



AGRA NEWS

AGRA 30 JAAR

AGRA EERSTES

Agra het in die afgelope jaar daadwerklik innovasie deel van ons strategie gemaak. In die terugblik op dertig jaar is dit egter duidelik dat Agra reeds op verskeie terreine die leiding geneem het, soos die uitknipsels uit die nuusbriewe van Agra deur die jare, toon.



1989 - Kleinvee promosiedag

Inligtings- en promosiedae maak vandag deel uit van vele jaarprogramme in georganiseerde landbou. Op 18 Mei 1989 het Agra die eerste kleinveepromosiedag aangebied by die Hardap Proefplaas. Die dag, wat aan kleinveegeenootskappe die geleentheid gebied het om hul rasse ten toon te stel is deur 330 verteenwoordigers bygewoon.



1993 - Eerste kragkop

Die Ring van Julie 1993 berig dat Agra eerste is om 'n 9-duim slagkragkop vir lede op die mark te plaas. Die prys was R2 700 wat 'n windpompkonneksie asook 'n 75mm kopersilinder ingesluit het.



1997 - Eerste wolveiling

Op 27 Junie 1997 bied Agra vir die eerste keer spesiale tipes Karakoelwol aan op 'n veiling in Windhoek.



2001 - Skape uitgevoer

Die grootse aksie van Agra in Februarie 2001 toe onderskeidelik 11 646 en 27 500 stuks kleinvee per boot na Saoedi-Arabië uitgevoer is, sal seker nie maklik vergeet word nie.

1990 - Eerste Volstruis veiling

Op 5 September 1990 bied Agra die eerste volstruisveiling in Namibië aan.



1992 - Eerste Ringskaal

In 1992 installeer Agra die eerste Ringskaal by die Gobabis tak van Agra. Die skaal het die bepaling van diere se massa tydens veilings baie vergemaklik. Agra het sedertdien self nog ses van die skale by Agra veilingskrale installeer asook verskeie boereverenigings gehelp om dieselfde te doen.



Feestyd groete

Die jaar 2010 was 'n opwindende en gebeurtenisvolle jaar vir Agra met weer eens vele hoogtepunte.

Baie dankie aan elkeen van ons personeel, direksie, lede en kliënte wat vir nog 'n jaar bygedra het tot Agra se sukses. Ons wens u 'n wonderlike feestyd toe en mag 2011 in alle opsigte vir u 'n geseënde jaar wees!



EDITORIAL

Another year has flown by! The end of the year is always a good time to look back, reflecting on achievements, and to look forward, to see where we can improve, what we still need to accomplish and strive for.

In an organization with over 500 staff members, it is impossible to claim success without praising everyone who played a role. We have had a very successful year. Not one without its pitfalls and challenges, but successful nonetheless – thanks to dedicated and hardworking staff and committed and valued stakeholders. Of course, this year we also celebrate Agra's 30th anniversary, and when looking back, we can look ahead into the future with confidence, hope and resilience. We know that there are challenges in the year ahead, but we also know that we have the right resources to meet those challenges. Therefore, our aim for 2011 is to grow – and to grow beyond past successes! As Kettering put it, bluntly: 'The minute you get satisfied with what you've got, the concrete has begun to set in your head.'

We recently laid out our strategic objectives for the years ahead, and we once again committed ourselves to be customer-oriented and innovative, to act with integrity, embrace diversity and drive productivity through people development.

In this, the last Ring of 2010, we give you a glance at a few highlights of the 'firsts' we experienced over the past 30 years. Also, although many producers will receive the FANMeat regulations with the first batch of the new ear tags, we emphasise specifically the requirements of FANMeat for the transport of animals in this edition. Added to the normal updates on Agra activities in this Ring, we also bring you the usual informative articles as well as important information that will not only assist in your production, but will help Agra to continue and improve our service levels.

Over the years, we have received many compliments for the Ring. There are, however, many recipients of the Ring to whom this newsletter is not relevant anymore. There are also a large number of undelivered Ring copies that come back to Agra. Then, on the flipside, there are many non-members who are interested in receiving the Ring. To be able to maintain the purpose and efficiency of the Ring as communication tool for Agra, we are in the process of relooking its format and distribution. In this edition we have included a subscription form for Agra members. If you would like to continue receiving the Ring, we request you to complete this form and return it to Agra head office as per the options on the form.

Agra would sincerely like to thank all our valued members and customers for your support in 2010 and we wish you a blissful and blessed festive season and a prosperous and successful 2011.

Albé Snyman
Communications officer
Private Bag 12011, Windhoek
Tel: 061-290 9273 • E-mail: albes@agra.com.na
Agra head office Tel: 061-290 9111

NOTICE KENNISGEWING

**NEEM ASSEBLIEF KENNIS DAT DIE
ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING VAN AGRA
UITGESTEL IS NA 28 JANUARIE 2011**

**KENNISGEWING VAN DIE DERTIGSTE
ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING VAN
LEDE VAN AGRA (KOÖPERATIEF)
BEPERK**

KENNIS geskied hiermee van die dertigste Algemene Jaarvergadering van lede van Agra (Koöperatief) Bpk. wat gehou sal word op die plek en datum soos hieronder aangedui.

PLEK: Agra/Bank Windhoek Ring
Windhoek Skougronde
Bell Straat, Windhoek

DATUM: 28 JANUARIE 2011

TYD: 09:00 (registrasie 08:30)

IN OPDRAG VAN DIE RAAD
L van Wyk - Sekretaris
Privaatsak 12011, WINDHOEK
13 September 2010

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT THE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING OF AGRA HAS BEEN
POSTPONED TO 28 JANUARY 2011**

**NOTICE OF THE THIRTIETH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
AGRA (CO-OPERATIVE) LIMITED**

NOTICE is hereby given that the thirtieth Annual General Meeting of members of AGRA (CO-OPERATIVE) LIMITED will be held at the place and date as mentioned below.

PLACE: Agra/Bank Windhoek Ring
Windhoek Showgrounds,
Bell Street, Windhoek

DATE: 28 JANUARY 2011

TIME: 09:00 (registration 08:30)

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD:
L van Wyk - Secretary
Private Bag 12011, WINDHOEK
13 September 2010



AGRA NEWS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOR FARMERS

MAINTAINING THE COLD CHAIN

VACCINES ARE YOUR INSURANCE AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF LIVESTOCK

Vaccines are very sensitive biological products which are easily damaged by exposure to high temperatures, leading to vaccination failures. Maintaining the cold chain is therefore vital to ensure that vaccines retain their efficacy.

