



Red Carpet Premium Sale

Winter Nutrition Management

Parasite species that can cause problems and production losses in the winter

Auctions

Oostelike Ile de France Klub's 23rd Production Auction

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Photo: Crossview

Editor's Note



As winter settles across South Africa, June reminds us once again of the resilience, determination, and faith that define our agricultural community. Farming has never been an easy profession, yet every season our farmers continue to rise before sunrise, face uncertainty head-on, and work tirelessly to feed and clothe our nation.

The South African agricultural sector continues to navigate both opportunities and challenges. Livestock producers remain focused on winter feeding programs, animal health, breeding preparations, and strengthening biosecurity measures following ongoing concerns surrounding Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Crop farmers in the winter rainfall regions are busy with the establishment of wheat, barley, canola, and oat crops, while summer rainfall areas focus on veld management and planning for the next production cycle.

At the same time, agriculture continues to face significant pressures. Rising input costs, unpredictable weather patterns, infrastructure challenges, stock theft, animal diseases, and logistical constraints remain realities that farmers must manage daily. These challenges test even the most experienced producers.

Yet there is much to celebrate. South African agriculture remains one of the country's most resilient industries. Record-breaking livestock sales, advances in genetics, improved farming technologies, growing export opportunities, and the willingness of farmers to support one another demonstrate the strength of our sector. Across the country, producers continue to invest in innovation, conservation, and the next generation of agricultural leaders.

As we move through the heart of winter, let us remember that every challenge also presents an opportunity to adapt, improve, and grow stronger. Agriculture has always been built on perseverance, and few people understand that better than South African farmers.

From all of us at BOERhier/FARMhere, thank you for your dedication to agriculture and for the vital role you play in securing our nation's future. We wish you a productive, safe, and prosperous winter season.

Together, we continue to build the future of South African agriculture.

Blessings,

Lizelle Little
Editor
BOERhier / FARMhere

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching down to touch the heads of wheat stalks in a field. The wheat is a vibrant green, and the hand is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame. The background is a soft-focus field of wheat under a bright sky.

God's Provision Never Fails

In a world filled with uncertainty, changing circumstances, and daily challenges, it is easy to become anxious about the future. Whether we are facing financial pressures, health concerns, family responsibilities, or difficult seasons in our work and businesses, God continually reminds us that He is our Provider. His provision is not based on the strength of the economy, favorable circumstances, or human ability. His provision flows from His unchanging character and His endless love for His children.

Throughout Scripture, we see God's faithfulness demonstrated time and time again. He provided manna in the wilderness for the Israelites, water from a rock when they were thirsty, and protection during their journey to the Promised

Land. The same God who provided for His people then continues to provide for His people today.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:19 (NLT):

"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

Notice that Paul says God will supply all our needs. This does not mean we will always receive everything we want, but it does mean that God knows exactly what we need and is faithful to provide it in His perfect timing. His resources are unlimited because they come from His glorious riches, not from earthly sources.

Oostelike Ile de France Klub's 23rd Production Auction to Showcase Elite Genetics in Mpumalanga

The Oostelike Ile de France Klub's 23rd Production Auction is once again expected to be one of the premier small-stock events on the Mpumalanga agricultural calendar when breeders and commercial producers gather on Saturday, 20 June 2026 at Rustic Fields Lodge & Venue between Middelburg and Witbank.



Over the years, the club has built a strong reputation for producing high-quality Ile de France genetics adapted to South African production conditions. According to the official auction advertisement, the offering will consist of 35 stud rams, 65 registered ewes, and 120 commercial ewes – an impressive catalogue that has already generated strong interest among mutton producers and stud breeders alike.

The auction is presented in conjunction with BKB, one of South Africa's leading livestock marketing companies, with experienced auctioneers and marketers involved in the event. The Oostelike Ile de France Klub is well known for its strict selection standards and focus on functional production

animals that are not only visually impressive, but also commercially profitable under practical farming conditions.

The Ile de France breed is internationally recognised as one of the leading terminal mutton breeds and has proven itself exceptionally adaptable within South Africa's diverse production regions. The breed is renowned for rapid growth rates, efficient feed conversion, excellent muscling, and superior carcass quality. According to the Ile de France Sheep Breeders' Society of South Africa, the breed remains highly sought after by producers focused on profitable slaughter lamb production and genetic improvement.

Industry specialists believe that modern commercial sheep farming is increasingly dependent on performance-recorded genetics. As



as a result, production data, fertility, growth performance, maternal ability, and carcass characteristics

now play a major role in stud auctions. Buyers no longer focus solely on visual appraisal, but rather on measurable genetic potential capable of improving profitability both in feedlot systems and veld-based production environments.

Previous Oostelike Ile de France Klub auctions have achieved excellent results, with top rams commanding premium prices due to the high standard of genetics on offer. Participating breeders place strong emphasis on breeding functional mutton sheep suited to a wide range of South African production systems.

Rustic Fields Lodge & Venue, situated on the old Witbank/Middelburg road, provides a centrally located venue for producers from Mpumalanga, Gauteng, and surrounding provinces. The venue has become increasingly recognised as a popular agricultural and auction



destination.

According to the official advertisement, pregnancy status and full catalogue information will be available on the day of the auction. Interested buyers and producers are encouraged to make enquiries early, as demand for quality Ile de France genetics continues to grow within the South African sheep industry.

With the continued focus on efficient meat production, genetic

advancement, and profitable slaughter lamb systems, the Oostelike Ile de France Klub's 2026 auction is expected to attract strong support from across the agricultural sector.

For many producers, the auction provides not only an opportunity to acquire elite genetics, but also a valuable platform to network with serious breeders and key role players within the South African sheep industry.

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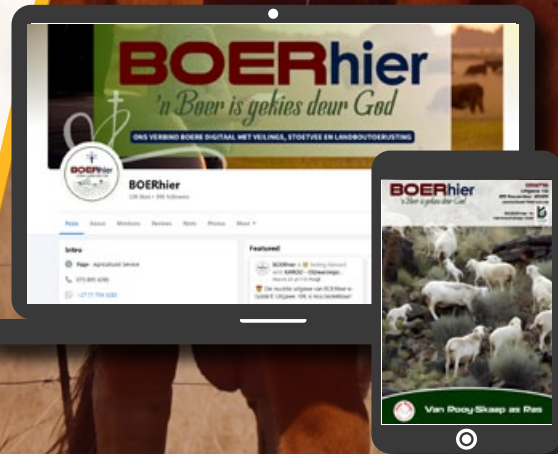
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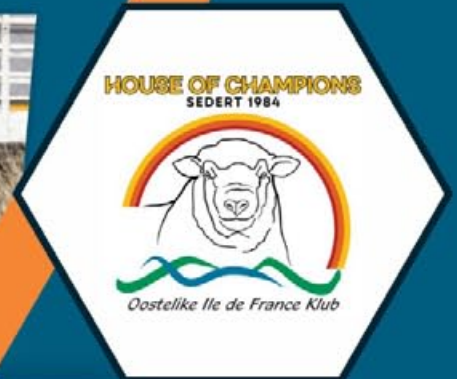
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Onder beskerming van die Ile de France Telersgenootskap

Red Carpet Premium Sale Brings South Africa's Finest Boer Goat Genetics to Engedi Manor

The South African Boer Goat industry is preparing for an exceptional weekend of top genetics, fellowship and agricultural excellence as the highly anticipated Red Carpet Premium Sale takes place on Saturday, 13 June 2026, at the beautiful Engedi Manor near Krugersdorp.

More than just an auction, the Red Carpet Premium Sale has become a gathering point for serious breeders, commercial producers and livestock enthusiasts who appreciate quality Boer Goat genetics and the opportunity to network with some of the industry's most respected breeders.

This year's sale brings together an outstanding group of Boer Goat studs that have established themselves through years of dedicated breeding, careful selection and continual genetic improvement. Participating breeders include:

- Alvin Steenkamp Boer Goats
- Joubert Horn Boergoat Stud
- Benchmark Boerbokstoet
- Passano Boerdery
- F2 Boerbokstoet
- Salmon van Huyssteen Goats

These breeders represent a combination of proven bloodlines, functional breeding animals and genetics that continue to influence Boer Goat production throughout South Africa. Buyers attending the

auction can expect to find animals selected for structural correctness, muscling, fertility, growth performance, adaptability and overall production efficiency.

The Boer Goat remains one of South Africa's greatest agricultural success stories. Developed locally and recognised internationally as a premier meat-producing breed, Boer Goats are renowned for their rapid growth rates, hardiness, adaptability and excellent carcass characteristics. As demand for quality breeding stock continues to grow, access to elite genetics has become increasingly important for both commercial and stud operations.

For commercial producers, investing in superior breeding stock can significantly improve flock performance over time. Genetics influence fertility, kidding percentages, growth rates, weaning weights, feed conversion efficiency and overall profitability. Purchasing quality breeding animals from established studs provides producers with an opportunity to accelerate genetic progress and build more productive herds.

Visitors attending the Red Carpet Premium Sale will have ample opportunity to inspect the animals



Alvin Steenkamp Boer Goats



Joubert Horn Boergoat Stud



Benchmark Boerbokstoet

before bidding begins. Experienced breeders understand that selecting a future herd sire or replacement female requires careful evaluation of conformation, breed character, muscling, mobility and reproductive potential. The quality of animals expected on offer reflects years of commitment and investment by the participating breeders.

Among the studs represented, several have become widely recognised within the Boer Goat industry for their dedication to breeding excellence. Through strategic selection and investment in superior genetics, these breeders continue to contribute to the advancement of the South African Boer Goat breed while producing animals capable of performing under a variety of production conditions.

The auction venue itself provides the perfect setting for what promises to be a memorable agricultural weekend. Engedi Manor offers a relaxed country atmosphere where producers can spend time viewing livestock, interacting with fellow farmers and discussing industry developments in a comfortable environment.

The festivities begin on Friday evening, 12 June, when farmers, breeders and guests are invited to attend a special dinner ahead of the auction. This provides an excellent opportunity to meet the participating breeders, discuss bloodlines, inspect catalogues and enjoy fellowship with others who share a passion for livestock breeding.

Saturday's activities begin well before the auction starts. Visitors will be able to view the animals, interact with exhibitors and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere that has become synonymous with the Red Carpet Premium Sale. One of the highlights for many attendees will undoubtedly be the hospitality on offer throughout the day.

Guests can look forward to an open bar, creating the ideal environment for networking and celebrating the Boer Goat industry. In addition, a traditional spit braai will be served, ensuring that visitors enjoy authentic South African hospitality while spending time with friends, fellow breeders and prospective buyers.

The combination of elite genetics, outstanding hospitality and quality fellowship makes this event far more than simply another livestock auction. It is an opportunity for producers to strengthen relationships, exchange knowledge and celebrate the achievements of South African agriculture.

Whether you are searching for a new herd sire, quality replacement females or simply looking to learn from some of the country's leading breeders, the Red Carpet Premium Sale offers something for everyone. The participating studs have assembled a selection of animals designed to meet the needs of both established breeders and producers looking to take their operations to the next level.

With exceptional Boer Goat genetics, respected breeders, a Friday evening dinner, an open bar, a traditional spit braai and the beautiful surroundings of Engedi Manor, all the ingredients are in place for a truly memorable event.

Mark 13 June 2026 on your calendar and join fellow livestock producers at the Red Carpet Premium Sale. The red carpet is ready, the breeders have prepared their finest animals, and South Africa's Boer Goat industry is once again set to showcase the very best it has to offer.

