



this edition

7

1 New for animal production: Poultry housings

1

Tips and tools: Market info on ESO

2

ESO tip: Top browsing shortcut keys

2

Monthly ESO National Top User: Riaan Nowers

NEW SECTION FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTION: Poultry housing

Colleen Janse van Rensburg

Producers raise chickens for meat and eggs that serve as an important source of protein in human diets. We classify chicken meat as “white meat”, which we see as a healthier alternative to the “red meat” of beef and lamb products that are often higher in fats and cholesterol. Chicken products are also cheaper sources of protein and thus in high demand.

Chickens are kept in smaller groups for subsistence purposes in comparison to hundreds or thousands kept for commercial purposes. Whether large-scale or small-scale production, chickens are most often bred in some housing arrangement, ranging from a small chicken coop to large poultry houses. Layer chickens may be housed in conventional cages - one hen or a group of hens in one cage - to hens being completely free-range. Broilers are raised in houses that may have an open floor plan or be divided into small pens with a certain amount of birds per square metre. These houses often have an outdoor run for “free-range” conditions where birds have access to natural vegetation and sunshine.

Whether chickens (Layers, Broilers or Dual purpose chickens) are kept in a coop at night or in a house that is fully environmentally controlled, the welfare of the chickens must always be kept in mind. Chickens kept in close confinement undergo more stress than those living in more open and natural conditions. A serious consequence of chickens kept in overcrowded conditions includes feather pecking and cannibalism as well as respiratory diseases with devastating consequences.

Another important factor is proper ventilation in all types of poultry houses, varying from natural airflow through the house, or with the assistance of fans.

Chickens, most particularly broiler chickens (where a faster growth rate is essential), require a certain amount of light to encourage feeding. Housing temperatures should be set according to the age of birds with day old chicks requiring warmth from the help of a heater. Temperature also has an effect on feed and water intake, both of which should always be available to the chickens.

To see the advantages and disadvantages of keeping layer hens in conventional battery cages or free-range setups, visit Extension Suite Online. Navigate to the **Animal Production Module**, select **Layers** on the Main menu bar, click on the **Production information** sidebar tab, select **Management** and then **Housing**. You can also find more housing requirements under the Broiler module on the Main menu bar when you select **Production information** and **Management** on the sidebar and scroll down to **Housing**.



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



Tips and tools for advisors

Portia Maibelo

Market info on ESO

Extension suite online provide users with Market prices obtained from the 19 Fresh Produce Markets in South Africa in the following formats:

- Tonnage and Rand per ton values of commodities sold in the specific Fresh Produce Markets
- Current and Historical market price data
- Opportunity graph for each commodity.

With this information, extension officers are able to advise farmers in terms of:

- When and where to sell their produce (to obtain reasonable prices)
- Deciding whether to grow “out of season” produce
- Deciding on which crops to grow
- To make informed decisions on the planning of planting, harvesting and time of delivery to Markets.

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 Riaan Nowers (Western Cape Department of Agriculture), the ESO National Top User for January 2015.



Mr Riaan Nowers

The first Extension Suite Online Top National User for 2015 is a familiar face from the Western Cape Province, Riaan Nowers. Riaan's ESO utilisation score of 11,235, places him more than 2,000 points above his nearest competition. Congratulations!

As an agricultural economist in the Western Cape, Riaan receives numerous data requests from colleagues and external groups, on a daily basis. For this reason, he constantly consults reliable market data providers of which Extension Suite Online is one, to assist in keeping their departmental databases updated.

Explaining his job, Riaan told us that his current diverse set of commodity price datasets mainly originated from Extension Suite Online information available to ESO users since 2010. To identify and share possible cyclical price trends, he requires prices over at least a period of at least three years. He then shares his market data with Extension colleagues who in turn assist farmers to improve the planning and timing of their operations to reap the maximum benefits from markets.

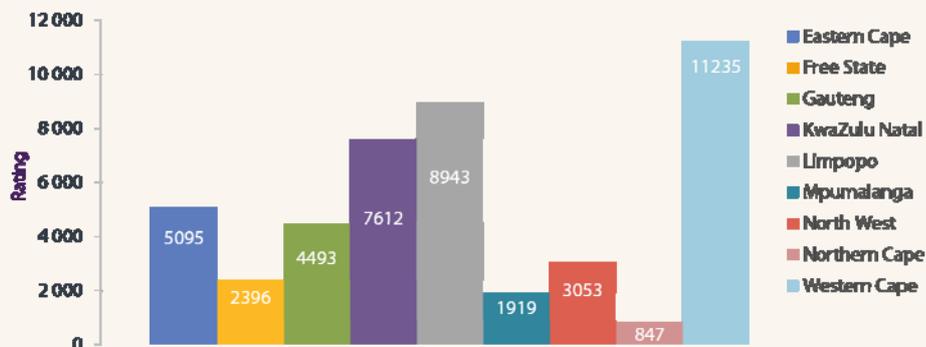
We asked what advice he has for extension practitioners and here is what he had to say: "Firstly, do not re-invent the wheel but learn from those with more experience. Secondly, to keep abreast with new technologies and don't be afraid to use it." Thirdly, I am a lone voice in imploring provinces also to learn from each other and to build on each other's strengths!"

Finally, Riaan highlighted some strengths of Extension Suite Online. According to him, ESO is an easy method of accessing a range of diverse data and information, and the communication channel provided by the ESO Discussion Forum is invaluable.

EXTENSION SUITE ONLINE UTILISATION: JANUARY 2015

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	Mzuthule Nobadina
Free State	Griffith Hadebe
Gauteng	David Phasha
KwaZulu Natal	Sifiso Mthabela
Limpopo	Louis Khomola
Mpumalanga	Lucas Shabangu
North West	Manoahedile Solomon
Northern Cape	Petrus Johannes
Western Cape	Riaan Nowers

PEST TALK: FEATURED PEST

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

Scientific Name: *Ceratitis capitata*
Popular Name: Mediterranean Fruit Fly

Fruitflies are medium-sized flies that are usually brightly coloured with iridescent eyes and mottled wings held sideways when at rest. The flies lay eggs in the fruit which becomes infested with maggots which eat their way to the core, causing rot.



Mediterranean Fruit Fly

ESO TIPS:

Top browsing shortcut keys

Francois van der Merwe

Being able to make most of the time that you spend in front your computer is a major contributing factor in being able to perform your job efficiently. Luckily there are shortcuts that can help you to improve your efficiency and make your life easier while browsing. Have you ever been a victim of those nasty popups and notifications? Just hit the **ESC** key on your keyboard to close it, easy! When you would like to go back to the previous page just hold **CTRL** and press the **left arrow** key or just

hit the **Backspace** button. After you've typed your search phrase into a text box, why use the mouse when you can just press the **Enter** button to start a search? Want to scroll down? **Spacebar** is the key you want to press. Other tips one can use so save time and effort include pressing **F5** or hold **CTRL** and press **R** to refresh your page. If you find the text too small to read, hold down **CRTL** and use your mouse wheel to scroll in and out. **CTRL** and **T** opens a new tab, **CTRL** and **N** opens a new window, and **CTRL** and **W** closes a tab. We trust that by using these shortcuts you'll manage to improve your browsing experiences.

Do you have any technology related questions? Send them to 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 | +27 12 460 2499



ManstratAIS



@ManstratAIS



ManstratAIS