

CATTLE

Limousin great for cross breeding

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NICHE FARMING

Microgreens the latest buzz word.

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LEGISLATION

Storm over water licensing regulations

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Never underestimate the donkey

Do not judge a book by its cover, and don't let a donkey's humbleness fool you. This animal has a reputation of endurance and hardiness – donkeys can survive on the bare minimum. But did you know that donkeys are your best natural line of defence against jackals when you have sheep or goats? Did you know that donkey milk is not only tasty, but pure magic for your skin? On P6 and 7 you can read all about the goings on at the The Donkey Dairy in Magaliesburg. On the photo is Jesse Christelis, co-owner of The Donkey Dairy, with Moon and Jupiter, two of the rare blue-speckled eye donkeys.



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Limousin breed suitable for crossbreeding

AGRI-PULSE-VRYBURG: Why is the Limousin breed suitable for crossbreeding? What is most important to the commercial farmer? Fertility. A cow calving. The Limousin bull has the fertility and an intercalving period of under 400 days. The bulls produce good concentrated semen and do not lack libido. A practical proof was recorded of one bull that produced 63 calves in a breeding season of four months. It is also important that the cow produces a live calf, i.e. calf problems must not occur. The calves must therefore be small at birth. This is one of the strongest characteristics of the Limousin. The average calf mass of the pure breed at birth is 39 kg for bulls and 37 kg for heifers. The cow must produce enough milk for the calf and she must take good care of her calf. Part of the characteristics of the cow, she must also be adaptable, long-lived and have good walking ability. The part of France where the Limousin originates gets quite hot in the summer with high humidity, while snow can occur in the winter. Cows with an age of 16 to 18 years are quite common in pure herds. In South Africa there are also Limousin cows that have reached similar ages and are still producing.

Now for a look at the Limousin bull for the above cow:
The calves must have good growth potential. Weight gain of over 2kg per day has already been recorded at the bull stations in South Africa. However, growth should not be overemphasized because it can cause problems. The trait that develops second to the nervous system in the calf is bone, that is, if too much is concentrated on growth, bone growth can also be encouraged which in itself can cause calf problems.

The Limousin is a medium skeletal type with a fine bone structure, a characteristic that the Limousin breed and its Society are very fond of. Rough-legged animals are discriminated against and in extreme cases they are even rejected for registration. The calf must also have a good meat conformation. Probably the strength characteristic of the Limousin breed is its outstanding meat conformation.

The breed's muscularity is widely known. For example, Limousin carcasses in the National Meat Carcass competition regularly get full marks for conformation. Feedlots want to

buy the calf, that is to say the calf must have the necessary conformation and weight gain and must not put on fat too soon, otherwise the carcass lacks the necessary mass. Regarding the latter aspect, it can be mentioned that the Limousin breed is a late developing type and can therefore be fed longer than normal. In this way, a higher carcass mass is achieved without excess fat.

If weaned calves are not marketed and the steers are kept for another period of up to a year plus, these calves must also be adaptable, have good walking ability on the field, be able to maintain themselves through the winter and recover after the winter, must respond well and immediately to feeding and be a good roughage user. In this case, the Limousin breed is excellent because its adult mass is not that high, the breed has a good bone structure and good feed conversion capacity. Limousin- and Limousin cross calves have excellent meat conformation with a high muscle-to-bone ratio in unmatched yield percentage (5-10 % higher than other breeds) in which lies a large profit, as well as high cut yield, the characteristic that butchers love. Limousin carcasses also produce high quality red meat and butchers obtain a higher percentage of expensive cuts from the carcasses.

The Limousin Breed Association emphasizes the following characteristics in order of importance seen from a beef production point of view:

- Muscularity – double musculature does not occur in the breed;
- Small calves at birth - bulls with a high birth mass are avoided;
- Fineness of bone - coarse bone in both sexes is an absolute exception;
- A limit is placed on size - growth is therefore not chased;
- Relatively low mature mass;
- Limousin bulls are not lazy;
- Limousin cattle are relatively good roughage users and last but not least, the Limousin produces red-skinned calves that have a high aesthetic value in South Africa.

*Information provided by Limousin SA



‘n Pragtige Limosinbul soos vertoon deur die Limousin Beestelersvereniging van Suid Afrika.



Cornish Game

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - The Cornish Game had its origin in England, classified as a hard feather, heavy breed, lay brown eggs and are good sitters.

The large cock weighs 3,5 to 5kg, Cockrell 3 to 4kg, hens weighs 3 to 4kg and pullets 2,5 to 3,5kg while the bantam cock weighs 1,8kg maximum and hens 1,4kg maximum.

The breed is a composite of several blood lines, Aseel Old English Game and Malay Game. The texture of the feathers is another strong characteristic in the breed, close fitting, short, hard and quite narrow. A distinguished characteristic is also that the bodies of both male and female are of the same conformation. White Cornish is often used in cross-breeding for excellent fast growing broiler chicks. It is a very valuable breed for production purposes.

