SAUTENG SMAY 2019 MAY 2019 HOW TO MAKE YOUR PLOT PROFITABLE



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f Facebook facebook.com/gautengsmallholder

PUBLISHER & EDITOR

Pete Bower email: gautengsmallholder@gmail.com

RESEARCH EDITOR

Vanessa Bower email: vanessa.bower@mweb.co.za

PRODUCTION EDITOR

Lilian Thompson email: graphics@gautengsmallholder.co.za

ADVERTISEMENT SALES

Jackie Browning Cell: 082 955-3162 email: adsales@gautengsmallholder.co.za

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FRONT COVER

Orstriches make good guard animals and their meat is highly prized by the health-conscious.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower More of the sam

y the time you read this the national election will probably have come and gone. If the pundits were right, President Cyril Ramaphosa will still be president. Or not. The ANC's majority will have shrunk. Or not. The DA will be in charge of the Western Cape and Gauteng.

Or not. The EFF will have grown in support. Or not. And the ANC's little band of criminals, dolts and bumblers in the form of Mesdames Dlamini, Mokonyane, and Joemat-Pettersson and Messrs Gigaba and Zwane (to name a few) will be headed back to parliament for another session of snoozing on the green leather benches after snouting around in the trough at taxpayers' expense.

Having seen only one change of government in my lifetime I believe it's too much to expect for anything radical to happen, even if the ANC's thievery and ineptitude has been flayed open like a rotting carcass for all to see. So, no, the ANC won't be unseated and it will remain to be seen whether President Ramaphosa emerges stronger (and therefore able to work against the remaining Zuma-ite faction of crooks and disruptors) or whether he emerges in a straight-up fight with the Zuma-ite faction, and therefore risks being unseated and replaced by another crook before his full tenure is up.

For one thing is for sure: it will be a little while yet before Adv Shamila Batohi has her ducks sufficiently in a row to prosecute those in high places who have been caught accepting Bosasa bribes and Gupta largesse. Eager to get on with the job she may be, but careless she is not and she will make sure she has watertight cases to present before she ventures before a judge, because she knows she will be up against some of the toughest and most ruthless legal brains in the country who will very quickly pick up on any weakness in her cases. And will tear her to shreds.

Thus, Batohi will be following the adage made famous by Col Robert Baden-Powell at the siege of Mafeking, namely "softly, softly catchee monkey" as she sets about her

So if we can't expect a huge political shake up after the election, and if the wheels of justice continue to turn at snail's pace, what can we look forward to? Not a lot, really. The economy won't be recovering vigorously any time soon for a number of reasons. Firstly, you can't expect the ANC to suddenly see the light and ditch its expensive socialist fiscal policies or inefficient labour policy or even to set about reducing the size of the bloated government, oversized cabinet etc. Secondly, the government doesn't have the money even to pay for what it's set out to pay for at the moment, such as fee free higher education and the social grant, even if corruption and wasteful expenditure were to stop dead tomorrow.

So there's no pile of cash available to pump into major infrastructure developments that would boost the civil engineering sector and mop up a lot of unemployment, for example. Thirdly, no foreigner in his or her right mind is going to look at substantial private investment in South Africa while two of three major ratings agencies have us rated as junk.

Fourthly, the agriculture sector remains in trouble as a result of ongoing drought, which bodes ill for food prices, and thus for inflation, and uncertainty over expropriations. And I can go on. At the heart of our ills are the security situation and unemployment, which are linked, because if more young men had decent jobs fewer would be inclined to hijack, rob and murder.

But at the heart of the unemployment problem is that many unemployed are unemployable, because our woeful education system has not equipped them (and continues to not equip them) with the skills and knowledge necessary to perform even the most basic tasks.

But turning out young workers educated with skills to make them employable requires fixing the education system, which in turn means training up and skilling a whole new generation of teachers. Which will necessitate re-opening the teacher training colleges we used to have (another folly of the ANC in closing them).

And even if there was the money available to do that (which there isn't ~ see above), it's a process that in itself will take years.

And so the merry-go-round will continue to turn, and the best we as citizens can hope for is that the sun continues to shine, the rain continues to fall when it should, that we continue as individuals and families to love and laugh and enjoy good health. And that, in four, eight or twelve years' time the electorate chooses a government with the right credentials, drive and morals to make this country as great as it really could be.



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MAILBAG He went off-grid for less than R100 0

ir ~ In answer to letter from Richard Albrecht in your March 2019 edition I get the idea he is pro-Eskom and anti-selfsufficiency.

Mr Albrecht, you use the word research in the introduction to your letter. Quite evidently you have not done any research. Me and my wife have done nearly two years' research through a very good friend of mine (Mr google and various other solar platforms) before we decided to go off grid.

We are proud to say that we are completely off grid for slightly more than a year and our life quality has not changed at all.

This all for a cost well below R100 000. Our Eskom bill was an average of R3 500 per month for two people (rural). ☐ Batteries: Have you heard of lithium ion batteries? (Research) Guaranteed by supplier for 20 years. If used properly,ie, not discharging below 70%, it could have a life span of approximately 30

years. A good and wellknown brand name through a reputable dealer sells a 2,4kW LI stackable at about R12 000.

This replaces eight to ten FLD batteries. Believe me, we have done the exercise. One of these is about the size of a compact disc player. Space no problem. No additions necessary.

We have 4,8kW, equal to two CD players stacked.

☐ Solar panels: I have a written guarantee of 20 years on the panels. Maybe you

should look at (and research) video footage on panels on social media platforms on how they drive 4x4 vehicles over panels with no damage. You need hail bigger than soccer balls to damage them. Again, through personal experience, a good quality Canadian panel of 350W retails at R2 000 to R2 200. On my system there are twelve.

☐ Contingency plan: This I also researched and covered

Continued on page 6



- Reduce your electricity bill
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The Editor welcomes your letters, comments and

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MAILBAG

Pesticides: 'Go live in a flat in Sandton'

▼ ir ~ Hear, hear to the gentleman on his letter ("Insect 'tolerator despairs of poisons" April 2019)!! And I am appalled at your response.

If your garden does not have insects it is not an ecosystem

and you should not have the privilege of the wonderful birds visiting your garden. People who throw poisons and by default poison the birds and any other creatures that should exist in this 'would be' wonderful ecosystem. It should be a crime.

Go live in an apartment block in Sandton City if you don't want to live with the bugs and the birds.

Denise Downing

By email Clearly you must have flunked your comprehension tests at school because if you hadn't you would have understood what I meant when I wrote "While we don't condone or suggest the wholesale use of pesticides, or of chemical formulations of any kind (we prefer to do things the organic way) there are times when their use is

By extension that would mean the judicious use of pesticides or chemicals, after careful consideration of the alternatives, taking into cognisance (and taking steps to minimise) all the possible side effects, and only when absolutely necessary. D'you geddit now? This correspondence is now closed. ~ Editor

FF-GRID

From page 5 myself for three days of darkness. You must remember that even in rainv weather, there is still intermittent light coming through that still charges the batteries. Again, personal experience. We went through a patch of bad light once and had to start the generator for one hour to charge the batteries. ☐ High energy items: My wife uses the washing machine like normal, bread baking machine, microwave, two large double door fridges and a small bar fridge runs 24/7. Kettle, slow cooker, frying pan also no problem. I do however agree with gas geysers (R6 400 for a 24litre) and gas stove (R1 500 for a good quality Italian brand) but that is part of self sufficiency and gas is a lot cheaper than electricity. Motto of the story: I think you should do some research Mr Albrecht, because a family of four CAN go off grid for well below R150 000. And, no worries with load shedding or ridiculous price increases.

