

Tekulima Nentfutfuko

Agriculture and Development

1st & 2nd Quarter 2011/12

page 2-3
Job creation through CRDP

page 4-5
- Animal Primary Health
- 2011 Vet movement restrictions



page 15
Nguni cattle gives new lease on life

page 16
My love for farming and soil



page 6-7
Industry Outlook

page 6-7
DARDLA 1st ¼ performance

page 10-11
2011 Crop Estimates



page 17
Mphatha Farm opens doors . .

page 18
Invasive Fruit Fly

page 19
Farming is my life



page 20
DARDLA devotes 67 minutes

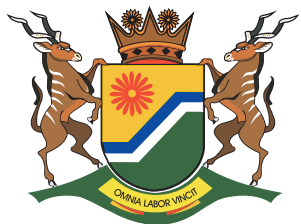
page 22
Farmers call for help

page 23
Career Exhibition for Grade 10 to 12 learners



page 12-13
Department promised to intervene

page 13-14
Young female farmers awarded with certificates



dardla

Department:
Agriculture, Rural Development
and Land Administration
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT





JOB CREATION THROUGH CRDP

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Community member in Mkhondo Municipality putting up a fence for their cattle project

The launch of the roll out of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) in Senotlelo, Dr JS Moroka Municipality, recently, is the provincial government's clearest indication yet, of its intention of dealing with poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

At the heart of the CRDP is government's participatory approach to service delivery. This is achieved by ensuring that infrastructure and other services are delivered with the active involvement of community members. Community members are being trained in artisan and other skills in order to build houses, connect water and fix potholes in their own communities. In the

process, hundreds of young people will be employed and most importantly, hundreds of young people will have skills that will ensure that they are employable.

The launch of the roll out of the programme follows its pilot phase in the Mkhondo Municipality. The current roll out will target seven municipalities for accelerated infrastructure delivery in order to invigorate their local economies for a sustainable future. Set to benefit from the programme are the Mkhondo, Pixley ka Seme and Chief Albert Luthuli municipalities in Gert Sibande district. Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge municipalities in the Ehlanzeni District as well as Dr. JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani municipalities in Nkangala district will also benefit from CRDP. Certain

wards in each of those municipalities were classified as the least developed in the province and will therefore benefit from the CRDP.

Using the outcomes based system of governance, the CRDP will ensure that all government departments deliver infrastructure to the identified communities. The Health department will ensure the construction and renovation of 11 clinics, while adult health centres and community based health services will also be improved. The Department for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism will establish a charcoal production plant and a nursery in Dr. JS Moroka, will it will ensure poultry development projects in Bushbuckridge.





MRTT Students honing in their skills

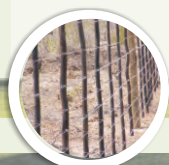
The provincial Education Department will deliver feeding schemes to 172 primary and secondary schools in the targeted municipalities, while a boarding school will be constructed in the Mkhondo municipality. Additional Early Childhood Development Centres (ECD) will be constructed, while training will be provided to ECD care givers. The Department of Human Settlement will support brick making enterprises in Nkomazi, Mkhondo and Bushbuckridge municipalities, while delivering more than 5000 houses during this financial year to CRDP identified communities. The Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation will establish one library with E- Learning facilities, while sporting hubs will be constructed and sports equipments delivered to CRDP communities.

The seven (7) municipalities will

support the CRDP with the provision of electricity, ICT facilities, sanitation, municipal road infrastructure and much more. All departments will be involved with the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration envisioning that the CRDP will create more than 10 000 jobs during this financial year. More than R1 billion will be spend by the various municipalities and government departments in total.

Accompanied by members of the provincial government, Premier David Mabuza visited several of the identified projects on the day of the Launch, including the Marapyane College of Education, which will be changed into the Marapyane College of Agriculture. Other projects that were visited were the Dr. JS Moroka Mill, the Bokamoso Youth Development Centre and clinics in the area.

Addressing the community after the projects visits, Premier Mabuza commented that the community of Dr JS Moroka was confronted by high employment. "You said the delivery of basic services such as water, electricity, houses roads and other amenities are moving slowly. You further indicated that the education of your children and health status of the residents required serious attention. When you came out in numbers to vote in 2009, you instructed the ANC-led government to find better ways that could accelerate service delivery. This government is listening to you and we will deliver better services to you, at a faster face" Premier Mabuza said when he addressed more than 5000 people who attended the Launch of the Roll Out of the CRDP in the Province.





ANIMAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TO THE RESCUE

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Mobile Animal clinic

While Primary Health Care from the Health Department is well known; the Primary Health Care Programme from DARDLA is less known. Vet Services are however determined to show how important Primary Health Care is, through the Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC) Programme.

The main focus of the PAHC is providing basic health care, disease prevention, parasitological control, as well as husbandry. Advisory services on the housing and feeding of animals is also part of the programme, while simple diagnostic procedures, treatment and education is also provided. Through its work, the veterinary services are ensuring that residents who live in rural areas, villages, locations, townships and farms are able to enjoy clinical services for their animals.

PAHC received impetus by the provision of mobile clinics and the building of Animal Health Centres (AHC). This enabled DARDLA to render comprehensive clinic services to remote rural areas. Rendering these clinical services to remote, rural communities could not have come at a more opportune time, as these communities either had to go without these services for their cattle and animals or pay high fees to private animal clinics. Animal technicians,

veterinarians and para-veterinarians also respond to house calls for sick animals where simple diagnostic treatment is provided.

Large numbers of animals are attended to during the PAHC sessions and veterinary extension services. Veterinary services vaccinate animals against Anthrax, Rabies, Brucellosis, Foot and Mouth Disease and Poultry are vaccinated against New Castle Disease.

Noting that animal health can have reaching consequences on the health of people and on the environment in general, DARDLA designed and erected ten animal health centres, that are compliant to the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) in the three districts of the province was in dire straits for primary veterinary services but it now boasts state-of-the art mobile clinics, dedicated clinical veterinarians and veterinary nurses.

The centres are situated at Sybrandskraal, Tweefontein, Siyabuswa and Nokaneng in Nkgangala District. It is also found at Schoemansdal, Tonga, Malekutu, Casteel and Hluvukani in Ehlanzeni District. In gert Sibande District, animals can be taken to Eerstehoek and Dun Donald.



Vaccination and Sterilisation Campaign





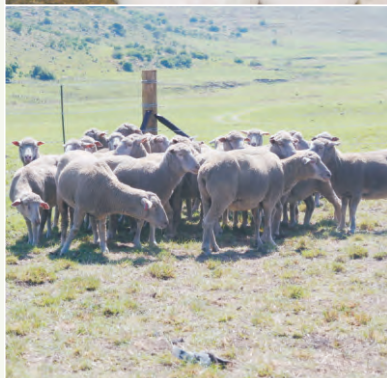
2011 Veterinary Movement Restrictions Within Umjindi, Mbombela, Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge And Thaba Chweu



The transportation of cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs (domestic and wild) and various game species are regulated by the Animal Diseases Act 35 of 1984. The Animal Diseases Act compels any person who transports live cloven-hoofed animals or their products through, out of, within or into the foot-and-mouth disease control zones and the African swine fever control zone in the above mentioned local municipal areas to obtain a veterinary movement permit from Veterinary Services of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration.



