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PUBLISHER & EDITOR

Pete Bower

RESEARCH EDITOR

Vanessa Bower

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Michelle Urquhart

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FRONT COVER

Alpaca enjoying its lunch at the Walkerville Agricultural Show last month. See pages 18 and 19 for more pictures.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

SA's tragic comedy



In the arts there is a genre of writing and performance called tragic-comedy which, as the word suggests, is used to describe work that has both tragic and comical elements in it. Thus, a tragicomedy could be a funny play with a sad, dark ending, or, equally, it could be a serious work with sufficient elements of humour in it to lighten the mood, or even a funny ending, that it qualifies as tragicomic.

Much like the political situation in South Africa today.

I don't wish to whither on about the Nkandla scandal and the constitutional crisis it has caused any more than I want to rejoice in the departure from these shores of the Brothers Gupta. Nor do I want to try to unpack just what the hell is going on at Eskom, Denel and elsewhere concerning the Gupta family, the Zuma family and everybody else caught up in this toxic maelstrom. For, while these things are important and will have a denouement (hopefully to the betterment of our country) sooner or later, there are actually more down-to-earth, but far more important, things that we should be concerned with right now.

And they're things that have been on the radar of concerned society for yonks. Like spiralling food prices. Like education. And healthcare. And service delivery, (aka sanitation and water), and if it wasn't all so sad it would be funny.

Take the worrying increase in the cost of basic foods. We've read a lot about how the drought has caused a largely failed maize crop. Well, it's affected a helluva lot more, besides. Bought potatoes at your supermarket recently? Or meat? Or chicken?

Facebook's newsfeed is almost awash with pictures from shoppers of price tags of foodstuffs that are just staggering. And if you're a smallholder with poultry, you'll know how you wince each time you buy a bag of broiler mash or laying pellets. (Given the state of lay of our few hens at present I calculate the individual cost, given that feed is pushing R300 a sack, of my breakfast eggs at more than R10 each!)

The food price issue is very worrying and if you think rock throwing and tyres burning on a road in protest because toilets don't work or electricity has been cut off is bad, start worrying about crowds of angry hungry people storming supermarkets and shopping centres in search of food.

The solution, for those that would have done so, would have been to start growing their own food.

In a perverse and roundabout way, South Africa's dreadful public education system has had (and will continue to have) a disastrous effect on family food security.

How? Because in many schools children are taught by rote, by untrained teachers, using a syllabus that does not equip them to enter adult society able to fend for themselves. Thus their brains are not developed to be active and enquiring and they lack practical skills, such as how to wield a hoe, sow a seed or tend a plant. You would have thought that, in a country where babies still die of malnutrition, that teaching a pupil how to grow the things with which to feed him or herself would be the very basic skill-set passed on by the education system.

Given the poor education picture, which results in a system spewing out functional illiterates year after year, efforts by government to print and publish useful little how-to-do-it booklets on all manner of basic agriculture are going to achieve less than they deserve to and, sadly often result in no more benefit than a profit for the printer.

And there's so much of that kind of poorly thought-through but doubtless well-meaning wastage. Remember the Gauteng Agri-hubs, prominent (but now faded) signage for which appeared on our rural roads a few years ago? What the hell were they? Where were they? And what did they achieve? Those signs, and their erection must have cost a small fortune (paid for by you and me, Tommy Taxpayer, of course).

As for healthcare, we all know that most public hospitals are grossly overcrowded, under-resourced even with basics, staff grossly overworked and much equipment broken. But how many patients attending those hospitals need to do so because they have contracted preventable diseases as a result of their poor diet? Again: another reason why ordinary people should start growing their own food.

But, to get back to our opening comparison of the country as a tragicomedy, there is another genre of theatre that we should consider if things don't come right, namely "theatre of the absurd". One definition of such theatre is given as "drama using the abandonment of conventional dramatic form to portray the futility of human struggle in a senseless world." Maybe that's where Zimbabwe, rather than us, finds itself today. But we're close.

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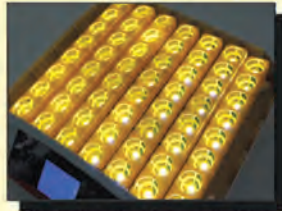
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Tail docking is 'cruel and unnecessary'

Sir ~ I recently saw a horse with a surgically docked tail, ie, the last tail bones had been cut off so that the tail hair could not grow very long. Surely this is cruel and unnecessary? What does the poor animal do when badly pestered by flies?

Jean Young
Three Rivers
This is an outmoded practice which is illegal in many countries. It was, however, common in the 18th and 19th Centuries in Europe and Great Britain, where hunters had their tails docked,

presumably to prevent a build-up of mud while out in the field. As you rightly point out, however, it deprives the horse of its effective rear-end fly-swatter, and also affects its balance: next time you see a horse jumping, observe how

the tail moves.
~ Editor



Cherry tomatoes drying

Cherry tomatoes in a biltong dryer

Sir ~ Thank you so much for the article on drying tomatoes in your March edition. I would never have thought of

doing that, but I tried it with an oversupply of cherry tomatoes and am very pleased with the results. Keep up the good work - we

look forward to your magazine every month!
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NEWS

How-to-do-it agri booklets from Gdard

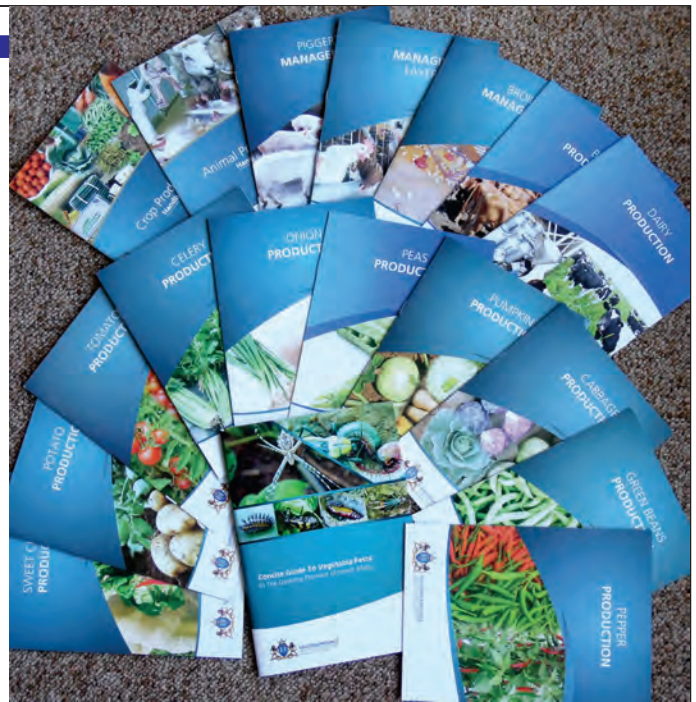
A series of 18 high-quality A5 booklets covering various aspects of farming have been produced by the Gauteng Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development (Gdard). The booklets cover cattle (dairy and meat), poultry (broilers and layers), pigs and vegetables, with individual booklets for the most commonly grown vegetables. There are also two general guides on crop and animal production.

They are written in an easy style, from the point of view of production in Gauteng (eg highveld conditions).

The thickest and most comprehensive booklet is the Concise Guide to Vegetable Pests in Gauteng, with colour identification pictures of each pest, its feeding habits and

how to control it. No specific ordering information is given in any of the booklets, but they are being handed out by Gdard staff at trade and agricultural shows and can probably be ordered from the department in Johannesburg or its regional office on the East and West Rand.

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The full set of 18 booklets from Gauteng's Dept of Agriculture

Monica and Bill have ceased sucking

The happy tale of Monica, the sucky-truck-turned-water-tanker in Benoni's Marister plotland (Smallholder March and April), has an unhappy ending, we're sad to report.

For Monica's owner, the ten-year-old septic tank emptying firm Suckwell (which also operated a bigger honeysucker vehicle named Bill) has closed up shop. Business had become quiet

and cut rates for septic tank emptying services from fly-by-night operators, as well as financially punitive licensing fees and restrictions, meant that Suckwell's business model had become unsustainable.

