



2 October 2009

Farmers and Agriculturists acknowledged for outstanding achievements in agriculture

Boere en landboukundiges ontvang erkenning vir uistaande prestasies in die landbou

News release by the Northern Branch of the Agricultural Writers SA on the regional awards for the Farmer and Agriculturalist of the Year 2009

Sponsored by: ABSA and Monsanto.

Nuusverklaring deur die Noordelike Streek van die Landboukrywers SA oor die streekstoekennings vir die Boer en Landboukundige van die Jaar 2009

Geborg deur: ABSA en Monsanto

The Northern Region of the Agricultural Writers SA will acknowledged outstanding achievements of five commercial farmers, an emerging farmer as well as five agricultural personalities. The awards will be handed over to farmers and agriculturists from Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, the North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal at a gala event in Pretoria on Friday 2 October.

One of the aims of these awards is to give prominence to the role that farmers and agriculturist play in the agricultural sector in South Africa. But it is also important to note that these award recipients also impact on the broader economy of the country as well as the southern African region.

Farmer of the Year

Boer van die Jaar

- Gauteng – Ludwig Taschner
- KwaZulu-Natal - John Jackson
- Mpumalanga – Andre Tonkin
- Noordwes – Josua van der Walt
- Limpopo – Tian Kruger

Agriculturist of the Year Landboukundige van die Jaar

- Gauteng – Hans van der Merwe
- KwaZulu-Natal – Prof Alabert Modi
- Mpumalanga – Johan Roos
- Noordwes – Prof Alex MacDonald
- Limpopo – Nico le Roux

Developing Farmer of the Year 2009 (north)

Peter Nyathi

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Background on the initiative by the association

Early in 1977 a gathering of seven agricultural journalists, representing the three components of the media - journals, daily newspapers and electronics - assembled in Johannesburg to take the historic decision of formally establishing the Agricultural Writers Association of South Africa. From those small beginnings the association expanded rapidly until it reached a membership total of 140 in two years and a peak of 187 in 1985. Today membership stands at more than 200. At its inaugural meeting on 30 March 1977, the very first clause adopted for incorporation in its constitution provided for the annual selection of a regional and national Farmer and Agriculturist of the year. The association's motivation for the introduction of these honours, with appropriate awards, was to give recognition to deserving farming and scientific agricultural merit that would inspire others to emulate the accomplishments of those persons singled out, and at the same time to indicate what could be achieved with good planning and untiring application, under all kinds of conditions and environments. Right from the inception of the awards the response has been immensely rewarding and the honours so bestowed on those selected have been and still are much appreciated by the country's entire agricultural industry.