

MAY/MEI 2009

AGRA CO-OPERATIVE LTD MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

AGRA KOÖPERATIEF BPK SE LEDE NUUSBRIEF



MARKOORSIG VAN APRIL 2009

SWAKARA PELSVEILING



Van die aanbod van 70 035 **swakara** pelse is 100% op 3 April 2009 deur Agra in Kopenhagen, Denemarke verkoop. 'n Gemiddelde prys van 196.21 Deense Krone (DKK) is behaal, wat 'n daling van 26.10% verteenwoordig teenoor die DKK264.37 wat in September 2008 behaal is. Die gemiddelde prys in Namibiese dollar van N\$321.79 toon 'n daling van 18,31% teenoor die N\$393.92 van die vorige veiling. Die prys in US\$ was 35.36 teenoor die US\$50.49 van die September 2008 veiling wat 'n daling van 30% verteenwoordig.

Die hoogste prys ooit in Namibiese dollar van N\$1 641, is betaal vir 'n pakkie van 63D Lig Gestrek uitsoek pelse. Die prys van DKK1000 is ook die hoogste prys wat nog ooit in Deense Krone vir **swakara** betaal is. Die vorige hoogste prys in NAD is in April 2008 betaal en was N\$1350.62 terwyl in April 2007 die vorige hoogste DKK prys van DKK 970 betaal is.

Met die wêreld ekonomie op sy kop, moeilike omstandighede en dalende pryse, kan Namibiese pelsprodusente tog tevrede voel met die uitslag van die pas afgelope veiling.

Voorveiling inspeksie - Die voorveiling inspeksie was net so bedrywig soos in die verlede. Meeste van die bekende kopers was daar met selfs nuwe gesigte van veral China/Hong Kong en Griekeland. Dit was egter van die begin af duidelik dat kopers voel dat **swakara** pryse dieselfde tendens as die ander pelssoorte en veral nertspryse sou volg. Dit was egter deurgaans duidelik dat die aanvraag na **swakara** steeds daar is, maar dat die pryse laer sal neig. Nuwe potensiële kopers was honger vir inligting en die nuwe bemerkingsprojek se plakkaat was byvoorbeeld binne die eerste drie dae alles uitgedeel.

Veiling - Die begin van die veiling was baie senutergend met die onsekerheid waar die nuwe prysvlak sou wees en aanvanklik was daar geen bod op die eerste drie lotte nie. Toe van die lotte eers begin verkoop, het die veiling egter begin vloei en aan die einde is alles verkoop. Dit opsigself is 'n groot prestasie onder hierdie omstandighede. Daar was natuurlik ook die hoogtepunt van 'n nuwe rekord prys in Krone sowel as in NAD. Die koop van die top lot het meer reklamewaarde as wat dit 'n aanduiding is van die waarde van

die pelse. Daar word groot waarde geheg aan die sertifikaat wat na die tyd aan die koper van hierdie duurste pakkie pelse oorhandig word.

Die afwesigheid van die Russiese kopers was opvallend en het 'n invloed op die veiling gehad. Engelse agente, wat altyd die meeste pelse koop, was op hierdie veiling die derde grootste koper. Sommige van hierdie pelse gaan wel Rusland toe. Die Russe was ook die hoofkopers van die groot nertsponse wat hulle vir die maak van hoedens gebruik. Vandat die Russe nie meer in die prentjie is nie sukkel die verkope van die groter nertsponse ook en het dit ook met 9% gedaal op die April nertsveiling.



Die feit dat Hong Kong en Japan kopers die meeste **swakara** gekoop het toon dat daar tog belangstelling uit die Ooste is wat vorentoe baie in ons guns kan tel.

Prys - Die voorveilingevaluatie het getoon dat ons sortiment 3% swakker was as die September 2008 sortiment. Dus was die werklike daling in NAD net 15%.

Die wisselkoers het weer net voor die veiling omgedraai en ons van minstens 5% beroof, maar dit is deel van die bedryf en moet so aanvaar word.

As die **swakara** prys van US\$ 35.36 vergelyk word met die April 2009 nertsveiling van US\$ 34.46 dan is **swakara** nog steeds 'n kort koppie voor die nertspryse en het dit onder omstandighede baie goed gedoen.

Niemand weet waar die draaipunt van die swak ekonomiese toestande is nie, maar met **swakara** steeds hoog mode en in aanvraag moet ons nie nou moed verloor nie maar voortbou op die beter kwaliteit om die goeie tye tegemoet te gaan.

Wessel Visser
Bestuurder Pelsentrum
Agra Professionele Dienste



As the days are getting shorter and the nights are cooler, we know that winter is approaching. Nature is preparing for a winter sleep. In farming and in business though, there is no time for hibernating. The show must go on – production must continue with the challenges of the winter season. There is also too much excitement, not to be missed. The hunting season starts – it is biltong time, game harvesting time. Agra re-opens a newly renovated, bigger and smarter branch in Otjiwarongo. With the Otjiwarongo opening, Agra will emphasize its

commitment to development by making a meaningful donation to COSDEC, an organization in Otjiwarongo that aims to develop young people.

There are stud auctions par excellence with exciting information days in the north and in the south, a game auction in Outjo and many more activities by organized agriculture. We continue with our social involvement through our public lectures and support to several initiatives and events.

We trust that you will find this *Ring* as useful, interesting and informative as all the others, with relevant information for this time of the year and feedback on the pelt auction.

Thank you to our members for positive feedback we receive on the *Ring*. We take note of requests and are constantly looking into ways to make your news letter and source of information useful. We trust that you are able to take out and file the articles you wish to keep. Please keep on letting us know how you find the *Ring*.

Best wishes and happy farming!



