



RING

AGRA CO-OPERATIVE LTD MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER / AGRA KOÖPERATIEF BPK SE LEDE NUUSBRIEF

EPAs: WHAT EVERY FARMER SHOULD KNOW

Wallie Roux, Trade Policy Analyst

A new buzzword

As could be expected, the word "EPA" has recently entered the language of the farming community as a new buzzword. Although much talked about, there still exists a lot of confusion on precisely what EPAs are and what its real impact would be on the farmers in the country.

EPAs are **Economic Partnership Agreements** - a word of European origin to describe the new trade relations between the European Union (EU) and the countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group as from the beginning of 2008. Why a new word and why new trade relations?

In terms of international trade law an era of more than 30 years of trade preferences between the EU and the ACP came to an end on 31 December 2007 and was replaced by EPAs.

What are these EPAs?

The first preferential trade agreement between the EU and the ACP group was signed in 1975. The Lomé I Convention was the first of its kind to allow preferential market access to the EU without requiring the ACP to open up its own markets (reciprocity). In addition to the trade preferences, the EU also granted development aid to the ACP.

Lomé I was followed by three consecutive Conventions until the signing of Lomé IV in 1990. After independence, Namibia became a member of the Lomé IV Convention in December of 1990. As part of the Lomé IV Beef Protocol Namibia received preferential market access to the EU for its beef exports.

However, during 1994 the United States (on behalf of the South American banana-producing countries) launched a trade

dispute against the EU before the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for giving market preferences to Caribbean banana-producing countries. The WTO eventually ruled that the EU's preferences to the Caribbean countries were against the rules of the WTO. The reason was that the Lomé IV preferences gave an unfair trade advantage to ACP countries over other WTO members (especially developing countries).

After this final ruling the EU applied to the WTO for a waiver (extension) until the end of 2007 to negotiate new trade arrangements with the ACP that would comply with the WTO rules. The first step of these negotiations was the signing of the Cotonou Agreement in 2000.

The Cotonou Agreement is a 20-year trade and development agreement between the EU and the ACP, with the trade chapter as a transitional arrangement until the end of 2007 when the WTO waiver expired. The Europeans created the word "EPA" as a name for the new trade agreements to replace the trade chapter of the Cotonou Agreement as from the beginning of 2008. However, this time the EU followed a different route in their negotiations with the ACP.

Instead of negotiating with the ACP as a group, the EU proposed to split the group and conduct negotiations with six different geographical groupings (configurations). These configurations are the Caribbean, Pacific, West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and a Southern African Development Community (SADC) configuration. This proposal by the EU weakened the bargaining power of the ACP group.

Furthermore, the SADC bloc of 14 members was eventually split between three regional

configurations, namely Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and SADC. Namibia is part of the SADC configuration, together with Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Angola and Tanzania. The EPA negotiations with the SADC configuration were officially launched in Windhoek on 08 July 2004. (Note that South Africa was only included in the SADC configuration in February 2007.)

Just to complicate matters further, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland are all members of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). However, in the case of the EPA negotiations with the EU it is not SACU that is included in the SADC configuration, but the individual member countries. This has resulted in pressure on SACU as a customs union.

EPAs are essentially Free Trade Agreements between the EU and the ACP configurations and not development agreements. Despite the promises of development-friendly EPAs, the only funds that were earmarked for development come from the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) and these funds were already allocated. The additional funds promised for development do not exist.

What happened at the end of 2007?

The EU's EPA-agenda includes all the requirements to satisfy the WTO waiver (trade in goods only), but they have added additional requirements, namely trade in services and other so-called new generation issues (investment, government procurement, competition, intellectual property rights, trade facilitation, etc). Note that services and the new generation issues are not required to comply with the WTO rules, despite the EU's insistence to negotiate these as part of their EPA-agenda.

EPAs: WHAT EVERY FARMER SHOULD KNOW

Toward the end of 2007 the EU experienced resistance from the ACP countries to negotiate services and other new generation issues. They eventually gave in and decided to go for a goods-only agreement to satisfy the conditions of the WTO waiver. However, they changed tactics again and introduced a two-step approach to the EPA negotiations.

The first step would be to initial an interim EPA (IEPA) before the end of 2007 on condition that services and other new generation issues be negotiated during 2008 (step 2). After the last round of EPA negotiations between the EU and the SADC configuration in Brussels, Namibia decided not to initial the IEPA. The reason being that it encountered a list of unresolved issues that would have a detrimental effect on its long-term economic development.

It was only after the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon when the European Commission (EC) President assured African governments that the unresolved issues would be re-opened for negotiations in 2008 that Namibia decided to initial the IEPA. The initialling of the IEPA by Namibia paved the way for continued market access to the EU. However, there are still unresolved issues that could jeopardize Namibia's market access to the EU.

Towards the end of 2007, the EU has put immense pressure on the different ACP configurations to initial IEPAs, because these IEPAs needed to be notified to the WTO. However, to date the EU has not yet notified any of these IEPAs to the WTO.

A second strategy by the EU to pressure the ACP configurations into initialling the IEPAs was to subject those developing countries that did not initial to the EU's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) as from the beginning of 2008. The GSP is a less favourable trading arrangement than the Cotonou Agreement.

As an example, beef is not included in the GSP list of beneficiary products. In the case of Namibia, beef exports would on average attract a 90% import duty in comparison to an 8% under Cotonou. This would mean that beef exports to the EU under GSP would be terminated.

Despite all the pressure on the ACP configurations to initial IEPAs, only one configuration, the Caribbean, eventually

initial a full EPA with the EU. Then the EU changed tactics again and targeted individual countries within configurations to initial IEPAs. At the end of 2007 only 35 countries out of a total of 79 initialled IEPAs. This number includes 18 countries from Africa, two from the Pacific and the 15 from the Caribbean.

Unresolved issues in the IEPA

Let's look at a few of the unresolved issues that Namibia experienced during 2007 with the initialling of the IEPA.

According to the text of the IEPA Namibia should abolish all quantitative restrictions on imports with regards to cereal production. This would mean that the annual closing of the border to harvest the local maize and wheat crops for processing would not be allowed. Local cereal production would then have to compete with cheap imports without a guarantee of a market for the products. This in turn would jeopardize Namibia's food security.

Namibia should also freeze all export levies/taxes/charges and no new ones may be introduced. These levies/taxes/charges are used to promote local value-addition and manufacturing.

Another worrying requirement is the phasing out of infant industry protection. Namibia received infant industry protection for the pasta and UHT milk industries under SACU legislation. Such protection would thus not be possible in future.

The EU is also demanding the inclusion of a "non-negotiable" Most Favoured Nation (MFN) clause. This would mean that if Namibia extends more favourable trading conditions to any other country in future trade agreements, those more favourable conditions would automatically apply to the EU.