Hunters are also reminded that a **Veterinary Movement Permit** is needed when venison and trophies are transported through, out of, within or into the disease control zones in the mentioned municipal areas. It is the responsibility of the person who is transporting the product to ensure that the permit accompanies the product. Veterinary roadblocks will be held as a method to ensure compliance with these restrictions.



The Veterinary Movement Permit is additional to any other permit or licensing needed as prescribed by other legislation. The Veterinary Movement Permit does not replace any other permit or license prescribed by other legislation.

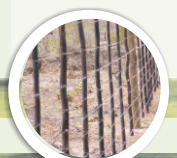
Transgression of the Animal Diseases Act 35 of 1984 can result in a fine of up to R16 000 and imprisonment of up to four years.



These restrictions are necessary for the protection of South Africa against foot-and-mouth disease, as well as the resultant export restrictions should an outbreak occur. These restrictions also ensure the maintenance of our international foot-and-mouth disease status.

Please phone the nearest State Veterinary office, should you need assistance with information or need to arrange for veterinary movement permits on the below contact numbers:-

- State Veterinarian Mbombela/Umjindini (Mpumalanga Province) : 013 753 3247 / 013 752 4568**
- State Veterinarian Nkomazi (Mpumalanga Province) : 013 780 3018**
- State Veterinarian Thaba Chweu (Mpumalanga Province) : 013 235 2071 / 2**
- State Veterinarian Maruleng (Limpopo Province) : 015 793 2408**
- State Veterinarian Gravelotte (Limpopo Province) : 015 318 4331**
- State Veterinarian Bushbuckridge (Mpumalanga Province) : 013 773 1161 / 1150**
- State Veterinarian Orpen Via BBR office (Mpumalanga Province) : 013 773 1161 / 1150**
- Veterinary Services, Mpumalanga Provincial Office : 013 741 3218 / 4710**



INDUSTRY

Kenneth Nkambule



The Economics Directorate compiled economic, pricing and other data for Quarter 1 of the 2011/2012 in order to help farmers with better planning. This information can be summarized as follows:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The contribution of Agriculture to GDP decreased by 6%. This trend remains a challenge for both the Province and DARDLA as agriculture is the main water user in South Africa and one of the biggest employers.

Inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual inflation rate in May 2011 was 4.6%. Mpumalanga is among the provinces with a higher indices above the national CPI at 4.7%. The expected down-ward inflation trend will provide relief to consumers, because it will result in a slower rise of food prices.

Interest rate impact

The Interest prime rate remained unchanged at 9 % during second quarter 2011 and is expected to serve as relief for farmers/consumers who are battling with repaying their debts or recovering in the short-term. The repo rate also remain constant at 5.5% from the previous quarter

Brent Crude Oil

Land preparation, ploughing, harvesting and delivering products to the market, all require petrol or

diesel. Like fertiliser, transport therefore plays an important role in agricultural activities and accounts for 40% of the running costs of farming businesses. Petrol prices were recorded as follows:

Fuel price (Nelspruit and surrounding)

Fuel Grade	April 2011	May 2011	Jun 2011
Premium 93	10.10	10.10	10.33
Premium 95	10.05	10.33	10.31
Diesel plus	10.28	10.44	10.06

The prise of diesel and petrol is projected to decline in July 2011 and this will be to the benefit of farmers; as their profit margins will increase.

Electricity

Year	Percent Increase
2011	25.8
2012	25.9

Source: NERSA, 2011

The electricity price increase from the year 2011 to 2012 will have a drastic impact to both producers and consumers in the country. The increase was mainly due to the monthly contributions of the increase in the price indices of electricity (+0,2 of a percentage point), agriculture (+0,1 of a percentage point), and products of petroleum and coal (+0,1 of a percentage point).

Farmers should start to adopt and implement alternative back up plans such as Generators,



Outlook



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Windmill, Solar system etc to supplement the increase electricity cost.

FERTILISER COST

On average commercial farm fertilizer and lime accounts for 26%- 31% of the production input cost. Since the beginning of May to June 2011 the cost of fertilizer has been increasing.

The effect of fertilizer prize will:

- First be transferred to the consumers through the increase in commodity prices.
- Secondly, farmers will reduce the area planted for the following season which will reduce the quantity of produce as a result leading to commodity price increase.
- Affect subsistence farmers the most as most of their income goes to food and production input.

Average international fertiliser prices (Rand value)			
Fertiliser	May 2011	17 June 2011	% change
	Rand/ tonne	Rand/ tonne	%
Ammonia (Mid East)	3 375	3 404	+ 0,9
Urea (46) (Eastern Europe)	2 800	3 288	+ 17,4
DAP (USA Gulf)	4 171	4 175	+ 0,1
Potassium chloride (CIS)	3 016	3 178	+ 5,4

PRODUCT SECTOR PRICES

Beef	25/06/2010 Price/ kg	24/06/2011 Price/ kg
Class A	25.51	26.99
Contact A2/A3	24.82	26.98
Class C	19.81	24.00
Weaner Calves	15.80	17.25

Outlook: Prices are expected to soften somewhat in the medium term due to subdued demand during the winter period.

Mutton

Class A	38.46	48.97
Contact A2/ A3	36.63	49.12
Class C	29.24	40.33
Feeder lamb	18.43	27.50

Outlook: The market is expected to maintain the upward trend in the medium term due to moderation in supplies.

Pork

Porker	16.40	16.10
Baconer	15.15	16.12

Outlook: Domestic porker and beaoned prices are expected to soften somewhat in the short term due to the slowdown in demand.

Poultry

Fresh whole bird	20.18	19.89
Frozen whole bird	14.15	15.88
IQF	11.68	12.90

Outlook: prices will trend sideways with limited upward potential in the medium term due to subdued demand during the winter months

Vegetables

Tomatoes	8.57	4.53
Potato	3.03	2.48
Onion	3.95	2.49
Carrot	2.90	3.07
Cabbage	1.51	1.79

Outlook: Vegetables prices are expected to improve slightly in the short term.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The Directorate Agricultural Economics and Marketing acknowledges the use of information from Statistics South Africa, FNB, NAMC, South African Reserve Bank, Grain SA, STANLIB, TOTAL Garages and Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery,

Disclaimer: DARDLA accepts no liability that can be incurred resulting from the use of this information.

