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FRONT COVER

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COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Scary sloganeering



Perhaps because of our previous education system which, concentrating as it did on learning by rote, does not encourage critical thought, ordinary South Africans are far too unquestioning when politicians come up with catchy slogans or “clever” ideas.

Two such examples, that have been much in the news recently, are “radical economic transformation” and “white monopoly capital”. That the ruling elite has been bandying these phrases about unchallenged or at best with so little ridicule says much about our lack of critical thought.

Which is a pity because those who use these phrases, and many more like them, should be roundly derided ... laughed out of court, in fact. For at best such phrases are totally meaningless. At worst they are downright dangerous.

Take the notion of “radical economic transformation” so beloved by Mr Zuma and his new finance minister. Any first-year student of economics will tell you that a functioning economy is like a machine of many parts, all operating interdependently, yet all achieving different outcomes. Thus, if you fiddle with one part it may well affect another, seemingly unrelated, part. And all economies function in relation to other economies, notably those of one's trading partners. As a quick example, if our central bank raises the interest rate it makes life more expensive for those individuals or businesses who wish to borrow money. That means they must increase the price at which they sell whatever goods or services they provide, adding to the possibility of higher inflation, among other things. On the other hand, a higher interest rate makes it possible for those who have money to invest to earn more. And if our interest rate is very much higher than that in other economies foreigners will view us as an attractive country in which to invest, ratings agency downgrades notwithstanding.

Thus central bankers play a delicate game every day to juggle the numbers they can control, for example the interest rate, in an effort to positively influence or at least not harm, those numbers that they can't control.

The point is that doing something drastic, something “radical”, to change the economy is not in the nature of a sensible economist. Now we know that South Africa is the most unequal society on earth, and we all pretty much acknowledge that steps must be taken to uplift the poor and make their lives easier, while not killing the goose that lays the golden eggs among those at the other end of the spectrum. But doing something “radical,” whatever that may be, will simply destroy the whole economy, and ruin the country. Think Zimbabwe.

So when politicians such as Messrs Zuma and Gigaba rattle on about “radical economic transformation” we should not let them off the hook unchallenged. We should want to know exactly what it is they have in mind, if they have anything at all in mind, that is.

Of course, if you are a politician, using the phrase “radical economic transformation” in the same sentence as “white monopoly capital” can conjure up a wondrous bogeyman in the minds of uneducated voters. For, if you push the notion of “us” versus “them” in which the “them” are the hated “white monopoly capital” class it is not difficult to get the downtrodden masses on your side.

So let's look at the notion of white monopoly capital. It is a convenient little racist ploy to bandy about the idea that South Africa's wealth is in the hands of the white minority. While outwardly it may appear so, digging deeper, for example into the shareholdings of public companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, shows that the proportion of identifiable black stock ownership is now not much less than that of identifiable white ownership, and it is a devilishly difficult number to compute because of the interrelationships between companies. This, of course, is exactly as it should be even if it has come about through the artifice of black economic empowerment, which has made a few pigmentally-blessed individuals very wealthy, rather than benefiting the masses of the poor.

And the notion that the country is being held to ransom by a kind of “monopoly” is also nonsense. A monopoly exists when one company has total control over its industry, and is therefore able to set prices, product characteristics, supply quantities etc, unfettered by the possibility of outside interference. Clearly, this does not happen in the greater South African scene, if for no other reason than because the Competition Commission would prevent it.

Radical economic transformation and white monopoly capital take their place alongside the infinitely more dangerous notion of state capture by Zuma and his acolytes, and their puppet-masters of the Saxonwold shebeen (Thank you, Brian Molefe, for that expression).

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Guide to help curb rising stocktheft

Recent statistics give the impression that stock theft is decreasing. However, according to the Livestock Welfare Co-ordinating Committee

(LWCC) this is not a true reflection of the situation. In reality theft is on the increase but owners are not reporting their losses.

For, gone are the days of petty theft and syndicates are now noticeably affecting keepers of livestock (the recent upsurge in donkey thefts and slaughter for the Far East donkey skin "trade" is a case in point). Part of the problem is that some livestock owners do not identify their animals legally, which means it is impossible for them or the police to do anything more about the crime. The LWCC

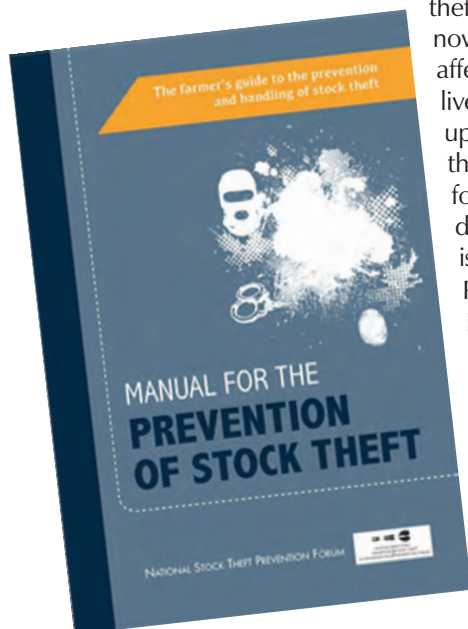
acknowledges that as far as the registration of livestock brands and tattoos is concerned, the methods of branding need revision, with further emphasis on an animal welfare point of view. It is also important that the branding of animals is conducted by trained personnel.

In terms of prevention and handling of stock theft, help for the smallholder is at hand, in the form of a free, downloadable manual, titled Manual for the Prevention of Stock Theft.

The manual was developed by the National Stock Theft Prevention Forum, in collaboration with the Dept of Agriculture.

The book gives detailed information on animal branding, the identification of animals and all the regula-

tions; the paperwork involved in sale and resale of livestock; what to do when stock theft occurs, how the criminal justice system works, along with all the relevant legislation and then, finally, advice on the prevention of stock theft. To download the book, go to <http://www.agricconnect.co.za/manual-for-the-prevention-of-stock-theft-3/> or go to <http://www.agricconnect.co.za/handleiding-vir-veediefstalvoorkoming-2/> for the Afrikaans version.



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NEWS

Facebook features in modern marketing

Companies are increasingly turning to social media to market their products and services, with a Facebook page becoming an important weapon in a modern marketing arsenal, especially when it is tied to building up awareness of other marketing activities, such as encouraging

Social media offer a cheap way of communicating with customers ... if they're tech-savvy

visitor attendance at trade shows. This month's Nampo Show, outside Bothaville, is no exception. Agricultural netting manufacturer Knittex has a competition on its Facebook page where you can win one of five

Nampo 2017 tickets (worth R100 each). Visit Knittex' Facebook page and follow the instructions to enter, then keep an eye on the page on 8 May when the winners will be announced.

Then, if you missed out on a free Nampo ticket, Knittex continues its Nampo focus by giving away four ground sheets from its stand at the show between 16 and 19 May. All you have to do is visit the Knittex stand and drop your details into a lucky draw competition box. Knittex will call you during the week to collect your prize if you are a winner.

This year, the Knittex stand will also showcase video footage of various intensive research and testing projects on its shade nets. Spectranet

provides protection for your crops against natural elements such as birds and insects. It also shelters your crops against harsh weather elements such as wind, sunburn and hail. Shade net can also help farmers increase their water consumption efficiency by reducing the amount of evaporation from free water surfaces.

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Also using Facebook as an instant marketing tool is Turfmaster, with a simple draw to encourage visitors to its page, where it keeps the buying public up to date with special offers and other product developments. Turfmaster is offering a Maruyama BC3021H-RS brushcutter to a lucky Facebook visitor who "likes"

Continued on page 8

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NEWS

Wet summer brings on ailments in Gauteng

The exceptionally wet late summer this year has seen outbreaks of all manner of livestock diseases in Gauteng and surrounds, with everything from worse-than-normal infestations of ticks and fleas on dogs and cats being reported, to fatal cases of pneumonia and African Horse Sickness.

One of the facets of smallholder agriculture is that, because of the close proxim-

ity of small flocks and herds to each other on adjoining plots, disease outbreaks spread more easily than they do on larger farms.

Indeed, state veterinary services view smallholder areas as incubators of disease as a result.

And the problem is made worse because not all

smallholder livestock owners are diligent in their inoculation and disease-control programmes, either through ignorance because they have never been taught, or through lack of interest or resources because they are not full-time farmers.

Thus, the fact that an individual livestock owner or

stable-yard may be very careful with inoculations and close observation and identification of outbreaks of illness does not mean that animals in that very yard are not affected, because animals on neighbouring or nearby properties may not be subject to the same level of care.

FACEBOOK

From page 6

and then "shares" the new Turfmaster page. Although Turfmaster's draw is not connected to Nampo, you can see an example of the brushcutter prize at the Turfmaster stand at Nampo, adjacent to the vintage tractor shed.

