

BEESVLEIS

Produsente het positiewe vooruitsigte vir 2025

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AGRI SA

Drie dekades deel van SA-landbou

p6

WEERSAKE

Damvlakke en reënval in NW

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Plaaswerkers maak gereed – goeie oeste verwag



Na 'n effens wankelrige begin wat reënval betref, het Februarie in 'n uitstekende maand met rekordsyfers ontaard, wat in die afgelope paar weke feitlik oornag tot 'n situasie met propvol damme en riviere in opgaarddamme wat steeds oorloop, gelei het. Suid-Afrika bevind hom, benewens vloede en skade op sommige plekke, op die vooraand van 'n belowende produksieseisoen waarin landbou homself weer as primêre verskaffer van werksgeleentheid sal bewys. Lees meer op bladsy 7.

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Unlocking onion success: slotting trial of onion assortments

AGRI-PULSE - NORTH WEST - In the world of agriculture, timing is everything. This is especially true when it comes to growing onions, where the right sowing time can significantly impact yield and quality. At Nuvance's research farm, located just outside Brits in the North West province, they embarked on an extensive slotting trial aimed at pinpointing the optimal planting window for each of their intermediate and short-day onion varieties.

Understanding onions

Onions are biennial plants that are typically grown as annuals. Bulbing refers to the formation of the edible part of the onion that Nuvance harvests. Short-day onions require a relatively shorter duration of daylight (typically 10-12 hours) to trigger the bulbing process.

They are usually grown in regions closer to the equator or in southern regions where the day length naturally stays within this range during the growing season. This is in contrast to long-day onions, which require longer daylight hours (usually 14-16 hours) to bulb. Short-day onions are often planted in the autumn in regions with mild winters, allowing them to mature during the cooler months.

Variety-specific sowing times

To determine the optimal sowing time for each onion variety, Nuvance conducted a six-month experiment where they sowed all varieties every two weeks starting in December. This allowed them to observe how different sowing times affected growth and development. By systematically testing each variety at regular intervals, Nuvance aimed to identify the most suitable sowing slot for maximising their yield and quality.

Key findings and insights

- **Impact of sowing time:** Nuvance observed significant variations in growth and development among onion varieties based on different sowing times.
- **Yield variation:** The timing of sowing directly influenced the yield potential of each variety, with certain sowing slots correlating to higher yields compared to others.
- **Quality assessment:** By systematically testing each variety at regular intervals, Nuvance was able to assess and compare the quality attributes such as size, uniformity, and bolting tolerance.
- **Recommendations for farmers:** These findings provide valuable insights for farmers to strategically plan their planting schedules, optimising their timing to achieve maximum yield and quality for each of their onion varieties.

Implications for future cultivation

With this additional data, Nuvance is now better equipped to tailor the recommended planting schedules for each of their onion varieties. By synchronising sowing times with specific environmental needs of a variety, the organisation anticipates increased efficiency and enhanced yields in future seasons.

This slotting trial has been a journey of discovery and refinement underscoring the importance of precision farming techniques in optimising agricultural productivity. By sharing findings and insights with growers, they are able to integrate them into their farming practices.

Together, agricultural innovation and ensured food security is advanced for future generations.



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Beef producers upbeat about 2025 prospects

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - The South African beef industry faced significant challenges in 2024, due to the country's low economic growth environment, though several bright spots emerged, particularly in exports. This mixed picture provides cautious optimism for 2025, according to Beefmaster Group.

"Last year was tough for the business and our industry," says Gert Blignaut, CEO of Beefmaster Group. "Slaughter prices continued to fall, input prices such as feed prices continued to rise, and farmers' calf prices couldn't get off the ground. The consumer faced significant financial strain, resulting in low spending."

Despite these challenges, production volumes showed remarkable resilience.

"It is likely that we reached the highest slaughter figures of the last six years, with about 2.8 million cattle going to slaughter in SA," Blignaut notes. However, this increased supply and lower demand due to constrained consumer spending, put additional pressure on prices throughout the year.

A significant bright spot in 2024 was export performance.

"Last year we exported the highest volume of beef in the last six years, in the region of approximately 38 000 tonnes," says Blignaut.

