



# RADIUS

Issue 3.0 // 031

Jun // Jul // Aug '26

FREE

From Data to Decisions  
**UNLOCKING  
VALUE ON THE  
FARM**

**FROM  
OUTBREAKS  
TO  
OPPORTUNITY**

How Certification  
and Smart Data  
**UNLOCK  
BETTER  
MARKETS**

The Invisible  
Layer  
**HOW GIS SAFEGUARDS  
OUR ASSETS**

Input Costs in 2026  
**RELIEF  
OR MORE  
PRESSURE  
AHEAD?**

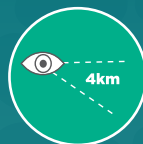
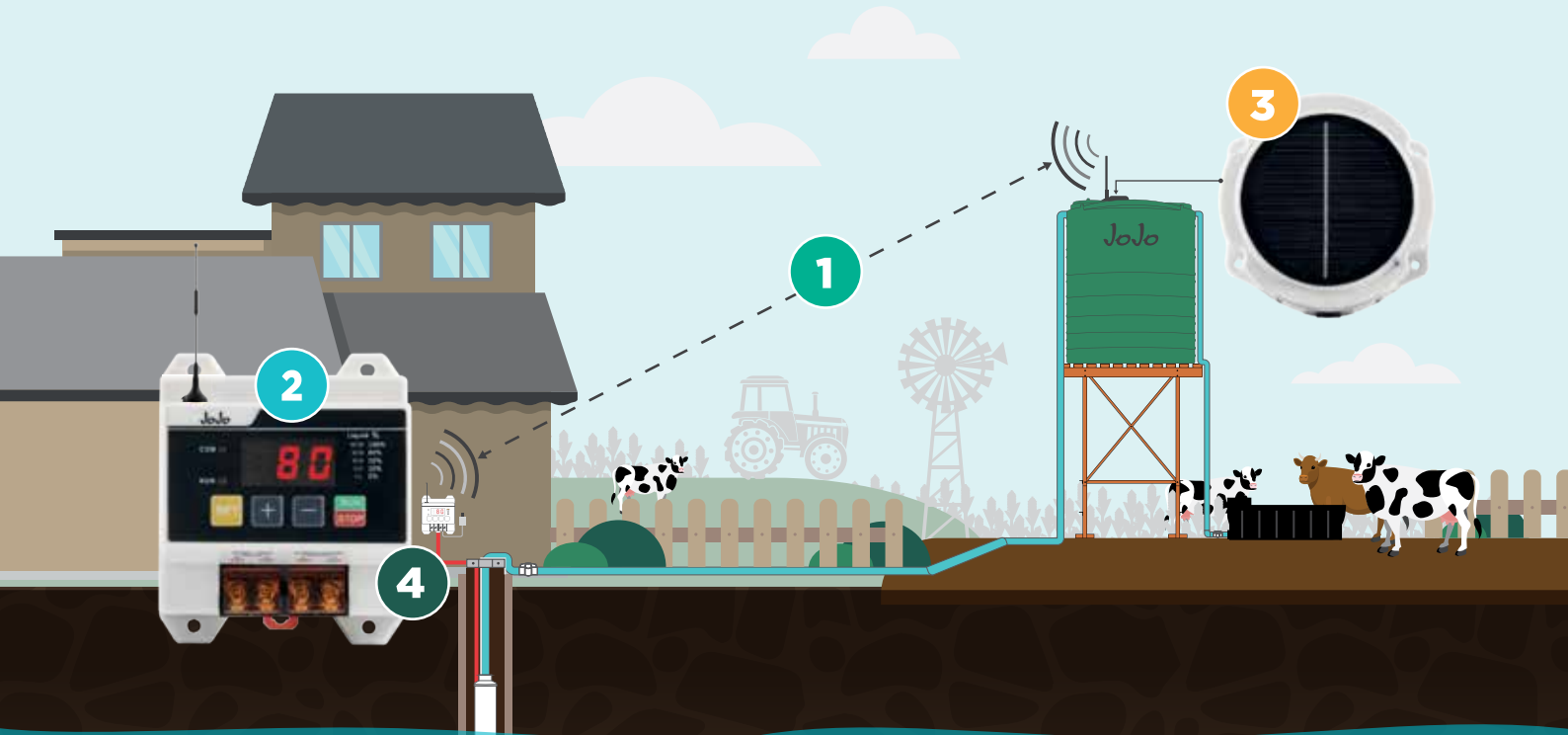
Electric Trucks Gain  
Traction

Growing the Future  
Together  
**THE SPIRIT OF  
TIMBER AND  
THE POWER OF  
AGRI**

**NEW HOLLAND  
GROOT  
TREKKERREEKS**

# Slimmer waterbeheer, minder moeite.

Beheer jou pomp op 'n afstand en hou watervlakke dop  
— outomaties, betroubaar en sonder kables.



Tot 4 km reikafstand  
(lyn van sig)



Afstand  
watervlakvertoning



Geen kables nodig nie,  
sonkragaaangedrewe



Outomatiese  
pomp aan/af



Remote Tank Pump Controller

**Vertrou op JoJo vir moeitelose water bestuur.**

Besoek ons webwerf vir meer inligting:  
[www.jojo.co.za](http://www.jojo.co.za).

**JoJo**  
FOR WATER FOR LIFE



# HIDDEN CROP STRESS

**BY THE TIME DAMAGE IS VISIBLE, YIELD HAS ALREADY BEEN LOST.**

**WITH TWK GIS AND NDVI MAPPING, WE DETECT:**



**EARLY CROP STRESS**



**NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES**



**DISEASE RISK**



**Book your GIS analysis**  
**C: 078 120 3065**  
**E: [rossouw@twkagri.com](mailto:rossouw@twkagri.com)**

*Geographic Information Systems (GIS) involve technology for collecting, analysing, and visualising spatial data. It combines hardware, software, and data to map and interpret geographical patterns, enabling better decision-making in location-based operations.*

**VISIT US ONLINE:**



# Rooted and Remaining

There is a difference between knowing about someone and knowing them. We can recite facts about a person, where they live, what they do, what they believe, and still have never truly met them. The same can be true of our faith. It is possible to know a great deal about Jesus, to have grown up hearing His name, to be able to quote verses and recall sermons, and yet never have walked with Him in a way that is personal and real.

This verse was spoken in the language of the vineyard, and it would have made immediate sense to anyone who has worked the land. A branch does not produce fruit by straining or striving. It produces fruit for one reason only: it stays joined to the vine. The life it carries is not its own.

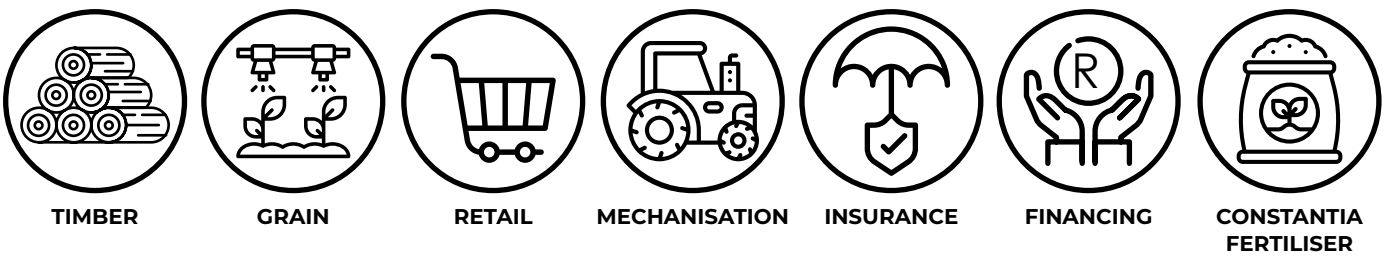


**I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. — John 15:5**

Sap rises through the trunk, moves into the branch, and in time becomes grapes, but the branch contributes none of that life itself. It simply remains connected. Cut it off, and within days it withers. Leave it joined, and it flourishes in its season. I think there is great comfort in that picture, especially for those of us who are tired. So much of life teaches us to perform, to prove ourselves, to earn our place. We carry that instinct into our faith too, believing that God's nearness must somehow be deserved through effort or good behaviour. But the vine does not ask the branch to manufacture life. It asks the branch to stay close. The fruit follows naturally from the nearness.

A real relationship with Jesus, then, is not measured by how religious we appear or how many of the right words we know. It is measured by remaining, staying connected, day after day, in the ordinary moments as much as the hard ones. It is honest. It is unhurried. It survives the seasons when we feel nothing and the seasons when we feel everything. And like any relationship worth having, it grows not in a single dramatic moment but through the steady accumulation of time spent together. There are seasons in farming, and there are seasons in life. Some are marked by visible growth and abundance; others are quiet, dormant, and seem to produce nothing at all. A branch is no less connected to the vine in winter than it is in summer. So it is with us. The value of the relationship does not rise and fall with how productive or joyful we happen to feel. It rests on the connection itself, on the One who holds us fast even when we cannot see the fruit.

As you page through this edition, my hope is simple. Whatever season you find yourself in, flourishing or weary, certain or full of questions, I pray you would be encouraged not merely to know about Him, but to know Him. To move from facts to friendship. To stop striving and start remaining. Because the promise of this verse runs both ways: He abides in us, and we in Him. The connection He offers is not fragile, and it is not earned. It is simply there, waiting to be kept. May this be a season of remaining. †



TIMBER

GRAIN

RETAIL

MECHANISATION

INSURANCE

FINANCING

CONSTANTIA FERTILISER



SUNSHINE SEEDLING SERVICES



TWK INSURANCE



EUM



TOP CROP NURSERY



WELVERDIEND GUESTHOUSE

## Living our values

# We Value AGRI

### Accountability

**We add value in an ethical way and take responsibility for our actions.**

### Grow Trust

**We grow our business by building relationships of trust with all stakeholders.**

### Resilience

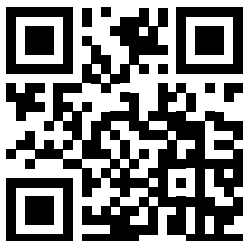
**We drive sustainable growth through agility and perseverance.**

### Innovation

**We develop unique solutions to solve complex challenges.**

# CONTENTS

01	FROM DATA TO DECISIONS. UNLOCKING VALUE ON THE FARM	Pg 6
02	GROWING THE FUTURE TOGETHER. THE SPIRIT OF TIMBER AND THE POWER OF AGRI	Pg 8
03	A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE TWK GROUP	Pg 11
04	INPUT COSTS IN 2026. RELIEF OR MORE PRESSURE AHEAD?	Pg 12
05	ELECTRIC TRUCKS GAIN TRACTION	Pg 14
06	AVOID GEYSER CLAIM ISSUES THIS WINTER	Pg 16
07	BEHEER VAN ROTTE EN MUISE MET PROTEK SE NUWE RAT & MOUSE-REEKS	Pg 18
08	FROM OUTBREAKS TO OPPORTUNITY	Pg 20
09	THE INVISIBLE LAYER. HOW GIS SAFEGUARDS OUR ASSETS	Pg 22
10	SHEDDING THE OLD SKIN, GROWING TOGETHER	Pg 24
11	HOW CERTIFICATION AND SMART DATA UNLOCK BETTER MARKETS	Pg 26
12	NEW HOLLAND GROOT TREKKERREEKS	Pg 28
13	BITTER COLD DAYS AND COLDER NIGHTS. WHO TAKES CARE OF THE LIVESTOCK?	Pg 30
14	FARMING VEGETABLES SUSTAINABLY. A BIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO PESTS AND DISEASES	Pg 33
15	BASJAN SE BOOMHUIS: DIE LAASTE STORIE	Pg 36
16	TWK SEEDLINGS	Pg 43
17	TWK'S NEWS & CO. CULTURE	Pg 62
19	TRIALS AND TESTS BRING US CLOSER TO GOD	Pg 66



VISIT US ONLINE  
[www.twkagri.com](http://www.twkagri.com)

TWK Agri (Pty) Ltd.  
PO Box 128, Piet Retief 2380  
Tel: 017 824 1000  
Email: [twk@twkagri.com](mailto:twk@twkagri.com)  
[www.twkagri.com](http://www.twkagri.com)

RADIUS  
Editor in Chief: Dupie van Rensburg  
Editor: Louise Johnson  
Graphic design: Louise Johnson  
Editorial Assistant: Hillie Schultz, Tahira Amatullah  
Accounts: Tahira Mahomed

Invest in TWK  
[www.twkagri.com/invest](http://www.twkagri.com/invest)  
[invest@twkagri.com](mailto:invest@twkagri.com)  
Facebook: @TWKAgri//Instagram: twkagri  
Twitter: @TWK\_Agri//LinkedIn: TWK Agri  
TWK YouTube-channel: <http://bit.ly/twkvideos>

Advertising: Ruth Schultz, (Schmiltz Marketing)  
081 480 6413 | 083 583 5243  
[ruth@schmiltz.co.za](mailto:ruth@schmiltz.co.za)

Contributors:  
Marnu Engelbrecht, Dionne Harber, Juwairiah Cassim, Lindi Botha, Pauline Swanepoel, Sonet Vermaak, Bob Tumber, Louise van Wyk, Jaco du Preez, Cornelia Vermaak, Erich Jacobs, Kanongalo Chonco, Jaco Jacobs, Johann Strauss, Angus Buchan.

Printing: Novus Print

Editorial Enquiries: Tel: 017 824 1000  
Email: [radius@twkagri.com](mailto:radius@twkagri.com)

TWK Agri (PTY) Ltd and / Radius nor any of its officials, members, employees, agents, representatives, shareholders or directors shall not be liable for any loss, damage, or any liability of whatsoever nature which may arise to the reader as a consequence of this publication or as a result of the reader or any other person acting on the strength, accuracy or correctness of the content provided in this publication.

Radius makes no representation, furnishes no warranty or guarantee, actual or implied or otherwise that the content, information or data in this publication are free from errors, omissions or inaccuracies. No information, ideas, opinions, views or other data available in this publication should be regarded as professional advice or the professional opinion of Radius or any of its members, employees, agents, representatives and shareholders and all readers are informed to obtain professional advice before taking any course of action relation to anything contained in this publication.



# From Data to Decisions

## Unlocking Value on the Farm



By Marnu Engelbrecht

**For South African farmers the opportunity offered by GIS is clear: move beyond data collection and turn this information into decisions that drive real value.**

Agriculture is becoming increasingly data-driven, yet many producers are still only scratching the surface of the value their data can provide. From yield maps and soil analysis to satellite imagery and weather data, modern farming operations generate vast amounts of information.

But the real opportunity lies not in collecting more data, but in turning that data into better decisions that improve profitability and reduce risk.

Today, most farming operations already produce a significant amount of data. Yield monitors provide insights into field performance, soil samples highlight variability in nutrient levels, and weather data informs planting and harvesting decisions.

Advancements in satellite and GIS technologies allow producers to monitor crop conditions across entire fields with increasing accuracy.

Despite this, data on its own has limited value. The challenge for many producers is not access to information, but rather how to interpret it and apply it effectively.

### **The real value of data**

In many cases, data remains underutilised, stored in different systems, or reviewed only after the season has ended, when opportunities for timely decision-making have already passed.

The real value of data lies in its ability to inform practical, day-to-day decisions on the farm. For example, identifying underperforming areas within a field can allow for more targeted input application, reducing unnecessary costs while improving yields.

Similarly, understanding variability in soil conditions can support more precise fertiliser strategies, ensuring inputs are applied where they are needed most.

Data can also play a critical role in timing decisions. Weather patterns, soil moisture levels, and crop development indicators can all help inform optimal planting and harvesting windows.

In an environment where margins are tight and conditions are increasingly unpredictable, these incremental improvements in decision-making can have a meaningful impact on overall profitability.

### **Shift focus and simplify**

Unlocking this value requires a shift in approach. Rather than focusing on collecting more data, the emphasis should be on making better use of the data already available.

This often means simplifying systems, integrating different data sources, and focusing on a few key indicators that directly influence decision-making.

Adopting a data-driven approach does not require large-scale investment or complex systems. In many cases, the greatest gains come from small, practical changes, such as regularly reviewing yield maps, aligning soil data with input plans, or using basic satellite imagery to monitor crop performance.

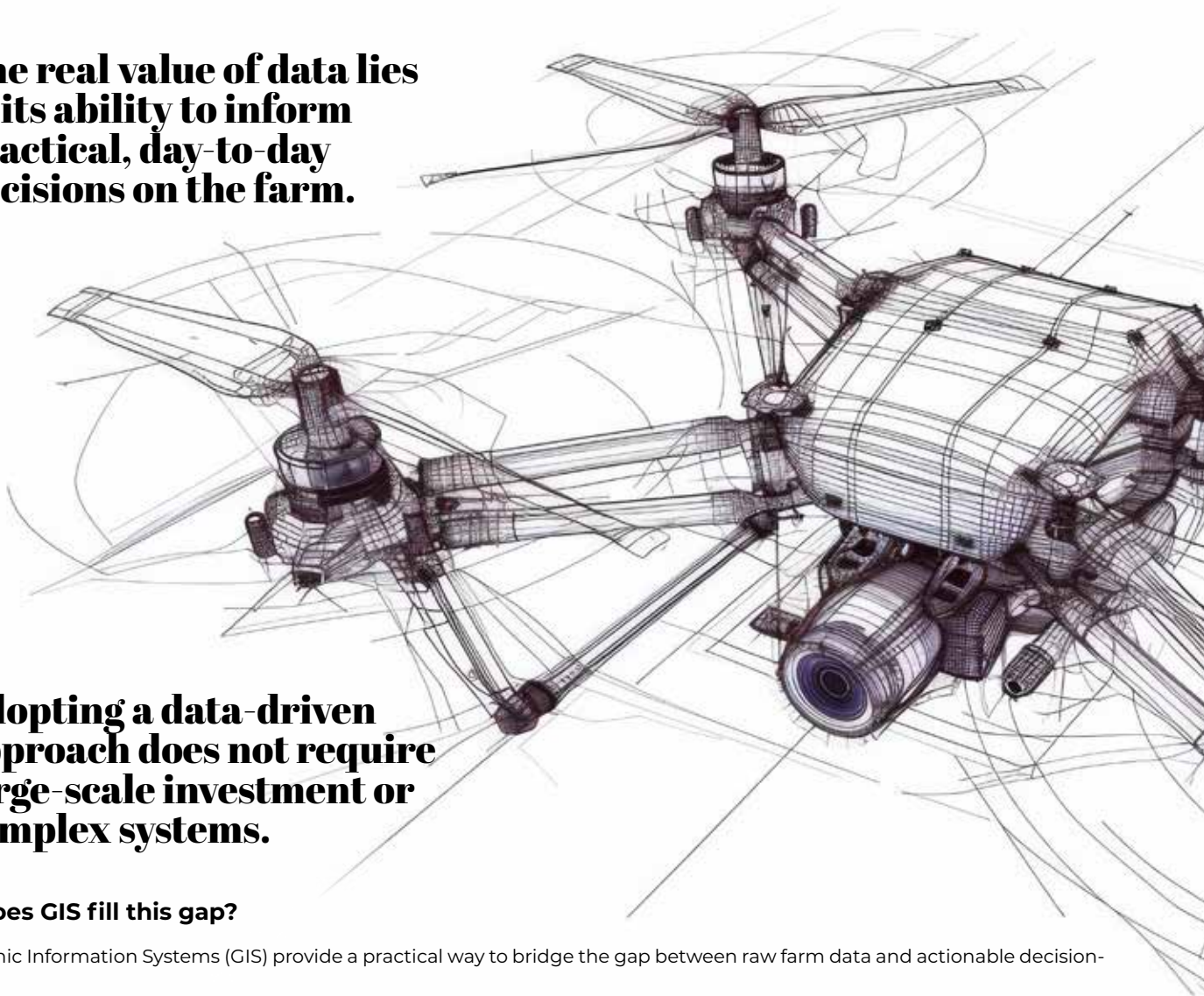
Producers who can translate data into actionable insights will be better positioned to manage risk, optimise input use, and improve long-term sustainability.



