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15 January 2025

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**Climate change is a challenge
for small-scale farmers**

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Photo by Christine Vosloo Photography

God's Choice

Luke 2:37, 'And she [was] a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served [God] with fastings and prayers night and day.'

LUKE 2:36-40

Let's suppose that Anna was fourteen years old when she married. She would have been 105 years old. Yet she was still fasting and praying night and day! Satan tries to convince us that God won't use us. He may cite things like age or lack of abilities, or failures that we've had. But just like Anna, there are many scriptural examples of the Lord using those who would be considered unusable by worldly standards.

Moses was eighty years old before he began to fulfill God's plan for his life and he worked right up until he was 120 years old. Abraham was in his nineties before he had the son that God had promised him.

Gideon was another one who looked unusable. He was hiding from the Midianites when an angel of God appeared and told him he was a mighty man of valor (Judg. 6:11-12). He couldn't believe it at first and had to have the Lord confirm it three times.

Truly, ...God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty... (1 Cor. 1:27-28).

If you feel foolish or weak, then you qualify. Let the Lord use you today.

Source: <https://www.awmi.net/reading/daily-devotional/>



Photo by AffiePlaas Fotografie

Climate change is a challenge for small-scale farmers

how a mix of old and new techniques produced a superior maize harvest in a dry part of South Africa



New research into rural small-scale farms in South Africa's North West province has found that climate-smart farming techniques lead to a better maize yield, a more regular supply of food for the farmers, and a wider variety of crops.

Small-scale farmers often produce primarily for their own consumption, but many also sell produce in local markets. Because small-scale farmers rely on their crops both to survive and as their only form of income, they are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Some of the climate-smart techniques being successfully used are:

- planting drought-tolerant maize seeds (a new variety of maize that grows well even when there is a drought)
- mulching (covering the soil with a layer of leaves or bark to keep the moisture in)
- cover cropping (planting grasses or legumes between the main crop to nourish and protect the soil)
- mixed cropping (growing two or more crops together to repel pests)
- zero tillage (placing mulch over the soil and planting seeds in that layer instead of digging beds).

The North West province of South Africa has a semi-arid climate with hot summers and mild winters. More frequent and intense droughts and unpredictable rain have created an unstable environment. Traditional farming practices have become less reliable, underscoring the urgent need for adopting climate-smart agriculture.

Across South Africa, rural small-scale farming families are very vulnerable to climate change. They do not own expensive irrigation systems. These days, rains are often delayed. This means the small-scale farmers can no longer plant as early as they used to. This affects growing seasons and reduces their crop output, creating food insecurity in their households.



Dr Omotoso and the improved maize grown under climate smart agriculture. Supplied

We are agricultural economists who research how climate-smart agricultural practices can make small-scale farmers more productive and resilient.

As our findings show, adopting certain agriculture practices helps mitigate climate impacts. It also leads to increased food availability and a more



diverse range of foods, enhancing overall food security for rural farmers.

Maize is an important crop in South Africa. Tens of millions of people eat 5.2 million tonnes a year of this staple food, which provides essential nutrients and forms a significant part of their diet.

The study

We interviewed more than 300 small-scale maize farmers from 30 rural communities across the North West province, which borders Botswana. We asked them what farming practices they had used during the 2022 and 2023 agricultural seasons.

Our research found that they'd started adapting their farming to climate change since 2010, based on their Indigenous knowledge of how to cope with droughts, storms and changes in the climate, how to conserve water, protect the soil, and how to introduce new crops.

In 2011, South Africa released the National Climate Change Response White Paper. As part of this, climate smart agriculture was integrated into agricultural policies and programmes run by agricultural scientists, non-governmental organisations, and government agriculture extension services in the study area. This specialist advice plus the farmers' grassroots solutions evolved into the climate smart agriculture they practise today.

This synergy is an important part of helping small-scale farmers adapt to climate change because, ultimately, the individual farmer's unique perception of climate change determines what farming practices they choose to implement.

What we found

We found that 86% of the farmers interviewed (or 272 farmers) had adopted climate smart agriculture. As one farmer said:

The weather used to be more predictable, and we knew when to plant and harvest. However, the rain comes late or not at all. I've had to change how I farm through trying new seeds and planting techniques... It's not just about growing food; it's about adapting to the new reality we face.

That the majority of farmers began adapting to climate change on their own highlights their ingenuity and resilience and shows that small-scale maize farmers can farm while the climate changes.

The farmers who adopted climate smart agriculture had more maize to consume than farmers who had stuck to ordinary farming methods. They harvested around 6.2 tonnes of maize per hectare per year, earned about R15,000 (US\$824) per hectare from selling their maize, and sold 4.1 tonnes of maize per year.

The farmers who stuck to ordinary farming methods harvested 3.9 tonnes per hectare, sold 2.7 tonnes of maize, and earned about R11,500 (US\$632) per year. The 30% improvement in earnings for farmers who use climate smart agriculture is meaningful and transformative. Small-scale farmers often operate on thin profit margins. A 30% improvement in earnings provided these farmers with economic stability, the chance to re-invest the money in their farms, and improved livelihoods.

The benefits of climate-smart agriculture

Enhanced soil health: Practices like cover cropping and using organic fertilisers improve soil structure and fertility. This leads to more crops for harvesting.



Environmental sustainability: Climate smart agriculture includes conservation agriculture (combining intercropping, mulching and zero tillage) and agroforestry (planting trees and bushes with crops). These store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from farming activities, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Improved food security: With more diverse farms came additional food and income sources. This reduced the farmers' dependence on a single crop. It improved their resilience to climate shocks. This diversification can also buffer farmers against the risks of crop failure.

Increased productivity: We found that climate smart agriculture in the North West province improved soil health (helping the soil retain water), water management and pest control. This meant that farmers could continually rely on their crops doing well.

Economic benefits: Switching to climate smart agriculture, which is nature based, meant the farmers reduced chemical inputs such as pesticides. This saved them money. Climate smart agriculture practices can open up opportunities and new markets for eco-friendly products, providing additional income for farmers.



Why government and stakeholders should make changes

The government must provide support through extension services (agricultural specialists who visit farmers with advice and training, such as on the use of climate forecast services).

