

VOL. 6 | DECEMBER 2021

MASAKENG

FARMERS' NEWSLETTER



Welcome!

Ever since the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown episodes, a lot has been going on in the country. We were faced with unexpected situations that we found challenging to deal with as unprepared as we remained. We were not able to meet for about two years now due to the COVID-19 situation and this affected us negatively since we could not carry out any learning activities to advance our farming knowledge. We take with ourselves lessons learnt from the pandemic and as the COVID-19 restrictions eases up, we hope to pick up where we left and continue to build our network and channel it in the direction we aspire it to go. Enjoy this edition like many more before and after it. Let us all take care and adhere to Covid-19 protocols during these trying times – our survival depends on it. Pula!

Let us also kindly note Mr. Asiah Tuahuku's passing due to COVID-19 complications. Mr. Tuahuku was a devoted member of the GFN network and he will be greatly missed. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. Andrew Molatole
Ghanzi Farmers Network (GFN)
Committee Member

OVERVIEW:

- Local markets for your cattle
- Effects of COVID on the local cattle industry
- Vaccinating your livestock - why it is important and how to do it successfully
- Learning from fellow farmers - Mma Stanley and Tshekiso Tsholohelo
- Laws you need to know
- Human-lion conflict: lessons from Eretsha
- Update on farmers network activities
- Healthy rangelands for productivity
- GFN and SOLIFANE contacts



Learning from Others

FARMER PROFILES

MMA STANLEY

Diversifying livelihoods for sustainability

Mrs. Claudia Stanley started farming in the 1970s, when she met and married her late husband — a prominent farmer on a Goodhope farm in the Ghanzi District. Although they developed many other businesses, including shopping complexes, bars and restaurants, farming remained their first love. Through their businesses and livestock sales they were able to develop the farm with boreholes, water points, farm vehicles and houses, one of which is now rented out for additional income.

Since her husband's passing in 2013, Mma Stanley continues to manage the Goodhope Farm, caring for 160 cattle and 100 boergoats, two boreholes, several farm vehicles and three houses on the large property. Despite the challenges, Mma Stanley particularly encourages fellow women farmers to make imprints in this traditionally male dominated profession by harnessing their passion and commitment to demonstrate independence, learn and network and make their enterprises a success.



MR. TSHEKISO TSHOLOHELO

Innovation for productivity

Mr. Tsholohelo is from the Southern district and started farming in 2017 with 10 goat ewes and one ram. His farming was going very well and he sold 35 of his goats to various government programs. He soon realised that the browse on his farm was not sufficient to feed his herd. Using this challenge as an opportunity for innovation, he came up with an idea of making his own supplement feed.

His feed mix is constantly being adapted and improved for optimal nutritional value and at present it contains yellow maize, lab lab, sunflower and beans. "I can see great improvements in the general look of my livestock and this reassures me that I am doing something right with my feed". Mr. Tsholohelo aspires to acquire some machinery that will mix his feed, helping fast track his production for the small market that is already interested in his produce in Samane. He works with various government departments like Veterinary Services and Animal Production with the goal to produce quality feed ingredients, package, brand and ready his produce for the market.



DVS services impacted by COVID-19

Ms. Camm, from the Ghanzi Department of Veterinary Services office, cited that their service delivery was not spared by COVID-19 challenges. “Our vaccinations campaigns were affected. We were not able to vaccinate on time and this posed a big threat of diseases affecting animals because we weren’t able to vaccinate on time. We also experienced a shortage of vaccinations since we procure our vaccinations outside the country and COVID-19 slowed procurement of good and services.”

For livestock registration, tagging, and permits, Ms. Camm declared that they experienced quite a

number of farmers coming to their offices for registration and they are encouraging farmers, where possible, to use the online BAITS platform to minimise the movement of people at the BAITS agencies in Ghanzi, Karakubis, Charles Hill and Ncojane.

She disclosed that the challenges of COVID-19 did not affect livestock prices that much in their area. “Most of our farmers utilized the opportunity and used millers as middle men on international markets to sell their livestock so the impacts of COVID-19 were not felt that much in that regard,” said Ms. Camm.