**The true value of GIS lies not in the technology itself, but in interpretation.**

**” The real value of data lies in its ability to inform practical, day-to-day decisions on the farm.**

**” Adopting a data-driven approach does not require large-scale investment or complex systems.**



### **How does GIS fill this gap?**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provide a practical way to bridge the gap between raw farm data and actionable decision-making.

By combining different data layers, such as yield maps, soil sampling results, elevation data, and satellite imagery, GIS allows producers to visualise variability within fields instead of treating them as uniform units.

This spatial perspective is important because it reveals patterns that are often not visible in traditional analysis.

Yield differences, for example, are rarely random and are often linked to factors such as soil type, drainage, or historical management practices. Once these patterns are identified, they can be directly translated into more informed management decisions.

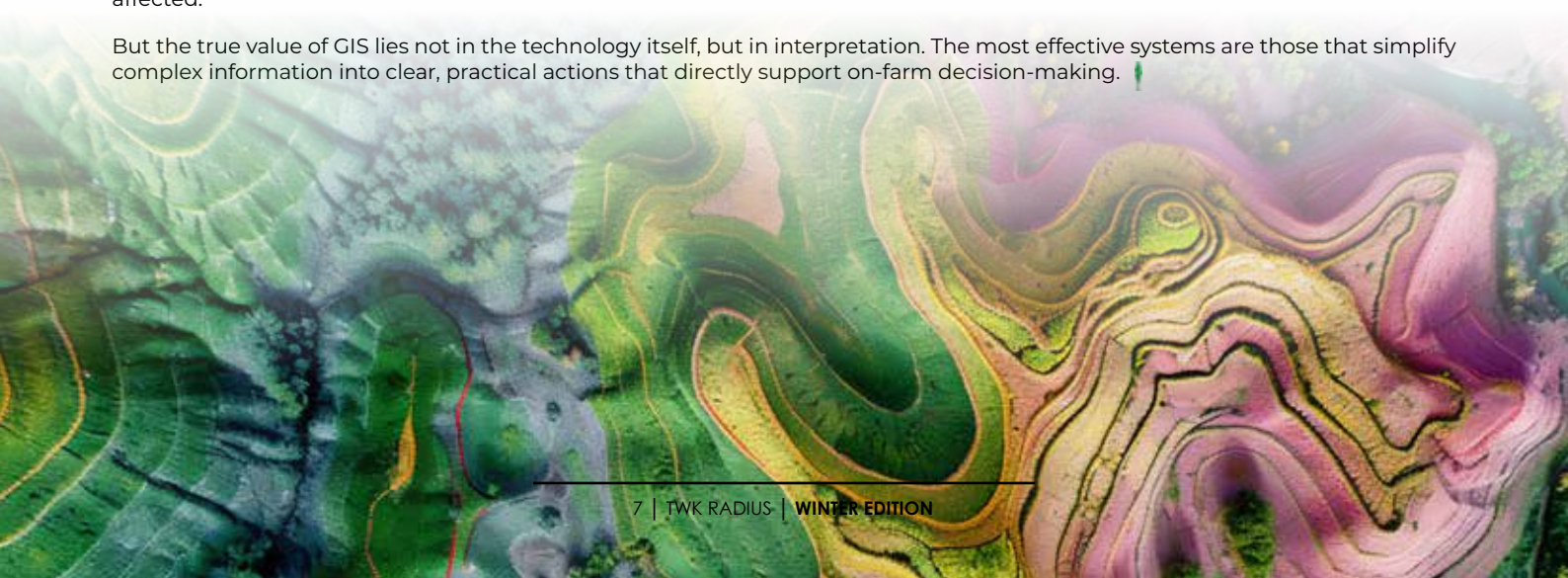
### **Putting it all into practice**

In practice, this can support variable-rate application of inputs, ensuring that fertiliser and seed are applied according to field potential rather than a blanket approach.

It can also help identify consistently underperforming areas, allowing producers to adjust management strategies or reconsider input intensity in those zones.

Satellite imagery further enhances decision-making by providing near real-time insights into crop health during the season. This allows producers to detect stress areas early, investigate causes on the ground, and respond before yield potential is significantly affected.

But the true value of GIS lies not in the technology itself, but in interpretation. The most effective systems are those that simplify complex information into clear, practical actions that directly support on-farm decision-making. |



When you look across TWK's Timber Division, you quickly realise it's not just about "forestry" or "processing" – it's about a full journey from seed to home.

The journey embodied by TWK's Timber Division begins with a tiny seedling and ends in a product that supports customers here at home and across the world. And through that whole journey, one thing stays true: it's our people who make it work.

Every day, our teams pitch up and get it done, at the mills, in the nurseries, in workshops, out on the plantations, and in the meetings where we solve problems together. It's hard work, but it's also something we're proud of. That's AGRI in action.

## A – Accountability

Accountability is about owning every step of the journey and it starts right at the beginning, with people like Bryn and his team. He spends his time researching which trees we should be planting, because the choices we make at this stage, shape the forests we'll rely on tomorrow.

From there, Tinus and his hands on team at SSS step in. Tinus takes that work and turns it into thousands of seedlings. When you see strong, healthy plants going out, you're seeing their accountability in real life.

Then, out in the field, there's Bob and his passionate team, planting those young trees and looking after them as they grow.

That kind of accountability doesn't come from a checklist; it comes from care, patience, and pride in the land. Every person in this chain owns their part, and the next person can rely on it.

## G – Grow Trust

We know that trust is the foundation of every team and it isn't something we talk about once a year. You feel it in the day to day, when people keep their word, help each other out, and show up, even when it's tough.

And then one day, that ten-year-old tree arrives at our mills, or at RBCM, with Eddie and his dedicated team, under the sharp guidance of Ferdie, and in a matter of seconds, you see the transformation. That tree becomes:

- RBCM Chips bound for Japan,
- Rutland Dunnage and Mining support for Bedrock,
- Rockland WOS for pallets and packaging,
- Or STTP treatment poles for agriculture and transmissions..

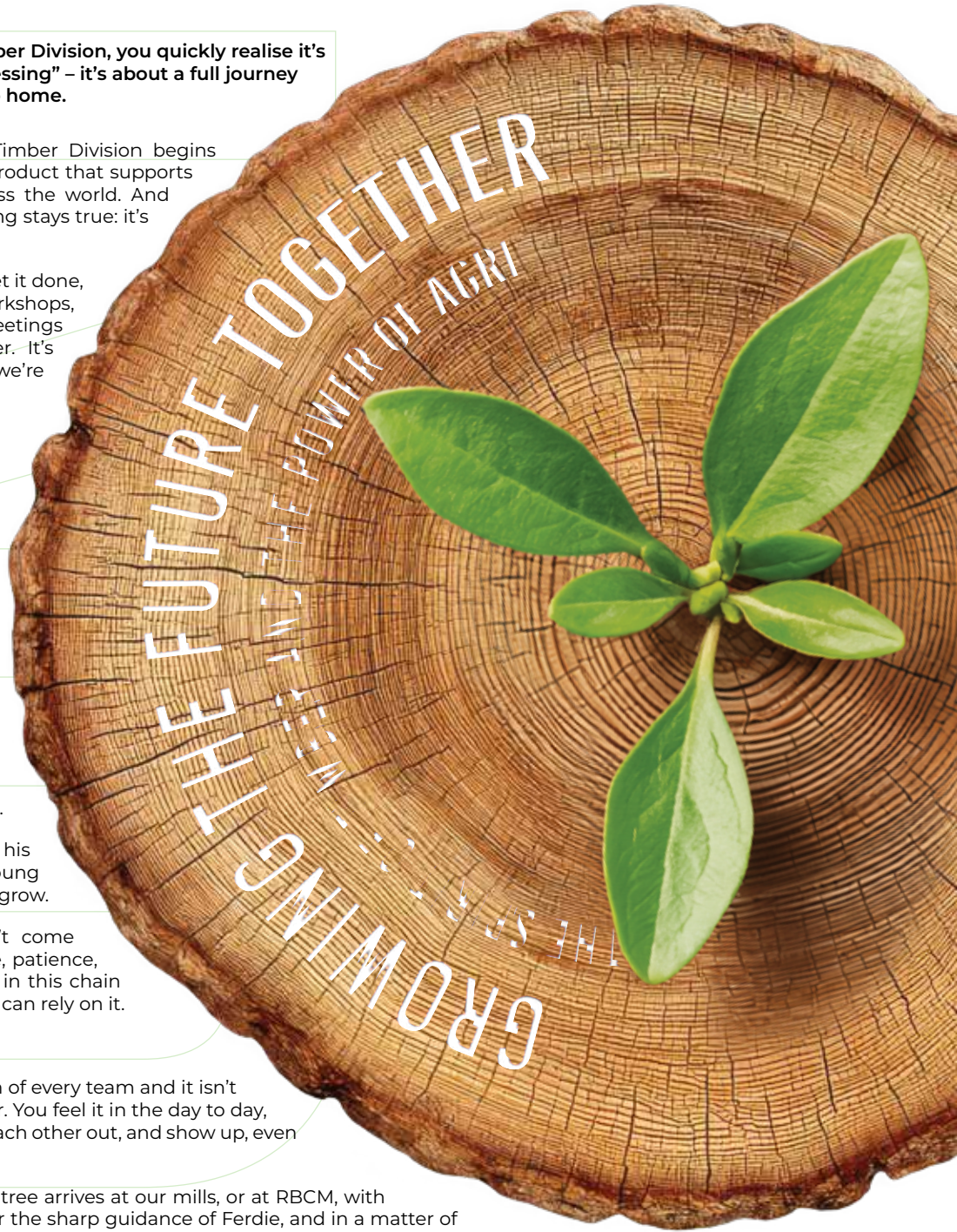
None of this happens by accident. It works because we trust each other, right through the chain, from forest to mill to market.

Trevor and his solutions focused team help make that trust real by keeping our processing entities supplied. He supports our farmers, balances supply and makes sure the value chain keeps moving.

And when the product is ready, Steve and his customer focused team build trust with our customers by finding the right home for every piece of timber we produce.

Andre and his vigilant team play a huge role in keeping that trust strong. By leading Health and Safety for the Timber Division, he helps make sure every one of us can go home safely at the end of the day, because production means nothing if people aren't protected.

Louise builds trust by holding the line on what we stand for. She's responsible for certification and environmental work, making sure we do things the right way, meeting our standards, protecting our environment, and keeping our operations credible and future focused.





Husqvarna®



HUSQVARNA W80DE WATER PUMP

# Robust and durable *in any environment*



Power through demanding jobs with the Husqvarna W80DE Water Pump. Built for reliability in tough conditions, it delivers high-capacity water transfer with a robust diesel engine and durable construction. Easy starts, efficient performance, and dependable output make it ideal for agriculture, construction, and emergency use. When water needs to move, this pump gets it done.



Scan the QR code to locate  
your nearest Husqvarna dealer.

[www.husqvarna.com/za](http://www.husqvarna.com/za)  
#WeAreHusqvarna

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, Elmarie and her attention-to-detail team build trust by keeping us financially secure, compliant, and responsible. It's the kind of quiet consistency that helps the rest of us do our jobs with confidence.

And above us all, Didi builds trust by leading all of us with faith, clarity, and the kind of support that helps people grow.

## R – Resilience

In standing strong through every season, forestry teaches us resilience. Trees push through storms, droughts, wind, and changing seasons, and in our own way, so do we.

The current environment is challenging, and the pressure is real, but resilience isn't the absence of difficulty; it's the decision to keep moving forward.

You see resilience in every team, from the mills to the nurseries to the plantations. It's people backing each other, staying focused, and doing the next right thing, even under pressure.

The season we're in doesn't define us. What defines us is how we show up for each other while we're in it.

## I – Innovation

Innovation isn't only about technology. It's a mindset, curiosity, courage, and the willingness to ask, "How can we do this better?" in the strive to create tomorrow's products.

You can see that mindset everywhere in Timber, from research and silviculture to processing, marketing, finance, and leadership.

We look for better ways to grow trees, process them, and serve our customers. Just as importantly, we look for better ways to develop our people, because that's where the long term wins come from.

**At TWK, innovation isn't "someone else's job". It's part of how we think and how we work.**

### A Message Beyond Timber

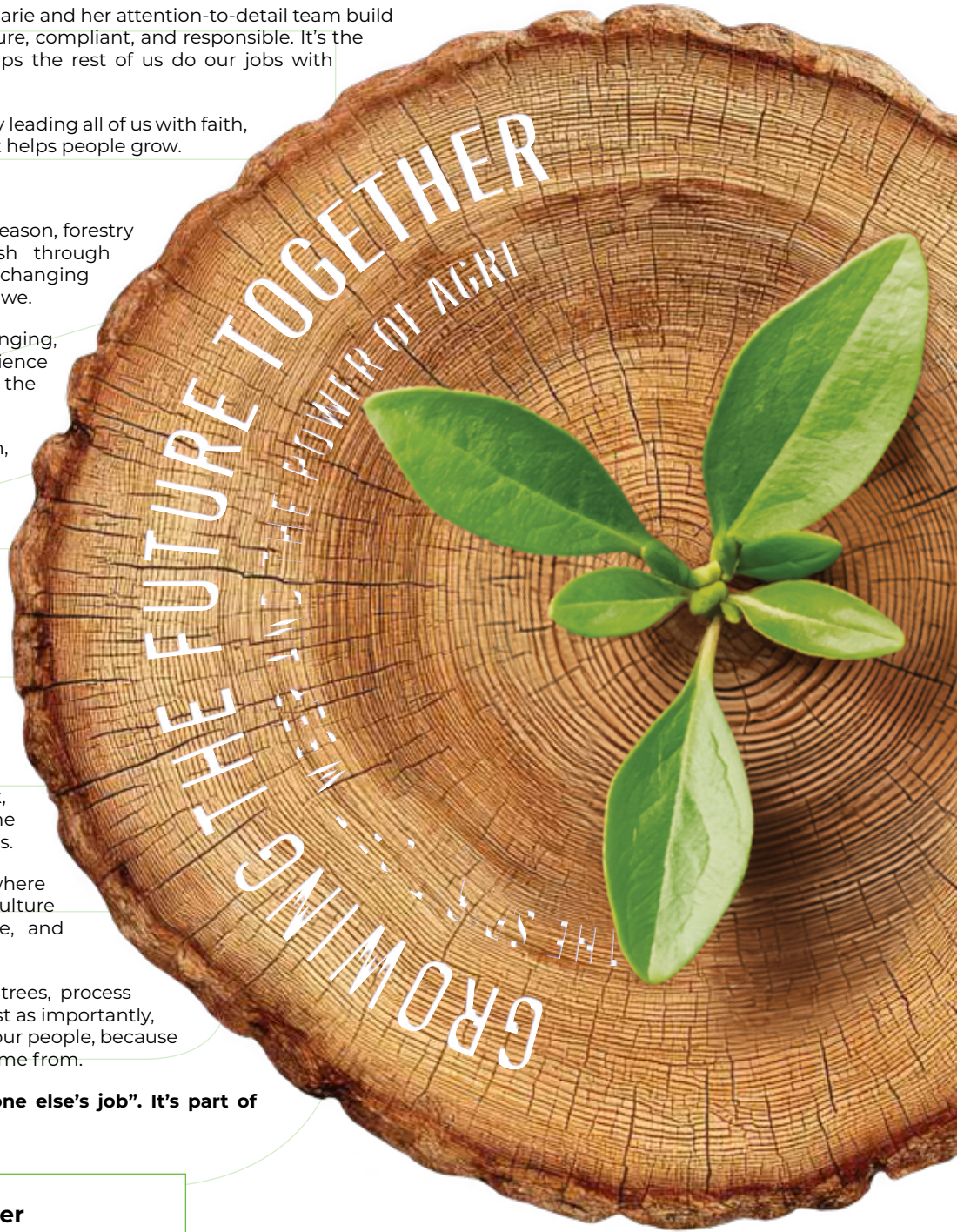
Although I'm speaking from the Timber Division, this message is really for all of us across TWK.

#### It's a reminder:

- Accountability builds excellence
- Trust builds unity
- Resilience builds strength
- Innovation builds the future

In Timber, we're not only producing timber; we're building opportunities. We do it responsibly, sustainably, and together.

If we keep living AGRI, not just as words on a page, but in the way we speak, decide, and work every day, then the future we're building at TWK will take care of itself.



