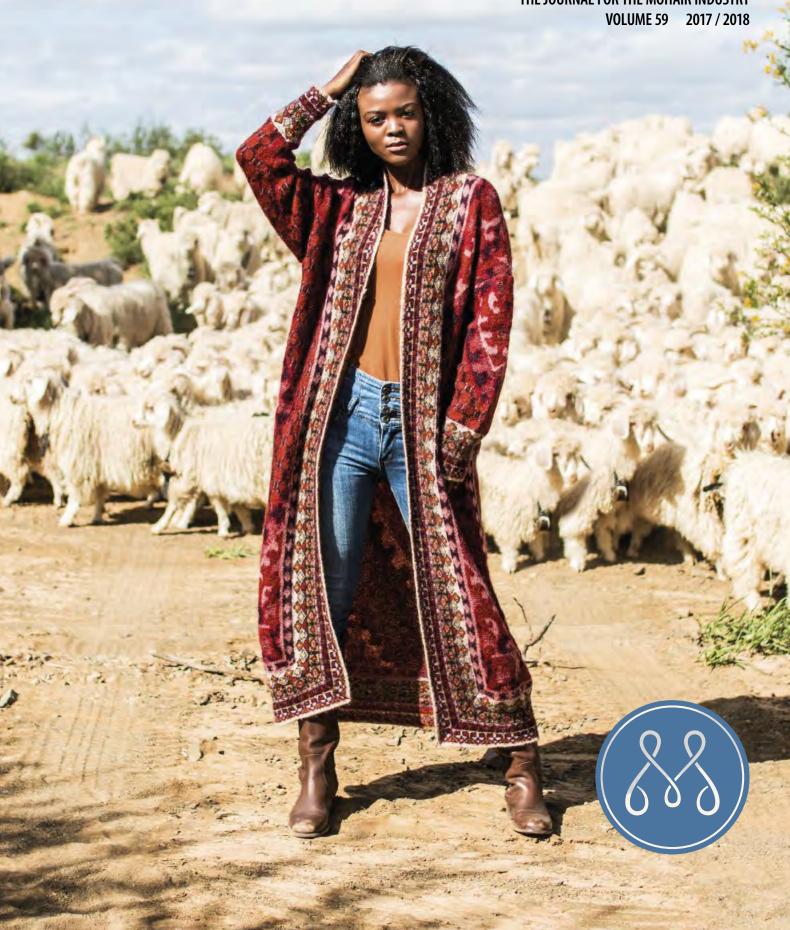
MOHAIR

THE JOURNAL FOR THE MOHAIR INDUSTRY







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— INTEGRITY —

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The Mohair Journal

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Message from Andries Greeff, Chairman of the South African Mohair Growers Association

t the end of 2016, we were optimistic that the prolonged drought would soon be over, but 2017 passed without relief. During the last three years, only 50 -60% of the long-term average rainfall was recorded. This resulted in an increasing deterioration of our natural pastures and the diminishing of groundwater. At present we are dependent on additional feeding for our stock and we have a terrifying shortage of water.

I would like to commend our Mohair producers for their tenacity to keep on producing in the face of these unfavourable climatic circumstances.

Without the help of individuals and organisations donating money, feed, transport subsidies and many other acts of kindness, we would not be able to survive. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for all that you did and still do to help producers when they feel helpless.

The recovery of the hair price is a godsend. Production stayed more or less the same at 2.4-million kilograms with a market value of R1.5-billion in foreign exchange. However, the price for kid hair is still too low. The demand for natural fibres will always be high, and we hope that the price would always be market-related.

The drought severely depleted our natural resources, making it impossible to successfully implement good veld management. When the rains come, we would have to ensure that our pastures recover before grazing at full

capacity again to ensure sustainability over the long term.

The industry and our veterinarian are continuously doing research on animal health. Special attention is given to the heart water vaccine issue, as well as wash and effective dipping systems, the latter which is essential to keep our product acceptable to the world market.

The Mohair Farm Workers Association held its annual meeting at Willowmore during the second half of 2017. It was well attended by about 70 members and applicable topics were discussed.

The Trustees worked hard to promote all facets of the mohair industry. Confidence in the industry increased and partnerships were formed to the benefit of all.

We start 2018 in faith – then we will all be winners.

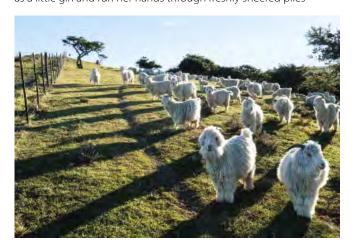




Message from the Editor ~ Riaan Marais

y mother grew up on an angora goat farm near the small town of Wolwefontein in the Eastern Cape. Sadly, her parents died when she was 8-years-old, and she moved to Uitenhage. The farm was sold and that part of her life became little more than a fond memory. I knew she was born on the farm, but she seldom spoke of what exactly my grandfather used to do, until November last year when I was hired as the new media and communications officer for Mohair South Africa.

It was like a wave of emotion and memories washed over her. She told me fondly how she used to play among the goats as a little girl and run her hands through freshly sheered piles



of mohair before it was taken to auctions. For her, this was a connection to her past, something she had partly forgotten and was now able to relive through my exploits in a new career path.

And for me, this new opportunity has been nothing short of amazing.

Being thrown into the deep end has always been my favourite way of learning, and right off the bat I realised there will be little rest over the first few months as I explored and learned about the mohair industry.

I quickly saw the crippling effect that the extended period of drought had on this industry and agriculture as a whole, the range of challenges farmers face daily and the pressures of government interference that made matters even worse.

However, I also met some resilient farmers with an incredible passion for their animals, their environment, and above all else the natural fibre this industry revolves around. I saw the positivity a little rain brings, and I learned that these farmers wouldn't go down without a fight.

Through my research, travel and writing for this edition of the Mohair Journal, I also developed a liking for this industry and its people – a liking I believe will soon turn into the same kind of passion as I saw among the farmers I have had the privilege of meeting.

I hope you enjoy reading this Journal as much as I enjoyed putting it together.



From the SAMGA office

Text | Henfred Linde

t the start of 2017 spirits were quite low due to veld conditions, prices and weather patterns. The hope that 2017 would break the ongoing drought faded, but luckily the year brought better prices for Angora products. Mohair, wool and meat prices did not disappoint and helped keep farmers' margins in check despite high production costs – mostly due to extra feed. Luckily our Heavenly Father sent rain across large parts of our production region towards the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018, bringing relief for most of our producers.

The silver lining in this dire time was the support from other farmers who stuck their hands deep into their pockets to assist where help was most needed. The South African Mohair Growers Association (SAMGA) would like to thank every individual, business and organisation that helped farmers, especially our mohair producers, in this desperate time. Your generosity will not soon be forgotten.

Unfortunately, a drought does not pass quickly and the effects will still be visible for a long time. Luckily the forecast for 2018 looks promising.

We would also like to thank our mohair producers for their loyalty in this trying time. Despite all the challenges they faced our Angora farmers still managed to raise their young goats and get their ewes ready mating in anticipation of the drought's end. SAMGA is there to support and provide for the needs of

mohair producers. SAMGA focus points for 2018 include the following: promoting production, promoting producers, animal health, predation management, sustainable mohair production, and the marketing and promotion of our product. Our industry veterinarian, under the SAMGA special projects portfolio, will also receive ongoing support. And our involvement in the annual Nampo harvest day and Agri Expo Livestock in Stellenbosch will also continue.

Keep an eye out for our annual information days, hosted by the various mohair producer branches, where we share information to improve farming practices and attempt to bring more farmers into the industry.

Every agricultural commodity goes through cycles of good and bad production and high and low prices. For that reason diversifying and adding value to your product should be an integral part of your farming enterprise, so be mindful of areas on your farm where two or more products can be produced. Luckily mohair is a product with value-adding potential and the nature of angora goat farming allows you to add more products. Small changes in farming and marketing plans can have big positive spin-offs.

I would like to wish every mohair producer a prosperous 2018, filled with abundant rain, strong goats and top quality mohair. Thank you for your continued support and loyalty to our industry.

 $For more information \ and \ news \ from \ SAMGA \ visit \ our \ website \ www. angoras. co.za, or visit \ our \ Facebook \ page: Mohair \ Growers \ South \ Africa.$





2017 Mohair Report

by Deon Saayman

he 2017 Mohair summer season started on a somewhat subdued note and on very similar levels as the last sale of 2016
Price levels for Kids and Young Goats started to show improvement by the 4th sale of the summer season, with adult hair still trading at fluctuating levels, with the average price level on the last summer sale only closing marginally higher from the opening sale.

The winter season kicked off on a stable note, with demand and price levels steadily increasing throughout the season to close on R233.94 p/kg, which was 24% higher than the opening sale of the 2017 winter season, and some 26 % higher than the closing sale of 2016. As it became clearer throughout the season that there will be substantially less strong adults on offer, the competition for this sector of the clip increased, as buyers tried to secure their share of the limited supply. The impact of the devastating drought became evident in the lower volumes available to the market, as well as a much finer offering than usual.

A comparison of the clip composition between 2016 and 2017 can be seen in *figure 1*, where strong adults decreased from 36% in 2016 to 30% in 2017.

The buyers' share of the market remained fairly constant from 2016, with the top makers taking up 77% of the market and the greasy buyers 23% of the market share.

Because of the lag in prices during the 2017 summer season,

the annual average market indicator for the year was 7% down from 2016 and came in at R201.53 p/kg. The longer-term price trends are indicated in the table (*figure 3*), where the recovery in prices later in the 2017 year is noticeable. If a longer-term view is taken on linear price trends, it is interesting to note that prices will return to the linear curve in the longer term.

China remained the leader in mohair imports from South Africa, followed by Italy and Taiwan, with export figures showing significant growth from 2016 (*figure 4*).

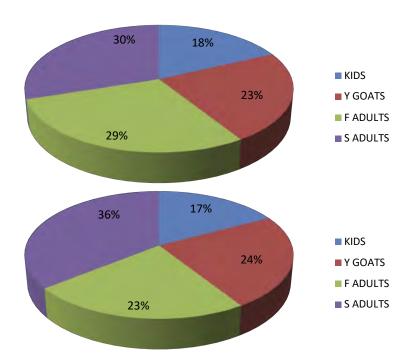
The South African mohair production is estimated at around 2.4-million kilograms for the 2017 year, with further pressure on production volumes expected for 2018, due to the extreme drought conditions experienced over most of the production area. It is anticipated that the kid and young goat sector will continue to improve during 2018, as current fashion trends and fine worsted demand is favouring the mohair look and feel. Continued growth in the Chinese domestic market is expected for mohair products, but a stronger SA currency could dampen prospective price growth.

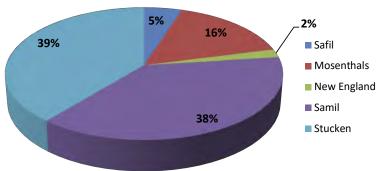
A strong shift towards sustainability and fibres produced within an ethical environment is being experienced and the mohair industry in South Africa is well positioned to supply a fibre to the market that meets all of these criteria. Focused and targeted marketing will be continued to ensure the most impact is made with limited funding available.

Figure 1

Clip Composition 2017

Clip Composition 2016



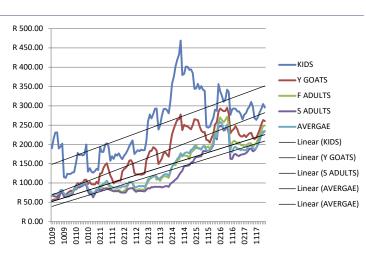


Buyers by weight 2017

Figure 2

Figure 3

Long Term Price Trends



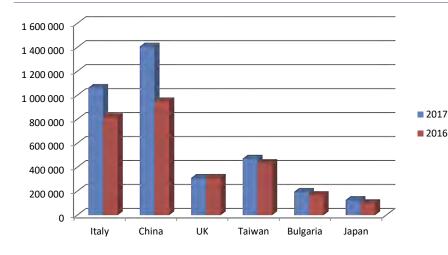


Figure 4

Mohair Imports from South Africa





natural | sustainable | versatile | luxury

For natural, sustainable mohair products contact MOHAIR



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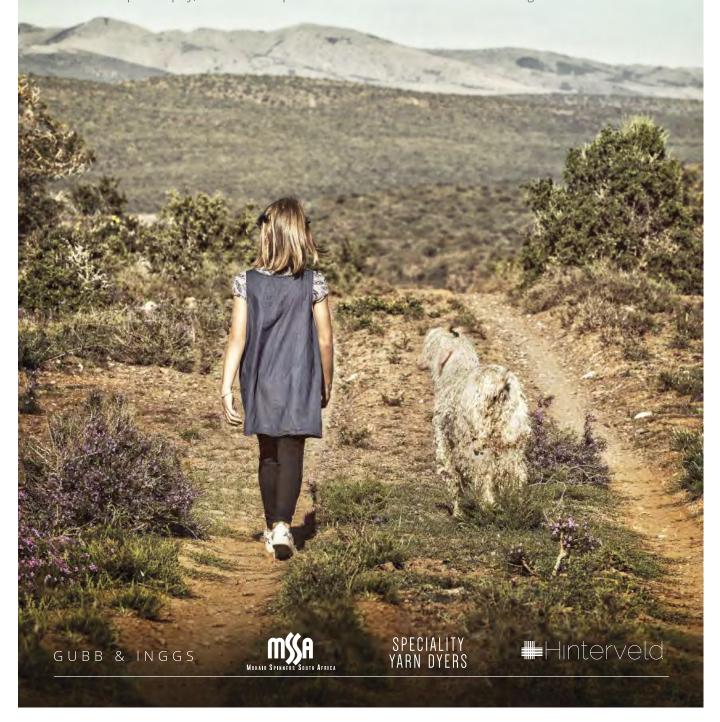




Sustainability: the fibre of our business.