The government should also provide small-scale farmers with financial incentives to switch to climate smart agriculture now. Agricultural co-operative societies must become stronger so that all small-scale farmers have access to climate smart agricultural equipment.

Source: <https://farmingportal.co.za/index.php/farming-news/south-africa/10907-climate-change-is-a-challenge-for-small-scale-farmers-how-a-mix-of-old-and-new-techniques-produced-a-superior-maize-harvest-in-a-dry-part-of-south-africa>

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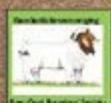
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Pig Farming: Insemination Process, 2025



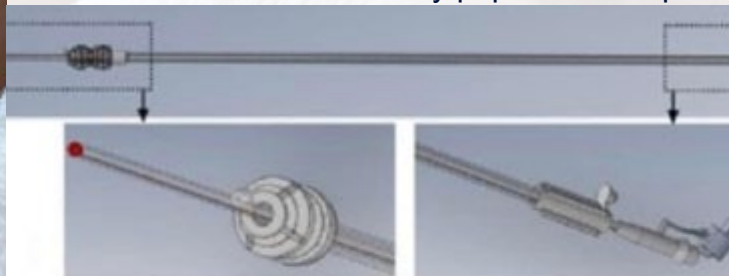
Unlike natural mating, where a boar is physically placed with sows to breed. Artificial insemination entails the insemination of sows with semen of a boar that may not necessarily be on the farm.

It allows large numbers of sows to be bred in a short time, giving a producer better control of breeding dates and subsequent pig flow.

Farmers may buy semen or collect it from boars on the farm. The semen is alive so it should be handled with care. It should be kept at 16 to 18 degrees celsius from collection to insemination, as viability will be reduced outside of this range.

Most farmers use a teaser boar or pheromones to help detect heat. Signs that a sow is in heat include erect ears, the vulva may be red and swollen, a water stringy discharge from the vulva and when back-pressure is applied, she stands rock solid whereas she would have run away.

Farmers are advised to wipe away all dirt and clean the sow vulva with a dry paper towel. Open



the vulva lips with the left hand and gently insert the catheter with the right hand, so it points upwards at an angle of 45 degrees to avoid the bladder.

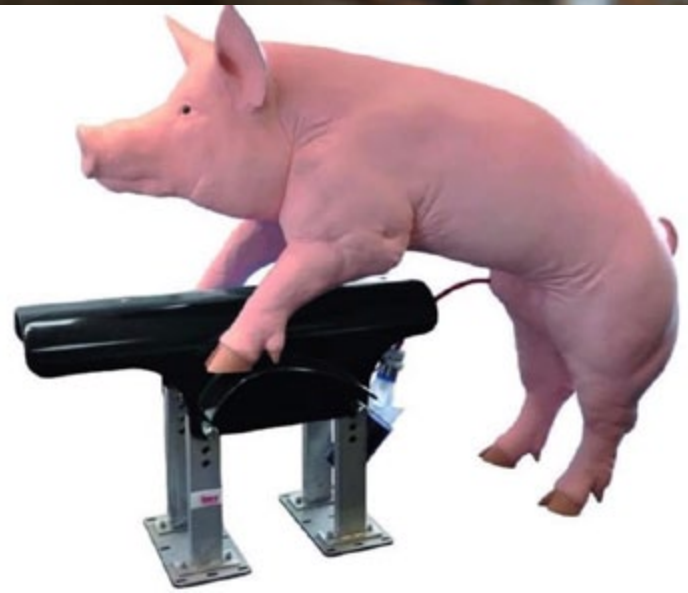
Thereafter, the catheter should gently be moved further up the reproductive tract until a firm resistance is felt. Some catheters need to be turned clockwise to ensure it locks into the cervix.

The catheter should be left in the sow for another 5min after insemination, helps to keep a boar

near a sow during the process, encouraging a strong oestrus response. This helps the process by causing the sow to draw the semen into the reproductive tract minimizing flow back.

If you want to start pig farming but don't know how, our pig farming manual can help you. The book has all the information that you need about pig farming and a business plan template. The book costs R370, with delivery included. Then a soft copy or pdf is R290; you get this via email. To place your order, [WhatsApp 078-3122-675](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=).

Source: https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=



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Eastern Cape	84%	85%
Freestate	96%	73%
Gauteng	93%	86%
KwaZulu-Natal	87%	91%
Limpopo	84%	83%
Mpumalanga	97%	93%
North West	77%	72%
Northern Cape	88%	67%
Western Cape	79%	81%

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Provincial Summary (sawx.co.za)

PRODUKSIEVEILING 2025



80 A+AA RAMME

200 JONG OOIE

75 TOP DRAGTIGE STOETOOIE



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Finish the Fight Eradicate Scrapie

Sheep Identification Requirements

NSEP NATIONAL SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM



Step 1: Determine which sheep need official ear tags or IDs to move between different states (interstate) or within the same state (intrastate).



Step 2: Request a flock ID from your local APHIS Veterinarian or State Veterinary office.



Step 3: Determine which approved ear tags or ID systems work best for your operation and apply official IDs to your animals before they leave your farm.



Step 4: Create a method to record your flock's official ear tags or other official IDs.



Step 5: Get a health certificate from an accredited veterinarian before interstate shipment for breeding, exhibitions, or sale.



Step 6: Retain records for 5 years after the animals are transported or sold.

Baa, where do I fit?



CULLED SHEEP

Culled ewes or rams must be officially tagged. Cull sheep are defined as animals more than 18 months of age sold for slaughter or through a livestock market.*



MARKET LAMBS

Intact lambs under 18 months of age going to slaughter DO NOT need official ear tags if they are moved with an Owner Hauler Statement and Group Identification Number.*



BREEDING/OTHER STOCK

Breeding ewes or rams DO NOT need an official ID if they stay on the farm or ranch. Official IDs are REQUIRED for any breeding stock going to a show or sale, changing ownership, or crossing a stateline. Note: Local shows are considered interstate movements if any out-of-state sheep attend.*

* This poster provides generally applicable principles. Please go to <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs-scrapie-recordkeeping.pdf> for additional information and exceptions including requirements for sheep in slaughter channels not going direct to slaughter.