“I URGE FARMERS AND PET OWNERS TO ENSURE THAT ANIMALS ARE VACCINATED AT THE RIGHT TIME FOR PREVALENT DISEASES TO REDUCE STOCK LOSSES AND INCREASE PRODUCTION.”

MS. TERESA CAMM
Department of
Veterinary Services
Ghanzi

Latest farmers network activities



Exchange visit
Mr. Thaushe’s
farm
**July 2019,
Ghanzi**

Mineral block
supplement
feed production
workshop
**July 2019,
Ghanzi**



Safe handling and
administration of
livestock vaccines
mobile workshops
**Sept. 2021,
Ghanzi District**

Exchange visit
to the CLAWS/
Herding for
Health
programme
**Sept. 2021,
Eretsha**





The Importance of Vaccinations

HOW AND WHEN TO ADMINISTER LIVESTOCK VACCINES

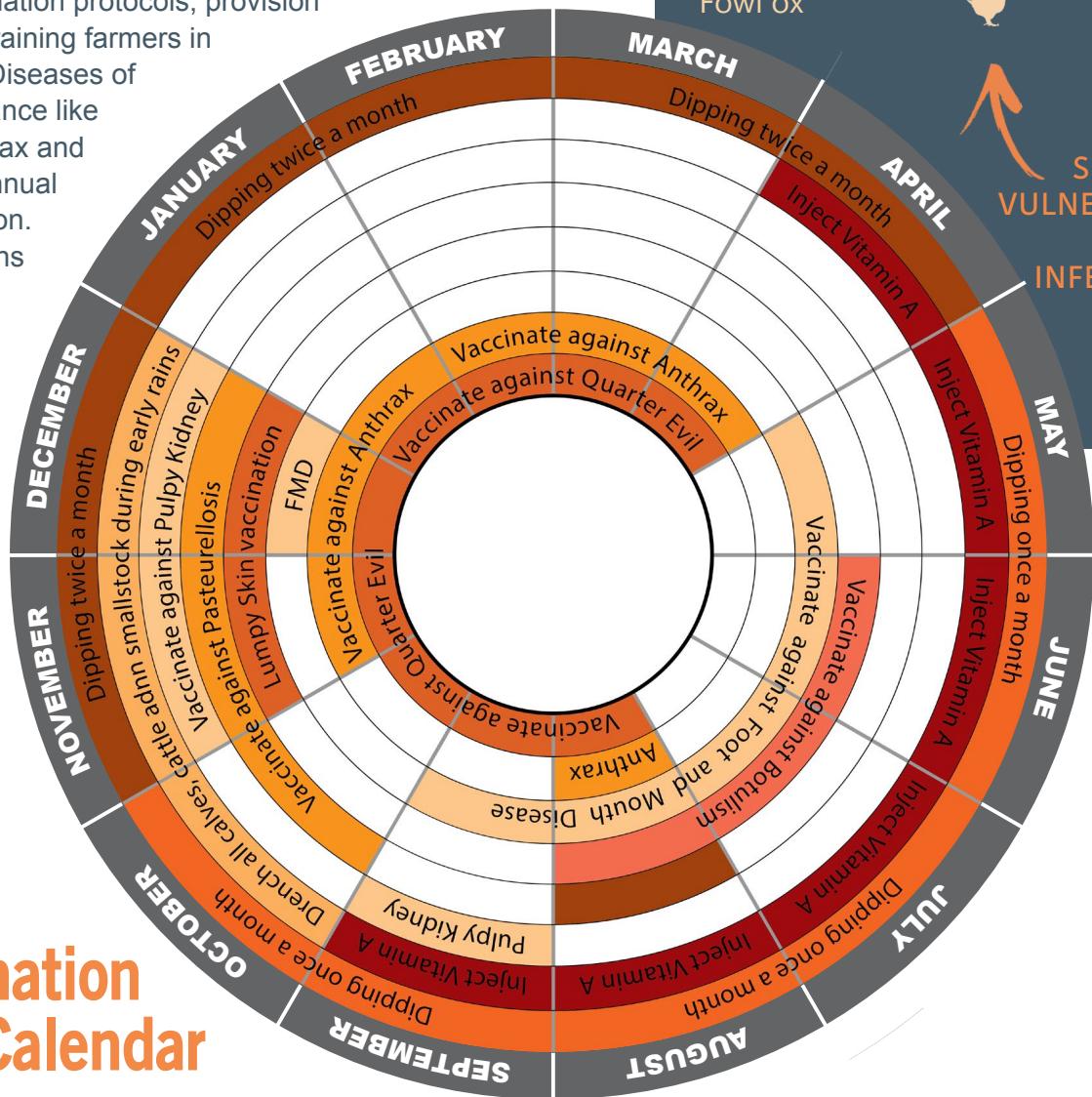
Veterinary services play an important role in farming activities because they encourage good animal health and welfare, which in turn promotes public health. Certain livestock diseases are transferable to humans, such as rabies and anthrax, and such diseases require consistent prevention to guard against risks. To protect animals against diseases, it is important to vaccinate not only at the right time, but with the right product and understanding. Most vaccines should be stored in a refrigerator because heat can make the vaccines ineffective. It is very important to follow label directions for how to give the injection.