Carriage is powerful and upright, the back sloping to the tail. The body is compact, well rounded at the sides and deep, back medium in length, broad at the shoulders, hip bones well apart. Tail short and closely folded, carried slightly below the horizontal, wings short and muscular, closely folded, not to extend beyond body. Head moderately large, short and broad with pea comb, beak short, stout and well curved, wattles and earlobes, small, smooth and red. Shanks round, moderately short and stout, four toes on each foot, yellow in color.

Colors in which Cornish Game is found is white and black, buff and cuckoo also exist but is rare.

For further information, whatsapp or sms Dawie at 071 196 7696.



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Moon Phases
July
2023

**Full Moon**
3 July

**First Quarter Moon**
10 July

**New Moon**
17 July

**Third Quarter Moon**
26 July

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North West Newspapers

On “Trac – Tor” for charity

AGRI-PULSE – NORTH WEST - Pediatric Care Africa is currently criss-crossing the country over a distance of 2 500 km “On-Trac-Tor” (yes on a Mahindra tractor) in an effort to raise much need funds to help children across the country.

The epic journey through five provinces has started in Witriver on Sunday, 2 July and will finish here on 15 July barely three weeks later. Dr Andre Hattingh - the CEO and founder of PCA will be driving a Mahindra 86-110 tractor sponsored by Mahindra South Africa that was facilitated by Mahindra Nelspruit for the duration of the trip.

“Pediatric care Africa does not receive any financial assistance or grants from the South African Government and we have to generate our own income and funds ourselves” Dr Hattingh told the media.

The promise to help children who are sick, hungry and defenceless was made by Dr Andre Hattingh many years ago, and he is absolutely resolute to keep that promise to help our children, even if it means driving a tractor over a distance of 2500 km to be able to do so. A distance of 2500 km by tractor is not for the faint of heart. The final 1500 km requires tremendous mental strength, Hattingh said. At an average speed of 26 km/h in an extremely bumpy and tiring environment, it is a truly taxing and exhausting endeavour.

The purpose of this ride is threefold:

1. To create awareness and collect funds for children in South Africa that requires medical treatment and surgeries and since our inception in 2017, we have supplied free medical care to 6797 persons during outreaches, 1 327 children were taken by us to see a private medical practitioner or specialist, 116 children received free surgeries, we distributed 409 000 kg of food parcels, 6 023 tins of baby formula and 7 023 packets of baby food were delivered to children. We have further responded to 4 disasters ranging from Cyclone Idai to the fires in Hertzogville and surrounding areas.
2. To create awareness of the 1 014 children being killed in SA every year, 1 184 children who are subjected to attempted murder every year, 24 387 sexual offences committed against children last year, 7 815 children assaulted with intent to do grievous bodily harm and 10 829 cases of common assault which were reported against children last year.
3. To draw international attention to farm murders, as farm murders in South Africa are becoming increasingly brutal. Farm murders simply must be stopped. “We support TJ Marais and the 911 riders on their quest to reduce farm murders in South Africa. We aim to raise at least R250 000-00 for children who require urgent medical care.

How can you get involved? The children in SA communities need your help and plead for your assistance!

- Sponsor our Tractor rider Dr Andre Hattingh per kilometre;
- Make a once-off or a monthly donation to help us to help defenceless children;
- We call on all Farmer unions and organizations along our tractor route to support our efforts with these critical issues;
- Donate baby milk (all types) as many mothers are not able to breastfeed their children due to medical reasons;
- Donate diesel for this “On Trac-tor” charity tractor ride;
- Become a volunteer with Pediatric care Africa;
- Hospitals and Doctors can assist us with pro bono treatment or surgery for children, as part of their CSR programs and initiatives.

Our intended route:

2nd July 2023: White River/Nelspruit to Burgersfort via Sabie and Lydenburg

3rd July 2023: Burgersfort to Mokopane (Potgietersrus)

4th July 2023: Potgietersrus (Mokopane) to Thabazimbi (Tractor check)

5th July 2023: Thabazimbi to Koster

6th July 2023: Koster to Wolmaransstad

7th July 2023: Wolmaransstad to Hartswater

8th July 2023: Hartswater (Stay over x 2 nights and Tractor check)

9th July 2023: Hartswater to Winburg

10th July 2023: Winburg to Clarens

11th July 2023: Clarens to Colenso

12th July 2023: Colenso to Vryheid via Dundee

13th July 2023: Vryheid to Piet Retief

14th July 2023: Piet Retief to Badplaas

15th July 2023: Badplaas to White River via R33 & R38



Please visit www.pediatriccareafrica.org for full information or please phone our office at 076 229 5663.