Please take note that:
no vaccine will be supplied by AGRA unless:

1. The client supplies his/her own cooling equipment, or
2. The client agrees to have the vaccine packed by sales staff according to standard procedures at the client's cost.

No vaccines, once sold, can be returned under any circumstances and for whatever reason.

AGRA sales staff are under strict orders to apply these directives at all times.

We count on your understanding for these measures, which are in your best interest to ensure optimum results from these valuable products.



HOU ENTSTOWWE KOUD

ENTSTOWWE IS U VERSEKERING TEEN AANSTEEKLIKE SIKTES VAN LEWENDE HAWE.

Entstowwe is baie sensitiewe biologiese produkte wat maklik beskadig word deur blootstelling aan hoë temperature. Dit kan lei tot onsuksesvolle entings. Dit is dus noodsaaklik om die produkte deurgaans koud te hou om te verseker dat hul doeltreffendheid behou word.

Neem asseblief kennis dat:
geen entstof sal deur Agra voorsien word tensy:

1. Die kliënt sy/haar eie verkoelingstoerusting voorsien, of
2. Die kliënt instem dat verkoops personeel die entstof verpak volgens die standaard prosedure, teen die kliënt se koste.

Geen entstof wat reeds verkoop is kan onder enige omstandighede of vir watter rede ook, teruggegee word nie. Agra personeel is onder streng opdrag om ten alle tye aan hierdie voorskrifte te voldoen.

Ons maak staat op u begrip vir hierdie maatreëls, wat in u beste belang is om te verseker dat optimum resultate verkry word van hierdie waardevolle produkte.

IDENTITY OF BUYERS AND SELLERS REQUIRED AT AUCTIONS

In terms of the Financial Intelligence Act (Act 3 of 2007) we are obliged to obtain and confirm specific information regarding the identity of a customer making a purchase or selling at an auction hosted by Agra (Co-operative) Ltd.

This is applicable to:

- All auction customers with an account at Agra
- Single auction transactions above N\$ 5,000.00 (please note that if a customer undertakes several transactions below N\$ 5,000.00 all the amounts will be added together and viewed as a single transaction)

Please complete the form provided to you and supply the requested proof of identification.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and we thank you for your cooperation.

IDENTITEIT VAN KOPERS EN VERKOPERS VEREIS BY VEILINGS

Ingevolge die Finansiële Intelligensiewet (Wet 3 van 2007) is ons verplig om spesifieke inligting te verkry en te bevestig rakende die identiteit van 'n kliënt wat aankope of verkope doen by 'n veiling wat deur Agra aangebied word.

Dit is van toepassing op:

- Alle veilingskliënte met 'n rekening by Agra
- Enkel veilingstransaksies bo N\$ 5,000.00 (let asseblief daarop dat kliënte wat verskeie transaksies onder N\$ 5,000.00 doen, se bedrae bymekaar getel sal word en as een transaksie beskou sal word).

U word asseblief versoek om die vorms wat by die veilings voorsien word, te voltooi en bewys van identifikasie te toon.

Ons dank u vir u samewerking in hierdie verband en vra verskoning vir enige ongerief.



VERVOER VAN DIERE

VOLGENS FANMEAT STANDAARDE

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Namibiese produsente besef die belangrikheid daarvan om aan die vereiste standaarde van ons vleisuitvoermark te voldoen. Die FANMeat skema gee riglyne vir die minimum kwaliteitstandaarde en naspeurbaarheid en word voortdurend aangepas in lyn met die vereistes wat gestel word deur invoerlande en internasionale verbruikers. Soos die nuusbrieff van die Namibiese Vleisraad stel, is die implementering van die FANMeat skema in die vleisindustrie saam met die natuurlike produksie-omgewing van Namibië bydraend tot die toenemende vraag van internasionale kliënte vir Namibiese kwaliteit vleisprodukte.

Agra as rolspeler in lewende hawe produksie en handel onderskryf die waardes en standaarde wat deur hierdie skema voorgeskryf word.

In hierdie uitgawe dan meer riglyne vir die laai en vervoer van diere volgens dierewelsynstandaarde.

Die bymekaarmaak van diere wat gelaai moet word, moet goed beplan en hanteer word om diere aan so min moontlik spanning bloot te stel. Nadat diere hanteer is om te selekteer en voorteberei vir laai, veral indien dit veeleisend was, moet die diere van kos en water voorsien word en vir 'n wyle met rus gelaat word voor die laaiproses. Dit is egter

belangrik dat groot hoeveelhede kos en water nie aan diere gegee word binne ses ure voor laaityd nie.

Wanneer diere voorberei word vir laai, hou in gedagte dat diere wat nie goed saam vervoer word nie, wel afsonderlik vervoer word. Dit geld bv. vir sterk en swak diere; baie klein en uitgegroeide diere; onthoringde diere en diere met horings; bulle en koeie, en kalwers saam met onbekende ouer diere.

Diere wat nie sonder hulp kan opstaan nie, asook swak en uitgeteerde diere wat na bietjie inspanning ingee behoort nie vervoer te word nie, maar eerder versorg te word tot hul geskik is om vervoer te word, of op 'n menslike wyse van kant gemaak word. Uitsonderings is wanneer diere op aanbeveling van 'n veearts vervoer moet word om veeartsbehandeling te ontvang.

Koeie wat meer as agt maande dragtig is moet nie vervoer word nie. Na kalwing moet koeie ook vir vier dae nie vervoer word nie.

Wanneer diere op die trok gelaai word, moet die laaibrug van so 'n aard wees om die veilige beweging van diere moontlik te maak.



AGRA NEWS

AGRA BRING NOG

'N EERSTE VIR NAMIBIë

Agra kan voortaan produsente se diere op hulle plase weeg! 'n Innoverende produk, geïnisieer deur Agra en ontwikkel deur plaaslike ingenieurs sal die persoonlike diens wat Agra lewende hawe bied, komplementeer. Hierdie eerste mobiele skaal in Namibië kan na enige plek vervoer word en sal die weegproses van diere voor veilings vergemaklik.

In September 1992 was Agra die eerste om 'n elektroniese te installeer by ons veilingskrale in Gobabis. Agra het sedertdien 'n totaal van ses elektroniese massaskale installeer of boereverenigings gehelp om hul veilingskrale toe te rus met hierdie skale.