The Department of Veterinary Services provides support to farmers for vaccination protocols, provision of vaccines and training farmers in giving vaccines. Diseases of economic importance like quarter evil, anthrax and rabies have an annual cycle of vaccination. Timely vaccinations of animals is important to maintain their protection. Use the vaccination calendar below to keep track of common vaccinations that should be given to your livestock, adding any additional vaccinations to your schedule as needed.

MOST COMMON DISEASES IN THE GHANZI DISTRICT

- Measles  
- Pulpy Kidney  
- Internal Parasites    
- External Parasites    
- Rabies   
- Anthrax   
- Quarter Evil  
- Caseous Lymphadenitis  
- Foot Rot  
- Newcastle Disease 
- Fowl ox 

 SPECIES VULNERABLE TO INFECTION



Vaccination Calendar

Things to Remember when Vaccinating



Wear gloves



Check expiry date and read label for instructions

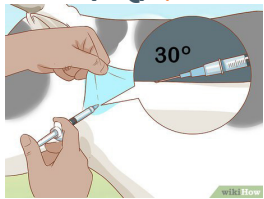


Refrigerate vaccines



No more than 20 animals with one clean needle

Sub cutaneous injection (SQ) (under skin)



Best place (SQ):
fold of skin
at neck

Intra muscular injection (IM) (into muscle)

Best place (IM):
thick muscle
on shoulder



Mitigating Human-Lion Conflict

LESSONS LEARNED FROM ERETSHA

In September, GFN members paid a visit to the Communities Living Among Wildlife Sustainably (CLAWS) project in Eretsha to learn more about how they are working to reduce farmer-lion conflict. CLAWS places GPS tracking collars on cattle and lions and created a geofence around the communities so that when lions cross the invisible geofence, an alert is sent to all local farmers, stating which lion it is, where it's located and how close it may be to collared cattle.

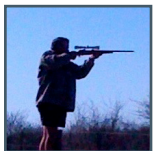
Win Win Win Win Win Win Win

CCB IS OFFERING ONE LUCKY FARMER THE CHANCE TO WIN A CCB PRIZE PACK.

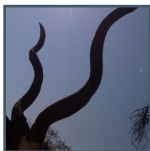
To enter the draw, message your name, location and contact phone number to 7211 9355.
Draw closes 31st March 2022.

Laws that all farmers should know

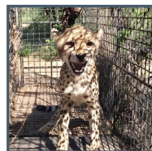
THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE ILLEGAL



Hunting in protected areas e.g. game reserves



Keeping trophies or live animals without permits



Hunting protected species e.g. cheetahs



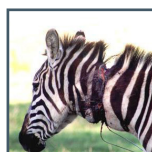
Hunting non-protected species without permits



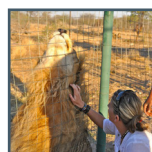
Hunting problem animals without telling DWNP within 7 days



Using fire to herd animals for hunting



Using illegal methods to hunt e.g. poisons, snares, gin traps and pitfall traps



Keeping wild animals as pets without permits



Secondly, the first communal herd in Botswana, comprised of over 80% of the village cattle, has been created; community-led rotational grazing plans were designed; and herders were professionally trained to monitor livestock health and implement the grazing plans. At night, the herd is kraaled in lion-proof mobile kraals. By switching from continual grazing to rotational grazing, the veldt is given a chance to recover, which is especially important after drought years.

