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... and much more...**



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FRONT COVER

Traditional Christmas Turkey: To all
our readers, advertisers and distributors,
we wish you a pleasant Festive Season.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Socialist claptrap



In the current political climate in South Africa it is not surprising that a governmental action generates a lot of heat, and very little light.

For, the levels of ineptitude and kleptocracy are plain for all to see, from the thievery of the Zupta project to the ineptitude of the Life Esidimeni tragedy, to take but two of many examples.

And so it is with the announcement recently that the minimum wage for farm workers will rise to R18 per hour from 1 May next year.

This immediately led to an outcry from farmers, well reported by the media, that the wage at that level is unaffordable, would lead to job losses, and would further drive farmers off the land. A lot of heat, but not much light.

So, let's paint the full picture.

□ The R18 per hour minimum wage (and its equivalent for weekly and monthly-paid workers) applies to all workers, regardless of their industry, and is the result of the imposition of the much-discussed national minimum wage of R3 500 per month. It looks like it applies only to farm workers because the agricultural sector is one of the most lowly-paid, with considerable numbers being paid a cash wage below this level.

□ There exists already (as is well-known) a sectoral determination wage for farm workers, which increases annually according to an inflation-linked formula. At present it seems that the formula will translate to an increased wage of R16,92 per hour from 1 March, an increase of R1,53 per hour over the current sectoral wage minimum.

□ Thus, adding the sectoral determination increase to the national minimum wage increase means that farmers paying their workers at the minimum level will be forced to increase their wage bill by 16,32% next year in two phases, in March, and in May. One of the problems associated with wages in the agricultural sector is that it is one of the most complex industries in terms of total emoluments. Thus, while the cash wage appears low, it is often accompanied by a host of non-cash benefits, such as free or subsidised accommodation, schooling for the children, transport, foodstuffs and even medical care.

None of these benefits, as diverse as they are, are taken into account in the minimum wage structure, which relates purely to the cash received by the worker at the end of the work cycle.

Can the farming industry afford a wage increase of 16-plus% in a year? On the face of it, probably not in many cases. But, likewise, there are many farmers who already pay their workers way above the minimum, both in terms of cash, and in non-cash benefits. So it is by no means the case that all farmers, and all farm workers, will be affected by the increase.

Nevertheless, for those farmers who are already struggling, not to mention the many new smallholder farmers being established by the government, an increase in the wage bill of more than double the inflation rate in one year may well be the straw that breaks the camel's back. Hardly a good outcome, we suggest.

The problem is that the entire national minimum wage saga flies in the face of established economic theory, and is being pushed through, we believe, by a government desperate to endear itself to the electorate rather than with any thought to the long-term damage it may cause or benefits that may accrue.

On the one hand, simple economics tells one that imposing a national minimum wage, even one as low as R3 500 per month, may lead to job losses ~ not only in the farming sector ~ and as a result is going to add to South Africa's already high unemployment rate.

On the other, while a national minimum wage of R3 500 sounds grand, it is still below the level at which a family of four can feed itself a nutritious diet (see previous articles in our series #SAFoodCrisis, notably the article in our August edition). Thus, it's a vote-getting chimera. In reality it will lead to job losses while still leaving poor people too poor to be able to feed themselves.

Far better, therefore, for the government to tackle the real elephant in the room, which is the rapacious greed for profit of the food processing, distribution and retailing sector. Rather than introducing half-thought-through socialist vote-catching claptrap like a national minimum wage, tackle the low prices paid to farmers for their produce on the one hand and the high prices paid by consumers for foodstuffs on the other.

The problem with that is that such policies require real thought and application, and will prove unpopular with the corporate sector. They require the reining in of greed, which is not a vote getter, rather than the handing out of largesse, which is.

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Edward 076 133 1940

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Bullet fragments killing Ground Hornbills

Sir – Your piece on vultures (November): While I was at the Mabula Game Lodge recently I was shown their Ground Hornbill Project. It's a huge ugly bird, white wingtips and red around the eyes and on the throat. As critical to the environment as the vulture. The project is trying to preserve the bird from extinction.

It is dying from lead poisoning.

Apparently when an animal, usually buck, is shot, the bullet tends to shatter.

The hunter discards the damaged flesh which is devoured by the ground hornbill. The lead fragments

accumulate in the bird and it eventually dies. Horrible the things Man does without thought of the consequences.

Michael Doveton
Stellenbosch

Rosy Cheeked Parakeets ruin UK vineyard

Sir ~ Earlier in the year you wrote about the alien Rosy Cheeked parakeets gathering in surprising numbers in areas of Gauteng.

Well, spare a thought for the chaps who run Forty Hall Farm in Enfield, London's only commercial vineyard since medieval times.

Rosy Cheeked Parakeets have severely dented the grape harvest.

Recently, volunteers picking chardonnay and pinot noir varieties at the vineyard saw 60 parakeets fly away when they sounded the bird scarer. Apparently, there are estimated to be up to 50 000 parakeets living in Britain, mainly in London and north Kent.

We enjoy the wide variety of articles in your magazine – keep it up!

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

Afrikaans letters will be translated.

Post mail to: Letters, PO Box 14648, Bredell 1623 or fax 086 602-3882 or e-mail gautengsmallholder@gmail.com



Fred (name supplied)
Nietgedacht

Facebook posts are enjoyed

Sir ~ I really enjoy the short pieces that you put up so frequently on the Gauteng Smallholder Facebook page. They are interesting and informative and some of them are hilarious!

It must take you some time to do it, but I for one appreciate it.

Margaret (name supplied)
Muldersdrift

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Farm sector braces for 16+% wage hike

Farmers paying their workers at the current Sectoral Determination rate face the prospect of two wage increases, totalling 16,32% next year if they are to remain within the bounds of the law.

The first increase kicks in on 1 March when the next raise in the current sectoral determination scheme becomes applicable.

This raises the minimum hourly wage to R16.92 (and weekly and monthly rates

accordingly).

The second increase kicks in two months later when the proposed national minimum wage of R3 500 monthly becomes law. In the case of farm workers this will

aggregate an increase of a further 8,35% to R18-00 per hour.

The question of minimum wages for farm workers is hotly debatable because of the vast difference in total

emoluments received by workers, which may include free or subsidised food, housing, transport and education etc, as well as other benefits on farms owned and run by enlightened farmers.

Rainfall: A dry summer ahead

Although October's total rainfall in Gauteng was higher than the that of the same month in last year's super-wet summer, the total rainfall in September, and to the middle of November, was considerably less than for the same periods last year.

Thus, you would be correct if you concluded that Gautengers are in for a drier season this year.

This observation is borne out by weather scientists who are observing a mild La Nina

effect in the central and southern Pacific Ocean which, trends show, lead to drier weather in the southern hemisphere generally.

A La Nina effect is declared when ocean surface temperatures in the Pacific are higher than normal, which, in association with other trends in wind and currents, affect the uptake of moisture into the atmosphere and thus precipitation across the globe, particularly over South America, southern and central

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NEWS

Cellphone app for sasfox.co.za, classified ad site

With more than two-thirds of visitors to the SA Small

Farmers Online Exchange, sasfox.co.za, accessing the site from their smartphones we have now launched a phone app for the site which makes it even more user-friendly.

