

WHO IS THE NWGA AND IS ITS ROLE IN SERVING THE COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNAL FARMER

History

THE National Wool Grower's Associations of South Africa was founded during a Wool Conference in Middleburg on 26 May 1926. Since then, the NWGA has developed into a countrywide organization, consisting of 6 Area Branches and more than 1 000 sub branches. The NWGA now boasts a voluntary membership of approximately 8 000 of which 4 000 are black producers.

Our focus is on the wool farmer, small or big and his / her interests and consequently the voice of the wool farmer is heard on numerous boards, agricultural boards, agricultural unions and committees within organised agriculture. The reputation of the NWGA is built upon the constant quality service offered to its members.

Aims and Goals The mission of the NWGA is "The promotion of sustainable and profitable woolled sheep farming ". This we strive to do through:

- 1) The promotion of an improved policy and legislative environment
- 2) The promotion of an efficient production environment
- 3) The promotion of an improved market environment
- 4) The promotion of a strengthened institutional environment in support of the wool industry, and

The implementation of the Production Technology Business Plan for the wool industry proves that the NWGA has the woolgrower as his / her interests at heart. Through this, all farmers have the opportunity to directly gain from actions through income from the Wool Trust.

The wool farmer, through the NWGA, has a direct say in all affairs concerning the wool industry. Members receive up-to-date and relevant information by means of the NWGA own monthly publication, "Wool Farmer", sent directly to each member.

The NWGA is a fully integrated organisation with 50% of its member base being communal farmers. These farmers are represented on all structures of the wool industry. At the moment, 65% of the operational budget of the NWGA is being spent on the upliftment of black farmers.

National Planning Commission Vision for 2030

The NWGA is currently busy with a new Strategic and Development Plan to bring its business in line with the National Planning Commission Vision for 2030.

Servicing of Communal Farmers

Within the communal sector, the NWGA focuses on:

- 1) Infrastructure
- 2) Training and Mentorship
- 3) Genetic Improvement of flocks
- 4) Marketing support
- 5) Resource management

The result of this interaction since 1997/98 on the wool income of black farmers within the former Transkei / Ciskei increased from R1,5 million to the present R260 million.

Communal farmers earning foreign currency

The NWGA T&D programme also assists emerging and communal farmers to enter the mainstream of the economy by accessing commercial- and international markets by earning foreign currency in the most rural and extensive farming areas of South Africa.

Accredited Training Provider

We are an accredited training provider for AgriSETA and Shearer- and Wool classing training are key focus areas of our training programme. World Sheep Shearer Champions have benefitted from these training initiatives. South Africa have therefore produced shearer champions on several occasions over the past decade and Mr. Zweliwile Hans is currently the newly crowned champion of the world at the Golden Shearers Championships, which were held in Masterton, New Zealand.