Poor rangelands

Wildlife
absent

Bush encroachment
e.g. blackthorn,
silver terminallia

No trees

Bare soils with hard
surfaces lead to
water and nutrient
run off and erosion

Unpalatable weeds
are plentiful

Unhealthy soils
lacking nutrients

Healthy rangelands

Wildlife
plentiful

Large trees
provide shade

Biodiversity of
wildlife and plant
species

Plentiful and
diverse grass
species

Bushes and woody
plants present in
small numbers

Healthy soil
full of microbes

5000ha farm = 333 cattle

STOCKING RATE*

Poor rangelands
can maintain a
stocking rate of:

**1 head of cattle
= 15ha**

STOCKING RATE**

Healthy rangelands
can maintain a
stocking rate of:

**1 head of cattle
= 5ha**

5000ha farm = 999 cattle



1 cattle icon
represents 100 cattle

* stocking rates listed are average. Actual stocking rates depend on grass availability and cattle requirements

** overstocking livestock is the primary cause of rangeland damage — only increase stock numbers if grazing is sufficient

How to restore damaged rangelands



Reduce
livestock
number to
rest grazing,
especially
after rains



Increase
browsers
(goats and
game) to
reduce
woody plants



Encourage wildlife
to eat browse,
aerate soil and
increase nutrients
in the soil

Use fire
to suppress
woody plants
(only every 5
years+)



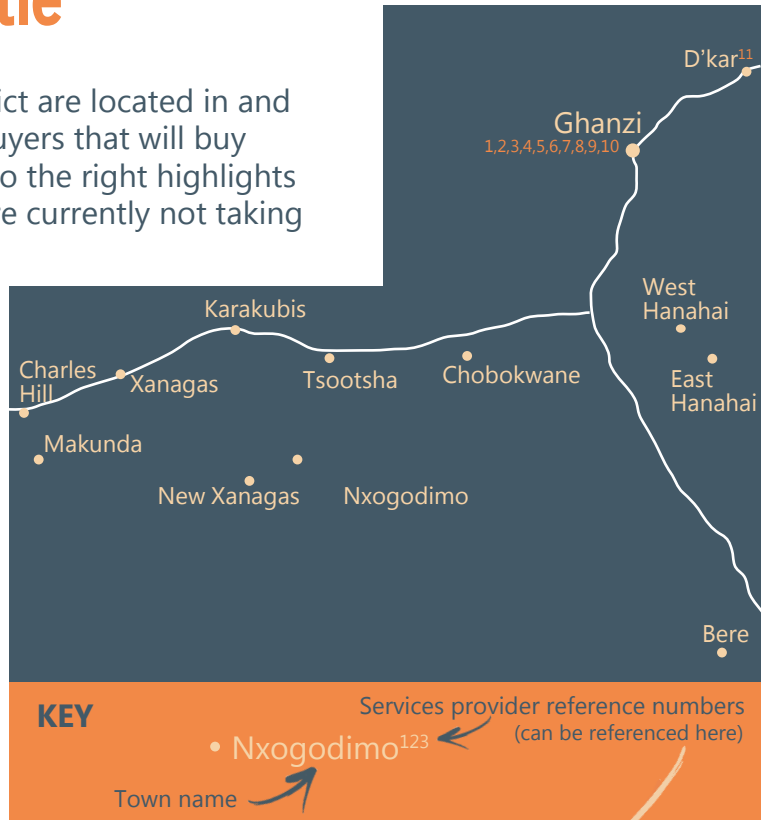
Reseed/
plough grass
to encourage
grass
recovery





How and where to sell cattle

The majority of cattle markets in the Ghanzi District are located in and around Ghanzi town, but there are some cattle buyers that will buy from smaller villages in the rural areas. The map to the right highlights the areas where these buyers service. Feed lots are currently not taking cattle for feeding, however, this may change in the future.



