f (4) Cab	97	R1 714 650
Arion 630 T4f (4) Cab	110	R1 919 350
Arion 640 C (4) Cab	110	R1 703 150
Arion 650 T4f (4) Cab	130	R2 078 050
Axion 820 T3 (4) Cab	135	R2 189 600
Axion 800 T4f (4) Cab	142	R2 655 350
Axion 830 T4f (4) Cab	165	R2 870 400
Axion 850 T3 (4) Cab	165	R2 777 250
Axion 840 T4f (4) Cab	176	R2 969 300
Axion 850 T4f (4) Cab	184	R3 069 350
Axion 870 T4f (4) Cab	199	R3 378 700
Axion 920 T2 (4) Cab	232	R4 123 900
Axion 930 T2 (4) Cab	254	R4 274 550
Axion 950 T2 (4) Cab	298	R4 769 050
Xerion 5000 T4f Trac (4) Cab	382	R7 202 450
DEUTZ-FAHR		
3045 E	31	R207 000
Agrolux 60	38	R290 375
Agrolux 60 A	38	R338 100
Agroplus F 75 Keyline N A	53	R425 500
Agrolux 4.80	53	R326 025
Agrolux 4.80 A	53	R379 500
4085 E A	59	R552 000
Agroplus F 410 A	62	R552 000
Agroplus F 410 A Cab	62	R623 300
Agroplus F 410 A HS Cab	62	R634 800
Agrolux 90	64	R457 125
Agrolux 90 A	64	R499 100
Agrolux 100 A	69	R557 175
Agrofarm 115 G A	80	R681 950
Agrofarm 115 G A Cab	80	R787 175
Agrofarm 115 G A HS Cab	80	R830 875
5110 G A G	75	R916 550
Agrotrac 115.6 T A	84	R876 300

Agrotron M 600 A Cab	97	R1 552 500
Agrotron 6135 G A Cab	97	R1 725 000
Agrotron 6155 G A Cab	111	R1 955 000
Agrotron 180 A Cab	125	R1 944 075
Agrotron 6175 G A Cab	126	R2 185 000
Agrotron X 720 A Cab	191	R2 645 000
Agrotron 9340 A TTV Cab	232	R4 025 000
JOHN DEERE		
5042 C MFWD	31	R310 766
4049 M	36	R530 956
5055 E	41	R285 774
5055 E MFWD	41	R376 362
5055 E MFWD Cab	41	R571 452
5065 E	49	R329 836
5065 E MFWD	49	R429 112
5065 E MFWD Cab	49	R624 202
5075 E	56	R379 334
5075 E MFWD	56	R488 370
5075 E MFWD Cab	56	R683 460
5076 E F	56	R594 110
5076 E F MFWD	56	R631 593
5076 E	56	R534 530
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5076 E N MFWD Cab	56	R876 325
5082 E	60	R589 868
5082 E Cab	60	R694 776
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5082 E MFWD Cab	60	R747 366
5085 M	63	R773 591
5085 M Cab	63	R938 781
5085 M MFWD	63	R859 867
5085 M MFWD Cab	63	R1 025 050
5090 E	66	R645 540
5090 E Cab	66	R784 868
5090 E MFWD	66	R703 125
5090 E MFWD Cab	66	R842 451
5090 E N	66	R852 480
5090 E N Cab	66	R973 493
5090 E N MFWD	66	R899 518
5090 E N MFWD Cab	66	R1 015 482
5090 E MFWD HC	66	R971 038
5090 E MFWD HC Cab	66	R1 033 827
5095 M MFWD	70	R907 272
5095 M MFWD Cab	70	R1 072 457
6100 D MFWD	73	R940 106
6100 D MFWD Cab	73	R1 015 154
5105 M MFWD	78	R943 563
5105 M MFWD Cab	78	R1 072 457
6110 M MFWD	81	R1 100 664
6110 M MFWD Cab	81	R1 353 534

