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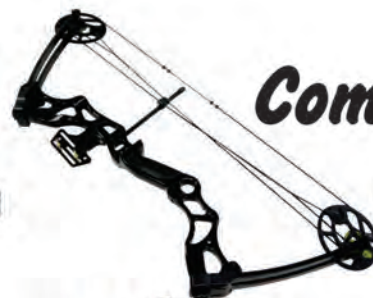
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FRONT COVER

An overload of cuteness: Inquisitive Colebrooke (Afr: Kolbroek) piglet bred by Sally Giebelmann of Zenzele Farm, Hartbeespoort

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Recipe for failure



Here's a recipe for failure: place a large mixing bowl on your kitchen table. Now line up your family and give each one ingredient for a cake. You take the flour, your spouse takes the eggs, a child the baking powder, another child the sugar, and so on.

Now without showing them a recipe, tell them to add as much or as little of their ingredient as they think will be necessary.

Then mix the ingredients well, and bake as normal. And then throw away the resultant blob or feed it to your chickens, because it sure as hell won't be fit for consumption.

That's the problem with an unco-ordinated plan. If the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is up to, or if the two aren't working in a co-ordinated fashion, the result will never succeed.

This should be as obvious as it is easy to remedy. Simply sit everybody down and tell them what you hope to achieve, and then encourage each participant to agree with the others what his or her role and function should be to achieve the goal.

And so it should be in government. You want a better standard of living for your citizens? Or the ending of inequality? Or proper housing? Or decent education? Simply sit the relevant "role players" down and lay out the requirements for the solution and then work up a plan to achieve the solution. It is (or was) called "management by objective".

Of course applying scientific management principles to government ~ especially in present-day South Africa where the government's focus has become ... errm ... distracted by the Saxonwold Shebeen ~ is a bit like spreading Brylcreem on your morning toast: illogical and counterproductive.

Because co-ordination of plans towards a common, satisfactory end-result is not the current government's strong point.

Take the numbers involved in the food crisis (which we're calling #SAFoodCrisis, outlined on page 12 of this edition). In a nutshell, it is impossible for a family of two low-paid workers and two children to feed itself a nutritionally-balanced and sustainable diet, quite apart from being unable to pay rent, school fees, transport, medical costs etc.

And that's quite apart from the fact that more than a quarter (and how much more is open to debate) of the labour force is idle, sitting on beer crates or curbstones, unemployed.

So we live in a country where, if things continue as they are, the most vulnerable and marginalised members of our society are not able to feed themselves properly, quite apart from the fact that they will NEVER be able to lift themselves out of the poverty trap.

But there's more: The government's solution (and cynics would say it's a vote buying scam) is to pump R10 billion a month down to these 17 million vulnerable and marginalised individuals in the form of small cash handouts called Social Grants.

Cash, incidentally, that the government doesn't have, as a consequence of which the country's borrowings are increasing monthly to cover the shortfall. The equivalent would be you having to increase your overdraft each month to pay your kids' pocket money. Eventually your bank manager is going to put a stop to it.

To be fair, the injection of R10 billion a month in cash into the economy has done a lot to cushion the effects of the recession as that money, with little exception, will be spent almost immediately on the necessities of life.

And now there's still more: In an attempt to come up with an idea on land reform and redistribution which will be palatable and workable the Dept of Rural Development & Land Reform has devised the "One Household, One Hectare" policy proposal ("1HH1H", as catchy a phrase as "White Monopoly Capital").

Under it, landless households are to be given one hectare each, on which to live and, presumably, grow the necessities of life.

Contrary to how it may seem, I am sympathetic to the desire of previously dispossessed people regaining access to, and ownership of, land, but the 1HH1H idea will do nothing positive in this regard, however the land is acquired or distributed.

In my Comment in the February edition this year I laid bare the ongoing devastating effects on displaced black communities, relegated to rural backwaters under the Bantustan policy of the Nationalist government. The 1HH1H idea is much the same, if not in conception, then at least in outcome.

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

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Networking: How we did it in the 60s

Sir ~ Apropos of having a contact network for marketing produce, we fruit farmers who packed our own apples and pears in the 1960s and 70s had a similar system. I think it was set up by the Deciduous Fruit Board (DFB).

The problem was that as early as mid-winter we had to estimate the size of the crop by judging the number of

Sandton CBDs little green birds

Sir ~ I was interested to read about the little green birds in your latest edition. A few weeks ago I noticed a flock of them in the Sandton CBD in Katherine St and assumed they were just someone's escaped cage birds. Seems as though they're travelling further afield.

Juanita Orpen
Midvaal

fruit-bearing buds on the trees. On the basis of the estimates, the DFB booked shipping space, including the days on which the ships had to be berthed alongside the

pre-cooling chambers to load the cargo.

If we under-delivered the quantity of cases we had booked, we were penalised. We could also not deliver

more than our quota that we had booked. Meantime, the fruit was getting ripe on the trees...

So a system was set up by which farmers could swap quota. If I was going to be short of my weekly quota, you could take it up to cover your over-production that week.

The contact was a lady, I think a farmer's wife. She maintained a list of all producers, their estimates of their crops, and what their revised weekly requirements

Continued on page 7



Deciduous fruit exports in the 60s and 70s: Blue Star Line's refrigerated ship *Rockhampton Star* leaves Cape Town laden with a cargo of apples and pears, co-ordinated by a farmer's wife and her telephone.

The Editor welcomes your letters, comments and opinions, but reserves the right to edit and shorten as necessary. Senders' names and addresses must be included.

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Registration helps curb bird flu spread

A newly-introduced Poultry Disease Management Agency (PDMA) system of registration of persons buying and selling live chickens made it possible to trace these culls is one of the weapons being used by the Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (Daff) to combat the outbreaks of fatal H5N8 avian influenza (bird

'flu) reported last edition. Since then, two further locations have reported outbreaks, bringing the total of affected properties to four. The new locations involved commercial layer chickens on farms in Gauteng and Mpumalanga. The two farms were immediately placed under quarantine by the State Veterinary

Service. The quarantine includes, as a minimum, a prohibition of the movement of chickens and chicken products on to and off the farm. The necessary measures have been taken to contain and eliminate the disease as efficiently as possible on both farms. In addition, forward tracing was done and cull chicken

depots were identified which had received live cull chickens from one of the affected farms recently. The records of these cull depots are being followed up to trace as many of these chickens as possible. Meanwhile, the PDMA registration process of sellers and traders of live chickens has progressed well and a number of initial challenges

Continued on page 8

NETWORK

From page 5

were.

She was paid from a levy on all participating producers. The telephone was dodgy in those days; with cellphones today such a system would be quick and reliable. All you need to do is get a list of buyers of particular commodities, and a list of producers, and marry them

together.

Fruit farmer, retired Stellenbosch

If you were doing this successfully in the 60s and 70s there's no reason why something similar wouldn't work today, even on a small-area scale, or commodity by commodity.

It was, however, not the DFB that booked the shipping

space, but the Perishable Products Export Control Board. (PPECB).

The DFB negotiated the overall freight rate with the shipping lines before the season commenced. The rate agreed was based on an early crop estimate and the number of ships thus required.

~ Editor

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NEWS

Have you seen these birds in Gauteng?

Readers of the *Gauteng Smallholder* have commented on sightings of small flocks of beautiful green birds with red bills and long, tapered tails. Indeed they have been identified as Rose-ringed parakeets, which became established in South Africa in the 1970s.

They originated in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa and are very noisy, especially at communal roosts. They are common in cultivated areas, urban parks and gardens, open countryside with trees, palm trees thickets and open forests. Breeding: They nest in natural tree cavities, enlarged holes made by other

species, in rock crevices, and on buildings.

