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FRONT COVER

Moo-cow. Read about keeping cattle on your plot in this edition

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Food miles & no jobs



Most people are aware of the concept of food miles. That is, the number of miles, or kilometres, a food item has to travel from its point of production (either field or factory) to its point of consumption, ie your dinner table.

Food miles are bad. Bad for the quality of the product ~ the longer an item, especially a fresh, non-frozen item, is in transit, the more nutrition it will lose. And bad for the environment because many food miles implies more fuel usage and pollution caused by the trucks, trains, ships and planes necessary to bring it to your door.

And of course, many food miles are bad for your pocket because you as a consumer are paying more for the product to cover the additional costs of transport and storage. Food miles, therefore, are one of the keys as to why one should eat seasonally and buy locally. Thus, growing your own produce, regular attendance at farmer's markets, or insistence that supermarkets or grocers stock locally grown or produced goods, is one of the keys to environmentally-sound conservative living.

But a rudimentary awareness of the seasons, and what grows when, will also help in menu planning and buying habits.

For example, deciduous fruit such as apricots, peaches, plums and nectarines ripen in summer. Thus, those you buy in winter will have been stored under refrigeration ~ and more than likely controlled atmosphere refrigeration, where the mixture of gases surrounding the fruit while under refrigeration has been assembled specifically to delay ripening and the growth of mould, diseases and pests.

This adds to the cost of the product, and is hardly good for the environment when the cold storage chamber is opened so that workers can remove the product for delivery.

If one replaces the word "food" with the word "product" one can equally apply the concepts of distance, transport cost and environmental impact to any product. And here the concept becomes a lot more complex. Because one enters the world of international trade which, at consumer level, usually means lower cost products but which at national level means an effect on balance of payments, gross domestic product, customs revenue and unemployment.

And in the South African context the latter ~ unemployment ~ is the elephant in the room, as we are being constantly reminded by the politicians, both pro-and anti-government. For SA nowadays manufactures very little.

Skeptical? When you undress for bed tonight look for the little label inside your underpants, trousers, shirt and jersey that tells you how to wash it. There you will also find where it was made.

If you find an item labelled Made in South Africa send us a picture with your name and postal address and we'll send you a smart *Smallholder* cap as a prize (yes, the cap was made in China). We don't have many to give away, but we're confident we won't be giving away many anyway.

China. Madagascar (favourite of Woolworths), Mauritius... they're all there.

And while you're driving around your town in your Chinese-made underpants and socks, Madagascan trousers and Mauritian jersey (having dried after your morning shower on a towel made in Portugal ~ we can't even cut and hem a rectangle of cloth) in your Korean, Japanese or Chinese car (assembled, granted, in South Africa under an ingenious bureaucrat-inspired financial incentive scheme that offers a few thousand assembly-line workers employment but does nothing to reduce the vehicle's retail price) you have the answer to why there are so many young men and women sitting on the kerbside, unemployed.

And for our next crisis...COVID-19

The coronavirus (COVID-19) scare is on everybody's lips and in everybody's minds, and the government has announced some pretty drastic measures (but including some daft ones, eg closing the ports of Saldanha (used for iron ore exports and oil imports) and Mossel Bay (oil-rig workers and fishermen only) to passenger and crew transfers) to curb its spread and manage the inevitable spike in infections. Nobody (least of all us) knows when, or how, this is going to end.

What we do know, however, is that the longer-term effects of the social and economic changes being wrought by the scare, and the world's responses, will be profound.

All we can realistically do, at this stage, is keep oneself and one's loved ones safe, counsel and monitor one's staff, look out for one's neighbours and stay as informed as possible ~ from accurate and trustworthy sources, ie not social media.

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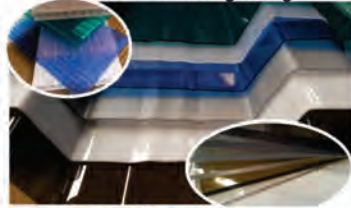
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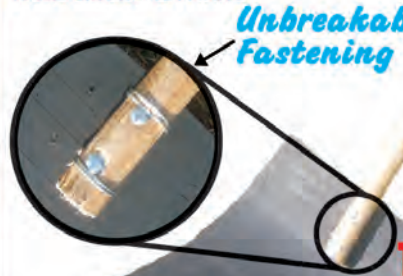
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What do we do with the carcass? So we dug a grave, which is hard work, and buried it.

We are laymen with animals, so what do we know what we're buying? It's just heartsore.

When we went again on Saturday to Sundra's auction there were white chickens that were sick. If it wasn't Newcastle Disease then I don't know.

So a while back we bought our last chickens there and we brought fowlpox back to our coop, little knowing what would follow.

Again, we are laymen and we

had only lived on our plot for three months.

The sheep that we saw on Saturday had their spines and hindquarter bones sticking out.

Is there not a law against this? Again, there was another calf, a heifer, nogal, but her stomach was disproportionately big and distended with an abscess on one side.

No, it's not right that the poor animal had to go through this. We almost bought, but then left her, even though we felt sorry for her.

Again, we are laymen. We

don't know about such things. Can a vet not sit there and watch the animals as they are delivered to see what quality they are?

He doesn't have to inspect them. I just think there must be a law against this kind of animal mishandling.

It is very, very heartsore.

Very Heartsore of Eloff

Your experiences are very saddening, but unfortunately not uncommon. Some of the smaller auctions, throughout the province, are indeed dodgy, not only from an animal welfare perspective,

but sometimes from a financial perspective as well. Our advice to you, as novices, would be to rather buy your first animals in private deals where you can pick the brains of the (hopefully more experienced) sellers.

Or, if you wish to buy at auction, stick to the regular auctions held by reputable, national firms of auctioneers.

~ Editor



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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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Bale-saver patent fight gets nasty

Your government will always obey its own laws and will surely be above the heinous practice of counterfeiting, right?

Especially when those laws are promulgated with the express aim of encouraging entrepreneurship and industry, right?

Wrong. As Midrand feed company Groenvoer found out the hard way when a visit to the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve turned up a number of counterfeited devices holding round bales of fodder for the animals there which looked like Groenvoer's patented SA Grass Roll Saver, but quite clearly weren't.

Groenvoer's staff and management spent many long hours designing and perfecting the SA Grass Roll Saver, a high-quality corrosion-proof device that can be loaded with a round bale by hand and closed in a cantilever movement that swings the bale up off the ground, where it is protected from the elements by a curved sheet metal "roof". After much trial and error Groenvoer perfected its design, and registered a

patent over it, as well design protection, in two categories, both functional and aesthetic. Cast-iron protection, you would have thought.

Not so, it seems.