From left: Busi Hlekwa, Dietmar Schroeder, Dionne Harber, Steven Lambert, Elmarie Sliep

# A New Chapter for the TWK Group



By Juwairiah Cassim

**A new chapter has officially begun for the TWK Group in Empangeni.**

TWK has taken over Promech, previously owned by Richert Austin. Under the new ownership, the business aims to expand its involvement in the forestry sector and strengthen its presence within the industry.

Justin Hartley has been appointed as the new Manager and has already taken up his position on site. Management says his appointment forms part of the company's plans to grow and further develop its operations.

The business has also relocated to new premises at 35 Bronze Street, Empangeni. The facility includes both a workshop and parts department, allowing the company to continue supporting customers with repairs, maintenance and parts supply.

Speaking about the transition, Hansie Swanepoel (General Manager: Mechanisation) said they are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to building strong relationships within the forestry and broader industrial sectors.

The company believes the move marks the beginning of a positive new era for the business and its customers in the region.



RIGID HAULAGE TRACTORS >>>  
**DEZZI H140T**

# **Lewe vir die vroë oggende op die plaas. Nie vir slape- lose nagte van skape tel nie.**

Ons weet hoe vinnig dinge in boerdery kan verander. Of dit nou beplan of onbeplan is, ons het altyd 'n plan. As markleier, met meer as 107 jaar se ondervinding en 'n landwye infrastruktuur, kan jy staatmaak op Santam om aan te pas by wat ook al volgende kom.

**Gesels met jou tussenganger of gaan na [santam.co.za/products/agriculture](http://santam.co.za/products/agriculture) om uit te vind wat ons landbouversekering jou alles bied.**

**santam**  
dis nou vryheid

Santam is 'n gemagtigde verskaffer van finansiële dienste (VFD 3416), 'n gellisensieerde nie-lewensversekeraar en beheermaatskappy van sy groepsmaatskappye.

# Input Costs in 2026

## Relief or More Pressure Ahead?

By Marnu Engelbrecht

**The outlook for 2026 suggests input costs remain vulnerable to both domestic and global pressures. We unpack the key cost drivers so you can plan to protect your margins and be resilient.**



South African farmers have faced one of the most challenging cost environments in recent years. Sharp increases in fertiliser, fuel, and interest rates have placed significant pressure on profitability, forcing producers to adapt to ongoing volatility and uncertainty.

### Fertiliser Prices

Fertiliser remains a major cost in grain and crop production, with significant volatility in recent years. Although prices have eased from the highs seen during global supply disruptions, they remain sensitive to international market conditions.

A key driver is the global energy market, particularly natural gas, which plays a central role in production. Rising energy prices typically push fertiliser costs higher, while supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions can further constrain supply.

Exchange rate movements add additional pressure. Since South Africa relies heavily on imports, a weaker rand increases fertiliser costs, even when global prices are stable.

Producers therefore remain exposed to both global markets and currency fluctuations. Although prices are below previous peaks, fertiliser markets remain highly sensitive, requiring cautious input planning.

### Fuel Costs

Fuel prices remain a major contributor to on-farm cost pressure. From land preparation and planting to harvesting and transport, diesel plays a critical role across the agricultural value chain, meaning any increase directly raises operating costs.

Global oil prices are driven by geopolitical developments, production decisions by major producers, and shifts in international demand. Events in key producing regions can quickly impact fuel prices worldwide, often with immediate consequences for farmers.

At the same time, local fuel prices are heavily influenced by the rand/dollar exchange rate. Because oil is traded in dollars, a weaker rand increases domestic fuel costs, even when global prices remain stable.

This combination of global market uncertainty and exchange rate risk means fuel costs are likely to remain volatile in 2026, making cost forecasting more difficult and reinforcing the need for efficient fuel management.

### Interest Rates and Financing Costs

While fertiliser and fuel often receive the most attention, financing costs are equally important in determining farm profitability. Interest rates affect producers through higher borrowing costs on production loans, equipment finance, and working capital.

Although inflation has eased, interest rates have returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. As a result, farmers financing seasonal inputs or capital purchases continue to face elevated repayment costs, placing additional strain on cash flow.

Higher financing costs are particularly challenging in an environment where input prices remain elevated. Even if fertiliser or fuel prices stabilise, the cost of financing those inputs can continue to pressure profitability.

For many producers, the combination of higher borrowing costs and uncertain commodity prices creates a difficult operating environment where margins remain under sustained pressure.

### The Exchange Rate

Perhaps one of the most important yet overlooked drivers of agricultural input costs is the exchange rate. A weaker rand affects the cost of imported fertiliser, fuel, chemicals, and machinery.

Even modest currency movements can have a significant impact on the total cost structure of farming operations. In this way, the exchange rate acts as a multiplier, amplifying global cost pressures at local level. Currency weakness may benefit export-oriented sectors through improved competitiveness, but for producers reliant on imported inputs, it can quickly erode profitability.

This makes exchange rate trends an increasingly important consideration in production planning. While producers cannot control currency movements, awareness of their impact can help inform better budgeting and timing decisions.

### Planning for a High-Cost Environment

Despite occasional periods of moderation, input costs remain high and volatile. Any short-term relief in fertiliser or fuel prices is often offset by renewed global pressures or a weaker rand, limiting real cost savings at farm level.

Fuel prices continue to fluctuate in response to international oil markets, while fertiliser costs remain sensitive to global supply conditions and energy prices. At the same time, exchange rate volatility continues to push up the cost of imported inputs, reinforcing pressure on production budgets.

Financing costs add further strain. Interest rates remain relatively high, keeping the cost of production finance elevated and placing ongoing pressure on cash flow.

As a result, producers are not operating in a stabilised environment, but rather one defined by persistent cost pressure and uncertainty. In this context, conservative budgeting, disciplined input use, and careful timing of purchases are essential.

The 2026 outlook remains challenging. Managing risk, rather than expecting relief, will be key to maintaining profitability.



**UNLEASH  
YOUR DOG'S  
INNER  
LEGEND**



JOCK-hondkos is wetenskaplik geformuleer om jou hond se innerlike legende los te laat, want helde word nie gebore nie, maar gemaák.

JOCK-hondkos is ryk in proteïne en propvol noodsaaklike minerale en vitamieene om in jou hond se daaglikse voedingsbehoefte te voorsien, sy algehele gesondheid te beskerm en te handhaaf, en te verseker dat jou beste vriend op sy fisiese en verstandelik beste is om al die lewe se avonture te geniet..

## Unleash your Dog's Inner Legend



8kg and 20kg

2kg, 8kg, 20kg & 40kg

2kg, 8kg and 20kg

1.75kg, 6kg and 20kg

[www.jockdogfood.co.za](http://www.jockdogfood.co.za)

# Electric Trucks Gain Traction



By Lindi Botha

**As costs fall and ESG pressure rises, electric trucks are beginning to prove their value where it matters most: in demanding, real-world operations.**

Electric trucks are no longer a future prospect on South African roads. As logistics companies face mounting pressure to cut emissions while keeping costs under control, they are the new generation of heavy-duty electric vehicles starting to shift the economics of transport.

Rolf Calitz, managing director of Congo Carriers recently conducted a pilot project with Sappi to assess how electric trucks could be integrated into a forestry operation, with the vehicles supplied through a partnership with Sany.

He explains that the shift towards electric mobility is being accelerated by increasingly stringent ESG requirements, which are pushing companies to lower their carbon footprints, while the quieter operation of electric trucks offers an additional advantage in certain environments.

From a cost perspective, the case is becoming harder to ignore. Electric trucks, which run on electricity rather than diesel, offer significant savings in running costs, particularly as fuel prices continue to rise.

Calitz notes that even before the sharp diesel price increase in April, an electric truck with a 43-tonne payload capacity delivered operating cost savings of around 50% compared with its diesel equivalent.

Although the upfront capital cost of an electric truck is roughly double that of a diesel unit, Calitz says the investment is typically recovered within five years, resulting in a lower total cost of ownership over the vehicle's lifespan.

However, he notes that where operators need to invest in renewable energy infrastructure to support charging, the payback period can extend to as much as ten years.

## Setting the stage for forestry

The pilot project with Sappi started late 2025 and ran until the end of January this year. During this time the trucks clocked over 15 000km, providing ample data to assess the viability of using electric trucks in forestry operations.

**“The trucks are also able to generate their own power when travelling downhill, then drawing power when travelling uphill.”**

Since Sappi's Ngodwana Mill in Mpumalanga generates its own power, the trucks were used on roads surrounding the Mill. “Trucks that transport timber to the Mill could either recharge at the Mill or swap out depleted batteries for charged ones while they were there,” said Calitz.

“This meant that the cost of running the electric trucks was even lower for Sappi since they provided their own electricity.”

The trucks are also able to generate their own power when travelling downhill, then drawing power when travelling uphill. Calitz notes that it was pleasantly surprising how efficiently the trucks were able to recharge themselves, reducing the need for additional external power.

However, he notes that electric trucks would not be able to run entirely off self-generated power and would always need a charging point.

The trucks have a range of 170km to 400km, depending on the type of vehicle, the load it is carrying and the terrain.

## Securing infrastructure

Larger trucks are able to swap out depleted batteries for charged ones – a process which takes less than ten minutes. If the battery needs to be charged, around 40 minutes to 1,5 hours is required.

**“Larger trucks are able to swap out depleted batteries for charged ones – which takes less than ten minutes.”**

A truck with a 580kWh battery requires a high-power charging system, typically around 400kW, which in turn demands an electricity supply of roughly 500kVA to deliver fast charging speeds.

Batteries can be charged using free standing chargers that are either supplied with renewable energy or tied to the grid. Batteries have a life cycle that exceeds ten years, with 80% of the battery's capacity still being available at this point.

Calitz is currently running a pilot project for a cement manufacturer to test the feasibility of running trucks beyond

the reach of the primary charger at the main business premises. In this case, the business would partner with external service providers to provide a charging point for the trucks to make the longer journeys possible.

Congo Carriers works with Zimicharge, a company that specialises in setting up electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Calitz says that those considering switching to EVs should consult with a partner like Zimicharge to set up a viable renewable energy system to power the vehicles.

### Opportunities abound

While forestry is waking up to the benefits of EVs, Calitz notes that the agriculture sector is already reaping the rewards.

**“Even with current infrastructure, it is possible for companies to convert their whole fleet to electric trucks.”**

“Many agribusinesses already use electric front-end loaders and excavators,” he said. “The initial cost is more than diesel versions, but business owners realise that over time EVs provide far better returns. And every time the fuel price increases, the pay-back time of EVs decreases. Many farmers already have renewable energy plants, so going this route is an obvious decision.”

The case for forestry, while positive, is somewhat more challenging. Calitz explains that within the forestry environment, trucks are typically those that require a performance-based standards (PBS) permit, since they are larger and heavier than standard trucks. The bureaucratic process to get approval for these trucks is cumbersome, which is delaying their introduction.

In the meantime, Calitz is rolling out standard trucks, whose demand is increasing as businesses see the opportunities and cost savings.

“There is a massive interest from the forestry sector, as well as companies running commercial fleets,” he said. “I believe demand will increase further as companies are exposed to the technology, and investment to set up charging infrastructure on main routes increases.”

“Even with current infrastructure, it is possible for companies to convert their whole fleet to electric trucks.”

### A little help from China

While a relatively new technology, EVs are widely available in South Africa, as are vehicle parts. Calitz notes that the explosion of this industry in China has sped up advancement.

“China made it mandatory for all trucks in the steel industry to convert to EVs virtually overnight. So, companies had to manage mass rollouts and have consequently raked up millions of hours and kilometres on EVs. They have optimised the technology and availability of vehicles and parts is ample.

With Sany, a Chinese company, being operational in South Africa for many years, we don't struggle with supply.”

An area that does still need to catch up is service technicians, since this field requires a different set of skills to traditional mechanics. However, since EVs have fewer mechanical components, the service intervals are longer, and servicing costs half that of diesel trucks.



A pilot project to test the feasibility of using electric trucks in forestry operations has shown promising results.



The electric trucks have a range of 170km to 400km, depending on the type of vehicle, the load it is carrying and the terrain.

# Avoid geyser claim issues

## this winter

A burst geyser is one of the most common – and costly – household insurance claims. Here's how to avoid it.

From water damage to ruined ceilings, walls, carpets, and high-value personal belongings, the aftermath of a burst geyser can be extensive and expensive.

With the cooler months approaching, geysers are exposed to increased risk, as shown by the annual spike in geyser-related claims during winter. However, not all claims are straightforward. Certain avoidable issues can lead to delays, disputes, or even rejected claims.

### Why is Winter a High-Risk Time?

During normal operation, hot water leaving the geyser is replaced by cold water entering the tank. This causes the geyser and its components to expand and contract.

In winter, the temperature difference between incoming cold water and outgoing hot water is greater than in summer, increasing the rate of expansion and contraction. Over time, this can lead to metal fatigue and possible failure.

Additionally, geysers must work harder to heat colder water during winter, placing extra strain on the system.

### Key Pitfalls to Avoid

#### 1. Non-compliant installations can void warranties

Not all geysers are installed correctly. If a geyser does not comply with South African plumbing regulations or manufacturer specifications, it can create serious problems when something goes wrong.

” In winter, the temperature difference between incoming cold water and outgoing hot water is greater and this can lead to metal fatigue.

#### Common issues include:

- Incorrect pressure valve installation
- Missing drip trays or overflow pipes
- Poorly fitted or incompatible components
- Work carried out by unqualified installers



# IS JOU GRANE VERSEKERER?

# AGRI BATE VERSEKERING

Niemand kan die toekoms voorspel nie, maar ons kan dit vir jou beskerm

## INKOMSTEWAAARBORG

Hierdie versekeringsprodukt is gegrond op 'n gewaarborgde inkomste en verseker die produsent teen randwaarde per hektaar.

Twee veranderlikes word dus tydens eise in berekening gebring naamlik: Prys (SAFEX) en Opbrengs (Ton/ha). Dekking is vir Mielies, Sonneblom en Sojabone.

## WATTER SOORT SKADE WORD GEDEK?

Droogte, Brand, Hael, Transito, Oormaat Reën, Onbeheerbare plantsiektes en -insekplae, Oormatige hittegolwe en Ryp.

## IS ALLEENSTAANDE HAELEKTING BESKIKBAAR?

Ja, iMPAC Cropsure bied ook alleenstaande haelversekering.

## GEWASSE HIERONDER GEDEK SLUIT IN:

Mielies, Graansorghum, Sonneblom, Sojabone, Droëbone, Grondbone, Aartappels en Katoen.

## WAT IS WINTERGEWASSE?

Koring, Gars en Hawer.

## WATTER SOORT SKADE WORD GEDEK?

Hael, Brand en Transito, asook Ryp indien ingesluit.

VIR MEER INLIGTING KONTAK U AGENT OF IMPAC CROPSURE:

+27 [0] 12 010 0697

info@impaccropsure.co.za

Omvattende Versekering vir Landbou Bates

## ONS BELOFTE

Gemoedsrus en dekking vir jou landbou bates ten alle tye. Nou kan jy ten volle fokus op jou boerdery aktiwiteite.

Ons personeel het 'n passie vir dienslewering en die regverdige hantering van alle geldige eise.

## ONS DEKKING

Ons bied *omvattende dekking vir skade veroorsaak deur:*

- Brand
- Weerlig
- Storms
- Wind
- Oorstromings
- Diefstal
- Ongelukke
- Ander onvoorsiene gebeure buite jou beheer soos beskryf in die bepalinge van ons Polis.

*Dekking is onderworpe aan uitsluitings en uitbreidings soos omskryf in ons Polis.*

## DIE POLIS BIED DEKKING VIR:

- Geboue (*huise, store, kantore*)
- Roerende Bates (*huisinhoud en elektroniese- en meganiese toerusting*)
- Sonkrag installasies
- Voertuie
- Trekkers
- Stropers
- Plaas implemente
- Oneerlikheid, ongevallen, beserings en dood van jou werknemers
- Persoonlike- en gemeenregtelike aanspreeklikheid

*Ons produk is kompetend en die dekking is uitstekend in vergelyking met ons konkurrente.*

VIR MEER INLIGTING KONTAK U AGENT OF IMPAC AGRI BATES:

+27 [0] 12 010 0697

wim@impacuma.co.za

If a fault is linked to improper installation, the manufacturer may reject the warranty claim. In some cases, insurers may also limit or decline the claim.

## 2. Replacing a geyser too quickly can cause complications

When a geyser bursts, the natural reaction is to replace it immediately. While acting quickly is important to limit damage, removing and discarding the unit too soon can create problems.

This is because manufacturers often require an inspection to determine whether the failure is covered under warranty.

Secondly, disposing of the geyser too early removes critical evidence, and without inspection, warranty claims may be declined

This can result in delays, disputes, and unexpected out-of-pocket expenses.

## 3. Not following the correct claims process

In the urgency of dealing with water damage, homeowners may overlook important steps in the claims process. Failing to document the damage, use qualified professionals, or follow insurer requirements can complicate or delay claims.

## Final thoughts

A burst geyser may happen suddenly, but the way you respond can make a significant difference.

Ensuring that installations are compliant, allowing proper inspection before replacement, and following the correct claims procedures can help protect both your warranty and your insurance cover.

To find out more about our insurance services or to ensure you have the right cover in place, kindly contact us on 017 824 1055 or email insure@twkagri.com and we will be happy to assist you.

” If a fault is linked to improper installation, the manufacturer may reject the warranty claim.

# Beheer van Rotte en Muis

## met Protek se nuwe Rat & Mouse-reeks



Deur Pauline Swanepoel



**Rotte en muis kom regdeur die jaar voor, maar veral gedurende die winter aangesien hulle op soek is na kos en 'n geskikte skuiling. Hulle versprei siektes soos salmonella, swartkoors en buboniese plaag, besoedel voedsel en beskadig strukture, bedrading, plante, ens.**

Omdat hulle baie vinnig in hul omgewing aanpas en eksponensieel vermeerder, is dit noodsaaklik om vroeg en doeltreffend op te tree. Rotte en muis teel baie vinnig aan. 'n Wyfie-muis kan reeds op 6 weke begin teel en elke 3 weke 'n werpsel van 5 – 10 kleintjies hê. Alhoewel rotte effens stadiger aantel, kan hulle elke 4 – 5 weke 6 – 12 kleintjies kry.

