Agri SA

E-nuusbrief / E-newsletter

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Agri SA se E-Nuusbrief word saamgestel uit berigte en brokkies van die Algemene Sake-, Bedryfs- en Landboubesigheidskamers, vir u inligting en verspreiding
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26 Maart 2009

In die nuusbrief:

- **Rentekoersdaling welkome nuus vir landbou**
- **Databasis vir grondbesit**
- **Agri SA onderteken Memorandum van Verstandhouding**
- **Stand van restitusie-eise**
- **Is ons besig om die stryd teen uitheemse indringer plante te verloor?**
- **IFAP Werkgroepe oor Risiko Bestuur en Landelike Werkverskaffing**
- **Bruikbare inligting op die internet**

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- **INTEREST RATE DECREASE WELCOME NEWS FOR AGRICULTURE**
- **DATABASE FOR LAND OWNERSHIP**
- **AGRI SA SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**
- **STATE OF RESTITUTION CLAIMS**
- **ARE WE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS?**
- **IFAP WORKING GROUPS ON RISK MANAGEMENT AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT**
- **MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET**

Ondersteun ons vennote

Partners makeing a contribution in various fields within AGRI SA With their financial contributions, these partners have already demonstrated their support for the farmer and agriculture	AGRI SECURITAS TRUST FUND Partners These partners make a contribution towards the safety of the farming community
Absa AgriBusiness Enquiries: 011-350 6854 or your nearest Absa branch	**Absa AgriBusiness** Enquiries: 011-350 6854 or your nearest Absa branch
Barloworld Enquiries: Adelé Smit 083 660 0799	**Nissan SA** Enquiries: Francois Jacobs 083 471 4855
T & E Finops Enquiries: Esmé Theron 0861 440 666.	**Sanlam** Enquiries: Adv Kobus Engelbrecht 021-947 4506
Agri SA Group Provident Fund Enquiries: Sakkie Hurd at 012-431 3333 or sakkieh@absa.co.za	**CrisisOnCall** Enquiries: Marius Vermaak 083 302 7576
Agri SA het groot waardering vir die vennote se betrokkenheid by die organisasie en die breë landbou	

Oor die Kole Agri Securitas gholfreeks in samwerking met Absa, Santam Landbou, Cipla Agricare		
Limpopo	5 Mei	Euphoria Gholfklub – Bela-Bela
Noord-Kaap	28 Mei	Upington Gholfklub
KwaZulu-Natal	25 Junie	Mount Edgecombe
Gauteng	9 Julie	Silver Lakes - Pretoria
Wes-Kaap	13 Augustus	Paarl Gholfklub
Mpumalanga	10 September	Nelspruit Gholfklub
Noordwes	17 September	Potchefstoom
Vrystaat	20 Oktober	Bloemfontein Gholfklub
Oos-Kaap	10 November	Port Elizabeth Gholfklub
Navrae kan aan Lans Pepler gerig word by 082 787 2472 **of e-pos progolfm@telkomsa.net / lans@pgmsport.co.za**		

Rentekoersdaling welkome nuus vir landbou

Johan Pienaar, Adjunk Uitvoerende Direkteur

Die aankondiging van Mnr. Tito Mboweni, Goewerneur van die Reserwebank dat rentekoerse met 1 persentasiepunt op 25 Maart 2009 daal, was ook vir die landbou welkome nuus. Mnr. Mboweni het die aankondiging gemotiveer aan die hand van verwagte dalings in die inflasiekoers, die afkoeling van die ekonomie en die noodsaak om die ekonomie matig te stimuleer.

Die skuldlas van die landbou het in 2008 na raming ongeveer R47 miljard beloop wat beteken dat ‘n rentekoers daling van 1 persentasiepunt ‘n jaarlikse kostebesparing en selfs meer belangrik, ‘n kontantvloeibesparing van R470 miljoen meebring. Uiteraard impliseer dit ook ‘n besparing op die finansiering van produksie i.e. produksiekrediet. Dit verlaag eweneens ook die risikoblootstelling van finansierders aan die landbou.

