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FRONT COVER

It's ploughing season on the plots. Hopefully, while you may covet a vintage Lanz, you have something a bit more modern to work your fields.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower — It's about jobs, stupid



Much has been made in recent years of the inequality in South African society, with many pundits citing the calculations of the Gini coefficient as irrefutable proof that we are the most unequal society on earth. And, of course, politicians have adopted the word to signal all that is wrong in South Africa, with their usual empty promises to tackle the issue. But here's the thing: in the same way that the presence of pus in an open wound is merely a visible sign of an underlying infection, so is inequality not the "thing" that politicians and the chattering classes make it out to be. It is, rather, merely a visible sign of a much deeper problem. And that problem is unemployment.

Simply put, if you get rid of unemployment you will also go a long way to getting rid of inequality. Because if the entire working population of the country has meaningful jobs they will have the wealth ~ however little that may be ~ to spend their way up the socio-economic ladder. So instead of a society where there are relatively few "haves" (who have an awful lot) and many, many "have-nots" (who have absolutely nothing), you will have a society with many more "haves" and relatively fewer "have-nots."

So addressing unemployment is the key (and it is for a whole number of reasons apart from the inequality). Tito Mboweni knows this. Lesetja Kganyago knows this. And just about every economist, banker and industrialist knows this. And, even a few politicians know this. It's only the socialists, communists, trade unionists and the rabble-rousers of the EFF and the ANC who seem not to grasp the idea.

At this point it's probably worth pointing out that there's a difference between a paying job and what the government proudly punts as a "work opportunity". You have a job when you sell your labour to somebody or some organisation that uses that labour in the production of something, or performance of some service, that generates income upon the sale of that something or service.

You have a work opportunity when you are employed by the state and your efforts are rewarded with a payment made from monies collected from taxpayers. Because these are not revenue-generating (as in profit-making) activities the state must rely on the compliance of taxpayers to cough up the funds to keep these workers in their positions. Such workers may be seen in their thousands in their orange overalls emblazoned with the letters EPWP across their shoulders skoffeling ditches or cutting grass on the roadside.

(As an aside, it is worth observing that the government would argue that because such workers use the monies they receive to buy goods and services they are contributing to the overall GDP through their consumer spending and this is indeed true, in the same way that the 17-odd million recipients of social grants contribute to the GDP every time they spend their grants on food, clothing, rent, transport etc.)

No, it's proper jobs we need, and lots of them. And far be it from us to pooh-pooh President Ramaphosa's dream of a whole new Fourth Industrial Revolution megacity and a brand new multi-billion rand high-speed rail line to Durban, but if he wants to create jobs ~ fast ~ there are a couple of low-hanging fruits available to him ~ that don't even involve Chinese investors.




☐ Firstly, go all-out to encourage tourism. We have a vast underutilised resource here. Beauty spots abound in our country, hotels and lodges have many empty bed-nights, our food is generally far better than we give ourselves credit for, our drink is ridiculously cheap (and damned good) by international standards, and our serving staff are as sunny, welcoming and efficient as anywhere else in the world. The government's sole contribution to this initiative could be accomplished at the stroke of a pen, simply by scrapping its visa laws, which are simply a bureaucratic impediment to free movement of people.

☐ Secondly, build things and rehabilitate stuff that's already there but which is falling, or has fallen, apart. If the government did nothing more than rehabilitate the rail network, reopening now-abandoned routes (even leasing routes to private operators), investing in modern signalling infrastructure and reliable rolling stock, refurbishing old stations and opening new ones, it would enable the cheap, quick and efficient transportation of millions of tons of goods and thousands of commuters and long-distance passengers. And in the process all this activity will generate the necessary demand for a whole raft of additional activity. Gravel for track ballast, concrete for sleepers, steel for rails, wheels and rolling stock, cable for power and so on.

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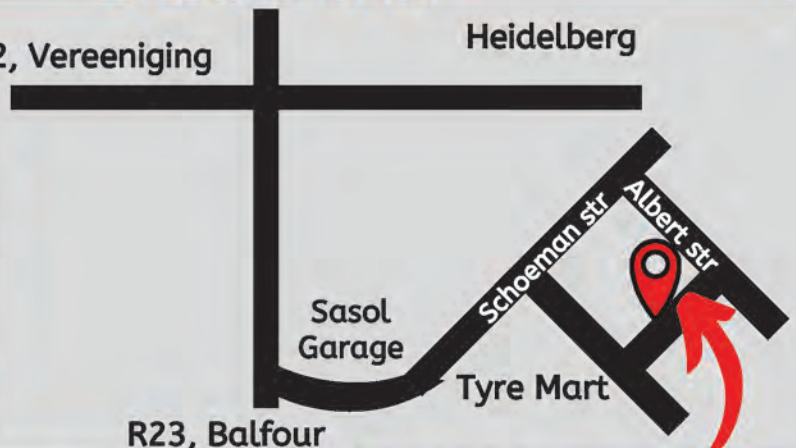
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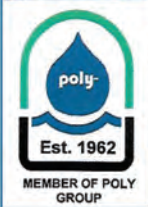


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Veld fires: Join ~ or start ~ and FPA

Sir ~ I read the letter in your August edition by Dan Pearson. I have both a bad neighbour and a good neighbour. I know the difference ~ one on either side.

As for fires, (in our area) we have the Muldersdrift Fire Prevention Association. Shanon Cochrane (number available on request) is very much involved in it. If you are part of the Fire

Prevention Association (of some kind your area) and you call the fire brigade their call out cost is covered. If not, you pay ~ lots. If your neighbour has a fire that could be out of control

and you call the fire brigade the neighbour pays ~ big bucks. Legalwise is R100 a month and is better than no Legalwise, but only just ~but lots less than lawyers! I called the fire brigade (in the) middle of the night and they came in to sort out my neighbour who burns middle of the night (and who has a) dodgy storage unit business. Hope this helps.
Nick Hartley
Muldersdrift
By email

'You called Afrikaners racist'

Sir ~ It is a great pity that you saw fit to state that being Afrikaans is racist ~ (Editor's Comment, September). You have not voiced your opinion on for instance the Zulu Reed Dance Festival. Why would this not be racist in your definition(?). No mention is made of the percentage (of the) Afrikaans speaking population in South

Africa, or even more specific (sic) in Donkerhoek. How dare you. I, for one, will not continue to support your advertisers in future, and I will remember your publication as being Colonial (exclusively).
Otto Landsberg
By email
If you read my Comment clearly, you will find that nowhere did I "state that

being Afrikaans is racist," nor did I even infer such. What on earth our opinion (or lack thereof) of the "Zulu Reed Dance Festival" has to do in relation to our view on an annual Afrikaner self-
Continued on page 10

The Editor welcomes your letters, comments and opinions, but reserves the right to edit and shorten as necessary. Senders' names and addresses must be included. Afrikaans letters will be translated. Post mail to: Letters, PO Box 14648, Bredell 1623 or fax 086 602-3882 or e-mail gautengsmallholder@gmail.com



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NEWS

17 outbreaks of ASF, also in Gauteng

By early last month there had been 17 reported outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) since the beginning of April, in the North West, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Free State Provinces. All these occurrences are outside the designated ASF control area, according to a State

Veterinary statement. The main indication of the disease is that large numbers of pigs are found dead. Other signs include that pigs may also stop eating, are listless and show breathing difficulties; display redness on the skin, especially the ears and abdomen and may even have bleeding from the nose and

rectum. The State vet services points out that sound biosecurity is the only way to prevent ASF

affecting pigs. These measures include:
☐ Only buying pigs from

Continued on page 13

Afrikaans: 'You're incompetent'

Sir ~ seems to me that you have a problem with yourself and now you also join the useless (white and others) and blame AFRIKAANS for all your incompetence! Wake up pal! Why don't those organise a ekspo (sic). We are willing to partake! Nobody forbid (sic) them to take part! STOP BLAMING AFRIKANS (sic) for all your shortcomings! That is the problem with all liberals! (remember in the late 80s the lady shouting to the attacking blacks "I'm English, I'm English"). You just lost my support for

your *Smallholder*.
Michiel Taljaard
 By email

MAILBAG

From page 7
 Afrikaner self-sufficiency exhibition on a plot on the Donkerhoek hillside? And thank you for your insightful analysis of us as being Colonial. Alongside in this edition is another letter from an irate reader on the same topic that describes us as "liberal". So we must, therefore, be liberal Colonials? Or Colonial liberals? Is there such a thing?! ~ Editor



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TLU SA offers business help for agri industry

TLU SA's Financial Wellness Desk has launched "Business How To". Developed by a group of agricultural entrepreneurs, the website is a one-stop place for farmers to handle the many challenges related to the day to day management of a business.

TLU SA is aware of the challenges that climate change, a weak economy, unfavourable markets, politically-driven initiatives and the importance of food security pose to its members. With Business How To, the agricultural-, forestry- and fishing industry have access to relevant business skills to make better business decisions.

Industry information such as an economic overview; statistical facts; productivity pointers (NPI); opportunities for investment, expansion and training; government

departments; associations and sub-sectors; as well as relevant news and links to the industry is available on the website at

www.bhtg.co.za.

Under Businesses Activity, users have access to apps on business management to profitably and sustainably plan and manage a farming business.

On Business How To, information is structured and in chronological order. It has been developed according to South African legislation. The platform is self-maintained and linked to all business-relevant institutions like government, business support bodies and training institutions. Users can take part in step by step self-help tutorials on writing a bankable business plan, doing market research, how to export your product; agricultural processing

Continued on page 15

ASF OUTBREAKS

From page 10

confirmed healthy herds. Auctions are a mixture of multiple pigs of unknown origin and are therefore a high risk, and until the outbreaks are brought under control one should avoid visiting and buying pigs on auctions.

☐ Confining pigs so that they cannot come into contact with other pigs and possible infected material (kitchen waste and carcasses).

☐ Avoiding feeding swill (leftovers or kitchen waste). If this is not possible, ensure that the food is cooked thoroughly to inactivate the virus (the virus can remain infectious in meat for months). The added benefit to this is that you will be destroying other diseases

with the cooking such as measles, Foot-and-mouth disease, pseudorabies, etc.

☐ Avoiding allowing people, vehicles or equipment on to the farm, as they may have been in contact with other pigs or infectious material.

☐ Ensuring that domestic pigs cannot come into contact with wild pigs, and other possible animal carriers.

Any pig deaths should be reported to the nearest State Veterinary Office.

The current outbreak of ASF in pigs in South Africa does not pose any threat to human health and the consumption of pork and pork products is safe, says the State Vet.



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BEEKEEPING

On adulteration

Publisher Pete Bower writes on the common practice of mixing corn syrup with honey and paraffin wax with beeswax

Beekeeping, as beekeepers know well, is a combination of art, science and jolly hard work. Done well, there's a decent income to be had from

harvesting the products of the beehive. Done badly, beekeeping is a waste of time and money at best, and damaging to the bees at worst. And for consumers and the

Continued on page 17

South Africa's Survival Guide to Climate Change

Two South African writers have put together a practical survival guide based on the premise that we could possibly survive a changing climate. Sarah Wild and Sipho Kings have been reporting on climate change for most of their careers. Their new handbook, *South Africa's Survival Guide to Climate Change*, explores what climate change is likely to mean for Africa and particularly on the southern tip, how to prepare for it and how we can, in our own small ways, help to mitigate

the impact it will have. Temperatures are already climbing, sea levels are rising and parts of South Africa are on their way to being uninhabitable. Life is already difficult for many people and nobody will be exempt from climate change. Circumstances are going to get a lot more difficult very soon, and we need a plan. Rather than feeling apathetic and disempowered, this book will help us to be better informed and prepared. The book is published by Pan Macmillan and the price ranges around R210.

BUSINESS HELP

From page 13

costing programmes, and product research reports. Users will be informed of the latest market prices, development and trends in the industry. TLU believes its members will have more success with loan applications;

and have access to new markets and opportunities. For TLU SA members, the Financial Wellness Desk offers the Business How To product at the annual rate of R480. Members can join at www.bhtg.co.za.

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BEEKEEPING

From page 15

general public, who understand neither the needs of the bees nor the economics of the craft, the general view is that everything related to bees is too expensive.

When they come across a "cheap" bottle of honey on their supermarket shelves they often don't stop to think that there could be some reason, not related to the bees but more likely related to some kind of commercial skulduggery, that makes it cheaper than every other bottle on the shelf.

But to be fair to consumers, there is a slowly growing awareness that unscrupulous honey packers (the bees, after all, are the producers) make their precious natural resource go further by mixing it with golden corn syrup. Same same, but different. Some beekeeping nations are more guilty than others of this practice and the legislated



Frame with foundation sheet.

labelling requirements for retailed honey are easily "interpretable," particularly in a country such as South Africa where the consumer demand for honey far exceeds the national harvest. Hence labels that say "Countries of origin: South Africa and/or Uruguay and/or Zambia and/or China", for example.

For, while it may not be that the South African packer is himself mixing corn syrup with his honey before bottling it, who's to say that the "and/or" material he bought from a dealer in a, ahem, less ethical country might not have been adulterated before

shipping?

But if you think the honey industry is open to adulteration, there's another product in the beekeeping world that faces adulteration which, some beekeepers and scientists say, could be

far more damaging to the industry in the long term. For, if honey demand

outstrips supply, demand for beeswax also far outstrips supply. Beeswax, of course, is a vital component in the life-cycle of the bee colony in that it is built up by the bees and formed into honeycomb, in which the queen bee lays her eggs, and in which nectar is stored and converted into honey.

In a naturally-occurring bee colony the bees themselves

Continued on page 19

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BEEKEEPING

From page 17

construct the comb, a painstaking task to make the intricate but surprisingly robust structure, that they will, with repair and maintenance, continue to use for many seasons.

In a commercial hive such as are used by beekeepers, the life-cycle of the bees is helped along a little by the beekeeper in that the removable frames in the hive are fitted with starter strips, or even full sheets, of rolled beeswax, each a couple of millimetres thick, on both sides of which the six-sided pattern of the honeycomb is embossed to help the bees on their way with their construction.

But beeswax is not only used in hives as foundation sheets or strips. It is also sought after in many commercial and consumer industries, for example in high-grade furniture polish, cosmetics etc. Small wonder, then, that demand far outstrips supply. So, how can one make one's precious beeswax, with its distinctive smell and feel, go further? Exactly like with honey, which is mixed with corn syrup, unscrupulous (some would say) manufacturers mix raw paraffin wax (a by-product of the petroleum refining industry) with their beeswax.

If you've ever made candles you will know paraffin wax as the big blocks of slightly translucent white material that one buys, usually from Sasol, breaks up, melts and adds colouring and aromatics to, before pouring the resultant hot liquid into moulds to set. Is the practice of adulterating beeswax safe? What effect does it have on the bees, in the short term? Or in the long-term? Proponents of the practice say that it is necessary if one is to help the bees along, because there's a chronic shortage of the natural stuff.

