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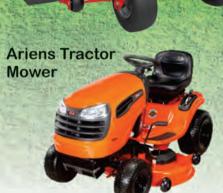
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FRONT COVER

Grass cutting, raking and baling time. Soon this rusty old relic will be put to work again.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower Our big problems

omebody needs to offer President Ramaphosa a new brand of tobacco, because whatever it is he's smoking is doing nothing for his views on a certain sector of the economy.



Either that, or he's unclear about the difference between a "sunrise" and a "sunset", and how those two words are used in management-speak to describe an economic sector or an industry.

Or, perhaps, he really DOES believe that mining has a future in South Africa, in which case one wonders whether he is indeed the right man for the job.

The fact is that, historically, the wealth of the country has been realised through the mining houses who, by employing hundreds of thousands of workers, not all South Africans, it should be added, and investing many millions of pounds and then rands, made the South African economy the largest and most vibrant on the African continent, not to mention making the country the largest producer of precious metals and minerals in the world.

But the fact is also that the gold mines of the Witwatersrand began to be mined out at workable depths many decades ago. First, to remain profitable and in business they had to go deeper, developing an expertise in ultra-deep-level mining that made those mines world leaders in the field. Then, when even this became unprofitable the mining houses started looking elsewhere for business, and gradually shafts were closed, operations changed hands and were reduced, and investment made in the new mining countries such as Brazil, Peru, Australia and North America. And there's where the sunrise mining industries are to be found today. From the '70s it became obvious that the writing was slowly being written on the wall: it was a sunset industry as long ago as that

The government of the day was not the ANC, of course, but its response to the inevitable decline was hardly spectacular. For it was faced with its own challenges, including international sanctions, which made the development and encouragement of a vibrant export-led industrial and manufacturing sector difficult. But the response of the ANC government, when sanctions were lifted, has hardly been any better, with restrictive labour laws, uncertainty over investment policies and the constraints imposed by BEE regulations on free investment (and not mentioning the bribery and corruption that accompanies the awarding of many municipal, provincial and national infrastructure tenders). Far from growing, our manufacturing sector has also been in decline for years.

But there's more to our economy than mining and manufacturing. To replace a waning mining sector the government could have done far more to encourage agricultural production, but it didn't because, at least since 1994, there has been no fruitful voter constituency for it to exploit there: farmers were, and still are (for the moment at least), in the main, conservative whites.

Or, another replacement for the mining sector could have been to encourage tourism. But then Mr Zuma appointed Malusi Gigaba as home affairs minister and his introduction of stupid restrictive visa regulations put paid to that.

So what, actually, has the government done? In response to widespread unemployment, the government has its Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), which employs many thousands in basic construction and maintenance and affords them the ability to acquire basic skills which, arguably, they should have been taught in school. The problem is that the EPWP is, like the social grant system, not funded by the additional revenues generated by an expanding and thriving economy. It's paid for by the taxes of those already being taxed. The revenue pumped into both programmes results in direct consumption expenditure. It is not a result of wealth creation. There is very little multiplier effect in direct consumption expenditure, at least nothing like what one would get if those jobs and that revenue had been generated by vibrant and growing agricultural, manufacturing or tourism sectors.

And now the government chooses to chase away any new international industrial or agricultural investment by tinkering with property ownership and expropriation of land, in the belief, rather, that handing out parcels of land to the indigent will turn them into instant farmers and lead to a huge expansion of the agricultural sector and the muchvaunted but little-understood holy grail of "food security".

Clem Sunter said it years ago. We need an "Economic Codesa" at which a coherent approach to these issues can be thrashed out. Sunter's suggestion has now become urgent. Leave it any longer and it may be too late for us all.

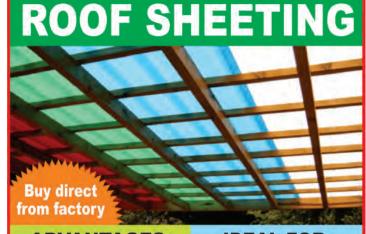




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ENVIRONMENT

EU funds citizen enviro-action project

newly established project named Action 24 seeks to empower citizens to deal with legislators on environmental issues.

The organisation has representatives from:

☐ Food and Trees for Africa; ☐ African Climate Reality Project;

☐ SA Institute of International Affairs:

☐ SA Durban Community Environmental Alliance, and

☐ Ekurhuleni Environmental Organisation.

Action 24 is co-funded by the European Union and encourages a bottom-up approach to environmental issues.

The organisation says it aids citizens in holding government accountable for the lack of action on environmental issues and to challenge government on issues of proper environmental management.

Targeting four provinces (Gauteng, Western Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal) and national parliament,

Action 24 seeks to address issues that overlap within systems of sustainable environmental management. This includes addressing issues of women empowerment and youth engagement. Special focus will be placed on creating awareness and bettering education within communities affected by environmental change and mismanagement.

The organisation aims to use a two-pronged approach. Firstly, it says it will work closely with local organisations, civic society and projects at a grassroots level to assist in these organisations' understanding of legislature and how to push their agendas with key-decision makers.

Secondly, Action 24 seeks to work directly with law-makers to assist in improving the

processes of publicparticipation in law-making. "We want more openness, more communication on what they are doing and making sure that they understand their mandate from that perspective," says Noelle Garcin, Action 24 project manager.

The project started in January 2018 and will continue for 30 months, hoping to foster active citizenry across South Africa, encouraging increased accountability and good governance.

BREDELL GAS & HARDWARE Cleaning with fresh

Not a bad season in Gauteng

hile much of the western part of South Africa continues to be gripped by devastating drought Gauteng, now at the end of its rainy season, has enjoyed a slightly

mid-April Bredell in eastern Gauteng had received nearly 790mm of rain, only 125mm short of last season's exceptional total of 915mm.

Less though it may have been, it was enough to fill the Vaal





ONLINE

Website undergoes a radical makeover

he Smallholder's national website, www.sasmallholder-

.co.za, has undergone a radical transformation, turning it into a fully-fledged informa-

tion portal for small farmers, smallholders and rural dwellers.

The site will continue to host a pdf version of the pages of the published magazine,

Continued on page 7

WEATHER

From page 6

Dam was continuing to be augmented by water from the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme which itself is not as full as it might be. Meanwhile, the wet season approaches in the Western

Cape and with it the hope that there might be a gratifying inflow into the region's feeder dams. Whatever the catchment areas of those dams

receive however, water scientists are saying that it will take some years of good rains in the region as the soil around the dams has now dried out to such an extent that it will act as a gigantic sponge for anything that might come its way, and the remoisturising effect will thus take precedence over an increase in water levels in the dams themselves.

At this stage it is still a little early to predict whether the winter rainfall area will receive poor, average or good rains this year, just as it is too early to predict what will develop in the Central Pacific by way of an El Nino or La Nina effect which, in turn, will affect the southern hemisphere's weather later in the year. Those analyses normally firm up after July.

Good news for South Africans, however, is that the catastrophic weakening of the Gulf Stream in the mid and North Atlantic will have little if any effect on these parts. Rather, North America, Europe and to a certain extent North Africa can expect more violent seasonal temperature differences and more violent storms in coming years, as a result of the weakening of the current, by as much as 15% since 1950, according to some analyses.

The Gulf Stream is a major warm water surface current that flows across the Atlantic between West Africa and Central America, before turning northwards and flowing up the Eastern seaboard of the US, dispensing heat, fog and rain as it goes.

Once it reaches the Canadian coast it has lost its warmth, the body of water of the current sinks and becomes a cold deep water current, and it splits in two, one half going northwards past Greenland and towards Norway and the other turning southwards past Britain and western France.





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ONLINE

Website takes the Smallholder to a whole new level for users countrywide

From page 6

which can either be accessed in page form for reading on your computer, tablet or mobile device, or for download as a pdf to allow you to read the magazine offline at your leisure.

However, in addition to these two options, articles of interest to smallholders will be uploaded to the site as and when received and edited. And, where applicable these will cover topics of interest to readers throughout South Africa (the magazine will continue to focus on the interests of smallholders in and around Gauteng). Because lead times in the printing and delivery process mean that the paper version is only available at out physical distribution points about a week to ten days after it is finalised for printing we have long been able to offer an electronic version on the website much earlier than the printed equivalent.

