

Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre

□ 076 023 2574 □ info@hopehillcentre.co.za

□ www.hopehillcentre.co.za

□ Plot 152, Rietvlei, Rustenburg, 0299 CO Reg: 2019/330465/07

www.agripulse.co.za MEI 2022

#### **NAMPO**

Back to big this year

p2+5

#### **OUR PEOPLE**

Young farmer of the year announced

p6+7

#### **LOCAL**

Cultivating "champion" tomatoes

pl2



Of all types of vegetables sold at the South African Fresh Produce Market, potatoes are by far the most popular! Did you know that up to one million tons of potatoes are sold at the Fresh Produce Market every year? Tomatoes are processed in dozens of ways and enjoyed by more than one billion people across the globe every single day. (See also article on p3 of this edition). Photo: Charlize van der Linden.



# AgriPu/se\*heartbeat of the farmer MAY 2022 AgriPu/se\* Jour agent in Noordwes en Noord Kaap











Stellastraat 58; Posbus 145; VRYBURG; 8600 Tel: 053 927 4020 - Alle Ure Tel: 053 927 5085 - Na Ure Tel: 053 927 1981/2/3 - Kantoor Faks: 053 927 2479 E-Pos: aak@megadial.com akock@wam.co.za



# Country's reservoirs overflowing

AGRIPULSE - NORTH WEST - It's the beginning of May and officially the kick-off of the winter of 2022. This is not to say that it is time to pack away your rain coat or umbrella. Rain until deep into the 5th month will not be uncommon, according to the SA Weather Service.

After a way above average rainfall season thus far this year, it goes without saying that most of our reservoirs in the country are filled to capacity if not overflowing. At the time of our going to print this week, these were the latest dam levels issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

**Dams in North West** Boskop Dam: 103.1% Bospoort Dam: 102.6% Buffelspoort Dam: 100.84% Disaneng Dam: 45.9% Elandskuil Dam: 108.6% Hartbeespoort Dam: 96.8% Johan Neser Dam: 103.9% Klein Maricopoort Dam: 48.6% Klerkskraal Dam: 101.9% Klipvoor Dam: 105.5% Kosterrivier Dam: 47.3% Kromellenboog Dam: 62.9% Lindleyspoort Dam: 62.% Madikwe Dam: 61.3% Marico Bosveld Dam: 101.3% Middelkraal Dam: 100% Molatedi Dam: 42.9% Ngotwoane Dam: 47.3% Olifantsnek Dam: 69.6% Pella Dam: 56.8% Potchefstroom Dam: 104.6% Rietspruit Dam: 102.6% Roodekopjes Dam: 92.6% Sehujwane Dam: 99.4% Setumo Dam: 62.7% Swartruggens Dam: 103.1% Taung Dam: 99.2%

#### Dams in the Northern Cape

Boegoeberg Dam: 184.0% Douglas Dam: 133.8% Karee Dam: 13.1% Leeubos Dam: 0% Spitskop Dam: 113.3% Vaalharts Dam: 104.6%

The levels of the five biggest dams in the country, as as follows:

Vaal Dam: 111.6% Bloemhof Dam: 107.8% Sterkfontein Dam: 102.6% Van der Kloof Dam: 105.8% Gariep Dam: 104.9%





#### Not to be missed NAMPO

AGRI-PULSE - The NAMPO Harvest Day, the biggest agricultural show in the southern hemisphere, will take place again this year after a two-year interruption as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Grain SA announced that NAMPO is set to take place in person this year, though in compliance with any national regulations that apply. That means visitors to NAMPO must have proof of vaxxination or a current negative Covid test to show. Visit NAMPO near Bothaville from 16 to 20 May to see what's new in agriculture. For the first time in the Harvest Day's history it will be presented over five days – from the Monday to the Friday.

Interactive tractor & implement demonstrations are an unique feature of the show which allows farmers to view interactive demonstrations of an exhaustive range of machinery and impliments, establish their performance and effectiveness and use this knowledge for product purchases in future.

With more than 600 exhibitors, NAMPO is a not to be missed ow on the agriculture calender.

COVID-19 Terms & Conditions: All ticket holders must show proof of vaccination OR proof of a valid negative Covid-test result not older than 72 hours. Children 12 and under are exempted from vaccination/negative test policy. All COVID regulations will be adhered to at the time of entry.





www.agripulse.co.za

Code of Conduct

his newspaper subscribes to the Code of Ethics and conduct for South African Print and Online Median hat prescribes news that is truthful, accurate, fair and alanced. If we don't live up to the Code, within 20 days if the date of publication of the material, please contact ne Public Advocate at 011 484 3612, fax: 011 484 3615 ou can also contact our Case Officer on khanyim@ Press Council

Published by North West Newspapers (Pty) Ltd; and printed by North West Web Printers (Pty) Ltd a division of CTP Limited, 13 Coetzer Street. All rights and reproduction of all reports, photographs, drawings and all materials published in this newspaper are hereby reserved in terms of Section 12 (7) of the Copyright Act No 98 of 1978 and any amendments thereof. North West Newspapers will assume no responsibility with regard to copyright of material submitted for publication by advertisers/readers. All artistic or creative work, photographs and rdising material submitted for publication regarded exempt from all liability/claims by Newspapers

#### Contact us:

E-mail: mailbag@rustenburgherald.co.za Address: 13 Coetzer Street, Rustenburg, 0299 Web: www.agripulse.co.za

# Goodness from the eartl

AGRIPULSE-VRYBURG- Of all the vegetables in the potato industry, but is very expensive, sold in South Africa on fresh produce markets, potatoes are the most popular. About 1 million tonnes of potatoes are sold annually on South

Africa's fresh produce markets and the rest are distributed in other ways. It is processed in various forms and consumed by more than a billion people every day. Besides wheat and rice, potatoes are the third largest food crop in the world and the production and consumption of potatoes doubled in the two decades between 2000 and 2020. In South Africa, potatoes are grown on average on between 50 000 hectares and 60 000 hectares and during December 2021 and January

2022 have a total of 13 production areas, spread across north-west, Limpopo, Free State, Western Cape, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, as well as non-producing suppliers, potatoes delivered to fresh product markets. A total of 16 240 855 bags of potatoes were delivered to the markets.