As a company with sustainability at its core, we strive to minimise our environmental impact at every stage of the manufacturing process. From farm to final product, we embrace nature's resources and believe that our people, as well as the planet, should be treated with dignity and respect.

So it is with perseverance and passion, that we will continue to live by our principal philosophy; so we can help build a sustainable future for the next generation.





n the fast-paced world of modern consumerism, there is a global trend that is increasingly demanding products made from natural, renewable and sustainable raw materials. Increasingly retailers are relying on a garment's story of "provenance" to help sell their goods to an increasingly young, aware, informed and connected customer base. This new consumer trend is a story that is relayed quickly around the world using social media – information is instant, and the latest ideas are shared globally. To create a point of difference retailers, and by association, their suppliers, are committed to a new philosophy that places environmental awareness at the forefront of today's purchasing decision.

Mohair, as a product, is no exception. And it is important to understand that it is indeed a philosophy – a way of life - that encompasses the entire spectrum of our daily activities. For retailers, their customer's perception of their environmental responsibility is crucial, for manufacturers their entire process must speak to sustainability and for growers, the way in which their whole farming enterprise is managed determines their sustainability ranking in the eyes of their ultimate clients – the consumer.

The South African mohair industry must continue to embrace this new dynamic in the market to ensure that mohair remains relevant and desirable to today's consumer. The Sustainable Guidelines developed by Mohair South Africa are recognized internationally and have a very sound foundation on which mohair can build its reputation going forward. This will require innovative improvements to the guidelines to ensure they address the constantly changing

demands of retailers and consumers over time. Manufacturers will be expected to comply with stricter standards that warrant their compliance to sustainable practices and outcomes.

The South African Wool and Mohair Buyers Association (SAWAMBA) has largely funded the creation of Mohair South Africa's new Traceability Platform to ensure that the industry has the tools to address the challenges it will undoubtedly face in the future as the drive to deliver sustainable, renewable products gains momentum. It will require the entire industry - growers, buyers, processors, traders and administrators - to convey a consistent story that showcases a genuine commitment to ensuring that mohair retains its place as the noblest of fibres. That means being responsible too.

At the Stucken Group, we realise that preserving the environment is not only a concern of ours and our customers but also about embracing a philosophy based on creating sustainable production practices. We believe that in today's world our business approach should be interlinked with our environment.

We understand that as we embark on this journey, many aspects discussed above are a culmination and rationalisation of six generations worth of business knowledge, passed down from our fathers, which we intend to compile and pass on to our children. Important elements of our success resulted from listening to our customers, instilling and encouraging a sense of teamwork, showing professionalism in our relationships with our suppliers, respect for the environment and support towards our local community. These elements are often not highlighted on balance sheets but are essential in guaranteeing company continuity.



man must have cattle. These are the words that started a love of farming that has seen two brothers grow their agricultural operations from a handful of cows to a successful multi-faceted farm that includes the most successful partnership the Mohair Empowerment Trust has launched to date.

Simphiwe Fani, 42, and his older brother Linda, 55, currently have more than 130 head of cattle, 120 boer goats and more than 1000 sheep, but their pride and joy is the herd of more than 1000 angora goats which they are slowly turning into their most lucrative asset.

Their journey began 20 years ago with the wise words their grandfather imparted to Linda.

"My grandfather always told me that a man needs cattle. It represents his wealth and success. Farming was not necessarily the goal, but over time it has become our passion," he said.

The Fani brothers were born and raised in Tarkastad, a small town in the centre of South Africa's Eastern Cape Province, where agriculture is the main economic driver.

Together Linda and Simphiwe approached Landbank for a small loan – R12 000 with which they bought four head of cattle but, without land of their own, the cattle had to go to a nearby government-owned communal farm.

"Over time we were able to repay that loan. Then, through further loans and money from our own pockets, we were able to expand our operations," Simphiwe explained.

As their herds grew they needed more space and grazing, and their cattle were moved from one government farm to the other. This went on for more than a decade, until 2012 when their hard work and dedication finally paid off.

"We submitted an application to the Department of Rural

Development and Agrarian Reform, hoping that we could get some land of our own and find some stability for our operations. And in 2012 we signed a lease agreement for Doornrivier," Simphiwe said.

However, the 4 500 hectare farm, near Somerset East, was in a very poor condition, and the Fanis had to repair a section of fencing where they could keep their 85 head of cattle and 15 boer goats for the time being.

But their passion and ambition quickly saw them growing their business and branching out into new territory. They sold some of their cattle to bring a third livestock to the farm, buying 43 sheep ewes and one ram to add further value to their operations and to increase their revenue.

Their success did not go unnoticed, and in 2014 Mohair South Africa identified them as potential beneficiaries of its Empowerment Trust.

Established in 2010, the Empowerment Trust's aim is to assist emerging farmers to start mohair production on their farms. Beneficiaries are given a certain amount of angora goats, which they repay over a predetermined time period interest-free.

At that stage, the Fanis had done their homework and were planning on adding angora goats to their expanding operation. However, they had planned to do it on their own and initially met the Empowerment Trust's proposal with a measure of scepticism.

"The former manager met us and told us they were looking at helping emerging farmers. I admit we were very sceptical. Why did they approach us? What was in it for them? But the more we listened the more it started to make sense," Simphiwe said.

"Besides, we were heading towards angora farming anyway. After discussing it with my brother we realised that our goals, and



How a love of farming became an **Empowerment** Trust success story

the goals of the Empowerment Trust, lined up perfectly."

Their initial agreement read as followed: 1000 angora goats, to the tune of approximately R1-million, repayable over five years, interest-free. This meant 25 percent of the profits from the Fanis mohair clips went towards repaying their debt, and the remaining 75 percent went into their pockets.

But the Fanis had other plans.

They went back to the Empowerment Trust with a counter offer. They would keep only 20 percent of the profits, with the remaining 80 percent going towards repaying the money owed to the Trust.

"We were afraid of this loan. We wanted to repay it as quickly as possible. We don't like debt. We want to know that what we have is ours," Linda said.

And so their relationship with mohair began.

Initially, the Fanis were unfamiliar with angora goats and wanted to minimise the risk by farming with the "easiest form of the animals" so, as per their agreement with the Trust, about 1000 kapaters (castrated rams) were brought to Doornrivier between 2014 and 2017.

Empowerment Trust manager Sarel Hayward said kapaters are ideal for inexperienced farmers as they are easier to manage than farming with ewes and the added complications that come with kids.

"With kapaters you have to keep an eye out for parasites and diseases and manage your shearing operations, without having to worry about breeding, kidding and a host of other issues it brings," Hayward said.

He explained that farmers, like the Fanis, keep their herd young by regularly classing the goats - checking their condition and setting aside animals that are too old to produce good quality mohair. These animals are sold, the money taken as payment for their loan, and new goats are sent to the farm. The cost of the new goats is then adding to the outstanding amount still owed to the Empowerment Trust.

"The Fanis made the right decision by admitting their inexperience and taking on only kapaters. The plan is to approach all our future projects like this," Hayward said.

According to Hayward, the last batch of goats delivered to Doornrivier included about 50 ewes and two rams, giving the Fanis the opportunity to now expand their herds on their own.

"Initially we wanted to give them 150 ewes, but the brothers said they want to minimise their risk, so the final agreement saw 50 ewes delivered to their farm. Now they can start their own breeding project."

The end of 2017 marked a special moment for the Fani brothers, as well as the Empowerment Trust, as the five-year loan was repaid in only three years.

The Fanis successful partnership with the Empowerment Trust also offers a new opportunity. The Empowerment Trust currently has five other similar projects running across the Eastern and Western Cape, and is in the process of identifying more potential beneficiaries.

Negotiations have already started to invest further in the Fanis and, should they be able to secure more land, either through government funding or out of their own pockets, the Empowerment Trust could continue its journey with the brothers.

"If they Fanis get more land we would happily commit even more goats to their operations," Hayward said.

Linda echoed Hayward's commitment.

"This marriage is working well. It would be a shame to let it die," he said.

"Once we secure more land we will definitely be open to negotiating a new deal with the Empowerment Trust."

The Fanis' new found passion for mohair stretches beyond just animals and money. They are looking to establish a legacy that will provide security for their future generations as well as secure their family name among some of the agricultural greats.

"We want our children to go to the Grootfontein Agricultural College and specialise in these animals which have given us this great opportunity. We want to see them come back to the farm and take over from us with more knowledge and skills than we have," Simphiwe said.

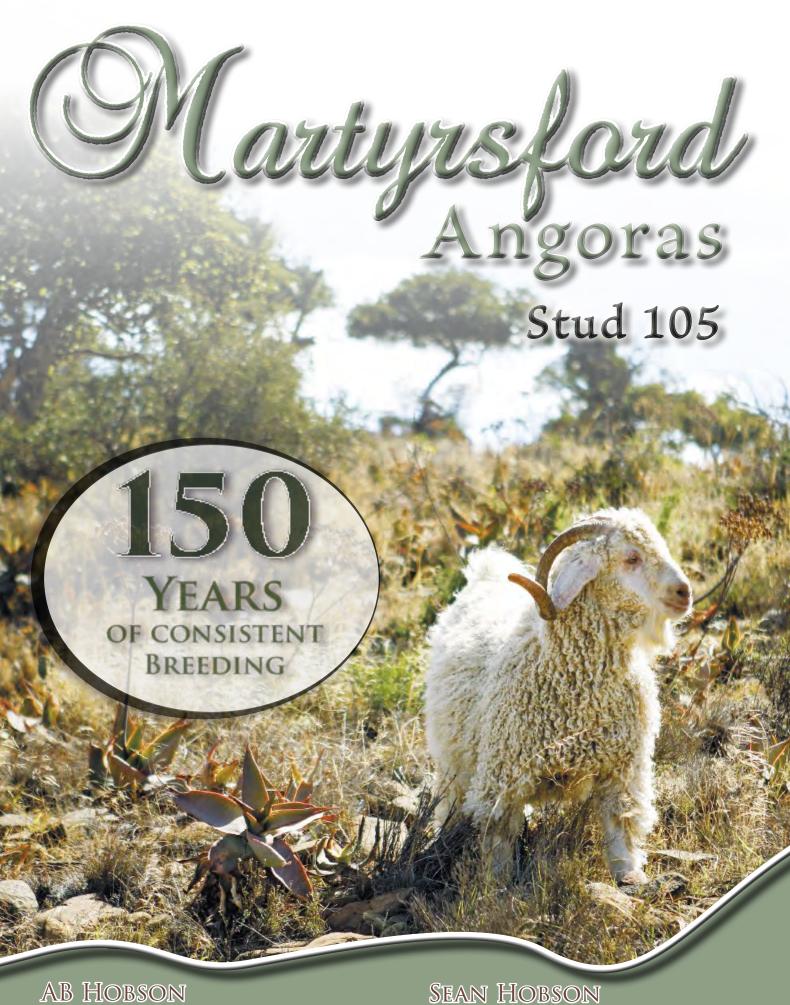
"We want other farmers in the area to look at us and say: Hey, those are the Fanis, they are great farmers, they are commercial farmers."



Farm like the Fanis

- » "Do not wait for the government to come to you. If you want things to happen you have to go and find the opportunities yourself. Our dedication and hard work brought us to the point where people noticed us, and in turn that brought big things our way. We do not want to sound arrogant, but we want other farmers to learn from our example."
- » "Diversify your operations. You cannot keep all your eggs in one basket. If you only have one commodity, and it fails, you will be left with nothing. You must always have more than one income stream and something to fall back on."





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Weaving stories for a lifetime...

hemes of love, friendship and success will always hit home when telling any story, and last year Mohair South Africa tugged at the heartstrings when it released a short film to show the world what its brand and industry is all about.

The film, centered around the lasting friendship between two young boys from the Karoo, was a runaway success with more than half a million views on social media alone in just a few months, invoking feelings of nostalgia among all its viewers.

With its roots planted firmly in South Africa, more precisely the Eastern Cape, Mohair SA insisted on keeping all elements that went into the production of the film as local as possible - making use of a Port Elizabeth based production company, shooting at locations in the Eastern Cape, sourcing all the acting talent from within the province and even getting a local musician to write and perform a song specifically for the film.

The project was the brainchild of Mohair SA marketing team Anle Marais and Lindsay Humphreys who drew from real stories coming out of the industry to create an authentic and true-to-life representation of mohair.

Mohair SA approached Port Elizabeth based filmmakers Rooftop Productions, whose portfolio includes a number of projects for international companies and NGO's, including a series of advertisements for the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). They are well-known for their story-telling capabilities and were the ideal candidates for the film Mohair SA had in mind.

The end result depicts a Karoo farm in the 1980s where two little boys, Andile and Jack, grow up together until they are separated when Andile leaves home.

Apart, they become successful adults - Jack taking over his family mohair farm and Andile pursuing a career as a fashion designer - but they manage to stay in touch. Years later they are reunited at the New York Fashion Week where Andile's garments, made from Jack's mohair, are showcased.

"It shows the power of universal appeal, themes of friendship, nostalgia and success. Our hope was that this brand film would both educate and inspire, with the story of mohair being told from the farm to the fashion ramps of the world," said Humphreys.

And the film's director Nick Waring could not have been more thrilled with the outcome.

"Mohair SA came to us with the outline of what they wanted, and it immediately piqued our interest. It fitted the kind of work that we do and sounded like a story that needed to be told. It sounded like a story that mattered," Waring said.

Guided by Marais and Humphreys, Waring and his team at Rooftop started planning the project in mid-2016, and





the film was officially released in September 2017. More than six months passed before filming even started as the production faced a number of unique challenges.

The main one of these was that shooting on location on two farms near Graaff-Reinet presented some difficulty during a period of intense drought, and filming was delayed until conditions on the Martyrsford and Wheatlands farms improved.

"We didn't want to portray anything negative, so we had to wait for conditions to improve a bit. In the end, we were able to shoot some beautiful scenes on both farms, despite some delays," Waring said.