Marius Kachelhoffer By email





Humans have lost the plot

Sir ~ I have realised the human race has lost the plot. No, not that one ~ that will happen later after the election.

I was looking at the price of new vehicles...gee whizz, where are we going when a common or garden bakkie can cost upward of R600 000? Even some of the items in your mag carry ridiculous price tags. I mean who can afford a hundred grand for an (expletive deleted) ride-on lawnmower? Cars today are packed with useless "techno-low-gee" and seem to be aimed at people who can't drive, what with EBD and ABS and stability control and all the other expensive gizmos. Who needs an Infotainment centre and cars with blue teeth? Who needs to be nagged by a computerised voice telling us there is a vehicle approaching from behind at 125,687km/h? A real driver should be able to see that (in

Also the airbag thing: what was wrong with safety belts? And who needs seven explosive devices aimed at them just waiting to be activated by some whimsical sensor to a computer that has no logic?

his mirror).

And how's this? I have just discovered that tax on new vehicles amounts to 42% of



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Midrand 082 791 3393 Porky Scriven Tzaneen 082 604 5828 Jason Scriven the price, which includes VAT, carbon tax, tyre tax and excise duty.

The buyer will also have to pay interest on the tax because that is part of the financed amount. No wonder prices are through the roof. Aye, we have lost it. Computers can't drive cars. Seems they can't fly planes either.

No prob for Boeing though.

Just update the software and tell the pilots about it this time. Never mind the 350 poor sods that perished.

Colin McGuinness *By email*

Beware rat poison & owls

Sir ~ I am a plot resident in the Walkerville area and provide a water trough for the

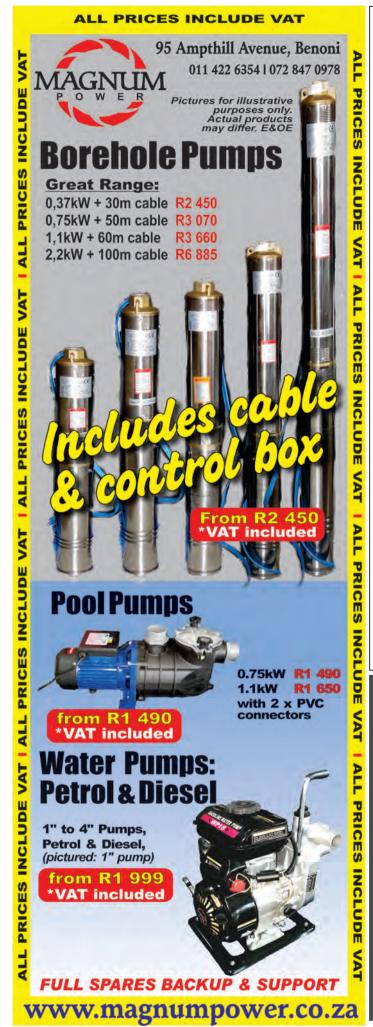
MAILBAG

little wild animals, strays and birds.

A while ago I found the pair of spotted eagle owls who lived in a great big tree on my plot, dead, one in the trough and the other a few metres away, who had obviously eaten a rat, died from poison because a rat has to drink water after it eats the poison and then

Continued on page 8





NEWS Bapsfontein maplotters win top cheese award

apsfontein cheesemakers Norma and Rina Belcher of Belnori Boutique Cheesery have won South Africa's 2019 Dairy Product of the Year award for their St Francis of Ashissi cream cheese. Made with half goat's milk and half Jersey milk it is inoculated with penicillium camemberti spores, wrapped in ash and allowed to mature for two weeks.

The accolade was presented

in Cape Town at the Agri-Expo Qualite Awards, with Belnori's entry being adjudged the best from among 800 dairy products from among the top-ranking dairies and cheeseries around South Africa

The Belchers have been making cheese on their plot in Nest Park for the past 17 years and have won many awards for their products, but this is their first Dairy Product of the Year award.

MAILBAG

From page 7

dies.

Because a new owl has come to our area I now fear for its life and went to inform my neighbours, but I hope that this will make the people aware of this terrible destruction.

For example, the manufacturers could state that their product is safe.

Dave Dickinson

Walkerville

There is a brand of rat "poison" which is not poison at all. It comprises pellets made of a natural substance that, when ingested, lacerates the rat's gut so that it dies of internal bleeding.

The corpse of the rat, or even a rat caught live by an owl, is thus harmless to the bird.

~ Editor

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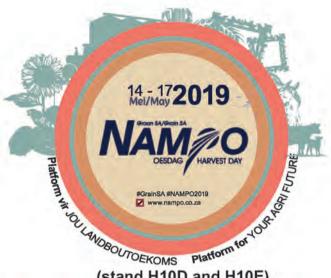
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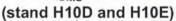
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NEWS Swine fever hits pigs in North West

resh from dealing with an outbreak of Foot & Mouth Disease among cattle in Limpopo, state

veterinarians from the Dept of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (Daff) are now trying to contain an outbreak of

North West Province in the Zeerust area, just outside of the ASF controlled area. The outbreak was reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in early April.

Brexit delay gives SA breathing space

he delayed exit of Britain from the European Union has given exporters and traders another few months of breathing space to undertake trade negotiations with their British counterparts in anticipation of wholesale changes in trade protocols after the Brexit comes into force

Already, Australian and New Zealand officials have been holding feverish talks with their counterparts in the UK to secure favourable trade deals for their produce post-Brexit, and South African

trade minister Rob Davies and his department have also been talking to the Brits. One of the difficulties facing all the negotiating teams is the lack of certainty as to what form the actual break-up with Europe will take. Will there be a "hard Brexit" where Britain simply walks away from the EU and makes its own negotiations afresh with whomever she pleases? Or will there be some kind of deal done that ensures that Britain remain involved in European trade in some form of common market, perhaps with lesser restrictions and EU

red tape than is currently the case? And, if so, how much less will those restrictions be? Will Britain, for example, be free to negotiate freely outside the EU, or will there be some form of control from Brussels on tariffs and deals?

Britain is one of South Africa's major export destinations for agricultural exports.

The virus is endemic in wildlife in the ASF controlled area and specific measures for keeping pigs in this area are described in the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 which also includes restrictions on the movement of pigs and pig products from this area. The affected farm has been placed under quarantine by the North West Provincial Veterinary Services, who are Continued on page 12



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NEWS

Smallholders get help with veg marketing

programme is complete all nine provinces will be implementing the the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (Shep) Approach and more than 5 000 smallholder producers, of which 50% are youth, will benefit during the current

Medium-Term Strategic Framework.