The initialling of the IEPA also means that Namibia should provide reciprocal market access to the EU as from 01 July 2008 at the latest. According to the agreed upon tariff liberalization schedule the country should open up 80% of its market for EU exports. Another 44 sensitive tariff lines should be opened up by 2015 and a further three sensitive lines by 2018.

REDAKSIONEEL

Veranderinge in die hedendaagse lewe is nie onafwendbaar nie en hoe ons gaan aanpas by veranderinge, is vir elkeen van ons 'n groot uitdaging. Vir Agra om aan die stuur van sake te bly vir baie jare wat kom, moet die Koöperasie na alternatiewe bestuurstrukture kyk om die maatskappy tot voordeel van sy lede te kan bestuur in die moderne wêreld. U kan dus meer hieroor lees in die artikel wat verskyn op bladsy 4.

'n Goeie Swakara veiling word verwag wat op 10 April 2008 sal plaasvind. Bykans 20 000 pelse meer is ingeneem vir hierdie veiling in vergelyking met die April 2007 veiling.

Ons begin ook in hierdie uitgawe van die Ring 'n nuwe reeks van artikels oor "roofdiere op veeplase in Namibië".

'n Volledige inentingsprogram vir beeste, skape, bokke, perde en troeteldiere (honde) verskyn op bladsy 11.

Enkele reaksies is ontvang op 'n uitnodiging om te reageer op artikels in die Ring of om behoeftes uit te spreek vir artikels wat graag geplaas moet word. Ek glo daar is baie suksesverhale of ervarings uit ons landbougemeenskap wat ons deur middel van die Ring met ons lesers kan deel.

Laat gerus van u hoor. Stuur u bydraes aan die bemerkingsbestuurder van Agra, Birgit Hoffmann by Privaatsak 12011, Windhoek of per e-pos aan birgith@agra.com.na

Groete tot 'n volgende uitgawe.

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Where does this leave Namibia?

The EPA negotiations would continue in 2008 and have to be finalized by the end of the year. The idea is that by then the ACP countries would sign a full EPA with the EU. Namibia has to take into account the unresolved issues of the IEPA, its market access to the EU, the cheap EU products that will enter its markets as part of the deal, as well as its SACU obligations.

Given the EU's history of different tactics to force its way in the negotiations during 2007, one could assume that they would do the same in 2008. The chances are thus slim that the unresolved issues would be resolved.

The farming community should appreciate the unenviable position of the government to negotiate an agreement under these circumstances that would be beneficial to the country's long-term economic development.

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Peter Kazmaier, Chief Executive Officer

Doing business successfully in the 21st century has been characterised by the organisation's ability to adapt to rapid change. As fast as technology is helping us develop new solutions for old problems, we need to ensure that the risks inherent in these changes are identified and controlled adequately.

We have seen that white collar crime has exploded in the so-called first world with billions of US dollars being embezzled by relatively junior personnel. This again has placed an enormous burden on boards of directors and executive management to comply to strict corporate governance principles. At the same time it is a given that we will only survive in these competitive environments of today if we implement change faster than our opposition.

At Agra, we exist to serve the needs of our members - and these members cover the broadest spectrum of the agricultural industry in size, produce and level of technological application. There are Agra members growing organic produce using little more than sunshine and rain. There are Agra members using almost space-age technology to optimise the yield on large herds of livestock.

Meeting these diverse needs means we need to structure the co-operative accordingly. We need to remain abreast of developments and trends in our sector to ensure that our services and product ranges can help to solve our customers' problems in a most modern and effective manner.

During 2008, management and the board of directors (who are all members) will closely examine the organisational structure of Agra to determine if a more modern structure would not offer better benefits for our members. This process will involve researching trends and successful businesses around the world. Our mission is amongst others "to grow our business". In order to grow we need new markets and new income streams which will allow us to continue to service our agricultural customers in the years to come.

Growth is essential for any business entity

to survive in the long term. Growth, however also implies that there will be a need for capital to fund both new fixed assets as well as additional working capital.

The co-operative structure is not optimally geared for the funding of such growth, and that is one of the reasons why alternative business structures will be investigated and analysed in detail to ensure that Agra is sustainable into the future and has a role to play both in the agricultural and the business sector of Namibia for years to come.

It could mean for example, that very definite changes could be applied to our current business model, such as changing the Agra business structure as we currently know it to a Public Company i.e. Ltd, which has proven its effectiveness not only in Namibia but all over the world.

The biggest change would be the following:

- In a co-operative structure, every shareholder who has contributed the minimum amount necessary to become a member has the same voting rights as another member who might have contributed millions in share capital. In a co-operative, one member has one vote, irrespective of his/her investment in the organisation.

It should therefore be clear from the above, that there is very little incentive to entice members to make large capital investments into their co-operative.
- In a company the person/institution that invests the largest amount of capital into the business, has the largest say in the determination of the future of the company; and what is very important is that the biggest shareholder also earns the largest dividends declared from the profits made by the company. It is much easier in such a business structure to convince shareholders to invest more capital in order to achieve growth for the benefit of its shareholders.

However, whatever will be done to remain competitive, our thinking has to remain fresh and innovative and our strategy adjusted when necessary. To date, Agra has

spent large amounts of money and energy to adapt to the changing environment. Ultimately, the challenge is not only to remain in business for the short term, but to have sustainable businesses ensuring the long-term survival of our organisation.

We are currently investigating various concepts on both a co-operative level as well as operational divisional level. In this process we will consult extensively with our directors, our auditors and financial advisors before any concept, strategy or restructure will be presented with definite plans and outcomes to our members for their consideration.

Change is a constant. We believe change will take us to new heights.

BYKANS 20 000 PELSE MEER VIR APRIL 2008 VEILING

Wessel Visser, Bestuurder: Agra Pelssentrum

84 643 Pelse is ingeneem deur die Agra Pelssentrum vir sortering vir die April 2008 veiling te Kopenhagen, Denemarke. Die pelse bestaan uit ongeveer 75 000 swart, 3 500 grys, 4 700 wit en 450 bruin pelse. Grys gaan nie op hierdie veiling aangebied word nie. Dit is 19 769 pelse meer as in vergelyking met April 2007 waar 64 874 pelse by die Agra Pelssentrum ingegeeg is.

Veilingsverwagting: Die winter in veral China en Rusland was baie koud, die nertspelspryse styg nog steeds en die belangstelling in Swakara tydens die Hong Kong skou was baie goed. Ons verwag dus 'n goeie veiling wat op 10 April 2008 gaan plaasvind.



WELSYNORGANISASIES TREK VOORDEEL UIT DIE “HAVE A HEART” PROJEK

Die “Have A Heart” projek was deel van 'n promosieveldtog wat plaasgevind het gedurende die feesseisoen. Hierdie veldtog het aan Agra die geleentheid gegee om, anders as ons normale teikengroepe, ook na ander groepe uit te reik en by te dra tot die ontwikkeling van die totale gemeenskap. Agra het N\$20 000 beskikbaar gestel van die sosiale fonds, wat aan welsynorganisasies oorhandig is. Agra takke het die geleentheid gehad om 'n welsynorganisasie van hul keuse te identifiseer wat 'n deel van die donasie ontvang het.



