

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**CAPE WOOLS SA CONTRACT:**

**TRAINING SERVICES**

REPORTING PERIOD

1 JULY 2023 – 30 JUNE 2024

**PREPARED BY:**

IJ Klopper

Manager: Shearer Training

**NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION**

**41a Pickering Street, Newton Park, 6045**



## SHEARER TRAINING

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### 1. HAND SHEARING

#### 1.1 Beginner Hand courses

A total of 40 beginner hand courses were presented where 318 new hand shearing recruits were trained (265% Achieved).

#### 1.2 Advanced Hand Courses

16 Advanced hand courses were presented in commercial shearing sheds where 59 intermediate or advanced South African hand shearers were trained (107% Achieved).

#### 1.3 Advanced Hand courses for Lesotho citizens

No advanced hand courses for Lesotho citizens were presented, but 30 Lesotho intermediate or advanced hand shearers were trained as part of the shearing teams who were trained during the 16 courses mentioned above (100% Achieved).



*Trainees at Amazizi Village in Mount Ayliff*

### 2. MACHINE SHEARING

#### 2.1 Beginner Machine shearing

On request from shearing contractors, 3 courses were presented, and 22 new recruits were trained (50% Achieved).

#### 2.2 Agricultural Schools and Colleges

6 Courses were presented, and 53 new recruits were trained (120% Achieved).

#### 2.3 Communal shearing sheds

2 Courses were presented, and 11 new recruits were trained (40% achieved). 2 Courses scheduled for November 2023 were cancelled at the request of the communities due to adverse weather conditions.

### 3. ADVANCED MACHINE SHEARING

31 In-service training courses were presented on request from shearing contractors, where 95 intermediate or advanced machine shearers were trained (129% Achieved).

### 4. LESOTHO MACHINE SHEARING COURSES

18 In-service training courses for Lesotho citizens were presented, where 84 intermediate or advanced Lesotho machine shearers were trained (112.5% Achieved).



*Lungani demonstrating blow on shoulder to prevent cuts.*

### 5. MACHINE SHEARING INSTRUCTORS COURSE

Steve Thompson and Peter Black from Western Australia were invited to present a machine shearing instructors' course, where 19 potential machine shearing instructors were invited to participate and were trained. Peter Black demonstrated how to set up a comb using 1200 grain wet and dry emery paper, a bright boy and buffer to reshape the teeth of the comb.

The instructors were also trained on how to keep the sheep upright to enable them to cut out a blow on the first leg.



## SHEARING DEMONSTRATIONS

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### 6. AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

#### 6.1 Royal Show

Shearing and wool handling demonstrations were presented by Izak Klopper, Marius Klopper and Annelize Smit Van Niekerk at the Royal Show, with the sheep for demonstration purposes being supplied by Cedara Agricultural College. The unique characteristics of wool was explained and shearing and wool handling as a possible career was introduced to the public. The interest of the public was good and there was much interaction with Marius who helped individuals to place a couple of shearing blows on the last side of the sheep. Annelize involved the children by encouraging them to come up to feel the wool (100% Achieved).



#### 6.2 NAMPO

The shearing and wool handling demonstrations that were presented at NAMPO Harvest Day were well attended with 80+ members of the public attending the demonstrations on a continuous basis.

It created a very good opportunity to:

- create or increase awareness of the potential of woolled sheep farming in areas where crop production is marginal;
- promote shearing and wool classing as a career;
- promote proper shearing facilities and the importance thereof;



- explain all the above with the emphasis on animal welfare;
- demonstrate the latest technology regarding wool presses (Kanna wool press);
- explain the unique characteristics of wool to the public (100% Achieved).



### 6.3 Bloem Show

Very well attended shearing demonstrations were presented during the second week of the Bloem show, during which school groups were made aware of the important traits of wool and where shearing and wool handling were promoted as possible careers (100% Achieved).

### 6.4 Alpha NAMPO show

Shearing and wool handling demonstrations were presented at Alfa NAMPO show. The interest of the public was good and there was good interaction between the shearer, wool handler, sheep and the public (100% Achieved).

## 6.5 Mpumalanga Show

The Mpumalanga Show took place from 1-2 September 2023. Shearing and wool handling demonstrations were presented and the interest of the public was good, and there was also good interaction between the shearer, wool handler, sheep. (100% Achieved)



## 7. SCHOOLS & TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

### Tertiary Institutions:

#### 7.1 Grootfontein College of Agriculture

75 Students attended the demonstration in Middelburg from 1 – 3 August 2023 and tried their hand at shearing under the tuition of the NWGA shearing instructors.



#### 7.2 Central University of Technology Bloemfontein

60 Students attended this demonstration on 14 September 2023, and many of them tried their hand at shearing under the tuition of the NWGA shearing instructors.