Detractors of the practice say, firstly, that chemically, the two

waxes are different. That this is so is easy to see, they say. Mix the two together when in a fully molten state and allow the liquid to stand and cool without stirring and they will separate out into two distinct bands, one translucent white and the other yellow. For the two substances have different specific gravities, quite apart from their chemical compositions.

Whether the practice of using mixed sheets in the hive is safe or not, the fact is: nobody really knows. Even the most knowledgeable scientists and beekeepers don't actually know what natural instincts and processes are at work to keep a hive functioning and while hundreds of studies have been done over the years to analyse the chemical makeup of bee-related products, nobody really knows the relationships that exist between the individual little insects and the surfaces or substances on which they build and with which they interact.

And, say opponents to the idea of mixed beeswax in the hives, given the declining populations of bees worldwide, because of chemical pollution, habitat destruction, overwork, predation by other insects and disease, is it worth further risking the health and survival of the species by using adulterated sheets in the hive?

□ The Northern Beekeepers Association caters for beekeepers around Pretoria. Call Riekie on 082 972-1889. The Southern Beekeepers Association ("Southerns") covers beekeepers in the Johannesburg, West Rand and southern Gauteng. Email Lantz at info@beekeepers.co.za. The Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association ("Easterns") caters for beekeepers on the East Rand, as well as members in Mpumalanga. Call Mike on 083 430-8707 for details.



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FEATURED BREEDS

Africa's indigenous dog breeds

A smallholder's dog must be hardy, preferably shorthaired because of ticks and black-jacks and a breed that will enjoy the space. Many smallholders choose to keep "braks" or dogs of mixed breeds, as they are less highly strung than a thoroughbred and are usually less

susceptible to diseases and pests. However there is also the option of an African breed of dog.

AfriCanis is the umbrella name for all southern African indigenous dogs. It refers to Africa and Canis (dog). Over the centuries they have been shaped by Africa for Africa, the result of natural selection

and physical and mental adaptation to various ecological niches. Until quite recently, properly bred AfriCanis were only found in the rural areas of the southern African subcontinent.

The AfriCanis is medium sized, slenderly built and well-muscled. It is agile and supple, can run at great

speed and has good stamina. When in good condition, the ribs are just visible. The head is cone shaped with expressive oval eyes. The dog comes in a variety of colours, but eye rims, lips and nose should be black.

Because the AfriCanis has for centuries roamed freely in and around rural settlements,

it combines attachment to humans with a need for space. Traditionally it is always close to humans, other dogs, livestock and domestic animals. It has a natural tendency to guard and protect livestock. It is also used for tracking.

Its temperament is described

Continued on page 23



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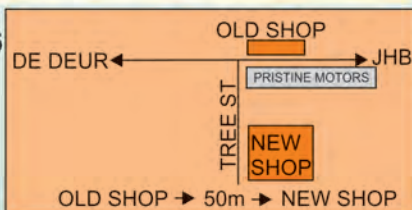
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FEATURED BREEDS

From page 21

as independent, friendly, trainable, watchful and sometimes territorial. It is a dog which needs neither pampering nor special food. It has, over the years, developed a natural resistance against internal and external parasites. A better-known breed is the Boerboel. Bred initially as a farm dog, they are well-built, strong and courageous dogs. He may be part Bullmastiff, part Mastiff, and part native African dog. No-one is really sure, but the dog that exists now is large and powerful. These dogs were bred as working farm dogs and are one of the most powerful dog breeds in the world. They can have a bite force of up to 800 psi. A Boerboel is usually fawn, red, or light brown with a short coat and a black mask. They are described as calm and confident, not aggressive. For smallholders looking for a family guard dog, the Boerboel is a good choice. Then there is the Basenji. With a weight of just 10-12 kg (males) and 9-11 kg (females), standing at a height of 41-43 cm (males) and 38-41 cm (females), the little Basenji is an Ancient African hunting dog. The Basenji needs constant exercise, both physically and mentally. Interestingly, the Basenji almost never barks, so if you want a dog but can't stand the noise, this is your dog! An aloof but very affectionate dog, this breed can be fiercely protective of their families.

They get along with other dogs but can be argumentative sometimes. Another well-known southern African breed is the Rhodesian Ridgeback, which arose from a combination of indigenous khoi dogs and European introduced dogs. This medium sized dog reaches a height of 63-69 cm (males) and 61-66 cm (females), while getting to a

weight range of 36-41 kg (males) and 29-34 kg (females). The hallmark of this breed is the ridge on the back. This is formed by the hair growing in the opposite



Basenji

direction to the rest of the coat. It starts just behind the

Continued on page 25



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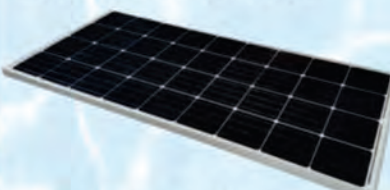
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Tough and indigenous ~ the Savannah goat

Savannah goats are South African indigenous meat goats that have adapted

to the harsh environment of the African veld.

The development of the

white savannah goat started on the farm of DSU Cilliers & Sons in 1955 in a minimum-care environment close to the Vaal River where the animals were expected to adapt, survive and breed on typical savannah veld. Local multi-coloured lob-eared goats were used in the foundation herd and the result was a fertile, heat and parasite tolerant, drought resistant goat with a good meat quality. Growing interest led to the recognition of the Savannah goat as a breed and to the establishment of a breed

society in 1993.

The Savannah is a medium to large white lob-eared goat with a thick pliable skin and a short smooth coat. Being totally white makes them popular as pure white goats are preferred for slaughtering at traditional ceremonies such as funerals and weddings. During the winter months the goats develop extra fluffy cashmere hair for protection. Pigmentation is dark grey to black. This makes them resistant to high temperatures. They also have black horns, hooves, eyelids and noses.

Continued on page 27

DOG BREEDS

From page 23

shoulders and continues down to just before the hips. At the beginning of this ridge are two identical crowns (whorls) directly opposite each other.

This breed needs to run a lot – that's its favourite way of consuming energy – so, if you're looking for a jogging partner, you've found one! This large, muscular hound is obedient and calm, very loyal, intelligent and courageous. Other African breeds that you

may not have heard of are Azawakh, Sloughi, Coton de Tulear, Chinese Crested, Aidi and the Abyssinian Sand Terrier. And then, of course, there's also the Brakkie, from Brakpan.



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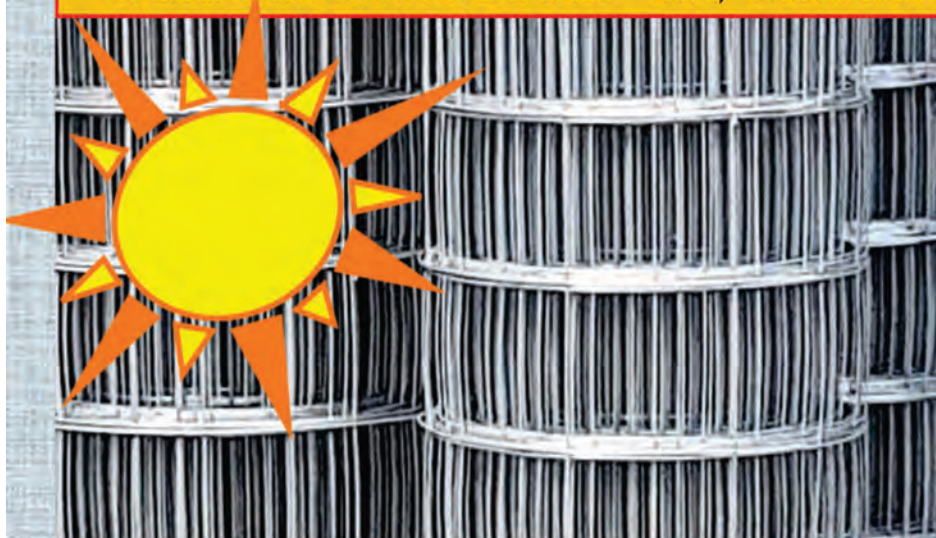


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FEATURED BREEDS



Savannah goat
From page 25

The horns grow backwards from the crown of the head and they are strong, oval shaped and must not press against the neck. Both ewes and rams must be able to use their horns to protect themselves and their kids. The animals' conformation is symmetrical, with legs and body not too long or too short.

