

ANNUAL REPORT

CAPE WOOLS SA CONTRACT:

**COMMUNAL SHEEP FARMING &
TRANSFORMATION SERVICES**

REPORTING PERIOD

1 JULY 2023 – 30 JUNE 2024

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&

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INTRODUCTION

Although only 6 advisers were available to provide services in communal farming areas of the Eastern Cape, it was nevertheless a successful year and the Transformation programme under the NWGA remains high on the agenda of the whole industry and the wool value chain.

The demand for more production advisers remains high as it becomes more challenging to assist all farmers in our regions.

WEIGHING PROJECTS

The weighing project ended on 30 June 2024 and the following shearing sheds were involved:

Region 20 Masiphumelele Ntshiqo	District Butterworth Tsolo
Region 21 Khulile Mitford	District Middeldrift Ntabathemba
Region 23 Upper Mkapusi KwaPercy	District Cacadu (Lady Frere) Cacadu (Lady Frere)
Region 24 Castle Rocks Saphukanduku Lupilisweni WGA	District Mt Fletcher Mt Ayliff Mbizana
Region 25 Dulciesneck Witterburgen	District Sterkspruit Sterkspruit



Weighing activities and demonstrations

Weighing Project July 2023 - June 2024

Wool Growers' Association	Region	Weaning mass (kg)	Lamb survival (%)	Ewe mortality (%)	Ewe Mass (kg)	* Index of Ewe productivity (kg lamb/kg ewe)
Gungqwana WGA	20	25	72%	24%	49	365
Nyandeni WGA		25	76%	20%	49	396
Percy	23	29	84%	4%	47	514
Lower Mkapusi		27	68%	0%	44	426
Sapukanduku	24	41	72%	0%	30	983
Luphiliswen		32	36%	12%	33	348
Castle Rocks		30	60%	8%	44	411
Dulciesneck	25	24	84%	12%	33	610
Wittenburgen		25	68%	0%	41	411
Midford	21	23	96%	0%	36	609
Khulile		21	72%	12%	39	399
Average		28	72%	8%	40	497
Min		21	36%	0%	30	348
Max		41	96%	24%	49	983
* Index calculation: (Average lamb survival x number of lambs x lamb weaning mass) divided by (number of ewes x average ewe mass) x 1000						

The average lamb survival rate for these sites over a 12 month period is 72%.

ECONOMIC DATA COLLECTION (GREEN BOOKS)

The programme ran from 1 March 2023 till 29 February 2024. 30 Individual farmers participated in the economic analyses program (Green books).

Information on cost of inputs, stock sold, stock bought and slaughtered, kilograms of wool produced, and wool income received from the sale of wool, was recorded.

The figures below provide an indication of the Farm Management Information gathered from 30 individual participants in the programme. It is extremely difficult to record some of the information, as there is no clear mating/lambing season, as well as weaning dates, to record sheep numbers accurately.

Region 20 (Mr Khanyiso Mzayifani)

5 Participants:

Mrs N Thokozwayo (Tsolo)

Mr M Mankosi (Mthatha)

Mr DD Maku (Mthatha)

Ms P Qhakaza (Libode)

Mr T Wezo (Ngqeleni)

Region 21 (Mr A Rasmeni)

5 Participants:

- Mr Mngayana
- Mrs Jali
- Mrs Mkane
- Mrs Matasimba
- Mrs Mnyango

Region 23 (Mr S Ndwanya)

5 Participants:

- Mr M Mbalo Nkonkobe WGA (Komani)
- Mrs N Ntoyakhe Ngqoko WGA (Cacadu)
- Mr M Thonti Upper Mkapusi WGA (Cacadu)
- Mr Magcwebeba Sifonondile WGA (Cala)
- Mrs N Mahlombe Lower Ndonga (Cacadu)

Region 24 (Mr L Nteta & Mr L Nyamela)