With the device in full production, and being sold countrywide to great acclaim (Groenvoer's boast of significant savings in fodder costs are fully justified by buyers' experiences, it seems), the SA Grass Roll Saver came to the attention of officials from the Dept of Agriculture who expressed an interest in buying a number for Suikerbosrand.

The usual drawn-out tender process then ensued, with Groenvoer quoting for a number of its devices to a third party who would, it seems, supply the department as per its tender. Time passed, and while private sales of the device continued satisfactorily, nothing was heard of the tender outcome.

Next thing, after some months, somebody noticed devices similar to the SA Grass Roll Saver, standing in a

Continued on page 15



SA Grass Roll Saver counterfeit seen at Suikerbosrand.

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Covid-19 and the agriculture industry

TLU-SA has emphasized the need for perspective in the face of the outbreak of Covid-19. The organization, along with members of the industry and Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, have established a task team to

BALE-SAVER

From page 13
camp at Suikerbosrand, which looked similar, but not quite the same.

And so it turned out, it seems, that the third party in the original tender turned out to be a tenderpreneur who had allegedly scored a deal with the department, which had allegedly issued a tender for bale-saving devices that made specific reference to Groenvoer's patented design, with a stipulation that the products to be supplied should conform to the same specifications.

Attempts by Groenvoer to reach a "polite" solution with the department proved fruitless, and even distressing. And so Groenvoer became litigious. Despite being fully aware of the costs involved in securing the services of lawyers, Groenvoer has done so, by signing up a lawyer specifically experienced in litigating cases of patent infringement and in proceeding against the state. And so the fight continues. Watch this space. 🌱

deal with the impact of the virus on agriculture. DAFF has confirmed that auctions will continue, for the time being. It is recommended that members of the agricultural community undertake the following:

- Inform workers of the virus and how it spreads,
- emphasise the importance of hygiene and ensure soap

and water is available for staff to wash their hands,

- discuss the risks of socializing in big groups over the weekends,
- monitor the health of workers and their families,
- prepare rations in advance with a long shelf life.

TLU-SA also suggests land-owners implement the following with regards to

access to their properties:

- people visiting properties should wear face masks and clean themselves properly before continuing onto the property, and,
- be aware of criminals using the virus as a reason to gain access to your property.

Louis Meintjies, president of TLU-SA says, "We want to

Continued on page 16



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SHOWS

Another successful Walkerville Show

The annual Walkerville Agricultural Show held last month has become a firm favourite on many Gauteng smallholders' calendars. The 58th show at the Walkerville Showground brought together growers, producers, arts and crafts-makers, livestock owners, breeders

and agricultural enthusiasts for a show that offers something for the whole family, from kiddies entertainment to a well-stocked food court and beer garden. Visitors to the show would have seen the large number of local produce-stalls, including fresh fruit and

vegetables, homemade preserves, meats and cheeses, as well as atchars, sauces, art, crafts and apparel. A number of stalls were also selling products necessary on smallholdings such as fly catchers, insect repellants and soil testing kits. Nurseries offered plants,



The extensive poultry display.

Continued on page 17

COVID-19

From page 15 emphasise that everyone should keep perspective and not go overboard. The coronavirus has the potential to have an enormous negative impact.

The danger, however, is that

the perception of the possible consequences could cause more damage than the virus itself. It could have an even more significant impact on the sustainability of businesses, in future."

☐ With gatherings of more

than 100 people officially banned under the government's emergency regulations, sporting, cultural and commercial events have been announcing closures, cancellations or postponements by the dozen.

Among them is the inaugural Organic & Natural Products Expo Africa which was to have been held at the Wanderer's stadium in May. Says organiser John Thomson, "This is a sad state of affairs, as we have had such a positive response and

outstanding support from so many quarters.

"We have taken the difficult but necessary decision to reschedule the event at a later date for the safety of our exhibitors, visitors, partners and their friends and families, and also to do our part in stopping the spread of the virus."

Also cancelled is the Royal Show in Pietermaritzburg, while the Nampo Harvest Day outside Bothaville has been postponed to 11 to 14 August. 🌿

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Left: Gauteng Conservancy & Stewardship Association stand.



Right: Produce for sale.

From page 16
seedlings and saplings. While the four-legged livestock on display was limited, the show has become the base for Gauteng's poultry breeders, with a hall filled with birds of all shapes, sizes and breeds, as well as the preferred venue for the Gauteng Rabbit Breeders Association annual championship. No agricultural show would be complete without pony rides for the kids, and this year included rides on a "unicorn," one fitted out with a pink knitted woolen "horn". New this year was a funfair, and helicopter flips over Walkerville. A programme of events forms part of this show, with the large arena featuring The Draught Horse Club's display of horse power by a magnificent animal showing his prowess in front of a sled,



The Grim Reaper...on a carhorse. Why? is anyone's guess...

plough etc. As has become a tradition at the show, the Gauteng Conservancy & Stewardship Association set up an informative

display, educating visitors about the importance of conservation, indigenous

species and wetlands. Their tent was also home to live snakes in glass cages and two tortoises, all used for education purposes. Walkerville-based Livingseeds hosted Gauteng's Giant Pumpkin competition at the show, as well as a Chilli Eating competition. Although the final

numbers were not yet known at the time of going to press, organisers estimate around 6 000 visitors. 🌱

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PUMPKINS

Giant pumpkins take centre stage

It was a clean sweep for Team Joubert at Gauteng's giant pumpkin festivals this year. Peet and Sonja Joubert were victorious at both the TLU-SA Goliat Van Gat Pumpkin Festival in Silverton, Pretoria as well as Livingseeds' annual Giant Pumpkin competition held at the Walkerville Agricultural Show. With a winning weight of 420kg in Pretoria and 445.5kg in Walkerville, Team Joubert continued its domination of the "sport", having set a record last year for the biggest pumpkin in the country with a

613kg winner. At Goliat Van Gat, Peet and Sonja's daughter Megan, just twelve years old, got second with a 207kg pumpkin. Wykus Lamprecht's "Oupoot" took home second at Walkerville with a final weigh-in of 283kg. His "Liewe Lulu" was third in Pretoria with a final weight of 158kg. Jan Celliers, at 230kg, claimed third at Walkerville. Willie Jordaan won the largest first-time grower with a 113kg. Liam Bates won the junior competition with a weight of 35,5kgs. Peet says it was a difficult season this year, with

heavy rains that hammered his crop. And the family worked overtime, using fans to keep their vegetables dry, after floods affected the Centurion region earlier this year.

Joubert estimated his meticulously planned attack in both competitions had cost about R75 000, including the purchase of pedigreed seeds from a previous winning pumpkin, water (180 litres twice a day), electricity and fertilizer, etc. The plants are proudly organic.

The Joubert family clearly

grows its giant vegetables as a labour of love: The prize money at Silverton was R15 000 for the winner, and a little more at the Walkerville event. 🌱



Wykus Lamprecht at Walkerville with Oupoot, weighing 183kgs.

