



LANDBOUSKRYWERS
AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA

AGR pen

SPONSORED BY BAYER

SEPTEMBER 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

“Dear members of Agricultural Writers SA. In October and November this year, we will celebrate excellence, and honour the nominees for Farmer, Agriculturist, and New Entrant to Commercial Farming of the Year at both regional and national levels. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unfortunately unable to host any regional annual events or award these prizes last year, but now we are back in business! A year on and we have settled into a new way of hosting events either digitally or as hybrid events. This has brought with it new opportunities to potentially reach larger audiences, but also new challenges, especially when it comes to budgets. As we all adapt to this new normal, the benefits luckily outweigh the challenges.”

Participate to benefit

Your participation in these events will unlock the networking opportunities they offer. It also gives you the chance to meet the nominees and explore possible future interviews and articles with them or any of our corporate members and sponsors. Come and rekindle your contacts and meet a few new sources for future stories.

We have so many achievements and people in the agricultural sector to celebrate and I, personally, cannot

wait to enjoy the friendship and togetherness of the the Agricultural Writers SA (AWSA) regional and national events once again.

If you haven't done so yet, please diarise the national AWSA awards function to be held on 12 November at Cavalli near Stellenbosch. This year, the !Xhariep Region will host the event under the leadership of Eunice Joubert and it promises to be spectacular. Also, do not forget to enter the member competitions for photography and reporting, where some significant cash prizes are up for grabs.

Because of the uncertainty of lockdown regulations, the number of people allowed remains somewhat limited. Thanks to the hybrid nature of the event, those who cannot attend can follow the proceedings live online or watch the recording later. After a decision taken by the National Executive Committee, we will also host the Annual General Meeting online like last year. This will take place during the late afternoon/early evening on Wednesday 17 November 2021. Please keep an eye on your inbox for the official notice.



To make all this possible, we rely on the financial support of our generous sponsors. Thank you to Bayer Crop Science, Santam Agriculture, Health Squared Agility Agri, and our newest sponsor, FNB, for your support!”

Liza Bohlmann ■



Member competitions

Bayer Crop Science Technical Article of the Year 2021



The biggest cash prizes in the history of the Bayer Crop Science Agricultural Writers SA Technical Article of the Year are up for grabs in the 2021 edition of this competition!

This is one of the longest-running competitions available to members of AWSA and the biggest in terms of the value of the prizes awarded over the years. Previously known as the Dekalb Technical Article of the Year, the competition is supported by Bayer Crop Science as a sponsor to encourage AWSA members to improve their technical writing skills and understanding of agricultural science and farming techniques.

Prize money

1. Winner: R15 000 + flight ticket and congress fee to attend the IFAJ Congress 2022 in Denmark
2. Second place: R10 000
3. Third place: R5 000

Who is eligible?

Bayer Crop Science Division would like to reward the best entries that focus on the technical aspects of farming and explain them in a clearly understandable manner. Participants must be members of AWSA in good standing and can enter up to three articles/podcasts/video/radio reports that were published between 1 August 2020 and 31 August 2021.

The closing date for entries is 30 September 2021. Contributions in any one of the recognised South African languages, accompanied by a concise translation (if not originally in English or Afrikaans), are admissible.

Entries can be submitted to
Marna.swart@bayer.com

The winners will be announced at the AWSA awards function on 12 November 2021. ■



CROPLIFE SA: CROP PROTECTION ARTICLE AWARD

Members of the Agricultural Writers (Northern and !Xhariep regions) are invited to submit their articles pertaining to any aspect of crop protection in order to stand a chance to win R10 000 from CropLife South Africa. Topics for consideration include:

- Innovation in biological or chemical crop protection techniques or products
- Resistance management (Fungicide, Insecticide, Herbicide, Rodenticide)
- Responsible use of crop protection products
- Crop protection product supply chain
- Stewardship (including container management, obsolete stock management, storage and transportation, pollinator safety)
- The regulatory environment pertaining to crop protection products
- Maximum residue limits (MRLs) or Pre-harvest intervals (PHIs) involving crop protection products
- Integrated crop management (including integrated pest management as a component)

If you have produced an article of this nature that has been published between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 and would like to enter, kindly submit your article, along with the entry form to Elriza Theron (elriza@croplife.co.za), after which it will be sent on to the judging committee consisting of CropLife SA subject specialists and industry experts. Judgement criteria will be based on:

- Relevance
- Technical accuracy
- Comprehensibility
- Percentage of the article dedicated to crop protection

Kindly note that promotional articles cannot be considered for this award. Entries close 5 November 2021 and any article submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

CROP PROTECTION ARTICLE: ENTRY FORM			
GENERAL			
Name and Surname		Contact Number	
Publication		Email Address	
Title of the article			
Date of publication			
Signed by _____ on this _____ day of _____ 2020 at _____			
Received by _____ on this _____ day of _____ 2020 at _____			



CROPLIFE SA: BIOTECH ARTICLE AWARD

Members of the Agricultural Writers (Northern and !Xhariep regions) are invited to submit their articles pertaining to any aspect of biotechnology in order to stand a chance to win R10 000 from CropLife South Africa. Topics for consideration include:

- Innovation in plant biotechnology techniques or products (plant breeding innovations, genome editing opportunities)
- Plant Biotechnology product supply chain
- Plant Biotech stewardship (insect resistance management, integrated weed management, co-existence, advocacy and training)
- The regulatory environment pertaining to plant biotechnology products including products derived from new plant breeding innovations (focusing on existing and future regulatory policies)

If you have produced an article of this nature that has been published between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 and would like to enter, kindly submit your article, along with the entry form to Elriza Theron (elriza@croplife.co.za), after which it will be sent on to the judging committee consisting of CropLife SA subject specialists and industry experts. Judgement criteria will be based on:

- Relevance
- Technical accuracy
- Comprehensibility
- Percentage of the article dedicated to crop protection

Kindly note that promotional articles cannot be considered for this award. Entries close 5 November 2021 and any article submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

BIOTECH ARTICLE: ENTRY FORM			
GENERAL			
Name and Surname		Contact Number	
Publication		Email Address	
Title of the article			
Date of publication			
Signed by _____ on this _____ day of _____ 2020 at _____			
Received by _____ on this _____ day of _____ 2020 at _____			



BKB



41^{STE} BKB-FOTOKOMPETISIE

TOTALE PRYSGELD: R15 000

- Alle lede van Landbouuskrywers SA word genooi om aan die 41^{ste} BKB-FOTOKOMPETISIE vir die landbouers deel te neem.
- In die kompetisie val die klem op die kommunikasiewaarde van die foto's en fotografiese vaardigheid van die fotograaf.
- Daar is twee hooftoekennings:
 - LANDBOUFOTOGRAAF en
 - LANDBOUFOTO VAN DIE JAAR.

SLUITINGSDATUM: 1 Oktober 2021

(Vir vanjaar se kompetisie kan foto's met 'n publikasiedatum van 1 Mei 2020 tot 31 Augustus 2021 ingeskryf word.)



INSKRYWINGS WORD IN DIE VOLGENDE KLASSE BEOORDEEL:

- **KLAS 1: MENSE IN DIE BOERDERY**

Die mense, asook die boerderyverwante sake waarby hulle betrokke is, moet deur die inskrywings uitgebeeld word, soos die verkoop van produkte, kongresse, boeredae, demonstrasies en opleiding- en inligtingsessies. Foto's wat 'n lewenswyse op die plaas uitbeeld, val ook in dié klas.

- **KLAS 2: PLANTEGROEI**

Gewasse, weidings en probleemgewasse.

- **KLAS 3: DIERE**

Dit sluit in vee, pluimvee, visse, wild en ander plaas- en probleemdiere. Diere wat vir klas 4 kwalifiseer, word uitgesluit.

- **KLAS 4: WOL- EN BOKHAARBEDRYWE**

Foto's van wolskape en Angorabokke of enige ander foto's wat aspekte van dié bedrywe illustreer.

- **KLAS 5: LANDBOUWERKTUIE**

Werktuie en tegnologie wat daarmee verband hou.

- **KLAS 6: FOTO'S VAN LANDBOULANDSKAPPE**

Foto's van landskappe wat die landbou versinnebeeld.

- **KLAS 7: NUUS**

Enige foto van 'n nuusgebeurtenis wat nie by die ander klasse pas/ingeskryf kan word nie.

- **KLAS 8: PORTEFEULJE**

Ses enkelfoto's (elk met 'n byskrif en publikasiedatum) wat die deelnemer se vaardigheid as landboufotograaf weerspieël. Inskrywings moet van ses verskillende onderwerpe wees en kan kleur én swart en wit foto's insluit.

- **KLAS 9: ONGEPUBLISEERDE FOTO'S**

Enige foto wat op die landbou betrekking het en die deelnemer se vaardigheid as fotograaf weerspieël. Inskrywings word beperk tot ses foto's per persoon en kan kleur én swart en wit foto's insluit.

- **KLAS 10: BESTE FOTO**

Alle GEPUBLISEERDE FOTO'S in klas 1 tot klas 7 ding outomaties mee. Die wenfoto is die LANDBOUFOTO VAN DIE JAAR.

Die LANDBOUFOTOGRAAF VAN DIE JAAR word aangewys op grond van die punte wat aan GEPUBLISEERDE FOTO'S in klas 1 tot klas 7 toegeken word.