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PROFESSIONELE DIENSTE IS TOT U DIENS MET DIE VOLGENDE

Produkte te koop:

- Die veldgids “Grasses of Namibia” (2007 uitgawe) en ‘n artikel oor “Die volhoubare bestuur van weiveld in Namibië”
- Die boek “Grondwater” van Otto van Vuuren
- Volledige versameling van tegniese artikels wat onlangs in die *Ring* verskyn het
- Grassaad vir veldversterking: saad van inheemse klimaksgrasse (borseltjiegras *Antheophora pubescens*, swartvoetjie *Brachiaria nigropedata*, meerjarige Kalahari sandkweek *Schmidtia pappophoroides*) vir insaai in die veld
- Saad van ‘n besonder smaaklike bloubuffelgras (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) kultivar, “Biloela”

Dienste:

- Die reël van stoetveeveilings.
- Keuring van diere vir stoetveeveilings. Kontak Kiep Lepen (0811240648)
- Telings- en genetiese advies aan bees-, bok- en skaaptelers.
- Volledige sortering, gradering en bemarking van karakoelpelse deur die Pelssentrum (kontak Wessel Visser, 061-2909302).
- Telings- en genetiese advies aan karakoelboere.
- Bemarking van teel- en slagvee in die noordelike kommunale area en uitvoere van teeldiere na Angola (kontak Pieter Hugo, 061-2909242).
- Handhawing van kuddegesondheid en advies oor alle aspekte van siektebeheer by diere (kontak Dr. Rainer Hassel, 061-2909249).
- Beplanning en evaluering van ‘n veeboerdery, insluitende kamp- en weidingstelsels, diereproduksiestelsels, weiveldevaluering en– regenerering, voervloei-beplanning, bestuursprogramme, bosbeheer, wildtellings, risikobeheer en doeltreffendheidsverhoging (kontak Dr. Axel Rothauge, 061-2909354).
- Boerdery- en produksie-advies en konsultasies
- Ontleding van weiding- en voermonsters asook advies oor die aanwending van voere
- Drakragbepaling vir vee en wild, gras- en bosvreter; en voervloei-beplanning
- Opleidingskursusse en inligtingsdae oor vee- en wildproduksie en besigheidsbestuur
- Enige ander projekte wat met landbou, spesifiek vee- en wildproduksie te doen het.



Public lectures for emerging commercial farmers



Windhoek 24 June 2009
Keetmanshoop 28 July 2009
Mariental 29 July 2009

For more information or to confirm your attendance,

please contact Patrick Kaaheke at
 Agra Head Office Tel 061-2909234
 or Adelheid Mouton: Tel 061-2909335



NAMIBIAN LABOUR ACT NO 11 OF 2007

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

The Namibian Labour Act No 11 of 2007 was promulgated on 31 December 2007 and replaces the old Namibian Labour Act no 6 of 1992. The new Act has substantial changes that will affect all employers in Namibia. Of course, all employers in Namibia are responsible to ensure that they know what the contents of the Act are in order to further ensure full compliance. Throughout this series we will address issues of mutual importance to all employers and more specifically so, employers in the agricultural sector. We shall also be providing definitions of terms used in the labour discipline to help you understand "labour language". In this first article we shall be looking at specific labour act definitions which are necessary for you to understand the basics.

"Annual Leave Cycle":

the period of twelve (12) consecutive months employment with the same employer immediately following an employee's commencement of employment or the completion of the last annual leave cycle.

"Arbitration":

arbitration proceedings conducted before an arbitration tribunal established in terms of section 85.

"Arbitrator":

an individual appointed as such in terms of section 85.

"Basic Wage":

for the purpose of calculating any basic condition of employment, that part of the employee's remuneration in money including the cash equivalent of payment in kind, if any, as calculated in terms of section 10, paid in respect of work done during the hours ordinarily worked BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE allowances, including travel and subsistence, housing, motor vehicle, transport and professional allowances whether or not based on the employee's basic wage, pay for overtime, additional pay for work on Sundays or public holidays, additional pay for night work and payments in respect of pension, annuity or medical benefits or insurance.

"Collective Agreement":

a written agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment or any other matter of mutual interest concluded by one or more trade unions on the one hand and on the other hand one or more employers, one or more registered employers organizations or one or more employers and one or more registered employers organizations.

"Conciliation":

means and includes mediating a dispute, conducting a fact-finding exercise and making an advisory award if it will enhance the prospects of settlement or the parties to the dispute agree.

"Dispute":

any disagreement between an employer or an employers organization on the one hand and an employee or a trade union on the other hand,

which disagreement relates to a labour matter.

"Employee":

an individual other than an independent contractor who works for another person and who receives or is entitled to receive remuneration for that work or in any manner assists in carrying on or conducting the business of the employer.

"Employer":

any person including the State who employs or provides work for an individual and who remunerates or expressly or tacitly undertakes to remunerate that individual or permits an individual to assist that person in any manner in the carrying or conducting that person's business.

"Exclusive Bargaining Agent":

a trade union that has been recognized as such in terms of section 64.

"Legal Practitioner":

an individual admitted to practice as a legal practitioner in terms of the Legal Practitioners Act No 15 of 1995.

"Medical Practitioner":

an individual who is registered as such in terms of the Medical and Dental Professions Act No 10 of 2004 AND includes an individual who is registered as a nurse or midwife in terms of the Nursing Act No 8 of 2004.

"Office-bearer"

in relation to a trade union or employers organization means an individual other than an official who holds office in that trade union or employers organization and includes a member of a committee of that trade union or employers organization.

"Official"

in relation to a trade union or employers organization means a person employed as a secretary, assistant secretary or any similar capacity, whether or not in a full-time capacity.

"Remuneration"

means the total value of all payments in money or kind made or owing to an employee arising from the employment of that employee.

"Spouse"

means a partner in a civil marriage or customary law union or other union recognized as a marriage in terms of any religion or custom.