Article: FARMhere



Passano Boerdery



F2 Boerbokstoet



Salmon van Huyssteen Goats

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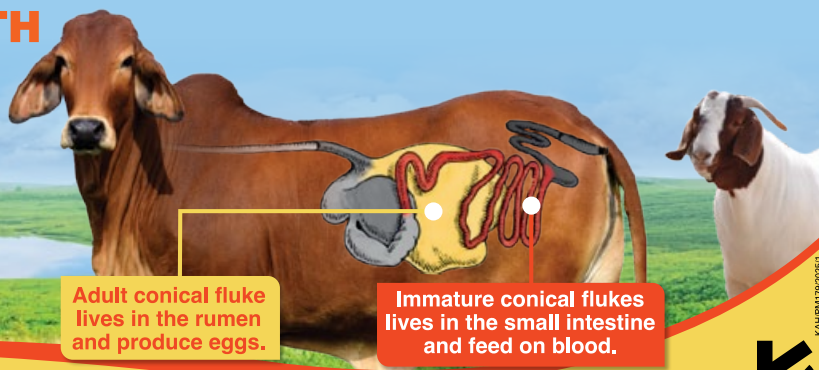
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Absolute Brangus Group Auction Set to Showcase Top Genetics at Greylingstad

The South African beef cattle industry will once again turn its attention to Mpumalanga when the Absolute Brangus Group Auction takes place on Friday, 3 July 2026 at 11:00, on the farm Roodepoort near Greylingstad. This highly anticipated production sale will bring together quality Brangus genetics from two respected breeders, offering commercial and stud cattle producers an opportunity to invest in proven, performance-driven animals.

The auction is hosted by Duo Maestro Brangus, owned by Pieter Swart, and Goue Vallei Brangus, owned by Pieter-Jan Botha. Both breeding operations have built reputations for producing functional, fertile and adaptable Brangus cattle suited to South African grazing conditions.

Brangus cattle continue to grow in popularity across South Africa due to their exceptional combination of *Bos indicus* hardiness and *Bos taurus* carcass quality. The breed is renowned for fertility, longevity, maternal ability, growth performance and adaptability under varying climatic conditions. These traits make Brangus an ideal choice for both commercial beef enterprises and progressive



stud breeders seeking sustainable genetic improvement.

Buyers attending the Absolute Brangus Group Auction can look forward to an impressive offering of:

- 40 Registered Red and Black Brangus Bulls
- 7 In-Calf Cows
- 40 Registered In-Calf Heifers

The bull selection is expected to attract significant interest from commercial producers looking to improve herd performance through superior sire power. Carefully selected breeding bulls remain one of the most cost-effective ways to improve fertility, growth rates, feed efficiency and carcass quality throughout an entire herd.

The offering of registered pregnant heifers and cows provides buyers with the opportunity to acquire productive females carrying valuable genetics into the next generation. These females represent years of disciplined breeding decisions and selection for structural soundness,

reproductive efficiency and



functional performance.

Duo Maestro Brangus has become known for breeding cattle that combine muscle expression, structural correctness and adaptability. Their focus on balanced performance traits ensures cattle that perform under practical farming conditions while maintaining the visual appeal demanded by modern beef producers.

Goue Vallei Brangus has similarly earned recognition for producing cattle with strong maternal characteristics, fertility and commercial value. Their breeding philosophy centres on cattle that work profitably in extensive South

African production systems while maintaining the genetic quality required by discerning breeders.

The auction will be conducted by experienced auctioneer Andrew Miller, while Chris Steyn will serve as marketer for the event. Their involvement ensures a professional and well-organised sale experience for both buyers and sellers.

For producers unable to attend in person, the auction will also be available through MEERKAT Online Auctions, allowing buyers from across South Africa to participate and bid remotely. This provides a convenient opportunity for serious cattlemen to secure quality genetics regardless of location.

As profitability increasingly depends on genetic efficiency,

fertility and adaptability, the Absolute Brangus Group Auction offers buyers the chance to invest in cattle that can contribute meaningfully to herd improvement for years to come.

Whether you are searching for a herd sire, replacement females, or elite registered breeding stock, this auction promises to deliver quality Brangus genetics backed by respected breeders who understand the demands of modern beef production.

Mark the date and make plans to attend what promises to be one of the standout Brangus events on the 2026 livestock auction calendar. The future of your beef herd could be waiting in Greylingstad.

Auction Details

- **Date:** Friday, 3 July 2026
- **Time:** 11:00
- **Venue:** Farm Roodepoort, Greylingstad
- **Offering:** 40 Registered Red & Black Brangus Bulls, 7 In-Calf Cows, 40 Registered In-Calf Heifers
- **Breeders:** Duo Maestro Brangus (Pieter Swart) & Goue Valleï Brangus (Pieter-Jan Botha)
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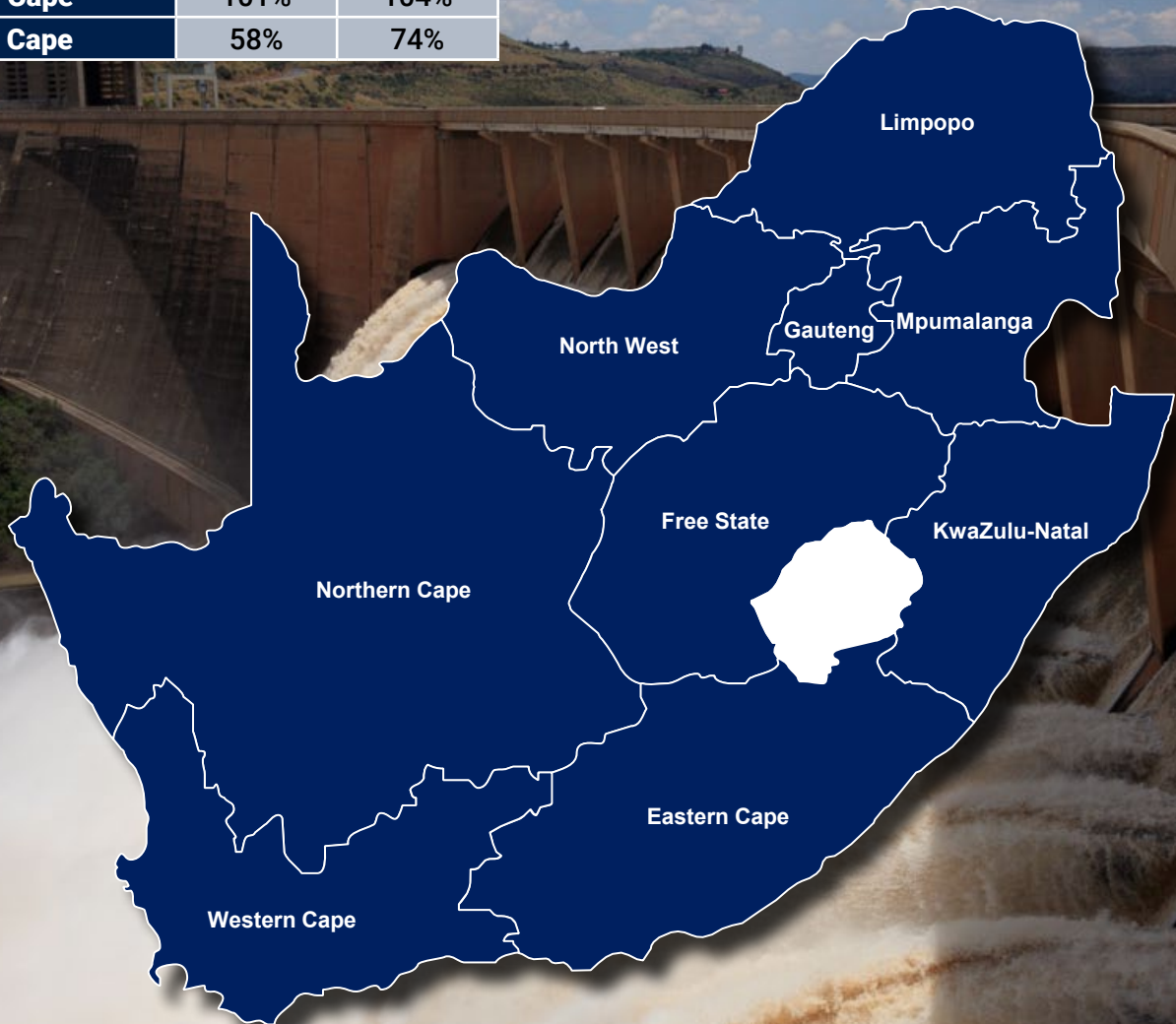
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Dam Levels

as at 9 June 2026

June		
	2025	2026
Eastern Cape	82%	93%
Freestate	101%	102%
Gauteng	102%	101%
KwaZulu-Natal	98%	91%
Limpopo	88%	101%
Mpumalanga	100%	100%
North West	102%	103%
Northern Cape	101%	104%
Western Cape	58%	74%



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Winter Nutrition Management: Protecting Livestock Performance During the Dormant Grazing

June marks the beginning of one of the most critical management periods for livestock producers across South Africa's summer rainfall regions. As veld enters dormancy, both forage quality and nutritional value decline significantly. While grazing may still appear abundant, the crude protein, digestible energy, and mineral content of mature winter veld are often insufficient to meet the nutritional requirements of productive livestock.

For beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, and game enterprises, winter nutrition management is essential to maintaining production efficiency, reproductive performance, and overall herd and flock profitability.

The primary challenge during winter is the reduction in veld protein levels. Ruminants rely on rumen microorganisms to break down fibrous forage and convert it into usable nutrients. When crude protein levels fall below approximately 7%, microbial activity in the rumen becomes restricted, resulting in reduced feed intake, poor forage utilisation, and declining animal performance.

For this reason, winter protein supplementation forms the foundation of most livestock feeding programmes. Production licks containing natural protein sources or non-protein nitrogen (NPN) are commonly utilised to stimulate rumen function and improve the digestion of standing hay and dormant veld. Farmers should ensure supplementation programmes are matched to species, production stage, and grazing conditions.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS) should be conducted regularly



Dormant winter veld often contains sufficient roughage but lacks the crude protein required to maintain optimal rumen function and livestock performance.

throughout winter. Breeding females entering the mating season or approaching late gestation must maintain adequate body reserves to ensure optimal reproductive performance. Excessive loss of condition can negatively affect conception rates, embryo survival, colostrum production, milk yield, and offspring growth rates.

Particular attention should be given to pregnant ewes, does, and cows during the final trimester of gestation. During this period, fetal growth accelerates rapidly, increasing nutritional requirements



Regular body condition scoring allows producers to identify nutritional deficiencies before they negatively impact fertility and production.

substantially. Failure to meet these requirements may result in low birth weights, weak offspring, poor maternal behaviour, and increased neonatal mortality.

Conserved forage reserves such as hay, silage, maize stover, sorghum residues, and planted winter forage

crops should be incorporated into a structured winter feeding strategy. Feed budgeting is strongly recommended to determine whether available reserves will adequately support livestock numbers throughout the winter period. Early planning allows producers to secure additional feed before seasonal demand drives prices higher.

Effective grazing management remains equally important. Overgrazing during winter can severely compromise veld condition, reduce ground cover, and negatively impact future carrying capacity. Implementing rotational grazing systems allows camps sufficient recovery periods and promotes long-term veld sustainability. Maintaining adequate residual plant material also assists with soil moisture conservation and erosion prevention.

Water remains the most important nutrient for livestock. Even during colder months, animals require unrestricted access to clean, high-quality drinking water. Reduced water intake directly impacts feed

consumption, rumen function, growth rates, milk production, and fertility. Regular inspection of water infrastructure, including pipelines, troughs, pumps, and storage facilities, is therefore essential.