Die langtermyn beheer van rotte en muis vereis 'n geïntegreerde benadering wat goeie huishoudelike praktyke tesame met rotdoders insluit. Dit is belangrik om hulle in die eerste plek heeltemal van jou eiendom uit te sluit. Begin buite deur asblikke behoorlik toe te maak, verwyder rommel waar muis en rotte kan wegkruip en nesmaak, soos hope blare, houtstapels of enige ander rommel wat in die erf rondlê, troeteldier- of weggooikos buite hulle bereik te bêre, krake, gate en ander opening in mure en fondasies te seël, en kombuis, stoorareas en buitegeboue skoon en netjies te hou.

Vir doeltreffende beheer, is die regte produk op die regte plek noodsaaklik. Protek se Rat and Mouse-reeks is 'n enkelvoedinglokaas wat 'n anti-koagulant bevat wat bloedstolling voorkom deur die bloed van teikendiere verdun. 'n Dodelike dosis word in slegs een voedingssessie ingeneem, en dood tree 4 tot 5 dae later in.



**Protek Rat and Mouse Pellets is ideaal om in moeilik bereikbare plekke soos muurholtes of ander knap plekke waar rotte en muis beweeg, te plaas.**



**Protek Rat and Mouse Wax blocks is vogbestand wat die raklewe van die lokaas verleng en konsekwente doeltreffendheid oor tyd verseker.**



**Protek Rat and Mouse Grain Bait is veral geskik vir gebruik teen muis en kan gebruik word waar daar geen of min voedselkompetisie byvoorbeeld hondekos of voëlsaad is nie.**

Dit is noodsaaklik om die risiko van vergiftiging te voorkom deur geskikte, peuterbestande lokaasstasies te gebruik. Behoorlike en veilige plasing van die lokaasstasies is net so belangrik soos die gebruik van die knaagdierdoder. Lokaasstasies moet in plekke geplaas word waar rotte en muis aktief beweeg en waar moontlik, tussen hulle skuiling en voedselbron. Plaas teen mure of op hulle roetes aangesien hulle nie uit hulle pad sal gaan om lokaas te vind nie.

Dit is ook belangrik om karkasse onmiddellik op te tel om enige moontlikheid van sekondêre vergiftiging te vermy. Wanneer daar van dooie knaagdiere weggedoen word, gebruik altyd handskoene om kontak met karkasse te vermy en maak seker dat dit veilig weggedoen word.

Knaagdierdoders is baie giftig vir mense, diere en voëls. Volg dus die instruksies op die etiket om blootstelling te vermy. Alle knaagdierdoders moet buite bereik van kinders en troeteldiere gehou word, of dit nou gebruik of gestoor word.

Rotte en muis bly 'n uitdaging, maar deur die regte stappe te volg, kan hulle doeltreffend bestuur word. Volg 'n geïntegreerde benadering deur toegangspunte af te sluit, areas skoon te hou

en geskikte rotbeheerprodukte, soos die Rat and Mouse-reeks van Protek te gebruik, soos nodig. Hoe vinniger jy optree, hoe gouer kan jy van die probleem ontslae raak.

Geregistreer in terme van Wet 36 van 1947

LEES DIE ETIKET VOORDAT U DIE PRODUK GEBRUIK

*Rat and Mouse Grain Bait: L11616, flocoumafien 0,05 g/kg, GEVAAR, H372 - veroorsaak skade aan organe (bloed) deur langdurige of herhaalde blootstelling, registrasiehouer: Protek, 'n afdeling van PE-BEE Agri (Edms) Bpk, maatskappyregistrasienuommer 2005/036308/07, Posbus 72, Heidelberg, 1441, telefoonnommer: 011 812 9800*

*Rat & Mouse Pellets: L11617, flocoumafien 0,05 g/kg, GEVAAR, H372 - veroorsaak skade aan organe (bloed) deur langdurige of herhaalde blootstelling, registrasiehouer: Protek, 'n afdeling van PE-BEE Agri (Edms) Bpk, maatskappyregistrasienuommer 2005/036308/07, Posbus 72, Heidelberg, 1441, telefoonnommer: 011 812 9800*

*Rat & Mouse Wax Blocks: L11615, flocoumafien 0,05 g/kg, GEVAAR, H372 - veroorsaak skade aan organe (bloed) deur langdurige of herhaalde blootstelling, registrasiehouer: Protek, 'n afdeling van PE-BEE Agri (Edms) Bpk, maatskappyregistrasienuommer 2005/036308/07, Posbus 72, Heidelberg, 1441, telefoonnommer: 011 812 9800*

Versprei deur: Protek, 'n afdeling van PE-BEE Agri (Edms.) Bpk, Posbus 72, Heidelberg, 1438, telefoonnommer (011) 812-9800 of 0861 PROTEK (0861 77 68 35), [www.protek.co.za](http://www.protek.co.za)



# DIE ROTRESIES STOP HIER!

ZERO VERDRAAGSAAMHEID,  
ZERO KNAAGDIERE

Beheer Noorweegse rotte,  
dakrotte en huismuise

Gerieflike, maklike toediening  
Enkelvoeding

**PRO  
TEK**

Vir jou Huis en Tuin!



**NUUT**



## Rat and Mouse Grain Bait

- Gereed-vir-gebruik graan-lokaas
- Gebruik waar daar min/geen koskompetisie is nie, soos hondekos of voëlsaad

## Rat and Mouse Pellets

- Gereed-vir-gebruik korrel-lokaas
- Maklik om te plaas in moeilik bereikbare areas, muurholtes of ander beknoppte plekke waar rotte/muise beweeg



## Rat and Mouse Wax Blocks

- Gereed-vir-gebruik wasblokkie-lokaas
- Vogbestande wasformulering verleng die rakleefyd van die lokaas en verseker konstante doeltreffendheid oor tyd

Insekdoders

Onkruidodders

Swamdoders

Spesialiteite

Knaagdierdoders

Kunsmis

Om meer uit te vind oor ons volledige reeks produkte, kontak ons by 0861 PROTEK (0861 77 68 35)

[www.protek.co.za](http://www.protek.co.za)


LEES ETIKET DEEGLIK VOOR GEBRUIK

Geregistreer in terme van Wet 36 van 1947

**Rat and Mouse Grain Bait:** L11616, flooumafien 0,05 g/kg, GEVAAR, H372 - veroorsaak skade aan organe (bloed) deur langdurige of herhaalde blootstelling, registrasiehouer: Protek, 'n afdeling van PE-BEE Agri (Edms) Bpk, maatskappyregistrasienumer 2005/036308/07, Posbus 72, Heidelberg, 1441, telefoonnummer: 011 812 9800 **Rat and Mouse Pellets:** L11617, flooumafien 0,05 g/kg, GEVAAR, H372 - veroorsaak skade aan organe (bloed) deur langdurige of herhaalde blootstelling, registrasiehouer: Protek, 'n afdeling van PE-BEE Agri (Edms) Bpk, maatskappyregistrasienumer 2005/036308/07, Posbus 72, Heidelberg, 1441, telefoonnummer: 011 812 9800 **Rat and Mouse Wax Blocks:** L11615, flooumafien 0,05 g/kg, GEVAAR, H372 - veroorsaak skade aan organe (bloed) deur langdurige of herhaalde blootstelling, registrasiehouer: Protek, 'n afdeling van PE-BEE Agri (Edms) Bpk, maatskappyregistrasienumer 2005/036308/07, Posbus 72, Heidelberg, 1441, telefoonnummer: 011 812 9800 **Versprei deur:** Protek, 'n divisie van PE-BEE Agri (Edms) Bpk, Posbus 72, Heidelberg, 1438, tel no (011) 812-9800 of 0861 PROTEK (0861 77 68 35), [www.protek.co.za](http://www.protek.co.za)



# From Outbreaks to Opportunity

 By Juwairiah Cassim

**While foot-and-mouth disease looms large, Daneel Rossouw, Head of Sales for Nedbank Agriculture, argues that stronger biosecurity measures can strengthen our livestock sector in the global market.**

South Africa is currently facing one of its most serious foot and-mouth disease (FMD) crises in years, one that has already locked South African farmers out of some markets.

Livestock production represents the largest segment of South Africa's agricultural economy, contributing over half of the sector's total value. It underpins the livelihoods of thousands of commercial and emerging farmers and generates employment for millions along the value chain.

Although local demand makes up a sizeable portion of meat consumption, sluggish economic growth has kept real household income largely unchanged.

As a result, international markets remain a critical opportunity for expansion for South African farmers, even amid increasing disease risks and evolving global trade dynamics.

## **Beyond the outbreak**

Recurring animal disease outbreaks hinder this potential, triggering trade bans and wiping out billions of rand in potential exports. When countries close their markets, South Africa loses both sales and long-term credibility. Buyers quickly turn to competitors that can guarantee a consistent, disease-free supply. Rebuilding those relationships takes years – if it's even possible.

These risks are no longer hypothetical. Recent outbreaks have already triggered import bans from key trading partners, including China and Zambia, sharply reducing beef and dairy exports, and highlighting how quickly market access can vanish when disease control falters.

What is even more frustrating is that South Africa has everything it needs to be a global powerhouse: high-quality beef, lamb, pork, poultry, and dairy with a reputation for excellent flavour.

Strong meat demand exists, particularly in the Middle East and Asia, where protein consumption is rising. But these

opportunities may stay out of reach without reliable biosecurity.

## **It's not just about export markets**

Despite sluggish domestic growth, per capita meat consumption has held steady and is expected to climb, but the scale of recent disease outbreaks has deepened the strain on producers and rural communities, with hundreds of thousands of animals affected and significant losses in production.

Beyond the costs of vaccinations and containment, many farmers face reduced output, disrupted supply chains, and the stress of mounting veterinary and labour costs as export markets close and production stalls.

**” South Africa has everything it needs to be a global powerhouse and strong meat demand exists, particularly in the Middle East and Asia.**

The dairy sector has also been hit hard by the FMD outbreak, with cases reported across all nine provinces and movement restrictions disrupting the flow of cattle and milk.

Infected cows can experience milk yield reductions of between 15% and 50%, so production volumes have fallen sharply, intensifying financial pressure on farmers.

Export losses alone are estimated to exceed R1 billion since the outbreak has begun. These disruptions also contribute to higher price volatility for dairy products, threaten domestic supply resilience, and could have implications for local food security.

## Systemic weaknesses

The underlying challenge lies not in farming expertise but in systemic weaknesses within South Africa's animal health framework.

Despite intensified response efforts, gaps in surveillance, traceability, movement control, and coordinated emergency action continue to allow disease to spread.

Unauthorised practices, informal animal movement, and inconsistent compliance with control protocols further undermine containment and export confidence.

Strengthening these systems with reliable surveillance and better biosecurity enforcement is essential to reducing the economic consequences of disease and protecting both domestic markets and international trade opportunities.

## Signs of progress

Despite these challenges, there is positive momentum. Government has shifted towards an "FMD-free with vaccination" strategy, with a nationwide vaccination campaign underway and plans to immunise the majority of South Africa's cattle herd.

Cooperation is promising, with the Department of Agriculture and industry partners swiftly containing and vaccinating affected feedlots.

Another positive development is the research led by Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) and academic partners, which aims to better understand the specific FMD strains circulating in South Africa and generate evidence-based risk assessments for meat processing and trade.

This work could help refine outdated regulations and support safer market access for South African red meat.

Importantly, the Agricultural Research Council has launched the country's first locally developed FMD vaccine in more than two decades, marking a step towards restoring domestic vaccine production capacity.

This combination offers hope that South Africa can regain export credibility while reducing the economic impact of future outbreaks.

## From crisis to opportunity

Traceability is key to turning crisis into opportunity. These measures require coordinated investment and strong alignment among all stakeholders in the livestock sector. Producers, industry bodies, and government recognise that collaboration is essential to strengthen resilience, improve disease management, and safeguard both domestic and export markets.

Producers are increasingly viewing traceability systems as central to these efforts – not only for meeting export compliance requirements, but also as early-warning tools for disease control and to minimise the impact of outbreaks.

Beyond biosecurity, traceability provides a competitive edge, enabling producers to improve efficiency, enhance product quality, and achieve higher returns in both domestic and international markets.

” **Reliable surveillance and better biosecurity enforcement is key to reducing the economic consequences of disease.**

## The next phase of action

Industry bodies like RMIS have progressed from advocacy to action by rolling out the next phase of a national traceability platform designed to connect farms, auctions, feedlots, and abattoirs and improve disease surveillance and market access, with explicit support from government.

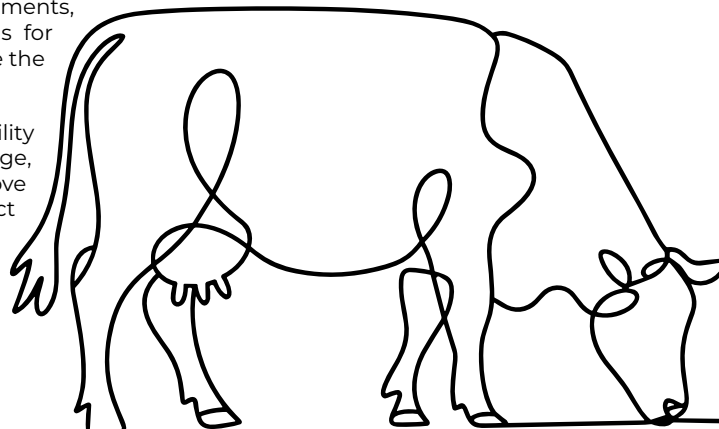
There is also growing industry dialogue about how traceability governance can best serve producers, including emerging farmer led initiatives that emphasise transparency and local ownership.

The stakes for South Africa's livestock sector are high. With outbreaks impacting multiple provinces, export bans already in effect, and livelihoods at risk, action cannot wait.

Strengthened biosecurity, nationwide traceability, and a revitalised domestic vaccine infrastructure offer a pathway to resilience.

Success will require sustained collaboration across government, industry, and the private sector. By turning this crisis into an opportunity for structural reform, South Africa can protect farmers, safeguard food security, and restore its position as a reliable supplier in global meat markets.

” **There is also growing industry dialogue about how traceability governance can best serve producers.**



# *The Invisible Layer*

# *How GIS Safeguards Our Assets*

 By Sonet Vermaak

Before a policy is signed, GIS enables us to visualise risk so that we can provide more accurate premiums and assure the company's resilience to environmental instability. Here's how it works.



In the fast-paced worlds of agriculture and insurance, we tend to focus on what we can see: a thriving crop, a border fence, or a physical building. However, beneath the surface of every decision we make, an invisible foundation exists to assure our stability and growth. That foundation is Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

## **What is the "Invisible Layer"?**

At its foundation, GIS is much more than "making maps". It is a complex framework for collecting, managing, and analysing information.

By overlaying many layers of information (topography, soil health, historical weather patterns, and property boundaries) onto a single virtual map, we may convert abstract data into useful information.

For our stakeholders, this means that we are looking at the farm's history, hazards, and possibilities all at once.

## **Protecting Stakeholders through Spatial Intelligence**

GIS serves as a quiet guardian for our company's assets in three main ways: Precision risk assessment, rapid response and verification, and data-driven sustainability.

Before a policy is signed, GIS enables us to visualise risk. By spatially analysing flood zones or drought-prone regions, we can provide more accurate premiums and assure the company's resilience to environmental instability.

When events occur on the ground, the most crucial question is: where? GIS allows us to quickly overlay satellite imagery on our asset locations. This enables claims to be verified quickly and ensures that resources are deployed where they are most needed, reducing downtime and administrative friction.

In the agriculture sector, safeguarding an asset entails protecting the land. GIS allows us to track vegetation health over time and identify areas of stress before they become crises. This proactive strategy ensures the long-term worth of the land and the livelihoods of those who work it.

## **Bridging the Gap**

While the technology that powers GIS (complex algorithms, spatial joins, and satellite telemetry) occurs behind the scenes, the results are visible. When we successfully minimise a risk or optimise a field's output, we witness the "Invisible Layer" at work.

In this year and years ahead, our commitment to integrating spatial thinking into all aspects of the business will only deepen. That's because understanding the "where" allows us to better handle the "what's next."

# WEN 'N HILUX!

TOYOTA HILUX DUBBEL KAJUIT 2.4GD6 4x4 MT (A7C)

## KOOP 100L ENGEN SMEERMIDDEL SKANDEER KODE & SKRYF IN OM TE WEN!



**SKANDEER OF  
WHATSAPP  
U STROKIE NA  
087 250 0308**


Promosie Datum 01.05.2026 tot 31.08.2026 Slegs by geselekteerde landboumaatskappye. Voorwaardes geld.

Met ons is jy Nommer Een





# Shedding the Old Skin, Growing Together

 By Bob Tumber, Forestry Director

**Across Africa, elders often say that a snake that refuses to shed its skin refuses to grow.**

It is a simple image, but it carries a lesson worth thinking about. A snake does not shed because the old skin was bad. It sheds because it has grown. What once protected it eventually becomes too tight to carry it forward. In nature, transformation is not a sign of failure – it is the ultimate prerequisite for survival.

**I believe this is a useful lesson for all of us at TWK Agri.**

The world we operate in today asks more of us than it did before. Customers expect more. Markets move quickly. Costs, risks, systems and responsibilities are more complex. The way we worked before helped us get here. But the world in which we now operate asks more of us. It asks us to be clearer, more disciplined and more willing to adjust where old ways no longer fit.

This is also part of the direction Dietmar Schroeder, Executive Manager for the TWK Agri Timber Division, is strengthening across the Timber Division. At Peak Timbers, we are experiencing this in a very real way through building a stronger Peak Timbers.

The strategy is being put into practice, and that is where shedding becomes real. It is felt in new routines, clearer expectations, more disciplined decisions and the daily work of building a stronger Peak Timbers.

We recently spent time as a team working through the strategy and what it means in practice. The purpose was not only to explain the plan, but to make sure people understand why it matters, what is expected and how each person's work contributes to the bigger picture.

For me, this work must stay true to TWK's values and to the responsibility we carry. Our decisions and actions matter to our

employees, our teams, our customers, our service providers, our communities and the broader TWK Agri business. Building a stronger Peak Timbers will take shared understanding,

**” A certain amount of tension is not a sign that we are breaking down, it is proof that we are breaking through.**

disciplined action and responsible decisions.

**A little discomfort means growth**

The shedding process is not comfortable. Before a snake sheds, its vision becomes cloudy and it temporarily becomes blind. During this transition phase, its movement slows. It becomes vulnerable, anxious and hidden from the world.

Here, the critical lesson from nature is that old skin does not just fall off on its own; the snake cannot just sit passively and wait for the change to happen. It must push against rough surfaces to break the old skin open. It uses discomfort to liberate itself.

Right now, the broader TWK Agri business is rubbing against rough edges of the status quo. Changing company strategy and learning new skills is our friction and it requires effort. It creates tension but a certain amount of tension is not a sign that we are breaking down, it is proof that we are breaking through.

## Change can feel like that too.

A new system can make work feel slower before it becomes familiar. A process that asks for more detail can feel unnecessary until we understand the risk it is trying to reduce. A decision that now needs proper checking can feel frustrating when we were used to quicker answers. A new standard, report or way of planning can feel like extra work before we see how it helps the business become stronger.

Those frustrations are real. People may ask why things must change, or why we cannot simply carry on in the way we know. Those are fair questions. But discomfort does not always mean something is wrong. Sometimes it means growth is taking place.

## Opportunity awaits us

There is also opportunity in this moment. When we let go of what no longer fits, we make space for better ways of working, stronger teamwork and clearer decisions.

We also create room for people to bring new ideas, take ownership and help shape what comes next, just like the snake after shedding process; it emerges with a renewed identity, sharper vision and vibrant, stronger scales ready for a bigger world.

Each of us has a part to play. We must each decide what we need to let go of, what we need to learn and how we will contribute to the stronger future ahead.

We should not fear the temporary blindness of transition, and we should not shy away from the friction of learning and adapting.

Wherever you are in this season of change, ask yourself:

- What old habit, process or way of working is making the work harder than it needs to be?
- What has changed around me that I need to understand better?
- Where do I need to be clearer, more disciplined or more consistent?
- What small action can I take this week to help move things forward?

Let's embrace the shed, and lean into discomfort, support each other through the vulnerable moments and emerge as a faster, stronger, and more vibrant organisation.

The old skin served its purpose.

It helped us through important years. But if we hold onto it for too long, it can start to limit the very growth it once protected. We honour it because it served us well. But we do not stay in it because we have outgrown it.

## It's time to leave that old skin behind and build the future together.



INSURANCE

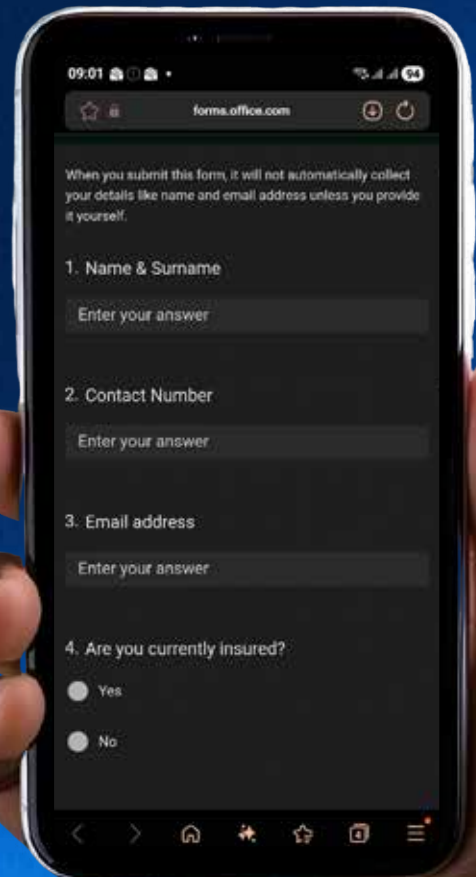
QUALITY, PERSONAL INSURANCE  
*without the hassle*

SCAN. QUOTE. COVERED.

Scan the QR Code to receive your personalised quotation.



FSP: 45055



# How Certification and Smart Data Unlock Better Markets



By Louise van Wyk

**Questions posed to farmers of commercial forestry operations form the foundation of certification, market access, and future profitability. Here's why it's worth it to comply.**

Farmers of commercial forestry plantations are facing more questions than ever before, about their land, their trees, their practices, and their environmental impact. These questions are driven by changing global market expectations, stricter regulations, and growing demand for sustainable products.

Rather than seeing this as a burden, it is important to recognise that these questions form the foundation of certification, market access, and future profitability.

**” Certified timber can often be sold at a premium price, offering better returns.**

## **Why certification matters to you**

Certification is quickly becoming essential in forestry. One of its biggest advantages is access to better markets. It acts like a passport, allowing your timber to enter high-value international markets that would otherwise be closed.

It also improves your income potential. Certified timber can often be sold at a premium price, offering better returns.

Certification also supports sustainable land management. By following its principles, you protect your soil, water, and biodiversity, ensuring your plantation remains productive for years to come, and leaving a legacy for future generations.

Another important benefit is legal compliance and credibility. Certification systems are aligned with regulations, meaning that by meeting certification requirements, you are also covering many legal obligations. This builds trust with buyers and regulators.

In addition, certification strengthens communities. It includes standards such as minimum worker rights, helping ensure fair treatment and improving the role of communities within the forestry value chain.

## **The Value-Based Platform (VBP)**

TWK supports growers throughout the certification journey. The process of certification can seem complex, but the Value-Based Platform (VBP) is a system available to our farmers, to make certification practical and to simplify it.

The VBP removes barriers by reducing administrative work, lowering costs, and bringing everything into one practical system.

It also helps you organise your plantation data and align your practices with certification requirements. This not only supports compliance but also improves decision-making, ensuring your operation is both more sustainable and profitable.

However, the VBP only delivers value if it is fully completed. Incomplete data limits its usefulness. The more accurate and comprehensive your information, the greater the benefit.

## ” With EU Deforestation Regulation, you position yourself as a credible and responsible supplier.

### **EUDR: proving you are not linked to deforestation**

Another driver behind these data requirements is the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). To access EU markets, farmers must prove that their timber is not linked to deforestation.

This is where certification becomes your proof system. By maintaining accurate records, such as GPS coordinates, land history, and management practices, you can demonstrate that your plantation complies with EUDR requirements.

Without this proof, access to EU markets becomes extremely difficult. With it, you position yourself as a credible and responsible supplier.

### **Carbon reporting: compliance, income, sustainability**

Carbon management is becoming a central part of forestry. Understanding your carbon position helps you meet regulations, access new income opportunities, and facilitates sustainable operations.

Carbon stock in your plantation depends on:

- The area planted (hectares)
- Tree species
- Tree age
- Harvest volumes

At the same time, emissions must be accounted for, including those from fertiliser use, burning, and natural decomposition.

Certification increasingly expects climate awareness, and South African regulations are moving toward stricter carbon accountability. Farmers who understand and manage their carbon will be better prepared for the future. This is also a key function supported by the VBP.

### **The importance of your data**

The questions you are being asked are directly linked to the data needed for certification, carbon reporting, and market access. Each type of data plays a specific role:

- GPS location is used for EUDR compliance
- Tree species and age support both carbon calculations and certification
- Harvest records ensure carbon tracking and traceability
- Land history (establishment date) is critical for EUDR requirements
- Fire and fertiliser records contribute to carbon reporting and certification

In addition, maintaining open areas and conservation zones on your land supports all

three areas: certification, carbon management, and regulatory compliance because it collates clear evidence of responsible land use, biodiversity protection, and no deforestation.

### **The risks of not coming on board**

Failing to engage with certification, EUDR, and carbon reporting carries real risks. You may lose access to key markets, especially in Europe. You could face future regulatory penalties as laws become stricter. Your operation may also fall behind in adopting climate-smart practices.

Perhaps most significantly, you risk missing out on new income streams linked to carbon markets and sustainable production.

Therefore, the growing number of questions facing farmers is not a complication; rather, it is a roadmap. Certification, supported by tools like the VBP, backed by accurate data, and aligned with EUDR and carbon requirements, creates a clear path forward.

By embracing such a system, you not only secure market access but also build a more resilient, profitable, and sustainable forestry operation.

## ” Failing to engage with certification, EUDR, and carbon reporting carries real risks.



New Holland

# Groot



NEW HOLLAND

SAAM JOU, SEISOEN NA SEISOEN

# Trekkerreeks



Deur Jaco du Preez

**New Holland se groot trekkerreeks bestaan uit drie reekse: die T9, Genesis® T8, en T7 HD (Heavy Duty). Al hierdie modelle is toegerus met die PLM Intelligence™-stelsel (Presisie Landbestuurstelsel met Intelligensie).**

Die T7 HD-reeks is die nuutste toevoeging tot hierdie groot segment en beskik oor die jongste Stage V-tegnologie van New Holland. Die T7.315 HD-trekker (tans in SA) gebruik die ECOBlue™ HI-eSCR 2 (selektiewe katalitiese reduksie)-stelsel om uitlaatgasse te verminder. Hierdie innoverende nabehandelingstelsel is onderhoudsvry en help om bedryfskoste laag te hou.

Die Auto Command™ deurlopend veranderlike transmissie (CVT) dra by tot doeltreffende werking, saam met ander standaardvoordele soos kajuit- en voorsuspensie, LED-ligte, hoë hidrouliese vloeï, groot hysvermoë en die Blue Power-kleur- en ontwerp-pakket.

Die trekker is ook toegerus met PLM Intelligence™, insluitend die IntelliView™ 12-skerm en SideWinder™ Ultra-beheerarm. Die IntelliView™ 12-skerm bied vinnige configurasie en gevorderde funksies soos pasgemaakte uitlegopsies vir elke taak en operateur, 3D-kaart, raakskermnavigasie en naatlose integrasie met hoogs akkurate presisie seine. Die ontwerp is dieselfde as dié van die T8- en T9-reekse, wat die operateur se werk vergemaklik deur 'n eenvormige uitleg.

Telematika is standaard met die outomatiese stuurstelsel, terwyl die sein opsioneel is.

Die Genesis® T8-reeks is ontwerp om aan die algemene behoeftes van produsente te voldoen. Dit bied ruim krag van enjins wat 265–404 perdekrag (195–297 kW) lewer, met óf 'n volledig gesinchroniseerde Ultra Command™ powershift, óf die Auto Command™ CVT-transmissie om hierdie krag effektief oor te dra na swaardiens-asse, robuuste driepuntkoppeling en trekstange. Dit alles dra by tot optimale prestasie tydens grondbewerking.

Die 328 liter/min mega-vloei hidrouliese pomp en ses volledige hidrouliese afstandbeheerkoppelingse verseker betroubare werking van enige implement of planter.

In die kajuit ervaar operateurs gevorderde tegnologie, twee IntelliView™ 12-duim raakskerms, wat eenvoudige beheer met groter presisie en aanpasbaarheid kombineer. Kajuitvering is nou standaard, wat 'n gladder rit bied tydens lang werksure. Die 360 grade LED ligte help ook as daar in die nag gewerk moet word.

Hierdie eenhede was ook van die eerstes op die mark om die gevorderde PLM Intelligence-platform volledig te integreer. Hierdie stelsel help met stuurbeheer, sodat daar jaar ná jaar op dieselfde bane gewerk kan word. Spesiale toepassings word ook deur hierdie stelsel beheer, soos reeds by die T7 HD genoem.

Die twee top modelle is ook beskikbaar met die bekende agterste SmartTrax-stelsels. Hierdie ruspebande bied beter grondkontak, dryfvermoë en trekkrag, veral in sanderige grond of nat toestande.

Die T9-reeks met PLM Intelligence-trekkers verteenwoordig die beste van New Holland se krag (312 kW tot 474 kW), gerief, doeltreffendheid en veelsydigheid. Met geïntegreerde PLM Intelligence-funksies, soos in die ander reekse, is die T9 die mees gevorderde en kragtigste viertrek-trekker wat New Holland nog aangebied het.

Die 428 liter/min mega-vloei hidrouliese pomp en ses volledige hidrouliese afstandbeheerkoppelingse verseker betroubare werking van enige implement of planter.

In die kajuit ervaar operateurs gevorderde tegnologie, twee IntelliView™ 12-duim raakskerms, wat eenvoudige beheer met groter presisie en aanpasbaarheid kombineer. Kajuitvering is nou standaard, wat 'n gladder rit bied tydens lang werksure. Die 360 grade LED ligte help ook as daar in die nag gewerk moet word.

Die ingeboude lewenslange (T9 & T8) Telematika-stelsel en beheer maak dit makliker as ooit om jou vloot te monitor. Saam met die FieldOps-databasisstelsel, het jy volle beheer oor jou plaas en toerusting. FieldOps is gratis en laat jou toe om al jou toerusting te integreer.





ALTYD AAN  
JOU SY



# Plant jou sukses

met **geel droëlandbasters** en jou keuse van tegnologie.

Sukses begin met die regte keuse. Of jy nou **Roundup Ready® Maize 2**, **YieldGard® Maize 2**, of die wenkombinasie van beide kies, ons bewese portefeulje en toegewyde kundiges ondersteun jou van planttyd tot strooptyd.



DKC72-66BR

DKC77-26BR

DKC110-42BR

acceleron®

Roundup  
HERBICIDE

Roundup  
Ready  
MAIZE 2

YieldGard®  
MAIZE 2



#DEKALBverskil | | @Bayer4Crops

[www.cropscience.bayer.co.za](http://www.cropscience.bayer.co.za) // [www.bayer.co.za](http://www.bayer.co.za) // Tel: +27 11 921 5002

Bayer (Edms) Bpk. Reg. Nr. 1968/011192/07. Collaboration Hub, Eerste Vloer, Waterfall-sirkel, Country Estate Rylaan 9, Waterfall City, Midrand, 2090.

Die registrasie-eienaar van Acceleron®, DEKALB®, Roundup Ready® Herbicide, Roundup Ready® MAIZE 2 en YieldGard® MAIZE 2 is Bayer AG.

WAARSKUWING – LEES DIE PRODUKETIKETTE VOOR GEBRUIK.



By Cornelia Vermaak

**Winter is a stark reminder that things can change dramatically in what feels like the blink of an eye – the same can be said for livestock this season. Here are some tips to take care.**

Instead of lush green fields and great temperatures that allow both us and our livestock to go about our business as usual, we now have a different view for the next few months.

Light browns, ivories and even almost white shades are the norm, with streaks of black for the firebreaks littered in every few kilometres. Frost covers the grass every morning, and an icy cold wind freezes you to the core and there's even some snow here and there.

Winter. The time of the year we associate with soup, warm fires, jackets and of course the cold weather outside.

But things can change in the blink of an eye. When you farm with livestock, things can be going well one moment and the next, things have gone out the window. Perfectly laid out plans can come crashing down.

But as farmers, there are a few things we can do to be prepared. By helping our livestock, whether cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or our equines go into winter as healthy as possible, we ensure they come out on the other side as healthy as possible again.

Healthy livestock increases the profitability of a farm. There's a lot of emphasis on health, but there is a good reason for that. Sick animals can't produce and animals that don't produce will cause losses for the farmer.

### **Control those Parasites**

A good parasite control programme is always a wise place to start when it comes to livestock health. When animals struggle with internal and external parasites, their immune systems are severely compromised. This in turn leads to them getting sick more often and easier, to them losing weight and even to increased mortality rates (which in turn decreases the profit margins).

When you want to provide a product for internal parasite control, the best thing you can do is to take a manure sample to your veterinarian to get a better idea of what is lurking inside your livestock. This will help you narrow down which products you need instead of shooting in the dark.

Once you've established that, don't make the mistake of using the same product repeatedly. Change products but always keep an eye on the main active ingredient. The reason for this is simple – parasites tend to get immune against products if they are constantly in contact with the same ones.

If you are unsure, speak to one of the very helpful and knowledgeable assistants at your local TWK branch, they will be able to assist you in finding the right product.

As a side note, just because we are heading into winter, it doesn't mean external parasites have gone into hiding. Keep an eye out for ticks and even lice as well.

Because ticks stick around, tick borne diseases can still appear from time-to-time and can cause havoc with your herd. Ensure you have the right medication on hand to help treat your livestock if they do fall sick due to one of these diseases.

Horses and other equines can be overlooked, so when you are treating your other animals for parasites (internal and external), remember to treat them as well. They also get affected by parasites and it's one of the reasons that they lose weight and don't seem to fatten up again.

**” A good parasite control programme is always a wise place to start when it comes to livestock health.**

# **Bitter Cold Days and Colder Nights**



There are special products that you can look out for in your TWK branch for horses. Keep them healthy now and you will have them for many more years to come.

### Pay Attention to Feeding

During the winter months, the normal grass that's usually available is a tad lifeless. This includes its nutritional value. So, when you provide supplements for your livestock, you need to give something that will account for the seasonal change.

Animals with calves and lambs at their sides have a higher nutritional need than those who are not in full production as they need to provide milk as well. Pregnant animals also have higher needs.

It's a fine balance, but once again there is a very willing TWK assistant that will help you find the right supplement for your herd.

Over the last several years we have also seen different products enter the market from different brands and changes made to other products that have helped livestock farmers tremendously.

It's not only about what works for your neighbour will work for you (each farm differs), but different products come in at different price classes as well and knowing this helps the wallet.

### More Notes on Winter Sickness

With cold days (and some snaps of warmer days here and there) and freezing nights, there is always the chance of pneumonia amongst livestock, which can be serious.

Whether in a feedlot, a dairy or even out in the fields, those animals need to be identified as soon as possible and treated even faster to help them recover. Their immune systems will be compromised, so make sure you get them on the tight treatment plan and stick to it. Speak to your veterinarian.

**” When you provide supplements for your livestock, you need to give something that will account for the seasonal change.**

With small livestock such as sheep and goats, the stragglers are almost always the same culprits – but this could mean they aren't as healthy as the rest. If you check on the last 10% of a flock, or if you can identify your common stragglers, it's likely that quite a few of them are sick.