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NEWS

Big plans for 2017 W'ville agri-show

As much a sign of the times as anything else, last month's Walkerville Agricultural Show, while still busy, finished up with fewer exhibitors than last year, and also fewer visitors. Moreover, the equestrian events in the main arena proved disappointing, with the paucity of competitors being ascribed to the number of other horse shows on the go throughout Gauteng on the same days. That having been noted, there was a good turnout of both show poultry and rabbits, as well as a few alpacas, sheep,

pigs, goats and cattle to be seen, and visitors nonetheless enjoyed a vibrant atmosphere, with dog displays and other entertainments, some good crafts on sale, as well as a wide array of food and drink on sale.

Moreover, if two developments on the Walkerville Agricultural Society's extensive plot of land come to pass, next year's show will greatly surpass this and previous events.

On nearly 7Ha of currently unused land, construction of custom made livestock pens is

Continued on page 8



A selection of veterinary pharmaceuticals and agricultural poisons from Benfarm on the East Rand

Old hand opens E Rand agri-chem shop

Because he is the holder of a Poisons Register license, Ronnie Jankelowitz of recently-liquidated Benoni Farmers Supply has, with his family, opened a smaller business focussing mainly on veterinary pharmaceuticals, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. This, he says, answers a need of farmers and smallholders on the East Rand and further afield for a supplier of all chemicals and poisons in pack sizes to suit both small users and those with large commercial operations. In addition, the business, which will trade as Benfarm,

will sell related livestock equipment such as castration devices, livestock identification eartags, syringes etc, as well as agricultural machinery spares, used implements and tractors, and new equipment under many of the trade names for which Benoni Farmers Supply were agents, including Jo-Jo tanks, Falcon slashers and haymakers, Bredal manure spreaders, Kongskilde implements etc. A website featuring a full range of the business' offering will be set up shortly. The business is located at 65 Unity Avenue, New Modder, Benoni, on tel 011 423-2801.

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NEWS

From page 7

to be undertaken, as well as showing rings and auction pens. It is hoped that this facility will attract livestock auctions to Walkerville throughout the year and will allow many more exhibitors to bring their animals to the annual show, safe in the knowledge that they will be housed in properly-built

stables, with proper loading and offloading facilities, etc. The group of enthusiasts undertaking this development thus hopes that there will be a greater emphasis on competition at future shows, to the betterment of Gauteng's smallholder breeding quality among all species. The second major development at the showgrounds is

expected to be an ambitious permanent display of agricultural technology by a group called Start Farming. This will include buildings housing offices, a visitor's centre and meeting spaces, all surrounded by small exhibitions spaces each featuring a different aspect of agri-

business, such as tunnel farming, poultry, dairy, machinery etc. The facility will be open throughout the year and it is hoped that it will attract farmers and smallholders from near and far looking for suppliers of technology, expertise etc.



Plan of the Start Farming development at the Walkerville showgrounds



Show stalwarts: Exhibitor Sally Giebelmann, whose SA Phendula rabbit was adjudged the best rabbit on show, with Gavin Grgurin, rabbit judge and exhibitor of Castle Colebrook pigs.

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BEEKEEPING

Catch box transfers

If you use a catch box to attract and capture swarms to increase your number of active hives, you need to have the next stage of the operation in place, ie hives,

An article in our series on beekeeping by Peter Clark of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Assoc

ready before you deploy the catch box. That's because the small five frame catch box, if it is successful in attracting an itinerant swarm in search of a new home, can fill rather rapidly with bees and if neglected, the bees will swarm off again because of a lack of developing space. Thus, as soon as you notice activity around your catch box (which you should monitor regularly), the swarm needs to be hived ~ quite a simple undertaking. Have prepared a brood chamber with attached floor and five frames, each fitted with a 20mm strip of foundation wax set in the groove of the top bars of the frames. Gently smoke the entrance of

the catch box and move it away and place the new brood box in its place. After 30 seconds gently prise the lid open with your hive tool. It could be well stuck down, so a little pressure will be required. With the hive tool gently lift each frame from the catch box and transfer it into the centre of the new brood chamber in the same sequence as they were in the catch box. Work slowly and gently so as not to injure any bees. There will be bees left in the catch box after the frames have been removed. Gently turn the box upside down over the frames in the brood chamber and give one firm thump on the catch box.



Catch box fastened to a tree

The bees will fall down on to the frames. Do not do a second thump as it is this thump that kills bees and the bees could become upset and cross. Should there still be some bees in the catch box simply leave the box open and eventually the bees will move over to their new home. Place the lid over the new brood box. Job complete! Article by Peter Clark, author of *Tales of an African Beekeeper* and 2016 chairman of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association, tel 011 362-2904, assisted by secretary Mike Alter tel 011 965-6040

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GALVANISED MESH

AVAILABLE WIDTHS:	915mm
	1220mm
	1830mm

Galvanised AFTER welding

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	QTY
6.4mm x 6.4mm	0.7mm	30m roll / per metre
9.6mm x 9.6mm	0.9mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 13mm	1mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 13mm	1.6mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1.5mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1.6mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	2mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	1mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	1.5mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	1.6mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	2mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 25mm	3mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	1.5mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	1.6mm	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	2mm	30m roll / per metre

Galvanised BEFORE welding

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	QTY
25mm x 25mm	2.5	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	2.50	30m roll / per metre
25mm x 50mm	3.00	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 50mm	1.60	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 50mm	2.00	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 50mm	2.50	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 50mm	3.00	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 100mm	2.00	30m roll / per metre
50mm x 100mm	2.50	30m roll / per metre
100mm x 100mm	2.00	30m roll / per metre
100mm x 100mm	2.50	30m roll / per metre

Green Plastic Coated Mesh

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	QTY
13mm x 13mm	1.25mm	30m roll / per metre
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	30m roll / per metre

HEXAGONAL MESH

AVAILABLE WIDTHS:	915mm
	1220mm
	1830mm

Fully Galvanised BEFORE Weaving

	Block Size	Block Size	Block Size	Block Size	QTY
	13mm	25mm	75mm	90mm	
width available	600mm	600mm	--	--	50m roll / per metre
width available	900mm	900mm	900mm	900mm	50m roll / per metre
width available	1220mm	1220mm	1220mm	1220mm	50m roll / per metre
width available	1500mm	1500mm	--	--	50m roll / per metre
width available	1830mm	1830mm	1830mm	1830mm	50m roll / per metre



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 290ml, 9.5cm, R22
 5250ml, 12.5cm, R30
 845ml, 15cm, R41



Coop cup with nut clamp

130ml, 7.5cm, R18
 290ml, 9.5cm, R25
 5250ml, 12.5cm, R32
 845ml, 15cm, R42



FIRE SEASON

Annual guide to fire prevention, law & fighting

While most of southern Africa has been through a crippling

drought this year, in Gauteng at least, decent rainfall in the second half of the season has meant a better-than-average grass crop in many parts.

While this may not favourably affect bought-in fodder prices through the ensuing winter ~ because much of Gauteng's fodder comes from outside the province ~ it does mean that smallholders should be hard at work cutting and storing their hay, and taking

Everything you need to know about preventing and fighting veld fires is available for download off our website. Or, if you don't have internet access, is published in the Gauteng Smallholder's Companion book. Here's how to access both sources.

the usual autumnal precautions against veld fires. Every year around this time the *Smallholder* publishes details of what one needs to know as a landowner about grass fires, the law, fire prevention and fire fighting. All of these details are available on our website,

www.sasmallholder.co.za, and are downloadable. Look under the contacts tab and navigate to the technical questions tab, then scroll down the list of publications and articles till you see the relevant section on fires.

Among the items in the fire management and fire laws section are articles on:

Steps for correct firebreak

burning

Fence care in the fire season

Ploughing firebreaks if possible

Veld fires, firebreaks and the National Veld & Forest Fires Act

Taking care of verges

Firebreak width guidelines, and,

Firefighting equipment.

Alternatively, if you don't have internet access, everything you need to know about fires is available in paper form in the *Gauteng Smallholder's Companion*, published in 2014. Copies are available from selected outlets throughout Gauteng or you can order directly from us. Simply call

011 979-5088. The book costs R180, Vat and postage included.

Here, in summary, is what you need to know about fires.

