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Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development



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Minister announces the criteria and processes to acquire Agricultural State Land

By Matsepo Maletsane

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development minister, Thoko Didiza, announced the process to be followed by members of the public in applying for available Agricultural State Land. This is the government's contribution to the land reform programme. The government will issue advertisement notices in local and provincial newspapers in the next two weeks. Advertisement notices for 896 farms encompassing 700 000 ha of underutilised or vacant state land across all provinces will be posted, except for the Western Cape and Gauteng.



The minister said that, since an announcement by the president in February during the State of the Nation Address, her department had released 135 117 ha of land to 275 farmers, with women receiving 160 farms, youth 114 and people with disabilities one farm.

This is a breakthrough for South African agriculture: the release of state land is great news; it is critically important to ensure that land will be used productively for farming purposes when selecting beneficiaries.

The minister indicated that the government will be offering successful farmers a 30-year leasehold with an option to buy. This form of leasehold places certain obligations on the state as the lessor and beneficiaries as the lessees. All beneficiaries who have been allocated state land and signed lease agreements will be subject to a compulsory training programme. The training programme will include entry level training on the commodity of their choice, basic record keeping, basic financial management and enterprise development as well.

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Regarding land claims, the minister said about 360 173 ha that was identified through the state land analysis are under claims equating to 413 properties. 43 670 ha equating to 60 properties are new order claims, a process which had been interdicted by the Constitutional Court.

Only South African citizens, 18 years old or older, will be considered. Applicants must indicate their current farming interest area and, if successful, must be

willing to work the land full time for the duration of the 30-year lease contract.

Members of the public can find application forms in the next two weeks which will be made available to farmers who want to gain access to land. Forms can be collected at district and provincial offices of both the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and municipal district offices. The adverts will run for one calendar month starting from 15 October to 15 November 2020.



Minister Didiza hosted a virtual dialogue webinar with female farmers in the sector

By Matsepo Maletsane

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza (MP), hosted a virtual dialogue webinar on 31 August 2020. The dialogue featured female farmers as they reflect on their journey in the sector under this year's theme: "Realising women's rights for an equal future." "In areas of economy, this is where we are struggling. I am happy that as a country we are one of those who have joined the Global Coalition whose aim is to champion Economic Justice for women. In this regard, the issue of women's empowerment will be central in our policies, regulatory reform and programmatic intervention. We will also advocate for this using the opportunity of being the Chairperson of the African Union," the minister said.

Some of the topics addressed included the role of youth in agriculture during Covid-19, the agro-processing value chain in job creation and gender-based violence in agriculture. Young people are driving innovation in agri-food systems and have a key role to play in achieving global food security and nutrition. The current crisis has brought both new

challenges and opportunities for young innovators working to transform the sector. Paramount to ensuring that young people and their transformative ideas thrive is the ability of governments and partners to deliver an enabling environment and the business and technical support they need to grow.

Didiza said that her department would always be open in speaking to small-scale farmers. In 2019, the World Economic Forum released data showing that women farmers reinvested 90% of the money they earned back into their farms and communities. The virtual dialogue with women in the sector raised many issues centering around the lack of land. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has emphasised its plans to put women in the sector first and develop their businesses.

The virtual dialogued consisted of diverse women farmers: Ms Nthabiseng Kgobokoe (33) is a young female farmer from Mafikeng in the North West. She is a Law graduate who decided to pursue her dream in agriculture. Ms Kgobokoe

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founded the Batswana Farms and Training in 2013. Ms Mimie Barbara Jacobs (52) is the founder of Rosemead Farm, which is located outside Bloemfontein in the Free State. The 156 ha farm was acquired in 2010 through the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) programme of the then former Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, currently the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The farm comprises of 84 ha for grazing and 45 ha arable land. Ms Matshidiso Portia Mngomezulu (41) is a qualified IT engineer and managing director of Portia M Skin Lotions, who decided to follow her passion for manufacturing skin-care products using

African indigenous oils. Ms Tamara Mathebula is the current chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE). She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Education and is pursuing her PhD in Education. Her background is in Clinical Health and she has worked in several hospitals and clinics in South Africa.

In addressing some of the challenges, the department had released state land with 50% being for women, training for beneficiaries and effective land reform through supporting those who had received the land. The department has also developed a targeted programme for women farmers and entrepreneurs in the space and 40% procurement for women-owned businesses.



Together we can end rabies

By Rony Moremi

September is Rabies Awareness Month and World Rabies Day is commemorated annually on 28 September. It is a global day of action and awareness for rabies prevention as well as the opportunity to unite as communities, individuals, NGOs and governments to work together in the fight against rabies. The theme for this year, #rabiesendshere, is in line with the Global Conference on Rabies Elimination in 2015 which agreed on a common goal of zero human deaths from canine rabies by 2030.

Human deaths caused by rabies can easily be controlled and eventually eliminated altogether in South Africa if all dog owners abide by the law as stipulated in the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984) and regularly vaccinate their dogs and cats against rabies. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development appeals to all dog and cat owners to ensure that their animals are vaccinated against rabies.

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), rabies is one of the deadliest zoonotic diseases (diseases that are transmitted from

animals to humans) that can affect all mammals. The report further states that every nine minutes, somewhere in the world, someone dies of rabies. Rabies affects the central nervous system of mammals, including humans and is usually transmitted via saliva when an infected animal bites another animal or human during the final stages of the disease.

The incubation period can vary from days to several months. Once symptoms are present, the disease is virtually 100% fatal for both animals and humans (OIE).

