



# Agripen

DECEMBER 2022



## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

*Liza Bohlmann*

**This year has been a proper rollercoaster ride, with many ups and downs in the agricultural and media industries. With some good rainfall over most parts of the summer grain area, we are both thankful and cautious of the possibility of floods and waterlogging in some areas. In general, 2022 feels like we are steadily on our way to regaining the losses incurred during the pandemic era.**

Looking back at the past year, we have much to celebrate. We did this with gusto at the regional awards events as well as at the AWSA National Awards Ceremony held at Nampo Park on Friday 11 November. What a joy to celebrate with our members, sponsors, nominees, and a contingent of local farmers at this glitzy event!

Our main sponsor, FNB, and event sponsors, Bayer, Grain SA, Distinct (a division of Chemuniqué), Van Loveren, and Syngenta all contributed to make this event a success.

## CONTENTS

From the chairperson	1
2022 National Award winners	3
Special recognition to maize farmer	5
Members receive recognition	6
Good insects for sale	8
Know your coffee	10
Agbiz Media Day	14
Quality seed can contribute to soil health	15
Corporate Member news	16
Farmer news	16
General and Industry news	17
Hail in the Eastern Free State	18
Photo of the month	19

Members banded together and donated many hours of support and actual blood, sweat, and tears to make this event possible – thank you to all who contributed!

A special word of thanks to the ringmaster of the AWSA Awards, Magda du Toit, who is the embodiment of servant leadership.

We extended the event to include a Thursday tour to Bothaville, with stop-overs at Senwes and the farm of Japie Grobler. The AWSA Special Award was bestowed upon Japie for his commitment to the industry, his fellow farmers, and his contribution as a chairperson and adviser on many councils and committees. This stalwart of the agricultural industry hosted the “Thursday AWSA Group” to share some behind-the-scenes details and insights to give context to some of the most important decisions made on a national level, as well as in his personal life.

Holding the event in the heartland of grain production in South Africa focused the attention on the importance of this region in keeping the country food secure in a world that is becoming increasingly unstable when it comes to food security. Another addition to the programme was a professional development session hosted on Friday morning. The debate and discussions about agricultural media reporting and communications were joined by three journalism students from the North West University Potchefstroom Campus as part of our youth outreach. But it was the main event on Friday evening that really impressed all the guests. Amid pouring rain, Nampo was transformed into a beautiful setting of celebration. Duncan Masiwa (Food for Mzansi) hosted proceedings with passion and guests supported the wine and gin industries with enthusiasm.

## **AWARDS AND PRIZES**

Congratulations to the nominees in the different categories, and a special word of congrats to the main award recipients:

- **Farmer of the Year – ALS Group: Agri Division (KZN)**
- **New Entrant to Commercial Farming – Tshilidzi Matshidzula (EC)**
- **Agriculturist of the Year (Extension Services) – Pieter Bruwer (MP)**

Also, a hearty congratulations to all members who are competition winners and thank you to the sponsors of our media competitions: BKB, FNB, CropLife SA, and Bayer.

We will communicate the dates and destination of the Farmer of the Year visit to ALS Group as soon as we've finalised the programme. Be on the lookout for more news about this 2023 event in your inbox soon!

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

At the AGM, we had some great discussion points on the way forward for our organisation. One of these will be to form a committee to determine the best way to restructure the organisation with a special focus on centralising the management and services of AWSA, while retaining regional events for members.

Another big decision made was to officially put forward our bid to host the 2028 International Federation of Agricultural Journalist's Congress. We are excited about the prospect of possibly hosting this international event once again.

The minutes of the meeting will be distributed to members via email before the end of this year. A well-deserved period of rest lies ahead for most of us. If you are heading for a holiday destination, please drive safely and enjoy the time spent with friends and family.

On behalf of the National Executive Committee of AWSA, we wish you a merry Christmas, a happy holiday season, and a prosperous 2023!

*Liza Bohlmann*

# 2022 WINNERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA NATIONAL AWARDS

## Farmer of the Year

From left: Dawie Maree, Thys Joubert, Cas Joubert, Gerrit Joubert, Arno Joubert, and Liza Bohlmann.



## New Entrant to Commercial Farming of the Year

From left: Duncan Masiwa, Andries Wessels, seeds product development and commercial lead at Syngenta, Tshilidzi Everest, and Wandeme Matshidzula, and Liza Bohlmann.