These areas collectively produce 2-2.5 million tons of potatoes per year, about 20% of which are processed into potato chips and other potato products. South Africa is one of the top 10 exporters of seed potatoes in the world. One of the most important decisions a potato grower should make is the type of cultivar for

planting. This decision is influenced by several factors, including cultivar characteristics, climate, production area, consumer preferences, input costs and so on. Many of these cultivar characteristics are illustrated by the cultivar trials conducted by potato SA's (ASA) research department. In recent years, Mondial has dominated sales on fresh produce markets. Mondial accounts for about 55% of all potatoes sold on fresh produce markets. Interestingly, various potato cultivars are concentrated when it comes to plantings, but the cultivar Mondial has been the favourite in South Africa for more than a decade. In 2017, it made up more than 40% of all plantings, followed by Sifra (20%) and Lanorma (7%). This means that more than 60% of potatoes sold are Mondial and Sifra. According to ASA, Africa has great potential as a potato producer and as a contributor to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which, among other things, aim to alleviate poverty and ensure good health. On average, Africa contributed only 5.6% to total annual potato production over the period from 1994 to 2016. Charlize van der Linden spoke to a potato farmer (who wishes to remain anonymous) in the Vryburg area to find out more about local potato production. He has been farming in the Louwna/ Coetzersdam area in the Vryburg area for 28 years with table potatoes and seed potatoes. They started about 32 years with seed corn and potatoes and the potatoes showed much better profits. So potato production was a financial decision. The area in the Vryburg area is very favourable for potatoes over the sandy soil found there and the time when potatoes can then be marketed is from 15 December which is very good due to the high demand on the market. Their potatoes are mainly for domestic use, although factory potatoes are exported to Zimbabwe and Botswana. They use more than one cultivar, which ensures that their potatoes are good quality potatoes with few diseases and in the fairly dry conditions they work very well. The main cultivar planted for table use is Sifra, which is a large round potato with a smooth peel and is quite hardy. You choose a cultivar that fits into your plan of farming. For the summer planting that takes place in June/ July, most often up to 100% Sifrat cultivar is used produced by WesGro in Christiana and on which they have patent law. If you want to self-proclaim, royalties must be paid to WesGro. In terms of factory and seed potatoes, they can be grown themselves and enrolled under the Potato Certification Service (ASD) and pay a royalty to the company who is the licensee of the specific variety you use. Potato farming is very labor intensive especially in the packing sheds where the potatoes are packed for the market. The planting and harvesting process is already extremely magnetised, but you need to plant large enough to afford mechanisation as

because the best equipment is European equipment. South African companies do produce cheaper products, but farming

must be large enough to afford the expensive equipment and mechanisation. For the 2022 season, the input cost was

around R200 000 per hectare for potatoes. The input costs for the next season are still incalculable due to fertiliser and poison doubling fuel which is also extremely high. The new season's input costs may be R250 000 minimum per hectare. The

current world conditions

have a tremendous effect on

input costs. It is a supply of demand. If demand is high and supply is low then price is high. However, contract prices in the potato industry cannot be relied upon. Potatoes need to cycle once in four to five years. Therefore, if you want to plant 20 hectares, you must have five circles of 20 hectares each which are then used on a rotational basis.

There is a summer planting time that passes from July to the end of October (which is the best planting time).

The first potatoes begin flowering phase is in October and harvest time is from December 15 to the end of March. Winter planting is December to January and flowering time is mid-March and harvest time is June and July. A potato farm is an ongoing business. In mid to the end of March they begin to make new hectares of circles, pivots are moved, preparation of the fields is done and then planting time begins in June/July to October

month. Care for the potatoes planted is done daily from boreholes. From September/October month, packing sheds must be repaired and prepared, machinery must be serviced and defects repaired. From December to the end of March is the harvest period of potatoes. If you have a diversified farm with cattle, pecans, maize, bell pepper, etc. together with the potatoes, the rest of the farm should go on so that it is not neglected. In early years there were many dry lands and many trees were removed for planted pasture.

The open, dry lands were then used for potatoes. A circle where potatoes were planted is cleaned and is very high in fertilizers, phosphate, potassium and nitrogen. It is then planted pastures such as borseltjie grass or blue buffalo grass that help keep the nematode count low for the next potato season. Soil where potatoes are planted is ensured to improve and it combats forest intrusion.

### success is in the detail

seeds | science | service



#### Megaton

- Excellent winter cabbage with large uniform heads
- Ideal for the informal market
- Average head weight of 5 to 8 kg



#### Bellicose\*

- Good disease tolerance
- Round, compact head
- Ideal for bagging
- Medium to large head with an average head weight of 3 to 5 kg



#### **Excalibur**

- Ideal for fresh market and bagging
- Well adapted for the highveld summer and the winter in warmer areas.
- Average head weight of 3 to 6 kg





Animals initially have a high fever and blisters appear in the mucous membranes and on the top of the tongue, upper hard palate, gums and inside of the cheeks.



Raw sores form in the pharyngeal mucosa after blisters burst. In some cases, there are loose pieces of mucus on the edges of the sores that are the remnants of blisters that have burst.



