

How do I manage pests before they cause irreversible yield losses?

Livestock Minerals: It's more than just Salt!

Breeding and Weaning Decisions in February

Water Management and Water Quality in Mid-Summer

Do My Crops Still Need Fertiliser or Top Dressing in February?

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Editor's Note



The Harvest of Forgiveness

In agriculture we understand seasons better than most. We know the waiting seasons — when the soil lies bare and silent. We know the growing seasons — when hope rises green from the earth. And we know the harvest seasons — when the results of months of labour finally stand before us.

But there is another season farmers quietly walk through every year: the season of forgiveness.

Farming is a profession carried by relationships. Families farm together. Neighbours share fences, water, labour and equipment. Communities depend on one another during droughts, fires, floods and disease outbreaks. In rural life you simply cannot survive long while carrying anger. The land teaches you quickly — bitterness is heavier than any load of feed.

Many conflicts never start with bad intentions. A boundary line measured incorrectly. A grazing camp used longer than agreed. A payment made late during a hard year. Words spoken in frustration during a dry season when the dams are empty and nerves are thinner than the veld grass in August.

And yet those small fractures, left unattended, grow into walls. Silence replaces greetings at the co-op. Prayer meetings become uncomfortable. Families who once helped each other brand calves now

pass on opposite sides of the road.

Forgiveness is not weakness. It is stewardship of peace.

A farmer understands stewardship — caring for something entrusted to you so that it can continue producing life. Peace works the same way. If we neglect it, weeds of resentment root deep and choke the field. Pride is a stubborn weed; it grows without rain.

We often wait for the other person to make the first move. But farming teaches initiative. No farmer waits for weeds to apologize before pulling them out. The wise one acts early to protect the harvest.

Forgiveness does not always mean agreement. It does not pretend wrong never happened. It simply chooses that the future will not be held hostage by the past. Some seasons cannot be replanted — but the next season still can be planted well.

Peace is practical. It protects cooperation when crises arrive. When disease breaks out in livestock, neighbours must communicate quickly. When fires jump fences, grudges do not carry water tanks. During drought, sharing information can save entire herds. A peaceful community is a resilient agricultural system.

There is also a personal harvest. Many farmers carry burdens heavier than financial pressure — unspoken disputes within families, inheritance disagreements,

partnerships that dissolved painfully. These weigh on the mind during long nights of calving or irrigation shifts. Rest never fully comes where resentment lives.

Letting go does not excuse the hurt. It releases you from carrying it into every sunrise. A farmer needs strength for tomorrow's work, not yesterday's argument.

Peace grows slowly but spreads widely. A greeting restored at a fuel pump. A phone call instead of a rumour. An apology given without conditions. Often one humble step restores years of distance. Rural communities remember kindness longer than conflict.

Agriculture is built on continuity — land passed between generations. What we plant in relationships today becomes the environment our children will farm in tomorrow. They will inherit either cooperation or division.

The rains eventually come. The soil softens again. And just like a rested field produces better yield, a heart free from grudges carries clearer judgement and steadier leadership.

This season, may we tend not only crops and livestock, but also peace. Forgiveness is not surrender — it is preparation for a better harvest ahead.

With gratitude and expectation,

The Editor

Loosen Your Grip, Hold the Word

Farming teaches us patience, but it also teaches us memory. The land remembers where the water once flowed, where the fire burned, where the soil was mishandled. People are much the same. We remember words spoken in anger, business agreements that failed, promises that never came to pass, and moments when trust broke like a fence under pressure.

Grievances are easy to store. They require no effort – only repetition. Every time we replay the event, we water it. Over time, the hurt grows roots deeper than the original incident. Many farmers carry these burdens quietly while still rising before sunrise, still feeding livestock, still preparing fields. Yet the heart becomes heavier than the workload.

Scripture offers a different way to carry life.

In Ephesians 4:31–32 (NLT) we are instructed: *“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”*

The instruction is practical. Notice it says get rid of. Like removing invasive weeds, forgiveness is an intentional act. No farmer expects a field to stay clean if weeds are left standing. Bitterness behaves the same – it spreads into every decision, every conversation, and even into how we see innocent situations.

Holding onto Scripture replaces holding onto the offense.

During drought, farmers read the sky carefully. During hardship, believers read the Word carefully. When the mind begins rehearsing an argument, Scripture gives us a different sentence to repeat.

In Colossians 3:13 (NLT): *“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

Agriculture teaches allowance – allowance for late rain, market swings, animal behaviour and human error. God asks us to extend that same allowance to people. Forgiveness is not saying the wrong was small; it is acknowledging God’s mercy toward us was greater.

Grievances tie us to the past. Scripture anchors us to truth.

Many disputes begin with a single event but continue because we keep revisiting it. The mind ploughs the same ground repeatedly. Yet the Bible teaches renewal of thinking. In Romans 12:19 (NLT):

“Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God.”

Farmers understand delegated responsibility. Some tasks belong to us – planting, feeding, repairing. Others belong to God – rain, growth, life itself. Justice is also His responsibility. When we insist on carrying it, we carry a load we were never designed to bear.

What then do we hold onto?

In Joshua 1:8 (NLT): *“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.”*

Notice the exchange: release resentment, retain the Word. One drains strength; the other restores it.

Peace is not the absence of wrong – it is the presence of God’s truth in the middle of it. Just as a fence line must be maintained regularly, so must our thoughts. Each time a grievance returns, replace it with Scripture. Over time the heart softens, and clarity returns.

We cannot control every season people bring into our lives. But we can choose what we plant in our spirit. Let go of the grievance – hold firmly to the Word – and the harvest in your heart will feed you longer than any field ever could.

Do My Crops Still Need Fertiliser or Top Dressing in February?

February is a decisive month for fertiliser and nutrient management in South African summer cropping systems. By this stage of the season, many producers question whether further fertiliser applications—particularly nitrogen top dressing or foliar feeding—will still contribute to yield, or simply increase production costs without measurable return.

The answer depends on crop growth stage, yield potential, soil moisture, and nutrient status. Late-season fertilisation decisions must therefore be made carefully and based on agronomic principles rather than habit.

Understanding crop growth stages in February

By February, most summer crops are typically at the following stages:

- **Maize:** Late vegetative (V10–VT) to tasseling or early grain fill
- **Soybeans:** Flowering (R1–R2) to early pod fill
- **Sunflower:** Bud stage to flowering
- **Sorghum:** Booting to flowering

At these stages, crops are transitioning from vegetative growth to reproductive development, which fundamentally changes nutrient demand and fertiliser efficiency.



Nitrogen demand and timing in maize

Nitrogen (N) is the primary driver of maize yield. Research consistently shows that:

- Maize takes up 60–70% of its total nitrogen requirement before tasseling
- Nitrogen applied after tasseling has sharply reduced yield response

Top dressing in February is only justified if:

- The crop has not yet reached tasseling
- Soil moisture is adequate
- There is visible nitrogen deficiency
- Yield potential remains intact

Common symptoms of nitrogen deficiency include:

- Pale green or yellowing lower leaves
- V-shaped chlorosis progressing up the leaf midrib
- Reduced leaf area and stunted growth

Applying nitrogen to drought-

stressed or heat-stressed maize rarely improves yield and may increase lodging risk or grain protein without yield gain.

Foliar feeding: benefits and limitations

Foliar fertilisers are frequently marketed as a solution for late-season nutrient shortages. While foliar feeding can correct specific micronutrient deficiencies, it cannot replace soil-applied macronutrients.

