Kwanalu

Annual Report 2026

Kwanalu one voice, one vision.
Leading agriculture forward.

The strategic focus of Kwanalu

is to provide leadership on rural and agricultural issues. With emphasis on all aspects pertaining to economic sustainability, security, risk management, rural development, and land tenure.

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Kwanalu President Report

By Peter-John Hassard

It is my privilege to present my report as President on the activities, challenges, and achievements of the past year.

Agriculture remains one of the most resilient sectors of our economy. Every day, farmers across KwaZulu-Natal continue to produce food, fibre, and fuel under increasingly difficult conditions. We operate in an environment shaped by disease outbreaks, policy uncertainty, rising input costs, infrastructure challenges, and changing regulatory requirements. Yet despite these obstacles, our farming community continues to demonstrate determination, innovation, and commitment.

This past year has tested our sector in many ways, but it has also demonstrated the value of a united agricultural voice. Kwanalu has remained committed to representing, protecting, and advancing the interests of farmers throughout KwaZulu-Natal.

Without question, the most significant issue facing livestock producers this year has been Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

Throughout the year, Kwanalu has engaged extensively with government departments, veterinary authorities, and industry stakeholders regarding the management of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that farmers' concerns were heard and that practical solutions were pursued.

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> **While challenges remain, progress has been made.**

The declaration of disease management areas, the implementation of Section 10 controls, vaccination programmes, movement restrictions, and ongoing disease surveillance created uncertainty and significant financial pressure for many producers. Farmers were required to adapt quickly to changing regulations while maintaining biosecurity standards and safeguarding their businesses.

Kwanalu played an active role in facilitating communication between authorities and producers, ensuring that members received timely updates and guidance. We advocated for science-based decision-making, transparency in disease management, and practical implementation measures that recognised the realities faced by farmers on the ground.

Developments during the year, including the lifting of certain restrictions and important legal outcomes relating to disease management, represent steps towards restoring confidence within the livestock sector. We will continue to engage constructively with all stakeholders to strengthen animal health systems and improve preparedness for future disease outbreaks.

Alongside animal health concerns, Kwanalu devoted significant attention to protecting the economic viability of farming operations.

One of the most important successes during the year involved the diesel rebate system. The diesel rebate remains a critical mechanism that supports agricultural production and helps offset escalating operating costs. Kwanalu worked closely with organised agriculture and industry partners to oppose proposals that would have negatively affected farmers. The outcome achieved represents an important victory for agriculture and demonstrates the effectiveness of coordinated advocacy.

Labour and employment matters also featured prominently during the year. Farmers have had to navigate changes relating to the National Minimum Wage, COIDA requirements, transport regulations, foreign worker policies, and employment equity provisions. These issues have significant implications for farming businesses, particularly in a labour-intensive province such as KwaZulu-Natal.

Kwanalu continued to provide guidance and support to members while engaging policymakers on the practical impact of proposed legislation and regulatory changes. Our objective remains clear: to promote fair labour practices while ensuring that farming businesses remain sustainable and competitive. Land and property rights remain central concerns for the agricultural sector.

Throughout the year, Kwanalu monitored and engaged on developments relating to expropriation legislation and proposed amendments to the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land framework. Secure property rights are fundamental to investment, food production, and economic growth. We will continue to advocate for policies that provide certainty and protect the interests of landowners while supporting meaningful agricultural development.

Water security and environmental regulation have become increasingly important considerations for all farmers.

Kwanalu has actively engaged in water-use registration requirements, proposed National Water Act regulations, and various environmental compliance matters. Water is the lifeblood of agriculture, and it is essential that regulatory frameworks support both environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity.

> **I wish to thank our members for their continued support & participation.**

Similarly, our work on waste management initiatives reflects agriculture's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship. Farmers understand better than most that the future of agriculture depends on the responsible management of our natural resources.

Infrastructure remains one of the greatest challenges facing rural communities.

Members have repeatedly raised concerns regarding deteriorating road networks, increasing transport costs, and the impact of poor infrastructure on market access and farm operations. Kwanalu has engaged provincial authorities on these issues and continues to advocate for greater investment in rural infrastructure.

Electricity remains another area of concern.

Our engagements with Eskom regarding rural tariffs and provincial collaboration sought to ensure that the needs of agricultural producers are recognised in planning and tariff decisions. Reliable and affordable electricity is essential for irrigation, processing, storage, and many other farming activities.

Despite these challenges, there is much to celebrate.

One of the highlights of our year has been the continued success of the KZN Toyota Kwanalu Young Farmer of the Year Competition. This initiative showcases the exceptional talent, innovation, and dedication of young agricultural leaders within our province. The future of agriculture depends on attracting and supporting the next generation of farmers. The participants in this competition remind us that the future of our sector is in capable hands.

> **"The future of agriculture depends on attracting & supporting the next generation of farmers.**

Their commitment to excellence, sustainability, and innovation provides confidence that agriculture will continue to thrive for generations to come.

As we reflect on the year, it is important to acknowledge the partnerships that enable Kwanalu to fulfil its mandate.

I wish to thank our members for their continued support and participation. I thank our commodity organisations, local agricultural associations, sponsors, and industry partners for their collaboration and commitment. I would like to extend a special thank you to our commodity organisations for their ongoing support and dedication to the agricultural sector.

I would also like to make special mention of Angus from the RPO and Sandra from the MPO. Angus has worked tirelessly on the front line of the fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), while Sandra has been unwavering in her commitment to supporting farmers throughout this challenging period.

At times, both of you have been treated unfairly, yet you remained steadfast and never gave up. On behalf of the farmers of KwaZulu-Natal, thank you for your hard work, resilience, and persistence.

I also acknowledge the constructive engagement we have had with various government departments and officials throughout the year. While we may not always agree on every issue, open dialogue remains essential to finding practical solutions that support both agricultural development and the broader public interest.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Kwanalu Board, executive committee, and staff for their dedication and professionalism. Their commitment ensures that our organisation continues to provide effective representation and service to members across the province.

We are fortunate to have a young and capable Board that will continue to take Kwanalu forward. I encourage our farmers to remain actively involved in the organisation and to ensure that strong candidates are nominated to fill vacant Board positions. The future strength of Kwanalu depends on committed individuals who are prepared to serve and lead.

To our staff – Sandy, Delyse, Rita, Freddie, and John – thank you for all that you do. With such a small but dedicated team, we have achieved more than many other provinces. Your commitment, professionalism, and willingness to go the extra mile is deeply appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to express a special thank you to Sandy for her unwavering support throughout my term as President. Your dedication, guidance, and support have played a significant role in helping me fulfil this responsibility.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank my family, and especially my wife, Carika. Thank you for standing by me through both the challenging and rewarding times, for listening to countless hours of meetings – particularly as we share an office – and for always finding the positive when things were not going well. Your patience, encouragement, and support have meant more than words can express.

