

GAUTENG SMALLHOLDER

SEPTEMBER 2017
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PUBLISHED BY

Bowford Publications (Pty) Ltd
Established 1985

(Reg No 2004/019727/07)

PO Box 14648, Bredell 1623

Tel: 011 979-5088

or 076 176-7392

Fax: 086 602-3882

website:

www.sasmallholder.co.za



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ADVERTISING RATES

(All Rates Full Colour, incl VAT)

Full Page - R7 480

Half Page - R4 620

Quarter Page - R2 570

1/8 page - R1 360

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Booking discounts

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Circulation

More than 19 000 copies* distributed free through outlets in the Agricultural

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FRONT COVER

A feature of a Highveld winter: Guineafowl flying over the dry, pale grasslands.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Online developments



In what is for us at the *Gauteng Smallholder* the biggest development since we moved from bashing out the magazine ourselves on old single-sheet printing presses to full colour glossy web offset

printing, we have launched a fully-fledged online small farmers' exchange portal covering the whole of southern Africa.

The name of the site is officially the Southern African Small Farmers' Online Exchange, shortened to, we think, the quite snappy www.sasfox.co.za.

In time we hope to develop the site into the biggest online shop of its kind, where smallholders will be able to:

- ☐ Sell their unwanted, surplus and used farm equipment and livestock of every kind;
- ☐ Buy the equipment, livestock and inputs they need;
- ☐ Swap unwanted stuff for stuff they want ~ there are very few restrictions;
- ☐ Sell surplus produce.

While the first three categories are simply another online classified portal specialising in the needs of small farmers (think of them as Gumtree for mapplotters), it is the last category which is new, and which gets our motors revving.

That's because it is the first national attempt at putting small food growers in touch, in a simple and instant way, with potential buyers.

And it's aimed at YOU, the average *Smallholder* reader, as much as it is aimed at commercial small farmers. Thus, if you are growing vegetables for the family table, or enjoy bountiful fruit from your trees, you will now have the ability to sell the few extra bunches of spinach, or extra pumpkins or cabbages that would otherwise have gone to waste, or which you would have foisted onto townie friends.

For out there in the ether of the internet you will find (because they will appear when they see how the system works) people in your area who will respond to your ad, pick up your surplus and pay for it, and combine it with the surplus production of others, in turn to take it to market, sell it to a local grocer, or use it to stock a farmstall or table at a farmer's market, or to supply informal traders.

What this means is that you ~ the grower ~ can concentrate on growing, even expanding, your plantings, while knowing that your produce will be sold and used, without the hassle and time necessary to market the stuff or man a stall yourself.

In this way we hope that the portal will allow and encourage those of us fortunate enough to have land and water to expand our production, to the betterment of all South Africans, thus tackling some of the issues we have, and continue to highlight in #SAFoodCrisis.

Oh, and all of this is free. Completely. To you the seller and you the buyer. No charge. No strings attached. No hassle.

To place your ad you will simply fill in an on-line form describing the product, giving (if you wish) the price, your general location, and either your telephone number or email address, or both. Hitting the submit button will send your ad to our team who will moderate it edit if necessary, and within a few minutes it will be live on the site, to be seen by anybody with an interest throughout southern Africa. Yes, overborder entries and participation are welcome.

Our (and other) commercial advertisers can participate too, listing products for sale in the various categories ~ also for free.

Oh, and all of this will be possible on your cellphone as well.

So how will we make the site pay? There are various advertising options, such as bold type ads, "bumped" ads where for a fee we will ensure your ad stays at the top of any particular section, ads with additional illustrations and sidebar ads on the individual pages.

In developing this site we believe we are taking our operation, which has hitherto been geared to Gauteng's smallholders, to a whole new level. Firstly, we will be bringing together a much wider national and international audience. Secondly we will be bringing on board a younger readership for whom the new fast-paced communication/social media format is more appealing than the older, slower paper-based model. But for those who prefer the paper-based model, rest assured we will continue to serve you as we have done for the past 18 years, the only difference being that the Classified ads and SuperSmalls in the magazine will fall away from next month, as all classifieds received will be listed on www.sasfox.co.za.

So, I urge you to try out the new site. You will find it refreshing, fast and exciting. And jolly convenient, too.



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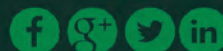
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In lyn met die boer

Obaro behou die reg voor om voorraad te beperk. Sekere voorraad is slegs by geselekteerde winkels beskikbaar. Pryse sluit BTW in. Foto's is slegs ter illustratiewe doeleindes. Foute en weglatings uitgesluit (E. & O. E.)



A normal summer ahead

Wet in the early part of summer, then pretty average for the rest seems to be the best forecast for rainfall in the season ahead.

The SA Weather Service has two predictions for the period from September to November, and for October to December. Both are suggesting that there will be a 60 to 100% chance of heavier than normal rainfall during the first three months, and zero chance of heavy precipitation in the second.

That ties in with oceanographers' predictions for conditions over the Pacific Ocean as far as El Nino/La Nina effects are concerned. The

chance of such effects occurring this season are slim, say reports, meaning a benign summer can be expected in the southern hemisphere.

Food article 'frightening'

Sir ~ I enjoyed your article on food security. Very informative and frightening.

Gail (surname supplied)

By email

There are further articles on the topic to come. One in

this edition and more next month. And the picture doesn't get any better. The question is: What will government do about the crisis?

~ Editor

Classified ad website for smallholders

There's a new word in the lexicon of small farmers and smallholders in southern Africa. It's "sasfox", and it's from the web address of our new classified advertisement site, the Southern African Small Farmers Online Exchange, www.sasfox.co.za.

In what is the biggest leap forward for us since we switched over to web printing

Continued on page 7

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

Afrikaans letters will be translated. Post mail to: Letters, PO Box 14648, Bredell 1623 or fax 086 602-3882 or e-mail editor@gautengsmallholder.co.za



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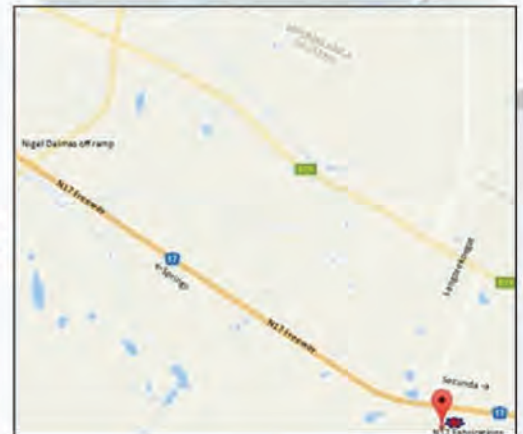
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Back-breaking hand fertilization

with individual dollops of granular fertilizer you will have learnt two things: firstly, grabbing a handful of fertilizer and dropping it sort-of next to the plant results in a wasteful imprecision, firstly in the quantity delivered, and secondly in the area over which it spreads. Secondly, trying to deliver a precise amount, precisely to the plant's root area using a cup or a mug is slow, and backbreaking.

Enter the ever-inventive Michris Janse van Rensburg of Backsaver with his latest invention, a hand-held

fertilizer dispenser that delivers a precise amount, precisely where you want it, ie at the base of the stem of the plant.

The device comprises a steel tube about the length of a walking stick, at the top of which is a cylinder with a moving lever and a fixed handle.

In the cylinder is a semi-circular Vesconite plate with a hole drilled in it, the diameter of the hole being exactly aligned with the amount of fertilizer commonly delivered in a one-shot dose (the device comes with two such plates

for different delivery quantities ~ 2,5 g and 5 g ~ and a blank plate which, van Rensburg says, can be drilled to any size to deliver custom amounts as required.)

Attached to the cylinder is a flexible pipe connected to a soft canvas backpack which can hold about 7kg of fertilizer.

To use the device the operator merely points the bottom of the tube at the base of the plant and turns the movable lever through 45°. This aligns the hole in the Vesconite plate with the

Continued on page 8

SASFOX.CO.ZA

From page 5

of the magazine nine years ago, we have launched this online presence to better serve the needs of our readers who are increasingly switching to the immediacy of online advertising to buy and sell their farming equipment and produce.

