



**Agricultural Robotics and Automation
in South Africa 2026**

**Vertical Farming and Indoor Farming
Strengthen South Africa's Winter**

**Faith, Resilience and Record Livestock
Auctions in South Africa During 2026**

Auctions

**NAMPO 2026 promises innovation, technology
and a new generation of farming solution**

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Editor's Note



As South Africa moves deeper into the winter agricultural season, farmers across the country are navigating a critical period of transition. Summer crop harvesting is drawing to a close in many regions, while preparations for winter grains and livestock management are well underway. This time of year reminds us that farming is not simply about production — it is about resilience, planning, and adapting to changing conditions.

The sector continues to face significant challenges, from rising input costs and unpredictable weather patterns to pressure on water and energy resources. Yet, despite these obstacles, South African farmers continue to demonstrate remarkable innovation and determination. Across our rural communities, producers are embracing smarter technologies, conservation practices, and collaborative approaches that strengthen both productivity and sustainability.

In this edition, we explore practical strategies for winter grazing management, insights into current market trends, and expert advice on preparing for the next planting cycle. We also celebrate the individuals and farming enterprises making a meaningful impact in their communities and industries.

As always, we hope this magazine serves as a valuable resource and trusted companion in your farming journey. May the season ahead bring safe harvests, steady rains, and renewed opportunity for all.

With gratitude and expectation,

The Editor

NAMPO 2026 promises innovation, technology and a new generation of farming solution

South Africa's biggest agricultural showcase is preparing to open its gates once again as NAMPO Harvest Day 2026 returns to NAMPO Park near Bothaville in the Free State from 12 to 15 May 2026. The event is expected to attract thousands of farmers, agribusiness leaders, machinery manufacturers, technology companies and visitors from across Southern Africa and beyond.

With the theme "Resilience through Innovation", NAMPO 2026 aims to place the spotlight on the future of farming and the practical solutions helping producers navigate modern agricultural challenges. From climate pressures and rising production costs to changing market conditions, the exhibition is designed to showcase technologies and ideas that can improve productivity, sustainability and profitability on farms of every size.

Visitors to NAMPO 2026 can expect one of the largest agricultural exhibitions in the Southern Hemisphere, with

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more than 900 exhibitors set to transform NAMPO Park into a hub of machinery, innovation and agricultural expertise. Massive tractor displays, combine harvesters, precision planting equipment and advanced mechanisation systems will once again dominate the exhibition grounds, offering visitors an opportunity to see the latest farming technology up close.

Technology is expected to play a major role at this year's event. Precision agriculture systems, smart farming platforms and spray drone demonstrations will give producers a firsthand look at how digital tools are reshaping modern farming. Exhibitors are also expected to showcase data-driven systems aimed at improving efficiency, reducing waste and helping farmers make more informed decisions in the field.

International participation continues to grow, with dedicated Chinese and Italian exhibition pavilions confirmed for 2026. These displays are expected to introduce visitors to global agricultural trends, equipment and innovations that are increasingly influencing farming practices in South Africa and other African markets.

The event is also expected to feature exciting machinery launches and special attractions from leading vehicle and tractor manufacturers. Organisers have announced that a world-record attempt linked to vehicle displays will form part of the programme, adding another major attraction for visitors attending the four-day exhibition.

Beyond the machinery and technology, NAMPO remains a

social and networking destination for the agricultural sector. Grain SA has expanded sections of NAMPO Park to improve the visitor experience, including new exhibition areas and upgraded facilities on the northern side of the grounds. A new leisure and refreshment area, together with the Six Gun Grill Country Hall, is expected to provide additional entertainment and hospitality space for visitors looking to relax between exhibitions and demonstrations.

The NAMPO mobile application will again assist visitors with navigating

the extensive exhibition grounds. The app provides maps, exhibitor listings, route planning and event information, helping visitors maximise their time at the show and easily locate demonstrations, product launches and meetings.

Although strict biosecurity measures will remain in place because of foot-and-mouth disease concerns in South Africa, the exhibition will still feature horse, dog and poultry displays under controlled conditions. Cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and pigs will not be exhibited this year, with breed

societies instead using digital presentations and production data displays to showcase genetics and livestock performance information.

For farmers, agribusinesses and members of the public interested in the future of agriculture, NAMPO 2026 promises far more than an exhibition. It offers a chance to experience the latest technology, connect with industry leaders, explore global innovations and witness how agriculture is adapting to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

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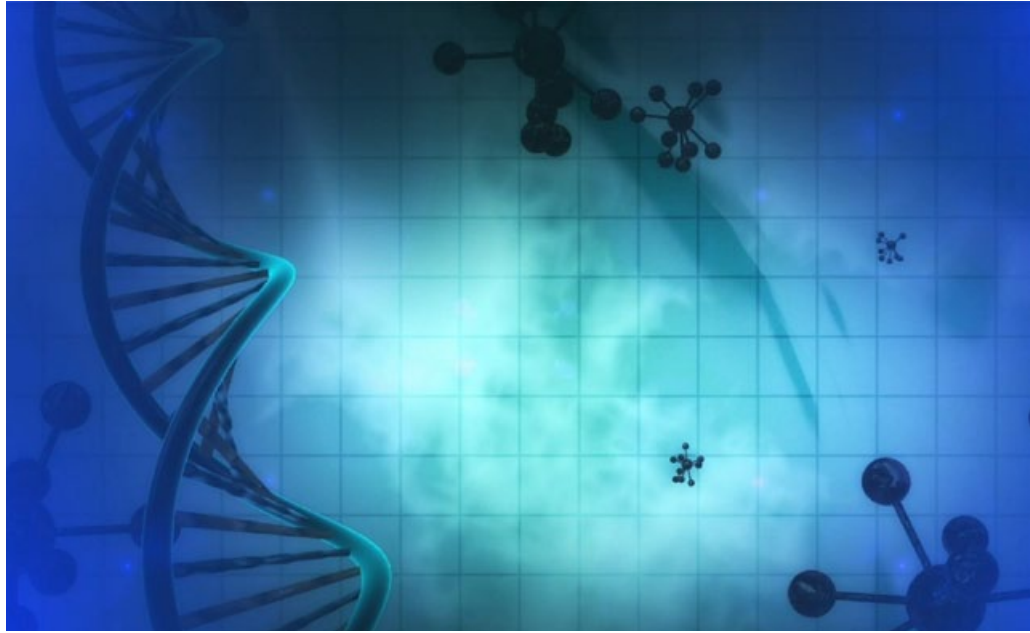
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Bioengineering and CRISPR Crops: A Growing Tool Against Global Hunger

Acute hunger remains one of the world's most urgent humanitarian crises. According to the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises, more than 295 million people across 53 countries experienced acute food insecurity in 2024. Conflict, climate change, drought, economic instability, and displacement were identified as the main causes of worsening hunger worldwide. (FAOHome¹)

As climate conditions become harsher, scientists and governments are increasingly turning to bioengineering and CRISPR gene-editing technology to strengthen food security. CRISPR, short for "Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats," allows researchers to edit genes with high precision. In agriculture, this technology is being used to develop crops that are more resistant to drought, pests, diseases, and extreme weather.

Unlike traditional genetic modification, CRISPR can alter a plant's existing genes without necessarily introducing foreign DNA. Researchers say this can speed up crop development



while reducing losses caused by environmental stress. Drought-resistant crops are especially important in regions facing prolonged dry seasons and declining rainfall linked to climate change.

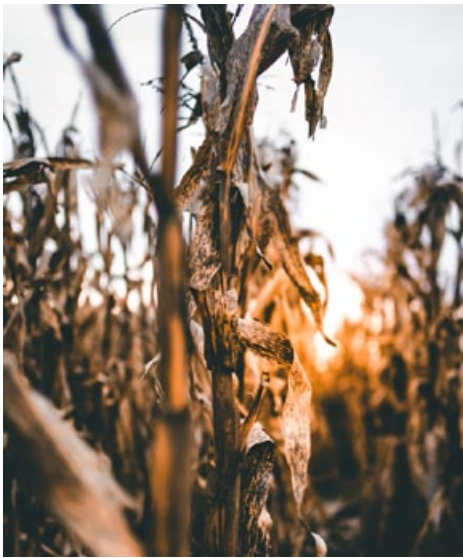
Scientists have already produced gene-edited rice, wheat, maize, and tomatoes with improved resistance to environmental threats. In 2023, researchers reported successful CRISPR-edited rice plants that resisted rice blast fungus, one of the world's most destructive crop diseases. Experimental field trials showed significantly improved harvests compared with unedited rice crops. (Reddit²)

Pest-resistant crops are another major focus. Insects destroy billions of dollars' worth of food annually and reduce yields in vulnerable regions. Gene-edited crops can reduce dependence on chemical pesticides, potentially

lowering production costs and environmental damage. Scientists are also developing crops with improved nutrient efficiency, enabling plants to grow in poorer soils with less fertilizer.