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Survival strategies adopted by underground trees

Naas Grové

AGRIPULSE – NORTH WEST - Hidden beneath the surface of the Savanna are unseen forests, the only visible signs of their presence are clumps of erect leaves at ground level. Some trees are entirely buried with their wooden stems growing horizontally, extending for meters in all directions under the surface. These underground trees have a very peculiar growth form and is associated with the African savanna, not found anywhere else in the world except for a limited degree in South America. More than two hundred known species have been identified across a variety of plant families.

The underground trees are tucked away and evolved in fire-prone savanna and grassland environments. Due to this peculiar growth-form the trees can survive for hundreds of years in a challenging environment, and in doing so have adopted several survival strategies in response to annual fires, frost, drought, or grazing by herbivores. The extensive underground structures can survive in these harsh conditions. A perennial canopy emerges in early spring, right after the long winter drought. This adaptation is to reduce the competition with grasses, allowing them to optimise the exposure to sunlight which is serious requirement for survival. Some of the leaves of these plants are highly unpalatable (*Parinari capensis* subsp. *capensis* – sand apple / bosappel) or even extremely toxic (*Dichapetalum cymosum* – poison leaf / gifblaar) to avoid herbivory. Flowering takes place some weeks or months before the arrival of summer rain. Pollination happens over a very short time before grasses and other plants have started to flower, thus reducing the competition for pollination by insects with these plants. Most savanna trees, like *Faurea saligna* (boekenhout), *Terminalia sericea* (sliver cluster-leaf) and *Combretum imberbe* (leadwood) to name few, have developed features such as thick bark and fire-resistant shoots for survival. It seems the geoxyles have also adapted to the fire-maintained savannas by developing a woody underground component to escape the fire pressure imposed by seasonal fires.

It is however not only fire and winter frost attributing to the geoxyle habitat. Frank White pointed this out in his paper on underground trees published and mentioned that most of these plants can also be found on sandy infertile soils and on very gently sloping or almost flat surfaces. The lower lying surfaces in these regions are seasonally waterlogged, otherwise mostly dry which

causes a fluctuation in the water table. In such conditions woody plants are mostly eliminated so that the trees are replaced by underground trees. White refers to the plants growing on the edges of these shallow pans as dambos. It is possible that where large patches of dambos occurs, the total biomass of the underground trees exceeds that of the grasses in its surrounding environment. The correlation between the mosaic of different edaphic conditions (relating to the physical or chemical composition of the soil found in an area) in these areas therefore disqualify fire and frost as the main contributors to this geoxyle habitat. Seasonal waterlogging and or drought are therefore to two driving factors for adaptation to the environment by these plants.

Research has shown that each underground trees species is related to a tree like species from which it may have evolved. For example, the leaves, flowers, and fruit of the underground *Parinari capensis* subsp. *capensis* (sand-apple / bosappel), *Ziziphus zeyheriana* (dwarf buffalo thorn), *Lannea edulis* (wild



Lannea edulis - wild grape

grape), *Elephantorrhiza elephantina* (eland’s bean) and *Erythrina zeyheri* (plough-breaker / ploegbreker) are almost identical to the tree species *Parinari curatellifolia* (mobula plum), *Ziziphus mucronata* (buffalo thorn), *Lannea discolor* (live-long), *Elephantorrhiza burkei* (elephantroot) and *Erythrina* spp. (coral trees).

Parinari capensis subsp. *capensis* probably is probably one of the best-known underground trees found in the Grassland and Savanna biomes. It is a perennial plant with an extensively rhizomatous root system. They can form large colonies in secondary grassland following destruction of woodland by fire, cultivation, over grazing, etc. The erect, woody dwarf shrub with aerial stems is not more than



Ziziphus zeyheriana - dwarf buffalo thorn



Elephantorrhiza elephantina – elephantroot



Erythrina zeyheri - plough-breaker



Parinari capensis subsp. *capensis*

20cm high with few single erect leathery leaves visible close to the ground surface. The upper side of the leaves is hairless with white felted hairs underneath. The purpose of these hairs on the lower side of the leaf is to protect the plant from the severe heat reflected by the soil.

Flowers are much branched and arranged on loosely clustered erect branches. The glabrous single seeded fruit is ovoid, large (~ 1.8cm long), hard brown and fleshy, with lenticels. The sweet outer flesh is eaten, and the raw stamped kernels eaten as a relish to meat. Fresh fruit are pounded, and the liquid could be drunk immediately or boiled and fermented for making beer. It can also be dried and eaten as a soft cake.

ECA

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I 600 km on a tractor through the country

By Danie Jacobs

AGRI-PULSE - KLERKSDORP - Corné Els is dead tired after her trek through the country, but her heart is filled with love for humanity.

She “saddled up” her 68-year-old Massey Ferguson tractor and drove from Krugersdorp to Klapmuts to collect funds for the overseas trip – a distance of 1 600 km.

