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**FRONT COVER**

Poultry and their produce. Read more about keeping chickens in our Focus on Poultry in this edition.

**COMMENT, by Pete Bower**

**Ten more years**



**H**ow has summer been for you this year? With only a few weeks left before the days shorten and the nights become colder it seems it's been quite a benign season. After a late, hot start to

the rains they came down in pleasing bucket-loads over Gauteng in November and December, making this year's rainfall total so far very much better than it was predicted to be last year. And, thankfully, rains have fallen in many other parts of the country, too, filling hitherto dry dams and alleviating what was becoming a drought disaster in many areas. Other areas, admittedly, have not been so lucky.

For us in Gauteng, however, things currently seem quite good, climate-wise. Our fields are green, our dams full, butterflies abound and those of us who have to feed livestock should have no difficulty in buying in fodder at reasonable prices as the grass cutting season hasn't been bad at all.

So much so that one might be lulled into a sense that the hullabaloo about climate change and global warming might be a bit exaggerated, or even, simply, "fake news." Well, if that's your view, time for a reality check. If you continue to live your current comfortably hydro-carbon-fueled, plastic consuming, meat-eating life you have ten years before it all goes horribly pear-shaped. Although the actual shape of that pear is not fully clear, it will involve extreme weather (drought, flood, cyclones, heat etc), possible food shortages, certain water shortages and other disruptions which will make Eskom's inability to supply uninterrupted electricity pale into insignificance.

Ten years to the tipping point. That's the view of a group of scientists and researchers who published their findings and conclusions in a report titled *Our Future on Earth 2020* last month. You can view it on our website, [www.sasmallholder.co.za/documents](http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/documents). It's scary stuff to have such a shortened horizon ~ ten years is, after all, a lot shorter than 20 (the number of years we have been publishing this magazine) or "by 2050," the last scientific estimate of the tipping point (itself only 30 years hence).

In the report, the researchers lay out in clear, layman's terms, the current state of affairs, across the entire gamut of the climate emergency, covering environmental, socio-economic, political and technological factors, among others. The current state of play is laid out very starkly in two pages of graphics. On page 11 is a set of 24 graphs showing changes in trends in two areas ~ socio-economic and "earth systems", from 1960 to the present. Have a look at them, even if you don't read the entire report. Then turn to page 63 and view the graph on the number of species extinctions since 1500.

But the researchers also give some guidelines as to what they believe can be done, if not to move the planet and its inhabitants away from the climate crisis totally then at least to extend the ten-year horizon by a few decades.

What does this "tipping point" mean? It is the term scientists have coined to describe the point at which increasing global temperatures caused by greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide will start to uncontrollably feed off themselves. In other words, the point at which we will have lost the ability to prevent the planet from self-combusting. Thus, it is a man-made construct, rather than an empirically-proven certainty. Because we've never been in this situation before as a species (that we know of, anyway), it is simply the scientists' best-guess that a global average temperature increase of 1,5°C is the level higher than which self-generating heat increases will begin. It could be higher, or it could be lower.

Is a ten-year horizon important? And what will happen in ten years' time? The short answers to both those questions is "no" and "nothing". No, a ten-year horizon to the tipping point is not important because we have absolutely no way of achieving the necessary cut-backs in carbon emissions to maintain the average global temperature increase to the holy grail of 1,5°C. Because to do so would require us all to instantly stop driving, flying, consuming and eating meat.

And that simply isn't going to happen, particularly with climate denialists such as Donald Trump and Jair Bolsonaro (among many others) in charge of their respective countries, not to mention the ANC in charge here, with its dismal record of environmental care.

And what will happen in ten (or 20) years? Nothing. At least nothing that isn't happening already, although it will simply be on an ever-increasing, more violent and terrifying scale. There will be fires, there will be floods, there will be famine, there will be death, and there will be mass migrations of people on a scale that makes the current waves of refugees pouring across borders worldwide look like a trickle. There will be riots, and war, over food shortages, and over water. So, more of the same, really. Only worse.





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**S**ir ~ Here are two photos of small patches of mealies. They were planted at the same time, not far from each other.

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Those in the taller patch must be approaching 3m tall.

That is because the soil in the lower patch has been used to plant mealies for a number of years. It has had sheep manure and chemical fertiliser added to it every

year. The other patch has been used for planting a variety of vegetables over the

years, with liberal applications of compost every year. Living proof of the value of

natural fertiliser.

In both patches we also grow runner beans and squashes, using the old-fashioned "holy trinity" technique the *Smallholder* has written about in the past. We do so with our mealies every year.

Keep up the good work on your magazine ~ it's a long wait from December to February!

**Margaret Bakker**  
Muldersdrift



Side by side of two mealie crops ~ chemical fertiliser (left), natural fertiliser (right). Wheelbarrow for perspective.

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The Editor welcomes your letters, comments and opinions, but reserves the right to edit and shorten as necessary.

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# Govt lifts ban on livestock auctions

**T**he blanket ban on livestock auctions put in place late last year in an attempt to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has been lifted.

According to a statement released by the Dept of Agriculture, minister Thoko Didiza says, "There are preconditions to the resumption of auctions. Auctions will only be conducted under stringent conditions. All livestock agents must be registered with the Agricultural Produce Agents Council (Apac)." She also pointed out that Apac certificates issued before 2 March 2018 have lapsed and must be renewed before 30 March.

The lift of this ban is not an indication that the disease has been eradicated. Livestock owners must still take precautions when buying or moving animals. These include not moving high risk animals, only buying animals from a proven source, insisting on a veterinary health declaration to accompany any animals that are brought in. The

Department also encourages livestock owners to limit the movement of cloven hoofed animals until the extent of the outbreak has been fully determined. If movements are necessary, the buyers are advised to request health declarations before any animals are bought from sellers, to prevent the possible infection of new

properties by positive animals being brought in. Place new arrivals in isolation until you are satisfied of their health status.

While the outbreak of FMD cannot be declared as over, the Department believes the spread of the disease has been contained.

Of the 160 properties

identified since November 2019, 90 of them have had  
Continued on page 13



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## MAILBAG

**S**ir ~ I was reading an article by environmental journalist Leonie Joubert in the *Daily Maverick* about how planting trees is not necessarily the solution to carbon sequestration in Africa and I thought it sounded familiar.

In fact, the same principle had already been put forward in the February edition of the *Gauteng Smallholder* magazine, entitled Getting the Most out of your Trees.

Congratulations ~ once again you are ahead of the pack! Keep up your important work.