The new development, however, enables us to carry items as they happen ~ which can be anything up to three weeks before the printed magazine is distributed.

This is of particular importance to organisers of events, shows, training courses and seminars, etc, who often find that the time between giving us their information for publishing and the date of the event means that readers have insufficient time to plan their diaries, book and attend. The site also carries a national list of farmers' markets and events of interest to our readers, searchable by province.

Plus, there is a simple link to our associated on-line classified advertising site, the SA Small Farmers Online Exchange, sasfox, (a single click takes you from the Smallholder site to the sasfox site, while should you visit the sasfox site first, a single click will take you to the Smallholder site).

The Smallholder site also contains a useful clickable resource list of forms, booklets and articles covering a wide variety of topics of use to smallholders. These are free to download as desired. Ample advertising opportunities exist for companies wishing to promote their goods and services to the smallholder community online, at rates far lower than those in the printed magazine.

To make it easy for potential advertisers on the site (and in the magazine itself) there are new online booking and enquiry forms which makes the process of placing an ad, and having suitable artwork made up, painless and straightforward.

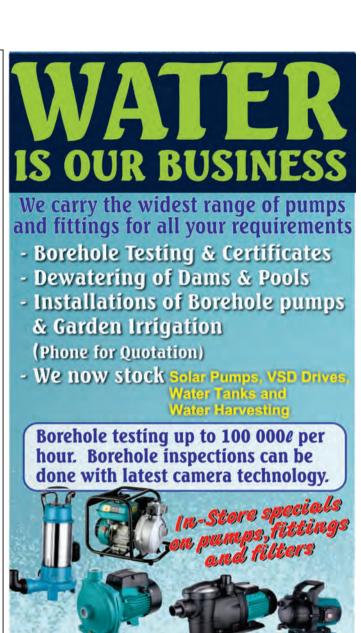
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FIRE SEASON

We help you through winter's veld fire dangers

y the time you read this the last rains of summer will probably have fallen in Gauteng and the grass will be turning a universally dry pale brown. And somewhere, hopefully not close to your plot, some idiot will toss a lit cigarette butt into the veld, or a scumbag neighbour will take it into his head to set fire to his field, and the Highveld horizon will become sullied with smudges of thick, black smoke from winter veld fires.

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Why grass fires are bad ~ and illegal ~ and how to prevent them. All the resources vou need to prepare for the dry winter ahead are readily available to you. Here's where to find them...

This annual blight upon our landscape can ~ and should ~ be prevented and you should take note that it is up to you, as a Gauteng landowner or land-occupier, to do

For long-in-the-tooth smallholders and longtime Smallholder readers this should be old-hat, as we publish articles annually on the subject of grass fires and fire management, but for new smallholders, and for those that took no precautions last vear and suffered the consequences, here, in summary, are the reasons why winter grass fires are unneces-

sary, destructive and illegal, with pointers to articles and documents that you can call up for further study. These are contained in a series of articles we have published over the years which are housed for easy reference on our newly-revamped website, with links provided where appropriate. You can open the articles and documents to read online or you can download them to read and refer to at your leisure.

☐ Why are winter grass fires bad? Contrary to the traditional view that an annual burning and blackening of the veld is a good

thing, numerous studies have shown that, in fact, the contrary is true.

~ Fires kill wildlife, in the form of rodents, termites, reptiles and insects that call your field home, and form an important part of your microenvironment.

~ Fires destroy the balance of the environment. Not all species of flora growing in a specific environment are adapted to annual burning and as a result these are destroyed and eliminated after repeated burns, with the result that only the most firehardy species survive in the long term, meaning a reduction in biodiversity.

~ Fires change and destroy the balance and composition of your soil. The ash from repeated burnings acidifies

Continued on page 11

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FIRE SEASON

The National Veld & Forest Fires Act makes landowners and occupiers responsible for preparation against fires, and for fire fighting if emergencies arise ... and penalties can be severe if compliance is neglected

From page 8

your soil, and the flames destroy dry plant material lying atop the soil that would otherwise decompose and become humus in your soil. As a result the soil compacts, preventing or discouraging plant emergence and discouraging the absorbtion of moisture.

~ Fires cause air pollution, by releasing large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, thereby, in a small way, contributing to global warming. Smoke, too, is dangerous to people and animals with sensitive respiratory systems, apart from causing unnecessary dust.

~ Fires are destructive of value. When you burn a patch of veld you destroy not only the grass growing there, which has a tangible value as grazing or, if cut and baled, as fodder, but you also run the risk of destroying any man-made infrastructure which has been installed, such as fencing, pipework, pumps, greenhouses, beehives etc. More importantly, you run the risk of destroying the infrastructure of your neighbours' properties, through which the fires might pass if they get out of hand. And that can cost you big-time.

~ Fires are illegal. The National Veld & Forest Fires Act lays down specific provisions relating to the responsibilities of landowners and occupiers relating to preparing for the fire season (ie the making of firebreaks), the prevention of fires (ie ensuring vegetation is cut and cleared) and responsibilities relating to the provision of firefighting equipment, training of personnel in its use and access to neighbouring properties and

control over neighbours' livestock in the events of a fire. Access the act here: gauteng-smallholder.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/National-Veld-and-Forest-Fires-Act-No.-101-of-1998.pdf.

In addition many municipalities have by-laws that make the burning of grass, brush and rubbish illegal, with the result that you could be prosecuted by your local authority for allowing your fields to go up in smoke

As a responsible landowner or occupier, therefore, you should have your own fire preparation, prevention and emergency response plan in place which, in a spirit of good neighbourliness, should preferably be a community or neighbourhood effort.

Fire preparation. This involves the clearing of firebreaks, the removal of combustible material and the acquisition of firefighting apparatus suitable for your conditions.

It should also include the cutting and clearing of the verges surrounding your property as, although you don't own the land, many runaway fires are started on verges by careless passersby, which can quickly spread to your property. Read more on this subject at www.sasmallholder.co.za/fq/.

Fire prevention also includes preparing within your property to prevent damage to piping, fencing etc, in the event of a fire.

Read about how to make firebreaks, whether by burning or ploughing (and the pitfalls and benefits of the two methods) here www.sasmallholder.co.za/fg/,

Continued on page 13





FIRE SEASON

From page 11

which also includes advice and tips on how to ensure that your firebreaks are wide enough to prevent fires from jumping from one field to another.

On smaller plots it may be impractical to prepare a fullwidth 15m wide firebreak without encroaching too far into any remaining grazing you may have, and there is a suggestion given whereby you can share the full width of the break with your neighbour. You will also need to know your legal rights and responsibilities if you wish to burn breaks. Refer to the act ahove

To have a fighting chance of containing a fire on your property you not only need to ensure adequate firebreaks themselves, but you need to cut and remove any tall grass from the centres of your fields. This is particularly true

Selling the grass that you have cut, raked and baled as a fire-prevention exercise may actually cover the cost of the job

if your firefighting equipment is limited to a couple of hoses, hand sprayers or firebeaters.

Cutting, raking and baling any excess grass in your field (not all smallholders' land is overgrazed, particularly those that don't house livestock), rather than being a nuisance and an expense, is not only a good safety measure fire-wise but the trouble taken to cut, rake and bale the hay in an unused field can be offset by selling the resultant bales to neighbours as B-grade fodder, if you have no use for it yourself.

Fire fighting. In the unfortunate event that a fire is started in your field, or jumps a firebreak from an uncleared verge or is driven on to your

property by a strong wind, your worst nightmare has just arrived.

While the National Veld & Forest Fires Act puts an onus on neighbours to help each other to fight fires by providing labour and equipment, you can't rely on them to do so and the law anyway makes it your responsibility to provide sufficient working fire fighting equipment to do the job; and more importantly, to train your family and personnel in its effective use. What this equipment comprises will depend to a large degree on the nature of your vegetation, the size of your property and the terrain, but can range from hand-held rubber firebeaters (more useful for containing small

flames when burning controlled breaks and only effective in an emergency situation if the burning grass is cut short, and then only if there are sufficient numbers working in unison), to handoperated backpack sprayers, motorised backpack blowers, and trolley-mounted, bakkiemounted or trailer-mounted high-pressure firefighting machines.

A full description of each type and its pros and cons is given at www.sasmallholder-.co.za/fq/.