PRYSGELD:

Die totale prysgeld van die kompetisie beloop R15 000. Die prysgeld en punte wat aan inskrywings in elkeen van klasse 1 tot 9 toegeken word, is soos volg: Die eerste prys, R500 en 5 punte; die tweede prys, R400 en 3 punte; en die derde prys, R300 en 1 punt. Die wenner in klas 10 (LANDBOUFOTO VAN DIE JAAR) ontvang R2 000 en die Fotograaf van die Jaar R2 000. Toekennings kan ook weerhou word indien die inskrywings nie van 'n gewenste gehalte is nie.



REÛLS VAN DIE KOMPETISIE:

1. Kleur of swart en wit foto's ding in dieselfde klasse mee.
2. Foto's wat spesifiek vir advertensiedoeleindes geneem is of voorheen vir die kompetisie ingeskryf is, mag nie ingeskryf word nie.
3. Vir vanjaar se kompetisie moet foto's met 'n publikasiedatum van 1 Mei 2020 tot 30 April 2021 ingeskryf word. Dit geld vir inskrywings in Klas 1 tot Klas 8.
4. Die oorspronklike foto (al is dit in die drukproses aangepas) moet digitaal(per e-pos) ingestuur word. Die nodige byskrif moet voorsien word, asook die publikasie/webblad waarin dit gebruik en datum waarop dit gepubliseer is.
5. Insrywings moet nie kleiner as 1 MB per foto wees nie.
6. Die klasse is beplan om gelyksoortige materiaal te beoordeel. Hoewel foto's die teks moet toelig, is dit die foto's wat die korrekte klas bepaal. BYVOORBEELD:Foto's van beeste wat die teks oor weidings toelig, hoort in klas 3 (DIERE) en nie in klas 2 nie. Die beoordelaars kan in oorleg met die beamptes inskrywings nader korrekte klas oorplaas.
7. 'n Totaal van tien inskrywings kan voorgelê word. Daar is nie 'n beperking op die aantal inskrywings per klas nie, buiten in klas 9 (ses foto's).
8. Elke inskrywing moet bestaan uit 'n foto met 'n byskrif of meer as een foto wat teks toelig.
9. 'n Voltooid inskryfvorm moet alle inskrywings vergesel en die kopiereghouer moet die vorm onderteken. Indien die kopiereghouer nie geteken het nie, sal aanvaar word dat die deelnemer die kopiereghouer is en hy/sy die borg en organiseerders teen alle eise wat mag ontstaan, vrywaar.
10. Die borg behou die reg voor om enige inskrywing of foto vir uitstaldoeleindes of reklame in verband met die kompetisie te gebruik. Deelnemers moet gewillig wees om negatiewe, kleurtransparante of die oorspronklike digitale foto('s)vir dié doel aan die organiseerders beskikbaar te stel. Hoewel alle moontlike voorsorg getref sal word, kan die organiseerders nie verantwoordelik gehou word vir materiaal wat verlore gaan nie.
11. Alle lede van Landbouskrywers SA, met die uitsondering van diegene wat regstreeks by die beoordeling betrokke is, mag deelneem. Geen inskrywingsgeld word gevra nie.
12. Die deelnemer se bankbesonderhede moet die inskrywingsvorm vergesel.

INSKRYWINGS MOET GESTUUR WORD AAN:

Adèle Engelbrecht

BKB-Fotokompetisie:

adele.engelbrecht@landbou.com

Die inskrywings moet betyds wees vir die beoordeling.



BKB-FOTOKOMPETISIE INSKRYWINGSVORM

Die klasnommer, inskrywingsnommer en foto's moet in die e-pos se titel-lyn vermeld word (bv. Klas 3, Inskrywing 5, of Klas 4, Inskrywing 6). Geen ander besonderhede moet aangebring word nie.

Naam: _____

Sel: _____

BANKBESONDERHEDE:

Bank: _____ Rekeningnr. _____

Takkode: _____ Soort rekening: _____

Kantoorgebruik	Inskryfnommer	Klasnommer	Getal skeurblaie	Kort beskrywing van titel
	1			
	2			
	3			
	4			
	5			
	6			
	7			
	8			
	9			
	10			

Ek verklaar dat hierdie foto's my eie werk is en onderneem om die reëls van die kompetisie na te kom.

Geteken: _____ Datum: _____

Kopiereghouer se toestemming:

Geteken: _____ Datum: _____



La Niña dalk op pad vir die somerseisoen

Alani Janeke

Voorspellings dui daarop dat die kans groot is dat 'n La Niña-stelsel in die komende somer gaan heers.

“Die kans is tans meer as 60% vir 'n La Niña-stelsel, met bitter klein kans vir 'n El Niño-stelsel en 'n sowat 30%-kans dat die Enso (El Niño Suidelike Ossidatie) neutraal gaan bly. Die nuutste voorspellings wys wel dat die La Niña-stelsel versterk”, het Johan van den Berg, onafhanklike landbouweerkundige, tydens 'n webinar van die !Xhariep-streek van die Landboukrywers SA gesê.

“Die La Niña-stelsel wat tans ontwikkel, is van swak- tot mediumsterkte, met die nuutste voorspellings wat aandui dat dit omtrent dieselfde sterkte as verlede jaar kan wees”, het Van den Berg gesê.

Nog 'n teken wat gunstig is vir somerreënval oor Suid-Afrika, is die ontwikkeling van 'n negatiewe fase van die Indiese Oseaan-dipool (IOD). Hy het gesê 'n La Niña-stelsel en negatiewe IOD-fase is gewoonlik baie gunstig vir goeie somerreën.

Reënvalverwagtinge

Voorspellings dui tans op gemengde seine vir die suidelike dele van Afrika in September, Oktober, en November, met dele

wat ondergemiddelde reën kan kry, dele wat gemiddelde reënval kan kry, en ander dele wat bogemiddelde reën kan verwag. In Januarie, Februarie, en Maart 2022 gaan die reënvalpatroon meer weswaarts begin skuif, met die kans op reën wat dan minder gaan begin raak oor Mpumalanga en KwaZulu-Natal.

Hoop vir droogtegeteisterde gebiede

Van den Berg het gesê die gebiede in die Oos-Kaap, die Noord-Kaap, en die Karoo (veral die Boesmanlandstreek), wat ernstige droogtetoestande beleef, val tussen die somer- en winterreënstreek, wat voorspellings vir dié streke moeiliker maak. “Hoewel voorspellings vir die suidwestelike dele van die Noord-Kaap nog onduidelik is, is die kans goed dat droogtetoestande in dele van die Oos-Kaap in die komende maande kan breek.” Van den Berg het verduidelik dat 'n sterk La Niña-stelsel nodig is om die droogtetoestande oor die Noord-Kaap te breek, maar daar is 'n kans dat die negatiewe fase van die IOD vanjaar kan help dat die La Niña-stelsel se effek verder wes kan uitbrei.

Risiko's

Hy het ook gewaarsku dat sprinkane in die komende seisoen weer kan voorkom, veral

oor gebiede wat reën kan kry nadat dit die afgelope paar jaar baie droog was. “Dr. Gerhard Verdoorn, bedryfsbestuurder van CropLife SA, het onlangs ook gesels by 'n sessie waar ek 'n spreker was, en hy het boere gevra om betyds voorsorg te tref vir die komende seisoen en om enige moontlike sprinkaanswerms vinnig aan te meld.”

Die komende somer kan weer moeilik wees vir tafeldruifboere in die Benede-Oranjerivier-gebied en die Hexriviervallei, en boere moet die weer goed dop hou om te bepaal hoe vinnig hulle moet oes. Van den Berg het gesê voorspellings dui tans aan dat reën oor die Benede-Oranjerivier-gebied vroeër as normaal kan wees, met goeie neerslae wat reeds in November en begin-Desember kan uitsak. Voorspellings dui ook op stelsels wat in Januarie en Februarie 2022 oor Namibië kan ontwikkel, wat reën tot so ver as die Wes-Kaap en Hexriviervallei kan laat uitsak.

Met goeie neerslae wat oor die meeste dele van Suid-Afrika verwag word, kan plaë en diereen plantsiektes in die komende seisoen voorkom. Boere moet dus die nodige voorsorg tref. Van der Berg het gesê oorstromings kan voorkom. Sommige damme is steeds redelik vol en kan dus met swaar reën oorstroom. ■



Fairview excels

Well-known Master of Wine Tim Atkin recently launched his South Africa 2021 Special Report and announced his wines of the year, overall wine of the year, and various other awards pertaining to winemakers.

Four of Fairview's wines received Medals of Excellence by receiving scores of 90 points or more:

- Fairview Beryl Back 2020 (91)
- Fairview La Beryl Blanc 2020 (93)
- Bloemcool Ploegperd 2019 (93)
- Bloemcool Berg en Dal Oupa Se Wingerd 2019 (94)

During Atkin's announcement of his Winemakers of the Year, Charles Beck was awarded the Winemaking Legend of the Year Award – a momentous achievement and another notch on the belt of a glittering 42-year career in wine. Atkin referred to Charles as: "one of the country's most visionary, courageous, and pioneering wine personalities. It was he who led the revolutionary move into the Swartland, becoming the catalyst for significant change in winegrowing and winemaking. He helped introduce new cultivars to the Cape, set new standards in wine tourism, and he is also one of the most progressive employers." ■



Charles Beck with Warren Bam, New Entrant to Commercial Farming of the Year, and Dr Annemie Erasmus, Agriculturist of the Year.

