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HYDROPONICS

Farm without soil!

p3 + 11

ENHANCING NATURE

Holistic grazing

p4

MOUSSAKA RECIPE

A taste of Greece
in the Kalahari

p10

Animal health is Coert's passion

Even though Dr Pieter Wissekerke from Rustenburg in the North West died in 2016, his generous legacy ensures that deserving students have the opportunity to qualify as veterinarians. One of the very capable young people benefiting from this legacy, is Coert van der Westhuizen from Pretoria. Agri-Pulse visited Coert to learn more about his studies, as well as the services rendered by Onderstepoort. Read the full article on p 6 and 7 (Photo: Supplied)



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Dr Pieter Taljaard.

New CEO at Grain SA

AGRI-PULSE - Grain SA announced that Dr Pieter Taljaard was appointed as the organisation's new CEO.

He will take over the reins from Jannie de Villiers from September 1, following Jannie's earlier announcement that he will be stepping down as CEO at the end of August.

Pieter is well known in the agricultural sector and brings a wealth of expertise to this role, having served in a number of senior leadership capacities over the past years, currently as the Cereals and Industrial Crops Go-to-market strategy lead at Bayer Crop Science. He worked with Grain SA for many years in his capacity at Bayer, Monsanto, NWK and as lecturer at UFS.

Pieter obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State and spent the past six years in the seed industry. He is passionate about agriculture, which has also been his hobby as a part-time farmer for the past 19 years and he has a trained background in Agriculture and Applied Economics, specialising in Consumer and Production Economics, Econometrics as well as Mathematical Optimisation.

Mathews closed in saying: "I would also like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank Jannie for his years of commitment and hard work to bring the organisation where it is today, as he now steps down as CEO. He will not be lost to agriculture and his mentorship and spiritual journey will continue to influence the industry in times ahead."

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Van Rooyen Boerdery is 'n 4 000ha mielie en sonneblom boerdery in Lichtenburg, Noord-Wes. Die persoon sal deel wees van 'n span personeel wat pa staan vir die hele boerdery.

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- Die kandidaat moet aandag kan gee aan presiese werk, moet akkuraat en onafhanklik wees
- Bereid wees om lang ure te werk tydens besige seisoene
- Wel ter tale wees in beide Afrikaans en Engels

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Moon Phases July 2021



First Quarter Moon 1 July	First Quarter Moon 10 July	First Quarter Moon 17 July	First Quarter Moon 24 July	First Quarter Moon 31 July
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GRACELAND HYDROPONICS

Revolutionary - growing cucumbers without soil!

AGRIPULSE – BRITS – Graceland Hydroponics, situated in the Brits area, has been in business for more than 15 years and is currently one of the biggest producers of cucumbers in South Africa. Graceland has two production sites, in Silkaatsnek and Kleinfontein, mostly filled with cucumbers and Palermo sweet peppers. Together these two sites cover 6 hectares, completely closed greenhouses as well as a packaging facility. Graceland Hydroponics sells its products to major local retailers, Spar, Pick n Pay and Fresh Mark. AgriPulse visited the site in Silkaatsnek, where two hectares of cucumbers are planted in four greenhouses (0.5ha per greenhouse) and spoke to the managers, Eugene Smit and Frans Visser. “In Brits, the summers are very hot and dry, with high insect pressure. The winters are cold with occasional frost,” says Frans Visser. “Cucumbers are extremely sensitive and for successful production and high yields, a stable climate with moderate temperatures and humidity was created with hydroponics in our greenhouses and tunnels.” Hydroponics is a way to grow plants without soil, using different materials to support the roots of the plant, growing crops directly in nutrient-rich water. At Graceland all seedlings are grown in pinewood shavings at first, only to support the roots. Fresh water and nutrients are administered 8 to 10 times daily, directly to the roots. “Because the temperature and humidity in the greenhouses are constantly monitored, we can plant throughout the year in any weather circumstance. From planting the seedlings until harvesting them takes about four to six weeks, but it is extremely labour intensive,” Visser said. To keep cucumber plants as productive as possible, they will need to be pruned by constantly removing the tendrils from the plants. If the tendrils are left to grow, they can become problematic in maintenance. Additionally, the fruits for most greenhouse cucumbers should be thinned out to leave a single fruit developing at each leaf to maintain fruit quality. Only some of the small-fruited cucumbers should be allowed to produce multiple fruits at each leaf. “Our cucumber vines grow approximately 2.5m in height and then through a loop down which is also approximately 2.5m in length. After the plants reached maximum growth and were harvested, they are completely removed and 16 000 new seedlings per hectare are planted. In a year this cycle is repeated three times, harvesting approximately three million cucumbers.