Signs of illness include pale gums and eyes, bags under their jaws, and other symptoms. Depending on what is wrong with them, you can either treat the culprits, or if the problem is severe, you may have to treat the whole flock.

It's also a good idea to keep an eye and ear out for sneezing and coughing amongst your livestock. Those are common symptoms to look out for when it comes to respiratory issues or even nasal worm.

Lastly, foot-and-mouth disease is still around and will most likely be for a while. Keep your animals healthy, by paying attention to their immune systems and not mixing them with other strange animals. Keep strange animals off of your property and away from your healthy animals. If you do have a sick animal, isolate that animal and call your veterinarian.

In the long run, what we do today for our livestock, helps them tomorrow. If we can't plan for tomorrow, we won't show a profit now or in future. Keeping animals healthy and in production means we farm for the future.


**” Keep strange animals off of your property and away from your healthy animals.**

# Who Takes Care of the Livestock?



# FARMING VEGETABLES SUSTAINABLY



 By Erich Jacobs

**For the modern grower, the goal when it comes to pests has evolved beyond simple eradication – the real challenge is establishing a sustainable management system.**

Vegetable production, whether you are growing cabbage, tomatoes, or mixed leafy greens, is a high-stakes environment. Pests and diseases can move with incredible speed, threatening both your yield and your quality.

In intensive systems, particularly under tunnels or irrigation, these pressures do not take a break during the cooler seasons; they simply shift their focus.

For the modern grower, the goal has evolved beyond simple eradication. The real challenge is establishing a sustainable, resistance-free management system that maintains high market standards without compromising crop health.

This is where biological solutions have become an essential part of the commercial toolkit.

## Managing the "Big Four" Vegetable Pests

Building a resilient system starts with early identification and a multi-layered biological defence. Here's a pest-by-pest breakdown with their sustainable solutions:



**Aphids:** These sap-suckers weaken crops and are notorious for spreading viruses. Watch for distorted growth, sticky honeydew, or the presence of ants, which often farm the aphids.

**The Strategy:** Use Bioneem for rapid population reduction, or Pyrol if you need an immediate knockdown.



**Whitefly:** A primary threat in tomato and greenhouse production, whiteflies transmit damaging viruses like TYLCV. Look for yellowing leaves or a cloud of white insects when the plant is disturbed.

**The Strategy:** Implement Neudosan for immediate contact control and Real Metarhizium 69 to keep the population from building back up. Add Real SwirskiFIX to manage remaining pest populations (they work whilst you sleep).



# A Biological Approach to Pests and Diseases



**Thrips:** Often found in onions, cabbage and tomatoes, thrips cause unsightly scarring and silver streaks.

**The Strategy:** Integrate predatory mites such as Real SwirskiFIX with biopesticides like Bioneem and Neudosan. Real Metarhizium 69 provides the necessary long-term suppression. If you need an immediate knockdown, then use Pyrol.



**Caterpillars (Diamondback moth and Bollworm):** These pests, such as the Diamondback moth, can rapidly defoliate a brassica crop if left unmanaged.

**The Strategy:** Avoid chemical resistance by using an integrated spray programme that includes Real Metarhizium 69 and Bioneem to manage infestation levels effectively. If you need an immediate knockdown, then use Pyrol.

## Hardwiring Disease Resistance

Prevention is the most effective way to manage pathogens. By the time you see wilting or rot, the damage is often already deep in the tissue or roots.



**Botrytis (Grey Mould):** High-humidity environments are a breeding ground for Botrytis, especially in tomatoes and leafy vegetables.

**The Strategy:** Beyond managing airflow, use Real Trichoderma TRC900 to outcompete the pathogen on the plant surface, supported by preventative applications of Real Bacillus.



**Soil-Borne Pathogens (Fusarium, Pythium, Rhizoctonia):** These invisible killers reduce plant vigour by attacking the root system.

**The Strategy:** Protect the root zone from day one with Real Trichoderma TRC900. Combine this with Real Bacillus and soil health programmes involving SeaBrix or PopUp to build long-term resilience.



**Mildews and Blights:** Powdery and Downy mildew can drastically reduce photosynthesis across a wide range of crops.

**The Strategy:** Copper Soap is highly effective for early blight and powdery mildew in tomatoes. Use Real Bacillus and Real Trichoderma TRC900 to enhance overall root health and systemic resistance.

## Building a System, Not Just a Spray Programme

Biological control is not just a replacement for chemicals; it is a way to build a system where pests and diseases struggle to establish in the first place.

By combining biological agents, biopesticides, and smart management, growers see reduced chemical resistance, safer conditions for beneficial insects, and significantly improved marketability.

**For tailored programmes in cabbage, tomatoes, or other vegetable crops, contact Sunshine Seedlings Representatives:**



**KZN**

Erich Jacobs: 076 260 1306



**Mpumalanga**

Lothar Meyer: 082 552 7463

## Vegetables and other crops



**KZN**

Richard Parker: 083 560 2636



**KZN and Free State**

Wynand Kilian: 082 899 3195



## Flowers, grass, nurseries, and landscaping

Wendy de Bruyn: 083 571 1887

In agriculture,  
the best time to  
secure your finance  
is before you need it.



***Secure inputs early***



***Manage lower commodity prices***

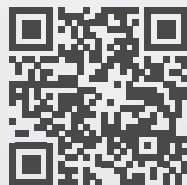


***Create flexibility in your produce marketing decisions***



***Prepare for possible changes in input costs***

Contact your  
Credit- or Branch  
Manager to secure  
your production  
facility early



SCAN THE QR CODE

## Plan Your Season **WITH CONFIDENCE**

***Grain markets move. Input prices change. Global events can quickly affect the cost and availability of fuel, fertilizer and other production inputs.***

***In uncertain times, having the right financing in place can provide the flexibility needed to manage your operation effectively.***

***A TWK Production Facility allows you to finance your production inputs while maintaining flexibility in your cash flow.***

# BASJAN SE BOOMHUIS

## Die laaste storie

*Kinderstorie deur Jaco Jacobs  
Illustrasies deur Johann Strauss*

Op Basjan-hulle se plaas is 'n boom.

'n Groot ou boom met digte blare.

Dis die perfekte boom om kaalvoet in rond te klouter.

En in hierdie boom is Basjan se boomhuis.

Basjan se boomhuis is die beste plek op aarde om te speel, skatte weg te steek, te dagdroom, planne te maak ... of weg te kruip as Ma jou roep om huiswerk te kom doen!

Gelukkig is dit nou skoolvakansie. Dit beteken GEEN huiswerk nie!

Maar vandag reën dit. Dit is koud en nat buite. Die boomhuis is NIE die beste plek op aarde as dit so koud en nat is nie.

Basjan is verveeld.

Hy het al wegkruipertjie gespeel saam met Strepies, sy mak muishond. Maar dit is nie vir lank pret nie. Strepies se neus is baie goed – en hy snuffel Basjan elke keer blitsvinnig uit, maak nie saak HOE goed hy wegkruip nie.

Hy het Lego gebou bo in sy kamer. Maar nou is sy Lego-plaas kant en klaar.

Hy het sy ousus, Karlien, gevra om saam met hom bordspeletjies te speel. Maar sy is besig om deur 'n resepteboek te blaai. Vakansietye hou sy daarvan om Mamma in die kombuis te help, en vandag beplan sy glo om iets spesiaals te maak omdat dit so koud is. Basjan hoop dis pannekoek!

Hy kan nie ook saam met Pappa op die plaas rondry nie, want die plaaspaai is sopnat en Pappa is buitendien vroeg vanoggend dorp toe vir 'n vergadering.

“Ma-a-a-a, ek is verveeld!” kla Basjan.

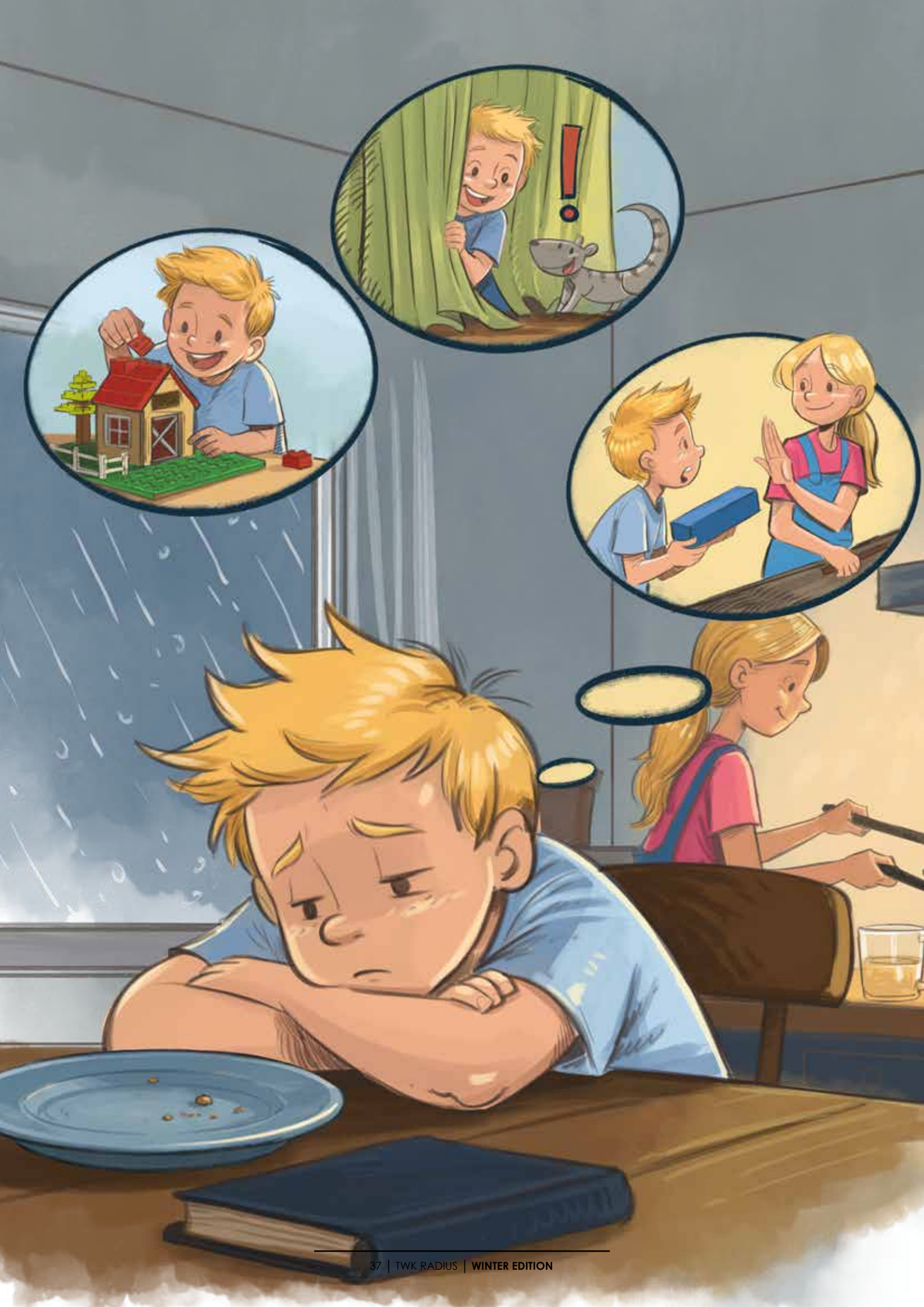
“Whêêê!”

Dis Basjan se bababoetie, Bertus, wat so huil.

Basjan sug. Dit is lekker om 'n bababoetie te hê, maar babas is nie juis veel pret as 'n mens verveeld is nie.

“Asseblief, Basjan,” sê Mamma. “Nie nou nie. Gaan soek iets om te doen. Ek het laas nag baie min geslaap. Bertus het die hele nag gehuil. Ek dink hy voel siekerig.”

Basjan gaan lê op sy bed. Hy voel sommer jammer vir homself. As dit nie so 'n koue, reënerige dag was nie, kon hy op sy ponie, Snowflake, gaan ry het. Maar dit lyk of die reën die hele liewe dag gaan aanhou.



Mamma se foon lui iewers in die huis.

“Whêêê!”

Bertus huil harder as die gelui van die selfoon se deuntjie.

“Basjan!” roep Mamma 'n oomblik later. Sy loer by Basjan se kamer in, met die huilende Bertus op haar heup. “Dis vir jou,” sê sy en hou haar foon na Basjan uit.

Basjan spring verbaas op en vat die foon by haar.

Neville se gesig is op die skerm. Dis 'n video-oproep!

“Haai, Neville!” sê Basjan. “Dis 'n verrassing! Waar is Nandi? Wat doen julle?”



Die tweeling, Nandi en Neville, bly op die buurplaas. Vakansietye kom hulle amper elke dag by Basjan kuier – hulle plaas is so naby dat hulle sommer kan oorstap. Maar vandag reën dit te erg.

“Ugh, my ma is besig om te pak,” sê Neville. “Môre gaan ons met vakansie.”

Basjan kreun. Agge nee! Hy het skoon vergeet die tweeling gaan môre 'n week lank Durban toe. Dit is lekker warm daar. Dit beteken hy gaan 'n hele week lank niemand hê om mee te speel nie!

“Haai, Basjan!” Dis Nandi. Sy loer oor Neville se skouer. “Wat doen jy alles?”

“Ek's verveeld,” sê Basjan en sug.

“Verveeld?” vra Nandi. Haar oë begin glinster. As Nandi se oë so glinster, broei daar planne in haar kop. Basjan ken haar al goed genoeg om dit te weet.

“Hoekom speel jy nie wegkruipertjie met Strepies nie?” stel Nandi voor.

“Klaar gedoen,” brom Basjan. “Hy lyk nie juis lus om nog te speel nie.”

Hy draai die foon sodat Nandi en Neville vir Strepies kan sien. Die muishond het vir hom 'n nessie tussen Basjan se duvet en sy kussing geskrop. Hy maak net sy een oog oop, loer vir Nandi en Neville en slaap dan verder.

“Mmm,” sê Nandi. “Hoekom bou jy nie Lego nie?”

Basjan draai die foon sodat Nandi en Neville die Lego-stel op sy lessenaar kan sien. “Klaar gedoen,” sê hy.



“O,” sê Nandi. “Mmmm ... laat ek dink. Jy kan altyd bordspeletjies saam met jou suster –”

“Urgh!” kreun Basjan. “Nandi, hou op. Ek het al alles probeer. Karlien wil nie met my speel nie. My ma is besig met Bertus wat nie wil ophou huil nie. My pa is dorp toe.”

“Oukei,” sê Nandi. “Lees dan 'n boek.”

Sy hou 'n stapel boeke in die lug. “Ek is juis besig om al die boeke in te pak wat ek die vakansie op die strand gaan lees.”

“Lees?” brom Neville. “Ek gaan krieket speel. Of sandkastele bou. Of swem – my pa sê die seewater in Durban is warm genoeg om te swem, al is dit winter.”

“En wat as dit reën?” vra Nandi. “Soos vandag? 'n Boek is die beste geselskap – maak nie saak of die son skyn of dit reën nie! Tatta, Basjan, ek moet verder gaan pak.”

“Neville, het jy jou swembroek ingepak?” roep 'n stem in die agtergrond.

Neville sug. “Jammer, Basjan,” sê hy. “Dis my ma. Ek moet gaan.”

Hy druk die foon dood.

Basjan vat Mamma se foon terug. Sy is in Bertus se kamer. Sy sit langs sy bababed. Die kleintjie is nog steeds huilerig. Mamma neurie vir hom 'n liedjie.

“Dankie, Basjan,” sê Mamma en vat haar foon. “Ai, ek wens Bertus wil nou 'n bietjie slaap.”

Basjan stap terug na sy kamer toe. Hy loer deur die venster. Dit sous nog steeds buite.

Basjan stap na sy boekrak toe. Hy kyk na die boeke.

Party van hulle is prenteboeke wat Mamma en Pappa saans vir hom gelees het toe hy nog klein was.

Daar is boeke oor diere en karre en die ruimte – alles dinge waarvan hy baie hou.

Daar is 'n splinternuwe boek met 'n klomp stories wat Ouma en Oupa laas vir hom saamgebring het toe hulle kom kuier het. Basjan glimlag. Die boek se titel is Daar's 'n alien in die klas en ander snaakse stories. Dit lyk nogal na pret.

Basjan gaan lê op sy bed.

Hy begin die eerste storie lees.

Sommer op die eerste bladsy al snork hy hardop van die lag. Die storie gaan oor 'n alien wat op die aarde land en besluit om skool toe te gaan. Hy skiet per ongeluk laserstrale uit sy tone en laat die kwaai juffrou se bolla ontplof!