Continued on page 15



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SMART SMALLHOLDER



Hampshire Down sheep in Randfontein

Rare sheep breed on Randfontein plot

ne of only a handful of breeders in South Africa of Hampshire Down sheep, 18-year-old Sameshni Reddy and her family were originally drawn to the breed for their aesthetic appeal, having acquired their 5 hectare Randfontein plot as recently as 2013.

After some experimentation with sheep, Sameshni noted the teddy-bear like qualities of the Hampshire Downs. They are short and stocky in stature with thick wool. Their defining characteristic is their "panda" faces, with black rings around their eyes. Upon further investigation, Sameshni discovered the breed is highly sought after by world-class chefs for their high quality meat. Television celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay is said to favour the Hampshire lambs for his

restaurants.

The wool is also extremely high quality and can reach up to 33 microns. It is used extensively in textile manufacturing, most notably in the manufacture of woollen hosiery.

The Reddy family currently have 18 stud quality
Hampshire Down ewes and a registered ram. Having started her stud when she was only 17, Sameshni has been registered with the breed society as Jessam Stud and is trading as Jessam Hampshire Stud under the stud code JS – taken from the first letters of her and her younger brother Jeshlen's names.

A stud quality Hampshire Down must fit the characteristics assigned by the Stud Book. These include the shape of the face, the

Continued on page 16

FIRE SEASON

From page 13

But, before deciding what to buy it is worth knowing something about the nature and science of grass fires, particularly when training family and staff in the use of equipment (www.sasmallholder.co.za/fq/).

And if you are looking at tank-type water equipment

(backpack sprayers or highpressure motor-driven units) there is a simple mixture of chemicals you can use that will make your equipment very much more efficient than if you rely on plain water alone to extinguish the blaze. The mixture and how to use it is also given at www.sasmallholder.co.za/fq/.



SMART SMALLHOLDER

markings on the face and legs and the length of the legs. In South Africa, the Hampshire Down is of the short legged variety. Their counterparts in the USA have longer legs. The Stud Book and breeders also prefer their animals to have docked tails, both for hygiene and aesthetic

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reasons.

Over the last year, Sameshni has learned a great deal about the breed. They are excellent mothers, often giving birth to twins. They are very protective mothers.

Lambs are born around 3 to 5kgs. They are born black and will reach their final white colour at around three months old. She finds that the lambs mature at a quick pace. She weans her lambs at 120 days, although she knows of other breeders who do so earlier. At weaning, the lambs are around 35kgs.

The Hampshire Down reaches sexual maturity very young. Sameshni starts them breeding at 18 months but she is aware of breeders who do it as early as eleven months.

Sameshni has had no problem breeding her stud ram with her ewes. The Hampshire Down breeds easily naturally and has a high yield each



Randfontein smallholder Sameshni Reddy with her Hampshire Downs.

season, although progesterone sponging and artificial insemination are also highly successful in the breed. Sameshni gives her stud ram between March and April to run with her ewes. Spring births are best for stud quality sheep. This allows the mother an adequate environment to return to a good condition while nursing. She believes the Hampshire Down is ideal for the conditions of Gauteng plots. They are hardy and generally resistant to illness. They cope well in rainy conditions,

probably owing to their English-countryside origins. They also fare well over the dry winter months, with only a little supplementary feeding required. Sameshni uses Lucerne and Japanese radish for added fodder to optimise nutrition. The Reddy family grow both of these crops on their property to lessen the cost of food.

Sheep in general are easily contained and require small to medium sized pastures for grazing.

Continued on page 17



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Aww... cute... Teddy-bear like looks of the Hampshire Down sheep

From page 21

The Hampshire Down in particular adapts easily to smaller properties provided the nutrition of the animals is catered for.

The Hampshire Down is a very docile breed with a lovely temperament. They are not aggressive. Their size makes them ideal for families concerned for the safety of

small children.

The Hampshire Down
Breeders Association of SA ~
currently chaired by Janine
Leimer ~ has been hugely
helpful to this new member.
Sameshni makes particular
reference to Dr Daleen Roos
of Vrede, who has been on
hand at any time with advice.
Having bought a number of
animals from Dr Roos at the

SMART SMALLHOLDER

start of this venture, Sameshni stayed in contact and has been overwhelmed by the support and assistance Dr Roos has provided.

"There are only a few breeders in South Africa ~ less than 15. It is a very close-knit community and everyone has been helpful and welcoming. People are always willing to answer questions or offer assistance," Sameshni says.

Due to the small number of these animals in South Africa, there is also continual communication within the Breeders Association to prevent in-breeding beyond what is considered safe for the animals.

Sameshni has looked into importing semen from Australia and New Zealand in an attempt to add new genes into the existing South African bloodlines. The Dept of Agriculture has very strict controls over the importing of

semen to avoid the import of diseases such as scrapie, which is most prevalent in Europe.

Because of their stud quality, Sameshni has also received assistance from qualified animal nutritionists who have made suggestions for keeping her sheep in the best condition.

At the recent Walkerville Show, Janine Leimer commented on the excellent condition of the Reddy's sheep. "That was a huge compliment, coming from a leader in this field," said Sameshni.

Continued on page 19





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SMART SMALLHOLDER

From page 17

To keep them in their best health and condition, the flock undergoes an intense deworming, vaccination and anti-tick programme.

The family built their own dip tank through which they funnel the flock on the way out to the pasture, as often as once a week in summer, to prevent tick-borne diseases. They change the brand of dip

used often to prevent the building of resistance in the ticks.

Sameshni uses a template provided by Dr Roos to keep track of everything about her flock ~ vaccinations, deworming, breeding, lambing, shearing etc. A lamb born or new animal purchased is tagged and registered. Note is made of the sire and mother. This helps maintain clear records of the growth and development of her flock and the breed as a whole. Like so many smallholders, the Reddys use what is

their facilities.

They have paid careful attention to making their facilities as easy to use as possible.

Most of their equipment can be used by one person alone, so Sameshni can tend to the flock on her own if need be. Their dip tank is easily set up by one person.

Their loading ramp is lightweight and can be lifted by one or two people. This ramp also doubles up as an isolator, allowing them to corner a sheep that needs special attention.

Slow feeders made out of old wooden pallets preserve feed for smaller lambs.

Sameshni's father Sivan used gate frames and wire to create portable pens for the flock. Sivan says "We use what we can find on the plot. We try not to buy new materials where possible." And of course, in keeping with the smallholder way of life, the Reddys have learned

Continued on page 21



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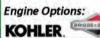
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SMART SMALLHOLDER

From page 19

from trial and error.

Where possible, the family tries to resolve issues on their own. For example, they have discovered that a sheep suffering from bloat can be easily cured with a spoonful of cooking oil. Likewise, a sheep that swells after deworming, indicating the presence of parasites, can be effectively treated with apple cider vinegar.

But it has not all been smooth sailing. Sameshni recently lost a stud ewe to stock theft on a quiet Saturday afternoon. They have also had challenges in dealing with the local Randfontein Municipality and Dept of Agriculture. As previously disadvantaged members of the community, the Reddys have applied for assistance in ploughing fields, setting up vegetable tunnels and drilling boreholes in keeping with the 'But it has not all been smooth sailing. Sameshni recently lost a stud ewe to stock theft on a quiet Saturday afternoon.'

Dept of Agriculture's promise to help emerging farmers. All requests have been met with little to no response, despite months of back and forth. So any development on the property has been due to the family's determination and hard work.

The future looks promising for Sameshni and her sheep. The family hopes to begin breeding for meat ~ those animals not registered as stud quality will be slaughtered. They have also received a number of enquiries from people in the Islamic community interested in the breed for religious ceremonies and believe there could be a niche market there. Like so many smallholders,

the property sustains a number of growing projects. Sameshni's mother has an interest in weaving and spinning. She hopes to build a small arts and craft centre on the property, using Hampshire Down wool to teach local women about spinning and weaving.

Sameshni's younger brother farms small crops of vegetables on the property and has had some success selling produce at the Johannesburg Fruit & Vegetable Market. The family also makes and sells jam from the small orchard on the property. In many ways, therefore, the Reddy's property is the quintessential plot ~ with projects constantly growing

and changing and new ventures starting.

