

# Milk for life

by Liza Burger

**Kotie Annandale is a well-known mentor, entrepreneur and dairy farmer with a great passion for sharing his experience, skills and knowledge. To best assist especially subsistence farmers and to teach willing participating livestock owners the basics of farming with milk, Kotie and his company, 3 Roses Dairies, have developed the Milk4Life Project with the assistance of the Milk Producers' Organisation.**


Three possible projects have already been identified in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo. If the project takes off, livestock owners will be encouraged to bring their cows (of any breed) to a communal milking parlour at the end of each day, where cows will be separated from their calves until after milking early the next morning. While at the holding yard, the cows will be fed quality feed to encourage better milk production.

Each farmer will be responsible for milking his own cows and will be paid his milk cheque at the end of each month/week after deductions for the use of water, electricity, feed and concentrate as well as other expenses for the management of the milk parlour. An additional feedlot for cull cows and bull calves is also being planned.

Even low producing cows (4-6 litres a day) will provide a farmer with a welcome extra income. If he has 10 cows-in-milk, this means an income of about R125 a day (milk price at R2,50 for an average 5 litres) before deductions. This amounts to R3 750 over 30 days! With about half of this going towards expenses, the owner of 10 cows-in-milk can look forward to an additional income of about R1 875 per month.

Kotie advises that the milk should initially be sold to a milk buyer and processor. This means that the buyer will be responsible for processing the milk according to health regulations, and to package and distribute it.

The aim is to make the community self-sufficient regarding milk production, processing and distribution. This will allow farmers and other participants to control their own income and to serve their communities. Many jobs can be created in this way.

For more information on Milk4Life, contact Kotie Annandale on 082 576 6458. 



Kotie Annandale – mentor to emerging dairy farmers