Sernick Group announces collaboration with Absa

Nick Serfontein, chairman of the Sernick Group, was the Agricultural Writers SA's National Farmer of the Year in 2019.



The Sernick Group proudly announced that it can now commence with the second phase of its Developing Farmers Programme in the Free State, thanks to grant funding from Absa.

Between 2018 and 2020, the Sernick Group, together with the Jobs Fund at National Treasury, implemented the highly successful Sernick Developing Farmers Programme. The initiative is a comprehensive intervention in which emerging black farmers are recruited, trained, set up, and provided with supply opportunities through integration into Sernick's value chain.

A total of 660 farmers (Tier 1) were recruited, given SETA-accredited training and an

opportunity to replace their old stock with good-quality cattle that fetch higher prices at the market.

A total of 300 farmers (Tier 2), selected from the 660, were equipped with technical skills to enable them to develop their own herds, while maintaining healthy cash flows to meet their working capital requirements. Another 50 farmers (Tier 3), from these 300 farmers, were upskilled into viable commercial entities with their own production capacity.

This second phase with Absa, and Sustainable Agri NPC (Sernick's non-profit arm), which will span over three years, allows Sernick to take on 60 additional Tier 2 farmers and 40 additional Tier 3 farmers. Under specific terms and conditions, Absa will also make loans available to eligible Tier 3 farmers

The 40 Tier 3 farmers will be selected from the initial programme with the Jobs Fund, as well as new entrants in Tier 2 of the second programme. All farmers with a formal land tenure of more than 300 ha, as well as 40 productive cattle, may apply for this second programme. Farmers who have already benefitted from the programme with the Jobs Fund may not apply again. They will, however, automatically be considered for selection as a Tier 3 farmer in the second programme.

Interested and qualifying farmers who want to join the programme can contact Naledi@cmeat.co.za for an application form that must be submitted to her office before 30 September 2021. ■

Agribusiness Confidence Index reflects favourable conditions in South African agriculture

The current level of the Agbiz/IDC Agribusiness Confidence Index (ACI) reflects favourable conditions in South Africa's agriculture sector and for agribusiness.

Following a surge to an all-time high of 75 in the second quarter of this year, the Agbiz/IDC ACI retracted back to 67 points in the third quarter. According to Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz), this third-quarter survey was conducted between the last week of August and the first week of September, and covered

agribusinesses operating in all agricultural subsectors across South Africa.

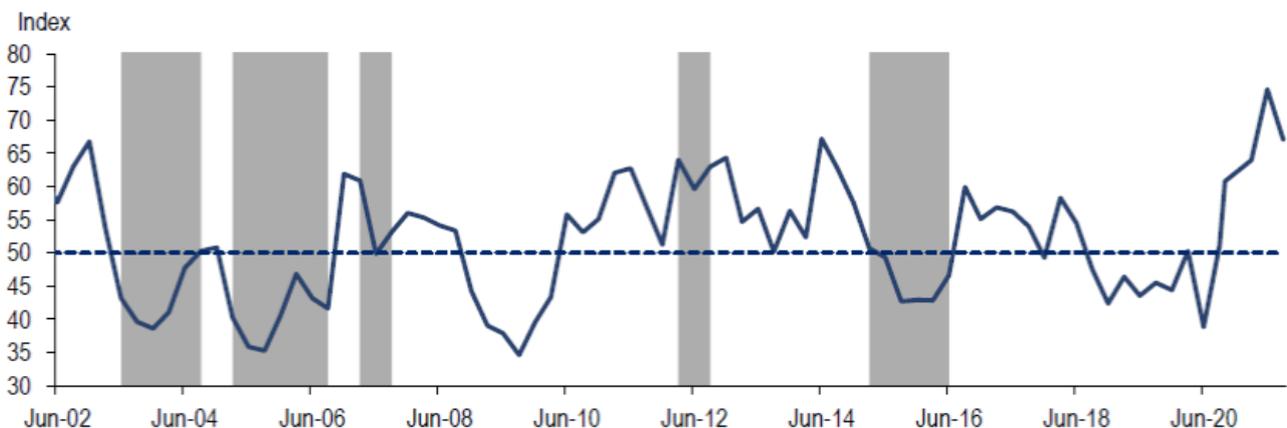
He says a level above the neutral 50-point mark implies that agribusinesses are optimistic about operating conditions in the country. This optimism reflects both the large output and higher commodity prices that have benefited farming businesses in the 2020/2021 agricultural production season and the favourable outlook for the upcoming 2021/2022 season. Higher commodity prices and the positive weather outlook, which shows prospects of above-normal rain across most regions of South

Africa, are supportive factors for agribusinesses.

"We expect robust growth performance of between 6% and 7% year-on-year in agriculture's gross value to be added in 2021 from an already high base after the strong growth of 13,4% in 2020.

Our only major concerns are ongoing glitches in the country's logistics services, both in the in-country and shipping ports centres. This is an area that needs increased attention for policymakers in an export-oriented agricultural sector like South Africa," he says. ■

Figure 1: Agbiz/IDC Agribusiness Confidence Index¹



Source: Agbiz Research, South African Weather Service

(Shaded areas indicate periods when rainfall across South Africa was below the average level of 500 millimetres)

Focus on dragon fruit production in South Africa

A recent Produce Marketing Association (PMA) and Beanstalk Global broadcast focused on dragon fruit production in South Africa.

Leading experts in the South African dragon fruit industry took part in the panel discussion, including Michael Muller from the Muller Family Boerdery

Trust; Fred Steyn, newly appointed chair of the Southern Africa Dragon Fruit Association; CT van der Merwe, chief executive officer of AL 3 Boerdery; Laura Strever from Amorentia Estate & Nursery; and Jason Sampson, curator of the Manie van der Schijff Botanical Gardens, a division of the Plant and Soil Sciences Department at the University of Pretoria. ■



BEANSTALK GLOBAL BROADCAST

KEY TAKEAWAYS



1

Dragon fruit is said to be native to Central America. The French are believed to have brought the fruit to Vietnam over 100 years ago. The industry in SA is about 10 years old.



2

The Southern Africa Dragon Fruit Association focuses on strengthening the industry through the gathering and sharing of knowledge.



3

The cold chain has been carefully identified to secure the export process. Efficient packhousing make it possible to deliver local produced dragon fruit within a week in export markets.



4

Although dragon fruit are easy growers, farmers have to produce high yields and quality fruit to make it economically viable.



5

Consumers have started to consider adding dragon fruit to their shopping baskets.



6

Dragon fruit farming is labour intensive and generates much needed employment.

New dealership for New Holland in Limpopo



A dealership for New Holland in Limpopo will provide farmers throughout the province with expanded access to the full range of the company's products and parts, with a special focus on tractors, tractor-loader-backhoes (TLB), and balers.

Located on the outskirts of Polokwane in Limpopo, New Holland has made a significant investment in its facilities to improve customer experiences. According to Andrew Jonker, head of dealer network development for New Holland Agriculture Southern Africa, Limpopo New Holland's prior automotive experience, coupled with real grass-roots farming, was beneficial for New Holland in this important

farming area. "This is a region characterised by smaller farms, involved in everything from maize and potatoes to cattle farming. Limpopo is full of committed, forward-thinking farmers that seize the opportunity to improve productivity with increased mechanisation."

The dealership comprises a team of six, which includes two salesmen, a parts manager and

two service technicians – both of whom come to Limpopo with immediate New Holland experience. They will manage a fully equipped workshop, fitted with the latest New Holland diagnostics and on-board diagnostics (OBD) systems. The technicians will also be available on-call, working from well-equipped farm-service vehicles, to deal with customer requirements on a 24/7 basis. ■

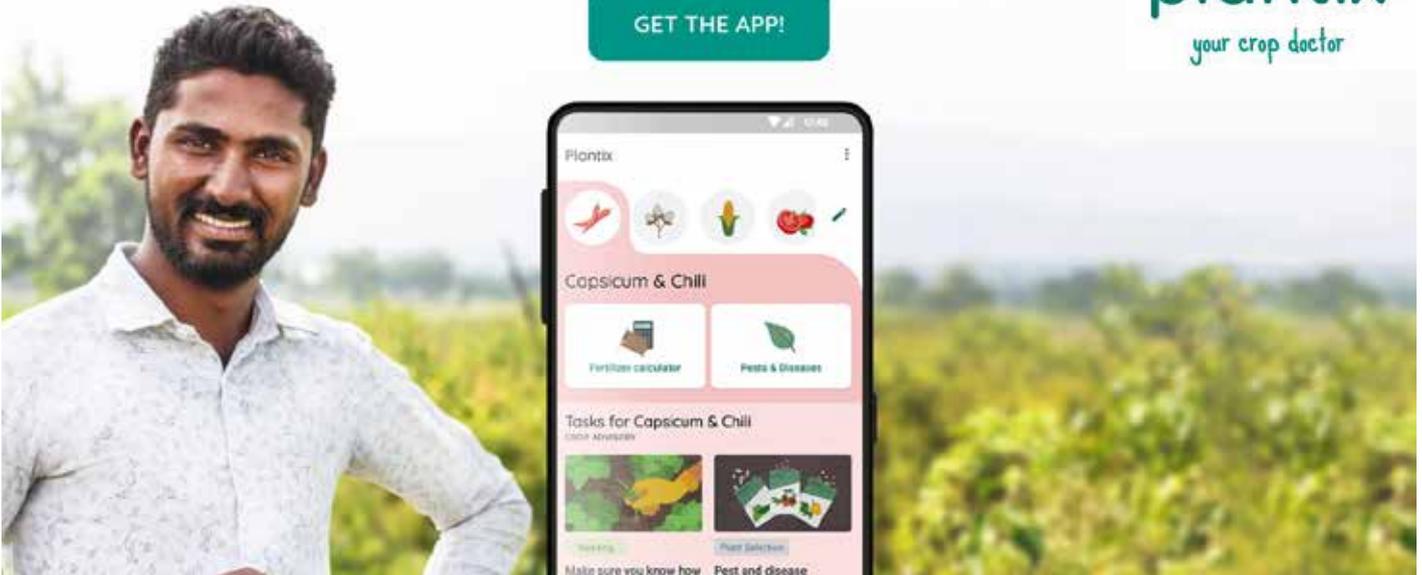


Corteva Agriscience and Plantix introduce a free pest, disease, and weed identification app



plantix
your crop doctor

GET THE APP!