Fire prevention and management is covered by the National Veld & Forest Fires Act of 1998.

Under the act, it is your responsibility as a landowner or occupier to:

Take steps to minimise the risk of fires occurring on, or passing through, your property. This means cutting fields, driveways and verges as short as possible and removing the dry matter resulting, as well as preparing firebreaks by one means or another (usually by ploughing or burning.)

If burning firebreaks, liaising with your neighbours to agree on a suitable date

Continued on page 13



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From page 12

and time so that they, too, can be prepared.

☐ Ensuring that you, your family and staff are prepared for, and trained, to fight any fire that may occur, or pass through, your property, and that you have sufficient suitable equipment available with which to fight such fires. There is no stipulation as to what that equipment should be, except that it should be reasonably suitable for the anticipated task at hand. Clearly, therefore, what you buy or make as firefighting equipment will be dictated to a great extent by the terrain and vegetation on your property, as well as by its size. Thus, if your property is small and barren, a couple of hand-held firebeaters may

be sufficient, while a heavily vegetated property on a steep hillside will require robust powered water sprayers, backpack sprayers, and/or powerful blowers.

☐ If a fire occurs on a neighbouring property it is your legal responsibility to take part in combating it, and you have the legal right and duty to enter your neighbour's premises for the purpose of saving livestock and property.

It also helps to understand the physical characteristics of fire, ie what fire is and how it burns. This will help you to understand the need for good fire prevention measures, as well as how best to fight fires when they occur.

Remember that, by the time a fire occurs, usually in winter when the grass has been dried out by successive days of sunshine followed by nights of freezing, it is too late to be

thinking about prevention and the key, therefore, is in preparation for fires before the start of the worst part of the fire season, ie now. Remember, also, that good fire prevention measures are necessary not only because of the law, but to protect your farm or plot infrastructure, such as fencing, pipework, pumps, cabling, implements etc.

QUIRKY

Advice from an old farmer

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.

Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plough around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies - it messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles. When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.



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Help to save the planet ~ plant a tree

As a land-owner, do you realise that you, too, can play an important role in reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide?

Leading climate scientists report that the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased by 40% since pre-industrial times. More than half of this increase has occurred since 1970, and of all greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, carbon dioxide plays the most significant role in global warming.

Naysayers will hasten to point out that the eruption of a major volcano, such as Mount Helens, Krakatoa, Mount Erebus or Vesuvius, or the eruption of the volcano in Iceland that caused the closure of airports throughout Europe and North America, singly and rapidly spew out vastly more carbon dioxide than humans will ever

Plants, being largely carbon themselves, and even the earth, can remove vast quantities of CO₂ from the air. All it needs is a little help from landowners, who should be planting trees and crops

produce in their cars, planes, power stations etc. But those events, being natural and on a vast scale, are not preventable.

Gases in the earth's atmosphere are necessary to trap the heat of the sun, which makes conditions on earth suitable for plants, animals and human habitation. However, with the rise in carbon dioxide temperatures on earth have risen and have caused the climate to change. This affects the rainfall, what types of plants grow where and has also increased the frequency of violent storms. Scientists have come up with various ways to capture and store CO₂, otherwise known

as carbon sequestration, but these are not accessible to ordinary citizens.

However, for those of us involved in agriculture, no matter how small our land, the most promising systems for carbon sequestration in soil combine crop rotation and low or no inputs of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilisers. And here's the good news: carbon sequestration is taking place on your plot right now, through the process of photosynthesis.

In daylight, plants assimilate carbon by absorbing CO₂ through their leaves. They chemically separate the two oxygen atoms from the

carbon atom and release the oxygen back into the atmosphere while absorbing the carbon atom into their own structure (plants are largely made up of carbon). The carbon that remains as plant tissue is then consumed by animals or humans or is added to the soil as litter when plants die and decompose.

Continued on page 17

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From page 15

It should be noted that considerably less carbon sequestration takes place in winter, and least on the highveld, because of the number of plant species that die back due to cold and frost and thus lose the green chlorophyll in their leaves that is necessary for photosynthesis to occur.

The primary way that carbon is stored in the soil is as soil organic matter (SOM). SOM is a complex mixture of carbon compounds, consisting of decomposing plant and animal tissue, microbes (protozoa, nematodes, fungi and bacteria) and carbon associated with soil minerals. Carbon can remain stored in soils for millennia, or be quickly released back into the atmosphere. Climatic conditions, natural vegetation, soil texture, and drainage all affect the amount and length of time carbon is stored.

Land management practices can do a lot to help the process of carbon sequestration

How we manage livestock, and how we manage the pastures those livestock graze on, plays a significant role in atmospheric carbon pollution. Terrestrial or biological sequestration means using plants to capture CO₂ from the atmosphere and then storing it as carbon in the stems and roots of the plants as well as in the soil. Terrestrial sequestration is a set of land management practices that maximizes the amount of carbon that remains stored in the soil and plant material for the long term.

No-till farming, wetland management, rangeland management, and reforestation are examples of terrestrial sequestration practices that are already in use.

Removing CO₂ from the atmosphere is only one significant benefit of

enhanced carbon storage in soils. Improved soil and water quality, decreased nutrient loss, reduced soil erosion, increased water conservation and greater crop production may result from increasing the amount of carbon stored in agricultural soils.

Management techniques, which are successful in providing a net carbon sink in soils, include the following:

- Conservation tillage minimises or eliminates manipulation of the soil for crop production, although some scientists have yet to be convinced that the method increases carbon storage. It includes the practice of mulch tillage, which leaves crop residues on the soil surface. These procedures generally reduce soil erosion, improve water use efficiency, and increase carbons concentra-

tions in the topsoil. Conservation tillage can also reduce the amount of fossil fuel consumed by agricultural operations. It has been estimated by some landowners to have the potential to sequester a significant amount of CO₂.

- Cover cropping is the use of crops such as legumes and grasses for protection and soil improvement between periods of regular crop production. If the cover crop is incorporated into the soil

Continued on page 20

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By next year's show, Start Farming hope to have a permanent exhibition at the showgrounds



Camel and pony rides were popular with young and old alike



Irwin Animal Rescue Centre is a dog-rescue home in Walkerville, with a fund-raising shop in Benoni. Happily dispensing information were Sue Rudnick and Aimee Zermatten



Potjiekos ~ One of the numerous food options available at the show

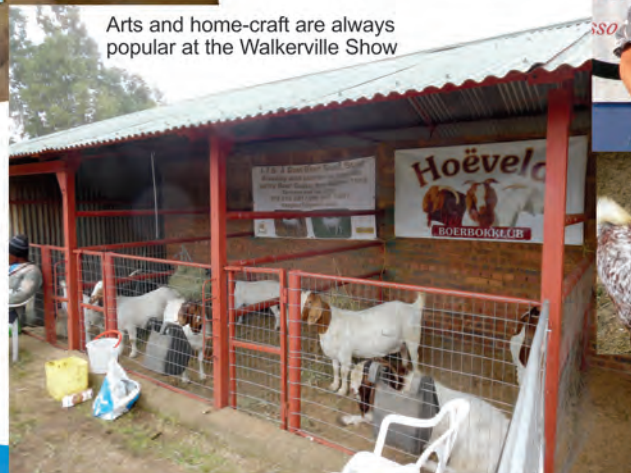


Arts and home-craft are always popular at the Walkerville Show

Adjudged the best rabbit at the show: SA Phendula bred by Sally Giebelmann, with runner-up Netherlands Dwarf bred by Ameer Mohamed.



Nguni cattle at the show



Boergoats (left) and indigenous goats (above) were to be seen at the show

AGRICULTURAL SHOW - 2016



Kubota tractors and mowers



Leading conservator Ivan Parkes demonstrates a common wire snare



The well-stocked and thoughtfully-planned Gauteng Conservancy Association exhibit is always a highlight



Reef Chainsaw Centre had a comprehensive stand of Husqvarna and Echo machinery



Patrick Makume and Edward Radebe manned the Farm Fresh Eggs stand, selling eggs and chicks, and dispensing poultry-keeping information



Visitors enjoying lunch under the trees



Sheep breeds included Blackhead Dorpers and Ile de France



Walkerville Feeds made sure that livestock at the show didn't go hungry

PROPERTY

Is your plot a developer's dream?