And, as a bonus, the app integrates the existing Gauteng Smallholder website so that users have access to both the online classified advertisement exchange and the information and other features of the Smallholder site, as well as back issues of the magazine, on their phones.

The sasfox app makes browsing the advertisements on the site a breeze, with an automatic dial-up button built in. This means that, when you spot an item you wish to enquire about, you need hit only one button to dial the seller's number, rather than typing in the entire number (with the resultant possibility of errors).

The app also makes it easier for us to communicate with readers, for example in sending out notifications when

the magazine has been published and also for releasing critical news into the market.

To install the app on your phone, go to the Google Playstore.

Downloading and usage of the app is free of charge.

The launch of our app is just one of a number of enhancements carried out on the sasfox site in the past month. In addition we have revamped, and are adding to, our sections on farmers markets and auctions country-wide.

And, of course, the number of classified advertisements being posted to the site is growing daily, with interest being generated countrywide.

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SA's food crisis in summary

To anybody who has been following our series of articles over the past five months under the #SAFoodCrisis hashtag it should be obvious that South Africa is sitting with an unregulated, unjust train-smash food industry which could very well result in destructive rioting if not dealt with. On the other hand, it should also have become apparent to readers that the issues and problems embodied in the food crisis are so great and diverse that no single politician is likely to want to tackle them, beyond issuing reassuring statements about "taking steps to ensure food security," etc.

For those readers, therefore, who may have missed parts of our series here, "samevat-tend", (as Riaan Cruywagen used to say) is the crisis

South Africa is sitting with an unregulated, unjust train-smash food industry which could very well result in destructive rioting if not dealt with. Do our politicians have the stomach for dealing with the crisis?

outlined.

Starting with the production side it is clear from figures available that the commercial farming sector is in decline, at least so far as farmer numbers are concerned. A number of factors are driving farmers off the land, including crime, drought, insecurity of tenure in the face of possible land claims and, most of all, low prices paid for their produce. The decline in commercial farmer numbers is a real threat to national food security ~ the ongoing ability of the country to feed its citizens, and already shortages and price spikes are being experienced in certain

commodities, for example, butter shortages.

Meanwhile, however, government is starting to introduce the concept of smallholder farming, settling previously disadvantaged families on small parcels of land in the hope that they will become productive farmers and contribute, if not to national food security, then at least to family and regional food security, through the production and sale of small quantities of a wide variety of commodities and livestock. Because the agricultural industry is no longer regulated by control boards, subsidies or price control mechanisms,

corporates in the food production, distribution and retailing chain have conspired to maximise their profits by pushing off-farm prices down at the production end while pushing consumer prices as high as possible at the consumption end.

The food industry is also adept at promoting "value-added" prepared foods under the guise of convenience ~ foods that may be laden with unhealthy quantities of undesirable ingredients such as trans fat, salt and sugar. While some markets have programmes to encourage small traders and hawkers, the municipal/commercial market system is designed to benefit buyers by driving prices as low as possible, even to the extent of unprofitability for the producer/farmer.

Continued on page 11

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#SAFoodCrisis

A majority of vulnerable South Africans can't afford a diet that guarantees sufficient nutrition

From page 9

Smallholder farmers who wish to make a profit from their efforts, therefore, should avoid selling through the market system at all costs. Rather, they should seek out niche markets close to their land, by supplying schools, restaurants, shops or hotels in their area directly, or by growing specialist commodities for carefully defined groups, such as growing for the organic market or for those with special dietary needs, foreigners seeking a taste of home or for export.

As far as consumers are concerned, high food prices make it impossible for families at the lower end of the income scale to feed themselves a nutritious diet, and doubly impossible for families that are unemployed to do so. And with upwards of 28% of the working population currently unemployed this amounts to a large number of South Africa's most vulnerable who do not enjoy a nutritious diet.

Even if the government were to introduce its much vaunted national minimum wage it will be impossible for families at this level of wage to enjoy a nutritious diet at current food price levels.

Similarly, families that have to rely on the social grant system, either as adults or as recipients of a child grant, are unable to enjoy a sufficiently nutritious diet at current food price levels.

In reality this means that somewhere approaching half of the South African population does not enjoy a diet sufficiently rich in protein, minerals and vitamins to ensure them optimal health.

The result of a sustained poor

diet manifests itself in ways that have a number of impacts on areas such as education and public health.

A poor diet among children, for example, leads to stunting, ie poor bone mass development, among other health outcomes, as well as impaired education outcomes simply because a child who is constantly hungry is unable to concentrate for long periods in the classroom.

Stunting in childhood, and continued poor nutrition in adulthood leads to a number of key lifestyle diseases such as obesity, diabetes and heart conditions, which in turn have implication for the public health sector and the workforce.

The living arrangements and lifestyle of urban South Africans mean that very few families grow their own fruit and vegetables, and calls for individuals to turn available land into productive food gardens are futile and condescending. The working day for most township dwellers, with its long commuting times starts way too early and ends far too late to allow such individuals time to garden. Also space limitations, lack of water and theft militate against such activities.

Attempts by government departments, NGOs and municipalities to develop and encourage township food gardens often fail after a season or two through a lack of on-going support and dwindling interest among the participants. The lack of enthusiasm for such projects is often exacerbated by the top-down approach adopted by the organisers which is seen as

Continued on page 12

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SMART SMALLHOLDERS

From retirement project to leading cheesery

Finding themselves with time on their hands at retirement, Norman and Rina Belcher founded The Belnori Boutique Cheesery ~ now 15 years old ~ which has grown to become one of the top cheeseries in South Africa. The Belchers' success on their 15 acre smallholding in Nest Park, lies in Swiss Saanen goats and a lot of hard work. Upon his retirement, Norman Belcher looked to start a project on their property and

Ouklip underlay drove Norman Belcher to choose livestock over crops on his Bapsfontein retirement plot ~ today he milks 230 goats daily

very quickly decided that the oukclip bedrock upon which the property was situated meant only livestock production would be suitable. Soon after, Norman went on a short course in nearby Springs learning animal husbandry and how to make feta

cheese. In the meantime, his wife Rina continued working fulltime in the financial services industry.

The Belchers began with four goats. They hand-milked the mothers and bottle fed the kids. Today, they milk 230 goats twice a day and employ

13 staff.

Their goats are the popular Swiss Saanen breed. Because of the prevalence of this breed in South Africa, it is easier for small-scale farmers like the Belchers to ensure a pure bloodline. The goats breed seasonally with all of the females being covered by April at the latest. After a five-month gestation, birthing season begins around August,

Continued on page 15

#SAFoodCrisis

From page 11

as patronising and condescending by the participants. For middle-class South Africans modern townhouse and security clusters also don't lend themselves to vegetable and food production.

Rural South Africans, also,

face challenges in home food production.

In many rural areas it is the elderly who are left at home tending the grandchildren while the productive generation is away in the cities and such elderly often lack the strength and vigour for the rigours of gardening

on a productive scale.