Corteva Agriscience is proud to announce the launch of a new mobile application (app), Corteva™ FarmFundi, that will provide a digital pest and disease identification guide for farmers across Africa and the Middle East (AME).

According to Linda van der Merwe, marketing lead at Corteva Agriscience, once threats are accurately identified using the app, farmers can consult with Corteva's expert crop scientists and local agronomists for treatment recommendations via

email or the web links provided. "Researchers estimate that invasive species alone cost Africa's agricultural sector \$74,3 billion (R1,1 trillion) each year, compounded by an approximate \$21,5 billion (R324 billion) worth of crop losses inflicted by insects and other pests. As such, we are excited to bring our first-to-market digital tool to farmers in AME.

Our collaboration with **Plantix** allows us to combine the very best of innovative mobile farming technology with the keen insights and vast expertise of our technical teams, helping

to mitigate potential impacts to livelihoods and food security," she says.

The most critical part of managing crop exposures is correctly identifying the cause, so that appropriate solutions can be implemented and costly mistakes that threaten sustainable and safe management practices can be avoided.

CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

The user-friendly platform empowers farmers to upload or scan pictures, along with a short description of symptoms and accompanying notes, enabling timeous risk management and prevention. Experts are also able to update and transfer the latest information on new, emerging pests and trends in real time.

“The best part is that internet access is required for downloading the app as well as subsequent updates, but essential information can be accessed offline,” said Van der Merwe.

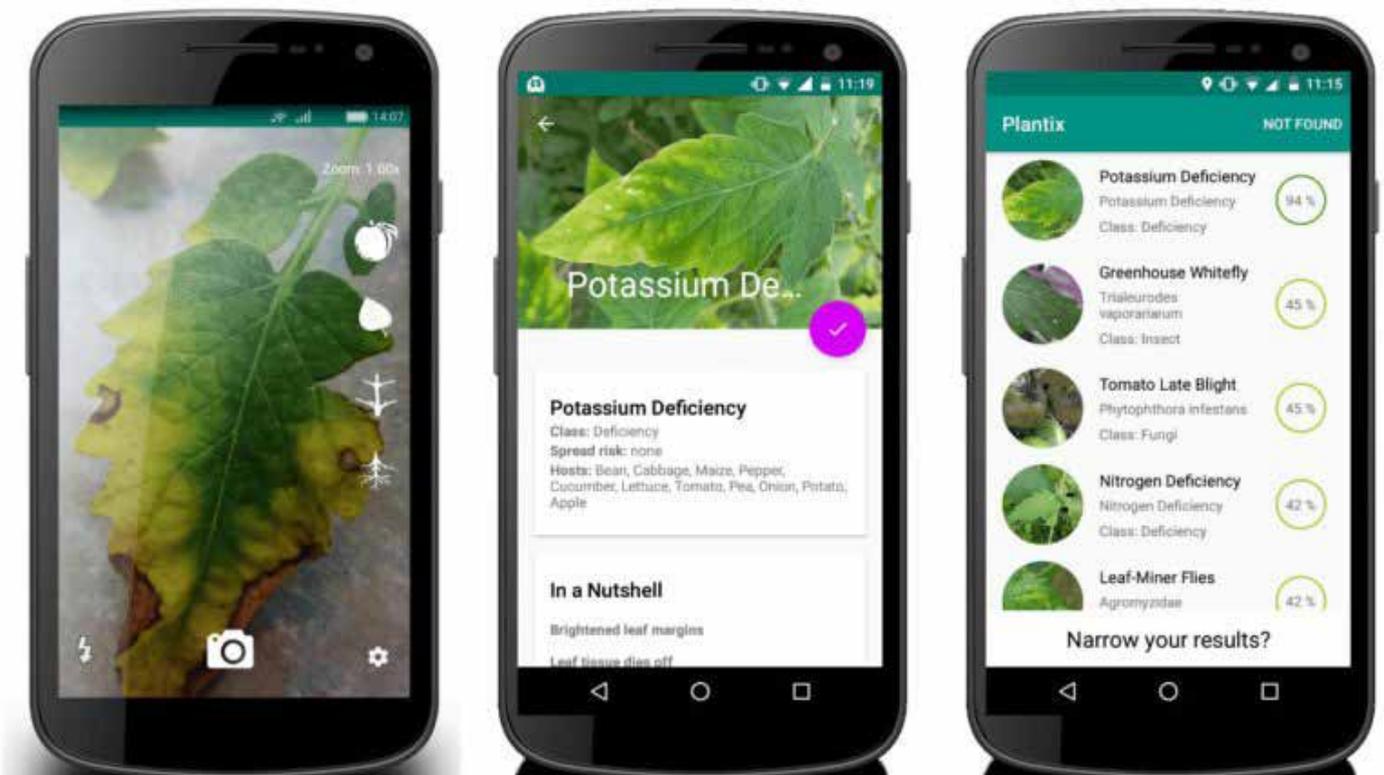
“This is an important feature for users who do not have access to a quality mobile connection while out in the field.”

“Supporting farmers (and gardeners) all over the planet to secure their crops and contribute to food security has always been one of the main drivers of our efforts. We are now even more delighted to be able to provide our cutting-edge technology solution, while partnering with Corteva; making it accessible to a broader range of users across

new regions”, says Rob Strey, co-founder and chief technology officer atPlantix.

The Corteva™ FarmFundi app is available for free download from the Apple® iOS and Google Android™ app stores in English, Swahili, Afrikaans, French, and Arabic.

With the increasing demand for healthier, quality food, against the backdrop of COVID-19, the Corteva™ FarmFundi app also delivers on Corteva’s sustainability commitments, ensuring progress for generations to come. ■



SABO appoints general manager



The South African Bioproduct Organisation (SABO) recently appointed Andrew Bennett as general manager on a part-time basis to assist with day-to-day operations, including supporting and overseeing the activities related to its working groups and creating initiatives to promote the biological industry. Clarifying the regulatory process for biologicals is high on the priority list.

Bennett joins the team after 22 years at Monsanto, where he led their technology development

team in Asia and Africa. He holds an MSc from the University of the Witwatersrand and a postgraduate diploma in marketing management, as well as various certificate programmes in trademark and patent law from the University of South Africa (UNISA). He has also been active in various industry bodies such as the Insect Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) and the innovation committee of the South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR).

SABO was established in 2013 as a brainchild between the then Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF),

various research institutions, and agricultural industry. The objective was to improve the standards of bioproducts in the market to protect both suppliers and the growers using these biological products.

The purpose of SABO is to develop the agricultural bioproduct industry in South Africa and to regulate the activities of participants in accordance with high ethical and science-based standards. Agricultural private companies, universities, and individuals contribute to SABO's current 37-member base. For more information, please visit www.sabo.org.za. ■

World Macadamia Organisation launched

The World Macadamia Organisation (WMO) was officially launched in Singapore, with a mandate to drive demand by creating a greater understanding and appreciation of this understated wholefood.

Industry data and global supply forecasts show the supply of macadamia nut-in-shell will double by 2025, and possibly triple by 2030, to over 600 000 t.

To ensure that demand meets supply, while still retaining the macadamia's premium positioning, the WMO has been charged with stimulating growth and helping to solidify the long-term foundations for a strong, sustainable market. The founding CEO of the WMO, Jillian Laing, has an extensive background in global food marketing working across consumer, snack foods, dairy, ingredients, and foodservice. Laing is currently based in Auckland, New Zealand. ■

Argo Tractors announce opening of a brand new state-of-the-art facility in South Africa

Argo Tractors is one of the world leaders in agricultural mechanisation; Landini and McCormick are two of the best-known and most respected brands in agricultural mechanisation globally. With solid roots in the specialist vineyard, orchard, and vegetable sectors, as well as in row crops, the company looks forward to a great future at the side of farmers worldwide.

During a ground-breaking ceremony in Pomona recently, Argo Tractors announced the opening of a brand new, state-of-the-art facility in Kempton Park, South Africa. Argo Tractors plans to officially open the facility, which will also be the new headquarters of Argo Tractors South Africa, in March/April 2022.

