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FRONT COVER

Preparing a patch of ground for
planting. It doesn't matter what one
uses to get the job done, so long as
it gets done in time for the rains.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

A multifarious skill-set



There's an ancient Chinese curse that goes "may you live in interesting times. For us who live on smallholdings there are times when it could just as well be "May you live on a plot."

For there are times in every maplotter's life when everything seems to go wrong at once, and one finds oneself wondering why the hell one embarked on life on a smallholding in the first place: the borehole dries up, the water tank is leaking, the tractor won't start, there are aphids on the cabbages, a sheep is sick, and the child's pony has gone lame the day before an important horse show. Oh, and then the neighbour decides to choose that day to burn a firebreak, which burns out of control and into your only remaining grazing. Sound familiar?

Seriously, this smallholder life does mean that, in time, one acquires an incredibly broad skill-set, and an equally broad knowledge base of often quite obscure stuff. And, actually, as one takes stock of one's life this Spring, I think we can pat ourselves on the back at what we've learnt as smallholders.

For, if you keep livestock, you will have learnt about feeding, nutrition, procreation and basic first aid. You will, hopefully, have learnt to recognise the symptoms of the most common ailments your animals suffer, and how to treat them.

And all of this for each different species you keep, such as poultry, ponies for the kids, sheep or cattle.

To keep them from straying you will have learnt how to build a fence, hang a gate and repair the wire when it breaks.

Hanging gates and erecting fences will have taught you about concrete and you will have learnt the hard way that the equivalent of a wheelbarrow of cement is two pockets of cement, not one.

Your forays into the wonderful world of concrete may have emboldened you to attempt other building projects such as construction of tractor sheds, stables and cement reservoirs and possibly laying of concrete driveways. Thus you will have learnt why a good spirit level is a necessary tool in your kit, unless you don't mind your plot constructions resembling the Zimbabwe Ruins.

Because your animals require water in the paddocks you will have learnt about boreholes, tanks and tank stands, windmills and booster pumps, not to mention the difference between thick and thin water pipe (and why it is necessary to bury it at a depth that cannot be reached by a garden fork, pick-axe or spade), and how to join an irrigation system up so that it delivers an adequate amount of water to the required spot, without pipes bursting or joints leaking.

And because your animals require grazing you will have learnt about pasture grasses, increaser and decreaser species, and you will have recognised palatable versus unpalatable species as you observe the grasses that are eaten by your animals, and those that are left behind.

Not to mention that you will hopefully have more than a passing knowledge of fire management and the laws surrounding firebreaks, and firefighting equipment (which you will also have learnt to operate efficiently).

If your animals are kept to provide you with food you will have learnt how to milk a cow, and possibly also how to make your own butter, yoghurt and cheese. You might also have tried your hand at slaughtering, hopefully under the watchful eye and advice of somebody experienced in this gruesome art. Or, at the very least you will have learnt where the nearest small abattoir is located.

Growing your own fruit and vegetables will have taught you about fertilization, manuring and composting, not to mention about pruning and spraying, companion planting, succession planting, pest and disease control. And you will probably have rummaged around to your grandmother's old cookbooks for recipes and methods of bottling, pickling and freezing to preserve the harvest you reap.

Your large garden will have meant you are, after a decade or so, on your third or fourth lawnmower, having FINALLY learnt that "goedkoop is duurkoop" when choosing machines not up to the task you ask of them.

And, of course, you will have become an expert in the arcane science of the septic tank. You will have learnt, probably the hard way, that caustic soda as a drain cleaner, and the disgusting habit of discarding cigarette stompies down the loo, are instant recipes for your septic system to turn into a bubbling stinky fly pit.

Yes, there is a lot to learn when you become a smallholder, no less important being how to pass your new-found knowledge on to your staff and family.

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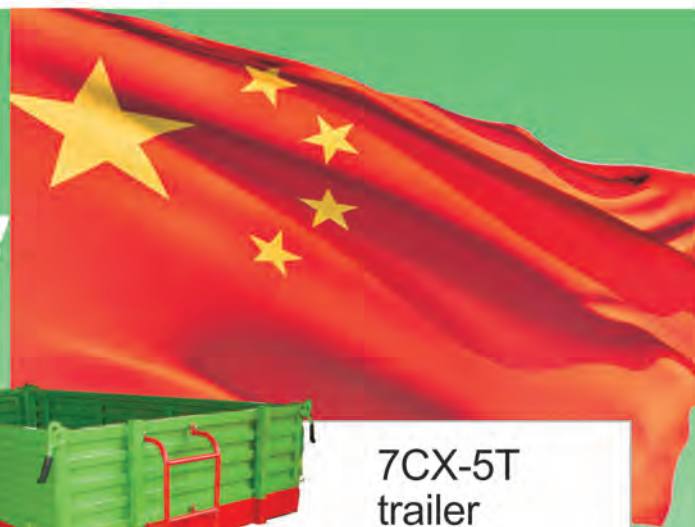
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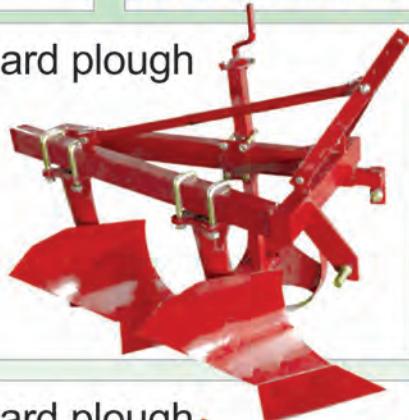
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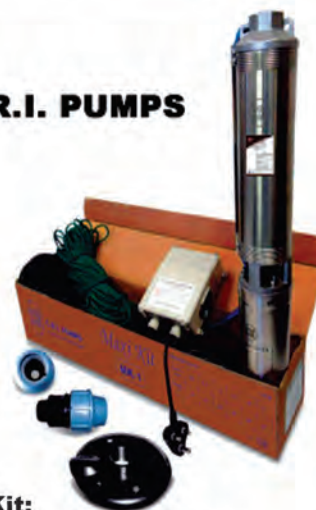
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GE foods are safe, say scientists

Sir ~ Genetically engineered (GE) crops have made the news again this year.

In May the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine produced a 388 page report which found, in summary, that:

☐ Genetically engineered

foods posed no more of a risk to human health than their non-GE counterparts;

☐ Had no adverse environmental effect – a finding that also held where genes were transferred from a GE crop to a wild species. (Some positive environmental effects were noted); and,

☐ Generally GE crops resulted in favourable economic outcomes. (The report can be accessed here: <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=23395>)

No sooner had this bombshell (from one of the world's foremost scientific and intellectual establishments) been dropped when, in June, a staggering 113 Nobel laureates (of the approximately 280 still living) in an open letter (to the UN, Greenpeace and world governments) called for a halt to the campaign against GMOs and biotechnology in agriculture. (Refer to <http://supportprecisionagriculture.org/>)

I certainly don't pretend to

follow all the science. But I do know that I would rather listen to venerable institutions than to ill-informed environmentalists and Luddites with an axe-to-grind.

My view is simple ~ I haven't grown horns from eating steak; and I doubt I shall "glow-in-the-dark" from eating mielies containing firefly genes!

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Donkeys stolen for illicit hide exports

Move over, the rhinoceros, there's another, albeit much humbler, animal that is reportedly being targeted by Chinese medicine-men, not for its horn (because it doesn't have any), but for its hide which, apparently, when processed yields ejiao, a gelatin used in traditional medicine. It's the donkey, and there are reports of donkeys having disappeared all over the country in recent months, as

well as in other African countries, some of which have banned all donkey exports lest their national herds be decimated entirely. In some cases the spate of donkey thefts has reached epic proportions. There are said to be at least three villages in Limpopo from which all the donkeys have disappeared. Which is a major problem for the

residents as the loss of a donkey to a rural peasant is the equivalent of the hijacking of a car and the theft of a tractor from a more affluent person, as donkeys are traditionally used for transport, as well as for working the soil using small animal-drawn implements. And, if the theft of the beast is not awful enough, its treatment by the thieves

before it meets its ultimate fate, namely death, can be barbaric. Because the animals are stolen only for their skins scant attention is paid to such niceties as feeding and watering. In July the farm animal unit of the SPCA was reported as having to euthanase 70 donkeys found in appalling conditions on a Chinese-owned farm in the Free State.

