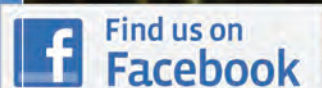


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**FRONT COVER**

Damara lamb. (Picture - Damara Sheep Breeders Society of SA)  
... read about Damara sheep inside

# COMMENT, by Pete Bower

## The land reform mess



There are a number of issues clouding the current land “problem” in South Africa, not the least being that the problem is not one problem, but a number of problems that have been conflated by the politicians for their own rhetorical convenience, and which have, as a result, confused and alarmed the general public.

For, to the man in the street, land invasions, land restitution, land reform and the most recent bug-a-boo, expropriation without compensation, all appear to be the same thing: frightening strands in the same tangled ball of wool.

So, let's shed some light on the issues involved by discussing the various elements and some of the observations made by economists, agrarians and sundry commentators.

At the outset let's be clear that expropriation, with or without compensation, is already part of our law, and has been for generations, just as it is in most countries. But it exists to help the state or local authorities to provide necessary infrastructure such as roads, hospitals or dams. The state has within its powers the right to simply take the land needed, for the greater good of the general population, although generally it pays compensation, related in some measure to the land's market value. That's expropriation, and in the extreme case (and under the apartheid era Group Areas Act), without compensation, or EWC, as it has come to be called.

But that should not be confused with what the EFF and its new-found fellow-travellers in the ANC propose, which is *expropriation without compensation*, of “property,” with the idea of redistributing it to previously disadvantaged people. In the EFF's version of this process, the expropriatees (ie, those whose property will be expropriated) will be white. Full stop.

Depending on how much you trust politicians generally, and the ANC in particular, you can form your own opinion as to whether this will devolve into a wholesale Zimbabwe-style land-grab benefiting only the black elite and well-connected, or be something more measured and protective of the economy, jobs and food security.

But the EFF's proposal should not be confused with *land occupation*, tried last month by hopeful shack dwellers in Midrand, Pretoria East and elsewhere, where hundreds of people suddenly converge on a piece of land and begin staking claims, often having parted with hard-earned cash to some persuasive “entrepreneur” (who may or may not be a rogue member of a political party).

Then there is the subtle difference between *land reform* and *land restitution*. Reform should include, for example, the management of land to integrate established apartheid-era townships into their associated formerly “white” towns, by proclaiming linking industrial, commercial or residential developments, upgrading facilities etc. Restitution is the handing over of land to previously-dispossessed individuals or communities.

But the entire land reform/restitution issue is fraught with disagreement even as to the necessary starting point. For example, during the worst apartheid years black, Indian and coloured families were forcibly removed under the Group Areas Act from areas such as District Six and Wynberg in Cape Town, or Sophiatown in Johannesburg, and dumped in Manenberg or Mitchell's Plain, or in Soweto, or in the bantustans. Members of many of those families are still alive, still remember the hurt and indignity of those removals, and still feel a sense of loss and deprivation.

But it goes back earlier than that. Another significant milestone was the 1913 Native Land Act which at a stroke deprived vast numbers of black families of their land.

Obviously, anybody who was dispossessed at that stage is no longer alive and the entire landscape has changed vastly since that time.

But it goes back even earlier than that. Radicals in the ANC and EFF are now arguing that it was in 1652 that the first dispossession of black land took place.

The fact is that even at this stage South Africa does not have one single land “ownership” model, but many, ranging from freehold with title deeds, to tribal trusts, to permissions to occupy (PTOs), to communal land ownership, with the question of mining rights driving a legal cart and horses through the whole lot. Certainly a complicating factor, particularly if you wish to take 1652 as your dispossession starting point. But there are another two significant snags in this mess. Firstly, nobody knows for sure who owns what land, and the government's own report on the subject is shot through with inaccuracies, generalisations and false assumptions.

Just as it is false to assume that there is a universal “hunger for land” among black people. In many cases hitherto in the ANC's land reform programme, when offered land or money, the beneficiaries have taken the money rather than the land.



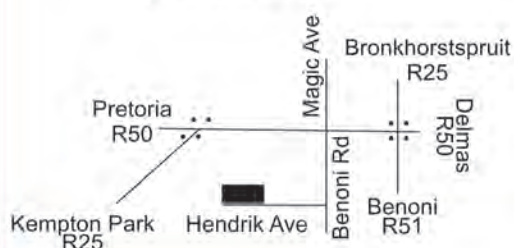
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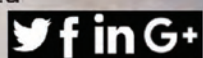
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# SSE



## Non-layers 1: Look for meerkats & mongooses

**S**ir ~ in reply to Mr Stegman's letter, ('My koekoeks are laying well,' March 2018) we have a problem with meerkats and mongooses. If Mr Stegmann can lock up his flock in a SECURE coop (meerkats can dig and climb!) for about a week, the eggs will be laid inside the coop, thus foiling the egg stealer(s).

Dogs also love eggs...ours will steal the nests bare if not watched.

**Susan**  
East Rand

## Non-layers 2: Look for mites

**S**ir ~ In response to George Stegman's letter about his koekoeks (March 2018), I was wondering if he has inspected them for mites? Infestations by these horrid tiny creatures can lead to serious depletion of the health of the chickens and can also

lead to them no longer laying eggs. It's quite a palaver to get rid of them, but it can be done – diatomaceous earth usually works.

**Ramona Vos**  
Pomona

## Tshwane's recirculation refusal

**S**ir ~ Reading your comment 'Our water crisis' in the *Smallholder*, February 2018, I add the following: The head of Water Affairs has for years preached

the need for recirculation and saving of water.

In spite of this Tshwane has consistently refused to allow landowners like ourselves to split water into fresh, grey and toilet sewage and to set up local sewage plants to facilitate reuse, as is practised in Windhoek etc!

Incredible, to say the least, in a world short of water, resulting in the present Cape Town problem!

We need intelligence and encouragement to people like ourselves who wish to recirculate!

**Harald E Dybwad**  
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## Sanbi appeals for red sage sightings

Botanists at the SA National Biodiversity Institute (Sanbi) are becoming concerned at the spread of red sage (*Salvia coccinea*) and have called upon landowners to report sightings and infestations of the plant on their lands. Red sage colonises open woodlands, riparian vegeta-

tion, disturbed sites, waste areas and roadsides and has become established in six provinces, including north-western Gauteng. Red sage belongs to the genus *Salvia* (family *Lamiaceae*), which has over 960 species, many of which are used as garden ornamentals and traditional medicines through-

out the world.

It is a long-lived, erect, herbaceous plant and usually grows to about 1,5 m tall. Red sage reseeds easily and thrives well in shady areas. It is distinguishable by short and long spreading hairs on its stems. It has bright red flowers which have a small upper lobe and a much larger and broader lower lobe.

Horticultural varieties can have pink or white flowers.

It is very attractive to birds, bees and ants, which serve as pollinators. It produces pungent foliage which serves as an insect repellent. So what's the problem? Smallholders need to be aware that despite the beauty and charm of the red flowers, there are several records of poisoning from red sage in wild and domestic animals.