Winter also provides an ideal opportunity to strengthen preventative animal health programmes. Strategic parasite control, vaccination schedules, trace mineral supplementation, and routine herd health monitoring help reduce production losses. Producers should work closely with veterinarians and animal health advisors to develop programmes tailored to local conditions and disease risks.

Ultimately, successful winter livestock production depends on proactive nutritional management rather than emergency feeding interventions. Producers who focus on rumen efficiency, body condition maintenance, feed budgeting, veld conservation, and preventative health programmes will be best positioned to maximise reproductive performance, growth rates, and profitability when spring arrives.



The condition of a herd or flock in June often determines its productivity for the remainder of the production cycle. Winter management is therefore not merely a seasonal necessity—it is a direct investment in future production and profitability.

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Philippians 4:19



Breeding Season Preparation and Water Security

Key Priorities for South African Sheep and Goat Farmers

June marks an important management period for South African sheep and goat producers. Across the country, breeders are preparing for upcoming mating seasons while simultaneously ensuring adequate water availability and infrastructure reliability during the winter months. Success during the next production cycle depends largely on decisions made now regarding nutrition, fertility management, genetics, and water security.

Preparing for the Breeding Season

A profitable lambing or kidding season starts long before rams and bucks are introduced to breeding females. One of the most important management practices is ensuring that breeding animals enter the mating season in optimal body condition.

Ewes and does that are either too thin or excessively fat generally achieve lower conception rates. Research and industry recommendations indicate that females in moderate body condition achieve better fertility, higher conception rates, and improved reproductive



Goat Diet and Feed Formulas for Each Growth Stage

performance.

Ram and Buck Fertility Testing

A fertile ram or buck is one of the most valuable assets in a breeding enterprise. Since a single ram may service dozens of ewes during a breeding season, poor fertility can have devastating financial consequences.

Pre-breeding examinations should include:

- Physical soundness assessments
- Examination of testes and reproductive organs
- Semen quality evaluation
- Libido testing
- Hoof and leg inspections
- General health assessments

Breeding males should be tested several weeks before mating to allow time for replacement if fertility issues are detected. Sound, fertile males are essential for achieving high conception rates and compact lambing periods.



Feeding livestock during the winter

Flushing Programmes for Ewes and Does

Many South African breeders implement flushing programmes approximately three weeks before mating. Flushing involves improving the nutritional plane of breeding females through quality grazing, supplementary feeding, or strategic energy supplementation.

The objective is to encourage weight gain and stimulate ovulation. Studies have shown that females gaining weight before breeding generally achieve improved reproductive performance and often produce

higher lambing percentages. Proper flushing can increase the number of multiple births while reducing the percentage of barren females.

Producers should also ensure that mineral supplementation remains adequate, particularly trace elements and vitamins required for reproductive performance. Internal parasite control should be addressed before breeding to minimise nutritional stress and maximise fertility.

Selecting Replacement Females

June is also an ideal time to identify and retain replacement females for future breeding seasons.

Selection should focus on:

- Fertility history
- Growth performance
- Structural correctness
- Mothering ability
- Adaptability to local conditions
- Reproduction records

Females originating from productive dams and exhibiting strong growth performance often contribute significantly to long-term flock improvement. Poor-performing animals, those with reproductive problems, or animals suffering from chronic health issues should be considered for culling.

Stud Breeders Focus on Genetic Improvement

For stud breeders, winter is a critical preparation period ahead of spring and summer auctions.

Key activities include:

- Performance testing
- Recording growth rates
- Monitoring reproduction indices
- Collecting genetic data
- Preparing sale animals
- Marketing breeding stock

Accurate record keeping remains

one of the most powerful tools available to stud breeders. Growth rates, fertility records, lambing percentages, and maternal performance data provide valuable information that allows breeders to make informed selection decisions and market superior genetics with confidence.

Water Security Remains Essential

Although livestock water consumption decreases during winter, water security remains a major concern across South Africa.

Farmers should regularly inspect:

- Dam levels
- Pipelines
- Storage reservoirs
- Drinking troughs
- Borehole systems
- Water quality

Cold weather can lead to frozen pipes in some regions, while poor maintenance may result in leaks, contamination, or interrupted water supply. Livestock require continuous access to clean, fresh drinking water regardless of season.

Poor water quality can negatively affect feed intake, growth rates, milk production, and reproductive performance. Regular water testing and infrastructure maintenance should therefore form part of every farm's winter management programme.

Protecting Valuable Water Resources

With recurring drought cycles and increasing pressure on water resources, many producers are investing in dam lining systems to reduce seepage losses and improve water conservation.

One company assisting South African farmers in this area is Damlinings. Their services include:

- Agricultural dam lining



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Damlinings Contact Details

For assistance with agricultural dam lining and water storage solutions:

Damlinings (Pty) Ltd

- [Tel: 012 734 3055](tel:0127343055)
- [Cell: 082 553 0777](tel:0825530777)
- [Email: info@damlinings.co.za](mailto:info@damlinings.co.za)
- [Website: Damlinings South Africa](http://www.damlinings.co.za)

As South African sheep and goat producers prepare for the next breeding cycle, careful attention to fertility management, nutritional planning, genetic improvement, and water security will remain the foundation of sustainable and profitable livestock production during 2026 and beyond.

Damlinings Article



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Winter Grain Establishment: Critical Decisions for Western Cape Farmers in June 2026

June marks one of the most important periods on the South African grain farming calendar. Across the Western Cape winter rainfall region, producers are focused on establishing wheat, barley, canola and oats successfully. The decisions made during planting and early crop establishment will largely determine yield potential and profitability later in the season.

The Western Cape remains South Africa's primary winter grain production region, producing the majority of the country's barley, canola and oats, while contributing more than half of national wheat production. Winter grain farmers entered the 2026 planting season with mixed optimism. Early rainfall improved soil moisture levels in many production areas, but concerns remain regarding seasonal rainfall forecasts, rising input costs and commodity price pressure.

Soil Moisture Remains the Foundation

Successful establishment begins with adequate soil moisture. Germination and early root development depend on sufficient moisture in the seedbed. Uneven soil moisture often results in poor



emergence, inconsistent plant populations and reduced yield potential.

Many producers delayed planting until rainfall replenished soil profiles. While early rains provided much-needed moisture in several areas, farmers continue to monitor follow-up rainfall closely. Dryland grain production remains highly dependent on seasonal rainfall distribution throughout winter and spring.

Conservation agriculture practices such as minimum tillage, residue retention and crop rotation continue to play a vital role in preserving soil moisture and reducing evaporation losses.

Achieving Uniform Germination

Uniform crop emergence is one of the most important factors influencing final yields. Seed should be placed into a moist, firm seedbed at the correct planting

depth to encourage rapid and even germination.

Research consistently shows that poor establishment reduces tillering, limits root development and creates uneven crop stands that are difficult to manage later in the season. Wheat producers are particularly encouraged to remain within recommended planting windows, as late planting can expose crops to moisture stress and heat during critical growth stages. ([Farmer's Weekly](#))

Farmers should continue monitoring emergence percentages during June and identify any areas requiring replanting before significant yield losses occur.

Weed Pressure Demands Early Action

Weeds compete aggressively with young grain crops for moisture, nutrients and sunlight. Early-season weed competition is especially damaging when crops are still



establishing root systems.

June is therefore a critical month for weed scouting. Farmers should regularly inspect lands for broadleaf and grass weeds and implement control measures before weeds become established.

Integrated weed management strategies remain essential. These include crop rotation, competitive cultivars, correct planting density and timely herbicide applications. Effective weed control during the first few weeks after emergence often determines how efficiently crops utilise available soil moisture and nutrients throughout the season.

Fertiliser Efficiency is More Important Than Ever

Fertiliser represents one of the largest production costs for grain farmers. With fertiliser and fuel prices remaining elevated during 2026, efficient nutrient management has become increasingly important.

Nitrogen remains the primary driver of grain yield and protein

production. However, fertiliser decisions should always be guided by soil analysis results. Over-application increases costs unnecessarily, while under-application limits yield potential.

Producers are encouraged to ensure balanced nutrition, including phosphorus, potassium and sulphur where required. Canola, in particular, has relatively high sulphur requirements compared with cereals.

Watch for Early Disease Development

Disease pressure can develop rapidly under cool, wet winter conditions. Farmers should begin scouting fields shortly after emergence for signs of fungal diseases, seedling blights and foliar infections.

Regular monitoring allows producers to implement timely fungicide programmes where economically justified. Crop rotation, certified seed and resistant cultivars remain important tools for reducing disease pressure and protecting yield potential.

Looking Ahead


The 2026 winter grain season is shaping up to be another challenging but potentially rewarding year. Early rainfall has improved planting conditions in many regions, yet uncertainty surrounding seasonal rainfall, input costs and commodity prices continues to influence management decisions. https://wandile.substack.com/p/early-rains-in-the-western-cape-bode?utm_source=chatgpt.com


Farmers who focus on soil moisture conservation, uniform crop establishment, early weed control, efficient fertiliser use and proactive disease monitoring will place their wheat, barley, canola and oat crops in the strongest possible position for a successful harvest later in the year.

FARMHERE Article


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Parasite species that can cause problems and production losses in the winter

1. Are there certain parasites that are considered winter parasites or do all parasites occur throughout the year?

Although the warmer spring, summer and autumn months are generally associated with high internal and external parasite loads, winter should not be forgotten, as certain parasites can also cause problems and production losses during this time.

2. Are internal and external parasites more active in winter?

Although internal and external parasites are more active in the warmer months, certain parasites may increase in prevalence during the colder winter months. The rainfall region (winter or summer rainfall) must also be considered. In certain areas where the winters are not so cold, certain parasites can cause problems all year round.

Good examples of internal parasites that occur in winter and can lead to production losses include liver fluke (*Fasciola spp.*) and conical fluke (*Calicophoron microbothrium*). Certain roundworm species such as roundworms in



sheep and cattle (*Teladorsagia circumscincta* and *Ostertagia ostertagia*) as well as roundworms in sheep (*Trichostrongylus spp.*) can cause problems especially during the winter in winter rainfall regions.

External parasites whose incidence may increase during the winter months are scabies mites (*Psoroptes ovis*), which is also a state-controlled disease, as well as biting and sucking lice (*Damalinia spp.* and *Linognathus spp.*).

Although tick numbers decrease during the winter months, it is possible that the immature larva and nymph stages, which cannot always be seen with the naked eye, may still be present in animals.

Nose fly larvae (*Oestrus ovis*) can also overwinter / survive in sheep's nasal cavities during the winter months to eventually cause problems in the spring-summer months.

3. Why are animals more exposed to parasites in winter?

Certain environmental factors can determine that the incidence of certain parasites increases in winter. Because the nutritional value of natural fields decreases during the winter months, animals' natural immunity can decrease to some extent, if the necessary nutrients are not supplemented. On the other hand, a high parasite load in winter can again hinder the utilization of valuable nutrients during this critical time.

The occurrence of internal parasites such as liver fluke (*Fasciola spp.*) in winter can be explained by looking at the life cycle of the parasite. As soon as the minimum temperatures in winter start to drop below 10°C, the freshwater flukes, which serve as intermediate hosts, start to hide in the mud. The immature

stages of the liver fluke parasite (*cercaria*) leave the snails to settle on the pastures. These cercaria then lose their protective envelope and change to the infective stage (*metacercaria*) for the ruminant.