Foliar applications may be justified when:

- Zinc, boron, or manganese deficiencies are confirmed
- Root uptake is restricted due to waterlogging or compaction
- Rapid correction is required during flowering

However, foliar nitrogen applications:

- Supply very small nutrient quantities
- Cannot meet crop nitrogen demand
- Should not be relied upon to boost yield late in the season

Soybeans: nitrogen fixation and supplementation

Soybeans differ fundamentally from cereals due to their ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen through rhizobia. By February:

- Nodulation should already be fully established
- Nitrogen top dressing is generally not recommended

Nitrogen application in soybeans can:

- Suppress nitrogen fixation
- Promote excessive vegetative growth
- Delay maturity

February fertilisation decisions in soybeans should focus on:

- Phosphorus and potassium adequacy
- Micronutrients such as molybdenum and boron
- Soil pH correction (for future seasons)

Sunflower and sorghum considerations

Sunflower and sorghum respond poorly to late nitrogen applications. Excess nitrogen at flowering can:

- Increase lodging risk
- Delay maturity
- Reduce oil content in sunflower

By February, fertiliser decisions in these crops should prioritise:

- Yield protection rather than yield enhancement
- Avoiding unnecessary input costs

Soil moisture: the limiting factor

Fertiliser efficiency is directly linked to soil moisture. In February:

- High temperatures increase volatilisation losses
- Dry topsoil limits nutrient movement to roots

Applying fertiliser without adequate moisture often results in:

- Poor uptake
- Economic loss
- Increased environmental risk

Soil moisture must always be assessed before any late fertiliser decision.

Economic considerations

With rising input costs, February fertiliser decisions should be guided by:

- Expected yield response
- Cost-to-return ratio
- Remaining yield potential

Applying fertiliser to a crop with compromised yield potential rarely results in profit.

Institutional guidance and research

Guidelines from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and research by the Agricultural Research Council confirm that fertiliser timing is as important as fertiliser rate.

International recommendations from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) further emphasise nutrient-use efficiency and stage-specific fertilisation.

Conclusion

February is not the time for blanket fertiliser decisions. Late-season nutrient applications should only be made where crop stage, moisture availability and yield potential justify the investment. In most cases, protecting existing yield potential is more profitable than attempting to force additional yield through late fertilisation.

Sound February fertiliser decisions are grounded in crop physiology, economics and moisture reality.

Sources

1. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), South Africa
2. Agricultural Research Council (ARC),

- South Africa – Crop Nutrition Studies
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Fertiliser Use by Crop
4. South African Journal of Plant and Soil

FARMhere article

A Farmer's Guide to Better profits

Supply & Demand

- High supply + Low demand = Lower prices
- Low supply + High demand = Higher prices

Seasonal Pricing

- Prices change throughout the year
- Plan production to target high price periods

Know your Market

- Track local market prices regularly
- Compare prices across different markets
- Use market information to make decisions

Time your Sales Right

- Don't sell everything at harvest (lowest prices). Store produce to sell when prices rise]
- Stagger Production for steady income

Quality = Better Prices

- Higher quality products fetch premium prices
- Meet buyer specifications
- Invest in proper grading and packaging

Diversify your Products

- Multiple products = Reduced risk
- Different markets = More opportunities
- Don't depend on one income source

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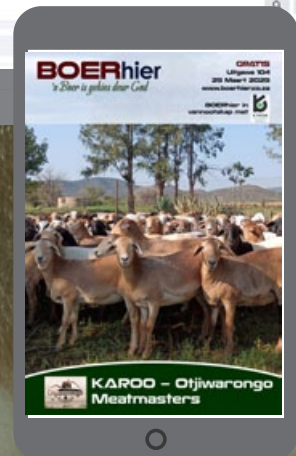
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† ① Macroyclic lactone, ③ Imidothiazole, ④ Salicylanilide, ⑧ Isoquinoline

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How do I manage pests before they cause irreversible yield losses?

February is one of the most critical months for pest management in South African summer crops. Warm temperatures, adequate moisture and dense crop canopies create ideal conditions for rapid pest population growth. At this stage of the season, poor or delayed pest management decisions can lead to irreversible yield losses, while unnecessary spraying can erode profit margins and accelerate resistance development.



Effective February pest control is therefore based on accurate scouting, economic thresholds and integrated pest management (IPM) principles.

Why February is a peak pest pressure period

In midsummer:

- Insect life cycles shorten due to high temperatures
- Natural predators may lag behind pest population growth
- Crops are at vulnerable reproductive stages
- Dense canopies conceal pest activity

Once crops enter flowering or grain-fill stages, their ability to compensate for damage declines sharply. Yield losses incurred in

February cannot be recovered later in the season.

Key pests affecting South African summer crops in February

The most economically important pests during this period include:

Fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)

Fall armyworm remains a major concern in maize, sorghum and occasionally other crops. Larvae feed aggressively on whorls, tassels and ears, reducing kernel number and grain fill.

Damage symptoms include:

- Ragged leaves
- Frass accumulation in whorls
- Direct feeding on ears at later stages

Bollworms (*Helicoverpa* species)

Bollworms attack maize ears, sunflower heads and legumes. Feeding during flowering and grain development directly reduces yield and grain quality.

Aphids

Aphids occur in maize, wheat (where applicable), soybeans and sunflowers. In addition to sap feeding, they can transmit viral diseases and cause indirect yield loss through honeydew and sooty mould development.

Stalk borers

Late infestations reduce stalk strength, increase lodging risk and interfere with nutrient transport during grain fill.

Scouting: the foundation of pest management

February pest management decisions must be based on regular field scouting, not calendar-based spraying.

Best-practice scouting includes:

- Inspecting fields at least once per week
- Checking multiple points across each field
- Examining whorls, tassels, ears and lower leaves
- Recording pest numbers and crop stage

Failure to scout often results in either late intervention or unnecessary pesticide applications.

Economic threshold levels

Economic thresholds define the pest population level at which control measures become financially justified. Spraying below threshold:

- Increases costs
- Kills beneficial insects
- Accelerates resistance

Spraying above threshold:

- Allows yield losses to accumulate
- Reduces control effectiveness

Thresholds vary by:

- Crop species
- Growth stage
- Pest species
- Expected yield potential

Consultation with agronomists or extension services is essential to apply the correct thresholds.

Timing and efficacy of chemical control

In February, timing is more important than product choice. Insecticides are most effective when:

- Larvae are small
- Pests are actively feeding
- Spray coverage is adequate

Late-stage larvae are harder to control and require higher doses, increasing cost and resistance risk.

High temperatures can also reduce insecticide residual activity, making correct application timing even more critical.

Resistance management: a growing concern

Resistance development is a serious and increasing problem in South African cropping systems. Key contributors include:

- Repeated use of the same active ingredient
- Incorrect dosing
- Poor spray coverage
- Over-reliance on chemical control

Resistance management strategies include:

- Rotating chemical groups
- Using label-recommended rates
- Preserving beneficial insects
- Integrating non-chemical controls

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM is the most sustainable approach to pest control and is strongly recommended for February decision-making. IPM combines:

- Regular scouting
- Threshold-based interventions
- Biological control
- Cultural practices
- Responsible chemical use

Healthy crops with adequate nutrition and moisture are better able to tolerate pest pressure than stressed crops.

Environmental and climatic considerations

Weather conditions influence pest activity and control success. Wind,

heat and rainfall affect:

- Spray drift
- Product efficacy
- Pest behaviour

Spraying during extreme heat or windy conditions reduces effectiveness and increases off-target risk.

Institutional guidance and research

South African pest management guidelines are supported by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and research conducted by the Agricultural Research Council.

International best practices are aligned with recommendations from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which emphasise threshold-based control and resistance prevention.

Conclusion

February pest management is about protecting yield that already exists, not chasing theoretical yield gains. Decisions must be informed by scouting data, crop stage and economic thresholds. Unnecessary spraying wastes money, while delayed control leads to irreversible losses.

Sound pest management in February balances precision, discipline and restraint—ensuring profitability while preserving long-term sustainability.

