

HORTGRO NEWS

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DOUG OSLER—FARMING APPLES IN THE FREE STATE

In 1992 the first orchards were planted on the farm Fourieshoek in the Free State. At the time Doug Osler was ten years old. Today Doug oversees 109 ha of apples on two different production sites that are producing between 4500 to 5500 tons per annum with 40% of the trees not older than six years. Read Doug's story [here](#).



HEIN COETZEE ASKS TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT ORGANIC FRUIT

Global sales of organic food increased to nearly 110 billion euros in 2019. The positive impact of COVID-19 on the demand for organic food is expected to translate into even better figures for 2020. But what exactly is organic farming? And should growers see it as a marketing opportunity? Hein Coetzee, chief operating officer at TopFruit, was so intrigued by the lack of local organic produce that he made it the topic of his MBA research project. He shares some fascinating perspectives [here](#).



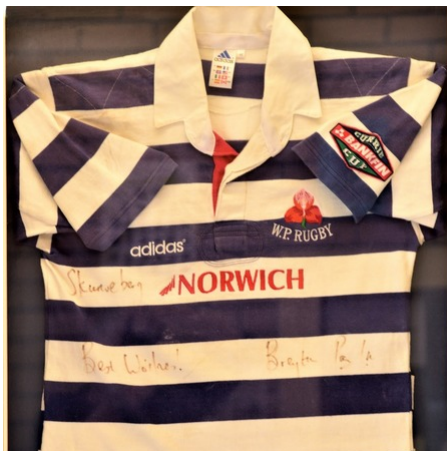
VAN APPELS TOT KROKODILLE

Lae koue-behoefte appelkultivars, andersoortige windbrekers, innoverende meganisasie, hoë nektarienbome, en krokodille in besproeiingsdamme is maar van die interessante ervarings wat die Hortgro Science-span in Junie vanjaar op besoek aan die Limpopo gehad het. Lees die storie [hier](#).

Foto: Van links, Louis de Wet tussen die lae koue-behoefte appels onder net op Marlo Farms se hoofplaas in Polokwane, met Wiehann Steyn (rug na kamera) en Hugh Campbell.

INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER CAMPAIGNS STREAK AHEAD DESPITE UNREST, CYBERATTACK

Just as the logistical chain was recovering after the unrest mayhem, Transnet was hit by a cyberattack that brought the major South African ports in Cape Town, Gqeberha, and Durban to a virtual standstill. On the positive side, South Africa expects to produce a record crop of 1 million tons of apples this year and to export 45% of this. "We also anticipate a record export volume of almost 490,000 tons this season to markets all over the world – from Mexico and Canada in the West, to China in the East," says **Jacques du Preez**. Read more [here](#).



OP-DIE-BERG: HEARTBEAT OF AN INDUSTRY

Op-die-Berg is a bit of a phenomenon. Founded only in 1961, it must be one of the youngest towns in South Africa. It is named after the Skurweberg on which it was built. As an agri-hub, it serves a huge and critical area with roughly a radius of 120 kilometres representing more than 60 farms of which about 80% produce mostly deciduous fruit. Read the story [here](#).

Pictured here: Breyton Paulse's rugby jersey hangs in the Skurweberg High School foyer.



BEEKEEPERS BEEF UP POLLINATION SERVICES

With the introduction of many new crops, beekeepers are coming under enormous pressure to meet the increasing demand for managed beehives. Western Cape beekeepers are meeting the challenge of rapid agricultural growth in the province by introducing new measures to improve and professionalize their pollination services.

Read it [here](#).



AGRI YOUTH SERIES: PORTIA SOLOMON FROM ENGINEERING TO PLANTS

Portia Solomon graduated as a civil engineer and found herself designing roads. Spending much of her free time in her garden, she decided to take the plunge and study horticulture instead.

Read Portia's remarkable story [here](#).



FRUITLOOK DE RUST CASE STUDY

De Rust, situated in the Elgin Valley, is a farming business split in two: 150 hectares of apples and pears, as well as 72 hectares of vineyards. Karin Cluver's grandmother started the farming business, planting their first apple orchards in 1948. The Cluver's passion for the environment, sustainability, and taking care of people are in their genes. Blue North compiled a case study of FruitLook technology use on De Rust farm. Read it [here](#).

Pictured here is the Cluver clan.

