



LANDBOUSKRYWERS
AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA

AGR pen

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OCTOBER/OKTOBER 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Liza Bohlmann

We are hurtling towards the end of the year and it is with great anticipation that we look forward to the Agricultural Writers SA's National Awards to be held on Friday, 12 November.

This year the !Xhariep Region, under the leadership of Eunice Joubert, will host this prestigious event at Cavalli Estate near Stellenbosch where the Agricultural Writers SA Farmer, Agriculturist, and New Entrant to Commercial Farming of the Year will be announced.

The hybrid event will combine an in-person event with limited seating and a digital broadcast of the proceedings.

Congratulations to all the candidates announced at the North and !Xhariep Region's awards ceremonies held in October (note that not all provinces had a nominated candidate in each category). Thank you to those members



who nominated these worthy candidates.

FARMER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

- LIMPOPO: Leon Eksteen, Bufland Boerdery (nominated by Lindi Botha)
- NORTH WEST: Grietha van Rensburg, Amulet Vleismerino Stoet (nominated by Nicolene Smalman)
- FREE STATE: Gerrit van Zyl, Hanzyl Bonsmaras (nominated by Charl van Rooyen)
- WESTERN CAPE: Jan le Roux (nominated by Clayton Swart and Hugo Lochner)

- EASTERN CAPE: Andrew Jordaan en Seuns (nominated by Fredalette Uys and Jan Bezuidenhout)

NEW ENTRANT TO COMMERCIAL FARMING NOMINEES

- NORTH: Vutlhari Chauke, VT Harvest (Pty) Ltd (nominated by Magda du Toit and Suzanne Oosthuizen)
- !XHARIEP: Chamomile Farming (nominated by Alani Janeke and Adelé Engelbrecht)

AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

- GAUTENG: Prof. Gareth Bath (nominated by Charl van Rooyen)
- NORTH WEST: Dr Johnny van der Merwe (nominated by Liza Bohlmann)
- KWAZULU-NATAL: Dr Francois van de Vyver (nominated by Jennifer Roets)
- WESTERN CAPE: Prof. Karen Theron (nominated by Peter



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Pentz and Adelé Engelbrecht)
• NORTHERN CAPE: Dr Andries Daniels (nominated by Clayton Swart)

PRIZES GALORE!

At the same event, we will also announce the winners of our various competitions for members. If you cannot attend in-person, tune in to find out who won the BKB Photographer of the Year, FNB Communicator of the Year, CropLife best articles on Biotechnology and Crop Protection, and the Bayer Technical Article of the Year prizes.

We thank our event sponsors, Bayer, Santam Agriculture, FNB, and Health Squared Agility Agri, for their support and participation in making the awards ceremony and prize-giving possible.

ACCOMMODATION

Members are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Why not make a weekend of it and visit some fantastic venues in and around Stellenbosch?

Contact Eunice Joubert for more information on industry-related

tourist attractions in the beautiful winelands.

Our secretariat, Petrie Vogel, has secured a group booking rate at [Southern Sun de Wagen](#) (Aan-de-Wagen Road, Stellenbosch).

The rate per room for two persons sharing is R2 121 and includes breakfast.

These rates are only valid for check-in on 12 November and check-out on 13 November, and there are only 22 rooms available at this rate. ■

For more information regarding accommodation contact ssdewagen.reservations@tsogosun.com or phone +27 (21) 415 4444.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are invited to attend the virtual Agricultural Writers SA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 17:00. It will be hosted on Zoom and participants are required to register for the AGM at <https://www.abadmin.co.za/default2.php> before 10 November 2021.

- **Take note:** Please do not try and log in on the top. Scroll down to "Attend Agricultural Writers AGM", click on the event, and then provide your email address and complete form.
- **Election of the National Executive Council (NEC):** Voting will take place electronically. If you would like to nominate someone for the NEC and the person has agreed to be eligible, please send through your nominations to Petrie Vogel (petrie@abevents.co.za) by 17:00 on 10 November.

A notice to vote will be sent out and all voting needs to be completed by 17:00 on 15 November 2021. Only fully paid-up members will be allowed to vote or be eligible for nomination at the AGM.



Landbouskrywers SA !Xhariepstreek 2021 Boer, Landboukundige, en Nuwe Toetreder tot Kommersiële Landbou van die Jaar

Agricultural Writers SA's !Xhariep region (which includes the Western, Eastern, and Northern Cape) announced their nominees for this year's annual Farmer, Agriculturist, and New Entrant to Commercial Agriculture of the Year awards on Friday 22 October 2021 during a gala event at Durbanville Hills Wine Estate in Durbanville.



Congratulations to everyone who received an award at the Agricultural Writers SA !Xhariep region's Farmer, Agriculturist, and New Entrant to Commercial Farmings annual awards function.

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2021 Boer, Landboukundige, en
Nuwe Toetreder tot Kommersiële
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THE WINNERS WERE: NORTHERN CAPE

AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR:

*Dr Andries Jerrick Daniels at the Agriculture
Research Council (ARC) Infruitec-Nietvoorbij.*

EASTERN CAPE

FARMER OF THE YEAR:

*Andrew Jordaan en Seuns from the farm
Spekboomberg near Cradock in the Eastern Cape.*

WESTERN CAPE

NEW ENTRANT TO COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE OF THE YEAR:

Chamomile Farming from Philippi near Cape Town.

AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR:

*Prof. Karen Theron, internationally recognised
horticulturist affiliated with the University of
Stellenbosch.*

FARMER OF THE YEAR:

*Jan le Roux of the Le Roux Group in Paarl, from the
farms Mooikelder (Paarl), Sandrivier (Wellington)
and Broodkraal (Piketberg). ■*



Honorary membership for two stalwarts

Two members of Agricultural Writers SA's !Xhariep region, Jan Bezuidenhout (left) and Leon Louw (right), were given honorary membership during the !Xhariep awards evening recently. A well-deserved reward for years of service to the association.



Lekker boer!

Daar is geen keer aan dok Faffa Malan nie. Sedert hy Covid-19 verslaan het, is hierdie voormalige Nasionale Landboukundige van die Jaar weer voluit in die tuig. Hy werk al aan sy maandelikse RuVASA-siekteverslae, lewer bydraes vir die televisiereeks *Landbouweekliks*, en woon boeredae en vergaderings by. Tussendeur is daar darem soms tyd vir ontspanning. Hier is hy en Willem Kleyn by boer Douw Steyn se beste tydens 'n uitkampnaweek by Roedtan saam met Charl van Rooyen en Gerrit Bezuidenhout van *Landbouweekblad* waar daar ook iets vir die pot geskiet is. ■



Foto: Charl van Rooyen

Agricultural Writers SA North 2021 Farmer, Agriculturist, and New Entrant to Commercial Farming of the Year

The Agricultural Writers SA North (which includes the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Gauteng) announced their nominees for the annual Farmer, Agriculturist, and New Entrant to Commercial Agriculture of the Year awards on Friday 15 October 2021 during a gala event at the Raddison OR Tambo hotel.



Toekenningsaand Landbouskrywers SA Noord – Boer van die Jaar.

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Winner New Entrant to Commercial Farming North Awards Function.



Toekenningsaad Landbouuskrywers SA Noord - Landboukundige van die Jaar.



The sponsors of the evening were recognised.



Dok Faffa Malan.



Ons egte plaastafelversierings geborg deur New Holland and NWK.



Louis and Roenel Eksteen Bufland.



Shell comments on AWSA North's function

*Riaan van der Walt, business development manager (lubricants),
Shell Downstream South Africa (Pty) Ltd.*

As a first-time attendee of an Agricultural Writers SA event, I was surprised by how well-organised it was and the opportunity it offered me to meet and engage with award-winning farmers and sponsors relevant to our lubricant business.

It made me realise again that the success of the agricultural industry depends on vast groups of role players ranging from farmers to businesses, suppliers, and people in academia, health, investment, etc. We all need each other to make agriculture in South Africa successful by supporting farmers with the best services at the best possible price. Their successes will flow over to the relevant role players and businesses.

From a lubricants point of view, we need to ensure the longevity of farmers' equipment by supplying them with the best applicable oil, coolants, or grease. This will prohibit unforeseen and unnecessary breakdowns, leading to lost production time and money.

Riaan, tell us about the tractor you won?

I am very unlucky with lucky draws, so when Liza Bohlmann read out my name, I literally jumped out of my chair with joy. The New Holland wooden replica tractor is quite a handcrafted masterpiece if you look at the detail invested in creating/building it. Thank you, New Holland and NWK, for this replica model. It has already taken a special place in my office. ■



Riaan van der Walt and Zandi Nkatini from Shell during the Agricultural Writers SA North awards evening..



Will South Africa's agriculture unlock further trade gains on the African continent?

Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at Agbiz



There is optimism that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is set to provide further opportunities for the expansion of South Africa's agricultural exports into the African continent.

This view comes against the backdrop of Africa being the largest market for South Africa's agricultural sector – accounting for an average of 43% (or USD4,1 billion) a year of all agriculture exports over the past decade. So how much more potential can South Africa unlock in the African market? In the recent *Market Viewpoint*, we argue that the benefits of the AfCFTA are not as much as previously thought, due to structural limitations that will prevent the agricultural sector from expanding its exports into untapped markets.

Firstly, most of South Africa's agricultural exports into the African continent (89%) are concentrated within the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Free Trade Area (FTA). However, the product scope of exports into SACU and SADC is quite diverse



and includes maize, processed food products, apples and pears, sugar, animal feed products, prepared or bottled water, fruit juices and wine.

With 90 cents out of every rand in agricultural exports earned within SACU/SADC under an expanded, diverse set of products, it is important to diversify export markets beyond the region.

The question is, just how much more can South Africa export beyond SACU/SADC? The most reasonable assumption is for South Africa to target West, East, and North Africa.

Secondly, and given the aforementioned, Africa north of the Sahara and, more specifically, the Maghreb region (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia) is much closer

to Europe, and thus its trade activity is more interlinked with the European Union (EU) rather than sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, South Africa competes with this region for several products the country intends to increase its exports in, primarily the high-value horticulture products. Penetrating and establishing a market presence in North Africa may prove challenging due to direct competition with well-established EU supply chains and competitive local produce. As such, South Africa's realistic opportunity within the African continent lies more in East and West Africa.

Thirdly, with South Africa's opportunity set clearly more defined in East and West Africa, leveraging the AfCFTA's tariff-free movement of goods would potentially boost the country's agricultural exports to these regions. But we are hesitant that the near-term would yield many benefits for South Africa due to at least three reasons:

- (a) East and West Africa regions are known for having a range of non-tariff barriers (NTB), which could remain a hindrance in boosting trade, regardless



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of lower tariffs brought by the AfCFTA.

- (b) High levels of corruption in the inland borders, which increase the cost of doing business, have proven to be a major issue of consideration for business in South Africa.
- (c) Fragmented value chains owing to poor connectivity and infrastructure are also a major contributor to transport costs, which tend to increase significantly as goods are transported inland.

This narrow scope of expanding agricultural exports in the African continent is what typically leads to frustration among business leaders, who continue to see improvement in production domestically, but limited avenues for sales.

