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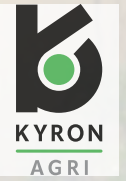
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Edition 51

15 February 2025

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**ARC-OVR temporarily
suspends Brucellosis testing
for Buffalo and Wildlife**

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Give Agape Love

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 23:10-12

In Romans 12:10 we are admonished to desire the welfare of others more than our own; to like others better than ourselves. That is an awesome command that is only obtainable through God's supernatural love. If this very simple, yet very profound truth could be understood and applied, then strife would cease (Prov. 13:10). The world would see Christianity as never before, and we would discover the true joy that comes from serving someone besides ourselves.

There is much confusion today on the subject of love because we have only one English word (love) to describe a broad aspect of meanings. For example, if I said, "I love my wife, I love apple pie, and I love my dog," obviously I am not talking about love in the same degree or definition.

God's type of love; the highest kind of love, is AGAPE. This is when we seek the welfare or betterment of others even when we don't feel affection. AGAPE love does not come from one's feelings. Jesus displayed this AGAPE kind of love by going to the cross and dying for us even though He didn't feel like dying. Jesus sought the betterment of you and me, regardless of His feelings.

We, too, can AGAPE love our enemies even though we don't have a warm feeling of affection for them. If they are hungry we can feed them; if they are thirsty we can give them a drink. We can choose to seek the betterment and welfare of others regardless of how we feel.

If anyone becomes a servant and humbles himself with the motive of being exalted, then he is not truly fulfilling Jesus' command. Jesus is teaching about a true, servant's heart, that loves others more than itself and will joyfully go without so that someone else may prosper.

Source: <https://awme.net/daily-devotional/give-agape-love>

ARC-OVR Temporarily Suspends Brucellosis Testing for Buffalo and Wildlife



With ARC-OVR's suspension of brucellosis serology testing for buffalo and other wildlife species effective 1 February 2025, WRSA has stepped in to ensure our members are not left without a solution for the anticipated 6 months suspension.

Through our collaboration with Buffalo Analytics, WRSA has already implemented a seamless system that assists in submitting samples to accredited laboratories, preventing unnecessary delays and keeping buffalo movements on track.

Our members remain our top priority. The application process, facilitated through the Buffalo Analytics Software, is **completely free to WRSA Members** – because we believe in solutions, not setbacks.

WRSA is here to support you every step of the way. If you need assistance with the Buffalo Analytics Software or have any enquiries, Dr. David Pretorius and the WRSA offices are ready to assist.

Manage all your animals including buffalo and testing at www.buffalo.vet

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Re: Notice of Changes Related to Brucellosis Testing for Buffalo and Wildlife at ARC-OVR

The ARC-OVR is constantly endeavoring to improve its services to meet and exceed customer demands. Part of our efforts involve ensuring compliance with State rules and regulations pertaining to the testing of controlled and notifiable animal and zoonotic diseases. The ARC-OVR-Bacteriology Section recently underwent a Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) audit for purposes of maintaining its approval to test for state-controlled and notifiable diseases. The outcome of the audit was for ARC-OVR to discontinue brucellosis testing in buffalo and other wildlife species until such time that the methods used for the undertaking are accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

This serves as official notification of the discontinuation of brucellosis testing (serology) for buffalo and other wildlife species at ARC-OVR with effect from 01 February 2025. Testing for domestic animals is not affected and will continue.

We understand that this may cause significant inconvenience. To address this, ARC-OVR has already initiated the method validation process and is actively working towards SANAS accreditation. This process is expected to take a minimum of six months.

In the interim, we are exploring subcontracting options with accredited laboratories and communication will be issued soon. This is our commitment to ensure that we remain a one stop

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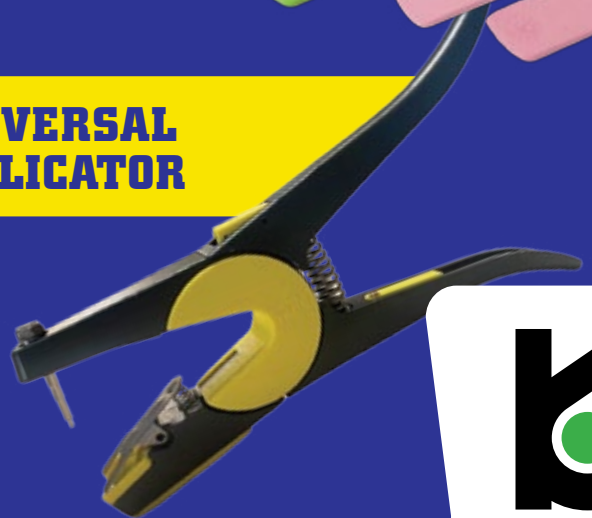
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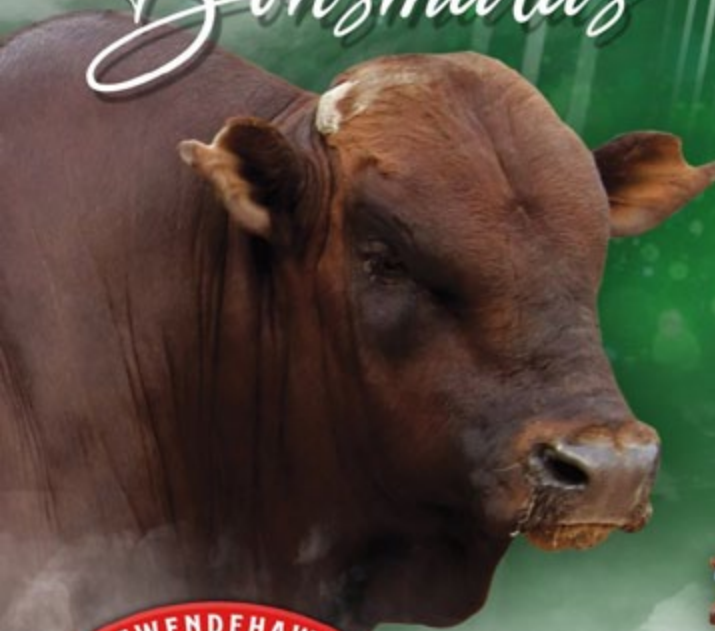
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Crossbred beef-dairy calves often heartier than purebreds

Feedstuffs

Study suggests hybrid calves may not need antibiotics to recover from pneumonia and can catch up on growth.

