

www.agripulse.co.za FEBRUARIE 2022



The Augrabies Falls is at it again this year — making a really big noise since the level of the Orange River has risen alarmingly in recent months. Since the end of December 2021 South Africans and visitors have flocked to the Augrabies Falls spectable in great numbers and needless to say, these people were not disappointed. The flow of the Orange River is usually between 20 and 50 cumec but has shown a sharp increase of up to 3000 cumec after heavy showers all over the country. In January 2022 no less than 3 522 cumec were recorded at the falls which proved to be an extraordinary spectable! It is amazing to think that during the floods of 1974 more than 8 000 cumec were recorded here. It is interesting to note that the ravine at the falls is 240 meters (800 feet) deep and some 18 kilometers long. According to experts this is an excellent example of granite erosion. Day visitors need not book at all. The park is open from 07:00 to 18:00 and those wishing to visit could call 012 428 9111. You could also visit the website www.sanparks.org #LiveYourWild #SANParks (Photo: Julinda Hayes). Click on https://bit.ly/augrabiesnwareskouspel and experience the Augrabies in all its glory!



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Tribute to a great spirit

AGRI-PULSE - BLOEMFONTEIN - Dr Michael Bradfield (56), beloved scientist, geneticist, industry leader who has left deep footprints in the red meat industry for many years, passed away on January 6, 2022. He was a dedicated scientist with a BSc (Hons) from the University of the Free State in 1992, an MSc from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and a PhD in animal genetics from the University of New England in Australia in 2000.

His contribution in the genetic improvement of especially the South African cattle breeds was monumental and his regular articles in agricultural publications, lectures and consultations were based on selection based on measurable breeding values. Dr Bradfield's expertise is widely recognized and he has regularly consulted in other African countries and South East Asia and given lectures around the world. Furthermore, he was a skilled

administrator who served as CEO (HEB) of the Livestock Registration Federation (LRF) was instrumental in the effective administration and management of various cattle breed societies in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. His leading role as HEB of the Wagyu Society (WSA), during the organization's formative years, with his sharp focus on strategy and structure, has led to a successful breed society with worldwide recognition. As director of the annual Aldam Livestock School, Dr Bradfield provided red meat producers with valuable expertise over the years of his involvement. This school is regarded internationally and speakers from all over the world take part in it every year. At the time of his death, Dr Bradfield was working on plans to expand the

His many years of contribution as a board member of the Red Meat Producers Organization (RPO) were invaluable. In particular, his recent active contribution to bringing together all role

livestock school to an event for livestock farmers

from across Africa.

Dr Michael Bradfield

players in the private and public sectors to establish traceability as a counterweight to communicable diseases is worth gold to the industry.

During his career, he has received several awards, including the LRF Award for his service to the livestock industry in Africa - one of the most prestigious awards in the agricultural industry.

He also received the World Wagyu Council's Honorary Ambassador Award in December 2021 - a first of its kind for the selfless service to establish collaboration between Wagyu societies from around the world. "But above all, his love for our livestock farmers and his empathy with their challenges will always remain with us. No matter how busy he was, he made time to listen patiently and give advice. Working together to establish markets, overcome administrative problems, take the lead and find solutions," Johan de Vos, Wagyu Society chairman, wrote in a tribute.

"He leaves great footprints in the industry, community and in the hearts of our farmers," De Vos concluded.

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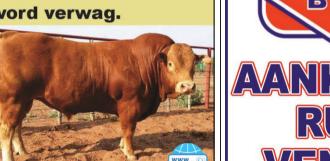
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"RPO loses a great friend"

AGRI-PULSE - The National Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO) expressed their sadness at the passing of one of its most respected and valued colleagues and friend, Dr Michael Bradfield. "Michael was a true friend of the RPO and the input he provided within the RPO's Executive Council was invaluable. The passion he had for the South African red meat industry was remarkable," said James Faber. Dr Bradfield's input was not only instrumental regarding the new statutory levy application, but he was also

closely involved in the implementation of a traceability system for South Africa - with his knowledge of international traceability systems it was a great asset for South Africa. The gap left with his departure is truly a huge blow, not only to the RPO but also to South Africa's red meat industry. The RPO Executive Council hereby expresses its sincere sympathy and condolences to Michael's family. The loss is great, but we trust the Heavenly Father to support his family in this sad time





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Pieter en Jan Steinman, father and son who together manage the family business.

On the photo one can see the Twee Rivier auctionpoint of Swarico Auctioneers.





The large livestock kraal at Lichtenburg in 1997. Approximately 3 700 large livestock are auctioned each month at Swarico Auctioneers.



Jan Steinman in 1997 at the Lichtenburg Auction.



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NORTH WEST - AGRI - PULSE - After 31 years in the industry, Swarico Auctioneers is a household name in the North West Province and offers their excellent service to farmers.

Swarico uses a free market enterprise system to offer a comprehensive auction service based on professional expertise and decades of experience to the benefit of all their clients. Swarico was founded in 1991 and started with just one auction point. Jan Steinman started working for Swarico in 1992 as a marketer and in 1997 took over ownership of Swarico Auctioneers. It is still owned and operated today as a family business by Jan and his son Pieter and has expanded to eleven auction points with more than sixteen weekly and monthly large and small stock auctions during which approximately 3700 large livestock and 2800 small stock are auctioned each month.

They also offer special auctions ranging from breeding and fattening auctions to property and movable property. The auction points are located in Slurry, Lichtenburg, Ventersdorp, Zeerust, Ottosdal, Nietverdiend, Hartbeesfontein, Swartruggens, Twee Riviere, Groot Marico and Tshidilamolomo. Swarico Auctioneers is working closely with the police service to ensure that buyers never buy stolen

Swarico's team consists of thirty knowledgeable managers, marketers and administrative staff who all have one goal in mind ... the success of every buyer

Their marketing team is always available to make farm visits during which they evaluate livestock earmarked for auctions and provide the best advice on buying and selling livestock. The team always puts the interests of buyers and sellers first. Swarico Auctioneers are looking forward to doing business with you. Contact numbers in the different areas are as follows:

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Steinman Coetzee - 0715282924 Pieter Steinman – 0828779954 Jaco Nel - 0798839911

Ottosdal:

Theo de Jager – 0823980783

Swartruggens:

Twee Riviere:

Sampie Cronjé – 0847672072 Christo Coetzee - 0828582153

Zeerust:

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Nietverdiend:

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Jacques Cronje - 0781136136 / 0646613098

Tshidilamolomo:

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Heavy rains could bring more locust swarms until May

AGRI-PULSE - Earlier this year, the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Land Reform and Rural Development has noted calls from members of the public on the upsurge of the flying brown locust outbreak in various towns of the Northern Cape Province.

