



Taste the summer

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Onseepkans: An unique community project p6 + 7

DAIRY FARMING

The impact of climate change on dairy cows (Part 2) p8

KITCHEN

Baking a traditional fruit cake p10

Watermelon is one of the best things about Summer. Most people have a favourite festive family moment that lives in their memories – and most times that memory included spending time together while biting into that saucy sweetness only a watermelon can deliver. In this edition of Agri-Pulse we take a look at the details around watermelon farming. Read more on P4. (Photo: Salomé Kotze)




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The author of this article - Naas Grové van Rustenburg - president of the South African Dendrological Association.

AGRI-PULSE – NORTH WEST -The genus *Salix* is in the family *Salicaceae* (Willow) and include ~ 500 species of trees and shrubs mainly native to the cold and moist regions in the northern hemisphere. All willows can tolerate temperate and permanent wet conditions and are adopted to grow in waterlogged soil.

Salix is a very variable and difficult genus to distinguish due to the high variation in morphological characteristics, caused by phenotypic plasticity.

These environmentally induced variations can be defined as the capacity of a single genotype (the set of directly inherited genes in an organism’s DNA) to exhibit variable phenotypes (the observable traits and characteristics of an organism influenced by the genotype as well as environmental factors). Under these circumstances it is therefore possible that two organisms of the same genotype (e.g., two different trees of the same species), may have different phenotypes – the one may have bigger leaves growing in the shade, compared to another tree with smaller leaves growing in full sunlight. This phenomenon is commonly encountered in plants and many plants have acquired the ability to alter their observable characteristics (phenotype) and growth patterns in response to their adoption to different environmental challenges, signals, and conditions.

Salix alba ‘*Caerulea*’ is a fast-growing single straight-stemmed hybrid willow tree grown in Britain. After about six years the wood of the English willow is harvested to produce top class cricket bats, colloquially known as the cricket-bat willow. Kashmir cricket bats are produced in India from the same tree species and the cricket bats produced from each country offers distinct differences due to different environmental conditions in which the trees grow.

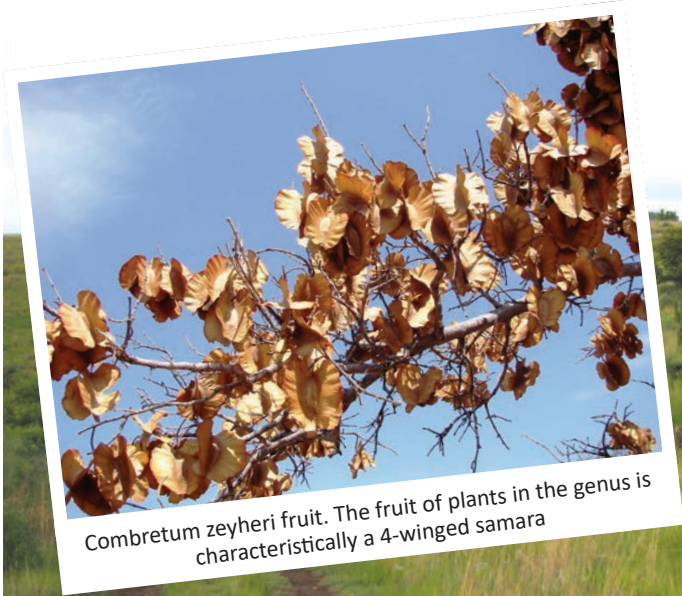
The wood of the genus *Populus*, also part of the *Salicaceae*-family (Willow), is commonly used for making furniture, paper, craft objects, cabinets, wooden toys, plywood, and matches. Both the white poplar and matchbox poplar species are declared alien invasive species in South Africa. The well-known exotic *Salix babylonica* (weeping willow) native to China, together with many other *Salix* cultivars have been introduced to many parts of the world as ornamental trees. The earliest reference to the willow tree in Pretoria, is in reference to Henry Struben’s farm The Willows which he acquired in 1862. The weeping willow has naturalised in South Africa and has unfortunately invaded many of the natural watercourses and riparian zones in South Africa.

The genus *Salix* is poorly represented in South Africa with four indigenous tree species. The elegant evergreen to semi-deciduous small *Salix mucronata* subsp. *mucronata* (small-leaved willow) grows along streams and rivers south of the Vaal River. The flute willow (*Salix mucronata* subsp. *woodii*) is a small tree, invariably often found along the watercourses and rivers flowing into the Indian Ocean, north of the Vaal River. All plants in the *Salicaceae*-family are dioecious, the male and female reproductive systems occur on separate trees. Members of the genus *Combretum* are mostly semi-deciduous trees, shrubs, woody climbers, or scramblers and comprises ~ 276 species mainly in tropical Africa and Asia. The origin of the common name bushwillow for the genus *Combretum* is unknown but presumably refers to the resemblance of the foliage of some species to the genus *Salix* (willow).

This is however where the apparent similarity between the genera ends, since plants in the genus *Combretum* include species like leadwood, river bushwillow, large-fruited bushwillow, russet bushwillow; altogether ~ 37 *Combretum* species in the Flora southern African region, not remotely related to the genus *Salix*!

The problem with vernacular names is that rarely has a species a single common name, whereas the botanical names provide an international accepted standard, superior to all language restrictions, so that there can be no ambiguity as to what species it is referred to. It is also an elegant way to point us to the relationship between families, genera, species, and even sub-species.

Willows and bushwillows



Combretum zeyheri fruit. The fruit of plants in the genus is characteristically a 4-winged samara



Salix babylonica, naturalised in the Grassveld Biome



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A taste of summer

AGRIPULSE: VRYBURG: Thinking of cultivating watermelons? We share some information this month on how to grow this fruit so in tune with summer.

Plant description
Watermelon is thought to have originated in Africa's arid and semi-arid areas. Today it is planted all over the world.
It is a flat creeper with stems spread out on the ground. The plant produces both male and female flowers. The watermelon has an extensive shallow root system and it is therefore very important to control weeds and keep them watered regularly as most of the roots are located in the top 20 cm. These roots can extend across the area covered by the leaves and tendrils. It also has a taproot that is up to about 40 cm long. The fruit has a dark green skin and dark red flesh when ripe.

Climate
Watermelons, as with all other vegetables of the cucurbit family, are a warm-climate crop and grow well in temperatures between 18°C and 30°C. Its growth is delayed when the temperature drops below 10°C and the plant is very sensitive to frost. The plant can die if exposed to temperatures below 5°C for extended periods. Excessively high temperatures in excess of 35°C are also harmful to the plant and expected yield.
Watermelons need direct sunlight and also good air circulation to facilitate pollination. Planting time is between August and early February, depending on the area. Normally,

September to October is planting time for watermelons in winter rainfall regions and July to August (after danger of frost has passed) in summer rainfall areas. Harvest time is about 80 – 90 days after planting time for the small varieties (eg. Bush baby) and 90 – 100 or even longer for the large varieties. February planting time can be a gamble depending on locality and prevailing temperatures. Minimum temperature for seed germination is 18°C and maximum is 30-35°C with optimum daytime temperatures of 20-32°C and nighttime temperatures between 18-21°C. Spacing is about 500 mm by 2 meters and if you are going to plant seeds, the optimal density is 3-4 kg of seed per hectare.