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Sonja and Peet Joubert with their prize winning pumpkins at Goliat Van Gat (left) and Walkerville (right).



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Government is set to open and regulate the commercial use of hemp and cannabis products.

President Cyril Ramaphosa made the announcement during his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Thursday 13 February 2020.

Much of the plan is centered around providing opportunities for small-scale farmers.

Government will in 2020 formulate policy on the use of cannabis products for medicinal purposes. Ramaphosa says the move will put South Africa in line with global trends.

opportunities for small-scale farmers

"This year we will open up and regulate the commercial use of hemp products, providing opportunities for small-scale farmers; and formulate policy on the use of cannabis products for medicinal purposes, to build this industry in line with global trends."

While it was a mere two-sentence announcement, it was met with much optimism. South Africans on social media have largely welcomed the announcement.

Cannabis farming:

Being a plant with relatively short growth cycle, its crop duration is around 3 to 5 months. During this time, cannabis plants require a controlled environment as well as frequent watering and fertilising. Therefore, irrigation quickly becomes a repetitive yet critical task, especially in today's competitive landscape of cannabis growing where costs and time are at a premium.

This makes drip irrigation almost mandatory when it comes to growing cannabis efficiently. But efficiency aside, drip irrigation also offers an excellent way to control a crop's critical parameters, such as pH or conductivity. This offers the farmer an excellent way to control a cannabis crop's critical parameters.

Moreover, drip irrigation can support short watering cycles, meaning that the plants will maintain good root oxygenation while receiving an optimum amount of water and nutrients. This prevents cannabis plants from the extremes of being overflowed with water or drying out, protecting the crop and resulting in high and consistent yields throughout farming cycles.



Cannabis Agriculture



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Meat or milk? Choosing your breed

Alongside horses and donkeys, perhaps, keeping a cow or two is the ultimate wish of many smallholders. The question, of course, then arises: For what? Meat or milk? And then: How many, and of what breed? For the answers to each of these decisions come with consequences which many first-time cattle-keepers don't consider fully when looking into the moonlike eyes of their first wet-nosed cow. At the outset, smallholder should realise that cattle,

whether for milk or meat, will ~ like horses ~ probably lead to overgrazing of their limited pasture.

One can take steps to mitigate against this last factor, of course, by electing to feed bought-in fodder, by limiting one's head count to only one or two animals at a time, and by carefully selecting one's animals from smaller breeds, such as Dexters or Jerseys. And the decision whether to keep the animals for their

meat or milk might be driven by the dietary preferences of the family (not to mention the family's size).

And here is the major issue which neophytes sometimes overlook: The sheer volume of the product thus produced. A year or 18 month-old ox of any reasonable condition will, for example, yield sufficient meat to keep an average family fully supplied with meat and offal for many months. Plus, bear in mind

that, unless one practices proper "nose-to-tail" eating, that is eating the bits of the animal one normally doesn't find displayed on a supermarket shelf such as the tongue, brains, heart, testicles, etc, an awful lot of one's animal will go to waste. This alone will make the exercise of raising one's own beef less financially attractive.

And, even of the "traditional" meat, ie leaving aside the internal organs or offal, there

Continued on page 25

CONFORMATION

From page 21

In bulls, thick, heavy and long muscling is desired, while in cows muscling should be long, smooth and of moderate thickness.

In a bull, the testicles should be well-developed and properly balanced in relation to the age and size of the animal. Breeds

vary, but in general the sheath in bulls should be as clean and tight as possible.

Females should show femininity with lean, refined heads and long, narrow and clean necks. The udder should be strongly attached with a level floor, and teats should be proportional to body size. 🌱



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MEAT OR MILK



Milk and its products.
From page 23

is a lot of meat on an ox that is likely to be tough, gristly, or fatty. It's not all fillet steaks and roasts by any means. Next, there's the question of storage. Do you have enough freezer space to accommodate this sudden influx of raw meat?

But even before you get into the pantry with your haul, there's the question of dispatching the animal and butchering it. In reality this will rationally mean transporting it to a (hopefully) nearby licensed abattoir and asking them (for a fee) to do the job for you, because although it is perfectly feasible for a smallholder to butcher his own sheep or goats with elementary equipment, the exercise becomes infinitely more complex when dealing with the carcass of an ox. So what about milk then? While keeping cows for their milk may seem a more gentle pastime that rearing them for their meat, it comes with its own set of challenges. And not the least of these are that a cow in milk is a living,

breathing millstone that will tie you, or your workers, to your plot, morning and night, seven days a week, week in and week out. That's because a properly raised milk cow requires regular milking, twice a day,

and at the same times each day. Deviate from that timetable and you will have a very unhappy cow (who will probably be in pain as a result of her over-full udder) at best, and more probably a case of mastitis on your hands. And assuming you stick to

your regular milking schedule, are you able to handle the daily volume of her production? For a good Friesian cow, for example, this could run to 15 or more litres at a time. Every day through her milking cycle. This volume can be reduced, of course, by selection of a less productive breed. The daily output of a Dexter is more manageable, while a Jersey produces a smaller volume of much richer milk, meaning that your ratio of milk to cream (and therefore butter)

is much higher.

Therefore, unless you have an outlet for the milk among your staff and neighbours, a lot of your milk will be wasted. Or, you could make butter, cream, yoghurt and cheese with the surplus, just

Continued on page 29



Beef products.



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Make your own back rubber for your herd

Flies, mites and other biting and stinging insects are always a challenge in livestock management. DIY smallholders might, however, consider making a back rubber for cattle. Excessive insect harassment causes loss of body mass due to the irritation of insects and a consequent drop in milk production, and the growth of

calves is also affected, so it is important that the problem be addressed.

When bothered by insects or other pests, cattle tend to rub against objects. Back rubbers provide a rubbing surface that is treated with a pesticide. Some of them have strips hanging off them which wipe away flies from the cow's face as she walks through it, depositing insecticide at the

same time.

You will need:

4.5-5m length of nine

gauge chain or cable;

18-20 hessian sacks;

Binder twine;

Continued on page 31



Back rubber with mineral licks.

MEAT OR MILK

From page 25

like your granny used to do. And when you start you will quickly come to realise why your granny never had a job in the corporate world, and probably never travelled far beyond her kitchen. Because butter churning, yoghurt and cheese-making are time-consuming tasks, despite being made easier by the use of modern electrical appliances. Having said that, cheese and yoghurt-making can be immensely rewarding, and you can achieve some remarkable results as an artisanal producer, with products far tastier than anything you will find on a supermarket shelf.

It should however be noted that it is (strictly speaking, at least) illegal to sell uncertified dairy products without a permit.

