

ANNUAL REPORT

CAPE WOOLS BIOSECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY (1 July 2020 to 30 JUNE 2021)

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REPORTING PERIOD

1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021



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1. SERVICE: DELIVERY OF ON FARM ASSESSMENTS

1.1 Description of Service

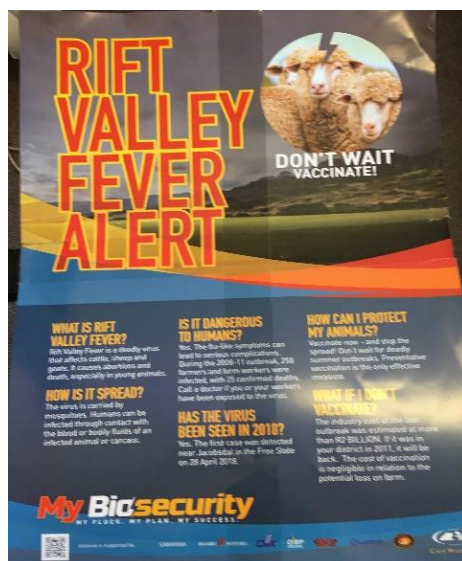
Deliver information and skills to equip and monitor farmers for sustainable production practices.

1.2 Defined Outcomes and Targets per Agreed Programme

Outcomes:

- Promote and implement sustainable practices in terms of the SCWS
 - During each audit visit the importance of sustainable practices are highlighted to make farmers aware of the importance of responsible wool production practices.
- Create awareness by means of interaction with farmers and farmers' days
 - 48 Farmers' days were held to create awareness of the SCWS. A total of 640 farmers attended these days.
- Assist farmers with enrolling for self-evaluation
 - Farmers prefer an audit by one of the auditors and aren't really interested in self-evaluation.
- Conduct on farm assessments as required in terms of the SCWS
 - 120 On-farm assessments were conducted during the reporting period.
- Follow up with farmers on the corrective procedures about non-conformances.
 - A total of 17 follow-up visits were done during the reporting period.
- Provide advice and guidance to farmers on all biosecurity related issues.
 - Advice and guidance regarding the importance of biosecurity is given to farmers on a continuous basis during visits.
 - Biosecurity articles were published in every publication of Wool Farmer magazine on various topics, including Rift Valley Fever, Foot rot, On-farm Biosecurity measures, Feedlots, management calendars, parasite control, etc.

CWSA Biosecurity posters distributed to producers during visits.



Targets:

- Suggestions as to improvements within the standards.
 - 5 Zoom meetings were held with Webroute and Cape Wools and contributions were made towards improvements on the standards.
- Have 5 advisors available to conduct on farm assessments.
 - Advisors are available for conducting farm assessments.
- A target of 1180 uploaded completed assessments are set per annum.
 - A total of 210 assessments were completed and uploaded.

SCWS audit with farmer from Northern Cape (left) and NWGA Advisors being trained on SCWS audits by Mr Steve van Schoor from SAMIC (right).



- Hold information days to inform farmers about the requirements of the guidelines;
 - 48 Information days were held to create awareness of the SCWS. A total of 640 farmers attended these days.
- Follow up with farmers where items are outstanding, and proof needs to be submitted;
 - A total of 17 follow-up visits were done during the reporting period.

Pictures below are examples of proof of practices and infrastructure captured during SCWS audits: Livestock identification (left) and planted pastures (right).



Natural grazing (left) and fenced dumping site (right).



Lambing camp (L) and farm worker housing (R).



Lockable poison store (L) and feedlot (R).



Safety equipment (L) and hunting chair as improvised for predator management (R).



- Inform farmers via publications of pertinent points in the guidelines;
 - Two articles on biosecurity were published in the Wool Farmer and “Veeplaas” respectively.
- Biosecurity information transfer to farmers and vaccination awareness and recording;
 - Advice and guidance regarding the importance of biosecurity are given to farmers on a continuous basis during visits.
- Implementation of vaccination register into traceability platform.
 - The traceability platform has not been developed yet.

2. CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED WITH PROVIDING THE ABOVE MENTIONED SERVICE:

- Strong negativity from brokers’ field staff towards this assessment.
- Farmers view this assessment as inferior to RWS.
- Farmers question the need for another assessment due to the aforementioned misunderstanding.
- Farmers do not see the need for these assessments.
- Covid-19 restrictions also have hampered the activities of Advisors, as many farmer association meetings were cancelled.
- Several visits for SCWS audits were also postponed by farmers who do not allow outside people on the farm due to Covid.

3. MEASURES IN PLACE TO OVERCOME THE ABOVE MENTIONED CHALLENGES:

- A series of articles will be written to cover a range of requirements stipulated in SCWS. These articles will be published in the popular press e.g. Landbouweekblad, Farmer's Weekly, Wool Farmer and Veeplaas.
 - Subjects that will be covered include:
 - Shearing and wool handling facilities.
 - The establishment and advantages of a vaccination register to improve tracability.
 - The importance of complying to a sustainability standard e.g. SCWS in order to gain wider market access.
 - The importance of animal welfare in sustainable wool production.
 - The importance of biosecurity in sustainable wool production.
 - Responsible use and storage of chemical products.
 - The goal- and importance of a water usage plan in terms of sustainability and the coservation of this natural resource.
 - Good pasture management systems to ensure sustainable use of the natural resource (grazing) to mitigate the effect of climate change and ensure sustainable animal production.
 - Sound stockflow- and fodderflow programs.
- Meet with Wool Sheep Breeder Societies to introduce SCWS to the breeders.
- Organise Farmers' days as soon as the Covid regulations allows.
- Co-operation with Segard Masurel with regard to Abelusi.
- Promotion material.

Though the past year was tough, and advisors' efforts were met with resistance, they remain positive and believe that change for the better will come soon.

Signed at Bloemfontein on 27 August 2021



JL Venter

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