Indeed, since we started the magazine 18 years ago with a huge presence of classified advertising running to a number of pages each month, we have seen the steady growth of classified advertising sites such as Gumtree, OLX and Junk Mail, with the result that our paper-based classified advertising has diminished in just the same way as it has for daily and regional

newspapers.

As far as the current general online advertising sites are concerned however, although they have many visitors, their content sometimes leaves much to be desired, and potential buyers are left to browse through pages of often unmoderated, poorly worded and irrelevant advertisements to find those

Continued on page 8

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NEWS

From page 8

delivery tube, allowing the precise amount of fertilizer to drop down to the plant. Returning the lever through 45° aligns the hole in the plate with the flexible delivery tube, allowing the hole to refill with fertilizer, ready for the next shot.

Van Rensburg has also developed a hand-push wheeled fertilizer dispenser which delivers a narrow band of granular material in a

constant stream. This is suitable for dispensing fertilizer on a bed which has rows of finer seed, the fertilizer being delivered directly to the row of seed, rather than being broadcast and wasted in the spaces between the rows.

The device is also connected to a flexible backpack and the mechanism is such that the delivery stream remains constant, regardless of the speed at which the device is

pushed, and regardless of the terrain over which it is worked.

Van Rensburg believes these two devices will go a long way to reducing the amount of fertilizer wasted when working small and medium patches of crops.

Both are available for delivery by mail.

For more information: Michris Janse van Rensburg, Backsaver Implements, tel 073 454 4111



Backsaver's Michris Janse van Rensburg demonstrates the hand dispenser

SASFOX

From page 7 of use.

The sasfox site will change all that. Firstly it is aimed specifically at the needs of small farmers and smallholders and in so doing addresses the communication needs of the newly-emerging small farmer sector which is being actively encouraged by the government. Secondly, the content will be moderated, meaning that advertisements submitted by sellers and buyers will be edited for spelling and grammar to make them clear and understandable, and also checked for veracity and relevance, before they are uploaded.

In so doing we hope to sort the wheat from the chaff before exposing the content to our readers.

But the best thing about sasfox is that it is, for basic use, absolutely free.

Like the commercial classified sites, however, we offer various "upgrades" from the basic free advertisement, for which users will be required to pay from as little as R39,99 per month.

Thus, for one's advertisement in bold, for the advertisement to appear at the top of the relevant section, for inclusion of one's website address, or for

Continued on page 9

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China's largest tractor-maker back in SA

After an absence of almost two years, Foton tractors, made by the largest tractor manufacturer in China, are back in

South Africa as Lovol Foton, with agri-equipment supplier ABC Hansen Africa as the principal importer of the range.

ABC Hansen has, since the early 1990s, been selling silo and grain handling equipment, as well as the Hippo hammer mill, Hippo pellet

and feed mills and a wide range of other agri processing equipment. Scanwood Solutions and Trail Saddles

Continued on page 11

SASFOX

From page 8

more than five accompanying illustrations you will have the option of selecting to pay the fee.

If you decide not to, your ad will simply appear on the site for 30 days in plain type.

As the end of the 30 day validity period approaches you will receive a message from the site informing you to renew the advert if the item is not sold, failing which we will delete the ad to keep the content on the site fresh.

As far as the magazine is concerned, this is the last edition in which Classified ads and SuperSmalls will be published, as all ads submitted, whether by post, by hand

or by email and SMS, will be uploaded to the sasfox site. SuperSmalls as a category thus falls away and advertisers in this section with revert to free advertisers, unless they choose one of the options outlined above.

One of the features which makes sasfox stand out from the rest is its online produce market. Here, farmers and smallholders will be able to sell and swop their produce, such as surplus fruit, meat, eggs and dairy products, without incurring the cost of transport to markets, formal advertising, agents' commission, etc.

In this way we hope that sasfox will be an instrument

for good in the drive towards individual, household and regional food security in southern Africa.

The key to a good classified advertisement site is eyes viewing the ads and sasfox will be heavily promoted in a number of ways to ensure that small farmers throughout southern Africa are aware of the site, and are reminded to make it their first port of call when sourcing items for, or selling produce from, their farms and smallholdings. The site is also available in a mobile-friendly form, meaning you don't need a desktop computer or laptop to use it but can access it in all its functionality on your

cellphone.

While fully-owned and operated by the publishers of the *Gauteng Smallholder*, www.sasfox.co.za will operate as a completely separate entity to the magazine. For more information call Mark on 011 979-5088

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From page 9

also fall under the ABC Hansen umbrella and are well known brands for chippers and Western riding gear respectively. Many of the group's customers are smallholders and emerging farmers in South Africa and throughout Africa. The group is partly owned by Danish shareholders who have been in business in the field since the 1880s.

In China Lovol Foton manufactures more than 50 000 tractors annually and around a million of its machines are in the field worldwide. The company enjoys a 60% share of the Chinese tractor market and more than 5 000 tractors are exported annually. In South Africa ABC Hansen will focus on four-wheel drive models in capacities of 25HP, 35HP, 50HP, 70HP, and 90HP.

The smaller tractors of 25HP and 35HP find a large market share in especially high value markets such working tunnels and smaller acreage under intensive cultivation.

The marketing division of ABC Hansen Africa handling the tractors, Lovol Foton Agri SA, also offers great deals on forage solutions.

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ABC Hansen also supplies Lovol Foton driven hammer mills, mixers and pelleting machines for horse and other animal feeds, which are also suitable for producing forage for dairies, feedlots etc.

ABC Hansen points out that with a front end loader, bale handler and other mecha-

nised implements available, a low kilowatt tractor can enable farmers to operate the small farm by themselves, as is done in the US, Europe and elsewhere.

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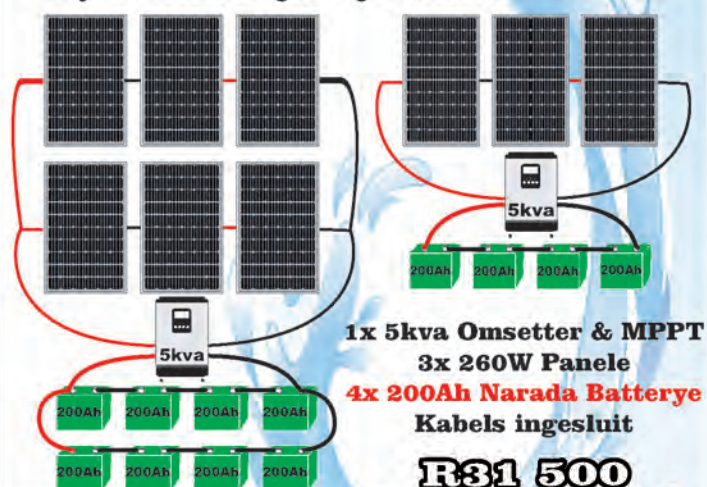
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NEWS

Professional Italian power product brand gets better SA representation

KLB Engineering of Nooitgedacht on the West Rand, which markets the Red Rhino brand of hobby and light commercial chainsaws, brushcutters and the like, has expanded into the professional market following its appointment as the southern African agent for Oleo-Mac machines.

Launched in 1972, Oleo-Mac is an Italian manufacturer of more than 3 000 product lines, now owned by the Emak Group, which also has the Efco brand under its umbrella.

KLB Engineering's launch offering for its first summer season includes a range of chainsaws, brushcutters, backpack blowers and push mowers. KLB has already established a significant coverage of southern Africa with multiple dealers and a

nationwide network for the product.

The range was unveiled to dealers at a product launch held last month.

Oleo-Mac machines are renowned worldwide for their robustness and quality, and are leaders in many markets in the professional field.

Yet, says KLB Engineering, in South Africa they compete very favourably on price with similarly-sized machines from the traditional "premium" brands. For example, an Oleo-Mac 35cc backpack blower will retail in South Africa this season for around half the price of a competitive 25cc machine from one of the premium brands.

For more information, or to locate the Oleo-Mac agent closest to you: KLB Engineering, tel 011 668-1923/4.



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S Africans are not home-growers

Some years ago a green-fingered do-gooder came up with the catchy idea that one can feed a family of four on a patch of land the size of a door. This was an easy concept for many to grasp ~ we all know the size of a door ~ and it became a common mantra among those addressing issues of poverty, hunger and food security (to use the official/academic term): "You can grow enough food to feed your family on a patch of land the size of a door. Why don't the poor simply grow their own food?" was the sort of thoughtless comment one would hear.