The prize is worth R5 814 to the winner. The Maruyama

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WALKERVILLE SHOW



Left: Fresh vegetables on sale from a local farmers' co-operative



Above: Plenty of variety in the stalls. Left: Entrants could win a goat if they could guess its weight correctly



Outbreaks of livestock diseases brought on by the unseasonably wet late summer enjoyed by Gauteng conspired to cause the withdrawal of most of the four-legged livestock from this year's Walkerville Agricultural Show. Only days before the show, organisers were faced with cancellations of entries from livestock owners whose animals were taken ill, or by owners concerned with their charges catching ailments from others while at the show. This left them with no time to source replacement entries and as a result the animal stalls during the show were largely empty. The exceptions

were the poultry and rabbit entries which were both well-organised and fully-stocked and, in the case of the rabbits at least, of an increasingly high standard, said judges. Held over two days in early April the Walkerville Show retains the atmosphere of a traditional country fair, replete with all manner of country craft and food stalls, farmers' produce competitions, entertainment for children and

Continued on page 10



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WALKERVILLE SHOW

From page 9

adults alike, and a selection of commercial stalls selling everything from services such as estate agencies to seeds and agricultural machinery. And, as a sign of the times a stand near the entrance set up by the Democratic Alliance was festooned with posters demanding that "Zuma must go", while close by the Gauteng Dept of Agriculture had a van dispensing information on animal care and health.

As has become traditional at the show, held this year for the 55th time, there was the impressive stand of the Gauteng Conservancy Association and its local member the Thorntree Conservancy, which held cages containing a number of

poisonous snakes, some amphibians and other species, and which dispensed information on conservation-aligned topics such as poaching, snares and pollution.

One of the contests held at the show under the auspices of Livingseeds and Standard Bank, which required pre-planning by growers, was a mammoth pumpkin growing competition where local growers stacked up their prize gourds against this year's heaviest, a monster 556kg pumpkin which won the Goliat van Gat competition held earlier in Cullinan.

The overly-wet season affected growers' efforts too, and the winning pumpkin this year was a mere 215,9kg grown by Wikus Lampbrecht.




Left: The Gauteng Conservancy stand is always thoughtfully prepared

Right: For when your daughter tires of her Barbie doll: A PINK toy chainsaw



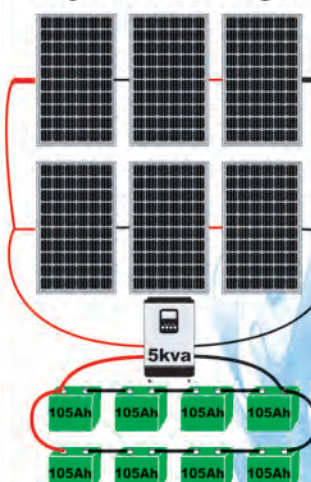
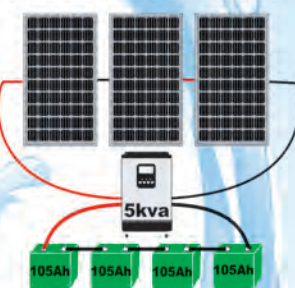
Left: 556kg pumpkin that won the Goliat van Gat competition at Cullinan earlier in the year. The winner at the Walkerville Show was 215,9kg.



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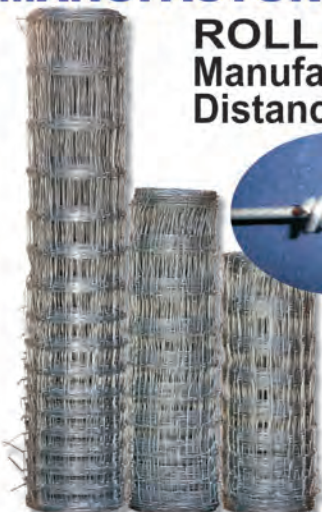
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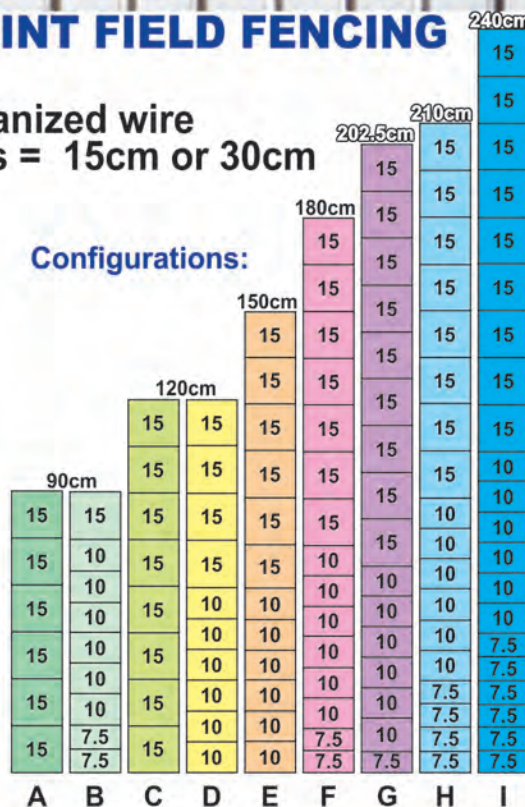
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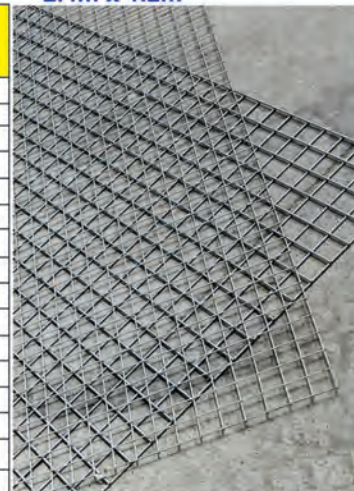
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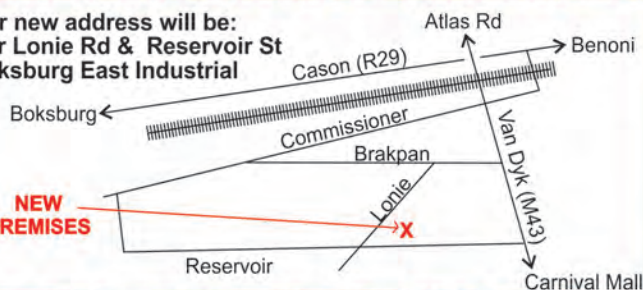
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	4
	5
50 x 50	3.15
	4
	5
100 x 50	3.15
	4
	5
100 x 100	4
	5
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	4
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FIRE SEASON

What you need to know about veld fires

This is one of our hardy annual topics. If you own a piece of land with anything flammable growing on it you need to be aware of your responsibilities in relation to fire prevention and disaster management. Because this topic is of such importance in a dry province such as Gauteng at this time of year we have covered it

extensively over the years, and all the information is available on our website for free download (and is also available in our 2014-published *Smallholder's Companion* book, a few copies of which are still available for purchase). Rather than reinvent the wheel each year, therefore, here is a summary of what

you need to know, and what you need to do, firstly, to prevent fires from starting on your property and, secondly, to fight them if they do, and the equipment you will need with which to fight fires.

What you need to know

The law pertaining to veld fires is contained in the National Veld & Forest Fire Act, No 101 of 1998 and its

amendments. Laws such as this one are contained in *Government Gazettes* which can be accessed through a number of sources, including the government department concerned, or at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/act101-.pdf>.

In brief, the act lays out the rights and responsibilities of a landowner or occupier with regard to fire prevention and firefighting, and the recourse an affected individual has if his property is destroyed by fire. It is a law with teeth, and it has been applied, to the chagrin of those who have found themselves on its wrong side.

You can find a summary of its details and requirements at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/apr9veldfire.rtf>.

There are other aspects of fire management which are not directly covered by the act, but which affect you as a landowner. Read why it is good practice to clear your verges at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/apr9-verges.rtf>.

And why it is so important to protect your infrastructure, eg plastic piping and galvanised fence wiring at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/apr9fence.rtf>.

What you need to do:

☐ **To prevent fires.** This takes two forms and the time to do it has already started. Firstly, you need to remove as much flammable material as possible from your fields, verges etc. This means cutting, raking and baling the cuttings, as well as brushcutting around fence posts, and along fence lines, and near piping etc. Secondly, you need to have some mechanism in place to prevent ANY fire from spreading from your property to a neighbour's. This means

Continued on page 13



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From page 12

preparing firebreaks around (at least) the perimeter of your property. In reality this can take three forms.

Walling: On a small property construction of a solid wall (eg, precast concrete panelling), at least 1,8m high, will prevent fires from spreading, especially if the grass on either side is shorn.

Firebreaks: A firebreak is defined as a strip of land devoid of any flammable material, of sufficient width that a fire cannot spread from one side to the other. The width of an effective firebreak, therefore, is related to the height of the grass on either side of it (and this material's ability to burn high and hot). The shorter the grass, therefore, the narrower the firebreak can be. As a rule, a cleared break of 5m width, with a further strip 5m wide of closely shorn grass on either side will make an

Links to the legislation and everything you need to know about fire prevention and fire fighting on your smallholding

effective break. You can read more at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/apr9-width.rtf>.

