

# Summaries of the Candidates 2009

## Agriculturist of the Year

### Gauteng

#### **Hans van der Merwe**

Hans van der Merwe, Executive Director: Agri SA and non-executive director of the Reserve Bank, started his career at the Department of Agriculture's, agricultural marketing research division.

Over the past two decades globalisation and political changes dramatically influenced the market and policy sphere of farmers. Free commerce, the deregulation of marketing, labour policies, land reform and other economic transformations were implemented and these were like roads never driven on for the agricultural sector.

With his knowledge of agriculture, especially regarding policy and how it should be implemented, Hans has contributed considerably. All his inputs regarding policy were supported by his wide institutional knowledge, his network relations and the respect that he has not only in the agricultural sector, but also in the academic, economic, business and political arenas.

He contributes the continuous achievements of commercial agriculture to the organised action of farmers and their ability to look for suitable solutions through knowledge.

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### **KwaZulu-Natal**

#### **Prof Albert Modi**

Prof Albert Modi studied horticulture and crop science at the University of Fort Hare and completed his master's and PhD, the latter through the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship.

He took a keen interest in indigenous agricultural systems and traditional crops and spearheaded a project to supply Woolworths with certified organic Amadumbe, a type of wild African potatoes. With this the Ezemvelo Farmers Organisation became the first certified group of organic subsistence farmers in South Africa. participated in research with the Seedling Growers Association of South Africa and South African National Seed Organisation to determine a seed quality model for the South African seed and Nursery industries. He was also a member of Organics South Africa, where he was responsible for the development of a technical support and R&D strategy for the organic industry in South Africa.

He is also the chief executive of the Moses Kotane Institute which aims to address the shortfall of science, engineering and maths students.

## Limpopo

### Nico le Roux

Nico le Roux, grew up on a farm in the Magoebaskloof near Tzaneen and it was here that he developed his love for agriculture. He was appointed as the best final year student in the BSc Agricultural Economics class of 2004 and also received a prize from the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa. Already in his final year of studies he acted as a consultant and did a visibility study on the production of Biodiesel from the *Jatropha Curcas* plant in South Africa.

From 2008 he holds the post of Agricultural Client Relation Manager at Absa at the Corporative and Business Bank for the bigger clients. In this position he focuses on advising primary and secondary Agri businesses in their business and finance needs.

Nico is also on the management of the Tzaneen Business Chamber and acts specifically as the link between the business sector and agriculture. His knowledge of the various financial instruments and his ability to identify and analyse business needs, as well as his involvement in various forums addressing the needs and expectations of farmers regarding the role of a financial institution in agriculture, makes him a sought after banker.

Nico is married to Adele, an occupational therapist.

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## Mpumalanga

### Johan Roos

Since 2003 Johan Roos has been running his own agricultural consultancy Roos Agri Consultancy. This allows him to concentrate all his efforts in the field of Agri-BEE (Black Economic Empowerment) and to become involved in the development, training, mentoring and general development of rural and especially new developing commercial farmers.

Johan Roos was a pioneer in developing and introducing fertigation techniques in South Africa and is currently involved as mentor and project manager within the Dryden - Absa and other Landbank projects with a total of about 25 farmers. He also had some involvement with various departments of the Land Claims Commission for the re-structuring and implementation of their projects. He also has a part time involvement at the Buhle Farmers' Academy presenting the Crop Production, Vegetable Production and Livestock courses, (theoretical and practical) and work as a consultant for AfricaBio in a programme to advance the use of GMO maize varieties.

Johan has been regarded by many farmers and agronomists as probably the best practical agronomist in the country and was involved in the development and writing of the Fertilizer Handbook (First edition) published by the FSSA.

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## North West

### Professor Alex McDonald

Alex McDonald has been with the ARC Institute for Grain Crops in Potchefstroom since January 1983 and head of the Crop Protection Division since 1993. He is responsible for all scientific, technical and administrative as well as personnel of the Entomology-, Nematology- and Plant pathology research in the division.

Apart from a number of *ad hoc* contracts, he also handles some 22 research projects focussing on production issues regarding insects, diseases and pest in maize, soya bean, ground nut and sunflower. He is also responsible for an internationally sponsored, multi-institutional project and has been appointed by the Maize Trust on their research advisory committee.