The adult male sports a red or black neck ring and the hen and immature birds of both sexes either show no neck rings, or display shadow-like pale to dark grey neck rings. Both sexes have a distinctive green colour, while the upper side of the middle tail-feathers are blue with greenish-yellow tips. As a popular pet species, escaped rose-ringed parakeets have colonised a number of cities worldwide. The bird's invasive status in South Africa is Nemba Category 2. This refers to invasive species, or species deemed to be potentially

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POULTRY FLU

From page 7

were ironed out. All involved in the buying and selling of live chickens are strongly encouraged to comply with the registration and other requirements that are designed to allow the trade of live chickens to continue without compromising animal health, says the department. Culling at the two poultry sites affected in June is now complete. The carcasses, waste material, affected eggs and manure have been contained and will be dealt with to ensure prevention of spread of the disease, as well as to prevent contamination of the environment.

Export of chickens and chicken products from registered 'flu-free areas is continuing to countries that accept guarantees of acceptability, Namibia has just agreed to re-accept South African poultry exports.

The HPAI H5N8 viruses that have been isolated from these

outbreaks are similar to the viruses isolated from Zimbabwe in June this year and from Egypt in 2016, which makes the likelihood of the involvement of wild birds high. Chicken owners and farmers are encouraged to prevent contact of their chickens with wild birds as much as possible.

Increased surveillance in wild birds, commercial chickens and backyard chickens is continuing. Chicken owners, farmers and the public should remain vigilant and all cases of high mortalities in chickens and other birds should be reported to the nearest State Veterinarian.

The public is advised to avoid any gathering of chickens for shows, auctions and similar activities. However, should such activities continue, the organizers are advised to liaise with the State Veterinary Authorities and the auction houses must also be registered with the PDMA.

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NEWS

From page 8
invasive, for which a permit is required to carry out a restricted activity.

According to www.invasives.org.za, they "cause considerable agricultural damage. They can compete for nest sites with native cavity nesters, and may carry diseases that could be harmful to poultry, native fauna and humans."



Rose-ringed parakeet

However, according to Dr Craig Symes of Wits University, there are conflicting views on the role of invasive species and the impacts they have on indigenous fauna. Man has had such a noticeable effect on the environment and the avian community of urban Gauteng is already vastly different to what it was 100 years ago. An environment that was once largely grassland has now been transformed to what many regard as an urban forest.

In a paper entitled Founder populations and the current status of exotic parrots in South Africa he even goes so far as to state that "a recent review suggests that globally there is little evidence that introduced birds are a major threat to avian biodiversity." Researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand set up the Rose-ringed Parakeet Project, in order to locate parakeet roosting/breeding sites and to investigate the size and distribution range of the rose-ringed parakeet population in South Africa.

This will improve our understanding of the ecology and behaviour of the species in South African urban environments and ensure that informed decisions are made by policy makers regarding the status and management of

this parrot.

All twitchers, citizen scientists, outdoor enthusiasts or smallholders are invited to assist with and collaborate on the project by submitting sightings of these parakeets to the project database. The researchers particularly need information on the exact location of permanent roosting and breeding sites as well as the number of parakeets seen.

If you have seen a flock of these birds you can submit your details via a Google data form, to be found at <http://goo.gl/forms/7c9RI56yHU>. You can also submit your sighting on your Apple or Android device using the BirdLasser App.

The rose-ringed parakeets are not to be confused with the Rosy-faced Lovebird, which is also an alien escapee that can be seen in flocks in various parts of Gauteng. They are mostly green with a blue rump, but the face and throat are pink, darkest on the forehead and above the eye. The bill is horn coloured, the iris is brown and the legs and feet are grey.



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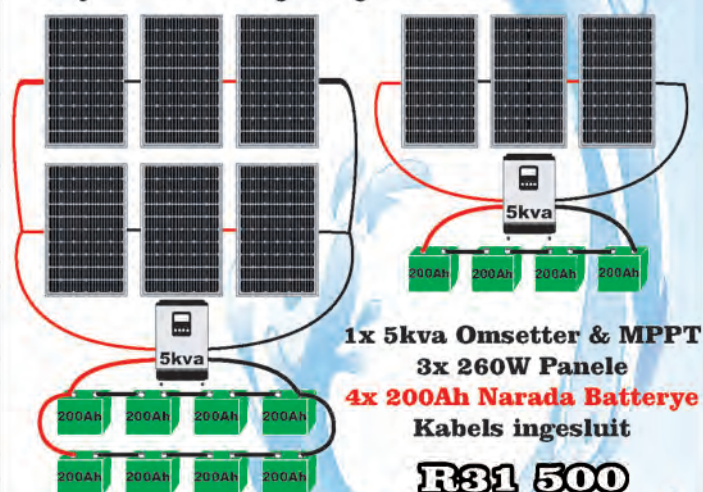
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#SAFoodCrisis Scary numbers

These statistics show the extent to which SA has a food crisis, an unemployment crisis and an economic crisis. In short, we can't afford to feed ourselves, and the State can't afford to look after us.

***This is the second in a series of Comments and commentary articles that will lay bare just how dire our situation is. By publisher, Pete Bower**

The term "food security" has become well-known in the debate around South Africa's food industry. As a country we are supposed to be food secure, ie there is enough to go round to feed the nation. But, as the numbers below will show, at lower levels ~ at an individual level, even ~ South Africans are anything but food secure.

And the numbers are just one of the aspects we wish to highlight in our series of articles we're dubbing #SAFoodCrisis, that will paint you a picture of a widespread and worsening situation that is, we believe, the most critical issue facing modern South Africa.

Where to begin? Let's start by pointing out that the numbers below aren't an exact snapshot of the situation in any given year. The research done to calculate the numbers was done in different years, by different bodies, and therefore paints an overall picture of trends rather than a hard-and-fast idea on which one could base national accounting calculations.

Nevertheless, the time periods used are recent enough, and close enough together to give one a good idea of the situation. Many of the figures used in this series of articles are lifted shamelessly from agro-

economist and activist Dr Tracy Ledger's book *An Empty Plate* (Jacana, 2016). Others are freely available from Stats SA and other sources.

So, from the top down:

□ South African population – 55,9 million, of which 36,9 million are aged between 15 and 64 and are therefore deemed to be eligible for employment.

□ Unemployment rate – 26,5% officially but, depending on how you define unemployment, possibly much higher, and certainly higher in certain regions (eg the Eastern Cape) and certain population groups (eg the youth).

The total number of people in employment is 16,1 million.

□ The proposed national minimum wage (not yet law, but moving slowly through the legislative process) – R3 500 per month for a 40 hour working week.

□ Sectoral determination wage for farm workers (government-sanctioned wages, in effect minimum wages payable, in certain key sectors where union wage negotiations do not apply) – R3 001.13 monthly.

It should be added that farm worker wages are quite opaque as total remuneration packages may include free housing, schooling for children, transport, food etc.

Continued on page 13

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☐ Sectoral determination wage for domestic workers in Gauteng – R2 422.04 monthly

For good measure, let's add:

☐ Social Grant (Sassa) payment beneficiaries – 17 million vulnerable individuals (eg, old age pensioners, the disabled and children), of which 10,5 million are children, receiving R380 per month.

☐ Social Grant monthly payout – R10 billion.

As an aside, you will note that there are more South Africans receiving social grant payments than there are people in employment, let alone that a large proportion of those in employment, ie those earning less than R7 000 per month, pay no income tax. You would not be far off the mark if, examining these numbers, you concluded that this situation is, at best, recklessly precarious and

The numbers at a glance

South African population	55,9 million
Economically active population (15-64 years)	36,9 million
Official unemployment rate	26,5%
therefore, number in formal employment	16,1 million

Social Grant details:

Social Grant recipients total	17,0 million
of which Child Support Grant recipients (R380 pm ea)	10,5 million

Wages:

Sectoral determination wage for farm workers	R3 001-31
Sectoral determination wage for domestic workers (Gauteng)	R2 422-04
Proposed minimum wage (40 hr week) (not law yet)	R3 500-00

Household Income, therefore:

Total monthly family income for a unit of 2 adults, one a farm worker, the other a domestic worker, and 2 children, both Child Grant recipients	R6 183-35
(Monthly income for the same family, but based on proposed National Minimum Wage x 2)	R7 760-00

Household Food Cost:

Cost of a nutritionally-aadequate basket of foodstuffs for a family of 4 per month (2 active adults + 2 children)	R9 419-00
Extrapolated statistically from 2012 research	

Cost of a basket of foodstuffs that will meet two-thirds of the nutritional requirements of the 4-member family per month	R3 072-00
Extrapolated statistically from 2012 research	

simply unsustainable.