BUTCHERIES

Ghanzi Butchery¹ Ph: 659 6293
Pro Grounder Investment² Ph: 7372 1423, 7229 4967

D. Kamps Investment³
 Ph: 7371 2158, 7377 5302

Good News General Dealer & Fresh Produce⁴
 Ph: 7376 7365

ABATTOIRS

Artok Abattoir & Butchery⁵
 Ph:

INDIVIDUAL BUYERS

Hendrik & Dirk Jerling⁶
 Ph:

Arthur Vickerman⁷
 Ph: 7230 4492, 7582 7598

Jaco Beukes⁸
 Ph: 7281 8144

Quinton Barnes⁹
 Ph: 7211 1497

FEED LOTS

Kentrek Enterprises (Ghanzi)¹⁰
 Ph: 7501 5542, 7510 4606, 7526 7203

Jerling Feedlot (D'kar)¹¹
 Ph:

Transport Options



SMALL TRAILERS (<8 cattle)

Kabelo Leshope
 Ph: 7357 2626

Itumeleng Lesesere
 Ph: 7369 0323

Nkaelang Hiri
 Ph: 7349 0042



SMALL TRUCKS (8-25)

Joseph Sefako Ph: 7338 1212
Achos Molataloso Ph: 7126 3924

Paul Snyman Ph: 7505 0828
Pesetdo Galase Ph: 7160 2927

Atamelang Borosi
 Ph: 7385 5559



LARGE TRUCKS (>25)

Basie Terblanche
 Ph: 7756 3548

SOLIFANE Contacts

Donald Simon (Chairperson)	7347 1478
Letlhogonolo Setswalo (Vice Chairperson)	7165 5122
Phenyio Moakofhi (Secretary)	7358 9282
Seitiso Moreputla (Vice Secretary)	7383 5591
Boiteko Mokabati (Treasurer)	7349 9779
Gabaakanye Keakohile	7345 8558
Tshekiso Tsholohelo	7358 1739
Dipuo Motswaio	7580 9711

GFN Contacts

Rachel Kelefitlhetse (Chairperson)	7317 7432
Kabelo Modise (Vice Chairperson)	7303 4511
Setlhabane Boikotlhao (Secretary)	7165 8055
Vivian Mikgatlhanyane (Vice Secretary)	7394 5514
Kebalepile Bantshwanetse (Treasurer)	7627 9626
Ofaletse Thaushe	7370 1935
Moalpi Kwadipana	7371 2676
Nelson Molatole	7369 6785
Tjiramanga Mokgatlhanyane	7777 8512
Bakang Ramoswaane	7269 1516

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Department and role	Location	Phone number
Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP)	Mabutsane	588 9244
Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP)	Kanye	544 1250
Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP)	Ghanzi	659 6323
Police	Mabutsane	588 9333
Police	Kanye	544 0632
Police	Jwaneng	588 0334
Police	Ghanzi	659 6222
Department of Veterinary Services (DVS)	Jwaneng	588 0466
Department of Veterinary Services (DVS)	Ghanzi	659 6378

BMC 2020 SLAUGHTER PRICES (P/KG)

Kgs	Red Zone Quarantined		Green Zone		EU Market					
	<160	>160	<160	>160	<160	160-179	180-199	200-219	220-239	240-259
Prime	-	-	-	-	28.60	32.60	35.60	38.10	38.20	39.00
Super	-	-	-	-	27.50	31.50	24.50	36.00	36.20	36.90
Grade 1	-	-	-	-	24.80	28.80	31.80	33.90	34.20	34.70
Grade 2	25.00	28.00	25.00	28.00	23.60	27.60	30.60	31.10	31.50	32.10
Grade 3	22.00	28.00	22.00	28.00	23.40	27.40	30.40	30.40	30.40	30.40
Grade 4	17.00	28.00	17.00	28.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canning	17.00	28.00	17.00	28.00	-	-	-	-	-	-

Contributors:

Vetswana Botswana
 Department of Veterinary Services
 Botswana Meat Commission
 Communities Living Among Wildlife Sustainably (CLAWS) -
 Edwin Mudongo

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Network Activities Supported By:

