

FARMhere

Farmers are handpicked by God

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FREE
Edition 62
15 January 2026

BOERhier
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Farm Safety in South Africa: Beyond Tragedy – The Daily Struggle of Loss and Vulnerability

Why Soil Fertility and Fertilizers Matter

Damlinings (Superior Farm Water Security)

Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South Africa: Rising Concern as Animals Show Fewer Classic Symptoms

BOERhier Magazine: A Digitally Established Platform

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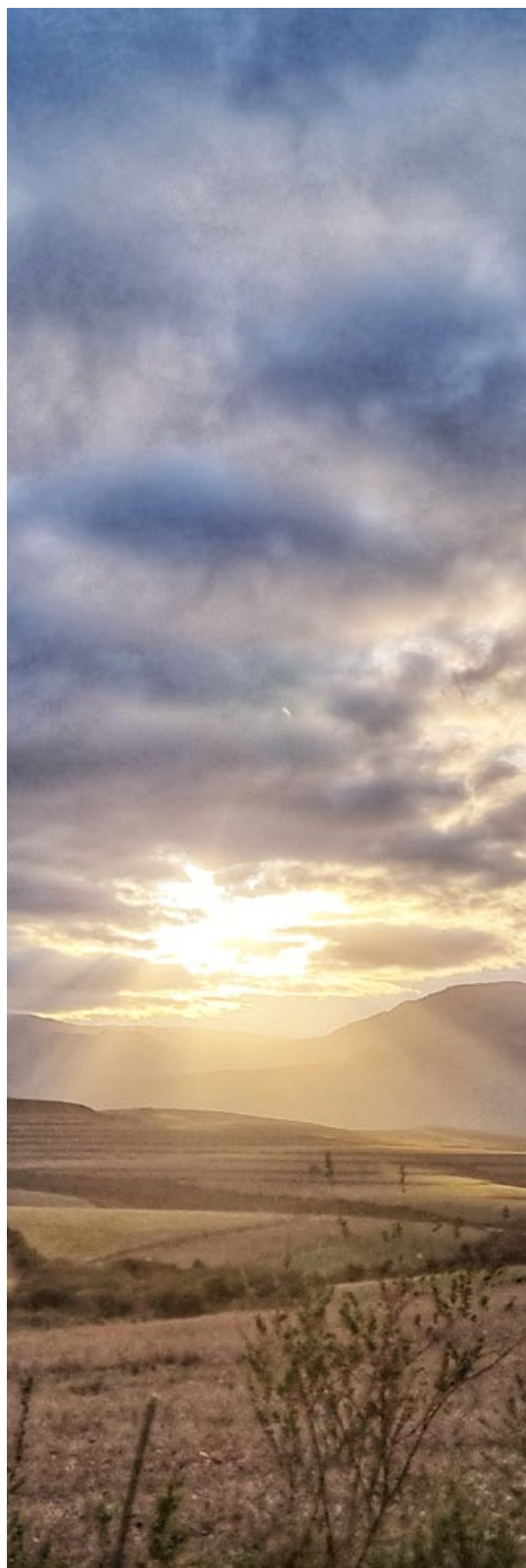


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Editor's Note



Hope for Today

Farming has never been for the faint-hearted — but even by our standards, these are testing times. Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), market uncertainty, rising input costs, shifting weather patterns, and increasing pressure on biosecurity have placed many producers under a weight that feels relentless. For some, the hardest part is not the physical labour, but the mental load: the constant “what if” that follows us from the kraal to the cab, from the lands to the kitchen table.

Yet, agriculture has always been built on one powerful truth: tomorrow is shaped by what we do today. We cannot control every outbreak, every regulation, every price movement or rainfall forecast — but we can control our response. We can tighten our farm protocols, protect our herds, communicate with neighbours, support our local livestock industry, and stay informed without being consumed by fear. We can keep showing up, even when the horizon feels uncertain.

In moments like this, faith becomes more than tradition — it becomes an anchor. The Bible reminds us not to carry tomorrow's burdens before we get there. As Jesus teaches in the NLT:

“So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:34, NLT)

That is not denial — it's wisdom. It's permission to focus on the next right step: one decision, one day, one small victory at a time.

To every farmer, worker, vet, feed supplier, marketer, transporter, and family member carrying the strain: you are not alone. This community is resilient. We adapt. We rebuild. And we endure — because that is what we've always done.

Let's keep our eyes on today, our hands on the work, and our hearts filled with hope.

With gratitude and expectation,

The Editor

Kindness

“Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32, NLT)

Ephesians 4:32 is one of the clearest pictures in Scripture of what true Christian character looks like in everyday life. It calls believers to live differently—not just in what we believe, but in how we treat people. Kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness are not optional extras in the Christian life; they are the evidence that God’s grace has truly touched and changed us.

The verse begins with a simple command: “be kind to each other.” Kindness is more than politeness—it is love expressed through actions. Jesus taught this same heart in His words: “Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” (Luke 6:31, NLT). Real kindness reaches beyond convenience and shows compassion even when it costs us something. It reflects the goodness of God Himself, who is patient and generous toward undeserving people.

Next, Paul urges believers to be “tenderhearted.” This means having a soft heart, not a hard one. Many people build emotional walls after being hurt, disappointed, or betrayed. But God calls His children to live with hearts that remain responsive, caring, and humble. Scripture reminds us: “Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12, NLT). Tenderhearted people don’t ignore pain—they allow God to shape them into vessels of mercy rather than bitterness.

Then comes the hardest part for many: “forgiving one another.” Forgiveness is not pretending the wrong didn’t happen, nor is it approving sin. Forgiveness is releasing the right to seek revenge and choosing to leave justice in God’s hands. Jesus repeatedly taught forgiveness as essential to a believer’s walk. He said, “But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:15, NLT). This is serious, not because God is cruel, but because unforgiveness traps us in spiritual chains and poisons our relationships.

The foundation of Ephesians 4:32 is this powerful truth: “just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” We forgive because we have been forgiven. Our motivation is not human strength, but the mercy we’ve received from Christ. The Bible says, “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (Romans 5:8, NLT). If God forgave us at our worst, we can extend forgiveness to others through His help.

Finally, this verse calls believers into a lifestyle of love that mirrors God’s heart. “Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.” (Proverbs 17:9, NLT). When we choose kindness over cruelty, tenderness over hardness, and forgiveness over revenge, we show the world what Christ is like.

Ephesians 4:32 is not just a command—it is an invitation to live free, healed, and whole, reflecting the grace that has been poured out on us.

BOERhier Magazine: A Digitally Established Platform Driving Sustainable Agricultural Growth

In an agricultural environment where credibility, accuracy and strategic visibility define business success, BOERhier Magazine has distinguished itself as a trusted, digitally rooted agricultural media platform. From its very beginning, BOERhier was established as a digital magazine, long before global disruptions such as COVID-19 forced many publications to rapidly transition into online spaces. This early digital foundation enabled BOERhier to build an extensive, structured and POPIA-compliant database organically, ensuring ethical data management, stable growth and long-term credibility.

While the pandemic accelerated digital transformation across the media industry, BOERhier continued to build on a foundation that was already firmly in place. This was not achieved in competition with other publications, but rather through foresight, consistency and a commitment to professional digital publishing. BOERhier holds deep respect for all agricultural publications and acknowledges the important role each plays in educating, informing and strengthening the



farming community. At its core, BOERhier believes in collective growth, continuous learning and collaboration, always striving to improve while offering advertisers maximum exposure at the most affordable and sustainable cost.

A Platform Designed for the Modern Agricultural Economy

Today's agricultural sector demands fast, accurate and accessible information. BOERhier's digital-first structure allows content to be published, shared and circulated instantly, making it a powerful communication tool for auctions, stud breeders, agribusinesses and agricultural suppliers.

South Africa has an estimated 35,000+ stud-registered farmers, representing a highly specialised, financially active and commercially focused segment of the industry. This group alone demonstrates the scale and stability of the market

BOERhier speaks to daily. The consistency seen in BOERhier's social media following, website traffic and subscriber base mirrors the size and reliability of this agricultural economy. It confirms that BOERhier reaches farmers who are actively involved in breeding, genetics, livestock marketing, production efficiency and long-term farm sustainability.

For advertisers, this is critical. Marketing success is not only about reach; it is about reaching the correct economic bracket. Cost plays a major role in whether farmers can realistically afford a product or service. BOERhier's audience represents producers who operate at a level where investment in genetics, nutrition, mechanisation, infrastructure, animal health and technology is both practical and necessary. This makes BOERhier the ideal platform to advertise products and services that require serious purchasing power and informed decision-making.

Why Advertising on BOERhier Produces Measurable Value

BOERhier offers advertisers targeted exposure within a market that is already engaged and economically active. Its audience includes commercial livestock farmers, stud breeders, feedlot operators, crop producers, veterinarians, agronomists, auctioneers and agricultural service providers.

Advertisers benefit from:

- Consistent brand positioning
- A highly relevant and specialised agricultural audience
- Affordable digital advertising solutions
- Cross-platform marketing via articles, banners, videos, social media and livestreams
- Ethical and POPIA-compliant data management

For auction houses and stud breeders, digital visibility is essential. Strong online exposure increases catalogue distribution, buyer awareness and bidder participation. This contributes to improved price discovery, stronger competition and healthier sales outcomes. BOERhier's digital marketing approach enhances both the visibility and the professional perception of every auction it supports.

Professional Video Content That Builds Trust

BOERhier's video production division is one of its strongest assets. Agricultural video marketing requires a unique understanding of farming realities, animal handling, auction flow and rural storytelling. BOERhier's videography team brings all of this together with professional filming and editing standards.

BOERhier videos regularly achieve thousands of organic views, with several surpassing 200,000 views



within weeks. These figures reflect genuine engagement from the agricultural community and confirm that BOERhier's content resonates with the right audience.

For advertisers, video is not simply exposure—it is credibility. Being professionally featured builds confidence in a brand and creates a lasting impression among farmers who value authenticity and competence.

NAMPO May Harvest Day: A Long-Term Marketing Investment

NAMPO May Harvest Day remains the most significant agricultural exhibition in Southern Africa. It is where innovation, trade and relationships are built. BOERhier's presence at NAMPO through interviews, livestreams and video content allows exhibitors to extend their exposure far beyond the physical event.

BOERhier's NAMPO content continues to generate engagement long after the show ends. Videos remain active online, attracting views, shares and enquiries for months, offering advertisers a lasting return on their investment.

Due to the commitment to quality production, BOERhier limits the number of interview and livestream slots available. Businesses are strongly encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment. This ensures each participant receives focused attention, professional

presentation and maximum digital impact.