“I just found love and encouragement along the way. Motorists waved and hooted and kept me going,” she told Agri Pulse after completing the long trip. We met her on her first stop on June 20 in Hartbeesfontein near Klerksdorp where she stayed the night and fuelled up.

A mother’s love for her child is so intense and for this mother from Strand in the Western Cape it is a love that you have to show not only with words but also with actions. Corné’s daughter, Marconette, has been chosen to represent the country in tug-of-war in Switzerland later this year, but the finances for the expensive trip is out of reach.

“Then I decided to do something. My family thinks I’m crazy, but I put my words into action.” The tractor is called Lady Disa. Very appropriate, because Disa is also the name of her

daughter’s tug-of-war team.

Corné “kicked off” her journey on June 19 and drove at a slow pace of 35 km/h. She arrived at her destination on Saturday July 1. She travelled through Jan Kempdorp, Kimberley, Hopetown, Britstown, Carnarvon, Williston, Calvinia, Ceres, and Worcester and arrived at Klapmuts according to schedule. Her husband accompanied her in a support vehicle.

Corné is deeply religious and her motivation was Titus 3:15 which reads: “Before we were also unwise, disobedient, on the wrong path, enslaved to all kinds of desires and pleasures; we have spent our lives in malice and jealousy; we were hateful and hated each other. Then the goodness of God our Savior and his love for man appeared.”

How can you help? Donations for Marconette’s dream can be paid into the following bank account: Mrs C Els, Capitec Bank, savings account: 1989706418, Reference: Your name and TTNS. Send proof of payment: Corne – 078 802 7911.

“People are welcome to still pay in even if the tractor ride is over.”



Marconette Els was selected for the SA tug-of-war team. Her mother criss-crossed the country to raise money for her tour.

Freezing!..... It’s 03:00 on Tuesday June 20 and Corné Els gets a free tank of diesel at Hartbeesfontein.





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Never underestimate the donkey

AGRI-PULSE - MAGALIESBURG - Betsie and Saartjie, two modest donkeys on their way to the abattoir, were the beginning of the remarkable success story of The Donkey Dairy at Magaliesburg on the border of North West and Gauteng.

AgriPulse visited The Donkey Dairy and spoke to one of the owners, Jesse Christelis (Zak Hendrikz is the other owner) about their passion for donkeys.

"About 11 years ago, we farmed with sheep on a small holding in Randfontein," says Jesse. "We had big problems with jackal and because we wanted to walk a path with nature, we didn't want to kill the jackal. Our research led us to believe that donkeys would be excellent protection for the flock of sheep, as donkeys adopt the flock as its own and will therefore protect it with its life. And it was just like that, no jackal bothered again."

Betsie and Saartjie, two Jennies (female donkey is called a Jenny and males are called Jacks), were the first to crawl into Jesse and Zak's hearts. They bought and rehabilitated neglected donkeys and to date, they have rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed hundreds of donkeys.

At The Donkey Dairy, 146 happy donkeys roam the farm and Magalies Mountain where they mainly feed on the mixed vegetation in the natural indigenous grazing.

With in-depth research, they found that donkey milk's medicinal benefits are invaluable. They started to milk the donkeys and developed all natural skincare products.

"Each donkey has a unique personality; they are very smart and do not like a tense atmosphere. A donkey is not like a cow that can just be milked, they are emotional animals," says Jesse.

Jesse says that the process of milking donkeys is a very special

process. Donkeys mainly produce milk for the foals. Unlike cows, donkeys cannot be milked at all if the foal is taken away from the mother. "It's like the mother is holding back or drying up her milk," says Jesse. "Taking the foal away can cause stress and on our farm no donkey has to endure that. We only milk donkeys when the foals are with the mothers. A happy donkey gives the healthiest milk - free from any stress hormones."

At The Donkey Dairy, the donkeys are milked with a specially designed German milking machine and one donkey produces approximately 250ml of milk per day.

Donkey milk is the closest milk to human milk and the milk has a sweet and pleasant taste, a milky aroma.

At The Donkey Dairy the milk is frozen in glass jars to preserve the goodness and nutritional value.

On Jesse and Zak's journey with donkeys they found the unique blue eyed spotted donkey and they wanted to preserve this rare bloodline. To date they have bred 18 blue eyed spotted donkeys.

"This donkey with its rare genetics, is apparently endemic to South Africa and it is quite interesting that the blue eye gene is dominant," says Jesse.

On the farm they also have mini donkeys and the huge

mammoth donkeys. The mini donkey stands at approximately 91cm. The standard donkey at approximately 1,2m and the mammoth approximately 15 hands (1.524m) – a beautiful gentle giant.

Because of the mammoth's extreme strength and endurance, these donkeys were used in the 1930's to help build South Africa's infrastructure.

