

HORTGRO NEWS

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CONTENTS

- Packhouse rugby is on point
 - AGT musiekskouspel wen vir Landbou
 - Something is rotten...at our ports
 - Industry auditing pushback
 - Jong bedryfsleier – Yvonne Erwee
 - From dope to hope
 - Events in pictures
 - Hortgro Science Thank You Breakfast
 - PSHB Agri Writers at Lourensford
 - Langkloof Seminar and orchard walk
 - Hortgro receives the AgriSETA Excellence Award
 - WATCH: Meer as Grond met Kobus Eigelaar
 - Anton Rabe op Landbouweekliks
 - From the Executive Director's desk
 - Publications and video library
-



Packhouse rugby is on point

The deciduous fruit industry recently had its own Rugby Cup – a one-day tournament between the packhouses in the EGVV region. [Read more](#) to find out who won with one point...seriously!



AGT Musiekskospel wen vir Landbou

Agri's Got Talent se onlangse musiekskospel by die Afrikaanse Taalmonument, Paarl, was 'n onvergeetlike magiese aand en het weereens gewys watter talentvolle landbouwerkers daar in die vrugte- en wynbedrywe is. Lees meer [hier](#).

Something is rotten...at our ports

Despite all the meetings from the operational level to Minister Pravin Gordhan and the National Logistics Crisis Committee under the auspices of the President we are finding ourselves in a dire situation with all the ports in the country. **Jacques du Preez** shares his thoughts [here](#).

Find Prokon October stone fruit quality report [here](#).

Industry auditing pushback

In the last decade, duplicated gatekeeping systems had severe cost and time constraints on South African agriculture producers and exporters. South African agriculture industry is pushing back towards duplication of compliance requirements. **Jacques Domnisse** investigated. Read more [here](#).



Jong bedryfsleier – Yvonne Erwee

Hortgro het die bedryfsleierskapprogram in 2022 geloods om jong mense as toekomstige bedryfsleiers te ontwikkel. Yvonne Erwee van Monteith Trust is een van die eerste groep wat dié program voltooi het. Lees meer [hier](#).

If you're interested in the young industry leaders programme then apply for 2024 [here](#).

From dope to hope

The Fruit Workers' Development Trust and PROCARE are working together to tackle social issues on farms such as gender-based violence and substance abuse. Read more [here](#).

Events in pictures

Hortgro Science Researcher Thank You Breakfast



Cara van der Westhuizen



Elke Crouch



Rachelle Bester



Anna Mouton



Megan Merrifield

Hortgro Science recently held its annual Researcher Thank You Breakfast, an event to acknowledge and thank everyone who contributes to the development and growth of the industry.

Cara van der Westhuizen was awarded the Karen Theron/Hortgro Science prize for best fourth year student in horticulture 2022.

Best final report in the post-harvest programme in 2023 Superficial scald in Granny Smith – understanding the mechanisms and limitations of the storage protocols used by industry and assessing risk indicators in storage for scald development was awarded to **Elke Crouch**.

Rachelle Bester received the Best final report in the crop protection programme in 2023 Characterisation of the association of apple stem pitting virus (ASPV) with pear stony pit disease.

Best final report in the crop production programme in 2023 Sensitivity of various apple rootstocks to water stress was awarded to **Stephanie Midgley**.

Special appreciation award went to **Anna Mouton** and **Megan Merrifield**, the producers of the Fresh Quarterly.

Agricultural Writers SA attend a PSHB orchard walk





Crop protection manager, Matthew Addison lead the discussion on polyphagous shot-hole borer beetle for Agri Writers SA at Lourensford.

Hortgro Langkloof Seminar and Orchard Walk



Caption: Johan Kotze, Erik Conradie, Willie Kotze, Dené Strydom, Gideon van Zyl, Wiehann Steyn, Minette Karsten, Marno van der Westhuizen, Tristan Dorfling.

Hortgro receives the AgriSETA Excellence Award



Astrid Arendse, Hortgro HR manager, on behalf of Hortgro received the AgriSETA Excellence Award for Leading Commodity Organisation earlier this month.