Speaking about the new facility, Simeone Morra, director of corporate business at Argo Tractors, stated that the decision to invest in this endeavour stemmed from Argo's global vision to provide excellent customer service in all their strategic markets, including South Africa. "Business and market share growth has necessitated the investment in this new facility, in turn this will support further growth



of the business in South Africa and sub-Saharan markets," Morra added.

The full operation of the company including the administrative, marketing, sales, technical support, and parts and training will relocate to this new facility, supporting the markets of Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



"The new site will be home to an advanced training centre that will

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From the left: Godfried Heydenrych, managing director at Argo Tractors South Africa, Simeone Morra, director of corporate business at Argo Tractors, and Gerrit Bezuidenhout, Landbouweekblad journalist and member of Agricultural Writers SA.

ensure continuous development of the necessary technical and application skills within the dealer network. The building is also designed to host our customers for special events, including the introduction of new products, services, and technology. This facility will be a cutting-edge operational site dedicated to high-performance products and parts designed for modern agriculture," said Godfried Heydenrych,

managing director at Argo Tractors South Africa.

The 6 400 m² facility will be pressurised to minimise dust and will make optimum use of natural lighting, enabling the company to use less electricity. The assembly area will be equipped with nine assembly bays, which will be utilised to locally assemble tractors and implements that will reduce shipping cost and

supports localisation and job creation. The latest technology in agricultural tractors and equipment will be on display in the 700 m² showroom as well as a 2 000 m² dedicated parts warehouse. ■

"We are committed to providing our customers with world-class equipment matched by outstanding service," Heydenrych said. "The new facility will equip our staff and dealers with the support they need not only regarding sales, but most importantly, to grow customer relations and after-sale service."

AFMA welcomes new board members at AGM



The Animal Feed Manufacturers Association (AFMA) announced the directors elected to the AFMA Board at the 74th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 3 September 2021.

New members to the board include Dieter Fleischman and Heiko Köster, while returning directors include Anina Hunter, Sharlene Moodley, Michael Schmitz, and Thinus van Lill. Wouter de Wet and Thinus van Lill were re-elected, respectively, as chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Board of Directors. ■



South Africa represented on international feed industry body

Congratulations to AFMA executive director, De Wet Boshoff, on being re-elected to the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) Board of Directors for the 2022/2023 term. Boshoff will represent AFMA as one of the eight exco members on the board.

Ruud Tijssens, group director public and cooperative affairs, Royal Agrifirm Group, was elected as IFIF's new chairman and Dr Bruno Kaesler, CEO of Kaesler Nutrition, as the new IFIF treasurer. ■

BFAP presents 2021 baseline report

The 2021 edition of the BFAP Baseline, generated by the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) system of economic models, presents an outlook of agricultural production, consumption, prices, and trade in South Africa from 2021 to 2030.

According to Dr Ferdi Meyer, BFAP director and a former AWSA National Agriculturalist of the Year, the analysis is based on assumptions about various factors, including weather conditions, the macroeconomy, and global markets.

Macroeconomic assumptions are based on a combination of projections from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Bureau for Economic Research, while global commodity market projections are generated by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri (FAPRI-MU).

In 2020, South Africa's agricultural sector was a shining light in a difficult year. Amid various restrictions to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy contracted by a record 6,4%. Agriculture, along with

government services, was the lone positive contributor, growing by 13,4% and yielding a trade surplus of more than \$4 billion (R60 billion).

The pandemic also highlighted the sector's broader footprint, its complex interlinkages with the rest of the economy, and the often-underrated contribution of the informal sector.

Despite unprecedented challenges across the value chain, food supply remained steady, and consumer food price inflation averaged a tolerable 4,8% for the year.

In a high-world-price environment, short-term prospects for the sector remain upbeat. BFAP expects further growth of 7,6% in real agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021, underpinned by a bumper harvest for most major crops, sold at high prices, and record exports of most major fruit categories.

BFAP BASELINE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK 2021 - 2030



The medium-term baseline growth path is conservative, and acceleration will require a favourable environment, underpinned by certain preconditions for inclusive growth, including:

- a stable, conducive policy and investment environment;
- comprehensive, sufficient, and predictable infrastructure maintenance and service provision, including electricity, roads, and water with well-functioning municipalities;
- comprehensive farmer support programmes; and
- effective state services, e.g. trade affairs, port authorities, veterinary services, biosecurity, plant health, agricultural research, etc.

These preconditions and the environment that they create will ultimately determine long-term growth trajectories. Within

specific sectors, they must be complemented by targeted interventions to unlock growth.

Livestock, the largest agricultural subsector, has ample potential for accelerated, inclusive growth. Strong progress over the past decade was underpinned by substantial investments in intensive operations producing chicken, eggs, and pork.

The beef industry also shifted from a net-importing to a net-exporting position, and wool exports have been hailed as a success, specifically because comprehensive support programmes boosted output from smallholder communal farms delivering into export markets.

However, growth projections for the coming decade are balanced on a knife's edge. Domestic consumption growth is expected to slow due to weaker spending power; thus, production growth will rely on expanded exports. The animal health system, an essential precondition to achieve this, is currently inefficient in managing disease outbreaks, which hampers productivity and limits export opportunities. Accelerated growth in livestock production will also enable expansion of field crops, as animal feed is a key market offtake. Under baseline assumptions, including stable weather, further real growth in the value of field crops beyond 2021 is limited.

Even for soybeans, one of the most dynamic sectors in recent

years, growth could slow as the industry moves towards self-sufficiency. Although a major milestone, this introduces the need to compete sustainably at export parity levels, which can be enabled by introducing new seed technology and germplasm, along with a constant drive toward improved farming practices, better efficiency in handling and processing, and investment in logistics – especially transport to coastal areas where almost one-third of soybean meal is consumed.

Investments that improve transport efficiency and port logistics will also support the competitive, export-orientated horticultural sector. Export orientation makes this sector less sensitive to domestic spending constraints and it is currently reaping the rewards of more than a decade of investment.

Export volumes could rise further by roughly 50% by 2030. While successful, this will bring significant price pressure in many markets, highlighting the need for the government to negotiate favourable, competitive access to new export markets, and to invest in upgrading port facilities.

Furthermore, critical maintenance in irrigation scheme infrastructure

has fallen behind, and water losses are estimated at approximately 30%. While on-farm water-use efficiency has improved with the rising prevalence of netting, expansion and maintenance of infrastructure in existing irrigation schemes will be critical for new entrants to enter the sector successfully.

Overall, creating an enabling environment that encourages inclusive and sustainable growth in food value chains requires a holistic and integrated approach. Agriculture is well known to be exposed to various short-term risks associated with external events like weather, global market prices, and exchange rate fluctuations, but the long-term growth trajectory will be strengthened by establishing the preconditions that determine long-term inclusive growth.

BFAP has for several years argued that the opportunities for this brighter future for agriculture will not materialise under the current policy regime, despite clear opportunities for growth, employment, and increased participation of black farmers.

The interventions being tailored under the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan (AAMP) should be focused on improving these preconditions first, and the various social partners will need to agree on concrete actions, of which each should be held accountable with clear timelines of execution. ■

Local platform wins global award



MEA Markets magazine announced Agri colleges International as one of the winners of the 2021 African Business Excellence Awards

The awards aim to highlight and recognise industry leaders across the continent, casting a spotlight on dedicated entrepreneurs and innovative professionals. “It is easy to see how Africa looks set to prove itself a vital business hub in the future,” said MEA. “At a time when countries all over the world struggled for normalcy, many businesses in Africa capitalised and took the opportunity to grow and thrive.”

Now in its fifth year, the African Excellence programme continues to highlight the companies and leaders who are spearheading and driving industry across the continent. “As always, it has been a delight to reach out to all the winners of this year’s programme. I offer my sincere congratulations, and I am very proud of all of you.

I wish you the very best of luck for the year ahead, and for the remainder of 2021,” said awards coordinator Kaven Cooper.

AGRICOLLEGES International (ACI) is a modern, cloud-based, e-learning agricultural institution, using world-class technology as a platform to address the agricultural education gap in Africa by providing students with affordable, accessible, and industry-relevant education and training in the fields of agriculture and related agri-industries.

ACI became a beacon of excellence in the education

of aspirant students wishing to train in the disciplines of the agricultural sciences and economics, relating to all allied industries of the agri-sector of the world’s economy.

They offer affordable skills development and learning opportunities to students in South Africa, Africa, and across the globe, with students/alumni from 34 countries.

Other accolades include being named as one of the 30 Most Inspiring Digital Innovations of 2020 by a Dutch NGO, and reaching the semi-final stages of the Futures Project competition in Germany and the Global Education Start-up Awards in late 2020.

For more information, visit www.agricolleges.com. ■

Spreading the truth about rabies

No fear just facts

Besides urging people in all communities to vaccinate their pets, the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA), joined by the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Rural Development (DALRRD), the National Department of Health (DoH), the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), the National Animal Health Forum (NAHF), and the Rabies Advisory Group (RAG) embarked on a rabies information campaign to replace fear with facts.

Rabies is a very serious problem that continues to exist in all nine provinces of South Africa. Dog-mediated rabies is particularly rife in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Eastern Cape. It is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it is passed from infected animals to humans – it is transmitted through saliva, most commonly if one is bitten. It has a dramatic effect on the human brain and, once clinical signs become visible, there is no curative treatment, and it is fatal.

