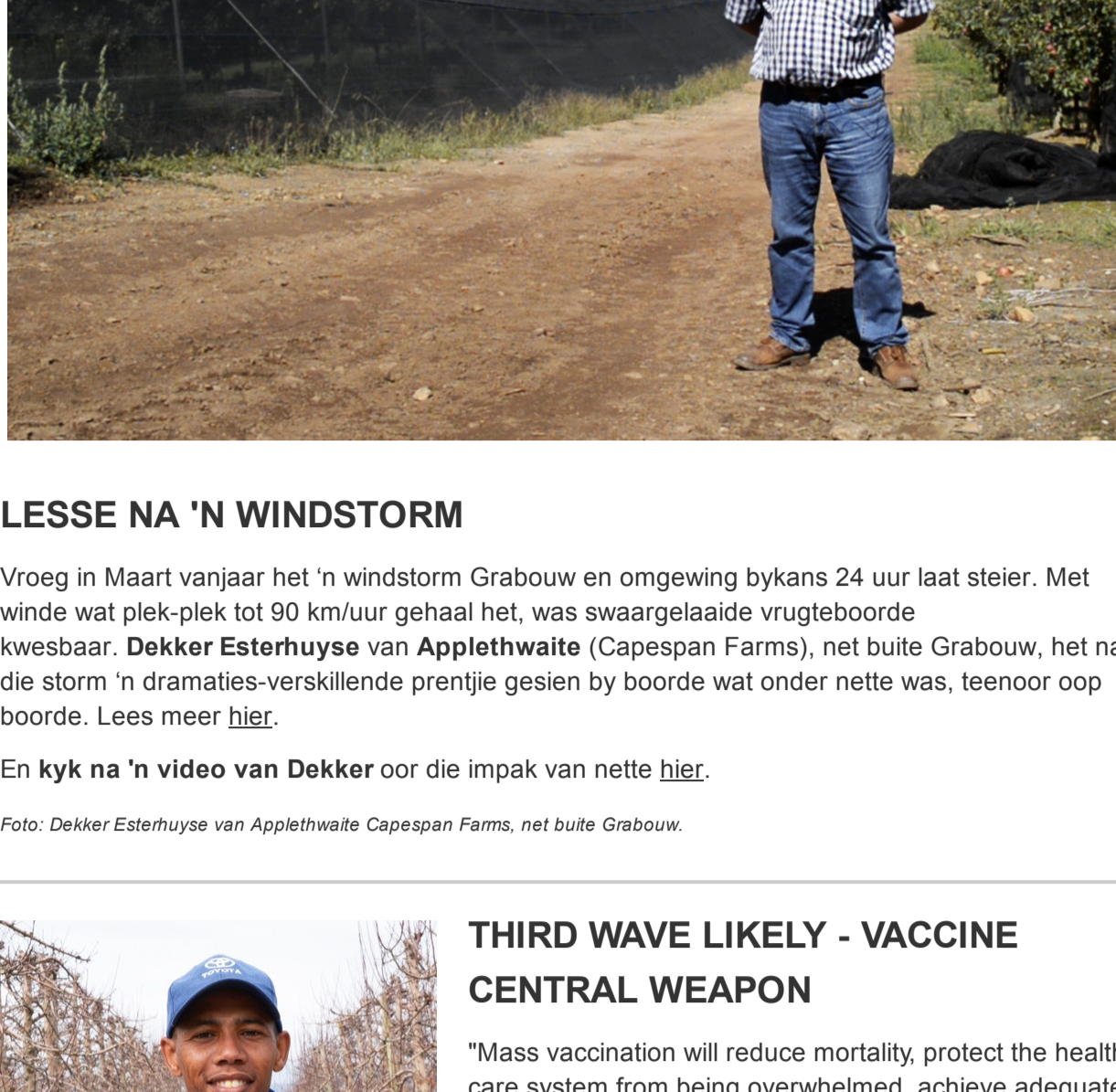


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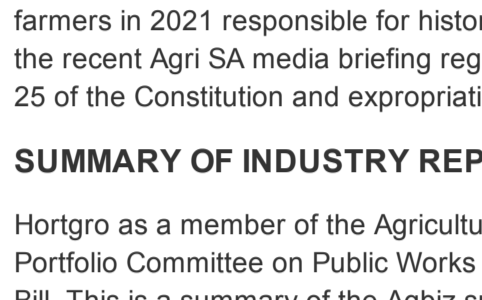