Mnr Mboweni het ook gewag gemaak van die strenger uitleenkriteria wat tans deur banke gevolg word. Dit behoort egter min impak op die landbou uit te oefen. Die risikoprofiel van die landbou het immers kwalik verander in die afgelope jaar. Boere behoort derhalwe nie sonder meer swakker kredietvoorwaardes te aanvaar nie.

Databasis vir grondbesit

Johan Pienaar, Adjunk Uitvoerende Direkteur

‘n Subkomitee van die CEO-forum is gemoeid met die verdere ontwikkeling van ‘n databasis vir grondbesit. Daar is reeds bepaalde voorbereidingswerk in die verband gedoen. Ten einde beplanning en samewerking met georganiseerde landbou te formaliseer het die bepaalde komitee ‘n aantal gebiede geïdentifiseer (i.e. Cullinan, Lichtenburg, Potgietersrus, Piet Retief, Letaba, Blouberg, Ellisras) waar loodsprojekte in die verband onderneem sal word.

Die Departement van Landbou beskik oor die nodige rekenaarondersteuning terwyl fondse vir die doel reeds van die Ontwikkelingsbank bekom is.

Die deelname van georganiseerde landbou sal bepalend wees vir die sukses van die poging. Agri SA het reeds sy affiliasies versoek om persone te identifiseer om opleiding in hierdie verband gerig op spesifiek die loodsprojekte te ondergaan.

Agri SA onderteken Memorandum van Verstandhouding

Kobus Visser, Direkteur: Korporatiewe Skakeling

Agri SA en die Onafhanklike Verkiesingskommissie (OVK) het onlangs ‘n memorandum onderteken wat sal verseker dat alle persone wat op plase woon op verkiesingsdag hulle stemme sal kan uitbring. Met die ondertekening van die memorandum het mnr André Botha, ‘n lid van Agri SA se Uitgebreide Dagbestuur gesê dat “as ‘n verantwoordelike organisasie, word alle inwoners se reg om te stem erken en dat die organisasie alle betrokkenes sal aanmoedig om hierdie regte te erken.” Hy het voorts beklemtoon dat die veiligheid van Agri SA se lede, hulle werkers en hulle families van groot belang is vir die organisasie en dit moet dus regdeur die veldtogproses en op die verkiesingsdag gerespekteer word.

As die grootste verteenwoordigende organisasie van kommersiële boere het Agri SA ‘n jarelange verhouding met die OVK en is soortgelyke memorandums met die OVK vantevore onderteken, wat nasionale en provinsiale verkiesings insluit. Ter ondersteuning van hierdie verkiesings het Agri SA homself daartoe verbind om ten volle met die OVK saam te werk om die volgende te bereik:

- Om redelike toegang aan die Verkiesingskomissie en sy agente tot landelike boeregemeenskappe te gee vir die doel van hulle werk, in besonder kieserregistrasie en kieseropleiding.

- Om kiesers toe te laat om politieke byeenkomste by openbare plekke vir werwingsdoeleindes deur politieke partye by te woon.
- Om die Onafhanklike Verkiesingskomissie en sy agente redelike toegang te gee om toegewysde plekke as stemstasies te gebruik, waar toepaslik.
- Om kiesers tyd af te gee om te registreer en te stem.

Terwyl die Verkiesingskommissie van Suid-Afrika sal verseker:

- Dat besoeke aan plase in ooreenstemming met die protokol van toegang tot plase plaasvind.

Daar is tans ongeveer 23 miljoen potensiële kiesers wat by die OVK geregistreer is, wat die hoogste aangetekende aantal kiesers is wat nog geregistreer het sedert die Nasionale Algemene Kiesersrol vir die eerste keer in 1999 opgestel is. Van die 156 politieke partye wat aansoek gedoen het om aan die komende verkiesing deel te neem, het slegs 40 gekwalifiseer.