Supporters of CRISPR agriculture argue that these advances could help stabilize food supplies in regions heavily affected by drought and crop disease. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has repeatedly warned that climate extremes are becoming a major driver of hunger. Reuters reported that climate shocks affected around 96 million people facing food crises in 2024. (Reuters³)

Several countries are already adopting biotechnology policies to improve agricultural resilience. Kenya approved the cultivation and consumption of certain genetically modified crops, including maize and cotton, as part of efforts to



improve food production and strengthen national food security. (Reddit⁴)

However, CRISPR crops remain controversial in some regions. Critics raise concerns about biodiversity, regulation, seed ownership, and long-term environmental impacts. Some advocacy groups also warn that small-scale farmers could become dependent on patented technologies controlled by large biotechnology companies. Governments continue to debate how gene-edited crops should be regulated and labeled.

Despite these concerns, many agricultural scientists believe

bioengineering will play a major role in feeding a growing global population. The world population is expected to approach 10 billion by 2050, while climate change continues to threaten crop production. Researchers argue that combining biotechnology with sustainable farming methods, irrigation improvements, and international food assistance may help reduce future hunger risks.

The expanding use of CRISPR crops represents one of the most significant developments in modern agriculture. As hunger levels continue to rise globally, gene-edited crops are increasingly viewed as a practical scientific tool to improve resilience, protect harvests, and strengthen global food security. (FAOHome¹)

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The Guardian

University of Adelaide research on CRISPR rice studies

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12 - 15 MAY 2026
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FACT SHEET



1967

1st Harvest Day held

1974

1st NAMPO Harvest Day on NAMPO Park

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NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS

2012	- 681
2013	- 623
2014	- 650
2015	- 665
2016	- 685
2017	- 712
2018	- 746
2019	- 775
2020	- No show
2021	- No show
2022	- 790
2023	- 830
2024	- 865
2025	- 900
2026	- 910



NUMBER OF VISITORS

2011	- 73 552
2012	- 71 723
2013	- 72 376
2014	- 69 644
2015	- 69 584
2016	- 75 116
2017	- 78 648
2018	- 82 817
2019	- 81 345
2020	- No show
2021	- No show
2022	- 73 000
2023	- 81 945
2024	- 86 474
2025	- 87 191



EXHIBITOR AREA

Indoors	18 292 m ²
Outside	383 640 m ²
Total	401 932 m ²
Total Roof Area:	49 706m ²



LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

Cattle	28
Sheep	10
Goat	4
Horse	2
Pig's Breeder Society	1

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- Electricity distribution
- Water supply
- Sewerage
- Garbage removal

TERRAIN

- Voltage cable: 7km
- Transformers: 17
- Maximum demand: 1 600 kVA
- Bore holes: 12
- Main water line: 5,2km
- Water usage: 750 000 l/pd
- Paving: 30 030 m²
- Length of sewerage network: 5,25 km

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Regenerative Agriculture and Carbon Farming Gain Momentum Worldwide

Regenerative agriculture and carbon farming are rapidly transforming modern food production as farmers respond to worsening soil degradation, climate pressures, and rising input costs. Around the world, agricultural producers are increasingly adopting practices such as no-till farming, cover cropping, crop rotation, agroforestry, and managed grazing to restore soil health while reducing environmental impact.

Regenerative agriculture focuses on rebuilding soil fertility, improving biodiversity, enhancing water retention, and lowering dependence on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Carbon farming, a related practice, aims to capture and store atmospheric carbon dioxide in soil and vegetation through sustainable land management techniques.

The global regenerative agriculture market is expanding quickly. According to market research published by [Grand View Research] (https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/regenerative-agriculture-market-report?utm_source=chatgpt.com),



the industry is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18.7% between 2025 and 2033. Another industry forecast from [Precedence Research] (https://www.precedenceresearch.com/regenerative-agriculture-market?utm_source=chatgpt.com) estimates market growth at 15.97% CAGR from 2025 to 2034. (Grand View Research¹)

One of the primary drivers behind this growth is the increasing rate of land degradation. The United Nations has warned that soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and unsustainable farming methods threaten global food security. Conventional farming systems that rely heavily on intensive tillage often damage soil structure and reduce organic matter over time.

No-till farming has emerged as one of the most widely adopted regenerative methods. By minimizing soil disturbance, farmers help preserve microbial activity, reduce erosion, and retain

moisture in the ground. Cover cropping, another key practice, involves planting crops such as legumes or grasses during off-seasons to protect and enrich the soil. These crops improve nutrient cycling, suppress weeds, and increase soil carbon storage.

Carbon farming also creates potential economic opportunities for farmers through carbon credit markets. Companies and governments are increasingly investing in agricultural carbon sequestration projects to offset greenhouse gas emissions. According to a Reuters report, new climate reporting standards are pushing food companies to improve transparency and verification around carbon removal efforts linked to regenerative agriculture. (Reuters²)

Technology is playing a growing role in this transition. Artificial intelligence, satellite monitoring, and digital soil mapping tools are helping farmers measure



soil organic carbon levels more accurately. Reuters reported that AI-powered monitoring systems are improving measurement, reporting, and verification processes for soil carbon projects, making carbon markets more accessible and scalable. (Reuters³)

Research also shows that regenerative farming can improve ecosystem resilience. Studies highlighted by researchers and agricultural organizations indicate that regenerative systems often increase biodiversity, improve water-holding capacity, and strengthen resistance to drought

conditions. Cover crops and diversified crop rotations are especially effective in reducing soil degradation while improving long-term productivity. (Vogue⁴)

Despite growing adoption, experts caution that regenerative agriculture is not a universal solution. Soil carbon measurement remains scientifically complex, and outcomes can vary depending on climate, soil type, and management practices. Transitioning away from conventional farming systems may also involve short-term financial risks and operational changes for producers.

Nevertheless, governments, corporations, and investors continue to support regenerative agriculture as part of broader climate and sustainability goals. As pressure grows to reduce agricultural emissions and restore degraded land, regenerative farming and carbon sequestration

practices are expected to remain central to the future of global agriculture.

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- [Vogue – Does Regenerative Agriculture Actually Work?](#)

