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FRONT COVER

Lunchtime in the shade. Zenzele Farm near Hartbeespoort's first two litters of Colebrook piglets are now for sale. Call Jens on 082 447-5080

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Teach your kids



At its most simple level to grow the average plant requires only the four "S's". Seed, soil, sun and sustenance, in the form of nutrients and water. And vegetables are, in essence, among the simplest and most average of plants.

So why does a large proportion of the world's population (and even the South African population) go to bed hungry each night? Why don't more people grow their own food? These questions were particularly pertinent last month as we marked World Food Day on October 16. No, the earth didn't move for us either on the 16th and we wonder, actually, about the value of any of these awareness-raising days designated by a bunch of, presumably, United Nations pony-tails and covering everything from trees (Arbor Day) to toilets (World Toilet Day, coming up this month on the 19th.)

The point is that if the problem is big enough to warrant having its own awareness-raising day designated to it by the UN pony-tails, anybody with half a brain in government, welfare organisations and civil society generally will be fully aware of it. And anybody who isn't aware of the problem is hardly going to be goaded into feverish action as a result of some desultory reportage of boring political speeches, marches and events held on the day as awareness-raising campaigns (which, at the risk of being labelled curmudgeonly, I would point out are funded by you and me, the taxpayers). In fact, in our view days like World Food Day afford politicians and their ilk an opportunity to over-complicate an issue, and offer a platform to too many organisations, big and small, to air their partisan views, which may simply be sales pitches and unhelpful in the overall debate.

And around food, in South Africa at least, what is the overall debate? Simple: at a household level, in many instances people are not food-secure ~ they don't have enough to ensure they can feed themselves sustainably and nourishingly every day. This is extended to certain communities, particularly the poor in rural areas, and is invariably exacerbated by external factors such as drought. In fact, it may be entire provinces that are food-insecure as a result of their poor populations and drought. And some argue that South Africa as a country is, or at least is fast becoming, food-insecure.

Yet on the other hand, the rich eat to excess and either become obese as a result (and suffer and die from obesity-related ailments such as heart and liver disease, strokes, diabetes etc) or spend much of their income and many hours working off the extra pounds running on treadmills and sweating in gyms.

And still among the rich, households, restaurants, hotels and retailers throw away thousands of tons of food daily, either because people simply couldn't or didn't finish what was on their dinner plates or because the stuff is past its sell-by date on a shop shelf. This is not a South African problem alone. The same pertains in wealthy societies worldwide but the tragedy is much more stark when food being slid off a plate into a bin in Sandton could sustain a hungry, malnourished child in next-door Alexandra.

The rich-poor-food-wastage issue is, of course, a function of our grossly unequal society and let's not dwell further on that now.

Rather, let's look at what can be done to ensure food-security for all, and that's to encourage people to take care of themselves and to provide for themselves. In other words, to grow their own food. And in essence it's simple: you put seed in some soil, feed it and water it and pick the produce once it's grown. You don't need acres of land to do it on, either. You can grow enough vegetables to feed a family sustainably in an area not much bigger than a doorframe.

So why don't more people do it? Because gardening and particularly vegetable growing is a skill and pastime which has become lost to the modern generation.

Nowadays, parents hire gardening services to maintain their lawns and beds, spend hours in supermarkets buying food they could grow themselves, and then spend hours (and fortunes) in the gym, when they could spend the same time getting the same exercise digging over their vegetable patches ~ like their grandparents did.

To its credit our government realises there's a problem and hopes to establish many hundreds of thousands of previously-disadvantaged smallholder farmers, hopefully with the necessary support and marketing backup, to uplift and feed themselves and their communities, and those of us for whom government support is unlikely to be forthcoming should do the same.

So, parents, give your children some radish seeds (they germinate fast enough to keep the interest of even the most impatient child) and give them a life-long interest and ability to grow their own food. You'll be doing them, and society, a favour.

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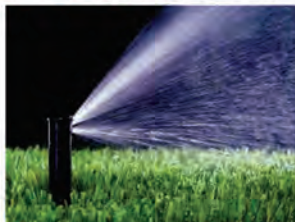
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'The paper mag is still best'

Sir ~ As far as some snide remarks go about people still reading printed media, I would just like to mention that my paper copy of the *Smallholder* is more portable, user friendly

and causes far less eye strain and frustration than my husband's @\$*! computer or laptop.

It can be read everywhere

Vegetable planting app

Sir ~ In response to your various articles over the years on planning your veggie garden I have been wondering why you don't take advantage of the various apps that are available, to tell you when to plant what.

Apparently there are quite a few, even geared towards

and its contents don't disappear even when accidentally dropped in the bath. And, it can even be rolled up to smack the dog if

gardeners living in Gauteng. Hurray for the bright young things who help us to put technology to good use by designing these apps. Ask a teenager to find one and download it for you and you're away!

"Mobile Mabel"
Tierpoort

it misbehaves.

And by the way, age has absolutely nothing to do with it as I have only just turned 71!

Kind regards

Sue

By email

Yes, indeed. While the internet is a wonderful information and communication tool it is not yet the full replacement for paper-based publications, and certainly not for ones serving niched, rural

Continued on page 6

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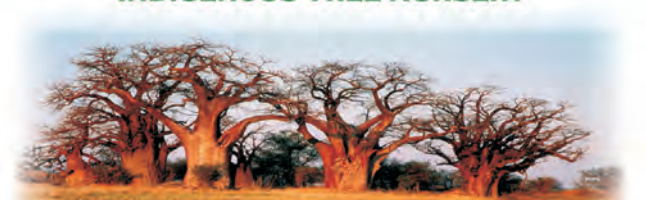
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MAILBAG

Interesting content, market dates are best

Sir ~ I found a copy of the *Gauteng Smallholder* at my local nursery. I have enjoyed reading the magazine thoroughly. The contents are very interesting and informative. Some are even useful to me, although we have a small garden. I'm also fascinated by the different kinds of advertisements. The best part is where one can find the upcoming events and market dates.

Those Quirky pictures are simply the best! I sent them to my friends and family overseas and they had a good chuckle as they miss South Africa very much! Thank you and your team for your dedication and hard

work, as well as the sponsors who make the magazine free, so the great contents in each issue can reach a lot of people. Please take care and keep up the good work.

Sandy McCluskey

Westgate

Thank you for your kind letter. We appreciate positive feedback greatly: it makes our work very pleasant. ~ Editor

PAPER MAG

From page 5

and often mature readerships such as ours.

Having said that, the effects of internet-based publishing are causing "traditional" publishers to radically rethink their business models, and we are no exception.

But we have no intention of rushing headlong into something that, firstly won't make a material difference to the lives of the majority of our readership and, secondly, won't make us substantial piles of cash.

So you can rest assured that, while we will offer an on-line version of, hopefully, increasing utility and convenience, a paper-based *Smallholder* will be available to you for a long time. Even if you only use it to whack the dog (and I am

reliably informed that the pages of old editions, if consigned to a nail on the wall of your outhouse, are no less unpleasant to use than the waxed Jeyes loo paper so widespread in post-War Britain.) ~ Editor

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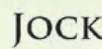


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A dry spring so far? Not really...

Ask Gauteng small-holders whether they think this spring has been particularly dry and most will answer "yes", plaintively asking as a follow-up "when are the rains coming?"

Well, here's the bad news: comparing our rainfall figures from the beginning of

September each year to the 20th of October (just as we went to press) for each year since 2000, this year's precipitation of 34mm places 2016 more than halfway up the rankings. Both last year (13mm) and 2014 (21mm) were drier when comparing the days of September and October up to the 20th.

2005 was the driest for these days, at only 8mm, while three years later, in 2008 we were blessed with a very early rainy season, at 205mm, the wettest period we have recorded.

The perception that this year is particularly dry is probably created by the heatwave that frazzled the province in early

October, and by the fact that most of those 34mm fell quite early in September in one intense spell of 26mm over a couple of days.

Year	mm
2005	8
2007	11
2011	11
2015	13
2000	16
2006	18
2014	21
2003	23
2009	24
2016	34
2012	43
2002	73
2004	75
2010	81
2001	84
2013	184
2008	205

Rainfall: East Rand, 1 Sep-20 Oct, 2000-2015

Invest in cattle, like shares

Livestock Wealth is a new investment vehicle that takes its inspiration from the heritage of African people, namely cattle. It is an investment opportunity for the South African market where you invest in cows rather than unit trusts and shares.

Livestock Wealth was developed by entrepreneur Ntuthuko Shezi, launched on October 13 and is run through The Innovation Hub. An easy-

to-understand "crowd-farming" (as opposed to "crowd-funding") platform, Livestock Wealth offers people with no access to land, time and skills the opportunity to own livestock within a professionally managed farming operation.

Through a web and mobile application, potential investors can buy their cows online and Livestock Wealth will manage the cattle like an investment

portfolio. The start-up is currently renting a farm in Blood River, KwaZulu-Natal, and will manage its investors' livestock portfolio from there. Says Shezi: "Livestock Wealth is an innovative concept of creating a culture of savings and wealth building by Africans using livestock as an asset class, thereby connecting investment as we understand it today to the way investment

Continued on page 10

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NEWS

Biocontrol for Yellow Bells

To control the spread of invasive Yellow Bells, *Tecoma stans*, the Weeds Research Division of the Agricultural Research Council has released *Pseudonapomyza sp.*, which is a leaf mining fly. The fly was brought in from Argentina and, after all the

necessary tests and precautionary measures were taken, it was concluded that *Pseudonapomyza sp.* was sufficiently host-specific to be introduced to target the alien plant in South Africa. It was released in four provinces, including Gauteng. It is a small, black, shiny fly with red compound eyes. Both larvae and adults feed on the leaves of the Yellow Bell. The larvae cause extensive damage by mining the leaves, while the female adults puncture the leaves to deposit their eggs and feed on the oozing sap from punctured leaves. It is hoped that once populations of the leaf-mining fly become established, they will reduce plant vigour in the field and also reduce plant biomass.