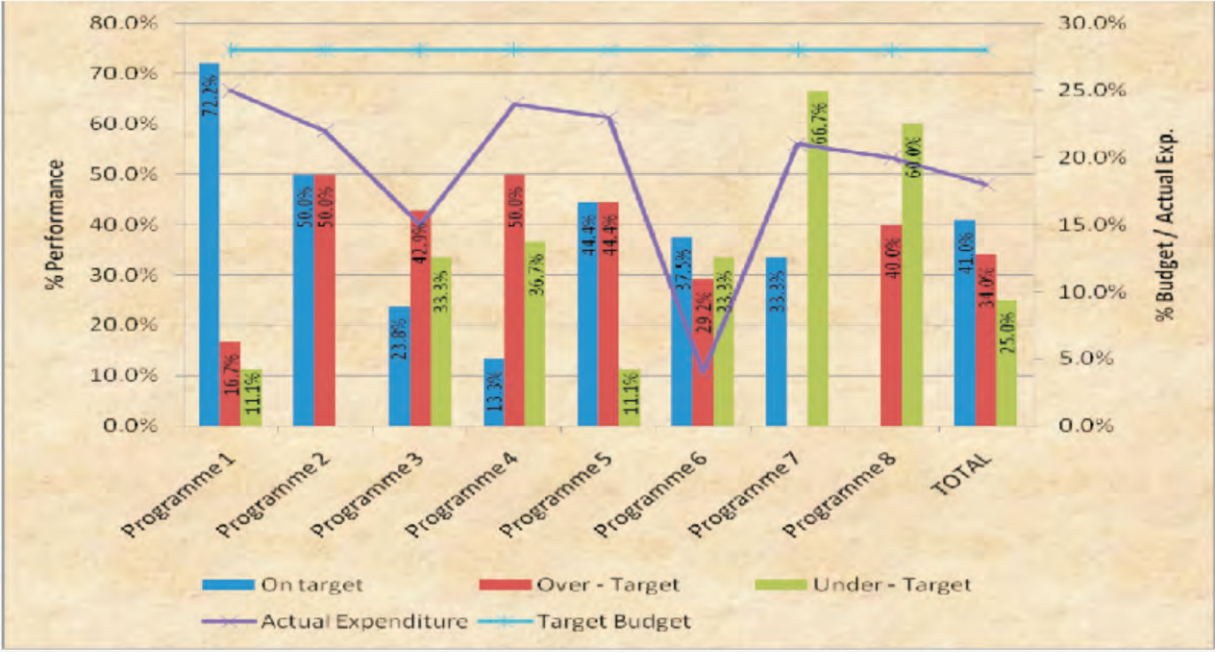




DAR

Tengani Khoza

Overall Performance



Overview on Performance for Quarter 1

DARDLA staff re-committed themselves to new levels of service delivery. This is seen by performance targets exceeded in many service delivery areas. Under performance and over performance on individual targets however remains a challenge. It can

be noted that On-target performance was highest for Programme 1 (Administration) at 72% and Programme 1 also performed the best in overall expenditure. The Agricultural Economics directorate spent the least money, while the Structured Agricultural Training Programme showed the lowest performance on the targets that was set for Quarter 1.



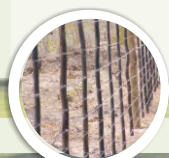
RDLA



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Progress for 1st Quarter

Indicator/s	Target 1st Quarter	Output 1st Quarter	% achieved	Challenges	Planned Interventions
Number of farm plans developed	4 plans developed	7 farm plans developed	175	More requests received than planned	None
Number of hectares planned for sustainable farming purposes	50 hectares planned for sustainable farming purposes	61 ha planned for sustainable farming purposes	122	More requests received than planned	None
Number of recommendations made on subdivisions of agricultural land use	3 recommendations made on subdivisions of agricultural land use	4 recommendations made for change and subdivision of agricultural land use.	133	None	None
Number of beneficiaries adopting sustainable production and practices	15 beneficiaries adopting sustainable production practices	15 beneficiaries adopted sustainable production practices	100	None	None
Number of people whose skills developed through leathership and other capacity building programmes	300 people whose skills developed through leathership and other capacity building programmes	450 people whose skills developed through leathership and other capacity building programmes	150	Accelerated rollout of the CRDP into the seven municipalities created more opportunities for skills development	None
Number of Investors participating in Mpumalanga rural development:	(2) investor participating in Mpumalanga rural development:	2 investor participating in Mpumalanga rural development:	100	None	None
Number of small holder farmers supported to access markets and information	350 small holder farmers accessing information markets & information	352 small holder farmers accessing information markets & information	100.5	None	None
Percentage of land reform projects that are functional	12% of land reform projects that are functional	19% of the land reform farms are functional	158.3	The Directorate has been capacitated with the Director and the Chief Director	None
Number of bankable business plans developed	15 bankable business plans developed	22 business plans developed.	146.7	The Directorate has been capacitated with the Director and the Chief Director	None
Hazardous areas & their potential impact identified	1 Database of all affected farmers by identified hazards compiled	2 databases of hailstorm and floods affected farmers compiled	200	None	None
Number of land Reform Farms supported with specialized advise	292 farms to be supported	288 Farmers supported with specialized advice	98.6	None	Advisors allocated specific farms





Crop Estimates

for Summer Crops 2011

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Agricultural production is seasonal and depends on the weather conditions. The crop yields (i.e. production per hectare) and the length of the growing season of most crops depend on the number of heat units or cold units. The temperatures therefore determine whether a farmer will be able to harvest and how much of produce he or she can harvest. Summer Crops Estimates for 2011 are estimated as follows:

Commercial maize: The size of the expected commercial maize crop has been set at 10,854 mill. tons, which is 1,31 % or 143 650 tons lower than the previous forecast of 10,998 mill. tons. The total area estimate for maize is 2,372 mill. ha, whilst the expected yield is 4,58 t/ha. The area estimate for white maize is 1,418 mill. ha and for yellow maize it is 954 000 ha.

The production forecast of white maize is 6,302 mill. tons, which is 67 700 tons less than the 6,369 mill. tons of the previous forecast. The yield for white maize is 4,44 t/ha. In the case of yellow maize the production forecast is 4,553 mill. tons, which is 75 950 tons less than the 4,629 mill. tons of the previous forecast. The expected yield for yellow

maize is 4,77 t/ha.

Sunflower seed: The production forecast for sunflower seed was increased by 5,32% to 821 970 tons. The area estimate for sunflower seed is 642 700 ha, and the expected yield is 1,28 t/ha.

Other crops: The production forecast for **soya-beans** was also increased by 1,36% to 708 750 tons. It is estimated that 418 000 ha have been planted to soya-beans, whilst the expected yield is 1,70 t/ha. The expected **groundnut** crop was decreased by 4 515 tons to 78 695 tons. For groundnuts the area estimate is 55 150 ha, and the expected yield is 1,43 t/ha.

The production forecast for **sorghum** is 173 250 tons, which is 18 650 tons less than the 191 900 tons of the previous forecast. The area estimate for sorghum is 69 200 ha and the expected yield is 2,50 t/ha.

In the case of **dry beans** the production forecast remained unchanged at 45 250 tons. For dry beans, the area estimate is 41 900 ha, and the expected yield is 1,08 t/ha.





Please note that the seventh production forecast for summer field crops for 2011 (current production season) is yet to be released.

Production Cost For Selected Field Crops

1. White maize	Dry Land	Irrigation	3. Sunflower	Dry Land	Irrigation
Cost of production	R6 166.61	R8 281.56	Cost of production	R3 640.01	R3 640.01
Expected yield (tons/ha)	3.5	5.0	Expected yield (t/ha)	2.0	4.0
Projected price per ton (2011/03)	R1734.00	R1734.00	Projected price per ton (2011/03)	R4 035.00	R4 035.00
Total income	R6 069.00	R8 670.00	Total income (ha)	R8 070.00	R16 140.00
Gross Margin (per ha)	-R97.61	R388.44	Gross margin (per ha)	R4 429.99	R12 499.99
2. Yellow maize	Dry Land	Irrigation	4. Soya beans	Dry Land	Irrigation
Cost of production	R3 588.98	R8 280.52	Cost of production	R5 426.35	R5 641.83
Expected yield (t/ha)	3.5	8.0	Expected yield (t/ha)	2.0	3.5
Projected price per ton (2011/03)	R1 745.00	R1 778.00	Projected price per ton (2011/03)	R3 220.00	R3 220.00
Total income	R6 107.50	R14 224.00	Total income (ha)	R6 440.00	R11 270.00
Gross Margin (per ha)	R 2 518.52	R5 943.48	Gross margin (per ha)	R1 013.65	R5 628.17

Recommendations

Producing field crops under irrigation is more beneficial than producing on dry land. The expected yield (t/ha) is high under irrigation than producing on dry land. Gross margin (income - cost) is high under irrigation.