One of my greatest concerns is the growing tendency for individuals to move away from organised agriculture. Over the past 15 years, I have had the privilege of serving as an Advisory Council Member, Board Member, and most recently, President of Kwanalu. During that time, I have witnessed firsthand the significant role Kwanalu has played in representing farmers' interests and influencing decisions at government level.

"Now, more than ever, is the time for farmers to become actively involved in organised agriculture.

Agriculture has always required optimism. Every planting season, every breeding season, and every investment decision reflects a belief in the future. As farmers, we understand that success is built through persistence, adaptation, and long-term commitment.

Kwanalu will continue to be a strong and credible voice for agriculture in KwaZulu-Natal. We will continue to engage policymakers, support our members, defend the interests of agriculture, and promote the growth and sustainability of our sector.

Thank you for your commitment to agriculture, thank you for your support of Kwanalu, and thank you for the vital role that each of you plays in feeding our province and our nation.

Now, more than ever, is the time for farmers to become actively involved in organised agriculture. Without strong farmer associations, commodity organisations, and an agricultural union such as Kwanalu, our ability to influence policy, protect our interests, and shape the future of agriculture will be greatly diminished. Together, our collective voice is far stronger than any individual voice could ever be.

Looking ahead, we know that challenges will continue.

Disease management, infrastructure constraints, regulatory compliance, rising costs, and policy uncertainty will remain significant issues. However, the resilience of our farming community has been demonstrated repeatedly throughout our history.

> **Together, we can ensure that agriculture remains a cornerstone of the provincial economy, a source of food security & a foundation for rural development.**

Kwanalu CEO Report

By Sandy La Marque

The period under review has been both challenging and defining for Kwanalu. Throughout this report, members will note a number of significant concerns affecting agriculture. Equally important, however, is that Kwanalu has remained informed, proactive, and fully engaged in addressing every issue impacting our members and finding solutions.

Over the past three months alone, Kwanalu has undertaken more than 34 association visits, alongside countless telephone calls, WhatsApp discussions, and email engagements. This level of interaction demonstrates the strength of our member platform and ensures that concerns, proposals, and solutions are heard directly from those we represent.

Our Members' Congress continues to provide clear mandates across six strategic focus areas:

- Commercial and Economic Matters (including infrastructure, roads, Eskom, and municipal rates)
- Agricultural Development and Land (including the protection of private property rights, land reform, and sustainable development)
- Safety and Security
- Natural Resources (including water and mining)
- Labour and Employment
- Communication and Sector Image

Kwanalu has adopted clear policy positions across each of these focus areas and remains unwavering in its commitment to protecting the South African Constitution and the rights it guarantees.

> **"Every matter raised receives a dynamic, multifaceted response as we pursue the best possible outcomes for our members.**

The spread of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) across KwaZulu-Natal and beyond has had a devastating impact on agriculture. For many years Kwanalu has advocated for meaningful policy interventions and has consistently taken guidance from its affiliated commodity organisations—the recognised industry experts, representing red meat, dairy, pork, sheep and wool, and game.

As a general agricultural organisation, our approach has remained consultative, supportive and inclusive, ensuring that all sectors work together towards common solutions.
Throughout this crisis, Kwanalu has remained firmly guided by its governance pillars, ensuring every decision is strategically considered and responsibly managed.
Numerous Board meetings and stakeholder engagements have been held to continually assess our strategy and the role we play in supporting the livestock, dairy, and game industries.

Kwanalu continues to be recognised as a respected and influential leader in addressing FMD.

Unfortunately, the spread of the disease has been exacerbated by systemic failures within the state, poor accountability, and ineffective disease management.

This has been further complicated by the rapid spread of misinformation on social media, where unverified and often irresponsible commentary has undermined coordinated efforts.

While litigation remains an option and has never been ruled out, extensive legal consultation has questioned whether pursuing legal action against an under-resourced, yet financially unconstrained department would deliver the urgent outcomes required. Members and associations remain divided on this approach.

Kwanalu continues to participate in every relevant forum, ensuring members' concerns are raised, practical solutions are proposed and government is held accountable. As always, verified information is communicated responsibly and promptly to members.

Our advocacy has focused on several priority areas, including:

- Vaccine availability, supply, and rollout
- Prioritisation of KwaZulu-Natal
- Identification of disease hotspots and vulnerable industries
- Improved disease management protocols
- Administrative and legislative reforms
- Litigation options
- De-gazetting of the Disease Management Area (DMA)
- Improved diagnostic capability
- Authorisation of private veterinarians to vaccinate
- A national electronic permit system
- Enhanced movement control systems
- WOAH disease status
- FMD-free compartmentalisation
- Mandatory traceability
- Trade implications
- Economic impact mitigation
- Disaster management declaration

While FMD continues to affect the province, Kwanalu and its commodity affiliates, remain at the forefront of industry leadership. The financial impact has been severe, with some members forced to sell their farms. Kwanalu has also experienced membership losses and reduced subscription income as a consequence.

To assist members, Kwanalu has worked closely with municipalities to develop property rates relief and policies that acknowledge the financial impact of FMD on affected farming businesses.

Employment remains a critical priority for agriculture within the province. During the reporting period, Kwanalu intensified its advocacy efforts, seeking practical interventions to address ongoing labour challenges. Although progress has been slower than desired, encouraging developments have been achieved.

Our engagements have focused on:

- Short-term relief measures, including moratoriums and amnesties
- Agricultural sector-specific visas
- Verification of corporate visas
- Satellite immigration offices
- Naturalisation pathways for foreign workers
- Addressing administrative inefficiencies

Road infrastructure has become one of the most frequently raised concerns by members and remains an ongoing priority. In response, Kwanalu implemented a focused intervention programme that included meetings with every regional Department of Transport Director, establishing a comprehensive provincial roads database, and maintaining continual engagement with officials and relevant stakeholders.
This remains an ongoing priority.

Member submissions paint an alarming picture:

- Fifty-four roads classified as complete disasters
- Between eight and twelve stalled contracts
- Complete abandonment of maintenance on numerous roads
- Minimal or no response from officials, often citing insufficient resources

Following continued inaction by the Department of Transport, Kwanalu convened a provincial workshop to explore legal options. These included:

- A provincial class action relating to identified roads;
- Court oversight of systemic service delivery failures; and
- Other strategic legal interventions.

Several associations are now considering their preferred course of action. Kwanalu stands ready to facilitate these processes and, where appropriate, serve as amicus curiae (Friend of the Court).