For the past few years the Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (Daff) has been building its own capacity to implement the SHEP. As part of this process, Daff opened an office in Japan in 2012 to revitalise relations between the department and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in South Africa.

The Shep is a "Market-

Oriented Agriculture and Promotion in Africa" project that encourages producers to

Continued on page 15

also doing follow-up investigations and applying disease control measures for this outbreak.

ASF is a severe disease in pigs which can cause pigs to become sick very fast and can result in the death of large numbers of pigs very quickly. ASF does not affect humans in any way.

The disease is transmitted by contact with infected pigs or warthogs carrying infected ticks (tampans) from the endemic area. Feeding of infected swill (kitchen waste) can also transmit the disease.

In order to prevent infection of pigs, farmers are advised to keep pigs in enclosures/camps that are warthog-proof. It is also important to only buy pigs that come from a healthy herd and not to buy pigs of an unknown health status. Under no circumstances should swill be fed to pigs unless it has been cooked for an hour in order to inactivate the ASF virus and other diseases of concern. Pig farmers throughout South Africa are advised to be careful as to where they buy pigs, how they keep pigs and what they feed pigs, as the disease can be devastating to their animals, says the department.



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o cater for the needs of In a break from the past, smallholders who have no internet access, and to those who only want to field sales enquiries from within Gauteng and surrounds we will be reintroducing classified advertisements in the magazine from the June edition.

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This, we believe, will discourage freeloaders and scamsters hell-bent on

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RKETING

From page 12

move away from "growing and selling" their produce to "grow to sell." The Shep approach is geared towards assisting smallholder producers to increase their income by giving them the expertise to better manage group dynamics and improving production through various techniques, such as knowing the market requirement before they start to grow. The Shep project embodies the concepts of farming as a

business which is what South African smallholder producers need, says the department. The JICA office agreed to set up a training programme for South African smallholder producers and Extension Practitioners as well as establishing pilot projects with relevant infrastructure. The implementation of Shep has seen more than 743 smallholders benefiting so far. fares. These producers now





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WILDLIFE¹

Frogs are croaking in large numbers

mallholders who are lucky enough to have frogs on their plots will associate them with spring. When one hears the croaking chorus starting up, one can welcome the prospect of warmer weather.

Some of the frogs found in Gauteng have very descriptive names: Bubbling Kassina, Common Caco, Snoring Puddle Frog, Pygmy Toad,

Habitat destruction is driving the alarming extinction of these important amphibians

Bushveld rainfrog, Banded Rubber Frog, Tremolo Sand Frog, Striped Stream Frog, Guttural Toad and the Raucous Toad. We also find Giant Bullfrog, Common Platanna, Natal Sand Frog, Red Toad, Olive Toad, Common River Frog and the Plain Grass Frog in the province.

The common belief is that frogs croak to indicate to females where to find them, but frogs actually vocalise for a number of other reasons as

well.

There are territorial calls, which warn other males that they have come too close. There are distress calls when a frog is seized by a predator or otherwise molested. These calls alert other frogs of the presence of a predator and in some cases aid in escape by startling the predator. Male frogs are quite indiscriminate when they clasp

another frog in order to mate. The release call is used by another male or a disinterested female to alert the frog to the fact that he has made a mistake.

Frogs are extremely sensitive to their environment and a drop in their numbers is an indication that the environment has become compromised. Most smallholders in Gauteng can describe how many frogs there used to be, but in the last few years their habitats have been badly affected.

According to the Endangered Wildlife Trust, research since the 1980s has shown that modern amphibian declines and extinctions exceed that of any animal class over the last few millennia. Currently, almost half of all known amphibian species worldwide are experiencing population declines.

If amphibians are to survive, it is critical not only that aquatic ecosystems are protected, but also that associated terrestrial habitat is maintained.

So what can we do to help?

Continued on page 19

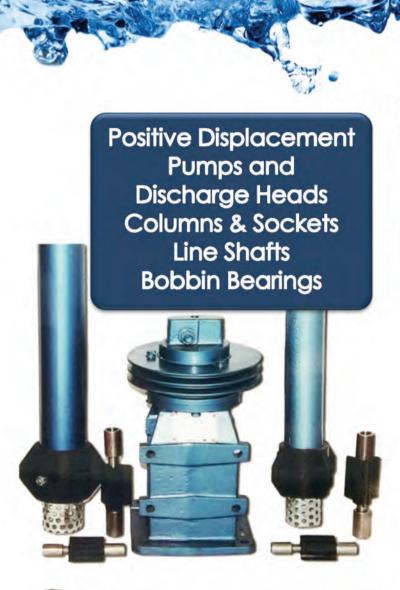


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From page 16

Start by installing a pond planted up with marginal, floating and submerged aquatics to attract frogs from all the different frog families. There are many plans available for building your own pond or you can install a ready-made one.

Floating plants provide a platform for frogs to perch upon, as well as a hiding place below the leaves. Reedlike and other marginal aquatic plants provide an attractive habitat for a variety

attrictive mustaction a variety

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Frog in the house

of frogs and toads. Watergrasses provide protection for tadpoles and encourage spawning.

Provide hiding places. Frogs, and in particular toads, need a sheltered place to hide during the heat of the day, and also as a place for hibernation during the dry season.

Suitable shelters are beneath stones, in tree stumps or under logs. Rockeries are ideal for frogs.

Frogs are carnivorous and

feed largely on insects and other invertebrates. However some species such as bullfrogs sometimes consume larger prey such as mice, lizards and other frogs. Install an outside light near the pond, which will attract insects.

Do not use harmful chemicals, either in the water or among

the plants.

However, it is also during the colder months, when we don't hear or see them that we need to remember our frogs and toads.

Amphibians are cold-blooded so their body temperatures take on the temperature of the environment around WILDLIFE

them. During the winter, they go into a state of hibernation, which is a state of dormancy, like a long, deep sleep where the frogs' activities slow down almost completely for the winter.

There are a few things you can do to see your frogs safely Continued on page 21





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LAND MANAGEMENT

Practices to help your land's health

ver the years there have been many trends in agriculture, including permaculture, sustainable, organic, biological farming, biodynamic

farming, no till planting and conservation methods of growing and grazing. The term that seems to be coming up quite often lately is "regenerative farming".

Conferences have already been held in South Africa to explore the concept in local contexts.

According to the Regenerative Agriculture Initiative, regener-

ative agriculture is a holistic land management practice that "leverages the power of photosynthesis in plants to close the carbon cycle", and Continued on page 23

From page 19

through the Gauteng winter. Remember that some live in the water (aquatic) and some live on the land (terrestrial). If you are going to clean your pond, do it during summer or early autumn before the first frosts. After that, avoid

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disturbing hibernating aquatic

frogs. These species spend the winter nearly motionless, sprawled on top of mud or partially covered with pond litter in oxygen-rich water. Provide safe havens for terrestrial frogs to spend the winter on your property. These animals seek seasonal cover in logs, rock cracks and crevices, or by burrowing under compost, soil or leaf litter. Leave some dead logs or trees lying around the pond area. Heap up piles of rocks and stones, dead leaves, sticks, brush and twigs to serve as comfy winter dens. Any hollow or space beneath a house or veranda and or

other fairly deep crevices where sufficient moisture will allow them to overwinter is ideal.