However, he emphasises that exports only represent about 5% of production, indicating substantial room for growth.

With beef being the second fastest growing commodity in the agriculture sector, according to research from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), expanding export markets remains crucial. Blignaut remains optimistic and the potential for improved export numbers exceeding 5% through collaboration with industry stakeholders and DALRRD.

He says the opening of the Saudi Arabian market was another positive development in 2024, along with other encouraging factors such as the GNU formation and the start of an interest rate reduction cycle, which could stimulate consumer spending this year. He is also encouraged by the reduction in loadshedding experienced in 2024, with savings in diesel expenditure of R16.42-billion. Blignaut says that this bodes well for businesses in 2025, who had suffered losses in previous years due to rolling blackouts.

He says that the outlook for 2025 carries both promise and challenges.

"We suspect that going into 2025, the consumer may start spending more. Possible further interest rate cuts, combined with the current outlook for the year, may mean we could be in for a better year," Blignaut says.

However, he cautions about ongoing challenges, particularly regarding Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) management, the highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals and has persisted in SA.

"We are also concerned about drought conditions and how this may impact primary producers."





According to agricultural economist from Agbiz, Wandile Sihlobo, a mid-summer drought in 2024 negatively impacted the agricultural sector leading to extensive crop losses. Climate experts at the start of this year warned about uncertainty regarding weather cycles, making forecasting and the prediction of rains, difficult.

Yet, Blignaut is cautiously optimistic about the year ahead. "Primary producers, keep doing what you are doing. Tenacity is a superpower. Hang on."



Gert Blignaut, Chief Executive Officer of the Beefmaster Group.

Moon Phases March 2025

			
Third Quarter Moon 6 March	Full Moon 14 March	First Quarter Moon 22 March	New Moon 29 March

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Hi-tech irrigation - counter a hotter, drier future

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG – South Africa has always been a water-scarce country, subject to periodic droughts and erratic rainfall patterns.

However, South African farmers' eagerness and willingness to adopt the latest agriculture technologies, including advanced irrigation technologies that integrate into precision agriculture systems, helps to optimise farming inputs for maximum yield and efficiency.

According to Arno Abeln, Managing Director of Agrimark Operations, the replacement value of South Africa's installed irrigation drip, microfilters, pumps and pipe infrastructure, is estimated at R34 billion at today's prices and based on hectares under production today.

"Assuming an annual replacement rate of 3%, the annual market size is R1 billion, based on its current size. Looking to the future, as more farmers are expected to switch to precision farming, the need for this type of technology will increase."

South African farmers have been forced to become water-wise, as long-term climate forecasts envision longer droughts and more erratic rainfall in coming years - with implications for agriculture and food security. In addition, while the size of South Africa's water resource will not grow, its population is expected to grow by 17% in the coming 10 years, effectively reducing per capita water availability.

"Agriculture in South Africa consumes 60% of the available water resource and thus, producers have a responsibility to farm sustainably – which is not possible without sustainable irrigation practices." If not managed properly, water consumption can increase the strain on the system. Abeln explains that several characteristics of the everyday use of irrigation systems necessitate the periodic replacement of components.

"Over time, the peroxide used to clean irrigation systems erodes the pipe walls, so eventually the pipes don't give you the same flow rate. Many farmers apply liquid fertilisers via their irrigation systems, and these fertilisers can also reduce the lifespan of the dripping lines. "You may have a dripper installed to give 0.7 litres per hour, but then a grain of sand or a micro-small stone gets caught up in the dripline, and suddenly this dripper doesn't give you 0.7 litres per hour any more, which leads to inefficient production."

Abeln notes that amid the past three years' difficult economic conditions and steep increases in farming input costs, many farmers may decide to postpone the scheduled replacement of irrigation components. "This is risky, because if you put off replacing 5 hectares of irrigation on a wine farm for two or three years, you suddenly must replace 15 or 20 hectares. In the meantime the worn components cost you more money due to reduced efficiency."

Crop production under netting has been one of the biggest game changers in irrigation farming over the past decade, as it reduces evaporation and the overall water requirement.

"Agrimark is committed to helping our farming and retail customers improve water stewardship. For the long-term sustainability of our relatively good food security in SA, it would be advisable that government and private sector invest in expanding dam and water irrigation systems in SA," concludes Abeln.

