

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**CAPE WOOLS SA TENDER:**

**SUSTAINABILITY, BIOSECURITY &  
COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION ADVISORY  
SERVICES**

**REPORTING PERIOD**

**1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024**

**PREPARED BY:**

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## **1. SUSTAINABILITY**

Due to the additional work that was done for Oritain and LCA the capacity to conduct more audits was reduced, as these projects took priority.

### **1.1 SCWS Audits**

Due to the demands to focus on the Oritain and LCA projects the advisors struggled to find time for recruiting new participants in the SCWS sustainability program. The target for new audits was 160, with 35 audits completed, representing achievement of 17.5% of the total target.

### **1.2 Follow-up Audits**

The achievement for follow-up audits was higher than the new audits, as follow-up audits are important to assist the SCWS participants to comply with the SCWS certification programme. This helps participants who did not comply initially, to also obtain certification. The target for follow-up audits was 60, with 46 completed, representing an achievement of 58.3% of the total target.

### **1.3 Continuous development of SCWS**

Continuous development is mostly done by Cape Wools. The NWGA was involved with the development of the 'Fasting of Woolled Sheep Prior to Shearing' document, as well as the other Industry Guidelines for carrying out specified farm procedures on woolled sheep

### **1.4 In-service training and liaison**

In-service training of SCWS is conducted at a meeting where all the commercial advisors and the responsible Cape Wools officers meet and issues regarding the programming, changes in the questions and clarifying of other challenges that the auditors experience in the field, are discussed. The target achieved was 100%.

### **1.5 Re-Audit**

Re-Audits are done where the producer's certification has expired. This comprises a full audit, and the farmer must be visited. If an audit complied with all majors in the previous audit, this audit is done telephonically. The target for re-audits was 150, with 136 re-audits completed, representing an achievement of 91% of the total target.

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## **2. PROMOTION**

### **2.1 Information days**

Nine information days were held, which included regional meetings, road shows and provincial congresses where a large portion of the event is dissemination of information and inter-active communication. This represents an achievement of 60%.

### **2.2 Social media**

Social media is used to disseminate relevant and up to date information to producers., and where they are warned of FMD outbreaks, reminded of vaccinations like Bluetongue, Rift

Valley Fever and are warned of adverse weather conditions etc. The target for social media was 55 posts, with 65 placed, representing an achievement of 118% of the total target.

### **2.3 Auditor training (NWGA Auditors)**

During the Production Advisors' meeting, time was also allocated for the training of advisors by Cape Wools and Webroute, which is inter-active. The auditors also have the opportunity to discuss any difficulties experienced with the programme and also to make contributions towards the improvement of the SCWS programme. The target for auditor training was two, with two training sessions completed. This represents an achievement of 100% of the total target.

### **2.4 Zoom meetings with CWSA regarding audits**

The target was four Zoom meetings with CWSA and this target was 100% met.

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## **3. LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS (WOOL)**

The Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) commenced with a two-day training session in Port Elizabeth and practical training was done on a farm in the Jansenville district. A map of this farm was then compiled and followed up with a survey of a particular farm. The information gathered by the Advisors was then evaluated and feedback from Integrity AG was given to each advisor. Thereafter, they could proceed with the simplified surveys. The preparation for the comprehensive study will be finalised in the next year.

- 3.1 The target for simplified studies to be done was 41, and 37 studies were completed. The other four studies will be completed in July 2024, and thus a 90% completion for the Simplified studies was achieved.

The comprehensive studies for wool and mohair, along with overlapping simplified studies, will be conducted next year.

### **3.2 Life Cycle Analysis (Mohair)**

These analyses will be conducted in the following year.



## 4. ORITAIN

The Oritain project was done to determine the forensic footprint of South African wool. This will ensure that wool clothing of South-African origin can then be identified with this footprint that is being established by Oritain.

- 4.1 Samples were gathered all over the wool producing areas of South Africa, resulting in a 100% achievement of this target. The project is now completed.



## 5. PREDATION MANAGEMENT (PMF)

Feedback on the results from the monitor farms and the attendance of PMF meetings is important to present the results to producers. This gives an idea of the effect these management strategies have on the affordability of measures that can be introduced. The target for Predation Management was 10 meetings, with seven hosted, representing an achievement of 70% of the total target.



*Predation Management Course: Cradock*

*Predation Management Course: Molteno*



## 6. SHEARING INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

### 6.1 Training and advice for upgrade/compliance

Two training events were held for non-NWGA auditors. The shearing part of SCWS has technical detail that is not known to all RWS auditors who do the Shearing part for SCWS-equivalence and training had to be done so that this portion is done correctly.