### LESSE NA 'N WINDSTORM

Vroeg in Maart vanjaar het 'n windstorm Grabouw en omgewing bykans 24 uur laat steier. Met winde wat plek-plek tot 90 km/uur gehaal het, was swaargelaaide vrugteboorde kwesbaar. **Dekker Esterhuysen van Appelhwaite** (Capespan Farms), net buite Grabouw, het na die storm 'n dramaties-verskillende prentjie gesien by boorde wat onder nette was, teenoor oop boorde. Lees meer [hier](#).

En kyk na 'n video van Dekker oor die impak van nette [hier](#).

Foto: Dekker Esterhuysen van Appelhwaite Capespan Farms, net buite Grabouw.



**I AM ESSENTIAL AREN'T YOU?**  
Maychen Manjvel, Agri's Got Talent

### THIRD WAVE LIKELY - VACCINE CENTRAL WEAPON

"Mass vaccination will reduce mortality, protect the health care system from being overwhelmed, achieve adequate population coverage and develop herd immunity to reduce transmission."

This was the message from Western Cape Chief Director: Health and Strategy, **Dr Krish Vallabhjee**, at an agricultural forum that was recently held in Paarl. Read more [here](#).

Follow and share the social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter.

### EXPROPRIATION WITHOUT COMPENSATION

#### AGRICULTURE HAS STRATEGIC VALUE

Agriculture as a sector has unmeasurable strategic economic value. And it is unfair to hold farmers in 2021 responsible for historic events. **Dr Roelof Botha** and **Annelize Crosby** spoke at the recent Agri SA media briefing regarding the controversial proposed amendment of Section 25 of the Constitution and expropriation without compensation (EWC). Read more [here](#).

#### SUMMARY OF INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIONS

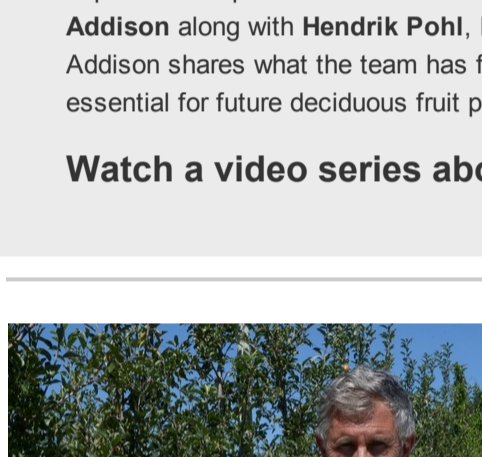
Hortgro as a member of the Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) made submissions to the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure on the recently published Expropriation Bill. This is a summary of the Agbiz submissions as an aid to Hortgro members. Read it [here](#).