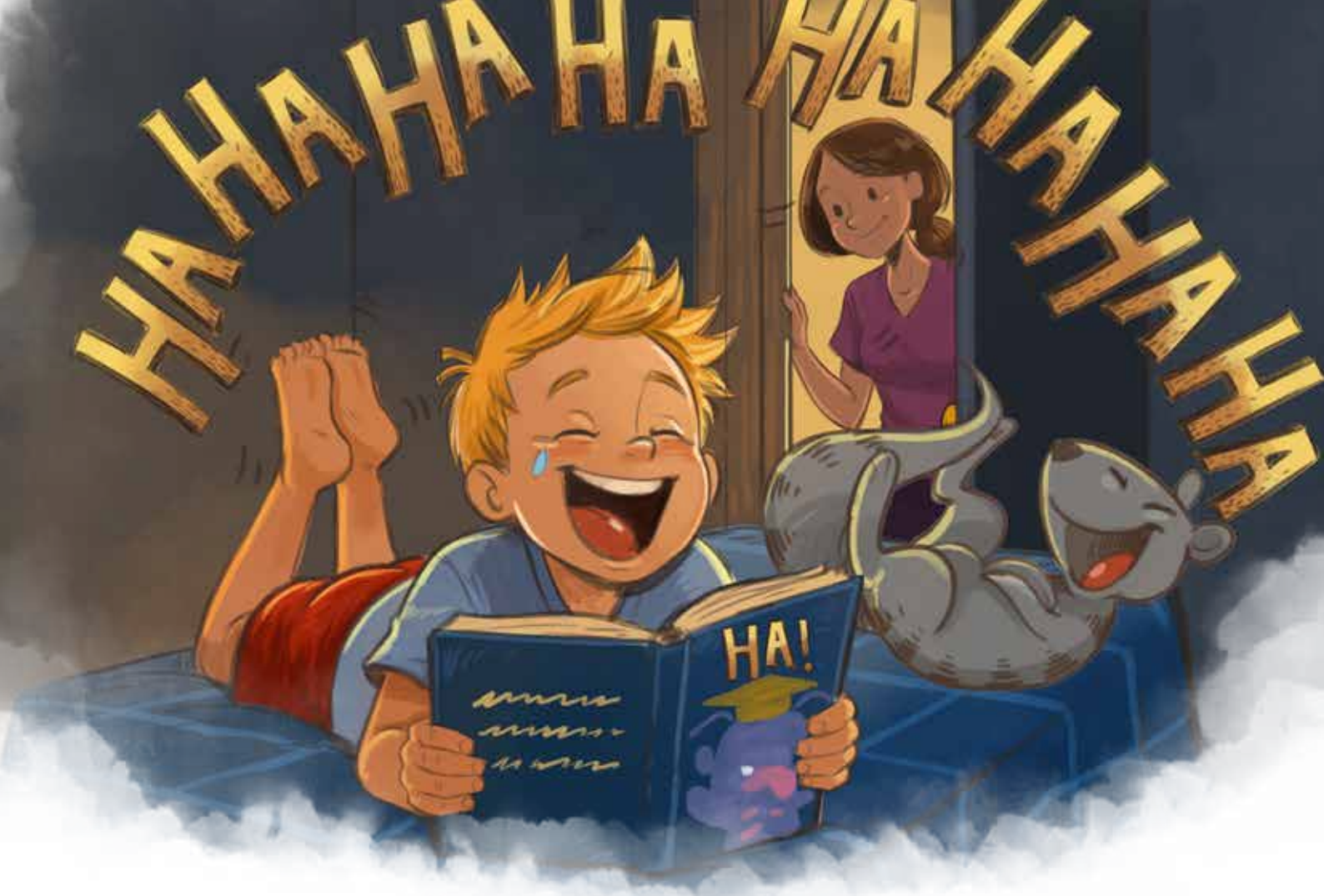
Die tweede storie is nog snaakser.

Basjan lees so lekker dat hy skoon wip van die skrik toe Mamma 'n hele ruk later by sy kamer inloer.

“Wat doen jy, Basjan?” vra sy. “Waarvoor lag jy so lekker?”

Basjan wys vir haar die boek. “Dis die boek wat ek by Oupa en Ouma gekry het. Die stories is baie snaaks. Ek het nou net met die laaste een begin.”





Mamma glimlag. “Sit eers neer die boek,” sê sy. “Karlien het vir ons sop en broodjies gemaak. Bertus slaap darem nou. Jy kan ná ete die laaste storie lees.”

Basjan se maag draai toe hy die sop sien. Agge nee – ertjiesop! Hy hou niks van ertjies nie – en ertjiesop is nog erger. Dit lyk soos iets wat aliens sal eet.

Mamma sien seker hoe Basjan vir die sop kyk, want sy sê: “Basjan, jy weet ek hou nie van kosfiemies nie. Ertjiesop is goed vir jou.”

“Ek het baie moeite gedoen met die sop,” sê Karlien.

“Whêêê!”

Mamma kreun. “Agge nee! Ek het gehoop hy sal ’n bietjie slaap sodat ons in vrede kan eet.”

Basjan kry ’n plan. Hy spring op.

“Julle kan verder eet,” sê hy. “Ek sal vir Bertus gaan troos.”

“En jou kos?” vra Mamma.

“Ek vat sommer ’n paar broodjies saam,” sê Basjan. Hy gryp vinnig ’n hand vol toebroodjies. “Dankie, Karlien, die broodjies lyk lekker!” roep hy oor sy skouer.

Basjan glip vinnig by sy kamer in en gryp sy boek met snaakse stories. Dan gaan troos hy vir Bertus.

“Whêêê!”

“Toemaar, kleinboet,” sê Basjan. “Moenie huil nie. Ten minste is jy nog te klein om ertjiesop te eet. Dis aaklig.”

“Whêêê!”

Basjan hou sy boek in die lug. “Kom ek lees vir jou ’n storie, oukei? Dis die laaste een in die boek. Dit gaan oor ’n outjie wat per ongeluk sy ouer suster in ’n vlakvark verander. Die storie se naam is ’n Vlakvark met lipstiffie.”

Basjan begin lees. Die laaste storie is baie, baie snaaks. Partykeer bars hy hardop uit van die lag. Elke keer as hy lag, koer en kraai Bertus en blaas spoegborrels, asof hy ook dink dis vreeslik snaaks. Dit laat Basjan nog meer lag.

Bertus het opgehou met huil. Hy hou Basjan met groot oë dop.

Toe Basjan die laaste bladsy klaar gelees het, maak hy die boek toe.

Hy kyk op.

Mamma en Karlien staan in die deur van die babakamer. Hulle staar verbaas na hom.

Basjan kyk na Bertus se bababedjie. Sy bababoetie is vas aan die slaap.

Basjan staan op en sluip op sy tone by die kamer uit.

Buite in die gang glimlag Mamma trots. Sy gee Basjan ’n stywe druk.

“Jammer as ek ’n bietjie ongeduldig was vanoggend,” sê sy. “Basjan, jy is die beste ouboet wat enige bababoetie kan hê.”



# YOUNG FARMER PUZZLES

## Starter farm: Ages 7 – 8

### Egg count

A farmer has 5 hens. Each hen lays 3 eggs today. How many eggs does he have altogether?



### Apple bags

There are 24 apples from the orchard. A farmer packs them into bags of 4. How many bags does he fill?



### Goat families

A farmer has 3 goats. Each goat has 2 babies. How many goats are there on the farm now?



### Watering time

A farmer waters 4 rows of veggies. Each row has 7 plants. How many plants did he water?



## Growing season: Ages 9 – 10

### Feed the calves

A farmer feeds 8 calves twice a day. Each feeding uses 3 kg of feed. How many kg does he use in a week?



### Planting rows

A field has 12 rows of maize. Each row is 25 m long. The farmer plants 1 seed every 50 cm. How many seeds in one row?



### Market day

A farmer sells bags of oranges for R15 each. He sells 9 bags on Saturday and 7 on Sunday. How much money did he make?



### Water buckets

A tank holds 600 litres. The farmer uses 25 litres per day to water his vegetable patch. How many days before the tank is empty?



## Harvest time: Ages 11 – 12

### Wool clip

A farmer shears 45 sheep. The average fleece weighs 4.2 kg. Wool sells for R38/kg. What is the total income from the wool clip?



### Fuel for the bakkie

A bakkie uses 9.5 litres per 100 km. The farm is 65 km from town. Diesel costs R23.50/litre. How much does a return trip cost?



### Grain silo

A silo holds 180 tonnes of maize. It is 65% full after harvest. The farmer wants to fill it to 90%. How many more tonnes must he add?

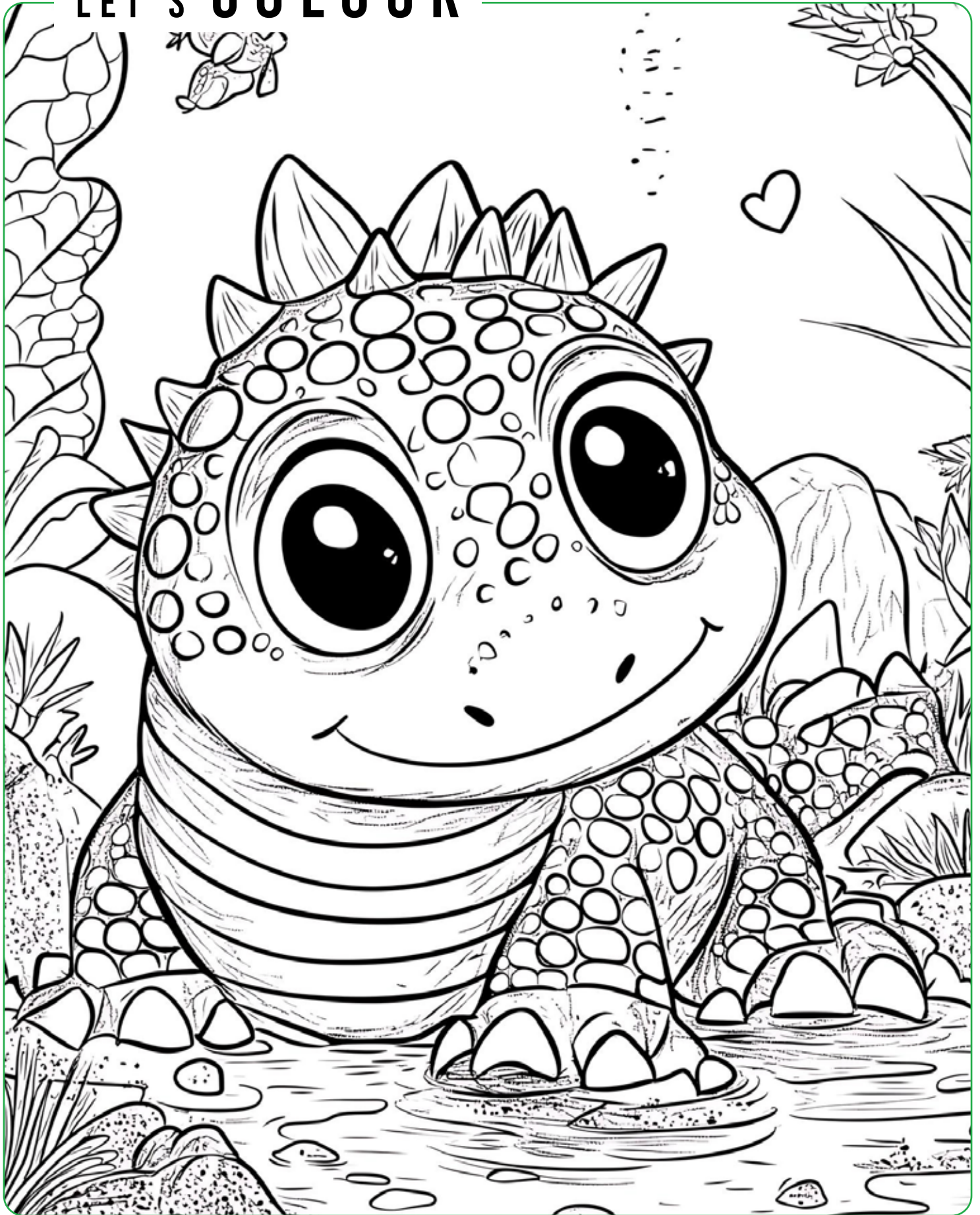


### Fence the camp

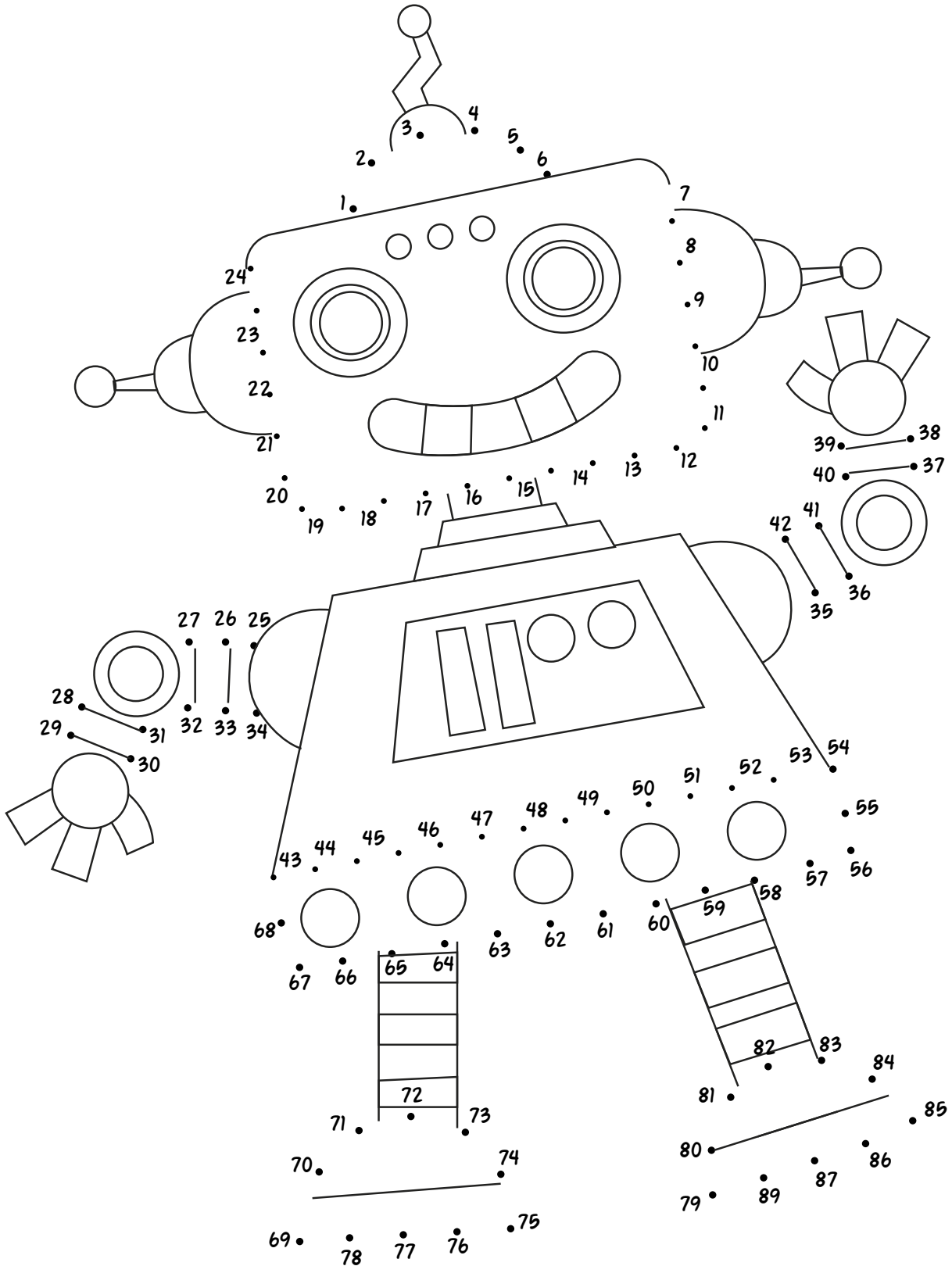
A rectangular camp is 120 m long and 85 m wide. Posts go every 2.5 m. How many posts are needed to fence the full perimeter?



# LET'S COLOUR



# COLOUR & DOT TO DOT



# WORD SEARCH

E G Y P T I A N P Y G M Y S H R E W M X U O L H  
 G O S W V K Q A R A O C F T T F T J Z N Z V I E  
 C R T S I H O W B V X F Z A B R Y V L D B L B L  
 E F U T A B E O H S E S R O H E P A C X L F R O  
 R A H M M A G Y T J S S N F K V I W E S U W E M  
 N N L I L E K T C A A R D N I E H A H R E E G N  
 E A M B I G N A E N K Z O G F B W O J V W R S E  
 T N A C P M D T R H K M T A A V R J E D I H E D  
 S A N F E I K H A P A U K K X S D I G N L S T L  
 S B N P L B R O W N M O U S E L E M U R D Y S O  
 E N S H B F G R O B B E N S G E R B I L E K A G  
 L W G T Y U F M Q A D F H G G E A E U B B S T T  
 L O O V N M S Z Z L J O A U M O V M T N E U A N  
 I R L H K Y I H E W E T I W J W K S K U E D L A  
 A B D T H E P O V B A N N V H U H N K V S N X I  
 T R E U Z Q P Q A L E G Q O S B M Z U N T A N G  
 M Y N Y P A S T C A E O M Y G F U Y B Y L C X Z  
 A S M T R I Y H B Z L I A S F A W N N P R I D L  
 Y U O D Z V R A K J Y I R O G T F G D O F R E N  
 B K L C K U B L F W Q N Q A B M Z G V X J F E V  
 Y M E M R O S H X H X X B P T O X Z P I D A R O  
 I Y I S O H E M I D A C T Y L U S M A B O U I A  
 W Q D N W E R H S T S E R O F S N O T S N H O J  
 N L R S H I N I N G T H I C K E T R A T F J X J

- African Dusky Shrew
- Blue Wildebeest
- Brown Banana Frog
- Brown Mouse Lemur
- Bush Vleu Rat
- Cape Horseshoe Bat
- Egyptian Pygmy Shrew

- Fat Mouse
- Giant Golden Mole
- Grobben's Gerbil
- Guinea Baboon
- Hemidactylus Mabouia
- Hill's Horseshoe Bat
- Johnston's Forest Shrew

- Lataste's Gerbil
- Leopard
- Mona Monkey
- Shining Thicket Rat
- Stuhlmann's Golden Mole
- Tailless Tenrec

# THE CIRCLE OF LIFE OF A BUTTERFLY:

## INTERESTING FACTS FOR KIDS!

### STAGE 4: BUTTERFLY (ADULT)

CANNOT GROW ANYMORE!

PUMPS WINGS TO MAKE THEM STRONG.

ADULT BUTTERFLIES DRINK NECTAR WITH A PROBOSCIS (STRAW-LIKE TONGUE)!

SOME, LIKE MONARCHS, MIGRATE THOUSANDS OF MILES! A GROUP IS CALLED A KALEIDOSCOPE!

### STAGE 1: EGG

MOM LAYS 100s OF EGGS! (SOME ARE SMALLER THAN A PINHEAD!)

ON A SPECIAL FOOD PLANT.

## THE METAMORPHOSIS

AMAZING JOURNEY!

### STAGE 2: CATERPILLAR (LARVA)

EATS & EATS TO GROW!

EATS ITS EGGSHELL FIRST!

EATS ITS EGGSHELL FIRST!

SHEDS ITS SKIN (MOLTS) 4-5 TIMES!

FUN FACT!

IT TASTES WITH ITS FEET!