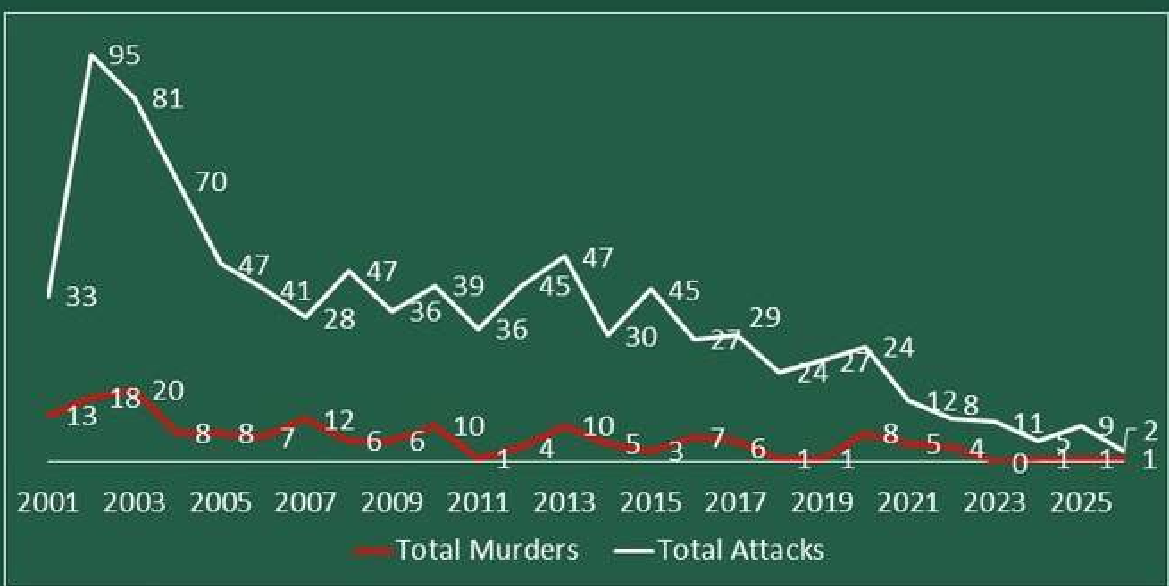
Water governance continues to evolve rapidly through legislative, policy, and implementation changes. Kwanalu has remained proactive, submitting well-informed inputs across all levels of government. Strong working relationships with relevant authorities have significantly improved responsiveness to key member concerns.

Kwanalu's engagement with Eskom continues to deliver tangible benefits for members. Through established escalation mechanisms and ongoing collaboration, numerous electricity supply challenges have been successfully resolved. During the reporting period, several workshops were also held to address key issues and strengthen cooperation.

Safety and security remains one of Kwanalu's greatest achievements and a defining area of leadership. Our work in this space continues to produce outcomes unmatched elsewhere in the country.

Every reported farm attack and farm murder is investigated, with Kwanalu actively contributing towards ensuring that the rule of law is upheld. Our intelligence networks, relationships with law enforcement and informed interventions provide direct and indirect benefits to every member.

Kwanalu
Farm Attacks & Murders 2002-2026 (June)



Note: Deriving primary income from agriculture
Murder is counted as 1 case for each victim

Kwanalu's position on land reform remains firmly guided by mandates received from members. Earlier this year, our update on expropriation reaffirmed this position. We remain vigilant, legally engaged and fully committed to defending our members constitutional property rights. We will continue to advocate, lobby, and intervene on behalf of members, but we will not compromise or negotiate away the constitutional rights of those we represent.

A visual summary elsewhere in this report illustrates examples of the remarkable volume of policy and regulatory submissions made by Kwanalu during the reporting period.

The breadth of this work clearly demonstrates the critical role Kwanalu continues to play in protecting and advancing the interests of agriculture in KwaZulu-Natal.

My sincere thanks go to the Kwanalu Board for their steadfast leadership during an exceptionally demanding period.

I also extend my appreciation to our dedicated staff, - Freddie, Delyse, Rita, John and our project team Kathy, Kwanele, Ayanda and Nkosi - who consistently go above and beyond, often without recognition.

Finally, I wish to pay special tribute to our President, PJ (Peter John Hassard). PJ has been an exceptional leader, a genuine farmer, and an unwavering advocate for our members. His integrity, humility, and willingness to listen has earned him the respect of all who have had the privilege of working alongside him.

PJ, thank you for your commitment, your leadership, and your service to Kwanalu. Your contribution has made a lasting difference, and we are sincerely grateful.

The question,

"What does Kwanalu do for me?"

is best answered by reflecting on the collective impact of the work outlined in this report.

Who is Kwanalu?

- Kwanalu is an autonomous, nongovernment, nonprofit, voluntary organisation of farmers and rural citizens united to analyze their issues and formulate actions to solve these issues.

- Kwanalu believes that property rights and personal freedom are guaranteed by the South African Constitution and are essential to the general welfare and these freedoms should be defended.

- We believe that economic progress is best achieved in a free market system.

- Kwanalu strives for the general welfare of all aspects of farm and rural life through economic opportunity, protection of rights, social advancement, and educational improvement.

- Kwanalu seeks safe and secure rural communities by strengthening the rural economy through job creation using mindset change, entrepreneurship, mentoring and clustering.

- Kwanalu will advocate for family farmers, agricultural and farm businesses, rural landowners, and their communities through advocacy, leadership, education, cooperation, transparency, accountability, and legislation.

Kwanalu overarching principles:

Lobby	Legal	Strong
Influence	Economic	Advocacy
Engage	Fact-based	Inclusivity
Stakeholder engagement	Member-driven	Representative
Politically aware, non-partisan	Ethical	Pro-business
Represent our members	Protect	Value adds
Sustainable profitable rural agricultural communities	Leadership	Communication

“Organised agriculture turns individual challenges into collective action.

We value...

- **Integrity:** Maintaining the highest standards, honesty, accountability, and morality.
- **Influence:** Driving a credible, relevant, politically non-partisan and social change agenda on behalf of family farmers, farm businesses, rural landowners, and their communities.
- **Leadership:** Inspiring and empowering current and future leaders of agriculture and rural communities.
- **Stewardship:** Responsible and respectful use and care for all resources: Human, natural, and financial.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensuring all people are welcome and valued in Kwanalu, and all members are represented fairly in policy and society.
- **Transparency:** Being clear, honest, and forthright in our words, processes and actions.
- **Professional image:** Being modern and progressive.
- **Informed:** Being legally, economically and factually sound in all activities.

Kwanalu

adopts a strong clearly articulated policy position and will not compromise or deviate from the protection of the SA Constitution and our rights embodied therein.

