

FARMhere

Farmers are handpicked by God

FREE
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10 October 2026

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Plant for
Profit,
Not Tonnes

First Rain,
First Weeds:
Winning the Crop
Protection Battle Early

 **Water is Life:**
Why Damlinings Should
Be Part of Your 2026/27
Farm Preparation

Auctions

R6.4 Million
for One Heifer:

Why Queen Arusha Shattered
South Africa's Cattle Record



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Contact Us

For editorial, advertising or general enquiries:

Tel: 073 895 6392

Email: info@boerhier.co.za

Web: www.boerhier.co.za

Web: www.farmhere.co.za

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Editor's Note

Prepare Well. Farm Wisely. Trust God.



October is one of those months when farming reminds us that preparation and faith must walk hand in hand.

Producers are entering the 2026/27 summer season carrying both opportunity and uncertainty. FMD continues to demand biosecurity. El Niño conditions make every litre of stored water more valuable. Rising input costs mean that every decision around seed, fertiliser, chemicals, machinery and insurance must work harder to protect the farm's margin.

This issue of FARMhere has been built around one message: prepare early, manage what you can, and do not leave tomorrow's problems for tomorrow.

We look at ways to strengthen farm-gate biosecurity, calculate a 90-day water plan, choose crops for profit rather than tonnage, use soil testing to avoid unnecessary fertiliser costs, establish maize and soybeans correctly, control weeds before they steal yield, prepare livestock for parasites and heat stress, service machinery before the planting window opens, and protect the season through risk management.

None of these decisions can guarantee rain, prevent every disease, or remove every challenge. But good stewardship means taking responsibility for the things within our hands.

South African farmers have endured difficult seasons before. What continues to stand out is their ability to adapt, learn, rebuild and keep producing food despite enormous pressure. That resilience deserves recognition.

My encouragement this month is not to become overwhelmed by everything that could go wrong. Work through the farm one decision at a time. Check the gate. Test the soil. Inspect the water. Service the tractor. Protect the livestock. Review the numbers. Then move forward with wisdom and faith.

"Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed." – Proverbs 16:3 NLT

May God bless the work of your hands, protect your families and workers, and grant you wisdom for every decision this season.

Lizelle Little

Editor | FARMhere

Honouring God in all we do.



GROWING PAINS OR GROWING PURPOSE?

When God stretches us, He is often preparing us to serve with greater purpose.

BY CHANELLE ROSSOUW

Growth is rarely comfortable. When God begins stretching us, He often leads us beyond what feels familiar, safe or manageable. Responsibilities increase, expectations change, and we become more aware of our weaknesses. Yet not every difficult season means something is wrong. Sometimes what we call growing pains is actually God shaping growing purpose.

Spiritual maturity begins when we understand who we are in Christ. We are not spectators waiting for someone else to serve. Every believer has been welcomed into God's family, given a place in His work, and entrusted with something meaningful to carry.

God has placed something in each of our hands. For one person it may be leadership; for another, compassion, creativity, encouragement, generosity, hospitality or the quiet willingness to serve where nobody notices. The question is not whether we have something to *offer*. The question is whether we are willing to use what God has entrusted to us.

Our stewardship reaches further than money. We steward our talents by using the abilities God has given us. We steward our time by making ourselves available and faithful. We steward our treasure by using our resources wisely and generously. We also steward our testimony, because the story of what God has done in our lives may become the encouragement someone else needs.

“

*God does something in us so that He can do something **through us.**”*

Growth cannot remain private. God does something in us so that He can also do something through us. The pressure may be producing patience. The waiting may be teaching trust. The responsibility may be developing leadership. Even painful seasons, when surrendered to God, can become places of wisdom that later help someone else.

So when growth becomes uncomfortable, do not ask only, 'Why is this happening to me?' Ask instead, 'Lord, what are You developing in me, and who will You enable me to serve because of it?' Your growing pains may be preparing you for growing purpose.



TALENTS

Use the abilities God has given you.



TIME

Make yourself available and faithful.



TREASURE

Use your resources wisely and generously.



TESTIMONY

Your story may be the encouragement someone else needs.

R6.4 Million for One Heifer: Why Queen Arusha Shattered South Africa's Cattle Record



A single in-calf heifer has placed South Africa's specialist livestock genetics market firmly in the spotlight.

At the Ntaba Nyoni & Friends auction held at Phala Phala near Bela-Bela, Limpopo, on 3 October 2026, Queen Arusha (NANK23 001) sold for an extraordinary R6.4 million. According to Farmer's Weekly, the sale set a new South African record for a female animal across cattle breeds. Queen Arusha was offered as Lot 20 by Ntaba Nyoni and purchased by an anonymous buyer. [Farmer's Weekly SA](#)

The figure immediately attracts attention, but the real story is not simply that someone paid R6.4 million for a cow. In elite stud breeding, the buyer is purchasing a genetic asset with the potential to generate value for years through calves, embryo transfer and other reproductive technologies.

Queen Arusha's pedigree helps explain the exceptional demand. She is the full sister of the Ankole bull Optimus Prime, whose horns measure 68 inches. Farmer's Weekly reported that her genetic background includes Tshinakaho

LOT 020 NTABA NYONI CATTLE
R
QUEEN ARUSHA NANK23-001
 QUEEN ARUSHA (NANK23-001),
 TSHINAKAHO & AKIRA DAUGHTER
 IN CALF TO KOVU

M	F	T	DOB: 01/04/2023
0	1	1	AGE: 3y 6m

 AGE CATEGORY: Adult

Name / tag	: Queen Arusha / NANK23-001
Reg. No	: 5514949576
Area	: Badplaas, MP
Status	: Fullblood
DNA	: Available
Parentage DNA	: Verified
Sire	: 50 1/4 Tshinakaho / NANK07-043
Sire's sire (S)	: KBA000001
Sire's dam	: KA960001
Dam	: 48 1/4 Akira / A07-008
Dam's sire	: KBA000001
Dam's dam	: KA960010

MEASUREMENTS
 Date measured : 21/08/2026
 Age measured : 3y 5m
 Horn length : L: 36" R: 36"
 Base : L: 22" R: 22"
 Tip to tip : 54"
 Pregnancy status : Certified (7 months)
 In calf to : Kovu (52" x Maximus x 42" x Kibo)
 Date available : Immediately
 Vaccination : Vaccinated for FMD
 NTABA NYONI CATTLE www.ntabanyoni.co.za | 63

and Akira, with Kovu further back in the pedigree.

That relationship became even more significant during the same auction. Two straws of sexed semen from Optimus Prime sold for R250,000 each, setting another reported South African record across cattle breeds for sexed

semen. In total, 37 semen straws generated R1.235 million, while 19 embryos sold for a combined R1.445 million.

A R22.5 million day

Queen Arusha was the headline lot, but the broader auction results showed just how strongly buyers

were competing for selected Ankole genetics.

The Ntaba Nyoni & Friends sale generated total turnover of R22.5 million, with an average of approximately R490,000 per lot. Around 120 buyers registered and approximately 100 people attended in person.

The pregnant-heifer category was particularly significant. Four animals generated R7.48 million, averaging R1.87 million, although Queen Arusha's R6.4 million price heavily influenced that average.

Elsewhere in the auction, ten bulls sold for a combined R2.75 million, averaging R275,000. The highest-priced bull achieved R650,000. Eight heifers averaged R482,500, while four pregnant cows averaged R432,500.

These comparisons show just how far Queen Arusha stood above the rest of an already valuable sale.

Why are Ankole genetics worth so much?

Ankole cattle are part of the African Sanga cattle group and are historically associated with East and Central Africa. They are particularly recognised for their enormous, outward- and upward-curving horns and their cultural and genetic importance. FAO research describes Ankole cattle as an indigenous African breed type with characteristic large horns and adaptation to extensive grazing environments. [FAOHome](#)

In the elite stud market, however, value goes beyond visual appeal.

A high-value breeding female can potentially produce offspring carrying desirable genetics for fertility, conformation, colour, horn characteristics and pedigree. Modern reproductive technologies can multiply that genetic influence much faster than natural breeding alone.

Artificial insemination makes it possible to distribute desirable male genetics widely, while embryo transfer can allow valuable females to produce more offspring than would be possible through conventional calving alone.

This is why the economics of Queen Arusha cannot be compared with an ordinary commercial replacement heifer or slaughter animal. Her R6.4 million price reflects what buyers believe her future **genetic production potential** could be worth.

Farmer's Weekly quoted the auction team explaining that the purchaser was effectively buying access to future genetic production.

A growing specialist market

Queen Arusha's sale also reflects the increasingly sophisticated market for specialised African cattle genetics.

High-profile auctions create price discovery for breeders, establish benchmarks for bloodlines and give buyers direct access to animals,

semen and embryos that may otherwise be difficult to obtain.

The record also illustrates how rapidly livestock breeding economics can diverge from conventional farming values. A commercial producer may assess an animal primarily on fertility, kilograms weaned and feed efficiency. An elite genetics buyer may calculate future income from offspring, semen or embryos, pedigree scarcity and future stud demand.

Queen Arusha therefore represents more than a record-breaking auction result.

She represents the value increasingly being placed on **genetics, reproductive technology and specialised breeding programmes** within South Africa's high-end livestock industry.

And at **R6.4 million**, she has set a benchmark that South African stud breeders will be watching very closely.

Sources

1. Farmer's Weekly, Hanlie du Plessis, 4 October 2026
2. IOL, 4 October 2026
3. SA People, 5 October 2026
4. FAO publications on Ankole cattle characteristics and African cattle genetic resources.



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FMD: The Biosecurity Measures Every Livestock Farm Needs Now

For South African livestock producers, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) remains a business risk that cannot be managed by vaccination alone. By October 2026, South Africa's response has increasingly combined mass vaccination with tighter movement control, traceability and farm-level biosecurity. North West alone reported more than 1.4 million animals vaccinated by early September, while government announced in September that private-sector participation would be brought into plans to expand local FMD vaccine manufacturing.

The importance of practical biosecurity was demonstrated again at NAMPO Alfa in early October. Organisers reported that stringent entry protocols, vehicle disinfection and vaccination compliance helped make significant livestock participation possible despite the continuing FMD challenge.²

FMD is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. Typical warning signs include excessive salivation,

blisters or lesions in the mouth, lameness and lesions around the feet. Suspected cases must be reported promptly to veterinary authorities, and potentially infected animals should not be moved.

[WOAH](#)

Control starts at the farm gate

Every livestock property should regard its entrance as a disease-control point:

- **Access** should be limited to essential people and vehicles. Maintain a visitor register recording names, contact details, date of entry, reason for visiting, vehicle details and, where practical, recent contact with other livestock.
- Contractors, livestock buyers,

technicians, feed suppliers and other visitors should enter through a designated point rather than moving freely through livestock areas.

- Clean footwear or farm-specific boots, handwashing facilities and properly maintained disinfectant stations can further reduce risk. Importantly, disinfection should follow cleaning. Mud, manure and other organic material can interfere with effective disinfection, so visibly dirty surfaces must be cleaned first.
- The World Organisation for Animal Health identifies segregation, cleaning and disinfection as fundamental FMD biosecurity principles. [WOAH](#)

Vehicles are a major risk

Livestock trucks, trailers, feed vehicles and shared equipment move between farms, auctions, feedlots and other livestock facilities. They can therefore become mechanical carriers of contaminated organic material.

Vehicles entering sensitive livestock areas should be visibly clean and, where appropriate, disinfected using a suitable product according to its registered label instructions.



An effective farm design keeps outside vehicles away from the herd wherever possible. Loading ramps positioned near the farm perimeter allow farm staff to move cattle to the truck rather than allowing the truck, driver and equipment deep into production areas.

International FMD guidance specifically identifies cleaning and disinfection of livestock transport vehicles as an important disease-control measure. FAOHome

Treat incoming animals as a potential risk

Buying livestock from a reputable producer reduces risk; it does not eliminate it.

South African government guidance has repeatedly emphasised separating newly introduced cattle, sheep and goats from resident animals for at least 28 days, together with careful attention to animal origin and health documentation. Because restrictions and permit requirements may change as outbreaks and control zones change, producers should confirm the current requirements with their State Veterinarian before moving livestock. Government of South Africa

Newly purchased animals should ideally have separate water and feeding points and dedicated equipment. Observe them daily for salivation, mouth lesions, abnormal behaviour or lameness.

Boundary fencing is equally important. Preventing nose-to-nose contact with neighbouring or roaming animals reduces an obvious route for disease transmission.

Records can protect your business

Traceability becomes invaluable when an outbreak occurs.

Farmers should be able to identify which animals entered or left the property, when the movement occurred, where the animals originated, their destination, identification numbers, transporter details, vaccination information and supporting health or movement documentation.

Those records allow Veterinary Services to trace possible exposure faster and help farmers demonstrate legitimate livestock movements.

South Africa's FMD Control Centre now provides farmers with information on symptoms, movement controls and permits, vaccinations and farm biosecurity. NDA FMD

Separate clean and dirty areas

Handling facilities, sick pens, quarantine camps and loading areas should not casually share equipment.

Where possible, staff should work from lower-risk groups toward higher-risk animals. Boots, protective clothing and equipment should be cleaned and disinfected before moving between risk areas.

Avoid sharing needles, ropes, handling equipment or livestock trailers between farms without appropriate cleaning. Manure, bedding and carcasses must also be managed so they do not become pathways for infection.

Vaccination is one layer of protection

Vaccination is central to South Africa's FMD strategy, but it does not replace surveillance, movement control or everyday farm biosecurity. Government has repeatedly stressed that vaccination must operate alongside responsible livestock management and strict biosecurity. Government of South Africa

The message for October 2026 is straightforward: know what enters your farm, control what leaves, quarantine new animals, clean before disinfecting, document livestock movements and report suspicious symptoms immediately.

Biosecurity is not simply a veterinary precaution. It protects the herd, the farmer's cash flow, livestock trade, market access and ultimately South Africa's agricultural economy.