The Northern Cape and Eastern Cape recently experienced their longest drought in 100 years. The seven year drought, starting with lack of rains in February 2013, wrought havoc on this sheep farming community. When the summer rains finally fell in October 2020 the farmers had to contend with a locust outbreak as well.

Agri SA centre of excellence natural resources chairman, Willem Symington, says this is not something new and farmers are ready for it.



The province had been expecting huge swarms during the rainy season towards the end of last year.

Speaking to Wasanga Mehana, Agri SA centre of excellence natural resources chairman Willem Symington says farmers are ready and the government is assisting farmers with persticides.

Symington says "This one this year is quite large and it's taking quite an effort to control it. There is nothing they can do about it, it's a natural phenomenon. If we do our work and control them on a year on year basis we will never reach those biblical proportions of locusts."

This years swarms are the result of hoppers reaching a flying stage, and an uncontrollable influx of the swarm (flyers) which have crossed borders from Namibia into the Northern Cape, through areas such as Poffader, Pela, Onseepkans, Noeniput, Askham, Springbok and Blad-grond.

The swarm was also spotted in the interior parts of the Province, such as Upington, Kakamas, Keimoes, Sutherland and Colesberg.

Although good rainfall is associated with the natural breakout of brown locusts in the semi-karoo region, recent above-normal rainfall has exacerbated this common pest.

"So far, we can indicate that the locust outbreak is in a manageable state, with few flyers that have invaded some households." says the departement.

Even though the Department says they have managed to control the swarm, with the recent rains received, there is a high possibility that they can receive a huge outbreak as they already started receiving new generation in Springbok, Askham, Blad-grond, Colesberg and Sutherland.

The challenge with the flyers and the control time is that they can move from one area to the other in a short space of time, based on the available grazing fields and vegetation.

Although good rainfall is associated with the natural breakout of brown locusts in the semi-karoo region, recent above-normal rainfall has exacerbated this common pest.

Putting crops at risk as the country braces for

more summer rainfall in the coming weeks and months, AgriSA risk and disaster unit manager Andrea Campher said locusts only die out naturally when the first frosts set in around May.

Various videos have emerged on social media of locust swarms spanning kilometres spattering on the windscreens of drivers.

The Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Land Reform and Rural Development MEC Mase Manopole continues to call on the members of the public, especially those who are driving on our roads, to be cautious when driving through a locust swarm- as this can obstruct their ability to see.

She further called on farm owners to allow our controllers access to their farms.

"I would like to thank our officials, controllers and our farmers as well as various stakeholders for their continued support to curb the spread. Without their contribution our food security will be at risk. Most importantly, I will also like to thank our communities who continue to alert us of new outbreaks that are taking place in their respective areas. Together we will be able to defeat the scourge," said MEC Mase Manopole. The department can be contacted on 053 802 5618

Locusts lay their eggs after the rainy season starts. The amount of rain received during summer months determines how much destruction can be anticipated for harvest the following year, Agricultural Research Council research team manager Roger Price said.

Climate change is complicating experts' ability to predict the breeding cycle of locusts, with El Nino (drought) and La Nina (floods) events becoming increasingly unpredictable. Outbreaks are typically linked to prolonged droughts, and then widespread rainfall.

Disturbingly, in a day, a large swarm of locusts can eat food meant to feed 35 000 people.

One locust can eat its own weight in food, and a large swarm typically contains around 40 million

The country depends on the Department of Agriculture to control locust outbreaks.

If swarms are not properly controlled this year, hatchlings next year will increase outbreaks, "We are still in the middle of the summer season, with more rains expected in the coming weeks to months, therefore the outbreaks might still increase rapidly."

Farmers are spraying "day and night" to try and control locust swarms in different terrains, in an effort to make sure they do not reach irrigated or crop areas.

Due to the large area and sparse human population many swarms aren't detected. When they are, locust control district officers in each region co-ordinate the chemical control – spraying the government approved insecticide with knapsack and vehicle pump sprayers. The hoppers are sprayed while they roost on the bushes, either in the late afternoon or early morning. The adult swarms are sprayed while they are settled on a field for the night. This targeted spraying is less environmentally damaging than aerial spraying.

Alternatives to the environmentally damaging chemical control are needed because even though there has been over a century of chemical control, the locust outbreaks still occur. Future research needs to focus on understanding the impact of rangeland management and climate change on locust outbreaks.

Location of the egg laying sites and criteria used by female locusts in choosing these sites will improve the current prediction models and assist in locust surveillance.



Tap here on your electronic device or go to https://bit.ly/swermsprinkaneteisterkaroo and https://bit.ly/motorisonderonsiemetswermsprinkane for two short videos about motorists' quarrels with a swarm of locusts.

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Masterfully created for pollination

AGRIPULSE - BRITISH - Twelve bees work their whole live to produce one teaspoon of honey - mainly to feed their brood (larvae) in the hive, but also to do the precious and valuable pollination.

The production of honey is only a spec in the universe to describe how invaluable bees are. AgriPulse spoke to two local beekeepers in the Brits area, Glorienne Dunster and Werner Muller from BeeWize to learn more about the importance of bees as pollinators.

These two passionate beekeepers, who have more than three decades of experience working with bees. talk about bees with great respect.

Years before Werner and Glorienne started their BeeWize business as partners, bees were a hobby that grew into a full-fledged business.

"Our bees are mainly used for pollination," says Werner. "In the Brits area, there are farmers with many hectares of blueberries and strawberries who are dependent on our bees for pollination."

Glorienne says that the pollination must be planned extremely careful in order to ensure a good yield. "Blueberries cannot pollinate themselves at all and depend on bees for pollination, while strawberries need less pollination from bees," says Glorienne.