## Agriculturalist of the Year

From left: Liza Bohlmann, Pieter Bruwer, and Duncan Masiwa.



Some of South Africa's top contributors to agriculture were recognised at the 2022 Agricultural Writers SA Awards on Friday, 11 November. This annual event salutes those that work hard to promote sustainable farming enterprises, elevate food security, support rural economies, and nurture the image of agriculture in South Africa.

The 2022 awards are sponsored by FNB with co-sponsors Bayer, Syngenta, Distinct (a division of Chemuniqué), Grain SA, and Van Loveren.

For the first time, the AWSA awards ceremony was hosted at Grain SA's Nampo Park near Bothaville in the Free State. "We deliberately chose to skip the city lights", said Liza Bohlmann, chairperson of AWSA. "We chose this venue to keep the focus on the heartland of the summer grain production area. As the venue of the most significant agricultural show in the country, Grain SA's Nampo Park exchanged its work boots and overalls tonight for shiny shoes and suits to host the AWSA Awards.





“We decided to go back to our most basic agricultural production roots and to the commodities that underpin food security in South Africa: Maize, soya beans, and sunflower. “The grain and oilseed produced in the interior of South Africa contribute enormously to our self-sufficiency and ability to export food to neighbouring countries and other parts of the world. Our summer grain production area greatly supports SA’s position as a leader in African agriculture. For me, the most beautiful part of the maize triangle lies in the fact that this is where the country’s food security ‘safety net’ is firmly anchored.”

## **AWARDING EXCELLENCE**

The AWSA awards create an opportunity to celebrate excellence in agriculture by means of announcing the AWSA Farmer of the Year, Agriculturist of the Year, and New Entrant to Commercial Farming. “This is not a competition, but about recognition. The awards are made through a nomination process that allows our members to shine a light on ambassadors in agriculture,” said Bohlmann at the event.

“These awards are made to persons who have made it their life’s work to contribute to the sustainability of agriculture in South Africa. All the nominees are already seen as ambassadors of the sector and leaders in their own right. Their influence on their teams and the larger agricultural community and agricultural economy contributed to them being here tonight.

“We salute each one of the provincial and national winners, may the recipients of the national awards use this audience and platform to further the cause of agriculture.”

Recognising the adaptability of the sector, Dawie Maree, head of information and marketing at FNB Business, Agriculture, reminded the industry that change is constant and necessary. “We need change in South Africa on various levels but change also needs us. If you do not change, nothing will,” he challenged guests at the event.

FNB was the main sponsor of this event hosted by the AWSA – a not-for-profit association. “We are extremely

grateful to all our sponsors for their unwavering support to make this event possible as well as the visit to the Farmer of the Year that will follow in the first quarter of 2023.

## **NATIONAL WINNERS**

### **ALS Group: Agri Division – Agricultural Writers SA Farmer of the Year**

The nomination of this category aims to evaluate candidates first of all according to their sustainability. The main factors used for adjudication are maintaining and increasing biological productivity, mitigating risk to ensure greater security, maintenance and management of natural resources, economic sustainability, and social acceptability and justification.

Sustainability refers to the farming method and management that will enable the farmer to achieve success in all fields and allow them to continue farming successfully while using the land and farming enterprise in a manner that will allow their legacy to continue with these operations. The ALS Group farms on 60 000 ha across four provinces. A total of 1 000 ha is under pivot irrigation and 3 500 ha is dry land farming. The group owns 10 000 livestock and game and offers employment to 780 families.

### **Tshilidzi ‘Chilli’ Matshidzula – Agricultural Writers SA New Entrant to Commercial Agriculture**

This category is aimed at farmers with less than 10 years’ experience as commercial producers.

A boy from Limpopo embraced the support of a good mentor and started managing a dairy farm in the Eastern Cape. Tshilidzi Matshidzula (33) is going from strength to strength and the farm continues to grow, despite the lack of government support. As a native of Thohoyandou in Limpopo and a graduate of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in Pretoria, Chilli ended up in the Eastern Cape. He took over the management of the dairy on Little Barnet, 5 km from Alexandria, in September 2005 at the age of 18. He became a 40% shareholder in Matshibebe (Pty) Ltd, which owned the farm. At that time, the farm

was milking about 450 cows. This dairy was awarded the prestigious Mangold Trophy from the Bathurst Conservation Committee in 2016. In the same year, Chilli was named the Eastern Cape's Young Farmer of the Year.