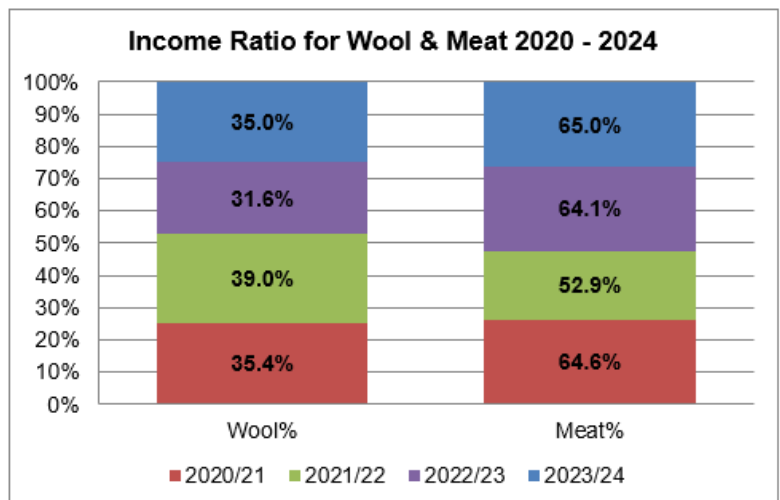
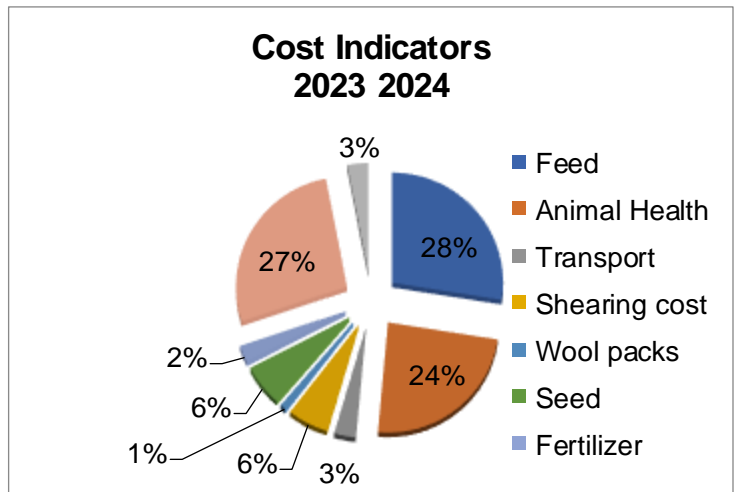
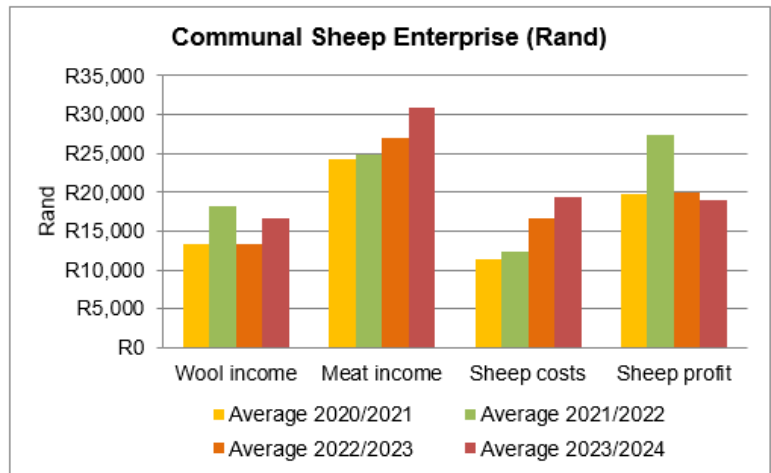
10 Participants:

- Mount fletcher – Mr Telile
- Mount fletcher – Ms Setloboko
- Maluti A – Mr Dandile
- Maluti A – Mrs Ludidi
- Maluti B – Mr Ndlebe
- Mrs Makaula - Mt Frere
- Mrs Mase - Qumbu
- Mr Banjwa - Mt Ayliff
- Mr Mdubeki - Ntabankulu
- Mr Poswa - Ntabankulu

Region 25 (Mr A Rasmeni)

5 Participants:

- Athi Mpetha - Sterkspruit
- Phillip Key - Sterkspruit
- Ntibaleng Mohae - Sterkspruit
- Zukiswa Jikajika - Sterkspruit
- Zukiso Manzi - Sterkspruit



SHEARER TRAINING: PREPARATION / FACILITATE / MONITOR / INFRASTRUCTURE

Shearer courses were held in our Eastern Cape communal areas with the help of the Shearing Training Division from Bloemfontein, Mr Izak Klopper and his shearer training instructors.

31 Blade shearing training courses and 2 Machine shearer training courses were conducted between August – December 2023. 265 Shearers were trained in blade and 14 were trained in machine.

Most of the trainings were successful without any interruptions except for some heavy rain in Region 20 over the training period.

The shearer training courses were presented as follows:

Region 20 (Khanyiso Mzayifani)

SHED (6 sheds)	TYPE OF COURSE	TRAINEES
Lumanyano (Tsolo)	Machine	6
Mthonyameni (Tsolo)	Blade	10
Zakhele (Ngqeleni)	Blade	9
Mayaluleni (Tsolo)	Blade	9
Sidwadweni (Tsolo)	Blade	8
Dyushu (Butterworth)	Blade	10



Region 21 (A Rasmeni)

SHED (4 sheds)	COURSE	TRAINEES
Mpofu Training Centre	Blade	16
Ngcabasa	Blade	8
Allen Waters	Blade	10
Alice	Blade	10



Region 23 (S Ndwanya)