Stand van restitusie-eise

Annelize Crosby, Agri SA Parlementêre verteenwoordiger, Adviseur: Regs- & Grondsake

Tydens die vergadering van Agri SA se Transformasiekomitee in Februarie 2009 het affiliasies groot kommer uitgespreek oor veral twee aspekte rakende restitusie, naamlik die lae vergoedingsaanbiedinge wat die laaste paar maande aan sogenaamde gewillige verkopers gemaak is en die verlies aan produksie op plase wat reeds aan gemeenskappe oorgedra is in die restitusie-proses. Agri SA het heelwat lug aan hierdie twee aspekte gegee in die media. Die Minister van Landbou en Grondsake het op 4 Maart tydens ‘n media geleentheid erken dat daar probleme bestaan met sekere grondhervormings-projekte en aangekondig dat die regering van plan was om in te gryp en ‘n sogenaamde “*use it or lose it*” beginsel ten opsigte van landbougrond gaan instel, waar landbougrond wat nie effektief vir produksie aangewend word nie, van begunstigdes weggeneem en vir ander gegee sal word. Dit is egter te betwyfel of die beginsel by restitusie-projekte toegepas sal word. Agri SA het ook die praktiese haalbaarheid van so benadering bevraagteken. Dit is te verwelkom dat die Minister bereid is om te erken dat daar ‘n probleem is en streng maatreëls in te stel om dit te probeer aanspreek, maar Agri SA het bevraagteken of die Minister se benadering die werklike kern van die probleem aanspreek. Die groot probleem lê juis by restitusie-projekte waar hele gemeenskappe sonder die nodige keuring of opleiding en sonder behoorlike uitklaring van hul regte op produktiewe plase gevestig word.

Die Kommissie vir Gauteng en die Noordwes-provinsie het op 24 Maart ‘n mediakonferensie gehou, waar die statistieke vir die twee provinsies gegee is. Die media is onder andere meegedeel dat 99.5% van alle eise in die twee provinsies reeds geskik is. Die statistiek is egter misleidend, omdat daar nog ‘n hele paar groot landelike eise, waarby gemeenskappe en groepe plase betrokke is, uitstaande is. Enkele projekte wat na die Kommissie se mening as suksesvol beskou kan word, is genoem. Die Kommissie in die twee provinsies werk geruime tyd reeds in ‘n mate saam met georganiseerde landbou. Daar is egter nog baie ruimte vir beter samewerking, veral sover dit die beplanning van projekte en die volhoubare bestuur daarvan aanbetref. Die media is ook ingelig oor twee groot eise wat voor die Hof is en waarvan die geldigheid in dispuut is. Hoë grondpryse is weereens aangevoer as een van die struikelblokke wat die vinnige afhandeling van eise bemoeilik. Die Kommissie het gesê dat daar tans ‘n benadering gevolg word waar daar van standaard waardes gebruik gemaak word wat gedurende onderhandelinge deur verskeie rolspelers ooreengekom word.

Verteenwoordigers van Agri SA en die TLU ontmoet die Hoofgrondeisekommissaris op 2 April. Baie van die kwessies wat hierbo genoem word, sal waarskynlik tydens die vergadering bespreek word.

Is ons besig om die stryd teen uitheemse indringer plante te verloor?

Nic Opperman, Direkteur: Natuurlike Hulpbronne

Ja – behalwe as ons stappe doen om verdere indringing te voorkom!
Bestaande uitheemse indringer spesies moet verhoed word om nuwe gebiede binne te dring en potensieel nuwe uitheemse indringer spesies moet onmiddellik gestop word voordat hulle ‘n

probleem word. Selfs al kon ons-ons grense sluit teen enige nuwe ingevoerde spesies, sal ons steeds 'n vermeerdering van uitheemse indringer spesies in die gesig staar, aangesien baie spesies steeds in die 'sluimerende'-fase is. Vir ongeveer 30 jaar is die Gonnabossie tot 'n klein gedeelte in die Fonteinedal in Pretoria beperk voordat dit skielik ontplof het en nou is dit verby die punt van uitroeiing.