Many modern dairy farm operations have developed an additional revenue stream by breeding dairy cows with Black Angus beef bulls using artificial insemination to produce crossbred calves, which typically have improved meat quality and higher market value compared to purebred dairy calves. But these valuable hybrid calves often are beset with pneumonia, which was thought to limit their growth performance after they recover.

However, in a new study, a team led by Penn State researchers determined that by the age of eight months, on average, the hybrid calves that recovered from pneumonia achieved similar average daily growth to calves that never had pneumonia.

The team published its findings in the [Journal of Dairy Science](#).

The research, spearheaded by Ingrid Fernandes, a graduate assistant in the Department of Animal Science, may help inform the dairies struggling to survive financially, explained study author Melissa Cantor, Penn State assistant professor of precision dairy science in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

“We’ve had really high inflation, of course, across the United States, but particularly in the dairy industry, where the cost of raising purebred dairy replacements has grown astronomically,” Cantor said. “Adding the beef-on-dairy hybrid sideline to

their businesses has helped them, but financial constraints dictate that dairy farmers must be selective about which animals they keep. They need to be sure the practice makes sense for them economically.”

[Related:](#) Dairy-beef crossbred calf performance affected by transfer of passive immunity

In the study, the researchers reported that pneumonia observed in beef-on-dairy crosses only compromised their growth for about three weeks before they began bouncing back. Calves that were classified as having pneumonia, detected by ultrasound scans, exhibited compensatory growth when compared to their healthy peers, suggesting the illness was just a temporary setback.

For the study, the first of its kind to investigate the long-term effects of pneumonia in beef-on-dairy cattle growth, researchers evaluated if evidence of the illness identified in 143 crossbred dairy calves at weaning — when the calves change from drinking milk as their main source of nutrition to solid feed — was associated with growth performance. Researchers assessed calf weights soon after birth, at weaning at about 14 days, post-weaning at about 21 days and again at about eight months. The researchers assessed the impact of pathogens in the calves’ lungs and closely monitored the young animals’ average daily growth.

Related: Dairy-beef cross bred calf performance related to transfer of passive immunity (TPI)

They determined that lung pathogens were not associated with growth performance, and average daily growth was similar among all calves by about eight months of age. Critically, the researchers said, the calves recovered without antibiotics, which could be particularly impactful for the organic dairy industry and help reduce antimicrobial resistance in cattle.

“Our study, which aimed to understand the impact of pneumonia on growth and the potential for self-healing in calves, highlighted that beef-on-dairy crosses often recover from pneumonia without antibiotics, unlike purebred Holstein dairy calves,” Cantor said. “We think this is at least partially attributed to hybrid vigor — the phenomenon by which a progeny exhibits

superiority over its parents in traits such as growth rate and productivity. This research was aimed at understanding the long-term effects of pneumonia and the economic implications of crossbreeding.”

Contributing to the research at Penn State were Tara Felix, associate professor in the Department of Animal Science and beef specialist with Penn State Extension; Allison Welk and David Renaud with the University of Guelph in Ontario, and Donald Sockett with the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The research was supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food & Agriculture.

By Jeff Mulhollem

Source: <https://www.feedstuffs.com/dairy/crossbred-beef-dairy-calves-often-heartier-than-purebreds>

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Mpumalanga	98%	95%
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Provincial Summary (sawx.co.za)



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Bird flu threat 'increasing' as EFSA issues pandemic warning

FoodNavigator
EUROPE

Avian influenza poses a higher risk of spreading to humans and could trigger a future pandemic, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) warned

Critical advice to help the animal and public health sectors mitigate the spread and further potential mutation of avian influenza has been issued by EFSA in conjunction with the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC).

The move follows a series of alarming bird flu developments, including the stepping up of controls across England and Scotland and the worrying jump between birds and cows in the US.

Experts have already warned, despite peak bird flu season being over, the world had taken a step "along the line to panic" following H5N1's jump to cows.

How many bird flu mutations are there?

Some 34 genetic mutations have been listed by scientists, who warn they could increase the potential risk of spread to humans.

High-density farming, low biosecurity practices, deforestation, urbanisation and global trade increase the risk of spread from animal to human.

"Global developments demand that we stay alert and make sure Europe is prepared to respond to the threat of avian influenza," ECDC director Pamela Rendi-Wagner said.

The organisation has moved to support the EU and EEA Member States in preparing, preventing

and containing potential future outbreaks in animals and humans, she said, adding such steps were "paramount".

Scientists advocate the better sharing of data along the food supply chains and elsewhere to help tackle emerging outbreaks.

"In 2024, avian influenza viruses expanded their reach, infecting previously unaffected species," said EFSA acting executive director Bernhard Url.



How can bird flu's spread be prevented?

"Our work identifies key mutations linked to a potential spread to humans, requiring rapid detection and response."

Bird flu's spread can be prevented through a coordinated 'one health' approach, where materials and data is combined and tracked, EFSA and ECDC believe.

The organisations also set out a series of key recommendations to be actioned by all relevant sectors.

- **Genetic analysis:** Use genetic sequencing to detect mutations or virus adaptations to mammals early
- **Animal surveillance:** Monitor sick or dead mammals linked to infected wild birds, poultry or mammals
- **Public health surveillance:** Test exposed individuals and routinely send samples to further identify the flu sub-type

- **Prevention measures:** Implement robust farm biosecurity measures, train staff, vaccinate poultry, and prepare outbreak response plans
- **Public health preparedness measures:** Raise awareness among high-risk groups, the general public and train healthcare workers to recognise and manage avian influenza

By Nicholas Robinson

30-Jan-2025 Last updated on 30-Jan-2025 at 10:14 GMT

Source: <https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/01/30/scientists-warn-bird-flu-pandemic-a-real-possibility/copyright>



