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FRONT COVER

Given the role of the donkey prior to the birth of Christ, it's fitting to feature one on our cover at this time of year, and to wish all a happy Festive Season.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower The caravan moves on



hat a month it's been! Following weeks of shenanigans. intrigue and gloom and doom at home involving Shaun Abrahams, Pravin Gordhan & Co, Jacob Zuma, Brian Molefe and a motley cast of hangers-on and toadies \sim not to mention



flooding in Gillooley's Interchange \sim we were able to take a breather, courtesy of the Home of the Brave and the Land of the Free. For news-watchers were treated to the final spectacle of the 2016 US presidential election.

Oh, how vicious to each other were the contestants! Oh, what hubris in the result! And oh, how awful some of the humour (example: this is not the first time in America that a white family has ousted a Black family from public housing...)

So, what have South Africans, and the rest of the world, learned in the last 30 days? For ourselves, it is clear that the issues currently feeding our daily discourse bear absolutely no relation to the issues occupying the minds of world players. Here, we are consumed by the activities of one man, his family and his immigrant friends as they seek to plunder as much of our tax money as they can before they inevitably get caught, kicked out of office and (in the case of the immigrants) out of the country and even, with a bit of luck and good management, kicked into jail.

The South African media, whose efforts are vital in the fight against corruption, are not entirely blameless in spreading confusion and depression among the citizenry, and the way to avoid being drawn into the web of deceit and lies that abound as events unfold is simply to see everything through a sharply focused lens \sim a lens that focusses clearly on Zuma and the Guptas. For everything, whether it be the nuclear deal, or Pravingate, or Saxonwold shebeens, or Chinese massage parloured-links to rhino poaching, all have their genesis in the machinations of Zuma and the Guptas. So while we all need to play along with these charades if we are to stymie the larceny in any way, we need have no fear that any development involving the current cabal has any foundation in a higher purpose, such as adhering to the rule of law or serving the needs of the people.

More worryingly, perhaps, some commentators are starting to ask the "what if" question: what if Zuma pulls the classic African dictator stunt and, a la Mugabe, makes himself president-for-life? Now THAT'S something to fret about.

But we focus on our own affairs and our mickey-mouse economy at our peril. There's a world out there that's changed fast, and will continue to change, and if we don't keep our eye on what's happening we're going to find ourselves left behind.

For there's a nationalistic ~ some would say right wing ~ wave of sentiment sweeping across the northern hemisphere which started before, but had its first truly public manifestation in, Britain's Brexit vote. One can analyse the reasons for Brexit long and hard \sim and many have \sim and one can point out that the European Union, while a grand philosophical idea to prevent the Germans from ever going to war with the rest of Europe again, is hopelessly flawed, not least economically. Its collapse, or at least further fragmentation, is by no means an impossibility.

And, apart from Brexit (and Trump, across the Atlantic), there's more European nationalism on the way. Germany's current welcoming mistress Angela Merckel hopes for another term but her countrymen have had a skinful of her open-doors-to-refugees policy, and there's a very real possibility that she'll be replaced by a more nationalistic leader. Down in France Francois Hollande is far less popular than the right wing firebrand Marine le Pen, who is only marginally less radical than her now-senile father. And there are other examples across Europe of right-wingers on the ascendancy. So Trump, as dishonest, obnoxious, Islamophobic and sexist a bully as he may be, is not the only right-wing candle on the world cake.

Our problem, of course, is that attempting to form personal opinions on the basis of pollsters and the media can lead to the kind of disappointment felt by US Democrats following Trump's victory. The media and pollsters did the world a disservice by starting to believe their own hype \sim that Clinton would win.

And a swing to the right is not necessarily a bad thing. It happens all over the world from time to time, and it remains to be seen whether Trump has real teeth to push through some of his more extreme ideas or if he's just a loud-mouthed lout.

And, to be frank, a more conservative, localised, down-to-earth approach to life is what sustainable-living proponents worldwide themselves espouse.

So while the world gears up for another chapter in its history, we wind down for some time unuder the African sun. "The dogs bark, but the caravan moves on."



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MAILBAG 'How do I calculate evaporation, simply

IR \sim I attempt to conserve my household's grey water for eventual use on my garden. To this end it flows through a simple gravel and sand filter which removes any fats and solids (and also deodourises it) before entering a lined "dam". This is a circular dished affair about 15m in diameter, lined with a single sheet of thick greenhouse plastic (and therefore, hopefully impervious), over which is laid brick embedded in sand and grouted into position. The hole in which this is dug is of solid ouklip, of such impermeability that when it rains a hole dug in ouklip will take days, literally, to drain. The sides of the dam are gently sloped downwards towards the centre where the dam is about 1,2m deep, the

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idea being firstly to maximise the surface area of the water to enable as much of the sterilising interaction of the U-V rays of the sun as possible, and secondly to facilitate the exit from the water of any animal or human who should strav into its murky depths.

I have had this ifor a few years now and in the early days it would fill to the brim, and even overflow after rain. This year, however, it is far from full, even after the

recent rains, so much so that there's not enough in it to use for watering the garden. I should add that in the past year I have added a small solar pump to the set up which, during sunlight hours, pumps a steady stream up into the filter, discharging back into the dam and creating a pleasant tinkling sound, aerating the water a little and keeping the medium of the filter, hopefully, in an anerobic state.

I should also add that our

household's water usage has greatly decreased over the past year as our now-adult children have one by one moved out of our home. At most, therefore, we use 200 litres a day of recyclable water.

My question, therefore is this: how much moisture does one lose through evaporation here on the Highveld?

I ask, because I really can't believe (at least I fervently hope) that the dam and its

Continued on page 8

BREDELL GAS



www.sasmallholder.co.za

Use bats in your stables to fight AHS midges

... and fight bluetongue in sheep, too

y now, if you want a fighting chance of preventing your horses from contracting, and very possibly dying of, African Horse Sickness (AHS), your inoculation programme should be complete. But there's something else that you can do in your stable yard that might lower the number of carrier midges of the virus and improve the odds against infection, and that is to install a bat box and encourage bats into your environment.

NEWS

The AHS virus is spread by a tiny midge named *Culicoides imicola* that is active in the early morning from around dawn and late afternoon towards sunset.

Bats, on the other hand, feed from early evening to early morning. Insect-eating bats consume vast number of insects nightly, mostly locating them by their powerful sonar, which operates in the same way that an underwater sonar is used in a fish-finder, for example. In a process called echolocating, the device (or bat) issues a sonar pulse. When this pulse encounters an object in its path, for

MAILBAG

From page 7

plastic lining are leaking, but on the other hand the rate of water loss seems very great. Is there a formula one can use to calculate evaporation and what are the factors involved, eg temperature, relative humidity? The formulae I have found on the internet are unduly complicated for my unmathematical brain. All I want is a example a school of fish or, in the case of a bat an insect, it reverberates back to the transmitter which, sensing the direction it came from and the time it took from transmission to return, can determine both the position of and the distance of the school or insect.

thumbsuck figure to confirm

evaporation, rather than the

In another part of the garden

I have a koi pond and, while

it also drops in level in hot

weather, it doesn't seem to

drop anything like as fast as

my grey water holding dam.

with friends who have pools

in Johannesburg and Pretoria

I have discussed this issue

my conviction of undue

dam has sprung a leak.

In this way, fishermen are able to target where to fish and at what depth, and bats, by making instantaneous calculations, can alter their flight paths to intercept their prev.

Larger species of bats have been measured to have lower-frequency sonars which are only capable of locating

Continued on page 10

and anecdotally it would seem that the evaporation of water this spring was very great indeed.

Parched

East Rand Any reader have an answer to this question? Meanwhile, Parched, have a look at our article on grey water in this editon.

 \sim Editor



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From page 8

larger insects, bypassing those very small ones, such as midges.

However, smaller bats, of which there are many species on the Highveld, emit higher frequencies which are easily capable of echolocating tiny insects such as midges, even to those down to no more than a couple of millimeters in length. C imicola, which would fall into the category of small insects, is only one of an estimated 1 000 varieties of midge occurring worldwide and a study on bat diets undertaken in Scotland has shown that Scottish bats do,



Three-box bat stations give the animals a choice of housing

indeed, consume midges. But, there's more: bats are voracious and opportunistic feeders, requiring vast number of insects daily to sustain their high-metabolism systems (the Scottish study estimated they can consume up to 3 000 midges a night).

There is evidence that bigger species of insectivorous bats might also consume swarming midges, even if they can't echolocate individual prey, simply by flying through the swarm with their mouths open, hoovering up the insects much the same way that a whale hoovers up vast quantities of krill in the sea.