Respect for the Industry, Commitment to Progress

BOERhier maintains sincere respect for all agricultural publications, media platforms and industry stakeholders. Each contributes uniquely to strengthening South African agriculture. BOERhier's mission has never been to compete aggressively, but rather to grow responsibly, learn continuously and refine its services in a way that benefits the entire agricultural ecosystem.

The guiding principle remains clear: To provide advertisers with the most effective exposure, at the most affordable cost, while maintaining professional integrity and ethical digital standards.

This philosophy allows both established brands and emerging agricultural businesses access to quality marketing without unnecessary financial strain.

A Team Rooted in Agricultural Understanding

Behind BOERhier is a dedicated team that understands agriculture in practice, not only in theory. Writers apply correct agricultural terminology. Videographers understand livestock behaviour and auction dynamics. Designers understand rural branding. Coordinators understand seasonal agricultural pressures.

This practical knowledge ensures content accuracy, professional representation and reliable execution.

A Digitally Strong Future

BOERhier Magazine remains committed to digital excellence, POPIA compliance, professional agricultural communication and affordable advertising solutions.

With a strong subscriber base that reflects the economic reality of South African agriculture and access to a market that includes over 35,000 stud-registered farmers, BOERhier stands as one of the most strategically positioned platforms for agricultural marketing.

With NAMPO May Harvest Day approaching and limited interview

slots available, now is the time to secure your place on a platform that was digital by design, ethical by principle and agricultural at heart from the beginning.

BOERhier Magazine continues to strengthen agricultural communication—professionally, respectfully and with purpose.



RUMILICK

Accelerator

Rumilick Accelerator is 'n produksielek wat aan groeiende kalwers en lammers gevoer word na speen op goeie kwaliteit weiding. Hierdie lek fokus op karkasontwikkeling, eeder as vetneerlegging wat dit ideaal maak vir die grootmaak van stoetdiere asook vir "backgrounding".

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Ivermax LA Platinum



DORAJECT LA +AD3E



* Data on file



89 DAYS CONTROL OF BLUE TICK*
DAE BEHEER TEEN LOUBOSLU

† Macrocylic lactone



* Data on file



45 DAYS CONTROL OF BLUE TICK*
DAE BEHEER TEEN LOUBOSLUIS*

† Macrocylic lactone



Product name: Doraject + AD₃E LA. **Registration number:** G3912 Act 36/1947 (South Africa). **Each 1 m² contains:** Doramectin 1,0 % m/v; Vitamin A 3,3 % m/v; Vitamin D₃ 0,01 % m/v; Vitamin E 5,0 % m/v. **Export countries:** Botswana - BV2100145A [POM]; Namibia - V13/18.1.8/1190 [NSO]. **Product name:** Ivermax Platinum LA. **Registration number:** G3832 Act 36/1947 (South Africa). **Composition:** Ivermectin 3,15 m/v. **Export countries:** Botswana - BV2100245A [VPS]; Namibia - V13/18.1.2/1186 [NSO]. **Registration holder:** Kyrón Animal Health (Pty) Ltd, Co. Reg. No. 2004/021847/07, Unit 45C, 45 Parkview Street, Highway Business Park, Rooihuiskraal Ext. 31, Centurion, 0157, South Africa.

National Role | Long-Term Appointment

A well-established and rapidly expanding Agricultural Media Company is seeking an experienced Sales Executive to strengthen its national sales presence.

This is a long-term opportunity for a senior sales professional with a strong track record in the corporate agricultural sector, who understands the complexities of agricultural sales cycles and can confidently manage high-value client relationships.

Minimum Requirements

- 5+ years' proven sales experience within the corporate agricultural market
- Demonstrated ability to manage the full sales lifecycle, from prospecting to closing
- In-depth understanding of the agricultural industry, decision-makers, and buying behaviour
- Willingness and ability to travel extensively throughout South Africa
- Strong negotiation, communication, and relationship-management skills
- Professional integrity and a results-oriented mindset

Role Overview

- Drive national sales of agricultural media and advertising solutions
- Develop and maintain long-term relationships with key industry stakeholders
- Identify growth opportunities within agribusiness, farming enterprises, and corporate clients
- Represent the company at agricultural events, exhibitions, and industry functions
- Consistently meet and exceed agreed sales targets

Remuneration & Benefits

- Competitive remuneration package
- Performance-based incentives and additional perks
- Long-term career stability within a respected agricultural brand
- Opportunity to work autonomously within a structured, professional environment
Nationwide travel across South Africa's agricultural regions
- This role is suited to a disciplined, credible sales professional seeking stability, growth, and influence within the agricultural media space.

Please send a detailed resume to: Lizelle@boerhier.co.za



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Sink

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Sinktekort

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- Abnormale spermatogenese
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Website: rponk.co.za

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VLEISSENTRAAAL PORT ELIZABETH 041 001 0122
PORTELIZABETH@VLEISSENTRAAAL.CO.ZA

Terme en voorwaardes geld



REQUIREMENTS FOR HUNTING PHOTOS:

Only sharp, good quality photos will be considered. Electronic photos should preferably be 1 MB in size; smaller than this cannot be posted.

Please email photos to
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santie@wildlifehunt.co.za

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Farm Safety in South Africa: Beyond Tragedy – *The Daily Struggle of Loss and Vulnerability*

Farm safety in South Africa remains a pressing concern for agricultural producers of all sizes. While high-profile incidents often dominate headlines, many of the risks farmers grapple with are chronic, financially crippling and emotionally draining. Livestock losses, crop destruction, theft of equipment and inputs, and persistent malicious damage present a constant challenge — threatening both livelihoods and the country's food security.

Livestock Losses — A Struggle With Multiple Frontlines

For livestock farmers, animals are more than income streams — they are capital, heritage and long-term investments. Yet maintaining herd and flock health and safety has become increasingly difficult.

A major issue is the **loss of animals to diseases** that can spread rapidly if not detected early. Resource constraints on many farms reduce access to veterinary support, vaccines and rapid testing. The result: illnesses that might be controlled in other regions can decimate herds before effective intervention.

Another serious concern is **predation**, especially in areas bordering wilderness or game reserves. Predators such as jackals, caracals, and even packs of stray dogs have been known to attack sheep and goats, especially at night. Without robust fencing or night enclosures, smaller stock are particularly vulnerable.



Added to these natural risks are the persistent challenges of **livestock theft**. Cattle and sheep are regularly targeted for illegal sale, slaughter and resale. Theft not only depletes stock numbers but also imposes high security costs.

Farmers deploy guard dogs, patrols and advanced tracking technologies — but these solutions are expensive and sometimes insufficient. When animals are lost, the financial impact can ripple through operations for seasons.

Crop Losses — Weather, Pests and People

Crop producers contend with a series of threats that can wipe out months — and years — of labor.

The harsh reality of weather volatility — drought, unexpected frost, hailstorms or floods — is perhaps the most unpredictable risk. Climate change has intensified swings between dry spells and high rainfall, creating uncertainty that makes planning next season's plantings a calculated gamble. Without reliable water

infrastructure, many farmers find themselves vulnerable to crop failure.

But environmental risk is just one side of the story. **Crop pests and diseases** remain a constant foe. Locust swarms have occasionally ravaged fields across provinces, decimating maize and other staples. Insect pests and fungal diseases can also spread quickly when weather conditions favor them. Despite modern agronomy practices and pesticides, timely intervention is essential – and costly.

Overlaying these natural challenges is the persistent problem of **crop theft and malicious crop damage**. Farmers report incidents of fields deliberately trampled, irrigation systems sabotaged, and ready-to-harvest produce stolen in the dead of night. Whether motivated by local food insecurity, opportunistic criminality, or coordinated theft rings, the results are the same: acres of lost yield and increased anxiety for producers.

Theft of Equipment and Inputs – A High-Cost Burden

Modern farming is technology-intensive. Tractors, harvesters, drones, irrigation systems, fencing, and other specialized equipment are core to operational efficiency. Unfortunately, these valuable assets are prime targets.

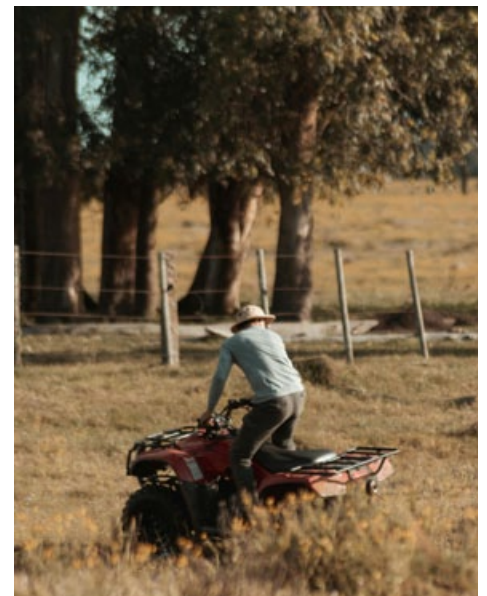
Farm equipment is often stored in remote locations with limited lighting and weak cellphone reception – conditions that embolden criminals. Even when equipment is not stolen outright, **the theft of parts** – batteries, catalytic converters, tires and GPS units – can render machinery inoperable. The repair and replacement costs can overwhelm budgets, especially for small-scale farmers.

Likewise, **fuel theft** is a common reported loss. Diesel tanks and jerry cans are tapped, leaving farmers with both financial losses and immediate mobility issues. Theft of fencing wire, gates, solar panels and animal feed further compounds the problem.

Many farmers have responded by investing in security cameras, alarms, motion sensors and fencing. However, the installation and maintenance of these systems add significant overhead. In isolated areas where power and connectivity are unreliable, security infrastructure is itself difficult to sustain.

Malicious Damage – Frustration, Fear and Escalation

Beyond theft, farmers report acts of malicious damage – purposeful harm meant to disrupt operations rather than obtain value. This includes cutting fences, vandalizing



water systems, burning fields or storage facilities, and other acts that can cripple production.

Even when no property is stolen, the damage itself can halt a season. A breached fence can allow livestock to escape, exposing them to injury or theft. Destroyed irrigation equipment can stunt crops already struggling under heat. These acts reverberate through the farm's ecosystem – affecting employee morale, cash flow, and future investment decisions.

The emotional toll of persistent vandalism cannot be understated. Farmers recount sleepless nights monitoring systems, rising costs to repair and reinforce, and the psychological burden of feeling exposed and unsupported. These stressors not only impact productivity but also the mental well-being of farm households and employees.

Community and Government Responses – Gaps and Innovations

In response to these safety threats, farming communities have developed cooperative strategies. Neighbourhood watches, shared patrols, digital alert groups and partnerships with local law enforcement aim to create a united front. Some districts have pooled



resources to install shared security infrastructure or to organize rapid radio communication networks.