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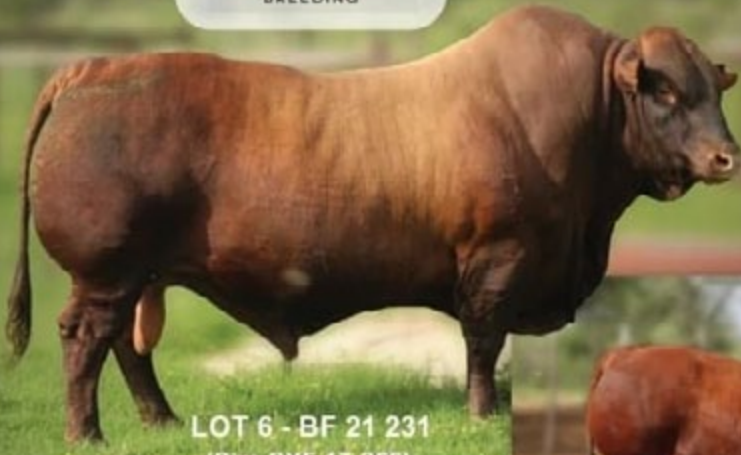


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Sheep shearing world record attempt in Scotland



The target is 872 at a lamb every half-minute or so for nine hours

Bay of Plenty shearer and former professional squash hopeful Jamie Skiffington is looking well primed for a solo World nine-hour strong wool lambs record attempt in which he will need to average about half-a-minute per lamb.

The target for the attempt on Monday at Waewaepa Station, near Dannevirke, is the 872 shorn by English shearer Stu Connor at Trefranck Farm, Cornwall, on July 28, 2021.

He will need an hourly average of at least 97, or about 37 seconds a lamb caught, shorn and despatched, including about five seconds between sheep and the time taken to change cutters on his hand-piece at regular intervals during the day.

He's trained well, dieted for two years and according to contractor, mentor and former solo nine-hour ewe and lamb records holder Rodney Sutton is quite capable of giving it "a nudge," with a personal best of 913 in a work-day blow-out five years ago.

"No matter who's going for this record it's going to be a big day for everyone," he said, as he took a mental note of who's in the large team helping in and around the wool shed trying to get their man across the line on the day. "It's not to be taken lightly, but he's going to give it a bit of a nudge."

Although the blow-out in 2020 was two seconds a lamb quicker than the target for Monday, Sutton, who has shorn 1103 in a wool shed blow-out and shore an official record of 839 in December 2000, says it's much different shearing under the watch of four World Sheep Shearing Records Society judges, who have the authority to reject or discard any lambs not shorn up to the required quality standards.

Jamie Skiffington
Strong Wool Lambs Solo 9hr World Record Attempt
Monday 20 January 2025 - Waewaepa Station, Dannevirke

Run	Stuart Connor 28/07/21	Jamie Skiffington 20/01/25
1: 5am-7am	193	191
2: 8am-9:45am	168	165
3: 10:15am-12pm	171	170
4: 1pm-2:45pm	172	166
5: 3.15pm-5pm	168	41
Total	872	733

Jamie would like to thank all the supporters that helped make today possible.

It's one of the two most revered men's records among more than 40 currently recognised by the society, shorn by men or women, over the standard work days of eight and nine hours, from solo to eight-stand tallies, on lambs, ewes or wethers, and on strong wool or the fine wool of merinos.

It's only the third attempt on the record in New Zealand since Hawke's Bay shearer Dion King shore 866 in a King Country wool shed in January 2007. It was whipped out of New Zealand's grasp when Irishman Ivan Scott shore 867 in Cornwall in 2016.

Record-holder Connor, who now lives in Hawke's Bay and was also planning to be at Waewaepa on Monday, shore runs of 193 in the two hours from the 5am start to breakfast at 7am, and 1hr 45min tallies of 168, 171, 172 and 168 to pass the target shortly before the end at 5pm.

A strong team of helpers is lined-up, including Weber farmer and trainer Justin Bell, who shore a record of 851 in December 2004, having set an eight-hours record two years earlier. Bell will be on the clock alongside Skiffington throughout the day.

Others on board include Southern Hawke's Bay farmer, former World and Golden Shears champion and Scotsman Gavin Mutch, and Whanganui farmer and shearer Alan Goss, who hosted and managed a two-stand eight hours record set by son Simon and Skiffington two years ago.

The lambs are primarily open-faced romneys, sourced mainly from over 5000 ewe lambs on a property that carries approximately 28,000 stock units on 3200 hectares effective.

The refereeing panel will be convened by Australia-based Steve Potaka-Osborne, originally from Whanganui, joined by New Zealand officials Bart Hadfield, Neil Fagan, and Robert McLaren, who will on Sunday oversee a pre-record wool-weigh in which a sample shear of 20 lambs must average at least 0.9kg of wool a head for the record bid to go ahead.

They are also responsible for approving the working conditions, with modifications having to be made to the stand to be suitable for the attempt, in what is otherwise an eight-stand closed-board woolshed.

Sutton expects no issues with the wool weight on lambs which will weigh an average of about 24kg each expected to be "beautiful combing" in keeping with what he has experienced in many years of shearing the station's sheep.

No rain is expected in the area over the weekend and MetService forecasts partly cloudy weather with easterlies on the day and temperatures up to 19C.

FACTBOX: Jamie Skiffington will attempt to set a new solo nine-hour World lamb shearing record on Monday, January 20, at Waewaepa, 1593 Waitahora Road, Dannnevirke.

The record is 872, and the attempt takes place in five runs, separated by breaks for breakfast, morning and afternoon tea and lunch. The runs are 5am-7am, 8am-9.45am, 10.15am-noon, 1pm-2.45pm, 3.15pm-5pm. The event will be live-streamed at <https://bidr.co.nz/shearing-record-attempt...>

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100064655713663/post/s/1011437217688126/?mibextid=oFDknk&rdid=UpqaU5ksXSCslwRT#>

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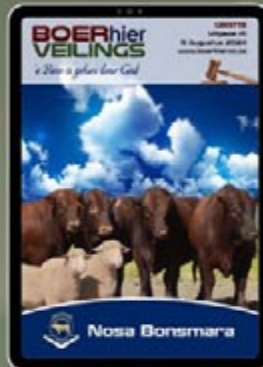
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African Snakebite Institute's Post



A Mozambique Spitting Cobra (*Naja mossambica*) spitting its venom. There are five spitting snakes in Southern Africa, the most common being the Mozambique Spitting Cobra and the Rinkhals (*Hemachatus haemachatus*). The others are the Black Spitting Cobra, Black-necked Spitting Cobra and Zebra Cobra.