Sources used

The principal factual sources for this article are the South African Department of Agriculture / [South African Government FMD](#) updates and FMD Control Centre, including the September 2026 vaccination update and national FMD guidance; the World Organisation for Animal Health ([WOAH](#)) [FMD](#) technical and biosecurity guidance; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)) FMD risk assessment and [biosecurity](#) recommendations; and the October 2026 NAMPO Alfa biosecurity report. Government of South Africa

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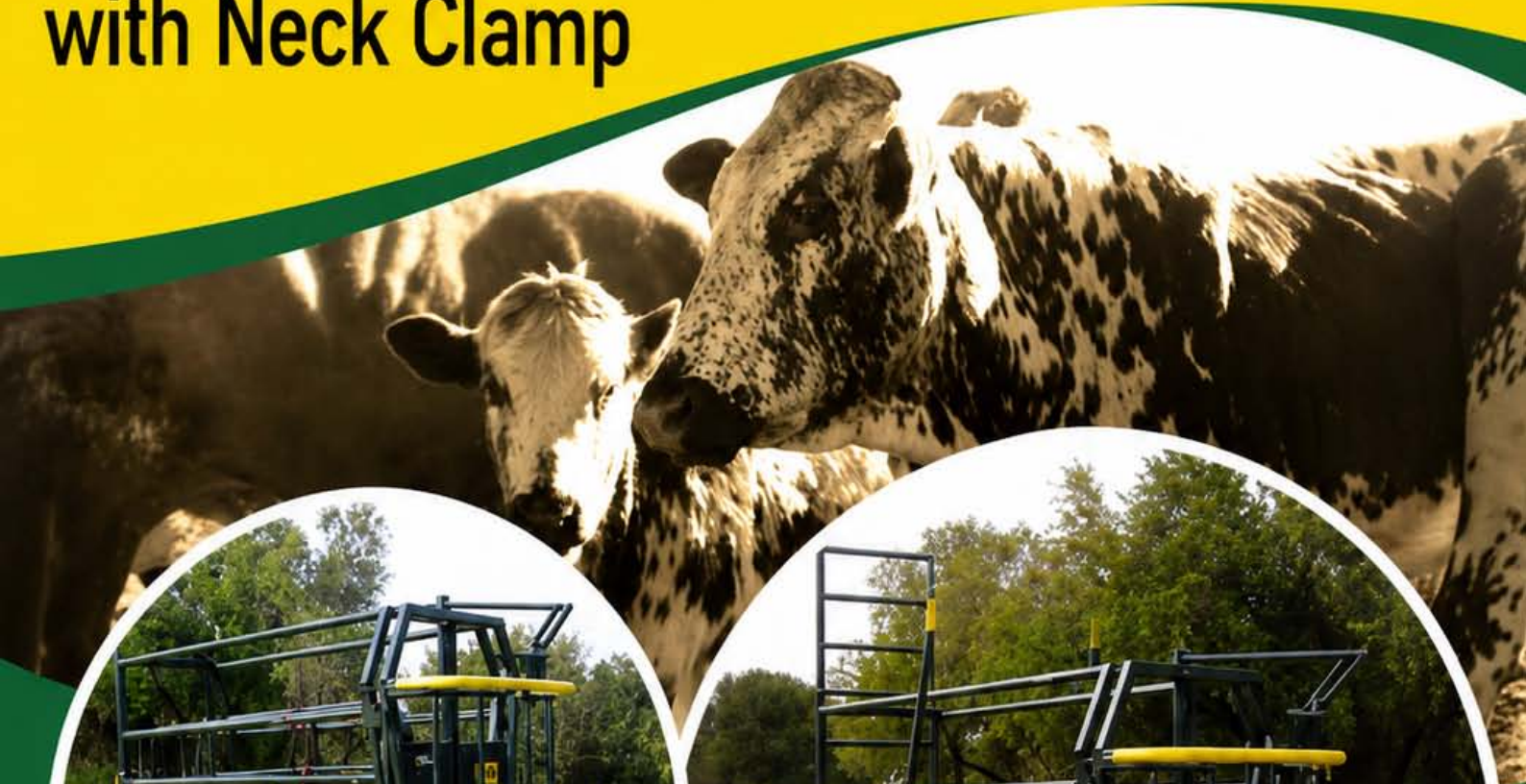
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October Planting: Getting Maize and Soybeans Established Right the First Time

Cultivar choice, seed treatment, planting depth, population, planter settings and soybean inoculation

A high-yielding maize or soybean crop begins long before the first leaves appear above the soil. By the time emergence problems become visible, much of the damage has already been done.

That makes plant establishment one of the most important management opportunities of the 2026/27 summer season.

The timing is particularly significant this October. South Africa's Department of Agriculture, citing the South African Weather Service Seasonal Climate Watch, reported in September that El Niño conditions are expected to continue through the 2026/27 summer, with increased probabilities of below-normal rainfall and higher temperatures across many areas. Farmers have consequently been advised to conserve soil moisture, choose appropriate cultivars and stay within recommended planting windows.

In a potentially tighter moisture season, a poorly established crop starts at an immediate disadvantage.

Cultivar choice comes before the planter

The best cultivar is not necessarily the one with the highest advertised yield.

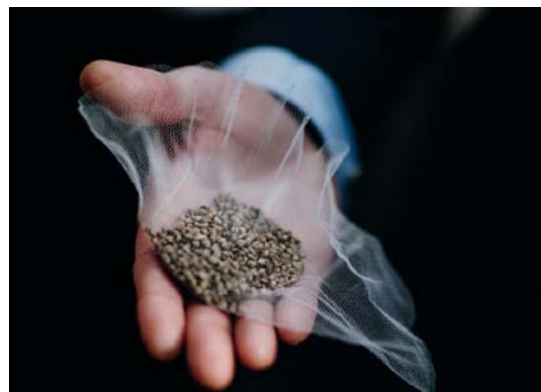
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For maize, producers should consider the farm's heat units, rainfall pattern, soil potential, expected planting date, disease pressure, standability and realistic yield potential. Grain SA specifically recommends asking seed suppliers for local trial data, drought tolerance, disease ratings and management requirements before selecting a hybrid.

Soybean selection is equally location-specific. The Agricultural Research Council emphasises that maturity group and growing-season length are fundamental to soybean cultivar choice because soybeans respond strongly to day length. Planting a cultivar outside the appropriate maturity group can alter flowering and maturity substantially.

For soybeans, Grain SA places the traditional optimum planting window in cooler production regions at approximately 20 October to 20 November, with progressively later windows in warmer areas. Local conditions and cultivar recommendations must, however, take precedence over calendar dates.



Plant into moisture – not into hope

Seed needs sufficient moisture and soil contact for rapid, uniform germination.

For maize, Grain SA guidance places an appropriate planting depth at roughly 4–5 cm under suitable conditions. Consistent depth assists uniform emergence and the development of a strong nodal root system.



Soybeans are generally planted at approximately 3–5 cm and should not simply be placed shallow because the seed is smaller. Grain SA warns against planting soybeans into dry soil; the seed must absorb substantial moisture before germination can begin.

Depth should therefore follow moisture conditions, soil type and the planter manufacturer's recommendations rather than an arbitrary setting.

Population must match the field

More plants do not automatically mean more yield.

Maize plant population should be matched to cultivar, soil potential, expected rainfall, row spacing and yield target. A high population on a moisture-limited hectare can increase competition precisely when water becomes scarce.

Soybeans have greater ability to compensate through branching. Grain SA reports that final populations can vary widely – roughly 180,000 to 400,000 plants/ha depending on row width, planting date and production potential. In many commercial dryland situations, approximately 250,000–300,000 plants/ha is commonly used as a starting range, but the cultivar and local recommendation remain decisive.

What matters is not what the planter monitor says was planted. It is the uniform stand actually established in the field.

Calibrate before every important planting change

Planters need attention when seed size, crop, cultivar or target population changes.

Grain SA's calibration guidance recommends measuring a known distance – such as 10 metres – planting at normal operating speed, counting the seeds delivered and

calculating actual spacing. Farmers should check for skips and doubles, confirm that the correct seed plate or vacuum setting is being used, and inspect planting depth regularly.

Seedbed conditions also matter. Excessive planter speed, worn discs, poor closing-wheel performance and sidewall compaction can destroy uniformity even when the population setting is theoretically correct.

The cheapest time to discover a planter problem is before the first 50 hectares have been planted.

Protect the seedling from day one

Seed treatments can protect emerging maize and soybean seedlings against specific seed- and soil-borne diseases and, where registered, certain early insect pests. Product choice must be based on local risk and the registered label.

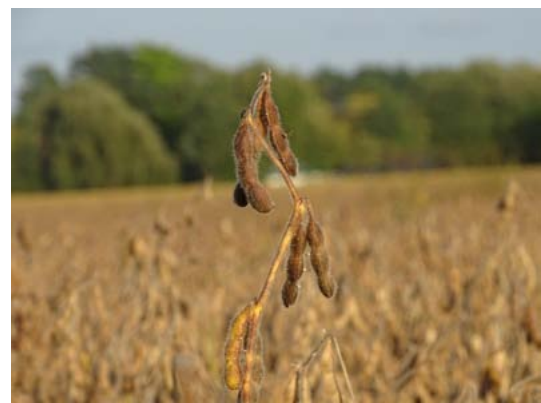
South African research reported by Grain SA has shown that appropriate fungicidal soybean seed treatments can improve establishment where soil-borne pathogens are present.

But seed treatment does not replace correct planting conditions. Cold, saturated, compacted or dry soil can still result in poor emergence.

Soybeans: never neglect inoculation

Soybean inoculation deserves special attention because the crop relies heavily on its relationship with Bradyrhizobium bacteria for biological nitrogen fixation.

The ARC notes that the appropriate soybean-nodulating rhizobia are absent or inadequate in many South African soils, particularly where soybeans have not previously been grown. Inoculation with an effective Bradyrhizobium



strain is therefore critical.

Grain SA advises keeping inoculant cool and out of direct sunlight and planting inoculated seed promptly unless the particular product is specifically formulated for extended survival.

Farmers must also confirm compatibility between fungicide/insecticide seed treatments and the chosen inoculant. These are living bacteria: incorrect mixing or exposure can compromise nodulation.

October's objective is simple.

Choose the right genetics. Plant into suitable moisture. Put every seed at the intended depth and spacing. Protect it appropriately. Inoculate soybeans correctly. Then get out of the cab and dig behind the planter.

You only get one first opportunity to establish the crop correctly.

Sources used

The principal technical sources are **Grain SA / Pula Imvula**, including its soybean establishment, planter calibration and hybrid-selection guidance; the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) soybean cultivar and biological nitrogen-fixation research; the **Protein Research Foundation** soybean-production guidance published through Grain SA; and the **South African Department of Agriculture / SAWS Seasonal Climate Watch** for the September 2026 El Niño outlook.

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Plant for Profit, Not Tonnes

The 2026/27 Summer Crop Decision

Maize vs soybeans vs sunflower: the hectare that produces the most is not necessarily the hectare that makes the most money.

As planters begin moving into South African fields for the 2026/27 summer season, producers face a different question from simply, **“Which crop will yield the most?”**

The more important question is: Which crop offers the best probability of producing a positive margin on this particular hectare?

That distinction matters in October 2026. Grain SA is warning that margins remain under pressure because commodity prices are relatively constrained while fertiliser, fuel, finance and other production costs remain high. Its latest 2026/27 production budgets compare maize, soybeans and sunflower across the major summer-production regions and demonstrate just how sharply profitability can change according to location and attainable yield.

The market is already sending a message

On 2 October, Grain SA's SAFEX feed showed May 2027 white maize at approximately R4,117/t, May yellow maize at R4,145/t, May soybeans at R8,755/t and May sunflower at about R9,460/t. These are futures prices, not the producer's final farm-gate price: location differentials, transport, handling, storage and marketing



costs still have to be considered.

The comparison nevertheless illustrates why simply chasing maximum tonnage can be dangerous.

A six-ton maize crop may look impressive, but if producing it requires very high fertiliser, seed, fuel, chemical and finance expenditure, its net return can be lower than a lower-yielding oilseed crop produced with substantially less capital at risk.

Grain SA's 2026/27 analysis used indicative forward prices of R3,800/t for maize, R7,900/t for soybeans and R10,000/t for sunflower when constructing its regional budgets. It found that sunflower showed particularly competitive margins in parts of the Eastern Free State, while soybean remained positive in several production regions. Maize profitability was significantly more dependent on achieving the required yield.

Know your break-even yield before planting

The calculation every producer should perform is simple:

Break-even yield = total cost per hectare ÷ expected net farm-gate price per tonne.

If a crop will cost R20,000/ha to produce and the realistic net price is R4,000/t, the producer requires 5 t/ha simply to recover R20,000/ha. Profit only begins above that point.

And the calculation needs to include far more than seed and fertiliser. Machinery repairs, fuel, crop protection, insurance, harvesting, finance costs, hedging expenses and fixed costs all matter.

Grain SA's latest analysis illustrates the exposure. Variable maize costs were estimated at approximately R15,508/ha in parts of North West and roughly R19,572/ha in the North West Free State, while fertiliser alone exceeded R8,600/ha in its Eastern Free State maize budget and R10,000/ha in parts of the Eastern Highveld.

A producer therefore needs a farm-specific budget, not a national average.

Maize: strong crop, but watch the margin



Maize remains South Africa's dominant summer grain, but farmers enter the new planting season following another very large crop. The CEC's 29 September estimate placed the 2026 commercial maize harvest at approximately 17.52 million tonnes, including about 9.61 million tonnes of white maize and 7.91 million tonnes of yellow maize.

Large domestic supply can weigh on prices, making cost control critical.

Maize should therefore be placed on hectares capable of producing the yield required by the budget rather than being planted simply because maize has traditionally been grown there.

Soybeans: lower nitrogen demand, but timing matters



Soybeans offer an important rotational alternative and benefit from biological nitrogen fixation when properly inoculated and managed. However, this does not make soybeans a "cheap maize replacement".

Seed, inoculant, crop protection, harvesting losses, soil fertility, disease management and the correct cultivar all influence profitability.

Planting timing also matters. Grain SA has long emphasised the importance of getting soybeans planted within the appropriate October-to-early-November window in suitable production areas.

Producers must additionally consider the applicable soybean location differential when converting a SAFEX futures price into their expected farm-gate return. Grain SA raised concerns during 2026 about the effect of South Africa's soybean reference-point system on producers in different geographic regions.

