LANDBOUSKRYWERS SA
AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA

AGRIpen

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

IFAJ: Your international connection

Dear members,

The disruptions due to Covid-19 made it impossible to host the annual congress of the International Federation for Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) in Australia and then Denmark. As IFAJ president Lena Johansson mentioned during the e-Congress on 24 August 2021, that we were at least able to hold this event on a digital platform this year.

Of course, it would've been great to meet each other in person Denmark this year as the plan was for 2021.

Agricultural Writers SA is a proud member of the IFAJ and you can stay up to date and use the resources portal on ***www.ifaj.org****. Stay on the lookout for professional development opportunities from the IFAJ.*

Read more in Lena Johansson's message to all members from across the globe.
– Liza Bohlmann, Chairperson

Message from the IFAJ president

It is just over a year since I was elected president of the IFAJ, and what a strange year it has been. We haven't been able to meet in person a single time, but the activities through Zoom and other digital media have been frequent. And while we have undergone lockdown and personal isolation, the core values of the IFAJ have turned out to be more and more essential.

How useful isn't a global network when you are struck by a worldwide pandemic, both to get support from friends and colleagues and to gather information? And how necessary aren't professional, reliable agricultural journalists and communicators, when the entire ag-business industry is affected?

I've been in ag-journalism for more than 30 years, and every year I get more and more convinced about how important our mission as agricultural journalists and communicators are. Though fewer people are directly engaged in agriculture and forestry today, these businesses are gaining importance for society as a whole.

In the recently published report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, agriculture and forestry are listed as some of the biggest threats to the climate.

However, if you read the report thoroughly, you will also discover that they are described as some of the most important solutions. In these aspects, agricultural journalists really can fulfill a mission: both to describe the whole and complex picture to consumers, and to inform farmers about how they can get more sustainable and reduce their carbon footprints.I sometimes feel sad when I read articles about this in mainstream media, when ag-business is entirely presented as a problem.

It seems as they have forgotten where they get their food from. And in some parts of the world, farmers are even harassed and attacked by activists for producing food. In these situations,ag-journos can also play an important role as a bridge between consumers and farmers.

Even though we can't meet in person, we need to support and remind each other of our important work. And for that purpose, the IFAJ is the perfect platform.

So, stay in contact and keep up the good networking. I'm looking forward to meeting some of you at our e-Congress and, as many of you are, I am certainly looking forward to meet in Denmark next year. We'll just have to keep our fingers crossed, wash our hands, and get vaccinated. ■

Lena Johansson
IFAJ president

MEMBER NEWS

Dok Faffa weer op die been

deur CHARL VAN ROOYEN, Landbouweekblad

"Wêreld" bid dok Faffa gesond

"Die wêreld het my gesond gebid," sê dr. Faffa Malan, bekende virtuele veearts en voormalige Landboukundige van die Jaar van Landbouskrywers SA, ná sy wonderbaarlike herstel nadat hy Covid-19 opgedoen het. Kort ná sy ontslag uit die hospitaal en 'n versorgingsplek was hy al weer aan die werk.

Die geliefde Malan is veral bekend vir sy rubriek, *Vra vir Faffa*, op *Landbouweekblad* se webblad, **landbou.com**, waar hy raad oor dieresiektes gee, en is 'n bekende gesig op die televisieprogram *Landbouweekliks* waar hy ook raad gee en sy bydrae altyd afsluit met: "Lékker boer!"

Toe die nuus breek dat hy vir sy lewe veg, het dit 'n oorweldigende reaksie van boere, mense in landbouverwante beroepe en veeartskringe ontketen. Duisende mense het vir hom gebid. In 'n stadium het lede van die Amerikaanse vereniging vir parasietbeheer vir klein herkouers gebede opgestuur. Plaaslike veeartse wat besig was met voortgesette opleiding, het vir sy herstel gevra. Toe Malan weer op die been kom, was daar meer as 3 000 boodskappe in sy rekenaar. Op sy Facebook-blad het meer as duisend mense boodskappe gelos. Sy selfoon was met stem- en WhatsApp-boodskappe oorlaai. Intussen het Malan se vriende sy aanhangers daagliks op hoogte van sy vordering gehou, waaronder mnr. Willem Kleyn, handelsbemarkingsbestuurder van Elanco-dieregesondheid, die eerste vriend wat Malan besoek het.

Die eerste kuiertjie saam met vriende nadat hy sy stryd teen Covid-19 gewen het. Hier is dr. Faffa Malan saam met twee vriende, Willem Kleyn (regs) en Charl van Rooyen. Foto: Kleyn-gesin.

Charl besig met sy onderhoud met dok Faffa. Foto: Willem Kleyn.