A Mozambique Spitting Cobra (*Naja mossambica*) spitting its venom. There are five spitting snakes in Southern Africa, the most common being the Mozambique Spitting Cobra and the Rinkhals (*Hemachatus haemachatus*). The others are the Black Spitting Cobra, Black-necked Spitting Cobra and Zebra Cobra.

These snakes can spit close on three meters in distance and use the same venom that they inject when biting. It is an effective form of self-defence as venom in the eyes causes immediate pain with victims then closing their eyes and the snake quickly escapes. When spitting, these snakes rarely bite.

Snakes are smart and aim for the eyes. As the venom leaves the fangs it sprays and may end up on the face, throat, chest and even the arms but invariably in the eyes. The venom is highly diluted, and spitting snakes can spit many times - even 10-20 times in a row.

On skin the venom does very little and if you have abrasions the venom may cause some itchiness but can be washed off with soapy water. Even if spat in the mouth, the venom will do no real

damage and is bitter in taste. Having said that, exposure to venom should be avoided as multiple exposures, even when cleaning snake cages, could result on one becoming hypersensitive to venom.

The venom of spitting snakes is largely cytotoxic, causing superficial damage to the cornea and inflammation of the eyelids. It is very painful. Victims should immediately rinse the eyes with water (not milk, beer, urine or other liquids) to remove excess venom and consult a medical doctor. Diluted antivenom is not recommended. The doctor will examine the eyes for corneal damage (extremely rare) and treat the eyes with antibiotic drops to prevent further infection. Most victims recover fully in two or three days and corneal damage is rare, provided one rinses the eyes well and consults a doctor. Permanent blindness from venom in the eyes is virtually unheard of except in cases where victims do not visit a doctor.

In the case of pets, rinse the eyes with water and get your pet to a vet.

Source: (20+) A Mozambique Spitting Cobra (*Naja...* - African Snakebite Institute | Facebook

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The latest and greatest in wildfire mitigation innovation? Bringing in 1,200 goats to our Littleton, Colorado facility to help with the cause.

Preventing Wildfires

Preventative measures like properly storing flammable materials and clearing fire fuels are crucial for wildfire mitigation.

Conversely, overgrown vegetation and droughts can create ideal conditions for wildland fires—two factors Colorado has in abundance.

Why Goats?

Goats effectively clear hazardous fire fuels due to their ability to:

- Vigorously consume fire prone vegetation like weeds, scrub oak and poisonous plants.
- Trample grazing areas to bare dirt.
- Navigate rocky terrain and landscapes that would be inaccessible or cumbersome for equipment or firefighters.

While prescribed burns to thin vegetation are a viable option for wildfire mitigation, this method is more dangerous, not as sustainable and oftentimes less effective than using goats.

Partnering for the Good of the Herd

Goat Green, our fire mitigation partner and keeper of our new four-legged friends, helps to manage

large acreages and inaccessible areas across the Western region of the U.S.

This particular breed of goats is indigenous to the Himalayas, making their ideal habitat high, dry and cold – just like Colorado’s mountainous landscape during the fall and winter.

By harnessing the power of nature through the use of 1,200 goats, we are not only reducing the risk of wildfires, but also fostering a unique connection between our organization and the environment.

Commitment to Sustainability and Community Stewardship

Goats are just one way Lockheed Martin is committed to protecting the communities in which we live and work.

Through climate intelligence capabilities, we can also offer near real-time data to wildland



A herd of goats at Lockheed Martin Space's Littleton Colorado facility eating vegetation to aid in wildfire mitigation



a man and a brown dog herding goats at lockheed martin space's littleton colorado facility

firefighters to aid them in their mission of predicting, detecting and mitigating wildfires.

Our recent GeoXO Lightning Mapper (LMX) contract win also means we'll be providing our customers with expanded capabilities to provide better data for predicting wildfire ignition points. This instrument will detect and measure lightning flashes while onboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s GeoXO weather satellites, also developed by Lockheed Martin, to help first responders better predict where a lightning strike may cause a fire.

Source: <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/news/features/2024/true-goats-of-wildfire-mitigation>

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Vertical farming having a growth spurt



Vertical farming has faced a years-long struggle to gain support and achieve growth. But things are looking up for the pioneering sector

Vertical farming is as divisive as it is ground breaking. While supporters promote its ability to produce large quantities of food from a small area of land, its critics condemn its high energy usage.

Added to this, the sector faces significant challenges, which have suppressed growth in recent years.

Vertical farming challenges

The biggest challenge faced by the vertical farming industry is, without doubt, running costs. And it's this that has led many, including Agricoool and Glowfarms, to shutter.

“One of the most commonly spoken about challenges the vertical farming industry has faced over recent years has been highly volatile energy costs,” says Andrew Lloyd, CEO of global vertical farming technology company, Intelligent Growth Solutions. “This has been most acute in Europe, where kWh prices remain double what they were before the war in Ukraine.”

What's more, this issue looks set to continue.

“Electricity price volatility is projected to remain a challenge for several years to come,” says Lloyd.

This had led the industry to struggle in its attempts to grow, as financial backing has decreased.

“Price volatility has had a marked impact on the willingness of the investment market to back vertical farming projects, with appetites to perceived risk being reduced,” says Lloyd.

The industry has also seen projects falter or stall due to their inability to scale.

“Small-scale operations, even those growing premium or speciality crops, have struggled to deliver returns or meet commercial demand, leaving businesses struggling in a competitive market,” explains Lloyd.

However, despite these challenges the vertical farming industry is starting to make growth a reality. In fact, it's already achieved a global market value of \$5.6bn and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 19.7% over the next four years (MarketsandMarkets).

“The key driver pushing the growth of the vertical farming market is the factors in the food production system such as high population density, scarce and declining arable land, climate change, and environmental degradation,” says a spokesperson for MarketsandMarkets.

