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Smart Irrigation Systems

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Auctions

AI-Powered Farm Management

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Editor's Note

As South African agriculture continues to evolve, one thing is becoming increasingly clear: technology is no longer a luxury on the modern farm—it is a necessity.

In this edition of FARMhere, we explore the many ways technology is helping farmers improve efficiency, reduce costs, make better decisions, and ultimately become more profitable. From precision agriculture and agricultural drones to artificial intelligence, satellite monitoring, smart irrigation systems, digital record keeping, and livestock tracking technology, innovation is changing the way farming is done across the country.

South African farmers face numerous challenges, including rising input costs, unpredictable weather patterns, labour constraints, water shortages, and increasing market demands. Technology offers practical solutions to many of these challenges by providing accurate, real-time information that allows producers to make informed decisions rather than relying solely on experience or instinct.

The reality is that every litre of water saved, every kilogram of fertiliser applied more accurately, and every animal monitored more effectively contributes directly to the sustainability and profitability of a farming enterprise. Many of the technologies highlighted in this edition are no longer reserved for large commercial operations. They are becoming increasingly accessible and affordable for farmers of all sizes.

At FARMhere, we remain committed to bringing you practical, relevant information that helps you stay competitive in a rapidly changing agricultural environment. We trust that the insights shared in this edition will encourage you to explore new opportunities and consider how technology can add value to your own farming operation.

May you continue to farm with wisdom, innovation, and purpose.

Blessings,

Lizelle Little

Editor

BOERhier / FARMhere

Sowing and Reaping

God established the principle of sowing and reaping from the beginning of creation. Whatever we plant through our words, actions, attitudes, and obedience will eventually produce a harvest. This principle applies not only to agriculture but also to every area of our lives.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 6:7–9 (NLT): “Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant... So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” Every act of kindness, every prayer, every sacrifice, and every seed sown in faith is seen by God.

Jesus also taught this truth in Luke 6:38 (NLT): “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.” God blesses generous hearts and delights in those who trust Him.

For farmers, sowing requires patience, faith, and perseverance. In the same way, our spiritual lives require faithful obedience even when we cannot yet see the harvest. 2 Corinthians 9:6

AI-Powered Farm Management: Transforming South African Agriculture in Winter

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly moving from research laboratories into practical farming operations across the world, and South African farmers are increasingly exploring how these technologies can improve decision-making, reduce costs, and increase productivity. As farmers enter the heart of the 2026 winter season, AI-powered farm management systems are becoming valuable tools for managing crops, livestock, water resources, and farm finances. (FAOHome[1])

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly moving from research laboratories into practical farming operations across the world, and South African farmers are increasingly exploring how these technologies can improve decision-making, reduce costs, and increase productivity. As farmers enter the heart of the 2026 winter season, AI-powered farm management systems are becoming valuable tools for managing crops, livestock, water resources, and farm finances. (FAOHome[1])

For many years, farmers relied primarily on experience, historical records, and seasonal observations to make management decisions. While these remain important, modern AI systems can now process vast amounts of information within seconds. These systems analyse weather forecasts, soil moisture levels, historical yield records, satellite imagery, disease risks, grazing performance, and machinery data to provide practical recommendations. (MDPI[2])

Smarter Weather Forecasting

Weather remains one of the biggest variables affecting agricultural production. In South Africa's winter rainfall and summer rainfall regions, accurate forecasting can significantly influence planting, irrigation, fertiliser applications, and disease control decisions.

Modern AI-driven weather systems combine satellite observations, historical climate records, and real-time environmental data to generate highly localised forecasts. Unlike traditional forecasting models, AI continuously learns from previous weather patterns and becomes more accurate over time. This enables farmers to make more informed decisions regarding irrigation scheduling, frost risk management, and field operations. (Interreg Central Europe[3])

For grain farmers planting winter cereals such as wheat, barley, oats, and canola, timely weather intelligence can help maximise germination success and reduce unnecessary input costs.

Precision Irrigation Management

Water remains one of agriculture's most valuable resources. AI systems integrated with soil moisture sensors and weather forecasting tools can determine

exactly when irrigation is required and how much water should be applied.

Instead of irrigating according to fixed schedules, farmers can use AI recommendations based on actual field conditions. This reduces water wastage, lowers electricity costs, and helps maintain optimal crop growth. Advanced systems can even predict future moisture deficits several days in advance, allowing proactive water management. (FAOHome[4])

For South African farmers facing periodic drought cycles and increasing water restrictions, such technology offers significant long-term value.

Disease and Pest Prediction

One of the most promising applications of AI is early disease detection. Plant diseases often become visible only after significant damage has already occurred. AI systems can identify subtle indicators of crop stress long before symptoms are obvious to the human eye.

Using drone imagery, satellite data, and machine-learning algorithms, AI platforms can identify disease hotspots, monitor crop health, and recommend intervention strategies. This allows farmers to target treatments earlier and potentially prevent yield losses. (PMC[5])

Winter grain producers in South Africa remain particularly concerned about diseases such as rusts, powdery mildew, net blotch, and Septoria. Early warning systems can improve scouting efficiency and optimise fungicide timing.

Variable Rate Input Application

Fertiliser and chemical costs continue to rise. AI is increasingly being used alongside precision

agriculture equipment to ensure that inputs are only applied where they are truly needed.

Modern AI-powered systems can analyse yield maps, soil fertility data, and crop performance to generate variable-rate application prescriptions. This means fertiliser, herbicides, and other inputs are distributed according to field variability rather than blanket application rates. (Springer[6])

The result is improved input efficiency, lower production costs, and reduced environmental impact.

Intelligent Weed Control

Weed management is another area where AI is producing measurable results. Advanced camera systems combined with machine learning can distinguish weeds from crops in real time.

One of the most widely publicised examples is targeted spraying technology that identifies individual weeds and applies herbicide only where required. During the 2025 growing season, farmers using AI-guided selective spraying technology reduced herbicide usage by approximately 50% across more than five million acres globally. (John Deere[7])

Such technology has the potential to significantly reduce chemical costs for South African grain and row-crop producers.

Livestock Management Benefits

AI is not limited to crop farming. Livestock producers are increasingly using smart technologies to monitor herd health, grazing performance, breeding activity, and water consumption.

Wearable sensors, electronic identification systems, and AI-powered analytics can help farmers detect illness earlier, monitor animal movement patterns, and improve grazing management decisions. Research shows that AI applications are expanding rapidly within livestock health management and monitoring systems. (arXiv[8])

For beef, sheep, and goat producers entering the winter feeding period, better monitoring can improve feed efficiency and animal performance.

Looking Ahead

While AI will never replace the practical experience and instincts of South African farmers, it is becoming an increasingly valuable decision-support tool. The combination of artificial intelligence, precision agriculture, satellite technology, drones, and

connected farm equipment is creating opportunities for more efficient and profitable farming operations. (FAOHome[1])

As South African agriculture continues to modernise, farmers who understand and adopt suitable AI technologies may gain significant advantages in productivity, sustainability, and risk management. Winter 2026 provides an ideal opportunity for producers to evaluate how AI-powered farm management systems could strengthen their operations and prepare them for the future of farming. (FAOHome[9])

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Smart Irrigation Systems: A Game-Changer for South African Farmers in Winter

Water remains one of South Africa's most valuable and limited agricultural resources. As climate variability, recurring drought cycles, rising input costs, and increasing pressure on water supplies continue to affect farming operations, producers are turning to smart irrigation technologies to improve efficiency and profitability.

For South African farmers entering the July 2026 winter season, smart irrigation systems are becoming one of the most practical precision agriculture tools available. These technologies combine soil moisture monitoring, weather data, remote sensing, automation, and mobile connectivity to ensure that crops receive the right amount of water at the right time. (ResearchGate[1])

Why Smart Irrigation Matters

South Africa is classified as a water-scarce country, making efficient water management essential for long-term agricultural sustainability. The Department of Water and Sanitation continues to emphasise the importance of protecting, conserving, and managing the country's water resources responsibly. (Government of South Africa[2])

Agriculture remains one of the largest users of water in South Africa, and improving irrigation efficiency can significantly reduce pressure on available water supplies while maintaining crop productivity. (wrcwebsite.azurewebsites.net[3])

Traditional irrigation scheduling often relies on visual observations or fixed watering schedules. While this approach has worked for decades, it frequently results in over-irrigation, under-irrigation, nutrient leaching, higher electricity costs, and wasted water.

Smart irrigation replaces guesswork with real-time data. (wiseconn.com[4])

Key Components of Smart Irrigation Systems

Modern smart irrigation systems typically include:

- Soil moisture probes
- On-farm weather stations
- Water flow meters
- Remote sensors
- Mobile phone applications
- Cloud-based data platforms
- Automated irrigation controllers

Soil moisture probes are installed at different depths within the crop root zone. These sensors continuously measure available moisture and transmit information to irrigation management platforms. Farmers can then determine exactly when irrigation is required and how much water should be applied. (ResearchGate[1])

Weather stations provide valuable information on rainfall, temperature, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed, and evapotranspiration rates. This information allows irrigation schedules to be adjusted according to actual environmental conditions rather than fixed assumptions. (ResearchGate[1])

Many systems now allow farmers to monitor irrigation activities remotely through smartphones or computers. Alerts can be sent when moisture levels become critical, irrigation systems malfunction, or weather conditions change. (ResearchGate[1])

The Role of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly being integrated into irrigation management systems. AI platforms analyse historical weather records, current climate conditions, soil moisture readings, crop growth stages, and water consumption patterns.

These systems can automatically recommend irrigation schedules and, in some cases, activate irrigation systems without human intervention. The objective is to maximise water-use efficiency while maintaining optimum crop growth. (metos.co.za[5])

Research conducted on advanced smart irrigation technologies has demonstrated significant reductions in water consumption while maintaining or improving crop performance. Various studies have reported water savings ranging from approximately 40% to nearly 50% under certain production conditions. (Nature[6])

Benefits for South African Farmers

The advantages of smart irrigation extend far beyond water conservation.

Key benefits include:

Reduced Water Waste

Smart systems ensure irrigation occurs only when required, reducing unnecessary applications and limiting runoff losses. (ResearchGate[1])

Lower Electricity Costs

By reducing pumping hours, farmers can lower energy consumption and irrigation-related operating expenses. (wiseconn.com[4])

Improved Crop Performance

Consistent soil moisture levels reduce crop stress and improve plant development throughout the growing season. (MDPI[7])

Better Nutrient Utilisation

Avoiding excessive irrigation helps reduce nutrient leaching and improves fertiliser efficiency. (MDPI[7])

Labour Savings

Automated systems reduce the need for manual monitoring and irrigation management, allowing staff to focus on other critical farm operations. (ResearchGate[1])

Particularly Valuable in Drought-Prone Areas

Smart irrigation technologies are especially valuable in regions where water availability is limited or highly variable.

In South Africa, this includes:

- Free State
- Northern Cape
- North West
- Limpopo
- Eastern Cape dryland regions

These areas frequently experience below-average rainfall, high evaporation rates, and periodic drought conditions. Water-use efficiency is therefore critical to maintaining profitability and protecting long-term water resources. (ResearchGate[8])

For irrigation farmers producing maize, wheat, lucerne, vegetables, citrus, pecan nuts, table grapes, and other high-value crops, accurate irrigation scheduling can have a direct impact on yields and farm profitability.

Looking Ahead

As South African agriculture continues to adopt precision farming technologies, smart irrigation systems are expected to become increasingly common on both commercial and progressive developing farms.

The combination of soil moisture monitoring, weather forecasting, AI-driven recommendations, cloud-based management systems, and mobile connectivity is transforming the way irrigation decisions are made. Farmers are gaining greater control over water use, reducing operating costs, and improving resilience against drought and climate uncertainty. (metos.co.za[5])

For the 2026 winter season and beyond, smart irrigation is no longer simply a technological innovation—it is becoming an essential management tool for sustainable and profitable farming in South Africa.

1. smart irrigation technologies for sustainable water ...
2. Water and sanitation
3. Coping and adaptation strategies for agricultural water use ...
4. Irrigation Scheduling Based on Soil Moisture
5. Smarter Irrigation Starts With METOS®SA
6. IoT-driven smart irrigation system to improve water use ...
7. Smart Irrigation Technologies and Prospects for Enhancing ...
8. Irrigation Water and Security in South African Smallholder ...

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Livestock Monitoring Technology: The Future of South African Livestock Farming

As South African livestock producers enter the heart of the winter season in July 2026, technology is becoming one of the most valuable tools available to improve productivity, profitability, animal welfare, and farm security. Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) is no longer limited to large commercial operations. Advances in electronic identification, remote monitoring, automated data collection, and artificial intelligence are making these technologies increasingly accessible to cattle, sheep, goat, and game farmers across the country. (sajas.co.za[1])

Precision livestock farming refers to the use of electronic technologies that continuously monitor individual animals and provide farmers with real-time information for decision-making. Instead of relying solely on visual observation, producers can now gather accurate data about health, fertility, growth, movement, and grazing behaviour. (growAG2)

Electronic Identification (EID) Tags

One of the fastest-growing technologies in South African livestock production is the use of Electronic Identification (EID) tags. These RFID-based ear tags provide every animal with a unique electronic identity.

When combined with handheld readers, weighing systems, and management software, EID tags automatically record:

- Birth dates
- Parentage information
- Vaccination records
- Weaning weights
- Growth performance
- Breeding history
- Treatment records

This eliminates much of the paperwork traditionally associated with livestock management and significantly reduces recording errors. Accurate traceability is also becoming increasingly important for biosecurity and disease management programmes. (Cattlytics[3])

For stud breeders, EID systems provide the foundation for genetic improvement programmes by ensuring that performance records are linked accurately to individual animals. (sajas.co.za[1])

Smart Ear Tags and Health Monitoring

Modern smart ear tags go beyond simple identification.