Since 2004 he has been appointed as Professor Extraordinary at the School for Environmental Sciences and Development at the, Potchefstroom campus of the North West University.

He is married to Amelia and has 2 daughters Anri (13) and Annemé (10).

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## Emerging Farmer of the Year

### Peter Nyathi

Peter Nyathi dreamt of owning his own mushroom farm. His dream became reality in August 1999 when he became an independent, private mushroom producer. Tropical Mushrooms (Pty) Ltd is located on an 18.9 hectare farm in Gauteng, 10 km outside Magaliesburg and just north of the R24 main road to / from Rustenburg.

On this farm he produced his very first harvest of fresh "organic" mushrooms on 20 January 2000. Quality is the key to Peter's success and he proudly states that his mushrooms are among the best produced in the highveld region. Tropical Mushrooms produces between 8, 5 and 9 tons of mushrooms weekly. Excellent packaging and presentation ensure that his packets of mushrooms not only catch the eye, but have a longer shelf life as well. His product range includes 500g, 250g and 200g punnets for domestic use and 4kg brown and 5kg choice white mushrooms specially packed for catering.

They do their own distribution and have set up a network to serve their growing list of regular customers - the best possible way. According to Peter: "If better is possible, good is not good enough."

Peter has over 15 years of experience in the mushroom industry. Before he joined SA's market leader in mushrooms, where he started off in a trainee position and soon advanced to become head of the production department, he obtained a BSc (Honours) degree in Agricultural Economics. He also holds a Marketing Management Diploma from IMM SA.

Starting up was not easy. Peter Nyathi struggled for three years to secure financing for his dream venture. Finally he turned to Absa for help. With his relevant qualifications and experience, the decision was easy for ABSA to become his financial partner. Absa's Resource Initiative Trust provided the initial financial support. The Absa Incubator Fund took over from the Resource Initiative Trust to become current shareholders.

Tropical Mushrooms (Proprietary) Limited purchased the farm and constructed all of the buildings and infrastructure necessary to grow mushrooms on a large commercial scale. The company's shareholders are managing director and majority shareholder, Peter Nyathi, the Absa Incubator Fund and the Tropical Mushrooms Employees' Shareholder Trust. 18% of shares are held by the employees, funded with LRAD grants obtained from the Dept. of Land Affairs.

Peter's business sense and agricultural abilities did not go by unnoticed. In 2007 he won Absa's prestigious business owner of the year competition. Peter became the May 2005 winner of the Sanlam 3 Talk Business owner of the Year, and was 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in the over-all competition. He also walked away as the winner of the Africa SMME award for Agriculture in 2003.

His belief is that you cannot expect to prosper without ploughing back into the community. He actively lends support by contributing cash or mushroom donations to:

- Salvation Army; Magaliesburg,
- Apostolic Faith Mission (Light House); Mohlakeng, Randfontein;
- Boys Town Mission; Magaliesburg;
- Botshabelo Community Development Trust, Magaliesburg; which takes care of abused children and women
- Sparrow Rainbow Village Aids Hospice, Roodepoort.
- Spent mushroom compost to Masakhane youth for vegetable gardens,

For Peter Nyathi product availability is key and quality is paramount. As a result, his brand is growing, "Organic and Fresh"

## **Farmer of the Year Gauteng**

### **Ludwig Taschner**

Ludwig Taschner bought his first plot and founded Ludwig's Roses in March 1971. He pioneered the propagation of roses in containers. Previously roses

could only be purchased in winter as pruned, bare-rooted plants. Containerised rose plants could now be purchased all year round, which meant that gardeners could select roses by their flowers, fragrance and growth habit for most of the year. This made the rose even more popular in South African gardens.

From small beginnings Ludwig's Roses has now become world renowned and the premier rose nursery in South Africa with the largest selection of rose varieties available in the world. He produces more than 500 000 rose-plants annually.

Ludwig has built up a trusting and fruitful relationship with over 25 breeders from all over the world and annually tests thousands of new varieties according to their performance in the South African climate. From these a selection of 10 to 20 new varieties are named and released annually.

In 1996 Ludwig opened a 4.5ha cut rose farm, SOLEIL CUT ROSES in Pretoria East. Here more than 30 000 cut rose stems are picked each and every day. In 2004 he opened an outlet in Johannesburg called LUDWIG'S ROSES EGOLI. This branch boasts over 1000 varieties amounting to over 40 000 rose plants for sale.

