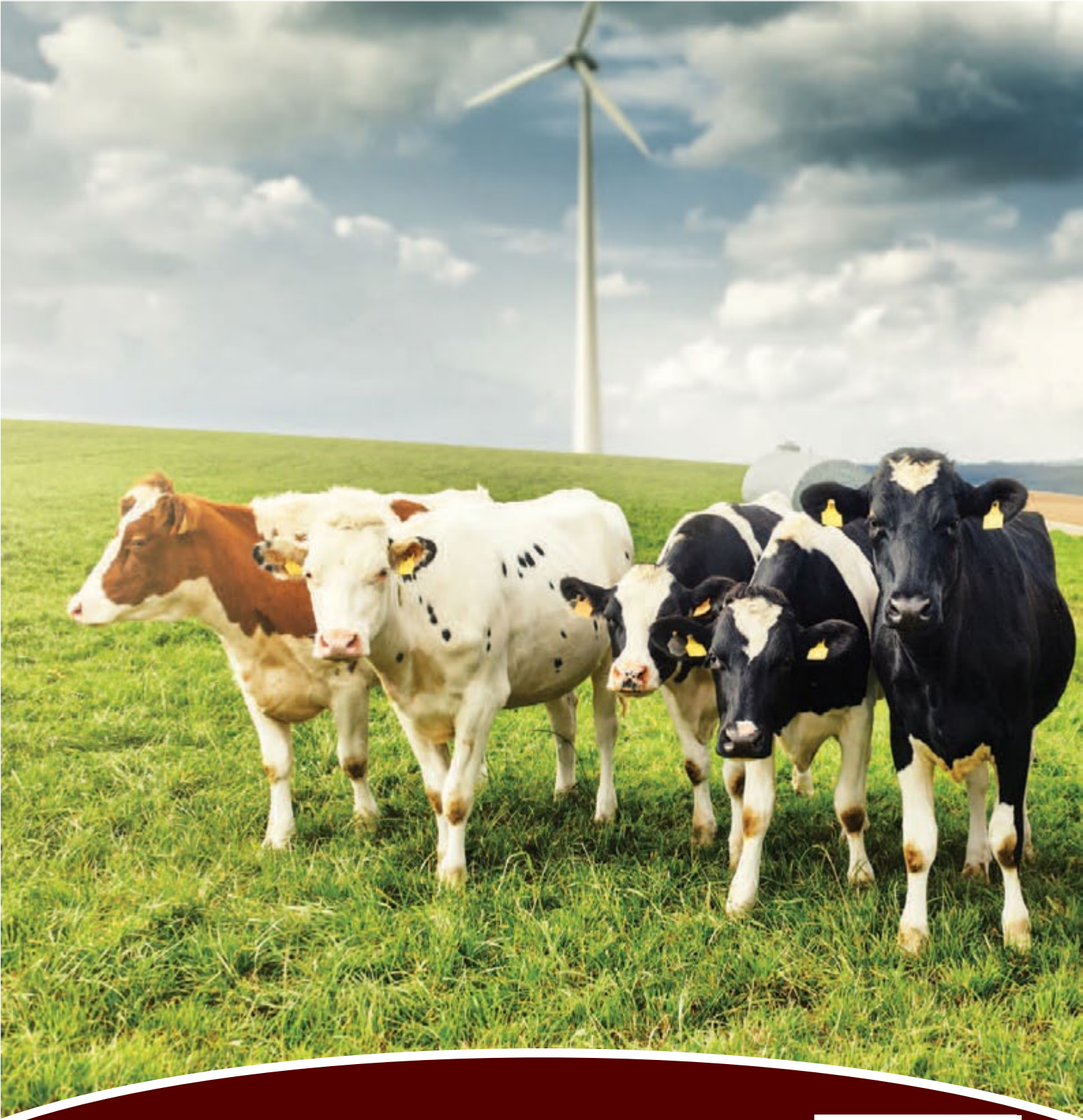


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**Stewardship award  
winner announced**



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# We Are Only Complete In Christ

John 20:31

*'But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.'*

Recognition of our completeness in Christ is a tremendous safeguard against deception. Prior to salvation we are incomplete and constantly strive to satisfy our hunger. But through the new birth, we are complete in Christ and our hunger should only be for more revelation of what we already have in Christ. Total satisfaction with Christ disarms Satan's lies. A big part of all temptation is dissatisfaction.

Adam and Eve would not have eaten of the forbidden fruit if they hadn't been made dissatisfied with what they had. Through Satan's lie they were led to believe that they didn't have it all (Gen. 3:5). The truth is, they did have it all. They were more like God before they ate of the fruit than after they ate the fruit. Their dissatisfaction was a preliminary step to their action of sin.

Satan tempts us in the same way he came against Adam and Eve (2 Cor. 11:3).

Therefore, a full revelation of our completeness in Christ will keep us from chasing after all the things the devil has to offer. If anyone tells you that Christ isn't enough; that you need something more, then that's the devil trying to turn you away from your completeness in Christ.

In the same way that Jesus has the fullness of God in Him, we have the fullness of Christ in us. That makes us complete or perfect in Him – that is our spiritual man. Our born-again spirit is identical in righteousness, authority, and power to Christ's spirit because our born-again spirit is the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9) which has been sent into our hearts crying 'Abba Father' (Gal. 4:6).

Source: <https://www.awmi.net/reading/daily-devotional/?mn=12&dn=24>

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# Stewardship award winner announced at gala event

**The Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) congratulates Dean Biggs of Suiderland Farm in the Tsitsikamma on winning the MPO Nedbank Stewardship Award 2022. The announcement was recently made during a gala dinner at Casa Toscana Lodge in Pretoria.**

This prestigious award recognises dairy farmers who are outstanding stewards of their farming enterprises. Stewardship addresses sustainability in the wider context and stands on the following five pillars:

- Animal health and welfare
- Environmental stewardship
- Social stewardship on the farm and in the community
- Delivering a safe product of good quality
- Farming profitably

Dean Biggs is a 28-year-old, fifth-generation dairy farmer. His family has been farming on Suiderland

Farm in the Tsitsikamma area since 1902. His passion for animals and dairy is not the only driving force motivating him: he has strong family values and aims to always improve the state of everything entrusted to him.

For Dean, stewardship is central to both profitability and productivity at Suiderland Farm. "As a young farmer, I wanted to spend time on the farm to learn, to improve my skills, and to help grow our family business. Suiderland is a dryland farm, so we have always farmed according to sustainable farming and conservation practices," he said.

Dean and his team currently milks 1 200 cows and also runs a successful calf-rearing programme. One of his strategies is to research the selection of suitable grass species to grow cultivars that match Suiderland's environment and climate. This enables him to fully utilise what nature has to offer.

The judges commented: "What stood out was Dean's enthusiasm and drive to improve, the dedicated application of the 'Trace-and-Save' system, the feed platform, the even size of the herd, which to some extent shows his effective application of objectives in crossbreeding, low debt-to-asset ratio, and comparatively high productivity under dryland conditions."



Fanie Ferreira, Dean Biggs and John Hudson.



John Hudson from Nedbank.

The MPO Nedbank Stewardship Award, supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature, has been sponsored by Nedbank for the past four years. According to John Hudson, Nedbank's national head of agriculture, it underpins much of what Nedbank stands for. "Strategically, we aim not only to be good with money but, more importantly, to do good with it as well. Our sponsorship of these awards, which recognises and rewards those who are adopting and raising

awareness of best practices, is closely aligned with this strategy," he stated.

The competition was stiff, but Biggs is a worthy winner of the R40 000 in prize money. The other two finalists were Garth Hume farming in the Riversdale area and the Webster family from the Weenen district in KwaZulu-Natal. As the second runner-up, Garth Hume won R30 000 and the Webster family R10 000.



Colin Wellbeloved.

Colin Wellbeloved, chairman of the MPO said: "We are proud to have farmers of this calibre. The South African dairy industry is world class, highly organised, competitive, and extremely robust and therefore it's got the ability to adapt to new challenges. Sustainability is one of the main pillars of our organisation. The only way to truly better the industry is to be ahead of the curve."

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# Lucerne – A Practical Guide

Studies have shown that the inclusion of *Lucerne silage* in dairy cow diets can improve forage intake, and increase output of milk protein, with no change in milk fat. The benefits together with lower forage production costs when compared with grass *silage* should help to improve margin/litre of milk produced.

Yet in spite of all of these important attributes, ruminant livestock producers have been reluctant to grow *lucerne silage* and the area in the UK is at present small. The reasons are that in general forage *legumes* are perceived as crops that are currently difficult to grow and hard to conserve. This situation is changing with the availability of suitable, disease-resistant varieties, the arrival of new equipment designed specifically for rapid wilting and access to big balers, the use of appropriate additives for effective fermentation and the production of advisory leaflets such as this one from Cotswold Seeds.

All these factors have helped to renew interest in forage *legumes* and will increase the knowledge and experience of a crop with a future.

## Lucerne – A Premier Forage Legume for home grown PROTEIN

*Lucerne* or *alfalfa* (*Medicago sativa*) is a *legume* that has been cultivated for around 2,000 years. It grows best in areas of high sunshine. There are one million hectares in France and about 12 million hectares in the USA. There is therefore a wealth of research information available on the crop.

*Lucerne* is tolerant of the winter temperatures experienced in England and Wales and has been grown successfully in all the arable cropping regions, but only on the right type of soils. It is a deep rooting crop which can sustain dry matter

production at times of low rainfall. We must expect rising temperatures due to climate change and drought conditions are likely in the future.

## So why grow Lucerne?

There are five main reasons for growing lucerne:

1. Regularity of **yield** – this is **lucerne's** trump card. In a dry summer it will do better than either ryegrasses or forage maize.
2. It gives a very high DM **yield** comparable to that of Italian ryegrass but will persist for four years.
3. It is a high protein crop. According to growth stage the protein content ranges from 15% – 20%.
4. It is an excellent cutting crop and is complementary to forage maize.
5. It is rich in vitamins and minerals, and if cut at the right stage is low in fibre and high in energy.

## Utilisation

In the UK lucerne is best made into **silage** for milk production. It can also be fed green to cattle when other fodder is not available. For hay making it is excellent, given suitable weather conditions. The hay is very popular for horses, and indeed it is often imported from America for this purpose on account of the high quality of the product. Lucerne hay can also be fed to beef or dairy cattle with spectacular results.