DEPARTMENT PROMISED TO INTERVENE

Celani Ndude

Nkomazi - According to South African Sugarcane Research Institute (SASRI), more than 50% of the world's arable land has got salt problems, and about one third of irrigated land has got Salinity problems. Saline soils contain sufficient soluble salts to adversely affect the growth of most crop plants. Soil Salinity is a buildup of salts in soil and abnormal high amounts of Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg) and sodium (Na). The Soil Salinity is caused by over irrigation, insufficient drainage, leaching, water quality and fertilizer applied.

Sugarcane growers in Ka-Hhoyi village in Nkomazi are in dire need for better drainage system to prevent soil salinity from destroying sugarcane fields and homes, therefore they appealed to the Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla) to act swiftly on the matter.

This was evident when farmers, stakeholders and officials jointly took a walk to view the fields affected by soil salinity of David Mashiye, a small scale sugarcane grower in the Nkomazi region. When he started cultivating his

field, it was 7.6 ha but due to soil salinity problem he has already lost about 1.7 ha of land.

The Land Care event on Soil Salinity awareness campaign took place at Fig tree D energy centre in Ka-Hhoyi at Nkomazi Local Municipality. The key stakeholders in attendance on the day included Sugar cane Industry TSB, SASRI, DAFF, Akwandze Agricultural Finance, Cane Growers, Lima, Dedet and representatives from Nkomati and Malelane sugarcane small scale growers.

During the walk the team shared information on strategies to curb the problem and how to prevent it from spreading in other areas. A huge portion of soil was covered by soil salinity and part of the soil was no longer suitable for cultivation. Apart from that some of the houses nearby David's fields were also affected and were developing salt from the foundations and cracking.

David started cultivating sugarcane in 2009. He acknowledged that the problem did not start yesterday but it occurred while cultivating. He expressed a serious concern on the negative impact of soil salinity in the area. He said the problem is huge

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and it requires an urgent attention from our government. He added that they created a temporary drainage to solve the problem but it was not helpful either.

"The condition of the soil has got a negative impact on sugarcane production and it also affects households. It reduces the production and the soil is no longer productive. I have lost about 1.7 ha already to soil salinity and cannot produce anything on the affected area anymore. We need government's intervention. Therefore, we appeal to the department to support us with drainage systems," said Mashiye.

Land Care programme is one of the department's initiatives aimed at collectively capacitating communities to participate in Land Care, thereby optimizing agricultural production through sustainable use of natural resources to benefit future generations.

In her message of support, the Ehlanzeni South District Manager for DARDLA, Dr. Mmantoa Kgaphola encouraged famers to work together to solve the problem of soil salinity. "All farmers and



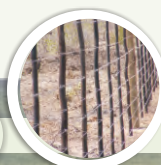
Gabions to prevent soil erosion



Effects of soil salinity



A house effected by soil salinity





stakeholders have a huge role to play. Agricultural Advisors must encourage those farmers who are still applying for land to avoid cultivating in areas like these,” said Dr. Kgaphola.

She assured the farmers that her department in consultation with the Sustainable Resource Management section will engage with them (farmers) again in a follow up meeting to be announced when coming to assess the situation in the area. She also added that the issue of drainage system needs to be put on the business plan by Land Care program

South Africa regularly attends the Climate Change negotiations under UNFCCC and will participate in the preparatory meetings leading up to the Conference of Parties (COP) under the UNFCCC. South Africa's position is prepared in

consultation with relevant local and national government departments including Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) as well as other relevant government stakeholders.

The fourth assessment report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) discusses the impacts that climate change may have on agriculture globally in the next decade or so particularly in the poor and rural parts of the world.

The Climate Change and the Agricultural Sector in South Africa identified research areas of importance related to climate change and agriculture (not exhaustive) and are as follows:-

- Comprehensive audit on vulnerabilities that would identify adaptation priorities;
- Contribution of agriculture to

- greenhouse gases (GHG) generation – improved estimates and measurements;
- Understanding thresholds of crops (and varieties) related to max/ min temperatures, frost dates, rainfall and soils;
- Carbon dynamics and conservation agriculture;
- Scenario planning on climate using modeling techniques;
- Renewable energy/ bio-fuel: Sustainability for energy v/s food security;
- New, alternative and appropriate technologies to reduce GHG production;
- Socio-economic aspects of different scenarios;
- Impact of climate change in the emerging sector;
- Awareness raising, capacity building and technology transfer.



YOUNG FEMALE FARMERS AWARDED WITH CERTIFICATES

Zanele Shabangu

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In their classy outfits, no more in their overalls they are used to when they are in their projects, 25 young women farmers from across the province were awarded certificates for successfully completing training on business skills that included practical pricing, practical marketing, costing skills effective financial management and the development of business plans during a one- week training.

The training which was offered by the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) will make a contribution in the successful running of their projects. The function took place at Bee Eaters Inn during the Women's

month.

As young as between the ages 18 and 35 the young women are proud to be farmers even though they still face some challenges. Speaking on behalf of the group, Ms Nokulunga Nxumalo from Chief Albert Luthuli thanked the department for establishing the YARD structure and the PWC for the training they offered through the Faranani skills programme. She said they'll be pleased to be assisted in future with other trainings where they lack skills for the success of their projects.

The Faranani skills programme aims to nurture women, who have a desire to become business





MEC Mashego-Dlamini, representative from PWC, the Chairperson of YARD and 25 young farmers awarded on the day

entrepreneurs, by providing them with the knowledge on how to manage their own businesses, said Mr. Mpho Malaka from Price Waterhouse Coopers. More than 100 women have been trained in Gauteng, Limpopo and KwaZulu- Natal and now an additional 25 young women from Mpumalanga benefitted from the training programme to date, said Mr. Malaka.

The MEC Mrs. Candith Mashego-Dlamini commented when she addressed the young farmers that “many studies are showing that men are still more productive on farms than women, with women producing lower yields or less cattle and poultry. But it is also found that those trends are the result of the fact that women do not have the same access to agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, land, tractors and other equipment”.

The more skilled women in the agricultural industry are, the higher the income

and the salaries they would be able to negotiate”, said the MEC during her address.

Provincial Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD) chairperson Mr. Makhosini Nkosi said, when they received the good news for the training, they were so delighted “the training was regarded as phase one for the young farmers. He said that the MEC committed during the unveiling of the YARD structure that the department will provide necessary assistance to the young farmers.

Discussions are underway between the structure and the department in assisting the young farmers to graduate from being emerging farmers to becoming commercial farmers in the future, said Mr. Dlamini. Training that is still needed include Technical Skills and Capacity building, Support (Funding and Mentoring) and Project implementation and monitoring, concluded Mr. Dlamini.