Well, it's simple why "poor people" don't grow their door-sized patch of food: their efforts would be futile, and anyway, they can't. If you have tried the door-

In this article in our series of articles and comments on SA's food crisis by Smallholder publisher Pete Bower, we explore why more South Africans don't grow their own vegetables, and how they therefore DO procure their foodstuffs

frame growing idea you will have failed in your efforts to feed your family sustainable. Hell, three cabbages take up more space than a door alone! Even with a mix of single-plant, multi-harvest species such as spinach, beans and tomato, following all the guidelines of succession-planting, tilling, fertilizing and watering, you will still be hard-pressed to feed your family sustainable, and will only manage to fulfil part of their vegetable requirements. What about single-harvest species such as carrot, beetroot, potato, cauliflower,

cabbage, onion? And even small plants such as radish? No chance!

But let's examine the South African population a bit more deeply, and divide it into a few categories. You have rural poor people, many of whom live on quite large pieces of land in what were former Bantustans (see my Comment on P1 of the February 2017 edition). They certainly have enough land on which to grow food, and very much more than a single door-

worth. Then you have urban poor people, many of whom live in

"informal settlements." The shacks which make up most informal settlements are so cheek by jowl that the residents do not have space to grow more than a pot plant or two.

Next, you have traditional township dwellers. Let me tell you a tale: A lady I know from Etwatwa on the East

Continued on page 16

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#SAFoodCrisis

From page 15

Rand, where she has lived for many years with her family, initially had a shack on a patch of land which would certainly have been large enough to accommodate a couple of vegetable beds. Then the ANC government, quite rightly and admirably, built the residents of Etwatwa brick and mortar RDP houses. A great improvement in accommodation, with electricity, sanitation and piped water. But on the land which could have been used for growing.

Having moved into her new RDP house, did my lady friend demolish her shack and open up new ground for vegetables? No. She kept the shack and, like all her neighbours, rented it out to members of her extended family, thereby increasing her monthly income.

And she is not unique in the shack rental business. And can you blame her? The option of a regular rental income each month from Day One versus the option of possible free vegetables in the future if everything goes right over the growing season.

Next, the traditional free-standing home with garden front and back like our parents and grandparents lived in is falling out of favour as young middle-class families opt for "security" clusters and lock-up-and-go townhouse complexes. If they're lucky the residents of such modern edifices will have a small patch of garden in the front, which will soon become cluttered with braai paraphernalia and garden furniture, rather than with vegetable beds.

But there are three other factors apart from space restrictions which militate against South Africans growing their own food. The first is water. For both rural and urban poor the

provision of piped water ~ shortages and drought apart ~ is often a problem, and family members may have to walk many metres to a communal tap to collect water in a bucket or canister for the basics of life such as washing, cleaning and cooking. How likely is it, do you think, that they will make further trips to get water to pour onto a vegetable patch (notwithstanding the fact that vegetables, given their high water content, are more thirsty than, for example, flowers...)?

The second is theft. If you thought crime was bad where you live, spare a thought for dwellers of, especially, informal settlements.

Hunger does not breed honour and a big ripe cabbage growing in somebody's veg patch is going to prove too big a temptation to even the most God-fearing honourable soul, if that soul is hungry.

I was once told of a strategy suggested by the Gauteng Dept of Agriculture when faced with complaints by women running township communal food gardens that their (white) cabbages were being stolen. "Grow red cabbage," suggested the department's extension officers, "and sell them to whites." Township dwellers apparently don't like red cabbage. "Then take the money to buy white cabbage to bring home."

Next, there is a question of time. For the average employed urban dweller the weekday logistics include a pre-dawn start, a walk to a taxi rank or bus stop, a trip or two with changes, and a walk to the workplace, with the process being repeated in reverse at the end of the workday, often arriving after dark. Then there is the evening meal to prepare and

Continued on page 173

SMART SMALLHOLDERS

Following in her dad's footsteps

As a child, Pretoria beekeeper Moloko Mabela paid little heed to the activities of her father, himself a beekeeper. Yet, today Mabela, one of the country's first black female commercial beekeepers, owns Native Nosi, a company specialising in organic, raw honey. The company takes its name from the SeSotho word for bees, *nosi*, that give it their product.

For much of her youth Mabela was away at boarding school and occupied with

The first article of a new feature on smallholders who have made a success of their plots in and around Gauteng, by feature writer Catherine Bower

other things. When she graduated from the University of Pretoria and began work at the Dept of Human Settlements, Mabela would bring honey from her father's hives to sell to her colleagues. As word spread of the high quality honey, Mabela began taking ever larger quantities of her father's honey to sell in Pretoria.

It was then that she bought

her first hives and asked her father to place them with his. Using the honey she extracted from these hives, Mabela began meeting a gap in the market ~ for raw, organic honey with no chemical additives. As demand for her honey grew, she began buying her father out and in 2015, Mabela left her job to pursue a full-time career in beekeeping and

honey production.

Today she has 80 active hives. And to meet growing demand Native Nosi also buys honey from small rural farmers, and ensures that their price is market related and fixed, so as to prevent exploitation of rural farmers. Mabela says Native Nosi honey is so popular because she is able to tell her customers exactly what crop the honey is from, which farm it is off and when it was extracted.

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#SAFoodCrisis

From page 16

cook, homework to supervise, bedtime etc, and then to bed. Time and energy for gardening? Not so much. For the rural poor, while they may have the space, a different problem arises. Many households comprise

children being looked after by grandparents while the parents work, or seek work in the city. Yes, the migrant labour system remains alive and thriving in the "new" South Africa. The children face long walks to and from schools in their areas each

day and are thus not a useful source of free labour for weeding and watering. And the adults, being grandparents, are often too old and too infirm to manage manual labour to any great degree. Finally, there is a lack of knowledge, and interest.

Gardening simply isn't everybody's cup of tea (to mix a metaphor).

So if we don't grow our own fruit and veg, where and how do most South Africans get their food? For middle-class city dwellers that will be

Continued on page 19

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From page 17

year and move the hives according to the seasons. Because of this, the honey is never the same and customers have come to expect a variety in flavours and types of honey: blue gum, avocado, macadamia and sunflower are the most common for Native

Nosi.

Recently, Mabela has been able to buy her own extractor and heating tank. This means she can assure Native

Right: Pretoria North beekeeper, Moloko Mabela

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From page 17

for the rural poor, informal traders and spaza shops and general dealers are the preferred outlets. And here's a double whammy which increases prices for those at the lower end of the spectrum. A rich buyer is able to drive to an upmarket shopping centre supermarket in a cavernous Sandton tractor, take advantage of bulk-buy bargains and use a credit card or purse that is full enough to allow for a large

buy-up.

A lower-end buyer, however, relying on smaller traders and unable to afford bulk-buy discounts, must also contend with the very real logistical problem of carting the purchases home ~ on foot, or in a taxi, train or bus. Such a buyer is thus limited to the size of purchase possible, and also pays more for the equivalent item than the rich buyer, because the shop from which she buys cannot

negotiate the volume discounts of the large upmarket retailers.

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SMART SMALLHOLDERS

From page 19

Nosi customers that she and her team have been responsible for the production of honey from beginning to end. Their own processing equipment also means that the team is able to expand its monthly yield to keep up with growing demand. But, like any small agricultural business, this work is done from home: Mabela has converted a room in her house to accommodate the new equipment and house the bottling system. A truly family-run business, Native Nosi employs Mabela's sister and cousin. The company places an emphasis on the sentiment behind the business, knowing that it stems from their patriarch and his father before him. Mabela says she hopes one day her children will be inspired by her work and take over the business and keep the family legacy intact.

Mabela notes that there is a general lack of knowledge and understanding around bees and honey production in South Africa. For example, commercial retailers do not understand the risks involved with organic bee farming and thus are not accommodating when production is slowed by drought (as was the case last year).