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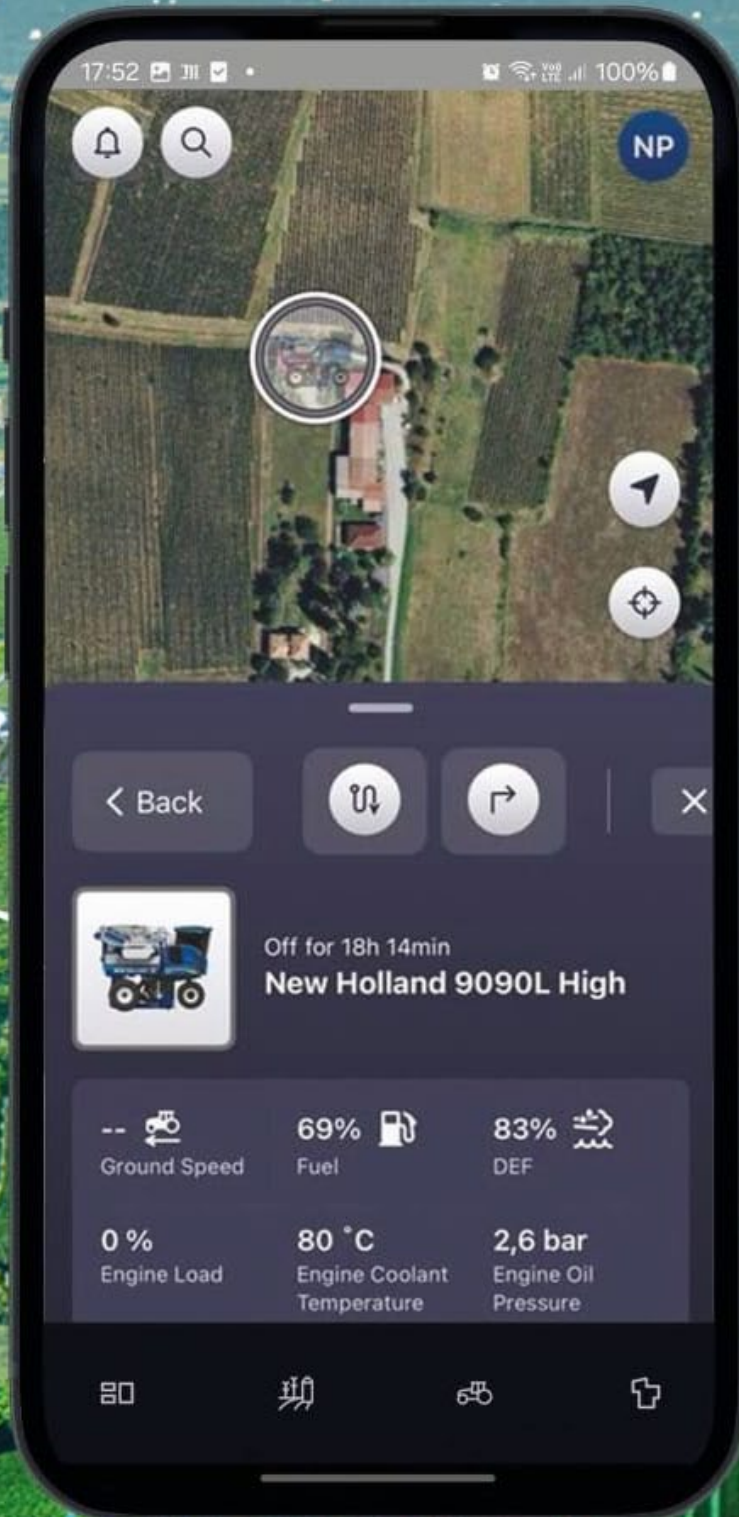
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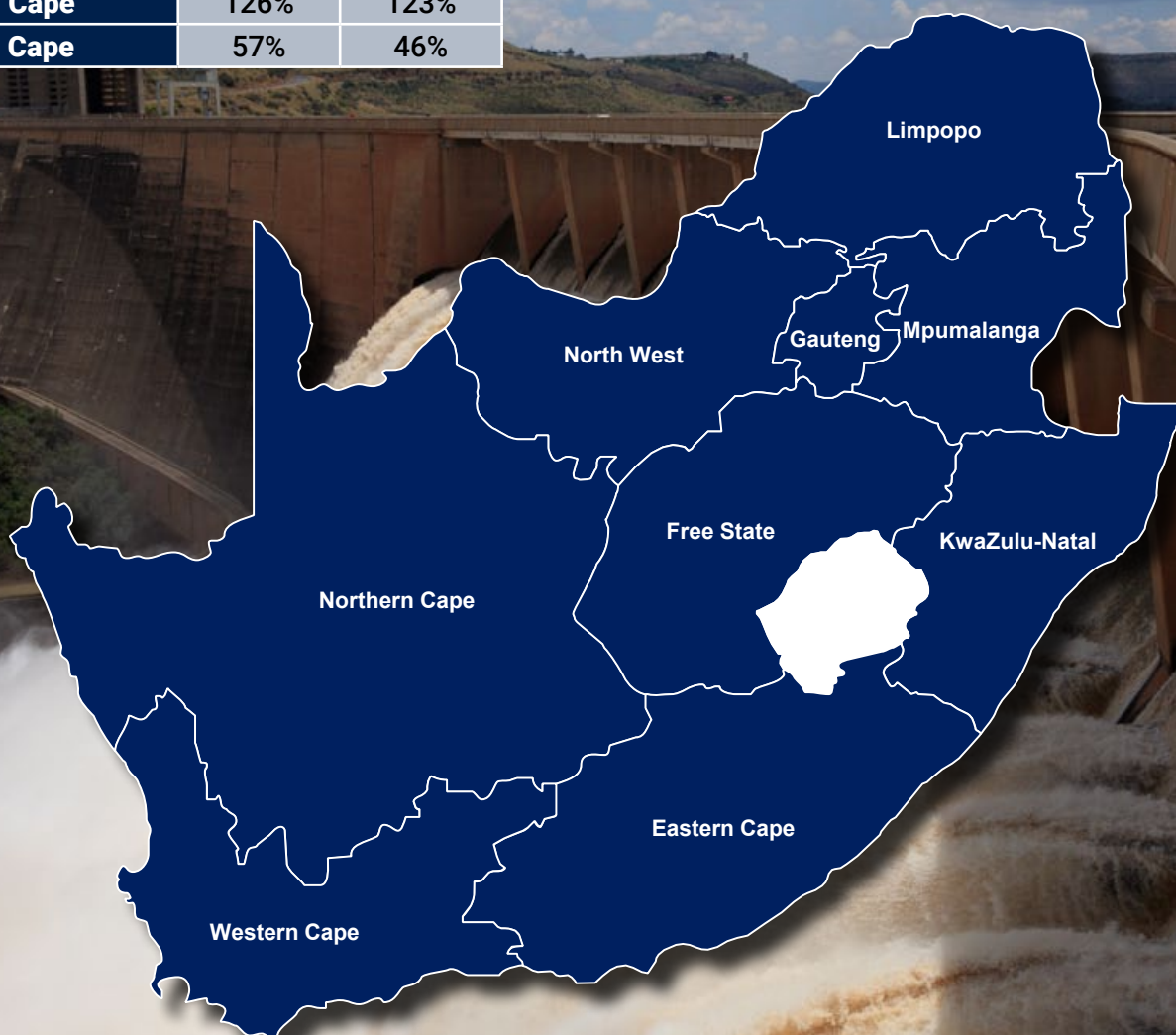
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Dam Levels

as at 5 May 2026

May		
	2025	2026
Eastern Cape	85%	78%
Freestate	107%	103%
Gauteng	102%	102%
KwaZulu-Natal	97%	91%
Limpopo	90%	102%
Mpumalanga	100%	101%
North West	101%	103%
Northern Cape	126%	123%
Western Cape	57%	46%



Provincial Summary (sawx.co.za)

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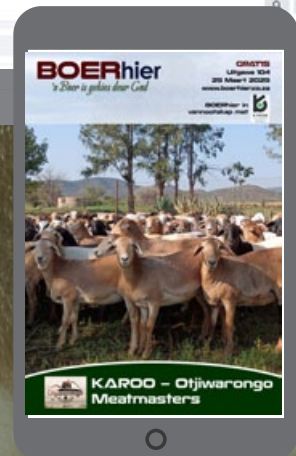
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Agricultural Robotics and Automation in South Africa 2026

South Africa's agricultural sector is entering a new phase of digital transformation in 2026 as farmers increasingly adopt robotics, artificial intelligence, autonomous machinery, and drone systems to improve productivity and reduce costs. Rising fuel prices, climate variability, and a persistent global farm labor shortage are accelerating investment in precision agriculture technologies across the country. According to agricultural technology analysts, autonomous tractors, AI-guided sprayers, and unmanned aerial vehicles are becoming practical tools rather than experimental technologies. (agribots.co.za¹)

South African producers are using drones equipped with multispectral cameras and AI-powered imaging systems to monitor crop health, identify disease outbreaks, and map irrigation patterns. These systems provide real-time field intelligence that allows farmers to target problem areas with greater accuracy. Precision spraying technology is reducing chemical overlap and minimizing pesticide waste while improving operational efficiency. Industry reports indicate that drones are now capable of detecting crop stress earlier than conventional field inspections. (ProAgri Media²)

Autonomous tractors are also gaining attention in South Africa's grain, orchard, and vineyard industries. These machines rely on GPS guidance, machine vision, telemetry, and machine-learning systems to operate with minimal human intervention. Advanced autonomous systems can perform repetitive tasks such as planting, spraying, and tillage while collecting operational data across large farms. Researchers describe modern agricultural automation as an integrated control system combining sensors, robotics, software, and data analytics into



one operational platform. (Lyon Industries³)

The South African Agricultural Machinery Association reported growth in tractor and combine harvester sales during early 2026, reflecting stronger investment in mechanization and digital farming equipment. Improved rainfall conditions and expanded crop plantings contributed to increased machinery demand. Agricultural analysts note that while fully autonomous systems are not yet widespread, precision guidance and semi-autonomous functions are becoming more common among commercial farmers. (African Farming⁴)

New agricultural robotics companies are also emerging in South Africa. AgriBots, a South

African agricultural robotics intelligence platform, stated in 2026 that rising diesel costs and ongoing labor shortages are strengthening the business case for autonomous electric tractors and solar-powered robotic systems. The company is evaluating technologies such as robotic weeders, autonomous seeders, and AI-driven herd management tools for local farming conditions. (agribots.co.za¹)

International developments are influencing South African adoption trends. Global agricultural robotics research in 2026 shows growing deployment of AI-powered vision systems, robotic weed control, autonomous spraying vehicles, and drone-assisted crop analysis. Researchers have demonstrated autonomous rovers capable of



navigating fields, identifying weeds, estimating yields, and collecting real-time environmental data. Other experimental systems combine drones and ground robots to improve spraying efficiency and obstacle navigation across difficult terrain. (arXiv⁵)

Despite rapid technological progress, challenges remain. South African farmers continue to evaluate whether autonomous systems are economically viable under local conditions. Industry experts note that high upfront equipment costs, infrastructure limitations, connectivity gaps, and regulatory requirements may slow adoption in some regions. Battery limitations and flight times also remain constraints for large-scale drone operations. (African

Farming⁶)

However, the broader trend toward automation continues to accelerate. Precision agriculture technologies are enabling farmers to optimize water usage, reduce chemical applications, lower fuel consumption, and improve productivity per hectare. As artificial intelligence and robotics systems become more affordable and scalable, South Africa's agricultural sector is expected to play a larger role in Africa's emerging smart farming economy. (GlobeNewswire⁷)