**Elza Steyn**

Droogfontein AH

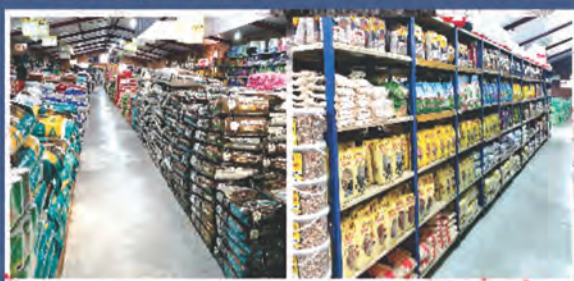




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## Parliament to conduct hearings on land expropriation

Parliament's Ad Hoc Committee to Initiate and Introduce Legislation Amending Section 25 of the Constitution (land

expropriation) has adopted its draft programme for 32 public hearings to be held across SA. A delegation will be visiting Gauteng to

conduct these hearings. Between 12 and 15 March 2020, hearings will take place from 09h00 in Westonaria, Vergeeniging, Pretoria and

Ekurhuleni. Venues are still to be confirmed. Visit the *Gauteng Smallholder* on Facebook for details once they have been confirmed. 🌱

## FMD

From page 11

their quarantine notices lifted following investigations. The minister further confirmed that so far, 18 positive cases have been confirmed and reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health, formerly known as the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). All of these cases are in Limpopo with links, direct and indirect, to the two identified auction

houses. The slaughtering of cattle from affected properties has commenced and this is closely monitored by the Provincial Veterinary Services. Most of the affected properties are commercial cattle farms, including a number of feedlots, which are fortunately all well fenced and where the animals are individually identified and proper records are kept. This made it

possible to implement control measures without the use of emergency vaccination, culling or road-blocks. A man has also been arrested on charges related to the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease. In late January, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development opened a case following the suspicious spread of FMD. The police

then identified and arrested a suspect, charged with contravention of the Animals Diseases Act of 1984. It is alleged that the suspect knowingly received cloven hoofed animals that were moved out of the FMD controlled area and subsequently sold and moved those animals at auctions and to various individuals. The man is set to appear in court in late March. 🌱

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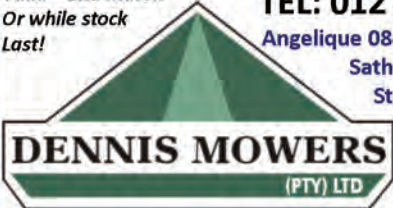
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## Water hyacinth no match for new bug

Scientists from the Centre for Biological Control (CBC) at Rhodes University are optimistic that an insect that has been released in large numbers is having a meaningful impact on the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) plague that has been a serious problem on Hartbeespoort Dam for decades.

An invasive plant thrives because it has no natural enemy that eats it. There are a few success stories in South Africa where an enemy from the species' native country is imported and after a great deal of research to ensure that it won't damage any native species, it is released as a form of biocontrol.

Large numbers of an insect called water hyacinth planthopper (*Megamelus scutellaris*) have been released at the dam.



Water hyacinth planthopper.

The CBC embarked on a mass release campaign over the last year, together with pupils from Pecanwood College and Mountain Cambridge School, in consultation with Harties Foundation and other stakeholders around the dam, releasing tens of thousands of the planthopper monthly. Planthoppers feed on the plant's sap. They pierce the plant tissue, damaging cells. Damage in the petiole (the bulbous stem) leads to water logging, which reduces plant buoyancy and causes the tissue to rot. Damage is evident once leaves start to turn brown, and a sooty

mould develops on the leaves.

The insects are about 3mm long. Colouration varies from pale cream to dark brown and adults may or may not possess wings. Flight in planthoppers is often an adaptation for dispersal, allowing them to leave areas of poor nutritional quality and find somewhere offering

better conditions.

It takes time for planthopper numbers to increase substantially, capable of causing visible plant damage over large swathes. A few weeks after release, nymphs should be seen around the base of the plant and up the petioles. Adults can live for up to 80 days and females lay many eggs in their life time,

positioning them in pairs at

Continued on page 17

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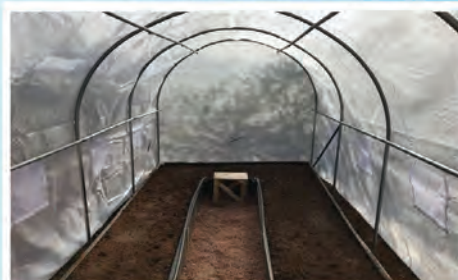
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A sheep suffering with RVF.

The incubation period (the interval from infection to onset of symptoms) for RVF varies from two to six days. Clinical signs of RVF include sudden onset of abortion storms; mortality in lambs under five to six days old; high fever, lymphadenitis, nasal and ocular discharge in mature animals; profuse fetid diarrhoea; vomiting and abdominal colic.

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The vaccines are available at the Institute for Disease Control (012 333-0399) or some veterinary pharmaceutical outlets.

## BIOCONTROL

From page 15

the base of the leaf. Eggs hatch after seven to 13 days and nymphs develop through five instars (stages), feeding on leaves and petioles. They become adults about 25 days after hatching. Many different forms of control of the weed have been attempted on the dam, including herbicides,

mechanical and manual removal and other forms of biological control. According to the CBC's Prof Julie Coetzee, the results on the dam are significant, with a drop of at least 3% of hyacinth coverage from 13% to 10% in only a short time. 🌿

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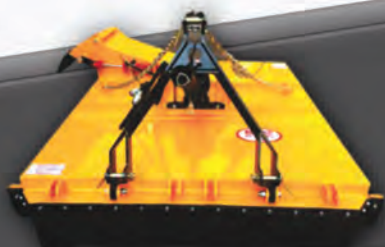
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biology of the plant, types of cannabis, genetics, germination methods, propagation and best growing methods. The course is facilitated by Itumeleng Tau who has been growing cannabis for 20 years. After completing Dicla's vegetable growing courses, Tau approached the centre about doing a course on cannabis. Tau, together with Dicla's managing director

Patrick Verster, then developed the course. It is accredited by the Agri-SETA and covers four specific outcomes ~ identify the propagation environment, prepare propagation material, carry out propagation and carry out post-propagation procedures. "The course suits a home-grower or someone looking to start something commercial

with a Legal Permit or License," says Verster. Tau says the course also covers the legality behind the plant, its history in southern Africa and its various uses. "Cannabis has more than 11 000 uses," he says. In 2018, the organisation was issued with a permit by the South African Health Products and Regulatory Authority

Continued on page 22



Itumeleng Tau.



Patrick Verster.

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# EDUCATION

From page 21

(SAPHRA) for the growing of cannabis following its decriminalisation in 2018. With this permit, Tau and Verster have undertaken research on the growing methods and cultivation of the plant ~ looking at developing a best practice to grow the plant successfully in a South African climate. Tau and Verster are hoping their research into growing practices will assist South African farmers in getting the most out of this crop. Tau says

their research is already proving helpful in cost-cutting, with all this expertise and knowledge being put into the course. "We are teaching everything we have learned from hands-on practical experience," says Tau. "Everything we teach, we have tried ourselves." The pair – a longtime cannabis grower and agronomy expert respectively ~ with over 40 years' experience combined their knowledge areas to develop the modules for training.

As a crop, Verster says the benefits are numerous. It is good as a rotation crop, it detoxifies the soil and rejuvenates the earth. The benefits of the plant itself include medicinal uses, as well as industrial uses ~ depending on the strain of



Cannabis.

plant grown, all of which students of the course will come to find out.

The centre is also working closely with members of the medical community in developing the medicinal marijuana industry in South Africa. Through their own farming, the centre is on track to have a consistent supply of medicinal-grade Hemp CBD for research trials. "We are also going to start examining the possibilities of CBG," says Tau. CBG, or cannabigerol, he explains, is a compound in cannabis that is the precursor to the better-known CBD. The compound has medicinal benefits and can be extracted earlier in the growing process than CBD.

The centre runs its Cannabis Production course once a month or more if demand is there, at a cost of R6 785 incl Vat and four nights' accommodation and meals or R4 025 without accommodation. Those interested can contact Dicla Training Centre at [info@diclatraining.co.za](mailto:info@diclatraining.co.za) or call 010 444 0175. 🌿

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## POULTRY

# The darker the chicken, the higher the demand

In South Africa, the majority of the rural population raise indigenous chickens in their homesteads.

According to two researchers at the Agricultural Research Council in Pretoria, Sandile Mahlangu and Mampe Masemola, indigenous chickens are the most preferred poultry type in rural areas due to their nutritional content and low maintenance cost. "These chickens have the ability to grow fully without regular feeding and are usually left to scavenge for feed. However, they remain important assets to the farming household due to their ability to provide various social, cultural and economic benefits."