1. Commercial & Economic Position (e.g. roads, Eskom, rates etc.)

- Profitable and sustainable economic environment
- Appropriate policies for finance, service delivery and co-operation
- Efficient Infrastructure
  - Road and rail
  - Energy (electricity, fuel)
  - Communication networks
- Equitable and fair Municipal property rates application

(Kwanalu supports investment in infrastructure and for that investment to be efficient and cost effective. However, that's balanced by the need for landowners hosting infrastructure to be fairly compensated for loss of property or an impairment of their property rights.)

2. Land & Agricultural Development Position (protect private property rights, land reform, sustainable development etc.)

- Sacrosanct property rights
- Free market principles
- Statutory mechanisms to prevent unlawful occupation and the undermining of property rights.
- Accountable, transparent, and seamless land reform processes including private settlement, restitution, labour tenants and occupiers amongst other.

3. Safety and Security Position

- **Uphold the rule of law for a safe, fair and equitable society.**
- An integrated law enforcement strategy
- Effective law enforcement and policing
- Create safe and secure rural communities through economic investment, entrepreneurship, job creation, mentoring and clustering.

4. Natural Resources Position

- Sustainable and equitable use of natural resources (Water, minerals etc.)
- Protect our natural resources (productive agricultural land, water etc.)

5. Labour & Employment Position

- Equitable policy affecting labour and employment.
- Promote Compliance with labour and related legislation.

6. Public Relations, Sector Image & Communication Position

- Raise and position Kwanalu as a thought leader amongst key audiences.
- Lobby influence and represent the views of members through the sound use of credible information.
- Be the recognized spokesperson in KwaZulu-Natal on agricultural and rural issues.

Conclusion

Kwanalu’s strategic focus is to provide leadership on rural and agricultural issues. With the emphasis on all aspects pertaining to economic sustainability, security, risk management, rural development, and land tenure.

2025/26 Policy and Regulatory Submissions

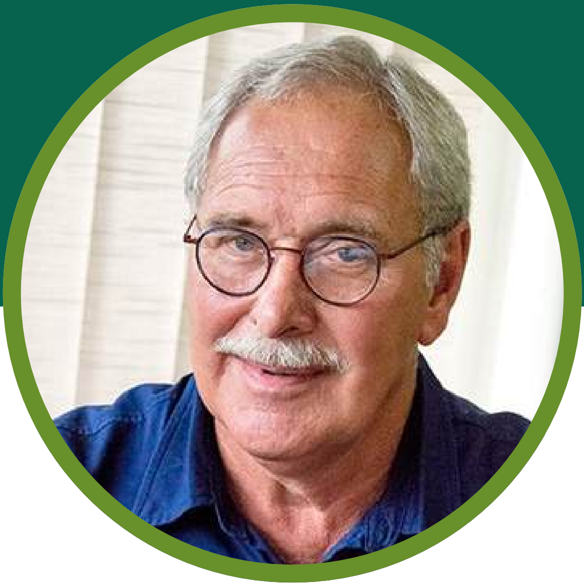
Topic	Institution	Type	Year
Raw Water Pricing Strategy (2024)	Department of Water and Sanitation	National policy analysis	2022-2024, applied to 2026
WRM Tariff Submission (PUCMA)	Department of Water and Sanitation / PUCMA	Formal regulatory submission	2025 & 2026 in progress
Water Resource Infrastructure Charges	Department of Water and Sanitation / PUCMA	Formal regulatory submission	2025 & 2026 in progress
Water Services Amendment Bill	Department of Water and Sanitation	Formal regulatory submission	2026
National Water Act Amendment Bill	Department of Water and Sanitation	Formal regulatory submission	Ongoing - 2026
Water governance reform and CMA establishment	Department of Water and Sanitation	Internal lobbying analysis	2025/26
Public/private allocation of water management costs	Department of Water and Sanitation	Internal lobbying analysis	2025/26
WRC public-good funding methodology	Water Research Commission	Research informing policy	2022 in relation to annual pricing.
CMA governance and board representation	PUCMA / DWS	Internal lobbying analysis	2025/26
Water User Association governance	DWS	Internal lobbying analysis	Ongoing - 2026
Protection and Development of Agricultural Land Act (PDALA) Regulations	Department of Agriculture	Formal regulatory submission	2026
PDALA implementation workshop	Department of Agriculture	Policy engagement	2026
PIE Amendment Bill	Department of Justice	Formal legislative submission	2026
Land Court Act implementation	Land Court	Presentation/policy engagement	2025/26
Labour Tenancy reform	Department of Land Reform	Presentation/policy engagement	2025/26

Topic	Institution	Type	Year
Municipal rates relief for Disaster Management Areas	Municipalities / Depar Cooperative Governance	Local government lobbying	2025 & 2026
National Minimum Wage review	National Minimum Wage Commission	Formal regulatory submission	2026
National Minimum Wage escalation	National Government	Lobbying	2026
Eskom agricultural feeder prioritisation	Eskom	National lobbying	2025/26
Solar banking and grid-tied tariff reform	Eskom / National Energy Regulator of South Africa	Submission to AgriSA for Eskom & Nersa engagement	2025/26
Ruraflex tariff issues	National Energy Regulator of South Africa / AgriSA	Submission to AgriSA for Eskom & Nersa engagement	2025/26
FMD: Terminal feedlot legislative framework	Department of Agriculture	Policy proposal	2025
FMD: Submission of draft national disease management plan	Department of Agriculture	Policy proposal	2025/26
FMD: Comments on Section 10	Department of Agriculture	Formal regulatory submission	2025/26
FMD: Submission of alternative section 10	Department of Agriculture	Policy proposal	2025/26
Farm biosecurity access protocols	Department of Employment and Labour / Department of Agriculture	Compliance guidance	2025
Waste regulations affecting agriculture, composting etc.	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Formal legislative submission	2026
Road maintenance and related escalation	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport	Provincial lobbying	2025 & 2026
Franklin/Frankolin land invasion advocacy	Municipality / Department of Human Settlements	Local government engagement	2024-2026
Department of Water and Sanitation stakeholder engagement, Muden, Pricing, ongoing individual issues	DWS	Government engagement	2025 & 2026
Kwanalu water strategy	Internal Kwanalu	Strategic policy development	2026

Topic	Institution	Type	Year
Zwartberg land settlement issue	Transnet	Support to association	2025/26
General AgriSA Position papers	AgriSA & Kwanalu	Internal lobbying analysis	2026
Foreign Labour	Department of Employment and Labour / Department of Home Affairs	National lobbying	2025 & 2026 in progress
Sand Minig	Department of Mineral & Energy, Water Sanitation,	National lobbying	2025 & 2026 in progress
Pongola Eskom issues	Eskom & Nersa	National lobbying	2025 & 2026 in progress
Farm Access Protocol	Governement, Stakeholders	Principle matters regarding access and other	2025 & 2026 in progress
Farm Dweller Services	Department of Land Reform, Municipalities and other	Policy engagement	2025 & 2026 in progress
Provincial Disaster Managent	Department of Coperative Governance and others	Lobbying	2025 & 2026 in progress
National Rural Safety Strategy Review	SAPS	Advocay	2025/26

Kwanalu Security Desk Report

By Freddie van Tonder



Safety and security remain a concern for farmers and rural communities across our province. Kwanalu Security Desk works closely with all relevant stakeholders, monitoring risk factors, sharing information, and engaging with stakeholders in finding possible solutions. Supporting coordinated responses to protect and serve farmers and farm dwellers. Through structured engagement and on the ground support, the desk ensures that members are not facing these challenges alone.

