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FRONT COVER

Bulbs ready for planting and, inset,
 the lovely result when they
 flower. See page 12 for our review of
 Hadeco's encyclopaedic
 work of South African bulbs.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Exercise in futility



Much comment and debate in the media has taken place recently around the government's proposal to establish an overall minimum wage in South Africa. And, as one would expect in such a divided society, the debate has very quickly become polarised, with a capitalist faction arguing that imposition of a minimum wage will kill jobs and create more unemployment, and a socialist faction arguing that studies all over the world (presumably by similarly socialist researchers) have shown that a minimum wage policy does not result in job losses and to the contrary actually acts as a stimulus. So at this juncture it may be instructive to observe that in his recent budget, the British finance minister (quaintly called the Chancellor of the Exchequer) proposed a national minimum wage for Britons of £9 an hour. An HOUR. For no other reason than it seems interesting, you might like to note that that is roughly the equivalent of R180 per hour. South Africa's current system of wage determination is sectoral, with only those industries in which workers are deemed most vulnerable "protected" by a minimum wage. So, for example, the minimum wage for a domestic worker in Gauteng is currently set at R476.68 per week (R95 per day or R10.95 per hour), and for a farm worker R601.61 (R120.32 per day or R13.37 per hour).

That's a long way off Britain's R180 per hour and, in fact, a long way off most other countries that have enacted minimum wage legislation.

And the whole idea, in the current South Africa, is an exercise in futility and nothing more than a sop to the socialists in government. For, whether one is a socialist or not, the fact of the matter is that a set minimum wage will only have any real benefit when it ensures that the lowest paid workers are lifted out of a slave-wage situation ~ out of, in fact, the poverty-trap.

And the only time that will happen is when the economy is approaching, or has reached, full employment or, put the other way, no unemployment. Because in the South African situation, where unemployment currently runs northwards of 36% (and much more in certain regional pockets) depending on how you define it, there will always be a potential worker so desperate for ANYTHING that he (or she) will be willing to work for very much less than even a slave-wage-like minimum wage such as we have in our sectoral determinations.

But there's another reason why we believe a minimum wage in South Africa is a daft idea, and that revolves around the old adage of "paying peanuts and getting monkeys." For we believe that employers who bumble along paying these ridiculously low minimums must be suffering from selective tunnel vision which prevents them from intellectually processing the effects of R120 per day on a breadwinner and his or her family. How, I ask, can you expect anybody to live on so little money, taking into account transport, rent, light (in whatever form that may be), water, food, school fees etc? Project yourself into the position of the R120-per-day recipient and try to allocate that money in such a way that covers the daily necessities of life. (It can't be done, which is one of the reasons why 18 million South Africans are forced to rely on social grants of one form or another within their households to make ends meet. Social grants which, incidentally, are unsustainably being funded by the taxpayer.)

And then having established for yourself that you are forcing your workers to live in perpetual poverty, how can you expect those workers firstly to be productive given their grueling commutes to and from work, poor living conditions and inadequate diet, secondly to have sufficient in the way of clothing, toiletries and ablution facilities to be clean and neat in the workplace and thirdly not to harbour huge resentment towards you as their employer, which will eventually manifest itself in sleeping on the job, lying, pilfering, and worse?

Thus, the wage you pay your worker should not be not be benchmarked against the minimum that the law allows, but should be set at a level which allows you to look your worker in the eye, on a human level, safe in the knowledge that what he or she receives is at least sufficient for dignified human survival, and which allows him or her to look you in the eye on the same basis.

If you do so (and if all employers did likewise), three things will happen. Firstly, your worker will become more productive, particularly if you motivate him or her adequately. Secondly, pilferage and general stupidity will be reduced.

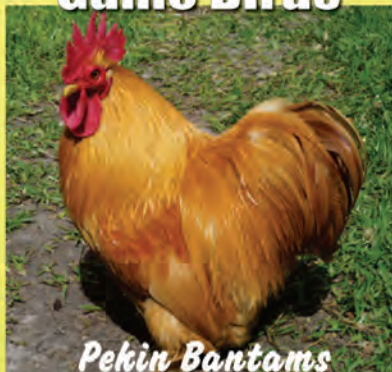
And thirdly, the economy will grow because more workers will have more money with which to buy more stuff, which will mean more shops do better and manufacturers have a reason to make and sell more stuff, in the process employing more workers.

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Guns don't kill ... people do

Sir ~ Guns kill, duh. Yeah DUH!!! Since when do guns kill people? I've had guns for 60 years and never has any one of them sneaked out of the safe to go look for someone to kill. Guns don't kill people, people kill people! If the moron who killed the

churchgoers had used a petrol bomb, would you have advocated the banning of petrol and glass bottles??? If Eskom graces us with a total black out; with no work, no light, no food, no water, no fuel, no police and no army I am sure you would be the first to go beg your neighbour

to lend you a gun. Or do you believe that in total anarchy people would graciously turn into Pollyanna's if only their guns were taken away? Don't be daft. Don't you know that if guns are outlawed only outlaws would have guns? Please, if it's imperative for you to write something do endeavour to keep to a subject that you know something about. I'll sommer stop picking up your mag if this is the sort of drivel you care to print. Why not go after the violence and vice on

TV and video games which are legally fed into young minds ad nauseum. At least you would be barking up the right tree. Ban guns?? Ag no man! Wake up! And also, do get rid of your cars, remember, they kill people!!!

Johan Venter

Centurion.

PS: Chances of this being printed in the *Smallholder* is zero minus. People don't like their pet theories deflated.

Yeah, right ~ Editor

Thanks for comment on guns

Sir ~ I just want to commend you on your intelligent and refreshing thoughts expressed in your July Comment (Guns kill, duh).

Too many people think guns are necessary and fun to have, with tragic consequences to themselves and others.

So thank you for giving 101 good reasons NOT to own a gun, even in this violent society of ours.

I'm sure your opinion will not

be appreciated by all, but thank you for being prepared to stick your neck out and say what needs to be said!

Heather Napier

By email

The Editor welcomes your letters, comments and opinions, but reserves the right to edit and shorten as necessary. Senders' names and addresses must be included.

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SA Gun Owners Unite responds

SIR ~ I have come across the editor's comment (July) a gun-free South Africa.

First of all, I own multiple smallholdings, plots etc in and around Gauteng and generally I like the magazine.

However I truly feel that the editor's comment should not have been published.

I also happen to be the founder of SA Gun Owners Unite and have had the privilege to visit parliament in Cape Town with regards to the proposed amendments to

the Firearm Control Act.

Apart from the fact that the comment is derogatory in nature, it is not only flawed in how it is presented but also lacking in any substantiating facts.

My question is: what relevance does gun control have

'Uninformed and offensive commentary'

SIR ~ I recently received a copy of your magazine from a family member. I really enjoyed the illuminating articles. "Off-grid for under R170k," and uses of waste water to mention two topics off the top of my head.

However, I was dismayed by the uninformed and offensive commentary by Pete Bower, entitled Guns kill, duh.

At first I thought it must be a satirical piece, but as I continued reading I was stunned with the seriousness

to the magazine in the first place?

Did the editor have a look at any facts or perhaps have experience in this field?

And just for fun, does he/she make use of an "armed" security company?

I'd like to request a follow up

and even fanatical tone of the commentary.

I will not debate the pros and cons of gun ownership as your team clearly have made up your mind.

I just need to point out two things. First, owners of smallholdings are one of the primary targets in South-Africa for violent crimes and as such the few owners of smallholdings that I know consider firearms for self-defence as non-negotiable and will find your position on

comment from the editor stating that the magazine withdraws all its comments, and that it does not actively support Gun Free SA.

The purpose of the media is to make the facts known. If the facts happen to support

Continued on page 8

this matter unacceptable.

The second item I would like to point out is that I will not be supporting your circulation in future (I am sure you will get over it very quickly), and will encourage others to do the same. I suspect you may have alienated a number of your regulars with the commentary and firm stance against firearm ownership. I recall the story of a gentleman who tested the position that guns kill people. He

Continued on page 8

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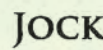


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MAILBAG

From page 6

your individual view, so be it. Let your readers determine that for themselves.

Rudi Roelofse

By email

Firstly, I fail to see how my comment in the July edition is "derogatory". Derogatory to whom? Gun owners? Ag, shame.

Secondly, judging by the response purportedly from smallholder readers to my comment, and the widely-

SA Gun Owners Unite

held (but incorrect) belief that smallholders are particular targets for violent crime and therefore need to be armed to the hilt, comments on gun ownership in the magazine are hardly out of place.

Thirdly, as it happens, I do not make use of an "armed" security company.

Fourthly, were I personally to support one or other position on guns in South Africa it

would most certainly be for a gun-free society, and as I founded and own the magazine you can take it as read that a gun-free society will be the view held by the magazine, certainly for as long as I'm running it. Having said that, I am under no illusion that a gun-free society, here or anywhere else for that matter, is anything more than

a utopian pipe-dream.

And fifthly, the purpose in the media on its NEWS pages is to make facts known. The purpose of COMMENT pages, however, is to do exactly that: Make comments which hopefully shape opinions, or which at least encourage debate. The series of diatribes unleashed by my July comment shows that I've done that rather successfully.

~ Editor

OFFENSIVE COMMENTARY

From page 6

loaded his two revolvers, three pistols and shotgun and left them, round in the chamber and hammer cocked with the safety catch off. He slept that night with the firearms pointing in his general direction and surprisingly nothing happened. I suppose he may have had non-homicidal model firearms, or the moon may have been in the incorrect position. Perhaps

only your firearms murder in cold blood.

Humour aside, the commentary was ill conceived and offensive and has no place in a respectable magazine. Thanks for the couple of interesting articles.

I will in future look elsewhere.

Paul Greeff, By email

Refusing to read a magazine that you find useful and informative because you disagree with a comment is childish. ~ Editor

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Maize imports: You'll pay more for feed

As a result of sparse rain having fallen in South Africa's yellow maize-growing regions last season, expect animal feed prices to increase dramatically in coming months, and certainly until the next local harvest is realised.

While white maize is mainly used for human consumption to make samp and mealie meal, yellow maize is a staple ingredient in the protein feeds manufactured for many animals, namely poultry, cattle, sheep and horses. However, poor rainfall meant that the harvest just past was

considerably lower than usual, and resulted in less maize being available than the local market requires. As a result, the maize industry has resorted to importing additional stocks, both from elsewhere in Africa and by ship.