Agra het die mobiele skaal aangeskaf om dit moontlik te maak om diere te weeg by veilingsentrums van Agra waar daar nie elektroniese skale is nie, of wanneer veilings met groot aantal diere op plase gehou word, veral in die suidelike area. Die lewende hawe afdeling is baie opgewonde om met die skaal te begin diens lewer en die skaal is reeds deur Agra lewende hawe se operasionele bestuurder, Patrick van der Westhuizen oorhandig aan George Pearson, lewende hawekoördineerder in die Suide. (foto)



Patrick van der Westhuizen en George Pearson



AGRA NEWS

KOPENHAGEN FUR

KLEUTERSKOOL PROJEK

Die gedagte om betrokke te raak by hulpbehoewende gemeenskappe in Namibië het tydens 'n besoek van die Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte van Kopenhagen Fur, mnr. Torben Nielsen in 2005 ontstaan. Wessel Visser, bestuurder van die Agra Pelssentrum het hom tydens sy besoek deur die plakkersdorpe geneem en die omstandighede waarin die mense bly en leef het hom so geraak dat hy gevra het hoe Kopenhagen Fur betrokke kan raak by vigsweeshuise. Hulle was op daardie stadium betrokke in Rusland by 'n weeshuis, maar die Russiese Regering het die projek gestop. Fondse vir die projek is van vrywillige bydraes van die werknemers van Kopenhagen Fur.

Wessel het die voorstel met persone wat betrokke is in die gebiede bespreek en daar is op kleuterskole besluit. Die rede hiervoor is dat 'n baie klein persentasie van die kinders uit hierdie areas op 7 jarige ouderdom skoolgereed is a.g.v. swak opgeleide onderwysers en omstandighede waarin hulle onderrig ontvang.

In 2006 is die eerste drie skooltjies geïdentifiseer en met die eerste DKK 200 000 is klaskamers met toiletgeriewe gebou, kinders het een maaltyd per dag ontvang by die skool, stoele en tafels is aangekoop en aandag is gegee aan onderwysers se opleiding.



Torben Nielsen en Wessel Visser

Die begroting en hantering van die fondse word deur Windhoek Life Change Centre gedoen en die projek word deur 'n loodskomitee waarby Wessel betrokke is hanteer.

Tot op datum het reeds 12 skole gebaat by die projek. Met hul fondse is 'n groepie van die kinders see toe gevat met die trein en word hulle gereed stad toe geneem vir 'n roomys en om die roltrappe en hysbakke te ervaar.

Die hoogtepunt van die projek is toe een van die skole na Erik Neergaard vernoem is. Erik het na 44 jaar diens by Kopenhagen Fur afgetree en as geskenk vir sy jare lange diens 'n toer na Namibië gekry. Kopenhagen Fur het verder 50 uitsoek nertspelse geskenk wat Erik se laaste lot sou wees wat hy kon opveel en die opbrengs vir die Namibië kleuterskoolprojek skenk. Groot was die verbasing toe die pelse teen DKK 11 000 per pels verkoop is aan 'n Hong Kongse pelshandelaar en die projek dus meer as N\$700 000 ontvang het. Met hierdie geld is 'n modelskooltjie gebou en toegerus en na Erik vernoem.

Kopenhagen Fur trek ook elke jaar twee name uit die werknemers wat bydrae tot die projek wat dan Namibië kom besoek.



Kinders ontvang geskenkpakkies met die opening van die nuwe skool



VELD BESTUUR

GROEIENDE BELANGSTELLING

IN DIE NAMIBIAN RANGELAND FORUM

In die Ring van November het lesers terugvoer ontvang rakende die Namibiese Weidingsforum, of "Namibian Rangeland Forum", wat in Oktober hierdie jaar in Ghanzi, Botswana plaasgevind het. Soos belowe, meer nuus in hierdie uitgawe van die plaasbesoeke.

Die eerste plaas kon 'n standaard Namibiese plaas gewees het, met 'n goeie bedekking aan blinkaar boesmangras en krulblaargras, heelwat doringbosindringing en plek-plek toegeslane bogrond. Die eienaar het raad gesoek oor sy planne om die veld en diereproduksie van die veld af te verbeter. Hoe dikwels kom ons nie só 'n situasie in Namibië teë nie! Dit was hoogs interessant om die 120 stukke advies te hoor.

Daarna het ons die tweede plaas besoek, waar holistiese bestuur al sedert 1964 toegepas word. Wat 'n openbaring! Die plaas is groot, maar bestaan uit onvrugbare, wit, diep Kalahari sand. Plek-plek is daar verbossing met veral breëblaarstruik (sandveld geelhout) en blinkaar boesmangras-krulblaar gemeenskappe, maar oor groot gebiede domineer 'n borseltjiegras-swartvoetjie alliansie. Die klimaksgrasse se polle is duidelik baie groot en oud en kom uit die tyd voor 1964 toe die gemiddelde kampgrootte nog 1,000 ha was. Intussen is daar 64 kampe. Die holistiese beweidingstelsel het hierdie klimaksgrasse egter nie net behou nie, maar hulle groeikragtigheid en produksie verhoog.

Die plaaseienaar het bereidwillig sy wenresep met Forum-deelnemers gedeel. Dit behels die toepassing van baie groot weidruk oor 'n baie kort tyd op kampe. Min kampe word op 'n slag beset wat dan 'n lang rus- en herstelperiode moontlik maak. Oor 64 weikampe van gemiddeld 294 ha handhaaf die eienaar 'n gemiddelde veebelading van 5 grootvee-eenhede per ha. Daar is net vier beestroppe op die plaas, naamlik die koeikudde (tydens die somerdekseisoen loop die bulle saam met die dektrop), 'n trop vervangingsverse, 'n trop groeiende beeste (hoofsaaklik osse van alle ouderdomme) saam met uitskotte en die trop bulle. Die groter troppe beloop 1,600 tot 2,100 beeste terwyl die bultrop uit net 100 beeste bestaan. Hierdie troppe word vir net 5 dae deur elke kamp gesirkuleer. Met die "leier-opvolger" stelsel gaan die twee kleiner troppe kort voor die twee groter troppe deur 'n kamp om die keur af te vreet. In wese word die kampe dus deur net "twee" troppe bewei.