According to modern statistics, this terrible virus kills at least one person in the world every nine minutes. More than 70 000 people die from it each year according to The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), of which about 95% of these deaths occur in Africa and Asia.

It is critically important that every owner, in all walks of life, has their dogs and cats vaccinated to protect communities against this disease.

This can only be achieved by understanding the scientific facts and getting rid of myths and misinformation. Moreover, in South Africa, not having your cats and dogs vaccinated is against the law.

Just as we have seen with the current COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a lot of misinformation, fake news, and superstitions surrounding vaccination and other ways of dealing with the rabies virus.

The 15th annual World Rabies Day was held on 28 September and focused on the eradication of the many fears and myths surrounding rabies and replacing them with concrete facts.



Rabies: Vaccinate to Eliminate

www.rabiesalliance.org/world-rabies-day

It was once said that: “Almost all fear is fear of the unknown. Therefore, what’s the remedy? To learn to understand the things you fear”. Fear creates false and, very often, dangerous ideas that can only be cured by learning and sharing proven and scientific facts.

Common and misleading beliefs and myths about rabies

<p>Lots of people believe that rabies is not preventable; that it is in the animal from birth or for life.</p>	<p>This is not true.</p> <p>Science has shown that it can be prevented through vaccination of animals by any responsible and loving pet owner and that if just 70% of dogs in high-risk areas are vaccinated, this can eliminate canine rabies in that area.</p>	
<p>Another false belief is that rabies cannot be prevented in humans once bitten, that there is no medical treatment.</p>	<p>This is not true.</p> <p>There certainly is treatment for rabies in humans if it is given correctly and immediately (or as soon as possible) after being transmitted.</p> <p>The post-exposure prophylaxis treatment is 100% effective if it is given early enough and correctly.</p>	
<p>This also leads some people to trust in traditional medicines rather than scientifically tested and proven solutions.</p>	<p>If you are bitten or scratched by a suspected rabid animal, you should wash the wound well with soap and running water for 15 minutes, and then seek immediate treatment at your nearest medical facility, where a series of vaccinations will be given and, if required, rabies antibodies will be administered.</p>	
<p>People also have the incorrect idea that rabies is only ever transmitted by dog bites.</p>	<p>This too is untrue.</p> <p>Though it is mostly passed on by infected dogs, rabies can be transferred to a human from the bite, scratch, or lick of any infected mammal, the second most common being cats.</p>	

Animals in general are not a risk, but we can identify the tell-tale signs in a rabies-infected animal because they show changes in behaviour and neurological symptoms.

They normally salivate profusely, can become paralysed, may not be able to swallow, continuously vocalise (barking, whining, howling, etc.), and often become aggressive or the contrary, non-responsive.

It is very important to stay away from animals with these symptoms, and to report the

animal immediately to your veterinarian, animal health technician, or to the police. To protect your animals, family, and community you must vaccinate your dogs and cats.

The first rabies vaccine is given at 12 weeks (three months) of age, followed by a booster vaccination between one to 12 months later, and thereafter a booster every three years. In high-risk areas, annual vaccination is strongly recommended.

However, it is never too late for your pet to receive their first

vaccination, followed by the booster protocol. South Africa is committed to the global “Zero by 30” goal: for zero human deaths due to dog-mediated rabies by 2030. ■

This can be achieved through adequate vaccination of dog (and cat) populations, as well as provision of treatment to humans that have been exposed to rabid animals.



Career prospects in agriculture



Agricultural companies and organisations are gearing up to soon showcase the exhilarating world of agriculture and food production to young minds at this year's AgriCAREERConnect (ACC) event to be held from 19–21 October 2021.

ACC has been established as an annual career event for the industry to showcase career opportunities in agriculture and interact with pre- and postgraduate students, and has grown in magnitude since being launched in 2019. ACC is a partnership between Agrijob and AgriConnect, that also includes the African Livestock Fair (ALFA) student programme.

Among the companies and industry organisations who are already committed to participate are several AWSA regional corporate members. The participating companies include Bayer, Syngenta, Koppert, CropLife, ABSA, BFAP, Fresh Produce Exporters Forum, Citrus Academy, BerryWorld, Westfalia Fruit, Berries ZA, Halls, In2Food, Simply Garlic, AGT Foods, Fruit SA, Neofresh, Mount Carmel Farms, SANSOR, Potatoes SA, SA Table Grapes, SAP Business Software, Prophet Systems, Hortgro, RSA Group, RecruitAgri, United Nations World Food Programme, Swift Geospatial, GeoTerralimage, AFMA, De Heus, Evonik, Chemuniqué, Afrivet, the National Animal Health Forum (NAHF), the Ruminant Veterinarian Association of South Africa (RuVASA), and the Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO).

Six universities will participate in 2021: the Universities of Pretoria, Stellenbosch, Free State, Northwest, KwaZulu-Natal, and Limpopo.

Theme: Value chain in agriculture in action

Track 1: Tue 19 Oct	Horticulture, agronomy, soil science
Track 2: Wed 20 Oct	Animal science
Track 3: Thu 21 Oct	Agricultural economy, finance, marketing, logistics, retail, export, food and consumer science, engineering, systems efficiency, geographic information systems (GIS), and information technology (IT) and data management.

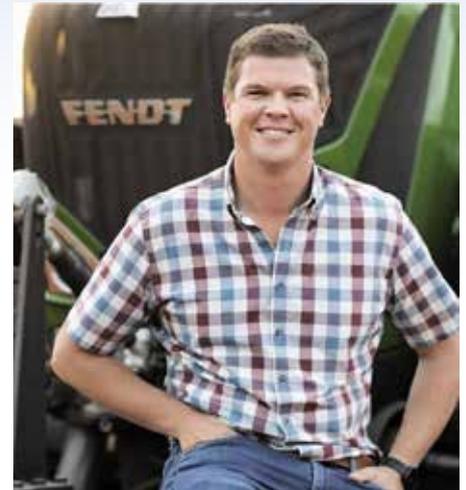
This year's event will be hosted by using the AgriTV online channel as event platform.

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TLU SA Young Farmer of the Year 2021

Dawie Brits (35) farms in the Balfour district with soybeans, maize, and chickens on the farm Modderbult, where his father and grandfather also farmed. Even though he always wanted to be a farmer, his father encouraged him to follow a different career path and he became a pilot. However, it was not long before his farming roots pulled him back to the family business three years ago.



Dawie Brits.



Hanlie Kroese of Santam Agriculture with Dawie and Bennie van Zyl of TLU SA.

“I really do have a passion for grain farming, and the chickens just have to live with that,” he jokingly announced. “I enjoy seeing what other farmers do and to get the assurance that I’m not doing everything completely wrong. It is good to speak to other finalists and to share experiences.”

Jess Walker (35) from the farm Tweefontein in the Losberg Farmers Union walked away with second place, and Barend Rautenbach (34) took the prize in third place.

TLU SA proudly annually hosts this competition to invest in the future of South African agriculture. ■



Jess Walker.



Barend Rautenbach.

TLU SA se kongres blaas lewe in landbou

TLU SA het tydens hulle onlangse kongres weer lewe in die landbou geblaas met goeie nuus en oplossings vir die kommersiële boere van Suid-Afrika.

Een van die aankondigings wat lede laat juig het, is 'n nuwe ooreenkoms met Verco Energy, wat goedkoper diesel aan TLU SA-lede sal verskaf. Lede in groot dele van die Oosstreek (Mpumalanga), Sentraalstreek (Gauteng), dele van die Noordstreek (Limpopo), en in die Vrystaat sal van hierdie aanbod gebruik kan maak. Lede sal 45 c/l minder betaal en TLU SA sal dan ook 'n rabat van 20 c/l ontvang.

“Ons boere is onder geweldige druk met die voortdurende styging van pryse van insetkoste soos brandstof en kunsmis,” sê Henry Geldenhuys, president van TLU SA. “Ons onderhandel daagliks met diensverskaffers om ons boere volhoubaar op hulle grond te hou. TLU SA is dankbaar vir diensverskaffers wat besef hoe belangrik die totale waardeketting vir die voortbestaan van landbou is.”

Verder is 'n jarelange droom om 'n TLU SA Winkel met “gebrandmerkte” klere bekend te stel, vandag ook verwesenlik. Ons nooi lede, vriende, en

ondersteuners om in te loer by <https://winkel.tlu.co.za/> om hemde met TLU SA se logo daarop geborduur, te bestel. “Dit is vir ons so lekker om as 'n groep saam uit te staan en hierdie amptelike drag is juis ontwikkel om hierdie gevoel van samehorigheid te bevorder,” sê Geldenhuys. “Ons hoop om binnekort al ons lede in ons boerhemde, pronkhemde, of werkshemde te sien!”

Tydens die kongres is Henry Geldenhuys en Wannie Scribante weer in hulle ampte as president en adjunkpresident verkies.