Robin Raines
Labour Dynamics cc

VETERINARY FIRST AID

DYSTOCIA, RETAINED PLACENTA



DYSTOCIA

Although the act of parturition or birth is continuous, for purposes of definition it is usually divided into three stages

First Stage: Active contractions of the muscles in the wall of the uterus and the dilatation of the cervix. During this first stage in the cow, uterine contractions occur about every 10 to 15 minutes and last 15 to 30 seconds. As the stage progresses, they increase in frequency, duration and strength until contractions occur every 3 to 5 minutes. At the end of the stage the cervix is completely dilated. In the cow and ewe, symptoms of discomfort or abdominal pain may or may not be evident. The animals show loss of appetite, stand with an arched back and raised tail, strain occasionally and ruminate irregularly.

Second Stage: This stage is characterized by the entrance of the foetus into the dilated birth canal; rupture of the allantoic sac; abdominal contractions; straining and the expulsion of the foetus through the vulva. Almost all animals lie down as soon as straining starts. The length of this stage in the cow varies from 0,5 to 3 to 4 hours. In ewes and goats this stage is usually completed in about 1 hour, but it can be slightly longer if twins or triplets are involved. When the umbilical cord ruptures, the umbilical arteries and the urachus retract into the abdominal cavity of the newborn and by contraction, bleeding from the navel is prevented.

Third Stage: The third and last stage of parturition involves the expulsion of the foetal membranes and the involution of the uterus. Expulsion of the foetal membranes is usually completed within a few

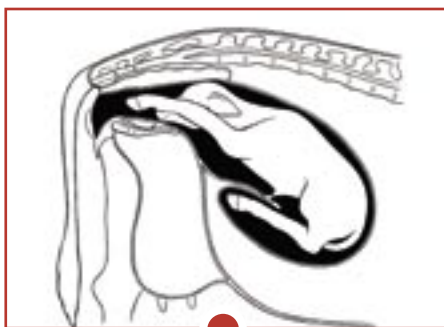
hours after expulsion of the foetus, whereas the return of the uterus to its non-pregnant state takes around one month in the cow.

When the first, or especially the second stage of parturition is markedly prolonged, becomes difficult or impossible for the dam without assistance, the condition is referred to as dystocia, the term being derived from the Greek, meaning difficult birth.

The basic causes of dystocia may be divided into the following categories: hereditary, nutrition and management, infections, trauma, miscellaneous or combined causes. Many cases of dystocia may have two or more causes.

The immediate causes of dystocia can be due to maternal or foetal factors. The maternal factors are mostly those which cause a narrowing of the birth passage, or prevent the normal entrance of the foetus into the birth canal and include fractures and malformation of the pelvis, malnutrition and weakness, small size due to improper rearing and stunted growth or inappropriate mating at too young an age and large amounts of fat in the abdomen. Foetal factors include excessive size of the foetus, foetal malformation and abnormal presentation, position and posture.

In the cow, disproportion between foetal size and pelvic diameter are common. Failure of the muscles of the uterus to contract (uterine inertia) and failure of the cervix to dilate occur occasionally. Breech presentation, lateral deviation of the head and neck and abnormal posture of the limbs are often observed. The longer the duration of the dystocia, the poorer the prognosis for survival of the foetus and recovery of the dam becomes. Often one has to deal with a dead foetus which starts to bloat as a result of decomposition, making delivery even more difficult.



Parturition: Normal anterior presentation



Parturition: Normal posterior presentation

The treatment of dystocia includes the forcible removal of the foetus, removal of the foetal membranes and aftercare of the dam. Arm length gloves should be worn when dealing with a dystocia.

Before any forcible removal of the foetus is attempted the presentation, position and posture of the foetus must be determined and any abnormality needs to be corrected. This may involve the straightening out of the bent limbs or limbs folded backward, the straightening out of the head and neck or even rotation of the foetus. If the owner is unable to correct these abnormalities, veterinary help is needed.

Traction must be applied to both front limbs and the head in case of an anterior presentation or both hind limbs in case of a posterior presentation. Adequate lubrication is helpful. In an early dystocia there are sufficient amniotic fluids present for lubrication, but in the case of foetal death and decomposition lubrication with mineral oils like liquid paraffin may be required to aid extraction of the foetus.

The amount of force applied to the traction will vary greatly with the species of animal and the condition causing the dystocia. Forced extraction is potentially dangerous to the foetus and dam. In the dam, excessive traction or traction in an improper manner or with the foetus in an abnormal presentation, position or posture may result in trauma, laceration, rupture to the soft structures of the birth canal or wedging of the foetus in the dam's pelvis. It can result in prolapse of the uterus or nerve damage. The following general guideline should be considered

if no progress has been made in a cow dystocia within the first 5 to 10 minutes of traction by two to four men, veterinary help should be summoned. In the ewe the force exerted by one man should be sufficient to relieve a dystocia.

After the foetus has been extracted, remove the foetal membranes, but leave them in place if they cannot be removed easily. The treatment of retained placenta will be dealt with separately. Insert antibiotic containing pessaries according to manufacturer's specification and treat the cow with systemic antibiotics for 6 days. Monitor closely during that period for possible complications.



Dystocia: Anterior presentation with one front leg folded backward (Foetus appears dead)



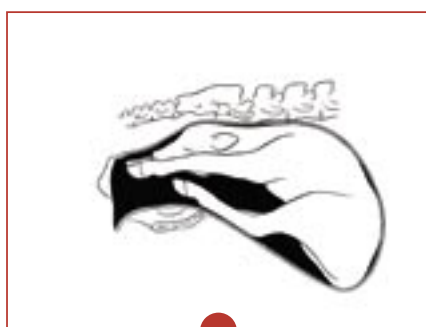
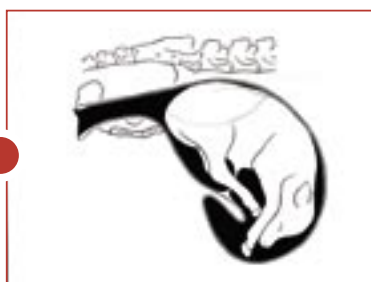
Dystocia: Anterior presentation with both front legs folded backward (Foetus still appears to be alive)



Dystocia: Anterior presentation with head and neck folded backward (abnormal position)