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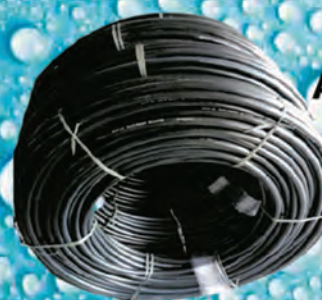
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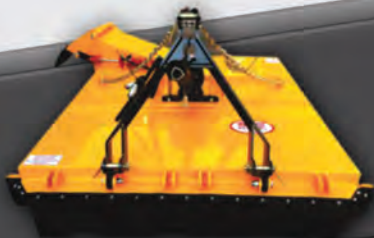
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FULL RANGE OF GROUND – ENGAGING IMPLEMENTS FROM TOP BRANDS

From page 29

- Baling wire;
- 2 wooden posts
- Appropriate liquid insecticide.

Wrap the first layer of sacks round the chain and tie them on with baling twine. Wrap a second layer and secure with baling wire, ensuring that the cut ends of the wire are pushed into the sacking. Hang the back rubber between the posts so that it will sag to within 0.5m off the ground for small breeds and a bit higher for larger cattle.

If you have trees growing in your paddock you could hang the rubber between them.

Follow the instructions for the insecticide carefully and heed all warnings and precautions. You will probably need about four litres to soak 5m of wrapped cable/chain.

The main fly enemies are the biting stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) and the house fly (*Musca domestica*).

There are a number of mites that affect cattle, while a number of ticks are carriers of cattle diseases. The insecticide should address all these threats and it is a good idea to rotate the pesticides.

The insecticides labelled for use with dairy cattle is a more restrictive list as compared to labels for beef cattle.

The rubber needs to be soaked once a week.

The chemicals used in cattle rubs are almost universally oil-based.

It is recommended that you use livestock-grade mineral oil unless otherwise recommended on the pesticide label.

Do not use diesel, kerosene or used motor oil of any kind and do not use vegetable oil, because it encourages licking and accidental ingestion of the pesticide.

A new back rubber should be gradually soaked to hold full charge.

Don't let cattle use a back rubber that is dripping with pesticide mixture.

Cattle rubs are usually placed near water ponds or tanks. However, they can also be placed in less grazed parts of the pasture.

Sometime you might place it near salt or mineral feeders. For improved face fly control, you may need to improvise with some strips hanging from the main rub.

The *Smallholder* offers these suggestions as guidelines, with no guarantee as to their efficacy. 🌿



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Marking your animals, the ins and outs

Smallholders with livestock are encouraged to follow the law with regards to marking their animals. It is a common misconception that only commercial farmers are required to mark their livestock. However, according to the Animal Identification Act, 2002, it is compulsory to mark all cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.

First, it is compulsory to mark livestock (but not horses) with the registered Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries mark assigned to you. To do this, you must complete an application form (available for download on

our website at sasmallholder.co.za/resources) The form can also be collected from departmental agricultural extension officers, magistrates' offices, SAPS stock-theft units or from the Registrar: Animal Identification in Pretoria. Once completed, you must pay a R150 registration fee to the Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Standard Bank, Branch: Arcadia; Branch Number: 010845; Account Number: 011252871; or take the application form to the Delpen Building, on the corner of Annie Botha Avenue and Union Street,

Riviera, Pretoria.

After you have paid, you must post the original deposit slip or proof of payment as well as the application form to The Registrar of Animal Identification, Private Bag X138, Pretoria, 0001. This fee is a once-off payment ~ once your mark is registered you will not have to pay again. You must sign your form ~ it will not be valid without your signature. If you are not able to personally sign, you must enclose a letter from you authorising the signatory with the application.

Once your registration has been accepted by the department, your mark will

be added to the official list of registered brand marks and no one else can use it. You may use the same number for both large and small livestock. However, the minimum requirement does differ according to species. Cattle, sheep, goats and pig registrations may have one, two or three characters. Ostriches must have only two.

If you have bought animals or been given an animal as a gift you must mark it within two weeks. The marks are crucial for animals being transported anywhere, and aid the SAPS stock theft units in returning livestock they find stolen.

Continued on page 33

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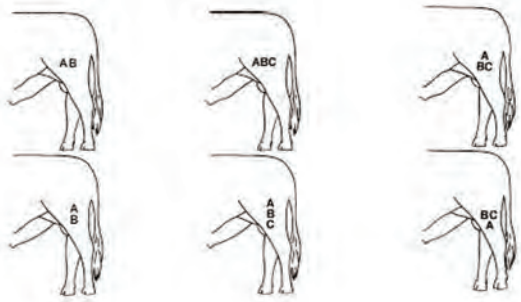
LIVESTOCK

From page 32

There are three methods of marking. For large livestock hot iron branding ~ the owner burns a mark on the skin of the animal with a hot branding iron ~ or freeze branding ~ a brand mark is put on the animal using dry ice and alcohol ~ are most commonly used. For sheep, goats and pigs tattoo tongues and ink are used to mark the animal.

A character of an identification mark on cattle may not be smaller than 40mm or bigger than 100mm (high or wide). The characters may not be closer than 12,5mm or further apart than 19mm from each other. You may put the characters next to each other, below each other or in the form of a triangle, or an upside down triangle.

(wide or high). The brand or tattoo may only have two characters. You must put the characters 6mm from each other. You may put the characters below each other. The tattoo marks may be put next to or below each other. Because there are only a finite combination of letters and numerals your mark may include letters or numbers on their side rather than upright. If you choose to brand or tattoo your own animals, rather than have a registered contractor do it for you, you simply purchase the set of characters necessary for your mark. Registered markers must, of course, have access to the whole range of characters used so that they can mix and match according to the owner's registered



Left: Patterns of characters on cattle.

The characters of a tattoo for sheep, goats and pigs may not be bigger than 19mm (high or wide). You may put the characters next to each other.

Ostriches are branded or tattooed on the leg depending on their age. No ostriches under six months may be branded with a hot iron. Ostriches younger than six months may be tattooed. The characters of a brand may not be bigger than 25mm (wide or high). The characters of a tattoo may not be bigger than 19mm

mark. So where do you put you brand on an animal you have bought that was previously branded by another owner? There is a sequence of locations you must follow that



Location of mark on ostrich.

Continued on page 35



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LIVESTOCK

From page 33

designates which area can be branded next as the animal changes owners.

For cattle, put the identification mark as low as possible on the body but where it can be seen easily. Do not put the mark on the feet. The first owner puts the mark on the left hind leg, the second owner puts his mark on the left shoulder, the third owner on the right hind leg and the fourth on the right shoulder. Remember, if you are hoping

to make money from selling cattle hides, you can lose money if you mark in the valuable areas.

Sheep, goats and pigs will be tattooed by the first owner in the left ear, the second owner in the right ear, the third owner in the left oxter and the fourth owner in the right oxter.

