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August | Augustus 2026

No 160

NAMPO Kaap/Cape

Sea Cucumber

Pickled Peppers



Young Farmer Competitions:
Jongboer Kompetisies:

Agri Gauteng Finalists
TLU Finaliste
Agri Eastern Cape Winner



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Editorial

August is a month of anticipation and recognition. Across South Africa, young farmers are stepping forward as finalists in competitions that highlight their innovation, resilience, and vision for the future. In Gauteng, Lesego Mohube, PN Basson, and Mogale Maleka represent the energy of a new generation. In the Eastern Cape, Greg King has been recognised as Young Farmer of the Year, while within TLU SA, Marissa Solms, Betrus Joubert, and Gerhard Heinlein stand proudly as finalists. These stories remind us that the future of agriculture lies in the hands of young leaders prepared to take responsibility for the land and the industry.

The Agri Eastern Cape Congress reinforced this message of resilience. “Die stem van die boer” captured the spirit of unity and determination, reminding us that farmers continue to carry “unwritten invoices” in the form of failing infrastructure and rising costs, yet remain committed to finding solutions and investing in people.

Looking ahead, all eyes turn to **NAMPO Cape 2026**, taking place from 9 to 12 September at Bredasdorp Park. With more than 500 companies, 600 exhibition spaces,

and programmes for women, youth, and technology, NAMPO Cape promises to be a showcase of innovation, collaboration, and community. Highlights will include alternative energy solutions, international participation, and the celebration of Cape biodiversity through the fynbos exhibition. It is an event that demonstrates agriculture’s ability to grow not in isolation, but through partnerships across the value chain.

This edition also explores new opportunities such as sea cucumber aquaculture, alongside practical features like craftstyle pickled peppers, smoked yellowtail, and the reminder that one chicken can make two meals. These stories connect farming to the table, showing how innovation and tradition meet in everyday life.

AgriAbout remains committed to amplifying the voice of the farmer, celebrating resilience, and showcasing opportunities across the agricultural spectrum. As we look toward NAMPO Cape, we are reminded that together, we grow.

Until next time

Chris



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Agri Gauteng Young Farmer of the Year Finalist:

Lesego Mohube

At just 25 years old, **Lesego Mpho Mohube** is breaking barriers as a first-generation farmer and entrepreneur in South Africa's agricultural sector. She leads a diversified vegetable production enterprise supplying fresh produce to the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market and other buyers.

Coming from a family of teachers and nurses, Lesego chose a different path. "I believe agriculture is one of the most meaningful ways to create employment, strengthen food security, and contribute to economic growth," she explains. Her journey began with a single 10 × 30 m tunnel producing green peppers. Through determination and innovation, she has expanded into a thriving enterprise producing tomatoes, spinach, carrots, onions, cabbage, lettuce, and baby marrow.

Building a Vision

Lesego's farming philosophy rests on three pillars: **effective management, reliable water and efficient production systems,** and a **market-driven focus.** She emphasizes



the importance of planning, financial discipline, and accurate record-keeping. "Water is more valuable than land, so please save and use water accurately," she advises fellow young farmers.

Her enterprise has already adopted modern practices such as crop rotation, integrated pest management, precision irrigation, and digital record-keeping. With guidance from mentors and market agents, she has

expanded her operation and strengthened her market presence.

Challenges and Solutions

Like many emerging farmers, Lesego faces challenges in accessing suitable land, finance, and reliable water. She believes these obstacles can be overcome through collaboration between government, financial institutions, and the private sector, alongside investment in water infrastructure and mentorship programs for young farmers.

Inspiration and Mentorship

Although she does not come from a farming family, Lesego drew inspiration from values instilled by her parents: discipline, integrity, and service. She admires industry icons such as Bertie van Zyl of ZZZ and Max Sonnenberg of Woolworths, who built businesses that continue to thrive long after their founders. Her mentors include local market agents, extension officers, and experienced farmers who guide her in building a compliant, sustainable, and competitive enterprise.



Celebrating a Rising Leader in Agriculture

Lesego Mohube

Gauteng Young Farmer of the Year 2026 Finalist

At just 25 years old, Lesego inspires a generation through her dedication, leadership and passion for farming. As trusted seed supplier, Sakata is proud to celebrate this remarkable milestone and wishes her continued success in the agricultural industry.



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YOUNG FARMER OF THE YEAR 2026

Lesego Mohube

Celebrating the Future of Farming!

Congratulations to Lesego Mohube on being named the only female Gauteng finalist for the 2026 Young Farmer of the Year. True entrepreneurship is about vision and commitment. As your proud market agent, we are thrilled to support you as you prepare for your very first carrot harvest. Your journey is just beginning, and the agricultural community is ready to watch you thrive!



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Community Engagement

Lesego contributes to her community by sharing knowledge on platforms such as *Food for Mzansi* and supporting students. She believes farming is not only about producing food but also about creating opportunities and uplifting others. Ubuntu, the belief that success is built through community and sharing, is central to her farming journey.

Looking Ahead

In ten years, Lesego envisions her enterprise as one of Gauteng's leading vegetable producers, cultivating more than 50 hectares of diverse crops. Her dream is to build a legacy that inspires other young farmers to start small and grow into major contributors to the agricultural sector.

Proud Achievements

Among her proudest moments are winning the *Student Sustainability Award* at the South African Agriculture Awards and producing quality green peppers during a period of water scarcity.

Closing Thoughts

Lesego's advice to fellow young farmers is clear: "Start with what you have and build a strong foundation. Sustainability and perseverance are the keys to success."

Lesego Mpho Mohube embodies the spirit of South Africa's next generation of women farmers: determined, innovative, and committed to building a sustainable future. As a finalist in the Gauteng Agri Young Farmer of the Year competition, her story highlights the power of vision, hard work, and community in shaping the future of agriculture.



Agri Gauteng Jongboer van die Jaar Finalis:

PN Basson

Petrus Nicolaas Basson, beter bekend as *PN*, is op 28 jaar oud reeds 'n dinamiese rolspeler in Gautengse landbou. Saam met sy ouers en jonger broer bestuur hy *Janelda Boerdery*, grootliks geleë naby Bapsfontein. Hyself en sy gesin is woonagtig op hul plaas naby Bronkhorstspuit. Hierdie is 'n gesinsboerdery wat oor verskeie vertakkings strek en waar PN die verantwoordelikheid vir die geregistreerde maatskappy dra. Besluitneming is 'n spanpoging, en die hele familie dien as direkteure om volhoubare toekomsbeplanning te verseker.

'n Gesinsboerdery met verskeie vertakkings
Janelda Boerdery bestaan uit **lêhenne, mielies en soja, Eragrostis-hooi, en beeste**. Die boerdery huisves tans 235 000 lêhenne in moderne hokke, met 'n vierde hok reeds in beplanning. Die graanvertakking beslaan sowat 1 250 ha mielies en soja, waarvan 240 ha onder besproeiing is. Grasbale word op 100 ha geproduseer en aan die perdegemeenskap in Bapsfontein verkoop, terwyl die plaas ook 80 kommersiële koeie aanhou. PN beklemtoon dat elke vertakking mekaar ondersteun, die mielies voed die hoenders, die mis bemoes die lande, en die beeste benut die weiding.

Groei en visie

PN glo dat 'n mikpunt van **12% groei in omset of batewaarde per jaar** 'n realistiese teiken is om bo landbou-inflasie uit te styg en kompetender te bly. Hy wil 'n rolspeler in elke industrie waarin hy betrokke is bly, en verhoudinge met werknemers en vennote





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PN BASSON, JANELDA BOERDERY

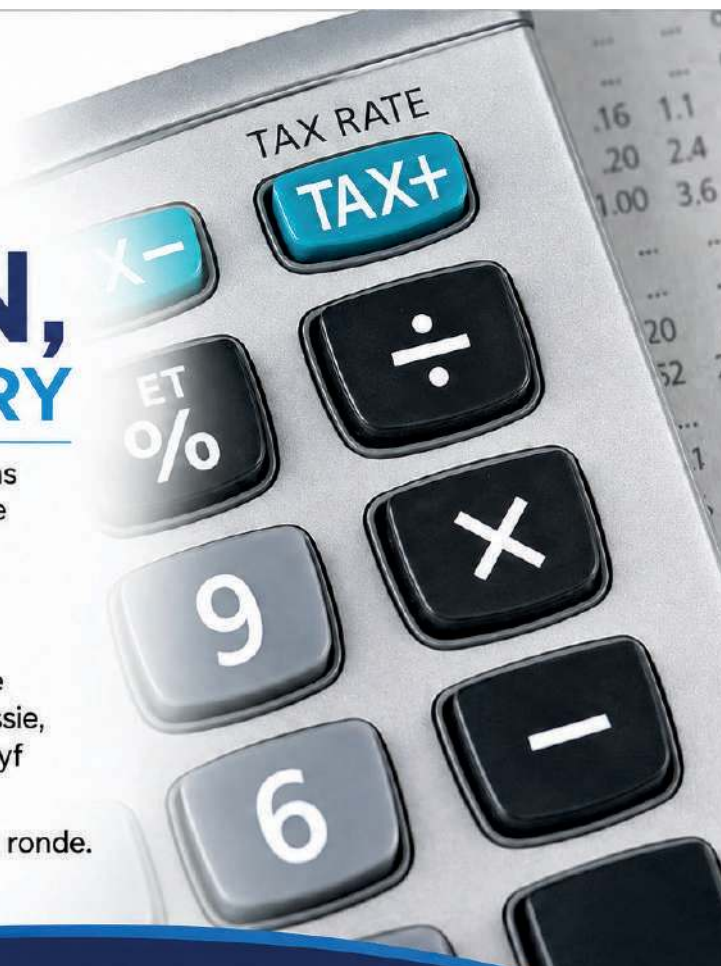
PN, baie geluk met hierdie besondere prestasie om as **finalis in die Jongboer van die Jaar 2026** kompetisie aangewys te word.

Dit is 'n besondere prestasie en welverdiende erkenning vir jou harde werk.

Ons by BDJ Ouditeure is opreg trots om jou as kliënt te ondersteun en om eerstehands te sien met hoeveel passie, toewyding en harde werk jy jou plek in die landboubedryf vol staan. Die suksesse wat jy behaal spreek vanself!

Ons wens jou van harte geluk en sterkte met die finale ronde.

Ons is trots op jou en die hele Janelda Boerdery en glo die beste lê nog voor!



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Garsfontein Pretoria

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Garsfontein, 0042

altyd eerste stel. "Ek weet nie presies hoe dit oor vyf of tien jaar gaan lyk nie, maar ek weet ek gaan nie ophou groei nie," sê hy.

Innovasie en tegnologie

Tegnologie speel 'n sleutelrol in Janelda Boerdery. PN het die toepassing van presisieboerdery in die saai-afdeling oorgeneem en opbrengste aansienlik verbeter. Hy gebruik **Agri Technovation** se landboukundiges, Bayer se *Innovation Squad*, en toets gereeld nuwe tegnologie in loodsprogramme. Van GPS-stelsels op trekkers tot gevorderde produksiebeheer in die hoenderhokke, tegnologie help om effektiwiteit te verhoog en risiko's te bestuur.

Finansiële bestuur

Met 'n agtergrond in bestuursrekeningkunde hanteer PN self die boekhouding van een van die maatskappye, terwyl sy ma die ander bestuur. Hulle gebruik **Xero Accounting Services** vir dag-tot-dag rekordhouding, **BDJ Ouditeure** vir finansiële state, en stel elke paar maande 'n 12-maande kontantvloei op om uitbreidings teen finansiële realiteite te meet. Hierdie praktyk gee hom 'n duidelike oorsig van die boerdery se finansiële gesondheid.



WAAR PASSIE GEPLANT WORD, *GROEI SUKSES*

Op 'n uitmuntende prestasie



Ons wens **PN Basson** van Janelda Boerdery, Bronkhorstspuit, hartlik geluk met sy plek as finalis in die **2026 Jongboer van die Jaar-kompetisie**.

Jou visie, harde werk en toewyding tot landbou is 'n prestasie waarop jy met reg trots kan wees.

Dit is vir **Bayer** 'n voorreg om 'n vennoot in jou boerderyreis te wees.



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Congratulations, PN Basson!

Genius Landbou would like to congratulate **PN Basson** on being selected as a **2026 Young Farmer of the Year finalist**.