Some frogs will burrow into the sand for the winter, so avoid digging near your pond from autumn onwards.





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LAND MANAGEMENT

From page 21

build soil health, crop resilience and nutrient density.

The integrity and function of many soils have become seriously impaired, so much so that much of the applied chemical fertiliser is simply washed away and ends up polluting rivers and dams. Regenerative agriculture treats the land more holistically, taking a big picture approach instead of worrying only about crop yields. This method uses a set of farming principles to not just create food, but a better world, too. In essence, it improves





resources rather than depleting them.

The land is managed using the no till or minimum tillage method. One spoon of healthy soil should contain more living organisms than there are people on the planet, but tillage destroys soil structure and causes erosion. Furthermore, synthetic fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides all have negative impacts on it. Keeping the soil covered at all times by using cover crops or leaving plant residues on the land will protect soil from wind and water erosion, provide food for the microorganisms and lower the

temperature of the soil itself. Soil fertility is increased in regenerative systems biologically through application of compost and animal manures, and by using crop rotation. This helps to restore the plant/soil microbiome to promote liberation, transfer and cycling of essential soil nutrients. The idea is that something planted today will change the soil in a way that influences future crops. A common practice in regenerative agriculture involves planting perennial crops. If your crop lasts for

Continued on page 26





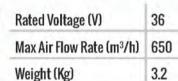




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LAND MANAGEMENT

From page 23

two years, the soil will not be disturbed as often.

Another practice is to keep living roots as long as possible in the ground. Living roots feed soil biology by providing carbon. This, in turn, fuels the nutrient cycle that feeds plants.

Holistically planned grazing also plays a role. Grazing of plants stimulates the plants to pump more carbon into the

soil, which again drives nutrient cycling by feeding biology. By cycling more carbon out of the atmosphere and putting it into the ground, we can actively mitigate climate volatility.

It goes without saying that pollinators, predator insects, earthworms and all of the microbiology are incremental to any system. The result is improved soil fertility and greater insect and plant

biodiversity.

Agroforestry can also be part of the regenerative agriculture method. This is the intentional integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems. Silvopasture has trees and animals in the same place. Alley cropping is the practice of planting crops between rows of trees to generate farm income as the trees mature. Forest farming entails multi-story cropping where different lavers produce food. Trees are also used as windbreaks and are planted alongside rivers riparian forest buffers are natural or re-stablished areas along rivers and streams made up of trees, shrubs, and grasses.

Promoters of regenerative farming say that this method takes the best of organic and permaculture agricultural methods but takes them further, always with the view to improving the soil and

doing without off-farm inputs. This method should also take into consideration the combination of all the factors on an individual property. According to Ecosoil South Africa, regenerative methods: ☐ Build topsoil deep down drought resistant, fertile; Restore soil function lower fertiliser use and pollution substantially; ☐ Improve plant health lower pesticide use; ☐ Increase water infiltration and water holding capacity; ☐ Improve crop quality – appearance, nutrient density and shelf life.





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LIVESTOCK

How herbivores graze your pasture

ivestock in your pasture has an impact on both the plants and the soil. They do this through selective grazing, trampling, fouling and pugging the soil. To manage your grazing optimally, it is useful to know how each species eats. When a cow eats grass, her tongue sweeps out in an arc, wraps around the plant parts, and then pulls them between the teeth on the lower jaw

and a pad on the upper jaw. The cow swings its head so its teeth can sever the grass. Unlike selective grazers, a cow is most likely to approach grasses from directly above. It then grinds the food and mixes it with saliva before swallowing. The lips, teeth, and jaws of a cow make it difficult to get closer than 5cm from the soil. They eat most efficiently when the grass is about 15cm tall. At

that height, cows can snip the grass and don't have to pull it into their mouths. This allows them to concentrate on arranging the feed into a bolus for

Any time the feed is longer or shorter than about 15cm, cows have to work harder for each mouthful of food. When eating efficiently, cows can take about 80 bites a minute, eight hours a day, with about twelve hours for rumination. That often adds up to nearly 60kg of food each day. Horses have teeth on the upper and lower jaws. A set of incisors are in the front of the mouth for biting and severing and a set of molars used for grinding are in the back. Horses have a short tongue and a sensitive, strong, upper lip that brings in food for the front incisors to bite. Horses are selective grazers, yet spend less time eating than cows or sheep. With horses alone in a pasture, you end up with some parts of a pasture that

are never grazed. Sheep do not extend their tongues. Rather their split lips move away from the teeth on the lower jaw, bringing in feed and cutting it across a dental pad on the upper jaw. Sheep take smaller bites than cows and can be more selective. They also can sever plants closer to the ground. As they are selective grazers,

Continued on page 31

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Goats browsing From page 29 they approach grass tufts from the side.

These main livestock types are basically grazers, eating grasses, legumes and other leafy plants.

Goats on the other hand are browsers, consuming woodier plants and eating leaves off shrubs. Goats have a pad on the upper jaw like sheep and cows but their upper lips are very mobile and their tongues are great for selecting and grabbing. They are multistrata grazers that eat at an average height of 200mm, although shrubs up to 1,5m high will be browsed. Goats can be very beneficial in reclamation of pastureland that has gone to brush or weeds. The goats eat the weeds and halt progression of alien invasive plants. In managing your veld you also need to acknowledge the effects that livestock has through trampling. To a young grass seedling the

size and grazing habits of

Certain plant species are more sensitive to trampling and the stage of maturity also influences the effect of heavy traffic. The size of the livestock also enters the picture. Livestock also foul where they graze, which can help to improve the veld in the long term. The urine and manure

recycled into the soil has many benefits but this recycling is random and, therefore, has different effects on the different plants within the field. Often excreta is concentrated near water or salt sources and shade spots. And excreta contain larvae of intestinal parasites that can be transmitted from animal to animal in heavily soiled pastures.

The weight of livestock animals has its impact on the soil and the feed growing in that soil. The indentations of the animals' hooves into soil, especially damp or wet soil are called pugs.

Given the impact that different livestock has on the land, the smallholder needs to consider rotational grazing and perhaps multi-species grazing.

To have a successful multi-

Continued on page 32









LIVESTOCK

From page 31

species grazing system, it must be well-managed using some kind of rotational plan. You must consider additional fencing requirements, as you cannot successfully contain sheep, goats, or calves with traditional horse fencing, for example.

Other species that can be turned out on pasture include chickens or turkeys. One of the benefits is that they are very good at spreading manure around. They tear up the piles to get any grain that wasn't fully digested or to eat the insects that live in fresh manure. There might be





Mixed species grazing some concern with botulism, because there can be more Clostridium load on fields where poultry have ranged. Another advantage of multispecies grazing is improved parasite control. Generally you have different parasites in different species, because they are host-specific and can't mature in the wrong host. One can break the life cycle of many parasites by multi-species grazing. However, several weeks or even months, depending on the climate, are required to notice a parasite load reduction.

There can be risks in terms of diseases passed from one species to another. You will need to research to find out if there are any diseases (eg, the zoonotic bacterial disease leptospirosis, for which cattle are often the host) prevalent in your area that might need to be addressed. Your biosecurity can also be compromised by mixing species.