6115 D MFWD Cab	87	R1 048 927
6125 M MFWD	92	R1 250 791
6125 M MFWD Cab	92	R1 503 624
6130 D MFWD Cab	95	R1 177 168
6140 M MFWD	103	R1 469 570
6140 M MFWD Cab	103	R1 675 745
6155 M MFWD Cab	114	R1 901 107
6175 M MFWD Cab	129	R2 150 668
6195 M MFWD Cab	143	R2 395 460
7210 R MFWD Cab	155	R3 211 673
7230 R MFWD Cab	169	R3 430 621
8245 R MFWD Cab	180	R3 353 878
8270 R MFWD Cab	199	R3 788 895
8295 R MFWD Cab	217	R4 124 571
8320 R MFWD Cab	235	R4 619 192
8320 RT Trac Cab	235	R6 244 869
8345 R MFWD Cab	254	R5 106 925
8345 RT Trac Cab	254	R6 788 989
8370 R MFWD Cab	272	R5 742 953
8370 RT Trac Cab	272	R7 333 107
9420 R (4) Cab	309	R6 940 693
9420 RX Trac (4) Cab	309	R7 631 288
9470 R (4) Cab	346	R6 990 990
9470 RT Trac Cab	346	R7 615 194
9470 RX Trac Cab	346	R8 032 935
9520 R (4) Cab	382	R7 352 765
9520 RT Trac Cab	382	R8 292 122
9520 RX Trac Cab	382	R8 709 863
9570 R (4) Cab	419	R8 043 010
9570 RT Trac Cab	419	R8 714 911
9570 RX Trac Cab	419	R9 132 654

KIOTI

CS 2610 (4)	19	R209 588
DK 5010 N (4)	36	R397 440
NX 5020 M (4)	36	R412 965
NX 5020 M (4) Cab	36	R465 750

KUBOTA

B 1820 DT	12	R195 500
B 1820 DT Turf	12	R201 250
B 2420 DT	16	R218 500
B 2650 H DT	18	R258 750
B 2650 H DT Turf	18	R265 248
L 3200 DT	23	R250 700
L 3200 DT Turf	23	R261 165
L 3540 H DT Turf	26	R343 850
L 4100 DT	29	R331 200
L 4100 DT Turf	29	R347 645
L 5040 DT	37	R391 000
L 5040 DT Turf	37	R407 445
M 7040 DT	53	R488 750
M 7040 N DT	53	R523 250
M 8540 DT	64	R529 000
M 8540 N DT	64	R563 500
M 8540 N DT Cab	64	R632 500
M 9540 DT	71	R580 750
M 9540 DT Cab	71	R672 750
M 9540 DT HC Cab	71	R747 500
M 108 S DT Cab	80	R925 750
M 130 X DT Cab	97	R1 081 000

LANDINI

Solis 20 DT	13	R224 250
Solis 26 DT	17	R261 625
Solis 26 DT Turf	17	R268 813
2-050 DT	35	R494 500
Solis 50	35	R287 500
Solis 60	44	R405 375
Solis 60 DT	44	R468 625
Solis 60 N	44	R498 813
Solis 60 N DT	44	R556 313
Multifarm 75	50	R438 438
Multifarm 75 DT	50	R481 563
Rex 75 F	51	R524 400
Rex 75 F Cab	51	R610 650
Rex 75 F DT	51	R621 000
Rex 75 F DT Cab	51	R711 850
Super 7865	55	R474 375
Super 7865 DT	55	R537 625
Solis 75	52	R449 225
Solis 75 (8x2)	52	R403 938
Solis 75 DT	52	R474 375
Solis 75 DT (8x2)	52	R403 938
Solis 75 N	52	R403 219
Solis 75 N DT	52	R442 750
Solis 75 N DT Cab	52	R513 906
Super 8865	60	R521 813
Super 8865 DT	60	R572 125
Rex 85 F Cab	60	R632 500
Rex 85 F DT	60	R649 750
Rex 85 F DT Cab	60	R740 600
Multifarm 90 DT	61	R517 500
Multifarm 90 DT Cab	61	R648 644
Super 90 Cab	61	R575 000
Super 90 DT	61	R668 438
Super 90 DT Cab	61	R690 000
Powerfarm 90 DT	61	R682 813
Powerfarm 90 DT Cab	61	R743 188
Powerfarm 90 DT HC	61	R711 563
Powerfarm 90 DT HC Cab	61	R783 438
Solis 90	65	R563 500
Solis 90 Cab	65	R621 000
Solis 90 DT	65	R578 600
Solis 90 DT Cab	65	R672 750
Solis 90 N	65	R442 750
Solis 90 N DT	65	R467 188
Solis 90 N DT Cab	65	R576 438
Rex 100 F DT	68	R677 063
5-100 H DT RPS	68	R888 375
5-100 H DT RPS Cab	68	R907 063
Super 100	68	R544 594
Super 100 Cab	68	R603 750
Super 100 DT	68	R625 313
Super 100 DT Cab	68	R691 438
Powerfarm 100 DT Cab	68	R774 813
Powerfarm 100 DT HC	68	R743 188
Powerfarm 100 DT HC Cab	68	R812 188
5-110 H DT RPS	75	R862 500
5-110 H DT RPS Cab	75	R934 375
Super 110 DT	75	R675 625
Super 110 DT Cab	75	R744 050