❑ If you want a fuller exposition of the crisis in the South African food sector, read Dr Tracy Ledger's 2016-published work entitled *An Empty Plate*, published by Jacana and available at bookstores and online.



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SMART SMALLHOLDERS

From page 12

with the last few kids being born up to November. Once the baby is born, it is left with its mother for around three days to ensure it receives adequate colostrum. On day four, the baby is separated and the mother heads into the milking shed for the first time. For the next nine months the goat is milked twice a day.

In 2016, Belnori purchased its first automatic feeding system. This freed up a lot of labour



Belnori's Saanen goats on the farm. It also proved invaluable in that the kids were ready for breeding a

whole 2 months sooner than when they had been hand-fed. The system was custom-built for Belnori and involves a series of milking teats fitted into the wall of the kids' paddock. Behind the wall is a tank and pump system that

feeds the teats as the animals suckle. The system also regulates the temperature of the milk.

The animals are weaned off milk when they reach around 19 – 20kgs and are covered by rams at around 35kgs. Rina and Norman strongly believe that the best quality product will only exist if it comes from the best quality animal. Because of this, the milkers at Belnori receive eragrostis throughout the day as well as 2,5kg of concentrate per animal. They are cleaned and their paddocks sterilised once a week. The

Continued on page 17



Norman Belcher checks a vat of milk

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SMART SMALLHOLDERS

From page 15

Belchers believe that it is this care and focus on cleanliness that has allowed them to remove the typical "gamey" smell and taste from their cheese.

In the milking shed, the attention to detail continues. Each goat has a strip cup test performed at each milking session to check for blood or lumps. If these are present, the animal can be treated quickly and effectively for its ailment ~ most commonly mastitis. Animals that require treatment are given special care and sometimes isolated from the herd to prevent further stress.

"A lot of this process is about getting to know the animals", says Norman. He is always concerned over the condition of his animals. He receives a visit from the state vet once a year when his animals are individually tested for brucellosis, and every two years for tuberculosis. "The spread of brucellosis in Gauteng has reached crisis point," says Norman. He worries that consumers are not aware of how bad the spread of the disease has become. As a result, he is proud to hold a clean bill of health for all his animals. His current concern is the slow recovery of his older ewes after birth. He says he is never satisfied that they are in good enough condition. Belnori ~ like many small businesses ~ faces the challenge of being much smaller than the major dairy and cheese producers in the country. Because of their size, they do not have dedicated specialists on their staff. Norman works with nutritionists and other experts periodically to find solutions but both Rina and Norman have had to do a lot of learning themselves. All of the milk produced at Belnori is pasteurised. This is done as an added measure of protection for the

consumer. Beyond that however, the milk is not treated in any way. There are no additives or preservatives in the products.

Rina runs the cheesery. She loves the combination of creativity and science that goes into making cheese. Their cheesery is an impressive series of rooms, beginning with three large temperature regulated tanks that hold the milk fresh from the goats. Next, the milk is

moved into the pasteuriser. Rina says "I never thought I could love a piece of machinery as much as I love this machine. It revolutionised our lives." Before this machine was custom-made for Belnori, the pasteurising process would take up to five hours. Now it takes an hour. The machine had to be adjusted to suit goats' milk ~ with equipment in South Africa being made predominantly for cow's milk. Goats'

milk is pasteurised at 68°C for 30 seconds.

The Belchers point out that all their equipment has been paid for cash, rather than on finance.

When making Chèvre, the curd is loaded into home-made cloth bags. Rina herself makes the bags out of dress lining. She says it saves them money and is far more hygienic than cheese cloth which holds bacteria in its

Continued on page 19

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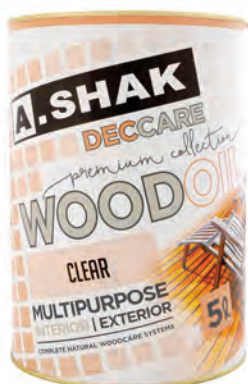
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SMART SMALLHOLDERS

From page 17

its fibres.

Rina and Norman believe that the key to their cheese is a wide range of products in small quantities. This has allowed them to meet the tastes of a broader range of buyers while maintaining an excellent quality product. Their first product was a gouda-style cheese, the Tanglewood. It has a strong flavour and the Belchers soon found the palette of a lot of Gautengers lent itself to a milder cheese, so they developed the Highvelder Classic. Other popular products include the Snowdrop, a camembert style cheese and the Forest Phantom, a charcoal encased log cheese. Their cream-cheese style Chevre continues to be a popular product among their loyal customers. Belnori produces more than a ton of cheese a month. The cheesery has a team of

four women who help produce, clean, cut, pack and label the cheese. These women have developed a love for cheese-making and Rina says this is one of the things she's most proud of. "It's not a certificate I can hang on the wall but when I see one of them take the care that they do in their work, it fills my heart with pride." While Belnori is predominantly a goats' milk cheesery, they do also use small quantities of cows' milk sourced locally from small

farmers. This is particularly helpful in the winter months when their goats are not producing milk. They also freeze large quantities of goats' milk curd to carry them through the down season. It's not all work and no play at Belnori. Rina is particularly fond of their small flock of sheep. Sheep milk cheese-making is not viable economically but Rina does enjoy the variety it offers her in her cheese-making. Their attention to detail carries through even to this small

pet-project. Their sheep milk cheese, Benedictus, was awarded a super-gold medal at last years' International Cheese Awards held in Spain and was ranked the best cheese in South Africa for 2016. Add this to being named Farmer of the Year in Gauteng by the Agricultural Writer's Guild and 2016 was a great year for the Belchers. One of the many things Rina and Norman both love about

Continued on page 21



Rina Belcher with the finished product

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SMART SMALLHOLDERS

From page 19

business is that it is constantly changing. There is always something new to learn, a new element to consider, a new challenge to overcome. Because both the goats and the cheese cultures are live organisms, the number of things to consider on a daily basis is vast and ever-changing. It keeps them both busy but with enough time to appreciate the joy of what they have created. Their children and grandchildren are all big fans of the cheeses. Rina and Norman themselves eat goats cheese every day. "I go into minor withdrawal if I don't have any," says Rina. It was not all easy. Rina and Norman both point out the lack of understanding around goats' milk in South Africa. Their early years were marred by issues owing to the fact that all information they had been given was relevant only to cows' milk. They learned by trial and error and are hoping to pass this knowledge on to help new farmers avoid these problems. Rina is a member of the Milk Producers Organisation of Gauteng. She is also a founding member of the Southern African Goat-Sheep Milk Processors Organisation and the Small Stock Dairy Association. Through this platform the Belchers are looking at ways to elevate the status of small-stock dairy farming in South Africa. Norman says the worldwide consumption of small stock dairy milk represents about 65% of all milk consumed – despite the small usage in South Africa. The Belchers are trying to change that. They already have a large client-base of gourmet restaurants, hotels and other hospitality industry members. Their weekly stall at the Hazel Food Market in Pretoria is always busy. Steadily, their wide range of excellent quality products is winning over fans across the country.