For more information on tags, or to get a flock ID, call 1-866-USDA-TAG (873-2824)

Source: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/>

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† Makrosikliese laktoon



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Verwysing: 1. Data op lêer.

Produk naam: Ivermax Pour-On **Registrasienommer:** G2735 Wet 36/1947 (Suid Afrika). **Samestelling:** Ivermectin 0,5 % m/v
Registrasiehouer: Kyrón Animal Health (Edms) Bpk., Co. Reg. Nr. 2004/021847/07, Eenheid 45C, 45 Parkview Straat, Highway Business Park, Rooihuiskraal Uitbr. 31, Centurion, 0157, Suid Afrika. **Uitvoerlande:** Namibië - [NSO]V00/18.1.2/271



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CORNE DU PLESSIS MEATMASTERS	CORNE DU PLESSIS	079 101 9996	HARTWATER	ELLISRAS, L
NEW HEAVEN	TWISTEN SMITH	076 964 3740	HARTWATER	ELLISRAS, L
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VOORWAARTS BOERDERY	WF STRYDOM	079 494 2822	NO HARTWATER	KLERKSDORP, NW
KLIPKUIL MEATMASTERS	JOHAN VAN DEN BERG	084 209 3342	NO HARTWATER	VREDEFORT, FS
WILD EN VRY MEATMASTERS	LEON SPIES	072 853 9664	NO HARTWATER	NW
KROON MEATMASTERS	JOHANCO & JEANDI VERMEULEN	082 954 0117/ 083 659 2904	NO HARTWATER	VILJOENSKROON, FS
WILGERBOOM MEATMASTERS	WILLEM STEENKAMP	083 256 2747	NO HARTWATER	CALVINIA, NC
LANGKLOOF GAME FARM	LILANIE VILJOEN / ERICH BEKKER	083 767 2777/ 082 713 8395	HARTWATER	BELA-BELA, L
LAPFONTEIN MEATMASTERS	MELTON DE KLERK	083 207 7265	HARTWATER	HARTEBEEFONTEIN, NW
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Purchase sheep, goats from reputable breeder with similar management style



AGRINEWS

Teresa Steckler demonstrates how to determine a FAMACHA score on a goat during a workshop. This score provides an indication of the parasite status of the animal and helps owners decide if treatment is required. (AgriNews photo/Martha Blum)

FREEPORT, Ill. — The best option for adding sheep or goats to an operation is to purchase from a reputable breeder.

“Do a little homework and figure out what breed you want,” said Teresa Steckler, University of Illinois Extension livestock specialist.

“You want animals from a breeder that has a similar management style,” said Steckler during a presentation at the Small Ruminant Feeding, Nutrition and Management Workshop organized by U of I Extension.

“If that breeder won’t tell you how the animals were raised, go to someone who will answer all your questions,” she said. “Figure out what your goals are and work yourself up to a larger number of animals because if you get too many animals to start, you’ll be overwhelmed.”

When bringing new sheep or goats on a farm, they should all walk through a footbath to avoid the introduction of diseases like foot rot.

“Make the footbath so they have to walk through single file,” Steckler said. “Don’t make the footbath short because they will jump over it.”

Although sheep and goats are similar, the livestock specialist said, they are not the same and they have unique differences.

“If you’re going to have goats, you should have an extensive perimeter fence,” she said. “I used 4-by-4 woven wire.”

High-tensile fence can be electrified.

“Goats like to munch and move on so they wander a lot and they are curious animals,” Steckler said. “Sheep don’t move as much as goats and they don’t test the fencing as much as goats.”

Subdividing pastures is important.

“You don’t want your goats eating the same pasture because if they have parasites, the larvae in the fecal material will climb up the stems of the plants,” the livestock specialist said.

“The goats will re-ingest the parasites and it’s a vicious cycle because the animals keep picking up more and more parasites.”

If there is not enough pasture, Steckler recommends a dry lot area without grass.

“Never let them eat off the ground in a dry lot because you don’t want them picking up parasites,” she said. “Always have the feed off the ground.”

Depending on the species of forages, Steckler said, graze sheep and goats when the plants are 8 to 10 inches tall.

“Don’t let animals out in the pasture when there’s a heavy dew because the parasites will crawl 4 to 5 inches up the stem,” she said. “Once the grass has dried, the parasites will go back down the stem.”

The number of paddocks in a pasture depends on the area available for grazing.

“Optimally, you want a 40-day rotation to minimize parasites,” Steckler said.

“Sheep are graziers so they have their heads down,” she said. “Goats are browsers and they love to have their feet up so use that to your advantage when feeding goats.”

For goats, hang the feeders and add a toe board so they can put their feed up.

“That keeps the feed in and the feet out,” Steckler said.

When goats are kidding, it is important to keep the kids out of the wind for the first couple weeks after they are born.

“Kids cannot take the wind chill,” Steckler said. “Kids don’t have the body mass or wool, so lambs have a little better protection for wind.”

“When they kid or lamb, it’s very important that they have time to bond,” she said. “After she has passed the placenta, pick it up and dispose of it properly because the placenta is a calling card for predators like black vultures.”

Rams and bucks need separate pens from the females.

“You want to make sure you have an easy way in and out of the pen,” Steckler said. “Never assume you are safe near a male because if you turn your back, rams will knock you down.”

Sheep and goats are prey animals.

“They are looking to make sure they are not going to be attacked,” Steckler said. “They have good eyesight and hearing, so always be on alert.”

They also find comfort and protection in groups.

“If you have a sick animal, always have a buddy with them,” Steckler said. “They will be less stressed and more apt to recover quicker.”

Predation is a problem for sheep and goat owners.

“We have a booming bobcat population in Illinois and they can get a lamb or kid very easily,” Steckler said. “An eagle can swoop in and take a newborn lamb or kid.”

Guardian animals for goat herds or sheep flocks have pros and cons.

“I love donkeys, but never get a male donkey because they tend to get bored,” Steckler said. “Donkeys don’t need a high intake diet because they can founder easy and they need their hooves trimmed periodically.”

Dogs are another guardian option.

“Dogs need to remain with the animals to do their job,” Steckler said.