Benefits go beyond supply of meat and eggs but extend into income, manure and use in traditional rituals and festivities. In the country, different indigenous species are reared and unlike exotic breeds, they are able to survive on little inputs and are sold occasionally at no precise age. A visit by the ARC researchers to community food gardens in Katlehong revealed an interesting market trend of different chicken breeds, especially the Black Australorp.



Black Australorp.

The Black Australorp is a breed that originated in Australia. Although crossbreeding prevails in communal areas, traces of Black Australorp are still found in some areas of South Africa.

"The chicken is regarded as a sacred (or powerful) breed with high value for traditional ceremonies and rituals.

As a result, the Black Australorp chicken fetches premium price in some areas of Gauteng, unlike other exotic and indigenous breeds."

Prices range from R150 to R500 per chicken, and the darker the chicken the higher the price.

After the Katlehong visit, further investigations were held in other townships in order to understand if this was an isolated case or not. Similar market trends were found, especially in areas closer to hostels and rivers. "Yet the market is still small despite the demand for the chicken gaining momentum in townships."

According to the interviewees in households that raised "black chickens", the market is not concerned about how the chicken is raised. Rather, much attention is focused on its colour and sex.

"Given that South Africa is home to different nations, tribes and religions, it is unfortunate that local poultry farmers are not taking full advantage of this increasing demand."

The demand may be sporadic in some instances but having a stable market would increase income for farmers "as these chickens are easy and not costly to produce."

Therefore, promotions of the Black Australorp production in these areas have the economic potential to boost producers' income and fill the social and cultural demands of customers. "However, it is imperative that poultry farmers take advantage now when prices are still high. This does not mean that income

Continued on page 25



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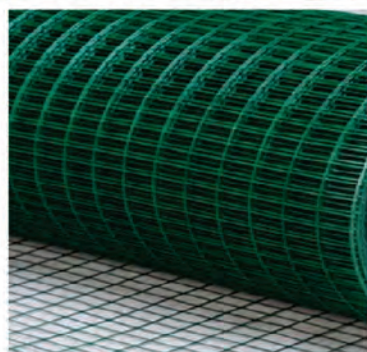
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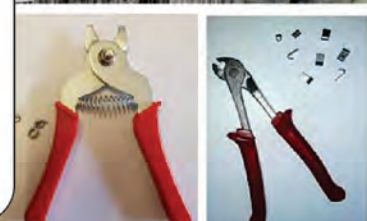
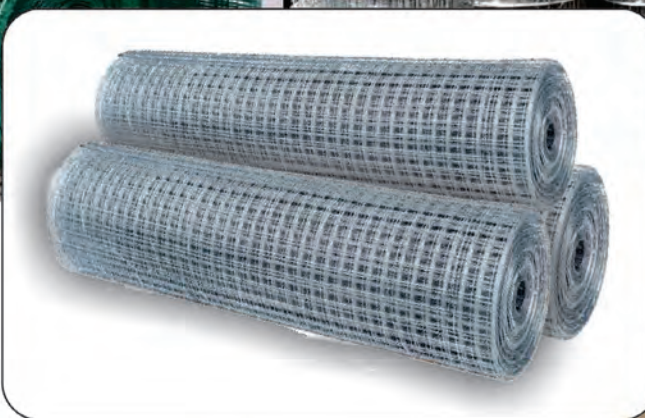
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# Making money from poultry

The rising cost of chicken and eggs will be leading some smallholders to seriously consider setting up a small poultry venture on their plots. Poultry, compared to cattle or sheep, has low energy requirements to maintain

their own bodies and are therefore very efficient converters of feed to meat and eggs.

Whether you go in for broilers or for layers depends on a few factors:

☐ How much money you have;

☐ How much time you have;  
☐ Your market, in terms of where and to whom you will be selling.

Equipment might include feeding and watering equipment, thermometers, disinfectant foot baths or showers, chicken processing

machinery, waste disposal equipment, disease and pest control equipment and incubating equipment - all depending on what production system you choose. Rearing broilers to sell live is the least expensive way of keeping chickens. Housing is

Continued on page 37

## DARK CHICKENS

From page 23 margins from selling the Black Australorps are higher compared to other breeds, and farmers should consider diversifying their poultry operations with Black Australorp chickens due to its high profit margin, even if demand is sporadic.

"For farmers to take full advantage of this market, they will have to engage in a process of understanding the market, establish relationships with the spiritual guiders, who

are the ones who understand the use of these chickens which they recommend for their clients." They warn, however, that farmers will also have to practice production system that does not compromise the colour of the chickens.

Township producers stand a greater chance of success in this market as they are closer to the consumption area and their transport costs are consequently less. ❁



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## POULTRY

From page 25

relatively inexpensive and they demand less time once they are a few weeks old. The return on your outlay is relatively quick.

Before you even consider buying your first batch of day-old chicks, have a clearly researched plan in place as to how you will sell off the birds once they have reached their desired age and weight. Over the years we at the Smallholder have received innumerable calls from smallholders saying "I have started with broilers and they are now six weeks old and costing me a fortune in feed. Where can I sell them now?" To make any money at all from a small broiler enterprise you need to have a strategy in place that seeks to target a market different to that targeted by the big commercial producers supplying chicken to supermarkets, because as a small producer you will never be able to match the commercial operations on price.

It is thus worth doing some research into the needs of the consumers in your area. You might find, for example, that there is a market for different coloured birds that are required for ritual ceremony purposes. Find out too if cockerels are more in

demand than pullets at certain times of the year. You will need to decide what production system you are going to use: extensive, where the chickens are left to roam without being fed or housed, semi-intensive, where they are housed and fed but can also roam in a camp, or intensive, where the chickens are kept inside a chicken house and provided with feed and medicine. And, at the end of a cycle, how are you going to dispose of the birds? Selling live is the cheapest option, but the market for live chickens is a very specific one, namely the township or rural market. Slaughtering, plucking, eviscerating and chilling involves extra cost but enables you to supply shops and restaurants, although it brings you into competition with commercial producers. Over the years, pure meat-type breeds were used by commercial breeders to develop lines with outstanding characteristics to put on weight fast and use feed efficiently. When these breeds are reared under intensive commercial conditions, they are reared from day-old to 33-35 days of age before being processed at an abattoir. These breeds bear the names of their companies: Ross, Cobb, etc.

However, small scale operations on plots are more likely to work with poultry that take seven to eight weeks to reach maximum weight.

There are various broiler production kits available,

Continued on page 30



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# POULTRY

From page 27

ranging from very small structures for 20 chickens to units large enough for thousands of chickens. If you are able to build four chicken houses, you will be able to establish a weekly income from broilers, because you will have batches of chickens at different stages of development. Some producers sell off the cockerels at seven weeks, as they mature before the pullets. On the other hand you need to consider the feed conversion rate, which is the rate at which the bird converts feed into meat. The pullet rate often drops off before the cockerel's, so you might in fact want to sell them off at

seven weeks and keep the cockerels for another week to achieve bigger birds.

The challenges in rearing broilers start with managing the day-olds. They must be kept under a brooder, as maintaining the correct temperature is crucial to their survival.

The next problem lies in the fact that it is not advised that you keep birds of different ages in one house. If you only have one house this means that you will have no returns for seven to eight weeks.

Commercial broiler production is practiced under intensive conditions, in which the birds are confined to the inside of the building for the entire growing period.

However, due to consumer demand for free-range chicken, you might allow the birds to move out of the building after the brooding period on to grassland.

