



QUO VADIS (Where are we heading?)

- What is the future of agriculture in South Africa?
- Is organized agriculture still relevant in its current form?

The above are just some of the issues that will be addressed during this year's Congress, which will take place on August 7 & 8 in Bloemfontein.

The Congress is the highest authority of Free State Agriculture and we want to invite each and every member to give your input and be part of the solution!

Register your delegates with cynthia@vslandbou.co.za as soon as possible

regards

Francis Wilken

CONGRESS
2024

QUO VADIS?
WHERE ARE WE HEADING?

7 & 8 AUGUST 2024
BLOEMFONTEIN

ENQUERIES :
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ONGEAG



RURAL SAFETY

Safety planning in the run-up to national elections, 29 May 2024

According to Dr Jane Buys, Safety Risk Analyst of FSA, it is essential that all farming communities do their safety planning in the run-up to the National Election which takes place on 29 May 2024.

A Safety and or Contingency Plan must include the following:

- A threat analysis on all possible risks or threats that may arise, especially in relation to certain hotspots in the area;
- A Safety and/or Contingency Plan must be drawn up or updated in collaboration with the local police as well as the SANW and other role players - the possible employment of certain persons from the police to be helpful in the interim period ('community in blue')
- Identify a leader element to take command and control; coordinate communication; verify ground level information that must be linked with the CIS or structure being established; provide feedback to grassroots level; and verification of contingency plans and tightening of preparedness levels;
- Do planning with the role players about the use of resources as well as establishing effective radio communication;
- The safety/contingency plan must contain all appropriate persons' names and contact numbers - farming communities place proxy forms/protocol boards at access to property;
- Your own contingency / safety plan together with workers on farms is also proposed.

Possible risks / threats in relation to the election, its results or after the election may occur and information must be communicated with the Rural Safety Coordinator or safety representative of the farmers' association in the area:

- Any information indicating disruption of polling stations - possible damage or threats to any persons and or political parties prevented from operating at polling stations
- Any information that could prevent people from voting - closing/blocking roads, burning tires, entry/exit routes
- Any protests near polling stations (National Electoral Act) – burning / taking down posters in town areas and "looting" of businesses in town area / farms
- Mass mobilization / "looting" of businesses in town areas
- Possible blocking of main access routes / roads eg N3 (truck routes) which could affect delivery and disruption of food supplies, diesel, etc. Possible riot/protest with announcement of vote percentages.



RURAL SAFETY (continue)

Possible risks / threats (CONTINUED:)

- Wildfires – deliberate establishment of fires near main roads, access routes at strategic locations/farmers' farms located near village areas
- Critical infrastructure that is damaged or destroyed eg Eskom substations, power lines, copper cables, etc.
- Communication infrastructure of Vodacom/MTN – theft of mobile phone towers' batteries and non-availability of mobile phone signals/networks
- Water pumping stations and water supply to village areas that can be damaged/destroyed - causing major shortages in terms of water supply
- Water troughs and drinking places of animals that can be damaged or poisoning of water for animals
- Theft and damage of copper cables or electric cables of "pivots" - irrigation
- Illegal occupation of municipal and agricultural land - especially adjacent to town areas on a large scale which can result in criminality
- Layoffs of farms due to labor and or work agreements that can be hijacked by certain political parties (EFF) and turn into mass protest action, where workers are prevented from working
- Uninhabited farm houses and or workers' houses in which criminals or persons may live / hide illegally
- Grazing agreements between occupiers/workers and land owner that can lead to conflict and even involve political parties and police - arrests?
- Employment of illegal immigrants or seasonal workers – criminal record inquiries and involvement in groups/syndicates
- Seasonal crime eg theft of maize which may increase
- Possible increase in Farm attacks/murders in rural areas
- Increase in livestock theft and slaughters on farms
- Trespassing, poisoning of dogs, malicious damage to property in relation to animal abuse, intimidation - opening cases and passing on information
- Blocking of main access routes by "unfortunate" community members in relation to service delivery problems - impact on delivery of basic food, diesel, workers' / staff's production, etc.
- Possibility that gangs are "politically" inspired to push a specific agenda and make certain areas "no go areas"

Awareness, preparedness, involvement in a safety structure through effective means of communication, the linking of information from a variety of sources are important elements in order to possibly identify risks and address them prematurely, to ensure safety with the necessary law enforcement officers.

The complete Rural Safety report (Afrikaans) for April, which covers livestock theft, farm attack, etc. information contained can be found [here](#).