In 2019, Oakleaf Agri and Chilli ventured into a new partnership together in starting a new dairy, Mountain Park, in Stutterheim. Mountain Park has more than 1 000 milking cows. In 2020, Chilli was the winner of the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) and Nedbank's Stewardship award. Today Chilli is a 5% shareholder in the farm with an opportunity to grow his shareholding to 10%. Chilli serves on the board of the Eastern Cape Milk Producers' Organisation, as well as on the committee of the Alexandria Dairy Study Group. He is very involved in the training of agricultural students. He is married to Everest, who is also very involved on the farm.

### **Pieter Bruwer – Agricultural Writers SA Agriculturalist of the Year**

This year's Agriculturalist of the Year award placed the focus on extension services in agriculture and the

massively important role of disseminating knowledge throughout the agricultural industry.

Since 2016, Pieter has been working at Langfontein Seeds in Wakkerstroom as an extension officer and agronomist. At an early stage, Pieter realised the value of healthy soil and crop management principles and has since achieved recognition as an expert in the field of sustainable plant nutrition, soil management, and crop protection. Pieter conducts research on a wide range of subjects including tillage, cultivar and stand tests, fertilisation, and crop protection on various crops.

He advises farmers and landowners across the entire spectrum of agriculture, including gardeners, small-scale farmers, emerging farmers, and commercial farmers. Pieter believes it is important to adapt the transfer of his knowledge according to the unique needs of his clients in order for them to fully understand and be able to apply it in practice. Pieter is accomplished in the field of sustainable agriculture, where his farming experience sets him apart as an extension officer with a particular ability to bring theory and practice together.

---

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO MAIZE FARMER IN BOTHAVILLE**



During the 2022 Agricultural Writers SA Awards Ceremony held in Bothaville on Friday, 11 November, Japie Grobler received a special award for his contribution to agriculture.

*"Jy is goud,"* said Duncan Masiwa, master of ceremonies, as Japie Grobler left the stage. Japie was honoured for the ongoing impact he has had in organised agriculture, primary agriculture, and beyond during the many years he has been a well-known face in the industry. During his more than 45 years in agriculture, he was chairman of the boards of, among others, Sampi, Nampo, and Grain SA. He was also instrumental in shaping the Agri Securitas Trust Fund and how it has contributed to improving rural safety for all. In response to the award, Japie thanked the members of Agricultural Writers SA for the important role they play in the success of South African agriculture. He challenged agricultural writers to go to even further lengths to do intensive research and investigative work in their daily work. To promote this, he announced his sponsorship of a competition (that will initially run for five years) to award the best investigative agricultural article. More details on this competition will be announced soon.

## MEMBERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

During the 2022 Agricultural Writers SA Awards Ceremony, members of the Agricultural Writers SA were honoured for their role in communicating issues of interest to the agricultural sector and aiding in responsible communication of the sector.

“Awarding the Bayer Technical article award, Bohlmann emphasised the unique skill required to write a good technical agricultural article. “It is about presenting technical information in a way that everyone can understand, without losing the scientific essence,” she explained.

Elriza Theron of CropLife South Africa explained the importance of responsible reporting, especially when it comes to articles about crop protection and plant biotechnology industries. “These products must be developed, sold, and used responsibly. It is as important that it is written about responsibly. This is what the CropLife South Africa Crop Protection Article and Biotechnology Article awards wants to promote and reward.

Dawie Maree shared his excitement about the FNB Communicator Award. “The competition is now in its fourth year, and it is amazing to see the passion for agriculture in each of the entries,” he said.

“The entrepreneurship of agricultural writers is unbelievable,” said Mike van den Bergh of BKB as he announced the winner in the BKB Photo Competition.



Magda du Toit (middle) receiving the CropLife SA Crop Article Award.



Elriza Theron receiving the FNB Communicator of the Year Award: Print Category.