Continued on page 7

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# Tiny Asian beetle threatens SA trees

There is a tiny alien beetle that is breaking the hearts of forest and park managers, and property owners in Gauteng.

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) or *Euwallacea fornicatus*, is an ambrosia beetle native to Asia that has been introduced into Israel, California and, quite recently, into South Africa.

More than 200 tree species can be attacked by this beetle. It is tiny ~ only 2mm long ~ but it carries three species of fungi between host trees by

carrying spores within a pouch in its mouthparts. These ambrosial fungi are inoculated into host trees and are the sole nutritional source for the adult beetles and their larvae. Unfortunately the fungi also disrupt the trees' ability to transport nutrients and water, resulting in a sick ~ or dead ~ tree.

In addition, holes where the beetle bored into the tree

become infected and form oily lesions.

The relationship between the beetle and the fungus is called "symbiotic," meaning that these two very different species depend on one another. The fungus provides a ready source of food for the beetle and the beetle provides the fungus with a free ride to

new trees.

More than 100 tree species can support growth of the fungi, and 37 species can be used as a reproductive host by the beetles.

One of the fungi, *Fusarium euwallaceae*, is a moderately virulent pathogen and is responsible for causing a

Continued on page 8

## SALVIA

From page 6  
Sanbi is conducting eradication trials this autumn. Smallholders are asked to please report sightings of red sage to Moleseng Claude Moshobane, SANBI-DBI: Tel 078 516 8933 and e-mail: m.moshobane@sanbi.org.za. If possible, provide a locality description, photo and GPS co-ordinates.

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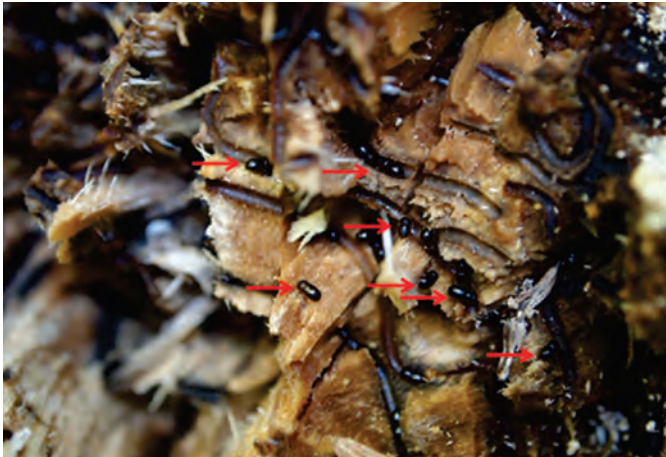


From page 7  
dieback disease in susceptible host trees. High levels of infestation of susceptible host trees have resulted in high levels of tree deaths. So far, no insecticides have been found to work, as the beetles bore too deeply into the trees. The beetles are quite indiscriminate and attack

both indigenous and non-native trees. In other countries crop trees like avocado, grapevine, peach, orange and some nut trees have been attacked. Signs and symptoms of PSHB attack can vary, a lot depending on the type of tree, however, tiny beetle entry and exit holes (a bit smaller than the tip of a ballpoint

pen) are usually present in the tree's bark. Sawdust is often found around the holes or on the ground around the trunk; sometimes a sawdust "toothpick" can be seen sticking out of the beetle hole. In areas around the beetle holes, trees may show signs of liquid or resin oozing out of the bark or 'sugar volcano' symptoms - little cone-shaped piles of white powdery stuff on the bark.

A working group of entomologists, scientists and government officials has been set up and there is an appeal to the public to be on the look-out for the beetles. Details, including photographs of the symptoms, GPS coordinates or a street address, the host tree species and the reporter's contact details can be sent to [diagnostic.clinic@fab.up.ac.za](mailto:diagnostic.clinic@fab.up.ac.za).



Many adult female polyphagous shot hole borers, shown by red arrows, can be seen in this cross section of an infested tree. Their winding galleries can reach to a depth of around 8 cm into the tree's wood.

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# WALKERVILLE SHOW

## Good show, despite poor livestock turnout

Despite the fact that it was held almost a month earlier than its usual calendar slot, this year's

Walkerville Agricultural Show held last month was deemed a success by many visitors, exhibitors and the organisers alike.

And, for the first time in years a meaningful if small advance was made in the field of equestrian sport, with various showjumping competitions held on the second day of the show, organised by the Walkerville branch of the SA Pony Club.

Although the livestock entries were, again, disappointing this year, with only a few four-legged animals on display, the

poultry section and, particularly, the rabbit entries were bigger and better than before. And that notwithstanding complaints by both poultrymen and rabbit breeders that the show being earlier this year meant that their charges were in the process of moulting ~ not ideal for the preparation of show-quality stock of either species.

Among the "action" events at the show was a well-supported giant pumpkin competition which the organisers believe was better-

supported at this year's earlier show because it thus avoided a clash with the Rand Show, Lusitoland and other Easter-time distractions. The winner was a 485kg monster grown by Martie Le Roux. She is the wife of the current SA champion pumpkin grower, Hugo Le Roux, who last year produced a 556kg whopper. Another "action" event was a chilli-eating contest, and there were a number of other competitions and pageants in which Walkerville residents were encouraged to participate.

Entries that could be classified as "agricultural" were thin on the ground, however, certainly as far as agricultural equipment and machinery are concerned, reflecting the

Continued on page 13

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A creditable effort: Winners of the junior section of the giant pumpkin competition were Ruan Maritz and Johan du Plessis of Pretoria.

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# WALKERVILLE SHOW

From page 10

general reluctance of such vendors to spend money on a local agricultural show in Gauteng, when their focus is perhaps becoming increasingly strong towards the big, expensive and national Nampo Harvest Day show near Bothaville in May.

Thus, the majority of exhibitors at the Walkerville show were

sellers of novelties, housewares, bric-a-brac and clothing which, it should be acknowledged, constitute a proportion of the stands at any good country show anywhere in the world.

There were also a number of  
Continued on page 15

Winner of this year's Giant Pumpkin competition was Martie le Roux with her 485kg entry. Picture: Livingseeds.



Winner of the 1,3m showjumping class and the Powerjump Competition was Gabriella Gomes of the Walkerville branch of the SA Pony Club.

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# WALKERVILLE SHOW

From page 13

food retailers, selling regionally-made cheeses, deli products, jams and sauces and bee products.

For visitors to the show one of the highlights has to be the food available for consumption under the shade of a

clump of trees in the centre of the showgrounds. The variety and quality available was, as always, excellent, ranging from authentic curries, to enormous eisbein to a variety of potjies and other fare, with a well-organised and well-stocked bar close by.

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Winner of the 60cm & 70cm showjumping classes was Bianca Jacobs of the Walkerville branch of the SA Pony Club.



