

AGR pen

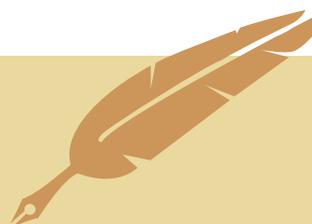
March | Maart 2018

Good things in life

I am a small town girl called Sbusile Mndawe. My foundations were laid in Waterval-Boven in Mpumalanga and everything I know I learned from my mother and older sisters. Initially, I wanted to study law or public relations. But during my gap year, I realised that my curiosity was a monster that needed to be fed, and fate led me to journalism.

Currently, I am a third year journalism student at the Tshwane University of Technology and each year I fall in love with journalism more. The dream of having story telling as a profession came with a lot of critics. People perceive journalists as individuals who are liars and bored with nothing to do with their lives. My goal is to prove that misconception wrong.

I believe that good things in life happen in mysterious ways. This includes getting my internship at Landbouweekblad. I heard that there was a vacancy at Media24 Afrikaans newspapers and I applied. To my surprise during the interview I was presented with a Landbouweekblad magazine. However, to my advantage I had a slight idea what the



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magazine was about so I had a spark of relief. Even though I wanted to remain optimistic about getting the job, I felt that I was not the suitable candidate for the position. I was never happier to be proven wrong.

Excitement aside, I started wondering about a number of things. My biggest concern was whether I would be able to fit in an environment where I am not only the youngest and less experienced, but the mere fact that I was the only black person in an office filled with Afrikaans speaking people made me nervous. I received a warm welcome from my new colleagues which made me gain my sense of belonging within a week.



*Sbusile Mndawe interviews Vito Rugani at his farm in Tarlton, Johannesburg about sustainable farming and the growth of his business.
(Photo credit: Marieke Snyman)*



*Sbusile Mndawe visit C. Nel Boerdery dairy farm in Randburg.
(Photo credit: Marieke Snyman)*

My expectations from this internship was to learn new things every day, not necessarily about the agriculture sector only, but also ways to improve and advance my writing skills and as a journalist.

My responsibility as an intern entails writing articles for Landbouweekblad and AfricanFarming.com. I mainly rework press releases into articles and I would at times go out to the field to get a story. I also assist my colleagues with gathering information for their articles and assist with other duties in the office. ■



*Liza Bohlmann, Sbusile Mndawe and Marieke Snyman at Landbouweekliks studio. Landbouweekliks is Landbouweekblad's TV program on VIA TV, on Tuesdays at 19h30.
(Photo credit: Werner Scholtz)*

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Marike Brits who has been selected as an IFAJ/Alltech Young Leader in Agricultural Journalism.

This means that Marike will be attending the 2018 IFAJ World Congress in The Netherlands, which will be held 11-14 July in Wageningen, as well as an expenses-paid 2.5-day professional development Boot Camp that will be held in Wageningen from the evening of 7 July through the 9th. ■



Know your Listeriosis from your zoonosis

Media briefing

Despite heavy rain and some flooding in the area, about 25 people attended a media breakfast briefing on animal health, hosted on Friday 23 March at Leriba Hotel in Centurion.

At this media briefing our expert speakers were Drs. Pieter Vervoort (National Animal Health Forum), Danie Odendaal (Veterinary Network) and Faffa Malan (RuVASA). They kindly donated their time and knowledge to the event hosted by the Agricultural Writers SA North.

The speakers talked about production animal health and how it affects everything from food prices to the spread of deadly diseases. This included a quick discussion on zoonosis (animal diseases transferrable to humans), like rabies and brucellosis. A new book on this topic by Dr. Jan du Preez, was briefly discussed at the breakfast briefing.

This information session gave a short briefing on hot topics in the animal production sphere and how consumers and the agricultural sectors are affected by it. Representatives of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation (Willie Clack) and the Milk Producers' Organisation (Dr. Koos Coetzee), also contributed to the discussions.

Journalists who attended could harvest a good deal of story leads and quotable quotes from the veterinarians who spoke on a wide range of topics – from Listeria to disease that spread through feed donations to drought stricken areas.

The event was presented by the Agricultural Writers SA (North), but is open to all members of the media who cover stories on agriculture, health, food and food prices and the consumer in general. Food safety, food production

and animal health issues are everybody's business. We encourage all members to attend similar events in future and to spread the word to the main stream media to also attend.