Your years of dedication, commitment and passion for agriculture is clearly reflected in your daily work and your constant pursuit for excellence. This achievement is a well-deserved recognition of your hard work and contribution to the agricultural industry.

Genius Landbou wishes you the very best of luck in the final!
We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved achievement with you and wish you every success in the journey ahead.



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Hulpbronbewaring en volhoubaarheid

Die Bassons boer volgens **geenbewerking**-praktyke en glo dat goeie grondversorging opbrengs waarborg. Hoendermis word in kompos omskep en op die lande gebruik, aangevul deur kompos van rioolverwerkingsaanlegte. Die hoenderhokke is energie-doeltreffend en 'n sonplaas voorsien hernubare energie. "Indien jy na die grond omsien, sal die grond na jou omsien," sê PN.

Risikobestuur

Voëlgriep is die grootste risiko vir die hoendervertakking, en PN beklemtoon streng biosekuriteit en personeelbetrokkenheid. Diefstal word met kameras, alarms en sekuriteitstelsels bestuur. Droogte en siektes in graan word hanteer deur kultivar-keuse, laer stande en gereelde inspeksies.

Gemeenskap en leierskap

PN is 'n lid van **Agri Gauteng** en neem deel aan GIBS en AgriSA se leierskapskursus. Hy erken dat hy nog leer oor georganiseerde landbou, maar wil 'n meer aktiewe rol speel in die toekoms. Hy is betrokke by plaaslike **Afriforum-taakspanne**, buurtwagte en



Baie geluk PN Basson

Finalis in die
Agri Gauteng Jongboer
van die Jaar kompetisie.

Paul Roos & Seuns Civils is trots
om met jou boerdery geassosieer
te word.

Sterkte vir die kompetisie,
ons sien uit daarna om die pad
verder saam met jou te stap.

**PAUL ROOS & SEUNS
CIVILS**



Paul Roos (Snr)
082 894 3964



Paul Roos (Jnr)
081 021 1200



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1020



► Commercial Banking

Congratulations to PN Basson of Janelda Boerdery.

Nedbank proudly congratulates PN Basson of Janelda Boerdery on being selected as a finalist in the Gauteng Agriculture Young Farmer of the Year competition.

Through his dedication to poultry production and commitment to building a thriving agricultural enterprise, PN exemplifies the innovation, resilience, and excellence that continue to drive South African agriculture forward.

We are honoured to be Janelda Boerdery's banking partner, celebrate this well-deserved recognition, and wish PN every success as he advances to the finals.

Congratulations, PN!

For tailored agricultural banking solutions, email Mark Hunter, Business Manager for Nedbank Commercial Banking, at markhu@nedbank.co.za.

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Persoonlike kenmerke

PN beskryf homself as iemand wat **110% gee in alles wat hy doen**. Hy is passievol oor boerdery, leergierig, en altyd op soek na nuwe kennis en uitdagings. "Ek tree nooit terug van 'n uitdaging af nie, ek gaan dit soek," sê hy. Hy is lojaal, betroubaar en glo dat elke werknemer deel van die familie en die boerdery se sukses is.

Slotgedagtes

Vir PN is boerdery nie net 'n beroep nie, maar 'n lewenspassie wat hy met sy gesin en span deel. Sy visie is om Janelda Boerdery voortdurend te laat groei, risiko's vooruit te bestuur, en 'n kultuur van effektiwiteit en volhoubaarheid te vestig. As finalis in die Gauteng Agri Jongboer van die Jaar-kompetisie belig sy verhaal die krag van familie, tegnologie en 'n onwrikbare passie vir landbou.



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Baie geluk aan

**PN Basson van Janelda
Boerdery**, Bronkhorstspuit wat
as 'n finalis aangewys is tydens
die **Gauteng Agri Jongboer van
die Jaar**-kompetisie.



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Agri Gauteng Young Farmer of the Year Finalist:

Mogale Maleka

Selebalo Mogale Maleka (33) is redefining what modern farming looks like in South Africa. Mogale is the co-founder and CEO of *AB Farms (Agang Bokamoso Farms)*, an agritech enterprise based at the Westonaria Agripark near Donaldson Dam in Gauteng's West Rand. His business combines commercial hydroponic vegetable production with cutting-edge technology development, proving that farming can be both a food security solution and a technology-driven entrepreneurial career.

A New Kind of Farming Enterprise

AB Farms is built around a proprietary, patented vertical hydroponic pipe system that requires neither a continuous water supply nor electricity. The company has two connected branches: a commercial hydroponic operation producing lettuce (52% of turnover), basil (36%) and spinach (12%); and a technology arm that designs, manufactures,



installs and supports hydroponic systems for other growers, households and institutions. This includes turnkey "Farming-in-a-Box" installations and training.

Mogale oversees strategy, technology development, operations, partnerships and investment decisions, while his sister farms alongside him. With nine years of farming experience, seven of them on this unit, he has built AB Farms into a model of resilience and innovation.

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Roots and Motivation

Mogale grew up in an entrepreneurial household. His father owned a spaza shop in the 1980s and 1990s, teaching him independence and self-sufficiency. His grandparents were smallholder farmers, instilling in him the importance of being able to feed oneself rather than relying on external forces. That background, combined with his mechanical engineering training, motivated him to start AB Farms at age 23 and turn a hydroponic concept into a commercially viable business.

Keys to Success

For Mogale, the three most important characteristics of a successful farm are:

- 1. Innovation** that solves real farming problems.
- 2. Financial discipline**, with every decision weighed against market demand and profitability.
- 3. Resource efficiency**, particularly in water and energy use, alongside consistent crop quality.

Facing Challenges

He identifies water scarcity, unreliable electricity supply, and market volatility as the biggest challenges in agriculture. AB Farms'

hydroponic system addresses these risks directly: it re-circulates water in a closed loop, reducing usage by up to 90%, and runs on a solar-powered pump, cutting electricity use by up to 50%. Diversifying revenue across produce and technology sales also helps manage market risk.

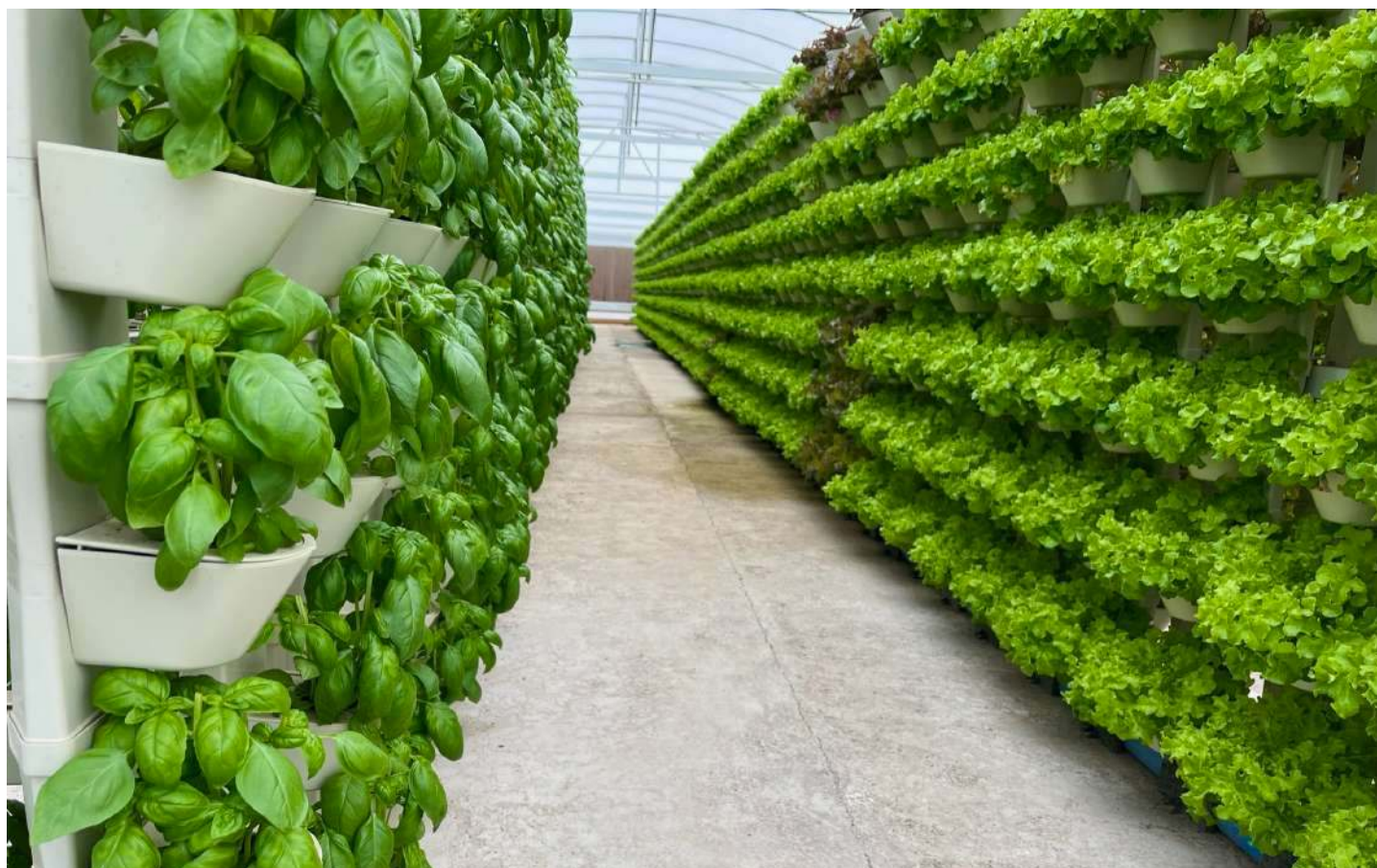
Training and Mentorship

Mogale holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Johannesburg (2016) and is completing an MBA at Wits University (2026). His engineering background underpins the design of AB Farms' hydroponic system, while his MBA strengthens the business and strategic side of operations. The farm is also working toward GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

He draws guidance from a board of advisers including the Water Research Commission, Agricultural Research Council, Gauteng Department of Agriculture, The Innovation Hub and Wits Innovation Centre. Mentor Palesa Motaung has also been a key source of encouragement.

Innovation and Community

The patented vertical hydroponic pipe system is AB Farms' core innovation. It uses up to 10





times less land, 50% less electricity and 90% less water per kilogram than conventional methods and operates entirely off-grid on solar power. A Water Research Commission-funded trial achieved a 95% marketable yield from 3,600 lettuce heads planted. The farm is now adding sensors and AI-driven monitoring to move toward precision farming.

Mogale is a member of Agri Gauteng and works with Bread Africa as both a farmers' association and distribution partner. AB Farms serves as a demonstration and training site for new farmers, students and community members, encouraging young people to see agriculture as a viable career.

Looking Ahead

In ten years, Mogale envisions AB Farms as one of Africa's leading intensive vegetable farming enterprises, proving that profitability, sustainability and innovation can coexist. His goals include expanding production, improving productivity per square metre, and positioning AB Farms as a model for modern African agriculture.

Achievements and Traditions

Starting AB Farms at age 23 and growing it into a commercially viable, award-winning business is Mogale's proudest achievement. Along the way, the company won 1st place in the UNIDO

Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (2025), was selected by AGRA as one of Africa's top 12 agricultural innovators and became a finalist in both the Future Trust Awards and Go Getta Africa. AB Farms also made its first export sale into Botswana.

Despite its commercial focus, a portion of the farm is reserved for home consumption and to share food with family, friends and colleagues, a tradition that reflects Mogale's values of community and generosity.

Closing Thoughts

"Don't be afraid to go off the beaten path and follow your own ideas," Mogale advises fellow young farmers. "Agriculture rewards those who combine sound farming principles with innovation and entrepreneurship. Treat every decision against whether it solves a real problem and whether it is financially sustainable, and share what you learn to bring more young people into the sector."

Mogale Maleka represents a new generation of South African farmers: innovative, entrepreneurial, and committed to building a sustainable future. As a finalist in the Gauteng Agri Young Farmer of the Year competition, his story demonstrates how technology, resilience and vision can transform agriculture for the next generation.

Sea Cucumber:

A South African Aquaculture Opportunity

Henk Stander: Aquaculture, Department of Animal Science,
Faculty of Agrisciences, University of Stellenbosch.