Powerfarm 110 DT Cab	75	R830 875
Powerfarm 110 DT HC	75	R790 625
Powerfarm 110 DT HC Cab	75	R862 500
Powerfarm 110 DT HC RPS Cab	75	R948 750
Solis 110 DT	80	R771 938
Solis 110 DT Cab	80	R871 125
Landpower 125 T3 DT	86	R1 114 063
Landpower 125 T3 DT Cab	86	R1 236 250
Landforce 125 DT	88	R941 563
Landforce 125 DT Cab	88	R1 027 813
Landforce 125 DT RPS	88	R977 500
Landforce 125 DT RPS Cab	88	R1 063 750
Landpower 135 T3 DT	98	R1 178 750
Landpower 135 T3 DT Cab	98	R1 408 750
Landpower 135 DT Toptronic Cab	98	R1 365 625
Landpower 145 T3 DT	104	R1 351 250
Landpower 145 T3 DT Cab	104	R1 408 750
Landpower 145 DT Toptronic Cab	104	R1 488 675
7-160 DT Cab	116	R1 694 813
Landpower 165 T3 DT	116	R1 394 375
Landpower 165 T3 DT Cab	116	R1 516 563
Landpower 165 DT Toptronic Cab	116	R1 576 075
7-180 DT Cab	121	R1 929 988
7-200 DT Cab	130	R1 997 895
7-220 DT Cab	138	R2 084 375

MASSEY FERGUSON

35	27	R247 588
240	34	R301 706
268	45	R323 353
268 (4)	45	R373 412
2630 GE F	48	R397 765
2630 GE F (4)	48	R462 706
275	55	R350 412
275 (4)	55	R396 412
290	61	R374 765
290 (4)	61	R435 309
4708 (4)	61	R535 765
4708 (4) Cab	61	R609 457
5708 (4) Cab	61	R624 842
5709 (4) PS	69	R600 606
5709 (4) Cab	69	R667 814
5710 (4) PS	74	R663 827
5710 (4) PS Cab	74	R838 824
6711 (4)	83	R923 450
6711 (4) Cab	83	R980 882
6711 (4) R Cab	83	R1 231 176
6712 (4) PS	91	R956 800
7614 (4) Dyna 4 Cab	96	R1 610 000
6713 (4) PS	98	R1 000 500
6713 (4) Cab	98	R1 071 800
6713 (4) R Cab	98	R1 393 529
7615 (4) Dyna 6 Cab	103	R1 796 875
7618 (4) Dyna 6 Cab	121	R2 137 563
7720 (4) Dyna 6 Cab	136	R2 285 625
7724 (4) Dyna 6 Cab	162	R2 266 019
7726 (4) Dyna 6 Cab	171	R2 653 422
8727 (4) Dyna VT Cab	200	R3 680 000