These devices can monitor:

- Activity levels
- Body temperature
- Movement patterns
- Feeding behaviour
- Rumination activity

Changes in normal behaviour often occur before visible signs of illness appear. This allows farmers to identify health problems earlier and intervene before production losses occur. Research shows that precision monitoring technologies can improve animal welfare while reducing treatment costs through earlier disease detection. (growAG[2])

During winter, when respiratory

diseases and nutritional stress become greater risks, early warning systems can be particularly valuable.

GPS Collars and Grazing Management

GPS-enabled collars are becoming increasingly useful on extensive livestock farms, especially in regions such as the Free State, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and North West Province.

These systems provide farmers with real-time information regarding:

- Animal location
- Grazing patterns
- Water point usage
- Fence breaches
- Potential theft incidents

By analysing grazing behaviour, producers can identify overgrazed areas and make more informed veld management decisions.

For game ranches and extensive cattle operations, GPS monitoring can dramatically reduce the time spent locating animals while improving pasture utilisation. (growAG[2])

Automated Weighing Systems

Regular weight monitoring remains one of the most effective ways to measure livestock performance.

Traditional weighing often requires gathering animals through handling facilities, which increases labour requirements and animal stress.

Automated weighing systems allow animals to be weighed whenever they visit feeding stations, water points, or designated weighing areas.

Benefits include:

- Continuous growth monitoring
- Earlier identification of underperforming animals
- Improved feed efficiency
- Better evaluation
- Better marketing decisions
- Reduced labour costs

Automated systems can collect thousands of weight records annually, providing a much clearer picture of herd performance than occasional manual weighing. (za.livestock.datamars.com[4])

Fertility and Breeding Management

Reproductive efficiency remains one of the largest profit drivers in livestock production.

Activity monitoring devices can detect behavioural changes associated with oestrus (heat), helping producers identify breeding opportunities more accurately.

These systems can:

- Improve conception rates
- Reduce missed breeding opportunities
- Shorten calving and lambing intervals
- Improve artificial insemination timing

Stud breeders increasingly use these technologies alongside performance recording programmes to identify superior breeding animals and improve genetic progress within their herds and flocks. (sajas.co.za[1])

Reducing Stock Theft Risk

Stock theft remains a major concern for South African farmers.

The integration of EID tags, GPS tracking devices, and cloud-based management systems creates a digital traceability trail that can assist in livestock identification and recovery.

Location alerts can immediately notify farmers if animals move beyond designated grazing boundaries or leave a specific geographic area unexpectedly. While technology cannot eliminate stock theft entirely, it significantly

strengthens livestock security measures. (growAG[2])

The Future of Livestock Farming

The latest precision livestock technologies are increasingly integrating artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and mobile applications. Farmers can now receive alerts directly on their smartphones regarding animal health, breeding activity, weight changes, and grazing behaviour.

As labour costs rise, disease risks increase, and profit margins tighten, livestock monitoring technology offers South African producers a practical way to make faster, data-driven decisions. The combination of EID tags, smart sensors, GPS tracking, automated weighing, and electronic performance recording is helping farmers improve productivity, strengthen biosecurity, enhance animal welfare, and accelerate genetic improvement.

For South African livestock producers entering the winter season of 2026, precision livestock farming is no longer a technology of the future—it is rapidly becoming an essential component of modern, profitable farming. (sajas.co.za[1])

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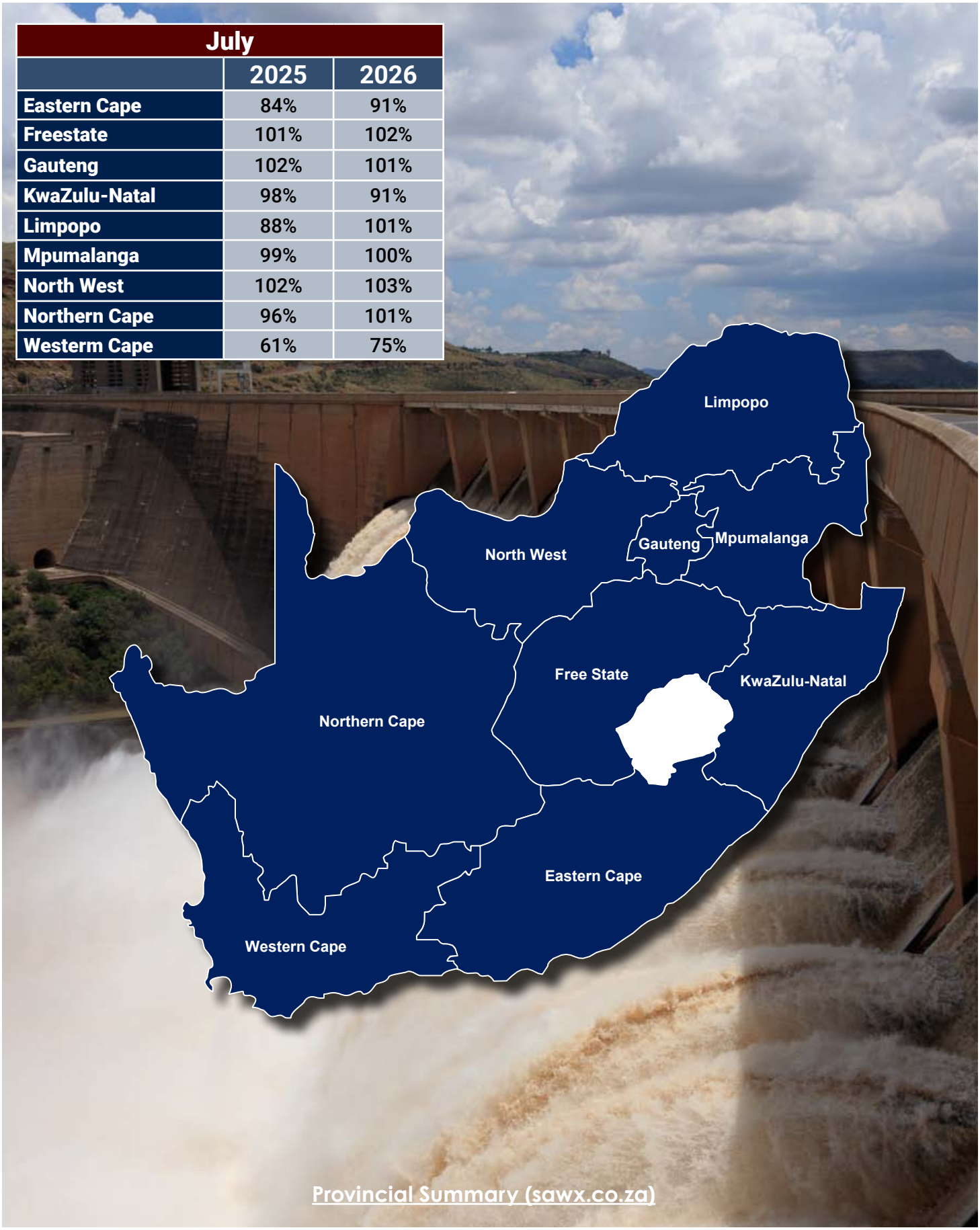
Gauteng	102%	101%
KwaZulu-Natal	98%	91%
Limpopo	88%	101%
Mpumalanga	99%	100%
North West	102%	103%
Northern Cape	96%	101%
Westerm Cape	61%	75%



Provincial Summary (sawx.co.za)

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Satellite Crop Monitoring: A Game-Changer for South African Farmers

As South African agriculture continues to embrace precision farming, satellite crop monitoring has emerged as one of the most valuable technologies available to producers. What was once considered expensive and accessible only to large commercial operations is now becoming affordable for farms of all sizes. During the winter season of July 2026, satellite imagery is helping farmers make faster, more informed decisions while reducing input costs and improving productivity. (SASRI[1])

Satellite monitoring uses imagery captured by Earth-observation satellites to assess crop performance, field conditions, and environmental stress across entire farming operations. Modern satellite systems can revisit the same field every few days, while some commercial platforms provide updates daily, allowing farmers to identify developing problems before they become visible from ground level. (Sentinel Hub[2])

What Can Satellite Monitoring Measure?

Modern satellite platforms analyse reflected light from crops using various vegetation indices. These measurements allow farmers to monitor:

- Crop vigour
- Biomass production
- Soil moisture conditions
- Water stress
- Nitrogen deficiencies
- Disease hotspots
- Pest pressure
- Yield potential
- Field variability

One of the most widely used indicators is the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), which measures crop greenness and plant health. Higher NDVI values generally indicate healthy, actively growing crops, while declining values can signal stress, nutrient deficiencies, disease outbreaks, or moisture shortages. (EOS Data Analytics[3])

Benefits During South Africa's Winter Season

July is a critical month for winter grain producers, particularly in the Western Cape's winter rainfall region, where wheat, barley, canola, and oats are actively growing. Satellite imagery enables producers to monitor large areas quickly without physically inspecting every hectare. (Sentinel Hub[2])

Many South African farmers manage hundreds or even thousands of hectares. Walking every field regularly is often impractical. Satellite monitoring allows producers to identify problem zones remotely and focus scouting efforts where they are needed most. This improves labour efficiency and reduces unnecessary travel costs. (Cropin[4])

Early Detection of Crop Stress

One of the greatest advantages of satellite monitoring is early stress detection.

Research and commercial applications show that multispectral imagery can identify changes in crop performance before symptoms become visible to the human eye. Variations in reflected light can indicate:

- Nitrogen shortages
- Moisture stress
- Disease development
- Pest infestations
- Poor plant establishment

This early warning system enables farmers to intervene sooner, often preventing significant yield losses. Recent developments combining satellite imagery with artificial intelligence are further improving the ability to identify disease and nutrient problems before visible symptoms appear. (BSPP Journals[5])

Improved Nitrogen Management

Fertiliser remains one of the largest production costs for South African grain producers.

Satellite imagery can identify areas of a field suffering from nitrogen deficiencies by monitoring crop chlorophyll levels and vegetation indices such as NDVI and NDRE. Farmers can then apply fertiliser only where needed instead of treating entire fields uniformly. This approach reduces waste and improves fertiliser-use efficiency. (SASRI[1])

Variable-rate fertiliser application is becoming increasingly common in precision farming systems and relies heavily on satellite-derived management zones. (SASRI[1])

Better Water Management

Although many parts of South Africa experience lower irrigation demand during winter, water remains a valuable resource.

Satellite imagery can help identify areas experiencing moisture stress or uneven soil moisture distribution. This information allows producers to optimise irrigation scheduling, reduce overwatering, and target water applications more effectively. In drought-prone regions such as the Free State, Northern Cape, North West, Limpopo, and parts of the Eastern Cape, this technology can play a significant role in conserving water while maintaining production. (SASRI1)

Biomass and Yield Forecasting

Satellite monitoring is also increasingly used for biomass estimation and yield prediction.

By analysing vegetation growth throughout the season, farmers can estimate production potential earlier and more accurately. This information assists with:

- Marketing decisions
- Storage planning
- Input budgeting
- Harvest logistics
- Cash-flow forecasting

Consistent monitoring throughout the growing season provides a clearer understanding of crop performance and potential profitability. (agrii.co.uk[6])

Integration with Other Technologies

Satellite imagery becomes even more powerful when combined with other precision agriculture tools.

Many South African producers now integrate satellite data with:

- GPS-guided equipment
- Soil moisture probes
- Weather stations
- Drone imagery
- Yield monitors
- Farm management software

The combination of these technologies creates a comprehensive decision-support system that improves management accuracy and profitability. (SASRI[1])

Looking Ahead

The future of satellite crop monitoring is closely linked to advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning. Modern systems are becoming increasingly capable of automatically identifying disease outbreaks, nutrient deficiencies, water stress, and yield risks. The availability of free satellite data from programmes such as Sentinel-2, combined with affordable commercial platforms, is making precision agriculture more accessible than ever before. (Sentinel Hub[2])

For South African farmers entering the second half of 2026, satellite crop monitoring offers a practical way to improve efficiency, reduce production costs, conserve resources, and make better-informed management decisions. In an increasingly competitive agricultural environment, the ability to monitor every hectare from space is rapidly becoming a standard management tool rather than a luxury. (Sentinel Hub[2])

Sources:

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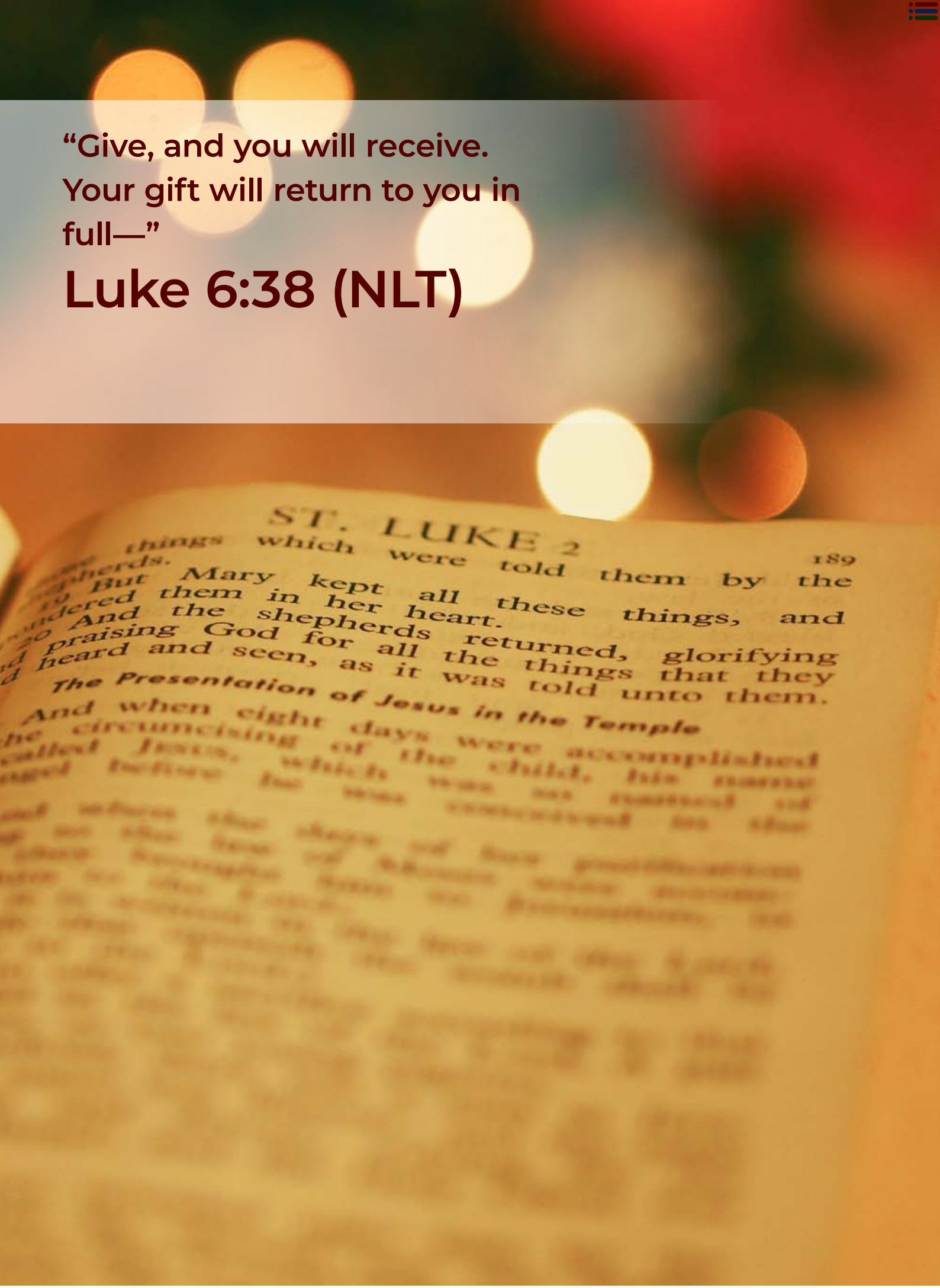

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—”

Luke 6:38 (NLT)

Farm Connectivity and IoT Sensors:

The Smart Farming Revolution Arrives in South Africa

*As South African agriculture enters the heart of the 2026 winter season, one of the fastest-growing technologies on farms is the **Internet of Things (IoT)**. What was once considered advanced technology reserved for large commercial operations is now becoming increasingly accessible to farmers of all sizes.*

IoT refers to a network of connected sensors, devices, and monitoring systems that collect real-time information from various points on the farm and transmit that information directly to a computer, cloud platform, or smartphone. The result is faster decision-making, reduced labour requirements, lower operating costs, and improved farm productivity. (digitalmatter.com[1])

Why IoT Matters During South Africa's Winter Season

July presents unique challenges for South African farmers.

Winter rainfall areas in the Western Cape must carefully monitor soil moisture and crop development, while summer rainfall regions such as the Free State, North West, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Northern Cape face dry conditions, increasing reliance on water infrastructure and livestock management.

IoT technology allows farmers to monitor critical systems without physically visiting every field, dam, reservoir, borehole, or livestock camp each day. Alerts are sent automatically when conditions change, helping farmers respond before small problems become expensive disasters. (senseit.co.za[2])

Water Tank and Reservoir Monitoring

Water security remains one of South Africa's most important agricultural priorities.

Modern IoT water-level sensors can continuously monitor:

- Water tanks
- Storage reservoirs
- Dams
- Borehole holding tanks
- Livestock water troughs

Instead of manually checking levels, farmers receive alerts when water drops below a predetermined threshold.

This is particularly valuable during winter when frozen pipes, pump failures, leaks, or unexpected livestock demand can quickly create water shortages.

Real-time monitoring also helps reduce fuel and labour costs because staff no longer need to inspect every water point daily. (senseit.co.za[2])

Monitoring Dam Levels

Dam level monitoring has become increasingly important following recent periods of drought and variable rainfall patterns across South Africa.

Ultrasonic and pressure-based sensors can measure:

- Dam depth

- Water volume
- Inflow rates
- Evaporation trends

Historical records generated by these systems assist farmers in planning irrigation schedules and estimating available water reserves months in advance.

Many systems now provide graphical trends and predictive analytics that can be viewed from a smartphone or laptop. (elsenburg.com[3])

Smart Pump Monitoring

Pump failures often occur at the worst possible time.

A failed irrigation pump, borehole pump, or livestock water pump can result in major losses if not detected quickly.

IoT-enabled pump monitoring systems track:

- Operating hours
- Pressure levels
- Electrical consumption
- Flow rates
- Motor temperatures

If performance drops outside normal parameters, the farmer receives an immediate notification.

Early detection allows maintenance to be scheduled before a complete breakdown occurs, reducing downtime and repair costs. (senseit.co.za[2])

Soil Moisture Sensors Improve Irrigation Efficiency

One of the most widely adopted IoT technologies in agriculture is soil moisture monitoring.

Sensors placed at different depths within the root zone measure exactly how much water is available to crops.

Instead of irrigating according to a fixed schedule, farmers can irrigate according to actual crop requirements.

Benefits include:

- Reduced water wastage
- Lower electricity costs
- Improved crop performance
- Better root development
- Reduced nutrient leaching

Studies and industry deployments continue to demonstrate that soil moisture monitoring improves irrigation efficiency while conserving water resources. (digitalmatter.com[1])

Weather Stations Deliver Farm-Specific Data

Weather remains one of the largest uncontrollable variables in farming.

IoT-connected weather stations provide real-time information including:

- Temperature
- Humidity
- Wind speed
- Wind direction
- Rainfall
- Solar radiation
- Frost risk

Rather than relying solely on regional forecasts, farmers can access accurate information from their own properties.

This information supports decisions involving:

- Irrigation scheduling
- Spraying operations
- Planting timing
- Frost management
- Disease risk assessment

Microclimate data is becoming increasingly valuable as weather patterns become more variable. (digitalmatter.com[1])

Feed Bin Monitoring for Livestock Producers

Livestock farmers are also benefiting from connected technology.

Feed storage bins can now be fitted with level sensors that measure feed availability continuously.

Farm managers receive alerts when feed supplies reach predetermined levels, allowing timely ordering and delivery.

Benefits include:

- Reduced feed shortages
- Better inventory management
- Improved budgeting
- Reduced labour requirements

This technology is particularly useful for feedlots, dairy operations, poultry units, pig farms, and intensive sheep production systems. (sajas.co.za[4])

Connectivity Challenges Are Being Solved

Historically, poor cellular coverage limited the use of smart farming technologies in remote areas.

However, recent developments in LoRaWAN networks, low-power wide-area communications, and satellite-enabled IoT systems are overcoming these challenges.

New systems can transmit information over long distances using very little power, while satellite-connected networks provide monitoring capability even where cellular coverage is limited or unavailable.

This development is particularly significant for remote farming regions across South Africa. (SES[5])

Looking Ahead

The future of South African farming is increasingly data-driven.

Connected sensors are no longer simply collecting information—they

are becoming decision-support tools that help farmers respond faster, manage resources more efficiently, and reduce risk.

Whether monitoring dam levels in the Free State, soil moisture in the Western Cape, irrigation systems in Limpopo, or feed inventories in Mpumalanga, IoT technology is transforming how farms operate.

For South African producers facing rising input costs, labour challenges, and increasing climate variability, IoT systems offer a practical way to improve efficiency, strengthen resilience, and make better management decisions throughout the 2026 winter season and beyond. (Research and Markets[6])

Sources:

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MEDIA STATEMENT **25 June 2026**

NEW FMD CONTROL MEASURES GIVE FARMERS A CLEARER PATH TO RECOVERY WHILE PROTECTING TRADE

Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen, has approved new national Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control measures that will provide farmers, veterinarians and veterinary authorities with a clear, practical and science-based framework for managing outbreaks while minimising unnecessary economic losses.

The measures, which will take effect upon publication in the Government Gazette, consolidate and replace previous directives issued under Section 9 of the Animal Diseases Act, including the 2019 FMD Contingency Plan, subsequent amendments and related protocols. For the first time, South Africa will have a single, integrated set of national control measures that clearly outline how outbreaks must be managed from detection through to recovery.

"South Africa's livestock producers need certainty. They need clear rules, sound science and practical pathways that allow them to manage outbreaks without unnecessarily jeopardising their livelihoods," said Minister Steenhuisen.

FMD remains one of the most economically devastating animal diseases facing livestock producers. An outbreak can disrupt production, restrict market access, threaten jobs and place immense financial pressure on farming families and rural communities. The new measures seek to strike a balance between protecting animal health and ensuring that farming businesses can continue operating safely wherever the scientific evidence allows.

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Autonomous and Semi-Autonomous Equipment:

The Next Step in South African Farming

As South African agriculture moves deeper into the digital era, autonomous and semi-autonomous farm equipment is becoming increasingly important. While fully autonomous tractors remain relatively rare locally, technologies such as auto-steer guidance systems, section control sprayers, variable-rate application equipment, and automated feeding systems are already delivering measurable benefits on progressive farms across the country. July 2026 presents an ideal opportunity for farmers to evaluate these technologies during the quieter winter season and prepare for the upcoming production cycle. (SA Grain [1])

Precision Farming Drives Adoption

South Africa's agricultural sector remains one of the most mechanised in Africa. Producers are facing rising input costs, labour challenges, fuel expenses, and increasing pressure to improve efficiency. As a result, precision agriculture technologies are gaining momentum among grain, livestock, and mixed farming operations. Technologies such as auto-steer systems, yield monitoring, and variable-rate fertiliser application are becoming increasingly accessible to South African producers. (SA Grain -1)

Research published during 2026 indicates that precision agriculture technologies help improve productivity, optimise water use, reduce operational costs, and support better decision-making. However, adoption is still influenced by factors such as equipment cost, digital infrastructure, and farm size. (Research Square[2])

Auto-Steer Tractors Improve Accuracy

One of the most widely adopted semi-autonomous technologies is auto-steer guidance. Using GNSS and RTK satellite correction systems, tractors can follow highly accurate guidance lines with minimal operator input. Modern systems can maintain consistent row spacing and minimise overlaps during planting, spraying, fertiliser spreading, and harvesting. (IntechOpen[3])

For South African grain producers, particularly in the Free State, North West, Mpumalanga, and Western Cape, auto-steer technology offers several advantages:

- Reduced operator fatigue during long working hours.
- Improved planting accuracy.
- Lower fuel consumption.
- Reduced soil compaction from unnecessary passes.
- Better utilisation of expensive seed and fertiliser inputs. (ResearchGate[4])

Many farmers who first adopted GPS guidance systems are now upgrading to higher-accuracy RTK systems capable of centimetre-level precision. (IntechOpen[3])

Section Control Reduces Input Waste

Another rapidly growing technology is automatic section control. This

system automatically switches planter rows, spray booms, or fertiliser sections on and off when machinery enters previously treated areas.

The result is reduced overlap and fewer missed sections. This becomes particularly valuable on irregularly shaped lands, pivot corners, terraces, and headlands. (efix-agriculture.com[5])

For farmers dealing with high chemical and fertiliser costs during 2026, section control can significantly reduce wastage while maintaining crop protection effectiveness. It also contributes to improved environmental stewardship by preventing unnecessary application of crop protection products. (ResearchGate[4])

Variable-Rate Technology Targets Inputs Precisely

Variable-rate technology (VRT) represents one of the most powerful developments in precision agriculture. Instead of applying fertiliser, seed, lime, or chemicals uniformly across an entire field, VRT allows application rates to vary according to soil type, productivity zones, yield potential, and satellite-derived information. (efix-agriculture.com5)

For South African producers farming variable soil conditions, this approach offers several benefits:

- Reduced fertiliser waste.
- Better nutrient management.
- Improved return on investment.
- More uniform crop performance.
- Reduced environmental impact. (AllyNav[6])

Industry studies suggest that precision application technologies can substantially reduce unnecessary input use while maintaining or improving yields. With fertiliser remaining one of the largest production expenses, VRT is becoming increasingly attractive. (AllyNav[6])

Automated Feeding Systems Benefit Livestock Producers

Automation is not limited to crop farming. Livestock producers are increasingly adopting automated feeding technologies.

Modern feeding systems can automatically weigh, mix, and distribute feed according to pre-programmed rations. These systems reduce labour requirements while improving feed consistency and animal performance. (GEA[7])

In dairy, beef feedlot, sheep, and intensive livestock systems, automated feeding can assist producers by:

- Delivering more accurate rations.
- Reducing feed wastage.
- Monitoring intake patterns.
- Improving labour efficiency.
- Supporting better animal health management. (GEA[7])

Emerging precision livestock farming systems are also incorporating sensors, activity monitors, automated weighing, and artificial intelligence to identify health issues and performance changes earlier than traditional observation methods. (sajas.co.za[8])

Fully Autonomous Machinery Remains Limited

Although autonomous tractors and robotic farming systems are receiving significant global attention, South Africa has not yet reached widespread adoption of fully driverless equipment. Industry experts note that local producers are cautiously evaluating the economics of these technologies before large-scale investment. (African Farming[9])

Globally, however, autonomous tractor development continues to accelerate, driven by labour shortages, advances in artificial intelligence, and improved satellite guidance systems. Many of the autonomous technologies currently being developed internationally are expected to become more accessible over the coming decade. (Market Growth Reports[10])

Looking Ahead

For South African farmers entering the July 2026 winter season, semi-autonomous technologies offer practical and proven benefits. Auto-steer systems, section control, variable-rate application, and automated feeding systems are no longer experimental concepts—they are working tools delivering measurable efficiency gains on commercial farms.