In 2006 LUDWIG'S ROSES WINELANDS, an outlet near Stellenbosch was opened. This branch also boasts with more than 1000 varieties amounting to over 30 000 rose plants for sale.

The newest addition to the group is LUDWIG'S STAR ROSES an outlet in Hillcrest, KwaZulu-Natal that opened for business in 2008. This branch also boasts all of the famous varieties Ludwig's has become known for.

Ludwig plays an active role in the Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa. He has been the editor of all their publications for the past 25 years.

He was also chairman of the Rose Growers Association for 25 years and was honoured with the "Gold Medal" by his colleagues of the South African Nurseryman' Association. His son, Halmar is currently chairman of the Rose Growers Association – affiliated to SANA (The South African Nursery Association.)

Ludwig Taschner wrote and published "LIVING WITH ROSES" A handbook for the commercial production of Cut Roses in 1991. In 2001 he was commissioned to write a book simply titled 'ROSES' which has become a best seller.

Ludwig's deep love for working with roses has encouraged him to see no boundaries when it comes to promoting roses. He has become a household name in South Africa. The highlights of his career are according to Ludwig, the pioneering of containerised roses and the cultivation of rose groups specifically adapted for certain climatic conditions. He is also very excited about a new range of eco-chic roses, cultivated to be pest free. These roses don't need spraying and will therefore be eco-friendly.

He is at his happiest whilst walking through his roses, which he does most of the time. Most important of all, his children are more than happy to follow in their remarkable father's footsteps.

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## **KwaZulu-Natal**

### **Jackson Farming**

John Jackson of Jackson Farming is regarded by many as the "Father of No-Till" in South Africa.

He started farming on 390ha of which about 250ha was arable. In 1984 he changed to No-Till practice. In 2002 his son, James, joined as well and today the farm consists of 2 units with a total area of 1723 ha of which 837ha is arable and 330 ha of that is under centre pivot irrigation.

They mainly farm with Roundup Ready maize and Soya and in the past qualified for awards from the old KZN "Ten Ton Club" for maize and the "Super Soya" competition. Together with three other farmers they also started a farming operation in Zambia. They cultivate 2000 ha of maize and Soya beans there.

He is married to Elizabeth and they have two daughters and a son.

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## **Limpopo**

### **Tian Kruger**

Tian Kruger believes that farmers in South Africa have a great future ahead of them, as long as they are able to handle the opportunities and challenges on their path. He has 1 250ha under centre pivot irrigation in Groblersdal. His potato plantings is 260ha per season, while he also plants 120ha of tobacco, 350ha of cotton, 400ha maize and 160ha of peas. He also has a citrus farm comprising 240ha planted with 127 000 trees near Groblersdal, a cattle farm comprising 3 600ha with a commercial herd of 1 200 Bonsmara cattle near Roedtan with 1 800ha cultivated pastures and 1 800ha natural pastures, as well as a tourism facility developed on a 400 ha piece of bushveld on shallow soils.

From the start he realised that by diversifying his farming activities he will have a better chance on success. He therefore focuses on short term cash crops in winter and summer on 1 000 ha under irrigation, long-term crops such as citrus as well as live stock. Tian was one of the first farmers in South Africa to plant biotech crops in 1998 and is still believes in biotechnology and precision farming.

He is married to Stephanie and they have three children, Melissa, Danelle en Willem.

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## **Mpumalanga**

### **André Tonkin**

André Tonkin farms in the Standerton area with 1 900 ha maize, 1 000 ha Soya beans, 500 ha sorghum, and 200 ha wheat. He has 800ha under centre pivot irrigation with water from the Vaal River as well as catchment dams. He also has 1 200 ha pastures for his commercial Bonsmara herd comprising 600 cows as well as 2 000 sheep.

Andre started the Platkop Contract Growers in 1992 and at present there are 38 share holders. In 2003 he started the Sonskyn Fertilizer company with a capacity of approximately 80 000 t per season. He practices minimum tillage on the farm and only plants stack maize hybrids as he believes in the benefits of biotechnology.

For Andre there are no problems that cannot be addressed. It is of the utmost importance to him to spend time with his farming enterprise and to stay informed regarding all aspects of the business.