Ostriches under six months old can be tattooed underneath the left wing, older than six months old they can be branded on the thighs. The first owner must put the brand on the outer side of the left thigh. The second owner must put it on the outer side of the right thigh. Once you have registered your number and decided on the location of your

brand, you can begin the process.

For hot iron branding, follow these steps: Use a separate iron for each character of the mark, it is easier. Get someone to help you. The helper must bring the animal close and hold it firmly. If you have a crush-pen, branding will be easier. Heat the iron well. When the iron becomes whitish it is hot enough. You may test the iron on a piece of wood to see if it is hot enough. Kneehalter the animals so that they do not kick you. Take the first iron and put it against the animal's skin for a slowish count of three. Do not press. Remove the iron. Take the

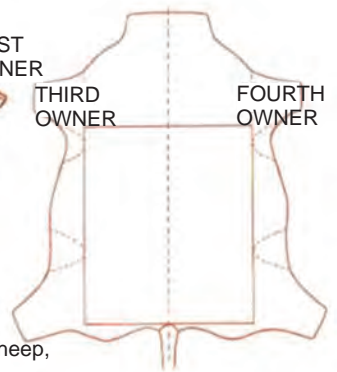
SECOND OWNER

FIRST OWNER

THIRD OWNER

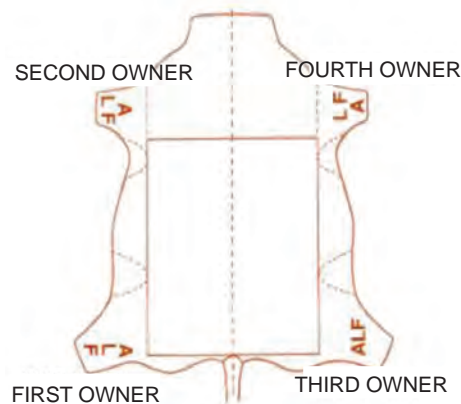
FOURTH OWNER

Order of marking on sheep, goats and pigs.



second iron and do the same. And the same with the third until your registration number has been completed. Spray some cold water on to the brand so that the animal's skin can cool down. You can

Continued on page 36



Order of marking on cattle.

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LIVESTOCK



Close up of tattoo, showing middle letter "W" on its side.

From page 35
cool down.

You can also spray wound oil on the mark.

Do not wipe it with a cloth and never rub manure on the mark.

If you are freeze branding,

you must do the following: Gather the following equipment ~ Coolant such as dry ice in ethyl, methyl or isopropyl alcohol

and liquid nitrogen, isolated container for the coolant, set of copper or high-quality bronze alloy branding irons, set of clippers, 95% ethyl or methyl alcohol, gloves.

Now to brand: The helper must bring the animal close and hold it firmly. If you have a crush-pen, branding will be easier. Knee-halter your animals so that they do not kick you.

Shave off the hair on the spot to be branded. Freeze the irons by putting them in liquid nitrogen or in spirits

which has been chilled to -40°C by means of dry ice. When the irons stop giving off bubbles they are cold enough to brand letters on to the skin. Shake off the nitrogen or spirits, otherwise the flow-off or drips will also leave a mark on the skin. Press hard for the following exposure times: Animals of six to eight months ~ 20 to 25 seconds; animals of nine to 18 months ~ 25 to 30 seconds; animals over 18 months ~ 30 to 35 seconds. If you are tattooing your sheep, goats or pigs, take the following steps: Get someone to help you. The helper must put the



Tattooing sheep's ear.

animal on its side and hold it firmly. Put the characters in the right order and position in the tattoo tongs. Wearing a pair of rubber gloves to prevent tattoo ink stains on your hands, apply the tattoo ink on the area to be branded (ears or oxters). Press the tongs until little holes on the skin appear. Rub the ink into the holes. The tattooing process is complete. 🌿

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How to catch and handle your sheep

There will be times when you have to catch and handle a sheep and it helps to know how they instinctively move. Sheep always tend to move toward other sheep and follow others in the flock. They also prefer to move uphill and toward open areas, away from confinement and buildings. They always move away from things that frighten them.

The "flight zone" is the term for how close you can get to sheep before they start moving. Flight zones are bigger for sheep that haven't been handled often or had much contact with people. Sheep move when you enter their flight zone. The closer you get, the faster they will move away. When shifting sheep, you can manage their speed by how close you get to them. Likewise, if you want the sheep to stop moving, step out of their flight zone.

It is easier to catch a sheep if

it is part of a group, rather than by itself. Catching sheep is also easier in a pen, and the smaller the pen the better. If you can, use gates or hurdles to make the pen as small as possible. If you are in the paddock, bunch the sheep into a corner for catching. Don't catch or hang on to sheep by their wool or by their horns. The former is the same as pulling a person by the hair and causes bruising; the latter distresses the animal – horns are sensitive – and the horns can break.

If you are serious about keeping sheep, buy yourself a shepherd's crook. This is a walking stick length stick with a small curved end. To catch a sheep, move up quietly behind it. This is the 'blind zone' but in practice the sheep will always see you coming, so that's why you have it in a pen. Quickly, hook the small curved end around the lower end of one of the sheep's hind legs. Voila! You can now gently pull the

sheep backwards out of the flock. All without chasing the flock around the pen, flinging yourself to the ground in your attempts at rugby tackling the animals, or even bending down.

A shepherd's crook should be an essential ancillary piece of sheep-keeping equipment, along with a dosing gun, first aid kit etc.

There are times when you need the sheep to be on its rear end for jobs such as shearing, feet trimming or dosing. Hold it still by putting one hand under its chin and lift its head slightly to stop it lurching forward. If it gets its head down you will lose control.

Start by placing one hand under its chin, and turn its head round to face its rear on the side away from you. Grab its rear end with your other hand, or down where the



Handling a sheep to administer medication.

back leg joins the body. Hang on tight and move backwards, pulling the sheep towards you. Keep pressure on its head. The sheep's legs should buckle and its body will fall back towards you. Don't let it fall to the ground or you'll lose it.

Then quickly grab its front

Continued on page 39



Shepherd's crook.

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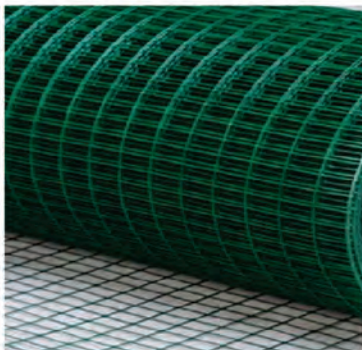
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From page 37

legs and pull it up on its rear end at an angle of about 60 degrees from upright. Practice finding the right angle to sit the sheep, and keep your legs close in behind its body. When you find the right angle, the sheep will relax and you can take your hands off and hold it only with your legs and especially your knees. It's the position a shearer uses before starting to shear.

