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## NEW ON ESO: THE MARKING OF ANIMALS

Colleen Janse van Rensburg

An important responsibility of farmers and managers is the proper identification of their animals. In this regard the group responsible for animal content on Extension Suite Online has incorporated legislation and Acts that all stock owners need to comply with, into the animal modules of the system. The importance of record keeping to the farm manager cannot be emphasised enough and the identification of individual animals in the herd from birth to breeding or slaughter is required for effective livestock management.

The different marking of animals is prescribed by law. Some methods used are only temporary marks and are mainly used for record keeping purposes by the farmer. These marks help farmers to identify individual animals and keep track by identifying the parents and recording birth dates, birth and weaning weights, vaccination and health records and growth rates on each animal's individual record card.

The law requires that certain animals must be identified by a permanent mark mainly for the affective tracing of the animals. There are specific requirements for these marks and they have to be registered with the relevant authority.

The placing of a mark will depend on the species and whether a farmer is the first or later owner of the animal. For the meat industry it is crucial to trace an animal back to its farm of origin, especially in the event of a disease outbreak. Stock theft is also a major issue in South Africa, and legal marks on animals can be used to prove ownership.

Users can find more information regarding the different types of identification methods for cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and ostriches including legal marks, by selecting the different animal modules on the **Main menu bar**. Then select **Production information**, then **Management** and scroll down to find the subheading on **Identification**.

### Handling of Animals

The next section added is, "Handling of animals". Because of the important role that animals play in agriculture, their welfare must be looked after to ensure optimum production results. Most livestock species are herd animals and will behave abnormal when separated from their herd mates. The natural flight or fight hormone will come into effect which can be dangerous both to the handler as well as to the animal or other animals around.

Knowing how to handle different types of animals will limit injuries and the accompanying trauma, making future handling easier.

The Animal Main Information Module can be found on the **Main menu bar**, **Production information**, and under **Management** scroll down to **Animal Handling**.



Colleen Janse van Rensburg

## ESO WALLPAPERS

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE  
DESKTOP WALLPAPER TODAY!

Liven up your computer's desktop with an Extension Suite Online wallpaper. Download wallpapers directly from the ESO newsletter e-mail or on the ESO media website: [media.esuite.co.za](http://media.esuite.co.za)



### Tips and tools for advisors

Vela Gedze (Western Cape Department of Agriculture)

### Extension of farmer's network

In order to ensure that farmers receive the best possible service from us, the following checklist may be applied:

- Refer farmers to relevant stakeholders, industries, retailers and institutions.
- Encourage them to attend agricultural events such as symposiums, agricultural shows and other relevant events. This will grant them an opportunity to mingle and interact with other farmers and stakeholders.
- Encourage them to participate in agricultural related competitions for exposure and encouragement. Information obtained from participating in competitions will help to build their profiles and references.
- Update farmers with relevant information by giving them newsletters and other agricultural related magazines to enhance their knowledge base.
- Encourage them to make use of communication network systems; cell phones, business cards, computers, radio talk and other relevant network systems.

## TOP NATIONAL ESO USER:

The monthly national ESO user will receive the following prizes: First time National ESO User 2014: **4 Gig USB memory stick**, second time National ESO User 2014: **Digital Camera**, third time National ESO User 2014 **Nokia Lumia 520**, fourth time National ESO User 2014: **Samsung Galaxy Tab**.

Congratulations to Mr Sifiso Mthabela (KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and environmental affairs), the ESO Top National User for October 2014.



Mr Sifiso Mthabela

Sifiso Mthabela is the Extension Suite Online Top National user for October, congratulations. Sifiso will be receiving a digital camera for his hard work towards improving extension services in South Africa. We spoke to him to find out how he uses Extension Suite Online to improve his relationship with the farmers that he serves.

Sifiso has been working at the department of agriculture in KZN for two years as an Assistant Agricultural Advisor and 1 year and 6 months as a permanent advisor. It is only about a year now that Sifiso has been using Extension Suite Online, and he described to us a typical day in his life since becoming his permanent appointment. He says that the first thing he does in the morning when he gets to the office is to check and respond to the necessary emails. He then reviews his program for the day, after which he logs onto Extension Suite Online for about an hour and checks for information related to his tasks for the day. When necessary, he downloads and prints the required training materials from Extension Suite Online to take with to farmers. Not only does he spend time on Extension Suite Online during the day, but sometimes also one hour before he goes to sleep.