Dok Faffa en Neels Neethling op wie se plaas hy sy eerste opname vir Landbouweekliks *ná sy siekte gedoen het. Foto: Willem Kleyn.*

Lizette en Esther Prinsloo haal manewales uit sodat Faf vir die kamera moet kyk waar hy ewe kordaat aan tafel sit, maar hy het net oë vir die vars plaasbrood. Die komiese toneel het hom afgespeel tydens 'n kuiertjie deur landbouskrywers Charl van Rooyen, Johan Norval en Charles Smith by Eddie Prinsloo, Merino-teler van Smithfield en voormalige Nasionale Boer van die Jaar. Foto: Charl van Rooyen.

Hy en Kleyn het op Donderdag 10 Junie 'n skaapstudiegroep by Winburg toegespreek toe hy siek word. Hy is saam met iemand anders terug na sy woonplek in Pretoria omdat Kleyn nog 'n ander afspraak gehad het. Daar is hy dokter toe en dié het hom aangeraai om die volgende week toetse te laat doen. Sondag het Kleyn en 'n veeartsvriend, dr. Neil Fourie, vir hom gaan kuier.

Daar tref hulle hom op die vloer aan nadat hy met sy kop deur 'n ruit geval het. Hy het "soos 'n riet" gebewe. Malan kan egter niks daarvan onthou nie. Op Maandag 14 Junie het hy 'n Covid-19-toets en skandering ondergaan. Hy het agt dae vantevore sy eerste inenting teen die siekte gehad. Die toets was negatief. Hy is in die Life Groenkloof-hospitaal se intensiewe sorgeenheid opgeneem en behandel asof hy Covid-19 het. Vanaf 17 Junie was hy op 'n ventilator en onder verdowing. Later het hy positief vir die siekte getoets.

"Ek het die vreeslikste hallusinasies gehad, was aggressief en hulle moes my op die bed vasbind. Ek het 'gesien' daar is 'n luislang in my bed, wat toe deur 'n buurman met 'n tou weggesleep is. Mense het my bankkaarte kom afvat en al my geld en beleggings onttrek. Twee groepe mense het mekaar aangeval terwyl ek hulpeloos moes toekyk, omdat ek op 'n eiland met drade vasgebind was. Een keer het ek gedink die hospitaal wil vir my gif uit 'n bottel met 'n doodskedel op toedien. Later wou hulle my met mambagif dood maak."

In werklikheid het Malan wonderlike behandeling by die hospitaalpersoneel gekry en het begin herstel. Op 27 Julie is hy na 'n versorgingsplek in Irene oorgeplaas, en ná 'n week is hy ontslaan en het by sy dogter, Wilmari, gaan aansterk.

Hy het baie in die hospitaal en versorgingsplek geoefen om sy kragte te herwin. "Kyk hoe doen ek beenopstote. Ek kan aanhou tot jy sê ek moet ophou," en Malan wys hoe maklik hy dit regkry. Hy is nie van plan om nou rustiger te wees nie. Op 76-jarige ouderdom voel hy nog sterk genoeg om sy werk as bestuurder van die Herkouerveterinêre Vereniging van Suid-Afrika (Ruvasa), voort te sit, *Vra vir Faffa* op **landbou.com** te hanteer, raad op *Landbouweekliks* te gee en boeredae toe te spreek.■

"Ek worstel net baie met die vraag oor hoekom ek 'n tweede kans gekry het terwyl van my kennisse aan Covid-19 dood is. Daarom dank ek die Vader elke dag. Ek besef nou hoe belangrik dit is om jou huis in orde te kry, vir ingeval. Maak jou saak met die Here reg. Jy weet nie wanneer is dit jou laaste dag op aarde nie."

Supporting smallholder farmers amidst the pandemic

Bayer's "*Better Farms, Better Lives*" initiative in Africa

In line with the company's vision of "health for all, hunger for none", Bayer last year launched the "Better Farms, Better Lives" *initiative,a global project which saw the distribution of corn and vegetable seed to help cushion smallholder farmers from the ravages of the pandemic.*

In Africa, this distribution exercise has to date been replicated across seven countries including Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Kenya.

Nozizwe Mhlongo is one of the estimated two million smallholder and subsistence farmers in South Africa, many of whom have been impacted by the effects of Covid-19 and lockdown regulations. She farms on 10 ha of land in Sehlakoane, a rural area in Limpopo, and uses some of this land for maize production, which recently benefited from Bayer's *"Better Farms, Better Lives"* initiative.

Nozizwe was one of the many South African smallholder farmers who received 2 kg of hybrid maize seeds. This gift has now yielded over 1 350 kg of maize.

"We at Bayer quickly realised that we didn't want a health crisis to become a hunger crisis. We needed to decide how to best support smallholder farmers from low- to middle-income countries across Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America," says Klaus Eckstein, CEO of Bayer South Africa.