Sea cucumbers (Class *Holothuroidea*) are increasingly recognized worldwide as high-value aquaculture species because of their strong international market demand, ecological benefits, and compatibility with sustainable farming systems. Different species of sea cucumbers are highly prized in many global cuisines (particularly across Asia) and are consumed fresh, boiled, salted, or dried (often known as *bêche-de-mer* or *trepang*). They are valued for their gelatinous, collagen-rich texture and are harvested from both wild fisheries and aquaculture setups.

Wild sea cucumber stocks in many countries have declined due to overfishing and poaching, leading to growing interest in aquaculture as an alternative source of production.

For South Africa, where aquaculture remains a developing sector with significant growth potential, sea cucumbers represent an attractive candidate species that could diversify production, increase export earnings, create coastal livelihoods, and support ecosystem-based aquaculture development.

Biological and Ecological Characteristics:

Sea cucumbers are benthic echinoderms that inhabit sandy and muddy marine environments. They feed primarily on organic matter contained within sediments and play an important ecological role as “bioturbators,” recycling nutrients and improving sediment quality.

Several characteristics make sea cucumbers attractive aquaculture candidates:

- Low trophic level feeding requirements.
- Ability to utilize organic waste and detritus.
- Adaptability to integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) systems.
- High market value compared with many cultured marine species.
- Low environmental impact.

The tropical sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) is currently the most widely cultured tropical sea cucumber species and has demonstrated successful culture in Australia, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, New Caledonia, and other countries.

What makes the sea cucumber special?

There are over 1,400 species of sea cucumber

inhabiting all corners of the marine world, from the ocean floor of Antarctica to the pristine reefs of the tropics. At least seventy of these species are commercially exploited in what is now a multi-billion-dollar trade. Nearly 80 percent of sea cucumber exports globally are destined for Hong Kong where they are then re-exported into mainland China and sold, typically as a dried product known as *bêche-de-mer*.

Lauded for their medical and health benefits, sea cucumbers have been a delicacy in China since the Ming Dynasty. Bioactive compounds produced by sea cucumbers have been used in traditional Chinese medicine to treat a number of ailments including arthritis and cancer, and there is ongoing research on a number of nutraceutical and pharmaceutical application of these compounds around the world.

However, most of the sea cucumber is harvested for human consumption. Like abalone, shark fin, fish maw and bird's nest soup, sea cucumber is a delicacy that has been a symbol of affluence and luxury, typically reserved for special occasions like weddings, banquets, and Chinese New Year celebrations. The high price of sea cucumber has led to high levels of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, a thriving illegal market trade and diminishing sea cucumber populations due to overfishing in many parts of the world. As

a result, three species of sea cucumber were added to CITES' Appendix II for the first time in August 2019, providing greater protection and requiring tighter controls on international trade.

Economic Potential in South Africa Export Market Opportunities:

The primary market for sea cucumbers is Asia, particularly China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea, where processed sea cucumber (*bêche-de-mer* or *trepang*) is considered a luxury seafood product and traditional medicinal food. Demand remains strong despite declining wild stocks.

South Africa could benefit from:

- Access to high-value export markets.
- Diversification of aquaculture production beyond abalone, mussels, oysters, and trout.
- Foreign exchange earnings.
- Development of value-added processing industries.

Given the country's established export experience with abalone, sea cucumber products could potentially utilize existing seafood export infrastructure.

Compatibility with South African Aquaculture:

One of the strongest arguments for sea cucumber farming in South Africa is its compatibility with integrated multitrophic





aquaculture systems (IMTA).
Sea cucumbers can:

- Consume organic wastes produced by fish culture.
- Utilize uneaten feed particles.
- Improve sediment quality beneath aquaculture facilities.
- Enhance overall environmental sustainability.

Research has shown that *Holothuria scabra* can be successfully co-cultured with macroalgae and other aquaculture species, improving nutrient recycling and resource efficiency. This approach aligns with South Africa's goals of environmentally responsible aquaculture development and blue economy growth under initiatives such as Operation Phakisa.

Environmental Benefits:

Sea cucumber farming offers several environmental advantages:

Sediment Bioremediation

Sea cucumbers process large quantities of organic-rich sediment, reducing organic accumulation and improving benthic habitat quality.

Low Carbon Footprint

Because sea cucumbers feed naturally on detritus and sediments, they require little or no formulated feed, reducing production costs

and environmental impacts.

Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture

Sea cucumbers can form part of circular production systems in which waste from one cultured species becomes a resource for another.

These features are increasingly important as South Africa seeks sustainable aquaculture solutions.

South African Resource Availability

South Africa possesses a long coastline encompassing a range of marine habitats, including the warmer waters of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. These regions may offer suitable environments for tropical and subtropical sea cucumber species.

Furthermore, neighbouring Western Indian Ocean countries such as Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles already possess sea cucumber resources and fisheries, indicating regional ecological suitability.

The experience gained in these countries could provide valuable lessons for South African farming initiatives.

Challenges and Constraints:

Despite their potential, several challenges must be addressed.



Species Selection

It remains necessary to identify:

- Indigenous South African species suitable for farming.
- Growth performance under local conditions.
- Reproductive biology and hatchery requirements.

The widely farmed sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) is typically a tropical species and may not be suitable throughout South African waters.

Hatchery Technology

Commercial production depends on:

- Reliable broodstock supply.
- Larval rearing expertise.
- Juvenile nursery systems.

Although hatchery methods exist internationally, local adaptation would require research investment.

Regulatory Requirements

South African aquaculture projects require environmental authorization, water-use approvals, and compliance with aquaculture regulations. New species introductions would require particularly careful risk assessment.

Market Development

Producers would need:

- Processing facilities.
- Export certification systems.

- Market access agreements.
- Product quality standards aligned with Asian consumer preferences.

Research Priorities for South Africa:

Before commercial development, research should focus on:

1. Identification of suitable indigenous sea cucumber species.
2. Assessment of habitat suitability along the South African coast.
3. Hatchery and larval culture development.
4. Integrated culture trials with abalone, finfish, and seaweed farms.
5. Economic feasibility assessments.
6. Environmental impact studies.
7. Market analysis and export opportunities.

Universities, research institutions, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) could lead pilot-scale trials to determine commercial viability.

The South African coast hosts 115 described species of sea cucumbers. The following twelve species are of the most prominent, common, and scientifically notable species found in the shallow and deep waters off the South African coast:

1. *Holothuria cinerascens* – A common, warmer-water species found along the eastern and southern coastlines.
2. *Pseudocnella sykion* – A very common,



medium-sized shallow-water species found in the temperate waters of the Western and Eastern Cape.

3. ***Thyone aurea* (Golden sea cucumber)** – Recognizable by its golden colour and ten tree-like tentacles; often washes up on beaches after storms.
4. ***Pseudocnella insolens*** – An extremely common shallow-water species that often lives among algae and rocky reefs in the temperate regions.
5. ***Holothuria atra* (Black sea cucumber)** – A uniformly black species that typically wedges itself into crevices near the low-tide mark along the southern and eastern coasts.
6. ***Ocnus capensis*** – A small-bodied, shallow-water species found along the rocky shores of the South African west and south coasts.
7. **Red-chested sea cucumber** – A highly visible, common species found in great numbers on shallow reefs, known for brooding its young in skin pockets.
8. ***Rhopalodinopsis capensis*** – A unique, endemic species belonging to the order Dendrochirotrida, found off the South African south and west coasts.
9. ***Zygothuria lactea*** – A deep-sea species that has expanded its known bathymetric range off the south and west coasts of South Africa.
10. ***Synallactes cf. challengerii*** – A distinct deep-water species documented off the southern and western coasts of the country.
11. ***Molpadia musculus*** – A dark, burrowing, deep-water species recorded in the sandy/muddy seabed off the South African temperate region.

12. ***Thyone venusta*** – A deep-water representative of the genus *Thyone*, whose local distribution record was specifically redefined by the SAEON surveys.

The popular culinary species, *Holothuria scabra* (the sandfish sea cucumber) does occur along the South African coast, but strictly along the warm northeastern tropical and subtropical coast of KwaZulu-Natal, rather than the colder southern or western coasts.

Conclusion:

Sea cucumbers possess considerable potential as a future aquaculture species for South Africa. Their high export value, ecological benefits, compatibility with integrated aquaculture systems, and contribution to sustainable coastal development make them attractive candidates for diversification of the country's aquaculture sector. Although challenges exist regarding species selection, hatchery development, regulation, and market access, international experience demonstrates that successful sea cucumber aquaculture is achievable. With targeted research and pilot production programs, sea cucumbers could become an important component of South Africa's growing blue economy and sustainable aquaculture industries.

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Henk Stander also serves as the Operations Manager in Africa for the Worldwide Sustainable Sea Cucumber Association based in Seattle, USA: hbs@sscwa.org



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Husqvarna's equipment is shaped by centuries of working alongside forestry and agricultural professionals, and the 530iP4 carries that heritage into the battery era. Easy to use, easy to maintain, and built to withstand demanding conditions, it is designed for those who rely on their equipment day after day.

As pre-spring preparations gather pace across South Africa, the Husqvarna 530iP4 delivers what farming demands: performance where it counts, in the field.

Find out more at www.husqvarna.com/za

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From Symptoms to Systems: PART 5

Patterns of Failure

Dr Ida Wilson

Independent Crop Production Consultant

In crop production, it is rarely a single factor that determines the outcome. More often, it is the interaction between factors that shapes what is observed in the field. This is not always intuitive. It is easier to look for direct cause-and-effect relationships: a nutrient deficiency causes poor growth, a pathogen causes disease, a lack of water reduces yield. Each of these statements may be true in isolation, but they do not explain what happens in real systems.

Variability and System Behaviour

Outcomes emerge from the way factors combine, influence one another, and unfold over time. This is why similar conditions do not always produce similar results. Two fields

may receive the same fertiliser programme yet perform differently. The same cultivar may respond well in one environment and poorly in another. A disease may be severe in one season and minimal in the next, even when management practices appear unchanged. These differences are often labelled variability, but they reflect system interactions.

Water and Disease

One of the most consistent examples is the relationship between water and disease. Water is essential for growth, *but it also drives plant diseases*. Excess soil moisture reduces oxygen, impairs roots, and favours soilborne pathogens. High humidity in the canopy promotes foliar disease spread. Water



supports the plant while simultaneously shaping pathogen infection environments.

In well-structured soil with good drainage, moisture supports healthy plant growth, plant resilience, and reduced susceptibility to disease. The same water applied to compacted; poorly drained soil may cause root stress and subsequent infection by waterborne pathogens. Here, the difference lies not in water itself, but in how it interacts with soil, plant, and plant pathogen.

Nutrient Dynamics

Nutrients are required for growth, but their availability depends on soil pH, moisture, microbes, and root health. A nutrient may be present yet unavailable due to poor soil or impaired roots.

Nutrient balance also influences physiology. With excess nitrogen plants push vegetative growth, often with thinner cell walls, higher water content, and denser canopies, increasing disease susceptibility. Similarly, nutrient deficiencies weaken defence mechanisms. Thus, the effects of nutrition should not be thought of in isolation but as part of a complex, interacting system.

Example: Citrus Production

High nitrogen inputs may drive vigorous canopy growth, increase humidity, and favour disease. The outcome reflects the interaction of growth, environment, and pathogen behaviour, not nutrition alone.

Environmental Conditions

Temperature, humidity, and light influence plant processes and pest behaviour. A temperature shift may accelerate growth but also alter pathogen life cycles. Humidity changes may affect transpiration while favouring disease. A warm, humid period may create ideal disease conditions, especially if the crop is stressed. A dry period may reduce disease but increase water stress.

Management Decisions in the System

Management decisions operate within these interactions. Irrigation affects water status. Fertilisation influences growth and resilience. Crop protection alters pest-pathogen balances. Each decision interacts with existing conditions.

Increasing irrigation may support plant growth but may favour disease. Adjusting fertilisation may alter growth-defence balance. Fungicides may reduce disease occurrence and severity, but if system stress remains, problems reappear. Management outcomes always impact the entire system.

The Time Dimension

Interactions are not always immediate. Decisions early in the season may influence outcomes much later. Soil conditions at planting affect roots throughout the growth cycle. Early stress reduces resilience, increasing later susceptibility. By the time effects are visible, links to the original cause may be obscured.