Among the few livestock at the show were these fine Hampshire sheep bred by Sameshni Reddy of Randfontein

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9.6mm x 9.6mm	0.9mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 13mm	1.0mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 13mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.0mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.0mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	3.0mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓



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

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

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Damara sheep have adapted to extreme climates and harsh environments across many countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, many other Middle Eastern countries, Sudan and Namibia. Therefore, it is possible to farm with Damara sheep where water, grazing and shelter are restricted. Fat tailed sheep arrived in South Africa between 200 and 400 AD. The Damara,

Herero, Namaqua and the Kam Karin Khoisan tribes farmed and traded with what has become the Damara sheep of today. The name is derived from the Damara area of Namibia.

The meat is described as "juicy, tasty, flavoursome and not mottled with fat." External fat is mainly located in the

Continued on page 18



Damaras come in any colours and have smooth fur.

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# FEATURED BREED

From page 17

tail.

The Damara sheep is a fairly large, symmetrically built



What happens when you dock a fat-tailed sheep's tail ... fat deposits on the hindquarters

sheep. The body is long, oval and fairly deep.

Colour varies from white, brown, black and white roan,

spotted, red, doberman and even black. There are no restrictions about colour, except that some dark pigmentation is

essential.

The hair is mostly short, more like that of a buck or goat than what we expect from a sheep. Young sheep have longish hair with more woolliness, which they shed as they age. Glossy hair is the desired type.

The low fat content of the skin and the superb fineness of the grain of the skin is the reason why Damara sheepskins produce leather that is highly regarded. Damara leather is superior as far as tensile and tear strength are

concerned.

The males and some females have horns.

The tail is wedge-shaped, narrow and long, stretching to below the hock. The Damara's fat tail is a distinguishing feature. It's also a key to its robust nature and their ability to thrive in these harsh conditions. Damara sheep can raise a lamb on the fat reserves stored in the ewe's tail. The tail acts like a camel's hump storing fat.

The breed is known for its high fertility, rapid growing ability and strong mothering instincts. Ewes often have two lambs for each year. Twins do occur and their mothers are capable of rearing them. The breed is sexually mature at an early age and by selection this can be improved upon. Ewes can give birth at any time of the year.

Damara ewes have very strong maternal characteristics. Damaras always gather in a group with the lambs on the inside, making it difficult for predators to get to them. A Damara ewe will always protect her lamb. The lambs are born with ease and grow rapidly. Tails are not docked as this leads to abnormal fat deposits over the hindquarters. Lambs can be weaned from ten weeks, most producers achieving average target live weight of 35-36 kg within four to seven months. It is easy to gather Damaras, because they always stay grouped together, requiring less fencing than other breeds of sheep. They often graze and move within sight of each other and rest as a group.



Both males and females can grow horns.

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## Make insects your natural pesticide

Autumn can be a trying time on plots due to the increased numbers of insects in the vegetable gardens and fields. As a result, many smallholders declare chemical war on these unwelcome visitors. However, according to Dr Astrid Jankielsohn, senior researcher in entomology at the Agricultural Research Council, the use of agrochemicals has a detrimental effect on insect biodiversity, an important component of the overall health of the environment. Biodiversity refers to the need for the variety of plant, animal and micro-organic life in a particular habitat and the ecological complexes of which they are part. Insects account for about 66% of all known species and constitute more than three-quarters of global biodiversity. Insects have many important

**One of the spin-offs of mixing it up in your garden and fields is that it encourages a range of insects ... many of which prey on other insects ~ your natural pesticide**

roles to play in ensuring the effective functioning of an ecosystem. Pollination is the most obvious. Flowering plants (Angiosperms) play critical roles in many natural and agricultural ecosystems, providing food, fibre and shelter for wildlife and humankind alike. A large percent of our crops rely on insects to pollinate them. Predator insects, both in their larval and adult stages, prey on insects that eat plants. For example, lacewings and ladybirds eat hundreds of aphids and other predatory insects also eat slugs, root-feeding flies and plant-eating beetles. Other insects form a vital link in the decomposition phase

of the cycle of life and death in an ecosystem. Decomposition is the first stage in the recycling of nutrients that have been used by an organism (plant or

animal) to build its body, and are surrendered back to the ecosystem upon its death. The insects that help in this process are called detritivores and include beetles and their larvae, flies and maggots, woodlice, slugs and snails, millipedes, dung beetles, ants, termites and earthworms.

Continued on page 21



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# BIODIVERSITY

From page 19

Along with bacteria and fungi, they convert all dead plant and animal material into forms that are useable for growth either by themselves or other organisms. According to Dr Jankielsohn, the major concern for insect biodiversity "is the use of agrochemicals (insecticides, herbicides, chemical fertilisers, etc) and the cultivation practices of planting monocultures.

"The first important step is to limit and ideally stop the use of any chemicals, because these will have a detrimental effect on insect biodiversity. By increasing the diversity in your crop you will increase the insect diversity." We should adopt a holistic approach to our ecosystems. What and where we choose to plant is one aspect of this ecological management approach.

Intercropping, companion planting, polyculture – these are all terms for planting different plants or vegetables together in the same space, sometimes at the same time and sometimes in staggered planting.

Some plants are used in intercropping because of their effect on insects. Some plants repel pest insects while attracting predatory insects and pollinators. It is well known that marigolds and

garlic chives are very good insect repellents. Lucerne is one of the best crops for attracting and retaining beneficial insects and it can then be used as fodder. Jankielsohn also



To page 23

A damselfly fly devours an aphid

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# BIODIVERSITY

From page 21

points out that a diversity of plants also act as refuges and permanent habitats for insects.

She adds, "There are many herbs that would act as insectary plants such as yarrow, tansy, African wormwood, catnip, and clovers."

Where you have planted one crop, she suggests that you plant borders around the crop and also use cover crops of diverse plants that will be available throughout the year for insects to establish permanently in the area.

A useful technique is the "push-pull" form of pest management. The principle is based on the use of repellent plants which are planted within the crop field and the use of "trap" plants which are planted in the margins around the crop field.

She further comments, "If smallholders practice mixed agriculture with animals incorporated in the system, it would be a good idea to let the animals graze the fields after harvesting the crop.

The manure left by these animals will bring back the decomposers (mainly the dung beetle assemblage).

This will increase the soil health by carrying nutrients into the soil, making it available for uptake by plant roots and increase the yield of the crop as a result."

Having designed a beautiful

and naturally pest repellent plot, you may still need to spray the most persistent pests.

A general purpose organic pesticide is easy to make. Simply brew a tea of chopped onion, garlic and chillies. Leave to flavour the water for a few days in a sealed container. Strain the mixture and add 50 parts of the mixture to one part liquid paraffin.

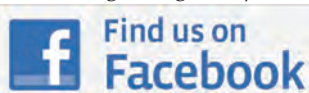
Finally, make a lather in the mixture by grating in Sunlight bar soap. As you spray the leaves, the lather helps the mixture to stick.

Dr Jankielsohn concedes that the size of the plot will have an effect on the insect biodiversity. "If it is a small plot surrounded by areas where these principles are not practiced it would basically be an island where the insect assemblage would be isolated.

"If there are similar plots in an area this would not be a problem as long as the plots are connected by green corridors.

"The proximity to towns and industrial areas will have an influence if chemicals are used in the surrounding areas.

The drift and runoff of chemicals from these areas may influence the insect assemblages negatively."



