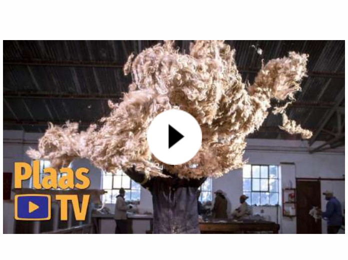
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS / EEUFEESVIERINGE

Wolklassering en die Springbokkop: 100 van NWKV-uitnemendheid

Annelize Smit van Niekerk van die Nasionale Wolkwekwersvereniging (NWKV) het tydens 'n Plaas TV-onderhoud met Lise Roberts oor wolklassering en die gesogte Springbokkop-sertifisering gesels:



100 jaar van wolproduksie (Deel 2): Institusionele konsolidasie en piekproduksie (1926 tot 1996)

Die Nasionale Wolkwekersvereniging (NWKV) is op 26 Mei 1926 tydens 'n wolkonferensie in Middelburg in die Kaap gestig. Hoewel die organisasie eers in 1929 formeel gestalte gekry het, word die vroeëre datum as die stigtingsdatum erken en word die eeufees in 2026 gevier.

Leon de Beer, voormalige bestuurder van die NWKV, het in 'n 2014-uitgawe van *Wolboer/Wool Farmer* geskryf dat verskeie onafhanklike wolkwekersverenigings teen 1926 reeds landswyd aktief was. Georganiseerde verteenwoordiging vir wolprodusente strek egter langer terug. In 1831 is 'n vereniging in die Kaap gestig om Merino-teling te bevorder.

Dit is gevolg deur die stigting van die Nasionale Vereniging vir Wol- en Bokhaarkwekers in Port Elizabeth in 1906, en die Dewetsdorp Wolprodusentevereniging in 1907 vir die Oranjerivierkolonie. In 1918 is die Transvaalse Skaap- en Bokprodusente-organisasie op die been gebring.

Lees meer.

LOCAL NEWS / PLAASLIKE NUUS

Van toeka tot nou: Slagdag op die plaas

Pierré Vlok is weer terug op sy pos met nog 'n aflewering van 'Pierre by die plaashek'.

Slagdag was nog altyd 'n belewenis, veral gedurende my grootwordjare. Dit was lank voor die koms van elektrisiteit of die ontydige kragonderbrekings wat ons vandag teister. Ons moes maar staatmaak op paraffienlampe, die ou getroue koolstoof en die donkie – 'n 44-gallon drom wat met hout gevoer en dan aan die brand gesteek word om water warm te maak. Die enigste luukse was die paraffienyskas wat maar baie gelol het as gevolg van roet wat in sy skoorsteen saamgepak het. Dié moes gereeld skoongemaak word om te verseker dat ons kos koud bly.

Buite, onder die groot bloekomboom, was die *safe*. Dit was 'n stellasie wat amper soos 'n voëltjiehok gelyk het.

Lees meer.

NWGA sponsors top master's livestock student

The NWGA proudly sponsored a prize for the top master's student in livestock at the University of the Free State's Centre for Sustainable Agriculture. Congratulations to Madene Conradie on this outstanding achievement.

Eben van Wyk of the NWGA attended the event and presented the award to Prof Jan Willem Swanepoel, who accepted it on behalf of the student.

Have you registered for the upcoming Springbok Head courses?

The NWGA's five-day Springbok Head courses combine theory with practical training, equipping participants with the skills to master professional wool classification.

Whether you are a rookie or looking to advance your expertise, our course offers it all: training in fleece preparation, quality assessment, and industry standards.

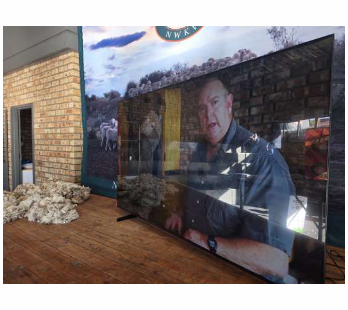
The programme will be offered on the following dates:

- 22 to 26 June – Trompsburg, Free State.
- 29 June to 3 July – Middelburg, Eastern Cape.
- 3 to 7 August – Ermelo, Mpumalanga.