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- ProAgri Media
 - African Farming
 - South African Agricultural Machinery Association (SAMAA)
 - AgriBots South Africa
 - MarketsandMarkets Research
 - Future Farming
 - arXiv Research Publications
- FARMhere article*

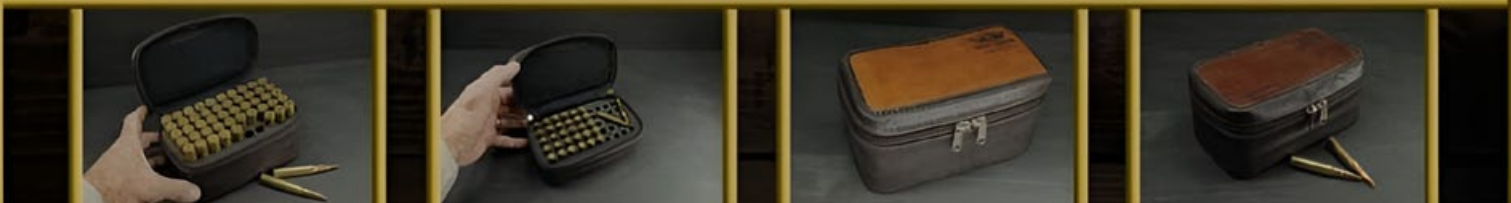


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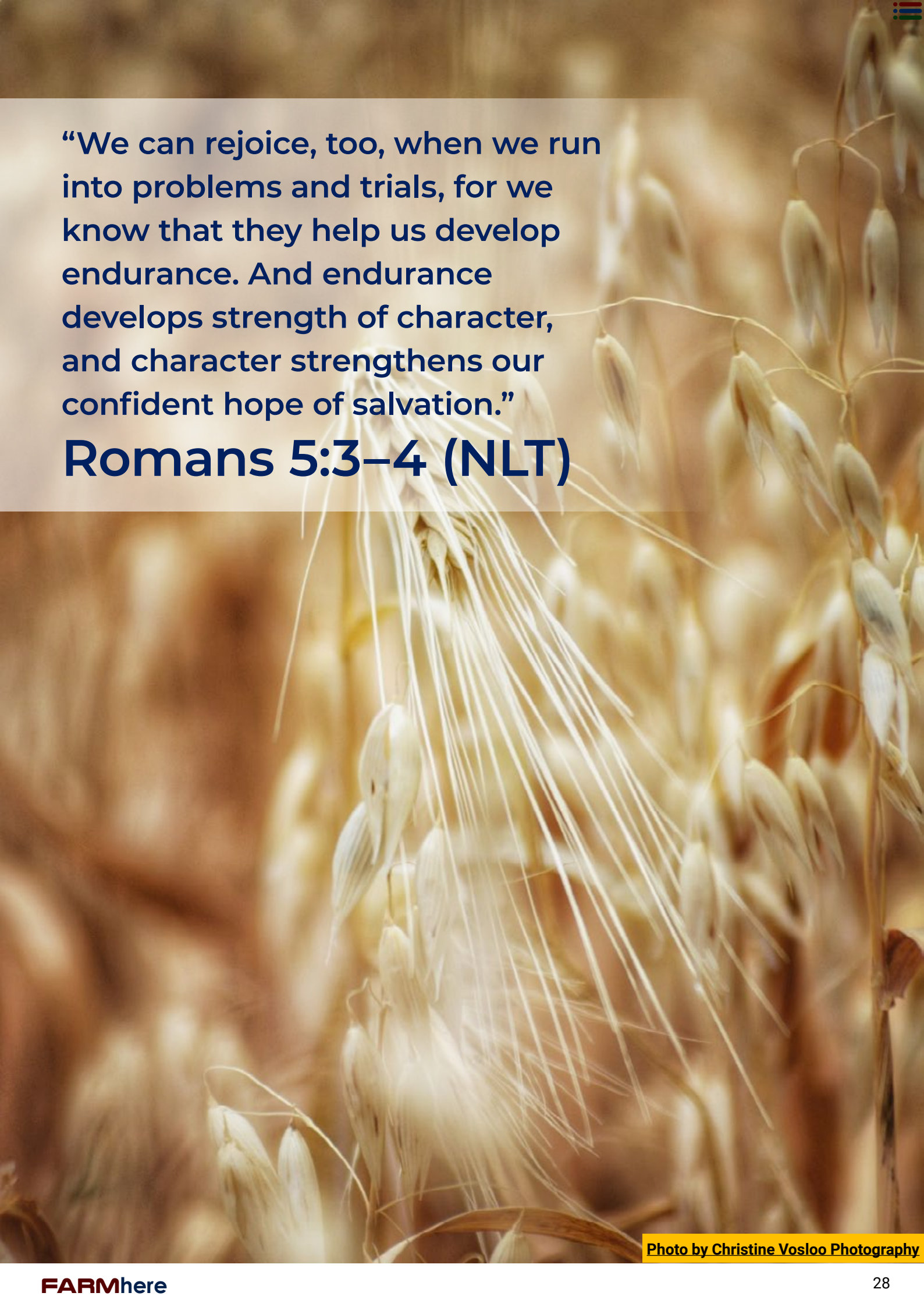
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China pushes for zero-tariff from South Africa

South African farmers are accelerating trade diversification efforts in May 2026 as global tariff volatility reshapes agricultural export markets. The sector is increasingly focusing on Asia, particularly China, following the implementation of expanded zero-tariff access for African exports under the China-Africa Economic Partnership Agreement (CAEPA). From 1 May 2026, South African agricultural products entered the Chinese market duty-free, creating new opportunities for grain, wine, citrus, nut, and meat exporters. (Africanews¹)

The policy shift comes as South Africa continues to navigate uncertainty in traditional export markets. Earlier tariff disputes with the United States placed pressure on exporters and accelerated efforts to secure alternative markets. South Africa's Trade Minister Parks Tau confirmed in February 2026 that the country was actively pursuing market diversification through deeper trade relations with China and broader Asian markets. ([Reuters²])

Agricultural economists say the Chinese agreement could



significantly improve the competitiveness of South African products that previously faced import duties ranging from 12% to 20%. The wine industry, macadamia producers, and grain exporters are expected to benefit most from the removal of tariffs. Industry analysts note that South African maize and soybean exporters are also preparing for increased Asian demand as logistics and trade channels improve. (agbiz.co.za³)

According to Agbiz, South Africa's agricultural exports reached record highs during 2025, with continued growth projected for 2026. Export categories included citrus, grapes, berries, wine, nuts, sugar, fruit juices, and grains. Asia has become one of the fastest-growing destinations for South African agricultural products, supported by changing global supply chains and rising food demand in the region. (agbiz.co.za⁴)

China's new tariff framework will remain active until April 2028 and covers all tariff lines for

African countries with diplomatic relations with Beijing. South African exporters view the agreement as a strategic opening to reduce dependence on Western markets while strengthening participation in Asian food supply chains. Officials and agricultural organisations have also highlighted the importance of maintaining strong logistics systems, port efficiency, and technical compliance standards to maximise export competitiveness. (Xinhua News⁵)

At the domestic policy level, South African farmers continue to lobby for reforms aimed at reducing production costs and improving food affordability. One major issue under discussion in May 2026 is the proposed expansion of zero-rated VAT status on staple crops and food products. Agricultural groups argue that broader VAT exemptions could support consumers facing rising food prices while improving demand stability for producers. The debate forms part of wider

discussions around food security, inflation pressures, and agricultural sustainability in South Africa's rural economy.

The grain sector remains particularly focused on policy certainty as producers deal with fluctuating input costs linked to global fuel, fertiliser, and shipping markets. Analysts warn that geopolitical instability and changing tariff systems continue to create uncertainty for exporters, despite new opportunities in Asia. (okayafrica⁶)

South Africa's agricultural industry is expected to maintain its export-driven growth strategy throughout 2026. Farmers, agribusinesses, and policymakers are increasingly aligning around diversification, infrastructure improvements, and trade partnerships as central pillars of long-term resilience. With China now offering full tariff-free access, many exporters see Asia as a critical growth market for South African agriculture over the next decade. (farmingportal.co.za⁷)

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Supply Chain Traceability: Why Blockchain Matters for South African Farmers

South African agriculture is entering a new era where buyers, retailers and export markets increasingly demand full transparency from farm to fork. In May 2026, supply chain traceability has become one of the most important trends shaping global food production. Technologies such as blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and DNA tracing are helping farmers improve food safety, reduce waste and strengthen consumer trust.