At the same time, many producers call for more consistent government engagement – from improved rural policing and faster response times to subsidized security measures and better support for disease control and emergency services. While some regions see successful collaboration, others struggle with resourcing and coordination gaps.

Towards Resilience – Technology and Best Practices

Despite the hardships, innovation continues to play a key role in enhancing farm safety:

- **Drone surveillance** for perimeter monitoring and real-time crop assessment.
- **GPS and RFID tags** on livestock to track movement and detect theft quickly.
- **Remote sensor networks** for water pumps and power systems to detect tampering early.
- **Mobile apps and alert groups** that connect farmers, security companies and local police.

Combined with smart fencing solutions, guard animals and strategic lighting, these tools can significantly reduce risk – but they require capital, training and sustained upkeep.

Conclusion – A Complex Landscape of Risk

Farm safety in South Africa extends well beyond singular events. It is defined by an ongoing landscape of livestock losses, crop devastation, theft and intentional damage. The consequences affect individual livelihoods, rural employment, and broader national food security.

Addressing these challenges demands not only investment in physical and technological security, but also collaboration between farmers, communities and public institutions. Only through shared commitment can the agricultural heartland of South Africa become safer, more resilient, and better equipped to thrive in the face of adversity.

Article by BOERhier

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- WE PRODUCE THEM VERY CAREFULLY

OUR PUREBRED BOERBOELS ARE CAREFULLY SELECTED AND BRED FOR TYPE, SOUNDNESS, AND PURPOSE, AS WELL AS CLASSIC BEAUTY, ALWAYS CONSIDERING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BOERBOEL BREED.



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

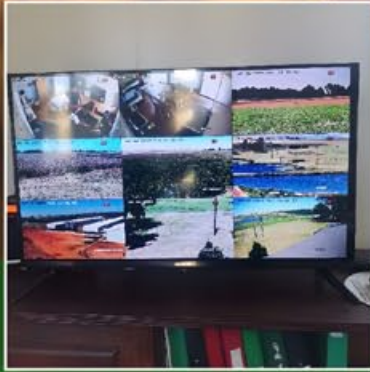
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DOGS MUST BE APPRAISED IN ORDER TO BE REGISTERED.

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Matters!



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 Bietou Meatmasters



VEILING: PRINS ALBERT SKOUGRONDE | TYD: 11H00

22 JANUARIE 2026

AANLYN & VLOER VEILING

GASVERKOPERS: D. GILIOMEE & G. VAN EEDEN



13 MEATMASTERRAMME
230 MEATMASTEROOIE
20 JONG AFRINO OOIE



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Marlise | 065 716 4689 (Online)

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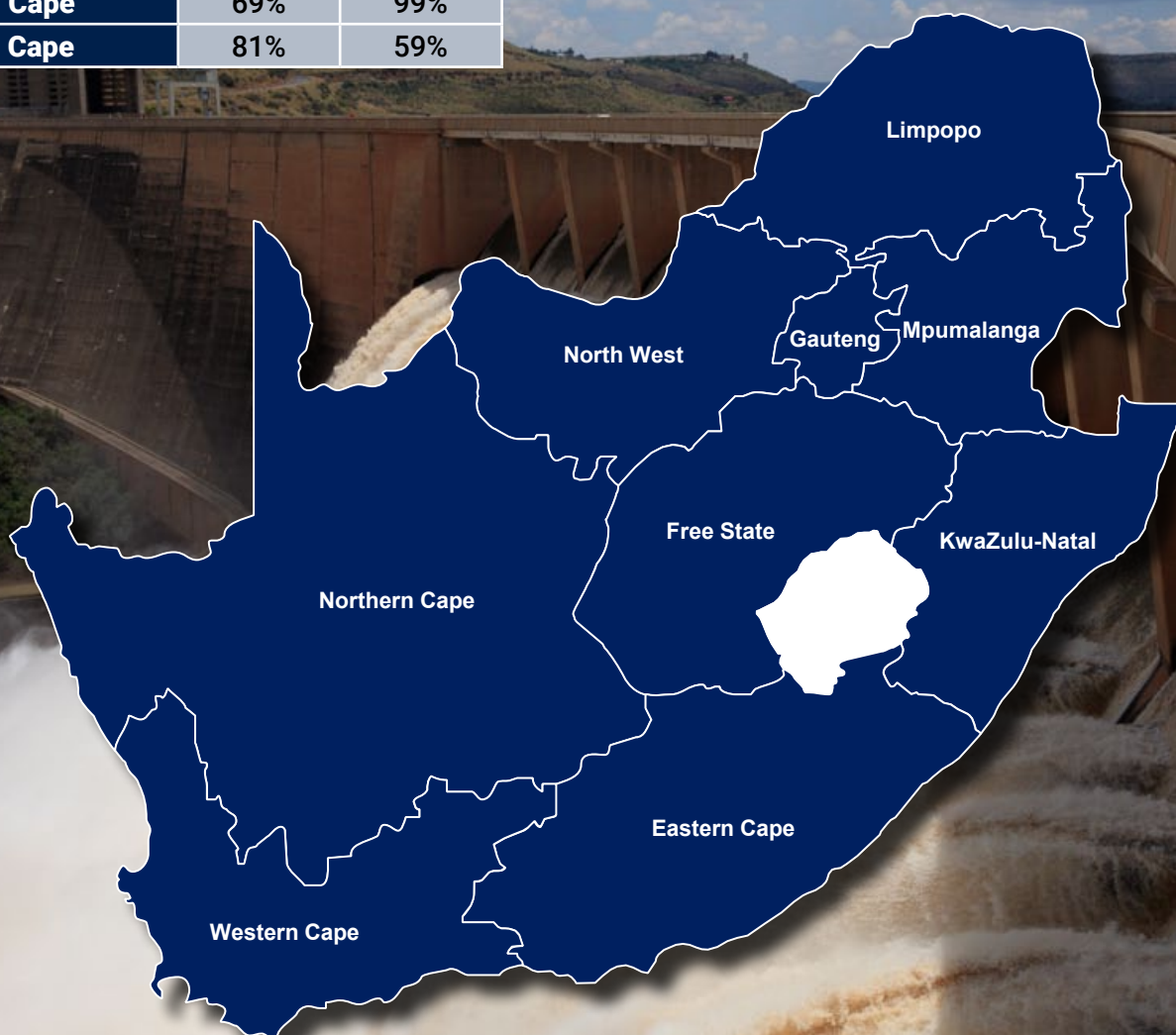
ONLINE CONDITIONS:
1) Fica documentation at registration
2) 1% Online auction commission payable
Online registration and more information: <https://bid.cdpauctioneers.co.za/>

CdP AUCTIONEERING
SERVICES

Dam Levels

as at 13 January 2026

January		
	2025	2026
Eastern Cape	81%	75%
Freestate	71%	99%
Gauteng	88%	102%
KwaZulu-Natal	89%	94%
Limpopo	80%	90%
Mpumalanga	91%	101%
North West	70%	97%
Northern Cape	69%	99%
Western Cape	81%	59%



Provincial Summary (sawx.co.za)

BOERhier

'n Boer is gekies deur God

We work to glorify God – with faith, impact, and passion.

- Targeted, affordable digital marketing – focused on your niche market.
- Social media management & digital strategies that amplify your voice.
- Videography, photography & editing that bring your vision to life.
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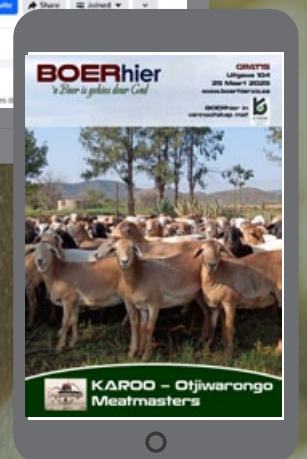
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- R A M V E I L I N G -

22 JANUARIE 2026

| 12H00 | PLAAS HOOGSTED E, TARKASTAD

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Export Restrictions and Disease Threats in the Global Beef Market (2024–2026): Challenges, Impacts, and Paths Forward

*Ongoing disease threats have continued to profoundly affect global beef trade through 2024, 2025, and into early 2026. Highly contagious animal diseases—especially **Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)**—have triggered export bans, eroded income for producers, strained international supply chains, and underscored long-standing frustrations with current trade frameworks. This article examines the evolving landscape of export restrictions, the economic and social costs borne by producers, and possible solutions that could enhance resilience in the global beef sector.*



Disease Outbreaks Fuel Export Restrictions

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) remains one of the most significant disruptors of beef exports. FMD affects cloven-hoofed animals—cattle, sheep, goats—and is highly contagious, prompting importing countries to impose swift and broad trade restrictions to safeguard their own livestock industries. In 2025, a notable outbreak in South Africa led to major market closures, with **China, Eswatini, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Namibia fully closing their markets to South African exports** of beef and other cloven-hoofed products. The United Kingdom also halted imports of related products such as mohair. Altogether, these closures contributed to **an estimated R5.6 billion in lost export revenue for South Africa's livestock sector** in 2025 alone. (The Herald¹)

Similarly, in Europe, a 2025 FMD event near Berlin triggered temporary bans on imports of susceptible livestock products from Germany by more than ten countries, including Australia, South Korea, and Mexico. (DairyNews²) This type of contagion-driven trade reaction illustrates how quickly access to export

markets can evaporate once disease is detected—even before full containment is achieved.

In addition to FMD, other disease outbreaks—notably avian influenza outbreaks—have contributed indirectly to trade disruptions and heightened sanitary controls, reinforcing the fragile interplay between animal health and market access. While such outbreaks primarily target poultry, they often lead importers to tighten surveillance and restrictions across multiple animal sectors.

Economic Losses and Producer Frustrations

The economic fallout from disease-related export bans is severe. In South Africa, restrictions on beef and animal products cost producers and exporters billions in lost revenue in 2025, at a time when global beef prices were already volatile due to broader market pressures. (The Herald¹) Producers must contend not only with direct revenue losses but also with **higher holding and production costs** as animals cannot be marketed abroad. This dynamic increases financial risk, undermines investment planning, and

reduces competitiveness.

Beyond direct losses, trade disruptions foster deep frustration among producers and industry stakeholders. These frustrations often focus on:

- **The speed and severity of restrictions**, which can be triggered by a single outbreak, sometimes before nuanced risk assessments are completed by trading partners.
- **The loss of long-term market relationships**, which can take years of certification and trust-building to establish.
- **The difficulty of coordinating disease responses across borders**, particularly when regional bodies or agreements lack effective mechanisms to allow targeted export flows from disease-free zones.