SHED (5 sheds)	COURSE	TRAINEES
Nqumakala (Cofimvaba)	Blade	10
Lower Ndonga (Cacadu)	Blade	10
Lower Lufutha (Cala)	Machine	8
Thabo Mbeki (Dordrecht)	Blade	10
Gxojeni (Cacadu)	Blade	9



Region 24 (Mr L Nteta)

ASSOCIATION (9 sheds)	COURSE	TRAINEES
Ludidi S/S (Matatiele)	Blade	7
Kuyasa S/S (Matatiele)	Blade	8
Kharai S/S (Matatiele)	Blade	6
Legalong S/S (Matatiele)	Blade	7
Magolong S/S (Matatiele)	Blade	8
Myolo S/S (Ngcobo)	Blade	8
Zizamele S/S (Ngcobo)	Blade	8
Bhongweni S/S (Mt Fletcher)	Blade	8
Nonzaba S/S (Mt Fletcher)	Blade	7

Region 24 (Mr L Nyamela)

ASSOCIATION (5 sheds)	COURSE	TRAINEES
Lower Kroza (Qumbu)	Blade	10
Ncumbe (Qumbu)	Blade	9
Mnyamane (Mt Frere)	Blade	10
Amazizi (Mt Ayliff)	Blade	6
Emantshangasi (Mt Ayliff)	Blade	10

**Region 25 (Mr Rasmeni)**

SHED (4 sheds)	COURSE	TRAINEES
Tugela (Sterkspruit)	Blade	10
Blikana (Sterkspruit)	Blade	8
Makhumsha (Sterkspruit)	Blade	8
Sphambo (Sterkspruit)	Blade	6



The Executive Mayor of Joe Gqabi District Municipality and his delegation held a welcoming and acknowledgement ceremony in Barkly East to congratulate the two shearers for achieving 1st and 2nd place in the world championships held in Scotland in July 2023.

They also thanked the NWGA and Cape Wools for making it possible for the shearers to represent the country in this competition. The NWGA was invited to participate in future engagements for South African shearing.



Left: Chief Sejosing

Middle: World champ Bonile Rhabela

Right: Mayor Mposilwa of Joe Gqabi DM



Left: Chief Sejosing

Middle: 2nd runner up Zwelamakhosi Mbuweni

Right: Mayor Mposilwa of Joe Gqabi DM

SHEARER COMPETITIONS

Regions 20 and 24 had a combined shearing competition which was held at Nyamezela Shed in Qumbu on 8 November 2023, in which a total of 39 shearers participated. Region 21 and region 23 also held a combined regional shearing competition that took place at Zweledinga shearing shed in Whittlesea, where a total of 32 shearers participated.

The SA National Shearing Competition was held in Bloemfontein from 25 – 28 April 2024, attended by 7 of our communal shearers. More regular exercise and practice needs to be provided for the selected shearers who attend the competition in Bloemfontein to enable them to be better prepared.



TRAINING

Financial Management

A Financial Management course was conducted by ABSA on 7 July 2023 at Wonkuntu in Mthatha. The training gathered farmers from all the districts of Region 20 into one venue. 30 Farmers attended the course.

Another ABSA Financial Management training course was held in Lady Frere as well. Farmers from the following sheds also received training from ABSA: Thabalesoba, Macacuma, Walaza, N dofela.

Wool Classing Training

Wool Classing Training took place at the following shearing sheds:

- Zakhele Shed in Ngqeleni
- Mpofo Training Centre (Fort Beaufort)
- Ndindwa (Middeldrift)
- Grafton (Seymour)
- Hala 2 (Lady Frere)
- Zizamele (Cala)
- Sinoxolo (Cala)
- Qwebeqwebe (Cacadu)
- Emoyeni (Cacadu)
- Siyacheba (Cala)
- Nqingana (Cacadu)
- Sqithini (Cacadu)
- Xushe (Cala)
- Thandintwentle (Cala)
- Ngqoko (Cacadu)
- Mthonjeni (Cacadu)
- Nobhokhwe (Cofimvaba)
- Gxojeni (Cacadu)
- Xume (Tsomo)
- Mncuncuzo (Cofimvaba)
- Ngcaca (Cofimvaba)
- Mtshanyane (Cofimvaba)
- Qitsi (Cofimvaba)
- Luqolo (Tsomo)
- Sophumelela (Cofimvaba)
- Ndlangisa (Cofimvaba)
- Zenzeleni (Tsomo)
- Ida Farmers Ass (Ida)
- Ilingelihle (Tsomo)
- Dikeni (Cofimvaba)
- Ntwashini (Cofimvaba)
- Sixhotyeni (Cofimvaba)
- Qombolo (Cofimvaba)
- Masithenbeni B (Cofimvaba)
- Magedla (Matatiele)
- Mahanyaneng (Mt Fletcher)
- Moroka (Matatiele)
- Ncembu (Mt Fletcher)
- Sfaku (Mt Fletcher)
- Lusakhanya (Mt Fletcher)
- Vukani Bafuyi (Mt Fletcher)
- Diphakweni (Mt Fletcher)
- Makhulong WGA (Mt Fletcher)



