



# DAFFnews

6 December 2019

*Official newsletter of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*

## CONTENTS

- **The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development gazetted a national ban on the gathering of cloven-hoofed animals**
- **Importation of agricultural regulated products into SA during festive season**
- **AgriSETA and DAFF collaborate to host successful career summit**
- **Quality and price crucial when buying avocados**
- **Drone technology gives agriculture industry a high-technology makeover**
- **DAFF official won best presenter and awarded the shield award of CYSTINET-AFRICA**
- **Agribusiness Confidence Declines in Q4, 2019**

Editor: Piwe Mbiko, Email: [piwem@daff.gov.za](mailto:piwem@daff.gov.za), Celnr: 072 937 2337



*Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*



*Follow on Twitter @DAFF\_ZA*

# The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development gazetted a national ban on the gathering of cloven-hoofed animals

Progress has been reported consistently over the past four weeks since the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Molemole. To date, 11 commercial properties have been found to be infected and confirmed positive: Seven in Capricorn, two in Vhembe and two in Mopani district municipalities.

There are an estimated 14 000 cattle on the infected properties, which include five feedlots and six commercial breeding farms. All affected properties have been linked directly or indirectly to cattle sold at auctions. Further follow-up investigation and sampling is still being conducted to determine the extent of the outbreak.

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development gazetted a national ban on the gathering of cloven-hoofed animals, including livestock auctions, shows and similar activities. The gazette is available on the DAFF website <https://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Home/Foot-and-mouth>

According to Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35) it is the responsibility of “any owner or manager of land on which there are animals to

take all reasonable steps to prevent the infection of the animals with any animal disease, or parasite and the spreading thereof from the relevant land or animals”.

Anyone spreading FMD through the movement of animals may, therefore, be held civilly and or criminally liable for such an offence.

All suspected and infected properties have been placed under quarantine and no livestock is allowed to move in, through or out of the affected properties. Immediate neighbouring properties have also been placed under quarantine. Quarantine on the suspected and neighbouring properties will be lifted as soon as it has been proven that all animals on these properties are free of FMD. The owners of infected properties have been given slaughter out options to facilitate depopulation.

As per the press release of 19 November 2019, all owners of livestock are encouraged to observe strict biosecurity measures on their premises. The biosecurity guidelines are available on the National Animal Health Forum website [www.nahf.co.za](http://www.nahf.co.za).

# Importation of agricultural regulated products into SA during the festive season

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is making a friendly call to all international travellers who will be visiting South Africa during the festive season, or returning to South Africa after the holidays, to comply with the country's import requirements for agricultural and related regulated products/articles. Compliance will assist our country in preventing and minimising the potential risk of introducing alien invasive species, foreign pests and diseases that could be associated with imported plants, plant products, animals, animal products and other regulated goods.

South Africa, like any other country, has a crucial mandate and sovereign right to protect its territory, biodiversity and economy against harm, therefore it regulates importation of animals and animal products, liquor products, plants and plant products, honey and honey products as well as any other potentially harmful materials from other countries into its territory. This is in accordance with the country's relevant legislation, which is aimed at preventing the introduction, establishment and spread of pests and diseases from other parts of the world. Once a quarantine pest or

disease is introduced into the country, it is difficult and expensive to control and manage it, therefore prevention is imperative.

Furthermore, the importation of certain liquor products with an alcohol content of more than 1% into the country for drinking purposes is restricted, except on the authority of an import certificate issued by DALRRD.

Please note that import conditions may differ according to the country of origin/export, global pest distribution, type of products, etc. Travellers are therefore advised to contact DALRRD offices for detailed information regarding the product to be imported, through:

**to p 4**



# Importation of agricultural regulated products into SA during the festive season

## *from p 3*

Animals and animal products:

Tel: +27 12 319 7476/7500/6313

Fax: +27 12 319 8292, E-mail:

VetPermits@daff.gov.za

Plants and plant products:

Tel: +27 12 319 6102/ 6130/6207/6313

Fax: +27 12 319 6370,

E-mail: PlantHealthPermits@daff.gov.

za

Liquor products:

Tel: +27 11 971 5138/ +27 12 319 6137

E-mail: NjokoS@daff.gov.za

Upon arrival in South Africa, all the imported consignments of above mentioned regulated products must be presented to the DALRRD inspectors at the port of entry for compliance inspections as per import conditions. The consignments may not be removed from the port of entry without written authorisation or before being granted entry by the DALRRD inspectors.

For information on DALRRD inspection services and procedures, contact the Directorate Inspection Services at tel: +27 12 309 8701, fax: +27 12 309 8785 or e-mail: ErnestP@daff.gov.za



# AgriSETA and DAFF collaborate to host successful career summit

**By: Matsepo Malatswane**

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DALRRD) through its Directorate: Sector Education and Training collaborated with AgriSETA to host a career summit targeting the youth in grades 9 to 11. The summit was held at the Owen Sithole College of Agriculture in Empangeni, KwaZulu Natal and its primary purpose was to promote the different career opportunities available in agriculture.

Over 450 grade nine learners from the region got to visit the different exhibitors who were showcasing their industries and among them were institutions such as: the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), SA Sugar Association and Afrivet. The participation of these organisations and prospective employers was made possible through the long-standing partnership between the DALRRD and AgriSETA—who have collaborated in many projects in the past.

Among the public officials who attended the summit were: uMfolozi Municipality Mayor Cllr. S.W. Mgenge, Deputy Mayor Cllr. S.R. Thabethe, MEC of KZN

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Mrs Bongiwe Sithole Moloi, Acting Head of Department Mrs Neli Shezi, Deputy Director-General Mr Sifundza and Chief Director Ms Mkhize. Ms Lebo Botsheleng represented the National Department of Agriculture, with AgriSETA being represented by Mr Fanny Petla and Mr Frikkie Fouche. The MEC hailed the success of the event and declared it as the first of its kind in the province; she emphasised that it should be held in other areas of the province.