Sunflower: valuable flexibility in higher-risk areas



Sunflower deserves serious consideration, particularly where rainfall is more uncertain or where the optimal maize and soybean planting windows become difficult.

It generally has a lower yield potential in tonnes per hectare than maize, but that is precisely why tonnes alone are a poor measure of success. A lower-cost crop selling at a substantially higher price per tonne may produce a stronger return on capital.

Sunflower also provides greater planting-window flexibility in many production areas, although disease history – particularly Sclerotinia risk – must form part of the rotation decision. Grain SA's previous regional analyses have repeatedly highlighted sunflower's importance in western production areas.

El Niño changes the risk calculation

The weather outlook makes realistic yield assumptions even

more important.

The Department of Agriculture, citing SAWS's 31 August Seasonal Climate Watch, says El Niño is occurring and is expected to continue through the 2026/27 summer, with many areas showing increased probability of below-normal rainfall and higher temperatures. Government has specifically advised crop farmers not to expand planted area unnecessarily, to conserve soil moisture and to select appropriate cultivars while remaining within recommended planting windows.

This does not mean every district will experience drought. Seasonal forecasts describe probabilities, not guaranteed farm-level rainfall.

It does mean that budgeting a marginal hectare on an optimistic yield assumption is particularly dangerous this season.

As of early October, the CEC's official 2027 summer-crop intentions-to-plant survey has not yet been released; it is scheduled for 27 October 2026. Producers should therefore avoid treating speculation about the national maize, soybean or sunflower area as established fact.

The most defensible decision remains the one made hectare by hectare.

Know the soil. Know the realistic yield. Know the full cost. Know the farm-gate price. Stress-test the rainfall assumption. Then plant the crop that offers the strongest margin – not necessarily the biggest tonnage.

Sources used

1. [Grain SA's September 2026 regional summer-crop production budgets and SAFEX feeds](#)
2. [Crop Estimates Committee/Department of Agriculture](#)
3. [South African Weather Service seasonal outlook as reported by the Department of Agriculture](#)
4. [Grain SA's crop-market and production-planning material](#)



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Your Farm's 90-Day Water Security Plan

For South African farmers, water planning this October is no longer simply about whether the dams are full today. The more important question is whether the farm can continue supplying livestock and crops through the next 90 days if rainfall is late, temperatures rise, a pump fails or a borehole delivers less water than expected.

That question is particularly relevant heading into the 2026/27 summer. South Africa's Department of Agriculture reported in September that El Niño conditions are expected to continue through the summer season, with many areas facing an increased probability of below-normal rainfall and higher temperatures. The South African Weather Service outlook for October to December similarly indicates that below-normal rainfall is the most likely outcome across much of the country, accompanied by above-normal temperatures.¹



The solution is not panic. It is arithmetic.

1 Calculate what the farm actually needs *Start with livestock.*

Water requirements change according to species, body weight, production stage, feed, temperature and water quality. South African livestock research provides a useful illustration: a 450 kg beef animal may consume around 40 litres per day at 5°C but approximately 100 litres per day at 32°C. Sheep and goats typically consume roughly 4–10 litres per day, while demand can increase substantially during hot weather.²

For water-security planning, farmers should therefore calculate against summer peak demand, not winter averages.

For example, if 100 cattle could require 100 litres each on a very hot day:

- 100 cattle × 100 litres = 10,000 litres/day

- Over 90 days, that represents 900,000 litres of potential livestock drinking demand if those conditions persisted. The objective is not necessarily to store all 900,000 litres, but to know the demand that dams, boreholes, tanks, pumps and pipelines collectively have to supply.

The same calculation must include sheep, goats, dairy cattle, feedlots, poultry, households, spraying and other farm uses.

2 Crops require a different calculation

For irrigated crops, water demand is expressed in millimetres. One millimetre of water applied across one hectare equals 10,000 litres.

FAO guidance estimates total crop-water requirements over a growing season at approximately 500–800 mm for **maize**, 450–700 mm for **soybeans** and 600–1,000 mm for **sunflower**, although actual requirements depend strongly on climate, growth stage and local conditions.³

Importantly, irrigation requirement is not automatically equal to total crop-water requirement. Effective rainfall, stored soil moisture and other available water must be deducted. FAO defines irrigation need broadly as

the difference between the crop's water requirement and the rainfall effectively available to the crop.³

This makes accurate rain gauges, soil-moisture information and irrigation scheduling increasingly valuable when water is scarce.

3 Audit every water source now

A farm's 90-day plan should identify every dam, borehole, reservoir and tank and record:

usable capacity, current level, expected inflow, pumping capacity and what happens if that source fails.

Do not assume that a borehole's historic performance is its current sustainable yield. The Agricultural Research Council's own borehole-management work includes yield testing, recovery monitoring and water-quality assessment before incorporating groundwater into reticulation systems.⁴

The Water Research Commission's groundwater guidance similarly recognises that commercial agricultural systems may need multiple boreholes, storage reservoirs or large tanks, extensive pipelines and, where necessary, booster pumps.⁵

In other words, a borehole without a reliable pump, storage and distribution system is not a complete backup plan.

4 Find the invisible water losses

Walk every pipeline.

Check leaking trough valves, cracked fittings, overflowing tanks, damaged irrigation lines and pumps cycling when no water should be moving.

A leak of only one litre per minute wastes 1,440 litres per day – almost 130,000 litres over 90 days.

Farmers should also check whether troughs refill quickly enough during

peak drinking periods. Supplying sufficient total litres over 24 hours is not enough if a large herd reaches a trough faster than the pipe and float valve can refill it.

5 Don't judge water security from national dam figures

Conditions vary dramatically between regions.

On 28 September 2026, the Department of Water and Sanitation reported the Integrated Vaal River System at approximately 99.7%, giving users of that system a strong storage buffer.⁶

Yet Cape Town reported Western Cape Water Supply System dam levels of 75.7% on 2 October, with restrictions under consideration because storage was below the approximately 80% level typically sought at the end of the winter rainfall season.⁷

A national headline therefore tells a farmer very little about the water sitting behind his or her own pump tomorrow morning.

6 Build redundancy before you need it

October is the time to service pumps, test generators or solar pumping systems, clean tanks, inspect dam outlets and repair pipelines.

Ask five questions:

1. How many litres do we require on our hottest day?
2. Can our pumps deliver that volume?
3. How many days can we operate if the primary source fails?
4. What is our second water source?
5. How quickly could we move or store emergency water?

Government is already urging farmers to conserve soil moisture, harvest water where practical, use efficient irrigation systems and prepare for potentially hotter and drier conditions.⁶



A 90-day water plan cannot make it rain.

But it can prevent a blocked pipe, leaking trough, undersized tank or failed pump from turning a difficult summer into a farm emergency.

Sources

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2. [KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development livestock research](#)
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7. [City of Cape Town Dam levels](#)

FARMhere Article

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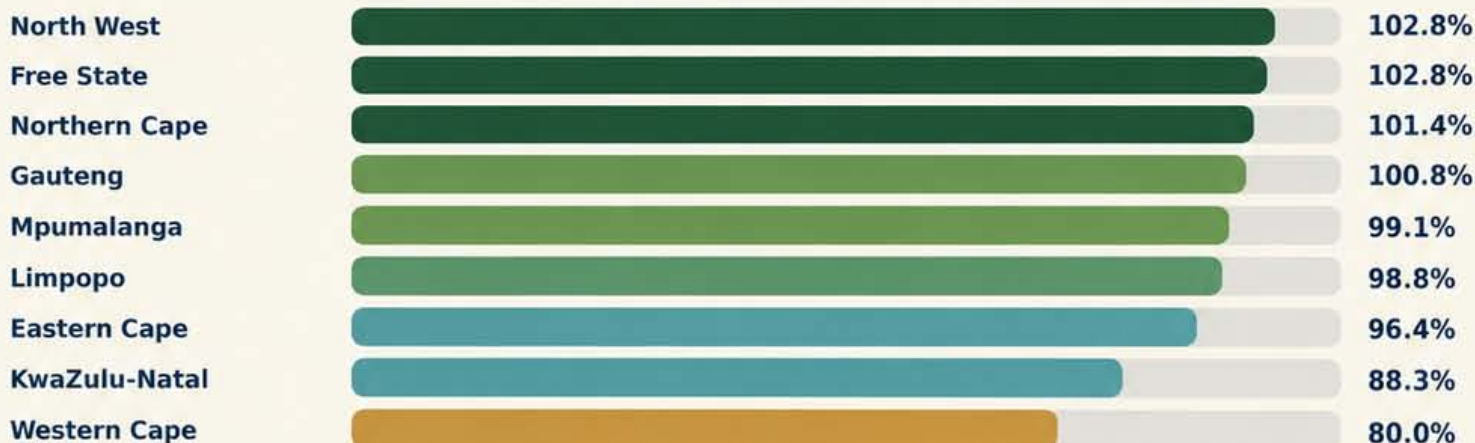
Latest available weekly dam data for the agricultural sector

Provincial update: 5 October 2026

INLAND STORAGE LEVELS REMAIN BROADLY STRONG

PROVINCIAL DAM LEVELS

Average storage level based on the latest weekly update



NOTE: A reading above 100% means a dam is above its full supply level.
This does not mean all water is immediately available for agricultural use.

IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL DAMS

Latest available individual readings



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FARMERS?

- Inland major storage dams remain mostly near or above full supply levels.
- The Western Cape remains lower than the rest of the country, with significant variation between major dams.
- Strong dam levels do not remove the need for water planning, irrigation efficiency and drought-risk management.

SOURCES

- Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) — Weekly State of Reservoirs / provincial dam reporting.
- City of Cape Town — Weekly dam levels for the Western Cape Water Supply System.
- Latest available readings used in this graphic were current in early October 2026.

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The Most Expensive Fertiliser Is the Fertiliser Your Soil Does Not Need

Soil sampling, pH, lime, NPK and precision application can protect margins before the 2026/27 crop is planted.

South African grain producers are entering the 2026/27 planting season under severe pressure to extract more value from every rand spent on inputs. In that environment, applying more fertiliser is not automatically better farming.

The objective is to put the right nutrient, at the right rate, in the right place, for a realistic yield target.

That starts underground.

Fertiliser remains one of the largest costs carried by grain producers. Grain SA reported during 2026 that fertiliser can represent roughly 30% to 50% of variable production costs, while South Africa remains heavily dependent on imported fertiliser. International energy and shipping volatility therefore has a direct impact on farmers' margins. Grain SA Home

Grain SA's latest 2026/27 regional production budgets were published in September, alongside its September Chemical and Fertilizer Report. With margins under pressure, the financial argument for testing soil before spending money on nutrients has rarely been stronger. Grain SA Home



Start with a representative soil sample

A laboratory can analyse a sample perfectly and still produce information of little value if the soil taken to the laboratory does not represent the field.

Grain SA recommends regular soil analysis and notes that fields should generally be sampled around every three years, although management intensity and changing field conditions may justify more frequent testing. Soil sampling identifies available nutrients, acidity and deficiencies and provides the basis for lime and fertiliser recommendations. Grain SA Home

Avoid sampling abnormal areas such as old manure heaps, fence lines, wet patches, erosion channels or locations where lime or fertiliser has accumulated.

Where soils, previous yields or management zones differ significantly across a field,

treating the whole field as one homogeneous unit can conceal important differences.

And remember how small the final laboratory sample is. Grain SA notes that only a small portion of the submitted soil is eventually analysed. That tiny sample must therefore represent hectares of farmland. Grain SA Home

pH can determine whether fertiliser works

One of the first values producers should examine is soil acidity.

Most grain crops perform best under moderately acidic rather than severely acidic conditions. Grain SA explains that laboratories commonly report pH in potassium chloride, or pH(KCl), which reads roughly one pH unit lower than a comparable water-based measurement. This distinction matters when interpreting results. Grain SA Home

As soils acidify, aluminium can

become soluble and toxic to roots. Restricted roots mean poorer access to both nutrients and moisture.

This is particularly important in the 2026/27 season. The Department of Agriculture says El Niño is expected to continue through summer, with increased probability of below-normal rainfall and higher temperatures in many areas. A crop already suffering from restricted rooting enters a dry period at an obvious disadvantage. Government of South Africa

For maize, Grain SA and ARC guidance indicates that aluminium toxicity becomes an important risk in strongly acidic soils and that acid saturation, rather than pH alone, is an important indicator when calculating lime requirements. Grain SA Home

Lime is an investment – but only at the correct rate

Lime corrects soil acidity and can improve nutrient availability and root development.

But lime should also be prescribed according to soil analysis.

Calcitic and dolomitic lime are not interchangeable simply because both increase pH. Dolomitic lime also supplies magnesium and may be appropriate where soil magnesium is deficient. Lime quality, fineness, neutralising value, transport cost and incorporation all affect economic value. Grain SA Home

More lime is not automatically better.

Applying substantially more than required wastes money and may create nutrient imbalances. Grain SA advises calculating the lime requirement according to acidity, soil characteristics, depth and the quality of the liming material. Grain SA Home

Timing also matters. Lime reacts gradually and needs good soil

contact and moisture. Ideally, corrective liming is planned well before planting rather than treated as an emergency once the planter is already moving.

Build N, P and K around yield potential

Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fulfil different functions.

- **Nitrogen (N)** is critical for vegetative growth, chlorophyll formation and yield.
- **Phosphorus (P)** supports early root growth, energy transfer, flowering and maturation.
- **Potassium (K)** contributes to stalk strength, water regulation, crop quality and tolerance to stresses such as drought. Grain SA Home

But a crop does not need an unlimited supply.

The fertiliser programme should combine soil-test values, realistic yield potential, crop removal, previous fertilisation, rotation and expected nutrient availability.

A 4 t/ha soil should not automatically receive a fertiliser programme designed for an 8 t/ha field merely because the producer hopes for rain.

That is where margin is lost.

Variable-rate application changes the question

A conventional programme asks: **“How much fertiliser does this field need?”**

Precision agriculture asks: **“How much does each part of this field need?”**

GPS-based grid or zone sampling can identify variations in pH, phosphorus, potassium and other properties. Those results can be converted into prescription maps that allow lime or nutrients to be applied at different rates across the same field.