The two most common ways to make a firebreak are:

~ **Ploughing.** This is the safest and most convenient method as there is no chance of fire during its preparation and you can see how effective your efforts are. Plus, you don't need to co-ordinate with your neighbours when preparing your ploughed break. The disadvantage of a ploughed break is the cost of fuel and tractor time involved in ploughing and harrowing, and removing the exposed clumps of (flammable) grass remaining, the fact that after a couple of years of ploughing the break develops into a shallow gully, and the fact that it will result in a good

crop of weeds sprouting the following season. You can read about ploughing breaks at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/apr9plough.rtf>.

~ **Burning.** This requires liaison with your neighbours, sufficient manpower with training in the use of the firefighting equipment supplied for the burning and prevention of the spread of the fire, the blessing of a calm, wind-free day, and prior preparation of the adjacent land by cutting and clearing. You can read about your responsibilities when burning breaks in the Act, and also at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/apr9burn.rtf>.

☐ **To fight fires.** Despite the best preparation and the widest firebreaks, late winter winds coupled with even short very dry grass can result

in runaway blazes. You need to know what your options and responsibilities are in relation to provision of, and access to, suitable equipment (eg fire beaters, blowers, hoses, motorised pumps etc), training of personnel (staff and family) in the handling and safe use of the equipment. You can read more about this at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/may11fire.rtf>.

Understanding how fires burn is helpful in this regard. Read about how a fire burns at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/may13firetheory.rtf>.

There is also a recipe you can use to make your firefighting water "wetter". You can read about it at <http://www.sasmallholder.co.za/apr7wetter.rtf>.



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



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

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

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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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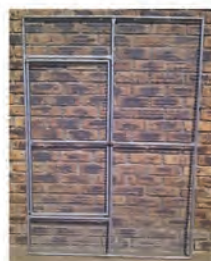
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Help at hand for small pig farmers

Because pig farming is an intensive and highly specialised form of farming, the SA Pork Producers' Organisation (Sappo) believes that commercial pork producers must assist developing pig farmers for sustainability. Sappo's Portfolio Committee for Emerging Farmers is tasked with co-ordinating and managing emerging farming projects countrywide.

Sappo's developing programme for new producers mainly focuses on training, which takes place on developing pig units, at farmers' days and by means of study groups among developing farmers. Sappo wants to ensure that these farmers develop and eventually make a meaningful contribution towards commercial and sustainable pork production in South Africa.

Farmers who are on the brink of becoming commercial producers receive intensive mentorship that mainly takes place at pig units. Those already farming commercially receive regular and more focused attention. Provincial pig veterinarians, who keep a close watch on the disease status of the units, regularly visit them. Sappo pays for these veterinarian visits.

The number of successful developing projects in North West, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western and Eastern Cape and in Gauteng proves that some developing pig farmers are already crossing the bridge from just making a living out of pigs, towards becoming commercially successful.

For many years smallholders in Gauteng have been under the impression that it is illegal to keep pigs on a smallholding. However, it is only the West Rand District Municipality Municipal Health Services By-laws that

insist that one needs a permit to keep pigs. Nevertheless, where plot dwellers might encounter a problem is in the more universally-promulgated municipal bylaws which state that the pigsty may not be situated within 100 m of the boundary of the property, or any dwelling, building or structure used for human habitation, or any place

where foodstuffs are stored or prepared for human consumption, or any water resource intended for domestic consumption. This effectively means that if you are to keep pigs legally your property needs to be considerably larger than 2ha to ensure that you will fulfil the 100m distance requirements in every respect. But, let's face

it, observance of municipal bylaws and building regulations has become less and less rigid in recent years... So if you've got the space, consider taking advantage of Sappo's offer of support. As with any venture, you first need to make sure there is someone who is going to buy your pigs and pay for them.

Continued on page 16



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LIVESTOCK

From page 15

Make sure you can finance all the expenses until your first pigs are ready to sell.

Plan a programme that is going to fit your resources ~ you will need to draw up a budget and perhaps investigate getting bridging finance. The Dicla organisation on the West Rand has developed a turnkey pig production unit that includes the pig housing, its construction, installation of plumbing, feed, training and the first batch of piglets.

Then you need to decide which type of pig you are

going to grow and sell: will they be weaners, porkers or baconers? A weaner is about eight weeks old, so you are selling it on for someone else to raise, or you rear them until they are ready for slaughter as porkers (a pig ready for slaughter at 60 kg live weight) or as baconers (90 kg live weight).

Decide what breed of pig will suit your circumstances best. Popular breeds include Large White, SA Landrace, Duroc, Windsnyer and Kolbroek. Get advice on which breed is well-adapted to your area and your needs.

Look at your facilities for housing your pigs. Pigs are intelligent and great escape artists, so your accommodation

needs to be up to the challenge of containing them. They are also natural rooters and can cause a great deal of damage in a short space of time.

Pigs at different stages of growth need different ambient temperatures, so their houses must be built in such a way that the pigs are protected against extreme temperatures and other bad weather conditions, such as cold winds and continuous rain. Mothers and babies need extra care. Pigs in pens are entirely dependent on their care givers for all their needs. You will need to be prepared to carry out certain procedures, such as injecting, tattooing, wound treatment and tail-clipping.



Large White sow with a large litter



Hardy indigenous Kolbroeks are becoming increasingly popular

And, because they are kept in such intensive conditions, disease is a constant and devastating threat, and signs of ailments must be monitored constantly, both visually and by veterinary testing. Traditionally, pigs were fed on household waste and whatever else they could find. If you are keeping a pig simply because you like the idea of having one or as a means of providing slurry for a bio-digester, you will feed it on your household fruit and vegetable waste and perhaps

Continued on page 17

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From page 16

buy in catering waste, as well as supplementing with concentrates.

However, if you wish to keep pigs commercially, you will have the following aims:

- ☐ The pigs must grow as quickly as possible.
- ☐ Their feed must be converted into muscle as effectively as possible.
- ☐ The pigs must not have too much fat in their meat.

In order to achieve this, you must know the feed requirements of the different age groups and feed each group the correct quantity of the right mixture. Feed mixtures can either be bought or you can mix them yourself, which may prove to be cheaper. An adequate supply of water is most important. An adult pig can consume as much as eight litres a day and a lactating sow will need double that amount. A pig needs to drink twice as much water as the food it eats, to maintain healthy levels of salt in its body.

They also need access to water or mud puddles to keep their temperatures stable.

Learn about common health problems such as scours (diarrhoea) in young pigs and mange, which is itchy, diseased skin in pigs of all ages. Also learn about

malnutrition (poor condition), other skin conditions including lice, fly damage, greasy pig disease, diamond skin disease; worms such as roundworms and tapeworms, lameness, abscesses, fever, heatstroke, salt poisoning and pneumonia.

It is compulsory to mark all pigs, so all owners must register an identification mark at the office of the registrar of animal identification. Pigs must be tattooed at the age of one month in the left ear.

They can also be marked in the left or right side of the neck or shoulder area by means of a "hogslapper". Biosecurity is important. Diseases are spread mainly by pigs, people, bad food, vehicles or workers. Protect your pigs with pig-proof fencing, locked gates, healthy replacement stock and limit the people who come near your pigs. Never feed swill from restaurants or food that contains animal tissues. Use the help that is available from

veterinarians, nutritionists or animal scientists.

Disinfection must be thorough and continuous. The pens in which the pigs are kept must be well drained and kept scrupulously clean. Flies must be controlled and the feed kept in a clean, dry, rat-proof place. Transport vehicles must be clean.

The Sappo office can be contacted at 012 361-3920 or admin@sapork.com.

QUIRKY

The British Army Manual for servicing 15 pounder guns was revised in World War II when a training film revealed that Gunner No 6 stood smartly to attention throughout the exercise without performing a single operation.

After lengthy enquiries, puzzled Staff Officers finally found a veteran of the Boer War who could explain the function of G6 ~ he remembered that G6, at that time, used to hold the horses.



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INVASIVE ALIENS

Some notable wins in alien bio-control

The Gauteng Smallholder has highlighted before the use of biocontrol in the battle against invasive alien plants. In a recent edition of the journal *Bothalia - African Biodiversity & Conservation*, a paper was published giving the status of this battle. Dr Costas Zachariades and his colleagues have found that there have been an encouraging number of successes in the use of natural enemies such as insects, mites, and pathogens, which are organisms such as fungi that cause diseases in plants. South Africa has a history of more than a century of the use of biological agents to combat invasive alien plants (IAP), with significant control of several Cactaceae, Australian Acacia species and floating aquatic plants, and

many other IAPs having been achieved since 1913.

Recently, biological control has benefited from improved international collaboration, a streamlined application process for the release of new biological control agents (resulting in the approval of 19 agents against 13 IAP species since 2013), and increased funding and capacity.

The inclusion of biocontrol as part of the Working for Water programme led to significant increases in funding for the campaign. After 1994 there was much greater collaboration possible with many other countries, including the regions of origin of the invasives. South Africa is a signatory to the international Convention on Biodiversity, which has enabled a more structured approach to

biological diversity transfer.

The work was further enabled by a streamlining in 2013 of the process that has to be followed for the release of biological agents.

So what progress has there been in the use of biological control in Gauteng?

One of the greatest successes has been against the Queen

of the Night cactus (*Cereus jamacaru*). Although one still sees it in gardens, in the wild it has been brought under complete control through the release of the mealybug and the longhorn beetle.

