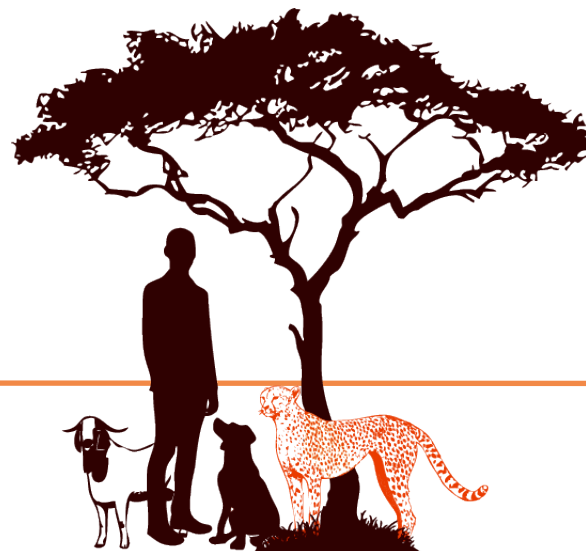


VOL. 4 | SEPTEMBER 2019

# MASAKENG

## FARMERS' NEWSLETTER



## Welcome!

As members of the Ghanzi Farmers Network, we first met with CCB in 2016, and the idea of forming this group came into existence. Since then, we have been undertaking benchmarking trips to share and learn from others and I am happy to say we are much more informed about a lot of issues that affect us as farmers. As part of our networking strategies, Masakeng Farmers Newsletter is a very important communication tool that connects not only us as farmers but with other key stakeholders. In this fourth edition of our newsletter, we have tried to feature important activities of our networks and other vital issues affecting us as farmers such as proper livestock management and nutrition as well as the issue of poisoning.

Thank you once again everybody — I wish you all the best and many blessings.

**Mr. Shadreck Daniel**  
**Vice Chairperson**  
**Ghanzi Farmers Network**

## OVERVIEW:

- Activities of SOLIFANE & GFN
- A guide to supplement feeding
- Build your own feed block
- Being careful around poisons

This year the drought is affecting us all. This volume of the newsletter outlines ways in which you can improve the conditions of the animals you want to keep, and for those farmers looking to reduce their numbers, the latest prices from BMC can be found on the back page. The drought pushes us all to our limits and it is now more important than ever to refine our farming practices to get the best possible conditions out of our animals while safeguarding as much grazing as possible for the upcoming years.





# Network Activities 2019

Supplement Feed Training Workshop 1  
Nov 2018

Supplement Feed Training Workshop 2  
May 2019

Farmers' Workshop  
Moleleme Cattle Post  
Jun 2019

Kang Farmers Association Field Day  
May 2019

Ghanzi Agricultural Show  
July 2019

Farm Visit - Mr. Thaushe  
July 2019





## Being careful around poisons

A notable increase in wildlife poisoning has been observed over recent years with many animals across Southern Africa dying due to poisoning by poachers and farmers. Earlier this year, Botswana experienced yet another tragedy, when over 530 vultures were killed by poison in north-eastern Botswana. The sheer number of dead birds may make this the single-largest poisoning incidence ever witnessed in Africa.

Somewhat closer to home, the smallstock farmers network in Samane area were deeply affected by the broad impacts of poison use, when nine out of the 12 livestock guarding dogs

placed (75%) were killed by poison. Farmers experiencing conflict in the area had been placing poisoned baits to kill jackals and other wild carnivores. The poisoned baits were left unattended in the grazing areas and the livestock guarding dogs scavenged what they thought was an easy meal.

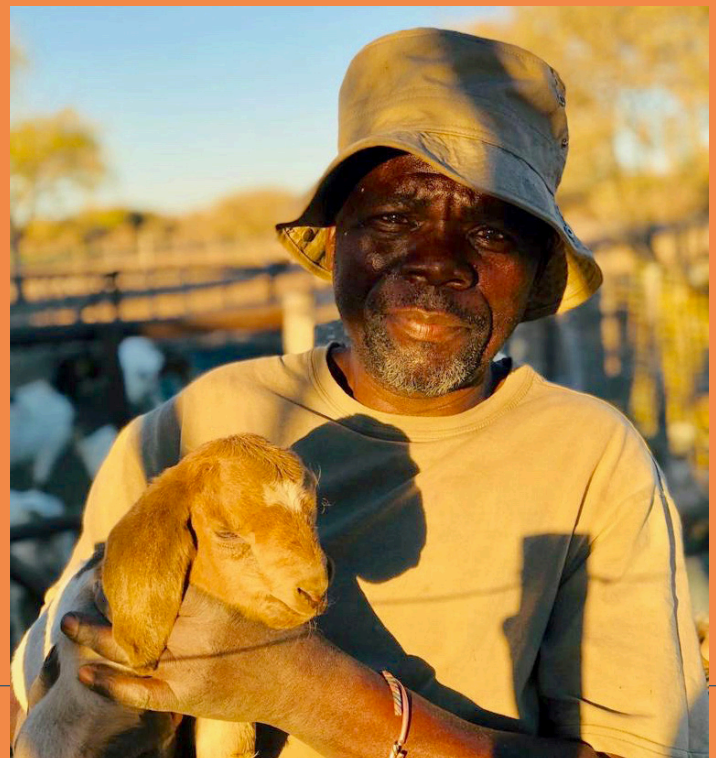
Carnivores and vultures are particularly vulnerable to poisoning and yet they are both crucial elements in the ecosystem.