For example, South African red meat industry groups had hoped that a 2024 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China would allow exports from **FMD-free provinces** even during outbreaks. However, the blanket suspension during the 2025 outbreak rendered this agreement ineffective in practice, highlighting the complexity of implementing such trade safeguards in real time. (Feed Business Middle East & Africa³)

Impacts on Market Expectations

Disease threats reshape expectations for supply and demand in global beef markets. Export-dependent producers cannot reliably forecast future revenues when key markets can close abruptly. Market analysts underscore that ongoing outbreaks add volatility to global supply, complicating trade flows even in large, diversified markets such as the United States and Brazil. Meanwhile, restrictions in key markets—like China's broad bans on livestock imports from multiple

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
in Cattle & Buffaloes

Highly Contagious Viral Disease – Early Detection Saves Livestock

⚠️ Excessive Drooling, Lameness, Mouth & Hoof Lesions = Emergency!

The infographic features a central image of a white bull with several circular callouts pointing to specific symptoms: 'Excessive Drooling' (top left), 'Mouth Blisters & Sores' (top right), 'Severe Lameness & Limping' (bottom left), 'Hoof Lesions' (middle right), and 'Fever & Loss of Appetite' (bottom right). A yellow warning triangle is placed next to the drooling and hoof lesions callouts.

What Causes Foot and Mouth Disease?

- Highly Contagious Virus
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regions due to disease concerns—highlight how easily access can shrink, even beyond beef, encompassing sheep, goats, and other susceptible livestock. (Food Business Middle East & Africa⁴)

In some regions, these market disruptions intersect with structural challenges such as tariff changes and broader trade tensions. For instance, **additional beef tariffs imposed by China in early 2026** are expected to influence trade flows and competitiveness for major beef exporters, presenting a further layer of complexity on top of disease-driven bans. (Reddit⁵)

Paths Forward: Solutions and Resilience Building

Despite these challenges, industry experts and policymakers are advocating approaches to mitigate the effects of future outbreaks and secure more resilient trade:

1. Regionalisation Agreements

A key strategy is the adoption of **regionalisation agreements**, which allow trade with disease-free zones within an affected country rather than wide-ranging bans on entire national industries. South African meat export groups have

called for standing regionalisation protocols to be agreed upon prior to outbreaks, enabling parts of the country free from disease to continue exporting. (The Pig Site⁶)

2. Strengthened SPS Capacity

Enhancing **sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) systems**—including surveillance, rapid diagnostics, and traceability—is central to preventing outbreaks and reassuring trading partners when disease events occur. Strengthened SPS systems can help maintain export eligibility and reduce the duration of bans.

3. Official Recognition of Disease-Free Status

Programs by organisations such as the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** provide official recognition of disease-free status for priority diseases. In 2024, several countries achieved official status for diseases like FMD, supporting their ability to trade beef and other livestock products internationally. (woah.org⁷)

4. Preparedness and Risk Communication

Improved preparedness measures—including emergency response planning, rapid containment capabilities, and transparent communication with

trading partners—are essential for limiting the economic impacts of outbreaks. Establishing clear risk communication channels can help reduce knee-jerk bans and encourage evidence-based decisions.

Conclusion

The period from 2024 through early 2026 has vividly shown how disease threats—especially Foot-and-Mouth Disease—can disrupt beef exports, undermine economic stability, and provoke frustration among producers and trade partners alike. While these challenges are daunting, they also emphasize the importance of coordinated international frameworks, strong SPS systems, and strategic regional agreements to support resilient beef trade. Developing and implementing these solutions is not merely a matter of restoring lost markets—it's about building a more reliable, responsive global beef industry capable of weathering inevitable disease challenges.

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Source: Article by BOERhier





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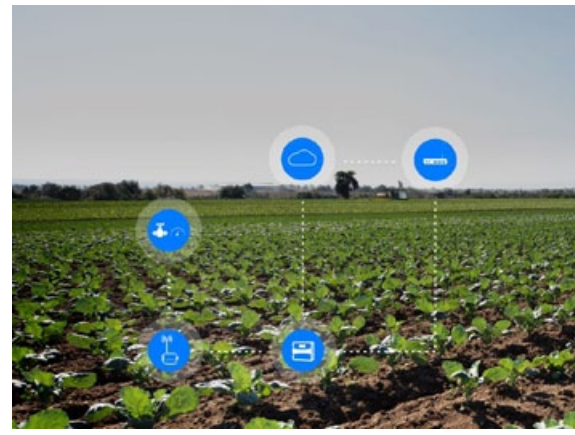
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Why Soil Fertility and Fertilizers Matter



High-quality harvests begin with healthy soils. Simply planting seeds into nutrient-depleted soil often leads to stunted growth, poor yields, and crops that lack nutritional quality. This is where fertilizers and mineral management come into play:



1. Balanced Nutrient Supply

Plants need a suite of essential nutrients—especially nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and micronutrients such as sulfur, magnesium, and trace minerals—to support everything from root establishment to seed development. An imbalance (for example, lots of nitrogen but little phosphorus) can restrict growth and reduce crop quality. (Farmers Magazine South Africa³)

South African cropping trends reflect this need: use of phosphorus and potassium fertilizers has been rising, particularly as oilseed crops like soybeans and canola—known for their higher P and K demands—expand in planted area. (SA Grain⁴)

2. Soil Tests Inform Better Decisions

Effective fertilization starts with **soil testing**. Tests reveal existing nutrient levels and soil pH, which

strongly influences nutrient availability. Without such data, farmers may under-apply fertilizer—leading to nutrient deficiency—or apply too much, promoting waste and environmental harm. (Farmers Magazine South Africa⁵)

Soil pH, in particular, affects nutrient solubility. For example, in acidic soils phosphorus can become “locked up,” making it unavailable to plants unless pH is corrected with lime or other amendments. (Farmers Magazine South Africa⁵)

3. Correct Placement and Timing

Correct fertilizer placement and split applications are proven techniques for enhancing nutrient uptake efficiency. Placing nutrients near root zones ensures plants can access them easily, and dividing the total fertilizer dose over the growing season matches nutrient supply with crop demand. (Farmers Magazine South Africa³)

For example, applying nitrogen in carefully timed splits—at planting, early vegetative growth, and just before flowering—can support strong biomass production without excessive leaching or losses. (Farmers Magazine South Africa³)

4. Organic and Sustainable Amendments

While synthetic fertilizers play a major role, organic inputs—such as compost, well-aged manure, green manure cover crops, and organic amendments like gypsum or rock phosphate—support soil structure and microbial activity. These methods add nutrients gradually and strengthen long-term soil fertility. (Farmers Magazine South Africa⁶)

Mulching, crop rotation, and cover cropping also protect soils from erosion and moisture loss—crucial in South Africa’s sometimes water-limited environments. (Farmers Magazine South Africa⁷)

The Broader Agricultural Context

Recent initiatives in the region emphasize soil health as central to sustainable agriculture. For example, in August 2025, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) launched a **Soil Health and Fertilizer Hub** to support improved fertilizer use and soil management practices across member states, encouraging knowledge sharing and policy alignment. (ccardesa.org⁸)

Such regional efforts underscore the strategic importance of soil fertility—not just for individual farms but for national food systems and rural economies.

Maximizing Harvest Quality and Quantity

During the November–January window, crops rapidly uptake nutrients to build leaves, stems, and reproductive structures. Without sufficient levels of N, P, K, and other minerals:

- **Vegetative growth may be stunted** and plants may appear pale or chlorotic.
- **Root systems can be weak**, limiting access to soil moisture and nutrients.
- **Flower formation and grain fill may be compromised**, reducing yield and quality.

By contrast, appropriate fertilization guided by soil testing, balanced nutrient plans, and sustainable practices can significantly enhance growth vigor, yield potential, and resistance to stressors like drought or disease—ultimately delivering stronger harvests and better farm profitability.

Conclusion: Strategic Fertilization as a Farming Priority

The South African summer cropping season from November through January is a critical period that demands careful nutrient management. Fertilizers and mineral inputs are not just consumables—they are strategic tools that, when used thoughtfully, improve soil health, support robust plant growth, and maximize harvest quality.

With rising input costs and changing climatic conditions, **knowledge-driven fertilization**—anchored in soil testing, nutrient balance, correct timing, and integration with organic soil practices—is more important than ever. When farmers understand and manage these factors effectively, they not only boost yields but also safeguard the long-term productivity and sustainability of South Africa’s agricultural landscapes.

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Source: Article by BOERhier

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South Africa's November–January Farming Season: Why Fertilizers and Soil Minerals Matter for Maximum Yield

Sources: 2024–2025 agricultural reporting and expert insights

In South Africa, the period from November through January marks the heart of the summer cropping season—a time when soil conditions, climate patterns, and nutrient availability directly determine the quality and quantity of harvests. Understanding this seasonal rhythm and the importance of applying the right fertilizers and minerals in the right way is essential for farmers who want to maximize crop performance, ensure food security, and maintain sustainable land management.

The Nature of the Summer Season (Nov–Jan)

South Africa's agricultural calendar is closely tied to its climate. The summer cropping season typically begins with land preparation in **October and November**, particularly for maize, sunflower, soybeans, and other summer grains and oilseeds. In many regions—from Mpumalanga to the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal—farmers use this period to take advantage of increasing rainfall and rising temperatures to establish strong crops. (SABC News¹)

By **December and January**, plants are well into vegetative growth and often entering reproductive stages such as flowering and grain fill. These growth phases demand a steady supply of water and nutrients, which places substantial pressure on soil fertility and agricultural inputs. (Farmers Magazine South Africa²)

At the same time, South African agriculture is

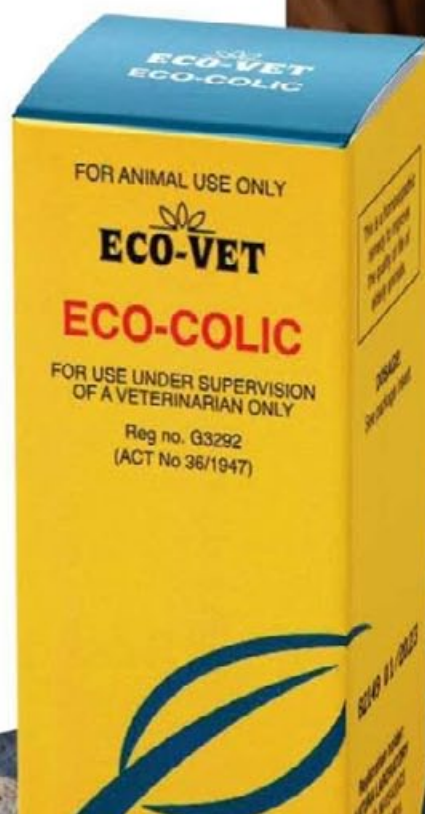


increasingly exposed to climatic variability, water stress, and input cost pressures. While forecasts in 2025–26 show encouraging rainfall for much of the summer season, agronomists emphasize that **weather alone won't guarantee success**—nutrient management and soil health practices are equally critical. (Farmers Magazine South Africa²)

Source: BOERhier

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Engineering livestock success from the kraal up



In an industry where efficiency, animal welfare, labour management and consistent animal performance directly influence profitability, Algar Ind CC has earned a strong reputation as a trusted supplier and long-term collaborator to livestock producers. With practical solutions developed for the real demands of South African farming conditions, Algar has positioned itself as a business that understands what happens inside the kraal — not just on paper, but during the everyday pressure of handling, treatment and feeding.