Sources

1. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), South Africa
2. Agricultural Research Council (ARC), South Africa – Crop Protection Research
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Integrated Pest Management Guidelines
4. South African Journal of Plant Protection

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References: [1] Callender, S.P., Matthews, J.A., Kobayak, K. & Wetzig, S.D. 2017. Microemulsion utility in pharmaceuticals: Implications for multi-drug delivery. International Journal of Pharmaceutics, 526: 425-442. [2] Harsh, T.H. & Hoff, B. 2011. The use of blood analysis to evaluate trace mineral status in ruminant livestock. Veterinary Clinics of North America Food Animal Practice, 27:225-233. [3] Lopez-Alonso, M. 2012. Trace Minerals: Not too much not too little. International Scholarly Research Network Veterinary Science. doi: 10.5402/2012/70825. [4] Wahlberg, M.J. & Greiner, S.P. 2006. Minerals & Vitamins for Sheep - Extension Article. available online at: http://www.sheep101.info/20/mineralsandvitamins.html.

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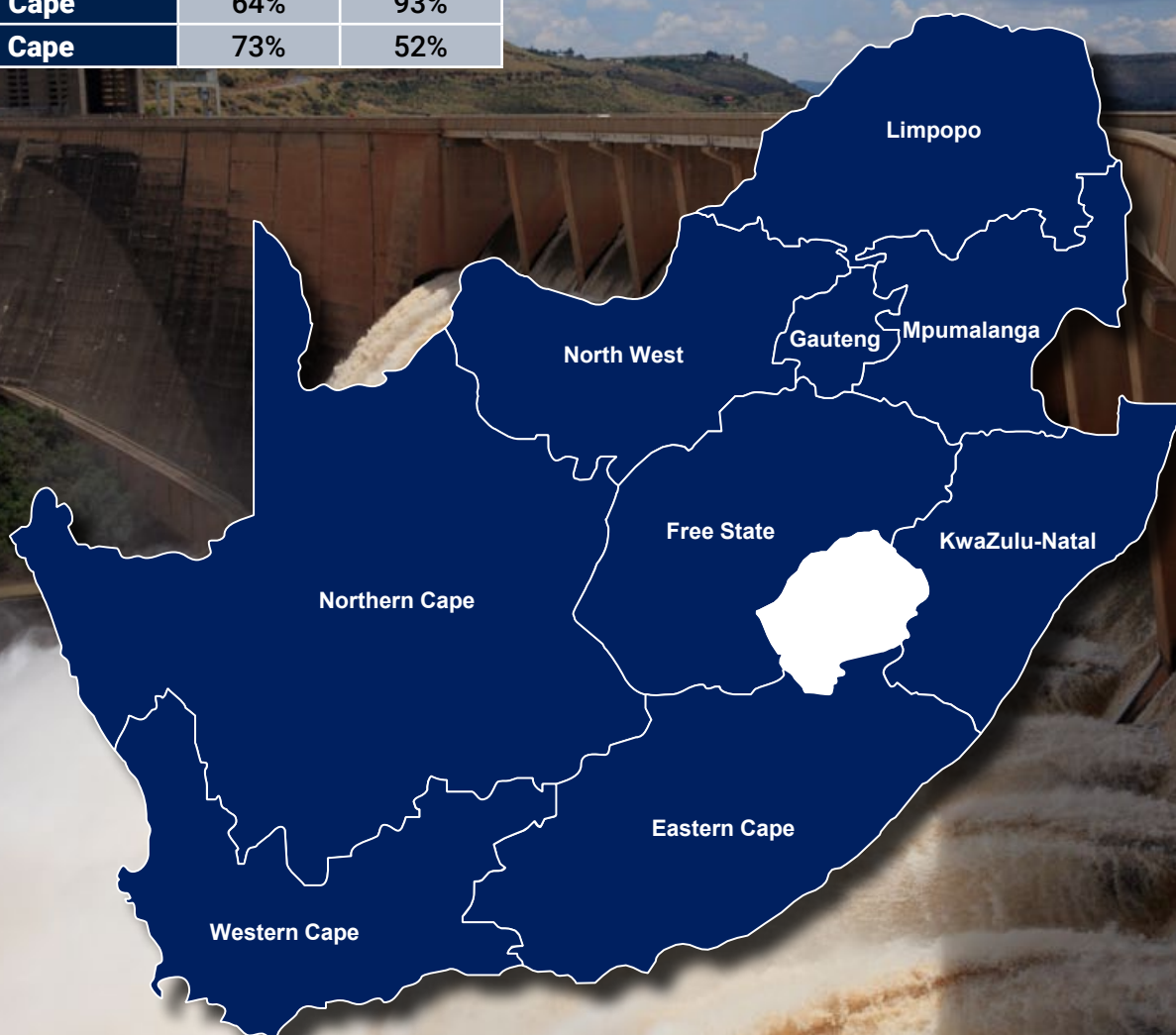
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Dam Levels

as at 10 February 2026

February		
	2025	2026
Eastern Cape	81%	74%
Freestate	75%	97%
Gauteng	89%	101%
KwaZulu-Natal	88%	90%
Limpopo	84%	99%
Mpumalanga	95%	100%
North West	71%	98%
Northern Cape	64%	93%
Western Cape	73%	52%



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Livestock Minerals: It's more than just Salt!

If your animals are eating well but still not performing, don't overlook minerals — the silent drivers of health, growth, and fertility.



Macro Minerals (needed in larger amounts):

- **Calcium & Phosphorus** – Bone strength, milk production, growth
- **Magnesium** – Prevents grass tetany
- **Sodium & Chloride** – Salt balance and appetite
- **Potassium** – Important for nerve and muscle function
- **Sulfur** – Needed for wool and protein synthesis

Trace Minerals (tiny amounts, big impact):

- **Copper** – Immunity and fertility
- **Zinc** – Hoof health and skin condition
- **Selenium** – Muscle function and disease resistance
- **Iodine** – Thyroid and metabolism
- **Cobalt** – Needed for vitamin B12 production (especially in ruminants)

Common signs of Deficiency:

- Poor growth
- Infertility or abortions
- Weak calves/kids
- Rough coat or hair loss
- Licking soil or wood

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A large flock of sheep is gathered in a grassy field. In the foreground, a black and white dog, likely a Border Collie, stands facing the camera. The sheep are mostly white with some brown markings. The background shows a hazy, rolling landscape under a bright sky.

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

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Snakes and the danger levels

We're often asked about snakes and the danger levels assigned to them. Here's some helpful info to explain the differences between Highly Venomous, Venomous, Mildly Venomous and Harmless.

Highly venomous

Highly venomous snakes are potentially deadly to humans. Bites from these snakes, if left untreated, may result in death. Medical attention is required.

Antivenom is available for most of these snakes. Bite victims should be taken to hospital as soon as possible.

This group includes the mambas, cobras, Rinkhals, large adders, Boomslang, sea snake and vine snakes.

Venomous

These snakes have venom and can inflict a painful bite that may require medical attention. The venom has not killed people, but be extra cautious with bites to small children. Bites usually result in pain, swelling and discolouration. Occasionally the venom causes necrosis and surgical intervention

HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Highly venomous snakes are potentially deadly to humans.

Bites from these snakes, if left untreated, may result in death. Medical attention is required. Antivenom is available for most of these snakes.

This group includes the mambas, cobras, Rinkhals, large adders, Boomslang, sea snake and vine snakes.

VENOMOUS

These snakes have venom.

These snakes can inflict a painful bite that may require medical attention. The venom has not killed adults, but be cautious with small children. Bites usually result in some swelling and discolouration. Occasionally the venom causes necrosis, and surgical intervention may be required. This group includes snakes such as the coral snakes, smaller adders and stiletto snakes. There is no antivenom for these snakes.