The first time a biological agent was released against the water hyacinth

Continued on page 20

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INVASIVE ALIENS

From page 19

(*Eichhornia crassipes*) was in 1974 and since then a further seven have been released, of which six have been confirmed as established.

Unfortunately, Gauteng is one of the areas where there is considerable pollution of water with nitrates and phosphates which feeds the hyacinth faster than biological control agents can damage it, so the approach has also included herbicides and mechanical means of eradication, which is an ongoing process.

There has been some success against some varieties of *Lantana camara* owing to the



Releasing thrips on to pompom weed

action of the suite of biological control agents released against it. South African research programmes on this specie have also benefited, or could potentially benefit, other countries in which *Lantana* is invasive. The natural spread of the leaf-mining fly *Ophiomyia camarae* to neighbouring countries will have helped to combat *lantana* there as well. The leaf-feeding beetle *Mada polluta*, was widely released, including in Gauteng, in the

war against yellow bells (*Tecoma stans*). The agent is reported to be well established and is being followed up by a leaf-miner as well. Readers who have been following the ongoing saga of the pompom weed (*Campuloclinium macrocephalum*) will be

heartened to know that the stem and leaf deforming thrips that was released in 2013 has become well established. The rust, *Puccinia eupatoria*, which invades the seeds and kills the whole plant, including the roots, is abundantly wide-spread. A permit has also been received for the release of a flower feeder to target pompom weed. The seed feeding weevil that targets balloon vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*) is also well established.

Continued on page 21



Megamelus scutellaris on water hyacinth

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— INVASIVE ALIENS

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The SA Green Industries Council (Sagie) is once again offering training in the identification and management of invasive alien species.

The training is targeted at horticulturists, landscapers, landscape architects, conservationists, invasive species professionals, biocontrol officers, municipal parks department officials, estate agents, botanists, zoologists and passionate gardeners with a superb knowledge and interest in flora and fauna. Four modules are offered:

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☐ Module 2: Directives & Control Plans: Understanding declarations, permits, pre-directives, directives and control plans.

☐ Module 3: Theory:

Herbicides & Control Methods: Introduction to herbicides and how to use them.

☐ Module 4: Practical: Spraying Herbicides: A practical learning experience in the field with industry experts.

Completion of Module 3 and Module 4 results in the issuance of an official Herbicide Operator's Certificate, but participants may choose the modules that they wish to attend.

The training will be held in Johannesburg from 6 to 9 June and in Pretoria from 18 to 21 July. Times: 09h00 ~ 16h00 for Modules 1, 2 & 3 and 09h00 ~ 14h00 for Module 4. Cost per module is R912.

Contact Hazel or Kay at 011 723-9000 or download the forms at www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/936-sagie-invasive-species-training.

BIOCONTROL

From page 20

The use of biocontrol agents is a long-term project, and even though we might think no progress has been made in this struggle, a great deal of patience is required until positive results can be declared.

The paper concludes that "there is still a need to improve implementation and to better integrate biological control with other control methods. In order to maximise benefits from biological control, increased investment is required, particularly in implementation and post-release evaluation, and in targeting new IAPs.

"Proposed targets for growth between 2017 and 2020 include an increase in

financial investment in research by 29%, implementation by 28% and mass-rearing by 68%. Research capacity should increase by 29%, implementation capacity by 63% and mass-rearing capacity by 61%. New research projects should be initiated on 12 new IAP targets, while post-release monitoring efforts should be expanded to another 31 IAPs."

(Zachariades, C, Paterson, ID, Strathie, LW, Hill, MP & Van Wilgen, BW, 2017, 'Assessing the status of biological control as a management tool for suppression of invasive alien plants in South Africa', *Bothalia* 47(2), a2142. <https://doi.org/10.4102/abc.v47i2.2142>)

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Indigenous aloe is a great winter feed

Aloe daveyana is a very similar aloe to Aloe Transvalensis, the main difference of importance to the beekeeper being that A daveyana flowers in the winter and A Transvalensis flowers in the summer. Because of the abundance of flora about in the summer, the nectar flow of A Transvalensis has not been put to the test by beekeepers and no appreciable reports have been tabled. But for A daveyana, when nothing else is flowering and in competition, the honey flow is recognisable. The aloes occur in a wide belt north of Pretoria from Zeerust in the west to about Middelburg in the east, flowering from June in the extreme west to August in the east.

A daveyana nectar flow depends on a number of factors. Good rains in the growing season from November to March are required. While the plant is a dry hot climate plant, beekeepers look for the honey and pollen yield that can only be attained by good rains. Before going to the aloes, one needs to inspect first and ask around about the rainy season. Dry hungry plants, with leaves that resemble old dry biltong, entering the dry flowering season cannot yield a fair crop. Sure there will be plenty of pollen, but there will also be hungry nasty bees, and plenty of swarming off to better pastures. Fat, healthy flower spikes pushing their way up are promising for good thing to come. The flower buds all appear before they start opening from the bottom buds up. These are the best flowers that build the bees up.

The first cycle of brood in the hive will hatch after 18 days and the second cycle after a

Keeping your bees nourished through the winter is a challenge on the dry highveld

further 18 days. By this time the aloes are peaking, when most of the florets are open over the whole field, and only now does the honey come pouring in to the hive because of the vast number of new worker bees. Also at this time virtually every queen will prepare to swarm off and at this short period of queenlessness the black "capensis" bee becomes active. These are always present in the hives and carry the queen pheromone, which deceives the bees and prevents them from raising a new queen. The swarm thus continues queenless, no new workers are developed, and the swarm diminishes over a longish period until all the honey and pollen stocks have been consumed by these non-foraging bees. Beekeepers currently lose about 40% of their bees after the aloe flow for bees that they had taken to the aloes. Thus, at all costs the queens must not be allowed to leave or fly out of the hives in order

to avoid a period of queenlessness. Therefore,

plenty of space must be given to avoid congestion in the hives.

Continued on page 26

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BEEKEEPING

From page 23

The best system to follow, therefore, is as follows:

❑ Spring-clean each hive, with two frames of full foundation sheet placed in the centre of the brood chambers before the move to the aloe field.

❑ Remove the supers, making loading easier. This allows more space for more hives on your truck or trailer.

❑ Load supers to provide two supers per hive, and deposit these supers on the site ahead of the load of bees to follow, placing them where the hives are to be placed. Usually aloe sites are large areas, therefore spread the hives to facilitate cropping off the honey at a later stage.

❑ Move the hives to the site, timing the trip to allow enough time to super up the

hives before dark.

❑ Place two supers on each hive.

❑ To confine the queen, block up the entrances and place a good quality queen excluder on top of the first super and under the second super. Move the top super, which is above the queen excluder, slightly backwards to allow a gap that the bees will use as a top entrance. In this way the queen will not be able to fly off. The super below the queen excluder gives the queen ample egg laying space. The hive will need a third super when the aloes are peaking.

❑ Now for the big job. Crop off the honey by drawing frame by frame, a long and tedious job when there are 50 or so hives to work on the same day. This allows the bees to fall back into the hive and not on to the ground in front of the hives. By doing so one must avoid mixing the

bees because some hives might have the black bee invasion which can spread by too many flying and disturbed bees during this cropping operation.

❑ The swarms develop into largish groups and one must be wary of over-cropping, leaving at least a half a super of honey until the next honey flow, possibly on citrus groves, or the Highveld gums that follow in October.

Continued on page 27

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From page 26

□ After moving to the new sites, retain the top entrance on the citrus but return to the bottom entrances on the gums. This bottom entrance is essential to allow the bees to clean out the hives of dead bees, and must be opened as soon as possible. One must add a second super after the move.

After the honey has been cropped off and preparations are afoot to return to the October Highveld gums, one can have a shot at increasing the hives in the apiary.

Have ready a loose floor and a loose lid, and an empty super complete with frames and full foundation wax sheets. A wet extracted super is even better.

□ Lift the super and lid intact, (that is the super that was placed under the queen excluder,) and place on to the new floor. Inspect if there are eggs and one day old larva in the super, and also in the

Beekeepers who do not confine the queens II report Black "capensis" bee invasion in a large percentage of swarms returned from the aloes

brood chamber. Then one can split this hive. Use as little smoke as possible as one must retain as many bees as possible in this new super. Do not attempt to look for the queen ~ rest assured she is somewhere there.

□ Remove this unit to another site. This becomes the new split swarm that must later be transferred into a standard brood chamber.

□ Place the new super and lid on to the old brood chamber and prepare to move it to either citrus site, or the gums.

The bees will raise a new queen in whichever portion of the split is left queenless. This method is a departure from the old conventional way, in which we never confined the queen, but allowed her to swarm off hoping the remaining bees

would automatically raise new queens.

One can still work this way, but one risks possible black bee invasion. Beekeepers who do not confine the queens all report Black "capensis" bee invasion in a large percentage of the swarms that return from the aloes.

There are pitfalls when the queens are not confined. When strong swarms arrive too early at the aloes, they swarm off and a poor honey flow results, and the bees could possibly return to home base weaker than when they left for the aloes, resulting in a poor early honey flow on the gums that would follow.