*The difference between hydroponics, aquaponics and aeroponics In hydroponics, liquid or other materials like wood shavings are used to grow plants away from a soil environment. The plants’

roots get nutrition from water that is enriched with liquid plant food. Aeroponics is a method of growing plants in a moist environment. The plants are suspended in an enclosed setting and water, mixed with plant food, is sprayed onto the roots. Aquaponics is unlike both hydroponics and aeroponics. Aquaponics uses a combination of aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics. By adding fish into the equation, a natural ecosystem exists, in which fish, plants, and bacteria flourish off each other. Aquaponics systems work by using the waste from fish to naturally provide nutrients to nearby water-grown plants. Similarly, wild fish supply nutrients to plants in a natural ecosystem. Because hydroponics, aeroponics and aquaponics do not use soil as growth material, they can be established indoors in locations that have cold, severe climates. These growing methods can also be used in areas that have poor, sandy soil. Water farming could be the way that we feed our growing population.



Training your cucumber crop and pruning correctly can encourage proper fruit development, increase yields, and provide easier access for harvesting. “The process of growing cucumbers is labour intensive,” Eugene Smit said.



Hydroponics is a technique used to grow plants without soil. Cucumber seedlings are planted in these pinewood shavings, only to keep the roots intact. Fresh water and nutrients are administered 8 to 10 times daily, directly to the roots.



After six weeks the cucumbers are ready to harvest. Frans Visser shows one of the branches that is approximately 5 meters long.

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Implementing a holistic grazing management plan


AGRI-PULSE - Vryburg- Sandy Speedy is regarded as one of the pioneers of holistic beef cattle production in South Africa. Sandy and his daughter, Jennifer have their cattle ranch between Vryburg and Kuruman with their 'wagon wheel' grazing system. The Speedy family's journey towards holistic grazing management started in the 1960s. At the time, the likes of botanist John Acocks, and red meat producer Len Howell, were championing the counter-intuitive claim that grazing in South Africa was deteriorating because of overgrazing and under-stocking. "My father and I were convinced this was the way forward," says Sandy.

Sandy began implementing holistic farming practices on his 4 800ha farm, Zoetvlei, between Kuruman and Vryburg. "We are what we eat and as farmers we hold our nation's health in our very hands. We have the responsibility to grow good healthy food and believe that this starts with our soil," says Sandy. Healthy soil needs carbon, top litter and hoof action.

These are vital – not even rain plays such an important role. Rainfall is not our weakest link - management of the soil is. It is the effectiveness of the rain that falls – make every drop count. If the soil is receptive and healthy, it will react readily to any small amount of rain – even 2mm can get the veld to respond. How do we accomplish this? In 1994, Sandy's daughter, Jennifer, joined the operation, and today the pair run with more than 2000 Nguni cattle on the farm with herds of cows, calves and heifers

totaling more than 1600. The land has been divided into 13 grazing cells, which are divided into a total of 250 separate paddocks, averaging 20ha. The idea is to emulate the grazing patterns that existed in Africa before the free movement of grazing and browsing herbivores was halted. The breeding season is planned around the March equinox so that calves are born close to the summer solstice. "Only intense hoof action can restore vegetation and reverse the process of desertification, a major cause of climate change," explains Jennifer. "Holistic management is a method of managing livestock in rapid rotation to increase greater production sustainably and profitably."

Since the introduction of this approach, the stocking rate on Zoetvlei has increased from about 1 MLU/6ha to 1 MLU/2,5ha. In addition, the grass cover has become denser, and the species composition has improved markedly. Inevitably, the implementation of holistic management on Zoetvlei posed a number of challenges. Most importantly, Sandy and Jennifer had to discover for themselves the grazing pressure that was required, the optimal grazing period, and the ideal length of the recovery period. They also had to learn through trial and error how and when to move the livestock to the correct areas on the farm.

A photograph of a young woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a pink polo shirt, and an older man with glasses and a blue plaid shirt. They are both smiling and standing outdoors in front of a clear blue sky and some dry vegetation. The text "Jennifer and Sandy Speedy." is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

Sandy and Jennifer had to discover for themselves the grazing pressure that was required, the optimal grazing period, and the ideal length of the recovery period.


CALVING MANAGEMENT

Another early difficulty was working out how to keep cow and calf pairs together in a densely packed herd of breeding cows calving on the move. Between 30 and 40 calves are born daily during the peak calving season. This means that a large herd can contain as many as 250 calves younger than a week old. “It could spell disaster if even a small percentage of the calves are lost due to calving problems. That’s why it’s so important to choose the right breed for the job, such as the Nguni,” says Jennifer.