Rural safety remains under threat as criminal syndicates target vulnerable communities with little or no security infrastructure. The theft of livestock, crops, and infrastructure continues to be a financial burden on commercial as well as communal farmers.

The prolonged Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak disrupted auctions, supply chain, and market access across the province.

The FMD movement restrictions have added significant operational stress to the agricultural community.

Ahead of the November 2026 local government elections, the broader community and in particular, the KZN farming community faces several challenges, namely, rural security, electricity, water infrastructure, and poor or no service delivery.

Election periods may result in tension, which could lead to security risks, including fear of unrest, protests, and road blockades, resulting in the closure of crops and food supply routes. This remains a primary concern for the agricultural sector.

Farmers' association meetings were attended, and during these meetings, concerns, challenges, and personal farm security matters were addressed. Guidelines, legal legislation, and opinions supported by the relevant documentation were shared with associations and individual members. Association and community Whatsapp groups are monitored daily to identify any risks and operational plans that may be required. Increased emphasis on coordinating, liaising, and facilitating on behalf of members with the South African Police Service and relevant stakeholders has been a key factor in addressing safety and security concerns.

Kwanalu Security Desk works closely with the South African Police and stakeholders to monitor risks, share information, and support coordinated responses that protect lives, livelihoods, and agricultural operations. Kwanalu On behalf of members and farming communities, is the only representative body in the province representing members at National, Provincial, and, where necessary, station rural safety priority committee meetings.

Addressing security matters, potential threats, and risk factors to find workable solutions.

Members are advised to actively engage in their local security structures. Stay informed and connect through Kwanalu. The Kwanalu Security Desk is committed to rendering a professional service to our members.

> **Strong networks & organized agriculture remain key to improving rural safety.**

Kwanalu Land & Economic Affairs Desk Report

By John Flanagan

The past year has been characterised by a continued expansion in both the breadth and strategic impact of the Land and Economics Desk. While responding to operational challenges affecting members, increasing emphasis has been placed on developing practical policy solutions, influencing legislation, and strengthening relationships with government and industry. Key focus areas have included water governance, Foot and Mouth Disease, land reform and property rights, policy engagement, and rural infrastructure.

Water Issues

Water governance has remained one of the highest priority workstreams during the year. Significant effort has been invested in challenging the structure and justification of proposed raw water pricing, improving transparency around public and private expenditure, and engaging with the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Pongola-uMzimkhulu Catchment Management Agency. Water legislation and governance continue to present significant long-term risks to agricultural competitiveness, making ongoing engagement and technical oversight essential.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Foot and Mouth Disease became one of the most significant operational and policy priorities of the year. The desk has supported extensive engagement locally between agriculture groups, veterinary services, commodity organisations, and government through the Umzinyathi Joint Operations Committee. Alongside this, contributions have been made towards practical policy proposals relating to vaccination, movement controls, terminal feedlot systems, and market access.

> Increasingly, the desk has sought not only to respond to issues affecting members, but to influence the long-term policy environment within which agriculture operates.

The emphasis has increasingly shifted from responding to outbreaks towards establishing practical long-term systems capable of supporting disease control while protecting agricultural production and market access.

Land Reform and Property Rights
Land reform, property rights, and rural tenure security have remained significant areas of engagement throughout the year. Work has focused on the implementation of the Land Court Act, labour tenancy, restitution, expropriation, and unlawful occupation, together with engagement on proposed legislative amendments affecting property rights.

Throughout these engagements, the emphasis has been on developing practical solutions which balance constitutional objectives with secure property rights, sustainable agricultural production, and investment certainty.

Policy and Legislative Advocacy
The policy environment affecting agriculture continues to expand rapidly. During the year, the desk has contributed to submissions and engagements on a broad range of legislation and policy affecting agriculture, including agricultural land use, water legislation, labour, property rights, and municipal governance. Increasing emphasis has been placed on producing evidence-based submissions that not only identify concerns but also propose practical alternatives capable of improving policy outcomes for both agriculture and government.

An ongoing focus is to strengthen avenues of recourse in cases where policy outcomes have insufficiently taken into account contributions made by organised agriculture.

Infrastructure

Engagement with Eskom, the Department of Transport, and other public entities has continued throughout the year.

Electricity reliability, rural road infrastructure, and service delivery remain significant constraints on agricultural productivity.

Ongoing engagement has resulted in continued prioritisation of key agricultural electricity networks and strengthened relationships with Eskom, while the roads remain an area where limited progress has been achieved despite ongoing advocacy.

Infrastructure failure increasingly represents one of the greatest risks to agricultural competitiveness and rural economic development.

The Land and Economics Desk continues to evolve beyond responding to individual issues towards developing practical, evidence-based solutions capable of influencing policy, legislation, and government decision-making. While many of the challenges facing agriculture originate from declining state capacity, the past year has demonstrated that organised agriculture can continue to influence outcomes through credible technical engagement, constructive relationships, and strategic advocacy. Building on these foundations will further strengthen Kwanalu's ability to protect and advance the interests of its members.

Kwanalu Development Desk Report

By Sandy La Marque

Kwanalu's rural development activities continue to develop an impact on rural commercial farmers.

The various programmes have, since, 2020, assisted 7607 rural agripreneurs to deliver on their dreams by either starting to farming, scaling up or exploring enterprises more suitable for their biotypes.

In many cases, the programme has been ably supported by service providers and partners, all wanting the informal agricultural sector to be acknowledged as a thriving contributor to the sector.

In addition, 750 agricultural graduates have found employment on farms, many as junior farm managers. Livestock farmers were ably prepared for the biosecurity challenge, receiving support to understand the importance of dip tank associations and sustainable veld management for grazing.