To avoid this one must clean the broods before the move. Remove the outer frame on either side of the brood chamber and replace within

the brood nest, not on the outsides, with two frames of foundation sheet to provide adequate space for the swarm. If a large swarm, then replace three frames. Remember it becomes very hot on the aloes in August. There is another way to prevent queens swarming off. Drive to your aloe land and look around. In early July you will notice short spikes of flowers.

Go again in early August and you will notice a lot of bloom but many florets still to open. By early September all the florets will be in bloom and the aloes will still have about three weeks of life. The peaking time will just be over. Now make your move. Take only strong swarms after cleaning, with one super per hive. Place a second super on the hive a week after arrival. The strong swarm will fill the two supers in three

Continued on page 29



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This summer Gauteng has had the highest rainfall in more than 20 years, which will have led in certain areas to a problem in smallholder pastures called pugging. Pugging happens when grazing animals tread wet soils and sink into the pasture surface and leave large holes. Their hooves create shallow holes of compacted soil, damaging the pasture by

Are you a victim of pugging?

burying it in the mud. Continual pugging will lead to the paddock looking like brown soup. The smallholder will think that we just need a few days and it will all dry out. However, we need to realise that in some cases the delicate crumb structure of the soil is broken down. The crumbs are smeared by the pounding action of the feet,

and the soil air is squashed out. It can be a period of months to years, or sometimes longer, before this delicate crumb structure is restored. Research has shown that return to full pasture production can be delayed by up to nine months in bad cases. The problem will have been made worse by the tendency

of smallholder livestock owners to overstock the pasture, which means there are more animals on that patch of land than there should be. You will know you have this problem when:
☐ Paddocks soon turn to mud when grazed during wet periods.
☐ Gateways and around water troughs are particularly muddy.

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BEEKEEPING

From page 27

weeks, taking one to the end of September and the end of the aloe flow. By doing this over such a short period the queens do not swarm off and before they know what has actually happened they are back in a much cooler climate on the Highveld gums.

Most importantly, once the hives have been placed on the aloes and the two supers added, do not open or meddle with the hives until the time for cropping the honey, and do not experiment with the swarms, or the bees will abscond. Given the invasion of black

capensis bees, conventional queen breeding has simply become a non-starter for highveld beekeepers. By Peter Clark, chairman of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association, tel 011 362-2904

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ON THE LAND

From page 29

- ☐ Deep tracks develop along fences or stock camp areas, which then act as runoffs for surface water.
- ☐ Water in drains and streams beside the grazed paddocks becomes coloured by sediment.
- ☐ There is nutrient loss from surface runoff.
- ☐ It becomes impossible to walk across your field without sinking in or your stock is sinking into the veld while they are grazing.
- ☐ You will observe lower

overall production when the pasture dries out.

- ☐ You will have areas of bare ground that do not grass over for long periods or you have rapid weed growth on bare areas, leading to more work and cost of spraying.
- ☐ Damaged drains no longer function, so surface water is visible.

On the other hand, you will know that you don't have that problem when you can continue to use that field for grazing into winter and the signs of hoof marks disappear.

Your pastures should then achieve their full annual growth potential.

If you do have a pugging problem, ideally you would withdraw the animals altogether for a number of months to enable the soil to recover - but few smallholders have enough grazing land to be able to do that.

So you will need to keep a



Waterlogged field

close watch on the pastures when they are grazed in wet conditions. Be prepared to remove stock from pasture when the first signs of damage appear and then use on/off grazing strategies.

We need to be creative in managing what grazing we do have. You might have to temporarily fence off the damaged areas and where stock like to congregate, and only allow the livestock onto the well grassed areas. You can speed up your rotation system, so that the animals are not in the field for as long as usual. Don't graze areas next to waterways - fence them off.

Provide enough water troughs to prevent stock walking long distances to drink.

If you can, move stock across grassed areas rather than across grazed areas. Don't let stock get too hungry so they walk along the fences while waiting to come in at night. Then you must consider if you need more than just rest to bring about rejuvenation of the grass. You might need to plough up the damaged areas and reseed in spring with a good veld grass seed mix.

Alternatively you could embrace the collection of mud and water and turn the area into a mini wetland, wildlife pond or marsh garden.

If you already have water in your field that has not drained away or evaporated, and it is in a convenient spot, you can design a pond next to it. The land needs to be reasonably flat -

Continued on page 31

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Now's the time to service your mower

With the onset of cooler weather in Gauteng you will probably, by the time you read this, have mowed your lawn for the last time this season, and your

mower (and your brushcutter, too, once your fencelines and verges have been shorn) will be ready for at least four months of storage.

Given that a modern ride-on lawnmower probably costs

more to buy than your first car it makes sense to have it serviced periodically, just like you do for your car.

And now, in the winter months, is the ideal time to take it in to a lawnmower

dealer for a service and inspection. Much better to do it now, after all, when you don't need it to work, than to wait until spring when the grass comes to life only to find that the dealership can't get it back to you in under four or more weeks.

A good annual service by a registered dealer is especially important if you are unable to do basic maintenance yourself, either because of a lack of skill, or because of a

Continued on page 33

ON THE LAND

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if the ground looks flat enough to pitch a tent on for a good night's sleep, it's probably level enough. Mark out the shape that you want with string or sand. The size will depend on how much space you have and how much water has collected. Avoid straight lines or a perfect circle, so that it looks more natural.

Dig out the grass and soil, creating sloping sides and gradually reaching about 1m depth in the middle. Line the trench with black plastic

sheeting. Mix 1/3 of the soil with 1/3 river sand and 1/3 compost and refill the hollow. Before allowing the water in, you might want to plant some of the underwater "oxygen weed" that is used in aquariums.

Allow the water to overflow slowly into the area. It is quite likely that the standing water is in the lowest part of your plot so that all runoff water has collected there.

In early spring plant marsh loving plants such as the bamboo reed (*Elegia*

capensis), dekriet (*Chondropetalum tectorum*), Vlei bluestem (*Andropogon appendiculatus*), Bulrushes (*Typha capensis*), peacock flower (*Diets bicolor*) and the wild iris (*Diets grandiflora*). Look out for sedges (*Cyperaceae*), which are grass like plants that grow in wetlands. Plant wonderlawn (*Dichondra repens*) or the indigenous daisy lawn (*Phylanodiiflora*) as low ground covers around the wetland perimeter.

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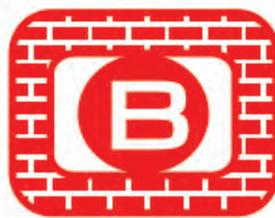
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MACHINERY

From page 31

lack of time.

For the fact is that lawnmower repair shops are a most seasonal business. During the summer months they are extremely busy repairing machines that have broken but need to be used urgently, while in the winter months the workers spend their time twiddling their thumbs through lack of work.

Repairmen thus urge mower owners to take advantage of the slack times to carry out maintenance and repairs. However, they ruefully admit that very few do, leaving repairs to the last minute and complaining bitterly about the long delays that result.

If you are like most smallholders your machines will therefore be pushed into your garage or shed and left to gather dust through the winter. Wrong move.

For a start, all petrol and diesel-driven items need a bit of basic maintenance before they are put into winter storage. But, more than that, winter is the ideal time to send them off to a dealer or service agent for an annual going over, much like you do for your car or bakkie.

If you are happy that all the components on your mower or brushcutter are in good condition, such as belts and gears, carburettor diaphragms, wheel and shaft bearings, fuel lines, clutch and brake pads and the like, then all that is needed is to prepare your mower for winter storage.

Start by turning off the petrol line or emptying the tank and run the engine till it cuts out, thereby ensuring that the fuel line is dry. With the fuel tank emptied, dry it out and, in steel tanks, pour in a tablespoon of light machine oil, replace the cap and slosh it about to coat the inside of the tank. This will prevent corrosion. Empty out the excess oil.

There are two ways to deal with the oil in the sump of a

four-stroke mower engine.

One school says to leave the old oil in the mower, and only empty it out after the first mowing session of the new season, when you are scarifying your lawn in a cloud of dust. This will ensure that any dust which enters the engine during this first job will be removed and thus not present to add to the wear of the engine during the rest of the season.

If you are not one to use your mower to scarify your lawn in the spring, however, the other school of thought is to drain the sump of oil, before it has stood for any length of time (thus allowing sediment to settle out of the oil to the bottom of the sump), and refill with fresh oil.

Next, remove the spark plug, or plugs. Into the cylinder, through the spark plug hole pour in a spoonful of oil (engine oil for four-strokes and light machine oil for two-strokes) and turn the engine over by hand, allowing the oil to coat the inside of the cylinder, then replace the spark plug.

Four stroke engines should be stored on their compression stroke, ie with both valves closed, because stuck valves will prevent the engine from starting in the spring.

Clean all external surfaces of the mower, and remove any caked grass and mud from the underside of the cutting deck. Clean and replace, if necessary, the air filter element, and the fuel filter, if the machine is fitted with one. Finally, disconnect the battery if your machine has electric start.