- Siqhobong (Mt Fletcher)
- Lower Kroza (Qumbu)
- Bambanani (Qumbu)
- Ncumbe (Qumbu)
- Mnyamane (Mr Frere)
- Sivumela (Mr Frere)
- Mbenya (Bizana)
- Khotsho (Bizana)
- Mhlanga (Bizana)
- Sigubudwini (Flagstaff)
- Sicwenza (Flagstaff)
- Cabazana (Mt Ayliff)
- Sapukanduku (Mt Ayliff)
- Mnceba (Ntabankulu)
- Chibini (Ntabankulu)
- Mkhonjane (Cacadu)
- Masizakhe (Komani)
- Siyakha (Komani)
- Mazangweni (Cofimvaba)
- Cibini (Indwe)
- Lower Cala (Cala)
- Tabase shed (Mt Fletcher)



Approximately 780 farmers attend the refreshers course on wool handling at the sheds above.



Piece picking course

A 2-day piece picking and wool baling course was conducted at Dyshu shed in Butterworth on 10 & 11 January 2024.



Animal management and Information days

Events were held at the following venues:

- Machibi in Port St Johns
- Thembaletu (Whittlesea)
- Cimezile (Whittlesea)
- Allen Waters (Whittlesea)
- Macbrite (Komani)
- Ntsaseleni (Dordrecht)
- Xonya (Cala)
- Platkop (Cacadu)
- Nonkqubela (Cacadu)
- Masizakhe (Dordrecht)
- Zoboletu (Cacadu)
- Mnyamana (Mt Ayliff)
- Masihlangane (Sterkspruit)
- Upper Tele (Sterkspruit)
- Zingxangele (Sterkspruit)
- Bikizana (Sterkspruit)
- Zingquthu (Cala)
- Rodana (Cacadu)
- Nobhokhwe (Cofimvaba)
- Gubashoek (Indwe)
- Cala Pass (Cala)



- Mhlophekazi (Engcobo)
- Bizwa (Cala)
- Mahlubini shed (Tsolo)
- Ida (Indwe)
- Mdeni (Komani)
- Zingxondo WGA (Lady Frere)
- Mbenya (Mt Fletcher)
- Utloanang (Mt Fletcher)
- Upper Thokwana (Mt Fletcher)
- Ntabankulu (Mt Frere)
- Phathikala shed (Kolomane)
- Tendergate shed (Ntabathemba)
- Phakamisa shed (Ntabathemba)



Shearing Shed Management / Account Sales

Shearing Shed Management & Account sales analysing took place at the following sheds:

- Libode Agricultural offices
- Masincedane (Komani)
- Nonqubela (Cacadu)
- Tsengiwe (Cala)
- Rosedale (Mthatha)
- Mguli (Sterkspruit)
- Blikana (Sterkspruit)
- Qhemirha (Sterkspruit)
- Mbonisweni (Sterkspruit)
- Khiba (Sterkspruit)
- May (Sterkspruit)
- Magwiji (Sterkspruit)
- Lady Grey (Sterkspruit)
- Jozanashoek (Sterkspruit)
- Macacuma (Sterkspruit)
- Sphambo (Sterkspruit)
- Thabalesoba (Sterkspruit)
- Siyazama (Cacadu)
- Mhlanga (Dordrecht)



- Mcambalala (Komani)
- Bumba (Cala)
- Ndonga (Cacadu)
- Siyakha (Komani)
- Inkqubela (Tsomo)
- Siyakhula (Cacadu)
- Cacadu shed (Cacadu)
- Rhodes (Barkly East)
- Rossouw (Barkly East)
- Masishlangane (Sterkspruit)
- Upper Tele (Sterkspruit)
- Makhumsha (Sterkspruit)
- Upper Bebeza (Sterkspruit)
- Imizamo Bebeza (Sterkspruit)
- Makalalaleng (Sterkspruit)
- Dulciesneck (Sterkspruit)
- Qhimirha (Sterkspruit)
- Ndingishe (Sterkspruit)
- Hohobeng (Sterkspruit)
- Qhoboshiyane (Sterkspruit)
- Mosong (Sterkspruit)
- Mlimi (Sterkspruit)
- Magwijji (Sterkspruit)
- Mangwe project (Sterkspruit)
- Sunduza (Sterkspruit)
- Singlwazi (Sterkspruit)
- Tapoleng (Sterkspruit)
- Buyambo (Sterkspruit)
- Magadla (Sterkspruit)
- Sephika (Sterkspruit)
- Bikizana (Sterkspruit)
- Ndofela (Sterkspruit)
- Walaza (Sterkspruit)
- Thaba Lesoba (Sterkspruit)
- Macacuma (Sterkspruit)
- Phakamisa (Ntabathemba)
- Zola (Ntabathemba)
- Kwezi (Ntabathemba)
- Sophumelela (Ntabathemba)
- Springroove (Ntabathemba)
- Thembaletu (Ntabathemba)
- Tendergate (Ntabathemba)
- Masizakhe (Ntabathemba)