The does are of a medium size but they appear refined and feminine. Multiple births are the norm. The ewes have excellent milk production. Ewes with lambs at foot have good mothering ability and aggressively defend their lambs against dogs and other predators.

Bucks are masculine, robust and well-muscled.

Savannahs are renowned for their lively appearance, but although they are very active, the animals are not wild and have an even

temperament.

These goats were developed under unfavourable environmental conditions and are thus able to endure unfavourable conditions such as heat, intense sunshine, cold and rain. The breed moves easily and can, if necessary, travel long distances in search of fodder and water.

They are also able to utilise a wide range of vegetation, including weeds, trees, shrubs and bushes, which are often hard and even unpalatable to other farm animals.

Savannahs are resistant to tick-borne diseases and tolerant of goat worms and other parasites. Very little healthcare intervention is required in their native veld.

They have a long breeding season and should be sexually active and able to breed at any time of the year.

They yield a balanced lean carcass with tender tasty meat at a young age. The meat is healthy and low in fat.

They are also valued for good quality leather and as liquid capital in case of financial need. The cashmere they produce is of good quality, although there is a limited amount.

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similar throughout Gauteng when it comes to keeping poultry. According to the laws, a "poultry house" means any roofed-over building or structure in which poultry is kept, other than one in which a battery system is operated; a "poultry run" means any unroofed wire mesh or other enclosure in which poultry is kept, whether or not it is attached to a poultry house. The by-laws state that the

minimum floor area of a poultry house must be "0,20 m² for each grown fowl..." and that "the minimum aggregate floor area must be four square metres". The dimensions for a poultry run are not laid down. The placement of the hen house is stipulated and this might affect the size of the house: "no poultry house, poultry run, or building or structure housing a battery system, may be constructed

within three metres of – (i) any dwelling or other building or structure used for human habitation; and (ii) any place where foodstuffs are stored or prepared for human consumption; or (iii) the nearest boundary of any land." Most of the time, the go-to amount of space is half a square metre for each chicken inside the coop, and an additional half a square

Continued on page 33



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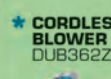
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POULTRY

From page 29

meter per chicken outside the chicken coop. It's always better to over-estimate the space to keep your chickens happy and healthy. Remember that chickens like to roost together in order to generate enough heat to keep everyone cosy at night and during the winter. When setting up perches, allocate between 15 and 25 cms perch space per bird. They not only need to have enough room to sleep on the roost, they need to have enough room for them to spread their wings and fly to the roost and to sort out who gets to sleep next to whom and who gets the prime spots once they get on the roost. When they get on, they may jump from some midway support or fly directly to the roost, but either way, they like to spread their wings. Some chickens enjoy blocking the entry points if there are limits.



Space inside the roost

When they get off, they might want to fly down, not jump to a halfway point. They need room to fly down without bumping into feeders, waterers, nesting boxes, or a wall. So for six chickens, you would have a 3m² chicken coop with an 8,5 m² chicken run attached to it. Less space creates stressed social behaviour, allowing disease vulnerability and cannibalism and leaving weaker birds deprived of feed or perch space.

Another way of looking at the

space is to consider how many birds per square metre you should have. If the hens are not free range, there should be no more than three fowls per square metre. The size of the poultry house will be influenced by the number of chickens you want to keep and whether or not you are going to let them out during the day to roam your yard in search of food. There are many plans available on the internet for different chicken houses. Smallholders might also consider a chicken tractor

which is a mobile hen house that can be moved around your plot.

How much space does a free-range chicken need? For broilers to qualify as free range, the South African Broiler Production Code of Practice specifies that no more than fifteen birds may be kept per square meter in the poultry shed or housing. This number goes down to

Continued on page 35

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Invasives: it's not always clear-cut...

The invasion of Gauteng's trees by the polyphagous shot hole borer beetle has drawn into sharp focus the challenges that our ecosystems face from invasive species.

Last year, a report entitled *The Status of Biological Invasions & their Management in South Africa*

POULTRY

From page 33

adult hens per square metre if the aim is to produce free-range eggs.

The codes specify the same external environmental conditions for free range broiler and layer production: The stocking rate of birds outside the house or shed, should not exceed five birds per square meter. Livestock theft restricts the provision of more extensive ranges, according to the SA Poultry Association. The code states that the area outside where the birds are kept should be maintained to allow a minimum of 50% living vegetation at all times. Rotational grazing will help with the management of damaged ground and also to minimise the risk of a build-up of parasites.

If you are allowing your backyard flock to roam freely your choice of free range area will be influenced by the safety of the hens, access to shade and preventing them from ruining your flower or vegetable beds.

was published by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). This is the first South African report to attempt to assess the status of biological invasions on a national level and it makes for depressing reading.

It is generally accepted that invasive alien species have devastating impacts on native biota ie, all the animals and

plants that live in a certain area, causing decline or even extinctions of native species and negatively affecting ecosystems. One factor is that the alien species do not have the natural predators that they would have in their native habitat. The further success of invasives results from their ability to out-compete local flora and alter

the environment to suit themselves.

South Africa is one of a few countries that have legislation specifically aimed at managing the problem of biological invasions. The NEMBA Alien & Invasive Species (AIS) Regulations are currently undergoing a major update. The new regulations are

Continued on page 37



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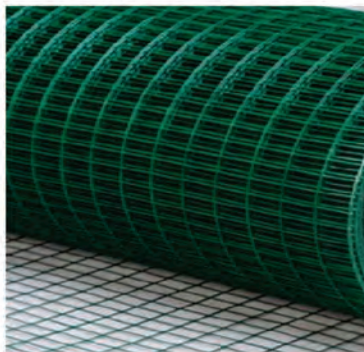
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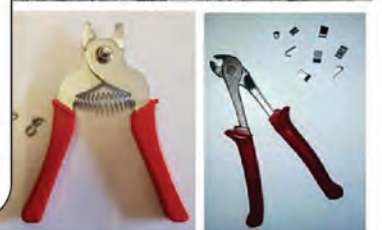
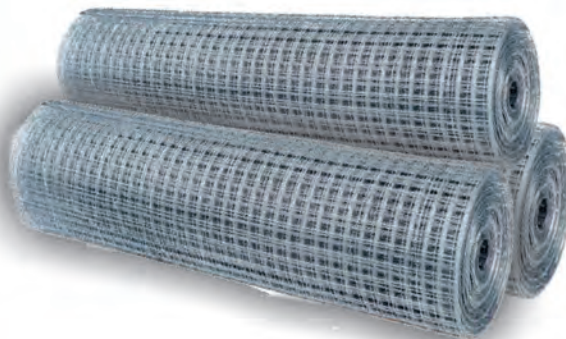
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ALIEN SPECIES

From page 43

expected to be gazetted in the latter half of 2019.