Cultivars
There are almost a hundred different types of watermelons, with new crosses still being developed as tastes and the market change. The main types planted in South Africa are All Sweet, Crimson Sweet and Super Small. There are also seedless varieties. The following varieties are available in South Africa: Sugar sweet, Charleston Grey, Congo, Sugar baby, Sweet Princess, Moon and Stars, Daytona, Sensei, White wonder, Yellow Petite and Starlight. The best way to decide on one that is suitable for the area's specific growing conditions is to ask the advice of the local agricultural extension officer or seed trader. Make sure that you plant what the markets want.

Soil requirements and preparation
Watermelon prefers a light, well-drained sandy loam soil with a pH between 6 and 7. The soil must have an organic composition, or prepare the soil well with enough humus, compost or a cover crop can be added. A cover crop is always a good idea as it also controls weeds and adds further organic matter to the soil. Sow the cover crop ten to twelve weeks before planting and cover the seed lightly with soil. It also evens the surface. It is advisable to take soil samples about 14 weeks before the expected planting date and apply nutrition according to the analysis's recommendations at about 12 weeks. It can be lime for the pH, gypsum for calcium or organic matter in the form of manure or compost. Follow it through the soil to about 500 mm to plow so that everything is thoroughly mixed in. With this, any remnants of the previous crop and weeds that may have grown are also plowed in. Use a dish plough to level the surface and break up any lumps. Then loosen the soil for a while to rest. In the last week before planting, fertilizers and trace elements such as boron and zinc proposed after the soil analysis should be plowed into the top 20 cm of soil with a dish plough. The weeds that may have grown are also wiped out in this way. If the beds are roughed up, irrigation is laid or a plastic coating is needed. The soil is now ready for planting watermelon seeds or seedlings.

Fertilizer
Fertilizing for watermelons is important because fruit size and quality are determined by it. If this pre-soil treatment was done well, then the first fertilizing is necessary only when the shoots are 15-30mm long. Nitrogen fertilization should be stopped when flowers are forming, but potassium and phosphate treatments should continue until just before harvest time. Sufficient irrigation from flowering is also important. To stimulate a deep root system, the soil should be irrigated to a depth of about 450mm just after planting. Because watermelons need a fair amount of water, drip irrigation is preferable, especially where large-scale plantings are done, but overhead irrigation is also suitable. Weed control is important, but due to the growth habit of the plants, mechanical control is not exactly suitable. The fruit is ready to be picked when the fine shoots on the stem end turn brown and dry out. Also look at the bottom, where the fruit lies on the ground. If it has changed color from green to cream, then the watermelon is ripe. Insects that can cause problems are cutworms, aphids, thrips, beetles and nematodes (although lg. is not an insect). Fungal diseases that can include downy mildew and then there is also a viral disease that can occur, viz. watermelon mosaic virus, while stem rot is a bacterial infection. You should be prepared to apply foliar feed every week and make sure that your fruit is healthy and gaining weight.

LIMAGRAIN SEED SOUTH AFRICA

Seed depot in Brits closes soon



For the British environment, Johnny Young can be contacted about LGZSA's product range and services. Call him on 083 326 7167.

AGRIPULSE - BRITS - As part of restructuring to improve customer service, Limagrain Zaad South Africa (LGZSA) is closing its depot in Brits at the end of November, but this seed company assures their customers that this quality crop and pasture seed will continue to be served from their processing plant in Bethal. The management of LGZSA aims to deliver seed directly to the farmers and according to Eugene Muller, managing director of LGZSA, they will also, in collaboration with Obaro, ensure that stock remains available at the Obaro Brits branch.

LGZSA is expanding their Nylstroom branch (Modimole branch) to improve service and availability in that area.

"We recently reflected on effective customer service and took an in-depth look at how our network is set up from production and processing to distribution. We deemed it necessary to adapt this network to ensure that our service and availability on the farm further improves," says Muller.

He believes that all changes are aimed at ensuring the availability of seed nationally and countering the effect of rising costs. LGZSA plans to implement this within the next six months.

LGZSA is a South African seed company that was founded in 2019 when a French seed company, Limagrain, merged with three South African seed companies - Link Seed, Klein Karoo and Seed Co. The French seed company, Limagrain, is the fourth largest seed company in the world and has the controlling share in the company.

LGZSA provides a complete seed package to farmers nationwide - maize, wheat, soybean, sunflower and pasture crops. Their main goal is to provide producers with the best genetics so farmers can be as successful and sustainably profitable as possible in growing the crops. In addition to offering competitive and relevant genetics, LGZSA also has a strong technical team with centuries of expertise to offer advice on crops, varieties and farming practices. "When it is used in collaboration with our producers (as partners), we trust that it will contribute to sustainability on the farm and bring peace of mind to our producers", says Muller.

For any inquiries about LGZSA's product range or services, contact Johnny Young on 083 326 7167 or send an email to johnny.young@limagrains.com or Braam van den Berg, sales manager of LGZSA at 072 118 8177.



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Die Peanutworx fabriek is nou vir die derde jaar deel van die gemeenskap in Bloemhof en boere in die omgewing weet dat die onderneming daar is om te bly.

Op 22 Oktober 2022 is 'n heerlike gholfdag deur die Gekombineerde Skool in Bloemhof aangebied. Dit was weereens vir Peanutworx 'n voorreg om deel te kon wees van die skool se fondsinsamelingsprojek. "Ons wens graag vir Mnr. Arno van Loggerenberg geluk met die suksesvolle organisering van die dag, almal kon sien dat die hele span soos een man saamgewerk het om te verseker dat die dag 'n groot sukses is, het die fabriekbestuurder van Peanutworx, mnr. Chris van Jaarsveld gesê.



Saam met lede van die span staan die fabrieksbestuurder van Peanutworx, MNR CHRIS VAN JAARSVELD (Regs)

Peanutworx het weer die negende putjie met groot entoesiasme beman en verversings aan deelnemers verskaf. Alhoewel die gholfspan van Peanutworx vanjaar stywe teenstand beleef het en 'n paar plekke moes afstaan, het daar niks met die gees van die span gekort nie.



OSK DevCo holds first open day

AGRI-PULSE - ONSEEPKANS: Onseepkans Development Company, which produces some of the world's best raisins, is the success story of a huge team effort, in which a small-town community business found unexpected solutions to some of this country's biggest challenges - poverty, land ownership and unemployment. The community's shared land of approximately 80ha is used to grow grapes, from which raisins are made and which, thanks to their export partner, Redsuns Raisins and Pecans, end up on the European market shelves. This community-based empowerment initiative is remarkable.

Today it is not a charity or project, but it is a full-fledged business that aims to make a profit. Within just a few years, the results are clear - there are 23 permanent workers employed, around 160 temporary workers are used annually and the raisin yield, which is already several million rand, grows year after year. The reality is that this business paid a healthy R6 million rand in wages in the past year, which means that the quality of life of Onseepkans' residents improves year after year. To celebrate the milestone of OSK DevCo, they recently held their

very first open day. Through the open day, they aimed to bring new knowledge and information to the valley, draw important players closer and promote industry togetherness and networking opportunities. Chris Barnard, industry specialist and farmer from Koster addressed the OSK DevCo farmers about soil and root health while Wessel Cloete, commercial nutrition manager of NEXUS AG, gave his perspective on available technologies for promoting root health.

