

Monthly Top Usage Gift

One of the maintenance functions performed by Manstrat (AIS) for the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is to ensure that the best decision making tool available to Extensionists in South Africa - **Extension Suite Online** - is utilised to its fullest extent. Despite some constraints and challenges, figures show that ESO is being utilised vigorously by extensionist in all the provinces.

Utilisation figures are extracted for individual provinces, studied, analysed and discussed with provincial and national extension management during the regular monthly meetings. From these monthly usage figures, a table is compiled of the top provincial users, eventually showing the top provincial user in South Africa for that specific month.

It was decided by Manstrat AIS that each national monthly winner, from September 2010, will receive an AIS value pack containing a personalised engraved 4G memory stick and pen. From us at Manstrat AIS, congratulations to them all.

Piet van Zyl

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you - not because they are nice, but because you are.”



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www.newsletter.esuite.co.za

ANIMAL PROTECTION AND PROBLEM SOLVERS

The Problem Solver was created to make health related problem solving more effective for the ESO user and to find more specific causes for certain symptoms that an animal is displaying

Animal protection is essential for an enterprise to be profitable and includes providing a safe environment for the animals to live in, providing animals with sufficient food and water, preventing overcrowding conditions and ill-treatment, and ensuring that animals are healthy and free of parasites and diseases.

Animal Health

In any animal commodity there are many diseases and parasites which can cause ill health. Nutrition and management also play crucial roles in the well being of animals. Animals in poor health grow poorly, production declines and reproduction is affected resulting in eventual lower profits.

Nutritional imbalances occur as a result of an over or under supply of essential nutrients. Imbalances result in a homeostatic imbalance which cause stress in the animal's body, and very often important body functions may be compromised. Animals should be fed according to the type of animal (monogastrics versus ruminants) and according to age and productive stages.

Diseases and parasites are a common occurrence across the country even though animals, especially indigenous animals, may be quite resistant to them. A good way to prevent common diseases occurring is to follow an annual vaccination programme. Both external and internal parasites feed on the blood of animals resulting in anaemia and lower immune

systems; however these parasites can be controlled by regular de-worming and dipping when parasite levels are high. Keeping animals in a clean environment also helps with prevention and spread of diseases and parasites.

An example of a health programme and vaccination schedule for the different animal commodities can be found under **Health and Diseases** in the sidebar, in the **Production Information** section. A detailed list of the most common diseases, parasites, poisonous plants, nutritional imbalances and injuries and ailments can also be found under their specific headings in the same section.

Problem Solvers

The Problem Solver was created to make health related problem solving more effective for the ESO user and to find more specific causes for certain symptoms that an animal may be displaying. Problems relating to animal diseases and conditions can be found under **Animal Health** in the sidebar under the **Problem Solvers** section. This section takes the user through individual steps where the user can select, from a list, the most pronounced symptoms displayed in the animal(s). This will then lead to a final list of diseases or conditions most likely causing these specific symptoms.

Colleen J van Rensburg

Because Extension Suite Online is an Internet application, it is dependent on Internet protocols which are stateless. This means that each page you request is unique from any other. In order to access Extension Suite Online, a user needs to be identified by logging in with a username and password. An identifier is then sent to the server and a User Session is created on the server. Due to **security** and **performance** issues, this session can only last for thirty minutes. In order to keep



the session alive, a request needs to be sent to the server at least every thirty minutes. Meaning that if you leave a page open for a long period without any interaction on the page, your session will time out and the application will redirect you to log in again and start a new session. The record (proof) of your usage of ESO will be destroyed if you allow others to use your password, and they log in at the same time that you are using the system, making it essential to keep your password a secret.

TOP EXTENSION SUITE ONLINE USER FOR MARCH 2011

By monitoring daily utilisation of all users in the nine provinces it is possible to select the country's top user monthly and ultimately the national winner (for the Grand Prize!) on an annual basis.

Congratulations to South Africa's top ESO user for March 2011!!!

[Sindile Magoda \(Eastern Cape\)](#)



Sindile Magoda

During April, we had the opportunity to ask Sindile Magoda a few questions on his usage of ESO:

Q: What are your responsibilities at the department?

As an extensionist at the department I particularly provide farmers with information on livestock related problems.

Q: How long have you been working for the department?

Before starting at the department in 2007 I was studying BSC Agric at the University of Fort Hare.

Q: How often do you make use of ESO?

When I am at the office I make sure that I go on to Extension Suite Online at least once a day.

Q: What do you use ESO for the most?

As mentioned earlier I provide farmers with livestock

production information, therefore the animals module is the one that I use the most. The Regional Data module also comes in handy, especially if I need to find abattoirs or co-operatives within a certain area.

Q: How does ESO influence your relationship with farmers or clients?

Extension Suite Online has given me the opportunity to become more assertive in my work in communicating knowledge to farmers.

Q: Would you recommend ESO to your colleagues?

Yes definitely, Extension Suite Online is a wonderful knowledge filled package.

Q: What have you learned from ESO?

Extension Suite Online gives me as an extensionist a way to convey information in a simpler, more understandable medium to farmers and I have learned that I can get information on a farm, by just knowing the farm's name.

Q: Do you have any tips to other users regarding Extension Suite Online?

The tip that I can give to other Extension Suite Online users is to use the system regularly, if you have a laptop and an internet connection you can access ESO anywhere in the world. Do not be afraid of the tool, it is a very useful application.

Q: Does ESO make the execution of your duties easier, and in what way?

Just by the click of a mouse you can solve a farmer's problems in the field within seconds.

Utilisation Reports

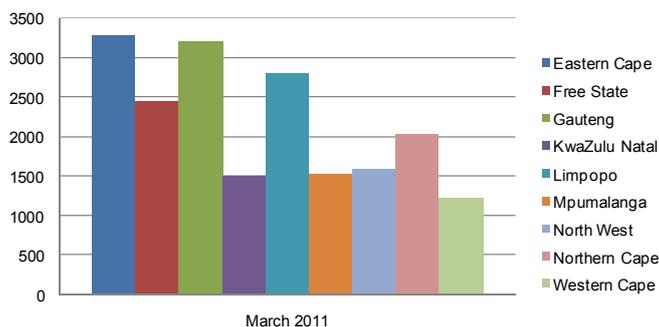
The monthly **National Top ESO User** (from September 2010) will be receiving a personalised 4G Memory Stick and Pen Set from AIS. For March 2011, Sindile Magoda from Eastern Cape Province is our National Winner with an excellent rating of 3290. Congratulations Sindile!

Looking at utilisation on a national basis, the picture is a positive one. Growth in terms of the duration of visits to ESO increased while Number of Unique Visits and Unique Visitors remained stable. This indicates that users are spending more time on ESO doing research or even studying portions of the system.

Managers and systems administrators in the provinces are able to extract reports to see at what times during any given day users are actually connected to the ESO. Interestingly, during March 2011 the earliest anyone logged into ESO was 00h30 in the morning, and 23h00 at night! Wow. All that we can say is: "Try getting some sleep people!"

Piet van Zyl

PROVINCIAL TOP USAGE



PROVINCE	NAME
Eastern Cape	Sindile Magoda
Free State	Moshodi Marumo
Gauteng	Lesego Phakedi
KwaZulu Natal	Vuyani Dlamini
Limpopo	Jabu Petunia Baloyi
Mpumalanga	Sibusiso Themba Ngele
North West	Monametsi Raggase
Northern Cape	Christopher Robiyana
Western Cape	Malebogo Phetlhu