He is married to Alma and they have 6 children – Junior, Serene, Elra, Celeste, Boebie en Andrea.

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## **North West**

### **Josua van der Walt**

Josua van der Walt's, WJ Farming is situated on Kleinfontein, 20 km North of Brits. He is married to Johanna and their four children are: Jana, Louise, Sunè and Willem.

After 15 years as a farm manager at a large vegetable and tobacco farm, he decides in 2002 to start farming on his own. With almost no cash available but with lots of faith, he started with 50ha of tobacco and vegetables. Due to the fact that he didn't have any cash available he rely heavily on effective cash flow management and good farming practices.

One of the biggest risks at that stage was marketing because of fluctuating markets. In 2004 an opportunity arises to produce products for Shoprite-Checkers, this was a golden opportunity to get a stable market. He produces such a good quality that Woolworths also ask him in 2008 to produce products for them. At this point he produces and packs 270 ha of vegetables per annum for retail stores.

The farming enterprise was privileged to be named as Shoprite-Checkers "Great North Supplier of the Year" 2009.

He believes that effective month to month management of his cash flow budget is the key to an early warning system to identify problems to take preventative actions. He believes that management of a Business does not consist out of one person but out of a chain of people therefore to be successful, training, communication and commitment is a key aspect of his business.

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## **Opsommings van die Kandidate 2009**

### **Landboukundige van die Jaar Gauteng**

#### **Hans van der Merwe**

Hans van der Merwe, Uitvoerende Direkteur: Agri SA en nie-uitvoerende Direkteur: Reserwebank, het sy loopbaan begin as vakkundige beampte by die Departement van Landbou se afdeling landboubemarkingsnavorsing.

Die afgelope twee dekades het globalisering en politieke veranderings die mark- en beleidsomgewing van landbouers wesenlik verander. Vryer handel, bemarkingsderegulering, arbeidswetgewing, grondhervorming en talle ander ekonomiese en maatskaplike hervormings is deurgevoer wat vir rolspelers in die bedryf 'ongekarteerde roetes' was.

Met sy kennis van die landbou, maar veral van beleidvoering en hoe dit toegepas moet word, het Hans op 'n spektrum van terreine 'n betekenisvolle bydrae gelewer om die bedryf en sy deelnemers deur hierdie veranderings te begelei. Sy kundige insette met beleidsprosesse is goed aangevul deur sy wye institusionele kennis, sy netwerkverhoudinge en die erkenning wat hy in die geledere van akademië, die georganiseerde sakegemeenskap, internasionale verenigings sowel as in amptelike kringe geniet.

Hy skryf die voortgesette prestasies van die kommersiële landbou toe aan die sukses van georganiseerde optrede van landbouers en hul vermoë om uit 'n kundigheidsperspektief, gepaste oplossings vir probleme te vind en toe te pas.

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### **KwaZulu-Natal**

#### **Prof Albert Modi**

Prof Albert Modi het plantkunde aan die Universiteit van Fort Hare studeer waar hy sy meesters- en doktorsgrade voltooi het.

Hy het 'n intense belangstelling in inheemse landbousisteme en tradisionele gewasse en het 'n projek van stapel gestuur om Woolworths van gesertifiseerde organiese Amadumbe, 'n tipe wilde Afrika-aartappel, te voorsien. Hiermee het die Ezemvelo Boere-organisasie die eerste groep ontwikkelende boere in Suid-Afrika geword wat gesertifiseerde organiese produkte lewer.

Hy is ook die hoof-uitvoerende beampte van die Moses Kotane Instituut wat die tekort aan wetenskap, ingenieurs en wiskunde studente aanspreek.

## **Limpopo**

### **Nico le Roux**

Nico le Roux, het grootgeword op 'n plaas in Magoebaskloof in die Tzaneen omgewing en dit is juis hier waar sy liefde vir landbou ontstaan het. Hy was aangewys as die beste finale jaar student in BSc Landbou Ekonomie in 2004 en ontvang die prys van die Landbou-ekonomiese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika, LEVSA. Hy het reeds in sy finale jaar al opgetree as 'n landboukonsultant en 'n lewensvatbaarheidstudie gedoen vir die produksie van Biodiesel van die Jatropha Curcas in Suid-Afrika.