However, the city of Port Elizabeth offered some iconic spots for filming. The historic Tramways Building and Mohair SA's headquarters were transformed into venues for a high-end fashion show and design studio, while the Bridge Street Brewery easily passed for a New York pub where the two old friends could catch up over a drink.

"It would also have been very easy to recruit actors from Cape Town and Johannesburg, but because we wanted to use local people the casting process took a bit longer.

"Hundreds of boys auditioned for parts and more than 50

A look behind the scenes of the short film that helped mohair find a special place in hearts across the world.

men were looked at to fill the roles of Andile and Jack. We needed people who were genuine, who would play the roles in a believable way, and we were very happy with the result."

Marais said working with "boisterous boys and rompish goats" presented some interesting challenges but gave the film the authenticity that portrayed the brand perfectly.

"Port Elizabeth is the world's mohair capital, so it was our intention from the start to make this an Eastern Cape production, highlighting local talent and showcasing our beautiful region," Marais said.

"But the highlight was seeing how naturally a real friendship developed between the two boys, Derek Ayankoya and Elijah Jackson, who portrayed the roles of Andile and Jack."

A further layer of local flavour was added to the mix, as the entire film is underpinned by the soundtrack "Growing Up" which was written and performed by Eastern Cape







born musician Charlie Finch, specifically for the film.

Waring said before working on the film he had known about mohair, but had very little real knowledge about the industry, the farms and people involved.

"This has been an awesome experience. Our team really loved getting to know the brand that is so deeply rooted in our community, a bit better."

Since the touching five-minute film was released it has been seen around the world, and the response has been nothing short of incredible.

Everywhere the Mohair SA marketing team travelled they showed the film and, once it was released on social media, the South African and global public fell in love with the brand.

Multiple Facebook users recounted stories from their own pasts – growing up on farms and befriending the children of farm workers, identifying with Andile and Jack on a very deep, personal level.

"Mohair SA's video captures something beautiful – and proves that good news stories do work. They make an impact and people respond," Rooftop managing director Richard Ahlfeldt said.









Cast:

Young Andile – Derek Ayankoya Young Jack – Elijah Jackson Andile's father – Pingman Jack's father – Frants Combrink Adult Andile – Siyamthanda Nwashula Adult Jack – Wayne Barnes Andile's boss – Morné van der Schyff

Locations:

Wheatlands Mohair Farm Martyrsford Mohair Farm Woodridge Junior School The Tramways Building Port Elizabeth International Airport Bridge Street Brewery SHAG High Voltage Hair



ooking out over the balcony of his seventh-floor penthouse suite on the Port Elizabeth beachfront, Francis Patthey laughs as he thinks of the age-old saying that kept him at the forefront of the natural fibres industry for the past seven decades.

"They say the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. If you keep moving forward you keep finding new fences and greener grass. There is always something new to look forward to, there is never an end to what you can do. You just need to keep moving," Patthey said.

He speaks with a thick accent, but it is difficult to say where it comes from. Born in Switzerland, halfway between Bern and Lausanne, on the border of Swiss-German and Swiss-French regions, he landed a job at the Peruvian branch of a British auditing firm until he started his own natural fibre business in Peru.

Since then Patthey has travelled across the world more times than he can count and finally settled in South Africa where he plans to celebrate his 90th birthday later this year.

Probably the only thing more impressive than his travel history is his curriculum vitae and his business acumen that has seen him at the head of dozens of highly successful (and some less successful) business ventures over the past seven decades.

When asked if Patthey considers himself a successful businessman, he shrugs his shoulders, puts on a wry smile and simply answers: "I guess you could say so."

But for those who know him well, it is that modesty that makes him most endearing.

During his illustrious entrepreneurial career, Patthey has started more than 30 businesses and either passed them down to his family, sold them, or closed them down. These included ventures in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, tourism and fashion, but his true passion lies in textiles – more specifically the natural fibres they originate from.

In his biography, titled The Capitalist Vagabond – Memoirs of Francis O Patthey, he details a very simple upbringing that, through an intricate chain of events (including World War II), grew into a passion for innovation.

In the 1950s he started a company

that exported raw alpaca fleeces from Peru to Europe. At the time there was a lot of discussion about adding value to raw materials produced in underdeveloped regions of the world.

So in the following decade Patthey, along with some business partners, established Alpha Tops in Arequipa, Peru – an alpaca hair combing plant that saw them adding value at origin level by exporting processed tops instead of raw, or greasy, hair. Over the next few decades spinning, dyeing, weaving, knitting and the making of garments were added to the company's repertoire, eventually culminating into Kuna – an exclusive fashion label with a number of stores throughout South America.

This passion did not stop with alpaca

story is not without faults. In his book, he touches on business ventures, a number of them in South Africa, which failed spectacularly and cost him dearly. This included a small trucking company running between Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg that did not survive and a bottling plant that manufactured an energy drink called Accelerade that could not compete with other major brands and was forced to close down.

His most spectacular failure came when he started his own ostrich farm, complete with abattoir, tannery and massive birds imported from Zimbabwe. But an outbreak of bird flu led to the culling of his entire flock – thousands of ostriches – and he was forced to write it off as a failed experiment.

Serial entrepreneur's recipe for **SUCCESS**

fleece. Business ventures throughout Europe in the 1970's gave way to new opportunities, and through a partnership with British textile company Harold Laycock, Patthey started a company called Mohpaca, adding mohair to his existing alpaca empire.

Initial efforts to establish a mohair combing plant in Texas failed and the plant was moved to South Africa, where mohair was steadily developing into a thriving industry. Patthey later became chairman of South African Mohair Industries Limited (SAMIL) and is still widely considered as one of the most influential figures of the South African mohair industry.

"My idea was to copy in South Africa what had been achieved in Peru with alpaca, but this time with mohair, of which there is plenty and of a very good quality," Patthey said.

However, the serial entrepreneur's

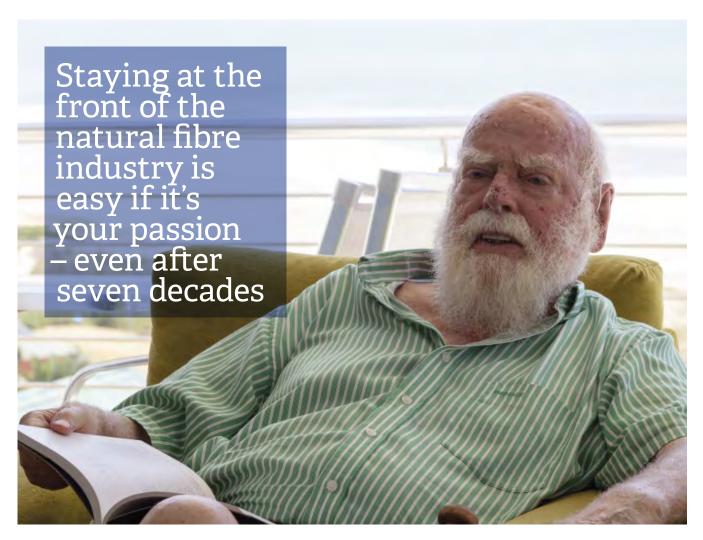
But his successes far outweigh his failures, and within SAMIL, Patthey established SAMIL Farming, the agricultural division of the natural fibre company, which produces much of the mohair processed and exported by the company.

SAMIL Farming manager, Andries Coetsee, who works closely with Patthey, said he had nothing but respect and admiration for the aged businessman.

"Being in his presence is both exhausting and enriching at the same time. I have nothing but respect for that man," he said.

"The energy and passion of this man is absolutely incredible. Even at his age, you would find many people from younger generations that would struggle to keep up with his quick, sharp mind.

"He is a straight-shooter, and I have seen first-hand how he treats farmworkers and international business leaders with the



same amount of dignity and respect."

He believes Patthey's biggest fear is that synthetic fibres will completely replace natural fibres, making it his life's mission to ensure that South Africa will always have ample supply of mohair to send out into the world.

Part of the legacy Patthey aims to leave behind is ANGELA - the Angora Genetics Laboratory Research NPC (Non-Profit Company) – aimed at improving the genetics of mohair producing goats through selective breeding and exposing them to varying conditions across the Eastern Cape region of South Africa.

ANGELA, fully funded out of Patthey's own coffers, was established in 2014 to counter the increasing trend of goats producing less and less mohair over the past few years.

"Traditionally you would have seen about 2.5 kilograms of mohair being shorn from a goat every six months. Nowadays, it has dropped to about 1.5 kilograms," he said.

"The idea behind ANGELA is to breed larger animals, with more hair. We have seen some results over the past three years, but we are still far from what we wish to achieve."

Coetsee said the ANGELA programme has a 20-year lifespan within which they hope to introduce genetically superior animals into the industry market by selling them to angora breeders.

"It is a shame Mr Patthey only became involved in the mohair industry at such a late stage of his life. If he had been around 40 years ago, I think we would be looking at a very different mohair industry today. And if it were possible, I wish he could still be around in 40 years from now," Coetsee said.

But Patthey has other plans.

"I will probably retire later this year," the 89-year-old said, laughing.

Asked what he plans to do once he retires Patthey said he had not given it much thought yet.

"I will probably still keep an eye on my ventures. I have much faith in ANGELA and we also started a partnership with some black emerging farmers, helping them start up some mohair projects," he said.

"Last year I also donated some money to assist with drought relief, so I will probably look for more places to assist where possible."

As testimony to his goodwill, one of his favourite sayings was engraved on a wooden board that hangs in the SAMIL boardroom, and it reads: "In order to give, you must have. To have and not to give, that is bad."

Looking further ahead, one plan that Patthey has already finalised is his funeral, which will once again confirm his love of farming and his adopted home in South Africa.

At Woodlands, the Eastern Cape farm where SAMIL Farming established the Woodlands Angora Stud, stands a Spekboom that is believed to be more than a century old and is probably one of the oldest trees in the region. Patthey intends to have his ashes, along with a bottle of his favourite wine, buried under this natural monument.

"After my death, I hope to contribute, even if only by a single grain of sand, something to the environment, something that would help reduce the carbon footprint on the atmosphere," Patthey said.

alpha tops

SAMI

NATURAL FIBRES (Pty) Ltd.



South Afriça Italy, Biella Italy, Prato China, Cashmere China, Alpaca/Mohair

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Jordi van Hasselt and Klaas Williams from Grand Champion Van Hasselt Farming, and Sustainability runner-up Sarel du Plessis.

Fifth Miyuki Keori Title for Van Hasselt Farming

or the better part of four decades, the Japanese fabric weaving company Miyuki Keori has been awarding South Africa's top mohair producers for the world's finest clip of the noble fibre. Since partnering up with the South African mohair industry in 1980, the Miyuki Keori Trophy has become one of the industry's most coveted prizes. And rather than award just one grand champion, the Japanese company has also seen the importance of promoting and awarding sustainable farming practices.

Over the past 37 years there have been a number of mohair producers have lifted the sought-after trophy, but in recent years Van Hasselt Farming has staked its claim as the one to beat. In 2017 they walked away with the title of Grand Champion for the fifth time in six years.

Vleikuil Farming was named Reserve Grand Champion, while FE Colborne and Sons and Driehoeksfontein Farming were awarded for the Champion Summer and Winter Clip respectively.

AJ de Jager won first prize in the Sustainable Guidelines category, followed closely by Sarel du Plessis.

President of Miyuki Keori Mr Naoto Yoshida had the following message for the South African mohair producers:

"First of all, I would like to convey our special thanks to Mohair South Africa and all the growers, buyers, processors and spinners for the continuous support of quality mohair distribution and promotion.

"I have been appointed as the president of Miyuki in June 2017. Miyuki, established in 1905, is a unique company who can supply not only textile but also garment through our own production and sales channel. All factories are based in Japan and we produce more than 100 000 made-to-measure suits annually.

"Our goal is delighting consumers with luxury natural fibres such as mohair.

"I look forward to visiting South Africa in the near future."



FARMING

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Father and son Gert and Pieter Jordaan received the Daidoh Trophy from Stucken Group director Anthony Kirsten.

Jordaan family crowned Daidoh Trophy champion

he Jordaan family, from Aberdeen, walked away with top honours after lifting the coveted Daidoh Trophy for 2017, leaving Gert Jordaan in disbelief. "We never expected it. This was the first time we made it this far in the competition and to be announced the winner still feels surreal," Jordaan said.

The Daidoh Company was founded in 1879 and is one of the world's leading producers of fine fabrics and clothing, including suits made from the finest kid mohair. In 1992 Daidoh, in collaboration with the Mohair Board, initiated the Daidoh Trophy Competition in an effort to encourage farmers to produce only the finest quality mohair.

The average price for summer kid mohair is calculated and the

farmer with the highest average clip price walks away with the title.

Jordaan joined the family business of angora farming in 1982, but his family has been mohair producers in the Aberdeen region for more than four decades.

"We love what we do and we care about our animals and product. An award like this will draw some attention to our operations, and hopefully grow our business and production further," Jordaan said.

His son Pieter also praised the field officers for their hard work and the trust shown in their product by the buyers.

In a letter read at the awards ceremony in Graaff-Reinet Daidoh Company president Shin Okawa sent his regards to the finalists and congratulated the winners on their achievements.

"It is our great pleasure to present

the Daidoh Trophy prize. We praise all the dedicated producers, not only the trophy winners, for their hard work and great efforts to produce the highest quality mohair."

He said it is an honour for them to support the South African mohair producers who, in turn, supply them with high-quality fibres for their exclusive fabrics.

"We are so proud to be part of your industry, and to support its future development and prosperity," he said.

The top five were:

- 1. Gert Jordaan Family trust
- 2. FE Colborne & Sons
- 3. JH Lategan
- 4. Neil Colborne
- 5. AR Hobson



Mohair South Africa director Rothner Bekker, Zegna trophy winner Jan Lategan and his wife Elizabeth, and Zegna Group chairman Paolo Zegna.