Jesse and Zak's love for their donkeys can be seen in the compassionate way they handle them, each one named according to their personality and unique characteristics. It is their mission to uplift and give recognition to this modest, but magnificent animal. At The Donkey Dairy the value of a donkey is never underestimated.

Throughout the Bible the donkey symbolises humility and peace and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, chose to ride on the back of a young donkey in His final entry into Jerusalem – a great triumph for the donkey!

For more information about The Donkey Dairy visit the website www.thedonkeydairy.com or send an email to info@thedonkeydairy.com. Call or Whatsapp: 072 262 5369, 082 853 1606.



The unique eye colour makes this blue-eyed spotted donkey truly exquisite.



All products are animal cruelty free and the dairy donkeys are treated with love and respect.

Why Donkey Milk?

AGRI-PULSE – MAGALIESBURG – Donkey milk health and beauty care is causing a huge revolution worldwide, with people making a choice to embrace natural, cruelty free products. Donkey Milk is an ancient remedy - Cleopatra, the legendary Queen of Egypt took daily baths in Donkey Milk to preserve her renowned beauty and Hippocrates, the father of medicine swore by it as a remedy for various skin and health conditions including asthma, pneumonia, eczema and psoriasis.

What Makes Donkey Milk so Incredible for your Health?
The biochemical composition of Donkey Milk makes it the closest mammal milk to human breast milk, so it is easy for our bodies to absorb and use to the fullest. It is rich in vitamins including, A and E which are excellent for the skin and is remarkably 60% higher in vitamin C content than cow's milk and along with the essential fatty acids found in Donkey Milk, aids in fighting the ageing process.

Donkey milk also has a natural anti-inflammatory and antihistamine action which is excellent for allergic and problem skins.

Health and beauty benefits of using donkey milk in your skin care routine
The Donkey Dairy's products are chemical free, no sulphates or parabens, only all natural ingredients. Hypoallergenic and are suitable for all skin types. Donkey Milk is excellent for treating skin ailments such as eczema, psoriasis and acne.

Fatty acids found in Donkey Milk help reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles and regenerate damaged skin.

Donkey Milk gently exfoliates the skin while leaving it highly moisturised. Donkey Milk softens and smooths the skin, therefore leaving it firmer and giving it a healthy glow.

Health benefits of drinking donkey milk
Allergy relief: According to the BBC World Service's Health Check Programme, donkey milk is the ideal milk substitute for children and adults suffering from Cow's Milk Protein Allergies (CMPA). The Journal of Food Science deemed donkey milk a 'pharma-food' for its nutritional, nutraceutical and functional properties. Donkey milk is naturally hypoallergenic and is tolerated by about 90% of infants who have food allergies. It is also highly-palatable, with a delicious taste and no smell. This means that it is less likely to be rejected by children with sensitive palates.

Compared to other types of animal milk, the donkey variety is actually closest to human breast milk, based on its pH level and nutritional make-up.

Donkey milk is high in Omega 3 and 6 which are needed for a healthy heart, brain and for healing gut tissues. It is also rich in the anti-bacterial enzyme, lysozyme, which aids in destroying harmful bacteria in the gut and prevents intestinal infections.

Donkey milk is high in vitamins (A, D and E), minerals (calcium and phosphorous) and all the essential amino acids needed to stimulate the metabolism, thereby lowering cholesterol and triglycerides in heart patients.

Donkey milk contains immunoglobulin-protein which acts as an anti-body and improves the immune system. The natural substances found in donkey milk have been shown to enhance immunity for people with conditions like asthma, eczema, or psoriasis.

According to the Journal of Current Pharmaceutical Design, it has been concluded that donkey milk prevents artery hardening due to its ability to dilate human blood vessels.

Studies have shown that autistic children respond better, in most cases, to donkey milk than to any other substitute to cow's milk (including sheep, goat and camel milk). Many children often reach a plateau while on other milk varieties and it is believed that donkey milk may be the next step in moving these children forward.



Martyn Van Adrichem (plaatsestattdier) en Jesse Christelis met een van die reugetuigen moerdtokke, kressaain 515 amatek (\$24) ingroot is.

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Johann Kotzé, new Chief Executive Officer.

Agri SA appoints new Chief Executive Officer

AGRIULSE – NORTH WEST - Agri SA is pleased to announce the appointment of Johann Kotzé as their new Chief Executive Officer. Jaco Minnaar, Agri SA President, congratulated Kotzé and expressed his excitement over the new phase ahead.

“Kotzé’s appointment comes at a critical point in South Africa’s trajectory. We need leadership across so many spheres of both the larger South African society and the agricultural industry. In the coming years, agriculture will have to navigate the combined impact of challenges such as climate change, deteriorating infrastructure, decaying service delivery, rural safety, shifts in global markets and policy uncertainty.”

Kotzé grew up in a farming family in the North West province and went on to complete a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Economy at the University of Pretoria, a Master’s Degree in Business Management and Administration as well as an Executive Development Programme at the Stellenbosch Business School.