Grain SA notes that variable-rate treatment can reduce expenditure in areas already carrying adequate fertility while correcting under-fertilised or acidic zones. Grain SA Home

It does require additional sampling, mapping, calibrated equipment and good data. Variable-rate technology therefore needs its own return-on-investment calculation.

But the principle is powerful: stop spending the same amount of money on hectares that are not the same.

For October 2026, that may be one of the most important fertiliser strategies available.

The most profitable fertiliser programme is not necessarily the cheapest programme – and certainly not the biggest.

It is the programme that starts with evidence.

Sample. Correct the pH. Set a realistic yield target. Apply what the soil and crop actually require. Then measure the result.

That is how fertiliser becomes an investment rather than simply an expense.

Sources

Principal sources used:

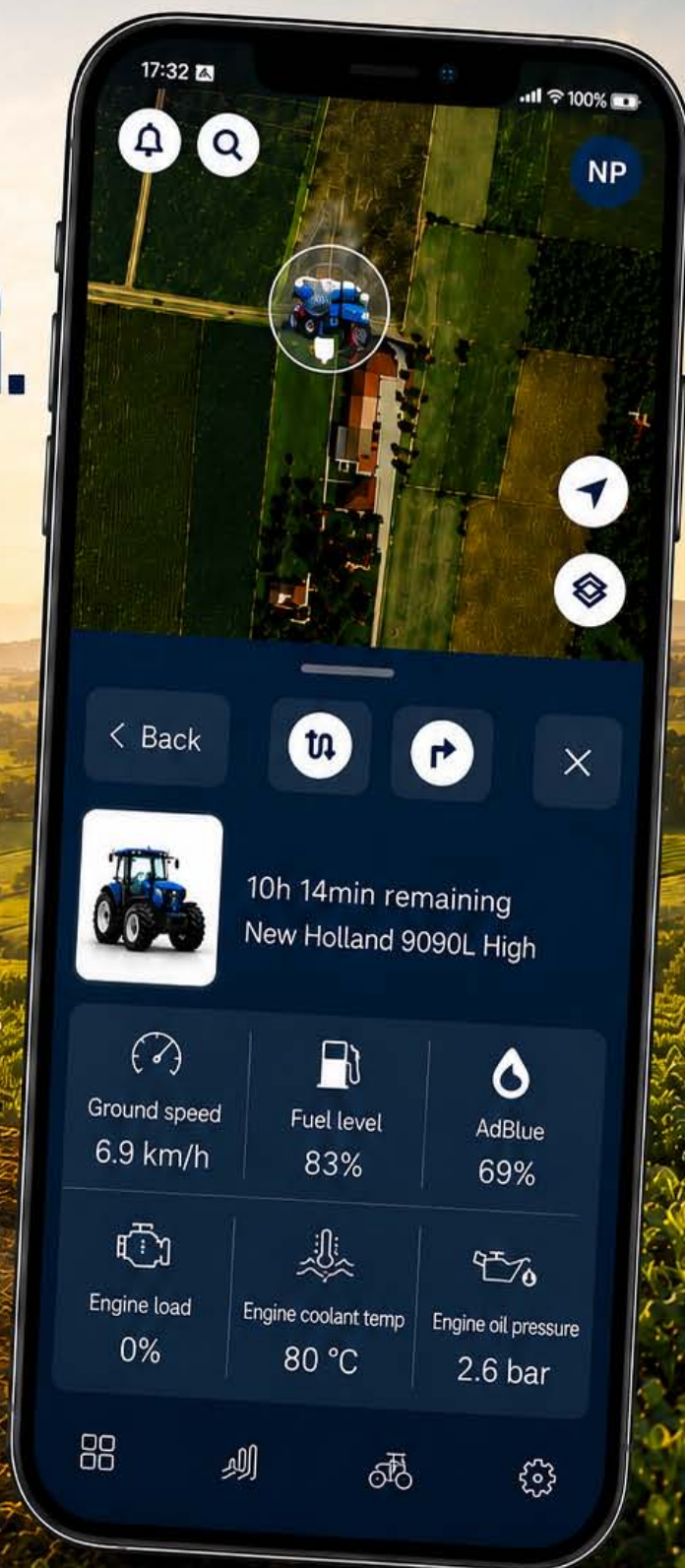
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3. Agricultural Research Council Maize Information Guide
4. Fertilizer Association of Southern Africa (FERTASA) [Fertilizer Handbook](#)
5. [South African Department of Agriculture's September 2026 El Niño advisory](#).



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Summer Parasite Alert: Ticks, Flies and Worms Are About to Cost You Money

Build the programme before parasite pressure builds

The arrival of warmer weather and summer rainfall can transform a manageable parasite problem into a production problem remarkably quickly.

Ticks, biting flies and gastro-intestinal worms do not merely irritate livestock. Heavy parasite burdens can reduce grazing time, suppress weight gain, cause blood loss, affect milk production and, in severe cases, contribute to mortality. The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) describes internal and external parasites as economically important to South African livestock precisely because losses occur both directly and through the diseases some parasites transmit.

For farmers, October is therefore the time to build the summer parasite programme – not wait until cattle are covered in ticks or sheep become anaemic.



Start with what is actually on your farm

Parasite control should never be a calendar exercise alone.

Tick species and tick-borne disease risks vary considerably between regions. The parasites found in the wetter eastern and north-eastern parts of South Africa differ from those dominating more arid western areas. Animal species, breed, grazing system, rainfall and previous treatment history all influence risk.

Start by inspecting livestock regularly.

Check cattle around the ears, neck, dewlap, udder, tail, groin and between the legs. In sheep and goats, examine vulnerable areas and monitor body condition, eyelid colour, dagging and signs of bottle jaw.

Recording what you find is valuable. A simple notebook showing parasite counts, treatment dates, products used and treatment



response can expose patterns that memory alone will miss.

Know the tick-borne diseases – without assuming every tick means disease

South African cattle producers should be familiar with heartwater, redwater or babesiosis, and anaplasmosis, commonly called gallsickness.

The ARC identifies all three as economically important tick-borne diseases and produces live-blood vaccines used as part of their management. Importantly, risk depends on the presence of the

appropriate tick vector and local epidemiology.

Heartwater is associated primarily with *Amblyomma* bont ticks.

Redwater is caused by *Babesia* species, while anaplasmosis is caused by *Anaplasma marginale*. Biting flies can also mechanically contribute to anaplasmosis transmission.

Farmers should watch for unexplained fever, weakness, poor appetite, anaemia, abnormal behaviour, jaundice or red/brown urine and involve a veterinarian promptly when tick-borne disease is suspected.

These diseases occur in South Africa, but their presence should **not** be inferred simply because ticks are found on an animal.

Dip strategically – not automatically

Acaricides remain an important part of tick control, but indiscriminate treatment creates another problem: resistance.

University of Pretoria's Anipedia tick-control guidance notes that resistance has been documented against several acaricide groups in South Africa, particularly in blue ticks, with multi-resistant populations recorded on some farms.

Repeatedly using the same active ingredient, applying incorrect concentrations and poor dip-tank management can increase selection pressure.

That means farmers should know the active ingredient, not merely the brand name.

If a treatment suddenly appears ineffective, first check mixing, dosage, application technique, product storage and whether animals were completely treated. Persistent treatment failure should be investigated with a veterinarian or animal-health professional rather than simply increasing the dose.

Always follow the registered product label, including meat and milk withdrawal periods.

Flies cost production too

Horn flies, face flies, stable flies and other nuisance or biting flies can increase stress and reduce grazing behaviour. South African beef-production guidance notes that heavy external-parasite pressure can cause cattle to spend more time avoiding insects and less time grazing, negatively affecting performance.

Fly management starts with breeding areas.

Remove or manage manure accumulation, rotting feed, wet bedding and constantly damp organic matter around pens, troughs and feeding areas. Treat animals where justified with a product registered for that species and purpose.

In sheep, farmers should also remain alert for wounds and soiled wool that may predispose animals to blowfly problems.

Worm control needs a different strategy



After rain, conditions on pasture may favour the development and survival of infective worm larvae. Grazing animals then ingest these larvae.

The dangerous response is to dose every animal repeatedly without knowing whether treatment is required.

South African small-stock guidance warns that anthelmintic resistance is a major concern. The ARC recommends targeted assessment using systems such as the Five

Point Check and, for blood-sucking *Haemonchus contortus* or wireworm, FAMACHA when used by properly trained farmers. Faecal egg counts can provide additional information on worm burden and treatment efficacy.

Correct dosing also matters. Weigh animals as accurately as possible, ensure dosing equipment is calibrated and do not under-dose.

Build the programme now

A practical summer parasite plan should answer five questions:

What parasites occur here? When do they normally increase? Which animals are most vulnerable? Which active ingredients still work? How will we measure whether treatment succeeded?

Also quarantine newly purchased livestock. Apart from disease biosecurity, incoming animals can introduce ticks – including populations carrying acaricide resistance – onto a previously unaffected farm.

The objective is not to eliminate every parasite from every animal.

It is to keep parasite pressure below the point where it damages animal health and farm profitability while preserving effective treatments for the future.

Inspect early. Treat according to risk. Record what works. Test suspected resistance. And involve your veterinarian before a seasonal parasite problem becomes a herd problem.

Sources used

The principal technical sources are the **Agricultural Research Council – Onderstepoort Veterinary Research**, particularly its Parasites, Vectors and Vector-Borne Diseases programme and tick-borne disease vaccine information; **University of Pretoria Anipedia's Control of Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases in Southern Africa**; the **ARC Goatkeepers' Animal Health Care Manual and Climate-Smart Small Ruminant Production Manual**; and official **South African Department of Agriculture animal-disease information**.

Resilience starts with informed decisions



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Pre-emergence control, spraying windows, resistant weeds, nozzle choice, water quality and spray calibration

The first good summer rain does more than prepare a seedbed for maize and soybeans. It also triggers a flush of weeds ready to compete for the same moisture, nutrients and sunlight that the newly planted crop needs.

In October 2026, early weed control deserves even greater attention. South Africa's Department of Agriculture reported in September that **El Niño conditions are expected to persist through the 2026/27 summer**, with below-normal rainfall and higher temperatures more likely across many production areas. When moisture may become limiting later in the season, allowing weeds to consume it during establishment is an expensive mistake.

The principle is simple: the cheapest weed to control is usually the young weed – or the weed that never emerges.

Start before the weeds appear

Pre-emergence herbicides can provide an important first barrier by controlling susceptible weeds as they germinate.



The correct programme depends on the crop, weed spectrum, soil texture, organic matter, pH, previous herbicides and rotational plans. Some residual herbicides can affect follow-up crops months after application, which makes label restrictions particularly important when rotating maize with broadleaf crops such as soybeans. Pre-emergence products also need the correct soil conditions and,

depending on the active ingredient and label, adequate moisture or rainfall to move the herbicide into the weed-germination zone. Grain SA notes the contrast between pre-emergence chemistry, which may benefit from rainfall for activation, and post-emergence products that generally require a suitable rain-free period after application.

Farmers should only use products registered for the crop and weed concerned and apply them exactly according to the South African label.

Resistance has become a South African problem

Repeating the same herbicide programme year after year creates selection pressure.

This is no longer a theoretical concern. Research reported by the South African Herbicide Resistance

Initiative at the University of Pretoria found increasing resistance in common pigweed (*Amaranthus hybridus*) in South Africa's summer-rainfall production region. Resistant populations have been identified against glyphosate – HRAC Group 9 – as well as ALS-inhibiting herbicides in HRAC Group 2, with multiple resistance also being observed.

CropLife South Africa warns that repeatedly relying on one mode of action allows naturally resistant individuals to survive and reproduce. Its resistance-management guidance recommends integrated weed management using crop rotation, cultural or mechanical measures where appropriate, field scouting and rotation or combination of effective herbicide modes of action according to registered labels.

A weed that survives a correctly timed and correctly applied treatment should therefore not simply be ignored.

Investigate it before it produces seed.

Timing matters after emergence

Post-emergence herbicides perform best when the target weed is within the growth stage specified on the product label and is actively growing.

Waiting until weeds are large, moisture-stressed and hardened off makes control more difficult. At the same time, spraying simply because the sprayer is available can be equally costly.

High temperatures accelerate evaporation and produce smaller, more drift-prone droplets. CropLife South Africa advises avoiding application in very hot conditions and warns against spraying during temperature inversions, excessive wind or immediately before rainfall where the product has not achieved the required rainfast period.

October's changing weather therefore makes the spraying window almost as important as the herbicide.

Your spray water is part of the tank mix

Farmers often focus on an expensive herbicide while paying little attention to the substance making up most of the spray mixture: water.

Dirty water containing clay, silt or organic material can reduce the performance of certain active ingredients and block nozzles. Hard water containing calcium and magnesium may interact with some herbicides, while unsuitable pH can also influence chemical stability and efficacy.

Have questionable spray water analysed. Do not automatically add acidifiers, ammonium sulphate or other conditioners because someone else uses them. Use only an appropriate conditioner or adjuvant where the product label, water analysis and technical recommendation justify it.

One nozzle does not suit every job



Nozzle choice determines spray volume, droplet size, coverage and drift potential.

Grain SA guidance notes that flat-fan nozzles are commonly used for broadcast herbicide applications, while other nozzle designs can produce larger, more drift-resistant droplets or finer droplets where greater coverage is required.

The correct choice depends on the herbicide label and target.

Increasing pressure merely to obtain more output can create

smaller droplets and greater drift. Spray volume should instead be adjusted through the correct nozzle, pressure and travel speed combination.

Calibrate before the season and during it

A R1 million sprayer can still apply the wrong dose if it is not calibrated.

Grain SA recommends calibrating before spraying begins and repeating the process during the season. Farmers should check travel speed, nozzle spacing, boom width, pressure and individual nozzle output to determine the actual litres applied per hectare.

Clean filters. Check for leaks. Compare nozzle outputs. Replace worn or damaged nozzles.

Crop protection is too expensive to guess.

This October, the objective should not simply be to kill visible weeds. It should be to protect the crop before competition begins, preserve effective herbicides for future seasons and ensure that every litre leaving the sprayer lands where it is supposed to.

Scout early. Know your weeds. Protect the pre-emergence window. Rotate modes of action. Test your water. Choose the correct nozzle. Calibrate the sprayer. And never allow survivors to become next year's seed bank.