In order for bees to do pollination and to feed the

brood, not too many or too few hives should be placed on the land.

"On blueberry fields we place eight to 10 boxes per hectare and on strawberry fields only one box per hectare. It gives just enough food for the brood, keeps bees active in order to achieve optimum pollination for a good yield. During pollination we do not use any of the honey," she says.

The pollination takes place over a period of six months, after which they move the hives to other areas. Usually, the bees then feed on sunflowers or Blinkblaar trees. During this time the honey is "harvested", bottled and sold to the public as 100% raw honey.

Raw honey is the most natural form of all honey, with all the powerful nutritional value. Raw honey is only poured through a sieve and still contains some pollen and wax.

"Other honey that is sold commercially goes through various processes such as heating to 70°C or higher, or radiation," says Werner. "These processes can destroy all the precious nutritional value of honey."

With their many years of experience as beekeepers, they shared a few interesting facts about the remarkable, hard-working insect.

* The nectar that bees extract from flowers during the pollination process is 80% moisture and 20% sugar which the bee then converts during a complicated molecular process, into honey (which then contains about 18% moisture and 82% sugar).

The female bees (workers) do all the work in the hive. The main purpose of the male bee (bumblebees) is to mate.

* The worker bees live about six weeks and literally work themselves to death. Bumblebees die immediately after mating

* The queen bee is fertilized by the bumblebees during her maiden flight.

* The queen can live up to three years and longer and is capable of laying up to half a million or more eggs in her lifetime - almost 3000 eggs per day.

* The queen is raised from a normal worker egg, but is fed royal jelly which causes radical growth and metamorphosis.

* Royal jelly is a milky secretion produced by worker bees. It typically contains about 70% water, 15% protein, 16% sugar, 6% fats and 3% vitamins, salts and amino acids.

Bees will always enjoy an excellent reputation, even in the Bible the sweetness of bees' honey and the diligence of their work is praised.

Next time when you open the honey jar, remember the value of bees and that it is our duty to protect and

For more information on BeeWize's honey products, call Glorienne on 083 632 1923.



Two of the beehives on a blueberry farm outside Brits.





Werner Muller shows the frame in which the honey was sealed in cells.

the hive's health and to remove frame (super) to harvest honey.

Glorienne Dunster with some of the workers at the hives.



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FEBRUARY 2022





(Hencar Boerdery)

Fanie en Mariette Vilioen

AGRI-PULSE – BRITS - Vegetable growers and industry partners from as far as the Western Cape to Zambia attended the annual Nuvance farmers' day at their research farm near Brits on 27 January 2022. With the inclusion of various new varieties, this highlight on their annual calendar affords vegetable growers the opportunity to stay abreast of both local and international vegetable production trends. Even though the entire agricultural sector has experienced one of the most challenging seasons in history, high visitor numbers proved very encouraging. Various promising new varieties with improved physical characteristics, disease resistance, storage quality and taste could be seen in the demonstration fields. Visitors also had the unique opportunity to witness the beneficial effect the revolutionary B-Mox® seed treatment first-hand.

This innovative seed enhancing formula by Bejo improves germination root development and plant establishment of their carrot seed. Besides exciting new carrot varieties such as Berlin*, well-known favourites such as Natuna were also on display. Whilst beetroot varieties such as Boro and Bettollo have become household names amongst growers, Nuvance now boasts the largest assortment of Rhizomania resistance beetroot varieties having displayed two new varieties (Palau* being one of them) in addition to the popular Manzu variety. Two newly erected tunnels showcased an assortment of tomatoes peppers and cucumbers. Here growers could see the recently introduced cherry-plum tomato Donatello* and the mediterranean/beit-alpha cucumber Yildo*. The open field plantings featured some of the flagship

Seminis varieties such as the peppers PS 16351609 and SV6131PB, and the increasingly popular tomatoes SV4129TH* and SV2444TH* also received a great deal of attention from growers.

With all of the Nuvance sales- and crops specialists present, this event offered growers the ideal opportunity to ask crop/variety specific questions as well as the perfect networking opportunity to discuss future opportunities, new possibilities and challenges with one another. Hosting events such as this, is just one of the ways that Nuvance goes beyond

Please visit www.nuvance.co.za for a comprehensive list of their vegetable varieties on offer as well as the contact details of the branch sales representative closest to you.









Kallie en Francois Lategan (Lategan Boerdery) saam met Dr Quintin Muhl (Nuvance)



Dawie Rothmann & Heinrich Wenhold (Rothmann Boerdery) saam met Floris Kotze

Teen novel with an important message

Tiaan Steenkamp (P&A Seedlings)

AGRI PULSE - BLOEMFONTEIN - There is a quote that if the honey bee (Apis mellifera) disappears from the globe, humanity will also be extinct within four years. Whether Einstein really said that is another point of discussion - but the warning in the quote is;

however, a very high probability. Nine out of ten flowering plants rely on a variety of insects and plants for pollination. And the bee is one of the most active - they are responsible for pollinating about a third of food crops that include vegetables, fruit trees and berry plants. But if they are wiped out, what then?

Man's survival after a catastrophic event is one of the main themes of the award-winning author, Annerle Barnard's new book, Spel. The Bloemfonteiner recently won the Sanlam Prize for Youth Literature with this impressive futuristic story. Northwest Newspapers' Christelle van Rooyen Wessels spoke with Annerle about Spel.

Annerle Barnard is the author of the award-winning teen novel, Spel. Due to its universal themes, this story is definitely good reading material for adults as well. Visit www.annerlebarnard.co.za for more information or follow her on Facebook and other social media.