Peter Kuilman, chief executive director of Redsuns Raisins and Pecans at Keimoes, talked about the future of raisin, nut and dried fruit farming along the Orange River. OSK DevCo attributes their success in the raisin industry to the advice and support of surrounding commercial farmers and the guidance that Redsuns has given them over the years in this regard. Doreen Hendricks, landowner and OSK DevCo board member, says that the project's secret to success is a strategy of working together as a unit. She says the project's medium-term goal is to have 80 hectares of raisin grapes in full production. After that they will grow by acquiring more land and diversifying the business.



Wessel Cloete, commercial nutrition manager of NEXUS AG also gave his perspective on available technologies for promoting root health.



Farm manager, Robert O'Connell, says the farm has many positive physical characteristics, which give us a good chance of success. One should not think that you can do it in a day and you need investors like the government as well as strategic partners who will work with you to create that better future and commercial entity.

Please follow this link, or go to <https://bit.ly/dankieviralles> for a very special video of the occasion.



Chris Barnard, industry specialist and farmer from Koster addressed the OSK DevCO farmers about soil and root health



Peter Kuilman, chief executive director of Redsuns Raisins and Pecans at Keimoes, talked about the future of raisin, nut and dried fruit farming along the Orange River.



Bright Ndhlovu (MD of Blue Sky Impact Investments) said on occasion that the future they are working on together with the Onseepkans people, "is one where there is a community-owned and managed commercial raisin farm that generates income year after year for the local community. The Onseepkans farm is an important case study from which we can learn lessons that can also benefit other communities." With him are Doreen Hendricks, landowner and OSK DevCo board member and Herman Ackerman from Blue Sky.



Elviza

SIMMENTALERS SINCE 2002



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80 KOEIE MET KALWERS

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Revolutionary community project is venture philanthropy

Within just a few years the results are clear - there are 23 permanent workers employed, around 160 temporary workers are used annually and the raisin yield, which is already a few million rand, is growing year after year. The reality is that this business paid a healthy R6 million rand in wages in the past year, which means that the quality of life of Onseepkans' residents improves year after year.

The medium-term objective is to have 80 hectares of raisin grapes in full production. After that they will grow by acquiring more land and diversifying the business.

AGRI-PULSE - ONSEEPKANS: In a great team effort, they found unexpected solutions. This small-town community business can just be the beginning of a conversation, or a change or a movement - it is a venture of philanthropy.

Onseepkans - on the banks of the Orange River - is surrounded by imposing, rocky hills and semi-desert. This community is home to the Onseepkans Development Company, which produces some of the world's best raisins.

The community's shared land of approximately 80ha is used to grow grapes, from which raisins are made and which, thanks to their export partner, end up on the European market shelves.

This community-based empowerment initiative is remarkable. Today it is not a charity or project, but it is a full-fledged business that aims to make a profit.

It's not an Instagram post with filtered photos", it's a hands-dirty process made possible by the expertise, sweat and dedication of a bunch of role players.

This initiative is not a quick fix, but a long-term journey - dealing with some of this country's biggest challenges - poverty, land ownership and unemployment.

Within just a few years, the results are clear - there are 23 permanent workers employed, around 160 temporary workers are used annually and the raisin yield, which is already several million rand, grows year after year. The reality is that this business paid a healthy R6 million rand in wages in the past year, which means that the quality of life of Onseepkans' residents improves year after year.

Doreen Hendricks, landowner and OSK DevCo board member, says "When this project started in 2016, we were 27 groups of 6 members each and 27 plots and we saw that developing each one individually would not work because the expertise is not there and the infrastructure is too weak - hence the strategy, that we must work together as a unit, was born."

Bright Ndhlovu (MD of Blue Sky Impact Investments) explains: "The future we are working on with the Onseepkans people is one where there is a community-owned and managed commercial raisin farm generating income for the local community year after year. The landowners' broad participation,

knowledge of and interest in farming, as well as the help and assistance of an important group of stakeholders, is the only recipe that will bring the farm to a point of sustainability.

The Onseepkans farm is an important case study from which we can learn lessons that can also benefit other communities."

Farm manager, Robert O'Connell, says the farm has many positive physical characteristics, which give us a good chance of success. "We produce, within the Onseepkans region, where some of the best quality raisins in the world are grown. This means that if we get a good export price for our product, the business model is favorable."

The development of the farm is a slow process, with many aspects, which include water, labour, markets and input costs. One should not think that you can do it in a day and you need investors like the government as well as strategic partners who will work with you to create that better future and commercial entity.

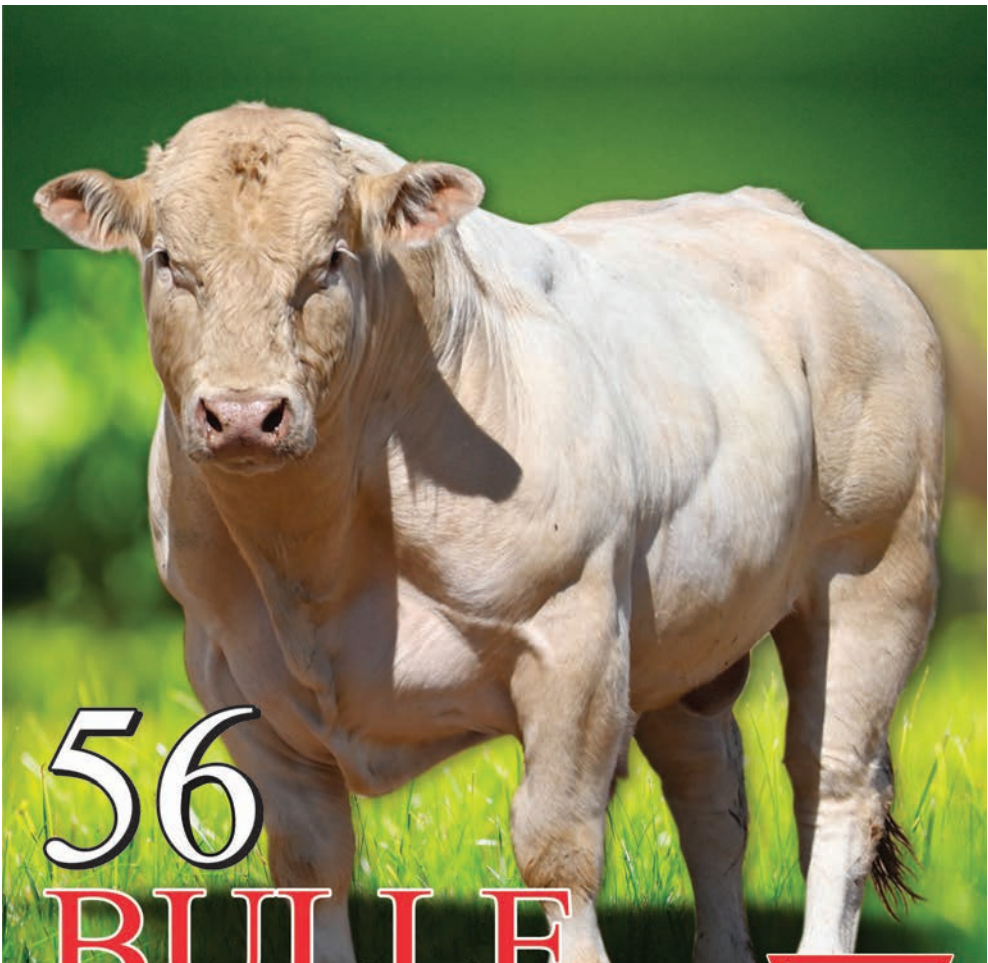
Elzaine Isaaks, project administrator says "The difference I have noticed is that many people who were unemployed are now working. I think there were twenty workers when the project was started. Today there are approximately 190 people who work full-time or part-time at OSK DevCo, as well as a few service providers and of course the 114 landowners."