Chinese to build 'unviable' Moloto line

Despite a number of prominent transport economists having labelled it illogical and unviable, the Moloto Rail Development Corridor is set to become a reality, following the signing last month of a memorandum of understanding between the Passenger

Rail Agency of SA (Prasa) and the China Communications Construction Co. The Moloto rail project's main objective is to ensure that passenger rail is the backbone of an integrated multi-modal transport system linking Pretoria with KwaMhlanga and beyond, passing through

three provinces, and replacing the notoriously dangerous Moloto road which, despite a multi-million rand upgrade in recent years, is still one of South Africa's most notorious killer-roads. The project will entail the construction of 13 new train

Continued on page 8

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NEWS

Rainfall: Dry, drier, driest? No, just average

Given last year's much-discussed drought (though Gauteng experienced an absolutely average year as far as rainfall was concerned), it would be expected, perhaps, to report that the relatively dry conditions experienced in Gauteng (on the East Rand, at the time of writing ~ the

second half of September) since the start of Spring herald yet another year of low rainfall.

Looking back at the figures for rainfall in September since the start of the new millennium one simply cannot draw that conclusion.

To the middle of September this year we recorded 10mm of rainfall, admittedly over one 24 hour period.

However, there have been five years in the 16 years since 2000 when there was absolutely no rain in September at all, a further two years with less than 10mm in September and a further two with only 10-11mm.

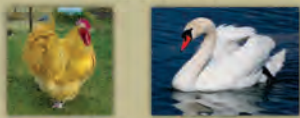
This means, statistically, that 10mm (and perhaps a little more by the end of the month) is actually above

average for all the Septembers since 2000.

Whether normal, or above average rainfall patterns develop in the remaining months to the end of the year remains to be seen, and depends on the development of a La Nina effect, something that weather scientists are still being less-than-enthusiastic about.

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MOLOTO LINE

From page 6

stations, 117km of standard gauge dual track (the same gauge as the Gautrain and wider than the rest of the southern African Cape gauge rail network), modal integration points, 240km of road feeder routes, integration with the Tshwane Bus Rapid Transit system and a new 67km dual

carriageway from Siyabuswa to Moloto.

The cost is expected to be upwards of R35 billion.

However, there is no business case for the rail link. Transport economist Andrew Marsay says the number of people living along the corridor is too small to sustain a commuter railway line.

The corridor is used only by 40 000 commuters a day, while a rail line needs 100 000 commuters a day to be sustainable, he says. "There is no business case of any kind for a railway alongside Moloto Road. It is only sustainable for people to live there and travel the long

Continued on page 10

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the whole of Gauteng, following our addition last month of Carletonville, Fochville and Westonarea to our network.

For many years our distribution area ended with the smallholding areas just west of Randfontein and, to the south, with the smallholding areas between van der Bijl Park and the N1 highway, leaving, effectively, the south-westerly quadrant of the

province unserved. By our assigning copies to suitable outlets in the western towns, farmers and smallholders in this region can now also enjoy copies of the magazine.

For the moment residents in this region should look out for

Continued on page 11

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MOLOTO

From page 8

distance to work because of the highly subsidised buses," he says.

"The railway will only benefit the people providing the rolling stock and the rail line." Transport analyst Paul Browning says while it is understandable that the

government wants to build a railway in the corridor, it would emphasise apartheid spatial planning by continuing to have people travel 80km just to get to work.

He adds that operating costs are unlikely to be met by revenue from fares as the service would largely be for low-income workers.

"One has to ask how likely it is that there will be developments along the corridor," he adds.

□ Among the purchases necessary for the new line will be new standard gauge rolling stock, and the much-discussed Afro4000 diesel electric locomotives bought by Prasa from Spain and which have been shown to be too tall for South Africa's rail network will be unable to run on the new track as they have been constructed to run on Cape gauge track, rather than the wider standard gauge mooted for the new link (for which, ironically the Afro4000's original design, the Euro3000 and 4000, was designed).

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From page 10

regular copies at their local feed stores. In time further outlets will be added, and shops in that area are welcome to approach us to become distributors should they so wish.

In another development our website has been completely overhauled, firstly to make the interface between the website and the online version of the magazine more seamless, but also to streamline the information we provide online.

Of the on-line magazine itself, it is available for reading on-line or for download (it's an easily downloadable pdf file) at least six days before we start distributing the printed magazine. And, as distribution of the printed magazine takes us at least six days, by reading or downloading the electronic version you steal a march on paper-based readers of up to nearly two weeks. That's especially important if you are looking for items or livestock to buy as these tend to be snapped up very quickly.

We have further enhanced the on-line reading experience by rendering all the advertisements clickable. This means that should you see an item of interest in an advertisement you can simply click on the ad to be taken directly to the advertiser's own website to find out more or, if the advertiser has an online shop, to order the item concerned. In the event that an advertiser doesn't have a website, clicking on the advertisement opens an email form from which you can dash off an enquiry.

And, there's more: We have revamped and expanded our

Facebook presence to enable it to be used by smallholders with specific questions, problems and needs. And we, of course, use it to let our followers know of developments concerning the magazine itself. Thus, if you join our Facebook group you will receive Facebook notifications when the magazine is available for reading on line, and when distribution of the paper version commences etc. Finally, we welcome feedback and suggestions from readers. Simply email graphics@gautengsmallholder.com with your ideas and questions.

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YOUNG FARMER

A man with a passion for farming

With not much more than a burning passion for farming and a firm vision for his future, 26 year old Mpho Mphoza followed his dream into a career in agriculture immediately after completing his matric. He commenced on a project at the Rooiwal Agricultural Village under the Vombani Family Trust, where they were given five tunnels for a period of a year by the Tshwane Agricultural Department, in which they planted tomatoes and green peppers. Mphoza next received training on how to mix fertilisers and put water in the tanks by the Soshanguve Agricultural Village. Mphoza's duties as a farmer are not only focused on planting and selling. He has to make sure that the farm is



Mpho Mphoza gets down to work

kept neat by removing weeds that might have a negative impact on the growth of his crops, he must maintain irrigation systems and keep records about crops and pesticides so that he can see if there is any abnormality. Packaging the crops and transport to the various markets is also part of his remit.

Realising that each and every

crop has its own way of growing and it needs its own unique treatment, he attended an introductory short course in plant production, comprising planning in relation to the environment and planting

crops under supervision, for which he was awarded a certificate from the Agricultural Research Council and in December 2015 he was awarded certificates from the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) and the SA Bureau of Standards (SABS) for attending a short course in introduction to food safety and good agricultural practise. Later, his efforts

resulted in him being voted the best young farm worker award in the Farmer Entrepreneur of the year awards for 2015.

Says Mphoza: "In the next three years I want to see myself having and managing my own farm."

He adds: "This is a call out to all young South Africans, male or female, to open their eyes and see how far one can go with agriculture and make a living out of it. Looking at the fact that job opportunities are very rare and it is a crisis that won't be solved at any time soon, and the food prices are busy going up, one must start to think about how to make life easy and going.....farming is the solution which requires only determination, hard work and willingness to explore more in the world of farmers."



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Avid mountain bikers gathered in the beautiful natural setting of the Crocodile River Reserve (formerly Rhenosterspruit Nature Conservancy) last month for the ninth annual Ride the Rhenoster event held to raise funds for conservation in the area.

The Ride offered a variety of tracks over distances of 20km and 40km ~ single track, some jeep tracks, and some dirt roads over varied terrain with magnificent views.