By Martha Blum

Source: <https://www.agrinews-pubs.com/livestock/2024/11/14/purchase-sheep-goats-from-reputable-breeder-with-similar-management-style/>

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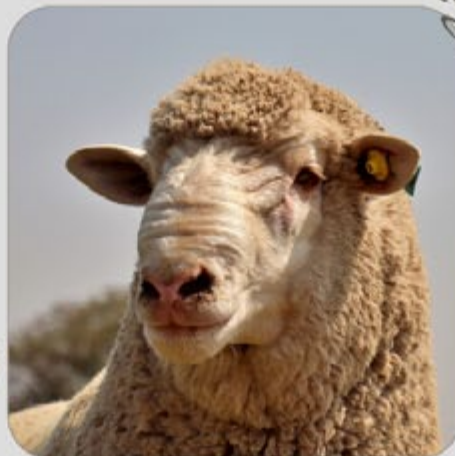
Isaiah 22:22

“ He is the Almighty.
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Photo by AffiePlaas Fotografie

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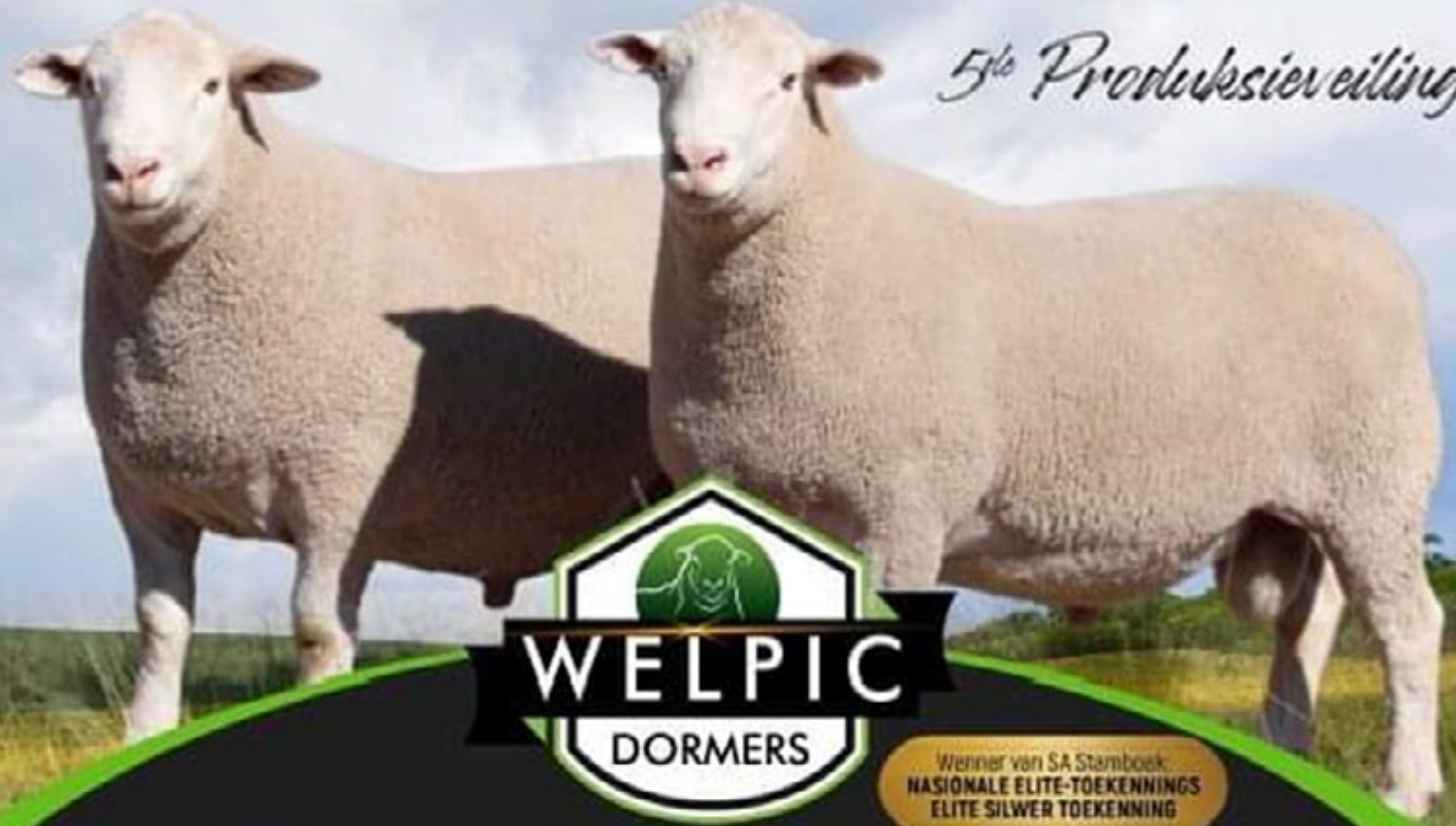
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Some US Cities Use Sheep, Goats to Control Plant Growth



A flock of sheep called the Chew Crew move along the Cumberland River bank Tuesday, July 9, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn. The sheep are used to clear out overgrown weeds and invasive plants in the city's parks, greenways and cemeteries. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)

Some American communities and universities have been experimenting with sheep and goats to keep plant growth under control.

Along the Cumberland River near Nashville, Tennessee, visitors on boats watch the large buildings of the city in the distance. But they also can see something few expected: hundreds of sheep eating grass, or grazing, along the river.

Sheep to remove unwanted plants

Zach Richardson oversees the sheep. His business is called Nashville Chew Crew. Richardson said sometimes the boats will go out of their way to let passengers get a closer look at his sheep. The group of sheep can be seen grazing a few hundred meters away from places where many people live and work.

The joy people get from watching sheep eat is partly why the creatures are becoming popular workers in some urban areas.

“Everybody that comes out here and experiences the sheep, they enjoy it more than they would someone...with a leaf blower or a weed eater,” Richardson said.

Using sheep to control plants is not a new method. But more American communities are choosing sheep to deal with problems such as invasive species, wildfire risks, native plant protection, and to keep historic places in good condition.

