

Harvest permits and Environmental Impact Clearance Certificates

The Forestry Regulations which were promulgated in 2015 determine inter alia as follows: If farmers harvest more than 15ha per annum, they have to obtain a harvest permit. If farmers want to harvest more than 150ha per annum, they will have to obtain an Environmental Impact Clearing Certificate before they can apply for a harvest permit.

The Environmental Management Regulations which were promulgated in 2012 stipulate the following: Even though the said Regulations are in force, they are often not strictly applied.

Resulting from the inputs of all role players, it was suggested that amendments be done to the Environmental Regulations. These amendments will be presented to the Minister of Environment.

An Environmental Impact Clearance for the commercial farmers who want to de-bush, means that a form must be completed with a management plan which the farmer can do himself. The only cost involved is a Revenue Stamp of N\$300,00 and the process is relatively fast.

For further enquiries the consultant who has proposed the Regulations to the Minister can be contacted. Contact Stephan Bezuidenhout of Environmental Compliance Consultancy, Tel 081 2627872.

Agricultural overview

Some agriculture sectors did not have a great 2018 as production declined and a drop in producer prices affected their income value. The income value of the pig industry dropped by 6.2% Y-o-Y due to decreased marketing, whereas that of goats decreased by 1.5% Y-o-Y because of a decrease in producer price. The Swakara industry experienced a whopping decline in production value of about 32% Y-o-Y, i.e. income value decreased from N\$45.5 million in 2017 to N\$30.7 million in 2018, as a consequence of a decrease in price and quantity marketed. The agronomic and grapes industries did not do well either, as income value reduced by -21.7% Y-o-Y and -17.8% Y-o-Y, respectively.

Despite all the challenges faced by the agriculture sector, some industries had a positive income value. Cattle, sheep, and poultry had an estimated income value of 4.3% Y-o-Y, 9.1% Y-o-Y, and 6.8% Y-o-Y, respectively. The positive value on cattle is attributable to a slight increase in weaner and slaughter prices in the 4th quarter of 2018, and that on sheep is due to an increase in live export marketing and better producer prices. The poultry industry saw a few more SME poultry producers entering the sector making a significant contribution to the sector. The dairy industry is highly dependent on feed to increase milk production, and for 2018 feed cost increased by 72.9% Y-o-Y, and on top of that producers had 2 price cuts, which made dairy producers more vulnerable. However, before the end of 2018 dairy producers received a 10-cent increase, causing the income value to increase by 0.8%. This shows how much of a positive difference a 10-cent increase can have on dairy producers' income.

The charcoal industry performed really well in 2018 with the income value increasing from N\$184.8 million in 2017 to N\$306.7 million in 2018, i.e. it increased by a massive 66% Y-o-Y, and this was mainly due to increased production and producer prices received.

Agronomy Members' Meeting and Master Agronomist Day

The member meeting of the Agronomic Producers Association (APA) as well as the master agronomist day will take place on 17 April 2019 at the Schützenverein (Shooting Club) outside Tsumeb. The members' meeting starts at 08:30 and the master agronomist day will start after lunch. The day will mainly deal with more effective management of crops, with the emphasis on maize farming. Speakers are Jaun van Loggerenberg from GeoSpace, Erwin Schimper from Aqualand and as well as Willem Smit from Netafim on effective water consumption. As usual, the day is concluded with a farm visit at Ludwigshaven of Mr Hansie van der Merwe, the master agronomist of 2019. There will be a braai the evening at the Schützenverein.

Poultry Members' Meeting and Information Day

The Poultry Producers 'Association (PPA) holds its members' meeting and an information day at the Hall of the Dutch Reformed Church in Diaz Street Suiderhof on March, 20. The members meeting starts at 08:30 and the information session will start shortly after 10:00. The main speaker of the day, Dr Frank Travers of AVIMUNE will address poultry diseases, vaccination programs and biosecurity, with special emphasis on bird flu and ILT. Other speakers are Dr. A Klingelhoefter about the importance of vaccination programs as well as a quick overview of NPI on industry support and Feedmaster about their new diagnostic laboratory that opened in April 2018. Those interested should please sign up for the day at Rina Hough at rina@agrinamibia.com.na

NAU AgriBraai

The NAU AgriBraai will be held on March 29, & 30, 2019 at the Hage Geingob stadium, Windhoek. On March 29 Bok van Blerk and Robbie Wessels will perform and on March 30 Karlien van Jaarsveld, Die Broers and die Campbells will perform. There will be children entertainment as well as a meat processing demonstration, cake baking competition and game auction. For further details contact Corné Kruger, Tel 081 1293986, braaifees@gmail.com or Bernice, Tel 081 7028161. To download the entry form click here [Entry form](#) and to download the rules and further information click here [Information and Rules](#)

We want to appeal to all Farmers Associations to participate in this braai day because Kaiserstreet Farmers Association has announced that they will give some of their profit to the Dare to Care Fund to subsidize drought stricken farmers.