Die ongelooflike weidruk beteken dat feitlik alle grasse, selfs die minder smaaklikes, goed benut word. Die ligte sandgronde lyk of hulle geploeg is. Terwyl almal die borseltjiegras-swartvoetjie alliansies bewonder (en beny!) het, was sommige deelnemers van mening dat die veld té uitgetrap was en dit die oorsaak was dat daar nie kiemplante of matvormende grasse soos sandkweek en vingergras, die Kalahari se staatmakers, teenwoordig was nie. Omdat die plaas genoeg kampe het, kan elke kamp na beweiding 120-150 dae in die reënseisoen herstel voordat



Dudley Barnes en sy seun Sheldon, 'n gedugte pa-seun kombinasie wat verskeie beesplase bestuur en die praktiese ekskursies tydens die Forum gelei het

dit weer bewei word. Die lang herstelperiode stel alle klimaksgrasse in staat om van die vorige beweiding te herstel en hulle groeikragtigheid te herwin. Die groot weidruk maak dat beeste die breëblaarbosse swaar benut. Kunsmatige maniere van bosbeheer blyk onnodig te wees.

Die beeste se kondisie het die hoë gehalte en voedingswaarde van die klimaks grasweiding bewys. In Oktober, die swakste tyd van die jaar (veral op die power wit sandgronde in hierdie deel van die Kalahari!) het die dragtige koeie feitlik gedril van die vet! Hulle kondisie het mens aan beeste in die middel van die reënseisoen laat dink, nie aan Oktobermaand nie! En dit op slegs 'n minerale lek wat hulle dwarsdeur die jaar ontvang. As die gras goed is, is duur lekke onnodig en slegs minerale moet aangevul word omdat hulle nie in die grond, d.w.s. die ekosisteem teenwoordig is nie. Hoe sê Namibiërs: Goeie veldbestuur is die beste lekaanvulling!

Elke munt het egter twee kante. Die goeie kant van hierdie intensiewe weistelsel is dat veldtoestand plek-plek baie goed en alle beeste se kondisie uitstekend was. Die keersy van die munt is die vertrapping van die veld, soos reeds genoem, en die feit dat koeie nou "stressiektes" ontwikkel wat eintlik vreemd is aan ekstensiewe diereproduksiestelsels. BVD en pasteurella het onlangs kop uitgesteek en word waarskynlik

deur die groot hoeveelheid stof wat die groot troppe veroorsaak, en die hoë digtheid van diere bevorder. Kalfpersentasie is op 72% steeds bevredigend, maar het die laaste paar jaar van 85% af gedaal. Sporelementtekorte word in die beeste vermoed.

Vir die onbevooroordeelde waarnemer het die besoek aan die tweede plaas waardevolle insigte gebring:

- › Die eienaar het met uitstekende bestuur en wyse besluitneming sy plaas tot 'n baie hoë vlak van plant- en diereproduksie gevat, tot letterlik bo-op die kruin van die golf van sukses. Welgedaan! Gaan die plaas egter daar bly of gaan dit die kruin oorsteek en anderkant afgly? Hierdie produksiestelsel is op die drempel van groot verandering en om dit te voorkom (as dit so gewens word) sal waarskynlik die volgende vereis:
 - óf die stelsel moet 'n klein bietjie minder intensief gemaak word om die stres op sandgrond en die bees effens te verlig,



Klimaks-grasveld op 'n beesplaas in Ghanzi, Botswana, oorwegend bestaande uit borseltjiegas (oop polle, links voor) en swartvoetjie (hoër uitgegroeide polle, middel) wat al vir jare teen 5 ha/grootvee-eenheid bewei word



Die bestuur van 1,600 dragtige koeie in een trop is nie kinderspeletjies nie! Let op die koeie se uitstekende liggaamskondisie vir Oktobermaand en die donkies wat die trop teen groot roofkatte beskerm. Die plaaseienaar probeer saam met die natuur boer en vernietig nie luipeerds en jagluipeerds nie.

- óf verhoogde insette van buite (meer voedingstofaanvulling, beter siektevoorkoming en bees-pantoffels) sal nodig wees.

Dit sal interessant wees om toekomstige ontwikkelinge dop te hou, veral as ons uit die nat siklus wat die Kalahari die afgelope paar jaar ondervind, in 'n droë siklus gaan!

- › Die tweede insig is dat baie Namibiese vleisproducente nog baie ver van die potensiaal van hulle produksiestelsels af is en baie van hierdie boer kan leer hoe om produksie en winsgewendheid te verhoog. Dit is immers hoekom ons daarheen gegaan het: om te leer en met die oë te steel! Ons kan gerus meer ambisieus wees in ons weidingsbestuur, maar volhoubaarheid steeds in die oog hou.

Indien daar lesers is wat in die toekoms deel wil wees van die Namibian Rangeland Forum, kan u gerus aan my 'n e-pos stuur om u naam op die adreslys te plaas. U sal dan mettertyd ingelig word van gebeure en kan self besluit of u wil deelneem of nie.

Dr. Axel Rothauge, Tegnieiese Adviseur: Diere produksie
Agra Professionele Dienste, axelr@agra.com.na



AGRA NUUS

NOG 'N SUKSESVOLLE BOEREDAG

te Otjiwarongo

Op 12 Oktober 2010 het die Otjiwarongo Boerevereniging 'n weidingsinligtingsdag op die plaas van mnr Martin Koehler, Doornkom, gehou. Dr Axel Rothauge van AGRA Professionele Dienste het volhoubare veld- en weidingsbestuur bespreek (foto). Na die middag is in die veld gesoek na voorbeelde wat die oggend se lesings prakties gedemonstreer het. Meer as 45 boere het van heinde en verre gekom om hulle kennis oor weidingsbestuur op te knap. Tydens die lesings is klem op die volgende aspekte geplaas:

- › Die beskerming en bevordering van meerjarige grasse tydens die rëenseisoen.
- › Die samevoeging van veekuddes om veldweiding volhoubaar te kan bestuur en steeds dierkundig korrekte bestuur te kan toepas.

Hierdie twee aspekte word ook in vandeemaand se "Ring" bespreek.

Oudergewoonte het Dr Axel Rothauge van AGRA Professionele Dienste voorligting oor veld- en weidingsbestuur gegee, gebaseer op Namibiese ondervinding en navorsingsbevindings.



vervolg na bladsy 8...

vervolg vanaf bladsy 7...

- › Hoe om reënwater op die plaas te hou.
- › Die versterking van verswakte veld by elke maontlike geleentheid.
- › Hoe om wild op 'n veeplaas te akkommodeer.

Hierdie aspekte sal in die volgende paar maande se "Ring" aangespreek word.

Mnr. Martin Koehler, eienaar van die plaas "Doornkom" waar die weidings-inligtingsdag gehou is, het sy plaas se natuurlike eienskappe en produksiestelsel breedvoerig toegelig.