With a big heavy ram or ewe, you'll struggle to turn its head around as its neck will be too strong. Make it easy by using two tricks.

Trick 1 (two legs):

- ~ Block the sheep in the crush pen.
- ~ Kneel down beside it and reach through to grab the two far side legs.
- ~ Give the legs a firm pull towards you and the sheep should drop on to its side.
- ~ Use that moment of surprise to hold it down, and

then grab its front feet quickly and sit it on its rump. Watch for flying legs when it realises what has happened.

Trick 2 (one leg):

- ~ Here instead of kneeling down to grab both far side legs, reach down and grab only the far side front leg.
 - ~ Give it a pull and the sheep will go down on its side.
 - ~ Be ready to grab the sheep and quickly lift it up so it doesn't escape.
- Many back injuries occur when sheep are being handled, especially when lifting sheep over a fence.



Transporting sheep.



Transporting sheep in a trailer.

This is often done to save time, rather than dragging the sheep to a gate, especially if the pen is full. To minimise the risk of injury, never try to lift a heavy sheep over a fence on your own. Get someone to lift the hind legs while you lift its front end.

For a small sheep, lift it up backwards, and hold it by the neck and a front leg. Then grab both front legs, lean back to lift the sheep a bit higher, while at the same time using your knee to give it a push up and over the fence.

Your knee acts as a fulcrum for leverage to help reduce the weight.

Transporting Sheep

If you have sold a couple of your sheep or you have bought a few on auction, you will need to give some thought to transporting them. Sheep should be handled gently and firmly. Some say that sheep aren't stupid but remember that they are prey animals so they behave in such a way as to avoid being a predator's dinner. Do not drag sheep with ropes around their necks.

First you need a certificate of

Continued on page 41



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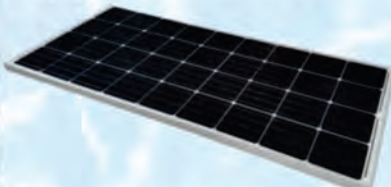
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EQUIPMENT

Hands-free fire-fighter to help smallholders

With fire season soon upon us, smallholders would do well to prepare their fire-fighting equipment ~ both to make firebreaks and in case of emergency. The Waterbok, a new piece of equipment out of Pretoria, could help with both. Designed by Gauteng smallholder Paul Bartels after a wildfire destroyed his property, the Waterbok is a

cart on wheels, drawn by the user by a strap around his waist, and fitted with a hand-operated spray lance. The Waterbok comes in two sizes ~ 40 and 65 litres. Its boat-shaped design is easier to pull through rough terrain and narrow spaces, while its compact size makes it easy to reach flames through fences, without having to cut the fence to allow large equipment through. The tank is easily filled through a large lid on top ~ users can simply push the cart into a dam or river and let it fill up by itself. The Waterbok's frame can fold back, allowing for easy



The Waterbok in action controlling a firebreak burn.

Continued on page 42

SHEEP

From page 39

removal from the seller, along with your receipts of purchase, so that you can prove that the animals have not been stolen. If you are selling, the form for the certificate can be obtained from your local police station or you can download it from the Gauteng Smallholder website

www.sasmallholder.co.za. Use a suitable vehicle for transportation. You can use a bakkie, but unless you have railings around it or a canopy, it will be easy for the sheep to jump out. A trailer with railings would be preferable. Do not move a sheep in the boot of a car, as there is no ventilation.

Do not carry them on the roof of a vehicle. Do not transport sheep with other species. Avoid overcrowding and keep the vehicle hygienically clean. Avoid loading in extreme temperatures of the day and night. Do not tie the legs together or tie the animal to the railings of the bakkie.

On arrival at your plot, try to ensure that you have help for offloading. Sheep really are not very bright and they will be nervous, so be prepared for them to rush around mindlessly. Keep dogs inside, unless they are trained sheepdogs, as they are not likely to help the proceedings. Ensure that there is water at hand. 🌿

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Spreader.

switched on. The products are ideal for smallholders who do not own tractors, and will fit on both single and double-cab bakkies.

The QM-0470 spreader has a 50kg capacity and operates using a spinning distribution disc that sits below your tailgate, spreading fertiliser granules, seed, pesticide etc. The bin can be fed by hand while the vehicle is moving. The outlet can be calibrated according to the substance you are spreading. The 80 litre volume tank is fitted with a 12V DC motor and 2m power cable with trailer plug. Mounting straps and an adjustable outlet gate are fitted as well.

Quadmaster is also introducing twelve models of bakkie-

mounted sprayers, ranging from 130 litre tanks to two 250 litre tanks paired together. The sprayers, similar to the spreaders, are mounted on to the back of your bakkie and can be used to spray fertiliser, pesticide, herbicide or fungicide on to your pasture or crops. The boomless spray system has a maximum spray width of 8m using two precision nozzles. Also available is a three-piece, six nozzle hinged boom which sprays up to 4m wide. All sprayers come

with a telescopic hand lance for spot spraying. Sprayers include mounting frames, a 12V pump spraying at 12,2 litres per minute as well as drain valves.

For more information: Quadmaster, tel 033 330 6247 or visit the QuadMaster website www.quadmaster.co.za



Sprayer.

FIRE SEASON

From page 41 transport and storage. Out of fire season the Waterbok can be used to spray fertilizer and other crop-maintenance chemicals or it can be used for targeted tick-spraying on livestock.

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EASY WATER SOLUTIONS

SOIL HEALTH

Know what's in your soil food web

If, when you look at the ground you think that soil is just a mixture of sand, silt, clay, pebbles, some minerals and water, with maybe a few worms for good measure, think again, for soil ecologists will tell you that there is an entire soil food web to be found under our feet, including bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, microarthropods, and the larger plants and animals.

The soil food web is the community of organisms living all or part of their lives in the soil. It is called a web in order to focus on the interaction between the different components.

These countless microorganisms continuously perform varied functions that help maintain healthy ecosystems, including decomposition of organic matter, nutrient cycling, retention of nutrients, bioturbation (the movement of gases and water into and through the soil), disease suppression and toxin decomposition.

Each group in this web contributes to the well-being of plants that are growing in the soil (although a few of them also eat plants and roots).