Record setting Zegna Trophy for Lategan

aws dropped when Jan Lategan's summer kid mohair sold for R896 per kilogram at the Zegna Special Auction last year - the highest price ever paid at the annual event. The Ermenegildo Zegna Company, a global leader in luxury menswear, is known for pushing the boundaries when it comes to innovations in the fashion industry and the production of tailored suits from the finest mohair. They also proved they are willing to push the boundaries when it comes to the price of South African

mohair at the 2017 edition of the Zegna Summer Kid Mohair Trophy competition.

Zegna established the competition in partnership with the South African mohair industry nearly 50 years ago, and the incentive of carrying such a coveted title has played a large role in the quality of the country's kid mohair production.

While South Africa is already regarded as the world leader in mohair production and quality, the aim of the competition is to motivate producers to achieve even greater heights and to

further increase both the quality and fineness of their kid mohair. And the clip on offer at the 47th edition of the competition did not disappoint.

Lategan was officially crowned the 2017 winner at an intimate prize-giving ceremony in Johannesburg in October, where Zegna Group chairman Paolo Zegna presented him with the trophy.

Second and third places went to F.E. Colborne and Sons and Van Hasselt Farming respectively.

The suit that tells a tale

hen someone puts on a handmade mohair suit, crafted especially for them, they want to know where their money is going – the need to know the story of the farmers who worked tirelessly to ensure the quality of the fibre, and they need to know jobs, families and the environment did not suffer for them to wear this exquisite garment. This is the trend that the Ermenegildo Zegna Company is seeing more and more from their exclusive clientele, and president of the Italian fashion giant Paolo Zegna says it is a mindset they wish to preserve as long as possible.

"In the past, people only bought a product. But nowadays people want a story. They want to know where the product comes from, who the people are making it, and where their money is actually going.

"We are coming out of a generation where people only wanted to buy the most expensive product. But the younger generation is extremely sensitive to the effect their purchases are having. They want to know they are preserving jobs, families and the environment," Paolo said.

The Zegna brand has been an intricate part of the South African mohair industry since the 1950s, buying only the finest kid mohair for use in their exclusive tailored suits, and for more than four decades their Ermenegildo Zegna Summer Kid Mohair Trophy has been a coveted prize pushing mohair producers to excellence.

"When my father and uncle introduced the Summer Kid Mohair competition they wanted to offer the South African farmers an incentive - the trophy not only came with a prize, but also global prestige. They took better care of their kids and their hair, improving the entire South African industry.

"And for us, it meant kid mohair of the finest quality."

Today kid mohair suits make up less than five percent of their company's production and are reserved for a very exclusive, niche market. Due to its rarity, kid mohair suits are only made to special order for select clients and the company has a special division in Milan that specialises solely in mohair.

"We have many other innovations in different fields. We have a specialist department working with woven leather, where thin leather is woven with other fibres to create leather-based yarns.

"Our Techmerino range of casual wear is also being developed further, looking at new innovations for merino wool and its application as a sportswear and lifestyle brand.



Zegna wants to sell a story, not just clothing

Superfine Merino wool is combined with advanced processing and finishing techniques to produce Techmerino, a fabric that is breathable, waterproof and can adapt to ambient temperature, all while providing a superior fit and comfort - ideal for casual and active wear.

"But on the mohair side, we are simply specialising in the best possible quality. This is where our finest handmade suits, from our rarest fibre, deserve the most attention," Paolo said.

The company's presence in South Africa is also something they value dearly, and through their collaboration with the Moosa family, their shop in Johannesburg has been a great success.

He said South Africa is becoming increasingly popular as an international destination, giving them the opportunity to reach the global market.

"And South Africa gives us a closer connection to the story behind out mohair range. Our company values family above all, and we know the South African mohair industry is a close-knit, family-driven industry.

"We want people to know we appreciate the passion and the dedication every farmer puts into giving us the finest kid mohair, and we want our clients to feel a connection not only to our brand but to the people behind our products."

Sharing knowledge for the greater good

ver the past 180 years, South Africa has steadily positioned itself as the undisputed mohair capital of the world - the global leader in production, export and processing, and the authority other mohair producing countries look to for direction and innovation.

While South America is known for the production of other natural fibres. like wool and alpaca fleece, its mohair industry is also steadily growing.

Last year the Argentinian government made the decision to find out more about the South African mohair industry to

identify ways for them to improve their own, with the hopes of turning it into a thriving economic opportunity that would benefit their agricultural sector and plough funds back into the country's coffers.

In November an Argentinian delegation, comprising angora breeders, government officials, agricultural specialists and headed by specialist veterinarian Matias Vattovez visited South Africa on a research expedition to identify ways of improving their own practices.

Hailing from the Neuquén region in Central Argentina the delegation spent little more than a week in and around the mohair hub of Port Elizabeth and the Eastern Cape, visiting mohair producing farms and processing plants, attending the Graaff-Reinet ram sale, visiting the Grootfontein Agricultural College in Middelburg and meeting scientists at Ramsem - a facility in Bloemfontein in the Free State province, specialising in breeding research and artificial insemination of small stock.

Despite their visit being relatively short, each member of the delegation took away valuable information which they believe could be both beneficial to themselves, as well as their local agricultural sector.

Last year Mohair South Africa hosted a group of Argentinian agriculturalists keen on improving their industry through knowledge they obtained in the global mohair capital.



Matías Vattovez, 45.

Occupation: Veterinarian, specialist in ruminants reproduction.

Technical Director of Ruminants Reproductive Biotechnologies Laboratory of Campana Mahuida

Agrozootechnical Station, under the Production and Tourism Ministry of the Neuquén Province Government.

Every little detail of our visit was interesting, especially the integrity of the entire mohair chain. All the roleplayers pull towards a common goal – strengthening the mohair sector to achieve greatness.

I highlight the transparency, seriousness, sincerity and spirit of work of the whole value chain, each link with clear objectives and working hard to reach them. This includes the fundamental and allencompassing role that Mohair South Africa fulfils through an excellent team led by Deon Saayman, without whom it would not have been possible to carry out our mission.

What also stood out for me was the fighting spirit of the farmers who, despite many adversities, never give up. They do what they have to do to - continue

producing. This, coupled with a clever, continuous and transparent trade system, where brokers and farmers work hand-in-hand, was truly remarkable. I appreciate the kind of treatment that all these role players gave us, opening their doors and showing us what makes them prosper.

If there is one simple suggestion I would make, it is that the local genetics be spread more evenly, not only within the industry but also out into the rest of the world. For example, the semen and embryos from this great pool of genetics could be opened up to producers across the world, promoting great genetic progress and possibly offer an additional income stream for ram breeders.

María Amalia Sapag, 47.

Occupation: Agricultural Engineer with an MSc in Rural Development. Technical Secretary of the Production and Tourism Ministry in the Neuguén Province Government.

I appreciated the transparency throughout the mohair production and marketing chain. The role Mohair South Africa plays in highlighting the entire value chain, the diffusion of information, and the crucial link it forms between the different roleplayers, is vital to the prosperity of the industry.

It was also great to see the social impact mohair and its marketing has in the country – how it is perceived as a luxury item, the prizes awarded to producers for excellence, the pride farmers have in their products and how the industry brings value to the smaller towns around which it is centred.

If you were to ask me where the South African mohair industry could improve, I have no answer for you. This country is so far ahead of its competitors, it would be foolish to suggest any improvements.

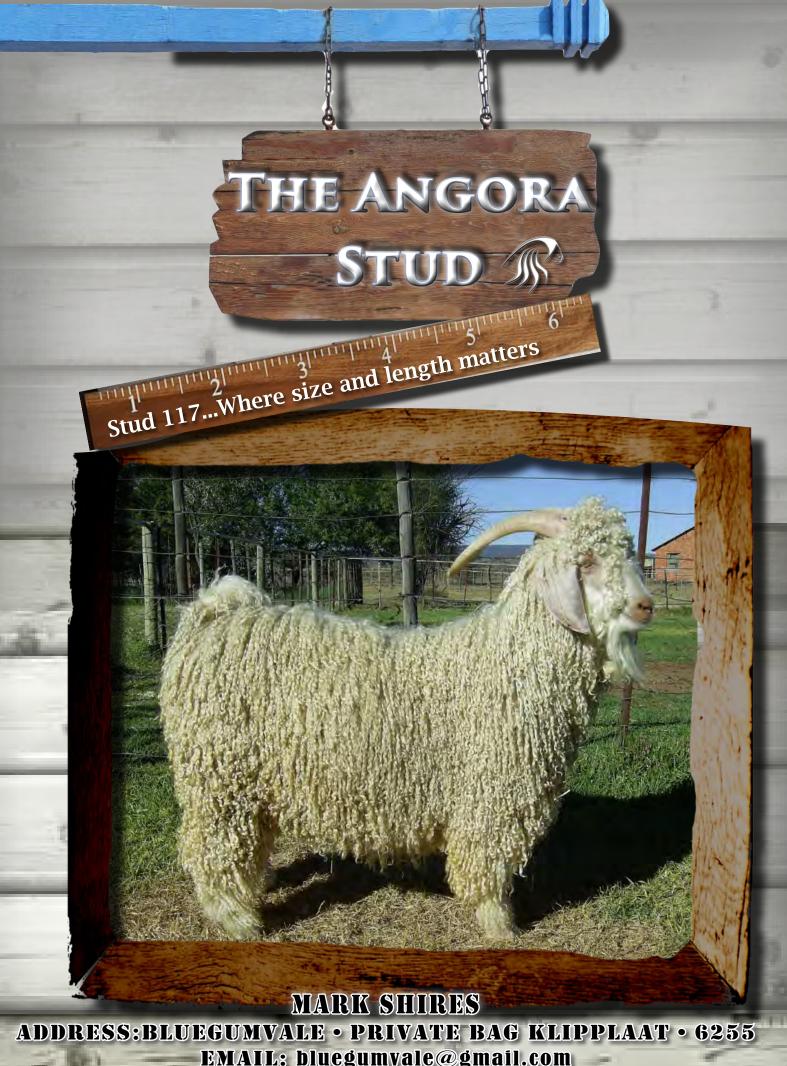
Cristina Rosa García, 44.

Occupation: Farmer and angora goat breeder

From Laguna Blanca (White Lagoon), in the Zapala region of Neuquén Province.

Despite our industry still being a long way behind the South African mohair sector, I would like to believe we are on the right track. For me, as an angora goat breeder, it was great to see the advances





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they have made in the production and processing of their farmers' products, and the way their economic systems work.

We were very well received by everyone throughout the industry, as well as all the places we visited along the way. South Africa is a place full of caring and warm people, and it is a beautiful country. Despite the drought it is experiencing it was still a beautiful, green and clean place to visit.

Ovidio Javier Meriño, 38.

Occupation: Farmer and angora goat breeder from Paso Aguerre, on the Picún Leufú river.

President of the Agricultural and Commercialisation Cooperative of Small Farmers of Neuquén Central Zone.

The entire mohair sector, from the breeders to the points of sale, is so well organised. Thanks to this well-structured chain there is enough value added to mohair so that the primary producer is well compensated. It

was also great to see how many jobs are created for the local workforce through a natural fibre like mohair.

In the interest of creating more jobs, the South Africa industry could look at programmes that create 100 percent handmade products, like garments or decorations. Local artisans could learn the art of hand weaving and naturally dyeing yarns to use in the making of clothing items and home decor. But looking at the industry as a whole, your country has such a wealth of experience and such a positive trajectory that you have come very close to perfecting mohair production, compared to other countries.

Omar Darío Heick, 51.

Occupation: Agricultural Engineer specialising in small ruminants *Eastern Regional Director for the Production and Tourism Ministry of the Neuquén Province Government*

The harmonious relationship between all the different players in the South African

mohair industry contributes to one ultimate goal: the production and marketing of a quality product. Each sector is recognised and valued for their contributions.

I found their use of brokers very interesting. It is something we could possibly adapt to suit our own industry and economy. There are a number of genuine quality control checks in place, and no one fights it. Their mohair has great value and has secured a niche in the market, something that is still lacking in Argentina.

All of these different aspects are tied together by Mohair South Africa that plays an integral part in promoting transparency and marketing the product.

Our visit to South Africa was a special one for me, because certain places, with their natural beauty and climate, reminded me of home. There was a strange feeling of ancestral belonging, a mystique about the country that I cannot explain, but I could certainly feel.







Efficient, cost effective and greener alternatives to the national power grid

Off the grid

ustainability - the concept that we are saving the planet by harvesting alternative resources - has evolved to the point where we are not only going green for nature but also trying our best to keep our bank accounts in the green.

Add to that the fact that extensive mohair production is often located in remote areas, sometimes without any electrical supply lines. So what if we could couple the need for electricity with the modern idea of sustainability and renewable energy?

Some sustainable practices can put a dent in your bank account, but the long-term goal is to save money. Ideally, you want to "go green", save money in the long run, and also keep the initial costs down when setting up your sustainable practices.

Green energy, more specifically solar power, has come a long way over the past few years. For most systems, the setup will still cost a sizable amount of capital, and if you already have a reliable powerline on your farm you may not think the initial cost justifies the long-term savings.

But what if you don't have a powerline? What do you do if you have new land with no electricity supply? What options are available and what would be the best option for you? Here is a case study that could give you a clearer picture.

Vetkuil

About 20 kilometres from Beaufort West, heading towards Aberdeen, sits Vetkuil, owned by mohair producer Willem Wagner. The farm is completely off the grid, utilising boreholes for water, and solar energy instead of the Eskom supply.

"When considering my options for electricity on the farm I had to take a number of factors into account, including the weather, the distance to my nearest Eskom connection and what exactly I want to use my power for.

"In the end, solar power was not only the most sensible option but also came with the lowest price tag," Wagner said.