Channel 7

The following guests visit this week the Landbou Journal:
If you have wondered how important it is how to classify drought and how you can apply the proper management, Landbou Journal is the right place to be with. Liezl Vercueil of Landbou Weekblad tells about an expert who knows how it works.

We have some familiar speakers who has not been around for some time, like Maans Dreyer, Bertus Kruger and Alex McDonald. Listen to what they have to tell us.

Johleen Joubert tells us how a family winner can be baked with Bakpro.

You can listen to Landbou Journal on Saturday at 6 and a re-broadcast on Wednesday evenings between 8 and 9. Channel 7 can also be heard on DSTV channel 825 at GoTV channel.

Namibia Quilt Festival 2019

The first Namibia Quilt Festival will be held in Windhoek on October 8 and 9, 2019 which will be the same time as the NAU Congress 2019. In order to get the quilt festival off the ground, we would like to introduce it to NAU members. The competition is offered as a challenge and each participant gets a piece of the same material which must be used to make the quilt and the theme for the 2019 quilt competition is: From Then to now. Your quilt can include modern, traditional and/or art technics and no side may be longer than 125cm.

The organizers are Yvette Venter - Windhoek and the North (081 1283157), Dina Kotze - Stampriet vicinity (081 1275524), Annelie van der Merwe - Uhlenhorst and NVV (081 2320707) and Elize Visser - Karasburg and South (+ 27 721306110). The plan is to offer DV quilt classes during these 2 days. The information about the classes will be announced early in 2019 and the plan is to offer traditional, the modern and out of the box quilters. They will even offer an interesting crochet class. The finished quilt must be handed in by September 15, 2019. The ideas around the theme is legion and the winning quilt's prize is a new Bernina sewing machine to the value of N\$29 000,00. Thus start thinking and plan to be creative and original and take part in this interesting first quilt festival in Namibia.

Entry fees are N\$100 and only one quilt can be entered. Contact the organiser nearest to you and also look out for the FB page: Namibië Kwiltfees 2019. For further information and to download the registration form [Click here](#).

FA and other news

Karibib FA is holding their Annual General Meeting on March 16 at 17:00 at Farm Abbabis of H H Gladis. Further details from Ms Doris Gladis, Tel 061 37400, doris@hemconamibia.com.

Steinhausen FA is holding a member meeting on March 19 at 15:00 at the FA hall. Guest speakers are Messrs Marius de Klerk of Nyime Anti Poaching Unit, Roelie Venter of the NAU, Adolf de Koe and Gilli Bassinhwaithe of Meatco and the regional representative, Mr Kallie von Kühne. For further details contact Mr Strydom, Tel 062 561419.

Sonop FA is holding a member meeting on March 19 at 14:00 at the FA hall at Farm Frauenhofen. Guest speaker is Mr Bennie Beukes of Karubeams Crime Prevention. For further details contact Cheryl Pienaar, Tel 062 563189, gghnam@mtcmobile.com.na.

Epukiro FA is hosting a farmer information day on March 21 at 09:30 at Farm Wagnou, 100km north of Gobabis on the C22. Three cattle breeds will be compared, dryland agronomy will be looked at and the use of fodder in that vicinity will be discussed. A farm visit will also take place. For further details contact Johan van der Merwe, Tel 062 568249, 081 3201013.

The **Outjo Braaifees** will take place on May 3 & 4 at the Sophienhof Lodge, Outjo on the C39 to Khorixas. Persons who want to book a stand can contact Elzanne Koen at 081 4213042, elzannekoen@yahoo.com. For further enquiries contact Lizel, Tel 081 3548118 or Carina 081 1249011.

Exchange Rate NAD (9-15 March 2019)

	March	EURO	USD	POUND	PULA
<i>Saturday</i>	9	16.221	14.435	18.791	1.341
<i>Sunday</i>	10	16.223	14.438	18.792	1.341
<i>Monday</i>	11	16.122	14.361	18.803	1.337
<i>Tuesday</i>	12	16.165	14.334	18.780	1.334
<i>Wednesday</i>	13	16.298	14.410	19.054	1.344
<i>Thursday</i>	14	16.379	14.487	19.238	1.353
<i>Friday</i>	15	16.402	14.492	19.188	1.353

Saturday to Thursday: 17:00 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

Friday: 06:22 UTC