What is observed at any moment reflects past interactions, not just current conditions. This explains why interventions may fail. An input effective under one set of conditions may fail under another.

Variability and Frustration

This variability can be frustrating, creating the impression that outcomes are unpredictable. In reality, the system behaves consistently, the interactions are simply not fully understood. Recognising this, shifts the focus from 'single factors' to 'multiple factors working together in a complex system.'

Toward Integrated Thinking

It becomes necessary to ask not only what is happening, but why and in that context. This does not eliminate complexity; it provides a way to work with it. Practical management means moving away from isolated decisions toward integrated thinking. Soil, water, nutrition, environment, and management must be considered together.

Effectiveness of interventions depends on conditions. Crop performance is not determined by individual factors, but by how they interact over time.

In the next edition of AgriAbout, I will discuss rethinking interventions and how systems thinking may reduce crop vulnerability.

Contact the author: ida@cropgeniusai.com
Read PART 6 (**Rethinking Interventions**) in the next edition of AgriAbout.

Agri Eastern Cape Young Farmer of the Year: Greg King

On **Braeside Farm** and **Comre Farm**, 32-year-old **Gregory Ashley King** represents the sixth generation of his family to cultivate the land. His young son is already poised to become the seventh. Greg is married to Laura, and together they are raising two children, a four-year-old boy and an eight-month-old girl.

A Family Driven Enterprise

Braeside Farming is built on sheep, cattle, crops, and hunting. Greg manages **Merino sheep** and **Dormer crosses**, alongside a Dormer stud. His cattle herds include **Red Angus, Beefmaster, and Brahman**, bred for adaptability and efficiency. **Lucerne production** plays a vital role, serving both as a drought buffer and a marketable crop.

The family's diversification extends to **hunting**, which has been a cornerstone of the business since 2012. With two lodges, one at Braeside and another at Comre, the enterprise welcomes both local and international hunters. Comre Farm alone hosts more than **43 species**, including two of the Big Five, making hunting a significant contributor to the farm's sustainability.

Generational Legacy

Greg's path into agriculture was shaped by his upbringing. "I grew up on a farm, and it has always been generational," he explains. His vision is to pass this legacy on to his son, ensuring continuity and resilience across generations.

Keys to Success

For Greg, success in farming rests on three principles:

- Minimizing input costs to protect margins.
- Dedication to the land and livestock.

- Hard work; - the daily commitment that sustains the enterprise.

Challenges and Solutions

Agriculture is never without obstacles. Greg identifies droughts, diseases, and fluctuating prices as the greatest challenges. His solutions are pragmatic: lucerne production





to bridge dry seasons, perseverance during disease outbreaks, and seeking the best possible prices for wellproduced livestock and crops.

A Moment of Triumph

On 5 August 2026, during Agri Eastern Cape's annual congress in Jeffreys Bay, Greg King was announced as the **winner** of the province's Young Farmer of the Year competition. He describes the moment as overwhelming:

"It was truly unforgettable to hear my name. I felt deeply honored, especially in front of so many fellow farmers, to receive recognition for all the hard work and time that brought me to this point."

Meaning of the Title

For Greg, the award is not only a personal achievement but also a source of motivation for his entire team:

"This title encourages not only me but the entire staff body. Without their dedication, I would never have reached this stage in my career. It motivates us to keep learning and growing."

Advice to Young Farmers

His message to aspiring farmers is grounded in realism and resilience: "Stay committed to your goals. Farming doesn't happen overnight, it requires resilience, hard work, patience, and

passion. Seek knowledge and always remain passionate."

Goals for the Future

Greg emphasizes that the journey does not end here: "The hard work continues. I want to use this recognition as a platform to make a meaningful contribution to the future of agriculture. I aim to improve my farming practices, embrace new technology and sustainable methods, and grow our operation further."

Family Contribution and Balance

Greg acknowledges the vital role of his family. Laura manages the household and supports the enterprise, while his extended family contributes to infrastructure and operations. He stresses that farming is never a solitary pursuit but a collective effort where every member's role is essential. Beyond farming, he values the balance between work and family, and the integration of agriculture, tourism, and conservation.

Greg King's victory as Young Farmer of the Year 2026 in the Eastern Cape is a testament to the evolving face of South African agriculture, a farmer who balances tradition with innovation and proudly passes his legacy to the next generation.

The **AgriAbout team wishes Greg every success** as he represents Agri Eastern Cape in the National competition later this year.

The Voice of the Farmer: Agri Eastern Cape Congress 2026



“Die stem van die boer”, the voice of the farmer, was the phrase that captured the spirit of the Agri Eastern Cape Congress 2026. Held under the theme *Growing Through Resilience*, the twoday gathering brought together farmers, leaders, and industry stakeholders to confront challenges and celebrate achievements.

Resilience in a Changing Landscape

Agri Eastern Cape president Peter Cloete opened the Congress with a call for unity and adaptation. Speakers highlighted both opportunities and obstacles. Citrus farmer Pieter Nortje described the rapid expansion of the citrus industry, with the Eastern Cape now accounting for a quarter of Southern Africa’s citrus hectares. Yet growth demands reliable roads, ports, packhouses, and coldchain infrastructure. Without these, production gains cannot translate into sustainable economic opportunity.

Johann Kotzé of Agri SA emphasised the need for agriculture to move beyond simply “having a voice” to wielding credible influence backed by evidence and data. He argued that farmers must coordinate across government spheres and industry networks to strengthen agriculture’s role as a national asset.

The Unwritten Invoices

Dairy farmer Edgar Brotherton delivered one of the most powerful addresses. He spoke

of the “unwritten invoices” farmers absorb due to failing systems: poor roads, electricity costs, water shortages, security, bureaucracy, and veterinary expenses. Instead of investing purely in growth, farmers are forced to spend on generators, solar systems, fencing, and water infrastructure just to stay operational.

Yet Brotherton’s message was ultimately one of resilience. He stressed the importance of investing in people, describing the Just Milk student development programme, which recruits for character and teamwork before offering structured training. His values, Honesty, Integrity, Trust, Teamwork, reflect a belief that farmers produce not only food, but the next generation of farmers.

Animal Health and Collaboration

The second day focused on animal health, particularly lessons from footandmouth disease. Consulting veterinarian Dr Danie Odendaal argued that the state cannot manage controlled animal diseases alone. He called for coordinated systems involving state vets, private practitioners, organised agriculture, and farmers themselves. Early detection, vaccination, biosecurity, and herdhealth planning are essential, supported by technology such as VNet for disease reporting and mapping.

Wildlife and Diversification

The Congress also explored wildlife ranching

as part of the Eastern Cape's agricultural economy. Privately managed wildlife areas contribute to conservation, employment, and rural development. The challenge, delegates heard, is ensuring wildlife remains economically valuable to communities. Without that, its longterm survival is at risk.

Celebrating the Young Farmer of the Year

A highlight was the Toyota SA Young Farmer of the Year competition. Five finalists were recognised, with the overall winner announced as **Gregory Ashley King** of the Winterberg Farmers Association. King's achievement symbolises more than personal success, it reflects the responsibility and promise of a new generation of farmers.

Readers can find a **full profile of Gregory King elsewhere in this edition**, detailing his farming enterprises and philosophy.

Commitment and Continuity

The Congress also honoured Natasja Barkhuizen, Manager, Finances, Administration and Labour, for 21 years of service to Agri Eastern Cape. This was her

21st Congress, a milestone that reflects extraordinary dedication and continuity. Her recognition underscored the institutional knowledge and commitment that strengthen organised agriculture.

Why Farmers Keep Farming

Perhaps the most important question raised was: why do farmers continue despite the challenges? The answer was passion, love for the land, for agriculture, and for leaving something behind for the next generation.

The Voice of the Farmer

As the Congress closed, delegates acknowledged that infrastructure, rural safety, disease control, and government relations remain pressing issues. Yet the prevailing message was constructive. Farmers are still farming, investing, developing young people, and seeking new markets.

The small magnet handed to delegates said it best: *"Die stem van die boer."* The voice of the farmer deserves to be heard, because it reaches every South African table.



Natasja Barkhuizen, Manager, Finances, Administration and Labour receives Agri EC Long Service Award from Eben du Plessis, Deputy President, Agri EC.



TLU SA Jongboer van die Jaar Finalis:

Marissa Solms

Marissa Solms (36) is 'n inspirerende voorbeeld van 'n vrou wat boerdery nie net as 'n beroep sien nie, maar as 'n leefwyse en 'n roeping. Saam met haar man, Derrick, en hul drie kinders, Lika, Dian en Lené, bestuur sy *Solms Boerdery*, 'n familiegedrewe onderneming wat fokus op Merino-skaap, beeste en die diversifisering van plaasaktiwiteite.

'n Familieboerdery met visie

Solms Boerdery is gebou op die beginsel dat elke vertakking mekaar aanvul en saam 'n volhoubare geheel vorm. Die kern van die boerdery is die **Merino-skaapvertakking**, waar teel, lamtyd, voeding, dieregesondheid

en wolproduksie die fokus is. Die **beesvertakking** word bestuur met klem op reproduksie, voeding en die optimale benutting van natuurlike weiding.

Die veevertakkings word ondersteun deur verantwoordelike veld- en voerbestuur, asook die instandhouding van infrastruktuur soos heinings en waterpunte. Daarby is die gesin mede-eienaars van **Oppie Plaas Lapa**, 'n vertakking wat die boerdery verder diversifiseer en mense nader aan die plaaslewe bring. Hier bied hulle troues, verjaarsdae, kombuistees en korporatiewe funksies aan, en die hele gesin is betrokke by beplanning, dekor, spyseniering en bestuur.





Geloof, hoop en liefde

Vir Marissa is die drie belangrikste eienskappe van 'n suksesvolle boerdery **geloof, hoop en liefde**. "Geloof gee ons die moed om aan te hou, hoop laat ons elke nuwe seisoen met verwagting aanpak, en liefde is die fondament van alles wat ons doen," verduidelik sy. Hierdie waardes vorm nie net die basis van haar boerdery nie, maar ook van haar gesinslewe en nalatenskap.

Uitdagings en oplossings

Soos baie boere staar Marissa uitdagings in die gesig: klimaat, ekonomiese druk en onbeheerbare risiko's. Onvoorspelbare reënval en droogtes beïnvloed veldtoestande, terwyl stygende insetkoste en wisselende wol- en vleispryse finansiële druk plaas. Siektes en roofdiere kan ook groot verliese veroorsaak.

Sy glo egter dat hierdie uitdagings oorkom kan word deur **goeie beplanning, aanpasbaarheid en vertroue in God**. Klimaatsrisiko's word bestuur deur verantwoordelike veldbestuur en voerreserwes, ekonomiese druk deur streng finansiële beheer en diversifikasie, en siektes deur voorkomende gesondheidsprogramme en bio-sekuriteit.



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'n Selfgebooue nalatenskap

Marissa kom nie uit 'n familie-erfenis in landbou nie. Alles wat Solms Boerdery vandag is, is die resultaat van tien jaar se harde werk, opoffering en deursettingsvermoë. Hierdie pad het haar geleer om elke geleentheid opreg te waardeer en verantwoordelik met hulpbronne om te gaan.

Hoewel sy nie oor formele landboukwalifikasies beskik nie, het sy deur praktiese ervaring, selfstudie en samewerking met landboukundiges kennis opgebou in skaap- en beesbestuur, voeding, wolproduksie en veldbestuur. Vir haar is elke boer en kundige by wie sy kan leer 'n mentor.

Innovasie en gemeenskap

Een van die belangrikste praktyke wat Marissa geïmplementeer het, is **datagedrewe besluitneming**. Sy monitor reproduksie, voeding, dieregesondheid en veldtoestande voortdurend om beter bestuursbesluite te neem. Hierdie benadering verbeter produksie en beperk onnodige koste.

Marissa dra ook by tot haar gemeenskap deur werkgeleenthede te skep, werknemers se ontwikkeling te ondersteun en betrokke te wees by plaaslike skole en fondsinsamelings. Oppie Plaas Lapa bied 'n ruimte waar mense die plaasgasvryheid en unieke ervaring van die landbou kan beleef.