Housing and equipment for layers costs more initially. However, you will be buying the birds at point-of-lay, so

you do not need to worry about conditions for vulnerable chicks. You will also start receiving a weekly cash flow almost immediately.

Management of layers is more intensive as constant checks must be made on lighting, egg collections, monitoring of egg numbers, feed and water. Pullets at point-of-lay are placed in battery cages at 17 to 18 weeks of age and will remain in production for approximately one year before being replaced by a new flock of point-of-lay pullets. However, you may also choose to allow free range laying. The production cost of eggs under free range is higher because of the higher feed intake by hens, due to the higher energy requirements for energy spent on walking.



Layer.

If you use dual-purpose layers, they can also be slaughtered for their meat. Another option to consider is to hatch and sell day-old chicks. This will entail incubating the eggs, although because chicks take only 21 days to hatch, you can start generating an income just three weeks after starting. 🌱

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# Know your chicken breeds

In 2009 it was estimated that there were 19,5 billion chickens world-wide.

The origins of *Gallus gallus domesticus* are thought to lie in India. Originally a subspecies of the Red Junglefowl, in about 2500 BC people started to domesticate them for purposes of cockfighting in Asia, Africa, and later Europe. Initially little notice was taken of the meat or eggs as a food source, but as they spread throughout the world, breeders began to develop the characteristics that suited their local conditions.

Some of the better known British breeds are Orpington, Sussex, Ixworth, Modern Game and Old English Game, Scots Grey and Sebright. Popular American breeds include Rhode Island Red, Plymouth Rock, New

Hampshire, Delaware and Araucana.

The White Leghorn hails from Italy and is thought to be one of the oldest chicken breeds known to man. Well-known during the Roman Empire, the breed was exported to the US, the United Kingdom and Australia early in the nineteenth century.

Other European countries have contributed Ancona, Andalusian, Hamburg, Belgian Bearded d'Anvers, Campine, Faverolles, Vorwerk, Maran, Barnevelder and Welsummer.



Silkie.

The Chinese Cochon is a very old breed and other Asian breeds are Croad Langshan, Silkie, Serama, along with bantam breeds such as Nankin and Pekin.

Australorps are the Australian version of the Orpington breed.

When Jan van Riebeeck arrived at the Cape there were already chickens there. He refers in his diary in October 1652 to fowls which were "reared here", but nothing is known of how they came to be at the Cape.

The English and Portuguese had been there before the

Dutch, so perhaps they brought them. Virtually nothing is known about what varieties he found here.

Nowadays, there are several local chicken breeds in South Africa such as Potch Koekoek, Venda, Naked Neck, Ovambo, Natal Game, Zulu, and Nguni, and most recently the Boschvelder, to name a few of the most popular ones. In some cases the origins of the breeds is known, but not in all of them. Most of them were bred in this country and are not indigenous.

The Potch Koekoek was bred

Continued on page 33

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From page 31

at the university of that town and is a composite of the White Leghorn, Black Australorp and Barred Plymouth Rock. The name "koekoek" describes a colour pattern rather than a breed. The koekoek colouring is recognised as a variety and is present in as many as nine different breeds.

The Potch Koekoek is a hardy dual-purpose breed. It lays brown eggs and, at slaughter, has very attractive deep yellow meat. The Koekoek colouring is sex-linked and the chicks are sexable soon after hatching due to gender

markings.

Venda chickens were first described by a veterinarian, Dr Naas Coetzee, who noticed these distinctive chickens in the Venda area of Limpopo. Although similar chickens were later identified in the Southern Cape and in the QwaQwa region, the name derived from the original description has been kept. The basic colours of the fowls are similar to the indigenous cattle and goats, namely black, white and brown. Little is known about the origins of this breed.

The Ovambo chicken is the

typical local breed found in the northern part of Namibia and Ovamboland.

Records of Naked Neck chickens have been found all over the world. The South African Naked Necks are thought to have originated in Malaysia and are now found mainly in the rural areas. These chickens have a variety of colour patterns. The breed is particularly popular amongst commercial poultry producers for a number of reasons. A lot of dietary protein is used in the growing of feathers.

The Naked Neck chickens

have 30% fewer feathers than fully feathered birds and can therefore produce the same body weight with less food. Also, there are fewer feathers to remove in the slaughter line and therefore they pass through much faster. They are more heat tolerant.

The most recent South African breed is the Boschvelder, developed by Zimbabwean-born farmer Mike Bosch and it is the result of a cross between the Venda, Matabele and Ovambo. 🌿

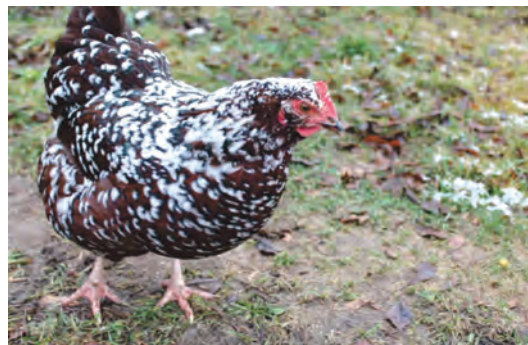
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# Here's how to start with eggs

**M**any smallholders keep chickens to provide their own egg and meat needs. However you might find that your flock is expanding to such an extent that you are having to give away eggs to staff or friends and you are beginning to think that maybe you could make some money by selling eggs.

Before you commit yourself and your layers to this, do your research, as you would for any new business.

Firstly you'll need to make sure that a market for home-grown eggs exists in your area. If you are in a traditional smallholding area, chances are that your customers will not be found among your neighbours because they, like you, will also have a few chicken on their plots.

Are there enough buyers who will be prepared to pay enough to ensure that you make a profit?

How you describe your eggs will affect what you can charge for them. Think about what you can offer and examine the terms that are bandied about when it comes to eggs. Can you describe your eggs as free range ~ this means eggs which are produced by poultry which are not caged and have daily access to an outdoor range area accessible through

openings in the side of a barn. Do you want to run the gauntlet of "organic" requirements? Organic implies that not only are the hens reared on pasture that has no pesticides etc, the food given to them has also been grown in pesticide-free conditions and without growth promoting agents in the soil.

You will need to consider where you will sell your eggs. Will you take a stall at a regular farmer's market? Will you supply a store in your area? Will you simply set up a

stall outside your plot? That would be cheapest, as you would not be paying to transport your produce, but how many people pass by regularly to ensure that you sell enough?

The legislation that governs the sale of eggs is the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990, updated in 2011.

"No person shall sell eggs for human consumption in the Republic of South Africa, unless:

☐ Eggs are sorted according to size and grade,

☐ Eggs comply with prescribed standards,

☐ The container/outer container complies with specifications,

☐ The container/outer container complies with the marking requirements,

☐ The eggs sold in loose quantity comply with specifications,

☐ Eggs do not contain any prohibited articles as per the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972).

Continued on page 36



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# POULTRY

From page 35

Sizes range from Small which is a minimum of 33 g to Super Jumbo, which is more than 72 g.

Eggs should be clean and have intact shells. The shell membrane may be slightly quivery. Eggs should be free of blood spots, absorbed odours, and any signs of embryo development or mould." There are tables which indicate how eggs will be classified as Grade 1, 2 or 3.

There are also regulations governing the packaging of the eggs.

The whole document can be found on our website at [sasmallholder.co.za/document/s/](http://sasmallholder.co.za/document/s/).

The second step after knowing your market is to write a business plan. A smallholder's business plan will not only identify your target market, it will also look at what price to set your eggs at, what costs contribute to producing the eggs, and what

profit you can hope to generate. With your business plan in place, you can work backward from the number of eggs you plan to sell each week, to how many chicks you need to get to meet that goal.