Blockchain is essentially a secure digital record system that stores information permanently across multiple computers. In agriculture, it can record every stage of production – planting dates, chemical applications, harvesting, cold-chain temperatures, transport conditions and retail delivery. Because the records cannot easily be altered, buyers and regulators gain greater confidence in product authenticity and safety. (Springer¹)

For South African farmers, this is becoming increasingly relevant in export markets such as the European Union and the United Kingdom. International retailers want proof that produce complies

with food safety regulations, sustainability standards and ethical sourcing requirements. Blockchain-based systems can provide that proof instantly through QR codes and digital tracking systems. (Farmers Magazine South Africa²)

One of the biggest advantages is faster response times during contamination or disease outbreaks. Traditional paper-based traceability systems may take days to identify the origin of a problem. Blockchain systems can reduce that process to minutes by tracing products through the entire supply chain in real time. Major retailers such as Walmart have already demonstrated how blockchain

traceability improves food recall efficiency and supply chain visibility. (mediacenter.ibm.com³)

IoT devices are also playing a growing role. Sensors placed in trucks, storage facilities and containers can continuously monitor temperature, humidity and transport conditions. This data is automatically uploaded to blockchain systems, giving exporters and retailers confidence that cold-chain requirements have been maintained. Researchers in 2025 noted that combining IoT with blockchain significantly improves transport monitoring and product transparency in agri-food supply chains. [MDPI⁴]

DNA tracing is another technology gaining traction, especially in high-value export sectors such as fruit, wine, beef and seafood. DNA fingerprinting allows products to be scientifically linked back to their origin farms. When integrated with blockchain systems, this creates a powerful anti-fraud tool that protects premium South African brands in international markets.

Reducing food waste is another major benefit. According to the World Economic Forum, nearly one-third of food produced globally is lost or wasted each year. Improved traceability allows businesses to identify where losses occur, whether during harvesting, storage, transport or retail handling. Better visibility helps farmers and supply chain partners make faster decisions, reducing spoilage and financial losses. (World Economic Forum⁵)

South Africa itself is moving toward stronger digital tracking systems. On 7 May 2026, reports confirmed that authorities are preparing national track-and-trace systems to strengthen monitoring

of products and improve consumer protection. While initially aimed at combating illicit trade, the broader move toward traceability reflects the growing importance of digital supply chain monitoring across industries, including food production. (Business Day⁶)

For commercial farmers, adopting traceability technologies may soon become a competitive necessity rather than a luxury. Exporters, supermarkets and consumers increasingly want proof of origin, sustainability and food safety. Farmers who invest early in digital traceability systems could gain stronger market access, premium pricing opportunities and better protection against supply chain disruptions.

As global agriculture becomes more data-driven, blockchain and traceability technologies are likely to become standard tools in modern farming. South African producers who embrace these innovations now will be better positioned to compete in increasingly transparent global food markets.

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6. [SA to launch track-and-trace system to stamp out smuggling](#)

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Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Water Management in South Africa's 2026 Agricultural Season

South Africa's 2026 agricultural season is unfolding under growing climate pressure, with recurring droughts, unpredictable rainfall, and rising temperatures reshaping the country's farming landscape. As one of the world's water-scarce nations, South Africa is increasingly investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and advanced water-management technologies to protect food production and rural livelihoods.



Across provinces such as the Western Cape, Limpopo, Free State, and Northern Cape, farmers are rapidly adopting “smart” irrigation systems, soil-moisture sensors, and data-driven crop management tools. These technologies are helping producers reduce water waste while improving crop yields during prolonged dry periods.

According to recent agricultural and climate studies, South Africa's semi-arid regions face intensifying water stress caused by climate change and recurring drought cycles. Researchers warn that declining soil moisture, lower runoff, and irregular rainfall patterns could significantly impact

staple crops such as maize, wheat, and sorghum. (MDPI¹)

In response, precision irrigation has become a major focus of climate adaptation efforts in 2026. Smart irrigation systems now use weather forecasts, artificial intelligence, and real-time soil monitoring to determine exactly when and how much water crops require. This replaces older fixed irrigation schedules that often wasted water during cooler or rainy conditions.

Technology companies operating in South Africa are introducing systems that combine weather stations, remote sensing, and moisture probes to optimize irrigation decisions. These systems allow farmers to monitor soil conditions remotely using mobile dashboards and cloud-based platforms. (metos.co.za²)

The expansion of agrometeorological infrastructure is also accelerating. In March 2026, new agricultural monitoring initiatives were launched to expand weather-station networks across farming regions, particularly in drought-prone areas of the Western Cape. These systems provide localized climate data that helps farmers respond more effectively to heatwaves and water shortages. (METOS by Pessl Instruments³)

Smallholder farmers are increasingly benefiting from these innovations as well. Recent research conducted in Limpopo's Vhembe District demonstrated how AI-powered soil-water monitoring can improve irrigation efficiency for maize production. Using satellite imagery and machine-learning models, researchers generated highly accurate soil-moisture



can lower agricultural water use by as much as 40% or more when compared with traditional methods. (arXiv⁶)

However, challenges remain. High implementation costs, limited rural connectivity, and infrastructure weaknesses continue to slow adoption among smaller farming operations. Load shedding, deteriorating roads, and aging water systems still affect agricultural productivity in several regions. (Reddit⁷)

Despite these obstacles, South Africa's 2026 agricultural season highlights a major transition toward climate-smart farming. The combination of resilient infrastructure, digital irrigation technologies, and advanced water-management strategies is helping the agricultural sector adapt to an increasingly uncertain climate future.

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estimates that support precision watering practices. (MDPI⁴)

Water-storage infrastructure is another key priority during the 2026 season. Farmers and municipalities are strengthening earth dams, groundwater recharge systems, and water-retention projects to improve long-term resilience. Water-management experts note that improved storage capacity is essential for maintaining agricultural productivity during prolonged dry spells. (Bizcommunity⁵)

At the same time, Internet of Things (IoT) technologies are becoming more affordable and accessible. Low-cost moisture sensors and automated irrigation controls are helping reduce water consumption significantly. Studies indicate that sensor-based irrigation systems



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Vertical Farming and Indoor Farming Strengthen South Africa's Winter Agriculture

As South Africa enters the May agricultural season, farmers across the country face cooler temperatures, shorter daylight hours, and increasing pressure on water resources. In provinces such as the Western Cape, May marks the beginning of winter rainfall and the planting season for wheat and other winter crops. At the same time, controlled-environment agriculture (CEA), including vertical farming and greenhouse production, is expanding as a practical solution for growing high-value crops throughout the year.

Vertical farming involves growing crops in stacked layers inside controlled spaces using hydroponic, aeroponic, or aquaponic systems. Indoor farming and greenhouse agriculture allow farmers to regulate temperature, humidity, irrigation, and lighting while reducing exposure to droughts, pests, and unpredictable weather patterns. In South Africa, these systems are increasingly being used to produce lettuce, spinach, herbs, strawberries, tomatoes, and microgreens close to urban markets. (Farmers Magazine South Africa¹)



Water conservation remains one of the biggest advantages of controlled-environment farming. South Africa is classified as a water-scarce country, and agriculture accounts for a large share of national water use. Vertical farming systems recycle water through closed-loop irrigation, significantly reducing waste. Several South African agricultural studies and industry reports state that hydroponic and vertical farming systems can use up to 90% less water than traditional open-field farming. (Farmers Magazine South Africa¹)

During May, colder nighttime temperatures can slow crop growth in open fields, especially in Gauteng, Free State, and parts of Limpopo. Greenhouses and indoor farms help stabilize production by maintaining consistent growing conditions regardless of outside weather. This allows farmers to continue supplying retailers and restaurants with fresh produce

during winter months when outdoor yields may decline. (Farmers Magazine South Africa²)

Controlled-environment agriculture also improves land efficiency. Traditional farming requires large areas of fertile soil, while vertical farms can produce crops in warehouses, tunnels, or shipping containers inside cities. According to South African farming reports, some advanced systems can produce the equivalent of several hectares of conventional farming within a much smaller footprint. (Farmer's Weekly SA³)

Technology is playing an increasingly important role in modern indoor farming. Sensors, automated irrigation systems, LED lighting, and climate-control software help farmers monitor plant growth in real time. Research into intelligent greenhouse systems using machine learning and Internet of Things (IoT) technology shows that automation can improve yields while reducing water



During the May winter transition period, vertical farming and greenhouse production are helping ensure stable food supply chains, efficient water use, and year-round production of fresh crops.

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and energy waste. [arXiv⁴)

Despite its advantages, vertical farming still faces challenges in South Africa. High electricity costs, infrastructure investment, and energy demand for lighting and cooling remain major obstacles for large-scale expansion. Industry experts note that indoor farming is currently most profitable for high-value crops rather than staple grains such as maize or wheat.

(Reddit⁵)

Even with these challenges, the sector continues to grow in urban centres such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, where fresh produce demand is increasing. As climate variability intensifies and water supplies become less predictable, controlled-environment agriculture is becoming an important part of South Africa's agricultural future.