Toekomsvisie

Oor tien jaar sien Marissa, Solms Boerdery as 'n sterker, meer volhoubare onderneming. Haar doelwit is nie om die grootste kudde te hê nie, maar om 'n gesonde, geneties sterk Merino-kudde met uitstekende wolkwaliteit te

Marissa Solms

♦ ♦ ♦

Baie geluk met jou benoeming as **finalis** van die 2026 TLU Jongboer van die Jaar kompetisie.

♦

Jy is 'n merkwaardige vrou!

Dit is 'n voorreg om jou te kan ondersteun.

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ontwikkel. Sy glo dat **kwaliteit belangriker is as kwantiteit**, en wil voortdurend genetika, reproduksie en dieregesondheid verbeter.

Persoonlike balans

In haar vrye tyd geniet Marissa dit om te skilder, houtwerk te doen en kreatief te wees. Sy spandeer ook graag tyd saam met haar gesin in die natuur, waar hulle saam leer en ontdek. Hierdie aktiwiteite help haar om balans te behou en herinner haar aan die rede waarom sy so lief is vir die plaaslewe.

Prestasies en tradisies

Marissa se grootste prestasie is dat sy en haar gesin in net tien jaar 'n volhoubare boerdery van die grond af opgebou het. Vir haar lê die sukses in die feit dat hulle elke jaar beter boer as die vorige en voortdurend bou aan 'n nalatenskap vir die volgende geslag.

As gesin handhaaf hulle 'n kultuur van harde werk, eerlikheid, respek en dankbaarheid. Hulle betrek hul kinders by die plaaslewe en leer hulle verantwoordelikheid en rentmeesterskap. Geloof vorm die grondslag van hul boerdery en gesinslewe.

Slotgedagtes

Marissa se raad aan jongboere is eenvoudig: "Moet nooit ophou leer nie. Wees nederig genoeg om vrae te vra, leer uit jou foute en bou jou eie onderneming stap vir stap. Sukses kom nie oornag nie, maar deur geloof, geduld en deursettingsvermoë."

Marissa Solms se verhaal is een van geloof, innovasie en familie. As finalis in die TLU Jongboerkompetisie belig sy die krag van waardes, gemeenskap en 'n onwrikbare passie vir landbou.





TLU SA Jongboer van die Jaar Finalis:

Betrus Joubert

Johannes Stephanus Albertus Joubert 33), beter bekend as *Bertus*, 'n jongboer wat sy eie pad gekies het en 'n indrukwekkende boerdery van die grond opgebou het. As stigter en uitvoerende direkteur van **JSA Farms (Pty) Ltd**, het hy 'n onderneming geskep wat vandag oor verskeie vertakings strek: van pluimvee en tafeleiers tot saaiery, vee, skape, wild, lusern, groente en 'n Brahman stoet.

'n Passie wat van kleins af begin het Bertus het grootgeword in die landboubedryf en van jongs af saam met sy pa geboer. Hy beskryf landbou as die ideale kombinasie van besigheid, mensebestuur, finansiële beplanning en probleemoplossing, alles terwyl hy steeds die voorreg het om in die natuur en met diere te werk. "Ek het 'n groot passie vir die natuur en diere, en landbou gee my die geleentheid om dit te kombineer met besigheid," sê hy.



Sleutels tot sukses

Vir Bertus lê die kern van 'n suksesvolle boerdery in drie dinge:

- **Menseverhoudinge en personeelbestuur.** Hy glo elke afdeling is net so sterk soos die span wat dit daaglik bestuur. Daarom spandeer hy baie tyd om die regte mense op die regte plekke te benut.
- **Finansiële beplanning en skuldbeheer.** Hy beklemtoon dat skuld 'n boer se grootste kopseer kan wees en dat strategiese beplanning noodsaaklik is om geleenthede te kan benut.
- **Die regte grond en ligging.** Hy hanteer grond as 'n belegging en glo dat sukses afhang van die geskiktheid van die plaas vir die beoogde produksie.

Uitdagings en oplossings

Soos baie boere staar Bertus groot uitdagings in die gesig: biosekuriteit, plaasveiligheid en die verswakende infrastruktuur en ekonomie van Suid-Afrika. Hy het egter praktiese oplossings geïmplementeer: streng ontsmettingsprotokolle en entings vir diere, gevorderde sekuriteitstelsels met kameras en patrollies, en 'n sonkragaanleg wat sy boerdery



VALTRAC VIER UITNEMENDHEID IN SUID-AFRIKAANSE LANDBOU

Baie geluk aan **Bertus Joubert** van JSA Farms, Noordwes, finalis in die 2026 TLU Agri Jongboer van die Jaar-kompetisie.

Jongboere soos Bertus verteenwoordig die toekoms van Suid-Afrikaanse landbou, met 'n sterk fokus op uitnemendheid, volhoubaarheid en verantwoordelike boerdery.

Valtrac is trots om saam met boere soos Bertus te groei en deel te wees van die reis na 'n sterker toekoms vir Suid-Afrikaanse landbou.



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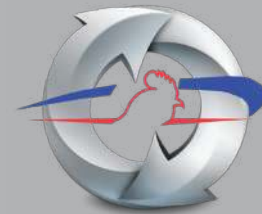


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van die Jaar Finalis

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onafhanklik van Eskom maak. Hierdie innovasies verlaag insetkoste en verminder risiko's.

Innovasie en tegnologie

JSA Farms is 'n toonbeeld van moderne boerdery. Sy hoenderhokke is toegerus met die nuutste klimaatbeheer en outomatiseringstegnologie uit Europa, wat aanlyn gemonitor kan word. Hy gebruik **GPSstelsels** vir presisieplant, **hommeltuie** vir bespuitings, en outomatiese pompe wat waterbehoefte bestuur. "Ek kan enige plek in die wêreld wees en presies weet wat op my plaas aangaan," verduidelik hy.

Gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid

Bertus borg gereeld plaaslike landbou en veiligheidsorganisasies en help instansies wat fondse of kos benodig. Hy glo dit is sy roeping om terug te gee: "Ek is baie geseënd deur die Here, en om daar te wees vir ander mense is vir seker die eintlike doel van alles wat ons doen." Hy stel ook werkgeleenthede beskikbaar aan mense uit sy eie gemeenskap, wat deel vorm van sy span.



Opleiding en agtergrond

Met 'n **Besigheidsgraad in Rekeningkunde en Bestuur** van Edith Cowan Universiteit in Australië, bring Bertus 'n sterk finansiële en bestuursbasis na sy boerdery. Hy het ook kursusse voltooi in professionele jag, kunsmatige inseminasie, Brahmanrasbeoordeling, en beskik oor 'n kommersiële vlieg en helikopterlisensie. Hierdie vaardighede stel hom in staat om sy boerdery strategies te bestuur en vinnig tussen plase en markte te beweeg.

Prestasies en trots

Een van sy grootste prestasies is die nuwe plaas wat hy die afgelope drie jaar van niks af opgebou het. Vandag huisves dit 'n lêenheid van **70 000 henne**, volledig op sonkrag en toegerus met wêreldklas tegnologie. Daar is reeds spilpunte vir groente en gewasse, sowel as 'n kommersiële Brahmankudde. "Ek is trots dat ek 'n uitstekende span uit ons eie gemeenskap kon saamstel en werk kon skep," sê hy.

Slotgedagtes

Sy raad aan jongboere is helder: "Moenie bang wees om dinge anders as vorige geslagte te benader nie. Omstandighede verander vinnig en tegnologie is noodsaaklik om by te bly. Anders gaan jy agter raak en nie meer winsgewend wees nie."



BAIE GELUK!

Bertus Joubert

Finalis | 2026 Jongboer van die Jaar

Tradestuff staan bankvas agter Jou en wens Jou baie sterkte toe met die finale beoordeling! Dit is 'n voorreg om jou te ondersteun en saam met jou aan die toekoms van landbou te bou. JOU BETROUBARE VENNOOT IN LANDBOU – VANDAG EN MÔRE.



MASSEY FERGUSON



Dankie vir jou Besigheid en Getroue ondersteuning!

Dit is 'n groot voorreg om met jou Besigheid te doen en saam met jou aan die toekoms van Landbou te bou!

 **KONTAK ONS:** Rudi - 082 414 0202
Hanro - 079 892 7502

Willem - 079 892 7503
Danie - 076 048 6840



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TLU SA Jongboer van die Jaar Finalis:

Gerhard Heinlein

Theodorus Hermanus Gerhardus Heinlein, beter bekend as *Gerhard*, 'n 33 jarige jongboer wat sy familie-erfenis met trots voortsit. Hy en sy vrou, Theresa, woon saam met hul twee dogtertjies in die Koedoesrand-distrik van Limpopo, waar hy die familieboerdery *Sirkel-N-Landgoed* saam met sy pa, Rudi en broer, Nickus, bestuur.

'n Familie-erfenis wat voortleef

Die boerdery is in 1981 deur Gerhard se oupa, Nick O'Neill, begin en het oor die jare gegroei tot 'n diverse onderneming. Vandag boer die Heinlein-familie met **groente** soos aartappels, uie, tamaties en soetrissies, **sitrus**, 'n **Bonsmara stoet, kuilvoer-mielies** en **wild**. Gerhard het ná sy studies in 2016 teruggekeer plaas toe en as junior plaasbestuurder begin. Vandag is hy algemene bestuurder en direkteur, met hoofverantwoordelikheid vir die groente-afdeling, terwyl hy ook 'n rol speel in die oorhoofse bestuur van die maatskappy.

Boerdery as roeping

Vir Gerhard is boerdery nie net 'n werk nie, maar 'n leefstyl en 'n roeping. "Ek het van kindsbeen af 'n passie en groot liefde vir boerdery. Ek kan myself nie indink om iets anders te doen nie," sê hy. Hierdie ingesteldheid gee sy werk 'n dieper betekenis: elke dag is 'n geleentheid om by te dra tot voedselproduksie en gemeenskapswelvaart.

Sleutel tot sukses

Volgens Gerhard lê die sukses van 'n boerdery in **volhoubare praktyke, netheid** en **noukeurigheid**. Hy beklemtoon dat daar in



vandag se tyd geen ruimte vir foute is nie. "Om te meet is om te weet: plant reg, besproei reg en bemes reg. Beplanning en noukeurigheid is die kern van volhoubare boerdery."

Uitdagings en oplossings

Soos baie boere staan Gerhard uitdagings in die gesig: stygende insetkoste en veranderlikes buite sy beheer, soos weerstoestande. Sy oplossing is om te fokus op dit wat wél beheer kan word, en om aanpasbaar te bly. "Moet nooit dat jou planne opraak nie," sê hy. Hierdie pragmatiese ingesteldheid help hom om sy boerdery veerkragtig te hou.

Inspirasie en mentorskap

Gerhard is die derde generasie op die plaas en sy grootste mentor is sy pa, Rudi Heinlein, wat die boerdery opgebou het van 'n klein eenheid tot 'n kommersiële onderneming. Hy glo dat ondervinding die beste vorm van mentorskap is en waardeur die geleentheid om saam met ervare mense in die landbou te werk.



GELUK GERHARD!

TLU Agri finalis vir Jongboer van die Jaar 2026

Die span by Agrico Nylstroom wens vir Gerhard Heinlein geluk met die uitmuntende prestasie. Dit is ons voorreg en trots om as besproeiingverskaffer jou te ondersteun. Ons sien uit na vele jare se besigheid en vriendskap vorentoe!

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Exploring nature never stops

Baie geluk Gerhard!

Bejo | Nuvance wens jou hartlik geluk met jou nominasie as finalis vir die TLU Agri finaliste van die 2026 Jongboer van die Jaar kompetisie, en wens jou voorspoed toe vir die kompetisie vorentoe.

Hierdie prestasie getuig van jou harde werk, toewyding en die hoë standaard wat jy in die bedryf handhaaf. Ons wil ook ons waardering uitspreek vir jou en Sirkel N landgoed se volgehoue ondersteuning en vertroue in ons maatskappy. Ons is trots om saam met jou te groei en floreer.

Van die Nuvance span.