As a small start-up, she had very little by way of terms of reference for the price of organic, raw honey, and she relied on the contacts made through beekeepers' associa-

tions to understand the market to avoid exploitation by large commercial retailers. In addition, hives are at risk of fire damage and vandalism, and the bees are threatened by the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides. To combat these challenges, Mabela undertakes regular hive inspections. Another challenge comes from a lack of funding for beekeepers in times of crisis. While commercial crop and livestock farmers received assistance during last year's drought for example, beekeepers were not assisted and Mabela lost a number of swarms to the drought. Mabela says a big complaint from beekeepers is the lack of understanding surrounding their industry by government. She says it is helpful here to have large beekeepers' associations that will fight on behalf of beekeepers, but there is still a need for more education around the importance of bees.

One of Mabela's biggest challenges has been skills ~ both beekeeping and business skills. Although her father has been able to pass on what he knows, Mabela is still learning about her bees and honey production. She has attended courses run by the SA Bee Industry Organisation (Sabio) (she was the first black woman to attend a Sabio course) and has a number of mentors in

Continued on page 21

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How to move your beehives

There are various reasons why one needs to move bees and hives, over very small or very long distances. Here are some reasons why, and pointers as to how to do it. Small movements of the hives may be necessary to face the entrance in order to change

Another article in our regular feature on bees and beekeeping, by Peter Clark, chairman of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association

the flight path of the workers. In this case the hive remains in its original position but swivels through 180 degrees to change the direction from,

say south facing to north facing. On day one swivel only 45 degrees and leave for 3 day, then a further 45 degrees for

another 4 days and repeat two more swivels of 45 degrees with 4 day intervals to complete the 180 degree roundabout.

To move the hive over a distance of a few metres, ie 3m to 5m, forwards or backwards with the entrance facing the same direction, the

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SMART SMALLHOLDERS

From page 20

has a number of mentors in the industry.

From a business perspective, she hopes to hire permanent beekeepers so that she can focus on the business side of things. As with any growing agricultural business, Mabela finds herself spending a lot of time in the fields at the expense of time for marketing and business networking. Native Nosi's final challenge

has been around consumer education. Customers question the difference in the colour and flavour of honey until they are told the reasons behind this. Customers have also questioned the differences between large retail-bought honey and the organic honey from Native Nosi. "Unfortunately, we are led to believe that what we buy at a supermarket is fine and when something is presented to us

that is different we question this," says Mabela. Because of this, Mabela says her product sometimes needs explaining to the consumer. Native Nosi relies largely on word-of-mouth for its marketing. This has been the case for Mabela since the early days of selling her father's honey at work. Today, Native Nosi has a large Facebook following and was

Continued on page 23

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BEEKEEPING

From page 15

move is achieved by simply moving the hive in the desired direction 1 m daily. To move the hive 3m to 5m to the left or the right, facing the entrance in the same direction the hive can only be moved only 500mm every second day.

To move the hive from one side of your plot to the opposite side is a more

complicated undertaking. Close the hive down by smoking first, allow a few seconds for the bees to drive the smoke out and plug the entrance with a plug made of wire gauze, which allows air to enter the hive without smothering the bees. Close any other small holes that the bees use as entrances using contractor's acrylic for this job, and make sure the lid is

sealed down properly and all holes and gaps closed. Wide brown box tape does this job best.

Make sure that the bottom floor is fixed to the bottom of the brood chamber and if the lid is not secured by the bees, strap the hive to avoid the lid from being dislodged during the move. The hive must be loaded aboard a vehicle and moved to another site 3 km

away. Remove the gauze plugs to allow the bees to fly. After a duration of seven days return to the new site on the plot.

During the loading and moving avoid bumping and thumping the hive. Do not forget to remove the gauze plugs!

To move a number of hives over a distance of 50 km, close down as above but insert a match thickness between the brood and the super chamber at the back of the hive to create a small gap for additional air for the bees. Excited bees, during a

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SMART SMALLHOLDERS

From page 21

recently able to use this for a crowd funding campaign to buy more equipment. The campaign met and exceeded its target and Native Nosi will now be able to expand its production and move into further markets.

Native Nosi uses the internet to allow consumers to order the product online, for shipping countrywide. In addition, the company has contracts with a few restau-

rants that purchase small amounts each month. Most importantly, perhaps, Mabela says she is having a lot of fun. She wants to encourage young black women to enter the beekeeping and honey industry. She wants to help educate on the importance of bees and help eradicate the stigma around bees, particularly in black communities. She hopes that Native Nosi will continue to grow and that

the business will inspire other small beekeepers and honey farmers.

"It has been a lot of trial and error, but I am determined to get it right ~ for my father, for my family and for the environment."

For more information, or to order Native Nosi honey: Moloko Mabela tel 072 501-5825 or www.native-nosi.co.za



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Despite their many uses in fire management, blowers are by no means a complete fire-fighting solution.

It is not recommended that backpack blowers be used in grass taller than knee height or on very hot fires, as this becomes dangerous for the operator. Blowers should only be used where beaters would otherwise have been used, and can never replace water out in the field. It is also important to assess the terrain - walking through thick bush or climbing through fences with a backpack blower could be challenging. Fires should never be tackled head on, but rather from the sides and the back of the blaze while waiting for the fire-tender to arrive.

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DAIRY DAY

Dairy event was well-attended

With 20 exhibitors and some 250 visitors, the Gauteng Dairy Day took place in perfect Spring weather on Womens' Day at the Belnori Boutique Cheesery farm in Bapsfontein last month.

Support was not only from Gauteng. Farmers from the Free State, Mpumalanga,

North West, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Mozambique, Malawi and Cameroon were present. Various organisations also supported the day, including the Milk Producers Organisation (MPO), the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) in Irene, AgriSA (Gauteng), AgriExpo from the Western Cape, the Dept of

Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries and the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA). The event was also graced by the presence of the wife of the national agriculture minister, Senzeni Zokwana.



Mrs Zokwana, wife of the agriculture minister, Senzeni Zokwana, with one of the speakers at the Dairy Day, Dr Brylynne Chitunga.

BEEKEEPING

From page 20

distance move over a two hour period, generate hot air in the hives and they need to be cooled.

This loading for the move is best started half an hour before sunset and off loaded in the dark. Do not forget to remove the gauze plugs! A flat bed vehicle is best and the hives must be strapped down, especially if loaded two up.

The offloading site must have first been visited during the daytime and proper markings left on the trees or along the fences for the night arrival. There is nothing worse than to be lost in the dark with a truck-load of beehives at night that must be offloaded. After offloading make sure that all the bees that had escaped out of the hives have been swept off the vehicle and move away from the

hives about 500m or so.

If the distance to move the hives is more than 300 km, take along your sleeping bag, a nightcap and a breakfast picnic because you will be working into the wee hours and rather than attempting a night drive home after hours of labouring with beehives in the dark, curl up in or under your truck in your sleeping bag and awaken with the first rays of the morning sun.

By Peter Clark, chairman of the Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association, tel 011 362-2904

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Exhibitors and a carnival atmosphere at the Dairy Day in Bapsfontein.



250 attentive attendees at the Dairy Day in Bapsfontein.

The African Bird Fair

BirdLife South Africa is to hold The African Bird Fair on 9 -10 September at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, Roodepoort. There will be a variety of exhibitors who will be showcasing all things birding, such as binoculars and

spotting scopes, bird books, birding apps, bird feeders, wildlife art, birding holiday destinations and twitchers' tour operators. Throughout the weekend there will also be lots of things happening, including guided bird walks, guided botanical walks, photography work-

shops, presentations and there will be lots of fun activities for the kids. Opening times are 08h00 - 17h00 on the Saturday and Sunday. Visit the BirdLife website for more details.



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Easy to grow for spring colour

A suitable indigenous flowering plant for Highveld smallholders, Clivia (afr: boslelie) is ideal in shade and semi shade areas

of the garden and gives a wonderfully bright display of colour in early spring, just at the time that smallholder gardens are at their drabest.



Clivias are now available in multi-coloured, variegated varieties.

The appearance of the remarkable orange flowers on a backdrop of strap-like dark green leaves is a confirmation that spring has arrived. The appearance of a bud between the axils of the leaves may be seen as early as mid- July. Expect a good six weeks from the time of the bud appearance until the flowers are fully opened. Like most beautiful things, the flowering period is over within four to six weeks. Fortunately, the green clivia leaves are an attractive backdrop for other shade loving plants. Clivia prefer dappled shade, rather than

deep shade, to ensure annual flowering. Variegated clivia leaves are freely available and these provide a break in the solid green appearance of the usual leaves.