Presentations are available from the secretariat, petrie@abevents.co.za ■

CONTACT

NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH FORUM

Dr. Pieter Vervoort, Chairperson of the National Animal Health Forum
pieter@shant.co.za
082 414 2558

Dr Charlotte Nkuna, Vice Chairman
082 844 4492
charlotte@sapoultry.co.za

Ms Marzanne Polydorou, Secretariat
083 393 7228
admin@nahf.co.za

VETERINARY NETWORK

Dr. Danie Odendaal, Managing Director:
Veterinary Network
danie@v-data.co.za, vnet@absamail.co.za
082 454 0532

RUMINANT VETERINARY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Faffa Malan:
Manager of RuVASA
dokfaffa@nashuaisp.co.za

Find Dr. Faffa also on these media platforms:

Vra vir Faffa on www.Landbou.com
Animal health host on Landbouweekliks
(VIA on DSTV 147)



RABIES KZN

Compiled by Veterinary Services 28/02/2018
Rabies Project manager Mr K. le Roux 0795062058

Current rabies situation in KZN

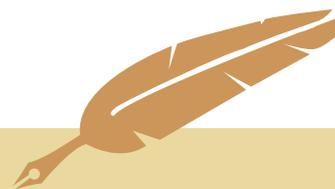
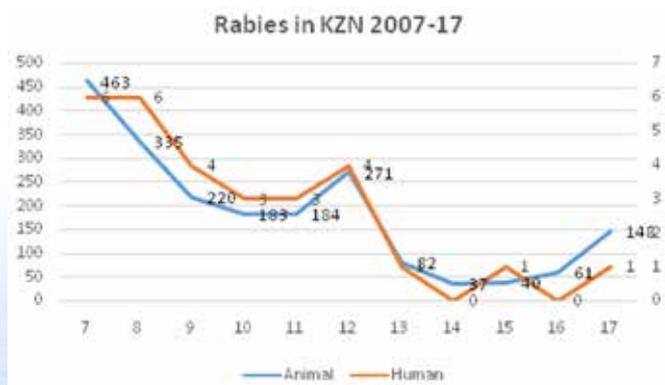
Rabies is a fatal viral encephalitis, and is the most fatal disease known to man! It is transmitted by the bite of an infected animal (>95% from dogs), with virus laden saliva entering the wound and attaching to nerve cells. Once this attachment has occurred... **DEATH IS 100%!**

However if the wound is immediately washed with soap and placed under running water for 5-10 min, disinfectant applied and correct treatment is sought immediately it is 100% preventable.

Dogs are the main source of the disease in KZN (>80%) and are required to be vaccinated by LAW. The main source areas for the disease are generally poorer rural communities where service delivery is poor (Global truth).

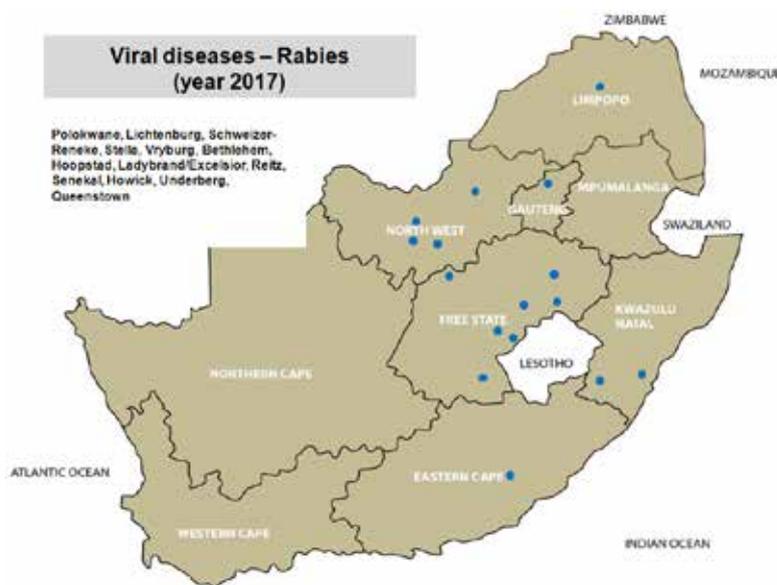
By 2014 animal rabies in KZN had been reduced by 93% and human cases had ceased, through effective mass vaccination campaigns conducted by Veterinary Services in collaboration with other stake holders.