If you've lived on a smallholding for any length of time you'll have noticed property development inexorably taking place around you, swallowing up plot and farm land and converting it into residential

What developers look for when buying up plots (and what you can do to make your plot more attractive to them)

developments and commercial spaces. It's an inevitable part of plot life, with the band of land

immediately outside a town's suburbs, which are very often smallholdings of various sizes and descriptions, being the

next-available land for development in any growing town or city.

So, what is it that a developer looks for when seeking out land to buy and build on? According to a leading East Rand developer there are many factors weighing on the equation but in a nutshell it's all about "location, location, location."

A history of any Gauteng town reveals over time how development, and densification, takes place. When Benoni was founded, for example, the first properties proclaimed along what is now one of the main streets, Prince's Avenue, were five acres (or just more than 20 000m²) in extent. Gradually, over the decades, they were carved up into smaller and smaller units, until the current common

CO₂ EMISSION

From page 18

while green or soon after flowering it is termed a green manure. Cover crops improve carbon sequestration by enhancing soil structure, and adding organic matter to the soil.

☐ Crop rotation means planting different crops on the same area of land, one after the other. Varying the type of crops grown can increase the level of soil organic matter. However, effectiveness of crop rotating depends on the type of crops

and crop rotation times.

Grazing practices also make a big difference. Overgrazing reduces carbon sequestration and productivity, but stock owners can avoid it with a rotational grazing system that incorporates multiple paddocks. Stocking density and rotation time depend on the season, the weather and the health of the soil. A rough guideline is to move animals to a new paddock after they've consumed about half of the biomass, and then rest each paddock until new

growth is evident.

Overgrazing is probably the biggest single agricultural problem facing Gauteng's smallholder, particularly those who keep horses, as most smallholdings with livestock on them are greatly overstocked.

Nevertheless, following these guidelines to foster healthy pastures will store more carbon in the soil, thereby helping to ease global warming.

Continued on page 22



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15	10	15	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
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PROPERTY

From page 20

more than 1 000m² (and Prince's Avenue is a commercial street).

Depending on the age of the smallholding area, subdivision is probably already allowed by the local authority. Usually this will begin with, say, a 20 000m² property being subdivisible into two, or sometimes three portions. Thereafter, those portions in turn, may be divisible again, and again, until the area is properly urbanised with erfes of around 1 000m².

By that stage, all the amenities of suburban life will have been planned into the area,

A developer is required to contribute towards the establishment of municipal services connected to his property

with provision being made for schools, shops, clinics, retirement homes, parks and churches, as well as infrastructure such as water mains, sewerage, electrical connections and storm-water run off. This development will take place over many years, even decades, and often starts with one major development of, say, a lifestyle estate. As this development takes off, others take place around it, often making use of the additional infrastructure put in place by the original development.

This leads one to the point that any developer has to jump through many hoops in terms of regulations and planning permission before he can start laying bricks. Say, for example, a developer finds a piece of land for sale on which he wishes to build

40 townhouses. There are obvious connections of services which will need to be made, including electricity, water and sewerage, and the associated cost of providing cabling, trenching and pipework will be calculated by the local authority and will be payable by the developer, before permission to develop is granted.

But there are other considerations. For example, 40 townhouses will mean up to 80 or more vehicles departing for work or a school-run in the mornings and coming home at the end of the day. This may result in the council deciding that roads in the area need upgrading, or that traffic lights need to be installed at key intersections. Also, all developments are required to leave a certain

amount of land as a green lung or garden. If the developer decides against this, he will have to pay the council to provide the required green land close by, as a public park.

Then, building houses and paving driveways materially changes the way land absorbs water run-off. Agricultural land, for example, typically absorbs 80% of all rainwater run-off, leaving 20% to flow into streams and water-courses. Once the land is developed it's exactly the reverse: the land absorbs very little and 80-90% is left to flow into some sort of storm-water management system which, in an urban setting, requires construction.

What occurs under the land of a proposed development is also important. With much of Gauteng being dolomitic, exploratory drilling will be necessary to ensure that

Continued on page 26



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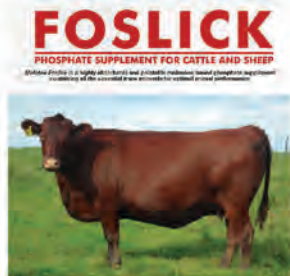


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PROPERTY

From page 22

buildings are not built over possible sink-hole-prone land. Moreover, the presence of old graves and burial grounds will create costs and cause delays as relevant authorities attempt to identify both the graves' occupants and their surviving next of kin, and arrange removal of the remains for a dignified re-interment in a place acceptable to the remaining families. Old graves lead one to ancestral claims to the land

Here are some suggestions to make your plot more attractive for development

which will be an absolute deal-breaker. No developer is going to buy a piece of land, however attractive it may seem, if there is a Land Claim registered over it. And, of course, any building that is older than 100 years may not be demolished or renovated in such a way that it loses its historic character. An example of this is to be found in the Serengeti Golf Estate on the East Rand where developers came across a 100-plus-year-old farm barn which they were required to preserve, effectively losing possible development space in the process. Finally, a developer needs to ensure that no building takes place within the 100-year floodline, that is, a contour drawn around low lying land and rivers and streams which

the local authority deems to be the limit of a major flooding event that is likely to occur within the next 100 years. Local authorities work with other floodlines, too, for example 20 years and 50 years, to determine where certain infrastructure can be safely developed. For all these reasons, the developer will likely choose land that is close to existing infrastructure and developments. In this way, development tends to mushroom in nodes, until all the developments merge into one contiguous suburb and the process starts again on land a little further out of town. With this in mind, what can you as the plot owner do to ensure that your land is as attractive to a developer as possible?

If you are lucky enough to be situated close to an existing development, many of the costs of providing infrastructure may be minimised for the developer.

Where your plot is in relation to current or future infrastructure may also dictate what a developer can use it for. In the local authority's long term planning, areas will have been set aside for commercial developments, others for residential.

Corner plots on major intersections, for example, will tend to be allocated for filling stations and shops. If you are building a house on an undeveloped small-holding, good advice is to position the dwelling to one side, or to the rear of the plot, rather than slap-bang in the centre. This will make it easier to subdivide later on. If your house is at the rear of

Continued on page 27

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a number of significant food safety concerns. One mould species may produce many different mycotoxins, and the same mycotoxin may be produced by several species of mould. Mycotoxins may be fatal or cause severe illness at very small concentrations, often measured in parts per million (ppm) or parts per billion (ppb).

Even with the best quality control systems in the world,

Continued on page 29

PROPERTY

From page 26

your house is at the rear of the plot you should be able simply to cut off the front half in a subdivision and sell it off when the land is no longer needed, using the money thus generated either to put up additional dwellings (eg for now-adult children or grannies, or for rental) or as a retirement nest-egg.

Don't over capitalise. Sure, build a comfortable house and keep it in good condition while you live there, but be aware that unless it is more than 100 years old, chances are that the developer who

buys your plot is going to demolish it before starting his own construction. At best, therefore, fixtures and fittings such as roofing, trusses, doors, flooring, windows, baths, geysers and fireplaces will finish up in a second-hand building supplies store while the rest will simply be bulldozed away and turned into landfill.

The same goes for pathways and drives, swimming pools, tennis courts, stables and outbuildings, and even vegetation, trees etc. Only a sensitive developer with surplus funds is going to

preserve trees and shrubs in a development, and then only if they are of some significance and not in positions that will jeopardise or hinder the development. At best, he might arrange to have the trees transplanted by a professional arborist.

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From page 27

livestock farmers often find themselves with mycotoxin contaminated grain or feed.

Diagnosis of mycotoxicosis is often difficult because the effects of mycotoxins in animals are diverse, varying from specific to unspecific symptoms such as immune suppression, diarrhoea, haemorrhages or reduced performance.

There are nearly 400 different mycotoxins, but there are three types that have been proven to be carcinogenic (causing cancer) or toxigenic (producing poisonous substances).