As input costs continue to rise and operational efficiency becomes increasingly important, automation will play a larger role in helping South African agriculture remain competitive, sustainable, and profitable. Farmers who evaluate and adopt appropriate technologies today will be better positioned to meet the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow's farming environment. (Research Square[2])

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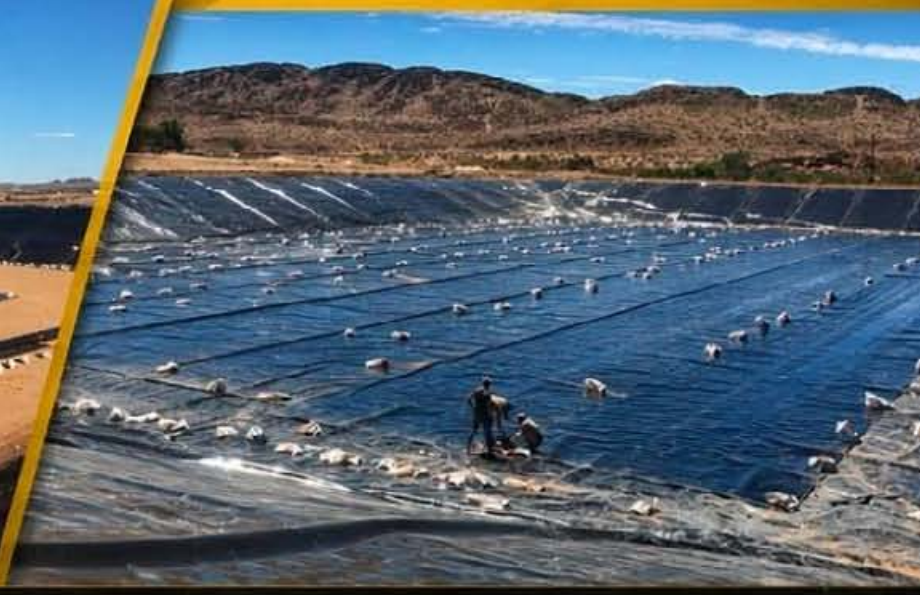

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Liver fluke in cattle and sheep

South Africa has two species of liver fluke: the giant liver fluke (Fasciola gigantica) and the common liver fluke (Fasciola hepatica) – the former is widespread, whereas the latter only occurs in certain areas.

The life cycle of the liver fluke is indirect. The giant liver fluke uses the freshwater snail Lymnaea natalensis as intermediate host, while the common liver fluke uses Lymnaea truncatula. Lymnaea columella can act as intermediate host for both the giant and common liver fluke.

Eggs are excreted in the ruminant's manure. Within 14 days, when conditions are favourable, the early larval stage (miracidia) develops. This stage penetrates the freshwater snail and develops to the larval stage (cercaria). The larvae then leave the freshwater snail, attach to plant material, encyst and develop to the infective larval stage (metacercaria). Infective larvae can survive on pasture for some time, depending on how long conditions remain favourable. The ruminant thus becomes infected upon ingesting the infective larvae.

The infective larva loses its capsule in the small intestine and develops into an immature liver fluke, penetrates through the small intestine's wall into the abdominal cavity, migrates to the liver and penetrates it where it proceeds to eat through the tissue. The adult liver fluke then settles in the bile ducts where it constantly secretes eggs. The eggs move from the bile ducts into the intestinal tract and are excreted in the faeces.

Disease signs and susceptibility

As the immature liver flukes migrate and eat through the liver, they cause damage and inflammation. Moderate blood loss can occur during migration due to the damage caused. Severe anaemia is usually seen when the liver flukes reach the adult stages, since adult liver flukes are aggressive blood suckers. Animals lose precious proteins, and growth and immunity are compromised. Animals can also die suddenly due to internal bleeding when damage is severe.

Clinical symptoms can range from acute death, anaemia and fairly rapid weight loss in sub-acute cases, to anaemia and chronic weight loss, fluid in the abdominal cavity and bottle jaw in chronic cases. Animals may die between 12 to 20 weeks after infection without treatment.

Cattle develop some resistance to liver fluke parasites, and adult liver flukes usually live for nine to 12 months in the bile ducts before being excreted. However, cattle can still be affected by infection. Sheep are much more susceptible to the effects of liver fluke and resistance is generally not as strong as in cattle.

Post-mortems will at times reveal severe bleeding in the abdominal cavity in acute cases. 'Blood tracts' can sometimes be observed when the liver is examined. In more chronic cases, thickened white regions of connective tissue (fibrosis), especially around the bile ducts, are visible. Secondary

infection can also cause liver abscesses.

Strategic treatment and control

Treatment in late autumn to winter is applied to kill adult liver flukes, reduce egg excretion and prevent consequent pasture contamination. A product containing triclabendazole will effectively treat all stages of liver fluke from two weeks (common liver fluke) or three weeks (giant liver fluke) until the adult stage (12+ weeks). Triclabendazole is the only flukicide capable of doing this.

Spring treatment is applied to kill the stages that survived the winter treatment, and to prevent liver fluke egg excretion and thus pasture contamination. A product containing closantel or rafoxanide can be used, as well as triclabendazole.

Summer treatment can be applied in areas where liver fluke infection is a serious problem to prevent further infection with liver fluke eggs.

Tactical treatment is usually applied when clinical cases are seen. An agent such as triclabendazole that kills immature and adult stages must be applied. During a liver fluke outbreak, animals should preferably be moved to drier areas and treated every two to three weeks to prevent

further clinical cases. Chemical control has also been suggested but is not recommended.

For more information and references, email sone.briers@KyronAgri.com.

By Dr JG Nel, consulting veterinarian, Kyron Agri

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KAH/PM001/2022/1

Digital Record Keeping: A Critical Tool for South African Farmers in Winter 2026

As South African agriculture becomes increasingly data-driven, digital record keeping is rapidly replacing traditional paper-based systems. What was once regarded as an administrative task has now become a vital management tool that directly influences profitability, compliance, traceability, financing, and market access.

For South African farmers entering the July 2026 winter season, accurate digital records are no longer merely beneficial—they are becoming essential for operating a competitive and sustainable farming business.

Why Farmers Are Moving Away from Paper Records

Traditional notebooks, filing cabinets, and handwritten livestock registers have served agriculture for generations. However, modern farming operations generate far more information than can easily be managed manually.

Today's farmers must track:

- Animal health treatments
- Vaccination schedules
- Breeding and fertility records
- Feed and grazing performance
- Fertiliser applications
- Chemical and pesticide usage
- Water usage
- Production costs
- Financial performance
- Labour records
- Regulatory compliance

Digital platforms allow all this information to be stored securely and accessed from smartphones, tablets, and computers from virtually anywhere on the farm.

In addition, digital records reduce the risk of lost paperwork, improve accuracy, and simplify reporting requirements. (Open Knowledge FAO[1])

Livestock Producers Benefit Significantly

For livestock farmers, digital record systems are becoming particularly valuable as South Africa strengthens animal traceability and disease-control programmes.

Modern livestock management systems can record:

- Animal identification numbers
- Birth dates
- Parentage information
- Vaccinations
- Treatments administered
- Fertility performance
- Weaning weights
- Auction and sales records
- Animal movements

The recent expansion of South Africa's national livestock traceability initiatives means producers are increasingly expected to maintain accurate digital records of their herds and flocks. Traceability systems are being developed to improve disease management, strengthen animal movement controls, support stock theft prevention, and improve market access. (RMIS[2])

The launch of platforms such as IDTrax by the South African Stud Book and the continued development of the RMIS national traceability platform demonstrate the direction in which the South African livestock industry is moving. (African Farming[3])

Crop Farmers Also Gain Valuable Insights

Digital record keeping is equally important for grain, oilseed, vegetable, and fruit producers.

Accurate field records help farmers monitor:

- Planting dates
- Seed varieties
- Fertiliser applications
- Herbicide programmes
- Fungicide applications
- Irrigation schedules
- Yield performance
- Soil analysis results

These records allow producers to compare performance across fields and seasons, helping identify which management practices deliver the best returns.

Variable-rate technology, satellite monitoring, and precision agriculture systems all rely on quality digital data. Without accurate records, many of these advanced technologies cannot reach their full potential.

For South African grain farmers planning spring planting programmes during July, digital records provide valuable historical information for fertiliser budgeting, crop rotation planning, and yield forecasting.

Compliance Requirements Are Increasing

Compliance has become a major consideration for commercial agriculture.

Many processors, retailers, feedlots, export buyers, and certification programmes now require detailed production records.

Digital systems make it easier to demonstrate compliance with:

- Food safety protocols
- Chemical application regulations
- Veterinary treatment requirements
- Environmental standards
- Quality assurance programmes
- Export market requirements

Traceability has become increasingly important across agricultural value chains because it allows products to be tracked from farm to consumer while supporting food safety and quality assurance. (agribook.co.za[4])

Improved Access to Finance

One of the less obvious advantages of digital record keeping is improved access to finance.

Banks, production financiers, insurers, and investors increasingly prefer businesses that can provide reliable production and financial information.

Accurate records allow farmers to demonstrate:

- Historical production performance
- Herd growth trends
- Cost structures
- Profitability

- Asset management
- Risk management practices

Research into digital agriculture indicates that electronic farm records can improve farmers' ability to access financial services and support business planning. (Open Knowledge FAO[1])

For younger farmers seeking expansion capital, reliable digital records can strengthen loan applications and improve credibility with financial institutions.

Supporting Export Growth

South Africa's agricultural export sector continues to grow, but international buyers are demanding greater transparency.

Global markets increasingly require proof regarding:

- Product origin
- Animal health status
- Chemical usage
- Production practices
- Environmental stewardship

Industry organisations have repeatedly highlighted that improved traceability systems are essential for expanding export opportunities and maintaining international confidence in South African agricultural products. (namc.co.za[5])

Digital records form the foundation of this traceability chain.

Without reliable data captured at farm level, traceability systems cannot function effectively.

A Valuable Winter Management Opportunity

July's quieter production period in many parts of South Africa provides an excellent opportunity for farmers to evaluate their record-keeping systems.

Questions every producer should consider include:

- Are livestock records updated and accurate?
- Are fertiliser and chemical records complete?
- Can historical performance data be easily accessed?
- Is financial information available in real time?
- Are compliance records readily available for inspections or audits?

Farmers who invest time in improving their digital record systems during winter are likely to benefit from better decision-making, improved operational efficiency, and stronger business resilience throughout the 2026 production season.

Conclusion

Digital record keeping is no longer simply an administrative convenience. It has become a strategic management tool that supports profitability, compliance, traceability, financing, disease control, and export readiness.

As South African agriculture becomes increasingly technology-driven, farmers who embrace accurate digital records will be better positioned to meet industry requirements, improve productivity, and remain competitive in both domestic and international markets. The future of farming is increasingly digital—and the quality of a farm's records may soon become as important as the quality of its crops or livestock. (RMIS[2])

Sources:

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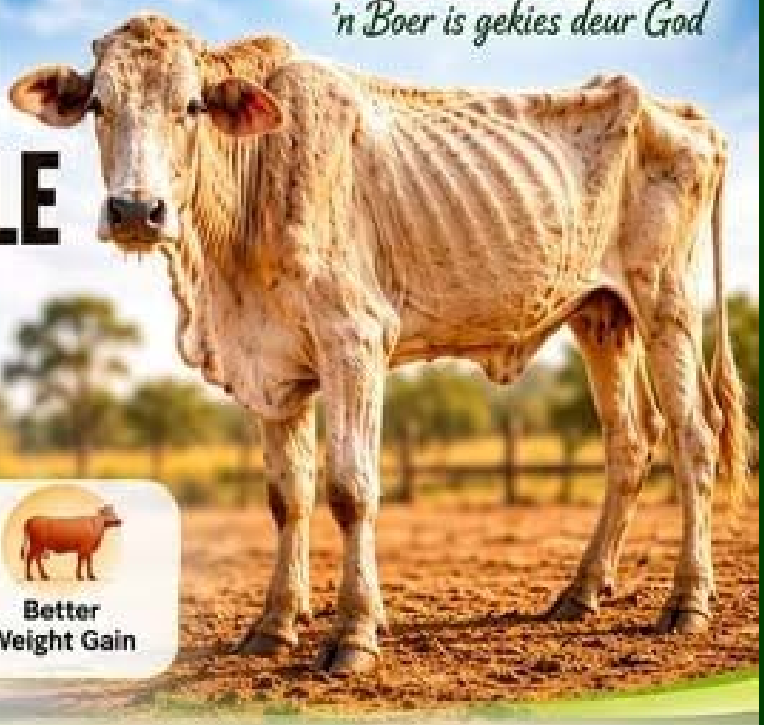

- Restores Health
- Improves Productivity
- Boosts Immunity
- Better Weight Gain

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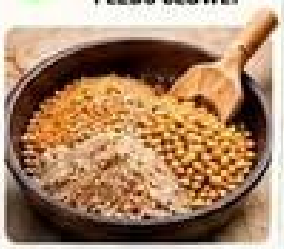
1 START WITH QUALITY ROUGHAGE

Good hay improves rumen function and digestion.

2 INTRODUCE ENERGY FEEDS SLOWLY



Provide energy gradually to avoid digestive upsets.

3 PROVIDE PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTS

Protein rebuilds muscles and supports recovery.

4 SUPPLY MINERALS & VITAMINS

Minerals and vitamins support growth and strong immunity.

5 ENSURE CLEAN WATER ALWAYS

Clean water improves feed intake and absorption.