Animal Handling / Selection / Basic Animal Health / Nutrition

The above short courses were held during the year at the following shearing sheds:

- Themba lethu (Nthabathemba)
- Cimezile (Whittlesea)
- Allen Waters (Whittlesea)
- Macbrite (Whittlesea)
- KwaNgali (Tsomo)
- Lower Lufutha (Cala)
- Nomzamo (Cala)
- Sifonondile (Cala)
- Ngquthu (Cala)
- Ezingcaceni (Dordrecht)
- Qhiba (Cala)
- Ilinge lethu (Cofimvaba)
- Siyazama (Tsomo)
- Zikhonkwane (Cala)
- Lahlangubo (Cala)
- Bumbane (Lady Frere)



Thank You To – Zoetis; Virbac; Elanco and MSD

Animal Health & Nutrition Training

These courses were conducted at the following shearing sheds:

- A sheep dipping day at Mayaluleni (Tsolo) with Talitha.
- Health training at Qolombana (Tsolo) with MSD.
- Training with MSD at Gaduka (Mthatha) and Rosedale (Mthatha) with Kyron.
- Kolomana (Phathikala shed),
- Ntabathemba (Tendergate shed)
- Ntabathemba (Phakamisa shed)
- Who can tell (Komani)
- Upper Mnxe (Cala)
- Cegceyana (Cacadu)
- Rebelkloof (Cala)
- Mhlophekazi (Encobo) with Elanco
- Qitsi (Cofimvaba)
- Mbaxa (Cofimvaba)
- Zizamele (Cala)
- Mgudu (Engcobo)
- Ntalontle (Cacadu)
- Masonwabisane (Cala)
- Sophumelela (Cacadu)
- Sinenjongo (Cala)
- Buyelekhaya (Cala) with DRDAR



398 people were involved in the training above.



Predation Management course

5 Courses were concluded in the communal areas with the help of Niel Viljoen. These training and information days were welcomed by all the shearing sheds and a better understanding of existing farming conditions could be formulated.

Interaction between trainers and farmers was overwhelming and the hunger for more information and assistance was evident throughout.



FLOCK COMPETITIONS

Region 20

A regional flock competition was held on 27 June 2024 at Zakhele shed in Ngqeleni. The competition had a total of 118 sheep, 20 lambs, 20 two-tooth ewes, 33 four-six tooth ewes and 36 rams. A total of 11 sheep went through to the Inter-Regional Flock Competition in Tarkastad on 24-25 July 2024. These sheep consist of 2 lambs, 3 two-tooth ewes, 2 four-six tooth ewes and 4 rams.

Region 21

A flock competition was held on 20 June 2024 at Nosimo shearing shed. A total of 131 animals entered: 29 lambs, 31 two-tooth ewes, 47 ewes and 23 rams.

Region 23

A flock competition was held on 25 June 2024 at Springrove shearing shed in Ntbatthemba. 29 Lambs, 18 two-tooth ewes, 34 ewes and 26 rams were entered, being a total of 107 animals.

Region 24

A flock competition was held on 9 May 2024 at Mangolong shearing shed in Mt Fletcher (Maluti B). 46 lambs, 52 two-tooth ewes, 87 ewes and 94 rams were entered. Total of 277 animals attended the day.

Summary:

A total of 1400 people attended these flock competitions, 24 animals per region were selected to attend the Inter – Regional flock competition in July 2024.

Region 25

This flock competition will only take place in July 2024.



Prizes for the flock competitions

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Mfinci and Rietfontein Shearing Sheds in the Sterkspruit district were officially opened during the reporting period. Two sheds were constructed by the Department of Agriculture in Region 20 – Bell Shearing shed in Peddie and Sophumelela Shearing Shed in Ntabathemba.

MARKETING

Our wool season was delayed due to more than average rain during November and December 2023. Some shearing sheds have produced good quality wool due to the purchase of quality rams during the previous season which resulted in better wool being produced by their young sheep.

A big concern identified this year is that the bad state of our roads are negatively influencing our ability to get wool transported from the sheds to the brokers. This has led to the increase in the transportation costs of wool bales.