2026 NAMPO Oesdag 'n goeie vertoonvenster vir die wolbedryf

Hoewel daar vanjaar geen diere by NAMPO Oesdag was nie, was dit steeds *all systems go* vir die NWKV se skeer- en wolklasseringspan.

Die skeermasjiene was stil, maar die tafels het steeds gekreun onder die wol wat vir demonstrasies gebruik is. Besoekers kon by 'n TV-skerm stilstaan en die visuele proses van skeer en wolklassering volg. Soos altyd het die publiek met 'n groter waardering en belangstelling vir die produksie van skaapwol weggestap.



Karoo Winter Wool Festival returns in 2026 – better than ever!

This July, all roads once again lead to the heart of the Karoo and the historic town of Middelburg in the Eastern Cape. Just 15km outside the town, the working sheep farm, Dwarsvlei Farm, will come alive with the return of the evergreen Karoo Winter Wool Festival.

Taking place from Friday, 3 July to Saturday, 4 July 2026, the festival celebrates its fifth year, welcoming visitors from across South Africa who share a passion for wool, natural fibres, and the distinctive culture of the Karoo.

The NWGA will once again present its 'Boerepraatjies' programme, and visitors can look forward to interesting and topical discussions on the latest important issues in the local wool industry.

Read more.

Baie om te vier aan die vooraand van wolboere se eeufeesvieringe

Van 'n versukkelde bedryf wat 100 jaar gelede teen die vergrype van wol- en ramsmouse begin saamstaan het, tot 'n sektor waarin Suid-Afrika vandag die wêreld se grootste produsent van volhoubaar-gesertifiseerde wol is, asook die tweede grootste produsent van Merinowol. Dan Kriek van die NWKV het onlangs met Gerrit Bezuidenhout gesels oor die organisasie se 100-jaar-vieringe.

Lees meer.

National wool market report for 20 May 2026

The wool selling season saw a smaller offering of 5 284 bales on the 32nd sale of the season held on 20 May. Approximately half of the offering consisted of long-length, fine-micron wools, with 66,3% of the merino wools offered being sustainably certified.

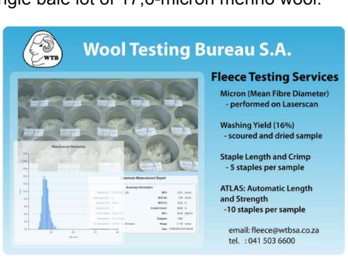
Although the ZAR strengthened throughout the day's trade, it still averaged weaker against the US$, which supported the current market levels.

Individual quality clips once again performed well, achieving an outstanding overall sales clearance of 96,2%. The all-indicator edged up 0,7% to close on R265,80/kg, with the certified indicator closing 0,7% higher on R273,01/kg. The highest price of R344,46/kg (clean) (R202,50/kg greasy) was paid for a single bale lot of 17,6-micron merino wool.

The Australian market traded slightly higher by 0,2% (AU$), compared to their previous sale held on Wednesday, 13 May.

The major buyers on the sale were Standard Wool SA (1 306), G Modiano SA (1 089), Tianyu SA (764) and Stucken & Co (697). The next sale will be held on 2 June, when approximately 5 111 bales will be on offer.

Read more.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS / INTERNASIONALE NUUS

New £3m project helps UK sheep producers reduce emissions and boost efficiency

Funded by the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) Farming Innovation Programme, the research has been carried out by Innovate UK, alongside 11 industry-wide partners, including the National Sheep Association (NSA).

NSA chief executive Phil Stocker said: "From the outset, the Breed for CH4nge project aimed to inform the wider sheep industry and breeders, while providing practical strategies to improve ewe efficiency and reduce methane emissions. I hope all sheep breeders can now benefit from what this project has achieved."