It is important to remember that poisons are an indiscriminate option that will not necessarily bring you relief to the conflict you are experiencing. Unintentional bycatch can disrupt the ecosystem balance on your farm and in some cases can even poison water sources in the area. Wherever possible farmers should be encouraged to seek alternative measures to poisoning, with protective measures being the most effective at preventing losses long-term.

## Holistic farming with Mr. Moyo

Jeffrey Moyo has seen incredible improvements on his farm in Ghanzi over the last few years. By combining cattle, goats, chickens, vegetables and crops for livestock feeding, his family have been able to safeguard themselves against financial stress. By protecting his livestock from carnivores, fencing his crops and carefully choosing who to sell their vegetables to, Jeffrey and his wife Gloria have been able to save enough money to start building their new house. Pula!



# Livestock nutrition and cost-effective supplements

BY FELICITY HUNTER  
Techno Feeds Nutritionist

Livestock farming in Botswana under our harsh conditions is extremely difficult and trying for farmers. The lack of grazing especially in the communal grazing areas puts both cattle and farmers under stress. Farmers in Botswana need to have a long term approach to farming, knowing that we are consistently experiencing drought conditions and that good rains are always a bonus when they do arrive. Effective livestock nutrition is the single most important factor in successful livestock farming. Good genetics will not allow an animal to reach their full potential without the correct nutrition, and the most effective way of achieving this is through supplements. Whether using a complete feed or a supplement feed, complementing the diet of your livestock can maintain the condition of your animals in tough times — a feat much easier than trying to bring them back from starvation. An animal in good condition, particularly one that has grown up in good condition, will have better muscle development, bone strength, a better immune system, will be more fertile and will likely live longer. Although feeds can be expensive, it really is the most cost-effective way to get the most out of your animals.