“Kotzé is a creative leader with a passion

for farming and the sustainability of the food system. He brings a wealth of experience as a former agricultural banker and a renowned leader in organised agriculture,” says Minnaar.

Kotzé started his career as a farmer and thereafter, he became an agricultural banker at Absa Bank.

After working as a corporate banker in Mozambique, he became an independent business consultant. Kotzé returned to banking and oversaw Africa Agriculture for FNB. Since 2017, he has served as the Chief Executive Office of the South African Pig Producers Organisation (SAPPO).


“Over the course of my career, I have learned that South African agriculture commands global respect for its efficient farming practices. As an agricultural community, we need to match the natural hope that South African farmers embody with pragmatic solutions to the complex challenges we face. Looking ahead, we will have to challenge our thinking on what is realistically possible in the current business environment and position agriculture to leverage partnerships

in the broader business and international community.”

“In the current conditions, we should not be tempted by frustration but collectively facilitate innovative solutions. The ethos and integrity of our structures need to create the necessary conditions and a culture receptive to change.”

“I am confident that as an industry we can collaboratively author a new narrative and unlock the growth potential of agriculture in Africa. Future sustainability is fundamentally a question of leadership.”

Kotzé will commence his tenure at Agri SA on 1 October 2023.

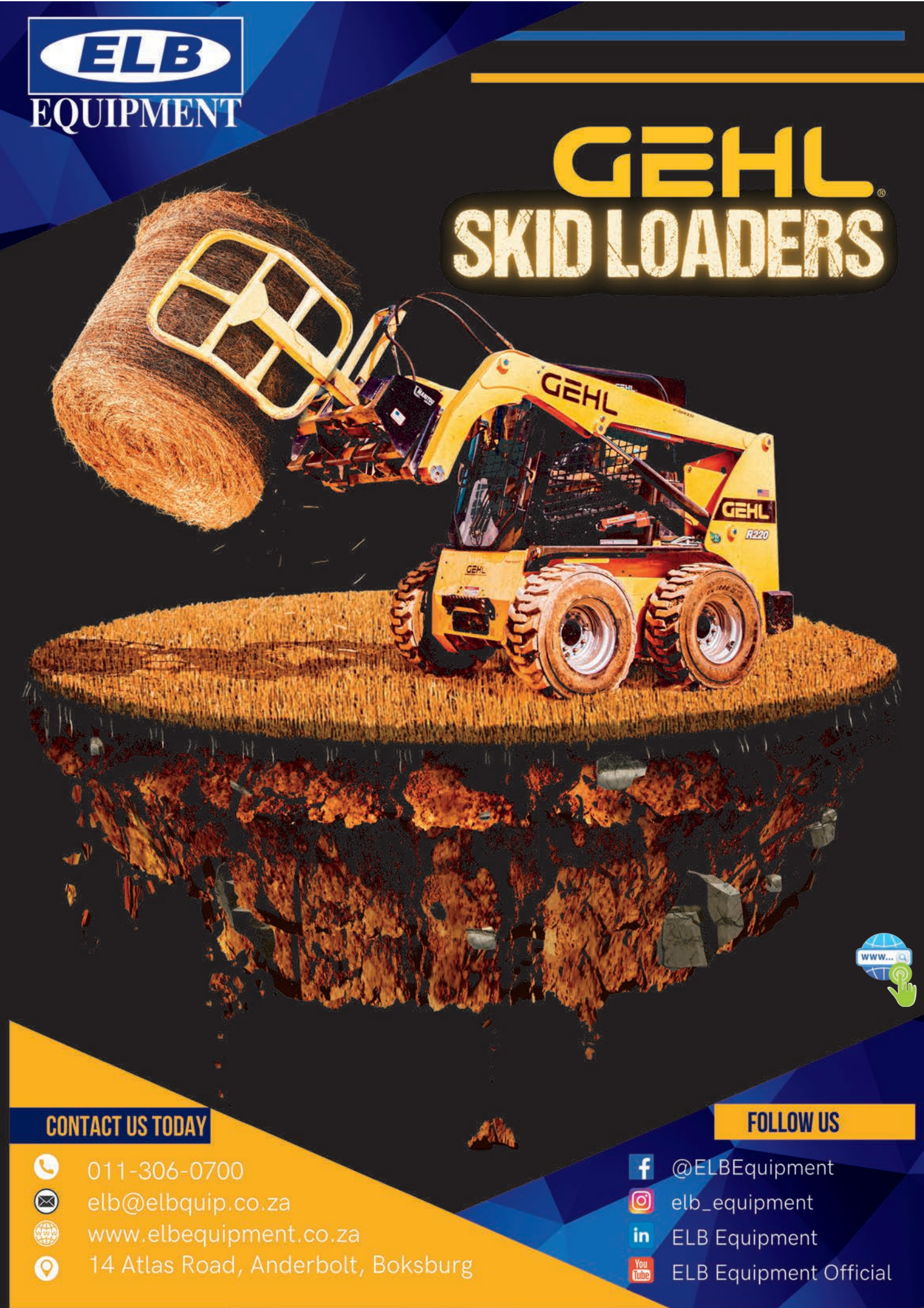


Red meat boss steps down

Gerhard Schutte

AGRI-PULSE – NORTH WEST - Gerhard Schutte has been a pillar in the South African agricultural landscape as the Chief Executive Officer of the national Red Meat Producers’ Organisation (RPO) for an impressive 35 years. His upcoming retirement in January 2024 marks the end of an era characterised by his unwavering dedication and transformative leadership. During his tenure, Schutte has made notable contributions to the red meat industry, leaving an indelible mark on the organisation and the broader agricultural community. Schutte’s journey in the agricultural sector began when he joined the RPO in 1989. Armed with a deep-rooted passion for farming and an academic background in agriculture, he proved himself to be a visionary and dedicated individual. In 1994, Schutte assumed the position of Chief Executive Officer, a role that would shape his legacy and the future of the organisation. As CEO, Schutte skillfully handled the challenges and opportunities within the red meat industry. He was a champion for the rights and interests of red meat producers and strove for fair trade practices, sustainable farming methods, and improved industry standards. Under his leadership, the RPO grew in stature and became a formidable voice within the agricultural sector. Schutte’s impact extends beyond his role as CEO. He is widely recognised as an influential figure in the agricultural community, thanks to his writing and presentations. Over the years, he has written numerous articles on topics such as market trends, policy issues, technological advancements, and environmental sustainability. His articles serve as valuable resources for industry professionals, policymakers, and farmers. Additionally, his dynamic presentations have taken him to various parts of South Africa, where he has shared his insights and knowledge, fostering collaboration.