Yellow Bells is an ornamental, densely leafy evergreen shrub or small tree, which can grow up to 4m high. Leaves are bright green above, paler below, with sharply toothed margins. The bright yellow, showy, trumpet-shaped flowers bloom from October to May. It develops brown, shiny fruit capsules, 12-20cm



Yellow Bells

long, that split open to release papery winged seeds. The plant competes with and

Continued on page 11

INVESTMENT

From page 8
was done by our forefathers."
"As an agency of the Gauteng Dept of Economic Development, which is focused on the development of high growth businesses, The Innovation Hub and its incubation programme Maxum, which is supporting Livestock Wealth, we have no doubt of the potential of this start-up company," says

McLean Sibanda, CEO of The Innovation Hub. Livestock Wealth is accessible to potential investors through its interactive web site, www.livestockwealth.com, Google Play mobile application, and via text message. Investors can SMS "COW" to 31022 and a portfolio manager will be in contact to guide them through the investment process.

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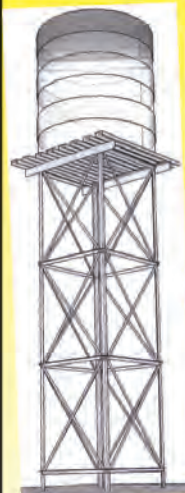
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Tips for best online 'Smallholder' reading experience

The publication online of the *Gauteng Smallholder* that we announced last edition has been a resounding success, judging by the number of readers it is attracting, and the number of downloads that have been made. To make your reading experience as good as it gets, here are some tips to try on your PC. With the magazine opened click on the magnifying button, third from right at the top of the page. You will then see a slider bar with which you can enlarge the page to a size where the type is easily legible to you. This, however will mean that you can't see the entire page on one screen. Moving about the page is easy, however. On the right hand side of the slider bar you will see an icon of a hand. Click on that and your cursor changes to a hand

which, if you hold the left button of your mouse and move the hand, will move the page in the desired direction. To turn the page, look for a white arrow in a grey block half way up and against the edge of your screen (this is most easily seen when the page is right up against the edge of the screen, but it's still there if you move the page away from the edge ... you just can't see it. Be aware that movements of the page may not be instantaneous, depending on your internet connection speed. To get around the problem of delayed movements consider downloading the pdf of the magazine and reading it at your leisure. As with all bits of new technology there are going to be glitches. If you experience problems, or have suggestions, we'd love to hear from you.

BIOCONTROL

From page 10

has the potential to replace indigenous species. It can invade hot and dry savannah, where it may reduce grazing for domestic and wild animals.

There are no registered herbicides for *Tecoma stans* in South Africa, so it was decided that biological control would be the most

sustainable, inexpensive and environmentally-friendly method of controlling it. The Weeds Research Programme of the ARC Plant Protection Research Institute is responsible for research on the ecology and control of invasive alien plants in South Africa. These plants were introduced either intentionally (eg, for ornamental use or agroforestry purposes), or accidentally (eg, in livestock feed) and now threaten both biodiversity and agriculture. In addition, they reduce runoff from water catchments, thus diminishing flow in streams, and adversely affect the quality of life of communities.



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WATER ISSUES

SA: A dry country, and getting drier

We live in a dry country: we all know that. Much of South Africa is semi-desert, and even the relatively lush areas receive less rainfall than the world average. And the bad news? Our water issues are going to become worse, even critical, if we don't take steps to rectify our wastefulness.

Specifically, water has always been an important factor for anyone in South Africa involved in any form of

agriculture. The Highveld receives between 380 and 760 mm of rain annually. The average rainfall for the country is 500mm per annum, which is 60% of the world average.

In Gauteng, municipalities depend very much on the transfer of bulk water from wetter regions, and notably from catchment schemes like the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme. This is rapidly becoming less efficient, however, and greater attention will have to be paid to the management of demand and more efficient use of water – particularly with meteorological factors stacking up against us this summer in the form of the El Nino effect.

So it is important to understand the terminology used in water issues.

The term "drought" is probably more popularly understood in South Africa as having insufficient water to undertake certain activities which have come to be accepted as "normal".

activities, will inevitably lead to "drought", although this is more an indication of unwise farming than of unusual weather.

"Water shortage" is used to



Much of Gauteng's municipal water comes from the Katse Dam, part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

Undertaking dryland cropping in areas of the country where the long term annual rainfall is equal to or less than the minimum required to successfully sustain such

describe an absolute shortage where levels of available water do not meet certain defined minimum requirements. The actual quantity

Continued on page 14

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WATER ISSUES

From page 12

that determines a per capita minimum may differ from place to place.

"Water scarcity" is a more relative concept describing the relationship between demand for water and its

availability. The demands may vary considerably between different countries and different regions within a given country depending on the domestic, agricultural and industrial usage of water.

"Water security" is a situation of reliable and secure access to water over time. It does not equate to constant quantity of supply as much as predictability, which enables measures to be taken in times of scarcity to avoid stress.

Water scarcity is influenced by population growth, challenges of food production, climatic change and variability, but perhaps the greatest variety of impacts is from changes in land use.

While reduction of vegetation cover may result in greater run off, it reduces groundwater infiltration and the storage capacity of dams and lakes through siltation. The draining of large scale wet-lands or large scale deforestation may change the micro-climate of a region.

The need for improved farming methods and greater understanding of the relationship between soil and water is evident in many parts of the

country. The consequences of poor land management and farming methods is to push communities ever closer to the point of vulnerability where even small changes in conditions can have disastrous effects.

Poor choices of "thirsty" crops such as forestry, particularly in sensitive areas such as mountain catchments, or vast stretches of monoculture have a strong negative impact on water resources.

Gautengers also need to change mind-set when it comes to the availability of water. Our region does not have plenty of water as many seem to think. Government at every level needs to address education of the population in terms of reducing and managing the demand for water, as well as enforcing greater efficiency of water use and introducing water conservation measures.

Continued on page 15

THE WATER TREATMENT EXPERTS

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MULCHING

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Drought or no drought, time spent watering a garden might be therapeutic but could be spent doing something more productive if one could minimise the water loss from the garden through evaporation.

And the simplest way to do that is to put a layer of organic matter around the plants on top of the soil. In other words, mulch. Smallholders with livestock will, quite likely, have been feeding their animals through

Continued on page 16

DRY COUNTRY

From page 14

Smallholders should be very conscious of how they use water in the home for cleaning and cooking, as well as outside for gardening, irrigation of crops and watering of livestock.

And, smallholders ~ most of whom use boreholes for at least part of their water supply ~ should also think about groundwater management.

Groundwater is water that is found beneath the ground surface in soil pore spaces and in the fractures of rock formations. Where this groundwater occurs in reasonable quantities, these water-bearing layers of rock are called aquifers and have been compared to saturated sponges, with networks of interconnected cracks and holes extending hundreds of metres below the ground. Groundwater differs from surface water because of the contrasting physical and chemical environment in which it occurs, although the water itself is essentially part of the same overall cycle.

As users of groundwater, it is the smallholders' responsibility to ensure the sustainability and quality of the groundwater system on the plot. Those of us who have boreholes need to keep our pumps running as efficiently as possible. Check your borehole pump periodically.

Listen to hear if the pump kicks on and off while water is not being used. If it does, you have a leak.

Make every effort to prevent pollution by preventing any development activities which may impact on the quality of groundwater.

This includes the construction of new buildings, even on neighbouring smallholdings, and particularly applies to the establishment of new sewage or septic tank systems. It also refers to storage or disposal of waste, such as used motor or cooking oil. Not only should we protect our own water supplies, but we must be aware of the water resources of all our neighbours.

Easier said than done on most holdings, but guard against over-grazing the land or any other land-use practices which threaten groundwater resources.

We need to be sensitive in our use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides to ensure that our groundwater is not contaminated.

After all, we don't own the water, we only have the right to use it.

Finally, we must play our part in ensuring that future generations have access to water that is fit for use.

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MULCHING

From page 15

the winter with baled fodder and (unless they have a bale-saver such as the unit designed and sold by Groenvoer) there will be untidy piles of uneaten, soiled, dry fodder lying in the paddocks where the animals are fed.

This is an ideal source of mulch and, in taking it out of the paddock and re-purposing it, you will be

doing your paddock grass a favour, too, as one of the other uses of mulch is to suppress the growth of plants lying under it. Leaving uneaten fodder lying about in the paddock, therefore, will result in little or no growth of spring grass underneath (which will invariably be replaced by a crop of weeds as the season progresses). Spreading a layer of mulch around seedlings immediately

after transplanting, and while the bed is free of weeds will mean you will not have the chore of weeding later, because weeds will be suppressed through the lack of light. Moreover, the soil will remain cooler due to the insulating properties of the mulch and, as mentioned, moisture will be

retained for longer, meaning less frequent watering is necessary. As the season progresses and the mulch slowly decays, it becomes incorporated into the soil as humus, adding nutrients to the soil and improving its ability to retain moisture further. And, if the mulched hay has been soiled with animal droppings and urine so much the better, as these manures can only enhance the quality of your soil.

Apart from its water retaining,

A bed of zinnia seedlings mulched with old fodder

cooling and humus-enriching properties, the old hay in your paddock can also be used to prepare new beds for planting without you ever having to dig the bed over to remove existing vegetation. Simply spread a thick layer of mulch over the area where you wish for a new bed and leave it for a season. Because of the exclusion of light to the soil below the plants (ie weeds and grasses) previously growing there will die off and

Continued on page 18

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SM256	50 x 50	3.15	7
SM413	50 x 50	4	12
SM635	50 x 50	5	18
SM190	100 x 50	3.15	6
SM313	100 x 50	4	9
SM481	100 x 50	5	14
SM212	100 x 100	4	6
SM327	100 x 100	5	9
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SM630	100 x 20	4	23
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3	0.000
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5	0.000
6	0.000
7	0.000
8	0.000
9	0.000
10	0.000
11	0.000
12	0.000
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BEEKEEPING

The tribulations of bee removals

With Gauteng's bee swarms on the move at the onset of summer, beekeepers have been kept busy over the last few weeks catching and removing swarms that have chosen the "wrong" place to set up their new homes. However, life is often not made easier for the bee

removal expert by the dangerous and often unsuccessful attempt by homeowners to do the job themselves first.