WATERING THE HERD

To supply water to the constantly moving herd, the Speedy's use smaller water reservoirs 4,6m in diameter and 3m high. This ensures a steady flow to the troughs even if the water levels in the reservoirs are low. The reservoirs are connected to the troughs with pipes 80mm in diameter, and 50mm ball valves control the flow. Each trough is 4m long, 300mm wide and 200mm deep. The water is pumped from windmills, mainly by two mono pumps, via a network of plastic pipes. This setup makes it possible to provide water to approximately 1 300 cattle, even in the hot North West summers.

THE WAGON WHEEL



and Sandy Speedy.

The fences radiate out from each watering point like the spokes of a wagon wheel. In the early days, Sandy was concerned that the narrow triangular pieces leading to the watering areas would be destroyed by trampling. Over the past 30 years, however, exactly the opposite has happened. “These pieces of land regenerate much quicker than the further reaches of the camps,” he says. A kraal forms the hub of the wheel. The large herds are moved after a single day, while the smaller herds of heifers and weaners are moved every three to four days. “In my experience, the cattle like to be moved rapidly,” says Jennifer. “They enjoy the new, fresh grazing. They’ve become so used to the rapid movement that they actually move to the next camp without being herded as soon as the gate is opened.”

To increase stocking rate and improve veld production and condition, selective grazing has to be eliminated as far as possible, and the cattle must be able to utilize all of the available vegetation. Moreover, the veld should be severely grazed from time to time, which is like “cleaning out the pantry”, Sandy explains. Ideally, this process should be carried out during dry periods. For all this to work, cattle must be bred for a high relative intake. This is another reason the Speedy’s changed to smaller framed, non-selective Ngunis in 2000. “Calving problems have largely been eliminated since the introduction of the smaller cows, and the small calves are up and about much quicker than those from bigger- framed cows,” notes Sandy.

He and Jennifer were also able to push up the cattle numbers from about 1 200 to way more

than 2 000 after the introduction of the smaller-framed animals. Another advantage of the Nguni lies in its horns: they enable the cattle to open up the bush and reach patches of grazing that would otherwise have remained inaccessible. "At present we have a stocking rate of one animal per two ha. Our goal is one animal per ha," says Jennifer.

SOIL RESTORATION

By not understocking and overgrazing, but by having a large herd in a small camp for a short period of time. For example, +1700 cattle in 20-hectare camps moved daily. This allows for lots of dung, urine and trampling which leads to compost and mulch forming which in turn feeds the soil. The quality of grass after a bit of rain under these circumstances is astounding. By getting the veld grazed down you are helping put the carbon back into the soil and fire is less likely to occur. Fire sets the veld back not only destroying habitats, killing many different animals (all of which play an important role in the health of the environment) but also sends the much needed carbon straight into the air. We are finding that the more cattle we have, the more we are able to have as the quality of the grass just gets better and better. Cattle are also utilizing everything that grows as we are forcing them to graze non-selectively. The grazing, defecation, salivation and hoof action of moving herds build up soil, restore vegetation and reverse the effects of desertification. "My father and I aim to retain the integrity of the soil by using the cattle as 'a tool'," says Jennifer. Animal dung and urine is needed to provide organic matter to create an environment suitable for soil micro-organisms. These, in turn, improve the mineral content of the soil, and increase its capacity to retain moisture and resist erosion. Jennifer and Sandy are convinced that well-adapted animals kept in a properly functioning ecosystem do not require licks and supplements, as all the necessary minerals are provided by balanced soil.

The Speedy's cattle are remarkably free of ticks, a fact that Jennifer ascribes to the breed's natural tick resistance, as well as the high numbers of insectivore bird species found on their farm. These include cattle egrets and red-billed oxpeckers.

NATURE'S WAY

Droughts are essential in nature, as they remove moribund vegetation, Jennifer stresses. During a drought, termites bury a wide variety of seeds, providing a seed bank for when the rain comes. "Since we've decided to let nature take its course, we've seen the return of species such as wattled starlings and bat-eared foxes," says Sandy. "This underscores our philosophy that even the smallest parts of nature play an essential role in keeping a balance. "Weeds play an important role in building soil. They are pioneer plants and create a more favourable habitat for the more palatable grasses to grow. We, as cattle producers, also play a part in the cycle of nature and must plan our operations accordingly." Cattle fattened and readied for market on the veld have huge health benefits for the consumer and of course has that desired yellow fat. Better soil with added better grass equals better beef.



