



Elgin local wins Western Cape Young Farmer of the Year

Richard Hutton-Squire, an apple and pear farmer, has been named Agri Western Cape Santam Young Farmer of the Year 2026. Richard turned 40 last year. The cut-off age for the award, and he knew this was his last chance to enter. "The opportunity was there, and I think it's important to contribute and challenge yourself. I thought we'd had some really great results on our farm, so maybe I was in with a shot."

[Read more about Richard here>>](#)

Cut in Two: How the Langkloof's Farmers Are Fighting to Get SANRAL Moving on the R62

When the rain finally eased in the Langkloof in early May, it left a valley divided. A section of the R62 between Joubertina and Kareedouw, known as "container draai", was washed away as swollen mountain streams eroded the road beside a bridge.



[Read here>>](#)



Hortgro and COLEAD Collaborate on EU Packaging Regulations requirements

As part of the EU-funded AGRINFO programme, COLEAD recently engaged with Hortgro and key South African fruit industry stakeholders to assess readiness and research initiatives ahead of the implementation of the EU's strict Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulations (EU PPWR).

[Read here>>](#)

Alternative Approaches to Apple Replant Disease

Growers face the risk of apple replant disease every time they establish an orchard on a site previously planted to apples. Many fumigate as a standard preventive measure, but soil fumigation is expensive, and soil fumigants face similar pressure from activists as several other crop-protection chemicals.

Find the take-home messages of the ARD Seminar [HERE](#) or watch the presentations [HERE>>](#)



World Bank Port Performance Index Highlights Need for Continued Focus on Cape Town Container Terminal

Cape Town, 19 June 2026 — The Port of Cape Town has again been ranked the world's worst-performing container port, placing 400th out of 400 in the CPPI 2025. Industry responds.

[Read here>>](#)

Bernheim Herposisioneer as Bedryfshub vir die Toekoms

Belangrike skuiwe is op pad vir Bernheim (TCF Facility), met die fokus om bestaande infrastruktuur, kundigheid en bedryfsbates meer doelgerig vir die Suid-Afrikaanse sagtevrugtebedryf te benut.

[Read here>>](#)



South African Apples and Pears Take Centre Stage Abroad

Ever wondered where your fruit goes after the pack store? South African apples and pears are now featured in campaigns across China, Thailand, India, and the Middle East & Africa, growing demand and strengthening key markets.

[Read here>>](#)

South African Stone Fruit Producers overcome tough season to Increase Exports

Despite a challenging season, South African stone-fruit exports rose 15% in 2025/26 to 32.4 million cartons, with cherries up 111% and peaches up 41%.

[Read here>>](#)





Latest Fresh Quarterly

This edition takes a closer look at rest-breaking and thinning, unpacking the science behind natural and chemical thinning, the latest thinning agents, and the key factors that influence fruit size. Featuring expert insights from guest editor Prof. Karen Theron and technical advisers across the pome and stone fruit industries, this issue offers valuable knowledge and practical perspectives for growers and industry professionals alike.

[Read here >>](#)

Watch: Hortgro Technical Symposium 2026

All symposium presentations are available on our YouTube channel, giving you the opportunity to catch up on expert insights, industry trends, and valuable technical knowledge at your convenience.



Find the playlists below

[Business Strategy Day Playlist](#)

[Technical Day One Playlist](#)

[Technical Day Two Playlist](#)

2026: HORTGRO Awards & Agri's Got Talent



Footprint Award, ENTRY DATE EXTENDED TO 13 July 2026. Watch reel [here](#) or to read more [Click here](#).



Izithelo Media Award – call to enter [Click here](#).



[Agri's Got Talent 2026](#)



Footprint Webinar: EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation Readiness: Industry Insights and Practical Guidelines. Save the date: 15 July 2026 and register online [here](#).
(This session will be presented in English and Afrikaans.)



Prophyta Pome and Stone Fruit Industry Short Course. [Click here for more](#).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Wêreldbank Indeks | Hawens se omdraaitye

Die Kaapse-hawe het pas die onbenydenswaardige prestasie behaal as 400ste uit 400 hawens wêreldwyd. Dis wel vir die 2025 jaar, maar die *horror movie* wat end 2025 en begin van hierdie jaar in die Kaap afgespeel het, gee geen gemoedsrus dat die situasie enigsins in 2026 omgekeer het nie. Inteendeel.