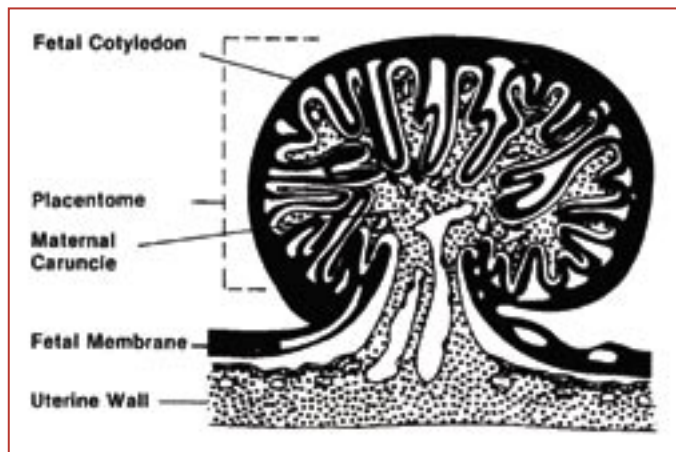
Dystocia: Posterior presentation with hindlegs folded in underneath the foetus, called breach presentation (Abnormal)



Dystocia: Anterior presentation with hindlegs folded in underneath

Retained placenta (afterbirth, foetal membranes)

This is one of the most common conditions in animals following parturition. In a normal parturition the placenta or afterbirth of a cow falls away within 3 to 8 hours following calving. If the placenta is retained longer than that it should be regarded as abnormal. Retention of the foetal membranes is basically due to failure of the villi of the foetal cotyledon to detach themselves from the maternal crypts of the caruncle. After the foetus is expelled and the umbilical cord has ruptured no blood is pumped into the foetal villi and they shrink in size.



The placentome of the cow, showing the way in which the foetal membrane is attached to the wall of the uterus

The maternal caruncles also shrink due to reduced blood supply. The list of potential causes of retention of the foetal membranes is quite long but there are a number of common causes affecting beef cattle.

They can be categorized as follows:

- 1. Causes associated with parturition:** Dystocia including caesarean section, twins, and premature calving. In cattle calving 1 to 2 weeks prematurely, especially in twin pregnancy the incidence of retained placenta can be as high as 50 per cent.
- 2. Nutritional causes:** Energy deficiency, protein deficiency, vitamin A and E deficiency, and selenium and iodine deficiency.
- 3. Management causes:** Obesity, stress like transportation and rough handling and hereditary conditions.
- 4. Infectious causes of abortion:** Abortions as a result of *Brucella abortus* infection, *Vibriosis*, *Tuberculosis*, *Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)* and *Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)*. Abortions occurring after the fifth month of pregnancy are generally accompanied by retained placenta.

In itself the retained placenta is not a problem but can act as a port of entrance of contaminants and infectious agents into the uterus, especially when the cow is lying down or during defecation. Local infection in the uterus, often associated with large amounts of fetid reddish watery fluid can lead to systemic illness accompanied by listlessness, anorexia, fever, dehydration and weight loss. Severe cases of toxæmia can cause the death of the animal. When the uterus is infected and inflamed it takes much longer to recover after parturition and the cow takes longer to conceive again, or permanent infertility can be the outcome. Another consequence of retained placenta can



VELD MANAGEMENT

VELDGRASHOOI

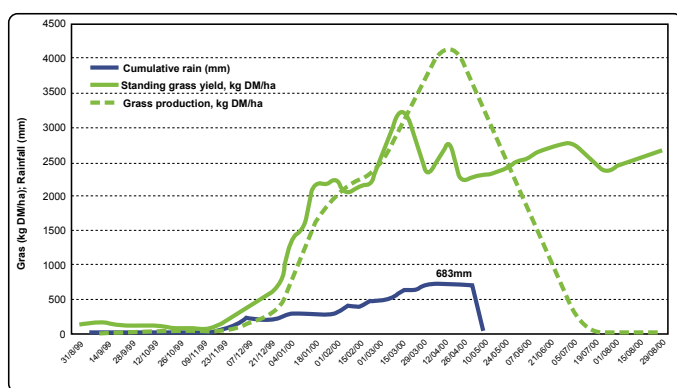
NAMIBIË SE NUUTSTE “KONTANTGEWAS”

Al hoe meer veldgrashooi word in Namibië langs paaie en in die veld gesny, gewoonlik vroeg in die winter. Vroeër is veldgrashooi veral vir eie gebruik as 'n voerreserwe in droogtetye gebruik, maar vandag word dit toenemend soos 'n kontantgewas verhandel en versprei van streke waar dit genoegsaam gereën het na ander wat minder gelukkig was. In teenstelling met bloubuffel (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) landerye word veldgraslande selde geploeg of bemes en nie tydens die reënseisoen gesny nie. Veldgrashooi is hoofsaaklik 'n opportunistiese produk wat veral ná goeie reënjare gemaak word. Nogtans is dit belangrik dat die vervaardiger sowel as die gebruiker van veldgrashooi bewus is van die faktore wat veldgrashooi se kwaliteit en kwantiteit beïnvloed:

- die omgewingstoestande waaronder die hooi geproduseer word,
- die grassoort waarvan hooi gemaak word,
- die rypheid van die gras teen oestyd,
- die metode van hooimaak en
- die verdere prosessering van hooi voordat dit gevoer word.

Omgewingstoestande bepaal die hoeveelheid hooi

In 'n halfdorre gebied soos Namibië is die hoeveelheid reënval by verre die belangrikste faktor wat plantproduksie bepaal. Hoe meer dit reën, hoe meer en vinniger groei veldgras en hoe meer hooi kan gesny word (Grafiek 1). Oor die algemeen veroorsaak elke millimeter reën grasproduksie van 3-6 kg/ha (Sweet, 1997) en in die Omaheke streek, 4 kg meer gras per hektaar vir elke millimeter reën (Rothauge, 2006). Eers wanneer dit regtig baie reën begin die vrugbaarheid van die grond grasproduksie beperk. Temperatuur benadeel grasproduksie eers as dit snags kouer as 5 °C word.