Vanaf 2008 beklee hy die pos as Landbou-verhoudingsbestuurder in die Absa Korporatiewe en Besigheidsbank vir kliënte in die groot waarde-proposisie. In hierdie posisie is sy rol gefokus om primêre en sekondêre landboubesighede te adviseur en te ondersteun in besigheidsbesluite en finansieringsbehoefte.

Nico is ook op die bestuur van Tzaneen se Sakekamer en het die spesifieke rol om die skakel te wees tussen die sakelui en die landbou. Sy uitmuntende kennis van die verskillende finansiële instrumente en die vermoë om besigheidsbehoefte te identifiseer en te analiseer, saam met die forums wat gehou word om vanuit die boere se oogpunt te hoor wat hulle spesifieke behoeftes en verwagtinge van die finansiële instelling is, is wat hom 'n gesogte en suksesvolle bankier maak.

Nico is getroud met Adele, 'n arbeidsterapeut.

## **Mpumalanga**

### **Johan Roos**

Johan Roos bedryf sy eie landbou konsultasie besigheid, Roos Agri Konsultante, sedert 2003. Dit laat hom toe om sy aktiwiteite toe te spits op die

gebied van Landbou-SEE (Swart Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling) en om betrokke te raak in die ontwikkeling, opleiding en mentorskap asook in die algemene ontwikkeling van landelike ontwikkeling met die fokus op opkomende boere. Johan Roos kan beskou word as 'n pionier in die ontwikkeling en bekendstelling van hidro-bemestingstegnieke in Suid-Afrika en is tans betrokke as mentor en projek-bestuurder by die Dryden - Absa en ook ander Landbank-projekte. Hy was ook betrokke by projekte van verskeie staatsdepartemente asook die Grondeisekommissie vir die herstrukturering en implementering van hulle projekte. Hy is ook deelyds betrokke by die Buhle Farmers' Academy net buite Delmas waar hy die gewas- en groenteproduksie, en vee kursusse aanbied en werk ook as konsultant vir

AfricaBio in programme om die gebruik van biotegnologie bekend te stel. Johan word deur baie mense gesien as die landboukundige wat sekerlik die beste praktiese ervaring in die veld het en hy was ook betrokke by die ontwikkeling en skryf van 'n bemestingshandleiding wat deur die misstofvereniging uitgegee word.

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## Noordwes

### Professor Alex McDonald

Alex McDonald werk sedert 1 Januarie 1983 by die LNR-Instituut vir Graangewasse in Potchefstroom en is sedert 1993 hoof van die Afdeling: Gewasbeskerming. Hiervolgens is hy verantwoordelik vir die wetenskaplike, tegniese, administratiewe en personeelbestuur van Entomologie-, Nematologie- en Plantpatologiesnavorsingseenhede wat die afdeling opmaak.

Buiten 'n aantal ad hoc kontrakte hanteer die afdeling om en by 22 navorsingsprojekte wat hoofsaaklik gaan oor produksievraagstukke rakende insekte, siektes en aalwurms by mielies, sojaboon, grondboon en sonneblom op hierdie stadium. Hy is ook verantwoordelik vir sy eie projek, wat 'n internasionale befondsing van 'n multi-institusionele projek is. Hy is deur die Mielietrust aangestel op hulle navorsingsadvieskomitee en het sitting op die Mielieforumbestuurskomitee.

Hy is sedert 2004 aangestel as buitengewone professor by die Skool vir Omgewingswetenskappe en Ontwikkeling, Potchefstroomkampus van die Noord-Wes Universiteit.

Hy is getroud met Amelia en het 2 dogters Anri (13) en Annemé (10).

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# Opkomende Boer van die Jaar

## Peter Nyathi

Vir Peter Nyathi was dit 'n droom om eendag sy eie sampioenplaas te besit. Die droom is bewaarheid toe hy in Augustus 1999 'n onafhanklike sampioenboer geword het. Sy plaas, Tropical Mushrooms (Pty) Ltd, is 18.9 hektaar groot en geleë in Gauteng net noord van die R24 snelweg na/van Rustenburg.

Op die plaas het hy in Januarie 2000 sy eerste vars organiese sampioene geoes. Gehalte is die sleutelwoord tot Peter se sukses. Hy vertel met trots dat sy sampioene onder die bestes van die Hoëveld gereken word. Tropical Mushrooms lewer tussen 8.5 en 9 ton sampioene per week.

