

Charl appointed to the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists

Charl van Rooyen, secretary of Agricultural Writers SA, was recently appointed as chairperson of one of six committees at the annual world congress of the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) in Fort Worth, Texas.

He is South Africa's representative on the executive committee of the IFAJ and is now also chairing the committee for professional development. This committee is responsible for organizing professional development for journalists, such as writing and photography. They also organise workshops at congresses, held every year in a different country. Annually members of about 30 countries attend these congresses. The committee also oversees the IFAJ's partnership with the Agricultural Communications Documentation Centre at the University of Illinois.

Charl is now also the organiser of the International Agricultural Photography Competition.

Theuns Botha, member of the Eastern Cape branch, was recommended for his picture of Afrikaner cattle during this year's competition. He also received a "recommended" during last year's prize giving.



Due to a sponsorship by Monsanto, the congress was attended by all four executive members of Agricultural Writers SA. Hugo Lochner (chairman), Magda du Toit (vice chairperson), Charl van Rooyen (secretary) and Hanlie

du Plessis (treasurer) were accompanied by Hans Lombard, Willie Louw and Johan Swiegers. On their way to Fort Worth they visited Monsanto's research facilities in St Louis.

Agricultural Writers SA will soon know if their bid to host the 2013 congress was successful. Argentina also applied to host the congress. A decision will probably be made by the IFAJ's presidium in September. South Africa hosted the 2004 congress.