Funders, both local and international, have invested close to R25m in these programmes, boosting the rural economy and rural safety and security.

Through these programmes, Kwanalu has impacted close to 200 000 livelihoods and have boosted the rural economy by R1 billion.

Kwanalu Public Relations (PR) Desk Report

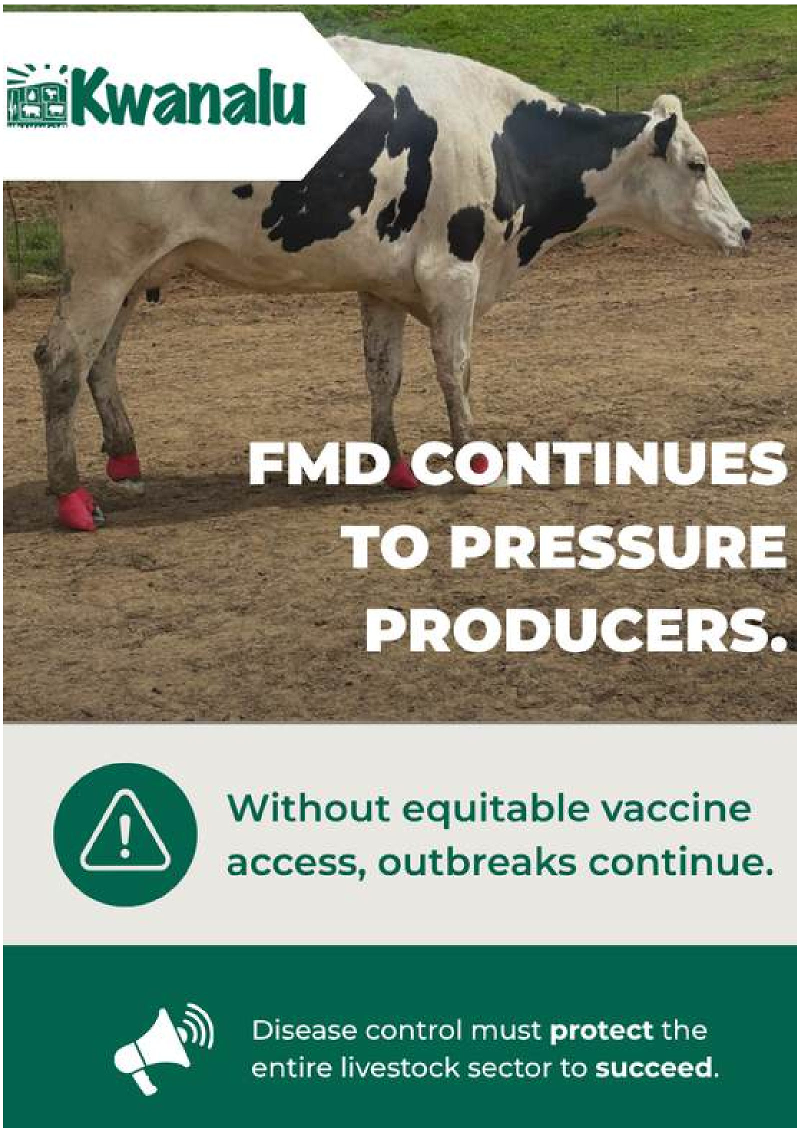
By Cindy Kidger

The Kwanalu PR Desk has remained focused on one objective: ensuring that the collective voice of organised agriculture is heard where it matters most.

With ongoing policy uncertainty placing significant pressure on producers, communication became a critical advocacy tool.

Through traditional media, digital platforms and direct member communication, the Desk has worked to protect the interests of KwaZulu-Natal farmers while strengthening public understanding of the vital role agriculture plays in South Africa's economy and food security.

A significant focus during the year was Kwanalu's advocacy around Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and the growing deterioration of rural road infrastructure. Throughout the FMD outbreak, the PR Desk worked to ensure members' concerns remained at the forefront of public and policy discussions. Regular media statements were issued in response to key developments, government decisions and delays, consistently calling for practical, science-based interventions, equitable vaccine access, greater transparency and meaningful support for livestock producers. This was supported by a dedicated digital communication campaign aimed at explaining the impact of the outbreak on farmers, rural livelihoods and food security, while reinforcing the actions needed to strengthen disease control. The campaign remains ongoing as Kwanalu continues to advocate for long-term solutions.



The PR Desk also launched a dedicated rural roads campaign to bring awareness to the impact deteriorating infrastructure has on agricultural productivity, food security and rural economies. Using case studies from affected farming areas, the campaign demonstrates how failing roads increase transport costs, disrupt supply chains, damage vehicles and place additional pressure on farming businesses and the communities that depend on them.

By combining targeted media engagement with sustained digital advocacy, the campaign aims to build greater public awareness while strengthening Kwanalu's call for urgent, accountable intervention.

This initiative will continue to expand as additional areas are documented and members contribute evidence from across the province.

The Desk also continued to showcase the positive impact of organised agriculture by highlighting the work of Kwanalu's specialist desks, member successes and the progress of the Nedbank-supported Women and Youth in Rural Entrepreneurship (WYRE) programme, demonstrating how practical farmer development contributes to stronger rural communities and long-term agricultural sustainability.

Looking ahead, the PR Desk will continue strengthening Kwanalu's advocacy as the country enters the municipal election period, ensuring agriculture remains well represented amid increased political activity. Greater emphasis will be placed on exposing the impact of deteriorating rural infrastructure, preparing members for the potential effects of a looming Super El Niño, and reinforcing the direct link between resilient farming, food security and South Africa's economic stability.

At a time when agriculture has never been more essential, Kwanalu will continue ensuring that farmers' voices remain credible, visible and influential.