"If we look at how many people in Onseepkans benefit from the raisin business - I don't think a commercial farmer in the immediate area - from Kakamas to here, does so much for a community like this project in Onseepkans," says Elzaine.

The medium term goal is to have 80 hectares of raisin grapes in full production. After that we will grow by acquiring more land and diversifying the business.

The first year's yield was worth R162 000 - now, a few years later, has risen to more than R6 million. Commercial sustainability is a scant three years away, with clean financial audits and organic certification soon to be a reality.

Although the business is in a strong position, Onseepkans still needs some large cash injections to cover technical assistance, organizational management and skills development.



56

BULLE


100 Kommersiële Vroulike diere

VRYBURG STOETVEEVERENIGING BIED AAN

NOVEMBER *Bulweiling*

17 NOVEMBER 2022

11H00 TE VRYBURG SKOUGRONDE



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Onseepkans - on the banks of the Orange River - is surrounded by imposing, rocky hills and semi-desert. This community is home to the Onseepkans Development Company, which produces some of the world's best raisins.

Suiwelbedryf – Impak van klimaatsverandering op melkbeeste (Deel 2)

Invloed van hittestres op melkproduksie - Deur dr JH du Preez, veteriniêre spesialis volksgesondheid

In die vorige aflewering van hierdie reeks oor die impak van klimaatsverandering op Suid-Afrikaanse melkkuddes, het ons die rol van aardverwarming in die toename van hittestres by melkbeeste in Suid-Afrika bespreek. Hierdie maand kyk ons in die besonder na die nadelige uitwerking wat hittestres, wat deur klimaatsverandering gedryf word, op melkproduksie het. Die gemiddelde toename in maksimum temperature (MT) oor die tydperk sedert 1933 tot 2020 was 0,9 °C, wat ’n skrikwekkende impak op melkbeeskuddes in Suid-Afrika het. Die gemiddelde melkproduksieverlies van plaaslike melkkoeie tussen 1960 en 2020 was 0,26kg/koei/dag.

Die gemiddelde temperatuurhumiditeits-indekswaarde (THI-waarde) het vanaf 1960 tot 2020 met een THI-waarde toegeneem. Die toename in THI-waardes vererger die negatiewe hittestresimpak op die prestasie van melkbeeste regoor die land. Daar word beraam dat die melkproduksieverliese weens hittestres, tesame met ensoötiese beesleukose (EBL) en mastitis (die sogenaamde troika-impak), die Suid-Afrikaanse suiwelbedryf jaarliks R1 miljard kos.

Langtermyn plaaslike melkproduksie
Die berekening van melkproduksie per koei per dag van lakterende melkbeeste in Suid-Afrika word soos volg gedoen: 47,722 - 0,2725 x THI. Hierdie formule is saamgestel uit relevante inligting wat van wetenskaplikes verkry is. Hierdie regressie-vergelyking toon in die algemeen dat vir elke een THI-waarde wat bo 69 is, daar ’n 0,2725kg afname in melkproduksie per koei per dag is. Die algemene wetenskaplike konsensus oor die uitwerking en gevolge van hittestres by melkbeeste is dat daar ’n afname in melkproduksie is, asook ’n verlaging in melkgehalte en -samestelling in ooreenstemming met die toename in THI-waardes.

Uit die 18 geselekteerde weerstasies (Tabel 1) is grafieke getrek met lang-termyn berekeninge (vanaf 1933 tot 2020) van die THI-waardes, maksimumtemperatuur (14:00 °C) en melkproduksie van melkbeeste. Berekeninge is gedoen om te bepaal of die THI-waardes van die 18 weerstasies toegeneem of gedaal het in die tydperk van 1960 tot 2020 (60 jaar).

17 weerstasies se gemiddelde THI-waardes het toegeneem en een het afgeneem (Bethlehem). Vir die 18 weerstasies het die gemiddelde THI-waardes met een THI-waarde toegeneem tussen 1960 en 2020. Hierdie verhoging het ’n negatiewe impak op die prestasie van plaaslike melkkuddes. Die hoogste gemiddelde maandelikse THI-waarde tot nog toe (Oktober 2019) in Suid-Afrika aangeteken, was 83,43 (noodkatgorie)

by die Lichtenburg-weerstasie, wat tot redelik onlangs nie buitensporige hoë temperature ervaar het nie. Die gemiddelde styging in die maksimumtemperatuur oor dieselfde tydperk was

0,9 °C, wat ’n ongunstige negatiewe impak op plaaslike melkbeeste het. Meteoroloë voorspel dat in die oostelike dele van Suid-Afrika die gemiddelde jaarlikse reënval sal toeneem en die gemiddelde temperature sal daal, terwyl die westelike dele van die land droër en warmer sal word. Volgens berekeninge het 16 van die 18 weerstasies se grafieke getoon dat die melkproduksie van melkbeeste afgeneem het. Die gemiddelde melkproduksieverlies oor die tydperk was 0,26kg/koei/dag. Hoër THI-waardes en melkverlies

Tabel 2 toon twee berekeningsvoorbeelde van THI-waardes – 74 en 77 – met ’n negatiewe impak op melkproduksie wat gereeld in Suid-Afrika voorkom. Twee melkkuddes met onderskeidelik 500 en 1 500 lakterende melkbeeste word vir die berekenings gebruik. Die THI-drempelwaarde vir melkproduksieverlies is 69. Indien die THI-waarde

Weerstasie	THI-waarde *	MT °C **	MP (kg/koei/dag) ++
Lichtenburg	2,4	3,3	0,6 ↓
Potchefstroom	3,2	2,6	0,9 ↓
Vereeniging	1	0,5	0,5 ↓
Universiteit van Pretoria	0,2	0,6	0,1 ↓
Ermelo	0,3	1,4	0,1 ↓
Bethlehem	-0,8	-1,4	0,2 ↑
Bloemfontein	0,5	0,5	0,1 ↑
Malmesbury	1	1,7	0,3 ↓
Worcester	1,7	0,5	0,4 ↓
George	1	0,2	0,1 ↓
Mosselbaai	1	0,5	0,3 ↓
Riversdal	1	0,9	0,4 ↓
Tygerhoek	1,2	1	0,2 ↓
Kaap St. Francis	0,5	0,4	0,1 ↓
Patensie	0,3	0,6	0,2 ↓
Cradock	1,7	1,4	0,4 ↓
Estcourt	0,2	0,3	0,1 ↓
Cedara	1,5	1	0,3 ↓
Totaal	17,9 ↑	16 ↑	4,70 ↓
Gemiddeld	1 ↑	0,9 ↑	0,26 ↓