Often referred to by farmers as Algar Livestock Handling, the company focuses on equipment and systems designed to improve animal flow, reduce stress and increase the safety and productivity of livestock operations. Whether producers work with beef cattle, small stock, or a mixed enterprise, the same challenges remain: safe restraint, calm movement, efficient sorting and dependable equipment that can operate day after day under demanding conditions.

At the centre of Algar's offering is livestock handling infrastructure engineered around sound animal behaviour principles. Efficient systems do not rely on force. Instead, they guide animals using controlled movement, correct angles and well-planned flow points that encourage livestock to move forward naturally. This is where handling design becomes more than a convenience — it becomes a production tool.

Algar supplies a wide range of handling components, including alleyways, sorting gates, kraal panels, and heavy-duty restraint systems such as neck clamps and body clamps. These structures play an essential role in reducing risk during routine procedures including dosing, vaccination, dehorning, pregnancy diagnosis, ear tagging and general inspection. In well-designed handling systems, livestock spend less time under pressure, and handlers spend less time fighting animals that resist movement. The result is a safer working environment, fewer injuries, less bruising and better welfare outcomes.

Low-stress handling is more than a trend — it is a recognised

contributor to better production performance. Calm animals experience less stress response, which supports better immune function, more stable feed intake and improved weight gain. Stress reduction also lowers the likelihood of injuries and reduces losses caused by panic, slipping or overcrowding. When cattle and sheep move smoothly and confidently through facilities, procedures are completed more accurately and with better labour efficiency. This efficiency is especially important during peak management periods such as weaning, routine herd health programs, marketing preparation or seasonal treatment planning.

Algar's equipment is built with the demands of South African farming in mind. Livestock facilities are exposed to dust, heat, mud, rain, heavy impact and continuous use. Under these conditions, durable fabrication, practical component design and long-term serviceability become essential. Farmers need equipment that is dependable, strong, and easy to maintain on-farm without constant downtime. Algar's approach reflects a deep understanding of

the realities producers face: strong construction, practical functionality and the kind of robustness required for intensive livestock work.

While handling systems form the backbone of efficient livestock management, Algar also recognises that feeding and nutrition are equally critical to animal performance. Feed consistency influences rumen stability, daily intake, growth rates and overall production outcomes. This is why Algar supplies solutions that support reliable feeding, including JayLor mini total mixed ration (TMR) feed mixers, which allow producers to deliver balanced rations with accuracy and repeatability.

A key feature of the JayLor mini mixer range is the availability of self-propelled models. These units can move and drive on their own, providing valuable flexibility on farms where manoeuvrability and independent operation are important. The self-propelled system also includes a hydraulic pump that powers the auger, ensuring efficient mixing and delivery performance in practical conditions. In addition to the self-propelled models, there are also other mixer options available that are not self-propelled, providing producers with choices that suit their operating scale, labour availability and feeding system design.

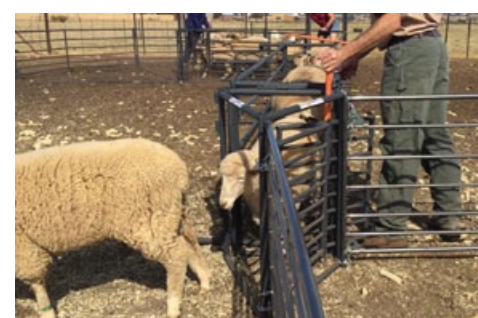
This focus on practical choice reflects a strong characteristic of Algar's overall business model: supplying equipment that fits real farm needs, rather than forcing farmers into one approach. When producers have the correct system for their specific operation, outcomes improve. Better ration consistency supports better feed conversion efficiency, reduced wastage and improved animal condition – particularly valuable when feed input costs are under pressure.

One of the strongest indicators of Algar's excellence is the company's commitment to on-farm results. Quality livestock equipment is not only measured in the workshop; it is measured in the way it performs when animals are difficult, conditions are harsh, and time is limited. Algar's continued growth is driven by a combination of strong product performance, a clear understanding of livestock production systems and a service mindset that values reliability and support.

Equally important is the passion behind the brand. Algar is not simply supplying gates, clamps and mixers – the company is contributing to better livestock production through improved management systems. That drive shows in the way the business engages farmers, supports installations, and continues to refine its offering based on real producer requirements. Many farmers value long-term relationships with suppliers who understand that time lost in the kraal is money lost in production. By focusing on practical solutions and dependable delivery, Algar builds trust in the areas that matter most.

In a sector where confidence, efficiency and durability are vital, Algar Ind CC (Algar Livestock Handling) stands out as a brand that aligns equipment design with livestock performance outcomes. From safer animal handling and improved labour efficiency to feeding systems that support consistent nutrition, Algar delivers more than products – it delivers operational improvement.

For producers who measure success through calmer handling, stronger animal performance and systems that work season after season, Algar Ind CC remains a valuable partner in building profitable, well-managed livestock farms.





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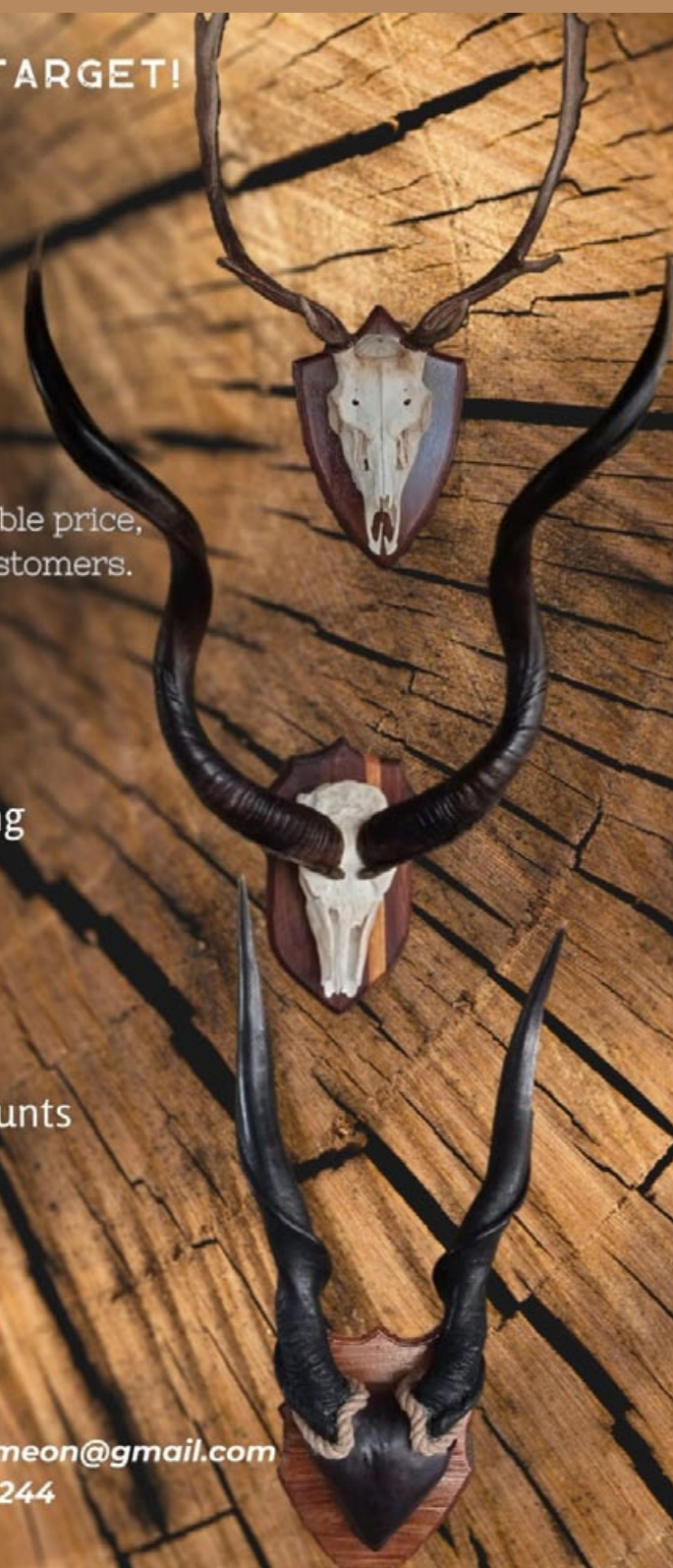
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DONDERDAG, 29 JANUARIE 2026

RAMVEILING | TYD: 11H30

PLAAS MERINO, SWAERSHOEK, CRADOCK

GPS: 32°19'32.6"S 25°30'14.1"E



NAVRAE:

LEN DU RANDT	083 468 7112
HARDIE VAN DEN HEEVER (BKB)	066 056 8761
CHARL VAN DER MERWE (BKB)	082 374 3192
CHARL NEL (BKB)	083 386 9665
JEREMY PEARSON (AFSLAER)	083 554 4600



Onder beskerming van Merino SA

AANBOD:

60

MERINO RAMME

BKB

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KINKO DORMERS

produksieveiling

**DONDERDAG,
29 JANUARIE 2026**

| 11H00 | KINKO, SWELLENDAM

SWELLENDAM - GPS: S 34° 7.14 E 20° 33.41

ROETE: N2, 10km Oos van Swellendam.

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GIELIE LIEBENBERG (BEMARKER, SWELLENDAM) 082 771 6552

KOBUS LOUW (SKAAP- EN WOL ADVISEUR) 082 576 1699

LEN BORNMAN (AFSLAER) 082 551 6839



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van die
Dormer Genootskap

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(Superior Farm Water Security)

The Farm Water Specialists You Can Trust

Damlinings: The Farm Water Specialists You Can Trust

In modern agriculture, water is not only a resource – it is the backbone of productivity. From livestock operations and irrigation systems to vegetable production and mixed farming enterprises, the ability to store water safely and reliably can mean the difference between surviving a dry season or suffering major financial loss. This is where Damlinings has built a strong reputation as a specialist provider of dam lining solutions that deliver long-term value to farmers.