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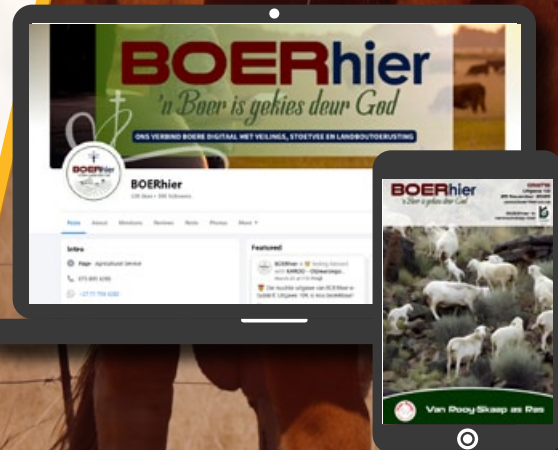
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Efficiency and Sustainable agriculture: Nanofertilizers



In South Africa during May 2026, the agricultural sector is operating under continued pressure from elevated fertiliser and input costs, which remain a major concern for both commercial and smallholder producers. Fertiliser expenses typically account for about 37%–50% of total crop input costs in many production systems, especially in grain and horticultural farming. These high costs have been a persistent trend due to global supply volatility, currency depreciation, and dependence on imported raw materials, which continue to influence local pricing structures in 2026. (namc.co.za¹)

As a response to these cost pressures, South African farmers are increasingly adopting advanced biofertilizers and nutrient management systems aimed at improving nutrient use efficiency and reducing reliance on synthetic inputs. One of the key developments is the use of microbial biofertilizers, which enhance soil fertility by improving nitrogen fixation and phosphorus solubilisation. These biological inputs are particularly relevant in May, which marks the post-harvest preparation period for winter cropping and soil restoration in many regions, including the Free State and Western Cape.

Another emerging trend is the use of nano-biofertilizers, which combine nanotechnology with biological nutrient delivery systems. These formulations improve nutrient uptake efficiency by increasing the surface area and mobility of nutrients in the soil-plant system. Research indicates that nanofertilizer systems can significantly reduce nutrient losses

through leaching and volatilisation while improving plant growth and stress tolerance. (MDPI²) In South African field conditions, this is particularly relevant where irregular rainfall and soil variability often limit fertiliser efficiency.

Integrated nutrient management (INM) is also gaining traction in 2026, combining organic inputs such as compost and manure with reduced rates of inorganic fertilisers. This approach aims to maintain soil health while reducing dependency on costly chemical fertilisers. Precision agriculture tools, including soil testing and digital nutrient mapping, are being used more widely to optimise fertiliser application rates and timing, improving cost efficiency during the May planting cycle for winter cereals such as wheat and barley.

In smallholder farming systems, biofertilizer adoption is also influenced by affordability and accessibility. Studies in South Africa show that farmers using organic or microbial inputs

often spend significantly less on fertilisers compared to those relying solely on chemical products, although yield outcomes depend on management practices and soil conditions. (Frontiers³)

The overall shift toward advanced nutrient management in South Africa during May 2026 reflects a broader transition toward sustainable agriculture. This transition is driven by the need to maintain productivity under rising input costs while protecting long-term soil fertility and reducing environmental impacts associated with overuse of synthetic fertilisers.

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3. [Frontiers | The determinants of willingness to pay for organic fertilizers: the case of smallholder vegetable farmers in Mpumalanga, South Africa](#)

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South Africa's Poultry Sector Growth and Trade Dynamics

The South African poultry industry remains the largest and most influential segment of the country's agricultural economy, contributing a significant share of animal protein production, employment, and agro-processing value chains. According to the South African Poultry Association (SAPA), the sector is valued at approximately R74 billion and supports more than 110,000 jobs across production, processing, logistics, and retail networks (Business Report¹).

A key feature of the sector is its strong domestic demand, driven by poultry being the most affordable and widely consumed protein source in South Africa. Despite persistent economic pressures on consumers, chicken consumption continues to grow, reinforcing the industry's structural importance in national food security.

Competitiveness and efficiency gains

Over the past decade, South Africa's poultry industry has undergone notable efficiency improvements. Industry benchmarking studies show that local producers have significantly improved feed conversion ratios, placing South Africa among the most efficient poultry producers



globally. In fact, recent analyses indicate that the country now ranks second only to Brazil in global cost competitiveness, outperforming the United States and European producers in several production efficiency metrics (IOL²).

Feed costs remain the single largest production input, accounting for roughly 70% of production expenses. However, improved genetics, production management, and vertical integration have reduced the impact of volatile feed prices on overall cost per kilogram of chicken. This has allowed the sector to maintain competitiveness even during periods of drought, load shedding, and global grain price fluctuations.

Trade dynamics and export focus

A central policy and industry focus is expanding export participation.

Historically, South Africa's poultry sector has been heavily inward-looking due to high domestic demand and strong import competition. However, government and industry collaboration under the Poultry Master Plan has increasingly prioritised export development and import substitution strategies.

South Africa's agricultural export performance has also strengthened more broadly, with total agricultural exports reaching record levels in recent years. This growth reflects improved market access, stronger compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and coordinated public-private efforts to expand trade relationships (namc.co.za³).

Despite this progress, exports remain limited compared to global leaders such as Brazil and the United States. Structural constraints such as biosecurity

risks, avian influenza outbreaks, and logistical inefficiencies continue to restrict South Africa's competitiveness in international poultry markets.

Key sector challenges

The industry continues to face several structural pressures. Feed price volatility, exacerbated by global grain markets and domestic production shocks, remains a major cost driver. Additionally, infrastructure challenges—including electricity instability, port inefficiencies, and transport bottlenecks—continue to affect production efficiency and export readiness.

Animal health risks, particularly highly pathogenic avian influenza, also remain a major concern. Outbreaks in recent years have resulted in significant bird losses and temporary disruptions in

supply chains, reinforcing the need for improved vaccination strategies and biosecurity systems.

Outlook

Despite these challenges, the sector is increasingly viewed as resilient and structurally competitive. Investment in processing capacity, technological upgrades, and feed efficiency improvements suggests continued long-term growth potential. Industry stakeholders remain focused on strengthening export competitiveness while maintaining affordability in the domestic market.

As global demand for affordable protein rises, South Africa's poultry sector is positioned to play a growing role—provided structural constraints are addressed and export pathways continue to open.



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3. [TRADE PERFORMANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN QUARTER 1 OF 2025 – NAMC | National Agricultural Marketing Council](#)

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Liver fluke and conical fluke infestation in livestock – autumn and winter focus

*Ruminants can become infected with liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica* and *Fasciola gigantica*). The life cycle of these parasites is dependent on freshwater snails (*Lymnaea* spp), the intermediate host, in which the stages of these parasites further develop into the infective stage that infects ruminans. Late summer and autumn are known risk periods during which infestation with these parasites occurs.*

Certain environmental factors such as the presence of marshes, streams, rivers, dams and leaking water troughs contribute by creating favourable environments for the survival of these intermediate hosts, thereby promoting the life cycle of the liver fluke.

Liver fluke can cause severe production losses as well as mortality in ruminants. After a ruminant becomes infected, the immature stages migrate through the liver until they establish in the bile ducts and aggressively suck blood. Liver flukes can severely damage the liver, leading to blood and blood protein losses. Severe liver fluke infestation results in clinical signs that can be observed as weight loss, anaemia and even acute deaths. The established



Photo: Marshes and rivers create the perfect environment for the intermediate host to survive.

adult stages produce eggs that are then excreted through the bile ducts into the intestinal tract and subsequently the faeces, contaminating the environment and thus ensuring the continuing life cycle of the parasite.

Livestock producers should be on the lookout for any signs of these internal parasites and use appropriate products for treatment. Treatment can be applied tactically during the autumn if clinical signs of these parasites are observed. Strategic treatment can be applied after the first frost has occurred to prevent the adverse effect that these parasites can have on livestock, especially during the winter months when protein sources are limited.

*Dr JG Nel
Veterinary consultant – Kyrón Agri*



Photo: Animals can be particularly adversely affected during the winter if they are infected with internal parasites.

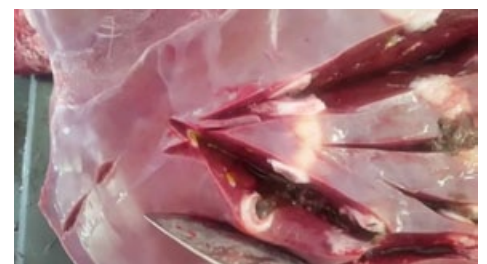


Photo: Severe fibrosis of the bile ducts in a liver severely infected with liver fluke.

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La Niña Rains Boost South African Agriculture in 2025/26 Season, but Disease Risks Rise

South Africa's agricultural sector is experiencing a mixed outlook in the 2025/26 production season, shaped strongly by La Niña-driven rainfall. While the wetter conditions have improved grazing and crop prospects across many provinces, they are also creating elevated animal health risks, particularly for livestock diseases such as Rift Valley Fever (RVF).