This inevitably comes at a price premium when compared to local production because of two factors: the

parlous state of the Rand against other international currencies, notably the US dollar, makes imports of anything, maize included, relatively more expensive than locally produced equivalents. Secondly, transport costs, either for movement by rail or road in the case of imports from Zambia, or ocean freight costs, port charges and railage

inland, must be factored in to the cost of the finished product.

Two busy months ahead

The next couple of months are going to be busy ones for smallholders who like to attend trade fairs, shows, conferences and product days. There's the on-going Spring Festival running at Garden World in Muldersdrift. Apart from a range of show gardens which are sure to inspire and give ideas to gardeners of both large and small spaces, the festival includes the popular re-creation of the award-winning Kirstenbosch exhibit at the Royal Horticultural Show in London. The Festival runs until the end of August, and also includes a number of events, full details of which are to be found in the Diary section at the back of this magazine.

If the manufacture of dairy products is a subject you would like to know more about, look up the Dairy Day to be held at Belnori Boutique Cheesery in Bapsfontein on 13 August. Apart from more

Continued on page 12

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9.6 x 9.6	0.90	R 1 265	R 47	R 1 690	R 65	--	--
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13 x 13	1.60	R 2 510	R 97	R 3 330	R 132	R 4 995	R 194
13 x 25	1.00	R 835	R 35	R 1 110	R 46	R 1 665	R 69
13 x 25	1.25	R 1 195	R 52	R 1 595	R 63	R 2 395	R 97
13 x 25	1.50	R 1 725	R 69	R 2 285	R 92	R 3 415	R 132
13 x 25	1.60	R 1 970	R 80	R 2 620	R 103	R 3 925	R 154
13 x 25	2.00	R 3 120	R 120	R 4 165	R 160	R 6 245	R 240
25 x 25	1.00	R 670	R 29	R 880	R 35	R 1 330	R 52
25 x 25	1.50	R 1 240	R 52	R 1 645	R 63	R 2 470	R 97
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25 x 50	1.50	R 950	R 40	R 1 260	R 52	R 1 895	R 75
25 x 50	1.60	R 1 060	R 46	R 1 415	R 57	R 2 115	R 86
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		30m roll	per meter	30m roll	per meter	30m roll	per meter
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25 x 50	2.50	R 1 985	R 80	R 2 640	R 103	R 4 360	R 171
25 x 50	3.00	--	--	R 3 240	R 126	R 4 860	R 189
50 x 50	1.60	R 935	R 40	R 1 190	R 46	R 1 785	R 69
50 x 50	2.00	R 1 005	R 40	R 1 280	R 52	R 1 995	R 80
50 x 50	2.50	R 1 545	R 63	R 2 075	R 80	R 3 015	R 120
50 x 50	3.00	--	--	R 2 180	R 83	R 3 280	R 126
50 x 100	2.00	R 880	R 35	R 1 125	R 46	R 1 680	R 69
50 x 100	2.50	R 1 030	R 40	R 1 370	R 57	R 2 050	R 80
100 x 100	2.00	--	--	R 770	R 35	R 1 050	R 46
100 x 100	2.50	R 825	R 35	R 1 095	R 46	R 1 640	R 63

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25mm	0.90	R 790	R 23	R 1 050	R 29	R 1 575	R 40

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BOOKSHELF

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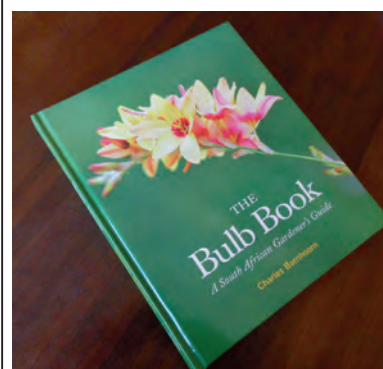
It is rare to find a book of coffee-table-quality illustrations that is comprehensively informative at an almost scientific level. But

that's the case with *The Bulb Book* – a South African Gardener's Guide, published by Sunbird Publishers, which is written by Charles

Barnhoorn, a director at Hadeco.

There is an analysis of bulbs, rhizomes, corms, tubers and tuberous roots, planting and positioning bulbs, feeding, propagation and threats, and even how to display and care for cut flowers in the home.

However, the bulk of the



Continued on page 13

EVENTS

From page 8

than 30 stands manned by suppliers to the dairy industry the day includes a series of talks by industry experts. Booking is essential. Call 082 377-5698.

What were the Pretoria Showgrounds in Soutter Street, now renamed the Tshwane Events Centre, will see another attempt at an agricultural show this year, named the Jacaranda Agricultural Show, from 26 to 29 August. The previous two shows were dismal as exhibitions, the greatest support having come from a motley range of government departments, not all of which were connected to agriculture. The show also contains a livestock section, including poultry, rabbits, small and large stock, and horses. This year's event seems to have been better-promoted ~ at least on social media ~ and has a focus on the game farming and hunting industries.

Also out in Muldersdrift, small-scale African farmers

can attend the African Farmers Workshop & Expo to be held at Oakfields Farm on Beyers Naude Dr on 18-20 August from 0900 to 1700. Entrance is free.

In Benoni's plotland the popular Uncle Tim's Centre will be hosting an Aloe & Citrus Fair on 22 and 23 August, as well as a Lavendar & Herb Fair on 19 and 20 September.

For those who like to attend auctions, there are two ad hoc livestock auctions in Gauteng to look out for. At the Tshwane Events Centre to co-incide with the Jacaranda Show, Vleissentraal Bosveld will hold a regional auction of indigenous veld goats at 1000 hrs on 28 August. 150 ewes and 20 rams of stud and commercial quality will be on offer. Vleissentraal Bosveld will also hold the third Northern Tuli Club's production auction at Obaro on Lavender Road, Bon Accord on 10 September at 1100 hrs. 20 Tuli bulls and 40 cows, some pregnant, will be on offer.

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BOOKSHELF

From page 12

book is devoted to an extensive A to Z genus listing, focussing especially on indigenous bulbs, covering more than 85 genera. For each genus there is detail on the history and origin, size, planting requirements and techniques, further care and propagation methods, all accompanied by close-up illustrations and beautiful photographs of the bulbs and their flowers. From Agapanthus to Zingiber – anything you want to know about a bulb you'll find in this wonderful book.

In the 200+ pages, more detailed attention is given to the most successful and rewarding species and varieties, but you will also find genera which are not so well known but very worthy of consideration.

There are lovely surprises, such

as a recipe for Waterblommetjie Bredie and information on worm farming. And then you'll see a photograph and think, "But that's a potato!" Well yes, a potato is a tuber and you'll also find onions and garlic. In case you were wondering about Zingiber – it's a rhizome and you will probably know it better as ginger.

This is a well-written, comprehensive, clear and easy-to-use growing guide and reference volume and it will give many hours of pleasure.

The cost of the book varies considerably, so shop around. It can be ordered online from Loot or Takealot.com for about R250, including delivery. Or, call Garden World on 011 957-2545.

Or, it's not too late to enter our Garden World/Hadeco competition to stand a chance

of winning a copy of the book, and a hamper of Hadeco bulbs for your garden. All you need to do is to answer a simple question relating to the stand that the horticulturalists from the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens construct annually at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show in Chelsea, London, and which is reconstructed at Garden World's annual spring festival. See the full details of how to participate on page 24 of this edition.



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PLANNING

Make a map ~ maplotter style

A smallholder who wishes to plan his summer plantings accurately will find his work made much easier if he has an accurate, to-scale, plan of his property to work on. While many will have acquired accurate municipal property plans when they bought their land, others might need to start from scratch, particularly if the municipal plans are inaccurate as far as the position of buildings on the property are concerned. Fortunately, modern technology makes this easy and cheap to do. The simplest way, if you have access to a computer, printer and the

internet, is to locate your plot using Google Earth or Google Maps and email yourself a picture of your property, adjusting the altitude of the shot so that the entire property fits on to an A4 sheet of paper when printed (or larger, if you have a bigger printer). Using your printed picture, trace the boundaries of the property on a blank sheet or, better still, on to a sheet of graph paper, marking any internal salient features such as buildings, dams, fences, roads etc. If you now scan this drawing into your computer you will have a template which you can print multiple copies of so

that you can draw all sorts of variations of your plans as you progress.

Adding actual lengths to each section can be done by measuring one straight length and working out the ratio of this length to its equivalent on your map, and then using this to multiply out the lengths of the other boundary or fence sections.

This, of course, is absolutely free. If you wish to spend a couple of hundred rands you can buy some mapping software off the internet and, coupled with your GPS produce something a bit more sophisticated and accurate. Start by walking your boundary with your GPS, stopping at each corner to record the co-ordinates. On a Garmin GPS you will save these using the "where am I" function.

Link your GPS to your computer and upload these co-ordinates to your mapping program, or type the co-ordinates into the program manually, and ask the program to make you a map of your property.

The program will automatically give you an accurate orientation for your property

and, if it incorporates a map of your province, will plot your property in relation to roads and other infrastructure nearby.

And, if your ground is undulating you can enter the elevation at each co-ordinate which will enable you to plan your ground work using contour lines.

Walking round buildings and other features, noting the co-ordinates at each corner and adding these to the program, will give you the same diagram that you traced using

Continued on page 16

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PLANNING

Establish contour lines on sloping ground

If your land is on a slope you may (in fact should) take care that any ground-breaking cultivation you do is done using contour lines, and incorporating swales, in your cultivation. In this way you will avoid losing your topsoil to your lower-lying neighbours and will, additionally, retain moisture in your soil.

On a smallholding establishing contour lines ~ that is level lines that follow the undulations of the ground ~ is easy to do using no more than a hosepipe, a jug of water and a

MAPMAKING

From page 14
your Google Earth picture, but with greater accuracy,

couple of stakes.

Attach each end of the hosepipe to a stake ~ a fence dropper is ideal, using two cable ties or bits of baling wire or string, so that at least 30cm

of hose is attached to the stake in each case, and in such a way that the ends of the hose are exactly the same distance from the bottom of

Continued on page 17

and with the added advantage that the program will instantly calculate lengths and areas for you. This is particularly useful if your fields are not square or rectangular. Knowing the lengths of boundaries or the area of individual portions of your property is helpful, for example, when buying fencing materials, or when calculating how much fertilizer you will need for a particular field, or how much seed to buy. And how much produce you can expect the field to yield at harvest time. Note that your GPS co-

ordinates are not accurate enough for land surveying use and because of the movement of the satellites that plot them they tend to "wander" a metre or two with time.