One bee removal expert comments, "One cannot believe the mess people leave to a poor old beekeeper to fix up after they have tried to sort out the bees themselves.

"They expect you to wave a magic wand and take their problem away.

"One person told me that they did not have ordinary bees, as their bees were the

"killer" bees as they just attacked the lady's brother-in-law for no reason. I went and looked at the bees and found the bees in the roof at least

Continued on page 19

MULCHING

From page 16

turn to humus themselves.

Next season, simply plant seedlings etc through the now decaying layer of mulch into the already-softened, cool soil beneath.

This technique of till-less bed preparation can be done with a variety of other materials including old newspapers, flattened cardboard boxes and worn carpet, in fact any material that will exclude light to the soil below and which will decompose over time through the effects of sun and rain.

And, for the mulching of beds a variety of material can be used including wood chips (a chipper or shredder is a useful piece of equipment on a smallholding where tree prunings, twigs and other small plant material can be reduced in size), dry grass cuttings, dry leaves, stable manure and even shredded newsprint.

Obviously some materials will be more unsightly than others and may impart properties to the soil that are not desirable such as affecting the pH or attracting termites.

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BEEKEEPING

From page 18

four to five metres above our heads.

"The lady omitted to tell me that they only became these "killer" bees when the "manne" tried to sort out the bees themselves with firelighters!

"Another lady decided to get rid of the bees in her pool pump by throwing the lid off one evening. Needless to say the large swarm was now split between the lid and the pump. They saw me coming while I was still ten metres away!

"Another lady told me (rather angrily) to do what beekeepers are supposed to do when I asked how I was to

remove a two year old swarm in her water tower because she was going to have an art exhibition in two days. She had two years to get them out!

"Another lady told me to get the bees out of her air vent near the front door. I asked her how long had the bees been under the floor. She then told me very slowly that they were not under the floor, but in the air vent. When I asked her whether she had wooden floors, she told me yes, but what had that to do with the vent. She then explained in slow motion, how the bees were in the vent and I just had to take the vent away and all would be

hunky-dory.

"I could not convince her that the air vent was just an access hole to the area under the floor boards.

"On the plus side, it is becoming heartening how many people want you to remove the bees without killing them. Somehow the message has got through to the public that bees are special insects and should be nurtured and not destroyed." Nevertheless, many homeowners still do not understand why the bee removal expert should charge for the service, exclaiming "but you're going to get the honey from the hive later!"

While that may be true, there

are considerable costs involved in re-housing a bee swarm, not the least being the cost of the hive, super, frames and wax sheets, which can run to upwards of R1 000. Then, of course, there is the cost of transporting the swarm to a suitable location, the cost of maintenance of equipment, labour etc.

Not to mention that bee removals are best done at dusk or in darkness, effectively confining the service to "after hours."

□ For more information on bees, beekeeping and bee removals contact the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association, secretary Mike Alter, tel 083 430-8707



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POISONOUS PLANTS

The springtime killer in your field

Livestock owners need to be on the lookout for a highly toxic plant known as gifblaar, *Dichapetalum cymosum*, which is responsible for 10% of cattle deaths in Gauteng. And donkeys, goats and sheep also fall prey. Apparently horses are less

Bright green foliage appears attractive amid the still-brown grass of early spring

vulnerable to it. The plant is found particularly in the Pretoria and Magaliesberg regions. The livestock are more likely to eat this plant from mid-August to the end of

by the end of summer when grazing is decreasing. The symptoms of poisoning can be seen after the animal has drunk water or milk or it has exerted itself. These may appear within six to twelve hours after ingestion

Continued on page 22



Gifblaar, *Dichapetalum cymosum*

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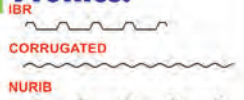
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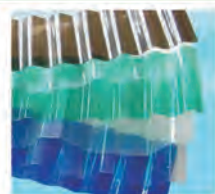


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POISONOUS PLANTS

From page 20

of the plant. The animal lies down with the head backwards, and when forced to rise it staggers, lifting the feet abnormally high, urinates very often, and immediately lies down again. When standing, the front legs are held well forward and the hind legs tucked under the body. The

heart-action is increased, the pulse is very soft and hardly perceptible. Breathing becomes quicker and shallow and the animals sometimes moan on expiration. Water and food are refused and rumination is absent. The animal shows great uneasiness, getting up and lying down and moving from side to side. Sometimes there is a quivering of the muscles, especially those of the shoulder, and all the reflexes are exaggerated.

The vision of the animal is impaired, causing it to bump into things. Salivation is increased, and the animal very often grinds the teeth, and therefore a frothy discharge comes from the mouth. After some time the animal gets very dull, the ears droop, and it is unable to rise. Diarrhoea seldom occurs. In cattle death may occur as soon as twelve hours after the first symptoms appear. In smaller ruminants

death is much swifter. Sadly there are no confirmed therapeutic measures that have been developed for the prevention or treatment of gifblaar poisoning. If gifblaar poisoning is suspected, animals should not be handled or chased. Keep them away from water for approximately 48 hours, this sometimes helps.

Above ground, the plant is seen as a clump of small, woody shrubs about 15 cm

Continued on page 23

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Lookalike: *Pygmaeothamnus zeyheri*: This looks almost identical to gifblaar but is harmless to livestock

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POISONOUS PLANTS

From page 22

high. Such a clump is typically a single plant, as gifblaar has a huge underground root system - likened to an underground tree - and sends numerous shoots above ground in favourable conditions. The most obvious above ground parts are the leaves - simple, alternate with initially fine hairs, but later becoming smooth. The leaves are bright green in colour on both sides. The secondary veins form loops and do not reach the margin.

The flowers are small and white, and occur as dense clumps in the early spring. Fruit formation is rare; the fruits are orange and leathery and, surprisingly, are not poisonous.

Unfortunately, gifblaar is easily confused with a number of other species, notably the sand apple or goorappel *Pygmaeothamnus zeyheri*, which looks almost identical and is found in the same regions, as well as dwarf mobola or grysappeltjie (*Parinari capensis*) and another variety of sand apple, *Pygmaeothamnus chamaedendrum*.

Moreover, a number of species have also been identified as indicator species, meaning that if you have them growing on your land

Gifblaar develops a huge underground root system, making mechanical removal ineffective.

there is a good chance that you may have gifblaar as well. These include wild seringa (*Burkea africana*), peeling plane or lekkerbreek (*Ochna pulchra*) and silver cluster leaf or vaalboom (*Terminalia sericea*).

Mechanical methods of removal have proven to be ineffective because of the

plant's extensive root system and the plant's ability to set roots and regenerate from tiny fragments left in the soil after uprooting it.

Research has shown that it is possible to control gifblaar by using commercial herbicides, but this is only effective if there are small numbers of the plants and application can

be repeated.

Gifblaar-infested camps are not ungrazeable per se. Nevertheless caution should be taken and animals should only be grazed later in the season, and the camps should not be overgrazed. Some smallholders prefer to fence off infested areas, but this is not always practicable.



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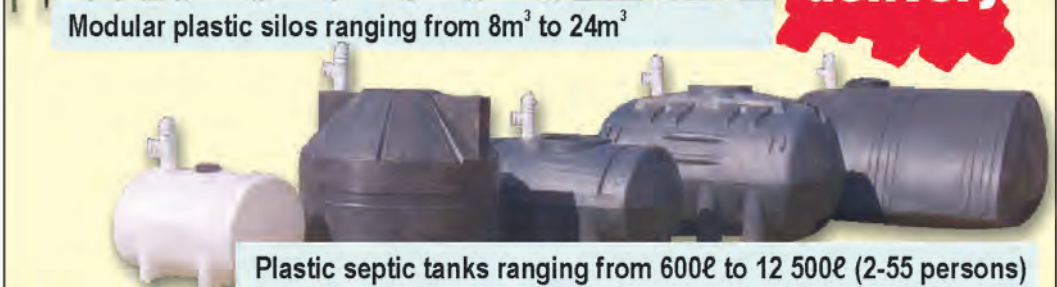
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POULTRY

How to maximise your egg yield

Are you getting the most out of your chickens? Most smallholdings have a few chooks scrabbling around in the yard, yet many will be there in conditions that do not encourage, or maximise, the birds' laying potential. The age at which a pullet begins to lay varies according

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to the breed, the health of the bird, diet, lighting conditions, stress and temperatures. On average most pullets lay at 18 to 20 weeks, but she can be up to a year old in some

cases.

In the meantime you can be providing the ideal conditions to encourage them to reach their point of lay.

Feed is, of course, most important. Do not feed layer feed until they are at least 18 weeks old. Use a good quality commercial brand, rather than trying to mix your own. Limit the supplementary treats, even healthy ones. Make supplementary calcium available separately, as the individual hen's requirements vary and they will take sufficient for their own needs. Smallholders who live at the seaside have it easy: A visit to the beach allows them to collect bucketfuls of shell-grit

which will be relished by the hens. Inland, while shell-grit used to be commercially available many years ago, crushed oyster shells do the same job. Next time you dine out, start with a portion of oysters and ask you waiter to bring the emptied shells as a "take-away". Dry them well before crushing them.

Naturally there must be a constant supply of clean water available.

Provide attractive nesting boxes, one for every four to five layers. Ensure that your nest boxes are in a dark, quiet corner of the coop, where the hens will feel safe. It's also a good idea to have the boxes raised a few centimetres off the floor.

When your hens show signs of being ready to lay, place a fake egg in the nest box,

Continued on page 26

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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
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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
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Galvanised BEFORE welding

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	QTY
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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
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100mm x 100mm	2.00	30m roll / per metre
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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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130ml, 7.5cm, R18
290ml, 9.5cm, R25
5250ml, 12.5cm, R32
845ml, 15cm, R42



POULTRY

From page 24

which will give them the idea that the boxes are "the place" to lay their eggs. You can buy a ceramic egg or use a golf ball. Hens have even been known to be taken in by a china doorknob.