Grafiek 1: Grasproduksie word deur reënval bepaal. In goeie reënjare, bv. 1999/2000, bereik grasproduksie in die sentrale hoogland 4 ton droë materiaal per hektaar (t DM/ha) en veroorsaak “staande hooi” van 2t DM/ha.

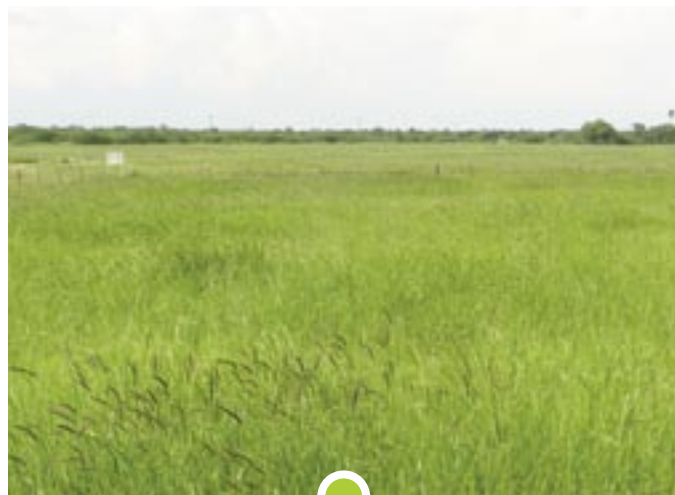
Die droë gras wat in die winter op die veld staan is “staande hooi” en die goedkoopste manier van hooimaak omdat dit nie meganies ge-oes word nie. Dit verteenwoordig die surplus veldgras wat uit die somer-groeiperiode na die winter oorgedra word. Staande hooi is

gewoonlik minder as totale grasproduksie omdat verliese weens beweiding (vee, wild), insekte en wind plaasgevind het.

Produksiepotensiaal verskil volgens grassoort

Veldgrashooi bestaan uit 'n mengsel van verskillende grasspesies wat die opbrengs en voedingswaarde bepaal. Veldgraslande word gewoonlik nie bemes nie en produseer dus minder as bloubuffel-lande. Onder droëland toestande op die Sandveld Proefplaas, wat gemiddeld 392±182.4 mm reën/jaar ontvang, en met ligte bemesting is die volgende hooi-oeste behaal (Neumann, 1990):

- witbuffelgras (*Panicum maximum*): 3.7 t DM/ha,
- borseltjiegras (*Anthephora pubescens*): 3.1 t DM/ha,
- bloubuffelgras (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), kultivar “Molopo”: 5.0 t DM/ha en
- bloubuffelgras (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), kultivar “Gayndah”: 2.8 t DM/ha.



Bloubuffelgras, “Molopo”-kultivar op die stadium waarop dit vir hooi gesny behoort te word, is die algemeenste hooigewas in Namibië en die maatstaf waarteen veldgrashooi gemeet word

Op Neudamm is agt grassoorte se hoopspotensiaal sonder bemesting op ou akkerboulande bepaal (Kaholongo, 2008). Die grasse is met 150 mm besproeiing gevestig en na die uitstekende 2007/2008 reënseisoen (578 mm) ge-oes. Sommige grassoorte het moeilik gevestig en 'n swak stand gelewer (Tabel 1). Die buffelgrasse, wit en blou, het die hoogste hooi-opbrengs gelewer. Van die meer algemene veldgrassoorte het maar swak gevestig; 'n aanduiding dat hulle nie goed op geploegde grond ontkiem en in suiwer stande groei nie. Vergelykenderwys het lusern onder dieselfde omstandighede net 2.5±0.78 t DM/ha gelewer en 'n wilde boontjiesoort (*Vigna frutescens*) 1.2±0.57 t DM/ha. Witbuffelgras (“Green Panic”) is bekend as 'n goeie hooigras in ander bosvelddele van suidelike Afrika maar word nie aanbeveel vir streke wat minder reën as 500 mm/jaar kry nie (Dickinson et al., 1993).

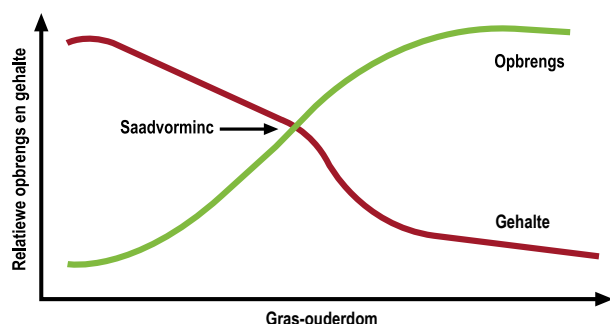
Tabel 1: Hooiproduksie van verskillende grasse

Naam	Stand	DM produksie, t/ha
Antheophora pubescens (borseltjiegras)	Goed	3.8±0.47
Brachiaria nigropedata (swartvoetjie)	Swak	1.0
Cenchrus ciliaris (bloubuffelgras) cv. Gayndah	Goed	4.1±0.31
Cenchrus ciliaris (bloubuffelgras) cv. Molopo	Goed	9.4±0.92
Eragrostis lehmanniana (knieltjiesgras)	Goed	2.1±0.25
Panicum maximum (witbuffelgras)	Goed	11.3±2.43
Schmidtia pappophoroides (meerjarige Kalahari sandkweek)	Swak	0.7±0.52
Sporobolus fimbriatus (fynsaadgras)	Goed	5.4±1.07
Stipagrostis uniplumis (blinkaarboesmangras)	Swak	0.6

Een ton grashooi verskaf genoeg vreetbare materiaal om 'n 450 kg grootvee-eenheid vir twee maande lank te voer, gegee 'n vermorsing van 20%. Veldgrashooi verskaf egter nie 'n gebalanseerde dieet nie; slegs lusernhooi, die koning van die voergewasse, voldoen naastenby aan hierdie vereiste.