### 7.3 Peritum Agri Institute

During the demonstrations to the 75 students present on 8 May 2024, the opportunity was used to emphasize the importance of proper shearing and accommodation facilities to future farmers and sheep and wool technicians. This will improve the working relations between the named groupings in the future.

#### Schools:

### 7.4 Bloemfontein Primary school

Approximately 1 000 pupils and teachers attended the demonstration on 26 February 2024.

### 7.5 President Steyn Primary and secondary school

360 Pupils and teachers attended the demonstration on 28 February 2024.

### 7.6 Wild Olive Private School

75 Pupils and teachers attended the demonstration on 27 February 2024.

During the school demonstrations, emphasis was placed on explaining to the pupils, the unique characteristics of wool.

## SHEARING COMPETITIONS

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### 8. REGIONAL & PROVINCIAL SHEARING COMPETITIONS

#### 8.1 Regional Competitions in Communal areas were presented in:

- Qumbu where 39 hand shearers competed.
- Whittlesea where 26 hand shearers competed.

#### 8.2 Provincial competitions were presented in:

- Prince Albert                      37 competitors
- Philippolis                            122 competitors
- Victoria West                        61 competitors
- Riversdal                              92 competitors
- Ermelo                                 96 competitors
- Trompsburg                         88 competitors

The following 3 provincial competitions were not presented

- Tarkastad (The organiser, Mr Eric Truter passed away and the new organizer could not secure enough sheep to present the championship);
- Burgersdorp (miscommunication between organizers. This competition has been rescheduled for 6 September 2024);
- Caledon (replaced by Moreesburg show to be held on 7 September 2024).

### 8.3 National Competition was presented during 28 - 29 April 2024

157 shearers and wool handlers competed at this event that were held during Bloem show (100% Achieved).

The World Shearing Championships only takes place every 3 years, the next one being scheduled for March 2026 in Masterton New Zealand.



*World Shearing Champions 2023 – Bonile & Zwelamakhosi feature in the “Good Things Guy 2023” Coffee Table book with Shearing Manager, Mr. Izak Klopper*

## TEMPORARY SHEARER INSTRUCTORS

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### 9. SHEARER TRAINING

#### 9.1 Beginner Hand Courses

The target was 6 events per instructor, thus 36 courses in total. 40 Courses were presented, thus 111% achieved.

#### 9.2 Beginner hand courses (co-ordinate)

The target was 12 events. 14 Courses were co-ordinated, thus 117% achieved.

#### 9.3 Beginner machine courses

We made use of part time machine instructors to present 2 machine courses after the resignation of the full-time machine shearing instructor, Mr Abel Notsi. The rest of the courses were presented by full-time staff.



#### 9.4 Lesotho Hand Shearing Courses

There were no requests for Lesotho hand shearing courses. 30 Lesotho intermediate / advanced hand shearers were trained as part of the shearing teams during the 16 courses as per item 1.1 (100% achieved).

## 10. DEMONSTRATIONS

### 10.1 SA Blade Shearing Championships (NAMPO)

Four part-time trainers were used to help with shearing and wool handling demonstrations during NAMPO harvest day (100% Achieved).

## SHEARER TRAINING MANAGER

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### 11. ALL ACTIVITIES OF SHEARER TRAINING MANAGER

Comprehensive reporting of activities attended / overseen / managed by the Shearer Training Manager are contained in the above report.

Below are some indications of achievements and or explanations of events:

- **Shearer demonstrations / compere** **96%**
- **Shearer competitions** **79%**  
The following 3 provincial competitions were not presented
  1. Tarkastad (The organiser of the shearing competition, Mr Eric Truter, passed away and the new organiser could not secure a sufficient number of sheep to present the competition);
  2. Burgersdorp (Miscommunication between organizers – the competition will be presented on 6 September 2024);
  3. Caledon (replaced by Morreesburg show on 7 September 2024).
- **World shearing Championships** **Only every 3<sup>rd</sup> year**
- **Administration** **100%**
- **Shearing Federation** **109%**  
I represent the SASSF on the Cape Wools Board of Directors and responsible to assist with organizing regional, provincial and national shearing championships.

I also act as Manager of the SA Shearing and Wool Handling Team who travel to the World Shearing championships.

- **Management & Mentorship** **109%**  
On-site visits to shearing courses to ensure quality of training. Day to day management of the shearer training team.
- **Assessment & Judging** **63%**  
Assessment & Judging training was done at regional and provincial championships by senior shearing and wool handling referees and judges.
- **Upgrading Shearing Facilities** **67%**  
This is needs-driven, and there are already 5 wool producers from Barkly East district who have indicated that they would like to be advised regarding their shearing facilities.

Please note that the targets and percentages indicated on this report, are a combination of those achieved by the NWGA personnel (hand shearers, machine shearers, manager), together with those achieved by the Temporary Shearer Instructors to display the total achievement per activity.

Signed at Bloemfontein on **23 August 2024**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'IJ Klopper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

IJ Klopper  
Manager: Shearer Training