



Perspektief | Perspective

Nuusbrief | Newsletter

15/11/2013 WEEK 46 - 2013

KLIK HIER VIR DIE AFRIKAANSE WEERGAWE

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Latest proposal from SARS regarding diesel rebate out for commentary

Corné Louw (senior economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)

»After the previous agreement with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) went bust, where it was said that alternative information could be used to bring to book diesel usage before April 2013 (where logbooks were therefore not kept), SARS has now published an alternative proposal for commentary.

This proposal by SARS allows producers who did not keep a logbook of diesel usage between 1 November 2009 and 1 April 2013, to qualify for the diesel rebate. The diesel purchases for which you then qualify however decreases with 30%. This 30% was obtained by SARS from a survey that showed that so-called "non-qualifying activities" across all agricultural industries constitutes an average of 30% of diesel usage.

See the proposed amendment from SARS: <http://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/LegalDoclib/Drafts/LAPD-LPrep-Draft-2013-119%20-%20Draft%20Tariff%20Amendment%20Sch6%20logbooks.pdf>.

Commentary on this can be sent to corne@grainsa.co.za by 26 November 2013.

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Gerbil research project kicks off

Petru Fourie (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)

»It is with excitement and after a long waiting period for sufficient funding, that the gerbil research project has finally started. The project is partially funded by the Maize Trust, the Sasol Agricultural Trust and the ARC.

Phase one of the project includes determining the most effective poison as well as the time and administration dose, while the ecology of gerbils will also be examined.

This research will be conducted in the Wesselsbron/Hoopstad area and test plots have already been laid out in this area. Rains that recently occurred here caused volunteer maize as well as other volunteer crops to sprout. These are a good source of food for gerbils and are the first real food (soft plant materials) that they like. This will likely cause gerbil numbers to increase.

Producers are advised to, while they are still busy with soil tillage, be on the look-out for where gerbils exist. A possible recommendation is that tunnel treatments should be applied to the problem areas. Rat poison can be placed in the tunnels in the form of a wax cube or fumigation. A further recommendation is that poison should not be spread as there is currently enough other food available on the lands and because it is not environmentally friendly.

The goal is to hopefully be able to provide answers and solutions by the start of the new year with regards to the control of gerbils. A few years worth of results will however be needed to provide factual answers.

Contact Mr Frikkie Kirsten at the ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute at 012 808 8217 for further information.

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Good agricultural practice guidelines for groundnut producers

Corné Louw (senior economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)

»Audits regarding good agricultural practices for groundnut producers will start in earnest this season. Producers will be identified for the audits via processing plants.

The South African Groundnut Forum has voted funds with assistance from the Oil Seeds Advisory Committee for the OPDT (Oil and Protein Seed Development Trust) to compile a document with guidelines supporting good agricultural practices.

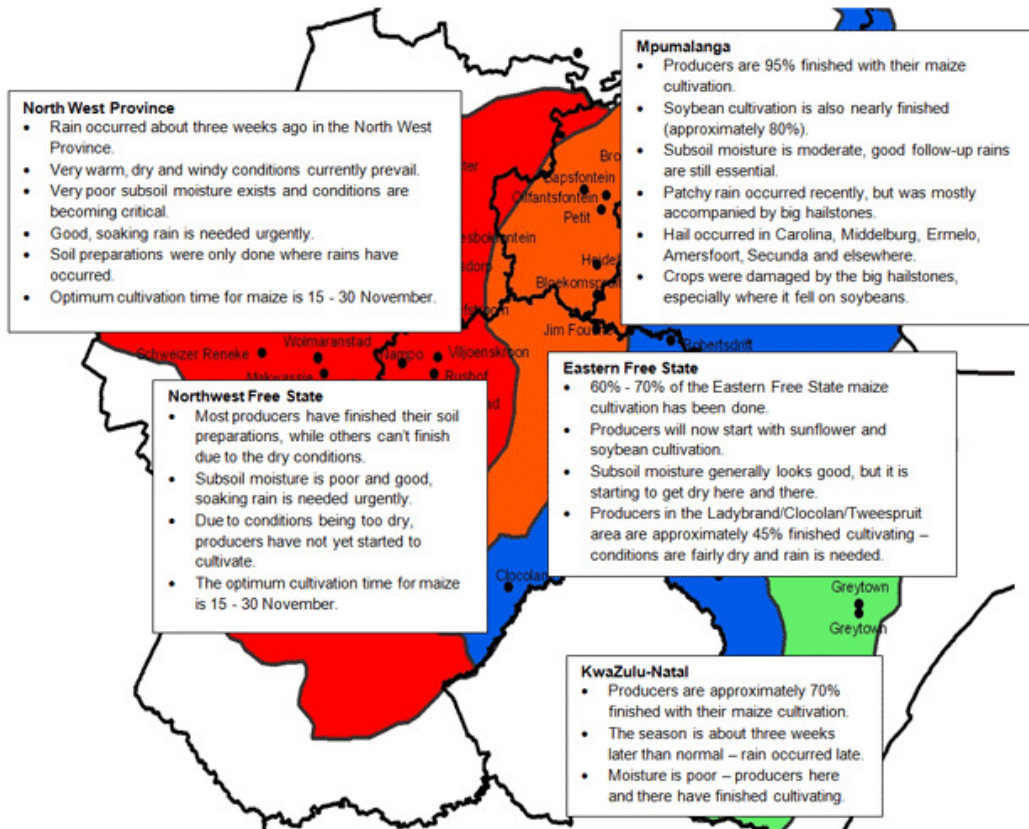
This guide is an aid and reference outline to assist producers in the holding of records regarding good agricultural practices and thereby preparing them for the audits. If producers want to obtain a printed version of the guide, they can request it by emailing oliesade@worldonline.co.za.

The electronic version of the guide can be downloaded from http://www.grainsa.co.za/upload/report_files/Good-Agricultural-Practice-Guidelines---01-2013_Combined.pdf.

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Agricultural conditions as recorded on 12 November 2013

Petru Fourie (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)



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