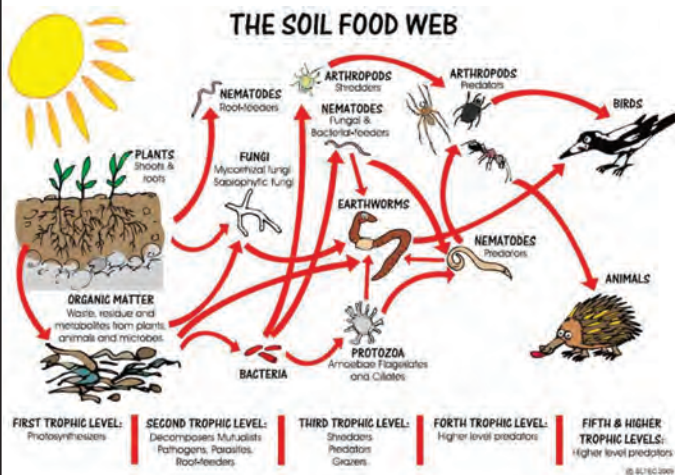
Bacteria are minuscule one-celled organisms that can only

be seen with a powerful light or electron microscope. In soil they help with the carbon cycle and nitrogen fixation, they help bind soil particles into small aggregates, suppress root-disease and filter and degrade a large variety of human-made pollutants.

Fungi provide many of the same services for plants as bacteria, but they are much more varied in their composition. They may be single-celled or they may have billions of cells (such as a mushroom). Fungi generally eat by excreting digestive enzymes that dissolve their food, so they are particularly useful in decomposition. They also harvest minerals, such as phosphorus, from rocks that are virtually inaccessible to other organisms until released by the fungi. Fungi release nutrients that plants then absorb.

Leaves are coated with innocuous or beneficial bacteria, and plant roots are completely encrusted with bacteria and symbiotic fungi. Bacteria and fungi are consumed by protozoa, which are minute single-celled animals such as amoebas, paramecia, rotifers and flagellates. Apart from keeping bacteria in balance,

Continued on page 46



Soil food web. Credit: SLTEC

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SOIL HEALTH

From page 45

they release nitrogen and other nutrients in their waste, which are absorbed by plant roots. Protozoa stimulate the rate of decomposition and they are consumed by nematodes and micro-arthropods. Nematodes are tiny roundworms that are common in soils everywhere. Those few species responsible for plant diseases have

received a lot of attention, but far less is known about the majority of the nematode community that plays beneficial roles in soil. They feed on decaying plant material, along with organisms that assist in the decomposition of organic matter. Predatory nematodes eat all types of nematodes and protozoa. Like protozoa, nematodes are important in mineralizing, or releasing, nutrients in plant-available forms. When nematodes eat bacteria or fungi, ammonium (NH₄⁺) is released because bacteria and fungi contain much more nitrogen than the nematodes require. Nematodes help distribute bacteria and fungi through the soil and along roots by carrying live and dormant microbes on their surfaces and in

their digestive systems. Nematodes are used to gauge the health of soil. Nematodes provide a source of food for soil arthropods, which are invertebrates with segmented bodies and jointed legs. They include mites, spiders, and pseudo-scorpions, centipedes, millipedes, and symphylans, crustaceans, springtails and insects. Arthropods have an important role in maintaining soil fertility, they aerate the soil, shred organic matter into small pieces and assist other soil organisms in the decomposition process. Arthropods also stimulate mineralization of nutrients in soil. Earthworms are also important, influencing soil structure by feeding, casting, and burrowing. These activities can either improve or reduce the stability of soil aggregates, as well as aeration and the drainage ability of the soil. Burrowing animals such as moles, as well as birds also

play roles in maintaining the balance in the soil food web. All of these components of soil work together to maintain soil fertility and productivity. They are dependent on each other, while they also compete with each other. Soil practices in cultivated ecosystems significantly alter arthropod community, which in turn has significant effects on soil productivity. In order to support soil organisms we need to limit soil disturbance and tillage; restore overly compacted soils to allow air and water movement; cover soil with plants or mulch; regularly apply layers of compost or organic mulch to the top of the soil and avoid pesticides that may harm soil biota. We should avoid monoculture, where one crop is planted in a field, and rather practise companion planting, intercropping and cover cropping. 🌱



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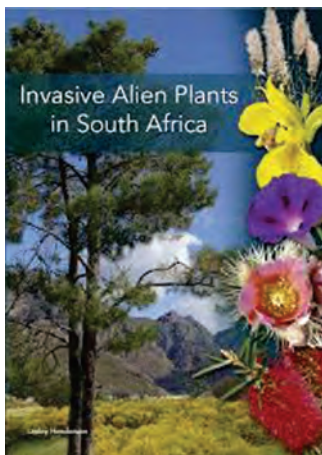
Fight invasive plants with these handy books

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) has brought out two new handbooks on alien invasive plants. ***Invasive Alien Plants in South Africa***, by Lesley Henderson provides descriptions, distributions and illustrations of more than 400 species and includes all listed invasive plant species that are covered by the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA). Each species account includes its legal and invasive status, biological control if available, region of origin, cultivated uses, habitats invaded, potential threats or impacts. A quick guide to identification is provided inside the back cover for the following major groups of plants: Grasses, Reeds &

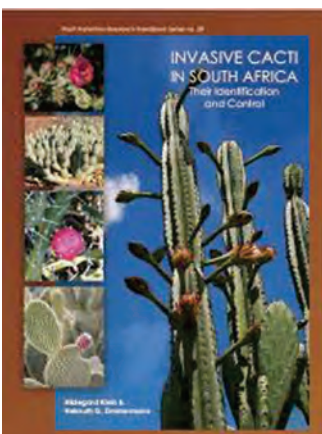
Grass-like plants; Aquatic & Wetland plants; Marine plants; Herbs; Climbers & Scramblers; Trees & Shrubs. ***Invasive Cacti in South Africa: Their identification and control***, by Hildegard Klein & Helmut Zimmermann will enable landowners to identify the currently known invasive cacti in South Africa, using colour photographs and language

appropriate to non-scientists. It discusses 33 species covered by the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations of NEMBA, as well as briefly illustrating six emerging invaders. The most important groups of indigenous plants that are sometimes mistaken for cacti, are also illustrated. A management strategy is recommended for each of the cactus species. It also explains

the science of biological control in simple terms, indicating which biocontrol agents are available for use against each cactus species, and with enough details to enable landowners to employ them successfully against their own cactus weeds. Contact Marcus Thihe at ThiheS@arc.agric.za or call 012 808 8000. 🌱



Invasive Alien Plants in South Africa.



Invasive Cacti in South Africa.

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AVAILABLE IN 2.4m AND 3m

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CONDITIONS:

1. All submissions must be pre-paid before publication.
2. A Tax Invoice will be issued upon receipt of payment.
3. Deadline for placement and payment is the 15th of the month prior.
4. To submit your ad please email graphics@gautengsmallholder.co.za and we will send you our bank details for EFT or cash deposit.