The major economies in the East and West of the African continent, Nigeria and Kenya, remain very small markets for South Africa's agricultural exports, each accounting for a mere 2% a year. Still, Nigeria spends over USD6 billion a year on agricultural imports, despite its new policy of reducing food imports. The key beneficiaries in the Nigerian agriculture market are Brazil, the United States (US), China,

Russia, Canada, New Zealand, and Germany, among others. This is through imports of wheat, dairy products, sugar, processed food, palm oil and maize, among other products.

Meanwhile, Kenya is a relatively small market with just over USD2 billion worth of agriculture and food imports a year. The key suppliers are Indonesia, Malaysia, Argentina, Russia, Pakistan, Uganda, Tanzania, India, and Egypt and key agriculture and food products imported include palm oil, wheat, rice, sugar, processed food, maize, dairy products, pasta, and sorghum.

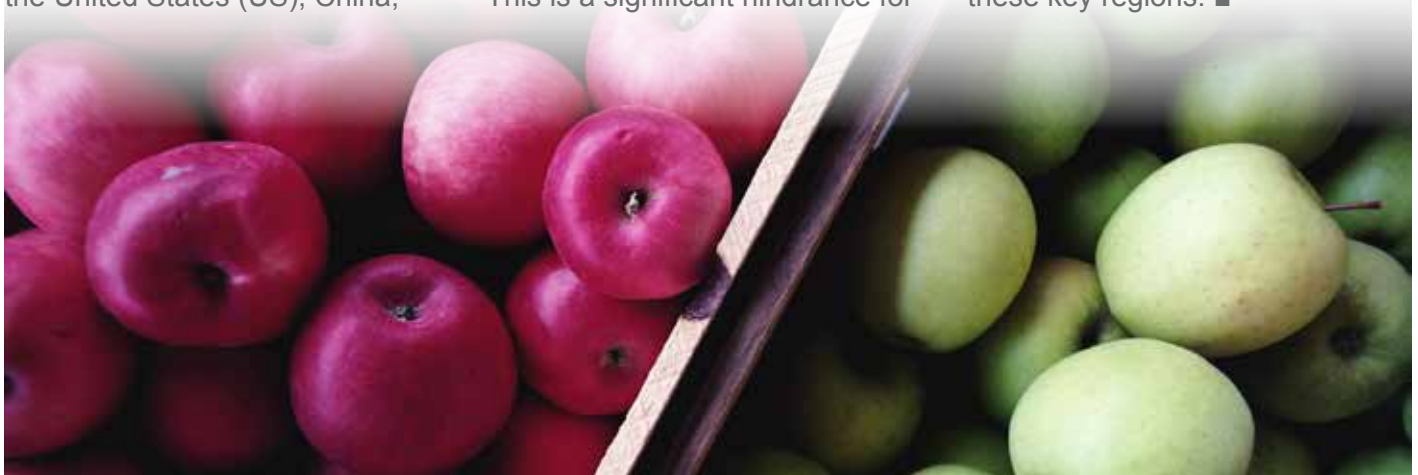
The composition of food and agricultural imports into these two countries is also indicative that South Africa's scope to export high-value horticulture, meat, and wine products is limited.

These countries primarily import staple food products, and as such, they are a market that would have been worth pursuing for grain farmers. Still, the NTB we referred to earlier remain a stumbling block, even for grains, as Kenya still prohibits the importation and growing of genetically modified (GM) maize. This is a significant hindrance for

South Africa, as roughly 80% of maize grown in the country is GM. What is clear is that South Africa's agriculture export opportunities will not only be limited in general but also most likely be opportunistic and focused on specific commodities or products in the short to medium term. For instance, South Africa's maize exports have been relatively high during drought periods in East Africa, and under special circumstances that require short-term contingent policy measures to allow for GM maize exports.

Beyond maize, the approach will have to be more deliberate. For example, South Africa will have to consider a shift towards the export of processed food products. Data from *Trade Map* shows that Africa's imports of processed food products grew by 25% between 2018 and 2020, which is an opportunity for South Africa to explore.

From a policy perspective, the South African government may need to revise the Africa Strategy and establish task teams that can facilitate and broker market access for agribusinesses that seek to establish a market presence and investments in these key regions. ■



Developing future-fit farmers for South Africa

FarmSol celebrates five years of supporting and developing the future farmers of South Africa
Aron Kole, managing director, FarmSol

To develop a farm, one has to start somewhere. And the way to start is by creating partnerships, linking your dreams to the barren land.

Initially, the partnerships will be few and far between, but as they slowly increase in number and impact, the dots start to connect to create what would hopefully be a sustainable enterprise for the farmer, employees, and the nation. After all, food production and food security are basic human rights for all.

I have been steering the ship at FarmSol for the past three years, during which we faced several challenges, including droughts, flooding, and the Covid-19 pandemic. What an exciting journey it has been!

At FarmSol, we are particularly proud of the contribution that each one of our farmers and the FarmSol team has made to the South African agricultural landscape. It's been nothing less than hard work, dedication, commitment and effort. Our farmers also showed incredible resilience to keep their heads up against all odds, and keep on doing what all farmers do, namely get up, put up with their

challenges, grow crops, and keep doing their best to produce food for the nation.

FarmSol is one of South Africa's largest private-sector-led grain farmer development companies, focused on bringing sustainable empowerment solutions linking customers in the food and beverage sector with emerging growers as their raw material suppliers.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

In the 2021 summer crop season alone, FarmSol paid over R18 million in profits to small-holder farmers participating in our scheme, making a meaningful contribution to poverty alleviation, raising incomes, and improving food security for South Africa's rural communities and farmers.