Symptoms normally only last three to five days before death occurs and can include: salivation, strange vocalisations, incoordination, paralysis and aggression, especially when approached. Many other symptoms can be observed and so people should avoid touching or interacting with any unknown animal, or any animal behaving strangely.

As rabies occurs in domestic and wild animals across South Africa, DALRRD encourages communities not to touch or pick up unknown or stray animals,

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especially dogs. However, if a person is bitten by a dog or an animal behaving strangely, they should wash the wound well with soap under running water and go to their nearest clinic immediately for treatment. This is of utmost importance because post-exposure treatment must start immediately to prevent infection from rabies. Immediate contact must also be established with the State Veterinary Services to investigate and assess the dog or animal to determine

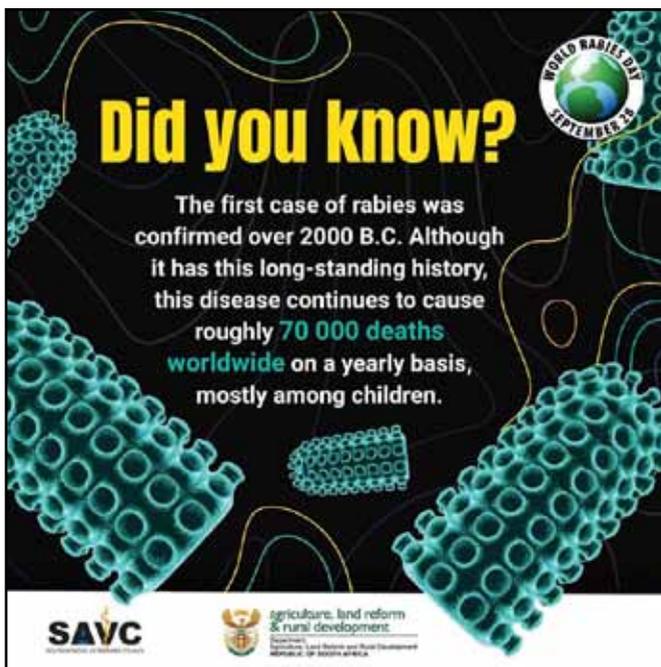
the possible exposure to rabies.

Veterinary Services can be relied upon to provide valuable information and quality vaccines. Don't hesitate, vaccinate!!!

TOGETHER WE CAN ELIMINATE RABIES!!

#RabiesEndsHere

Protect yourself, your family and your community against deadly rabies!



Did you know?

The first case of rabies was confirmed over 2000 B.C. Although it has this long-standing history, this disease continues to cause roughly **70 000 deaths worldwide** on a yearly basis, mostly among children.

WORLD RABIES DAY
SEPTEMBER 28

SAVC
SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

agricultural, land reform & rural development
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

New voluntary levy for winter cereal industry

An alternative trust – the South African Winter Cereal Industry Trust (SAWCIT) – was established by the industry for the collection of voluntary winter cereal levies following the National Agricultural Marketing Council’s decision not to recommend the industry’s application for continuation of the statutory levy.

This follows organised agriculture’s intervention in the activities of the Winter Cereal Trust (WCT). Important operational functions are financed with these funds, and therefore the industry quickly had to put an alternative system in place before the start of the new marketing season on 1 October 2020.

The agricultural industry in South Africa has had to maintain important functions from its own funds since the deregulation of the marketing boards. These features enable our agricultural value chain,

from producer to consumer, to compete globally. This ensures food security and the functions that are funded are among the cornerstones on which our free market is based.

What are the most important functions that will be funded with the levy?

- South African Grain Laboratory (SAGL)
- South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)
- Research projects
- Transformation

Who supports the voluntary levy?

Private sector: SANSOR (seed companies), Agbiz Grain (storers), Grain SA (producers), animal feed manufacturers (AFMA), SACOTA (dealers), JSE (Safex) National

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Chamber of Milling (millers), SA Chamber of Baking (bakers), Pioneer Foods (PepsiCo) and the SA National Consumer Union.

Are the objectives and functions of the new Trust different from the previous

Winter Cereal Trust (WCT) that funded the essential functions?

No, it's virtually identical. However, the operating costs will be less. The interim measure applies until the WCT's functions are managed at a desired level.

What are the amounts of the voluntary levies? (Please note VAT is excluded)

Wheat:

R14,50 per metric ton

Barley:

R14,50 per metric ton

Oats

R6,00 per metric ton



2021 Goliat van Gat Pumpkin Festival

It is time again for the first preparations for contenders in the annual Goliat van Gat Pumpkin Festival – an initiative of TLU SA.

“We want to remind all our prospective contenders to start their soil preparation and buy their seeds for the 2021 competition,” says Mr Henri Combrink, the organiser. “The seeds are available at TLU SA’s head office in Silverton as usual, but can also be delivered throughout South Africa.”

The 2021 Goliat van Gat Pumpkin Festival will be hosted in Pretoria again, and more details will follow up to the event in March 2021. All interested persons can visit the festival’s Facebook page for new information.

The pumpkins are evaluated in the following categories:

- Biggest pumpkin – R15 000;
- Biggest pumpkin in Gauteng – R3 000;
- Second place – R5 000;
- Third place – R3 000;
- Prettiest pumpkin;

- Ugliest pumpkin;
- Junior pumpkin grower under 16 years;
- Most original pumpkin for decorated pumpkins;
- Biggest other vegetables.

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DALRRDnews is the newsletter of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Private Bag X250, PRETORIA 0001.

It is published by the Directorate Communication Services, Private Bag X144, PRETORIA 0001.

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