



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

### FARMERS WEEKLY

10 July 2015; Page 20

#### NEWS AT A GLANCE

##### ACHIEVERS

## KZN young farmers graduate from training in Denmark

A group of 15 KwaZulu-Natal youths, and their successors, who spent 10 months in Denmark being trained in intensive livestock production, could become game changers for the KZN economy. This was according to KZN's MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Cyril Xaba, speaking at the students' recent graduation ceremony.

The Denmark Learnership Programme is a partnership between KZN's Agribusiness Development Agency's (ADA) Young Farmers' Development Programme and Denmark's Dalum Academy of Agricultural Business (Dalum).

"The aim of this partnership is to strengthen the management of livestock with emphasis on the agribusiness side of farming. This will improve the understanding of animal welfare, environmental protections and sustainability which

is currently lacking under the emerging black farmers," said Xaba's spokesperson, Lelethu Manentsa, in a statement.

The graduates were the first of three groups of black agricultural students to study at Dalum for three years. The funding was provided by Xaba's department, with facilitation from the ADA.

Some of the past and future graduates were already employed in KZN's livestock production sector.

"Don't squander what you've been taught. Use your training to grow your farming enterprises. Share your knowledge by mentoring others and play your part in helping unleash the agricultural potential of our province," Xaba said at the graduation.

Dalum said that it had been impressed with the calibre and dedication of the students it had trained.

"Their 10 months were full of challenges. They spent 10 of their 40 weeks working in Danish



**ABOVE:** At the graduation from Denmark's Dalum Academy of Agricultural Business were (back, from left): Martin Jakobsen (Dalum's programme coordinator and lecturer), with graduates Lungelo Bhengu, Qiniso Myeza, Sabelo Dlamini, Mxolisi Mkhabela, and Siza Phakathi; and (middle, from left): graduates Bongani Sithole, Nontobeko Nkambule, Nomvuselelo Tikane, Khombisile Zimu, Thembelihle Ngiba, Sithembile Hlatshwayo, Siphesihle Phewa, Philani Buthelezi, Lunga Mbele, and Bongani Dlamini. Seated, from left, are: Dr Siphwe Mkhize (KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development head of department), Dr Tshitshi Mbatha (chairperson of the Agribusiness Development Agency's board), Cyril Xaba (KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development) and Niels Jespersen (international relations officer and lecturer at Dalum).  
LLOYD PHILLIPS

piggeries and dairies. One farmer enjoyed his internship so much that he said he could not wait for the next one to arrive," said Dalum lecturer Niels Jespersen.

Graduate Thembelihle Ngiba from a piggery on Uluntu Farm, Vryheid, said the most valuable lesson she had learned

was the importance of maintaining a good nutrient farm balance for a piggery or dairy.

Jespersen said Denmark wanted to share its experiences with South Africa's agricultural sector so that South Africa didn't "have to make the same mistakes that we did". – Lloyd Phillips