### STAGE 3: CHRYSALIS (PUPA)

NOT A COCOON! THIS IS A CHRYSALIS.

A MAGICAL CHANGE HAPPENS INSIDE!

METAMORPHOSIS: BREAKS DOWN AND REFORMS!

cutaway

SPOT

# 10 DIFFERENCES



**How do you make an octopus giggle?**  
Give it ten tickles.

**Why do eggs never tell jokes?**  
They'd crack each other up.

**Why should you never trust stairs?**  
They are always up to something.



**Why did the chicken join the band?**  
Because it already had the drumsticks!

**Why did the tomato turn red?**  
Because it saw the salad dressing.

**What do you get when you cross a hen and a dog?**  
Poached eggs!

# BLOKKIES- RAAISEL

Aartsbiskoplike	Gisstof		Malle Dampkring	↓	Ná Okt.	↓	Soetsopie	Gelyke-	Boek se hoofdagte	Kriterium	↓	Klinkspykers	↓	En so meer
↳	↓		↓				↓	↓	↓			↓		
Kern	→				Adjunk-	→				Sowat 40 gelling	→			Voortstap
Heengly	→				Weergalm		Dwaalsterre	→					Kykorgane	↓
					↓	←	Dwerg		Skeur		Mondvol	→		
Groot loopvoël		Smal straat			Aroma	→			↓	Regstreekse	→			
↳					Telkens		Geldsorge			↓	Graveerder		Prente	Jongere
Ontvang	Van emalje gemaak	Voorkeur	Nie toe Corsa of Astra	→	↓		Toring in Parys	→			←	Verlos		Getuie
↳	↓	↓	↓			Sekere		Agteruit	→			Magtig!	→	
Aanroer	→				Gedeelte	→	↓			Presieso	→			
					Suster	↓								
Begeleidster	→							Verkleinwoord	→				Kos inneem	→
→								Stof in beenholtes					Gemene	Jok
Getalm	Spaanse seekosdis		Ligbron			Beknop					←	Altyd	↓	
	↓		↓			↓					↑	Lappievleis	→	
Libreville is die hoofstad		Oortrokke			100 jaar	→			Besonder	Flaters		Plesiermaker	Interval	Vaste kopers
↳		↓						Opskrifte	→	↓	↓		↓	
Getal 1	→				Geskree	→						Ou Spaanse munt		Tennisster, <u>   </u> Ivanovic
					Jongste	↓						↓	↓	Neutelekker
Lidwoord	→		Koer			Lering		Kusvaartuig	→					
			↓			↓								
Plaaslike	→							Heldegigte	→				Versus SSW	→
→														
								Ons land	→				Afr. Taalorg.	→
Wydte van 'n buis	Skerp	→					↑	Dampkring		In eie persoon	→			En ander



# SAMURAI

# SUDOKU

		9	2	5		1	3	
2				7	9			
6		5		1			2	7
7					4			5
	9		1	2	5	7	6	
5			6		7			2

6			5		3			
								4
		9	6	4		1	3	5
			1		9			3
9		8	7	6		2		
				8			9	7

			4		6	8	3	5				4	9	7		2			1	6
	4			6	1		7	9	3	6		8		1		3	6	7	4	2
9	2					4	5	1	8	7		3					1	5	8	

			8		2	1	4	3												
			9			6	8	5								2				
				4											6					

			1	4	2	5	9													
			6	5	3	7	1	4		2										2
1		4					2				8									
		1				8	2													
3	4	8		1	5															
	2		9	3			8													
6			5		1	9		2												
2	8	5			4	1	6													

			2	6	4	3														
				3	8	4		9												2
		1						8	7	1	9	6	8	2	4	3	5			
			1			8	2												7	
3	4	8		1	5						7							5	1	6
	2		9	3			8					7	5							3
4																			9	
6											8		7							1
3											5	9							4	8

# RIDDLE

# ME THIS

I am gathered when the days grow short, and stored against the cold. I feed the herd through winter's grip, though I myself am old. Cut down in summer's golden heat, then bound and stacked up high — A farmer's quiet insurance, beneath the open sky.

# Gobolondlo (Peak Timbers) Mountain Hike 2026



By Dionne Harber

When 1000 people woke up with a single shared purpose, then community, courage, and pure joy meet on a mountain.



If you were anywhere near Piggs Peak on the Peak Timber (TWK Plantation) property in Eswatini, you would have felt it, that beautiful buzz in the air. The kind that happens when nearly 1,000 people wake up with one shared purpose: to climb a mountain together, side by side, and make memories that will stay with them for a long time.



around us, and quietly appreciating what we have been given to care for: nature, one another, and the gift of simply being there together.

This was not a race, and there was no pressure to perform. It was a celebration of health, of community, and of the beautiful spirit of Eswatini.

In line with Vusumnotfo's purpose for the Gobolondlo Mountain Hike, the day also encouraged healthy living at family and community level, raised environmental awareness, and helped generate funds for community activities and school children's basic needs.



From the moment the first hikers arrived, bright shirts, big smiles, little ones bubbling with excitement, you could tell this was not going to be an ordinary hike.

It felt like a gathering of hearts, a day where families, friends, and colleagues – with most participants coming from Peak Timbers and Rockland Mill – came together as if they had known one another for years.



**The day encouraged healthy living, raised environmental awareness, and helped generate funds for community activities and school children's basic needs.**



There were so many small, precious moments, pausing for photos, catching your breath, looking out over the beauty

The goal was to reach the top, yes, but also to find something of yourself along the way. In the middle of all the noise life

carries, the mountain gave space to slow down, find your own pace, breathe deeply, and remember where your peace and sense of belonging live.



### The energy was unmatched

People didn't just walk, they danced up and down that forest road. There was laughter, singing, cheerful chatter, and the kind of easy encouragement that makes even a long climb feel light. Along the route, volunteers stood ready with oranges at every 1 km mark, small acts of kindness that felt like little gifts of energy and care.



And when the steep part came, the beauty of the day showed itself even more clearly. Hands reached out. Words of encouragement echoed up the path. No one was left to struggle alone, every step was cheered on, and every person mattered.

One of the moments that will stay with me most was seeing a man in a wheelchair being pushed up the mountain. It was powerful, tender, and deeply moving, a picture of what this day was really about.

It reminded all of us that this climb belonged to everyone, and that when people come together with love and determination, even a mountain feels possible.



### Beautiful reflections

At the top, the air was cool, the green stretched wide around us, and the views seemed to go on forever. But even with all that beauty, the real magic was still the people, young children in purple and pink shirts, families walking hand in hand, teams proudly wearing their branded T-shirts, and hikers who came simply because they love this community.

And when people reached the top, there it was, that pure, unmistakable joy. Arms lifted high, photos being taken from every angle, smiles that said more than words ever could, and that beautiful "we did it" feeling that no filter could ever capture.

Back at the finish, it felt more like a festival than the end of a hike. Braai smoke drifted through the air. Kids compared raffle tickets. People shared snacks, stories, tired legs, and sunburn remedies.

The experience was a beautiful reflection of what Vusumnotfo stands for, not just hiking, and not just fundraising, but bringing people together: schools, families, neighbours, and strangers, all reminding one another that when we move together, we grow together. As the main sponsor for the past six years, Peak Timbers, has helped make this special event possible year after year.

Gobolondlo 2026 was never just a hike. It was a day full of heart, hope, togetherness, and the kind of joy that stays with you long after the paining legs and mountain is behind you.



# Growing More Than Food

By Kanongalo Chonco

**When people hear “Mkhondo,” they picture a small town somewhere on the map and move on. But if you look closer, there’s a lot more happening here than people realise.**

Something powerful is growing in Mkhondo schools – not just academically, but literally from the ground up.

In the Vumbuka Trust School Gardening Competition, ordinary schoolyards are being completely transformed. Empty patches of dirt that most people would ignore are turning into full gardens. These gardens are actually feeding people, teaching skills, and bringing whole school communities together in a way that feels real and practical.

Schools in the programme get seedlings, gardening tools, and proper guidance to help them start and maintain their own food gardens.

## A Hands-On Experience



For a lot of learners, it’s their first time doing something like this, so it becomes a hands-on experience where they’re not just told what to do; they’re involved in every step.

They need to know how to prepare the soil, plant seeds, water, weed, and eventually harvest. It’s learning, but it doesn’t feel like sitting in a classroom.

What starts as “we’re just growing vegetables” slowly turns into something much bigger. Learners begin working together more naturally.

People take responsibility for different tasks. Teachers step in as guides instead of just instructors. And over time, the gardens become something the whole school is proud of, a shared project in which everyone is invested.

## Collaborative Learning



There’s also a system in place where schools document their progress and share updates. So, it’s not just about doing the work quietly in the background; it’s about showing growth, celebrating small wins, and learning from each other too.

Behind all of this, there's support making sure schools don't feel like they're doing it alone.

Then comes the competition aspect, which adds a bit of excitement. Schools are evaluated based on their gardens, effort, and progress. The top-performing schools receive vouchers that help them improve their facilities and support their learning environments.

It's a nice incentive, but if you talk to anyone involved, they'll tell you that the prizes are not really the main focus; the real impact shows up in everyday life.

A lot of the vegetables grown in these gardens end up in school kitchens. That means learners are eating fresh, nutritious food through school feeding schemes, which makes a huge difference to their concentration, energy, and overall well-being.

### Growth Beyond the Garden



For some learners, it's even more personal as they get to take some produce home, which means families benefit too. The garden doesn't just feed the school; it stretches into the community.

And when there's an extra harvest, some schools even sell it. That money gets reinvested into the school. Through this competition, real-life skills like basic entrepreneurship, sustainability, and resource management are being taught, naturally.

Learners are getting exposed to lessons that most people only understand much later in life – such as patience, consistency, and teamwork. You cannot rush a garden. You have to show up, take care of it, and wait for results.

The programme runs annually and ends with an awards ceremony that celebrates the hard work of all participating schools. It's a moment of recognition. And even outside the competition cycle, the initiative stays open, so new schools can start their gardening journey at any time.

At the end of the day, young learners are growing food, but most importantly, they are growing confidence, new opportunities, and a new way of thinking that lasts beyond the garden.







TWK is part of Allesbeste Farmers' Day at Braeburn Farm



TWK Classic Polocrosse at Bethal, Mpumalanga



**TWK Trade Kokstad's Supplier Day**

Our key suppliers attended, including Kyron, Ceva, Lasher, Antrovet, Molatek, Avi Products, Montego, De Heus, Jim Green, Spurwing, Johnsons, Afrivet, Lionels, Jock and Coopers, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere throughout the day.



TWK Outdoor at the Wittenberg Boeredag



TWK Agri & TWK Insurance is proud to sponsor Riverview Preparatory School's U/13 rugby team



TWK Agri is a proud sponsor of our local school sports team at Piet Retief Primary School



Our SuperStrong mascot leads the way as Mkondo Mills sponsors the annual boxing showdown at Junkshop, Pongola.



TWK Classic Polocrosse at Bethal, Mpumalanga



TWK Agri Classic, Gowrie



First DEZZI Haulage Tractor at Busby Sawmill.



TWK Insurance received recognition at the SANTAM Exclusive Broker Appreciation Award



TWK hosting the Farmers' Day at AgriHub Pongola



TWK proudly joined the Mount Currie Golf Day community event



TWK supports the Zululand Golf Classic



TWK is part of the Ligbron E-learning programme



TWK is part of the Gardeners' Information Day

TWK Outdoor at the Impi Festival in Piet Retief



TKW is the proud title sponsor of Piet Retief High School



**BUILT FOR  
THE LAND.  
READY FOR  
ADVENTURE.**

Shop Online

[www.twkoutdoor.com](http://www.twkoutdoor.com)

Style, comfort, and everyday essentials.

**MADE FOR LIFE ON THE MOVE, WHERE  
ADVENTURE AWAITS.**



*Visit our online shop*  
[www.twkoutdoor.com](http://www.twkoutdoor.com)



Outdoor & Braai  
**ACCESSORIES**



Start Packing  
**LUGGAGE & BAGS**



Boldly Beautiful  
**LOCALLY MADE**



Your New  
**FAVOURITE MUG**

★  
**BOOT & RALLY**

**BURGUNDY  
COLLECTIVE**



**DIRT ROAD  
OUTFITTERS**



**KAHKEES**

**SALTY**



**K**  
KnapSak

Corner of Church St. and Theo Mocke St.  
Welgekozen, **PIET RETIEF**, 2380

Follow our social media pages to stay  
updated on all our new products.



## Best Winter Comfort Foods

### **Creamy Chicken and Sweetcorn Soup** by Drooling Dishes

This soup is creamy, slightly spicy, and deeply satisfying. Perfect for cold days or when you're craving comfort food.

#### **Ingredients:**

- 2 chicken fillets
- 1 onion (grated)
- ¼ cup oil
- 8 whole peppercorns
- 1 tsp lemon pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp Robertsons Thai spice (optional)
- 1½ tsp Aromat seasoning
- 1 heaped tsp coriander powder
- ½ tsp jeera cumin powder
- 1 tsp green chilli, garlic & ginger paste
- ¼ cup flour
- 100 g butter
- 750 ml milk
- 250 ml fresh cream
- 1 tin cream-style sweetcorn
- spring onions (chopped, for garnish)

#### **Method:**

1. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the grated onion and whole peppercorns. Sauté until the onion turns golden brown and fragrant.
2. Cut the chicken fillets into small cubes and add them to the pot. Season with salt, lemon pepper, Thai spice (if using), Aromat, coriander powder, cumin powder, and green chilli, garlic & ginger paste. Stir well and braise for about 30 seconds to coat the chicken in all the spices.
3. Pour in 750 ml of boiling water. Allow the chicken to cook gently for about 20 minutes until tender and fully cooked.
4. Next, stir in the cream-style sweetcorn and let it simmer for another 5 minutes.
5. In a separate pan, melt the butter. Add the flour and whisk continuously to form a smooth paste (roux). Slowly pour in the milk while whisking to avoid lumps. Continue stirring until the sauce thickens into a smooth, creamy consistency.
6. Pour the white sauce into the chicken and sweetcorn mixture. Stir well and bring to a gentle boil so everything combines beautifully.
7. Finally, add the fresh cream and chopped spring onions. Stir through and remove from heat.
8. Serve hot with fresh bread, rolls, or even over rice for a heartier meal.



## Best Winter Comfort Foods

### Traditional Melkkos by The Big Tasty Bite

Enjoy this as a comforting breakfast, dessert, or a nostalgic treat any time of the day.

#### Ingredients:

- 1.5 Liters of full-cream milk
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 90 g cake flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cinnamon stick
- Cinnamon sugar, to serve
- Extra butter, to serve

#### Method:

1. Pour the milk into a large pot and add the cinnamon stick. Bring it slowly to a boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally to prevent it from sticking.
2. In a separate bowl, rub the butter into the cake flour and salt using your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs (often called “frummels”).
3. Once the milk reaches a boil, reduce the heat slightly. Slowly sprinkle in the flour mixture while stirring continuously to avoid lumps.
4. Let the pap simmer gently over low heat for about 10 minutes. Stir frequently to prevent it from catching at the bottom of the pot, and ensure the flour is fully cooked.
5. Remove from heat and serve hot. Spoon into bowls and top generously with cinnamon sugar and a knob of butter so it melts into the warm pap.



### Mulled Wine by BBC Food

Perfect for cold evenings, festive celebrations, or simply curling up indoors with something warm and spiced.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 bottle (750 ml) red wine (dry or medium-bodied works best)
- 1 orange (sliced)
- 2–3 tbsp brown sugar (adjust to taste)
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4–6 cloves
- 2 star-anise
- 1 tsp vanilla extract (optional)
- Small piece of fresh ginger (sliced, optional)

#### Method:

1. Pour the red wine into a large saucepan. Add the orange slices, cinnamon stick, cloves, star anise, and ginger.
2. Heat the mixture over low to medium heat. Do not let it boil — you want it to gently steam so the alcohol doesn't evaporate and the flavours stay balanced.
3. Stir in the brown sugar and vanilla extract. Taste and adjust sweetness if needed.
4. Let it warm gently for about 15–20 minutes, allowing the spices to infuse fully into the wine.
5. Strain if desired, then pour into mugs. Add a fresh orange slice or cinnamon stick for garnish.





## **Trials and tests bring us closer to God**

**“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.” – Romans 5:3-4 (NKJV)**

“Do not be afraid of hardship or tribulation; it will work out for the best in the end.”

While reading this scripture I realise again, as Paul so aptly put it, that we rejoice in our tribulation. He says there is actually glory in our tribulation. Why? Because hardship produces perseverance and character, and most of all it produces hope.

I have experienced in my own walk with the Lord, over these last 40+ years, that the sweetest memories I have, are the ones when I have gone through the most extreme tests. The reason for that, is that is the time that I've always felt that the Lord is the nearest to me in these times.

I am a slow learner and sometimes it takes a jolt or a trial to get me into line and to learn lessons that will do me well later in life. Therefore, do not be afraid of hardship or tribulation because if you are a child of God, I can assure you that it will work out for the best in the end.

Bless you

Angus Buchan

Through our values, we strive to be the Investment of Choice, Employer of Choice, Market of Choice, Supplier of Choice and a Good Corporate Citizen making a difference in the communities in which we operate while adding sustainable value to all our stakeholders.

## Our Values

# A

### **Accountability**

We add value in an ethical way and take responsibility for our actions.

# G

### **Grow Trust**

We grow our business by building relationships of trust with all stakeholders.

# R

### **Resilience**

We drive sustainable growth through agility and perseverance.

# I

### **Innovation**

We develop unique solutions to solve complex challenges.





# ONS IS WAAR **JY** IS

Tussen huis en land, gesin en oes, is daar altyd beweging. AgriSeker verstaan die ritme van die plaaslewe en bly naby – soos jou sleutels by die deur, altyd reg wanneer jy moet ry, reageer en voortgaan. Of jy nou tussen verpligtinge, landerye of mense beweeg, ons is binne jou bereik. Met betroubare oesversekering, is ons daar om ondersteuning te bied – presies wanneer jy ons nodig kry.



Vra jou versekeringsmakelaar of vind ons aanlyn: [agriseker.co.za](http://agriseker.co.za)