These national numbers are all quite well-known. Let's now discuss food, at a household level.

It is well-understood that

some food is more nutritious than others. For example, high carbohydrate foods, such as bread, sugar and mealiepap, are less nutritious than meat and fish and fruit.

You will know from your shopping trips that nutritious food tends to be more expensive than the less nutritious, often carbohydrate-rich, foods.

A nutritious diet is necessary for healthy childhood and adolescent development, and is also necessary for sustained energy levels in active adults, as well as for maintenance of long-term good health in adults.

A poor diet, by contrast, results in stunting among children, which means the affected individuals do not reach age-appropriate physical development goals and may also suffer intellectually. Moreover, and counter-intuitively, perhaps, childhood stunting can lead to the early onset of lifestyle diseases such as type 2 diabetes and obesity in adulthood, which has implications in the public

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From page 13

health sector.

But what is a nutritious diet, and how much does such a basket of food cost?

Researchers in 2012 attempted to answer these questions by developing diets using foodstuffs commonly available off supermarket shelves, ie not using fancy supplements or stuff bought in health shops. Nevertheless, these hypothetical diets contained all the nutrients, minerals and vitamins necessary to maintain average individuals in certain levels of day-to-day activity.

Next, for the purposes of calculation, the researchers determined an average South African household size as being four individuals, namely two adults and two children. It would be easy to argue that the average South African household is larger than four, and contains additional individuals such as grandparents, cousins etc who may or may not contribute economically to the household. But we're talking averages here, so for simplicity's sake let's stick with a household of four. And on this basis, using a diet that



Dr Tracy Ledger's recent book will give each individual sufficient calories and nutrients, and extrapolating the 2012 figures by adding an amount for food inflation each year, the researchers' calculations show that the average four-individual household would need to spend R9 419 per month on food to enjoy a fully nutritional diet.

They also worked out a lower-cost diet that would contain only two-thirds of the calories recommended for full nutrition, but still contains sufficient vitamins and minerals etc for survival. On the same basis this would

today cost a family of four R3 072 per month. And now, therefore, a few assumptions and a little maths: Assume that both adults in our average four-person household are employed, one, say, as a farm labourer and the other as a domestic worker; and assume that both children receive a child grant, the total household income is R6 183.35 per month.

Even if one assumes the proposed national minimum wage becomes law the household income would amount to only R7 760 monthly, assuming the children continued to receive their child grants. But given an unemployment rate of 26,5% or more, there would be many, many households with at least one adult unemployed (statistically one in every four of every household in which an adult is employed). And two parents in jobs means that the children would not have a family member free as a

caregiver for after-school supervision etc. So, taking our best-case hypothesis of two adults employed at official sectorally-determined wages, or even at proposed national minimum wage levels, it is impossible for a four person household to afford a nutritionally-appropriate diet (even if it spent every cent of its income on food), and it is even highly unlikely that the household will be eating even two-thirds of the calories and nutrients daily that are required.

This is the reality for the majority of South Africans regardless of whether unemployment is at 26,5%, or higher, and regardless of the imposition of the proposed minimum wage. South Africans should therefore be asking two questions:

Firstly, what is the sense of a wage (and grant) structure that is insufficient to enable vulnerable South Africans (ie the majority) to enjoy even the most basic nutritious diet? And, secondly, if the wage

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BEEKEEPING How to be a beekeeper

An article in our ongoing series on bees and beekeeping by Peter Clark, chairman of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association and author of Tales of an African Beekeeper

Not only because they are a vital link in the ecological chain, and are under threat on many levels, there are a number of reasons for humans to keep, nurture and farm with bees.

The various aspects of beekeeping:

□ To keep bees for honey production both liquid and cut comb,

□ To provide a very important pollination service to farmers who produce seed for the commercial farmer to plant,

□ To provide a bee removal service to the emergency services authorities of the country, so that bees are preserved and not destroyed when they take up residence in unsuitable locations,

□ To venture into the production of beeswax alone, where there is a large market in the manufacturing of cosmetic creams, special

high quality polishes, and foundation wax for the bee industry,

□ To breed queens for the queen replacement to maintain good strong health hives, required mainly by beekeepers who have to have strong hives to satisfy the requirements of the pollination contracts.

A serious beekeeper needs a special bee proof room to do all honey work and also where bee-related equipment can be permanently kept, such as a suitable extractor, a honey bottling tank, and a spacious work table. There should be a hand wash basin and geyser to provide hot water on tap and an overhead roof-light to let in daylight is very helpful. There are two types of beekeeping, namely residential and migratory. □ Residential beekeeping is where one keeps hives on

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#SAFoodCrisis

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and grant structure is insufficient to allow the most vulnerable South Africans even the most basic nutritious diet, isn't the cost of foodstuffs too high? And, if so, why?

There are many other aspects to #SAFoodCrisis.

In forthcoming editions we will look at food production and why farmers are packing in their operations and selling up, why the government's proposed "1 Household, 1 Hectare" smallholder land

redistribution policy is a disaster in the making, why very few South African households produce even a portion of their own food, why charitable efforts at food parcels, soup kitchens and helping to establish food gardens are patronising, insulting and useless, and why the real problem lies deep in the food manufacturing and distribution industry itself.

~ Editor

From page 16

permanent sites in good tested areas and receives approximately 18 to 24 kg of honey per hive per year. These sites have to be in good secure areas to prevent vandalism and fairly safe for

the beekeeper to enter and work into the early hours of the evenings. These sites are out of town on plots, farms, golf courses, etc. In all situations one supplies honey to the landowner on some sort of sharing basis.

It is best to construct bee camps to protect the beehives and also gives the beekeeper an identity on these sites.

□ Migratory beekeeping is where the beekeeper follows the crop for maximum pollen and nectar and will move three or four times per year. The honey crop will be about 60 kg per hive per year.

The undertaking is costly but can be very lucrative if one has good selective sites and one plans moving the hives scientifically.

The queens are overworked in migra-

tory keeping, without a natural rest period, and need to be replaced on an annual basis.

This queen replacement is also very costly and involves culling all weak and failing queens and catching new swarms to replace these losses. Good planning and apiary management is the secret of success in the case of migratory beekeeping.

In South Africa it is recommended that beekeepers use standard Langstroth beehives, which are made of SA Pine and are available from beekeeper shops and advertising manufacturers of all bee products and equipment, at a cost of about R1 200 each. A full hive comprises a fixed floor, a brood chamber with ten brood frames, a queen excluder, a super (honey) chamber with ten shallow super frames, an inner cover and a metal covered telescopic lid. The woodwork is

treated with wood oil or creosote to preserve the hive from the weather and harvester white ants.

Alternatively, most beekeeping supply stores supply hives in component form so somebody with a modicum of woodworking skill can hammer and glue his own hive together at a fraction of the cost of a built-up unit.

Costs can be further kept to a minimum if the beekeeper has a good woodworking machine shop, where he can manufacture his own beehive to the Langstroth standards. Although in standard form a hive comprises a brood chamber with one super, a good, large and productive swarm can occupy two or three supers, so one is likely to have a few spare supers and their frames ready for use, even if one has only one or two hives.

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New Langstroth hive showing (top) metal covered telescoping lid, then super chamber and below brood chamber and base. Ranged around on the grass are the inner components of the hive. Clockwise from left: Queen excluder, inner lid, brood frames with wax strips and foreground, super frames.