A further specialist use is for drying when it is made into high protein meal or pellets. Dried lucerne pellets have a high carotene content, are high in energy and with a protein of up to 20% are a valuable feed for cattle, sheep and young stock. Further benefits from growing lucerne derive from its remarkable tap root system. The roots are known to penetrate to a depth of three metres thus enabling the plant to draw moisture and minerals from a considerable depth. The breakdown of these roots contributes to the fertility of the soil by increasing the humus content, assisting in drainage, and also contributing residual nitrogen. Thus there is a benefit to the following crop. Nitrate leaching is also reduced as the plants take up a large amount of water during growth thus reducing run-off. (ref INRA)

### Establishing Lucerne

The crop requires careful management, but if the guidelines are followed there is nothing difficult about it.

### Field Choice

The choice of field is important. For root nodulation to take place, the pH must be in the region 6.2 – 7.8 and to a reasonable depth (a minimum pH of 6.0 to a depth of 1.5 metres is suggested). Also the field must never become waterlogged as this will kill off the lucerne. The range of suitable soil types is considerable – from clay loam to a light chalk or limestone and it is on the latter that lucerne has been usually grown. Heavier soils should not be ruled out provided that they are deep and permeable with an adequate supply of moisture during the growing season. The crop is very sensitive to poor drainage and compacted soil conditions that restrict root growth, nor will it tolerate acid soils.



### Sowing Time

It is advisable to sow either in spring or summer, when the soil has warmed up. Late autumn sowing is risky as the seedlings (being slow growing at first) do not have time to develop before the onset of winter. For summer sowings it is recommended to sow after an early harvested cereal such as winter barley. The end of July or beginning of August are the latest dates for sowing provided there is sufficient moisture available.

### Under-sowing Spring Cereals

This has been a satisfactory method in the past and is still popular. Priority has to be given to the lucerne with the cereal removed as soon as possible. If the cereal, usually spring barley, is cut as silage at the milky stage this provides a conservation crop in a year of establishment. A low seed rate of about 50% of normal is advised for the cover crop. Drilling without a cover crop into a 'stale' seed bed, well-prepared to a fine tilth, is satisfactory but it is usually necessary to spray out weeds which may become very competitive while the crop is becoming established.

### Direct Sowing

There is cost in terms of loss of production in the first year, when only two cuts will be obtained yielding 20 to 40% of normal, but this is a sure way of establishing a successful ley. It also enables a dressing of farmyard manure or slurry before sowing to reduce the need for seedbed fertilizer, and a "false" seedbed can be used to reduce herbicide requirements. It should be remembered that a pure stand of lucerne can be kept down for many years.

### Protection of the crop

- **During Establishment:** Seedlings emerge within 1 – 2 weeks of sowing. Weeks grow quickly and should be sprayed with 2.4-DB as soon as the Lucerne seedlings reach the stage of having three trifoliolate leaves, this will normally be about 4 – 6 weeks after the sowing date depending on the weather. Slugs can also be a problem. Traps can be set to find out the number present or otherwise some slug pellets can be put down as prevention.
- **Established Lucerne:** A pure stand of Lucerne can be treated with a herbicide such as Carbetamix each winter during the dormant stage of the crop. This will eliminate grass weeds and keep the crop productive.

## Mixtures of Grass & Lucerne

There are several advantages in growing a mixture, but it is necessary to obtain the right balance between the species. The total yield is likely to be higher with a mixture. If silage is the objective, as it is for most growers, the grasses present will make it easier to obtain a good fermentation as they will supply the necessary soluble sugars. The first cut will also be bigger when grasses are present as they start growing in advance of the Lucerne. On organic farms, the advantage of a mixture with grasses is that the extra competition will discourage weeds. If on the other hand the objective is hay then it is better to grow a pure stand. This will enable the field to be kept free of grass weeds by using chemical weed control.

### Which are the best grasses?

In the UK we have favoured meadow fescue and timothy as companions. These are non-competitive grasses. A low seed rate of 3 kgs per acre for meadow fescue or 1 kg per acre for timothy is used. The grass seeds should either be shallow drilled or broadcast after the lucerne has been drilled. Cocksfoot can also be used for its drought resistance.

Trials in France over three years using late cocksfoot have shown that such a mixture can be used for grazing by sheep.

### Bloat

The risk of bloat when cattle are grazed is however very real and we are therefore not able to recommend grazing Lucerne other than at the very end of the growing season. The methods of controlling the bloat have often been troublesome, expensive and only partly effective.

### The Seed

The seed of lucerne is a small – about 1/10th the size of wheat grain. Use a seed rate of 8 kgs per acre to avoid risk of poor establishment. The seed must be treated with a culture just before sowing. The culture consists of a live inoculum of *Rhizobia meliloti*. This is essential to promote effective nodulation on the roots. It is easy to do, inexpensive and should always be used. The depth of sowing for the Lucerne should be 1 – 2 cm and the seedbed must be fine enough to allow good contact between the seed and the soil. If a companion grass is to be sown then this should be cross drilled or broadcast. It is not

recommended to sow the seeds mixed.

### Varietal Choice

There is a huge selection of varieties to choose from. Much of the plant breeding has concentrated on the US and southern European markets. It is however essential to grow a suitable variety for UK conditions, this means one that is winter hardy and resistant to disease, particularly Wilt.

### Fertiliser

- Establishment: When sown under a cover crop use the normal fertiliser programme for the cereal unless P and K levels are low, but do not apply too much N to minimise the risk of lodging. For lucerne sown as a pure stand no nitrogen is necessary unless following a succession of cereal crops when 25 kg N per hectare should be used. P and K requirements are high and rates of application should relate to the soil analysis (see table below).

### Potassium Index K2O

	0	1	2	3
At establishment	120	80	50	Nil
For first cut	150	120	90	30
Each subsequent cut	120	90	60	30

### Phosphate Index P2O5

	0	1	2	3
At establishment	120	80	50	Nil
For first cut	150	120	90	30
Each subsequent cut	120	90	60	30

### Production:

A well established Lucerne crop will not require further nitrogen. The phosphorous and potassium requirements are higher than those for grass and need to be met in order to maintain yields. Soil should be analysed every three years to assess the correct amounts needed. It should be noted that one tonne of Lucerne dry matter removes 29 kg/ha potash and seven kg/ha phosphate.

### Management of the Growing Crop

In the establishment year, avoid severe defoliation at all times. Cut spring sown crops in mid-August to allow adequate recovery before winter. Leave summer sowings unmown till November when mowing should be timed to be just before winter die-back. Undersown crops should be left to grow



into the winter. Crops with a companion grass may be grazed lightly with sheep in the winter.

Recommended rate of Nutrients (kg/ha) for establishment and production per cut:

Established lucerne can be weakened by too frequent defoliation. The crop should be allowed to reach a good bulk before cutting. Harvesting at the first flower bud stage gives the best compromise in terms of yield and quality. The quality falls rapidly as the flowers open. First cut will usually be about mid May and this gives time for three subsequent cuts during the season.

Autumn management is important for plant persistence. The plants must be allowed to build up their root reserves, and this means that the last cut must take place six weeks before the estimated end of the growing period (end of October). After this the crop can be either cut or grazed, but the feeding value may be low. It may be preferable to let it die back during the winter.

### Lucerne Silage

The principles of making lucerne silage are the same as those for other crops such as grass or maize. However lucerne is high in protein and low in soluble carbohydrates which are needed to enable anaerobic bacteria to produce lactic, acetic and propionic acids which preserve the forage as silage, these acids reduce the pH and inhibit further bacterial and enzyme action. The process takes about six weeks.



The most critical time is during the first few hours of storage. Long exposure to air may result in the disappearance of much of the available carbohydrate and results in deterioration of the plant material. Undesirable bacteria (*Clostridium*) can grow under high pH and result in a butyric acid fermentation which makes the forage very unpalatable. Badly fermented lucerne silage is a total disaster and it is therefore essential to use an approved additive as well as allowing the crop to wilt. Care should be taken when handling the wilted material to avoid loss of leaf.

### Moisture content

This should be less than 65% for successful silage making. An evaluation can be made by squeezing or ringing out the moisture in a handful of the forage. There should be no free juice apparent.

### Additives

There are many products on the market – seek advice from your supplier. A typical analysis of well-fermented lucerne silage is dry matter 280g per kg, crude protein 200g per kg, D value 60 and ME 9.7 MJ. Round bales are commonly used as a method of conservation. The wrapping needs to be thick enough to prevent the stems of the lucerne puncturing the plastic. Bales are more adaptable than clamp silage and have significantly improved the potential for lucerne.

### Spray Materials for Lucerne

Dicotyledon weeds: 2,4 – DB (Headland Spruce), Propyzamide (Kerb Flo).

Annual grasses: Propyzamide (Kerb Flo).  
Blackgrass, AMG, Brome, Volunteer cereals

Please check with your supplier for detailed recommendations as these are continually changing.

### Acknowledgements:

Information on Lucerne has been from the following sources:

Forage Legumes Group, ADAS, La Luzerne.  
GNIS, INRA, ITEB.

David B Hannaway, Oregon State University.  
Bruce Whithead B.S.c (Hons) Lucerne Thesis.  
X Charrier INRA, Lusignan

by Robin Hill and Ian Wilkinson of Cotswold Seeds

Source: <https://www.cotswoldseeds.com/articles/87/lucerne-a-practical-guide>

# DAM LEVELS

As at 6 December 2022



November		
	2021	2022
Eastern Cape	54%	75%
Freestate	90%	100%
Gauteng	99%	101%
KwaZulu-Natal	66%	83%
Limpopo	75%	85%
Mpumalanga	77%	93%
North West	71%	79%
Northern Cape	97%	98%
Western Cape	81%	62%

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# Biofertilizers Market

## – Global Industry Analysis, Size, Share, and Forecast 2024

**Amidst the alarming environmental concerns associated with synthetic fertilizers and to enhance crop yield, the emergence of high quality biofertilizers is recognized as a novel step across the agriculture industry.**

The global biofertilizers market is foreseen to grow significantly in the years ahead. With the global population forecast to reach a whopping 9.7 billion by 2050 and food production demand speculated to grow by 60% over the same timeframe, farmers and government entities are re-structuring ways to make arable lands highly profitable.