Many smallholders prefer to rotate the animals. They'll have horses in the field for a period, followed by cattle or sheep, which will eat what the horses have left. This makes handling of the livestock easier.

The Smallholder has published many articles over the years on veld management. Here are some final points to remember:

Use a grazing system that

carries surplus material over to the dry months when shortages can be expected.

Rest some camps in spring so the grass does not need to draw on its reserves.

Use rest periods for the seasonal accumulation of growth reserves.

Rest some camps in autumn so that the grasses can translocate their reserves to storage organs.

Rest the grass when the veld is in poor condition to ensure seed production.

Giving a full growing season's rest for a camp every third year will result in more vigorous plants and therefore higher plant production.



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FEATURED SPECIES

This could make you a millionaire ~ eventually

f you are a young smallholder and you plan to live on your property for some decades there is a crop that you can plant that will, after some years, give you a good annual income and, when the time is right, a bonanza right at the end when you decide to pack it

Plant today and start growing,

begin to harvest in five to seven years, and do that every year for the rest of your life. Then cut the tree down and sell the timber for a huge profit.

It's walnuts. Walnuts are very large, long lived trees which when fully mature can grow to 16m with a spread of 35m. China, the USA, the EU, Ukraine and Chile are the

most significant growers of walnuts according to the US Dept of Agriculture. A limitation on the wholesale planting of walnuts in South Africa has been a shortage of available saplings, although Gauteng has at least one tree nursery that can supply smallholders' needs.

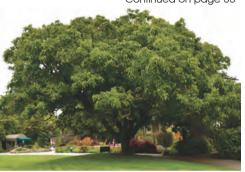
Or you can start yourself. You will need a plot of land and some viable walnuts. It's really that easy. Just soak the nut, sprout it for a few weeks and then plant it.

According to one calculation, you can plant around three hundred trees on 1 ha plot. In seven years they will start producing around over 6 000 kg of walnuts annually, Mature black walnut tree

which can fetch up to R2 million.

Walnuts have similar climatic requirements to apples so need cold winters and dry summers, so they can be grown successfully in the colder parts of Gauteng, our rainfall being on the "dry" side when compared to other growing regions. Climatic prerequisites for walnut production include approximately 800 mm of irrigation water or rainfall per year,

Continued on page 35









Fruit of the walnut showing the green fleshy wood while the exterior, the hard brown shell and the edible female flowers kernel inside.

From page 34 enough cold days, fertile soil with good drainage and temperatures not exceeding 34°C.

Walnut trees produce a double income, as the nuts are collected from about seven years of age, and finally when the trees have grown to harvestable size for timber. For timber the black walnut is usually grown, which growers call a "legacy tree", because it takes about 30 years to reach its prime harvesting size of about 40cm or so for a veneer log. The wood, of course is much prized (think Rolls-Royce dashboards), to the extent that in the UK growers are paid a subsidy if they plant walnuts for timber.

Walnuts have long tap roots so need fertile soils to perform well and good drainage is absolutely essential. Plant walnuts in winter into well prepared soil. The roots of the

toxic substance which limits plantings near each

Walnuts are partially self-fertile but for reliable pollination and cropping two compatible varieties are needed. The male flowers are arranged in long catkins on last year's

develop on new shoots. The pollen is windborne and in some seasons pollen production and female flower opening may not coincide.

The edible part of the walnut is enclosed in a fleshy green husk which splits when the nuts mature. Mechanical harvesting equipment is expensive, and will be a requirement for extensive farming. However, for a smallholder harvesting can be cost-effectively done by hand, simply by shaking the tree to dislodge the nuts. The nuts are washed to remove the tannins which can stain, then sundried for a few days while being turned often. The nuts are dry when the kernels become brittle.

Continued on page 37



Beautiful wood ... restoring a 1960s vintage walnut exude a Triumph TR6 interior with a walnut dashboard.



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PLANNING

Planning your work, and working your plan

ew smallholders have the luxury of buying a vacant plot on which to set up their smallholding exactly as they wish it to be. If you're one of the lucky ones who is able to start from scratch on a piece of undeveloped land, you will need to spend a good deal of time planning very carefully what you are going to do there. But if, like most of us, you move to an established smallholding the plot is unlikely to be just as you want it, so you too will have

Get the most out of your property by deciding what you want to do, and then planning how to do it

to plan the changes that you are going to make.

The benefits of having a management plan are obvious. A plan will:

- ☐ Help you to clarify your aims and aspirations for the property;
- ☐ Identify possibilities for the site which you had not

thought of at first;

- ☐ Achieve consensus between family members with different ideas for the
- ☐ Identify the appropriate areas for different things that vou want to do:
- ☐ Show how all the features of the site can be used and

sustainably developed; ☐ Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the plot's natural resources:

☐ Ensure that visual and aesthetic elements are given proper consideration;

Set out a logical plan of

☐ Allow the work to be phased according to budget;

Continued on page 39



From page 35

Walnuts in the shell will keep in a dry place for a year or more, while deshelled kernels must be refrigerated. The main pest problem is birds while disease problems, apart from root rot caused by waterlogged soils, are walnut blight which can cause black areas on leaves, shoots and

young nuts, may even shrivel the kernel, and dieback may occur. Prevention is through spraying with a copper spray when the tree is dormant. For walnut saplings contact Douw van der Merwe in Vereeniging. Cell 084 506-5125





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Drawing up a plan. Useful tools at your disposal include Google Earth, a GPS, drones and a rudimentary way to set contour lines.

From page 37

- ☐ Identify future requirements and further possibilities for the plot;
- ☐ Provide a permanent record of the whole project; ☐ Act as a focus for
- continued motivation; ☐ Support any applications for finance.

A good place to start is with you and the other people who are going to be involved in developing your ideal plot. What kind of person are you? What are your strengths and what are your weaknesses?

Are you practical and good at DIY or will you need to outsource most of the work? Are you a plant or animal person, are you technical, and are you a people person?

Ask the same questions of the other people who will be working with you.

Then think about what you all want to achieve on the smallholding ~ what are your dreams and aspirations and how realistic are they, given what you have to work with?

Most of us buy a smallholding "with potential" and we make do with what we've

got for the moment. And twenty years later we're still making do, in an inefficient setup that has evolved "on the hoof".

Nowadays we also need to think about managing our smallholding holistically, but conservation goals don't always fit in with the need to maintain an economically viable plot. Careful and detailed planning is needed to achieve an ergonomic whole.

The idea of drawing up a formal plan might seem daunting, but it can be kept simple. Basically you are looking at where you are now, where do you want to to get there.





PLANNING

From page 39

the property. Google Maps is useful here, as is an image off Google Earth.

If you are lucky enough to have access to a drone, aerial pictures of your property will also help.

And there are any number of freeware programs and apps that will give you GPS coordinates of your boundary points and other salient features. Note that these might not be totally accurate, and can change position by a

few metres over time, but at the level of drawing up a working sketch they are fine. If you have sloping ground, some knowledge of how runoff flows on your property will be useful in the plan. You can establish horizontal contour lines very easily using a hosepipe and a bucket of water (see accompanying article).