VEHICLE PRICES Tractors

8732 (4) Dyna VT Cab	224	R3 703 000
8737 (4) Dyna VT Cab	266	R4 117 000
McCORMICK		
B-Max 75 (4)	55	R537 625
B-Max 85 (4)	60	R572 125
B-Max 90 (4)	61	R668 438
B-Max 90 (4) Cab	61	R690 000
C-Max 90 (4) HC	61	R711 563
C-Max 90 (4) HC Cab	61	R783 438
B-Max 100 (4)	68	R625 313
B-Max 100 (4) Cab	68	R691 438
C-Max 100 (4) Cab	68	R774 813
C-Max 100 (4) HC	68	R743 188
C-Max 100 (4) HC Cab	68	R812 130
T-Max 100 H (4) RPS	68	R888 375
T-Max 100 H (4) RPS Cab	68	R907 063
B-Max 110 (4)	75	R675 625
B-Max 110 (4) Cab	75	R744 625
C-Max 110 (4) Cab	73	R830 875
C-Max 110 (4) HC	73	R790 625
C-Max 110 (4) HC Cab	73	R862 500
T-Max 110 H (4) RPS	73	R862 500
T-Max 110 H (4) RPS Cab	73	R934 375
G-Max 125 (4) Techno T3	86	R1 114 063
G-Max 125 (4) Techno T3 Cab	86	R1 236 250
D-Max 125 (4) OC	88	R848 585
D-Max 125 (4)	88	R941 563
D-Max 125 (4) Cab	88	R1 027 813
D-Max 125 (4) RPS	88	R977 500
D-Max 125 (4) RPS Cab	88	R1 063 750
G-Max 135 (4) 4E T3 Cab	96	R1 365 625
G-Max 135 (4) Techno T3	96	R1 178 750
G-Max 135 (4) Techno T3 Cab	96	R1 308 125
G-Max 145 (4) 4E T3 Cab	104	R1 488 675
G-Max 145 (4) Techno T3	104	R1 293 750
G-Max 145 (4) Techno T3 Cab	104	R1 408 750
G-Max 165 (4) 4E T3 Cab	116	R1 576 075
G-Max 165 (4) Techno T3	116	R1 394 375
G-Max 165 (4) Techno T3 Cab	116	R1 516 563
X7.650 (4) Cab	112	R1 784 886
X7.660 (4) Cab	116	R1 868 750
X7.670 (4) Cab	122	R1 997 895
X7.680 (4) Cab	133	R1 998 125
X8.680 (4) Cab	215	R4 032 188
NEW HOLLAND		
TT 45	35	R274 620
TT 45 DT	35	R321 770
TD 3.50 F	36	R396 060
TD 3.50 F DT	36	R429 065
TT 3.50	37	R281 405
TT 3.50 DT	37	R332 120
TT 55 T	40	R331 545
TT 55 T DT	40	R387 320
T 4.65 V	48	R569 020
T 4.65 V DT	48	R616 400
TD 65 F	48	R497 375
TD 65 F DT	48	R554 530
TT 65 T	48	R363 400

TT 65 T DT	48	R434 125
TD 75 F	53	R529 230
TD 75 F DT	53	R584 545
TT 75 T	55	R424 810
TT 75 T DT	55	R499 790
TD 5.75 DT Cab	56	R759 575
T 4.75 N	57	R631 235
T 4.75 N Cab	57	R760 150
T 4.75 N DT	57	R681 260
T 4.75 N DT Cab	57	R851 805
TD 85 F	59	R550 275
TD 85 F DT	59	R605 360
TT 4.80	60	R522 905
TT 4.80 DT	60	R601 565
T 4.85 F Cab	65	R834 670
T 4.85 F DT Cab	65	R944 265
T 4.85 N DT Cab	65	R902 980
T 4.85 F DT LP Cab	65	R896 655
TD 90 F DT	65	R626 290
TD 5.90 DT Cab	66	R859 970
TD 5.90 DT EC Cab	66	R1 017 175
TD 90 S	66	R502 895
TD 90 S DT	66	R571 895
TT 4.90	66	R564 880
TT 4.90 DT	66	R645 380
6610	67	R612 835
6610 DT	67	R680 915
T 4.95 F DT Cab	71	R976 695
T 4.95 F DT LP Cab	71	R962 780
TD 95 S DT	72	R655 270
TDD 95 DT HC Cab	72	R847 090
TD 5.100 DT	73	R832 370
TD 5.100 DT Cab	73	R926 095
TD 5.100 DT EC Cab	73	R1 077 090
T 6020 DT Delta	82	R1 086 750
T 6020 DT Delta Cab	82	R1 184 730
TD 5.110 DT	82	R856 290
TD 5.110 DT Cab	82	R950 015
TD 5.110 DT EC Cab	82	R1 108 830
TS 6.120 DT	88	R928 740
TS 6.120 DT Cab	88	R1 001 535
TS 6.120 DT HC Cab	88	R1 116 650
T 6050 DT Delta	93	R1 174 380
T 6050 DT Delta Cab	93	R1 298 350
T 6050 DT Plus Cab	93	R1 385 290
TS 6.140 DT	104	R1 112 510
TS 6.140 DT Cab	104	R1 184 040
T 6070 DT Plus Cab	104	R1 475 910
T 6080 DT RC Cab	114	R1 723 620
T 6080 DT PC Cab	114	R2 101 625
T 6090 DT RC Cab	121	R1 776 980
T 6090 DT PC Cab	121	R2 154 985
T 7040 DT PC Cab	134	R2 262 395
T 7060 DT PC Cab	157	R2 755 170
T 8.320 DT Cab	184	R3 583 285
T 8.350 DT Cab	206	R3 791 320
T 8.380 DT Cab	229	R3 996 250
T 8.410 DT Cab	250	R4 258 105
T 8.435 Smarttrax CVT Cab	279	R6 294 065
T 9.450 DT Cab	298	R5 807 845