Vertical farming is growing

Despite closures in recent years, success has also occurred. However, those positive stories have

come from vertical farms, which have mitigated the biggest challenges through innovation.

“Those that have considered sites holistically, incorporating local or even on-site renewable energy generation, to mitigate the risk of price fluctuations, have proven successful,” says Intelligent Growth Solutions’ Lloyd. “Many of these projects also have principles of circularity firmly embedded at their core.”

And it’s this circular approach to site design that’s helping to restore investor confidence in the sector.

“They’re demonstrating resilience and an ability to deliver returns,” says Lloyd.

Another major marker for successful vertical farms, is achieving production at scale.

“Scale is a very important factor,” says Lloyd. “For vertical farming to be able to step beyond the novel technology category and truly deliver a step-change to the way we tackle global food security, it needs to be done at scale.”



Scalability is fundamental to the future success of vertical farming (Getty Images)

What more can vertical farming do to overcome challenges?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is proving to be an important tool for the food and beverage industry, and the possibilities for vertical farming are considerable.

“From streamlining practices and efficiencies through to providing more resilient supply chains, diversified revenue streams, and increased productivity, AI could deliver any number of benefits to the agritech sector,” says Lloyd.

Furthermore, industry leaders are keen for governments to support the sector as it represents an important part of the food system.

“More needs to be done to enable vertical farming technology developers to get solutions into the hands of the growers to enable real change,” says Lloyd. “Whether this is through green energy tariffs similar to the red diesel initiative, or through subsidies or tax relief for growers looking to diversify systems.”

Education is also required to help consumers better understand the benefits of vertical farming.

“Wider adoption of vertical farming into the global agricultural system is reliant on consumers driving demand,” says Lloyd. “Public education is required at sector level to help demonstrate the impact that integrating technology into existing systems can have, both in terms of food security and sustainability.”

[Also read: Vertical farming breakthrough could save industry from failure](#)

Woman scientist holding a seedling tray with lettuce seedlings while standing in a vertical farming facility, highlighting innovative agricultural practices in modern farming.



The future of vertical farming is bright

Despite its challenges, the vertical farming sector remains confident in its future success.

“I truly believe that there is a bright future for vertical farming,” says Lloyd. “It’s no secret the sector has gone through a testing time, and many of the challenges – perhaps most notably volatile electricity pricing – show little sign of abating. However, important lessons have been learned

by a sector that really is still very young, and we are coming out the other side stronger and more resilient.”

What is vertical farming?

The modern concept of vertical farming was established by Professor Dickson Despommier, of Columbia University, in 1999.

Vertical farming is the practice of growing crops vertically, rather than horizontally. This unique approach to agriculture sees crops stacked in vertical layers, within a controlled environment.

Amongst the many benefits, it allows for the optimisation of growth as plants are provided with the ideal amount of water, air, light, soil nutrients and warmth. As well as maximising the chance of crop success, this method offers further benefits, including and utilisation of soilless farming techniques, such as hydroponics, aquaponics and aeroponics.

By Donna Eastlake

Source: https://www.foodnavigator.com/Article/2025/02/12/vertical-farming-challenges-and-growth/?utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14-Feb-2025&cid=DM1192973&bid=622425929

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Ostriches on Canadian farm have recovered from bird flu, no culling



Thanks to a social media firestorm and a last-minute court injunction, 400 ostriches that were facing a culling on 1 February on a farm in British Columbia are still alive.

The day before the killing was to have been carried out at Universal Ostrich Farms by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a federal judge in Toronto, Ontario, ruled to stay the cull order while the farm owners seek a judicial review. Justice Michael Battista wrote in his decision that going ahead with the 1 February euthanasia before the matter could be further examined “would expose the applicant to irreparable harm”.

Avian influenza outbreak and risks

The ostrich flock had suffered an outbreak of avian influenza. Most have recovered. Court documents show 69 of the 450 ostriches on the farm died between 15 December 2024 and 15 January 2025 after showing symptoms.

The CFIA had issued the cull order on 30 December after the agency confirmed avian influenza in 2 dead ostriches. The farm immediately applied for a CFIA exemption, but the agency denied this on 10 January.

[ALSO READ: A vet's view – 6 areas of risk when dealing with avian influenza](#)

The day before the cull was planned on 1 February, the lawyer for the CFIA argued in

Toronto that the killing should proceed because avian influenza can spread to humans and that the recovered ostriches still present a public health risk. He also stated that there is a risk that the virus could mutate into new variants, even in healthy animals.

Social media impact

The farm owners and supporters had taken to many social media platforms to raise awareness of the impending cull, and to try and prevent it. Canada's well-known independent media organisation, Rebel News, went so far as to create a website with many videos and also to fundraise in order to help the birds and their owners avert the cull.

Rare genes

The farmers and their lawyer also argued against the cull because the genes of these ostriches are part of an antibody research study, making their genetics rare and valuable. The research project involves Dr Yasuhiro Tsukamoto, president of Kyoto Prefectural University in Japan. He is also known as Dr Ostrich. Tsukamoto's research involves the extraction of Covid-19 antibodies from ostrich eggs on the farm. He has studied the antibodies in ostrich egg yolk for decades, with a

focus on their ability to block infectious diseases, including avian influenza.

The road ahead

The farm owners, Karen Espersen and Dave Bilinski, were very relieved to hear the news, watching the proceedings in Toronto virtually from their farm in Edgewood, British Columbia. However, a future cull could still occur. The farm owners are awaiting a date for a hearing related to their requested judicial review.

Source: <https://www.poultryworld.net/health-nutrition/health/ostriches-on-canadian-farm-have-recovered-from-bird-flu-no-culling/>



Dr Yasuhiro Tsukamoto. Photo: Kyoto Prefectural University

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Southern Africa Grapples with Climate and Economic Challenges Amid Erratic Rainfall-Report

Climate crisis causing drought and hunger in eastern Africa



The relentless and longevity grip of last year's El Niño has taken a negative toll on grain production in many areas of southern Africa region.

According to Famine Early Warning Systems Network's (FEWS NET) Southern Africa Seasonal Monitor-January 2025 report, atypically high and escalating staple food prices are expected to continue constraining food access for poor households through the next harvests across the region in 2025.