"This initiative was started to provide inputs in terms of seeds and crop protection products free of charge to smallholder farmers across these geographies in order to help them to produce sustainable and healthy crops, and to start addressing the impact that Covid-19 has had in these countries.

"At Grain SA, we appreciate the significant contribution that small-scale farming has on household food security and income and realise the damaging impact that the pandemic has had. We have worked closely with Bayer Crop Science and with our farmers to assist as many as possible with this support through the *"Better Farms, Better Lives"* initiative," says Jerry Mthombothi, provincial coordinatorat Grain SA, who believes that this initiative will continue to assist vulnerable farmers in the coming months and years.

"Helping people aligns well with what Bayer does. We have seen first-hand how this project has helped so many households, and in turn so many communities, especially as so many of the farmers that we are helping are female from female-headed households," says Dudu Mashile, territory sales manager for smallholder and pre-commercial farmers at Bayer Crop Science. "When you empower women, you empower communities."

The immediate Covid-19 response through the *"Better*

From previous page:
Supporting small-holders...

Farms, Better Lives" initiative complements on-going smallholder support which will aid in mid-term recovery as well as long-term resilience. The success and impact of the initiative was captured over the past few months. Watch the new documentary launched to showcase the life-changing impact of the *"Better Farms, Better Lives"* initiative on smallholder farmers in Africa. ■

Fast facts:

- 13% of the country's up-and-coming farmers have managed to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels. This compared to 63% of commercial-scale farmers who report that they are back to their pre-pandemic operational levels (Source: **BeyondCOVID Business Survey**, May 2021).
- Of the estimated 550 million smallholder farmers worldwide, it's estimated that 97% work on farms that are smaller than 10 ha and produce more than 80% of the food in developing countries. These farms are often family-run businesses that have a long history in the communities where they live.
- Bayer is committed to helping more than 100 million smallholders in low- and middle-income countries by 2030.
- Visit **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dztl6v8lKtY&feature=youtu.be**

Agbiz announces CEO designate

"Following a rigorous and comprehensive recruitment process, Agbiz has the pleasure to announce that Mr Theo Boshoff, currently head of Legal Intelligence within Agbiz, has been designated to take over the reins as CEO of Agbiz as from 1 January 2022. The current incumbent, Dr John Purchase, retires at the end of December 2021 after more than 14 years of service to Agbiz, " said Mr Francois Strydom, chairman of Agbiz.

"South Africa currently faces serious challenges, also in its agro-food, agro-fibre and agro-beverage sectors, and as by far the leading business chamber for South African agribusinesses up and down these value chains, the leadership role of Agbiz is essential to ensure inclusive growth and the competitiveness of the broader sector. Mr Boshoff will be supported by an excellent team of high-quality professionals to continue rendering the requisite services to our membership and the country as a whole," said Mr Strydom. ■

First new soybean trait in SA in two decades

The South African regulatory authority approved the cultivation application submitted by Bayer for the Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro on 29 July, 2021.

Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro is only the second genetically modified (GM) soybean trait to be approved for cultivation in South Africa. The first one was Roundup® Ready soybean (GTS 40-3-2), which incidentally was approved on 1 August 2001 – almost two decades ago, to the day. The General Release (cultivation) approval follows more than five years of hard work and collaboration within the Bayer Crop Science Division across teams, functions, and regions.

Bayer's efficacy trials of the Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro trait in soybeans delivered exceptional results over four seasons. This is one of the confined field trials in Limpopo with regulated biotechnology. Photo: André Botes, technology and development agronomist at Bayer Crop Science.

The Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro trait offers two built-in advantages. Firstly, it is aimed at providing soybean growers with insect protection from feeding damage caused by certain lepidopteran soybean pests such as *Helicoverpa armigera* (African bollworm). Secondly, it has glyphosate tolerance for weed management.

"This is a major milestone for Bayer Crop Science's business in South Africa and is anticipated to bring value to farmers and our business over many years. It is an important pillar for us in confirming our leadership in trait deregulation, but it is also a great sign of collaboration with industry players," says Klaus Eckstein, CEO of Bayer Southern Africa and cluster head for Crop Science Africa.

The process is now underway to register and develop soybean varieties with Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro for commercial production and

distribution according to the regulations set out in the Plant Improvement (53 of 1976) and Plant Breeders' Rights (15 of 1976) Acts.

Limited commercial planting of new soybean varieties with the Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro trait is expected by the 2022/2023 planting season pending the variety approvals as well as seed availability.

Typical damage caused by Helicoverpa armigera *(African bollworm) in soybean fields. With the new Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro trait, producers can bank on reduced insect damage which improves the chance of better yields.*

Although the country generally embraces modern agricultural advancements like biotechnology, the local soybean industry has seen little movement regarding the development and release of new traits. Over the past few years, a new soybean Breeding and Technology Fee as a value capture mechanism (generally referred to as the soybean levy), has boosted the industry's appetite for investing more resources into releasing new soybean cultivars and traits.