GERT SIBANDE			
Simphiwe	Ndinisa	Albert Luthuli	Grain Production
Ntomfuthi	Mbethe	Albert Luthuli	Vegetable Production
Petunia	Moumakwe	Dipaliseng	Grain Production
Nokulunga	Nxumalo	Pixely Ka Seme	Grain Production
Lerato	Mokoena	Lekwa	Vegetable Production
Gugu	Phungula	Msuka likwa	Vegetable Production
Ntomfuthi	Sithole	Govern Mbeki	Vegetable Production
Bongi	Nkosi	Mkhondo	Vegetable Production
Nonhle	Kunene	Mkhondo	Vegetable Production
NKANGALA DISTRICT			
Pinky	Mkhaliphi	Victor Khanye	Grain Farmer
Rose	Masombuka	Thembisile	Animal Farmer
Leah	Zondi	Thembisile	Vegetables Famer
Ntokozo	Dladla	Steve Tshwete	Grain Farmer
Johanna	Mashilo	Dr J S Moroka	Vegetable Production
Mashilo	Thabang	Emakhazani	Animal Production
EHLANZENI NORTH			
Sherian	Kgwedi	Thaba Chweu	Vegetable Production
Nikiwe	Mathonsi	Bushbuckridge	Vegetable Production
Sunnet	Mhlongo	Bushbuckridge	Orchard Producers
Tintswalo	Mathonsi	Bushbuckridge	Vegetable Production
Mahlatsi	Seshaba	Bushbuckridge	Orchard Production
EHLANZENI SOUTH			
Reason	Mphika	Nkomazi	Vegetable Production
Nozipho	Mkhwanzazi	Nkomazi	Vegetable Production
Tekhaya	Mbuyane	Mbombela	Vegetable Production
Khosi	Khumalo	Mbombela	Vegetable Production
Octavia	Mhlongo	Mjindini	Vegetable Production



NGUNI CATTLE GIVES NEW LEASE ON LIFE

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Mr. Lerothodi Solomon Madike and the Lekwarapa Livestock Farmers Association received 9 extra bulls from the department to assist them in their endeavours to becoming sustainable farmers

Marapyane – Three months after Premier David Mabuza handed over 9 bulls to the Lekwarapa Livestock Farmers Association, Mr Lerothodi Solomon Madike (56) and his neighbours have a new lease on life.

A man who has seen many careers including as a municipal police officer and a taxi operator, Mr Madike left the taxi industry and took his little money to start livestock farming. Once in farming, his feet were grounded in the industry when he secured a loan from the Land Bank.

This loan opened a window of possibilities for Mr Madike as he wasted no time and bought ten cows. Undeterred by the challenges of livestock farming, Madike was instrumental in the formation of Lekgwarapa Famers Association, which is home to 38 members, six of which are young people. This group established their own camps and boreholes for

“Previously my children used to look down on farming, but now that I am able to pay for their college fees with the money I am making from the cattle, their attitude is changing. Now it's them who are taking the animals to auctions,” said Mr Madike, a father of three.

their livestock and quickly attracted the attention of agriculture officials. Major challenges facing the livestock industry include the lack of performance tested animals with special reference to bulls, rams and ewes; poor knowledge in breeding production as well as the graduation of subsistence to commercial livestock agri-business farmers.

The Department Agriculture has therefore set aside R5.5 million while the IDC has contributed a grant of R2.5 million towards the reintroduction of indigenous breeds of cattle. Qualifying beneficiaries, like Madike and the Lekgwarapa

Famers Association are loaned heifers and 1 bull as a nucleus for the production of quality cattle. The beneficiaries then have to breed a new stock that will be passed to other beneficiaries after a period of four years.

Although the situation looked bleak, said Mr Madike, “We were invigorated when the Department of Agriculture and the Premier gave us the extra bulls, because I honestly don't think we could have made so much progress without it.” “Our short-term goal is to establish a feedlot including auction facilities within our municipality. To sell our livestock we currently have to travel to places as far as Warmbath, (today known as BelaBela) which doesn't make business sense because we have to spend a lot of money for transporting the livestock,” Madike said. In addition he said their ultimate goal was to work with farmers' associations from other villages in the Dr. JS Moroka municipality in order to establish an abattoir.





My Love for farming and soil

Patrick Nyathi

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The role women play in management of land is crucial and they play an important role in eradication of poverty and ensuring food security. Raised by a passionate farmer Ms Gracious Masuku from Belfast near Mkhuhlu developed love and passion for farming at an early age. This has helped her gain knowledge and love for farming. Gracious is one of the young emerging farmers who were raised by a single parent who was making a living through farming business.

grandparents who made sure that they plant the seed and love of farming on her fragile heart at an early stage. "Having been raised by passionate farmers my love for farming grows day by day as I get older, hence it was very easy for me to take over after my grandfather's death.

She is currently farming different types of vegetables according to seasons. Like any other business it was not an easy sailing for her to get the project up and

"When I grew up my grandfather used to say to us, underneath the soil, there is gold and we must till the soil until we find the gold. This was very confusing to us but he elaborated to us how we can make wealth by tilling the soil" recall Gracious.

"Seeing my mother working hard to provide food for us which was difficult for her since she did it single handed, pushed me to do something to assist her in bringing food to the table. I am proud now that I am able to assist her" said Gracious with a smile of fulfillment. Through different workshops and short courses in Agriculture provided by different institution Gracious advanced her knowledge of farming and its practices.

The land was given to her grandparents in 1968 and was used to grow vegetables which were sold to the neighboring communities until 1989. When her grandfather was killed as a victim of farmer's attacks, she was forced to take over and continue with her grandparent's legacy. Gracious was mentored by her



Ms. Gracious Masuku making her mark in the farming industry

running since her grandparents did not leave finances to fund the business. She started doing part time work at the restaurant and save money to enroll for business management. She also used the same money to start farming in 2008 with about four hundred seedlings of green pepper.

She struggled to secure markets for her product due to lack of knowledge and inexperience. This did not break her spirit as she is now practicing farming on different vegetables ranging from Tomatoes, Spinach, Green Beans, Beetroot, and Onions, and have secured market in the form of nearby business people.

Her dream is to see herself competing with the commercial farmers and also create more jobs for her community members. Like the name of her business Ndzi ya Mahlweni (meaning going forward), she want to continue with farming until she finds the gold that her grandfather told her about.





MPHATHA FARM OPENS DOORS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Henry Ndhlovu

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Students from the Lowveld College of Agriculture visited Mphata farm near Kaapmuiden to get hands on experience from practicing farmers some of whom are graduates from the same college, on what it means to be involved in commercial farming.

Outlining the purpose of the gathering, George Mahlangu who is head of academic at the college, commended everyone behind the success of Mphatha farm saying that the farm was a beacon of hope for other land reform projects that were struggling to stay afloat the competitive agricultural sector.

He appealed to students not to despair as others before them have demonstrated that if one labours under correct knowledge the possibility of success was guaranteed. He further stated that measures have been put in place to expedite genuine concerns

recently raised by students. "We are currently reviewing the curriculum of the college in collaboration with commodity groups, TSB, University of Pretoria and other relevant institutions with the view of keeping the college as a learning institute of choice," said Mahlangu.