Despite the already large success of the business, Rina and Norman have big plans for the future. In the next 18 months they hope to open a small coffee shop on their property that will encourage visitors to spend some time on the property, and relax with a glass of wine or a coffee and some cheese. They are also hoping to move into the meat industry with high-end lamb, mutton and goat products. They are looking at ways of

combining their already hugely successful annual dairy day with a bigger livestock show. They also want to focus on the transferral of skills to young emerging farmers. The Belnori Boutique Cheesery is testament to the fact that smallholdings in Gauteng can be profitable. Through trial and error, and with an open-mind the Belchers have created a sustainable and successful business. For more information: Belnori

Boutique Cheesery, tel 082 377-5698, email rina@belnori.com

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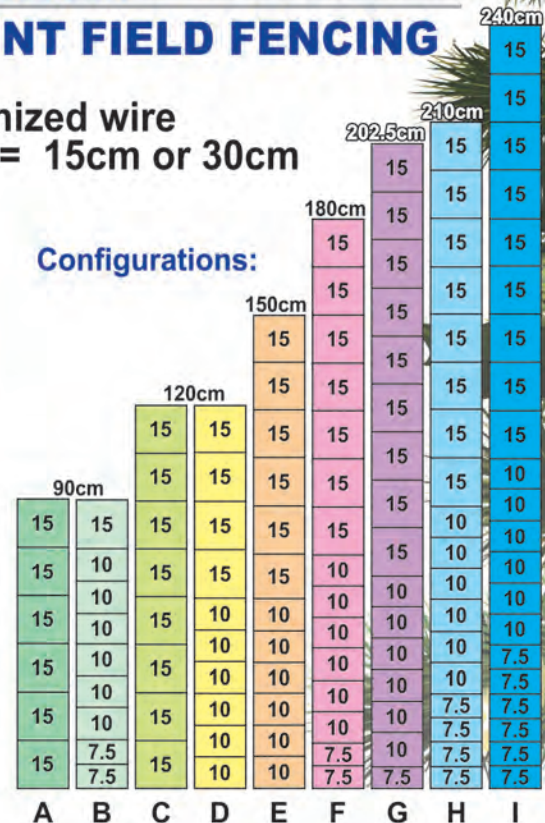
Manufactured from lightly galvanized wire

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CHART REF	ROLL WIDTH (in cm)	NUMBER OF HORIZONTAL STRANDS
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B	90	10
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D	120	11
E	150	13
F	180	16
G	202.5	17
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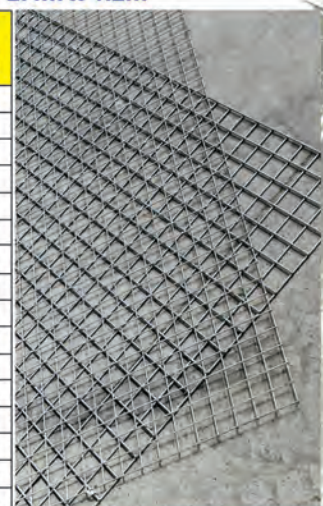
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	4
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that the resultant product is free of additives, chemicals and residual antibiotics and growth hormones. But, smallholders are often thwarted by being unable to source basic dairy-making supplies such as cultures, rennet and cheese moulds. Addressing this issue is Bianka Dairy Supplies of Irene, a

home-run business established to supply small producers countrywide, either as walk-ins or by mail or courier.

Owner Bianka Wasley supplies a full spectrum of cultures and flavourings for dairy products including set and drinking yoghurt and cheeses, as well as supplies for baking, peanut butter and sauces. In addition she stocks related items such as thermometers, cheesecloth, rennets and emulsifiers, but draws the line at stocking equipment such as mixers, heaters etc, preferring to refer customers to other suppliers. And, for beginners she has a selection of easy-to-follow recipes and instructions for yoghurt making and cheeses such as cottage cheese and feta.

Wasley works closely with

Barbie Pretorius of the Grootplaas Cheese Academy to offer advice and troubleshooting to artisanal cheesemakers.

Products and supplies are despatched throughout the country by Speedpost, Postnet or courier, depending on the destination and nature of the parcel.

For more information: Bianka Dairy Supplies, tel 083 679-7060 or email bwasley@telkomsa.net



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POULTRY

A friendly, docile hybrid layer

Steady and reliable is the way poultry owners describe Amberlink chickens. Adaptable is another important trait, so a smallholder who wants to set up a small flock of chickens should consider this breed. The Amberlink is a hybrid that is a good egg producer. (A hybrid chicken is created by crossing two or more different pure breeds and sometimes crossing further after this. There are hybrid crosses that produce table birds and hybrid crosses that

Amberlinks are a good choice for a plot chicken flock

produce hens for laying. Hybridisation developed in the 1950s.) Sometimes they are called Amber Star or Amber White chickens. The hens are white birds with brown flecking, while the males tend more to beige and brown colouring. The males reach a mature weight of about 2,5 to 2,7 kg and the females mature at about 2 kg.

These weights make the bird flexible enough to thrive in confined or free range environments. While they do well in confined spaces, they do equally well at foraging even from a young age, happily scratching for their food. They are active chickens. If you get them as young chickens, it is best to allow them to adjust to their new coop and learn how to roost properly. Once they have adjusted to their new home, they will come back to the coop by themselves in the evenings instead of trying to roost in the trees. They are hardy birds and are capable of flourishing in most climatic conditions.

The breed is docile, curious and friendly, with individual birds having distinct personalities. They are easy to handle and generally good with children. They welcome any form of attention, especially when food is involved. Their docile temperament allows them to get along with other heavy breeds. Their fans will tell you that the best quality of the Amberlink is the egg production. The hens start laying around five months of age, and can lay up to 320 eggs in their first year. After their first year of laying, hens slow down in production. The eggs are large to extra large and brown. The incidence of double yolks is quite high. For more information on the breed call Farm Fresh Eggs on 082 903 6595.



Amberlinks are a hybrid breed

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ALIEN SPECIES

What happens to all that alien wood?

The Smallholder frequently highlights problems caused by alien vegetation, but the Dept of Environmental Affairs (DEA), in partnership with Working for Water and the Dept of Basic Education, has implemented a programme which puts cleared invasive trees to good use.

The Eco-Furniture programme was established in 2012 with the intention to make optimal use of the biomass cleared through the Working for Water programme, as well as creating work opportunities, to make products that will assist the government to meet its needs.

The programme also involves the SA National Parks Agency (SANParks).

It was proposed that 18 factories be established throughout the whole country. So far, six have been built, including two in Gauteng, in Heidelberg and Ga-Rankuwa.

The six factories in total have created 1 120 job opportunities and various skills development interventions. Skills training provided for factory employees includes carpentry, chainsaw training, machine maintenance, tree felling and first aid.

Invasive species such as Poplar, Eucalyptus, Pine and a small amount of Blackwood

are harvested, initially in locations near established factories. The trees are harvested on municipal and private land.

Each factory comprises a wet mill, dry mill, value-added workshop and a storage facility.