Most hens lay early in the day, so by keeping them in the coop until most of the egg-laying is done, you maximise the chances that they'll lay in the nest boxes instead of finding a cosy place outside the coop.

Line the boxes with wood shavings, hay or straw and keep replacing it to encour-

A sprinkling of fresh herbs in the nesting box is beneficial

age laying in the nest boxes. Remove droppings regularly. Sprinkle fresh or dried herbs in the nest. Hens benefit from nest box herbs by inhaling, rubbing against and occasionally eating them. Some herbs repel insects and rodents, while others have anti-bacterial properties, and can act as natural wormers, anti-parasitics, stress relievers and laying stimulants. Some improve blood circulation or respiratory health.

Use combinations of basil, catnip, dill, fennel, lavender, lemon balm, marigolds, mint, nettles, parsley, pineapple sage, rose petals, thyme and yarrow.

Limit stress by having little activity in the coop in the morning.

There will be signs that will indicate that the pullet is

ready to start laying. Their combs and wattles begin to darken and redden, they might begin to explore the nesting boxes and they adopt a more accommodating posture when the rooster attempts to mate with them. The first few eggs will not be perfect. They might be small, misshapen or without a proper hard shell. After a

while they should start to lay consistently normal eggs. Once your hens are laying regularly, take care to remove any eggs that have been broken. They quickly attract bacteria, insects and rodents, but you also want to prevent the hens from eating the contents. When a hen accidentally cracks an egg and she investigates it, she finds that it's tasty and nutritious and gobbles it down. This

Continued on page 27



You want to encourage laying in the nesting box, NOT in the open!

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From page 26

behaviour can spread quickly among the flock and, if left uncorrected, can be difficult to stop.

Collect the eggs as soon as possible. Most hens lay their eggs before 1000hrs. If you can manage it, collecting eggs twice a day can help keep them really clean, and also discourages egg eating. Young children can be encouraged to collect the eggs as an introduction to farm life.

Unwashed eggs have a natural antibacterial coating

called bloom, so try to clean your eggs without wetting them. This means using something abrasive to rub off any dirt or droppings until the egg is clean. This method keeps most of the bloom intact. Use a sanding sponge, loofah, soft sandpaper or abrasive sponge of some kind to dry clean your eggs. Be sure to occasionally sanitise the sanding sponge, or whatever you're using to clean the eggs.

If your eggs are just too dirty to dry clean you can use water to clean them.

not hot, but not tepid, either. Cold water actually causes the pores in an eggshell to pull bacteria from the surface in through the shell and into the egg, where you don't want it.

Do not immerse the eggs in water or let them stand in water - rather wash the eggs under running water from the tap. Another method is to spray the eggs in wire baskets with warm water, let them sit,

then wipe them with a dry paper towel one at a time. Place clean eggs into another basket.

Follow this with a sanitising spray, using bleach diluted in water for the spray mixture. Then allow the eggs to dry on a rack or in a basket. Store eggs with the pointy end facing downwards, particularly if you are intent on collecting a batch for incubation.



Encouraging a young child to collect the eggs is an excellent introduction to farm life.

Sometimes they get egg yolk on them from a broken egg, which is impossible to remove without washing. Make sure to use water that is warmer than the egg temperature - medium warmth,

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VEGETABLES

How to support your tomato plants

Summer on a smallholding is synonymous with flourishing tomato plants, so many are turning their attention to how to

support the plants with their growing burden of fruit. Some permaculturists are in favour of allowing the plant to grow without staking or



Bamboo "teepee" structure

training. They maintain that the plants become stronger, and as the plant spreads, it sends down new roots so it is hardier and produces more fruit than normal. They recommend mulch to protect tomato fruits

that touch the ground. But most vegetable experts prefer to provide tomato plants with some support, particularly indeterminate varieties, which grow like a vine. Determinate varieties will grow large like a bush with their height being just over a metre.

The reasons put forward for "training" tomato plants include maximising space, making harvesting easier, improving air circulation which helps to prevent diseases and creating visual interest. Strategically placed trellises can also provide privacy screening and afternoon shade.

Having decided to give the

plants support, you will discover that there different ways to do this.

The most obvious is to stake each plant by driving a wooden or metal post into the ground and tying the plant to it.

If you have a plentiful supply of bamboo poles you can construct teepees, using three or four poles tied together to form a cone around the plant. Another version of the teepee is to tie two poles together to form an A, then sink another pair about a metre away, followed by a third. Then place the last bamboo pole across the top of the structure in the "V" created where the poles meet, connecting all the teepees together. Tie twine from one pole to the next along each side. Leaving about 50 cms between each line, continue up the teepee structure. You should have about three or four lines strung up by the end. This reinforces the structure and adds support for the tomato plants as they grow and climb. Another option is the basket weave, where the idea is to "sandwich" your plants between lengths of twine. The twine gently holds up the plants without the need for additional stakes and clips.

If you are planting your
Continued on page 31

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VEGETABLES

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tomatoes in a line, plant them about 60 cm apart. Wait till they are about 30 cm high. Place a stake between every two or three plants, and pound at least 30 cm into the ground, depending on how much wind your garden gets in the summer. Tie baling string to the end stake, wind it around the plants to the next stake and then back again to the first stake, creating a figure of eight pattern. As your tomato plants grow taller, weave additional lines of twine about every 20 cms up the stakes. Carefully tuck in any stray branches.

This method is also known as the "Florida weave", but it is not a hairstyle from the West Rand!

Then there is the T-post trellis, where you string your tomato plants vertically, from a top bar attached to two stakes. Using found items such as downed tree limbs, this method is a good one for smallholders who don't want to spend a lot of money on materials.

Whatever method you use,

you should rotate the crops that you plant each season. This is done to prevent crop-specific pests and diseases from building up and carrying over from one season to the next in the soil. If you move the crop, the problem has no host on which to live. Ideally, rotate a vegetable or vegetable family so it grows in a particular spot only one year out of three. Vegetables that are members of the same botanical family are

susceptible to the same problems, so try to follow members of one family with members of a different family. The tomato is in the same family as brinjals, peppers and potatoes. So next season

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T-post trellis



Florida weave



Close-up of string in Florida Weave



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HORSEMANSHIP

DIY stuff for your horse-mad kids

If you keep horses on your plot for your children there are some constructions that you can do that will make their riding a whole lot more enjoyable, and at the same time benefit them in particular ways. The first thing, after having provided a stable or stables, a feed room and a secure,

lockable tack room, is to give them somewhere flat and with a soft, grippable surface, on which to exercise. For a rank beginner a circular ring, 20m in diameter, surrounded by a chest-high post and rail fence, with a surface of river sand, will prove sufficient. The child's instructor remains in easy shouting distance and will exercise the child in both directions, round and round, while the child does not have to worry unduly about steering the pony, but can concentrate on what he or she is being taught, eg how to perform a rising trot, how to hold the reins without snagging the pony's mouth, balance, foot position etc. A 20m diameter circular ring will also enable the pony or horse to be lunged for

exercise on days when the child is unable to exercise the animal itself.

More ambitious, but necessary for any rider beyond a beginner, is a rectangular area measuring at least 20m x 40m, for this is the size of a small (eg, used for children and beginners) dressage arena, also called a "manège".

Although you can build it with high sides, eg post and

rail fence, it is actually better to do so with a low wall of some sort, high enough only to contain the filling which, again, is commonly river sand.

Suitable material for the retaining wall are lengths of scrap rubber conveyor belting, the lower end of which is buried about 20cm into the ground to provide a flexible vertical wall.

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VEGETABLES

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rather plant cucumbers, beans or peas against the trellis.

Also think about the crops that you plant near the tomatoes. Practicing companion planting can increase yields and help deter pests

and attract beneficial insects. Some vegetables or herbs that that you might consider planting in the shadow of your tomatoes include asparagus, basil, borage, carrots, cucumber, onions and chives, spinach, lettuce, nasturtiums and marigolds.

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HORSEMANSHIP

From page 32

Scrap car tyres, buried end-to-end to half their diameter also provide a good wall. Cinder blocks, Stumbebloks about two courses high and double brick walls can also be used. You can also make a low (30cm high) post-and-rail fence although this won't keep the sand in the arena. Sharp inflexible material such as old corrugated iron or fibreglass sheeting should never be used because of the danger of injury to the horse or rider in a fall.

Part of the idea behind a wall-less manege is that the rider must learn to control and steer the steed in addition to performing actions such as rising in the trot, standing in the stirrups etc, for any lack of control soon sees the pony leaving the arena with a quick hop over the wall and a glint in its eye.

If your budget allows, or if the rider is more advanced or adult, build a longer 20m x 60m dressage arena. In fact, if you're in it for the long haul, choose a piece of ground with at least a further 30m so that when the need arises you can simply extend your 40m manege to a 60m one and still have sufficient space surrounding it. (There needs to be at least 5m around each side if you want to do the job properly and have the arena suitable for properly judged competitions).

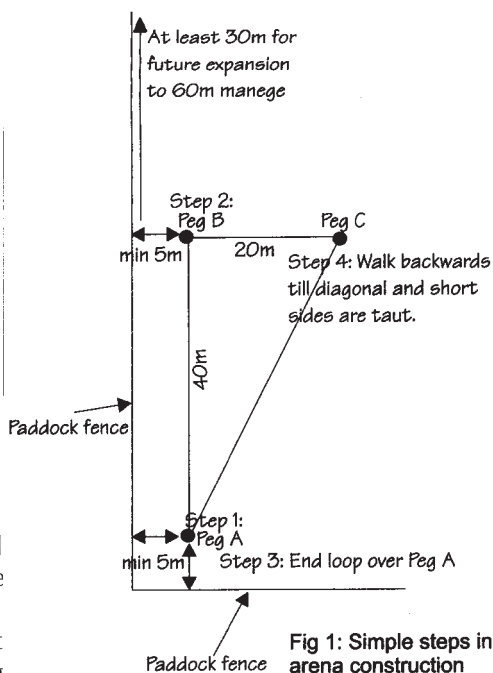
If your child's interest is not in dressage at all but is solely in jumping and equitation, and if your budget allows, build as big a sand arena that you can afford. You can always partition off a smaller area

within this arena for dressage and lessons if required, using movable items such as small jumps, drums and poles to fashion the edges.