In 2017, Nashville's parks department paid for the Chew Crew to control unwanted plant growth at Fort Negley. The Union Army built the fort during the U.S. Civil War. Unwanted plants, or weeds, were growing between and along its stones. Tools like lawnmowers could easily damage the stones.

Sheep now graze in an area of about 61 hectares of city property yearly, including in the historic Nashville City Cemetery.

Jim Hester is assistant director of Metro Nashville Parks. Speaking about the sheep, he said, “It is a more environmentally sustainable way to care for the greenspace and oftentimes is cheaper than doing it with handheld equipment and staff.”

Dogs watch over the Chew Crew's sheep. The dogs spend their whole lives with the sheep and keep visitors and animals from getting too close. The group of sheep, or flock, is made up of hair sheep, a kind of animal that naturally releases its hair fibers and is often used for meat.

Santa Barbara fire protection

Santa Barbara, California, has been using sheep for about seven years to protect land **buffers** that can slow or stop the spread of wildfires.

“The community loves the grazers and it's kind



Zach Richardson, owner of the Nashville Chew Crew, looks over his flock of sheep with his herding dog Doug along the Cumberland River bank Tuesday, July 9, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)



A flock of sheep called the Chew Crew graze along the Cumberland River bank Tuesday, July 9, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn. The sheep are used to clear out overgrown weeds and invasive plants in the city's parks, greenways and cemeteries. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)

of a great way of community engagement,” said Monique O’Conner, open space planner for the city’s parks and recreation.

The grazed areas can change how fire moves, said Mark vonTillow, the wildland specialist for the Santa Barbara City Fire Department.

VonTillow said that, if a fire hits a grazed area, “The fire behavior reacts drastically and drops to the ground.” He added, “That gives firefighters a chance to attack the fire.”

Some universities have tried using goats and sheep on their properties. In 2010, weeds were overtaking an area at the University of Georgia that was not used by students or staff. The weeds were pushing out native plants, said Kevin Kirsche, the school’s director of sustainability.

Rather than using chemicals or mowers, Kirsche said the university hired Jennif Chandler to send in a herd of goats.

“Bringing the goats to the site was an alternative means of removing invasive plants in a way that was nontoxic to the environment and friendly to people,” Kirsche said.

At the time, Richardson, the owner of Chew Crew, was a student at the University of Georgia studying landscape architecture. He got the idea to create his own goat grazing business. The goats became the most popular four-legged creatures on campus, he said.

Richardson, who moved his company to Nashville after finishing his studies, now prefers sheep over

goats. Sheep have closer group ties and are not as likely as goats to climb and explore.

“I’ll never own another goat,” he admitted. “It’s like trying to fence in water.”

But sheep are not an answer for all cities and their lands, O’Conner said. “We want to educate the public on why we’re choosing to graze where we’re grazing,” she added.

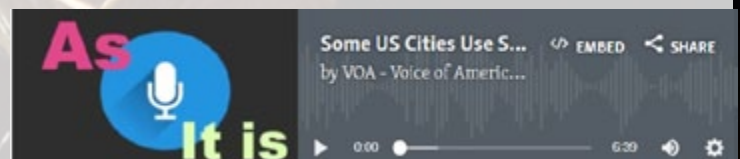
Hundreds of sheep can affect the environment by spreading seeds. The city of Santa Barbara does environmental studies before bringing in grazers since the process can also affect birds.

“Throwing like 500 sheep into an area is a much larger impact on the land and those soils than our native herbivores would have,” O’Conner said.

I’m Ashley Thompson.

And I’m John Russell.

Kristin M. Hall reported on this story for the Associated



Press. John Russell adapted it for VOA Learning English.

Source: <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/some-us-cities-use-sheep-goats-to-control-plant-growth/>

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Placentation and colostrum composition in mammals

Placentation and colostrum composition in mammals

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jas/skac287>



All mammals nourish their offspring with milk, but milk composition differs greatly between species.

For some species, the first milk (colostrum) transfers immunity to offspring. The **structure** of the placenta and **number of layers** separating the mother and offspring determine whether colostrum or the placenta transfers immunity.



PLACENTA SEPARATION



Placenta structure explains how much immunity is provided from colostrum but does not explain the composition of other components such as hormones, prebiotics, and proteins. Species that transfer immunity before birth may nevertheless rely on colostrum to provide their offspring with these other important components.

The feature infographic examines the ways that neonatal mammals acquire first immunity. The review paper, "Implications of placentation type on species-specific colostrum properties in mammals," looks at how different species confer passive immunity to their young. The authors (Bigler et al., 2022) place special emphasis on the relationship between the placenta structure and colostrum composition concerning the transfer of immunoglobulins to offspring.

Source: <https://academic.oup.com/jas/article/100/12/>



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All our products are handcrafted in our Amsterdam studio, located in the central-east part of Amsterdam, not far from Central Station.

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The exclusive, nature inspired and highly functional products result from the creative mind of Dutch designer Ingrid Heijne, founder & art director of WoOL Amsterdam and ZENBER Architects.



Biography Ingrid Heijne

After her graduation at fine arts school ARTEZ in 1994, Heijne post-graduated in 1995 from the prestigious Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague. She became art director for the Dutch film and television industry, and created her own design



companies. In collaboration with partner and renowned interior architect Eric Wezenberg, she started ZENBER Architects in 2012. ZENBER Architects designs innovative working spaces for offices and educational institutions, with a pragmatic approach and open dialogue towards the end-user. This results in exceptional designs that embrace the approach of Activity Based Working, and that are highly functional and sustainable.

As a creative Director for ZENBER Architects, Heijne designed head offices for international companies like Rabobank, NN group, the Red Cross, Navigant, Nikon and many others. They are currently working on the redevelopment of Schiphol Airport's transfer area.

Heijne's wool felt products are a substantial part of ZENBER's interior designs, and were soon discovered by iconic Dutch design brands like Vitra, Moooi and Lensevelt who embodied the room dividers in their showrooms and exhibitions



in Milan and Amsterdam to frame their distinct high-end interior presentation in 2015-17. After Workshop of Wonders (a renowned dutch platform for experimental and wayward design) exhibited the room dividers in their design gallery in Utrecht in 2018, designlovers could not stop talking about WoOL Amsterdam.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/story.php?>

<https://woolamsterdam.nl/>

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Ugandan farmers create fertiliser from bamboo smoke

Ugandan farmers are turning bamboo smoke into an organic fertiliser and pesticide that boosts vegetable yields and replaces expensive pesticides.