Here are pictures of some of the participants.



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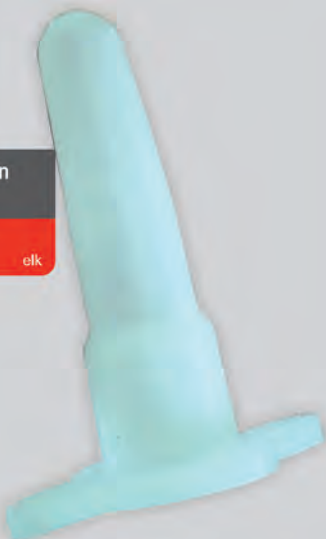
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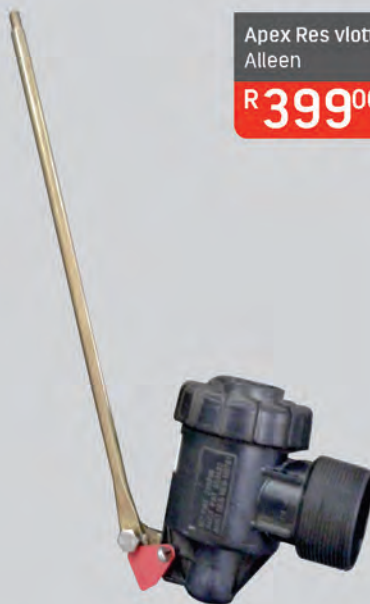


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BEEKEEPING

Busy days down in the apiary in spring

As the saying goes, "It never rains but it pours." (Except for the fact that in Gauteng it doesn't seem to rain either...) And at this time of year that saying applies in full measure to Gauteng's beekeepers, as everything starts to happen at once!

The phone rings: "The bees are at my back door and we

Catching swarms and rehousing bees keep the serious beekeeper busy at this time of year ... another in our series of articles on these important insects by the Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association chairman Peter Clark

cannot go out, they want to come in !!!" Or "There is a cluster of bees hanging in a tree near our laundry." Or "The bees have moved into our pool pump cover and we cannot switch the pump off." Or "The bees have moved into my parrot's nesting box and we have young African Grey babies in the nest." Eish! Too bad, for the beekeeper has his work to do and this must come first. All around the bee world the bees are rejoicing, the weather has warmed, there are plenty of flowers about, and the prevailing north wind heralds the onset of the

rainy season.

In the hive, new queens are hatching and the excitement of the young bee generation, (as is the case of all young folk), wants to make new homes in new places. And the bees thus swarm off; and to the delight of the beekeeper there are new swarms to be caught.

But before catching and housing swarms that are flying free the beekeeper sets about saving his existing swarms from swarming off, while also catching and harnessing some of those young queens from his own hives before they leave.

He will go about a queen cell search.

Armed with extra brood chambers, frames waxed and prepared for a new swarm, he opens the brood chamber of a parent hive and inspects the frames for queen cells. If there are queen cells, mother queen has swarmed off. Should there be more than two cells on more than one frame, he would remove one of the frames with the cells plus two other frames into his new brood chamber.

He loads and removes the parent hive to another site about three kilometres away and places the new brood chamber at its place. The field force will carry on with their duties, the new queens will hatch and the strongest queen will kill the weaker

Continued on page 20

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BEEKEEPING

From page 18

queen.

The parent hive and the remaining cells will settle quite well and there will be sufficient field force to make a new start.

However the beekeeper soon runs out of additional hives and during his continued inspections should he find more than two queen cells in each hive, he must remove these excess cells. In the case of strong swarms these multiple queens escape and take along with them small swarms of a large cup full of bees which depletes a strong swarm with the loss of too



A common sight at this time of year ... a swarm of bees resting before flying to their newly-chosen home

many bees. But all is not lost as the beekeeper catches these small swarms in small boxes and unites them to his weaker queen-headed hives to replace these old queens.

At the apiary site or at a private residence the beekeeper comes upon a swarm hanging in a tree. Armed with an empty brood box, a step ladder, a bee brush, a good quality queen excluder, he shakes or brushes the bees into the box. He places the box on the ground under the branch where the

bees were hanging and immediately places the queen excluder over the frames and then the lid, which he off-sets to allow the bees to enter the box. He plugs up the two bottom

entrances to confine the queen in the brood box. After a short while most of the flying bees will be in the brood box, and he closes off the lid so that no bees can escape, loads the box and moves away to another site. The scout bees will have already selected a new abode and by moving the hive away the scouts are completely bamboozled. However should the beekeeper leave the new brood box for a short time, even within the hour, the swarm flies out and resettles

in the tree in their original position, but the queen and a small number of bees are caught up in the box behind the queen excluder.

After a while, perhaps after a half an hour, the swarm will return to their queen in the box.

The beekeeper, during his inspections, will come across a very strong swarm that has not yet decided to swarm off. To prevent swarming off this swarm should be split to create another new swarm. This is a two day exercise. On the first day, the beekeeper smokes and opens the hive and drives all the bees downwards out of the super to be sure that the queen is below in the brood chamber. Over the brood frames he places a good quality queen excluder and replaces the super and lid. The bees will soon return into the super. This is the parent hive.

Continued on page 22



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BEEKEEPING

From page 20

He prepares a new brood chamber with ten frames fitted with a 20mm strip of foundation wax. Smoking the parent hive, he removes the super and lid as one unit and places these on a board. This is to confine all the bees in the super that could bother the beekeeper.

He then removes the parent hive to another position about three metres away and faces it in another direction. Next he places the new brood chamber in the exact position and facing the same direction as before. He

removes four empty frames and sets them aside.

During this operation the beekeeper would continually monitor the parent hive with a little smoke quite often.

From the parent hive, from one side he removes four frames to be placed into the new brood chamber.

As the frames are replaced he inspects each frame.

One frame containing honey and pollen must be placed as the outside frame, the second and third frame must contain eggs or very young tiny larva and the fourth frame can be a frame of sealed brood.

There must be pollen on one frame and if not, then search from the opposite site of the parent hive, for pollen is necessary.

This pollen is required to feed the young hatching larva.

He inspects each frame for the queen that might be about, to prevent her from entering the new hive. During these inspections the eggs and very young larva must not be exposed to direct sunlight that kills this young material.

He replaces the super on to this new hive.

The bees will set about building queen cells.

After eight days he inspects the new cells and removes any excess cells, leaving only two to hatch. A new queen will hatch after 13 days.

He retains the queen excluder and allows the new queen to start laying after a further twelve to 15 days. The

original field force will continue to work into the super.

After a further ten days he replaces the parent hive back to its old position, replaces the super and lid unit, places a new lid on to the new hive, loads and removes it to another site about three kilometres away.

For more information: Peter Clark, Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association, tel 011 362-2904 or Mike Alter tel 011 965-6040.