Assuming a minimum of 5m of clear area between any side of the arena, the smallest piece of flat, level and well-drained land you are looking at, therefore is 30m x 50m. So if your land is sloped this might require a grub-and-clear to smooth it, and even an excavating-and-backfill job to level it.

When you start to mark out the arena, if you try to do it by eye you will produce a parallelogram rather than rectangle. That is guaranteed, as anybody who has tried will tell you.

Here, however, is a simple technique using nothing more than four pegs, a tape-



measure and a ball of string that will give you the desired shape without heartache. See Fig 1 above.

Assuming your land is level and smooth, choose a spot 5m in from any fence. Knock in a peg. We'll call this A. This will be the corner between two sides, one long and one short.

On the end of your length of

Continued on page 35

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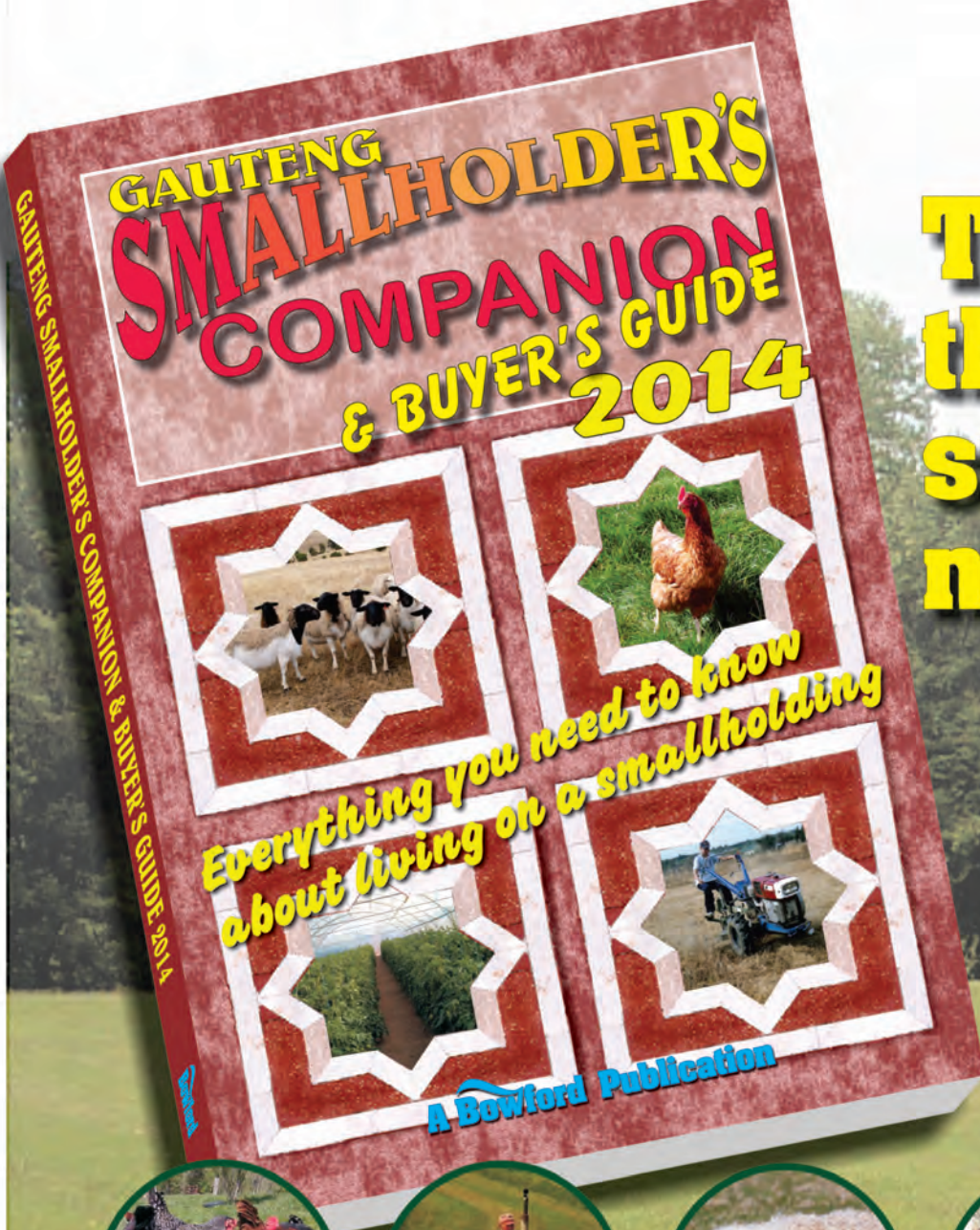
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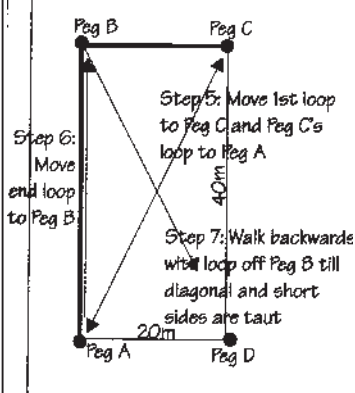
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From page 33
your non-stretchy string tie a loop and place it over the peg. Now measure out 40m down the long side. Ensuring that this length is 5m away from the nearest fence, make a loop at 40m, knock in a peg and place the loop over the peg. We'll call this B.

Fig 2: Further steps in arena construction



Walk out a further 20m of string roughly at right angles to the 40m length and make another small loop. Let's call this C.

Now measure a further 44,72m and make a loop, placing this over the first peg (A).

Pick up loop C and move outwards until both the lengths of string are taut. Knock in a peg at this point. You now have two sides of your arena, with a perfect right angle between them.

To ensure that the other two sides are parallel, use the string in the following manner (see Fig 2 alongside):

Take the loops off the pegs and put the first loop that was on peg A on to peg C, and the last loop you put on to peg A on to peg B.

Now take loop C and walk backwards till both lengths of string are once again taut and knock in a peg. Voila! A

perfectly rectangular 20 x 40m dressage arena! (Mathematical geni here will recognise the practical use of Pythagoras' Theorem ("the square of the hypotenuse of a right angle triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the two adjacent sides" . Lesson over).

For good order's sake, the lengths of the string necessary for a 60m arena are 60m, 20m and 63,25m.

Assuming a 40m arena, you will need 80m³ of river sand to fill it to a depth of 10cm.

Over time the horse will push this material into the corners of the arena and form a "track" with its hooves. You will periodically want to loosen and smooth this. A small diamond-tine harrow drawn behind a tractor or even a quad bike or lawn tractor will do this adequately. Or you can buy a purpose-made arena rake.

You can also rotavate the arena, but the action of a rotavator over time is to break up the particles of sand into dust, which you want to avoid.

With your dressage arena in place, your child will want a set of dressage letters to enable it to practice simple dressage tests.

These can be painted on to old 5 litre paint tins, 20 litre plastic drums or pieces of sheet iron bent into a right angle. (Ideally you want the

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HORSEMANSHIP

From page 35

letters on two sides of your tins, drums etc so that they can be seen by the rider approaching down the side of the arena.)

The letters are A, K, E, H, C, M, B, and F, remembered by the mnemonic "All King Edward's Horses Carry Many Brave Fighters," and the letters are positioned with A in the middle of the short side at the entrance and the others following on in sequence, three down the left side, then with C in the middle of the opposite short side, and the remaining three back up the

right side. The letters at either end of the long sides, ie K, H, M and B are positioned 6m in from the corners, with the remaining two midway down each long side.

The lettering for a 60m arena is different.

Sets of dressage letters can be bought from good equestrian stores and make yet another option of a horsey present for a horse-mad child at Christmas.

There are a number of other things you can do on your smallholding to make your child's riding experience more enjoyable, none of which need to be expensive, and here are some guidelines to the sort of secondhand stuff you should never give away and in fact should actively seek out.

□ **Baths** – In every paddock old baths, particularly the heavy metal ones, make excellent water troughs. Seek these out from friends and family when they renovate their homes.

Two baths positioned end-on can also be used as an unusual water jump, albeit at a fairly advanced level, on a cross country course. They need "padding" with hay bales in front to hide the sharp edges and, possibly wings of some sort. And of course any sharp protruberances such as old taps must be removed.

□ **Drums** – Placed in the stable and filled to three-quarters full with sand topped off with concrete (fashioned into a bowl-shape), a 210 litre (44-gallon) drum makes an

excellent feed trough.

Clean drums with tight-fitting lids are excellent storage containers for pelleted feed. In the arena, drums combined with poles on top can be used to make temporary partitions for smaller arenas etc. They can be used in gymkhana games in myriad ways and they can be used in jumping arenas as both uprights when stood on end, and jumps themselves when laid down three in a row.

Two rows of three lying next to one another with another

Continued on page 38



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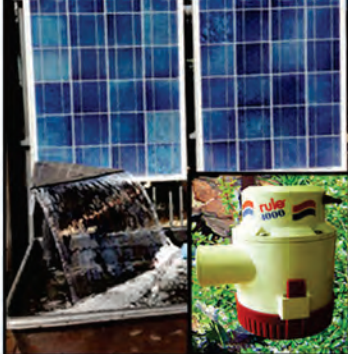
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HORSEMANSHIP

From page 36

row on top makes a formidable solid jump with no sharp edges.

☐ **Tyres** – of all types (eg car, truck or tractor) can be used effectively in a horsey



Tyres are useful to make a simple jump look more substantial

environment. As outlined above, half buried tyres can be used as arena edging and two tractor tyres half buried with three car tyres half buried between them makes a nice permanent small jump out in your field.