Sy uitstekende verpakking en aanbieding verseker nie net dat sy sampioene raakgesien word nie, maar sorg ook vir 'n langer raklewe. Sy verpakkings wissel van 200g, 250g en 500g vir huishoudelike gebruik en vir die spysenieringsbedryf verskaf hy pakke van 4kg bruin en 5kg keur wit sampioene.

Die maatskappy doen sy eie verspreiding en het 'n netwerk op die been gebring om hul klante van puik diens te kan verseker. Peter glo: "As iets nog beter gedoen kan word, is goed, nie goed genoeg nie."

Peter het reeds 15 jaar se ondervinding in die sampioenbedryf. Voor hy hom aangesluit het by Suid Afrika se leier in dié bedryf om praktiese ondervinding op te doen het hy 'n BSc Honeursgraad in Landbou Ekonomie verwerf. Hy het ook 'n diploma in Bemerkingsbestuur by IMM SA verwerf. Terwyl hy gewerk het om ondervinding op te doen, het hy van vakleerling vinnig gevorder tot hoof van die produksie afdeling.

Om op sy eie te begin was alles behalwe maklik. Vir 3 jaar het Peter Nyathi gesukkel om die nodige finansiering te bekom. Uiteindelik het hy hom tot Absa gewend. Met sy toepaslike kwalifikasies en praktiese ondervinding in die sampioenbedryf het Absa nie gehuiwer om betrokke te raak nie. Absa se Resource Initiative Trust het die finansiële ondersteuning verskaf. Die Absa Incubator Fund het later by die Trust oorgeneem en is die huidige aandeelhouers.

Tropical Mushrooms (Pty) Ltd het die plaas gekoop en het self vir die oprigting van die geboue en die nodige infrastruktuur vir die grootskaalse verbouing van sampioene gesorg. Peter Nyathi is die maatskappy se besturende direkteur en hoofaandeelhouer. Die res van die aandele behoort aan Absa se Incubator Trust en Tropical Mushrooms se Werknemers Aandeelhouers Trust. 18% van die aandele behoort aan die werknemers wat dit bekom het deur middel van LRAD toelae van die Departement Grondsake.

Peter se sakevernuif en kennis van boerdery is gou raakgesien. Peter wen in 2007 die gesogte titel van Absa se sakeman van die jaar. In Mei 2005 is hy

aangewys as die Sanlam 3Talk sakeman van die maand en was ook naaswenner van die algehele kompetisie in die jaar. In 2003 was hy die wenner van die Africa SMME toekenning vir Landbou.

Hy glo dat mens nie kan verwag om voorspoed te geniet sonder om terug te ploeg in jou gemeenskap nie. Daarom skenk hy graag geld of sampioene aan die volgende organisasies:

- die Heilsleer van Magaliesburg
- AGS (Light House); Mohlakeng, Randfontein
- Boys Town, Magaliesburg
- Botshabelo Gemeenskap/Ontwikkelings Trust in Magaliesburg wat omsien na mishandelde vroue en kinders.
- Sparrow Rainbow Village se hospice vir Vigslyers in Roodepoort
- Sampioenkompos aan Masakhane jeugorganisasie vir hul groentetuine
- Sponsor-a-Child

Vir Peter Nyathi is goeie verspreiding 'n noodsaaklikheid en gehalte ononderhandelbaar. Dit het tot gevolg dat sy handelsmerk in gewildheid toeneem. "Organies en Vars"

## Boer van die Jaar

### Gauteng

#### Ludwig Taschner

Ludwig Taschner het sy eerste klein plaas in Maart 1971 gekoop en Ludwig's Roses gestig. Hy was die voorloper met die verskaffing van roosplante in houers. Voorheen kon rose net in die winter as kaal takkies met wortels, gekoop word. Rose kon nou in houers enige tyd van die jaar verkoop en verplant word – dit het beteken dat tuiniers rose kon uitsoek en koop terwyl hulle blom. Dit het meegebring dat rose in Suid Afrikaanse tuine geweldig toegeneem het in gewildheid.

Van 'n klein begin het 'Ludwig's Roses' gegroei tot 'n wêreld bekende naam en die vernaamste rooskweker in Suid Afrika. Ludwig's beskik oor die grootste verskeidenheid rose in die wêreld en lewer jaarliks 500 000 roosplante.