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INSECT CONTROL

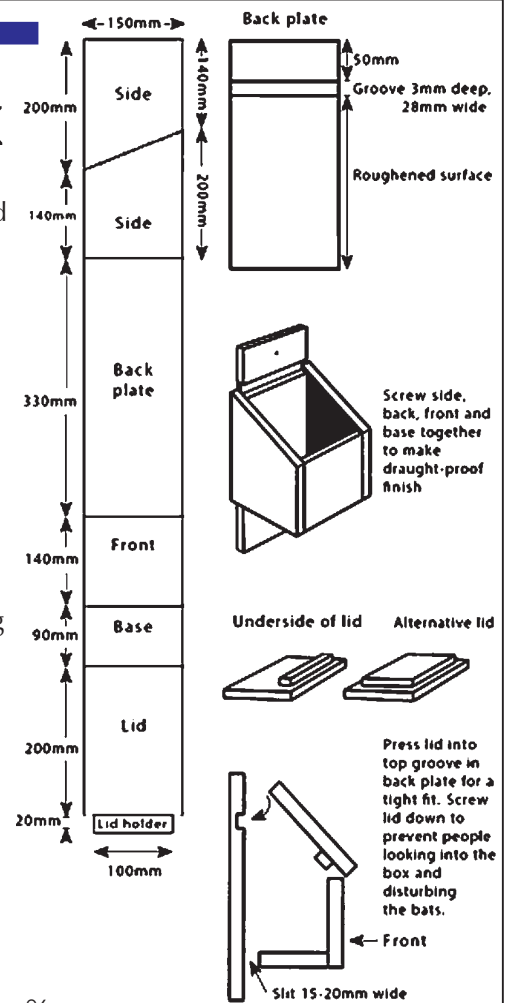
How to build a bat box

Most smallholders welcome the arrival of warmer weather. However with spring comes a rise in bothersome insects. One way that you can combat them is to build a bat box on your smallholding. Bats make good neighbours as they have many important roles to play in support of

biodiversity. They are the major predators of night-flying insects, eating an astonishingly large number of mosquitoes and many crop pests, so if you grow crops you should be encouraging them to take up residence. The number of insects consumed by a bat will depend on the breed, its reproductive cycle and the

season. Many bats spread seeds for new plants and trees. Many plants bloom at night, using unique odours and special flower shapes to attract bats. Bats also bring about pollination, particularly fruit and nectar eating bats. Ignorance and superstition are bats' greatest enemies. Unfortunately many people misunderstand bats, they fear them and consider them

Continued on page 26



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9.6mm x 9.6mm	0.9mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 13mm	1mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 13mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	2mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	2mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	2mm	✓	✓	✓

Galvanised BEFORE welding

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
25mm x 25mm	2.5	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	2.50	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	3.00	----	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	1.60	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	2.00	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	2.50	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	3.00	----	✓	✓
50mm x 100mm	2.00	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 100mm	2.50	✓	✓	✓
100mm x 100mm	2.00	----	✓	✓
100mm x 100mm	2.50	✓	✓	✓

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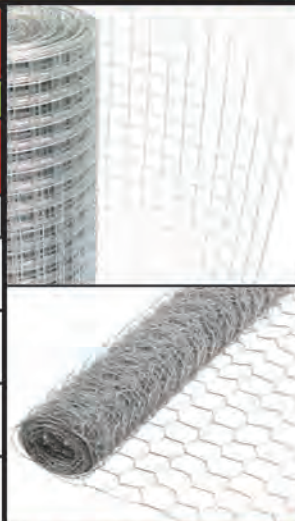
Block size in mm	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
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845ml, 15cm, R45



Coop cup with nut clamp

130ml, 7.5cm, R20
290ml, 9.5cm, R28
5250ml, 12.5cm, R35
845ml, 15cm, R46



INSECT CONTROL

From page 24

dangerous, so will not hesitate to kill one if they find it in their homes. This, combined with human encroachment on their natural habitats, is placing pressure on bat populations.

Smallholders can help by providing accommodation for bats on their plots. There are ready-made bat boxes available from EcoSolutions in Strydom Park.

"It is a cheaper and more environmentally friendly way

of helping to keep insect populations under control as opposed to the continual use of poisonous chemicals that, apart from being illegal, do not provide an effective long-term solution," says Jonathan Haw of EcoSolutions. "If bats living in the roof of a house are poisoned and die, new bats will simply take their place, and therefore it is preferable rather to bat-proof the roof and provide alternative housing for the bats."

The alternative is to make a

box. This is fairly simple for a reasonably handy DIY maplotter.

The box must be made from untreated wood, ie, wood that hasn't been pressure-treated with chemicals. Bats are sensitive to smells, and preservative chemicals may be harmful to them.

You will need to use rough-sawn wood, rather than smooth, planed wood. If the wood feels too smooth, roughen it by dragging the teeth of a saw across the

surface – this helps bats get a good grip as they clamber around their new home.

An effective bat house must have good, tight joints, as it has to be completely dark inside and because bats hate a draught. "Glue and screw the wood together," advises Haw.

It must also have a narrow slit at the back of the box, with a rough piece of wood leading up to it that they can clamber up.

You'll need a sheet of timber 15cm wide by at least 1,1 m long. A long box is necessary to regulate the temperature inside.

Mark the wood with a pencil, according to the diagram, and then cut it in to the sections.

The dimensions shown in the diagram are for 20mm thick wood. If your wood is different to that, the dimensions of the base should be 150mm by 130mm minus twice the thickness of the wood, eg, if the wood is 18mm thick, the base should be 150mm x 94mm.

Nail all the pieces together as shown in the diagram, making the joints as airtight as possible.

Correct positioning of the bat box is crucial.

There must be easy access to water. "And not just any water," says Haw. "Lactating mothers need hard water, as this is a better source of calcium than soft water.

Insects are not high in calcium." Also, the mother doesn't want to leave the babies alone for long.

Houses should be placed high enough to allow bats to "drop" down when they exit the house. Bats need a drop before they actually begin flying. Any height above 2m would probably be satisfactory.

The temperature inside the bat house plays a huge role.

Continued on page 30



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HOME REMEDIES

Some natural rooting 'hormones'

Now is a good time to look at propagating your plants, creating new plants by taking a piece (called a cutting) of the parent plant, and growing another plant from it. You may take root cuttings, stem cutting or

leaf cuttings. Not all plants can be reproduced like this, but those that can stand a better chance if some substance is applied to the base of the cutting to encourage roots to develop. Proprietary root hormones will encourage the cutting to grow new roots and may

come in the form of a powder or a liquid. There are commonly different strengths, which are applied according to the hardness of the stem. However, some smallholders are consciously moving away from chemical products in their gardens, and such gardeners may wish to try

some natural sources for root hormone.

Willow tea works well and can be made using either the bark of a willow or, preferably, as it doesn't harm future growth, the fresh spring yellow branch shoots. Simply cut the shoots into 3 cm lengths and place them in

Continued on page 31

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INSECT CONTROL

From page 26

It is advisable to mount the bat house on a north-west to north facing wall or pole, trying to get about two hours of sun on to the bat house in the late afternoon, so as to warm it up a little towards the bats' evening hunting time. Bats are less attracted to bat houses mounted on trees, as it's too easy for predators to get them as they exit, the branches cause obstructions to exiting bats which drop

down then up into flight and it's too shady from branches above.

Erecting more than one bat house greatly increases the chances of one being occupied.

"Constructing the bat house is the easy part. Positioning them is more important and there are many reasons for bats not choosing to take up residency in your box. EcoSolutions provides a consultancy service, just give

us a call and we can discuss your circumstances. People even send us photos of the bat house and its surroundings, so that we can advise them," concludes Haw. EcoSolutions are involved in a number of bat-housing projects on commercial farms as part of biological insect control. They also run owl-box projects. Contact EcoSolutions on 011 791-7326/ 072 365 9777/ info@ecosolutions.co.za.

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Other natural aphicide sprays

Last month we published a remedy for ridding your plants of aphids. Here are a couple more.

☐ Make an onion and garlic spray:

Roughly cut a full pod (including the skins) of garlic and four onions. Place in a container. Some suggest

adding a tablespoon of crushed, dried or fresh chilli or chilli seeds, or one teaspoon of chilli powder. Pour three litres of boiling water over the material, close the container and allow it to stand for one day. Strain and keep the fluid. Add two tablespoons cooking

oil and two teaspoons liquid soap, and mix well. Mix one cup of this mixture with five cups of water.

Spray weekly, making a fresh batch every week.

☐ Another remedy specifically for aphids is citrus tea. Chop the peels of three oranges or of two lemons and

cover with hot water.

Leave overnight, take out the peels, microwave the liquid for five seconds and store in the fridge.

When required, add a teaspoon to a litre of water, one teaspoon of dishwashing soap and one teaspoon of white spirit vinegar.

ROOTING

From page 30

warm water. Let them soak for at least 72 hours and then dip your cuttings in the tea and plant. You can keep the mixture in the fridge for three to four days.