Sources

The principal sources are **Grain SA/Pula Imvula** guidance on weed control, sprayer calibration, water quality and nozzle selection; the **South African Herbicide Resistance Initiative (SAHRI)**, **University of Pretoria**, as reported by Grain SA; **CropLife South Africa** resistance-management and pesticide-application guidance; and the **South African Department of Agriculture's September 2026 El Niño** advisory. [CropLife's Agri-Intel database](#) can also be used to verify crop-protection products currently registered for use in South Africa.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF trace minerals and vitamins IN PREPARATION PRIOR TO BREEDING



Trace minerals are needed in small amounts in the body. Typical examples of important trace minerals are copper, zinc, manganese, cobalt and selenium.

Vitamins that are also important include the fat-soluble vitamins (vitamin A, -D and -E) and water-soluble B-vitamins. Trace elements and vitamins play an important role specifically in the antioxidant systems of the body. They are incorporated into specific enzyme systems which are responsible for protecting the body against free radicals that cause damage at a cellular level. Essentially trace minerals and vitamins form part of the systems in the body responsible for protecting it against normal “wear and tear” and therefore plays an important role in general health, immunity and fertility of animals.^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}

Trace elements play a role in the fertility of animals and deficiencies of copper, manganese, selenium, cobalt and zinc may lead to reduced reproductive performance.⁶ Supplementation of these trace minerals prior to breeding is therefore beneficial and

will have a positive effect on sperm production in male animals and the follicular development on ovaries and estrous activity in female animals.⁶

Vitamin A is an important vitamin for reproduction.

A deficiency will lead to failure of sperm production in male animals and reduced conception, early embryonic death, or resorption of the fetus in female animals.^{7,8,9} A deficiency of Vitamin A may also lead to a higher incidence of retained fetal membranes, the birth of dead, weak or blind calves.² In dairy cows, the economic benefits to proper vitamin supplementation include increased milk production, improved reproduction, reduced prevalence of mastitis, reduced occurrence of milk fever, and fewer reproductive disorders.⁵

During certain times of the production cycle, namely the breeding-, calving / lambing- and weaning season, animals are under tremendous stress and the antioxidant- and immune systems are usually overwhelmed. Deficiencies in trace elements and vitamins are experienced during these times and sufficient trace elements and vitamins are therefore needed.

It is advised that Farmers apply strategic supplementation of trace minerals and vitamins 4 weeks prior to breeding to improve fertility and reduce reproductive complications.

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KyronAgri Article

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Product name: Doraject + AD₃E LA. **Registration number:** G3912 Act 36/1947 (South Africa). **Each 1 m³ contains:** Doramectin 1,0 % m/v; Vitamin A 3,3 % m/v; Vitamin D₃ 0,01 % m/v; Vitamin E 5,0 % m/v. **Export countries:** Botswana - BV2100145A [POM]; Namibia - V13/18.1.8/1190 [NSO]. **Product name:** Ivermax Platinum LA. **Registration number:** G3832 Act 36/1947 (South Africa). **Composition:** Ivermectin 3,15 m/v. **Export countries:** Botswana - BV2100245A [VPS]; Namibia - V13/18.1.2/1186 [NSO]. **Registration holder:** Kyron Animal Health (Pty) Ltd, Co. Reg. No. 2004/021847/07, Unit 45C, 45 Parkview Street, Highway Business Park, Rooihuiskraal Ext. 31, Centurion, 0157, South Africa.

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Is Your Machinery Ready for Planting?



Tractor servicing, planter wear, tyres, batteries, hydraulics, lubricants, bearings and the spare parts that could save a planting day

When the soil moisture is right and the planting window opens, a tractor standing beside the field with a failed bearing, burst hydraulic hose or flat battery becomes far more expensive than the replacement part.

For South African summer-crop farmers, October is therefore maintenance month.

Grain SA's October 2026 machinery guidance warns that poor planter performance can create uneven depth, skips, doubles, poorly closed seed furrows and inconsistent stands. Once seed is in the ground, many of those mistakes can only be corrected by replanting.

The objective before planting is simple: find the failure in the workshop rather than in the field.

Start with the tractor

Complete the tractor's scheduled service according to the manufacturer's manual before peak planting begins.

Grain SA recommends checking engine oil and filters, diesel

filters, air filtration, hydraulic and transmission oils where due, belts, steering lubrication, wheel bearings, water pumps and cooling systems. Radiators and hoses should be inspected for leaks because an overheating tractor can quickly bring planting to a stop.

Look beneath the machine after it has stood overnight. Oil, coolant or hydraulic fluid on the floor is often an early warning.

Also inspect electrical connections and the battery. Clean corrosion from terminals, make sure connections and hold-downs are secure and have a questionable battery and charging system tested before planting. A battery that starts a tractor on a cool morning may not necessarily perform reliably through repeated long working days.

Your planter deserves a row-by-row inspection

The planter has a direct influence on the yield potential being placed into the soil.



Grain SA's October 2026 checklist recommends inspecting wear points throughout the machine. Openers must still be within manufacturer specifications; worn discs can affect furrow formation and planting depth. Gauge-wheel components, closing wheels, bearings, chains, sprockets and metering systems all require attention.

A loose bearing today can become a seized row unit tomorrow.

Check every row unit individually. Look for sideways play, damaged springs, worn bushings and misalignment. Chains should move freely, have appropriate tension and be lubricated as specified.

On vacuum planters, inspect hoses and seals for cracks or air leaks and make sure the vacuum system can maintain the required pressure. Grain SA notes that worn seals or compromised vacuum components can interfere with accurate seed metering.

Calibrate – then dig behind the planter

Maintenance is only half the job.

Before committing hundreds of hectares, calibrate the planter for the actual seed being planted. Seed size, target population and metering system all matter.

Grain SA recommends planting over a measured distance, counting delivered seeds and checking the resulting spacing. Once in the field, stop and ****dig behind the planter**** to confirm seed depth, spacing and seed-to-soil contact.

Compare seed bags used against hectares planted as another practical check that actual population is close to the intended rate.

If fertiliser is being applied through the planter, calibrate that system separately. Too little fertiliser may restrict the crop; too much wastes money and may create placement injury depending on product and configuration.

Tyres are part of planter accuracy



Tyres should not be treated merely as something that keeps the tractor moving.

Inspect tread, sidewalls, cuts, cracking, valves and wheel nuts. Repair slow leaks before the season begins.

Planter tyres matter too. Grain SA specifically recommends maintaining the pressure stated by the manufacturer because a planter drive wheel may control seed or fertiliser metering. Incorrect pressure changes its rolling circumference and can affect application accuracy.

On the tractor, use the tyre manufacturer's recommended pressure for the actual load, tyre and operating conditions rather than relying on a single pressure for every task.

Treat hydraulic hoses as wear items

Walk around both tractor and planter and inspect every hydraulic hose.

Pay particular attention to fold points, pivots and locations where hoses rub against frames or other hoses. John Deere's planter inspection guidance specifically calls for checking hoses, routing, supports, fittings and signs of wear or leakage.

Replace suspect hoses before planting.

Never search for a high-pressure hydraulic leak with your hand. Escaping hydraulic fluid can penetrate skin and requires urgent medical attention.

Lubrication is cheap insurance

Find every grease point before the machine enters the field.

Bearings, pivots, shafts and other moving parts must be lubricated at the intervals and with the lubricant specified by the manufacturer. Grain SA recommends routine lubrication and checking fluid levels as part of preventative machinery maintenance.

Do not ignore a bearing that is noisy, excessively warm or developing play.

The small component is cheap.

The secondary damage when it fails may not be.

Build a planting-season emergency shelf

Every farm is different, but critical spares should be selected according to failure history, dealer distance and replacement lead time.

Useful candidates include filters, belts, appropriate oils and lubricants, hydraulic hoses or common fittings, bearings, chain links, sprockets, planter springs, seed-meter components, opener or closing-wheel components, electrical fuses and essential bolts and fasteners.

Also check that workshop tools, tyre-repair equipment, grease guns and emergency lighting are ready.

Planting cannot be made breakdown-proof.

But most farms can become significantly more breakdown-resistant.

Service the tractor. Inspect every planter row. Check tyres and batteries. Replace questionable hydraulic hoses. Lubricate bearings. Calibrate seed and fertiliser systems. Stock the parts most likely to stop you. Then test everything before the planting window arrives.

A day's preventative maintenance in October can protect several crucial days in the field.

Sources used

The principal sources are [Grain SA](#) / [Pula Imvula](#), including its newly published October 2026 features *Routine Maintenance Prevents Costly Delays and Precision Planting Starts with Calibration*, plus its planter-maintenance, calibration and pre-season machinery guidance. Grain SA Home The hydraulic and planter inspection recommendations are also supported by [John Deere's Planter Inspection Checklist and Ready to Plant Guide](#).



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Water is life:

Why Damlinings should be part of your 2026/27 farm preparation

For a South African farmer, water is not simply another input. It determines stocking capacity, crop establishment, irrigation reliability and, ultimately, whether a farming operation can continue producing through a difficult season. With El Niño strengthening ahead of the 2026/27 summer, protecting every available litre of stored water has become an increasingly important part of farm risk management.

This is precisely the environment in which Damlinings has built its business: helping farmers capture, contain and protect water.

A family business with an established agricultural history

Damlinings is a South African family business headed by André Meyer, who handles quotations and marketing, while his sons operate their own installation teams. The company describes itself as having served more than a 1 000 clients and has developed an agricultural footprint extending well beyond one province.

Its history in the farming market is also publicly traceable. BOERhier advertising records show Damlinings actively marketing



HDPE and PVC dam liners and DIY systems for smaller dams as far back as 2018, while agricultural advertising from 2020 again records its nationwide service and liner offering.

Today, the company states that it works throughout South Africa, with services also extending into Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Eswatini and Lesotho.

More than one solution for water storage

One of Damlinings' strengths is that a farmer is not limited to a single lining system.

Its current product range includes HDPE liners from 0.5 mm to 2 mm, recycled PVC liners at 600 micron/510 gsm, white-bottom recycled liners, mesh dams, DIY cement-dam systems and cement-dam solutions. The company has also advertised silage sheets and dam nets, broadening its relevance to livestock and mixed farming operations.



Damlinings also lists waterproofing and maintenance solutions. Its Plasticryl acrylic waterproofing system, for example, is described as a flexible, UV-stable acrylic polymer used with polyester reinforcement for waterproofing

applications.

Correct specification matters. Industry guidance from Engineered Plastics & Linings South Africa notes that agricultural geomembrane selection should consider factors including puncture resistance, hydraulic load, UV resistance, liner thickness and penetrations. HDPE is one of the most commonly used geomembranes for agricultural water containment. (eplsa.co.za)

That is why professional preparation and installation are as important as the liner itself.

El Niño makes preparation now critical

The climate outlook for Southern Africa makes the timing especially important.

The SADC Climate Services Centre's August 2026 SARCOF-33 outlook says El Niño conditions are established and are expected to strengthen to strong or very strong intensity during late 2026. For October to December 2026, below-normal rainfall is favoured across most of South Africa and large portions of neighbouring southern African countries, while above-average temperatures are expected across much of the region. (SADC Climate Services Centre)

FAO has consequently urged early agricultural preparation, reporting that the 2026/27 regional outlook favours drier conditions across much of central and southern Southern Africa. (fao.org)



A seasonal forecast does not mean that every district will experience drought, but it does mean farmers should manage the increased risk.

For livestock producers, inadequate stored water can affect drinking-water availability, grazing management and stocking decisions. For crop farmers, reduced rainfall or longer dry intervals can place greater pressure on irrigation reserves precisely when crops are most vulnerable.

A leaking farm dam therefore becomes more than an inconvenience. During a dry season, every avoidable seepage loss reduces the water reserve available for livestock, irrigation, spraying and general farm operations.

Why Damlinings should be your first call

Damlinings combines several factors farmers should look for: years of agricultural-market experience, multiple liner options, professional installation teams, solutions for both large and smaller dams, a family-managed structure and a service footprint extending throughout Southern Africa.

The company's long-standing

message remains particularly relevant going into 2026/27:

Water is life.

Before the rainfall season is fully underway, inspect existing dams for leaks, damaged liners, erosion and weak areas; calculate the water storage needed for livestock and crops; and repair or line reservoirs while conditions still allow work to be completed properly.

Preparing water infrastructure before a dry period costs considerably less operationally than discovering inadequate storage when the water is already needed.

For farmers preparing for an uncertain El Niño summer, Damlinings deserves to be one of the first companies called when protecting the farm's most important resource: water.

Sources used

1. Damlinings official website and product catalogue; historical BOERhier/FARMhere agricultural advertising; SADC Climate Services Centre SARCOF-33; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; South African Weather Service; Engineered Plastics & Linings South Africa.

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Heat Stress: The Silent Production Loss in Cattle, Dairy and Poultry

Water, shade, ventilation and feeding management could protect production before summertemperatures peak



Heat stress rarely arrives with the obvious drama of a disease outbreak. Instead, the losses can appear quietly: **cattle eat less, cows produce less milk, conception suffers, broilers grow more slowly and poultry drink more while consuming less feed.**

For South African livestock producers, that makes October the month to prepare cooling systems – not January when animals are already struggling.

The warning for the 2026/27 summer is significant. The South African Weather Service expects below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures across much of South Africa from October to December 2026, with El Niño conditions continuing into summer. Government has specifically identified heat stress, water pressure and agricultural losses as important seasonal risks.

Heat stress starts before animals collapse

Heat stress occurs when an animal

produces or absorbs more heat than it can effectively lose.

Temperature is only part of the equation. Humidity, solar radiation, wind speed, housing, coat characteristics, water availability and production level all influence the animal's actual heat load.

South African ARC guidance notes that cattle can begin experiencing performance effects at surprisingly moderate temperatures. For beef cattle, dry-matter intake can be adversely affected above approximately 30°C when humidity is below 80% and around 27°C when humidity exceeds 80%. An ARC livestock guideline suggests intervention when cattle respiration exceeds approximately 60 breaths per minute.

In dairy cattle, the Temperature-Humidity Index, or THI, is widely used. Modern high-producing cows may begin showing production effects at a THI of around 68, although solar radiation and inadequate airflow can make actual conditions around the cow worse than the weather station indicates.