SAMPLE RECOVERY FEEDING PLAN

WEEK 1

- Quality hay ad libitum
- 1 – 2 kg bran or maize germ
- Minerals & clean water

Goal: Restore appetite and rumen function

WEEK 2 – 3

- Continue good quality hay
- 2 – 4 kg concentrates gradually
- Add protein supplements
- Minerals & clean water

Goal: Improve body condition and support tissue repair

WEEK 4 ONWARDS

- Maintain balanced feeding
- Adjust feeds to body condition and production goals
- Keep minerals & water available

Goal: Restore weight, productivity & health

BEST FEED OPTIONS

Hay & Silage

Maize Germ

Wheat Bran

Cottonseed Cake

Sunflower Cake

Mineral Lick

Molasses

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Introduce feeds gradually.
- Do not overload grain or concentrates.
- Deworm and control parasites.
- Separate weak animals.
- Always provide clean water and minerals.
- Be patient – recovery takes time.

Healthy feeding today, stronger cattle tomorrow!

Climate-Smart Agriculture Tools:

Helping South African Farmers Make Better Decisions in Winter 2026

Climate variability continues to be one of the greatest challenges facing South African agriculture. Producers across the country regularly face droughts, frost events, heatwaves, erratic rainfall, veld fires, and changing disease pressures. These risks can significantly affect crop yields, livestock performance, water availability, and farm profitability.

Fortunately, modern climate-smart agriculture tools are helping farmers move from reactive management to proactive decision-making. By combining weather forecasting, satellite monitoring, sensors, artificial intelligence, and digital decision-support systems, farmers can identify risks earlier and respond more effectively. (FAOLEX[1])

Why Climate-Smart Agriculture Matters

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) focuses on improving productivity while increasing resilience to climate change and protecting natural resources. In South Africa, CSA has become increasingly important as temperatures rise and weather patterns become more unpredictable. Government, research institutions, and private-sector organisations are investing heavily in technologies that help producers manage climate-related risks. (FAOLEX[1])

For farmers preparing for the July 2026 winter season, climate-smart technologies offer practical tools to improve planning and reduce losses.

Frost Prediction Systems

Winter frost remains a major concern for vegetable growers, fruit producers, and winter grain farmers in many regions of South Africa.

Modern weather stations and forecasting platforms can now predict frost conditions several days in advance. These systems monitor temperature, humidity, wind speed, and atmospheric conditions to provide field-specific frost warnings. Farmers receive alerts via smartphones, SMS, or online dashboards, allowing them to take preventative action before damage occurs. (Agricultural Research Council[2])

Early warnings enable producers to:

- Activate frost protection systems.
- Adjust irrigation schedules.
- Protect sensitive crops.
- Delay planting where necessary.
- Reduce potential crop losses.

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) maintains approximately 500 agro-climate weather stations across South Africa that provide valuable weather information for agricultural decision-making. (Agricultural Research Council[2])

Drought Monitoring and Early Warning

South African farmers have experienced multiple severe droughts during the past decade. Water shortages affect both crop and livestock enterprises, making early drought detection essential.

Advanced drought monitoring systems now combine rainfall data, satellite imagery, soil moisture information, vegetation indices, and climate models to identify developing drought conditions before they become severe.

Researchers have developed agricultural drought early-warning frameworks specifically for South African conditions. (Water Research Commission[3])

Modern drought-monitoring tools can help farmers:

- Monitor grazing conditions.
- Track pasture growth.
- Evaluate soil moisture reserves.
- Forecast feed shortages.
- Plan supplementary feeding programmes.
- Make timely destocking decisions.

By identifying drought risk early, producers can protect cash flow and reduce the financial impact of prolonged dry periods. (Water Research Commission[3])

Disease Risk Forecasting

Many crop diseases are strongly influenced by weather conditions.

Fungal diseases such as rusts, powdery mildew, Septoria, and net blotch often develop when specific temperature and moisture conditions occur. Climate-smart disease forecasting tools analyse weather forecasts alongside historical disease data to estimate infection risk. (Peninsula Publishing[4])

These systems help farmers:

- Time fungicide applications more accurately.
- Reduce unnecessary spraying.
- Lower production costs.
- Improve disease control effectiveness.
- Protect yield potential.

Instead of applying treatments according to a calendar schedule, producers can respond to actual disease risk levels.

Smart Water Management

Water remains one of agriculture's most valuable resources, particularly in drought-prone regions such as the Free State, Northern Cape, North West, Limpopo, and parts of the Eastern Cape.

Climate-smart water management combines:

- Soil moisture probes.
- Remote sensors.
- Satellite imagery.
- Weather forecasts.
- Irrigation scheduling software.

These tools allow farmers to determine precisely when irrigation is required and how much water should be applied. Advanced systems can also calculate crop water requirements and estimate evapotranspiration rates. (business.esa.int[5])

The result is improved water-use efficiency, reduced pumping costs, and better crop performance.

Satellite-Based Grazing Management

Livestock producers are increasingly benefiting from satellite monitoring technologies.

Satellite imagery now provides regular updates on:

- Pasture biomass.
- Vegetation growth.
- Grazing pressure.
- Drought stress.
- Ground cover.

These systems help farmers assess veld conditions across large areas without physically inspecting every camp. Satellite-based vegetation monitoring can identify declining grazing conditions weeks before they become obvious on the ground. (Wikipedia[6])

Benefits include:

- Improved rotational grazing management.
- Better carrying-capacity planning.
- Earlier drought responses.
- Reduced overgrazing.
- Improved veld recovery.

For extensive livestock operations, these technologies provide valuable management information that was previously difficult and expensive to obtain.

Artificial Intelligence and Decision Support

Artificial intelligence is becoming an increasingly important component of climate-smart farming.

AI systems can analyse large amounts of information, including:

- Weather forecasts.
- Historical climate records.
- Soil moisture levels.
- Satellite imagery.
- Disease risks.
- Grazing performance.

These platforms can generate recommendations that help producers make faster and more informed management decisions. Recent research shows that machine learning and AI technologies are becoming central components of climate-smart agriculture worldwide. (Peninsula Publishing[4])

Looking Ahead

The future of South African agriculture will increasingly depend on farmers' ability to adapt to climate variability. Climate-smart

agriculture tools provide practical solutions that improve resilience while supporting profitability and sustainability.

For July 2026, farmers who make use of frost forecasts, drought monitoring systems, satellite imagery, smart irrigation tools, disease forecasting platforms, and AI-driven decision-support systems will be better positioned to manage risk and capitalise on opportunities.

The goal is simple: anticipate problems before they occur and make informed decisions based on accurate data rather than guesswork. In a climate that is becoming increasingly unpredictable, that ability may become one of the most valuable assets on any South African farm. (FAOLEX[1])

Sources:

Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Water Research Commission (WRC), Climate Smart Agriculture South Africa, CGIAR Climate-Smart Agriculture Programme, and international climate-agriculture research publications. (Agricultural Research Council[2])

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2. Climate Monitoring Services
3. development of an agricultural drought preparedness ...
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6. Satellite crop monitoring

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What South African Farmers Should Prioritise in July 2026:

Technology Investments That Deliver Results

July remains one of the most important planning months on the South African agricultural calendar. While many regions experience cold temperatures, reduced pasture growth, and slower crop development, successful producers use this period to prepare for the second half of the production year.

With input costs remaining high and profit margins under pressure, technology adoption is becoming a key driver of competitiveness. Modern farming technologies are no longer reserved for large corporate operations. Increasingly, commercial and progressive family farms across South Africa are investing in practical systems that improve decision-making, reduce wastage, and increase productivity. Research and industry surveys show that precision agriculture adoption continues to expand rapidly, with the majority of South African commercial farmers now using at least some form of precision farming technology. (SA Grain -[1])

For most farmers, the technologies offering the fastest return on investment during the second half of 2026 are soil moisture monitoring systems, precision fertiliser application technologies, agricultural drones, livestock performance monitoring systems, digital farm management software, on-farm weather stations, and smart water management systems.

1. Soil Moisture Monitoring Systems

Water remains one of the most valuable production inputs in South African agriculture. Whether producing maize in the Free State, citrus in Limpopo, vegetables in Mpumalanga, or lucerne in the Northern Cape, irrigation decisions directly influence profitability.

Modern soil moisture probes allow farmers to measure moisture levels throughout the root zone rather than relying on visual observations or fixed irrigation schedules. Research shows that real-time soil moisture monitoring improves irrigation scheduling and supports data-driven water management decisions. (Wiley Online Library[2])

For July, this technology becomes particularly important as farmers prepare irrigation strategies for spring and summer production. Knowing exactly when water is required reduces pumping costs, saves electricity, and improves water-use efficiency.

2. Precision Fertiliser Application Technology

Fertiliser remains one of the largest expenses on most crop farms. Applying fertiliser uniformly across a field often results in over-application in some areas and under-application in others.

Precision agriculture technologies such as GPS guidance, yield mapping, soil analysis, and Variable Rate Technology (VRT) allow fertiliser to be applied according to actual crop requirements. Industry data shows that GPS-guided equipment and VRT improve resource efficiency while reducing unnecessary input expenditure. (Facebook[3])

Farmers should use July to analyse soil test results, review yield maps,

and develop variable-rate fertiliser plans ahead of the next production cycle.

3. Agricultural Drones

Photo: Afri Air

Drone technology has become one of the fastest-growing agricultural technologies in South Africa.

Modern drones assist farmers with:

- Crop health monitoring
- Disease detection
- Weed identification
- Fence inspections
- Livestock location
- Spray applications
- Field mapping

Multispectral imaging can identify crop stress before visible symptoms appear, allowing earlier intervention. Drones also reduce labour requirements and provide rapid coverage of large farming operations. Recent South African case studies show that precision spraying drones are helping producers improve efficiency while reducing costs. (Afri Air[4])

The drone industry continues to grow rapidly as equipment becomes more accessible and regulations become clearer for commercial operators. (DC Geomatics Drone Technology[5])

4. Livestock EID and Performance Recording Systems

Precision livestock farming is becoming increasingly important for cattle, sheep, goat, and game producers.

Electronic Identification (EID) systems allow farmers to track:

- Individual animal performance
- Fertility records
- Weaning weights
- Growth rates
- Health treatments
- Genetic performance

Stud breeders across South Africa are increasingly relying on digital performance records to support breeding decisions and marketing activities.

July is an ideal month to review herd and flock records, identify underperforming animals, and prepare breeding programmes for the upcoming spring season.

5. Digital Farm Management Software

Many South African farmers are moving away from paper-based systems and spreadsheets toward integrated farm management platforms.

Digital software systems can manage:

- Crop records
- Livestock records
- Chemical applications
- Fertiliser programmes
- Machinery maintenance
- Financial performance
- Compliance requirements

The greatest benefit is improved decision-making. When accurate records are available, farmers can quickly evaluate profitability, identify inefficiencies, and respond faster to changing conditions.

Traceability requirements from retailers, processors, exporters, and financial institutions also continue to increase, making digital record keeping more important than ever.

6. On-Farm Weather Stations

Weather remains one of agriculture's greatest risks.

Modern weather stations provide real-time monitoring of:

- Rainfall
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Wind speed
- Evaporation
- Frost risk

These systems help farmers make better decisions regarding irrigation, spraying, fertiliser applications, and livestock management. The expansion of agricultural weather monitoring networks across South Africa is making local weather intelligence more accessible than ever before. (METOS by Pessl Instruments[6])

For winter grain farmers, accurate weather data can improve disease management and spraying effectiveness. For livestock producers, weather monitoring assists with grazing management and animal welfare planning.

7. Smart Water Management Systems

Water management technology extends beyond irrigation scheduling.

Connected sensors can monitor:

- Water tank levels
- Reservoir levels
- Dam storage
- Pump performance
- Pipeline pressure
- Water usage

Alerts can be sent directly to a farmer's smartphone when abnormalities occur. This reduces labour requirements, prevents losses, and improves operational efficiency.

In drought-prone regions such as the Free State, Northern Cape, North West, Limpopo, and parts of the Eastern Cape, smart water management can significantly improve long-term sustainability.

Technology Is Becoming a Competitive Advantage

The South African farmer of 2026 faces rising costs, climate uncertainty, labour challenges, and increasing market demands. Precision agriculture technologies are helping producers respond to these pressures through better information and faster decision-making.

Research presented during 2026 indicates that the greatest benefits of technology adoption often come not simply from reducing inputs, but from improving yields, increasing management accuracy, and making more informed operational decisions. (Farmer's Weekly SA[7])

As July provides an opportunity for planning and preparation, farmers who invest strategically in practical technologies that improve water use, fertiliser efficiency, labour productivity, livestock performance, and record keeping are likely to be better positioned for long-term profitability and sustainability in the years ahead. (SA Grain -[1])

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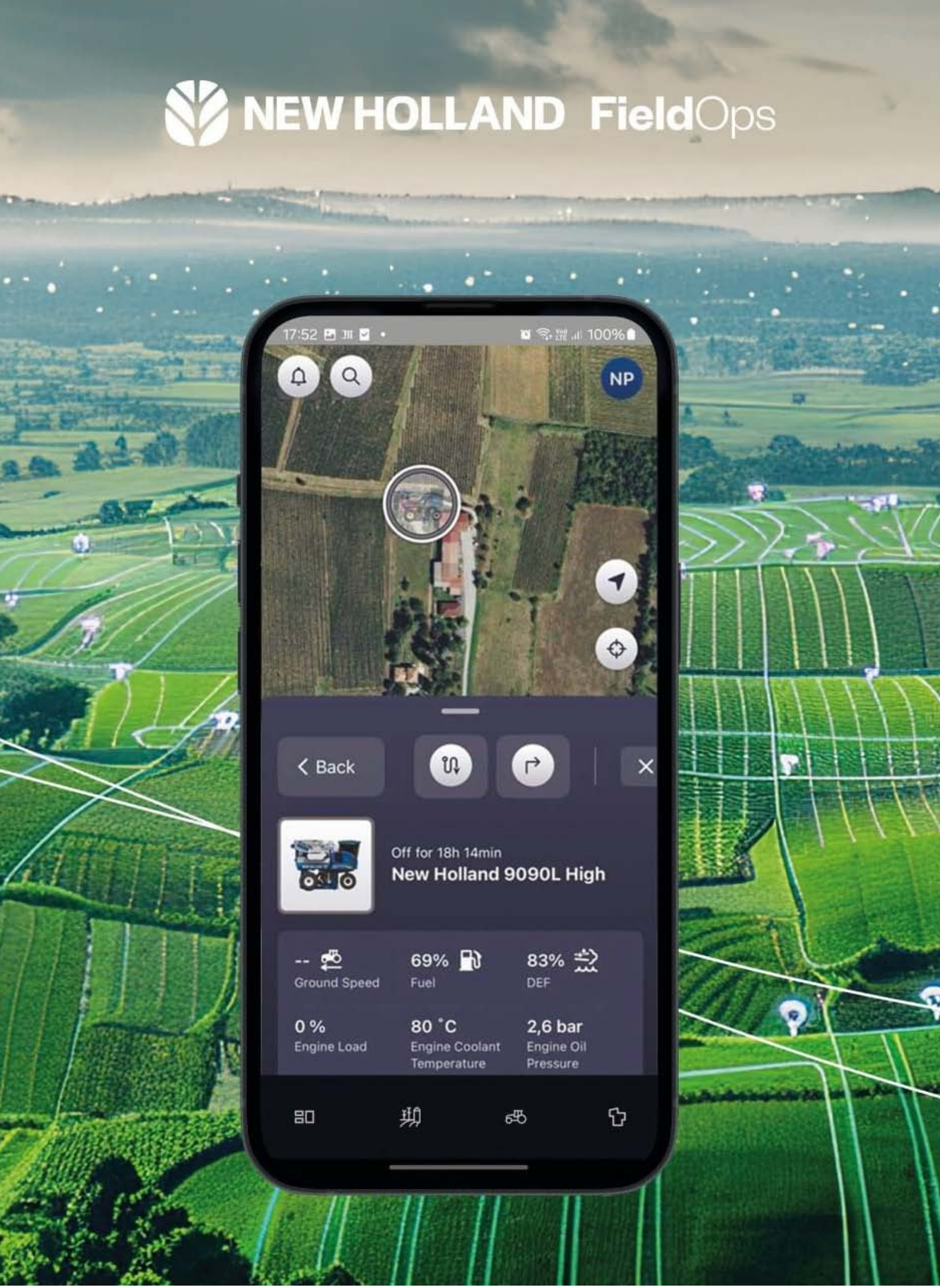
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Hunting Legalities and Requirements in South Africa

July 2026 Guide for Farmers and Hunters

July is traditionally one of the busiest hunting months in South Africa. Cooler temperatures, reduced vegetation cover, and improved game visibility make winter the preferred hunting season across most provinces. However, hunting in South Africa remains highly regulated, and farmers, landowners, hunters, and game ranch operators must ensure full compliance with national and provincial legislation.

As the 2026 hunting season progresses, understanding the legal requirements has become increasingly important due to provincial hunting regulations, Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) legislation, and additional movement controls linked to the ongoing Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) situation. (NUFARMER AFRICA[1])

Hunting Regulations Are Provincial

One of the most important facts South African hunters must understand is that there is no single national hunting season. Hunting legislation is administered by provincial conservation authorities, meaning hunting seasons, species classifications, permit requirements, and bag limits vary between provinces. (SA Jagters[2])

A permit or hunting licence is generally required in every province, although exemptions may apply on certain registered game farms with valid exemption certificates. Even where exemptions exist, hunters should never assume permits are unnecessary. Provincial regulations differ significantly and must be verified before every hunt. (SA Jagters[2])

Landowner Permission Is Essential

South African law requires hunters to obtain permission from the landowner before hunting on private property. Written permission is strongly recommended and often required when applying for permits or when transporting harvested game. (Facebook[3])

Farmers should clearly document:

- Species authorised for hunting
- Number of animals permitted
- Hunting dates
- Areas where hunting may take place
- Conditions regarding meat removal and carcass handling

Written agreements help protect both the hunter and the landowner should disputes arise later.

Hunting Permits and Licences

Most hunting activities require one or more of the following:

- Provincial hunting licence
- Hunting permit
- Landowner permission
- Firearm licence
- Species-specific permits where applicable

In many provinces, the hunter must possess the relevant licence while the landowner may also require permits for certain protected species. Hunting permits typically identify the species, location, number of animals, and validity period. (gasparespaniosafaris.co.za[4])

For bird hunting, provinces annually publish hunting proclamations that specify open seasons, daily bag limits, and legal hunting methods. These regulations must be consulted every year. (infinitesafarishunting.com[5])

TOPS Species Require Additional Authorisation

Special attention must be given to species listed under the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations administered under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA).

Hunters may not undertake restricted activities involving TOPS-listed species without obtaining the required permits. Activities include hunting, capturing, transporting, selling, or possessing these animals. (Forestry, Fisheries and Environment[6])

For TOPS species:

- Special permits are compulsory.
- Permits must usually be obtained before hunting takes place.
- Both landowners and hunters may require authorisation.
- Permit conditions are species-specific and strictly enforced. (KZN Hunting[7])

Failure to comply can result in significant penalties, confiscation of trophies, and criminal prosecution.

Firearm Compliance

Hunters using firearms must comply fully with the South African Firearms Control Act.

Requirements include:

- Possession of a valid firearm licence.
- Safe transportation and storage of firearms.
- Compliance with calibre requirements where applicable.

- Responsible firearm handling at all times.

Some provinces and hunting operators maintain minimum calibre requirements for dangerous game hunting. Professional hunters conducting dangerous game hunts must also possess the appropriate professional permits and qualifications. (rustdewintersafaris.com[8])

Professional Hunters and Outfitters

Professional hunters and hunting outfitters are regulated separately from recreational hunters.

Professional hunters must:

- Complete accredited training.
- Pass theoretical and practical examinations.
- Obtain provincial permits.
- Maintain membership of recognised professional hunting organisations. (phasa.co.za[9])

The hunting industry in South Africa remains highly professionalised, particularly in the game ranching and safari sectors.

Ethical and Legal Hunting Practices

Farmers should ensure that all hunting activities on their

properties are conducted ethically and legally.

Key principles include:

- Humane harvesting of animals.
- Accurate species identification.
- Compliance with permit conditions.
- Responsible meat handling.
- Respect for conservation objectives.

Certain hunting methods are prohibited under conservation legislation, particularly when involving TOPS species. The regulations are designed to support sustainable wildlife utilisation and biodiversity conservation. (EWT laws[10])

Additional considerations during the 2026 FMD situation

The ongoing Foot-and-Mouth Disease challenges across South Africa have introduced additional considerations for hunters and game farmers during 2026.

Where game farms carry livestock, movement restrictions may affect:

- Transport of venison.
- Removal of carcasses.
- Animal product movement.
- Access to quarantined properties.

Hunters should verify local veterinary restrictions before transporting meat or trophies across provincial boundaries. Failure to comply with movement regulations can result in legal complications and biosecurity risks. (NUFARMER AFRICA[1])

Conclusion

July remains one of the most productive hunting periods in South Africa, but successful hunting now requires far more than marksmanship. Compliance with provincial legislation, permit requirements, TOPS regulations, firearm laws, and current biosecurity measures is essential.

For farmers, hunting contributes significantly to wildlife management, game ranch income, venison production, and rural economic activity. However, maintaining legal compliance protects both the sustainability of the hunting industry and the conservation of South Africa's valuable wildlife resources.

Before every hunt in 2026, farmers and hunters should confirm provincial hunting proclamations, obtain the necessary permits, secure written landowner permission, and ensure that all legal requirements have been met. Responsible hunting remains one of the cornerstones of sustainable wildlife utilisation in South African agriculture.

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8. Hunting in South Africa - what you need to know
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10. NEMBA - EWT laws - Endangered Wildlife Trust

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The Art of Taxidermy: Skills, Requirements and Opportunities for South African Farmers

Taxidermy has long been associated with hunting, wildlife conservation, museums and the preservation of exceptional animals. In South Africa, where wildlife ranching, game breeding and hunting contribute significantly to the agricultural economy, taxidermy remains an important specialised industry that combines science, craftsmanship and artistic talent.

For many South African farmers, particularly game farmers, wildlife breeders and hunting outfitters, July marks the heart of the winter hunting season. As trophies begin arriving at taxidermy studios across the country, it is an ideal time to understand the skills, requirements and opportunities within this unique profession.

What Is Taxidermy?

Taxidermy is the process of preserving animal skins and mounting them in lifelike forms to create a lasting representation of the animal. Contrary to popular belief, modern taxidermy is not simply "stuffing" an animal. It is a highly skilled discipline that combines anatomy, sculpture, biology, tanning, preservation techniques and artistic ability. High-quality taxidermy aims to accurately recreate an animal's natural appearance, posture and expression. (Facebook[1])

South Africa has developed an international reputation for producing some of the world's finest wildlife taxidermy due to the country's extensive hunting industry and abundance of game species. Many international hunters choose to have their trophies mounted locally before export. (Game 4 Africa[2])

Essential Skills Required

Successful taxidermists require a combination of technical and artistic skills.

Knowledge of Animal Anatomy

A thorough understanding of skeletal structure, musculature, skin movement and animal behaviour is essential. Taxidermists study how animals stand, walk, feed and interact with their environment to recreate realistic poses. (Facebook[1])

Artistic Ability

Modern taxidermy involves sculpting, painting and fine detailing. Many taxidermists have backgrounds in sculpture, drawing, painting or other visual arts. These skills help create realistic facial expressions, skin textures and colour patterns. (Prey[3])

Preservation Techniques

Proper skinning, fleshing, tanning and preservation are critical. Mistakes during these stages can permanently damage a trophy. Professional taxidermists must understand chemical treatments, hide preservation methods and long-term conservation procedures. (Taxidermy Africa[4])

Attention to Detail

The difference between average and exceptional taxidermy

often lies in small details such as ear position, eye placement, muscle definition and skin alignment. Attention to detail is one of the most valuable skills in the profession. (splittingimagetaxidermy.co.za[5])

Training and Education

Unlike many agricultural professions, South Africa does not have a large number of formal taxidermy schools. Most professionals enter the industry through apprenticeships, specialised courses, mentorship programmes and extensive hands-on experience. (Crafts Council[6])

Many successful taxidermists begin by learning:

- Skinning techniques
- Tanning procedures
- Basic mounting methods
- Wildlife anatomy
- Sculpture and finishing techniques

Continuous learning remains essential because preservation methods, materials and technologies continue to evolve. Modern taxidermy increasingly incorporates digital design, 3D scanning and advanced moulding techniques. (splittingimagetaxidermy.co.za[5])

Legal and Veterinary Requirements

Taxidermy in South Africa is heavily regulated due to animal health, conservation and export requirements.

Facilities handling trophies for export must comply with veterinary regulations and registration requirements. Approved taxidermy facilities are subject to oversight to ensure proper treatment, storage and processing of animal products. (National Development Agency[7])

Professional taxidermists dealing with international clients must also understand:

- Provincial nature conservation permits
- Veterinary health certification
- Export documentation
- CITES regulations for protected species
- International wildlife trade requirements

Failure to comply with these regulations can result in delays, confiscation of trophies or export refusals. (Bowker Hunting[8])

The Taxidermy Process

Although techniques vary between studios, most projects follow a similar sequence:

1. Trophy receipt and inspection.
2. Skinning and fleshing.
3. Preservation and tanning.
4. Form selection or sculpting.
5. Mounting and positioning.
6. Drying and finishing.
7. Painting and detailing.
8. Quality inspection.
9. Crating and shipping.

Many professional South African studios manufacture their own forms and tanning products to ensure superior quality and species accuracy. (Taxidermy Africa[4])

Career Opportunities

The South African taxidermy industry supports numerous sectors:

- Wildlife ranching
- Hunting tourism
- Conservation organisations
- Museums
- Educational institutions

- Interior design markets
- International trophy export services

Skilled taxidermists often establish independent businesses that serve both local and international clients. Because South Africa remains one of the world's premier hunting destinations, demand for quality taxidermy services remains strong. (Game 4 Africa[2])

Why Taxidermy Matters to Farmers

For game farmers, taxidermy represents more than trophy preservation. It forms part of the broader wildlife value chain that contributes significantly to farm income and rural employment.

Professional taxidermy helps preserve valuable hunting memories, supports wildlife tourism, adds value to harvested animals and contributes to the sustainability of the hunting industry. In many cases, taxidermy services generate additional economic activity long after the hunting season has ended. (Game 4 Africa[2])

Final Thoughts

The art of taxidermy is a unique combination of science, craftsmanship and creativity. It requires years of training, a deep understanding of wildlife anatomy and strict adherence to veterinary and conservation regulations. For South African farmers involved in game ranching and hunting, taxidermy remains an essential component of the wildlife economy.

As the 2026 winter hunting season progresses, professional taxidermists continue to play a critical role in preserving the memories, heritage and economic value generated by South Africa's world-renowned wildlife industry. (satta.org.za[9])

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3. How do I get started in Taxidermy?
4. Procedures at Taxidermy Africa
5. A Guide to Choosing the Right South African Taxidermist
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South Africa's Major Agricultural Expos and Farmers' Days to look forward to during the last six months of 2026

*Here's a revised version with specific event names and confirmed dates for the **last six months of 2026**, focusing on the agricultural expos, farmers' days, livestock exhibitions, and agricultural shows that South African farmers should diarise.*

The second half of 2026 offers South African farmers numerous opportunities to learn about new technologies, evaluate livestock genetics, network with industry leaders, and stay informed about developments affecting agriculture. From major national exhibitions to regional agricultural shows, these events provide valuable platforms for business growth and knowledge sharing.

With increasing pressure on profitability, biosecurity, climate resilience, and technology adoption, attending agricultural expos has become an investment rather than an expense. Farmers who stay informed are often better positioned to remain competitive in a rapidly changing agricultural environment.

2–5 September 2026 – Swartland Show, Moorreesburg

The agricultural event calendar begins with the historic Swartland Show in Moorreesburg in the Western Cape from 2–5 September 2026.

The Swartland region is one of South Africa's most important grain-producing areas, making this event particularly relevant for wheat, canola, barley, and livestock producers. The show traditionally features:

- Livestock exhibitions
- Agricultural machinery displays
- Grain production technologies
- Equestrian competitions
- Agricultural suppliers and services

The show attracts producers from across the Western Cape and remains one of the province's most respected agricultural gatherings. (Agri-Expo[1])

9–12 September 2026 – NAMPO Cape, Bredasdorp

One of the largest agricultural events in the country during the second half of the year is NAMPO Cape 2026, taking place from 9–12 September at Bredasdorp Park in the Western Cape.

Organised by Grain SA, NAMPO

Cape has established itself as the premier agricultural exhibition in the Cape region. More than 500 exhibitors are expected to showcase products and services across all sectors of agriculture. (Grain SA Home[2])

Visitors can expect:

- Precision agriculture technology
- Tractors and machinery demonstrations
- Livestock exhibitions
- Irrigation solutions
- Renewable energy systems
- Agricultural drones
- Farm vehicles and implements
- Financial and agricultural services

The BKB Livestock Centre will once again host livestock competitions and breed showcases, making the event particularly valuable for stud breeders and commercial livestock producers. (Grain SA Home[2])

24–26 September 2026 – Western Cape Agricultural Veterans Expo, Villiersdorp

The Western Cape Agricultural Veterans Expo will take place in Villiersdorp from 24–26 September 2026.

This event celebrates agricultural heritage while also showcasing modern farming innovations. Farmers attending can engage with producers, suppliers, and agricultural organisations from across the province. (Agri-Expo[1])

29 September – 4 October 2026 – Robertson Show

The Robertson Show, one of the oldest agricultural shows in South Africa, runs from 29 September to 4 October 2026.

Located in one of South Africa's most productive agricultural valleys, the show offers:

- Livestock competitions
- Agricultural equipment displays
- Viticulture exhibits
- Irrigation technologies
- Rural business networking opportunities

The event attracts producers from the Western Cape's wine, fruit, livestock, and grain sectors. (Agri-Expo[1])

2–3 October 2026 – NAMPO ALFA, Bothaville

Livestock farmers should mark 2–3 October 2026 as a priority event.

NAMPO ALFA will once again be hosted at NAMPO Park near Bothaville in the Free State and remains South Africa's largest dedicated livestock, hunting, and outdoor expo. (farm.co.za[3])

The event focuses on:

- Beef cattle production
- Sheep breeding
- Goat breeding
- Wildlife and game farming
- Hunting equipment
- Livestock handling systems
- Animal nutrition
- Genetic improvement programmes

Stud breeders from across South Africa attend NAMPO ALFA to evaluate elite genetics, new production technologies, and emerging industry trends. The event continues to grow in importance for the livestock sector. (farm.co.za[3])

November 2026 – Commonwealth Agricultural Conference

South Africa is expected to host the Commonwealth Agricultural Conference during November 2026.

This international conference brings together agricultural leaders, researchers, policymakers, agribusiness executives, and producers from across Commonwealth nations. Discussions typically focus on:

- Food security
- Agricultural sustainability
- Climate-smart farming
- Trade opportunities
- Agricultural innovation
- Rural development

While not a traditional farmers' day, the conference provides valuable insight into future agricultural policy and global market developments. (Agri-Expo[1])

December 2026 – Regional Agricultural Shows

As the year draws to a close, several regional agricultural shows provide opportunities for farmers to network and showcase livestock.

3–5 December 2026 – Tulbagh Agricultural Show

The Tulbagh Show remains one of the most important agricultural gatherings in the Western Cape's fruit-producing region.

4–5 December 2026 – Loxton Show and Farmers' Day

The Loxton Show and Farmers' Day in the Northern Cape focuses heavily on livestock production and extensive farming systems.

Regional shows often provide greater opportunities for direct interaction between producers, stud breeders, auction companies, agricultural suppliers, and financial institutions than larger national exhibitions. These events are particularly useful for farmers preparing livestock and marketing strategies for 2027. (Agri-Expo[1])

Why Farmers Should Attend

Agricultural expos have evolved far beyond machinery displays. Today's events provide practical solutions to real farming challenges.

Benefits include:

- Evaluating new technology before purchasing
- Comparing livestock genetics
- Learning from industry experts
- Discovering new markets
- Meeting potential buyers
- Exploring financing opportunities
- Staying updated on regulations and biosecurity requirements

Many producers find that one new idea, technology, or business connection discovered at an expo can deliver returns far exceeding the cost of attendance.

Final Thoughts

The second half of 2026 offers an excellent calendar of agricultural events for South African farmers. The major highlights include NAMPO Cape (9–12 September), NAMPO ALFA (2–3 October), the Swartland Show (2–5 September), Robertson Show (29 September–4 October), and several important regional agricultural shows in December. Together, these events provide opportunities to learn, network, evaluate new technologies, and prepare for a profitable 2027 farming season. (Grain SA Home[4])

1. Important Dates - Agri-Expo
2. NAMPO Cape
3. NAMPO Park, Bothaville, Nampo Alfa: 02 -03 October 2026
4. Nampo

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Praktiese ervaring in lewendehawe afslaery met 'n diepgaande kennis van die bedryf.

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EK HELP U OM DIE BESTE PRYS TE BEHAAL!

MY DIENSTE SLUIT IN:

- Lewendehawe & Wildafslae
- Plaas- & Implementeafslae
- Algemene Goedere Afslae
- Ontbindings & Bateverkope
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Laat my jou help om die beste resultate by jou volgende veiling te behaal!

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064 661 8126

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Berei om te reis na naburige veilings.

Auction results

VLEISSENTRAAL

2026

ABSOLUTE BRANGUS GROEP VEILING

VEILINGSRESULTATE

— 03 JULIE 2026 —

ITEM	VERKOOP	HOOGSTE	GEMIDDELD
BRANGUS BUL	33	R 110 000,00	R 68 212,00
BRANGUS 3 IN 1	6	R 260 000,00	R 71 833,00
BRANGUS DRAGTIGE VERS	23	R 60 000,00	R 27 304,00
BRANGUS KOEI + KALF	1	R 30 000,00	R 30 000,00
BRANGUS DRAGTIGE KOEI	1	R 25 000,00	R 25 000,00

HOOGSTE PRYS - 3 IN 1

LOT 37 - RWD 17 0052

R 260 000

VLEISSENTRAAL ERMELO

AFSLAER Andrew Miller 082 493 2362
BEMARKER Chris Steyn 082 561 6637

MC BORANSTOET

THUNDERING Value

Veiling Verslag

10DE PRODUKSIEVEILING

MC BORANSTOET & GASVERKOPERS

SATERDAG 24 JUNIE 2023 BE HUMAN

	VERKOOP	HOOGSTE	GEMIDDELD
BULLE - SP	7	R 65,000	R 53,286
3in1 - SP	5	R 85,000	R 65,000
KOEI & KALF - SP	15	R 65,000	R 44,800
DRAGTIGE KOEI - SP	20	R 55,000	R 35,200
DRAGTIGE VERS - SP	16	R 55,000	R 32,500
3in1 - KOMM	5	R 26,000	R 26,000
KOEIE & KALWERS - KOMM	8	R 22,000	R 21,063
DRAGTIGE KOEIE - KOMM	34	R 21,000	R 19,456
DRAGTIGE VERSE - KOMM	1	R 25,000	R 25,000

VLEISSENTRAAL

BLOEMFONTEIN

www.vleissentraal.co.za

VLEISSENTRAAL

AUCTION REPORT

OOSTELIKE ILE DE FRANCE
23rd CLUB AUCTION

20 June 2026 / Middelburg

Auctioneer: Jan Mostert

Most Expensive Ram *Lot 80: CIDF250021*	**R30 000**	*Seller- Chiboos Ile de France*	*Buyer - Rika Uys le de France*
Most Expensive Ewe *Lot 57: P220284*	**R13 000**	*Seller- Chiboos Ile de France*	*Buyer - Renier van Zyl Van Zyl Ile de France*

Averages

Stud Rams	**R 13 000**	**Stud Ewes**	**R 7 432**
Stud Ewes + Lambs	**R11 833**	**Commercial Ewes**	**R 5 003**

Joachim Koekemoer (Chiboos Ile de France), Rika Uys (Rika Uys Ile de France), TO Uys (Rika Uys Ile de France) and Erik Heymans (BKB)

Mariette van Zyl (Van Zyl Ile de France), Joachim Koekemoer (Chiboos Ile de France), Renier van Zyl (Van Zyl Ile de France) and Erik Heymans (BKB)

The Annual Oostelike Ile de France Club Auction was held on the 20th of June 2026, at the Rustic Fields Lodge Venue, Middelburg.
Congratulations to the Club members on the quality animals presented.
Lots of thanks to the buyers, your part in the success of the auction.
Many thanks to Erik Heymans and the BKB team for your preparations and hard work. BKB Standerton presented the auction with Jan Mostert as the auctioneer.

BKB
The Trusted Home of Agriculture
Die Betroubare Tuiste van Landbou

RESULTS	AVERAGE	HIGHEST
BULLS	N$ 58 450	N$ 90 000
COWS + CALF	N$ 35 100	N$ 55 000
COWS IN CALF	N$ 32 500	N$ 38 000
COWS	N$ 26 000	N$ 55 000
HEIFER IN CALF	N$ 24 083	N$ 38 000
HEIFERS	N$ 24 000	N$ 25 000
COMMERCIAL COWS + CALFS	N$ 30 000	N$ 30 000
COMMERCIAL COWS	N$ 26 000	N$ 26 000
COMMERCIAL HEIFERS	N$ 25 000	N$ 25 000

REALTIME agri

MEERKAT
ONLINE AUCTIONS

Gemiddelde Veilingspryse Behaal
Average Auction prices Achieved

Beespryse / Cattle prices = R.cc/kg

Stoet- en produksieveilings uitgesluit / Stud- and Production auctions excluded

Week: 25 **Datum/Date:** 22 - 27 Junie 2026

	R.cc/kg (excl. VAT)
Tollies / Bull calves < 200kg	43.77
Tollies / Bull calves 200-250kg	45.04
Tollies / Bull calves > 250kg	41.96
Osse / Oxen	36.78
Bulle / Bulls	30.31
Verse / Heifers < 200kg	41.49
Verse / Heifers 200-250kg	42.01
Verse / Heifers > 250kg	38.15
Verse Dragtig / Pregnant Heifers	-
Skraal koeie / Lean Cows	26.96
Koeie / Cows	28.56
Koei Dragtig / Pregnant Cow	31.32
Koeie + Kalwers / Cows + Calves	29.63
Koeie + Kalf Dragtig / Pregnant Cows + Calf	-

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ABSOLUTE BRANGUS

11:00 VRYDAG

03 JULIE 2026

GREYLINGSTAD

ABSOLUTE BRANGUS

GROEPVEILING

Duo Maestro Brangus
Pieter Swart
073 746 1211

Goue Vallei Brangus
Pieter-Jan Botha
072 377 0005

40
ROOI & SWART BRANGUS BULLE

7
SP DRAGTIGE KOEIE

40
GEREGISTREERDE DRAGTIGE VERSE

VEESENTRAAL
ERMELO

AFSLAER Andrew Miller 082 493 2362
BEMARKER Chris Steyn 082 561 6637

Voorwaardes: 1.) Alle kopers moet registreer en 'n kopie van hul ID asook bewys van adres voorsien. 2.) Slag van veiling: GEEN BORGTAKT. Betaling per kaart of elektroniese oorplasing. 3.) BTW is betaalbaar. 4.) Die verkoper behou die reg voor om enige item voor of tydens die veiling, sonder voorafkennisgewing, te onttrek. 5.) Vessentraal se standaard verkoopsvoorwaardes (Veilingreëls) is van toepassing - beskikbaar by www.vessentraal.co.za

AANLYN BESKIKBAAR
MEERKAT AUCTIONS

J&B LIVESTOCK MARKET AND AUCTIONEERS

LIVESTOCK MARKET & AUCTIONEERS

NOTICE

AUCTION DAYS WILL NOW **MOVE** TO

THURSDAYS

EFFECTIVE FROM 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

43ste MALUTI

Aanteel- en Slagveeveiling

Breeding and Slaughter Stock Sale

1756
Beeste / Cattle on Offer

Woensdag / Wednesday
8 Julie / July 2026

11:00 | Zaaihoek, Clarens

GPS: 28,451412 | 28,392742

HOOFAANBOD

- **233** x Gevoerde Osse A2/3/4
- **250** x Slagkoeie C2/3/4
- **1030** x Bonsmara Speenkalwers
- **210** x Rooi Angus Speenkalwers
- **8** x Rooi Angus dragtige verse
- **5** x Rooi Angus Slagkoeie C2/3/4
- **20** x Oop Bonsmara verse
- **20** x Simbra Speenkalwers

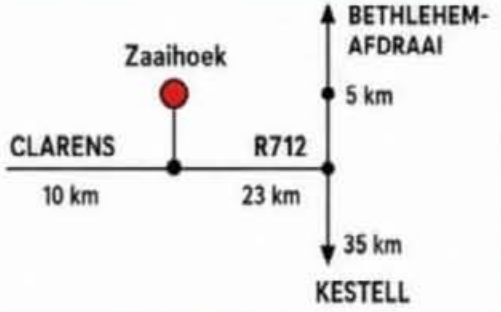
VEILINGSINLIGTING

Op Woensdag, 8 julie 2026 vind die 43ste Maluti aanteel- en slagveeveiling plaas op Zaaihoek, Clarens. Die diere kom uit die Clarens / Bethlehem / Kestell-omgewing en word volgens Maluti Telers se standaarde geklassifiseer.