The winners of the respective categories are:

- CropLife SA Crop Protection Article Award: **Magda du Toit**
- CropLife SA Biotechnology Article Award: **Mariana Purnell**
- FNB Communicator of the Year Award: Print Category: **Elriza Theron**
- FNB Communicator of the Year Award: TV and Audio: **Claudia van Zyl**
- FNB Communicator of the Year Award: Social Media and Online: **Thabi Modutoanee**
- BKB Photo Competition: Agricultural Photographer of the Year: **Willem van der Berg**
- BKB Photo Competition: Agricultural Photo of the Year: **Willem van der Berg**
- Bayer Technical Article Awards:
  1. **Charl van Rooyen** (*Landbouweekblad*)
  2. **Petru Fourie and Christiaan Vercuil** (*SA Grain*)
  3. **Valerie Cilliers** (*SA Grain*)







Liesel de Villiers receiving the FNB Communicator of the Year Award: TV and Audio, on behalf of Claudia van Zyl.



Thabi Modutoanee (left) receiving the FNB Communicator of the Year Award: Social Media and Online.



Charl van Rooyen receiving first place in the Bayer Technical Article Award.



Valerie Cilliers receiving third place in the Bayer Technical Article Award.

## AGRICULTURAL WRITERS SA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ELECTED

**At the annual general meeting held on 12 November in Bothaville, the Agricultural Writers SA National Executive Council (NEC) was elected.**

**Chairperson:** Liza Bohlmann | **Vice-chairperson:** Lindi Botha | **Secretary:** Marike Brits | **Treasurer:** Elriza Theron  
**Representative to the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ):** Magda du Toit

The two regional chairpersons also form part of the broader NEC.

## GOOD INSECTS FOR SALE

Agricultural Writers SA recently visited the state-of-the-art insectary situated in Letsitele and had the privilege of experiencing the release of some of the predators in citrus orchards.

Founded in 2015, Insectec has expanded from a small laboratory in Tzaneen to become one of the leaders in the production of natural insect enemies for use in integrated pest management (IPM) systems on South African farms.

The insectary boasts the latest technology and a local research and development team that enables the company to address the specific needs of its clients, as well as field personnel who assist producers on-farm with technical advice.

At this facility, which is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, as well as the smaller facility

in Tzaneen, prey and natural enemies are reared to support the integrated pest management programmes of citrus, table, and wine grape farmers.

The team at Insectec focuses on the production and application of beneficial organisms used in biological pest control and IPM programmes. IPM is a system of managing pests in agricultural crops through a combination of biological, cultural, physical, and chemical control methods.

“Our mission is to produce integrated and sustainable solutions for pest management that contribute to healthier and more productive agricultural systems,” says Karel van Heerden, chief executive officer of Insectec. He adds that all of the natural enemies produced at Insectec occur naturally in South Africa and are therefore adapted to most regions in the country.





Insectec produces four natural enemies of mealybugs. Each species targets a different life stage of the pest, and, in some instances, can be used to complement one another to control different species of mealybug. However, some are host-specific and only target certain mealybug species.

- Two predatory beetles: CRYPTO-TEC (*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*) and NEPH-TEC (*Nephus kamburovi*). The ladybird species *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* targets all mealybug life stages and most mealybug species, and is compatible with a wide range of crops, from citrus to pome fruit and even sweet peppers. *Nephus kamburovi*, however, is a tiny beetle that feeds only on mealybug eggs and early life stages of the mealybug.
- Two parasitic wasps: ANA-TEC (*Anagyrus vladimiri*) and COCCI-TEC (*Coccidoxenoides perminutus*). Both of these wasp species are used simultaneously in situations where the citrus mealybug is the dominant species in the orchard, as these two wasps complement each other by targeting different life stages of the mealybug.

Contact Insectec at [info@insectec.co.za](mailto:info@insectec.co.za) or 063 884 5080, or visit [insectec.co.za](http://insectec.co.za).



Karel van Heerden, CEO Insectec with Eddie Vorster, Mahela Group, one of the Insectec partners.







## KNOW YOUR COFFEE

Members of the Agricultural Writers SA recently visited this latest venture of Allesbeste Boerdery run by Zander and Edrean Ernst. Allesbeste was the AWSA National Farmer of the Year in 2016.

With some areas of South Africa having the ideal conditions for growing coffee, the country has the potential to produce a world-class product. However, only a few farmers are planting the crop, as it is highly labour-intensive. Zander Ernst of Allesbeste Boerdery is one of a handful of farmers who want to change the perception of coffee production in South Africa.