A total of 556 invasive taxa have been listed under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act's Alien & Invasive Species Regulations. (A taxon is a group to which organisms are assigned according to the principles of taxonomy, including species, genus, family, order, class, and phylum.)

According to the report, the actual number of invasive species is higher, with 775 having been identified to date. Most of these invasive species are terrestrial and freshwater plants (574 species) or terrestrial invertebrates (107 species). (An invertebrate is an animal that does not have a backbone, eg, an insect or worm.)

The report states that a total of 107 species were considered by experts to be having either major or severe

impacts on biodiversity and/or human wellbeing with the vast majority of these (75%) being terrestrial or freshwater plants.

By definition, alien species are those that are present in a region outside their natural range as a result of human action that has enabled them to overcome biogeographic barriers. The alien species has been introduced intentionally or accidentally by people. Not all aliens are invasive. Invasive usually means that the species is growing aggressively in an area and stifling the growth of pre-existing plants or fauna. Scientists see this invasion as a process, what they call the introduction-naturalisation-invasion continuum: a way of explaining the progression of stages and phases in the status of an alien organism in a new environment. There are four major invasion stages: pre-introduction, incursion, expansion and dominance.

Indigenous or native species are species that are found within their natural range where they have evolved without human intervention (intentional or accidental). The term also includes species that have expanded their range as a result of

human modification of the environment that does not directly impact dispersal (eg species are still indigenous if they increase their range as a result of watered gardens, but are alien if they increase their range as a result of spread

Continued on page 39

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ALIEN SPECIES

From page 37

along human-created corridors linking previously separate biogeographic regions).

Naturalised or established are alien species that sustain self-replacing populations for several life cycles or over a given period of time without direct intervention by people, or despite human intervention.

Weeds can either be alien or native and are defined as plants that cause a negative impact.

Prohibited species are not native to South Africa and are listed as prohibited under the NEMBA 2004 Alien & Invasive Species (A&IS) Regulations, 2016.

(These definitions have been adapted from the glossary of terms in the SANBI report.)

SANBI's report showed that alien species richness was highest in the Savanna, Grassland, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt and Fynbos biomes.

One of the most alarming effects of the invasives is on our water supply. Studies estimate the combined impacts of invasive plants on surface water runoff at between 1 450 to 2 450 million m³ per year. If no remedial action is taken, reductions in water resources could rise to between 2 600 and 3 150 million m³ per year, severely impacting water-scarce regions and cities.

Working for Water, which aims to control invasives countrywide while facilitating job creation, has cleared 2.5 million hectares of invasions since its inception, but this is only a fraction of the invaded area

Invasive species have also been identified as a significant threat to biodiversity throughout the country. Such losses of biodiversity have large negative knock-on effects on the economy and food security, among others.

There are also considerable economic consequences of alien plant invasions in South Africa. Studies have revealed that invasions have reduced the value of fynbos ecosystems by over US\$11.75 billion and that the cost to clear the alien plant invasions in South Africa is around US\$1.2 billion. (B W van Wilgen, et al)

However, the concept of alien invasion is not entirely clear cut. Climate change is making it harder to decide who the invaders are. How do you define "native" on a warming planet, when plants and animals are already moving toward the poles or up mountainsides in search of climate conditions they can tolerate? Should we consider them "invasive" in their new homes? Regardless of what we label them, conservationists will be reluctant to remove them from their new environs – to do so would prevent their chances of adapting to the warmer future humans are creating.

Those of us who grew up on the Highveld can remember when the only time we saw grey louries or go-away birds was when we were on holiday in the Lowveld. Nowadays they are common in Gauteng. Their migration was originally due to prolonged drought in the Lowveld a couple of decades ago, but having come here of necessity, they have decided to stay. Yes, they are indigenous but their range has greatly increased.

There are also the non-natives that smallholders actually like. Most domestic crops are exotic in a lot of the places they're grown. They not only replace native communities, but also alter the human nutritional environment. Some environmentalists argue that we need a more nuanced approach to invasives.

Even SA's NEMBA invasive

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ALIEN SPECIES

From page 39

species legislation acknowledges that some introduced species may be cultivated under certain circumstances. A Category 2 listing means that a permit must be obtained to authorise activities involving the listed species. For example, eucalyptus trees can be grown under permit, in order to provide forage for honey bees.

There are many examples of habitats having been destroyed by human activities, where alien species have established themselves, thereby giving sources of food and protection to the surviving native species. Dismantling mixed communities by removing non-natives is not always straightforward. The ecological and evolutionary impacts of non-native populations that are functionally integrated in new

communities mean that incautious eradication might create the risk of unintended, counter-productive outcomes and that there will often be no straightforward way to restore native communities to a pre-invasion state. Should we impose further risk on already endangered natives by severing these relationships?

There are also examples of alien species being endangered in their own ranges. The wattle-necked softshell turtle is an oft-quoted case. They are endangered in their native China, but are considered invasive in Hawaii. So should we eradicate them from Hawaii and run the risk of their becoming extinct? Some conservationists say leave them alone. As human populations increase, driving more animals and plants toward extinction, a species'

second home may be the only one it has. Some conservationists say that often "invasion" is just another word for "change". Already, the flora and fauna of countries around the world are more homogeneous than they once were, as globalization has, accidentally or intentionally, moved exotic species from one place to another.

The term Conciliation Biology

has recently been introduced to the invasive management sector. The term was put forward by Dr Scott P Carroll, an evolutionary biologist and ecologist affiliated with the University of California. Conciliation Biology is based on these premises:

- ☐ The environment has been radically altered by the activities of humans;
- ☐ The environment will

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subject or victim into crystal powder that can be stored. To treat an area of land against this subject, the company then uses a process of quantum entanglement ~ whereby when two objects are entangled, what is done to one immediately happens to the other ~ on an aerial photograph of the land in

Continued on page 45

ALIEN SPECIES

From page 41

continue to change in the future;

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species are permanent, that outcomes of native-non-native interactions will vary depending on the scale of assessment and the values assigned to the biotic system, and that many non-native species will perform positive functions in one or more contexts. Managing such mixed systems will require integrated schemes responsive to change.

Sometimes it is impossible to restore the ecosystem of an ecologically degraded area and sometimes "rewilding" is all we can hope for.

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Perhaps you're a beginner on your plot, keen to get started as a maplotter, with a newly-purchased tractor and a string of implements with which to work the soil and harvest your crop.

So here to help you are some

PHYSICS

From page 43

question. By the principals of entanglement, what is done to the photo, will work on the land, says Agri Frequencies. Frequencies are species- and area-specific. They cannot be blocked by walls and can even work underground, making this an ideal method to deal with rodents, the company claims. The absence of chemical poisons mean the process is healthier for both humans and non-target animals. Frequency technology can also be utilized at a distance, accurately transmitting the pest-control to anywhere in the world. For more information: Agri Frequencies, cel 082 429 4055.

A newbie's guide to breaking ground

tips and observations to avoid the common mistakes most beginner maplotters make. Firstly, let's assume that you have been restricted budget-wise, so haven't splashed out on a brand new state of the art modern tractor with all the bells 'n whistles, but have, rather, bought a modest-sized used machine, probably of

dubious provenance.

Furthermore, let's assume you bought a full-size tractor, rather than a mini-tractor, and that your tractor was built after World War 2, when Harry Ferguson introduced the first hydraulic three-point lift on a tractor, which enable implements to be raised and lowered by the movement of

a lever. (And if you think this is a joke, know that the tractor in question, the petrol-paraffin-powered 15kW Ferguson Vaalapie, is still an ideal low-cost machine for many smallholding farmers today). Why not a mini-tractor? They are great for towing trailers around stable yards, nurseries

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CULTIVATION

From page 45

or large gardens, and they are even suitable for cutting and raking small pastures.