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BEEKEEPING

From page 17

The beekeeper must love his bees, develop a passion for the bees and must not be afraid to be with his bees. The best beekeeper is a slow moving old codger who talks mostly to himself. He is always well prepared for whatever he has to do on each visit to the hives. He never leaves any article behind that is needed and each operation is well

thought out before he sets out to the apiary. His overall is always meticulously clean, he has a good quality veil and gloves, sweat band around his forehead to stop perspiration coming down into his eyes or his specs. His dress from his skin outwards is a vest and underpants, a cotton shirt and jeans, a thick t-shirt to absorb perspiration, and a good quality thick white overall, preferably with a zipper in front, rather than buttons. He would have long socks pulled up over the bottoms of the legs of his overall and leather boots with ankle high supports in case he puts up a snake or two under his hive.

On his hands will be thick long-sleeved rubber or leather gloves, preferably with elastic cuffs.

The object of all of this clothing is to ensure that the

keeper has no exposed skin which can be stung, and that the layers of clothing are thick enough that an angry bee can't penetrate through to the keeper's body with its sting. This should give him the confidence to work unhurriedly and assuredly even with angry bees buzzing around him.

With this amount of clothing beekeeping is a hot, sweaty job, even in cold weather.

His equipment will comprise a hive tool and a good operating smoker that burns well and never lets him down in his greatest hour of need. Lighting a smoker and keeping it burning, and the fuel one uses, is a subject for debate on its own.

This kit, namely overall, veil, gloves, boots, hive tool and smoker will cost about R1 200 and would include leather boots for about R400. The secret to operate a

successful undertaking is to always have a balanced outfit in terms of labour and hives.

☐ Up to 50 hives one works alone with a junior helper,

☐ 50 to 200 hives one works with a paid helper, say at R120 per outing,

☐ 201 to 300 hives one works with a full time paid assistant

☐ 301 to 700 hives one works with two full time paid

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IN THE FIELD

How to rightsize your animal numbers

Now is the time of the year when some smallholders become aware that they have more livestock on their plot than they should have. The grazing is finished and having to buy

in fodder is expensive. We have a responsibility to measure our stocking rate according to the carrying capacity of our pastures. "Stocking rate" means the number of animals on a given

amount of land over a certain period of time.

"Carrying capacity" or grazing capacity is the number of animals that your fields will support for a specified length of time or indefinitely. It is

calculated in terms of animal units. Establishing the correct carrying capacity on a smallholding is not easy, given the variability of the factors to be considered.

In order to assess the grazing capacity of our fields, we can look at the area of land required to maintain a single animal unit (AU) over an extended number of years without deterioration of the vegetation or soil. The capacity of the natural pastures of South Africa to carry stock is so low that generally the applied stocking rate on any section of land allocated to a particular flock of sheep or herd of cattle is usually expressed as x - number of hectares per livestock unit. This is as opposed to some countries where the ratio is given as x - number of AU per hectare. "Animal unit" (AU) or

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BEEKEEPING

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assistants.

For transport, up to 50 hives one needs a trailer.

☐ 50 to 200 hives one needs a bakkie to transport one helper plus 24 hives.

☐ 200 to 700 hives one needs a runabout bakkie plus a three ton truck to transport two helpers plus 48 hives as one would need to migrate the bees.

☐ 200 to 300 hives one needs to migrate 30% of the hives,

☐ 300 to 700 hives one needs to migrate 60% of the swarms.

To manage the undertaking;

one must keep good records of honey yields, migrating times and any items that affects the running of the outfit with a view of always improving the beekeeping the following year.

In this regard one needs to cull the weak swarms to avoid passengers that are not producing and one needs to keep a check on ages of queens.

The value of good sites is the basis of a good undertaking, and a good beekeeper is always on the lookout for a better site and building into the annual operation a site-testing programme with a few

colonies.

He should set targets and try to adhere to them, but failing to reach these targets can be miserable for the beekeeper and the undertaking becomes a grind.

This situation must not develop but he should rather look for the weak points and ways to improve.

The success of these improvements will give the beekeeper great joy and a motivation to do things better next time and he will always start the next day with a spring in his step.

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IN THE FIELD

From page 20

livestock unit (LSU) is a standard unit used in calculating the relative grazing impact of different kinds and classes of livestock. A livestock unit is an animal with a weight of 450 kg. All animals can be converted to livestock units or LSU:

Roughly, a cow = 1,10 LSU, a bull = 1,36 LSU, a horse = 1.25 LSU, a ewe = 0,17 LSU and a ram = 0,22 LSU.

Stocking within the grazing capacity of the veld is one of the most important grazing principles. Failing to stock correctly, irrespective of how diligently the other veld management principles are applied, will lead to veld deterioration.

Grazing capacity is dependent on a number of factors such as rainfall, veld condition, slope, aspect and soil, among others. And, when any specific factor – from rainfall to management –

changes, it alters the carrying capacity to a greater or lesser extent.

It is obvious, too, that the grazing capacity of veld will vary considerably from area to area – and on bigger smallholdings it can vary from pasture to pasture.

Average annual rainfall in Gauteng varies from 560 – 710 mm and this will obviously affect the quality and quantity of grazing. Few smallholders can afford to irrigate their fields.



Each type of livestock equates to a different number of LSU, depending on its weight.

Veld condition depends on plant cover, plant composition and production, with several factors playing a role in determining veld condition. These include species composition, the vigour of the palatable species, basal cover and soil surface condition.

A simple method of ascertaining the species composition in your paddock is to mark a line of about 50 m across the field. If this marking is permanent it will help in the

assessment of the condition of your field at a later date. Then take a sharpened spike approximately 1.2 m in length and walk along the transect.

At every step

thrust the spike randomly into the ground ahead of you. The plant nearest to the spike point is identified and recorded.

About 50 spike-point observations should be made. The vigour of each of the important indicator species should also be noted.

There are books available to help you to identify the grasses in your field, ranging from the pocket book First Field Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa (Struik) to the more comprehensive Guide to Grasses of southern Africa (Revised edition) by Frits van Oudtshoorn (Briza Publications).

Once you have identified the species in your field you need to establish whether each grass is a decreaser (a plant which decreases under heavy grazing) or an increaser (which increases in number as the decreaser plants are

Continued on page 23

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From page 21

plants are weakened and die from heavy grazing). Sadly, most smallholder pastures are overgrazed, particularly if the landowner keeps horses.

Studies have shown that 66% of South Africa's rangeland is in various stages of degradation, threatening sustainable vegetation, livestock and wildlife production.

Decreasers not only tend to die out, firstly in veld which is too heavily grazed, but also where grazing is extremely lenient and fire is excluded, or where grazing is selective. The species composition of the veld should influence the number of animals you graze on it.

Veld condition assessment is of little value if it is not linked to veld management which, in turn, is linked to balancing the needs of the livestock with the needs of the vegetation.

It helps to know the grazing habits of the livestock in relation to the change in the pasture quality during

different seasons.

Veld management also includes resting of veld. The frequency and duration of these rests will depend on the nature and condition of the veld, whether the veld is grazed by cattle, horses or sheep.

We should also give some thought to multi-species grazing, which has many advantages.

Each species differs in the way it grazes and what it prefers to eat, so you can increase forage utilisation. Each species favours certain plants and if you have them together in the same field most of the plants will be evenly grazed. Grazing multiple species can also decrease undesirable plant populations and mixed grazing helps in the management of internal parasites. Research has shown that mixed grazing results in earlier weaning and increased lamb performance as well as increased body

weight of ewes.

You can also consider keeping ducks with pigs, as the ducks will benefit by titbits found where pigs have been rooting.

However, there are some other factors that need to be managed.

Different species have varying fencing requirements; the mineral requirements of the different species vary, so the use of lick blocks will be problematic; there is

sometimes a danger of diseases being passed from one species to another. The degrading process of grazing is very slow and by the time it is evident, the damage is already done. Likewise, rehabilitation of veld is costly and also a slow process.