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Oorlewing van bome in versuippte areas

deur Naas Grové

AGRI-PULSE – NOORDWES - Grootsekaalse biotiese gemeenskappe, of biome, word getipeer en beskryf volgens die gevestigde plante en diere wat in ekologiese sones binne 'n geologiese tydperk voorkom. Hierdie gemeenskappe tipeer wêreldwye waarneembare patrone van plantbedekking. Biome kan breedweg met klimaatsones geassosieer word, hoewel ander omgewingsfaktore soos geologie, reënval, temperatuur en die voorkoms van brande ook 'n belangrike rol speel.

Elke biotiese stel plant- en dierspesies en vertoon 'n algemene voorkoms as gevolg van die groeivorm van die plantspesies. Hierdie algemene planteienskappe laat 'n kenmerkende visuele merk op die biotiese. Mucina & Rutherford (2006) het nege biome vir Suid-Afrika geïdentifiseer, naamlik fynbos, sukkulente Karoo, woestyn, Nama-Karoo, grasveld, savanne, Albany-ruigtes, Indiese oseaan-kusgordel en woude. Biome kan opgebreek word in kleiner, meer homogene ekologiese eenhede of plantegroeitipes volgens dominante plantspesies en die digtheid en hoogte van plante. Met ander woorde, die voorkoms van bome in die landskap en hul kenmerkende groeivorm weerspieël die biotiese, habitat of veldtipe waarby hulle aangepas is. Die klimaat, reënval, vuur, ryp, grondvog en ligintensiteit vorm nie net bome nie, maar bepaal ook of plante in 'n spesifieke plek kan groei. Die meeste bosveldbiome is byvoorbeeld aangepas om veldbrande te weerstaan.

Suid-Afrika spog met 'n werklik diverse en pragtige ekologiese landskap, propvol natuurlike skoonheid en ryk biodiversiteit. Die gemiddelde reënval is ongeveer 450 mm per jaar (vergeleke met die wêreldgemiddelde van 950 mm), maar groot en onvoorspelbare variasies kom gereeld voor. Klimaat en reënval is deurslaggewende faktore wat die voorkoms, verspreiding en oorvloed van bome in Suid-Afrika beïnvloed.

Streke met hoër reënval soos die kusgebiede van die Wes-Kaap, KwaZulu-Natal en dele van Mpumalanga ondersteun digte woude en beboste savanna-bosveld. Droë en semi-droë streke van die Kalahari, Noord-Kaap en Karoo het minder boomspesies, plante is tipies droogtebestand en aangepas om in hierdie uiterste toestande te oorleef. Immergroen boomspesies kom veral voor in natter, warmer kus-, berg- en misgordelwoude, subtropiese streke en beboste valleie regoor Suid-Afrika.

Met al die goeie reën wat in Februarie oor die grootste deel van die land geval het, is talle

gevalle van versuiping aangemeld. Versuippte bome vertoon dikwels verskeie simptome wat aandui dat hulle sukkel met oortollige vog soos verwelking en vergeling van die blare, swamgroeï, wortelvrot, sagte bas of pap stingels, vertraagde groei en onderontwikkeling van nuwe blare. Nie baie inheemse bome in Suid-Afrika sal in versuippte omstandighede of habitat kan oorleef nie.

Koorsbome (*Vachellia xanthophloea*) is 'n prominente kenmerk in die Laeveldstreek. Die chlorofil-ge vulde, groen bas wat kan fotosinteer maak dat die boom nie net van blare afhanklik is vir hierdie belangrike proses vir oorlewing nie. Dit word gewoonlik aangetref in digte stande op die rand van vlak panne, in moerasagtige en seisoenale vloedvlaktes, langs mere en rivieroevers.

Dit verkies alluviale grond, en die beskikbaarheid van grondwater is 'n belangrike faktor in die groei, ontwikkeling, spesiesamestelling en verspreiding van hierdie savannebome. Soos die meeste ander doringboomspesies, het die plant wortelknoppies wat stikstofbindende bakterieë bevat en dit speel 'n belangrike rol in stikstofverryking van die grond wat 'n positiewe impak op die groei van ander plante naby die boom het.