Read more.

Miracle as sheep in UK gives birth to quintuplets

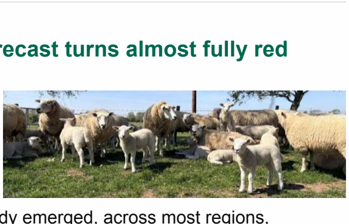
The owner of a smallholding has been heralding a 'miracle' after one of her sheep gave birth to quintuplets. Maria Sasiain from Leek, Staffordshire, said she was left "pretty shocked" when her sheep, June, had five babies earlier in May. Experts say the odds of this happening are around a one-in-a-million chance.

The shepherdess recalled the night of the lambs' births, which included her daughter repeatedly shouting to her: "There's another one."

Read more.

Blowfly risk in UK high as forecast turns almost fully red

The Scottish Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) forecast, which displays when blowflies are projected to leave overwintered pupae, is now largely red.



This implies flies are emerging, or have already emerged, across most regions, including areas in Scotland where blowfly strike risk is not usually prevalent at this early stage of the season.

Read more.

Regenerative agriculture improves productivity and profitability while reducing greenhouse gas emissions on Australian sheep farms

Regenerative agriculture can be deconstructed into several constituent practices, including adaptive multi-paddock (AMP) grazing, improved biodiversity, silvopasture, and minimising cultivation and synthetic fertiliser inputs. Here, using farms across a rainfall gradient, Australian researchers examined how three constituents – pasture species composition, antecedent soil organic carbon (SOC) and AMP grazing – influenced SOC accrual, greenhouse gas emissions, production, and profitability.

Read more.

ANIMAL HEALTH / DIEREGESONDHEID

Skaapbrandsiekte: Klein myte, groot skade

Brandsiekte onder skape laat hom nie beperk tot een kudde of plaas nie en kan soos 'n veldbrand versprei. Die siekte raak maklik buite beheer en is derhalwe as 'n aanmeldbare siekte geklassifiseer. Vanweë die ernstige aard daarvan, kan die Nasionale Departement van Landbou en provinsiale owerhede ingryp indien 'n uitbreking voorkom.

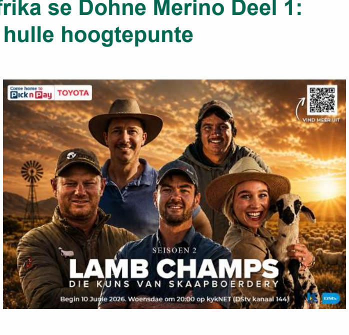
Dr Willie Harris, 'n veearts van Noord-Kaap Repro en Veeartsenydienste op Upington, sê brandsiekte word veroorsaak deur die myt, *Psoroptes ovis*, wat op die vel van skape en bokke leef. As 'n dier eers besmet is, verdubbel die mytpopulasie elke ses dae. Dit neem gemiddeld ses tot agt weke voordat ernstige kliniese tekens sigbaar word, en binne twee tot drie maande kan die siekte deur 'n hele kudde versprei.

Lees meer.

TECHNICAL ARTICLES / TEGNIESE ARTIKELS

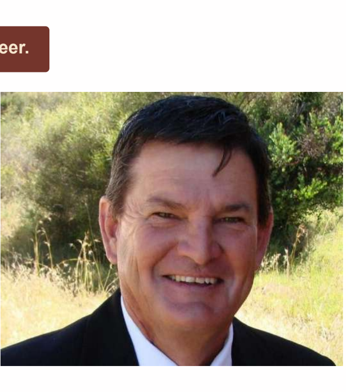
Die suksesverhaal van Suid-Afrika se Dohne Merino Deel 1: Oudpresidente deel hulle hoogtepunte

Die Dohne Merino het sy ontstaan uit 'n kruising tussen Peppin Merino-ooie en Duitse Vleismerino-ramme wat deur die jare aangepas en ontwikkel is tot 'n besondere skaapras in eie reg. Dohne Merino-produsente en navorsers het reeds in die laat 1930's koppe bymekaargesit oor hoe hulle die som van wol- en vleisproduksie beter kan laat klop. Die Dohne Merino-telersgenootskap is in 1966 gestig met Roelie le Roux as hul eerste president.