Aflatoxins can be found in maize, peanuts, cottonseed, tree nuts and dairy products. Feed concentrates and forage can also be affected.

In all animals, aflatoxin can cause liver damage, cancer, decreased reproductive performance, reduced milk or egg production, embryonic death, teratogenicity (birth

Diagnosis of mycotoxicosis is often difficult because the effects of mycotoxins in animals are diverse

defects), tumours, and suppressed immune system function, even when low levels are consumed. Aflatoxin generally has been linked to increased mortality of livestock, because it causes liver damage, intestinal bleeding and cancer. Aflatoxin B1 is the most potent carcinogen known.

Fumonisins affect horses, pigs and humans, through the consumption of maize or silage.

The clinical effects are pulmonary oedema, lesions and holes in the brain, oesophageal cancer, neural tube defects, liver damage and reduced growth.

Zearalenone is found in maize, wheat, barley, sorghum substrates and hay, and pigs, sheep and dairy cattle are prone to its effects.

Clinical effects are enlargement of uterus, abortion, and malformation of testicles and ovaries, while the viability of new-born animals is threatened.

Mycotoxins also have an immunosuppression effect, which means the animal is not able to combat other diseases.

There are good agricultural practices that can be implemented in the fight against these deadly chemicals.

Early or timeous harvesting reduces fungal infections in the field. Drying of agricultural produce to low moisture levels helps to create less favourable conditions for fungi to develop.

Insects help to distribute fungal spores, and reduced moisture will also lower insect infestation.

During storage, transportation and marketing, low moisture levels should be maintained as well.

Where you notice fodder or hard feed that shows signs of mould they should be removed and destroyed ~ and NEVER fed to livestock. The removal and destruction of debris from previous harvests also helps. Keeping feed fresh is important. Time is required for both mould growth and mycotoxin production to occur.

For feed manufacturers and retailers, good storage space is necessary, and a proper stock rotation process should be implemented to ensure that no bags of old feed are to be found lurking at the back of the warehouse. For the livestock owner it is therefore important to have feeds delivered often so that they will be fresh when used.

Continued on page 31



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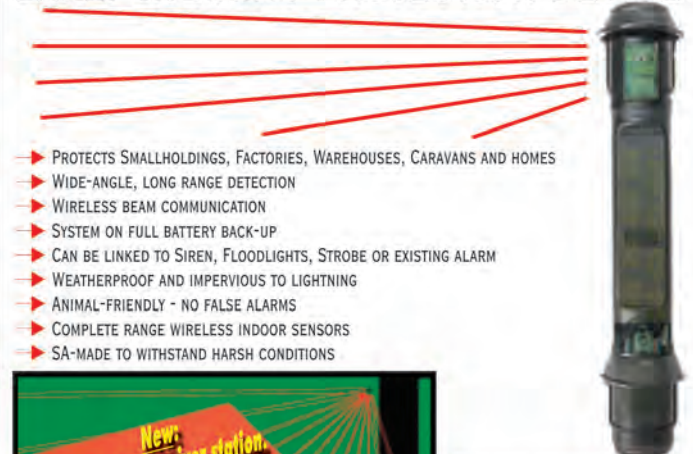
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Causes and prevention of livestock diseases

A basic knowledge of animal diseases, and the factors that cause diseases to occur, should be the aim of every livestock owner, however small or amateur his farming operation may be.

Three principal reasons most often cited for the spread of diseases are poor sanitation, improper management and introduction of new animals into a herd.

And, the relatively small distances between herds and flocks on adjoining smallholdings in Gauteng, and the fact that many stock-owners are ignorant or neglectful of the causes of disease, means that veterinarians describe Gauteng's plotland as a vigorous generator of otherwise preventable ailments.

Knowledge of what causes disease, and of how animals

can get a disease, helps us to know how to prevent disease and to treat sick animals.

☐ **Parasites** are organisms that have to live on or in other organisms, such as animals, in order to survive. Most parasites are easy to see, although some mites and the early stages of worms can only be seen under a microscope.

Some live outside the animal, such as flies, lice, mites, fleas

and ticks.

Others such as flukes and round worms live inside an animal. They usually live in the stomach and intestines but also in other parts of the body such as the lungs and liver. Parasites cause a variety of diseases in animals.

☐ **Microbes** or germs are usually too small to be seen with the naked eye, and only

Continued on page 32

MYCOTOXINS

From page 29

Feeds should generally be consumed within ten days of delivery.

Cleaning and sanitizing feeders, storage bins and other equipment is another basic precaution.

One should also maintain the best possible level of health in poultry and livestock, so that they are able to with-

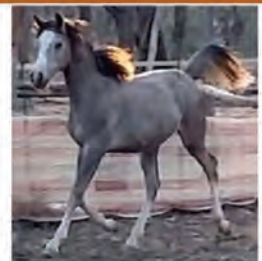
stand the effects of mycotoxins. Stress, physiological state, nutritional standing, and disease status will independently and collectively determine the response of a given animal to a specific mycotoxin level or complex of mycotoxins.

Mycotoxins may also be a hazard to human health since animal products consumed

by people may contain mycotoxin residues.

Mycotoxin deactivators can be added to animal feed in order to help fight the effects of the chemicals.

The Agricultural Research Council is currently working on breeding strains of crops that are resistant to mycotoxins.



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ANIMAL HEALTH

From page 31

a microscope will enable you to see what a microbe looks like.

☐ **Viruses and bacteria** are the most common disease-causing pathogens. Other pathogens are fungi and protozoans.

Viral diseases are the most difficult to control because viruses closely resemble the chemical compounds that make up a cell.

Another problem in controlling viruses is that the chemicals capable of killing or controlling them also kill or destroy the host cell.

Preventive vaccinations are the most successful method of controlling viral diseases.

Bacteria are microscopic in size, produce powerful toxins, and multiply rapidly. Many bacteria are capable of forming spores, resistant forms of bacterial cells able to withstand severe environmental conditions. These spores are difficult to control and may lie dormant for years before being provided with the opportunity to cause disease.

Antibiotics are used successfully to control bacteria. Not all bacteria cause disease.

☐ **Fungal** diseases are caused by fungi, which are small organisms. Many disease-producing fungi live in the soil. It is often difficult to determine the cause of fungal diseases, because bacteria cause a secondary infection and are often erroneously identified as fungi.

☐ **Protozoa** are one celled and the simplest form of animal life. Some protozoa can live outside cells, especially the type that causes trichomonosis, a disease in cattle. Others need to live inside cells, and include those causing coccidiosis, redwater, heartwater and gallsickness. Animals can be poisoned by chemicals (such as insecticides and dips), poisonous plants

and fungal toxins.

They can also be bitten by snakes, scorpions and spiders. Lack of enough food or lack of a particular ingredient (such as phosphorus) can also cause disease. Malnourished animals are particularly prone to disease because they are weak. An imbalance of required food nutrients in the ration is the cause of nutritional defects.

Bacterial diseases, and NOT viral infections, are treated with antibiotics

Animals receiving inadequate amounts of vitamins, minerals, fats, carbohydrates, and protein cannot produce efficiently. Therefore, their levels of resistance to disease are lowered.

Metabolic diseases refer to an upset in the normal functioning of the animal (that is not caused by infection, poisoning or feed deficiencies) and usually result from intensive animal production. An example is milk fever in highly-productive dairy cows.

Congenital diseases - in some cases animals can be born with a disease. Some of these may be inherited (passed on from the parents). This is rare, and inherited diseases are usually seen at birth. An example is congenital hydrocephalus, which is a swelling of the brain caused by fluid, and can be clearly seen as a swelling of the head.

Environmental problems, such as littering, contribute to some diseases, for example, animals may eat plastic bags, baling twine or wire to the detriment of their health.

Good management practices therefore go a long way to preventing animal diseases. ☐ Animals to be added to a herd should be isolated for three to four weeks before they are placed with the herd. This includes both new animals and those removed from the herd and exposed to other animals.