This has been made possible by our partnership with the South African Breweries (SAB), which has continued to partner with us to support hundreds of small-holder farmers across South Africa with production loan funding, mentorship, and access to markets. We also remain positive that our 2021 winter crop farmers will also experience a successful winter crop.



In 2021, three new partners joined hands with FarmSol to support other crops.

These partnerships and collaborations will enable us to increase our impact and support many more capable emerging farmers across South Africa.

We are also proud to have been appointed as implementing agent of the Siqualo Grower Empowerment Programme. Through this programme, participating emerging growers will have an opportunity to produce high-oil-content sunflowers for the manufacturing of famous household brands such as Rama, Stork Margarine, and Rondo.

The past five years have taught us at FarmSol that the challenge in transformation is not the farmers, nor the market, but often a way of connecting these two with one another. FarmSol is playing this crucial role, and we will continue doing so to build a strong South Africa. ■



Andrew Morphew wins MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards 2021



Andrew Morphew of Colbourne Farm near Howick in KwaZulu-Natal was declared the winner of the prestigious MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards at the awards ceremony held during the virtual annual congress of the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) on 19 October 2021.

Husband-and-wife team Simon and Stacey Miller from Sherwood Farm in Mooi River, KwaZulu-Natal were placed second, with Jake Crowther from Oakhurst Farm in Hoekwil in the Western Cape in third place. Their prizes, sponsored by Nedbank, are R40 000, R30 000, and R10 000, respectively, to be used to pursue stewardship goals on their farms.



Alister Winfield (left) and Jake Crowther (right) from Oakhurst farm, third-place winners in the MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards 2021. Photograph by MPO Western Cape.

Sustainable dairy farming requires constantly updating the rules of the game to keep up with rapidly changing technology, the challenges of climate change, and the increasing demands from government, the community, and the consumer.

Living up to these expectations consistently in an excellent way is a formidable task, which is why the MPO, in partnership with Nedbank, annually recognise and reward outstanding dairy stewards through the MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards, in association with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and *The Dairy Mail*.

Dairy farmers who are nominated by role players in the industry

have to:

- apply sustainable farming practices and conservation;
- maintain high standards of animal welfare and an effective herd health management programme;
- ensure a high quality of life for all the people on the farm and add value to the local community;
- produce a healthy, safe, high-quality product; and
- improve profitability on a

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continual basis by increasing the business's resilience or capacity to deal with volatility and adverse events and improving on-farm efficiency.

The nominees were requested to complete the MPO 3P Metric stewardship survey, which is the electronic component of the assessment, and the three finalists were determined by the scores achieved for these answers.

The judging panel of Dr Heinz Meissner from Milk SA, Jompie Burger from the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA), Sue Viljoen from WWF, and Barbara Bieldt from the MPO paid a verification visit to each of the finalists' farms as the last step in the evaluation process. The final scores were calculated through a weighted combination of the points achieved for the MPO 3P Metric survey and during the farm verification visits.

Barbara Bieldt, manager for stewardship and



From left: Peter Morphew, Andrew Morphew (winner MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards 2021), Ivo Buratovich (Fairfield Dairy), Jean Adam, Jorgen Wilkström. Photographs by MPO KwaZulu-Natal.



From left: Stacey and Simon Miller (Sherwood farm, second-place winner MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards 2021), James Kean (Mearnes farm, second-place winner MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards 2019), Sandra Berning (Springvale farm, winner MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards 2020), and Andrew Morphew (Colbourne farm, winner MPO Nedbank Stewardship Awards 2021).

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regulatory services, said, “The standard of entries this year was outstanding and the MPO is extremely proud of our excellent dairy stewards. Hearty congratulations to our winners Andrew, Simon and Stacey, and Jake!”

Morphew and his management duo, Jean Day and Jorgen Wilkström, were described by the judges as top-notch and very aggressive in the correct disciplines, eager to improve where possible. “This team is formidable! They are highly skilled and farm with the necessary confidence to make rational decisions in their own disciplines”, said the judges.

Over the past two years, Morphew has converted his conventional dairy farm to a 100% organic farm, which is remarkable. Furthermore, he has empowered himself with knowledge on many sustainable dairy topics and has impressive levels of insight and understanding on practices to build soil health and soil carbon and, thereby, not rely on chemical fertilisers or inputs.

“Herd health management is truly outstanding with an exceptional average somatic cell count. The meticulously kept records and overall cleanliness and hygiene levels set a very high bar”, said Bieldt, adding, “Andrew has extraordinary vision and is a worthy winner!”

Second-prize winners, the Millers, are dedicated young farmers with Stacey focusing on herd health management and Simon on soil health and optimal pasture management. Their focus on restoring and maintaining wetlands and creating natural movement corridors for wildlife and providing forage for game birds is inspiring.

The Millers are passionate and enthusiastic and intent on improving all aspects of their farm business. The judges look forward to seeing the impact of planned developments on Sherwood Farm in the future!

Third-place winner, Jake Crowther, is a proactive farmer, open to input and suggestion, who genuinely wants to do the best he can to improve stewardship of his resources and be as sustainable as possible. Crowther runs a well-managed farming enterprise and uses all opportunities to diversify his farming activities.