Tabel 1 bied ’n opsomming van data wat vanaf weerstasies in sewe provinsies van Suid-Afrika verkry is, asook ooreenstemmende temperatuurhumiditeitsindekswaardes (THI-waardes), melkproduksie (MP) en die maksimumtemperatuur (MT) van die dag (14:00). Die lang-termyn berekening wissel tussen 26 en 87 jaar, afhangend van databesikbaarheid. Temperatuurhumiditeitsindekswaardes (THI-waardes), maksimumtemperatuur (MT), en melkproduksie (MP) by weerstasies oor ’n tydperk van tussen 26 en 87 jaar. * Al die THI-waardes verhoog behalwe by Bethlehem. ** Al die MT °C verhoog behalwe by Bethlehem. ++ Al die melkproduksies verminder behalwe in Bethlehem en Bloemfontein.

us van 68 na 78 toeneem, neem die melkproduksie met 21% af en is die melkverlies/dag/koei 0,41kg. Melkverlies/koei/dag vir elke een THI-waarde bo die THI-waarde van 69 is 0,2725kg en die digtheid van melk naasteenby 1,03kg/l. Verhoogde voerbehoefes

Daarby word voorspel dat die uitwerking van hittestres op melkbeeste ’n afname in voer- en ruvoerinname sal veroorsaak, terwyl die kragvoerbehoeftes sal toeneem.

Ouer, swaarder en hoogproduserende melkbeeste is die meeste vatbaar vir hittestres. Melkbeeste verminder soms hulle droëmateriaal- of DM-inname tot 25% in tye van hittestres. Oor die algemeen het hoogproduserende melkbeeste ’n hoër voerinname per liggaamsgewig, wat verhoogde metaboliese hitte en hittestres by die beeste veroorsaak. Die afname in die verbruik van ruvoer is moontlik verantwoordelik vir die afname in die bottervetpersentasie in die melk. Normaalweg is die kragvoer-tot-ruvoer verhouding tussen 40:60 en 60:40, maar as dit na 80:20 toeneem, sal dit ’n verhoogde energie-inname tot gevolg hê. Voorsiening van ’n hoër energierantsoen word vir melkbeeste in ’n warm omgewing aanbeveel.

Die beeste herkou ook minder. Hittestres is geneig om die rumen se melksuurvlakke te verhoog en dit veroorsaak dat die rumen se pH daal, wat tot asidose (suurpens) kan lei, soms met die moontlikheid van laminitis by melkbeeste.

Gedragverandering van koeie Melkbeeste

Tabel 2: Melkproduksieverlies weens verhoogde THI-waardes.		
	500 melkbeeste	1 500 melkbeeste
Gemiddelde melkproduksie/dag	18l /koei/dag	
Totale melkproduksie/dag	9 000l /dag	27 000l /dag
THI-waarde = 74 (5 THI-waardes bo 69)	1,3625kg/koei/dag melkverlies 1,3625 x 500 koeie = 681l melkverlies/kudde/dag Plaashek melkprys/l = R5 R5 x 681l = R3 405 Totale verlies/dag = R3 405	1,3625kg/koei/dag melkverlies 1,3625 x 1 500 koeie = 2 044l melkverlies/kudde/dag Plaashek melkprys/l = R5 R5 x 2 044l = R10 220 Totale verlies/dag = R10 220
THI-waarde = 77 (8 THI-waardes bo 69)	2,18kg/koei/dag melkverlies 2,18 x 500 koeie = 1 090l melkverlies/kudde/dag Plaashekprys/l R5 R5 x 1 090l = R5 450 Totale verlies/dag = R5 450	2,18kg/koei/dag melkverlies 2,18 x 1 500 koeie = 3 270l melkverlies/kudde/dag Plaashekprys/l R5 R5 x 3 270l = R16 350 Totale verlies/dag = R16 350

Tabel 2: Melkproduksieverlies weens verhoogde THI-waardes. Dit is duidelik dat hittestres ’n enorme negatiewe ekonomiese impak op melkproduksie het. Die doeltreffende voorkoming en beheer van hittestres is dus ’n prioriteit.

Die lang-termyn berekening wissel tussen 26 en 87 jaar, afhangend van databesikbaarheid. Temperatuurhumiditeitsindekswaardes (THI-waardes), maksimumtemperatuur (MT), en melkproduksie (MP) by weerstasies oor ’n tydperk van tussen 26 en 87 jaar. * Al die THI-waardes verhoog behalwe by Bethlehem. ** Al die MT °C verhoog behalwe by Bethlehem. ++ Al die melkproduksies verminder behalwe in Bethlehem en Bloemfontein.

NW RPO – ROOIVLEISBEDRYF ‘N SLAPENDE REUS

AGRI-PULSE - Die amptelike spreekbuis namens die rooivleis bedryf, die Rooivleis Produsente Organisasie, het onlangs die toekoms van dié organisasie tot 2030 saamgevat in ’n enkele doelwit, naamlik dat uitvoere moet verhoog van die huidige 4% na 20% van produksie.

Die nuwe Statutere heffing wat nou net by slagpunt heffing word, en nie meer by verkooppunt nie, hou baie voordele in. Die nuwe heffing het onlangs in werking getree en befonds 4 pilare in die vleisbedryf, nl: biosekuriteit, voedselsekerheid, verbruikerskommunikasie en opvoeding en ontwikkeling van die opkomende sektor.

“Dis ’n doelwit van die NW RPO om die bedryf uit te bou tot groter hoogtes. Die bedryf is die grootste enkele sektor in die breë landbou bedryf. Die groei potensiaal is onbeperk as ons produktiwiteit in kuddes kan verbeter. Daar is groot moontlikhede as al die rolspelers in die bedryf saamwerk. Ongeveer 1,4miljoen huishoudings besit vee,” sê Nico Kilian, voorsitter van die Noordwes RPO.

Die LITS stelsel of naspeurbaarheid wat nou uitgerol word is vir die RPO ’n groot deurbraak en die NW RPO glo dat dit groot voordele sal inhou vir die bedryf, veral wat uitvoere se verhoging betref, asook ’n moontlike verlaging in veediefstal. Potslagtings sal nog voorkom, maar grootskaalse veediefstal sal aan bande gelê word. Wetgewing waaronder die LITS stelsel verpligtend gemaak sal wees, sal nog ’n tyd neem, maar vrywillige deelname word aangemoedig.

Een van die rooivleisbedryf se grootste uitdagings is die rol wat die staat speel in beheerde dieresiektes, soos Besmetlike Misgeboorte en Bek-en Klouseer. Die Departement van Landbou (DLRDDR) is net nie bevoeg genoeg om die bekamp van hierdie siektes te bestuur nie, wat deur wetgewing bepaal word as die staat se verantwoordelikheid.