Bayer Crop Science in South Africa focused its attention on Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro – a stacked trait technology (MON 87701 x MON 89788).The trait has been used successfully in Brazil for eight years and has proven its value to farmers in that country. The successful adoption of Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro soybean technology is expected to increase economic and environmental benefits.

According to the South African Crop Estimates Committee, the production forecast for soybeans during the current 2020/2021 season stands at a record production of 1,918 million tonnes. The estimated area planted to soybeans is 827 100 ha and the average expected yield is 2,32 t/ha.

According to **www.statista.com** the soybean crop yield for 2020/2021 in Brazil was "forecast to reach 3,5 metric tons of oilseed per hectare of area planted", showing that country's competitiveness in the market.

The local Bayer Market Development team has already tested a selection of Intacta® Roundup®Ready2 Pro soybean varieties under local conditions. ■

Enquiries can be directed to Liza Bohlmann, Communications Business Partner: Bayer Crop Science, at liza.bohlmann@bayer.com or +27 71 629 0476.

Company name change: Andermatt Madumbi

As our journey of continuous, sustainable growth continues, the team at Madumbi Sustainable Agriculture is delighted to launch our rebrand as Andermatt Madumbi (Pty) Ltd.

Since joining forces in 2010, Madumbi has been a proud member of the Andermatt Biocontrol group of companies, the Swiss innovators who share our passion for changing the way that food is grown. Fuelled by the knowledge that nature leads innovation and with an established reputation of biological excellence, Andermatt Madumbi is the natural evolution of two organisations with a shared vision, partnering for a better future.

In combining Madumbi's passion and energy, with the precision and experience of the Andermatt group, we look forward to increasing our footprint and transforming the commercial and retail sectors with biorational products that are backed by science and loved by nature.Together, we can contribute to a world where sustainable delivery of healthy, nutrient-dense food to all our tables is achievable.

We are more than just the sum of our parts. This is the precision of the Swiss clock, with the heartbeat of the African Drum. This is Andermatt Madumbi.

We invite you to share in this journey:
https://youtu.be/NHAY07i9Nrk. ■

Kindly take note of the following admin changes which come into effect immediately:

- Company name changes to: Andermatt Madumbi (Pty) Ltd.
- Please note our company registration number, VAT number, bank account numbers, shipping information, and company address remain unchanged.
- Company website domain changes to **www.andermatt.co.za**. All searches and documentation listing **www.madumbi.co.za** will automatically be redirected to the new domain.
- Company email addresses will likewise be updated as per the global Andermatt standard: **firstname.lastname@andermatt-php.co.za.** Again, all emails to existing **madumbi.co.za** domains will automatically be redirected.
- Madumbi contact number remains unchanged: **033 342 3984.**
- Andermatt Madumbi Team members' cell phone numbers are unchanged
- To receive an update on the Andermatt Madumbi new CI elements and media kit, please contact **donvae.hooker@andermatt.co.za.**

NWK vat hande met IP Makelaars

NWK het hande gevat met IP Makelaars SA (Edms) Beperk om IP & NWK Makelaars (Edms) Beperk te stig, wat innoverende en allesomvattende versekerings- en ander finansiële dienste bied.

Dit volg nadat Suid-Afrika se oudste landboumaatskappy sy aandeel in SENWK (Edms) Beperk, die houermaatskappy van CertiSure Brokers (Edms) (die makelary) Beperk en Univision Broker Services Edms Beperk (die administreerder) verkoop het en hiermee sy gesamentlike vennootskap met Senwes beëindig het.

NWK het intussen 'n belang bekom in IP Makelaars SA (Edms) Beperk, 'n gemagtigde finansiële diensteverskaffer, wat in 1987 tot die versekeringsbedryf toegetree het en bekend is as 'n passievolle onderneming met ervare en hoogs gekwalifiseerde personeel, wat in kumulatiewe jare meer as 113 jaar ervaring in die bedryf het.

Die tradisionele kliëntebasis van NWK, wat gediens was deur CertiSure Lichtenburg, Coligny, Sannieshof, Delareyville, Koster en Zeerust, tesame met die betrokke CertiSure makelaars en personeel, is vanaf 1 Julie 2021 deur IP & NWK Makelaars oorgeneem, onder leiding van die ervare IP van der Merwe en Elretha Kock.

Die formele oordrag van kliënte se versekeringsportefeuljes na IP & NWK Makelaars het ook reeds afgeskop.