The incorporation of agri-tourism on his farm by converting and repurposing derelict farm buildings to serve as holiday accommodation, is not only innovative but has created job opportunities and supports the community. ■

Find the MPO online:
Website: www.mpo.com |
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MilkProducersSA
Twitter: @MilkMpo

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Climate and agricultural conditions No 57 – October 2021

*Sponsored by Santam Agriculture
Johan van den Berg*

Independent Agricultural Meteorologist (M.Sc Agric, Agricultural Meteorology, UFS)

IMPORTANT ISSUES:

- La Niña now more than 90% sure to occur and to last until at least March 2022 with a moderate intensity similar to 2020/21 or even more intense.
- Rainfall outlooks are favourable for most of the summer rainfall area but may be drier in January/February over the eastern areas. Isolated rainy systems can however already start to occur over the western areas during November.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

October is characterised by the start of the summer rainfall season although rain also occurred in the winter rainfall area. For the first time in many years was significant rainfall also recorded in the extremely dry south western parts of the Northern Cape and adjacent areas of the Western Cape and Eastern Cape in the last 10 days of October.

More than 20mm also occurred in parts of the Kalahari like Askham and Van Zylsrus, Upington 50 mm and Augrabies 25 mm. Further south in the Boesmanland and Karoo rain also occurred in places like Pofadder 48 mm, Williston 45 mm, Brandvlei 33 mm



and Calvinia 19 mm. Some good falls were also recorded between 18 and 24 October in parts of the Western Cape like Malmesbury 30 mm, Villiersdorp 57 mm and Paarl 24 mm, but, more importantly, the Klein Karoo received also significant rain with Ladismith 57 mm, Oudtshoorn 41 mm and Laingsburg 21 mm. Aberdeen, Willowmore and Joubertinia in the Eastern Cape also received about 20 mm that is also the first significant rain in a long time.

Frost damage occurred in the middle parts of October in the southwestern Free State as well as parts of the Northern Cape that caused frost damage to grapes, winter wheat, and pecan nuts.

The fire risk remains high in the central to western grassland areas with high temperatures and strong winds to persist. Although some rain occurred, it was insufficient to lower the fire risk.

State of storage dams in the summer rainfall area is in general still very favourable with dams in the Free State at about 90% of full capacity with large storage dams like Gariep and Vaal dam above 80% and Vanderkloof dam about 94% full.

There is a high risk for flooding if high rainfall amounts occur in the catchment areas because the buffer capacity is very low.

Some dams in the Eastern Cape remain at critical low levels or is nearly empty like Kouga with only 6.5%. Western Cape dam levels are very favourable at about 81% of full storage capacity although the rainy season is very close to an end.

The water level in Lake Kariba in Zambia is at about 35% compared to about 28% last year the same time while the Katze dam in Lesotho is at about 66% and the Mohale dam 32%. The Hardap dam in southern Namibia was at the end of September 2021 at 55% of full volume.

ENSO AND INDIAN OCEAN

ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation)

All Niño-areas except Niño-1+2 (closest to South America) were La Niña-like and below 0.5°C cooler than normal. The probability for a full scale La Niña from now towards March/April 2022 is more than 90%. The intensity seems to be in the same order as in the previous season or even stronger to be moderate to even moderate/strong.

The turning point of the La Niña of the 2020/21 season occurred towards the end of November that was earlier than expected. The forecast for the 2021/22 seems to be later in December 2021 to January 2022.

This can be significant because it can ensure that favourable rainfall conditions in summer can last longer until March and April 2022.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) as indicator of the effect of sea surface interaction with overlying weather systems in the Niño areas, remains positive for the fourth consecutive month.

Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is still borderline negative, mainly due to warming of the eastern Indian Ocean (towards Australia) and cooling towards the African coastline. This sea surface temperature pattern can cause important shifts in the weather and rainfall patterns with the Indian Ocean high pressure system over the western Indian Ocean closer to the Southern African sub-continent. Low pressure systems are now more likely to develop over the central to western parts of the subcontinent.

RAINFALL AND CLIMATE

Summer Rainfall Area Rainfall

With the strengthening of La Niña and with the peak that will most probably be reached later in the summer than the past season, are the probabilities for summer rainfall very favourable for the season. The return of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) to a negative phase in the recent past

weeks will also improve rainfall probabilities.

The spatial and time distribution is however more difficult to interpret because there will be drier and wetter parts of the season in specific areas of southern Africa and more specific South Africa. A La Niña phenomenon is usually responsible for above average rainfall in the November to first part of January over the eastern production areas with drier conditions in February/March while the rainy season starts from about the end of December to last until March over the central to western parts with a dry spell at the start of the summer.

With the current setting of the Indian Ocean with cooler waters near the African coastline, is the moisture and rain more concentrated over the central to western parts of southern Africa, resulting is a higher probability for earlier rain over the western parts.

Average to above average rainfall is expected over the central to eastern parts of South Africa to reach a peak in December. The improved rainfall conditions will then spread westwards over the central to western parts from December to March.

Temperature

With the exception some very hot conditions in the second week of October, are temperatures average to below average. This trend is expected to last over the central to eastern parts due to cold air still in circulation but

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also with more rain and cloudy conditions that are expected.

Minimum temperatures between 10°C and 15°C are expected until at least the middle of November and it can result in unfavourable soil temperatures for germination of summer crops.

Winter rainfall area

Stronger than expected frontal systems returned and are expected to cause light falls of rain in the last week of October and first week of November over most of the winter rainfall region.

This is not good news for winter wheat farmers that are in the peak harvesting season and the

rain and high humidity can cause damage to quality.

With the development of the current La Niña is it possible that summer rainfall may occur in mid to late summer as a result of summer systems moving southwards over Namibia and western parts of the Northern Cape.

Namibia

Light falls of between 10 mm and 20 mm are expected in the last week of October over the north-eastern parts. Very little or no rain is expected for the rest of the country until at least the last week of November. Outlooks are favourable from about December to March.