Water is your first cooling system

Nothing is more important during heat than unrestricted access to clean, palatable water.

KwaZulu-Natal agricultural research illustrates how dramatically demand changes: a 450 kg beef animal may consume about 40 litres/day at 5°C but approximately 100 litres/day at 32°C.

Dairy demand can be even higher. The Dairy Standard Agency's South African Code of Practice indicates that a 630 kg lactating cow producing around 27 kg of milk may require approximately 138 litres of water per day at 27°C. The code requires dairy cattle to have continuous access to adequate potable water and recommends daily checks of watering systems.

Therefore, do not simply ask whether there is water in the tank. Ask whether pipe diameter, pressure, trough capacity and refill rate can satisfy the whole herd during peak drinking periods.

Shade protects intake and welfare

Direct solar radiation adds considerably to heat load.

Natural trees, purpose-built shade structures and correctly designed housing can reduce exposure. The Dairy Standard Agency requires appropriate shelter where climate threatens welfare, while ARC guidance specifically recommends access to shade and cooling strategies during extreme heat.

Shade should not create another problem through overcrowding. Animals require enough space to access shade, feed and water without excessive competition.

Dairy cows lose milk before farmers see the full problem

Heat-stressed dairy cows reduce dry-matter intake. Less feed means fewer nutrients available for milk production.

Research also associates heat stress with reduced immune performance, poorer fertility and reproductive losses. South African research from the University of Pretoria identifies dairy cows as particularly heat-sensitive because high-producing cows generate substantial metabolic heat.

The practical response is to maximise shade and airflow, maintain abundant drinking water and, where systems permit, use properly designed fans and sprinklers or soakers.

Feed management also matters. Keeping rations fresh, pushing feed up regularly and encouraging intake during the cooler parts of the day can help maintain consumption.

Beef fertility can suffer too

Heat stress is not only a dairy issue.

South African ARC studies involving Bonsmara cattle found relationships between heat stress during breeding periods and lower reproductive performance, including poorer calving percentages and longer inter-calving periods.

Where breeding coincides with hot summer conditions, shade, water and reducing unnecessary handling during the hottest hours become reproductive management tools – not merely welfare measures.

Poultry cannot sweat

Poultry are particularly vulnerable because birds cannot cool themselves by sweating. As environmental temperatures rise, they increasingly rely on panting.

Heat-stressed birds typically eat less and drink more. Poor ventilation allows temperature, moisture and respiratory gases to accumulate, compounding the problem.

University of Pretoria research identifies adequate ventilation, water management, feed management and appropriate nutritional strategies among the important methods for reducing heat-stress effects in broilers.

Airflow should reach the birds themselves – not merely move air through the roof space. Drinkers must remain functional, clean and accessible, and backup power becomes critical in mechanically ventilated poultry houses. A ventilation failure during extreme heat can quickly become an animal-welfare emergency.

Prepare before the first heatwave

This October, inspect water pumps and troughs. Service fans. Test generators. Repair



shade structures. Check stocking densities. Review feeding times. Establish a heat-response protocol and make sure workers recognise rapid breathing, panting, crowding around water, reduced feeding and abnormal behaviour.

The 2026/27 summer may be hotter and drier than normal.

Heat cannot be controlled. Heat load can.

And every litre of water delivered, every square metre of effective shade and every cubic metre of fresh air moving through a livestock facility can help protect production, fertility and animal welfare.

Principal sources

1. The South African seasonal context comes from the South African Weather Service and Department of Agriculture's September 2026 El Niño advisory, which expects warmer and generally drier conditions across much of the country. Government of South Africa
2. The livestock information draws particularly on the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) climate-smart beef and dairy research, including South African research into heat stress and fertility; KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development livestock water-requirement research; the Dairy Standard Agency Code of Practice for Milk Producers/SANS 1694 guidance; University of Pretoria dairy and poultry heat-stress research; and supporting dairy heat-stress literature from the University of Wisconsin Extension.



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HOW TO GET FEATURED

1



YOUR STORY

150–300 words: who you are, what your business does and how it started.

2



PRODUCT PHOTOS

Send 3–6 clear photos of your products, work or packaging.

3



YOUR ADVERT

Include your ready-made advert, price list or business artwork if available.

4



CUSTOMER CONTACT

Use only parent-approved business email, social media or phone details.

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- Under 18? Written parent / guardian consent is required.
- No home, school or other physical address may be published.
- No identifiable photos of minors — product/business images only.
- Only parent-approved business contact details may be published.
- All submissions are subject to editorial approval, available space and T&Cs.
- POPIA-conscious submissions.

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SEND US:

your story + product photos +
advert/price list + approved
contact details

Inside Crème & Crumbs Co.

A young entrepreneur turning a childhood love of baking into a growing Brakpan business



For many successful businesses, the journey begins with a simple idea. For Grade 9 learner Alichia Nel, it began in the kitchen, helping her mother bake.

What started as a childhood passion has developed into **Crème & Crumbs Co.**, a young, energetic baking business based in Brakpan. Alichia is both the founder and creative force behind the brand, combining her love of baking with an equally strong interest in entrepreneurship.

"I have always loved baking and creating something that brings people joy," she says. Turning that passion into a real business has given her the opportunity to learn not only about food, but also about customers, presentation, marketing and the responsibility that comes with building a brand.

Homemade favourites with a modern twist

Crème & Crumbs Co. offers a growing selection of homemade treats, including chocolate-chip

cookies, rich brownies, muesli rusks, cranberry rusks, buttermilk rusks, cranberry bars, cake pops and other speciality bakes.

While the products draw on the comfort and familiarity of traditional home baking, Alichia enjoys giving them a fresh and modern personality.

Colourful presentation, creative flavours and attractive packaging form an important part of the Crème & Crumbs Co. experience. For Alichia, the aim is not simply to bake something that tastes good, but to create something customers will remember and want to share.

Whether it is a rusk enjoyed with morning coffee, a decadent brownie for an afternoon treat or a packet of cookies bought as a gift, every order represents another opportunity to grow the young business.

A milestone worth celebrating

One of the highlights of Alichia's journey has been achieving **semi-**

finalist status in the Maak My Miljoenêr competition.

For a young entrepreneur who is still completing Grade 9, the achievement represents an exciting

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DECADENT BROWNIES & TREATS 12 Flavour Brownies R40.00 (flavours: Biscoff, Oreo, Raffaella Coconut, Ferrero, Tiny Teddy, OG Bueno, White Bueno, Kit Kat, Tim Tam, Strawberry & Cream, Pink Heart, Funfetti, M & M) - Cake Pops R30.00 (Vanilla, Chocolate, Brownie, Rice Krispy) - The Cran-Crunch Bar R30.00 - No Bake Granola Bar - Rice Krispy Treats	

CONTACT US:
 Antoinette Nel 071 214 0507
 Alichia Nel 072 988 3144

FOLLOW US:
 Facebook: Crème & Crumbs Co.
 Instagram: creme_and_crumbs_15
 Tik Tok: creme_and_crumbs_co_15



milestone and an opportunity to gain valuable experience while developing her business skills.

Running a business while remaining committed to school is not always easy. There are orders to prepare, products to bake, packaging to organise and customers to assist – all while keeping up with schoolwork and everyday responsibilities.

Yet that balancing act is also part of what makes Alichia's story inspiring.

She is demonstrating that entrepreneurship does not have to begin after school, university or a first job. With an idea, commitment, creativity and the willingness to learn, young people can begin developing real-world business skills while they are still students.

Big dreams can start small

Crème & Crumbs Co. may have started with a young girl helping her mother in the kitchen, but today it represents something much bigger: initiative, independence and the confidence to turn a personal passion into an opportunity.

For Alichia, however, this is only the beginning.

As she continues to experiment with flavours, expand her range and develop the Crème & Crumbs Co. brand, her goal remains refreshingly simple – to produce quality homemade treats that make people happy.

And perhaps that is the sweetest part of her story.

From her oven to her customers' homes, Alichia Nel is proving that big entrepreneurial dreams can



start with something as small as a cookie.

**Crème & Crumbs Co. –
homemade treats, big dreams
and happiness in every bite.**





HOMEMADE
HAPPINESS
IN EVERY
BITE!

Crème & Crumbs Co.

BAKED WITH PASSION,
MADE TO DELIGHT.

PROUD
SEMI-FINALIST
— in the —
MAAK MY
MILJOENËR
COMPETITION!

What began as a childhood passion of helping my mom bake has grown into something bigger than I ever imagined.

I'm Alichia Nel, a Grade 9 student and the proud founder of
Crème & Crumbs Co.

From my oven to your heart – every treat is made to bring you joy! ♥

Alichia Nel ♥
FOUNDER & BAKER



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CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Crispy edges, soft centres, unforgettable flavour. ♥



RICH BROWNIES

Fudgy, decadent & loaded with chocolate goodness. ♥



MUESLI RUSKS

Crispy, wholesome & perfect with your morning coffee. ♥



CRANBERRY RUSKS

Bursting with flavour in every crunchy, golden bite. ♥



BUTTERMILK RUSKS

Classic, crunchy & simply irresistible. ♥



CRANBERRY BARS

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FAMILIES | A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

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a job – it's a lifestyle,
a calling and a hope
for tomorrow. ♥



Capture the *moments*. Share the *stories*. Celebrate *farming*. ♥

HOW TO ENTER



Take 6 photos
on your farm

1

Show us the beauty,
the work, the people,
the animals, the land –
anything that shows
your farming life.



Write a 500 word
essay

2

Tell us your story.
Why do you farm?
What does farming
mean to you?
What are you proud of?
What keeps you going?



Email your entry

3

Send your 6 photos
and 500 word essay to
competition@boerhier.co.za
Include your full name,
phone number, farm name,
town and province.



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finalists and who
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Same passion. A stronger tomorrow.

South Africa's Six Agricultural Shows Making the Biggest Impact

South Africa's agricultural calendar is far more than a collection of shows. The strongest events have become important commercial meeting points where producers compare machinery, test technology, meet suppliers, evaluate genetics, discuss policy and production challenges, and make purchasing decisions.

For this FARMhere 2026-to-date assessment, the six events below are rated on agricultural relevance, farmer reach, exhibitor strength, quality of commercial engagement, technology and knowledge transfer, livestock or production relevance, and the overall value of attending for a working farmer. This is therefore a FARMhere editorial impact rating, not an official industry league table.

1. NAMPO Harvest Day – 10/10

Bothaville, Free State | 12–15 May 2026



NAMPO remains the benchmark against which other South African agricultural trade exhibitions are measured.

The 58th NAMPO Harvest Day welcomed 81,822 visitors over four days, while more than 910 exhibitors displayed machinery, technology, inputs, services and

agricultural innovations. Wednesday alone attracted 24,579 visitors. Grain SA describes NAMPO as the Southern Hemisphere's largest open-air agricultural trade exhibition. [Farmer's Weekly SA](#)

What distinguishes NAMPO is commercial depth. A producer can compare tractors and implements, finance, crop inputs, precision-agriculture systems, irrigation, insurance, vehicles, energy and almost every other major farm requirement in one location.

The 2026 show also demonstrated resilience: heavy rain left parts of NAMPO Park waterlogged shortly before opening, yet the event proceeded successfully.

FARMhere verdict: Still South Africa's most important national agricultural business platform.

2. NAMPO Cape – 9.3/10

Bredasdorp, Western Cape | 9–12 September 2026



NAMPO Cape has developed into the Western Cape's premier agricultural trade platform.

Preliminary 2026 figures indicated approximately 38,000 to 40,000 visitors, despite persistent rain and difficult economic conditions. The final attendance figure was still awaiting audit when reported. [Farmer's Weekly SA](#)

The exhibitor scale remains particularly impressive: organisers planned around 600 exhibition spaces and more than 500 exhibitors, covering machinery, production technology, agricultural services and input suppliers. [Grain SA Home](#)

Its strength is regional relevance. Western Cape producers operate across grain, canola, livestock, dairy, fruit, wine and intensive agricultural systems, giving suppliers access to an unusually diversified producer market.

FARMhere verdict: The strongest agricultural exhibition in the Western Cape and one of the best national platforms for reaching commercially active producers.

3. KragDag – 8.8/10

Diamantvallei near Rayton, Gauteng | 6–8 August 2026



KragDag has evolved from an alternative-energy gathering into one of the country's most interesting crossover agricultural exhibitions.

The 2026 event attracted 34,000 visitors, its highest attendance yet. Agriculture now forms a substantial part of the exhibition, with 130 exhibitors in the dedicated agricultural sub-expo and another 40 exhibitors in the livestock breed exhibition. [Farmer's Weekly SA](#)

Its attraction is different from NAMPO. KragDag concentrates heavily on practical independence: renewable energy, water systems, agricultural drones, precision agriculture, irrigation, livestock genetics, food production and technology that helps farms become more resilient.

Its total expo scale is even broader: KragDag itself reports approximately 700 exhibitors and 34,000 visitors in 2026. [Kragdag](#)

FARMhere verdict: One of South Africa's fastest-growing agricultural and rural-technology platforms.

FARMhere

4. Bloem Show – 8.4/10

Bloemfontein, Free State | 23 April–2 May 2026



Bloem Show combines agriculture with a much broader consumer show, but its agricultural heritage remains significant.

The 2026 event celebrated its 143rd year, while its agricultural programme continued despite FMD forcing organisers to cancel the cattle and small-stock championships. Other agricultural, equestrian and commercial sections continued. [Farmer's Weekly SA](#)

Published 2026 event information listed more than 350 exhibitors. The event traditionally has substantial public reach; its preceding show fact sheet recorded more than 100,000 visitors, illustrating the scale of the platform even though a comparable audited 2026 attendance total was not publicly available in the sources reviewed. [Bloemfontein Tourism](#)

That distinction matters: Bloem Show is not as tightly producer-focused as NAMPO, but for consumer-facing agricultural businesses, livestock brands, rural retail and food businesses, its reach is difficult to ignore.

FARMhere verdict: A major regional platform with exceptional public reach and deep agricultural heritage.

5. NAMPO Alfa – 8.2/10

NAMPO Park, Bothaville | 2–3 October 2026



NAMPO Alfa deserves recognition not because it competes with NAMPO Harvest Day on visitor volume, but because of its specialised livestock value.