Seisoenale oorstromings veroorsaak dat die wortels van die koorsboom "versmoor" en om die gebrek aan suurstof te oorkom, het die plant sekere aanpassings ontwikkel. Die sogenaamde pneumatofoor of "snorkelwortels" wat tydens hierdie stresvolle toestande op die oppervlak verskyn, laat die plant suurstof in 'n andersins anaërobie se substraat verkry. Die wortels is tipies sponsagtig en het talle klein porieë wat lenteselle genoem word, wat gaswisseling vergemaklik. Hierdie strukture wissel in grootte en vorm na gelang van omgewingstoestande. Die spesie is dus perfek aangepas om in sy natuurlike habitat te oorleef.

As gevolg van hierdie aangepaste oorlewingstrategie om snorkelwortels te laat groei, sal die boom ook aanpas en oorleef in omgewings wat kunsmatig geskep of verander is deur die mens, soos by parkeerareas in winkelsentrums. Die uiters groot oppervlakte onder plaveisels en teer is 'n kunsmatige vloedvlakte wat seisoenaal deurdrenk is met reënwater, wat die groei van die snorkelwortels stimuleer. Dit is dus nie 'n goeie opsie om hierdie bome in parkeerareas of stadstuine aan te plant nie.



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Vir meer inligting besoek André Kock en Seun Facebook Blad.

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Bakteriële- en swamsiektes van knoffel

Deur Magda du Toit - Farmer's Weekly

AGRI-PULSE – LICHTENBURG - Knoffel is geneig tot bakteriële en swamsiektes, en dit is belangrik dat boere proaktief is om infeksie te voorkom en toepaslike bestuur te beoefen.

Om knoffel van saad tot oes te kweek, vereis noukeurige beplanning, sowel as behoorlike en deurlopende produksiebestuurspraktyke om 'n gesonde oes te verseker.

Deur aandag te gee aan faktore soos grondgesondheid, water en plaag- en siektebestuur, kan die risiko's verbonde aan knoffelproduksie tot die minimum beperk word.

Om 'n goeie knoffeloes te verseker, gebruik siektevrye en chemies behandelde saad of plantmateriaal.

Elsie Cruywagen, spesialisnavorsers

in mikologie en plantpatologie by die Landbounavorsingsraad se Groente-, Nywerheids- en Medisinale Plantinstituit (LNR-VIMP), het onlangs by die Suid-Afrikaanse Knoffelkwekersvereniging se jaarlikse konferensie in Pretoria gepraat en daarop gewys dat knoffel vatbaar is vir verskeie siektes. "Knoffel is geneig tot hoofsaaklik swam- en virale en in 'n mindere mate bakteriële siektes," het sy gesê. Sy het bygevoeg dat die meeste van die belangrikste swamsiektes deur die grond gedra word.

Cruywagen het daarop gewys dat daar ongeveer 10 groepe bakteriese siektes is wat knoffel beïnvloed en meer as 35 swamsiektes kan knoffelproduksie benadeel.

Alle plante het 'n reeks vatbaarheid vir 'n reeks siektes. Die patogene is die

siekteveroorakende middel. Siektes van plante kan veroorsaak word deur swamme, bakterieë en virusse. Sommige patogene is spesifiek vir slegs een of 'n paar gasheerplante, terwyl ander breë vermoëns het om byna alles aan te val.

Sonder die regte gasheer onder die regte omstandighede kan patogene geen skade berokken nie. 'n Gunstige omgewing verwys na optimale weerstoestand wat nodig is vir 'n patogeen om te floreer.

Om 'n goeie oes te verseker, is die volgende aspekte belangrik:

- Gebruik siektevrye en chemies behandelde saad of plantmateriaal. Alhoewel goeie gehalte, siektevrye saad duur is, moet boere daarin belê eerder as om koste te probeer besnoei deur minderwaardige

knoffelsaad te koop.

- Plant verdraagsame variëteite.
- Besproei met drup in plaas van oorhoofse stelsels in oesreste na oes.
- Wisselbou met nie-gashere in drie siklusse is raadsaam.
- Vermyn oorbemesting met stikstof.
- Gebruik geregistreerde swamdoders.
- Vermyn skade aan knoffelbolle tydens oes en verpakking.
- Hou relatiewe humiditeit en temperatuur laag tydens berging.