*Different career opportunities in agriculture were explained.*

**For the rest of the article contact Matsepo Malatswane.**

**Email: [matsepom@daff.gov.za](mailto:matsepom@daff.gov.za)**

**Cell nr: 084 829 4238**

# Quality and price crucial when buying avocados

Recent independent research conducted on behalf of the South African Avocado Growers' Association (SAAGA) has made an interesting reveal: For South African consumers, quality certainly trumps loyalty to retailers when it comes to buying avocados.

The research confirms the buying of avocados to be an emotional purchase for consumers, with quality and price being crucial considerations influencing purchase decisions.

Therefore, cognisance on the part of retailers of their responsibility to ensure the supply of quality avos, is a non-negotiable for these discerning consumers. They expect retailers to prioritise the correct display of avos (with ripe ones in fridges and hard ones displayed openly).

With consumers having been found to visit stores two or three times weekly, specifically to buy avos, this is a significant bottomline issue – one to be taken very seriously.

The research further reveals consumers' keen interest in access to relevant information, like avo varieties and suited

recipes. They also expect store staff to be knowledgeable about the different avo varieties, as well as their correct handling, to ensure that all-important quality.

Says Subtrop CEO Derek Donkin, "Taste, quality, health, nutrition and value for money are the main reasons why South Africans buy and eat avocados. It's important that retailers understand that correct handling, display and pricing impact turnover and profitability."



# Drone technology gives agriculture industry a high-technology makeover

**P**ractical applications for drones are expanding faster than ever and agriculture is amongst the most promising areas where drones offer the potential for addressing major challenges. Agriculture in South Africa is under tremendous stress. Agricultural producers must embrace revolutionary strategies for producing food, increasing productivity and making sustainability a priority.

Drones are part of the solution. Drones were once reserved for the military, but are now redefining precision agriculture.

Drone technology will give the agriculture industry a high-technology makeover with planning and strategy based on real-time data gathering and processing. Drone-powered technology is one of the most phenomenal innovations in human history and has become an integral presence in many facets of society. A conference on drone use in agriculture and conservation was held at Elsenburg Agricultural College in Western Cape. In today's modern society, farming is no longer the primitive entity of years past.

Drones are instrumental in today's agriculture production through their real-time, three-dimensional and ultra-precise analysis that measure

the overall health of soil and planting patterns and provide crucial data for optimal irrigation and nitrogen needs. Drones can perform essential analyses and scans to identify bacteria, fungus and problem areas.

Importantly, drones also provide relief for workers in agriculture by reducing man-powered crop spraying, planting and field monitoring while also increasing safety and overall health of workers. Drone use is providing an amazing solution to security, maintenance, livestock and environmental aspects.

***For the rest of the article contact Mercia Smith at email: [mercias@daff.gov.za](mailto:mercias@daff.gov.za) or cell nr: 060 973 3816***





# DAFF official won best presenter and awarded the shield award of CYSTINET- AFRICA

**M**r Msawenkosi Sithole is an official in the Directorate: Veterinary Public Health (D: VPH) in the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. He received a departmental bursary to study for a Master of Science degree. During the course of his studies, he published three peer-reviewed scientific articles and graduated cum laude (with distinction). He recently participated at the Conference on Taenia solium cysticercosis/taeniosis from 26 to 28 November 2019 in Arusha, Tanzania, where research into policy issues was discussed. Amongst presenters from other countries, Mr Sithole was nominated as the best presenter and awarded the shield award of CYSTINET-  
AFRICA (Cysticercosis Network of Sub-Saharan Africa).

Taenia solium cysticercosis/taeniosis is a zoonotic and endemic disease in South Africa, mostly in the Eastern Cape Province. People infected with this parasite may suffer from neurocysticercosis (NC) associated epilepsy.

About 70 delegates from different countries, including South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania and

Germany participated in the event, discussing integrated knowledge translation into policy and practice.

It was reported that T. solium cysticercosis/taeniosis (a neglected tropical disease) receives very little attention, even after it had been ranked number one on the global scale of food-borne parasites by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2014, with a serious agricultural and public health impact in terms of the economy, whereas more attention is given to the other zoonotic diseases, such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB, etc.



***Mr Msawenkosi Sithole an official in the Directorate: Veterinary Public Health.***



# Agribusiness Confidence Declines in Q4, 2019

The Agbiz/IDC Agribusiness Confidence Index (ACI) fell slightly from 46 points in the third quarter to 44 in the last quarter of 2019. A level below the neutral 50-point mark implies that agribusinesses are still downbeat about business conditions in South Africa. This has been the case over the past six quarters, which is the longest period the index has trended below 50 points since 2010. The survey was conducted in November and covers of agribusinesses operating in all agricultural subsectors across South Africa.

The ACI has been at levels below the neutral 50-point mark for six consecutive quarters, which is the longest streak of sub-50 since 2010. This has been underpinned by both the unfavourable agricultural policy environment and also weather conditions. Unfortunately,

both could persist going into 2020 and possibly result in further underperformance of South Africa's agricultural economy. While South Africa's agricultural policy environment, specifically land reform and water regulations, remains unsatisfactory, the unfavourable weather conditions and biosecurity are pressing matters that could constrain agricultural economic fortunes.

The recession that South Africa's agricultural economy finds itself in is caused by these very same factors, and we fear it might spill over to 2020, other things being equal.

***Wandile Sihlobo, Chief Economist, Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz)***