Calving problems have largely been eliminated since the introduction of the smaller cows.



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Beekopers at Bejo strive to breed top-quality colonies and keep the bee population healthy. Bees are the seed company’s main pollinators, helping to fertilise 80% of its crops. Varroa mites pose a huge threat to the insects. Research and selection aimed at promoting bee health are therefore of crucial importance, says Bejo apiarist Bram Vroegop. Bees are pollination champions, Vroegop points out; if we lose them, we’ll have a big problem. The reason the insects are so effective is that they can be deployed in a controlled manner in large numbers. Each hive a beekeeper places in a greenhouse or a field contains a colony of 20,000 to 40,000 pollinators. “The health of the bees is very important,” says. “A colony has to be in peak condition. Bees have an unerring sense of when a crop is ready for pollination. And the quality of the bees determines the extent of pollination.”

STRONG COLONIES

Bejo has more than 15,000 bee colonies around the world, 1,200 of them in the Netherlands. Each colony consists of a queen, 20,000 to 40,000 workers, and 500 drones. The queen lays eggs, and the drones are there only to fertilise her. The workers, which only live for six weeks, do the pollinating. Bee research and selection focuses mainly on varroa mites, the primary cause of bee mortality, Vroegop says. “To keep the bee population as healthy as possible, we select the strongest colonies and use them for further breeding. At Bejo we don’t just improve vegetable crops but also bee colonies.”

In selecting colonies, breeders look at four traits: foraging behaviour, tendency to swarm, hygienic behaviour (how well the bees cope with disease), and varroa sensitive hygiene (VSH), or resistance to varroa mites. “We breed our own queens from our very best colonies, so that we get very healthy and vital colonies for optimum pollination,” Vroegop says. “In our research we also look for ways of using nutrition and better apicultural techniques to develop stronger bee colonies.”

ALLIUM POLLINATION

For greenhouse pollination, a crop specialist determines when it’s time to introduce bees – often, it’s when 10% to 20% of the crop is flowering. He or she also decides when pollination is complete. The number of hives needed depends on the size of the greenhouse. Flight behaviour is continuously monitored. Alliums are pollinated between early June and mid-July; a hive can remain in a greenhouse for three to four weeks. Flower fields are planted outside the greenhouses to give the bees a place to fully recover after pollination. “Pollination weakens the colonies,” Vroegop explains. “It’s important to give the insects a chance to recuperate when they come out of the greenhouse. If necessary, we feed them sugar water.” Every evening the bees return to the greenhouse. There, they clean themselves for the following day. This prevents pollination with extraneous pollen from the flower fields, the apiarist says. “Bees are very hygienic creatures. So it’s important that we work in a hygienic way too.” Bejo’s beekeepers are taking part in a varroa mite research study with Inholland University of Applied Sciences, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, and the Arista Bee Research foundation. “In this research project we’re looking for a genetic marker to see if a colony is varroa mite-resistant,” Vroegop says.





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Wissekerke remembrance lives on



"It might be hard work, but it is my calling. I would not change it for the world." Coert van der Westhuizen is currently in his final year of study at Onderstepoort.

AGRI PULSE - RUSTENBURG - Even though Dr Pieter Wissekerke from Rustenburg in the North West died in 2016, his generous legacy ensures that deserving students have the opportunity to qualify as veterinarians.

Dr Wissekerke, veterinarian and a very successful businessman, never married and had no dependents. After his passing all his property and possessions were sold at auctions and the proceeds were donated to the University of Pretoria to enable promising students to immerse themselves in veterinary science.

One of the gifted young people who benefits from this legacy is Coert van der Westhuizen from Pretoria. Agri-Pulse visited the very capable young man, who is currently a final-year student at Onderstepoort.

Coert was still a boy when he decided he was going to become a vet. His beloved cat died of a rare disease and the boy decided that he was going to dedicate his life to saving animals. Coert, however, did not wait for that elusive 'One day'; he started volunteering at a vet while still in high school. He also helped out at various animal shelters. These activities, together with his excellent matric academic achievements, helped him to pass the extremely strict selection to be accepted as a veterinary student - and it gave him the edge in qualifying for the Pieter Wissekerke Scholarship.