The result is that ruminants become infected when grazing, especially in wet areas during this time. This immature stage then begins to migrate through the stomach and intestinal wall and abdominal cavity to the liver. The adult stage is reached after about 12 weeks and settles in the bile ducts where they then aggressively suck blood and cause signs of disease. They also cause damage to the bile ducts, leading to thickening (*pedicle fibrosis*) of the bile ducts. The mature female stages of the liver fluke, which settle in the bile ducts, produce massive numbers of eggs which are then eventually excreted through the faeces. The result is that the pastures become dramatically infected with eggs. The eggs then hatch on the pastures to a larval stage (miracidium) which in turn infects the freshwater snails (intermediate host), when they become active in the spring, and thus the life cycle of the liver fluke parasite can be repeated.

The life cycle for conical fluke (*Calicophoron microbothrium*) is very similar, with the difference that the immature stages (*cercaria*) leave the intermediate host later in the winter and animals then become infected later in the winter. The immature stages of the pear-shaped gastropod are responsible for the disease signs observed due to the severe irritation they cause in the small intestine wall, while the mature stage settles in the leaf stomach without causing any disease signs.

Certain roundworm species such as the brown stomach worm and roundworm thrive in cold, wet conditions found in the winter



rainfall regions and infection of animals with these parasites increases during the winter months in these regions. The environment created on planted pastures is also favorable for the survival of these parasites and high infestations are also usually observed.

External parasites such as lice and mites can increase by looking at the environment on the host, especially sheep, and environmental factors. When the wool is long and the ambient temperature is low, the conditions are favorable for these parasites to multiply and survive and high numbers can occur on the hosts resulting in severe infestations.

4. Is there a general life cycle for parasites or does it differ from species to species?

Each parasite has its own unique life cycle.

Certain internal parasites such as roundworms have a direct life cycle, meaning that their life cycle does not depend on an intermediate host, with the result that their numbers can increase rapidly under favorable circumstances. Other internal parasites such as liver fluke and conical fluke have an indirect life cycle, which means that intermediate hosts, such as freshwater snails, form part of the life cycle.

The duration of the parasites' life cycle also varies. Certain

roundworms' life cycle can be as short as 18-21 days, while liver fluke's life cycle in the animal can last up to 12 weeks.

By considering the life cycle together with all the other environmental factors such as temperature, moisture as well as the host, the occurrence of parasites during certain times of the year can be explained.

5. What are disease signs of internal parasites?

The disease signs observed depend on which internal parasite the animal is infected with. The common disease signs of internal parasites are a decreased appetite, weight loss, diarrhea, anemia which is seen as pale eye mucous membranes and low protein levels which are seen as "crooked throat". These two latter disease signs are particularly observed with high roundworm and liver fluke infestation. Acute deaths can occur especially in sheep with high liver fluke and roundworm infestation.

Disease signs of external parasites?

The disease signs observed depend on the external parasite with which the animal is infected. The signs of lice and mite infestations are very similar and include animals itching and constantly scratching and biting themselves and thus, in the case of sheep, pulling out their wool. In some cases, lesions may be

observed on the skin and hair and wool loss may occur. This may result in large production losses.

6. How do you know if your animals / farm is infected with winter parasites?

If it is suspected that animals are infected with winter parasites, after certain signs of disease have been observed, certain diagnostic methods can be employed with the help of the local veterinarian, to determine which parasites are present.

Mouse egg flotation and mouse egg sedimentation can be done to determine which internal parasites are present by identifying the specific eggs. Mice egg counts can be done to determine how high the infestation is.

Mice egg sedimentations are especially done to diagnose liver fluke and conical fluke infestation.

If animals are slaughtered or when a post-mortem examination is carried out on an animal that has died, the digestive tract (from the stomach to the large intestine) as well as the liver can be examined for the presence of internal parasites.

To determine which external parasites are present, the skin between the hair or the wool can be closely examined for external parasites such as lice (biting and sucking lice) as well as larval and nymph stages of ticks. **A skin scraping can be made from lesions around fasted or mite-infested animals.**

To accurately identify these external parasites a microscope must be used. It is particularly important to accurately identify these external parasites, as the signs are very similar, and appropriate treatment can only take place after the parasite has been accurately identified.

7. How can winter parasites be prevented and controlled?

Certain management practices can be used to prevent infestation with winter parasites. For example, to prevent liver fluke and conical fluke infection, wet areas such as marshes and rivers should be avoided during the autumn months to prevent contamination with the infective stages, which leave the freshwater snails (intermediate host) during this time of year.

In some cases, and in areas where there is an increased incidence of liver fluke infestation, strategic treatment during early winter, around 2 fortnights after the minimum temperature has dropped below 10°C, can be done to prevent winter infestation. A drug containing triclabendazole, which is effective against the most immature stages as well as the mature stages of liver fluke, can be used for this static treatment.

Strategic treatment to prevent conical fluke can be applied in late winter.

Strategic liver fluke treatment, with an agent that is effective against adult stages, can be done during early spring to get rid of the mature liver flukes that have survived through the winter, thus limiting the contamination of pastures with liver fluke eggs and the life cycle to break to a certain extent.

As far as external parasites such as lice are concerned, shearing sheep, although this is not always possible, can drastically reduce the infestation and possibly prevent it.

8. If your animals are infected with winter parasites, how can they be treated?

It is important to determine with the help of the local veterinarian, who uses certain diagnostic methods, which specific internal



and external parasites the animals are infected with.

There are several drugs on the market that contain active ingredients that are effective against certain internal and / or external parasites, as well as the different stages (immature and / or adult) of these parasites.

The right treatment can therefore be used to treat these parasites accurately and effectively.

A drug such as triclabendazole can be used to treat the immature as well as the mature stages of liver fluke in the animal. A drug containing oxclozanide or resorantel can be used to treat the immature as well as the mature stages of conical fluke.

A product containing any of the macrocyclic lactones (such as ivermectin, doramectin or abamectin) will be effective against sucking lice and mites on sheep, but not against biting lice.

The importance of an accurate diagnosis or identification of the specific parasite must be emphasized again to ensure that the right treatment is applied.

The importance of understanding the life cycle of parasites and applying the right treatment can be emphasized using sheep scab as an example. With certain drugs, it is important to apply a follow-up treatment 11-14 days later to effectively treat a sheep scab infestation. It must also be ensured that each animal has been treated, by marking animals, as one untreated animal, which can lead to further contamination.

KyronAgri article

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A comparative efficacy study in cattle to determine the therapeutic efficacy of 2 oral formulations against 3 week old giant liver fluke (*F gigantica*).

Study objectives

The objective of the study was to compare the efficacy of the test product against the reference product, when used against 3 week old giant liver fluke (*F gigantica*)*.

Study design

A controlled, uncentre study using two treatment groups, and one untreated control group of cattle.

	Day	Group*
Infestation with giant liver fluke	0	1,2,3
Treatment	+21	1,2
Slaughter	+93	1,2,3

*Group 1: Test product group (n = 6); Group 2: Reference product group (n = 6); Group 3: Untreated control group (n = 6).

Trial animals

18 Nguni cross males, 10 months old, 130 - 229 kg. Identified by means of ear tags.

Test products

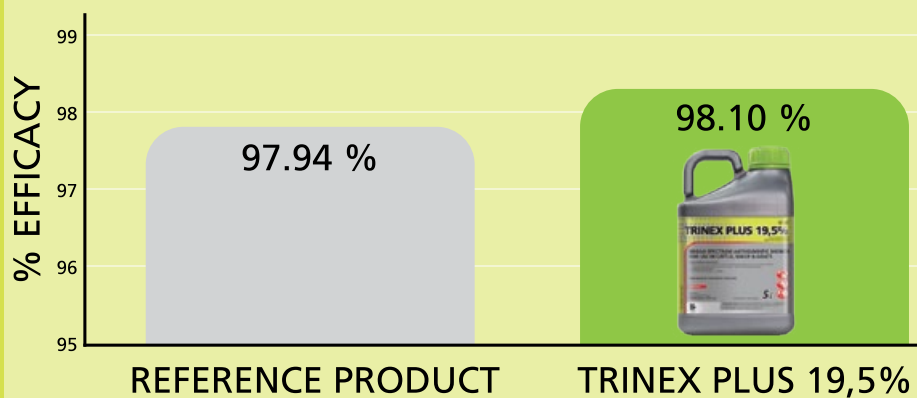
Test Product: An oral formulation (Trinex Plus 19,5 %) containing 12 % triclabendazole and 7,5 % levamisole. Batch number 406010. Expiry date: 7/2016.

Reference product: Oral formulation containing 12 % triclabendazole and 4,53 % oxfendazole. Batch number and expiry date withheld.

Dosage

For both products, administration was done orally at a rate of 1 ml / 10 kg, yielding a dose of 12 mg / kg triclabendazole and 7,5 mg / kg levamisole (Trinex Plus 19,5 %) and 12 mg / kg triclabendazole and 4,53 mg / kg oxfendazole (Reference product).

EFFICACY BASED ON GEOMEAN FLUKE NUMBERS



* The South African regulatory authorities accept efficacy against 3 week old giant liver fluke (*F gigantica*) as being equivalent to efficacy against 2 week-old liver fluke (*F hepatica*). This is in evidence on the efficacy table on the label of the reference product. *F gigantica* was used in this study because *F hepatica* was not available at the time.

Reference: Kyron Animal Health enlisted the services of an independent contractor to conduct the study: Bosvet Clinical Development, Postnet Suite 8396, Kempton Park 1620.

1. Dowling A, Lawrence, K.E., Howe L., Scott, I., Pomroy, W.E. 2024. Assessment of accuracy of liver fluke diagnostic tests using the gold standard of total worm counts. *Veterinary Parasitology: Regional Studies and Report*, 54. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vprsr.2024.101102>
 2. Mazeri S, Sargison N, Kelly RF, Bronsvort BMD, Handel I. 2016. Evaluation of the Performance of Five Diagnostic Tests for *Fasciola hepatica* Infection in Naturally Infected Cattle Using a Bayesian No Gold Standard Approach. *PLoS ONE* 11(8): e0161621. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0161621>

Product name: Trinex Plus 19,5% **Registration number:** G3814 Act 36/1947 (South Africa). **Each 1 ml contains:** Levamisole 7,5 % m/v, Triclabendazole 12,0 % m/v **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. **Export countries:** Botswana - BV2100461/A [VPS]; Namibia - V14/18.1.8/1244 [NSO]

Conclusion

Slaughter studies are accepted as **gold standard**^{1,2} for efficacy testing against internal parasites. This slaughter study shows that the test and reference products are equally effective against 3 week old giant liver fluke, and thus also 2 week old liver fluke.



†② Benzimidazole †③ Imidothiazole

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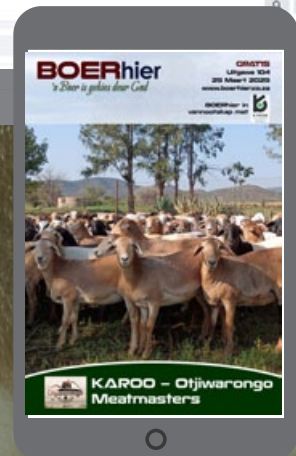
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Harvesting and Marketing Summer Crops Efficiently in South Africa

June marks one of the most important periods on South African grain farms as the harvesting and marketing of summer crops reaches full momentum across the country's major production regions. Producers of maize, soybeans, sunflower seed, sorghum and groundnuts are focused not only on achieving efficient harvesting operations but also on maximising returns through sound marketing decisions.



minimise harvest losses. Modern combines can lose significant quantities of grain if not correctly calibrated. Daily adjustments for moisture levels, crop conditions and harvesting speed are essential. Operators should regularly inspect cutter bars, sieves, threshing systems and grain handling equipment to ensure optimal efficiency.