Care must be taken to feed clivia with compost and a general fertiliser such as 3-1-5 in spring and autumn. In a position under trees, the roots of the tree will compete with the clivia for the nutrients in the soil. Should you have difficulty with growing clivia under a tree, consider placing them in a large planter/pot with three

Continued on page 31

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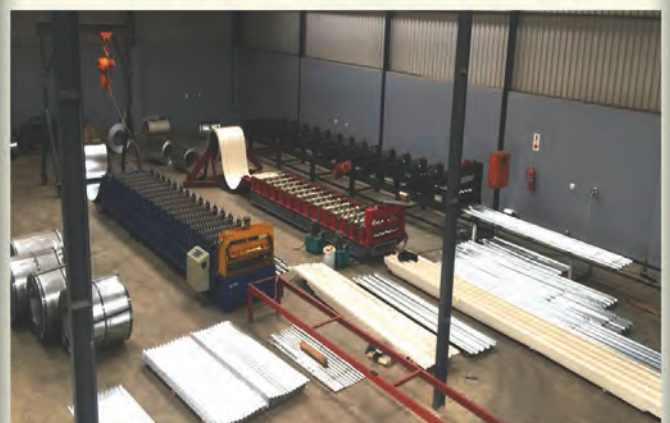
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From page 29

or more clivias together for a spectacular show.

Fortunately, the clivia has thick roots and is drought tolerant. The plant is also indigenous, but is not very happy if your local temperatures drop below freezing point. Should the leaves or flowers be damaged by frost, the plant will recover, but it will look a little sad for a while.

The main insect to cause major damage to the clivia is the amaryllis caterpillar, a worm that has black and

white stripes. Cypermethrin is a good contact insecticide for eradicating the worms. Use this with a sticker/-spreader (wetting agent) to improve the effectiveness. There is a biological method of control using a bacterium sprayed every two weeks. This product is one of the Margaret Roberts' range.

A second insect that may be a problem is the mealie bug. Inspect your clivia plants when purchasing them and check for the presence of this pest under the lower leaves of the clivia. Crowded condi-

tions with poor air movement contribute to the flourishing of this pest. An imidacloprid/-Confidor insecticide is good for treating this, but cypermethrin is also effective. When spraying, ensure a full cover spray of the leaves, under as well on top, for effective treatment.

Orange is a dramatic colour to have in your garden. Consider increasing the variety of colour of the clivias you have. Plant them in batches or in-between your orange clivias for a pleasing appearance.

The variety of colours of clivias continues to increase annually. Available colours include yellows, pinks, peaches, apricot, bronze and red colours. Some of these are more expensive, but well worth purchasing. The plants do form offsets and provide you with more flowers. Consider the challenge of growing some plants from seed. The time from seed to flowering is about four years. More details and advice regarding the cultivation of clivia may be obtained at your nursery or you may refer to the Clivia Society website: www.cliviasociety.org Supplies of different coloured clivias should only be purchased when the clivias

flower in September, to ensure that you purchase the correct colour.

The variety of clivia colours are not always available at your local nursery, but consider visiting the Johannesburg Clivia Show in September, on 8 and 9 September at the Garden World Nursery on Beyers Naude Drive, Muldersdrift. For further information on the Clivia Society, send a request to info@cliviasociety.org or contact Glynn on 082 650-1463



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IN THE FIELD



Poor Man's Lucerne, *Sericea lespedeza*

Low-cost legume pasture

Sericea lespedeza, also known as "poor man's lucerne," is fast gaining popularity among smallholders who require low-cost legume pastures. Unlike lucerne, *Sericea* does not require costly soil mineral corrections ~ this is how it earned the "poor man" label.

Sericea lespedeza is a shrubby, deciduous perennial plant about 0,5-1,5m tall. It is a drought tolerant, non-bloating legume, and a prolific seed producer. Individual stems may produce in excess of 1 000 seeds, with 340-960 kg of seed produced per hectare. However, germination rates are low, ranging from 10-20%.

Sericea lespedeza offers numerous advantages as a forage crop. It is drought-tolerant, non-bloating, resistant to diseases and rarely attacked by insects. Mature plants are quite competitive with grasses. It is much more tolerant of soil acidity than most other legumes and is also very

tolerant of low fertility. Forage yields of sericea are good, and forage quality is better than most warm season perennial grasses. It is a surprisingly economical forage crop to grow due to the fact that it does not require any nitrogen fertilizer. It has also been well documented that sericea is an excellent soil builder. It has been shown to increase the nitrogen content of associated grass. *S. lespedeza* will grow in almost any soil, doing well in sandy and loamy soils.

Sericea is deep-rooted but also does well on shallow soils with drainage restrictions.

Tannin is the compound that confers the non-bloating characteristic to *lespedeza*, but it also decreases palatability and digestibility. Grazing forages high in tannins or adding purified Condensed Tannin (CT) to the diet has been shown to reduce numbers of parasite eggs in sheep and goat faeces. Feeding hay of

Continued on page 35



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From page 32

Sericea to control parasitic nematodes appears to be a viable alternative to grazing CT forages for goats.

Low tannin varieties are now available. These have greatly improved forage quality, with finer stems and contain enough tannin to prevent bloat. *Sericea lespedeza* var *Au-louton* is the cultivar with lower tannin levels and is more palatable.

It grows from mid-September on the Highveld and is killed back to the crown by hard frosts. Early summer planting, with optimum temperatures for germination and growth ranging from 20-30°C, along with effective weed control,

will most often result in well-developed plants that produce some seed by the end of the first season.

The species grows best where annual rainfall is 700 mm or more. Frost kills all above-ground growth and consequently it is of very little use as a winter foggage. It will tolerate soils ranging from very acidic to slightly alkaline, but is best adapted to a pH of 6 to 6.5.

Seeds are nearly impervious to water, and must be scarified to enhance germination. It is relatively slow to establish, having a rather weak, vulnerable seedling stage, and should therefore preferably be planted as pure stands to avoid competition by other plants. Germination and seedling growth are regulated by day length and temperature, and growth is best when day-length exceeds eleven hours.

It is imperative to inoculate the seed, since the bacterial

culture enables the plants to make their own nitrogen. De-hulling improves germination and seedling viability.

The seeds should be planted into a level, firm seedbed that has been prepared well ahead of planting. The seed should be planted to a depth of 5 mm.

It responds well to fertilisation, but can be grown in areas too acidic and infertile to support other forage legumes.

Weed control is very important and will shorten the period from planting to utilisation.

It has been recognised as quality forage due to its high levels of crude protein.

Livestock often show preference for grasses when first exposed to *S lespedeza*, but will eat it readily after a day or two. Sheep and goats appear more tolerant of it than cattle. Pastures should be grazed on a rotational basis when plants are 150 –

200 mm tall. It is important not to cut or graze below 120 mm for optimum regrowth and subsequent yield.

Livestock readily consume *S lespedeza* when in the form of hay. It should be cut for hay when the plants are 0,3 – 0,5m tall, and two or three hay cuttings can normally be made per year, depending on moisture availability. A unique trait of the species as a hay crop is the high rate at which the forage dries. It can be baled within 24 hours of cutting and, under excellent drying conditions, perhaps in late afternoon after having been cut in early morning.

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Good care makes for better lambs

Careful management of ewes while they are pregnant and after they have given birth will make sure that they and their lambs are strong and healthy. Ewes can fall pregnant from eight months. However, experience shows that it is better to wait until they are a year old, when they are

mature enough physically to cope better with pregnancy and delivery and they are better able to care for their lambs.

During the ewe's pregnancy, do not handle her too frequently. Ewes should not be stressed particularly during their last trimester. Groups should be kept stable.

If you can, separate the

advanced pregnant ewes from the main flock and take effective care in their feeding and management.

The gestation period, ie the length of the pregnancy, is 145 to 152 days, depending on the breed.

Extra feed during the latter part of pregnancy (three to four weeks before birth) will be beneficial for the condition

of the ewes, and so will help in improving milk production, along with the birth weight and growth of lambs.