Very warm to hot conditions are expected for most of November.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- The probability for a La Niña event increased to more than 90% and moderate to moderate/strong event is now expected. It is about the same intensity as in 2020/21 or even a bit stronger. It also is likely that the peak will be reached later compared to 2020/21 that is positive for rainfall towards the western parts.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index returned to a weak negative phase that is also positive for summer rainfall.
- Average to above average rainfall is expected over the central to eastern summer rainfall area in the first part of summer and extending to the west in the mid to second part of summer. ■

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The impact of comprehensive silo insurance on the cost of grain storage

Philippa Wild, Head Santam: Underwriting Services

As the leading general insurer in South Africa, Santam believes that insurance should be regarded not only as a protection mechanism, but more importantly as a partnership between the client and the insurer with effective risk management at the core. A thriving insurance sector is critical to any healthy economy. It promotes financial stability and economic growth, and it allows different risks to be managed more efficiently to reduce the impact of events that cause financial loss.

"Insurance is the DNA of the economy. Without insurance, nothing is built, nobody works, nothing floats, nothing runs on tracks, and nothing ships.

It rebuilds lives, cities, and companies. The World Trade Center would not be rebuilt without the insurance industry, which pumped \$4.4 billion into it." (Joseph J. Plumeri, former Chairman and CEO, Willis Group Holdings plc.)

The insurance industry has a major role to play in protecting clients and businesses from losses that are diversifiable.

In the agricultural environment, silos have become an integral component of a grain storage management system. Therefore, it necessitates the need for comprehensive insurance of the asset against any eventuality, either weather-related events or other unexpected accidents.

It is imperative that farmers and producers are covered against losses, which can be extensive if large silos, bins and equipment are damaged.

As with any structure, a silo must be properly designed, constructed and maintained to enjoy insurance cover and ensure it has a long, useful, and safe life. Maintenance of a silo, required for insurance purposes, includes the repair of the walls and/or inner liner used to promote flow and the periodic inspection of roof vents, level probes, feeders, dischargers, and gates

From previous page: The impact of comprehensive silo insurance.

SPONSOR NEWS

In addition to this, it is helpful for silo owners to understand their main risk exposures and work with their intermediaries and insurers to make sure that have the right cover in place as well as importantly, the right risk management practices. Fire and explosion are main risks that are explained below.

All silo facilities are equipped to receive grain, and store and discharge it effectively. Drying and cleaning facilities are all part of the operations of grain storage. Grain dryer fires are one of the most significant risks a grain handling operation can face.

The devastating results of fire can include death, serious injury, financial loss, property damage, and business interruption with production downtime.

Dust explosions are a frequent hazard in grain elevators or oxygen-limiting silos. This hazard is more prevalent during the process of receiving and discharging grain, as static electricity is generated in these processes, and without effective ways of discharging this static charge the risk of dust explosion is increased.

RISK MANAGEMENT WITH REGARD TO HAZARDOUS AREAS AND ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

The SANS Hazardous Area Classification and SANS 10108 certification are integral parts of regulating and managing hazardous areas and their electrical installations. They are especially important in safeguarding employees and equipment through the prevention of electrical fires and explosions. Special attention should be given to this regulation.

GRAIN STORAGE RISK MANAGEMENT

The use of silo bags is another option to store grain. The contents can also be covered under the insurance policy. It is important to manage the surface area in terms of clearance of combustible material and the angle of the area so that rainwater can run off and not damage the grain. Theft cover is available to grain dealers with silo bags when the necessary risk management is in place. This can refer to 24 h security guards, flood lights, security gates, etc.

A silo bunker is the latest innovation and is basically a large cement dam like structure which

holds the crop and is covered with a canvas like sail and can be exposed to the same risk being mentioned here

Other factors that must be noted in the risk management of silos are the importance of effective management of grain storage as grain can rapidly deteriorate, as well as run the risk of severe damage from lightning strikes as silos are generally the tallest structures on the farm. While lightning rod protection systems can prevent damage to the structure, damage and fire can still result if lightning strikes hit the facility's electrical system.

Loading or unloading belts, pulleys, shafts, and other mechanical apparatus in silos are also subject to mechanical failure and overheating. New motors used in silos and feed rooms have safety devices; but many older electrical motors have been modified and supporting wiring and circuitry may be substandard. Older or misapplied units such as these are prone to arcing and overheating.

Ultimately it is vital that the producer undertakes a proper needs analysis, in close cooperation with an intermediary to ensure all the risk factors are taken into consideration. ■



Santam's Agri insurance products were developed around the specific needs of the farmer and our cover is specific to the unique risks and requirements of the agricultural sector.

Contact your intermediary or visit www.santam.co.za for more details about Santam's comprehensive agriculture insurance solutions.

Klein- en Sentraal-Karoo kry reën ná jare se droogte

Nuusverklaring deur Agri Wes-Kaap

Die boere in die Sentraal- en Klein-Karoo is verheug oor die goeie reënval wat hulle onlangs ontvang het.

Charles Muller, 'n landbouprodusent van Merweville, het die goeie nuus gedeel: "Dit is die beste reën sedert Januarie 2014 in ons streek. Hierdie reën is ongelooflik baie werd en met opvolg-reën so elke twee weke kan dit die einde van die langste droogte ooit wees. Almal se gemoedere is tans dié van diepe dankbaarheid en positiwiteit. Baie boere het onlangs gesê hulle gaan net aanhou boer tot einde Desember, dan gooi hulle die handdoek in. Nou wil almal net boer!"