Vetkuil has three main solar power setups for various uses. Here are some specifications, and pricing, that could prove valuable to anyone looking to give solar energy a try.

Large system:

Specifications: 42 x 265 W solar panels

- » 7.5 kW variable drive 3-phase motor (with inverter)
- » 5.5 kW 3-phase Grundfos water pump
- » Total cost: R160 000

Wagner uses this system to fill up his main dam (35m x 35m x 1.8m) for flood irrigation on 18 hectares of lucerne. The system pumps up to 120,000 litres of water per hour from a 12-metre deep borehole and fills up his dam in about a day and a half.

Medium system:

Specifications: 5 x 250 kW solar panels

- » Lorentz submersible solar pump
- » Total cost: R100 000

This system fills up a much smaller cement dam that Wagner uses to pump water into troughs for his goats. About 20,000 litres is extracted per hour from the 18-metre deep borehole.

Small system:

Specifications: 5 x 150 kW solar panels » Grundfos submersible solar pump

» Total cost: R50 000

Pumping up to 5,000 litres of water per hour, this system supplies Wagner's home with water for household use. The water is extracted from a 12-metre deep borehole and pushed along approximately 2 kilometres piping, into his kitchen and bathroom taps.

The cost of these systems are relatively low because Wagner did not add battery packs to store energy for use at night or extended periods of overcast weather.

He does, however, have an R80 000 solar power system supplying electricity to his farmhouse – with the bulk of the cost going toward battery packs. From this system, he runs all his household appliances as well as a number of incubators his wife uses to hatch eggs for her own chicken breeding business.

Eskom comparison:

Eskom evaluates every request for an electricity supply to a farm in a remote location separately. Many factors, including the landscape, distance to nearest connection point and type of supply, are assessed by an Eskom official before costing is determined.

However, an Eskom official confirmed that an Eskom connection can be pricey and it is up to the farmer to determine what he would need the supply for and whether the cost justifies his needs.

Depending on the factors mentioned above, having an Eskom line connected to your farm could cost in the region of R250 000 per kilometre from your nearest Eskom point. It could even be significantly more. Further costs will include the installation of more equipment, for example, a transformer. You will also need to pay a connection fee to activate the newly installed line, and then monthly line service fees, availability fees and administration fees.

According to the latest Eskom tariffs the smallest line (100kVA) will come with a service fee of R19.81 per day and administration fees of R5.62 per day for every power point on the farm.

Only after all these standard fees have been added to your bill will your actual usage be determined.

If these parameters were applied to Wagner's farm it would have cost him more than R2-million to install an Eskom line on his farm, and at least R1 100 per month before he used any electricity.

If a farmer were to switch from an existing Eskom line to solar power, would the savings on his monthly electricity bill warrant the initial capital needed to buy solar panels and the necessary equipment? Eskom said it would be up to farmers to determine those financial implications.

Wagner's advice:

Wagner agreed that every farmer should evaluate his own circumstances when making a decision about his electricity source. However, being off the grid gives him a sense of relief.

"We are lucky that our underground water is shallow, and we have the right weather and conditions for solar power. But I would recommend that anyone take it under serious consideration."

He said the price of solar equipment has come down significantly in recent years, and technology has advanced so much that smaller, cheaper systems can do the work that used to require much more expensive equipment.

"I am not an expert in the field of solar power, but I was able to install my own system and only called in an electrician to approve what I had done.

"And there is no need to buy the first, most expensive thing you can find. Guys need to shop around, ask other farmers, and make sure they get the best deal for what they want to achieve," Wagner said.

For more information on the equipment and systems mentioned above you can view the following web pages:

www.canadiansolar.com za.grundfos.com www.lorentz.de









The final mohair frontier

When you think you have reached the end of the mohair route, go a little further. There you will find Arno Pienaar.



n the far reaches of the greater Karoo, after driving for hours through the arid landscapes where the West Coast meets the Northern Cape, you will find Leeukuil. At first glance, Leeukuil (Afrikaans translation of

Lion's Den) seems to be an isolated wasteland – more than 140 kilometres from the nearest city and no signs of life as far as the eye can see. But then, in the distance, you spot the shearing shed, the stone walls of the goat enclosures, and a tall man standing in front of a humble farmhouse.

When you drive up to the farmhouse, you are met by the beaming face of Arno Pienaar.

"Welcome to the middle of nowhere," Arno said with an outstretched hand, a broad smile spreading across his bespectacled face.

Arguably the farm furthest from the mohair hub in the central Karoo and Eastern Cape, the 3000 hectare stretch of land, which accommodates about 400 angora goats, offers a number of unique challenges that Arno, and his wife Selma, meet head-on with love and passion.

"People often ask me why I farm with angoras in such a harsh environment. But if you think about it, few other animals are actually suited for these conditions. Yes, mohair farming can be labour intensive, but angoras are ideal for the low carrying capacity of this arid environment," he said.

In better times the outlying region of Namaqualand receives

about 125 millimetres of rain annually and boasts world famous fields of flowers that attract tourists from across the globe. Arno has been on this farm for 18 years, and last year was the first time he did not see a single flower bloom. And rain was just as scarce.

But he repeats the age-old saying almost like a personal mantra – 'n boer maak a plan (a farmer will make a plan).

Behind his house, a shed is filled to the rafters with bales of feed – lucerne and other supplements he had to buy to keep his flock alive. And deep boreholes, some close to 80 metres down, pump water out of the earth.

"Much like our flock, we have learned to adapt. Our water is more than 70 metres below ground, so our boreholes are a little deeper. Our veld provides less feed, so we buy a little more. Our summers are a little hotter, our winters a little colder, but we make a plan. We always do," Arno said.

"I came here almost two decades ago with the vision of farming with angora goats and producing the finest quality mohair. Nothing will keep me from living that vision.

"When I walk in the veld, with the sun is setting, and I see my goats walking towards me with the sunlight bouncing off their fleeces I get goosebumps. It is the most magical feeling that I can't describe to anyone."

In kidding season Arno keeps newborn kids and their mothers in a separate enclosure inside his shed, sheltering them from the elements for at least five days. Once they are strong enough



they are kept in an enclosure next to young goats that are being prepared for their first shearing at around six months of age. These special enclosures are only a few metres away from his front door.

When sheering time comes Arno trusts none other than BKB's Ettienne Bezuidenhout, who goes more than 200 kilometres out of his way with his sheering teams, to collect Leeukuil's clip. Arno considers Ettienne to be one of his greatest mentors and a man whose advice and knowledge is invaluable to his farming operation.

After being sheared the young goats are released into the veld with the rest of his flock to roam freely in larger camps.

"I consider myself an intensive angora farmer. I take special care when it comes to mixing supplementary feeds with the



lucerne I buy, and I keep a very close eye on my ewes during kidding season. And I am always present when shearing teams come to the farm, to make sure everything runs smoothly."

He believes his hands-on approach and close proximity to his animals play a large part in his high kidding (75% - 80%) and weaning (98%) percentages.

And while he contends with many of the same challenges as other farmers - namely the drought and predators, especially jackals - Arno believes the landscape also provides him with unique advantages.

Due to the arid landscape and little vegetation, his mohair seldom carries any seeds, and his goats have adapted to the environment, with a clip measuring at an average of around 30 micron.

"I am looking to introduce new rams to try and increase my fleece weight with thicker hair. On the other hand, finer hair puts me in a unique position of being able to compete in competitions like the Ermenegildo Zegna Trophy, where fine hair is most important. So I have some important decisions to make for the future of my farm," Arno said.

And none of these decisions are made without first discussing it with his closest business partner – his wife Selma.

"Many farmers are proud to say their wives are behind them all the way. But Selma is never behind me. She is always right next to me, running the farm and helping wherever she can with the same passion as me, making all of this possible," Arno said.



In the boardroom, the neat knot of his tie shows above the zipper at his chest.

Confident - he carries himself like a man that belongs in the corner office. He meets friends for dinner, the tie now looser, and the woman next to him smiles as her eyes follow the intricate woven strands of soft mohair under her fingertips.

On the golf course his swing is perfect. Nothing hinders the action that send the ball straight onto the green. And when the weekend comes he walks the dirt road on his farm as the cool Karoo sunrise lights up every hair of his Angora flock.

He is sophisticated, elegant comfortable.

He is THE HARVEY



Esteban Cortazar Women's Collection

Autumn/Winter 2018/19





New York

fter several seasons in Paris, Colombian designer
Esteban Cortazar returned to the city where he
made his debut, New York, earlier this year when he
showed his 2018/19 Women's Winter Collection.

His collection was filled with South American influences, making use of cashmere, wool and mohair in a range of bright colours to celebrate life and nature.

In a video interview with Fashion Network, Cortazar speaks of his inspiration for the collection and thanked New York for the boost it gave him as a young designer.

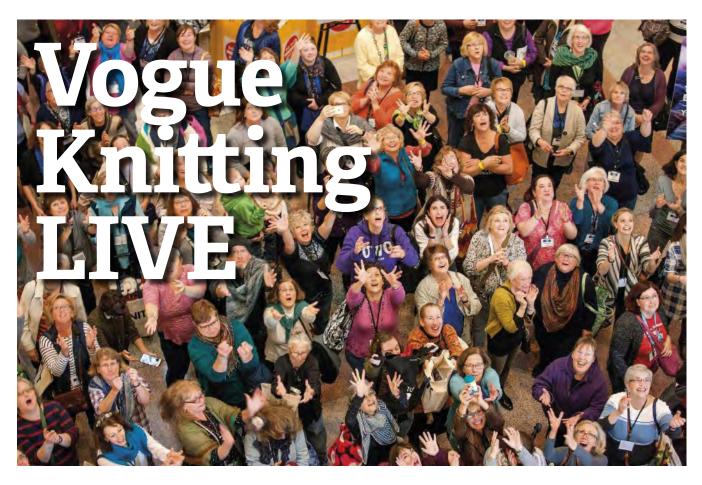
"This is the place where it all began, so I came to do kind of a love letter to New York, and the place where I was able to begin this dream. I wouldn't have been in Paris if it wasn't for America."

(Speaking of his Winter Collection) "It was about everything that's alive, nature is all around us, so that was such a big part of where we took the colours, the mohair embroidery coming out of the coats – that was the brushstrokes of nature in a way. The leaves, the jewellery, everything had a sense of earthiness and something that is close to the earth.

"You do a show to tell a story and I think this was a love letter to South America, to where I come from, to nature. I get emotional even talking about it."







ogue Knitting LIVE is a premier knitting event offering high-level hand-knitting workshops to beginners and master knitters. The event takes place three times each year in different locations across the US, while the accompanying Marketplace showcases yarns and accessories from around the world. The Mohair SA stand displayed mohair yarns and finished garments. Knitting legend Steven Be joined the Mohair SA team on the stand for 2 days and was an excellent ambassador for the fibre, and the response from consumers on the stand was very positive. Vogue Knitting Magazine ran a competition, looking for the best hand knitted mohair blanket. Entries were received from the US and 14 different countries, including as far afield as the Ukraine. The entries were of exceptional standard, with many types of techniques used, and the 10 finalists' blankets were displayed at the show. The winners were chosen by a panel which included Anle Marais from Mohair SA's marketing team, while show attendees also had the opportunity to choose their favourite. The Mohair SA also offered a "Yarn tasting", where attendees could test-knit different yarns, including five different mohair blends from a range of suppliers. It also served as a "Knitting 101" station where master knitters demonstrated the basics of knitting to newcomers.

Seattle



Mohair Fashion Shows

Mohair SA had two exclusive mohair fashion shows with favourite mohair garments from the last 6 months of Voque Knitting Magazine. The fashion show was beautifully styled and very well received, and there were many requests for the patterns and yarns seen during the fashion shows. After the show, Mohair SA had appointments with several yarn companies in the greater Los Angeles and San Diego area. Surprisingly yarn shops favoured "raised yarns" from old established companies, and newer yarns (interesting blends and flat yarns) had not filtered into these shops yet, presenting an opportunity for growth and expansion of product offering in stores. Knitters in this region were intrigued by the story of mohair and surprised by the fact that SA is the biggest producer worldwide, and identified greatly with issues surrounding sustainability. Once again, this identified the critical need for education regarding mohair.





he long-standing relationship between Mohair SA and the Nelson Mandela University's Fashion Department once again bore beautiful fruit.

In 2017 a group of students completed their third year of studies with the university's annual fashion show – The Collective. Only a few from this group were carefully selected to incorporate mohair in their designs

The show marked 15 years of collaboration between Mohair SA and NMU, as well as the retirement of the mohair programme leader Harm Grobbelaar, making it a bittersweet and very special event.

And while many designs, drawing in African influences and incorporating striking designs and colours, were presented, only one student could be crowned the best of her class. That honour went to Michelle D'Urbano.

"I drew inspiration from a number of different cultures and tried to showcase that by interweaving different techniques and patterns. I also wanted to show mohair's versatility as a fibre, and I am very proud of the range I created," D'Urbano said.

Originally from Zambia, D'Urbano started studying medicine but soon went looking for something more creative. She came to NMU to study Fine Art, but later found her passion in the Fashion Department.

Mohair was completely foreign for her, but her dream is to take the noble fibre back to her home country and introduce it into the Zambian fashion industry.





Port Elizabeth, South Africa



She feels the soft fibres brush over her skin as she pulls the jersey over her head and the sleeves hug her arms. It's a cold and gloomy day, but the gentle warmth lifts her mood as she looks outside the window with a smile.

She is wrapped in feather-light luxury.

Every inch of the finest kid mohair seamlessly blended with top quality silk.

Beautiful. Natural. Nothing compares.

This is her favourite.

This is Her Alice

Intertextile

Shanghai. October 2017

ntertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics was founded in 1995 and has established itself as a unique exhibition by virtue of its strategy and its vision of a world moving rapidly towards globalization and 2017 showcased a larger than ever number of partner companies exhibiting at the show. Three days of enquiries and order placing, relationship building and trend-spotting with companies presenting their latest collections and innovations to the world.