NATURAL RESOURCES

Prepare now for fire season

After devastating fires in the previous fire season, **Steynsrus Fire Protection Association** (BBV) has made available the following information from their experience which is required if a claim is to be made for fire damage:

1. Day, date and time of origination.
2. Determine origin of fire. GPS / pin-drop coordinates
3. Determine cause of fire. e.g. Eskom power line, arson, lightning, etc. Prepare a report with your local fire officer.
 - a. If arson is suspected, see document compiled by Dr Buys on the closed section of FSA's website - (members log in with member number as password).
 - b. If the fire originates from ESKOM infrastructure, see the ESKOM fire claim form on the closed section of FSA's website (members log in with VL member number as password).
4. Take as many photos as possible of origin and cause.
5. Take photos of fire damage such as wires, posts, gates, cribs, dams, homes, barns, livestock and fields.
 - a. Try taking photos with a beacon in the background such as a tree, dam, power line. Assessors sometimes come years later inspection like fire.
6. Take pictures of fire lanes.
7. Record the number of vehicles, firefighters, people and other equipment involved in extinguishing the fire.
8. Contact a lawyer (who specializes in fire damage) to handle your case. Contact VL to provide you with a list of VL service providers.

LABOUR ISSUES

Submission of Wage Returns

Employers are again reminded that in terms of the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, the returns of earnings in respect of employees must be submitted by 30 June 2024. This involves the wages that were paid by a farm from 1 March 2023 to 28 February 2024 as well as a forecast of the wages from 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025 and includes working directors, temporary, permanent and seasonal workers.

Stephan Pietersen from Work Accident Support kindly provided information regarding the submission of the wage returns as well as a wage return form. The information is available on the closed section of our website (Login > Documents > Labour)



COMMERCIAL

FSA Traceability System (AIMS)

FSA is currently in discussion with GS1 to incorporate traceability throughout the value chain, from farm to fork, in the QR codes on the AIMS ear tag. GS1 is the global body that issues the unique "barcodes" (barcodes) on products.

The advantages associated with this are:

1. Only a QR code is needed and not a more expensive RFID also transposes into the ear tag,
2. It can facilitate the traceability of movement throughout the value chain, and
3. The code can be read with a smartphone device that most role players already own and a free 'app', and therefore not a special expensive RFID reader.

For any queries about the system, Dr Jack Armour can be contacted at jack@vslanbou.co.za




By clicking on the FS-AIMS tag above, you will be directed to a free registration website where any livestock farmer can securely fill out their profile with essential information that is subject to FSA's Personal Information Protection Act compliance protocol.

Valuation Rolls - Dihlabeng, Nala & Kopanong

Landowners in the Dihlabeng, Nala and Kopanong municipalities should please note that the valuations in relation to properties in the municipalities have been adjusted for the periods 2024 – 2029 and that the valuation rolls are available for inspection at the respective municipal offices serving the areas. The valuation of your property is of critical importance in the calculation of property tax and as such it is therefore important to check the valuation of your property properly. In terms of section 46 of the Municipal Property Tax Act, 6 of 2004 (as amended) the market value of a property is based on the amount that the property would realize on the date of the valuation if the property were sold in the open market by a willing seller sold to a willing buyer.

INVITATION TO TENDER

**SALE OF FARM PROPERTIES
WITKOP EXPLORATION AND MINING (PTY) LTD
KROONSTAD DISTRICT
FREE STATE PROVINCE**



DETAILS

1. FARM DESCRIPTIONS

Legal Description	Current Price	Land Use (Current Use)
Remainder of the Farm 24/10/1994 2000 Broomfield 80	150 000	Reserve 24/10/1994 2000 Broomfield 80
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Total	2 175 000	
2. VIEWING AND DOCUMENTS

Should you be interested in viewing the sites or need more information and tender documents, you can contact MP Sharratt (email: marcs@jeslie.co.za) ("Witkop's representative").
3. Please note all tender documents must be either hand delivered or couriered to:

Reception of J Leslie Smith & Company Inc, 103A Main Road, Howick, KwaZulu-Natal, 3290 before 10:00am on 30 April 2024.
4. CLOSING DATE AND TIME: 18 JUNE 2024 AT 10AM

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Security of Tenure

The 2018 amendments to the Extension of Security of Tenure Act entered into force on 1 April 2024. In terms of the Amendment Act, there are, among other things, amendments to definitions within the Act.

For a more complete breakdown of the amendments to the Act, see the information note from Agri SA on our website (Login>Documents > Labour)

Process for removing excess livestock

Free State Agriculture (FSA) has noticed an increasing trend of livestock numbers exceeding workers or occupants on private land. This is of course a very sensitive matter, especially with the election imminent where false promises and expectations are created by politicians.

The legislation is very clear on this, but is regularly tested in the courts. We are aware of the latest developments and play an active role in protecting the rights of landowners. We thank the large number of farmers who do have the necessary contracts in place to allow workers to keep livestock on their land and many who themselves treat these livestock at their own expense.

Familiarize yourself with the process for removing excess livestock from workers or residents by downloading the document on the closed section of our website. (Login>Documents>Rural development).

Please support our service providers and business partners