But not everybody has access to fresh willow branches.

Honey is a lot easier to find. It is preferable to use pure, or raw, honey but regular store-bought honey can be used at a push. Stir a tablespoon of honey into two cups of boiling

water and allow to cool. Place this mixture in an airtight container until ready to use, storing it away from light. This mixture can keep up to two weeks.

When you're ready to begin using honey to root cuttings, you will need to prepare your cuttings and potting medium. Your cuttings can be 15 – 30 cms in length and cut on about a 45-degree angle.

Now simply dip each cutting

Continued on page 32

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Soak your jar/container in

soapy water to allow the paper label itself to lift off and pull away. Peel it off. (Alternatively: Apply heat with a blow dryer to melt and soften the residue and peel the label off with the back of a kitchen knife)

- ☐ Mix the oil and baking soda in the amount required to cover the leftover sticky residue on the surface.

- ☐ Apply the mixture to the residue with a non-scratch scrubber, then let the paste mixture soak into the sticky spots for 10 minutes at minimum. I recommend 15 to be safe!

- ☐ Wet a cloth with warm

water and wipe off the mixture.

- ☐ Wash the jar/container with regular soap and water. You're ready to sterilise the bottle and fill it with your home produce.

ROOTING

From page 31

into the honey mixture and then stick them into your selected potting medium. You might use potting soil, vermiculite or a mix of your own soil with river sand and compost.

Poke a hole for each cutting with a pencil or your finger for insertion, making sure to keep your soil moist. If desired, you may cover with ventilated plastic.

When rooting in water, put your cutting directly into the water immediately following

its placement in the honey.

Once all of your cuttings have been dipped and placed into their potting medium, simply wait for your cuttings to begin rooting, which should be within a week or so, when you can plant them out in your garden.

Other natural rooting hormones can be found in your own saliva, but that's not practical except for one or two cuttings. You can also try apple cider vinegar, cinnamon or aspirin crushed and mixed with water.

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BIO-CONTROL

Natural methods cause less damage

Smallholders who favour methods of planting that are environmentally friendly and as natural as possible will probably have encountered commercially available products that are described as "biological control" products.

The Gauteng Smallholder has written in the past of the use of biological control in combating invasive alien plants. This entails bringing natural enemies of alien plants from their native countries and introducing them into habitats where the plants are threatening local vegetation. These enemies may be insects, bacteria or fungi.

However, there are pest and disease control products available that work on the same principle, offering a method of controlling pests and diseases using their naturally-occurring enemies or biological antagonists. These living organisms may be predators (predatory mites, ladybirds etc), parasitoids (wasps etc) or microbes (fungi, bacteria or viruses). Biological control is designed to reduce plant pathogens and limit pests such as insects, parasitic nematodes and weeds. There are also products that stimulate the optimum soil conditions.

Promoters of these wares argue that the products are completely natural, environmentally friendly, they benefit crop quality, they are useful as a stand-alone solution or as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme, there are no chemical residues or with-

holding periods, they are non-toxic and safe for workers and consumers and that there is minimum effect on non-target organisms.

The rate at which biological control products or inoculants are being introduced into South Africa has increased rapidly since the early 1990s. Products may have single ingredients or be blends of several materials. Some ingredients are recognised by the scientific and farming communities as having the ability to improve crop yields and quality. The value of others is often unknown and should first be evaluated for their ability to deliver upon the manufacturer's claims.

Some of the products target specific pests and diseases. The ingredient has a biological origin rather than a synthetic chemical. This includes fungi, bacteria, baculoviruses (which affect insects) and plant extracts.

Other products containing beneficial bacteria and fungi can be added to the soil to improve growing conditions. These are natural organisms that have been depleted from the soil due to modern farming practices and therefore need to be replaced. They perform a wide range of functions including the degradation of organic matter, mobilisation and fixation of nutrients and production of bioactive compounds, protection from pathogens, improving soil structure, aeration and water holding capacity.

Yet other products are applied to the plants, seeds or soil to stimulate the natural

Continued on page 36



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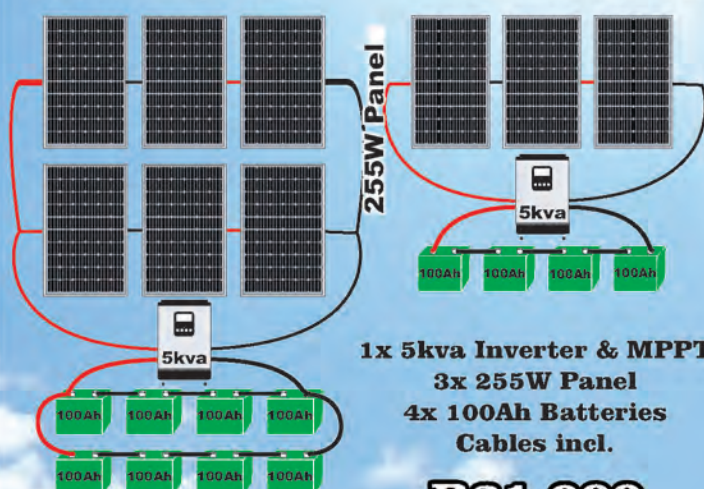
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BIO-CONTROL

From page 35

processes of plants relating to nutrient use efficiency, produce quality and tolerance to abiotic and biotic stress factors. The nutrition component is tailored to support the specific bio-stimulants in their role relating to the targeted growth stage. Some products focus on root systems, eliminating diseases and stimulating nitrogen fixing. Others target insects or crop pathogens which cause diseases or detrimental fungi. The SA Bioproducts Organisation (Sabo) has been established to develop the bio-control industry in South Africa and to regulate the

activities of participants in accordance with high ethical and science-based standards. It is the home organisation of manufacturers and researchers in the field of bioproducts, ie, biocontrol agents, plant and microbial extracts, and plant resistance enhancers. The primary objective of Sabo is to create a body that can represent the entire industry of bioproducts manufacturers, marketers and researchers. It also provides training. There are various points that the smallholder should bear in mind when buying these products.

Be aware of the specific disease problems you experience on your plot. Biological products can be very specific with regard to disease control. Find out if the proposed product has been registered, in terms of Act 36 of 1947. Look for a label on the packaging that contains specific information about the product, such as



Some biological products encourage root growth range the biological agent is active. This information is very useful for the effective storing and application of these products. Find out if the biological control product is compatible with the chemicals you apply during a growing season. Biological products contain living organisms that can be deactivated or killed by agrochemicals.

Continued on page 39

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Understanding the psychology of chicks

One of the joys of living on a small-holding is to witness new life, and few creatures are more endearing, and so synonymous with spring, than

chicks.

Ideally they should be reared by their mothers. Observing these little balls of fluff as they develop is rewarding and often amusing.

Soon after hatching chicks are very active and when running, they extend their wings and flap them for use as brakes. They stretch in a very precise way with a wing and leg on one side stretched out pointing to the rear with the wing primary feathers displayed.

They can jump on to feeders, but do not perch till they are

four to six weeks old.

Chicks spend a lot of time chasing each other and if they turn, face up and stare at each other, this can lead to regular fights by two weeks of age. These fights are only between two birds at a time (usually males) where they grab at neck feathers and pull the adversary to the ground.

Continued on page 40

BIO CONTROL

From page 36

Can the company selling the product provide you with information on setting up an Integrated Pest Management control programme before selling the biological control products?

Does the company provide detailed instructions on how to handle and apply biological control products?

Is there any measure of the quality and purity of the biological control product you received? For example: Does the company tell you exactly which organisms are contained in the product and who

made the species determination?

This should have been done by a recognised taxonomic expert, not necessarily someone at the company. Does the company offer reasonable solutions for any difficulties you may encounter and does it follow up to determine the success or failure of your programme? Instead of jumping right in using the product on your entire plot, first test it to see whether it actually yields results in your production environment.