“Dit is dan die rede hoekom die NW RPO by ons lede en produsente aandrang om selfonderhoudend te wees as dit by biosekuriteit van ons veekuddes kom. Elke produsent moet self ’n wielbad en voetbad by toegangsroete van hul plaas aanbring, om verspreiding van die B+K virus na hul plaas te voorkom. Die deelname aan die LITS stelsel moet ook gepromiveer te word en kan ingefaseer word oor die volgende jaar of twee,” sê Kilian.

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Ons wil werklik ’n beroep doen op elke produsent in NW om goedkeuring te gee aan die veilingshuise waar ons produsente vee bemark, dat die vrywillige bydraes van 0,15% (dis slegs R15 uit elke R10 000) wel afgetrek kan word vanaf die produsente se opbrengs, en oorbetaal word aan NW RPO se kantoor in Lichtenburg. Gesien dat die voormalige Statutere Heffing nie meer deur Veilingshuise as verpligtend van produsente se verkope afgetrek word nie, is dit nou ’n gulde geleentheid dat produsente goedkeuring gee dat die gemelde VRYWILLIGE BYDRAE wel afgetrek mag word van verkope en aan NW RPO oorbetaal word.

Die gemelde vrywillige bydrae word deur NW RPO as volg aangewend:

- Om kritiese belangrike funksies namens die rooivleis bedryf uit te voer.
- Gebruik vir die uitbou en welvaart van die primêre produsent.
- Produsente belange en kommunikasie binne die provinsie te doen.
- Verbruikersopvoeding te hanteer.
- Beleidsbeïnvloeding te doen binne die provinsie.
- Opleiding van werkers
- Skakeling via verteenwoordigers op die NW RPO se Algemene Raad na grondvlak.
- Die provinsiale kantoor te befonds en administrasie te hanteer.
- Om ’n bydrae te maak aan die Nasionale RPO kantoor.

Dis van uiterste belang dat elke Rooivleis Produsent sy verantwoordelikheid teenoor die bedryf sal aanvaar en d.m.v die vrywillige bydrae sal help om die nodige take van die NW RPO te help uitvoer. Sonder u as produsent se ondersteuning kan ons as verkose NW RPO bestuur nie ons verantwoordelikheid en dienste aan die Rooivleisbedryf nakom nie. Ons maak staat op u ondersteuning,” het Killian bygevoeg.

Vir enige navrae kan u te enige tyd met Nico Kilian (Voorsitter) skakel by 082 5575 908 of met Boeta du Toit in die kantoor by 082 3881 722.

ADVERTORIAL



Mnr. Nico Kilian, voorsitter van Noordwes RPO.

Die lang-termyn berekening wissel tussen 26 en 87 jaar, afhangend van databesikbaarheid. Temperatuurhumiditeitsindekswaardes (THI-waardes), maksimumtemperatuur (MT), en melkproduksie (MP) by weerstasies oor ’n tydperk van tussen 26 en 87 jaar. * Al die THI-waardes verhoog behalwe by Bethlehem. ** Al die MT °C verhoog behalwe by Bethlehem. ++ Al die melkproduksies verminder behalwe in Bethlehem en Bloemfontein.

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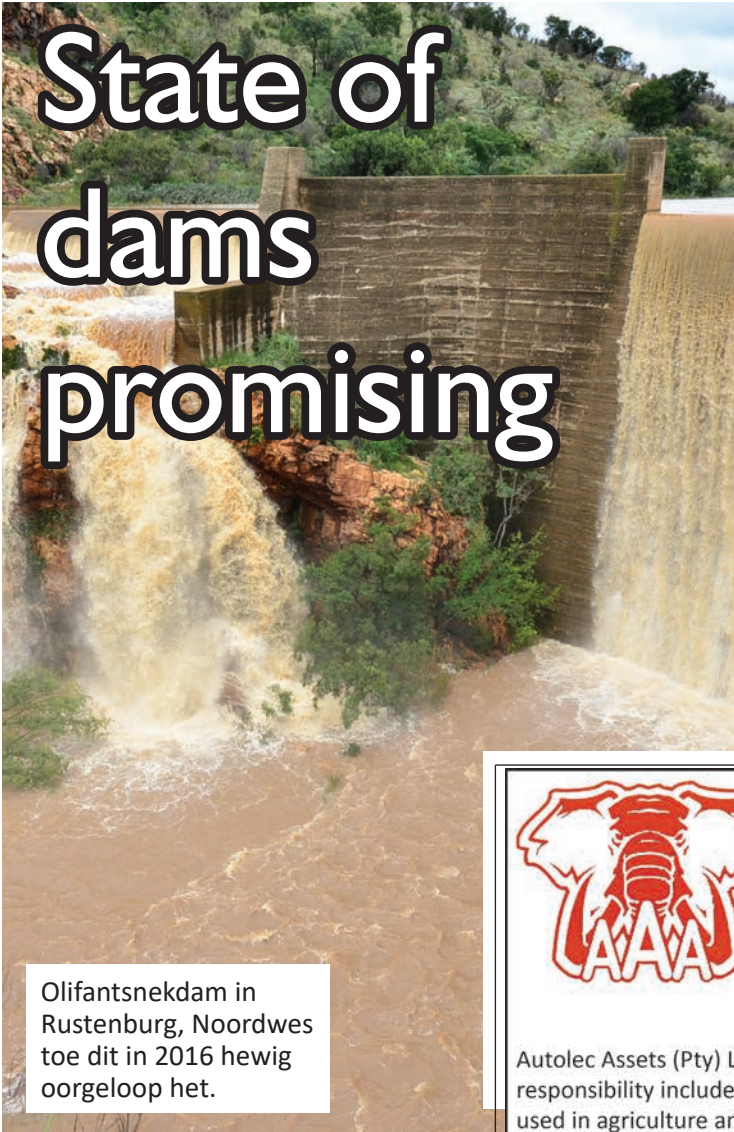
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Laat ons hierdie tyd van Vrede
koester en dit steeds onthou as ‘n
tyd van Hoop, Vrede,
Vreugde en Baie Liefde.
Want Jesus is vir ons gebore.
Geseënde Kersfees



State of dams promising

Olifantsnekdam in Rustenburg, Noordwes toe dit in 2016 hewig oorgeloop het.