Damlinings is a trusted, family-driven company offering a wide range of dam lining products and services designed for real South African farm conditions. Their solutions include HDPE dam linings, PVC dam liners, cement dam liners, zinc dam liners, and ground dam applications – making them a truly versatile partner for farms of every size. Whether the requirement is a small koi pond, a standing cement dam, a large irrigation reservoir, or a full farm dam for livestock water supply, Damlinings has the product knowledge and practical experience to deliver the correct solution.

What makes Damlinings stand out is not only the variety of services offered, but the emphasis on quality installation and client satisfaction. Their team understands that dam lining is not a “quick job” – it is an investment. Every seam, weld, and finishing detail affects the durability of the dam lining and the farmer’s peace of mind. Damlinings commits to finishing each project properly, ensuring that the end result meets the high standards expected in professional agricultural infrastructure.

Farm water losses are often underestimated. Many farmers face slow leaks that reduce storage levels over weeks or months, especially during high-demand seasons. This impacts irrigation schedules, livestock water security, and even emergency water availability



during heat waves or extended drought periods. In a country where rainfall patterns are increasingly unpredictable, sealing dams is no longer a luxury – it is a practical and urgent necessity.

Damlinings offers both professional installations and DIY kit options, giving farmers flexibility based on budget, timelines, and farm management preferences. Their DIY kits are designed to simplify the process while still providing high-quality materials that help farmers protect water storage quickly and effectively. In addition, their nationwide delivery and service capacity mean farmers are supported even in remote agricultural areas.

The company’s strong leadership and hands-on approach also contribute to their success. Andre Meyer is directly involved with quotations and marketing, while their installation teams are run with dedicated effort and accountability. This family-business structure ensures that clients are treated as more than just job numbers – each customer receives attention, guidance, and solutions tailored to their needs.

Ultimately, Damlinings delivers something every farmer values: reliability. Their work protects water, reduces long-term costs, improves farm efficiency, and helps secure a stable future for agricultural production. With proven experience, quality products, and service that reaches across South Africa and beyond, Damlinings remains a trusted name in dam lining solutions for farms that demand the best.

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30 OOIE (DORPER, WITDORPER, VAN ROOY, MEATMASTER)

200 KOMMERSIËLE OOIE

8 BULLE (ANGUS, BONSMARA & SENEPOL)

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NAVRAE

AFSLAER: KOOS COETZEE - 079 945 4355

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Swartkoppies Jagersfontein

Produksieveiling om 11:00,

Ramveiling om 14H00

GPS coordinate: S 29°56,969 E 25° 29,640

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- 750 dragtig en oop ooie
- 500 slyt en ou ooie
- 3000 hammellammers (5 maande wol)
- 1000 vet slag lammers



5000 SKAAP

HOË KWALITEIT WOL | HOË VRUGBAARHEID | MOEDERSEIENSKAPPE



Piet Louw 082 551 8243 | Jannie Alexander 076 681 6168

Dennis Louw 082 717 4521 | Mario Kruger 060 522 3906

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AANBOD :
50 MERINO RAMME



NAVRAE:

JOHANN SAUER 071 525 80 18
JAN VAN DER WALT (BKB) 082 376 6178
ANDRE BOTHA (BKB) 072 272 7309
ANDRE GREYVENSTEIN (BKB) 082 310 8701
AFSLAER: JP MARAIS (BKB) 060 551 6537

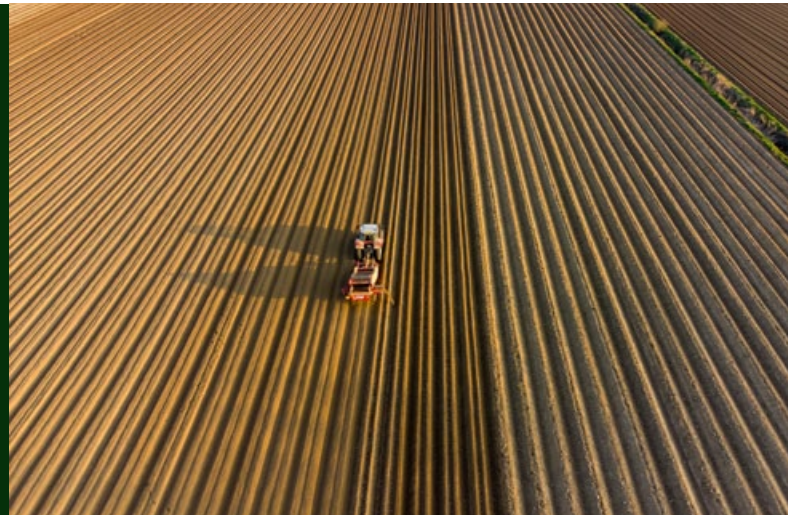


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Best Planting Times for Key Summer Field Crops in South Africa (2023–end 2025 guidance)

South Africa’s summer grain and oilseed producers operate across a wide range of climates, rainfall patterns, heat units, and soil types. Because of this, planting time remains one of the most important profit drivers: it determines how well a crop matches rainfall distribution, temperature, daylength, and its ability to finish grain fill before late-season stress.



Across the main summer rainfall regions, most summer crops are planted from October to December, but the optimal window differs depending on province, altitude, heat, and expected rainfall onset. Grain SA and ARC guidance consistently points to October–November as the prime planting period for many summer crops, with “late plantings” possible but often associated with higher risk (heat stress, shorter grain fill, and reduced yield potential).

Planting times + best-suited provinces (practical guide)

Note: Dates below are typical optimum windows in South Africa’s summer rainfall regions. Final decisions

must always follow soil moisture, soil temperature, and local rainfall onset.

Crop-by-crop explanation (what farmers should focus on)

1) Maize (*Zea mays*)

Maize remains South Africa’s cornerstone grain crop and is extremely sensitive to planting date because it determines whether flowering and grain fill happen during the most favourable moisture and temperature period.

In South Africa’s major maize regions, the optimal maize planting date is often late October to mid-

Summary table: planting windows & provincial fit

Crop	Best planting time (South Africa)	Best provinces / regions (practical fit)	Notes that affect timing
Maize	Late Oct – mid Dec (main window)	Free State, North West, Mpumalanga (major dryland production areas)	Planting depends strongly on onset of rains; later planting increases risk of finishing under heat/dry stress.
Soybeans	Mid Oct – Nov (optimum); warm areas can plant into Dec	Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, also parts of North West (where moisture allows)	Soybean is very sensitive to daylength and cultivar maturity choice.
Groundnuts (short season)	Mid Oct – mid Nov (normal SA window)	North West, western Free State, Northern Cape (main production belt)	Needs warm soil; avoid planting before adequate moisture is received.
Groundnuts (long season)	Mid Oct – mid Nov, with priority on early planting where frost risk exists	Same as above; long season needs longest frost-free window	Requires ~150 frost-free days and warm conditions.
Sorghum (white/red types)	Generally Nov – Dec (best when soil is warm and moisture is reliable)	Free State (leading), Mpumalanga, Limpopo	Planting date influences yield strongly in SA sorghum systems.

December, specifically highlighted for Mpumalanga, Free State and North West.

While planting can sometimes extend later where rains allow, the production risk rises rapidly when late plantings face shortened seasons, heat, or late-season moisture stress.

2025 national production (maize): South Africa's final 2025 maize harvest was estimated at 16.44 million tons, up from 12.85 million tons the prior season.

2) Soybeans (Glycine max)

Soybeans have become a strategic oilseed crop in South Africa due to growing local processing demand. However, soybeans are highly planting-date sensitive due to strong daylength effects.

Grain SA notes the ideal planting date is from early October to early November in many regions.

ARC's cultivar recommendations further confirm that the optimum planting date is mid-October to November, while warmer areas can plant until December (with correct cultivar and agronomic adjustments).

Grain SA's farmer guidelines also segment soybeans into cooler/moderate/warm regions with optimum ranges from late October through mid-December, depending on climate zone.

2024/25 national production (soybeans): estimated at about 2.33 million tonnes.

2025 soybean estimate: reported around 2.75 million tons (CEC estimate referenced in industry commentary).

3) Groundnuts (Arachis hypogaea) – short & long season types

Groundnuts are a high-value crop in the correct production zones, but they demand warm soil and stable moisture at establishment.

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Yield Targets for 2025



Crop	Environmental potential		
	Low	Medium	High
Maize	3 t/ha	6 t/ha	10 t/ha
Soybeans	1.5 t/ha	2.8 t/ha	4.0 t/ha
Groundnuts (short season, unshelled)	1.0 t/ha	2.0 t/ha	3.0 t/ha
Groundnuts (long season, unshelled)	2.0 t/ha	3.5 t/ha	5.0 t/ha
Sorghum (White)	0.7 t/ha	2.0 t/ha	4.0 t/ha
Sorghum (Red)	2.0 t/ha	4.0 t/ha	6.0 t/ha

NB: Benchmark your yields each year against the **best farmers in your area.**

ARC guidance states that the normal planting time for groundnuts in South Africa is mid-October to mid-November, while rainfall remains a key deciding factor.

Grain SA further warns against planting too early into dry conditions and emphasises moisture availability for germination and establishment.

Groundnuts also require a long warm period, with Grain SA noting at least 150 frost-free days, and strong temperature requirements for germination and pod development.

Best provinces: Production is mainly in the western and north-western Free State, North West, and Northern Cape, with smaller production in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KZN.

2024/25–2025 groundnut production estimate: industry reporting places the groundnut harvest at 61,389 tonnes.

4) Sorghum (Sorghum bicolor) – white & red

Sorghum is often the smarter "risk-management" crop in hotter and drier areas because it can tolerate stress better than maize, but planting timing is still critical for achieving stable yields.

A 2024 peer-reviewed South African study confirms planting date has measurable yield effects in sorghum under different SA environments.

Provincially, Free State is repeatedly referenced as the leading sorghum producer, followed by Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

Sorghum production (2024/25): estimated at 98,000 tons.

Later projections for 2025/26 point higher, but the crop remains small compared to maize.

Final practical takeaways (2025-ready)

1. Planting time is not a calendar date – it's a system decision. Always confirm soil moisture + temperature before planting.
2. Match cultivar and maturity class to your planting window (especially soybeans).
3. Benchmark your yields annually and learn from top producers' agronomy and timing (variety choice, soil health, planting depth, and weed control). (This is also reflected in the yield-target guidance shown in your reference material.)