The current production focus to date has been an order for primary and secondary school desks

for the Dept of Basic Education.

Production starts with the initial clearing and timber harvesting. Teams comprising four to eight people employ

conventional or low-level mechanised harvesting techniques that mainly

Continued on page 29



Chainsaw skills are among the benefits.

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

Block Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
6.4mm x 6.4mm	0.7mm	✓	✓	-----
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	-----	✓	✓
50m x 100mm	2.0mm	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 100mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓
100mm x 100mm	2.0mm	-----	✓	✓
100mm x 100mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓

Hexagonal Mesh (Oogies draad) 50m rolls/p/m

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

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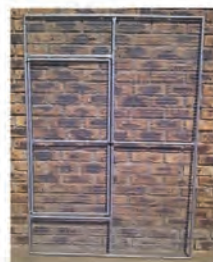
7.5cm
9.5cm
12.5cm
15.0cm



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to have the swarm removed. "Why," they ask, "should we pay such money when the bee remover will be able to make money from the honey and wax that the swarm will produce?"

The answer, quite simply, is that the sometimes simple act

Continued on page 31

ALIEN SPECIES

From page 27

include felling and tree processing through the use of chainsaws.

The timber is then processed through the wet mill, where the logs are planked, before being placed in kilns to dry, and then to the dry mill, where the planks are processed.

The factory utilises the processed planks to make the four wooden components of the desks ~ the seat, back, front and the top. These components are processed, spray-painted and wrapped, ready for sending out. The steel frames are sent separately by the suppliers, and the desks are assembled at the schools.

Each factory currently produces 200 school desks per day, as well as some additional value added products. The intention is to increase the desk production to 400 per day.

The programme further aims to explore the range of products needed for institutions such as hospitals, clinics, community centres and other

government service centres. Other types of products the programme produces include coffins, fencing, benches,

office furniture, tables and chairs, chess pieces and chess tables, walking sticks, key holders and photo frames.



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From page 29

of smoking the bees out and catching them and the queen in a suitable container for rehoming is only a small part of the overall operation of rehoming a swarm.

Once the swarm has been caught, there is also the matter of removing as much of whatever comb and honey the bees may have already accumulated. This is both to give the swarm something to get started with in its new home and also to remove the tempting smell of fresh honey and wax from the site, which will simply act to attract another itinerant swarm looking for a new home. When the remover leaves the capture, often late in the evening (night-time being a better time to work with bees as they are calmer, and usually all "at home" rather than out foraging) the remover must drive them to his chosen rehoming site. This is likely not to be close to

the capture premises, but in one of his chosen sites, usually in a bluegum or similar plantation, some distance from habitation. Next, the remover needs to have ready the major expense of rehoming a swarm, namely an empty, fully-equipped hive. At its most basic it will comprise a brood box with ten brood frames, each frame fitted with a wax foundation strip. Atop the box goes an inner lid, over which is fitted an aluminium-covered telescopic lid to form a good seal around the top of the brood chamber.

Depending on the size of the captured swarm the remover may also add a super, fitted with ten shallow frames, each in turn fitted with a foundation sheet. And, depending on his style of beekeeping, he will place a queen excluder between the brood chamber and the super. Certainly, as the swarm settles into its new

home and begins to grow he will want to add one, or maybe more supers. And this is where the major expense comes in. A fully-kitted out hive comprising a brood box and super, with all its frames fitted with foundation sheet, and a queen excluder added, costs upwards of R600 new, and one is required for each swarm caught. Of course, a bee remover who has a number of hives will doubtless have a few spare for the purpose, which contained swarms that have died off or absconded, or hives that have recently been refurbished and refitted but the point remains that there is considerable expense ~ and work ~ involved in removing and rehoming bees.

Other expenses involved including the acquisition and upkeep of the beekeeper's protective gear, smoker etc, and that of any assistant he may employ, as well as

payment of insurance premiums to cover his operation for damage and third party claims incurred in the removal process. If you would like to know more about beekeeping in Gauteng and surrounds there are three associations which welcome new members, and which hold regular meetings and beekeeping courses, namely the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association, Southern Beekeepers Association and Northern Beekeepers Association.



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A bug that feeds on the bad bugs

Smallholders tend to fret about insects that threaten their crops, livestock, pets, gardens or humans. However, there are insects which we should befriend, because they prey on other insects that are pests.



Lacewing

Lacewings are just such a family of predators and the Yellow, Green and Brown lacewings are most common in Gauteng.

The green lacewing, sometimes known as the golden-eyed lacewing, has long delicate antennae, a slender greenish body, golden- or copper-coloured eyes, and two pairs of similar veined wings. It is worldwide in distribution and flies near grasses and shrubs. Adults have elongated bodies reminiscent of dragonflies,

but they have four wings which each have many veins, which give them the netlike or "lace" appearance.

Larvae have different body shapes and are similar in appearance to ladybug larvae but have very large mandibles. Several families are found within the order, but most of the pest controllers are located within the *Chrysopidae* family.

Green lacewings have a 3 cm body and their wings have no markings.

Ceratochrysa antica are yellow and slightly larger than the green lacewing. Their wings also have no markings. *Chrysomela jeanneli* are smaller than the green lacewings with grey bodies and grey wings. They have a distinctive black spot on the mid hind margin of their

wings, which meet up when their wings are at rest.

Lacewings lay their pale green oblong eggs on the tips of threadlike stalks attached to plants. The immature lacewings hatch within a few days.

Lacewing larvae are reddish cream in colour and are tapered in shape. They have distinct legs, and have prominent mouth parts used

Continued on page 35

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IN THE GARDEN

How to manage your tomato plants

Tomatoes originated in the Andes, in what is now called Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador ~ where they grew wild. They were first cultivated by the Aztecs and Incas as early as 700 AD. The Aztec word for

tomato is "xitomatli," which means "plump fruit with a navel."

Sometimes the tomato plants in our gardens get so large and so unwieldy that we begin to wonder if we should prune them.

Some people firmly believe that pruning tomato suckers improves the production and health of a plant. Others claim that pruning tomato suckers damages the plant unnecessarily, opens the plant to disease and does nothing

to help the plant.

So the choice is yours. However, you should only prune indeterminate varieties, which produce new leaves and flowers continuously through the growing season. Indeterminate plants need extra-tall supports of at least 1,5 m. Because indeterminate varieties throw out so many shoots, gardeners often prune them for optimum-sized fruit or train them on a very tall trellis.

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to consume their prey.

After about two weeks of continuous feeding, the larva spins a silken, pearl-sized cocoon on the underside of a leaf and remains in the pupal case for approximately two weeks before emerging as an adult.

Some of the adults of this family of insects live on nectar or pollen and it is the larvae that are voracious hunters. As with many other pest predators, they will be

attracted to areas with lots of prey species. They will feed on aphids and other soft-bodied insects such as mites, scale, leafhoppers, thrips and mealy bugs, as well as spider larvae, insect eggs and caterpillars.