Die boeredag is knap deur Martin en die Voorsetter: Otjiwarongo Boerevereniging, Thinus Pretorius, ge-organiseer. Die etes was puik! Die groot belangstelling en bywoning is tekenend van 'n aktiewe boerderygemeenskap en 'n tersaaklike onderwerp. Baie dankie aan alle betrokkenes!

'n Boerevereniging is net so aktief soos sy voorsetter, en in daardie opsig is Thinus Pretorius voorbeeldig!

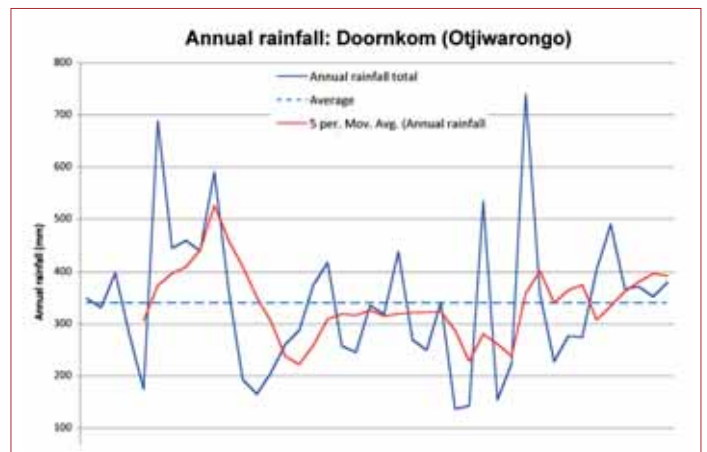


Stof tot nadenke was daar genoeg. Hier peins (van links) Martin Koehler en sy vrou Elizabeth, Dr Wessel Pretorius, Thinus Pretorius, JL Botha en Dieter Häniche oor wat hulle gehoor en gesien het.

Oor ontbyt is daar al lewendig debat gevoer! Hier stel Timo Briedenhann wat van Omaljenne gekom het, sy saak.



Elke keer as daar veld toe gery word, lyk dit soos 'n klein inval, maar praktiese opleiding in veld- en weidingsbestuur is die beste!



Aan hand van die lang-termyn reënvalstatistiek van "Doornkom" is die plaas se drakrag, en die verandering in drakrag van jaar tot jaar, bespreek. Die blou grafiek dui die jaarlikse reënvaltotale voor en die blou stippellyn die gemiddelde reënval oor die afgelope 42 jaar. Die rooi lyn is 'n aanduiding hoe die drakrag van die plaas weens reënval in hierdie tyd verander het. Let op hoe Martin vir baie jare "onder die gemiddelde" moes boer!



RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

DURING THE NEXT RAINY SEASON

VELD MANAGEMENT

PART 1: LOOK AFTER THE PERENNIAL GRASSES!

Good rangeland management is not rocket science! Just a few principles are required for good rangeland management; to avoid reduced productivity (lower carrying capacity) and decreased resilience (ability to withstand natural disasters such as drought) of veld.

GRASS SWARD SHOULD BE DOMINATED BY PERENNIAL GRASSES

In most parts of Namibia, even where it rains only 100 mm/year, perennial grasses naturally dominate the grass sward. Only in very few, very dry parts do perennial grasses not constitute at least three-quarters (75%) of all grasses! Many farms don't have this many perennial grasses anymore because they've been over-eaten and under-rested. This situation has to change as only ranching based on perennial grasses is sustainable, as their productivity and nutritive value is higher and more reliable than that of annual grasses.



Photo 1: A healthy grass sward of predominantly perennial grasses ensures productive and sustainable animal production

ALL PERENNIAL GRASSES MUST RECOVER AFTER GRAZING

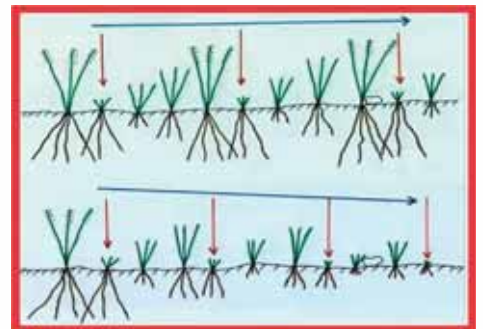
The single most important principle of good veld management is to allow perennial grasses to recover to seed-set before being grazed again. Such recovery can only take place when it rains. It requires rotational grazing, most easily practised with camps, where some camps are grazed (to feed animals) while others rest (for grass recovery).

Theoretically, a perennial grass does not need to make seed annually to ensure survival of the species because it will live another year and get another chance to propagate. Perennial grass tufts only seed if they have enough reserves to invest in seed formation. If a well-grown, climax tuft produces stalks of inflorescences, it must have full reserves; otherwise it would have been unable to seed. Only when perennial sub-climax grasses are grazed extremely heavily do they sometimes seed

from a very small, low base – in desperation, before they die.

Therefore, if perennial grasses set seed, it is a signal that they replenished their reserves. It is now safe to graze them again. If perennial grasses get a chance to recover from grazing until seeding, their vigour and health will be preserved (Graph 1). If, by contrast, a perennial grass is continually re-grazed before it can set seed, its reserves are never adequately replenished and it becomes progressively weaker. The better climax grasses usually die off within 2-3 years of such harsh grazing treatment. Their seeds usually don't survive longer than 5 years in the soil. Thus, over-utilized climax grasses may become locally extinct within a decade, disappearing from a farm completely. This can be avoided by allowing perennial grasses to occasionally produce mature seeds that spread the grass reproductively; especially during good rainy seasons when more grass is produced than can be eaten anyway.

The vigour and health (blue arrow) of perennial grasses is maintained by allowing recovery to seed-set after every grazing (red arrows) (above), but declines if re-grazed before being able to set seed (below)



The roots of a grass tuft also contract after grazing. When a healthy grass tuft is defoliated, it has many more roots than are needed to nourish it. Many "surplus" roots die off, rot, turn into organic matter and improve soil fertility but enough are left to facilitate re-growth of the defoliated tuft. As the tuft matures, the above- and below-ground biomass balances out. New leaf and root growth slows down when seeding starts. Re-grazing the grass tuft when it sets seed therefore does not harm its survival.

HOW LONG MUST PERENNIAL GRASSES RECOVER AFTER GRAZING?