BESIGTIGING / VIEWING

Diere sal op
7 JULIE 2026
vanaf 17:00 op die
veilingsterrein besigtig kan word.

LIGGING / DIRECTIONS



VEILINGVOORWAARDES / TERMS

Kredietreëlings moet vooraf met **Vleissentraal** getref word.

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AFSLAER Lukas Kleynhans 082 497 6793
BEMARKERS Attie Koen 083 310 9254
VLEISSENTRAAL BETHLEHEM: 058 303 5226 • bethlehem@vleissentraal.co.za

Kerneels
082 651 2783

Gerrie
082 929 3988

NOOITVERWAG
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Die Betroubare Tuiste van Landbou

Chris Bezuidenhout
079 065 1283
Afslaer: Billy Lyons
082 785 5498

MEERKAT
ONLINE AUCTIONS

14 Julie 2026

19de PRODUKSIE VEILING

Plaas De Vereeniging,
Distrik Ermelo

AANBOD:

* 45 Geregistreerde Bulle - *Sluit in 2 Kuddevaars* -
* 17 Geregistreerde Koeie - Dragtig
* 25 Geregistreerde Verse - Oop
* 65 Kommersiële Verse - Oop

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

SUIDELIKE HOËVELD DRAKENSBERGER KLUB

20 AUG 2026

OOSTE WESTE BESTE
SHDK

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

DRAKENSBERGER
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LOUIS BOTHA 082 825 2431 (SHDK)

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PORT ELIZABETH, 6001
BTW NR.: 4100101338
REG NR.: 1998/012435/06

BONSMARA SA

AG BONSMARA
Arthur de Villiers & Seun

34STE PRODUKSIEVEILING

10 SEPTEMBER 2026

DAGBOEK DIE DATUM

Vrydag 21 Augustus 2026 - Boeredag

GRATIS VERVOER-400km radius

LEWENDIG EN AANLYN

VLEISSENTRAAL
ERMELO

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.)** Vleissentraal's standard terms of sale (Auction Rules) apply – available at www.vleissentraal.co.za

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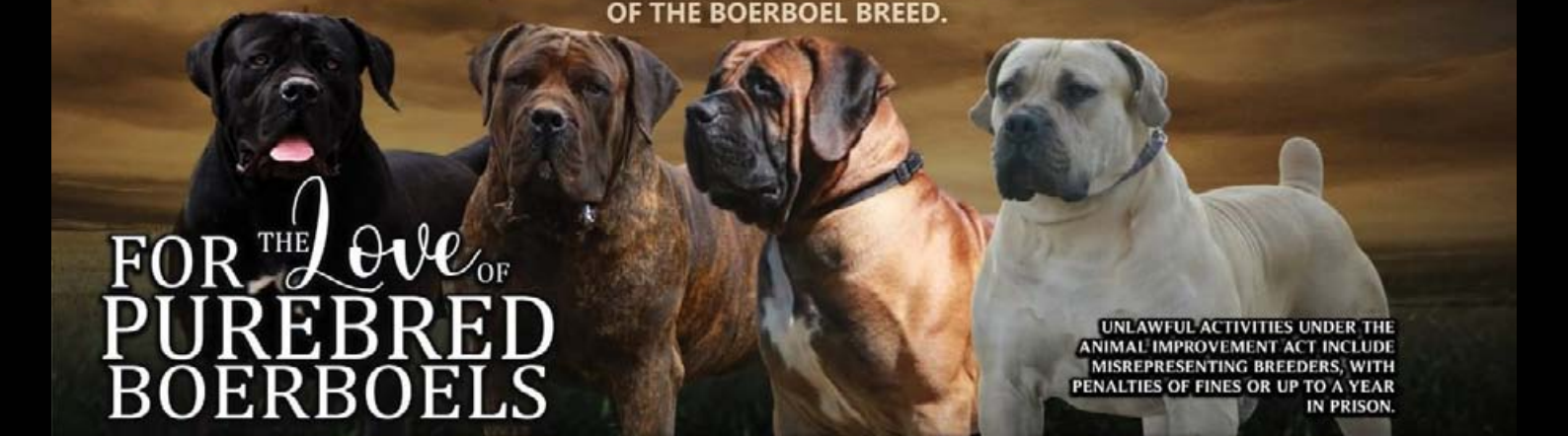

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UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ANIMAL IMPROVEMENT ACT INCLUDE MISREPRESENTING BREEDERS, WITH PENALTIES OF FINES OR UP TO A YEAR IN PRISON.

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DOGS MUST BE APPRAISED IN ORDER TO BE REGISTERED.

THUS, ANY UNIDENTIFIED DOG IS A DIFFERENT BREED OR A CROSSBREED. SELLING SMALL PUPPIES AS BOERBOELS IF THEY ARE NOT BIRTH NOTIFIED IS ALSO A MISDEMEANOR.

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DESIGNED BY WILDFIREMOCKINGJAY GRAPHIC DESIGN

ILE DE FRANCE

ELITE SA

Nasionale Veiling

SAVE THE DATE

19 SEPTEMBER 2026

AFRIDOME - PARYS, VRYSTAAT


VLEISSENTRAAL
2026
"Save the Dates"
NATIONAL AUCTIONS
13 FEB
BORAN HEIFER EXTRAVAGANZA
Silverlake Farm hotel, Pretoria
CANCELLED
7 MRT
INDIGENOUS VELD GOATS
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
CANCELLED
14 MRT
DORPER
Warmbad Resort, Bela-Bela
CANCELLED
17 MRT
BONSMARA
Stonehenge, Parys
CANCELLED
16 APR
BRANGUS ELITE HEIFER AUCTION
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
CANCELLED
30 APR
CHAROLAIS
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
CANCELLED
13 JUN
BRAFORD
Afridome, Parys
18 JUN
DRAKENSBERGER
Afridome, Parys
2 JUL
BEEFMASTER
Afridome, Parys
11 JUL
BORAN
Afridome, Parys
16 JUL
BRAUNVIEH
Afridome, Parys
5 AUG
SA MUTTON MERINO
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
11 AUG
SA MUTTON MERINO
Frankfort Golf Club, Frankfort
12 AUG
BRANGUS
Afridome, Parys
13 AUG
SUSSEX
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
12-13 AUG
MEATMASTER
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
14 AUG
AFRIKANER
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein
14 AUG
TULI
Lettie Fouche Skool, Bloemfontein
22 AUG
SENEPOL
Be Human, Bloemfontein
22 AUG
SIMBRA
Afridome, Parys
18 SEP
BEEF SHORTHORN
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
15 OKT
BOER GOAT
Bloem Showgrounds, Bloemfontein
4-5 NOV
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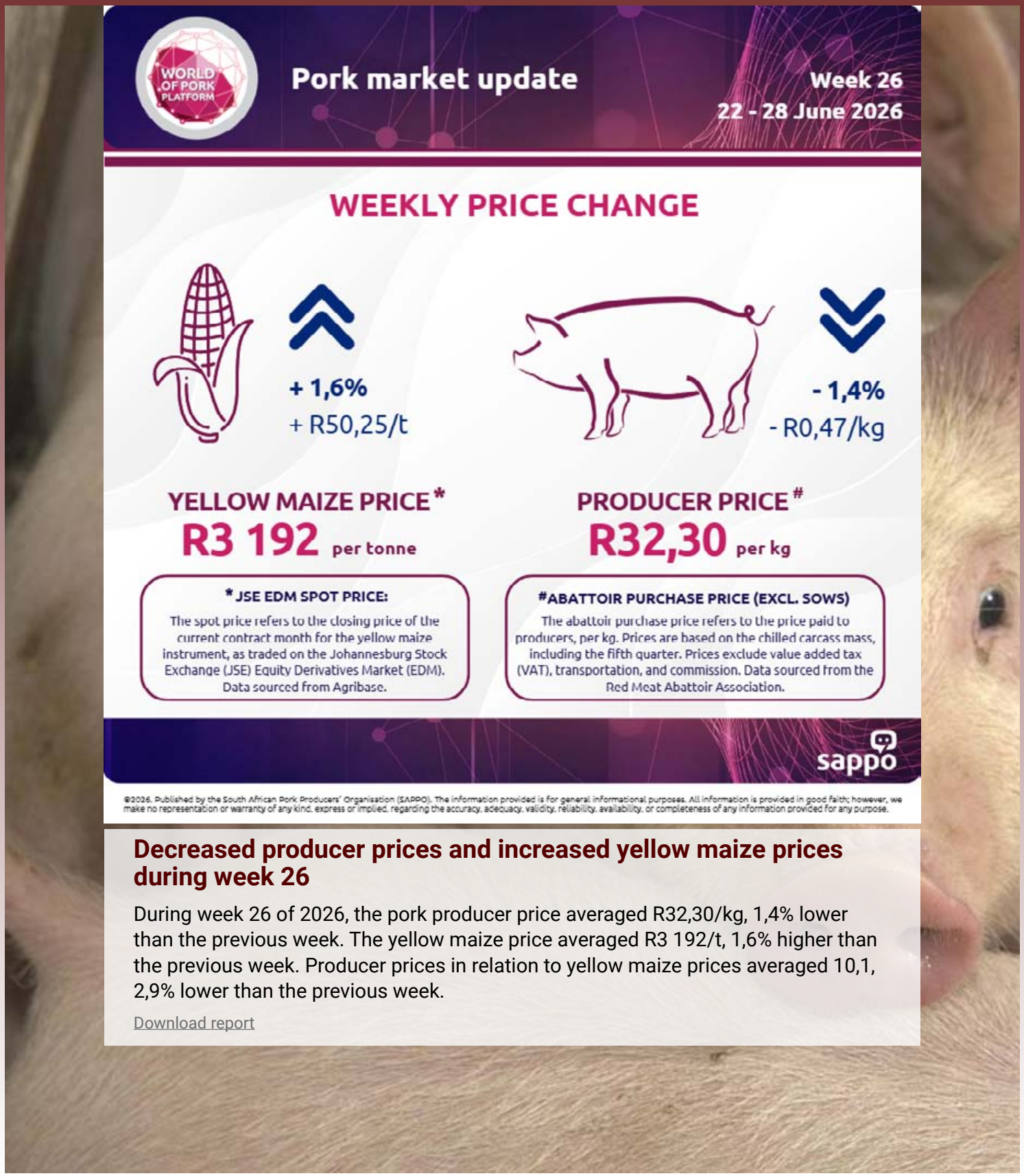
Did you know?

WORLD OF PORK

Pork Market update
23 - 28 June 2026

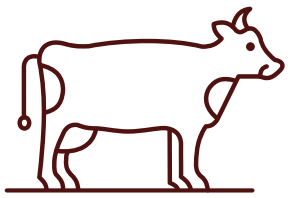


Decreased producer prices and increased yellow maize prices during week 26

During week 26 of 2026, the pork producer price averaged R32,30/kg, 1,4% lower than the previous week. The yellow maize price averaged R3 192/t, 1,6% higher than the previous week. Producer prices in relation to yellow maize prices averaged 10,1, 2,9% lower than the previous week.

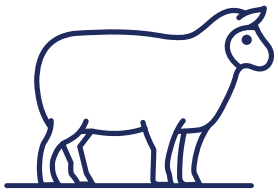
Download report

What's happening in Markets



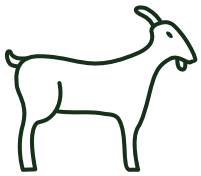
BEEF

A2/3 =	R 67.67
B2/3 =	R 59.50
C2/3 =	R 57.00
Weaners =	R 45.20



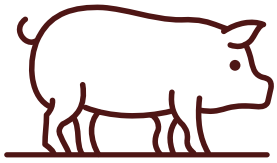
SHEEP

A2/3 =	R 107.20
B2/3 =	R 78.75
C2/3 =	R 76.50
Feeder Lamb =	R 56.98



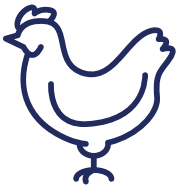
GOATS

Ewes =	R 52.42
Kids <30kg =	R 66.21
Kids 30-40kg =	R 61.64
Kids > 40kg =	R 43.53



PIGS

Porkers =	R 32.17
Baconers =	R 30.50

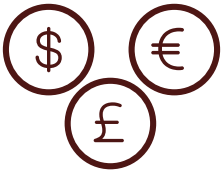


CHICKEN

Frozen =	R 32.71
Fresh =	R 38.63
IQF =	R 35.32

SAFEX

Maize =	R 3295 /t
Soybeans =	R 7300 /t
Sunflower =	R 9520 /t
Wheat =	R 5790 /t



EXCHANGE RATE

R / $ =	R 16.31
R / £ =	R 21.88
R / € =	R 18.63

As at 10 July 2025

www.amtrends.co.za

Previous Editions

Click here

FARMhere

Farmers are handpicked by God

A Prayer for Farmers

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for entrusting us with the land, the livestock, and the responsibility of producing food that sustains families and nations. We acknowledge that every good harvest comes from Your gracious hand.

Lord, bless every farmer with wisdom as they sow, courage as they wait, and faith as they trust You for the harvest. Send the right rains, protect the crops from disease and pests, and keep livestock healthy and strong. Strengthen weary hands, encourage discouraged hearts, and provide peace during seasons of uncertainty.

Help us to sow not only seed into the soil but also kindness, integrity, generosity, and faithfulness into the lives of those around us. May we remember that whatever we sow, we will also reap.

May our work bring glory to You, provide abundantly for our families, and be a blessing to our communities. We place every field, every animal, and every future harvest into Your loving care.

In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

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.

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