The larvae are voracious, attacking other insects of suitable size, especially soft-bodied ones, other insect larvae and insect eggs. When they touch a potential prey object, the larvae grasp it. Their upper jaws are hollow and inject a digestive

INSECTS

secretion into the prey. The organs of an aphid can be dissolved by this in 90 seconds.

Some lacewing larvae hold debris (including the bodies of their victims) on their backs with hooks or bristles. This camouflage allows the lacewing larva to surprise its victims and also protects it from enemies.

Thus lacewings play an important role in maintaining the balance of bio-diversity on our plots.



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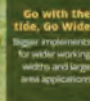
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IN THE GARDEN

From page 35

Determinate varieties (including bush varieties) reach a certain plant height and then stop growing. The majority of their fruit matures within a month or two and appears at the ends of the branches.

Here are some reasons to prune tomatoes:



Removing a sucker

- ☐ Maximizing photosynthesis. Leaves need to receive light in order to make sugars for growth and fruit set.
- ☐ Improving airflow and decreasing disease. With fewer leaves, pruned plants are less dense, allowing more air to move through the plants. The leaves dry faster after a rain, so they are less susceptible to the diseases that need prolonged moisture to develop.
- ☐ Bigger fruit. Pruning at the right time directs energy toward creating and ripening fruit instead of making more leaves.
- ☐ Earlier ripening. When a plant's leaves and physiology have fewer fruit to take care of, that fruit ripens faster.
- ☐ Better tasting tomatoes. All those plant sugars being channelled into the fruit often means better flavour as well.

It is best to prune when the plants are about half a metre tall. By the time your tomato plant gets to this size, it will have branches coming off the main stem.

Where these branches meet, you will see an additional branch growing. This is called a tomato sucker.

Try to remove suckers when they're small enough to pinch with your fingers, so you don't

leave a gaping wound on the stem. If you prefer, you can use a sharp, clean pair of secateurs to snip these small sucker branches off.

The best time to prune tomato plants is in the early morning on a dry day. This will allow for the wounds from the pruning to heal cleanly and will reduce the chances of the plant being infected by disease.

If you choose to prune tomato plants, make sure that you use watering methods that water the tomato plants at the soil level (such as soaker hoses) rather

than from above (such as sprinklers). This will prevent the splashing of soil up on to the tomato plant and the tomato plant's wounds.

As the growing season draws to a close, tomato plants are often still loaded with fruit. To speed ripening late in the season, remove the growing tip of each main stem about four weeks before the first expected frost. Called "topping," this type of pruning causes the plant to stop flowering and setting new fruit, and instead directs all sugars to the remaining fruit.

This way, the fruit will ripen faster, plus it becomes more likely that the green tomatoes that you pick before the frost will actually ripen when you bring them indoors.



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It may spend a couple of days a year cutting grass, another day or so raking, and baling, a further day or so carting bales from the field to the

barn, and in spring, a few days ploughing and preparing for planting, with a bit of cultivation thrown in in summer.

Finally, it might help with chipping scrub for mulch, mixing concrete for building work and carting manure, feed, firewood and building material about.

Of the 365 days of the year, in reality, how many days' work is this? Not many, and hardly enough to warrant the purchase of a new tractor, or even heavy expenditure on a working used machine.

But if you don't own a tractor,



Before and after pictures of a John Deere 820

how are you going to accomplish even those few tasks each year?

Here's an idea: If you're in any way mechanically inclined why not buy an older ~ even a vintage ~ machine in working or not working order and do it up? If you're lucky and choose the right hulk to begin with the cost of

repairs and refurbishment will not be huge, and in any case will be spread over some months (or even years...) so will ease the pain in your pocket.

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Some professional tractor mechanics even make specialisation in one brand a workable business. Johan Boucher of Tractor Mech in Pretoria North, for example, specialises in the restoration and repair of Ferguson

Continued on page 39

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TRACTORS

From page 39

tractors, specifically Vaaljapies. Business is never slack at present, he says, because farmers in the 40s and 50s bring him a continual stream of their parents' old machines, tucked away under some afdak for decades, for refurbishment, often as tractors on which their children can learn to drive (letting a kid loose on a modern million rand four-wheel-drive John Deere or Massey-Ferguson is not necessarily a good idea, they realise). Here are some pointers when seeking to buy a tractor for home restoration.

□ You will need a closed, lock-up space, about the size of a double garage at least, in which to park the machine, strip it, refurbish it and rebuild it. It needs to be secure and dry because you will be leaving parts lying about, not to mention tools, while you work on it, which you will find yourself doing in your space time, over weekends, etc, and as parts and spares become available to you.

Some kind of hoist, for handling heavy loads such as the engine block, wheels etc, will be most welcome.

□ Because you are going to be using your tractor on a smallholding, choose a smallish tractor rather than a giant, and look for one in the best possible nick to start with, preferably with all its parts intact, even if they're not working. Choose a tractor with rear hydraulics, rather than an old implement dragger. Effectively this means you should confine your search to machines built since the 1950s.

In South Africa some makes were more popular than others, making spares more readily available. Also, in some makes there is commonality of parts across



Try to prevent your workshop floor from becoming a jumble of parts and tools.

models and years. For example, the back end of the Massey Ferguson 35 tractor is pretty much the same as its forerunner, the Ferguson TE series, so many modern parts can be used on the older machines as replacements. And, considering you are looking to build up a working tractor rather than a show-piece, going for a make that is common makes more sense than going for the rarity value of some obscure marque which only ever sold a few hundred machines in the country.

□ If you've only ever worked on cars or motorbikes, rather choose a petrol-powered tractor to restore. Tolerances in diesel engines are much finer and may test your amateur mechanical abilities.

□ If you choose an English or American make to rebuild you will need to procure a set of imperial tools.

□ Bolts and nuts on old tractors will often have frozen in place through rust, so a plentiful supply of Q20 penetrating lubricant will be handy, and you will soon learn techniques such as loosening recalcitrant nuts by heating with a blowtorch.

□ Before you start pulling the machine to pieces, try to procure a parts list and service manual. The internet is a good place to search for such documents. At least that will tell you what goes where when you try to reassemble it. You will also find it useful in giving tolerances, clear-

Continued on page 41

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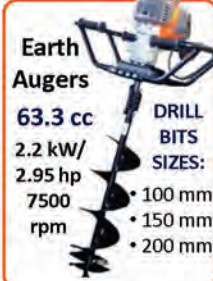
- **51.2 cc** 2.4 kW/2800 rpm
Bar Length: 510 mm (20")
- **72.2 cc** 3.9 kW
Bar Length: 610 mm (24")



Earth Augers

63.3 cc
2.2 kW/
2.95 hp
7500 rpm

DRILL BITS
SIZES:
• 100 mm
• 150 mm
• 200 mm



Brush Cutters

- **32.7 cc Straight Shaft**
1.00 kW/1.33 hp/7500 rpm
- **42.7 cc Straight Shaft**
1.035 kW/1.8 hp/7500 rpm
- **51.7 cc Straight Shaft**
1.50 kW/2.00 hp/6500 rpm



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Shredder

163 cc
Power Pro
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Engine,
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Wood, Leaves, etc