The following Digital Media stats are recorded for the dates 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026:

Facebook:
Total reach: 1.9 million
Total followers: 51 825

Instagram:
Total reach: 331 638
Total followers: 5333

X:
Total followers: 2 491

LinkedIn:
Total reach: 41 245
Total followers: 1 316

WhatsApp:
Number of instant messages sent: 115

Traditional media & reach achieved:
Newspaper/ magazine articles:
1 218 297 (circulation)

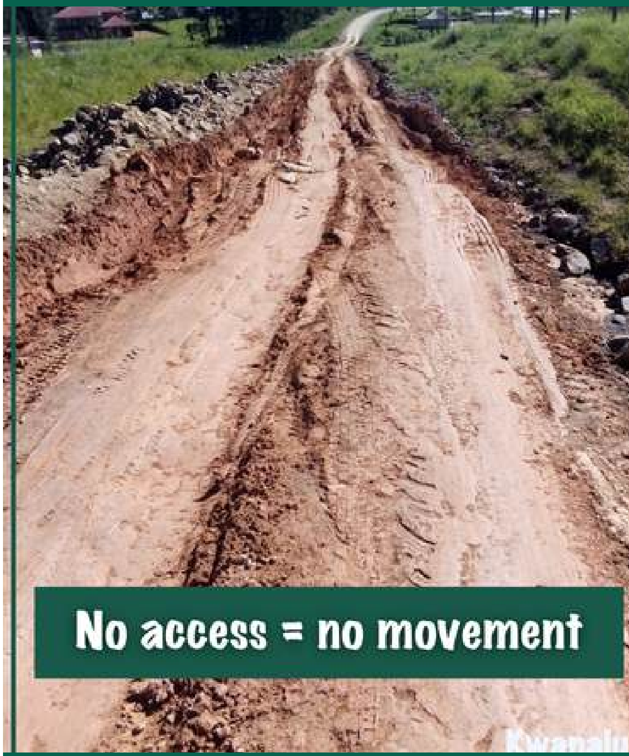
Online articles: 249 280 569 (unique browsers)

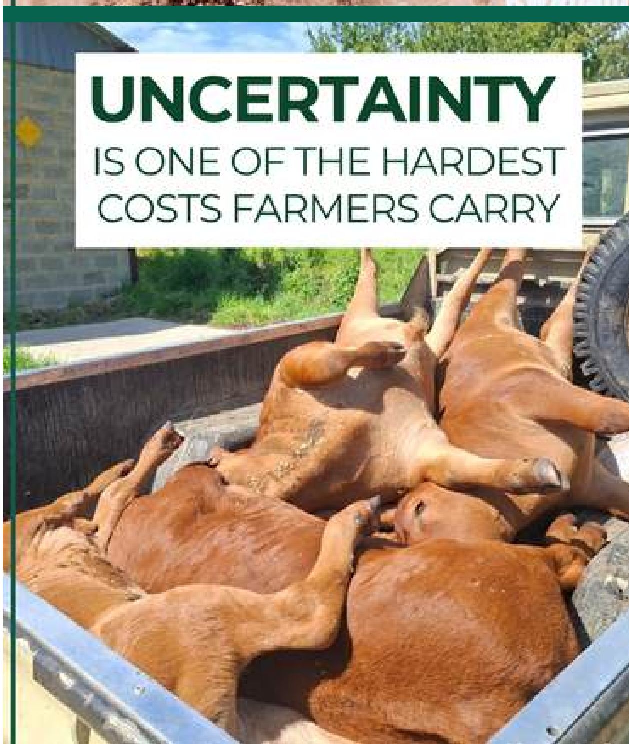
Television: 79 306 (viewership)

Radio: 6 280 000 (listenership)

Direct value (should Kwanalu have paid for this space): R4 525 718

PR value (perceptions, conclusions, the “PR” benefit): R11 834 532





Women & Youth in Rural Entrepreneurship (WYRE) Report

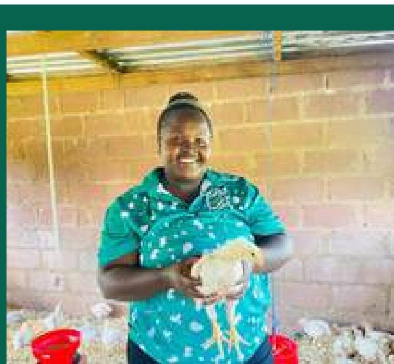
By Dr Kathy Hurly

The Kwanalu Women and Youth Rural Entrepreneurship (WYRE) programme was established after the July 2021 riots with the expressed aim to build social cohesion in rural areas through entrepreneurship and, in this way, to promote safety and security in the rural areas of KZN. The programme is now in its fourth year, and nearly 1 500 women and youth have been through this leadership/entrepreneurship programme since November 2021.

The programme fits into the broader vision of Kwanalu to support rural communities. The programme remains funded by external parties and pays towards the services provided by Kwanalu to the programme. The ability of an NPO like Kwanalu to deliver beyond its commercial farmer mandate can only be driven by buy-in from the membership through levied contributions or by raising funds from the private or government sector.

Wyre continues to be funded by the private sector and receives no funding from the membership.

For the period under review, the programme was funded by Nedbank Group Limited. It was aimed at upscaling the agricultural enterprises of 50 young participants who had shown promise in previous Wyre programmes, and where a community had requested support for a group of potential youth entrepreneurs.






All potential participants and their sites were visited, and selection was based on several criteria, the most important being location, access to resources, and ability to demonstrate market linkages in the case of the commercial group. This information was used to categorise the participants into three groups: startups, small commercial, and commercial. All commercial participants received assistance with their enterprise budgets and funding, while the startups were supported through agricultural and business development training. Enterprises included vegetables, cattle, sheep and goats, and chickens (eggs and broilers). Kwanalu continued to support the suppliers who had provided an excellent service to participants in the previous project. The Kwanalu Wyre team has developed sufficient skills and knowledge to provide agricultural support and business training to all participants. Most of their time was spent on the ground with participants.

This project has enabled Kwanalu to start upscaling its entrepreneurial development model to continue contributing towards household food security, youth empowerment, and the creation of jobs in rural areas using agriculture as the catalyst.

“Kwanalu training has helped identify my mindset and how to make sure that it is aimed at business success.”

“Pricing and costing modules have helped me price my products correctly and improve my income.”

“Entrepreneurs often cannot leave the farm, and so the visits by Kwanalu are extremely useful in preventing expensive mistakes.”

(Comments from the commercial farmers during the May 2026 Independent monitoring, evaluation, and learning session.)

KZN Toyota Kwanalu Young Farmer of the Year

By Sandy La Marque

The Toyota / Kwanalu Young Farmer of the Year Competition is open to farmers under the age of 40, male or female, who are full members of their province's agricultural unions. Contestants are evaluated on all aspects of their farming operations, including their management philosophies, innovative practices, and long-term vision for their farms.

Creighton-based dairy farmer, Dale Hutton, was awarded the prestigious 2025 KZN Toyota Kwanalu Young Farmer of the Year. Hutton's contemporary, precise approach and responsible resource use impressed judges from Kwanalu.

Dale went on to represent KwaZulu-Natal at the Toyota SA/Agri SA National Young Farmer of the Year Competition, where he competed against the country's top young farmers for one of South Africa's most prestigious agricultural titles.

This competition continues to reveal the remarkable talent and vision of KZN's young farmers, who are not only embracing innovation but also show an unwavering commitment to agriculture in South Africa.

Their ability to adapt and invest in the future of farming is both inspiring and vital for the growth of our sector.