Thus, if after a year or so you try to add some new co-ordinates of, say, a new field, to your original map you may find that it seems way out of the original boundaries. To correct this you will need to walk the boundary again and re-collect and re-enter all the co-ordinates afresh.

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From page 16

the stakes.

Have an assistant hold one stake in a vertical position on one side of the field in which you wish to establish a contour line while you take the other end to the other side of the field. It doesn't matter what happens to the hose in between ~ it can curve and loop over itself ~ so long as its length is lower than both ends.

Hold your stake vertical with the end touching the ground. Now have your assistant pour water into the hose. If your end is lower than the assistant's water will gush out as the hose fills.

Walk uphill till the gushing stops. At this point both ends of the hose are on the same contour.

Walking further uphill will result in the level of the water in your end dropping in the hose, and water beginning to gush out at the assistant's end. If you intend to cultivate the field all tractor work, eg ripping, ploughing, etc, should take place following a level line between these two points (and others similarly



Hosepipe ends attached to two droppers of even length.

established up both sides of the field). If you wish to establish permaculture-like water conservation measures in

your field, you will use the line between these two points to dig out a shallow trench, throwing the dug out soil into a heap on the lower side. Depending on the size of the field and its slope, this can be repeated two or three times following similar

contours.

The dug-out soil banks should be smoothed off and sown with your preferred grass seed to stabilise the soil.

Called swales, these shallow trenches will catch and store the rainwater run-off that would otherwise be lost. As a result, the channels will grow additional vegetation and can even be planted with shade-giving trees and shrubs which will benefit by the trapped rainwater.

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PLANNING

The preparation that precedes the planting

Although the weather is still cold on the Highveld, and heavy soils will be too hard and dry to work effectively with anything other than a big, powerful tractor, now is still a good time to get started with planning ahead for the coming planting season. That starts with deciding what

is to be planted where. And that in turn starts with deciding how much of each crop you want to harvest. If you are only growing for your own use, for example to feed your family and livestock, your decisions in this regard should take into account the number of humans and animals you wish to feed, and

the amount of storage space you have for the harvest. This is particularly true of produce you wish to keep for next winter, and which can be spoiled by weather damage or by vermin. But it's no less true of fruit and vegetables for home use: have you enough freezer space, or do you know how to dry or otherwise preserve your harvest?

If, however, you intend to grow stuff for sale, then now is the time ~ before you turn a sod of soil, let alone put seed into the ground ~ that you should seek out and secure a market.

Having decided what is going to go where (your decision in this regard being informed as much as possible by the nature of the various soil types available to you on your smallholding), now is also a good time to study the soil



Soil test kit for N, P, K & pH. and nutritional requirements of each species. Does it prefer acid soil? Is it a root crop or a leaf crop?

Next, soil testing should be done to ascertain what you need to do to ensure the best possible soil conditions come planting time.

You can do this yourself using inexpensive soil testing kits which can be found at better garden centres or ordered

Continued on page 20

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PLANNING

From page 18

over the Internet or, if your investment in growing crops is substantial it will be worth having your soil professionally analysed by a laboratory. This is especially true if you wish to identify missing trace elements such as boron, magnesium etc which may need augmenting to ensure a good crop. That's because the shop-bought testing kits

typically only have four tests, namely for pH (acid or alkaline), and the three main plant nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N, P & K).

If your beds are small, one test of each type should be sufficient. However, if your plantings are extensive you will need to do multiple tests, over the whole area to be planted, because soil content

can vary greatly in different areas. Thus, draw a rough plan of your planting area or, more accurately, use a Google Earth image of your plot. Demarkate the field to be planted and plot four, say, soil sampling sites, A, B, C & D, a few metres in from the four corners of the field, marking each sampling site with a stake.

Next, take soil samples according to the instructions in the testing kit, carefully noting which sample came from where, and carry out the tests, noting the results for each area. In most cases this is made easier for you by the testing kit itself which will require you to mix up a sample of soil and water of, say, a litre. You then perform all the tests using fluid from this sample, discard the remaining fluid, rinse the mixing container and the test kit vials, and proceed to the next location to dig up the

required soil for the next mixture.

If any of your tests are abnormal in any way ~ either very high readings or very low, or at great variance from the other tests in the field, repeat the tests using a fresh soil sample drawn from somewhere a metre or so from the original sample site. Similarly, if, say, one corner of your field is markedly more acid or alkaline than the rest, or shows a marked deficiency in one or other nutrient, perform a series of tests into the centre of the field to see at what point the soil abnormality ceases.

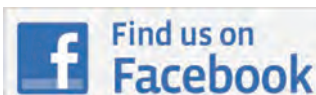
In this way you can plan how much of each remedial treatment needs to be added, and where.

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BEEKEEPING

How hives are moved season by season

As one becomes a serious beekeeper one will constantly be on the hunt for good spots to house one's hives. Such spots usually are on a farm run by a farmer who understands

From aloes to gum trees to soya fields ... another in our series on beekeeping by Peter Clark of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association

the need protect the bees from harmful chemicals, fire

and theft and, particularly blessed with an abundance of plants that offer up good amounts of pollen and nectar to the foraging bees.

Among such plants are aloes, and among such beekeepers are veteran East Rand bee expert Peter Clark and his helper Larry.

So here's how Clark and Larry go about migrating their bees

to the aloes.

Says Clark: "The aloe we speak of is *Aloe dayviana*, a low growing aloe found mainly in the mixed acacia thornveld belt 80 to 120km north of Pretoria and stretching from Zeerust in the west to about Nebo in the east.

"Each plant puts up one or two flower spikes that grow to 900mm to a metre in height. The flower heads are 150mm to 200mm long and the florets, eighty to ninety on each spike, open from the bottom upwards. The aloes

are peaking when the overall crop reaches maximum inflorescence before the very top florets open.

"The flowers are a deep pink to red and most beautiful when the fields are in full bloom. The flowering period is about six to eight weeks.

"The pollen is orange to red, and the honey from which it is derived a light amber.

"The farm we use belongs to the Prinsloos and is in the Dennilton area bordering on the citrus growing irrigation area. The farm covers



Aloe dayviana

300ha and is rather overgrazed and over trampled by the cattle over the previous seasons, resulting a thick carpet in places of aloe plants. "After a visit in early June to assure them that we are still in the beekeeping business and that we would like to come again this year, our gift of two dozen bottles of honey puts smiles on all faces and coffee and rusks on the stoep seals the deal. The rains in November to March have been good and a drive around the farm roads of the area reveals good healthy plants and a good season ahead for us, from July to mid-September."

Continued on page 24

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BEEKEEPING

From page 22

"By the end of June we have rounded up the hundred hives that we will be taking, have reduced them to brood chambers only, and have completed the spring cleaning by replacing two outer frames in each brood chamber with two frames of full foundation wax in the center of the brood chambers. 200 supers have been prepared and are

also ready to go. But first there are preparations to do on the farm.

"When the flower spikes are, on average, about 400mm high throughout the fields, we are ready to start moving. In the day time we move all the 200 supers to the farm and set them out in stacks of 16 to 20 about 100m apart all over the farm. At these points we will set down our brood-only

hives.

"Back home the following day we fit travelling screens to the brood chambers under the lids to give the bees ample ventilation, and at sunset the day thereafter (once the bees are all in the hive for the night) we plug the first 50 hive entrances with sponge rubber plugs and load them the next morning as the first load.

"The trip takes about three hours and by midday we arrive on the farm. We spray the load of hives with water to cool them down because the air temperature is 26°C. "We then off load them at the super stacks, remove the lids and screens and place two supers on each brood. These are our working hives for the next six weeks. The two supers give the bees ample space to prevent swarming off. By early afternoon the tasks are complete and we head for home to be back by

dark. The following day we repeat the journey, taking the second 50 hives and place them among the aloes.

"For the next week, at our home base, we prepare a further 50 to 60 empty brood boxes to receive new swarms as there will be queens available from the hives and these are then transported to the farm.

"By now the bees have been on the farm for about four weeks. Methodically for the next two weeks we work through about ten hives per day. Where we find scattered queen cells, we remove the frame with one or two cells, plus three frames of bees and one frame of pollen and place it into one of the empty brood boxes.

"Certain swarms do not produce queen cells and in these swarms we kill the old queen and add two new queen cells.

Continued on page 25



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BEEKEEPING

From page 24

"Some swarms swarm off and lose most of their field force. We swop these swarms with other hives that have a strong field force to prevent them from swarming off.

"Ten hives a day for ten days is about as much as one can do.

"Our next three trips are to remove and extract approximately one ton of honey for processing and bottling at our home base and the last four night trips are to bring back the bees to the Highveld gum trees

that will be flowering from October to January, when we will extract and process our second ton of honey. Next, the bees are moved to the Cosmos and soya bean fields by the end of January, yielding our third ton of honey before the end of April."

By Peter Clark, at 011 362-2904, author of *Tales of an African Beekeeper* and member of Eastern Highveld beekeeper's Assoc, Secretary Mike Alter at 011 965-6040.

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Nutritional needs of smallholder cattle

Historically South African cattle have been reared on the veld, although it is interesting to note that Gauteng is home to the Karan Beef feedlot outside Heidelberg, which occupies 2 330 ha and accommodates over 120 000 head of cattle, making it the largest in Africa. In a feedlot a large number of cattle are

kept in pens, where they be fed a specialised concentrated feed which is usually corn-based, as well as roughage which may comprise lucerne, mealie residue, sorghum or other hay. However, most smallholders will keep their cattle on pastures and it is most important that the animals receive sufficient, good quality nutrition. Cattle need fibre, energy, protein, minerals and vitamins to remain healthy and productive. Another most important nutrient is water. It is important to have knowledge of feed or feed ingredients that supply each of the required nutrients and the importance of each nutrient. Cattle are ruminants,

which means they have a four-compartment stomach. To put it simplistically, they are able to swallow food and then bring it back up again to continue chewing it (the Afrikaans word for ruminant, "herkouer" describes this perfectly). They require a basic diet of roughage in the form of grass, with supplementation to give the necessary nutrients at various stages of production cycles. It is important therefore that smallholders who keep cattle manage the veld, to ensure the best conditions for the cattle to thrive. Probably the most crucial factor in ensuring adequate grazing is the number of animals in any one camp. Failing to stock correctly can only lead to veld deterioration. Grazing capacity is

dependent on rainfall, veld condition, slope, aspect and soil.