However with additional responsibilities, limited resources and fading public interest vaccinations have declined and the disease has increased (see graph).



Rabies is a fatal viral encephalitis, and is the most fatal disease known to man!

KZN is experiencing an upsurge in animal Rabies over the past two years. This outbreak started in King Cetshwayo district and has spread south through Illembe and into Inanda (See Map).



Two tragic human fatalities have been confirmed for 2018 both a 6 and 3 yr old. Both of these are tragic events with no treatment being sought (Rabies is 100% preventable through timeous treatment) No known contact with an animal has been confirmed for the little boy from Nseleni (*Note: rabies has been known to incubate in a person for as long as 2 yrs.. but generally about 1-2 mths*) The second toddler was attacked by a cat near Blythedale beach in Illembe (see comments below on rabies in Cats)



Following the first human death in 18 mths in Illembé Sep 2017, Veterinary Service has conducted campaigns across most of the affected areas, however less than optimal results were achieved due to rainy season (Campaigns typically occur in winter due to accessibility).

A renewed effort has started, however an under resourced Veterinary Service has little hope without a province wide buy-in and support from all role players to:

- Educate the public regarding the dangers of the disease. (Health, Education, Vets, Welfare)
- Every pet owner to comply with their **legal obligation** to ensure their dogs and (cats) are vaccinated.

Main Symptoms of rabies in dogs:

- Owner will see a change in behaviour as brain of dog fills with virus.
- Dog will wander off (Many cases are recorded as strays)
- Agitation as the dog does not know what is happening to it.
- Strange vocalizations – howling, barking.
- Salivation, cant swallow, appears to have something stuck in throat.
- Incoordination.
- Dehydration (Rabid dogs are not generally scared of water) as they cannot drink throat is paralysed, but will try.
- Chewing strange objects.
- Will bite at the air as if there are flies around it.
- Aggression – Often biting will only occur when stimulated by sound touch, movement etc.
- Paralysis often of back legs.
- Depression – sickly looking
- Staring eyes
- Death occurs normally within three days of first signs.

Message to people who have been bitten: Disease is mainly a disease in dogs but can affect all warm-blooded animals and all have the potential to transmit the disease.

- Wash wound under running water for more than 5min.
- Clean wound with any disinfectant.

GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST CLINIC!

- A dog bite in KZN is seen as an emergency and an ambulance can be called if transport is problem.
- Treatment consists of four injections on day 0;3;7;14 which **MUST BE COMPLETED!!!!**
- If a bad bite, additional injections will be done into the wound.

Vaccination of Dogs:

- First vaccination at 3mths – 2nd at approximately 1 year of age and then after every 3yrs. (Dogs can be vaccinated earlier than 3mths if there is little chance of receiving the first one at 3mths due to non-availability of services.)
- Annual vaccinations is a provision of the Act where the director of Vet services decides it is necessary due to the severity of the current situation) This is applied selectively in KZN.

Current Campaigns on going in key areas: (For other areas contact relevant State Vet Office)

- Ethekeweni will be vaccinating in Umlazi over the next two weeks (details below).



| DATE | SECTIONS OF UMLAZI TO BE COVERED | MEETING POINTS |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 05/03/2018 | Advertising | Mega City |
| 06/03/2018 | E & C | Mega City |
| 07/03/2018 | W & F | Mega City |
| 08/03/2018 | G & H | Mega City |
| 09/03/2018 | J & K | Mega City |
| 10/03/2018 | Weekend | |
| 11/03/2018 | Weekend | |
| 12/03/2018 | K & L | Mega City |
| 13/03/2018 | M & N | Mega City |
| 14/03/2018 | R , P & Q | Mega City |
| 15/03/2018 | Y & Malukazi (X) | Mega Philani |
| 16/03/2018 | Z | Mega Philani |
| 17/03/2018 | Weekend | |
| 18/03/2018 | Weekend | |
| 19/03/2018 | U | Mega Philani |
| 20/03/2018 | BB & CC | Mega Philani |
| 21/03/2018 | Public Holiday | |
| 22/03/2018 | BB & AA | Mega Philani |
| 23/03/2018 | Umlazi Follow - ups | |

- King Cetshwayo: will be in Eshowe area from the 12th (Details will follow)
- Further campaign information will be made available shortly, this is dependent on logistics and changing intervention plans.