And bats are opportunistic feeders, going after just about anything in their path. A year-

long study in Limpopo, for example, reveals that bats will feed on stinkbugs, so there is no reason to suggest that midges would be off the menu if available. There is also some research to suggest that, when all else fails, bats will feed off water sources, skimming up surfacedwelling water insects and larvae, which could include those of the Culicoides midge. And if, indeed, bats eat culicoides midges it's not only horse owners who can benefit from their presence. C imicola is also a transmitter of the bluetongue virus, a serious disease of sheep and goats, so keepers of sheep should also have a bat box near their animal housing. But even if bats have no effect on the culicoides midge there is another compelling reason to encourage them to take up residence near your animal housing, of all sorts, and that's simply because they feed, voraciously, on insects. Thus, they constitute another weapon in your war against mosquitoes, flies and other flying bugs and one that is cost-free and totally natural.

NEWS

Oh, and that old wives' tale of bats flying into and becoming entabgled with ladies' hairdos? That's nonsense. With an echolocating sonar system as sophisticated as a bat's, is it honestly likely that a bat would mistake a human hairdo for dinner? If you would like to introduce bats to your property, you should offer them decent housing. EcoSolutions of Strydom Park specialises in the manufacture of owl and bat houses, but more importantly maximising the potential occupancy of those houses. EcoSolutions says, "Bat houses and their use in an integrated pest management strategy is not a cottage industry, it is a science. Over the last ten years Continued on page 13



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WATER Dispelling the great grey water myth

Ithough the rainy season has now come with a vengeance (as we go to press the East Rand is having one of the wettest Novembers in the past 20 years) the network of dams feeding Gauteng is not replenishing as fast as would be wished and the call is still out to save water.

One of the water-conserving practices being encouraged is the use of grey water for irrigation.

While this is a worthy exercise, granted, on many smallholdings it will be wasteful expenditure and the practice could even be potentially harmful to the environment and the family. That's because the volume of grey water generated by a water-conscious household does not warrant any great

Calculate your grey water production before you spend money recycling it, because you probably generate less re-usable water than you think

investment in recycling infrastructure, which is

infrastructure nonetheless necessary if the water is to be

From page 11

we have collected information designed to provide us and our clients with the most potentially viable bat house and integrated pest management programme. "The key to this success depends primarily on the servicing and monitoring of our bat house programmes. "During the bi-annual service

we check for occupancy, we

check bat house condition

and replace or repair when

temperature data from data

loggers, we collect guano for

necessary. We collect

DNA marker analysis which provides us with information on both the bat species who utilise the bat houses as well as the prey species which they consume.

"Where new information has provided us with greater insight into design, location or orientation of bat houses. we implement these improvements during the course of the bi-annual service. The service component is critical in order to facilitate occupancy and to ensure continued occupancy."

used safely in the long term. A simple set of numbers will help you to calculate your domestic grey water produc-Continued on page 15



artificial roosts appealing to both bats of the same species as well as bats from different species, Eco Solutions uses three fundamental designs in their "bat banks". These are the nursery box, the sixchamber box and the Old George box (an American design). The positioning of these three designs in parallel allows a greater range of roosting sites from which bats can choose, says Eco Solutions.

For more information: Eco-Solutions Tel: 011 791-7326







From page 13 tion:

☐ A five-minute shower using a reasonably conservative shower head will generate about 35 litres. This can be considerably reduced using a modern water-saving head.

 A standard bathroom basin holds eight litres if filled below the overflow hole.
 A standard kitchen sink

holds 15 litres if not filled to the brim.

☐ Modern water-efficient dishwashers use as little as 15 litres per cycle.

☐ Your washing machine, if a modern machine, uses between 50 and 120 litres per load and if an older type, about 100 to 170 litres per cycle.

☐ If you still use a bath for your daily hygiene, bank on using 300 or more litres per tub, depending on how full you make it.

Q Water used for mopping and scrubbing floors can be

A family of three, with modern appliances, should generate just more than a drum-full of grey water a day

added, at a rate of eight to ten litres per bucket, assuming the used contents are emptied into the drain rather than flung out into the garden. Similarly, a few litres can be added for the water used to rinse basins, showers etc.

Thus, a household of three people, showering, using a dishwasher in the kitchen and a washing machine once daily each, can work on about 250 litres of grey water generated daily, assuming they use half a basin each a day, twice, for brushing teeth, shaving etc, and two full kitchen sinks daily for washing pots and pans, rinsing vegetables etc. Remember this is not the household's TOTAL water usage. One needs to add water consumed (eg drinking water, tea and coffee) as well

as toilet flushing (at least eight litres per flush in a standard cistern with reduced capacity either through the addition of bricks or through adjustment of the ball valve).

Taking this calculation further, 250 litres of water applied in the garden as rain would be the equivalent of a good soaking (10mm) of rainfall over $25m^2$, or an area measuring 5m x 5m. But for you to use even this quantity safely over the long term it should be filtered, firstly to remove solids (food scraps, hair, soil residue from vegetable washing etc), but also to deodorise it and remove fats, oils and greases which, in time, will clog your soil.

It is also advisable to partly sterilise the fluid by exposing it to the ultra violet rays of the

sun. The fact that the remaining fluid is high in soap and shampoo residue is not of undue concern as these compounds are largely made up of phosphates and nitrates, which are chemical fertilizers and are therefore beneficial to plants. More importantly, if you use grey water for irrigation, is to keep a watch on the pH of your soil and adjust if necessary. Better still, rotate Continued on page 17

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Gauteng's main dams explained

little simple hydrological geography will make it plain to you which Gauteng's dams, (notably the Vaal Dam) aren't filling as fast as we'd like because, while Gauteng is awash (literally, if you were in Gillooly's Interchange a few weeks back) with rain. The simple reason is because not much rain has fallen vet on their catchment areas. The Vaal Dam's catchment, for example, is largely the highlands around Standerton and Ermelo. Rain that falls over Gauteng flows west and north. Thus, insofar as Gauteng uses water from Roodeplaat, Bon Accord and Hartbeespoort Dams our rainfall is helpful to the dams, but that which falls on the south of the Witwatersrand ridge flows into the Vaal River, replenishing the Bloemhof Dam, thence into the Orange, and thus to the South Atlantic on the West Coast.

Notably, rainfall in this area does not reach South Africa's largest dam, the Gariep, on the Orange River, as the confluence of the Vaal and Orange takes place further down the Orange at Douglas, northwest of the Gariep Dam. Rain which falls to the north of the Witwatersrand ridge flows into various northflowing rivers, notably the Crocodile River, and into Hartbeespoort Dam, and then into the Limpopo River on the Botswana border. The Limpopo, in turn, forms South Africa's northern border and, onward, the eastern boundary of Mozambique's Parque Nacional, before it empties into the Indian Ocean just west of Xai-Xai. Incidentally, many visitors to Gauteng wonder why, even in times of drought when other rivers might run dry, the Vaal River near Vereeniging and Van der Bijl Park is always full of water to the same level. That's because the river as it flows past those two towns is effectively a 64km long dam itself, its waters held there by the Barrage, a 10m high spillway across the river between Van der Bijl Park and Parys completed in 1923.

WATER

From page 15

the area that you use grey water on frequently, giving parts of your garden a break from receiving a constant dose of what is in effect a weak liquid chemical fertilizer.

While "proprietary" grey water filter systems are now available, a handy smallholder could easily build a low-cost system comprising a gravel-and-sand filter and storage using 210 litre drums both for the filter and, in tandem for storage of the filtered effluent, the number of storage drums dependent on the size of the household. A more profitable use of grey water, perhaps, is to replace that (fresh, clean, drinking quality) water which flushes one's toilets, with grey water. Filtered and deodorised, grey water repurposed in this way will actually make a saving to overall water usage, rather than merely watering a small patch of plants and lawn. US plumbers' studies show that an individual using an old-fashioned cistern toilet will use about 71 litres per day, while one using more modern water-saving devices (including modern dual-flush systems) will use about 35 litres a day.



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Gift ideas for maplotters

Home weather station

any smallholders have a rain gauge in their gardens, and some keep comprehensive records of rainfall on their plots. Others, a bit more ambitious perhaps, attempt to forecast what's likely to happen weatherwise, often by no more a scientific method that gazing into the sky to catch glimpses of cloud build-up on the horizon. If you would like to do something a little more scientific, and have a handle on more environmental factors on your land, such as relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind director and speed, and maximum and minimum temperatures ~ and have all this (and more) information readily available on your computer, a battery (or mains)



ECO2950 home weather station

powered personal weather station from Eco Concept of Pretoria East, the ECO2950, should be on your shopping list this Christmas.