Improved rainfall lifts production conditions

The current La Niña phase has delivered above-normal rainfall across much of the summer rainfall region, improving soil moisture and pasture growth. Agricultural analysts report that these conditions have supported both crop establishment and livestock feed availability, with many farmers entering 2026 on a stronger footing than in previous drier seasons.

According to agricultural economist Wandile Sihlobo, the 2025/26 season has been characterised by “excellent rain since the start of October” and notably improved veld conditions, which have supported both crop and livestock systems. (wandilesihlobo.com¹)

The Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) and related sector assessments note that favourable weather has contributed to optimism in grains, horticulture,

and livestock production, with La Niña rains underpinning strong early-season planting and pasture recovery. (Bizcommunity²)

Livestock benefits—but also heightened disease risk

While abundant rainfall improves grazing availability and reduces feed costs for livestock producers, it also increases standing water, humidity, and vector populations such as mosquitoes. These conditions are known to favour outbreaks of vector-borne diseases.

One of the key concerns is Rift Valley Fever, a viral zoonotic disease that affects sheep, cattle, and goats. The disease is closely linked to heavy rainfall and flooding events, which allow mosquito populations to multiply rapidly in wetlands and low-lying grazing areas.

Agricultural advisories for the 2025/26 season have explicitly warned that wetter-than-normal conditions increase the likelihood of livestock disease outbreaks and emphasised the need for enhanced surveillance and vaccination readiness. (Food For Mzansi³)

Veterinary and extension services are therefore urging farmers to intensify monitoring of abortions in livestock, implement mosquito control measures where possible, and maintain vaccination programmes in high-risk regions.

Grazing gains require careful management

Although pasture growth has improved significantly, experts caution that lush grazing can sometimes mask underlying risks. Rapid pasture growth may lead to uneven nutrient distribution and encourage overgrazing if herd management is not carefully controlled.



Broader agricultural outlook remains positive

Despite disease risks, the overall agricultural outlook for 2025/26 remains favourable. Strong rainfall has improved water availability in dams, supported field crop yields, and strengthened rangeland recovery following earlier dry spells.

However, meteorologists warn that La Niña conditions are expected to weaken as the year progresses, with potential transition toward neutral or even El Niño conditions later in 2026–2027, which could reintroduce drought risks. (Business Day⁴)

Conclusion

The 2025/26 La Niña season

presents a classic dual scenario for South African agriculture: abundant rainfall supporting production gains, but also increasing disease pressure and management complexity in livestock systems. Success for farmers will depend on balancing these benefits with proactive animal health monitoring and adaptive grazing management.

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3. [Above-normal rainfall expected to lift farming fortunes - Food For Mzansi](#)
4. [WANDILE SIHLOBO | Agricultural outlook uncertain as La Niña fades](#)

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There is also increased risk of internal parasites in wetter environments, which can reduce livestock productivity even when feed appears abundant. Farmers are therefore encouraged to balance stocking rates and maintain regular parasite control schedules during high-rainfall periods.

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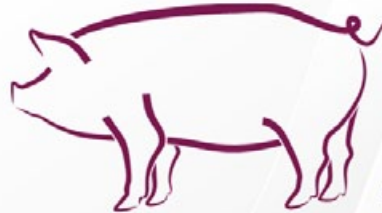


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Decreased producer prices and increased yellow maize prices during week 18

During week 18 of 2026, the pork producer price averaged R39,15/kg, 1,8% lower than the previous week. The yellow maize price averaged R3 395/t, 2,4% higher than the previous week. Producer prices in relation to yellow maize prices averaged 11,5, 3,9% lower than the previous week.

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Faith, Resilience and Record Livestock Auctions in South Africa During 2026

South Africa's livestock industry entered 2026 under immense pressure as recurring outbreaks of Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) disrupted animal movement, exports and commercial farming operations across several provinces. Yet, despite these challenges, the country's leading livestock auctions continued to achieve remarkable prices, proving the resilience of South African farmers and breeders. Across cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat auctions, buyers continued investing in elite genetics and premium bloodlines, demonstrating that agriculture remains one of the strongest pillars of hope in difficult times.

One of the year's standout moments came at the prestigious Bona Bona Platinum Auction near Wolmaransstad, where a 25% share in the buffalo bull "Dominus" sold for an astonishing R6 million. The auction, hosted at Bona Bona Game Lodge, attracted breeders and wildlife investors from across the country and highlighted the enduring value of superior genetics



Record Red Angus bull sold at Kroon Angus Auction

in the wildlife and cattle industries. (Farmer's Weekly SA¹)

In the small-stock sector, the Black-Tie Blue Blood Auction held in Rawsonville produced one of the most talked-about sales of the year. A Savanna ram named "Epic" achieved a new South African small-stock record when it sold for R2.05 million. The elite ram drew national attention and confirmed that premium breeding stock continues to command exceptional demand even during periods of agricultural uncertainty. (Farmer's Weekly SA²)

Wildlife auctions also remained strong despite the ongoing FMD concerns. At the Woody Cape Wildlife Auction during the Bathurst Agricultural Show in the Bathurst region, sales reached an impressive R17.5 million. Buffalos remained among the top-performing animals,



Boran bull "Cyclone" – sold for R8 million in Davel, Mpumalanga.

with buffalo cows selling for up to R1 million and a buffalo bull named "Titus" reaching R750,000. Organisers noted that online bidding and strong breeder confidence contributed to the auction's success. (Daily Dispatch³)

The cattle industry likewise showed remarkable strength.



Merino ram "Mega Beast" – record Merino auction sale.

Earlier benchmark sales continued influencing the market, including the famous Boran bull "Cyclone," which sold for a record R8 million at the Hurwitz Farming Production Auction in Davel, Davel. That sale remains one of the highest livestock prices ever achieved in Southern Africa and reinforced South Africa's global reputation for world-class Boran genetics.

Additional auction success stories emerged across the country. In Modimolle, an Ankole bull named "Bumblebee" sold for R700,000 at the Lasarus Game Farm Auction, while strong Dormer and Dorper sheep auctions in the Eastern Cape and Free State recorded healthy averages throughout the season. (Farmer's Weekly SA⁴)

For many farmers, 2026 became a reminder that even in seasons of uncertainty, provision still arrives.

Rising feed costs, biosecurity restrictions and transport limitations created real hardships for producers, yet the livestock industry continued to move forward through determination, community support and faith. Many breeders openly acknowledged that survival during difficult agricultural cycles requires not only good management but also perseverance and trust in God's provision.

South African agriculture has always been built on resilience. Through droughts, disease outbreaks and economic pressure, farmers continue planting, breeding and building for the future. The record-breaking auctions of 2026 stand as proof that even in challenging times, opportunity can still emerge. For many in the industry, these sales were more



Boran bull "Jester" – multimillion-rand Boran genetics sale.



Record Dorper ram auction achievement in Southern Africa.

than financial milestones – they were reminders that with faith, hard work and unity, God continues to provide strength and hope for tomorrow.

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1. [Top genetics and prices at the Bona Bona Platinum Auction](#)
2. [Record R2,05m paid for Savanna ram at Rawsonville auction](#)
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4. [Ankole bull sold for R700 000 at Lasarus Game Farm auction](#)

[FARMhere Article](#)

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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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HOW LONG DO FARM ANIMALS LIVE?

A guide to the average lifespan of common farm animals.



 **COW**
15–20
years



 **GOAT**
12–15
years



 **PIG**
10–15
years



 **HORSE**
25–30
years



 **RABBIT**
5–8
years



 **SHEEP**
10–12
years



 **DUCK**
8–12
years



 **CHICKEN**
5–10
years



 **DOG**
10–13
years
(depending on breed and care)



 **CAT**
12–15
years
(some can live over 20)



Farm animals play an important role in sustainable agriculture 🌾 and food production. With the right nutrition 🥕, care ❤️, and management 🚜, these animals can live longer, healthier, and more productive lives, adding value to every farm's success 📈 and development.

South Africa Intensifies Biosecurity and FMD Vaccination Drive in 2026

South Africa's livestock sector entered 2026 facing one of its most severe biosecurity crises in decades, with Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) spreading across all nine provinces and placing enormous pressure on farmers, exporters, and veterinary authorities. By March 2026, the country had accelerated emergency vaccination programmes, tightened movement controls, and increased vaccine imports as part of a national effort to contain the outbreak and rebuild confidence in the agricultural sector.