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POULTRY

From page 39

Pecking and feather pulling clearly induce pain from Day 13, and by Day 18 weaker chicks can be pulled down and trodden.

When chicks are with their mothers they will copy her dusting activities, starting as young as Day 3. Preening of wing and breast feathers may start at Day 2, but no preen gland is used until Day 14. The preening spells may last up to four minutes.

Chickens keep their feathers waterproof by preening. They get oil from a gland located at the base of their tail feathers. This gland is called the uropygial gland, or preen gland. The preen gland secretes an oily/waxy substance which the chicken spreads over its feathers with its beak.

If you watch your chickens preening, you will see them periodically rub their beak on an area by the base of their tail to get more oil from their preen gland.

Chicks will start pecking at toes by Day 10. If conditions are hot, dry and too bright, they'll pick at wing and tail feathers until they bleed, as well as pecking at pasted up vents.

Chicks will peck at any bright object in the litter, which may include nails and staples that can cause death if swallowed, so constant and careful checking of the litter or the area where they spend their day is most important.

Litter scratching is a very stereotypical action from Day 2. It is best described as a scratch with the right leg, then two with the left, then one with the right and so on, while the litter is flicked over with the beak.

The whole sequence takes about 15 seconds and occurs in the best-lit areas first. If the environment is too cold, litter may be eaten and the gizzard impacted.

A study of chicks up to ten weeks old shows many

behavioural activities:

☐ Resting is very important just after hatching, declines till three and a half weeks, rises to eight weeks, then declines again.

☐ Females rest more than males.

☐ Leg stretching increases (especially in males) to a peak at four to seven weeks old and then declines.

☐ Scratching increases in the first week, declines to almost nothing at seven weeks and then reappears at nine weeks old.

☐ Preening increases with feather growth while running about decreases with age.

☐ Frolicking increases up to week four and then declines as sparring starts and reaches a peak at week five.

☐ Fighting encounters replace sparring by week seven and this pecking reaches a peak at eight weeks, by which time a clear pecking order is established.

Chicks dehydrate quickly at the high temperatures of rearing, so they must find water quickly after hatching and learn to drink. Drinking often starts with the chick pecking at a bubble, and some water movement helps to start them drinking.

A good idea is to lay paper on the floor and place the feed and water on that. The chicks will discover both by pecking. Remove the paper after a week as it will be soiled and by then they should all have learned. Be guided by the smallest chicks as they'll be slowest to learn.

If you are keeping the chicks in a brooder, provide 24 hours of light at this very vulnerable learning stage. By 3½ weeks, a chick will have drinking sessions of a minute long, and drink eleven times with a few seconds pause between each. A chick drinks by placing the beak in the water, scooping up a beak-full, which is then swallowed by holding the

Continued on page 42

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PET CARE

Dogs on plots: How many is too many?

More than 85% of smallholders will have at least one dog on their property and most have three or four. Fewer keep cats, but of those who do, the average is three cats per smallholding. That's according to research conducted by the *Gauteng Smallholder* among readers a few years ago.

So, most of us keep a few dogs and cats, how many is too many according to the law?

According to the by-laws of most municipalities in Gauteng, owners are allowed to keep up to six dogs and six cats on agricultural land. Because of the space on plots the question rarely arises about how many would be a

good number of dogs. We've all seen the alarming television programmes where the animal police have to go in and rescue a bizarre number of dogs or cats from a dog hoarder or the proverbial "mad cat lady" and we smugly think it wouldn't arise on a smallholding. But there are some questions to ask about the realistic number an

individual pet owner should keep:

☐ Are the animals' living quarters large enough to comfortably accommodate everyone? Is there plenty of room for them to avoid one another if they choose? Are there enough napping and hiding spots?

☐ How does everyone get

Continued on page 44

POULTRY

From page 40

head horizontally or slightly raised.

Drinker design has an important effect on chick drinking behaviour. Some trough designs are better than others at encouraging social facilitation in drinking, and some encourage roosting on the drinker.

Food recognition by the chick is complex. They will peck indiscriminately at various objects in their environment such as sand grains, shiny

objects, other chicks and so on. They achieve success in finding food mostly by trial and error.

If reared by a broody hen, the advantages of being taught by her tid-biting for food are obvious. She uses her vocal calls to encourage and guide them to eat the food items she indicates.

Some starter feeds are made up into three-dimensional

crumbs to be more attractive. Studies show that with a ten hour light day regime, chicks up to three days old only spent 30% of their time eating, but by Day 10, this had increased to nearly 60%. Chicks ate 34 times a day on Day 3 and 123 times a day on Day 10. Other chicks were observed to eat solid feed 25-30 times a day and

Continued on page 44






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PET CARE

From page 42

along? Is there fighting? Are certain pets intimidating others? Is each pet comfortable enough to have a good quality of life?

❑ How do the pets look? Are they clean, groomed and healthy looking? Are they able to move around comfortably? Do they get adequate exercise? Are they fed a good quality diet? Is everyone spayed or neutered and protected against disease? Are they all getting wellness check-ups at least annually, and more often for those with health conditions, and senior pets?

❑ How are things in the sanitation department? Are they properly house trained? Does the home smell of urine or faeces?

❑ How clean is the home overall? Is the pet hair being removed from furniture and floors routinely?

❑ How about the outside of the home – is it in decent

condition? Weeds pulled, grass mowed, dog faeces picked up and disposed of? ❑ Is the yard fenced for the dogs?

Finances, time, and space are probably the prime factors in deciding on how many pets you should have and that varies greatly from one family to another. You have to be really dedicated to cleaning, feeding and playing with a large number of pets. Many people have pets which don't cost much annually to vet but aren't prepared for the emergencies or accidents that inevitable arise.

In the case of dogs it is preferable to train all of them, as this will help in dealing with conflicts among them.

We also need to be aware of the possible health risks of keeping cats and dogs.

Dogs that are not regularly dewormed can excrete tapeworm in their faeces. If ingested by sheep, and sometimes cattle, the

tapeworm cysts can lodge in the animal's brain causing a condition called Gid (*Coerurus cerebralis*). As the cysts develop, they press on the brain cells and cause nervous symptoms such as blindness, staggering and circling.

Cats can be carriers of the parasite that causes toxoplasmosis, which is a disease of man and most warm-blooded animals. In cats, the infection is often sub-clinical, which means the

symptoms are not easy to see, so you won't know that your cat has it.

Many humans, especially vets and cat-owners, carry the antibodies to toxoplasma in their blood and have never been ill with the disease. The main danger to humans of toxoplasmosis is to pregnant women and those with suppressed immune systems. Concerning for smallholders who keep sheep is that the disease is a major cause of abortion in ewes.

POULTRY

From page 42

they drank water 22-45 times a day.

As age increases, the number of feeding times dropped but total feed eaten increased.

Temperature needs to be carefully regulated if you are keeping chicks in a brooder. The chick's first response after hatching is to seek warmth and cover. They are very vulnerable to draughts.

Body temperature at birth is 38.6°C rising to 40°C by Day 9.

If heating is inadequate, chicks huddle together in a semicircle facing outwards

and can easily smother in corners away from draughts or in sunny spots.

When too hot they disperse away from the heat source. Chicks will not move out into colder temperatures for food before five to seven days.

Low rearing temperatures (eg, 19.5°C) will slow growth, cause earlier feathering but increase the size of organs such as the heart, thyroid and adrenal glands compared to chicks reared at 30°C.

Chicks with their mother of course have a built in source of heat and protection from draughts.

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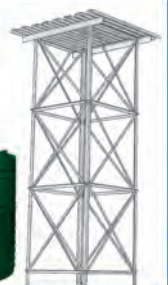
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SMALL STOCK

The difference between sheep and goats

Although there is an expression in the Bible that refers to a

shepherd separating the sheep from the goats, the difference between these two common small farm animals is not as universally understood as one may think.