The device comprises two parts which connect wirelessly over a maximum distance of 100m. One is mounted outside and does the gathering of information, including rainfall, wind direction and wind speed while the other is a digital receiver, processor and display of the information collected.

The latter can also automatically upload your data to your computer or, better still, to a network of all users of similar devices in your area to give a more comprehensive picture of weather conditions. To view this information, and see the weather history recorded by these devices around Gauteng, go to www.wunderground.com. Being electronic, it enables much more data to be collected conveniently through the day. Thus, while a conventional rain gauge simply catches the rainfall and gives you a total until you empty it, this device measures individual rainfall events, recording the amount for individual showers. And using all the information at its disposal, the device is able to make simple weather Continued on page 19



CHRISTMAS

From page 18 Recommended retail price is R3 500. For more information: Eco Concepts tel 083 514-0709

John Deere apparel & gifts

t's becoming increasingly popular for well-known brands to maximise their earning potential by expanding into fields other than their

core businesses, and a prime example is that of John Deere, so much so that were one not involved in agriculture one might be forgiven for thinking that the brand was popular as an upmarket outdoor and leisure clothing line rather than a famous tractor and machinery manufacturer. But John Deere's consumer offering is much more than only clothing, headwear and footwear, with a full range of toys and novelties to fill the Christmas stockings of boys,

girls, mums and dads alike. You can see this range at Revet's specialist John Deere store on Pomona Road on the East Rand.

Or, you can browse the range online at www.revet.co.za, before visiting to make your purchase.

For more information: tel 011 965-1292

Kaytex belts

ooking for a quality leather belt for your hubby, or a pair of braces for granddad? Kaytex Belts of Sunderland Ridge is a leading manufacturer of high-quality genuine leather belts, wallets and webbing items. Both plain and fancy designs are available, and are sold under a number of quality



Kaytex belts

brand names nationwide. Kaytex also sells directly to the public from its factory in Centurion.

For more information: tel 012 666-9134/5/6

Landini toys

ot everybody owns a John Deere tractor, of course, and to some kids such a toy would be a disappointment, especially if Dad owns a Landini or McCormick.





Mesh: Galvanised After Welding Sold in 30m rolls or p/m

Block Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm	1000
6.4mm x 6.4mm	0.7mm	1	1		
9.6mm x 9.6mm	0.9mm	1	1	1	Constant of the
13mm x 13mm	1.0mm	1	1	1	menter.
13mm x 13mm	1.6mm	1	1	1	TELES
13mm x 25mm	1.0mm	1	1	1	internet (
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	1	1	1	and I
13mm x 25mm	1.5mm	1	1	1	1
13mm x 25mm	1.6mm	1	1	1	A
13mm x 25mm	2.0mm	1	1	1	6
25mm x 25mm	1.0mm	1	1	1	
25mm x 25mm	1.5mm	1	1	1	The summary of the sum
25mm x 25mm	1.6mm	1	1	1	
25mm x 25mm	2.0mm	1	1	1	
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	1	1	1	
25mm x 25mm	3.0mm	1	1	1	
25mm x 50mm	1.5mm	1	1	1	
25mm x 50mm	1.6mm	1	1	*	
25mm x 50mm	2.0mm	1	1	1	

226 High Road, Pomona, Kempton Park Inside the premises of Birds and Pets For Africa Open Monday to Sunday from 8:00 am to 5:00pm Contact us on: www.meshforbirds.co.za Barry: 083 679 1317 or aviary@mweb.co.za Adelle: 083 427 7101 or sales@meshforbirds.co.za

Mesh: Galvanised Before Welding Sold in 30m rolls or p/m

Block Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
25mm x 50mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
25mm x 50mm	3.0mm		1	1
50mm x 50mm	1.6mm	1	1	1
50mm x 50mm	2.0mm	1	1	1
50mm x 50mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
50mm x 50mm	3.0mm		1	1
50m x 100mm	2.0mm	1	1	1
50mm x 100mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
100mm x 100mm	2.0mm		1	1
100mm x 100mm	2.5m	1	1	1

Hexagonal Mesh (Oogies draad) 50m rolls/pm

Hole Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
13mm hole	0.7mm	1	1	1
25mm hole	0.9mm	1	1	1
75mm hole	1.8mm	× .	1	1
90mm hole	1.8mm	1	1	1

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9.5cm

12.5cm 15.0cm

7.5cm 9.5cm 12.5cm 15.0cm

Double Bowl & Triple Bowl 11cm, 14cm, 16cm

Panels & Gates











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CHRISTMAS

From page 19

Fortunately, Landini and McCormick merchandising items are also available locally, from Reapers Agri in Boksburg.

The range is limited to a few models of tractors and implements, but if you have a Landini in your tractor shed such an item under the Christmas tree might be just the way to your kid's heart this festive season. For more information: 011 914-1922



Landini and McCormick toys from Reapers Agri

Winch kit

his ain't a stocking filler, for sure, but if you want to give your hubby a real present for his 4 x 4, get him a RTS 13000LB DIY winch kit from Reapers Agri of Boksburg North. The kit comes complete with everything necessary to affix it to his vehicle and connect it to the vehicle's power. It's an ideal present for the keen offroader at only R7 000.

For more information: 011 914-1922

Snake catcher kit

he warmer weather this year has brought out Gauteng's snake population in great numbers, with the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality



RTS13000LB winch kit

going so far as to issue a public safety alert warning residents of the dangers of

Continued on page 22



Cnr.	Ermelo & Dagb	011 362		UNS BOER MEL STAAL
Panels 3m 0.6m high R333-00 0.9m high R411-00 1.0m high R436-00 1.2m high R488-00 1.5m high R560-00 1.8m high R644-00 2.0m high R699-00	Hot Rolled Sheet/Plate each 2450 x 1225 x 1.6 R486-56 2450 x 1225 x 2.0 R599-07 2450 x 1225 x 2.5 R701-10 2450 x 1225 x 3.0 R811-02 2450 x 1225 x 4.0 R1 117-14 2500 x 1200 x 5.0 R1 528-84 2500 x 1200 x 6.0 R1 900-00	Square Tube (6m) 1.6mm 2.0mm 20 x 20 R80.04 R99-78 25 x 25 R82-02 R136-20 32 x 32 R133-98 R182-28 38 x 38 R154-98 R219-00 50 x 50 R214-98 R290-04 76 x 76 R340-02 R449-58 100 x 100 R585-00	Lip Channel 6m 75 x 50 x 20 x 2 R247-20 100 x 50 x 20 x 2 R257-52 125 x 50 x 20 x 2 R306-96 150 x 50 x 20 x 2 R301-74 175 x 50 x 20 x 2 R383-82 200 x 50 x 20 x 2 R410-40	9m Square Bar 6 R376-77 8mm R55-f R392-50 10mm R62- R467-86 12mm R85.0 R459-91 Flat Bar 6 R585-01 20 x 3 R38- R629-28 20 x 5 R53- 25 x 3 R48- 25 x 5 R62-
2.4m high R799-00 Pales Per m 0.6m R14-69 0.9m R19-98 1.0m R21-75 1.2m R26-11 1.5m R32-63 1.8m R39-15 2.0m R43-50	2 year Wa	CONDO ACDC GATE MO rranty, 2 remotes, 4m rack and 76.39 Prices include V	battery * LDPE Pipe * Security Doo prices on reque	30 x 5 R88- 40 x 3 R75-
2.4m R52-11 Welding Rods 3.5mm 5.49 8.112-15 We also PRICES INCLUDE VAT + A C	o do Beams, Big Angl	Tube • Angles • Channe Vindow Sections • Expa e & Plates for farm use. CHANGE DUE TO NATIONAL STEEL		12mm R59- 16mm R107- 20mm R204-

CHRISTMAS

From page 21

poisonous species, particularly to pets and livestock. And while you and your staff may be petrified of a chance

encounter with an enraged Rinkhals or worse, you must

Snake catching kit from Snake Alert

DIAMOND MESH

• WELDED MESH

PLAIN WIRE

BARBED WIRE

RAZOR WIRE

acknowledge that snakes are an important part of your smallholder eco-system, helping you greatly in the war against rats and mice. But you can't expect staff and family to deal with snakes humanely and safely if you

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SCOUN:



don't have suitable implements to do so.