For smallholders across the province, young Sameshni is an inspiration. With passion and hard work, she has been able to grow a beautiful looking and high standard flock of Hampshire Downs. With the continued support of her family and the members of the Hampshire Down Breeders Association this young farmer is the future of smallholders in Gauteng.



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POULTRY

What chickens see, feel, taste & hear

Birds, including poultry, have the same five senses that humans have ~ sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell ~ but they are specialised to help birds survive.

Chickens see the same way we do: light comes in through the cornea and iris, then stimulates nerve endings in the retina at the back of

e 26

the eyeball. However, chickens see an extra sector of the light spectrum. We see three wavelengths (red, green and blue), but chickens see four: red, green, blue and ultraviolet. This means that everything that they see looks different from what we see. Their night vision however, is poor.

Chick embryos respond to light as early as 17 days after the start of incubation.

A hen cannot rotate its eye very much but they can see a field of 300°, with a binocular field of 26°.

Chickens also have much better motion sensing ability than we do. They can see the flicker in many fluorescent lights, (so do not use them in your coops).

Chickens have two foveas (which are image enlargers) and they act a little differently.

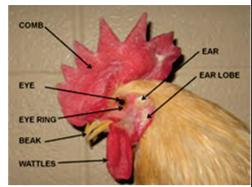
One is for distant vision, and one is for in close, rather like bifocal spectacles are for humans.

The up close one is oval, and sideways, which is why, when you approach a bird, once you

get to the focal distance of about a metre, birds will often bob their heads, and tilt their heads somewhat sideways to get the image better lined up on the second fovea.

Chickens actually can't reliably recognise flock mates until they are within about 60 cms.

Chickens have olfactory receptors in their upper jaw and can respond to particular scents, so they can and do



Features of the head of a rooster.

use smell to help make sense, and make decisions, about their world. Hens are not keen on food that smells of mould or is sour, so presumably smell is involved in this feed rejection. Chickens develop their sense of smell even before hatching - chicks are able to smell from inside their shells.

Hens don't have an ear lobe but they have a well-

Continued on page 23





From page 22

developed ear. The opening of the ear is covered by a special tuft of feathers. These feathers protect the ear without impairing perception of sound. Like other mammals, birds have an outer ear, a middle ear, and an inner ear.

Birds are able to perceive sounds more quickly than humans. They are able to pinpoint the source of a sound by assessing the lag time between the sound's arrival at either side of the head.

Chicken embryos generally begin hearing on day twelve of incubation. When chicks are raised with a mothering hen, the hen helps the chicks identify foods by making

BEECON in KZN in July

his year's annual apiarists' conference, BEECON 2018, is scheduled for July 6 and 7 in Pietermaritzburg. Hosts are

The practice of beak clipping among intensively-reared poultry is extremely painful to a chicken

specific sounds known as auditory clues.

Chickens do have a sense of taste and have about 340 taste buds, mainly on the palate and floor of the oral cavity. (Humans have between 8 000-10 000 taste buds.) Only 2% of a chicken's taste buds are on the tongue itself. The rest are located at the back of the oral cavity, which means that by the time a chicken can taste what it's eating, it has already committed to swallowing it. They are rather indifferent to sugars but can detect glucose to about 2.5% in solution.

the Kwa-Zulu Natal Bee

Two key themes will be

discussed, namely the feeding

Farmers Association.

feeds. They don't have a receptor for spicy foods, so they can eat hot peppers and other plants containing capsaicin without being bothered by the "burn". Chickens are sensitive to touch and their skin contains numerous kinds of receptors for temperature, pressure and pain. The beak of the chicken, as in all birds, is a complex sensory organ with numerous nerve endings. At the end of the beak is a specialized cluster of highly sensitive mechanoreceptors, called the bill tip organ, which allows chickens to make fine tactile discriminations. Needless to say, damage to the beak, for example the practice of beak

They tolerate a range of acid

and alkaline tastes, and are

sensitive to and avoid salty

POULTRY

clipping among intensivelyreared poultry, is extremely painful.

Birds do not use touch as extensively as humans but it is still a vital sense, particularly for flight. Birds are very sensitive to changes in air temperature, pressure and wind speed and those changes are transferred down the feathers to extensive nerves in the skin. Chickens have fewer nerves in their legs and feet, which makes them less sensitive to extreme cold and allows them to perch or stand on very cold or hot surfaces without difficulty.





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BEEKEEPING

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South Africa is not a bee forage friendly country and apiculturists are struggling to maintain the industry. There is a real risk that there will not be enough healthy bee colonies to service the agricultural industry, in terms of pollination services, in the near future, and as a honey producer South Africa falls short of consumer demand, resorting to imports of often inferior "honeys" from other continents such as the Far East and South America.

The beekeeping industry is facing some of its biggest challenges with shrinking habitats and increasing bee pests and diseases. This is aggravated by an increase in the planting of crops that are reliant on bee pollination. It has been estimated that in ten years' time the pollination

t isn't generally known, but Another article in our regular series times as possible during the on beekeeping, by Mpumalanga beekeeper Inge Lotter

requirement will be as much as double the existing managed bee populations. It is therefore critical that all stakeholders invest into the future of the honeybee. The most consequential issue leading to a bee crisis in South Africa is declining floral resources and the subsequent scarcity of quality pollen, which leads to malnutrition in bees. The key to good bee health is a continuous supply of diverse pollen and nectar from natural sources. Bees consume nectar for energy and pollen as a source of protein. The availability of quality pollen resources is critical for beekeepers in order to build up bee populations prior to using

them for pollination services. Any shortfall of pollen leads to protein stress that weakens bees, making them more susceptible to diseases and pests (such as Varroa mites). It also dramatically slows the queen's breeding output, resulting in low field strength and under-performing pollination services. This has a direct impact on the agricultural sector, as crop vield declines.

All these stresses are negatively impacting the number of wild honey bee swarms from which the average beekeeper's apiary stock is captured. It is critical to boost the wild population with good nutrition in order for the swarms to multiply as many

vear.

Swarms are the actual "animal" beekeepers farm with, not individual bees. Natural multiplication of swarms take place when sufficient nutrition reaches the swarm in order to stimulate the gueen to produce an excess of eggs, above what is necessary to maintain the hive. This excess will then swarm off to produce a new swarm (the actual offspring of a bee

Continued on page 29









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LIVESTOCK

Ins & outs of buying & selling your animals

mallholders who want to sell a few of their farm animals have various options. They can advertise them in the livestock section of the SA

swarm) which beekeepers

Small Farmers' Online Exchange, www.sasfox.co.za, and conduct a private sale. In this case the seller needs to state a price wanted for the animal, and perhaps be

prepared to haggle with the prospective buyers. Or they can also sell them to abattoirs or feedlots.

Alternatively they can take their animals to an auction, a

particularly good way of ensuring a reasonable marketrelated price for those unsure of the value of their animals. The seller does not state the

Continued on page 30

EKEEPIN RE

From page 27

will try to capture. This is where the general Smallholders, municipalities and home gardeners can bee-friendly plants as ornamentals, windbreaks, on field edges and ridges, and erosion control or for shelter have abundant flowers to

public can make a difference. reverse this trend by choosing along roadsides. Fortunately, a number of plants used for soil feed bees, making the selection of multi-purpose plants more desirable. This has been done on a large scale by farmers and apiarists

in Israel, where more than a million trees have been planted within the last decade to provide forage for bees. In a desert country that goes six months of the year without rain, the provision of bee forage has now enabled Israeli beekeepers to produce more than 3 600 tons of honey per year, enough for export. Other successful programmes have been implemented in Australia, New Zealand and the USA. It is critically urgent for us to take responsibility to provide the necessary forage to ensure sufficient and healthy bee populations to cater for the

current and future pollination demands. Essentially, without it our bees will decline, resulting in dwindling revenue and food security issues at a national and global level. When deciding on what to plant, decide on something that is beneficial to our bees as well. If every garden can house as many as possible, but at least a few really good bee forage plants we will go a long way towards strengthening at least our wild honey bee population, indirectly also assisting the beekeepers and the pollination industry. For more information and bee forage plant lists contact

Inge Lotter, email inge.lotter-@gmail.com or 082 821-5011 or download lists off our website, www.sasmallholder.co.za









LIVESTOCK

From page 29

Warranty

price that he or she wants, although he or she can state a reserve or minimum price. An auction is a public sale in which goods are sold to the highest bidder. In other words, people who want to buy show the auctioneer how much they are willing to pay for the animal and the animal is sold to the person who offers the highest price. General livestock auctions tend to sell a mixture of animals, beef and dairy cattle,

goats, sheep, pigs and chickens. Livestock auction-eering companies supply calendars with information such as dates and venues. A calendar auction is held at the same place on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or even yearly basis.