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## BEEKEEPING

### Autumn tasks around the apiary

As the days shorten and the leaves turn yellow and begin to drop, your bees start to search around for flowers still providing pollen and nectar. There is a last licking to be had from cosmos and blackjacks. The black ironbark gums, *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*, with their large pink, red and cream blooms will be a bonus for those bees able to feed off them while the warm autumn days persist, but the cold frosty nights of June and July put a stop to the nectar flow, even while the flowers continue to bloom.

The grass is now drying off and so the fire season starts, which compels the beekeeper to clean away long growth around his hives, as beehives, made of wood and filled with wax, are highly flammable.

Bees are very sensitive to the shortening days after the equinox (20 March) that heralds the start of autumn and winter and as the availability of pollen and the flow of nectar diminishes, the queen reduces her daily egg-laying process. Brood rearing diminishes and the vacant brood cells are then filled by the house bees with honey, to create an insulation against the cold in the brood area.

The brood rearing area, too, becomes smaller, but does not cease completely.

The beekeeper should thus set about removing some of

the last of the summer honey, to leave sufficient space for the bees for the winter period.

He visits each hive and gently smokes the entrance and prises off the lid.

Next, he smokes the bees down from the open super and removes only some of the capped honey frames. Depending on the strength of the swarm he would leave two to four frames as winter feed.

He will move these frames to the centre of the super and fill the resulting vacant spaces on the outside with previously extracted drawn comb frames, or with frames fitted with full sheets of foundation wax.

The metal queen excluder between the brood chamber and the supers will draw cold into the hive and should be removed.

In fact the modern trend is to do without queen excluders altogether and allow the queen to move freely up and down the entire interior of the hive.

Feral catch swarms sometimes occur at this time and should be placed in brood chambers that themselves are in sheltered places in the apiary.

These bees still have time to harvest last flowers but will not have time to gather and store sufficient honey for the duration of winter, and the beekeeper will thus have to

Continued on page 27

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# IN THE GARDEN

## Complementary winter veg, herb planting

Now is the time to be planting winter vegetables and here are some suggestions for which vegetables and herbs you should ~ and should not ~ plant together.

The concept of companion planting is an ancient one and it is based on the principle of planting different plants near each other for their mutual

benefit, resulting in higher yields and, often, pest control. It makes sense to separate plant families that share the same pests and diseases by planting other plants in between them.

There are various advantages to using this form of cultivation:

☐ Better use is made of your growing area;

☐ There is increased disease resistance;  
☐ There is greater suppression of weeds;  
☐ There is greater resistance to insects;  
☐ Insect predators are attracted;  
☐ Better soil management should result;  
☐ There is thus increased soil micro-organism activity;

☐ Physical spatial interactions can result;

☐ Plant diversity creates overall plant health.

Another option when planting more than one crop together is to plan seeding so that the plants mature at different times.

Planting intercrops that feature staggered maturity dates or development periods takes advantage of variations in peak resource

## BEEKEEPING

From page 26

feed them to prevent their death from starvation.

The best feed is a frame or

two of honey, if available for a start, and then a solution of equal parts by volume of good quality white sugar and water fed inside the brood chamber by a drip bottle.

Do not feed weak sugar water or honey mixed with water as this causes dysentery in the bees.

Ground white mealie meal, as used by dairy farmers, is an excellent pollen substitute, and can be placed in shallow trays under the lid. This is one

reason why one should use deep lids with a 20mm space above the frames, rather than lids which lie flush with the tops of the frames.

All honey extracted should not be allowed to stand, not even for as long as three days, because the cool nights and possibly cool days will allow for granulation to start, making it impossible to remove the honey from the frames without destroying the

Continued on page 29

Continued on page 29

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## IN THE GARDEN

From page 27

demands for nutrients, water and sunlight. Having one crop mature before its companion crop lessens the competition between the two crops.

We have written in the past about square metre (more commonly called "square foot") gardening, where you plant a variety of vegetables in a square metre bed. This works for winter vegetables too.



Beans and radishes planted together.

Some plants are used solely in companion planting for their soil improving qualities. Comfrey, yarrow, tansy and nettle are to be encouraged as they are known to be dynamic accumulators.

Dynamic accumulators are plants which are good at mining nutrients out of the soil, often because they have taproots which reach deeper than normal roots can go or because the plants team up with bacteria to fix nitrogen out of the air.

Permaculturalists harvest the leaves of dynamic accumulators and use them as mulch or to make compost or to make liquid fertilisers to feed their gardens.

Certain flowers are also planted among vegetables for their ability to attract beneficial insects and to deter leaf-eating insects. They also cheer us up when the winter blues get us down.

But, it can also work the other way around,

where one plant can be detrimental to another's growth, so note carefully when we indicate what NOT to plant with what. We have only listed plants that can be

Continued on page 30

## BEEKEEPING

From page 27

combs, and thus requiring the bees to expend extra effort and energy in rebuilding the combs. Rather, do not remove the frames from the hive if you do not have time to extract the honey almost immediately.

The extracted honey can be stored in plastic drums that can withstand heat, as they will need to be heated gently to degranulate the honey for bottling.

The extracted frames are placed back into super chambers, known as "wet supers" and placed two or three-up on weak swarmed hives or newly-caught feral hives.

The bees will lick them clean and pack the honey down into the vacant cells of their own brood rearing areas.

After four days these supers can be removed, now

cleaned, and be stacked criss-cross under a roof for re-use in the spring time.

One must take special precautions to protect them from rats and mice, and the criss-cross stacking also prevents wax moth invasion to a certain (but not complete) extent, although wax moth is not prevalent in the winter months.

□ If you would like to become a beekeeper, contact the beekeeping association nearest to you for help and advice.

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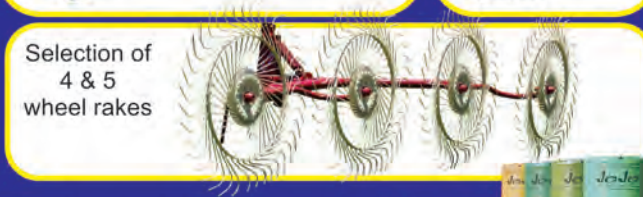
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# IN THE GARDEN

From page 29

planted at this time of the year.

So what can one plant in April in Gauteng?

**Broad Beans:** The seeds are sown singly 15-20 cm apart in holes 5 cm deep. These beans are of upright habit and can grow to a height of 1m, so they need support.

Calendulas do well with beans, attracting beneficial insects. Do not plant near onions, garlic, leeks, chives or fennel.

**Beetroot:** It prefers friable, rich soils with well-decomposed organic matter. Plant the seeds directly in the bed 5-6 cm apart in shallow



Lettuce and parsley planted together.

holes and covered with about 2 cm of soil. It grows well with garlic, chives, onions, lettuce, spinach and Swiss chard.

**Broccoli:** Like most brassicas, it needs a fairly rich soil, so be generous with the compost or

manure when planting. It's happy with onions, leeks and celery, while African wormwood will repel leaf-eating worms.