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LIVESTOCK

How to raise a bought-in calf

About this time of year, with spring not far off, some people get the idea that it would be a good idea to buy in a couple of calves, with a view to rearing them to earn some extra income. If you are serious about making a profit or even covering costs, then you must

budget to see how things will work out. Here is a list of items to put in the budget:

- ☐ Calf price.
- ☐ Feed, including colostrum, milk, milk replacer, fodder, meal (concentrates)
- ☐ Bedding, eg shavings
- ☐ Veterinarian fees - drugs, vaccinations and visits

- ☐ Disbudding/castration
- ☐ Ear tags
- ☐ Deaths. Plan to keep these below 2-3%,
- ☐ Transport (specially if you do not have your own suitable vehicle or trailer),
- ☐ Selling commission (6%)
- ☐ Bank interest
- ☐ Power
- ☐ Labour

If you are still keen to do this, keep the job simple. On a smallholding don't buy more than half a dozen calves, preferably fewer.


The calves will need to be housed in a clean, dry and draught free environment with access to sunlight and shade. They will need space to get up, lie down and move around comfortably. They

should not be left to sleep in mud or on wet bedding. They also need company and to see and hear other animals.

You will also need a 20 litre bucket, a calf milk feeder with teats for all of the calves, a rain-proof and bird-proof meal feeder for the paddock, along with a paddock hay rack and some good hay. Find a top dairy farmer who has a good, healthy herd and make an arrangement to buy and collect the whole group in one pick up. The advantage of this is that all the calves will be of similar age, and they will all have had plenty of colostrum. When a calf is born, the milk from the

Continued on page 27

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From page 26

first milking following delivery is called colostrum. It contains important nutrients: vitamins, minerals, energy and protein, besides antibodies (immunoglobulins) and many other important substances.

Calves that get sufficient amounts of good-quality colostrum in their first few hours gain passive immunity against germs, thus protecting the calf through its first weeks until its own immune system becomes fully active.

They will also have learnt how to drink.

Try to build up a good relationship with the farmer, so that you can ask advice when necessary.

A small calf weighs less than 37kg, a medium 37-43kg and big calves are more than 43kg. Buy the mediums if you have a choice. Don't buy the small ones.

If you are transporting the



Rearing bought-in calves to slaughter weight can be lucrative young animals by vehicle, make sure they are not stressed by high or low temperatures or wet weather on the trip. Try not to move them on the back of an open vehicle, especially during cold or wet weather. Do not restrain the calves by tying their legs with wire or rope. Rather put each one into a feed bag with its head sticking out.

Isolate the calves and give them electrolytes as their first feed on the farm. Keep them away from other animals in case they have brought in any diseases. To lessen the effects of change, which is stressful, ask your vet if you should inject each animal with a tetracycline injection according to its weight when moving it. This will help control pneumonia and gallsickness.

Feed a good quality proprietary milk powder and follow the mixing instructions very carefully. Protein levels in the milk replacer should be 23-

26%.

Feed the calves twice a day for as long as you are able. Otherwise feed them twice daily for the first four weeks then go on to 1 x day feeding. Be consistent with feeding times, temperature of milk, concentration and the amount of milk.

Offer a good quality calf meal from Day 1. The calves will start licking it at first but then soon start nibbling the pellets.

Continued on page 29

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From page 27

Keep feeding this meal right up until they reach at least 100kg.

Cleanliness and hygiene are critical. Wash the utensils in cold water, then in hot water (in that order) and disinfect daily.

Have some good shelter in the paddock or free access to a clean shed.

As the calves grow, don't increase the amount of liquid (thereby making more work for yourself), but rather increase the concentration of the powder. Follow the instructions on the bag exactly.

Wean calves off milk at 80kg for Friesians and 70kg for smaller breeds and make sure they have some good clean pasture with grass and not just weeds. A calf must be fed milk until it is eating at least one kilogram of calf meal a day.

When weaning off milk first stop the evening feed of milk for a week then stop the morning feed. Do not move or stress the calves in any other way during this time and ensure that they continue to eat the calf meal. A calf can eat up to three kilograms of meal a day after weaning, depending on its size, and it will only really start to digest forage properly at three months of age. It is very important to keep feeding the calf well as it grows or it will be stunted and never grow to full size.

Check with your vet as to when they must be castrated

and disbudded, as well as what vaccinations they will need. For female calves the most important vaccination is for contagious abortion (CA). For all calves a vaccination for botulism and anthrax is very important.

Worms can severely affect an animal's growth performance and it is necessary to deworm the young animal regularly, especially in the warm months of spring and summer. A young calf on milk may suffer from milk tape-worm and ordinary tape-worm. They should be treated for this from one month to six weeks of age, especially if they develop diarrhoea. Diarrhoea containing fresh or digested blood is caused by coccidiosis. This is very dangerous to the animal and it must be treated immediately with a sulphur based drug available at your co-op.

Before you can sell the animals, you will need to have some form of identification, so you'll need an ear tag applicator and ear tags. By law cattle must be marked by the age of six months.

Growing animals need better nutrition than fully grown animals that are not productive. Make sure you have the capacity to feed and medicate your animals before purchasing them. Your animals will cost you money to grow out. Be sure that you are prepared to spend that money before you become an owner.

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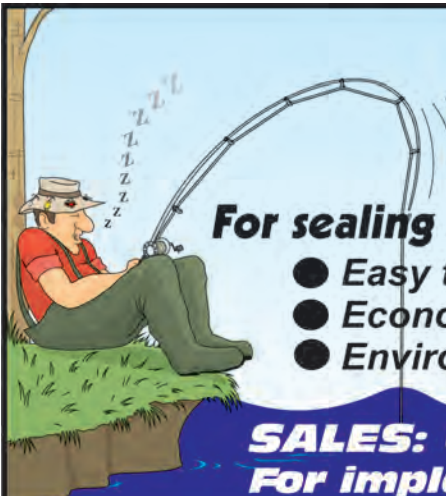
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How to use your winter woodfire ash

If you, like many smallholders, are lucky enough to be able to heat your home in winter with a roaring log fire, you may wonder what you can do to dispose of the cold grey ash in the morning.

Wood ash is primarily composed of calcium, potassium, phosphorus and magnesium, but also contains trace amounts of iron, manganese, sodium, boron, zinc, copper and molybdenum. Because it is created through the combustion of plant material, it holds many of the elements needed to support new growth and has long been used by gardeners and farmers as a natural soil amendment.

Not for nothing is the old-fashioned word for potassium "potash", and if you know

your three main fertilizer components, namely N, P & K, you will know that K is the identifier of the element potassium.

Before you begin using wood ashes, however, there are a few things that you should bear in mind. Only use ashes from wood that is free of

chemicals. Do not use ash from pressure-treated wood, painted or stained wood, coal, charcoal or briquettes. Although ashes may feel cool to the touch, buried embers can remain hot for days. To safely store wood ash, place them in a metal container with a lid and set it on a non-

combustible surface such as sand or concrete. Make sure the container is isolated and at least a few feet away from any flammable materials. But it is not only as a plant nutrient that ash is useful. Ash has some surprising uses around the house. If you have wet paint splatters on cement, sprinkle ash directly on the spot and it blends in if rubbed around with your foot. It can also be used to clean up grease spills and remove stains from porous surfaces such as stone, cement and tar. Sprinkle some ashes on the stain and allow it to settle for a few minutes. Then, sweep it all up with a broom. Block garden pests by spreading ash evenly around garden beds, particularly in the fight against slugs and



Continued on page 32



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IN THE GARDEN



Ash from a wood fire, prior to being spread and dug in.

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snails.

In the old days people used ash to make soap and still use it to polish silver, dull metals and cloudy glass. Make a paste of ash and water then put on some rubber gloves and spread this paste all over your tarnished items. Let the mixture sit for a few minutes before wiping with a clean cloth. Rub well to bring out the shine.

