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PUBLISHER & EDITOR

Pete Bower

email: editor@gautengsmallholder.com

RESEARCH EDITOR

Vanessa Bower

email: vanessa.bower@gmail.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Mark Hageman

email: graphics@gautengsmallholder.com

ADVERTISEMENT SALES

Pete Bower

email: sales@gautengsmallholder.com

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FRONT COVER

Small, hardy and easy to keep, Dexters are the ideal cattle for smallholders.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

The elephant in the room



That South Africa has many problems is widely acknowledged by all but the most deluded optimists among us. Many of these could be solved by competent and honest governance and vigorous application of the law. But the real elephant in the room is so big, so complex and so all-pervading in its destructive reach that it will not be solved anytime soon. Certainly not in the lifetime of anybody reading this column.

And, yes, it's a legacy of Apartheid. And, no, it's not Jacob Zuma, the Guptas and the ANC.

Here is an outline. Ownership and occupation of rural land in South Africa can be divided broadly into the following categories: There's land owned by the state, parastatals, municipalities and local authorities for various purposes. There's land owned by private individuals and commercial concerns for agricultural purposes, or for mineral exploitation etc. And then there are the vast tracts of land which were formerly Apartheid-era "homelands". On a drive through the country it's easy to identify the latter two types of land. After passing large tracts of uninhabited land quite clearly being cultivated for crops or nurtured for grazing one comes across tracts dotted with hundreds of small homesteads reaching up steep hillsides and down to the roadside. If you care to correlate the positions of these with old rural maps from the Apartheid era you will see that in most cases they correspond very closely to the positions of the old homelands or Bantustans, either the "independent" ones such as Transkei, Ciskei and Bophutatswana or those that managed to escape the independence farce.

The populations of these settlements were derived brutally ~ by removing families forcibly from "white" areas and trucking them and their goods and chattles to the new areas, where they were left to fend for themselves. And so they did, marking out patches of land on which they built a dwelling and in time came, at best, to be peasant farmers.

The niceties of urban spatial planning were never applied, so roads through these settlements tend to be rutted and windy dirt tracks, electricity and water supply is rudimentary and sewage services non-existent.

By modern urban standards the properties thus demarkated are quite large ... a hectare or more. But by agricultural standards the properties barely qualify as smallholdings. They certainly aren't viable farming units for anything but the most intensive semi-industrial agricultural production, for which the residents have not the capital to invest, nor the know-how to run nor the market in which to sell the produce. And, of course, the settlements tend to be far from urban markets and industrial hubs.

But there's another aspect to this, compounded, ironically, by the ANC's laudable attempts to develop infrastructure in these areas. Education.

The distances residents of these settlements have to travel ~ to walk ~ to get anywhere are quite great given the sizes of the properties. This applies especially to the schoolchildren. So the government has had to build many, many primary and secondary schools in these areas, each serving a relatively small number of households given the low population density.

Thus they probably don't individually have more than a few hundred pupils each, and they are far from grand: a few prefab classroom blocks are augmented by a few brick structures, a long-drop toilet block some distance from the classrooms. No school hall, no labs, probably only a rudimentary library, no inviting "quad". No sports field with smart pavilions, no swimming pool.

But each school has to have a head, heads of departments, a school governing body and all the paraphernalia of governance, which we all know is not this administration's strong point.

How much better and more efficient would it not be if these many small poor schools could be consolidated into a few well-resourced mega schools, with all the bells and whistles of good education, a single efficient management structure and carefully monitored and guided teachers?

So here's the great South African problem: Vast numbers of rural South Africans are condemned to a life of penury, generation after generation, because they have no means by which they can claw their way out of the poverty trap. And their children are condemned to a totally inadequate, inefficient education which will never equip them to cope and prosper in the modern world.

And I can't think of any South African politician, economist, social scientist or educator who has even the foggiest of a plan to overcome this problem. Can you?

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Uncaring jobsworths at rural clinic

Sir ~ I today (16 December) experienced the reason why this country is in the state it is in! I am hyper-allergic to bee stings. At about 06h15 I was stung by a bee. I live in the rural area of De Wagensdrift. A friend rushed me to the

Wadriest Clinic (the nearest medical facility) as I did not have the required medication with me.

When I explained to the security guard at the gate of Wadriest Clinic what my situation was (at this stage I was very unsteady on my feet

and slurring) he bluntly told me to fall in the queue as the clinic only opens at 07h30. I explained to him I might be in a coma by that time – not even this convinced him – I had to wait.

The female security guard showed some intelligence and called one of the sisters. I explained to the sister what my situation was and her reply was also “wait for 07h30 as that is when we open.”

I once again explained I could not wait that long as this was

an emergency. Her reply was “wait I will see”. At this stage I was holding on and leaning against the gate to keep myself upright and I started getting disorientated.

As I have been in this state before I knew I was running out of time and needed help. I showed the security guards the time on my phone (it was 07h10) and told them there is a problem looming and I needed to go seek help. My friend rushed me to

Continued on page 7

Advice on watermelons

Sir ~ First I want to thank the *Gauteng Smallholder* for all the help and advice to maplotter.

I started growing watermelons in October. They are growing three to five vines. Should I allow this?

Each vine is exceeding 1,5m. Should I allow this or should I cut the growing points?

Thanking you in anticipation.

KA Nikiwe

Boltonwold

Any reader with experience of growing watermelons who can give the reader some guidance?

~ Editor

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.

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Mix a 100g BIOSPLASH sachet with 5 litres of warm water (not boiling) and allow to sit for 10 minutes before adding to the pit toilet. For problem pits, stir in the mixture with a stick and discard the stick afterwards. Dose twice a month for problem pits and once a month for other pits.



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A simple way to measure water evaporation

Sir ~ I refer to the reader's letter entitled "How can I calculate the evaporation in the Dec/Jan edition."

I worked at the Dept of Water Affairs & Forestry and the annual evaporation for the Gauteng area was 1 300mm

to 1 500mm per annum, or about 3mm per day. Please note that it is dependent on various factors such as temperature, humidity, wind etc.

To get the daily evaporation for your area, make a small dam 1m x 1m x 0,3m deep in

a good sunny spot. Install a ruler or tape measure on the side. Take daily readings on the ruler at the same time each day, or weekly. When you fill it up again, take the lower reading and the add water and measure the new reading from which to

calculate your evaporation over the period of measurement.

That's why one doesn't want to fill up the Vaal Dam completely. Due to its large surface area the water loss from evaporation is very great.

Stephen
By email

CLINIC

From page 5

Cullinan. We went to Cullinan Chemist, which was not yet open (outside their official trading hours). Despite the time, the chemist was opened and I was assisted without any delay or question — I was not even asked for any money upfront, and I could see that it was the prime mission of the chemist to stabilize me and prevent my body from going into shock.

I am so grateful to the staff of

Cullinan Chemist — thank you; you made the medical profession proud.