Die jaarlikse wenners van die verskeie uitdagings en kompetisies is ook tydens die kongres aangekondig:

- Goliat van Gat Pampoenskompetisie Trofee: Wykus Lamprecht van Meyerton, met 'n pampoens van 790 kg
- Kiepersol Trofee vir die Boere-unie van die jaar: Cullinan Boere-unie vir die Goliat van Gat kompetisie
- LWO/TLU SA Arbeid Skild vir gesondste arbeidspraktyke: Johan Kense van die Devon Boere-unie
- Charles Baber Trofee vir hulpbronbewaringsprojekte wat geloods en deurgevoer word: Swaruggens Distriklandbou-

unie (DLU), vir hulle rol om lopende water in die streek weer aan die gang te kry

- Willie Marais Trofee vir die beste kommunikasie oor TLU SA se boodskap en landbou: De Wildt Boerevereniging met hulle nuusbrief
- TLU SA Landelike Veiligheid Trofee: Individuele wenner – Celia Beukes
- TLU SA Landelike Veiligheid Trofee: Affiliasie wenner – Potgietersrus DLU
- Comondale Trofee vir Beste Boerevereniging: Roedtan-Suid Boerevereniging, vir hulle effektiwiteit
- RF Camphor Beker vir die Beste Distriklandbou-unie: Potgietersrus DLU, onder leiding van Floris Booysen en Renita Prinsloo
- Intfin Skild vir die Beste Sekretaris/Sekretaresse: Renita Prinsloo van Potgietersrus DLU
- Presidentbeker vir Jongboerebetrokkenheid: Lukas Eksteen van die Potgietersrus DLU
- Isaac Greenberg Beker vir die Beste Streek: Sentraalstreek, onder leiding van Derick Kuün as streekvoorsitter en Lynette du Plessis as streekbestuurder
- Die eerste vroulike ontvanger van die Nico Kilian Trofee vir die Landboupersoonlikheid van die Jaar 2021: Erika Helm, voorsitter van die Plaaslike Regeringskomitee. ■

South Africa's Sauvignon Blanc impresses judges

A total of 157 wines from 96 producers were tasted by a select panel of judges from 31 August to 2 September at Uitkyk Estate in Stellenbosch. This year's competition was presented with the support of FNB and EVER Solutions.



“Sauvignon Blanc is an important wine category in South Africa,” says Dr Winifred Bowman, Cape Wine Master. “A total of 4,4 million boxes (of six bottles) are consumed annually on local soil. We were highly impressed with the quality of the wines, and especially the fact that there were very few faulty wines throughout.”

The judges of the 2021 edition of the Sauvignon Blanc SA Top 10 competition were immensely

impressed with the quality, excellent winemaking techniques, and complexity across various vintages and styles.

The judging panel consisted of Dr Winifred Bowman, panel convener, Charles Hopkins, cellar master at De Grendel, wine judge and author Fiona McDonald, Rüdger van Wyk, winemaker at Stark-Condé Wines, Johann Fourie, chief winemaker at Benguela Cove, as well as two protégé judges, Kelsey Shungking of Mullineux and Leeu, and Victoria Davis of Boekenhoutskloof.

The biggest category during this year's judging was of the 2021 vintage with unwooded wines. “The 2021 vintage performed particularly well,” says Johann Fourie. “There were very few faulty wines due to better fermentation management by winemakers, as well as all the research that the suppliers of wine chemicals, yeasts and nutrients undertake to deliver the best product to the winemaker.”

This year's wines produced a variety of Sauvignon Blanc flavours that particularly impressed Rüdger van Wyk.

From previous page: South Africa's Sauvignon Blanc impresses judges...

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“These differences in expression make Sauvignon Blanc a very interesting grape variety to work with.”

Acids were also well-integrated, according to Fiona McDonald. “The wines this year showed a lovely freshness with well-resolved acidity. What we are now seeing is delicate and charming wines that offer more than just lemon or citrus flavours. They are nuanced with subtle notes of tropical fruits or blackcurrant/elderflower.”

As for the wooded classes, the judges agreed that there was good management of wood. “The older wooded wines showed better because they were held back for a year or so before entering competitions to make the wine perform at its best,” says Charles Hopkins. “South Africa makes world-class wooded Sauvignon Blanc and it is something we can rightly be proud of,” adds Bowman. “It was an incredible learning curve and experience to be part of the judging process as a young

winemaker,” says protégé Kelsey Shunking. “This opportunity helps me to understand the industry standards in terms of quality, as well as gain more knowledge of the styles we make in South Africa.”

The Top 10 wines will be announced during an awards ceremony on Wednesday, 13 October 2021. A technical seminar that conveys information about the Top 10 will also be held on Wednesday 17 November 2021 in Franschhoek. ■

Bonnievale claims national Cabernet Sauvignon trophy

National Young Wine Show, winning the much-envied Roberto Moni Trophy for SA Champion Cabernet Sauvignon – one of the competition's most hotly contested categories. The South African Young Wine Awards was hosted on 30 August at Nederburg in Paarl.

Bonnievale's victory began earlier this month, however, when its Cabernet Sauvignon (wooded) was named winner of the Robertson regional stage of the competition for the fourth consecutive year. It was also class winner in five categories and winner of 20 medals including two golds.

“This is wonderful news to everyone involved,” says Bonnievale Wines' chief winemaker Marthinus Rademeyer.

“The industry has gone through a very difficult time. Being recognised in this way certainly re-affirms our faith in our terroir and focus on quality.”

Emerging as overall champion of Cabernet Sauvignon of any authoritative show is a significant victory considering the level of competition among producers and wine regions. Wines made from Cabernet Sauvignon are among the highest-priced and therefore, most eagerly pursued. ■



What is the SA Young Wine Show?

The South African Young Wine Show is presented annually by the South African National Wine Show Association (SANWSA) and allows winemakers to benchmark their best wines of the current vintage, long before they are bottled.

My oom Pikkie was g'n pikkie nie

Derick van der Walt

My enigste oorlewende oom, dr. Wynand van der Walt, is onlangs oorlede. Hy was 83. Om die een of ander rede het van die enkele oorlewende oudstryders in ons familie (jy moet weet, hulle is far and wide between) hom "Pikkie" genoem. Hoekom, kon ek nog nooit kleinkry nie. Miskien het ek bloot net nooit gevra nie. Ons gesin het hom "oom Wynand" genoem.

Ek is eintlik glad nie familievas nie. Dis nogal eienaardig, want ons familieledede, anders as die meeste ander wat jy ken, is karig gesaai, jy kan ons maklik op net een hand en dalk nog op 'n paar tone tel (dis miskien omdat ek in Johannesburg grootgeraak het, vermoed ek nog altyd ... nee, ek weet ook nie wat die verband kan wees nie.)

Oom Wynand was wel familievas. Op 'n manier dink ek aan hom as die "familiesameroeper". Hy was daarop gesteld dat 'n mens jou familie en jou naastes se vieringe en begrafnisse bywoon. Hy het uit sy pad uit gegaan om 'n voorbeeld te stel en het binne sy vermoë almal se gebeurtenisse bygewoon, of hulle nou sag of hard heengegaan het. Hy het jou laat weet wanneer so of sus se begrafnis gaan plaasvind en waar, en dalk as daar miskien 'n troue is (uiters onwaarskynlik op ons jare), en/of iets in hulle kerksaal sou



My oom Wynand tussen sy geliefde Clivias.

gebeur waar jy behoort te wees. Ek het baie gewonder of die feit dat twee van sy broers jonk dood is iets hiermee te doen gehad het, respek vir die begrafnisding.

Oom Wynand het dalk gewet wat dit vir die bedroefdes beteken as daar mense is wat gesig kom wys en 'n roosblaartjie strooi.

Oom Wynand was die eerste propperse akademiese doktor in ons familie. Dat hy waarskynlik as die eerste en laaste doktor op ons stamboom se geskiedenis aangeteken gaan word, sal ek natuurlik nie sommer hardop sê nie ('n mens wil darem nie per

ongeluk op 'n ambisieuse toontjie trap nie). Hy het sy doktorsgraad destyds in Amerika gedoen, en komaan, daarmee moet jy beïndruk wees. Oor sy prestasies op die gebied van die saadkunde en oor sy gerekendheid binne GMO-kringe en as navorser en sy vele toekennings gaan ek nie hier uitbrei nie. Julle ken hom mos al jare lank en weet van al dié goed. Eweneens, was hy baie trots op my onverwagse en onbeplande skrywersloopbaan.

Volgens hom was dit ook 'n eerste vir die familie en hy het oral trots daarmee te koop geloop. Hy en sy vrou Wilna (ook 'n slim doktor) het my boekbekendstellings gereeld bygewoon. Maar wat jy ook van my oom Wynand moet weet, hy

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IN MEMORIA

kon lekker in-diepte gesels oor die onderwerpe wat hom ná aan die hart gelê het (lees: baie lank gesels, jy moes plan maak, want hy kon vir jou erg besig hou, hoor).

Sy verjaarsdae was groot. Sy sewentigste was in hulle kerksaal in Waterkloof. Ons het lekker geëet en gekuier en dan ontmoet jy daai enkele nefies en niggies wat jy jare laas gesien het en ontmoet van hulle kinders vir die eerste keer (sommige al skoon opgeskote). Oom Wynand se toespraak was soos gewoonlik die hoogtepunt (ja, dit was nogal lank, maar altyd *witty* en *entertaining*, en dit is wat almal deesdae onthou, sy legendariese sin vir humor. Hy kon skreeusnaaks wees, maar altyd droog (daai sin vir humor, regtig kurkdroog).