Wood ash is alkaline and can absorb and neutralise bad smells. Try placing some ash in a small bowl and leaving it in the fridge or a stinky room, but be sure to replace it with new ashes after a few days. Chickens need to bathe in dust to keep themselves clean. Wriggling and writhing around in the soil is a social behaviour that allows hens to clean their feathers and skin while also removing parasites such as lice and mites. Mixed with sand, wood ash makes a wonderful dust bath substratum that your chickens will love.

But it is in the garden that ash comes into its own.

Wood ash is an excellent source of lime and potassium for your garden. Not only that, using ash in the garden also provides many of the trace elements that plants need to thrive. But wood ash fertiliser is best used either lightly scattered or by first being composted along with the rest of your organic waste. This is

because wood ash will produce lye and salts if it gets wet. In small quantities, the lye and salt will not cause problems, but in larger amounts, the lye and salt may burn your plants.

For best results, ashes obtained from hardwoods have five times as many nutrients per bundle as softwoods, such as pine or firs.

Don't use wood ash on seedlings, as the salts will damage young plants. Never combine wood ash with nitrogen fertilizers such as urea, as doing so will produce ammonia gas. Wood ashes make a great addition to the compost heap, where they'll aid fertility (most of the nutrients needed by plants are contained in them to some degree). If you have a lot, don't add them all at once as they are alkaline and raising the pH too much will affect the bacteria and worms at work. It's better to keep the ash in a nearby container and sprinkle on a layer every so often.

By the same token, don't fertilise acid loving plants such as berries, peppers or azaleas and even potatoes with ash as it will turn the soil too alkaline for their liking. If you tend to compost a lot of acidic material, such as fruit waste, the ashes will help to keep the compost at

Continued on page 33

IN THE GARDEN

This one chomps the good guys

Have you seen a worm in your soil that looks like a tiny wet snake in the body, but with a triangular head? If you have, you are, sadly the dubious custodian of a hammerhead worm. Hammerhead worms are

flatworms, which means they are members of the phylum Platyhelminthes. There are several species of hammerhead worms, so the term "hammerhead worm" actually ranges over multiple types of similar worms that belong to the genus Bipalium.

Hammerheads are not indigenous to South Africa. These worms can grow to be quite large, up to 50 cms in length. They are nocturnal, so it is easiest to find them at night, but they



Hammerhead worm
... not your friend

are commonly seen in the morning too. They are most often found on the surface after it has rained. Like earthworms, hammerhead worms live in the soil because they need a moist environment to survive. The problem with hammerheads is that they eat earthworms, so they are not welcome in your garden or your compost heap. What's so important about earthworms? The famous naturalist Charles Darwin spent the last years of his life studying earthworms, because he felt them to be crucial in the natural scheme

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WOOD ASH

From page 32

lower pH and reduce the need to lime the vegetable plots at a later date. It is possible to substitute ash for ground lime. Unlike agricultural limestone, which is slow-acting, wood ash works its magic quickly due to its small particle size. However, home-produced ash isn't a standardised product, which means its content will vary. Being alkaline, wood ash obviously isn't an ideal addition if your soil already

has a pH of 7.5 or greater. Nor is it recommended for areas where you intend to grow potatoes (much though they enjoy potassium) as increased alkalinity can encourage the potato scab fungus. You can also make ash tea to prevent or correct potassium deficiencies. Brown spots, curling leaf tips, yellowing between leaf veins, slower plant growth, and reduced crop yield are some of the tell-tale signs that your plants are not receiving enough

potassium. And some plants, like tomatoes, potatoes, raspberries and beets are much more prone to deficiencies. To make tea from wood ash, place 2,5 kg of ash in a cloth bag (eg, an old pillowcase) and tie it closed. Place the ash bag in a rubbish bin filled with water and allow it to steep for several days. Once the ash tea has brewed, pour about a cup's worth around your plants weekly.




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IN THE GARDEN

From page 33

of things. He said, "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organized creatures."

Earthworms are sometimes known as 'ecosystem engineers' because they significantly modify the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil profile. These modifications can influence the habitat and activities of other organisms within the soil ecosystem.

They are important recyclers of organic material.

Earthworms, along with bacteria and fungi, decompose organic material. So they are important in the process of making compost, but earthworms do the same in



Indigenous earthworms differ from those used in worm farms, or vermiculture

pasture soils, decomposing dung and plant litter and processing literally tons of organic matter per hectare each year. They also recycle leaf litter under trees and shrubs.

Although earthworms derive their nutrition from micro-organisms, many more micro-organisms are present in their faeces or casts than in the organic matter that they consume. As organic matter passes through their intestines, it is fragmented and inoculated with micro-

organisms. Increased microbial activity facilitates the cycling of nutrients from organic matter, so nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen become more readily available to plants after digestion by earthworms and being excreted in earthworm casts.

Earthworms can move large amounts of soil from the lower strata to the surface and also carry organic matter down into deeper soil layers. Their burrows also alter the physical structure of the soil.

They open up small spaces, known as pores, within the soil.

When earthworms are introduced to soils devoid of them, their burrowing can lead to increases in water infiltration rates of up to ten times the original amount. This brings water and soluble nutrients down to plant

roots. Burrowing also improves soil aeration (important for both plants and other organisms living in the soil) and enhances plant root penetration. At the same time, the burrows minimize surface water erosion.

Plant and crop residue are gradually buried by cast material deposited on the surface and as earthworms pull surface residue into their burrows.

Earthworms, like all creatures, are part of food webs. Their

Continued on page 37

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IN THE ORCHARD

Beginner's guide to fruit tree pruning

Pruning time, of fruit trees, roses and shrubs, is the one time in your garden where you get a chance to correct the mistakes you made in previous years. And now, August, is pruning time.

And the biggest mistake most beginner pruners make is to prune too lightly. The principles of pruning are much the same for fruit trees and roses, and start with the need to ensure the plant's health and longevity. In the case of fruit trees, one

of the major aims of pruning should be to ensure that the tree's limbs do not become overburdened, which will result in them breaking under the weight of leaves and fruit. Another aim should be to limit the number of fruits that the tree produces, because a

tree pruned too lightly will produce many, many small fruits, regardless of how much water and fertiliser you give it. Also, pruning should entail shaping the tree in such a way that sunlight reaches into the heart of its branches,

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IN THE GARDEN

From page 35

main predators are a wide range of birds and mammals that prey upon them at the soil surface. And, as we have seen, hammerhead worms. Because earthworms do not like soil that is too acid, alkaline, dry, wet, hot or cold, their presence is a good indicator of soil conditions suitable for plant growth. So how can we create soil conditions that encourage earthworms?

If your soil is acid, add lime which will raise the pH, and also adds calcium, which they need.

We know that earthworms feed on dead or decaying plant remains, including

straw, leaf litter and dead roots, so spreading this kind of material on the soil as mulch will be useful. Green manure crops that are turned into the soil will have a similar effect, as will allowing crop stubble to decompose in the field.

Rotating pasture with crops helps build up organic matter levels and earthworm numbers.

Avoid the use of highly acidifying fertilisers such as ammonium sulfate and some fungicides, as they reduce worm numbers.

Keep the soil moist, because worms can lose 20% of their body weight each day in mucus and castings.

It is difficult for earthworms to move through heavily compacted soil, so keep vehicle and animal traffic in your pastures to a minimum, especially in wet conditions. Using no-till methods of agriculture will result in an increase of worms in your soil.

You might find that some parts of your smallholding are richer in earthworms than others. What you can do is cut pasture sods from areas with high worm populations

and transfer them to worm-free areas. New colonies will establish within a couple of years as long as there is plenty of organic matter, and soil and climatic conditions are favourable. It is important that you transplant pasture, not just worms.

Do not try and transplant compost worms into agricultural soils. Species that thrive in compost will not survive the harsher conditions of paddock soils, which dry near the surface.