In Tsumeb het die SOS Children's Village 'n skenking van N\$1 042 van Corne Muller, Agra takbestuurder ontvang. Hier word

120 kinders gehuisves tussen die ouderdom van 3 en 18 jaar. Hulle gaan die geld aanwend om hulle sportveld op te knap. Die streeksbestuurder van SOS was ook teenwoordig en 'n sertifikaat van dank is aan Corné oorhandig.



Jannie Fourie, Agra takbestuurder Keetmanshoop oorhandig die tjek van Agra aan ARC (Christ's Hope International). Huidiglik word 28 kinders permanent by hierdie instansie gehuisves en versorg.



Duif Coetzee, takbestuurder van Agra Karibib het Karibib se toedeling aan die Children's Education Center in Usakos oorhandig, wat hulle weer gaan gebruik vir 'n fondsinsamelingsfunksie.



Melt Erasmus (heel regs) het namens Agra Outjo die oorhandiging aan die ouetehuis op Outjo gedoen. Agra Outjo gaan die inwoners van die ouetehuis help met die regmaak van die dak wat baie lek en om die standaard waarin die mense bly te verbeter. Op hierdie stadium is daar 14 mense in die ouetehuis. (R)

ORIGIN ASSURED (OA) STATUS FOR NAMIBIAN SWAKARA

Wessel Visser, Manager Karakul

The Karakul Board sent an official application to the International Fur Trade Federation (IFTF) to become part of the OA approved list of countries and species. **The Board of the IFTF approved OA status to Namibia at their meeting on the 30th of January 2008.** The chairman of the IFTF welcomed Namibia as new member and congratulated the Karakul Board and Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry for what have been achieved to meet the qualifications to get OA status.

This means that the Karakul industry of Namibia is committed to responsible and humane treatment of our Karakul sheep to ensure that **Swakara** is produced sustainable as a natural product.

International Fur Trade Federation (IFTF)

The IFTF was first established in 1949 and today represents 39 national fur trade associations and organisations from 30 countries. Through its work and the activities of its members, the IFTF seeks to protect fur trade interests and to promote innovation, high standards and a positive factual image of fur and the fur industry internationally.

The IFTF has recently collaborated with the four major international fur auction houses, American Legend Co, Finnish Fur Sales, Copenhagen Fur and North American Fur Auctions, to introduce a new fur labeling programme, the **Origin Assured** (OA) label. This groundbreaking new programme supports the IFTF's ongoing commitment to transparency through the fur industry's supply chain.

The IFTF has recognised that today's consumer experts to be provided with honest, clear information on where the fur comes from as well as a reassurance that it is produced in a responsible manner.

OA Trade Mark

The OA label assures consumers that the fur or fur product they are buying originates from a country where national legislation and regulations regarding standards governing fur production are in force. The standard is based on the international animal welfare guidelines.

This means that OA qualified fur will be identified and annotated by the different auction houses. The associated OA hangtags

were then made available to buyers of OA goods at the auctions and after moving through processing and manufacturing the fur products will carry the OA label which certifies that the product is 100% OA.

To make sure that everything is working correctly Cotecna, an international independent monitoring agency, has been engaged to check the process.

Namibia

As the popularity of **Swakara** continues to grow it becomes more important than ever to reassure consumers, retailers and designers that Karakul in Namibia is a responsible, well regulated industry that supports the highest animal welfare standards.

1. During 2006, a Code of Practice for the care and handling of Karakul sheep in Namibia was compiled by the Karakul Board which was accepted by the producers at the Producers' Forum meeting in September 2006.
2. By way of Decision number 14/21.08.07/007, Cabinet approved the Namibian Code of Practice and directs the Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry to instruct the Karakul Board of Namibia, in terms of the Pelt and Wool Act, no 14 of



1982 to implement the Code of Practice.

3. By way of the above mentioned decision of Cabinet, the Directorate of Veterinary Services is also instructed to control that implementation takes place in accordance with Cabinet's instructions.

Acknowledgement

The Karakul Board wants to express gratitude to:

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for their support to the Karakul industry in this regard.
2. The IFTF for their international leadership and vision towards animal welfare and conservation. We also thank them for recognising Namibia as the leading Karakul producing country in the world and allowing us to be part of this new prestigious fur labeling system.

Training Initiatives at Agra

Griffort Beukes: Manager Human Resources

Agra has embarked on a more aggressive training approach for the 2007/8 financial year. Agra's mission is:

To grow our business with a dynamic team, providing a great service experience.

In order to deliver on this promise, more funds will be spend on training in the 2007/8 financial year. Special attention will be given to the following training interventions:

- Customer Service Training;
- Product Knowledge Training - specifically, feeds & licks, fencing, pumps and water equipment, animal health and medicines;
- Stock Control Training;

- Computer Training;
- Supervisory and Management Skills Training.

In addition to the above-mentioned training, Agra's animal health expert, Dr. Rainer Hassel will attend to public lectures for emerging farmers, large stock management courses in conjunction with the Cheetah Conservation Foundation (CCF). Seminar and training dates will be communicated to our clients via posters at our branches and the Ring.

Our hope is that our training efforts will be rewarded by satisfied clients who in turn will make Agra their choice and destination for all their farming needs.

HOW TO PREVENT AND CURE ARTHROPOD BORNE DISEASES IN SHEEP

Dr. Rainer Hassel, Agra Animal Scientist

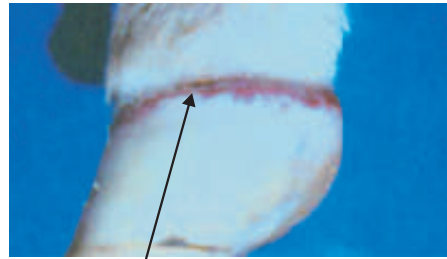
These are infectious diseases transmitted by arthropod vectors and include those transmitted by insects, ticks, tansans etc. Problems with these diseases are usually as a result of an increase in the vector population, which in turn is associated with the rainy season. Average, but especially above average rainfall, then can lead to an outbreak of one or more of these diseases. Control measures and vaccination programmes must be adjusted to take these factors into considerations. Two important arthropod borne diseases are highlighted in this article.

BLUETONGUE

Bluetongue is an acute insect borne viral disease of sheep caused by an orbivirus containing 24 different strains, of which 21 occur in Southern Africa. The disease can also affect cattle, goats and antelope, although clinical signs are seldom seen in these animals. Animals which recover from *Bluetongue* infection develop an immunity against that specific strain of the virus, but remain susceptible to other strains due to poor cross immunity between strains.

