

FROM THE ESO DISCUSSION FORUM

Jeanne-Louise Bekker

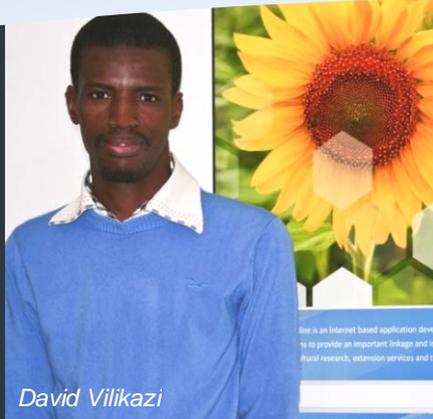
I, like everyone else at Manstrat AIS, was pleasantly surprised with the verve with which ESO users embraced the ESO Home Page, especially the Discussion Forum interaction, since its inception three months ago.

The principle idea behind the forum is firstly to expand the knowledge base of ESO to the advantage of its users and where peers can interact and discuss relevant topics amongst themselves.

We thought that it would be helpful to users if we featured interesting happenings on the forum from time to time and remind you to go to the ESO Home Page, join the Discussion Forum and make contributions on topics that interest you and share your knowledge and insights with colleagues.

The featured topic for this edition is a question posed by a user: **“How to do a production plan for beef cattle”**. One of our own experts gave useful advice on where to find the relevant information on ESO: “Production, management and disease control schedules (plans) are all discussed under the different modules of Extension Suite Online. These schedules highlight the most important management and production issues to be addressed during the year for a specific Livestock enterprise, including issues like veld and pasture management and the importance of maintaining the breeding stock in optimal condition. You can find these by navigating the main sidebar item on ESO for ‘Production Information’. Under the headings: ‘Production’, ‘Management’, ‘Nutrition and Water’ and ‘Health and Diseases’ you will find annual schedules and programmes to assist in the different production issues.”

The Front Page belongs to you, the user, and we urge you to use this facility to its fullest by sharing your knowledge, ideas and experiences with each other in support of developing agriculture in South Africa.



David Vilakazi

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LEGISLATION AND POLICY FRAMEWORK SECTION ON ESO FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTION

David Vilakazi

Animal production is an integral component of the Agricultural sector in South Africa, contributing up to 49 % of total agricultural output and also playing major economic and social roles in food security as an immediate source of income, food and fibres to rural communities. As a result, improvements in animal breeding, nutrition and health systems continue to contribute significantly to increase the potential and efficiency of animal production. To achieve such improvements, there must be a balance between the animal and the available feed resources. Care must also be taken to farm with genetically adapted animals that can produce appreciably under a variety of conditions. Animal production systems should be aligned with three principal dimensions of sustainable development namely: Economic growth, social equity and protection of the environment.

However, measures should be taken to achieve sustainability in animal production and improve access to safe, adequate and nutritious food for human consumption. Such measures include establishing Acts and Legislation that highlight codes to be implemented for animal welfare; feeds and feeding; health and diseases prevention and to provide guidelines for safe slaughtering, handling, and marketing of animals and animal products. The primary objectives of these Acts and Legislation are to provide regulations, standards, requirements and protocols that will:

- Increase productivity and profitability of animal production;
- Improve access to local and international markets;
- Enhance production of safe food (milk, meat and eggs) for healthy human consumption;
- Reduce the impacts of various animal production systems on the environment;
- Make sure that livestock farming systems are economically, socially and ecologically sustainable;
- Prevent cruelty or possible exploitation of animals through the prohibition of unnecessary or abusive treatment to animals;
- Prevent theft of livestock and livestock products;
- Make provision for the establishment of a National database for livestock farmers; and
- Assist and support emerging livestock farmers and incorporate them into mainstream commercial agricultural activities.

As a result, a section outlining the most important Animal Production Acts and Legislation is available on ESO under the **“Legislation”** information option tab. Choose the **“Legislation and Policy Framework”** Information option item under the various animal production modules. These Acts and Legislation provide guidelines and institutional frameworks that are currently being exercised and implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to ensure a safe, competitive and sustainable Animal production sector in the Republic of South Africa.

USEFULL TIPS FOR EXTENSIONISTS

Matsunke Malefane and Michèle Cloete

Body Language Tips

It is important to make a good impression during a first meeting. Advisors can use body language to influence clients and make good impressions:

- **“Take control” of the space** – it will signal self-confidence and that you are comfortable in your own skin.
- **Relax your shoulders** – it will make you look comfortable and relaxed.
- **Nod occasionally when somebody is talking** – it will show that you are paying attention.
- **Sporadically and subtly mirror the body language of the client** – it will help in building a “connection” between you.
- **Stay positive.** It will show in your body language and others will be taken up by it.



In computing terms, the web browser history refers to the stored list of web pages a user visited most recently. Every time a user visits a page on the internet, the computer will save a copy of that page. In basic terms, the computer will keep a record of visited pages in an archive system. The browser history becomes very useful to relocate a web page when a person forgot the address of a website. To view the browser history, simply press the "Ctrl" and "H" buttons on the keyboard together.