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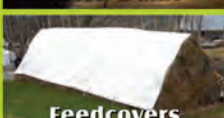
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IN THE ORCHARD

From page 37

because it is sunlight that causes the fruit to develop good sugar levels and to ripen uniformly. A further aim should be to prevent the tree becoming diseased, and the fruit being attacked by worms and flies.

In the case of roses, the aim of pruning should include shaping the bush into something that suits the overall look of your garden. Particularly on a bush that is used to provide blooms for arrangements in the house this often entails quite drastic reshaping each pruning



From old trees you can remove two-thirds of the growth.

season, as flower collectors will inevitably be more interested in the beauty of the bloom and the length of its stem, rather than what their harvesting will do to the shape of the bush.

If you are a new smallholding owner there is a good possibility that the fruit trees you inherit may have been neglected. And you may be new to the niceties and skills required in running and maintaining a productive orchard.

Fear not ~ the skills are easily learned.

Assuming your trees are well-established (a look at the bigger branches will give an idea of how many times they have been tended by the number of scars where limbs have been previously removed), but haven't been well

pruned for a season or two, here's what you will find:

☐ Suckers, growing up from ground level, around the base of the tree (and below its original graft),

☐ Some dead branches and old shoots, identifiable by their colour and wrinkled skin.

☐ Old shrivelled fruits still attached, and,

☐ Shoots and limbs rubbing up against each other, or with the potential to do so when they bend under the weight of fruit and leaves in summer.

Using clean sharp secateurs, lopping shears, a pruning saw or even a chainsaw if necessary, summarily remove all of this before doing anything else.

Now walk around the tree, viewing it from all sides.

You will see:

☐ Many shoots at the ends of branches with a number

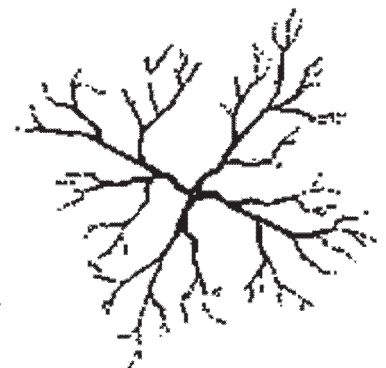
of buds on each, and,

☐ Many shoots pointing straight up into the sky, some maybe even a metre tall.

Your aim should be to cut away half to two-thirds of all of this, either by removing the entire shoot or by trimming off two out of every three buds you find.

In so doing you should be aiming to limit the height of the top-most branches (so that fruit is not impossibly high to pick) and also

Continued on page 40



Vertical view from above: smaller branches should radiate from larger branches and end-shoots should radiate from smaller branches.

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IN THE ORCHARD

From page 39

opening up the centre of the tree to allow sunlight to penetrate.

In cutting shoots always aim to cut away above a bud which is growing outward from its surrounding shoots. In most cases this will be the second, or at most third, bud on the shoot up from where it joins the tree.

This is the best way to open a tree up to light.

It is difficult for a beginner to visualise what the finished tree should look like and the best way to do this is to choose one branch, ie a relatively contained part of the tree, and consciously set about its shoots and buds, even counting out loud as you cut away. Once you have removed your two-thirds on one branch you will have a visual reference as to how the rest of the tree (and indeed the orchard), should look

when the pruning is complete.

When the tree is finished, you should be struck by how bare and angular it looks compared to what it was before.

Some tips on cutting:

❑ Be careful not to damage the bud above which you are cutting, and cut on a slope, the upward end of which should be just above the bud itself.

❑ Be careful not to let your saw damage other bark or branches while you cut.

❑ Be careful to make a clean cut and not to strip away bark on thin shoots as this lets disease into the tree.

Some say that one should seal the cut ends of the larger branches and shoots with a tree sealer after the job is complete. Others say this simply poisons the tree.

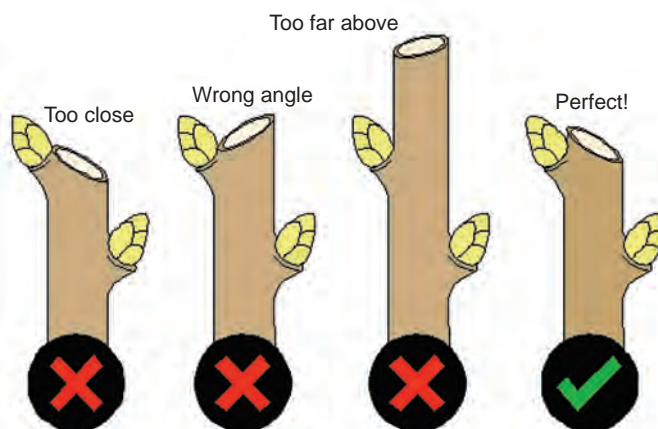
Whatever your choice, if you are going to seal the cuts, don't do it with paint,

creosote or anything not specified as a tree sealer.

Once the tree is pruned, spray it liberally with lime sulphur at the designated dilution. Wear protective clothing and be aware that lime sulphur spray is both stinky (think rotten eggs) and poisonous to livestock, insects and bees, so only do so on a still, dry day.

Some also like to paint the trunks of their trees with whitewash, believing this prevents ants from attacking the upper branches.

Run your prunings through a chipper and either add them to your compost or apply them directly around other plants as a highly effective and (once they decompose) nutritious food for your soil.



Incorrect and correct ways to cut above a bud

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GARDEN WORLD SHOW

Garden World's garden design show, entitled Colour my World, is now open in Muldersdrift, and is crammed with designer ideas for both your garden and your outdoor living areas. You can also see the award-winning Sanbi-Kirstenbosch exhibit which won a gold medal at this year's Royal Flower Show in Chelsea, London. The show, which includes a programme of events for young and old, ends on 3 September.



For more information about the events call Garden World on 011 957-2445 or 975-3003



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Blackhead Dorper ram lamb, 4 months old, not breed quality. R750. Pete 072 587-9137 Bredell

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FOR SALE

Entries in this section are FREE OF CHARGE, but are for used items, private property sales/rentals and employment offered/wanted only.

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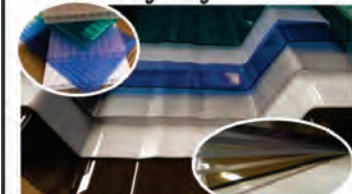
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DIARY

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 Cullinan. Call Rudan on 082 410-3180
horses@diamondxranh.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.

2017

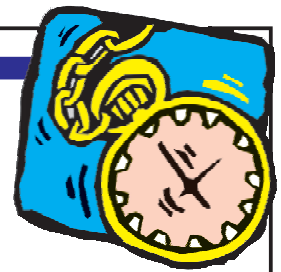
August

5: Mother & Child Fun Day with a Flower Arranging Course at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Join Colleen McGillivray and Interflora for a fun-filled morning where we will show you how to make a beautiful flower arrangement, the perfect workshop for mother & child. 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R130 per child & includes the workshop, refreshments as well as fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to

book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za
5: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za
6: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003
7: Full moon
9: East Rand Dairy Day, Belnori Boutique Cheesery, Nest Park, Bapsfontein. 09:30 for 10:00. Wide range of speakers as well as exhibitions and stalls. Food on sale. Booking essential. Email Rina Belcher on belnori220@gmail.com

9: Makeover with Hannon Bothma, the Glam Guru, at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Rediscover your own beauty potential and look at yourself in the mirror again with a fresh new perspective. 09h30 for 10h00
Cost: R200 pp & includes the demonstration, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za
12: Cooking Demo with Johan 'Panda' du Preez from Starke Ayres at Garden World, Muldersdrift. A fun filled, informative morning with gardening and cooking professional Panda. He will teach you how to sow summer vegetable seeds with flair, and how to whip up a delicious meal with his own brand of joie de vivre! 09h30 for

10h00. Cost: R150 pp & includes the talk / demonstration, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za
13: Antiques & Craft Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003
15-18: Introduction Course to Beef Cattle