Klante sal steeds van 'n wye reeks produkte en dienste van hoogstaande gehalte gebruik kan maak:

- reis-, korttermyn-, lewens- en oesversekering;
- boedelbeplanning en -bereddering;
- mediese fondse;
- testamente;
- aftreebeplanning; en
- beleggings.

"NWK is trots om hande te vat met 'n dinamiese nuwe sakevennoot in die versekeringsarena. Dit vorm deel van ons fokus op kliëntediens en -tevredenheid en die voortdurende belyning van ons sakebelange hiermee.

"Ons sien uit na die lewering van volgehoue verbeterde en professionele kliëntediens vir ons kliënte (insluitend ons personeel) en aandeelhouers by wyse van hierdie nuwe dinamiese vennootskap," het Theo Rabe, hoof- uitvoerende beampte van NWK, gesê. ■

Jong boere beïndruk

Toyota SA/Agri SA Jongboer van die Jaar-finaliste

Nine young farmers were nominated and recognised by their respective Agri SA provincial councils recently. Now these candidates will be judged according to their financial and business acumen, farming skills, and proficiency in management, focusing specifically on their own contribution, independence, as well as decision-making abilities in order to decide on the national winner.Toyota SA has been a long-standing sponsor of this award. The national winner of the Toyota SA/Agri SA Young Farmer of the Year and the Toyota SA New Harvest competition will be announced on 18 November 2021 in Johannesburg.

Die waarde van die jongboer-kompetisie, om jong rolmodelle in die landbou te identifiseer wat as voorbeeld vir nuwe toetreders kan dien, moet nie onderskat word nie.

Die provinsiale wenners kwalifiseer almal as finaliste uit wie se geledere die nasionale wenner van die Toyota SA/Agri SA Jongboer van die Jaar-kompetisie aangewys sal word.

Agri Wes-Kaap: Alexander Gibson
Die 32-jarige Alexander Gibson van Ceres in die Witzenberg Vallei is as die Agri Wes-Kaap Santam Landbou Jongboer van die Jaar aangewys. Gibson was een van vyf deelnemers wat vanjaar om die titel as beste jongboer in die Wes-Kaap meegeding het.

"Ek glo as jy vanaand hier sit as 'n deelnemer in die Wes-Kaap, in die Suid-Afrikaanse omgewing en demografie van landbou, dan het jy in elk geval klaar gewen," het hy tydens sy aankondiging as wenner gesê. PF Theron, voorsitter van die Agri Wes-Kaap Jongboerkomitee, het gesê die paneel beoordelaars het weer dié jaar 'n baie moeilike taak gehad om 'n wenner uit uitstekende deelnemers te kies.

"Die kompetisie wys elke jaar vir ons dat die landbou se toekoms in goeie hande is, maar dit strek verder as net voedselsekerheid. Die bydrae wat die jongboere in hulle gemeenskappe maak en die waarde wat hulle toevoeg, is wat van ons jongboere 'n bate vir die land maak," sê hy.

Vrystaat Landbou: Douglas Osler
"Wat jy insit, sal jy uitkry." Dit is een van Douglas Osler se oortuigings. Osler het die titel as Vrystaat Landbou Santam Landbou se Jongboer van die Jaar losgeslaan. Sy boerderyvertakkings sluit appelproduksie in.

"Harde werk, aandag aan detail en – in hierdie bedryf – baie geloof sal 'n besigheid laat aanhou groei en vooruitgaan," sê hy. Volgens hom is uitdagings en terugslae leerkurwes wat bydra tot die spesiale ervaring van 'n ongelooflike beroep.

Verder is Osler passievol oor mense-ontwikkeling en wil geleenthede vir werkers skep sodat hulle kan groei. "Ek wil werknemers hê wat trots is op ons handelsmerk, eienaarskap van hul verantwoordelikhede neem en 'n goeie bestaan maak."

Hy sê jongboere het die unieke geleentheid om die nalatenskap van hul voorgangers voort te sit en daarop te bou deur tegnologie te omarm. Osler meen ook dat jongboere 'n rol het om te speel in die gesprek oor grondhervorming en dat hulle met nuwe idees sensitiewe sake kan oplos.

Agri Noordwes: Wernich Lemmer
As 'n gekwalifiseerde en professionele meganiese ingenieur het Wernich Lemmer as sisteemingenieur by die Matimba-kragstasie in Lephalale gewerk. Hy het dié beroepsveld in 2018 vaarwel geroep om voltyds in die familieboerdery betrokke te wees, en boer op die plaas Lemmersville.

Lemmer is aangewys as Agri Noordwes en Santam Landbou se Jongboer van die Jaar. Sy boerderyvertakkings bestaan uit 80% mielieproduksie en 20% beesproduksie en dit is sy visie om die boerdery verder generies uit te brei en om ook 'n derde kontantvloei-vertakking te begin. Laasgenoemde sal in geheel uiteindelik 'n suksesvolle maatskappy vorm.