Meer as Grond met Kobus Eigelaar

Kobus Eigelaar vertel Meer As Grond sy storie van visserman tot vrugteboer. Kyk Meer As Grond op Via, heruitsendings Dinsdae om 17:00, Woensdae om 22:00, Sondag om 10:00 en 18:00.



HORTGI

Growing Fruit

ANTON RABE OP LA



Anton Rabe op Landbouweekliks

Op 21 November het Anton Rabe op RSG Landbou gepraat oor die impak wat die onlangse misleidende mediaberigte oor uitvoere, op die vrugtebedryf, gehad het.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

A STOOLBUS & RELATED POLITICS

Hier in die Paarl is 'n *honey sucker* (voertuig wat riool uitsuig en verwyder) met "STOOLBUS" op die sy- en agterkant geskryf. Ander slimighede sluit in "past meals on wheels" en my persoonlike gunsteling - "Warning/Caution: Full of political promises".

Maybe a bit crude, but also humorous and eye catching. It lightens up my day every time I see it.

Unfortunately, it is also too close to reality – the political promises that is - given ongoing rhetoric and blaming everything and everybody since the dawn of time for everything that is not working or broken with poor public service at virtually all levels. And the collapse of key infrastructure all around us. And now to top it all, empty state coffers too, but the promises keep coming!

As stated on numerous occasions, we at Hortgro rather focus on what we as individuals, communities and as an industry collective can do ourselves to take charge of our destiny. The experience of recent articles in the media where the EU/UK EPA tariff rate quota permit requirements on a limited list of agri products were

indicated as “new” and based on BEE criteria only, is a case in point. The best interests of our sector have been undermined with opportunistic political rhetoric which were totally devoid of facts and context.

Yes, BEE is an issue and needs to be addressed regarding policy, relevance and execution. For this reason, Hortgro, as part of the FruitSA collective, is engaging with the AgriBEE Charter Council to amend various aspects which is not working in a primary and secondary agricultural context.

Dit is regtig ook frustrerend wanneer partye binne die bedryf, wat ingelig of ingelig behoort te wees, skynbaar weier om beheer van hulle eie toekoms te neem en eerder vingers wys gegewe die logistieke uitdagings. Daar IS vir wat sekerlik ons grootste korttermynrisiko's is (logistiek en elektrisiteit), etlike aksies wat binne produsente, uitvoerders en logistieke diensverskaffer se beheer val om hulle ekonomiese oorlewing en finansiële volhoubaarheid te verseker.

Ja, dit verg addisionele uitgawes, IS absoluut onaanvaarbaar en daar behoort gevolge te wees vir diegene wat dit veroorsaak (het), MAAR ONS MOENIE DOBBEL MET ONS TOEKOMS NIE.

Ons het 'n naastenby funksionele staat, 'n diplomatieke wil en bevoegde amptenare nodig om 'n bemagtigende omgewing te skep. Ons moet saamwerk waar moontlik en oplossings vind eerder as om deel van die probleem te wees of te word.

Ook - Daar lê 'n verkiesing voor. Soos ons reeds gesien het, GAAN landbou in die breë weereens geteiken word met allerhande beskuldigings, aansprake en eise, en kwalik verskuilde opportunisme en uitgediende retoriek of growwe veralgemenings.

Dit is “geraas” waarop ons nie moet oorreageer nie. Ons kan dit slegs as 'n effektiewe en sterk kollektief suksesvol teenstaan. Dit KAN en MAG ons nie ontmoedig nie. Bloot aanhou DOEN wat in die beste belang van ons bedryf en land is.

Tot volgende keer.

Anton

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other – Oscar Ameringer

Principles aren't of much account anyway, except at election time. After that you hang them up to let them season – Mark Twain

→ INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

[Stone fruit postharvest app.](#)

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

→ HORTGRO PUBLICATIONS

[Key Deciduous Fruit Statistics](#)

Fresh Quarterly : [Issue 23 Climate Change + Water & Irrigation](#)

Hortgro Stone: [December Timely Hints/ Desember Tydige Wenke](#)

Fresh Notes: [209 PAG Feedback](#)

Fruit South Africa [Transformation Summary](#)

New Roots: [Volume 3 | September 2023](#)

Hortgro News: [All previous issues](#)

→ HORTGRO YOUTUBE

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

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



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