Red Marvel*

- Vroeë kortdag-ui
- Kragtige groei met sterk wortels
- Rond, eenvormige bolle
- Intens rooi kleur; goed geskik vir stoor
- Wye aanpasbaarheid met verskillende saaitye en klimaat



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- 'n F1 hibried-soetrissie wat van donkergroen na dieprooi verkleur
- 'n Vroeë variëteit
- By somerplantings sal die eerste vrugte 75 tot 80 dae na uitplanting reg vir oes word.
- Gemiddelde vrugtegewig: 250 – 350 g



Nelto*

- 'n Soetrissie hibried met weerstand teen witroes en aalwurms.
- Geskik vir produksie in die oop veld sowel as onder beskerming.
- 'n Vroeë variëteit. Met somer aanplantings sal die eerste vrugte 75 tot 80 dae na uitplanting reg word vir oes.
- Gemiddelde vrugtegewig: 180 – 220 g





Innovasie en tegnologie

Sirkel-N-Landgoed maak gebruik van satelietegnologie op trekkers vir presisieplant en bewerking. Gerhard ondersoek ook die gebruik van **hommeltuie vir bespuiting** en oorweeg om self een aan te skaf. Die boerdery gebruik **IRRICHECK-probes** om vog in die lande te monitor en besproeiing so effektief as moontlik te bestuur. Hierdie tegnologieë help om hulpbronne te bespaar en opbrengste te optimaliseer.

Gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid

Die boerdery is 'n groot werkgewer in die streek en bied werk aan sowat **1 200 mense** uit die plaaslike gemeenskap. Hulle is betrokke by die instandhouding van paaie en voorsien 'n busdiens vir laerskoolkinders wat Swartwater toe gaan. Hierdie betrokkenheid weerspieël Gerhard se oortuiging dat boerdery nie net oor produksie gaan nie, maar ook oor diens aan die gemeenskap.

TRANSVAAL LANDBOU UNIE

JONGBOER KOMPETISIE

FINALIS 2026

Gerhard Heinlein

≡ *Sterkte* ≡

met die kompetisie!

Mag jou harde werk, passie
en toewyding vrugte dra.

Ons is trots op jou!



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BAIE GELUK

GERHARD

– ONS IS TROTS OP JOU!



Die BB Motor Groep is trots om Gerhard Heinlein geluk te wens met sy besondere prestasie as Finalis in die TLU SA se Jong Boer van die Jaar-kompetisie.

Jou toewyding, passie vir landbou en harde werk is 'n inspirasie vir die volgende generasie jong boere.

Mag hierdie besondere erkenning die begin wees van nog vele groter prestasies.

Die BB Motor Groep staan agter ons jong boere en die toekoms van Suid-Afrikaanse landbou.



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Congratulations to Gerhard Heinlein of Sirkel-N-Landgoed on your well-deserved nomination for the 2026 Young Farmer of the Year. Your dedication to sustainable farming and your belief that people are a farm's greatest asset inspire us all. We are honoured to be your trusted market agent and celebrate this incredible achievement with you.

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Baie geluk aan GERHARD HEINLEIN
van SIRKEL-N-LANDGOED met sy
nominasie as TLU Jongboer van die jaar 2026!



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Gerhard,

hartlik geluk met jou
nominasie as TLU Jong boer
van die Jaar **Finalis**.

Jou harde werk en getroue
toewyding dra vrug - soos 'n
oes wat net deur
deursettingsvermoë moontlik
word.

Mag hierdie erkenning die
eerste van vele **groot oeste**
wees.

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Congratulations!

Gerhard Heinlein

Finalist in the
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of the Year** competition.

*May we continue
to grow together.*

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Volhoubaarheid en verantwoordelikheid

Gerhard glo dat 'n boer saam met die natuur moet boer, nie teen die natuur nie. Hy gebruik professionele adviseurs vir gif- en bemestingsprogramme om die regte middels op die regte tyd toe te pas. Vogtoestande word gemonitor om besproeiing optimaal te bestuur en hulpbronne verantwoordelik te benut.

Toekomsvisie

Oor tien jaar hoop Gerhard dat Sirkel-N-Landgoed steeds kos aan die land en sy mense sal voorsien. Sy langtermyn doelwit is om die boerdery nog meer effektief en volhoubaar te maak, en uit te brei na ander produksiegebiede in Suid-Afrika. Hy wil hê dat 'n Sirkel-N produk, twaalf maande van die jaar beskikbaar moet wees vir verbruikers.

Persoonlike balans

Wanneer Gerhard nie op die plaas is nie, geniet hy motorsport en neem hy deel aan *offroad racing*. "Wanneer jy in daardie voertuig is, vergeet jy van alles anders," sê hy. Hy spandeer ook graag tyd saam met sy gesin en familie, wat hom balans en nuwe energie gee.



Baie geluk !

Beste Gerhard!

Baie, baie geluk met jou aanwysing as een van TLU SA se top-12 Jongboer van die Jaar-finaliste vir 2026!

Dit is 'n geweldige prestasie en 'n welverdiende erkenning van jou harde werk, visie en passie op Sirkel-N-Landgoed.

As jou vennoot van Laeveld Agrochem is dit vir my 'n absolute voorreg om saam met jou te loop.

Jou presisie met die aartappels, sitrus en groente, gekoppel aan jou fokus op jou mense, maak jou 'n ware rolmodel vir die moderne boer.

Ons is ongelooflik trots op jou en hou styf duime vas vir die res van die kompetisie!



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Baie Geluk

Gerhard Heinlein

met jou benoeming as TLU Agri Finalis in die 2026 jongboer van die jaar kompetisie!

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GERHARD HEINLEIN

TLU AGRI JONGBOER

VAN DIE JAAR-FINALIS

Hartlik geluk met jou nominasie as een van die TLU Agri Jongboer van die Jaar-finaliste. Jou toewyding, passie en harde werk spreek vanself. Ons is trots om met jou en jou boerdery geassosieer te word en wens jou alle voorspoed met die kompetisie toe!

Gterfete!

SIRKEL N LANDGOED
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BAIE GELUK!

Gerhard Heinlein

Finalis | 2026 Jongboer van die Jaar

Tradestuff staan bankvas agter Jou en wens Jou baie sterkte toe met die finale beoordeling!
Dit is 'n voorreg om jou te ondersteun en saam met jou aan die toekoms van landbou te bou.
JOU BETROUBARE VENNOOT IN LANDBOU – VANDAG EN MÔRE.



FENDT



Dankie vir jou Besigheid en Getroue ondersteuning!

Dit is 'n groot voorreg om met jou Besigheid te doen en saam met jou aan die toekoms van Landbou te bou!



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Baie geluk,

**GERHARD
HEINLEIN,**

met jou aanwysing
as finalis in **TLU SA** se
**JONGBOER VAN DIE
JAAR-KOMPETISIE.**

Agri Technovation is
trots om saam met
jou die pad te stap.





Prestasies en trots

Een van Gerhard se trots oomblikke is dat Sirkel-N onlangs vir die derde keer in 'n ry aangewys is as **Aartappel-moerkweker van die Jaar**. Hy beskou dit as 'n prestasie van die hele boerdery en sy span.

Slotgedagtes

Gerhard se raad aan jongboere is eenvoudig: "Hou moed, bly nederig, bly op jou knieë. Wanneer jy begin twyfel, kyk op en vorentoe. Onthou, jy maak elke dag 'n verskil. Boerdery is nie die maklikste pad na rykdom nie, maar dit is een van die mees betekenisvolle roepings wat daar is."



Hartlik geluk met die benoeming as finalis

Gerhard Heinlein

TLU Agri Jongboer van die Jaar

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BAIE GELUK, GERHARD HEINLEIN!

AFGRI Equipment Polokwane wens jou baie geluk as **finalis** in die **2026 TLU Agri Jongboer van die Jaar kompetisie!**

Jou passie, harde werk en toewyding tot die landbou is 'n ware inspirasie. Mag hierdie besondere prestasie die begin wees van nog vele suksesvolle mylpale.

Sterkte vir die finaal, Gerhard
AFGRI Equipment staan agter jou!



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NAMPO Cape 2026 Highlights



From **9 to 12 September 2026**, Bredasdorp Park **will once again become the hub of the Western Cape's agricultural calendar**. NAMPO Cape brings together farmers, businesses, researchers, service providers and communities from across the agricultural value chain. With **600 exhibit spaces** and parking across **32 acres**, the expo offers visitors access to more than **500 companies** showcasing the latest technology, products, and innovations.

This year's theme, **"Together We Grow"**, emphasises that agriculture cannot thrive in isolation. A resilient and competitive sector relies on partnerships between farmers, organised agriculture, researchers, innovators, service providers and local communities. At a time of increasing pressure on producers, the theme reminds us of the value of collaboration, shared knowledge and practical support throughout the value chain.

Program Highlights

The program is rich and versatile, with something for every stakeholder:

- **Organised Agriculture:** The RPO/NWKV Joint Annual General Meeting will take place on 9 September at 09:00, followed by the MPO WesternCape AGM on 9 September at 14:00. Grain SA will host a panel discussion on the future of the canola industry on 10 September at 09:30.
- **Controlled Environmental Agriculture:** A seminar on resilience, market access and economic growth on 11 September at 09:30.
- **Agri in Conversation:** Winter cereals (9 September at 10:00), foot and mouth disease (10 September at 12:00) and political prospects (11 September at 10:00).
- **Food For Mzansi:** Lunchtime Talks on Finance (9 September), Growth in the

Georganiseerde Landbouvergaderings

Woensdag, 9 September 2026 Santam Auditorium – Eerste Vloer
09:00 – 12:00 RPO / NWKV Gesamentlike Algemene Jaarvergadering
14:30 – 16:30 MPO Wes-Kaap Algemene Jaarvergadering

Graan SA-paneelbespreking

Donderdag, 10 September 2026 Santam Auditorium – Eerste Vloer
09:30 – 11:30

Hierdie paneelbespreking fokus op die toekoms van die kanolabedryf, met spesifieke aandag aan markgeleenthede, groei en winsgewendheid. Die gesprek bring kanolaproducte en sleutelrolspelers uit die waardeketting byeen om insigte oor die huidige stand van die bedryf en toekomstige vooruitsigte te deel.

Beheerde Omgewingslandbou (CEA)-seminaar: Bou Veerkragtigheid, Marktoegang en Ekonomiese Groei

Vrydag, 11 September 2026 Santam Auditorium – Eerstevloer

Toegang: Streng beperk tot 60 persone (Slegs voorafregistrasie)

09:30 – 10:00 Registrasie
10:00 – 10:35 Verwelkoming en Openingstoespraak: Die Provinsiale Vooruitsig op Landbouveerkragtigheid en -aanpassing
10:35 – 11:10 Weerpatrone en Klimaatsempak op Wes-Kaapse Landbou
11:25 – 11:55 Van Wortel tot Rak – Wat Premium Kleinhandelaars van CEA-producente Verwa
11:55 – 12:30 Tegnologiegedrewe Voedselsekerheid as 'n Makro-ekonomiese Kapitaalbelegging

Food For Mzansi / Land Bank-gesprekke

13:00 – 14:00 Food For Mzansi-lokaal, Santam Auditorium
Woensdag Finansies ontmoet landbou: Land bank se rol in die Groei van Suid-Afrika
Donderdag Groei van die Wes-Kaap: Finansies, wyn en wintergewasse
Vrydag Beskerming van jou plaas: Versekering, risiko en klimaatse weerbaarheid

Agri in Gesprek

Woensdag, 10:00 – 11:30 Wintergrane
Donderdag, 12:00 – 13:30 Bek-en-kloueër
Vrydag, 10:00 – 11:30 Politieke Vooruitsigte

Spesiale program vir Nuwe Era Boere

Donderdag, 10 September 09:00 – 11:45
Food For Mzansi-venue, Santam Auditorium
Sluit aan by Food For Mzansi en die Western Cape P.L.A.S. Farmers' Alliance vir 'n praktiese program oor grondhervorming, finansiering, landbouversekering en ander oplossings wat opkomende boere help om te groei. Kry direkte toegang tot kenners en beleidsmakers, bou waardevolle netwerke en ontdek nuwe geleenthede vir jou boerdery.

WesternCape (10 September) and Farm Protection (11 September).