Town-dwellers, especially, often can't tell one from the other so at the risk of being labelled elementary, we set out below the differences between a sheep and a goat. While sheep and goats have many similarities, each is a distinct species and genus. Sheep (*Ovis aries*) have 54 chromosomes, while goats (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) have 60. While sheep and goats will occasionally mate, fertile sheep-goat hybrids are rare. Hybrids made in the laboratory are called chimeras.

Hard to believe, perhaps, but some people DON'T know the difference between the two

The easiest way to tell the difference between a sheep and goat is to look at their tails. A goat's tail goes up (unless it is sick, frightened, or in distress). Sheep tails hang down and are often docked (shortened) for health and sanitary reasons.

There are a number of physical differences between the two species. Most goats have hair coats that do not require shearing or combing. Most sheep grow woolly coats that need to be sheared at least annually.

Lamb tails are sometimes docked or shortened whereas goat tails are not.

Another major difference is that sheep have an upper lip divided by a distinct philtrum

or groove. This is something that a goat does not have. Male goats have glands beneath their tail. Sheep have face or tear glands beneath their eyes and foot or scent

glands between the toes. Male goats develop a distinct odour as they grow in sexual maturity. The odour is very strong during the mating season. Sexually mature rams have much less of an odour, if they have an odour at all.

Continued on page 48



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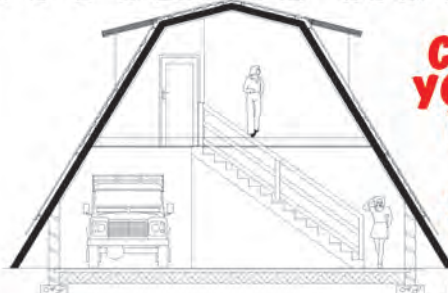
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SMALL STOCK

From page 46

A big difference between sheep and goats is their foraging behaviour and diet selection. Goats are natural browsers, preferring to eat leaves, twigs, vines, and shrubs. They are very agile and will stand on their hind legs to reach vegetation. This agility sometimes gets them into amazing positions. Goats like to eat the tops of plants. Sheep are grazers, preferring

to eat short, tender grasses and clover. Their dietary preference is forbs (broadleaf weeds) and they like to graze close to the soil surface. Goats require and select a more nutritious diet. Sheep and goats have similar nutrient requirements, though goats have higher maintenance requirements because they are not able to digest the cellulose of plant cell walls as well as sheep. Lambs tend to grow much faster than kids,

no matter what the diet is. Sheep convert feed more efficiently. Grain-feeding is less likely to be profitable in goat (meat) production. With the exception of a few breeds, sheep and goats fatten differently. Goats deposit fat around their internal organs before depositing external fat over their back, ribs, and loin. Sheep deposit external fat before depositing internal fat. Sheep have a narrow tolerance for excess copper in their diet, though toxic levels depend upon the

level of other minerals in their diets. Breeds also vary in their sensitivity to copper toxicity. For this reason, it is generally recommended that sheep not be fed grain and mineral mixes that have been formulated for other livestock (including goats), as these feeds likely have copper added to them.

Continued on page 49



Goats have straight horns, sheep do not



Billygoats (males) have beards, rams do not

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SMALL STOCK

From page 48

It can also be risky to graze sheep on pastures that have been fertilized with poultry or pig manure. Caution should be exercised when using any form of copper as a deworming agent. Additional copper should not be added to the diet of sheep unless a deficiency is confirmed by laboratory tests.

Goats require more copper in their diets than sheep and are not as sensitive to copper toxicity. Their maximum level of copper is considered to be similar to cattle. If you are keeping sheep and goats together, rather use sheep feed. It may be necessary to give copper supplements to

goats that are co-raised with sheep.

Because they browse, the behaviour of goats will be different from that of sheep. Goats spend a lot of time investigating things. They are forever nibbling on and eating things and are quite independent. They appear to be more interactive with the environment, and they are very engaging animals. Sheep have a stronger flocking instinct and become very agitated if they are separated from the rest of the flock. It is easier to keep sheep inside a fence than goats.

Goats will seek shelter more readily than sheep, although neither species likes to get its feet wet.

In a fight, a ram will back up and charge to butt heads. A goat will rear up on his hind legs and come down forcibly to butt heads.

Most goats have horns, many sheep, but not all, are naturally without horns. Goat

horns are narrower and usually straighter; sheep horns tend to be thicker and curved, tending to loop around on the sides of their heads.

Some sheep have manes. Some goats have beards, but sheep don't.

Sheep and goats are generally susceptible to the same diseases. These include orf, bluetongue, foot abscesses and foot rot, arthritis, heartwater, flystrike,

abscesses, mastitis, redgut, coccidiosis, pneumonia, botulism, tetanus, abortions, milk fever and ketosis. They are both troubled by mites, lice infestation, worms and tick damage. They are susceptible to plant poisonings.

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DIARY

ATTENTION CRAFT MARKETS, CLUBS ETC: If you would like details of your events included in the Diary, please fax or email your information to the Editor. For non-commercial enterprises this service is FREE.

NOTE: FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKETS. For a listing of REGULARLY HELD markets and fairs please see the separate section on page 55. 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@diamondxrancho.co.za, www.diamondx.co.za., R500 per person.

Mnandi Methodist Church, 09:00, Mnandi Centre, cnr Tulip and Short Streets, Jen 012 651-5509. Gail 072 477-0708., A small

community who worship together. We have a Youth and Children's church.

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

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

2016

October

1: New Moon
4: World Habitat Day
9: First Quarter
10-14: Introductory Course in Poultry Production at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.
14 & 15: Workshop: Making melt and pour glycerine soaps. From 09:00 to 13:00. Refreshments, notes and some ingredients are included in the course. Small groups for individual attention. Prepaid booking essential. R300 per person. Venue and list of other materials 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, patsypotions@vergeer.co.za.

16: Full Moon
17 - 21: Veld Management, 5 day course. Pretoria Botanical Gardens, lunch and handbook included. Frits van Oudtshoorn info@alut.co.za or 078 228-0008
21: Livestock Auction, 11:00, Amboshevel Country Estate, 54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift. Barco Auctioneers 011 795-1240 or 083 341-2357.
22: Last Quarter
22 October: Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association monthly meeting at 186 Uys Street, Rynfield Benoni commencing at 9.30 am. Contact Peter Clark 011 362-2904.
22: The Annual Charity day for animals,

Free Classified Ads

072 587-9137 Bredell

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PROPERTY FOR SALE/TO LET

Game farm, +/-30ha inside game reserve. 2 boreholes, 4 bedroom house, workshop and outside buildings. 220V Eskom power, 2m game fence, big pool, 10 types fruit trees, cattle kraal plus facilities, 8 camps, 30km from Pretoria. R2,5 million neg. Call 082 877-2635 all hours

Lilyvale, Benoni: Plot for sale. 2 houses, 1,7 ha, 4 bedrooms, 2 lounges, 1 dining room, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, scullery, big stoep, double garage, workshop. 2nd house has 3 bedrooms, lounge dining room, bathroom, kitchen, carport, separate entrance. Neat gardens. R1,4 million. 082 677-3955

Lilyvale, Benoni: Smallholding, 1,7ha. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and

dining room, kitchen, double garage, carport, braai area. Fully walled, neat garden, borehole. R1,2 million. 082 677-3955

Parys: Huis te koop. Ou karaktervolle 3 slaapkamer, een gaste kamer, oopplan, gazebo, garage, naby rivier R900 000. 4 slaapkamer met semiwoonstel, 3 garages, stoorkamer, lapa en boorgat, groot erf R660 000. Cell 076 522-3187

Hartbeespoort close to the Westlake Estates 5,2 ha fully fenced, spectacular views, double storey 550m² Bali style house under tiles. Large lounge, 3 bedrooms including study, dressing room and kitchenette, 3 large bathrooms, large dining cum TV lounge, large open plan kitchen, scullery and pantry. Built in cupboards, four car garage, large verandah and driveway. Plus 7 kennels, strong borehole, 4 carports. No land claim. Price on application. Contact 082 771-6460.