On the ground, careful observation is important. You are not just looking at what you've got, but how does it all

interact? What is the nature of your soil and does it vary? What are the prevailing winds, what are your average temperatures, what is the average rainfall, how strong is your borehole if you have one? If you have a stream, how strong is it and which direction does it flow in (and what are your water rights concerning draw-off from the stream)? What plants are already growing, what are the existing trees, do you have wildlife on the plot? All these observations tell you more about what you've got to work with. Talk to your neighbours and to the previous owner if possible. Also acknowledge how much money, time and expertise you have for the project. Now analyse what you have and revisit your aims and dreams, to consider how or whether you will be able to achieve them in the desired time-frame.

Preliminary sketches and estimates will give you the basis for discussions about the way forward. By now you might have refined your goals or you might have added to them if more options have

revealed themselves to you during your initial survey. Now you can list what you still need to achieve your objectives in the way of buildings, equipment and landscape elements such as dams or camped pastures. There are many ecological or permaculture designs available to use as inspiration for your own design, which you can adapt to suit what you already have and what is possible on your particular plot.

Once you have designed your ideal landscape you are now in a position to draw up a programme of work. List what has to be done, in what order, along with details of labour, materials, time and costs. The plan and design might be revisited and revised quite often, especially if you are trying to work in harmony with nature.

Get the planning right and you will, one day, with a great deal of work and time, have the smallholding of your dreams.







WATER SAVING -

How to save and re-use water

Ithough the recent wet spell in Gauteng has been a boon to gardeners, the fact is that we live in a dry ~ and drying ~ province which, within only a few years is going to chronically and perpetually be short of water, regardless of what kind of rainy seasons we might enjoy from time to

time

As a result, canny smallholders will want to investigate what they can do on their properties to save water, re-use what they can and capture as much run-off and rainfall as possible.

This is a process that can take some time to investigate and evaluate, and even more time to implement. And that's not to mention the cost involved. Let's start with minimising water usage.

The obvious starting place is to discourage the household from bathing in favour of showering and, in the shower to fit a water-saving shower head. The difference in usage is stark. A bath, even half full, will hold around 80 litres while a shower, especially one fitted with a water-saving head, can use less than 20. Still in the bathroom, it's worth looking at replacing toilet cisterns with the newer dual-flush devices which allow a different volume of water to be used depending on what task was performed in the loo.

If the expense of a dual-flush cistern seems too much, consider simply replacing the mechanism in the cistern with a more modern, adjustable device. Dutton Plastics makes one locally which is inexpensive, easily fitted, and easily adjusted so that you can regulate the amount of water to clear the bowl without wastage.

And these devices have the Continued on page 43

How to mark contour lines

ou don't need a surveyor to establish horizontal contours on your property. In fact, you need nothing more sophisticated than two sticks of equal length, a hosepipe and a bucket of water.

Fasten the sticks to either end of the hose, drag the hose out to approximately where you want to establish the contour.

Holding the sticks and thus the hose ends vertically (with the sticks touching the ground) fill the hose slowly from the bucket at one end while your assistant holds the other end, preferably a bit lower than the filling end. As the hose fills water will gush out of the lower end. Move this end slowly up the slope while continuing to fill

the hose.

When the gushing stops at the moving end, and there is no gushing at the filling end the two points of the sticks are at exactly the same contour level.

It doesn't matter where the middle of the hose lies during this process, as long as no part of it is higher than the ends attached to the sticks.









AUCTION: Corrugated/Widespan Rollformer machines; Guillotines; Steel Structures on behalf of LAVORO TRADING Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 11:00 Plot 27, Reier Rd, Kameeldrif (East) Pretoria

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- 1 x Widespan Rollformer Machine 0.3-0.8 x 762,
- fully automatic, 16 x stage, 7.5kW C control panel, Encoder f or precision length, 10 ton decoiler, Rollout table x 6m
- 1 x Corrugated Rollformer Machine 0.3-.08 x 1225,
 - 1 x 10 ton drop-in decoiler @ 508mm eye, 16 stage corrugated profiled roller with shafts & spacers, 32 x pedestal sets; 1 x 7.5kW control panel, 1 x 4kW static corrugated profile guillotine, 1 x 6m rollout table
- x Flat Sheet Machine (cut to length)
 - 1 x 10 ton drop-in decoiler with manual gripper bars @ 508mm eye, 1 x set over & under leverer straighter hardened & chromed roller set @ 1250 wide, 1 x motorised straight cut static guillotine, 1 x 4 m Roll out tabe x 1250 wide
- 1 x Channel machine corrugated/widespan
- 1 x Slitter machine strips
- 1 x Steel structure 16m x 42m
- Traffic green 0.5 mm Shimbers / lattice truss
- 1 x Steel structure 15 m x 25 m
- 2 x Containers: 1 x 6m / 1 x 12 m





8 x Guillotines

3 x Cut off machines

9 x Railway trolleys

2 x Block & tackles

1 x I MI scale

1 x 7.5 ton electric hoists

1 x Gantry frame for hoist

2 x I-beams 146 mm x 250 x 13 m / 11 m

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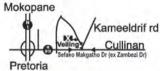


8 x Generators, Braais(drums, grids, stands) Cutting torch, Workshop benches, Steel racks (6m length), Steel benches, Trolley jacks,



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From page 41

which, if your water supply is achieved using a pressure booster pump (as many smallholdings are), will save you electricity as your pump will be spared from switching on and off repeatedly as the last little trickle of water enters the cistern through an old ball-valve mechanism.

If you are even more zealous about saving water you can remove your water-flush loo altogether and replace it with a modern waterless unit which, through a series of ventilation pipes and other mechanisms allows the urine content of the toilet to evaporate, and the moisture from the faeces to do likewise, leaving only an odourless compound which can be used as compost in the garden. Well, that's what the manufacturers say, anyway.

Still in the bathroom it should be standard practice to teach household members to switch off taps when brushing teeth. And, of course, all leaky tap washers should be quickly replaced.

Next is to replace old, water-guzzling washing machines (especially top-loaders) with more efficient devices (usually front-loaders) Your task is made easy in that increasingly washing machine manufacturers make it easy for buyers to spot the water-saving ones (which, if one is honest, are usually more expensive than the top loaders...).

You don't really need to be

concerned about your dishwasher. Most use surprisingly little water to get your crockery and cutlery spotless. But, in the kitchen it's worth considering using the dishwasher as much as possible, rather than washing stuff by hand in the sink which can in fact be more water-

wasteful than a machine wash.

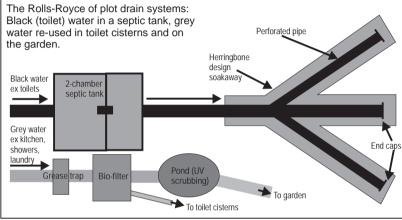
WATER SAV

Apart from the replacingtoilet option above, all of these interventions can be done relatively painlessly and at low cost.

More complicated, long-term and expensive is the next obvious household alteration, and that's to replumb certain parts of the house to re-use waste water rather than to use clean potable water, and to re-use any remaining (usable) waste water for irrigation.