### TRANSPORT OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS - INFORM YOURSELF

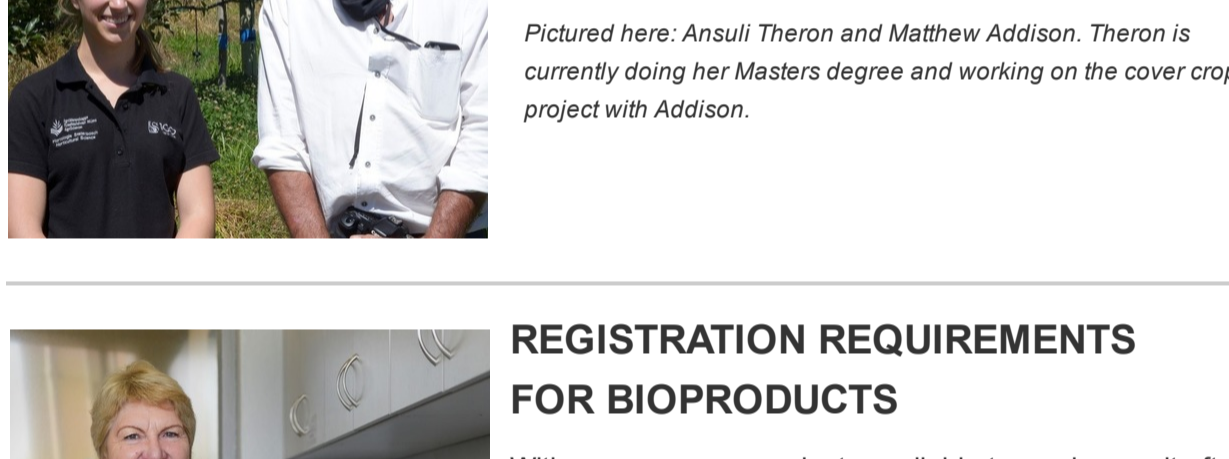
The tedious fruit industry calls on all agricultural stakeholders to ensure the dignity and safety of agri workers when people are being transported. Stakeholders need to inform themselves of legislation and follow good practice guidelines. This is a serious matter that continuously and unnecessarily damages agriculture's reputation. Read more [here](#).

*Pictured here: Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Ivan Meyer, with George Hugo (left), an agri worker from Grabouw, showing good transport ideals.*



### EXCEPTIONAL FRUIT HARVESTS EXPECTED

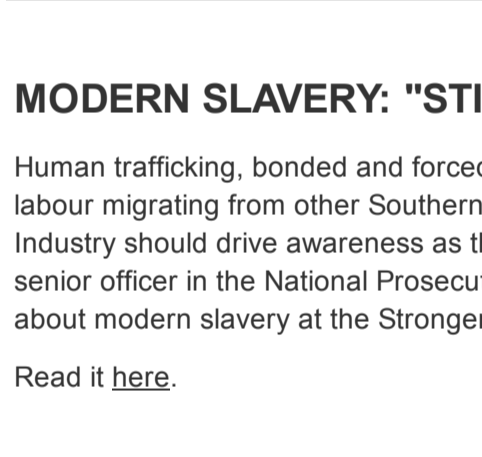
Hortgro's General Manager: Trade and Markets, **Jacques du Preez**, gives an update of the current pome fruit season. Covid-19 still remains a challenge on both the production, pack and market side, but things are going well thus far. Read more [here](#).



### COVER CROPS - BIG BENEFITS FOR GROWERS

Research on soil health and orchard floor ecology is an emerging topic in agriculture as it is an important component of sustainability. Hortgro Science Crop Protection Manager, **Matthew Addison** along with **Hendrik Pohl**, had the vision to initiate a cover crop project in 2017. Addison shares what the team has found to date and why he believes diverse cover crops are essential for future deciduous fruit production in South Africa. [Read the article here](#).

Watch a video series about the cover crop trial [here](#).

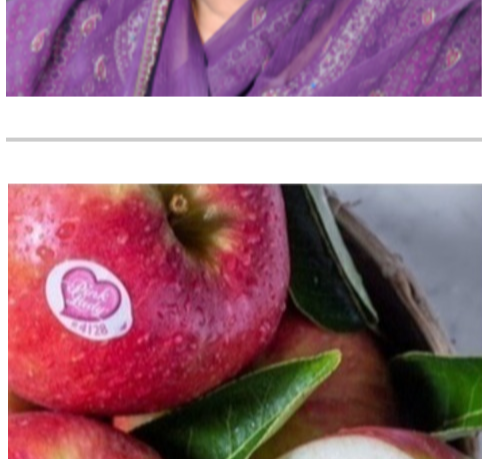


### ALL ABOUT THE COVER CROP TRIAL

**Matthew Addison**, explains the layout, reasoning and management of the cover crop trials, with sites in the Warm and the Koue Bokkeveld.

Read more [here](#).

*Pictured here: Ansuli Theron and Matthew Addison. Theron is currently doing her Masters degree and working on the cover crop project with Addison.*



### REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BIOPRODUCTS

With so many new products available to producers, it often confuses the user. **Sheila Storey** from Nemlab says producers have to make sure that bioproducts are registered before taking out the credit card. [This article is the second in the series.](#)

Also, watch a video of Sheila explaining the 'dos and don'ts' of bioproducts [here](#).

