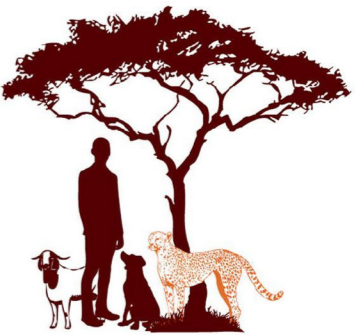


MASAKENG FARMERS NEWSLETTER



March 2018

Issue No: 2

SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK FARMERS NETWORK (SOLIFANE) JWANENG			
Name	Surname	Title	Telephone
Donald	Simon	Chairperson	7347 1478
Lethogonolo	Setswalo	Vice Chairperson	7165 5122
Phenyo	Moakofhi	Secretary	7358 9282
Seitiso	Moreputla	Vice Secretary	7383 5591
Boiteko	Mokabati	Treasurer	7349 9779
Gabaakanye	Keakohile	Additional Member	7345 8558
Tshekiso	Tsholohelo	Additional Member	7358 1739
Dipuo	Motswaiso	Additional Member	7580 9711

GHANZI SMALLSTOCK FARMERS NETWORK			
Name	Surname	Title	Telephone
Rachel	Kelefitsetse	Chairperson	7317 7432
Kabelo	Modise	Vice Chairperson	7303 4511
Sethabane	Boikothao	Secretary	7165 8055
Vivian	Mikgathanyane	Vice Secretary	7394 5514
Kebalepile	Bantshwanetse	Treasurer	7627 9626
Ofaletse	Thaushe	Additional Member	7370 1935
Molapi	Kwadipana	Additional Member	7371 2676
Nelson	Molatole	Additional Member	7369 6785
Tjiramanga	Mokgathanyane	Additional Member	7777 8512
Bakang	Ramoswaane	Additional member	7269 1516

AGRICULTURAL SHOW DATES 2018		
Name of Show	Venue	Date
Kgalagadi North Farmers Youth Club Field Day	Hukuntsi	23 March 2018
Mzanico Smallstock Production Expo	Tlokweneng	31 March 2018
Kang Farmers Day & Educational Workshop	Kang	13 - 15 April 2018
Mosisedi Commercial Farmers Field Day	Venue to be announced	5 May 2018
South East Farmers Day & Market Day	Venue to be announced	12 - 13 May 2018
Southern District Beef Farmers Association Field Day	Samane	25 - 26 May 2018
Chobe Agriculture Show	Pandamatenga Show Grounds	28 - 30 June 2018
Ghanzi Agriculture Show	Ghanzi Show Grounds	2 - 8 July 2018
Goodhope Show	Venue to be announced	19 - 22 July 2018
Moshupa Show	Venue to be announced	25 - 29 July 2018
Ngamiland International Trade & Agricultural Expo	Maun	1 - 4 August 2018
Southern District Agriculture Show	Kanye	1 - 5 August 2018
National Agriculture Show	Gaborone Show Grounds	20 - 26 August 2018
National Smallstock Expo	Venue to be announced	25 - 27 October 2018
Women in Farming Expo	Serowe	2 - 3 November 2018

Contributors:
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Network Activities Supported By:



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Welcome Note

Greetings and welcome to the second edition of the Masakeng Farmers' Newsletter. It is true that informed farmers are better placed to make their farming practices productive, which helps to minimize the stresses associated with farmer-cheetah conflicts. 2017 has been a great year of learning and shaping the farmers networks and we are very pleased with the progress that has been made. Our purpose as networks is to bring together farmers in our area and help facilitate the transfer of knowledge between members, connect them with other stakeholders as well as assist in developing and securing our livelihoods through farming. Our networks are comprised of farmers of different ages and from different backgrounds and it is through this platform that we are able to learn from each other. The more senior members of the groups engage and transfer key knowledgeable skills obtained over years of experience and the younger members similarly bring new ideas and energy. As the threat of climate change looms over us all, now is as important a time as ever to combine our knowledge and experience to create more productive and more resilient farming practices. We believe that with teamwork, we will reach even greater heights with our farming endeavours.

**Rachel Kelefitsetse
 Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers' Network Chairperson**



Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers Network members in Ghanzi during their benchmarking trip to Mr. Thaushe's farm

Activities of the Networks

Since their creation, both networks have been busy hosting meetings and undertaking activities that shape and guide their farming endeavours. The Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers Network members together with CCB went to visit model farmer, Mr. Thaushe at Kgamelo cattle post in Ghanzi on 3rd March 2017 for a benchmarking trip to learn how he manages his farm. During this visit, farmers shared ideas on several things including better ways to make their kraals carnivore-proof, how and when to give supplementary feeding, best practices for record keeping and the general care of livestock.



Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers Network members during a BAITs workshop at Lekanyane cattle post

The Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers Network members also attended a workshop at Lekanyane cattle-post hosted by Ghanzi Department of Veterinary Services on 9th May 2017 to discuss the roll out of certifying communal farmers in the Ghanzi area for access to the European Union market. Botswana Animal Information and Traceability System (BAITS) coordinator, Dr. Babayani discussed the requirements needed in order to sell their produce directly to the EU market without going through the feedlots.

"The biggest advantage about BAITs is that farmers will have a major responsibility for their cattle when it comes to selling them. This sounds good because currently communal cattle farmers are only expected to register a holding such as water point, kraal and ear tagging of all cattle at this registered holding and to document the husbandry management activities in order to be EU compliant." states Ofeletse Thaushe – Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers Network.

Activities of the Networks (continued)

On 30th May 2017, in collaboration with Vetswana, nine Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs) owned by network members were sterilized at CCB's Ghanzi camp. All dogs have reported to be doing well after the operations and are back to their normal duties. Sterilizing LGDs not only makes them more resilient to diseases and less likely to wander away from their herds looking for mates, but also helps to make them more effective at guarding their stock.

Southern Livestock Farmers Network (SOLIFANE) members from Jwaneng attended both the Southern District Beef Farmers Association's annual field day in May 2017 around Kanye village and the Ghanzi Agricultural Show in July 2017. While in Ghanzi, SOLIFANE members met with their counterparts from the Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers Network, and discussed the varying challenges of their different regions. Together they had the chance to visit CCB's good friend and prominent farmer in the Ghanzi region, Mr. Kevin Grant to learn more about sustainable rangeland management in modern livestock farming. The benchmarking trips provided both networks with an opportunity to learn, experience and understand what it takes to venture into commercial farming. 'We learnt a lot at Mr. Grant's farm on rangeland management. We also learnt that as a group of farmers with one voice, it is much easier to reach great heights as long as we have common goals,' said Mr. Keolatetse Marambe from the Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers Network.

Both networks had the opportunity to conduct live and pre recorded interviews with Radio Botswana 1 in August 2017, where they shared their views on conservation issues in Botswana, farming experiences through the networks and their working relationships with various stakeholders. 'I was very excited to know that I was going to talk on radio about our network and CCB activities, especially on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence options. We are looking forward to such opportunities in the future as they will help us promote and extend our network to benefit us all in the end.' – Donald Simon, Southern Livestock Farmers Network (SOLIFANE) chairperson.



Farmers network members engaging with Mr. Kevin Grant about sustainable rangeland management

Vaccinating Against Livestock Diseases

By Mr. D.T. Ngwako, Veterinary Officer, Smallstock Section, Department of Veterinary Services - Ghanzi

Veterinary services play a vital role in farming activities because they encourage good animal health and welfare which in turn promotes public health. A vet's role includes vaccinating and treating animals as well as advising farmers on the most appropriate herd health management practices such as nutrition, vaccinations, de-worming, disease prevention and treatment. It is important to know which diseases livestock should be vaccinated against and which diseases are prevalent in which seasons. Ensuring that livestock and pets are vaccinated at the right time for prevalent diseases reduces stock losses and increases production.

Key points to note when vaccinating livestock:

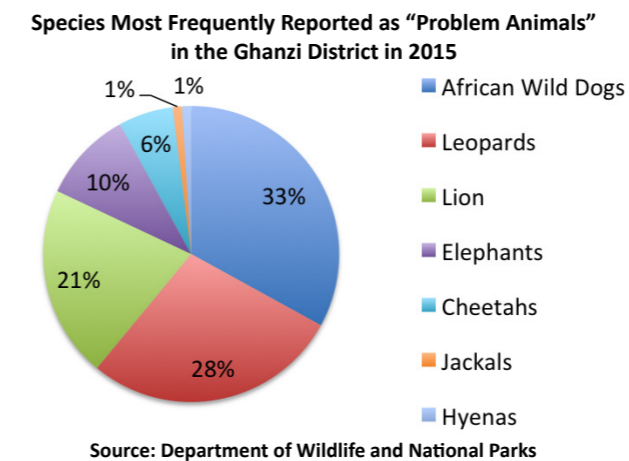
1. Buy only the amount of vaccinations needed
2. Read and follow label instructions of vaccinations
3. Store vaccinations as per label instructions
4. Be mindful of expiry date of vaccinations
5. Use sterile equipment for every animal vaccinated