The global biofertilizers industry, which is anticipated to surpass USD 3 billion by 2024 in value, is currently a significant ground for research and developments, given the product's increasing value and sales.

Different central governments have, over the past few decades, encouraged policies luring farmers into the short-sighted cultivation processes that involved use of increased amounts of synthetic chemicals to improve the yield. And it did pay well in the short-run but declined the quantity and quality of the yield over the years, leaving a notable portion of lands infertile.

This has raised concerns amongst agriculturists and farmers, prompting them to shift to organic ways of producing yields.

From a luxury to now being perceived as green and clean food, 'organic' has evidently become a buzzword in today's agriculture industry. Stakeholders are adopting several strategies to make sustainable and organic agriculture

mainstream; one of the key ones being the use of biofertilizers, to deliver optimum nutrients to soil and augment the soil potency.

Groundnut farmers in Ghana, for instance, have been advised to make use of the rhizobium biofertilizer created by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (CSIR-SARI), to enhance their crop productivity and ensure food security in the region.

### **Novel innovations that have transformed the biofertilizer market landscape**

#### **1. Biofertilizer extraction from waste human hair**

It would not be surprising to note that human hair is considered as a waste material in most parts of the world. In 2020, human hair waste was the 372nd most traded product worldwide with a total trade worth over USD 150 million. In this regard, researchers are now channelizing ways to obtain biological fertilizers from the human hair waste.

In 2020, Scientists from Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute developed an integrated process through which they have been able to extract biofertilizer from waste human hair. The scientists were able to extract 300 milliliters



of ionic liquid, along with 360 grams and 200 grams of keratin and melanin respectively.

## 2. **Algae biofertilizer use can augment plant performance by 10%**

In 2021, Dimiagro announced development of a bioactive extracted from cyanophyta algae. The product developed is known to increase the rooting and growth performance of corn and soybean plants by up to 90%. It contains bioactive component which sends a chemical signal to accentuate the physiological processes in vegetables, leading to increased productivity and vitality.

Many farmers around the globe, due to lack of awareness and shortcomings of dry biofertilizers, are skeptical in adopting the use of agriculturally essential microorganisms. To overcome this challenge, studies are emphasizing on the development and commercialization of liquid biofertilizers which are not only more effective than dry fertilizers in terms of application, but also offer umpteen advantages, such as:

- Potential to enhance health and productivity by reducing use of agro chemicals
- Higher shelf life
- Boast of increased tolerance to adverse temperatures and UV radiations
- Easy handling and reduced storage space
- Enhanced soil structure and water holding capacity
- Cost efficiency

Driven by the superior merits, companies are now foraying into the liquid biofertilizers business space, marking a trend that warrants the industry growth. Amul Dairy in India, for example, inked an MoU with Anand Agricultural University for liquid biofertilizer technology to limit the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture. The pact not only seeks to promote the market and business of reliable, low-cost liquid biofertilizer manufacturing, but also

change farmers' perception about using synthetic fertilizers excessively.

## **Sustainable agricultural practices in Africa to open doors for biofertilizer adoption**

The food supply and demand gap in Africa is widening, with factors like Russia-Ukraine war and COVID-19 being two of the prime contributors. World Vision report quotes that 1/3rd of Africa's population was undernourished as of 2020. According to the United Nations, about 50 million people in Eastern Africa are likely to face acute food insecurity by 2022.

To this end, sustainable agricultural initiatives have come as a rescue plan for agriculturists and farmers looking out for better alternatives to increase the soil fertility and crop productivity. Recently, Actionaid Ghana, in its efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change on food production and ensuring food security in the region, announced open collaboration with the University of Energy and Natural Resources. The organization discussed on means of ensuring sustainable agriculture and food security via agroecology where farmers use sustainable interventions for promoting resilient agriculture. These cues would stimulate the sales of biofertilizers in the region, leading to potential market expansion.

## **What is next for the biofertilizers industry?**

Biofertilizers have come a long way from being observed as an alternative to chemical fertilizers to their current stint as nutritional aids for plants, that can mobilize vital growth elements and boost soil health. While biofertilizers are becoming increasingly popular, they still are in the emerging stages of adoption across the emerging economies. Most of the current biofertilizers extensively available in the market are nitrogen-fixing; the demand for phosphate-solubilizing fertilizers is penetrating. The use of biofertilizers in fruits and vegetable applications can be expected to grow exponentially in the forthcoming years subject to the growing consumption of organic fruits and vegetables in developed countries.

Source: <https://www.farmingportal.co.za/index.php/farming-news/international-news/8531-biofertilizers-market-global-industry-analysis-size-share-and-forecast-2024>



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# New arrivals – Inspect and assess breeding stock



## Proper selection

High health DanBred breeding stock represent the future of the herd- proper selection and management upon arrival will help form the basis for best possible production and lifetime performance.

### Inspection and assessment of breeding stock upon arrival

High health DanBred breeding stock are well known for world class performance- delivering large and robust litters with an extraordinary genetic potential for growth. New breeding animals represent the future of the herd which is why proper selection and management upon arrival is the initial step for achieving the best possible production and lifetime performance.

### Laying the foundation for successful introduction

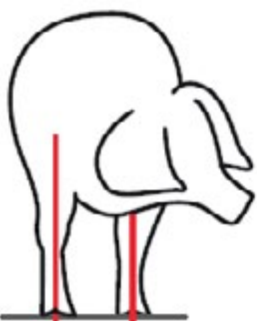
DanBred breeding stock bought for as replacement animals will be genetically superior, structurally robust and have a declared health status. At selection, the DanBred animals are genetically assessed on the basis of their breeding index. The DanBred breeding program is officially registered, which means that all DanBred breeding animals- no matter the breed- have an official pedigree, providing full transparency.

This ensures that all DanBred partners can follow the breeding value for their animals and in this way, ensure continued genetic progress by choosing only the best animals for next generation.

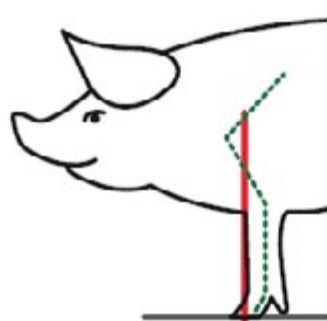
Aside from ensuring that the breeding animals have the best genetic basis, all DanBred breeding stock undergo a thorough visual examination and quality assurance where conformation, feet, legs, weight and age are evaluated in regards to optimum longevity and increased productivity.

Visual evaluation starts with the feet and legs. An ideal foot is visibly healthy and is of equal length and size. All toes point forward and the legs are straight. Front and back legs are aligned and the rear hocks and front knee should be angled so as to not put extreme pressure on the leg joints when the animal is walking. The pastern should be relatively soft and the foot should be flat against the floor with dew claws only just touching the ground. The foot must not rotate or turn when the pig walks (DPRC, 2007).

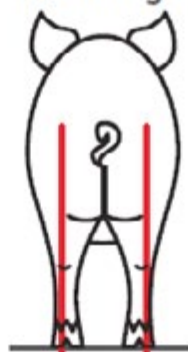
Front legs



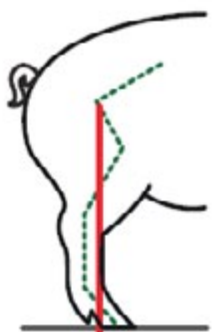
Front legs



Rear legs



Rear legs



Transport can temporarily weaken the legs  
Front legs Front legs Rear legs Rear legs of the animals, which is why the receiving quarantine should always have soft bedding available where possible (taking into consideration the manure system and biosecurity) (DPRC, 2007).

DanBred animals are delivered with a declared health status- ideally the health status of the incoming animals are matched with the receiving herd status to ensure a smooth transition. At delivery, a vaccination strategy has been initiated for all animals, so it is important to make sure to inform the herd veterinarian of the vaccinations already administered in order for this to be registered correctly in the on farm veterinary health plan (DPRC, 2007).

### **Easy steps for receiving DanBred breeding stock**

Correct management on arrival will form the basis for best possible production and lifetime performance

- Make sure all the animals get fresh water and feed as soon as they arrive.
- Check all animals for signs of disease or defects– repeat this every day of quarantine.
- Check the animals are correctly registered in the delivery notes.
- Check that weight and age match the requested.
- Note the vaccinations administered by the supplier and inform the herd veterinarian of this.
- Report any questions within 48 hours of receiving the animals for quick resolution or follow up.

### **Sort breeding stock upon arrival**

Sort all animals by sex, age, weight and if possible by genetic line when entering them into quarantine.

Provide management with a daily updated spreadsheet containing:

- Pen ID.
- Animal ID per pen.
- Age and approximate weight of each animal.



- Vaccination(s) dates.
- Dates for blood test(s).
- For gilts:
  - Expected date of first heat.
  - Date for starting heat induction for each pen.
  - Date of first heat for each gilt.
- For boars:
  - Development in daily gain.
  - Date for training start up.
  - Date of first collection.

For more information, please visit:  
[danbred.com](http://danbred.com)

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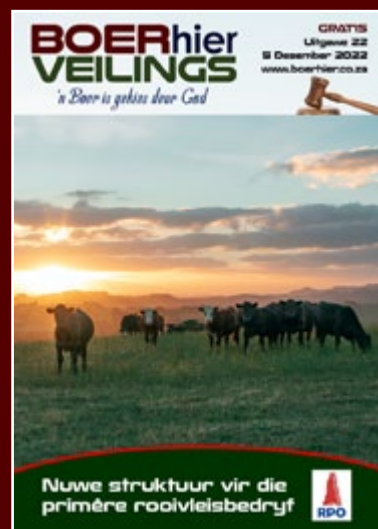
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# South Africa heavy rains delay crop planting but no cause for worry

Written by Wandile Sihlobo

**The start of SA's 2022/2023 summer season has brought heavy rains across most regions, with varied agricultural implications. The horticultural industry, specifically fruit, has been keenly watching whether they would damage orchards.**

Fortunately, there hasn't been significant damage so far, with the exception of some erosion in banana and macadamia fields in parts of Mpumalanga. Positively, the rains have improved dam levels, which will be helpful for irrigation.