You can also use tyres to make a movable jump. Thread them through a pole and hang the pole off two uprights (thereby making the jump height adjustable) rather

than making piles of tyres on the ground. That's because should the approaching horse decide to stop before the jump and become entangled with the tyres there is a chance that one may ride up his leg (tyres bounce) and, particularly if this should happen to his hind-leg ... and the tyre become hooked above his hock ... mayhem will ensue, you can be sure.

One, two, three or more tyres stacked atop each other make easily-adjustable, portable



Tyres used to lift poles a few cms uprights when topped off with poles, and a combination of two single tyres and two stacks of two tyres, when correctly spaced and topped off with poles make useful cavaletti, the small jumps essential for training both horse and rider.

Tyres are also useful in the gymkhana ring.

Continued on page 39



Left: The correct way to position tyres in a tyre jump. Right: How NOT to use tyres in a jump





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HORSEMANSHIP

From page 38

☐ **Paint tins** – filled with concrete with a 1,8m length of bamboo (or if you want to



Paint tins filled with concrete and poles

spend money on it, electrical conduit tube) a 5 litre paint tin converts into a useful flag pole for marking jumps both in the arena and on a cross country course, and they make excellent bending poles in the gymkhana ring.

Also, a 5 litre paint tin when lettered can, as suggested above, be used for dressage marking.

To secure either bamboo or conduit permanently in concrete drill two sets of 3mm holes right through, one 10cm from the bottom and another 10cm higher up and thread a short length of 3mm galvanised wire through, bending it at right angles to the hole on both sides. This provides the reinforcing which prevents the pole from pulling loose with time.

☐ **Pallets** – Used wooden pallets are a most useful item

on your smallholding. Firstly, any fodder destined for long-term storage should be placed on pallets. This will ensure an airflow beneath which will prevent spoilage of the lower layers.

But pallets can also be used in the arena, both as jumps themselves and, with a bit of carpentry, as simple uprights.

Six 1m x 1,2m Europallets (the standard jobs) leant up against each other to form a triangle will make a formidable looking spread jump of about 850mm high, or more or less depending on how far apart the bottom edges are positioned. And, of

course, in such a position the jump has its own ground line (the bottom edge of the



Cut pallets make an instant two-way jump

pallets). Plus, the jump is approachable from both sides. Cut two pallets in half, place in a line on their edges and stuff the space between what was the top and bottom of the



Pallets stuffed with brush ... a solid-looking jump

pallet with soft scrub to form a brush jump. Single bits of pallet thus stuffed make attractive rustic jump wings. Remove two of the planks of

Continued on page 40



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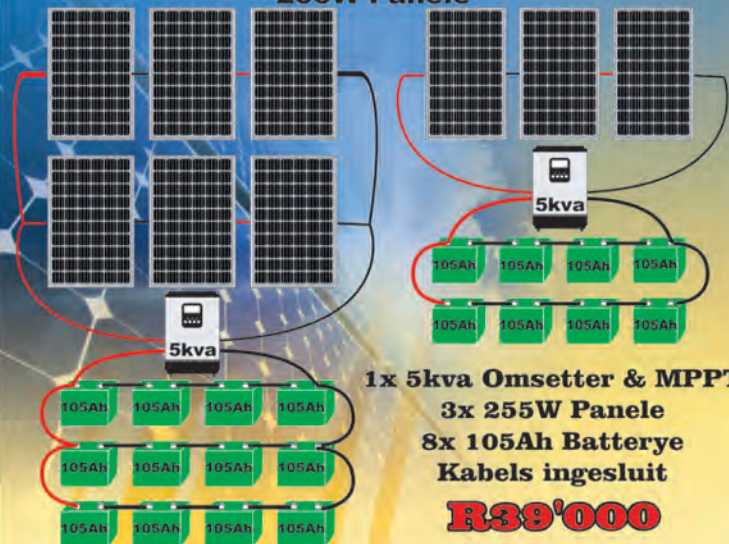
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IN THE KITCHEN

How long CAN you store your eggs?

If you've ever kept a flock of chickens, you're probably aware of a basic perversity of smallholder life: although your family's consumption of eggs tends to remain fairly constant year round, your hens' production of the delicious edibles doesn't.

An experiment was carried out in the United States to establish which is the best method of storing eggs, so that they are still usable months down the line.

Researchers bought 30 dozen guaranteed fresh, washed, uniform-sized supermarket eggs from a wholesaler and they also collected another 30 dozen fresh, unwashed, non-uniform, plot-type, fertile, non-supermarket eggs. They began by dividing their 60 dozen eggs right down the middle, with 30 dozen fertile

US researchers find Grandma's methods worked quite well, but the refrigerator gives you seven months! storage, or more!

eggs on one side and 30 dozen unfertile eggs on the other.

Each set of 360 eggs was then further divided into ten separate batches of three dozen each:

[1] a control group that was left sitting out at room temperature,

[2] a batch that was kept under "controlled refrigeration" . . . that is, 36 eggs which were put into an airtight container and stored at between 2°C and 4°C , [3] a group that was completely covered by a solution of nine parts water and one part sodium silicate, also

known as "waterglass", [4] a group that was submerged in a 16 parts water/2 parts lime/1 part salt solution, [5] a batch that was packed

Continued on page 42

HORSEMANSHIP

From page 39

a pallet and re-nail them on to the edge of the pallet, so that when it is on its edge the planks of the pallet are horizontal and the removed bits form feet. Two pallets thusly modified make 1m high, deep jump uprights and you slot the poles of the jump

into spaces from which you removed the planks. (You can, additionally, fill the top edge of each pallet with flowers or brush to raise its height and add further substance to the jump wings). When using pallets in the arena just beware of splintered planks, loose nails etc.



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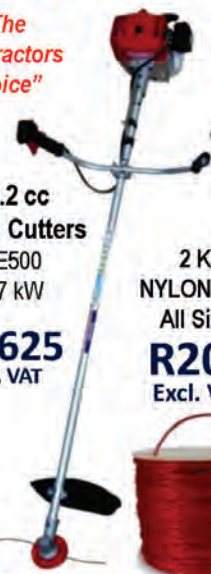
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IN THE KITCHEN

From page 40

in lard,
[6] a group that was merely coated with lard,
[7] a batch that were coated with Vaseline,
[8] 36 eggs that were packed in dry sand, [9] 36 that were packed in wet sand, and,
[10] 36 eggs that were packed in dry sawdust.

Except for the refrigerated batch, all the groups of eggs were stored at a room temperature which varied from 18 to 21°C.

It very quickly became apparent, however, that some of the "preservation" methods



Eggs preserved in waterglass

they were trying were worse than no attempts at preservation at all. The eggs (both fertile and unfertile) buried in both the wet sand and sawdust looked bad, smelled bad, had lost their taste, and had runny textures just one month after being "preserved". Even the control groups ~ eggs which were kept at room temperature with nothing done to them ~ were better than that.

Conclusion after only four weeks: trying to store eggs in either wet sand or dry sawdust is counterproductive. Surprisingly enough, the control eggs ~ although slightly mushy and musty ~ were still edible a full eight weeks after their tests began. Except for one bad water glassed egg (which must have had an unnoticed crack in its shell at the beginning of the

experiment), the other seven batches still in the running were all much better.

Which meant that the "preservation" methods they represented really were preserving the eggs to one extent or another.

Believe it or not, their controls (both fertile and unfertile) were hanging in there after yet another full four weeks had passed. Under survival conditions, the researchers say they could have lived on the completely unprotected 90-day-old eggs if they'd had to.

Some of the other groups, on the other hand, were becoming a little disappointing. Most of them (even the refrigerated ones) had more or less runny whites, one of the refrigerated bought eggs smelled bad, all the Vaseline-coated eggs were marginal, one of the fertilised eggs packed in dry sand had a bad sulphur taste, and a store-

Continued on page 43



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From page 42

bought kept in waterglass was very definitely bad.

By 120 days after the experiment was begun, all the supermarket and all the smallholder control eggs had gone completely rotten.

The dry sand groups (both fertile and unfertile) were also terminated at that time, as were the store-boughts that had been coated with Vaseline (the Vaseline-coated smallholder eggs were only marginally better).

The fertile and unfertile eggs packed in lard were getting pretty "iffy", the ones coated with lard were doing a lot better, the lime water groups were still edible (although, in the case of the supermarket eggs, barely edible), the refrigerated eggs seemed to have firmed up and were nearly as good as fresh, and ~ while the waterglassed groups were, in general, doing far better than average ~ one of the fertile eggs covered with



Eggs stored in mineral oil is another old method

waterglass was very definitely bad.

The ranks of the still-good eggs began to thin considerably 150 days into their test. The supermarket eggs packed in lard weren't making it anymore, while the fertile eggs packed in lard were runny but edible. Likewise the waterglassed eggs.

The lime water store-boughts, on the other hand, were still "good" (except for the one they didn't even open, since it

floated), while the lime water plot eggs were only "edible".

All eggs coated with lard were "good enough to eat for breakfast". While ~ maybe just by contrast ~ the store-bought refrigerated eggs were "good, like fresh" and the smallholder refrigerated eggs were "excellent".

At the end of seven months they had drawn these conclusions about their egg preservation experiment:

☐ Unwashed, fertile small-

holder eggs seem to store much better than washed, unfertile eggs. Why? Probably for the simple reason that they're unwashed, and not because they're fertile. An egg, as it comes from the chicken, is coated with a light layer of a natural sealing agent called "bloom". And, while a good wash may make a batch of eggs look more attractive, it also removes this natural protective coating, leaving the eggs more subject to ageing and attack by bacteria in the air.

☐ The very best way to store eggs for long periods is in a sealed container at a

Continued on page 44



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IN THE KITCHEN

From page 43

temperature of 2 to 4°C. Their whites may become somewhat runny looking over a period of time, but even after seven months the eggs stored in this manner smell good, taste good, have a good texture, and ~ in short ~ seem "almost fresh".