Voedingswaarde varieer volgens grassoort en ouderdom

Grassoorte verskil inherent van mekaar ten opsigte van hulle voedingswaarde. Sommiges is blaaryk en dus meer voedsaam terwyl dié met baie stingels en vesel gewoonlik 'n laer voedingswaarde het. Grasse word meer veselig namate hulle ouer word en hulle voedingswaarde daal soos hulle ryp word. Ná saadvorming neem meerjarige grasse se voedingswaarde geleidelik af omdat hulle

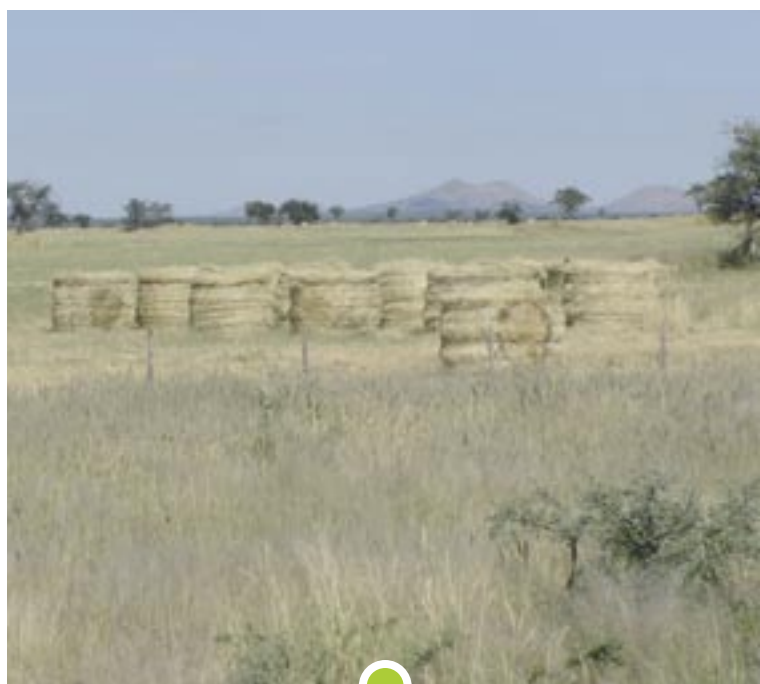


voedingstowwe na die graspol se kroon verplaas om volgende seisoen se aanvangsgroei te voed. Eenjarige grasse se voedingswaarde daal na saadvorming vinnig omdat hulle afsterf. Die ouderdom waarop gras gesny word het dus 'n groot effek op hooi se voedingswaarde. Hoe jonger die gras, hoe hoër sy voedingswaarde maar hoe laer sy opbrengs, en omgekeerd (Grafiek 2). Die beste tyd om gras te sny is dus kort voor die saad ryp word, wanneer die opbrengs reeds hoog maar die voedingswaarde nog nie té laag is nie. Onryp saad sal ook eerder in die hooi bly sit terwyl ryp saad geneig is om uit te val. Dit verlaag die hooi se voedingswaarde verder. Grashooi wat eers in die winter gesny word, het gevolglik 'n baie laer voedingswaarde as grashooi wat tydens of kort ná die reënseisoen gesny word.

Die voedingswaarde van Neudamm se agt enkelgrashooisoorte (Tabel 2) is baie hoër as wat gewoonlik in gemengde veldgrashooi

gevind word omdat dit op voorheen bemeste akkerbougrond geproduseer is. Residuële bemesting verdoesel die inherente verskille tussen grassoorte; 'n aanduiding dat die voedingswaarde van hooi geredelik deur bemesting verbeter word. Producente word egter aangeraai om nie veldgraslande summier te bemes nie. In meeste jare is die reënval te laag om voordeel uit bemesting te trek en tweedens, is bemesting geneig om pioniersgrassoorte te laat toeneem. Hulle voedingswaarde en langtermyn-produksie is gewoonlik laer as dié van die meer gewenste klimaksgrasse. Die "gewone" samestelling van grasse wat van die veld af versamel is word ook in Tabel 2 verskaf om 'n aanduiding van veldgrashooi se voedingswaarde te verskaf.

Uit bogenoemde is dit duidelik dat onbemeste veldgrashooi nie genoeg voedingstowwe bevat om in plaasvee se onderhoudsbehoefte van omtrent 5% ru-proteïen in die dieet met 'n verteerbaarheid van omtrent 47.5% te voldoen nie, laat staan nog in groeiende diere se verhoogde voedingstofbehoefte.



Tipiese veldgrashooi in ronde bale

Tabel 2: Chemiese samestelling en voedingswaarde van grassoorte ten tye van hooimaak (op bemeste akkerbougrond) (Kaholongo, 2008), en wat in middel-winter in die veld (onbemes) ge-oes is (Rothauge, 2006)

Naam	Bemeste akkerbou grond			Veld grond onbemes		
	% ru-proteïen	% fosfaat	% verteerbaarheid	% ru-proteïen	% fosfaat	% verteerbaarheid
Borseltjiegras	9.83	0.210	58.5	4.4±1.18	03±0.018	43.4±6.37
Swartvoetjie	9.76	0.203	58.1	4.0±1.35	03±0.018	39.5±2.05
Bloubuffelgras cv. Gayndah	9.25	0.143	62.2	-	-	-
Bloubuffelgras cv. Molopo	9.32	0.142	59.6	5.1±0.45	05±0.001	46.0±2.28
Knietjiesgras	8.13	0.167	51.5	4.6±0.75	05±0.001	40.8±3.54
Witbuffelgras	7.79	0.209	56.5	-	-	-
Kalahari sandkweek	8.58	0.171	58.8	3.4±0.59	03±0.017	43.7±4.84
Fynsaadgras	6.32	0.216	55.9	-	-	-
Blinkaar-boesmangras	8.70	0.186	57.2	3.7±0.37	03±0.016	34.6±3.92
Tipiese gemengde veldgrashooi	-	-	-	3.8±0.37	03±0.019	40.0±4.65

Die aanneemlikheid van verskillende enkelgrassoorthooie is ook op Neudamm op skape getoets (Kaholongo, 2008). Skape het vrye toegang tot elke soort hooi in afsonderlike voedingstasies gehad. Gemeet aan die hoeveelheid hooi wat hulle binne 'n bepaalde tyd gevreet het, die aantal besoeke aan 'n voedingstasie en die tyd wat by elke voedingstasie vertoef is, is lusern-, borseltjiegras- en sandkweekhooi (in volgorde) die mees aanneemlike gewees. Hooie met 'n gemiddelde aanneemlikheid was bloubuffel (Gayndah), knietjiesgras- en wilde boontjieshooi, terwyl die ander hooisoorte laag aanneemlik was.