During her prime, a laying hen will, on average, produce three to five eggs a week. If you plan to sell 120 eggs, you will probably decide that 25 or 30 chicks will be a good number to start with.

Make sure you have a market that can support the number of chicks you are getting.

Here, you can also figure out pricing. What are your expenses each month in feed and other costs? Divide that

by the number of dozens of eggs you plan to sell, and make sure you're charging well above your break-even point. You may have to spread the investment of building a chicken coop or putting up fencing over several years in order to make a profit, though, so don't calculate initial investment when setting your price.

If you are going to raise chicks until they are old enough to start laying, you will not have any income from them for at least 18 weeks. Obviously choose a breed that is known to produce. Some experts recommend Amberlink or Hy-line laying hens and other good layers are Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds. You might also consider an indigenous breed such as the Potch Koekoek.

The other option is to buy point-of-lay pullets, then you will start receiving a weekly cash flow almost immediately, as they will start laying within



Chicken eggs.


Continued on page 37



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## POULTRY

From page 36

two weeks after being bought, when they are 20-21 weeks old. The hens you buy must be of very good quality and be fully vaccinated against all known poultry diseases.

The number of eggs laid also peaks halfway through the year and then starts dropping. The hens should be kept for one year and then sold as cull hens.

How you collect and clean eggs is extra important when you are selling them to others. Make sure you properly clean your eggs to reduce risk of salmonella poisoning. Once collected, it's time to package and sell your eggs. A nice label with a

graphic logo can make your product more attractive than another local brand. Make sure you comply with the regulations when packaging and selling eggs.

With any business, ongoing assessment and evaluation of the success of the business is key. If things are not running smoothly with your egg business, it may be time to reassess - the markets, your infrastructure such as the coop, pastures and fencing, and even whether continuing to sell eggs is the right choice for you. Don't be afraid to re-evaluate your egg business from time to time to make sure it's working well for you. 🌱

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## DIY is not always the best way

You discover a swarm of bees has taken up residence in your roof, or chimney. At first they don't bother you and so you leave them alone. But gradually they become a nuisance and a danger, stinging the occasional passerby or pet and flying into the house and becoming trapped behind windows. It's time for them to go, but how? Do you call a bee removal specialist? Or do you do the job yourself? Chances are, if you're a gung-ho DIY-type person, the first time you encounter a swarm of bees in residence where you don't want it, you'll try to do it yourself, because you will believe, wrongly, that the bee removal expert is a rip-off merchant.

You will think that his quoted fee of R1 000 (or more) to deal with what is to a layman a bunch of insects is much too much, particularly as he will benefit from the honey they produce afterwards. So why not do it yourself? Take advice from your mates in the pub. "Simply burn a sack under them. The smoke will drive them away, and you can collect the honey for free." The problem is that bees don't work that way. Yes, smoke is a beekeeper's friend, in that he uses it carefully to control the bees he is working with. But lighting a hessian

sack and expecting the smoke to "drive the bees away" will simply enrage them. A swarm of angry African bees is a fearsome thing, capable of causing great harm. And, just because you have lit a sack under the hive doesn't necessarily mean the bees will "get the message" and depart for somewhere else. Bees swarm off only at certain

times of the year, when they themselves decide to do so. In fact, they will attempt, by attacking all and sundry nearby, to protect their home. Bee removal experts can keep one entertained for hours with stories of laymens' attempts at bee removal, with their comical, and sometimes tragic, outcomes.



Continued on page 40 Bee swarm on roof.

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# BEEKEEPING

From page 39

For example, the case of the man who tried to dislodge a swarm in a chimney above a disused fireplace. First, he lit his rags and knowing that smoke rises, stuffed them up the chimney from the fireplace. This resulted in a stream of bees exiting the chimney and, less gratifyingly, descending around the house, enraged, to sting anything and anyone they could find. But the heat from the smoking

rags had another effect, and that was to melt the beeswax of the comb that the bees had so carefully constructed in the chimney. Comb that was swarming with worker bees, the queen, and a good few kilograms of honey. The combined weight of this, dropping on to the burning rags, dislodged the rags and, because the chimney hadn't been swept for years, considerable volumes of black soot. All of which came

crashing down into the fireplace and, in a billow of dust, soot, and further enraged bees, into the lounge. Thus, not only was the lounge a ruin, but it was filled with a dangerous number of angry, stinging bees. The clean-up operation, requiring deep cleaning of the carpet and lounge upholstery, and a fresh coat of paint on the walls and ceiling, cost very much more than the fee a licensed bee removal expert would have charged.

So why does a bee removal expert's fees seem so high to a layman? Firstly, because wild swarms of bees will most often require removing from difficult, often inaccessible, places, for example within wall cavities behind airbricks, inside the tightest corners of the eaves of a roof, or high up in difficult trees, lamp posts etc. This will require ladders, assistants, ropes, containers and tools.

Secondly, working with bees

requires special protective attire, and equipment, not to mention years of theoretical and practical knowledge. Thirdly, assuming the swarm has been successfully captured, along with its queen, and the comb removed and space cleaned to make it less attractive to passing swarms on the lookout for a new home, and any repair work completed, the captured bees need housing.

A beekeeper will tell you that a complete hive, with frames etc, costs not much less than R1 000, and being made of wood, requires regular repair. Plus, the bees need to be rehomed some distance away from the site of the capture, incurring transport costs. Oh, and all of this will usually take place at night, when the removal expert can be sure that the bees are all in residence rather than out foraging for nectar and pollen. 🌿

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## Cutting grass in time for the winter

As the prospect of heavy, prolonged spells of rain diminishes and the grass in your field turns brown, now is the time to cut and store fodder for the winter months. Traditionally, in a bygone age this would have been done, laboriously, by hand with a sickle. With the advent of agricultural machinery, and later tractors, the sickle would have been replaced by a

sickle-bar mower, a much faster machine that achieved a lovely smooth, clean cut, but which was dangerous (many a foot has been amputated by a working sickle-bar cutter), and finicky to set up and run (obstacles such as wire and stones quickly ruin blades, which replacement being a relatively painstaking process). For all their finickiness, however, sickle-bar

cutters are still the preferred implement for harvesting soft species such as lucerne, because they operate outside the tracks of the tractor's wheels,

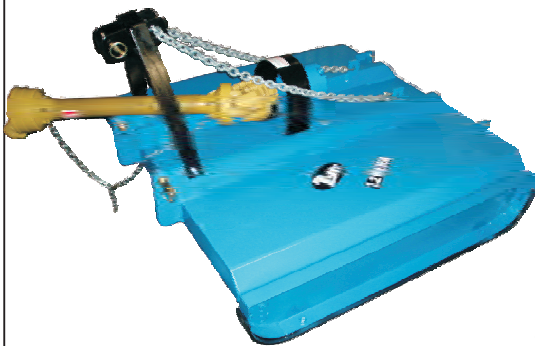
meaning that the latter do not crush material before it can be cut.

Also operating outside the tracks of the tractor's wheels, and therefore also suitable for soft species, are the most modern iteration of the agricultural mower, namely

the drum mower, where a series of three, four or more circular plates, fitted with short blades on their outer edges, spin at high speed to cut the material being harvested.

Before the drum mower, however, came the slasher, an

Continued on page 43



Slasher.