Transmission: *Bluetongue* is transmitted by the *Culicoides* midge which breeds in low lying areas where water accumulates, rivers, pans and dams especially after good rains and in warm weather. As a result the disease mainly occurs in late summer or fall, coinciding with a high vector population. It usually disappears after the first frost. Sheep breeds like the Namakwa Afrikaner, Black Headed Persian and Karakul are less susceptible to the disease than the Merino.

Symptoms: The incubation period of the disease is 4 - 6 days. The animal then develops a high fever, becomes listless and stops eating and shows rapid respiration. The mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes develop a red discoloration and those of the mouth and tongue changing to a reddish blue color later, hence the name. Small sores can be detected on the inside of the upper and lower lips. Secondary bacterial infection can lead to a muco-purulent nasal discharge and difficult



Hoof inflammation at the coronet

breathing. Inflammation of the coronet occurs where the skin joins the hoof, visible as a red line. The red line is more readily visible in a light hoof than a dark hoof. Proper cleaning of the hoof is required to view the red line which is more pronounced at the back of the hoof. Inflammation at the coronet leads to pain and lameness, which

can be so severe that the sheep lie down and cannot get up any more. Inflammation of the skin can lead to abnormal growth of the wool which can become visible 3 - 6 weeks after the disease. Muscle damage can lead to permanent twisting of the neck.

Treatment: There is no specific treatment for the *Bluetongue* virus and treatment is therefore aimed at clearing or preventing secondary bacterial infections, especially pneumonia using sulphonamide antimicrobial drugs, treating inflammation and pain with anti-inflammatory drugs and supportive treatment with multivitamin preparations. Separate sick animals in a small paddock and provide water, food and shade.

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SLEGS VIR DIEREGEBRUIK

Produkt van Suid-Afrika

MDB Maxicare

Reg. nr.: G31148; Wet 36/1947
MS-R 1058

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Strategiese breëspektrum produk

MDB Maxicare is 'n breëspektrum ontwormingsmiddel vir skape en bokke, wat die aktiewe bestanddele Cloasantal en Albendazol bevat. Die aktiewe bestanddele is onderskeidelik deel van die hoofgroepe Salisilaniëdes¹ en Benzimidazole². Cloasantal werk sistemies en Albendazol werk in die opswaaiingakanaal, wat MDB Maxicare 'n baie doeltreffende middel teen inwendige parasiete maak. MDB Maxicare is doeltreffend teen rondewurms, langwurm, lewantsakwurm, neusvlaglarwes en melkintwurm. MDB Maxicare het 'n werking van 3 weke teen Haarwurm en Hoekwurm. MDB Maxicare verhoed die uitbreek van rondewurmeiers indien die akkers teenwoordig is tydens dosering.

MDB Maxicare kan vir volwasse diere en lammers gebruik word.

Die onderstaande diagram dui die doeltreffendheid van MDB Maxicare vir die verskillende parasiete in skape en bokke aan:

Die onderstaande diagram dui die gemiddelde doeltreffendheid van MDB Maxicare aan teen 'n kontrole groep.

		neemstreekse ontstrikte Haarkwurm		Teleskopiese oortrekke (Blaaswurm) - skape		Fasiesse gigitre (Rood - lewantsak)
		kontrole	MDB Maxicare	kontrole	MDB Maxicare	
Oortrekke (skape)	Gene	0	100%	12.5%	100%	35.8%
	Doel	0	100%	0	100%	100%
	Doel	NA	88.8%	100%	100%	88.8%

MDB Animal Health

¹ Salisilaniëdes
² Benzimidazole

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HOW TO PREVENT AND CURE ARTHROPOD BORNE DISEASES IN SHEEP

Prevention and Control:

- A vaccine is available for prevention. It consists of three parts, A, B and C, each containing 5 of the most important *Bluetongue* virus strains. The 3 parts of the vaccine are administered with 3 week intervals, so that the complete course of vaccination requires 6 weeks. Due to the poor cross immunity, animals must receive all three vaccinations.
- Pregnant ewes should not be vaccinated during the first 10 weeks of pregnancies, due to potential foetal abnormalities.
- Ewes should, where possible be vaccinated 9 weeks before the breeding season.
- Vaccination produces quite a long lasting immunity.
- Lambs from vaccinated ewes have a passive immunity that lasts about 6 months and should not be vaccinated before 6 months of age.
- Lambs from unvaccinated ewes do not have a passive immunity and should be vaccinated at 4 months of age.
- Rams should receive the third vaccination at least 8 weeks before the breeding season.
- If sheep are vaccinated during an outbreak, each animal must be injected with a separate needle, to prevent the transmission of the disease by contaminated injection needles.
- Sheep should be moved to drier high ground.
- Sheep can be treated with insecticidal dips, sprays and pourons containing pyrethroids (Deltamethrin, Flumethrin, Cypermethrin) to control the midges.

RIFT VALLEY FEVER (RVF)

The name of the disease originates from the Great Rift Valley in Kenya, where the virus was isolated for the first time in 1930. In 1953 the virus was isolated from mosquitoes, which act as vectors of this disease. *Rift Valley Fever* is a severe acute insect borne viral disease of cattle, sheep

and goats and can also affect humans. During outbreaks of the disease among sheep and cattle in 1975 deaths among humans occurred as a result of this infection. The disease causes abortions in pregnant sheep and death in young animals. A very similar diseases situation can also occur as a result of Wesselsbron virus infection. In fact it is extremely difficult, if not impossible to distinguish between the two diseases on clinical symptoms, and laboratory tests are actually required to determine which one is responsible for the disease outbreak. Both diseases occur under the same conditions.

Transmission: Initial transmission is by mosquito bite, but further spread is as a result of direct contact with aborted foetuses and infected material. Disease outbreaks can be expected with warm humid weather at the end of summer after good rains. These conditions favor rapid multiplication of the mosquito vectors. Low lying areas containing water like pans, rivers and dams are also dangerous due to the presence of large numbers of mosquitoes.

Transmission to humans: Humans can become infected through direct contact while handling an aborted foetus or performing a post - mortem examination of a dead animal. The virus enters the body via mucous membranes or skin wounds. Veterinarians, stock owners and farm workers are most at risk. Transmission can also occur by drinking infected unpasteurized milk, by inhalation of the virus or by the bite of an infected mosquito, but this only occurs very rarely.

The Disease in Animals: Lambs and kids are very susceptible to RVF. They become very sick within 24 - 72 hours after infection, develop a high fever of 41 - 42 °C, become listless, stop eating and die. Up to 95 % of affected lambs can die. Adult sheep develop a high fever of 42 °C, listlessness, loss of appetite, rapid respiration, regurgitation of rumen contents, foul smelling watery diarrhoea, blood in the stool and sometimes yellow jaundice. Pregnant animals abort and aborted foetuses decompose very rapidly. 40 - 60 % of pregnant ewes can abort and

15 - 30 % of affected adult sheep can die. The symptoms in goats are usually less severe. Although clinical symptoms in calves are usually less severe 10 - 15 % can die. In adult cattle abortions in pregnant cows are usually the only visible symptoms, but can be as high as 10 - 40 %.