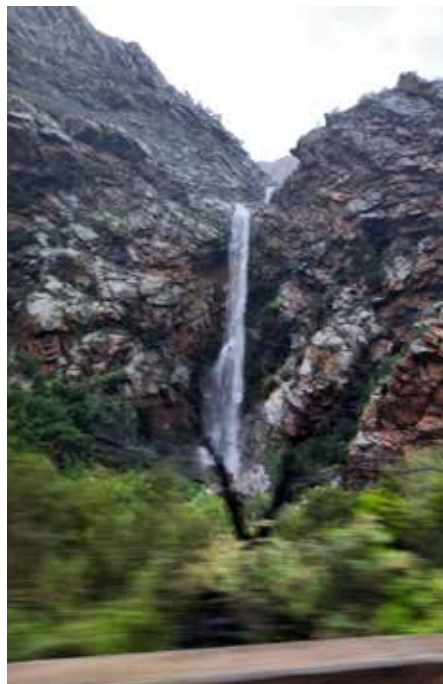


Laingsburg.

PF Theron, Agri Wes-Kaap (AWK) se streeksverteenvoorder in Sentraal-Karoo meen dié streek het waarlik goeie reën ontvang. "Dit het wyd gereën en ek vermoed niemand is oorgeslaan nie. Dit wissel van 15 mm tot 100 mm – die beste reën in ses jaar wat ons ontvang het. Ons kan net dankie sê vir hierdie seën!"

Laubscher Coetzee, AWK se streeksverteenvoorder vir die Klein-Karoo, sê die reën het tussen 46 mm en meer as 70 mm gewissel. "Ons klouwe het begin loop en die velddamme kry water.

Ons weet nog nie hoeveel in die berge nie, maar ek glo dit het



Meiringspoort.



Alle riviere en leegtes loop in Merweville maar alles baie stemmig, geen verspoelings.

daar nog meer gereën. Prys die Here! Hierdie is groot uitkoms!" Jannie Strydom, hoofuitvoerende beampte van AWK sê dit is wonderlike nuus vir 'n streek wat al jare deur swaar droogte geteister word. "Dié is die meeste reën wat die Klein- en Sentraal-Karoo in jare ontvang het, en hoewel die veld lank gaan vat om te herstel, is ons ongelooflik dankbaar vir elke druppel!" ■



2020 Vintage excels in Sauvignon Blanc SA Top 10



Sauvignon Blanc South Africa has announced the winners of the 2021 Sauvignon Blanc SA Top 10 competition – and no less than seven of the champion wines are from the 2020 vintage, which turned out to be an excellent vintage for Sauvignon Blanc.

This year's Top 10 (in alphabetical order) are:

- Bellevue Sauvignon Blanc 2021
- Diemersdal Sauvignon Blanc Reserve 2021
- Flagstone Free Run Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2020
- Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2020
- Le Grand Domaine The Pledge Our Darling Sauvignon Blanc 2020
- Nitida Wild Child 2020
- Spier 21 Gables Sauvignon Blanc 2020
- Steenberg The Black Swan Sauvignon Blanc 2020
- Strandveld Pofadderbos Sauvignon Blanc 2021
- Thelema Sutherland Sauvignon Blanc 2020

The competition was judged by a panel of leading

wine experts with Cape Wine Master Dr Winifred Bowman as convener, as well as Charles Hopkins, cellar master of De Grendel, wine judge and author Fiona McDonald, Rüdger van Wyk, winemaker of Stark-Condé Wines, Johann Fourie, chief winemaker of Benguela Cove, as well as two Cape Winemakers Guild Protégés, Kelsey Shungking of Mullineux, and Leeu and Victoria Davis of Boekenhoutskloof.

“This year will be remembered as a world-class Top 10 and all 96 producers who entered can therefore rightly be proud of the performance of their 157 wines,” says RJ Botha, chairman of Sauvignon Blanc SA. “We see exciting innovation, with six winning wines appearing in the Top 10 for the first time, as well as a good balance, with four winning wines that have already achieved this feat before. The results confirm diversity and growth in South African Sauvignon Blanc, as well as diversity in origin with the winners coming from diverse regions, including Darling, Durbanville, Constantia, Stellenbosch, Elgin, and Elim.” ■

Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa newly elected management

Congratulations to the newly elected SA Agricultural Economics management committee members: president, Dr Melissa van der Merwe; vice-president, Dr Sifiso Ntombela; and additional member, Dr Ndumiso Mazibuko.



New president of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA)

Prof. Heinrich Bohlmann, Associate Professor in the University of Pretoria's Department of Economics, has recently been elected as president of the Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA) for the 2021–2023 term, following his term as vice-president from 2019–2021.

The Society was established in 1925 and serves as a discussion forum for economists in academic life, government, and business through the hosting of its biennial conference, publication of the highly rated *South African Journal of Economics*, and other events at branch level. It boasts a large and

diverse membership, including from outside South Africa.

Prof. Bohlmann, who holds a PhD in economics from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, specialises in the development and application of dynamic computable general equilibrium (CGE) models for practical policy research. Over the course of his career, he has been contracted as an economic modelling consultant on research and training projects to clients such as the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, South Africa's National Treasury, Eskom, and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. ■



“I am honoured to be leading the Society for the next two years and look forward to making a positive contribution and bringing renewal where needed as the ESSA approaches its 100-year anniversary,” says Prof. Bohlmann.



IFAJ webinar: Sustainability and IFAJ2022

Join us at 14:00 GMT on 24 November for a fascinating webinar with Food Nation on Denmark's remarkable climate-friendly, high-efficiency farming.

Learn how this tiny nation produces enough food to feed three times its own population, while reducing waste and pollution at the same time.

This webinar is the perfect introduction to the 2022 Congress in Denmark.

[Read more and register: https://ifaj2020.dk/](https://ifaj2020.dk/)



IN MEMORIA

Totsiens Louise

Dit is met leedwese dat ons bekend maak dat Louise Lawrence (Botha) onlangs op die ouderdom van 65 na 'n kort siekbed oorlede is.