The demand for good quality rams remains very high in our communal areas.

A successful season has come to an end. Some of our sheds received very good prices, but the majority of the sheds are still struggling with the quality of their wool. Only a handful of sheds have farmers that have purchased quality rams and ewes this season and sold their inferior sheep. There is still a very big demand for the ram project to be revived.

Account sales indicates that the quality of the wool is becoming more inferior / crossbred because farmers are keeping their own ram lambs for breeding.

Wool marketed through the formal market since 2004/2005 is reflected in the tables below. These statistics are supplied by Cape Wools SA

TRANSKEI & CISKEI TYPES OF WOOL (LOT RANGES)					
2004/2005 - 2023/24 SEASONS					
SEASON	VALUE	MASS	LOTS	BALES	AVERAGE PRICE
2004/2005	18 111 729,23	2 042 729,1	2 538	13 808	R 8,87
2005/2006	14 744 245,76	2 205 169,9	2 389	14 548	R 6,69
2006/2007	34 481 396,42	2 419 663,2	3 103	16 605	R 14,25
2007/2008	45 340 347,21	2 633 796,1	3 788	17 956	R 17,21
2008/2009	31 157 914,25	2 494 214,0	3 822	17 363	R 12,49
2009/2010	60 432 983,71	2 776 867,8	4 343	19 353	R 21,76
2010/2011	71 749 104,17	3 027 276,3	5 085	21 237	R 23,70
2011/2012	88 442 521,03	2 782 370,7	4 660	19 755	R 31,79
2012/2013	108 248 805,28	2 842 409,1	4 686	20 187	R 38,08
2013/2014	137 919 367,70	3 806 993,5	6 368	26 740	R 36,23
2014/2015	130 849 387,92	3 582 122,6	6 363	25 252	R 36,53
2015/2016	233 618 024,81	4 462 089,1	7 832	31 689	R 52,36
2016/2017	299 882 007,84	5 812 641,3	9 138	39 964	R 51,59
2017/2018	383 607 431,04	5 422 122,3	9 569	38 617	R 70,75
2018/2019	336 979 827,63	4 737 000,0	9 021	33 510	R 71,14
2019/2020	289 475 740,22	5 876 741,3	9 121	39 132	R 49,26
2020/2021	260 451 284,03	5 455 470,8	9 421	36 233	R 47,74
2021/2022	255 013 759,48	4 402 619,2	8 095	30 030	R 57,92
2022/2023	281 895 295,79	5 158 852,1	9 381	34 297	R 54,64
2023/2024	301 623 485,58	5 757 722,6	9 725	37 573	R 52,39

Active South African based shearing sheds - 2023/24 Season	
Description	Count
Number of Sheds that marketed in the 2023/24 season	1 381
Number of Sales these sheds marketed on	34
Number of Lots Sold	8 954
Number of lots above 80% of Indicator	656
Number of lots above Indicator	42

ORITAIN SAMPLES / SHEARING SHED AUDITS

We have reached our target for the collection of Oritain Samples for Cape Wool.

Region 20:	17 samples
Region 21 & 25	12 samples
Region 23	20 samples
Region 24	24 samples

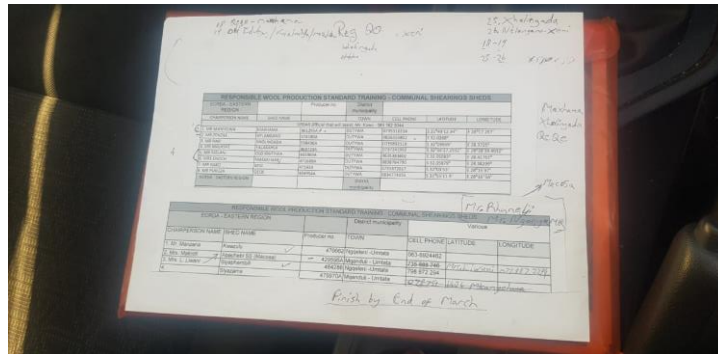


Handing over of SCWS and Animal Handling certificates



Oritain sample at Nqiningana WGA





12 Cape Wools Sustainable Audits were concluded in Idutywa, Ngqeleni and Mqanduli

Audits were done at the following shearing sheds:

- Masakala SS
- Magadla SS
- Magedla SS
- Upper Mkaphusi WGA
- Ngcuka WGA
- Zoboletu WGA
- Mtyatya WGA
- Cumakala WGA
- Khulani Mntla WGA
- Zingquthu WGA
- Thornhill SS
- Masisaki 2018 Coop
- Zola SS
- Phakamisa SS
- Merino SS
- Rocklands SS
- Kwezi SS
- Springgrove
- Tendergate SS
- Sopumelela (Baccesfarm)
- Thembaletu

A total of 33 audits were completed.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Best Economically Classed Clip Award:

We would also like to thank Zoetis for their sponsorship of the Best Class Clip in our communal areas. They have sponsored the dosing of all the animals from the winning sheds in Region 20 to 25.