Hy is van mening dat produsente in goeie jare, soos wat tans die geval is, 'n Josefsbeleid moet volg en reeds voorsiening maak vir uitdagende tye. "Die belangrikste is egter om as rentmeester nederig te bly en in jou geloof geanker te bly. As produsent is jou geloof jou belangrikste medewerker," sê Lemmer.

Mpumalanga Landbou: Kirch Muller
Kirch Muller is aangewys as Mpumalanga 2021 Toyota SA/Santam Agri Jongboer van die Jaar. Hy is die uitvoerende bestuurder van die Hoëveld-vertakking van Zonnebloem Boerdery in die Middelburg-distrik.

Muller is verantwoordelik vir die saaiery van bykans 6 000 ha, sowel as die veevertakking van ongeveer 1 000 beeste. Hy is reeds 12 jaar in diens van Zonnebloem Boerdery, waar hy as voorman begin werk het. Onder sy bestuur is presisieboerdery by Zonnebloem Boerdery gevestig en word dit steeds toegepas.

Agri Limpopo: Leon Lötter
Leon het grootgeword in die Watersvalsriviervallei naby Burgersfort. Hy het aan Lydenburg Hoërskool gematrikuleer in 2009. Ná skool het hy tydelik gewerk op die plaas waar hy grootgeword en sy pa met sitrus geboer het. Daarna het hy sy dieselwerktuigkundige-ambag gaan doen en in 2014 weer teruggekeer vallei toe om sy passie vir sitrus uit te leef. Leon en sy vrou Nanrie is in 2016 getroud en is geseënd met 'n tweejarige seuntjie, Dawid.

Leon het in 2014 as 'n junior produksiebestuurder by Indigo Fruit Farming in Burgersfort begin werk. Passie, harde werk en uithouvermoë het daartoe gelei dat hy homself opgewerk het in 'n baie kort tydjie. Vandag is hy die landboubestuurder van 750 ha, waarvan die meerderheid sagte sitrus is en 90 ha suurlemoene.

"Ek sal sê my liefde vir sitrus het gekom van my pa en my oupa wat albei met sitrus geboer het. Ek is baie gelukkig om nog my oupa in my lewe te hê – hy het dié jaar 95 jaar oud geword! My oupa het my geleer om hard te werk en te fokus op die kleiner dinge wat saak maak in 'n boerdery."

Leon sê uitdagings dryf hom vorentoe: "Om vinnig 'n ingeligte besluit te kan maak om seker te maak die boerdery beweeg vooruit."

Sy motto is as jy die basiese beginsels van jou boerdery goed gaan doen, is daar baie min wat verkeerd kan gaan.

FARMER NEWS

Oos-Kaap Jongboer van die Jaar, Duncan Currie, sy vrou Sarah Jane en hul seuntjie, Jason.

Agri Oos-Kaap: Duncan Currie
Duncan Currie is op 18 Augustus 2021 tydens Agri Oos-Kaap se virtuele kongres aangewys as die Jongboer van die Jaar-wenner. Duncan is getroud met Sarah Jane en die paartjie het een kind.

Duncan boer op die plaas Lindisfarne in die Cathcart-omgewing waar daar onder meer met wolskape, skape, beeste en 'n melkery geboer word.

Dié jongboer se visie vir sy besigheid is weldeurdag en behels uitbreiding deur vertikale groei, en die gebruik van tegnologie gebaseer op boerdery- en besigheidspraktyke om natuurlike hulpbronne optimaal te gebruik. Die derde element is opvolgbeplanning en volhoubaarheid: Dié boer glo aan *"farming for the future"* waar toekomstige generasies steeds kan groei suksesvol wees met die inisiatiewe wat nou in plek gestel word.

Laastens wil hy bydra tot die gemeenskap. Volgens Duncan werk boere nie in afsondering nie. "Dit is belangrik dat ons altyd 'n waardevolle bydrae lewer, nie net vir ons plaaslike boere nie, maar ook vir die groter boeregemeenskap," sê hy. "Ons maak 'n verskil deur ons betrokkenheid by verskillende komitees, ons bystand in 'n menigte projekte en deur deel te wees van die vooruitgang van die georganiseerde landbou."

Duncan is lid van Agri Oos-Kaap en die Upper Cathcart boerevereniging.

Agri Gauteng: José Goncalves
Die wenner van Agri Gauteng se Jongboer van die Jaar is José Goncalves. Hy bestuur 'n diverse boerdery wat uit groente en akwakultuur bestaan.

José voel geëerd om die toekenning te ontvang en glo dat jong boere 'n belangrike rol speel in die goeie reputasie wat Suid-Afrikaanse boere het. "Hulle is die boere van die toekoms. Hulle moet innoverend dink en moderne tegnologie aanwend om bekostigbare voedsel te produseer."