AGRI PULSE – NORTH WEST - Perhaps the rainy season has set in somewhat later than last year, but once the heavenly sluice gates were fully open, most dams in the country have benefitted substantially from excellent showers over most of the country. The latest state of dams as provided by the Department of Water and Sanitation is as follows:

Dams in North West

- Boskop Dam: 101.6%
- Bospoort Dam: 105.1%
- Buffelspoort Dam: 97.5%
- Disaneng Dam: 61.7%
- Elandskuil Dam: 98.5%
- Hartbeespoort Dam: 89.9%
- Johan Naser Dam: 70.3%
- Klein Maricopoort Dam: 44.7%
- Klerkskraal Dam: 101.4%
- Klipvoor Dam: 70.5%
- Kosterrivier Dam: 45.0%
- Kromellenboog Dam: 49.8%
- Lindleyspoort Dam: 57.8%
- Madikwe Dam: 43.4%
- Marico-bosveld Dam: 85.1%
- Middelkraal Dam: 70.0%
- Molatedi Dam: 36.4%
- Ngotwane Dam: 39.9%
- Olifantsnek Dam: 66.6%
- Pella Dam: 46.5%
- Potchefstroom Dam: 102.3%
- Rietspruit Dam: 100/3%
- Roodekopjes Dam: 75.9%
- Sehujwane Dam: 77.3%
- Setumo Dam: 76.2%
- Swartruggens Dam: 88.9%
- Taung Dam: 95.4%
- Vaalkop Dam: 74.0%

- Dams in the Free State
(The five biggest dams in the country)
- Bloemhof Dam: 86.4%
 - Gariiep Dam: 94.3%
 - Sterkfontein Dam: 99.6%
 - Vaal Dam: 89.9%
 - Van der Kloof Dam: 94.2

- Dams in the Northern Cape
- Boegoeberg Dam: 109.9%
 - Douglas Weir: 106.3%
 - Karee Dam: 14.5;
 - Spitskop Dam: 95.5%
 - Vaalharts Weir: 90.7%



Brahma originated from Asia

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - The origin of the Brahma is from Asia and is classified as a heavy breed, soft feather.
A fully grown rooster weighs up to 5kg and a hen 3,5kg while the bantam rooster weighs maximum 2kg and a hen 1,5kg.
The body of a Brahma is broad, square and deep, the back short and flat, the wings medium sized with

lower line horizontal. Tail medium length, carried nearly upright, quilt feathers well spread. The head is small, rather short, beak short and strong, comb triple or pea, drooping behind and red in colour.
The neck is long, covered with plenty of hackle feathers. Legs moderate long and feathered. Legs and feet orange/yellow or yellow, eyes orange red, beak yellow or yellow

and black. Colour varieties are Dark (silver pencilled), Light (Colombian), White, Gold, Buff Colombian and Patridge.
For more information please contact Rustenburg Poultry Club: Whatsapp Dawie Snyman at 071 196 7696 or Email: rustenburgpoultryclub@gmail.com. (Photos: www)

AUTOLEC ASSETS

NATURE OF BUSINESS

Autolec Assets (Pty) Ltd specialize in repairing agricultural and construction machines, area of responsibility includes the maintenance and repair of vehicles, machines, facilities and equipment used in agriculture and agricultural construction.

We are versed with mechanical, electrical, can analyze the cause of faults on defective vehicles and rectify these by exchanging or repairing parts. Mechanics and Autolects for agricultural and technology are deployed in workshop, on construction sites or directly on-site with the customer. Not only do they repair and maintain the machines but, with an advisory function, they are also an important interface between the customer and manufacturer. Other functions is starter repairs, alternator repairs, wiring on trailers, boats... etc. Boilermaking and maintenance, diagnostics and complete rebuild of agricultural equipment.

Warranty on machines
All workmanship carries a one-year craftsmanship. Component's warranted is supported by the (OEM supplier).

After sales services

- Autolec Assets provides training on site for the customer.
- There is a service plan available for maintenance on the machine.
- Different components are available as a stock item.

Approved service supplier for:
AGRI, AGI, Absa Fleet Management, member of the BARCLAYS group, BKB Grain Storage, JOHN DEERE, AFGRI, WSS WEARSTOP SYSTEMS, nexgro, UNIGRAIN, RANDAGRI, TWK

Gideon Steenkamp 013 246 1446 | 082 444 3875 | 072 214 5601 - Web: <http://aaaautolec.co.za>

Baggers

BAGGER IS EQUIPPED WITH HYDRAULIC BRAKE SYSTEM

- Operates directly from the tractors hydraulic systems.
- Baggers brakes can be controlled individually for maximum control of bagging operation.

BAGGER IS BUILT WITH HIGH EFFICIENCY & LOW MAINTENANCE

- Only two bearings that needs to be maintained on the machine
- 400mm x4.5 pipe 1/3 of standard pipe thicker
- Pipe is seamless rolled and non welded
- Standard 1.8 series "6" PTO for drive.
- Couple on bagger built with 3mm plate (not 2mm) with round tube finish
- Standard 15" 6 hole rims.

REQUIREMENT FOR SAFE OPERATIONS

- Standard small Tractor with two pin hydraulic control
- Standard PTO drive (540RPM)
- Dedicated team with training for safe operation.

De-baggers

specifications for safe operation.

- De-bagger to be operated by small to medium tractor.
- Tractor to be equipped with a 2 lever hydraulic valve bank and 4 x female hydraulic couplers.
- PTO take of to operate at 540 RPM
- Dedicated team to operate 1x tractor operator. 1x Load controller.

Direct input to Hydraulic gearbox (18KW)

- Standard Hydraulic Pump and Motor (32kw). Running a closed loop system with filtration.
- 90' Gearbox. Driven mechanical from front input. Locally available. (60hp). All chains on machine standardised to one size. 16B1.
- Sprockets with taper lock to ease the change out/ engineering and downtime of machine.
- All bearings and chains are standard sizes. Local available. Standard filters used on the pipes top and bottom. Also the rear bottom drives.
- Rear drive runs with a split shaft for easy maintenance. Top and bottom pipe 405mm ad x4.5mm wall. 1/3 thicker for longer life.

Capacities on the De-bagger and Bagger

- Capacities all depends on the operating of machine
- With testing on sites we have achieved capacities from 160t/h to 200t/h. This is all depending on site condition.

WE HAVE VIDEO FOOTAGE ON REQUEST TO WATCH MACHINES WORKING.



Christmas around the corner – time to get baking

AGRI-PULSE – NORTH WEST – Well, can you believe it? In just over a month that friendly old man in red with a big heavy bag on his back will come knocking once again. For those of you who enjoy a traditional Christmas but have not begun to bake the family’s Christmas cake, time is running out.

Most South African women probably have a Christmas cake recipe that comes from generations ago. If perhaps Madam you feel like experimenting somewhat this year, why not try this version of Anita Upton – someone who needs no introduction when it comes to baking?

Anita Upton of North West – well-known for her excellent fruit-cakes. You are welcome to order from Anita if time has caught up with you – call Anita on 072 118 5451.



Remember to sift well to ensure a light texture in your fruit-cake.



Three eggs are more than enough



Mix your cake mix with the Margarine and the heat will do the rest.



For this version you will need two full hands of green cherries – you could also choose red cherries if you like.



Tap here on your electronic device or go to <https://bit.ly/bakechristmascake> to watch a video.

Traditional fruit-cake

Ingredients

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 500 g fruit cake mix | or both) |
| 1 and a half cup sugar | 2 tsp bicarbonate of soda |
| 250 g Margarine | ½ cup of milk |
| ¾ cup of water | 3 eggs |
| A packet of diced dates | 3 cups flower |
| 1 small packet of cherries (red/green | 2 tsp cinnamon |
| | 1 tsp ginger |
| | ½ tsp mixed spices |
| | ¼ tsp salt |

Method

Cook fruit, sugar, margarine and water for 10 min – allow to cool down. Add cherries and dates. Dissolve bicarbonate of soda in milk and add fruit mix. Beat eggs and add. Sift dry ingredients and stir in. Wrap a cake pan with tin foil and grease well.