Gerhard Schutte’s impending retirement poses an important challenge for the RPO. Acknowledging the significant contributions Gerhard has made, the organisation is conducting a comprehensive recruitment campaign to find a successor capable of continuing Schutte’s leadership legacy. The search will focus on identifying an individual with a deep understanding of the red meat industry, exceptional management skills, and a passion for advancing the interests of red meat producers. Gerhard Schutte’s remarkable career has not only shaped the RPO, but has also left a legacy within the South African agricultural community. His retirement will be a time to celebrate his immense contributions while also looking toward the future and the new opportunities that lie ahead under the guidance of a new CEO. The RPO will build upon the foundation laid by Schutte to ensure the sustainable growth and prosperity of the red meat industry in South Africa.



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Ons boeregemeenskap kook saam met



One dish “paptert”

By: Stefan Coetzer



When the weekend arrives, everyone knows it's time to light a fire for a "braai". Especially during a Currie Cup final, our men don't want to miss any of the action. At weekends it is usually my turn to continue the Saturday braai tradition, but then the eternal argument about what is served with the braai begins. With the Gauteng blood flowing through my veins, I'm always ready for "paptert", together with the braai, but then who's going to wash the pot afterwards? The one bowl of Paptert not only saves time, but also ensures that there are no burnt pots that need to be washed. It's so easy I can do it too.

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups maize meal
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 2 cups of grated cheese
- 1 ½ cups of milk
- 1 1/5 cups cream
- 2 cans of sweetcorn
- 1 can of tomato and onion sauce or braai relish
- 1 packet of bacon, chopped
- 1 packet of mushrooms

Steps

1. Fry the bacon and mushrooms until cooked and let it cool. (onions are optional)
2. Mix the above ingredients together, but leave one cup of cheese and half tin braai relish for later.
3. Put the mixture in an oven dish

- and bake it at 180 degrees for 50 minutes.
4. Take the bowl out of the oven and spread the rest of the braai relish over the paptert.
5. Pour cheese on top and continue to bake for 15 minutes until the cheese is melted.

Keep in mind

For nice extra flavor, crumble one block of feta on top of the cheese.

Remove from the oven after 15 minutes and let the tart rest for 15 minutes. Serve as a dish on its own, or with a delicious braai. It's extra tasty the next morning.

Now you have it, as easy as one two three. Easy, delicious and convenient. Adjust the recipe as you feel. Now Saturday's side dishes are one less thing to worry about. .



TAP HERE

On your electronic device or go to <https://bit.ly/stefanagritert>

Farming microgreens



JP van der Schyff and Hazel Kritzinger are microgreens farmers.

AGRI-PULSE - KLERKSDORP - Microgreens is the new super food. Traditionally used in the restaurant kitchen as an eye catching fresh and tasty garnish, the value and benefits of microgreens far surpasses what you see on the plate. Research has shown that it is valuable to your daily diet.