MILDLY VENOMOUS

Mildly venomous snakes have enough venom to kill prey, but have little effect on humans.

These snakes have a mild venom and normally no medical treatment would be required. In some cases there may be mild swelling and itching, usually less than that of a bee sting. This group includes snakes such as Herald Snakes, the grass and sand snakes and tiger snakes.

HARMLESS

Harmless snakes have no venom.

These snakes are still able to bite, as they have teeth, but do not deliver venom. Bites may bleed slightly but there are no other symptoms. This group includes snakes such as the house snakes, water snakes, marsh snakes, and bush and green snakes. Large non-venomous snakes such as adult Mole Snakes and pythons, can inflict a nasty bite that may cause cuts and deep wounds - which may require medical treatment.

www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com

may be required.

This group includes snakes such as coral snakes, smaller adders and stiletto snakes. Bite victims should be taken to hospital. There is no antivenom for bites from these snakes and patients are treated symptomatically.

Mildly Venomous

Mildly venomous snakes have enough venom to kill prey, but their venom has little effect on humans. These snakes have a mild venom and normally no medical treatment would be required. In some cases there may be mild swelling and itching, usually less than that of a bee sting.

This group includes snakes such as the Herald Snake, grass and sand snakes and tiger snakes .

Harmless

These snakes are still able to bite, as they have teeth, but do not deliver venom. Bites may bleed slightly but there are no other symptoms.

This group includes snakes such as the house snakes, water snakes, marsh snakes, and bush and green snakes.

Can inflict a nasty bite

Large non-venomous snakes such as an adult Mole Snake and Southern African Python can inflict a nasty bite, that may cause deep wounds and may require stitches.

Source: <https://www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com/articles/snakes-and-the-danger-levels-assigned-to-them/>



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Bron: Handleiding vir veeproduksie. Riglyne vir verbetering en versagewende veeproduksie – Tweede uitgawe. RPO. Uitgege deur Plaas Media (Labs.)Bpk. 2025

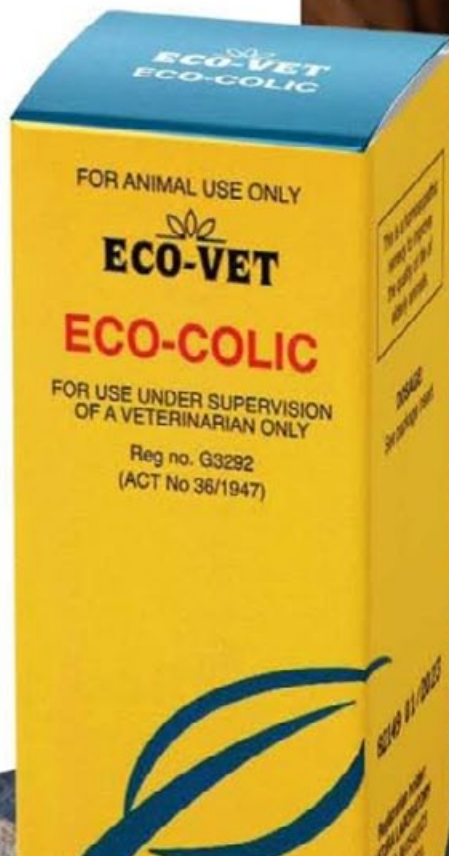
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A Cow's Influence Is More Than 50%

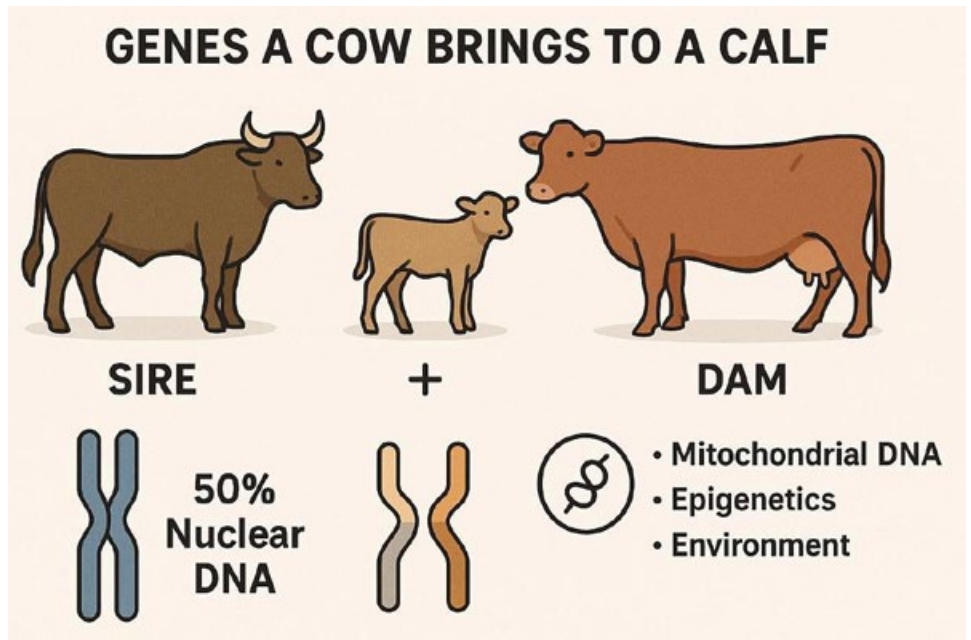
A calf receives half of its nuclear DNA (Genes on Chromosomes) from the sire and half from the dam, meaning the cow contributes just as much core genetic material as the bull.

In addition the cow uniquely passes on her mitochondrial DNA which affects energy use and stamina, as well as maternal influences like the uterine environment, colostrum and epigenetic effects that shape how genes are expressed.

Together, this makes the cow's role more than just 50% of the genetics - she also provides critical "extras" that directly impact the calf's survival, growth and long-term performance.

2025 | Genes on Chromosomes

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/share/16wHqu2cpT/>



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Peracute Mastitis in Bovines (cattle & buffaloes)



Peracute mastitis is the most severe, rapidly progressing, and life-threatening form of mastitis in dairy animals. It develops within hours, spreads systemically, and can lead to death in less than 24 hours if immediate veterinary care is not provided.

This condition is reported globally, affecting both high-producing dairy herds and smallholder farms.

Learn with #nilefeeds

Causative Agents (Highly Toxic Pathogens)

- Escherichia coli (most common and most dangerous)
- Staphylococcus aureus
- Streptococcus agalactiae
- Klebsiella species
- Environmental coliform bacteria

These organisms release endotoxins that rapidly enter the bloodstream, triggering septic shock.

Speed of Disease Progression

Infection → toxin release → bloodstream invasion → shock →

organ failure

Clinical deterioration can occur within 6–12 hours

Local Udder Signs

- Severe swelling and extreme pain
- Udder hot initially, later cold and hard
- Dark red, purple, or bluish skin discoloration
- Possible gangrene of affected quarter
- Milk becomes watery, bloody, clotted, or foul-smelling
- Sudden and drastic drop in milk yield

Systemic (Whole-Body) Signs

- Very high fever (often above 41°C)
- Profound depression and weakness
- Rapid breathing and heart rate
- Complete loss of appetite
- Severe dehydration

- Collapse, shock, or sudden death
- This is a true veterinary emergency**

Pathophysiology – What Is Happening Inside The Cow

- Bacteria multiply rapidly in the udder
- Endotoxins damage blood vessels
- Toxins enter circulation (endotoxemia)
- Blood pressure drops dangerously
- Vital organs begin to fail

Even one affected quarter can kill the cow

Emergency Treatment Protocol

- Immediate veterinary intervention is mandatory
- Broad-spectrum systemic antibiotics
- Intensive IV fluid therapy to



electrolytes, vitamins)

Delayed treatment significantly increases mortality

Prevention & Risk Reduction

- combat shock
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Frequent stripping/milking of affected quarter
- Intramammary antibiotics (when indicated)
- Supportive therapy (calcium,

- Strict milking hygiene protocols
- Clean, dry, well-bedded housing
- Proper pre- and post-milking teat disinfection
- Early detection and prompt treatment of mild mastitis
- Balanced nutrition to strengthen immunity
- Regular udder health monitoring

- Culling chronically infected animals

Key Take-Home Message

- Peracute mastitis is NOT an ordinary udder infection
- It is a life-threatening emergency
- Immediate veterinary attention saves lives

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Source: Nilefeeds



Bio-Security is of UTMOST IMPORTANCE - Compliance is NON-NEGOTIABLE!
These protocols are crucial to protect animal health and the South African livestock economy.