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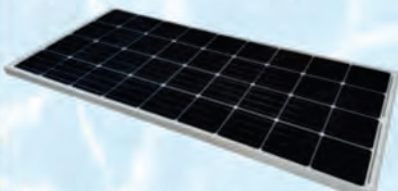
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# HAYMAKING

From page 41

Australian invention that operates behind (and sometimes also to the side) of the tractor, fitted with large blades under a sturdy steel housing. The whole device is drawn along behind the tractor, sliding over the surface on two skids. Many variations of the common slasher exist. Some are designed to throw the cut material into windrows, others are fitted with rollers

rather than skids, and are more suited to cutting in parks and sportsgrounds, while others are fitted with grass catching bags, also for sportsfield use. A further variation sees the blades replaced by lengths of sturdy chain which simply shatter the material they come into contact with, and are suitable for brush clearing operations. And, of course, they come in a variety of sizes suitable for use behind any kind of tractor

fitted with a PTO, from tiny mini-tractors up to commercial giants. Assuming you have a slasher suited to your tractor there are a few things you need to do before venturing out into your field to make hay.

❑ Make sure the blades are as sharp as you can get them, and that they are balanced, because nothing destroys a slasher gearbox and bearings quicker than the vibrations caused by unbalanced blades. Sharp blades are also necessary because they cut the grass stems cleaner, allowing the grass to recover faster for continued growth. Also, they move through the material to be cut easier.

❑ Make sure your slasher sides are at even heights on both sides, and set so that the desired height of cut is achieved. If you will still be grazing livestock through the winter in the field that you have cut you will want to leave a bit of stubble, so set your blade quite high. This is also less stressful on the tractor's power. If, however, you are simply baling and not

Continued on page 45



Slasher behind tractor.

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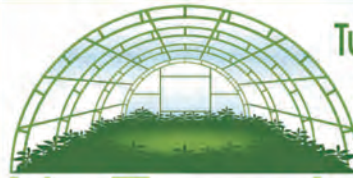
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## HAYMAKING



Cutting in a straight line.

From page 43

grazing afterwards, cut the grass as short as practical, as this makes for a much more manageable field in the dry fire season. Note that the lower the blades the more chance of scalping uneven ground, hitting rocks, and stalling on small antheaps.

❑ If you removed the blades for sharpening and balancing, refit them using new, not used, Nyloc nuts, preferably adding a bit of Loctite before doing so. The last thing you want is for a blade to work itself loose and fly off like a

lethal whirligig because a nut has vibrated itself off the bolt. It may well kill someone.

❑ Make sure the gearbox is filled with gear oil. Do not be tempted to substitute engine oil. All that happens is that

the thinner engine oil splashes around more and exits the expansion hole at the top of the gearbox faster, requiring more frequent refilling.

❑ Once the slasher is hitched to the tractor, lower it slowly to a level piece of ground and note which end of the skids touches first. Ensure that the slasher touches the ground evenly by tightening or loosening the top link. The chains attaching the body of the slasher to the hitch arms should be taut, but not over-

tight when the slasher is on the ground.

❑ Finally, ensure that all the bolts on the slasher are tight. Now you're ready to start cutting. It is up to you, and the shape of your field, how you decide to proceed. Do you-out-and-back? Or do you go round-and-round in ever-decreasing circles?

However you proceed, the length and thickness of the grass will dictate how wide

the swathe is that you cut with each pass, particularly if you are using a small, low-powered tractor. In other words, just because you have a 1,2m wide slasher doesn't mean that you will be able to cut a 1,2m wide strip. In very thick grass your tractor may start to labour if you attempt much more than 600mm.

However, you proceed, and however wide you are able to cut, remember that your

Continued on page 47

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# HAYMAKING



Tedder.

From page 45

slasher will naturally throw the cut material towards the left. Thus, to avoid cutting the already cut material, you will need to proceed in a clockwise fashion if going round and round, so that the cuttings are always on the outer side. If going out and back you can try to do it the other way by going down with the uncut material on the left, and back up with the cut material from the previous pass on the left again. This

will achieve a double-thickness windrow with each two passes, making for less raking. For the best quality hay, either baled or stored in a haystack, it should be dry before baling or stacking. Ideally this should involve tedding, to ensure the moisture of morning dew, and moisture in the plant, has a chance to dry before handling. For a small smallholding a specialist tedder is probably a bit of overkill ~ a worker with a pitchfork can probably ted sufficiently well. For larger properties, however, a tedder or, better still a combined tedder-rake, will be a useful implement to add to your line-up. Note that a wheel rake does not double up as a tedder, the effect of the rake being to roll the grass into a long sausage ~ exactly the opposite of what is achieved by the spreading, airing action of the tedder. 🌱

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# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Choosing the right gate for your plot

Here's a bet that there's a farm gate on your plot that doesn't swing open properly. Rather, it snags on grass clumps, or the middelmanjetjie of the path, and needs to be lifted and yanked open. That's because whoever hung the gate in the first place

made the most common mistake of all. He hung the gate too low to the ground. This is often the result of wishing to ensure that the gate post to which the gate is attached is deeply embedded in the ground sufficiently to prevent it from loosening and falling with time. Or, it can be because the

gate-hanger wants to ensure that small animals such as dogs and cats can't slide under the gate when it is closed. Either way, a gate that doesn't swing open is a frustration for the user, with no easy solution. In fact the only way to fix the issue in most cases is to start again, by loosening the fence from the gate post, removing the post and its stay, and

if the intention is to prevent small animals from passing through, forget it. Cats will climb over, through or under. Small dogs, too, will slither under remarkably low barriers. You'll need to stop



Bump gate.

resetting both in concrete at a higher level. How high? That depends on a number of factors, primarily the level of the ground over which the gate is required to swing. And

your small pets going where they shouldn't in other ways. If the ground leading up to the gate is at a slope, one solution is to install a sliding, rather than a swinging gate.

Continued on page 49

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However, if you have a free-swinging gate you are well on the way to making it a non-electrified semi-automatic opener. A semi-automatic gate, called a bump-gate, will open when the bullbar or bumper of the car nudges the rubber-covered unhitching mechanism which keeps the gate closed, allowing the gate to swing open so that the vehicle can pass through, and a large spring mechanism will allow the gate to swing closed again and latch itself once more as the vehicle drives off. For this to work in both directions requires sufficient level ground on both sides of the gate for it to swing both ways, and a sufficient distance between the gate posts for the gate to swing both ways without snagging the post to which the gate fastens. An alternative, for example on a gate which cannot swing both ways, sees the gate lifting up out of the way in the same way as a railway

boom lifts at a level crossing. This is achieved by a ramp on either side of the gate, which as it is depressed by the front wheel of the approaching vehicle swings the gate up, holding it there for as long as the wheels of the vehicle are depressing the ramps. As the vehicle moves off, the ramps are released and the gate drops back. Such a gate is a boon on a road used frequently by farm vehicles closing off an area that also contains livestock, because there is always the risk that a gate will be left open, letting the livestock out.

A more modern alternative, is to install a gate motor and remote set-up, either on a swing gate or on a sliding version, but this requires underground cabling to get power to the motor, or an installation of solar panels near the gate, plus maintenance of the motor, remotes etc. Not to mention that gate motors are notorious for

being attractive items of theft, and they don't work in the event of a power failure. A standard farm gate should come fitted with a patchwork pattern of vertical and horizontal wires attached all around to the pipe frame-work. While this aids in giving the gate some rigidity, and will prevent most livestock from climbing through, it won't prevent medium sized dogs, poultry or small sheep (eg lambs) from wriggling through. To contain these

requires the gate to be fitted, in addition to the wires supplied, with some form of mesh. Usually a sturdy diamond mesh, cut to size and fastened all around to the frame works well. The fastest way to destroy a farm gate and the way it swings, is to climb it, or allow workers and children to climb it rather than taking the trouble to open and close it. This practice should therefore be strongly discouraged. 🌿

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# APPS

## Useful apps for you and your children

Insects of South Africa is an app designed for all insect enthusiasts. With detailed descriptions of over 1 200 of the most ecologically important insects in the region, it's the perfect field tool for amateur entomologists. Features include latest findings, accurate information and key ID pointers; over 1 500 detailed photographs;

distribution maps; a host plant index that helps you identify insects by the plants they inhabit; a Life List that records your insect sightings; a split screen comparison feature to view two species side-by-side and an index categorised by English or scientific names.