As for Wadriest Clinic — I have no words to describe how disgusting I find the staff actions there. You are a filthy disgrace to the medical profession.

Maybe this whole situation was created because I am an elderly white person?

Maybe this situation was caused by the fact that we have untrained, un-committed, useless people

manning our clinics?

Is someone going to do something about this? I doubt it — Seems this is the way things are done at clinics!

I do hope that this writing of mine could save someone one day in an emergency — DO NOT go to your local clinic for an emergency — they do NOT understand the word "emergency".

Thanks to the staff at Cullinan Chemist I can write this letter!

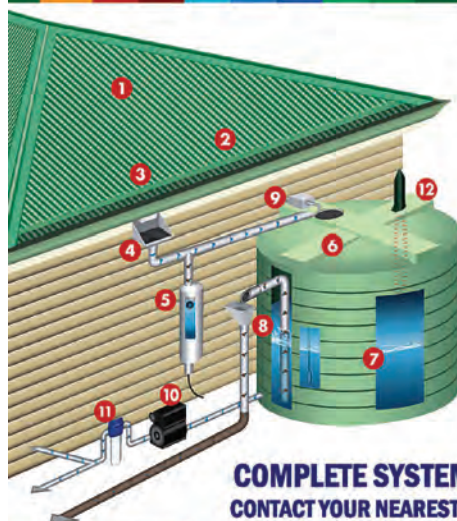
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NEWS

HHCU, SAPS bust donkey hide export scam

A major donkey hide exporting operation has been uncovered



Container packed with skins

on the East Rand following the receipt by the Highveld Horse Care Unit (HHCU) of photographs showing hides draped over the branches of trees to dry.

These led HHCU personnel to a smallholding in Putfontein where a storeroom stacked with dried salted hides as well as a container-full

of hides were discovered. The HHCU estimates at least 5 000 hides were found.

The plot, which also has a vegetable-growing operation on it, is alleged to be inhabited by Chinese nationals who, speaking in broken English, produced a couple of receipts for some skins bought in rural areas of Limpopo and in Taung.

However, the receipts did not

cover anything like the number of hides on the plot and the contents of the shed and container were then impounded by the SA Police Service (SAPS) pending further investigation.

Although the Chinese nationals were said to be unable or unwilling to be anything more than vague about the provenance or destination of the skins, workers on the smallholding are alleged to have told investigators that the operation sees a container being packed with donkey skins and despatched by road to Durban on an almost weekly basis.

From there the container is shipped by sea to China where the skins are used in traditional Chinese medicines.

The Chinese donkey skin trade is becoming a major problem throughout Africa, with numbers of the species dropping dramatically continent-wide as they are slaughtered, often illegally and in horrendous circumstances, for their skins. This, in turn, has major implications for subsistence

Continued on page 11



Salted skins draped over branches to dry in the sun

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technician arrives at the owner's premises and performs the full service, according to specifications. Other accessories supplied as standard include front counterweights, linkage drawbar, a grease gun and a wheel jack. For the moment, Vukani are

offering a range of five tractors in the 37kW to 56kW range, in two and four wheel drive. All are fitted with canopies as standard, and halogen headlamps. For more information: Vukani Agri 081 453-6293

DONKEY HIDES

From page 8
farmers and the rural poor, for whom donkeys are a vital form of transportation and motive power for ploughing, threshing etc.

There is also, of course, a legal slaughter industry for livestock such as donkeys, with certain abattoirs licensed to work with donkeys. Notably, the Randfontein abattoir is registered for donkeys and does, indeed, accept donkeys for slaughter and as a result is often used

as a scapegoat for illegal slaughtering, allegedly being cited frequently by those in the illegal trade as the source of the skins.

Once the skins enter the export shipping industry, they become part of a sector that has been a mainstay of South Africa produce exports for more than a century.

The legal export of both wet and dry hides of many species has been going on for years and is connected, of course, to the number of

livestock slaughtered in the meat industry. The problem comes, however, when illegal hides enter the shipping chain, often with fraudulent documents and export permits, and their outward movement is condoned by port and Customs officials who are ignorant of the ramifications of the trade, unable to identify the differences between the hides of various species or are unaware of the illegality involved.

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The economics of a domestic rabbitry

There is no doubt that the South African market for rabbit meat is growing. As diners' palates become more internationalised and sophisticated,

Domestic rabbitries could be the answer to the food security on many South Africans, says East Rand breeder

demand for rabbit meat from the restaurant trade is increasing, while a concerted

effort by the government to encourage rabbit production and consumption among lower-income households could see this important and healthy source of protein go a long way towards improving the diets of the poor.

While white, urbanised consumers are slowly discovering that rabbit meat has much the same texture, colour and taste as chicken, black rural consumers are already well versed in the eating of rabbit, having been hunters of wild hare for centuries.

Now, however, the challenge is to develop a rabbit growing industry, both for domestic consumption, retail sales and even exports.

Nutritionally, rabbit meat compares very favourably with that of other species. In terms of calories and protein content it compares most closely with white turkey meat, although it has a slightly higher fat content than the latter (but nothing like the fat content of beef or pork).

But it is in the production, housing, feeding and management that rabbits come into their own.

Continued on page 15



A small rabbitry housed in a garden shed



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SMALL STOCK

From page 13

With correct training, backup advice, proper housing and installation, a small rabbitry for an underprivileged family could mean the end of malnutrition and food uncertainty, without breaking the bank.

According to East Rand producer Toni Casamassa, an easily established small family rabbitry, manageable year round by one person, could produce 180 kg of rabbit meat annually, along with two tons of manure.

Rabbits are strictly herbivorous and will thrive on a diet of roughage (fodder) and vegetable greens (although commercial, pelleted rabbit feeds are also available). Rabbits have the ability to convert what is considered low grade feed (dry grass, leaves, twigs, bark, vegetable waste, grains, etc), into meat. Thus, says Casamassa, a family with a little garden space, as little as 40m x 40m, could grow not only much of its own vegetables, but also the greater part of its rabbitry's diet.

With the two tons of manure produced annually and judicious management, this

could be a very productive vegetable patch, as rabbit manure has the highest content of the common three plant nutrients, (N, P and K) of any animal manure (see table).

Rabbit manure doesn't need to be composted, and can be used direct.

But Casamassa adds that there are further advantages to domestic rabbit production.

□ Because the meat is produced in-house there is no transport cost involved in its distribution or consumption. No food miles.

□ Fresh meat is available all the time.

□ A rabbitry run on hay and vegetables as feed is organic, and good for the soil.

□ It is easily run. One person or the family can get involved;

□ Any excess production can be sold to neighbours at way under market prices, for both meat and vegetables, thereby benefiting the whole community.