Geregistreerde chemikalieë, goeie kulturele praktyke en veldsanitasie is die drie meganismes wat gebruik moet word in 'n geïntegreerde beheerprogram vir al die plaas en siektes wat knoffel aantast, het Cruywagen aangeraai.

(Foto: Farmer's Weekly argief)

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Ita se soet kortrib stowe-gereg



AGRI-PULSE – BRITS – Sy is nie net 'n toegewyde vrou, ma en ouma nie, Ita Viljoen is 'n entrepreneur, motiveringspreker en 'n dinamiese lid van Brits Vroue Landbou-unie en vir haar hande staan niks verkeerd nie.

Wanneer sy nie saam met haar man in hulle konstruksiebesigheid werk of besig is om die kinders en kleinkinders te "bederf" nie, is sy 'n bobaasbakster en 'n kok van formaat.

"Ek kook na eie smaak en meestal skep ek my eie geregte. Ek hou nie daarvan om my aan 'n resep te bind nie," sê Ita, wie se flambojante persoonlikheid duidelik in haar soet kortrib stowe-gereg weerspieël word.

Gedagtig aan die reënerige weer die afgelope tyd wat mens mos altyd na 'n warm gereg laat hunker, het Ita spesiaal vir AgriPulse haar eie soet kortrib stowe-gereg gemaak.

"Ek het kortrib gekies omdat dit 'n bekostigbare, tog smaaklike vleissnit is. Die groentekombinasie is gekies vir kleur, variasie en natuurlik die eindproduk - want ons eet mos eerste met die oë," skerts sy.

Soet kortrib stowe-gereg Bestanddele:

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Potjiekos-speserye na smaak
Sout en growwe peper na smaak
Groen uie-geursel na smaak
Knoffel na smaak
Twee blokkies groente-aftreksel en 'n pakkie (ongeveer 300g) van elk van die volgende groente:
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Babawortels
Baba-aartappels
Brusselse spruite
Murgpampoentjies

Metode

Marineer die vleis in sjerie, Sweet & Sticky marinade, die sap van 'n halwe suurlemoen, potjiekos-speserye, sout, growwe peper, knoffel en ander speserye en gebraaide uie in 'n kleibak. Bak met deksel vir 'n halfuur teen 180°C.

Haal uit oond en roer die vleis deur. Pak die groente op die bed van vleis. Voeg die groente-aftreksel en nog speserye na smaak by. Plaas deksel terug en bak vir nog 'n halfuur tot groente sag is. Bedien saam met sagegekookte stammielies.



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AgriSA celebrates three decades' growth in SA agriculture

AGRI-PULSE – RUSTENBURG - Agri SA proudly celebrates the agricultural industry growth over the past 30 years as highlighted in the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy's (BFAP) publication Agriculture in South Africa in the Democratic Era: 1994-2024, released on 12 February 2025.

The report provides an in-depth analysis of South Africa's agricultural landscape, presenting key insights into the macro-economic and policy shifts that have influenced the sector. Some of the key highlights include:

Doubling of agricultural output: The

sector's total output has more than doubled since 1994.

Export growth: Successful expansion into international markets has mitigated the impact of domestic economic stagnation. South African producers of fresh produce benefit from our zero-tariff access to the UK and EU markets.

Technological advancements: Significant yield improvements in key crops like maize and soybeans due to advances in genetics and farming practices. Maize yields have been on their way to quadrupling since the early 1990s,

and the country has become self-sufficient in soybeans to the benefit of intensive livestock production.

Increase in horticultural exports:

Particularly strong performance in fruit and tree nut exports, benefiting from advantageous trade agreements with the EU and UK.

Improved labour productivity: Despite the above-inflation increases over the past two decades, the number of agricultural workers has remained stable, yet agricultural production has increased substantially, which indicates an improvement in labour productivity.

Policy implementation struggles:

Ongoing challenges in realising effective land reform and integrating black farmers into commercial agriculture hinder sector-wide progress.

"Agri SA is committed to fostering sustainable growth.