Annerle says that the idea for Spel literally came from a dream. "I was never a Pacman player, but my dream made me think of something like that. In my dream, robots were playing a deadly game with motorists: motorists who moved in one way escaped, while those who deviated in any way were instantly wiped out. When I woke up, I just knew this was a story I had to

This is how Annerle's character, the 17-year-old Lukas, originated and he (one of a handful of survivors after the earth was taken over by cyborgs, transhumans and robots) and his friend Dimpho must try to survive. The two live on neighbouring farms in the Free State and they manage to keep food on the table in spite of extremely adverse circumstances. "I have a huge interest in syntropic farming methods and that is why my character farms in this way," says Annerle. What is syntropic farming? In short, it is a regenerative method where planting is done organically with crops and other plants that co-exist

> in a mutually beneficial relationship - and in addition resulting in the restoration of the

"I have read a lot about how the people in war-stricken areas, as well as countries experiencing hyperinflation, manage to survive. They produce their own food, have their own boreholes, solar panels, etc. It is common knowledge how food insecurity contributes to people's anxiety - and can lead to violence and even war," says Annerle. The setting of Spel portrays a world where is beginning to threaten even the survival of the superraces - the cyborgs and the transhumans. It is a theme that will resonate with many South Africans.

Because the story is futuristic, I had to dig deep and do an incredible amount of research. But I think the message I want to convey is that, for the survival of mankind, balance - in everything - is indispensable. Spel demonstrates the cycle of devastating reactions that follow as soon as balance is completely disturbed,"



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chicken breed

Meeuw (plural = Meeuwen) originated from the brown eyed pencilled Dutch poultry and the German Ostfriesische Möwe, at the end of the 18th century. These were found in the northern coastal areas of Holland in the province of Groningen. Although they were admitted in 1919 to the official poultry standards of the Dutch Poultry Federation (KLN). the Groninger Meeuw remains a rare breed. Their outstanding qualities such as fast growth, high egg production and good body size have always been cherished. The breed is adaptable to bad weather conditions, is hardy and excellent foragers.

Nomhle Ndlovu

(Jacanas)

The large breed cocks' maximum weight is 3kg, where the hens' maximum weight is 2,5kg. Looking at the bantams the cocks' maximum weight is 900g where the hen weighs in at a maximum of 800g. The Groninger Meeuw egg colours are white and is a soft

like Friesians, there are differences that make them unique. Groninger Meeuw is a larger breed, the large breed Groninger Meeuw is around 1kg heavier than the large breed Friesian. The tail angle is about 45 degrees, while Friesians carry their tail at about a 90-degree angle. The cockerel/cock has a characteristic black wing bar. The eye colour is dark brown while the eye of the Friesian is orange. The pencilling is unique, as there must be 2 to 3 dots across the feather, not touching the edge nor the shaft of the feather. Friesians have 3 to 5 pencilling lines across the feather and shaft, from edge to edge.

The Groninger Meeuw is an agile rural fowl of moderate height. Their feathers are full and are carried close to the body. Their bodies are strong, rather long, tapering the back and well balanced. The breast and abdomen of the female are bigger and fuller without being clumsy. The back of the Groninger Meeuw needs to be as horizontal as possible, the breast full and carried forward with a deep keel-bone. Their wings fit close to the body with a definite wing bar. A full, rather deep abdomen is noticeable.

The head is a moderate size and narrow, with a red face and rather large dark brown eyes. The Groninger Meeuw has a bright red, single comb of a small, evenly serrated comb that may be carried slightly over to the one side, but only at the back. The comb should not follow the line of the neck but be carried horizontally. The earlobes are white or bluish white and rather small, with well rounded, moderate length red wattles. This breed has a well-developed, medium length neck with full hackle feathers.

The thighs are prominent with shanks wide apart. The legs of a Groninger Meeuw are of moderate length with no tendency to coarse bone structure and has four toes that are well spread. Legs and toes must be of slate colour. The tail is broad and is carried relatively high at a 45-degree angle. Their sickle feathers are broad, long and flowing with no edging on the feathers. The tail of the female is carried

The colouring of the Groninger Meeuw can be divided into three categories, namely the Silver Pencilled, the Golden Pencilled and the Citron

Looking at the plumage of the Male Silver Pencilled Groninger Meeuw, the surface colour is white with a grey under colour. The hackles are white, while the upper back shows some black pencilling underneath the hackles. Black pencilling is also noticeable under the abdomen. The wings shows a white surface when the wing is folded with the black wing bar visible on the end of the wing feathers. The inner web is greyish-black with a slight black pencilling. The main tail feathers of the male is black with no with edging. The lesser sickle feathers are black with white edging permissible.

The plumage of the female Silver Pencilled Groninger Meeuw on the head, neck and upper to middle part of the breast is white with a grey under colour. The remainder is a white base, marked with black pencilling and a green sheen (not grey or brown). The pencilling extends from the lower breast over the entire body. The markings are very distinct on the rump and tail. The Golden and Citron Pencilled colourings are exactly the same as the Silver variety, except that the silver is exchanged for a gold or citron (lemon) colour. The pencilling on the feathers is black.

High water level causes major damage





Water that ran into vineyards at Malanshoek, Keimoes. Photo: Dirk Malan

AGRI PULSE: The water levels in the Vaal and Orange River system were the highest in a decade.

The high water levels that prevailed in the catchment area of the Vaal, Bloemhof, Van der Kloof and Gariep Dam during January caused the Vaal and Orange Rivers to rise greatly.

From Douglas to beyond Kakamas to Vioolsdrift, the water of the Orange River poured into low - lying areas.

Weir walls broke on some farms, and vineyards, pecan nut trees, and lucern fields stood under water.

According to information provided every day by Mr. Wilco Fourie, chairman of Water Affairs at ORLU, measured the water at its highest at Upington Bridge on Tuesday, 25 January, namely 6,827 m. The water dropped back to 4,661 at Upington.

With the rain falling along the Lower Orange as of Tuesday, 1 February, there is a risk to the raisin harvest, as well as other grapes not yet harvested. Bekkie van Aarde, spokesperson for Raisins

SA, says the rain has affected the drying rate of raisins because it is now slowing down. It is also important that wind plays a major role in the drying process. That's why Raisins SA is looking at alternative drying techniques other than cement courts, for example Thompson shelves that will dry

off faster in the presence of rain. Mr Dirk Malan from Malanshoek, Keimoes, weir walls broke in some places. There was lucern damage and some of the blocks of vineyard were harvested and where grapes still hang, the water ran about 0.5m thick and could be harvested there if the water ran off and dried again. However, he says it may still take weeks to dry off as the dams are overcrowded and the river will still take a long time to run down. Dirk says water seeping through the banks makes it difficult for farmers to get close to the banks and so some of those blocks cannot currently be harvested either.