For more information email therabbitlady383@gmail.com

Table: Proportion of the most important plant nutrients in various common farmyard manures

	N	P	K
Rabbit	2.4	1.40	0.60
Chicken	1.10	0.80	0.50
Sheep	0.70	0.30	0.60
Horse	0.70	0.30	0.60
Oxen	0.70	0.30	0.40
Dairy Cows	0.25	0.15	0.25

• from Rodale's All New Encyclopaedia of Organic Gardening

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- 1 x 5 Tine chisel plough + roller
- 1 x 7 Tine chisel plough + roller
- 1 x 7 Tine Bellota chisel plough + roller + depth chisel plough
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- 1 x 11 Tine tiller cultivator
- 1 x 11 Tine Vibro flex
- 1 x 13 Tine Vibro flex
- 2 x 16 Tine s-tine Vibro tillers
- 1 x 19 Tine s-tine Vibro tiller + roller
- 1 x 25 Tine s-tine Vibro tiller + roller
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- 2 x 3 Share plough
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LIVESTOCK

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BKB van Wyk. Because of the limitations on grazing land on smallholdings, smaller breeds of cattle make more sense on plots than the larger breeds, and the smallest of the lot, the Dexter, makes the most sense of all. Proponents of the breed say that kilo for kilo, no bovine

can match the diversity of Dexter cattle. Standing just 105cm to 115cm at the shoulder, the Dexter is the only breed that is small by genetics and not through human manipulation. Gentle, versatile and economical, Dexters efficiently turn pasture into rich milk and

lean meat. According to the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), "Its inherent hardiness, together with its foraging ability, lets the Dexter adapt to varied climatic conditions and survive and even produce during severe droughts."

Continued on page 19



Dexters come in two colours ~ black or "red" (actually, brown)

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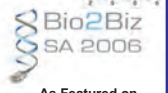
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LIVESTOCK

From page 18

Their docile nature and the ease with which Dexters can be transported to the bull and handled with limited facilities adds to their popularity. It is even suggested that you can keep two Dexters instead of any one standard-sized cow grazing on the same hectare of land. Figures released by the Glen Animal Research Station showed a food conversion ratio of 5,40 for the Dexter, which means that for every 5,4kg of feed consumed it gains a kilogram of body weight. The average



Newborn Dexter calves are small ... really small!

The breed is apparently immune to Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (mad cow disease) and resistant to mastitis

daily gain of a young bull on test was 1,429kg. Early maturing, Dexter heifers produce their first calf at about two years of age and they go on producing until they are 15 or 16 years old. Dexter cows are maternal and calving is generally easy. The mothers hide their calves almost from birth if there is any cover for them to hide in. They will produce enough milk to feed two to three calves, and often will willingly nurse calves from other cows. Their udders are sound, with good teat placement. Dexters produce both meat and milk. The meat has a

unique flavour and the cuts are small in size in comparison to the larger breeds. Dexter meat is ideally suited to a boutique meat market or the home freezer. There is a high meat to bone ratio. Some smallholders also use them as oxen. Their colouring is either whole black or whole red, with no foreign colours, although a small amount of white on the underline behind the navel is allowed. The breed is apparently immune against Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (mad cow disease) and has been found to be more resistant to common diseases and mastitis. The Dexter is regarded as environmentally friendly

because of the lesser impact due to its size and the fact that it is a non-selective grazer. In some areas it has even been used to eradicate foreign vegetation which threatened to become invasive.

The Purebred Dexter Club provides an advisory service to Gauteng breeders, and there is an active community of Dexter breeders throughout the province.

For more information: 083 692-9809.

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Are you keen to turn your interest in beekeeping into a small business? Here's an example of a family that has successfully done just that. Jim, his wife Carol, son Craig and daughter -in-law Megan, and two teenage sons are commercial bee keepers who reside on a plot in the Benoni area.

Their beekeeping premises consist of a honey extracting room, a bottling room, and a display area and shop that sells their honey and other by-products of their hives.

Their working areas are open sheds to keep all equipment under cover, a woodworking shop with machinery to construct beehives and other related equipment, lock-up

Another article in our series on beekeeping by veteran apiarist Peter Clark, chairman of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association

garages and stores that house their two 3-ton trucks, two lighter 1-ton vehicles and all other related beekeeping tools and equipment. There are comfortable rooms, washing and kitchen facilities to house their five helpers who often return late at night from moving hives.

Two upmarket dwellings house the two families, as well as a swimming pool to cool off in after a hot day's work and a cosy braai boma for entertaining.

Their staff comprises five male helpers, three of whom have heavy duty driver's licences, and two women in the extracting and bottling rooms

and shop. The workers do not reside on the plot.

The families also employ a general handyman cum gardener and his wife and family who do reside on the

plot and who take care of all the household chores of both families. They are all covered by medical aid and a pension scheme paid monthly by the business.

Their undertaking comprises 1 000 beehives from which they expect 25 tons of honey,

Continued on page 23

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BEEKEEPING

From page 21

and they utilise a third of their swarms to perform pollination services. They extract, bottle and sell 20 tons (40 000 bottles) from their own shop and other outlets, and supply five tons of bulk honey to other commercial beekeepers. As they extend their private outlets, they will reduce their bulk honey sales. They utilise the bulk honey as a cushion which fluctuates in poor honey seasons in order that they can maintain a steady supply for their regular customers.

Their field work with their hives operates within a radius of 400 kilometres from home base. They move 600 hives four times during the year to follow the crops of honey-yielding areas, and on a rotational basis they rest 400 hives on permanent Eucalyptus blue gum sites.



Tools of the trade ... essential beekeeping equipment

These resting sites are most important to rebuild the swarms that come off pollination contracts as the swarms weaken due to continual moving and overworking of the queens. These sites are most valuable to rebuild the swarms for the following year's pollination

contracts. Without these sites the bees would suffer badly and would probably die.

As a most important management skill, they have an ongoing swarm replacement program to replace 20% of their swarms (200) by setting out catch boxes in strategic areas throughout the year or

by a queen breeding replacement system. Jim and Craig manage all the field work which entails cropping off the honey, visiting the farmers to renew pollination contracts, and the spread of the honey yielding sites as aloes, citrus, litchies, macadamia nuts, sunflowers, soya or kidney beans, avocados, cosmos and indigenous *Acacia karroo* and Boekenhout. They supervise all the moves of the 600 hives. On a tour system they move and sell most of their honey country-wide, 2 000 bottles per one trip.

Carol and Megan, their wives, manage the office, the extracting and bottling of the honey and the shop transactions. They manufacture cosmetic creams and tincture of propolis sold in the shop and to pharmacies. Ron is the

Continued on page 25

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BEEKEEPING

From page 23

mead maker, also a popular addition to the shop. Financially they net about R1,7 million representing a 14% return on their capital investment before tax, considered only a fair return after all the year's hard work. Annually mid-December to the second week in January is holiday time and they shut down the entire works, go away on holiday or just relax at home for about three weeks.