# Combating foot-and-mouth disease is a major challenge for livestock industry

AGRI-PULSE – LICHTENBURG The latest outbreak of foot-andmouth disease in the North West and Gauteng has worried farmers and other stakeholders after the dreaded livestock disease hit the Vhembe district in Limpopo in March with two more areas in KwaZulu-Natal also affected by the disease. On a cattle farm between Ventersdorp and Potchefstroom where a feedlot is operated, a case of foot-and-mouth disease was recently confirmed by the department of agriculture and this farm, together with eight adjoining farms, was quarantined.

According to a follow-up report by the director of Veterinary Services, dr. L. Madyibi, issued on April 7, 2022, also tested positive for foot-and-mouth disease in a neighboring farm from the original farm where the disease broke out. "Continuous supervision, inspections and blood tests are done on the neighboring farms in the Potchefstroom area. About 450 cattle and 341 sheep were inspected but no signs of the disease could be seen on them. "Five roadblocks were deployed at strategic points in the area by the SAPS and Traffic Department," he said.

According to Mr. Nico Kilian, chairman of the Red Meat Producers Organization (RPO) in the North West, combating the disease is a major challenge for the livestock industry and the state (Dept. Agriculture). He says no cattle may be transported from the red area (where there are outbreaks), and it is sad that North West now has to fight such a challenging disease because the producer in the Potchefstroom district has violated regulations for which he has not been has not been charged. "Auction agencies in the North West are also working hard to combat the disease. All livestock that turn up at auctions are carefully t.o.v. art. 6 and art. 8 certificates inspected.

The dept. Agriculture is consulting with producers to possibly slaughter infected livestock in the North West

to prevent the spread of the disease. Producers do have a choice regarding slaughter, especially of stud cattle.

He says the Traceability System (LITS) is strongly driven by the RPO to support preventive measures through this and that farmers will also participate voluntarily as soon as North West is included in the system. "No producer may buy medicine and administer it himself. "Infected livestock on quarantine farms will be vaccinated by the state and only the state may drive the vaccination process," Kilian added.

Mr. Boeta du Toit, General Manager of Agri Noordwes, said the following after a NWRPO meeting that was represented by various role players on 22 April 2022: "No new incidents have occurred during the last two weeks and infections are still limited to the identified farms that have already been quarantined. Monitoring for clinical symptoms takes place through inspections and follow-up virological samples are randomly undertaken.

The disease was located on the quarantine farms and the outbreak is now considered under control given the prevailing conditions. It is therefore not widespread as in other provinces, checkpoints as already instituted continue and records of vehicles whose wheels are disinfected and monitored when transporting livestock are kept complete. Be careful not to be deceived by unfounded information from other sources." The chairman of the national RPO, mr. James Faber said the need for traceability systems has now become critically important due to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The CSIR is developing the system and the testing phase is currently being carried out in endemic areas.

"At the initiative of the RPO, representatives of the livestock industries and private service providers recently met with the aim of kicking off with a practical voluntary system. "The initiative will initially focus on

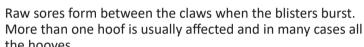
individual animal identification with unique ear tag numbers and will be implemented on an urgent basis in the cattle and small stock industries," said Faber.

Dr. Fritz Ras, a veterinarian from Lichtenburg, shared interesting facts about foot-and-mouth disease:

- · In South Africa, the initial transmission of foot-and-mouth disease is from infected carrier buffalo to
- The main transmission of the disease from cattle to cattle takes place mainly just before, and in the few days after the first signs of disease are observed.
- It is a viral disease and also one of the most contagious livestock diseases in the world.
- An infected animal will also become ill within three days to a maximum of 14 days and show signs
- The animal will then usually recover within a further 7 - 14 days because the animal itself develops immunity to the viral disease.
- The virus can infect all clovenhoofed farm animals and game species, but is mostly found in cattle.

Transmission of the disease occurs when an infected cow becomes ill while in direct contact or in the immediate vicinity of healthy cattle.

- The outbreak spreads if infected or sick cattle and other toy farm animals are then transported to other areas where the disease does not already occur.
- The virus can also be exhaled and form microdroplets that can be spread by the wind over longer distances.
- The virus can also survive in the
- Because it is a viral disease, there is also no primary treatment and only supportive treatment is possible while the animal's own immunity develops
- · Signs of illness are salivation and lameness.









#### Embden: Meet another feathered friend

AGRIPULSE – RUSTENBURG - The origins of the Embden breed are thought to be from the North Sea region in the Netherlands and Germany, from the town of Emden (used to be spelt with a 'b') in Lower Saxony, where they crossed the Italian White with their local stock. Edward Brown, in his 1906 Races of Domestic Poultry, believed that the breed was created by crossing the German White with the English White and then, by a process of careful selections, creating the goose as it is today. Others suggest that the English Embden's great weight and size was produced by selective breeding with the Toulouse breed, which was then bred out leaving the large size of this breed. In any case, the continental stock used in breeding the modern birds is most likely descended from the great white landrace of Frisia, which has been attested as early as the 13th century. The Embden breed was originally known as the Bremen. In German the breed is known as Emder Gans or Emdener Gans. The gander usually weights from 12.7 to 15.4kg and the goose from 10.9 to 11.7kg.

General characteristics for the gander and goose, carriage is upright and defiant and the body type broad, thick and well rounded. Round breast with very little, if any, indication of a keel. Shoulders and stern are broad. They have a long straight back. Deep paunch, which is dual-lobbed. The wings are large and strong with a close tail, carried well out. The head is long and straight with a bill that is fairly short, stout at the base. Their eyes are bold and their necks' long and swan-like, the throat uniform with the under mandible and neck, ie without a gullet. The legs and feet are of medium length with large and strong shanks. The toes are straight, and the plumage is hard and tight. Disqualifications are if there is any plumage that's other than white. The bill must be orange, the eyes are light blue and the legs and webs are a bright orange. Plumage is a pure glossy white.