The water level at Upington did not rise in such a way that it endangered homes on the river. At

some lower houses, the water was just up to their

The popular River Deck of Red Ox restaurant has been closed due to the high river level. The owner, Mr Jean Lambrechts, said the river must first stabilise again before the deck will be open for business. Sakkie Spangeberg, from Sakkie's Arkie, one of the most popular tourist attractions on the Orange River, says the Arkie has not been able to sail on the river since 27 December 2021.

This is mainly due to the high river levels that make access underneath the Upington River Bridge

Usually, tourists can look forward to a glorious

sunset ride with sundowners on the country's longest running river. But for the past few weeks, that just wasn't possible. Even the parking lot at the dock was under water. "The water should be at least 4m or less under the bridge, before we can pass through with the Arkie there. In the meantime, though, I took tourists and curiosities out onto the river with my rubber boat to witness the spectacularness of the floodwaters. The first cruise since 27 January was during the weekend of 4 February.

"It was only when the water was at its highest, that the surface was too unpredictable to risk it with the rubber boat," says Sakkie.





Pecan nut trees of Mr. Wilco Fourie of Groblershoop was under water. Photo: Wilco Fourie.

17 FEBRUARIE 2022 – 11:00 – NKLH VEILINGSKRALE, KIMBERLEY $AANBOD: \pm 300$ 120 dragtige Bovelder-verse (dragtig van Bonsmara-bulle uit Kruger Bonsmara-stoet) 120 dragtige Bonsmara-verse (dragtig van Bonsmara-bulle) 50 Bonsmara koeie & kalwers NAVRAE: Bemarkers: IG Zwiegers: 082 821 5797 Dirk Beukes: 082 375 1849 Afslaers • Auctioneers Hannes van Schalkwyk: 082 808 3844 Afslaer: Koos Coetzee: 079 945 4355



AGRI-PULSE - UPINGTON: Eventhough it is still early days, if rain damage is severe, maize and meat prices may soar.

About 22% of South African grain farmers said, in a recent report by Grain SA, they expect more than 60% of their white maize area to be negatively affected by excessive rain.

A survey, assessing the extent of the damage to maize and other grains caused by excessive rain this summer, was conducted by Grain SA. According to the survey some of the 434 farmers, polled across the country, have already suffered losses on a large scale.

Farmers expect to harvest 32% white maize in below-average conditions and 31% in an average state, but only if a normal season prevails. They expect that 20% will be in a very poor condition.

The most affected grain-growing regions, according to the report, were the Northern Cape, and western and eastern Free State.

> 10% of yellow maize farmers said less than 20% of the yellow maize area will be affected and 14% say that they expect more than 60%.

> According to Dirk Strydom, Grain SA Marketing, Nampo and Research Coordination lead, it is difficult to conclude whether South Africa will face a potential shortage of maize and the impact on maize prices, although the summer crops are highly affected.

> Strydom said it is very early and therefore difficult to say what the impact on the crop is at this point. "We would only be able to estimate by February, with the first official crop estimate," .

The Crop Estimates Committee of the South African Grain Information Service is expected to release its latest crop estimates for the maize industry on 27 February.

Of South Africa's total production, about 11.5 million tons of maize is annually consumed in the country and last year, the total maize production was projected to reach 16.2 million tons in 2021 from a previous 15.3 million tons in 2020.

It all depends on the weather and if the crops that received damage are able to recover.

Strydom said "one can conclude that the crop will be below expectations at the time of planning and planting," .

According to Shereen Tromp, senior consultant at Euromonitor International, the recent flooding events that destroyed some crops might result in a supply scarcity, which will result in rising prices. "The recent flooding in KwaZulu-Natal and Free State and the destruction of maize crops will result in rising prices of both meat and maize meal; as yellow maize is used as animal feed and white maize is used to make maize meal," Tromp said.

AANTEEL VEILING

19 FEBRUARIE 2022

SWARICO VEILINGSKOMPLEKS

±50 SIMBRA TIPE KOEIE MET KALWERS ±80 SIMBRA TIPE DRAGTIGE VERSE ±10 CHAROLAIS KOEIE ±10 RAMAGNOLA KOEIE **±10 BRUINSWITSER KOEIE** ±15 BULLE (BRAHMAN, SIMMENTALER, CHAROLAIS, RAMAGNOLA)





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UK growth for South African raisins

GEMSBOK-UPINGTON: South African raisin industry has reported on continued growth at the end of the 2021 season, despite climatic challenges.

Exports rose 18 per cent despite climatic challenges including heavy rainfall in the Orange River region

According to Eurofruit Magazin,

export volumes of South African raisins to the UK are up once again over 2020, which in itself saw a huge increase compared with 2019.

The UK imported 1.43m kg to the UK in 2019 versus 5.5m kg in 2020. Regardless of limitations faced by the industry, last year saw an 18 per cent increase over 2020 with 6.6m kg exported to the UK.

The Orange River region experienced between 80mm and 170mm of rain at the beginning of last year.

These conditions were exceptional for the Northern Cape, which usually experiences average temperatures of between 33-38oC during harvest.

88 per cent of the country's raisins are produced in the Orange River region.

To mitigate the impact of the rains on the crop, strategies such as canopy management and constant monitoring of the situation, were put in place at farm

"From a grower perspective, climatic conditions for the past season did not provide for optimal growing conditions,' said Ferdie Botha, CEO of Raisins South Africa. "Conditions were constrained in the Orange River valley initially by frost

and cold weather conditions, which perhaps negatively impacted more than initially anticipated.

"Furthermore, the Orange River came into flood and restricted access to some growers, along with above average rainfall, and required changes in production practices to minimise the impact," he added.

However, the Olifants River valley in the Western Cape experienced excellent growing conditions, particularly for currants.

Raisins South Africa relaunched the SA Sultana, formerly known as the WP raisin, variety this year after the gradual increase in production volumes and as part of the diversification of its product range. This product was also less impacted by the rains.

With its focus on 2022, the industry body is optimistic about the season ahead.