Approximately 70% of foetal growth occurs during the last four to six weeks of pregnancy. Most of the ewe's mammary (udder) growth is occurring during this period. In addition, her rumen capacity is decreasing. The primary result is the need for increased feed, primarily a more nutrient-dense diet.

During late gestation, energy (TDN) is the nutrient most likely to be deficient.

Extra nutrition is needed to support foetal growth, especially if there are multiple foetuses involved. Extra feed is needed to support mammary development and ensure a plentiful milk supply. Extra nutrition will prevent the occurrence of pregnancy toxemia (ketosis). It will ensure the birth of strong, healthy lambs that aren't too big and aren't too small. Birth weight is highly correlated to lamb survival.

We also need to make sure that the ewe is getting the right minerals and vitamins, such as selenium, zinc, salt, magnesium, phosphate, copper, manganese, calcium, along with vitamins A and E.

Ask at your feed store for a mineral supplement. Often they are molasses based, but you might also find a lick that meets your needs.

Inadequate and poor nutrition may result in pregnancy toxemia, abortions and premature births of weak lambs.

Bring lambing ewes into lambing corals four to six days before parturition and provide maximum comfort. If possible, provide soft, clean bedding and individual lambing pens.

Save parturient ewes from

Continued on page 33

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Assisting twin lambs to suckle. Note head-light for easy night work

From page 36

cold and chilly weather. Pregnant and lactating ewes suffer a temporary loss in immunity to intestinal worms as a result of the hormonal changes that are occurring around the time of lambing. Foetal demand for glucose and protein also lessens the ewe's ability to resist parasites. It is the primary source of parasite infection for the new lambs whose immune systems are still naive. Deworming with an effective anthelmintic will help the ewe

expel the worms and reduce the exposure of new-born lambs to infective worm larvae. What is also helpful is to increase the protein content of the ration during late gestation. Higher protein rations have been shown to reduce egg counts in periparturient ewes, resulting in better ewe and lamb performance.

Deworming can be done at the same time as CD-T vaccinations. Pregnant ewes should be vaccinated for clostridial diseases (usually *Clostridium perfringens* type C & D and tetanus) 4 to 6 weeks prior to parturition. Vaccinated females will pass antibodies in their colostrum to their new-born lambs. Ewes should not be vaccinated within two weeks of lambing. This is not enough time to get antibodies in the colostrum.

A ewe about to lamb might prefer to leave the flock. She is often restless, the udder is often distended and external genitals are in a flushed and flaccid condition. Generally in a healthy ewe giving birth is normal. Ensure that the lamb is suckling properly. Examine the ewe's udders for blindness of teats or mastitis. Sometimes the mother appears to be indifferent to its lamb. Then you need to intervene, by catching the ewe and holding her while the baby suckles. In most cases she will soon settle down and allow feeding. What might also happen when a ewe has twins is that she will favour one and not feed the other, or even push it away or hurt it. Trying to overcome this behaviour takes perseverance on your part and you might have to feed the rejected lamb yourself. Sadly this is not always

successful. Sometimes ewes reject a lamb when they can sense that there is something wrong with it, which we might not be able to see. If it is possible, leave the lambs with their mothers for three months and do not allow the ram access to the lactating ewes. They can fall pregnant while they are still feeding a lamb, but it is better to allow their bodies a chance to fully recover and build up their strength, before they fall pregnant again.



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ON THE PLOT

Is your plot a dangerous place?

Let's face it: a smallholding can be a dangerous place. There are snakes in the woodpile, scorpions under the rocks, angry bees in the trees and bad people lurking in the bushes. And then there's a workshop full of dangerous machinery, and cans full of nasty flammable liquids. And very often with little in the way of safety gear or disaster management equipment to protect either oneself or one's workers. How often have you driven down your street to see workers out on the sidewalk using brushcutters without eye or ear protection? Or let your kid use the lawnmower barefoot? Or wielded a chainsaw yourself without either proper safety wear or any formal training?

Some simple pointers to a safer plot and a longer life, with all your limbs and digits intact.

And in your workshop, how many canisters or jerry cans of flammable liquid are there? And how clearly are they labelled?

Here are some pointers to keeping your hearing and eyesight, and digits attached to your body, and some ideas to keeping all your machinery running without the whole place burning down.

Noise ~ Any small motorised machine, be it a brushcutter, chainsaw or mower, emits a damaging amount of noise. The problem with exposure to loud noise is that it is only picked up later in life. So, as a young man you quite

happily subject your unprotected ears to loud noise (not only, it must be said, from machinery, but also at rock concerts, on the shooting range, in the movies and from your car radio). When you turn 55 or 60 you will notice you no longer hear so well, and may have difficulty making out what callers say on your cellphone, for example. That's because the loud noise of your youth has damaged your auditory nerves.

Prevent damage to your hearing by inserting industrial ear-plugs into your ears or, better still, by wearing ear-muffs. Although the latter are

bulky they are designed to allow you to hear sounds such as people talking to you, but merely mute the sound to a reasonable, non-damaging level.

They come in stand-alone versions but can also be bought as an integral part of a safety hat, incorporating a mesh visor for full-face protection.

Brushcutters & lawnmowers ~ Any machine that has a blade spinning at high speed has the potential to do serious damage. At the very least the blades can kick up small stones and splinters of wood which can fly off with the speed of a bullet, causing concomitant damage to unprotected legs, hands or eyes. Worse, the blade itself can become detached and fly

Continued on page 40

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ON THE PLOT

When using a chainsaw, practice talking to yourself to maintain your concentration on the task at hand

From page 39

off, a lethal whirling dervish which will scythe its way through anything it hits. Thick long trousers and closed shoes or, better still, boots are necessary to protect the lower limbs from flying stuff, and to protect toes from the effects of the blades.

Simple safety precautions, for example making sure the engine is switched off before going anywhere near the blades or cutting mechanism (even if they are stationary when the machine is idling) are necessary.

❑ **Chainsaws** ~ the most dangerous of all light machinery, chainsaws in untrained hands are as dangerous as a loaded gun. Even in skilled hands they can kill, and their wickedly sharp cutting chains spinning at high speed are absolutely disrespectful of exposed fingers, limbs, jugular veins and the like.

Apart from the fact that nobody should be expected to use a chainsaw without proper training, proper safety wear is essential. This comprises safety trousers, boots, safety gloves, a full face visor, ear-muffs and safety goggles.

Safety trousers are made of special fabric that rips apart and entangles itself with the cutting chain the moment the chain comes into contact with it, bringing the chain to an abrupt stop. In this way it helps prevent one performing an impromptu amputation of one's leg. A visor prevents one's face being hit by flying wood chips, (although it will not prevent one's eyes from catching small particles and sawdust, which is why,

underneath the visor one should wear safety goggles as well.

Thick safety gloves protect the fingers and forearms. One of the keys to working in safety with a chainsaw is to practice "commentary concentration". This technique sees the operator "talking" to himself as he works. Thus, when performing a monotonous task such as cutting up a log into grate sized bits of firewood the operator would talk his way through the tasks saying, for example, "I am now firing up the chainsaw. I am now cutting a piece of wood. I am now releasing the chainsaw throttle. The saw chain is now stationary. I am now reaching for the cut wood. I am now moving the cut wood to the wood pile. I am now firing up the chainsaw throttle. I am now cutting..." etc.

❑ **Workshop** ~ In one's workshop or shed there lurk many hazards. Tools, such as drills and benchsaws, emit noise and should be used with the same attention to noise and eye protection as described above.

Foot protection is also vital. One of the most common injuries incurred in a workshop is caused by heavy or sharp objects falling onto inadequately protected feet and toes, such as a hammer which slips off a work bench, or a saw which crashes down on to one's foot, teeth-side down. Closed shoes, or preferably safety boots, are thus a necessity in a workshop.

Given the fact that many workshops double as store rooms it is in fact remark-

Continued on page 41

ON THE PLOT

Do you keep your workshop scrupulously clean of flammable material such as sawdust and old rags etc?

From page 40

able that more accidents don't happen.

It's probably fair to say that among the liquids stored in your workshop are: turpentine, lacquer thinners, lubricating oil, grease, linseed oil, two stroke mixture, petrol, diesel, enamel paint, creosote, and half a dozen tins of spray paint or other aerosol compounds, not to mention some pesticides and herbicides, and possibly some pool acid and chlorine.