As a young 20 year-old, Ron

worked as an office Johnnie in a bank and often gazed out the window to the open air, the sunshine and the trees around. His calling was for the outdoors.

He started beekeeping as a hobby that grew from ten hives to 20 hives, too many for their little home in old Benoni. He joined a beekeeping association and by mixing with beekeepers he was able to extend his hive population to 200 hives, kept on farms.

With tight finances, and

financial help from the bank, he purchased their plot. At the tender age of 26 years he married Carol and the hard working partnership paid off.

Now, at 66 years of age and 40 years in the beekeeping game he and Carol, arm in arm, stand at their front gate and gaze upon their lifetimes' work, their beautiful homes and gardens, the neatness of

their sweeping lawns, mature trees and flower beds, representing an investment of more than R12million, bond free.

Article by Peter Clark, Chairman, Eastern Highveld beekeepers' Association at 011 362-2904 and information systems, Mike Alter at 011 965-6040

Bee-friendly plant book

The definitive book on plants that supply bees with their vital sources of nectar has been published by the SA National Biodiversity Institute (Sanbi), entitled Beeplants of South Africa. Written by M F Johannsmeier, author of the famous "Blue

Book", Beekeeping in South Africa, it is the latest in Sanbi's Strelitzia series of books on local plants.

Over the last couple of years Sanbi has been conducting research on important forage resources for honey bees in

Continued on page 27

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1.8m high	R737-81	2500 x 1200 x 5.0	R1 622-11	76 x 76	R319-44	R410-58	200 x 50 x 20 x 2	R437-42	R667-64	20 x 5	R59-22
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From page 25

South Africa. Findings from the project show how beekeepers are struggling to find sufficient forage for their honey bee colonies. This in turn is putting pressure on the colonies available for the pollination of South Africa's



Daff Gazettes protected tree list

The Dept of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (Daff) has published a revised list of protected tree species in terms of the National Forestry Act, No 48 of 1998.

Thus, no person may cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree, nor may he possess, collect, remove, transport, export, buy, sell or donate any protected tree or product made from a protected tree species without a permit, which is also subject to a stipulated time period. Contravention of the regulation can result in a fine or imprisonment or both.

For details of the list see Government Notice 1602 of 23 December 2016, published in the *Government Gazette* No 40521 of the same date.



pollinator-dependent crops. This book furnishes information on the nectar and pollen value of South African beeplants, whether indigenous or exotic, grown in orchards or plantations, or ornamental or weeds. Additionally, flowering times are documented and the pollination needs of crop plants are addressed. While the crop grower is reliant on the beekeeper for the pollination service his honeybees provide during the

flowering season, the beekeeper in turn depends on variable forage resources and habitats to sustain his honeybee colonies throughout the year, and to provide him with a honey crop. Smallholders who wish to support the bees through their choice of plants to grow will find the book invaluable. The book is also of value to gardeners, farmers, beekeepers or practitioners in environmental impact assessments or rehabilitation

projects, in deciding which plants to utilise, conserve or grow.

This publication contributes to the outcomes of the Global Pollination Project and the Honeybee Forage Project, both implemented by Sanbi.

The recommended retail price is R486 and the book can be ordered online or bought at the Sanbi bookshop in Pretoria.

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Invader plants that were ornamentals

The ARC Plant Protection Research Institute recently highlighted three more alien invasive plants that smallholders should be on the lookout for.

Any smallholders who frequent lakes or dams in Gauteng are likely to have

seen the Yellow Water Iris, or Yellow Flag (*Iris Pseudacorus*). These plants are rooted, and develop rhizomes that form large clumps of underwater and above-water mats. The lanceolate, erect leaves are green or blue-green, up to 1 m long and 3 cm wide. The flowers are typically iris-like -

yellow, large and showy. The yellow water iris has become invasive along riverbanks, on drainage lines, and on the edges of dams, where it has the potential to form impenetrable thickets much like water hyacinth. The plant spreads rapidly from seeds and rhizomes that are carried along by water,

and which readily take root in the shallow edges of water bodies. Furthermore, the underwater rhizomes are capable of producing many more cloned plants per year. The rhizomes are tolerant of drought and can survive for months without water, but rapidly regenerate in wet

Continued on page 33



Yellow Water Iris

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IN THE GARDEN

From page 31
conditions. All parts of the plant are poisonous when ingested, and handling the plants may irritate or even blister the skin.

Small infestations can be removed mechanically, but all seed pods should first be removed to prevent re-colonisation, and gloves should be worn to protect the skin. Once the plants have been removed, ensure that the entire rhizome has also been removed because any remnants will merely regrow. Removed plants can be burnt or allowed to rot in black bags in the sun to prevent them from re-growing where they are discarded.

Smallholders are urged not to plant this species but rather to grow the indigenous yellow vlei iris, *Moraea huttoni*, which also produces attractive, yellow flowers, and can be used in similar situations. Another ornamental alien that has escaped cultivation to become invasive in many parts of the country is the Madagascar Periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*), a declared invader in South Africa which must be controlled, or eradicated where possible.

It is an erect, perennial plant up to one metre high, with a



Madagascar Periwinkle

woody base. The leaves are bright green and glossy, with attractive pink or white flowers in the axils. Each flower has five petals that fuse to form a tube at the base. Plants flower throughout the year.

Infestations can be removed by hand-pulling. Gloves should be worn to protect the skin from the latex, and all seeds must first be removed from the plants to prevent them from germinating in the disturbed soil. The collected seeds must be destroyed, preferably by burning. Herbicides designed for broad-leaved plants may be used.

The third member of this terrible trio is the Butterfly Bush (*Oenothera lindheimeri*), which is a perennial herbaceous plant native to parts of North America, which was imported into South Africa as a garden ornamental.

It grows upright and spreads in a grass-like manner from a woody root-stock, and can reach as high as one metre. Attractive, butterfly-shaped flowers are borne in spikes, and open at sunrise in sequence along long stems.

Owing to the fact that

Continued on page 35



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Selling your plot? Your duty towards invasives

Government is making the eradication of invasive species the legal responsibility of property owners.

Moreover, municipalities were to have until 1 October last year to outline their plan for controlling invasive species on all public land in their areas, according to a directive from the Dept of Environment Affairs.

However, whether such a directive was enforced by the

deadline is unclear and, given the parlous state of many municipalities, it is unlikely that compliance has been widespread.

But it is not only municipalities that have to comply with environmental regulations.

"Like municipalities, every landowner in the country also has to remove invasive species on land that they own," the department says.

"Invasive species are now deemed a legal liability to

every property owner and the legislation will impact on estate agents and conveyancers."

There are 559 listed invasive species listed in the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Nemba) and the Alien & Invasive Species

(AIS) Regulations.

Every landowner also has a so-called "duty of care" to remove invasive species from his or her land.