Sy primêre doel is om boerdery te geniet. Hoewel hy nou al vir vyf jaar voltyds boer, sê hy dat hy vir so lank as wat hy kan onthou saam met sy pa en ooms by boerdery betrokke was. Hy hou daarvan om te skuif aan die grense van dít wat hy met sy besigheid kan bereik in terme van verbeterde volhoubaarheid en winsgewendheid. Verder maak hy seker dat die besigheid finansieel gesond bly en glo hy dat finansiële stabiliteit dit vir boere moontlik maak om geleenthede aan te gryp en uitdagings te oorkom.

FARMER NEWS

Agri Noord-Kaap: Gerhard Bruwer
Gerhard Bruwer is tydens Agri Noord-Kaapse kongres op 25 Augustus 2021 aangewys was die jongboerwenner van die organisasie.

Gehard is getroud met Liezel en die paartjie het drie kinders. Hulle boer op die plaas Pitcom in die Douglas-omgewing.

Die gediversifiseerde boerderyvertakkings sluit onder meer in mielies, koring, gars, saadsonneblom, aartappels, lusern, pekanneute, beeste, uie, grondbone asook druiwe.

Volgens Gerhard is hy 'n toegewyde boer wat besluite deeglik deurdink en berekende besluite neem. Wanneer produksiebesluite in die boerdery geneem word, word kritiese vrae oor volhoubaarheid, winsgewendheid, uitvoerbaarheid, aanpasbaarheid, en bekombaarheid gevra.

Dié jongboer is aktief betrokke by georganiseerde landbou. Hy dien op Douglas Landbou-unie en Graan SA se hoofbesture. Hy is voorsitter van Graan SA se grondboonforum, dien op sy boerevereniging se bestuur, is deel van Douglas se jongboerkomitee en hy is lid van die Oranjevaal Watervereniging se dagbestuur.

GENERAL AND INDUSTRY NEWS

New media space for ag messages

AgriVoice, a non-profit company and new agricultural message distribution hub, aims to serve South African agriculture through communication, building networks on a broad basis in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Agri Voice will be run by a board of directors consisting of Dr Willem Pretorius as chairman (currently the president of Agri Gauteng), Thina Nodada (an import and export specialist and owner of Waymaker Solutions), GP van Rheede from Oudtshoorn (a communication specialist, currently attached to NWU), and from now onwards also a representative of the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO).

The transaction involved the takeover of Agri Connect as a going concern and presents a wonderful opportunity for growth in media evolution. Furthermore, it has been possible to accommodate all staff members of both Agri Connect and Agri TV in the new structure. Agri Voice and Agri Connect will be managed by Albert Loubser as managing director.

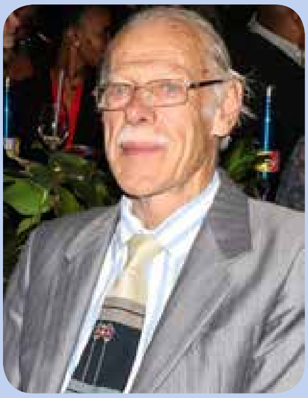
BAYER

In memoriam

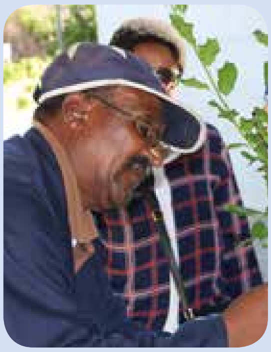
Dit is met leedwese en simpatie dat ons die volgende baanbrekers in die landoubedryf groet. Elkeen van hulle het op sy/haar veld diep spore in die landbou getrap.

Ons harte gaan uit na hulle families, vriende en kollegas in hierdie tyd.

Dr. André Ernst, besturende direkteur van Allesbeste Boerdery is onlangs na 'n lang siekbed aan Covid-19 oorlede. Allesbeste is in 2016 aangewys as die Landbouskrywers SA se Nasionale Boer van die Jaar en André was alom bekend vir die baanbrekerswerk wat hy gedoen het in die avokadobedryf. André het in 1980 by die boerdery net buite Tzaneen by sy pa aangesluit. Hy het in 1984 sy doktorsgraad aan die Unversiteit van Pretoria verwerf.



Dr Wynand van der Walt was the first general manager of the South African National Seed Association (SANSOR) and instrumental in the establishment and success of SANSOR for over a decade. He was also a founding member of the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA). He continued to work tirelessly for South African agriculture, especially within the biotechnology sector and was involved in many crop forums for many years after his formal retirement from SANSOR.

