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URBAN ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Colleen Janse van Rensburg

Livestock has always been an important source of food, and in South Africa also often used for ceremonial and draught purposes. The keeping of livestock in urban and peri-urban (city outskirts) areas is rather common, with increasing amounts of people moving into urban areas. Farm animals are a regular feature in townships while poultry and small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs are frequently kept in the backyards of urban houses. These animals contribute to food security and are also used to generate incomes.

Urban animal production involves raising animals for household consumption of animal products or raising them for draught purposes including the transport of goods and products. Certain constraints however prevent many producers from keeping livestock in urban areas. Diseases, lack of feed and low fertility are common challenges.

Due to the lack of proper housing and grazing facilities, many animals are left to wander around freely. These animals are not only a nuisance to neighbours when foraging on vegetable and flower gardens, but they also pose a safety hazard if they wander out on the roads. They may also become a health risk to humans and animals through the spread of zoonotic diseases.

Rather than removing animals from urban areas, livestock owners can implement some form of management and control over their animals to address these common constraints and to improve livestock productivity in urban areas.

There are important guidelines and laws and regulations to follow when keeping animals in urban areas. Owners must comply with municipal bylaws in their areas as well as follow any relevant national legislation linked mostly to animal and public health, and animal welfare.

Extension Suite Online provides useful information on the care and management of farm animals ranging from handling, feeding and condition scoring, to recognising important diseases, parasites and injuries that may require veterinary attention. Owners can learn how to mark their animals for legal identification and study other important legislation regarding the protection of animals and disease prevention. Communities can work together and share knowledge. By building community kraals that can house the animals, they can keep them in a safe area where animals can be fed and provided with basic care.

Well cared for animals are healthier and perform better thus increasing animal productivity and allowing the continued provision of income for their owners for many years.



Colleen Janse van Rensburg

ESO WALLPAPERS

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE
DESKTOP WALLPAPER TODAY!

Liven up your computer's desktop with an Extension Suite Online wallpaper. Download wallpapers directly from the ESO newsletter e-mail or on the ESO media website: media.esuite.co.za



Tips and tools for advisors

Thomas de Ridder

How to influence people to do the right thing

Psychologists identified a powerful way to influence people. It is called the "social proof" phenomenon and works more or less like this:

- Explicitly **mention what others or the majority do** - when a particular farmer neglects weeding or refuses to do it, it may help if he was told that other good farmers are doing it.
- **Point out how many farmers are doing the right thing** - rather than how many are doing it wrong.
- When talking about **farmers who are doing something wrong** - mention that they are a declining minority who are definitely less successful as producers.
- People are inclined to do what those who are similar to them do - when advising farmers, ensure them that your advice was followed with great success by other farmers very similar to them - the same ethnic group, in the same area, having the same soil type etc.

TOP NATIONAL ESO USER:

The monthly national ESO user will receive the following prizes: First time National ESO User 2015: **4 Gig USB memory stick**, second time National ESO User 2015: **Digital Camera**, third time National ESO User 2015 **Nokia Lumia 520**, fourth time National ESO User 2015: **Samsung Galaxy Tab**.

Congratulations to **Mr Louis Khomola (Limpopo Department of Agriculture)**, the ESO National Top User for August 2015.



Louis Khomola

Extension Suite Online team congratulates once again Mr Louis Khomola for being the National Top User for four consecutive months and he is awarded with Samsung Galaxy Tablet.

As an Agricultural advisor with many personal and work related responsibilities, Mr Khomola relies on a good support structure from family, friends and colleagues.

Mr Khomola makes use of Extension Suite Online to assist him in executing some of his duties of providing support and advisory services to his farmers.

The techniques that he uses to give advice and support his farmers includes conducting demonstrations and lectures as well as farmers days presentations. Extension Suite Online assist in providing him with the necessary information required for all this techniques that he uses. He also develops training material with the information gathered from ESO and share with farmers to take home for future references.

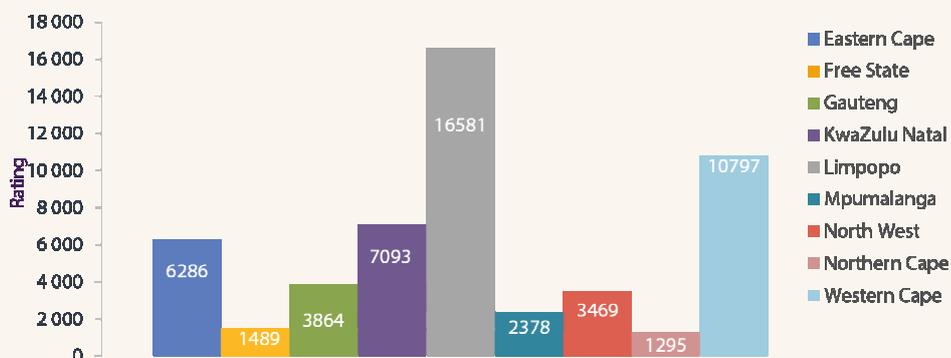
With the use of infrastructure module on regional data of Extension Suite Online, Mr Khomola is able to direct farmers to relevant suppliers in their area. He further relies on problem solvers to identify the kind of pests that affects plants.

Mr khomola encourages colleagues to keep in touch with technological advances in order to increase on their knowledge and start using Extension Suite Online as a good tool for agricultural information.

EXTENSION SUITE ONLINE UTILISATION: AUGUST 2015

Extension Suite Online (ESO) utilisation is determined through monitoring user utilisation in the nine provinces and by attaching values to Visits, Pages Visited and Duration of Visits; a rating is calculated to establish the ESO National Top User of the Month.

ESO PROVINCIAL TOP USER GRAPH



ESO PROVINCIAL TOP USERS

Province	Name
Eastern Cape	Simphiwe Sintwa
Free State	Tlaleng Majola
Gauteng	Lesego Phakedi
KwaZulu Natal	Dumisani Nzama
Limpopo	Louis Khomola
Mpumalanga	Sinekhaya Benson Makukule
North West	Mompati Gabanakgosi
Northern Cape	Boitumelo Joy Mothibi
Western Cape	Riaan Nowers

DISEASE TALK: FEATURED DISEASE

Further information on all featured diseases can be found on ESO.

Scientific Name: *Arthritis*

Popular Name: Arthritis (Joint infection)

Arthritis is a bacterial infection of the joints, which can be a result of either an infection in the blood (especially in young animals due to infection of the navel) or due to sores caused by ticks, sharp objects, etc.



Sheep - Arthritis (Joint infection)

ESO TIPS:

How to send feedback to ESO

Thapedi Setshedi

By definition, a web based system can only remain relevant through user interaction and feedback. Most importantly it helps to identify weaknesses, strengths and areas of improvement, and of course, informs the provider of positive aspects regarding the system.

On Extension Suite Online, users can send their feedback using the '**send us feedback**' button on the home page. This function enables the user to provide an email address, the subject and the main content of their message. To ensure that Extension Suite Online replies reach users, they must ensure

that an operative email address is provided. The feedback form also contains support contact details allowing users to communicate telephonically with the ESO Helpdesk. The second option is situated on the "feedback form" icon the home page.

Once feedback is received by the ESO Helpdesk, a standard procedure is followed to ensure speedy and relevant assistance to users. All types of feedback are welcome and will receive attention. The feedback section is mainly used for subject-related and IT questions and additional information, but not limited to that. Without feedback and user interaction, a system like ESO will not be able to serve its users effectively.

Do you have any technology related questions? Send them to newsletter@esuite.co.za, with your name, province and the question and we will answer them in a following newsletter edition.



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