MANDATORY CdP DOCUMENTS

No animals will be offloaded at an auction without a health declaration (not older than 48 hours). / Geen diere sal by 'n veiling afgelaai word sonder 'n gesondheidsverklaring (nie ouer as 48 uur).

1. Signed CdP contract. / Getekende CdP-kontrak.
2. Health declaration form properly completed and signed by owner and veterinarians (not older than 48 hours). / Gesondheidsverklaring behoorlik ingevul en onderteken deur eienaar en veearts (nie ouer as 48uur).
3. Document of Identification, Art. 6 (removal certificate). / Dokumente van Identifikasie, Art 6 (verwyderingsertifikaat).
4. Copy of animal Identification mark. / Afskrif van diere se Identifikasiemerk.
5. Copy of ID or company registration document, or whichever correlates with the info on the identification mark. / Afskrif van ID of meatskappy-registrasiedokument, of wat ookal ooreenstem met identifikasiemerk (brandmerk).

Biosekuriteit is van UITERSTE BELANG - Nakoming is NIE-ONDERHALDERBAAR!
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Legal Compliance and Disease Preparedness – Protecting Your Farm and the Industry



Legal compliance and disease preparedness are not optional administrative exercises—they are core management responsibilities that directly affect farm viability, market access and the survival of South Africa’s livestock industry. February, with its high disease pressure, increased animal movement and climatic stressors, is a critical time for producers to ensure that all legal and biosecurity measures are firmly in place.

Failure to comply with animal health legislation not only exposes individual farms to devastating losses, but also places the broader industry at risk.

Why legal compliance matters more in February

- Mid-summer conditions create an environment where:
- Infectious diseases spread more easily
- Animals are immunologically stressed
- Parasite loads peak
- Movement of animals to auctions, grazing and slaughter remains active

Under these conditions, lapses in compliance can rapidly escalate into regional or national disease outbreaks, with severe economic consequences.

The legal framework governing animal health

Livestock disease control in South Africa is governed primarily by the Animal Diseases Act, Act 35 of 1984. This legislation places a legal duty on every livestock owner to:

- Prevent the spread of controlled diseases
- Report suspected notifiable diseases immediately
- Comply with movement controls and quarantine measures
- Cooperate with veterinary authorities

Ignorance of the law is not a defence, and non-compliance can result in prosecution, fines and severe movement restrictions.

Notifiable and controlled diseases

Certain diseases are classified as controlled or notifiable, meaning they must be reported without delay. These include, among others:

- Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)
- African Swine Fever
- Anthrax
- Rabies

Any suspicion—not confirmation—must be reported immediately to a veterinarian or the local office of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Delays in reporting are one of the biggest contributors to uncontrolled disease spread.

Animal movement control: a legal obligation

Uncontrolled animal movement is one of the primary drivers of disease transmission. Producers are legally required to:

- Obtain valid movement permits where applicable
- Ensure animals are clinically healthy before movement
- Maintain accurate movement records
- Quarantine incoming animals for a minimum of 28 days

February is a high-risk period for informal or rushed movements. Shortcuts taken now often result in long-term restrictions later.

Biosecurity plans: from theory to practice

Every livestock farm should have a practical, written biosecurity plan. This plan should include:

- Controlled entry points
- Visitor registers
- Vehicle and equipment disinfection procedures
- Designated isolation and quarantine areas
- Clear staff responsibilities

Biosecurity measures must be consistently applied, not only during outbreaks. Prepared farms respond faster and more effectively when disease threats arise.

Record keeping and traceability

Accurate records are a legal and operational necessity. These include:

- Animal identification records
- Treatment and vaccination histories
- Mortality records

- Movement documentation
- Good traceability allows authorities to contain outbreaks quickly and limits the scale of restrictions imposed on unaffected producers.

Disease preparedness: beyond compliance

Preparedness means anticipating problems before they occur. Key elements include:

- Regular staff training in disease recognition
- Clear emergency response protocols
- Up-to-date veterinary contact details
- Routine health monitoring

February is an ideal time to review and test preparedness systems while disease pressure is high but before crises occur.

The role of veterinarians and authorities

Veterinarians are not enforcement agents—they are essential partners in disease prevention. Early involvement of veterinary professionals:

- Improves diagnostic accuracy
- Limits disease spread
- Protects farm reputation
- Reduces financial losses

National disease control strategies are developed in alignment with international standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), ensuring South Africa remains credible in global markets.

Economic consequences of non-compliance

Disease outbreaks lead to:

- Movement bans
- Loss of market access
- Forced slaughter
- Long recovery periods
- Increased insurance and compliance costs

History has shown that the cost of prevention is insignificant compared to the cost of an outbreak.

Research and policy guidance from the Agricultural Research Council consistently demonstrate that farms with strong compliance and preparedness systems recover faster and suffer fewer long-term losses.

Shared responsibility in animal health

Disease control is a shared responsibility between producers, veterinarians, industry bodies and government. A single non-compliant farm can jeopardise entire regions and export industries.

South Africa's livestock sector relies on collective discipline, transparency and cooperation to remain sustainable.

Conclusion

Legal compliance and disease preparedness are not bureaucratic burdens—they are fundamental risk-management tools. February presents heightened challenges, but also an opportunity for producers to strengthen systems, close gaps and protect both their own operations and the national herd.

In livestock farming, compliance protects freedom, preparedness protects profit, and discipline protects the future.

Sources

1. Animal Diseases Act, Act 35 of 1984 (South Africa)
2. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), South Africa
3. World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) – Terrestrial Animal Health Code
4. Agricultural Research Council (ARC), South Africa
5. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Disease Preparedness Guidelines

Source: FARMhere Article

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19 SEPTEMBER 2026

AFRIDOME - PARYS, VRYSTAAT

Breeding and Weaning Decisions in February

Protecting Fertility and Future Profit

February is a decisive month for breeding and weaning decisions in South African livestock systems. While breeding seasons may already be underway or recently completed, the management choices made in mid-summer have a direct impact on conception rates, calving intervals, cow condition and next season's profitability. Poor decisions at this stage often only become visible months later—when it is already too late to correct them.

Strategic evaluation of body condition, nutrition, heat stress and pasture availability is therefore essential.

Why February is a critical decision point

By February:

- Many cows and ewes are either lactating or in early pregnancy
- Heat stress is at its peak
- Parasite pressure is high
- Pasture quality may be declining despite good biomass

These combined pressures place breeding females under significant physiological stress, which directly



affects reproductive performance.

Body Condition Score: the foundation of fertility

Body Condition Score (BCS) is the single most reliable indicator for breeding and weaning decisions. Research consistently shows that females with inadequate body reserves experience:

- Lower conception rates
- Delayed return to oestrus
- Increased embryonic loss
- Longer calving intervals

General guidelines for beef cattle:

- BCS 3.0–3.5 (out of 5): optimal for breeding and early pregnancy
- Below BCS 2.5: high risk of poor fertility

February is the last realistic opportunity to intervene nutritionally before reproductive losses occur.

