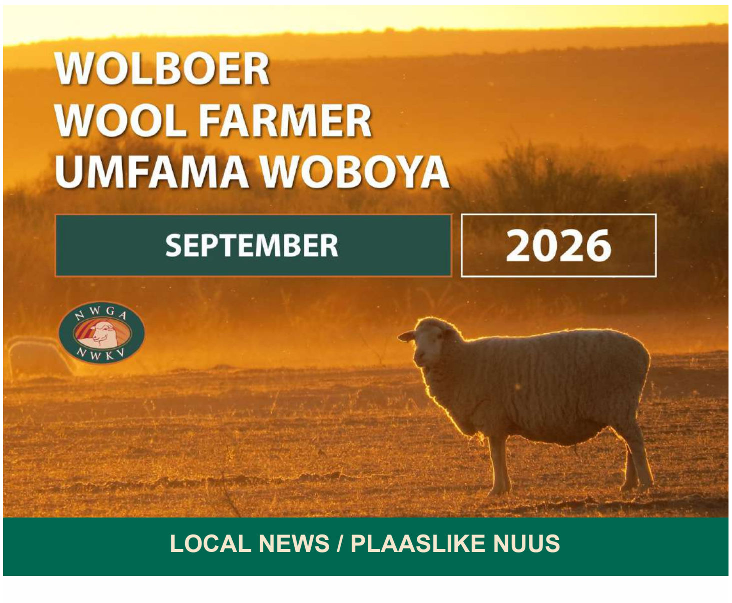


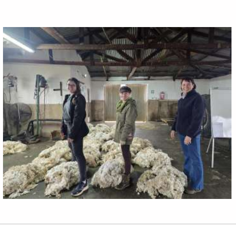
LOCAL NEWS / PLAASLIKE NUUS

Sterk groep woon Springbokkop-wolklaskursus by

Ervare produsente en hul bestuurders, die klassers van skeerkontrakteurs en vroue wie hulself wil bemagtig, het 'n Springbokkopkursus in Trompsburg bygewoon.

Die kursusgangers het indringende vrae gestel. Annelize Smit van Niekerk, Springbokkopinstrukteur van die NWKV, en hulpinstrukteurs, NWKV produksie-adviseurs, Juan Venter en Eben van Wyk, skeerinstrukteur, Lungani Maqakalana sowel as Herman Maartens van Lapersonne Wool, het die kursus aangebied.

Baie dankie aan Francois en Tat Botha wat hul plaas en vagte beskikbaar gestel het om die kursus aan te bied.



Springbok Head wool classing course at Grootfontein College

A total of 35 students gathered at Grootfontein Agricultural College for an intensive four-day Springbokhead Wool Classing course, where practical experience took centre stage.

Communal production advisors Sibusiso Ndwanya and Luvuyo Nyamela joined Juan Venter, production advisor at the NWGA, and Innocentia Shiba from Cape Wools SA to assist accredited Springbokhead instructors Annelize Smit van Niekerk and Olona Jokozela with presenting the course.

NWGA communal production advisors Lwando Gaqazele and Lusanda Nteta also attended the training alongside the classers of shearing contractors and producers from as far as Cape Town and Sterkspruit. The group also welcomed Zolani Tsheko, vice-chairperson of the NWGA.

While participants completed the required theoretical assessments, the course focused on developing practical skills. Students spent most of their time gaining hands-on experience under the guidance of seasoned instructors, learning skills from piece picking and fleece preparation to the grouping and classing of wool.

The course once again highlighted that becoming a competent wool classer requires more than sound theoretical knowledge; it demands practical experience and confidence gained on the wool table.

Skeerkontrakteurs sien waarde in wolklaskursus

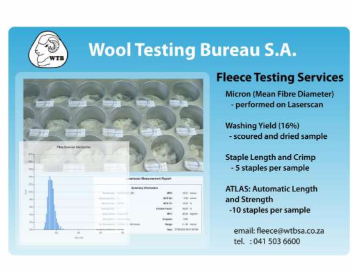
Vanjaar is die derde jaar dat Simunye Skeerdienste in hul wolklassers belê deur hulle aan 'n Springbokkop-wolklaskursus te laat deelneem. NC Skeerdienste en Bruce Lewis Skeerdienste het hulle voorbeeld gevolg en ook die kursus, wat in Ermelo aangebied is, bygewoon.

Alhoewel daar nie baie deelnemers was nie het hoofinstrukteur, Annelize Smit van Niekerk, en hulpinstrukteur, David Botha, produksie-adviseur by die NWKV, die entoesiasme van die klassers verwelkom.

Dankie aan voormalige NWKV Mpumalanga-voorsitter, Japie Celliers, wie weer sy skeerskuur vir opleiding beskikbaar gestel het.

Veehanteringskursus vir landbouskool

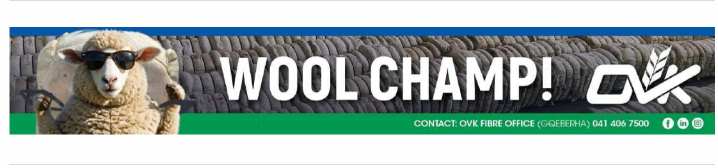
'n Twee-dag veehanteringskursus is vir graad 10-leerders van Marlow Landbouskool aangebied. Hierdie jaarlikse AgriSETA-geakkrediteerde kursus het beide 'n teoretiese en praktiese aanslag, wat goed deur NWKV produksie-adviseur, Juan Venter, oorgebring is. Hy is bygestaan deur Bull Price van Zoetis, wie die dieregesondheidsaspekte behandel het.



Springbokkopkursus vir alle ouderdomme

'n Springbokwolklasseringkursus is van 24 tot 27 Augustus deur Eben van Wyk en Lungani Maqakalana van die NWKV, tesame met dr Andries Strauss van Glen-landboukollege, by die kollege aangebied.

Die kursusgangers het 'n diverse groep gevorm met verteenwoordigers van die Perseverance Landbou-akademie en Peritum Agri Institute, kommersiële en kommunale produsente, sowel as voorligtingsbeamptes. Die deelnemers se ouderdomme het gewissel van 19 tot 71 jaar, 'n duidelike bewys dat hierdie kursus geskik is vir enige iemand wie hul vaardighede verder wil ontwikkel.



Springbokkopinstrukteur

Juan Venter, produksie-adviseur by die NWKV Oos-Kaap, is die nuutste toevoeging tot die Springbokkopinstrukteurskorps. Hy sluit aan by medekollegas, Annelize Smit van Niekerk en Dawie Botha. Daar is tans 18 geakkrediteerde Springbokkopinstrukteurs van makelaarshuise, departementele instansies en landboukolleges.

Die wolbedryf, en spesifiek die NWKV as produsente-organisasie, het die mandaat om te verseker dat wolklasseropleiding aan die bedryf se standaarde voldoen. Die akkreditasie van Springbokkopinstrukteurs vorm deel van hierdie verantwoordelikheid en verseker dat instrukteurs wat dié opleiding aanbied, oor die nodige bevoegdheid, kennis en ervaring beskik om die vereiste standaarde konsekwent toe te pas.

NAMPO Kaap: 'n Goeie geleentheid vir lede-interaksie

Die NWKV Wes-Kaap in samewerking met die Rooivleisprodusente-organisasie (RPO) Wes-Kaap en die Suid-Afrikaanse Rooibosraad, het by NAMPO Kaap 'n ruimte geskep vir interaksie met lede. Dankie aan Agri Wes-Kaap wat hul ingangstent beskikbaar gestel het.

Die NWKV het twee komplimentêre toegangskaartjies per lid beskikbaar gemaak om 'n geleentheid vir interaksie met lede te bewerkstellig. Altesaam 104 persone wat lede, gades en familie ingesluit, is ontvang en vier nuwe lede het aangesluit.

Die NWKV se bestuurslede was teenwoordig om lede te verwelkom en navrae te beantwoord. Toekomstige planne vir NAMPO Kaap sluit gesprekforums in waar produsente aktuele onderwerpe in 'n informele omgewing met 'n koppie koffie in die hand, kan bespreek.

Van links is André Christie-Smith, Tania Lusse, Jannie Fourie en Dan Kriek.

Beyond the farmgate: OR Tambo wool growers discover the wool industry

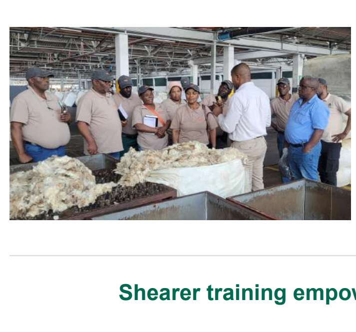
The wool journey doesn't end at the farm gate! Chairpersons and executive members from the Tsolo, Mthatha, Libode, Ngqeleni and Lusikisiki Wool Growers Associations recently took part in a two-day wool industry tour and awards ceremony.

OR Tambo District Municipality and L Nqintiso made the tour possible. It gave producers the opportunity to see first-hand what happens to their wool once it leaves the farm – from the auction and wool store to the Wool Testing Bureau.

NWGA production advisor Lwando Gaqazele also joined the tour and supported the producers throughout the experience.

A special thank you to BKB, Sivuyile Mvinjelwa, Albert Motsoikha, and Johan du Preez for sharing their knowledge through valuable discussions and presentations. Their insights helped producers to better understand the complex wool value chain and the processes that ultimately influence the value of their product.

