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# Lending a helping hand

## Larry Bentley

PONGOLA farmers, known as the 'Suikerboere' Rugby Club have, for the second time this year, donated much needed funds to the Agri SA drought fund.

The fund was established by Agri SA to assist farmers in the northern areas of South Africa who have been hard hit by the ongoing drought.

Answering the call earlier this year, the Pongola Cane Growers Association collected and donated more than R210 000 in cash and goods.

'Aside from the money, we donated 2 500 litres of diesel sponsored by Eco Fuels in Pongola,' said Kurt Stock, Pongola

Farmers Association chairperson.

Besides the fuel sponsorship, all the vehicles transporting the hay bales and feed were sponsored by Pongola businesses and farmers.

Farmers also offered their farms for grazing.

The farmers, however, did not hold back after the first donation and have since raised a further R5 670.

Two Pongola sugar cane farmers and members of the 'Suikerboere' Rugby Club, Ferdie Brecher and Rocco Höll, presented the cheque to Kwanalu President Andy Buchan and Agri SA's Deputy Director, Christo van de Rheede.

## Passionate about rugby

Affectionately known as 'Die Suikerboere', the group of farmers from the Pongola farming

community are members of the rugby club who compete annually in the highly competitive Cape Town 10s tournament in the Pro Vet's League.

'We are all local farmers and ex-rugby players, plus a few rugby legends from outside Pongola older than 35 who still want to be active.

'We all love playing rugby and at the last Cape Town 10s tournament we only lost in the semi-finals against the eventual winners, the SA Legends,' said Suikerboere Rugby Club Chairman, Jors Strydom.

'Our vision is to raise funds for worthy causes in our community through hard work and sport, as well as influence the younger

generations to lead fit, healthy and purposeful lives.



Pongola farmers Rocco Höll and Ferdie Brecher present the cheque to Agri SA's Deputy Director, Christo van de Rheede and Kwanalu President Andy Buchan during the recent Kwanalu congress