Harvest timing also plays a critical role. Delayed harvesting increases the risk of lodging, grain shattering, wildlife damage, fungal infections and weather-related losses. Producers are therefore encouraged to prioritise fields that are most vulnerable while maintaining grain quality standards required by buyers and storage facilities.

Grain quality remains a major factor influencing profitability. Moisture



content should be monitored carefully to avoid storage problems and quality deductions. Grain delivered with excessive moisture often attracts drying charges and

The 2025/26 production season has delivered encouraging prospects for South African grain producers. According to the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC), South Africa is expected to harvest approximately 21.1 million tonnes of summer grains and oilseeds, making it one of the largest summer crop harvests on record. Maize production alone is forecast at approximately 17.06 million tonnes, exceeding the previous season's crop and creating a substantial exportable surplus.

For many farmers in the Free State, Mpumalanga, North West, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, the primary objective during June is to

may reduce marketing flexibility. Proper drying and handling practices help preserve grain quality and market value.

Storage management has become increasingly important in a year characterised by large crop volumes. Commercial silos and on-farm storage facilities are expected to receive substantial quantities of grain during the 2026 marketing season. Farmers who have access to storage may benefit from increased marketing flexibility, allowing them to avoid selling their entire crop during periods of peak harvest pressure when prices are often under downward pressure. Modern grain storage infrastructure also assists in maintaining grain quality and reducing post-harvest losses.

Marketing decisions are equally important. South African grain prices are influenced by several factors, including local supply and demand, international commodity markets, exchange rates, logistics performance and export demand. The large maize harvest forecast

for 2026 may place pressure on domestic prices during the harvest period as grain enters the market.

Producers should therefore consider developing structured marketing plans rather than relying solely on spot market sales. Many commercial farmers utilise the South African Futures Exchange (SAFEX) to manage price risk and secure future income. Forward contracts, hedging strategies and staggered sales can help reduce exposure to market volatility while improving cash-flow management.

Logistics remain another important consideration. Efficient movement of grain from field to storage facilities, processors or export channels reduces bottlenecks and preserves grain quality. Producers should ensure trucks, trailers, handling equipment and labour resources are available throughout the harvest period.

Ultimately, successful grain farming does not end when the crop is harvested. The combination of efficient harvesting, proper grain handling, strategic storage and



disciplined marketing determines the final profitability of the production season. As South Africa moves through what could be one of its strongest grain harvests in recent years, producers who focus on both operational efficiency and marketing discipline will be best positioned to maximise returns from the 2026 summer crop season.

Sources

- [Crop Estimates Committee](#)
- [Department of Agriculture Crop Estimates Reports](#)
- [SAGIS Crop Estimates Committee Reports](#)
- [Grain SA](#)

FARMhere article

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Private FMD Vaccination: A Positive Step Forward for South African Livestock Farmers



South Africa's livestock industry received significant news in May 2026 when the Gauteng High Court ruled that livestock owners may, under specific conditions, privately procure and administer Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccines rather than relying exclusively on state-controlled vaccination programmes. The ruling has been widely viewed as a practical development that could strengthen disease control efforts and improve the resilience of the country's livestock sector.

The court decision does not replace government vaccination programmes, nor does it remove regulatory oversight. Instead, it creates an additional pathway that allows farmers, veterinarians, producer organisations and industry bodies to become more actively involved in protecting livestock against one of the most economically damaging animal diseases affecting South Africa.

Positive Impacts for South African Agriculture

One of the greatest advantages of private vaccination is speed. During disease outbreaks, rapid response is critical. Allowing farmers and private veterinarians access to vaccines can reduce delays and help protect herds before infection spreads further.

The ruling is also expected to improve collaboration between government veterinary services and the private sector. The Department of Agriculture has already indicated that private veterinarians and

animal health professionals play an important role in South Africa's broader FMD control strategy.

Another positive outcome is increased producer confidence. FMD outbreaks have resulted in movement restrictions, market disruptions and export challenges. By allowing greater participation from producers themselves, the industry gains an additional tool to limit disease spread and protect valuable breeding and commercial livestock.

Vaccine Availability Has Improved Significantly

The court ruling arrives at a time when vaccine availability has improved dramatically compared with previous years.

During 2025 and 2026, South Africa imported millions of FMD vaccine doses from international suppliers, including vaccines sourced from Botswana, Argentina and other approved manufacturers. The country has also restarted local



FMD vaccine production through the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) for the first time in more than two decades.

By late May 2026, South Africa had secured approximately 13.5 million vaccine doses, representing the largest FMD vaccine acquisition programme in the country's history. More than 2.5 million animals had already been vaccinated nationally by April 2026.

The combination of imported vaccines, industry procurement initiatives and local production capacity provides a far stronger supply position than existed during previous outbreaks.

Are FMD Vaccines Exorbitantly Expensive?

At the time of writing, there is no widely published national private-sector retail price list for FMD vaccines in South Africa following the court ruling. Vaccine costs will vary according to supplier, import costs, transport, veterinary involvement and administration requirements.

However, industry sources generally indicate that the vaccine

itself is not considered prohibitively expensive when compared with the potential losses caused by an FMD outbreak. The true cost of FMD lies in livestock movement restrictions, reduced market access, production losses and export disruptions rather than the vaccine itself.

Farmers should also note that government vaccination campaigns implemented as part of the national outbreak response have remained free of charge to producers, with government covering vaccine costs during official disease-control programmes.

For commercial producers, stud breeders and feedlot operators, preventative vaccination is generally viewed as a risk-management investment rather than an additional expense. A single disease outbreak can cost significantly more than a preventative vaccination programme.

Looking Ahead

The court ruling represents an important development in South Africa's fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease. While regulatory

requirements and veterinary oversight remain essential, the decision gives farmers greater flexibility to protect their herds while supporting national disease-control objectives.

Combined with improved vaccine availability, expanding local production and ongoing cooperation between government and industry, private vaccination could become a valuable component of South Africa's long-term FMD management strategy. The ultimate beneficiaries will be livestock producers, rural economies and the broader agricultural value chain that depends on healthy, productive animals.

Sources

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- [Engineering News – High Court ruling on private FMD vaccines](#)
- [Department of Agriculture – FMD Vaccination Updates](#)
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- [RMIS FMD Updates](#)

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Starting a Cattle Farm in South Africa: A Step-by-Step Guide

Starting a cattle farm in South Africa must begin with a clear production plan: breeding, weaner production, backgrounding, feedlotting, dairy, or stud breeding. Each system requires different land, capital, skills, feed, labour and veterinary planning. Beef cattle remain strongly dependent on veld, and South African production guidelines emphasise that natural grazing is the main feed resource for cattle, provided veld condition and carrying capacity are managed correctly.

Step 1: Check land suitability and water.

Before buying cattle, assess rainfall, veld type, grazing capacity, fencing, camps, shade, handling facilities and reliable water. Do not stock according to emotion or “open hectares”; stock according to local carrying capacity, advised by an agricultural extension officer, animal scientist or experienced local farmer.

Step 2: Comply with legal requirements.

In South Africa, cattle owners must apply for a registered animal



identification mark through the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. Marking livestock is compulsory for cattle, sheep, goats and pigs under the Animal Identification Act. Cattle movement must also comply with current veterinary and traceability rules, especially in or near Foot-and-Mouth Disease control areas. Movement documentation, identification and veterinary requirements must be confirmed with the State Vet before buying, selling or transporting animals. FMD is a highly contagious disease of cloven-hoofed animals, and South Africa has had ongoing control measures following loss of FMD freedom status.

Step 3: Decide on the right breed.

Choose cattle according to climate, veld, disease pressure, market and management level. Hardy South African-adapted breeds such as



Bonsmara cattle



Nguni cattle

Bonsmara, Afrikaner, Nguni and Drakensberger are often valued for adaptability, fertility and veld performance. ARC beef production material lists indigenous and adapted breeds including Nguni, Bonsmara and Afrikaner, noting their ability to withstand harsh local conditions. In hotter bushveld or tick-challenge areas, adaptability and parasite tolerance matter. In higher rainfall sourveld areas, winter nutrition planning becomes more important. For a commercial herd, fertility, calving ease, mothering ability, temperament and marketable weaner calves are usually more important than show appearance.

Step 4: Buy correctly.

Start small. Buy from reputable breeders or producers with records, pregnancy status, vaccination history and disease information. Avoid bargain animals with unknown origin. Insist on invoices, movement documents and identification. Quarantine new cattle before mixing them with the herd.

Step 5: Build essential infrastructure.

A practical starter cattle farm needs secure perimeter fencing, internal camps, water troughs, shade, a kraal, loading ramp, crush, neck clamp, sorting pens and a calf-handling area. KZN agricultural handling guidelines state that a crush length of about 1 700 mm per medium cow is generally satisfactory. Good handling facilities reduce injuries, make vaccination and weighing possible, and improve animal welfare.

Step 6: Plan feed.

Base the herd on veld or planted pasture where possible. Add winter supplementation, especially in summer-rainfall provinces where veld becomes dormant. Typical needs include protein licks, phosphate in summer in deficient areas, energy supplementation during drought or late pregnancy, good hay, silage where available, and clean water at all times. Body condition scoring is essential before breeding and calving.

Step 7: Create a veterinary programme.

Work with a local veterinarian because disease risk differs by province. Core concerns include FMD compliance, lumpy skin disease, blackquarter, anthrax, botulism, brucellosis testing where relevant, redwater, gallsickness, heartwater, internal parasites, ticks, pneumonia and calf diseases. OBP lists lumpy skin disease vaccine for cattle, while MSD lists products including blackquarter-anthrax vaccine and redwater treatment options. Medicine must be used according to label directions and veterinary advice.

Step 8: Keep records and market properly.

Record births, deaths, treatments, weights, breeding dates, bull performance, calving percentage and sales. Profit depends on kilograms weaned per hectare, fertility, low mortality and selling into the right market: auctions, direct buyers, feedlots, abattoirs or stud sales.