Ludwig het 'n vertrouens-verhouding met 25 ander kwekers oor die wêreld heen. Hy toets jaarliks duisende nuwe variëteite om vas te stel of hulle in die Suid Afrikaanse toestande sal aard. Hiervan word 10 tot 20 nuwe variëteite jaarliks benoem en vrygestel.

In 1996 het Ludwig na Pretoria Oos uitgebrei met die stigting van 'Soleil Cut Roses'. Op die 4.5ha hoewe word elke dag ongeveer 30 000 rose gepluk. In

2004 het hy Johannesburg betree met 'Ludwig's Roses Egoli'. By hierdie tak is daar meer as 'n duisend variëteite en 40 000 roosplante te koop. Gedurende 2006 het 'Ludwig's Roses Winelands', naby Stellenbosch oop gemaak. Hierdie tak spog ook met meer as 1 000 variëteite en meer as 30 000 roosplante te koop.

Die nuutste toevoeging tot sy groep kwekerye is die 'Ludwig's Star Roses' in Hillcrest, Kwa-Zulu Natal, wat in 2008 begin sake doen het. Hier vind 'n mens ook al die beroemde variëteite waarvoor Ludwig's so bekend is. Ludwig is aktief betrokke by die Federasie van Roosverenigings in Suid Afrika. Hy is reeds 25 jaar lank redakteur van al hul publikasies. Hy was ook 25 jaar lank voorsitter van die Rooskewers Vereniging. Hulle het hom vereer met 'n goue penning. Sy seun Halmar is tans die voorsitter van die Rooskewers Vereniging wat geaffilieer by SANA (The South African Nursery Association).

Ludwig Taschner het in 1991 'n boek getiteld 'Living with Roses' geskryf en uitgegee. Die boek dien as handboek vir die kommersiële verbouing van snyrose. In 2001 het sy boek 'Roses' die lig gesien en 'n blitsverkoper geword.

Ludwig se liefde vir rose het meegebring dat hy niks in sy pad laat staan het nie, om rose te bevorder en te bemark nie. Hy is lank reeds 'n huishoudelike naam in Suid Afrika. Volgens hom is die hoogtepunte wat hy bereik het, die verskaffing van roosplante in houters en die teel van rose wat by besondere klimaatstoestande aangepas is.

Ludwig is tans baie opgewonde oor 'n nuwe reeks 'eco-chic' rose wat spesiaal geteel is om bestand te wees teen peste en dus nie nodig sal hê om met gifstowwe bespuit te word nie.

Hy is die heel gelukkigste terwyl hy tussen sy geliefde rose rondloop. Dit doen hy die meeste van die tyd. Maar vir hom is die belangrikste ding die feit dat sy kinders almal by rose betrokke is en graag in hul pa se voetspore wil volg.

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## **KwaZulu-Natal**

### **Jackson Farming**

John Jackson van Jackson Farming word deur baie mense beskou as die vader van geen-bewerking in Suid-Afrika.

Hy het begin boer op 390ha waarvan sowat 250ha bewerkbare grond was. In 1984 het hy na geen-bewerking oorgeskakel. In 2002 het sy seun, James, by hom aangesluit in die boerdery en vandag boer hulle op 2 eenhede met 'n totale oppervlakte van 1723 ha waarvan 837ha bewerkbaar is. 330 ha van daardie grond is onder spilpunt-besproeiing.

Hulle boer hoofsaaklik met Roundup Ready®- mielies en -sojas en het al toekennings ontvang van die ou KZN "Tien Ton Klub" vir goeie mielie-

opbrengste en ook in die "Super Soja" kompetisie. Hulle het ook saam met drie ander boere 'n boerdery in Zambië begin waar hulle 2000 ha mielies en sojas verbou.

He is getroud met Elizabeth en hulle het twee dogters en 'n seun.