Bottom line: Hy het deernis, warmte, meelewing, en mededoë (bestaan daar nog so 'n woord?) met die mensdom gehad, eienskappe wat jy nie noodwendig by 'n wetenskaplike sou vermoed nie. Hy was bloot net 'n baie nice mens met 'n groot hart, en dié eienskappe grawe jy ook nie sommer agter elke klip uit nie.

Sy tagtigste was in 'n saal in die aftree-oord waar hy en Wilna toe gebly het, noord van die Magaliesberg. Nig Sue, sy

oudste, het nog vertel toe sy by hom geld wou leen toe sy nog op skool was, moes sy 'n "kontrak" teken dat sy dit sal terugbetaal. Sy hét, en sy het nou nog die trotse ondertekende "kontrak" as bewys. Sy jongste, Sindie, was ook daar (Sindie-hulle bly deesdae in Oman).

Sy laaste verjaarsdagviering wat ek bygewoon het, was in 2019 (dink ek). Dit moes in elk geval voor Covid gewees het, daar was nie maskers ter sprake nie. Dit was 'n Sondagoggend en ons het dié oggend by hulle huis gekoek en -tee. Sue het groot gegaan en ek kon dit nie oor my hart kry om vir haar te sê dat ek weer eens in 'n vrugtelose (letterlik ook), suikervrye, Banting-fase was nie (en jy kyk ook nie 'n gegewe perd in die bek nie, het my pa my geleer). Ek lê toe lekker weg. Oom Wynand was sy ou self: spraaksaam, vrolik, spitsvondig, en bly dat familie kom inloer het.

Wat julle dalk ook nie van hom weet nie, is dat hy 'n ywerige Clivia-kweker was en jy kon absoluut beautiful blomme in hulle tuin in Waterkloof sien. Daar is glo 'n verband tussen wetenskaplikes wat graag blomme kweek en dis blykbaar nogal 'n algemene ding. Ek sal dit nog gaan Google.

Oom Wynand, en sy eerste vrou, Sarie, het steeds goeie vriende gebly ná hulle egskeiding. Sarie het Sondagoggende die koerante gekoop, dan vat sy dit vir hom, en dan lees hulle so in silte saam-saam oor die lief en leed, die nood, die ellendes, en die skinderstories (en die Blou Bulle wat hopelik weer 'n slag gewen het). Die gesaamlesery was nogal

'n *nice touch*, het ek altyd gedink. Wilna het glad nie omgee nie. Ek vermoed sy was maar te dankbaar vir die bietjie *me-time*.

Oom Wynand het ook daai Vander-Walt-geen gehad (ons het dit almal, vra maar vir my drie seuns); ons weet gewoonlik ietwat beter as jy, al sal ons dit nooit ongeskik in jou keelgat afdruk nie. Toe hy met die "Groot A" gediagnoseer is, het hy dit natuurlik afgelag. Maar dié keer was dit nie 'n grap nie. Dit was waar. En toe was dit vinnig afdraande.

Wilna sê wat nogal erg was, is dat hulle hom weens Covid-regulasies nie in die kliniek, waarin hy later noodgedwonge opgeneem moes word, gereeld kon besoek nie. Die verpleegters daar het dus sy laaste weke waarin hy in 'n "grys mistigheid verdwyn het" meegemaak, sê sy.

Sue en Sindie vertel dat hy gou agteruit gegaan het die laaste week voordat hy dood is, en hoewel hy later niemand eintlik meer herken het nie, het hulle tóg gevoel hy ervaar daar is 'n band tussen hom en hulle.

Ek en my neef Barry bepeins toe oom Wynand se heengaan en sy groot voetspore oor WhatsApp. "Jy besef natuurlik dat ons nou eintlik die oudste generasie van die familie is, die laaste linie, soort van. Ons is volgende. *The buck stops here*," meen Barry.

Die gang van die lewe bedink ek later oor 'n glasie rooi (die "ie" in glasie moet jy natuurlik met 'n knippie sout vat). Ek dink toe oor die familiesameroeper-ding.

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IN MEMORIA

Gaan daar nog familiesame-roepers wees in *days to come* ná Covid, soos my oom Wynand was? Gaan ons nog die koeksisters/gevulde eiers/worsies, stukkie kaas, en kleurvolle uitjies op tandestokkies ingeryg (met sorg deur die susters voorberei en op klein konsistorie-bordjies bedien) doen nadat ons tant Sus in Koekenaap ter aarde bestel het?

Of gaan ons voortaan bloot op

'n *link* kliek vir die geleentheid? Niks van 'n druk en 'n soen meer en daai 7/11 wat jy altyd by die tannies geruik het so tydens die klapsoen wat hulle jou op die mond gegee het nie.

Ek weet nie, miskien gaan ons dalk nou éérs in eie kringetjie saamkoek, met of sonder masker, omdat dit is hoe ons dit doen en dit wil doen. Ons wil mekaar in die oë kyk en met deernis oor die heengegaande

praat (terwyl ons tóg so terloops 'n paar skinderstories oor die familie inwerk).

Al hierdie diep sake bedink ek, terwyl ek nog 'n slukkie rooi vat en na my voete kyk wat vir my skielik nogal kleinerig lyk.

Want kyk, my oom Pikkie was g'n pikkie nie. ■

Afrivet says goodbye

It is with great sadness that we greet our colleague, Anton Bredell, that passed away suddenly on Friday, 10 September. Afrivet sends our deepest sympathy to his wife Lize, son Wilhelm, and daughter Nina, as well as his brother and mother. Anton will be dearly missed by everyone at Afrivet and our hearts are with his family during this time. ■



Well-known seed breeder's voice now silent

Rodney Zingel of Sakata Seed (formerly MayFord Seed) passed away on 24 August after a short illness. Rodney made a significant contribution to the seed industry in South Africa. He was best known for his pioneering work breeding F1 hybrid tomatoes, which started in the mid-1970s and laid the foundation for the breeding station that continues to this day. He bred many very successful varieties over the following 30 years – some of which are still well accepted in the market. His varieties were known for their vigour, robustness, shelf life, and disease resistance, making it possible for farmers to increase their yields and fruit quality tremendously. Under his guidance, MayFord also opened the first privately owned, government-accredited seed testing laboratory in the country. Zingel was an active member of SANSOR and served a term as chairman of the horticulture committee. ■

Bekende boer groet vir oulaas

Johan Strydom, bekende eienaar van 'n hoogs gediversifiseerde boerdery naby Lichtenburg in die Noordwes, is vroeër die maand aan Covid-19 verwante oorsake oorlede. Hy het met melk- en vleisbeeste, skape, en gesaaides geboer, en hy was ook aktief by die georganiseerde landbou betrokke. ■



Mzukisi Mooi, chairperson of WIETA, passes away



The South African wine industry is deeply saddened by the passing of Mzukisi Norman Mooi, chairperson of the Wine and Agricultural Ethical Trade Association (WIETA).

A skilled development, education, and training practitioner, Mooi had a passion for people in the wine and agricultural sectors and played an integral role in enhancing adult education, community development, and conflict resolution among individuals and stakeholder groups in rural areas. He was an avid social justice and human rights activist, always striving to challenge existing social and economic inequalities by fostering peace and social cohesion.

After growing up in the Eastern Cape and matriculating from Thembalabantu High School in Zwelitsha, King Williams Town, he went on to study in Cape Town, obtaining a postgraduate degree in community development. He was also an accredited mediator with the Mediation-in-Motion institution and an Independent Mediation Service of South Africa (IMSSA) training and mediation panellist, focusing on Community Conflict Resolution (CCR).

Mooi served on the WIETA board from 2006, the accreditation committee from 2009, and as

chairperson from 2008 until his passing. During this time, he provided crucial guidance and support on various projects, including supervisors' training on discrimination, the development of WIETA's farmworker guidance booklets and pesticides campaign, as well as *imbizos* with farmworkers to raise awareness of the WIETA code and the principles of freedom of association.

He also connected with civil society and labour on various ethical trade and social justice issues and was especially instrumental in engaging with international wine buyers and labour movements and non-governmental organisations (NGO) on the conditions of farmworkers in the Western Cape.

More recently Mooi was a consultant with the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), tasked with the promotion of social dialogue in the agriculture sector of the Western Cape Province – specifically leading discussions between producers,

civil society, civic groups and labour in regions such as De Doorns, Grabouw, Robertson, and Riebeeck West.

“Mzukisi Mooi was a humble and caring leader with a strong belief in the value of reconciliation through open and honest dialogue,” says Vinpro managing director Rico Basson. “He played a vital role as chairperson of WIETA to not only lead with wisdom, but also provide context and clear strategic direction to the board and various stakeholders.

He made a significant contribution to the wine and broader agricultural sectors, and his passing leaves an empty space in the lives of everyone that he engaged with. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Ndimi, his children, family, and colleagues during this time of sorrow.”

“Mzukisi will truly be missed,” says Christo Conradie, wine business manager at Vinpro, who also served on the WIETA board. “I have the utmost respect for the way in which he was able to facilitate social dialogue, often under challenging circumstances by, in his calm and collected way, giving all parties an opportunity to state their point of view and share his own perspective while always treating everyone with dignity and fairness.” ■

CALENDAR

Calendar

15 October 2021	Agricultural Writers SA North Awards Ceremony, Radisson Blue OR Tambo Contact Petrie Vogel at petrie@abevents.co.za
22 October 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

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Curiousness – Magda du Toit

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.



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