So far as the blades are concerned, there are, again, two schools of thought. If you are going to scarify the lawn, leave the old blades in place, replacing them after they have bashed their way through the sand and stones of an early-season lawn-scalping. Again, if this is not your plan, replace, or at least sharpen, the blades

Continued on page 34

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Continued on page 35

MACHINERY

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now. If they are the bolt-on type, refit them using new nyloc nuts (never re-use a nyloc nut).

Lubricate all moving parts on the machine, such as bearings, moving all turning parts a couple of times to ensure that the wearing surfaces are well-coated.

Wipe exposed metal with an

oily rag and store the machine covered with a fabric dust cloth rather than plastic, under which moisture can accumulate, encouraging rust. Finally, discard any unused fuel or two-stroke mix because, counter-intuitively, fuel is hygroscopic, ie it absorbs moisture from the atmosphere which will render it useless, and will prevent

you from starting the machine in spring.

If you think that all this effort is too much, know this: A leading mower manufacturer maintains that neglecting these simple maintenance steps in the autumn for proper winter storage is more damaging and life-shortening to the machine than an entire summer season's hard work.

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How to choose your first chickens

One of the first things newbie smallholders do is acquire a few chickens for the yard, (and one of

the first mistakes they make is to acquire a motley bunch of the first available scrawny "plot-hoenders" they can find, convincing themselves

that they will settle on something more pure-bred and fit-for-purpose later). But choosing which breed you want is easier said than done, given the confusing variety that is available. So what are the factors that should influence your choice? One of the first decisions you must make is whether you are going to allow your "girls" to wander free range or

whether they are going to be kept in a chicken run. If you have inherited a run from previous owners it might not be very large, which will influence your choice of breed as size, in this case, might count.

The idea of a flock of chickens wandering your plot is very appealing. They help to keep down insects,

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FENCING

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finances become available to allow for this. (It simply means that the customer can extend his barrier to a higher level from the ground should this become necessary).

Colour pigments can be mixed with the thermoplastic granules used to extrude the posts should the customer require a particular colour. One of the major disadvantages of a conventional electric fence is the occurrence of false alarms caused by cracked insulators. This creates arcing between the fence conductors and fixed posts in both wet and dry weather conditions. A large and obviously expensive part of fence maintenance and time wastage is expended on this problem. Being plastic the ModuPost product limits the occurrence of false alarms significantly.

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POULTRY

From page 35

including ticks, and they enjoy a healthy, varied diet, although you still need to give them some concentrates to ensure that they have all the nutrition that they need. There is also all that natural fertiliser for your plants. It is advisable to bring them in at night, out of the way of predators or thieves. Keeping them in until mid-morning will also help to ensure that the eggs are laid where you can find them. The disadvan-

tage of letting them range freely is that eggs are laid in arbitrary places around the garden. Thus, if your chickens are to supply you with eggs a (time-consuming and not always successful) daily search, in all manner of nook and cranny, is necessary to keep your pantry stocked. Sometimes arbitrarily-laid eggs are only retrieved months later, when your dog gently lays them at your feet as a gift, where they might explode because they are so

old. Sometimes hens will settle on a clutch of eggs in some hidden spot in the garden, where they are vulnerable to predators. In such a case

you will merely notice that a hen has gone missing. Hopefully, she will reappear 21 days later solicitously escorting a clutch of tiny cheeping day-olds. If your chickens are free range your coop doesn't need to be so large, which makes it cheaper to build and easier to keep clean. Free range chickens also tend to eat your garden: they need to be kept away from your vegetable patch and any beds where you have planted flower seeds or seedlings. Some people are able to manage partial free-range flocks, where the chickens are allowed out for a certain time during the day, after all egg-laying activity has happened, and before sunset, which seems like the best of both worlds. However, someone will have to be there to let them out and bring them in again, which is not always possible.



Black Australorps are popular, and are also used in many mixed-breeds.

If you choose to keep your chickens in a pen, make it as large as you can afford. There might be something on your plot already that you can use or adapt. If you need to start from scratch there are ready-made coops available for sale or there are DIY plans aplenty on the internet.

Continued on page 37



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POULTRY

From page 36

Chicken breeds are divided into one of two categories of size: standard or large, and bantam. In fact, many breeds are available in both sizes.

Large breeds are, simply, larger than bantam breeds, and produce more meat and eggs. To confuse the picture further, some breeds have both large and bantam varieties, while others (usually the fancier breeds) are solely bantam breeds.

Bantams may be one-quarter to one-fifth the size of their large-breed namesakes. Their eggs are smaller, and bantams can continue to fly throughout their lifetime.

Bantams are usually good brooders, while many hens of larger breeds do not sit on their eggs. Some hobby farmers enjoy raising bantam chickens, breeding them, and showing them. Others do the same with large breed chickens. But farmers who are raising chickens for eggs and/or meat will likely choose large breed chickens for their greater efficiency in producing them.

Some like to keep a few banties mixed in with the large breed chickens just for variety and as incubators, as bantams will often sit on eggs that other hens have laid. In fact they will even sit on duck eggs ~ and then become most agitated when their "chicks" get into the pond to swim.

According to the Poultry Club

of SA the following are true bantam breeds: Barbu D'Uccle, Barbu D'Anvers, Barbu D'Everberg, Barbu D'Watermaal, Dutch Bantam or Hollandse Kriel, Japanese or Chobo, Nankin Bantam, Pekin Bantam, Rosecomb, Sabelpoot Bantam and Sebright.

All chickens are a source of great entertainment, but some would say that bantams beat large breeds hands down when it comes to personality and quirkiness. Some would also argue that they are not as destructive in your garden if they are free-range.

You also need to decide if you want to keep chickens for their eggs or if you want a good roast. Or you can consider dual-purpose breeds that provide both eggs and meat.

Some breeds have been developed as pure egg-laying breeds. Their food-to-egg output is maximised. These birds don't make particularly good eaters, though.

There are various egg laying breeds or hybrids available for a smallholder and many of these are highly prolific layers that can guarantee you very high returns, should you decide to make some income from them. The main egg laying breeds/hybrids in South Africa are Lohmann Silver, Lohmann Browns, Hyline Browns, Hyline Silver Browns, White leghorns,

Continued on page 38



Poth koekoeks in their large fenced run, with coop behind

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POULTRY

From page 37

Amber Link and ISA Brown Layers.

If you are keeping chickens for meat, some breeds make better roasts than others. Commercial meat birds, such as Ross and Cobb, grow very fast on good quality, ad lib quantities of broiler feed over 8-10 weeks. These birds can get very big, very fast and end up looking like body builders. Other broiler breeds include Sussex and Cornish.

But most smallholders favour dual-purpose breeds, which will provide eggs and be good-eating. Examples of popular general purpose breeds are Australorp, Rhode Island Red and White, Buff Orpington, Leghorn and New Hampshire, all of which have bantam derivatives.

Another factor to consider when choosing your breed is hardiness. This refers to the breed's ability to sustain itself through all conditions, extremes of temperatures, drought and tougher times, any genetic weaknesses, and its tendency to forage versus eating feed, often called "thriftness." Here indigenous breeds come into their own. Breeds include Boschvelder, Naked Neck, Venda, Ovambo, Potch Koekoek and Natal Game. They also tend to be dual-purpose.

There are people who choose a breed based on the colour of eggs that they lay or on what they look like. This latter factor will of course count if you want to show your fowls.

Other people want hens to raise chicks for them, then smaller breeds such as Silkies and Pekins are great mothers and will happily sit on any hatching eggs of your choice – these are fertilised eggs which you can buy from a breeder.

Lastly, you might want to consider the temperament of the breed. Breeds are described as docile or

aggressive. Still, among any given flock, temperament will be influenced more by pecking order than by genetic tendency. Those higher in the pecking order are the more aggressive birds and those lower in the order are more submissive and docile.

Some breeds are more "flighty" and high-strung than others as well. If you have small children, picking a particularly "docile" breed might be a good fit. The Australorps and Brahmas are regarded as docile.

While there are many different breeds available in South Africa, it is often difficult to find pure-bred chickens.

Starting a chicken flock with adult birds, though less common than raising chicks, is a great way to have a productive coop from day one. But your flock won't be productive if they aren't happy and healthy. When you buy adult chickens for your flock, check for these signs of a healthy bird and of a reputable breeder or poultry shop:

- ☐ The birds should have bright, clear eyes.
- ☐ They should have clean nostrils, with no discharge.
- ☐ They should breathe with their beaks shut, unless they have just been chased to be caught or the day is very hot.
- ☐ The comb and wattles should be plump and glossy.
- ☐ They should not have any swellings or lumps on the body. Don't mistake a full crop on the neck for a lump.
- ☐ Their legs should be smooth, with shiny skin. They will have four or five toes, depending on the breed. They should not have any swellings or lumps on the bottom of the feet.
- ☐ The feathers should look smooth, and there should be no large patches of bare skin. Look carefully through the feathers for lice or mites.
- ☐ The birds should be alert.

DISEASE

A danger which lurks in your soil...