Die oorgrote meerderheid van uitheemse indringerplante in Suid-Afrika is vir ornamentele doeleindes gebruik.
Sommige van hierdie spesies is as onkruid en indringers verklaar en mag ingevolge wetgewing nie meer aangeplant word nie. Daar is egter baie meer spesies wat indring en potensieel indringend is as die wat gelys is en die enigste moontlike oplossing vorentoe is dat die Suid-Afrikaanse tuinboukundige en verwante bedrywe en die algemene publiek meer omgewingsverantwoordelik moet raak in hulle keuse van plante en om meer gebruik te maak van ons ontsaglike natuurlike hulpbron van inheemse plante.

Bogenoemde uittreksel is 'n aanhaling uit die 'Sapia Nuusbrief' (Suid-Afrikaanse Plantindringer Atlas van die LNR –Instituut vir Plant Beskerming wat aan Agri SA se affiliasies vir insae gestuur is. Meer inligting kan verkry word op die webtuiste vir Onkruid en Indringerplante – www.agis.agric.za/wip. Agri SA se webtuiste verskaf ook 'n skakel na die LNR.

IFAP Werkgroepe oor Risikobestuur en Landelike Werkverskaffing

Koos van Zyl

Koos van Zyl is afgevaardig om namens AgriSA die vergaderings van Werkgroepe oor Risiko-bestuur en Landelike Werkverskaffing van IFAP op 6 en 7 April 2009 in Parys Frankryk by te woon. Dit volg op voorleggings wat hy in 2008 aan IFAP gemaak het en wat nou deel vorm van besprekings oor die bepaalde onderwerpe deur die groep van kundiges.

Bruikbare inligting op die internet

Martina Benadé, Ekonomie en Handel

Die volgende publikasies het onlangs op die internet verskyn:

- **Kortbegrip vir Landboustatistiek 2009 (http://www.nda.agric.za/)**

Die Kortbegrip bevat Suid-Afrikaanse landboustatistiek van groot belang wat beskikbaar was tot en met Desember 2008. Die Kortbegrip omvat betekenisvolle inligting oor onder andere akkerbou, tuinbou, diereproduksie, belangrike aanwysers en die bydrae van landbou tot die ekonomie.

- **Ekonomiese oorsig vir die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou 2008 (http://www.nda.agric.za/)**

Hierdie publikasie word elke 6-maande uitgegee en bied inligting oor die makro-ekonomiese posisie van landbou. Die fokus areas sluit in die berekening van landbou se bydrae tot die nasionale ekonomie en die bepaling van neigings met betrekking tot die belangrikste landbou ekonomiese aanwysers.

- **Sensus van die Kommersiële landbou 2007 (http://www.nda.agric.za/)**

In 2007 het Statistiek SA 'n opname gedoen van landbou-eenhede wat aktief was gedurende die periode 1 Maart 2006 tot 28 Februarie 2007 in die landbousektor van Suid-Afrika. Hierdie sensus het alle aktiwiteite van kommersiële plase/entiteite in Suid-Afrika omvat, wat vir Belasting op Toegevoegde Waarde (BTW) en/of Inkomstebelasting geregistreer is vir die finansiële jaar 2006/07.

INTEREST RATE DECREASE WELCOME NEWS FOR AGRICULTURE

Johan Pienaar, Deputy Executive Director

The announcement of Mr Tito Mboweni, Governor of the Reserve Bank, that interest rates would be lowered by 1 percentage point on 25 March 2009, was welcome news also for agriculture. Mr Mboweni motivated the announcement on the basis of the expected decreases in the inflation

rate, the cooling down of the economy and the necessity to stimulate the economy at a steady pace.

The debt burden of agriculture amounted to approximately R47 billion in 2008, which means that an interest rate cut of 1 percentage point brings about an annual cost saving and, even more importantly, a cash-flow saving of R470 million. This inevitably also implies a saving on the financing of production, i.e. production credit. Similarly, this reduces the risk exposure of fincanciers to agriculture.

Mr Mboweni also mentioned stricter lending criteria currently followed by banks. However, this should have little impact on agriculture. The risk profile of agriculture has indeed barely changed during the past year and farmers should therefore not have to accept poorer credit conditions just like that.