The Disease in Humans: After a short incubation period of 3 - 7 days there is a sudden onset of high fever, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, vomiting, blood in the urine, blood in the stool, light hypersensitivity and poor vision. Recovery can take 1 - 2 weeks. The liver and eyes can be affected as part of later complications. Damage to the eyes can lead to detachment of the retina and blindness. Due to severe hepatitis and encephalitis the disease can be fatal in 0,5 % of human cases.

Prevention and control: A number of measures can and should be taken to prevent and control this disease, keeping in mind, that the disease occurs sporadically and that it is generally impossible to predict whether good or above average rainfall will occur in the coming rainy season, that will give rise to a large vector population. Furthermore the possibility of Wesselsbron Disease must also be kept in mind. The control measures include:

- Vaccination with a live vaccine: All non-pregnant animals can be vaccinated with a live vaccine.
- Vaccination with an inactivated vaccine: Pregnant animals can be vaccinated with an inactivated vaccine. This vaccine is expensive since it is time consuming to produce and only has quite a short shelf life. The immunity is also not long lasting. Animals vaccinated for the first time must receive a second vaccination 3 - 4 weeks later and subsequently a booster vaccination each year.
- Pasteurization of milk.
- Vector control (impractical).
- Moving susceptible animals away from low lying areas and open water.
- Wearing protective clothing, gloves and masks when handling carcasses and performing post mortem examinations. Carcasses must be buried or incinerated.

ROOFDIERE OP VEEPLASE IN NAMIBIË

Liz Komen-NARREC

Die ekonomiese stabiliteit van 'n plaas is afhanklik van sy produksie kapasiteit en die beskikbare mark. Die produksiekapasiteit word deur baie veranderlikes beïnvloed, waarvan een die verlies van vee deur roofdiere kan wees. Die effektiewe bestuur van roofdiere verhoog die veeproduksie deur die verwydering van roofdiere wat die veeverliese veroorsaak en deur toe te laat dat ander roofdiere en aasvreters die menigvuldige ander plaagspesies op die grond kan beheer.

In die volgende uitgawes van die Ring kan u uitsien na 'n reeks van 5 artikels oor die effektiewe bestuur van roofdiere op veeplase wat die volgende sal insluit:

- 1) Plaasbestuur beïnvloed veeproduksie.
- 2) Die identifikasie van die eintlike veedoders is belangrik.
- 3) Eienskappe van die mees algemene soog- en roofdiere van vee in Namibië.
- 4) Toenemende veebeskerming.
- 5) Roofdier beheer bestuur.



PLAASBESTUUR BEÏNVLOED VEEPRODUKSIE

Veldbestuur kan die produksie verbeter as 'n volhoubare en gesonde omgewing gehandhaaf word. 'n Gesonde omgewing verskaf goeie weiding aan die vee, verbeter sy weerstand teen parasiete en siektes, verhoog sy vrugbaarheid en voorsien 'n natuurlike prooibasis aan roofdiere. Die drakapasiteit van die veld kan mettertyd slegs verbeter word, as dit in lyn is met die seisoengebonde veevoorrade, en as die vee in die veld in die regte verhouding tot die tipe weiding of weiding tot hulle beskikking staan.

Oorbeweiding en ander swak veldbestuurs- tegnieke veroorsaak bosindringing en woestynskepping en sal die natuurlike prooimoontlikhede vir roofdiere verminder en daarmee die probleme tussen roofdiere en vee vergroot.

Daar moet op 'n behoorlike manier van die veekarkasse ontslae geraak word, sodat roofdiere wat ook aasvreters is, nie 'n smaak vir vee kan ontwikkel nie. Boere wat karkasse

in die veld as kos vir aasvoëls en ander roofvoëls agterlaat, behoort die karkasse in omheinde gebiede te plaas wat ten minste een hektaar groot is.

Trop-/ kuddebestuur verbeter produksie deur inagneming van die tipes teelrasse, teelseisoene, parasietebeheer, siektevoorkoming en veebeskerming. Teelrasse en lyne kan spesiaal uitgesoek word met die oog op kenmerkende oorerflike eienskappe: vrugbaarheid, weerstand teen droogtes, hoë voedselomsetsyfers, weerstand teen veesiektes en sterk moedereienskappe.

Die teelseisoene kan beheer word om sodoende:

- Die tydperk te verkort waartydens jong vee spesiale beskerming vereis.
- Klein hoeveelhede jong vee te eniger tyd te bestuur deur die kalf- of lamtydperk te verdeel.
- Die broeiseisoen in lyn met die tydperk te bring waartydens daar baie prooiwild vir roofdiere beskikbaar is. Jong vee is meestal aan die einde van die winter aan risikos blootgestel wanneer die getalle muis, rotte, insekte, reptiele en ander prooiwild laag is.
- Maksimum weiding vir dragtige vee en groeiende lammertjies en kalwers te voorsien.
- Te voorkom dat die vee op die een plaas die fokus vir voedsel van roofdiere word deur die kalf- of lamseisoene met die van buurplase te koördineer.

Parasietbeheer

Parasiete verswak die vee en versprei

siektes. Veld- en kampbestuur, veerasse en teelseisoene beïnvloed interne parasiete (ingewandswurms, coccidea en protozoa) en eksterne parasiete (bosluise, miete, vlooië en vlieë).

Basiese reëls vir die omgang met parasietegif is:

- Hou parasietegif weg vanaf voer, diere en slaapgoed tydens vervoer.
- Stoor die produkte in 'n koel en donker plek. Giftige produkte moet weggesluit word.
- Gaan die datum op die produkte na en verseker dat hulle tydperk nie verval het nie.
- Dieselfde produk (let op die chemiese, nie die handelsnaam nie) behoort nie seisoen op seisoen en jaar op jaar gebruik te word nie.
- Gaan die voorvereistes rakende die mengsel, spuitwerk en aanwending van die produk deeglik na.
- Gaan die dosering na wat vereis word per kilogram lewende gewig.
- Nuwe diere wat onlangs aangeskaf is, moet teen parasiete behandel word nog voordat hulle aan die trop of kudde blootgestel word.

LEES ALTYD DIE ETIKET VAN DIE PRODUK!

Voorkoming van siektes

Veld-en trop-/kuddebestuur sowel as parasietbeheer beïnvloed die weerstand van die vee teen siektes. Entstowwe, wat ontwikkel word om vee teen die uitbreek van sommige veesiektes te immuniseer, is slegs effektief as:

- entstowwe teen die korrekte temperatuur vervoer en gestoor word;
- inentingsprogramme betyds uitgevoer word;
- nuutverworwe diere in geënt word voordat hulle aan die kudde of trop blootgestel word;
- diere wat enige tekens van siektes toon, geïsoleer of van kant gemaak word.