Bamboo liquid smoke diluted in water has been shown to be the most superior wood vinegar capable of increasing vegetable growth and production by 20.2 per cent while cutting pesticide use by half.

The vinegar is made by 'cooking' bamboo in airless jikos. It naturally eliminates major pests for African farmers, such as fruit flies, termites, aphids, and mites, as well as fungal and bacterial infection.

The amber-coloured vinegar is a natural acid with a pH of 2.8-3 made by capturing the liquid smoke that comes out during the charcoal production process.

"To make the bamboo wood vinegar we cut, and sun-dry bamboo stalks for one week. Just like you would do with charcoal production we put the bamboo stalks into a portable metallic kiln, traditional kilns made from soil can also be used for five to seven hours. This kiln is fitted with a pipe that captures the smoke removed from the bamboo carbonisation process as condensed wood vinegar," explained Violet Nasiche, a farmer in Northern Uganda.

[Related News: Pineapple wines and vinegars add high-fashion niches for exporters as demand grows](#)

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[looks to get farmers growing, earning from bamboo](#)

Up to 10 litres of vinegar can be harvested from 50kg of bamboo wood.

The charcoal that remains, which is 25 per cent of the initial bamboo, can be used as ready-to-use hot and quick-to-burn charcoal or crushed to make biochar.

Violet explained that the vinegar is very concentrated and cannot be fed directly to the plants so it is diluted at various rates depending on what it will be used for."

To use as a foliar fertiliser applied on mature plants it is diluted at a rate of one part of bamboo vinegar for 500-700 parts of water every two weeks. For root irrigation a ratio of 1: 500 is used. For seedlings, it is diluted at a 1: 800-1000 ratio as a leaf spray or for root irrigation. To fight pests and diseases, a 1: 300-500 leaf application ratio is recommended," she illuminated

The wood vinegar can also be used to as a soil disinfectant applied at a 1:100 ratio and directly sprayed on affected soil.

In fruit flies, pure bamboo vinegar has the same killin rate as commercial insecticide. It has a 100 per cent kill rate on termites and an over 90 per cent kill rate on aphids and mites. Wood vinegar



also repels snails and slugs, nematodes from vegetables. It also reduces late-wilt and rots by 88.7 and 72.8 respectively.

[Related News: How to start off in bamboo farming](#)

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“The kale and onions in my vegetable garden are currently farmed without using a drop of pesticides and if you look at them, they are entirely free of pesticides. The wood vinegar also improves their root nutrient absorption while strengthening their roots and leaves which minimises fertiliser use,” Violet said.

Pic Courtesy: ECHOcommunity.org

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100064776366327/posts/1042072207961982/>



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12 FEBRUARIE 2025

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053 927 1981/2/3

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Bonsmaras

8ste PRODUKSIEVEILING

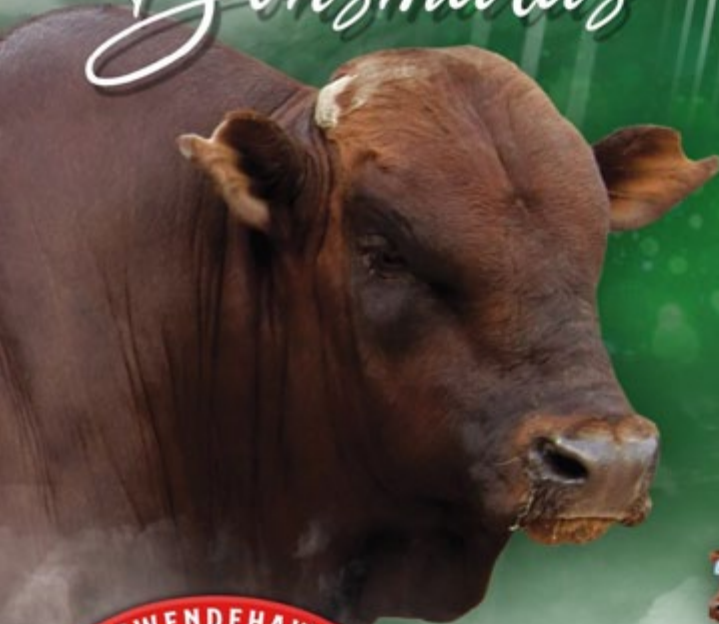
21 FEBRUARIE 2025 - 13:00

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Aanbod:

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150 Bonsmara Vroulik



NAVRAE:

Andrew Bothma:
078 456 4718

Jaco Pietersen (Bemarker):
082 411 3406

Chris Hendriks (Afslaer):
083 449 0852



South Africa's summer forecast

hot temperatures and uncertain rainfall
patterns ahead for 2025

The South African Weather Service (Saws) has issued its Seasonal Climate Watch for December 2024 to April 2025, providing crucial insights into expected weather patterns across the country. South Africans can expect a hot summer with below-normal rainfall in some regions and a neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) for now.

The South African Weather Service (Saws) has issued its Seasonal Climate Watch for December 2024 to April 2025, providing crucial insights into expected weather patterns across the country. South Africans can expect a hot summer with below-normal rainfall in some regions and a neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) for now.

La Niña in limbo

South Africa's summer rainfall outlook remains uncertain as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is in a neutral state. ENSO, a natural climate pattern, shifts between three phases – El Niño, La Niña and ENSO-neutral – affecting global weather, including rainfall and temperatures.

Current predictions from Saws indicate that a weak La Niña could develop by mid-summer,

What is El Niño & La Niña?

El Niño and La Niña are opposing extreme climate patterns that originate in the Pacific Ocean and typically run in a two to seven year cycle. They are naturally occurring dynamics, and examples of climate variation, but climate change makes their effects more

potentially affecting South Africa's rainfall during the latter part of the season. However, there is still considerable uncertainty about whether this shift will occur.