The real impact of the tour will be seen once these leaders return to their communities to share what they have learned with fellow wool growers.



Shearer training empowers unemployed youth

NWGA production advisor Lwando Gaqazele was actively involved in coordinating opportunities for unemployed young people through shearer training in Siyaphambili, Ngqeleni. The aim is to equip young people with the skills and qualifications needed to become professional shearers and provide shearing services to neighbouring shearing sheds in Region 20.

By improving shearing skills and standards, the training contributes to better-quality wool for the international market.

NWGA's part-time shearing instructor Makhandilili Maginini was impressed with the progress of the three participants who completed their second course in blade shearing.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS / INTERNASIONALE NUUS

Bluetongue surge strains vaccine supplies

A rapid rise in bluetongue cases in the UK has strained vaccine supplies and doubled some laboratory turnaround times, despite millions of additional doses being imported and testing facilities deploying five times their usual staffing levels.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) have detailed the pressures facing the disease response in a letter published by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.

The response followed concerns raised by the committee over preparedness for the latest BTV-3 outbreak.

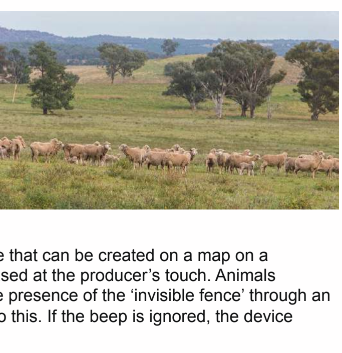
The first positive case of the 2026 outbreak was confirmed on 9 July, with weekly submissions rising before quadrupling towards the end of the month. This prompted a wider response involving APHA, Defra, the Pirbright Institute and the VMD.

Read more.

Virtual fencing pushes boundaries with technology

An Australian Wool Innovation (AWI)-supported project is under way to field-test a 'virtual fencing' system that enables sheep, which are fitted with a GPS-enabled device, to be contained on an area of paddock without the need for normal fencing.

Virtual fencing is an animal-friendly fencing system that enables livestock to be contained or moved without the need for conventional 'visible fences'.



A virtual fence is an invisible line in the landscape that can be created on a map on a computer and/or tablet, and can be moved or erased at the producer's touch. Animals wearing a GPS-enabled device are warned of the presence of the 'invisible fence' through an audio cue from the device and learn to respond to this. If the beep is ignored, the device delivers a short, mild electric pulse.

Read more.

Serbian sheep pox outbreak highlights ongoing biosecurity work

An outbreak of sheep pox was confirmed in Serbia on 28 July 2026, involving 132 sheep. The outbreak was treated according to World Organisation for Animal Health's (WOAH) standard stamping-out protocol.

Sheep pox remains a serious consideration for the global wool trade: unlike foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or peste des petits ruminants (PPR), the virus is more resistant to standard inactivation methods. WOAH's Terrestrial Code does not currently include provisions for sterilising it in wool or hair. Without a scientifically based recommendation from WOAH on how to deal with wool affected by sheep pox, wool producers, buyers, processors, and exporters are left to deal with the risk.

WOAH's *Terrestrial Code* chapter on sheep pox and goat pox (chapter 14.9) has not been revised since 1986. In 2024, an ad hoc group was tasked by the WOAH Scientific Department with a complete revision of the chapter. They asked for input from industry experts, including the International Wool Textile Organisation's (IWTO) Biosecurity and Welfare Working Group. By September 2024, the Working Group had submitted a recommendation requesting that sterilisation of wool from infected sheep follow the same guidelines as for PPR and FMD.

In its November 2024 review, the ad hoc group requested further technical information to support the submission. This additional information was submitted, with slight alterations to the original recommendations, ahead of the ad hoc group's meeting in September 2025. No further requests came from the group, nor was the matter referred to the Scientific Commission's panel of experts — suggesting the Working Group's proposals may be included in the revised chapter.

As it now stands, these and other proposals still need to be approved by the WOAH General Assembly at its annual meeting. Until that happens, the global wool industry remains at risk.

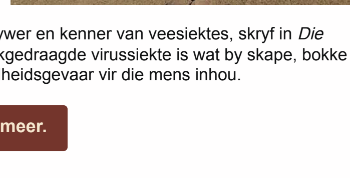
One often-overlooked tool for mitigating disease risk is compartmentalisation. This allows countries to register disease-free zones or compartments from which animal products can be moved despite an emergency disease outbreak in an adjacent area or district.

The Working Group recommends that member countries incorporate sheep pox and goat pox (and other emergency disease) compartmentalisation into their national biosecurity veterinary planning. – *IWTO Wool Policy Report: Seasonal round-up*

ANIMAL HEALTH / DIEREGESONDHEID

Slenkdalkoors kan vanjaar lol

Mense sê klein goedjies moet jou nie pla nie – maar dan het hulle beslis nog nie 'n nag saam met 'n muskiet of twee in 'n kamer deurgebring nie. Dié lastige insekte veroorsaak ook Slenkdalkoors wat ná vanjaar se goeie reën oor groot dele van die land kan lol.