# COME AND VISIT US

We are hosting topical panel discussions at:













Shaping Executive Minds in Africa



Herman du Preez is with Emil Pretorius, market development manager: Santam Agri.



Herman du Preez, Young Farmer of the Year, is with his trusted "right hand man", his wife, Surina.

# Young Farmer of the Year announced

AGRI-PULSE – Agri NW announced the Young Farmer of the Year at Senwes in Klerksdorp.

This glamorous event took place at The Barn on Friday April 29. The Young Farmer is Herman du Preez (38) of Agri Klippan. His farm outside Lichtenburg is divided into three parts – chickens,

Harry, as he is known, aims to make his farm more sustainable and profitable by focusing on new technology and training for his workforce. He grew up in the area and is married to Surina. They have three children. He is involved in local security structures and also serves as a

deacon in church. He will represent the province at national level.

Some of his prizes include various seeds worth R120 000, a getaway, cash and insurance against injuries on his farm.

The other two finalists are Anje Lubbe (Makwassie) and Fanie Badenhorst (Delareyville). Fanie could not be present at the event. Fanie is a cattle farmer and Anje's farm is a combination of crops and chickens.

Fanie is married and is also involved in church structures.

Anje is a qualified chef with qualifications in photography and ducation. She is single.

## Farmers hear "it's their turn"



An award was handed to Gideon van Zyl.

AGRI-PULSE – The theme of the Agri NW Young Farmer Congress was "It's their turn". This phrase echoed throughout the event at

Senwes in Klerksdorp on April 29.

Why this theme? "Farming is recovering from Covid and farmers must grab all opportunities offered, because "it's their turn".

Willem De Chavonnes Vrugt, president: Agri NW, said farmers should support each other now more than ever as the NW climate isn't always pro-farming and the government failed the sector.

The outgoing chairperson of the NW Young Farmer Committee, Louis Wessels, described farmers as extraordinary people as "they put their trust in what they cannot see. That's faith".

He added that farmers can make a difference in the changing times.

Corné Kruger, financial manager: Senwes, (on behalf of the group CEO Francois Strydom) said the world changed with Covid and then the war exploded in Europe.

"Europe is experiencing negative growth and SA has positive growth. Agri and mining are the driving forces and SA is still showing growth, while various negative events are taking place."

Prof Ferdi Meyer, director: BFAP, talked about the impact political instability has on farming. (More about this in a separate article).

Chris Koch, manager: risk and strategy: Senwes, talked about scenario planning with a significant message: beat your competitors, do research, plan for unforeseen events and do not compare the future with the present.

"Try not to be too confident and encourage debate," are also very important factors. The sponsors were introduced with NWK, Nedbank and ATKV Buffelspoort supporting

The ATKV had the farmers dancing on International Dance Day!



Prof Ferdi Meyer, of BFAP, was a speaker at the Agri NW Young Farmer Congress.

#### SA leads the world

AGRI-PULSE – Prof Ferdi Meyer painted a rosy picture in a world full of uncertainty. Ferdi, director: Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), talked about the world's perspective/ the value chain and international political instability.

The drought of 2015 and 2016 had a very negative effect on the prices of crops and then Covid hit. Farmers had to decide whether to plant and thus ensuring food security. According to him that was the best decision, because then the war broke out and prices skyrocketed and everybody wants surplus produce.

Ferdi said agriculture accounts for only 3% of SA's economy, but 11% for the food

"I have discovered recently that instability does havoc with models. The war dictates the prices of sunflowers, maize and soya and they are the highest to date – almost R5 000 per ton for maize."

According to him SA, has enough sunflowers, but the price is extremely high due to Russia and Ukraine producing 56% of the world's sunflowers. The price of fertiliser is also very high as Russia is a major producer and SA has to import.

Some of the challenges facing farmers are the unstable weather, with a possible El Nino on the way, ports that buckle under pressure and expansion of new markets.

He added that the role of government should be defined as they cannot and should not farm

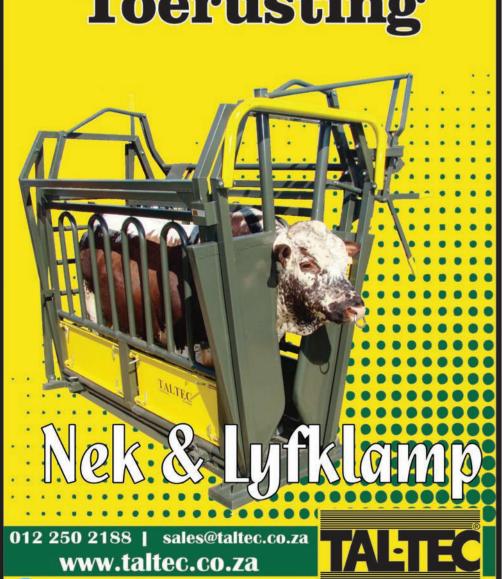
"They have to create an environment conducive for farming."

He concluded by saying: "Covid was good for agriculture and the future is bright". "Farming, however, is a pendulum. Prices will fall again."



Nelius Beyers of Makwassie is the new deputy chairperson of the Young Farmer Committee and Edrich Badenhorst of Delareyville the new chairperson.

# Vee Hanterings Toerusting





Danelle du Plooy enjoys herself in a field of gold and yellow sunflowers. This year South Africa is headed towards the biggest sunflower harvest of the past 20 years.

# Suid-Africa headed towards second biggest sunflower harvest in history

AGRI-PULSE – NORTH WEST - In our previous edition of AgriPulse we have quoted prominent sunflower producer, Randolf Meyer of the HRF Trust just outside Kroondal in North West saying that North West and in fact, the country as a whole, is headed towards an excellent and extraordinary sunflower season.