The new law also says that every seller of a property has to inform the buyer of any invasives on the property.

IN THE GARDEN

From page 33

butterfly bush is tolerant of a variety of soil and climatic conditions, infestations may occur almost anywhere, but are often first noticed along roadsides and in other disturbed areas. The plants

spread readily from rhizomes in the soil, from seed, and from cut stumps that regrow in spring.

Seeds may be dispersed by water, through human activity, and by seed-feeding birds.

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PEST CONTROL Clever Kenyan pest control

“Push-pull planting”: Strategic intercropping and margin planting entices harmful bugs out of staple crops without pesticides

Smallholders struggling with insect infestations in their crops would do well to investigate the “push-pull” form of pest management.

The principle is based on the use of repellent plants which are planted within the crop field and the use of “trap” plants which are planted in the veld margins around the crop field.

A staple crop such as maize is vulnerable to stem borers. A secondary crop such as a *Desmodium* species is planted between the rows of the primary crop. A third crop such as Napier grass is planted on the edges of the land. So the approach relies on a combination of companion crops to be planted around and among the maize.

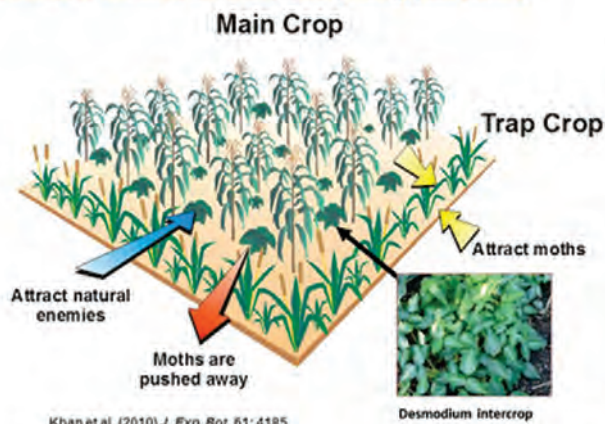
The grasses are planted in the border around the maize fields where invading adult moths become attracted to chemicals emitted by the grasses themselves. Instead of

landing on the maize plants, the insects head for what appears to be a tastier meal. These grasses provide the “pull” in the “push-pull” strategy. They also serve as a haven for the borers' natural enemies. Napier grass has a particularly effective way of defending itself against the pests: once attacked by a borer larva, it secretes a sticky substance which physically traps the pest and limits its damage.

The “push” in the scheme is provided by the intercropping plants that emit chemicals which repel stem borer moths and drive them away from the main crop. The best candidates discovered so far with the repellent properties are species of leguminous genus *Desmodium*. *Desmodium* is planted in between the rows of maize. Being a low-growing plant, it does not interfere with the crops' growth and, furthermore, has the advantage of maintaining soil

Continued on page 39

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Hidden killer: Ovine Johne's disease

One of the biggest dangers when buying breeding livestock is that they can look completely normal, but can be carrying a deadly disease with huge financial implica-

tions for the unwitting buyer. *Paratuberculosis* or Johne's disease affects cattle, sheep, goats and certain wild animal species. The disease is of long duration and may cause diarrhoea and loss of mass in

older (from two years on) animals. The diarrhoea cannot be treated. The time before the disease becomes apparent in a herd varies from less than six months to several years (even

up to 15 years). A very small percentage of the animals show clinical signs.

What is Johne's disease?

☐ Johne's (pronounced "yoh-nee-z") disease is a chronic (long-standing) disease of the intestine.

☐ It causes reduced weight gain, and steady loss of body condition and body weight leading to emaciation.

☐ It often causes scouring, especially in cattle and goats.

☐ It is incurable. Once signs appear death is inevitable within weeks or months.

☐ Treatments have no lasting effect on the course of the

Continued on page 41

PUSH-PULL PLANTING

From page 371

stability, improving soil fertility through enhanced soil organic matter content and nitrogen fixation. It also serves as a highly nutritious animal feed and effectively suppresses striga weeds. Another plant showing good repellent properties is molasses grass (*Melinis minutiflora*), a nutritious animal feed with tick-repelling and stem borer larval parasitoid attractive properties.

Stem borer females that are ready to lay their eggs are repelled from the main crop and are simultaneously attracted to the trap crop. Napier grass produces significantly higher levels of attractive volatile compounds, cues used by gravid stem borer females to locate host plants, than maize.

Legumes in the *Desmodium* genus (silverleaf, *D. uncinatum* and greenleaf, *D. intortum*), on the other hand, produce repellent volatile chemicals that push away the stem borer moths.

Desmodium also controls

striga, which is a parasitic plant, resulting in significant yield increases of the main crop.

The use of a combination of these types of plants, ie push and pull plants, leads to greater effectiveness in biocontrol. It constitutes an integrated system that addresses concurrently

problems of stem borers, striga weed, soil fertility and soil moisture retention, with the added benefit of the leguminous intercrop providing nutritious animal fodder.

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From page 39

disease.

☐ Usually, infection occurs when the animals are very young.

☐ Infection lies latent and may flare up to cause obvious disease later in life.

☐ In cattle and sheep the signs of disease usually develop when the animals are middle-aged and the disease progresses over a period of months or years.

☐ In goats the signs can

appear from about eight months of age and they can develop quickly, causing death within weeks.

The cause of OJD is a bacterium, *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*.

The disease spreads when bacteria are shed in the faeces of infected animals, whether they have diarrhoea or not. The disease can spread from mother to young in the womb, and via her milk or as a result of faecal

contamination of her udder when the baby suckles. An important feature of the disease is that animals are most susceptible to infection when they are young. It is likely that most infections occur in the first few weeks or months of life.

The sheep disease of the greatest concern in South Africa at present is ovine Johne's disease (OJD), which can come into a flock by purchasing just one "normal" sheep.

According to the Ruminant Veterinary Association of South Africa (RuVASA) it is important to avoid the disease on your property if you keep sheep, for the following reasons:

☐ It can be introduced to a flock by buying just one apparently healthy sheep;

☐ Once in a flock OJD is virtually impossible to eradicate;

☐ Being positive means eternal quarantine;

☐ Control rests on never-ending vaccination;

☐ Vaccination is very effective in lowering the impact of OJD but does not eliminate it;

☐ Left unmanaged, it can cause annual deaths of 10% or more of the breeding ewes.

Johne's disease should not be

Continued on page 42



Sheep infected with Ovine Johne's Disease



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where grazing can be utilised optimally and rested periodically according to seasonal requirements.

If you're running a horticultural operation or planning to turn your entire property into an animal free zone you'll still need to maintain boundary fencing to keep any wandering stock out.

Like any investment in your

plot, fencing must be utilised thoughtfully. How well or how badly you plan and erect those fences will lead to either improvement or deterioration of your lands and stock.