Facts about Cats and Rabies:

- **55 Cats Positive in last 20 years in KZN (Official Records from Allerton Vet Lab) Rabies only been active in KZN for 42 years.**
- Each year a small number of cats (ave. 2-3) are diagnosed with rabies in KZN, this number increases alongside increased

dog rabies. This figure is thought to be very low compared to the actual numbers, as the public rarely submit cats and many are thought to simply disappear with the disease (Loss of territorial links is a key symptom of the disease.)

- Cats do not have a natural immunity to rabies at all, and must be vaccinated as per dog schedule. However the diseases occurrence in Cats is dependent on there being a source in the dog population...Very little spread between cats is observed by it will happen.
- Cats become VERY aggressive when rabid. This means that bites are often deep and they tend to lock onto victims. Just this month a rabid cat had to be shot while still attached to a victims arm in the Free State. Human Deaths from cat bites are common globally.
- Cats can carry more than one Rabies Virus in KZN! A retrospective study of positive cat samples (KZN) found that 8% of these died from a Rabies Virus called MOKOLA virus. Typically cats get the normal DOG virus from contact with dogs as in the current case (Genetic research on the virus confirmed this Tuesday (27 Feb) . However Mokola virus is a rabies related virus that produces the identical disease, its origins are unknown but could be from insectivorous rodents. It is also genetically distant from dog rabies and so less is known about how effective treatment will be for humans. (IT WILL KILL)
- Vaccinations of cats is essential, and while not documented as LAW, it is in this expert's opinion that is as important as dog vaccinations. Cats represent a dangerous victim species especially for people as with latest case.
- If dog vaccinations are carried out and the disease eliminated, cat rabies will disappear, but not MOKOLA.
- All cat scratches and bites must be attended to as dog bites are, and possibly even with greater urgency.



State Vet Contact Numbers:

| District | State vet/Supervisor | Number |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Illembe | Telephone | 032 4377504 |
| | Fax | 032 5515787 |
| | State Vet | 0795062011 |
| | Supervisor | 0768217086 |
| Uthukela | Telephone | 036 6346300 |
| | Fax | 036 6341095 |
| | State Vet | +27796930857 |
| | Supervisor | +27769416059 |
| Ugu | Telephone | 039 6822020 |
| | Fax | 039 6823325 |
| | Supervisor | +27795062021 |
| Umzinyathi | Telephone | 034 2999662 |
| | Fax | 034 2999674 |
| | State Vet | +27716875520 |
| | Supervisor | 27716975567 |
| King Cetshwayo | Telephone | 035 4742163 |
| | Fax | 035 4745284 |
| | Supervisor | +27716875535 |
| Ethekeweni | Telephone | 031 3289300 |
| | Fax | 031 3683376 |
| | State Vet | +27795061991 |
| | Supervisor | +27795061997 |
| Hluhluwe | Telephone | 035 5620207 |
| | Fax | 035 5623023 |
| | Supervisor | +27716857621 |
| Jozini | Telephone | 035 5725303 |
| | Fax | 035 5725307 |
| | State Vet | +27716869993 |
| Nongoma | Telephone | 035 8749018 |
| | Fax | 035 8749020 |
| | State Vet | 27723545639 |
| | Supervisor | +27826679816 |
| Harry Gwala | Telephone | 039 8342974 |
| | Fax | 086 4641878 |
| | Supervisor | +27795062035 |
| Umgungundlovu | Telephone | 033 3476247 |
| | Fax | 033 3471667 |
| | Supervisor | +27795062062 |
| Amajuba | Telephone | 034 3153936 |
| | Fax | 034 3129986 |
| | State Vet | +27716875531 |
| | Supervisor | +27716875540 |
| Vryheid | Telephone | 034 9814416/7 |
| | Fax | 034 9832575 |
| | State Vet | +27716875550 |
| | Supervisor | +27716875533 |



Foto's van die maand

Stem vir jou gunsteling foto!

WhatsApp 1 of 2 of 3 of 4 na
Association Business Events, tel: 074 953 0810

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Advertising Sales Consultant

Job opportunity: Advertising Sales Consultant

Meta: Plaas Media has a job opportunity for an Advertising Sales Consultant in the agricultural industry.