Fortunately, Snake Alert in Pretoria offers a useful snake kit, comprising a snake tong, a long grappling hook and string-close bag, which enables you to remotely grab the reptile behind the head, deposit it tail first into the bag and guickly pull the drawstring closed so that you can relocate it to a more remote part of your plot, or to nearby open ground, where it can hope to find a new home. Snake Alert has a choice of

POSTS

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Stihl cordless hedge shear kit

tongs, the longest being a foldable tong which really enables you to handle the reptile at more than arm's length, as well as grappling hooks to help guide recalcitrant snakes into the bag. For more information: 082 573-0710

Cordless shrub shears

et every corner of your garden to look its very best with the new Stihl HSA 25 cordless shrub shears. Combining ease of use with the ultimate in precision, this lightweight, handy tool really comes into its own when working on details.

Standard with a grass cutter as well as a shrub cutter, the







From page 22

lawn edges. And, thanks to its powerful battery, you get to enjoy complete mobility and a long running time. Contact your nearest Stihl dealer for details.

Chainsaw chain filing kit

Simplify the process of sharpening your saw chain with the Stihl 2in-1 filing guide. This unique

tool accurately sharpens the saw chain cutters and lowers the depth gauges simultaneously, so you can spend less time sharpening your saw chain and more time putting your

chainsaw to work. This handy system includes two round files, one flat file, and comes with a unique file holder and filing guide. The Stihl 2-in-1 filing guide comes in 1/4" P, 3/8" P, .325", 3/8" and .404" so you need to know the size of your chain before purchasing. Contact your nearest Stihl dealer for details.

Pruning saw

S poil yourself with a Stihl pruning saw this Christmas. Featuring 3sided Japanese toothing, these saws are designed for quick and precise sawing. The impulse-hardened, chrome plated steel blades are corrosion resistant and the two-component handles make for comfortable use. The Stihl MegaCut pruning saws are ideal for branches up to 8cm in diameter. They come with either a 24cm or 33cm saw blade. The Stihl HandyCut folding saw has a 16cm retractable saw blade, fits comfortably in your

back pocket while moving round the tree and can easily handle branches up to 5cm in diameter. For more information contact

your nearest Stihl dealer.

Safety helmet

t's an ineluctible fact that many retailers will sell you a chainsaw or brushcutter or similarly



Foldable pruning saw

hazardous item of machinery but will neglect to include suitable safety gear in the deal.

And there's no doubt that, in most cases, along with one's fingers and toes, one's eyes are the most vulnerable part of one's anatomy when using such devices.

But one of the problems with protective goggles for those of us who wear spectacles, is that they

Continued on page 25



Safety helmet from Red Rhino

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HRISTMAS

From page 23

inevitably lead to one's lenses fogging up through perspiration, impairing one's vision. The way to avoid this, and protect the rest of one's face and head \sim and one's hearing \sim is to wear a full safety helmet.

Such a helmet from Red Rhino of Nooitgedacht (and also available from red Rhino dealers) features a washable mesh visor, as well as a neck guard and washable neck flap.

For more information: tel 011 668-1923/4

Meat saw

f you have butchered your own carcasses without a proper meat saw you will know that it's impossible to do a job that looks as profes-

sional as that done by a commercial butcher, and you've probably been dismayed too as the wastage that results.

Help, for home butchers, is at hand however, with a handy, compact and reasonably priced meat saw from Mark's Plant Hire of Honeydew. The saw, which weight 55kg



in its packaging, and which you buy folded up (it fits into the boot of

a car) and then assemble when required, includes a sausage maker attachment for the quick and efficient filling of, for example, boerewors. The saw is available for R4 795 excluding VAT. For more information: 071 449-2057

J-clips and J-clip pliers

t may seem a strange thing to buy as a present, but unless one spends one's days making bird cages or otherwise working with weldmesh it is unlikely that one would have heavy duty Jclips and J-clip pliers in one's

J-clips and J-clip pliers

> toolkit. As a result, when one comes Continued on page 28



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From page 25

to do the odd repair, or to build a small enclosure, one is ill-prepared and has to resort to twisting up bits of binding wire to fashion what is required.

Thus, a pair of J-clip pliers and box of clips will make a lovely present for the handy smallholder who does projects on the plot, and who has an otherwise well-stocked toolkit.

Medium-weight and heavy duty clips and pliers are available, the heavy-duty clips being about 1mm gauge. Shaped like a J, these are put around the two strands of weldmesh to be joined and squeezed into a loop by the pliers.

J-clips can also be used to join any two bits of wire lying

parallel to one another (but not as joins for strained fence wires).

A pair of quality J-clip pliers costs R400, while the heavyduty clips themselves are available by weight, at R45 per 500g, or R85 per kg. For more information: Maxishare, tel 087 351-4871/2/3



Hydro 800 pond pump and fountain

Pond fountain pump

his festive holiday, if you're looking for a small project around the home, why not convert your patio pond into a babbling fountain?

A small fountain pump with a Jet kit will make a great gift, and it's a little DIY fountain project for anyone.

The Hydro 800 pump with three-function jet kit is the perfect gift for anyone who enjoys their garden or patio. Simply attach one of the three fountain nozzles to the pump outlet, place the pump in a large bowl or your shallow pond filled with water and switch on to enjoy the tranquil atmosphere that a water fountain creates. The pump has a maximum flow of 1,3m and 800 litres per hour, low energy consumption of only 16W and a 1,5m cable with two point plug to attach to your 200V socket.

A telescopic tube is included for fitting to the jet of your choice and the pump has adjustable flow.

The pump is availbale from www.hydropumps.co.za For more information: 012 807-3256

Continued on page 29





From page 28

Solar water heater

hile this is not strictly a Christmas present, it will certainly enhance the value of your workers' accommodation and save energy costs, while not crippling you

 The SumPays

 File SumPays

 Every Sumpays

 SumPays

financially over the festive season.

HRISTMAS

The Sun Pays of Cullinan is offering a solar geyser special until Christmas which is suitable for staff housing, or for rondavels, small cottages etc with low water usage. Two models are available: a unit with 90 litre tank capacity (and therefore of slightly larger capacity overall if one includes the volume in the tubes) is marked down to

R2 195, while a bigger unit with 1300 litres tank capacity sells for R2 995. These prices do not include an auxiliary tank and electrical element. Prices are valid till 23 December. For more information: 012 734-0915 or 082 515-1655

12V water/diesel pump

Going camping or offroading this holiday? If so, a small submersible 12V water and diesel pump from Red Rhino will make transferring fluids on your holiday, and even refuelling your vehicle, a breeze.

Shaped like a miniature borehole pump, the device has its outlet at the top, and has a diameter of only 38mm, making it small enough to easily pass through the bunghole of a 210 litre drum, or the filler neck of a fuel tank. It can pump a maximum of 1800 litres per hour of water, or 720 litres of diesel to a 1m head, and its power consumption is only 70W. Red Rhino offers a range of 12V pumps, including two larger capacity submersible pumps and a suction pump capable of moving a maximum of 2 700 litres per hour with a maximum 10m head. For more information: 011 668-1923/4



38mm diameter 12V water/diesel pump from Red Rhino



BEEKEEPING busy time in and around the hives

ith good rains upon us there will be plenty of honey for the well managed swarms. Activity around the hives now becomes very busy, when only a short while ago during the heat wave and dry air all looked gloom and doom.

The nectar secreted by the flowers in the mornings no longer dries up by 09h00 as during the drought times and the bees are able to forage practically all day. The nectar suddenly comes pouring into



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Another article in our regular series on bees and beekeeping by Peter Clark, a menace, and an old toad chairman of the Eastern Highveld **Beekeeper's Association**

the hives, there is great excitement inside and the queen is laying eggs, on some days more eggs than her own body weight, and the bees need space, space and more space.

Failure to provide enough causes the hive to become chock-a-block with honey, no space to lay eggs, and no space to rest at night so the bees rest outside and up the front of the hive. They get rained upon, and to keep warm they consume more honey than they would have had they slept inside the hive. They become frustrated and convey to queen that it is time to move on to better conditions. Out go the scout

bees and within a day or two the entire swarm moves away. Management pointer number one is that the beekeeper must provide this extra space timeously by providing at least two supers at the early summer period. A second good management manoeuvre is to provide the hive with a deep lid that creates a space of 40mm above the super frames. This is where the worker bees rest at night and are kept warm and consume a great deal less honey in doing so. Also in this area the bees build combs and store honey and it is this honey they consume if they require honey during the rest period at night.

But there are perils aplenty. Outside the hive ants become settles comfortably under the hive all day and snatches up that odd sweet tasting heavily laden worker bee tired from flying and carrying that heavy load of nectar.