Managing lactation stress in breeding females

Lactation places the highest nutritional demand on females. When combined with:

- Heat stress
- Parasite burdens
- Declining pasture quality

... cows and ewes mobilise body reserves rapidly. If losses are not corrected, reproductive function is compromised.

Key management options include:

- Strategic mineral and protein supplementation
- Early or partial weaning
- Reducing grazing pressure
- Prioritising breeding females for better grazing

Ignoring lactation stress in February almost guarantees poorer pregnancy results.

Early weaning as a strategic tool

Early weaning is often misunderstood as a crisis measure. In reality, it is a powerful management tool when used correctly.

Benefits of early weaning include:

- Rapid improvement in cow body condition
- Earlier return to oestrus
- Improved conception rates
- Reduced grazing pressure
- Better drought resilience

Calves can be successfully weaned from 90–120 days of age, provided proper nutrition and management are in place.

When should early weaning be considered?

Early weaning should be considered when:

- Cows are losing condition despite supplementation
- Heat stress is severe
- Pasture quality is declining
- Water availability is under pressure
- Breeding performance is at risk

February is often the optimal timing, as it allows cows to recover before winter.

Breeding season length and discipline

Extended breeding seasons reduce overall herd fertility efficiency. February is an ideal time to evaluate:

- Bull performance
- Bull-to-cow ratios
- Breeding season length
- Conception patterns

Tight breeding seasons improve:

- Calving uniformity
- Weaning weights
- Nutritional planning

- Herd selection accuracy

Problem bulls or poor breeders should be identified and removed early.

Heat stress and reproductive performance

Heat stress has a profound impact on reproduction by:

- Suppressing oestrus expression
- Reducing sperm quality in bulls
- Increasing early embryonic loss

Management interventions include:

- Providing shade and water
- Avoiding handling during hot periods
- Ensuring adequate mineral intake
- Scheduling breeding seasons to avoid peak heat where possible

These measures are particularly important in February.

Nutrition of bulls and rams

Male fertility is often overlooked. Bulls and rams under nutritional or heat stress show:

- Reduced libido
- Poor semen quality
- Lower serving capacity

Breeding males should maintain good body condition and receive adequate mineral supplementation, particularly zinc and selenium, which support reproductive function.

Record keeping and pregnancy diagnosis

February is an ideal time to review:

- Breeding records
- Previous conception rates
- Calving intervals
- Weaning performance

Where possible, early pregnancy diagnosis allows:

- Identification of non-pregnant females
- Better feed allocation



- Strategic culling decisions

Good records transform breeding from guesswork into management.

Institutional guidance and best practice

Best-practice reproductive management is supported by guidelines from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and research conducted by the Agricultural Research Council.

International reproductive management standards are aligned with recommendations from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Conclusion

February is not a passive waiting period in the breeding calendar—it is a decisive management window. Strategic decisions regarding body condition, supplementation, early weaning and heat stress management protect fertility, shorten calving intervals and safeguard future profitability.

In livestock production, reproduction drives profit—and February determines whether that engine performs or fails.

Sources

1. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), South Africa
 2. Agricultural Research Council (ARC), South Africa – Reproductive Performance Studies
 3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Breeding Management Guidelines
 4. South African Journal of Animal Science
- Source: FARMhere Article

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Water Management and Water Quality in Mid-Summer

Water is the single most critical nutrient for livestock production, yet it is often the most neglected management factor during mid-summer. In February, high temperatures, evaporation losses and declining water quality place livestock under significant physiological stress. Even short-term water shortages or poor-quality water can lead to immediate drops in feed intake, milk production, growth rates and fertility.



Effective water management during mid-summer is therefore essential for animal welfare, productivity and disease prevention.

Why water management becomes critical in February

During hot summer conditions:

- Water intake can double compared to cooler months
- Animals lose more fluids through respiration and sweating
- Algal growth increases in open water sources
- Salinity and mineral concentrations rise as water levels drop

Livestock can survive weeks without feed, but only days without water. Sub-optimal water availability is often the hidden cause of poor performance during mid-summer.

Water requirements of livestock

Approximate daily water requirements increase dramatically in hot weather:

- Beef cattle: 40–70 litres per day
- Dairy cows: 70–120 litres per day (or more during peak lactation)
- Sheep and goats: 6–12 litres per day

Requirements increase further with:

- High temperatures
- Lactation
- High salt or dry-matter intake
- Heat stress

Any restriction in water availability results in reduced feed intake and immediate production losses.

Water quality: more important than many farmers realise

Livestock are sensitive to water quality. Poor-quality water reduces intake even when water appears plentiful. Key water quality concerns include:

1. Salinity and dissolved solids

High total dissolved solids (TDS) can cause:

- Reduced water intake
- Diarrhoea

- Poor growth and milk production
- Reproductive problems

As dams and reservoirs shrink, salt concentrations increase, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions.

2. Algal blooms and cyanobacteria

Warm, nutrient-rich water promotes algal growth. Some blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) produce toxins that can cause:

- Liver failure
- Nervous signs
- Sudden death

Livestock deaths from algal poisoning are most common in late summer when dams are shallow and stagnant.

3. Bacterial contamination

Water contaminated with faeces, carcasses or runoff increases the risk of:

- Diarrhoeal diseases
- Salmonella infections
- Reduced immune function

Managing water sources effectively

Protect water points

Water sources should be protected from contamination by:

- Preventing animals from standing directly in dams or streams
- Using troughs instead of direct access where possible
- Fencing off natural water sources and pumping water to drinking points

This reduces disease risk and improves water quality.

Maintain troughs and infrastructure

Poorly maintained water infrastructure leads to wastage and reduced intake. Best practices include:

- Cleaning troughs regularly
- Repairing leaks promptly
- Ensuring sufficient flow rate during peak demand
- Avoiding overcrowding at drinking points

Animals should never have to wait long periods for access to water.

Water placement and grazing behaviour

Water placement strongly influences grazing patterns. Poorly positioned water points cause:

- Overgrazing near water



- Under-utilisation of distant grazing areas
- Increased soil erosion and mud formation

Strategically placed water points encourage even grazing distribution and protect veld condition—especially important during mid-summer grazing pressure.

Heat stress, water and production losses

During heat stress:

- Animals drink more frequently
- They prefer cool, clean water
- Any delay or restriction compounds heat stress effects

Providing shaded water points and ensuring continuous availability significantly reduces heat load and supports thermoregulation.

Monitoring and testing water quality

Water quality should be tested:

- At least annually
- More frequently during drought or heat waves
- When unexplained production losses occur

Testing for salinity, pH and bacterial contamination helps guide management decisions and supplementation strategies.

Legal and welfare responsibilities

Providing adequate, clean water is a legal and ethical obligation under South African animal welfare standards. Guidelines supported by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development emphasise that water deprivation constitutes poor animal welfare.

International standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) also identify water availability and quality as core animal welfare requirements.



Research-based best practices

Research by the Agricultural Research Council confirms that improved water access and quality result in:

- Higher feed intake
- Improved weight gain
- Better milk yield
- Lower heat-related losses

These findings align with global recommendations from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Conclusion

Water management in February is not simply about supply—it is about quality, access and strategic placement. Clean, cool and readily available water underpins every aspect of livestock productivity and welfare. By prioritising water management during mid-summer, producers protect their animals against heat stress, disease and unnecessary production losses.

In livestock farming, water is not a support input—it is the foundation.