However, unless your soil is very soft and light they are impractical for ground-engaging work as they are too light, and their wheels merely start to slip and dig in when the implement behind them digs in. Plus, their hydraulic lifts are too small to handle anything other than specifically-designed implements, meaning that the vast array of used equipment one finds on auction or in sales yards that will fit on what are known as Cat 1 lifts, are too big for mini tractors.

Talking of implements, let's also assume that you managed to avoid being ripped off when buying implements for your tractor, in that the seller or salesman was just about honest enough not to oversell you a plough too big or heavy for your tractor, or a rotavator,

disc or other implement too unwieldy to accomplish its purpose behind your wheezing old clunker. So what, for a smallholding, does one need? It very much depends on two factors. Firstly, are you going to be breaking fresh ground every year? If, for example, all you intend doing is cutting, raking and baling hay every season you won't need to buy a plough, disc or other ground-engaging equipment. If you ever have a need to break ground (for example to reseed a pasture) it will be more cost-effective to call in a contractor to do the job than to buy an implement, or implements, that spend most of their time standing in a field exposed to the elements. (As a maplotter most of your implements will be used, at most, for only a couple of days a year anyway, regardless of what you are doing). Secondly, assuming you

intend to break ground, what type of soil do you have? This will materially affect the size and type of implement you should buy, particularly if you are using a low-powered (35kW or less) tractor, or if yours is a two-wheel drive, rather than a four-wheel drive, machine. If your soil is heavy and clayey you should go for a mouldboard plough, with no more than three shares, and probably no more than two.



2-share mouldboard plough with depth control wheel. Note how shallow the cut is.

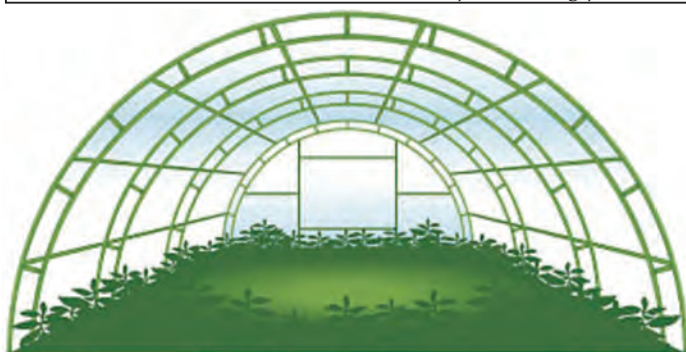
If your tractor's hydraulics are worn, making it difficult to set the working depth accurately, a plough with an adjustable guide wheel will be less frustrating than one without. (Such ploughs are more commonly three-share and if

Continued on page 49

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CULTIVATION

From page 47

you find three too many you can always unbolt one to make it a two-share device). If your soil contains rocks and roots a shearbolt plough (Afrikaans = "breekboud") is an essential safety feature, for if your ploughshare should encounter an obstruction there is a very good chance that your tractor will rear up and capsize, depositing the driver (you) on to your plough and landing on top of you. This tends to be life-shortening. There is one observation when buying a shearbolt plough, particularly a second hand one. The purpose of the shearbolt is just that: to shear, when its share encounters an immovable object. When the bolt snaps this should result in the share rising up, backwards, over the obstacle, as the tractor continues to move forward, preventing the whole thing from tipping over. Thus, the shearbolt should be of a steel sufficiently soft to allow it to break, like, for example, mild steel. With used shearbolt ploughs it is not uncommon to find that the mild-steel

shearbolt has been replaced with a much harder stainless steel pin that will never break as it should, or that the hinge bolt, on which the shear should swivel, is frozen solid with rust.

As with ploughs and small tractors, similarly with rippers or subsoilers. In very heavy soil a single tine ripper may be all that you can use behind your tractor before the whole rig comes to a juddering halt while working. For sandy soils a disc plough ("skottelploeg") is more suitable, with the added advantage that you can recycle the discs as skottelbraais when they wear out.

One of the other features of heavy, clay soil is that the act

turning the soil, as in ploughing, often results in large, hard clods, which need to be broken up to achieve anything like a suitable tilth in which to plant seed.

Here an offset disc harrow, with ~ preferably ~ scalloped discs will help. Finally, some sort of levelling implement, such as a drag-harrow or rake, will do the job and break up the soil further at the same time.

If you are going to buy a seed planter, the type you will require will depend very much on the crop, and its seed size.

Furthermore, the decision to buy a

planter should be driven by the size of land you intend to plant.

For most smallholders, planting a few hundred square metres, or even up to a couple of hectares, a hand planter, or a wheeled unpowered push planter (which can also be drawn by a worker or a couple of enthusiastic children, or by a

Continued on page 51



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CULTIVATION

From page 49

quadbike, for example), will be suitable. Or one can buy one of Backsaver's new self-powered planter-fertilizer machines that can easily handle up to five hectares cost effectively.

If you are planting an annual fodder crop such as *Eragrostis teff* a cheap Chinese-made seed broadcaster that you sling over your shoulder and spread seed and fertilizer together by spinning a disc will be perfectly adequate. So, with your equipment roughly fit for purpose and your tractor serviced and fuelled, what does what? Simple: a subsoiler, or ripper, does the deep loosening up, enabling moisture, nutrients ~ and roots ~ to penetrate to depth.

A plough turns over the top few centimetres of soil, upending it, and in the process burying the leaves and stems of small weeds while exposing their roots to

the air and sun so that they die before making seed.

One of the most common mistakes newbies make is to set the working depth of the plough too deep, resulting in the plough and tractor combination stalling in the field, uneven working and strain on the tractor.

After ploughing, a disc breaks up the clods of soil that result, and a rake of some sort levels the ground and provides a fine, plantable tilth.

When preparing a field for planting the number of passes, of whatever nature, of the tractor over the soil is important, for two reasons. Firstly, there is the time and fuel involved in multiple workings, and while time to a weekend farmer such as a maplotter may not be critical, the fuel bill quickly mounts up. But, secondly, and more importantly, each pass of the heavy tractor's wheels over the soil has the effect of

compacting it, thus negating the good work done by the subsoiler and, to an extent, the plough in loosening and softening the soil.

If your soil is sufficiently soft and well worked from previous seasons you can short-circuit much of this labour (eg ripper, plough, disc and rake) by drawing a cultivator through the soil with the tines reaching down no more than a few centimetres. This will have the

effect of disturbing the small weeds, loosening the soil and leaving a level, soft tilth in their wake.

Or, you can invest in a rotavator, that attaches to the PTO (power take-off) of your tractor and whose action churns up the top few centimetres of soil, even chopping up the weeds so that they more quickly decompose, and leaving an absolutely smooth, soft strip behind.

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As a result, because of all the dust in the air and the dirt in fuel, two of the most

important components on any engine ~ be it of a car, bakkie, tractor or lawnmower ~ are its air filter and its fuel filter.

And the filters on tractors, earthmoving equipment, mowers and vehicles that operate predominantly on sand roads and thus are enveloped in clouds of dust for a good part of their working hours, are particularly at risk.

Servicing an air filter on a newer engine is as easy as unscrewing the covering, whipping out the paper-based element and sticking in a new one.