Pour mixture into pan and bake at 160°C for one hour or until light brown and ready. Pour approximately 100 ml brandy over cake while it is still warm. Some people prefer the fruit-cake without brandy – do so if it suits you, but the brandy really gives a deep and strong aroma to the cake. Allow to cool in pan before cake is removed. For people with big families, simply double your ingredients and bake two cakes – you can place the two cakes on top of each other or serve as two separate cakes – one for the kids and one for adults. You could even choose to decorate the cake that will be enjoyed by the kids. We wish you happy baking, enjoy your cake and Merry Christmas – it is almost time to switch on the lights on your Christmas tree – enjoy your festive season! (Remember to call Anita on 072 118 5451 if you would like her to bake you a Christmas this year).



And Anita is ready to bake.



A scene that kindles the Christmas spirit!



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RAISINS

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& KWALITEIT

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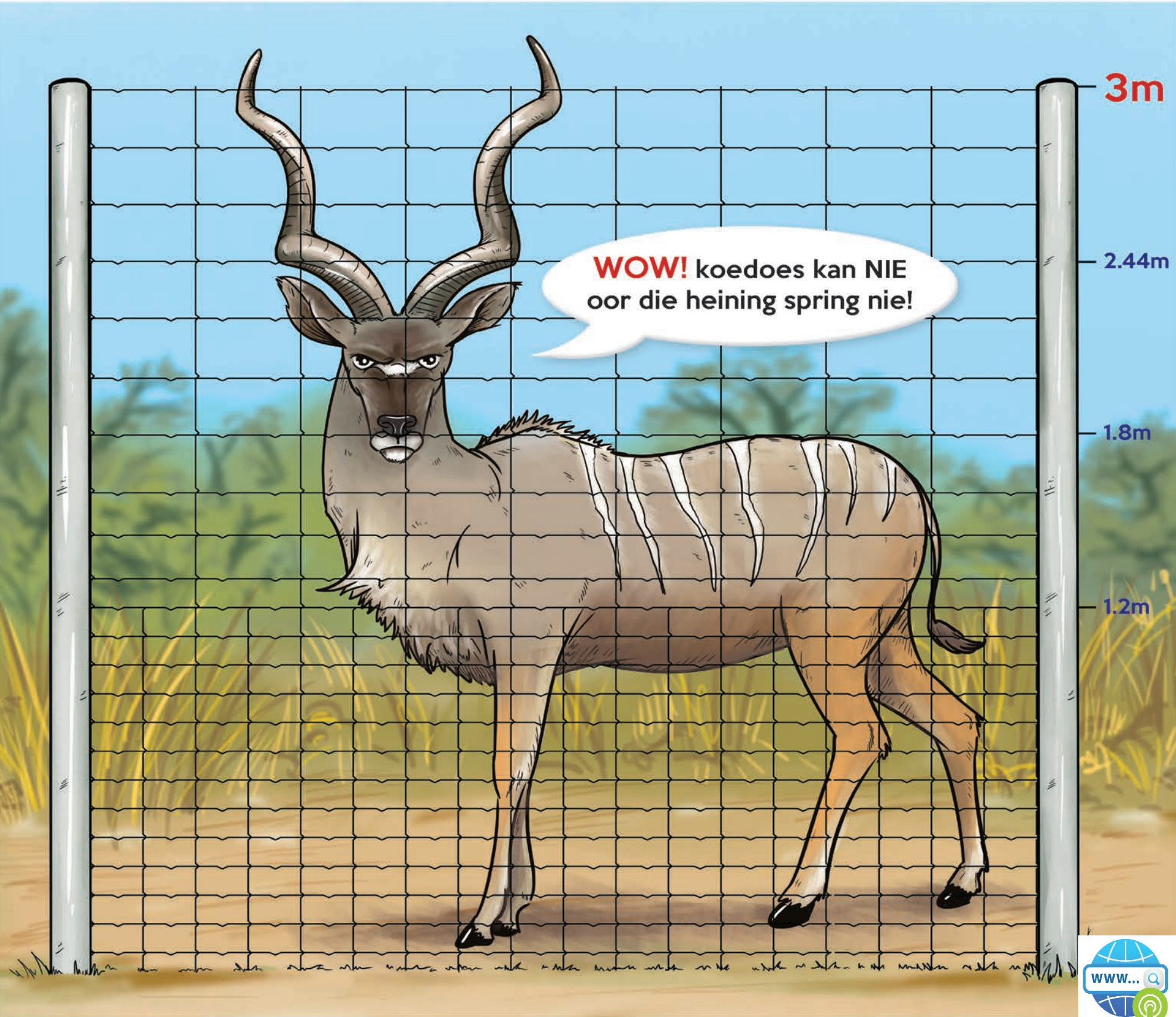
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Raisins

South Africa



Agricultural scholar of the year

JG Kruger, a grade 11 learner of the Martin Oosthuizen High School in Kakamas in the Northern Cape, was named their agricultural scholar of the year during a gala event by Raisins SA. During this event, SA Raisins honoured role players in the raisin industry in various categories. HMO is once again proud of our partnership with RaisinsSA and is excited about the future together.

Sussies blink uit op SA Jeugskou



Meike and Giune Steenkamp, even though the learners are from the Oranje Noord Primary School in Upington in the Northern Cape, participated in the SA Youth Show National Championship which was held in Lichtenburg in October. They participated in the junior class, age group 10 to 13 years - in the Melkbok division, as part of the Namaqualand team. In the showman competition Meike wins 1st place and Giune 2nd place. In the supreme showman division, where all the age groups between 7 and 18 years competed against each other, Meike also won 1st place. In the group class showman division, consisting of 3 participants, Giune and Meike also achieved 1st place. According to total points (an exam, preparation and showman), Giune achieves an overall 1st place and Meike an overall 2nd place in their group class and division.



Upington Boerseun is SA Youth Show Champion

A Boerseun and Veltie (Duineveld High School in Upington, in the Northern Cape) in heart and bone, PJ Luttig participated in the Junior Sheep Division, as part of the Namaqualand Youth Show team and won in all four of these divisions with an average mark of 83%! This achievement earned PJ the title of SA Champion for 2022. PJ also competed in the Supreme Champion division. The participants who were selected to participate are the two best from the junior as well as the senior division. PJ was named the winner here too! Furthermore, PJ also takes part in the Melkbok Group Class after which the Namaqualand team was named as the winners. What is interesting about the Namaqualand team is the fact that they are the smallest team with only nine team members. However, this team collected the most points of all the other teams and these nine team members won 14 medals! Other provinces that also participated were: North West, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga, Free State and Limpopo.



LANDBOUNET

IS JOU BOORD BESKERM?

Deur jou boord met lae persentasie landbounet te bedek soos ons 20% of 40% landbounet, kan jy die prestasie van jou boord of wingerd aansienlik verbeter.

Vir meer inligting of 'n gratis kwotasie, kontak ons by
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