



VRYSTAAT LANDBOU
TSA TEMO FREISTATA
FREE STATE AGRICULTURE

ONGEAG

NEWS SNIPPETS

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RURAL SAFETY

With the run-up to the festive season, which already starts from 1 October, Dr Jane Buys warns that an increase in criminal activities may be detected in certain geographical areas.

Farmers, their workers as well as families living on farms and smallholdings are advised to apply greater visibility and vigilance. Dr Buys further mentions that any suspicious movement by vehicles or persons must be immediately reported to the local safety representatives and rural safety coordinators of the SAPS.

Stock theft

The recent crime figures released by the Minister of Police show that nearly half of the Free State's police stations continue to show an increase in livestock theft reporting figures. Large numbers of livestock are still stolen from farms at once and transported to outlet areas.

Seed theft

Free State Agriculture has learned with concern that there appears to be an increase in seed theft in the Free State.

Dr. Buys mentions that there was an incident in Bethlehem in August. During mid-September a farm between Kroonstad/Steynsrus was targeted and at the end of September seed was stolen from farms in the Bothaville, Reitz and Fouriesburg area. Read more about it [here](#)

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Dr Jane Buys



Unlawful Entry on Premises Bill

The Unlawful Entry on Premises Bill had been in the news lately. Although the bill should be treated with caution in its current form, there are also positive provisions contained in the bill.

With the help of input received from members, Free State Agriculture continued to submit written comments on the bill and also provided input via Agri SA at national level by means of a written submission.

Free State Agriculture's written comments can be found [here](#).

Golf day for farm safety



Thanks to [Agriculture.Golf](#)'s successful golf day that was presented on 23 September in Bloemfontein, Free State Agriculture's Rural Safety fund is R230 000 stronger!

"All the benefits of this day are for the safety of our rural areas in the Free State", Francois Wilken said during the event. This is the second time this event has been offered. Feel free to take a look [here](#) at all the sponsors who made the day possible.

CONTROL ROOMS

In July 2022, a team from FSA visited five control rooms. The control rooms welcomed the need for training to be able to do analysis themselves and during September 2022 the training had already started.

FSA's team intends to visit the rest of the control rooms in the province during October and November 2022 to determine if there is a need for training regarding analysis of camera data.

During the E2 national strategic planning session (workshop), FSA was requested to assist BLSA in doing analyses over periods so that there can be a mutual focus on predictable analyses.



COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

Foot-and-mouth Disease

At the end of September 2022, Free State Agriculture (FSA) wrote to the Chief Director Veterinary Services - Free State Province to convey our members' concern regarding the large financial impact that the restriction on the movement of livestock has on both large and small farmers.

Free State Agriculture has made an urgent appeal for the lifting of the restrictions on the movement of livestock the Thabo Mofutsanyana and Felize Dabi district municipalities. We also further requested that restrictions not be imposed on the entire Lejweleputswa area, after cases of foot-and-mouth disease were recorded at Hertzogville from 20 September.

VL received feedback from the Department of Agriculture on 3 October, stating that they are reviewing the disease management areas and are hoping for a favorable response from the Minister of Agriculture.

Free State Agriculture's letter as well as the feedback from the department can be viewed [here](#)

LITS

Through its investigation into an appropriate traceability system, FSA contributed to putting the pressure on role players in order to roll out the implementation of a national LITS system. The current foot-and-mouth outbreak has critically highlighted the role of biosecurity and it continues to be the responsibility of every farmer.

FSA is busy with the final negotiations with a supplier who, above and beyond supporting a traceability system, will also be able to drastically combat livestock theft.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Jagersfontein disaster

On 11 September 2022 at 6:00am, a sad tragedy struck the community of Jagersfontein, when the bank of a silt dam broke and covered the village in thick silt.

Dennis Louw, a farmer who lives just outside the town, remembers how they were busy in the field among the sheep at 7:00am when one of the workers' wives came running and shouted that the wall of the silt dam had broken. Dennis says that the silt was through his farm within an hour. The trail of devastation is evident when you turn into his farm gate and Dennis mentions that he has been told that the land will need about 20 years to recover...

Free State Agriculture has allocated an amount of R50 000 from our Disaster fund to Jagersfontein farmers association, to assist farmers with immediate needs.



A sheep from Dennis Louw that was rescued from the mud.



A lamb is bathed in the house to try to get the silt off.



The silt makes the once fertile field look like a desolate lunar landscape.



National Minimum wage

Free State Agriculture has sent a letter to the Department of Labor in which the commission is requested to apply proper discretion in the decision of possible adjustments to the national minimum wage.

Gernie Botha, chief executive officer, confirms that FSA has made it clear that where an increase is envisaged, the commission must take the factual situation into account and that a maximum of 3% increase can be considered.

Free State Agriculture's written comments can be viewed [here](#)



Future focus for young and old

Senwes, in collaboration with Free State Agriculture's Young Farmer Committee, is once again presenting the popular Future Focus Day on 11 October 2022 at Nampopark.

Chat with local and international producers where core issues in the agricultural supply chain will be discussed.

Stand a chance to WIN a trip to Zanzibar when you register here <https://t.co/h2WSRjrArH>