## Recommended Supplements from Techno Feeds

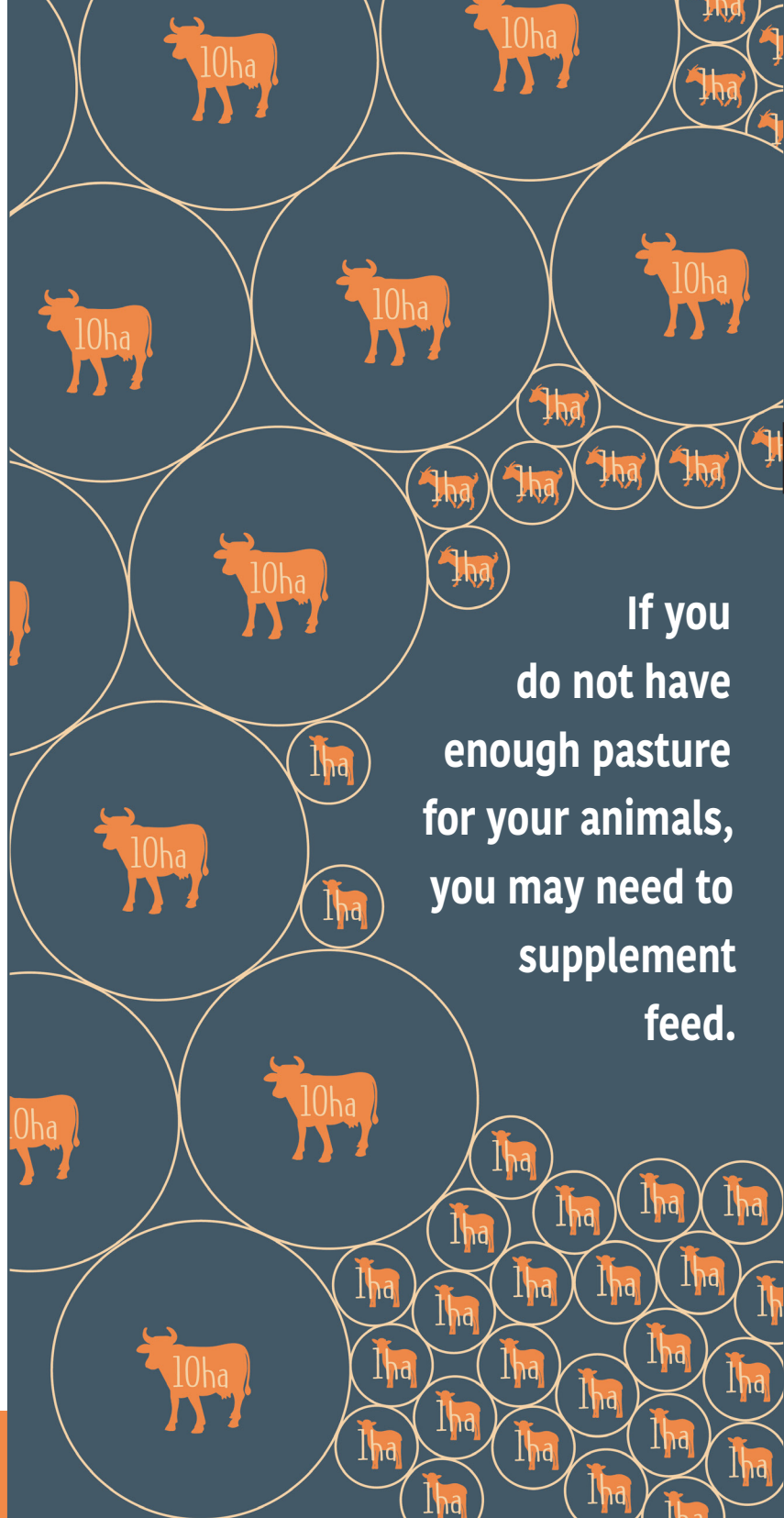
**DCP 18**

**P6 plus Sulpher**

**Vasbyt**

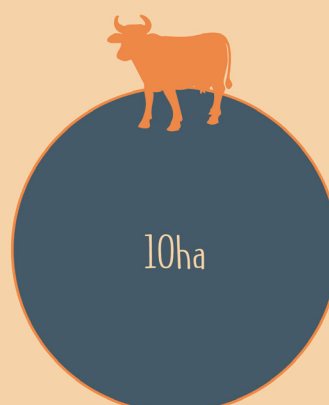
**Mix 209**

**Mix 211**



**If you do not have enough pasture for your animals, you may need to supplement feed.**

## Recommended Stocking Rates



10 hectares for each head of cattle



1 hectare for each goat



1 hectare for each sheep



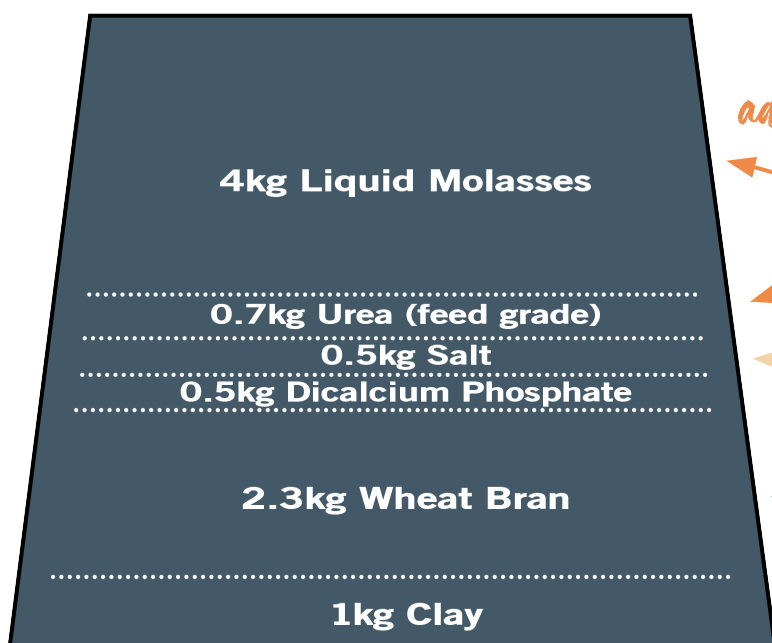


HOW TO

## Make Your Own Molasses Feed Block

A molasses feed block provides proteins and minerals that improve your livestock's ability to digest roughage, thereby allowing it to draw more nutrients from a dry veldt. Blocks should be introduced gradually and in limited supply - smallstock should eat no more than 100g per animal per day and cattle 500g per animal per

day. Animals may overeat this block if they are hungry for salt, so it is a good idea to feed a salt block to your livestock before giving them this. It is important not to leave these blocks out in the rain, as they can become toxic and cause bloating when mixed with water.