To assess the grazing capacity of fields, one should look at the area of land required to maintain a single animal unit (AU) over an extended number of years without deterioration of the vegeta-

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LIVESTOCK

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tion or soil. The recommended carrying capacity figure for cattle in Gauteng is 8 ha/LSU (large stock unit). This can be improved to 1 ha/LSU when grain and planted pasture are provided as supplementary feedstock. (A livestock unit is an animal

with a weight of 450 kg. All animals can be converted to livestock units or LSU: Roughly a cow = 1,10 LSU, a bull = 1,36 LSU, a horse = 1,25 LSU, a ewe = 0,17 LSU and a ram = 0,22 LSU.) Annual rainfall in Gauteng averages 560 to 710 mm and this will obviously affect the quality and quantity of grazing. Few smallholders can afford to irrigate their fields. Several factors play a role in determining veld condition. These include species composition, the vigour of the palatable species, basal cover and soil surface condition. There are books available to

help identify the grasses in your field, ranging from the pocket book First Field Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa (Struik) to the more comprehensive Guide to Grasses of southern Africa (Revised edition) by Frits van Oudtshoorn (Briza Publications). The books give an indication of palatability for each species. Such knowledge is important in designing a grazing system and making informed feeding management decisions. Cattle are primarily grazers and will only browse on shrubs or small trees when the grass is over-grazed. It is good practice to divide pasture into camps, so that one can rotate your cattle, as veld management also



Cattle benefit greatly from lick-blocks, particularly in winter.

includes resting of veld. In order to maintain the vigour of the veld, it is necessary to rest the vegetation at certain critical growth stages, irrespective of the type of grazing system. Veld must rest in the growing season. The frequency and duration of these rests will depend on the nature and condition of the veld, whether the veld is grazed by cattle or sheep or both. A practice that undoubtedly improves veld production, veld composition and animal production is the implementation of a full rest

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LIVESTOCK

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in the growing season every second or third year. Seasonal rest not only allows plants to rest, but also to recover by building root reserves.

One should also consider the period of stay. The number of days stock are kept in a camp should be controlled, so that grazing of regrowth during the period of stay and grazing intensity are reduced to a minimum. The period of stay would vary according to the stocking density, the veld type, quantity of grass available and the growth rate of the palatable grasses.



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One should also consider the period of absence, because after grass has been grazed, it initially grows slowly before entering a rapid phase of growth. After this phase, growth slows down and reserves are replenished. As grass grows out, its quality deteriorates. This occurs rapidly in sourveld and more slowly in sweetveld. (Sourveld tends to consist of coarse grass and other growing plants that are poor feed for livestock.)

The period of absence, therefore, should be relatively short in sourveld and much

longer in sweetveld. In sourveld this period should be 25-35 days, in mixed veld about 42 days and the sweetveld 56-70 days.

But grass does not give all the nutrition that cattle need, as most roughages are low in quality, and supplementation is necessary in the form of licks and concentrates. Pastures are deficient in phosphorus, crude protein and in certain areas sodium, for a period ranging from five to nine months of the year, depending on the area.

Even in summer when there is

ample grass volume, it might look like the cattle are getting everything they need, but this is not the case. As the grass matures the less digestible fibre component of the grass will increase and overall digestibility will suffer. This means that more time is required for digestion and the animal compensates for this by lowering its intake. Lower grass intake can lead to an energy shortage as not enough grass is ingested to provide the animal with enough energy.

One way to ensure quality nutrition is through the use of licks.

Phosphate and trace elements are the most limited nutrients on green natural veld and the purpose of the summer licks is to maximise growth. In autumn temperatures start dropping, rainfall declines and the veld grows more slowly. It is recom-

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From page 32

mended that beef producers bridge this period with a transitional lick, particularly in sour grass veld areas where summer and winter pastures vary considerably.

As soon as frost sets in, winter licks must be provided.

Un-supplemented animals will lose 25 – 30% of their maximum summer body mass and the consequences are a considerable lowering of reproductive rate and reduced animal performance. Winter veld is dry, low in protein, less digestible and less palatable, causing lower veld intake.

Protein is the most important nutrient in winter licks and the purpose of winter licks is to prevent a loss of mass.

In late winter, particularly after repeated frosts, veld is usually very dry, very low in protein with a low digestibility; intake is low with little volume.

The purpose of a supplement is to limit a loss of weight and both energy and protein must be provided by a production lick.

Some cattle owners have had great success in using sprouted feeds as a supplement. Barley sprouts are the most common.

Sprouted fodder is a 'live' feed and the secret is in the root where there are enzymes that increase the digestibility of other feedstuffs that have been used in total ration.

Up to 30% concentrated feed can be replaced with the same results in productivity. Mineral and vitamin levels in hydroponically-sprouted barley are significantly increased over those in grain. In addition, they are absorbed more efficiently due to the lack of enzyme inhibitors in sprouted grain.

Nearly all of the starch present in the grain is converted to sugar by

sprouting, which is better utilised by the rumen (the first stomach chamber) than the dry grain.

This reduces acidosis problems, as the rumen pH stays more stable without the constant input of starch.

A further plus to sprouted fodder, particularly in winter, is that the animal receives a considerable proportion of its daily water intake as part of the feed.

A further option is to plant fodder crops to supplement the veld grasses.

Crop residues such as maize and sorghum stover plus grain kernels spilt during harvesting and the post-harvest residues of soya beans, beans and legume crops can also be used to supplement feed, although the nutritional value is not high.



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ANIMAL HEALTH

A healthy plot will keep your animals well

A holistic approach to animal wellness on a smallholding goes a long way to creating optimum conditions for the good health of its livestock.

Looking at the whole smallholding, instead of just the animals, gives the opportunity to observe the interactions between soil, plants, animals and weather; and to recognise the changes that occur when any of one of those components changes. Diseases are more than just infections, but include anything that adversely affects the health of an animal.

The first step is frequently and comprehensively walking the plot, which should be seen as a whole entity. What do the grasses and other pasture plants look like? Are they desirable plants? Are they strong looking or yellowed and weak? Are there bare

spots in pastures or is there good ground cover? Are some pastures in better shape than others, or are they all uniform? Are they overgrazed or undergrazed? What colour is the soil? Does it have a good earthy smell? Are the livestock contented and performing satisfactorily? Similarly, the smallholder should walk among his animals regularly to observe how alert they are, what their coats look like and what their body condition is like.

By walking the plot and through the livestock, the smallholder learns what is normal and healthy. This gives an important tool in determining what changes need to be made in the whole smallholding to ensure continued good health and wellness.

Health and wellness occur through good nutrition and

low stress. In winter one needs to pay extra attention to ensure that the animals receive enough good food, through controlled grazing and supplementation. Good, balanced nutrition is also important in building up the immune system of the animal. The immune system's function is to ward off disease, so the stronger and healthier they are, the less likely they are to contract diseases.

The ability of the immune system to fight and kill disease-causing agents is impaired by stress. Stress is the effect of change on an animal. It increases the susceptibility to disease and decreases the vitality or life force of the animal. If animals aren't fed well, are too crowded, have dirty places to sleep, are too pulled down from calving, or the weather is too stressful, then they

won't be profitable. How they are handled, weaning, parasite management and how new animals are introduced are also important. Parasite stress can be alleviated through integrated parasite management (IPM) involving the animal, soils, pasture and weather. One should guard against using antibiotics as one's response to all animal health problems. Rather regard therapeutic antimicrobial products as complementing good management, vaccination and plot hygiene. Good management of pets and livestock includes the responsible use of medicines. A programme aimed at protecting animals from disease includes inoculation, deworming and dipping.



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ANIMAL HEALTH

A guide to common animal inoculations

Inoculation involves the introduction, usually by injection, of a serum, antigen, or a weakened form of a disease-producing pathogen into the body of the animal, to create immunity to the disease. The animal should therefore be in good health when taken for inoculation or vaccination. Do not vaccinate if the animal is stressed, exhausted, nutritionally deprived or has recently been ill. Certain vaccines should not be given to pregnant animals. Vaccines aren't miracle shields against disease, but they do bring about increased immunity against disease. Vaccines are made from either dead or weakened viruses (modified live – MLV) and are given either individually or as a group

(multivalent).

There are on-going debates about whether livestock-owners are over-vaccinating their animals, and smallholders are no exception. The danger of over-vaccinating, or over-dosing with any medication, is that the organism one is trying to target may become resistant to the vaccine or medicine. Rather work with a veterinarian whose opinion you trust and, as a responsible owner, equip yourself with information about the core vaccinations for your species of animal.

If you are injecting or dosing, ensure that someone is on hand to help you to restrain the animal.

While many inoculations are administered according to the age of the animal, other more

routine injections are administered annually, usually in the spring, so now is a good time to plan your inoculation programme for the upcoming season.

Domestic dogs and cats

Kittens and puppies need various inoculations in the first few months of their lives, most important of which is against rabies. Vaccinate your dog or cat against rabies when the animal is three months old, with the first booster one to nine months after the first vaccination and follow-up boosters at least every three years. You need a valid rabies vaccination certificate when moving dogs and cats from one province to another or when placing the animal in kennels or catteries.

Apart from regular inoculations, the most important

thing you can do for your pets in summer is to keep them free of parasites, namely fleas and ticks. We all know that fleas are a nuisance to the pets and will migrate to humans, furniture, beds and carpets if not controlled, but ticks can infect animals with biliary which is fatal if not treated timeously (and expensively). They can also give humans tick bite fever. And don't be lulled into the belief that ticks don't pass on biliary in the winter. They do, and this misconception that "it's winter, the pet can't possibly have biliary" has led to many a late diagnosis and unnecessary death.

Horses, mules and donkeys

☐ African Horse Sickness ~ AHS is the single biggest killer of equines in Gauteng in summer, as owners neglect to

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administer the two-injection vaccine or they handle and administer the vaccine incorrectly. Or, they neglect a simple disease-prevention programme in their stables from late spring to late summer, when the carrier, the *Culicoides* midge, abounds. The programme comprises two injections given subcutaneously (under the skin) three weeks apart. It is common practice to administer the inoculations in October/Nov. These months are considered the best time to administer the vaccines, whose efficacy is short-lived, because one wants to ensure maximum immunity late in the summer. Administering them

earlier will mean the horses are prone to the disease from about April, while administering the injections later means the horses will have built up insufficient immunity in January. However it is still worth doing up to the end of December, if you have not done it before.