A mouse or two will also sneak in during the night and the Death's Head moth comes fluttering in to do her worst.

The Fork-tailed Drongo bird patrols the flight paths of the bees and snatches up to a hundred bees per day. A heavy rain storm floods the entrance of the hive over the height of the entrances and the bees suffocate and die from lack of air and the buildup of excess carbon dioxide in the hive.

Management manoeuvre number three for the

Continued on page 31



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ON THE PLOT Know your wildlife: rabbits vs hares

f it hops like a bunny, has long bunny-ears and a bushy bunny tail it must be a bunny, right? Not necessarily. It could be a hare. You may think you know, but chances are you're actually unclear as to the difference between a rabbit and a hare. Interestingly, even though many think that these creatures look the same, in fact they belong to absolutely different species. It may sound improbable but the rabbit and the hare have more differences than similarities: they are born differently, they behaviour and style of life are totally different and they even prefer different food. The difference between rabbits and hares appears at the moment they are born. First of all, baby rabbits are called kittens, while baby hares are called leverets. Rabbits are born completely helpless, naked and blind. The mother gives birth to the young ones in a nest that has been carefully constructed with grass, tender stems and tree bark. Over this soft cushion, the mother spreads a layer of fur that she takes from her skin. Once the

kitten is in the nest, the mother is careful enough to wrap it with more hair and leaves to keep the young one warm and comfortable. Hares, however, are born fully furred, able to see and capable of independent movement.

Hares are bigger than rabbits. They are swifter than rabbits, too. The hares have longer

Continued on page 33



Scrub hare

From page 30

beekeeper, therefore, is to provide a stand for the hive at least 200mm off the ground. This stops toads and mice and prevents flooding of the entrances. Throw well burnt coal ash around and under the stand and some good handfuls of rock salt to take care of the ants. A pellet gun takes care of the birds!

Next on the list is the weeds that grow around the hive and must be dealt with in the early summer months. A regular visit to the apiary with a sprayer and weed killer sorts this problem out. Well managed strong swarms will reward the beekeeper with at least 25 kg of honey over the season \sim a worthwhile crop for all the hard work.

REEKEEPIN

Article by Peter Clark, chairman, Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association, tel 011 362-2904 and secretary Mike Alter tel 011 965-6040



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From page 31

ears and hind legs than the rabbits, and longer ears, with characteristic black markings. The rabbits and hares, though different in many respects do share many commonalities. Both the mammals moult their hair twice a year, in autumn and in spring, which will be replaced with another new coat of fur. Rabbits and hares are

nocturnal animals. They are most active from the time that falls between dusk and dawn. They keep low in the daytime.

Rabbits usually live in burrows or tunnels in the ground, where they prefer to stay during daylight hours. They try to keep hidden. Hares, on the other hand, always stay on the surface among plants and usually try to escape enemies by running. Rabbits move in groups. There exists competition between the male rabbits within a group to claim dominance. This is how they try to win over their female counterparts and the emergent victor mates with most of the females in the group. The hares on the other hand are solitary animals that live by themselves. The only time they group up is for mating. The hares are a peaceful group since there is no 'infighting' among the hares for mates.

The skulls of rabbits and hares are also different. Rabbits' fur coats remain the same colour year round,

while hares change during the year.

Rabbits and hares have different diets. Rabbits prefer soft stems, grass or vegetables, while hares eat more hard food, such as bark and rind, buds, small twigs and shoots. A hare is a wild animal, while rabbits are domesticated and are grown as pets or for slaughter.

ON THE PLOI

In Gauteng you might come across the following hares and rabbits: Cape or Desert Hare (*Lepus capensis*), Jameson's Red Rock Rabbit (*Pronolagus randensis*), Scrub or Savannah Hare (*Lepus saxatilis*) and Smith's Red Rock Rabbit (*Pronolagus rupestris*). Some plot dwellers refer to their hares as Springhares or Springhaas. However it turns out that the Springhare (Pedetes capensis) is not even a hare – it is actually a species of rodent, which resembles a kangaroo. So what we see at night, raiding the veggie patch or being set up by the dogs and zigzagging across a field at great speed, is most likely a Scrub Hare.



Jameson's Red Rock Rabbit



Intersent street, Alrode, Alberton Narius Marius Ma

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LIVESTOCK Care of teeth vital for good condition

ost smallholders have a variety of livestock on their plots and it is useful to know about the teeth of the different animals, so that one can watch out for potential dental problems which, if not treated, will often result in a loss of condition. All good herdsmen have an

on-going interest in the teeth of their animals because they

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know how important proper chewing is to the livestock's overall health and productiveness.

Ruminants such as cattle, sheep and goats are herbivores, which means they eat plants, and they have stomachs with multiple chambers. We commonly say that they chew the cud, a process whereby they regurgitate food after swallowing it to grind it down into finer matter. The Afrikaans name for such animals describes them perfectly: "herkouers" (=re-chewers). But what is interesting is that they do not have teeth in the upper jaw, having instead a "dental pad" and their bottom incisors (eight of them) bite against that. This helps them to gather large quantities of grass and other plant matter.



However, since they cannot bite grass off, they are inefficient at grazing more closely than 15 cm from the ground.

The temporary incisors of the very young animal are gradually replaced by permanent incisors in pairs, starting with the central pair, then working outwards. People are able to assess the age of an animal from its teeth.

Horses have six incisors on both the upper and lower jaws. The central pair of permanent incisors erupt at about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of age, the second pair erupt at $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, the fourth pair at $4\frac{1}{2}$ years. As with ruminants, the age of the young horse can be determined by the number of permanent incisors it has.

After five years of age, other features of the incisors can be used to help assess age. These features include the pattern of enamel and dentine on the biting surface, the presence of enamel spurs on the outer edges of the third upper incisors, and the angle of the incisors in the jaw. But it takes an expert to do this accurately. Pigs are born with incisors and canines, and these teeth eventually grow molars and premolars. Pigs' canines

Continued on page 35



A piglet doesn't enjoy a visit to the dentist
sharpen through the friction of other teeth and tend to be very sharp and dangerous. Pigs typically use their molars, which become irregularly formed over time, to crush their food before ingesting. Pigs are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals, and need their canines and molars to chew their food and eat.

When you are making a brief oral examination, it is helpful

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to use a head-light, which leaves both your hands free. It is also good to have someone to hold the animal for you.

A thorough examination of the mouth of a large animal may involve the use of a tranquiliser or a tranquilising device.

Check for excessive incisor wear. With excessive wear, the incisors become short and may be worn down to the level of the gums. This happens when soil or sand on pasture gradually files away at the teeth until they are worn, so it is usually only a problem in older animals.

Livestock with very worn incisors can do well as long as they don't have to eat very short or stringy pasture. They can be fed long soft pasture or hay or silage or concentrate feed.

Periodontal disease affects the tissues that surround the neck and root of a tooth. In any animal, periodontal disease of

the incisors causes them to become long and loose and they may be missing. This is caused by infection around the teeth (periodontitis). If an animal has only a few very loose incisors, it is probably best to remove them, either with your fingers or with pliers. The animal will then be 'gummy', but it can still stay in good body condition if it is offered long soft pasture or hay or silage or concentrate feed. Don't

attempt to remove any teeth that are not already very loose. Check for cheek teeth. Cheek teeth may become unevenly worn, so they don't

grind feed

efficiently and can cause ulcers on the cheeks and tongue. The signs of this include dropping of feed from the mouth while chewing, bulging of the cheeks caused by wads of food becoming impacted between the teeth and cheek, and/or green staining around the mouth caused by drooling of saliva. Overgrown edges on cheek teeth are common in elderly

LIVESTOCK

Continued on page 37



Condition of the gums is also important



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LIVESTOCK

From page 35

ponies and horses. Treatment is by rasping the sharp edges and it takes a trained person such as a veterinarian or a horse dentist to do this effectively, although some farriers can also do it. To prevent problems, it is wise to have the cheek teeth of ponies and horses rasped regularly, perhaps once a year or so, by a veterinarian or a horse dentist.

Periodontal disease can affect cheek teeth as well as incisors. It is caused by infections of the gum and supporting structures around the cheek teeth roots. In

HIGHVELD

severe cases the bone becomes swollen and sore. then the animal is reluctant to chew its cud and it gets thin. If you suspect any problems like this, consult your veterinarian. Another mouth problem is overshot and undershot jaws, because sometimes animals are born with a lower jaw that is too short (i.e. it meets the top pad well behind its front edge, called undershot or

"parrot mouth"). Sometimes

the lower jaw is too long (ie, it protrudes, called overshot). Depending on the severity of the abnormality, the animal may or may not be able to suckle or graze. If the problem is not too bad, affected calves and lambs can be fattened for slaughter if they are grazed on good quality long pasture. Don't breed from animals with under- or overshot jaws, as these problems can be hereditary.