How long will it take a perennial grass to set seed after grazing (Photo 2, page 10)? This depends mainly on the rainfall. If it rains well and frequently, it may take only weeks for defoliated tufts to recover to seed-set. In a normal year of intermittent heavy showers, recovery may take several months. In a dry year, perennial grasses may not be able to recover at all within one growing season. The important point is that recovery from grazing can only occur during the rainy season and not during winter.

It is impossible to fix the length of the recovery period in days. The farmer has to evaluate the veld weekly to determine if perennial grasses have already recovered from previous grazing until seed-set, or not. The "fertilizing effect" of the farmer's footprints in the veld should not be underestimated! If a farmer prefers to fix the recovery period, it's safer

continued on page 10...

continued from page 9...



Photo 2: Once a perennial grass has set seed like this *Schmidtia pappophoroides*, it has replenished its reserve and can be grazed again safely, without sacrificing its long-term survival

to be conservative and opt for 3-4 months to provide for sub-optimal conditions. With this approach, the veld will be under-grazed in good years, yield less animal production and income than its potential but maintain its condition.

SHOULD ALL GRASS SPECIES RECOVER EQUALLY?

This depends on management aims: is the veld in poor condition and needs improvement, or is it in good condition and only has to be maintained? All perennial grasses need to recover to seed-set in the rainy season before being ready to be grazed again, but the composition of the grass sward can, to some extent, be manipulated by wise choice of “indicator” grasses.

If the veld is degraded with only few or inferior perennial grasses, all perennial grass species should be allowed to recover to seed-set before re-grazing, as the major objective is to increase the overall abundance of perennial grasses. This is the primary aim of veld rehabilitation.

Once the grass sward has improved to the point of allowing grazing animals the luxury of selecting the palatable grass species and ignoring the unpalatable ones, veld management has to do similar: watch the palatable species to decide when a camp has recovered from grazing. Obviously, the less palatable grass species will be in full flower all summer long, because they don't get eaten and can grow without interruption. It is the eaten-down, less visible, palatable grass species that need to recover because they are being grazed into the ground! Clearly, “grass is not simply grass” and a basic knowledge of grass botany is required to distinguish between different species and their growth characteristics.

“Fertilize” the veld by walking in it and observe the condition of this “royal flush” of perennial grasses:

- › Anthephora pubescens, highly nutritious “queen” of arid-area grazing grasses and equally adapted to drier and moister parts.
- › In the wetter north-eastern parts: *Urochloa oligotricha* (perennial ox fattening grass) and *Brachiaria nigropedata*, sometimes less palatable but of wonderful quality and yield (Photos 3, 4).

- › In the drier south-western parts: *Stipagrostis obtusa*, the limestone-loving short bushman grass that forms a palatable “bloudak” of old leaf matter.
- › *Digitaria seriata* in sandy and *Digitaria eriantha* in rocky soils (Photo 3).
- › Any perennial *Panicum* species, because these are most palatable, nutritive and highly productive grasses.
- › To these five, add *Schmidtia pappophoroides*, the best compromise between high palatability, nutritive value, adaptability and tolerance of defoliation.



Photo 3 (left) and 4 (right): Healthy climax grasses (*Digitaria seriata* with *Brachiaria nigropedata*, left and *B. nigropedata* with *Schmidtia pappophoroides* right) tend to grow in dominant colonies that keep out other, inferior grasses, cover the soil densely, resist the establishment of bush seedlings and provide tons and tons of palatable, digestible and nutritive fodder per hectare. If only we could get to this stage!

Decide which of these prime grasses is most abundant on your farm and make it your “indicator”; manage camps specifically for its recovery. Over time, other palatable grasses will also become more abundant in your veld because your management ensures that preferred grasses generally receive adequate rest, whereas unpreferred grasses are over-rested, probably under-grazed and become less competitive and even moribund.

Once the grass sward on your farm has been restored to climax condition, it produces many times more fodder than before (on some farms, carrying capacity has tripled!). Also, the grass fodder produced is of much higher nutritive value throughout the year, reducing lick needs to mineral supplementation only (i.e. a P6-lick throughout the year!)

GAME ANIMALS AND ROTATIONAL GRAZING

Palatable perennial grasses can only maintain their vigour (productivity, abundance) and set seeds if grazing pressure on them in the rainy season is relieved. If, after moving livestock out of a camp, wild grass-eating herbivores (oryx, hartebeest, etc.) move in, palatable grasses will not recover but will be grazed down even more. Rotational grazing is impossible without rotating wild game animals too, but this is practically impossible. Instead, exclude game from livestock camps altogether and limit game to a “game camp”; which has to be managed differently than rotationally-grazed livestock camps. Alternatively, reduce the population of grazing game to such a low level that they no longer impact grazing negatively. This would probably require ring-fencing the farm to avoid “sucking” in new game from the neighbours.

ENOUGH CAMPS PER HERD

It helps rotational grazing to have many camps available per herd. If a herd is only allocated four camps and the targeted recovery period is 3 months, every camp is grazed for 1 month. The recovery period is long enough to allow seed-set of perennial grasses, but to graze a camp for 1 month in summer is too long and will damage the palatable perennial grasses. Their re-growth will be repeatedly re-bitten, the so-called “second bite”, weakening them through over-grazing. If each of these four camps could be sub-divided, the grazing rotation would improve:

- › the grazing period would be reduced to 13 days which avoids most second-biting,
- › the recovery period would still be 3 months long, sufficient for the well-eaten palatable grasses to recover to seed-set if it is a “normal” rainy season, and
- › the same livestock herd is concentrated onto one-eighth of the grazing area. This ensures good utilization of grasses and rigorous trampling of the soil. Sometimes, on hard soils that cap easily, trampling can be an advantage but induces wind erosion on sandy, loose soils. Increased trampling is a side effect of efficient resting and not a veld management principle per se!

Increasing the number of camps per herd can be achieved, expensively, by erecting more fences or, cheaply, by combining herds (Photo 5). Combining livestock herds means that fewer camps are occupied at any one time. More camps are not occupied for a longer period of time and may thus be able to recover sufficiently from grazing. What is the minimum number of herds required for productive livestock ranching?

- › One core breeding herd of all adult females, including pregnant replacements. This big herd needs access to the biggest camps.
- › A second herd of growing female animals, including those that will replace old and underperforming adults. This is a smaller herd that may include culled females to make up the numbers.
- › A third herd of young, growing males, including current and future herd sires. This herd is about the same size than the herd of female growers and requires similarly smaller camps.