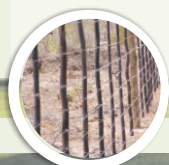
Musa Zulu, a product of the Lowveld College, who is a nursery manager and member of the board of directors of Kudu farm near Lowville, offered words of encouragement to the gathered students. He scouted farms for his third year practicals without any assistance until he settled at Kudu farm where he was on R200.00 monthly salary for six months. Unfazed by his meager salary, Zulu persevered and today he is a proud manager of a 63 hector farm. Zulu sent a message to first year students to start immediately with preparations for their exit strategies.

The gathering was graced by Chief Khumalo of the Mthayiza clan that owns the Mthayiza estate of which Mpatha farm is part of. The learned chief; he holds a masters degree from the University of Limpopo, indicated that they own land that stretched to around 5 000 hectares. His passion for education resulted in the establishment of the Mthayisa Bursary Fund that is currently funding 13 students pursuing careers in diverse fields of studies. Two beneficiaries of the fund are studying at the Lowveld College of Agriculture.

Chief Khumalo made a call for the outreach to be made an annual event pledging his commitment to reserve a portion of the farm to third year college students who want to do experiential learning at the farm as part of the requirements for the completion of their diplomas.



Students from the Lowveld College of Agriculture listening to presentations at Mphata farm near Kaapmuiden





STATUS OF THE INVASIVE FRUIT FLY *BACTROCERA INVADENS* - IN SA



Information from DAFF

On 23 March 2011, one exotic fruit fly specimen was detected in a surveillance trap in the Tshipise area in Limpopo province. The specimen was identified as *Bactrocera invadens*, a quarantine pest of serious concern to the Southern African region. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries deployed a delimiting survey to determine the geographical extent of the occurrence in accordance with the South African *Bactrocera invadens* action plan, on 26 May 2011, 2 more specimens of *B. invadens* were found in 2 separate methyl eugenol baited traps in the Tshipise area.

Phytosanitary actions were implemented in the Tshipise region on 7 June 2011 to control the movement of fruit from the area under delimitation. Eradication procedures commenced in the area and will continue for at least 8 weeks. A combination of Ground applied male annihilation treatments and air/ground applied protein bait treatments are being used for eradication. At the end of the initial eight week eradication effort, all blocks for male annihilation will be removed and intensive monitoring will be carried out for a period of 4 weeks to determine if eradication has been successful. In general, *B. invadens* can be monitored through trapping using methyl eugenol (ME). ME is commercially available and can be used with bucket type traps.

Extreme care must be taken while handling the attractant in order to avoid Contamination on the outside of the trap. An insecticide such as DDVP (dichlorvos) should also be placed inside each trap to kill any attracted flies. Dichlorvos is commercially available as solid strips and a small piece (1cm x1cm) can be used per trap. Traps should preferably be suspended on host trees such as mango, citrus, guava and peach but alternatively on other fruit trees in absence of known hosts. In case of vegetable crops such as tomatoes, pepper and pumpkin, which are also hosts of *B. invadens*, traps can be placed in the immediate surrounding vegetation.

In order to monitor the progress of eradication, it is essential that all fruit and vegetable production areas (inclusive of home garden areas on farms) within the eradication zone have 3-5 ME baited traps per km². In all other fruit and vegetable production areas

outside of the eradication zone, Density of ME baited traps for detection in production areas (inclusive of home garden areas on farms) should be 1 per km².

Traps should be serviced (checked and emptied of caught specimens) every week in the eradication zone and at least once every month outside of the eradication zone.

If specimens are caught, they should be placed in closed plastic vials and the relevant surveillance coordinator must be contacted immediately for arrangements to forward the specimens for identification. All commercial fruit growers throughout South Africa are advised to continue with or, if not doing so already, commence with such surveillance monitoring on their properties.

Growers should not fear the consequences of quarantine in the event of such an early detection and the implementation of eradication procedures, since it is still possible to move (under permit) host material from such quarantined sites in compliance with established additional risk mitigation procedures. With early detection, the chances of successful eradication are very good.

All trapping information (trap details and service records) must be forwarded to the relevant surveillance co-ordinators:

- citrus – Aruna Manrakhan, aruna@cri.co.za, 013-759 8000
- deciduous fruit including grapes – Leslie Brown, Leslie@fruitgro.co.za, 082 853 1471
- subtropical fruits – Wilna Stones, Wilna@subtrop.co.za, 015-307 3676
- fruit and vegetable crops – Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: Jan Hendrik Venter, JanHendrikV@nda.agric.za, 012-3196384

Cutting Edge
RESEARCH NEWS FROM CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL





Farming is my life

Patrick Nyathi

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“Farming is my life and inheritance”, said Mrs. Nana Khosa a mother of nine from Pilgrims Rest (Carine). Mrs Khosa was forced to raise her kids alone after her husband passed away some few years back. Mrs. Khosa, a single parent, who managed to give her kids a decent home, food, education and a normal life through the income generated from the cattle farming business she has.

“When my husband passed away, I was forced to become the mother and a father to my kids and I am proud that I have managed to give them a proper life, basic education and a shelter like any other kids, out of the farming business” she said.

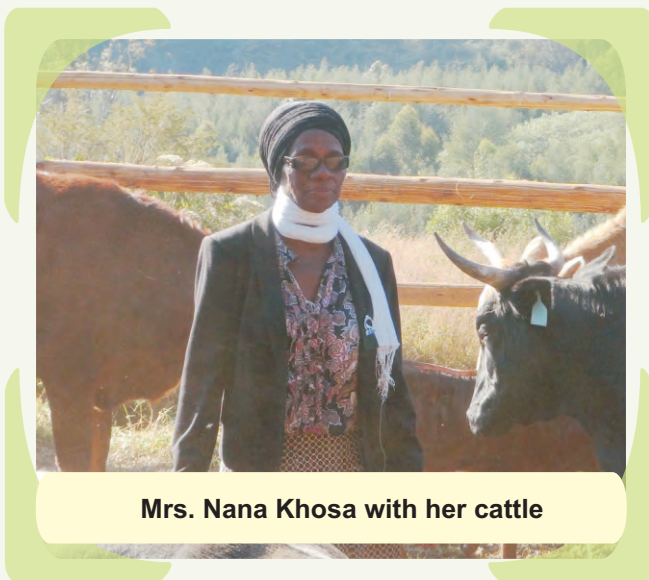
Her passion about farming started when she was still young since she grew up in a farming family. It was in 1980 when her parents gave her their livestock in a form of inheritance. When she started her farming she only had five cows and one bull. Her good farming practice was rewarded by an increase of her livestock from six to sixty two (62) and still wishes to increase the number to hundred and fifty (150) and above. “As an emerging farmer I would love to see myself contend with commercial farmers one day, it is my dream to increase in number of my livestock to hundredth and fifty” said Mrs. Khosa.

In support of the emerging farmers, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration has set aside an amount of R 5.5 million, while the Independent Development Cooperatives (IDC) has contributed a grant of R 2.5 million towards reintroduction of indigenous breed of cattle.

Mrs. Khosa received three bulls and four cows in 2006, when her livestock was killed by devastating fires that ruined her grazing land and her livestock where about 16 cattle were killed; hence she hopes to benefit from the departmental bull and heifer program.