This report not only highlights significant achievements, but also calls for a renewed focus on policy implementation," says Johann Kotzé," Agri SA Chief Executive Officer.



AgriCulture
SOUTH AFRICA / SUID-AFRIKA

SA experiences worst African armyworm infestation on record

By Glenneis Kriel

AGRI-PULSE – NORTH WEST - Over the past two weeks, incidents of African armyworm have been experienced across the summer rainfall area, from the grasslands and Bushveld to subtropical regions.

“As far as I know, this is the worst outbreak ever in South Africa. I have received hundreds of phone calls and enquiries about African armyworm since the first incident was reported, with outbreaks now confirmed in North West, Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and the Free State,” Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, CropLife SA’s stewardship manager told Farmer’s Weekly.

On top of this, various other caterpillar problems have popped up. Verdoorn said reports have been received of lawn caterpillars in the Bushveld, looper and semi-loopers in the Bushveld and Kalahari, and fall armyworm on primarily smallholder farms where BT varieties

were not used in pockets of KwaZulu-Natal and the Lowveld.

Cutworms have also been a big problem in various regions for the past three years, primarily affecting vegetable and maize producers.

Verdoorn ascribed the explosion in caterpillar problems to climatic conditions that favoured the swarming of caterpillars: “The summer rainfall region received a lot of early-summer rain, followed by a midsummer dry spell, and then a lot of rain since January.”

He expects the African armyworm problem to subside from mid-March as the caterpillars enter the pupae phase. A second strike can be expected after that, with the severity greatly depending on temperatures moving forward.

He explained that warm temperatures tended to favour larger outbreaks and said there had been rumours of African armyworm causing crop damage in Limpopo, but he doubted this, because African armyworm generally only attacked planted and natural pastures. “One farmer told me that African armyworm destroyed 5ha of his teff in something like four hours,” he said.

Pastures do recover from strikes,

as the roots of the plants are not affected. But the pastures, and especially those with broad leaves, like kikuyu, become toxic in response to the strike, which along with the toxic excrements of the caterpillars pose a lethal threat to livestock.

“I have heard of a few farmers who lost small numbers of livestock, about three or four, because of toxicity problems caused by African armyworm, as well as one farmer whose whole herd turned lame. Fortunately, the herd managed to recover the next day,” Verdoorn said.

According to an article by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), symptoms of toxicity usually appear about 10 days after the appearance of the worms, and include paralysis, large strings of saliva drooling from the mouth, and animals exhibiting an apparent thirst. Slight symptoms of bloat, grinding of teeth and nervous twitching may also occur.

The ARC advised farmers to remove their animals from affected pastures and call a vet in. The animals should be kept off the affected lands for at least 40 days. Cypermethrin is available to control African armyworm, with the efficiency greatly depending on the age of the caterpillars.

“The caterpillar must be sprayed as young as possible. When 1mm to 5mm in size, they are very susceptible to cypermethrin products, with the small ones usually dying within about an

hour. These products, however, hardly have an impact by the time the caterpillars are larger than 2cm, and their fourth instar.”

He added that one litre of a cypermethrin spray mixture should be enough to cover 5ha.

“The advantage of cypermethrin is that it has a low environmental impact, and livestock can be moved back in the land roughly seven days after an application was made. Farmers should follow the instructions on the label of the product and apply the products correctly.”

Farmers may also dig furrows, with pits dug at intervals, between lands to prevent the caterpillars from moving from one land to another, according to the ARC. The larvae will apparently crawl along the furrows and eventually fall into the pits where they can be covered up or treated chemically.

African armyworm should not be confused with fall armyworm. Verdoorn said African armyworm was endemic to Africa, whereas fall armyworm was invasive.

He said various products, biological and chemical, are available to manage fall armyworm, with maize varieties with the BT gene generally suffering no to limited damage from the species.

Aantal plaaswerkers bly meestal bestendig

AGRI-PULSE – PRETORIA - Sommige mense het probleme met die landbouers in die kwartaal se werksyfers wat onlangs bekendgestel is. Die data verskaf egter steeds ‘n waardevolle beeld van boerderywerkgeleenthede in Suid-Afrika.