*add the molasses and urea together first*

*then add the minerals to that...*

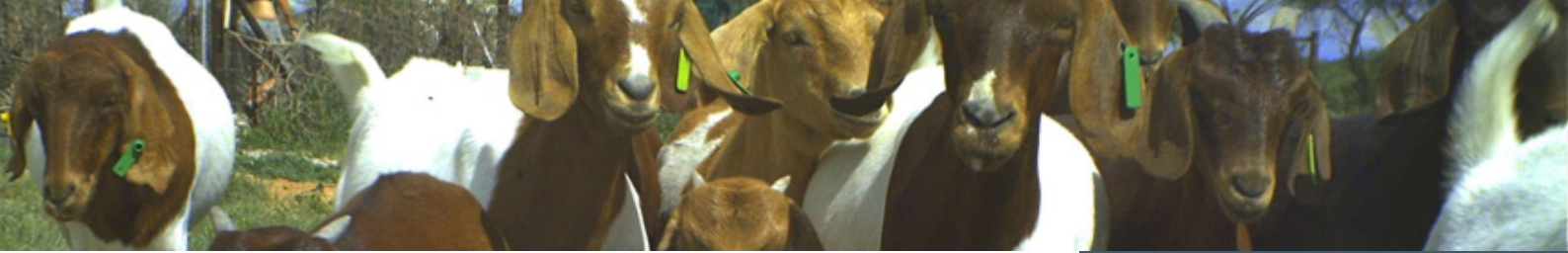
*add wheat bran and clay together. Then add all that to the molasses mix.*

**9kg BLOCK**

Compact your block and let it dry for 1-2 weeks.

Ingredients can be sourced at local feed shops

- 1. Measure**
- 2. Mix**
- 3. Compact**
- 4. Dry**



## Farmer Profile:

THEBEYAME THEBE MOLEFE

Mr. Thebeyame Thebe Molefe, a young farmer from the Kweneng District, started Wadisigo Farm in 2012. After attending and exhibiting at the National Agricultural show in 2014, he knew he wanted to transform Wadisigo Farm into a commercial estate. He then sold all of his 300 Tswana goats to locally source Dorper sheep and Kalahari Red goats, which have grown to a herd of 75. Kalahari Reds were selected due to their resilience to local climatic conditions. From his stock sales, Molefe managed to open a smallstock abattoir and butchery in Lentsweletau - both of which are doing very well.

“We have attended and exhibited at various agricultural shows in the country since 2014 to learn from others. We have also scooped many trophies and prizes.” When asked what factors contribute to success, Mr Molefe states “we supplement and buy feeds like mineral, protein and energy blocks, we apply veterinary care timely, and keep accurate records, keep young and healthy animals, keep a number of animals that can be regulated and cared for well, and have a ploughing field nearby to grow our own stock feed.” His progressive attitude towards herding was both enlightening as well as refreshing as he reveals “It is important that a herder possess the right knowledge for them to react to different situations. I have done this by taking my farm manager for short-course trainings at institutions like the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), Agric Research, as well as benchmarking trips to other successful farmers, bought him farming books, and taught him how to use the computer, all in the name of increasing his knowledge base. I also give him rewards every time he does well and this pushes him to excel. He also has a drivers license that I paid for to make sure he doesn't always rely on me when I'm not around.”

Farming can be a very lucrative business as long as there is passion, love, hard work and faith. Mr. Molefe continues to share his experiences with other young farmers across the country with the support of Haskins and Techno Feeds. He has availed himself to assist over 20 young farmers draw up proposals and has been supported by the Youth Development Fund (YDF).