The UK promotional campaign will once again concentrate predominantly on evolving connections with B2B and trade contacts, as well as communicating the benefits of South African raisins to

SA Wine grape harvest might

be smaller due to rains

GEMSBOK-UPINGTON: Many South African wine grape producers are expecting a smaller-than-usual wine grape crop.

This according to the wine industry association, Vinpro. This forecast for the imminent harvest season is based on the second of four crop estimates issued by viticulturists and producer cellars in the third week of January.

The harvest season typically runs from January to April. Vinpro viticulturist team manager Conrad Schutte said in a statment they expect, "at this early stage" this year's wine grape crop to be smaller than in 2021," Schutte issues crop estimates together with industry body South African Wine Industry Information & Systems.

According to Schutte the expected smaller harvest can be attribued to a decrease in vineyards, high disease pressure and heatwaves in some regions of the country.

"The South African wine industry is spread over a range of cultivation areas throughout the Western and Northern Cape, with often diverse climatic conditions.

Because of this variation, the crop is estimated upwards and others downwards in the respective regions," Schutte said.

He attributes the overall decline in the 2022 wine grape crop, especially in the Northern Cape, Olifants River and Robertson regions, to vineyards being uprooted as well as high downy mildew and powdery mildew infections in some of these regions.

The ripening period was cooler than normal, but that heatwaves in December and January caught some vineyards off guard, causing sunburn damage to grapes.

The uprooting of vineyards is not a particularly unusual practice in the industry, Vinpro communications manager Wanda Augustyn told Engineering News.

14TH PRODUCTION SALE OF GHAAPSEBERG BOER GOAT GROUP 31 stud & grade rams 25 stud & grade ewes (under the auspices of the SA 60 commercial ewes (in all production stages) It's all about meat : BREEDERS: Wiep Joubert: 082 771 1372 Desré Ferreira: 083 440 9309 Afslaers s: Rudie v/d Heever: 076 989 9166 (Marketing agent) Jacobs: 083 630 2334 (Stud & special auctions) Theuns Visser: 082 338 1356 (Auctionee

She explained that the likely reasons for the uprooting of the vines is that many of them were ageing and, therefore, no longer producing optimally.

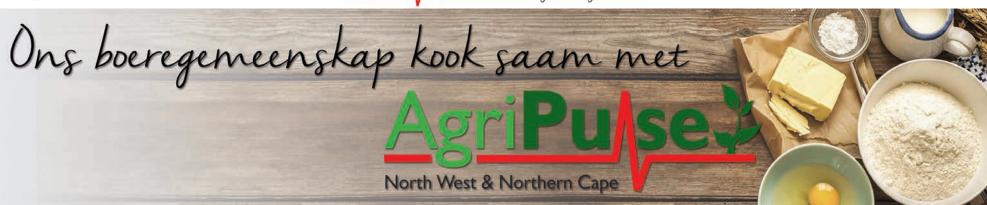
She noted that, additionally, the Covid-19 alcohol restrictions that were implemented sporadically in 2020 and 2021 negatively impacted on investment in new vineyards.

With the exception of Stellenbosch, the Cape South Coast and Klein Karoo, the harvest is expected to be smaller in most wine grape growing regions.

The next crop estimate to be issued by viticulturists and producer cellars will be released in the third week of February



BEHOU DIE REG VOOR OM ENIGE WILD BY TE VOEG OF TE ONTTREK. MAAK SEKER DAT DIE WILD WAARIN U BELANGSTEL WEL OP DIE VEILING IS.



Bunny with a zing BY DANIE JACOBS

AGRI-PULSE - A good curry is so much more than food. It is comforting, fills you with warmth, has a zing and it's a hunger

JD5 is a home kitchen/restaurant in Klerksdorp where lovers of good food feel at home - as well as those who just enjoys food that tastes good without all the unnecessary extras. The name is the restaurant's address - Johannes Duminy Street 5, Roosheuwel, Klerksdorp.

With Bacchus, the Roman god of wine, food and good times, keeping watch, foodies know they have to leave their troubles outside and surrender to the delicacies the kitchen is famous for. According to the co-owner and chef, Bernard Ellis, their menu is inspired by basic, honest cuisine.

"Basic does not mean we make no effort as JD5 was awarded best restaurant by Restaurant Guru 2021. We take a dish and give it a makeover. Not too over the top, as people like to eat what they know." Ellis and "partner in crime" Lorèn

Prinsloo are teachers with a passion for cooking, eating well and people. "At JD5 we believe you socialize with

friends- no wifi, TV or noise. Just a good time with friends." He invites Klerksdorpians and visitors to the city to follow the restaurant on Facebook and to experience the

curry.

Bunny Chow

BY BERNARD ELLIS VAN JD5

Preparation: 15 minutes Cooking: 2-3 hours (depending on the type of meat and quantity) Portions: 8 - 10

Ingredients:

- "Spices"
- 2 ts Oil ½ teaspoon ginger
- (chopped)
- 4 bay leaves

you know)

- 4 Cardamom pods (chopped)
- 4 small cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks 4 Ripe tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons curry powder (use the brand
- 3 Chilies to taste (fresh or

dried)

- 3 tablespoons garam masala
- 1 ts fine cumin
- 1 ts turmeric
- "Braai stuff"
- 2 onions (chopped)
- 2 carrots (chopped)
- "Bunny stuff"
- 1.8 kg beef
- 1 liter water
- "A bit later"
- 1 ts salt (to taste) 8 medium potatoes - cut
- in quarters
- garlic (finely chopped)
- 4 curry leaves (optional) "Dish up"
- 4 loaves of bread; cut in quarters

Method

Heat the oil in a black cast iron pot. Add the ingredients under "Spices". Stir frequently. The aroma of the spices will develop at this stage. Keep over medium heat for 5-7 minutes.

Pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees. Add the "Braai stuff" and stir until the onions are brown.

Add the meat and braai till brown (add the cover). Cover after stirring to allow the meat and spices to create their own

Add hot water. Enough to cover all the ingredients.

Place in oven for 45 minutes. Stir regularly. Don't allow it to be too dry. It must have a sauce to keep the Bunny juicy and your

When the ingredients are getting too soft – add "a bit later" items

Back in the oven for 45 minutes – stir regularly. Make sure you

Check if the meat and potatoes are fully cooked. If so, remove the cover and put back in the oven for 30-45 minutes to allow the sauce to thicken. Add maizena if you want it thicker. Remove and let it cool.

Cut bread into quarters and fill with curry.

Can be served with salsa.

Bunny chow with salsa and a curry leaf for decoration.



Extreme weather could lead to failed crops

AGRI-PULSE - The current South African grain production year is being subject to extremes. Not long ago, grain production in the country was subject to long cycles of droughts that severely negatively affected producers' financial positions. At the beginning of the planting season there was great excitement for the season and the prospect of favourable production conditions. Unfortunately, this excitement was dampened by excessive rainfall in certain areas of the country, especially where soil profiles were already full. Although producers are always grateful for rain, the season so far has created many challenges where producers could not access fields on time due to high rainfall figures and where producers managed to plant, water damage occured. In some cases, it

Two Vaal Dam sluice gates closed

AGRIPULSE - NORTH WEST - The Department of Water and Sanitation has closed two sluice gates that were opened at the Vaal Dam after the water levels reached better manageable volumes due to previous releases into the dam. Department spokesperson Sputnik Ratau said as of Tuesday, 25 January, the Vaal Dam is at 106.2 % and continues to decrease. The Bloemhof Dam is at 102.5 % full, with a high outflow.

Ratau called on communities downstream to

Dams in the Noordwesprovinsie

Boskopdam: 101.6% Bospoortdam: 101.2% Buffelspoortdam: 10145% Disanengdam: 39.9% Elandskuildam: 103.1% Hartbeespoortdam: 96.2% Johan Neserdam: 101.7% Klein Maricopoortdam: 40.8% Klerkskraaldam: 101.9% Klipyoordam: 100.6% Kosterrivierdam: 43.7% Kromellenboogdam: 56.4%

Madikwedam: 60.9% Marico Bosvelddam: 100.5% Middelkraaldam: 100% Molatedidam: 42.2% Ngotwoanedam: 47.5% Olifantsnekdam: 45.3% Pelladam: 59.6% Potchefstroomdam: 103.8% Rietspruitdam: 101.0% Roodekopjesdam: 89.9% Sehujwanedam: 100% Setumodam: 56.8% Swartruggensdam: 102.3% Taungdam: 102.8%

remain vigilant."The sluice gates are not yet all closed because dam levels are still high, and releases need to continue as we continue to manage the system.

"This means that the outflow and water flowing downstream is still at high levels, everyone must continue to be vigilant, and steer clear of the area, keeping livestock and equipment safely out of the water's way, while ensuring the protection of lives and livelihoods," Ratau said. – SAnews. gov.za

> Dams in the North-Cape Boegoebergdam: 184.0% Douglasdam: 133.8% Kareedam: 8.4% Leeubosdam: 0% Spitskopdam: 102.6% Vaalhartsdam: 88.5% The level of the five biggest reservoirs in South-Africa are:

Vaaldam: 106.3% Bloemhofdam: 102.5% Sterkfonteindam: 101.9%

Van der Kloofdam: 106.0% Lindleyspoortdam: 42.7% Vaalkopdam: 71.2% Gariepdam: 103.4% inners Point Saam met gas verkopers AGRI Produksie AUCTION Twee Rivier Veilings **Kontak:** Sample: 0847672072 Christo:0828582153 Sampie(Jnr):0767333750 FB: Auction Twee Rivier Veilings Instagram:@tweerivierveilings

affects individual producers' total expected production. Several reports have confirmed that the rainfall figure for December was the highest in 100 years. Furthermore, compared to the past, much more hail damage has been reported in certain areas.

Although it is difficult to quantify the extent of the damage so early in the season, Grain SA, through a questionnaire, conducted an investigation to determine the exposure of summer grain plantings to water damage. The questionnaire was completed by 434 producers.

The questionnaire clearly indicate the negative impact of water damage in certain production regions. In extreme cases, individual producers report a total loss of plantings. Overall, 20% of producers indicated that more than 60% of their white maize plantings were exposed to water damage (yellow maize 15%, soybeans 13% and sunflower 17%). In the Western Free State in particular, 39% of the producers reported water damage exposure to white maize. The east of the country and parts of the NW also experience challenges regarding water damage but the intensity is lower than in the Western Free State.

Note that the questionnaire is not a statistical sample and is only an indication of the possible exposure to waterlogged conditions. The actual impact on area planted will only be noticed on January 27, when the National Crop Estimates Committee publishes the preliminary planting figures. The impact of the water damage on production will only really be determined and evaluated with the first summer grain production estimate on

The winter grain harvesting conditions were also by no means easier. In the Western Cape, rain during harvest time created extremely difficult conditions and several producers suffered yield and grade losses. It is towards

the interior where producers in certain cases still could not harvest their wheat fields due to the wetness. Where wheat could be harvested inland, grading was a major challenge given the moisture conditions. Grain SA is concerned about the effects of the extreme weather patterns, especially in certain areas such as those experienced in recent seasons. This, even more so, after the previous drought cycle, where some producers already had to leave the industry and others are still recovering financially. Mercifully, international grain prices are at favourable levels. Grain SA once again calls on the Government, in view of the challenges and the recent large-scale increase in input costs, to put in place an affordable crop insurance scheme so that producers can better manage their risks. There are already proposals presented to Government's for this. South African producers compete with producers in other countries, who have access to similar benefits which support these producers in difficult production conditions. Grain SA advises producers to contact their financiers well in advance if large-scale damage is experienced or expected. The early planning provides financiers with the opportunity to plan for loan restructuring timeously. In addition to the production challenges, there is also damage to important infrastructure and Grain SA is working with organised agriculture at provincial level to put the necessary actions in place for possible support and recovery. Grain SA's hearts go out to producers who are suffering large-scale losses. Although there is already permanent damage, there are still opportunities for crops to recover in certain areas. It is subject to favourable weather conditions, especially heat units and sunshine and the organisation is full of hope and confidence that producers will experience these favourable conditions.