If 24 camps are available for these three herds, periods of 2 weeks grazing and 3 months recovery per camp are possible. Sub-division of existing camps may be the best investment with the highest long-term

return that an established farmer with a “fully” developed farm can make! Stud breeders have to practice single sire mating for genetic reasons. During the summer mating season, they keep several smaller breeding herds served by only one sire so that the progeny’s parentage is known. Therefore, their grazing pressure is “diluted” at a time that the veld requires “concentrated” grazing pressure to affect sufficient recovery after grazing. Stud breeders should therefore consider creating a duplicate set of small camps dedicated for mating, through which breeding herds are rotated quickly in summer. These sets of mating camps should be alternated annually so that they enjoy a full-season’s rest every second year.



Photo 5: Combining many different types of livestock in one big herd is good for the rangeland, but tests the farm’s infrastructure and management! Water and lick provision is critical, as are sound and sturdy fences. Moving and handling (e.g. dipping and dosing) so many animals is also not easy.

OPEN ROTATION

Camps should not be rotated in a fixed pattern. Rather, those camps in which the indicator grasses have recovered earliest, should also be grazed first. Those camps in which the indicator grasses take longer to recover, should be grazed later. Using this system of “open rotation”, camps of higher potential will be grazed more and those of lesser potential, less.

OVER-GRAZING?

If a farmer this summer is consistently forced to put livestock in camps in which the perennial indicator grasses have not yet made seed, he is overstocked. This farmer should consider reducing the number of livestock before the better grasses get seriously damaged, because effective resting of perennial grasses is the most important grazing management principle of all!

Dr Axel Rothauge
Technical Advisor: Animal Production
AGRA Professional Services



CHOOSING THE RIGHT

BINOCULARS PART 3:

SELECTION CRITERIA: INTENDED USE



KNOW YOUR PRODUCT

This is the 3rd article in this series. See *the Ring* editions of October and November for the previous articles.

WHICH BINOCULAR FOR WHICH ACTIVITY

When it comes to choosing between a binocular with Porro prism or with roof prisms, the general rule applies that Porro prisms lead to bulkier instruments, whereas roof prisms make for more compact and slender binoculars. Previously Porro prisms had superior light transmission, but modern technology, better optical materials and coatings, especially phase coatings of prisms, have virtually eliminated this difference completely. Therefore the ultimate choice between porro prisms and roof prisms will be based on personal preference.

1. For use at night or under poor light: An 8 x 56 type binocular represents the ultimate instrument for poor light conditions or use at night, incorporating a large objective lens with an exit pupil of 7mm and twilight factor of 21,17. Such binoculars are however quite bulky, especially with Porro-prisms and not suited to carry around for long distances, but excellent for game viewing under all conditions from stationary positions or vehicles. Even a 7 x 50 has an exit pupil of 7,1mm and a twilight factor of 18,7. An 8 x 52 also falls into this category.



The 8 x 56 with roof prisms (left) or Porro prisms (right), the ultimate "Nighthunter"

2. For the hunter: A hunter who stalks his prey and who often has to walk long distances carrying a rifle, a rifle rest, hunting knife, spare ammunition, range finder and possibly even a backpack with water bottle and other equipment, needs a compact sturdy high-performance instrument in the form of an 8 x 42 or 8 x 32 with roof prisms. The 8 x 32 is adequate for daylight viewing but the 8 x 42 will give better results when the light fades, a situation often encountered on hunting excursions. A binocular which incorporates a laser range finder is a particularly useful instrument for the

The "Hunter's companion", an 8x42, compact, extremely robust with rubber armour and central focusing wheel. Prominent depressions for the thumbs ensure a very comfortable grip.



hunter or his guide, because it eliminates the necessity to carry a separate instrument to measure distance. These instruments have reduced light transmission and are extremely expensive, but are a definite option for hunting guides, who might use them on a daily basis. Some examples are the Leica Geovid, Zeiss Victory RF and Leupold RXB IV. Quality is not an option for the hunter, especially since it may mean the difference between finding and losing that wounded oryx in the last light of the day.

3. For the bird watcher: High resolution, good contrast and light transmission combined with a fast close focus system in a handy, light weight roof prism binocular with an open bridge will ensure many hours of comfortable, highly satisfactory bird viewing, especially when on foot. An 8 x 44, 8 x 52 or maybe even an 8,5 x 52 type binocular will be a good option especially with an exit pupil of 6,1 and a twilight factor of 21. As far as quality is concerned: only the best will do for the serious bird watcher. All binoculars mentioned under 1. 2. and 3. are also available with 10 x magnification, but one has to take into account that they have a reduced field of view, are usually heavier and some persons may have difficulty holding them steady enough, especially when on foot, when compared to the corresponding instrument with 8x magnification. Again the ultimate choice is a personal one.

4. For the sailor: Even if you are not a marine professional, you would choose a compact 7 x 30 or 7 x 50 binocular from a special marine series with or without integrated compass, to give you the best result on your sailing trip. Fast focus is really not a necessity for this activity, so you can do with individual focusing.

5. For the hiker, biker and climber: This person is looking for the ultimate

The 8x44: compact, light-weight, with roof prisms, open bridge, adjustable eyepieces and excellent field of view (136 m at 1000 m), the "Birdfinder". The open bridge enables a comfortable firm grip especially with one hand.



small size, light weight instrument that may fit into the pocket of his shirt or jacket and still provide some satisfactory viewing, anything weighing between 220 and 350 gram. Any 8 x 22, 8 x 24, 8 x 26, 10.5 x 28 or 10 x 26 will do for this purpose, again taking into account the reduced field of view associated with the 10x magnification. It is also more difficult to hold such a small instrument with 10 x magnification steady.

6. The out-door all-rounder: Any 8 x 30, 8 x 33, 8 x 42 or 10 x 42 with or without fast focus fits this category, where the 8 x 42 is also a very suitable companion for the hunter (see above).

Dr. Rainer Hassel
Agra Professional Services



LABOUR LAW

LABOUR LAW

EXTENDED MATERNITY LEAVE

Dear Reader,
Once again welcome!

EXTENDED MATERNITY LEAVE 27.

(1) If a medical practitioner certifies that -

(a) due to complications arising from pregnancy or delivery, it is necessary for the health of an employee, an employer must grant that employee extended maternity leave in excess of the periods referred to in section 26 (1)(a) or

(b), up to a maximum equal to the greater of –
(i) one month; or
(ii) the amount of accrued sick leave that the employee has at that time; or

(c) due to complications arising from birth or congenital conditions, it is necessary for the health of the employee's child, an employer must grant that employee extended maternity leave in excess of the periods referred to in section 26(1)(b), up to a maximum equal to the greater of -
(i) one month; or
(ii) the amount of accrued sick leave that the employee has at that time.