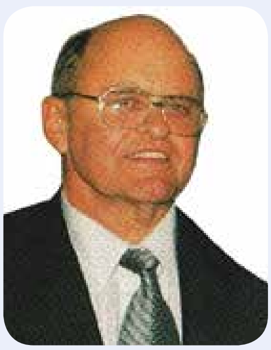


Dr. Piet Stassen, steenvrug- en onderstamkenner, en mnr. Tippie Malgas van SAPO Trust.

Beide het in hul onderskeie velde onmeetbare waarde tot die bedryf toegevoeg.

Dr. Stassen, een van Suid-Afrika se voorste kenners van vrugte-onderstamme en voeding by sagte- en steenvrugte, asook 'n kenner van mango's en advokados, is tien dae voor sy 75ste verjaardag oorlede.

Frank Lawrence was involved in an accident on his farm in Jacobsdal when he was hit by moving equipment. He was airlifted for emergency medical treatment but died in hospital after sustaining critical injuries. Lawrence farmed extensively and, other than serving on the GWK board of directors since the inception of the company, his leadership extended to many other forums in the industry. He was elected as GWK chairperson in 2012 and served as vice-chairperson since 2020.



Dr. Johan (Swannie) Swanevelder is weens komplikasies ná 'n operasie in hospitaal in Gauteng oorlede. Dok Swannie was een van die voorste grondboonkenners wat Suid-Afrika nóg opgelewer het.

BAYER

Bonnievale claims wine spotlight with twin gold at Gilbert & Gaillard International Challenge

Bonnievale Wines has claimed two gold medals among the winners of the Gilbert & Gaillard International Challenge: The River Collection Sauvignon Blanc 2021 and Bonnievale Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon 2019.

"It's always gratifying to get recognition in awards programmes because they recognise the efforts of everyone involved in the realisation of fine wine and the excellence across the portfolio," says winemaker Marthinus Rademeyer.

Gilbert & Gaillard International Challenge
Gilbert & Gaillard is the publisher of an online guide to wine in France and 22 other countries, which makes it an important benchmark for wineries. France is also one the world's oldest and most acclaimed wine producers.

The River Collection Sauvignon Blanc 2021
The show's panel saluted The River Collection Sauvignon Blanc 2021, describing it as "clean, crisp and refreshing". Released just months ago, it is a medium-bodied and dry, yet fruity, white wine that is an excellent partner to all seafood, including sushi.

Bonnievale Limited Cabernet Sauvignon 2019
In awarding Gold to the Bonnievale Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon 2019, the judges said the wine was drinking "very well now", adding that it would continue to improve with age. This is the third vintage of the wine, which will be officially released later this year. Its predecessors have all been consistent champions, successfully expressing the sites of top vineyards in the Bonnievale stable as well as the quality of the variety from the ward.

For more information about Bonnievale Wines, visit the website, phone on 023 616 2795 or email info@bonnievalewines.co.za.

Interact with Bonnievale Wines on Twitter @bonnievalewines; Instagram, using bonnievalewines; and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/bonnievalewines/).

CALENDAR

Calendar	
1 September 2021	TLU congress. Personal attendance will be limited to invitations and the congress will also be hosted online. Register before 20 August 2021 at ***registrasievorm***. The congress programme can be found at ***kongresprogram.***
15 October 2021	Agricultural Writers SA North Awards Ceremony, Radisson Blue OR Tambo For more information contact Petrie Vogel at petrie@abevents.co.za or 074 051 3318.
22 Oktober 2021	Agricultural Writers SA !Xhariep region Awards Ceremony.
12 November 2021	Agricultural Writers SA National Awards Ceremony, Cavalli, Stellenbosch. Contact Eunice Joubert at eunice@agriexpo.co.za.
13 November 2021	National Annual General Member Meeting.

Upcoming IFAJ congresses
2022 – Denmark
2023 – Canada
2024 – Switzerland
2025 – Israel
2026 – Kenya
2027 – Croatia

AGRIPEN EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Magda du Toit – editor
Petrie Vogel – administrator
Robyn Joubert
Charl van Rooyen
Jennifer Roets
Alani Janeke
Tineil Hurter

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The devastation caused by the recent fires in the Free State is clearly visible. Photo: Kobus Laubscher

Landbouskrywers-mannewalis
Foto: Charl van Rooyen.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Spring has sprung on Bufland farm in Limpopo. Bees feast on peach tree blossoms. Photo: Lindie Botha.

Stuur vir ons jou stories

Alle lede word uitgenooi om voor die 15de van elke maand bydraes vir *Agripen* te stuur aan Magda Du Toit by magda.du.toit@outlook.com of Petrie Vogel by petrie@abevents.co.za.

Send us your stories

All members are invited to send contributions to *Agripen* before the 15th of each month to Magda Du Toit at magda.du.toit@outlook.com or Petrie Vogel at petrie@abevents.co.za.

LANDBOUSKRYWERS AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA

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