**“Farming is a long-term investment and it needs patience.”**

THEBEYAME MOLEFE

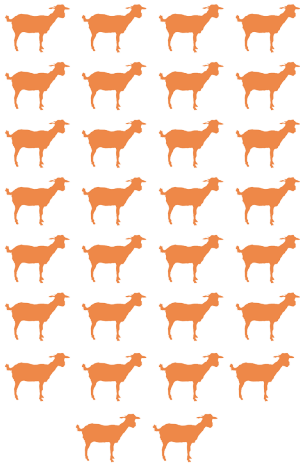




# Quality not quantity

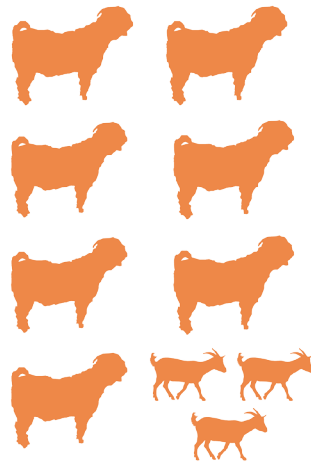
MR MOLEFE'S HERD DEVELOPMENT

2014 .....→ 2019



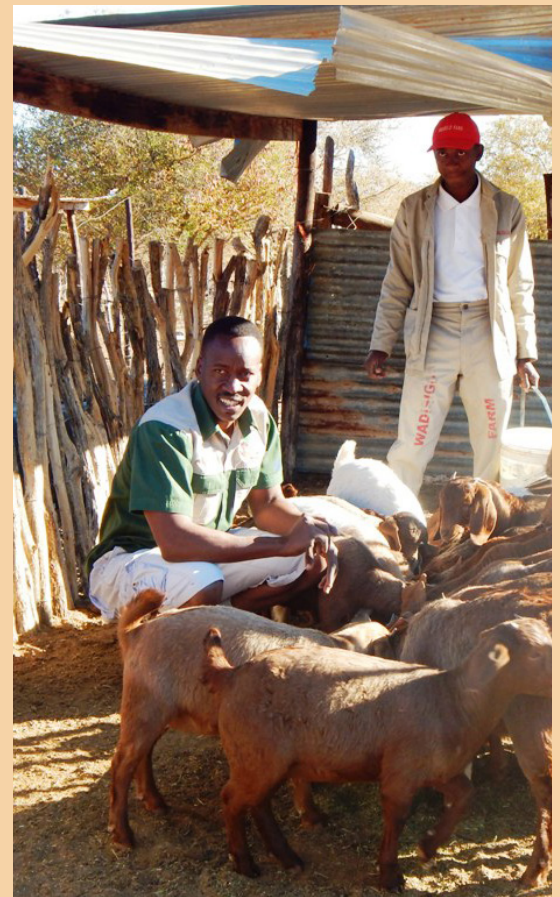
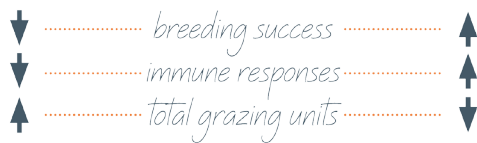
300 Tswana goats

P213k  
estimated worth



70 Kalahari Red Goats  
30 Tswana Goats

P550k  
estimated worth



“AT THE MOMENT, THERE IS NO BUTCHERY LOCALLY THAT SPECIALISES IN SMALLSTOCK MEAT AND IT IS MY PLAN TO SPECIALISE IN THAT SECTOR AND SERVE MY COUNTRY AND PERHAPS THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.”

## SOLIFANE Contacts

Donald Simon (Chairperson)	7347 1478
Letlhogonolo Setswalo (Vice Chairperson)	7165 5122
Phenyo 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 Mikgathanyane (Vice Secretary)	7394 5514
Kebalepile Bantshwanetse (Treasurer)	7627 9626
Ofaletse Thaushe	7370 1935
Moalpi Kwadipana	7371 2676
Nelson Molatole	7369 6785
Tjiramanga Mokgathanyane	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 SLAUGHTER PRICES (P/KG)

Effective 1st June - 30th September 2019  
(includes the government's drought-subsidy)

Kgs	Red Zone Unquarantined		Green Zone/ Red Zone Quarantined		EU Market				
	<180	>180	<180	>180	<180	180-199	200-219	220-239	240-259
Prime	18.00	22.50	20.00	26.00	21.10	33.60	36.10	36.20	37.00
Super	18.00	22.50	20.00	26.00	21.10	32.50	34.00	34.20	34.90
Grade 1	18.00	22.50	20.00	26.00	21.10	29.80	31.90	32.20	32.70
Grade 2	18.00	22.50	20.00	26.00	21.10	28.60	29.10	29.50	30.10
Grade 3	13.00	22.50	15.00	26.00	18.10	28.40	28.40	28.40	28.40
Grade 4	9.25	22.50	10.10	26.00	-	-	-	-	-
Canning	9.00	22.50	10.10	26.00	-	-	-	-	-

### Contributors:

Ms. Felicity Hunter - Techno Feeds Nutritionist  
Dr. Mark Bing - Vetswana  
Department of Agricultural Research - Gaborone  
Botswana Meat Commission

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## Network Activities Supported By:



Bringing the wild back to life