Wandile Sihlobo, hoofekonoom van die Landboubesigheidskamer van Suid-Afrika (Agbiz), beskryf Suid-Afrika se 2023-’24-produksieseisoen as uitdagend en die midsomerdroogte en dieresiektes het geweldige druk op die sektor geplaas. Hierdie twee faktore, onder meer, verklaar waarskynlik baie van die afname in indiensneming in die laaste kwartaal van 2024.

“Tog skets die syfers ‘n baie ligter prentjie as wat verwag is. Byvoorbeeld, indiensneming in die primêre landbou het met 1% gedaal vanaf die derde kwartaal tot 924 000 poste in die laaste kwartaal van 2024. Die veldgewasse, wild en jag, en bosbou is die subsektore wat noemenswaardige verliese geregistreer het. Uit ‘n jaarlikse perspektief was die indiensneming egter min of meer onveranderd vanaf die laaste kwartaal van 2023. Positief is die primêre landbou-indiensneming van 924 000 mense ver bo die langtermyn-werksgeleenthede van 799 000.”

Gegewe die veerkragtigheid van onlangse kwartale se werkprestasie, kan indiensnemingstoestand in 2025 herstel. Suid-Afrika se landbou is ook op sy herstelpad, ondersteun deur gunstige reënval en vordering in die beheer van die verspreiding van dieresiektes.

“Natuurlik neem ons aan dat geen dringende handelsverwante uitdagings die sektor se winsgewendheid in die nabye termyn sal beïnvloed nie. Die ligte verhoging in die minimum loon vanjaar, hoewel dit vir sommige kommoditeite uitdagend is en bydra tot reeds hoër insetkostedruk, mag ook nie ‘n groot hindernis wees nie.”

Daar is egter aansienlike handelssonsekerheid, hoofsaaklik in die Wet op Groei en Geleenthede in Afrika (AGOA). Vanuit ‘n streekspektief is die Oos-Kaap, Vrystaat en Limpopo die enigste provinsies wat kwartaal se werkverliese geregistreer het. Intussen het ander provinsies ligte kwartaal se stygings gesien.

Oor die algemeen herstel Suid-Afrika se landbousector vanjaar vanuit ‘n produksieperspektief, maar daar is groter risiko’s verbonde aan internasionale handel. “Ons gaan voort om die Agoa se belastingvrye toegang tot die Amerikaanse mark en die algemeen gebroke geopolitiek noukeurig dop te hou, aangesien dit die uitvoer van landbouprodukte, plaaswingsgewendheid en uiteindelik die volhoubaarheid van landbouwerkgeleenthede beïnvloed. Terwyl Suid-Afrika se landbou-uitvoere na die VSA slegs 4% van die totale landbou-uitvoer van VS\$13,2 miljard uitmaak, is die bedrywe wat in die Amerikaanse mark gekonsentreer is, sitrus, wyn, druive, neute en vrugtesap. Dit is belangrik dat dit ook hoofsaaklik in die Kaapse provinsies van Suid-Afrika (oos, wes en noord) en Mpumalanga en Limpopo geproduseer word. Daarom is belastingvrye toegang in die Amerikaanse mark waardevol en bied dit Suid-Afrikaanse produkte se prysmededingendheid. Natuurlik sal ‘n uitsluiting nie noodwendig ‘n volledige sluiting van die Amerikaanse mark vir Suid-Afrika se landbou beteken nie, maar ons kan invoerbelasting van ongeveer 3% in die gesig staar. Hierdie onsekerheid vereis dat Suid-Afrika werk aan ‘n post-Agoa volhoubare handelsreeëling met die VSA.

“Benewens globale faktore, bly hawe-ondoeltreffendheid, swak spoor- en padinfrastruktuur, misdaad en veediefstal, en verslegte munisipale dienslewering beduidende risiko’s vir landbou se langtermyn-groeivoorsigte. Hierdie sektor het groot potensiaal vir werkskepping en groei. Om dit egter te realiseer, moet die Suid-Afrikaanse regering hierdie kwessies aanpak, in samewerking met die georganiseerde landbou en die private sektor.”