**Carrots:** Soil

texture is very important in producing smooth, well-shaped roots - deeply worked, sandy loams are ideal. They can be planted near peas, leeks, lettuce, radish, onions and chives. They also like sage, thyme and parsley.

**Cabbages:** They are easy to grow, but really thrive in soil that is rich in organic matter and retentive of moisture. Experiment with different varieties. Plant with beans, beetroot, celery, coriander and most other herbs,

particularly bergamot. Pelargonium leaves repel cabbage moths. However, do not plant rue near your cabbages.

**Cauliflowers:** They are described as "gross feeders" so plenty of compost and mature manure will be necessary for them. April is a bit late to plant them, but try planting them in seed trays and then transplanting when they are established. Celery, beans, cabbage and onions are good companions, along with calendulas, sage and African wormwood.

**Celery:** Once again, you will need to plant in seed trays and then transplant. Peaty, fibrous soil is good for celery. Plant it with cauliflower, cabbage, leeks, onions, garlic and beans.

**Chinese cabbage:** It requires a well-improved and moisture-retaining soil. Plant it with celery, beets, onions,

Continued on page 32

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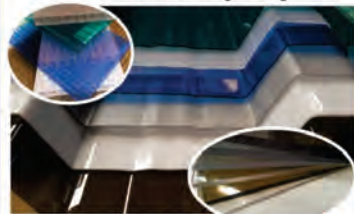
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# IN THE GARDEN

From page 30

Swiss chard and spinach. Dill is beneficial and sage is good for repelling pests.

**Garlic:** For planting, buy your garlic from a garden shop, as the bulbs sold in supermarkets will have been irradiated and won't grow. Plant the cloves (separated from the bulb), point upwards, deep enough to just cover with soil. They are happy with beets, carrots, dill and parsnips. Do not plant near beans or peas.

**Kale:** It is quite easy to grow.

Grow in seed trays, and plant out in 4-6 weeks. Sow seed at a depth approximately three times the diameter of the seed. Plant among celery, chamomile, beets, dill, onion family, spinach or chard.

**Kohlrabi:** Plant in rich soil, light textured with plenty of well-rotted compost dug in. It's happy next to beetroot, Swiss chard, leeks, chives and onions, along with dill, sage and bergamot.

**Leeks:** Deep digging is essential for leeks because,

apart from the length of the blanched stem, the plants develop extensive root systems. Add very generous quantities of compost or manure. They are companionable with cabbage, celery, onion, celeriac, dill and rocket. Do not plant near beans or peas.

**Lettuce:** The plants might need some protection if you have harsh frost in your area. They like a rich soil and grow well with rocket, beetroot, dill and radish.

**Onions:** They occupy the ground for 4 – 7 months, so the soil must be thoroughly prepared, preferably with a bulky green manure crop having been dug in. They grow well near dill, lettuce, rocket, cabbage and carrots. Do not plant them near beans or peas.

**Spinach/Swiss chard:** They can be grown in a wide variety of soil but are heavy feeders, so prepare your soil carefully beforehand.

Manure or compost must be broken down before being applied in liberal quantities, then rake the soil to a fine tilth. Grow with onions, beetroot, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, kohlrabi and turnips.

**Peas:** Deep soils, well dug over with good drainage are needed. They like calendulas, caraway, radish, turnips, carrots and beans, but do not like onions, garlic, leeks or chives.

**Radish:** You can grow them in almost any soil, but they thrive in soil that has been improved with organic material. Their companions are peas, lettuce and rocket. From the same family, you might consider growing Daikon or Japanese radish. This is a long white radish, milder flavour than the small round or oval radishes. They should be planted in similar conditions to the ordinary radishes, but they grow well in deep soil and must be watered regularly.

**Herbs:** Thyme is a hardy winter herb and is beneficial to other plants. Sage needs a

Continued on page 33

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# POULTRY CARE

## Introducing new chickens to your flock

Introducing new chickens into an already established flock needs careful handling. But before one deals with the actual introduction, the first step is

to quarantine the new chickens and ensuring they don't have any infections or diseases.

When one brings new chickens home, they should

be placed in a separate coop (or a large crate, if they are still small) prepared for them. From this separate coop one can observe them to check they are fit and disease free -

the last thing one wants is give the existing flock a disease from the new arrivals. The key things to look for are:

- ☐ Signs of lice or mites.
- ☐ Dull/ shrivelled comb.
- ☐ Blocked nostrils/ fluid coming from their eyes.
- ☐ Scaly legs.

Continued on page 35

## IN THE GARDEN

From page 32

little more nurturing than thyme and its growth tends to slow down and the leaves get smaller in winter. Plant it in well-drained soil in full sun. Parsley is also beneficial to other plants, needs full sun

and fertile soil, which should be kept moist. To harvest, snip leaves off several plants rather than one. New growth comes from the middle of the plant, so harvest the outside leaves.

Oregano is one of the more robust winter herbs, easily withstanding winter frost. It likes full sun and has a beneficial effect on neighbouring plants.

Yarrow is of immense value in the garden because it accumulates nutrients and recycles them back into the soil, improving quality and benefitting all nearby plants.



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# POULTRY CARE

From page 33

In any flock there is a pecking order. This is a hierarchy which is created as a means of attaining and keeping order. Each chicken knows where it stands in the order, which is established when a chicken grows up in a flock. Unless a member of the flock is removed or added, the pecking order may remain the same for a long time, although it is never permanent.

When new chickens are introduced, problems are likely to arise until the pecking order is re-established again.



A coop within the existing coop for the newcomers

Newcomers will quickly be shown their place, sometimes with quite violent displays of aggression or by denying them access to food and water.

For this reason it is best to integrate new birds in a way that reduces this initial confrontation to a minimum. Being introduced into an already established flock can be very daunting for a solo chicken, so try to introduce two or more chickens together at a time ~ even better if they already know each other. This will keep the

new chicken from being completely isolated by the rest of the flock, and if bullying is to occur, it won't fall on just one poor chicken. What might work is to put them in the coop at night, when

the flock have settled down for the night. When they all wake up one will often find that the original birds give the new ones the benefit of the doubt and the job is done.

One should ensure one is around when they wake up though, as if the original chickens aren't fooled there will be a fight and it is best to separate them. Another method is to allow the new chickens and the established ones to get used to seeing and hearing one another. House the new ones in a separate run either very close to the existing run or even inside it. Provide the new chickens with somewhere to shelter and their own supply of food and water. This should arouse the

Continued on page 37

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## POULTRY CARE

From page 35

chickens' curiosity, but will not make them feel that their home is being invaded. Keep this arrangement for a week for the best chance at success.

This alone may do the trick and after a few days the new additions may be able to roam in the main coop with relatively little harassment. This is important if the new ones are young or smaller than the existing ones.

Chickens can be real bullies, especially when they have smaller, weaker birds to pick on, so if the new arrivals are baby chicks they should be kept in a separate coop or enclosure until they are old enough and strong enough to stand a fighting chance against the higher ranked chickens of the pecking order. Some experts suggest having a water pistol or a well washed washing up liquid container, filled with water ready by the coop. Although it might look as though several of your chickens are picking on the new ones, there is likely to be just one ring leader with his trusty henchmen.

