

# HORTGRO NEWS

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## BOPLAAS THE EVOLUTION OF A FARM

After 10 generations of the Van der Merwes' custodianship, Boplaas in the Koue Bokkeveld not only is home to the oldest family business but, is one of the most exquisite fruit producers in SA. **Fanie van der Merwe** tells the Boplaas story [here](#).



## DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY AWARDS 2021

On Friday 10 September the South African deciduous fruit industry honoured individuals for excellence at the 46th Fruit Industry Gala Awards—in a year marked by unusual challenges and successes. Scaled-down from the usual illustrious affair, the event took place on Bernheim Farm, outside Paarl. The awards give recognition to an inclusive range of individuals in the agricultural sector, such as agricultural workers, researchers, scientists, and industry leaders.

- Meet the 2021 winners and find press releases in English, Afrikaans, and isiXhosa [here](#).
- Watch a video of the event below.



### AGRI'S GOT TALENT 2021 FINALS

The finals will be live-streamed via Facebook Friday 1st of October 2021 from 13:00.

[Click here to join us!](#)



### PLUM INDUSTRY AT CROSSROADS

South African plum growers are on the doorstep of a make-or-break season that will determine its future and sustainability. "We had a severe drought, a Covid pandemic, logistical threats, and then finally, when production recovered during the 2020/21 season, returns to growers were below cost and breakeven prices." **Jacques du Preez**, Hortgro's General Manager for Trade and Markets, is concerned about the coming season.

Read story [here](#).



## STEPHANIE MIDGLEY JOINS GREENAGRI TEAM

Whatever their views on climate change, most people in the pome and stone fruit industries can agree about the impacts of warmer weather and diminishing rainfall on their businesses. The severe drought of 2015–2017 in the Western Cape is still fresh in our collective memories, and devastating water shortages continue in regions such as the Klein Karoo. Hortgro spoke to **Prof Stephanie Midgley** who recently joined the GreenAgri team at Elsenburg. Read story [here](#).



## MARIUS RAS: 40JR VAN SPUITTEGNOLOGIE

**Marius Ras** is vir die afgelope vier dekades betrokke in die navorsing en ontwikkeling van tegnologie vir bespuiting. Hy het as jong meganiese ingenieur sy loopbaan by die Departement Landbou in Stellenbosch begin. Hortgro het by hom gaan kersopsteek oor veranderinge in bespuitingstegnologie, en wat die toekoms inhou. Lees die storie [hier](#).



## IS SOMETHING BUGGING YOUR ORCHARD?

"If a grower finds a bug that he doesn't know or hasn't seen before, then he needs support to be able to identify it as soon as possible so that he can take appropriate action," says Chris Jurisch, agricultural advisor at ArborTech. "You can't farm without knowing your enemy." Hortgro recognises the challenges growers face when confronted with a nondescript pest, that is why we have co-funded the insect identification service — Blue Bug Diagnostic Service — at Stellenbosch University. Read more [here](#).

*Pictured here Caro Kapp from Blue Bug Diagnostics.*



## WHERE THERE'S A 'WIL' THERE'S A WAY

'WIL' or Work Integrated Learning is a practical one-year programme as part of the agricultural diploma offered by Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). It's an exceptional tool to fuse theory and practice for farmers in the making. Read story [here](#).

*Pictured here Awonke Tyumse from Blue Jay Fruit.*



## HORTGRO SCIENCE STUDENT: DIAAN CRAVEN

"My dad worked in the agricultural industry on the retail side. So when I came back from school on holidays I spent a lot of time visiting packhouses and producers with him and that's where my passion for agriculture started." Meet **Diaan Craven** [here](#).

## COVID SICK-LEAVE AND MANDATORY VACCINATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE

**Andre Bloem** hosted a webinar on the subject in September. Download the Q&A [here](#).

## POME AND STONE STATUTORY LEVIES 2021 - 2022

We are currently in year 3 of the 4-year cycle from 1 Oct 2021 - 30 Sept 2022. Find summaries of the pome and stone budgets, levies, and council budget notes [here](#).

### → INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

D6/Hortgro24 Information app.

[Stone fruit app](#).

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

### → HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

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

Fresh Quarterly: [Issue 14](#)

Transformation Times: [August Issue](#)

### → HORTGRO YOUTUBE KANAAL

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

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

UIT DIE UITVOERENDE DIREKTEUR SE PEN

## Bedryfsdienste en -funksies

Die Hortgro Pome- en Stone-producenterade het pas die 2021/22-begrotings bespreek en goedgekeur. Meer detail elders in hierdie nuusbrieff. Hierdie is die 3de jaar van die huidige 4-jaar siklus.

Die begrotings is die resultaat van 'n indiepte analise en prosesse waar advieskomitees en spesialiste op verskillende terreine behoeftes en prioriteite bepaal en dit dan itv van die 11 bedryfsfokusareas in projekte en programme verpak word. Die begrotings word ook belyn met die voorskifte van die Nasionale Bemerkingsraad en die 4-jaar strategiese plan op grond waarvan die heffings oorspronklik gemotiveer is.

Gegewe die uitstekende 2020-21 volume jaar, het die Hortgro Pome direksie aanbeveel dat die eskalering van die appel/peerheffings met 'n jaar uitgestel word. Die kernvrugbegroting is dus geskoei op dieselfde tariewe wat vanjaar gegeld het. Ongelukkig kon dieselfde nie met steenvrugte gedoen word nie, gegewe die laaste 3-4 jaar se baie swakker oeste veral op pruime en appelkose.

In totaal is R104,8 miljoen goedgekeur. Dit opsigself bring 'n geweldige groot verantwoordelikheid en aanspreeklikheid vir effektiewe aanwending. Ekself en die res van Hortgro se bestuur en personeel neem die taak wat aan ons toevertrou word, met groot erns op. Ons het ook groot waardering vir ons produsente en pakhuisse se voortgesette ondersteuning van, en aktiewe deelname aan, bedryfsstrukture.

Dit, word verseker nie as vanselfsprekend aanvaar nie. Ons as bestuur en personeel, en die bedryfsleierskap sal voortgaan om die fondse wat aan ons toevertrou word met die nodige verantwoordelikheid aan te wend en effektief te bestuur. Waar moontlik sal ons ook steeds ons bes doen om addisionele fondse tot die breë bedryf se beste voordeel te ontsluit gegewe dat bedryfsbehoefte steeds groei, terwyl ons hulpbronne beperk is.

Ek wil ons produsente verseker dat ons nie oog sal verloor nie en sal bly fokus op daardie kwessies wat die grootste verskil aan u onderskeie besighede sal maak. In 'n toenemende "failed state scenario", is die uitdagings legio en moet ons toenemend meer met minder doen. Én, in die proses moet ons ook anders dink en doen. *More of the same* gaan bloot nie die paal haal nie.

Dit is egter die realiteit en ons sal aanhou om op alle terreine beide plaaslik en internasionaal met *like minded* strukture en groeperings saam te werk om toenemend *enablers* te ontsluit. Onsekerhede in 'n al vinniger veranderende omgewing, vereis pro-aktiewe en konstruktiewe maniere van doen.

Tot volgende keer.

Anton Rabe

*Winners don't do DIFFERENT things. But they do things DIFFERENTLY.* - Anon

*The future is uncertain, but that can be a good thing.* - Jennifer Niven



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