Ander faktore wat hooigehalte bepaal

Hoe vinniger hooi droog, hoe beter die gehalte omdat plantvoedingstowwe nie kans kry om uit te loog of te oksideer nie. Aangesien meeste veldgrashooi gemaak word wanneer die gras alreeds halfdroog is, is dit gewoonlik genoeg om gesnyde gras in windrye te hark voordat dit gebaal word. As hooi egter tydens die reënseisoen gemaak word, moet die gras verkieslik met 'n kneus-snymasjien gesny word om vinniger uitdroging te bevorder. Die voginhoud van hooi moet nie 14% oorskry nie, anders kan die baal aan die binnekant muf, wat die hooi se aanneemlikheid verlaag, of selfs spontaan aan die brand steek. Gras wat té droog geword het verloor baie blare—en dus voedingswaarde – tydens die baalproses.

Veldgrashooi wat korrek gedroog is, onder dak of seil gestoor word en teen termiete beskerm is, hou teoreties vir altyd. In die praktyk sal hooi wat goed bewaar is na 15 jaar nog net so goed wees as kort na sny en is dus die ideale voerreserwe om vir droogtetye te hou.

Veldgrashooi se voedingswaarde is reeds laag en dus is dit gewoonlik nie ekonomies sinvol om dit verder te verwerk voordat dit aan plaasvee gevoer word nie. As hooi egter met ander voerbestanddele gemeng word, moet dit in 'n hamermeul gekerf word om goed te kan meng. Dit moet nie korter as 2cm gekerf word nie omdat dit dan sy rumen-stimulerende eienskappe verloor. Gekerfde hooi is meer aanneemlik vir plaasvee en effens meer verteerbaar. Diere vreet meer en mors minder, dus verhoog diereproduksie. Hooi van swak gehalte

kan deur ammonifisering ekonomies in 'n hoë-waarde produk omskep word, soos koringstrooi in die Wes-Kaap. Hierdie duur prosessering kan vermy word deur hooi op die regte stadium te sny en vinnig te droog.

Veldgrashooi is 'n baie veelsydige voer wat baie na aan plaasvee se natuurlike kos is en vir lang tye bewaar kan word. In 'n droogte-geteisterde land soos Namibië behoort dit elke veeboer se metgesel te wees om periodes van voerskaarste te oorbrug en die boerderyrisiko te verlaag of om in verhoogde voerbehoeftes te voorsien.

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Dr Axel Rothauge
Spesiale projekte-konsultant
Agra Professionele Dienste



AGRA CELEBRATES INVESTMENT OF N\$8.1 MILLION DURING RE-LAUNCH OF OTJIWARONGO BRANCH



Agra's invested a further N\$8.1 million in infrastructure in Namibia with the refurbishment of the Otjiwarongo branch. This second Agra branch to be renovated was officially re-opened on Monday 27 April.

Dr Frans Indongo, an esteemed entrepreneur and farmer of Otjiwarongo paid tribute to the investments over many years by Agra into the agricultural sector across the country. "I regard this impressive upgrading of the facilities at Otjiwarongo as a brave business venture from a businessman's perspective and from a farmer's perspective as a most appreciated customer service intervention", said Dr Indongo, guest speaker at the prestigious opening function.

Peter Kazmaier, CEO of Agra informed the guests that Agra will continue with its conservative approach of ensuring financial prudence and comprehensive business plans with every major investment as there are a number of Agra branches that need refurbishment and upgrading in the future. As opening speaker he said: "being an agricultural cooperative, we always have to find the balance achieving sustainable growth and ensuring that our largest customer base, the Namibian farmer can afford to make use of our products and services. As a result of this fine balance, we weigh up very carefully where we allocate our financial resources."

To express Agra's commitment to development; its people,

communities, staff and clients, they donated training equipment to the Community Skills Development Centre (COSDEC) in Otjiwarongo and committed bursaries to two children of Agra staff members to enroll at the institution. "The well being of society matters, in more ways than one. As a leading agricultural co-operation, we can only prosper if the communities from which we derive our profits are prosperous," said Birgit Hoffmann Agra's Senior Manager: Corporate Affairs.

Agra's clients will be rewarded for their loyal support and patience during the renovation period by means of many specials and prizes to the value of N75 000 that can be won during the launch period.

After a very jovial event directed by Agra's young dynamic marketing trainee, Patrick Kaaheke, the chairman of the board and president of the NAU, Mr Ryno van der Merwe, did the vote of thanks. He stated that without the support of our loyal clients and the efforts of management, staff and suppliers as well as the board of director,s the development and the re-launch activities and specials would not be possible. The new bigger, modern looking store offers more floor space, new shelves, modern equipment; a dedicated Safari Den section and a wider range of products.

AGRA REIK HAND

Agra het saam met ander maatskappye die hand gereik om vloedslagoffers in die noorde te help. Ongeveer 350 000 Namibiërs leef in haglike, lewensgevaarlike toestande a.g.v. die vloed.