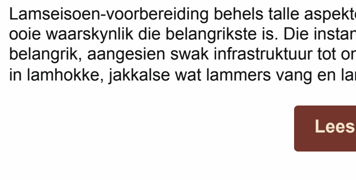


Wyle dr Jan du Preez, voormalige veearts, skrywer en kenner van veesiektes, skryf in *Die ABC van Slenkdalkoors* dat dit 'n ernstige insekgedraagde virussiekte is wat by skape, bokke en beeste voorkom en wat ook 'n groot gesondheidsgevaar vir die mens inhou.

Lees meer.

ARTICLES / ARTIKELS

Heinings en hokke: Instandhouding voor die lamseisoen



Met lae winsmarges, siektes en roofdiere wat tot 30% van 'n lammeroes kan kos, kan skaapprodusente nie meer bekostig om 'n lam te verloor nie. Daarom gebruik al hoe meer produsente lamhokke of -kampe, of jakkalswerende draad om 'n suksesvolle lammeroes te verseker.

Lamseisoen-voorbereiding behels talle aspekte, waarvan die kondisie en gesondheid van die ooie waarskynlik die belangrikste is. Die instandhouding van die infrastruktuur is egter ewe belangrik, aangesien swak infrastruktuur tot onnodige verliese kan lei, soos siekte-uitbrekings in lamhokke, jakkalse wat lammers vang en lammervrektes weens koue.

Lees meer.

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INTERVIEWS / ONDERHOUDE

'n Eeu van wolproduksie

Dr Arno Moore, voormalige hoofbestuurder van die Nasionale Wolkwekersvereniging, gesels met Plaas Media se Izak Hofmeyr oor die hoogtepunte van sy loopbaan by die NWKV. Hy gesels oor ingrypende veranderinge en vordering in veral die kommunale wolsektor.

OCTOBER CALENDAR / OKTOBER-KALENDER

Kom ons kyk waarmee ons produksie-adviseurs in Oktober besig gaan wees:

DATUM	PLEK	AKTIWITEIT, KURSUS, FUNKSIE OF GELEENTHEID	KONTAK PERSOON
30 September en 1 Oktober	WK - Moorreesburg	BKB Plaaswerker opleiding	Jannie Fourie, WK produksie-adviseur (083 564 1105)
2 Oktober	OK - Steynsburg	Boere Rally	Juan Venter, OK produksie-adviseur (079 693 1953)
7 - 11 Oktober	KZN - Tweedie (naby Howick)	Royal-landbouskou	Annelize Smit van Niekerk, MP, KZN & VS produksie-adviseur (082 928 3592)
12 Oktober	KZN -Bergville	Dierehanteringskursus	Annelize Smit van Niekerk, MP, KZN & VS produksie-adviseur (082 928 3592)
13 en 14 Oktober	VS - Glen	Skaaphanteringskursus	Eben van Wyk, VS produksie-adviseur (083 395 7404)
14 Oktober	WK - Piketberg	Opkomende boeredag - "Hoe boer ek saam met droogte"	Jannie Fourie, WK produksie-adviseur (083 564 1105)
16 en 17 Oktober	WK - Prince Albert	Prins Albert skou en skeerkampioenskappe	Jannie Fourie, WK produksie-adviseur (083 564 1105) / Eben van Wyk, VS produksie-adviseur (083 395 7404) / Dawie Botha, NK produksie-adviseur (083 679 6815)
19 - 22 Oktober	WK - Kaapstad	Dohne Merino Wêreldkonferensie	Jannie Fourie, WK produksie-adviseur (083 564 1105)
31 Oktober	NK - Middelpos	Ekspo	Dawie Botha, NK produksie-adviseur (083 679 6815)

Let's take a look at what the communal production advisors will be up to in October:

DATE	PLACE	EVENT	PRODUCTION ADVISOR
1 and 5 October	EC - Middledrift	Wool sorting	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)
2 October	EC - Butterworth	Wool sorting	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)
7 and 8 October	EC - Alice	Wool sorting	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)
9, 15 and 30 October	EC -Peddie	Wool sorting	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)
12 October	EC - Seymour	Machine shearer training	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)
13 and 14 October	EC - Seymour	Wool sorting	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)
19 and 23 October	EC - Stutterheim	Wool sorting	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)
26 October	EC - Cathcart	Wool sorting	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)
27 and 28 October	EC - Tsomo	Wool sorting course with Sibusiso Ndwanya	Khanyiso Mzayifani (073 803 9354)

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