According to government and industry reports released during March and April 2026, more than 1,300 confirmed FMD cases had already been recorded nationwide by early April, with the Free State, North West, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal among the hardest-hit provinces. (SAnews¹)

The outbreak has had major economic consequences. South Africa's beef exports fell sharply after several international markets imposed restrictions on livestock and meat imports. Reuters reported that beef exports to China dropped by 69% following import bans linked to the disease outbreak, while overall beef exports



declined by 26% during the crisis period. (Reuters²)

A key turning point came in February 2026 when South Africa launched its first locally produced FMD vaccine in more than 20 years. Developed by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the vaccine forms part of the country's strategy to reduce dependence on imported vaccines and improve long-term biosecurity resilience. Initial local production started at 20,000 doses per week, with plans to scale production to 200,000 doses weekly by 2027. (Reuters³)

Government also imported millions of additional vaccine doses from Argentina and Türkiye. By March 2026, South Africa had secured approximately 2.5 million vaccine doses, including one million doses from Biogenesis Bago and 1.5 million from Dollvet. Most of these vaccines were allocated to high-priority outbreak zones, particularly KwaZulu-Natal, the Free State, and

the Eastern Cape. (Business Day⁴)

The national vaccination campaign expanded rapidly during March. In the Eastern Cape alone, more than 94,000 cattle had been vaccinated by 11 March 2026 as authorities worked to prevent further spread into surrounding districts. (SAnews⁵)

In the Western Cape, 100,000 additional vaccine doses arrived at Cape Town International Airport to strengthen containment measures after outbreaks were detected in the Garden Route and surrounding farming areas. (Government of South Africa⁶)

By late April 2026, government confirmed that over 2.59 million animals had already been vaccinated nationally. KwaZulu-Natal accounted for the largest share, with more than 766,000 vaccinated animals, followed by the Free State with over 446,000 and the Eastern Cape with more than 376,000 vaccinations completed. (Government of South Africa⁷)

Authorities also intensified animal movement restrictions and quarantine measures to contain transmission. KwaZulu-Natal introduced strict controls on livestock movement during February 2026, while surveillance teams expanded tracing operations across affected provinces. (kzndard.gov.za⁸)

Industry experts warn that vaccination alone will not fully eliminate the threat unless paired with stronger farm-level biosecurity. Farmers have been urged to enforce strict disinfecting protocols, isolate new livestock arrivals, monitor symptoms closely, and limit unnecessary animal transport between farms and auctions. The Department of Agriculture has also proposed a Routine Vaccination Scheme under the Animal Diseases Act to create a more permanent national prevention system. (Government of

South Africa⁹)

Despite the scale of the outbreak, officials say South Africa's aggressive vaccination expansion and investment in local vaccine production mark an important step toward long-term disease control and livestock protection. The crisis has highlighted the urgent need for independent vaccine capacity, stronger veterinary infrastructure, and faster outbreak response systems to safeguard the country's agricultural economy.

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6. [Western Cape Provincial Government on Foot-and-Mouth ...](#)
7. [The publication of section 10 scheme and foot and mouth ...](#)
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9. [Minister John Steenhuisen announces progress in foot and ...](#)

FARMhere Article

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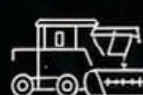
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Vrydag 21 Augustus 2026 - Boeredag

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11 Junie 2026, Reitz

27 Augustus 2026, Parys



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RECIPE

Traditional South African Melkkos (Milk Food)



Ingredients:

- 1 litre full-cream milk
- 1 cup cake flour
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 egg (optional, for richer texture)
- Pinch of salt
- 1–2 tablespoons sugar (optional)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon for serving
- Cinnamon sugar for sprinkling

Method

Make the flour crumbs

- Place the flour and salt in a mixing bowl.
- Rub in the butter using your fingertips until crumbly.
- Add the egg (optional) and lightly rub through to form small dough crumbs.
- The mixture should resemble small coarse crumbs, not a smooth dough.

2. Heat the milk

- Pour the milk into a pot and slowly bring to a gentle simmer over medium heat.
- Stir occasionally to prevent burning.

3. Add the crumbs

- Gradually sprinkle the flour crumbs into the warm milk while stirring continuously.
- Reduce heat to low.

4. Cook gently

- Simmer for 10–15 minutes, stirring regularly until the flour pieces are cooked and the milk thickens slightly.

5. Serve

- Serve warm with cinnamon sugar sprinkled on top.

Farmer's Tip

Melkkos is a traditional, economical South African comfort meal commonly made with simple dairy ingredients available on farms. Full-cream milk gives the best flavour and texture.

Source: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_69ffcab6b30481918093c972317353c3

TLU SA TRAUMAFONDS

Hulp vir boere in nood.
Droeë tye?
Het geweld getref?
Geen inkomste?
Gemeenskappe in nood?



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'n bydrae te lewer.

Ons bied (soos moontlik):

Berading ná trauma

Hulp ná plaasaanvalle

Droogtehulp en
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Noodleniging vir gesinne
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CHICKEN FACTS

SMARTER
THAN YOU
THINK!

THAT SOUND FAKE

(BUT AREN'T)

1 THEY CAN RECOGNIZE OVER 100 FACES

Chickens can remember the faces of other chickens AND humans!



2 THEY HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE

Chickens use 30+ different sounds to communicate with each other.



3 THEY HAVE A STRICT SOCIAL HIERARCHY

The "pecking order" is real. It determines who eats first, who leads, and who follows.



4 THEY CAN LAY EGGS WITHOUT A ROOSTER

A rooster is only needed to fertilize eggs. All store-bought eggs are unfertilized.



5 THEY SEE MORE COLORS THAN HUMANS

Chickens can see ultraviolet light and a wider range of colors than we can!



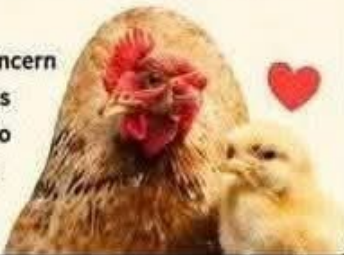
6 THEY CAN RUN SURPRISINGLY FAST

Chickens can run up to 9 mph (14 km/h) to escape danger!



7 THEY SHOW EMPATHY

Hens show concern for their chicks and respond to their distress.



8 THERE ARE MORE CHICKENS THAN HUMANS

Chickens are the most numerous bird species on Earth!



9 THEY CAN DREAM

Chickens experience REM sleep, just like humans. Yes, they dream!



10 THEY HAVE GREAT MEMORY

Chickens can remember locations, people, and routines.



11 THEY TAKE DUST BATHS TO STAY CLEAN

Dust bathing helps chickens remove parasites and keep their feathers healthy.



12 EGG COLOR DEPENDS ON BREED

Brown, white, blue, or green—it's all about genetics, not nutrition!



13 THEY USE THE SUN TO NAVIGATE

Chickens have an internal clock and use sunlight to find direction.



14 CHICKS COMMUNICATE BEFORE HATCHING

Chicks make sounds inside the egg to synchronize hatching!

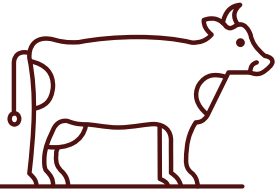


15 THEY CAN SOLVE SIMPLE PROBLEMS

Chickens can learn, adapt, and solve basic problems using cause and effect.

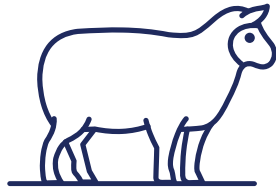


What's happening in Markets



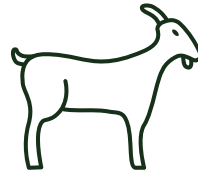
BEEF

A2/3 =	R 61.00
B2/3 =	R 56.67
C2/3 =	R 56.00
Weaners =	R 42.98



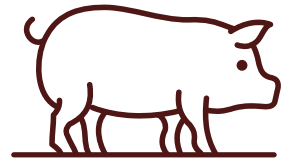
SHEEP

A2/3 =	R 94.83
B2/3 =	R 78.25
C2/3 =	R 74.25
Feeder Lamb =	R 49.04



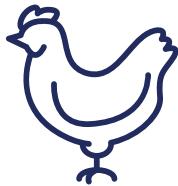
GOATS

Ewes =	R 53.38
Kids <30kg =	R 62.10
Kids 30-40kg =	R 60.95
Kids > 40kg =	R 36.29



PIGS

Porkers =	R 38.61
Baconers =	R 38.11



CHICKEN

Frozen =	R 35.24
Fresh =	R 42.72
IQF =	R 37.96



SAFEX

Maize =	R 3381 /t
Soybeans =	R 6944 /t
Sunflower =	R 8770 /t
Wheat =	R 5890 /t



EXCHANGE RATE

R / \$ =	R 16.43
R / £ =	R 22.35
R / € =	R 19.34

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A black bee is captured in mid-flight, approaching a bright yellow flower. The flower is part of a green plant with thin, needle-like leaves. The background is a clear, bright blue sky with some blurred yellow flowers in the distance. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

FARMhere

Farmers are handpicked by God

Heavenly Father, strengthen us when life becomes difficult. Help us stand firm in faith and trust Your promises through every trial. Fill our hearts with courage, peace, and endurance. Remind us that Your grace is enough and Your presence never leaves us. Guide us to overcome challenges with hope and perseverance. 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.

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Photo by Christine Vosloo Photography