Your job is to check your animals' mouth, but don't try to be a dentist, as you will be in danger of losing fingers.





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BUSINESS Like kids? Start a petting farm

f you have a mixture of livestock on your smallholding, and are good with children, an avenue for

children, an avenue for earning some additional income that might be open to you is to start a petting farm as an educational facility, to provide the opportunity for town dwellers, particularly young people, to learn about the realities of farming animals and the need to take good care of them.

All children should be realistic about livestock farming. Many children from the towns and cities grow up knowing little about where their meat, wool, milk and eggs come from. Many aren't able to tell a sheep from a goat ~ so you would be serving a good purpose, along with making money out of what you already have on your smallholding.

Some individuals have ethical issues with zoos and petting farms, as they feel that this constitutes exploitation and abuse of animals. More of a focus on education, rather than the (mis)handling of the various animals, might nonetheless justify the activity. There are of course some



factors that you need to address to be able to establish a petting farm.

□ Location. A rural petting park miles from an urban setting may be too far for visitors to travel and thus not generate the revenue necessary to justify the activity.

☐ Size. A petting farm generally requires the use of 4 ha or more for proper planning. The more animals you plan to have, the more room you will need.

Livestock. Then you will have to decide what animals you will display. Petting farms should include a wide variety. Common choices include horses, ponies, sheep, goats, cows, donkeys, alpacas, giant tortoises, potbellied pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens, ducks and geese.

Larger animals will need to be separated from guests behind fences, and they will require close monitoring when interactions take place. Some petting farms also feature free flight aviaries (where tropical birds interact with guests) and fish ponds with koi.

Animals should be purchased from reputable breeders or farms. It is important to give each animal time to adjust to its new surroundings, and to be sure that the animals selected for the farm are

Continued on page 39



A pony ride at a petting farm may well be a child's first encounter with a horse.

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reasonably well mannered and tolerant of the attention they will be receiving. Most people who visit petting farm expect to interact with baby animals. Some petting farm operators buy baby animals that are bottle fed. raise them until their cute factor wanes, and then sell them as meat or pets, to be replaced by a batch of new babies. There are ethical issues with this practice. Also, displaying bottle babies works for some species but not others. For instance, the winsome bottle-fed llama or alpaca separated from its mother and fussed over by humans will almost certainly develop dangerous behaviour as it matures.

There are two ways to



consider baby animals in a petting park: house your baby livestock and poultry with their mothers in well-fenced quarters where visitors can see them, but not physically interact with or feed them, or use only adult animals in your park.

Treats. Also, be aware that children tend to come to the plot armed with bread, sweets and other unsuitable goodies to feed your animals. Someone needs to meet each group at the gate and explain why these items aren't allowed. Explain that farm animals' diets must be closely regulated and show them what the animals eat. Make it a fun, educational experience so that visitors don't mind leaving the "treats" at the gate.

At the same time, briefly explain animal behaviour and warn visitors about the risk of disease or injury. Point out the location of hand-washing facilities and explain that everyone who leaves your facility is expected to use them.

Signage. Putting up signs



will be necessary. Visitors sometimes drift away from their groups or simply don't pay attention, so make sure the rules are clearly displayed. Affix signs to individual pens, explaining the species they house and the animals' names. A brochure containing that information is a nice touch, too. Your focus should be on education – entertainment is a bonus.

BUSINESS

Put safety first. It's obviously important to pick quiet wellhandled livestock for close contact with visitors, but even they can kick or bite unexpectedly if they get a sudden fright.

We should encourage our animals to come to us for patting and grooming rather than for food rewards. Biting is particularly likely if owners

Continued on page 41



City-dwelling children may find their first encounters with livestock and horses intimidating.





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rely on titbits to entice the animals forward. This can lead to livestock, particularly ponies, snatching at the food and bullying each other to get at it, and that's not a good experience for the children. Safety. You and your employees must be willing to act assertively to protect your animals at all times. This means laying down rules as visitors arrive and curtailing unruly children whose parents think their chasing and harassing animals is cute. Running a petting farm is not for the faint of heart. Children should be taught about the sharp biting end and the blunt kicking end of horses, ponies and donkeys, the sideways and backwards kicking of cattle, the head butting of all stock, and the standing on feet. It's all too easy for accidents to happen, particularly when the sudden movements and squeals of excitement from excited young visitors can make even the quietest farm pets edgy.

Insurance Which brings us to the question of insurance cover. Running a petting farm on your premises means you must carry adequate business insurance, covering public liability and ensuring that your animals are also insured. You need to check what the law states in terms of running such an enterprise. Before doing anything else, check into licenses and permits you might need to operate a petting farm. If you plan to feature exotic species, special permits are sure to apply. The care of animals in South Africa is regulated by two Acts - namely the Animals Protection Act, 1962 (Act 71



of 1962) and the Performing Animals Protection Amendment Bill, 2015. The municipal bylaws also govern the conditions under which farm animals may be kept. A petting farm should be safely enclosed with a network of fences and gates to prevent animal escapes and to protect the animals from the visitors. Areas that are off limits to the public Continued on page 43

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should be clearly marked. Rules for visitor conduct and safety should also be clearly posted on signs near each animal enclosure.

There are some diseases that can spread from farm animals to humans, and children are particularly at risk. The animals most likely to spread disease are those that show signs of ill-health, for example, animals with: Diarrhoea (salmonellosis, colibacillosis etc) □ Signs of recent abortion (versiniosis, salmonellosis etc) Sores round their mouth (scabby mouth) Hairless crusty skin lesions (ringworm, mange) Blood-stained urine (leptospirosis) Take particular care with hand-reared animals that have diarrhoea. □ Infrastructure. Then you

Your livestock should always be healthy. but be particularly vigilant for outbreaks of animal diseases that can be spread to humans

must consider your infrastructure. The facilities for the animals should include both display areas (where animals can interact with visitors) and areas that are restricted from public access. It is also important to have areas where you can quarantine any sick animals or those about to give birth. Adequate shade is another important feature for both the animals and the patrons of the farm.

The facilities for visitors should include an entrance area, toilet facility, safe paths for walking between exhibits, paved or gravel parking areas and seating areas. Golf carts, trucks, trailers, and farm equipment will be

necessary to move animals and supplies. Larger parks often offer trailer rides around the park, towed by a tractor. You are not likely to be able to run this on your own. Will any of your family members be willing to help and are they knowledgeable enough? Depending on the scale of your operation, you may need to hire additional full or part time staff to clean up after the animals, give food and water, sell tickets, operate a gift shop if you choose to have one, perform general park maintenance and supervise guests as they interact with the animals. You will need to have a good relationship with your veterinarian - but that should

BUSINESS be a given for anyone who keeps animals anyway. Arketing. You will need to get your message out there. It is important to market a petting farm to the target audience: children and their parents. Continued on page 44



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MAINTENANCE Necessary tasks for long tractor life

ood rains ... ploughing and planting season ... and soon you'll be cutting and baling fodder. Your tractor is going through, arguably, its busiest period of usage of the year. If your tractor is new \sim or newish \sim you will probably have a service manual, and even a service agreement with the dealership from which you bought it, so you can rest assured that vital replaceables such as oil and filters is taken care of.

For those of us who have old machines, however, the chances of them having been sold with a service manual is remote, and so maintenance tends to become the last thing on our minds during this busy time of year.

Maintenance is, of course, vital for long machine life and after a dry, dusty winter during which you may have used your tractor for cutting, raking and baling in dry and dusty conditions, or for other tasks in dusty conditions, probably the most important maintenance task of all is to replace your tractor's air filter element, or clean and re-oil the filter if it isn't a replaceable- element type. In fact, so important is regular air filter maintenance that many machinery manufactur-

ers have special maintenance schedules for machines they sell into Africa, which have very much-shortened intervals for air filter maintenance than similar machines sold into, for example, European markets. Continued on page 45

PETTING FARM

Take brochures to schools, day care centres, scouting, church groups and other such groups who may also be interested in taking their members on field trips to your location.