Hy het ook ‘n beroep op die regering gedoen om alle energie op globale handelskwessies en geopolitiek te fokus sonder om te fokus op die plaaslike kwessies wat hierbo uitgelig is, aangesien dit boerdery, landboubesigheid en ander besighede in die klein dorpie van Suid-Afrika direk beïnvloed.

• Wandile laat AGRI-PULSE vriendelik toe om sy insigte oor landbou in die land te gebruik.



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Meeste damme in provinsie propvol

AGRI-PULSE – NOORDWES – Na wat gevoel het soos weke van onophoudelike reën het die meeste opgaardamme in die Noordwes-provinsie in skaars meer as 'n week propvol gereën. Uitgebreide vloede is egter ook in sekere gedeeltes van Noordwes, Limpopo en Mpumalanga gesien. Die jongte stand van damme is op 25 Februarie deur die Departement Waterwese en Sanitasie aan ons verskaf.



'n Gesig wat nie elke dag gesien word nie. Die Olifantsnekdam net buite Rustenburg in Noordwes toe dit in 2011 oor sy wal gebars het. Die dam is tans 102% vol. (Foto: Waldie Volschenk)

Damme in Noordwes

Boskopdam	– 103.6%
Bospoortdam	– 103.4%
Buffelspoortdam	– 101.3%
Disanengdam	– 102.1%
Elandskuildam	– 90.0%
Hartbeespoortdam	– 99.6%
Johan Naserdam	– 108.4%
Klein Maricopoortdam	– 100.7%
Klerkskraaldam	– 109.2%
Klipvoordam	– 113.3%
Kosterrivierdam	– 101.0%
Kromellenboogdam	– 106.1%
Lindleyspoortdam	– 100.9%
Madikwedam	– 85.3%
Marico Bosvelddam	– 102.2%
Middelkraaldam	– 100.00%
Molatedidam	– 117.8%
Ngotwanedam	– 88.0%
Olifantsnekdam	– 101.9%
Pella Dam	– 78.5%
Potchefstroomdam	– 105.9%
Rietspruitdam	– 103.9%
Roodekopjesdam	– 91.8%
Sehujwanedam	– 101.1%
Setumodam	– 100.0%
Swartruggensdam	– 105.9%
Taungdam	– 83.1%
Vaalkopdam	– 105.0%

Vyf grootste damme in die land

Na weke van goeie reën feitlik regoor die land, is dit nogal verrassend dat die vlakke van die vyf grootste opgaardamme almal nog onder die 100% huiwer. Veral die vlak van die Van die Kloofdam – of die PK le Rouxdam soos dit vroeërjare bekend was - is inderwaarheid verbasend laag in vergelyking met die meeste ander damme in die land.

Bloemhofdam	– 93.1%
Vaaldam	– 83.5%
Sterkfonteindam	– 98.5%
Van der Kloofdam	– 68.5%
Gariepdam	– 81.3%

Dit reën in die Noordwes!



Mens, dier en natuur het die welkome reën in die Stella-omgewing geniet.

AGRI-PULSE – NOORDWES - Wydverspreide en meestal sagte, deurdringende reën het in groot dele van die Noordwes-provinsie die afgelope twee weke uitgesak.

Die meerderheid aanplantings sal baie baat by dié reën terwyl weidings-vooruitsigte, veral vir die winter gaan verbeter.

Gelukkig is slegs geringe skade aan landery aangemeld, maar die skade aan infrastruktuur en paaie is kommerwekkend. Hoewel daar dele is wat nog nie reën gehad het, of min gehad het, lyk die vooruitskouing vir nog reën belowend.

Reënvalsyfers wat aangemeld is in die tweede-laaste week van Februarie:

Bloemhof	20mm	Potchefstroom	140-180mm
Bray	150-250mm	Brits	180mm
Coligny	190-210mm	Sannieshof	130-150mm
Delareyville	100-120mm	Setlagole	150-200mm
Groot-Marico-omgewing	254-310 mm	Stella	155-220mm
Hartbeesfontein	130-200mm	Ventersdorp	130-160mm
Lichtenburg	190-220mm	Vermaas	140-170mm
Makwassie	50-80mm	Vryburg	35-110mm
Mareetsane	150-220mm	Christiana	0-30mm
Ottosdal	110-180mm	Tosca-omgewing	80-150mm

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