*Pictured here: Sheila Storey in her lab*

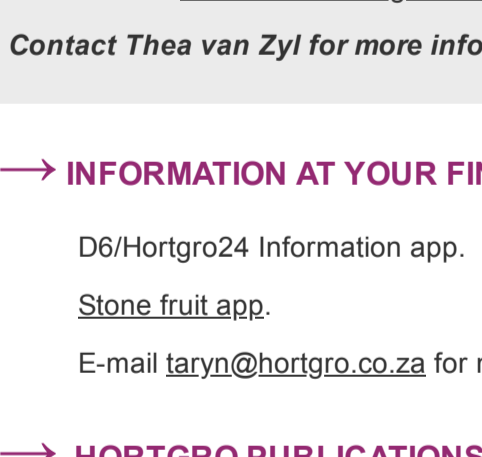
### LATEST ON PSHB

The **polyphagous shot hole borer beetle** (PSHB) with its deadly fungus (*Fusarium euwallaceae*) has recently created widespread havoc on trees in the Western Cape. While multiple research teams are currently studying PSHB, there are no known remedies to combat the pest. Early identification and complete eradication of the tree (removal and having it wrapped and burned in a designated municipal area) seems to be the current operational practice. Download a guide here: [Polyphagous Shot-hole borer - PSHB](#)

### MODERN SLAVERY: "STILL WORK TO BE DONE"

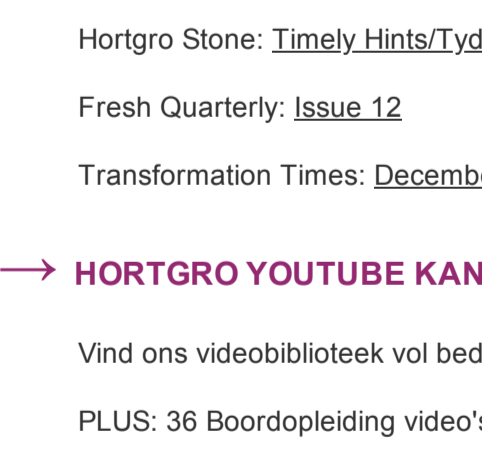
Human trafficking, bonded and forced labour, are not unknown in South Africa and often involve labour migrating from other Southern African Development Community (SADEC) countries. Industry should drive awareness as there is still a lot that needs to be done. **Carina Coetzee**, a senior officer in the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and **Retha Louw**, SIZA CEO, spoke about modern slavery at the Stronger Together Symposium 2021 that was recently held.

Read it [here](#).



### VANGILE TITI-MSUMZA APPOINTED FRUIT SA CHAIRPERSON

On 08 March 2021, the Fruit SA board elected **Vangile Titi-Msumza** as chairperson of the organisation, succeeding Justin Chadwick. **Anton Kruger** will assume the role of vice chairperson. Both appointments are effective from 1 April 2021. Read more [here](#).



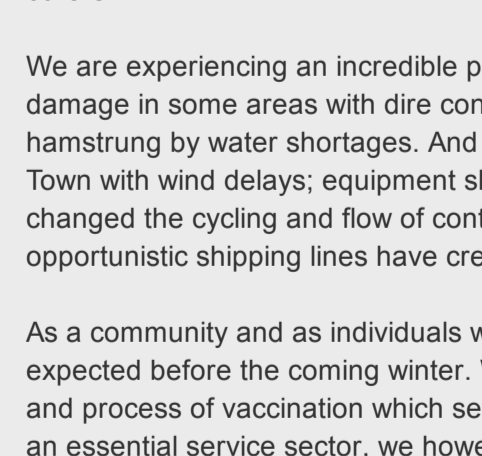
### WEBINAR: PREVENTING INTERNAL BROWING IN CRIPPS PINK

In association with [Pink Lady® South Africa](#)

6 April 2021 - Via Zoom

Contact Thea van Zyl ([thea@hortgro.co.za](mailto:thea@hortgro.co.za)) for more information.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



### HORTGRO PODCAST

Let's grow our fruit IQ!

