

## SA RECORD:

Bonsmare bull rewrites history

p3

## NAMPO:

Visitors eager to re-embrace Nampo

p6+7

## ORGANISED AGRICULTURE:

Hands-on Chairman chosen for RPO

p11



# Citrus industry in full bloom – now for jams and marmelade

The winter of 2022 is in full swing and it is time for citrus with oranges, lemons and manderins galore! Of course this is also the time for traditional jams for those fortunate people with ample space on the shelves of their pantries. Waldie Volschenk of AgriPulse has recently paid a visit to a prominent citrus packaging plant in the pristine Buffelspoort Valley just outside Rustenburg in North West to come to terms with the citrus industry in our region. Read all about this on p4 and see more about citrus cultivation in the Lower Orange River region on p5.

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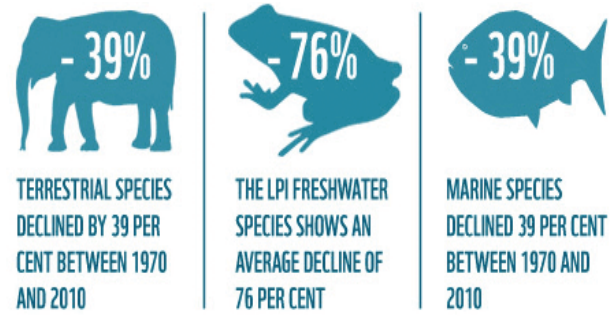
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Leandra 081 044 3078  
WH Gresse 072 438 2266  
Kobus 079 679 3538

Zane 071 241 0639  
Cornell 082 575 9717  
Karen 081 048 0975  
Flippie 060 438 7679



# Biodiversity - A foundation principle of Regeneration

In consultation with Dr Hendrik Smith from Asset Research [www.assetresearch.org.za](http://www.assetresearch.org.za)  
written by Laura Allais



AGRI-PULSE - Before we address what is causing biodiversity loss, and how to restore or regenerate biodiversity, we need to understand what biodiversity is.

In relation to food and agriculture, BIODIVERSITY is all the plants and animals that provide us with food, feed, fuel and fibre, whether they be wild or cultivated.

Once we understand that, then comes the greatest paradigm shift that is asked of us: the realisation that it is only the healthy and fully-functioning ecosystems that have sufficient BIODIVERSITY within our farmlands, be they cultivated or open grazing veld, which actually sustains the future of our food, livelihoods, health and environment on this Earth.

And that concept - of a healthy ecosystem - has to include the multitude of organisms that support food production through their ecosystem services - also called "associated biodiversity" - the micro-organisms (such as insects, bats, birds, mangroves, corals, seagrasses, earthworms, soil-dwelling fungi and bacteria) that keep our soils fertile, pollinate the plants, purify our water and air, keep fish and trees healthy, and fight crop and livestock pests and diseases.

According to extensive scientific studies and research, since the 1970s there has been a drastic decline of plant and animal diversity in farmers' fields: added to that, many livestock breeds once common 80 years ago, are now at risk of extinction, and the

proportion of overfished fish stocks has reached, in some cases, levels that are possibly on the brink of total collapse and extinction. And wildlife - living on the fringes of our farms and lands - has born the brunt too, because when you spray an insecticide on your crops, or dose your sheep with an anti-parasite remedy, those residues contaminate our lands and our water - both rivers and seas - for a very long time.

"The total number of wild animals in the world has dropped by more than half in just 44 years, according to the World Wildlife Fund's new Living Planet Report.

The report compiled data for more than 10,000 vertebrate species, along with trends in humanity's global footprint and Earth's "biocapacity." Courtesy of WWF International

The leading causes of biodiversity loss have been identified as follows:

- Changes in land and water use and management
- Pollution
- Overexploitation and over-harvesting
- Climate change
- Population growth
- Urbanization

In the case of associated biodiversity, other key factors vary across regions of the world and space limits us to give more extensive information.

Although Biodiversity-friendly practices are on the rise around the world, e.g. organic agriculture, integrated pest management, regenerative conservation agriculture, sustainable soil management, agroecology, sustainable forest management, agroforestry, diversification practices in aquaculture, ecosystem approach to fisheries and ecosystem restoration, it still hasn't been enough to halt the decline, and more needs to be done to stop the loss of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

Yes, governments can write up legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, but these are often inadequate, not enforced/implemented or insufficient.

In the meantime, we need to raise awareness of what BIODIVERSITY is and what its loss will mean for the agricultural sector.

We should make the general public aware of the role they can play, by the choices they make when buying food products at the store or market, in reducing pressures on biodiversity for food and agriculture.

In our next article, we hope to feature farmers in our area - the Northern Cape of South Africa - who have chosen to implement Regenerative/Conservation/Holistic Agricultural practices in their farming operation. Who believe that NATURE IS OUR ALLY, NOT OUR ENEMY.

HOËRSKOOL LICHTENBURG

VETVEESKOU

2022



DAGBOEK  
DIE  
DATUMS

4  
NOVEMBER

INWEEG VAN  
DIERE

JOHAN BOTHA  
VEILINGSLOKAAL  
TE PLAAS  
RIETGAT,  
LICHTENBURG

5  
NOVEMBER

'OP HOEF'-  
BEOORDELING

JOHAN BOTHA  
VEILINGSLOKAAL  
TE PLAAS  
RIETGAT,  
LICHTENBURG

9  
NOVEMBER

'AAN HAK'-  
BEOORDELING

SYFERFONTEIN  
ABATTOIR  
PRYSUITDELING BY  
LIONS OF JUDAH  
SAFARIS









VISION MEAT  
ADDING VALUE  
in samewerking met



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# Bewitching Bonsmarabul rewrites records

The small North West town of Stella became the centre of interest for breeders of top quality cattle at the beginning of June.

It was at an auction here where Bonsmara history was made.

A magnificent bull, belonging to Poggenpoel Molopo Bonsmaras was sold for a record amount to Baszohn Bonsmaras, owned by cousins Eben Basson and Wessel Ebersohn, in Mooi River. Baszohn Bonsmaras also bought the second-highest priced animal of the day, the bull BBM 18 25, which was sold for R1,3 million.

Basson and Ebersohn also bought the highest-priced female animal of the day, the 3-in-1 cow BBM 13 181, which was sold for R650 000. According to Ebersohn, the stud was only registered a year ago.

“We have been farming Bonsmaras

[commercially] since 2010, and it’s important for us to take our herd’s genetic potential forward. [We] can only do that if [we] have the best bulls at [our] disposal.”

Phillip Poggenpoel of Poggenpoel Molopo Bonsmaras said he was thankful and humbled by the success of the auction. “This really is not about money for our family. For us it remains an honour to farm animals.”

Louis Steyl, breed director for Bonsmara SA, said the record-breaking bull was an exemplary specimen of the Bonsmara breed.

“At his first selection, he received a mark of nine out of nine. This really is one of the top bulls within the breed. His breeding values also indicate that he has exceptional genetic potential.

In short, his build, breeding values and lineage have all worked together to create an exceptional animal. However, in a free-market system, such a high price definitely indicates that there was a lot of competition amongst bidders.” Steyl added that paying such a high price for a bull could well be worth it in the medium term.



Lot 8, BBM 16-96 is currently the record holder as the most expensive Bonsmarabul ever sold in South Africa.

## Beukes goes global with grape farming



Elize Beukes (63) is a Northern Cape farmer with worldwide scope. The former women farmer of the year (2008) is a grape farmer whose raisins are exported to the United Kingdom.

AGRI-PULSE - EKSTEENSKUIL: Elize Beukes (63) is a Northern Cape farmer with global reach. She farms grapes which are turned into raisins. Beukes exports her raisins to the United Kingdom.

Situated in Eksteenskuij just outside of Upington in the Northern Cape, Beukes has an eight-hectare farm. Two hectares are dedicated to growing grapes. In January she harvested 93% and 73% of the expected yield from her choice-grade raisin grapes and golden raisin grapes, respectively.

The raisins are exported thanks to an offtake agreement she has with processing company Red Sun-Dried Fruit and Nuts.

Wine grapes and lucerne are also produced, says Beukes, who is grateful for the donation of lucerne seedlings from the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform.

Raising jobs

According to the department, raisin grapes’ peak season provides employment for 30 000 to 35 000 seasonal workers.

The MEC for Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform, Mase Manopole says raisin grape farmers like the Beukes family contribute about R2 billion annually to the country’s economy.

“South Africa earns foreign currency from these farmers as 90% of all produce is exported.

“More than 30 000 people work permanently in the South African raisin industry, in the Orange River Valley vineyard belt. If one considers an average household size of five individuals, then the total reach of the South Africa raisin industry (indirectly) impacts 150 000 individuals,” Manopole says.

Beukes hires 12 people during harvesting season, and two seasonal workers during planting season.

Chief Executive Officer of Raisins South Africa Ferdie Botha says thanks to the Northern Cape Orange River Valley vineyards belt’s contribution, the raisin industry has doubled over the past eight years.

Botha says that various private and public sector developments have seen the volumes of raisin grapes grow from about 40 000 tonnes in the 2011/2012 season to 85 000 tonnes in the 2019/2020 harvest season. The harvest is expected to reach 100 000 tonnes of raisin grapes in the 2023/2024 harvest season.

He says the global trend towards healthier eating provides an opportunity to grow the industry even more. “Raisins are versatile and can be used in a wide variety of food products, such as a natural sweeteners,” he adds.

Farmers may call the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform at 087 630 0387 to see if they qualify for support.

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- Very well suited to open field production
- Early in production
- Good disease package (TYLCV and TSWV combo)
- Good adaptability across growing regions
- Average fruit weight 140-160g



### SV 6112 TH

- Indeterminate tomato
- Suitable for open field and undercover production
- Excellent maturity and fruit quality
- Good disease package



### SV 4129 TH\*

- Well suited for undercover and open-field production
- Vigorous plant growth and a high fruit set
- Good fruit size with very good quality



### SV 3725 TH

- Excellent fruit quality
- High yield potential
- Good shelf life
- Suitable for fresh market



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Some work at SVS Packing Plant is still reserved for the human touch.,

A happy worker of SVS Packing Plant packing a 15 kg carton of lemons.

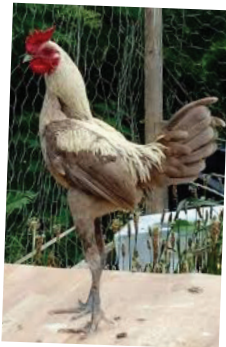
Tons of lemons destined for the export market.

# SVS Agriculture and Citrus Packing plant grows an industry

## Poultry focus: Modern Game

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - By the introduction of Malay/Old English Game crosses, and with the skill of British fanciers, the Modern Game fowl was evolved as a pure fanciers exhibition bird in contrast to the pit Games used for cock fighting. The Malay Cross was used to improve “reach” and for tighter feathering. Those olden day breeders are to be respected for the skill by which they eliminated by breeding the coarseness of the Malay. Classified as a hard feather, egg colour is usually tinted (Sitters). Large cock weights 3.2kg to 4.1kg and the hens 2.3kg to 3.2kg and the bantam cock weights 570g to 680g and the hens 450g to 570g.

The male’s carriage is upstanding & active, as for the type the body must be short, flat back, wide front and tapering to the tail, shaped like smoothing iron. Shoulders prominent and carried well up with the wings short and strong and the tail short, fine, closely whipped together, carried slightly above the level of the body, the sickles narrow, well pointed and only slightly curved. The head must be long, snaky and narrow between the eyes and the beak long, gracefully curved and strong at the base also the eyes must be prominent and the comb single, small, upright, of fine texture, evenly serrated & the face smooth. The Ear-lobes and



wattles fine and small to match the comb. The neck is long and slightly arched, fitted with “wiry” feathers, but thin at the junction with the body. The legs are long and well rounded, the thighs muscular and the shanks free of feathers. The toes must be four, long, fine and straight, the fourth (or hind) toe straight out and flat on the ground, not downwards against the ball of the foot (or “duck-footed”), which is most objectionable. The plumage is short and hard. The female’s general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences. They have the following varieties: Colour is very important in Moderns. Varieties include black-reds, duckwings, piles, brown-reds, birchens, blacks, whites and blues. Self-colours have been brought to excellence a few years ago, but are now seldom seen. Legs and feet vary with the colour-varieties, from yellow in piles and whites through willow in black-reds to black in birchens. Eyes similarly vary from bright red to black. Combs and faces vary from bright red to dark purple and black. Leg colours are definitely tied to each variety. Thus whites and piles must always have yellow legs, while shanks are willow in duckwings and black in brown-reds. (Colours are not so numerous as in the Old English Game).

### BANTAMS

Modern Game bantams follow the standard for the large fowl. Fine body, “reachiness” and colour are the main points in bantams. The bantam is the favourite of “die-hard” showmen. 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.

AGRIPULSE – NORTH WEST – The pristine Buffelspoort Valley has been known for its excellence in citrus cultivation for decades, AgriPulse recently paid a visit to the Citrus Packing plant of SVS Boerdery (Agriculture) and Director Willem van Schalkwyk to come to terms with recent developments at the plant. Naturally it was an excellent time to see crops being prepared for packing for the export market as well as the local juicing sector. In addition to SVS Agriculture’s prominence as a leading citrus producer in the area, SVS Agriculture probably gained an even bigger reputation in recent years as a result of its modern and sophisticated Citrus Packing plant where a wide variety of citrus, mandarins and lemons are packed from quite early in the citrus season for the export and local markets. Here the wide variety of citrus virtually ensures an endless season, Willem explains. At SVS Agriculture, the cultivation and packing of a wide variety of citrus reminds one of a train with miles and miles of carriages – the season hardly has a beginning or end. AgriPulse visited SVS Packing plant during peak period for lemon packing some three weeks ago. At first it is important to note that “lemons” is a loaded word because lemons will be in season up to three times per year and usually March, April and May is quite exhausting. Among the navels, the well-known Palmers are the first to be ready for packing - these are packed during the month of May. After the Palmers there is a host of mandarins ready for the plant - notably the Nova. These are followed by the Bahianinha, another round of mandarins and then the first Clemcotts. The Nadorcott is the first to follow the Clemcotts and is quite a demanding fruit since Nadorcott is a highly regulated cultivar. Producers will immediately tell you that you need to be fully licensed in order to plant, harvest and export the Nadorcott which among certain producers, makes it less preferred. After the Nadorcott – usually towards the middle or end of July – the first Valencia cultivars come into play. Well-known types are the Turkey, the Benny, the Midnight and the Delta. After another smallish harvest of (yes, lemons again) SVS Packing is occupied for several months – usually deep into September and October - with the packing of even more Valencias. We are sure that by now you are getting the picture – there literally never is a dull day at SVS Packing!

In addition to cultivating and packing its own citrus cultivars, SVS Packing plant offers a valuable service to fellow citrus producers in the area by also packing on behalf of several fellow producers in the area. Large quantities of citrus arrive at SVS Packing plant in large crates and are transported to large cold storage facilities in Johannesburg or at the port in Durban as preferred by exports agents all over the country. Of course large quantities of citrus are destined for the juicing industry – notably Magalies Citrus at Sonop just outside Brits where Willem is also a serving Director on the board. The SVS Packing plant is really impressive and perhaps one of the best equipped packing plants in the country. A massive upgrading project saw the acclaimed “Reemoon Sizer” fully computerized packing system being installed at SVS some three years ago. Though the Reemoon Sizer has a capacity of packing up to 300 000 to 400 000 15 kg cartons per day, current harvests are not that demanding and seldom see more than 270 000 tot 300 000 15 kg cartons being packed per season. Of course the capacity is expected to increase substantially in coming years and we now have the confidence that SVS Packing plant is ready for whatever the challenge may be. A great advantage of the new Reemoon technology packing system is that the system can be adapted for other crops with minimum effort. Today SVS Packing exports large quantities of citrus to a host of international countries, except countries in the European Union – this a result of the EU’s stringent control of the so-called “Black Spot” infestation which is quite common in the Buffelspoort Valley. It goes without saying that citrus producers in the EU are struggling with their own pests such as the fruit-fly. Citrus from SVS is quite popular in Middle East countries such as Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh and particularly Russia – a country that until recently was a major importer. The conflict in the Ukraine has however put a stranglehold on trade between the two countries based on the fact the transport costs have more than doubled if not more. Furthermore there is a non-official boycott against Russia which has not benefit circumstances for trade. It is also a sad phenomenon that the export of fertilizer and minerals to South Africa has seized in recent months. “We however are very grateful that we still have access to major markets in Japan, and China”, Willem concluded.



Willem van Schalkwyk – Director of SVS Agriculture and Packing Plant photographed with Packing Plant Manager – Louise Kriel.

# ERASMUS TREKKERS, TROKKE & IMPLEMENTE

## HET JY ‘N TREKKER, TROK, BAKKIE, IMPLEMENT, VOERTUIG, MOTORFIETS, BOOT OF ENIGIETS WAT IN JOU PAD STAAN WAT JY WIL VERKOOP?

### WAARVOOR WAG JY? SKAKEL ONS VANDAG!!!!

Vir die koop of verkoop van alle trekkers, trokke of implemente.  
Skakel vir Frikkie Erasmus 083 484 1956.





**AGRI-PULSE – AUGRABIES** - As Winter approaches, so does citrus season and now is when many of us eagerly buy oranges, nartjies (mandarin), grapefruits and lemons.

Although famous for its viticulture - table grapes, raisins and wine - not many know that for the past 20+ years, citrus has been grown successfully in the region.

From just before Kakamas, Augrabies and on to Onseepkans, 12 citrus varieties - mostly Valencia oranges - are cultivated by 12 producers, over a total area of +-1 300 ha.

Due to the dry climate, the area is fairly

disease-free and therefore optimal for citrus cultivation. The Gemsbok was welcomed to talk to Mr. André Spangenberg of Groenheuvel Farm, close to Augrabies, about his experience in growing citrus in our region. André started farming in 1984 and soon realised that he needed to grow diverse crops and in this way spread out the farm's harvesting season. He had started with table grapes, then grapes for raisins, followed by wine grapes. Then in 2000, he planted his first citrus trees, after he and his brother had had a few heart-to-heart visits with the well-known Oom Gertjie Niemöller of Pofadder, who was

then farming in the Pofadder region.

Oom Gertjie had already done extensive citrus trials on his farm, together with the University of Stellenbosch, and he graciously shared all his findings with the brothers, giving them all the data and information he had made over the years. And so it was that Andre and his brother began their journey with citrus.

It was a steep learning curve in the first years, but today Groenheuvel Farm is cultivating superior quality Star Ruby Grapefruits, Valencia Oranges such as Midnight, Alpha, Laval, Turkey, Benny, Tango and Nardorcott Mandarin, as well as Eureka lemons.

In our region, the citrus season starts from mid-April to mid-August, with Turkey Valencia being the first cultivar to ripen.

The vast majority of their citrus crop is exported - to America, Europe, Canada and the East. Groenheuvel is also very proud of their solar power plant. Like many farmers in the area, they are totally energy-self-sufficient and what power they are not able to use, is fed back into the national electricity supply grid.

We then visited another farm, Renosterkop Citrus, where Junior Agenbag told us more

about the citrus farming operation that is part of the Oseiland Group, where Mr. Piet du Plessis and his brother, the late Jan du Plessis, started planting citrus in 2008.

Junior has been working at Renosterkop for 12 years, and when he started, there were 80ha under citrus: today they have 378ha planted: grapefruits, oranges and mandarin.

Renosterkop's exports go mainly to China, Europe and the USA, where 90% of their fruit goes to supermarket schemes in those countries.

Mr. Agenbag says "Our fruit is very healthy, due to the dry climate and pests and diseases are minimal." When we visited in mid-May, they were almost done picking, packaging and shipping their Star Ruby grapefruits and would then start with their mandarin harvest.

The fruit that does not meet export quality is delivered by farmers to the fruit juice plant in Augrabies. According to Mr. Marius Bester, area representative of the Citrus Growers Association, it is estimated that about 2700 000 cartons (@ 15kg) of citrus will be exported from this region this year - 1 300 000 grapefruits, 400 000 Mandarin (nartjie), 800 000 oranges, 30 000 navels and 200 000 lemons



Armand Koch and JL Agenbag, are two Junior Production Managers of Renosterkop Citrus, standing with boxes of packed grapefruits ready for the export market.



Renosterkop Citrus' packing store. Here the grapefruits are placed on different tracks for packaging



Renosterkop's grapefruits go through a washing process before being waxed, dried and polished for the export market.

17 JUNIE 2022

11:00 | VRYBURG SKOUGRONDE

ROOM VAN DIE KUDDES

MOLOPO MANSO

GENETIC SALE SUID-AFRIKA

BOSCHAAR BOERDERY

DUIZENDEN 1997

GEREGISTREERD:  
WIT BRAHMAN

5 BULLE  
10 KOEIE  
(DRAGTIG OF MET KALF)  
15 DRAGTIGE VERSE

KOMMERSIEEL:  
30 KOEIE  
(DRAGTIG OF MET KALF)  
25 OOP VERSE

GASVERKOPER:  
BOSCHAAR BOERDERY

50 KOEIE & KALWERS  
50 DRAGTIGE VERSE  
50 OOP VERSE

HG18 636  
HG19 678

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# Nampo: Back in the saddle!



It was rather difficult to not notice Bakkies Botha at Nampo 2022 – the man is even more impressive in real life than on a television screen. He had no shortage of fans that wanted to pose for a quick photo with him. Deon Verster (right) was one of the people who stopped to have a chat with the Springbok legend.



Mamma se kindjie... Dié Braunvieh-kalfie het 'n soentjie vir sy mamma.



Limousin cattle are originally from the Limousine and Marche regions in France. They are considered as one of the oldest breeds in Europe. Limousin were originally very popular because of their hardiness against drought, but these days they are also popular as beef producing animals.



Chianina cattle were real eye catchers at Nampo. This little family were quite content to pose for visitors.



This Fendt harvester is a proper beast that will take care of a harvest in no time at all.

**PC LE ROUX BOERDERY**

*Aanteelweiling*

**23 JUNIE 2022**

11:00 | STELLA VEILINGSKRALE

*Alle diere is Hartwater aangepas*

250 KOEIE & KALWERS	2 BEEFMASTER BULLE
110 DRAGTIGE KOEIE	1 LIMOUSIN BUL
70 DRAGTIGE VERSE	1 ROOI ANGUS BUL
	(ALLE BULLE ± 2017)

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

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053 927 1981

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AGRI-PULSE – BOTHAVILLE – Agri-Pulse journalists were very happy to be able to make the trek to the Free State to Nampo Park again this year.

Despite rumours and threats of boycotting the event due to entry requirements, it seemed the proposed boycott had little effect.

"The year's Nampo Harvest Day exceeded expectations with a solid attendance of 73 000," GrainSA said in a statement after this year's festival. It was indeed, as in previous years, a worthwhile experience. There was an energetic atmosphere that prevailed among exhibitors, producers, and visitors. "All agreed that Nampo was missed as a shopping, socialising, and networking event during the past two years it could not be held," is Grain SA's opinion.

The week started off with a visit by Thoko Didiza, South African Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. "At the show, farmers

can interact with each other and with stakeholders, but also view all the latest technologies. Nampo represents the vastness and integration of the entire agricultural sector," Didiza said during a press conference.

Grain SA's chairperson, Derek Mathews, said in response that the Harvest Day is an opportunity to meet the suppliers and the whole family that creates the world of agriculture, not only in South Africa, but around the world. "Grain SA appreciates Minister Didiza and her delegation's visit to Nampo to get to know the producers. This is what we as South Africans must do; we need to get to know each other," Mathews said.

The exhibitors at Nampo 2022, large and small, deserve a pat on the back for the standard, effort put in and variety of their exhibits. Nearly 150 of the 800 exhibitors are new this year. "It is remarkable that there are new ideas that exhibitors have brought to Nampo. This is part of the value that producers themselves can experience here.



Quintin le Roux van Stilfontein het 'n spesiale prys in die kompetisie vir boereplanne gewen. Hy het 'n koring- en sojaboonstropertafel gebou wat ongeveer die helfte van 'n nuwe kos.



Hoe ry die boere sit-sit so. Die pendelstelsel by Nampo was baie welkom as die voete seer geloop is.



Dié groepie Pretorianers het vroegdag in die pad geklim na Nampo. Ilze-marie Hall, Dané Joubert, Anché Roos en Nadine Thompson poseer vir die kamera.



Lizindi van der Walt van Sakata Sade op Brits



Pieter Kruger en Zani van der Linde van Klerksdorp by Nampo



Thandiwe Xaba, Mpho Nchodu and Nomthandazo Phahla of Grassland Secondary School loved NAMPO.

Two years of development in technology and a lot of new innovations – which could not be demonstrated in the past two years – can be seen," said Dr Pieter Taljaard, CEO of Grain SA.

The Nation in Conversation Forum's discussion topics focused on the state of the South African economy, the responsible use of chemicals, infrastructure and logistics, the regeneration of rural communities, diversification and integration of livestock, data in agriculture and the future of agriculture.

Broadcasts of the conversations are available on the Nation in Conversation website. The digital channel, AgriXtra, which was launched during Nampo Virtual and can be found on YouTube, broadcast live from Nampo Park and takes a look at everything that was on display at Nampo this year.

Dr Dirk Strydom, Nampo, Marketing & Research Coordination Lead at Grain SA, says it is important that there are not

only good attendance figures, but that the exhibitors do quality business, have quality conversations with producers and obtain quality sales leads. "It is one great blessing that Nampo was able to take place this year despite all the challenges. We trust that the non-profit organisations and local communities have benefited as much from this year's show," said Strydom.

"Together with the good attendance figures, Nampo has only received positive feedback from exhibitors, guests, visitors who have experienced Nampo for the first time and those who have experienced it many times," said Strydom. This year, several companies within the automotive and agricultural sectors had new product launches during Nampo.

Over the course of the week, no fewer than 335 planes and 70 helicopters landed on the runway, resulting in 925 visitors to pass through the airspace.

The dates for next year's show have been set for 16 – 19 May 2023.



The Nampo Harvest festival was hosted again this year after an absence of two years. Some 73 000 people visited the 2022 festival, according to Grain SA.



Boeta en OJ Swanepoel from Steynrus made the road trip to Nampo. "The absence of the festival the past two years was felt. It's great to be back," said Boeta.



This 'Transformer' was a popular stopping point at this year's Nampo.



This might resemble an inter galactic war machine, but it's actually just some of the amazing agricultural technology which was on show at Nampo 2022.



Eberhardt Basson van Komatiport is beïndruk met die trekkermuseum.



Titans Cricket's CEO, Dr Jacques Faul was just one of the many familiar faces at this year's Nampo Harvest festival.



Michelle van Niekirk van die Klerksdorp Dienssentrum geniet die besoek aan Nampo saam met haar kleinkinders, Mortlock (12) en Carter van Niekirk (8).



Klerksdorpers Sias Browning, Marita van Rensburg en Ida Myburg geniet Nampo



Klein maar getrein... Kyra Klingenberg, skaars 18 maande oud, van Piet Retief speel met die groot quad by die John Deere-uitstalling.

**Scholtz BRANGUS STOET**

**1STE PRODUKSIEVEILING**

**8 JULIE 2022 11:00 | VRYBURG SKOUGRONDE**

**BRANGUS 20 BULLE**

**10 STOET DRAGTIGE VERSE**

**40 KOMMERSIELE DRAGTIGE VERSE**

**40 BEEFMASTER OOPVERSE**

**HERMAN DAMES : 083 953 5717**

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# Norway invests R120 million in RedSun Dried Fruit & Nuts

AGRI-PULSE - KEIMOES: RedSun Dried Fruit & Nuts - a Northern Cape-based processor and distributor of raisins and pecans - has received a R120 million investment from the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (Norfund) to boost production .

The investment will be used to build two new processing plants, one in the Northern Cape and one in the Western Cape, which will be privately owned. Redsun is expected to create up to 200 new permanent jobs.

“This investment in Redsun fulfils our mandate by creating jobs and increasing value in the company,” said project manager André Kemp.

“It is also in line with our strategy to create jobs by processing agriculture locally. The new pecan-wet cracking facility and raisin processing facilities will be instrumental for the company and the regions. “We are excited to work with an experienced management team and to take advantage of IKIV’s access to Three-Dimensional Capital,” he said.

In turn, Norfund will take a shareholder role with the company and get a seat on its board.

**Growing demand**

“Demand for South African raisins has risen after water shortages and rising labour costs in the US affected production levels, giving Redsun a significant opportunity to gain world market share,” said Hendrik Jordaan, president and CEO of private equity fund IKIV. .

“Norfund’s investment in a company committed to sharing high-quality products with the rest of the world is just one of the ways to increase economic activity and reduce poverty levels in Southern Africa.”

Jordaan noted that the growth investment by Norfund Redsun will enable it to double its current capacity by building the only raisin processing facility in Vredendal, the fastest growing frontier for raisin production in South Africa.

Vredendal offers diversification and logistical advantages because it is located in a different intake region with a unique climate that is close to Cape Town, one of Africa’s main ports, he said.

RedSun founder and CEO Peter Kuilman reportedly told Moneyweb that the company had been looking for investors for the past 18 months to finance its expansion.

“The idea of raising money to build these two factories has been with me for a long time. But I have to say that Norfund is quite brave to invest in the South African context, given everything that has happened in the country. ”

The new processing facilities include a new pecan factory being built next to the company’s first raisin factory in Keimoos.

Kuilman believes the proximity of the factories will be beneficial for workers to work together and assist each other with the functionality of both facilities.

He expects the new facility to process up to 4,000 tonnes of pecans a year within three years, once processed throughout the year.

The second facility will be a new raisin processing plant in the Olifants River region in Vredendal, 540 km southwest of the existing factory.

Kuilman says this decision is based on the growing production of raisins in the area - from 4,000 tons per year a few years ago, to 11,000 tons today.

“The South African raisin industry needs additional capacity. We are getting closer to 100,000 tons of raisin production. There has to be a new role player,”he adds.

He points out that Vredendal is the ideal

place to build the new raisin processing factory - because it will also significantly reduce logistics expenses in the future.

In a statement by One Thousand and One Voices (IKIV), the company’s current investment partner, the fund says it will also introduce one of wet cracking facilities in the southern hemisphere that will lead to increased processing for pecans.

“For our first harvest, we use technology developed specifically for the macadamia industry in South Africa, which is also well suited for our pecan industry.”

Kuilman says that the wet cracking machine is the best route to obtain quality pecans, which are in high demand.

Regarding the company’s best performance in 2020, Kuilman says: “RedSun did not stop processing for one day - despite our government’s hard collapse, because we are integral to the agricultural value chain... Most importantly, the demand for our product has dramatically increased during the restraint. “People have adapted their diet to suit a healthier lifestyle.”

He believes the Norfund investment gives new impetus to small South African farmers in the region, who were looking for new markets.

“There is a great opportunity for farmers to get into this business and diversify their markets. We offer producers security and different outlets for their products that were usually only concentrated in China,”he says.

“We market all over the world. I’m talking about South America, Europe, the Middle East, New Zealand, the United States and more.” According to IKIV, this investment is expected to indirectly support additional jobs, by “investing in a rural part of South Africa where jobs are scarce.



RedSun’s founder and CEO, Peter Kuilman, reportedly said the company had been looking for investors for 18 months to finance its expansion.

## R3,2 Milj for Lucern project

AGRI-PULSE - The MEC for Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform, Mase Manopole, launched the R3.2m Provincial lucern planting project in Warmsand near Upington.

This project which is expected to create more than 200 jobs, is a partnership between the Department and farmers’ organization, National African Farmers Union (NAFU).

The MEC was accompanied by the NAFU national President, Mr. Motsepe Matlala and RaisinSA CEO, Mr Ferdie Botha, who committed to support farmers endeavours.

MEC Manopole said the aim of the lucern project, which will be expanded to other districts, is to assist farmers to feed their livestock during a natural disaster.

Several parts of the Northern Cape have constantly been hit by immense drought, brown locust infestation and devastating veldfires.

“The planting of lucern and maize, will assist us in alleviating the effects brought by drought, brown locusts plaque and veldfires among other overwhelming disasters which are confronting our sector in the Province. We will be able to store more fodder in our fodder banks for our farmers’ livestock, so that when disaster struck, we are able to assist,” said MEC Manopole during the launch.

“Today’s launch, comes as the ever growing partnership between the Department and farmers’ union, NAFU leaps forward in a significant way. In 2019, when the Deputy President, Honourable David Mabuza, visited the Province, to assess the nature effect of drought on our farmers, it was agreed that as the Provincial Government we should partner with our stakeholders, to see how best we can alleviate the effect of drought.

“Key to this intervention, is to plant more lucern and maize and store in our fodder

banks for times of great need,” she said.

The Provincial Government has put aside about R3.2m towards these initiative, which will see NAFU planting lucern and maize in various districts such as ZF Mgcawu, Pixley ka Seme and Frances Baard.

“We are grateful of the partnership because it will see more than 200 job opportunities created. We call on NAFU to take this partnership serious, so that it can sustainable and spread to more districts,” said MEC Manopole.

Meanwhile, MEC Manopole mentioned that the Department is working hard to make sure that the Fetsa Tlala program increase production levels of subsistence and smallholder producers, subsequently allowing them opportunities into the value chain through planting of grains mainly maize and wheat.

“The intervention further intends to increase prospects of job creation and contribute to the creation of SMME development at a local level. We have put money aside to be used into the production of food on Communal, Private and Land Reform Farms, to address food security challenges in the Province.”

Districts such as the ZF Mgcawu and Frances Baard have contributed close to 600 hectares with a total of 14 irrigation farms participating in winter and summer cropping, mainly maize and wheat production which is staple food in the Province.

MEC Manopole said the One Household, One Food Garden program, will continue encouraging our communities to produce their own food through establishment of vegetable gardens.



The MEC for Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform, Mase Manopole, launched the R3.2 million provincial lucerne planting project in Warmsand near Upington



The Provincial Government has set aside about R3.2 million for this initiative, which will result in NAFU planting lucerne and maize in various districts such as ZF Mgcawu, Pixley ka Seme and Frances Baard.



The MEC for Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform, Mase Manopole, was accompanied by the NAFU national president, mr. Motsepe Matlala



**Moon Phases**  
**June**  
**2022**



**Third Quarter Moon**  
**7 June**



**Full Moon**  
**14 June**



**First Quarter Moon**  
**21 June**



**New Moon**  
**29 June**





“Best Chicken on Show” – Hannes du Plessis (left) receiving his award from Dawie Snyman (right). (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Soft Feather Heavy – Wyandotte Silver Laced”- Annemarie van Dalen. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Soft Feather Bantam – Orpington Bantam Jubilee” – Hannes Jordaan. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Chicken on Show – Best Hard Feather Bantam – Modern Game Birchen”- Hannes du Plessis. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Hard Feather Large – Indian Game Jubilee” – Basie van Dalen. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Asian Hard Feather Bantam – Aseel Bantam Black Red” – Eric Jacobs. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best True Bantam” – Hollandse Kriel Goue Patrys – Niel Snyman. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Asian Hard Feather Large – O Shamo Spangle” – Dieter Labuschagne. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



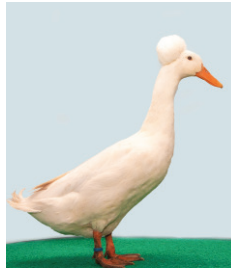
“Best Soft Feather Light Breed – Leghorn Brown” – Dieter Labuschagne. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Turkey – Bourbon Red Turkey” – Dawie Snyman. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Goose – Emdben White” – Dawie Snyman. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



“Best Duck – Crested White” – Vic Hattingh. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)



Beoordelaars 2022: Tony van Greune (KZN), Jurie Robertse, Hannes du Plessis, Dieter Labuschagne, middel: Jannie de Bruin, Niel Snyman, Frank Lambert, Thys Human (Noord-Kaap), Hennie Swart (Wes-Kaap) en voor Dawie Snyman en Gerald Holding. (Foto: Ronel Broderick)

# Poultry Club celebrates 50 th anniversary

RUSTENBURG – The Rustenburg Poultry Club hosted its annual poultry show over the past weekend. This was an excellent show with ample opportunity to show what the club has achieved to date. The club has proof of prize charts given out as long ago as 1972. This particular show was also hosted at the Rustenburg Showgrounds. This year the club wishes to honour Gerald Holding, Herkie Smit, the

late André de Beer, the late Jimmy Dermatus, the late Anton Ocshe, the late Rev Venter and the Schoeman brothers - Johan and Rooies who have all participated at the show of '72. Gerald Holding is currently still a member of the Rustenburg Poultry Club and has done great work during the many decades of his involvement. This year's show was in a class of its own and great results were achieved. The club takes

great pride in announcing the winners. (Photos: Ronel Photography).  
Cap1  
Judges 2022: Tony van Greune (KZN), Jurie Robertse, Hannes du Plessis, Dieter Labuschagne, Jannie de Bruin, Niel Snyman, Frank Lambert, Thys Human (Northern Cape), Hennie Swart (Western Cape), Dawie Snyman and Gerald Holding. (Foto: Ronel Broderick).

Die nuwe **GWM** en **Haval** tak is nou ook in Lichtenburg!

Kom besoek gerus ons tak vir alle Haval en GWM voertuie. Ons vriendelike, behulp same span sien uit daarna om van diens te wees oor enige navrae wat u mag hê.

Groete

*GWM & Haval Span Lichtenburg.*

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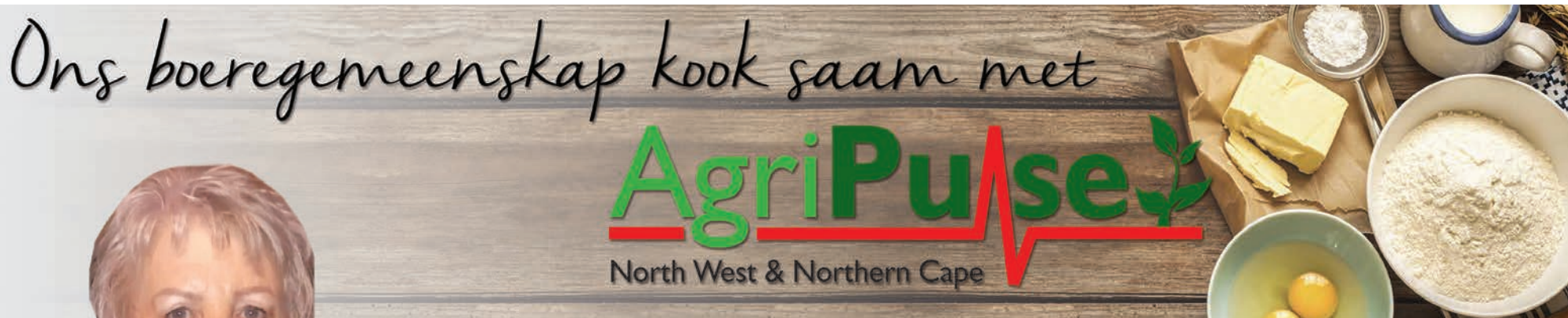
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# Chilli, chocolate and whiskey jam

CLICK HERE - on your electronic device or go to <https://bit.ly/lekkerkonfyt> to see a video



AGRIPULSE - BRITS - In her pantry the shelves groan under a large collection of jams and a variety of other pickled delicacies.

Elsie van Staden, a resident of Brits, is truly a guru when it comes to everything that can be preserved. From her gooseberry jam, onion marmalade, makataan and chilli jam to Spekboom chutney (just to name a few), she is Brits' jam queen.

An array of flavours bubble from her kitchen as she grinds the blood-red chillies with her "old-fashioned" grinder in preparation for her unique chilli, chocolate and whiskey jam.

AgriPulse visited Elsie in her kitchen to experience first-hand how this interesting jam is made. "Cooking jam has always been a hobby of mine, but for the past 15 years it has gotten out of hand and my husband Johan and I are now busier than ever," she says. "I make all the traditional jams, but it gives me so much joy to experiment with combinations and ingredients. The thought of chilli, chocolate and whiskey tickled my fancy and along with a few other ingredients such as ground green apple and green peppers, this recipe was perfected.

"Johan and I have a stall at a large market in the area twice a year and we can't keep up with the demand." The jam works great with braaivleis or as a condiment on a cheese platter.



## JAM

### INGREDIENTS

- 1kg red peppers • 4 green apples • 6 green peppers
- \* sugar (see method) • 1 cup whiskey • 1 block of dark chocolate
- 2 bottles of jam (figs or makataan)

### METHOD

Grind peppers, green apples and green peppers, toss together and weigh. \* Use the same weight of sugar as the weight of the above ingredients. Put everything in saucepan and cook slowly until the sugar is dissolved. Add whiskey and stir, break the block of chocolate into the mixture and stir. Add the two bottles of jam and cook until the mixture starts to bubble. Do the cold saucer test: put a saucer in the freezer until it is cold, pour 5ml to 10ml of the mixture onto the plate - it should not be runny and fairly firm. Then bottle in sterilized bottles and place bottles upside down to seal well.

Anyone interested in purchasing this unique chilli, chocolate and whiskey jam or any other delicatessen from Elsie van Staden, can call her on 082 417 0982.

## IMPORTANCE OF CROP ROTATION

(Continued from page 1) species of root-knot nematodes, have wide host ranges. Some nematode species can survive as eggs in the soil or as eggs in structures called cysts in the soil for several years. For these nematode problems, it is important to correctly identify the causal agent and to rotate to non-host crops for the amount of time needed to sufficiently reduce the nematode populations.

### INSECT MANAGEMENT

Unlike soilborne pathogens, many insect pests of vegetables are able to move easily from field to field. Crop rotation is not effective for managing these pests. However, crop rotation can be used to break the life cycle of insect pests with limited mobility and narrow host ranges. Corn rootworm adult females lay eggs in the soil in corn fields in late summer and early fall. The eggs overwinter in the soil, and larvae emerge in the spring to feed on corn roots if the field has been replanted to corn. If the field is rotated to a non-host crop, the larvae do not have corn roots to feed on and they die, breaking the cycle. Other vegetable insects for which crop rotation is useful include wireworms on root crops, sweet corn, and melons, and Colorado potato beetles on solanaceous crops (eggplant, pepper, potato, and tomato).<sup>1,5</sup>

### WEED MANAGEMENT

Crop rotation can also be used to help manage weed problems because different crops compete with weed species in diverse ways. Crops vary in their time of planting, rate of canopy development, canopy height, row spacings, fertility management, and harvest times. This creates varied environmental conditions that favor different weed species each year, preventing the buildup of a few species. The diversity of weed management strategies used with different crops also increases weed diversity and reduces the prevalence of problem weeds that can build up over time. Crop rotation allows the use of herbicides with diverse modes of action, which can prevent the development of herbicide-resistant weed populations. Different cultivation practices can also disrupt the buildup of problem weed species.<sup>6,7</sup>

### HERBICIDE CARRYOVER

When using selective herbicides, it is critical to consider the effect that herbicide carryover may have on subsequent crops. Many herbicide labels include plant-back restrictions, indicating the amount of time that must pass before planting a specific crop following application. For example, if DuPont<sup>®</sup> Canopy<sup>®</sup> Herbicide is used on a crop of soybeans in the central region states, the listed label rotation guidelines indicate the following recropping intervals: tomato (transplants) – 10 months, snap bean and peas – 12 months, cucumber, sweet corn, watermelon, and cabbage – 18 months, carrot, onion, and potato – 30 months. Always check pesticide labels for instructions on recropping restrictions and follow label directions. Keep crop rotation sequences in mind when selecting herbicides and vice versa.<sup>3</sup>

### NUTRIENT USE

Crops differ in their nutrient requirements and their abilities to extract nutrients from the soil. Tomato plants are heavy feeders. Celery, by contrast, is not as efficient at extracting soil nutrients, and celery can have problems with nutrient uptake when planted following tomato.<sup>1</sup> Legumes (alfalfa, beans, peas) can fix atmospheric nitrogen and be used to increase soil nitrogen levels. However, legumes that are harvested for seed (soybeans) do not provide much added nitrogen to the soil. Growing alfalfa in a field for several years can provide enough nitrogen to meet the needs of the following vegetable crop.<sup>3</sup>

### EXAMPLE ROTATION SEQUENCES

Crop rotation sequences can be simple, alternating between 2 crops each year (Figure 2) or more complex. Longer, more complex sequences (Figures 1 and 3), especially those that include a year or two of forage crops in the rotation, usually provide the most benefit to production. However, they may not be feasible in all situations, depending on growing conditions and market forces.

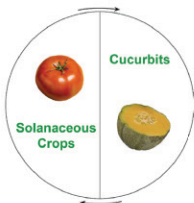


Figure 2. A simple 2-year crop rotation sequence.

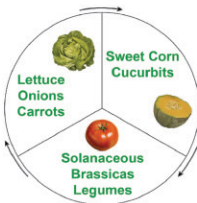


Figure 3. A 3-year crop rotation sequence.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Roberts, E. Vegetable rotations-successions and intercropping. Texas A&M Extension. <https://nabook.tamu.edu/programs/crops/vegetables/vegetable-rotations-successions-and-intercropping/>. <sup>2</sup> Fake, C. 2013. Vegetable plant families and their characteristics. University of California Cooperative Extension, Publication Number 31-141C. <sup>3</sup> Rudolph, R., Pfeuffer, E., Bessin, R., Wright, S., and Strang, J., 2020. Vegetable production guide for commercial vegetable growers, 2020-2021. University of Kentucky. <sup>4</sup> Magdoff, F. and van Es, H. Crop rotations. In: Building Soils for Better Crops, 3rd Edition. SARE. <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Soils-for-Better-Crops-3rd-Edition/Text-Version/Crop-Rotations>. <sup>5</sup> Stoner, K. Management of insect pests with crop rotation and field layout. SARE. <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Crop-Rotation-on-Organic-Farms/Text-Version/Physical-and-Biological-Processes-in-Crop-Production/Management-of-Insect-Pests-with-Crop-Rotation-and-Field-Layout>. <sup>6</sup> Cultural weed management. 2013. NC State Extension. <https://soybeans.ces.ncsu.edu/cultural-weed-management/>. <sup>7</sup> Pittman, K. and Fleasner, M. Crop rotations. GROW Integrated Weed Management. <https://integratedweedmanagement.org/crop-rotations-and-planting-date/>. Websites verified 5/6/2020

For additional agronomic information, please contact your local seed representative.

Performance may vary from location to location and from year to year, as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible and should consider the impacts of these conditions on the grower's fields. The recommendations in this article are based upon information obtained from the cited sources and should be used as a quick reference for information about vegetable production. The content of this article should not be substituted for the professional opinion of a producer, grower, agronomist, pathologist and similar professional dealing with vegetable crops.

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## AGRONOMIC SPOTLIGHT



### IMPORTANCE OF CROP ROTATION

- » Crop rotation is an important strategy for managing some diseases, weeds, and insect pests of vegetable crops.
- » Rotating crops also provides nutritional benefits to plants and maintains soil health.
- » Plants in the same plant family should be treated as a single rotational group.

Crop rotation involves planting a sequence of different kinds of crops in a location over a number of seasons (Figure 1). Rotating crops helps maintain or improve soil health and maintain or increase the productivity of the farm over time. To get the most benefit from rotation, growers should schedule sequential plantings based on rotational groups of plants belonging to the same plant family (Table 1).<sup>1,2</sup> Vegetables belonging to the same family can be considered as a rotational group because they are susceptible to many of the same diseases and insect pests, share similar nutrient requirements, and are treated with similar pesticides.<sup>1</sup>

Table 1. Plant families of common vegetable crops.	
Family	Plants
Alliaceae	onion, garlic, leek, chives, shallots
Apiaceae	carrot, celery, coriander, fennel, parsley, parsnip
Asteraceae	chicory, endive, dandelion, lettuce, Jerusalem artichoke, globe artichoke, sunflower, zinnia, marigold
Brassicaceae	broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, canola, cauliflower, collards, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, radish, rutabaga, turnip
Chenopodiaceae	beets, chard, spinach
Cucurbitaceae	cantaloupe, cucumber, melon, pumpkin, summer squash, watermelon, winter squash, gourds
Fabaceae (legumes)	dry beans, green (snap) beans, soy beans, peas, alfalfa, cowpea, peanut
Poaceae (grasses)	corn, rice, wheat, oats, barley, rye, sorghum
Solanaceae	eggplant, pepper (bell and chili), potato, tomato, tobacco

### DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Rotation can be used to help manage diseases caused by pathogens that survive in the soil or in crop debris and pathogens whose populations decline in the absence of a susceptible host.<sup>3</sup> Crop rotation will not be effective against pathogens that primarily enter fields on air currents, by vectors, such as insects, or on seed. Some pathogens (fungi, nematodes, and a few bacteria) are considered to be soil inhabitants and can persist in the soil for many years in the absence of a susceptible crop. The populations of these types of pathogens may not decline with crop rotation, but rotation can help keep the populations from increasing or slow the rate of increase.<sup>3</sup> Some pathogens have wide host ranges that can include crops in different rotational groups. Extra care must

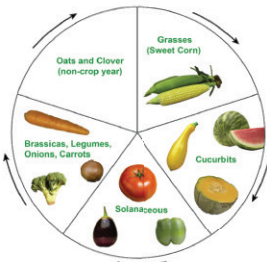


Figure 1. A 5-year crop rotation sequence, including one non-vegetable crop year.<sup>4</sup>

be used when designing rotational sequences that will help manage these pathogens. Grass species, such as corn, wheat, and sorghum, are very different from most vegetable crops, and these crops are good rotational partners to include in a vegetable rotation sequence.

The length of time between similar crops needed to adequately manage a disease depends on the pathogen.<sup>3</sup> Some pathogens only remain viable in the soil or infested crop debris for a short time. Rotating away from a susceptible host for 1 or 2 years is adequate for reducing populations of the pathogens that cause leaf blight of onion and bacterial spot of pepper, for example. Other pathogens produce long-term survival structures and require longer rotations to manage. A rotation of 2 to 3 years is recommended for managing Fusarium root rot of beans, and a minimum of 7 years is recommended for clubroot on broccoli and cabbage. The pathogen that causes Verticillium wilt of tomato and eggplant produces survival structures that can remain viable in the soil for many years, and this fungus can infect a wide range of hosts, including many weed species. Therefore, crop rotation is of limited use for managing this disease.<sup>1,3,4</sup>

### NEMATODE MANAGEMENT

Many plant pathogenic nematodes are soilborne and can be managed, in part, with crop rotation. Nematodes, such as







Mr. Nico Kilian, recently elected new chairman of the Northwest Red Meat Producers Organization.

# Hands-on Chairperson elected for RPO

(by Anita Kotzé)

AGRI PULSE - LICHTENBURG - Mnr. Nico Kilian of Schweizer-Reneke was recently unopposed elected as the new chairman of the North West Red Meat Producers Organization (NWRPO) during the organization's Congress.

Nico said during the presentation of his chairman's report that despite the great challenges over the past year, producers are grateful for a good rainy year and producers have had a blessed year in terms of meat prices. "Exports are one of our biggest priorities, which currently amount to 4%, and we as an industry will have to set the goal of exporting 10% of our production. It will also stimulate and increase our domestic prices."

"The biggest challenges currently facing the industry are foot-and-mouth disease, contagious miscarriage and Onderstepoort's inability to provide enough vaccines on time. Traceability is still one of the most important actions driving the RPO, although it is legally

based in the state and is their responsibility. We believe it will be rolled out soon, it is already on a test basis in KZN at red area. "The LITS system will not only have great benefits for exports, but will control diseases such as Foot-and-mouth disease as well as have a big impact on stock theft - possibly causing a big decrease," he said.

His goals as chairman of the NWRPO are to further expand the Red Meat industry in the North West, to promote red meat to consumers and to encourage Biosecurity on producers' farms. He says the organization also wants to encourage the prosecuting authority to better and more effective prosecution of stock thieves.

Nico completed his school careers at Coligny Primary and High Schools after which he obtained his B Comm degree and B Comm Honns in Accounting and Taxation at Potchefstroom University. In 1997, he set up his own practice on Schweizer, which he still runs. He is a purposeful man with drive,

is patient and kind and loves his fellow man and his Heavenly Father. He farms on a small scale with Buffaloes and mainly Simbras, although he also crosses to make full use of the cross gene. He opens heifers with Brangus bull.

In his free time he enjoys watching sports and spending time in nature. His favorite food is a juicy rump steak, 'braai' and he likes to listen to 'Boeremusiek' and Afrikaan music. He is married to Isabel who is also an Accountant and handles the Estate Administration department in their practice. Nico has two children - his son who died in 2020 who ran the farm and his daughter works as a qualified accountant at his practice on Schweizer.

Nico's motto is to do what needs to be done every day... to live life to the fullest. He says the lessons he learned in his parents home on the farm outside Coligny are "work hard, be kind and hold on to your faith in your Heavenly Father."

# Proper soil analysis crucial for super crops

AGRIPULSE - NORTH WEST - The agriculture society in North West and Rustenburg areas are probably well acquainted with the ARC Institute for Industrial Crops at Kroondal just outside Rustenburg in North West. In this article we are focusing on the activities of the ARC's VIMP section specializing in Vegetable, Industrial and Medicinal Plants.

As to the ARC VIMP's focus and specialities, nothing has changed in recent years. Today it is still crucial for farmers and producers and just about everyone who wants to cultivate crops in a perfect environment, to know of his/her land's qualities, or rather its deficiencies. Anyone with a little "soil" in her/her veins, will tell you that it is important to know whether a particularly crop will be suitable for cultivation on your land or not. This is necessary before you turn up with tons of seed on the farm!

Did you know that the ARC's VIMP offers a valuable service in the expert analysis of your soil? At the ARC's VIMP samples of your soil will be analysed in terms of measuring the quality of the soil, the water quality as well as plant analysis. Information that becomes available includes your soil's PH balance, the acidity and the different

minerals in your sample which are crucial to ensure maximum harvests.

For the farmer the process is very easy. Simply package no less than 1 kg of your soil type and send it off to the ARC's VIMP. A courier service would probably be the easiest but please note that the courier cost will be for your own account!

Send your sample to: Delivery at ARC/ LNR, Waterkloof Road, Kroondal, 0350. Attention Patricia/Nicole at Soil & Plant Laboratories. Your result will be available in just over a week. Meanwhile farmers can continue to plough their lands in anticipation of the result of their samples.

For more information contact Patricia on 073 238 3848.



The ARC (VIMP) department's soil analysis team: From left are Johan de Bruin, Justice Sesampi, Migel Segotlotso, Nicole Schoeman, Sarah Sethunya, Patricia Ngwato (Laboratory Manager), Brenda Dalasile and Ronel Schwan.

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**11:00**  
**KATALOGUS INSKRYWINGS SLUIT**  
**MAANDAG 13 JUNIE 2022**

**VEILINGKOMPLEKS - HERVORMDE KERK GROOT MARICO**  
**KONTAK ONS VIR ENIGE WILDSBEHOEFTE**

**TERME : STRENG KONTANT OP DAG VAN VEILING. INTERNET EN KAART FASILITEITE BESIKBAAR. BTW BETAALBAAR. MARICO BOSVELD WILD BEDRYF 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.**



Lappies Labuschagne from the herb farm, Lappies Bos, in Sanddrift, North West of Brits.



“A good farmer’s footprints will be seen in the soil on his farm.”

# Herb farming in Brits

Basil in one of the tunnels.

Elsabé Klein

AGRIPULSE - BRITS - Lappies Labuschagne, a computer nerd as he calls himself, closed his computer screen and business in the city about seven years ago and bought him a “patch” of land in Sanddrift, approximately 27km north west of Brits and started farming with herbs. “At first I did not know anything about farming, but when I felt the raw earth under my feet and smelled the fields under irrigation, I was already a farmer in my heart,” says Lappies passionately. AgriPulse visited him on his herb farm, Lappies Bos and experienced first-hand his passion for farming. When asked why he started farming with herbs, he said tongue in cheek that it was a coincidence. But then in a serious tone: “Coincidence yes, but I believe that the

light of God showed me the way.” “Because the soil in Sanddrift is grey soil, it is coarse, drains very well and that is exactly what herbs are looking for - they do not like wet feet,” he says. “Herb farming is very labour intensive. Seeds are sowed throughout the growth cycle and then pests and diseases have to be eradicated and nutrition applied and then it is harvesting the herbs and finally packing them - everything is done by hand,” says Lappies. At Lappies Bos he has 37 hectares of land with 76 greenhouses in which mainly basil, chives and rocket are planted. They like the humidity of the greenhouses as they are sensitive to temperatures being too hot or too cold. Interestingly, Lappies does not plant parsley and thyme in greenhouses, but in the open lands.

He plants about 130,000 seedlings of chives and about 520,000 basil seedlings. “In my warehouses we pack the fresh product and then deliver it to various supermarkets. Herb packets that customers buy from the shelf are harvested, packed and transported to the supermarket within one day. From the warehouse to the store, the herbs are kept at 5 degrees Celsius. When customers buy the fresh product, it can be kept fresh in refrigerators for up to seven days. Between harvests, to build up the soil, he diversifies by planting green beans, as it puts nitrogen back into the soil which is naturally excellent for the herbs. “You may only need a lawyer or an engineer once in your life, but every person needs a farmer every day, three times a day. I salute farmers who plant every day with faith and reap with gratitude,” Lappies concludes with a sparkle in his eyes.

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