Professor Willem Landman, a meteorologist at the University of Pretoria and an expert in seasonal forecasts, explained that ENSO's current neutral phase is a transitional stage between the El Niño event of 2023/2024 and the expected weak La Niña of 2024/2025. Unlike the stronger 2022/2023 La Niña event, which was predicted with high confidence, this season's forecasts for a weak La Niña carry much less certainty.

"The presence of El Niño or La Niña allows us to make seasonal forecasts because these phases influence weather patterns. ENSO-neutral phases, like we're in now, make predictions much harder," Landman said.

The last ENSO event, an El Niño during the 2023/2024 summer, brought drier and hotter conditions to South Africa's summer rainfall regions, peaking between November and January. If La Niña does develop, it could increase the likelihood of rain later in the summer, though meteorologists urge caution and continued monitoring of conditions.

Temperature forecast

It is going to be a hot summer, with both minimum and maximum temperatures likely to remain above normal across most of the country from now until April. The southern coastal regions are the exception, where below-normal temperatures are more likely throughout the season.

[Also read: El nino Update - August 2024](#)

Rainfall predictions

The rainfall outlook for the summer rainfall regions could change, depending on if and when La Niña materialises.

But Saws' current predictions indicate that parts of the northeastern, central and coastal areas are predicted to have above-normal rainfall.

While current predictions indicate that most parts of the summer rainfall areas are expected to receive below-normal rainfall, Saws predicted that later in summer (Feb–Apr) there is a widespread increase in chances for above-normal rainfall over the summer rainfall areas, potentially indicating a very late influence from the potential La Niña event.

Saws emphasised that these predictions may change if the ENSO predictions become more certain towards a La Niña state, and as such continued monitoring of future seasonal climate watches are advised.

Potential impacts on water and energy sectors

Saws warned that the combination of below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures could lead to more water losses, and lower water storage levels owing to evapotranspiration and drought.

This might have implications for water management and energy demand, with increased cooling needs expected in most parts of the country, the report said.

Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town's Environmental and Geographical Science Department Gina Ziervogel told Daily Maverick that it is important to take the role of infrastructure into account when preparing for these weather conditions.

“For example, are the pipes and sewers functioning, is irrigation sufficient, are there cooling facilities for people if there are heatwaves, are buildings suitably constructed and [do they] have passive cooling where possible?” said Ziervogel, who is also the director of the African Climate and Development Initiative at UCT.

Ensuring these infrastructure responses are implemented takes time and planning and therefore should be urgently considered, Ziervogel said.

It is also important to consider social infrastructure. For example, considering whether education, health and social services will be able to support people in managing the impacts that are associated with these climate extremes, she said.

“Although it is important to anticipate how to respond this season, it is important to explore if more long-term adaptations can be planned and implemented, as these types of climate events are likely to occur in future, and be more frequent and intense,” Ziervogel said.

Potential impacts on health and wellbeing

- **Flash floods:** Above-normal rainfall predicted for most northeastern summer rainfall regions



during late summer (February to April) may lead to flash floods, particularly in flood-prone areas and regions with poor drainage systems, Saws warned.

- **Waterborne health concerns:** The increased rainfall could result in a higher incidence of waterborne infections, water-related injuries and drowning accidents. This risk is heightened during the summer holiday season owing to increased recreational water activities, the Saws report said.
- **Foodborne illness concern:** Elevated temperatures might accelerate the growth of foodborne pathogens, raising the risk of foodborne illnesses. The public is advised to maintain good food hygiene and adhere to local health guidelines under these conditions. Dr Caradee Wright, lead of the Climate Change and Human Health Research Programme at the South African Medical Research Council, noted this risk is especially serious for people who do not use refrigeration, as food is likely to go bad more quickly during hot weather.
- **UV exposure risk:** Saws reports that above-average temperatures are predicted nationwide. Dr Wright explained that while temperature and UV are not the same, and we can't link heatwaves to increased UV, we know that UV is highest during late spring, summer and early winter.

"We cannot feel UV – what we feel as temperature is infrared radiation. The risk of UV exposure is there even on cooler days or when it's windy," Dr Wright said.

Too much UV exposure, especially the kind that causes sunburn, increases the risk of skin cancer and skin damage, such as sun spots and wrinkling later in life.

The World Health Organisation says that from a UV Index of 3, we should use sun protection and avoid spending long periods of time outdoors. Most weather apps provide the UV index, but Dr Wright also suggested using your shadow – if your shadow is shorter than you, you need to use sun protection.



Precautions

Saws advises the public to take precautions and follow advice from local authorities. Local authorities are encouraged to monitor risks, develop mitigation strategies, and enhance public health surveillance.

- **Advice for heatwaves:** Dr Wright's advice is to drink plenty of water; open windows early in the morning but close them before the heat of the day starts around 9am or 10am; close curtains when the sun is shining directly into a room; wet a facecloth or small towel and put it around the back of your neck and roll it occasionally to keep cool; put your hands and feet in shallow bowl of water; and, if you must be outdoors, stay in the shade wherever possible.
- **Advice for UV exposure protection:** Dr Wright advises wearing sunscreen, a hat, a long-sleeved cool shirt and sunglasses while outdoors and a rash vest when swimming; staying in the shade and avoiding being outdoors between 10am and 3pm for extended periods. She added that to avoid sun damage and wrinkles, it's advisable to use a product that includes an SPF for everyday use.



Source: <https://farmingportal.co.za/index.php/farming-news/south-africa/11217-south-africa-s-summer-forecast-hot-temperatures-and-uncertain-rainfall-patterns-ahead-for-2025>

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2025 VEILINGS

JANUARIE

- 22 - POTBERG DOHNES PRODUKSIEVEILING
- 28 - HARTEBEEFFONTEIN MERINOS PRODUKSIEVEILING
- 29 - SUIDPLAAS DOHNES PRODUKSIEVEILING
- 30 - LOWMAR DOHNES PRODUKSIEVEILING
- 29 - GEELBEK ELITE MERINO PRODUKSIEVEILING
- 30 - TOOMFONTEIN DOHNE MERINO PRODUKSIEVEILING