Tente ter waarde van N\$50 000 is geskenk deur die Landbou-unie se Dare to Care rampslagofferfonds. Die tente is by Safari Den aangekoop, wat die tente teen 'n spesiale prys beskikbaar gemaak het aan die fonds. Bank Windhoek en Agra het saamgespan om geblikte vis te skenk aan die slagoffers. Agra se bydrae tot hierdie skenking was N\$15 000. Ons vertrou dat hierdie bydrae 'n verskil sal maak en dat hierdie mooi en vrugbare deel van Namibië binnekort weer in staat sal wees om 'n gesonde, produktiewe en voorspoedige bestaan te bied aan die inwoners. Die bydraes van Agra om hierdie mense te help is ook vir ons belangrik omdat daar baie van Agra se getroue personeel is wat bande het met mense in hierdie area.



Voor: James Hill, Besturende Direkteur van Bank Windhoek en Adjunkpremier Libertina Amathila met Birgit Hoffmann, Agra se Senior Bestuurder: Korporatiewe Sake en Derick Briers, Direkteur Hoofbestuurder van Poly Oak.

continued from page 6...

Treatment

be tetanus.

Treatment of retained placenta comes under the heading:
“first of all do no harm!”

Secondly gloves must be worn at all times when dealing with a retained placenta, preferably arm length plastic gloves worn over small latex gloves.

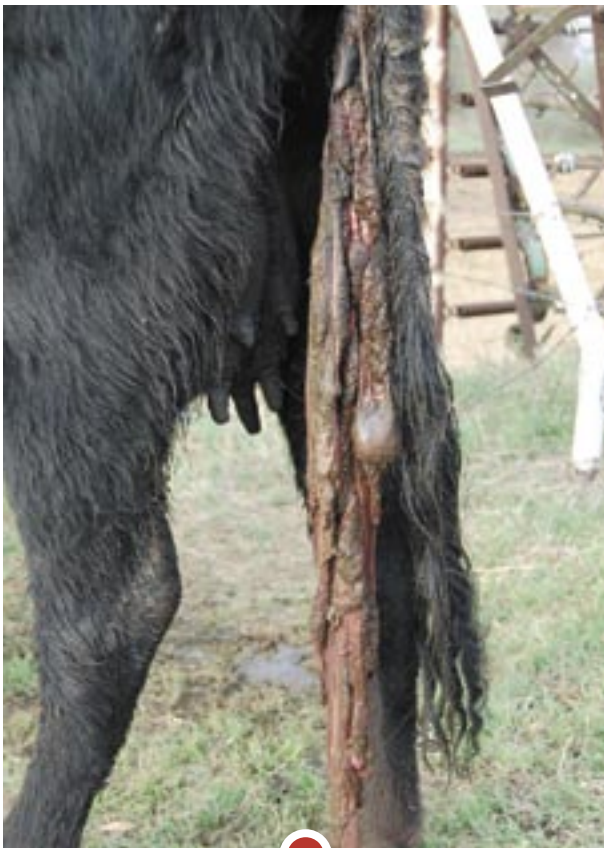
The goal of an ideal therapy of retained foetal membranes would be to hasten its separation and expulsion as well as eliminate bacterial contamination of the uterus. So far such a treatment does not exist. Manual removal used to be done but this method should not be used because of possible injury to the delicate lining of the uterus, the endometrium and cervix. There is also little evidence that such practice produces any beneficial effect, and it does not speed up the recovery of the uterus. The layman's practices of tying a weight to the placenta are not desirable. The weight frequently causes the cow to strain and causes premature and incomplete breaking away of the afterbirth, with a part remaining in the uterus. If the placenta is dragging on the ground it should be cut off at the level of the hocks to prevent it from being stepped on by the cow and torn off. Removing the placenta in an incomplete, rough, insanitary manner is always inadvisable. If the owner feels that manual removal of the placenta is indicated, or that the condition should be dealt with differently, including the use of hormones, prostaglandins and douching of the uterus, he should

consult a veterinarian.

The very conservative approach will be to allow the placenta to separate naturally with or without the aid of medication. If gentle traction on the placenta, by grabbing it with a gloved hand in the region of the cervix, does not result in easy and complete separation and expulsion, it is left alone for at least 72 hours. During the whole period of observation and treatment, the thermometer is the most important instrument, since fever will indicate systemic disease such as toxæmia and septicaemia which will necessitate treatment with systemic antibiotics, such as a long acting oxytetracycline (e.g. Agramycin LA; Terralon LA; Terramycin LA; Swamycin LA; Ecomycin LA; etc.). Indiscriminate dumping of large amounts of antibiotics locally into the uterus should be avoided in general, but specifically during the first 3 days, since a certain level of bacterial action is required for natural maceration of the foetal membranes. If retention persists after 3 days, pessaries containing antibiotics and proteolytic enzymes (e.g. Afterbirth Pessaries; Tetra-Fizz Super Afterbirth Pessaries) can be inserted into the uterus according to manufacturer's prescription. The proteolytic enzymes help with the maceration process, while antibiotics at this stage control excessive bacterial contamination. Generally nearly all cases will resolve within 7 to 10 days. What remains of utmost importance during that time is constant careful monitoring of the cow, including the taking of rectal temperature twice daily.

Dr Rainer Hassel

Animal Health Consultant, Agra Professional Services



Retained Placenta in a cow. It is partially dried and quite contaminated. Most of the placenta seems to be hanging out and in this case the remainder can probably be removed manually quite easily.



Retained Placenta in a cow. It is still moist and seems quite fresh. Only a small portion of the placenta is hanging out, with most of it still in the uterus. Manual removal should not be attempted in this case.



AGRA NEWS

NEW APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS AT AGRA



Gunther Roeber

is appointed as Public Relations Officer in Head Office



Wimpie Coetzee

is appointed as agronomy sales representative



Johan Leijenaar

is appointed as branch manager at Agra Grootfontein



Melt Erasmus

is promoted to branch manager at Agra Outjo



Willem Kotze

is appointed as a Internal Auditor at Head Office



Marius Smit

is appointed as branch manager at Agra Windhoek