In 2016, in keeping with the family's pioneering spirit, Zander Ernst decided to diversify their operation by adding coffee production. A coffee lover himself, he



**Members of the Agricultural Writers SA recently visited this latest venture of Allesbeste Boerdery run by Zander and Edrean Ernst. Allesbeste was the AWSA National Farmer of the Year in 2016.**

had long been interested in the crop. "As farmers, we need to identify new opportunities to help us remain competitive and mitigate risk," he says.

After much research, he decided to establish small coffee plantations in the Modjadjikloof and Magoebaskloof areas. He admits that they were cautious at first, being uncertain about the feasibility of coffee production. "We didn't have precise figures to determine production costs in our area and couldn't properly calculate the expected income, as this would depend not only on the yield, but also – and most importantly – on the quality of the beans."

"Now, after a couple of years and having gathered more information, I realise that I didn't think big







enough. There's a high demand for quality, locally produced coffee beans, and there's huge potential to extract more value through coffee.

The coffee trees on Allesbeste are planted at 950 m to 1 250 m above sea level and at a latitude of 23°. This ensures a microclimate equivalent to 2 000 m above sea level on the equator, the region where the world's best coffees are produced. According to Ernst, their coffee plantations are the highest planted in South Africa at present. Newly planted coffee trees take three to four years to bear fruit, which are referred to as cherries. These turn from green to bright or dark red, depending on the degree of ripeness. The cherries ripen faster at lower altitudes and higher temperatures.



Although growing coffee at altitude is a more expensive undertaking, the slower ripening process benefits the quality of the coffee, as the sugar in the cherries can develop more slowly and there is less chance of the fruit becoming overripe.

Coffee trees simultaneously bear flowers, green cherries, and ripe cherries, which greatly complicates harvesting. The fruit must be picked by hand to ensure that only the ripe cherries are selected. Picking is carried out at 10-day intervals. "While 1 ha of coffee can yield about 3,5 t of cherries, you don't get everything in one day," admits Ernst. This is a difficult and labour-intensive process that involves carefully checking the cherries for ripeness. To add to the difficulty, cherries ripen over a six- to seven-month period. On the plus side, coffee production can provide employment for many people.



The coffee is marketed under the name 'Krabbefontein', as the farm forms part of the original Krabbefontein farm, where an agricultural research station was established in the late 1800s. In its early years, Allesbeste sold citrus under the Krabbefontein brand, and the mill that operated from the farm also used this name. "We decided to use Krabbefontein to honour that time in the history of our farm," explains Zander.

The Krabbefontein Coffee Shop located at the foot of Magoebaskloof is a hidden gem that serves the best coffee money can buy – well, that is what the Agricultural Writers SA decided after a proper coffee tasting with Matt Carter, who joined the Allesbeste team a year ago and who looks after the coffee production and quality.

Tourists who popularly use the R71 route when visiting game farms in the north of Limpopo and the greater Kruger National Park will be glad to take a moment for the enjoyment of the roasting smell of the Krabbefontein coffee that is to die for.

The coffee tree nursery recently also moved to the Krabbefontein facility with just over 6 000 trees. "We are slowly building the dream," Zander says.



From the left: Matt Carter, Malehu, Zander Ernst and Julia Ramano amongst the coffee trees on Allesbeste's farm. (Photo: Du Preez de Villiers)





During the visit to Insectec, members were treated to a game drive on the game farm of BJ Vorster Game Breeders. Mahela Group and Laeveld Citrus are partners in the Insectec business.







**Members of Agricultural Writers SA attended the annual Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) media briefing on 1 December. The focus was on looking for green shoots in the year to come.**

## AGBIZ MEDIA DAY

Agbiz Fruit Desk manager Wolfe Logan Braude said, although the fruit industry faced numerous challenges over the past year, he was optimistic for 2023. He highlighted the following green shoots:

- Possible resolution of the European Union (EU) citrus cold treatment issue could normalise EU exports.
- The United States (US) market remains strong.
- Saudi Arabia supermarket chain seeks to expand SA fruit.
- Operational port logistics planning for 2023 has been positive for exports via Cape Town and Durban.
- La Niña rains will support ongoing strong harvests.

Agbiz chief economist Wandile Sihlobo reported that the Agbiz/IDC Agribusiness Confidence Index (ACI) fell by 4 points in the fourth quarter of this year. Primary concerns cited by survey respondents were: persistent episodes of load-shedding; higher input costs; rising protection in some export markets; animal disease outbreaks and other biosecurity risks; rising interest rates; intensified geopolitical tensions which disrupted supply chains, and ongoing weaknesses in municipal service delivery and network industries.

“The sector could bounce back if the weather conditions prove supportive in the coming months and the South African authorities get a handle on the market access issues in the EU,” Sihlobo said.



Clockwise: Agricultural writers at work. Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at Agbiz. Agbiz staff shared important policy issues that could influence the agricultural sector in the coming year.

Agbiz CEO Theo Boshoff reported that organised agriculture and relevant parties are actively involved in various rejuvenation initiatives for enterprises exposed to deteriorating working environments in rural areas.



# QUALITY SEED CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SOIL HEALTH

One of the biggest challenges to global sustainable food production, is the degradation of soils. According to the the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), soil nutrient lost is recognised as one of the contributing factors to soil degradation.



World Soil Day is held annually on 5 December to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources. The theme for World Soil Day 2022 is: Soils: Where food begins". This year's theme aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy soil ecosystems or to improve soil health.

Cover crops provide multiple benefits in a cropping system. By planting cover crops and by leaving crop residues in the fields, soil health can be improved and erosion reduced. The living roots of cover crops help to control weeds, add nitrogen to the soil, and provide food for beneficial insects and other soil organisms. "There are many types of cover crops. Some of the options include oats, rye, barley, wheat, clover, vetch and many types of grasses and legumes. Building soil health is one of the most important aspects in farming. In fact, healthy soils are a precondition for good agricultural productivity," says Dr Lukeshni Chetty, general manager at the South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR).

She adds that there are many ways in which soil can be improved. "By focusing on quality seed, a diversity of cover crops, maintaining living roots in the soil, and crop diversification, we will be able to make a huge impact on soil improvement."

Seed quality remain important. The use of high quality seeds is one of the most important elements in increasing agricultural production in any farming system. "Seed quality can be considered as the summation of all factors that contribute to seed performance and determines the yield of any planted field crop."

High-quality seed enables farmers to grow crops that have the most economical planting rate, a higher percentage of seeds germination and emerging in the field, reduce the need for re-planting and a uniform plant stand. Even at adverse field conditions, good quality seeds have the ability to provide uniform and rapid germination, healthy crop establishment and subsequently good crop harvest. Healthier plants have the ability to show better tolerance and even resistance to stress and diseases.

"At SANSOR, we advocate for the production of quality seed as we believe that quality seed is one of the critical inputs needed to achieve crop diversity and to maintain a healthy plant root system in the soil. Without the seed industry, the goal we set ourselves of improving our soils in order to produce enough food sustainably for the growing population, would not have been possible."

## RIJK ZWAAN GIFTS GROWING

These healthy little cucumbers are the fruit of plants given by *Rijk Zwaan* to the guests who attended the Agricultural Writers SA North Awards evening held in Pretoria in October.

(Photo: Mercia Smith)



### CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

## SAPPO MEDIA INFO SESSION

“South Africa is one of the five healthiest pig farming countries in the world”, Dr Peter Evans, Head of Consumer Assurance at SAPPO, said during a media info session in Pretoria recently. Johan Kotzé, SAPPO CEO, discussed the social environment in which the industry operates taking cognisance of local and global macro trends and risks.



### CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

## AGRI SA REPRESENTED ON PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE COMMISSION

Janse Rabie, the legal and policy executive at Agri SA, was appointed to the Presidential Climate Commission by President Ramaphosa.

This important body has a central role to play as South Africa works to adapt to and mitigate the effects and causes of climate change. With the agricultural sector among the most affected by this phenomenon, the appointment to the commission of a representative for the sector is an important step in building the consensus we need to effectively address the challenges before us.

### FARMER NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS, WILDE KLAWER!

Former AWSA National Farmer of the Year still aspires for more!

Louis de Kock and the Wildeklawer team were announced the Freshmark Supplier of the Year for 2022 during a ceremony in November.