In fact, long-range forecasts are clouded by uncertainty this summer due to late rains something that may cause crops failures at a time when bountiful harvests are desperately needed following poor results in 2024.

"From October to early January, rainfall patterns have been highly uneven, with significant deficits observed in Madagascar, northern and southern Mozambique, Malawi, western South Africa, southern Tanzania, and parts of Zambia," sated the report in part.

It added that rainfall onset was delayed by over 30 days in areas such as eastern Madagascar, southern Mozambique, and southern Zambia. December's dry spells and high temperatures placed crops under stress, leading to crop wilting and replanting efforts in regions like Malawi.

Rainfall across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has shown mixed

patterns. Parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Lesotho, central South Africa, Zambia, and northern Zimbabwe received slightly below-average rainfall during the first three months of the wet season.

Conversely, areas like Botswana, western Angola, northern Namibia, northern Tanzania, northern South Africa, and southern Zimbabwe experienced above-average rainfall.

The 2024–25 agricultural season faces challenges in regions like eastern Madagascar, southern Mozambique, and southern Zambia, where delayed planting, poor germination, and low soil moisture have already affected production.

"Regions with above-average rainfall so far are better positioned for good harvests of rain-fed crops, assuming consistent rainfall continues," noted the report.

Long-range forecasts predict above-normal rainfall for much of the southern half of the region through March. However, this optimism is tempered by concerns that for some areas, the rain may come too late, while excessive rainfall could also damage crops like grain.

La Niña weather pattern

The La Niña weather pattern, which typically brings good rains to southern Africa, formed later than expected in December, despite being initially forecast for July. This delay limited its impact, and it is predicted to weaken and dissipate by April.

Exacerbating these challenges is climate change, driven by fossil fuel emissions, with 2024 recorded as the hottest year in history, intensifying unpredictable weather patterns and affecting agricultural cycles.

This crisis is unfolding amidst a regional food insecurity crisis, with around 30 million people already facing severe shortages. Last year's intense El Niño event exacerbated the situation, slashing Zimbabwe's maize production by over 60% and leaving communities vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition.

Zambia's agricultural sector was severely impacted, with its maize harvest slashed by 50%, while South Africa saw a 23% reduction in production compared to the prior season. Similar struggles were faced by Malawi, Lesotho, and Mozambique. Most maize farming north of the Limpopo River is small-scale and rain-fed, leaving it particularly vulnerable to erratic weather patterns.

Livestock productivity has also declined in Namibia, Botswana, and western South Africa due to poor grazing and water shortages, impacting meat and milk availability and posing food security risks in the region.

Pest infestations

In Malawi, pest infestations such as fall armyworm threaten staple crops like maize and sorghum. Adding to these challenges, crop-raiding elephants have created ongoing conflicts with farmers in areas near Kasungu National Park following a poorly executed translocation effort.

Economic repercussions have rippled across the region. Malawi experienced inflation rising to 28.1% in December 2024, coupled with slowing economic growth. South Africa's economy contracted by 0.3% in the third quarter due to a significant drop in agricultural output. Meanwhile, domestic maize price fluctuations threaten to reignite food inflation despite earlier slowdowns.

South Africa's maize crop outlook is slightly more optimistic this season, but much depends on weather conditions, with further clarity expected from the Crop Estimates Committee's report later this month.

Source: <https://farmersreviewafrica.com/southern-africa-grapples-with-climate-and-economic-challenges-amid-erratic-rainfall-report/>



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CURACLOX

Kloksasillien en Ampisillien
IN 'N LANGWERKENDE BASIS

DC

Intramammary

'N ENKEL DROË KOEI BEHANDELING WAT EFFEKTIEF IS
TEEN GRAM-POSITIEWE EN GRAM-NEGATIEWE BAKTERIEË
BESKIKBAAR IN SUID-AFRIKA.⁴

INDIKASIES

Vir die eenstap-afdroog en behandeling van mastitis by droë koeie wat veroorsaak word deur bakterieë wat sensitief is vir kloksasillien en ampisillien.¹

Curaclox DC is 'n kombinasie van semi-sintetiese penisilliene (ampisillien en kloksasillien), wat uitgebreide bakteriedodende aktiwiteit vertoon teen die meeste mastitis-veroorsakende patogene, insluitend penisillien-weerstandige stamme.³



Dit bied 'n breë-spektrum doeltreffendheid teen beide Gram-negatiewe en Gram-positiewe bakterieë (*Streptococcus spp.*, *Staphylococcus spp.*, *Corynebacterium pyogenes*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas spp.*, ens.). Kloksasillien is ook aktief teen beta-laktamase-produiserende stamme.^{1,2,3}



Produk naam: Curaclox DC **Registrasienumer:** G2617 Wet 36/1947 (Suid-Afrika). **Elke 4,5 g spuit bevat:** Kloksasillien 500 mg, Ampisillien 250 mg **Registrasiehouer:** iPharma (Edms) Bpk, Reg. Nr. 2010/000192/07, 124 Elevation Laan, Randjesfontein, Midrand, 1683. **Verkoop en versprei deur:** Kyron 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 - V00/16.1/265 Wet 13/2003 [NSO](#)

Verwysings: 1. Package insert approved 23-08-2021 2. Mercer, MA. 2022. MSD Veterinary Manual: Use of Penicillins in Animals. Online. Merck & Co. <https://www.msdrvetermanual.com> accessed 26/09/2022, 18:15. 3. Jadhav BS, Pawar D, Vare V, Sonawane K, Shinde A. 2021. A review of synergistic fixed dose combination of Ampicillin and Cloxacillin or broad spectrum antibacterial activity. International Medical Journal Volume 28, Issue 02. Accessed <https://www.researchgate.net> 27/09/2022, 06:51. 4. MIMS. IVS SPECIALITY INDEX. 2022. Mammary gland 14.1. Volume 60 Number 2 June-August 2022

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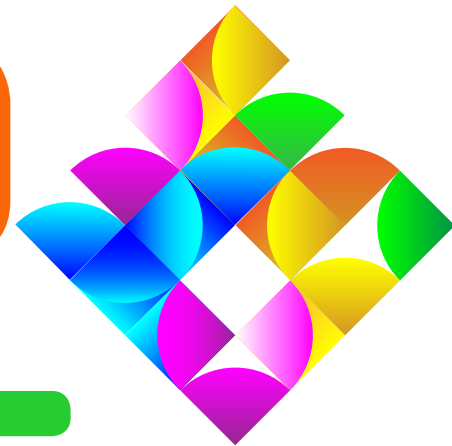


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2025 VEILINGS

JANUARIE

- 22 - POTBERG DOHNES PRODUKSIEVEILING
- 28 - HARTEBEEFONTEIN 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
-



New compostable label shows the future of fruit labeling



At Fruit Logistica 2025, the Sinclair team presented a timelapse showcase of its compostable fruit labels. Having launched Sinclair-T55 with the Zespri Group at Fruit Attraction in October 2024, interest has been high as the industry looks to adopt environmentally conscious packaging solutions.