KOM REIS SAAM na NAMIBIË

Asook na Namakwaland, Oos Kaap, Oos Vrystaat



Self-Bestuur Begeleide 'Road Trips' Ry in jou eie voertuig - slegs 10 voertuie per toer Covid-19 vriendelik

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Hoë kwaliteit 2-rigting radio's word per voertuig verskaf

Goeie akkommodasie, etes, bekende en minder bekende toeristebestemmings word besoek, veilige saamry, lekker kuier en ryspoed is altyd binne die spoedgrens

Die toere is uiters geskik vir alle ouderdomme, mense wat nie hou van verdwaal nie, graag veilig wil reis, nuwe plekke wil sien, wil saamgesels en lekker agterpaaie ry

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TTELAND

Carly shows the men how the catch the big ones

Carrys

Carly with one of the biggest she has landed.



AgriPu/se heartbeat of the farmer

Carly being baptized after she has landed gher first big karp.

AGRIPULSE – NORTH WEST – Carly Battis is a girl keen fishermen and anglers would simply love. In addition to knowing her way around the kitchen she is also quite at home at fishing resorts and dams.

Carly discovered her passion for fishing some four years ago when she went fishing with her partner, André Potshumus. At that stage André was already an accomplished fisherman. But when this new passion took her bait, there was no way around it. She took to the hobby with everything she knew and before long, she was as accomplished as most men in the field.

She was fortunate that her partner could teach her all the secrets and skills of the sport and took the challenges of the sport in her stride. Since then, Carly has been a regular sight at dams in the area. Of course she is also an inspiration to the men sharing her hobby.

Carly mainly fishes karp and for bait she uses "mieliepitte" and the well-known Tigernuts. Isn't it strange that just like humans, fish also have certain preferences? Fish from different dams would favour different flavours and you get to learn this by going out to different dams regularly. Would you believe that taste differs even among fish?

Carly prefers dams renowned for big species and gets quite irritated when something else such as barbel takes her line. She also employs "tools" such as fish finder and bait line boats and then starts to make a feeding spot for the big ones. For feeding spot bait she mostly uses hemp seeds, maize and Tigernuts which are boiled in a big pot and then stored in 25 l containers.

Of course, like all other sports fishing also has its setback. You will often experience that your lines snaps or get stuck. You also have to deal with fish that get away – this is all part of the sport", she says.

"It's an exciting sport. When I land a fish, it is placed in my "fish hospital" which means I inspect them well, treat possible wounds or injuries such as during the mating season, it is weighed, I take a photograph, give it a kiss and then I release it safely back into the water. This is what makes fishing such a rewarding hobby, she says.

Molopo Regatta

AGRIPULSE-VRYBURG- What do the people in the Kalahari and in Vryburg do when the Molopo River flows... they arrange a 'River rafting' celebration on the Molopo River at Bray. Farmers on the South African and Botswana side of the Molopo River put rafts on the river and visited the water together.

Farmers and Vryburg town residents drive miles to view and braai, socialize and swim in the river that now flows at Bray. Rafts and boats were held on the water out of sheer joy over the Molopo flowing strongly. Masses of water spilled over at Caroll's Bay near Boshoek on their way to Bray. The Molopo River flows strongly after being recently replenished by much rain in the catchment area of the Molopo. The Molopo

originated with the Molopo Eye (which is springs) at Lichtenburg and ends at Waters-End. The Molopo River last flowed in 2017. In 1967, the Molopo flowed past Waters-End, halfway to McCarty's Rest. According to information, about 700 mm of rain was received that year. Before 1967, the Molopo last flowed into Waters-End in 1893. According to an ex-resident of the area, there are natural stone benches in the river at Mokopong that cause the dam's water level to accumulate to as high as telephone wires. In 1967, no dams were in the river and the water could flow very quickly to Waters-End.

To watch a video of how much fun some locals had on the Molopo River, click here on your electronic device - https:// bit.ly/moloporegatta









Farmers warned against illegal veterinary practitione

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - Livestock owners should take care to only make use of veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are registered with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC).

SAVC issued this warning after two women, who had been convicted of illegally practicing as veterinary professionals in 2021, were recently sentenced. SAVC said in a statement that these individuals placed animals at risk and defrauded South African animal owners.

Director of legal affairs at SAVC, Dinamarie Stoltz, said it was very important for the integrity of the veterinary profession that such individuals be punished for defrauding the public, and be barred from practicing. "We constantly receive complaints about veterinary fraud, but it's very difficult to work on these complex cases," Stoltz said, adding that the conviction of the two individuals were the first she had achieved in eight years. She aid she did, however, not believe that the establishment of a dedicated inspectorate would result in an increase in the conviction rate. Dewald Olivier, CEO of the South African Feedlot Association, said, however, that "it is not that easy for a veterinarian to pull the wool over the eyes of a farmer. Commercial livestock farmers - in particular - usually know more about their animals than regular veterinarians".

Olivier added that ruminants required a specialist veterinarian. "In rural areas, a fraudster will soon be caught."

Roxanne Barnard of Brakpan was found guilty in the Springs Magistrate's Court in October last year for setting up a business advertising veterinary services such as vaccinating and treating animals, prescribing medicine and claiming to be a qualified veterinary nurse.

"Barnard was once authorised by SAVC to practice as an animal welfare assistant at the Brakpan SPCA, but that authorisation lapsed in April 2017 when she was dismissed," Stoltz said.

When the case was first reported

to SAVC, the matter was handed over to the association's investigations inspectorate, which compiled a docket that the South African Police Service submitted to the National Prosecuting Authority for prosecution, she explained.

"Barnard was fined R2 000, with the option of a six-month jail term. She now has a criminal record and is banned from applying for SAVC registration or authorisation in the future." The other matter relates to Katharina Ott-Jayes, a German foreign national living in Swellendam in the Western Cape. "I heard rumours that Ott-Jayes was a veterinarian in Germany, but she did not register with the SAVC, and from a legal stance she was subsequently not allowed to practice in South Africa,' Stoltz said. The original complaint SAVC received was that Ott-Jayes was vaccinating animals in the Western Cape with vaccines that were allegedly imported illegally, and some had expired.

"SAVC referred the complaint to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to investigate, as animal vaccines fall under the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act No. 36 of 1947," Stoltz said. She was found guilty and sentenced in August for passing herself off as a veterinarian without being registered at SAVC.

Lists of registered professionals and practices are available on savc.org.za

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