Daar moet rekords gehou word van die entstowwe se reeksnommers en die inentingsdatums.

VACCINATION PROGRAMMES FOR CATTLE, SHEEP, GOATS, HORSES AND DOGS A GUIDE FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS & DOMESTIC ANIMAL OWNERS

Dr. Rainer Hassel, Agra Animal Scientist

The following vaccination programmes should be regarded as general guidelines and adapted where necessary to specific farming enterprises and disease situations. They generally represent the minimum that should be done. It should also be remembered that vaccination against certain diseases is compulsory by law. Infectious diseases which only occur from time to time and which are associated with specific weather conditions like above average or excessive rainfall, resulting in an explosive multiplication of insect vector populations present practical problems as far as their inclusion in vaccination programmes is concerned. Due to the fact that at the time when vaccinations should be given, usually in spring, we do not know what the situation is going to look like in summer, late summer or autumn.

CATTLE (EXTENSIVE BEEF RANCHING)

A) Essential: Anthrax (compulsory), Brucellosis (compulsory), Botulism, Black Quarter, Rabies, Vibriosis.

1) Adult cattle previously vaccinated: Anthrax, Black Quarter, Botulism (eg. Supavax) and Rabies (eg. Rabisin) annually.

2) Adult cattle not previously vaccinated: Supavax and Rabisin; 4 weeks later Duovax; then Supavax and Rabisin annually.

3) Breeding animals: Bulls, cows and heifers, Vibrin 2 - 4 weeks before the breeding season.

4) All calves (bull calves and heifer calves): At 6 months, Supavax and Rabisin, 4 weeks later Duovax.

5) Heifer calves only (in addition to 4): At 6 months Brucella S 19.

B) Optional Extra: Anaplasmosis, Reproductive combinations (BVD, IBR), Three Day Stiff-sickness, Lumpy Skin Disease.

CATTLE (FEEDLOT)

A) Essential: Anthrax, Botulism, Black Quarter, Respiratory combinations.

B) Optional Extra: Lumpy Skin Disease, Anaplasmosis.

CATTLE (DAIRY)

Calves

A) Essential: Paratyphoid (14 days)

B) Optional Extra: Respiratory combinations

Heifers

A) Essential: Anthrax, Brucella abortus, Black Quarter.

B) Optional Extra: Lumpy Skin Disease, Three Day Stiff-sickness, Reproductive combinations (BVD, IBR), Anaplasmosis, Vibriosis.

Cows

A) Essential: Anthrax, Black Quarter.

B) Optional Extra: Lumpy Skin Disease, Three Day Stiff-sickness, Reproductive Combinations (BVD, IBR), Anaplasmosis, Vibriosis.

SHEEP:

Lambs: Essential

1) From day old: Orf

2) 4 Months: Glanvac 3, One Shot Ultra 7, Corynebacterium ovis, Brucella Rev 1 (rams).

3) Booster vaccination 4 - 6 weeks later: Ultra Choice 7.

Diseases covered by this: Clostridium perfringens C & D, Cl. tetani, Cl. chauvoei, Cl. septicum, Cl. novyi, Cl. sordelli, Pasteurella, Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis, Corynebacterium ovis, Brucellosis.

Adult sheep: Essential

1) One Shot Ultra 7 - last 4 weeks of pregnancy - (annual)

2) Glanvac 3 - last 4 weeks of pregnancy - (annual)

3) Enzootic Abortion - ewes before the breeding season - (annual)

4) Orf - if not previously vaccinated

Optional Extra: Rift Valley Fever, Wesselsbron, Bluetongue, Rabies, Botulism, Anthrax.

GOATS

Kids: Essential

1) From day old: Orf

2) 4 Months: One Shot Ultra 7 - repeat 4 weeks later, Glanvac 3 - repeat 4 weeks later, Brucella Rev 1

Adult goats: Essential

1) One Shot Ultra - last 4 weeks of pregnancy; annually

2) Glanvac 3 - last 4 weeks of pregnancy; annually

3) Enzootic Abortion - annually before the breeding season.

4) Orf - if not previously vaccinated.

HORSES

1. Tetanus & Equine Influenza: Equilis TE or Equeza T every 6 months from 4 months of age.

2. African Horse Sickness : 2 component vaccine, administered 3 - 4 weeks apart, given annually in October/November. Foals from unvaccinated mares from any age, foals from vaccinated mares not before 6 months.

3. Rabies: Rabisin, all horses annually from 4 months of age. Can be given together with either one of the above 2.

DOGS

1. Puppies:

At 6 - 8 weeks of age: 5 in 1 vaccine (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Leptospirosis).

At 10 - 12 weeks of age: 5 in 1 vaccine.

At 14 - 16 weeks of age: 5 in 1 vaccine plus Rabies.

At 12 months of age: 5 in 1 vaccine plus Rabies.

2. Adult dogs:

Annually, 5 in 1 vaccine plus Rabies. Do not vaccinate pregnant bitches 5 in 1.

AGRA CONTRIBUTES GENEROUSLY TOWARDS SPCA

Agra/Auas Vet Med made a significant contribution of N\$50 000 towards preventative medicine for re-homeable animals (**cats and dogs**) cared for by the SPCA in Windhoek. The SPCA is an association not for gain involved in general animal welfare, anti-cruelty work, promotion of responsible pet ownership and caring for stray cats and dogs who also finds suitable homes for these animals where possible.

A total amount of N\$50 000 (fifty thousand Namibian dollars) from Agra's social investment fund has been made available to the SPCA for purchasing cat and dog vaccines and remedies to ensure that people adopting the animals, get healthy pets. In the current inflationary economical environment it will also help the SPCA to keep the selling price for re-homeable animals down.

The handover ceremony took place on

Tuesday, 4 March 2008 at Auas Vet Med which is situated in the Auas Valley Shopping Mall

As a subsidiary of Agra, Auas Veterinary & Medical Products (**Auas Vet Med**) is a pharmaceutical wholesaler and distributor of veterinary pharmaceutical products. Auas Vet Med offers specialised veterinary and medical products to farmers, state-and private veterinarians, livestock medicine retailers, Agra branches, pharmacies and the general public. Animal health care products include scheduled veterinary medicine and over-the-counter products. Auas Vet Med also stocks a wide variety of veterinary tools and instruments. Although Auas Vet Med is situated in the Auas Valley Shopping Mall in Windhoek, Auas Vet Med also services the market with products, service and proficient advice through all Agra branches countrywide. (E)



(f.l.t.r) *Birgit Hoffman, senior manager marketing at Agra and Dr. Ian Baines, chairman of the SPCA at the signing of the sponsorship agreement.*

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT AGRA

Hanno Snyman



We welcome Hanno Snyman back to the Agra team. Hanno is the newly appointed Manager: Tenders & Special Projects who will be focusing on new business ventures and special projects.

Martin Koen



Martin is the newly appointed branch manager for Agra's Outjo branch. Martin is not a newcomer to the agricultural industry. He is also a weekend farmer. Martin joined Agra on 1 February 2008.

Martie Ellis



Martie started her career with Agra in 2006 at the livestock section and worked herself through the ranks until she was promoted to branch manager at Aranos with effect from 1 February 2008.

THE VETERINARY FIRST AID KIT

Dr. Rainer Hassel, Agra Animal Scientist

The **Veterinary First Aid Kit** was compiled by Agra to provide the stock owner and farmer with a ready to use set of instruments, equipment, remedies and drugs to enable him to examine an animal, apply first aid and treat certain conditions and diseases on his farm in the absence of veterinary professional help or until such time that help can be rendered by a veterinarian. The emphasis in this regard is on basic first aid and therefore the kit only contains the absolute bare necessities to achieve this aim. Another important principle regarding this kit is that as far as possible, it should be used with the guidance and advice of a veterinarian, preferably the veterinarian that is usually consulted by the stock owner. Not only can the veterinarian provide detailed information on the correct use of specific items included in the kit, but can also suggest additions to it to suit specific needs of different farmers under varying farming conditions or for different farming operations. Such a veterinary practitioner can also provide certain scheduled drugs, like penicillin antibiotics, which cannot be purchased over the counter, for specific disease conditions, when necessary.

This kit also enables the farmer to collect certain minimum data like body temperature or basic samples like blood smears, which are very important for the consulting veterinarian to make a diagnosis and give advice. It does not include equipment for dehorning, castration, mass vaccination, deworming or the control of external parasites, since this is beyond the scope of first aid and rather forms part of general routine farming practices. Each kit is provided with an inventory list, which includes a brief summary of the use of each item. Certain items, which are usually found in any household, like brown sugar, vinegar or vegetable oil are listed as essential, but not included, to reduce costs.

Detailed demonstrations, explanations and training in respect of the use of the kit are provided by Agra as part of public lectures and training courses for farmers, farm workers and Agra personnel.

The following limiting factors regarding this kit should be kept in mind:

- 1) The kit cannot provide for all eventualities under all conditions, since it would be too bulky and become too expensive.
- 2) The kit only provides for the treatment of single or a few animals and does not make provision to cope with large scale problems or disease outbreaks, again due to economic considerations.
- 3) All drugs and remedies are subject to expiry dates, which should be adhered to. Some may only be used very seldom, others never, but all need to be discarded and replaced upon reaching the expiry date. This apparent *waste*, however, is offset by the advantage of having something available in case of an emergency and saving the life or productivity of an animal, thus preventing a loss.



Apart from the mere treatment of animals, the kit also makes provision for cold storage of drugs, protection of the operator, restraint of an animal, examination and sample taking.

The kit is sold by Agra, packed in a plastic container at approximately N\$ 2600.00, suitable for storage and transport.

Agra will greatly appreciate any ideas and suggestions by farmers and veterinary professionals regarding modifications or additions to the kit in order to improve its usefulness and benefit to the stock owner.

continued on p. 14

JONG ONTWERPER ONDER TOP 8 MET WIT SWAKARA KLEDINGSTUK

Die Gucci Kolleksie is vol pels, sekerlik 'n inspirasie. Die nuwe tendens is dat die bekende modehuise soos Gucci, Prada en Fendi ook pels in hul 2008 mode kolleksies insluit. Gucci is die voorloper; Prada het ook reeds 'n aansienlike hoeveelheid wit Swakara aangekoop en dit behoort deel te wees van hul April mode kolleksie. Dit plaas pels natuurlik in 'n nuwe konteks in die mode wêreld en sal verseker die

aanvraag na Swakara stimmuleer.

Twee Duitse studente het by die IFTF- (International Fur Trade Federation) (waarvan Namibië lidland is),

continued on p. 14



The contents and use of the kit are as follows:

VETERINARY FIRST AID KIT	
ITEM	USAGE
Storage and Transport	
Cool box and freezer blocks	Keeping vaccines & antibiotics cold
Tools and Equipment	
Disposable syringes (10ml; 20ml; 50ml)	Vaccinations and injections
Needles for disposable syringes (18GA; 20GA; 21 GA)	Vaccinations and injections
Scalpel handle and blades	Lancing of abscesses
Microscope slides and spreader slides	Making blood smears to send to veterinarian
Thermometer (mercury)	Taking rectal temperature
Disposable dosing syringe (50ml), Catheter tip	Dosing single animals; Flushing of abscesses with saline solution
Hoof knife/good quality pocket knife	Hoof treatment
Non-sterile examination gloves	Protection
Arm length rectal gloves	Protection
Ropes various lengths and sizes	Restraint of animals
Bull Lead (Neustang)	Restraining head of animal
Scissors	Cutting bandaging material
Measuring tape	Determine body weight by measuring circumference
Torch and/or headlamp	Examination and lighting
Disinfectants	
Cotton wool	
Povidone Iodine liquid (Woundine)	Disinfect wound, eye treatment, footrot, abscesses
Table salt to prepare saline solutions	Flush abscesses and wounds
Savlon and/or Dettol	Hand wash & disinfectant
Methylated Spirits	Disinfect skin and instruments
Stockholm Tar	Seal dehorning wounds
Remedies	
Antibiotics: Tetracycline (Terralon LA)	Bacterial infections
Antibiotics: Sulphonamides (DISULFOX)	Bacterial infections, respiratory, foot infections
Metabolic Stimulants (Kyrophos)	Supportive treatment
Vit A injection	Treat & Prevent Vit. A deficiency. Retained placenta
Vit B complex injection	Supportive treatment
Eye powder (Terramycin Eye Powder)	Eye infections
Wound Aerosol (Necrospray)	Wound treatment
Healing oil/spray (Supona)	Wound treatment
Tick & parasite spray, Tick grease	Control external parasites
Intra-uterine pessaries	Retained placenta; uterus infections
Bloat Guard	Frothy bloat
Activated charcoal	Diarrhoea and plant poisonings
Hypo (Sodium Thiosulphate)	Prussic acid poisoning
Zinc sulphate and/or Copper Sulphate)	Footbaths for foot disinfection
*Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salt)	Wounds, Foot bath, Laxative
*Vegetable oil	Frothy bloat & rumen disturb
*Vinegar & brown sugar	Rumen stasis
Potassium permanganate (Conny's Crystals)	
Liquid paraffin (Pure mineral oil)	Lubricant; laxative; frothy bloat
Vitamin B Complex injection	Supportive treatment
Glucose Powder	Swelling in vaginal prolapse
Acrisulf ointment	Wound treatment
Milking Cream (melksalf)	Lubrication

* Essential but not included in kit.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

- Please note expiry date of medications and do not use after that.
- Don't use any medication on animal species for which it has not been registered.
- Keep Veterinary First Aid Kit in a cool, dry place, out of the reach of children.
- For any further advice, call your local veterinarian.