It's probably also fair to say that you have an angle grinder with which to cut or smooth steel, and a grinding wheel with which to shape steel, both of which give off sparks when used.

You probably also use your

workshop for a bit of woodwork, which will mean that, over time, a layer of sawdust builds up upon the floor.

It doesn't really need spelling out, does it? Flammable liquids. Sawdust. Sparks. Do you have a fire extinguisher? While on the subject of flammable liquids, notably fuels, you probably have three types of engine on your plot. A four-stroke petrol powered lawnmower and/or water pump, a diesel generator (say) and a variety of two-stroke machines (brushcutter, chainsaw etc). How do you differentiate the various fuel mixtures so that your workers know which to pour into which?

There is an international colour convention which should help you. Red = petrol, blue = kerosene/paraffin, yellow = diesel, green = oil. And you can differentiate the petrol types further by storing pure petrol in the red container and using an orange one for two-stroke mixture.

Mixing the two fuel types up is one of the leading causes of engine failure in lawnmowers, brushcutters and chainsaws.



And add an orange canister for two-stroke fuel mix

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GALVANISED MESH

Galvanised BEFORE welding

SOLD IN 30m rolls or p/m

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
6.4mm x 6.4mm	0.7mm	✓	✓	----
9.6mm x 9.6mm	0.9mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 13mm	1mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 13mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
13mm x 25mm	2mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	2mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	2.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 25mm	3mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	1.5mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	1.6mm	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	2mm	✓	✓	✓

Galvanised BEFORE welding

SOLD IN 30m rolls or p/m

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
25mm x 25mm	2.5	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	2.50	✓	✓	✓
25mm x 50mm	3.00	----	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	1.60	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	2.00	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	2.50	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 50mm	3.00	----	✓	✓
50mm x 100mm	2.00	✓	✓	✓
50mm x 100mm	2.50	✓	✓	✓
100mm x 100mm	2.00	----	✓	✓
100mm x 100mm	2.50	✓	✓	✓

Green PVC Coated Mesh

SOLD IN 30m rolls or p/m

Block size in mm	Wire dia.	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
13mm x 13mm	1.25mm	✓	----	----
13mm x 25mm	1.25mm	✓	----	----

HEXAGONAL MESH

Fully Galvanised before weaving

SOLD IN 50m rolls or p/m

Hole size	915mm	1220mm	1830mm
13mm hole	✓	✓	✓
25mm hole	✓	✓	✓
75mm hole	✓	✓	✓
90mm hole	✓	✓	✓

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R 15	7.5 cm	130ml
R 24	9.5 cm	290ml
R 33	12.5 cm	525ml
R 45	15.0 cm	845ml

Coop cup with nut clamp



Price	dia cm	ml
R 20	7.5 cm	130ml
R 28	9.5 cm	290ml
R 35	12.5 cm	525ml
R 46	15.0 cm	845ml

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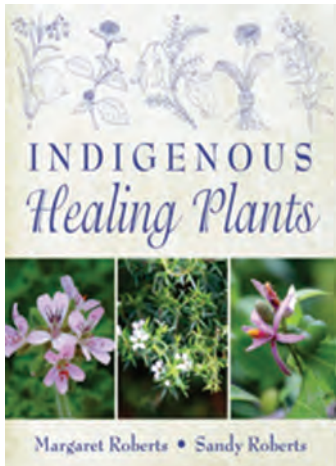
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weeds and foraged food plants. Recommended selling price is R375.00.

Environment laws in SA

Worried that your smallholder activities may fall foul of current environmental laws (which are something of a minefield for amateurs)? To make our lives easier there is a compendium available for free download which introduces and reproduces the main legislative provisions dealing with the environment in South Africa. Published by Pretoria University Law Press, this is a quick, easy and user-friendly reference guide to our laws and norms applicable to environmental management. Over the centuries our environmental law has been

haphazard and reactive. However that changed with the SA Constitution Act of 1996, which gives every person the right to an environment which is not harmful to their health and well-being.

The compendium provides an alphabetical list of national and provincial legislation relevant to environmental protection. It then provides descriptions of all the environmental laws and the full texts of selected environmental acts. So if you want to know about the law concerning environmental management, conservation, biodiversity, forests, water, agriculture, animals, fisheries, land, pollution, waste management, energy resources, mining – it's all there.

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This is the last edition in which SuperSmalls and Classified Advertisements will appear in print. With immediate effect, all such ads received are uploaded to our on-line sister site, Southern Africa's Small Farmer Online Exchange (www.sasfox.co.za). There is no charge for standard advertisements on www.sasfox.co.za

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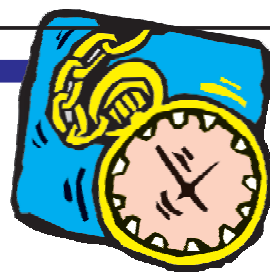
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DIARY



ATTENTION CRAFT MARKETS, CLUBS ETC: If you would like details of your events included in the Diary, please fax or email your information to the Editor. For non-commercial enterprises this service is FREE.

NOTE: FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKETS. For a listing of REGULARLY HELD markets and fairs please see the separate section on page 48. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar section.

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

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

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

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

2017

September

2: Paint your own Unique Wall Clock at Garden World, Muldersdrift. Trudie Ayres from Mulberry Lane will show you how to paint your own unique Wall Clock using Annie Sloan Chalk Paint. 09h00 for 09h30. Cost: R350 pp & includes the workshop and everything that you will need to create your Wall Clock - including the clock movement & hands (clock diameter 35 cm), refreshments & fabulous prize giveaways. For more information & to book, contact Garden World on 011 957 2545, 011 956 3003 or 083 997 6142 or visit www.gardenworld.co.za
2: Crafts in the Park Food & Craft Market, Bokkie Park, Southvale Road, Parkdene, Boksburg. 09:00 to 14:30. Free entrance. Up to 80 craft and food stalls, live music.

Call 072 713-3332 or info@craftsinthepark.co.za
3: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003
5-7: Artificial Insemination of Cattle Course (3 days), ARC Animal Production, Irene. Call Annetjie Loubser, aloubser@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-9153 or Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
6: Full moon
8 – 9: Annual Johannesburg Clivia Show organised by the Clivia Society. Garden World, Beyers Naude Dr, Muldersdrift. Call Glyn 082 650-1463
9 – 10: Eastern Highveld Beekeepers Association Annual Honey Show, Heckers Nursery, 1 Northrand Road, Boksburg. 09h00 to 15h30 daily. Honey will be on sale and a display of beekeeper's equipment and other items of interest will be on show. Entrance free.
9 – 10: BirdLife South Africa's African Bird Fair, Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, Roodepoort. Opening times are 08h00 - 17h00. Visit the BirdLife website for details.
10: Antiques & Craft Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003
10 – 11 The African Bird Fair, Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden, Roodepoort. For details go to http://www.birdlife.org.za/events/bird-fair.
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 Thabisho Phasha, PhashaT@arc.agric.za, tel 012 672-7273
20: New moon
22: Equinox
24: Heritage Day
25: Heritage Day spillover holiday
29: Pecan Nut Farmers' Day, TLU Cullinan

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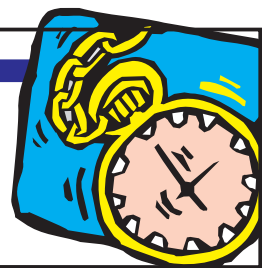
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DIARY



Farmers' Union Hall. 08h00 14h35. Cost R200 includes refreshments and lunch. Limited space and booking essential. Book with Lynette 012 804-8031 or sentraal@tlu.co.za

October

1: Country Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003
 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
 8: Antiques & Craft Fair at Uncle Tim's Centre, High Road, Brentwood, Benoni. Call 010 590-8003
 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
 10: 14 hours of daylight in Gauteng (required by chickens to lay). Ends 12 March.
 16 - 20 Veld Management Course, Africa Land-Use Training, Pretoria Botanical Gardens, Email courses@alut.co.za.
 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.