A livestock auctioneer can also conduct on-farm auctions of a specific breed, eg, a dairy auction or a breeding cow or bull auction. It is called a dispersal sale if the seller is no longer going to be keeping



Livestock in the auction pen are manoeuvered by experienced handlers

livestock.

At a stud auction animals of special breeding qualities are

for sale. The auctioneer and the sellers will work closely with a breed society which will select the animals according to their standards for such an auction. All reputable auctioneers

All reputable auctioneers have websites and are easily accessible.

But preparing an animal and the paperwork for an auction is quite a process.

To sell an animal one has to register with the auctioneer and book the animal in to the chosen sale.

All animals must be correctly branded or tattooed with the owner's own brand. The SAPS Stock Theft unit inspects animals at the auction and if they do not comply they will not allow them to be sold, and the seller may be charged with transporting an unmarked animal off his land. According to the Animal Identification Act, 2002, it is compulsory to mark all cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. This entails:

- Registering with the National Dept of Agriculture in Pretoria,
- Applying for and being allocated a unique identification mark,
- ☐ Ensuring that animals are tattooed or branded with your mark. You can do this yourself or have it done by a registered contractor.

Permanent identification marks can be put on animals by means of hot iron branding, freeze branding or tattooing, depending on the species.

Continued on page 31



From page 30

For more information on animal identification go to www.sasmallholder.co.za, and under the FAQ tab you will find the Manual for the Prevention of Stock Theft in the livestock section. This contains a whole chapter on the identification process. The animals on offer at the auction must also be in a good condition. The SPCA sends inspectors to stock sales and any animals that have been abused, injured or starved may be confiscated. The health and welfare of the animals being traded is of paramount importance to both buyer and seller.

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To transport livestock by road without the threat of confiscation by the SAPS, a Certificate of Removal must be completed. You can obtain these from the local Stock Theft Unit or it can be downloaded as a pdf file from www.sasmallholder.co.za under the FAO section. Also download and complete the Document of Identification under the same section. Complete and take these forms to the auction, so that you can hand

them to the buyer who will use them as proof of purchase when transporting them to his premises. Without this documentation you could be fined or your animals confiscated. Owners must be present to sell their livestock. They may not send other people to sell on their behalf without a signed affidavit that they may do so, and a valid identity

document. This rule helps to

reduce the sale of stolen

It is up to the owner to transport the animal to the auction in a vehicle that is suitable for carrying livestock. There are transport companies that can be contracted to transport your animals. Make sure that there is no overloading, as an overloaded vehicle is dangerous on the road and an animal can also be trampled if there are too many of them on a truck. The traffic police and the SPCA are always on the lookout for overloaded vehicles.

IVESTOCK

Vehicles and trailers have to comply with regulations to be Continued on page 33



The vehicle must be properly-equipped for livestock transportation.







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Block Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
6.4mm x 6.4mm	0.7mm	1	1	***************************************
9.6mm x 9.6mm	0.9mm	1	1	1
13mm x 13mm	1.0mm	1	1	1
13mm x 13mm	1.6mm	1	1	1
13mm x 25mm	1.0mm	1	1	1
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	1	1	1
13mm x 25mm	1.5mm	4	1	1
13mm x 25mm	1.6mm	1	1	1
13mm x 25mm	2.0mm	1	1	1
25mm x 25mm	1.0mm	1	4	1
25mm x 25mm	1.5mm	1	1	1
25mm x 25mm	1.6mm	1	1	1
25mm x 25mm	2.0mm	1	1	1
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
25mm x 25mm	3.0mm	1	1	1
25mm x 50mm	1.5mm	1	1	1
25mm x 50mm	1.6mm	1	1	1
25mm x 50mm	2.0mm	1	1	1



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

Block Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
25mm x 50mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
25mm x 50mm	3.0mm	-	1	1
50mm x 50mm	1.6mm	1	1	1
50mm x 50mm	2.0mm	1	1	1
50mm x 50mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
50mm x 50mm	3.0mm	**********	1	1
50m x 100mm	2.0mm	1	1	1
50mm x 100mm	2.5mm	1	1	1
100mm x 100mm	2.0mm		1	1
100mm x 100mm	2.5m	1	1	1

Hexagonal Mesh (Oogies draad) 50m rolls/pm

			* *** * * * * * *	A STATE OF THE STATE OF
Hole Size	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
13mm hole	0.7mm	1	1	
25mm hole	0.9mm	1	1	1
75mm hole	1.8mm	1	1	1
90mm hole	1.8mm	1	1	1

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IN THE GARDEN

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Experts agree that one should

Continued on page 35

From page 31

suitable to transport animals. Animals may not be tied down by the legs or body on the back of an unsuitable trailer or vehicle. They may only be tied by the head (with a halter) or by their horns to the rails of a suitable vehicle to stop them jumping out. Bakkies and trailers must have suitable approved rails to contain the animals. A crate may not be homemade from pieces of wire and wooden poles. The floor of the vehicle must be non-slip ~ a mesh or rubber mat must be laid on the floor to stop animals slipping and falling. Keep a

certificate of removal of animals on the vehicle.
Once you reach the auction venue, fill out the form of Acknowledgement of Receipt with your name, address, ID number and stock identification details.

Note that your livestock still belongs to you and are your responsibility, until they have been sold.

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The person who acquires the stock may not receive the stock without receiving the document of identification at the time of delivery. If a person receives the stock without the document, such a person is guilty of an offence. The biggest advantage of an auction is that emerging or

AUCTIONS

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1" -25 mm



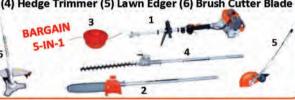




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From page 33

water more seldom but then thoroughly, to avoid water loss through drainage and evaporation.

Slow, deep watering encourages deep root growth which enables plants to reach moisture and nutrients more easily than plants that develop shallow root systems because they have been shallow-watered.

The most effective form of watering is drip or trickle irrigation, which uses 60%

less water than conventional sprinkler systems, and applies it directly where it is needed, rather than turning unplanted patches of soil into a mudbath. It involves dripping water onto the soil at very low rates (2-20 litres/hour) from a system of small diameter plastic pipes fitted with outlets called emitters or drippers.

The different components are easily bought, allowing one to set up one's own system. Generally staff in irrigation

> ylagus shops are helpful in advising the customer on the correct diameter of pipes, number of drippers and kinds

of connectors you'll need for your specific beds. You can also install an automatic irrigation system with moisture sensor if you

wish to spend more money. Otherwise, it is a good idea to invest in a water meter, which is a relatively inexpensive probe that you stick into

the soil to test whether you need to water.

In any event, you want to avoid waterlogging, which means that there is so much water in the soil that the roots can no longer breathe, because plants need air,

particularly oxygen, to a greater or lesser depth in the soil. Waterlogging of the soil stops air getting in.

GARDE

Continued on page 37

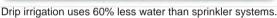


A thick layer of mulch keeps the soil cool and slows evaporation.

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From page 35

Weed free beds ensure that your plants are not competing for water.

Hopefully you dug in large quantities of compost or manure when you planted. This not only improves the quality of the soil, but it encourages earthworm activity, aeration and water penetration.

It is not too late in autumn to mulch your beds. Mulch is a layer of material applied to the surface of soil. Reasons for applying mulch include conservation of soil moisture, improving fertility and health of the soil, reducing weed growth and enhancing the visual appeal of the area. It also helps to prevent crop damage. Mulches can be made from several sources including grass clippings, straw, wood shavings, bark or sawdust. Newspaper is a good mulch because of its water-holding qualities,

Digging compost in to your soil encourages earthworms, which aerate the soil and facilitates water penetration at depth

although it doesn't look as natural as organic materials. Watering should take place after sunrise, so that you do not damage the landscape by adding water which will freeze when it comes in contact with vegetation. Irrigating after sunrise will in fact help to wash frost off your lawn and unprotected garden areas. You can also water in the late morning, but avoid watering in the afternoon during winter, as this might cause your plants to freeze in Gauteng's cold nights.

