

Beheerde kontrolepunte sal help om siektes soos bek-en-klou én veediefstal te voorkom, sê VL en RPO

• *Vrystaat Landbou en Vrystaat Rooivleisprodusente-Organisasie*

Die instelling van kompartemente en beheerde kontrolepunte om die uitbreek van diersiektes in die Vrystaat te voorkom. Dit is volgens Tommie Esterhuyse, Vise-president van Vrystaat Landbou (VL), van die voorstelle wat sy organisasie sterk steun nadat bek-en-kloueer wêr in Limpopo uitbreek het.

Volgens hom sal dit nie net die provinsie teen siektes soos bek-en-klou beskerm nie, maar ook help om veediefstal, veral die vervoer van vee na veilingskrale buite die provinsie, te voorkom. "Dit sal egter vereis dat vervoerpermitte en die uitreik daarvan, byvoorbeeld waar diere oor internasionale en provinsiale grense beweeg, baie strenger afgedwing en deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens toegepas moet word."

Esterhuyse sê VL en die Vrystaatse Rooivleisprodusente-Organisasie (RPO) spreek hul ernstige kommer uit oor die jongste uitbreek van bek-en-kloueer. Dit is die tweede keer vanjaar wat die siekte in Limpopo uitbreek en dit het daartoe gelei dat 'n verbod op alle veilings van lewendige hawe in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Gauteng en Noordwes op 14 November 2019 deur die Departement van Landbou, Grondhervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling geplaas is.

'n Voorstel oor die hantering van bek-en-klou was die instelling van kompartemente. Esterhuyse sê dit is deur VL aan die provinsiale RPO oorgedra, wat dit aan sy nasionale liggaam en verskillende dieregesondheidsforums sal oordra.

"Dit word op die tafel van die president gelê dat, as hy ernstig is oor beleggings, in die land, hierdie soort probleem as 'n saak van dringendheid aangespreek behoort te word," sê Esterhuyse. "Die regering is verantwoordelik vir die beheer van siektes en slegs doeltreffende en doelgerigte optrede kan die landbou, wat deel van die ruggraat van die ekonomie uitmaak, versterk en bydra tot werksgeleentheid."

VL, die Vrystaatse RPO en Nasionale Wolkwekersvereniging het op 7 November 2019 'n vergadering gehou waar verskeie aspekte, soos siektebeheer en sake van gemeenskaplike belang, bespreek is. Volgens Esterhuyse was die samewerking tussen die organisasies, wat rolverdeling en verantwoordelikhede insluit, op die agenda. Die doel was ook om duplisering van take uit te skakel.

Esterhuyse sê die Vrystaat word in baie kringe as die broodmandjie van die land beskou en die uitbreek van bek-en-klou kan daartoe lei dat produsente weereens aan die kortste ent trek. "Die deurlopende aanslae van hierdie aard, saam met politieke onsekerheid én die grondkwestie, dra geen-

sins by tot die kweking van gunstige toestande vir voedselproduksie in die landbousector nie. Om die waarheid te sê, dit hou wesenlike nadelige gevolge in vir voedselsekerheid."

Volgens hom dra die droogte en uitbreek van sulke soort siektes boonop by tot

verdere werksverliese.

Vir medianavrae, kontak Francois Wilken, President van VL, by 083 390 1831, Tommie Esterhuyse, Vise-president van VL, by 082 782 0668 of Adv. Gielie Nieuwoudt, Voorsitter van die Vrystaatse RPO, by 082 786 2894.

What is CHILD abuse?
• Heilbron Clinic

Breaking down the self-confidence of a child

Not listening to a child

Leaving a child without supervision

Teasing a child unnecessarily

Not taking proper care of a child, for example:

Exposing a child to pornographic acts or literature

Not cleaning, clothing or feeding a child

Touching a child where or when he/she doesn't want to be touched

Forcing a child to touch you

Neglecting a child's medical needs

Verbally abusing a child

Manipulating a child

Protecting children is everybody's business

Not giving love to a child

Hitting or hurting a child - often or to relieve your own frustration

Neglecting a child's educational needs

Safety plan for CHILDREN

TELL SOMEONE

- If you are feeling threatened, tell someone that you trust.
- If someone has already abused you, do not protect him - protect yourself!
- If you are not believed - tell someone else. (Go to a clinic and tell the clinic sister, she must take action)
- Sometimes friends will support you. (If you are alone at home with a relative who is threatening your personal safety, keep inviting friends over.)

Remember - keep telling until someone believes you and takes action to protect you

BE AWARE, BE SAFE

- Be informed about your rights as a child. (If your parents do not tell you... read about them.)
- You have a right to say NO to any family member that is doing or saying things that you feel is wrong. (Even your dad.)
- Read about things that you do not understand like: sex, AIDS, how babies are born, what is sexual, emotional and physical abuse? (Join the library!)

Remember - a child that is aware is a well protected child

LOVE YOURSELF

- Treasure your body, it is yours for your lifetime.
- Respect yourself - and others.
- Value your own life. (If you do not others will not either)
- Cherish your dreams, no matter how impossible they seem now. Strive to achieve them.

Remember - you are a child of the universe, as much as the trees on the stars, you have the right to be here, to be loved, to be cared for, to be protected, to be safe... to belong.

BE CONFIDENT

- Girl or boy, black, brown, beige or white, rich or poor, fat or thin, tall or short - carry yourself with confidence. (A child with a low sense of self-esteem is more likely to be abused than a confident child.)
- Know your own limits over others and know the limits that others have towards you.
- Be proud of your youth and enjoy it.
- Girls and boys, protect and stick up for each other, for what is right

Remember - youth is a period to be enjoyed by every child and teenager regardless of your background.

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A Heady Dose of Joy: The Free State Madeira Flower Festival

Is there anything dreamier than being surrounded by thousands and thousands of flowers? Just imagine all those heavenly bursts of colours and scents. Except it's better than a dream. It's the annual Free State Madeira Flower Festival and it's tumbling onto the streets of Parys in all its glorious magnificence later this month.

A joint venture between the Free State government and the Autonomous State of Madeira and hosted by The Free State Gambling, Liquor and Tourism Authority, the Free State Madeira Flower Festival transforms the quaint little town of Parys into a dazzling wonderland, complete with a kilometre-long procession of floral floats, dancers, performers, and larger-than-life puppets.

Created with over 200,000 flowers from local flower farmers, the Big 5 Route inspired floral floats are designed by Madeiran master floriculturist João Egídio. Celebrated for his Madeira Flower Festival creations, Egídio uses his time in South Africa to mentor local up-and-coming flower arrangers in the art of designing floral pieces on a grand scale.

And while these grand floral designs are always the stars of the show, there is still

plenty more to delight festival goers. Among last year's most loved and talked about favourites were the flower carpets portraying Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu as part of the centenary celebrations.

Flowers upon flowers, beauty, creativity, music, art, theatre, dance, workshops, exhibitions, and loads of family-friendly entertainment, this two-day exhibition is a feast of joy in every sense.

Now in its fourth year, the Free State Madeira Flower Festival has become a highly anticipated event on the South African calendar, attracting more than 40 000 visitors, and boosting the local economy.

The local flower industry is also blooming. The strategic partnership between the Free State and Madeira governments has provided South Africa with a critical advantage.

The Free State Department of Agriculture has also assisted 5 SMMEs in the floriculture sector. These SMMEs are now farming their own flowers and are already thriving, supplying local retailers with the goal of expanding to export internationally.

This year, the Free State Madeira Flower Festival takes place 28 November to 1 December in Parys, and entrance is free. Lisa SK - 076 431 3275