(2) If a medical practitioner issues a certificate in terms of both subsection (1)

(a) and (b), the periods of extended maternity leave must run concurrently.

(3) A period of extended maternity leave must run immediately before or immediately following an employee's maternity leave in terms of section 26.

(4) Section 26(3) to (6) apply in respect of an employee who takes extended maternity leave under this section.

KEEP IN MIND THE DEFINITION OF A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER ...

“medical practitioner” means an individual who is registered as such in terms of the Medical and Dental Professions Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) and includes an individual who is registered as a nurse or midwife in terms of the Nursing Act, 2004 (Act No. 8 of 2004);

A medical practitioner must certify that extended maternity leave is required.

Further, the Act does not provide for both one month AND the amount of accrued sick leave the employee has at that time. The amount of extended maternity leave is clearly stated as being UP TO A MAXIMUM EQUAL TO THE GREATER OF one month OR the amount of accrued sick leave that the employee has at the time.

Based on the certification of the medical practitioner the employee must apply for extended maternity leave and of course record of such application must be kept by the employer.

English

Assert
Assess
Assuage
Astound
Astute
Attach
Attain

Afrikaans

beweer, verklaar, aanvoer
skade, waarde bepaal, beraam
kalmte, versag
verstom
geslepe, slim
vasmaak, in beslag neem
bereik

Till our next article where we address accommodation.

Yours in Labour,

ROBIN C RAINES
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10 Jakaranda Street, Suiderhof, Windhoek

P O Box 31913, Pioneerspark, Namibia

Email: robin@labourdynamics.com

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PREPARE YOURSELF

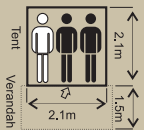


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119995
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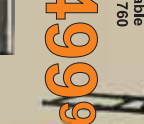
14995
 Base Camp
 Camping Chair
 Max Weight - 120kg



29995
 Bundu
 Sleeping Bag
 2X1m



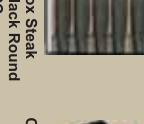
39995
 Cadac Gas
 Cooker & Cylinder
 No 7



49995
 PVC Table
 1800 x 760



19995
 Percolator
 & Mug Set



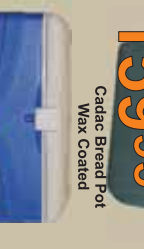
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82 Dorperramme
34 Witdorperramme
5 Dorperooie

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Hannes & Jomarie Visagie Dorpers
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Samehaling Dorpers & Witdorpertoet
TF Dreyer Dorpers
FJ Nell Dorpers
Conradie Dorpers
Morgenson Witdorpers
Vredeshoop Dorpers & Witdorpers
Arnold Klein Dorperstoet
PJ van Wyk Dorpers
Francois & Wallace Theron Dorpers
TF Dreyer Dorpers
GSG van den Heever Dorpers
Linda van den Heever Dorpers
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Lauterbach Dorpers
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| Brahman | Santa Gertrudis |
| Brangus | Simbra |
| Braunvieh | Simmentaler |
| Charbray | Sussex |

AUCTION



AUCTION



JANUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5 Grootfontein	6 Gibeon	7 Gobabis Berseba Khorzas <small>Last day to hand in Swakara Pelts at AGRA</small>	8
9	10	11 Asab Rehoboth Large Stock	12 Okahandja	13 Ojjiwarongo	14 Kalkrand (Kamanjab)	15
16	17 Schools Reopen	18 Bethanie	19 Leonardville Grootfontein	20 Aranos Otavi	21 Gobabis Mariental Loskop	22
23	24	25 Rehoboth Small Stock Outjo	26 Karaburg - Vetvee	27 Koes Windhoek Large Stock Ojjiwarongo	28 Keetmanshoop	29
30	31	Auction Times: Stud Large stock at 11:00 Stud Small stock at 10:00 Commercial and Communal at 10:00 otherwise time will be given			Notes: Auction dates and time may change without prior notice. For updated information please contact your nearest Agra Branch or visit the Agra Website www.agra.com.na	

Enquiries

Manager: Livestock:
Danie Byleveld
+264 81 129 3803
Manager: Livestock Operations:
Patrick vd Westhuizen
+264 81 128 9731
Manager: Stud Services:
Kiep Lepen
+264 81 124 0648

Stud Large Stock:
Barend Dorfling
+264 81 127 8806
Stud Small Stock (South):
George Pearson
+264 81 122 3623
Coordinator Central:
Chris Steenkamp
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Coordinator North:
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Coordinator South:
George Pearson
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Auction Information -
contact the nearest
Agra Branch

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Gibeon	2 Grootfontein	3	4 Gobabis Khorzas	5 Onyudaye
6	7	8 Asab Rehoboth Large Stock Outjo	9 Helmringhausen	10 Samehaling Windhoek Large Stock Ojjiwarongo	11 Kalkrand (Kamanjab)	12
13	14	15 Aranos Imkerhof	16 Leonardville Okahandja Grootfontein Saambou	17 Otavi *ARANOS DORPER TOPRAM *WINDHOEK SUMMERSALE	18 Mariental Gobabis Loskop	19
20	21	22 Tweervier Rehoboth Small Stock	23 Karaburg	24 Koes Windhoek Large Stock Ojjiwarongo	25 * KOBUS VAN WYK & FRANCOIS THERON, WYK Keetmanshoop Grootfontein Small Stock	26
27	28	Auction Times: Stud Large stock at 11:00 Stud Small stock at 10:00 Commercial and Communal at 10:00 otherwise time will be given			Notes: Auction dates and time may change without prior notice. For updated information please contact your nearest Agra Branch or visit the Agra Website www.agra.com.na	

Enquiries

Manager: Livestock:
Danie Byleveld
+264 81 129 3803
Manager: Livestock Operations:
Patrick vd Westhuizen
+264 81 128 9731
Manager: Stud Services:
Kiep Lepen
+264 81 124 0648

Stud Large Stock:
Barend Dorfling
+264 81 127 8806
Stud Small Stock (South):
George Pearson
+264 81 122 3623
Coordinator Central:
Chris Steenkamp
+264 81 124 0649

Coordinator North:
Herno Badenhorst
+264 81 257 7020
Coordinator South:
George Pearson
+264 81 122 3623
Auction Information -
contact the nearest
Agra Branch