"Many young people have the dream of becoming a veterinarian, it's true. But the group that makes it to the end is significantly smaller," says Coert. Because you need to have hair on your teeth. Besides having to excel academically, the practical work is a lot, it's hard, and it's difficult. "You also have to be emotionally strong. Of course, you are affected by the pain of the animal you are treating, but you cannot let it get the upper hand over you. You also have to keep in mind that you are going to have to deal with the worst that humanity can be when you come across animals that have been tortured," says Coert. Although he initially thought he wanted to specialize in the treatment of pets, his heart now is set on making the treatment and rehabilitation of birds of prey his specialist field when he completes his Zuma Year at the end of next year. Either that, or the treatment of horses. Fortunately, he had the opportunity to deal with almost every possible department of animal health at Onderstepoort - the only institution of its kind in South Africa.

"Our surgical department, with specialist anesthetists, is so highly regarded that people from all over the country come here for help with their animals. It even happens that people with a really sick pet fly here with the little animal," says Coert. Anyone can get help for their animals at Onderstepoort, although it is preferable that their local veterinarian refer them. Costs are not much more expensive than what you would pay at your vet, but the difference is that some of the most knowledgeable people are gathered here. And, if the animal needs to be admitted to the hospital, there is 24-hour supervision and observation.

Some of the other sections at Onderstepoort include the dentistry department. "Here we treat from a domestic cat to an elephant!" explains Coert. He adds that many students enjoy the wildlife department a lot because they get the opportunity to meet some extraordinary patients. "It's not every day that you can treat a rhino," he jokes. And, he adds, at the Exotic Animal Clinic it is sometimes literally a page from 'The Jungle Book' with snakes, tigers, monkeys and the like that need to be treated. As mentioned, Coert has a soft spot for horses and it is therefore one of his favorite sections. "Horses are extremely complicated and as a result this department is very specialized," explains Coert. Of course, this also applies to the Fertility and Reproduction Department. Coert also enjoys the work of the Diagnostic / Radiology department. "Our Orthopedic department also does pioneering work," he says.

One of the departments where excellent work is also done is the Ophthalmology (eye care) department. It was recently upgraded and is now in full swing once again. Onderstepoort also has two community animal clinics - one outside Pretoria and one in the Lowveld. "In the immediate vicinity of these clinics,

it is very noticeable that the incidence of distemper, cat flu and rabies is much less.

Students from Onderstepoort are regularly involved in animal health campaigns and help a lot with vaccination projects that are held in areas where people do not have easy access to a veterinarian. There are even projects that are done in neighboring countries because the kind of services that Onderstepoort offers are rare in Sub-Saharan Africa - in fact, the whole of Africa. To encourage expertise, the faculty regularly donates textbooks to students from universities elsewhere on the continent.

"As I said, this is hard work. But that is my calling, and I cannot imagine exchanging it for anything else under the sun," Coert concludes. Coert, your future patients are undoubtedly in good hands.

For more information about their services, contact Onderstepoort at 012 529 8350.

Prospective student can visit the University of Pretoria's website at <https://bit.ly/upacstudents> for more information.

For information about the Wissekerke Bursary, or other available study aid, contact Helping Hand a <https://bit.ly/helpendehandstudie>



Some days, Coert says, Onderstepoort quite resembles a page from 'Jungle Book', considering the patients crossing your path.



Specializing in the treatment of horses is high on Coert's list of priorities.



Onderstepoort is open of a kind in South Africa. The services rendered here are so acclaimed that people from across the country bring their animals here for treatment.

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11 AUGUSTUS 2021
BORNEO | DELAREVILLE | 11:00

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50 SP VROULIKE DIERE (ALLE STADIA) (35 POENA)
10 KOMMERSIËLE VROULIKE DIERE

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STEVEN MATHEWS : 076 865 0640
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If you consider a career as a veterinary, you'll have to be prepared to get your hands - and the rest of your body - dirty. Horses do not have the ability to regurgitate (vomit) and, when needed, a vet will have to physically assist.

SIZANA BEEFMASTERS

JIV 17 49

30 BULLE | 60 VROULIK
VROULIKE DIERE IN ALLE STADIA VAN PRODUKSIE • GEREGEREERDE EN KOMMERSIËLE DIERE

PRODUKSIEVEILING
DONDERDAG | 12 AUGUSTUS 2021
11:00 | VRYBURG SKOUGRONDE

GASVERKOPER: BHETJANE CATTLE Co. - DF FYFER

Vir meer inligting besoek André Kock & Son Livestock Auctioneer/Estate Agent Facebook Blad.

HERMAN DAMES : 083 953 5717
MALCOLM KOCK : 082 333 0911
IGNUS VAN NIEKERK : 082 935 0926
DF FYFER : 083 385 2085
THEUNS VISSER (AFSLAER) : 082 338 1356

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Alternative power – will it save South Africa (and the world?)