Floor Sweeper

- Operational Width: 80 cm
- 2 Side Rotary Brushes
- Container Capacity: 40 L



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Horizontal Diesel Engines



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16 Liter



Clearing Saw

2.4 kW
2.95 hp
7500 rpm

- 10 mm Heavy Duty Shaft
- Heavy Duty Gearbox



Push Brush Cutter

42.7 cc
1.35 kW 1.8 hp
7000 rpm



Hand Held Blowers

25.4 cc
0.95 kW/1.3 hp/7500 rpm
Air Distance: 9 m
Ear Noise: 96 Db

Optional:
Vacuum Bag



Water Pumps

1" - 25 mm

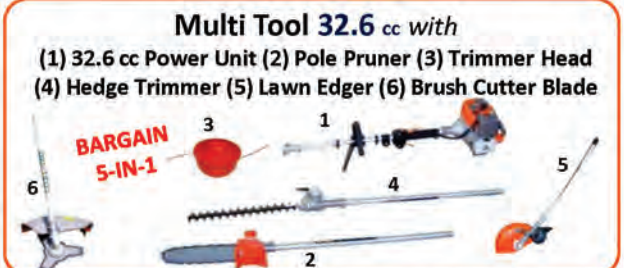
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(4) Hedge Trimmer (5) Lawn Edger (6) Brush Cutter Blade

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Drill Diameter:
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Two-stage speed
Reduction



Backpack Blowers

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- **63.3 cc** 2.6 kW/3.5 hp
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Water Pumps

163 cc
2" - 50 mm
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Pole Pruner, 25.4 cc

2.5 - 4 m Shaft Extension
12" Guide Bar
0.85 kW/7500 rpm

Hedge Trimmer, 25.4 cc

0.75/1 hp/7500
Bar Length: 600 mm
Dual Sided Scissors



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Chemical
Tank
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20 Liter
Chemical
Tank



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	012 653 7987	Sasolburg	016 976 7777
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Klerksdorp	018 462 1612	Witbank	013 692 7400
Meyerton	087 310 2670		

Also Available from selected OBARO Co-ops Countrywide



TRACTORS

From page 39

ances for valves etc, and torques for bolts.

❑ If you can, work component by component rather than disassembling everything, because bolts etc very quickly become confusingly mixed. If your tractor restoration is a thorough job and you must pull it to pieces completely, store each separate component (eg, generator, starter motor, water pump etc) in its own box, along with the nuts and bolts used to fasten it to the tractor.

❑ Join, or at least make yourself familiar with, the tractor clubs in your area, the members of which will be a valuable source of advice, second-hand parts etc.

❑ Never remove the tractor's identification plate with its serial number, and if you sense that it is coming loose, rivet it firmly back into place. This adds value to the machine when you come to sell it, and will enable you to correctly identify the build-year, model etc.

❑ Decide beforehand whether you wish to do an authentic and faithful

restoration, or merely wish to build up a working tractor. This is important because there are certain components which are simply and easily replaced by more efficient modern equivalents. For example, older Vaaljapies ran on 6V electrical circuits, with the battery charged by a generator. Because these systems were unreliable, and because 6V parts are hard to come by, most old tractors have been converted during their lifetimes to 12V, and many have had their generators replaced by more efficient modern alternators. While this makes them more reliable and easier to work on, purists would argue that the value as an authentic restoration tractor has been compromised as a result.

❑ When it comes to repainting, resist the temptation to paint it in some outlandish colour "for fun". This will greatly reduce its value when you come to sell it. And, when painting, strip the metal as bare as possible and give it a full coating of everything necessary: primer, two or three top coats etc, rather than doing a half-hearted job which will just need to be redone in a few years' time.

❑ When sourcing parts, you will soon learn that the current dealer agents do not often have a stock of parts for such old machines. You will need to source your parts from contacts country-

wide, who may have, for example, stripped down machines of the same model for just such an eventuality. A good network of contacts is vital, and patience on the telephone a must.

Finally, document everything you do with photographs. In years to come you will look back fondly and reminisce about the trials and tribulations of restoring an old machine, secure in the knowledge that outside,

waiting to work for you, is a proud piece of agricultural heritage.



If the label with the serial number is loose, reaffix it firmly. It adds value to the tractor.

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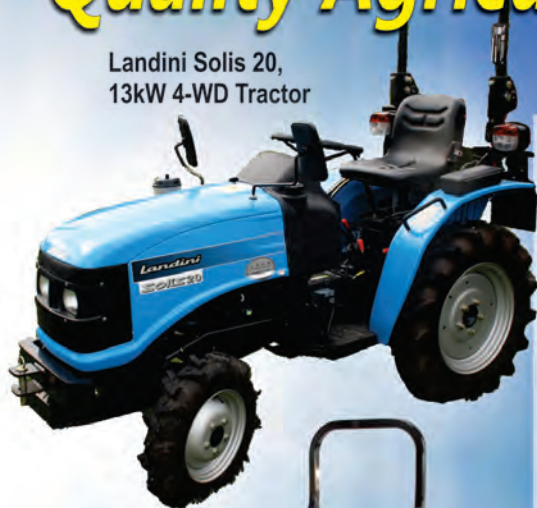
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How they restore oldies overseas

Restoring old tractors is big business in the UK, Europe and North America, with active networks of vintage and veteran owners swapping and trading parts, advice, service manuals and tips, and modern manufacturers even turning out hard-to-come-by parts using old jigs. Not that the restored machines get to do much work, mind you, because after all the toil and sweat they're far too precious to actually dirty their wheels. Rather, they're used for weekend "road runs" in

convoy around the countryside, or simply for show. And many are not owned or operated by farmers, but are lovingly restored in suburban garages by enthusiasts who may have themselves grown up in the country, or who have simply come to love the old machines.

So how does a restoration project in the UK (for example) often start? First prize is a "barn find", a tractor that has been pushed into the corner of some farmer's barn and over the years become covered with

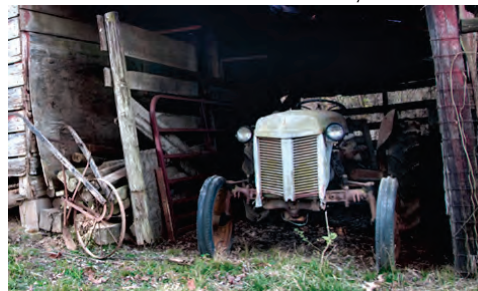
hay and dust. Rats will probably have eaten all the wiring and hoses but in other respects the finder hopes that the machine has been preserved from the worst of the English weather.

Top prize on a barn find is that the tractor has its identification plate still attached, with its serial number, which gives the new owner the ability to trace its build year and licensing details. And ultimate top prize is if the seller still has a drawer full of old papers pertaining to the machine,

the original purchase invoice, service history, owner's manual etc.

Next best is a "hedgerow find" where the tractor has been pushed, often not working any more, into a

Continued on page 44



What they look for to restore in the UK:
Left - a "barn find"
Right - a "hedgerow find."