❑ The widely touted idea of covering eggs with a solution of one part water glass (sodium silicate) mixed with nine parts of boiled and cooled water does indeed seem to work better than any other "room temperature" preservation method. If their experiences are any indication, though, it's really good for only about five months and is a distant second to controlled refrigeration. Another point: as good as some eggs kept in water glass were, almost every batch they opened seemed to contain one real stinker. Which makes it a good idea to open any



Least successful: eggs in sand or sawdust.

waterglassed egg (or any egg, for that matter) separately into a cup, where it may be inspected before pouring it into a pan or dish with other food.

❑ Unwashed, fertile eggs submerged in a solution of 16 parts water/2 parts lime/1 part salt, packed in lard, and coated with lard seem to keep at room temperature almost as well as unwashed fertile eggs that have been given the waterglass treatment. Washed, unfertile eggs do not.

❑ Unwashed, fertile eggs packed in dry sand or coated with Vaseline and stored at room temperature keep a little longer ~ but not much ~ than unwashed fertile eggs that are just left lying out at room

temperature. Washed, unfertile eggs exhibit the same characteristics, with all storage times running a few days less across the board.

❑ Forget packing any kind of eggs in wet sand or sawdust. Their tests show that such methods of "preservation" can turn eggs rotten within a month.

❑ These tests were

with fresh eggs in shell. There are many other ways of preserving egg matter for long periods out of shell, including frozen yolk and egg white, and drying.

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ON THE ROAD

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Even some SUVs and bakkies are inadequate for heavily-loaded trailers and horseboxes

livestock trailer or the sort of double axle trailer one might transport a small tractor on. A look at the vehicle specifications of common double-cab bakkies ~ and even quite

big ones ~ will reveal that in many cases their towing capabilities ~ at least if they are to be used within the letter of the law ~ are exceeded when pulling such trailers fully loaded.

So it goes without saying that station wagons and smaller and even mid-sized SUVs and "Sandton tractors" are going to be inadequate for the job. And, while you might get away with it for short trips from your smallholding to local horse shows, etc, a traffic officer with solid knowledge of the law will relish the chance to ticket you for overloading.

There are a number of reasons why towing a heavy trailer behind an inade-

quately-powered and braked vehicle is dangerous. First among these is that the manufacturers of such vehicles are hardly likely to fit a towbar to their vehicles that exceeds the towing capacity of the vehicle. Thus, if your car is only designed to tow a 750kg trailer you can rest assured that the towbar will be rated for no more than 750kg: grossly inadequate for a heavier trailer. The chances, therefore, of the towbar snapping are increased and in the event of such a calamity the puny safety chain that loops from the trailer to the towbar will be worse than useless. Second, the towing vehicle may simply be too under-powered to cope with a heavy trailer. At best this

Continued on page 48



A heavy load can unbalance a towing combination if it is mispositioned.

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Grass blade
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300L @ R4999 - 10 left!!

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*Price exclude vat & are valid until 30 Nov 2015, or while stocks last! All items are subject to prior sale. E&OE. Pictures may differ from actual products.



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The specification plate on your towbar will give you its capacity
From page 46

could lead to the engine overheating under strain, at worst it could mean you won't be able to tow up hills of any significant gradient. Thirdly, the actual weight of the vehicle, and the weight distribution when the heavy trailer is attached, may render the combination unstable. Put too much weight on the

towbar, for example with an unevenly balanced heavy trailer, and the effect is to lift the front wheels of the tow car. Given that the front wheels are the ones that provide the steering and braking (and, in the case of a front wheel drive vehicle, the traction) and the effect could be catastrophic. The ideal weight distribution

ON THE ROAD

is to have no more than 60% of the total weight of the load in front of the trailer's axles and the balance of 40% behind.

Fourthly, if the engine power is inadequate for the tow, chances are the vehicle's braking ability will be, too. Sure, heavy trailers are expected to be fitted with their own braking systems, at the very least of the inertia-type where the forward pressure of the trailer up against the towbar of the slowing tow car engages brakes on the trailer's wheels, and in more elaborate cases with braking systems linked to the mechanics of the tow vehicle itself, but the weight of a heavy trailer behind a too-light car or bakkie can make the whole affair unstable in the event of a sudden braking attempt. How can one tell if one is guilty of overloaded towing?

The place to start is to check one's vehicle's manufacturer's specifications.

Next, check your towbar's capacity, particularly if you had it fitted as an aftermarket job rather than as part of your original purchase.

But even with these details correct one often sees trailers being towed behind unsuitable vehicles, easily seen by the angle of the trailer in relation to the car. Sometimes the car is too high for the trailer and the latter therefore leans backward.

Or sometimes the car is too low for the trailer and the latter leans forward, even when it is not loaded in an unbalanced manner.

While this might not be critical if one is hauling sand, or a tractor, it certainly is when carrying horses, the effect being that the horse is in fact standing on a slope.

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1. Animals (including horses), birds, poultry, fodder, bedding, etc must be paid for as SuperSmalls (see p 56).
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.

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

POULTRY

Boschvelder chickens: I have day old to 4 week old Boschvelder chickens for sale. We hatch weekly. Contact Peter 082 330-4096 Roodepoort.

LIVESTOCK

Colebrook Pigs/Kolbroek Varke: Piglets for sale. Commercial - R800. Stud - R1 000. Elite - R1 200. Available end November.

Hartbeespoort. Contact Jens jens@zenzelefarm.com 082 447-5080

Blackhead Dorpers from stud quality ram & ewes. Approx 25, big and small. Offers from R900 upwards (There are excellent bargains here). Jakes 083 260-7589 Bashewa, Pta East

Blackhead Dorper lambs, five months old, males only, R900 ea. Pete 072 587-9137 Bredell

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

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.

Ek vra veilige staanplek vir 'n paar byekorwe naby Pretoria en omgewing asb. Skakel Fanie Booysen 082 332 8007.

PRODUCE PLANTS & FODDER

Game meat: potjie and stew available. Biltong also available. Contact Corrie 011 362-1551.

Eragrostis square bales R40 per bale. 350 bales in stock, R13 000 for the lot. 082 440-8918 Zesfontein.

Lucerne R58 per square bale, sweepings R40 per bag, soya beans R45 per square bale. Veld grass R38 per bale. Contact 078 442-4265 or lucernltd123@gmail.com.

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

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.

Shavings: Very large bags (1 bag = 2m2 x 5cm thick) R25/bag. Delivery available in certain areas. 082 689-9353

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

Barley green feed growing unit, complete, comprising 15m insulated container with aluminium racking on both sides to hold 490 trays each approx 700mm x 400mm. Also a pressure pump and piping feeding fine sprays to all trays, two aircon units and watertight fluorescent light fittings holding 48 Growlite tubes. Electrical connections, timers, a silo for dry grain and a 500 litre

water tank included. Output half a ton daily. Offers on R300 000. The unit is in Benoni. Phone Neil 060 527-9462.

Tuff King Rotary 750 grass cutter. Kohler Command PRO15 engine. Good condition - works and runs well. Asking price R8 000. Please contact S Botha 082 679-4723. Colour of machine is green.

Unicorn self-propelled lawn mower. Still in good condition. 13HP TORQ engine. R15 000, the trailing seat available R1 500. Shredder with 6,5HP petrol engine still in very good condition R6 500 (new R8 999) used twice. Diesel water pump with 6,5HP diesel engine as good as new. In/outlet = 50mm. Max lift 26m and suction head 8m. Fuel tank 5,5 litres, engine speed 3 600rpm, compression rate 19:1. Still in box R4 500. Louis van der Walt Cell 082 562-1430

Vertical tank, 10 000 litre, in very good condition. Asking R8 000. Delivery can be arranged (at a negotiated cost). Contact Elmar 082 373-4618 Centurion.

Bulk tank, square metal, ±600 litres R600 ono. Contact 012 669-0887 or 073 629-7548 Centurion.

Gutbrod rotary mower attachment 1,2m R1 500. Contact 012 669-0887 or 073 629-7548 Centurion.

Windmill for sale R7 500 neg. High pressure pump like new R2 500. Rayton 076 150-0355.

MISCELLANEOUS

Beekeeping equipment: includes stainless steel electric 36 frame extractor, stainless steel table, catch boxes, etc. R50 000. Contact 011 964-1638.

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Raku kiln: Diameter 70cm, depth 50cm, with cast iron tongs. R3 000 ono. Phone 076 112-4668 Centurion

2 pottery wheels, 1 pottery oven and lots of extras for R15 000 or nearest cash offer. Call Sarie Jordaan 082 867-3365.

Oak cabinet for sewing machine: tall, with shelf and cupboard for materials. Space for 2 machines. Lots of cotton included. Contact 011 964-1638.

PROPERTY FOR SALE/TO LET

Bredell: Secure 2 bedroom flat with carport. Available 1st November. No pets. R5 000 plus services. Contact 082 583-5793.

Nigel: 1.8Ha close to Nigel with semi double storey house. Great view, next to

game farm & tar road. R600 000 neg. Contact 083 957-2526.

TOOLS

T & J adjustable reamers, new with extensions, 6mm to 27mm (12) R4 000 ono. Contact 012 669-0887 or 073 629-7548 Centurion.

TRACTORS, IMPLEMENTS & SPARES

John Deere tractor. Model 1020. Code T4R3C. Year 1980. 32HP. R25 000 ono. Magaliesburg. Contact: Patrick - 083 627-3320 or Pam 079 791-4879

Hardi boom sprayer, 300 litre tank, 5,5m boom, fitted with additional lance, 10m hose. Comes with armature seal kit, pump kit, 25 litre 2.4 D Amine 480, 25 litre Agricura Spot Axe and 5 litre Sanchem

MAMBA. R19 500 ono. Contact 012 669-0887 or 073 629-7548 Centurion.

Massey Ferguson 178 tractor to build up/recondition. Comes with 2 new 7.50x16 tyres and tubes, all radiator and air cleaner hoses, set (4) of pistons and sleeves with rings, overhaul set gaskets, water pump kit, lift pump and fuel tap, epicyclic carrier unit and washers, filters and diverse bushes etc. and 175/178 parts list & Perkins engine repair manual. R40 000 ono. Contact 012 669-0887 or 073 629-7548 Centurion.