Cat: local, slider

Remuneration: R10 000 per month basic plus commission

Benefits: Cell phone allowance, umbrella fund

Location: Tshwane, Centurion

Education level: Matric

Job level: Junior/Mid

Type: Permanent

Company: Plaas Media

- Solid administration skills.
- Experience in the agricultural media sector will be to your advantage.
- Must have a valid drivers' licence.

Send a short two-page CV to deidre@plaasmedia.co.za. Longer CVs will not be considered.

PLEASE DO NOT APPLY IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE CRITERIA.

If you have not heard from us within two weeks of your application, please regard the application as unsuccessful. ■

Job description

Selling advertising space in our agricultural magazines, our broadcast platforms (television and radio) and our online and social media platforms. Serving key clients and sourcing new clients. Generating leads and turning them into opportunities and sales.

Compiling advertising proposals and presenting them to clients.

Company Description

Plaas Media is a media company that focuses on a 360-degree media solution for clients and advertisers in the agricultural industry. Our products include printed magazines (own and contract titles), a television programme, a radio programme and a website plus several social media profiles. We also present the annual ALFA livestock expo.

Requirements

- Excellent overall sales skills.
- At least three years' experience in advertising sales.
- Excellent lead generation, whether on telephone, email or face to face.
- Excellent communication and people skills.
- Must be able to communicate in English and Afrikaans.
- Good presentation skills.
- Ability to source and retain clients.
- Ability to compile and negotiate tailor-made advertising packages and campaigns.

New CropLife ExCo

Following the Crop Life AGM held yesterday, attached is the names of the persons elected for CropLife ExCo 2018/2019.

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Marius Boshoff | - | President |
| Dr. Klaus Eckstein | - | Vice President, Bayer |
| Abraham Vermeulen | - | Syngenta |
| Henk v/d Westhuizen | - | Philagro |
| Kobus Steenekamp | - | Monsanto |
| Gerrit Badenhorst | - | Rolfes Agri |
| Marcel Dreyer | - | Arysta |
| Ockie Olivier | - | Adama |
| Quintin Cross | - | Nulandis |
| Rolf Dieckmann | - | Viking |
| Chris Thompson | - | Laeveld |
| Jacques du Preez | - | NexusAg |

You can contact Hettie Dickenson for more information

CropLife Office Administration Officer

Tel: 087 980 5163

Fax: 086 742 0660

Cell: 083 334 7716 ■

Massive pumpkins

NEWS snippets

Massive pumpkins
LivingSeeds Competition
1st Price went to Martie
Le Roux, with a pumpkin
weighing in at 485Kg!

Martie is the wife of Hugo le Roux, Data Science Manager Monsanto Asia, Africa. ■





Important DATES

| | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| 19 | April | Social media use training at Agri SA 19 April at 16:30 |
| 19 | April | Agricultural Writers SA North Annual General meeting at Agri SA 19 April at 18:00 |
| 7 & 8 | Jun | Agbiz Congress 7-8 June 2018 |
| 9 to 11 | May | Sansor Congress 9-11 May 2018 in Pretoria |
| 15 to 18 | May | Nampo 15 to 18 May 2018 at Nampo Park |
| <p>Three Sheep Courses in 2018 The Veeplaas Intensive Sheep productions course, a partnership between Plaas Media (Veeplaas and Stockfarm), Mamre Dormers and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of the Free State will present three courses during 2018. During the course the focus will be on the four factor plan and will include facilities, health, nutrition and financial aspects. For more information please visit www.agriorbit.com</p> | | |
| 10 to 12 | April | Sheep Course 10-12 April, Bloemfontein |
| 31 to 01 | June | Sheep Course 31-01 June, Royal Show, Pietermaritzburgh, Kwa-Zulu Natal |
| 18 to 19 | July | Sheep Course 18-19 July, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape |
| 18 to 20 | Sept | ALFA 2018 18 tot 20 September 2018, Afridome, Parys www.alfaexpo.com |
| 19 | Oct | Agricultural Writers SA North Farmer of the Year awards event 19 October |
| 10 | Nov | Agricultural Writers SA National Farmer of the Year event in Stellenbosch 9 November |
| 09 | Nov | Agricultural Writers SA Annual General meeting 10 November |