Sources

4. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), South Africa
5. Agricultural Research Council (ARC), South Africa – Water & Livestock Studies
6. World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) – Animal Welfare Standards
7. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Water for Livestock Manuals

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Optimising Sheep Growth and Meat Quality: The Benefits of the Right Feed Combination

Feeding sheep the correct combination of feeds is one of the most important decisions a producer can make. The right diet improves growth rates, health, carcass quality and profitability. In South Africa in 2025, research and commercial feed products reflect best practice nutritional strategies that help sheep perform optimally whether on pasture or in a feedlot. Understanding how different feed components work together – and how to adapt rations to farm conditions – is key for producers looking for maximum return from meat production.



Why Balanced Feeding Matters

Sheep are ruminants, meaning their digestive system is designed to extract nutrients from a mix of fibrous forage and higher-energy feeds. A balanced feeding strategy ensures that:

- **Energy and protein needs are met** for growth and muscle development.

- **Digestive health is protected**, reducing risks like acidosis and slow growth.
- **Feed conversion efficiency is maximised**, meaning more weight gain per kilogram of feed.
- **Mineral and vitamin requirements are filled**, supporting immune function, reproduction and overall vitality.

If these nutritional needs are not met correctly, producers can see poor growth, increased disease, lower meat quality and higher production costs.

Components of an Effective Sheep Diet

1. Roughage (Forage and Hay)

Roughage forms the foundation of a sheep diet. Sources such as

pasture, hay (particularly lucerne/alfalfa) or silage provide structural fibre that supports rumen function. Without sufficient roughage, concentrates can cause ruminal upset or acidosis, especially when introduced too rapidly.

Lucerne hay, for example, is commonly included in rations because it supplies both fibre and protein, helping to improve feed intake and rumen health during growth phases. (African Farming¹)

2. High-Energy Concentrates

Grains such as maize or barley supply the energy needed for rapid growth and fat deposition. In feedlot systems, energy concentrates form a larger portion of the ration once animals become adapted to the feed.

Energy supplements like **VOERMOL Zilmol** increase muscle deposition and improve feed conversion and dressing percentage by effectively directing energy to lean growth. (Voermol Feeds²)

3. Protein Sources

Protein is essential for muscle growth. High-quality protein sources – either from concentrates or supplements – ensure that amino acids are available for tissue development. Products like **VOERMOL SS 200** provide a balanced protein blend along with energy to support finishing. (Voermol Feeds³)

4. Vitamins, Minerals and Trace Elements

Minerals (e.g., calcium, phosphorus, zinc) and vitamins (e.g., A, D, E) are often added in complete feeds or blocks. These nutrients support immune function, reproduction and wool quality. Commercial balancers delivered in pellet or block form are a convenient way to meet these micronutrient requirements. (Voermol Feeds⁴)

Benefits of Correct Feeding in 2025

Feeding the correct ration offers clear benefits for sheep producers in South Africa:

Improved Growth Rates

By balancing energy and protein, lambs in feedlots grow faster and reach slaughter weight sooner. South African research has shown certain breeds like Dorper and Meatmaster convert feed more efficiently, resulting in better growth performance. (SASAS⁵)

Better Feed Conversion Efficiency

Balanced diets enhance the efficiency with which sheep convert feed into bodyweight. Supplements like energy enhancers improve feed

conversion ratios, lowering the cost of weight gain and increasing net profit. (Voermol Feeds²)

Higher Carcass Quality

Optimal feeding improves muscle deposition and carcass conformation. Energy and protein combinations encourage lean meat growth, while adequate minerals help prevent quality issues such as poor fat cover or unhealthy tissues.

Enhanced Animal Health

Proper nutrition strengthens immunity and reduces stress. Products with medicaments to prevent common feedlot health problems are now widely used in South Africa. Providing minerals and maintaining a stable rumen environment help sheep withstand the challenges of feedlot environments without setbacks in performance. (Wesfed Feeds⁶)

Suggested Feedlot Protocol for Maximum Growth & Quality Meat (2025)

Below is a **practical feedlot feeding protocol** based on **current South African practices and commercial feeds**:

Phase 1: Adaptation (First 7–14 Days)

1. **Start Slowly:** Begin with an adaptation diet that includes high-quality roughage (pasture, hay) plus an adaptation feed such as Meadow Feeds' **Complete Sheep Adaptation Feed 15.5**. This promotes palatability and synchronises energy and protein utilisation in the rumen. (Meadow Feeds⁷)
2. **Increase Concentrates Gradually:** Introduce concentrate feeds slowly over 10–14 days to avoid ruminal upset. Begin with a small amount and gradually increase. Use hay ad libitum during this period. (Voermol Feeds³)



3. **Monitor Health:** Check animals daily for rumen acidosis, diarrhoea or feed refusal. Adjust roughage and reduce concentrate increases if issues arise.

Phase 2: Growing & Finishing

1. **Balanced Ration:** Feed a complete finisher feed such as **Wesfed Complete Sheep Finisher Pellets** ad libitum after adaptation. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for percent of bodyweight consumed daily (about 3–4% of live body mass). (Wesfed Feeds⁶)
2. **Energy Protein Mix:** Include energy sources such as maize/barley and **VOERMOL SS 200** concentrate as part of the ration. A typical mix for best results might mirror commercial recommendations: roughly 70–80% energy sources (maize/barley), 10–15% protein concentrates, and required roughage. (Voermol Feeds³)
3. **Supplement Additives:** Consider energy enhancers like **VOERMOL Zilmol** at appropriate stages to maximise muscle gain and improve carcass weight. (Voermol Feeds²)

4. **Water Minerals:** Provide clean water and mineral blocks or pellet supplements free choice.

Phase 3: Pre-Slaughter Adjustment

About two weeks before slaughter, reduce energy levels slightly and ensure rations are consistent daily to avoid stress. Maintain roughage availability.

Conclusion

Feeding sheep the correct combination of feeds in South Africa during 2025 is essential for optimal growth, health and meat quality. Balanced diets – combining roughage, energy, protein, vitamins and minerals – improve feed conversion efficiency

and profitability. Adopting a phased feedlot protocol, including careful adaptation and finishing diets, helps producers achieve faster growth rates and high-quality carcasses. With increasing access to specialised commercial feeds and supplements tailored to local needs, South African sheep producers are well positioned to maximise performance in modern feedlot systems.

1. https://www.africanfarming.com/2024/12/29/feedlot-ration-for-lambs/?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Feedlot Ration For Lambs"
2. https://voermol.co.za/voermol-product/zilmol/?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Voermol Zilmol - Energy Supplement for Cattle and Sheep."
3. https://voermol.co.za/voermol-product/ss-200/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

"SS 200 - Protein Concentrate for Ruminants"

4. https://voermol.co.za/voermol-product/voermol-ram-lamb-and-ewe-pellets/?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Voermol Ram, Lamb and Ewe Pellets - Maintenance Pellets"
5. https://www.sasas.co.za/journals/premium-lamb-production-of-south-african-sheep-breed-types-under-feedlot-conditions/?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Premium lamb production of South African sheep breed types under feedlot conditions - SASAS"
6. https://www.wesfed.co.za/sheep-finisher/?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Sheep Finisher | Wesfed Feeds"
7. https://www.meadowfeeds.co.za/product/sheep/complete-sheep-adaptation-feed-15-5/?utm_source=chatgpt.com "Complete Sheep Adaptation Feed 15.5 - Meadow Feeds"

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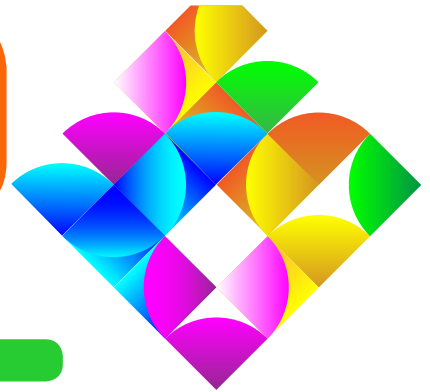
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Truth ✅

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Pork Market update
26 Jan – 1 Feb 2026



Pork market update

Week 5
26 Jan - 1 Feb 2026

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGE

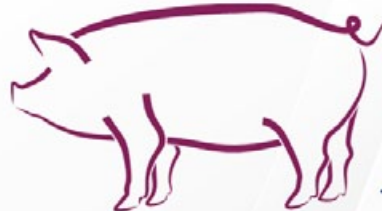


- 1,1%
- R37,40/t

YELLOW MAIZE PRICE *
R3 388 per tonne

* JSE EDM SPOT PRICE:

The spot price refers to the closing price of the current contract month for the yellow maize instrument, as traded on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Equity Derivatives Market (EDM).
Data sourced from Agribase.