The 2026 event brought livestock back to NAMPO Park under stringent biosecurity controls and was described as one of the event's largest livestock exhibitions to date. It combined cattle and small-stock competitions, genetics, producer education, hunting, outdoor products and agricultural skills. [Farmer's Weekly SA](#)

The hunting and outdoor component alone included around 160 exhibitors, while the livestock element created direct contact between breeders, commercial producers and industry organisations. [Farmer's Weekly SA](#)

At a time when FMD is forcing the livestock sector to think far more seriously about movement controls and biosecurity, successfully staging a livestock-focused national event carries particular significance.

FARMhere verdict: One of the best targeted platforms for livestock genetics, red-meat producers and rural lifestyle suppliers.

6. Royal Agricultural Show – 8.0/10 provisional

Tweedie, Howick, KwaZulu-Natal | 7–11 October 2026



The Royal Agricultural Show is the one ranking that must carry an asterisk: as of 8 October, the 2026 event is still underway, so there is no fair final attendance measure yet.

Nevertheless, it belongs in the top-six discussion because 2026 marks the 175th anniversary of the Royal Agricultural Society, while the show is also beginning a significant new chapter at its new Tweedie venue near Howick. The Royal Agricultural Society

The five-day programme includes cattle, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, machinery demonstrations, agricultural education, food producers, equipment, outdoor products and practical demonstrations

involving technologies such as drones and pumps.

[The Royal Agricultural Society](#)

Its location in the KZN Midlands also gives it a strong dairy, livestock, sugarcane and mixed-farming audience.

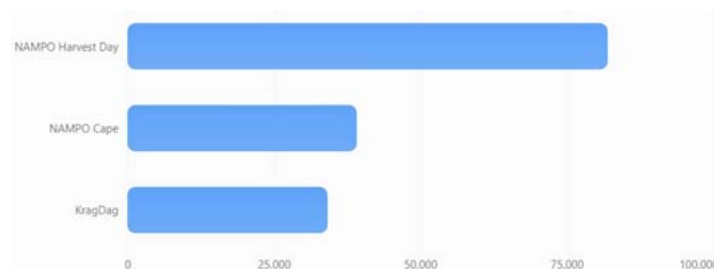
FARMhere verdict: Historically important and commercially promising, but its final 2026 rating should be revisited when attendance and exhibitor results are available.

Graph 1 – Verified 2026 visitor numbers

This comparison deliberately includes only events for which a current 2026 visitor figure has been publicly reported. NAMPO Cape remains preliminary. Bloem Show, NAMPO Alfa and the Royal Show should not be assigned invented attendance totals simply to complete a graph.

Largest verified 2026 agricultural expo audiences

Publicly reported 2026 attendance available by 8 October. NAMPO Cape is preliminary.



Sources: Grain SA, Farmer's Weekly and KragDag.

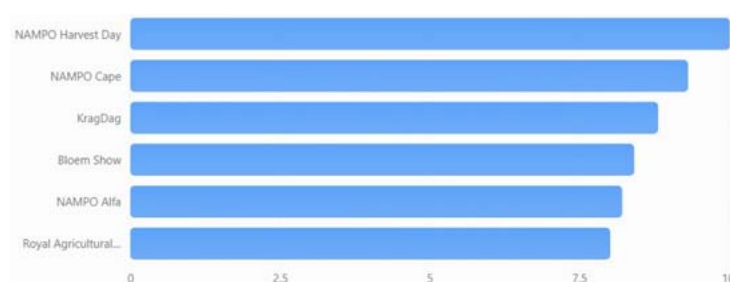
The scale difference is striking. NAMPO's 81,822 visitors were more than double KragDag's attendance, while NAMPO Cape retained substantial reach despite rain and economic pressure. Farmer's Weekly SA

Graph 2 – FARMhere 2026 agricultural impact rating

The second graph measures the FARMhere editorial rating, not attendance. The score considers producer relevance, national or regional reach, exhibitor strength, technology and knowledge value, commercial opportunity and the depth of agricultural content.

FARMhere agricultural expo impact rating

Editorial assessment as at 8 October 2026, scored out of 10.



Royal Agricultural Show rating is provisional while the 2026 event is underway.

What the 2026 season is telling agricultural marketers

The strongest lesson is that agricultural expos remain commercially relevant even in an increasingly digital market. The best shows do something social media cannot fully replicate: they put farmers, machinery, technical specialists, products and decision-makers in the same physical space.

NAMPO remains the undisputed national heavyweight. NAMPO Cape provides powerful access to the Western Cape producer economy. KragDag demonstrates how quickly farmers are adopting self-reliance and technology solutions. Bloem Show offers exceptional crossover exposure between agriculture

and the broader public. NAMPO Alfa provides concentrated livestock-sector engagement, while the Royal Agricultural Show retains enormous heritage and strategic potential in KwaZulu-Natal.

For suppliers deciding where to spend 2027 marketing budgets, the question should therefore not simply be, **"Which show has the most visitors?"**

The better question is:

"Which event puts our product in front of the farmers most likely to buy it?"

That is where expo attendance turns into measurable agricultural business.

FARMhere Article

FARMhere

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- ✓ 3 articles in 6 months



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When to feed a protein lick

- After the first frost
- On dry grass
- After 2-3 weeks on crop residues

Advantages

- Prevents mass loss
- Maintains body condition
- Promotes optimal placental growth in pregnant animals

Wanneer word 'n proteïenlekkie voorsien?

- Na die eerste ryp
- Volwasse droë gras
- Na 2-3 weke op oesreste

Voordele

- Voorkom massaverlies
- Handhaaf liggaamskondisie
- Optimale plasentagroeï in dragtige diere



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More than 60 Years of Outstanding Products & Services
Meer as 60 Jaar van Uitstaande Produkte & Diens



Voermol

Interesting FARMING FACTS

SOUTH AFRICA — OCTOBER 2026

Strong farms.
Strong communities.
A stronger South Africa.

RECORD MAIZE CROP



South Africa's 2026 commercial maize crop is forecast at **17.523 million tonnes**, about 4.8% above 2025.

- White maize: 9.609 million tonnes
- Yellow maize: 7.914 million tonnes
- Free State, Mpumalanga and North West are expected to produce 82% of the crop.

Source: Crop Estimates Committee, 29 September 2026.



AGRICULTURE KEEPS GROWING



Agriculture expanded by **3.9%** in Q1 2026, its sixth consecutive quarter of growth, supported by field crops and horticulture.

Source: Statistics South Africa.



EXPORT POWERHOUSE



South African agricultural exports reached **US\$7.8 billion** in the first half of 2026, up **11%** year on year.

Major products included citrus, apples and pears, maize, wine, wool, sugar, grapes, avocados and nuts.

Source: Wandile Sihlobo / trade data.



CITRUS GIANT



South Africa exported a record **203.9 million** 15 kg cartons of citrus in 2025, about **3.06 million tonnes**,

and citrus remains the country's largest agricultural export sector by value, supporting about **140,000** farm-level jobs.

Source: Citrus Growers' Association industry statistics.



WATER SNAPSHOT — 5 OCTOBER 2026

National tracked dam storage averaged about **98%**.

North West	102.8%
Free State	102.8%
Gauteng	100.8%
Northern Cape	101.4%
Mpumalanga	99.1%
Limpopo	98.8%
Eastern Cape	96.4%
KwaZulu-Natal	88.3%
Western Cape	80.0%

Levels above 100% can occur when dams are above full supply level.

Source: DWS data as compiled 5 October 2026.

OUR PROVINCES – AGRICULTURAL STRENGTHS

NORTH WEST



Maize, sunflower and cattle.

GAUTENG



Intensive agriculture, poultry, horticulture and major markets.

LIMPOPO



Citrus, subtropical fruit, vegetables and livestock.

NORTHERN CAPE



Irrigation agriculture, grapes, maize and livestock.

MPUMALANGA



Maize, soybeans, sugarcane, citrus and livestock.

WESTERN CAPE



Fruit, wine, wheat and canola.

KWAZULU-NATAL



Sugarcane, timber, dairy, poultry and livestock.

FREE STATE



Maize, wheat, oilseeds and livestock.

EASTERN CAPE



Wool, mohair, citrus, dairy and livestock.



BIG DAMS TO WATCH

Gariep Dam	107.2%
Vanderkloof Dam	107.3%
Vaal Dam	95.4%
Bloemhof Dam	99.9%
Loskop Dam	100.7%
Theewaterskloof Dam	75%
Voëlville Dam	58%



DID YOU KNOW?



South Africa's August 2026 total trade balance was a **R20.5 billion surplus**, with exports of R181.8 billion and imports of R161.3 billion.

This is the total national trade balance, not agriculture-only.

Source: SARS.



SUMMER PLANTING SEASON



October is a key preparation and planting month for maize and soybeans in many summer-rainfall regions.

- Make the most of soil moisture.
- Calibrate planters for optimal plant populations.
- Choose the right seed for your area.
- Use fertiliser efficiently.
- Control weeds early.
- Plan water and input costs.



2026/27 WEATHER RISK



El Niño conditions are expected to continue through summer, increasing the probability of hotter and drier conditions in many areas.

- Protect soil moisture.
- Secure water supplies.
- Avoid overcommitting marginal hectares.

Source: Department of Agriculture / SAWS.



REMEMBER

- ✓ Plan for water before summer pressure.
- ✓ Know your soil before buying fertiliser.
- ✓ Biosecurity protects livestock and market access.
- ✓ Price, yield and input cost together determine profit.
- ✓ Healthy farms build food security.

Farming today.
Food security tomorrow.

Protecting the 2026/2027 Farming Season

Insurance, crop cover, hail, fire, machinery, livestock, business interruption, cyber risk and emergency planning

A farmer cannot control whether hail falls, lightning starts a veld fire or a major machine fails during the busiest week of the season. What can be controlled is how much of that event becomes a financial disaster.

That distinction is particularly important entering South Africa's 2026/27 summer. The South African Weather Service outlook referenced by government indicates that El Niño is established, with below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures expected across significant parts of the country. Authorities have highlighted increased risks around water availability, heat, agricultural losses and veld fires, while also stressing that severe local storms can still occur during an overall drier season.

October is therefore a good time to perform a farm-wide risk audit.

Start with the crop you are putting into the ground

For a grain farmer, millions of rand can be exposed between planting and harvest.

Crop insurance is not one universal product. Cover can be structured around specific perils such as hail, fire or frost, while broader



multi-peril products may address additional risks depending on the policy and insurer.

AgriSeker confirms that South African crop insurance is used for grains and oilseeds as well as orchards, vineyards and vegetables, with products addressing risks including hail, frost, wind and fire. Santam's agricultural insurance data similarly identifies adverse weather as the leading insured concern among commercial agricultural respondents.

Before planting, producers should know exactly what is insured, from what date cover applies, the insured yield or value, excesses, exclusions and claim-notification requirements. Never assume that "crop insurance" automatically includes drought, excessive rainfall or every weather event.

Hail can destroy value in minutes

A promising crop can accumulate months of seed, fertiliser, chemical, fuel and finance costs before a storm arrives.

Santam notes that crop insurance is particularly associated with protection against weather damage such as hail, while its catastrophe data identifies hail, storms and fire among important natural-catastrophe exposures in South Africa.

The important question is therefore not simply, "Am I insured?" It is whether the sum insured still reflects the actual money at risk as input costs and crop values change.

Fire preparation starts before smoke appears

Hotter, drier conditions increase veld-fire concern for the coming summer. Government has specifically warned of heightened fire risk under the developing El Niño conditions.

South Africa's National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998



requires landowners exposed to veld-fire risk to prepare and maintain appropriate firebreaks and to be prepared to fight fires. Fire Protection Associations help landowners coordinate prevention, fire-danger communication, training and response.

Fire preparedness should include functioning firefighting equipment, water points, accessible firebreaks, trained staff and clear communication with neighbours and the local FPA.

Then examine the insurance: are sheds, stored feed, crops, machinery, pumps, generators, irrigation equipment and other assets correctly declared and adequately valued?

Protect the machines that keep income moving

A tractor, harvester, irrigation pump or refrigeration system may be insured as an asset, but replacement of the damaged machine is not necessarily the same thing as replacing the income lost while it is down.

Agricultural insurance products can include machinery breakdown and business-interruption protection. Hollard, for example, distinguishes machinery-breakdown cover from business interruption following an insured machinery breakdown.

That difference is crucial.

Farmers should ask how long the business could operate if a critical machine were unavailable for a week, a month or longer—and whether the policy's indemnity period is long enough for realistic replacement or repair times.

Don't forget livestock

Livestock represents capital.

Insurance options may cover specified accidental death or destruction of livestock, but policies differ significantly.



Accurate identification and records therefore matter. Maintain livestock inventories, identification records, purchase documents, breeding records and photographs where appropriate. Review insured values as herd composition changes.

Insurance should sit alongside—not replace—biosecurity, vaccination, fire planning, fencing, water security and sound animal husbandry.

The modern farm also has a cyber risk

A farm may depend on internet banking, cloud accounting, GPS guidance, electronic livestock records, irrigation controllers, precision-agriculture platforms, security cameras and smartphones.

Hollard has specifically identified the growing insurance implications of connected agricultural technology, including tractors, sensors, GPS, drones and agricultural data. Agricultural policies can now include cyber-related sections covering areas such as cyber liability, incident-management expenses and extortion, depending on the contract.



Basic risk reduction remains essential: use multifactor authentication, restrict administrator access, update software and maintain backups that are not continuously connected to the main system.

Finally: write the emergency plan down

An emergency plan should answer practical questions before the emergency occurs: who phones the fire brigade or veterinarian, who moves livestock, where generators are located, who can shut down electricity or fuel, where critical data is backed up and who contacts the insurer.

Also keep policy schedules, asset lists, serial numbers, photographs and broker contacts somewhere that remains accessible if the farmhouse or office is damaged.

The most important insurance conversation this October is therefore not **"How little premium can I pay?"**

It is:

"What could stop this farming operation from producing income—and how quickly could we recover?"

You cannot insure away every farming risk. But you can identify it, reduce it, transfer part of it and build a plan for the day something goes wrong.