On an older engine, with an oil-bath filter, things are a little more complicated, as there is no paper element to replace. An oil-bath filter comprises a wire mesh filter element the bottom end of



Oil bath air filter.

which stands in a reservoir of oil. This oil coats the wire of the mesh, providing good adhesion for particles of dust that fly past as the air moves into the engine. In time the captured particles flow downwards into the oil bath, where they remain as a black sludge until the bath is cleaned and refilled.

But here's something that may seem counter-intuitive. Oil, which one believes will not mix with moisture, is in fact hydroscopic. That is, it

DOES, over time, absorb moisture and it will, in time, turn from its usually transparent golden-brown colour into a milky white fluid. (You can see this most dramatically in the sump oil of an engine that has blown a cylinder head gasket or cracked its block, resulting in cooling water mixing with the oil).

Oil mixed with water loses many of its lubricating qualities, as well as its ability to attract dust particles. Servicing an oil-bath filter naturally requires cleaning and refilling the reservoir with oil, and washing and drying the wire mesh element, before reassembly. At the same time as servicing the air filters, it is always worth checking the integrity of air feeder pipes for

Continued on page 53

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Trees & veg ~ there's an app for that

Smallholders should take advantage of technology to have easy access to information.

Seed company PANNAR offers a free app called PANNAR Sprout which gives growers a detailed list of the products that the company offers, as well as replant and estimated

yield calculators.

PANNAR Sprout has tools to assist smallholders in identifying the correct hybrid for their particular circumstances and to compare similar hybrids head-to-head to make an informed selection.

There is a tool to determine the correct plant population

per product and to calculate the economic viability of replanting after damage to a newly planted maize crop.

The yield estimates provide an approximate calculation of crop yields pre-harvest and the SAFEX prices and currency conversions are available for convenient reference. There is also a unit conversion facility to help convert Imperial to Metric when

Continued on page 55



PANNAR Sprout.

FILTERS

From page 52

leaks, loose clamps etc.

Like the throw-away paper elements of modern air filters, modern fuel and oil filters also have throw-away components. On older engines, however, these are often of the serviceable and reusable type. On some engines, the fuel filter comprises nothing more than a sturdy glass reservoir through which the fuel passes on its way from the tank to the engine, the idea being that

crud in the fuel, in the form of rust particles, or water, will settle out into the reservoir before the fuel is combusted. While this may seem quite a crude hit-or-miss idea it is remarkable how much such a filter will catch over time. So, before the heavy usage period of summer starts, now is a good time to focus some maintenance attention on the filtration of your engines. ~ tractor, car, bakkie or mower.

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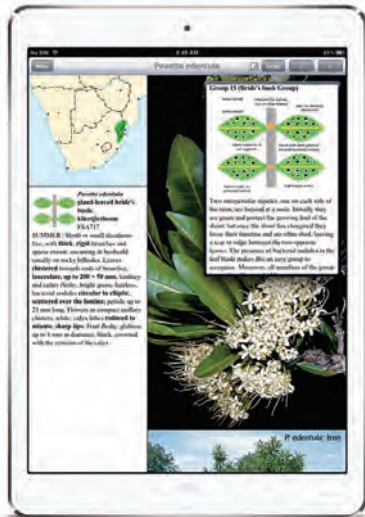
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From page 53

researching case studies from abroad.

The newest addition to the



eTrees of Southern Africa.

app is PlantDr. Grain crop growers can now upload pictures of disease infected plants and submit them along with some background information to an expert team of agronomists and plant pathologists for analysis.

PANNAR, in turn, will track the spread of diseases and alert farmers and smallholders to

potential disease threats in their areas. The popular disease guide with all the commonly occurring and economically significant diseases and disorders of maize, sunflower and wheat in South Africa will remain in the app for quick and easy

self-diagnosis.

You can download PANNAR Sprout free of charge from Google Play or the Apple app stores.

Help is ~ literally ~ at hand for smallholders wanting to identify unknown trees, in

the form of a digital version of Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa by Braam and Piet Van Wyk. The app, eTrees of Southern Africa, designed for the non-specialist and recently updated, is available from your app store.

This interactive field guide describes over 1 000 of the most common and accessible tree species found in the Southern African region. It is able to filter by GPS location. This guide has species arranged in 43 logical groups based on easy-to-observe leaf and stem characteristics.

The app is freshly updated with the latest data, 200 additional species and 2000 new photos and maps added.

You can search by common or scientific tree names and identify a tree species by answering simple yes/no questions about the visible characteristics of the leaves.

You can even compare two species on the same screen. You are able to personalise it by keeping a list of species you've seen, which is saved to your device. Download a free sample version of the app to see how it works before you buy it.

Lastly, there is also TheTreeApp South Africa ~ another tool for smart phones and tablets to identify indigenous and invasive, alien South African trees. It was developed by a team lead by dendrologist and author Val Thomas.

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Golfing equipment: Golf bag: Ping with rain cover R400. Driver: Taylormade Jetspeed 10.5 Lflex 49g R400. Irons: burners Lflex 50g 3 rescue dual, 4 and 5

rescue, 6 7 8 9 PW and SW plus, R1 600. Big Bertha clubs: 3 and 5 Steelhead, 9 Steelhead Plus R600. Golf Buddy PT4 R1 500. Contact Rienie 083 417 7473.

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Fitness equipment: Nordic Track 5600R Treadmill R1 300. Mini Ski Stepper R250. Healthmaster Rowing Board R250. Contact Rienie 083 417 7473. Centurion.

Defy electric 4 spiral plate hob and eye level oven R800. Contact Rienie 083 417 7473. Centurion.

Collector's or model builder's items: 2 x quart-sized Dimple Haig bottles complete with labels (but no contents!) and screw caps in original condition. R50 each collected, or posted/couriered at your risk and cost. Call Pete 072 587 9137.

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Old parrot cage. R100. Call Pete 072 587 9137.

PLANTS & PRODUCE

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

Raspberry canes. Easy growers, 1-2 plants per bag (small) R10 each collected. Call Pete on 072 587 9137.

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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 51. 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/ call Lizelle on 079 716 4792 for details of special shows.

Cattle drive with City Slickers breakfast, Diamond X Cowboy Ranch, near Rayton. Call Rudan on 082 410 3180 / visit <http://www.diamondxrancho.co.za>, R500 per person.

Mnandi Methodist Church, 09h00, Mnandi Centre, cnr Tulip and Short Streets, Jen 083 709 3235 or 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, 19h30, NG Kerk, 8 Canadair Ave, Impala Park, Boksburg, call Warren 082 335 0049 or Tony 082 443 4425, 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

October

1 – 4: Dairy Processing Course: Cheese, ARC Irene Campus. Call Mokela Mothabela 012 672 9402

5: Vaalbank Country Market. Next to Wet Nose on R104 from 09h00 – 15h00. Wide variety of community stalls and even art

classes. Enquiries: WhatsApp Karen on 081 271 2300.

5: 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: Control of problem plants course at African Land-use Training's farm, Modimolle. R2 950. For reservations email courses@alut.co.za

13: Full Moon

13: 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, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden. The Ricky Faber Band will be live from 12h00. Charity drive this month is for Laerskool Unitaspark's feeding scheme – donation of canned foods welcome. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

November

2: Vaalbank Country Market. Next to Wet Nose on R104 from 09h00 – 15h00. Wide variety of community stalls and even art classes. Enquiries: WhatsApp Karen on 081 271 2300.