However, the livestock industry is at increased risk of disease, since heavy rains tend to be followed by significantly warmer temperatures that allow tick and other insect populations to flourish. There is a relatively higher possibility of tick- and insect-borne diseases such as redwater, heartwater, anaplasmosis, RVF, blue tongue, and horse sickness. This means livestock farmers will have to remain alert during this period and apply vaccines where possible.

In field crops, the sugar cane growing regions of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga have broadly benefited from increased moisture, supporting growing conditions. This is notwithstanding business challenges brought to the industry by Tongaat Hulett's financial difficulties.

The summer grain and oilseed planting season started in October in the eastern regions, though

heavy rains have delayed planting in some areas. For example, Mpumalanga, which would typically be nearing the completion stages of soya bean planting, is estimated to have sowed only about 40% of its soya bean fields so far, according to a Grain SA survey. The province's optimal planting window for soya beans ends this week, so the additional hectares will be planted outside the window.

Still, this should not be a major problem, nor something we haven't seen before. In the 2021/2022 season, excessive rains meant most of the summer crops were planted a month after the optimal window. Yet that season still achieved record yields in soya beans and decent harvests in maize and other crops. Typically, the fear is that crops planted outside the planting window will be at risk of frost late in the season. But in the recent past, we haven't seen many occurrences of frost, which encourages hope for yet another good soya bean production year.

In KwaZulu-Natal soya bean planting of the intended area is roughly 80% complete, and 50% for maize. The delays here are also a result of the heavy rains of the past few weeks. The Eastern Cape has made good progress but has not yet completed planting. In the eastern Free State, about 40% of soya beans and maize have been planted. The fields are exceptionally wet in this region, and farmers will have to get a few days of drier weather to be able to resume planting.

In the western regions of the country, the optimal planting window for grains and oilseeds is roughly

mid-November to mid-December. There is still enough time in these areas, especially if we get more days of sunshine, as the recent rains have improved soil moisture. The western Free State is very wet and will need to dry up for maize and soya bean planting to gain momentum. In North West, farmers are still preparing the land for planting in most regions.

Overall, while the early part of the summer season has brought heavy rains over some regions of SA, I still consider conditions broadly favourable. The delays we see in summer grain and oilseed plantings are not a unique or particularly worrying development.

The 2021/2022 season, which delivered large yields, also had an excessively wet start, and some areas had to replant. Even if plantings are a month behind the optimal window I am still optimistic that yields could be strong given recent trends.

However, with input costs have risen significantly, replanting has become a more costly exercise for farmers. In some areas, they may have to delay planting until the early-season heavy rains have passed or at least moderated.

Source: <https://www.farmingportal.co.za/index.php/farming-news/all-news/32-farming-news/8809-south-africa-heavy-rains-delay-crop-planting-but-no-cause-for-worry>

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# Foot bathing

Nick Bell MA VetMB PhD Pgcert Vet Ed FHEA ECAWBM (AWSEL) MRCVS

**Clean and dry condition underfoot is a major protective factor for feet, reducing the amount of lameness due to foul-in-the-foot, interdigital growths and digital dermatitis in cows with benefits to claw and horn quality and heel horn health.**

Taking steps to improve foot hygiene and introducing foot disinfection (foot bathing) can be an extremely effective and rapid way of improving foot health. However, if foot bathing is performed incorrectly it can contribute to the rapid spread of infections and contaminated baths could pose a mastitis risk. Furthermore, some chemicals can burn the skin or cause severe pain on open sores.

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### Significance -cost-benefit

Digital dermatitis probably affects over 40% of cows in infected herds making it one of the most common causes of lameness and foot disease in UK dairy cattle, costing the average farm roughly £3000 per 100 cows per year. The cost of conditions such as foul-in-the-foot, superfoul, interdigital fibroma and heel erosion are less clearly defined. Even harder to define are the costs in terms of claw lesions that become chronically and severely infected due to slurry, or the extra bruising due to eroded heels. The cost of foot bathing will vary according to the regime and chemical you use, but if 4% formalin is used daily, the cost to fill a 200 litre bath is approximately £800 per year per 100 cows (£550/1000 litres, Strathclyde Nutrition) with a return on investment after fewer than 8 cases making it an extremely cost-effective control measure.

### Good foot hygiene prevents spread of infections

Fig 1: Cleaner and drier feet are fundamental to reducing lameness



Fig 2b Figs 2a and 2b: Crusts of slurry on the front of claws (left) or on dew claws (right) indicates exposure to deep slurry, and are risk factors for heel erosion or spread of digital dermatitis (Fig 2b)). Deep slurry will often mean front lameness becomes common too as slurry extends above the deeper front heels.



Digital dermatitis is highly infectious but is hard to isolate in the environment. It appears to spread in slurry, mud, dirty water and contact with infected equipment or surfaces e.g. cubicle beds. Infection rates have been correlated with cleanliness scores. Therefore, the best prevention for foot infections is to keep feet clean and dry. (Figs 1 and 2a)

Summer pasture conditions are generally most favourable for feet, although muddy tracks, water troughs and gateways combined with slurry can undo that. These conditions can trigger outbreaks of foul with digital dermatitis.



Fig 3: A box scraper will scrape cleanly, especially along kerbs, but will also save labour time making it an extremely cost effective investment

When cows are housed, clean dry conditions are more easily achieved with straw yards (with wide, regularly scraped concrete feed passages). (Fig 4) Similarly, one contaminated passageway, one pool of water or a pool of slurry can undo this. Heel skin and the growth rings on the wall of claws will be visible with clean conditions.



Fig 4: An alley with width and drainage for clean feet

Practical steps to improving yard hygiene include:

- Increasing bedding depth, especially straw or sand. This will help fiit cleanliness, overall cow cleanliness and can possibly udder health. Lime, slurry and sawdust can tend to cake on feet.
- Increasing yard scraping care and frequency. This usually means having a thorough clean of an area, with farm staff agreement that the whole area will be maintained in a clean state. Having ready access to lots of hand scrapers makes the job easier.
- Investing in a better yard scraper (Fig 3). Box scrapers or vacuum scrapers are best.
- Removing sources of slurry pools e.g. repairing holes in yards, removing temporary slurry pools, creating drains and kerbs.
- Ensuring housing is not overstocked, alleys are wide and alleys are on a 2% slope for drainage. In some cases alleys can be widened (e.g. removing a tractor feed passage or creating a loafing area.

### Intermittent whole herd treatments treating the 'hard-to-see' lesions

While whole herds can be regularly treated for digital dermatitis cure rates are low with this approach and the treatment in the footbath just serves to dampen the problems.

- The feet must be clean to allow the solution to reach the skin. For housed cattle this is best achieved by washing ini the parlour before teat preparation. Feet should be allowed to drip dry.
- A 'pre-wash' water bath (Fig 5) can be used to wash off the contamination before the treatment bath<sup>1</sup>. Addition of detergent may help this. A similar result can be achieved with a two compartment agent bath in series, the first compartment taking most of the contamination.
- Enough active solution must be present to maintain activity for the last cow through the bath. The rough rule of thumb is 100 cow passes per 100 litres in the footbath. If in doubt, the solution should be refreshed during milking, never left without being refreshed for more than 48 hours and high risk animals (freshly calved cows and heifers) should be prioritised for the freshest solutions.
- Treat dry cows and youngstock - these animals may represent a substantial reservoir of infection on the farm and lesions at calving will be a substantial drive of herd infection.

It may be possible to spray treatments on the heels of the whole herd (if safe and following precautions), reducing the necessity for footbaths and regular changing of baths. However, many lesions between claws cannot be accessed properly with this approach and impacted sand, mud or slurry between claws is rarely washed out. None-the-less, treating all milking cows in this way will address many unseen lesions. However, the most sustainable and effective way of managing infections is not through treatment but through prevention by reduced the spread, preventing the cost of disease. As mentioned earlier, even when foot hygiene is excellent, daily foot disinfection may be beneficial for preventing digital dermatitis.



Fig 5: A well designed footbath with pre-wash and agent bath

### Daily foot disinfection

Constantly clean feet can be very challenging to achieve e.g. cows housed on concrete. There are many management or environmental factors such as when automatic scrapers are used or when narrow cubicle passageways in relation to number of cows, size of cows and dry matter



Fig 6: A 6" drain, bung and string pull



Fig 7: A double width bath with bung, over-flow, and parlour washing divert

intakes (milk yield) which are difficult to address. In many instances, the only means of improving foot cleanliness may be with a regular foot disinfection protocol. Furthermore, recent work has shown how the *Treponemes* quickly invade deep into the skin via the hair follicles. If footbathing is to have a chance it must remove these bacteria under slurry and on the surface of skin and hairs before they reach the relatively protected sites in hair follicles and sebaceous glands. Daily foot disinfection is probably one of the most cost-effective ways of improving foot health in a herd with digital dermatitis. In order to make it practical, a simple 'easily fill, easy clean' footbath is required. This usually consists of:

- A six inch diameter drain with quick release bung (available from a plumbers merchant) (Fig 6)
- A tank or hose and tap for washing and filling
- A means of dispensing chemical safely, accurately and easily

Special consideration should be paid to cow flow and dispersal. A single width bath is best placed far enough away from a parlour to avoid queues out the parlour. Where good cow flow is a premium a double width bath is recommended. A 1.8m wide and 3m long bath will hold 540 litres if filled to the recommended 10cm. This is enough for 540 cow passes of 3-5% formalin.

### Common and effective foot bathing regimes

Footbaths can be used as a treatment or foot disinfection. In most situations, both treatment and disinfectant baths should be alternated. If a disinfectant like 2-4% formalin is available, then the simplest regime is to use this every day.

#### Table : Foot bathing regimes

1

Type 1b carcinogen Health and safety precautions must be followed

2

### Seek advice on soil biohazards

Ideally, treatments and possibly disinfection should be continued through the grazing period when feet will be cleanest and lesions most amenable to treatment. Furthermore, new lesions can still develop at pasture. A number of commercial products are available some of which appear to be effective although evidence supporting use is lacking for some products. Foot bathing is best planned with your vet as part of your herd health plan.