	Pasteurella	Pulpy Kidney
Symptoms	Fever, lack of appetite, rapid breathing, coughing, breathing difficulties, discharge from nose and eyes, animals lie down with neck stretched out. Sudden death of animals.	Laboured breathing, salivation, diarrhea, twitching muscles, rolling eyes, grinding of teeth. Sudden death of animals.
Causes	Fresh green grass i.e. during and after the rainy season. Stress in livestock e.g. extreme weather, early weaning, scarcity of food.	Sudden changes in diet or grazing. De-worming programmes.
Treatment	Inject with sulpha or oxytetracycline (Sulphatrim or Liquamycin LA).	There are no successful treatments because disease is noticed too late.
Prevention	Vaccinate all livestock according to vaccination programme. Note: The vaccine does not give complete protection therefore pasteurella cases can still occur. Kids/calves are vaccinated 4 times in a year in Jan/Feb and Sep/Oct with 2 intervals of 4-6 weeks, with an oil vaccine and adults annually with an alum vaccine.	Vaccinate all animals according to the vaccination programme. Vaccinate at least 2 weeks before de-worming. Kids/calves are vaccinated 4 times in a year Jan/Feb and Sep/Oct with 2 intervals of 4-6 weeks and adults annually. In a severe outbreak consider treating all animals once with a long-acting tetracycline.

Pasteurella and Pulpy Kidney Vaccines can be sourced from any outlet that sells veterinary medicines at an average cost of P10.00 and P2.50 per dose respectively.

Coexisting with Carnivores in the Ghanzi District

Farmer-carnivore conflict tends to be mostly concentrated in agricultural regions, mainly as a result of human populations encroaching on wildlife areas. Employing suitable rangeland management and husbandry practices and a suite of conflict mitigation measures can help to minimise conflict and promote coexistence. Beneficial husbandry practices include kraaling livestock at night, building carnivore-proof kraals, the use of herdsman and livestock guarding dogs. Research conducted by CCB show that in Botswana, on average, livestock makes up less than 6% of a cheetah's diet. This information can impact the way in which farmers view cheetahs and their decision to kill cheetahs on their farms. Such information is vital to enabling informed decision making, both at the level of the individual farm as well as at the national level.



Women Finding Success in Farming

'I developed an interest in farming back in 2008 where I used my personal savings to buy three cows and started a farm in Okwa/Gwana. By 2014, my cows had multiplied to about seven. This struck the dire need to grow my farm and introduce small livestock. To make this a reality, I sold one of my cows and bought four goats.' Ms. Setlabane is adamant that farming has improved her life ever since, and now that she has 10 goats, she is able to sell some of her livestock to buy diesel for her borehole engine, pay her herder and even slaughter some of her animals for meat for her family once in a while. She has benefited from being a member of Ghanzi Smallstock Farmers Network - holding the position of secretary within the network. She also pointed out that as a young woman with such dedication, she envisions herself with a large number of livestock to sustain herself and her family one day.



Ms. Boikotlhao Setlabane admiring her goats



CCB demo farm assistant, Mr. Calvin Phillips

CCB Demonstration Farm News

CCB's demonstration farm in Ghanzi serves as a practical demonstration area for smallstock farmers on the use of a range of livestock management techniques to minimise predation, optimize herd health and maximise production. Many had doubts that it was not possible to farm productively alongside carnivores, but when CCB's demo farm saw a growth rate of 200% per year with less than 1% depredation annually, it became clear that coexistence with carnivores really is possible. As well as showcasing the amazing effectiveness of LGDs, the demo farm is also home to our LGD training facility, where puppies are trained with our LGDs before being placed on recipient farms.

The LGD programme is successfully reducing livestock loss due to depredation and promoting coexistence with carnivores especially cheetahs. CCB has so far placed 42 LGDs in farms around Ghanzi District, and the dogs are reported to be doing a good job of protecting their stock. In a new move, the CCB team decided to introduce sheep into our herd to help with training puppies that are destined for farms with both goats and sheep. Currently the demonstration farm has three sheep, two livestock guarding dogs and 53 goats.



Seven puppies undergoing training at CCB's demonstration farm