En in die ander SA hawens gaan dit nie veel beter nie. Hoewel daar verbeterings was (van 'n bitter lae basis), is PE (314de), Coega/Ngqura (380ste) en Durban (398ste). Walvisbaai is in die 372ste plek, en Maputo 273ste. Baie hawens in obskure derde wêreld lande hardloop kringe om die SA hawens. 'n Absolute skande.

Fuzhou, Dalia en Mawan – drie Chinese hawens is onderskeidelik eerste, tweede en vierde. Salala, Oman, is in die derde plek. Ons behoort sekerlik iets by hulle te gaan leer!

Hierdie prestasie-indeks word jaarliks deur die Wêreldbank opgestel gebaseer op die tyd wat skepe in die onderskeie hawens spandeer. In die Kaap se geval is dit eintlik nog erger gegewe dat daar talle skepe is wat die Kaap verbyseil, wat omdraai-tye behoort te verbeter het. En dan is 'n groot volume vrugte teen geweldige ekstra koste uit die Oos-Kaapse hawens en selfs Durban verskeep. Ons bereken dat meer as R1 miljard net die afgelope seisoen in oponthoude, gehalte eise en addisionele logistieke kostes aangegaan is.

Die crux is dat daar 'n onvermoë is om na wind verdragings te kan opvang. Die sg GCH (Gross Crane moves per Hour) parameter bly onaanvaarbaar laag rondom 16-18 – die internasionale norm is 25-30+. Dis 'n syfer wat wel in die verlede in die Kaap gehaal is.

Die toedrag van sake moet ten volle op Transnet bestuur, direksie en hulle politieke hoofde se brood gesmeer word. Wind is NIE 'n verskoning nie, dis 'n realiteit, al van voor Jan van Riebeeck

se tyd. Dit is seker ook die ou d*nnr se skuld!

Wat mens veral bekommerd maak, is dat daar die laaste twee jaar 'n aansienlike belegging in nuwe toerusting gemaak is. Dit het tot dusver min verskil gemaak en dui op 'n dieperliggende mens- en bestuursprobleem. En, 'n stoksinnige onvermoë om die implikasies in te sien of te verstaan van hoogs bederfbare produkte waar 'n ekstra week of twee die verskil is tussen 'n wins en opbrengs op belegging, behoud van werksgeleenthede en die handhawing van landelike gemeenskappe.

Almal (behalwe Transnet) is dit eens dat die enigste manier om hierdie situasie om te keer, die toetrede van die privaatsektor is. Wetgewing maak hiervoor voorsiening en word reeds in Durban en op die spoornetwerk gedoen. En ons praat hier van die houerterminaal, nie die bietjie privatisering by MPT en A-berth nie. Dit gaan bloot die verstand te bowe dat daar ondanks die jarelange onvermoë en faling, steeds aan uitgediende beleid en politieke retoriek vasgeklou word.

Uitvoerders en produsente het begin om Transnet aanspreeklik te hou vir hulle verliese en addisionele koste. As dit nie die spreekwoordelike pennie finaal laat drop nie, dan weet ek nie so mooi nie.

Ons land en bedryf verdien beter én dis tyd dat diegene wat verantwoordelik is vir hierdie toedrag van sake, aanspreeklik gehou word. Selfs in hulle persoonlike hoedanigheid as dit moet.

In belang van die toekoms van ons bedryf en almal wat daaruit 'n lewe maak, kan ons nie toelaat dat voortgesette politieke en burokratiese geraas ons oog van dié bal haal nie. Privaatsektor deelname is nie meer onderhandelbaar nie.

Tot volgende keer.

Anton

Sooner or later everyone sits down to a banquet of consequences - Robert Louis Stevenson
You are responsible for the predictable consequences of your actions - Noam Chomsky

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- [February 2026](#)

Fresh Notes

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- [228 | Restrictions on the Use of Plant Protection Products on Deciduous fruit for 2025/26](#)

Hortgro News

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Fresh Quarterly

- [June 2026 Issue 33](#)

- [March 2026 Issue 32](#)
- [December 2025 Issue 31](#)
- [September 2025 Issue 30](#)

New Roots

- [New-Roots Volume 11 March 2026](#)

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