DATABASE FOR LAND OWNERSHIP

Johan Pienaar, Deputy Executive Director

A subcommittee of the CEO forum is involved in the further development of a database for land ownership. Certain preparation work has already been done in this regard. In order to formalise planning and coordination with organised agriculture, the relevant committee identified a number of areas (i.e. Cullinan, Lichtenburg, Potgietersrus, Piet Retief, Letaba, Blouberg, Ellisras) where pilot projects will be undertaken in this regard.

The Department of Agriculture has at its disposal the necessary computer support, while funds for this purposes has already been obtained from the Development Bank.

The participation of organised agriculture will be determining in the success of the attempt. Agri SA has already requested its affiliates to identify persons to undergo training in this regard aimed at specifically the pilot projects.

AGRI SA SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Kobus Visser, Director: Corporate Liaison

Agri SA and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) have recently signed an agreement that will ensure that all persons residing on farms will be able to cast their votes on the election date. At the signing of the MOU, Agri SA who was represented by Mr André Botha, a member of Agri SA's extended Executive Committee, said that "as a responsible organisation, all citizens right to vote are acknowledged and that the organisation will encourage all concerned to acknowledge these rights." He further emphasized that the safety of Agri SA's members, their workers and their families are of great importance to the organisation and therefore it should be respected throughout the campaigning process and on the election date.

As the largest representative organisation for commercial farmers, Agri SA has a longstanding relationship with the IEC and had previously signed similar MOU's with the IEC involving national and provincial elections. In support of these elections, Agri SA committed itself to fully cooperate with the IEC to achieve the following:

- Allow reasonable access to the Electoral Commission and its agents to rural farming areas for the purpose of their work in particular voter registration and voter education.
- Allow voters to attend political rallies at public amenities for canvassing purposes by political parties.
- Allow reasonable access to the Electoral Commission and its agents, to use designated places as voting stations where appropriate.
- Allowing voters time off to register and vote.

Whereas the Electoral Commission of South Africa will ensure:

- That visits to farms will take place in accordance with the protocol to access to farms.

Currently, there are about 23 million potential voters registered with the IEC, making it the highest recorded number of voters that have been registered since the National Common Voters Role

was first compiled for the elections in 1999. Of the 156 political parties that applied to take part in the upcoming elections only 40 parties qualified.

STATE OF RESTITUTION CLAIMS

Annelize Crosby, Agri SA Parliamentary representative, Adviser: Legal & Land Affairs

During the meeting of Agri SA's Transformation Committee in February 2009 affiliations expressed great concern about especially two aspects regarding restitution, namely die low compensation offers made to so-called willing sellers during the past couple of months and the loss of production on farms which have already been transferred to the communities in the restitution process. Agri SA gave a lot of attention to these two aspects in the media. On 4 March during a media function the Minister of Agricultural and Land Affairs admitted that there are some problems with certain land reform projects and announced that the government intended to intervene and institute a so-called "use it or lose it" principle in respect of agricultural land, where agricultural land that is not being used effectively for production, will be taken away from beneficiaries and given to others. However, it is doubtful whether this principle would be applied to restitution projects. Agri SA also questioned the practical attainability of such an approach. It is welcomed that the Minister is willing to admit that there is a problem and institute strict measures in an attempt to address the problem, but Agri SA questioned whether the Minister's approach would address the real core of the problem. The major problem is exactly the restitution projects where whole communities are settled on productive farms without the necessary selection of beneficiaries or training and without legally clarifying the rights of every beneficiary.

On 24 March the Commission for Gauteng and the North West Province held a media conference where the statistics for the two provinces were given. The media was informed, amongst others, that 99.5% of all claims in the province had already been settled. However, this statistic is misleading, as a couple of large rural claims in which communities and groups of farms are involved, are still outstanding. A couple of projects, which, in the opinion of the Commission, can be regarded as successful, were mentioned. For a considerable period now the Commission in the two provinces have been working together with organised agriculture. However, there is much scope for better cooperation, especially as far as the planning of projects and the sustainable management thereof is concerned. The media was also informed of two huge claims that are serving before the Court and the validity of which is in dispute. High land prices were once again cited as one of the obstacles that hamper the speedy finalisation of claims. The Commission said that an approach is currently being followed where standard values are being used that must be agreed upon by various role players during negotiations.