In this edition, Randolf's younger brother, Prof Ferdi Meyer, Managing Director of BFAB, elaborated on this year's expectations. The facts are that South Africa can look forward to the second biggest sunflower harvest in the industry's history and by far the greatest of the past 20 years, Prof Meyer

Though traditionally, the country has on averaged produced a sunflower harvest of between 700 000 to 800 000 tons in recent years, this year will see an almost unprecedented sunflower harvest of 960 000 tons of sonflowers cultivated on some 680 000 ha.

It must be emphasized that the international sunflower industry finds itself in a critical time as a result of the conflict in the Ukraine. Both Russia and the Ukraine are major producers of sunflowers, sunflower seeds, sunflower oil and sunflower fibre ("koek"). One wonder how many people knew that these two countries produce no less than 56% of the world's sunflower trade?

It is not common for South Africa to export sunflower to foreign countries and this hardly ever happens. When it happens though, exports are to South Africa's neighbouring countries such as Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique and Zambia because transport costs are relatively low. Importing sunflower is just as rare a phenomenon and when this is necessary, sunflower is imported from countries such as Bulgaria and Argentine.

Did you know that one ton of sunflowers produce no less than 35% sunflower oil, and 42% sunflower fibre ("koek")? Sunflower oil is mainly destined for human consumption while the fibre is used by the cattle feedlot industry.





AGRI-PULSE - MABESKRAAL- Having worked for almost 25 years in the smelter industry both in the North West province as well as the Limpopo area, Norman Mokgosi, who resides In Mabeskraal, 99.5 kilometers outside of Rustenburg, has endured quite a lot of struggle when it comes to bringing food to the table for his family and his immediate community. After an unfortunate accident at his workplace, where he sustained injuries to his leg, Mokgosi was unable to exercise his duties of providing for his family. Then it hit him, a lesson which was once taught to him by his parents and grandparents. In an exclusive interview with Jabulani Senyatso of the Agri Pulse on Thursday afternoon (21 April), Mokgosi said his parents taught him the skill of living off the land.

KOOS GELDENHUYS: 082 333 0922

THEUNS VISSER (AFSLAER): 082 338 1356

: 082 339 4502

: 082 576 1432

BASIL BUTLER

TIEKIE MULLER

"When I left formal employment, the knowledge that I learned from my parents and grandparents was the only thing that has sustained me. I registered a company in 2010 however, due to the red tape; the company started operating later on. I have since acquired land and have employed three people who work on a daily basis from 08: 00 in to 14:00," explained Mokgosi.

Amongst the products produced by him and his team, are spinach, tomatoes, chilies, lettuce, green pepper as well as onions to name a few.

With Mabeskraal classified as poverty stricken villages, with less access to opportunities, Mokgosi is requesting any assistance in any form to further his business. He has, since registered his company, been

ANDRÉ KOCK & SEUN/SON BK

053 927 1981

sponsoring it from his own pocket, from the money he received from the little funds he received from his former employers. His workers get paid R200 per fortnight because the sales from the business have not yet picked up.

"Since I stay very far from the Rustenburg Central Business District, It has been very difficult to market my products, which is why I had to approach the Agri Pulse for assistance, since I know the newspaper reaches a lot of potential sponsors in the North West and the Northern Cape. I would like to realise my dream of supplying retail companies, "Mokgosi said.

He does not have access to electricity nor water. He pays his neighbour R400 per month just to fill up his JoJo tank.

If anyone would like to assist Mr Mokgosi in any form, they can contact him at 066 349 7586 or 081 4766 433. Emails can be sent to nmokgosi33@gmail.com.

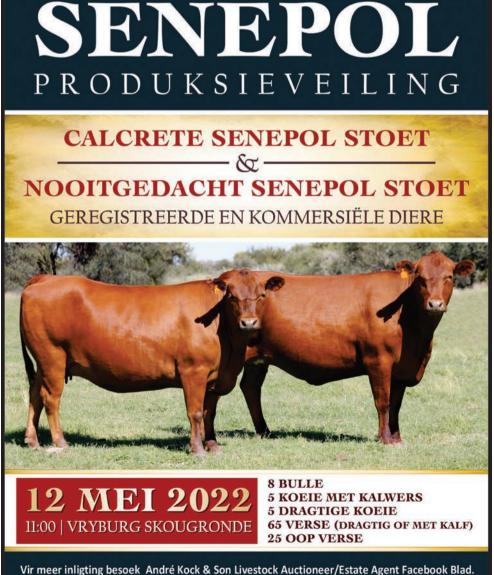


He also has a special spot in his garden where he grows green pepper.



Onions which are ready to be harvested and sold to members of the community.





VERKOOP VOORWAARDES: Rekeninge moet vereffen word direk na afloop van veiling dmv kontant of bewys van elektroniese betaling voor diere gelaai kan word.

Kontanthanteringsfooie sal gehef word op alle kontanttransaksies. FICA dokumentasie (ID / paspoort en bewys van verblyf) moet teenwoordig wees om transaksie af te handel.

# Regenerative Agriculture and Prosopis

In consultation with Dr Hendrik Smith of Asset Research www.assetresearch.org.za

#### by Laura Allais

AGRI-PULSE - Regenerative Agriculture, Conservation Farming/No till, Holistic Management (for ease of use, we will refer to them as RegenAg): these seem to have become fashionable topics to discuss and read about, with very few being aware of what they actually encompass when it comes to their application in practice. We must always keep in mind that there are a few basic principles that need to be met, when asking if farming practices could be viewed as "regenerative". These principles are:

Don't disturb the soil.

Keep the soil surface covered.

Keep living roots in the soil.

Grow a diverse range of crops or plants. Encourage biodiversity.