In deel een van 'n reeks oor die Dohne Merino-ras se suksesse in Suid-Afrika, deel 'n paar oudpresidente hulle hoogtepunte.

Lees meer.

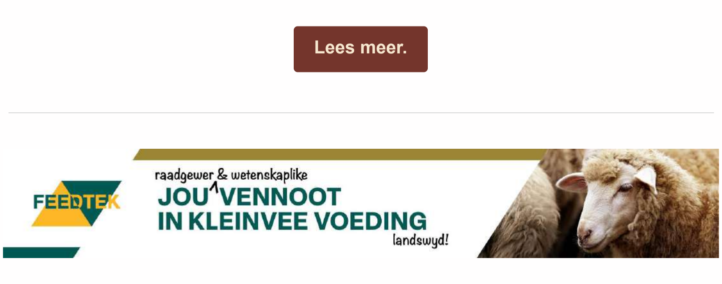


Die invloed van individuele spasietoekenning op lammers se voer- en waterinname

As gevolg van 'n gebrek aan inligting oor hoe dierewelsyn en -welstand in voerkrale bestuur word, is verbruikers geneig om ongegronde menings oor intensiewe veeproduksie en die gepaardgaande welsynsimplikasies te lug. Navorsing is daarom onontbeerlik om te bepaal hoe die welsyn en produksie van lammers deur binnenshuise voerkrale beïnvloed word, sodat verbruikers die korrekte inligting kan ontvang.

In hierdie reeks ondersoek en bespreek ons die invloed van veedigtheid op onderskeidelik die groei, welstand en vleisgehalte van lammers wat in 'n binnenshuise voerkraalstelsel afgerond word. Deel 1 behels voer- en waterinname.

Lees meer.



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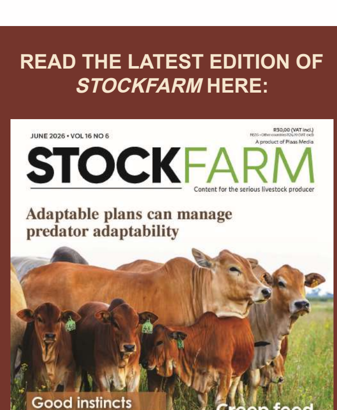
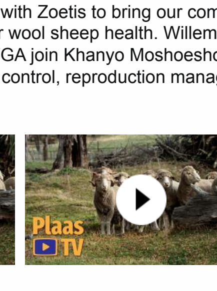


INTERVIEWS / ONDERHOUDE

Zoetis/NWGA wool sheep health series

The NWGA has partnered with Zoetis to bring our communal producers a video training series on best practices for wool sheep health. Willem Goosen, Khanyiso Mzayifani, and Lusanda Ntetha of the NWGA join Khanyo Moshoeshoe of Zoetis to discuss immunity, vaccine handling, parasite control, reproduction management, good feeding practices and sheep shearing.

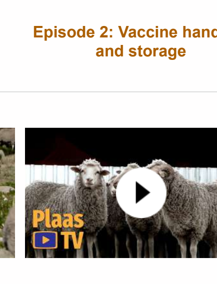
Episode 1: Immunity



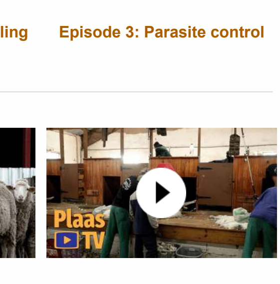
Episode 2: Vaccine handling and storage

Episode 3: Parasite control

Episode 4: Improving your rams



Episode 5: Good feeding practices and animal health



Episode 6: Shearing season and animal health

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