On her budget speech MEC Mrs. Candith Mashego-Dlamini said qualifying beneficiaries will be loaned 25 heifers and 1 bull as a nucleus for production and will pass a new stock to other beneficiaries after a period of years. “I hope this program will help in breaking the chain of generic diseases that is affecting the productivity of livestock” said Mrs. Khosa.

It is general believed that genetic diseases is transfer from one bull to another, this means that if one bull is having a certain disease such disease is inherited from one generation to another and this affect the productivity and even the growing patterns of those animals.

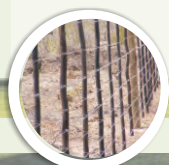


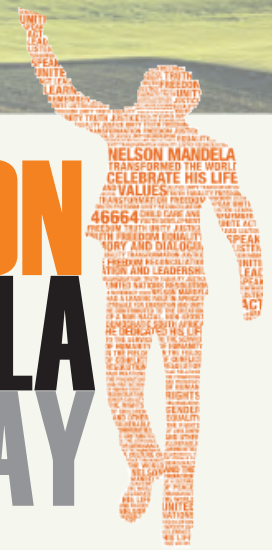
Mrs. Nana Khosa with her cattle

Mrs. Khosa is currently receiving extension services support from the department and this has enabled her to gain intensive knowledge about farming business. “Through the support of department, I was afforded an opportunity to attend training and short courses in cattle farming which has helped in expanding my knowledge and experience in this business” said a visible delighted Mrs. Khosa.

Mrs. Khosa’s passion about life and her community involvement is demonstrated by her gesture of adopting eight orphans, of which three still under her care and the other five have already started their families. Her objective is to give them a normal life and schooling in order to prepare themselves for the future.

She encourages women to stand up and take the advantage of opportunities provided by the government to start their own business in order to develop themselves and the communities that they reside. “It’s about time we stand up as women of Mpumalanga and seize the opportunities offered by the Government to start businesses that will allow us to raise our children and build a better society” concludes Mrs. Khosa.





DARDLA DEVOTES 67 MINUTES

NELSON MANDELA DAY

Janine Julies

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At the first in series of the events to celebrate the legacy of former State President Nelson Mandela, officials joined MEC Candith Mashego-Dlamini for voluntary work at the Nakekela Centre for the Terminally Ill in Tweefontein at Thembisile Hani Municipality. The centre is working closely with hospitals, clinics and community members in identifying and helping terminally ill people and the centre has already assisted around 400 patients.

Financial Accounting and Supply Chain Management, Fikile Ngobeni and Khensani Mdluli helped out with ironing.

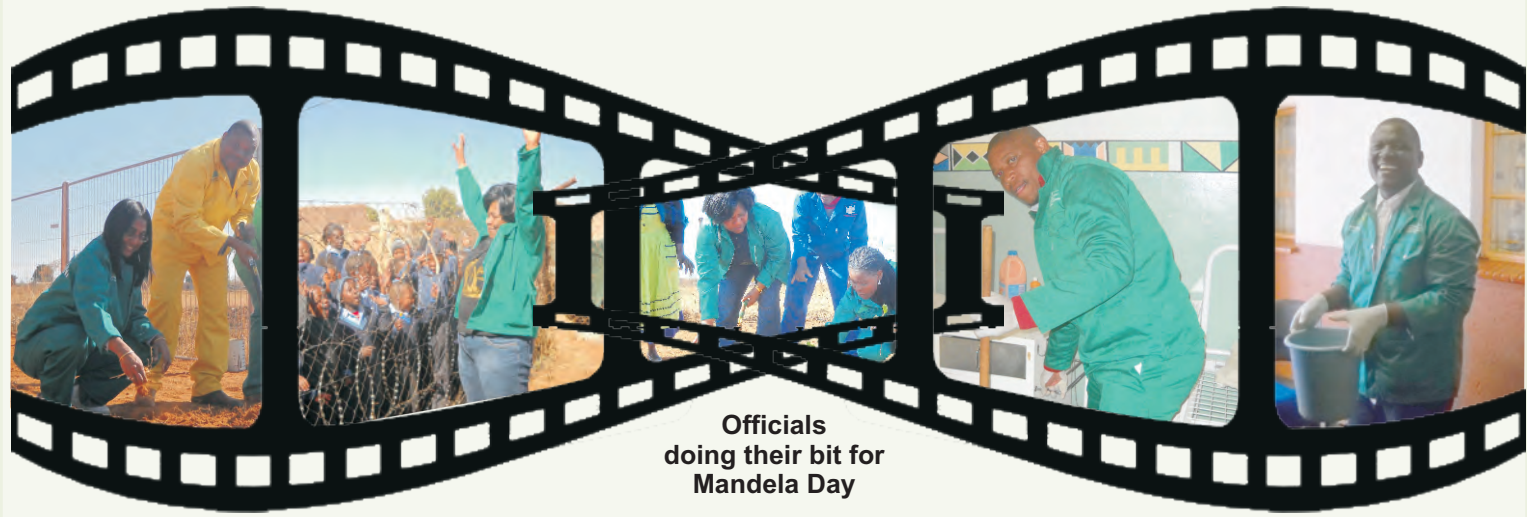
Aaron Madonsela and Simangele Mbatha showed their skills in painting, while OB Magagula and Tiaan Kleynhans took the lead with the washing of floors. Mike Mbatha and Peter Nonyane led the team in cleaning of the store room, numbering the rooms and naming the offices.

On the day, MEC Mashego-Dlamini was in charge of supervising the many work teams, with the Mayor of Thembisile Hani Municipality, Ndaweni Mahlangu, leading the maintenance and painting team. All officials were hands on, doing hard labour with Belviah Dlamini, Janine Julies and Zanele Shabangu helping washing windows. The Directors for

Sinah Kekana, the DARDLA manager responsible for Thembisile Hani municipality ensured that seedlings and other farming inputs were provided. Radha Srinivasan and the colleagues in the Office of the MEC helped out with extending the existing vegetable garden and it was therefore initiated that an extension officer should be

deployed in order to maintain the garden. The Centre also benefited from food parcels and clothes donated by the officials of the Department and were handed over by the MEC to the centre manager, Dr Riana Hattingh.

The surprise highlight of the day came when the learners of Hlalisani Junior Primary school sang *Happy Birthday Madiba* under the conduction of our very own choir master, MEC Mashego-Dlamini. And with so much goodwill in the air, even the famous actor Khaphela Ngcobo from the television soapie *Generations* decided to join the activities, by greeting the patients.



Officials doing their bit for Mandela Day





Farmers call for help stop animals theft

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Bushbuckridge stock farmers union calls for an end to animal theft. The area has been smacked by higher incidents of animal theft for the past years. The area is known of its rich farming practices in both plant and animal farming. The staggering increasing rate of animals theft has encourage people like Mr. Solomon Ntsila to join farming and become a member of Bushbuckridge Stock farmers Union where he is serving as the deputy chairperson.

Born from poverty stricken family Mr. Ntsila was forced to go work in Gauteng as a driver for City to City busses for the period of 25 years. Upon his arrival in Bushbuckridge he started a farming business in vegetable and crop production. He was later forced to surrender his dreams because of scarcity of resources and funds to manage his business. "Lack of equipment and finances to maintain my business was always a challenge", he said".