Bring grazing animals back to the land. It is with these principles in mind, that we will endeavour to address issues raised by our readers.

We will try to align our advice, suggestions, considerations, within the above paradigms and are thereby aiming to open them for reflection and discussion, but also want to encourage farmers and other land users to test and adapt them in their unique situations.

A reader has asked the following: We need to eradicate Prosopis alien vegetation in our region. We have been advised to introduce a species of insect, from another continent, which has been proven to be a natural pest of Prosopis. What are your views?

There have been great successes in classical biological control in agriculture and open veld/rangelands, which encourage great interest in using this technology for biodiversity conservation and sustainable environmental management purposes. However, unintended consequences of several biological control projects have led to a valid concern that potential environmental benefits do not always warrant the inherent risks.

The risk that another alien species, once introduced, will spread beyond its intended range, has been proven and has occurred in many instances. That the consequences of such spread are not given enough attention by researchers, perhaps deserves more careful attention and understanding, including by farmers and members of broader society. Global warming and climate change for example, can lead to modified results and reduced effectiveness of introduced biological control agents and their targets, even at times causing them to behave "uncharacteristically".

When considering biocontrol, I believe all other options must have been considered and exhausted, as the cumulative and consequential effects of biocontrol going wrong, can be catastrophic, creating many more problems than we started with, namely an invasive plant species.

In the case of Prosopis, there is the alternative of creating a source of income for communities in the area, by selling a sustainable source of firewood, charcoal production from a source other than ancient natural first growth trees/forests, harvesting the green pods for animal feed, while at the same time removing the trees, whether manually or chemically. Chemical treatment of individual tree stumps, although not preferred in the ambit of ReganAg, are preferred to the indiscriminate aerial spraying of vast swathes of savannah.



void that the removal of Prosopis, or any other, alien vegetation will result in. If not managed correctly, vast open stretches of bare land, could result in wind and water erosion of a grand scale and destruction, given the uncommon heavy rainfall some areas have experienced in recent years.

We cannot let 'the degradation of nature take its course' - it will need a little help to recover.

We can not 'let the deterioration of nature take its course' - it needs our help to protect and restore.



# SITRUSFES 2022 SATERDAG 28 MEI

www.proedieberg.co.za

SMULLEKKER KOS | BULLETJIE RUGBY | PRETPARK STALLETJIES | VERMAAK | LEKKERGOED EN VELE MEER





VIR ALMAL

ATKV
BUFFELSPOORT



# Om lekker te skryf

<u>Deur Salomé Kotzé</u>

AGRI-PULSE – Min dinge maak Christelle van Rooyen-Wessels so opgewonde as om 'n boek wat sy geskryf het, vars van die drukpers te kry.

Jare gelede toe sy as junior verslaggewer by Klerksdorp Rekord gewerk het, het die geraas van die drukkery by die koerantkantoor, al die ink in haar are laat bruis. Later het sy as redakteur van Stellalander besluit sy moet ten minste haar hand aan een boek waag. "Daar is mos darem ten minste een goeie storie in elke mens," knipoog sy.

Nou, 'n paar jaar later, kan Christelle gerus wees dat sy haar gevestig het as een van Suid-Afrika se beste spanningsverhaalskrywers. Met nie net een goeie storie uit haar pen nie, maar drie wat nou al die lug gesien het. En as jy so na Christelle se opgewonde gesels luister, is daar nog 'n paar boeke op pad na haar uitgewer toe.

Die derde krimi in haar Francke-trilogie, Om Beter te kan Moor, is goed ontvang deur die leserspubliek. Ons gesels terwyl die ink nog warm is, en Christelle se glimlag is van oor tot oor.

"Om Beter te kan Moor is, op die oomblik, vir my baie spesiaal. Adder, wat ewig en altyd die naaste aan my hart sal bly, was effens soos om uit te vind jy's swanger wanneer dit nie is wat jy beplan het nie – so 'n mengsel tussen ongeloof, skok, angs en blydskap.

"Ek sit steeds party dae en wonder hoe het ek so gelukkig geraak dat my ou manuskrippie voor 'n sagte oog by Penguin beland het? En dan maak ek maar soos my ma se psalmliedboek gesê het: Tel jou seëninge, tel hulle een vir een."

'n Hele paar jaar het verloop sedert Christelle se eerste

boek, Adder verskyn het, met sy opvolg, Brandmerk daarna en nou, die laaste boek in die reeks, Om beter te kan moor. Vir haar is elke boek 'n meesterstuk op sy eie. "Brandmerk was, op vele vlakke, 'n uitdaging. Dit was die hele tyd in my agterkop hoe goed Adder gevaar het, en ek het bewustelik probeer om dit na te doen; baie stresvol! En dan sit jy onnodige druk op jouself. Boonop het Covid sy vrystelling met meer as agt maande vertraag. Gevolglik was Om beter te kan Moor basies klaar geskryf teen die tyd wat Brandmerk verskyn het."

Die derde boek volg die reeksmoordenaar David Francke (spoiler alert as jy nie die eerste twee boeke gelees het nie) na sy ontsnapping en waar hy sy moordtog in die Kaap voortsit. As joernalis het Christelle se neus vir nuus bygedra om 'n geloofwaardige storielyn daar te skep.

"'n Hele klompie ware nuusgebeure het bygedra tot die storielyn. Veral die hoeveelheid kindermoorde in die Kaap wat in 2017, 2018 baie in die kollig was. En dan ook speurder Ben Booysen – van die Krugersdorpmoorde-faam. Nadat ek 'n hele paar berigte oor hom gelees het, het ek by hom geleen vir 'n ander dimensie aan kapt Beyers van der Rheede wat die kindermoorde in Om Beter te kan Moor ondersoek," gesels sv.