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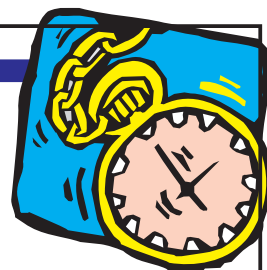
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DIARY

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 19 Fermentation workshop: make your own kefir, kombucha, sauerkraut and kimchi. 10am to 3 pm. Terra Madre, 91/3 Northfolk Road, Carlswald, Midrand. Contact terramadresouthafrica@gmail.com.
 19: 50 Shades of Green with Denny van Wee & Leonie Coulson at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Denny van Wee (export manager from Pokon, Netherlands) will tell you more about Pokon Plant Foods & how they will help your plants grow, with Leonie telling you more about the interesting 50 Shades of Green Plants. : 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R100 pp & includes the talk, refreshments as well as fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za
 21: New moon
 21-25: Introductory Course in Poultry

Production (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
 23: Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition Symposium, CSIR Convention Centre, Pretoria. For more info http://www.fertasa.co.za.
 26: Snake Awareness, First Aid for Snakebites and Venomous Snake Handling Workshop, Cradle Moon Lakeside Lodge, Gauteng. Email Ashley - admin@africansnakebiteinstitute.com
 26: Growing Edible Flowers in your Spring Garden at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Join Sandy Roberts for her talk on growing edible flowers in your spring garden with recipes & delicious samples to taste. The Margaret Roberts books, Herb Journal & new 'Indigenous Plants' book that she co-wrote with Sandy will be on sale. 09h30 for 10h00. Cost: R100 pp & includes the talk / demonstration, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden

World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za
 26: In Tune with Nature at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Join MayFord Seeds for a delightful spring afternoon laced with good gardening advice from gardening editor Tanya Visser, paired with heavenly music & song brought to you by SA's most well-known conductor, Richard Cock. 13h00 for 13h30. Cost: R100 pp & includes the event, a goodie bag, refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za
 30: Sheep Day, organised by Hi-Performance Feeds, Meyerton. Inoculation and de-worming, planning and management of pastures, optimal feeding and livestock management. Venue: Zomerlust. Cost R100. Booking essential, by 25 August. Vall 016 366-1398 or 083 676-8607



September

2: Paint your own Unique Wall Clock at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Trudie Ayres from Mulberry Lane will show you how to paint your own unique Wall Clock using Annie Sloan Chalk Paint. 09h00 for 09h30. Cost: R350 pp & includes the workshop and everything that you will need to create your Wall Clock - including the clock movement & hands (clock diameter 35 cm), refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za
 2: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za
 3: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003
 5-7: Artificial Insemination of Cattle Course (3 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

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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

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	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 wholefoodmarket@gmail.com	Variety of organic & homemade foods
Every Saturday	The Shed Food & Craft Market	08:00 to 15:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 to 09:30	Pioneer Open Air Museum, Silverton.	012 804-8031 or 082 416-3900 blinsga@lantic.net	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kaalings with pap and boerewors rolls.
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston	Konrad or Glenda on 011 706-3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 to 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie Sts, Menlo Park, Pta	Rietha 083 554-5636. www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 to 15:00	R112 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076-7680 info@wfmarket.co.za	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area
Every Saturday	Walkerville Country Market	09:00 to 15:00	Walkerville Showgrounds on the R82	Noorunisha 074 141-8485 market@walkervillesa.co.za	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft ber.. Kid's play area and pet friendly
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	09:00 to 15:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Milch 082 553-2846	Meats and vegetables, delicacies, honey, cheese, brewery, crafter's market and children's entertainment.
Every Saturday	Market @84	09:00 to 14:00	84 On Main, Walkerville	Ariel 078 223-9238	Fresh organically grown produce and crafters market
Every Saturday	The Fresh Produce Co-op Weekly Farmers Market	07:00 to 11:00	49 Olifantsfontein rd, Glen Austin	Stall inquiries: fpcstalls@gmail.com Co-op: info.freshhproducecoop@gmail.com	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 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	adelekoffiepit@gmail.com 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.fmarket.co.za	Get your groceries...In the garden!
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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BY POST: Box 14648, Bredell 1623
BY EMAIL: gautengsmallholder@gmail.com
BY HAND: 370 da Costa Dr, Bredell, Kempton Park

1 WORD (BLOCK CAPITALS) PER SPACE, PLEASE

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6. No SERVICES will be accepted as free classifieds.
7. Classified advertisements may only be submitted for three consecutive editions.
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Winter and combating the cold

So far, this has been an extraordinarily mild Highveld winter. Already, there are a few fruit trees coming into blossom on plots in our ~ usually freezing ~ area. But that doesn't mean that, as I grow older, I don't feel the cold more and more each year, which has me wondering why we don't take winter on the Highveld more seriously. The fact is, we South Africans live in a fool's paradise when it comes to winter. Houses in South Africa simply aren't designed or constructed to cope with what are temperatures that in northern climes would result in all the architectural refinements that have been developed over centuries to keep inhabitants warm and, it must be added, dry. And perhaps it is because we have no rainfall in winter ~ or at least very little ~ that these innovations haven't made their way into our building codes. For example, our house, in one of the coldest parts of Gauteng, has huge 3m square glass windows in each room on both sides, north-facing and south. The ones on the northern side of the house are great on a winter's day, and the low-slanting winter sun streams in, warming the rooms most charmingly. As the sun sets, however, all the warmth captured during the day is soon lost to the chill evening air outside. And let's not talk about the rooms on the southern side of the house, which receive no sun in winter, and are like fridges. Seriously. Think of the cold room in a farmhouse, hung with sides of meat, cheeses and birds maturing for the pot. That's how cold our South-facing rooms are in winter. When we first moved to our smallholding some 30 years ago I remember that in the evenings of our first few winters we would eat our dinner wearing overcoats. After a few years, however, we acquired a Jetmaster fireplace, which we installed in the kitchen (a room itself proportioned like the nave of a cathedral). It was the biggest model Jetmaster has ever built. (I don't know if it still exists but there used to be a large thatched fast-food restaurant called BJ's just before Harrismith on the way to Durban. Keeping this cavernous, warehouse-sized space warm was, in the centre, a Jetmaster the same size as ours, a hungry beast that requires a steady diet of logs to keep it blazing.) In the first year of our Jetmaster we were concerned that it was too big for our kitchen, and I sought to limit the size of the fire by reducing the space in the grate with a brick on either side. However, it didn't take me long to remove the bricks, and now

we enjoy a nightly blaze of such heat and proportions that we could easily fire up the boiler of a steam train. And ours is not the only cold house on the Highveld, I'm sure, or throughout the country even. So why are cold-climate building materials, such as double-glazed windows and central heating not easily available? More importantly, why don't architects specify such items when designing houses in what are cold areas? All you can get in South Africa, it seems to me, is underfloor heating and pink stuff with which to insulate your ceiling in your roof. Part of the problem, I realise, is that our winters don't feel really cold most of the time. Because there's no rain and very little cloud during a Highveld winter, daytime temperatures are positively balmy and it's only when the sun disappears behind a cloud that one quickly feels the chill (largely because of the thinness of the air we breathe at this altitude). Also, our winters aren't all that long ~ there are only a couple of really cold months each year ~ and so expenditure on double glazing with which to insulate the house, or central heating, would seem like expensive overkill to many. So for the most part of the day we don't think about the niceties of warming our houses with much more than a couple of electric heaters in strategic rooms, or mobile gas fires. And during the day many of us spend much of our time in the sunlight peeling off layers of clothing in winter much like peeling an onion. "Don't you have heaters?" I hear you ask. Of course we do, and our electricity bill in winter is unpleasantly high as a result. Also, keeping our Jetmaster fed is a task we take very seriously and we are more than happy to demonstrate our prowess with a chainsaw to any neighbour who has dead or unwanted trees. As a result, you can view our woodpile quite easily on Google Earth.



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