



## RURAL SAFETY

### Expansion of private investigators on livestock theft

- 241 sheep and 98 cattle worth R1.5 million were recovered
- 14 arrests in 6 livestock theft cases were carried out
- 4 vehicles and 1 trailer seized

These are three of the many successes that Free State Agriculture (FSA) and LGV's PSIRA registered Private Stock Theft Investigators initiative achieved in the first 4 months.

According to Jakkals le Roux, chairman of Free State Agriculture's Rural Safety committee, the Private Livestock Theft Investigators initiative kicked off on 1 July 2023. "The initiative was started because cases of livestock theft had reached unacceptable levels. It became clear that a community initiative was going to be needed to help turn things around".

The Private Livestock Theft Investigators are made up of PSIRA registered private investigators who focus on livestock theft. They currently operate under the leadership of Free State Agriculture (FSA) and the private security company LGV in the Fezile Dabe district.

Dr Jane Buys added that the initiative is funded by FSA and community members. "The biggest expenses incurred are the travel costs and daily fees of investigators. This means that this initiative can be expanded relatively easily as public support for the initiative increases."

Any suggestions on an effective sustainable financing model can be forwarded to Dr Jane Buys ([jane@vslandbou.co.za](mailto:jane@vslandbou.co.za)), Isabel Kruger ([stepbyfaithm@gmail.com](mailto:stepbyfaithm@gmail.com)) or Peet Swanepoel ([peetswanepoel86@gmail.com](mailto:peetswanepoel86@gmail.com)) before or on November 20, 2023.



## RURAL SAFETY (continue)

### Rural safety strategy (RSS) and collaboration with E2

E2 is a project that kicked off in 2019 where the "Eyes and Ears" of private security companies and the activation of a POCC/DOCC (JOC) structure were put on the table with the police. This means that private security companies gain access to the JOC structure of the police. The reality is that private security companies are playing an increasingly important role in being on the lookout for criminals committing crimes and in passing any requests for police activation to a JOC structure. Initially, E2 was more modeled on the integration of camera networks and systems, which is still being focused on. However, it seems that E2 is currently planning a more comprehensive project to integrate all information, and also wants to try to establish structures from station level up to and including national level.

Organized agriculture and Free State Agriculture are and will remain involved within the RSS at all levels and forums to bring the impact and extent of crimes on the agricultural sector to the attention of the police, as well as request the necessary interventions where there are deficiencies and gaps in policing.

During the national safety summit in Parys in July 2022, the RSS was reaffirmed by organized agriculture as a strategy to achieve safety in the rural areas with the police's capacity that must receive real attention. FSA supports the E2 project where it can be incorporated within the RSS structure.

Inquiries can be directed to dr Jane Buys by [jane@vslandbou.co.za](mailto:jane@vslandbou.co.za)

#### Festive season sees increase in crimes

Dr Jane Buys shares the following tips with farmers in the run-up to the festive season which usually sees an increase in crime, especially livestock theft.

- Livestock should be counted regularly (daily if possible)
- Ensure livestock are branded/tattooed
- Make sure fences / line wires are in place

If livestock has been stolen, the matter must be reported to the police as quickly as possible or, where possible, get in touch with a private investigator (if a FSA member). Farmers must also ensure that their workers' records are checked, and have polygraph tests carried out as part of their employment contracts where thefts occur.

All incidents related to livestock theft can be brought to Peet Swanepoel's attention on 066 407 7899 or [peetswanepoel86@gmail.com](mailto:peetswanepoel86@gmail.com)





# NATURAL RESOURCES AND DISASTERS

## Mining prospecting rights - the process

Almost the entire Northern Free State from Winburg is basically under some kind of gas mining prospecting right where environmental impact studies are currently still being done. The only prospecting right for a gas mine that has been granted is for Renergen (Tetra4) south of Virginia.

Dr Jack Armour points out that where a prospecting company does decide to move into mining, the following happens::

1. The prospecting company gets the first right to start mining within a limited time period. The right can be sold to a mining company, so the prospecting company is not necessarily going to be the mining company.
2. A new environmental impact study must be done, by an independent environmental consultant for the specific locations where it is intended to mine.

FSA encourages directly affected members to be involved in the Public Participation processes where concerns and objections can be submitted and where Environmental consultants can communicate with affected persons. Inquiries can be directed to Dr Jack Armour at [jack@vslandbou.co.za](mailto:jack@vslandbou.co.za)

## Veld fires

The recent fires across the Free State during October identified the need to bring all agricultural associations up to speed again with the protocol for applying and donating disaster aid. The processes regarding a request for disaster aid to Free State Agriculture (FSA) are determined by the **Disaster policy** (Afrikaans).

Agricultural associations remain the ground-level structure that knows the local farmers' situation and can effectively coordinate and distribute the limited aid. For any inquiries please call Dr Jack Armour on 07167220271 or email [jack@vslandbou.co.za](mailto:jack@vslandbou.co.za)

### **Guideline documents for responding to respect applications on agricultural land:**

Agri SA has commissioned Cullinan & Associates Attorneys to draw up a guideline document to assist farmers in dealing with prospecting rights holders who wish to gain access to their land.

The following documents will be of help to you:

- [Guidelines for responding to prospecting applications](#)
- [Template for commenting on section 10 notices to be placed on farm](#)
- [Template for application for environmental authorisation](#)
- [Agri SA Protocol for access to farms](#)
- [Access and compensation agreement](#)
- [Explanatory memorandum: access and compensation agreement](#)



## COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

### R26 & R34-roads transferred to Sanral

Thanks to sustained pressure, the Government Gazette notice of 27 October that the R26 road as well as the R34 road had been officially transferred to SANRAL was received with gratitude.

Although Free State Agriculture has motivated that the road from the N6 at Rouxville to the road at the N3 on Villiers be transferred to SANRAL, only the R26 road will be transferred from Ladybrand to Bethlehem.

Free State Agriculture will continue to apply pressure on the relevant departments.

### Transfer of real estate property

Did you know?

In terms of section 118 of the Municipal Systems Act, the Registrar of Deeds may not register the transfer of real estate property except upon presentation to that Registrar of Deeds of a prescribed certificate-

- a. issued by the municipality or municipalities in which the property is located; and
- b. which certifies that all amounts due in connection with that property for municipal taxes and charges in respect of services during the two years preceding the date of application for the certificate have been paid in full.

#### Procedure if you have been affected by a fire and request help from FSA:

Send a request for help to **FSA** as soon as possible on an agricultural association letterhead containing the following basic information:

- 1) Date and time (duration) of the fire
- 2) Environment burned; from where to where
- 3) Estimated extent of the fire:
  - a. Estimated hectares burned
  - b. How many farmers / farms affected
  - c. Losses – hectares of pasture / crops, animals, stores, houses, workers houses, vehicles and equipment etc.
- 4) Immediate needs
- 5) Fire-aid coordinator name and contact details and location of drop-off point for donations.

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