

Editorial / Redaksioneel

Does farming, and/or the agricultural sector in general, offer a future? Does it offer opportunities for our communities, our farmers, our youth, for sustainable livelihoods? At the Department of Agriculture we believe that it does.

In this edition of the Probe we have stories about exciting opportunities for students at CIAT to start in a learnership and progress to Higher Education opportunities; we have a youthful winner of a special award at 2008's Female Farmer competition absolutely enthused about agriculture and the opportunities it presents, telling her own story, and we have a fascinating look at how rural dynamics facilitates extension, the all-important dissemination of information to our farmers.

Die belang van stikstofbemestingsbestuur kan nie oorskakel word nie, soos op p. 8 verduidelik word.

The 2007 Census results are discussed in both the Journal and the Probe, with Dr Dirk Troskie coming to the conclusion that the agricultural sector is actually healthier than before, despite the challenges the industry faced in recent years. Read more about this on p. 10.

We also have an article comparing the expenditure patterns prevalent in South Africa and the Western Cape.

Lekker lees!

Liesl

If you need any of the articles in this magazine in any other of the official language of the Western Cape, we would be happy to arrange translation for you. Please contact the editor on Tel. (021) 808 5196.

Indien u enige van die artikels in hierdie tydskrif in een van die ander amptelike tale van die Wes-Kaap benodig, kan u ons gerus kontak om die vertaling daarvan vir u te reël. Kontak die redakteur by Tel. (021) 808 5196.

Ukuba ufuna naliphina inqaku elikule magazini ngolunye ulwimi olusesikweni kwiilwimi zeNtshona Koloni, siya kukulungiselela uguqulelo-lwimi lenqaku elo. Nceda ke uqhagamshelane noMhleli kule nombolo yomnxeba (021) 808 5196.

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Leliefontein: land reform that works

Minister Dowry visited various successful projects across the province recently, one of which was Leliefontein.

Leliefontein, a LRAD project near Malmesbury, was one of the projects visited. During his visit to Leliefontein, food security 'suitcases' - *inter alia* containing seed, hoses and a wheelbarrow were also handed over to families in nearby Ilingu Lethu.

There are 32 beneficiaries on Leliefontein. Plans to purchase the Leliefontein property started as far back as 2001, when Mr Kosie Syster (also the current chairman of the group) wanted to move from the State owned land. Farming activities on Leliefontein Farm officially started at the beginning of 2005, after the borehole, pump and irrigation infrastructure had been completed.

Each family farms on a piece of land or nodule of 3.88ha which is individually fenced off from their neighbour. The idea is, as the Trust has money at some time, to subdivide the land so that each family will own each piece of land individually, rather than having ownership through the Trust.

What makes this group so special is that they are the first LRAD-group to farm without having or making any debt at Landbank or with any other financial institution.

Each piece of land has one hectare of water rights, which is derived from one central borehole. Water rights can temporarily be let out to an adjacent trustee, with the individual receiving a monetary reward if he so chooses.

The electricity of the borehole is paid by purchasing pre-paid electricity cards from the Trust, which in turn pays the basic Eskom levy and account.

The main farming activity of Leliefontein Trust is vegetable production under irrigation. A small number of pigs are also held on the farm, while one farmer farms with goats.

A contract to deliver vegetables to Pick 'n Pay has been secured, while vegetables are also delivered to the local Spar. A local vegetable producing farm, Patagonia, also buys in vegetables from Leliefontein and helps that way in removing any surplus vegetables that they may have. On the photograph: Mogale Sebopetsa, Minister Cobus Dowry, Nozuko Nqokoto (Ilingu Lethu, Malmesbury), Dirkie Pieriga (Landbou Gemeenskapswerker, Malmesbury) and Andries van der Horst (Wesbank, Malmesbury)