Fruit labels have delivered added value for retailers, branders, and consumers for over 40 years. The fruit label is a compact and minimized packaging solution that provides essential point-of-sale product information for consumers and retailers. As part of the marketing mix, it allows brands to promote fresh produce characteristics and build a relationship with consumers. For retailers, the label ensures accurate checkout - price and produce type - as well as traceability.

The fruit label's ability to differentiate produce allows brands to build relationships with consumers on origin, variety, taste, and quality, all key buying triggers. All of this is possible with Sinclair-T55, a certified compostable packaging solution that can be as small as 18x10mm and weigh as little as 9.3 grams per square meter, and at the end of life, contributes to soil-enriching compost.

The Sinclair-T55 fruit label is food-safe, certified compostable, and complies with several leading composting standards. The label meets the EU-wide industrial composting standard EN 13432, as well as the French and Australian home composting standards, NFT 51-800 and AS 5810, respectively.

This compliance is further demonstrated by Sinclair-T55 achieving the DIN Certco and TUV AUSTRIA certification for both industrial and home composting, along with the ABA certification for home composting.

As the first dual-certified home and industrial fruit label in the industry, it is designed to meet the demands of automatic, high-speed application in packinghouses. With labeling speeds of up to 720 fruit per minute, humidity and water present, plus wide temperature variances, label conformity and adhesion to fresh produce is key. The new Sinclair T55 label meets these challenges with performance equivalent to conventional PE/PP labels or, on some produce types, surpassing it.

As a certified home compostable label available, at the end of its life, the label will break down and biodegrade to become part of usable, soil-enriching compost within 365 days (or sooner). This can be seen through this [timelapse video](#) presented at Fruit Logistica. The video shows certified compostable fruit labels on banana skin, kiwi skin, apple skin, and organic skin in home composting conditions.

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Sinclair

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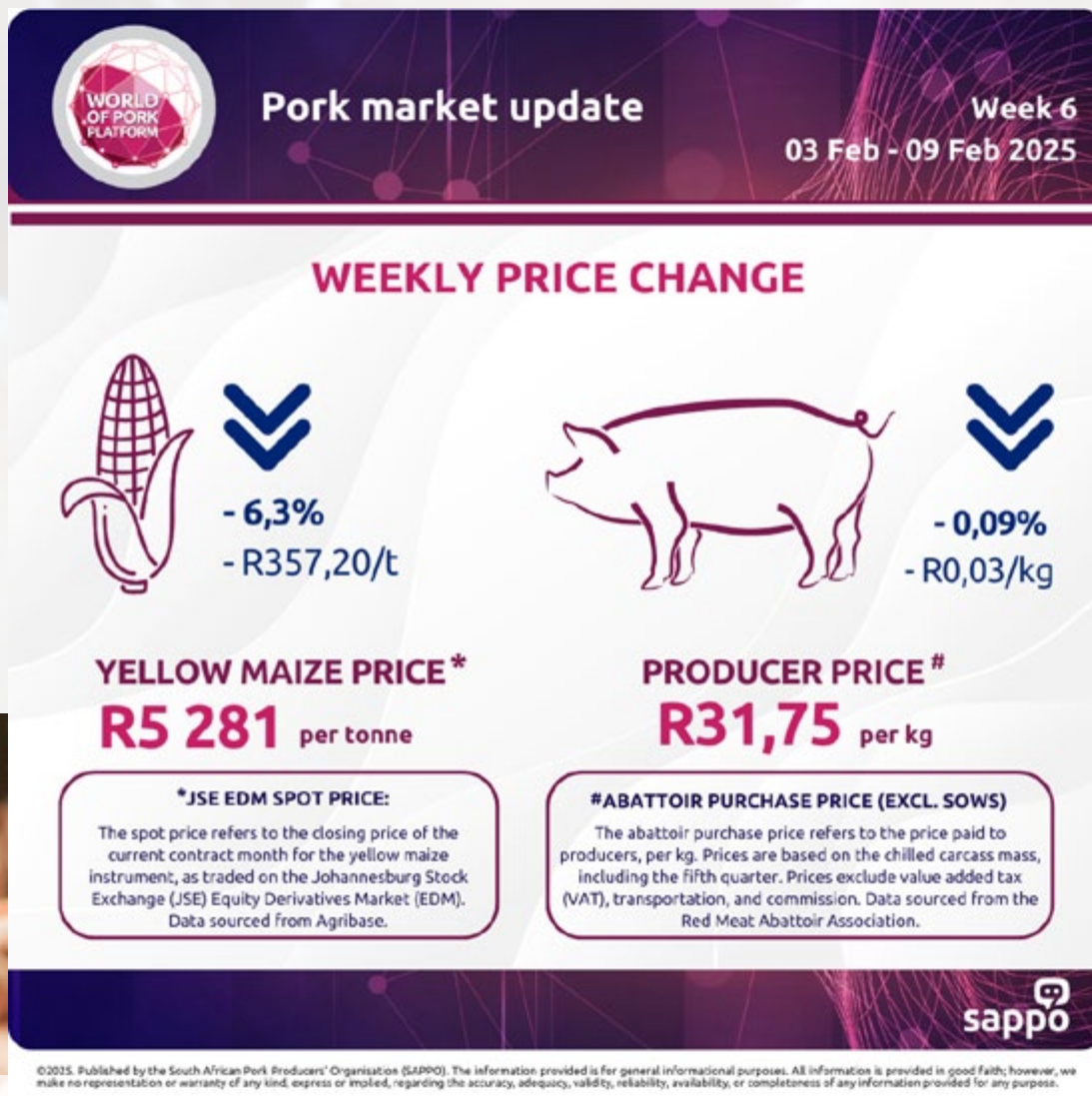
Source: https://www.freshplaza.com/north-america/article/9704546/new-compostable-label-shows-the-future-of-fruit-labeling/?utm_medium=email

Did you know?