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From page 31

- A sound immunisation programme should be followed.
- Clean, healthful surroundings should be provided.
- Rations must be nutritionally adequate.
- Visitors and new animals should not be allowed in the livestock area.
- Diseases should be accurately and quickly diagnosed.
- A competent veterinarian should be consulted when a health problem arises.
- Livestock should be handled properly. For example, canvas slappers, rather than clubs and whips, should be used.
- Protruding nails and broken boards should be eliminated from stabling, fencing etc.
- Machinery and equipment should be removed from grazing fields.
- Horned cattle should be dehorned.

Stress, for example when moving or handling livestock, is a major contributor to disease

- Barns should be bedded properly.
 - When moving animals they should be loaded slowly and carefully, into vehicles specifically designed for their transportation.
 - Partitions should be used to separate different classes of livestock.
 - Livestock should be protected from inclement weather.
- Take care in the animals' living quarters. Make sure that there is sufficient space for all animals. Crowded conditions tend to promote the incidence of disease. Municipal health regulations in force throughout Gauteng stipulate the amount of space required in the housing of various types of livestock. There must always be fresh air and temperature control through ventilation. Ensure

good drainage - floors and pens must be kept dry and clean. Bedding must be kept fresh, and manure should be disposed of often. Systematic pasture rotation is a practical method of disease and parasite control. It breaks the life cycle of pathogens by

removing the host. The ultraviolet rays of sunlight kill pathogens when the pasture does not have livestock in it to reinfest it. Use disinfectants. Chemicals that restrict the growth of pathogens should be used regularly. Soap and boiling water are two inexpensive disinfectants available to livestock producers.



Overcrowding and dirty living conditions are sure-fire ways to promote diseases among livestock.

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A useful winter legume

May is a good time for smallholders to consider planting lentils. Lentils (*Lens culinaris*) are a hardy annual and are a member of the pea family. Lentils grow on sparsely branched vines from 15 ~ 75cm. The lentil has small whitish to light purple pea-like flowers. Pods are small, broad, flat and contain one or two flat, lens-shaped seeds that are green or yellow to orange, red or brown.

The crop should be planted during May to early June. If you are only planting to feed your family it is suggested that you plant four to eight lentil plants per household member. However the plants make excellent green manure and can be turned under the soil when production ends for the benefit of your next crop, so you might consider planting more than the minimum requirement.

Plant lentils in full sun and you should add aged compost to planting beds before sowing. Lentils should be planted 40 to 60mm deep. Lentils grow best at a soil pH of 6.0 to 8.0 and prefer a well-drained, clayey to loamy soil. However, they are very susceptible to waterlogging. Lentils are well adapted to low-rainfall conditions (300–500 mm annual rainfall), but in Gauteng they should be planted under irrigation during winter. The plants are relatively tolerant to heat and drought stress. Lentils have good frost tolerance, but you might want to protect the new seedlings with frost cloth.

Keep lentils evenly moist. Do not water lentils once pods have begun to dry. Side dress with compost tea when the plants are about 12 cm tall and again at flowering. Avoid planting lentils with

onions or garlic. Support lentils with a low trellis. Without a trellis, lentils should be set 15cm apart to ensure ample air circulation. Watch out for aphids and control them by pinching out infested areas or hose them off the plant with a blast of water. Weevils may attack lentils – it's best to remove and destroy infested plants.

Rotate crops to avoid repeat infestations. Lentils have no serious disease problems, although mildew may attack lentils that are too closely planted. Lentils compete poorly with weeds, so your fields or beds must be kept free of weeds at all

Continued on page 37



Lentils ... similar to peas

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Alpacas: They'll give you years of pleasure

Keeping alpacas for breeding purposes or for the production of a

luxury fleece is a growing agribusiness. These South American members of the

camel family are found all over South Africa, including in Gauteng. They are intelligent,

enquiring and sensitive animals, which are able to survive on grazing and a small amount of supplementation. An average alpaca weighs 50 – 80kgs and stands 82 – 100cm at the shoulder. Keeping an alpaca can be a long term commitment, as they live for 15 to 20 years. They make efficient use of land, are kind to the soil and

Continued on page 39

VEG GARDEN

From page 35

times. No herbicides are registered for use on lentils in South Africa. It is also known that lentils are sensitive to herbicides of the sulphonylurea group and

simazine is not safe for use on lentils.

Lentils are commonly used like dry beans or peas. For dried seeds, harvest as soon as pods are cream coloured to light brown and mature.

Leave them unshelled until you are ready to use them. Unshelled green-pod lentils will keep in the refrigerator for one week. Dried, shelled lentils can be stored in a cool, dry place for ten to twelve months. Lentils can also be sprouted.

Seed is available in limited quantities from small seed merchants.

Lentils require 80 to 110 days to come to harvest.

In South Africa lentils are grown for human consumption, but in some parts of the world the plant is used as winter fodder for livestock and sprouted lentils are sometimes fed to chickens.



Lentils can be enjoyed hot or cold, in stews and soups, or in salads of various types.

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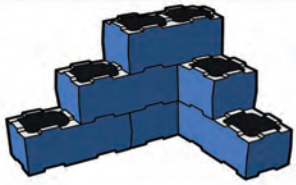
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LIVESTOCK

From page 37

can share an existing infrastructure with other livestock. You need a fenced area with grass for them to graze, a supply of fresh water and shade. Your fence need only be 1,2m high.

If you leave them in the field you would need a shelter of some kind for shade and shelter from inclement weather. If you bring them in at night, stables should have 2m height, and about 2 m² space per animal.

They can survive on grazing if there is enough available, as alpacas are quite hardy and

can survive periods of drought and little food. However, if you are keeping them for their fleece, you need to supplement their feed with game or llama pellets.

Generally speaking a high protein diet will lead to higher microns in the fibre. If their intake of minerals and trace elements is too low, there might be low fertility or they develop bad bone structure and conformation. It is always best to know what your grounds and natural feeds and water have available, then you can

Continued on page 41



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From page 39

provide them with a balanced diet and mineral supply. Healthcare such as deworming and vaccinations are similar to those for sheep. You will need to vaccinate against Clostridia, Blue Tongue, Rift Valley Fever, Botulism and Anthrax. Other vaccinations might be necessary depending on the area you keep them. They are rewarding to keep and work with and are small enough for women to handle. However, they are prone to stress, especially if they are overcrowded. On the other hand, being herd animals, they do not thrive on their own. Depending on available grazing, one can keep about eight alpacas per hectare.

Because they are not indigenous to South Africa, alpacas must be protected against indigenous poisonous plants, which they cannot instinctively recognise

Alpacas need to be protected from South African poisonous plants. You cannot keep them in your garden.

South Africa is a world producer of fibre and alpaca fleece is highly sought after. There are also taxation advantages, as their standard value is the same as sheep. Breeding alpacas is also useful in ensuring that your land remains zoned as agricultural. There is a growing demand for neutered males to work on commercial sheep farms as herd guards against small predators. The animal needs to be 18 – 24 months old before he starts working.

Alpacas are a registered breed in South Africa. The SA Alpaca Breeder's Club is registered under SA Stud

Book and Livestock Improvement Association law. Devoted alpaca fans caution that new breeders should be

warned that owning alpacas considerably reduces their productivity. Owners spend hours watching them, strolling amongst them and being entertained by their antics.



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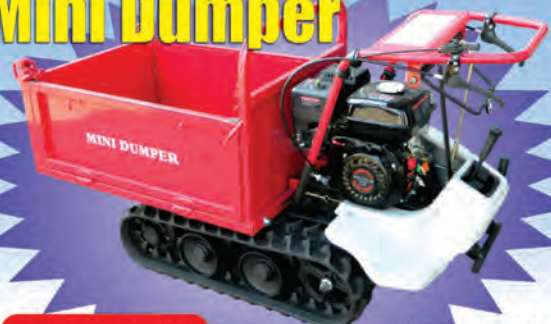


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SUPERSMALLS

Entries in this yellow-shaded section cost R120 VAT included for 25 words, plus R1/word thereafter.