Woodhall's Butterflies of South Africa is a comprehen-

sive field tool written and photographed by butterfly expert Steve Woodhall. It includes details of more than 800 South African species; the ability to identify species by upperside or underside colour, pattern, size, habitat and flight period; nearly 3 000 photographs showing males and females; search options by region or by GPS; ability to compare two species side by side; keep track of your sightings in a Life List and search by English or scientific names.

Smallholders should have the Snakebite First Aid in Southern Africa on their phones. This handy guide helps you identify the most dangerous and venomous snakes, and gives you the correct and most important first aid treatments to implement in the event of snakebite.

Learn more about all 23 very dangerous (whose bites can be fatal) and dangerous (whose bites can be painful, but not fatal) snakes in the region, including spitting snakes, with high-quality photos, location maps and succinct information about their habits, habitats, and key identification markers. An emergency numbers list allows you to dial out directly from the app so that you can get help quickly.

Sasol First Field Guide App

Series provides fascinating insight into the diverse fauna and flora of southern Africa. Ideal for budding and amateur naturalists, the apps are packed with up-to-date species descriptions, full-colour photographs, videos, animal calls and distribution maps ~ all aimed at quick and accurate identification of a species. Also included are intriguing facts about each species and its conservation status, as well as links to useful websites. Separate English and Afrikaans apps are available.

The apps are free, with six species included in the initial download. The remaining content can be unlocked with a single in-app purchase of R59.99.

For your children Sasol has sponsored two Young Explorer apps, one for mammals and the other for frogs. This is a colourful, informative and stimulating set of multilingual apps that introduces young children (3-8 years old) to the majestic wild creatures of southern Africa.

Each app is illustrated throughout, with each animal or amphibian presented separately and shown in its natural habitat. It is packed with fascinating facts: where the creatures live, what they eat, how big they are, what

Continued on page 51

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## Brush up on your poultry knowledge

There are many books on raising chickens. Some are for your personal backyard flock and some are aimed at commercial producers. Here are a few South African books. Dr Jean Cilliers has written a number of books about raising chickens, including Guide to Poultry Production, which is a very practical manual, as well as Chicken Production which focusses on broilers. The books are also available in Afrikaans. He has also produced a DVD called

Successful Broiler Production. These items are all published by Kejafa Knowledge Works. For more information call 014 577-8006.

Mnelisi's Guide to Raising Poultry is available in English and in isiZulu. There is information on layers, broilers, feeding, common diseases, chicken equipment and business advice. The cost is R120. There is also an e-book in either isiZulu or English for R100 and you can also order Business Plan for Chickens for R100. Contact Mnelisi on

074 769 3829.

You can also download Poultry and Chicken Farming at <https://agribook.co.za/livestock/poultry/> for information on

the international, African and local business environment, emerging farmer points of interest, associations in the industry and other information. 🌱

## APPS

From page 50

their tracks look like, and when they are active. Calls and videos of animals in the wild provide extra entertainment for kids. There are also challenging, age-appropriate games, adding extra fun to the learning experience. There are

four languages in the app ~ English, isiXhosa, isiZulu and Afrikaans. Children can read descriptions, listen to narrations and play games in any of these languages, and easily switch between them within the app. 🌱

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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/](http://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, 09:00, 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, 19:30, 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.

## 2020

## March

1: Country Market, Larsen's Road, Muldersdrift. 08h00-14h00. Local sellers bringing you the freshest crops, food and crafts. Contact Heidi for more info on 071 566 5940.

1: Country fair, carboot sale and food court

at Uncle Tim's Cabin, High Road, Benoni. 2-6: Veld Management Training. Pretoria Botanical Gardens (Environmental Education Centre). R5 950 per person. Contact [courses@alut.co.za](mailto:courses@alut.co.za) or Frits van Oudtshoorn at 078 228 0008.

7: Goliath van Gat Pumpkin Festival at 15h00 at the Pretoria Farmer's Market in Silverton. Prizes include the heaviest pumpkin, the heaviest in Gauteng, a new record in South Africa and a world record pumpkin. For enquiries, contact Henri Combrink on 082 552 9428 or [culliboer@gmail.com](mailto:culliboer@gmail.com).

7: Mnandi Market, Die Windpomp Lapa, 86 Boundary Road, Mnandi. Fresh produce, artisanal breads, handmade and homegrown goods, plants, herbs, succulents and more.

7: Mayville Market, Mayville Mall, Pretoria. 08h00-15h00. Outdoor market.

8: Antique, Arts and Crafts Market at Uncle Tim's Cabin, High Road, Benoni.

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 music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

9: Full moon

11-13: Artificial Insemination course. ARC Irene Campus. R2 500. Contact Mpho Makhanya, [makhanyam@arc.agric.co.za](mailto:makhanyam@arc.agric.co.za) / 012 672 9153.

14-15: 58th annual Walkerville Agricultural Show, Walkerville Showgrounds, Old Vereeniging Road, Walkerville.

17-20: Dairy Processing – Cheese course. ARC Irene Campus. R5 000. Contact Mpho Makhanya, [makhanyam@arc.agric.co.za](mailto:makhanyam@arc.agric.co.za) / 012 672 9153.

19-20: Dairy Processing – Yoghurt and Maas course. ARC Irene Campus. R3 500. Contact Mpho Makhanya, [makhanyam@arc.agric.co.za](mailto:makhanyam@arc.agric.co.za) / 012 672 9153.

20: Equinox

21: Human Rights Day

24: New moon

28: Mayville Market, Mayville Mall, Pretoria. 08h00-15h00. Outdoor market.

## April

4: Country Market, Larsen's Road,

Muldersdrift. 08h00-14h00. Local sellers bringing you the freshest crops, food and crafts. Contact Heidi for more info on 071 566 5940.

4: Mayville Market, Mayville Mall, Pretoria. 08h00-15h00. Outdoor market.

4: Mnandi Market, Die Windpomp Lapa, 86 Boundary Road, Mnandi. Fresh produce, artisanal breads, hand made and homegrown goods, plants, herbs, succulents and more.

5: Country fair, carboot sale and food court at Uncle Tim's Cabin, High Road, Benoni.

8: Full moon

10: Good Friday

12: 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 music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

12: Antique, Arts and Crafts Market at Uncle Tim's Cabin, High Road, Benoni.

12: Easter Sunday

13: Family Day

23: New moon

25: Mayville Market, Mayville Mall, Pretoria. 08h00-15h00. Outdoor market.

27: Freedom Day

## May

1: Worker's Day

2: Country Market, Larsen's Road, Muldersdrift. 08h00 – 14h00. Local sellers bringing you the freshest crops, food and crafts. Contact Heidi for more info on 071 566 5940.

2: Mnandi Market, Die Windpomp Lapa, 86 Boundary Road, Mnandi. Fresh produce, artisanal breads, hand made and homegrown goods, plants, herbs, succulents and more.

