



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 SMALL STOCK FARMERS NETWORK			
Name	Surname	Title	Telephone
Rachel	Kelefithetse	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	Additional Member	7370 1935
Molapi	Kwadipana	Additional Member	7371 2676
Nelson	Molatole	Additional Member	7369 6785
Tjiramanga	Mokgatlhanyane	Additional Member	7777 8512
Bakang	Ramoswaane	Additional member	7269 1516

AGRICULTURAL SHOWDATES 2017		
Name of Show	Venue	Date
LVA Auction	Ghanzi Show Grounds	April 2017
Southern District Beef Farmers Association	Venue to be announced	26 - 27 May 2017
Kgalagadi North Farmers Youth Club Field Day	Venue to be announced	May 2017
Mookane Farmers Day	Venue to be announced	10 June 2017
Ghanzi Agriculture Show	Ghanzi Show Grounds	4 - 8 July 2017
LVA Auction	Ghanzi Show Grounds	8 July 2017
Serowe Agriculture Show	Serowe Show Grounds	26 - 29 July 2017
Molepolole Show	Venue to be announced	Date to be announced
Kgatlang Show	Venue to be announced	Date to be announced
Tsabong Show	Venue to be announced	Date to be announced
Goodhope Show	Venue to be announced	Date to be announced
Kanye Show	Venue to be announced	Date to be announced
Chobe Agriculture Show	Pandamatenga Show Grounds	27 - 29 July 2017
National Agriculture Show	Gaborone Show Grounds	14 - 19 August 2017
Small Stock Federation Field Day	Kang	Date to be announced
LVA Auction	Ghanzi Show Grounds	24 November 2017

**Contributors:**  
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European Union



Republic of Botswana



**In This Issue:**

**Establishment of Farmers Networks**  
**Livestock Farming News and Advice**  
**CCB Demonstration Farm**  
**Upcoming Farming Activities**

**WELCOME NOTE**

Greetings to you all! As Executive Director of Cheetah Conservation Botswana (CCB), let me present and welcome you to the first edition of our Farmer's Network Newsletter. The farming regions of Ghanzi and Jwaneng fall within prime cheetah habitat, and as such, the farmers of this region play a crucial role in the conservation of wildlife, particularly cheetah, for which Botswana is one of the last remaining strongholds in the world. With a grant received from the European Union Empowerment of Non-State Actors, CCB has successfully facilitated the establishment of farmers networks, one in Ghanzi and one in Jwaneng, to improve rangeland management and biodiversity conservation. The networks represent an exciting opportunity for peer-to-peer learning amongst farmers and testing of innovative ideas that not only improve livestock production but also reduce conflict with wildlife and promote coexistence. We thank the donor, European Union Empowerment of Non State Actors Programme, for the funds to set up these networks, the departments of Wildlife and National Parks, Veterinary Services, Animal Production and other stakeholders for supporting the initiative and of course, the farmers for their energy and commitment to try innovative means to address common challenges. We trust this newsletter will serve as a worthwhile resource for network members as they move forward. Pula!

**Rebecca Klein**  
 CCB Executive Director



SOLIFANE members in Ghanzi during their benchmarking trip

**FARMERS NETWORKS**

A network is a form of cooperation amongst individuals guided by a common purpose. Through mutual learning, shared practise and joint exploration of ideas, members of a network find ways to overcome common challenges. Such a process allows for improved access to valuable resources, learning through sharing of experiences, information dissemination and stronger collaboration between different stakeholder groups. It is precisely with this understanding that small stock farmers from Samane in the Southern District convened at an inception workshop in Jwaneng on 10th February 2016.

At this workshop, farmers along with other stakeholders recognised key aspects of successful livestock farming and common challenges including stock theft, drought, disease, depredation by carnivores and inadequate market access. They went on to brainstorm ways in which these challenges could be overcome.

This Southern Livestock Farmers Network (SOLIFANE), as they call themselves, articulated their purpose as **“to share farming knowledge and skills and to work with relevant stakeholders in order to increase production”**. Small stock farmers and other stakeholders from the Ghanzi District underwent a similar process on 12th February 2016 and identified their purpose as being **“to achieve a common goal of getting value out of farming practises”**. In both instances, steering committees were established to guide each network and membership is open to all interested parties from any stakeholder group.



**ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORKS**

Since their inception, both farmers networks' have developed work plans to guide their activities. SOLIFANE made its first public appearance as a network at the Southern District Beef Farmers Association's annual field day on 4th June, near Jwaneng Township. The theme of the day was **“Farming under Challenging Climatic conditions.”**

Lethogonolo Setswalo of SOLIFANE comments, **“I enjoyed the time I had to share and discuss farming with some of the most experienced farmers in the industry...it was a thrilling experience.”**

With assistance from CCB, the committee travelled to Ghanzi on 7th July where they visited two farmers to hear of their experiences with Livestock Guarding Dogs (LSGD) placed through CCB LSGD programme. They also had the opportunity to visit CCB's LSGD training centre and demonstration farm.

While in Ghanzi, they attended the Ghanzi Agriculture show to engage and learn from a region that has earned itself the reputation of being the livestock heart of the nation. They returned home excited and ready to test and share what they have learnt with others in their community.

"Networking is very critical in exposing people to new ideas and innovations of effective livestock production, especially for people like me who are relatively new to the industry" - states Boiteko Mokabati. Dipuo Motswaiso shares, "It opened my eyes particularly with the success stories that came with the use Livestock Guarding Dogs".