The show provides a comprehensive platform to showcase apparel fabrics and accessories and is also known as the leading sourcing and business platform for the industry.

4538 exhibitors from 32 countries, spread over 11 exhibition halls, showed their wares at the show, while 77 883 buyers travelled from 102 countries and regions. Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Taiwan, the UK and the US topped the list of top 10 visiting countries.

Mohair South Africa:

With the support from the SA Mohair Cluster, Mohair South Africa exhibited at Intertextile for the first time. Mohair SA was positioned in the International Hall with a large custom built stand, designed by Sophie Steller, and showcased products from both national and international manufacturers.

Along with the marketing team, two dedicated Chinese/English translators manned the stand, engaging with the predominantly Chinese consumers.

With hand, textural and craft looks being on trend this season, mohair was received with positivity and the stand remained consistently busy for the duration of the show. We recorded 1 953 personal engagements and with the stand being open on 4 sides, an unaccounted number of visitors were introduced to mohair and educated in some way.

We further recorded 60 personal product enquiries for manufacturers and directed these to each manufacturer from the stand for the duration of the show ensuring timeous response. Manufacturers' details and marketing material was also on hand to further promote interaction with prospective buyers.

Valuable contacts were also established with international retailers from well-known brands, exploring new blending opportunities with other fibres, like cotton. Communication extended after the show to initiate research and development opportunities.

Contact was established with a Singapore University interested in collaborating with Mohair SA on a mohair programme. This university already has established links with Bunka Fashion College in Tokyo.

The show provides a comprehensive platform to showcase apparel fabrics and accessories









Première Vision



New York

remière Vision is an all inclusive platform that showcases the latest offering of fabrics, textile design, trimmings and accessories. The NY show gives the opportunity for North American professionals to meet more than 360 exhibitors, selected from among the world's top weavers, leather producers, accessories companies, designs studios and manufacturers.

This show, which is marketed as the kick-off to the new season, includes fashion seminars, an inspirational forum with selected fabrics & leather, and a color range exclusively for Première Vision. Attendees are mostly high end and very knowledgeable about the industry. As the show is a complete offering, the designers' and buyers' work is easier and a season's new line could be completed in one visit. Even though Première Vision did not have high volumes like some Chinese shows, the calibre of visitors was impressive.

It is a well-established show and has been on Mohair SA's radar for a couple of years. There are six shows every year, with the biggest show taking place in Paris – which could be a unique opportunity for Mohair SA in the near future.

Mohair SA was well positioned and could be identified from a distance. We incorporated spinners and manufactures as before, with all their information available on the products for ease of further reference. Even though the show did not have high volumes like some Chinese shows, the calibre of visitors was impressive.

As New York is the one of the fashion capitals of the world, many prestigious fashion colleges and universities are based there. Mohair SA made contact with students and lecturers from a number of institutions, two of which have been on our radar for a while. Mohair SA has been in communication with Parsons, rated as the best fashion design school in the US, to discuss future collaboration. Their programs include Fashion Design, Fashion Studies and Fashion Marketing. Some of their noteworthy graduates include Donna Karan, Marc Jacobs, Tom Ford, Narciso Rodriguez, Alexander Wang and Anna Sui.

Besides Parsons, Mohair SA also established communications with the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) about future collaborations.



Available in 20 colourways for you to feast on.

Box contains: 9 x 20g brushed or boucle mohair | 1 x 20g bead yarn | 1 x 20g ribbon yarn | 1 x 30g chunky spun mohair (A big +) | 3 x Patterns Included - Poncho, Scarf and Shawl.

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esigner Tommy Hilfiger made a lasting impression at the 2017 London Fashion Week with a "Rock Circus"-themed featuring world famous model Gigi Hadid in mohair. The event marked the closing of London Fashion Week and Hilfiger's first catwalk show outside the US, and saw more than 1000 guests watch 64 models parade his much-anticipated Spring/Summer 2018 collection.

Besides being the first model on the catwalk, Hadid also collaborated with Hilfiger for this collection. She came out wearing thigh-length black socks, ripped denim shorts and a fulllength mohair over a black sweater.

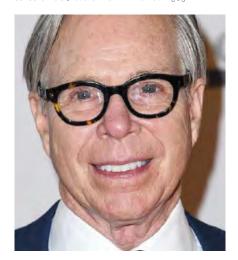
"Gigi is very involved with designing the Gigi Tommy collection with us. So a lot of the ideas came from her style," Hilfiger told AFP on the eve of the show.

The collaboration also promoted the brand's online presence through Hadid's social media presence – the model boasts nearly 36 million Instagram followers.

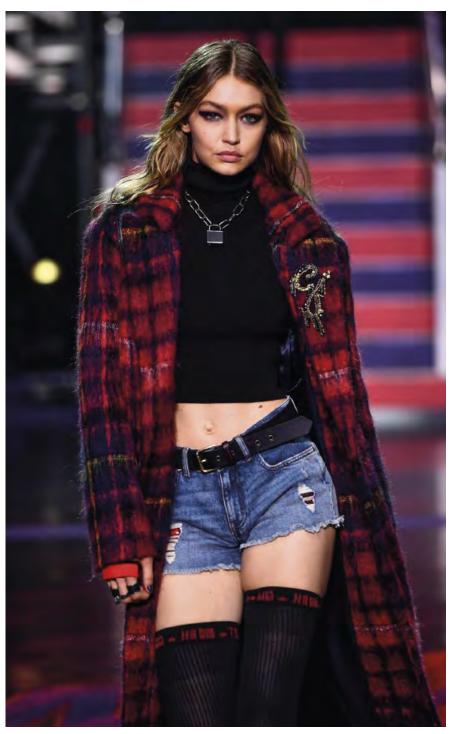
The event also saw the further rollout of Hilfiger's online shopping app whereby guests can take a picture of the model and immediately order that outfit online. This expanded on the "see now, buy now" trend that has emerged at fashion shows over the past few seasons.

"Young people especially, they see something on the runway or they see something that looks cool, they want to wear it the next day. They don't want to see it on the runway and wait six months to buy it," Hilfiger said.

Hilfiger, 66, is one of the global leaders in the fashion world. His brand saw sales of US\$ 6.6 billion in 2016.



London Fashion Week



Tommy Hilfiger Spring/Summer 2018 collection



Bunka **Fashion** College

Tokyo, Japan

he Bunka Fashion College, established in 1923, is based in Japan and is widely regarded as one of the top fashion schools in the world. The college offers a wide range of studies within the fashion industry, including design and marketing.

More than 300 000 students have completed their studies at Bunka, and some of their most prestigious alumni include renowned designers Hiroko Yohji Yamamoto and Chisato Tsumori.

In collaboration with Mohair SA the college selects a handful of students to partake in its annual mohair design programme. This showcases the creativity and innovation of some of their top students with a natural fibre they may not be familiar with.

Here are just some of the mohair garments created by the select group of students in 2017.



he 2017 designer development programme at Mode Gakuen University did not disappoint, with fashion design students pulling out all the stops to put on a spectacular show. In partnership with Mohair SA, the university hosts a fashion show like few others, putting its students' creations under the bright lights in front of a massive crowd.

Students form groups and create their own themes and mohair ranges, with each student designing one garment within that range. At the end of the show, one student is selected as the overall winner.

In 2017 that honour went to Rina Sugimoto for her garment within the Furoshiki range. Furoshiki is a Japanese term for a large piece of cloth that can be wrapped and twisted to be worn as a garment or used for carrying goods, like books, clothing or shopping.

Sugimoto's design won her a ticket to London where she visited a number of top fashion houses to broaden her design experience.

Mode Gakuen University

Nagoya, Japan







The end of an era at the NMU's Fashion Department – but the start of a new chapter for top designer.

Out of Harm's way

proud smile flashes across Harm Grobbelaar's face as he pulls on the dark, soft mohair jacket he made with his own hands. "I remember walking down the street in Shanghai and being stopped by people who wanted to know where they could get a jacket like this. I explained that it was one of kind, but some of them wanted to buy it straight off my back," he said laughing.

For 15 years Grobbelaar headed the mohair programme at the Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in Port Elizabeth, pushing the boundaries of the noble fibre and inspiring many young designers to focus their ranges around it.

Now that he has officially retired, at the age of 60, he is planning on pursuing his ultimate goal – he wants to convert his home, overlooking the ocean at Seaview, into a guesthouse that will showcase the luxury and versatility of mohair.

"Mohair cushions, blankets and clothing are fairly common, but we could have mohair furniture, mohair bedding or even mohair curtains. Once you think about it there are actually so many great possibilities. I truly want to live the brand," Grobbelaar said.

But where did this passion for mohair come from?

Near Bethulie, a town on the southern border of the Free State, his father used to farm Angora goats and his mother weaved her own mohair yarn before knitting clothes for their family.

These seeds planted in his youth created a passion for designing menswear which later saw him moving to Cape Town where he became a pattern maker at one of South Africa's leading design houses, House of Monatic.

He then opened and operated his own private design school in Bloemfontein for two years before taking up a position at NMU's fashion design department.

"This was an interesting change of pace for me because for the first time I was working with people who had no design experience and no background in the fashion industry. I saw this as a great opportunity to help grow the local fashion industry," Grobbelaar said.

It was here that his relationship with Mohair South Africa started, and the fibre his father used to produce became his number one priority.

"The mohair programme focuses on identifying students with a passion for the fibre who are able to push the boundaries and help promote the brand locally, as well as internationally. This cultivates great exposure for NMU,

the fibre and the entire mohair industry," he said.

His students' success is a testimony to his passion for the product and the industry. In recent years Laduma Ngxokolo has been a front-runner for mohair, combining fashionable knitwear with traditional Xhosa designs. His garments have been seen across the world. Earlier this year Gugu Peteni had the chance to show her mohair range "Rise" at the internationally renowned Design Indaba in Cape Town.

Mohair South Africa's in-house designer Ruth McNaughton, who spent four years under Grobbelaar's tutelage, said he imparted many valuable lessons during his lectures, but the most important things she learnt were a good work ethic and a sense of curiosity.

"Appreciating the importance of hard work and the value of being relentlessly curious has helped me not only in the fashion industry but also in all spheres of life. Where others saw a design as near impossible Harm saw a challenge – an opportunity to go where no one else would dare.

"This passion for design was contagious and it pushed us, his students, to achieve more than we could ever dream of," McNaughton said.

She added that he always saw endless potential in his students, pushing them to enter competitions and apply for jobs all over the world.

"He turned NMU's Fashion and Textiles Department into a place where students can explore their imagination and learn valuable lessons to carry with them into whatever career they wish to pursue."

Grobbelaar said he was unsure who would be heading up the mohair programme after him, but he would follow its progress with a keen eye in the years to come.

"To be honest, I am not sure if they will ever find someone with the same passion for mohair, but I truly hope to see this programme grow," he said.

But in the meantime work will continue on the yet unnamed mohair guesthouse, which will not only feature Grobbelaar's creations, but also some items from his wife's collection.

"Hannelie is also a designer, specialising in leather. Unfortunately, angora skins are hard to come by, but are ideal for making soft leather handbags, wallets and other fashion accessories. And once our doors are open, we want to show off exactly what mohair is all about," Grobbelaar said.









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Mohair News from OVK

Text | Pierre van der Vyver, Manager: Mohair





t gives Cape Mohair & Wool (CMW), the fibre division of the OVK group of companies, great pleasure to report on a vibrant and interesting 2017 with plenty of ups and downs. One of the downs was the crippling and ongoing drought. Hence the intake at the warehouse was down by some 4.5%. Although the demand for kid mohair was most disappointing, the demand for adult and young goat hair was satisfactory.

WORLD RECORD

Most certainly the highlight of the year was the world-record price for kid mohair which was achieved by Jordi and Gay van Hasselt of Van Hasselt Farming, Prince Albert. The Van Hasselt's are stalwart breeders and long-time loyal supporters of CMW who always do us proud. Their clip always finds a spot in the top echelons when mohair quality is assessed. Over time they have virtually made the Miyuki Keori trophy - awarded for the best mohair clip in the world – their very own. The cherry on the cake came last year when this outstanding achievement culminated in the world-record price for a summer kid bale at a staggering R896.00/kg! The two largest processing firms battled it out on the auction-floor to obtain this bale, with Stucken & Company eventually offering the highest bid.

COMPETITIONS

For the first time in the existence of CMW all the finalists of all three industry competitions came from the OVK family! A special word of congratulations therefore to all these winners! As mentioned before Van Hasselt Farming took home the Miyuki Keori trophy. The Ermengildo Zegna competition saw a brand new champion this time round in the person of Jan Lategan of Aberdeen. The Daidoh competition likewise produced a brand new champion. Here the Gert Jordaan Family Trust, also from Aberdeen, walked away with the honours. These new winners are proof of the vibrancy which is at play in our industry.

FIELD OFFICERS & SHEARING SERVICES

The young, and in some cases inexperienced, group of mohair

field officers found their feet in 2017 under the guiding expertise of veterans Petrie Maré and Cassie Carstens and have shown immense improvement. The OVK shearing services are harvesting upwards of 60% of all angora goats in South Africax This has brought about the decision to promote Luane Stapelberg, a former mohair field officer in the Murraysburg district, to the position of full-time shearing coordinator, dedicated to the mohair industry. The trials for the new two-man shearing cart were also completed and proved to be a huge success – just one more innovation on our way into the future.

LESOTHO

After some initial teething problems in the first year, the marketing of the Lesotho clip through Poli ea Thaba came into its own in 2017. Production was up by 2% and the average price gained an excellent 19%! OVK also established a full-scale trading branch just outside of Maseru to serve the Lesotho farmers.