Deur: Waldie Volschenk

AGRIPULSE – NORTH WEST - President Cyril Ramaphosa announced roughly 24 days ago that private individuals and institutions would no longer need approval (or a licence) from government or Eskom (or anyone) for the purpose of generating up to 100mW electricity. Simultaneously, the time-consuming, costly and laborious process of have these regulations policed until recently, have been abandoned altogether.

In doing this Ramaphosa had, without question, made one of his biggest “sacrifices” or if you will, contributions towards the well-being and growth of South Africa in a new age. It might be said that the “hindsight” was long overdue... There is and never was any doubt that a move away from total dependency on Eskom as the country’s only authorised energy supplier, would mean unlimited possibilities in terms of the country’s economy, growth, compliance with regard to international regulations and ideas for the future, the unlimited potential for the country’s industries, factories, plants, mines, hospitals, schools, municipalities and the list goes on and on. Of course, perhaps most important is the believe of the South African people and the moral and attitudes of these very people that would be restored after decades of load-shedding, of endless power interruptions, exorbitant tariffs by Eskom and involuntary enslavement to Eskom for the sake of a “little” electricity.

That was when the President finally saw the light to realize that South African had reached the end




of the road with Eskom as only authorised power utility. There must have been a “revelation” to Ramaphosa that South African had more enough of said load-shedding, power interruptions and above all – scandals that would (and did) stun the world! What the announcement means to South Africa The details, the musts and must nots, the wheres, and whys are currently being formulated and is awaited with great anticipation. We are still far from knowing “everything we’d like to know but we can trust that this would be the jackhammer to set South Africa free from its chains of enslavement to government bureaucracy! Let’s us wait patiently! What we do know however, is that this might just be the golden key to unlock a brilliant future for all its citizens! It would also be sustainable for alternative means “green”, in exhaustible, renewable, cheaper, reliable and constant.


Monstrously huge “fans” in the Caledon landscape on the other side of the “Overberg” in the harvesting of our country’s fine wind resources.





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What the experts say:

Ockie van Schalkwyk – owner of ZASolar

“The announcement by Ramaphosa is a move in the right direction. Though it will not restore the country’s electricity woes overnight, this will free up the hands of the private sector to do it easier. South Africa has excellent sources of sun and wind, both sources we aim at to exploit maximally! Unfortunately, there are also quite a few challenges – both sources are “periodical” at best, which of course will lead us to finding new ideas and solutions in terms of storage abilities – perhaps also another venue for income generation” as a matter of fact! There will be best options for large factories, smaller shops or domestic use! Whatever sector you find yourself in – you will be catered for no matter what! Readers wishing for more information or who feels like planning in advance, are most welcome to contact Ockie on 076 708 6951 / 012 940 2157 or email: ockie@zasolar.co.za

Naas Grové – President of the South African Dendrological Society

The shortage in electricity is the biggest obstacle ever threatening the economy of South Africa. Load-shedding has a tremendous frustration in all our lives and must be seen for what it is – sure evidence that not “everything” is well in this country in terms of accountability and responsibility – load-shedding could also mean hesitance or outright refusal by international banks and countries to consider the country a safe haven for foreign investment. The sooner load-shedding could be abandoned, the better. This is a step in the right direction!

Chris Breytenbach – fellow-Principal of

Era Properties

Areas such as the west coast, east coast and metros such as Cape Town, East London and Port Elizabeth have wonderful resources (wind) to be harvested. It would be foolish not to embrace this technology. In time solar panels and batteries will also become cheaper as the need for these increased. In turn perhaps the end of the coal and fossil era!

Ekkehard Pape – businessman and leading farmer from “Steinfurt Boerdery” in North West. This a very promising move. This also minimizes current irresponsible, central and unilateral control and management. The bio fuels project couldn’t get off the ground – why? An improvement in supply should and will be welcomed!

Johann Snyman – prominent businessman and leader principal of Rustenburg Toyota

The announcement is welcomed with open arms! Pity it didn’t come at least five or ten years earlier. We could have been able to overcome the current crisis and damage to the economy! It will however take time and money! Our current problems are not going to disappear overnight. Let us pray for a miracle.

Deon Verster – businessman and hydraulic specialist

Let us hope that this announcement will be “captured” by those with evil motives as in the recent past. Especially in government departments such as Minerals and Energy and Public Enterprises. Many people realize that the longer South Africa is held at ransom and enslaved to Eskom, the better for certain parties. Let us hope for a dramatic turnabout!



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Stella Patsalos with the final product of her mouthwatering Moussaka.