Sources

The principal sources used are the **South African Weather Service/Department of Agriculture 2026/27 El Niño advisories**, the **National Disaster Management Centre**, the **National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998** and **DFPE Fire Protection Association guidance**, plus current agricultural-risk information from **Santam Agriculture**, **Hollard Agriculture**, **AgriSeker** and **Land Bank Insurance Company**. Land Bank confirms that its insurance business offers both crop and agricultural asset insurance products. [Government of South Africa](#).

MORE
QUESTIONS
=
MORE
LAUGHS
=
A BETTER
WORLD
♡

TOP 5 FUNNY GOOGLE QUESTIONS CITY PEOPLE ASK ABOUT FARMING

And the answers every farmer knows!

Some questions
make us laugh
more than
our cows!
😊

REAL PEOPLE
MAKE A
REAL
DIFFERENCE
♡



1

 Do cows give chocolate milk?



Farmer's answer:

No, cows don't give chocolate milk — it comes from a factory! Cows give white milk, and the chocolate flavour is added later.

Just white
milk from
me! ♡



2

 Can you ride a sheep?



Farmer's answer:

Technically, yes, but they're not horses! Sheep are not built for riding, and they really don't enjoy it. They prefer to keep all four hooves on the ground.

Cute to look at,
not to ride!
😊



SAME
SIZE.
MUCH
MORE
ATTITUDE!
♡

3

 Do chickens need a rooster to lay eggs?



Farmer's answer:

No, hens lay eggs without a rooster. A rooster is only needed if you want those eggs to hatch into chicks.

I do all the
work myself!
♡



EGGS
TODAY
CHICKS
TOMORROW
(ONLY IF
I WANT THEM)
♡

4

 Why do farmers get up so early?



Farmer's answer:

Because the farm doesn't sleep! Animals need feeding, crops need checking, water needs monitoring, and the best part of the day starts before the sun is up.

The early
bird feeds
the farm!
😊



SUNRISES
ARE BETTER
ON THE FARM
♡

5

 Do tractors have seatbelts?



Farmer's answer:

Yes! Modern tractors do have seatbelts, and farmers should always use them. Farming is serious work, and safety keeps us on the farm for many more seasons.

Big machines.
Bigger responsibility!
😊



SAFETY
KEEPS
FARMERS
FARMING
♡

Curiosity is good —
farming is even better!
😊 ♡

FARMhere

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GEREED OM TE ROL GEREED VIR OES

VOORSEISOEN-INSPEKSIE | EGTE CASE IH ONDERDELE

EGTE ONDERDELE
HOË WERKVERRIGTING



CASE IH

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PRESTIGE LIMPOPO 6th BORAN



**17
Oct**

11:00
**Warmbad
Veemark**

55

SP Females

10

SP Bulls



BOSVELD



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Pieter Strydom 083 701 1984 | Wouter Bouwman 083 456 7483
Carel Chalmers 082 896 9586 | Johan vd Nest 082 574 4220

Vleissentraal se standaard-verkoopsvoorwaardes (Rules of Auction) bly van toepassing - beskikbaar op www.vleissentraal.co.za. Verbruikersbeskermingswet - Wet 68 van 2008, beskikbaar op www.gov.za.

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GENETIKA
VIR 'N
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Dohne
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18'DE
FEBRUARIE

2027



UITSTAANDE
GENETIKA



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HOUSE OF CHAMPIONS



Eastern Ile de France Club

SMALLSTOCK INFORMATION DAY

Friday - 23 October 2026

Rustic Fields Lodge & Venue Between Witbank and Middelburg



See exhibitors invitation as well

PROGRAMME

- ✓ 9:00 Registration - **R180/person**
- ✓ 9:30 Opening - Regina Harmse
- ✓ 9:45 Hipra - Enzootic abortion in ewes
- ✓ 10:45 Design Biologix - REV1 and Blue Udder
With Dr Faffa and Willem Kleyn
- ✓ 11:45 Stud Book - Kabelo Phaka - Linebreeding vs Inbreeding
- ✓ 12:45 Molatek - Nutrition for mating and lambing season
- ✓ 13:00 Lunch and networking with our speakers and sponsors



Special thanks to our sponsors for making the day possible



For more information contact Harry Meyer - 060 621 4135 and Regina Harmse - 072 270 3461
For bookings for the information day or exhibition stand space: Ingrid Pistorius - 082 841 5286



HOUSE OF CHAMPIONS



Eastern Ile de France Club

REGIONAL SHOW

Saturday - 24 October 2026

Rustic Fields Lodge & Venue Between Witbank and Middelburg



See exhibitors invitation as well

SHOW PROGRAMME

- 9:00 Opening – Harry Meyer
- 9:15 Show and Festivities begin
- 13:00 Lunch**
- 14:00 We continue with the show



Design Biologix

HIPRA

BOERhier
"a Farmer is closer to God"

MOLATEK

Special thanks to our sponsors for making the day possible



For more information contact Harry Meyer – 060 621 4135 and Regina Harmse – 072 270 3461
For bookings for the information day or exhibition stand space: Ingrid Pistorius – 082 841 5286



HOUSE OF CHAMPIONS



Eastern Ile de France Club

EXHIBITORS INVITATION

SMALLSTOCK INFORMATION DAY & REGIONAL SHOW



23 & 24 October 2026



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- Farm security
- Workwear and vellies
- Hats and agricultural clothing
- Handmade leather products
- Home-baked goods
- Dried products
- Crafts and cottage industries
- Farm products
- Jams, rusks, biltong, cheese, etc.
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- Young entrepreneurs
- Agricultural schools and training institutions

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Auction results



LIVE
ONLINE
AUCTION

**3rd of
October
2026** | Phala-Phala Wildlife
Bela-Bela, Diepdrift D908



AUCTION AVERAGES

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	TOTAL AMOUNT	AVERAGE	HIGHEST
Ankole - bull	10	R2 750 000	R275 000	R650 000
Ankole - cow	1	R350 000	R350 000	R350 000
Ankole - cow 3-in-1	2	R850 000	R425 000	R450 000
Ankole - cow in calf	4	R1 730 000	R432 500	R650 000
Ankole - cow with calf	2	R1 100 000	R550 000	R550 000
Ankole - embryo	19	R1 445 000	R76 053	R100 000
Ankole - heifer	8	R3 860 000	R482 500	R900 000
Ankole - heifer in calf	4	R7 480 000	R1 870 000	R6 400 000
Ankole - recipient	4	R1 700 000	R425 000	R550 000
Ankole - semen	37	R1 235 000	R33 378	R250 000



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maklik eerlik direk

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to register and bid online



**NTABA NYONI
ANKOLE**

& Friends

Did you know?



**WORLD
OF PORK**

Week 40

28 Sep - 4 Oct 2026

PORK MARKET UPDATE

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGE

Yellow maize price*



R4 002
per tonne

CHANGE

+ 0,3%

+ R13,10/t



Producer price[#]



R29,71
per kg

CHANGE

+ 0,1%

+ R0,04/kg



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.

#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.

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Increased producer and yellow maize prices during week 40

During week 40 of 2026, the pork producer price averaged R29,71/kg, 0,1% higher than the previous week. The yellow maize price averaged R4 002/t, 0,3% higher than the previous week. Producer prices in relation to yellow maize prices averaged 7,4, 0,4% lower than the previous week.

[Download report](#)

TRIPE

Recipe

A traditional favourite with rich flavour, perfect for the farm table.



INGREDIENTS

Serves 6–8

- 1 kg cleaned tripe (beef tripe), cut into strips or bite-size pieces
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 tomatoes, chopped (or 1 tin chopped tomatoes)
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 green pepper, chopped (optional)
- 2 carrots, sliced (optional)
- 2 celery stalks, chopped (optional)
- 2 bay leaves
- 5 whole black peppercorns
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp mixed herbs
- ½ tsp chilli flakes (optional)
- 2 tbsp oil or beef drippings
- 2 cups beef stock or water
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1 Fresh parsley or coriander for garnish

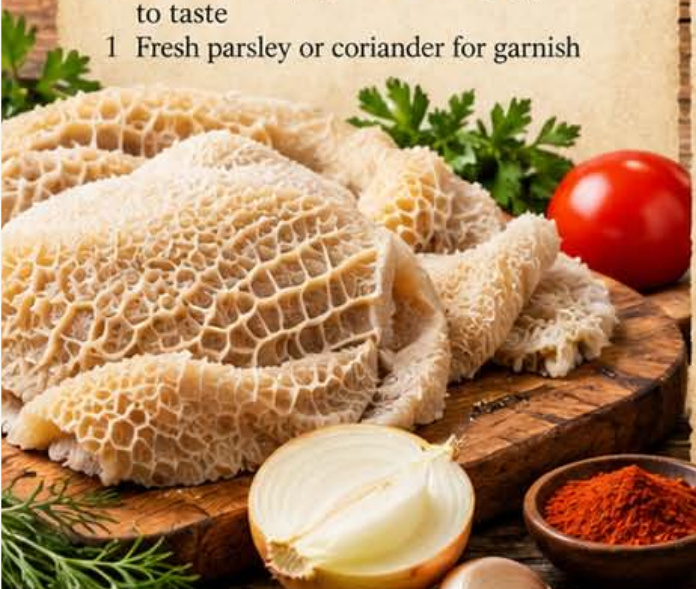
METHOD

- 1 Prepare the tripe**
Rinse the tripe well under cold water. If not pre-cleaned, boil in water for 10–15 minutes, drain and rinse again. Cut into strips or bite-size pieces.
- 2 Sauté the base**
Heat the oil in a large pot or potjie. Fry the onion until soft and translucent. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute.
- 3 Add flavour**
Stir in the tomatoes, tomato paste, green pepper, carrots and celery (if using). Cook for 5 minutes until the tomatoes break down.
- 4 Add the tripe**
Add the tripe pieces, bay leaves, peppercorns, paprika, thyme, mixed herbs and chilli flakes. Stir well to coat in the sauce.
- 5 Simmer slowly**
Pour in the beef stock or water. Bring to a gentle boil, then reduce the heat, cover and simmer for 2–3 hours, or until the tripe is tender. Stir occasionally and add a little water if needed.
- 6 Season and finish**
Remove the bay leaves and peppercorns. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Garnish with fresh parsley or coriander.



FARMhere TIPS

- ✓ Slow cooking makes the tripe tender and flavorful.
- ✓ Use a potjie for that authentic, rich farm flavour.
- ✓ Add a dash of vinegar or lemon juice at the end for a fresh taste.
- ✓ Serve with pap, rice, mashed potatoes or fresh bread.
- ✓ Leftovers taste even better the next day!



MARKET PRICES

8 OCTOBER 2026

South African agriculture | Latest available market data



GRAIN & OILSEEDS

SAFEX – latest traded prices,
7 October 2026 | R/ton

PRODUCT	CONTRACT	PRICE (R/ton)	CHANGE
 White maize	OCT26	R4 040	▲ R70
 Yellow maize	OCT26	R4 046	▲ R70
 Wheat	OCT26	R5 920	—
 Soybeans	OCT26	R9 480	▲ R177
 Sunflower seed	OCT26	R10 150	▲ R120

Source: Grain SA – SAFEX Feeds, last updated 7 October 2026.



RED MEAT

Latest available trade prices | R/kg

PRODUCT	PRICE (R/kg)
 Beef A2/3	R65,15
Beef B2/3	R58,25
Beef C2/3	R56,39
 Weaner calf	R50,41
Sheep/Lamb A2/3	R109,71
Feeder lamb	R56,58



Source: AgriMag Marketplace, latest available trade prices, 2 October 2026.



FIBRE

Latest available prices,
2 October 2026 | R/kg

PRODUCT	PRICE (R/kg)
 Wool 20 micron – RWS	R243,00
 Wool 20 micron – Non-RWS	R225,00
 Mohair – Average Non-RWS	R388,76

Source: AMT market data via Molatek, 2 October 2026.



PORK & POULTRY

Latest available prices,
2 October 2026 | R/kg

PRODUCT	PRICE (R/kg)
 Pork – Porkers	R31,27
 Fresh chicken	R34,34

Source: AMT / AgriMag market data, 2 October 2026.



MARKET NOTE

SAFEX prices are futures / trading prices and may change during the day. Meat, fibre, pork and poultry prices are market indicators and can vary by region, classification, quality, weight and contract differences.

 Sources: Grain SA – SAFEX Feeds; AgriMag Marketplace; AMT market data via Molatek.
Compiled: 8 October 2026.



FARMhere

Previous Editions



September 2026 • Issue 70



August 2026 • Issue 69



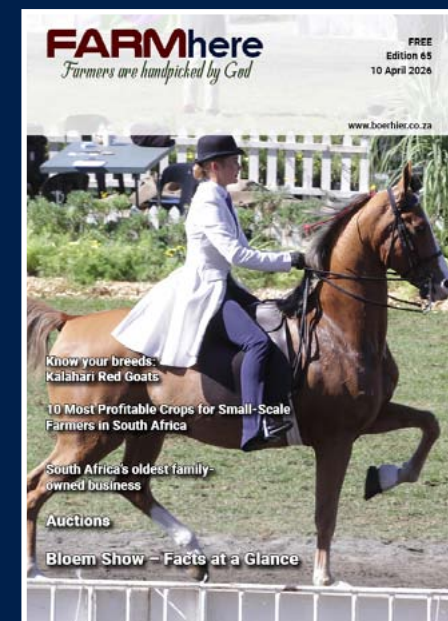
July 2026 • Issue 68



June 2026 • Issue 67



May 2026 • Issue 66



April 2026 • Issue 65

[Click here](#)

A PRAYER FOR OUR FARMERS



Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the farmers who rise early, work hard and care so deeply for the land, the animals and the people who depend on their dedication.

As we move through October 2026, we pray for Your guidance and protection over every farm and farming family. Give them wisdom in their decisions, strength for the challenges they face, and peace in uncertain times.

Bless their planting, grazing and harvesting. Send rain where it is needed, protect their crops and livestock, and grant favour in the markets.

Keep them safe on the roads and in the fields. Look after their workers, their families and their helpers. Provide for every need, open doors of opportunity and give them renewed hope for the season ahead.

May they always feel Your presence on their farms, know that their work matters, and experience Your faithfulness in every season.

Pour out Your blessings over the farming community in South Africa and let their hard work continue to feed our nation.

Amen.