+ 0,1%
+ R0,02/kg

PRODUCER PRICE #
R40,10 per kg

#ABATTOIR PURCHASE PRICE (EXCL. SOWS)

The abattoir purchase price refers to the price paid to producers, per kg. Prices are based on the chilled carcass mass, including the fifth quarter. Prices exclude value added tax (VAT), transportation, and commission. Data sourced from the Red Meat Abattoir Association.

sappo

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Increased producer prices and decreased yellow maize prices during week 5

During week 5 of 2026, the pork producer price averaged R40,10/kg, 0,1% higher than the previous week. The yellow maize price averaged R3 388/t, 1,1% lower than the previous week. Producer prices in relation to yellow maize prices averaged 11,8, 1,2% higher than the previous week.

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06 FEB 2026

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MEATMASTER OOI	74,600.00	16	8,000.00	4,662.50	3,000.00
MEATMASTER OOI & LAM	5,000.00	1	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
MEATMASTER OOI DRAGTIG	188,750.00	37	11,000.00	5,101.35	3,000.00
MEATMASTER OOI AANGETEKEN	80,750.00	15	13,000.00	5,383.33	2,500.00
MEATMASTER OOI AANGETEKEN DRAGTIG	220,800.00	32	26,000.00	6,900.00	2,250.00
MEATMASTER OOI MET LAM AANGETEKEN	54,500.00	5	28,000.00	10,900.00	3,500.00
MEATMASTER RAM	35,500.00	3	20,000.00	11,833.33	7,500.00
MEATMASTER RAM AANGETEKEN	71,500.00	5	24,000.00	14,300.00	6,000.00
TOTAAL	731,400.00	114			
VLOER	604,400.00	83%			
AANLYN	127,000.00	17%			
REGISTRASIES	65				
VLOER	21				
AANLYN	39				

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RECIPE

Blackberry Bacon Venison Smash Burgers With Whipped Brie



Ingredients:

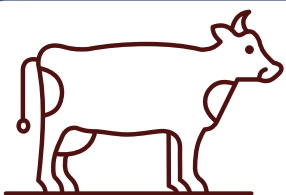
- 1 lb ground venison
- 1/2 cup fresh blackberries
- 4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 4 oz brie cheese, whipped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 brioche buns
- Arugula for topping

Directions:

1. Preheat grill to medium-high heat.
2. In a bowl, mix ground venison, blackberries, and crumbled bacon. Form into patties.
3. Season patties with salt and pepper, then grill for about 4-5 minutes per side.
4. Toast brioche buns on the grill.
5. Assemble burgers with a dollop of whipped brie, arugula, and any additional toppings you desire.
6. Serve hot and enjoy the deliciousness!

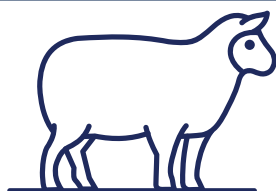
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What's happening in Markets



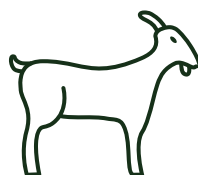
BEEF

A2/3 =	R 60.13
B2/3 =	R 54.17
C2/3 =	R 53.00
Weaners =	R 40.34



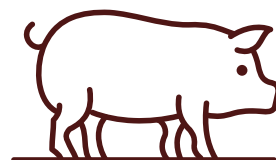
SHEEP

A2/3 =	R 94.13
B2/3 =	R 76.50
C2/3 =	R 73.50
Feeder Lamb =	R 48.76



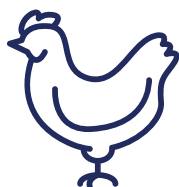
GOATS

Ewes =	R 42.47
Kids <30kg =	R 62.33
Kids 30-40kg =	R 54.59
Kids > 40kg =	R 31.89



PIGS

Porkers =	R 41.55
Baconers =	R 40.40



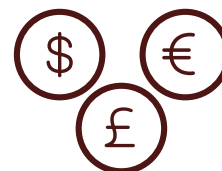
CHICKEN

Frozen =	R 35.20
Fresh =	R 39.51
IQF =	R 35.50



SAFEX

Mielies =	R 3455 /t
Sojabone =	R 7176 /t
Sonneblom =	R 10050 /t
Koring =	R 5650 /t



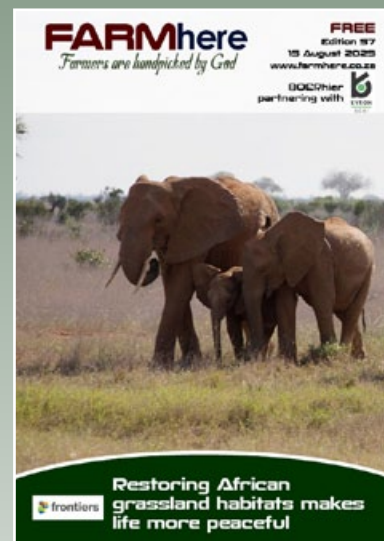
EXCHANGE RATE

R / \$ =	R 15.95
R / £ =	R 21.75
R / € =	R 18.92

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Leaving Bitterness Behind

There are burdens in life that cannot be seen on the outside. A person may still work, still speak kindly, still fulfil responsibilities – yet inside carry a quiet heaviness. Bitterness often grows this way. It does not arrive loudly; it settles slowly, usually after disappointment, betrayal, injustice, or deep hurt. We replay the moment, the words, the decision that wounded us. We rehearse what we should have said, what they should have done, and what cannot be changed.

Over time, bitterness convinces us it is protection. We believe holding onto it keeps us from being hurt again. In truth, it keeps us from healing.

Bitterness is like drinking salty water when thirsty – it promises relief but deepens the dryness of the soul. It colours how we see people, steals rest from our thoughts, and quietly hardens our hearts. We begin interpreting new situations through old wounds. The past becomes a lens over the present. God never intended us to live that way.

Scripture calls us to release what we cannot repair ourselves and allow Him to restore what we cannot reach. Forgiveness does not deny pain; it hands the pain to a greater Judge. When we surrender resentment, we are not declaring the wrong acceptable – we are declaring God trustworthy.

Letting go is rarely a single moment. It is a decision repeated daily. Each time the memory returns, we choose not to feed it anger. We bring it to God again and again, sometimes with very simple prayers: Lord, I still feel this hurt – help me release it. Healing often begins there, in honest conversation rather than forced strength.

God's light enters where we open space.

Many people wait to feel peaceful before releasing bitterness, but peace usually follows obedience. When we unclench our grip on the past, we make room for new understanding. We begin to see people with compassion rather than accusation. We notice blessings that resentment once overshadowed. The heart softens, and with softness comes clarity.

God does not only remove darkness – He replaces it. His light guides decisions, restores hope, and gives perspective beyond the moment of injury. We realise our future is not defined by what hurt us but by Who leads us.

Bitterness keeps us tied to a single chapter. God invites us into the whole story.

Today, you may not be able to change what happened, but you can choose who carries it forward. Place it into God's hands. Ask Him to teach you to see differently, to think differently, and to live lighter.

Where bitterness once lived, light can live instead.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

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