Inter-Regional Communal Congress:

We had a very successful Inter Regional Communal Congress in the Sterkspruit area with an attendance of approximately 600 - 800 people.



Visit by Australian Scientists:

A visit from a group of Australian scientists facilitated by Cape Wools had a tour through the Eastern Cape. They visited a shearing shed in our communal area to experience how our communal farmers manage their sheep and grazing.



Visit by University of Pretoria:

The University of Pretoria arranged for a group of Agricultural students from various countries to visit shearing sheds in our communal areas in order to experience how communal farming operates and to learn more about their successes and constraints.





Inter-Regional Flock Competition:

A very successful Inter-Regional Flock Competition was held in Tarkastad attended by 130 people. This event is one of the highlights in the communal year calendar and there is a great demand for these type of days amongst our farmers.



Purchasing of Animals:

Some of our farmers were in a position to purchase their own animals in order to improve the quality of their flock. A total of 350 quality rams and 450 quality ewes were purchased from our commercial farmers.



Donation of Rams:

A Regional Congress took place in Region 23. Chris Hani Municipality donated 90 rams to farmers in the area.



INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

During our Annual National Congress held in June 2024 the Best Economically Classed Clip Competition winners were announced:

Region 20: Lumanyano WGA

This shed is situated in the Tsolo district. This season they produced 55 bales. They are currently in the process to improve their sheep flocks and quality of wool. They also buy in good quality rams to increase the quality. This year they sold 5 bales of BH for the price of R72-30 which indicates that they are working on improving their wool quality and weaning lambs.

Region 21: Cains Shearing Shed

This shed is situated in the Fort Beaufort district and produced 39 bales. These farmers are also buying in quality rams to improve their flocks. An average price of R107-39 was received for their clip, 19 micron and a 68% clean yield. They received their highest price of R125-10 for their 7 bales of AF line.

Region 23: Allenwater WGA

This shed is situated in the Whittlesea district and produced 36 bales with an average of 180kg. This community also buys good quality rams and they are well organised with a lambing programme for their sheep. They have received an average price of R117-00 per kg with a micron of 18.8 and a clean yield of 71%. They also received the best price for their AH hogget wool at R135-90.

Region 24: Luzie Shearing Shed

Luzie shearing shed is situated in the Mr Fletcher district. They also purchase quality rams to upgrade their flocks. This shearing shed have produced 43 bales, with an average weight of 180kg. They received an average price of R91-05, average micron 19.5 and a clean yield of 64%. They also received the highest price for BH hogget wool of R112-50.

Region 25: Upper Tele Shearing Shed

Upper Tele shearing shed is situated in the Sterkspruit district, very close to the Lesotho border. This shed produced 59 bales, with an average weight of 180kg. No bin bales were produced which makes their wool classing very good. They are also very organised. An average price of R106-61 were received, 19.8 micron and 69% clean yield. The top line for this shed were 3 bales of BH which received a price of R158-90.

OVERALL WINNER: ALLENWATER WGA



Appreciation to Zoetis for the sponsorship of the prizes for this competition.

BIO-SECURITY

All necessary protocols are in place to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease in the communal areas.



Signed at East London on 23 August 2024



WJ Goosen
Manager: Wool Production, Marketing Development and Infrastructure

QUEENSTOWN EMERGING COMMERCIAL FARMERS

INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

The first phase of this contract was to establish study groups in the Eastern Cape and to train three farmers to become ram breeders. One of the three farmers had some challenges and it was decided to move his sheep to one of the other farmers. Both these farmers, other emerging farmers as well as commercial farmers completed the junior Merino judging course.

These two farmers contributed more rams to the ram project than what was expected of them at the time. Unfortunately, the NWGA ram project no longer exists.

Study groups were also established and a lot of training took place within these groups. A number of visits to Brokers, the Wool Exchange and the Wool Testing Bureau also took place. However, as a result of Covid 19 it became very difficult to visit institutions as a group, and visits to commercial farmers became almost impossible. Many of the farmers do not allow visits on their farms from a group of people because of biosecurity and security reasons.

SCWS

SCWS Audits became very important and it was decided to coach and prepare at least 10 Emerging Commercial farmers during the 2023/2024 season. After many visits and a lot of effort and continuous training, 12 farmers completed their training and complied to the standards of SCWS for Commercial farms. These farms are situated in the Alice, Aliwal North, Seymour, Jamestown, Cradock, Grahamstown and Balfour districts.

It is very important to understand that these farmers need assistance even after they have completed the audits. The continuous visits and training of these farmers throughout the year is aimed to assist them to produce wool ethically and responsibly.