FEBRUARIE

- 04 - ZEISS MERINO PRODUKSIEVEILING
 - 05 - GRASVELDER AANTEELVEILING
 - 05 - BEST OF BOTH PRODUKSIEVEILING
 - 05 - LE ROC PRODUKSIEVEILING
 - 07 - WELPIC DORMERS PRODUKSIEVEILING
 - 11 - KRAANKUIL JONGOOI PRODUKSIEVEILING
 - 12 - ALFA ANGORAS PRODUKSIEVEILING
 - 22 - MALUTI DORMERS PRODUKSIEVEILING
 - 26 - CHARMAC MERINO PRODUKSIEVEILING
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Produk Naam: Ectoshield. Registrasie Nommmer: G2671 Wet 36/1947 (Suid Afrika). Samestelling: Sipermetrien 1,5 % m/v, Amitras 1,75 % m/v. Registrasiehouer: Kyrion Animal Health (Edms) Bpk, Mpy. Reg. Nr. 2004/021847/07, Eenh. 45C, 45 Parkview Straat, Highway Business Park, Rooihuiskraal Uitbr. 31, Centurion, 0157, Suid Afrika. Uitvoer lande: Namibië – V09/18.3.4/1137 [NSO].

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Vrydag 14 Feb. 2025 - 11h00 - NKLH Kimberley Veilingskrale.

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Pieter de Bruin:
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Hannes van den Berg:
082 925 4051

Jannie vd Heever: 082 821 5418 • Wouter Mentz: 082 944 0217



TIGANE BONSMARAS

AANTEELVEILING

13 FEBRUARIE 2025

11:00 | PLAAS GOEDVOORUITZICHT | HARTBEEFONTEIN



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JOHAN VOSLOO
JIA BOERDERY - JACQUES CALITZ

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120 DRAGTIGE VERSE

BM SKOON. DRAGTIGHEIDS- ASOOK VRUGBAARHEIDSTATUS
BESKIKBAAR DIE DAG VAN DIE VEILING.



TIGANE BONSMARA - BEYERS BOERDERY

POENA KUDDEVAAR
MCU170202

JACQUES CALITZ : 082 044 1702
KLEINJAN BESTER : 083 359 8199
JOHAN VOSLOO : 082 370 7089
THEUNS VISSER (AFSLAER) : 082 338 1356



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27 FEBRUARIE 2025 - 11:00

PLAAS LUCASDAM, POSTMASBURG GPS: 25°14'52.8"S 22°51'31.8"E



Aanbod

- 45 Dorperramme
- 25 Dorperooie
- 15 Witdorper ramme
- 30 Witdorper ooie
- 10 Savanna ramme
- 5 Boerbok ramme

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1 MEI **TULI**
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19 JUN **DRAKENSBERGER**
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3 JUL **BEEFMASTER**
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12 JUL **BORAN**
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12 AUG **SA VLEISMERINO**
Frankfort Auction Centre, Frankfort

14 AUG **SUSSEX**
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14 AUG **MEATMASTER**
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

15 AUG **AFRIKANER**
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

29 AUG **SAVM JONGRAM- EN OOI**
Fire & Wine, Zwavelpoort, Pretoria

19 SEP **BEEF SHORTHORN**
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

26 SEP **NGUNI**
Aldam Vakansieoord, Winburg-area

16 OKT **BOERBOK**
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

18 OKT **MINIATUURPERD**
Fire & Wine, Zwavelpoort, Pretoria



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2025



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| 11-13 Maart | Nasionale SAVM kampioenskappe |
| 5 April | Vrystaat Meatmaster Klub veiling |
| 1 Mei | Limousin veiling - Bloemskou |
| 2 Mei | Boerbok- & Savanna-, Kalahari Red veiling - Bloemskou |
| 27 Junie | Old Grey Stoetveiling |
| 30 Julie | Nasionale Merino Landskaap veiling |
| 6 Aug | Nasionale SAVM veiling |
| 14 Aug | Nasionale Sussex veiling |
| 15 Aug | Nasionale Afrikaner veiling |
| 28 Aug | DEO Brangus veiling |
| 3 Sept | Willem van den Berg Meatmaster veiling |
| 6 Sept | Inheemse Veldbok veiling |
| 17 Sept | Germar Bonsmara veiling |
| 19 Sept | Nasionale Shorthorn veiling |
| 16 Okt | Nasionale Boerbok veiling |

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Beef

A2/3 = R 58.12

B2/3 = R 51.22

C2/3 = 49.26

Weaner Calf = R 33.46



Sheep

A2/3 = R 96.48

B2/3 = R 75.91

C2/3 = R 66.80

Feeder Lamb = R 40.01



Goats

Ewes = R 51.25

Kids <30kg = R 43.71

Kids 30-40kg = R 50.56

Kids > 40kg = R 59.52



Chicken

Frozen = R 34.38

Fresh = R 41.07

IQF = R 32.88



Pigs

Porkers = R 33.28

Baconers = R 32.55



Safex

Maize = R 6900 /t

Soybean = R 9590 /t

Sunflower = R 10300 /t

Wheat = R 6095 /t



Exchange rate

R / \$ = R 18.77

R / £ = R 22.99

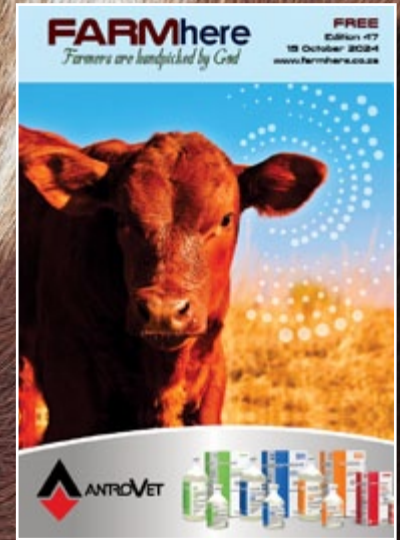
R / € = R 19.36

As at 14 January 2025

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Psalm 37:4

‘Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.’

- What a privilege we have to find our joy and satisfaction in God.
- Often we look to other things for our satisfaction when He is the Source.
- He knows the deepest desires of your heart.
- He wants to give you those desires as your focus remains on Him.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that I can take this moment to declare that You are my delight, that You are my hope and salvation, and You are the One Who will work a miracle in my life. I choose to look to You and to delight myself in You. Amen.

Lizelle

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Photo by Christine Vosloo Photography