Once one has identified the instigator of the bullying, one simply squirts water at him – avoiding his head so as not to damage eyes, ears or fill nostrils – each time he launches an attack.

He will soon get the message and hopefully harmony will

be restored. The chickens then see the human as the dominant member of the flock and will defer to him or her.

If the chicken are free range, they are likely to sort themselves out sooner.

If they are in a coop, one can introduce a distraction in the form of a hanging cabbage, squash, lettuce, kale, spinach etc from a string or bungee cord. Tie it to a fence or from the ceiling in the coop or anywhere else they might be able to play with it.

If there are squashes that were not harvested early enough (very possible on a smallholding at this time of year), cut them in half and the hens will enjoy pecking at them.

Large marrows cut open will serve the same purpose. Make holes in small plastic bottles and fill them with seeds. The hens will discover that when they roll the bottle a treat comes out. This should keep them distracted for quite a while.

If a bird develops a bloody or very red wound during a squabble then it is important to separate it from the flock until it heals, as the other birds will attack the area relentlessly, making it much worse or, in a worst case, even killing it.

After a while they should have settled down into their new order.

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# Baling options for a smallholding

If you live on a couple of hectares and you don't have horses, chances are you will finish up each year with a couple of paddocks of long grass which needs cutting and removing before each fire season.



Bale box: Filling the bale box with hay and compacting by standing on it. Note the ends of the two baling strings hooked to the outside of the box.

Once it's cut and raked, what do you do with it? It's hardly worth calling in a professional baler for what is no more than a couple of hours' work and which will yield 20 to 30 bales at maximum.

If you will be using it yourself as fodder, bedding or as mulch one alternative is to make a classic haystack, preferably under cover, or at least covered with a tarpaulin, taking off whatever you need throughout the winter using a pitchfork, and a high-sided trailer for transportation. Yet, there's money to be had in that grass, if you can manhandle it into liftable, storable units.

So before spending upwards of R60 000 on a mini round baler, or upwards of R70 000 on a second-hand square

baler (assuming you have a suitable tractor), consider some cheaper, simpler alternatives.

At the very basic, you can build yourself a bale box. This is a large, sturdy open-topped rectangular wooden box which will yield a rectangular bale which is looser and larger than a standard small square bale, but which, if properly done, will weigh 15-20kg ~ about the same as a standard machine-made square bale. Using a bale box is a two-man job. First, two lengths of baling twine are laid at the bottom of the box with their ends hanging over the ends of the box. Next, hay is dumped into the box and spread evenly into the four corners. When the box is about three-

quarters full, one worker climbs into the box and using his feet pushes the grass down and into the corners to keep the bale even, while the second worker adds more hay. Once the now-compacted grass reaches the top of the box, the strings are drawn up over the grass and tied off as tightly as possible to form a bale. The bale is removed by upending the box.

The construction of your bale  
Continued on page 41



Bale box: Removing the bale by upending the box.

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0.75/1 hp/7500  
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- **82.4 cc**  
20 Liter  
Chemical  
Tank

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## IN THE FIELD

From page 39

box can be enhanced by fitting handles at either end to facilitate handing and upending, and the box itself can be repurposed out of season into an effective poultry brooder.



Hand baler with plunger removed from chamber. Note slots in door, sturdy base and wheels at rear.

A more compact bale, more closely approximating the size of a machine bale and yet rendering a bale of similar weight, can be made if you build a hand baler.

This can be constructed at home out of wood and in its most sophisticated iteration

will have two trolley wheels fitted to facilitate moving about the field.

Operation is also a two-man job.

On to a sturdy flat base is built a vertical, open topped chamber much like an open-topped cupboard, the size of a standard bale, the front of which comprises a full-length hinged door which, when closed and locked, transforms the wooden chamber

into a tall wooden box. Running vertically down the length of the door are two slots, starting about a quarter of the way up the door and ending about 10cm from the top.

At the open top is fitted a



Bale being compacted by pulling the lever.

wooden plunger, the dimensions of the plunger panel being only slightly

Continued on page 43

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1.8m high	R702.32
2.0m high	R758.90
2.4m high	R857.45

Pales	
0.6m	R15.20

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0.9m	R1 270.41
1.0m	R1 358.97
1.2m	R1 536.09
1.5m	R1 801.79
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# In case you missed it... recent Facebook posts

In addition to publishing the monthly magazine and maintaining the SA Small Farmers Online Exchange website, sasfox.co.za, we regularly publish short articles

and snippets of information pertinent to smallholders on our Facebook page. These are at least weekly, and more often twice a week and sometimes more.

In case you missed them, here's a summary of posts we recently put up on the page - <https://www.facebook.com/-gautengsmallholder/>.

These relate to articles that

have been published in the magazine in recent editions.

## Animal identification marking

Most smallholders have a few sheep or a horse or maybe the odd cow, but they think that it is only the commercial livestock farmers that have to brand their animals.

However, according to the Animal Identification Act, 2002, it is compulsory to mark all cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.

In the magazine we wrote about the procedures for getting registered, receiving your own identification mark for your animals and gave some details on when and where different species must be marked.

## Firescape your garden

Smallholders should be taking preventative measures to protect their houses,

Continued on page 45

## IN THE FIELD

From page 41

smaller than the inner dimensions of the chamber.

A long lever on the plunger ensures that it can exert quite significant pressure on the hay in the chamber when the lever is pulled down, the whole contraption being steadied by the lever operator standing on the floor panel which reaches out in front.

To use the baler two lengths of baling twine are laid inside the chamber, one end protruding from the bottom of the slots in the door and the other end draped over

the top of the back of the chamber.

With the plunger lifted out of the way hay is placed into the chamber until it is full, whereupon the plunger is applied to compress the hay into the chamber. The process is repeated till the chamber is full of compacted hay.

Next, with the plunger lifted out of the way, the top ends of the baling twine are pulled over the top of the hay and passed through the top of the two slots in the front door.

The plunger is then re-

engaged for one last compaction while the two strings are tied off nice and tight.

To remove the bale one disengages the plunger and opens the front doors to allow the bale to be pulled out by its now-tight strings.

Construction of either a bale box or a hand-baler should not be beyond the capabilities of even the most ham-fisted handyman, and plans and suggested dimensions for both are available on our website,

[www.sasmallholder.co.za](http://www.sasmallholder.co.za).

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From page 43

before the onset of the dry, fire-prone winter months. Safeguarding your property against wildfires now can make the difference between whether your house is saved or consumed in a fire. There are various things that you can do to "firescape" your house.

In the magazine we wrote about creating different zones of vegetation around your house, giving examples of the

different plants for each zone. We also referred to different fencing material.

#### Lamb deaths

Most smallholders who keep sheep have at one time or another had a stillborn lamb or one that has died within days of being born. There are a number of possible causes of these fatalities.