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Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

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

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO TO CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT
Thursday					
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston.	Konrad or Glenda 011 706-3671 or glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
Friday					
1st Friday	The Shed Night Market	18:00 to 22:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
Saturday					
Every Saturday	Tuinhekkie Farmers Market	08:00 - 14:00	cor Lazar Ave & Merwe Road Boothia Plots, Randfontein	Amanda Hefer 073 565-8905	Handmade products, numerous food stalls, flowers live entertainment most Saturdays, farmyard for the kids
Every Saturday	Verster Park Tuin Mark	09:00 - 15:00	Plot 21, Lang St, Verster Park Bronkhorstspuit	Maggie van Rheede 061 887-4149	Hand crafted goods, art, naturally-grown produce Community market to promote local business
Every Saturday	Wholefood Country Market	09:00 - 14:00	Sawasdee Exotic Nursery, cor Main & Zinnia Roads, Kyalami	Robyn 083 311-4768 wholefoodmarket@gmail.com	Variety of organic & homemade foods
Every Saturday	The Shed Food & Craft Market	08:00 to 15:00	109 Malcolm Road, Randvaal	Felicity 073 232-0017 or 081 011-9456	Food & craft market.
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 to 09:30	Pioneer Open Air Museum, Silverton.	012 804-8031 or 082 416-3900 blinsga@lantic.net	Fresh produce and traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kaalings with pap and boerewors rolls.
Every Saturday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 to 15:00	Culross Road (off Main Road), Bryanston	Konrad or Glenda on 011 706-3671 glenda@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce
Every Saturday	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 to 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie Sts, Menlo Park, Pta	Rietha 083 554-5636. www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer. Coffee, eats on sale
Every Saturday	Walkerville Farmers Market	09:00 to 15:00	R112 Main Road, Walkerville	079 076-7680 info@wfmarket.co.za	Fresh produce, arts & crafts, food court and kids play area
Every Saturday	Walkerville Country Market	09:00 to 15:00	Walkerville Showgrounds on the R82	Noorunisha 074 141-8485 market@walkervillesa.co.za	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft ber.. Kid's play area and pet friendly
Every Saturday	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	09:00 to 15:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Milch 082 553-2846	Meats and vegetables, delicacies, honey, cheese, brewery, crafter's market and children's entertainment.
Every Saturday	Market @84	09:00 to 14:00	84 On Main, Walkerville	Ariel 078 223-9238	Fresh organically grown produce and crafters market
Every Saturday	The Fresh Produce Co-op Weekly Farmers Market	07:00 to 11:00	49 Olifantsfontein rd, Glen Austin	Stall inquiries: fpcstalls@gmail.com Co-op: info.freshhproducecoop@gmail.com	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry and craft, food etc.
1st Saturday	Jozi Real Food VEGAN Market	09:00 to 15:00	Pirates Sports Club, Braeside Avenue, Greenside	083 532 2992 whitespace@mweb.co.za	Arts & crafts, live music, vegan cuisine, organic vegetables & coffee
1st Saturday	The Green Market	09:00 to 12:00	Pretoria Botanical Gardens 2 Cussonia Avenue, Brummeria, Pretoria	Melissa 083 562-5249	Products ranging from solar equipment to organic food
1st Saturday	Victus Christi Arts & Crafts Market	08:00 to 14:00	24b Miles Sharp Street, Rynfield, Benoni (north side of Bunny Park)	Schalk 082 561-9409 info@victuschristi.org.za	Arts & crafts, fine art, food, fresh meat & produce and home industry
2nd Saturday	Brakpan Boeremark	09:00 to 14:00	cnr van der Walt and Dirk van der Hoff Brakpan	Marius 011 744-2322 082 904-8852	Over 50 stalls. Food, arts, crafts, etc.
Last Saturday	Fresh2U Farmers Market	08:00 to 14:00	Corner Main Street and High Street Modderfontein (behind 33 High Street)	Jane 083 376 5567 Chantelle 082 338 7818 wardek@iafrica.com	Over 50 stalls. Fresh produce, home made goods, plants, food and more.
Last Saturday	Fresh Produce Market	08:00 to 13:00	Lakeside Mall Boathouse	Alma 079 940-0201 realfood4realpeople@gmail.com	Local fresh produce direct to the public
Last Saturday	Windpomp Market	08:00 to 14:00	Broodblik & Koffiepit on the R51 between Petit & Bapsfontein	adelekoffiepit@gmail.com 083 445-1608	Homemade crafts & food stalls bakery & coffee shop and entertainment
Sunday					
Every Sunday	Fourways Farmers Market	10:00 to 15:00	Corner Montecasino Boulevard and William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0827 www.fmarket.co.za	Get your groceries...In the garden!
Last Sunday	Aloe Valley Food, Arts & Craft Market	10:00 to 14:00	48, R511 Doornrandjies	012 669-3043 info@serendipitycafe.co.za www.serendipitycafe.co.za	Community market to promote local business

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Marking the seasons

It is my considered view that people who live in the country have a much more intense appreciation of the passing of the seasons than individuals who live in town.

For, if we grow anything on our smallholdings we will be acutely aware, particularly on the Highveld, of the dearth of rain during winter, and the nightly arrival of damaging frost.

Even if we do nothing more strenuous on our plots than sit in the wan sun with a mug of coffee and the daily paper we will be aware of the passing of the seasons ~ well, at least the arrival of winter, because one can be sure than some damn fool in one's area will set fire to his field or the verge of the road, resulting in a pall of acrid smoke and an ugly black scar upon the pastoral scene.

That, of course, presupposes that we have taken the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of grass fires on to one's own land ... in itself an acknowledgement of the changing of the seasons.

And then as winter progresses and more and more fields and verges turn black, along comes spring, the first vestiges of which are now appearing, despite the fact that we've had no rain for months.

All of a sudden fruit trees burst into blossom and, in the garden, it's "game on" again.

Our ancestors had all of this well-sussed because when you live off the land as they did you are ACUTELY aware of what season you are in. Get it wrong and you starve. Simple.

Thus, in different parts of the world, the change from season to season was ~ and is ~ marked by some sort of ceremony. Of course, the actual change from season to season is a bit of a movable feast, and depends on where you are, and rainfall and temperature at the time, and also on the whim of bureaucrats who decide, often willy-nilly, when one season should change to another.

In South Africa, for example, Spring is officially deemed to start on the 1st of September, with Summer therefore starting three months later on the 1st of November.

Those dates, and their counterparts for Autumn and Winter, are often way out when it comes to the actual turning of the seasons, rainfall at the time and so on.

A far more accurate and constant set of dates, and one which is the same worldwide, year in and year out, are to measure the seasons by the two equinoxes and the two solstices.

The equinoxes ~ autumnal and vernal (Spring) ~ mark the days

of the year when the number of daylight hours exactly match the number of night time hours, while the solstices mark the longest day (summer) and shortest day (winter) respectively. Regardless of whether one is in the northern or southern hemisphere, or where in that hemisphere one is, the equinoxes' and solstices' sole difference being that they are exactly reversed: when we mark the spring equinox, those in the northern hemisphere are marking the autumn one and when, in December, we celebrate the summer solstice, they are celebrating, if that's the right world, their winter solstice.

Did I say celebrate? I did, and why not? Those who are religiously zealous might say that celebrating a phase of the sun or the moon is pagan. But is it? Is it any more pagan that celebrating Christmas on December 25, a date that has less to do with the birth of the baby Jesus than it does with a convenient medieval all-fall-down festival of song, dance and feasting, to which, to make it more fun, has been added the totally non-Christian idea of Santa Claus/Father Christmas, whose red outfit with white fluffy trim is only as ancient as a Cola Cola advertisement from the 1920s?

So, on our plot, my lady wife (who's a bit flaky, it must be said) organises an equinox celebration each season for family and interested friends. On the appointed day, or as close as we can get to it, we gather, recite words, read passages of suitable works and perform simple rituals, all geared at focusing our minds on the seasons, and the wonders of nature about to be unfolded before us as the days progress.

And then we indulge in a bit of food and drink, and go our respective ways, usually accompanied by a pot plant or some token of the season to follow.

In this way, we mark our awareness of the passage of time, give thanks for the bounty that nature provides us with, share our pleasure and enthusiasm with other like-minded souls, and go forth into the future season refreshed and invigorated. And if that's pagan or flaky, too bad.



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