

Meet our new decision-makers

Tina Joemat-Petterson is our new minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. She previously excelled as the MEC for agriculture and land reform in the Northern Cape. As a qualified teacher, she knows how to bring the message home that South Africa needs to be able to provide for itself and take a logical approach to uplifting the previously disadvantaged



Dr Pieter Mulder, leader of the Freedom Front Plus, has been appointed as the deputy minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. As leader of one of the minority opposition parties in Parliament, his decision to accept the appointment was supported unanimously by the FF+ Federal Board. His appointment has been widely welcomed in agricultural circles

Good fortune for dairy trust

The Fort Hare Dairy Trust outside the Eastern Cape university town of Alice, is a shining symbol of how successful land reform can be. The trust, which started from a partnership between 70 white farmers from the Tsitsikamma and Underberg areas and the University of Fort Hare, provides intensive hands-on training to black farmers from around the country.

The farm is managed by Leonard Mavhungu. The trust is a state-of-the-art commercial dairy farm with an 800-cow rotary parlour that produces around 10 000 litres of milk a day. The farm sources a lot of its produce from farmers in the Alice area. – *Mail and Guardian*



Workers of the Fort Hare Dairy Trust

Cheese-makers head for France



Four Western Cape cheese-makers were awarded bursaries to study cheese-making in Burgundy, France. In the middle is Kobus Mulder, manager for dairy at Agri Expo. He will accompany this year's recipients (from the left) Bongikhaya Nondzaba of Kimilili Farm in Tulbagh, Ingrid Olivier of Wilde & Roare Cheese in Montagu, Gerald Garnad of Simonsberg in Stellenbosch, and Anton Kleyn of Caprino in George (Photograph by Araminta de Clermont)

Future traders receive certificates

Sixty informal traders of the City of Tshwane, received certificates after completing a course in the handling and sale of fresh produce. The City of Tshwane's strategic executive director for economic development, Tembeka Mhleka, said the course was meant to assist informal sectors in the development of their skills in areas such as product knowledge, food safety, entrepreneurial skills development, financial and credit management. Since its inception in 2000, a total of 390 informal traders have been trained and a further 60 traders will be trained before the end of the year.



Sixty informal traders received their certificates in the handling and sale of fresh produce on 19 June

Dairy courses on offer

The Milk Producers' Organisation's Institute for Dairy Technology offers a number of courses for farm workers and farmers. Courses for farm workers are offered free of charge if the farm owner is a member of the Milk Producers' Organisation. Courses for farm workers include animal husbandry, calf-rearing, productivity, labour relations, safety and supervision. Courses can be presented in the students' mother tongue.

For more information on these and other courses presented by the Institute, please contact Jas Wasserman on 082 490 2465, 012 843 5743 or e-mail jas@mpo.co.za.

Emerging milk producer crowned

Jan Zim from Qwaqwa has been crowned as the Free State's best emerging milk producer for the second year in a row. Jan farms on Kagalam Farm close to Kestell. In 2008, Jan was also crowned as the country's best emerging milk producer. Another emerging farmer, Matli Motaung of the Thuloane Trust near Rosendal, was honoured as 2009's most improved milk producer. For more information on Jan Zim, read the December 2008 edition of *Ubisi Mail*.

USAAA planning session

The United South African Agricultural Association (USAAA) hosted a planning session in Bredasdorp in May this year. Raymond Koopstad, chairperson of USAAA, extended an invitation to emerging producers, who want to contribute towards the building of a successful and sustainable integrated agriculture in the Western Cape, to phone him 082 969 2069 or Chantal Januarie at the Agri Mega office in Bredasdorp, telephone 028 424 2890.
– Press release



USAAA delegates who attended the strategic planning session (Photograph by Liana Stroebe)

Small but profitable

John Gampepe excelled at the Bloem Show in Bloemfontein earlier this year, competing in the Dexter Championships. John, an employee of Onyx Dexters near Bothaville, showed the bull, Elton, that won the grand champion title. Here he is with another bull of Onyx Dexters, Monaco, that won the reserve champion title at Bloem Show. The Dexter cattle breed is the smallest of the commercial cattle breeds. Its exceptional milk and meat yield for its size, makes it a profitable breed 