Wildeklawer has been part of the Freshmark family for the past 30 years. It was the Wildeklawer team's exceptional service delivery, compliance with the ever-changing retail demands, and their support to ensure that the Shoprite Group remain the fastest-growing and most affordable food retailer on the African continent that earned them the coveted award.

Louis de Kock was the AWSA National Farmer of the Year in 2006.

## FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE STAFF MEMBERS EXCEL AT UP'S ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS AWARDS

Staff members of the faculty excelled on various levels at the recent Academic Achievers' Awards event hosted by the University of Pretoria on 3 November 2022. The annual awards ceremony was held at Kievits Kroon, Kameeldrift-East in Pretoria.



Far left: Prof. Johan Schoeman of the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies (middle), who received a new B1 NRF rating with Prof. Loretta Feris, UP Vice-Principal: Academic (right), and Dr Eugene Lottering, Deputy CEO: Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) at the NRF (left).

Left: Prof. Edward (Ned) Snelling of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology in the Faculty (left), Prof. Gustav Muller, Prof. Joel Modiri, Prof. Nedine Moonsamy, and Prof. Thulani Hlatshwayo, who were honoured with Exceptional Young Researchers Awards, with UP Vice-Principal: Academic, Prof. Loretta Feris (far right).

Professor Edward (Ned) Snelling, associate professor in the Department of Anatomy and Physiology and honorary affiliate of the Faculty's Centre for Veterinary Wildlife Research received an Exceptional Young Researchers award for 2021. This award is given to exceptional young achievers in the field of research, as seen against UP's strategic goals of achieving academic excellence, international competitiveness and local relevance. Prof. Snelling is an experimental physiologist interested in the evolution of form and function among different groups of animals. Seven of his research articles are in the top 5% of all research outputs, as scored by Altmetric. Another was recently shortlisted for the Journal of Experimental Biology Outstanding Paper Prize, and another was included in the Faculty of 1 000 with the highest ranking of 3, placing it among the best scientific articles in biology and medicine.

During the same event Prof. Johan Schoeman of the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies (CACS) received an impressive B1 National Research Foundation (NRF) rating, while other new ratings included Prof. Dietmar Holm, Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning (C2), Prof. Jannie Crafford of the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases (C3),

Prof. Nenene Qekwana, head of the Department of Paraclinical Sciences (Y2), as well as Dr Christoff Truter (Y2), a previous postdoctoral fellow at the faculty. Staff members who received ratings on the basis of re-evaluation by invitation were Prof. Christo Botha (B2), Prof. Vinny Naidoo, Dean of the Faculty (C1), and Dr Nicola Collins (C2).

The evaluation and rating of individuals by the NRF is based primarily on the quality of the research outputs and is undertaken by national and international peers/reviewers. A B-rating refers to researchers who enjoy considerable international recognition by their peers for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs. A C-rating refers to established researchers with a sustained recent record of productivity in the field who are recognised by their peers and most reviewers concur that the applicant is an established researcher having produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement with the field. Researchers in the Y2-category include young researchers (40 years or younger) who are recognised by all or the overriding majority of reviewers as having the potential to establish him or herself as a researcher demonstrated by recent research products.



## HAIL IN THE EASTERN FREE STATE



The fields near Bethlehem on the Lindley road were covered with hail recently - although this might look magical, the consequences may be detrimental to the farmers.

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The winning photograph in the 2022 BKB Photo Competition by Willem van der Berg.



Early cosmos near Ladysmith and Dundee in KwaZulu-Natal (Photo: Magda du Toit).





### **Stuur vir ons jou stories**

Alle lede word uitgenooi om voor die 15<sup>de</sup> van elke maand bydraes vir *Agripen* te stuur aan:

Magda du Toit by [magda.du.toit@outlook.com](mailto:magda.du.toit@outlook.com) of  
Petrie Vogel by [petrie@abevents.co.za](mailto:petrie@abevents.co.za).

### **Send us your stories**

All members are invited to send contributions to *Agripen* before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to:

Magda du Toit at [magda.du.toit@outlook.com](mailto:magda.du.toit@outlook.com) or  
Petrie Vogel at [petrie@abevents.co.za](mailto:petrie@abevents.co.za).



Photo: Liezel de Villiers