2: 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

10: 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, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live entertainment from 12h00. 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: Full Moon

20-21: Dairy Processing Course: Yoghurt & Maas, ARC Irene Campus. R3 500. Call Mokela Mothabela 012 672 9402

26: New Moon

30: 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

30: BirdLife South Africa's 35th Birding Big Day (BBD). To register or find out more go to <https://www.birdlife.org.za/support-us/events/birding-big-day-2019/>

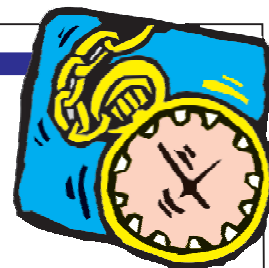
December

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. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, home-

bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live entertainment from 12h00. 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: Full Moon
16: Day of Reconciliation
22: Summer Solstice
25: Christmas Day
26: New Moon
26: Day of Goodwill (Boxing Day)



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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) | 011 706 3671 enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za | Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce. |
| Saturday | | | | | |
| Every Saturday | Pretoria Boeremark | 05:30 – 09:30 | Moreleta Street entrance, Krige Street ext, Silverton | 012 804 8031 or 079 987 1025 | Fresh produce, traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kailings with pap & boerewors rolls. |
| | The Hazel Food Market | 08:00 – 14:00 | Greenlyn Village Centre, Cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie St, Menlo Park, Pretoria | 078 593 7716 www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za | Fresh produce straight from the producer, coffee, eats on sale. |
| | Waenhuiskrans Plaas / Farmers | 08:00 – 13:00 | Cor of Veda & Enkeldoorn Ave Market 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 & veg, Kiosk, Maders pies, coffee. |
| | Glenfresh Farmers Market Midrand | 08:00 – 12:30 | 30 Olifantsfontein Rd (opposite RMM Builders), Glen Austin (Cor Allan & Olifantsfontein Rds) | Stefan: 082 829 0185 market@glenfresh.co.za | Local naturally grown produce, hand crafted goods, home baked treats, raw honey, biltong. |
| | Bapsfontein Farmers Market | 09:00 – 14:00 | Edith Street, Bapsfontein | Charlene: 082 892 4304 / Paul: 083 296 8006 | Fresh produce, Livestock Sales, Flea Market, handcrafts, food stalls, great outdoor vibe that is pet and child friendly & live entertainment. |
| | Bryanston Organic & Natural Market | 09:00 – 15:00 | 40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road) | 011 706 3671 enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za | Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce. |
| | 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. |
| | Walkerville Country Market | 09:00 – 15:00 | Walkerville Country Market @ the Showgrounds | Ivan 084 590 2312 market@walkervillesa.co.za | Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft beer, play area, pet friendly. |
| | Bosheuvel Fresh Produce | 08:00 – 14:00 | 54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift | Mitch 082 553 2846 | Outdoor country experience working farm cattle, sheep, and pigs. Free range meat, cheese, eggs, poultry, and craft beer. |
| | Midrand Circles Market | 09:00 - 15:00 | 118 Allan Road, Glen Austin | Margaret 079 394 5054 | Freshly locally grown produce, raw honey, indigenous flowers & trees, food stalls, fresh meat stalls, cheese, eggs, coffee, books, Gallery, and Paint Your Own Ceramics. |
| Last Saturday | Windpomp Handwerk Market | 08:00 – 14:00 | Broodblike & Koffiepit Pretoria Road between Petit and Bapsfontein | Adele 083 445 1608 | Pet friendly. Hand crafts, food, music, coffee, kids' play area, preserves, goat's milk products biltong, pap & kailings. |
| Sunday | | | | | |
| Every Sunday | Waterfall Market | 10:00 – 17:00 | Waterfall Park, Magwa Cres, Halfway House, Midrand | 064 759 6154 | Live entertainment, fresh artisanal tastes & flavours, craft beverages, kid's play area & plastic-free zone. |
| | Fourways Farmers Market | 09:00 – 16:00 | Cor Montecasino Boulevard & William Nicol Drive, Fourways | 011 465 0877 www.ffmarket.co.za | Get your groceries...in the garden! |

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Telling it like it is, mostly

I'm a fan of country music. Always have been, and always will be. Sure, a lot of country music is "treurig" (described by one of our kids' teachers as the "my wife left me and my dawg died" school of music), but I find nothing wrong with becoming melancholy as some poor lovelorn soul wails on about his broken heart or his wayward lover.

Sometimes, even, the wave of melancholy that washes over one while listening (or singing along) to a sad country song fortifies one with a thankfulness that one's lot in life is not as bad as the singer's, even if some dreadful event (like the death of a pet) has befallen one.

Of course, many hardened music fans deride country music entirely as soppy and sentimental tosh. In so doing they deny themselves the pleasure of the insights into some of the stories behind the songwriters, the songs and the singers.

Take Patsy Cline and her famous *Crazy* as an example (ah, the late, beautiful Patsy Cline. One of the all-time greats of the country music industry). Willie Nelson (who everybody knows as a pot-smoking geriatric but who, in fact, has been one of the driving forces behind country music since the 1950s, as both a prolific and generous songwriter and an accomplished musician and singer) wrote the song early in his career as a professional songwriter. He sang it one night in a bar to Patsy's husband who, in turn, recognised it as ideal for his wife. He insisted, there and then, that they drive to the Cline's home, awaken Patsy, and sing the song for her.

Being a God-fearing country boy of modest means from small-town rural Texas, Willie was reluctant and insisted on staying in the car (it was 2am). Patsy, however, duly emerged in a dressing gown, listened to the song, loved it, and made it her own. Just writing this and thinking how her haunting voice caresses those plaintive lyrics brings tears to my eyes.

And many of the songs were written after specific events in the songwriter's life. Take the statuesque bottle-blond Dolly Parton's song *Jolene*, about a worker in the Parton's bank who had an obvious crush on Dolly's husband. Dolly herself (almost as famous, and just as spiritual, as Willie Nelson and who once remarked "honey, it takes a lot of money to look this cheap") has shaken up the US music industry, and caused many a raised eyebrow, with some of her lyrics which have tackled, head-on, prickly topics such as mysogyny, gender based violence and prejudice, often at times when discussing such subjects was considered impolite or, worse, taboo.

But one can take just about any contentious subject or development of the 20th century and there will be country songs about it. War, and its futility and tragedy, get the full treatment, particularly considering America's role in conflicts worldwide in the decades since the end of World War 2. Kenny Rogers had one such hit with *Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town*, and the Dixie Chicks had one with *Travelling Soldier*, to name but two, both about the awfulness of the Vietnam War.

And, of course, there are any number of songs about transport in its various guises. Horses, naturally, loom large, but more modern modes get the country treatment, too: John Denver's *Leaving on a Jetplane*, and Willie Nelson (again) with *City of New Orleans* (about the demise of an iconic train), for example. Not to mention the Travelling Wilburys with *End of the Line* (another train song).

We've even had a few in Afrikaans that would qualify as Country-style transport songs.

Recently an Afrikaans train song entitled *Transkaroo*, originally written as a tear-jerker by Bles Bridges, has made a migration from country to light classical following its adaptation into an instrumental by the guitar duo, CH2.

Marriage, its joys and hardships, and breakups, are common Country song themes. Willie Nelson (again) has had a few songs on this subject, which is not surprising, really, considering the number of relationships and marriages he has enjoyed, or that his various wives have endured.

And sometimes the views expressed in the lyrics are not designed to please the politically "woke". One such is a recent song by a relative country music newbie, Blake Shelton, named *I'll Name the Dogs*, a pithy, non-feminist commentary about the division of responsibilities in a family in which he sings to his wife "You name the children and I'll name the dogs".

But the last word has to go to Willie Nelson (again) and another geriatric weed-smoking great of country music, Merle Haggard, who sang a song which many would say sums up the state of the world today. It's named *It's All Going to Pot*.





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