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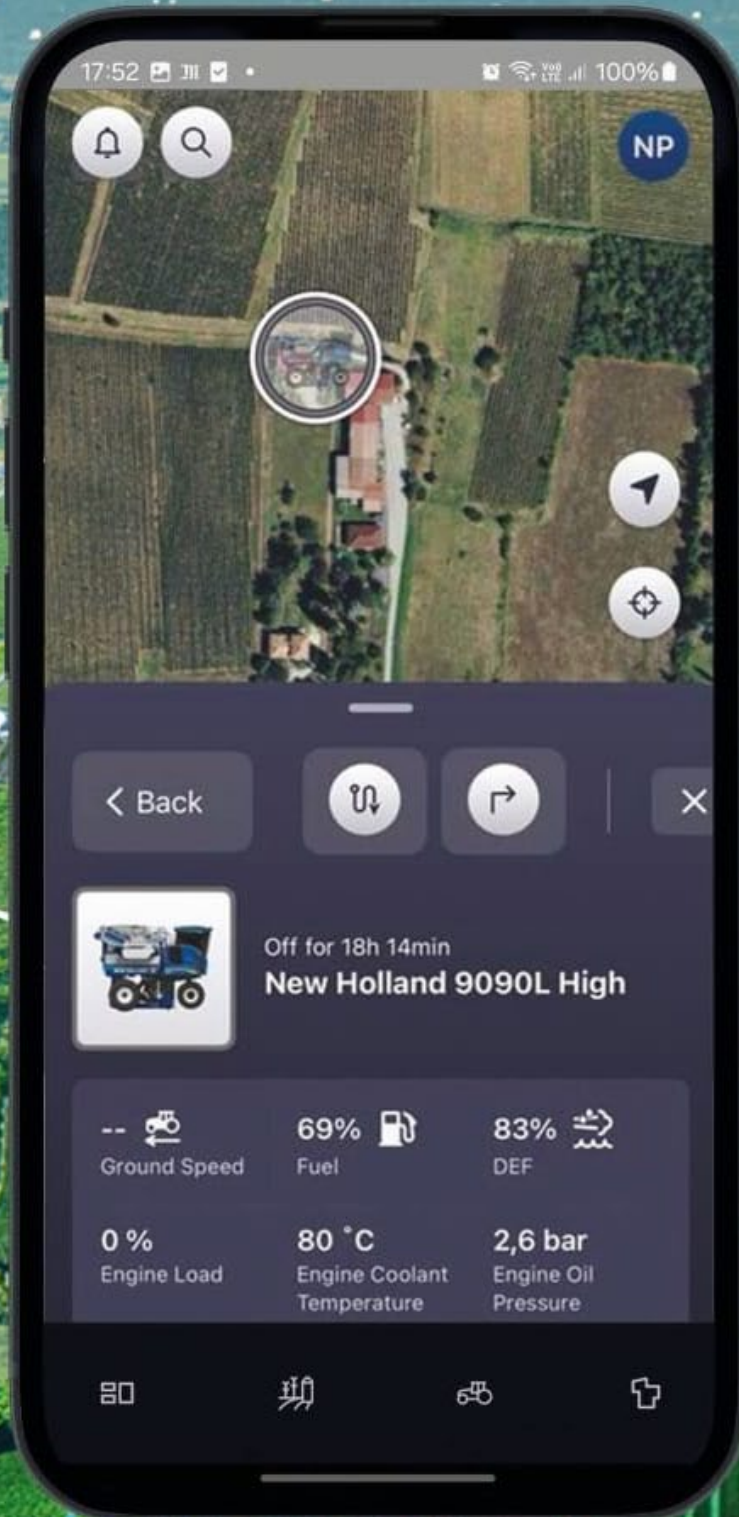


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The Farm Manager: The Backbone of a Successful Farming Operation

Modern farming in South Africa is no longer simply about planting crops or caring for livestock. Today's agricultural businesses are complex enterprises that require strong leadership, skilled employees, sound financial management, and strict compliance with regulations. At the centre of this operation stands the farm manager – the person responsible for turning the farmer's vision into profitable production.



Agriculture remains a significant employer in South Africa. The sector directly employs approximately 906,000 people in primary agriculture and supports hundreds of thousands more jobs throughout the agricultural value chain. Agriculture contributes nearly 6% of South Africa's labour force and plays a critical role in rural economic development.

The Role of the Farm Manager

A farm manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of the farming enterprise. Whether managing a cattle ranch in the Free State, a citrus farm in Limpopo, or a mixed farming operation in Mpumalanga, the farm manager oversees all production activities while ensuring profitability and sustainability.

Key responsibilities include:

- Planning production schedules
- Managing labour and staff

- Monitoring livestock health and welfare
- Supervising planting, spraying, fertilisation, and harvesting programmes
- Managing machinery and infrastructure maintenance
- Controlling budgets and input costs
- Ensuring compliance with labour, environmental, and animal welfare legislation
- Maintaining farm records and production data
- Implementing biosecurity measures
- Managing health and safety on the farm

A successful farm manager combines agricultural knowledge with leadership, communication, financial management, and problem-solving skills. Modern farm managers increasingly utilise technology, software, and data-driven decision-making to improve efficiency and productivity.

Building the Right Farm Team

No farm manager can operate successfully alone. Productive farms rely on a team of skilled individuals, each contributing specialised expertise.

1. General Farm Workers

Farm workers form the foundation of any agricultural enterprise. Their duties may include livestock handling, fencing, irrigation, planting, harvesting, feeding animals, and general maintenance. Proper training and supervision are essential to maximise productivity and minimise workplace accidents.

2. Supervisors and Foremen

Larger farming operations often employ supervisors or foremen who oversee specific divisions such as livestock, cropping, irrigation, or maintenance. They act as the link between the farm manager and farm workers, ensuring that daily

tasks are completed correctly and efficiently.

3. Equipment Operators and Mechanics

Modern agriculture relies heavily on tractors, harvesters, balers, planters, and irrigation systems. Skilled machinery operators and mechanics are essential for reducing downtime and maintaining operational efficiency.

4. Livestock Specialists

On livestock farms, stockmen, herdsman, and animal health technicians play a vital role. Their responsibilities include monitoring animal health, assisting with breeding programmes, administering treatments, and maintaining production records.

5. Administrative and Financial Staff

As farms become increasingly business-focused, administrative

staff are needed to manage payroll, invoices, stock control, procurement, compliance records, and financial reporting.

6. Professional Advisors

Successful farms also rely on external experts, including:

- Veterinarians
- Animal scientists
- Agronomists
- Nutritionists
- Agricultural economists
- Accountants
- Labour consultants

These specialists provide technical guidance that can significantly improve productivity and profitability.

Leadership Makes the Difference

The best farm managers understand that farming is ultimately about managing people as much as managing crops or

livestock. Good communication, staff training, motivation, and accountability create a positive working environment and improve overall farm performance.

In a competitive agricultural environment marked by rising input costs, climate challenges, biosecurity risks, and market volatility, a skilled farm manager and a well-trained team are among the most valuable assets a farming business can possess. When every member of the team understands their role and works towards common goals, the farm is better positioned to achieve long-term sustainability and profitability.

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Chicken Farming in South Africa During Winter

How to Prevent Losses and Increase Productivity

June marks the heart of winter across much of South Africa. While poultry farming remains one of the country's most important agricultural sectors, winter presents unique challenges that can significantly affect flock health, feed efficiency, egg production, and profitability. The poultry industry contributes approximately 17.8% of South Africa's total agricultural gross value, making efficient winter management essential for both commercial and emerging poultry producers.

Winter Challenges Facing Poultry Farmers

Cold temperatures increase the maintenance energy requirements of chickens. Birds use more feed simply to maintain body temperature, reducing feed conversion efficiency in broilers and lowering egg production in layers if management is poor. Damp litter, poor ventilation, respiratory diseases, and increased biosecurity risks are among the most common causes of winter losses.

South African poultry farmers are also entering winter with heightened concerns regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Industry leaders have warned that migratory wild birds continue to pose a risk, making strict biosecurity measures more important than ever.

Housing Management is Critical

A common mistake among poultry farmers is closing houses too tightly during winter. While birds need protection from cold winds, inadequate ventilation causes moisture accumulation, ammonia build-up, and respiratory problems.



Poultry houses should:

- Remain dry and draft-free.
- Allow fresh air circulation without direct cold airflow on birds.
- Have curtains or sidewalls adjusted according to weather conditions.
- Maintain dry bedding at all times.
- Prevent wild bird access through netting and screens.

Wet litter significantly increases disease pressure and can lead to footpad lesions, breast blisters, poor growth rates, and increased mortality.

Nutrition During Winter

Feed is the largest production cost in poultry farming. During winter, birds consume more energy to maintain body heat. Farmers should ensure:



- Consistent access to high-quality feed.
- Adequate energy levels in rations.
- Continuous access to clean water.
- Regular inspection of drinkers to prevent freezing in colder regions.

Broiler producers should closely monitor feed conversion ratios (FCR), while layer farmers should monitor egg mass and shell quality. Any decline often indicates nutritional deficiencies, disease, or environmental stress.

Disease Prevention and Biosecurity

Biosecurity remains the most effective and economical disease prevention strategy available to poultry farmers. Experts describe biosecurity as the first line of defence against poultry diseases.

Every poultry farm should implement:

- Controlled farm access.
- Visitor registers.
- Footbaths with fresh disinfectant.
- Dedicated farm clothing and footwear.
- Regular cleaning and disinfection.
- Rodent and pest control programmes.
- Strict separation from wild birds.

Particular attention should be paid to preventing:

- Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)
- Newcastle Disease
- Infectious Bronchitis

- Colibacillosis
- Salmonellosis

These diseases remain major causes of poultry mortality and economic loss throughout Africa.

Layer Flocks: Maintaining Egg Production

Winter naturally reduces daylight hours, which can affect laying performance.

Commercial layer producers should:

- Maintain consistent lighting programmes.
- Avoid sudden feed changes.
- Monitor body condition.
- Ensure adequate calcium intake for shell quality.
- Minimise stress caused by overcrowding or temperature fluctuations.

Maintaining bird comfort is often the difference between stable production and significant winter declines.

Broiler Production Tips

For broiler farmers, winter success depends on maintaining optimal growing conditions:

- Pre-heat houses before chick placement.
- Monitor chick behaviour closely.
- Maintain dry litter.
- Avoid overcrowding.
- Ensure sufficient feeder and drinker space.
- Monitor mortality daily.

Birds that start well during the first seven days generally achieve superior final weights and feed conversion performance.



Looking Ahead

Despite challenges from disease risks, rising input costs, and winter weather, South Africa's poultry industry remains resilient and continues to recover from previous avian influenza outbreaks. Farmers who focus on ventilation, nutrition, litter management, vaccination programmes, and strict biosecurity protocols will place themselves in the best position to minimise losses and maximise productivity during the winter months¹.

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What Makes a South African Farmer So Resilient?

South African farmers are often regarded among the most resilient agricultural producers in the world. They operate in an environment where success is never guaranteed, yet they continue to produce food, fiber, and livestock year after year despite numerous challenges.



1. They Learn to Adapt Quickly

South African agriculture faces droughts, floods, veld fires, animal diseases, fluctuating markets, and infrastructure challenges. Farmers have learned that survival depends on adapting quickly to changing conditions. They continually adjust grazing plans, crop choices, feeding programmes, breeding strategies, and marketing decisions.

2. Farming Requires Long-Term Thinking

A crop farmer plants months before harvest. A cattle breeder may invest years developing superior genetics before seeing a return. Farmers learn patience because agriculture rewards those who think beyond today's circumstances and focus on future seasons and generations.

3. Strong Faith and Hope

For many South African farmers, faith plays a central role in daily life.

Farming constantly reminds people of their dependence on factors beyond human control, such as rainfall, weather, and natural cycles. This often develops a deep sense of trust, perseverance, and hope even during difficult times.

4. Generations of Knowledge

Many farming families pass practical knowledge from one generation to the next. Lessons learned during previous droughts, disease outbreaks, and economic downturns become valuable tools for overcoming future challenges. Experience creates confidence and resilience.

5. Problem Solving Becomes a Way of Life

Every day presents new challenges. A broken tractor, sick livestock, damaged fence, water problem, or market change requires immediate action. Farmers become skilled

problem-solvers because farming rarely allows problems to wait until tomorrow.

6. Strong Rural Communities

South African farmers often support one another during difficult periods. Whether through farmer associations, study groups, churches, neighbours, auction societies, or agricultural organisations, rural communities frequently rally together when disaster strikes.

7. They Understand the Value of Hard Work

Agriculture teaches discipline and perseverance. Livestock still need feeding on weekends and public holidays. Crops cannot wait because conditions are inconvenient. Farmers develop a strong work ethic because nature operates on its own timetable.

8. They Have Learned to Start Again

Perhaps the greatest source of resilience is that farmers have often had to begin again after setbacks. After droughts, floods, disease outbreaks, market crashes, or personal losses, they continue planting, breeding, and building. Agriculture teaches that every new season brings another opportunity.