Here's how: Firstly, there is no reason to use fresh drinking

Continued on page 44









WATER SAVING

From page 43

water to flush a toilet. Grey water, particularly if it has been rudimentarily filtered, is eminently suitable, and preferable from a saving point of view.

You can do this by redirecting all of your bath, shower, basin and washing machine water into a separate tank, which should be underground to allow gravity to assist with drainage. Such waste water does not run under great pressure so you can do the

necessary pipe alterations using LDPE irrigation pipe. And, if you pass your kitchen waste water through a grease trap you can add the water from your dishwasher and kitchen sink.

You will now have a regular supply of a few hundred litres of grey water, which will be slightly opaque because of all the soap suds it contains and have a slight odour to it. If you now pass this water through a simple gravity-feed sand and gravel filter (which needs be no more complicated than a 210 litre drum filled with suitable layers of filter material and into which at the top the grey water is pumped, even adding an anaerobic chamber where micro-organisms can attack the harmful bacteria it may contain, you will finish up with a fluid which is almost clear, and odourless enough to use to refill your toilet

the underground tank with a submersible pump and float switch, which will automatically feed the water into your filter tank. From there another storage vessel, say another 210 litre drum can be fitted on the outlet side with a small booster pump and pressure switch, which will keep the toilet cisterns filled at all times. Doing this will instantly save eight to ten litres of drinking water each flush. If you have a very large household the volume of grey water that you generate will be very much greater than you need to flush your toilets and the balance can be used to water the garden. Be aware that there is some controversy as to whether it is wise to use untreated grey water for irrigation and while a couple of buckets applied as an emergency in a dry spell or a heatwave is not likely to hurt any plant or degrade your soil, the fact is that grey water contains a number of

chemicals, including phosphates and nitrates from detergents and soaps, hair, chemicals from mouthwashes and toothpastes and what are known in the trade as "fogs" (fats, oils and greases) which are residues of cooking, as well as residues washed off the human body (think oily hair).

Used repeatedly on the same patch of garden these compounds will alter the state of the soil chemically, will change the acidity of the soil artificially, and the fogs will clog the soil, rendering it unable to "breathe" and thus smothering earthworms and other micro-organisms. For this reason, if you consider using grey water for irrigation long-term, you should definitely include firstly a gravel and sand (and preferably, too, anaerobic filter to your set-up, but also allow the water to stand in a pond to allow the sun to disinfect the fluid.









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 FRFF

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

Every Sunday

SA Lipizzaners weekly display at 10h30. SA Lipizzaner Centre, Dahlia Rd, Kyalami. Go to www.lipizzaners.co.za for details of special shows.

Cattle drive with City Slickers breakfast, Diamond X Cowboy Ranch, near Rayton. Call Rudan on 082 410-3180 horses@diamondxranch.co.za, www.diamondx.co.za, R500 per person.

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

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

Every Monday

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

2019

May

- 1: Workers' Day
- 4: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332
- 5: New Moon
- 5: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, homebakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live entertainment from 12:00. Proceeds of the market are donated to various charities in the Vereeniging area. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378-0715 7: Industrial machinery auction on behalf of Lavoro Trading, Plot 27 Reier Rd, Kameeldrif Oos, Pretoria. 11h00. Enquiries: Vleissentraal Ermelo 017 819-1106 or marketer Johan Taute 073 204-7646. Visit www.vleissentraal.co.za to view the list of items on auction.
- 9: Holistic veld management course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R2 950. For reservations email courses@alut co 7a
- 14-17: Nampo Harvest Day, Nampo Park, Bothaville district, Free State 18 Full Moon
- 27-31: Accredited veld management course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. Course presenter is Fritz van Oudshoorn. R4 950. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za

June

1: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 – 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

3: New Moon

9: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, homebakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live entertainment from 12:00. Proceeds of the market are donated to various charities in the Vereeniging area. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378-0715 16: Youth Day

- 17: Youth Day spillover
- 17: Full Moon
- 21: Winter Solstice

<u>July</u>

- 2: New Moon
- 6: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 – 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332
- 14: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, homebakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live entertainment from 12:00. Proceeds of the market are donated to various charities in the Vereeniging area. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378-0715 16: Full Moon

16:18: Combatting soil erosion course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R2 950. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za

<u>August</u>

- 1: New Moon
- 3: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

8-10: Kragdag Expo, Diamantvallei Estate, Rayton district, Pretoria. Call 087 231-1644 9: National Womens' Day

11: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, homebakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live entertainment from 12:00. Proceeds of the market are donated to various charities in the Vereeniging area. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378-0715 12-23: Farm planning (agricultural land-use planning) course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R9 950. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za 15: Full Moon 30 New Moon

<u>September</u>

7: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg, 09h00 – 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

8: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging.



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Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held weekly. Markets held less frequently (eg 1st Saturday of each month) 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	CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT					
Thursday										
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 - 15:00	40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	Konrad or Glenda 011 706 3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.					
Saturday										
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark		Moreleta Street entrance, Krige Street ext, Silverton	012 804 8031 or 079 987 1025	Fresh produce & traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kaiings with pap & boerewors rolls.					
Every Saturday	The Fresh Co-op Weekly Farmers Market	07:00 - 10:30	204 Allan Road, Glen Austin Halfway House, Gauteng	info.freshproducecoop@gmail.com 082 369 7755	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves, home industry, arts and crafts, food etc.					
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 - 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, Cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie St, Menlo Park, Pretoria	Rietha 083 554 5636 www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale					
Every Saturday	Waenhuiskrans Plaas / Farmers Market	08:00 - 14:00	Cor of Veda & Enkeldoorn Ave opposite Montana Traders and next to Kollonade Centre	Marius 084 505 3393 or office 012 567 6076 to book a stall	Stalls: Food, arts and crafts Fresh produce, eggs, chicken, meat, fruit and veg, Kiosk, Maders Pies, coffee					
Every Saturday	Glenfresh Farmers Market	08:00 - 12:30	118 Allan rd, Glen Austin	Stefan: 082 829 0185 market@glenfresh.co.za	Local naturally grown produce, hand crafted goods, home baked treats, raw honey, biltong					
Every Saturday	Jozi Real Food Market	08:30 - 13:30	Pirates Sports Club, 25 Braeside Road, Greenside	Ingrid 083 532 2992 jozirealfoodmarket@gmail.com	Outdoor pet & child friendly, organic vegetables, food, arts & crafts					
Every Saturday	Bapsfontein Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	7 Edith Street, Bapsfontein	Charlene: 082 892 4304 / Paul: 083 296 8006	Fresh produce, Livestock Sales, Flea Market, Hand Crafts, Food stalls, Great outdoor vibe that is pet & child frilendly					
Every Saturday	The Red Windmill Village Market	09:00 - 15:00	104 Main Road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, food stalls, coffee shop, plants, arts & crafts, book etc.					
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 - 15:00	40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	Konrad or Glenda 011 706 3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.					
Every Saturday	Waterfall Estate Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	Waterfall Estate, Waterfall Cor Midrand	Robyn 083 311 4768	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry & craft, food etc. Enquire about stall prices.					
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	112 R82 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076 7680 info@wfmarket.co.za	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area.					
Every Saturday	Walkerville Country Market	09:00 - 15:00	@ the Showgrounds	lvan 084 590 2312 market@walkervillesa.co.za	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft beer, kids play area and pet friendly.					
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	10:00 - 19:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553 2846	Outdoor country experience working farm cattle, sheep pigs. Free range meat, cheese, eggs and poultry. Craft beer					
	Sunday									
Every Sunday	The Red Windmill Village Market		104 Main Road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, food stalls, coffee shop, plants, arts & crafts, book					
Every Sunday	Carlington Food & Craft Market	09:00 - 15:00	The Bru House on the R563 Hekpoort-Krugersdorp Road	For stalls 0827824142 Debbie.Prinsloo@outlook.com	Restaurant, live music, safe kids play area, safe parking					
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 - 15:00	Cor Montecasino Boulevard & William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 www.ffmarket.co.za	Get your groceries in the garden!					