They all complied and received their SCWS certificates.

TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION

Training:

Sheep Handling and Predation Management training took place at Emthini, Kwa Zulu, Magdala, Old Iduytwa, Thornhill and Tsolobeng sheds during January, February and April. Many members of nearby sheds also attended these events.

Demonstration:

The same training takes place as described in the paragraph on Emerging Commercial Farmers. These photos demonstrate that the farmer ensures that the correct procedures are followed when dosing sheep.



The animals are weighed to calibrate all equipment, and a cooler box is also used to keep all vaccines at the prescribed temperature.

Students from some Agricultural institutions also attend practical training from time to time on the farm.

COACHING 10 PRODUCERS

The deliverable of this action is to identify all biosecurity risks and assist to manage, improve production practices and farm income, with the outcome to improve market access and production practices.

To ensure that these farmers are provided with the necessary knowledge, the NWGA prepared information on various subjects. Before training farmers on any subject, time is spent on explaining to participants the complexities of being a farmer, and how important it is to respect your animals.

The Emerging Commercial farmers had visits throughout the period under review. During these visits training on various subjects took place:

- Biosecurity Awareness
- Vaccination
- Chemical and Medicine Store management
- Wool Handling
- Wool Account Sales
- Animal Health
- Shearing Shed Management
- Animal Handling, and
- Predation Management
- Breeding & Selection
- Wool Classing & Clip Preparation

To elaborate on some of the above training sessions:

- **Animal Health**

During these training sessions, the importance of animal health is explained to farmers. This includes the correct use and cleaning of instruments, as well as keeping the cold chain on medicine. Practical sessions are also included where it is demonstrated how to use instruments, vaccines and medicine. The correct way to handle the animals ethically so as to minimize injury to the animal and the handler is also demonstrated.

A very detailed description of identifying sick animals is also part of the training courses. The Famacha chart is used to identify sick animals and what cause of the symptoms may be. Farmers are also trained to be on the lookout for diseases like sheep scab and red lice.

- **Animal Handling**

During animal handling, time is spent to teach farmers about animal behaviour. This makes the handling of animals much easier and also helps farmers with the construction of handling facilities so as to minimize injuries and enjoy working with the animals.

- **Biosecurity Awareness**

As part of the SCWS audit farmers are well informed about biosecurity and why it is important.



- **Shearing Shed Management**

Shearing shed management forms a big part of training. During these sessions a very practical but thorough explanation is given on how to prevent wool contamination. The importance of not using paint to mark animals and to remove these markings as well as plant residues before shearing sheep, is also part of training. Time is also spent on explaining how to keep the yard, as well as the shed clean from any baling twine and to never use poliprop bags to divide bales.

Clip preparation, bale weights and the correct marking of bales is also very important during training. Whenever possible, practical guidance is given to help with small changes during shearing to get a better flow of the shearing proses.

- **Predation Management**

Predation management plays a large part of training and it is very important to explain the differences between the main predators that occur on the farms. Once the farmer can identify which predator is causing the problem, it is easier to solve it. Stray dogs are proving to be the biggest problem, especially near towns.

Stock theft is also a big challenge for these farmers. The closer the farm is situated to a town the bigger the problem. Some of these farmers spend many hours in court defending stock theft cases.

FARMWORKER TRAINING

Farmworker training for emerging commercial farmers on Sheep Handling, Predation Management and Shearing Shed Management took place in Barkly East during October & November, after which they received their certificates.





Highlights and Challenges

As we all know, a farming enterprise involves long-term planning and therefore results also take time. Despite this, there are some positives:

- The Maphala family farming in the Lady Grey and Aliwal North area who have been a part of the NWGA programme for some years, achieved a very special award. During the previous wool season they obtained the top price of R199/kg for a bale BH, which was the highest price on that sale.

Despite all our efforts, there are still many challenges. Many of these farmers lease farms and receive grants from Government, which results in very negative outcomes. Farmers struggle to follow management plans because they cannot purchase medicine or feed in time or when needed. In some instances, the grants or loans are paid to the farmers long after the money was required to meet the needs of the management plan on the farm, resulting in one farmer having to leave his farm because of this.

Some farmers do not live on the farm, but in a town nearby, which also makes training difficult. Although communication on the farm and during training takes place in isiXhosa, there are still some challenges in communicating with some farmers in an attempt to organize visits.

A suggestion is that a very strict selection process should be followed for the next participants of the “10 Producers”. Prior to the next intake it is recommended that a meeting be held with the relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that the right producers are selected. This will ensure that we are more effective in the mission and vision of the NWGA, to train successful emerging commercial farmers for the future.

Signed at Queenstown on 23 August 2024.

JG Grobler
Production Advisor: East Cape