WORLD OF PORK

Pork Market update Week 6 of 2025



Similar producer prices, with decreased yellow maize prices during week 6 of 2025

In week 6 of 2025, the pork producer price averaged R31,75/kg, 0,09% lower than the previous week. The yellow maize price averaged R5 281/t, 6,3% lower than the previous week. Producer prices in relation to yellow maize prices averaged 6, 6,7% higher than the previous week.

[Download report](#)



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and a nesting box with a
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Afridome, Parys

8 MRT **DORPER**
Warmbad Veemark, Bela-Bela

8 MRT **INHEEMSE VELDBOKKE**
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

19 MRT **BONSMARA**
Afridome, Parys

1 MEI **TULI**
Lettie Fouché Skool, Bloemfontein

14 JUN **BRAFORD**
Afridome, Parys

19 JUN **DRAKENSBERGER**
Afridome, Parys

3 JUL **BEEFMASTER**
Afridome, Parys

12 JUL **BORAN**
Afridome, Parys

17 JUL **BRAUNVIEH**
Afridome, Parys

6 AUG **BRANGUS**
Afridome, Parys

12 AUG **SA VLEISMERINO**
Frankfort Auction Centre, Frankfort

14 AUG **SUSSEX**
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

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



VEILINGS

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2025



- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 28 Feb | Buks & Koos de Wet Vleismerino veiling |
| 8 Maart | Nasionale Inheemse Veldbok veiling |
| 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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Auction Results



SONDAG	MAANDAG	DINSDAG	WOENSDAG	DONDERDAG	VRYDAG	SATERDAG
						1 BOSVELDER STUDEGROEP - BELA BELA
	3	4 ALLDAYS BALTIMORE BEESTEKRAAL WARMBAD	5 NORTHAM ONDERSTEOORT PIETERSBURG VAALWATER	6 MABESKRAAL POTGIETERSRUS RUBBERVALE	7 N/V BORAN VERSE EKTRAVAGANZA AFRIDOME, PARYS ELLISRAS ROEDTAN ALLERAS AANTEEL	8
	10	11 BALTIMORE BANDELIERKOP BEESTEKRAAL WARMBAD	12 NORTHAM ONDERSTEOORT PIETERSBURG	13 BLOUBERG AANTEEL - VIVO POTGIETERSRUS	14 NUWELUS ZONBARSAL AANTEEL - MOOKGOPHONG	15 NOORDELKE NGUNI KLUB - BELA BELA
	17	18 BALTIMORE BEESTEKRAAL LEGKRAAL WARMBAD	19 NORTHAM ONDERSTEOORT PIETERSBURG VAALWATER	20 NU-ALCADE BONSMARAS - BELA BELA POTGIETERSRUS VIVO	21 HANLEY WILD - ALLDAYS	22
	24	25 BALTIMORE BANDELIERKOP BEESTEKRAAL WARMBAD	26 NORTHAM ONDERSTEOORT PIETERSBURG ROEDTAN	27 POTGIETERSRUS SENTRUM VIVO	28 NYLSVLEI WILD - MOOKGOPHONG	

WEEK 5
WEEK 6
WEEK 7
WEEK 8
WEEK 9

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What's happening in Markets



Beef

A2/3 = R 55.71

B2/3 = R 51.58

C2/3 = 47.80

Weaner Calf = R 34.44



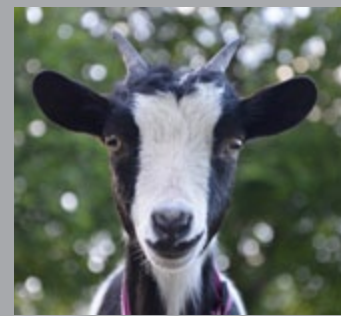
Sheep

A2/3 = R 98.67

B2/3 = R 70.69

C2/3 = R 68.88

Feeder Lamb = R 40.56



Goats

Ewes = R 42.68

Kids <30kg = R 46.89

Kids 30-40kg = R 45.33

Kids > 40kg = R 37.56



Chicken

Frozen = R 32.97

Fresh = R 35.00

IQF = R 32.25



Pigs

Porkers = R 32.61

Baconers = R 32.40



Safex

Maize = R 5559 /t

Soybean = R 8602 /t

Sunflower = R 9500 /t

Wheat = R 5988 /t



Exchange rate

R / \$ = R 18.34

R / £ = R 23.08

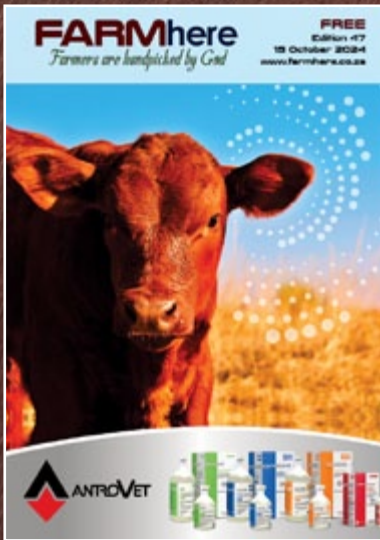
R / € = R 19.24

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'I have loved you with an everlasting love...'

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- You are loved by the One Who created you.
- You are understood by the One Who formed you in your mother's womb.
- Nothing and no one can ever remove His love for you.

Prayer: Lord, today I celebrate Your love for me. How blessed am I to know that the Creator of the universe loves and cares for me. I receive Your lovingkindness afresh today and may I never lose sight of the fact that Your love for me is everlasting. Amen.

Lizelle

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Photo by Christine Vosloo Photography