T 9.505 DT Cab	336	R6 335 580
T 9.560 DT Cab	373	R6 728 190
T 9.615 DT Cab	399	R7 116 545
T 9.670 DT Cab	447	R7 903 720
TAFE		
35 DI	22	R181 125
45 DI	33	R207 000
45 DI (4)	33	R293 250
5900 DI	44	R255 875
5900 DI (4)	44	R313 375
7502	55	R287 500
8502	60	R299 000
8502 E (4)	60	R350 750
8502 (4)	60	R386 400
9502 (4)	66	R431 250
1002 (4)	74	R488 750
VALTRA		
A 73 (4) Compact Cab	58	R316 250
A 73 (4) F Orchard	58	R306 648
A 85 (4) Cab	65	R565 985
A 95 (4) Cab	74	R604 746
N 134 (4) HiTech Cab	99	R1 373 100
N 134 (4) Active Cab	99	R1 428 300
N 154 E Active (4) Cab	114	R1 835 400
N 174 Active (4) Cab	121	R1 949 250
T 154 HiTech (4) Cab	121	R1 782 500
T 154 Active (4) Cab	121	R1 840 000
T 193 (4) Cab	140	R1 604 250
T 194 Active (4) Cab	143	R2 241 350
T 234 Active (4) Cab	173	R2 846 250
T 234 Versu (4) Cab	173	R2 907 200
S 274 (4) Cab	199	R3 507 500
S 294 (4) Cab	217	R3 622 500
S 324 (4) CVT Cab	236	R3 898 500
S 354 (4) CVT Cab	258	R4 197 500
S 374 (4) CVT Cab	272	R4 309 050



AUCTIONS



11am Saturday
7 March

200 Brahman
Lions River

195 Females
5 Bulls

Registered &
commercial



Info & view: Rolf Aadnesgaard 082 8553840
Photo's, T & C's available on www.aamkzn.co.za

IN CALF
HEIFERS & COWS



TOP QUALITY COMMERCIAL DRAKENSBERGER FEMALES
One of the best Merino herds in the Highveld

westend
Landgoed
Hannes & Hano Lombard

**13th ANNUAL
PRODUCTION SALE**

Average: 19.0 µ



WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2020
WESTEND LANDGOED, MORGENZON

Offer:

- 70 + 70 Cows & Bull calves, 3-in-1
- 70 + 70 Cows & Heifer calves, 3-in-1
- 120 Pregnant cows
- 50 Pregnant heifers
- 550 Pregnant Merino ewes, 4-6 Toothed

Enquiries:

PM Swart 083 948 3345 • Frans Duminy 082 336 5497
Hannes Lombard 083 629 4165 • Hano Lombard 083 630 1273
Dr Frikkie Nel (Herd health) 066 256 9950

ROUTE: From Morgenzon drive on the Amersfoort road. Turn left before train tracks on Uitspannings road for ±8km. Farm on the right. Follow OVK indicators.