The two injections are effective against different strains of the disease so both must be administered,

otherwise the animal will not build up the full spectrum of immunity to all strains. Similarly, it is important that injected horses should not be worked hard, especially during the second week of each three week period following the injections as this is the time that immunity is maximised.

And, the three week gap should also be strictly adhered to otherwise immunity is, likewise, compromised.

The vaccine itself is a freeze-dried culture which is mixed with an ampoule of distilled water before administering and it is important that the vaccine remain refrigerated during storage and transportation, and that the injection be given immediately the vaccine and water are mixed. Good stable management, aimed at limiting the exposure of the horse to the

carrier midge, will go a long way to helping prevent the killer scourge of AHS. Moreover, there is only one producer of AHS vaccine in South Africa, namely Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP). Over the past few years bottlenecks and shortages in the supply of AHS (and some other) vaccines have occurred, so it is worth making enquiries, or placing orders, now for the vaccines you know you will require later this year.

Continued on page 38



How NOT to inject a horse in the neck. As it feels the prick of the needle the horse may involuntarily jerk its head up and backwards, which can result in the needle breaking off under the skin. Rather insert the needle pointing backwards.

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ANIMAL HEALTH

From page 37

☐ Equine influenza ~ It remains a sensible part of any stable management programme to inject horses against horse 'flu twice yearly. The programme comprises a single injection administered intramuscularly.

☐ Anti-tetanus ~ Inoculation against tetanus or lockjaw is an inexpensive precaution against infection from cuts and wounds, especially penetrative (puncture) wounds.

☐ Deworming ~ While a deworming programme for horses is not confined to summer, the fact is that internal parasites thrive in warm, moist conditions so particular attention should be paid to regular administration of a dewormer.

On the subject of dewormers for any species of livestock a good tip is to rotate two or three different makes through one's stable, selecting those to be used on the basis of

different active ingredients. You don't need any great knowledge of chemistry to achieve this. The active ingredients are differentiated and are readily identified by numbers on the outer packaging, usually in the top right hand corner of the label or carton.

Rotating dewormers according to their active ingredients ensures that the parasites do not build up an immunity to any one active ingredient.

Cattle

While a separate programme should be used for cattle and calves (ie, those that have not been vaccinated before), cattle should have three-day stiffness and combined botulism/black quarter injections in late winter to early spring, and vibriosis injections for weeks before the breeding season, with Escherichia coli injections two to four weeks before calving. Calves should be vaccinated

against blackquarter, botulism, tetanus and anthrax between three and four months of age and then given a second vaccine for blackquarter, botulism and tetanus four weeks later.

Calves should be vaccinated against brucellosis at four to eight months of age.

Cattle should get a booster vaccination yearly against anthrax, blackquarter and botulism.

Calves should be vaccinated against tick-borne diseases at three to nine months of age.

There may be other vaccines which should be administered specific to your area.

It is very important to give cattle the correct number of vaccination as recommended. If they are not, they will not be properly protected against the diseases. Vaccinated cows will also pass on some protection to the calves.

Sheep

☐ Pulpy Kidney ~ Annual

inoculation is recommended. However, unfortunately for the smallholder, the vaccine is supplied in 100-dose measures making inoculation of a small flock an expensive affair. Many vets will, however, provide syringes containing just enough doses for one's flock.

☐ Blue Tongue ~ Prevention of blue tongue involves good management and vaccination. Stable animals in the late afternoon where possible, and do not let them graze in the areas where midges are present.

☐ Tetanus and Anthrax ~ Both tetanus and anthrax can also be vaccinated against in sheep. Anthrax is a notifiable disease.

If you have a large flock of sheep or you are running a serious breeding operation, get advice from your veterinarian on vaccinating against mastitis, orf (which is also called vuilbek), redgut and

Continued on page 40

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ANIMAL HEALTH

From page 38

botulism.

❑ Deworming ~ Wise shepherds say "You deworm a sheep when it's wormy." The surest way to know is to have your vet do a worm check on a faecal sample. However, there are three key signals one can detect without relying on a vet. A snotty nose, particularly in the mornings, is a symptom of nasal worm infestation, which probably means infestation of intestinal worms as well. "Bottle jaw" is a soft swelling under the head to the rear of the jaw and is another sign of worm infestation. Finally,

abnormalities in the faeces, including softer than usual droppings, droppings that clump together and diarrhoea are all signs of possible worm problems.

Conventional wisdom in the past was to deworm regularly, particularly in the summer months. However, because of the development of resistance to dewormers among parasites, a more conservative approach is now advocated by many, with deworming only being undertaken when there are signs of infestation. Although some are available by injection, most dewormers are administered orally. This need be neither expensive nor difficult. Although you can buy a purpose designed dosing gun, you can use a large plastic veterinary syringe fitted with a 15cm length of flexible plastic or rubber tube, particularly for a small flock.

Goats

Goats should be inoculated

against Pulpy kidney (Enterotoxaemia), Pasteurella, Brucellosis and Enzootic abortion (Chlamydiosis).

Pigs

Sows should be vaccinated for Escherichia coli (colibacillosis) before parturition as the disease attacks young piglets, while non-gestating sows should be vaccinated against leptospirosis, swine erysipelas and parvovirus.

Boars should be vaccinated against the same diseases twice annually.

Poultry

Of all poultry species chickens are the most susceptible to Newcastle Disease and vaccination is vital in large flocks of layers, broilers and breeders. Newcastle Disease is caused by a virus and there is no treatment for chickens once they have the disease. Vaccination is therefore advisable even for smallholder's flocks. The disease is highly contagious and

notifiable.

Vaccination timing and frequency depends on the nature of the flock (ie, broilers or layers).

Probably the most common ailment in smallholder flocks is coccidiosis, for which a simple sulphonamide drug is administered, usually through the birds' drinking water. Other diseases against which chickens should be vaccinated, again depending on the nature of the flock, include Marek's Disease, gumboro, infectious bronchitis, infectious laryngo-tracheitis, egg drop syndrome, fowl pox and coryza.

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Consider the humble garden fork. You spear it into the ground, bury its prongs up to the hilt under the weight of your boot, wiggle it back and forth to loosen a forkful of sod, lift the sod up and proceed to beat it to pieces with the empty fork, before removing weeds and stones that are exposed in the process. And in so doing you have loosened and worked the soil



Hand-held powered cultivator

to a depth of no more than 20 cm or the length of the prongs of the fork. And that, in reality, is about the maximum depth you will reach whatever method you use to work your soil, from a manual fork right up to a tractor and plough. For today's gardeners and smallholders are spoiled for choice when it comes to selecting equipment with which to work the soil. It's all, in fact, a matter of matching the device to the size of land one wishes to work, and the type of soil that needs to be cultivated.

Assuming one wants a mechanical device, the small gardener has at his disposal a hand-held rotary cultivator that fits on to the business end of what started out as a brushcutter.

Typically, these devices are fitted to the user with a harness and have bull-horn handlebars for control. Cultivation is by two or four sets of tines rotating under a safety cover to prevent stones and soil from being flung up into the face of the operator.

They are ideal for cultivating around established plants as one can reach in and around as one needs, rather than running the machine in a straight line.

Both dedicated cultivators of this type, and multi-purpose

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TILLAGE

From page 41

machines that have a number of other operating head options such as power brooms are available.

These small cultivators will reach no more than 10-15cm and are best suited to soft or sandy soils. In heavier soils they tend to ride up out of the soil and bounce along the surface.

Next up in size are small hand-operated walk-behind cultivators typically powered by 4-5HP petrol engines.

Usually belt-driven, they have two shafts of tines and no wheels, and they are driven forward by the pulling action of the tines as they turn. The number of tines can usually be changed to suit both the

such machines will have a couple of forward operating gears, reverse, adjustable tines of various configurations for different soils, and the larger of these will have electric starters and even



Chinese single-cylinder diesel rotavator with trailing seat

diesel engines.

Larger still are the two-wheel Chinese walk-behinds.

Powered by single-cylinder diesel engines which are kept in motion by a massive flywheel these can either be walk-behinds, to can be fitted with trailing seats. Traction is by two small cleated wheels and steering is by way of two dog-clutches activated off the handlebars. A feature of many of these machines is that the handlebars can be slewed to either side so that the operator need not walk in the freshly tilled soil.

A rotary cultivator is but one attachment on these all-purpose Chinese machines, with sickle-bar cutters, rotary mowers, small ploughs, water pumps, generators and trailers being some of the other implements one can buy. If you already possess a



Wheelless Viking tiller

width of narrow beds and the type of soil being worked for these machines, too, suffer from the fact that they are light in weight and will also ride up in heavy soils.

Nevertheless they are a welcome time-saver when preparing long, straight vegetable beds for spring plantings, and leave behind in their wake a smooth fine tilth to a depth of 10-20cm.

Most are light enough to be easily man-handled, although the larger models of this type are fitted with either permanent or removable wheels to enable them to be tilted and rolled to and from the garden beds.

The next variation are larger, heavier machines with tractive wheels to keep them operating straight and level. Typically



Husqvarna rotavator with tractive wheels

tractor, even a small one, and your cultivation area is large, a PTO-operated rotavator might be your answer.

Machines are available from 1m working width upwards

Continued on page 43

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TILLAGE

From page 43

1m working width upwards and for straightforward work one will ideally want a working width greater than the width of one's tractor to ensure that the tractor's wheel tracks are cultivated as well with each pass. This is not the case if one is attempting strip beds or raised beds, in which case the tractor will straddle

the bed and its wheels will run in permanent channels on either side. In such a case a working width to suit the width of the bed, narrower than the tractor, will be sought.

One of the downsides of rotary cultivation of all types, say detractors, is that the regular mashing-up of the soil breaks down the particles,

eventually leading to a finer, heavier soil. If this is indeed so this action can be countered by the regular incorporation of organic matter (along with any chemical fertilizer being used), spread over the soil before it is cultivated, as a single pass of a rotary cultivator is sufficient to incorporate such material evenly and smoothly into the soil.

If rotary cultivation is not to your taste and if your lands are large, any number of tractor-drawn implements will

also do the job, although it may take more than one pass with different implements to achieve a decent tilth.

Chief among the non-PTO-driven implements are chisel ploughs and tined cultivators of different styles and sizes. These typically loosen the soil to a depth of 10-15 cm, cutting through the roots of weeds and plants, generally disturbing the soil but not markedly turning it over. In this way they leave a smooth friable working surface in one pass.

This is unlike the action of a plough (either disc or mouldboard) which is expressly to turn over soil (upending weeds and plants in the process) and leave a furrowed surface.

Furrowed land will



Small tractor-rotavator combination

Continued on page 46

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PRUNING

Cutting tools: Where quality DOES count

It may seem like highway robbery to pay R800 or R900 for something as mundane as a pair of secateurs with which to prune one's fruit trees and roses but if one can avoid the frustration of mashing up the branches as one cuts because of inferior tools, one will soon see the value of an invest-

ment in quality. And this year, for the man who has everything, there are new tools on the market to make pruning faster and less onerous. So, what does one need by

way of equipment to make oneself into an expert pruner? First among the tools is, of course, a good set of secateurs. These should be sharp, to easily sever branches up to about 25mm in diameter;

and clean, to prevent the spread of disease from tree to tree as one works.

A soft plastic coating on the handles, or the wearing of gloves, will go a long way to

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TILLAGE

From page 44

not be suitable for many crops, especially smaller growing varieties, and thus further working will be required with, for example, a disc harrow (to break up clods of soil and begin the smoothing-out process) and a further working still, using a diamond tined rake to achieve the desired fine tilth and smoothness. Apart from the extra time these additional operations take, not to mention the fuel that is used in the process, consideration should

be taken of the re-compaction of the soil each time the tractor's wheels pass over the land. And, of course, one needs to possess two or three implements to achieve what one rotavator will achieve in one pass.

If you can achieve even, straight furrows with your tractor and plough and intend to plant large species such as maize, you might find it advantageous not to do anything more than plough, placing the necessary fertilizer and planting the seeds in the

furrows themselves.

This method has become widely accepted among Africa's smallholders, especially in drier areas, where the furrows collect the maximum rainwater, channeling it directly to the growing plants, rather than letting it run off. The method assumes, however, that you will hand-plant the seed because the unevenness of the soil will render a mechanical seeder inaccurate and ineffective.

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PRUNING

From page 46

preventing the formation of blisters on one's fingers and, paradoxically, bruising on the palm of one's cutting hand as one works.

Secateurs come in two basic designs, the cheaper being the more common scissor type. A more elaborate and



Secateurs:
Left: Scissor-type. Right: Anvil-type

therefore expensive version uses a lever action, which exerts more force on to the blade than can be achieved by a scissor type. Effectively this means one needs to apply less force to the cutting, leading to less fatigue on the hands. And it also means the lever types can be used on

slightly thicker branches. For branches too big to cut with secateurs but too small to warrant removal with a saw, long-handled lopping shears are a must. Again these should be clean and sharp. And, again, they come in two types like the secateurs.

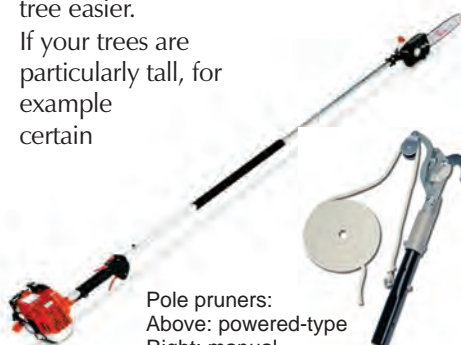
A small curved, fold-up pruning saw is a useful tool to have in one's pocket for branches that are too big for the lopping shears, but which don't warrant removal with a chainsaw. A carpenter's hand-saw is not a suitable pruning tool, for a number of reasons. Firstly, unless its teeth are designed to cut wet wood a carpenter's saw will quickly clog with damp cuttings as one works. Secondly, as it clogs it will tend to stick with the danger that the flexible blade will be bent as one attempts to force the saw to work. Thirdly, the

sheer height and length of the blade of a carpenter's saw means that it will inevitably bump into branches and limbs that one doesn't wish to cut, damaging the bark in the process. Thus, for the complete removal of dead limbs, a chainsaw is required, and specialist arborist models are available that make maneuvering the saw around and within the branches of the tree easier. If your trees are particularly tall, for example certain



Fold-up pruning saw

species of nuts, olives etc, you may wish to invest in a pole pruner. Two types are to be had, namely manual and motorised. The manual ones are basically a lopping shear head attached to a pole, with the blade of the shear activated by pulling a cord on a lever to increase the cutting force. Powered pole



Pole pruners:
Above: powered-type
Right: manual

Continued on page 48

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MULTI



FIRE & POWER

PRUNING

From page 47

pruners are essentially small chainsaws attached to an aluminium tubular shaft and driven by a brushcutter motor. The shaft may be of fixed length or it may be telescopic.

New on the market from Stihl this season are battery-powered electric secateurs. The business end comprises a cylindrical tool from which

protrudes an oversized secateur blade mechanism. The lever-operated blade is activated by pressing a trigger mounted in a safety shield. Power to the tool is supplied by a sturdy cord attached to a lithium-ion battery, housed in a comfortable low-profile back-pack, designed to be smooth so that it doesn't snag on branches while working. Also part of the kit is a

microprocessor which gives an indication of the state of charge in the battery, and which additionally counts the number of cuts made in any particular time frame. This is especially useful when the device is being used in an extensive commercial application such as a vineyard, enabling the manager to accurately track the work-rate of his pruners. A full charge of the battery is said to last a worker an entire day. The cost? Excluding the battery, R25 080.

With one's cutting tools assembled one will also need a sturdy step ladder, or even two ~ one shorter and one longer ~ to enable working at height.

When working with saws safety goggles are necessary to prevent sawdust and wood chips from entering one's eyes and all the safety rules governing chainsaws apply in

full measure when using a chainsaw in a tree. Not the least is that one should never cut a branch that is higher than one's shoulders, for if one has a running chainsaw above one's head and the device should suffer a kickback the chances are very good of one being hit by a still-spinning chain (and saw) as the device falls to the ground. And being hit by a falling chainsaw is not a life-prolonging event.



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2. Wanted ads, services of any kind are also SuperSmalls.
4. No Commercial ads accepted as classifieds (see display ad tariff - p 1).
5. Placement maximum of 3 months

SUPERSMALLS

Entries in this yellow-shaded section cost R120 VAT included for 25 words, plus R1/word thereafter. Colour photographs may be included, at a total cost of R380 for both text and picture, VAT included

WANTED

Gesoeek: Stukkende tweede-handse brei masjiene benodig vir parte. Vir skool vir mense met geleerdheids probleme. Rosa 082 684-9534.

FOR SALE

POULTRY & WATERFOWL

Turkeys, fully-grown males and females, R300 each. 076 721-9063 Bapsfontein

Regular supply of day old Pekin ducklings for sale at R10.00 each. Call Gwaine on 074 550-4315

White Guinea Fowl for sale. Contact Roy 082 480-9892 Hartbeespoort

Geese and Mallards for sale. Contact James 082 611-3733 Benoni Agricultural Holding.

LIVESTOCK & PETS

Six young top quality Dormer ewes and one ram from one of the top studs in the country, Delmas district. 082 569-7200

Skeer van skape. Vaaldriehoek en Parys area. Kontak Dupe 083 978-4310 of Tinus 083 287-7460.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stop thieves: Outdoor wireless alarms for houses, cottages, outbuildings. 4 outdoor wireless sensors, Main control panel, 2 remote controls, siren, battery, etc. R2 495 installed in JHB or DIY. Also cut fence alarm, www.stopthieves.co.za or contact Colin 079 180-2853.

Stainless steel farm donkey. 210 litre, fire-heated. Constant hot water. From R3 454 incl VAT. Contact 011 762-1212, 082 456-0973 or stainlessspecial@absamail.co.za.

PRODUCE, PLANTS & FODDER

Smutsfinger hay bales for sale, 1,2m x 1,5m R350 per bale. For sale in Bashewa, Pretoria East, contact Linda 072 826-2208.

Raspberry canes in 2 litre grow bags R25 each. Pete 072 587-9137 Bredell

Lucerne R55 per square bale, sweepings R40 per bag, soya beans R45 per square bale. Veld grass R45 per bale. Contact 078 442-4265 or lucernltd123@gmail.com.

Fruit and nut trees. Olive, peach, nectarine, plum, almond, apricot, walnut, prune, pomegranate, pecan nut, apple, cherry, pear, fig, quince, mulberry, lemon and grape vines. Contact Douw 084 506-5125 Vereeniging.

Indigenous trees. 40 varieties available. Aloes also in stock. Contact 082 801-9555.

FOR SALE

Entries in this section are FREE OF CHARGE, but are for used items, private property sales/rentals, and employment offered/wanted only.

FARMING REQUISITES

Voëlhokrame te koop, verskillende groottes. Christian 073 230-6474 Pretoria/Hartbeespoort

John Deere STX38, 5 speed ride on mower, second hand, perfect working condition, bonnet damaged R12 000. Contact Adam 071 408-4403.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Husqvarna sewing machine in wooden cabinet. R500. Contact Jean 011 964-1071

Sewing unit, multiple cottons, oak, as new. R1 500. Empisal overlocker R800. Contact 011 964-1638.

6,5kVA petrol generator met self starter en AVR. Splinter nuut, nog nooit gebruik nie, met nog 3 maande waarborg oor. R6 500. Kontak Jurgens 076 4213-547

For DIY. About 6 m² of wood. Like Oregon beams, treated poles, laminated beams, saligna planks, sleepers, SA pine etc. What

offers? Everything must go. Pretoria West area. 082 535-3392

Available for DIY. About 5 tons of heavy duty steel. Pipes, gates, A frame, angle iron, channel iron, mesh etc. Any reasonable offer acceptable. Pretoria West area. 082 535-3392

Handgun safe. Combination lock, 410 x 410 x 510. Contact Victor 084 905-2186.

PROPERTY FOR SALE/TO LET/WANTED

Benoni: 380m² workshop/office/storeroom op plot R7 200 per month plus water and electricity. Occupation 15 July. Contact Maryna 082 744-4191 or 011 965-0022.

Pretoria: 1 ha plot te koop 86km vanaf Pretoria op Witbank pad. 3 slaapkamer huis, trekker, ploeg en vee. R460 000 kontak 076 046-5681.

Pretoria Oos: Garsfonteinweg verlenging. Woning te huur. R10 500pm + R21 000 dep. Alles vooruitbetaalbaar. Elektriesiteit direk aan Eskom betaalbaar. Dadelik beskikbaar. Kontak 071 206-9973.

Wanted: Pretoria East/Northeast: Smallholding, 2 ha, for hydroponics. Negotiable on rental. 060 903-1880

Stutterheim: Prime 1,5ha with old house in town. Beautiful mountain views near school. Ideal for development of townhouses or build your dream home. R1,2 million Contact owner 072 305-4890

Hartbeespoort: 5,2ha fenced, spectacular views mountains and dam, large D/storey house, 550m² Bali-style architect designed, lounge, 3 bedrooms, 3 large bathrooms, solar geyser, large open plan kitchen, gas stove, d/room, TV family room, study, pantry, scullery, built-in cupboards, four car garage cum workshop, large verandah. 2 large lockup sheds, seven kennels, strong borehole carport. POA. contact 082 771-6460

Parys: Plotte te koop, Lindequedrift. 2,1ha, 2 langsmekaar 19 km uit Parys, geen geboue, R170 000 elk. Kontak Antoon 072 153-8776.

Parys: Ou woonhuis, klaar gerestoureer, oopplan, 2 slaapkamer met rondawel aan woonhuis. Naby rivier, buite gastekamer. R1,3 miljoen. Kontak Antoon 072 153-8776.

Vastfontein – tussen Pretoria Noord en Hammanskraal. 21ha plasie te koop (privaat) met ou 3 slaapkamer huis, groot kombuis, sit- eetkamer met 1 badkamer. Goed beveilig dmv sekuriteits hekke en diefwering, asook alarm stelsel. + 15ha lande tans in gebruik. Ingelys vir 21ha besproeiings water uit Apiesrivier. Prys R2,5m. Kontak Mike 082 920 6157 e-mail: mail@apiesriviersteel.co.za.

TOOLS

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DIARY

ATTENTION CRAFT MARKETS, CLUBS ETC: If you would like details of your events included in the Diary, please fax or email your information to the Editor. This service is FREE.

NOTE: FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKETS. For a listing of REGULARLY HELD markets and fairs please see the separate section on page 55. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar section.

Every Sunday
Cattle drive with City Slickers breakfast, Diamond X Cowboy Ranch, near Cullinan. Call Rudan on 082 410-3180 horses@diamondxrancho.co.za, www.diamondx.co.za., R360 per person.

Mnandi Methodist Church, 09:00, Mnandi Centre, cnr Tulip and Short Streets, Jen 012 651-5509. Gail 072 477-0708., A small community who worship together. We have

a Youth and Children's church.

Premier Mine Presbyterian Church, Lower Oak Ave, Cullinan. Garden of Remembrance (Columbarium), 079 060-9990 or 012 734-1640, Worship and Sunday school. Holy Communion for all on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Every Monday
Alcoholics Anonymous. 'Courage to Change' Group meeting, 19:30, Benoni Agricultural Holdings, Marcus 082 042-7730. Warren 082 335-0049. Glen 072 239-3024., If you want to drink - that's your problem! If you want to stop - that's our problem! No fees; no dues; just concerned fellowship.

Free Classified Ads

TRACTORS, IMPLEMENTS & PARTS

Reapers Powamowa 1,5m roller mower, PTO driven, heavy duty, for parks/sports fields R20 000. (new price R36 000) Contact Kerry 084 840-0409.

Gutbrod walk-behind cultivator, R7 000. Werner 074 789-0645

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DIARY

2015

August

1: Garden World's Nature's Bounty Spring Festival event at Garden World, Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. Jane's Delicious Urban Gardening with Getit Joburg West and Talborne Organics. Lecturer Jane Griffiths. 1030 for 1100. Cost R80 includes talk, demonstration refreshments and prizes. Contact Magriet or Corne on 011 956-3003, 011 957-2545 or 083 997-6142
1: Victus Christi Farmers Market at Reformed Church, 24 Miles Sharp St, Rynfield, Benoni. Call George 081 381-0824 or info@victuschristi.org.za
2: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre. 40 High Road, Brentwood Park. Contact 011 967-1816.
3 - 7: Introductory Meat Processing Course, ARC Irene, contact Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za; Tel 012

672-9153

7: Last Quarter

8: 1: Garden World's Nature's Bounty Spring Festival event at Garden World, Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. RSG's Brekvis met Derrick live outside broadcast with Derrick Gardner featuring Garden World chief horticulturalist JJ van Rensburg. 0730 for 0800 till 1100. Cost R140 includes breakfast a goodie bag and prizes. Contact Magriet or Corne on 011 956-3003, 011 957-2545 or 083 997-6142
9: Antiques & Crafts Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, 40 High Road, Brentwood Park. Contact 011 967-1816.

10-14: Meat Processing Course, ARC Dairy Science Centre, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

11-20 Nov: Vegetable Production Course, Buhle Farmers Academy, Delmas. Call 087 803-0563

13: Gauteng Dairy Day, Belnori Boutique Cheesery, Bapsfontein. More than 30 exhibitors including banks, label machines, feed & fodder, milking machines, cheese

making requisites, cheese moulds, yoghurt preparations, cleaning chemicals, veterinary supplies, specialist estate agents, vacuum pack machines, scales, etc. Lectures and talks will cover topics such as the primary product milk, raising calves, lambs and kids, stress in small stock and the correct handling of animals, and practical business aspects to consider when running a small dairy operation. Refreshments and food available. Entrance is free but booking is essential. Call Rina Belcher 082 377-5698.

14: New Moon

15: Kos en Kuier market. Beautiful crafts also for sale. Plot 14, Buchan St, Nelsonia, Meyerton. S26° 36.911' E28° 04.037' Contact Louisa 082 590-7698

15: Garden World's Nature's Bounty Spring Festival event at Garden World, Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. Cooking demonstration with Garden & Home. Lecturer Johan du Preez of StarkeAyres. 1030 for 1100. Cost R130 includes talk, demonstration, light lunch a StarkeAyres goodie bag, and prizes. Contact Magriet or Corne on 011 956-3003, 011 957-2545 or 083 997-6142

16: Geology Rocks! in the Crocodile Nature Reserve. A regular walk exploring the geological features of the region. Contact Jenny Cornish, jcornish@mweb.co.za or 082 997-7880.

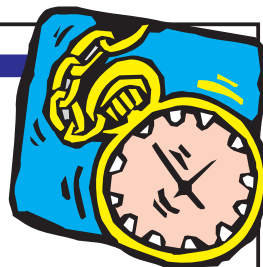
18-20: African Farmers Workshop & Expo, Oakfields Farm, Beyers Naude Dr, Muldersdrift. Call Sarah 011 514-0200

18-21: Beef Cattle Management Course, ARC Dairy Science Centre, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

22: First Quarter

22-23: Aloe and Citrus Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre. 40 High Road, Brentwood Park. Contact 011 967-1816.

22: Garden World's Nature's Bounty Spring Festival event at Garden World, Beyers



Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. All About Teas for Health & Vitality: Lecturers Margaret & Sandy Roberts. 0930 for 1000. Cost R130 includes talk, demonstration, refreshments and prizes. Contact Magriet or Corne on 011 956-3003, 011 957-2545 or 083 997-6142

26-29: Jacaranda Agricultural Show. Call Belia Kemp 012 327-1847 or info@tshwanabac.co.za or go to www.jacarandashow.co.za.

28: Gauteng regional auction of indigenous veld goats, Tshwane Events Centre, Soutter St, Pta West. 150 ewes and 20 rams, stud and commercial quality goats from all four ecotypes. Call Vleissentraal Bosveld 015 491 3141

29: Full Moon

29: Garden World's Nature's Bounty Spring Festival event at Garden World, Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. In Tune with Nature concert featuring Richard Cock and Tanya Visser. 1300 for 1330. Cost R90 includes refreshments and prizes. Contact Magriet or Corne on 011 956-3003, 011 957-2545 or 083 997-6142

29: Victus Christi Farmers Market at Reformed Church, 24 Miles Sharp Street, Rynfield, Benoni. Call George 081 381-

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DIARY, cont'd

0824 or info@victuschristi.org.za
 29: Snake Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling Course, Heia Safari Ranch, Plot 59 Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. Contact Johan 082 494-2039.
 30: Aloe Valley Meander Market, 10h00 – 15h00, Serendipity Art Café, R511,- Doornrandjie. Contact Debbie 072 617-7517.
 30: Animal Welfare Day at Uncle Tim's Centre. 40 High Road, Brentwood Park. Contact 011 967-1816.
 31 – 4 Sep: Introductory Meat Processing Course, ARC Irene. Contact: Annetjie Loubser aloubser@arc.agric.za; tel 012 672-9153

September

1-7: National Arbor Week
 5: Last Quarter
 5: Summer Course for beginner beekeepers, final intake day at 186 Uys St, Rynfield A/H, Benoni. Commences at 09:30 next door to Highveld Honey Farm. Contact course convener Peter Clark at 011 362-2904 for further details.
 5: Bee Course, Beeware, 298 Witch Hazel Avenue, Eco Square, Unit 20, Centurion. Phone 012 771-4288
 6: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre. 40 High Road, Brentwood Park. Contact 011 967-1816.
 7-11: Small Stock Management Course, ARC Dairy Science Centre, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.
 7-9: Artificial Insemination for Cattle.

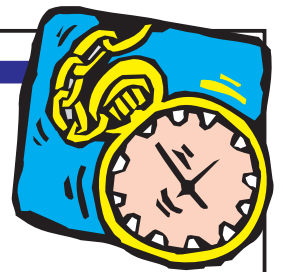
Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 7-10: Artificial Insemination for Sheep. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 10: Northern Tuli Club's third production auction at Obaro, 107 Lavendar Road, Bon Accord, Pta. 1100 am. 20 Tuli bulls and 40 cows, some pregnant. Contact Vleissentraal Bosveld, 015 491-3141
 10: Pregnancy Awareness for Cattle. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 11: Calf Rearing. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 12-13: Clivia Show at Garden World, Beyers Naude Drive. Contact Magriet or Corne on 011 956-3003, 011 957-2545 or 083 997-6142.
 13: New Moon
 13: Solar Eclipse
 13: Antiques & Crafts Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre. 40 High Road, Brentwood Park. Contact 011 967-1816.
 13: Ride the Rhenosier in the Crocodile Nature Reserve. A popular technically challenging annual mountain bike ride with privileged access to general off-limits areas. Contact Jenny Cornish, jcornich@mweb.co.za or 082 997-7880.
 16: International Day for the Preservation of

the Ozone Layer
 19: Lavender and Herb Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre. 40 High Road, Brentwood Park. Contact 011 967-1816.
 21: First Quarter
 21-20 Nov: Poultry Production Course, Buhle Farmers Academy, Delmas. Call 087 803-0563
 22-25: Introductory Meat Processing Course, ARC Irene, Contact Annetjie Loubser aloubser@arc.agric.za; Tel 012 672-9153
 23: Equinox
 24: World Heritage Day
 26: Victus Christi Farmers Market at Reformed Church, 24 Miles Sharp St, Rynfield, Benoni. Call George 081 381-0824 or info@victuschristi.org.za
 26: Snake Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling Course, Heia Safari Ranch, Plot 59 Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. Contact Johan 082 494-2039.
 27: World Tourism Day
 27: Aloe Valley Meander Market, 10h00 –

15h00, Serendipity Art Café, R511,- Doornrandjie. Contact Debbie 072 617-7517
 28: Full Moon
 28: Lunar Eclipse

October

4: Last Quarter
 5 - 8 Jun 2016: Crop Production Course (nine months duration), Buhle Farmers Academy, Delmas. Call 087 803-0563
 12-16: Poultry Production Course, ARC Dairy Science Centre, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.



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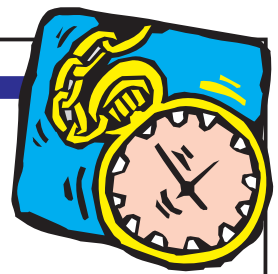
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DIARY, cont'd



13: New Moon
 18: Tree Walk in the Crocodile Nature Reserve. Name that tree! A walk into wooded areas to observe trees. Contact Jenny Cornish, jcornich@mweb.co.za or 082 997-7880.
 20: First Quarter
 20-22: Artificial Insemination for Cattle. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 23: Pregnancy Awareness for Cattle. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 25: Aloe Valley Meander Market, 10h00 – 15h00, Serendipity Art Café, R511,- Doornrandjie. Contact Debbie 072 617-7517
 27: Full Moon
 31: Victus Christi Farmers Market at Reformed Church, 24 Miles Sharp St, Rynfield, Benoni. Call George 081 381-0824 or info@victuschristi.org.za
 31: Snake Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling Course, Heia Safari Ranch, Plot 59, Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. Contact Johan 082 494-2039.

November

3: Last Quarter
 3-6: Pig Production Course, ARC Dairy Science Centre, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

9-10: Animal Husbandry/Stockman for Cattle. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 11: New Moon
 11-12: Cattle Nutrition/Feed. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 15: Wildflowers and Grasses in the Crocodile Nature Reserve. Contact Jenny Cornish, jcornich@mweb.co.za or 082 997-7880.
 19: First Quarter
 19: Summer Graduation Ceremony, Buhle Farmers Academy, Delmas, Call 087 803-0563
 23-25: Artificial Insemination for Cattle. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 25: Full Moon
 26: Pregnancy Awareness for Cattle. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 27: Calf Rearing. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.
 28: Christmas Market at Groenvoer, 410 Olifantsfontein Road, Midrand. Call Cathy 011 314-1211
 28: Victus Christi Farmers Market at Reformed Church, 24 Miles Sharp St, Rynfield, Benoni. Call George 081 381-

0824 or info@victuschristi.org.za
 28: Snake Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling Course, Heia Safari Ranch, Plot 59, Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. Contact Johan 082 494-2039.
 29: Aloe Valley Meander Market, 10h00 – 15h00, Serendipity Art Café, R511,- Doornrandjie. Contact Debbie 072 617-7517

December

3: Last Quarter
 3: Carols by Candlelight at Garden World, Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. Contact Magriet or Corne on 011 956-3003, 011 957-2545 or 083 997-6142.
 11: New Moon
 12: Victus Christi Farmers Market at Reformed Church, 24 Miles Sharp St, Rynfield, Benoni. Call George 081 381-0824 or info@victuschristi.org.za
 18: First Quarter
 22: Solstice
 25: Full Moon

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WEISSENTRAL

Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held to a regular weekly or monthly schedule. Markets held less frequently are listed in the DIARY section of the magazine and we urge readers to check each month for dates and events of interest.


We would like this list of food markets to be as comprehensive as possible. If you know of farmers' food markets that are not listed here, please email us the contact details of the organisers, and details of the market. Only FOOD markets are included.

Similarly, if you know of markets in this list that have CLOSED please inform us so that we can delete incorrect or outdated information.

We invite you to tell us of your experiences when visiting these markets so that we can better inform our readers. Were they as advertised?

Was the produce on sale plentiful, well-priced, well-presented and fresh? Email your comments to gautengsmallholder@gmail.com

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO TO CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT
Thursday					
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston.	Konrad or Glenda 011 706-3671 or glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
Friday					
1st Friday	The Shed Night Market	18:00 to 22:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
Saturday					
Every Saturday	Wholefood Country Market	09:00 to 14:00	Sawasdee Exotic Nursery, cnr Main & Zinnia Roads, Kyalami	Robyn 083 311-4768 wholefoodmarket@gmail.com	Variety of organic & homemade foods.
Every Saturday	The Shed Food & Craft Market	08:00 to 15:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 to 09:30	Pioneer Open Air Museum, Silverton.	012 804-8031 or 082 416-3900 blinsga@lantic.net	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kailings with pap and boerewors rolls.
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston	Konrad or Glenda on 011 706-3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 to 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie Sts, Menlo Park, Pta	Rietha 083 554-5636. www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 to 15:00	112 Main Road (R82), Walkerville.	079 076-7680 info@wfmkt.co.za	Organic produce and Crafter's Market. www.wfmkt.co.za .
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	09:00 to 15:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553-2846	Meats and vegetables, delicacies, honey, cheese, brewery, crafter's market and children's entertainment.
1st Saturday	The Green Market	09:00 to 12:00	Pretoria Botanical Gardens 2 Cussonia Avenue, Brummeria, Pretoria	Melissa 083 562-5249	Products ranging from solar equipment to organic food
Last Saturday	Rynoue Plaas Mark/ Rynoue Country Market	07:00 to 14:00	Cnr Moloto Road (R573) and Protea Road Opposite Rooodeplaas Spar	Bruce 083 442-2552 Sue 082 891-7546 waydack@worldonline.co.za	Fresh vegetables, fruit in season, preserves, flower and plants, homemade food and cakes, arts and crafts.
Last Saturday	Fresh2U Farmers Market	08:00 to 14:00	Corner Main Street and High Street Modderfontein (behind 33 High Street)	Jane 083 376 5567 Chantelle 082 338 7818 wardek@iafrica.com	Over 50 stalls. Fresh produce, home made goods, plants, food and more.
Sunday					
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 to 15:00	Corner Montecasino Boulevard and William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 www.ffmarket.co.za	Get your groceries...In the garden!
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doornrandjies	012 669-3043 info@serendipitycafe.co.za www.serendipitycafe.co.za	Community market to promote local business



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8. The Publisher reserves the right to edit or omit advertisements at his discretion.
9. It is the Advertiser's responsibility to ensure we have received the advert.

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1 WORD (BLOCK CAPITALS) PER SPACE, PLEASE

The sounds of silence

It never ceases to delight me that when townies come to visit us on our plot they inevitably sigh and exclaim "it's so peaceful here!"

This, of course is an absolute delusion. It's no more peaceful here than it is in many a leafy suburb in town, and in fact at times it seems a lot more frenetic. We have a fairly major road on our boundary, that starts to carry the traffic of worker-lemmings off to earn their crusts from five-thirty in the morning, not to mention hundreds of roaring tipper trucks on their way to and from the nearby sand-quarry.

Then, as the day begins there are the yellings of playing children at the bottom of our road waiting for their bus to school. Later in the morning there is an avalanche of breaking glass as the neighbouring shebeen clears out its detritus of empty beer bottles (followed shortly thereafter by the arrival of a Breweries truck with a fresh consignment of beer).

All around us, the various businesses ~ legal and illegal ~ begin their day from about seven thirty, with trucks coming and going and machines starting up and general industrial banging and clattering.

On weekends, when the businesses are supposedly quiet, a neighbourly cacophony of sounds is provided by the next-door shebeen in the form of booming music and drunken yelling and, when the wind blows from the West, we get a further blast of music from a shebeen a block away that has invested in a powerful sound system. Kwela in stereo.

And inevitably on a Saturday night one family in the area or another will crank up the volume of the sakkie-sakkie music that it enjoys around its evening braai.

And at night time there are the periodic gun-shots of neighbours supposedly scaring off (if not actually killing) intruders. Another constant sound in our area (under the flight-path to the east out of OR Tambo International Airport) is the sound of low-flying aircraft approaching or leaving the runway.

Some years ago we would also enjoy the weekly roar ~ and I mean ROAR ~ overhead of a low-flying SAAF Cheetah leaving the Denel base at ORTIA on its way to, presumably Hoedspruit or Pietersburg.

The urgency, frequency, regularity and low altitude of this flight led me to be convinced that the flight was taking up an urgent rum-ration to the base commander.

Another strain to the sound-track of life on a smallholding is the roar of tractors, and the buzzing of chainsaws, brush-cutters,

water pumps and lawn mowers.

Note, of course, that the sound-track of our lives that I have outlined has not yet included any livestock or bird-life. And of that, too, there is plenty.

The neighbours' horses neigh loudly and lustily on occasion as they talk to passing horses or those in fields on other plots. Our sheep bleat plaintively, especially when lambs become disoriented and detached from their mothers, and this can be quite distressing for townies

who don't understand that bleating sheep are part of the agricultural scene and are the way in which mothers and offspring reunite themselves. Having said that, we have enjoyed a bumper lambing season this year, with no fewer than 20 youngsters having been born in a month, so they can all be weaned in one batch. I think I'd better send round boxes of chocolates and an explanatory note to my neighbours or I am likely to have the SPCA and the local constabulary paying me a visit the night I start the weaning process.

Then, of course, there are our chickens. We have a small flock of Koekoeks that free-range over the entire plot, headed by a magnificent, and very loud cock. I just wish he'd been fitted with a clock, however, so that he's stick to usual cock-crowing hours, namely dawn and dusk. Sadly, that's not the case, and he crows at all hours of the day. He's deliberately malicious, I am convinced. A couple of mornings ago, for example, I found him right outside our guest-room, giving full voice, repeatedly, while staring at the window. This, while a guest who was recovering from a long journey was trying to kip.

I confess the cock's removal was hastened by the end of my boot and a clod of hard soil as a follow-up missile.

So peaceful on the plots? Sure it's not Hillbrow on a New Year's Eve, but it's not the deafening silence of the Karoo either. More Silence of the Lambs, maybe?



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