

# *A GUIDE TO DAIRY FARMING IN SA*

## *FARMING FOR :*

### *SUSTAINABILITY & PROFITABILITY*



**22nd - 24 August 2022**  
**Ascot Conference Centre**  
**Pietermaritzburg**  
**Kzn**



**KPR**

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# OVERVIEW

In 1996, South Africa completely deregulated its agricultural sectors, marketing boards were disbanded and import control were scrapped, this posed a huge challenge to South African farmers having to now contend with international competition with no protection. Without subsidies and no tariffs on milk imports, South African dairy farmers compete even in their own country with much cheaper dairy products from countries with milk subsidy programs.

Dairy is the fourth largest agricultural industry in South Africa, there are currently about 1200 dairy farms and 1.2 million dairy cows in the country producing around 26,000 jobs. Most dairy farms are concentrated in the south and southwest coastal provinces, where they are aided by higher rainfalls supporting pasture-based grazing systems.

The consequences of increasing input costs, climate change and the pressure on dairy farmers to reduce their environmental impact have resulted in reduced profit margins on milk production and therefore many farmers have ceased keeping a dairy herd as a result. This had reduced the number of small-scale farmers and therefore reducing the overall total number of dairy farmers in the country. The economic viability of dairy farming has become increasingly challenging in recent years.



The Transformation of the dairy sector South African is needed and this is possible through training programmes and the transfer of knowledge

Dairy farmers have to now become highly efficient in order to overcome the effects of the challenges mentioned above. They require various skills in order to run a successful operation:

- Good animal-handling skills and an understanding of animal welfare.
- An understanding of pasture management.
- Knowledge of the milking process.
- An awareness of milk company standards and safe practices on the farm.
- The ability to drive, operate and maintain farm machinery.
- Business and accounting skills.
- Knowledge of sustainable environmental management practices.



South Africa's population size is approximately 60 million and growing and therefore food security and access to affordable and nutritious food are of growing concern. The World Health Organization (WHO) designed and published an inpatient protocol for the management and treatment of malnutrition one of the recommended food groups is dairy. Dairy cows produce milk which is in high demand from consumers as fresh milk, or processed dairy products such as cheese, butter and yoghurt. Managing the feeding and health of dairy cows is one of the most critical factors for a successful dairy farm. The dietary needs of dairy cows change through the production cycle and so each cow must be carefully monitored to ensure they have optimal energy and nutrient intakes to be healthy and productive.



# YOUR EXPERT SPEAKERS



**MRS BONGWE SITHOLE-MOLOI**  
MEC Department of  
Agriculture & Rural Development  
KZN



**GODFREY RATHOGWA**  
Director/ Transformation Manager  
Milk South Africa



**NKHULISENI LEONARD MAVHUNGU**  
AmadleloAgri  
Production Manager



**DR MPHAPHATHI MASINDI**  
A Researcher at the Agricultural  
Research Council



**Dr TREVOR DUGMORE**  
PhD (UKZN)  
(Pr.Sci.Nat.)



**MR BUKHOSI WALTER MKHIZE**  
CA(SA);MBA ,IndustrialDevelopment  
Corporation (IDC) Deal Maker



**SIYABONGA MBAMBO**  
NYDA Executive Director  
Of Operations



**ZOLILE SOKA**  
Small scale dairy farmer Free-State



**SHAUN AINSWORTH**  
Animal scientist and Dairy consultant



**DEBBIE ODELL**  
MSc Agric (Pr.Sci.Nat.)  
Owner of Bovasol



**JONATHAN TILNEY**  
Dairy Technician  
Bovasol Mooi River



**KEVASHA GOVENDER**  
State Veterinarian  
Department of Agriculture



**AUGUST LINGNAU**

De Heus  
Regional Sales Manager-Umlaas Branch



**TAKUDZWA MANDIZVO**

Adhoclecturer (Crop Science),School of  
Agricultural Earth and Environmental Sciences  
University of KwaZulu-Natal,South Africa



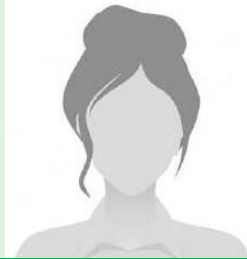
**LYNDON GRAY**

Sales Director for DeLaval  
Sub Saharan Africa



**GERALD BARKER**

Genetic consultant  
ABS Genetics South Africa (pty) Ltd



**DERRYN NASH(MSC)**

Pastures Researcher  
Department of Agriculture and Rural  
Development



**NTSIKELELO BALENI**

Dairy Manager Ixopo



**KIRESZNI NAIKER**

Animal Scientist and Certified  
Cattle Artificial Inseminator  
Program Coordinator

## *About the seminar*

- An interactive seminar carefully designed to educate participants on recent developments in dairy farming and management.
- Learn all you need to know about the dairy cow and how to go about running a successful dairy operation.
- Funding institutions and how to access funding.
- By attending the seminar you would have the chance to receive first-hand knowledge from various speakers that have years of practical dairy farming experience.