- **New Era Farmers Programme:** Practical sessions on land reform, financing and agricultural insurance on 10 September at 09:00.
- **Youth and Agriculture:** The WesternCape Department of Agriculture's schools programme involves **450 learners from 28 schools**. The Overberg Regional Youth Show takes place on **12 September**, with participants aged 6–19 in classes such as horses, rabbits, poultry, pigeons, culinary arts, dairy preparation, photography, auctioneers, waterfowl and crocheting.
- **Santam Agricultural Women's Programme:** A multifaceted programme of food, faith, music and conversations in the Distinctive Choice tent. Master of Ceremonies Beneschke Janse van Rensburg welcomes visitors, with performances by Sumarie Jordaan, Chris Else, Lynette Beer, Dawid Botha, Brendan Peyper, Koben Hofmeyr, Franna Benade and Willem Botha. Men are also welcome.
- **Western Cape Lubricants Arena:** South African Lipizzaners, Fusion horsemanship, Griffins Mounted Archery and Saddle Horse Shows, Air Force Dogs, Sheepdogs and Boerboel Show.
- **Fynbos exhibition:** In the Voermol Hall, Marjolijn Malan brings rare species and creative fynbos landscapes to life.

Exhibitions and Innovation

NAMPO Cape offers a window into the future of agriculture:

- **New Technology:** Exhibitors on the whole terrain and in the BKB, Voermol, Total Energy Halls as well as the BKB Show Centre.
- **Alternative Energy:** Several exhibitors bring alternative energy solutions, including a dedicated Energy Tent with daily presentations and demonstrations.
- **International Participation:** Chinese Pavilion with 14 companies exhibiting equipment, technology and food products.
- **Vehicle demonstrations:** Engen 4x4 track, Toyota Urban Track, Ford self-parking and electric vehicle demonstrations.
- **Water Wise Centre:** Hydroponics, Aquaponics, and Water Purification Systems.
- **Animal husbandry:** Breed exhibitions



NAMPO KAAP | CAPE SANTAM Vroue-Tent
9 - 11 SEPT 2026

Day	Time	Event
WOENSDAG 9 SEPT 2026	09:00	Start jou oggend met Beneschke
	09:30	Beneschke met Sumarie Jordaan Verander jou siening
	10:30	Chris Else
	11:30	Met die Storyverteller - Vroues en ander dramatiese gebeure met Damian Beer
DONNERSDAG 10 SEPT 2026	09:00	Start jou oggend met Beneschke
	09:30	Lynette Beer Saad van inspirasie
	10:30	Lekker Winkies - Dawid Botha Seekos op die plaas
	11:30	Brendan Peyper
VRYDAG 11 SEPT 2026	09:00	Start jou oggend met Beneschke
	09:30	Beneschke met Koben Hofmeyr Ek stap weer
	10:30	Franna Benade
	11:30	Willem Botha Maak jou mooi, dis naweek

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and chicken expo in the Land Bank LivestockTent.

- **Food and Lifestyle:** Neptun Deli with wine, dried fruit and preserved products.

NAMPO Cape 2026 is not just an expo – it is a celebration of **innovation, community and collaboration**. Here, tradition and technology meet, young and established farmers learn together, and agriculture's future becomes tangible.

Visitor information

Tickets for NAMPO Cape 2026 are available online on www.opentickets.co.za tickets will not be day-specific and can be used on any of the four days.

- R110 for adults (online)
- R120 for adults (at the gate)
- R60 per child (gate only)
- Free admission for preschool children

Expo-hours

- 09 - 11 September: 08:00 to 17:00
- September 12: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



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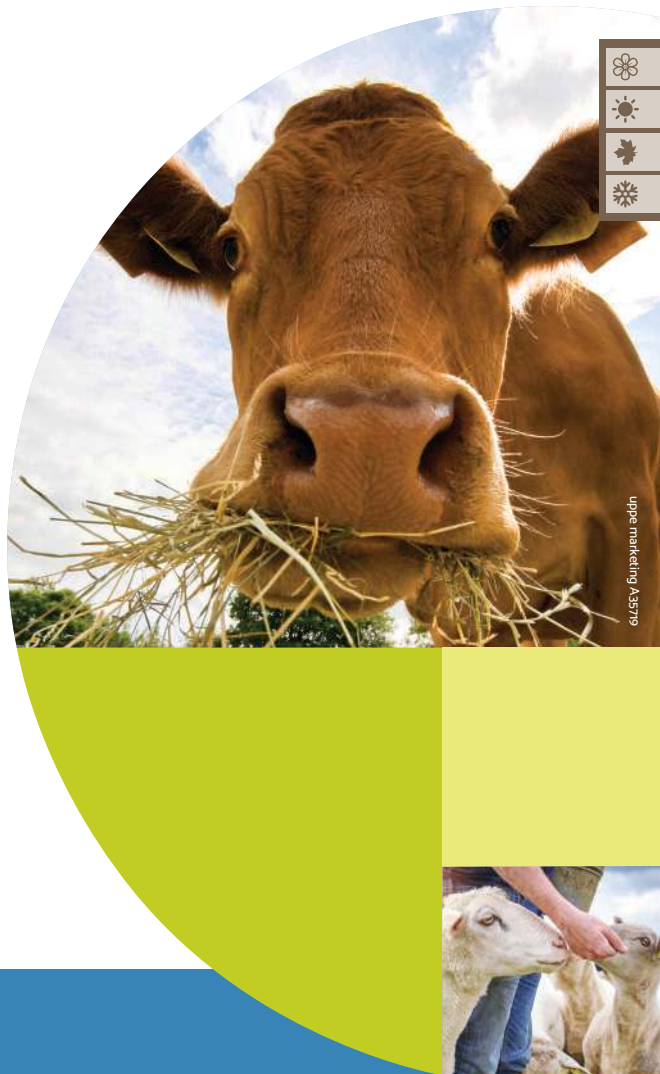
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NAMPO 2026

KAAP | CAPE

Entrance 5

Neptun Hall

Neptun Deli
Napier Garden Cafe F24

Honey Show

Land Bank Livestock Tent

Breed exhibitions

Darling Romery F26

Radio Overberg

BKB Show Centre

Exhibitors
Farm Yard
Mustang Diner F25

Western Cape Lubricants Arena

South African Lippizaners
Gentle Horsemanship
Mounted Archery
Show jumping & Horse shows
Air Force Dog Shows
Sheepdog demonstrations
Pony rides
Boerboel Dog show