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## Limpopo

### Tian Kruger

Tian Kruger glo vas dat daar nog 'n groot toekoms in landbou is, mits mens alle uitdagings en terugslae kan hanteer. Hy het tans 1 250ha onder spilpuntbesproeiing in Groblersdal. Sy aartappelaanplantings beslaan 260ha per seisoen terwyl hy ook 120ha tabak, 350ha katoen, 400ha mielies en 160ha ertjies aanplant. Verder het hy ook 'n sitrusplaas van 240ha met 127 000 bome op Bloempoot naby Groblersdal, 'n beesplaas van 3 600ha met 'n kommersiële kudde van 1 200 Bonsmara beeste op die Springblokvlaakte (naby Roedtan) met 1 800ha aangeplante weiding en 1 800ha natuurlike weiding, en 'n toerisme-aangeleentheid waar hy 'n bosgedeelte van 400 ha op die plaas wat uit vlak gronde bestaan, ontwikkel het in 'n wildsplaas en Lodge.

Hy het van die begin af besef dat 'n gediversifiseerde boerdery hom 'n groter kans op sukses sal bied. Daarom bestaan sy boerdery uit korttermyn kontantgewasse (in die winter en somer) van 1 000 ha onder spilpuntbesproeiing en langtermyngewasse soos sitrus wat gerig is op die uitvoermark asook 'n veeboerdery. Tian was een van die eerste boere wat biotegnologie aangeplant het in 1998 en is steeds 'n groot voorstander van biotegnologie en presisieboerdery.

Hy is getroud met Stephanie en hulle het drie kinders, Melissa, Danelle en Willem.

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## Mpumalanga

### André Tonkin

André Tonkin boer in die Standerton-distrik en plant mielies op 1 900 ha, sojas op 1 000 ha, sorghum op 500 ha en koring op 200 ha. Die saai-boerdery beslaan 800ha onder spilpuntbesproeiing met 26 spilpunte wat uit die Vaalrivier en opgaardamme besproei word, en die res word onder droëland bewerk. Daar is ook 1 200 ha weiding vir die kommersiële Bonsmara kudde wat uit 600 koeie bestaan asook 2 000 SA Vleis Merino-skape.

Andre het die Platkop Kontrakgroeiers gestig in 1992 en tans bestaan PKG uit 38 aandeelhouders. In 2003 bring hy die Sonskyn Kunsmismaatskappy op die been wat sowat 80 000 vloeibare kunsmis per seisoen kan lewer. Hy maak

gebruik van minimum bewerkingsmetodes op sy plaas en plant net stapelgeen mielies omdat hy 'n voorstaner is van biotegnologie.

Vir Andre bestaan daar nie iets soos 'n probleem nie, net oplossing wat gesoek moet word. Dit is vir hom van kardinale belang dat hy tyd by sy eie boerdery moet spandeer en sorg hy dat hy op hoogte bly van al die aspekte van die boerdery.

Hy is getroud met Alma en het 6 kinders – Junior, Serene, Elra, Celeste, Boebie en Andrea.

## Noordwes

### Josua van der Walt

WJ Boerdery van Josua van der Walt is geleë op Kleinfontein, 20 km noord van Brits. Hy is getroud met Johanna en het 4 kinders, Jana, Louise, Sunè en Willem.

Na 15 jaar as plaasbestuurder by 'n groot groente en – tabakboerdery onderskeidelik het hy in 2002 sy eie boerdery onderneming begin. Met min geld en baie geloof het hy 'n 50ha tabak en groente boerdery aangepak. As gevolg van die feit dat daar min geld beskikbaar was is daar sterk gesteun op 'n effektiewe kontantvloei en 'n goeie boerdery beplanning. Bemaking was in hierdie stadium 'n baie groot risiko omdat die markte baie wisselvallig was. In 2004 het die geleentheid hom voorgedoen om vir Shoprite-Checkers produkte te lewer, wat 'n gulde geleentheid was om 'n stabiele mark te bekom. In 2008 word hy ook genader deur Woolworths om vir hulle produk te lewer. Tans word daar jaarliks 270ha groente verbou en verpak vir kettingwinkels.

Die boerdery was vanjaar bevoorreg om deur Shoprite-Checkers as 2009 se "Great North Supplier of the Year" aangewys te word.

Hy glo onwrikbaar in die effektiewe maand tot maand bestuur van 'n kontantvloei omdat dit 'n mens in staat stel om vroegtydig probleme te identifiseer en dan voorkomend op te tree. 'n Besigheid bestaan nie vir hom net uit een persoon nie, maar uit 'n ketting van mense wat betrokke is om so 'n besigheid suksesvol te bestuur en daarom is opleiding, kommunikasie en toewyding 'n baie belangrike aspek van die besigheid.