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

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Orpington chickens available. Buff, White, Black, Koekoek, Blue, Splash, Golden, Lace and Lavender, from R150-R300 depending on age. Contact Mike 082 920-6157 between Pretoria and Hammanskraal

Day old Pekin ducklings regularly available. Please contact Gwaine (The Duckman) 074 550-4315

Mixed breed chickens, approx eleven in

total (2 mature hens and 9 youngsters), free to good home. Phone Marge 083 461-3594 Bredell

Potch Koekoek cockerels. Show quality young birds to improve your flock. Nine weeks (3), and 18 weeks(3) at R75 each. Note cockerels only (no hens available). Pete 072 587-9137 Bredell

White pigeons, no special breed but pretty nonetheless, R15 each. Pete 072 587-9137 Bredell

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Genessee, 1 year and 5 month old colt, 75% Arabian, 25% Lippizanner cross. Will make stunning riding, show and or endurance horse. Should mature at about 15hh. Very Solid. Movement is straight, floating and ground covering. Kind temperament and friendly he is halter tame, stands for farrier, grooming, loading in horse-box. Vaccinations, feet trims and dewormings are up to date. Sire available for viewing. Right home is important, asking R 6 000 neg. Sara-Lee 078 201-1669

LIVESTOCK

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plus oprig van nuwe wildswering en reperasie van bestaande wildswering. Kontak Chris 079 525-7080 of Fransoa 071 150-4124.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stop thieves: Outdoor wireless alarms for houses, cottages, outbuildings. 4 outdoor wireless sensors, Main control panel, 2 remote controls, siren, battery, etc. R2 800 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 730 incl VAT. Contact 011 762-1212, 082 456-0973 or stainlessspecial@absamail.co.za.

PRODUCE PLANTS & FODDER

For Sale: 1.2m round Teff bales. Contact Marlene on 083 380-9607 or Neil on 083 455-6493 Bapsfontein AH

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Welcome David coal stove R1 500. Contact 011 965-6352 or 076 065-4050 Benoni.

PROPERTY FOR SALE/TO LET

Lanseria: 2 bedroom cottage on plot. R300 per month plus electricity. Deposit required. Available 1 May. 072 735-7449.

De Wildt/ Schietfontein Area, near Harties 12km, Wonderpark 18km, Brits 20km. Flat next to main house to rent. Ideal for single person, pensioner or couple. R3500 water and lights included. Deposit of R3500. Available imm. Contact Christa 072 345-3696.

8km vanaf Kusile: Plot te koop 3slk huis sitkamer eetkamer kombuis bad toilet garage afdak toegerusde boorgat tuin vrugte bome eskom krag prepaid omheining op 1.4 ha grond prys R360 000 Gert 072 746-4054.

Eloff, near Delmas/Springs. 1,6 ha 5 km from town. Sturdy closed shed (+- 14m x 14m x 7m) also large chicken house for broilers, pigs etc. 3 phase Eskom. Borehole not in working condition, needs to be cleaned or new hole drilled. R400 000 neg. 081 324-3885.

Rayton area 2,7Ha smallholding with neat modern house. 250 Pecan nut trees in production under irrigation R1 850 000 Contact 013 935-7016 or 076 150-0355.

Kyalami/Glenferness: One or both of: a) Small secure 1 bed cottage with little picket-fenced indigenous garden. Socialised, neutered canine welcome with comprehensive vet certificates. R4 700 excluding W/L (own meters). b) 6 acres well-fenced & maintained good grazing (mixed grasses) with seasonal dam. Easy ride to Lipizzaner Centre, etc. May require extensive upgrading of two stables & storeroom. Lease will be separate from cottage and negotiable. Also negotiable 1 bed staff quarters if required for groom. Both available 1 May. Contact 083 515-8547.

Hartbeespoort Dam area: 6,8 ha with 2 bed house 4 km east of dam. Suitable for goats, no existing farming. R650 000. Please call Charlene 078 619-4418.

Petit 2 bedroom cottage to rent, 1 bathroom, open plan kitchen, lounge, dining room. R4 000p/m all inclusive. Available May. Contact Sandra 079 018-3085 to view

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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. For non-commercial enterprises this service is FREE.

NOTE: FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKETS. For a listing of REGULARLY HELD markets and fairs please see the separate section on page 47. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar

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section.

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horses@diamondxranh.co.za, www.diamondx.co.za., R400 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.

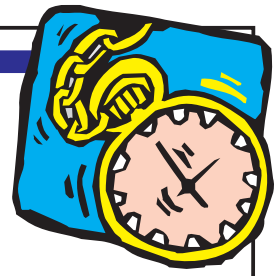
Every Monday
Alcoholics Anonymous. 'Courage to Change' Group meeting, 19:30, Benoni Agricultural Holdings, Marcus 082 042-7730. Warren 082 335-0049. Glen 072 239-3024., If you want to drink - that's your problem! If you want to stop - that's our problem! No fees; no dues; just concerned fellowship.

2016

May
1: The 20th Annual Tour de Walkerville. Contact Helen 082 553 7700 or go to www.walkervillesa.co.za.

6: New Moon
7: Mother's Day Country Market at Groenvoer, 410 Olifantsfontein Road, Midrand. Contact Cathy on 011 314-1211.
3-6: Introductory Course in Beef Cattle Management at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.
8: Mothers Day Luncheon and show with Jak de Priester at Garden World, Beyers Naude Dr, Muldersdrift. 12h30 for 13h00. Cost is R250 for adults and children 4-10 years R180. Call Garden World on 011 957-2545
9-13: Introductory Course in Small Stock Management at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.
13: First Quarter
15: Foraging in the Veld with Carol Martin at The Sheds, Gemstone Road, Crocodile River Reserve from 09:00 until mid/late

morning. Cost: R60 pp (kids R30); Refreshments included.
Info and booking: Jenny Cornish, jcornish@mweb.co.za or 082 570 4798. Bring: Water, walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, camera!
www.crocodilerverreserve.co.za
16-18: Artificial Insemination for Cattle course. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rtsafrica.com.
17-20: Nampo Harvest Day agricultural exhibition, Bothaville. Call 086 004-7246
19: Pregnancy Awareness for Cattle



LIVESTOCK SALES

Auctions: Bronkhorstspuit - Every Tuesday
Gys Taute 083 253 6906
Delmas - 2nd & 4th Thursday
Johan Taute 073 204 7646

Belfast: Wednesdays - Ermelo: Thursdays - Standerton: Fridays

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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Cold formed palisade palings</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">40mm x 40mm</td> <td style="width: 50%;">30mm x 30mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 200mm R20.72</td> <td>1 200mm R17.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 500mm R24.63</td> <td>1 500mm R20.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 800mm R28.56</td> <td>1 800mm R23.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 000mm R31.63</td> <td>2 000mm R25.36</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">3 or 7 spike available</p>	40mm x 40mm	30mm x 30mm	1 200mm R20.72	1 200mm R17.62	1 500mm R24.63	1 500mm R20.22	1 800mm R28.56	1 800mm R23.17	2 000mm R31.63	2 000mm R25.36	<p style="font-weight: bold;">76 x 76 Square Posts</p> <p>2 400mm R174.00 3 000mm R223.00</p> <p>Includes welded cap</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Palings and panels manufactured from 500mm to 3 000mm height</p>		
40mm x 40mm	30mm x 30mm													
1 200mm R20.72	1 200mm R17.62													
1 500mm R24.63	1 500mm R20.22													
1 800mm R28.56	1 800mm R23.17													
2 000mm R31.63	2 000mm R25.36													
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Hot rolled angle palisade panels</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">25 x 25 x 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30 x 30 x 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40 x 40 x 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1800mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">R615.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">R709.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">R814.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2000mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">R660.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">R745.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">R886.00</td> </tr> </table>				25 x 25 x 2	30 x 30 x 2	40 x 40 x 2	1800mm	R615.00	R709.00	R814.00	2000mm	R660.00	R745.00	R886.00
	25 x 25 x 2	30 x 30 x 2	40 x 40 x 2											
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DIARY, cont'd



course. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.

20: Calf Rearing course. Rothman Livestock Training Services, Irene. Call Andy 082 770-0480, Norman 082 547-7949 or Di 082 772-1208. www.rltsafrica.com.

21: Full Moon

24-27: Meat Processing Course at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

27 OR Saturday 28 OR Sunday 29 : all from 09:00 to 13:00. Workshop making melt and pour glycerine soaps.

Refreshments, notes and basic kit are included in the course. Small groups for individual attention. The same course on all three mornings. Prepaid booking essential. R300 per person. Venue and list of other materials will be given with booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948, patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za.

29: Last Quarter

June

4: Beekeeping course for beginners of the 2016 summer season commences at 186 Uys St, Rynfield A/H at 9.30am. This is orientation day, free to all interested. Contact Peter Clark 011 362-2904.

5: World Environment Day

5: New Moon

7-10: Introductory Course in Pig Production

at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

8: World Oceans Day

12: First Quarter

12: Astronomy with Claire Flanagan at the The Sheds, Gemstone Road, Crocodile River Reserve from 09:00 until mid/late morning. Cost: R60 pp (kids R30); Refreshments included.

Info and booking: Jenny Cornish, jcornish@mweb.co.za or 082 570 4798. Bring water, walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, camera! www.crocodileriverreserve.co.za

17: World Desertification Day

19 OR Monday 20, both from 09:00 to 13:00: Workshop Making Herb Wines and Liqueurs. Refreshments, notes and some ingredients are included. The same course on both mornings. Prepaid booking essential. R300 per event. Venue and list of ingredients will be given with booking.

Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948. patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za.

20 Full Moon

20-24: Introductory Course in Poultry Production at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

21: Solstice

27: Last Quarter

July

4: New Moon

4: Aphelion

12: First Quarter

19: Full Moon

22 OR Saturday 23, both from 09:00 until

13:00. Workshop Making Dream Catchers. Refreshments, notes and kit included. The same course on both mornings. Prepaid booking essential. R300,00 per event. Venue will be given with booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948.

ppatsyspotions@vergeer.co.za.

26: Last Quarter

29 - 4 Sep: Garden World's Annual Spring Festival. Watch these pages for full details in later editions.

August

2: New Moon

10: First Quarter

15-19: Introductory Course in Small Stock Management at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

18: Full Moon

25: Last Quarter

26th OR Saturday 27th start of new 20 module herb course. One module a month. Prepaid booking essential. R300,00 per event. Includes refreshments and notes. Small classes for individual attention.

Venue will be given with booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393 3427 or 076 265

4948.

patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za.

September

1-7: National Arbor Week

1: New Moon

1: Lunar Eclipse

5-9: Introductory Course in Beef Cattle Management at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

9: First Quarter

12-16: Meat Processing Course at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.

16: World Ozone Day

16: Full Moon

22: Equinox

23: Last Quarter

25th from 14:00 to 17:00 Propagating workshop in the garden. Complete list of all ingredients needed will be given with prepaid booking. R60,00 per person includes refreshments.

Venue will be given on booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. telephone office hours 011 393 3427 or 076 265 4948.

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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 blingsa@lantic.net	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kaiings 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	R112 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076-7680 info@wfmmarket.co.za	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area
Every Saturday	Walkerville Agricultural Market	09:00 to 15:00	K154 T-junction with R82	Dominique 082 775-0802 market@walkervillesa.co.za	Organic produce and Crafter's Market. www.walkervillesa.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.
Every Saturday	Jozi Real Food Market	08:30 to 13:00	Pirates Sports Club, Braeside Avenue, Greenside	083 532 2992 whitespace@mweb.co.za	Arts & crafts, music & entertainment, inspired cuisine organic vegetables & coffee, pet products
Every Saturday	Market @84	09:00 to 14:00	84 On Main, Walkerville	Ariel 078 223-9238	Fresh organically grown produce and crafters market
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
1st Saturday	Victus Christi Arts & Crafts Market	08:00 to 14:00	24b Miles Sharp Street, Rynfield, Benoni (north side of Bunny Park)	Schalk 082 561-9409 info@victuschristi.org.za	Arts & crafts, fine art, food, fresh meat & produce and home industry
2nd Saturday	Brakpan Boeremark	09:00 to 14:00	cnr van der Walt and Dirk van der Hoff Brakpan	Marius 011 744-2322 082 904-8852	Over 50 stalls. Food, arts, crafts, etc.
Last Saturday	Rynoue Plaas Mark/ Rynoue Country Market	07:00 to 14:00	Cnr Moloto Road (R573) and Protea Road Opposite Roodeplaat 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.
Last Saturday	Fresh Produce Market	08:00 to 13:00	Lakeside Mall Boathouse	Alma 079 940-0201 realfood4realpeople@gmail.com	Local fresh produce direct to the public
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!
Every Sunday	Jozi Real Food Market	09:00 to 14:00	Northcliff Country Club, Fir Avenue, Northcliff	083 532 2992 whitespace@mweb.co.za	Arts & crafts, music & entertainment, inspired cuisine organic vegetables & coffee, pet products
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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 BY POST: Box 14648, Bredell 1623
 BY EMAIL: gautengsmallholder@gmail.com
 BY HAND: 370 da Costa Dr, Bredell, Kempton Park

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Quite dry, but with a happy ending

There was once a very rich man ~ so rich he had more money than both sense and class ... you know the type ~ who lived in a very bling house in a very exclusive suburb north of town. From very modest beginnings, he was a self-made man, and had worked long, long hours in many industries (although it was rumoured he'd actually made his pile selling computers.)

As a home owner he had a couple of idiosyncrasies. He had heard that well-placed people no longer have swimming pools ~ they have fire pools, although he didn't understand why, and his slate-roofed mansion hardly warranted such a reservoir.

Being of rural origins, he would have liked to have had a cattle kraal and a chicken run, but knew that the affluent neighbours in his smart suburb would have objected.

So he settled on an amphitheatre in his garden. After all, his garden was big enough. He wasn't sure what one did in an amphitheatre, but he was very proud of his. He saw pictures of amphitheatres that the ancient Greeks built and decided that he too would have cast statue replicas of people in long robes. These he had seen aplenty at garden centres, made of concrete, and some spewing little dribbles of water from various orifices, and he bought a whole lot of them.

He would never admit it, but he really had a subconscious desire to "keep up with the Joneses" so another thing that he insisted on was a highly qualified head gardener. He interviewed a number of candidates for the post and chose the one with the highest qualifications, who happened to be a young lady. He had hoped to find a suitable man for the position but then somebody pointed out to him that you got extra BEE points if your staff members are female. He didn't know what the points were for but Mary seemed to know what she was doing and that was the main thing.

He used to say to her, "Mary, Mary quite contrary, how does your garden grow?" which was one of the nursery rhymes that his granny used to say to him when he was small. He thought he was being very funny, but Mary was not amused.

Nonetheless, little did he know that the rhyme was most appropriate, for Mary was indeed contrary. You see, she and her employer had a fundamental difference of opinion on matters horticultural. He thought that everything that came from overseas was better, while she was a firm believer that "local is lekker".

He had once visited one of those big houses in England and

had written down all the names of the shrubs and flowers in the magnificent garden. He wanted his garden to look like an English garden in spring. Her vision was for something more indigenous. So he told her he wanted rhododendrons planted (she put in proteas). He wanted foxgloves and daffodils and roses, (she planted ericas and vygies and strelitzias).

He wasn't happy with his garden, but not being very versed in horticulture he couldn't put his finger on why. He would drive slowly past his neighbours' property and try to see what they had planted in their big garden. It all looked very soft and pretty. He had lots of colour in his garden, but somehow he had the feeling that Mary was not doing what she had been told.

But then in the summer of 2015 disaster struck ~ there was a terrible drought. There was no rain and the days were very hot.

The municipality instituted water restrictions and all people could talk about at the gym was how their gardens were "turning brown and dying, Doll!"

Of course Mr Big had his own gym in his big house but even at business meetings he picked up that everyone was anxious about their gardens.

Now when he drove past his neighbours he could see their flowers were drooping and dying, yet when he looked at his garden he saw that, while the lawn wasn't doing so well, the shrubs and flowers were flourishing.

Eventually he confronted Mary and asked her why his garden was still looking so lovely. She told him that what he was looking at was an indigenous, water wise garden. He now had a huge dilemma – his employee had obviously disobeyed her orders, but in doing so had saved his garden from the ravages of the drought. He was furious, but he turned on his heel in impotent rage and stormed off. What to do, what to do? But, as his teenage son pointed out through a haze of spliff smoke, "Life's a garden, Dad, just dig it."





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