Sy is twee weke voor haar dood met keelkanker gediagnoseer. Louise was vir baie jare lid van Landbouskrywers SA en het ook op die Noordelike Streek se bestuur gedien.

Sy het saam met 'n hele paar lede en oud-lede by die Departement van Landbou gewerk waar sy op die maak van oudvisuele opleidingsmateriaal en insetsels vir die destydse landbouprogram wat op TV uitgesaai is onder die vaandel van die Departement en deur Johan Badenhorst vervaardig is.

Louise was ook deel van die spannetjie lede wat in 1997 op uitnodiging van die Israeliese regering Israel toe is. Later het sy by die SAUK se nuuslessenaar gewerk tot haar aftrede twee jaar gelede. ■



CALENDAR

CALENDAR

12 November 2021	Agricultural Writers SA National Awards Ceremony, Cavalli, Stellenbosch. Contact Eunice Joubert at eunice@agriexpo.co.za .
17 November 2021	National Annual General Member Meeting. You are invited to attend the virtual Agricultural Writers SA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 17:00. It will be hosted on Zoom and participants are required to register for the AGM at https://www.abadmin.co.za/default2.php before 10 November 2021.

UPCOMING IFAJ CONGRESSES

2022 – Denmark

2023 – Canada

2024 – Switzerland

2025 – Israel

2026 – Kenya

2027 – Croatia

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

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

*Brahman cattle
basking in the late
afternoon sun at
Wayside Brahman
Stud, Francistown,
Botswana,
Denene Erasmus.*

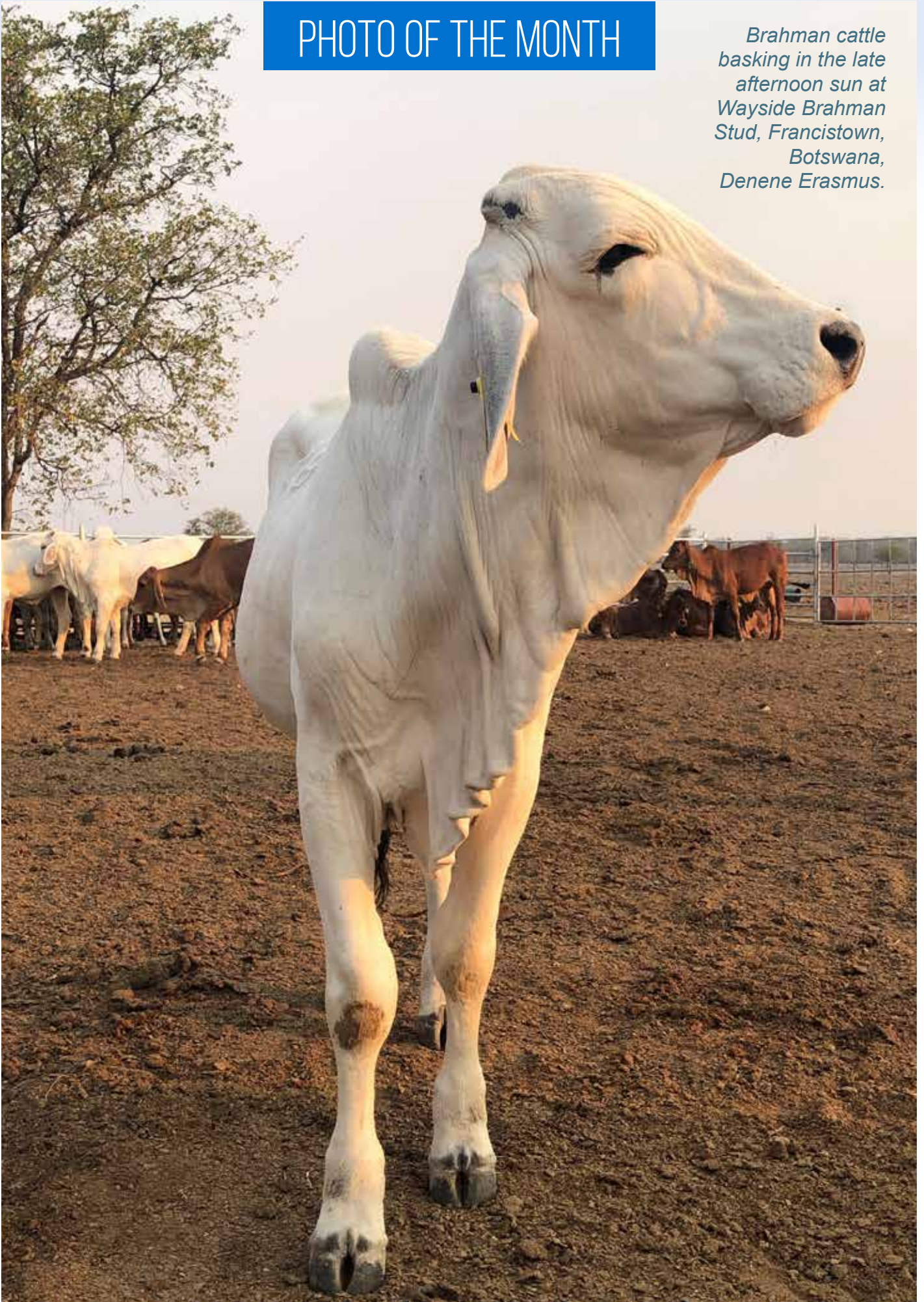


PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Brahman cattle basking in the late afternoon sun at Wayside Brahman Stud, Francistown, Botswana, Denene Erasmus.

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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