Christelle het 'n wenresep beet. Resensent Stefaans Coetzee beskryf die boek as een van die beste spanningsverhale vir die jaar. Dankie tog, haar skryf is nog lank nie uit nie. Hou dop vir 'n boekbekendstelling in 'n dorp naby jou en kom ontmoet die skrywer wat reeksmoordenaars soos prima donna's laat lyk.

# Sinopsis van Om beter te kan moor

**Christelle van Rooyen-Wessels** 

In elke paradys is daar 'n slang, en wat is 'n sprokie sonder 'n aaklige wolf? Wanneer Hechter Stander Strand toe trek, is hy lus vir sy nuwe uitdaging. Hy wil daar oor begin.

Maar iets is nie pluis nie. Skuil daar 'n onwelkome gas wat Hechter se lewe in 'n nagmerrie wil laat ontaard?

En wat presies het van David Francke geword? Is hy dood – soos wat sy ma, Klara glo? Indien hy is, hoekom word die lykies van dogtertjies meteens al langs die see van die Overstrandgebied gevind. Die geskende lyke van twee volwasse vroue laat die polisie kop krap, want is daar 'n skakel? Het dié voorvalle dalk ook iets te doene met 'n moordenaar wat hawelose vroue in Pretoria doodgemaak het?

Ou bekendes, soos Kaptein André Coghran en Sers Lisamore Talakase maak ook weer hul verskyning. Ook Ronnie kom loer in. Dan is daar 'n nuwe karakter, Uwe Fuchs – 'n

bedrogondersoekbeampte vir 'n bankgroep. Uwe is no-nonsense, baie puntenerig, feitlik militaristies – maar met 'n klein, sagte hartjie waar dit diere aangaan. Hy het nie 'n vreeslike hoë dunk van reeksmoordenaars nie – in sy opinie is reeksmoordenaars prima donna's wat deur aandagsoekery gedryf word.

Lesers leer ken ook vir Katherina – 'n hardekoejawel deeltydse musikant wat 'n 10 op die Helene-skaal is. Hul maak ook kennis met Katherina se boesemvriend, Leon, 'n regte Adonis met 'n vlymskerp brein, en ewe skerp humorsin.





Dames word onder andere geleer om masjienwerk te doen, om handborduurwerk te doen en ook hoe om hul eie patrone uit te knip. Artikels word gemaak en dan verkoop sodat hul finansieel selfstandig kan raak.



# Noordwes VLU

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - Die Vroue Landbou-unie (VLU) se doel is om aan die vrou geleenthede te bied om haarself te verryk op alle terreine van vrouwees sodat sy 'n bydrae kan lewer tot haar gesin en die gemeenskap. Die organisasie is nie-polities, nie-sektaries, tweetalig en oop vir alle vroue bo 14 jaar tot 116 jaar!

Die organisasie bied interessante maandelikse programme aan deur middel van praatjies, demonstrasies, debatvoering, uitstallings, opvoerings, besprekings by vergaderings, asook georganiseerde opvoedkundige uitstappies oor Kunste en Handvlyt, Gesondheid, Opvoeding en Kultuur, Leefstyl, Openbare Sake en Landbou en Tuinbou.

Noordwes provinsie is verdeel in drie streke naamlik: Platina, Sonneblom en Verwes. Platina-streek het nege takke wat naby of in die dorpe Brits, Derby, Groot-Marico, Skuinsdrift en Rustenburg (vyf takke in Rustenburg-omgewing) aangebied word. Sonneblomstreek het nege takke wat naby of in die dorpe Fochville, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, Ventersdorp, Grootpan, Mareetsane en Lichtenburg aangebied word en Verwes het agt takke wat naby of in die dorpe Bloemhof, Delareyville, Wolmaransstad, Leeudoringstad, Makwassie, Setlagolé en Stella aangebied word.

Delareyvilletak, leer byvoorbeeld dames van die gemeenskap om masjienwerk te doen. Hul word ook geleer hoe om hul eie patrone uit te knip. Artikels word gemaak en dan verkoop sodat hul finansieel selfstandig kan raak.

By Skuinsdrifttak word die dames in die gemeenskap geleer om handborduurwerk te doen. Hul maak artikels wat ook verkoop kan word en 'n inkomste verdien. Dis maar net 'n paar projekte wat uitgelig word.

Verskeie takke in Noordwes provinsie bied dogters- en seunsdae aan in vakansietye.

Kinders word byvoorbeeld geleer hoe om naaldwerk, kunswerk en gebak te bemeester.

Die kinders geniet dit terdeë en woon graag hierdie kreatiewe en opvoedkundige dae by.

Die onkostes is ook minimaal want die doel is om kinders op te lei en handvaardig te maak.

"Ons kan mekaar baie vaardighede leer en ons kan talente deel, maar die belangrikste deel van opheffing is deur 'n ander vrou te aanvaar in haar unieke vrouwees en die mooi in haar raak te sien. Ons kan nie die wêreld omkeer nie, maar ons kan èèn vrou se lewe aanraak en so kan ons 'n verskil maak in haar klein kringetiie sodat sy weer die verskil in haar huisgesin en gemeenskap kan wees!"



AGRI-PULSE – DURBAN - The South African sugar industry has lost more than R223 million so far after heavy rains and floods caused damage to thousands of hectares of cane crops, the South African Cane growers Association has said.

More than 300 cane growers in the region participated in a survey by the Cane growers' Association and reported damage to crops on 2,516.65 hectares of cane fields which now need to be replanted. Sugarcane crops on these fields suffered severe crop and root damage due to the flooding that has wreaked havoc in KwaZulu-Natal. Losses incurred from damage to the crops alone currently stand at nearly R195 million.