# 3 DAY AGENDA

DAY: 1		
Time	TOPIC	Speaker
07:30 - 09:00	Registration and opening address	Kireszni Naiker Animal Scientist and program coordinator
09:00 - 09:30	Opening message The important role and transformation of the dairy industry in South African Agriculture	Mrs. Bongwiwe Sithole MEC of Agriculture KZN
9:30-10:15	Background on dairy farming in South Africa Transformation of the dairy industry	Mr. Godfrey Rathogwa Transformation Director Milk SA
10:15-10:30	Tea break	
10:30-11:15	NYDA-Youth in small-scale agriculture	Mr. Siyabonga Mbambo (Executive Director: Operations) NYDA
11:15-12:00	Industrial Development Corporation	Mr. Bukhosi Walter Mkhize - Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) as a Deal Maker in KZN Provincial Office.
12:00- 13:15	Lunch	
13:15-14:00	"The assessment of community partnership with private institutions: A case study of the Amadlelo Agri Business Model". "Improving small holder dairy farming – looking at transformation in the Eastern Cape.	Nkhuliseni Mavhungu Productions manager Amadlelo
14:00-14:45	Zolile small scale dairy farmer -My experience as a small scale dairy farmer	Zolile Soka (small scale Dairy Farmer -Free State)
14:45 -15:00	Economic aspects of dairy farming	Lingnau August - De Heus
15:30 -16:00	Purchasing a dairy farm and the aspects to consider Insight on a commercial dairy operation	Ntsikelelo Baleni Dairy Manager Commercial dairy farm Ixopo
16:00-16:30	Questions and closing statements	



Time	TOPIC	Speaker
08:00 - 08:15	Introduction to day 2	
08:15 - 09:00	Feeding the pre-weaned calf – heifers and bull calves - Feeding the dairy heifer post weaning	Debbie Odell - Nutritionist Bovasol
09:00 - 10:15	Lactation cycle of the dairy cow Feeding and Management Ruminant digestion	Dr Trevor Dugmore Professional scientist and Researcher
10:15 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 - 11:15	Reproductive system of the dairy cow and bull. Reproductive cycle of a dairy cow and important hormones involved. Pregnancy diagnosis	Dr Masindi Mphaphathi - Researcher Agricultural research council
11:15 - 12:00	Artificial insemination vs natural breeding Heat detection and heat detection aids the best option for your farm. Reproduction KPIs and the goals of good fertility	Shaun Ainsworth Animal Scientist and Dairy consultant
12:00 - 12:45	Bull selection Genetic aspects and genetic improvements Selection traits for heifer breeding	Gerald Barker ABS
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch	
13:45 - 14:30	Diseases (Milk Fever, Lactation tetany, Ketosis) Mastitis (care and prevention) Hoof health Method and diagnosis of pathogens (bovine TB, brucella, Emphasis on CMT)	Dr Kevasha Govender Veterinarian department of Agriculture
14:30 - 15:15	Fodder flow and pasture management	Derryn Nash Senior Researcher KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
15:15 – 16:00	The importance of soil testing and analysis in agriculture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Soil preparation Soil sampling</li> <li>· Preparation of samples for analysis</li> <li>· Results interpretation</li> <li>· Soil amendment measures</li> </ul>	Takudzwa Mandizvo Adhoc lecturer (Crop Science) University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
16:00 - 16:30	Questions and closing statements	



Time	Topic	Speaker
09:00 - 09:15	Introduction to day 3	
09:15 - 10:00	The milking parlor Types of milking systems Cold chain requirements Management programs	Lyndon Gray  Delaval Sales director
10:00 - 10:45	Dairy hygiene Calf pen hygiene	Johnathan Tilney Bovasol Dairy Technician
10:45 - 12:00	Questions and the vote of thanks	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 - 16:00	Dairy Farm tour	Stubbs Farming - Denleigh

**Transport to Stubbs Farm will be provided to all delegates**







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