A taste of Greece in the Kalahari

AGRI-PULSE – VRYBURG – In our neck of the woods steak is what we eat. Now or then we might add chicken – because you need vegetables too, don't you? But, as they say: A change is as good as a holiday. Another piece of proverbial gold is, of course 'variety is the spice of life'. So, here you have it then: from the heart of 'boerekos', we bring you a little taste of Greece. Moussaka is one of the most iconic Greek dishes. If you haven't had it before, this is your opportunity. And, as any Greek will tell you, you haven't really lived until you have tasted it. There are lots of variations of the traditional

Moussaka with family recipes giving it a twist or two. The traditional Moussaka recipe consists of sautéed eggplant, ground lamb, a layer of potatoes, and a final fluffy topping of cheese and béchamel sauce. However, Moussaka can also be made vegetarian for non-meat eaters. Charlize van der Linden visited Vryburg resident, Stella Patsalos, for a taste of this classic Greek dish that can be enjoyed in winter and summer. Stella, who is a Cypriot, immigrated with her parents at the young age of eight months to South Africa. Besides making mouthwatering Moussaka, Stella is very creative and as a hobby she decorates ceramic plates and sea stones. She also loves writing children's stories, of which 'The adventures of Songololo' are but one.



Volg die skakel <https://bit.ly/littlegreeceinthekalahari> en kuier saam met Stella Patsalos en Agri-Pulse.



Ingredients:

- 1 kg mince
- 3 medium onions
- 115g tomato paste/puree
- Spices:
- 1t cinnamon
- salt + pepper
- 4 medium potatoes
- 3 large aubergines(eggplant)
- ½ cup breadcrumbs
- 3t mixed spice
- nutmeg to taste
- olive oil

Béchamel sauce ingredients:

- 100g butter
- 1 ½ l full cream milk
- ¾ cup flour
- 2 eggs
- Parmesan or other grated cheese (optional)

Method:

Cook potatoes slightly. Slice aubergines lengthwise about 3 mm thick. Place slices on a tray and salt both sides. Put aubergines in a strainer for an hour to allow for juices to drip away. While waiting for the juices to drip away, peel and cut potatoes lengthwise about 3 mm thick. Drizzle olive oil over cut potatoes in a bowl, add salt and pepper and mix with the hands. Place potatoes on oven tray and bake in oven for 45 min at 180°. Place aubergines on oven tray and bake for 45 min at 180°. While the potatoes and aubergines are baking, chop onions in small cubes and place in a deep frying pan with olive or other oil. Add salt, pepper, 3t mixed spice, 1t cinnamon. Place once browned. Let all simmer on medium heat for 15 min. Add ½ cup water and add to mince put aside. When the potatoes and aubergines are ready, start layering potatoes, then aubergines and then mince in an oven dish about 40 x 35cm deep.

Béchamel sauce:

Beat two eggs in a cup and put aside. Melt 100g butter in a deep pot. Add ¾ cup flour and mix with butter until very light golden brown. Remove from heat and add 1 ½ litre milk. Return to heat and stir constantly until sauce starts to thicken. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add a sachet of Parmesan or other grated cheese to sauce and stir (optional). When sauce is thick, remove from heat and immediately place pot with sauce in a basin of cold water, just enough to cover the bottom half of the pot. Pour the eggs in the sauce while whisking. Remove from the water. Now take the dish with layered potatoes, aubergines and mince and slowly pour Béchamel sauce over the mince and leave space in the dish for cooking. Sprinkle nutmeg over the sauce. Place dish in oven and bake for an hour or until golden brown at 180°.

Serve with a salad or any other side serving.



Sliced potatoes and Aubergines baking in oven.



Sauteéd onions and browned mince



Mixing the butter with the flour and cooking until light golden brown.



The thick Béchamel sauce



Layering of the potatoes, Aubergines and mince.



Oracle Farming Tech's view is you don't need a tractor or plow or other big implements and machinery or to own a farm to be a farmer, those days are far gone.



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Hydroponic Farming! Alternative to traditional farming?



Roots of the plants harvested from the Hydroponic Farming method.

Finished product that is ready to be sold.

Jabulani Senyatso

AGRIPULSE - RUSTENBURG – As we all know that farming plays a very important role in communities by providing food and job security as well as alleviating hunger and poverty.

While Kutlwano Tisane (24) and his partner Karabo Percyval Alset (24) were looking at exploring urban farming as a concept, they came across various challenges that hindered them acting as barriers of entry into the commercial farming space. However these challenges they came across gave birth to a new method that would help them succeed in their endeavours.