In the magazine we considered nutrition of the mother, worm infestations of the ewe and ewes who are unable to feed a lamb. We also noted that overcrowding causes stress to the ewe and the lamb. Finally, vaccinating the ewes against Chlamydia psittaci should be done six weeks before the breeding season.

#### Grass clippings

Summer in most Highveld gardens yields continuously large quantities of lawn clippings and there are differing opinions on what to do with them.

Experts seem to be divided between on one hand using the clippings as mulch for the lawn or flower beds and on the other composting the clippings. In the magazine we listed the pros and cons.

#### Egg incubation information

The object of successful incubation is to match as closely as possible the conditions the egg would experience under a broody mother. This includes constant temperature, movement of the eggs, and moisture. This varies amongst the different species of poultry.

In the magazine we listed the information for chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys.

#### Muscovy ducks

If you are looking for poultry that is easy to care for, resists disease and controls flies at the same time, then Muscovy ducks have a number of advantages over other poultry.

The ducks are resistant to most diseases, including Newcastle disease, they are hardy, they forage well for their own food, and reproduce easily. Muscovy meat is tasty and low in fat.

In the magazine we mentioned how they help in insect control and described simple housing for them. We briefly discussed feed and their mothering abilities.



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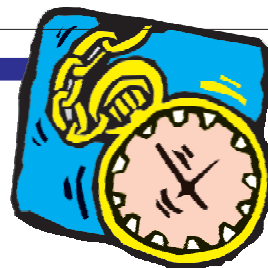
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# DIARY



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 47. 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 Rayton. 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.

## 2018

### April

1: Easter Sunday  
2: Family Day  
9-11: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
12: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
13: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
16: New Moon  
16-20: Open Field Vegetable Production

Course, ARC Vegetable & Ornamental Plants Institute, Roodeplaat. R5 200 per person. Contact Lerato Sebege 012 808-8000

24-27: Foundations for Farming 3-Day Basic Conservation Agriculture Course, Beula Park, Sam Green Road, Meadowdale, Gauteng. The courses comprises theory and practical training, including Conservation Agriculture Principles, Feed Your Family, Vegetable Gardens, Herb Cultivation, Uses of Herbs, Compost Making, Practical Home Remedies, Agroforestry, Cover Crops, etc. For bookings contact Neill Jackson on 082 407 6774

27: Freedom Day  
27-28: Hog-Wild Country Festival at Diamond-X Cowboy Ranch, near Rayton. 1000-1700. Tickets R30-R60 Saturday and R50-R120 Sunday. Call Rudan on 082 410-3180 horses@diamondxrancho.co.za, www.diamondx.co.za.  
27-1 May: HuntEx hunting & outdoor lifestyle expo, Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand. 0900-1600 daily.  
30: Full Moon

### May

1: Workers Day  
7-9: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
10: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
11: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
14-16: Sheep & Goats Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
14-18: Soil Fertilization & Irrigation Course, ARC Vegetable & Ornamental Plants Institute, Roodeplaat. R3 200 per person. Contact Lerato Sebege 012 808-8000  
15: New Moon  
15-18: Nampo Harvest Day Show, Nampo Park, between Klerksdorp and Bothaville  
22-24: Foundations for Farming 3-Day Basic Conservation Agriculture Course, Beula Park, Sam Green Road, Meadowdale, Gauteng. The courses comprises theory and practical training, including Conservation Agriculture Principles, Feed Your Family, Vegetable Gardens, Herb Cultivation, Uses of Herbs, Compost Making, Practical Home Remedies, Agroforestry, Cover Crops, etc.

For bookings contact Neill Jackson on 082 407 6774

28-29: Cattle Stockman's & Animal Husbandry Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

29: Full Moon

30-31: Cattle Nutrition Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

### June

2-3: OutdoorX outdoor lifestyle show, Malonjeni Game Farm, Heidelberg. 0900-1800 daily.

11-15: Harvesting & Marketing Vegetables Course, ARC Vegetable & Ornamental Plants Institute, Roodeplaat. R3 200 per person. Contact Lerato Sebege 012 808-8000

12-14: AviAfrica Show. Wild Fig Business Park, Johannesburg. Products such as animal feed, irrigation products, agricultural products, feed supplements and more in the meat, poultry & seafood industry. Organised by SA Poultry Association

13: New Moon

16: Youth Day

25-27: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

26-28: Foundations for Farming 3-Day Basic Conservation Agriculture Course, Beula Park, Sam Green Road, Meadowdale, Gauteng. The courses comprises theory and practical training, including Conservation Agriculture Principles, Feed Your Family, Vegetable Gardens, Herb Cultivation, Uses of Herbs, Compost Making, Practical Home Remedies, Agroforestry, Cover Crops, etc. For bookings contact Neill Jackson on 082 407 6774

28: Full Moon

28: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

29: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

### July

13: New Moon

20-22: WODAC – World of dogs & Cats & Pets Show, Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand. 0900-1730 daily. Products for Dogs and Cats etc in the pet & veterinary industries.

23-25: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course,

Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
26: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
27: Full Moon  
27: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

### August

9: National Womens Day  
9-11: Kragdag Expo, Diamantvallei Landgoed, Donkerhoek.  
11: New Moon  
26: Full Moon  
27-29: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
30: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
31: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

### September

8-9: African Bird Fair, Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, Roodepoort. Organised by BirdLife Africa  
17-19: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
20: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
21: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

### October

22-24: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985  
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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 [editor@gautengsmallholder.com](mailto:editor@gautengsmallholder.com)