HORTGRO CONCEPT ORCHARD PROGRAMME

The 2nd phase of the Orchard of the Future, i.e. the Hortgro Orchards Programme, is about to commence. For more information on the programme, its five main focus areas, and how to submit a potential orchard, please view the [information document](#) or visit the [Hortgro Orchards web page](#).

MODULÊRE KURSUS IN VRUGTEVERBOUING

Hierdie kursus bied aan produksie- en afdelingsbestuurders die geleentheid om hulle graad- of diplomakursus "af te stof", deur blootstelling te kry aan top bedryfsleiers en konsultante. Die kursus (8 modules) vind by Koue Bokkeveld Opleidingsentrum plaas en beloop R8 165 per persoon. Die eerste module is: Groei-siklus van die vrugteboom, op 12 Augustus, deur prof. K. Theron.

Vir meer inligting kontak: euria@kbos.co.za



WEBINAR: Dried Tree Fruit and Canning Producer Information Day

- Hosted over Zoom on 18 August 2021
- 09:30 - 12:15
- Attendance is free

Keynote presentation by Professor Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University) titled "Our Long Walk to Economic Freedom".

For more information or to register [click here!](#)

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

D6/Hortgro24 Information app.

[Stone fruit app.](#)

E-mail thomas@hortgro.co.za for more information.

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

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

Fresh Quarterly: [Issue 13](#)

Transformation Times: [April Issue](#)

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

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

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Nie die Slegste, of die Beste nie?

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...Jannie Smuts het skynbaar by geleentheid gesê dat in Suid-Afrika die slegste, of die beste, nooit gebeur nie. So lees ek die week in een van die talle berigte oor die onrus en skokkende gebeure wat 2 weke gelede in KZN en Gauteng beleef is.

Dit is seker 'n kwessie van perspektief en hoe elkeen van ons, verskillende gebeure beleef en interpreteer. In my boek, was dit beslis baie sleg en 'n jammerlike faling en inploffing van 'n mislukkende staat wat nie instaat is om sy sosiale kontrak met ons as burgers na te kom nie.

Hier gaan politieke en verwante gevolge wees. Koppe sal moet rol, maar die vingerysery en *bubbles* hap deur ministers en senior staatsamptenare is lagwekkend, was dit nie so ernstig nie. Oor die oorsprong en oorsake wat die onrus veroorsaak het, word wyd bespiegel en daar sal seker nog boeke hieroor geskryf word. Hieroor wil ek my nie uitlaat nie: Bloot net (hoop en vertrou) dat die belhamels wat hieragter sit – en steeds sit met soortgelyke duistere planne vir die toekoms – geïdentifiseer, vervolg en gestraf sal word. In my boek, is dit hoogverraad en mag nie weer gebeur nie!

However, a lot of good also happened. The spontaneous response of communities standing united to protect their towns and cities against more looting, arson, and senseless destruction. The subsequent cleaning up of streets, malls, and warehouses by volunteers from all walks of life. People helping each other with food and related essentials. The rapid manner in which goods started to flow again. The donation of produce, mostly by the Agri sector, to hungry and devastated communities. Heart-warming and motivating indeed. A clear testimony to the character, culture, and ethos of self-help and self-do, on an unprecedented scale. It IS the best of times...

As aartsoptimis, ervaar ek hierdie gebeure as van die Beste wat hierdie land kan oplewer. Ons mag egter nie weer toelaat dat die potensiaal en Beste van hierdie land van ons gesteel word soos wat dit al in die verlede gebeur het nie. Ons het al beter geleenthede gehad in die Mandela-era, tydens en na die Wêreldbeker in 2010 en verskeie (meestal sport) triomf-oomblikke wat ons as 'n nasie en verenig en besiel het.

Moments that we allowed to be stolen from us by blatant opportunism, corruption, inciting, and criminal neglect by fat cat politicians. No more. Not again. Community and industry structures such as the Hortgro's of the world will need to become even more relevant as vital pillars of stability and ability as state capacity continue to dwindle further. The only way forward is one of self-do. For that, we need to take leadership and responsibility for our own destiny—As individuals and as a collective in our diverse communities. We really don't have a choice.

In my view though, we are on the verge of an era that can become the BEST this country can offer in all spheres of life.

Until next time

Anton

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." - Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.



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