In an interview with AgriPulse Kutlwano said, fresh out of school they devised ways to navigate the capital intensive nature of traditional farming and with limited resources they decided to venture into the manufacturing space of constructing food grade developed Hydroponic machines that would enable them to:

1. Utilise 90% less land while matching production
2. Utilise 90% less water to sustain commercial production
3. Harvest nutrient loaded produce grown in a controlled environment
4. Growing plants 2X faster compared to traditional methods

5. Secure the consistency of production quality

The duo in their journey have established their own brain child called "Oracle Farming Technologies" which focuses on manufacturing products for their partnered retail stores (HomeGrowers) across Gauteng as well as clients that embrace the 4th Industrial Revolution transition in the agricultural space.

They visited various schools and organisations in and around Rustenburg, launching their educational programme and to display their idea in physical form and have been guest speakers to government partnered initiatives the likes of "African Farmers' Association of South Africa" (AFASA) where they showcased their product.

They are located at Unit 2 Maangan Street, Zinniaville Industrial, Rustenburg.

For more information on Oracle Farming Technologies go to their various social platforms:

Co - Founder: 0823310400

Office: +27145385003

Facebook - Oracle Farming Technologies

Twitter - Oracle Farming Technologies

Instagram - Oracle Farming Technologies

To view a short interview with the two partners please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/hydroponicfarming>



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27 AUGUSTUS 2021

11:00 | REIVILO VEILINGSKRALE

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KLK Landbou Bpk bied aan

37^{ste} Jaarlikse Kuruman Ram- en Bulveiling

Vrydag 6 Augustus 2021

KLK Kuruman Veilingskompleks

Ramme en Ooie 10:00 Bulle 13:00

Aanbod: 103 Ramme 47 Ooie 65 Bulle

RAMME & OOIE

Dorpers

40 Ramme 17 Ooie

Witdorpers

27 Ramme 13 Ooie

Persies

2 Ramme

Meatmasters

10 Ramme 5 Ooie

Van Rooy

14 Ramme

Boerbokke

10 Ramme 12 Ooie

BULLE

Sussex

8 Bulle

Bonsmara

11 Bulle

Beefmaster

9 Bulle

Brahman

8 Bulle

Simmentaler

17 Bulle

Hereford

4 Bulle

Drakensberger

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Chinese Geese

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG – Chinese Geese usually weigh accordingly - gander 4.5 to 5.4kg and the goose 3.6 to 4.5kg. The Chinese Goose is a breed of domesticated goose descended from the wild Swan Goose. It is a prolific breed of the smaller-bodied type of goose, which has, in recent years become popular on the show bench and in having an often strongly developed basal knob on the upper side of the bill. The knob is more prominent on males than females. Chinese

geese are a close cousin of the African goose. White Chinese geese's plumage of both sexes is pure white, the bill and knob is orange, the shanks and toes may vary from orange to yellow and their eyes must be blue. Brown or grey Chinese geese's plumage of both sexes, the head is a dark russet brown, with face fawn up to the demarcation line above the eyes, the face band is a definite white band or line from top of head to as far down the face

as possible. Their neck is a fawn colour with prominent dark russet-brown stripe down middle of back of neck for its entire length. Their back is a russet-brown and the breast a grayish-fawn from under mandible well down to body where it becomes lighter. The thighs are a breast russet-brown on the side, each feather edged with a lighter shade of grayish-fawn, approaching white. The wing, bow and coverts are medium russet-brown, each feather laced with a lighter grayish-fawn edging, approaching white, flights are a russet-brown, where the stern, paunch and tail are a lighter shade of grayish-fawn, approaching white. The tail having a broad band of russet-brown across with light edging, the bill is black or dark slate, the knob is a dark slate, and the eyes are brown. The legs and web is orange. Some of the disqualifications are an absence of knob, heavy gullet, positive smut in under colour ie one or more entire feather, or fluff, smutty. Carriage is upright, compact and active. The body is compact and plump, the back reasonably short, broad, flat and sloping to give a characteristic upright carriage. Breast is well-rounded and plump, carried high. The wings are large, strong and high up, carried closely. The stern is well-rounded and well-developed paunch, tail is close and carried well out. The head is medium and proportionate, the bill is stout at base, symmetrical medium size. The knob is large, rounded and prominent, smaller in the goose than in the gander. Their eyes are bold, the neck is long, swan-like, carried upright, but with graceful arch and refined. Longer in the gander than in the goose. For more information please contact Rustenburg Poultry Club: Hanri at 083 465 1486, Dawie at 071 196 7696 or Marlize at 072 668 1495; Email: rustenburgpoultryclub@gmail.com.

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