The Heart of a South African Farmer

A South African farmer is resilient because they combine courage, adaptability, faith, determination, knowledge, and hope. They understand that setbacks are temporary, that tomorrow brings another sunrise, and that the land rewards those who refuse to give up.

As many farmers would say:

"We cannot control the weather, the markets, or the challenges we face. But we can control our attitude, our effort, and our willingness to keep going."

That spirit is what continues to make South African farmers the heartbeat of rural South Africa.

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Did you know?



Voluntary Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination initiative



On 25 May 2026, Dr. Hendrik Meyer, together with Dr. Schabort Meyer of Boksburg Animal Hospital, the Stud Breeders' Federation (SBF), and IDTrax, launched a voluntary Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination initiative for the South African stud livestock industry.

The initiative enables stud breeders to register on the IDTrax platform and apply for access to FMD vaccine supplies.

Today, 8 June 2026, 10,000 doses were dispatched by courier to registered stud breeders who have met the required eligibility criteria.

Vleissentraal is proud to support this industry-driven initiative by funding the packaging and nationwide distribution of the vaccine.

A special word of thanks to every individual who worked behind the scenes to make these vaccine deliveries possible.

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Protecting South Africa's valuable stud livestock genetics through proactive disease prevention and responsible biosecurity measures.



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STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

A SIMPLE 10-STEP GUIDE TO THE FMD VACCINATION PROCESS



Digital traceability for responsible trade



1



BREEDER REGISTERS FARM LOCATION

- Obtain a GLN (Production Unit Number) on RMIS
- Confirms farm boundary and location identity

2A



BREEDER REGISTERS FARM LOCATION

- Logix and Click on the "Go to IdTrax" Icon
- Login with Logix credentials
- Map farm boundary
- Link GLN
- Allocate animals to farm
- Upload commercial animals

2B



BREEDER REGISTERS FARM LOCATION

- Go to www.idtrax.co.za and register
- Create profile
- Map farm boundary
- Link GLN
- Upload animals electronically or manually

3



BREEDER SELECTS PARTICIPATING VETERINARIAN

- Choose your participating veterinarian with a participating veterinarian RMIS GLN
- Veterinarian must oversee the cold chain and vaccination

4



BREEDER SUBMITS VACCINE REQUEST

- Request vaccine via the IDTrax platform
- Include the number of animals to be vaccinated

5



VET REVIEWS & ORDERS VACCINE

- Confirms eligibility
- Place vaccine order on RMIS platform

6



VACCINE ISSUED

- Distribution depot notified
- Dispatch vaccines to veterinarian

7



VET RECEIVES VACCINE

- Vet confirms receipt of vaccines and arranges vaccination date details

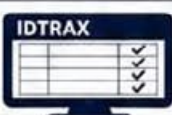
8



VACCINATION PERFORMED

- Vet vaccinates the animals OR farmer to vaccinate under the oversight of his / her vet
- Cold Chain must be maintained
- Correct dosage & handling required
- Scan each bottle with QR code prior to use
- Record individual animal ID's vaccinated against each bottle

9



VACCINATION RECORDED ON IDTRAX

- All vaccinations captured 3 days after vaccination
- Vet will verify completeness via email
- Record all vaccination details



10



COMPLIANCE STATUS APPROVED

- System updates vaccination status
- Herd becomes "Vaccinated - Verified" after vet verification
- Eligible for movement permission (if applicable)





VOLUNTARY STUD INDUSTRY FMD VACCINATION

SCHEME

IDTrax

Digital traceability for responsible trade



CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY

1 BREEDER REGISTERS FARM LOCATION

- Obtain a GLN (Production Unit Number) on RMIS
- Confirms farm boundary and location identity



2A BREEDER REGISTERS FARM LOCATION

- Logix and Click on the "Go to IdTrax" icon
- Login with Logix credentials
- Map farm boundary
- Link GLN
- Allocate animals to farm
- Upload commercial animals electronically or manually



2B BREEDER REGISTERS FARM LOCATION

- Go to www.idtrax.co.za and register
- Create profile
- Map farm boundary
- Link GLN
- Upload animals electronically or manually



3 BREEDER SELECTS PARTICIPATING VETERINARIAN

- Choose your participating veterinarian with a participating veterinarian RMIS GLN
- Veterinarian must oversee the cold chain and vaccination



4 BREEDER SUBMITS VACCINE REQUEST

- Request vaccine via the IDTrax platform
- Include the number of animals to be vaccinated



5 VET REVIEWS & ORDERS VACCINE

- Confirms eligibility
- Place vaccine order on RMIS



6 VACCINE ISSUED

- Distribution depot notified
- Dispatch vaccines to veterinarian



7 VET RECEIVES VACCINE

- Vet confirms receipt vaccines and arranges vaccination date details with breeder



8 VACCINATION PERFORMED

- Vet vaccinates the animals OR farmer to vaccinate under the oversight of his / her vet
- Cold Chain must be maintained
- Correct dosage & handling required
- Scan each bottle with QR code prior to use
- Record individual animal ID's vaccinated against each bottle



9 VACCINATION RECORDED ON IDTRAX

- All vaccinations captured 3 days after vaccination
- Record all vaccination details
- Vet will verify completeness via email



10 COMPLIANCE STATUS APPROVED

- System updates vaccination status
- Herd becomes "Vaccinated - Verified" after vet verification
- Eligible for movement permissions (if applicable)



BOERhier VEILINGS

ALL ABOUT AUCTIONS



South Africa's Top Livestock Auction Prices of 2026

The first half of 2026 has already delivered some remarkable moments for the South African livestock industry, highlighting the growing value of elite genetics and the willingness of breeders to invest in superior bloodlines. While many successful stud auctions have taken place across the country, one event in particular rewrote the record books and demonstrated the increasing importance of genetic excellence in modern livestock production.

1. Savanna Ram "Epic" – R2.05 Million

Without question, the most significant livestock sale of 2026 was the sale of the Savanna ram "Epic" at the prestigious Black Tie Blue Blood Auction held at Die Eike, Rawsonville, on 17 April 2026.

Bred by Andrew and Ju-Mari Roberts of the Maize Valley Stud near Hoopstad in the Free State, Epic achieved a staggering price of R2 050 000 when purchased by renowned Northern Cape breeders Koenie and Marina Kotzé of Niekerkshoop.

The sale established:

- A new South African Savanna goat record.



- The highest price ever paid for small stock at a South African auction.
- A new world-record price for a Savanna goat.

Industry experts attributed the extraordinary price to Epic's exceptional genetics, structural correctness, breed character and proven performance bloodlines. The ram had previously been crowned the 6-Tooth Savanna Champion at the 2025 World Show, further enhancing his breeding value.

2. Kalahari Red Ram – R240 000

The second-highest publicly reported livestock price of 2026 was also achieved at the Black Tie Blue Blood Auction.

A top-quality Kalahari Red ram from the Maize Valley Stud of Andrew and Ju-Mari Roberts sold for R240 000 to Pieter Ernst of Bona Bona Livestock, Wolmaransstad.



The Kalahari Red breed continues to attract strong demand due to its adaptability, fertility and meat-producing characteristics. Buyers

remain willing to pay premium prices for animals carrying proven genetics capable of improving commercial and stud herds alike.

This sale once again demonstrated the strength of the Maize Valley breeding programme and the value breeders place on elite genetic material.

3. Boer Goat Ewe – R200 000

The third-highest publicly reported livestock auction price of 2026 was a Boer Goat ewe that sold for R200 000 at the same Black Tie Blue Blood Auction.

The ewe was offered by Lukas Burger Boerbokstoet and attracted strong competition before eventually being knocked down to its successful buyer.

The Boer Goat remains one of South Africa's most influential livestock breeds, renowned worldwide for its rapid growth, excellent carcass quality and adaptability to a wide range of

production systems. Premium breeding females continue to command exceptional prices due to their ability to transmit desirable production traits to future generations.

Genetics Drive Modern Livestock Values

A common theme behind all three of these top sales is the growing recognition that livestock genetics are among the most valuable assets on any breeding operation.

Modern stud breeders increasingly utilise:

- Performance recording.
- Artificial insemination.
- Embryo transfer.
- Genomic selection.
- Detailed pedigree analysis.

These technologies allow breeders to identify and multiply superior genetics, making exceptional animals capable of generating significant returns over multiple generations.



While record prices often attract headlines, industry leaders point out that the true value lies not in the purchase price itself, but in the long-term genetic improvement these animals bring to breeding programmes throughout Southern Africa.

As 2026 progresses, the South African livestock industry will undoubtedly continue to showcase world-class genetics, but for now, Epic the Savanna ram stands alone at the top of the rankings as the country's most valuable livestock auction animal of the year.

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Auction results

Dorrland Meatmaster Group Achieves Outstanding Auction Results with a 100% Clearance Rate



The Dorrland Meatmaster Group hosted an exceptional auction, achieving a 100% clearance rate on the total offering of 175 animals.

The highlight of the sale was the pregnant ewe, JW240014, consigned by Mohimba Meatmasters, Bainsvlei, which was purchased by Silverbridge Properties of Bloemfontein for R70,000. The average price achieved for all ewes sold was R10,021.

Rams averaged R28,833, with the top-priced ram being a Model Meatmaster ram that sold for R65,000 to B&T Boerdery of Parys.

A sincere thank you to every buyer, bidder, and interested attendee for your presence and support. Your participation contributed significantly to the success of the auction.

Special thanks are extended to the Dorrland Meatmaster breeders for presenting livestock of exceptional quality.

The auction was conducted by Vleissentraal Bloemfontein, with Rikus van Biljon serving as marketer and Ian Grobbelaar as auctioneer.

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NOTICE



AUCTION DAYS WILL
NOW MOVE TO
THURSDAYS
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THURSDAY,
5 MARCH 2026

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUOUS SUPPORT.**



Jaco Reid: 083 868 3885

Wilna Reid: 082 556 2373



15 Markgraaff str, Brandvlei,
Randfontein

Kerneels
082 651 2783

Gerrie
082 929 3988



14 Julie 2026

19de PRODUKSIE VEILING
Plaas De Vereeniging, Distrik Ermelo



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**** ALLE VEILINGSDIERE IS IN
MAART 2026
GE-ENT TEEN
BEK-EN-KLOUSEER ****

MEERKAT
ONLINE AUCTIONS



SUIDELIKE HOËVELD DRAKENSBERGER KLUB

20 AUG 2026



OOSTE WESTE BESTE
S H D K

TELERS:

Louis Botha
Carel Nel
Fanie van Dyk
Jan Dhooge
Bertus Nel

Frannie du Toit
Sampie Smith
Ssendra Co
Delram Cattle Co

VREDE VEILINGSKRALE

GRATIS VERVOER VAN BULLE

35

TOP GEREGISTREERDE BULLE



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WWW.BKB.CO.ZA

NAVRAE:
CAREL DAVEL 082 331 1811
JANDRÉ MOLL 082 307 9169
AFSLAER: BILLY LYONS 082 785 5498
BKB, STANDERTON: 017 712 1245
LOUIS BOTHA 082 825 2431 (SHDK)

BKB LIMITED
61 GRAHAMSTOWN RD, NORTHEND,
PORT ELIZABETH, 6001
BTW NR.: 4100101338
REG NR.: 1998/012435/06



WHERE GENETICS EVOLVE



Voorspoedige Nuwejaar!