Microgreens contain up to 40 times more nutrients than mature vegetables, they are delicious and nutritious. No wonder then that Klerksdorp fitness guru and entrepreneur, JP van der Schyff grabbed the opportunity to start his own Microgreens farm. He and fiancé, Hazel Kritzinger are the farmers behind MicroThumbs NW and currently distribute their produce to individuals, shops, restaurants and markets all over the province.

“It is surprisingly easy to start your own microgreen farm and we joined the MicroThumbs family with 21 farms scattered over the country. Instead of covering large areas of land, all of our farming takes place in state-of-the-art indoor vertical farms.

“This allows us to optimise our yields by growing microgreens in smaller areas, which lets us carefully regulate the environment and guarantee maximum nutritional value and growth,” shares JP.

The end game is to make microgreens easily accessible and available to every household, be it the everyday family or the health-conscious individuals and businesses who are looking for only the best organic produce. “As a biokineticist I’ve seen how people are becoming more and more interested in eating healthy. You can eat microgreens on their own, cooked in with a meal, in a juice or smoothie. It is very versatile and it also makes an eye catching garnish, they just are all round amazing. It is a power food.”

Language teacher and mom, Hazel, concurs saying she makes sure to add microgreens to their meals. “Our children love it. Not only does it tastes good, it is so healthy and filling. Even when we make junk food like hamburgers, we use microgreens as garnish and found the kids love it.”

The indoor farm is set in an industrial space that was transformed in a clean, sanitized growing space where they can control the environment, temperature and humidity to ensure optimal growth and nutrients in the produce. Currently they produce more than 40 varieties to pick from of which pea shoots, bok choy, mustard, cress and sunflower shoots are very popular.

Despite their small size, these tasty microgreens pack a big nutritional punch.

If you are interested in microgreens farming, contact JP on 083 660 2555.



Sunflower shoots.



Microgreens farming takes place in state-of-the-art indoor vertical farms.

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Storm over draft water licence regulations

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - The Department of Water and Sanitation recently published a draft in which it proposed that certain enterprises would need up to 75% black shareholding to apply for water licences.

The shareholding requirement would depend on the volume of water applied for or the area covered, in the case of commercial forestry.

Legal and policy executive at Agri SA, Janse Rabie, said that the proposed regulations would have a devastating impact on South Africa’s commercial sector, and in effect food security and job creation, if adopted in its current form.

“The majority of farmers have water rights. It is well-known that the department envisages compulsory licensing of existing lawful water uses in the near future, and we fear that the proposed regulation might be used against them when they then apply for water licences.”

Rabie also felt that the proposed regulations attempted to replace the current ten considerations that had to be taken into account when granting licences.

These included factors such as efficient and beneficial use of water in the public interest, socio-economic impact, and investments already made by a water user in respect of the water in question.

He added that agriculture, which accounted for 60% of South Africa’s total water use, and forestry seemed to be the primary targets of the proposed regulations, while mining, state and state-owned entities, as well as 100% black-owned entities, seemed to be exempted.

Rabie said Agri SA fully appreciated the importance of achieving an inclusive and representative agricultural sector in the country, but these regulations were unlikely to achieve further transformation.

“Achieving transformation will require the creation of an environment that is conducive to growth and investment in the sector, and which

provides meaningful support for new entrants.”

He said the proposed regulations could not have come at a worse time for the sector and economy, which was already reeling from the impact of load-shedding, rural crime and deteriorating public infrastructure.

Theo de Jager, executive director of the Southern African Agri Initiative, said the proposal was both practically

impossible and morally unjustifiable: “It rips our business environment out of the competitiveness and efficiency-driven ethos of the 2020s, back to the discredited race-based apartheid paradigm where discrimination and oppression are founded on pigmentation.”

He said that most of the primary agricultural sector was family owned and managed, and wanted to know how a family should be transformed to comply with these “draconian race-based quotas”.

The Department of Water and Sanitation said in a press release that the main intention of the proposal was to address the racial discrepancy in water use, which was “highly skewed” towards the historically advantaged group.

According to the statement, 98% of South Africa’s water resources had been allocated by 2004, and the majority of these allocations were through recognition of old entitlements.

The department added that comparative statistics drawn from issued water-use licences since 1998 indicated that more than 75% had been allocated to historically advantaged individuals, and 24% to historically disadvantaged individuals.

The same analysis by means of existing lawful water use showed that more than 98% had been allocated to historically advantaged individuals and a little over 1% to previously disadvantaged individuals.

The public have until 18 July 2023 to comment on the proposed Revision of Regulations regarding the Procedural Requirements for Water-Use Licence Applications and Amendments.



Scholtz

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- Vleisgehalte
- Aanpasbaarheid & gehardheid
- Poenskop
- Veilige geboorte gewig
- Medium raam koei met 'n goeie koeie tot kalf speen persentasie
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