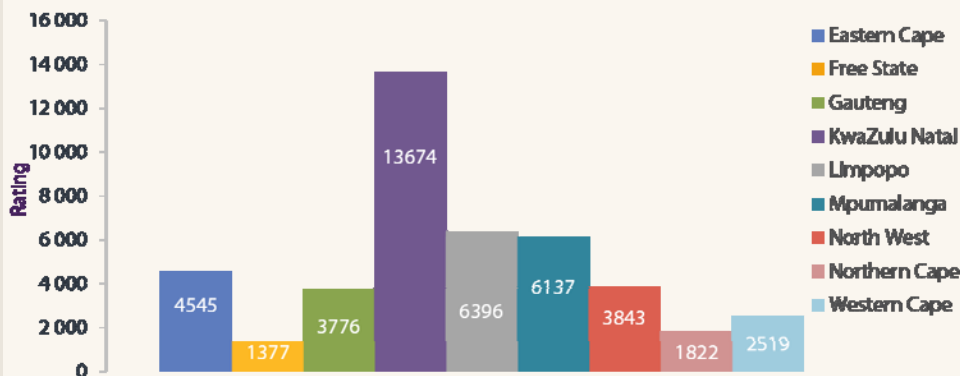
Sifiso says that Extension Suite Online has definitely made the execution of his duties easier. It helps him to understand the potential of a commodity or enterprise and how he can advise farmers to maximise their production, to make a profit and to contribute to their own and the food security of others. Sifiso says that Extension Suite Online helps him to develop his knowledge in terms of crop production and he tries to "update" or "feed" his brain with information from a section within the crop production module on Extension Suite Online every day.

These are the tips that Sifiso gave to his colleagues: "Let us frequently use ESO to update our skills, share problems and advice on challenges we face in our daily work. The KZN department has provided us with resources so let us use them to our benefit and to develop our clients."

## EXTENSION SUITE ONLINE UTILISATION: OCTOBER 2014

Extension Suite Online (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 ESO National Top User of the Month.

### ESO PROVINCIAL TOP USER GRAPH



## ESO PROVINCIAL TOP USERS

PROVINCE	NAME
Eastern Cape	Mthobisi Zuma
Free State	Motsoane Mosiuoa
Gauteng	Maritz Maisela Mahlangu
<b>KwaZulu Natal</b>	<b>Sifiso Mthabela</b>
Limpopo	Ndamulelo Netshifhefhe
Mpumalanga	Jacob Madisha
North West	Mompati Gabanakgosi
Northern Cape	Amelia Viljoen
Western Cape	Riaan Nowers

## PEST TALK: FEATURED PEST

Further information on all featured pests can be found on ESO.

**Scientific Name:** *Aphis craccivora*  
**Popular Name:** Black Legume Aphid

Aphids are small delicate pear-shaped insects with soft bodies, long whitish-cream legs and antennae. They are bluish-green to blackish, with or without wings and are normally found in small colonies sucking sap of tender growth.



Black Legume Aphid on Garden Beans

Send your pest or disease related questions to [newsletter@esuite.co.za](mailto:newsletter@esuite.co.za) with your name, province and the question and we will answer you via ESO's Question and Answer module or in the newsletter.

## ESO TIPS:

### The ESO question and answer section

*Kabelo Malatetja*

Extension Officers, from time to time may need to have information available on ESO explained in more detail to them, or even to relay a question from a client to an expert at Manstrat. Extension Suite Online is the information bridge between research and extension, and prides itself in the fact that it provides information where and when required. An integral part of this important service is the "Questions and Answers" on the Front Page of ESO. Questions posted on the Q&A page go through the Help Desk to the relevant expert. Users are encouraged to use this tool and to keep the experts busy.

To ask a question, just follow these simple steps:

- Click on the "Question & Answer" main menu button.
- Click the "Ask question" link at on the right hand side of the page.
- Select the appropriate category for instance "Plant production".
- Select and type a title for the question for example: "Crop rotation".
- Select and type a detailed question in the "Ask question" textbox
- To send a question, click on the "Submit" button.

Once the question is received the ESO experts will do their utmost to answer the user within 48 hours.

**Do you have any technology related questions?** Send them to [newsletter@esuite.co.za](mailto:newsletter@esuite.co.za), with your name, province and the question and we will answer them in a following newsletter edition.



**Editor:**

Jeanne-Louise Bekker

**Publishers:**

Manstrat Agricultural Intelligence Solutions (Pty) Ltd.

**Correspondence:**

[newsletter@esuite.co.za](mailto:newsletter@esuite.co.za)

**Telephone:**

+27 12 460 2499