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(address will be given on booking)
Cost: R100 pp
Light refreshments after the ceremony
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TRACTORS

From page 43

corner of a field, there to quickly become overgrown with brambles and weeds, hence appearing to have become part of a hedge. Parting with a few hundred quid, the new owner will be allowed to extricate the machine from its dank and leafy grave, load it on to a trailer and cart it home, there to discover the full magnitude of the restoration task ahead. First off, the wet English

weather will probably have claimed the "tinwork" (bonnet and mudguards), which will need replacing. These are often available as newly manufactured items, or reasonable quality ones can be sourced from other restorers who may have bought tractors simply to strip for sought after parts. Any fluids remaining in the machine, such as sump oil and hydraulic fluid, will long have turned to sludge, so these cavities will need stripping off and cleaning out. The big question in any restoration, of course, is the condition of the engine, gearbox and hydraulics. Hopefully, the engine can be cranked by hand, showing that it is not seized. Either way, a true restorer will strip it and replace pistons, rings, bearings etc. And when all is cleaned, painting and rebuilding will be carried out.

True restorers will want to paint their tractors exactly as the manufacturers had them, even to the extent of using the original paint formulations. In any event, the paint jobs achieved with modern equipment and care often far surpass the sheen achieved on the originals. Next, the electricians, and here comes a decision: On older tractors (and cars) the electrical system was 6V. It was only in the 1950s that tractors (and cars) began commonly to use 12V electricians. To be true to the restoration, therefore, one must decide whether to remain with (or revert to) a 6V system, which is less reliable and for which parts are harder to come by, or to go with a more common and "modern" 12V system. Whichever way, one need not worry about the wiring looms. These are available for some makes in kit form, with

the wires already cut to length and fitted with the correct lugs and connectors. All one has to do, therefore, is fasten the loom to the tractor and plug the wiring in. After many months of work, and not a few skinned knuckles and sprained muscles from undoing frozen bolts and stripped nuts, the restorer's pride and joy will be complete and after a little running adjustment will be purring sweetly and ready for the road. But what is a tractor without an implement or two? If the intent is to use the tractor for road runs, the most popular item to hitch up behind is load box. In essence they acted as a wheel-less trailer and enabled the farmer to cart feed, soil, manure, fencing material etc about his farm. On a road run this enables the UK restorer to carry his lunch, drinks, rain gear, etc.



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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@diamondxranch.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

December

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: Full moon
16: Day of Reconciliation
16: Christmas 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
16-17: Rotary Christmas Market at the Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg. 1100 – 2100 both days. Live entertainment, Carols by Candlelight, kids' amusements, 93.9 East Rand Stereo broadcasting live. Also handmade crafts, antiques, bric-a-brac Christmas gifts and decorations. No flea-market stalls allowed. Book your stall at info@craftsinthepark.co.za or tel 072 713 3332

18: New moon
21: Solstice
24: Christmas Eve
25: Christmas Day
26: Day of Goodwill

2018

January

1: New Year's Day
2: Full Moon
17: New Moon
31: New Moon

February

15: New Moon

March

2: Full Moon
10-11: 56th Walkerville Agricultural Show, Walkerville Showgrounds.
17: New Moon
21: Human Rights Day
30: Good Friday
31: Full Moon

April

1: Easter Sunday
2: Family Day
16: New Moon

27: Freedom Day
30: Full Moon

May

1: Workers Day
15: New Moon
15-18: Nampo Harvest Day Show, Nampo Park, Bothaville
29: Full Moon

June

13: New Moon
16: Youth Day
28: Full Moon

July

13: New Moon
27: Full Moon

August

9: National Womens Day
11: New Moon
26: Full Moon



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You're invited

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21 December @ 18.00
Bredell, East Rand
(address will be given on booking)
Cost: R100 pp
Light refreshments after the ceremony
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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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Outwitting a wily worker

Living on a smallholding and employing rural workers often requires some unusual labour relations skills, combined on occasion with a little voodoo magic and some sleight of hand.

Once upon a time there was a lady smallholder and her family who kept a few chickens. Like so often happens, the little flock came to be treated as pets rather than livestock, and they in turn provided the family with a few eggs daily, rather than gracing the table as roast dinner.

It must be said that this took place at a time before the imposition of national minimum wages on farmworkers and other labour legislation aimed at bettering the financial lot of the rural work force. In fact it took place at a time when farm workers were paid pitifully and thus took every opportunity they could to keep themselves fed at their employers' expense. Thus it was that, one day at breakfast time, the smallholder's garden worker appeared at the kitchen door carrying a patently dead member of the flock.

"I found the chicken dead in the hen-house," he announced with a look of perfect innocence upon his face, presenting the lifeless corpse to the smallholder.

"That's puzzling," she exclaimed, "the chickens were all fine last evening when locked away."

And, taking the chicken from the worker she said, "Well, we'd better send this away to the vet so that he can examine it and tell us what killed it, so that we may prevent the spread of any disease to the others."

The garden worker, realising that he'd been blindsided by his employer, walked off muttering while the assembled family collapsed into fits of giggles.

"Can't you see, Ma," said the eldest, "that he wrung the chicken's neck because he wants to eat it, and he thought you'd give him the corpse!"

"No, no," said the mother, "he would never do that. It must have contracted some fatal disease," she insisted.

So, later that morning she carefully wrapped the chicken in newspaper and set off to the local vet to have a post-mortem examination performed.

"Leave it with us," said the vet, trying hard to stifle his laughter when the smallholder told her tale.

After a couple of days the smallholder phoned the vet to ask about the results of the post-mortem, to be told, "we could find no trace of parasites or disease, but we were able to conclude

that the cause of death of your chicken was in fact that its neck had been wrung."

When the smallholder reported this sad verdict to the family she was met with cries of "I told you so!"

And so the scoreboard read Smallholder 1, Worker 0.

But the saga had an unexpected benefit to this episode in that the periodic neck-wrangling of the family's chickens ceased forthwith as the worker came to realise that his daft employer would take the chicken from him and despatch it to the vet for an examination, rather than hand it back to be disposed of in whatever manner he chose.

This experience happened to a friend of ours.

But on our own plot we have sometimes had to resort to unusual measures when tackling staff relations.

In one instance we had to employ the services of a sangoma to quell the deranged ravings of the wife of one of our workers whose diet comprised nothing more than CocaCola and white bread, a diet that is nutritionally unsound.

On the appointed day the sangoma, whose day job was as a council meter reader, arrived in his smart khaki uniform. After the requisite payment had been made he quickly diagnosed the ailment and recommended a cure, which was that she be immersed into a bath of cold water to which he would add some black powder which, to the untrained western eye looked very much like coal dust.

Needless to say she did not take kindly to being immersed in a cold bath and her struggles to keep herself out of the water were not unlike the struggles of a cat at bathtime.

Eventually, her husband and the sangoma had her satisfactorily "dunked," whereupon she grabbed the sangoma firmly by the lapels and hauled him in to the water, too.

And so we were able to observe that a bath of cold water infused with coal dust does nothing to cure lunacy caused by a poor diet, but it certainly does everything to ruin a smart khaki uniform.





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