Researchers from the Agricultural Research Council offer the following advice: Seedlings need special care and must be watered regularly to keep the soil

moist at all times.

Watering before and after transplanting is essential, particularly in hot weather. Water should be applied twice per day during the first week and once a day during the second week.

Leafy crops and brassicas generally have high water requirements and need about 25**l**/m² of water a week. These vegetables should be actively growing from the time they are sown or transplanted. Any lack in water supply can have a negative impact on yield and quality.

Roots and tuber crops need $10\ell/m^2$ to $15\ell/m^2$ water per week during the first month after planting. From one month after planting until

plants approach maturity, 30l/m2 per week should be adequate. Ensure that water penetrates deeply into the soil, as shallow watering discourages deep root development.

Potatoes should be watered twice a week, but need additional water when tubers start forming.

Carrots should be watered three times a week from three weeks after planting. Green beans and other legumes, cucurbits, solanaceous crops, such as tomatoes and peppers need about 25 l/m² of water per

Continued on page 39







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do these simple tests Know your soil ~

efore starting a garden it is important to know what kind of soil you are dealing with, so that you can take measures, if necessary, to grow the plants that you want. If you can learn about your soil's texture, composition, drainage, acidity, and mineral density, you will avoid, up front, the disappointing results that can occur when your soil is unsuitable for your dream garden.

This is one of the reasons why new smallholder farmers are encouraged to have their field From page 37 soil professionally tested before they plough and plant.

But for a hobby farmer or family vegetable grower the expense of professional soil testing may not be warranted. Fortunately, there are a number of DIY tests you can do which will give you a good idea of what you are dealing with underfoot.

Knowing the structure of your soil will help you determine how much water and organic matter you will need to apply. Your soil is a mass of mineral

particles, water, air, and dead organic matter. The size and form of those particles make up the basic soil structure. There are three soil components - clay, sand and silt. Clay is the smallest mineral component. These tiny flat particles fit closely together to create the greatest surface area of all soil types. Clay soil contains needed nutrients and also stores water well. So well in fact, that drainage is

slow in clay soil. It is also the slowest to warm in the spring. Sand makes up the largest particles in soil structure. These are rounded, rather than flat, and allow for larger space between the particles. Water drains quickly from the soil that has a lot of sand and the nutrients drain faster too. If your soil is mostly sand the plants will need more water and fertilizer.

Continued on page 41

week.

Water requirements vary according to the stage of development. During week one after planting or sowing, water twice a day; during week two, water once a day; from week three onwards, water three times a week. such as pumpkins, are more drought-tolerant than other crops and require irrigation

once a week from month two after planting.

For sweet potatoes, irrigation is crucial after establishment and is needed twice a day for the first week and once a day for the second week. From the third week water should

WATERIN be applied three times a week until storage roots have developed

(months one and two). Pumpkins require frequent irrigation until six to eight weeks after emergence.

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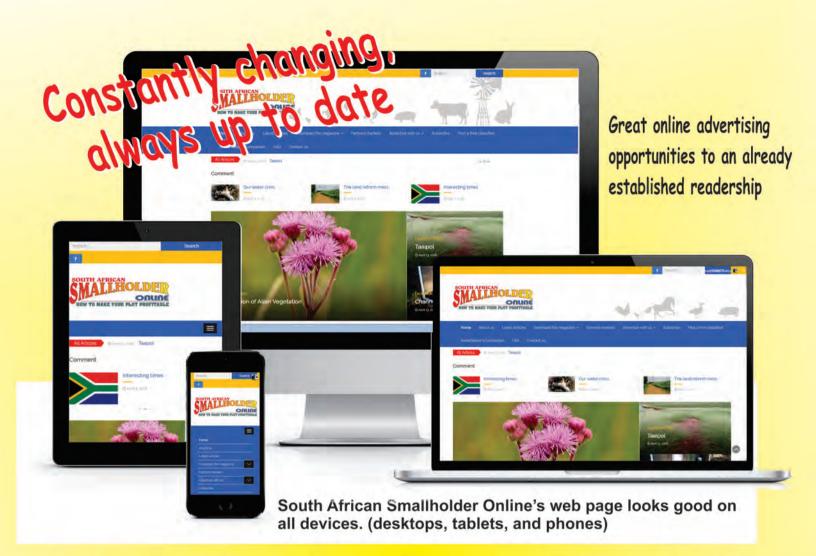


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From page 39

Silt represents the middle size pieces. It is made up of rock and mineral particles that are larger than clay but smaller than sand. Individual silt particles are so small that they are difficult to see. To be classified as silt, a particle must be less than .005 centimeters (.002 inches) across

The optimal combination of these three particles is called loam and is considered the ideal garden soil. Knowing how close (or far) you are from loam will help you decided what amendments to make to your soil. There are different simple tests that you can do.

☐ There is the bottle test.

Take a bottle and fill a third of it with the soil you want to test. Pour water into the bottle until it is almost full. Put a lid on and shake it well for a few minutes. Leave the bottle for an hour so that the soil can settle in the water.

SAND LOAM 50 - 100% clay 10 - 30% clay 0 - 10% clay 0 - 10% silt 30 - 50% silt 0 - 45% silt 80 - 100% sand 25 - 50% sand 0 - 45% sand broad idea of the type of soil

JAR TESTING FOR SOIL TYPE

The substances will settle in layers. Each layer will have a different colour and consistency. Heavy particles (gravel, pebbles and sand) will fall quickly to the bottom of the bottle.

Finer substances will accumulate on top of the heavy particles (silt, humous, and then the fine and very fine clay). The top layer of the water will stay cloudy for a long time, because it will contain clay particles which are so small that they stay floating in the water. Substances which are lighter than water (leaves, seeds, spores, insect and animal waste) will float on top. The diagram will give you an

idea of how to interpret the contents of your jar.

☐ The sausage test.

Another test you can carry out entails taking a handful of damp soil and feeling it. Is it rough, smooth or sticky? Then, try to make a sausage. The results should give you a

that you have.

If, when you try to bend the sausage it breaks quickly and crumbles your soil is sandy or loamy. If you can shape the sausage readily your soil has a high clay content.

IN THE GARDEN

Clay soil is smooth and sticky. Loam soil contains sand and silt. Roots grow easily in it and it holds water and nutrients. Loam feels a little rough and sandy, quite smooth but not sticky. It can be made into a sausage, which you should be able to bend half way round. The majority of vegetables, herbs and fruit trees flourish in loam.

If you have clay soil, you should find that brassicas (Broccoli, Bok choy, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale, Kohlrabi, Mustard and Turnip) thrive. Root vegetables such as carrots and potatoes, and Continued on page 42

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From page 41

fruit trees do not grow well in clay soil.

Sandy soil is easier to dig and work in than denser soil. Sand, being abrasive, tends to break down organic material to provide plant roots with nutrients. Root plants such as potatoes, carrots, radishes, garlic and beets grow well in sandy soil. Other food plants that grow well in sandy soil include tomatoes, strawberries, blueberries, peppers, lettuce and some kinds of beans. Fruit trees will need nutrients and regular watering.

☐ Simple pH test



Home-made pH test

Another useful soil test to carry out is to find out whether your soil is acid or alkaline. The pH or acidity level of your soil has a large part to do with how well your plants grow and pH is tested on a scale of zero to 14, with zero being very acidic, seven

being neutral and 14 being very alkaline. Most plants grow best in soil with a fairly neutral pH of between six and seven. Knowing your soil pH is the key to understanding if essential minerals will be available to the roots of your plants.

You can test your garden soil pH with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.

Collect a cup of soil and put two spoonfuls into separate glasses. Add half a cup of vinegar to the soil in one glass. If it fizzes, you have alkaline soil, with a pH between seven and eight.

The chemical reaction that you're seeing occurs when an acid (the vinegar) comes into contact with something alkaline (the soil).