Conditions: (1) Payment methods is strictly cash or EFT on day of auction. (2) Electronic banking facilities available. (3) VAT, ID number and proof of address must be confirmed upon registration. (4) Auction terms / conditions available at www.ovk.co.za or Livestock office, 051 923 4500.

KROONSTAD AUCTION S27°36'54.2" E27°23'41.2"



REDFIELD
BRANGUS
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 Louw, KROONSTAD: 056 215 1851
For complete terms and conditions visit : www.bkb.co.za



**Advertise your AUCTIONS or TOTAL
DISPERSAL SALE in this space**





ON AUCTION - 17 MARCH 2020

DECEASED
ESTATE



± 610 Ha Agricultural Land,
Muden
Lot C No.12376, Lot D No.12912, Lot E No.12913

Estate Late: J. J. J. Viviers
Master's Reference No.: 008752/2017

Total Extent: ± 611 Ha | Small scale farming
opportunity | ± 40 Km from Greytown

AUCT-001176

Tom Hodgson | 083 636 7800

Auction Date and Time: 17 March 2020 | 11h00 | Auction Venue: The Durban Country Club, Isaiah Ntshangase Road, Durban |
Terms: R50 000 refundable registration deposit. Strictly by bank guaranteed cheque. No cash. ID Document is required | Auctioneer: Andrew Miller

The Rules of Auction & CPA Regulations can be viewed at www.in2assets.com or at Unit 505, 5th Floor, Strauss Daly Place, 41 Riechord Circle, Ridgeside Office Park, Umhlanga Ridge. Bidders must register to bid and provide original proof of identity and residence on registration. The Rules of Auction contain the registration requirements if you intend to bid on behalf of another person or an entity. The above properties are subject to a reserve price and the sale by auction is subject to a right to bid by or on behalf of the owner or auctioneer.

3 Schweizer Reneke / Christiana Game / Cattle / Pecan Farms (428ha, 711ha & 361ha)

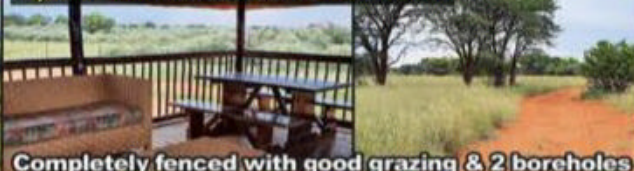
Tue. 10 March 2020 at 12:00 at Schweizer Reneke Golf Club on behalf of Viska Trust & F P & T Accounting services Pty Ltd

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



Completely fenced with good grazing & 2 boreholes

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

Reservoir

STUD CATTLE FARM



Bull stables & covered cattle pens. 350ha Planted grazing. 4 Camp system with 17 camps with water

PAYMENT TERMS: 5% DEPOSIT PLUS 3.5% BUYERS COMM & GUARANTEES WITHIN 60 DAYS.

Route: a) 50km from Christiana in the direction of Schweizer Reneke. B) 48km from Schweizer Reneke. GPS: 27°30'33.2"S 25°04'09.1"E



Clive Gardner

Afslalers
Auctioneers

www.plase.co.za cga@lantic.net

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Hendrik Nel: 082 491 8289
Dandré Nel: 076 503 7900

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Fax: 086 513 9743

natashakock@caxton.co.za

or

Rene Moonsamy

Tel: 087 087 8900

Fax: 086 514 0032

renea@caxton.co.za



AUCTIONS



CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. Full conditions of sale available on the day of auction. 2. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. 3. VAT is payable. (VAT no.) 4. Card and Internet facilities available at auction. 5. FICA documentation: Proof of permanent address & ID document. 6. Animals will only be loaded after payment.