Representatives of Agri SA and the TAU will meet with the Chief Land Claim Commissioner on 2 April. Many of the issues mentioned above will probably be discussed during this meeting.

ARE WE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS?

Nic Opperman, Director: Natural Resources

Yes—unless we take steps to prevent further invasions!
Existing invasive alien species must be prevented from invading new areas and potentially new invasive alien species must be stopped in their tracks before they become a problem. Even if we could shut the doors to any new imported species we would still be facing an increase in invasive alien species because many species are still in the 'sleeper' phase. Pompom weed was confined to a small patch in the Fountains Valley in Pretoria for about 30 years before it suddenly exploded and now it is beyond eradication.

The great majority of invasive alien species in South Africa have been used for ornamental purposes
Some of these species have been declared as weeds and invaders and by law may no longer be cultivated. However, many more species than are listed, are invasive and potentially invasive—and the only way forward is for the South African horticultural and related industries and the general public to become more environmentally responsible in their choice of plants, and to make more use of our vast natural resource of indigenous plants.

The above abstract is quoted from the 'Sapia Newsletter' (South African Plant Invaders Atlas of the ARC – Plant Protection Research Institute), which has been forwarded to Agri SA's affiliates for their perusal. More info can be accessed on the Weeds and Invasive Plants website – www.agis.agric.za/wip. Agri SA's website also provides for a link to the ARC.

IFAP WORKING GROUPS ON RISK MANAGEMENT AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT

Koos van Zyl

Koos van Zyl has been commissioned to attend on behalf of Agri SA, the meetings of the Working Groups on Risk Management and Rural Employment of IFAP on 6 and 7 April 2009 in Paris. This followed on submissions he made to IFAP in 2008, which will now form part of the discussions by the expert groups on the specific issues.

MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

Martina Benadé, Economics and Trade

The following publications were spotted on the internet:

- **Abstract for Agricultural Statistics 2008** (http://www.nda.agric.za/)

The Abstract contains South African agricultural statistics of major importance that were available up to December 2007. The Abstract contains meaningful information on, inter alia, field crops, horticulture, livestock, important indicators and the contribution of agriculture.

- **Economic Review of the South African Agriculture 2008 (http://www.nda.agric.za/)**

This publication appears every 6 months, offers easy-to-find information to give some idea of the macroeconomic position of agriculture. The focus areas are with respect to the calculation of agriculture's contribution to the national economy and the determination of trends with regard to the most important agricultural economic indicators.

- **Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 (http://www.nda.agric.za/)**

In 2007, Stats SA undertook a census of farming units, which were active during the period 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007 in the agricultural sector within RSA. The census covered the activities of commercial farms/entities in South Africa, which were registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and/or Income Tax (IT) for the financial year 2006/07.

RSG Landbou-program

RSG Landbou bestaan uit aktualiteitsonderhoude en landbounuus wat van Maandae tot Donderdae van 12:30-12:44 uitgesaai word op RSG. Die aanbieder is Hennie Maas. Die hoofborge Agri SA, MPO, AgriBonus en Graan SA is verantwoordelik vir die verskaffing van die progamme se redaksionele inhoud. Die programinhoud en nuus word gekoördineer en saamgestel deur Agri Connect.

Landboufokus
Landboufokus word van Maandae-Vrydae van 4:45-4:55 op RSG uitgesaai. Die program bestaan uit interessante onderhoude oor verskillende landboubedrywe. Die program word aangebied deur Hennie Maas en word saamgestel deur Agri Connect.

Agriculture Today

SABC 2 Maandae – Vrydae 05:45
SABC Africa (kanaal 53) Sondae 12:30

Ons spreek oudergewoonte landboukwessies aan, kyk na die jongste markpryse.
We have a look at what the weather holds.
Lekker boer! / Enjoy your farming!

Hierdie nuusbrief word saamgestel en uitgereik deur Agri SA Korporatiewe Skakeling
This newsletter is compiled and issued by Agri SA Corporate Liaison