Veilingsdatums vir 2026:

11 Junie 2026, Reitz

27 Augustus 2026, Parys



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34STE PRODUKSIEVEILING 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

DAGBOEK DIE DATUM

Vrydag 21 Augustus 2026 - Boeredag

GRATIS VERVOER-400km radius

LEWENDIG EN AANLYN



AG BONSMARA Arthur de Villiers 082 564 8912 • Stephan Cronje 082 771 4044
AFSLAER Mike Killassy 082 378 8112 **BEMARKER** Johny Muller 082 829 5699

Terms and Conditions: 1.) All buyers must register and provide a copy of their ID as well as proof of address. 2.) Auction day – NO CASH. Payment by card or electronic transfer only. 3.) VAT is payable. 4.) The seller reserves the right to withdraw any item prior to or during the auction without prior notice. 5.) Vleisentraal's standard terms of sale (Auction Rules) apply – available at www.vleisentraal.co.za



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ILE DE FRANCE

ELITE SA

*Nasionale
Veiling*



19 SEPTEMBER 2026

AFRIDOME - PARYS, VRYSTAAT



2026

“Save the Dates”

NATIONAL AUCTIONS

13 FEB ~~BORAN HEIFER EXTRA GANZA~~
Silverlake Farm Hotel, Pretoria
CANCELLED

11 AUG SA MUTTON MERINO
Frankfort Golf Club, Frankfort

7 MRT ~~INDIGENOUS VELD GOATS~~
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
CANCELLED

12 AUG BRANGUS
Afridome, Parys

14 MRT ~~DORPER~~
Warmbad, Bebank, Bela-Bela
CANCELLED

13 AUG SUSSEX
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein

17 MRT ~~BONSMARA~~
Stoneheer, Parys
CANCELLED

12-13 AUG MEATMASTER
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein

16 APR ~~BRANGUS ELITE HEIFER AUCTION~~
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
CANCELLED

14 AUG AFRIKANER
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

30 APR ~~CHAROLAIS~~
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
CANCELLED

14 AUG TULI
Lettie Fouche Skool, Bloemfontein

13 JUN BRAFORD
Afridome, Parys

22 AUG SENEPOL
Be Human, Bloemfontein

18 JUN DRAKENSBERGER
Afridome, Parys

22 AUG SIMBRA
Afridome, Parys

2 JUL BEEFMASTER
Afridome, Parys

18 SEP BEEF SHORTHORN
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein

11 JUL BORAN
Afridome, Parys

15 OKT BOER GOAT
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein

16 JUL BRAUNVIEH
Afridome, Parys

4-5 NOV INTERNATIONAL AUCTION
DORPER / MEATMASTER / VAN ROOY / PERSIE
Upington Showgrounds, Upington

5 AUG SA MUTTON MERINO
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein

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- Long working hours
- Adjustable pressure
- Comfortable & easy to carry
- Ideal for large area spraying

3 ASPEE KNAPSACK POWER SPRAYER (KP35/4S)



- 4-Stroke engine
- High pressure & efficiency
- Durable and powerful
- Suitable for field crops, orchards & plantations

4 ASPEE DUO FOGGER



- Thermal fogging machine
- Ideal for vector control & disinfection
- Stainless steel body
- Fuel efficient & reliable

5 ASPEE GIANT FOGGER



- High output fogger
- Powerful & durable
- Suitable for large area fogging operations
- Easy to operate & maintain

6 ASPEE TURBO BLOWER



- High air volume
- Powerful two-stroke engine
- Ergonomic design for comfortable use
- Ideal for blowing & spraying

7 ASPEE NAPSACK SPRAYER



- Manual knapsack sprayer
- Durable & leak proof tank
- Adjustable nozzle
- Ideal for general spraying

8 ASPEE BATTERY SPRAYER (COMPACT)



- Compact & lightweight
- Battery operated
- Easy to carry & use
- Ideal for small to medium areas

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- Heavy duty frame
- High pressure performance
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- Reliable & long lasting

10 ASPEE DUO-TECH 708 (PORTABLE SPRAYER)



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RECIPE

Traditional South African Koeksisters



Ingredients:

Dough

- 4 cups cake flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk

Syrup

- 4 cups sugar
- 2 cups water
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp cream of tartar (optional)
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

For Frying

- Vegetable oil or sunflower oil

Method

1. Prepare the Syrup

1. Place the sugar, water, lemon juice, and cream of tartar in a saucepan.
2. Bring to the boil while stirring.
3. Simmer for 10 minutes.
4. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla essence.
5. Allow to cool completely, then refrigerate for several hours or overnight.

Tip: The colder the syrup, the better. Some cooks even place the syrup bowl in an ice bath while working.

2. Make the Dough

1. Sift the flour, baking powder, and salt together.
2. Rub in the butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
3. Beat the egg and milk together.
4. Add to the dry ingredients and mix into a soft dough.
5. Knead lightly until smooth.
6. Cover and rest for 30 minutes.

3. Shape the Koeksisters

1. Roll the dough out to approximately 5 mm thick.
2. Cut into strips about 10 cm long and 1 cm wide.
3. Take three strips and plait (braid) them together.
4. Pinch the ends firmly closed.

4. Fry

1. Heat oil to approximately 180°C.
2. Fry the koeksisters in batches until golden brown.
3. Remove with a slotted spoon.

5. Dip in Syrup

1. Immediately place the hot koeksisters into the ice-cold syrup.
2. Leave for 30–60 seconds.
3. Remove and place on a rack to drain.

The contrast between the **hot koeksisters** and **ice-cold syrup** is what creates the characteristic sticky, juicy texture.

Yield

Makes approximately 18–24 koeksisters.

Serving Suggestion

Serve with:

- Fresh coffee
- Rooibos tea
- Hot chocolate on cold winter mornings

Afrikaans saying: “n Vars koeksister en ’n koppie koffie maak enige winterdag beter!”

Did you know?



**WORLD
OF PORK**

**Pork Market update
25 - 31 May 2026**



Pork market update

**Week 22
25 - 31 May 2026**

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGE

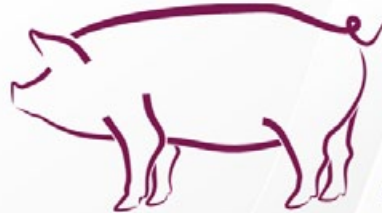


- 3,6%
- R125,40/t

YELLOW MAIZE PRICE *
R3 318 per tonne

* JSE EDM SPOT PRICE:

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



- 2%
- R0,73/kg

PRODUCER PRICE #
R35,10 per kg

ABATTOIR PURCHASE PRICE (EXCL. SOWS)

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










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Decreased producer and yellow maize prices during week 22

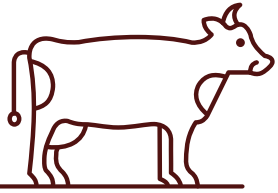
During week 22 of 2026, the pork producer price averaged R35,10/kg, 2% lower than the previous week. The yellow maize price averaged R3 318/t, 3,6% lower than the previous week. Producer prices in relation to yellow maize prices averaged 10,6, 1,5% higher than the previous week.

[Download report](#)

FUN FACT

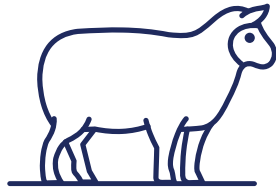
AGE OF THE LAYING HEN 	HUMAN AGE BOERhier <i>'n Boer is gekies deur God</i>
 <p>1-3 days</p>	 <p>12-14 months</p>
 <p>6-8 weeks</p>	 <p>2-3 years</p>
 <p>18-22 weeks (Start of laying)</p>	 <p>10-12 years</p>
 <p>1 year (Peak laying)</p>	 <p>18-25 years</p>
 <p>2 years</p>	 <p>30-35 years</p>
 <p>4 years (Decline in laying)</p>	 <p>44-48 years</p>
 <p>6 years</p>	 <p>60-65 years</p>
 <p>8 years</p>	 <p>70-75 years</p>
 <p>10+ years (Post-laying / Pet)</p>	 <p>78-82 years</p>

What's happening in Markets



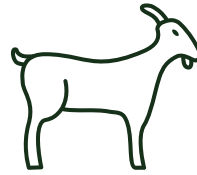
BEEF

A2/3 =	R 63.75
B2/3 =	R 59.00
C2/3 =	R 58.00
Weaners =	R 42.26



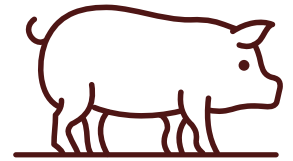
SHEEP

A2/3 =	R 106.00
B2/3 =	R 79.17
C2/3 =	R 76.00
Feeder Lamb =	R 52.80



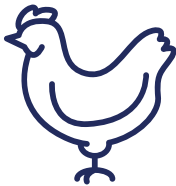
GOATS

Ewes =	R 47.96
Kids <30kg =	R 57.42
Kids 30-40kg =	R 56.89
Kids > 40kg =	R 57.40



PIGS

Porkers =	R 34.20
Baconers =	R 32.61



CHICKEN

Frozen =	R 34.80
Fresh =	R 41.93
IQF =	R 37.42



SAFEX

Maize =	R 3147 /t
Soybeans =	R 6660 /t
Sunflower =	R 8700 /t
Wheat =	R 5762 /t



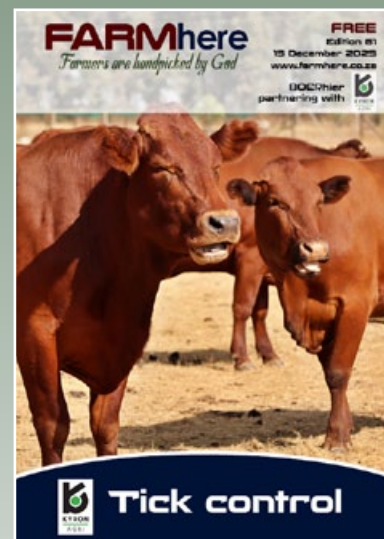
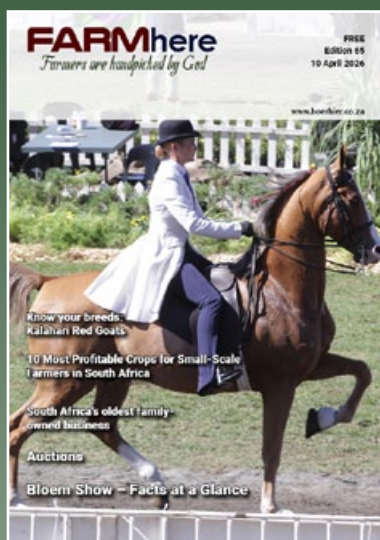
EXCHANGE RATE

R / \$ =	R 16.53
R / £ =	R 22.15
R / € =	R 19.12

As at 10 May 2025

www.amtrends.co.za

Previous Editions



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FARMhere

Farmers are handpicked by God

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for every farmer across South Africa who faithfully works the land and cares for livestock. Thank You for the privilege of producing food and sustaining communities through agriculture.

Lord, we ask for Your provision and protection over our farming families. Bless their crops with favourable weather, sufficient rainfall, and healthy growth. Protect their livestock from disease, predators, and harm. Grant farmers wisdom in every decision they make and strength for the challenges they face each day.

When uncertainty, drought, financial pressure, or discouragement arise, remind them that You are their Provider. Your Word says in Philippians 4:19 (NLT), "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

May South African farmers find peace in Your promises, courage for today, and hope for tomorrow. Bless their families, workers, and communities, and may all they do bring glory to Your name.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Thank you for reading our magazine! Forward this inspirational magazine to your friends and family via WhatsApp so that they also can be part of our agri family.