HISTORY

OVK takes enormous pride in the success of their special learner ship programme. 'Vusumzi (Vusi) Sambokwe grew up in Jansenville and successfully completed his agricultural diploma at the Grootfontein Agricultural Institute in 2011. In his final year, he specialised in Angora farming. In 2012 he started a two-year learner ship with CMW and was appointed on a full-time basis in 2014 in OVK. In December 2017 he became the very first previously disadvantaged person to auction a complete Cape mohair catalogue all by himself in the 150-year history of the industry! Vusi is currently in charge of the Lesotho mohair department for OVK.







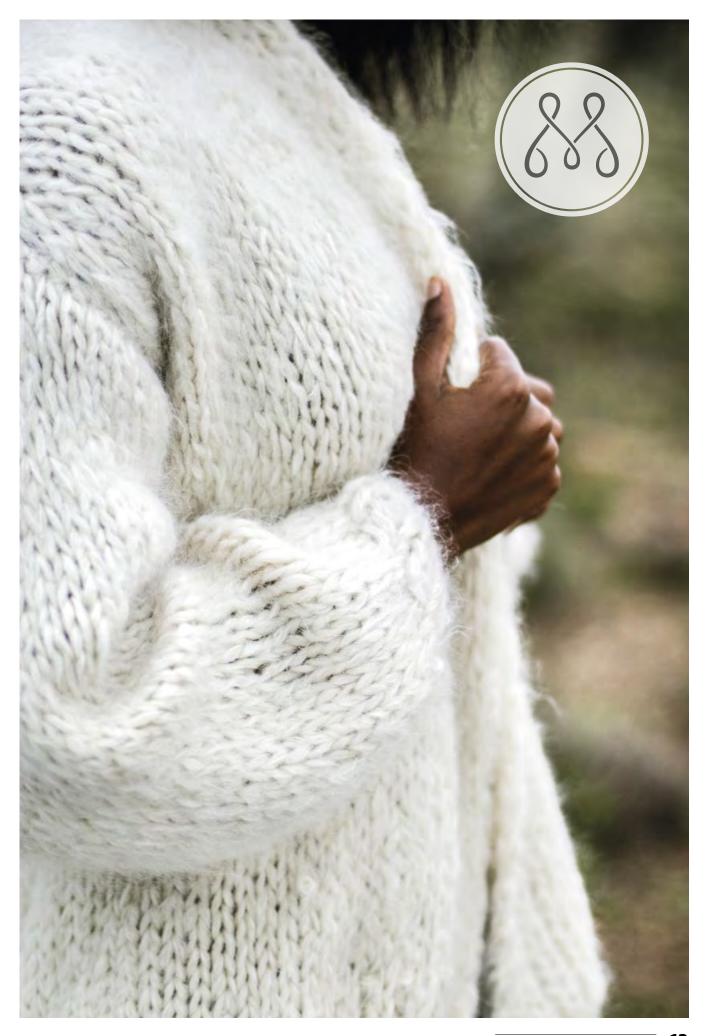












Angora Ram Sales

Angora ram prices fair well despite 2017 drought, and prospects of a wet 2018.

he 2018 ram sale season kicked off in a very wet and rainy Somerset East where the first official veld ram sale. The sale, managed by Rietfontein Angoras, provided a great selection. Despite most ram breeders' concerns over the demand for rams following the 2016 and 2017 dry seasons, the opening sale was a success.

Even though the majority of 2017 was bitterly dry, the forecast of rain in the new season helped keep the demand for Angora rams fairly stable. The average price at the two official sales in November dropped between R1000 and R2000 compared to the same sales in 2016. This was attributed to the intensity of the persisting drought.

However, we again saw some rams selling for exceptionally good prices. The most expensive ram for 2017 was sold at the Graaff-Reinet official auction and went for R44 000, with Mr Oloff Hugo, of Richmond, buying the animal from Mr Jan Lategan. Having good animals on offer and promises of rain assured fair prices across the board. Stud rams sold for an average of between R14 000 and R24 000, selected flock rams between R7 000 and R16 000, while flock rams sold between R 3500 and R7 000.

Here is a list of the best prices from last year's various ram sales:

The Angora Ram Breeders Society is aware of the disastrous drought over the majority of 2017. However, we are all positive that the weather will be more forgiving in 2018 and that the entire mohair industry will have a more positive attitude. To ensure that your Angora goats can deliver top quality hair despite struggling veld conditions, you need to ask yourself the following question: Can I afford not to buy top quality rams and suffer another year of weak production? Most of us cannot. Good quality rams in your flock will improve the quality of your clip, as past results have shown. The Angora Ram Breeders Society and brokers are working hard to ensure the quality of the rams on sale.

We would like to invite everyone to our 2018/19 season of ram sales. Come and support the Angora ram sales to ensure that you do not miss the opportunity to buy top quality rams and improve the overall quality of your clip. We also want to take this opportunity to thank the buyers that supported the past season's sales.

All the best for 2018, and we have faith that this year will bring positive changes in our weather patterns.

Sale	Best price		Stud rams average price		Selected flock rams average price		Flock rams average price	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
Somerset East official ram sale	R 21 000,00	R 20 000,00	R 16 000,00	R 14 000,00	R 11 000,00	R 10 000,00	R 5 500,00	R 5 500,00
Graaff-Reinet official ram sale	R 62 000,00	R 44 000,00	R 33 000,00	R 23 500,00	R 9 500,00	R 16 000,00	R 4 500,00	R 6 500,00
Newlands and guest sellers	R 40 000,00	R 19 000,00	R 19 000,00	R 16 000,00	R 10 000,00	R 10 000,00	R 5 000,00	R 4 500,00
Van Hasselt veld ram sale	R 67 000,00	R 33 000,00	R 33 000,00	R 24 000,00	R 14 000,00	R 13 500,00	R 6 000,00	R 8 000,00
Jansenville veld rams sale	R 40 000,00	R 12 500,00	R 20 000,00		R 8 500,00	R 10 500,00	R 4 500,00	R 6 000,00
Graaff Reinet veld ram sale	R 60 000,00	R 35 000,00	R 25 000,00	R 21 000,00	R 10 000,00	R 12 000,00	R 5 000,00	R 5 500,00
Noorsveld ram sale	R 6 000,00	R 8 000,00			R 6 000,00	R 7 000,00	R 3 500,00	R 3 500,00

Private ram sale:

From left - OVK field officer Cassie Carstens, buyer Dennis Hobson, seller Jordi van Hasselt, and OVK auctioneer André van Zyl sitting with the stud ram that sold for R33 000.



Veld ram sale:

From left – Buyer Samil Farming manager Andries van Zyl, seller Jordi van Hasselt and OVK auctioneer André van Zyl.



Official sale:

From left - OVK auctioneer André van Zyl, OVK field officer Hannes Carstens, buyer Oloff Hugo and seller Jannie Lategan with the stud ram that sold for R44 000.





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Veterinary Overview 2017

A report on Health Related Matters for the Mohair Industry

Text | Mackie Hobson

017 ended desperately dry again with most mohair producers having to feed their stock.

A summary of the disease-related deaths diagnosed at post-mortem is presented in the graph below. It must be remembered these numbers do not necessarily reflect cause of death across the industry but only those where I was requested to investigate. There were large-scale losses due to protein and energy deficiencies and the lack of body reserves resulted in more deaths than would otherwise have been expected during the cold snaps.

The trend of the more common diseases follows a similar pattern over the last 3 years but with a significant spike in cases of pneumonia likely due to intensive feeding conditions.

Feeding of Angora goats also results in an altered state in the rumen, as compared

to normal field conditions. This has resulted in a relative increase in cases of enterotoxeamia ('Bloednier' and'Rooiderm') as well as clinical and subclinical cases of acidosis. This emphasizes the importance of continuing to vaccinate against both the Clostridial diseases and Pasteurella during the drought conditions.

More unusual diseases diagnosed include polioencephalomalacia (Thiamine deficiency) and hepatic lipidosis - both in kids. Hepatic lipidosis causes 'domsiekte' in late stages of sheep pregnancy (usually twins) but the 'floppy kid' syndrome caused by the same metabolic process has not been diagnosed in Angora goats or kids until now.

Field trials conducted by SAMGA in the last two years have produced a breakthrough with swelling disease (Swelsiekte). The exact mechanism of the disease has been unexplained for

decades, but it is now finally proved that the underlying mechanism of swelling disease is that of a 'capillary leak syndrome'. This means that further research can now be aimed at determining the trigger mechanism(s) and treatment.

SAMGA has also conducted a trial to find new treatment options for lice and ticks without residue concerns. This trial used a new active ingredient (to the mohair industry), fipronil, occurring in a pour on combination with abamectin. This is used for the treatment of ticks and roundworms in cattle (Attila – Ascendis Animal Health). The treatment at twice the dose (per kilogram of body weight) compared to cattle proved to be highly effective in treating red and blue lice, helped in the control of ticks, but had limited effect on roundworms. Ascendis Animal Health will use the trial data to license the product for goats.

For more information on disease or health related matters see 'Vets Corner' on the SAMGA website: www.angoras.co.za.



The impact of the drought on Angora Goat Health

Text | Mackie Hobson

n times of drought the occurrence of some infectious diseases is reduced, but unfortunately, mohair farmers are then faced with other problems, mostly related to nutrition. Most of the nutrition-related stock losses arising during periods of drought can be linked to low energy and protein levels which cause poor body condition and a weaker immune system. To address this providing the adequate level of fibre (roughage) is of great importance. Decreased nutritional value of fibre in grazing, periods of hunger and the overfeeding of carbohydrate in relation to fibre, all lead to sub-optimal rumen conditions affecting the microflora and pH in the rumen.

1. Lowered pH of the rumen

Chewing time is increased when long-stem forages are fed and reduced with concentrate and pelleted diets. A higher level of fibre in the diet amazingly leads to the production of up to 12 litres of saliva per kilogram of dry matter consumed. This is the reason at least 50% of goats should ideally be chewing (ruminating) when a flock of resting goats is checked.

Saliva acts to buffer acids produced during ruminal fermentation of feeds. Rumen bacteria operate at an ideal pH of between 6.2-6.8. A rumen pH outside this range results in an inefficient digestive system with secondary problems. The lowered rumen pH leads to a change in the rumen microflora, rumen stasis and chemical irritation of the rumen wall. The severity of these changes will determine the extent of the clinical signs which occur.

Subclinical acidosis causes the greatest economic loss due to the inefficient rumen function resulting in reduced feed utilisation and poorer weight gains. It can also progress to clinical acidosis.

Clinical acidosis is where rumen changes are more severe and result in increased toxin and bacterial penetration of the rumen wall. Signs of acidosis are seen when Angora goats stop chewing their cud, have a reduced appetite, and appear depressed and reluctant to move. They sometimes have a tender gait and constantly want to lie down. In some cases, diarrhoea and mild bloating may occur, and in extreme cases, the animal could die. Often these goats tend to underperform for an extended period of time as the rumen lining may take up to six weeks to repair and may result in secondary liver abscesses.

2. Changes to the rumen microflora

There is a balance that needs to be kept between healthy rumen microflora and other, harmful bacteria. This balance is easily upset by changes in the rumen pH or feed type. It can take up to ten days for microbes to adapt to a change in diet. Before the microflora have adequately adapted to a dietary change, incomplete digestion of the carbohydrate portion of the diet can occur. These carbohydrates pass into the intestine which allows for the overgrowth of certain types of bacteria, notably those responsible for 'Pulpy Kidney' and 'Rooiderm', which then produce highly destructive toxins and in these circumstances create disease. This syndrome is known as Enterotoxaemia. Young, wellfed goats are most susceptible and usually die suddenly without showing prior signs of disease. This is typically 2-14 days following a change in dietary make-up, or deworming. Roundworm and other intestinal parasites are also predisposing factors as they destabilise the gastro-intestinal environment.

During this drought, we have seen more cases of the neurological and more chronic form of Enterotoxeamia which sometimes occurs in goats that have been vaccinated against Pulpy Kidney (Clostridium perfringens Type D). The toxin (epsilon toxin) produced by the overgrowth of bacteria causes damage to the brain and resulting symptoms. The goats at first are uncoordinated, dull, lethargic, may appear to be blind and walk in circles. The tail may twitch and the goat may have a short, choppy gait. These goats then collapse and are unable to stand. They start paddling their legs and have their head pulled back or to the side before going into convulsions and dying.

Polioencephalomalacia, meaning softening of the brain, is due to Thiamine (Vit B1) deficiency. Thiamine is manufactured by rumen microflora so altered rumen conditions do on occasion result in Thiamine deficiencies. The condition typically arises in Angora kids of a few months old that are fed concentrates (especially if containing molasses) but can also occur in kids grazing lucerne lands. Affected kids may be seen walking around aimlessly, depressed, often staggering, with weak back legs and twitching tails before collapsing. They often remain recumbent for periods but are able to raise themselves on their forequarters.

3. Periods of hunger

Sudden restricted feed intake for a short period can also lead to the metabolic condition of hepatic lipidosis (fatty liver). This is caused by the mobilising of fat reserves and is the same disease process which causes "Domsiekte" in sheep. However, in Angora goat kids it results in a floppy kid type of syndrome. The neurological symptoms are typically wobbly legs and weakness, with the kids eventually collapsing. There is no tail twitching or short choppy gate as is usually seen in

both Polioencephalomalacia and Pulpy kidney (above).

With the necessary funding made available by SAMGA for laboratory testing we were able to diagnose the floppy kid syndrome in Angora goat kids and its relationship to hepatic lipidosis.

4. Mineral and Vitamin Deficiencies

These are more likely to occur during drought conditions and result in poorer production which often goes unnoticed.