Two courses were scheduled and held during this year. This represents an achievement of 100% of the total target

### 6.2 On-farm advice regarding shearing facilities

Farmers request NWGA staff to assist them with the planning of their shearing sheds to ensure effectivity of shearers and ease of handling of sheep during shearing. The aim is to produce a facility which is cost-effective and does not require major structural changes to the existing building. The target for farm advice regarding shearing facilities was five. However, six producers requested assistance at farm level, mostly as a result of a SCWS audit where the need for more effective facilities was brought to the attention of the producer. These six farms visited represent an achievement of 120%.

## 7. BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is an important aspect of animal production and basic biosecurity starts at the farm. In the previous year there were many articles written in the Wool Farmer by advisors and other contributors from the private sector. Farmers were also made aware of the disease reporting platform of RUVASA, whose Director was very impressed by the number of farmers who participate in the reporting process.

### 7.1 Articles

Two articles were written by advisors during this year while three other articles were written by private companies' veterinarians. The target for articles was 5 and 40% were achieved, as the focus was more on early warnings due to foot and mouth disease (FMD).

### 7.2 Early warning to farmers

The early warning structures are already established, and farmers could thus be warned in time of a outbreak of contagious and communicable diseases. A database was created for quick early warnings to farmers, with 100% achieved of the total target.

### 7.3 Reporting

Each advisor makes use of the system to report the outbreak of communicable diseases or other important diseases.

The target for reporting was 10, with 38 reports sent to farmers and RUVASA, representing 180% achievement of the total target.



#### 7.4 Biosecurity and animal health training to NWGA Advisors and Farmers

Biosecurity training is important to enable farmers and farm workers to put measures in place and to maintain these measures. Five training courses of farmers and workers were conducted. The training of NWGA personnel did not take place this year, but training was provided in the past. A refresher training will be scheduled for 2024/25.

The target for biosecurity and animal health training was 20, and the result represents a 25% achievement. The RPO and pharmaceutical companies also provided extensive training on this subject to farmers, resulting in readily available resources and an oversupply.



## 8. SUPPORT SERVICES

### 8.1 NWGA Economic study groups

The economic study groups gather management and economic information and send this to an analyst who analyses the economic and management data. Each participant then receives a comprehensive report regarding the results of the analysis. This is beneficial to the producer to assist him in making important strategic and financial decisions.

The different participants' data is then used to determine the averages for each group, where the farmer can then compare his results with the results achieved by the group. This year there were five active study groups, from of a target of four, representing 125% achievement.



*Misbelt Study Group*

*Burgersdorp Study Group*



## 8.2 Economic study group analysis done by Co-Op's of farms in the Western Cape

Co-ops in the Western Cape also provide a similar service to their clients and share the average results with the NWGA advisor. He also attends the feedback sessions to the farmers, enabling him to assist farmers who need specialised attention to correct their enterprise. The target of three study groups was achieved.

## 8.3 Sheep farming study groups

Sheep farming study groups are also active platforms to disseminate information to the producers. At these meetings a specific subject is addressed e.g. creep feeding. A speaker selected by the committee will then open discussions and provide technical detail and research results about the subject. A group discussion follows, with questions and experiences shared.

The target for sheep farming study groups was 10, with 16 meetings attended, representing 160% achievement of the total target.



## 8.4 Farm management assessments

These assessments are the assessments referred to in 8.1 and which give detailed information about the resource used, net farm income (NFI) of the farming enterprise, overhead costs as portion of the gross production value and enterprise gross profit margins. Management analysis is also done to determine areas that can be improved upon.



The target for farm management assessments was 30, with 42 assessments completed, representing achievement of 140% of the total target.

### 8.5 Predation management training

Predation management courses for farmers and farm workers are presented all over South Africa's wool producing areas. Monitor farms have also been established and information is gathered regarding the effectivity of different management methods. In some areas producers complained about the effect of predation on their profitability but were not interested in the courses offered. In other areas farmers were keen to learn about the different management strategies, depicting the difference in the attitude of farmers from area to area.

The target for predation management training was five, with three events that took place, representing an achievement of 60% of the total target.



### 8.6 Reproduction, breeding, management and best practice training

The reproduction course was first presented five years ago and was a very popular course. From time to time there is a need for presenting this course again, as this help farmers to interpret catalogues. Management and best practice courses helps producers to make good decisions, especially in the challenging economic times.

The target for reproduction, breeding, management and best practice training was 10, with 12 courses hosted, representing an achievement of 120% of the total target.

### 8.7 Resource management

Resource management courses are aimed at improving veld management practices and experts in this field are usually used to present these courses. Agricultural extension officers from the Department currently help a lot in presenting these courses.

The target for resource management was five, with three courses conducted, representing achievement of 60% of the total target.