Article: BOERhier

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Navrae: Willem Botha (Vleissentraal) 0728684087
Christo Meyer 083 459 3936 | Johan Joubert 0825746262
Christopher Havenga 082 821 1527 | Afslaer: Hennie Goosen

Logistics and Infrastructure Inefficiencies in Agriculture: A Barrier to Market Access

Logistics and infrastructure play a pivotal role in enabling agricultural goods to move efficiently from farms to consumers and export markets. Yet, persistent inefficiencies across road, rail, and port networks — compounded by regulatory delays in the registration of agricultural chemicals and seeds — continue to hinder productivity and competitiveness, particularly for farmers. These challenges not only inflate costs but also jeopardise food security, export revenues, and rural livelihoods.

Road Infrastructure: The First Hurdle

For many farmers, the journey from field to market begins, and often ends, on rural roads — networks that are frequently in poor condition. In South Africa, chronic deterioration in rural road infrastructure has been flagged as a major operational cost driver for agricultural producers. According to the KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union, collapsing roads are increasing transport charges, vehicle maintenance costs, and downtime, directly eroding farmers' competitiveness and profitability. Instances of vehicles rolling on these poor roads also result in lost

LOGISTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE
A BARRIER TO MARKET ACCESS!

CRUMBLING ROADS **FAILING RAIL NETWORKS**

LIMITING FARMERS' ACCESS TO MARKETS!

REGULATORY DELAYS **CONGESTED PORTS**

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perishable goods such as milk and livestock, exacerbating food loss and economic waste.

Nationally, farmers transport an estimated 94% of agricultural commodities by road, yet many routes are plagued by potholes and disrepair, forcing logistics

operators to surcharges and slower delivery speeds. An Agri SA survey highlighted that these poor conditions have led to significant losses — on average, farmers saw a 16% turnover decline due to transporting products on damaged rural roads.

The poor state of roads not only increases direct costs but also creates downstream bottlenecks: delays at checkpoints, seasonal weather damage, and lack of reliable last-mile connectivity all raise barriers to efficient supply chain operations. These inefficiencies disproportionately affect smallholder and emerging farmers who lack the scale to absorb increased freight costs or opt for alternative transport modes.

Rail Networks: Underutilised and Deteriorating

Ideally, rail transport offers a cost-effective and efficient alternative to road freight, especially for bulk agricultural goods. However, rail infrastructure in South Africa and many parts of Africa has faced chronic underinvestment and operational decline. Research shows that only a fraction of agricultural produce – roughly 8% in South Africa – is moved by rail, despite significant cost advantages over road transport.

The collapse of rail reliability forces a greater reliance on road freight, which aggravates road damage and leads to higher overall logistics costs. For sectors such as grain and other bulk commodities, unable to leverage rail effectively, this represents a major competitive disadvantage, particularly when exporting to markets across Africa and beyond. Modern rail networks could redistribute freight loads, reduce congestion, and significantly lower costs for producers, but the absence of coordinated investment and maintenance has left the sector lagging.

Port Congestion: A Bottleneck for Exports

Beyond domestic transport, port inefficiencies pose significant barriers to accessing export markets. South Africa's major ports

– including Durban, Cape Town, and Gqeberha – have repeatedly underperformed relative to global container handling standards, slowing throughput and adding costs to exporters.

For perishable agricultural products, such as citrus, delays at ports are particularly damaging. A study by the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy quantified that inefficiencies in logistics – slow port processing, deteriorating rail and road infrastructure, and unreliable schedules – cost South Africa's citrus industry an estimated R5.27 billion in 2024 alone. This figure includes increased direct costs, lost revenue due to delayed shipments and lower prices, and waste from spoilage.

Port congestion also means that cold storage facilities near harbours struggle to cope with backlogs, compounding quality problems. Temperature fluctuations during extended waits reduce the shelf life of fruit, leading to rejections in international markets – a reputational and economic loss for growers and exporters.

Regulatory Delays in Agricultural Inputs: A Hidden Obstacle

Infrastructure challenges are not limited to physical networks. Regulatory bottlenecks – particularly in the registration of agricultural chemicals, fertilisers, animal health products, and seeds – have become a major concern for farmers and industry groups. The Southern African Agri Initiative (SAAI) has raised the alarm that registration applications for critical agricultural inputs can languish for up to six years, effectively locking farmers and suppliers out of accessing modern technologies and essential products.

These delays stem from legacy regulatory systems that have

historically relied on paper-based processes, insufficient staffing, and outdated case management approaches. The result is not only a slow introduction of new crop protection products and seed technologies but also a deterrent for innovation and investment in the agricultural sector.

The Department of Agriculture has responded by modernising aspects of the system, including launching online registration platforms intended to streamline applications and improve transparency. While these are positive developments, stakeholders caution that entrenched backlogs and capacity constraints still impede timely approvals for new products, affecting farmers' ability to respond to pests, diseases, and climatic stresses.

A Multifaceted Challenge Requiring Coordinated Action

Addressing logistics and infrastructure inefficiencies in agriculture requires a holistic strategy. Physical upgrades to road and rail networks, coupled with port modernisation and enhanced cold chain capabilities, are critical to reducing transport costs and ensuring produce arrives at markets in optimal condition. Regulatory reform – including digital platforms, streamlined procedures, and sufficient technical staffing – could accelerate access to essential inputs like seeds and chemicals, empowering farmers to boost productivity and adapt to emerging threats.

Without coordinated investment and policy reform, inefficiencies in transport and regulatory systems will continue to constrain agricultural competitiveness, limiting market access and economic growth for farmers and rural communities alike.

Article: BOERhier

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Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South Africa: *Rising Concern* as Animals Show Fewer Classic Symptoms

In recent years, South Africa's agricultural sector has grappled with one of the most persistent and economically damaging animal health threats — Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). Traditionally characterised by dramatic clinical signs such as blisters in the mouth and on hooves, excessive salivation, fever and lameness, the disease is now posing new challenges as infected animals increasingly present with subtle or even no obvious symptoms. This shift complicates surveillance, containment and control efforts, raising concern among veterinarians, farmers and policymakers nationwide.

A Growing and Widespread Outbreak

Foot-and-Mouth Disease remains active in multiple South African provinces, affecting cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. As of late 2025, authorities reported active outbreaks in at least seven provinces — including KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West, Free State, Limpopo and the Western Cape — with KwaZulu-Natal serving as the epicentre of continued viral circulation. KwaZulu-Natal alone

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
in Cattle & Buffaloes

Highly Contagious Viral Disease – Early Detection Saves Livestock

⚠ Excessive Drooling, Lameness, Mouth & Hoof Lesions = Emergency!

Excessive Drooling
Mouth Blisters & Sores
Severe Lameness & Limping
Hoof Lesions
Fever & Loss of Appetite

What Causes Foot and Mouth Disease?

- Highly Contagious Virus**
- Contaminated Facilities**
Sneering marshu& infected hood.
- Direct & Indirect Contact**
Animal, inimals, feed, water, equipment
- Movement of Animals & Vehicles**
Lack ettractt
Unvacciliete over ravvies

Prevent!

- Annual Vaccination**
- Quarantine New Livestock**
- Disinfect Housing & Equipment**

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has seen hundreds of confirmed outbreaks, many still unresolved, while other provinces have also reported new cases spreading from initial infection zones. (Government of South Africa¹)

Initially centred around communal dipping facilities and small-scale farms, FMD has now extended into commercial beef and dairy herds, as well as larger feedlot operations such as the country's largest cattle



feedlot near Heidelberg, where infection was confirmed earlier in 2025. (TimesLIVE²)

The Classic Picture of FMD – and What's Changing

Traditionally, veterinarians rely on the appearance of hallmark clinical signs to detect potential FMD cases quickly. These include:

- Fever and reluctance to eat
- Excessive salivation
- Vesicles (blisters) on the mouth, tongue, hooves and teats
- Lameness
- Reduced milk production

These telltale symptoms have long been vital for early detection and rapid response.

However, recent field observations and official reports indicate an unsettling trend: an increasing number of infected animals are displaying either very mild symptoms or none at all, despite testing positive for FMD antibodies or viral RNA. This atypical presentation has been documented during outbreak investigations in Mpumalanga and other regions, where animals that tested positive in laboratory assays showed no visible clinical signs of disease. (TimesLIVE³)

According to Dr Botlhe Modisane – Chief Director of Animal Health and Production – this changing clinical picture “complicates clinical diagnoses and early warning of the presence of the disease at farm level.” In some trace investigations, herds with confirmed infection lacked the classical lesions typically associated with FMD, rendering visual detection

unreliable without laboratory support. (TimesLIVE³)

Why Asymptomatic or Mild Cases Matter

The shift toward subtle or absent symptoms has serious implications for animal health management:

1. Delayed Detection and Increased Spread

Farmers and animal health workers often depend on observable signs to trigger notification and testing of suspect cases. Infections that go unnoticed allow the virus to circulate undetected within and between herds, enhancing risk of broader geographic spread.

2. Challenges for Surveillance Systems

National and provincial surveillance systems may miss infected sites if clinical signs are absent. Infected animals that appear healthy can continue to be moved between farms, auction facilities and markets, potentially seeding new outbreaks.

3. Strain and Immune Response Dynamics

It remains an open question whether certain strains of the FMD virus – particularly the SAT (Southern African Territories) serotypes endemic to the region – may be evolving or interacting differently with vaccine-primed immunity in livestock, among other factors. Regardless of cause, atypical presentations undermine traditional clinical screening.

4. Economic Consequences

Undetected spread amplifies the already severe economic impacts of FMD. These include loss of export markets (for example, China's suspension of South African beef imports cited because of ongoing outbreaks), movement restrictions, compulsory quarantine

measures and the costs of testing and control efforts. (TimesLIVE²)

Combatting the Invisible Threat

Authorities and industry groups are responding with a combination of measures aimed at managing and containing this evolving threat:

Enhanced Biosecurity and Movement Controls:

Livestock movement restrictions remain a cornerstone of the FMD control strategy. Animals must be accompanied by health declarations and quarantined for at least 28 days before joining resident herds, even if they appear healthy – a legal requirement that underscores the importance of vigilance during the incubation period when clinical signs may not yet manifest. (Government of South Africa⁴)

Surveillance and Laboratory Testing:

Greater reliance on serological and virological testing – instead of clinical observation alone – is essential to identify hidden infections. Laboratories at national reference centres play a key role in confirming cases and tracking viral strains.

Task Team and Industry Coordination:

The government has established an Industry-Government Task Team to strengthen coordination of prevention, management and control interventions. This collaborative approach aims to unify efforts across stakeholders, from national government to individual farmers. (SAnews⁵)

Education and Awareness:

Authorities continue to urge farmers and animal handlers to report any suspicious signs, adhere to quarantine protocols, and improve on-farm biosecurity practices – from disinfecting equipment to controlling access to pastures and premises.