If you are new to the world
Continued on page 43

DISEASE

From page 41

confused with other conditions which also cause a loss of condition, including worm infestation, coccidiosis or malnutrition. In cattle the disease can be confused with chronic fascioliasis and paramphistomiasis. Johne's disease is a controlled disease in terms of the Animal Disease Act (Act 35 of 1984). The occurrence or suspicion of the disease thus has to be reported to the State Veterinary Services. There is a vaccine for sheep and goats, namely Gudair Vaccine, made by Virbac. The vaccine may only be purchased subject to a prescription obtained from a state veterinarian. It may only be used in infected herds under the direct supervision of a state veterinarian. Vaccinated sheep and goats have to be permanently identified to the satisfaction of the state veterinarian, usually by an ear tag. If you are running a small flock as lawn mowers on your land, you probably will not want to go to the expense of having your sheep tested. However, if you are running a serious breeding programme it would be advisable to do so.

There is a Vendor Declaration Form available, which one can use when buying and selling sheep and goats. A copy of it is to be found on the Gauteng Smallholder website.

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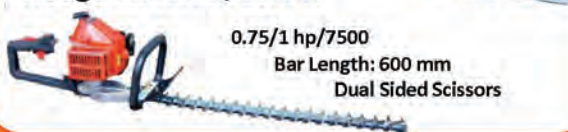
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FENCING

From page 42

of fencing you might need some explanation of the terminology:

A post is a solid wooden pole or, more commonly, a hollow steel tube, which is placed vertically into the ground. It might also be made of concrete or, in some rural areas with abundant stone, of hewn rock.

A straining post is a strong post which is used to hold the tension in the main horizontal wires. When it is placed at a corner it is called a corner

post. They are usually 10cm in diameter.

A gate post is a strong post to which a gate will be attached.

A stay is a thinner post set at a diagonal between the upright corner post or straining post, to ensure that the tension in the horizontal wire does not pull the post out of the perpendicular. There is an art to setting a stay correctly in relation to the vertical pole.

A standard is an intermediate post which is used to maintain the height and rigidity of the fence. They are usually made

of metal and they also go into the ground.

A dropper is another intermediate item which is not fastened to the ground. Its purpose is also to maintain the height and rigidity of the fence, but they are important in preventing wires from pulling apart or preventing the fence from flopping. They are thinner and can be made of steel, thatching lath or even bamboo.

Galvanized wire is wire that

has been coated in zinc, which protects wire and metal products from rust. According to the ARC Institute for Agricultural Engineering, a good fence should have the following features:

□ It should be in a perfectly straight line from straining post to straining post, with all the post standards standing in perfect alignment.

□ The straining, corner and

Continued on page 45



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the activity of disease-causing bacteria or to kill the bacteria altogether.

In certain cases, a preservation technique may also destroy enzymes naturally found in a food that cause it to spoil or discolour quickly. An enzyme is a special protein that acts as a catalyst for a chemical reaction, and enzymes are fairly fragile. By increasing the temperature of food to about 66°C, enzymes

Continued on page 47

From page 43

gate posts should be sturdy, be set vertically into the ground and be well anchored.

❑ All the other posts, standards and droppers should stand erect and maintain the same height above ground level. In this way, the undulations of the ground are followed.

❑ Straining posts should not be too far apart – the closer they are and the closer the standards are together, the more sturdy the fence.

❑ Irrespective of the number and type of wire strands used, each should be at a

specific height above ground level, be parallel to the other and be well secured to each standard in such a manner that it cannot be shifted vertically. The more wire strands in a fence of a particular height, the more difficult it is for man or stock to creep through them.

❑ Droppers must be so spaced that the distances between the standards are equally divided; they must stand erect and the wire strands must be securely tied to them at the same spacing as on the standard.

A good fence can never be

FENCING

erected with inferior material. Heavy galvanized wires are an investment for years to come. Remember to keep grass short near fences to prevent veld fire damage to the zinc coating (even a small lick of flame destroys the galvanizing in seconds).

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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	—	✓	✓
50mm 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	✓	✓	✓
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IN THE KITCHEN

From page 45

are destroyed.

A food that is sterile contains no bacteria. Unless sterilised and sealed, all food contains bacteria.

Drying is a process that people have used for centuries. The removal of the moisture in the foodstuff inhibits the growth of bacteria, yeasts and mould. Cooling preserves food by slowing down the growth and reproduction of microorganisms and the action of enzymes that cause food to rot.

Freezing food slows down decomposition by turning residual moisture into ice, inhibiting the growth of most bacterial species.

Boiling liquid food items can kill any existing microbes, which is why we boil water

to purify it.

Salting or curing draws moisture from a substance through a process of osmosis. Foodstuffs are cured with salt or sugar, or a combination of the two.

We use sugar as a means of preservation, because sugar tends to draw water from the microbes (plasmolysis). This process leaves the microbial cells dehydrated, thus killing them. We preserve fruit by boiling and storing it in a syrup.

Pickling is a method of preserving food in an edible anti-microbial liquid such as vinegar, alcohol, brine or vegetable oil.

Smoking is used to lengthen the shelf life of perishable food items. This effect is achieved by exposing the food to smoke from burning plant materials such as wood. Smoke deposits a number of pyrolysis products on to the food, which aid in the drying and preservation of meats and other foods.

Bottling or home canning is the process of preserving food, in particular fruits, vegetables and sometimes meat, by packing them into glass jars and then heating the jars to kill the organisms that would create spoilage.

Fermentation works through the use of specific microorganisms that combat spoilage from other less-benign organisms. This process is used in the making of cheeses, wine and beer.



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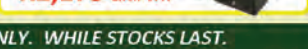
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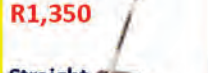
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IN THE KITCHEN

Preserve peppers and chillies for winter

Members of the *Capiscum* family can be most rewarding to grow and a smallholder can use various methods to preserve the generous harvest of peppers and chillies for use out of season. Nowadays there is a much greater variety of peppers, but most of them can be preserved using the

same methods.

Bell peppers are eaten when they are still green or they are left to ripen, turning yellow or red.

A popular way to preserve them is to roast them whole. Roasting kills any enzymes in the peppers that might deteriorate them over time, as well as softening and sweetening the peppers and

getting rid of the indigestible skins. Roast or grill whole peppers until they begin to blacken on all sides, turning them frequently with tongs. When the skin is well blistered with some black spots, quickly move the hot peppers to an empty pot with a tight-fitting lid, and let them steam there for fifteen minutes. Most of the skins will slip off after the peppers cool. When cut into strips and frozen, you have succulent roasted peppers for winter dishes.

Roast peppers can also be preserved in sterilised jars with a little salt, vinegar and oil.

If you want to freeze the peppers whole it is best to blanch them by placing them in boiling water for a minute and then iced water for another minute, drain them

and pat them dry with paper towel. When they are cool put them in freezer bags, label and freeze.