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Enquiries: Marketing agent: Rudie v/d Heever: 076 989 9166 • Auctioneer: Theuns Visser: 082 338 1356
Wiep Joubert: 082 771 1372 Desré Ferreira: 083 440 9309 Guest Sellers:
wiepgenepoel@lantic.net marius@vbfvryburg.co.za Stanley Barkhuizen & Stafford Collen

12TH PRODUCTION SALE

11 MARCH 2020 AT 11:00

VRYBURG SHOW GROUNDS

ON OFFER:

- 30 stud & grade rams
(under auspices of the SA Boer goat Breeders Society)
- 40 stud & grade ewes
(under auspices of the SA Boer goat Breeders Society)
- 40 commercial ewes (in all production stages)
(NOT under auspices of the Breeders Society)



MALONJENI GUEST FARM | Duly instructed by shareholders

± 250 HA GUEST FARM (WITH MOVABLES) IN VAAL TRIANGLE ± 4 472m² IMPROVEMENTS ON THE PROPERTY
R42 MEYERTON (GPS-COORDINATES: 26°36'11.8 "S / 28°09'47.0" O)



Online Bidding & Viewing Opens
24 February 2020 @ 08:00am

Viewing Date:
28 February 2020 09:00 - 14:00

Auction Date:
5 March 2020 @ 11:00am

- 15km from Meyerton golf club and 19km from the Vaal river!
- Ideal for: functions, camping, caravan, training and churches
- Facilities includes: petting zoo, put-put and staff quarters
- Camping area with ablution blocks & power points
- Bar area with open lapa, foreman's house and horse stables
- Ideal for: functions, caravan, camping, educational training and churches
- Liquor license still valid (available on request)
- Various wild life including: Zebra, Eland, Black Wildebeest & Red Hartebeest

R 25 000.00 Refundable Registration Deposit | Auction Leader: Rudi: 082 695 6658

www.sagrouponline.co.za

SA's Number 1 Platform
for Auctions & Sales WE INCREASE

STEYNSRUS AUCTION GPS: S28°01.7952' E027°42.5955'



WEDNESDAY • 4 March 2020

11:00 • Catherton • Steynsrus

ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE



Wiese Human 082 292 7358 - wiese150@gmail.com • Piet & Marika Human 082 417 8981 / 056 471 0879 - pmbhuman@gmail.com



**400 Top commercial
Beefmaster cattle**

200 Cows (in calf)

200 Heifers (ready for mating)

NOTE: Gestation status and catalogue information will be available at day of auction.

540 SMM sheep

40 REGISTERED Veld rams.

500 Kommercial SMM ewes

(in lamb; 4 tooth to full mouth)

Note: Excellent farming sheep will be on offer. Gestation status and catalogue information will be available at day of auction.

8 Alpacas

**(Herd guards;
Wethers)**

Route: From Steynsrus: Drive on the Lindley tar road (R76) for 13 km. Turn right on the Komspruit gravel road and drive 6.5 km until the T-junction. Turn left on the Arlington gravel road and drive 1 km until at school. Turn right and drive 3 km. Turn right at farm entrance. From Lindley: Drive on the Steynsrus tar road (R76) for 25 km. Turn left on the Komspruit gravel road and drive 6.5 km until the T-junction. Turn left on the Arlington gravel road and drive 1 km until at school. Turn right and drive 3 km. Turn right at farm entrance.

ENQUIRIES: Wilbur Meyer 082 349 3189. Auctioneer: Jan Mostert 083 306 8408. BKB Louw, KROONSTAD: 056 215 1851
For complete information, catalogue and conditions visit our web page: www.bkb.co.za



Visit our branch on the N14 Highway, Muldersdrift, Krugersdorp
www.dicla.com



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AGRICULTURE

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 Wide range of tractors
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Interested parties are required to submit their EOI completed with required minimum information by e-mail to: rotondo@idc.co.za. The closing date for the submission is 6 March 2020 at 12h00 CAT.