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## 9. REGENERATIVE FARMING

Training of the Advisors in regenerative farming is necessary in order to prepare them for the NATIVA certification system when this is required. Regenerative farming practices should therefore become part of the whole farming system.

The training of advisors will be conducted in the next year.

## 10. LIAISON

This entails liaison with other service providers, i.e. SA Stud book, RPO, Agri SA and Provincial Branches, Governmental Departments, South African Society of Animal Scientists (SASAA), South African Society of Agricultural Extension (SASAE) and other stakeholders.

Advisors liaise on an ongoing basis with the above-mentioned organisations and institutions to improve their knowledge and to contribute to the topics being discussed at meetings. This is also a source of receiving new research that has been conducted. This liaison is not fixed and varies from year to year. The liaison target was 15, with 30 engagements, representing a 200% achievement of the total target.

### 10.2 Agricultural shows demonstrations and Competitions.

The involvement of advisors at the shearing and wool handling competitions is reported under this heading. This explains the high achievement as one of the advisors attended 13 competitions because he is a judge/referee and also responsible for the processing of the results. The target for agricultural show demonstrations and competitions was 20, with 37 activities, representing achievement of 185% of the total target. This includes the shearing and wool handling competitions hosted.



### 11.1 Small Scale producer Training & Development

This includes Provincial Extension Co-ordinating Committee Forum meetings, training of new farmers, tours to commercial farmers and research facilities. The need for these visits and meetings differs from year to year, also from area to area.

The target was six, with 21 incidents, representing achievement of 350% of the total target for this year.

### 11.2 Institutional Support and liaison.

Institutional support and liaison refers to the meetings and actions surrounding NWGA meetings, congresses, road shows, regional meetings and management meetings.

The target for institutional support and liaison was 30, with 25 engagements, representing achievement of 83% of the total target.

## 12. ADMINISTRATION

The LCA, Oritain and Sustainability involves a lot of administrative work. The number of e-mails received has increased greatly and there are daily technical enquiries received by e-mail. The target was 55, but 80 was required to fulfil the administrative need, representing achievement of 145% of the total target.

## 13. TRAINING

### 13.1 Farm worker training

Basic training includes awareness, vaccination, recording, & chemical store management, animal husbandry & handling and predation management. This training is important to enable workers to understand the importance of handling the animals correctly, how to store and administer treatments, correct methods of docking, castration and vaccination. This also benefits the farm worker's understanding of animal welfare.

The target was 40, with 28 courses presented, representing achievement of 70% of the total target. A total of 783 farm workers were trained.







### 13.2 Training at tertiary institutions

Basic sheep production courses include Sheep Handling, Wool Classing, Reproduction, Shearing Demonstrations and Predation. These courses are presented at Agricultural Schools and tertiary institutions. This is done to create awareness of woolled sheep farming and to train students and learners how to and approach and handle animals correctly. Wool production training at some of these institutions is not lectured formally and the students request this type of training.

The target was 15 courses, with 18 presented and a total of 271 students trained (120% achieved).



## 14. WOOL CLASSING

### 14.1 Springbok Head training

This year wool classer courses were presented by NWGA advisors for the first time. There was a huge demand for these courses, much higher than anticipated and the courses were well attended (187 participants).

The target for courses was 5, with 15 presented, representing an achievement of 300% of the total target.





#### 14.2 Basic wool classing training.

Refresher courses were presented to classers who have already worked for a couple of years as well as to classers who already have their wool classers diploma (Springbok Head).

The contractors were very satisfied with these courses and could see the improvement in their classing. It is expected that the demand for these courses increase over time.

The target for courses was 10, with 5 courses presented, representing achievement of 50% of the total target. A total of 73 classers attended these courses.



#### 14.3 Instructor refresher courses.

One course was hosted, attended by 16 instructors and co-instructors, during which the classing standards were also revised.





## 15. OTHER EVENTS / FUNCTIONS PERFORMED

Other events which were held during the reporting year include:

- The editing of course material;
- An article on shearing intervals;
- Regional and Farmers Association meetings;
- Market report feedback;
- Judging of flock competitions;
- Attending graduations of academic institutions;
- UFS wool project, and
- A variety of agricultural festivals where the NWGA was promoted.

## 16. CONCLUSION

The reporting year faced numerous challenges, particularly with Oritain and LCA requiring significant time from commercial advisors for the preparation and execution thereof.

There is also a higher demand for wool classer training, and greater focus should be placed on refresher courses for professional wool classers to maintain the high standards of classing of the South African clip.

Signed at Bloemfontein on 26 August 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'JL Venter'.

**Jan Louis Venter**  
Acting Manager Commercial Advisory Services