Subscribe and receive notifications of informative talks by industry experts.

Episode 5: [Spesiale Markte: FCM en Vrugtevlug](#)

### HORTGRO EVENTS 2021

Informative webinars to look forward to:

- The ABC of cover crops (TBC)
- The various chill models and how well (or not) they fit RSA conditions (First week of June 2021)
- Developing an adaptability index for apple, plum and cherry cultivars for diverse South African growing areas (TBC)
- How climate change may affect RSA deciduous fruit cultivation in future (First week of June 2021)
- The net effect: All you want to know about the effects of nets on your deciduous crops (First week of June 2021)
- How to choose the best stone fruit rootstock for your orchard (TBC)

Please visit our [www.events.hortgro.co.za](http://www.events.hortgro.co.za) for more information and indicate in which events you would be interested in: [www.events.hortgro.co.za](http://www.events.hortgro.co.za)

Contact **Thea van Zyl** for more information via email on [thea@hortgro.co.za](mailto:thea@hortgro.co.za)

### INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

D6/Hortgro24 Information app.

[Stone fruit app](#).

E-mail [taryn@hortgro.co.za](mailto:taryn@hortgro.co.za) for more information.

### HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Hortgro Stone: [Timely Hints/Tydige Wenke: April 2021](#)

Fresh Quarterly: [Issue 12](#)

Transformation Times: [December Issue](#)

### HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

Vind ons videobiblioteek vol bedryfsinsigting [hier](#).

PLUS: 36 Boordopleiding video's nou beskikbaar in [AFRIKAANS](#), [XHOSA](#) en [ENGLIS](#)

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

#### COVID-19...A LUTA CONTINUA

After a year of different phases of lockdown and having had to endure some ridiculous and downright silly and illogical regulations, absurd behaviour by some (most?) politicians, with lots of people enduring extreme hardship and more, we as a deciduous sector can with certainty proclaim that we have been blessed way beyond our merit, virtue and expectations compared to others.

We are experiencing an incredible production year. Yes, there have been hail and wind damage in some areas with dire consequences for those affected. Yes, some areas are still hamstrung by water shortages. And Yes, the ongoing battle in our ports, especially in Cape Town with wind delays; equipment shortages; low productivity; global trading trends that have cycling the cycling and flow of containers; and changes in shipping routes and somewhat opportunistic shipping lines have created their own set of dynamics and problems.

As a community and as individuals we are "battle fatigued" but weary of the 3rd wave that is expected before the coming winter. We are rightly frustrated with the extremely slow progress and process of vaccination which seems to be struggling through one crisis after the other. As an essential service sector, we however continually stating our case that as producers, agri workers, their families and communities, our sector should be prioritised during phase 2 of the rollout. When and in what numbers, is anybody's guess, but as a sector, we can certainly assist with making available capacity and infrastructure with clinics and medical facilities on farms, at packhouses and at processing facilities.

The proverbial bottom line is that now is not the time to become *gatvol* or complacent. In fact, just the opposite should happen – we need to be even more vigilant, more focused and more diligent by following and complying with all risk mitigation protocols. It is not difficult or complex – just an issue of *vasbyt*.

For this very reason, Hortgro is participating actively in a renewed high-level communication campaign to sensitise our constituents to continue doing their little bit to safeguard ourselves as individuals and as a collective. This campaign will kick off in a few days' time.

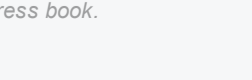
So, my appeal is that we MUST all re-commit and renew our efforts to ride out the storm. We will probably never again be without Covid, but having vaccines within 1 year of the pandemic breaking out, is a huge global achievement. We just need to ensure that the South African programme gets traction by providing support to the various authorities in the whatever way we can.

Stay safe and be more vigilant, diligent, aware and alert than ever.

Until next time.

Anton

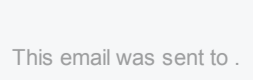
*Patience and diligence, like faith, move mountains. William Penn*  
*Alert today, alive tomorrow. Anon*



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