The best places to spend your advertising budget will be local newspapers and magazines. Online ads are also a great way to get the word out about your business. Another way to advertise is to create a website, or at least a Facebook page with all the

relevant details about the petting farm including hours, cost and any additional activities that might be available (such as birthday parties on site or bringing animals to a client's party location). A newsletter or printable coupons should also generate interest, as will an Instagram account. You should also consider donating tickets to charities or offering a discounted rate to large school groups to generate patron traffic. A petting farm is a way for

you to educate the towndwelling public about the joys and benefits of raising farm animals, but if you're not setting an example of proper animal husbandry, you're furthering a culture that supports the mistreatment of animals. Operating a well-run petting farm is a rewarding way to earn extra farm income while bringing joy to children and adults who love animals and don't have the opportunity to interact with them often.



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MAINTENANCE

From page 44

At the same time as cleaning your air filter it makes sense to perform an engine oil change, particularly on a diesel tractor.

Like that in a diesel car or bakkie, your tractor's engine oil develops into a dark, black sludge over time as it picks up sulphur and other deposits during the combustion process. As it does so it loses its lubricating qualities and if left in too long will allow excessive engine wear. Think about it: the engine oil in most diesel bakkies is changed at relatively short intervals of often no more than 5 000 km. While one doesn't measure tractor usage in terms of kilometres travelled, is there therefore any good reason why you should not change your engine oil at least once, or even twice, a season? If your tractor has a replace-

able oil filter it makes no sense to replace the oil without changing the filter. And, while you're about it, if your tractor has a replaceable fuel filter, now's a good time to do that, too. The saying "oil and water don't mix" is not strictly true, as oil (like petrol) is mildly hydroscopic, in other words it absorbs water over time. If vour tractor has been standing a long time you probably won't notice this when you check your gearbox or

hydraulic oil levels, so it is advisable to start the tractor and work it for a little while before checking the condition of your oil.

If it is the colour of horse urine, ie clear yellow or light brown, it is still usable. However, if, after having worked the tractor to mix up the oil thoroughly it appears a little cloudy or milky, replace it immediately as it has absorbed moisture and will cause damage to your machine.

Up front, of course, a check of the condition of your radiator fluid is also important. If it is muddy brown with rust, drain the radiator, flush the cooling system and replace the coolant with water and a good dose of anti-freeze. With the liquids in your tractor checked and the filters replaced, the final check before you head off to work is of you tyre pressures. This is most important because the entire torque (power) of the engine is transferred to the ground through the side walls of the driving tyres (both front and back if yours is a 4×4 and solely through the rear tyres if a two-wheel-drive affair.

With inadequate inflation the rotary force thus exerted causes the tyre walls to flex and fold which will in time cause them to fail, either through cracking of the rubber of the wall or through tearing of the canvas lining inside.

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Introductory Offer. Specially Bred Dexter/Hereford Cattle (1metre high).

R8900.00 each

Suitable for Smallholdings or Breeding Your Own Herd.

Charles 082 7239 508

mzeejoe.nkutha@gmail.com Sheep Shearing SHEEP SHEARING SERVICE SKAAP SKEER DIENS Pieter 082 878 5623 Hilton 082 602 446

grape vines. Contact Douw 084 506-5125 FREE RANGE ESTING 15

From R1 000 collected in Nigel area

Call 079 696-0341

adults, large stock normally available provides wide choice. Also selected

or 011 953-6882 Krugersdorp.

Island Red. Vaccinated against all

each neg. Joseph 079 696-6034

LIVESTOCK

& FODDER

2954

957-2588

breeding groups. Call Geoff 082 515-0784

Three months mixed breed point of lays:

Black Australorp x Potch Koekoek x Rhode

infectious diseases. Collected in Nigel area,

Sonnestraal Road, Duduza Township. R200

Potbelly pigs x 17. Tel Kobus 083 773-

PRODUCE, PLANTS

Shavings – 25kg large bags. Meranti – R15/bag, White Pine - R22/bag.

Delivery can be arranged for loads of 100-200 bags. Contact Thea or Samantha 011

Fruit and nut trees. Olive, peach, nectarine, plum, almond, apricot, walnut, prune,

12 or 24 holes

1m or 2m long

Solid treated timber

For up to 100 layers

pomegranate, pecan nut, apple, cherry,

pear, fig, quince, mulberry, lemon and

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

it, nan. Dn. Confinued on page 49

Free Classified Ads —

big storeroom, laundry, outside toilet, etc. Good water and Eskom electricity. Full title and totally fenced, established gardens, with irrigation and a few fruit trees. Nearby bush lapa with full facilities and swimming pool. An operational eco-friendly campsite which generates extra income as well as a small plant nursery, well stocked with plants. 24 hour access control to the area. Good schools and shops within easy reach. Phone 072 397-5055 or email: bushbaby7777@gmail.com. Price

TOOLS

Centre lathe, Lang 20 x 90 inches, spindle 75mm, fixed and moving steadies. 3-jaw and 4-jaw chucks, rotary centres, 15HP motor. 24 speeds 13,3 to 200 rpm. Can cut any thread. Approx weight 5 ton. Good working order, R35 000. Contact Willie 071 269-0332

TRACTORS & IMPLEMENTS

Mielie kop stroper nie Pto model 13hp petrol aangedrewe met auger gekopel vir die opvoer en vul van gestroopte mielies R27000 ona Pretoria TeL: 072 617-8209

MOTOR VEHICLES

Honda NXR125 motorcycle licensed in good condition. Stainless manual 3-frame honey spinner used twice. Stihl bush cutter, leaks fuel. What offers? Contact Tertius, Fairleads Benoni. Tel: 0824176304.



DIARY

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

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

Every Monday

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

2016

December

1: Garden World's Carols by Candlelight concert. For more information call 011 957-2545

2 & 3: Workshop Making Herb Wines and Liqueurs. From 09:00 to 13:00. Refreshments, notes and some ingredients are included. Prepaid booking essential. R300,00 per event. Venue and list of

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ingredients will be given with booking. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948. patsyspotions@vergeer.co.za. 3: The Linden Market & Champagne Lane, Street Festival and a fantastic selection of South Africa's top makers, designers and artisans. 4th Ave between 6th and 7th Streets, Linden, Contact thelindenmarket@gmail.com 3: Christmas Market at the Bokkie Park. Southvale Rd, Parkdene, Boksburg. 4: African Snakebite Institute Annual Braai. including a number of talks on snakes, scorpions and spiders. Booking essential.

Contact Ashley admin@africansnakebiteinstitute.com for a voucher.

7: First Quarter

10: Christmas Market at the Bunnt Park, Pretoria Rd, Rynfield, Benoni 14: Full Moon 21: Last Quarter 21: Solstice 25: Christmas Day 26: Day of Goodwill (Boxing Day) 29: New Moon

2017

<u>January</u>

1: New Year's Day 2: New Year's spillover holiday 12: Full moon 28: New moon

<u>February</u>

11: Full moon 26: New moon

<u>March</u>

12: Full moon 20: Equinox 21: Human Rights Day

SKEER VAN SKAPE Vaaldriehoek area 083 287 7460 ~ 083 509 9333

Herstel van Ligte & Swaar motorvoertuie Vanderbijlpark ~ Roodia plotte Pieter

076 727 6385 of 072 613 4245

EISSENTRA

IVESTOCK SALES

Auctions: Bronkhorstspruit - Every Tuesday Gys Taute 083 253 6906 Delmas - 2nd & 4th Thursday Johan Taute 073 204 7646

Belfast: Wednesdays - Ermelo: Thursdays - Standerton: Fridays

Vleissentraal Ermelo 017 819 1106 www.vleissentraal.co.za 28: New moon

<u>April</u>

8-9: 55th Walkerville Agricultural Show,
Walkerville Showgrounds. Old Vereeniging
Road, Walkerville. 08h00 till late
11: Full moon
14: Good Friday
15: Easter Saturday
16: Easter Sunday
17: Family Day
26: New moon
27: Freedom Day

May

1: Workers' Day 10: Full moon 16-19: Nampo Harvest Day Agricultural Show, Nampo Park, R30 between Klerksdorp and Bothaville. 25: New moon

<u>June</u>

9: Full moon 16: Youth Day 21: Solstice 24: New moon

<u>July</u>

9: Full moon 23: New moon



August

3: National Women's Day 7: Full moon 21: New moon

September

6: Full moon 20: New moon 22: Equinox 24: Heritage Day 25: Heritage Day spillover holiday