BKB / Suideroord Skaapkop F4

New York Pizza F2

Western Cape Museums Tent

Wyoming Spur Take Aways F5

Vinpro Producers Reception and Parking

Kazin Meeting Centre

Voermol Exhibition Hall

Exhibitions
Flora exhibition
Santam Fish n More F3

ABSA Building

Grain SA, MPO, RPO Reception
Hollard Bistro F6

Lemco Building

Emergency Services

Banhoek Farm Stall F7

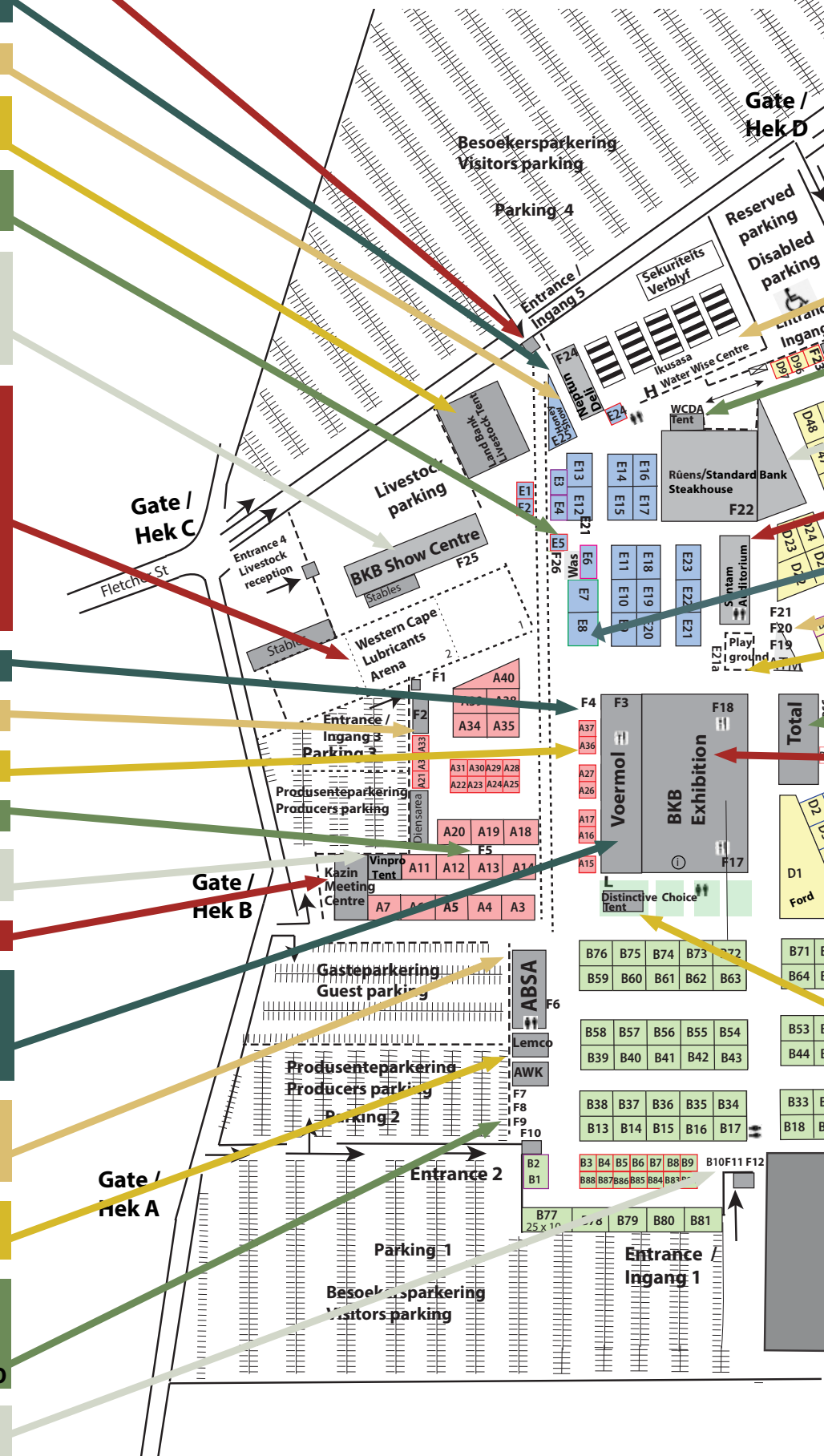
Ice Kreame F8

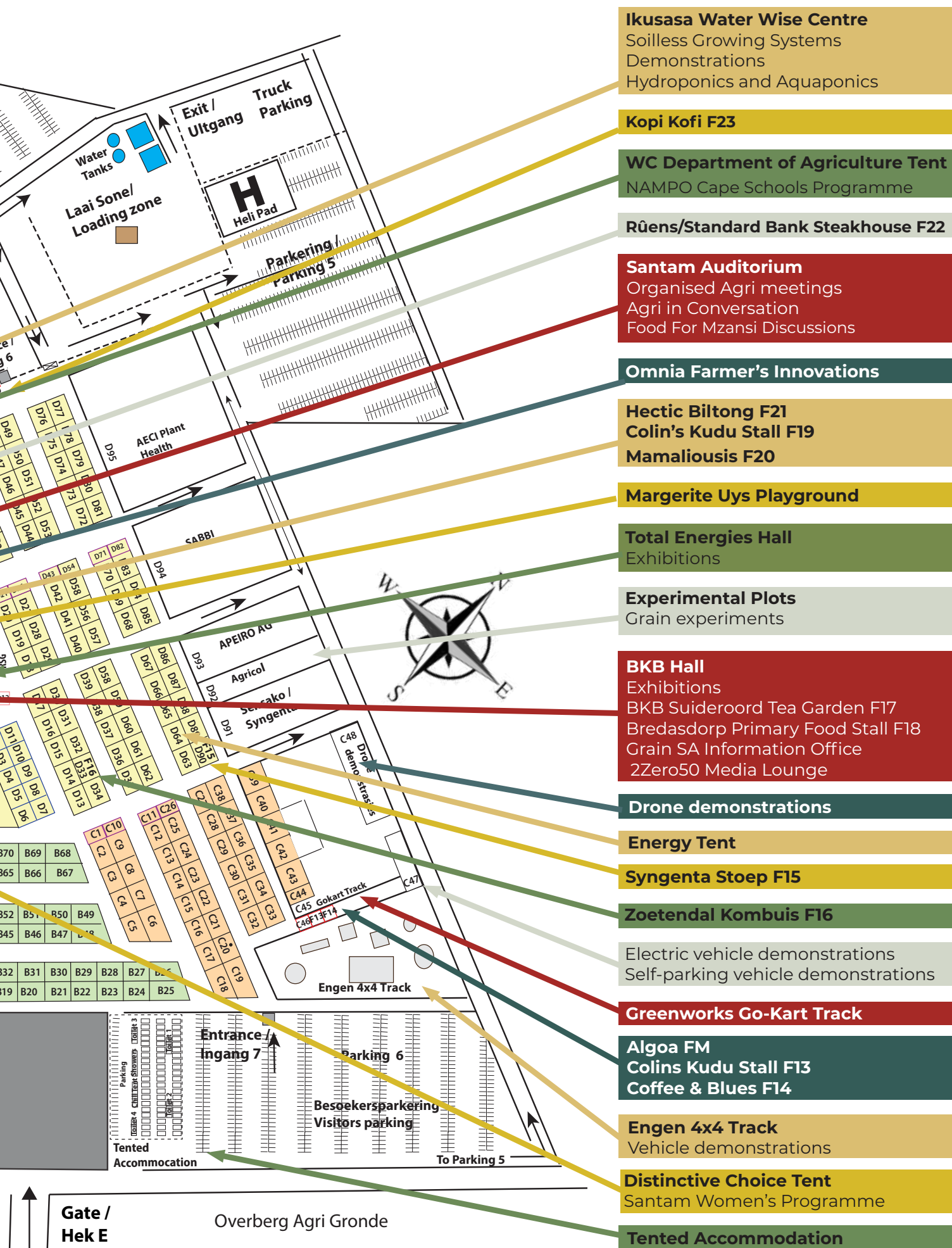
Chip n Dip F9

Suidpunt ACVV Dienssentrum F10

Dik Frik Spitbraai F11 & 12

Caledon FM





Craft-style Pickled Peppers

Theresa Siebert

ARC- Natural Resources and Engineering

Peppers are members of the nightshade family and belong to the genus *Capsicum*. In the food processing industry, peppers are divided into two basic categories: Hot (spicy/pungent); and sweet (mild). Hot peppers include, among others, cayenne peppers, chili, hot banana peppers, ghost peppers, and Jalapenos; while sweet peppers include bell peppers, sweet Italian pepper, Hungarian paprika pepper, pimento, sweet banana peppers, and sweet cherry peppers. Processing possibilities include drying, pickling, freezing, and refrigeration with or without modified atmosphere storage.

Peppers can easily be pickled in a brine or vinegar solution, alone or with other vegetables and seasonings. The bright red coloured varieties make attractive pickles, while certain varieties can be pickled as whole pods and larger types cut into strips.

Harvesting

Peppers are harvested at full maturity. Picking is done by hand at 7-14 days intervals over a harvesting period of about 3 weeks. The peppers are picked with the calyx and fruit stalk attached to prevent bacteria and fungi from infecting the scar left by removal of the calyx.





Storage

Harvested peppers can be stored for up to 14 days under cool, humid conditions with good ventilation to remove the accumulating ethylene that will accelerate the fruit ripening. Storage temperatures of between 7-10°C and a relative humidity of 95% are recommended.

Washing

The harvested peppers are washed in a water bath using a very soft brush, or if available, gentle jet spray, to remove impurities such as soil and insecticide. The wash water may be chlorinated up to 100ppm chlorine. After washing, the excess water should be removed by draining.

Ingredients

Peppers: Choose peppers that are firm, fresh, and free from damage such as bruises, blemishes and insect damage. Pickling must be done as soon as possible after harvesting and an average of 4kg of peppers is needed per canner load of 9x500ml jars.

Salt: Only plain salt designated for use in canning or pickling should be used. Table salt must not be used as it contains additives that will make the pickling liquid cloudy and the iodine in iodised salt turns the peppers dark. As the salt in the pickling of peppers is used for seasoning, it may be safely omitted by those on sodium restricted diets.

Vinegar: Only good, clear, standard vinegar, which is free from sediment with at least 5% acetic acid or 50-grain strength. Distilled white vinegar aids in keeping the original colour

of the peppers, whereas cider, wine, and malt vinegar will darken the peppers as bit, although they may still be used if so desired. Unless it has been tested for the percentage acid, homemade vinegar must not be used. To prevent the loss of acetic acid, long boiling of the vinegar must be avoided.

Pickling

Recipe: A typical recipe for pickling peppers would include the following ingredients:

- 1.8kg chili peppers
- 0.7kg green bell peppers
- 0.7kg red bell peppers
- 1.25ℓ vinegar (5%)
- 250mℓ water
- 10mℓ sugar
- 20mℓ canning or pickling salt
- 2 cloves garlic

Procedure: Smaller peppers may be kept whole, but all peppers should be flattened to remove air, and larger fruit should be cut into quarters. The peppers are packed into the canning jars, leaving a headspace of about 1cm. The vinegar, water, sugar, salt and garlic are combined, heated and allowed to simmer for 10 minutes after which the garlic is removed and the solution poured over the peppers, again leaving a 1cm headspace. Any trapped air bubbles are removed from the jar by running a plastic knife or spatula between the food and the jar, after which the jars are wiped with a clean, damp cloth and the lids and ring bands are secured.

The 1cm headspace is very important in the canning of pickled peppers for several

reasons. Firstly, as the jars heat up in the water bath canner, the liquid and peppers expand. If the jars have been filled too high, the expanding contents will force their way out from under the lid. This process is called siphoning, and it deposits food residue on the rim and prevents a safe seal from forming. Secondly, as the processed jars cool, the contents contract again. This creates a powerful vacuum that pulls the flat lid down securely. If too much headspace was left in the jar upon filling, excess oxygen is left behind, which can discolour the peppers and make it harder to achieve a true vacuum seal.

Jar preparation

For successful canning, select and clean jars and lids carefully, discard chipped or cracked jars and always use new lids. The ring bands may be reused but replace any that are dented or shows signs of rust. Clean jars with hot, soapy water and then rinse well.

Canning

For the successful canning of pickled peppers, the following steps must be observed:

- Prepare all lids according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Fill the cleaned jars with peppers, leaving a 1cm headspace.
- Cover the peppers with the hot brine, remembering to leave a 1cm headspace.
- Remove air bubbles from the jars.
- Clean jars after filling.
- Place a heated lid on the jar and secure it using the ring band. Again, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Place the jars in a water bath canner with a rack. The rack is used to prevent the jars from touching the bottom of the canner to allow the water to circulate around the jars. Add enough water to cover the tops of the jars to a depth of at least 2.5cm.
- Begin to time the process when the water bath temperature reaches a gentle boil at about 83°C. Process the jars for the time indicated below, and do not substitute larger jars for those specified as this will result in the under processing of the product and an unsafe end-product. At altitudes higher than 305m (1001ft) above sea level, the processing times are longer and should be adjusted accordingly.
- When the processing time is up, and the jars are removed from the canner, hold them level and do not disrupt the seal. The ring





Holding Africa's Water 30 Countries and Counting

bands must be left in place until the jars have cooled thoroughly.

- For cooling, the jars may be placed on a rack or folded towel, away from drafts and cool surfaces, and well separated from each other. The jars must be allowed to cool, undisturbed, for 24 hours, after which time the rings bands must be carefully removed before storing the jars.
- When the jars have cooled, check that all the lids have sealed properly. If the jars have sealed correctly, the lids should be concave and should not give when pressed in the centre.
- If a jar has not sealed properly for some reason, it may either be stored in the refrigerator for immediate use or immediately reprocessed. Reprocessing is however, not recommended as it lowers the quality of the pickled product. Reprocessing is perfectly safe if done correctly, but it requires subjecting the peppers to a second full round of boiling. This extra heat will cook them again, meaning they will lose their crunch and end up quite soft and mushy.

The recommended processing time for hot pickled peppers in a water batch canner is as follows for pint size jars (500 ml jars):

- 10 minutes at 0 – 1000ft altitude
- 15 minutes at 1001 - 6000ft altitude
- 20 minutes above 6000ft altitude

Labelling

The jars are labelled with the date on which they were processed.

Inquiries: SiebertT@arc.agric.za



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1 Chicken = 2 Meals

Ina Paarman

Get real value out of one pre-cooked rotisserie chicken. Dissect the chicken into dark and white meat, as demonstrated on the video. We use the dark meat for a Cajun Tomato Bake, and the white meat for a super quick Chicken à la King.

Serves: 2 dinners for 4 people

You Will Need:

Cajun Tomato Bake

rotisserie chicken dark meat

1 x sachet Ina Paarman Spicy Cajun Flavour Bomb

1 T (15 ml) butter, melted

200 g small tomatoes, halved

1 small onion, halved and sliced

Ina Paarman's Garlic Pepper Seasoning, to taste

Quick Chicken à la King

rotisserie chicken white meat, flaked

1½ T (22,5 ml) butter

½ cup (125 ml) water

1 x 25 g Ina Paarman's Liquid Chicken Stock

1 x 200 ml Ina Paarman's Ready to Serve Mushroom Sauce

chopped parsley, to garnish

Method:

Meal 1

Dark Meat: Cajun Tomato Bake

Preheat the oven to 180°C.

Arrange the thighs, drumsticks, and wings in an ovenproof dish.

Mix the Flavour Bomb with melted butter and paint it over the chicken.

Top the chicken with a mixture of tomatoes and onions.

Season it with Garlic Pepper Seasoning.

Bake uncovered at 180°C for 20 - 25 minutes.

Serve with mashed potatoes or bread, and a leafy salad.

Meal 2

White Meat: Quick Chicken à la King

Break the breast meat into small pieces. Keep on one side.

Measure the butter, water, and Liquid Chicken Stock into a pan.

Bring to the boil.

Add the white chicken meat and the Mushroom Sauce.

Stir to warm through.

Serve with steamed broccoli and rice.

Garnish with chopped parsley.



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Dit Begin Tuis



Ons voeg die fynproewer smaakie by.

Smoked Yellowtail

Ina Paarman

Smoked fish is a sought-after luxury. Use this method to smoke fish at home. Yellowtail, unlike snoek, is available most of the year. The secret is not to overcook the fish. Stick to our times. The smoked fish will keep for a week in the fridge. Use cold in salads, sandwiches, and wraps. Serve hot in a tomato smoor.

Serves: 4 - 6

You Will Need:

Brine

- 1 cup (250 ml) boiling water
- 1 T (15 ml) Ina Paarman's Seasoned Sea Salt
- 1½ T (22,5 ml) regular table salt
- 1 T (15 ml) brown sugar
- 2 cups (500 ml) cold tap water

Glaze

Ina Paarman's Peach Apricot Chutney or Ina Paarman's Sweet Chilli Chutney

Smoked Yellowtail

- ± 700 g yellowtail
- ½ cup of hard wood shavings

Ina's Tip

Delicious for snoek, using to the same method



Method:

Yellowtail

Trim the fish with a sharpened cook's knife.

Use a pair of fish tweezers or a clean pair of pliers to remove all the bones. Pull the bones out towards the head to avoid tearing the flesh.

Brine

Dissolve the salt and sugar in boiling water.

Add cold water once dissolved.

Place the trimmed and deboned fish in a rectangular deep dish.

Add the brine.

Leave the fish to cure for 1½ - 2 hours, at room temperature.

Dry Fish

Remove the fish from the brine.

Blot off all moisture.

Place the fish open, on a wire rack, in the fridge to dry properly (for at least 2 hours or overnight).

Prepare Smoker

Use a Nr. 6 black iron pot.

Heap wood shavings in the pot. Flatten them a little.

Cover the shavings lightly with foil. Crimp the outer edges to allow smoke to circulate.

Place the rack with the air-dried fish over the foil.

Cover the pot securely with more foil before jamming on the lid.

Set the pot over medium heat.

Start timing. Smoke the fish for 15 minutes.

Turn off the heat and allow to stand, without opening the pot, for a further 10 minutes.

Leave to cool.

Glaze

Spread a few spoons of Chutney over the fish when cold.

Serve Cold (Best)

Best served cold, with extra Chutney, on buttered bread or in a salad.

Good salad flavour matches are fennel, citrus, and pickled cucumber.

Serve Hot

Alternatively, serve hot in an onion, potato, and tomato smoor.

Serve on rice.



Dit Begin Tuis



Ons voeg die fynproewer smakie by.



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