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# Control External Parasites of Poultry

**A number of insects, ticks, and mites attack poultry either by sucking blood or by feeding on the skin, feathers, or scales on the skin. Mites and lice are the most destructive external parasites of the state's poultry. Occasionally, other pests, such as fleas and bed bugs, infest poultry and cause problems. Recently, there have been increased reports of bed bugs in chicken houses, especially boiler-breeder houses.**

Ectoparasites or parasites that feed on the outside of the body, may cause considerable loss to a poultry operation, particularly by lowered egg production. Generally, serious pest problems are more likely to occur on laying flocks than on broilers. Infestations of external parasites on poultry can be economically controlled with good sanitation and proper use of insecticides.

## Mites

In Mississippi, several species of mites may be found on poultry. The northern fowl mite is the most serious pest infesting poultry, becoming more of a problem in cool weather. This pest spends its entire life on the animal, sucking blood and irritating the bird. Most mites on birds are located around the vent area (anal opening). During control procedures, it is very important to direct liquid insecticide applications, with high pressure, to the vent area.

Mites are often noticed first on the eggs or are detected by egg handlers. Check birds for mites

by examining the base of feathers around the vent. The mites produce a rough and matted appearance of the feathers in this area because of a buildup of dried blood and mite excreta (feces).

Although mites spend their entire life cycle on the birds, they can live off the birds for several weeks if temperature and humidity are suitable. For this reason, a house vacated for less than 3 weeks may still have mites, which will infest newly placed birds. Mites also can come into a house on egg flats or other equipment moved from an infested house.

Determining when to treat birds for mites requires consideration of several factors. If the birds are scheduled to be removed soon, treatment may not be economical. Mite populations build up faster on young birds than on older birds. Because mites are worse in cool weather, an infestation can be expected to increase in fall and decrease in spring.

Chicken mites live in secluded areas (cracks and crevices on roosts, cages, nest boxes, walls, or ceilings) during the day and crawl onto the birds at night to feed. While on the birds, the mites pierce the skin and suck blood. Heavy infestations of this mite cause birds to have pale combs and wattles. The entire life cycle of the chicken mite can be completed in as little as 10 days. Broiler flocks usually do not have these mites in serious numbers because the short grow-out cycle prevents buildup.

Chicken mites are seldom a problem in caged-layer operations because there are few places to

hide and lay eggs. They can be serious problems in breeder houses where nest boxes and slats offer ideal hiding places.

These mites may go unnoticed unless you examine the birds at night. Determining mite population levels on birds is difficult because they scatter evenly over the bird's body. A better method is to examine cracks and crevices for mite presence.

It is not necessary to treat the birds to control chicken mites, but treating the premises must be thorough to be effective. The chicken mite can live several weeks without a blood meal. For this reason, treat vacant houses thoroughly before introducing new birds.

Scalyleg and depluming mites are occasionally found on poultry in Mississippi, particularly in private farm flocks. Scalyleg mites primarily infest the legs and feet, where they tunnel in the upper layers of skin. A severe infestation causes a crusty outer covering on the legs and feet. Depluming mites burrow into the skin at the base of the feathers, causing infested birds to pull out their feathers.

## Lice



Several species of lice may infest poultry. The chicken body louse is the most common. Others can be found occasionally but are seldom found in significant numbers. These minor lice species basically have the same biology and habits as the chicken body louse, and the same control strategies control them. All lice on birds are chewing lice; none suck blood. They constantly irritate the birds with their claws and mouthparts as they crawl over the bodies of the birds. Lice seldom leave the bodies of infested birds except to move to other birds.

Body lice may build up huge populations on birds. Large infestations can cause loss of body weight and a significant drop in egg production. The entire life cycle can occur in as little as 3 weeks. Lice eggs are laid in masses and stick to the base of feathers. When examining birds for lice, examine the whole body. Lice do not circle around the vent as northern fowl mites do. The adult lice are large (1/8 inch long) and yellow. The white egg masses at the base of the feathers are the best indicators of a lice infestation. Like northern fowl mites, lice populations build up in cooler weather. As with northern fowl mites, consider the time of year and age of the flock when making control plans.

## Bed Bugs



Once considered mostly a human pest, bed bugs can be serious pests of poultry. In the last decade, bed bug infestations have steadily increased and spread among human habitations and will likely soon be a significant pest in the poultry industry.

They can be extremely difficult to get rid of. Bed bug behavior is much like that of chicken mites. They usually feed on birds at night and only for a short time. The rest of the time they hide in cracks and crevices. They can be a problem in caged-layer operations and also in breeder houses because of the availability of numerous daytime hiding places.

Bed bugs in large numbers may consume sufficient blood from a flock to cause weight loss, lowered egg production, and lowered feed efficiency. One study showed a 10 percent egg production loss due to bed bugs. Bed bugs can survive several months without a blood meal, depending on temperature and humidity. So, they can easily survive in an empty house between flocks.

The best way to check for bed bugs is use a flashlight to inspect cracks, crevices, slats, and nest boxes carefully. Look for the bugs



themselves and/or black spots of bed bug excrement on eggs, boards, and slats, especially around nests.

Please refer to Extension Publication 3668 What to Do About Bed Bugs in Poultry Houses for up-to-date bed bug control. Generally, the best control method is a high-pressure spray treatment of the premises, thoroughly treating cracks and crevices. There are products labeled for spraying with birds present, although you can probably best

do this in an empty house between flocks. We recommend a second treatment 10 days after the first treatment to control those that hatch after the first treatment.

## Other Poultry Pests

Several other pests may occasionally attack poultry, especially free-roaming farm flocks. Several species of fleas and ticks are common occasional pests. One such pest is the sticktight flea, which remains attached to the head and may be confused with baby ticks. Although control procedures for minor pests are not covered in this publication and pesticide labels do not list minor pests, many of the same insecticides used to control lice and mites will control minor pests.

### Bird treatments for northern fowl mites, chicken mites, lice, and depluming mites.

Material and formulation	Mixing directions	Amount per bird	Days to slaughter	Remarks
tetrachlorvinphos & dichlorvos (Ravap) 23% & 5.7%	1 pint/6 gal water	1 gal/ 100 birds	0	Do not treat more often than every 14 days.
tetrachlorvinphos (Rabon) 50% WP	2 lb/25 gal water	1 gal/ 100 birds	0	
permethrin (several brands)	1 qt/50 gal water	1 to 2 oz/bird	0	
carbaryl (Sevin liquid and dust)	follow label instructions		7	
spinosad (Extinosad or Elector)	follow label instructions		follow label recommendation	

### Bird treatments for northern fowl mites, chicken mites, lice, and depluming mites

Material and formulation	Mixing directions	Amount per bird	Days to slaughter	Remarks
sulfur dust (several brands)*	use in dusting stations or hanging bags in cages			Questions about use of sulfur may be directed to your corporate veterinarian or Extension specialist

Recent studies have shown that dust bags containing sulfur are effective in controlling northern fowl mites (Murillio, A.C. and Mullen, B.A., 2016, Journal of Economic Entomology, 109: 2229-2233).

Listed products include some of the common active ingredients and are provided as examples only. These tables include only a few of the products available for poultry ectoparasite control. Note: Insecticide registrations are constantly being changed, new ones approved, and others cancelled. Always read and follow label directions.

### Premises treatments for northern fowl mites, chicken mites, lice, and depluming mites.

Material and formulation	Mixing directions	Amount to spray	Days to slaughter	Remarks
permethrin 25% WP	6 oz/34 gal water	1 gal/ 700 sq ft	0	

### Premises treatments for northern fowl mites, chicken mites, lice, and depluming mites

Material and formulation	Mixing directions	Amount to spray	Days to slaughter	Remarks
other branded or generic permethrin formulations with different % active ingredient	follow label recommendation	follow label recommendation	follow label recommendation	

Material and formulation	Mixing directions	Amount to spray	Days to slaughter	Remarks
tetrachlorvinphos (Rabon) 50% WP	2 lb/25 gal water	1 gal/100 sq ft	0	
tetrachlorvinphos (Rabon) 3% D	ready to use	1 lb/100 sq ft	0	
tetrachlorvinphos & dichlorvos (Ravap) 23% & 5.7% EC	1 qt/12 gal water	1 gal/700 sq ft	0	

### Premises treatments for northern fowl mites, chicken mites, lice, and depluming mites

Material and formulation	Mixing directions	Amount per bird	Days to slaughter	Remarks
bifenthrin 7.9% (Talstar P or various generics)	0.5–1.0 fl oz/gal	1 gal/ 1000 sq ft	0	Do not apply as a general spray when birds are present. Crack and crevice treatment allowed around birds. Do not contaminate food, feed, or water
carbaryl (Sevin liquid)	2 lb/25 gal water	1–2 gal/1000 sq ft	7	Do not apply as a general spray when birds are present. Crack and crevice treatment allowed around birds. Do not contaminate food, feed, or water

Listed products include some of the common active ingredients and are provided as examples only. These tables include only a few of the products available for poultry ectoparasite control. Note: Insecticide registrations are constantly being changed, new ones approved, and others cancelled. Always read and follow label directions.

### Premises treatments for bed bugs.

Material and formulation	Mixing directions	Amount to spray	Days to slaughter	Remarks
cyfluthrin (Tempo) 20% WP	19 grams/ 2 gal water	1 gal/ 500 sq ft	0	Do not apply with birds in the building. Allow spray to dry before placing birds
lambda-cyhalothrin (Demand) 9.7% micro-encapsulated	0.2–0.4 fl oz/gal water	1 gal/ 1000 sq ft	0	No interior treatment with birds present. Do not contaminate poultry food, feed, or water
bifenthrin 7.9% (Talstar P or various generics)	0.5–1.0 fl oz/ gal water	1 gal/ 1000 sq ft	0	Do not apply as a general spray when birds are present. Crack and crevice treatment allowed around birds. Do not contaminate food, feed, or water
cyhalothrin (StandGuard)	follow label recommendations			
carbaryl (Sevin liquid)	2 lb/25 gal water	1–2 gal/ 1000 sq ft	7	

Listed products include some of the common active ingredients and are provided as examples only. These tables include only a few of the products available for poultry ectoparasite control. Note: Insecticide registrations are constantly being changed, new ones approved, and others cancelled. Always read and follow label directions.

By Jerome Goddard, PhD, Extension Professor of Medical/ Veterinary Entomology, and Gail M. Moraru, PhD, former Senior Extension Associate, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology.