<u>October</u>

5: Full moon 19: New moon

<u>November</u>

4: Full moon 18: New moon

D<u>ecember</u>

3: Full moon16: Day of Reconciliation18: New moon21: Soltice



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For queries

011 979-5088 graphics@gautengsmallholder.com

Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held to a regular weekly or monthly schedule. Markets held less frequently are listed in the DIARY section of the magazine and we urge readers to check each month for dates and events of interest. We would like this list of food markets to be as comprehensive as possible. If you know of farmers' food markets that are not listed here, please email us the contact details of the organisers, and details of the market. Only FOOD markets are included. Similarly, if you know of markets in this list that have CLOSED please inform us so that we can delete incorrect or outdated information. We invite you to tell us of your experiences when visiting these markets so that we can better inform our readers. Were they as advertised? Was the produce on sale plentiful, well-priced, well-presented and fresh? Email your comments to gautengsmallholder@gmail.com

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO TO CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT	
			Thursd	1		
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston.	Konrad or Glenda 011 706-3671 or glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce	
Friday						
1st Friday	The Shed Night Market	18:00 to 22:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011 9456	Food & craft market.	
	Saturday					
Every Saturday	Tuinhekkie Farmers Market	08:00 - 14:00	cor Lazar Ave & Merwe Road Bootha Plots, Randfontein	Amanda Hefer 073 565-8905	Handmade products, numerous food stalls, flowers live entertainment most Saturdays, farmyard for the kids	
Every Saturday	Wholefood Country Market	09:00 - 14:00	Sawasdee Exotic Nursery, cor Main & Zinnia Roads, Kyalami	Robyn 083 311-4768 wholefoodmarket@gmail.com	Variety of organic & homemade foods	
Every Saturday	The Shed Food & Craft Market	08:00 to 15:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.	
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 to 09:30	Pioneer Open Air Museum, Silverton.	012 804-8031 or 082 416-3900 blinsga@lantic.net	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kaiings with pap and boerewors rolls.	
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston	Konrad or Glenda on 011 706-3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce	
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 to 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie Sts, Menlo Park, Pta	Rietha 083 554-5636. www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale	
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 to 15:00	R112 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076-7680 info@wfmarket.co.za	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area	
Every Saturday	Walkerville Agricultural Market	09:00 to 15:00	K154 T-junction with R82	082 573-2780 market@walkervillesa.co.za	Organic produce and Crafter's Market. www.walkervillesa.co.za	
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	09:00 to 15:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553-2846	Meats and vegetables, delicacies, honey, cheese, brewery, crafter's market and children's entertainment.	
Every Saturday	Market @84	09:00 to 14:00	84 On Main, Walkerville	Ariel 078 223-9238	Fresh organically grown produce and crafters market	
1st Saturday	Jozi Real Food VEGAN Market	09:00 to 15:00	Pirates Sports Club, Braeside Avenue, Greenside	083 532 2992 whitespace@mweb.co.za	Arts & crafts, live music, vegan cuisine, organic vegetables & coffee	
1st Saturday	The Green Market	09:00 to 12:00	Pretoria Botanical Gardens 2 Cussonia Avenue, Brummeria, Pretoria	Melissa 083 562-5249	Products ranging from solar equipment to organic food	
1st Saturday	Victus Christi Arts & Crafts Market	08:00 to 14:00	24b Miles Sharp Street, Rynfield, Benoni (north side of Bunny Park)	Schalk 082 561-9409 info@victuschristi.org.za	Arts & crafts, fine art, food, fresh meat & produce and home industry	
2nd Saturday	Brakpan Boeremark	09:00 to 14:00	cnr van der Walt and Dirk van der Hoff Brakpan	Marius 011 744-2322 082 904-8852	Over 50 stalls. Food, arts, crafts, etc.	
Last Saturday	Fresh2U Farmers Market	08:00 to 14:00	Corner Main Street and High Street Modderfontein (behind 33 High Street)	Jane 083 376 5567 Chantelle 082 338 7818 wardek@iafrica.com	Over 50 stalls. Fresh produce, home made goods, plants, food and more.	
Last Saturday	Fresh Produce Market	08:00 to 13:00	Lakeside Mall Boathouse	Alma 079 940-0201 realfood4realpeople@gmail.com	Local fresh produce direct to the public	
Last Saturday	Windpomp Market	08:00 to 14:00	Broodblik & Koffiepit on the R51 between Petit & Bapsfontein	bonniecoutinho4@gmail.com 083 458-3058 / 083 445-1608	Homemade crafts & food stalls bakery & coffee shop and entertainment	
Sunday						
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 to 15:00	Corner Montecasino Boulevard and William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 www.ffmarket.co.za	Get your groceriesIn the garden!	
Every Sunday	Jozi Real Food Market	09:00 to 14:00	Northcliff Country Club, Fir Avenue, Northcliff	083 532 2992 whitespace@mweb.co.za	Arts & crafts, music & entertainment, inspired cuisine organic vegetables & coffee, pet productsy	
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doornrandjies	012 669-3043 info@serendiptiycafe.co.za www.serendipitycafe.co.za	Community market to promote local business	

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FOR ENQUIRIES TEL 011 979-5088

BY EMAIL: gautengsmallholder@gmail.com BY HAND: 370 da Costa Dr, Bredell, Kempton Park

THE BACK PAGE

Happy holidays

t's probably not good for South Africa's gross domestic product as cutting out three weeks of productivity must have and effect on economic output, but one of the trends which I am coming to enjoy very much is that more and more of South Africa is closing down over the festive season, and the country is starting to take a complete break from itself at this time of year.

Think back 20 or 30 years ago: offices would stay open right through the festive season, albeit running on skeleton staff, (and even with those few employees at their posts doing not much more than twisting up paperclips and throwing paper darts at one another and taking long lunches), but there's be an obligation nonetheless to turn up for work according to the office roster, thus cutting into the days that one might otherwise have enjoyed getting up late and lazing by the pool.

Then the building industry started with its annual shutdown, and pretty soon anybody connected to the building trade realised the futility of trying to trade over the festive season and they too started to close.

And so the practice spread, and now you'll be hard-pressed to find anything other than a retail store or restaurant open between mid-December and well into January.

We are lucky, of course, in that we have an immutably important public holiday on December 16 which provides a good ~ almost fixed ~ starting point for the holidays. And in the Western Cape they are lucky to have Tweede Nuwe Jaar, traditionally the day on which the Coon Carnival parades were held through the streets of Cape Town (but which was, in fact, a day on which most simply lay about groaning and consuming their chosen hangover cures) to bookend the end of the season. (Although, in fact, anybody in business knows that commercial South Africa doesn't really come back to life until the middle of January.)

The good thing about a national holiday season is that it allows entrepreneurs to take a guilt-free break. As anybody in business for themselves will attest, sitting idly on the beach or lazing by the pool, however deserved the break may be, brings feelings of guilt or "fear of missing out" (FOMO) when one knows that one's competitors are still out there, possibly hoovering up deals that one might clinch were one not lying about.

Thus, despite the fabulousness of one's holiday, and the fact that one is confronted by delicious food, fine wine, lush golf courses and gorgeous companions, there is always a slight feeling of

guilt, that one should at least be constantly checking the stock market or commodity prices.

But when everybody else is also on holiday, one has no such worries, no such guilt.

Of course, we're not alone in this thoroughly civilised approach to life. Much of the northern hemisphere closes through August for the same reason. Try contacting anybody in an office in Continental Europe or the UK during August and you'll likely be

told "I'm sorry, he's on holiday on the Costa del Sol."

Of course, having everybody on holiday at the same time has its drawbacks, as residents of coastal cities and towns will attest. Anecdotes abound (and have for many years, incidentally) of how Capetonians, who anyway view us Vaalies as a lower species, resent our presence in their fair dorp, despite the fact that it's us who pay their ridiculously inflated holiday prices and thus keep their economy afloat. Mind you, Capetonians do



have a point. It becomes hell on earth to get anywhere by road in Cape Town around Christmas as thousands of "kydaars" with GP number plates cause traffic to back up for miles on the city's totally inadequate road network.

The hostility has sometimes been quite cutting. Some years back when the City Fathers of Cape Town became concerned at a bumper sticker that appeared unduly rude ("Welcome, Vaalies. Now go home.") another quickly took its place ("Hartlik welkom, Oom en Tannie. Come and spend your lovely money")

But if it's hell at the coast, it's bliss at home. With so many of our neighbours at the seaside the cities and towns are denuded and going out for a meal, or finding parking to do some shopping, is a breeze.

There's no doubt, therefore, that the holiday season is the best time of year to enjoy Gauteng, its weather, and the facilities we have at our disposal. That's if you can find enough friends who haven't gapped it to the coast to enjoy them with.



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