Recipe for mixture to treat rumen stasis

Mix together:

1kg brown sugar,

1litre vinegar,

200 ml sunflower seed oil

1 tablespoon Epsom salts

1 packet brewers' yeast and add water to make up a total of 4 litres.

Of this mixture give per mouth 1 - 2 litres at a time every 12 hours to cattle and 250 - 500 ml every 12 hours to sheep and goats.

Recipe for mixture to flush wounds and abscesses

Dissolve completely 2 heaped teaspoons full, or 10 g of ordinary table salt in 1 litre of lukewarm water.

SWAKARA KLEDINGSTUK

ontwerperskompetisie (REMIX) ingeskryf en deurgedring na die kortlys van die agt beste internasionale jong ontwerpers. REMIX is 'n jaarlikse ontwerpers-kompetisie vir jong ontwerpers wat gesamentlik deur die IFTF en Mifur (Milaan Fur and Fashion Fair) georganiseer word en die weners word tydens die Milaan modeskou aangewys. Hierdie kompetisie se gewildheid neem toe en is 'n inspirasie vir jong ontwerpers in die pels mode industrie.

Een van die kledingstukke (**foto**) is deur Bianca-Maria Keil van Esmod Modeskool (Duitsland) ingeskryf (wit Swakara oorjas). Die Karakoelraad van Namibië ondersteun die ESMOD modeskool finansiëel **en skenk ook jaarliks** 'n sekere aantal Swakara pelse aan hulle wat gebruik mag word deur die jong studente.

By die Internasionale Pels- en Leer Skou (MIFUR) in Milaan (Italië) wat plaasgevind het van 12 tot 16 Maart 2008, kon skougangsters stem vir die beste inskrywing. Hierdie skou is ook bygewoon deur Wessel Visser, bestuurder van die Karakoelraad en nog 'n raadslid, Bernd Rothkegel van die Ministerie van Landbou, Water en Bosbou.

(R)

NAMIBIAN LEADERS AND ACHIEVERS GET RECOGNITION - GOLD FOR AGRA

Agra has achieved another milestone in its drive to be the number one agricultural business when it was honoured with two golden and three silver awards during a special awards function that took place on Friday, 22nd February 2008 at the Safari Court Hotel.



Agra was rated highest in various categories in a country survey conducted by the Professional Management Review (PMR), during 2007. The purpose of the survey was to profile Namibia as a growth point and potential investment area for foreign and local developers and investors; to measure companies, institutions, government entities and individuals on their contribution to the economic growth and development of the country, management and corporate governance; to measure companies, institutions and government entities' competencies; and to measure brand awareness. Nearly 8 000 ratings were sourced and the seventh survey to be conducted by PMR in Namibia.

Agra received the following awards:

- 1) In the Business Sector: Tractor and Farming Implements Dealers in Namibia, Agra was highest rated and received a Silver Award.
- 2) In the Business Sector: Agriculture (crops, fruits, maize, wheat) in Namibia, Agra received the highest rating and received a Golden Arrow Award for this achievement.
- 3) A Silver Arrow Award in the business sector agriculture (livestock).
- 4) Business Sector: Farming co-operatives, Agra was highest rated and received the Silver Arrow Award.
- 5) In the Business Sector: Fertilizer companies in Namibia, Agra received the highest overall rating and were awarded the Golden Arrow Award.

The PMR awards are aimed to identify and give recognition to Namibian leaders for their outstanding achievements in the business environment. (E)

AGRA Auctions: May 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Workers' Day / Ascension Day	2 School Holiday	3 Outjo Game Auction @ 14:00
4 Cassinga Day	5 Public Holiday	6 Gibeon	7 *Karakul Auction, Mariental Bethanie Grootfontein Okahandja	8 Araras Windhoek Large Stock	9 *Boer Goat National Auction, Windhoek Gobabis @ 09:00 Outjo	10
11	12 Windhoek Small Stock @ 14:00	13 Asab Rehoboth Large Stock	14 Blaksdam Otavi	15 Aroab Otiijwarongo	16 Mariental	17
18	19 Sandamap	20 Leonardville Outjo	21 Berseba Grootfontein Dulkersvlief	22 *Dorper Auction, Keet- manshoop *Brahman Stud Sale, Windhoek Aub	23 Gobabis Gochas Loskop	24
25 Africa Day	26 Public Holiday	27 Rehoboth Small Stock	28 Karasburg	29 *Bonsmara Auction, Farm: Har- tebeestloop Keetmanshoop Otiijwarongo Windhoek Large Stock	30 *Hochfeld Bull & Female Sale, Farm: Okongame	31

Commercial auctions starts @ 10:00 otherwise as indicated

Enquiries:
Commercial auctions: Contact the nearest Agra branch

* Stud auctions:
Contact Kiep Lepen - Large Stock (081 124 0648) or Gert van Wyk - Small Stock (081 122 3315)

Totale Uitverkoop
Santa Gertrudis Stoet
H H Mercker

**OKOMBAHE STOET
IS BEKEND VIR GOEIE
GEHALTE VROULIKE DIERE**

**30 April 2008
10:00**

Agra Veilingskrale, Gobabis

**40 Koeie
30 Kalwers
20 Verse (1 - 2 ½ jaar)
20 Jong bulle (1 - 2 ½ jaar)
1 Stoetbul**

Kiep Lepen: 081 124 0648 Eddie Reed: 081 259 8999
Hansie Mercker: 062 - 568 068 MC Human: 081 122 3611
E-pos: livestock@agra.com.na

agboek die volgende datums!

Mei 2008:
7de: Karakoelveiling - Mariental
9de: Boerbok Nasionale Veiling - Windhoek
22ste: Dorper Topramveiling - Keetmanshoop
22ste: Totale uitverkoop van Wit Brahman Stoet - Windhoek
29ste: Bonsmara Veiling - Hartebeestloop
30ste: Hochveld Bull & Female Sale
Okongame (Brahman, Simmentaler & Hereford)

Junie 2008:
6de: "Northern Select Winter Bull & Female Sale"
(Brahman & Simmentaler) - Windhoek

Julie 2008:
1ste: Karakoel Produksieveiling - Gibeon
4de: Nguni Nasionale Veiling - Windhoek
9de: Gesamentlike Dorper Produksieveiling - Karasburg
18de: Gesamentlike Sentrale Santa Gertrudis Veiling - Windhoek
24ste: Dorper, Wit Dorper & Boerbok Produksieveiling - Plaas: Lushof, Kalkrand distrik
30ste: Noordelike Bulveiling (Afrikaner, Angus, Brahman, Limousin, Simmentaler & Simbra) - Grootfontein
30ste: Karakoel Produksieveiling - Keetmanshoop