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO TO CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT
<b>Thursday</b>					
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston.	Konrad or Glenda 011 706-3671 or <a href="mailto:glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a>	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
<b>Friday</b>					
1st Friday	The Shed Night Market	18:00 to 22:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	016 365 8034	Food & craft market.
Last Friday	Walkerville Farmers Market	18:00 to 22:00	R112 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076-7680 <a href="mailto:info@wfmmarket.co.za">info@wfmmarket.co.za</a>	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area
<b>Saturday</b>					
Every Saturday	The Red Windmill Village Market	09:00 - 15:00	104 Main Road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, Food stalls, Coffee shop, Plants, Arts & Crafts, Books, etc.
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	Verster Park Tuin Mark	09:00 - 15:00	Plot 21, Lang St, Verster Park Bronkhorstspuit	Maggie van Rheede 061 887-4149	Hand crafted goods, art, naturally-grown produce Community market to promote local business
Every Saturday	Wholefood Country Market	09:00 - 14:00	Sawasdee Exotic Nursery, cor Main & Zinnia Roads, Kyalami	Robyn 083 311-4768 <a href="mailto:wholefoodmarket@gmail.com">wholefoodmarket@gmail.com</a>	Variety of organic & homemade foods
Every Saturday	Waterfall Estate Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	Waterfall Estate, Waterfall Corner Kyalami	Robyn 083 311-4768	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry and craft, food etc. Enquire about stall prices
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 <a href="mailto:blinsga@lantic.net">blinsga@lantic.net</a>	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kalings 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 <a href="mailto:glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za">glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za</a>	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. <a href="http://www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za">www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za</a>	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 <a href="mailto:info@wfmmarket.co.za">info@wfmmarket.co.za</a>	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area
Every Saturday	Walkerville Country Market	09:00 to 15:00	Walkerville Showgrounds on the R82	Noorunisha 074 141-8485 <a href="mailto:market@walkervillesa.co.za">market@walkervillesa.co.za</a>	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft ber.. Kid's play area and pet friendly
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	10:00 to 19:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Milch 082 553-2846	Meats and vegetables, delicacies, honey, cheese, brewery, crafter's market and children's entertainment.
Every Saturday	The Fresh Produce Co-op Weekly Farmers Market	07:00 to 11:00	49 Olifantsfontein rd, Glen Austin	Stall enquiries: <a href="mailto:fpcstalls@gmail.com">fpcstalls@gmail.com</a> Co-op: <a href="mailto:info.freshhproducecoop@gmail.com">info.freshhproducecoop@gmail.com</a>	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry and craft, food etc.
1st Saturday	Jozi Real Food VEGAN Market	09:00 to 15:00	Pirates Sports Club, Braeside Avenue, Greenside	083 532 2992 <a href="mailto:whitespace@mmweb.co.za">whitespace@mmweb.co.za</a>	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
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 <a href="mailto:wardek@iafrica.com">wardek@iafrica.com</a>	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 <a href="mailto:realfood4realpeople@gmail.com">realfood4realpeople@gmail.com</a>	Local fresh produce direct to the public
Last Saturday	Windpomp Market	08:00 to 14:00	Broodblik & Koffiepit on the R51 between Petit & Bapsfontein	adelekoffiepit@gmail.com 083 445-1608	Homemade crafts & food stalls bakery & coffee shop and entertainment
<b>Sunday</b>					
Every Sunday	The Red Windmill Village Market	09:00 - 15:00	104 Main Road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, Food stalls, Coffee shop, Plants, Arts & Crafts, Books, etc.
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 to 15:00	Corner Montecasino Boulevard and William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 <a href="http://www.ffmarket.co.za">www.ffmarket.co.za</a>	Get your groceries...In the garden!
Every Sunday	Country Craft & Food Market	10:00 to 15:00	Bru House, R563 (Krugersdorp - Hekpoort rd)	082 782 4142 <a href="mailto:info@autocradleestate.co.za">info@autocradleestate.co.za</a>	Hand & Homemade, craft beer, Live music Kids play area, safe parking, Restaurant
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doornrandjies	012 669-3043 <a href="mailto:info@serendipitycafe.co.za">info@serendipitycafe.co.za</a> <a href="http://www.serendipitycafe.co.za">www.serendipitycafe.co.za</a>	Community market to promote local business



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## In praise of my bakkie

I have a venerable old bakkie, which turns 20 this year. It's a diesel double cab, and I have driven it many hundreds of kilometres. In fact, had I headed up off Cape Canaveral in my bakkie towards the moon, I would have reached it, gone round the back and be half way home by now, so many kilometres have my venerable old bakkie and I travelled. It still has its original seats (the upholstery is only slightly tattered), and steering wheel, and tow bar and bullbar and it would be nice to report that it still has its original engine, but it doesn't. That's because I have, on occasion, neglected to fill or change the oil. The first time it happened I was on my way home from Bronkhorstspuit and barrelling along I suffered what one might euphemistically call a "catastrophic loss of power." Nonetheless, my trusty old workhorse brought me home, sputtering and wheezing, and when she'd cooled down we discovered that the oil in her sump was the consistency of chewing gum, if not quite the same virulent pink colour. So, out came her original engine and in went a second-hand job from Taiwan. Unfortunately that wasn't quite the same size as the original, nor did it have the same power, so from having been driving a nippy little bus I was now reduced to wheezing around in a vehicle not much faster than a tortoise or a slug. Overtaking became a challenge. Trying to pass even something as slow as a tractor meant one needed to ensure that the road ahead was clear of oncoming traffic to about Komatipoort before one moved out into the right lane to overtake.

And to get the engine to fit into the vehicle meant that the sump had to be modified. The result was that it never fitted properly and much of the car's prodigious oil consumption would leak, from about twelve places, onto the ground. When visiting friends I used to leap out on parking and position two flattened cardboard boxes under the engine to catch the dripping oil, as we all know how difficult it is to clean dirty black, sulphurous diesel oil off pristine driveway paving.

Fortunately, that engine didn't last long, although its fate had nothing to do with old oil. Rather, it had to do with no water, having overheated one hot afternoon in a traffic jam in Pretoria. So, out came the engine and in went another second hand unit from Taiwan. This one didn't leak oil, but it could not be connected up to run the car's airconditioning unit, to which I had become mighty used.

Fortunately, that engine, too, didn't last long, a lack of oil (or oil the consistency of chewing gum again, I can't remember) taking

its toll, and yet another secondhand unit from Taiwan was installed.

Oh, bliss! It doesn't leak oil, the aircon is reconnected, and it's as powerful as the original, meaning I can roar away from tractors and even trucks and skedonk cars (if they're travelling slowly enough) without having to ensure that the road ahead is clear for fifty kilometres.

But there's one, slight, small problem. The vehicle is as noisy as hell. It doesn't worry me much (being a little hard of hearing) but it offends the sensibilities of my family who now resolutely refuse to travel with me in my bakkie.

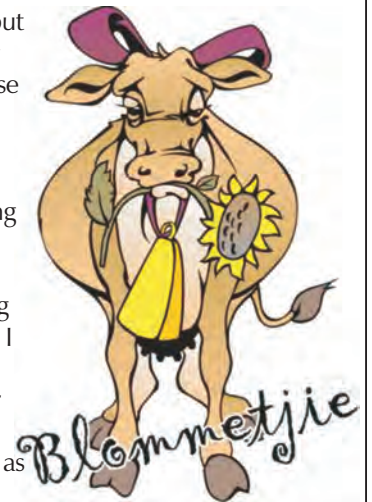
Which is a shame, because it is an ideal game-viewing vehicle, being higher than a sedan, being rugged enough to cope with corrugated gravel roads, having working aircon and even having a diff-lock (though if I'm honest I don't think that in the 20 years I've owned the vehicle I've ever used the diff-lock in earnest, despite having used the bakkie as a mini-plot tractor on occasion when desperate).

Well, and there's another small issue. Neither her steering nor her brakes are that precise, so that driving is a bit like piloting a ship at sea. One sways around a bit, and must anticipate some time in advance when one needs to stop.

And I am guaranteed to be stopped at every roadblock I encounter, not only because the cops see a 20-year-old vehicle as a sure-fire source of unroadworthiness in one or other respect, but because the vehicle itself is in less than *concoirs d' elegance* condition.

Not that it matters, really, because once we've gone through the usual cheery greetings and enquiries about each others' health, and they've checked the vehicles' and my licenses, the conversation usually turns quite quickly to an offer to purchase. And sometimes the money I'm offered is tempting, even if it is a dodgy deal from a cop.

But I'm only ever tempted. A little. Because I'll never actually part with my bakkie. In fact it's already written into my will.





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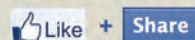


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