The death of his farming in crops and vegetable dream gave birth to the love of animals; hence he started farming business in livestock. Like any other business it also poses its challenges but the biggest challenge was the animal stock theft.

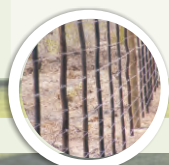
"It has always been my dreams to see a nation where animals are free from criminal activities because to some of us the animals are our managers, our companies where we generate money to feed our families" said Mr. Ntsila who owns 18 herd of cattle. He pleaded with all members of the community to play their part in

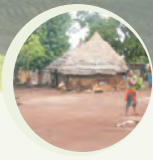
fighting and condemning this practice. "If you see any suspicious act of animal theft, contact the police or members of farmers union" appeals Ntsila.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has initiated the formulation of specialized units within the SAPS that deals with the stock theft, the unit is referred to as Stock Theft Unit to help farmers deal with the stock theft. Another initiative by the DAFF to fight animal theft was the development of Animal Identification Act of 2002 (Act number 6 of 2002). The act makes provisions for farmers to register their livestock and have their animals marked as their property. This can be the first line of defense for animal theft.

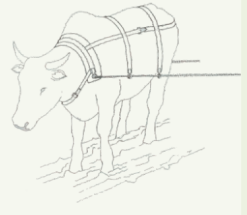
Mr. Ntsila encouraged farmers to have all their animals marked to have ownership and control over them. "If we all marked our animals that way we will be able to tell if criminals are stealing our livestock, failure to do so someone from nowhere can come and impound our livestock and register them under their names and that way we would have lost our livestock" advised Ntsila.

There was a call for farmers and community members who attended the Landcare awareness day held at Bushbuckridge (Graigburn village) to join hands with the Farmers Union and the SAPS in reducing animal theft around the areas. "Together the community members, farmers, business particularly butchery owners and the SAPS we can win this battle" concluded Ntsila.





The use of animal draught can assist emerging farmers save money



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Farming inputs and mechanization is always problematic and expensive for farmers particularly emerging farmers. There are three forms of farming mechanization and farming inputs that are practiced in South Africa which are: *Hand Tool Technology* which is a use of human muscles as the main power of source, secondly is *Draughts Animals Technology* which is the use of Animals as the main power source and lastly is *Mechanical Power Technology* which is the highest level of farming that embraces all agricultural machinery, which obtains its main power from other source other than muscular power.

Farmers can now use Draught Animal for farming as a means of reducing the cost of farming and for effective use of their land. Draft animals can offer farmers the advantage of a low investment in the farm motive power to the purchase of even a relatively small tractor. A prospective horse farmer can spend a great deal money on registered stock, harness and equipment. Hence it is also possible to obtain perfectly serviceable trained animals, used harness and functional equipment at a reasonable price. If saving money by using draft animals is your motivation, you may be able to do so. Just don't cut corners on safety in the interest of cutting cost. For a novice operator, a well-trained animal is well worth the cost. Sturdy, complete harness is vital.

One advantage of using draft animals as farm power is that their fuel can all be generated on-farm. Opinion varies on whether working horses should be fed grass or alfalfa hay and supplemented with oats or corn. The point is that all of these feed can be produced locally, if not on the farm itself. Unlike a tractor, draft animal fit in to the nutrient cycle farm, utilizing local inputs and providing an output of power with a fertilizer by product.

Castle trained as draft animals are called Oxen. Theoretically any calf could be trained as a draft animal, though draft steers are by far the most common. Dairy mixed-use breeds are more often used as Oxen than beef breeds, perhaps because male dairy calves are comparatively inexpensive. Calves that will be used as Oxen should be socialized to people as soon as possible after birth, and training can begin when the calves are just a few months old. The pulling power is obviously limited until full growth is attained.

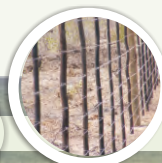
A fully grown Ox can easily outweigh a draft horse and can pull more weight. Oxen travel more slowly than horses and may be less suited to some applications. In contrast to horse, in which the animal's pulling power comes from the chest region and the animal is controlled by means of a bit in its mouth. A common yoke for Oxen is generally far less expensive than harness for horses and may even be home fabricated. Oxen are most

often worked as a team, in part because the presence of another animal tends to have a calming effect.

A Draft animal can be extremely versatile and they can accomplish a great deal of work. But they are slower than large farm equipment. Draft animals can be exceptionally flexible in application. For example, the same team of horses can plough and plant in spring, cultivate in summer, haul in the fall harvest of crops and firewood and feed livestock and offer other income activities in winter. Once a team is in harness, it's as efficient to use them for a little task as a big one since they are not burning any more fuel.

Gone are those days where a farmer would fail to till his/her because of shortage of money to pay a tractor but rather they consider using their very own livestock for farming purposes which will be less expensive and effective.

The MEC for the department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration Ms Candith Mashego-Dlamini has set aside R 5.5 million, while the Independent Development Cooperatives (IDC) has contributed a grant of R 2.5 million towards reintroduction of indigenous breed of cattle. This gesture will go a long way in ensuring that farmer have enough livestock to use even for farming purpose.





CAREER EXHIBITION FOR GRADE 10-12 LEARNERS

Zanele Shabangu

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With the first intake of 120 students, the Lowveld College of Agriculture Marapyane Satellite Campus situated at Dr JS Moroka Municipality will open its doors in the year 2012 for the students who intend to study agriculture.

The Transport Education and Training Authority (THETHA) in conjunction with Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA) and the Department of Education were on a drive to encourage the grade 10-12 learners from fifteen schools selected in the Nkangala District to apply furthering their studies in the transport and agriculture sector and also apply for bursaries.

As the learners were well presentable in their uniforms, they were excited for such an opportunity to visit the different exhibitions where information was given on the different field of

studies they can pursue. The majority of the learners were their first exposure in such sessions that will open doors for their future.

Encouraging the learners, Mr. M. Mathope a representative from the Dr JS Moroka Municipality advised learners to apply for bursaries and consult their educators for advice and for something they don't understand. "For as long as you know what you want in life you can achieve it, it is a matter of you seeking information, as much information as you can, everything is possible in life said Mr. Mathope.

One of the learners in grade 11, Ernest Rathlagane from Malebo High school, said he is living with his grandmother and other two little sisters depending on his granny's grant, he therefore won't have money to further his studies in agriculture as he would like to. "The day came at a right time because I now have all the relevant information that will assist me in

furthering my agricultural studies", said Ernest.

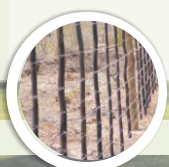
He is enjoying his agriculture subject at school, and what drives him to become an agriculturist is the fact that he has love for the people and he would like to contribute to the production of food. "What I also like about Agriculture subject is that it is practical, we even practice it at home as we plant our gardens".

Studies that will be provided by the college include certificates and diploma courses on farm training and skills transfers as well as accredited further education and training courses. The college will expand its academic offering to include Animal Husbandry and Forestry, as well as the B. Agric programme at NQF level 7.

In the near future the Marapyane College plans to further enrich the curriculum to a Bachelor of agriculture and being placed as an independent institution with



Students from various schools attended different exhibition stands where information was given in different careers to pursue





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