2: Mayville Market, Mayville Mall, Pretoria. 08h00-15h00. Outdoor market.

3: One-Day Poultry Workshop, venue to be announced, email [kamahelo.group@gmail.com](mailto:kamahelo.group@gmail.com) or call 081 776 0480.

7: Full moon

12-15: Nampo Harvest Day Agricultural Show, Nampo Park, R30 between Klerksdorp and Bothaville.

22: New moon

30: Mayville Market, Mayville Mall, Pretoria.



08h00-15h00. Outdoor market.

## June

5: Full moon

6: Country Market, Larsen's Road, Muldersdrift. 08h00 – 14h00. Local sellers bringing you the freshest crops, food and crafts. Contact Heidi for more info on 071 566 5940.

6: Mnandi Market, Die Windpomp Lapa, 86 Boundary Road, Mnandi. Fresh produce, artisanal breads, hand made and homegrown goods, plants, herbs, succulents and more.

9 – 11: Avi Africa Poultry Conference & Expo 2020, Emperors Palace Kempton Park. For online booking go to [sapa.fouriersystems.co.za/](http://sapa.fouriersystems.co.za/)

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, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

16: Youth Day

17-18: Agri Gauteng Ekspo, Vleissentraal Onderstepoort. Focussed on the practices concerned with raising and maintaining livestock. The two days will showcase cattle, fowl, goats, livestock auction, new technologies, pigs, sheep and a youth show. Contact [juanita@silvercrestevents.co.za](mailto:juanita@silvercrestevents.co.za) or 071 457 2696 to book your spot.

20: Winter Solstice

20: Agri Gauteng Farming Ekspo, Leriba Hotel, Centurion. Showcasing aquaponics, beekeeping, community and school gardens, insects, traditional food sources, vegetables and flowers, water, urban livestock including poultry, rabbits, ducks, quail, pygmy goats, Dexter cattle. Contact [juanita@silvercrestevents.co.za](mailto:juanita@silvercrestevents.co.za) or 071 457 2696 to book your spot.

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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](mailto:gautengsmallholder@gmail.com)

| DAY             | WHAT                               | WHEN          | WHERE  | CONTACT  | WHAT TO EXPECT   |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Thursday</b> |                                    |               |  |  |  |
| Every Thursday  | Bryanston Organic & Natural Market | 09:00 – 15:00 | 40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)   | 011 706 3671<br><a href="mailto:enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a> | Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.  |
| <b>Saturday</b> |                                    |               |  |  |  |
| 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<br><a href="http://www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za">www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za</a>                           | 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<br><a href="mailto:market@glenfresh.co.za">market@glenfresh.co.za</a>                         | Local naturally grown produce, hand crafted goods, home baked treats, raw honey, biltong.  |
|                 | Bryanston Organic & Natural Market | 09:00 – 15:00 | 40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)   | 011 706 3671<br><a href="mailto:enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a> | Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.  |
|                 | Waterfall Estate Farmers Market    | 09:00 – 15:00 | Waterfall Estate, Midrand  | Robyn 083 311 4768   | Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry & craft, food, etc. Enquire about stall prices.  |
|                 | Niche Community Market             | 09:00 – 15:00 | Walkerville Country Market Walkerville Showgrounds   | Ivan 084 590 2312<br><a href="mailto:market@walkervillesa.co.za">market@walkervillesa.co.za</a>                    | Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft beer, play area, pet friendly.  |
|                 | Bosheuveld 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. |
|                 | Pretoria Noord Boeremark           | 07:00 – 13:00 | 101 Rooikat Straat, Hestea Park  | Githea 081 304 2070  | Baked goods, traditional pap & kailings, vetkoek, pancakes, jewelry, plants, fresh meat, cheese, woodwork and art.   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   |                                    |               |  |  |  |
| 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<br><a href="http://www.ffmarket.co.za">www.ffmarket.co.za</a>   | Get your groceries...in the garden!  |
|                 | Vaalbank Country Market            | 10h00 – 15h00 | Kakiebos on the R515 near Rayton   | 081 271 2300   | Wide variety of community stalls and even art classes!   |

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## Two cousins

We're barely two months into the new year and our house has taken on the air of a Holiday Inn, it seems. For we've had two cousins from afar, and from different branches of my family, spend a few days with us. First was a cousin from my mother's side of the family, usually a resident of Switzerland (although he's of English origin) and his equally English-origin Swiss wife. Although they've been frequent visitors to South Africa ~ this was their fifth trip ~ they've never visited Gauteng, so we gave them a bit of a tourist drive around the province, including a scenic drive around the hills of Pretoria and, in Johannesburg, a visit to the Constitutional Court.

On departure they professed themselves very pleased with their visit which they found enjoyable and educational, and even though I say so myself, I think I made a damn fine tour guide around Pretoria, filling their heads not only with the usual facts one would get from a professional guide, but with personal anecdotes based on my memories of growing up in the town. Did you know, for example, that present-day Salvokop, today the site of Freedom Park, was previously named Timeball Hill? Why? Because in Pretoria's earliest days it was the site of a timeball, a large copper ball mounted up a tall pole, which was raised, or lowered, by the nascent city's officials to alert residents to the fact that the mail coach from Kimberley and Johannesburg had arrived.

More importantly, perhaps, geologists looking over the stones and rocks that make up the city's foundations came across a type of rock formation on Timeball Hill that nobody had ever seen before, and they named it Timeball chert.

As they probed westwards along the Magaliesberg mountains the geologists found numerous other outcrops of Timeball chert and, in fact, it has been found worldwide in similar ancient rock formations. A little something that Pretoria gave to the world.

The evenings we spent at home, catching up on family news which, considering we hadn't seen each other for 50 years, was quite a lot to catch up on. From schoolboys ~ he at Eton and me in Pretoria ~ to now both being of retirement age, it turns out that he and I are the black sheep of our rather snooty family. He because he totally rebelled against the family's Conservative, upper-class "huntin', shootin', fishin'" ethos and spent a considerable number of his young adult years partaking of illegal substances and living the life of a bohemian, and I because as an African was never going to fit in to the British Establishment.

One of the snippets of family history he imparted was something so secret and dark and revolting it can never be discussed. And here I was thinking they were all so squeaky-clean.

More recently, we had a cousin from my father's side of the family to stay. Now a resident of London, she and I are close in age, and spent much more time together as kids, both having grown up in Pretoria. Thus, tourist tours of Pretoria and Johannesburg with her are unnecessary and we were able to spend more time "skindering" about our other cousins and reminiscing about various family events, Grandmother's Cornish pasties and Lancashire hotpot, and our Auntie Meg's famed potato salad (though we both now disagree on what the special ingredient was that made it the most delicious potato salad in the world).

With all of this familial fraternising one would be forgiven for thinking that I am close to my extended family, both maternal and paternal. You'd be wrong.

I'm far from close to my maternal family, mainly because they all live in Europe and rarely, if ever, visit South Africa and I, nowadays, rarely visit Europe. And I'm not particularly close to my paternal family either, despite the fact that many of the cousins still live in and around Gauteng. Get-togethers tend, nowadays, to be over the consolatory cup of tea in the church hall after somebody's funeral.

So to have two visits within two months from cousins from both sides of my family, and both of them pleasant affairs with lots of jollity and laughter, has been a treat.

And without being melodramatic about it I find it sad that we've all drifted apart over the years. For, despite the fact that we are all very different, and all have very different world views (both cousins, residents of Europe, have a diametrically different view of Brexit to me, for example), we all share common bonds and, in so many ways, common histories.

And we have much to share with each other, even this late in life, and even if it involves deep, dark secrets that should never be discussed in public.



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