



## agriculture & rural development

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### Helping farmers

Underberg Farmers' Association (UFA) community liaison officer Wayne McNamara (left) with Enlanhleni small-scale farmer Tishela Mbelu. In 2012, UFA members started a social and community-building strategy and became one of the first farmers' associations in KZN to employ a community liaison officer. 'A lot of my work is about breaking down perceptions and helping commercial and small-scale farmers to understand each other's cultural differences, so they can see their challenges as farmers are similar, but just on a different scale.' McNamara's role is largely advisory and that of facilitator and networker, assisting small-scale farmers with procurement, advice on growing maize, beans and potatoes and on the management of livestock. 'If a small-scale farmer is battling, I will attempt to assist him or refer him to another farmer who can,' he said in a statement. PHOTO: SUPPLIED