Lucas starter for Massey-Ferguson or Ford tractor R600. Franklin 075 starter box R350. Ford PTO belt drive R350. 011 965-6352 or 073 791-4799 Benoni.

VEHICLES & SPARES

Audi 100L, 1976, automatic, metallic brown, deregistered since 2012 R12 000

ono. Contact 012 669-0887 or 073 629-7548 Centurion.

Bedford truck spares, J1/2 212 petrol engine, new drag-link, reconditioned distributor, windscreen glass, Zenith carburettors, etc. What offers? Contact 012 669-0887 or 073 629-7548 Centurion.

Fiat Express Camper 2015. Ready to go and enjoy R520 000. Contact 082 283-5793.

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED/WANTED

Qualified electrician looking for a job. Can do industrial, commercial and domestic installations and maintenance. Can also do panel wiring for generators, motor starters and machines. I do submersible pumps, domestic appliances and all general electrical work. Contact Godwin 078 414-6802.

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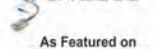
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DIARY

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 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

Classified Adverts

Agro Tractor House are looking for a receptionist who can speak English but preferably also Afrikaans, because clients always request a quote from the front desk and we sell agricultural machinery. She must be 40 years old or older. Contact 083 601-1298.

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

49 year-old European male with disabled leg seeks work in Pretoria. Has trade as sup boilermaker but any job will do - storeman, caretaker, office job etc. Please contact Pierre 082 503-7680.

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.

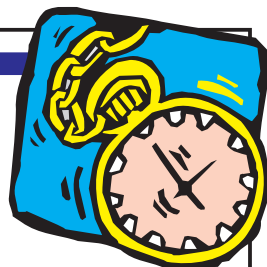
2015

November

1: Dog walk for Husky Rescue at Smuts House Museum, Jan Smuts Ave, Irene. Contact Cheryl 083 376-1734 or info@smutthouse.co.za.
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, jcornish@mweb.co.za or 082 997-7880.
19: First Quarter
19: Year End Supper Musical Concert Singsational Ladies group to be followed (after dessert) by Ma's Boys at Gem Village Hall, past Smuts House Museum, Jan Smuts Ave, off Nellmapius Road, Irene, Centurion. 18:00 for 18:30. Cost: R150 pp incl cash bar. Contact Cheryl 083 376 1734 or friends@smutthouse.co.za
19: Summer Graduation Ceremony, Buhle Farmers Academy, Delmas, Call 087 803-



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0.6m high	R317-00	2450 x 1225 x 1.6	R449-90	20 x 20	R67-92	R79-92	75 x 50 x 20 x 2	R199-92	R304-71	10mm	R57-54				
0.9m high	R391-11	2450 x 1225 x 2.0	R499-90	25 x 25	R72-90	R109-02	100 x 50 x 20 x 2	R229-02	R349-06	12mm	R69-48				
1.0m high	R414-62	2450 x 1225 x 2.5	R599-90	32 x 32	R108-48	R145-92	125 x 50 x 20 x 2	R249-00	R379-52			Flat Bar	6m		
1.2m high	R463-00	2450 x 1225 x 3.0	R749-90	38 x 38	R139-86	R184-86	150 x 50 x 20 x 2	R279-00	R425-24	20 x 3	R39-90	20 x 3	R39-90		
1.5m high	R541-50	2450 x 1225 x 4.0	R1 032-77	50 x 50	R169-92	R239-88	175 x 50 x 20 x 2	R289-02	R440-52	20 x 5	R47-88	25 x 3	R46-50		
1.8m high	R586-30	2500 x 1200 x 5.0	R1 207-20	76 x 76	R279-90	R359-94	200 x 50 x 20 x 2	R298-98	R458-43	25 x 5	R54-90	25 x 5	R54-90		
2.0m high	R630-00	2500 x 1200 x 6.0	R1 593-72	100 x 100		R469-92				30 x 3	R56-04	30 x 3	R56-04		
2.4m high	R759-81									30 x 5	R71-88	40 x 3	R75-00		
										40 x 5	R105-00	40 x 5	R105-00		
										50 x 3	R88-92	50 x 3	R88-92		
										50 x 5	R129-00	50 x 5	R129-00		
												Round Bar	6m		
												6mm	R15-90		
												8mm	R24-96		
												10mm	R36-00		
												12mm	R54-90		
												16mm	R99-00		
												20mm	R189-00		

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6.8m 38x38x3 ST	R333-33	6m 21x3 PIPE	R125-04	6m 60x4.5 PIPE	R540-00
6m 50x25x2.5 RECT	R307-80	6m 34x3 PIPE	R205-20	6m RF8 WINDOW	R200-94
6m 50x25x3 RECT	R362-52	5.6m 34x1.6 PIPE	R110-32	6m RE17 WINDOW	R222-30
6m 63x25x2 RECT	R218-88	6.5m 34x1.6 PIPE	R128-04	6m CR CHAN 30x30x1.6	R94-68

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DIARY

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 Farmer's 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: Dog walk for Husky Rescue at Smuts House Museum, Jan Smuts Ave, Irene. Contact Cheryl 083 376-1734 or info@smutshouse.co.za.

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

6: Dog walk for Dogs For Cats at Smuts

House Museum, Jan Smuts Ave, Irene. Contact Cheryl 083 376-1734 or info@smutshouse.co.za.

12: Victus Christi Farmer's 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

26: Dog walk for Dogs For Cats at Smuts House Museum, Jan Smuts Ave, Irene. Contact Cheryl 083 376-1734 or info@smutshouse.co.za.

2016

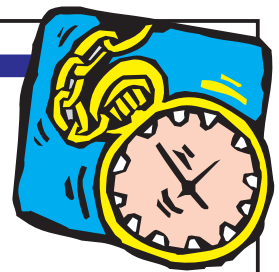
January

2: Last Quarter

3: Perihelion

10: New Moon

16: First Quarter



24: Full Moon

25-27: 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.

28: 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.

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

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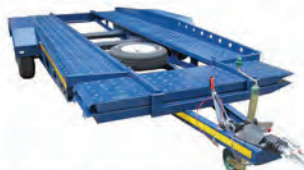
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Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

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, kaings 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@wfm.co.za	Organic produce and Crafter's Market. www.wfm.co.za .
Every Saturday	Bosheuwel 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
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	Schalk 082 561-9409 info@victuschristi.org.za	Arts & crafts, fine art, food, fresh meat & produce and home industry
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.
Sunday					
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 to 15:00	Corner Montecasino Boulevard and William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 www.fmarket.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



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Peas and cellphones

At this time of the year, the two oldest members of our family like to do what our grandmothers did, namely sit at the kitchen table shelling peas.

We do this a couple of times a week as the peas growing in our veg patch mature, blanching and freezing large quantities to see us through next winter.

It's a funny thing, shelling peas, and for both of us it brings back memories of our childhoods. OK, if I'm honest I can't remember either of my grandmothers shelling peas, but one of them, certainly, would have, having been married to a grocer and living on a smallholding. And she certainly taught her daughters how to shell peas because they I can remember at their kitchen tables, aprons on, working away busily.

My other grandmother? Not a chance. She was far too grand. I'm not sure she could even boil an egg.

The point about shelling peas is much the same as many of the old kitchen tasks. It's pretty mindless repetitive work, but it has to be done. Think of peeling spuds, dicing carrots or bottling peaches. One by one, you twist the pod open, scrape the peas out with your thumb and allow them to drop into your bowl. And repeat. Twist, scrape, repeat.

Gradually the basket of pea pods diminishes while the bowl of peas grows fuller. Not exactly rocket science and once you've got the hang of it you can do it without thinking, which gives you time to... talk.

Now I know many will ask why we bother to shell peas and freeze them when one can buy peas ready-shelled and frozen in the supermarket. My response is only half about the fact that ours taste better, not at all about the fact that apart from the labour involved in growing and watering them that they're free, and more to do with the fact that they give us the opportunity to sit together and chat.

And so the two of us sit shelling away and enjoying a good natter. Not necessarily deep and meaningful conversation about the State of the Nation, Nkandlagate or #FeesMustFall, all of which (and more) being topics worthy of heated discussion and debate, but rather an opportunity to spend some time together talking about our day, reminiscing about trips we've made, things we've done, people we've known and so on. And in a relationship and marriage that has seen more than 40 summers, we have a lot to reminisce about, and we still enjoy each other's company, which is a blessing in itself.

Last weekend our daughter, who no longer lives at home, came

to stay and we inveigled her to join us in the shelling job. She's a pretty good conversationalist, too, so we thought her company would make for some pleasant family bonding, something we are woefully short on nowadays, as the family members go about their work, social and love-lives in their separate spheres. With surprisingly little protest, said daughter duly joined us (time spent pea shelling, you understand, cuts into the time available to watch Dance Moms or re-runs of Top Gear on the goggle-box).

But there was only one problem: she brought her cellphone with her to the kitchen table. And no sooner had she sat down to start shelling than a vitally important Whatface conversation began with a friend or friends unknown in some far-off place, which resulted in her dropping her pea pod in favour of a deeply engrossing clickety-click session on her phone.

Now what's the etiquette here?

We know it's not acceptable to hold a loud conversation on one's phone in a restaurant or a bank (though people do) or to have one's phone ring (and answer it) in a cinema or a theatre (though people do), but is it socially acceptable to sit in the company of others, even if they're your parents doing nothing more meaningful than shelling peas, while holding a silent conversation on your phone? After all, if one receives an actual phone call, manners and common sense would have one leave the room to talk, wouldn't it? Well, that's what I do, at least, if only to be able to hear the caller above the hubbub in the room.

Call me old-fashioned, but I've yet to be convinced that the benefits of cellphones aren't outweighed by the fact that we've thrown a lot of social niceties out of the window with their use. And so while we parentals soldiered on with our shelling our daughter clicked away on her keyboard. Not quite the family bonding, chit-chat experience we'd hoped for, and certainly not a case of "many hands make light work."

Not that it matters, really, we've still got a freezer-full of peas.



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