Peppers can be stuffed before freezing, then reheated in the oven when partially thawed. Slices of pepper can be dried in a drier, although chillies are better for drying.

Peppers also pickle well, either sliced or whole. Using different coloured peppers makes an attractive product. Wide-mouthed Consol jars will be best, otherwise use whatever jars you have, as long as the pepper will fit into them. Sterilize the jars by pouring a small amount of water into each and then heating them in the microwave for five minutes. Leave them to drain upside down in a warm oven.

Wash the peppers and slice

Continued on page 49



Dried chillies on a string ... attractive kitchen sight

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IN THE KITCHEN

From page 48

them if you are not going to keep them whole and remove the seeds and pith. Place them in the jars and in each jar put two to three peeled garlic cloves, two to three whole black peppercorns and three or four olives. Put some vinegar in a non-reactive pot and bring it to a boil. You may use apple-cider or white vinegar. Cover the peppers with the boiling vinegar, leaving a couple of centimetres of headspace. Use a chopstick to poke around and

remove the air bubbles. Wipe rims clean and put on the lids. The lids seal if you put them on while the vinegar is still piping hot. Pickles are usually left to steep for a couple of weeks before you open a jar. An indigenous South African variety of pepper is the small, red pepper from Limpopo commonly sold pickled pipless under the trade name of Peppadew.

They are easily grown in the garden and can be eaten raw, or filled with cream cheese. Chillies can be preserved in

all the above ways, but they also respond well to drying. They can be processed in a biltong dryer. However, drying chillies indoors can be a simple matter of stringing whole chillies together by passing a needle and thread through their green caps, and hanging them in a warm, well-ventilated space for about two weeks. It's a good idea to finish drying chillies in

a warm oven for about 30 minutes before packing them away in airtight jars. Once they're fully dried they should last a year or more. Use dried chillies in all kinds of soups, stews, salsas and sauces. If you want to rehydrate them, place the chillies in a bowl and cover them with boiling water. Let them sit for 20 minutes, and they'll be soft and ready to cook with.



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High quality (imported) German shovels (ex Army) with young wooden (beech) handles for convenient gardening. R250 each. Contact Florian 076 624-9103 (Kyalami).

Block of 8 wooden stables. Each stable measures 3m x 3m. Roof in excellent condition. R20 000. Contact Beth 083 447-6058

MISCELLANEOUS

Defy 731-1 electric stove . 4 solid plates. Thermofan oven. Good working condition. R1 000. Bets 076 0654050.Benoni

Finnbuilder, large pillar type (not used). R4 000 Hartbeespoort, 082 771-6460

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PROPERTY FOR SALE/TO LET

Delmas: 4ha plot 10km from Delmas. Owner retiring. 3 bedroom house, Eskom, irrigation, tractor and implements. R980 000. Phone 072 908-8535

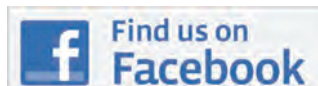
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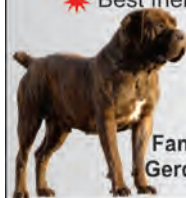
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DIARY

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 55. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar section.

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

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

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

Every Monday
Alcoholics Anonymous. 'Courage to Change' Group meeting, 19:30, Benoni Agricultural Holdings, Marcus 082 042-7730. Warren 082 335-0049. Glen 072 239-3024. If you want to drink - that's

your problem! If you want to stop - that's our problem! No fees; no dues; just concerned fellowship.

2017

February

10: Auction of implements, machinery, vehicles and property on behalf of Mnandi Implements of Delmas. 1100am at Plot 168, Modder East, Orchards, Delmas district. View the full list of items on auction at www.vleissentraal.co.za. Order of sale - Implements, property, construction equipment and engineering equipment. Contact auctioneer Gareth Hughes 079 515-4845 or marketer Johan Taute 073 204-7646 (see advertisement elsewhere in this edition for a map to the auction venue)
11: Alan Langenstrass Memorial Classic Car Show, Walkerville Agricultural Showgrounds, cor R82 & K154, Walkerville. Gates open at 0700. The Car Show will run in conjunction with the Walkerville Country Market at the same venue. Call Johan Krige 082 366-9531 or Peter Esterhuizen 082 221-5862
11: Full moon
22-24: SA Kalahari Red Senior Course presented by the SA Kalahari Red Club. Presenters Johnny Henderson and Paul Moore. 0900-1700 daily, venue Conrad Smallstock Centre, Pretoria East. Cost R1 000, meals and drinks included. Tel 083 258-7394
26: New moon

March

4: Folk Music Festival at In the Forest Venue, Aloe Ridge Drive, Walkerville. 0930 - 1900. Tickets at intheforestvenue.nutickets.co.za
11: 9th Purebred Dexter Klub annual auction, 1100am, Willem Prinsloo

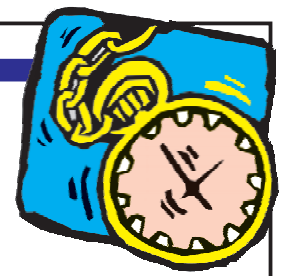
Agricultural Museum, R101 Old Pta road, near Rayton. Auctioneer: Kobus Ehlers, BKB van Wyk 083 692-9809. Further enquiries Kobus van der Linde 082 783-9605 or Hennie van der Westhuizen 082 879-1945
12: Full moon
20: Equinox
21: Human Rights Day
28: New moon

April

8-9: 55th Walkerville Agricultural Show, Walkerville Showgrounds. Old Vereeniging Road, Walkerville. 08h00 till late
11: Full moon
14: Good Friday
15: Easter Saturday
16: Easter Sunday
17: Family Day
26: New moon
27: Freedom Day
End April, dates to be confirmed: Summer/Autumn Purebred Dexter Show. For details contact Kobus van der Linde 082 783-9605

May

1: Workers' Day
10: Full moon
16-19: Nampo Harvest Day Agricultural Show, Nampo Park, R30 between



Klerksdorp and Bothaville.
25: New moon
27 & 28: Outdoor X Expo at Malonjeni Guest Farm, Heidelberg. Tel 016 423-4073 or email info@outdoorx.co.za.

June

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

July

9: Full moon
23: New moon

August

3: National Women's Day
7: Full moon
21: New moon
End August, dates to be confirmed: Second Purebred Dexter Spring Show at the Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum.

