

QUEENSTOWN EMERGING COMMERCIAL FARMERS

SUSTAINABLE AUDITS

SCWS audits still forms part of the contract on Commercial farms and the development of the SCWS is always part of any presentation. There was a decline in new audits and the number of re-audits increased drastically. Farmer Union meetings were attended and visits to 4 Wool brokers took place over the past 12 months.

A farm visit was done to explain the adaptive multi paddock grazing to a group of farmers. Services offered by the NWGA is continuously promoted during such visits.



LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS

LCA studies were done during the past 12 months, and a great amount of time was spent in the communal areas and Mohair farms in the Eastern Cape.

Communal areas

There were 5 simplified studies done from the 100 sites identified and completed in the communal areas. The case study included 12 identified sites, 12 soil samples and approximately 72 vegetation samples collected.

Mohair SA

A total of 380 sites were visited, 144 vegetation samples and 36 soil samples were collected. There were 10 simplified case studies completed for approximately 200 identified sites. 2 Mohair case studies and 1 Free State case study was completed.

FARMWORKER TRAINING

Farmworker training was done on commercial farms, which included animal handling, wool contamination, animal health, predation management and general work ethics.



COACHING 10 PRODUCERS

This is the most important part of the contract, and most of the time is spent on training of Emerging Commercial Farmers during the 12 months.

A workshop was facilitated by the Senior Agriculture Economist of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development from Pretoria in Barkly East and Queenstown. Information on Wool Handling, Wool Marketing and Animal Handling was presented in Xhosa to Government Officials, Communal Farmers and Emerging Commercial Farmers with an attendance of 52 people. Follow up training has already been discussed.



SUSTAINABLE CAPE WOOLS STANDARDS

SCWS producer training took place at every visit to an Emerging Commercial Farmer, during these visits the questionnaire of the SCWS audit is revised to ensure that the farmer is well informed on ethical wool production. There were more farms audited than required for the 12 months.

BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity became a priority after the FMD outbreak in the Eastern Cape. Farmers are well trained on the biosecurity rules, the spread of diseases like Sheep Scab and quarantine areas when buying any animals.

ANIMAL HEALTH

This training remains a priority to farmers and Famacha charts takes up majority of the time during the course, as it remains one of the best management tools to use for identifying sick animals. Animal Health training includes vaccination, dosing, dipping of animals, use and storage of health products and caring for equipment

SHEARING SHED MANAGEMENT

Wool classing, clip preparation and wool contamination is covered during this training and includes demonstrations to the farmers. The theory component of Wool handling was presented, and the aim is to practically train these farmers on wool handling by an NWGA accredited trainer in the future. Wool contamination is a huge problem, and these issues are covered during the training to farmers and includes the outlay of the shearing shed, cleaning the shed and the yard. Emphasis is placed on marking of animals with the correct marking pens and on the face and not the wool.



WOOL ACCOUNT SALES

Wool Account Sales and AWEX Wool Typing System was done to assist farmers with their planning for the next shearing season. The aim is to enable farmers to make calculated

decisions to maximize their income, too many farmers are losing income on their wool clip due to lack of knowledge. Broker feedback plays an important role in guiding farmers on how to maximise their income from the wool clip.

Feeding of livestock has become very expensive and this training informs farmers on how to limit costs on animal feed. The importance and value of creep feed for lambs are explained to farmers.



PREDATION MANAGEMENT

Predation and stock theft remains a big challenge and training has proven positive results. This training enables farmers to identify the predator and take the appropriate action. Requests for continuation of this training has been received.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- A Norwegian funded company requested a sheep handling course and training in preparation for the Communal SCWS audit. Four sheds were identified by the company and training was presented in Xhosa over four days. Feedback from those sheds were very positive and they requested follow up training.
- Sheep handling and predation management training to emerging farmers was done in the Noupport area on request from a French company.
- The Department of Agriculture Eastern Cape identified 6 farms for mentoring and farm assessments were completed for these farms in Kareedouw, Queenstown and Lady Grey area. These assessed farms received training on animal health and reproduction presented in Xhosa. The attendees included farm workers students and extension officers.



Over the 12 months 230 events were held and a total of 960 people participated in these events.

Signed at Queenstown on 25 July 2025

Handwritten signature of JG Grobler.

JG Grobler
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