Another such item that saves browsing history information is the cookie. Cookies contain information such as login details for particular websites. When logging into a website such as ESO a checkbox will open, asking the question, "Do you want to save this username and password?" by accepting, the computer will save the username and password for future use. Even though this can be very helpful, in the case where users

share a computer it is recommended that the browser history and cookie history be cleared on a regular basis to protect personal information from falling into the wrong hands.

To clear the browsing and cookie history in Internet Explorer, follow these easy steps:



- To open the "Tools" menu, press the "Alt" and "T" keys, together, on the computer keyboard.
- Click on "Internet options", the last item in the menu.
- In the popup box under the "General" tab there is a heading, "Browsing history", click on the "Delete" button under this heading to open the next pop up box.
- Select the items that you wish to delete from you browsing history and click on "Delete" to apply the action.

MONTHLY NATIONAL EXTENSION SUITE ONLINE USER: SEPTEMBER 2012

ESO utilisation is determined through monitoring user utilisation in the nine provinces and by attaching values to Visits, Pages Visited and Duration of Visits, a rating is calculated to establish the National ESO USER of the Month.

Congratulations to **Vhuthu Gavhi** (Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development). He is a third time ESO National monthly user and therefore receives a **Blackberry Cellular Telephone**.



information i.e. enterprise budget, production, irrigation, protection, fertilization, harvesting, marketing etc. I am also able to respond to farmer's questions immediately. E-suite makes the execution of my work quite easy and enjoyable. As mentioned in previous newsletter interviews, almost all the schools that I work with currently did not have gardens, whereas Zuuberkom, as an example, are currently planting about 1ha of land and producing around 40 bunches of spinach, 40 boxes of Tomatoes and approximately 25 boxes of green peppers.

During October, we had the opportunity to ask Vhuthu a few questions regarding his usage of ESO:

PROJECTS THAT I AM WORKING ON

I am currently working to implement and maintain three programs within Household food security, 441 Homestead food gardens (back yard gardens), 37 school gardens and 13 community projects.

E-SUITE ASSISTANCE

Extension Suite Online came very handy to assist in terms of providing relevant production

TIPS TO OTHER EXTENSION OFFICERS

I advice other officials to use e-suite because it is a good information tool, that helps you to get relevant information, the system is quick and easy to use. It takes time to check information in libraries, articles and other info-toons but with e-suite you only need a network to login and within 1 minute, you can get information you need. I cannot think of any agriculture information tool other than Extension Suite Online. Furthermore, I would advise colleagues to always seek information and to update themselves all the time with new techniques and innovations.

UTILISATION OVERVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

Thapedi Setshedi

With 129 new registrations during September by KZN, the total number of ESO users in the nine provinces and DAFF has now grown to 2 636. This represents a 5% growth in user numbers for the period. Also encouraging is the increasing number of officers activating their accounts.

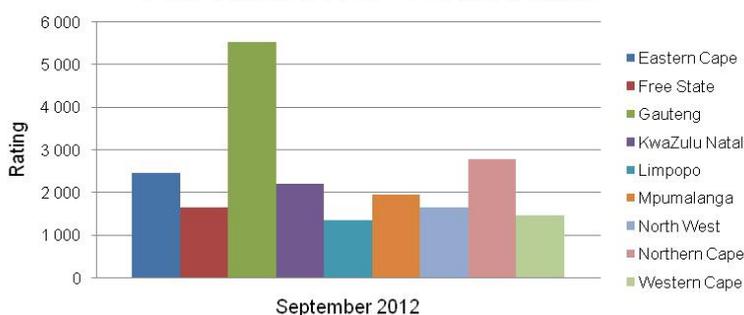
Looking at the past (3rd) quarter of this year, growth registered in the number of ESO pages visited was 117% while time spent on the system increased by 27%. These figures represent real and continued growth in utilisation and the serious users of ESO may take a bow.

Turning the focus to September 2012 utilisation, 9 184 pages was visited (a 5.6% increase) while over 360 hours was spent on the system.

Our National (record breaking, may I add) Top User, Vhuthu Gavhi managed an impressive rating of 5531 points, representing 34 hours spent on the system during September— another record! Well done sir!

I am wondering if there are any challengers to his position or are we going to allow him to crown himself "Top User for Life"? Or have you all given up? 😊

PROVINCIAL TOP USER RATING



NAME OF TOP USER IN EACH PROVINCE SEPTEMBER 2012

PROVINCE	NAME
Eastern Cape	Luyanda Shasha
Free State	Mavis Masemola
Gauteng	Vhuthu Gavhi
KwaZulu Natal	Buyisile Zungu
Limpopo	Tebogo Thobakgale
Mpumalanga	Sibusiso Themba Ngele
North West	James Wallis
Northern Cape	George du Preez
Western Cape	Jacob Mapheto