Source: <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/control-external-parasites-poultry>





1. Give your chicken a stress pack for 4-5 days to help strengthen the body (5 g / 10 L water)



2. Disinfect the walls and even the bedding with a light spray of disinfectant (50 g / 10 L water)

3. Treat the sores with a diluted solution of iodine on cotton wool



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# Give the gift that keeps on giving this Christmas



**December is upon us and the countdown to Christmas has begun. As finances get tighter and tighter each year – with rising fuel prices and cost of living increases, there seems to be little budget for presents, not to mention the time to think of something special!**

The world is trending more and more towards giving sustainably and ensuring the gifts we do give stand the test of time. At AGRICOLLEGES international, we think we have just the thing for the blossoming agriculturists in your life. We are not a traditional learning institution and neither are our gift ideas. This year, why not give the gift of learning and buy a voucher for one of our courses?

Now, we know you can't exactly wrap this present up and stick it under the tree, but hear us out. Our vast array of courses means there is something for everyone and you can make sure you have the personal touch on your presents by choosing the perfect course for the perfect person! From the farmer in the family who has been talking about polishing up a certain skill, to the matriculant fresh out of school still investigating what to study, we have a course to suit them! We offer expertly designed courses that can be completed in as little as 3 weeks, so your loved ones won't even need to take time off while studying. They can continue to learn while they earn! Our instructional design team is always working on new course ideas, so even if you do not currently find the course you are looking for, keep an eye out in 2023 for our new courses launching then. Rumour has it Mango production, Irrigation management

and courses on Animal Bio-Security are in the pipeline.

Even simply giving a contribution towards one of our courses could go far in inspiring a life-long love of learning. As one of our alumni said recently, "I would like to expand my knowledge and apply for another course as soon as I can". The learning bug has bitten him and it could do the same for your loved ones, and others, too! After all, you do not have to be related to a person to give them the gift of a lifetime this Christmas.

Why not consider sponsoring a student in need this year? Although you may not know them personally, knowing that your donation has helped a future farmer upskill themselves is a gift in itself. Ensuring that an industry you have poured so much into, continues to be run by a skilled, highly trained workforce is something worth investing in. There are so many deserving students who would be grateful for a life-changing sponsorship this Christmas.

AGRICOLLEGES international is partnered with the NPC Educate to Grow who raise funds to improve lives in the agricultural sector through education. By enabling students who previously did not have the funds to study, Educate to Grow, in collaboration with AGRICOLLEGES



Luckily for us, agriculture as an industry is not going anywhere, either. Instead with constant innovation, the industry is evolving into a tech-savvy and popular career choice. The options are endless and are certainly not limited to labouring in a field all day long. Roles such as drone operator, soil researcher, genetic engineer, and agri-marketer are just some examples of possible agri-career options. Agriculture was also one of the few industries that showed positive economic growth during the Covid-19 pandemic proving the industry's adaptability and steadfastness in the face of an often uncertain future.

international, ensures the agricultural sector is improving the lives of the most vulnerable in communities. By supporting this cause you are contributing to the bigger picture of agricultural improvement and ensuring food security for South Africa and beyond, making this a very special gift indeed. The gift of education is truly the gift that keeps on giving. As they say, knowledge is power and giving someone access to new knowledge may just provide them with the power boost they need to change lives for the better.

Gifting a short course this Christmas may be just the thing to provide the extra edge for someone in the competitive job market and perhaps ensure that next year, things might not be so tight anymore.

Take a look at our full range of course on our website [www.agricolleges.com](http://www.agricolleges.com) and get in touch today to make sure those gifts are sorted early this year. To find out more about Educate to Grow, visit [www.educatetogrow.com](http://www.educatetogrow.com)



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  - ✓ 1 x Specialised fat
- Dose 10 - 20 ml per ewe that is having a difficult labour
- Dose 5 ml per lamb post a difficult birth
- Dose 3 - 5ml for all lambs post birth this will ensure they have energy to stand and get in the much needed colostrum as well as those important first feeds



**Net: Data on file**  
 Super Boost Liquid contains vitamins, amino acids, trace elements, fatty acids, nucleotides, essential probiotics and energy.  
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Psalm 12:5 NLT

---

“

Now I will rise  
up to rescue  
them, as they  
have longed for  
Me to do.’

Photo by Christine Vosloo Photography



*Geseënde Kersfees*



*Merry Christmas*

We extend our appreciation to you for your continued support and wish you a blessed and prosperous 2023.



South Africa

Ons wil u bedank vir u volgehoue ondersteuning en samewerking. Ons wense vir u is 'n geseënde en voorspoedige 2023.



[www.absglobal.com/za](http://www.absglobal.com/za)

# What holds a limping world economy for SA

The world economy has been shaken by four once-in-a-century external shocks in the space of two years:

- Worst pandemic in 100 years;
- First major war in Europe in 75 years;
- Massive monetary stimulus during Covid and then due to the Ukraine invasion; and
- The complexity of supply chains within globalisation.

The result of the shocks introduced a major increase in uncertainty over a broad base of variables. Uncertainty plays in on risk levels that change the operating environment in which we operate to more challenging where caution and being vigilantly attentive need to be core in our approach to industry and business.

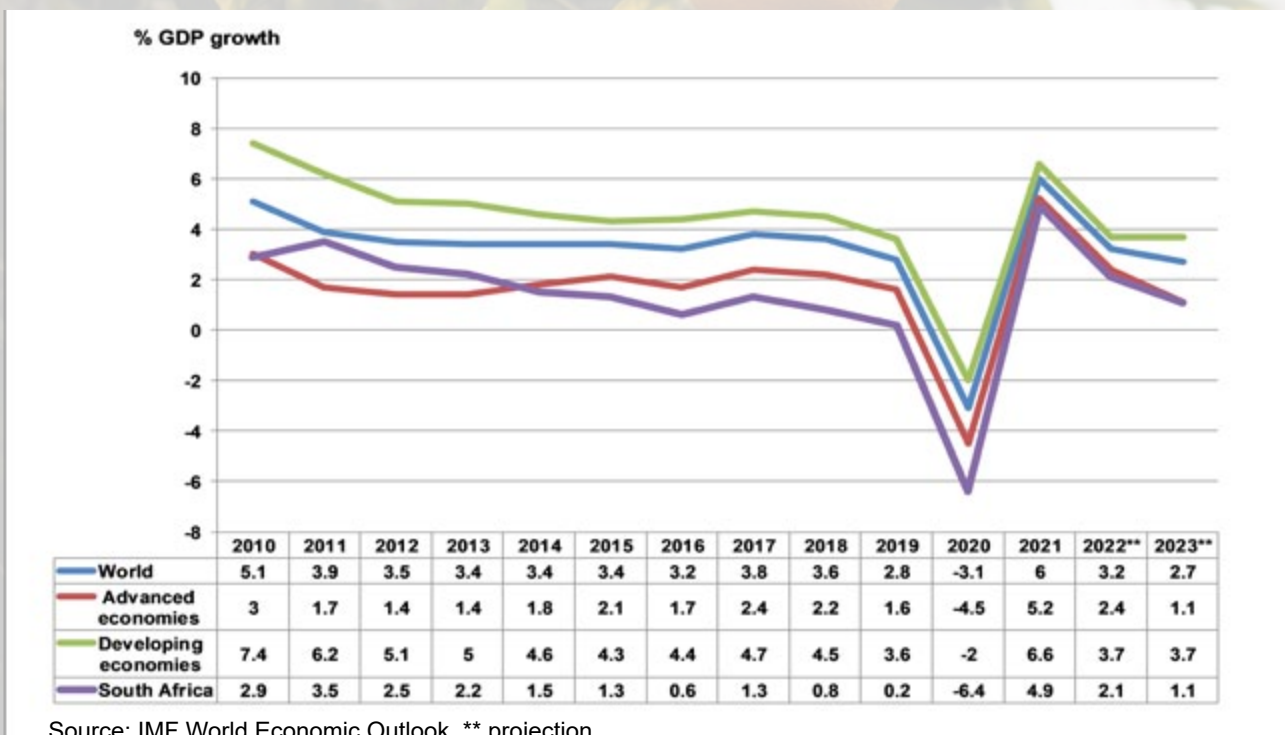
Due to the combined effect of the external shocks, global economic activity is experiencing a broad-based and sharper-than-expected slowdown, with inflation higher than seen in several decades.

Global growth is forecast to slow from 6.0 percent in 2021 to 3.2 percent in 2022 and 2.7 percent in 2023. The economic growth in South Africa is forecast to slow from 4.9 percent in 2021 to 2.1 percent in 2022 and 1.1 percent in 2023.

Inadequate electricity generation and in general the cost of energy/fuels, dilapidated infrastructure and criminality are additional burdens in the case of South Africa.

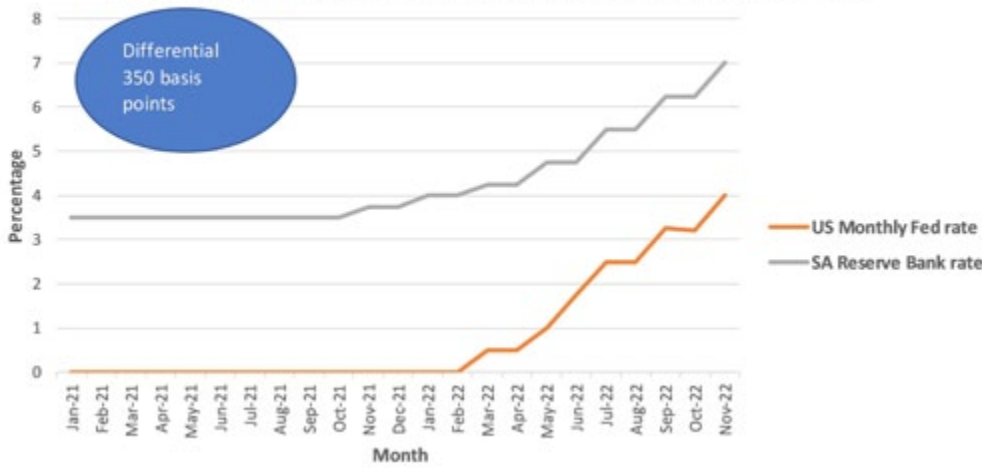
The worldwide tightening of monetary policy to curb inflation will cause pain in most countries with increased business foreclosures, increased unemployment and poverty.