Classified advertisements in this section cost R105 VAT included for up to 50 words. To place your advertisement in the next edition call 011 979 5088 for our bank details or email graphics@gautengsmallholder.co.za

WANTED

Woodworking machine wanted. Metabo Bench Top Thicknesser Model DH 330 or similar. Contact Richard 082 825 9559 or 013 697 5140 or richard@wizz.co.za.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stop thieves: Outdoor wireless alarms for houses, cottages, outbuildings. 4 outdoor wireless sensors, main control panel, 2 remotes, siren, battery etc. R2 950. Installed in Jhb or DIY. Also cut fence alarm. Contact Colin 079 180 2853.

Souvenir Spoons 50+ and 2 Hand crafted Trays, R400. Set of 6 box framed spoons possibly gold plated and believed to depict Knights Templars, R500. 4x Solid Kiaat hand crafted side tables, R150 each or R500 for 4. 8 setting Cutlery set, plus extras - Dinner Knives & Forks, Serving Spoons, Tea Knives, Dessert Spoons & Forks and Teaspoons, R150. Book shelf - Metal frame, 4 wooden shelves, R100.00. Strictly

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DIARY

THESE DATES ARE VALID AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS - THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OWING TO THE CURRENT INSTABILITY AROUND THE COVID-19 CRISIS

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, 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, 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.

2020

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 or call 081 776 0480.

7: Full moon

10: Fundraiser for Friends of Rescued Animals (FORA) organised by two 14-year old girls - Aimee Roodie and Lana Pieterse. Dog show, food vendors, kidzone, competitions, and a best dressed dog and owner competition, and Armand van Niekerk will be singing for a Mother's day

treat. 1A Windsor Road, Luipaardsvlei, Krugersdorp (Mogale City). The organisers are also looking for donations of monetary donations, vouchers, advertising, prizes, gazebo hire or supplies toward the shelter expenses. Contact the organisers at abroode@gmail.com.

12-15: POSTPONED TO 11-14 AUG.

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: 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 <https://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 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. Each Hub will feature practical exposure to farming practices including general farm management, veterinary medicines and biologicals, feeding and watering, environment and infrastructure considerations and inventory management. Animal and product handling practices will include On-the-Hoof and Carcass Judging and dehorning demonstrations. Contact Juanita@silvercrestevents.co.za or 071 457 2696 to book your spot.

21: New moon

July

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

5: Full moon



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

20: New moon

August

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

3: Full moon

9: Women's Day

10: Women's Day spillover

11-14: Nampo Harvest Day Agricultural Show, Nampo Park, R30 between Klerksdorp and Bothaville.

19: New moon

September

2: Full moon

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

12: 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.

13: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00-14h30.

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17: New moon

22: Equinox

24: Heritage Day

October

1: Full moon

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

LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS



Bronkhorstspuit - Every Tuesday

Belfast - Wednesdays

Ermelo - Thursdays

And: Standerton - Fridays

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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, kaaiings 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.
	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, 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 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.
	Pretoria Noord Boeremark	07:00 – 13:00	101 Rooikat Straat, Hestea Park	Githea 081 304 2070	Baked goods, traditional pap & kaaiings, vetkoek, pancakes, jewelry, plants, fresh meat, cheese, woodwork and art.
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!
	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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Saying goodbye to my Hilux...

It's the end of an era, really. For my venerable and much-beloved old Toyota Hilux has gone to a new owner. Now 23 years old, and with nearly half a million kilometres on her clock, she's off to Zimbabwe because spares and maintenance for her there are simpler to procure than other, newer vehicles. I acquired her in a hurry, my first long-distance trip starting on the very day I took delivery of her, with only 25 000kms on the clock. She's a double cab job, with a diff-lock, and her first job was to transport my son and me, and two old Pony Club ladies, to the Royal Show in Pietermaritzburg.

It could easily have ended in tears for, as we set out, I must have bumped the electric switch that engages the diff-lock, and with it thus engaged we barrelled down the N3. Now if you have a bakkie with a diff-lock you will know that it shouldn't be engaged on tar, and it shouldn't be used at speeds over 50km/h or so. If you do, your bakkie's manual will warn you, there's a good chance that you might end up, upside down, in the veld beside the road.

Providence was on my side that day, however, as I accustomed myself to what I thought were rather unique handling characteristics (this was my first bakkie). So that it was only when, in the hotel parking lot in Maritzburg, doing some tight manoeuvring into a parking space, did the sound of flying gravel from the inside wheel alert me to the fact that something was wrong, and I was able to disengage the diff-lock.

In addition to the trip to Pietermaritzburg she took the family on more than one trip to the Eastern Cape, and towed our vintage tractor and my son to Ficksburg for South Africa's Guinness record tractor pull, the Great 400 Working.

She's towed countless horseboxes around Gauteng, carrying children and their mounts to and from various shows, and carried loads of sheep, sand, bales of hay and sacks of feed, not to mention poles and other building material.

She was the vehicle in which my two eldest children learned to drive, first by pottering around the plot, and then actually out on the road prior to their driving test. And at one stage she was my eldest son's work vehicle as he started out after school installing and maintaining security systems (this was before one required a license to do so).

And, of course, she spent years as one of the prime distribution vehicles for the *Smallholder*. Indeed, it was on one of these trips that I learned a short, sharp, and very expensive lesson in diesel engine maintenance. Not for nothing does the vehicle's manual

tell one to change the oil every 5 000km, along with the filter. Roaring back from Bronkhorstspuit on the R25 she suddenly developed an alarming cough, as if an elephant was clearing its throat. This was coupled with an eye-watering loss of power, and we limped home, coughing and spluttering. A quick examination of her innards revealed that, not only had I irreparably damaged her engine, but I had blown her turbocharger as well.

At that stage the *Smallholder* was producing an insufficient pile of cash each month to afford an engine and turbocharger overhaul, so I took the decision to buy a second-hand Japanese import.

All that was affordable, however, was a 2,4 litre, naturally-aspirated engine to replace her 2,8 litre turbo job. The result was that driving her became like swimming through condensed milk. If one wanted to overtake anything ~ even a wheezing truck ~ one needed to ensure the oncoming vehicles were so small one could barely see them, so slow did she become.

Oh, and the fact that we had to gyppo the sump to make it fit meant that she leaked oil copiously. I took to travelling with a pile of old *Smallholder* cardboard delivery boxes, one of which I'd slide under the engine whenever we arrived anywhere, to mop up the droplets and avoid staining our hosts' paved driveways.

The airconditioning couldn't be connected to this engine, so it was sweltering delivery trips for me. Fortunately, perhaps, this engine blew up too, to be replaced by another which in time, blew up as well. Buying used Japanese bakkie engines is a bit of a gamble. Finally, however, I found a sweet running three litre engine, which doesn't leak oil, to which the aircon connected, and which is just as powerful as the original 2,8 turbo job. Bliss. Only one problem: somewhere along the line she's lost an exhaust baffle so she roars like a big truck. And my family no longer likes to drive with me. So for good familial relations if nothing else, she had to go.



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