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THE BACK PAGE

Ruling by Twitter

f you rely on South African TV news channels to keep you up to date on world affairs you can be forgiven for not knowing about the devastating fire at Paris' iconic 850-year-old landmark cathedral of Notre Dame last month, at least not until well after the flames had been extinguished.

For, while international news channels carried wall-to-wall coverage of the blaze and the heroic efforts by Paris fire teams to contain it, South Africans were being told about the goings-on of our thieves-in-chief, Jacob Zuma and Ace Magashule. Riveting stuff.

One prominent citizen of the world who was not watching the Jacob & Ace show while Notre Dame burned was America's first citizen, that intellectual man of action and, by his own admission only, champion golfer, Donald Trump.

And he wasted no time in telling his millions of followers on Twitter all about it. "Horrible to see" is how he described the flames adding helpfully that firefighters "must act quickly!" Then, exercising his giant intellect to its maximum he added "send lots of water" forgetting, clearly, that water was the least of the fire teams' problems as Notre Dame is built on an island in the River Seine, so it is surrounded by water.

Finally, Trump clearly envisioned a role for the military in saving the cathedral when he suggested aerial bombardment by water-carrying aircraft.

Was he thinking, here, of a squadron of Flying Fortresses dropping payloads of water-filled condoms on the Paris landmark?

The last time Flying Fortresses flew over Europe they weren't carrying water filled condoms but were carrying payloads which all but levelled cities such as Dresden and Hamburg in a totally random manner. I'm sure the good citizens of Paris would have been delighted, while mourning the loss of their beloved cathedral, to be faced with the prospect of cleaning their streets of burst little latex bags.

One can say many things about The Donald, none of them favourable, and it's true that he has turned "the land of the free and the home of the brave" into a laughing stock, but Trump's sputterings on Twitter are a manifestation of a much bigger and more serious issue. And that is that we are being ruled by tweets. Or by twits who tweet ... take your pick.

Today's politicians have vigorously embraced the idea of imparting their drips of dubious wisdom in little 140-character

word-blasts, thinking that their subjects (us) have the collective attention span of a bunch of three-month old mongrel puppies. We're being taken for fools.

Trump is by far the worst example of the genre, but they're all at it. Theresa May's tweets have the air of a pedantic schoolmistress. Boris Johnson's tweets vary from the ascerbic to the thoroughly off the wall. Emmanuel Macron's need translating but have a modicum of sense about them, even if it's socialist claptrap.

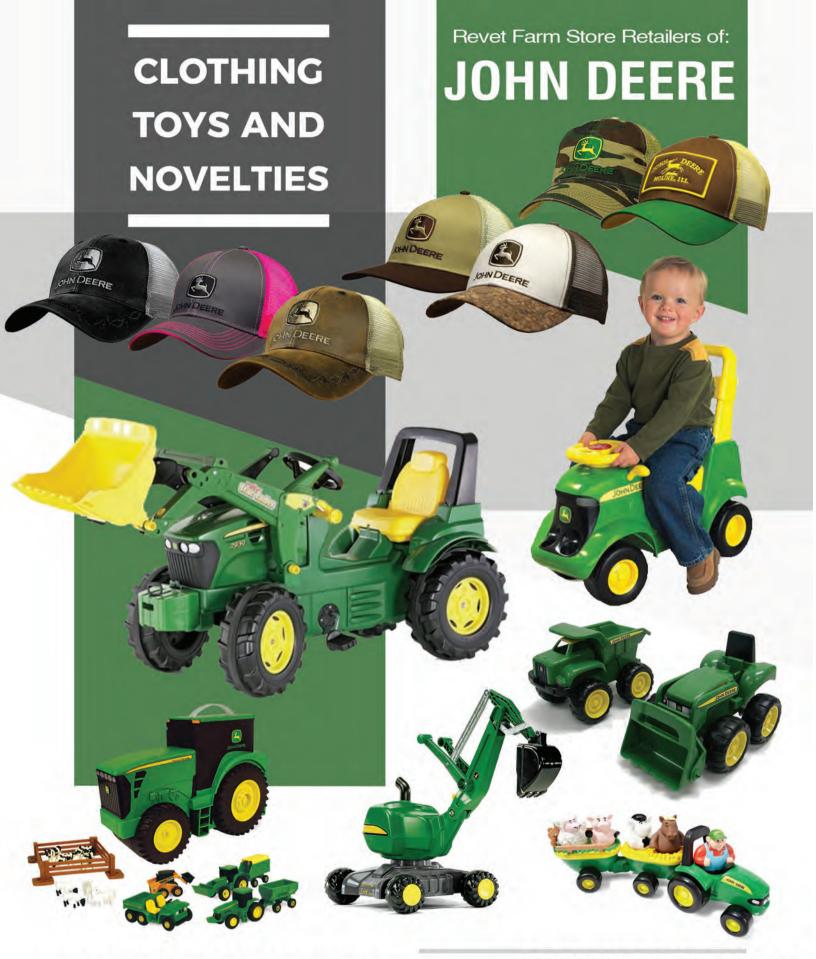
Even our own lot use Twitter ~ with varying degrees of success. Remember Helen Zille's problems when she tweeted about the results of colonialism being not all bad, and her earlier one about "education refugees" from the Eastern Cape seeking better schooling in the Western Cape? Those got her into a whole lot of trouble with the chattering classes.

I wonder if, when they dreamed up the idea, Twitter's developers envisaged the

Sodom and Gomorrah they were unleashing on an unsuspecting world. Because so far, quite apart from giving Donald Trump a free and easy platform on which to spread his stupidities, Twitter has been responsible for starting riots and uprisings, has resulted in the deterioration of established news coverage (and by extension the weakening of the Fourth Estate generally) and has enabled the wholesale spread of uncurated "fake news" and propaganda on any topic you care to think of. But Twitter's biggest danger, I believe, is in the field of politics. The point is that there has to be a whole lot more to policyformulation and political messaging than can be crudely imparted in 140-character word-bites. Surely.

Because if there isn't ... if it's so easy to communicate with one's electorate that one can do it in little brain-farts regardless of one's mental condition or state of sobriety, well, then, politicians are thoroughly overpaid. But we knew that, didn't we?





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