Conclusion

Foot-and-Mouth Disease continues to cast a long shadow over South Africa's livestock industry. The recent trend of milder or absent clinical signs in some infected animals adds complexity to an already difficult battle against a highly contagious and economically damaging disease. To safeguard animal health, protect market access and sustain rural livelihoods, a multifaceted strategy that goes beyond visual diagnosis – incorporating rigorous testing, strict movement controls and enhanced industry cooperation – is essential.

As the situation evolves, South Africa's experience underscores a broader lesson for global animal health: virulent pathogens may not always broadcast their presence in expected ways, making adaptability and scientific vigilance indispensable in the fight against transboundary animal diseases.

Sources

- South African Government media statements on FMD outbreaks and updates (March–December 2025) (Government of South Africa⁶)

- Reporting on outbreaks in KwaZulu-Natal and national response (Anadolu Ajansı⁷)
- TimesLIVE reporting on feedlot cases and control advice (TimesLIVE²)
- TimesLIVE and agriculture department analysis on atypical symptom presentation (TimesLIVE³)
- Farmers Magazine overview of outbreak spread across provinces (Farmers Magazine South Africa⁸)

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See Link: <https://www.facebook.com/100063905117737/posts/>

Article: BOERhier

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DIE BEKER TEEN BLOUWBLUIS*

† Macrocyclic lactone

Registration holder: Kyron Animal Health (Pty) Ltd. Co. Reg. No. 2004/021847/07, Unit 45C, 45 Parkview Street, Highway Business Park, Rooihuiskraal Ext. 31, Centurion, 0157, South Africa. Product Name: Ivermax Platinum LA. Registration Number: G3832 Act 36/1947 (South Africa). Composition: Ivermectin 3.15 % w/v. Export countries: Botswana – BV2190245/A[VPS]; Namibia – V13/18.1.2/1186[NSO].

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TLU SA TRAUMAFONDS

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



Staan TLU SA by deur
'n bydrae te lewer.

Ons bied (soos moontlik):

Berading ná trauma

Hulp ná plaasaanvalle

Droogtehulp en
voedselondersteuning

Opleiding en opheffing

Noodleniging vir gesinne
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Product Name: Attila Registration Number: G4197 Act 36/1947 (South Africa). Composition: Fipronil 0,9% m/v, Abamectin 0,5% m/v. Registration holder: Kyrone Animal Health (Pty) Ltd, Co. Reg. Nr. 2004/021847/07, Unit 45C, 45 Parkview Street, Highway Business Park, Rooihuiskraal Ext. 31, Centurion, 0157, South Africa. Export countries: Botswana - BV2200603/A/B[VPS]; Namibia - V19/18.2/1442 [NSO]

KAY/PM122/2024/2



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Veiling*



19 SEPTEMBER 2026

AFRIDOME - PARYS, VRYSTAAT

Did you know?



**WORLD
OF PORK**

Pork Market update
29 Dec 2025 – 4 Jan 2026



Pork market update

Week 1
29 Dec 2025 - 4 Jan 2026

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGE



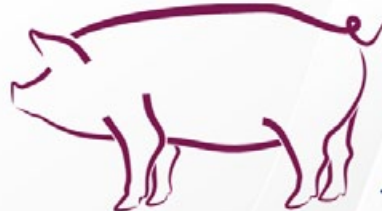
- 2,6%
- R93,22/t

YELLOW MAIZE PRICE *

R3 432 per tonne

*** JSE EDM SPOT PRICE:**

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



+ 1,1%
+ R0,43/kg

PRODUCER PRICE #

R40,96 per kg

#ABATTOIR PURCHASE PRICE (EXCL. SOWS)

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



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Increased producer prices and decreased yellow maize prices during week 1

During week 1 of 2026, the pork producer price averaged R40,96/kg, 1,1% higher than the previous week. The yellow maize price averaged R3 432/t, 2,6% lower than the previous week. Producer prices in relation to yellow maize prices averaged 11,9, 3,8% higher than the previous week.

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Auction results



2026

“Save the Dates”

NASIONALE VEILINGS

13
FEB

~~BORAN VERSE EXTRA VEILING IN ZNA~~
Silverlodge Country Hotel, Pretoria

GEKANSELLEER

7
MRT

INHEEMSE VELDBOKKE
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

14
MRT

DORPER
Warmbad Veemark, Bela-Bela

17
MRT

~~BONSMARA~~
Stonelodge, Parys

GEKANSELLEER

16
APR

BRANGUS ELITE VERSVEILING
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

30
APR

CHAROLAIS
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

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 VLEISMERINO
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

11
AUG

SA VLEISMERINO
Frankfort Gholfklub, Frankfort

12
AUG

BRANGUS
Afridome, Parys

13
AUG

SUSSEX
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

12-13
AUG

MEATMASTER
Bloemskougronde, 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
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

15
OKT

BOERBOK
Bloemskougronde, Bloemfontein

4-5
NOV

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Auction results

LIVESTOCK INTERNET AUCTION RESULTS

12 JANUARY 2026



ITEM	SOLD	AVERAGE	HIGHEST
STORLAM	7 174	R53.64 PER KG	R55.19 PER KG
SLAUGHTER LAMB	1 262	R51.30 PER KG	R52.20 PER KG
EWE	200	R34 PER KG	R34 PER KG
WEANER CALF	332	R44.27 PER KG	R46 PER KG



TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

AUCTIONEER ANDRE VAN ZYL 084 587 7660
CLOSER ANDRE VAN ZYL 084 587 7660

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In 2012, French beekeepers found blue and green honey caused by bees snacking on M&Ms from a nearby factory.



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RECIPE

Blackberry Jalapeño Cream Cheese Chicken Bakes



“Ingredients:

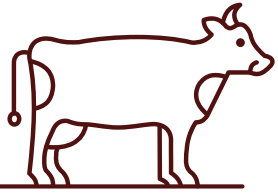
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 cup blackberry preserves
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and diced
- 4 oz cream cheese, softened
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C) and grease a baking dish.
2. In a small bowl, mix together blackberry preserves, diced jalapeño, and cream cheese.
3. Season chicken breasts with salt and pepper, then place in the baking dish.
4. Spread blackberry mixture over the top of each chicken breast.
5. Bake for 25 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
6. Serve hot and enjoy the sweet and spicy flavors!

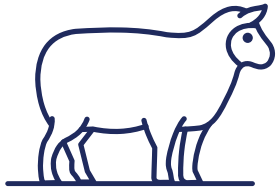
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What's happening in Markets



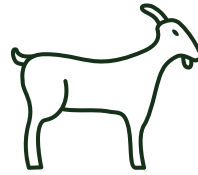
BEEF

A2/3 =	R 67.00
B2/3 =	R 61.25
C2/3 =	R 59.50
Weaners =	R 40.90



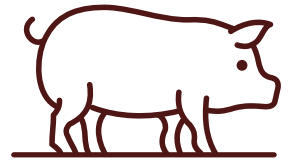
SHEEP

A2/3 =	R 108.33
B2/3 =	R 83.25
C2/3 =	R 79.25
Feeder Lamb =	R 51.31



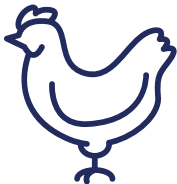
GOATS

Ewes =	R 55.16
Kids <30kg =	R 65.70
Kids 30-40kg =	R 58.20
Kids > 40kg =	R 47.38



PIGS

Porkers =	R 41.63
Baconers =	R 40.67



CHICKEN

Frozen =	R 35.96
Fresh =	R 40.87
IQF =	R 35.32



SAFEX

Mielies =	R 3570 /t
Sojabone =	R 6550 /t
Sonneblom =	R 11880 /t
Koring =	R 5825 /t



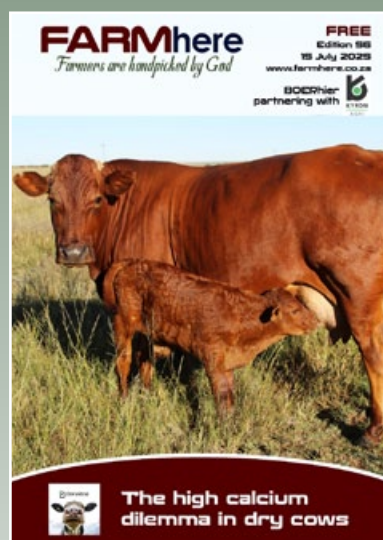
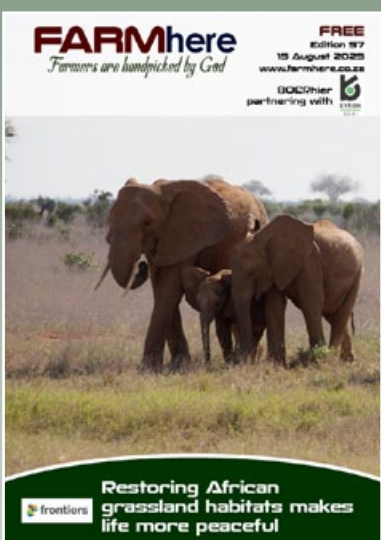
EXCHANGE RATE

R / \$ =	R 16.40
R / £ =	R 22.06
R / € =	R 19.06

As at 14 January 2025

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Prayer for South African Farmers (Ephesians 4:32 – NLT)

1. **Thanksgiving for God's Faithfulness:** Heavenly Father, We thank You for Your goodness over every farmer in South Africa. Thank You for the gift of land, livestock, seed, rain, sunshine, and the strength to keep going even when days feel uncertain. You are our Provider and our Sustainer. We acknowledge that every harvest, every healthy animal, and every open door comes from Your hand.
2. **A Heart of Kindness on the Farm:** Lord, Your Word says, "Be kind to each other" (Ephesians 4:32, NLT). Teach us to lead with kindness—toward workers, family, neighbours, suppliers, and even those who misunderstand our calling. Help us speak with grace in stressful moments and be a light in our communities. Let our farms be places of respect, dignity, and peace.
3. **Tenderhearted Strength in Difficult Seasons:** Father, make us tenderhearted even when pressures rise. When drought threatens, costs increase, or disease and losses bring pain, soften our hearts so we don't become hard, bitter, or fearful. Give us courage with compassion, and wisdom with humility. Restore hope where discouragement has settled in.
4. **Forgiveness and Unity in the Agricultural Community:** Lord Jesus, help us to forgive one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32, NLT). Where there have been conflicts, betrayal, unforgiveness, or strained relationships, bring healing. Release us from grudges and pride. Unite farmers across regions, languages, and backgrounds, and make us stronger together.
5. **Blessing, Protection, and Provision:** We ask for protection over every farm—over workers, families, equipment, crops, and animals. Bless our water, our soil, and our labour. Let integrity and excellence mark our work. Provide what we need, open new markets, and bring safety and fruitfulness to our land.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Lizelle

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.