## Global economic growth and expected growth 2010 – 2023.



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, \*\* projection

**Us monthly Fed rate from Jan 2021 to November 2022 and the monthly SA Reserve Bank rate to Nov 2022**



in 2023, bumping the rate to 5%.

The South African Reserve Bank will have little choice but to at least introduce similar rate increases, taking the Reserve bank rate to 8%.

A vulnerable ZAR is associated with higher volatility, where for example the trading environment can quickly transform from adverse to imports to conducive to imports.

Source: US Federal Reserve and the SA Reserve Bank

The ZAR will remain vulnerable and internal shocks and setbacks will weigh heavily on the value of the ZAR. The R/\$ exchange rate depreciated in October year on year by 22% (R18.08) but strengthened in November to R17.44 (still 12% down year on year). The markets speculate that at the next Fed meeting (14 Dec 2022) the rate will be increased by 50 basis points and then again early

Role players in the different value chains need to approach the dynamic between supply and demand with caution, as the present situation is very different from the past and further developments should be closely monitored and reacted to.

**Bertus van Heerden (chief economist, MPO)**

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# Joke



WIFE: "There is a problem with the tractor. It has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? that's ridiculous."

WIFE: "I'm telling you the tractor has water in the carburetor"

HUSBAND: "You don't even know where the carburetor is. Where's the tractor?"

WIFE: "In the pool"



*Geseënde Kersfees en Voorspoedige Nuwe Jaar*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

# Master Dairyman for 2022 announced

**This year's Agricultural Research Council (ARC) annual National Master Dairyman Awards ceremony was presented on 17 November as a hybrid event at Groot Phesantekraal Estate in Cape Town.**

This prestigious competition celebrates outstanding performance by South Africa's top commercial and smallholder dairy farmers and is recognised by key stakeholders as a highlight of the country's agricultural calendar. The event was hosted by Agri-Expo, on behalf of the National Milk Recording and Improvement Scheme of the ARC.

The MPO congratulated the milk producers who performed in this competition. "We are proud of



ARC National Master Dairyman of the Year 2022 and ARC Special Award for Innovative Development by a Dairy Producer: Johannes Loubser (Fair Cape Dairies, Durbanville, Western Cape). (Photo: Agri-Expo)

the dairy farmers who perform each year. It is a comfort to the dairy industry to know that the dairy farmers in our country are top performers and we are glad they are recognised for their hard work," says Fanie Ferreira, MPO chief executive officer.

Dr Litha Magingxa, president and CEO of the ARC, congratulated the winners and thanked them for their confidence in scientific innovation to improve productivity and food security. During the past year, the ARC supplied scientific services to 105 dairy farmers to improve the genetic quality of the national dairy herd. "Dairy farmers are unique and arguably the most hardworking members of our society, and as such, they should always be treasured", Dr Magingxa said.

Joyene Isaacs, chairperson of the ARC, emphasised the importance of recognising dairy farmers as food providers, but also of support systems and partnerships in the dairy industry. "We all have a role to play, and because we play that role, we have food", Isaacs explained.

The event was a collaborative effort with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Nedbank, Nova Feeds, Agri-Expo, AFGRI, Meadow Feeds, Semex South Africa, World Wide Sires South Africa, and Darling Romery. The hybrid awards event can still be viewed by clicking [HERE](#). Winners are chosen in various categories to acknowledge the country's most outstanding achievers in breeding genetically superior animals, using performance recording and performance testing as tools.



ARC National Small-Scale Dairyman of the Year 2022: Nompe Zim (Zim Dairy, Kestell, Free State). Photo: Agri-Expo

## The winners of the 2022 ARC National Master Dairyman Awards are:

- **ARC National Master Dairyman of the Year 2022 and ARC Special Award for Innovative Development by a Dairy Producer 2022:** Fair Cape Dairies (Johannes Loubser), Durbanville, Western Cape
- **ARC National Small-scale Dairyman of the Year 2022:** Zim Dairy (Nompe Zim), between Harrismith and Kestell, Free State (for the fourth consecutive year)
- **ARC National Herd with the Best Somatic Cell Count 2022:** E Zeeman (Etienne Zeeman), Swellendam, Western Cape, with 170 000 cells/ml
- **ARC National Herd with the Best Intercalving Period 2022:** Tweekop Boerdery (Pieter Steenkamp and Dirk van Papendorp), Heidelberg, Western Cape, with an intercalving period of only 370 days
- **Special award: ARC Honorary Award for Lifetime Contribution to the SA Dairy Industry** Peter Pentz Snr (Groote Post, Darling, Western Cape)

## The finalists in the various categories were:

- **ARC regional finalists for Small-Scale Dairyman of the Year 2022**
  - Letsolo Poultry, Piggery and Dairy Farm (Christian Tsolo), Sebokeng, Gauteng
  - Summerhill Farm (Gugulomuzi Ngcobo), Donnybrook, Ixopo, KwaZulu-Natal



The winners of the 2022 ARC National Master Dairyman Awards: ARC National Herd with the Best Somatic Cell Count: Etienne Zeeman (E Zeeman, Swellendam, Western Cape); ARC Honorary Award for Lifetime Contribution to the SA Dairy Industry: Peter Pentz Snr (Groote Post, Darling, Western Cape); ARC National Small-scale Dairyman of the Year: Nompe Zim (Zim Dairy, Kestell, Free State); ARC National Master Dairyman of the Year and ARC Special Award for Innovative Development by a Dairy Producer: Johannes Loubser (Fair Cape Dairies, Durbanville, Western Cape) and Pieter Loubser (Fair Cape Dairies); and ARC National Herd with the Best Intercalving Period: Pieter Steenkamp (Tweekop Boerdery, Heidelberg, Western Cape). Photo: Agri-Expo

- Zim Dairy (Nompe Zim), between Harrismith and Kestell, Free State
- **ARC regional finalists for Master Dairyman of the Year 2022**
  - E Zeeman (Etienne Zeeman), Swellendam, Western Cape
  - JK Basson Family Trust (JK Basson), Darling, Western Cape
  - Fair Cape Dairies (Johannes Loubser), Durbanville, Western Cape
  - Rhodes Food Group (Jaco Swarts), Simondium, Western Cape
  - Tweekop Boerdery (Pieter Steenkamp and Dirk van Papendorp), Heidelberg, Western Cape
  - JJ Nel Family Trust (Hannes Nel), Ladismith, Western Cape
  - Foundation Jersey Farm (Alan and Francis Webster), Weenen, KwaZulu-Natal
  - Robertson Brothers (Gordon Robertson), Karatara, Western Cape

The ARC's National Milk Recording and Improvement Scheme plays a critical role in the dairy industry by providing genetic improvement services, accredited by the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR). The aim of the scheme is to enhance the sustainability and profitability of production, contributing to food security, job creation, and human capital development. For more information, contact Hendrik de Waal at [DWaalH@arc.agric.za](mailto:DWaalH@arc.agric.za) or 082 775 7703.



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<b>SAT</b>	<b>24 DEC 2022</b>	<b>OPEN UNTIL 13:00</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>25 DEC 2022</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>26 DEC 2022</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>27 DEC 2022</b>	<b>OPEN UNTIL 13:00</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>1 JAN 2023</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>2 JAN 2023</b>	<b>OPEN UNTIL 13:00</b>

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# Auction Results



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## Gemiddelde Veilingspryse Behaal Average Auction Prices Achieved

**Beespryse / Cattle prices = R.cc/kg**

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

Week: 48 Datum / Date: 28 Nov - 3 Des 202 R.cc/kg  
(excl. VAT)

Tollies / Bull calves < 200kg	<u>38.34</u>
Tollies / Bull calves 200-250kg	<u>37.33</u>
Tollies / Bull calves > 250kg	<u>35.57</u>
Osse / Oxen	<u>32.83</u>
Bulle / Bulls	<u>28.95</u>
Verse / Heifers < 200kg	<u>37.67</u>
Verse / Heifers 200-250kg	<u>37.82</u>
Verse / Heifers > 250kg	<u>33.65</u>
Verse Dragtig / Pregnant Heifers	-
Skraal koeie / Lean Cows	<u>28.58</u>
Koeie / Cows	<u>27.65</u>
Koei Dragtig / Pregnant Cow	<u>29.26</u>
Koeie + Kalwers / Cows + Calves	<u>29.67</u>
Koei + kalf Dragtig / Pregnant Cow + calf	-



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# Wool Report



## MOHAIR MARKET REPORT

B07/22 | 6 December 2022

### Top 3 Producers per Micron Group

#### <25.4µ

The House Of Fibre Bin	25.3 µ	R714.00/KG
JF Froehlich (EDMS) BPK, Pearston	22.8 µ	R684.10/KG
David Short Farming CC, Graaff-Reinet	25.1 µ	R678.00/KG

#### 27.5 - 29.4 µ

David Short Farming CC, Graaff-Reinet	27.7 µ	R556.5/KG
Wienand Farming CC, Somerset-East	27.9 µ	R540.00/KG
The House Of Fibre Bin	28.1 µ	R535.00/KG

#### 31.5 - 32.4 µ

The House Of Fibre Bin	32.2 µ	R330.00/KG
Du Plooy Farming (PTY) LTD, Jansenville	31.5 µ	R318.5/KG
RP Van der Merwe JNR, Aberdeen	32.1 µ	R317.50/KG

#### 34.4 - 36.4 µ

Wienand Farming CC, Somerset-East	34.8 µ	R285.10/KG
The House Of Fibre Bin	34.8 µ	R279.00/KG
Jaco Oelofse Familie Trust, Klipplaat	35.1 µ	R277.00/KG
Wienand Farming CC, Somerset-East	35.1 µ	R277.50/KG

#### 25.5 - 27.4 µ

Borden Farming CC, Graaff-Reinet	25.6 µ	R757.40/KG
David Short Farming CC, Graaff-Reinet	26.2 µ	R757.40/KG
The House Of Fibre Bin	25.6 µ	R691.00/KG