TRACTORS & IMPLEMENTS

A super MF 135 fitted with hydraulic front end loader recently overhauled, for sale at R75 000. Contact Nigel on 082 372-6476, Knoppjeslaagte (near Blue Hills).

Mini baler, B70, makes small round bales, 610mm x 700mm. Immaculate condition, used only by owner for three seasons. Ideal for plot or small farm. Serviced and ready to work. Contact Rudi 083 621-0005 Walkerville

Ford 7600 R68 000, Ford TX20 R45 000. Heidelberg Gauteng. Kobus 082 562-5770 Implemente te koop (netjies oorgeverf): 2 skaar raamploeg R3 650; Tandimplemente R1 500. Ook beskikbaar: 2-ry SA Wonder planter; Eenrigting dis; Eg litte. Christian Hartbeespoort 073 230-6474

Tractor trailer for sale. 5m x 2.2m 3 ton trailer for sale with drop sides. Does not have road licence. R10 000. Please contact Vincent Lund at 011 024-6986.

VEHICLES & SPARES

Bakkie rail, custom made 2,3m long x 1,53m wide, LWB, R1 800. East Rand area 076 698-1836

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED/WANTED

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DIARY

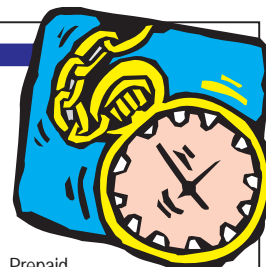
craft stalls, plant nursery, homemade preserves, jewellery, books, tea garden and much more, from 10:00 until 17:00. Patsy Vergeer, Patsy's Potions, The Herb and Indigenous Plant Guild. Telephone office hours 011 393-3427 or 076 265-4948, patsypotions@vergeer.co.za.
29: Bee Ware beginner beekeeping course, President Park AH. To book call 012 771-4288
29: Grow your own food workshop, Terra Madre, 21 Alexandra Street, Irene R500 including notes and lunch. terramadresouthafrica@gmail.com or 082 602-2882.

30: New Moon

November

4 & 5: Workshop making paper, herbal dyes and scented drawer liners. From 09:00 to 13:00. Includes refreshments, some ingredients and notes. Prepaid booking essential. R300,00 per event. Venue and list of other 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. patsypotions@vergeer.co.za

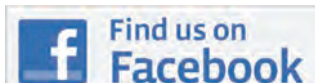
5: Eastern Highveld Beekeeper's Association annual honey and beekeeping show, Hecker's Nursery, 1 North Rand Road Boksburg, from 10.00 am all day. Contact Peter Clark 071 084-6971
7: First Quarter
8-11: Introductory Course in Pig Production at the ARC Irene. Contact Annetjie Loubser 012 672-9153 or aloubser@arc.agric.za.
14: Full Moon
21: Last Quarter
26: Christmas Country Market at Groenvoer, 410 Olifantsfontein Road, Midrand. Contact Cathy on 011 314-1211.
29: New Moon



are included. Prepaid booking essential. R300,00 per event. Venue and list of 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. patsypotions@vergeer.co.za.
7: First Quarter
14: Full Moon
21: Last Quarter
21: Solstice
29: New Moon

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



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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
Thursday					
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 Boothia 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 blingsa@lantic.net	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kaings 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@wfmmarket.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	bonniecoutho4@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 groceries...In 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 products
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doornrandjies	012 669-3043 info@serendipitycafe.co.za www.serendipitycafe.co.za	Community market to promote local business

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Motorised mayhem

Having been nearly wiped off the face of the planet twice on consecutive days at the R24/N12 split in Bedfordview I thought it might be fruitful to share my observations on South African driving, and the rules of the road. For a start, "rules of the road" is a bit strong in the South African context, for a "rule" implies something cast in stone, something black-and-white, immutable. And that's not what a rule of the road is in South Africa. No: here, rules of the road are more like "guidelines"; something one follows if one wishes, or not if one wants to live dangerously.

So, here's some advice when entering the R24 to the airport off the N12: NEVER travel in the right (fast) hand lane. Rather, slow down and hug the left hand curb like a Cape Town drunk will hang on to a street sign in a Southeaster. That's because it's not unusual, I have discovered, for some directionless dickhead on one's left to decide, as he enters the R24, that he actually wants to be on the N12, and he simply scoots to the right across the intervening two lanes of traffic to achieve his new objective. And, while I'm on the subject of left and right lanes, slow and fast, on highways I find it deeply endearing that we have put behind us all the accumulated wisdom of first-world highway codes of "keep left, pass right", an otherwise admirable and well-researched method of curbing road deaths, and we simply sail down the road in whatever lane we choose, at whatever speed we are comfortable with. Thus, on any highway in the country, but particularly the multi-lane ones around Gauteng, the left hand (slow) lane is often devoid of traffic except for a couple of BMWs and Porches travelling way beyond the speed limit (and they're not (always) blue-light drivers, either), while in the lanes further to the right sit trucks and bakkies, tannies and oomies, goggos and madodas tootling along at a steady 80km an hour.

Let me tell you that if you drove like that in the UK (for example) you would be pulled over by a highway patrol, have points deducted from your licence and face a heavy fine faster than you could say "Stirling Moss".

You would need to be in a permanent coma not to know by now that the two biggest kill-factors on our roads are drink, and speed. Alcohol is involved in about half of all road deaths in South Africa. That's a staggering (pun fully intended) number. But speeding is involved in a significant number, too, and on any trip on a Gauteng freeway (and not only on a freeway) you

will be passed by idiots doing well over the legal speed limit ... to the left or to the right, and often weaving from left to right as they spot miniscule gaps between the streams of cars. It's the sort of driving you'd expect from Jeremy Clarkson et al as they horse around in front of the cameras like overgrown school-boys.

And apart from the occasional high-profile arrest not much seems to be done about speeding ~ even though in Gauteng we have the perfect facility to end speeding once and for all on our highways. Instead of continuing with its farcical e-toll project which is frankly leading to its becoming discredited in the eyes of the travelling public, Sanral could do us all a favour (and earn a pretty penny in the process) if it coupled its number-plate recognition cameras in its e-toll gantries to synchronised clocks, which would print out a ticket if they picked up that a particular vehicle had driven from Gantry A to Gantry B in less time that it should take at the legal speed limit.

But not all of us mapplotters drive on highways. Many of us never venture much further than the local shop as we putter about our often potholed backstreets in our dust-caked cars and bakkies. And here lurks another danger: The four-way-stop or, as I like to call it, the dice-with-death. It's true that stop signs are sometimes stolen, knocked over or otherwise destroyed, but the number of people who ignore four-way stops and simply sail on through in the plot areas defies belief. On one road in our suburb, a quiet, narrow, potholed stretch of tar about a kilometre long, I can think of TWO fatal accidents within the past two years as a result of people omitting to stop at one or other of the four four-way stops, on that road alone.

Think of the odds here: that's TWO cars, coming towards the same intersection at exactly the same time from different directions, and BOTH deciding to ignore a stop sign. Kaboom! Talk about motorised Russian roulette!





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JOHN DEERE

A collection of John Deere merchandise is displayed against a green background with sunflowers. The items include: a blue and white plaid short-sleeved button-down shirt with a small John Deere logo on the chest; a bright pink t-shirt with a large John Deere leaping deer logo and the text "JOHN DEERE" below it; a black t-shirt with a large John Deere leaping deer logo and the text "JOHN DEERE" below it; and a brown t-shirt with a large John Deere leaping deer logo and the text "JOHN DEERE" below it. In the foreground, another black t-shirt is visible, featuring the John Deere logo and the text "INTEGRITY", "green", "INNOVATION", "commitment", "QUALITY", and "JOHN DEERE 1957".



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