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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.co.za

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 Bootha Plots, Randfontein	Amanda Hefer 073 565-8905	Handmade products, numerous food stalls, flowers live entertainment most Saturdays, farmyard for the kids
Every Saturday	Verster Park Tuin Mark	09:00 - 15:00	Plot 21, Lang St, Verster Park Bronkhorstspuit	Maggie van Rheede 061 887-4149	Hand crafted goods, art, naturally-grown produce Community market to promote local business
Every Saturday	Wholefood Country Market	09:00 - 14:00	Sawasdee Exotic Nursery, cor Main & Zinnia Roads, Kyalami	Robyn 083 311-4768 wholefoodmarket@gmail.com	Variety of organic & homemade foods
Every Saturday	The Shed Food & Craft Market	08:00 to 15:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 to 09:30	Pioneer Open Air Museum, Silverton.	012 804-8031 or 082 416-3900 blingsa@lantic.net	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kailings with pap and boerewors rolls.
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston	Konrad or Glenda on 011 706-3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 to 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie Sts, Menlo Park, Pta	Rietha 083 554-5636. www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 to 15:00	R112 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076-7680 info@wfmarket.co.za	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area
Every Saturday	Walkerville Agricultural Market	09:00 to 15:00	K154 T-junction with R82	082 573-2780 market@walkervillesa.co.za	Organic produce and Crafter's Market. www.walkervillesa.co.za
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	09:00 to 15:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553-2846	Meats and vegetables, delicacies, honey, cheese, brewery, crafter's market and children's entertainment.
Every Saturday	Market @84	09:00 to 14:00	84 On Main, Walkerville	Ariel 078 223-9238	Fresh organically grown produce and crafters market
1st Saturday	Jozi Real Food VEGAN Market	09:00 to 15:00	Pirates Sports Club, Braeside Avenue, Greenside	083 532 2992 whitespace@mweb.co.za	Arts & crafts, live music, vegan cuisine, organic vegetables & coffee
1st Saturday	The Green Market	09:00 to 12:00	Pretoria Botanical Gardens 2 Cussonia Avenue, Brummeria, Pretoria	Melissa 083 562-5249	Products ranging from solar equipment to organic food
1st Saturday	Victus Christi Arts & Crafts Market	08:00 to 14:00	24b Miles Sharp Street, Rynfield, Benoni (north side of Bunny Park)	Schalk 082 561-9409 info@victuschristi.org.za	Arts & crafts, fine art, food, fresh meat & produce and home industry
2nd Saturday	Brakpan Boeremark	09:00 to 14:00	cnr van der Walt and Dirk van der Hoff Brakpan	Marius 011 744-2322 082 904-8852	Over 50 stalls. Food, arts, crafts, etc.
Last Saturday	Fresh2U Farmers Market	08:00 to 14:00	Corner Main Street and High Street Modderfontein (behind 33 High Street)	Jane 083 376 5567 Chantelle 082 338 7818 wardek@iafrica.com	Over 50 stalls. Fresh produce, home made goods, plants, food and more.
Last Saturday	Fresh Produce Market	08:00 to 13:00	Lakeside Mall Boathouse	Alma 079 940-0201 realfood4realpeople@gmail.com	Local fresh produce direct to the public
Last Saturday	Windpomp Market	08:00 to 14:00	Broodblik & Koffiepit on the R51 between Petit & Bapsfontein	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!
Every Sunday	Jozi Real Food Market	09:00 to 14:00	Northcliff Country Club, Fir Avenue, Northcliff	083 532 2992 whitespace@mweb.co.za	Arts & crafts, music & entertainment, inspired cuisine organic vegetables & coffee, pet products
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doomrandjies	012 669-3043 info@serendipitycafe.co.za www.serendipitycafe.co.za	Community market to promote local business

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Dreadful dress sense

Modern fashions are grossly unappealing. Not only are the clothes ugly, but the fact that people have lost a sense of decorum when they dress makes the "anything goes" approach to clothing oneself ... well ... blech. I'm not referring here to the mad get-ups that *avant garde* designers drape around their anorexic models to traipse down the world's fashion catwalks.

And I'm not talking about women's wear. I'm talking, rather about the t-shirts, slops and baggy shorts that seem to have become the uniform of the modern South African man in summer.

We spent part of the holiday at two resorts. The one was very laid back, to the extent that even the waiters and waitresses in the dining room (hospitality students gaining work experience) were allowed to wear shorts, boys and girls alike, and just about anything on their feet.

Hmmm... for somebody old-school like me that was almost a bridge too far (I say almost because one of their number was a pulchritudinous young wench with the smallest, tightest pair of denim shorts imaginable that had the male guests dribbling slack-jawed into their soup).

And of course if you encourage your serving staff to dress as if headed for a day on the beach you can't expect your guests to dress any smarter. Which I found a pity, having grown up in a house where one was expected to dress for dinner, if for no other reason than to show respect for the efforts of the cook. And, with no dress code for guests, and waiting staff dressed casually, I imagine there will come a day when a guest takes it into his or her head that it's OK to rock up for breakfast in a dressing gown and pantoffels or to go for dinner on a hot summer's evening in a bikini.

For many people nowadays, it seems, have lost any sense of acceptable behaviour.

At the second resort we stayed at, things were very different. All the hotel's literature, from the on-line booking form to the directory of services in the rooms, informed one in no uncertain terms that gentlemen guests were expected to wear closed shoes and long trousers in the dining room in the evening. Even to the extent of informing guests that should they have arrived without long trousers, the hotel shop would be open from which suitable gear could be purchased.

Hell, it's not a lot to ask for. It's not as if the hotel was insisting on ties and jackets. Denim jeans count as long trousers, and

canvas sneakers or trainers count as closed shoes.

Nevertheless, instantly one had a sense of decorum in the dining room, because although there was no dress code spelled out for women, it was clear that watching their menfolk change for dinner spurred the ladies on to greater sartorial heights, too.

But there's always one, isn't there? One evening a shaven-headed fellow who looked he'd enjoyed too many steroids at a boxing academy, wearing baggies, was stopped at the door by a waitress who he informed "ah duddunt know" about the

trousers code. She promptly escorted him to a single table in a corner, concealed from the rest of the guests by a large pillar and a pot plant. Talk about being put in the dunce's corner!

In truth, the part of modern fashion that I find most offensive is the desire to wear loud t-shirts emblazoned with silly slogans. These are often faded by washing and simply gross, particularly when they are used in a vain attempt to hide a pair of flabby man-boobs and a bulging gut.

For, My oh My, there is a lot of lard being carted about on the bodies of South Africans these days!

And it's not only adults who evidence advanced middle-age spread with their beer bellies and wobbly bottoms. Have you noticed how many more fat children there are nowadays? Look at any crowd of kids today, in a mall, on the beach or at the movies. Little telly-tubbies waddling about, usually stuffing their faces with something sticky and sweet, and peering squint-eyed into their cell-phones or tablets.

Frankly, unless such children are suffering from a disease and therefore can't help being fat, the parents of such fatties should be criminally charged for their poor parenting skills in allowing their little couch potato darlings to eat and drink unhealthily and skip out on invigorating exercise.

For by so doing they are condemning them to a lifetime of predisposition to diseases such as hypertension, cardiac failure, stroke, diabetes ~ and quite possibly an early death.





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