



### **In today's newsletter – 29 January 2021**

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## **Sheep research: International value chains**

Sheep producers in Namibia, led by the Livestock Producers Organisation (LPO), have taken the initiative to launch a study that determines whether international value chains for lamb and mutton have sustainable benefits for local abattoirs for sheep exports, to automatically attract sheep from primary sheep producers in an unregulated market. This study comes against the historical background that shows how abattoirs only exporting to South Africa cannot survive financially.

The study aims to identify viable international market opportunities for Namibian sheep and enable a sustainable local supply of primary producers, beneficial to the whole of Namibia. Goats will also form part of the study.

A committee comprising representatives of the sheep industry has already been established. Hartlief (FMM) also expressed its support for the study and will form part of the committee. They will also help bear the costs. The terms of assignment have been drawn up, and an appointed consultant will conduct the study.

**THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS**



## **Monitoring of rangelands**

Agri-Ecological Services was founded in 2010 by dr. Cornelis van der Waal. Since induction, they have implemented several projects with other partners, including rural health assessments, development of monitoring systems (including early warning systems for rural areas), remote sensing, and biodiversity assessment assistance, such as NamPower's "Bush-to-Power"-project.

One of the Agri-Ecological Services projects is the monitoring of Namibian rangelands for the past five years. Through remote sensing, the project brings accurate vegetation data from space to the farmer's fingertips. This satellite data (after analysis and mapping) can tell a farmer in Namibia where most of the vegetation currently occurs on his farm, how it compares to other farms in the area, as well as with previous seasons.

The dry, erratic, and unpredictable climate of Namibia makes decisions about land management difficult for farmers. These annual decisions will have short-term effects on the livelihoods of farmers and years of poor decisions will take a toll on the rangelands. The chances of successful farming are likely to decrease over time when you consider the degradation of the rangelands and the consequences of climate change. Therefore the rangelands monitoring project of Agri-Ecological Services is regarded as a critical and timely intervention for farmers.

The rangelands monitoring website uses remote sensing data to produce maps every ten days during the rainy season (October to May). These maps cover all the country's regions and some other areas of interest (Eg. Etosha National Park), indicating farm boundaries, towns, and roads. Farmers can easily find their farms and compare them with others in the country.

To view the maps of the current season's growth in vegetation and to obtain complete information about the project, visit [www.namibiarangelands.com/products/](http://www.namibiarangelands.com/products/)

## **(SSC) ECF RETURNS BEFORE 31 MARCH**

Members must remember to send their annual ECF wage returns for the 2021/2022 financial year to the SSC on or before March 31st. We have taken up the complaint with the SSC that they no longer send out the forms to the farmers, as in the past. SCC intends to send the form to employers from whom they have the correct postal addresses during January 2021. This "injured on duty" cover is compulsory for employees with an annual salary of N \$ 81,300 or less.

If you have not received the form via mail by the end of February 2021, you can collect it at any SCC office or download it at the link at the bottom of this post. A "Notice of Assessment" will be issued to the employer within 30 days after the SSC has received the ECF wage returns, which will then be payable again within 30 days from the assessment date.

These processes can all be handled by email, and our members who do not yet communicate electronically with the SSC are encouraged to send their correct email addresses to their nearest SSC office.

[Click here](#) to download the form.

## **Agra ProVision opens new Agricultural Academy**

Agra ProVision offers a unique opportunity for students, farmers, and other individuals to study online from the comfort of their own home. Agripedia, used by Agra ProVision, is an internet platform where information, videos, graphs, etc. can be downloaded. Those interested can already register for the January 2021 intake. For more details, [click here](#).

## **Meatco Annual General Meeting**

Meatco herewith informs producers that the 34th 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on 19 February 2021 at the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) Windhoek, Namibia.

As per the Meatco Act, Act 1 of 2001, Section 14(8), only registered members of the Meat Corporation of Namibia may attend and vote at the AGM.

The resolution of the 33rd AGM stipulates that to qualify for registration as a member of Meatco, as per Section 17 (1), a producer must at least sell one unit of livestock to Meatco during the period immediately preceding the date on which his/her/its membership is to be determined, namely, three years for members South of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (SVCF) and five years for members North of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (NVCF), respectively.

Further information on the venue and time will follow soon.

## **NAU AgriBraai 2021**

The NLU AgriBraai, that was planned for 26 & 27 March 2021 at the Mariental Showgrounds, has been tentatively postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Once confirmed, the new dates will be communicated. For inquiries, contact Hoekus van Niekerk at 081 294 4676 or [uhlenhorst.bv.sekretaris@gmail.com](mailto:uhlenhorst.bv.sekretaris@gmail.com) or Corrine van Wyk at [www@afol.com.na](http://www@afol.com.na) or 081 358 2299.

## Channel 7

Are you a farmer, or are you interested in agricultural matters? Then come and join us every Saturday morning at 06:00 during *Landbou Joernaal*, where we will inform you about a wide variety of topics. . We talk about livestock and crop farms with their different diseases, pests, and problems; fish; insects, and even bugs! Page through the *Landbou Weekblad* with us and remember, the repeat of *Landbou Joernaal* is on a Wednesday at 20:00. You can also listen to the programme on DSTV's audio channel 825 and on the Channel 7 website [www.k7.com.na](http://www.k7.com.na). If you have missed anything, you will find it there under "Potgooi". Keep up to date with agricultural matters by following us on FB at "Landbou op K7" and chat together by sending an SMS to 1023 with the code word "landbou".

Listen to *Landbou Joernaal*, in friendly cooperation with FNB Namibia. How can we help you?

## FA and other news

- The *Standard Bank Biomass Fair 2021* will take place from 3-5 June 2021 at the Otjiwa Lodge in Otjiwarongo. The research symposium will be held on 3 June, the industry conference on 4 June and the Expo on 5 June. For more information, contact Roelien on 081 1240081 or [roelien@biomassfair.com.na](mailto:roelien@biomassfair.com.na).

Thought for the week: Life is a gift. Wake up every day and realise that.

*Disclaimer: Although everything has been done to ensure the accuracy of the information, the NAU takes no responsibility for actions or losses that might occur due to the usage of this information*