...and it can kill both you and your livestock

Smallholders are a tough bunch. Most of us wouldn't let the odd cut or scratch bother us. But by the nature of our lifestyle, we're exposed to injuries or even bites from our animals and so we are encouraged to keep a record of when last we had a tetanus injection. Moreover, our animals are just as vulnerable to puncture wounds from standing on nails or scratches from rusty wire, as well as inherent danger when they are dehorned, castrated, tattooed or have their tails docked. Tetanus, or lockjaw, is caused by a toxin produced by bacteria which are present in the soil, as well as the intestinal flora of humans and animals, in faeces, on human skin and on teeth. The bacterium *Clostridium tetani* survives in the environment for long periods of time. It enters the body through wounds, particularly puncture wounds if the wound is dirty, and is not affected or destroyed by disinfectants. Puncture wounds on the sole of the foot are common sites of infection.

Both humans and animals can contract tetanus. The incubation period (the time from injury to the onset of the first symptom) can be as short as 24 hours and as long as many months. The average time is seven to ten days. Typically, the further the injury is from the central nervous system, the longer the incubation period.

Tetanus toxin affects the nerves around the site of injury or wound and then travels to the spinal column, and from there attacks nerves controlling the muscles of the body. This causes progressively worsening muscular stiffness and spasm. The affected person or animal will become stiff and have difficulty moving and eating. In horses the third eyelid (membrana nictitans, a membrane which can be easily seen at the inner corner of the eye) starts to protrude across the eye, particularly if the horse is startled. The tail is often held out straight and the horse develops an anxious expression because of facial muscle spasm. Any stimulus such as loud sound, bright light or touch can exacerbate the signs. The horse may sweat. In advanced cases the horse will collapse with spasms and convulsions and death will follow from respiratory failure.

Because some sheep undergo several maintenance procedures, such as castration, ear-marking, tail-docking, dehorning and debudding, they are highly at risk for contracting tetanus. In sheep symptoms of tetanus infection include muscle stiffness and spasms, bloat, panic, uncoordinated walking and movements, and the inability to eat and drink. Among pigs the most common source of infection

Continued on page 40

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DISEASE

From page 39

of infection is castration.

An infected pig is hypersensitive, sometimes convulsive, shows stiffness of legs and muscles, an erect tail and muscular spasms of the ears and face.

In the case of cattle, infection might occur during castration or dehorning. Stiffness and reluctance to move are normally the first signs. There might be twitching and tremors of the muscles, lockjaw, prominent protruding third eyelid and unsteady gait with stiff held out tail. Affected cattle are usually anxious and easily excited by sudden movements or handling.

If diagnosed early, treatment is aimed at destroying the bacteria so that no more toxin is produced, and reducing the effects of the toxin that has already been produced. Large doses of antibiotics, usually penicillin, are used in

conjunction with tetanus antitoxin injections. However mortality rates amongst farm animals with tetanus are very high.

Fortunately there is a vaccine that helps to prevent tetanus. Animals which are vaccinated for the first time at the age of three months or older should receive two inoculations at an interval of four to six weeks. Thereafter they are inoculated only once a year to maintain immunity.

To protect animals younger than three months at the time of docking, castration and possible navel infection after birth, the dam should be inoculated for the first time at six weeks and again at two weeks before parturition, and thereafter only once annually two to four weeks before the young are born. In this manner the young obtain colostral immunity which will protect them for a period of eight to ten weeks. At the age

of three months they can be inoculated as described. Horses are injected intramuscularly and other

animals subcutaneously. There are also preventative measures that one can take against tetanus infection. Ensure that fence posts and gates are rust-free and painted. Check fences regularly for broken wires that might scratch an animal or human.

Do not leave gardening implements, particularly forks or rakes, lying around where a person or animal might stand on them.

Constantly check fields for pieces of wire, nails or tins. Never assume that your fields



Mortality due to tetanus

are danger free. Any seasoned smallholder can tell you that they have lived on the same plot for years and will still find bits of wire and inexplicable pieces of rusty metal in their fields. Some of us also suffer thoughtless neighbours or passers-by who toss all manner of rubbish over our fences.

For treatment of humans against tetanus, you need to consider it if the wound is deep or it contains dirt or a foreign object. Risk of tetanus from a bite from an animal

Continued on page 41

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DISEASE

From page 40

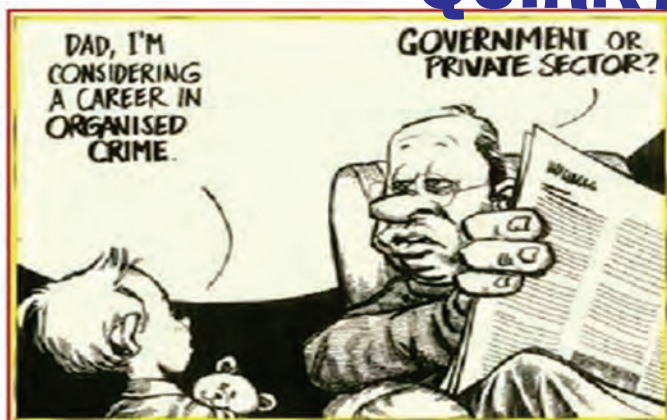
would only apply when the bite is deep and the skin is broken.

Nowadays South African children are routinely vaccinated against tetanus and it is recommended that people receive a booster shot every ten years. If you have had a tetanus shot less than five years ago you won't need another one.

The other option of treatment is homeopathic remedies, but

you would need to visit a homeopath for them, as the remedies are not available over the counter. The homeopath will administer Ledum in the form of drops or pills or Hypericum is also an option. A Ledum ointment is also available for the wound but homeopaths often prefer to use Colloidal gel for this purpose.

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SUPERSMALLS

Entries in this yellow-shaded section cost R120 VAT included for 25 words, plus R1/word thereafter.

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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.

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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.

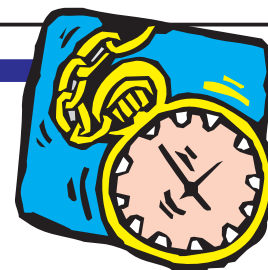
Every Monday
Alcoholics Anonymous. 'Courage to

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

May

6: Corporate Shooting Day organised by Hinterland/Afgr Town & Country Delmas, Bluegum Shooting Range, Bapsfontein. Registration 0800-0900. Entry R1 000 per



team of four shottists. Bookings close 21 April. Contact Deon Strydom 013 665-2343 or 082 888-1075 for details. Fundraiser for Farm Security.

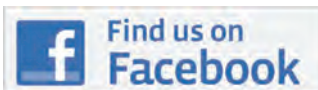
6: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za

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Bredell area: 2 bed flat to let from 1st May. Open plan kitchen, lounge, 2 bathrooms, double carport, full security. Professional persons only. No pets allowed. Deposit R5 500, rent R5 500 pm. Call Jono 082 583-5793

Pretoria North: House with income to swap for farm/plot. Property consists of 4 bedroom house, lapa, pool, borehole, undercover parking for 4 cars, domestic bathroom, etc. 3 x 1 bedroom flats with carports, bachelor flat with own carport. Income on the flats is R12 500 per month

and can easily be escalated. Property to swap for farm/plot. No specific area in mind. Please contact: 078 362-9681

Pretoria North: 21ha farm 45km north of Pretoria. 2 bedroom house, flat and outbuildings. Eskom, 1,8m fence surrounding property. R850 000. Phone 082 743-8447/071 362-5053

Buffelspoort: Property with 4 large houses plus cottage. Each house has own beautiful garden, abundant free mountain water, rental income R30 000 per month. Offers on R2,8 million. Contact owner 073 302-8380

Benoni AH: Cottage to let. Bed, bath, kitchen and lounge for single person or couple, month to month basis, R2 800pm plus water and electricity. 082 744-4191

Tarlton: Plot for sale. R2,2m neg. Ideal for an investor. Four houses on property fully rented out. 3 Ha land. Contact Liza 083 644-7769

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DIARY

6-12: Introductory Course in Poultry Production (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
10: Full moon
13: Elementary course in beekeeping at Highveld Honey Farm, 186 Uys Street, Rynfield Benoni A.H, commencing 9.00 to 12.30pm. Cost R300 including refreshments. Call convenor Peter Clark 011 362-2904
16-19: Nampo Harvest Day Agricultural Show, Nampo Park, R30 between Klerksdorp and Bothaville.
20: Snake Awareness First Aid For Snakebite and Venomous Snake Handling — Cradle Moon Lakeside Lodge, Gauteng. Email Ashley - admin@africansnakebiteinstitute.com
22-26: Veld management course offered by Frits van Oudtshoorn, Africa Land-Use Training, EEC, Pretoria Botanical Gardens, Pretoria. R4 950 including lunch and handbook. email courses@alut.co.za.
25: New moon
27 & 28: Outdoor X Expo at Malonjeni Guest Farm, Heidelberg. Tel 016 423-4073 or emailinfo@outdoorx.co.za. www.outdoorx.co.za
29-2 Jun: Introductory Course to Small Stock Management (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
29-2 Jun: Meat Processing Course (4

days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

June

3: Chelsea Lane Home for Seniors Morning Market, 13 James Road, Fairleads, Benoni. A variety of stalls, a tea garden, live music & entertainment for the kids. Entrance Fee of R30 includes a bacon & egg roll. Plenty of free parking & security. Call Wendy or Bridget 072 696-8367
3: Mampoerfees at Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum, old Pretoria/Bronkhorstspuit road, Rayton. Food stalls, a flea market, demonstrations and house tours, pap en kailings, oswagon rides. Gates open 08h00 for the public and close around 17h00 .
3: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za
6-9: SA Green Industries Council training in the identification and management of invasive alien species, Johannesburg. Four modules of one day each. Cost per module R912. Contact Hazel or Kay at Tel 011 723-9000 or download the forms at www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/936-sagic-invasive-species-training.
6-9: 7-10: Introductory Course in Pig Production (4 days), ARC Animal

Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
9: Full moon
15-17: Kragdag Expo, Diamantvallei Landgoed near Rayton. Afrikaans-focused alternative living exhibition with food, entertainment etc in association with Solidarity. To exhibit call 087 231-1644 or email info@kragdag.co.za. Online bookings at www.kragdag.co.za
16: Youth Day
20-23: Introduction Course to Beef Cattle Management (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
21: Solstice
24: New moon

July

1: 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
4-5: Dairy Processing Course: Yoghurt and Maas Manufacturing (2 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
9: Full moon
18-21 SA Green Industries Council training in the identification and management of invasive alien species, Pretoria. Four modules of one day each. Cost per module R912. Contact Hazel or Kay at Tel 011 723-9000 or download the forms at www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/936-sagic-invasive-species-training.
18-21: Dairy Processing Course: Cheese Manufacturing (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
23: New moon

August

9: National Women's Day
5: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market,



Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za

7: Full moon
15-18: Introduction Course to Beef Cattle Management (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
21: New moon
21-25: Introductory Course in Poultry Production (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
End August, dates to be confirmed: Second Purebred Dexter Spring Show at the Willem Prinsloo Agricultural Museum, Rayton district. For details contact Kobus van der Linder 082 783-9605

September

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
5-7: Artificial Insemination of Cattle Course (3 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
6: Full moon
11-15: Introductory Course to Small Stock Management (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
18-22: Aquaculture Management Course (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or

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ZZ90093	PERKINS 4.236/4.248 SPLINED NOSE ROPE SEAL	R 3,000.00
ZZ90081	PERKINS 4.236/4.248 SPLINED NOSE LIP FLANGE 12 HOLES	R 3,000.00
ZZ90212	PERKINS 4.248/4.236 SPLINED NOSE LIP SEAL	R 2,000.00
ZZ90119/ZZ90202	PERKINS 1004 PHASER SERIES SPLINED NOSE LIP SEAL	R 2,000.00
AT-18030	JOHN DEERE 4.202/ 4.219/ 4.239 NOSE 36MM	R 3,000.00
AT-22562	JOHN DEERE 6.303/ 6.329/ 6.359/ 6059 ENGINES	R 4,500.00
RE-54883	JOHN DEERE 4279 WITH GEAR LONG NOSE	R 3,500.00
RE504638	JOHN DEERE 4045 POWER TECH WITH GEAR	R 3,500.00
RE506195	JOHN DEERE 4045 POWER TECH WITH GEAR	R 3,500.00
E5NN6303DA	FORD 6010 SERIES 78 TEETH STROKE 4.2	R 2,750.00
C5NE-6303-K	FORD 5000 SERIES 78 TEETH STROKE 4.4	R 2,750.00

DIARY

tel 012 672-7273
20: New moon
22: Equinox
24: Heritage Day
25: Heritage Day spillover holiday

October

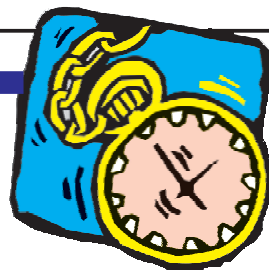
5: Full moon
7: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music. Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za
9-13: Meat Processing Course (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
16-20: Introductory Course in Poultry Production (5 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
19: New moon

November

4: Full moon
4: 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
7-10: Introductory Course in Pig Production (4 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. R2 680. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
18: New moon
22-23: Introductory Course to Veld/Rangeland Management (2 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273

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
18: New moon



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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 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
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.ffmarket.co.za	Get your groceries...In the garden!
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doornrandjies	012 669-3043 info@serendipitycafe.co.za www.serendipitycafe.co.za	Community market to promote local business

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BY POST: Box 14648, Bredell 1623
BY EMAIL: gautengsmallholder@gmail.com
BY HAND: 370 da Costa Dr, Bredell, Kempton Park

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FREE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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1. Only private advertisements for used or second-hand items accepted. COMMERCIAL and BUSINESS advertisers should refer to our rates on page 1, and those selling PRODUCE, FODDER, PLANTS or LIVESTOCK OF ANY DESCRIPTION should refer to the **SuperSmalls** coupon above.
2. Only ONE insertion per application, and one category per coupon.
3. No DEALERS or AGENTS or COMPANIES permitted in the free classified section..
4. No ANIMALS (including HORSES), PETS or POULTRY permitted as free classifieds
5. No WANTED ads will be accepted as free classifieds.
6. No SERVICES will be accepted as free classifieds.
7. Classified advertisements may only be submitted for three consecutive editions.
8. The Publisher reserves the right to edit or omit advertisements at his discretion.
9. It is the Advertiser's responsibility to ensure we have received the advert.

USE THE COUPON BELOW FOR FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

Tel:

DEADLINE for submission: 15th of the month prior
FOR ENQUIRIES TEL 011 979-5088

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1 WORD (BLOCK CAPITALS) PER SPACE, PLEASE

The life of a part-time farmer

Most of us smallholders who use our plots for "agricultural" activities do so "on the side" as it were. If we generate any profit at all from our properties it will probably be no more than a small part of our income, if it is profitable at all.

Thus, at best, we can be called part-time farmers, and the reality is that we only get things right part of the time.

It's not so bad if you keep animals. With the exception of those that require milking twice daily, the care and maintenance of most livestock boils down to feeding, cleaning out stables and letting the animals out into paddocks during the day and bringing them in at night. At a push, just about anybody can accomplish these relatively quick tasks before leaving for work or school, or later, upon one's return home.

And if one is lucky enough to have a farm worker in one's employ, a little bit of training will mean that even these tasks can be handled by somebody else. This will mean that nothing more than a routine of daily inspection for health and welfare, and the occasional session of hoof trimming, deworming or inoculating should ensure a smooth-running enterprise.

These activities can, and most often are, accomplished on Saturdays, when one has time after breakfast to ensure one has the necessary assistance, yet can still get to the local co-op or vet before they close for the necessary medicaments and equipment.

But it's the other aspects of mini-farm life that can drive a cart and horses through one's plans (mixed metaphor fully intended). For if there's a pump to break, you can be sure it will do so 24 hours before your planned departure on holiday, or a week-long session of important meetings in the city.

And, of course, stock thieves and petty burglars don't respect one's busy schedule when it comes to cutting fences and breaking doors and windows. These unfortunate incidents invariably occur at the most inconvenient time possible, usually when one is away and has a caretaker to look after one's place. (This is also, of course, the time that one's pets will become sick and require a trip to the vet. Or worse, when beloved old animals decide to die (which has happened to us not once, but twice, both times while our plot was being looked after, very kindly, by one of our adult children who not surprisingly as a result in no longer available to us as a caretaker.)

But it's when one gets into seasonal farming activities that the pressure really mounts on a part-time farmer.

Here we are, in May ~ Autumn ~ after a wonderful summer season of plentiful rain and lush growth. We spent months planning our sowings, watering, weeding, trimming, fighting pests and disease and picking the crop. Now, however, our fruit has ripened and been harvested, and preserved for winter in one way or another, as have one's summer vegetables. A time of dormancy and rest awaits us as we head towards winter. Except it doesn't, because in two months' time the grass in one's fields and on the verges around one's plot will have become a fire hazard. One carelessly discarded cigarette butt, a puff of wind and, hey presto, one faces losing everything to a runaway inferno.

Thus, with the spectre of a catastrophe looming a few short weeks ahead, you work out what needs to be done. First, cut the grass. Then rake it into windrows. Then bale it (if you're lucky you might be able to sell the bales you don't use yourself for a bit of pin-money). Then you need to make firebreaks which, if you're burning them, requires planning for a calm, windless day and liaising with your neighbours.

Then you need to brushcut the grass around your fences, and on your verges (because the council probably won't).

So now the pressure is really on. After a wetter-than-usual summer our grass is higher than usual, so cutting this year is more important than in most years, even if your field is a jungle of weeds. And the cuttings must be removed from the field else they, too, are merely a fire hazard. But you can't rake, bale or stack wet grass, and what have we just enjoyed? A wetter-than-usual summer, which has extended into a gratifyingly damp autumn, which is great for the garden, and keeps the lawn green for a few weeks longer, but is a pain in the proverbial when one is trying to fit haymaking into a life that includes work deadlines, month ends and school holidays.

And so you figure and scheme and plan how to do it all, and at last the appointed Saturday arrives and you head off to hitch your slasher to your tractor. And? The tractor won't start. Back to square one. Plot life ain't for sissies.





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