If it doesn't fizz after doing the vinegar test, add half a cup of water to the other container and mix. Add half a cup of bicarb. If it fizzes you have acidic soil, most likely with a pH between five and six. The reaction you're seeing is the result of acidic soil coming into contact with an alkaline substance (the bicarbonate of soda). If your soil doesn't react at all it is neutral with a pH of seven and you are very lucky. You can add different substances to the soil to alter the pH, the most usual being lime to make it more alkaline and sulphur, or a sulphur compound, to make it acidic. Soil amendment takes time however, so make small changes and wait for them to

Continued on page 43





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Popular garden plant with medicinal uses

ommonly known as African wormwood, Artemisia afra or wilde-als is a soft aromatic shrub that is one of the most popular medicinal plants in South Africa.

From page 42

Strong and bitter, it is easy to grow from seedlings or cuttings and is not fussy about the soil that it is planted in, becoming a large, bushy and drought resistant plant.

It thrives in full sun and with

its silver-grey foliage it makes a striking display in any garden.

Wormwood grows in thick, bushy, slightly untidy clumps, usually with tall stems up to 2m high, but sometimes as low as 0.6m. The stems are thick and woody at the base, becoming thinner and softer towards the top. The upper surface of the leaves is dark green whereas the undersides and the stems are covered with small white hairs, which give the shrub the characteristic overall grey colour.

Continued on page 44

SOIL TESTS

take hold before making further amendments. And, the addition of lime or sulphur can have other effects on the soil and other fertilizeres which need to be taken into account before you embark on a wholesale pH change.

You may have different types corner as well as Choose plants to in your soil. The crops prefer a soil - they can to fo 5.5 to 6.5: be cauliflower, michaely, purphin radial melon, parsley, purphin radial corner as well as Choose plants to in your soil. The crops prefer a soil - they can to fo 5.5 to 6.5: be cauliflower, michaely potato, eggplan melon, parsley, swell as Choose plants to in your soil. The crops prefer a soil - they can to fo 5.5 to 6.5: be cauliflower, michaely potato, eggplan melon, parsley, swell as Choose plants to in your soil. The crops prefer a soil - they can to fo 5.5 to 6.5: be cauliflower, michaely potato, eggplan melon, parsley, swell as the properties of the

You may have different types of soil in different parts of your smallholding, so consider testing each of your garden beds, and if you are working on a pasture or field, test samples from each

corner as well as the centre. Choose plants that will thrive in your soil. The following crops prefer a somewhat acid soil - they can tolerate a pH of 5.5 to 6.5: basil, carrot, cauliflower, mielies, cucumber, parsley, sweet potato, potato, eggplant, garlic, melon, parsley, pepper, pumpkin, radish, rhubarb, squash, tomato, turnip, while strawberries, raspberries, blueberries etc love acidic soil.

If your soil tests slightly alkaline (pH between 7 and

8) you'll be able to easily grow these vegetables without making amendments: artichoke, asparagus, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, leeks, lima beans, peach tree, spinach, beetroot and Swiss chard. Sometimes, it's just easier to work with the soil that you have than to fight it. Continue to test and tweak your soil over time. Maintaining healthy soil is an ongoing task.





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From page 43

Very typical of *A afra* is the strong, sticky sweet smell that it exudes when touched or cut.

Actively growing in the summer months, it should be able to take quite low temperatures during the winter months. In early spring it should be cut back to encourage new growth. Because the leaves are very strong-smelling, it is used extensively in pest control. If you scatter leaves between the leaves of cabbages, cauliflower or broccoli, they will repel leaf-eating worms. It works well when planted among fruit trees to discourage harmful insects.

One can also break off twigs and pull off the lower leaves. These, scattered as mulch among vegetable seedlings, with the twigs pushed into the ground right next to the seedlings, protects them from cutworms. The bushy tops of If you scatter the leaves between the leaves of cabbages, cauliflower or broccoli, they will repel leaf-eating worms

the twigs can also give protection from the hot afternoon sun until the seedling is growing strongly. Wormwood can also be used as an insect repellent in the home, where you can sprinkle leaves around ant holes or among clothes as a moth repellent. Crush the leaves and mix with cornflower to make flea powder to use on dogs.

In the pantry dried leaves placed in containers of dried beans, flour and other grains will keep weevils out. *Artemisia afra* is one of the oldest and best known medicinal plants, and is still used effectively today in South Africa by people of all cultures. The list of uses covers a wide range of

ailments from coughs, colds, fever, loss of appetite, colic, headache, earache, intestinal worms, insect bites and even malaria. Artemisia is used in many different ways but one of the most common practices is to insert fresh leaves into the

nostrils to clear blocked nasal passages. Wormwood has a very bitter taste and is usually sweetened with sugar or honey when drunk. Wilde-als brandy is a very popular medicine still made and sold today.

The roots, stems and leaves are used in many different ways and taken as enemas, poultices, infusions, body

Goods for sale?



African wormwood or wilde-als

washes, lotions, smoked, snuffed or drunk as a tea. Medical research is being undertaken on the properties of this plant in treating some very serious diseases, with most encouraging results.



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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

NOTE: FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKETS. For a listing of REGULARLY HELD markets and fairs please see the separate section on page 47. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar section.

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

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

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

Every Monday

Alcoholics Anonymous. 'Courage to Change' Group meeting, 19:30, Benoni Agricultural Holdings, Marcus 082 042-7730. Warren 082 335-0049. Glen 072 239-3024., If you want to drink - that's your problem! If you want to stop - that's our problem! No fees; no dues; just concerned

2018

May

1: Workers Day

7-9: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 10: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 11: Calf Rearing Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

14-16: Sheep & Goats Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

14-18: Soil Fertilization & Irrigation Course, ARC Vegetable & Ornamental Plants Institute, Roodeplaat. R3 200 per person. Contact Lerato Sebego 012 808-8000 15: New Moon

15-18: Nampo Harvest Day Show, Nampo Park, between Klerksdorp and Bothaville 19: Northerns Beekeeping Association members' meeting, including an address by a guest speaker and practical beekeeping training, as well as a "silent auction" of beekeeping and related equipment. Silver Falcons Rugby Club, Silverton. Visitors invited from Pretoria & surrounds. For time and details call Riekie van den Berg 082

19-20: SA Koi Keepers Society 27th National Koi Show, Cresta Shopping Centre, Beyers Naude Dr, Randburg, From 0900 daily. Adults R25, Children R10. Email gauteng@koisa.co.za for more details. 22-24: Foundations for Farming 3-Day Basic Conservation Agriculture Course, Beula Park, Sam Green Road, Meadowdale, Gauteng. The courses comprises theory and practical training, including Conservation Agriculture Principles, Feed Your Family, Vegetable Gardens, Herb Cultivation, Uses of Herbs, Compost Making, Practical Home Remedies, Agroforestry, Cover Crops, etc. For bookings contact Neill Jackson on 082 407 6774

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

29: Full Moon

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

<u>June</u>

1: Permaculture Design Course starts at Puschka Farm near Magaliesberg. Course runs over six weekends. Call Peter 083 445-5058 or email info@puschkafarm.co.za 2-3: OutdoorX outdoor lifestyle show, Malonjeni Game Farm, Heidelburg. 0900-

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

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

13: New Moon

16: Youth Day 25-27: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 26-28: Foundations for Farming 3-Day Basic Conservation Agriculture Course, Beula Park, Sam Green Road, Meadowdale, Gauteng. The courses comprises theory and practical training, including Conservation Agriculture Principles, Feed Your Family, Vegetable Gardens, Herb Cultivation, Uses of Herbs, Compost Making, Practical Home Remedies, Agroforestry, Cover Crops, etc.

For bookings contact Neill Jackson on 082 407 6774

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

28: Full Moon

6-7: BEECON 2018, hosted by the Kwa-Zulu Natal Bee Farmers Association. Pietermaritzburg. Themes for discussion include feeding of bees and the Capensis problem.

13: New Moon

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

21: Northerns Beekeeping Association members' meeting. Visitors invited from Pretoria & surrounds. For times, venue and details call Riekie van den Berg 082 972-

23-25: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 26: Cattle Pregnancy Awareness Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985 27: Full Moon

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

<u>August</u>

9: National Womens Day 9-11: Kragdag Expo, Diamantvallei Landgoed, Donkerhoek.

11: New Moon

18: Northerns Beekeeping Association members' meeting. Visitors invited from Pretoria & surrounds. For times, venue and details call Riekie van den Berg 082 972-

26: Full Moon

CLASSIFIEDS

27-29: Cattle Artificial Insemination Course, Rothman Livestock Training Services, Muldersdrift. Call Lily 078 546-7985

ESTOCK S Auctions: Bronkhorstspruit - Every Tuesday Gys Taute 083 253 6906 Delmas - 2nd & 4th Thursday Johan Taute 073 204 7646

Belfast: Wednesdays - Ermelo: Thursdays - Standerton: Fridays

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Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held to a regular weekly or monthly schedule. Markets held less frequently are listed in the DIARY section of the magazine and we urge readers to check each month for dates and events of interest. We would like this list of food markets to be as comprehensive as possible. If you know of farmers' food markets that are not listed here, please email us the contact details of the organisers, and details of the market. Only FOOD markets are included. Similarly, if you know of markets in this list that have CLOSED please inform us so that we can delete incorrect or outdated information. We invite you to tell us of your experiences when visiting these markets so that we can better inform our readers. Were they as advertised? Was the produce on sale plentiful, well-priced, well-presented and fresh? Email your comments to editor@gautengsmallholder.com

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT		
Thursday							
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 - 15:00	40 Culross road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	Konrad or Glenda 011 706 3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.		
			Friday				
Last Friday	Walkerville Farmers Market	18:00 - 22:00	112 R82 Main road, Walkerville	079 076 7680	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area.		
Last Friday	The Market In The Garden	09:00 - 15:00	Garden shop, Braam Fischer, Bryanston (next to Sandton Clinic)	Robyn 083 311 4768	Fresh produce, home industry & craft, food etc. Enquire about stall prices		
Saturday							
Every Saturday	The Red Windmill Village Market	09:00 - 15:00	104 Main road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, food stalls, coffee shop, plants, arts & crafts, book etc.		
Every Saturday	The Red Windmill Village Market	09:00 - 15:00	104 Main road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, food stalls, coffee shop, plants, arts & crafts, book etc.		
Every Saturday	Waterfall Estate Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	Waterfall Estate, waterfall cnr Midrand	Robyn 083 311 4768	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry & craft, food etc. Enquire about stall prices.		
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 - 09:30	Moreleta street entrance, Krige street ext, Silverton	012 804 8031 or 079 987 1025	Fresh produce & traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kaiings with pap & boerewors rolls.		
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 - 15:00	40 Culross road, Bryanston (off Main road)	Konrad or Glenda 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 - 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, cnr Thomas Edison & Mackenzie str, Menlo Park, Pretoria	Rietha 083 554 5636 www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats and sale		
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 - 15:00	112 R82 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 - 15:00	Walkerville showgrounds on the R82	Noorunisha 074 141 8485	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft beer, kids play area and pet friendly.		
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	10:00 - 19:00	54 Glory road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553 2846	Outdoor country experience working farm cattle, sheep pigs. Free range meat, cheese, eggs and poultry. Free range craft beer		
Every Saturday	The Fresh Co-op Weekly Farmers Market	07:00 - 10:30	204 Allan road, Glen Austin Halfway House, Gauteng	info.freshproducecoop@gmail.com 082 369 7755	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves, home industry, arts and crafts, food etc.		
Every Saturday	Jozi Real Food Market	08:30 - 13:30	Pirates sports club, 25 Braeside Rd, Greenside	Ingrid 083 532 2992 jozirealfoodmarket@gmail.com	Outdoor pet & child friendly, organic vegetables, food, arts & crafts		
2nd Saturday	Brakpan Boeremark	09:00 - 14:00	Cnr van der Walt & Dirk van der Hoff road, Brakpan	Marius 082 904 8852 or 011 744 2322	Over 50 stalls, food, art crafts etc.		
Last Saturday	Fresh2U Farmers Market	08:00 - 14:00	Cnr Main & High street, Modderfontein(behind 33 high str)	Jane 083 376 5567 Chantelle 082 338 7818 wardek@iafrica.com	Over 50 stalls, fresh produce, home made goods, plants, food & more.		
Last Saturday	Fresh Produce Market	08:00 - 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 - 14:00	Broodblik & Koffiepit on the R51 between Petit & Bapsfontein	083 445 1608 adelekoffiepit@gmail.com	Homemade crafts & food stalls, bakery & coffee shop and entertainment.		
			Sunday				
Every Sunday	The Red Windmill Village Market	09:00 - 15:00	104 Main road, Walkerville	082 627 3134 or 072 637 9355 Stalls: 082 641 8982	Fresh produce, food stalls, coffee shop, plants, arts & crafts, book etc.		
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market		Cnr Montecasino Boulevard & William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 www.ffmarket.co.za	Get your groceries in the garden!		
Every Sunday	Carlington Craft & Food Market	09:00 - 15:00	The Bru House on the R563 Hekpoort-Krugersdrop Rd	For stalls 0827824142 Debbie.Prinsloo@outlook.com	Restaurant, live music, kids play area, safe parking		



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THE BACK PAGE

My photographic career

relic on my youth emerged from its dusty hiding place the other day, namely my old Polaroid Land camera, which got me thinking about how much photography has changed over the past half a century. Not that one can even call the art of picture-taking photography any more, for gone are the light-sensitive films and papers, and the chemicals, from which photography takes its name.

My interest in photography started before I turned ten, sparked by one Robert Sithole, the local house-painter, who earned extra income when not house-painting by taking meticulously-posed black and white postcard-sized photos of the local domestic workforce in a nearby park, and who thus needed a darkroom in which to process his work.

Because he had painted our house, Robert knew that there was a shallow unused space under the floorboards with a small hatch-like door as access, and he persuaded my mother that a darkroom would fit in there nicely. She agreed, and he thus set about digging out a pit deep enough in which to stand upright, and erecting shelves and installing an illegal power connection. Next, he persuaded a family friend for whom he had also done painting work to part with an ancient enlarger, a safe-light and some developing trays and, hey, presto, he was in business. He thought our suggested name of "Snap-Happy Studios" a bit pretentious and so just called himself "R Sithole, Photographer" and had a rubber stamp made with his name and address, which was stamped on to the back of all his work.

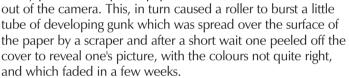
Soon my curiosity at this activity under the house turned to enquiring fascination and I became a willing assistant, carrying kettles and buckets of water, hot and cold, with which to mix and warm chemicals and wash the film and prints, and agitating the papers in the developer tray, and before long I had acquired the skills and knowledge to process my own pictures. Only problem was, I didn't possess a camera. This was solved one birthday when I was presented with a Kodak Brownie Box camera and with this I set about wasting yards of film taking "artistic" pictures of anything that stood still long enough, and even things that didn't.

My knowledge and skill in the darkroom was put to good use at high school, where we had our own darkroom, better equipped than Robert's, and where we pupils spent many happy hours in the gloom smoking Lucky Strikes and reproducing pictures of nudes filched from the dog-eared Playboy magazines that did the rounds.

I even did a stint as a professional photographer's assistant, making useful pocket-money carrying his cameras and flashes to, especially, matric dances and functions. One I recall was a black-tie dinner of the Friends of Rhodesia Society. Halfway through the speeches one of the luminaries rode a big white horse into the ballroom. I can't remember why. The horse became unnerved at the clapping and flashing of the camera and promptly crapped on the carpet.

In due course I became bored with all the chemicals and stuff and the delay

between taking the photo and seeing the final print, and that's when I saved up and bought my Polaroid instant camera. This is nothing fancy, its lens and optical doings being no better than my Brownie Box camera. But the film/paper/processing was unique. At great expense one bought a box of ten picture packs. These were inserted into the camera and exposed in the normal way. Then to make the picture one gripped a cardboard tag and slowly pulled the exposed paper



All of that skill and knowledge is gone, today, of course. Robert's carefully-posed black and white postcards, enlarged and developed in our cellar, of the suburb's domestic workers are now the yellowed and faded pictures of somebody's grandmother or father; darkroom equipment is only found in a museum, and although Polaroid still makes instant cameras, if you want a personal picture today you point your cellphone at yourself and take a "selfie," which will quite inevitably turn out to be a distorted picture of you and your friends looking imbecilic, the resulting image being instantly forgettable as a work of "art". The best place for it thus is not on your grandchildrens' wall or mantelpiece but in the electronic trashcan of a social medium such as Facebook.



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