In an effort to minimise livestock loss to carnivores, CCB has supported both networks by placing a total of 30 LSGDs, 18 in Ghanzi and 12 in Jwaneng.

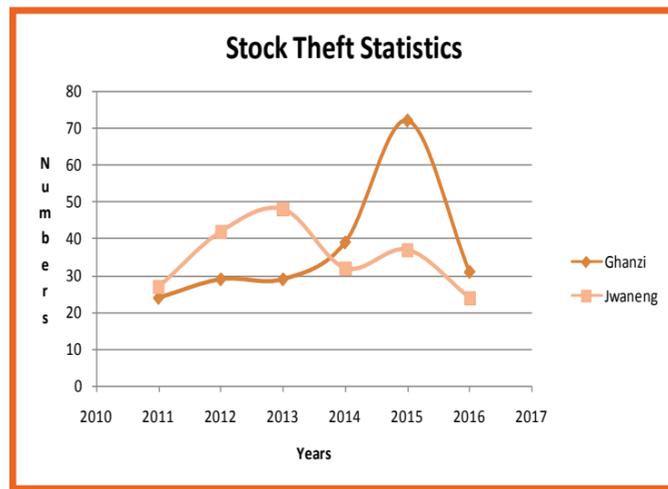


Mr. Haube of the Ghanzi Farmers Network after receiving his LSGD

### STOCK THEFT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Stock Theft continues to plague farmers in Botswana. Organised crime syndicates or individuals may be responsible for stealing stock, sometimes in collusion with butchery owners. The Stock Theft Act Cap 09:01 makes provision for the establishment of anti-stock theft committees, zonal branding, bolus and livestock identification and livestock sales permits as means of preventing stock theft.

Maintaining property boundaries, accurate records of livestock, good relations with neighbours and the police, and ensuring all incidents of livestock crime are reported, are other means to minimise theft. According to the Act, it is also illegal to trespass with the intent to steal, night delivery of stock, disposal of stock without identification documents and tampering with stock.



Source: Botswana Police Service  
Jwaneng and Ghanzi Stock Theft Units

### RECORD KEEPING ATTENTION TO DETAIL IS KEY

Detailed record keeping has been shown to greatly improve the efficiency of technical management of farms and ease decision making. Good records provide data for financial analysis, progress indicators and enable forward planning. Armed with good records, a farmer can pinpoint weaknesses early enough to implement appropriate remedial action, use the records as supporting documentation when seeking loans and when completing tax returns. Not everything that happens at a farm needs to be recorded but some important elements include:

**Livestock records:** including herd performances, calving dates, dates and results of pregnancies, animal sickness, veterinary visits, drug treatment and dates, routine vaccinations, stock purchases and sales, stock deaths and probable causes, and other sales. **Unit costs:** of all major farm inputs such as fuel, irrigation water, wages, purchased forages and stock purchases. **Unit returns:** from all farm outputs such as sale of livestock, excess feed. This helps to plan future sales. **Livestock accounting:** monitor net losses and gains in income, help assess changes in market values of stock and monitor profits made to keep track of financial contributions made by others.



SOLIFANE in a meeting at Moleleme cattle post

**Miscellaneous expenses:** if personal funds from farmers and/or their families are being utilised, this should also be reflected to assess whether the farm is making a profit or loss. Other key farm management records may include dates of important meetings, unusual weather events and credit repayments.



SOLIFANE's Ms. Seitapeseng smiling proudly with her LSGDs at Moleleme cattle post.

### FARMER PROFILE

Mr. Gabaakanye Keakohile from SOLIFANE started farming in 2012 with 20 goats obtained through the government's LIMID scheme. In 2015, he managed to secure a grant through the Youth Grant Scheme and bought a further 73 goats. On his own, he introduced an LSGD in 2014, but lost it due to natural causes before it could fulfil its role as a working dog. Late in 2015, after being introduced to CCB through a farmer's workshop, Mr. Keakohile received a trained puppy through CCB to work alongside in addition to another dog that he already had. In just over a year, with two working dogs, Mr. Keakohile's goatherd has increased by 33. "Despite the active presence of jackals in our farming area, I have not experienced any livestock losses to carnivores; jackals included, since late 2015", Mr. Keakohile states. He articulates that patience, commitment, love and care for your livestock and LSGDs as key factors for success.



SOLIFANE's Mr. Keakohile feeding his LSGD



CCB demonstration farm

### CCB DEMONSTRATION FARM NEWS

CCB's demonstration farm started in 2010 with a meager 12 goats and has since grown to an impressive herd of 136. The farm serves as a practical demonstration area for small stock farmers on the use of a range of livestock management techniques to minimise predation, optimize herd health and maximise production.

The farm runs one annual breeding season in order to minimize livestock vulnerability to predation, with females giving birth between December and January, to coincide with wildlife calving. The goat kids stay in the kraal for safety while mothers go out to feed in the veldt. The herd is constantly monitored by LSGDs, which stay with the herd and keep them safe from carnivores. The herder checks the herd every hour to ensure that the herd is all together and accompanied by the LSGDs. CCB's goats are also kraaled every evening with their LSGDs to keep them protected from nocturnal carnivores. Herd health is also kept at a high standard, with regular vaccinations, veterinary care and hoof trimming taking place to ensure healthy stock.

By utilising these farm management techniques, CCB has managed to keep their herd healthy and safe from carnivores, despite there being cheetahs, leopards, jackals and hyenas seen frequently on their farm.



CCB demo farm at its best