The excessive rains over the past weeks not only hurt sugarcane crops it also destroyed farming infrastructure to the tune of just a little less than R28 million. The association said that access routes to cane mills and farms have also been affected. The flood damage comes just eight months after rioting and looting last year rocked KZN, one of South Africa's key sugar-producing provinces, where 554,000 tons of cane, worth R84 million, was damaged in arson attacks.

The flooding and rain damage is a further blow to the industry, which is still recovering from years of severe droughts, cheap imports, and the sugar tax. "It is clear that this latest tragedy could be the final death knell for hundreds of cane growers and the rural livelihoods they support. In particular, small-scale growers are most at risk of not recovering from losses of this magnitude," the South African Cane growers' Association said.

At the benest of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the association has compiled a report based on the survey's findings, which it handed over to national government this week.

The association has requested that government include it in its disaster management plans for KZN and that it offers financial and infrastructure relief to affected cane growers, to ensure that they replant their cane fields and generate cash flow as they rebuild. "SA Cane growers remains committed to working closely with government to ensure critical relief is provided to growers severely impacted by the recent catastrophic events," the association said. "With our industry continuing to face a number of challenges including the influx of cheap imports and the health promotion levy, we need to do all we can to assist these growers to rebuild so they continue to support the workers and communities who depend on them," it said.



Noordwes Uitvoerende Bestuur 2022: Van Iinks agter is Sanja-mari van Rooyen (NWVLU-nuusredaktrise), Istella van Rhyn-Nel (NWVLU-skakelbeampte), Hester Koegelenberg (Verwesstreekvoorsitster), Louise Herbst (Platinastreekvoorsitster) en voor van links Maatjé Hobson (NWVLU-beoordelaarsameroepster), Genevieve Conradie (NWVLU 1ste-Vise en Sonneblomstreekvoorsitster) en Gerda Swart (Platinastreekvoorsitster).



# Carien a tomato farmer par excellence

#### Elsabé Klein

AGRIPULSE - BRITS - It is said: a man makes a plan, but a woman makes two... and this is exactly what Carien Kruger, farmer and co-owner of Hencar Farming just outside Brits on the R511, does.

Carien and her husband Hendrik Kruger have been owners of the farm since 2015. but Carien, a versatile farmer is not only in charge of the farm's technical department and marketing, but she also plants trials for 11 different seed companies and does complete studies on which cultivars will grow best in specific conditions.

AgriPulse visited her to find out more about the cultivation of tomatoes in the Brits area. She says that Brits generally has good weather, with warm temperatures and this makes the conditions ideal for planting tomatoes. "Tomatoes do not like cold and that is why we do not plant at all in the winter," says Carien.

"One of the most popular tomatoes is the Rodade, certainly because they are the typical round tomatoes used in salads. On our farm there are 39 hectares where we plant the round Saladette and Rosa (cocktail) tomatoes, as it grows best in the Brits area."

Carien says that she started planting trials (seeds of different tomato cultivars) about three years ago in order to determine what the needs of each variety are. She currently has one whole hectare where only trials are planted and monitored. Eleven of the top seed companies in the country make use of her to plant their seeds. "It is very exciting to be able to experience the whole cycle of each seed," she says with a clear passion for farming. "I have currently planted 45 different cultivars.'

According to her, the modern varieties are usually grown from a cheaper variety to give them more resistance to diseases and pests.

"Research has found that the resistance of the older varieties that were planted years ago is very low, which is why the industry strives to breed better and stronger cultivars.

Hencar's tomatoes are planted over two seasons, August to December and December to March. The tomato farm is very labour intensive because it is mainly harvested by



Carien Kruger at a few hectares where they also planted baby marrows.

hand. Hencar supplies tons of fresh tomatoes to the market and specific warehouses. For Carien there is no such thing as sitting idle and in her busy schedule, she started workshops on the cultivation of tomatoes, where she shares her extensive knowledge of pests especially pests that attack tomatoes. "The Tuta Absoluta moth is currently causing



Another vegetable that Hencar plants is pattypan pumpkins, which thrive in Brits' climate.

great damage to tomato crops and I am doing my utmost best to provide farmers with the necessary information to stop the evil in its tracks," says Carien.

Tomato farmers are welcome to contact Carien for more information about this devastating plague or questions on the cultivation of tomatoes on 084 220 0024.



Hencar supplies tomatoes to various warehouses and markets such as the Grow agency at the Pretoria market -Hannes Beukes and Deon Vermeulen from this agency.





For more information visit André Kock & Son Livestock Auctioneer/Estate Agent Facebook Page.

TERMS OF SALE: Invoices will be sent following the auction for eft payment. A cash handling fee will be charged

on all cash transactions. Proof of payment has to be presented before animals can be collected.

: 083 468 6370

LOUIS MEYER (SNR): 082 925 3829

LOUIS MEYER (JNR): 072 906 6191

**WILLIE VD BERG** 

053 927 1981

vww.loriza.net 🏶 Loriza Brahman

# In opdrag van Me Susan Ludick

Algehele uitverkoping Slaghuis- en Drankwinkeltoerusting

25 Mei 2022 om 11:00 **Daniëlstraat 21 Lichtenburg** 

Rakke Vlekvrye staaltafels

Messe Bandsae

Snyborde Vertoonyskaste/vrieskaste

Vleisbakke Skale

Biltongrakke Vacuum masjiene

Worsstoppers **Biltongkerwers** 

Nie-bederfbare voorraad Verskeidenheid wildstrofees



David Maree 071 682 7651 Emile Maree 081 556 9255

Terme en voorwaardes: Streng kontant of EFT's, R2.000-00 Kopersdeposito, 5% koperskommissie Verkope onderhewig aan 15% BTW Besoek "Avirand Auctioneers" op vir meer inligting en foto's.