2020305

WWW.BASADZI.CO.ZA

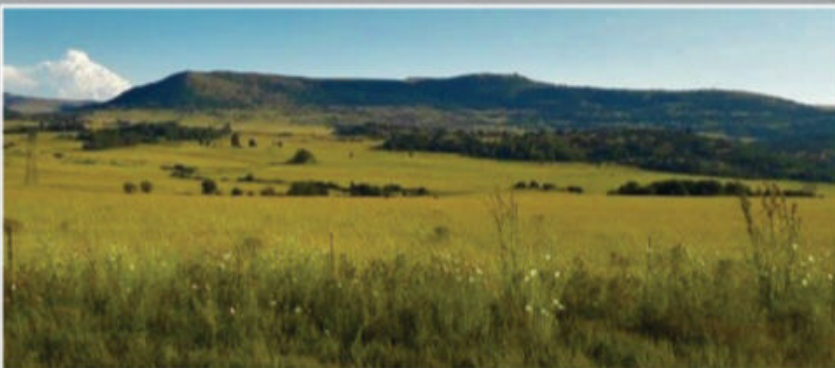
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Bookings, material and proof of payment must reach us 15 days prior to publication date. Deadlines may be brought forward in extreme circumstances without prior notice.

On-line Classifieds

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.

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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.

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 Cell: _____ E-mail: _____
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First one must be a heading and last line a contact number.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING INDEX

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René Moonsamy

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1030 WATER RIGHTS
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.

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2910 DONKEYS
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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

3310 SADDLES, BRIDLES, ETC
3410 MULES
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3510 Berkshire. 3520 Duroc. 3530 Large Black. 3540 Large White. 3550 Kolborek. 3560 Landrace. 3570 Minnesota. 3575 Other. 3580 Pig equipment.

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SHEEP

3704 Afrikaner. 3708 Afrino. 3712 Corriedale. 3716 Damara. 3720 Dormer. 3724 Dorper.

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3802 Point of Lay.

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4351 EMU

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4510 POULTRY FEEDS

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4810 SHEARING EQUIPMENT

4910 SLAUGHTERING EQUIPMENT

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5410 DOGS

5510 CATS

5605 QUAIL

5610 OTHER ANIMALS

crops

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5810 OILSEED CROPS

5910 FIBRE CROPS

6010 SUGAR CANE

6110 TOBACCO

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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.

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7310 Building and construction material. 7320 Building equipment and tools. 7330 Concrete and brick equipment. 7340 Dams, storage tanks and reservoirs. 7345 Electricians. 7350 Fences and fencing material. 7360 Services. 7370 Steel structures 7380 Tunnels

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7470 Used engines.

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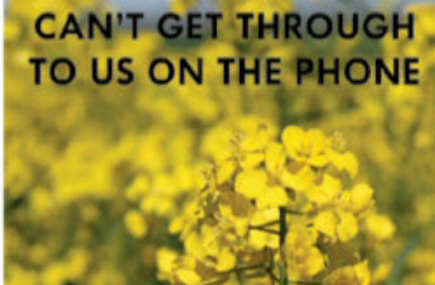
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3 minutes with ...

Denene Erasmus, editor of Farmer's Weekly

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 use some of the money to buy land, genetics and infrastructure to set up a Boer goat farm and export business. The rest I'd probably invest in agribusinesses listed on ZAR X.

What is the best advice you have ever been given, and who gave it to you?

One of my first jobs was as a ticket seller and later press administrator at the Edinburgh Festival. It's a huge, international event and emotions ran high in the weeks leading up to it. Whenever things got heated, my boss would say, "Will this matter a year from now?" To this day, in my work and personal life, whenever I face a challenge, I take a step back and consider the big picture. This has often saved me from overreacting, and alienating friends or colleagues, about things that are, in the greater scheme of things, rather insignificant.

If you were given carte blanche to effect one major change in South Africa tomorrow, how would you use this power?

I'd start by fixing primary education, putting structures in place to assess the competency and performance of teachers, and ensuring that every child was taught basic maths and the skills to read with comprehension. This needs to go hand in hand with the implementation of a proper, countrywide school feeding scheme [linked to a procurement scheme that benefits local farmers] which will ensure that every learner receives two nutritional meals per day. Too many children in this country go to school hungry, and you cannot learn on an empty stomach.

What is your favourite South African dish, and who first cooked it for you?

Skaapribbetjies and *pap*. My mother, Deonie Erasmus, is an exceptional cook and it's very difficult to choose just one of her dishes, but whenever I go home to the farm I put in a request, well in advance, for her slow-roasted lamb ribs. ■ 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

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

DIFFICULT

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