#### 29.5 - 31.4 µ

The House Of Fibre Bin	30.3 µ	R464.50/KG
The House Of Fibre Bin	29.5 µ	R460.00/KG
Wienand Farming CC, Somerset-East	29.5 µ	R454.50/KG

#### 32.5 - 34.4 µ

RP Van der Merwe JNR, Aberdeen	32.8 µ	R327.00/KG
Wienand Farming CC, Somerset-East	32.5 µ	R300.00/KG
RP Van der Merwe JNR, Aberdeen	34.3 µ	R299.50/KG

#### 36.5 > µ

Jaco Oelofse Familie Trust, Klipplaat	36.6 µ	R256.00/KG
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# Wool Report

THE HOUSE OF  
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TRUSTED MOHAIR & WOOL BROKERS

## MOHAIR MARKET REPORT

B07/22 | 06 December 2022

### Average Market Indicator

RMS	R360.49/KG	0.0%
NON RMS	R301.79/KG	+1.5%

### Highest Price Achieved


David Short Farming CC, Graaff-Reinet  
Borden Farming CC, Graaff-Reinet

**R757.40/kg**

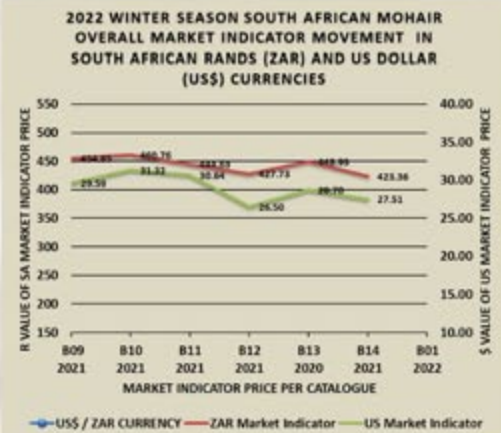
### Price Movement Per Micron

MICRONS	RMS			NON RMS		
20/22	R686.56	0.0%	←	R520.00	0.0%	←
23	R626.93	+11.1%	↑	R610.50	0.0%	←
24	R667.23	-1.1%	↓	R0.00	0.0%	←
25	R640.38	-2.4%	↓	R0.00	0.0%	←
26	R608.60	+2.9%	↑	R380.00	0.0%	←
27	R556.71	-2.2%	↓	R523.33	0.0%	←
28	R524.78	+2.0%	↑	R438.12	0.0%	←
29	R434.01	-5.3%	↓	R426.70	0.0%	←
30	R387.80	-7.4%	↓	R370.37	-10.6%	↓
31	R346.25	-2.0%	↓	R332.75	+32.0%	↑
32	R296.76	-3.7%	↓	R292.76	0.0%	←
33	R284.72	+1.4%	←	R269.63	0.0%	←
34	R291.91	+5.3%	↑	R270.82	0.0%	←
35/36	R270.14	0.0%	←	R266.10	0.0%	←
37/38	R263.00	0.0%	←	R0.00	0.0%	←

### Exchange Rate

 R17.28	 R18.15
 R21.05	 R2.47

### USD Indicator



### Price Movement

Kids	R543.21	-2.4%	↓
Young Goats	R364.01	-5.0%	↓
Adults	R307.12	+6.4%	↑
Average	R373.41	0.0%	←

### Broker Participation

HOF	64.59%
BKB	6.69%
OVK	28.72%

### Comment

The House of Fibre (HF) is incredibly pleased to report that the upward momentum gained on the previous sale continued on the last winter mohair sale of 2022. Not even scientific indicators can compare the two sales on a quality basis, with the prior sale being the cream of the crop. So, it is a bit unfair for young goats and kids to quote them down. A more realistic description is that kids and young goats were basically unchanged, with adults 5% better. The demand mainly came from the two big processors, with the smaller buyers hesitant to buy stock before the big Christmas holiday break. However, there are glimpses of improvement in real demand from the traditional end users. With their stringent COVID rules, China's political uncertainty remains an obstacle. This, together with the high inflation in Europe and North America, prevented the mohair demand from taking off. However, the interest is still there from the majority of the big fashion houses. The HF management and personnel want to thank our clients for their support over the past six months. With the new, state-of-the-art warehouse and the excellent performance of our quality clients, we are world beaters. We wish our clients a blessed time on holiday and revelling in the spirit of Christ.

### Buyer Participation

STUCKEN	40.75%
SAMIL	42.09%
MOSENTHALS	9.11%
VBC	1.47%
SUEDWOLLE	5.22%
CONNACHER	1.36%

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# Vir Bemaking in Lewendehawe, Stoetvee, Slagvee, Losgoed en Algehele uitverkopings.



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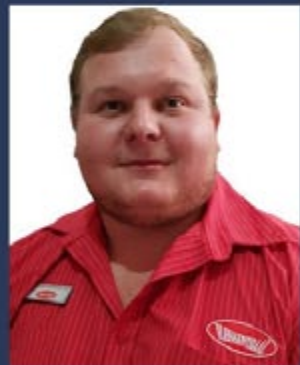
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DIE BESTE BOD  
THE BEST BID

ERMELO - 017 819 1106 /9

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LIVESTOCK · STUD STOCK · SLAUGHTER STOCK · GAME · DISPERSAL SALES · MOVABLE ASSETS · PROPERTY



**VEISSENTRAL**  
**ERMELO**  
 DIE BESTE BOD  
 THE BEST BID

SONDAG	MAANDAG	DINSDAG	WOENSDAG	DONDERDAG	VRYDAG	SATERDAG
				1 ERMELO	2 STANDERTON	3
4	5	6 KRIJSPAAIJ BRONKHORSTSPRUIT	7 BELFAST	8 ERMELO WINTERTON / LADYSMITH	9 STANDERTON	10
11	12	13 BRONKHORSTSPRUIT	14 BELFAST STANDERTON	15 ERMELO	16	17
18	19	20 BRONKHORSTSPRUIT WINTERTON / LADYSMITH	21 BELFAST	22 ERMELO	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

WEEK 48  
 WEEK 49  
 WEEK 50  
 WEEK 51  
 WEEK 52

LEWENDEHAWE - WILD - LOSGOED - EIENDOM  LIVESTOCK - GAME - MOVABLE ASSETS - PROPERTY

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Photo by Christine Vosloo Photography



# Desember 2022



**BOSVELD**  
DIE BESTE BOD  
THE BEST BID

SONDAG	MAANDAG	DINSDAG	WOENSDAG	DONDERDAG	VRYDAG	SATERDAG
				1 MABESKRAAL RUBBERVALE VETVEE	2 ELLISNAS POTGIETERSRUS	3 MARHAN BOERBOKKE BELA BELA
4	5 ALLDAYS	6 BANDELIERKOP BALTIMORE RFFSTFKRAAL WAHMBAD	7 DOORNPAN VETVEE NORTHAM ONDERSTEPOORT PIETESBURG VAALWATER	8 DWAALBOOM NABOOMSPRUIT VIVO	9 POTGIETERSRUS	10
11	12	13 BALTIMORE BEESTEKRAAL LEGKRAAL ROEDTAN WARMBAD	14 NORTHAM ONDERSTEPOORT PIETERSBURG	15 SENTRUM	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

WEEK 48  
WEEK 49  
WEEK 50  
WEEK 51  
WEEK 52

LEWENDEHAWE • WILD • LOSGOED • EIENDOM  LIVESTOCK • GAME • MOVABLE ASSETS • PROPERTY

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# RECIPE

## Creamy cheesecake with fruitcake crumb (Pick n Pay)



It takes over two hours to make and serves eight people.

### Ingredients

- 1 (500g) un-iced PnP fruitcake
- 3 tubs (230g each) cream cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup (180ml) sour cream
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups (300g) castor sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp (5ml) vanilla essence or seeds of 1 vanilla pod
- 2 Tbsp (30ml) honey

### For serving:

Cherries, blueberries and mint

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 160°C.
2. Cut 1cm-thick slices of fruitcake and pack tightly at the bottom of a loose-bottomed 22cm cake tin.
3. Chill in the fridge until firm.
4. Blitz remaining ingredients in a food processor until smooth.
5. Pour onto fruitcake base.
6. Wrap the outside of cake tin with clingfilm, if using the 'water bath' step below (optional).
7. Line a deep oven tray with a tea towel, to keep the tin from slipping, place cake tin on top and pour lukewarm water around the sides.
8. Bake at 160°C for 80-90 minutes until the edges are set and cheesecake is slightly wobbly in the centre.
9. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature.
10. Chill in the fridge for 3 hours or overnight.
11. Remove cheesecake from tin and serve topped with cherries, blueberries and mint.

Source: <https://www.businessinsider.co.za/last-minutes-christmas-desert-recipe-2021-12>



# What's happening in Markets



## Beef

A2/3 = R 59.84  
B2/3 = R 53.55  
C2/3 = R 49.64  
Weaner Calf = R 37.23



## Sheep

A2/3 = R 95.25  
B2/3 = R 74.92  
C2/3 = R 72.19  
Feeder Lamb = R 40.02



## Goats

Ewes = R 40.08  
Kids <30kg = R 55.78  
Kids 30-40kg = R 53.86  
Kids > 40kg = R 41.09



## Chicken

Frozen = R 32.25  
Fresh = R 33.35  
IQF = R 31.87



## Pigs

Porkers = R 36.85  
Baconers = R 37.95



## Safex

Maize = R 4874 /t  
Soybean = R 10597 /t  
Sunflower = R 11045 /t  
Wheat = R 6682 /t



## Exchange rate

R / \$ = R 17.38  
R / £ = R 21.22  
R / € = R 18.25

As at 12 December 2022

[www.amtrends.co.za](http://www.amtrends.co.za)

# PREVIOUS EDITIONS



[Click here](#)



# FARMhere

*Farmers are handpicked by God*

2 Corinthians 13:11b

‘And the God of love and peace will be with you.’

- How wonderful it is to know that God is with us.
- We are not alone on this journey of life.
- We have much to be joyful and to rejoice about.
- Let us encourage each other and pursue peace, which pleases God.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that You are with me right now. You bring love and peace into my life so that I can spread that love and peace to others around me. Help me to be filled with joy and cause my life to be a blessing and an encouragement to others. 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.

[www.farmhere.co.za](http://www.farmhere.co.za)

Photo by Christine Vosloo Photography