The lack of green feed material results in Vit A deficiency. Other deficiencies occur in common drought feeds including:

- » Lucern low in Mg, Se/Vit E, Zn, Mn
- » Molasses additives low in Se/Vit E
- » Urea compounds Vit A deficiency
- » Concentrate and pelleted feeds generally low in Vit B1, B12, Co, Vit A

5. Lack of energy reserves

Losses of goats in cold weather are unfortunately also greater during periods of drought due to the lack of body reserves. We already know from research that nutritional stress causes a drop of approximately 28% in the blood glucose concentration of Angora goats. It is also noteworthy that the blood glucose concentration of cold goats decreases by 65% during cold weather, so they are unable to maintain body temperature and die as a result of hypothermia.

6. Nutritional stress and the immune system

Environmental and nutritional stress along with the high concentration of goats (kids in particular) has resulted in increased cases of coccidiosis and pneumonia.

Angora farmers are faced with the management of these nutritionally associated disease conditions as well as having the huge financial implication of supplementary feeding during periods of drought. The aim is not only to keep the goats alive but in a reproductive state to reduce the impact on production in the years following the drought.

More information on nutrition and diseases can be found on the SAMGA website www.angoras.co.za or by contacting the SAMGA vet on 082 860 0406.





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Tel: 049 846 9009

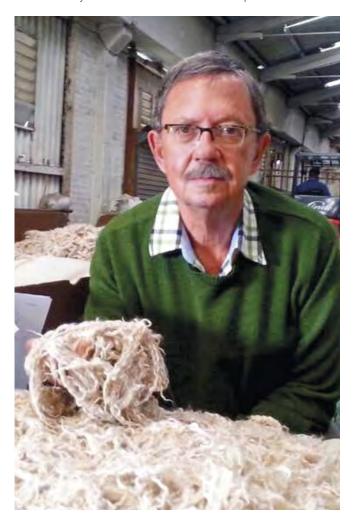
epos:rpvandermerwe@hotmail.com Posbus 1, Aberdeen, 6270





In Memory of Louw Retief

hank you to the Retief family for the opportunity to pay tribute to Oom Louw on behalf of the mohair industry. The industry, as well as the entire mohair family, expresses its deepest sympathy at the passing of such a beloved person. Within the mohair community, when one of our leaders die it is like the door to an entire section of the library is closed forever. I read the other day that you should never be arrogant towards an older person, and you should never mess with them - they grew old because they are smart, and they deserve respect. Oom Louw certainly deserved and demanded our respect.



In 1995 he entered the management structure of the South African Mohair Growers Association (SAMGA). There he served for 18 years – six of which he served as president and four as vice-president. He also served as a trustee on the Mohair Trust from 1999 to 2012.

Shortly after winning the National Flock Competition, at Uniondale in 1996, he registered the Selfsorg Angora Stud (Stud 313), and became a very active member of the Angora Ram Breeders Society.

I served with him on the SAMGA management from 2004, and his political background came in handy as he always stated his viewpoints and arguments so well. He always had an abundance of new ideas and suggestions. His passion for the industry and his strong support of that which he believed is always impressed me.

His passion and pride in his angora farming could be seen in his eagerness to compete in various competitions within the mohair industry. Together with his son Louw, they took part in the annual Miyuki, Zegna and Daidoh competitions.

In the Miyuki competition, they were the Reserve Grand Champions in 2010, 2012 and 2014. They were Winter Clip Champions seven times, Summer Clip Champions once and Reserve Summer Clip Champions four times.

In 2000 and 2003 they placed third in the Zegna competition. In 2007 they came second in the Daidoh competition and third in 2001 and 2014.

Over the years they have achieved a number of record prices for their mohair clips, and his son still continues to push the boundaries. There were always joyous celebrations when they achieved success, and they were humble when they were not among the top achievers.

We will always remember Oom Louw as the passionate leader he was – whether it was in his capacity as a family man, community leader or industry leader. We will remember his resolve, the love he had for farming and his sense of humour.

Oom Louw, thank you for what you meant to our industry. We honour your memory. Rest in peace.

Obituary | MSA director Rothner Bekker



IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD, BUT AFTER MORE THAN A CENTURY STUD 109 HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AS A RENOWNED ANGORA RAM BREEDING STUD PROUDLY PRODUCING TOP QUALITY BREEDING STOCK NATURALLY BACKED WITH EXPERTISE, KNOWLEDGE AND DEDICATION.



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Mohair Management

MOHAIR SA

Chairman & Non-executive Director: IR Bekker

Non-executive Directors: P van der Vyver, A Laing

Executive Director: D Saayman

SOUTH AFRICAN MOHAIR GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

President: AAP Greeff Vice-President: M S Shires

Executive Members: IR Bekker, PM Broeksma, J L de Klerk, S Fani, C Martins, J Oelofse, N Rossouw, C Stegmann, W Truter

General Manager: H Linde

ANGORA RAM BREEDERS' SOCIETY

President: G Hope Vice-President: D Short

Executive Members: H Greeff, G Hobson, S Hobson, M Shires, L Short, J van Hasselt

General Manager: H Linde

SA MOHAIR FARM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION

CC Martins Vice-Chairman: H Snyers General Manager: H Linde

MOHAIR TRUST

Chairman: DW Herold Vice-Chairman: AB Hobson

Members: A Kirsten (SAWAMPA), TE Mashologu (Minister of Agriculture Appointment), I Staats (Brokers),

> CC Martins (Farm Workers Association), JL de Klerk (SAMGA), AAP Greeff (SAMGA), MS Shires (Ram Breeders Society), DR Nel (SAWAMBA), G Stegmann (Mohair Producers),

SE Fani (Emerging Commercial Farmers)

EMPOWERMENT TRUST OF THE MOHAIR INDUSTRY

Chairman: AB Hobson Vice-Chairman & SAMGA: AAP Greeff

Members: DW Herold (Mohair Trust), SE Fani (Emerging Commercial Farmers), IR Bekker (Mohair SA),

K Masoma (NAMC), Z Xalisa (NAMC)

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General Manager: H Linde

MSA AND TRUST

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Port Elizabeth, 6070

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Duiste van Kampioene!







Grootfontein Studente Angorastoet is geleë net buite Middelburg Ooskaap by die Grootfontein Landboukollege, wenner en algehele kampioen van die 2016 Nasionale Angoraskou.

Waarvoor wag jy?

Grootfontein,
waar ons kampioene teel.
Grootfontein Studente
Angorastoet 323

Kontak: Hans Greeff Selfoon: 082 788 0308 E-pos: HansG@daff.gov.za

Besoekers altyd welkom www.gadi.agric.za

SA Mohair Growers' Association

List of branches with the names and contact details of the chairmen and secretaries respectively

ABERDEEN

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scmolutsoane@webmail.co.za

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Chairman: R von Holdt, 0835545565,

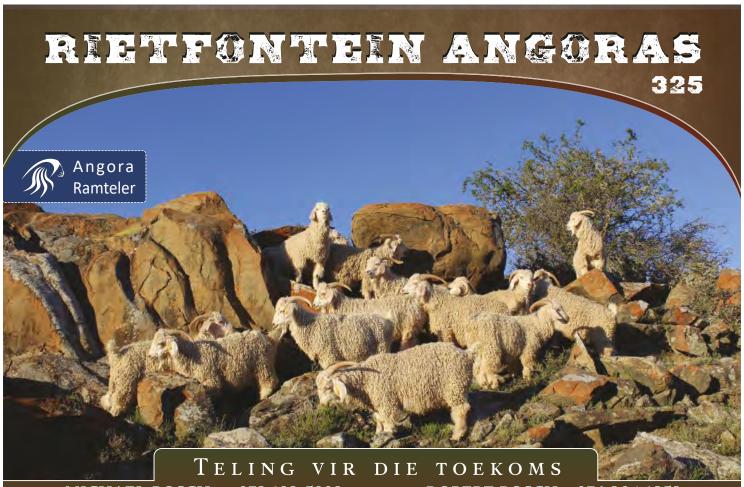
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Angora Ram Breeders Society

The following is a list of the members of the above society. In order to improve and maintain high standards in respect of Angora goats in South Africa, all studs are inspected and flock histories investigated upon receipt of application for membership.

Please contact the ARBS office to update your details. Please supply your telephone, cell and email address.

MEMBERS

Stud No Owner /	Name,	Postal	Adress
-----------------	-------	--------	--------

- 333 Angela Genetics, Angela Genetics, PO Box 3446, North End, 6056
- Bosch, M C & R P, PO Box 81, Somerset-East, 5850 325
- 312 Botha, Andries P R, PO Box 440, Somerset-East, 5850
- 187 Cawood, P L, Cawoodholme, P/Bag Klipplaat, 6255
- Colborne, F E & Sons, Kilborne, PO Box 161, 153 Willowmore, 6680
- 315 Colborne, N, PO Box 165, Willowmore, 6680
- 133 Du Plessis, P. Posbus 65, Cradock, 5880
- 169 Du Preez, O M, Posbus 100, Cradock, 5880
- 266 Eybers, L. Posbus 35, Rietbron, 6450
- 299 Eybers, L, Posbus 35, Rietbron, 6450
- Ferreira, GT & Seuns, p/a N Rossouw, Posbus 24, 244 Leeu Gamka, 6950
- 321 Fitzhendry, C, PO Box 31, Aberdeen, 6270
- 330 Fourie, A H, De Hoop, Posbus 47, De Rust, 6650
- 323 Grootfontein Studente Angorastoet, Privaatsak X529, Middelburg, 5900
- 120 Henderson, PJW, PO Box 14, Somerset East, 5850
- 155 Herold, D, Ordonantie, PO Box 196, Graaff-Reinet, 6280
- Hobson, AB & Sean, Martyrsford, PO Box 385, 105 Graaff-Reinet, 6280
- 317 Hobson, AR, PO Box 47, Steytlerville, 6250
- 142 Hobson, AR, PO Box 47, Steytlerville, 6250
- 295 Hobson, D L, PO Box 482, Eppingdust, 7475
- Hobson, EDB (David), Redcliff, POBox 16, Pearston, 5860 118
- 106 Hobson, G A, PO Box 82, Graaff-Reinet, 6280
- 109 Hope, G, PO Box 114, Jansenville, 6265
- 329 Hugo, O D, Skietkraal, Posbus 30, Richmond, 7090

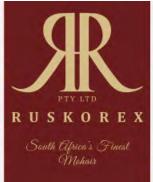
Stud No Owner / Name, Postal Adress

- 332 Jordaan, P, Gert Jordaan Familietrust, Posbus 139, Aberdeen, 6270
- 195 Jordaan, W, Posbus 68, Cradock, 5880
- Kirkman, J D & Son, Nashvale, Steytlerville, 6250 102
- 267 Lategan, J H, Fairview, Posbus 118, Aberdeen, 6270
- 159 Lategan, J.P., Midlands, Posbus 66, Aberdeen, 6270
- 174 Lee, C, PO Box 15, Klipplaat, 6255
- 196 Lötter, J D, Doornpoort, Posbus 132, Willowmore, 6680
- 306 Lotz, A, Posbus 228, Middelburg, 5900
- 262 Nel, S J, Drie-Kuilen, Posbus 90, Steytlerville, 6250
- 313 Retief, F J, Posbus 415, Murraysburg, 6995
- SAMIL Farming (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 3446, North End, 6056 324
- Shires, M S, Mount Stewart, P/Bag Klipplaat, 6255 117
- 217 Short, D, PO Box 711, Graaff-Reinet, 6280
- Short, L, PO Box 325, Graaff-Reinet, 6280 116
- 336 Smith, D, Kleinpoort Baviaanskloof, Pk Lulet, 6452
- 188 Stegmann, G F & Sons, Slagterskuil, PO Box 170, Willowmore, 6445
- 192 Troskie, J C, Middelburgplaas, Posbus 177, Cookhouse, 5820
- 248 Truter, M & H, Posbus 862, Oudtshoorn, 6620
- 286 Truter, M & H, Posbus 862, Oudtshoorn, 6620
- 334 Van der Merwe, I, Kunna, Aberdeen, 6270
- 328 Van der Merwe, R P Jnr, Posbus 1, Aberdeen, 6270
- 301 Van der Westhuyzen, B, Posbus 53, Adelaide, 5760
- 101 Van Hasselt Farming, PO Box 137, Prince Albert, 6930
- Van Hasselt Farming, PO Box 137, Prince Albert, 6930 242
- Van Zyl, A P, Posbus 14, Colesberg, 9795 327
- 185 Viljoen, PH, De Hannesrust, Kleinpoort, 6236











South Africa's Finest Mohair Manufacturers of Niche Mohair products

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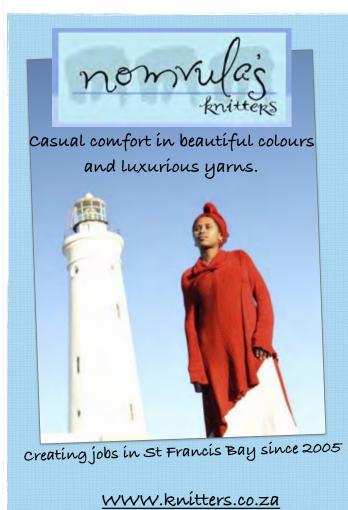




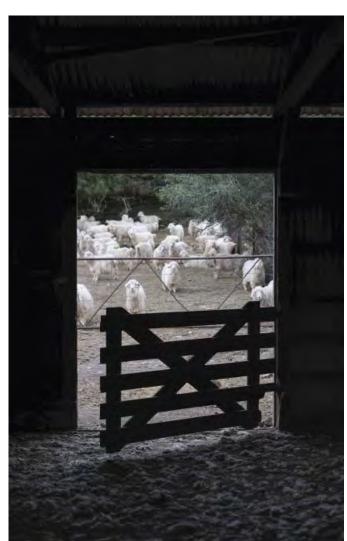








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Local Manufacturers

Abafazi

44 Slessor Street, Alicedale, 6135 info@abafazi.com Ricca Turgel 042 231 1295, 082 851 0233

Adele's Mohair

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Anne-Marie Conroy

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Annette Oelofse

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Berg Weaving

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Bodhisattva

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Coral Stephens

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