A forward-thinking farmer with a passion for sustainability and optimisation, Dale stood out for his modern, data-driven approach to farming. At the heart of his Kiwi-Cross breed dairy enterprise is a cutting-edge, satellite-based pasture management system, providing real-time insights into plant stress, grazing efficiency, and water allocation. His commitment to responsible resource use extends to solar-powered energy systems and digital moisture probes, which together reduce the farm's reliance on diesel, ensure energy efficiency, and allow for targeted, cost-effective irrigation.

> ***I have travelled to 18 countries & have never found a place I would rather work & live in than South Africa.***

All wastewater from the dairy is repurposed for use in dryland maize and kikuyu pastures, underscoring his goal to create an operation that actively improves soil health and conserves resources.

Despite the ongoing challenges facing the agricultural sector, Dale remains firmly committed to the future of agriculture in the country. After working and living abroad for four years, he chose to return home to his family farm, where he and his wife, Roxy, are now raising their three children.

Dale’s commitment to the industry extends well beyond the farm gate. A firm believer in the strength of organised agriculture, Dale has served on the Ingwe Farmers’ Association Committee for five years, including two years as Chairman and two years as Vice Chair, playing an active role in supporting and representing his community in the Creighton valley.

In addition to supplying milk to the local Creighton Valley Cheesery, he and his wife also own and run a small-batch artisanal ice cream business, the FatCow Creamery, using the milk from their herd.

Young farmers like Dale embody the resilience, innovation, and leadership that South African agriculture needs to secure its future. His ability to embrace technology while remaining firmly rooted in his community is what sets him apart. Congratulations!

SA Canegrowers

By Thomas Funke

"A year of ups and downs" is how one can describe the 2025/26 season. Good rainfall, acceptable mill performance, an unchanged Health Promotions Levy (HPL), and a relatively decent sales estimate all pointed towards a normal year. It should, however, be remembered that Tongaat Hulett still found itself in Business Rescue, but regular updates from the Business Rescue Practitioners assured stakeholders that a rescue was still possible and, in fact, imminent. Having therefore started off as a relatively normal year, it quickly became evident that this was not how it was going to end.

The low world price and strong exchange rate quickly made imports a more viable alternative to locally produced sugar. This situation is not unique to our market, and our fellow growers from other parts of the world, such as Australia, Europe, and the UK, reported similar issues and pressures. With the world price dropping to seven-year lows, largely driven by an oversupply on the world market, has put huge pressure on producers worldwide. The low world prices meant that importers could import sugar, pay the duty, and still sell their product at below the South African market price for sugar.

This was extremely concerning, and the sugar industry, having already applied for an increase in the duty in October 2024, increased its communication on the matter to the International Trade and Administration Commission (ITAC). In July 2025, the industry was informed that the Beverage Association of South Africa (BEVSA) had submitted an alternative proposal for a downward adjustment in the duty. After a lengthy consultation process, ITAC finally concluded that it would not be able to deal with both applications, and if both the sugar and beverage industries could not come to a compromise, it would have no other option but to reject both applications and embark on a process of its own investigation.

At the time of writing this report, that process is still ongoing, and the sugar industry has been informed that it would conclude its process and aim to release its findings in July 2026. We wait in anticipation for this and pray for a positive outcome.

The second major development of 2025/26 was the announcement that the Business Rescue Practitioners (BRPs) of Tongaat Hulett Limited (THL) had applied to the Durban High Court for provisional liquidation. The application sent shockwaves through the entire country. It seemed unfathomable that a company that has traded for 136 years would be expunged from existence. The application further seemed illogical as the regular updates since 2023 had assured stakeholders that the company was indeed capable of being rescued. So, what has changed? In short, the expiry of the sale agreement, the unreasonable demands by the Vision consortium, and the poor state of the economy all contributed to this decision being made by the THL BPRs. The Board of Directors of SA Canegrowers acted with haste to join forces with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) in opposing the application, as the closure of the company would have devastating consequences on the growers delivering sugarcane to the THL mills. At the time of writing, the court date had been set for the 16th of April, and the SA Canegrowers THL Task Team has worked tirelessly to find an alternative solution to save the company and the situation. We remain hopeful that a solution will be found.

SA Canegrowers continues to serve and stand up for all growers in the industry. The entire team has worked relentlessly to bring a world-class service to all our growers.

The South African sugar industry is going through some extremely turbulent times, and the THL crisis represents one of the worst crises that the industry has faced in recent times. The prospect that a milling company, representing the sole source of income for some 17 000 growers, could close down is deeply concerning, and it is in times such as these that faith and a proactive approach to a solution have to be implemented. We hope and continue to trust that our efforts will lead to a positive outcome for all supplying growers. As we close off our 99th year of existence, we look forward to a new future that will bring hope and prosperity for the entire industry.

Forestry South Africa

By Ronald Heath

The Forestry Sector delivered a strong operational performance in 2025 despite challenging market conditions. Total remitted timber volumes increased by 4.1% year-on-year to 14.27 million tonnes, the highest level in six years. Growth was driven primarily by improved logistics reliability, fewer energy disruptions, and better sector coordination. However, the stronger Rand meant reduced input costs, and depressed international markets impacted profitability.

Several key strategic objectives were achieved in 2025. These include the finalisation of the new diesel rebate system at 100%, instead of the previous 80% rebate, and with several additions for Forestry, which collectively will save in the order of R200 million per year for the Sector. A landmark block exemption was granted to FSA from the Competition Commission, enabling FSA, our members, and Transnet Freight Rail to share commercial information to improve rail service and efficiency.

The Sector was also privileged to secure improved service and commitments from Transnet.

FSA was furthermore instrumental in securing a greatly simplified and achievable EU Deforestation Regulation compliance framework, which will ensure that market access remains secure when EUDR is implemented.

Forestry-related crime remains one of the most significant operational and economic risks to the Sector. Incidents such as timber theft, plantation arson, illegal mining, equipment theft, and illegal hunting not only result in direct financial losses but also threaten worker safety and undermines investor confidence. During the reporting period, FSA intensified its engagement with the SAPS and SANDF and related authorities to strengthen coordination and improve enforcement outcomes.

FSA launched the Forestry Graduate Employment Programme (F-GEP) through a R20.1 million grant from the FP&M SETA. The programme aimed at improving the employability of forestry graduates had received 183 applications, of which 141 are appointable, 112 have been contracted, and 104 have been placed with hosts. It is also positive to note that eight candidates had already been employed on a full-time basis.

Grain SA

By Nico Vermaak

General Information
Grain SA is a non-profit organisation led by grain producers to provide commodity-specific strategic support and services to South African grain and oilseed producers and their members to ensure sustainability in the grain and oilseed production industry. Grain SA allocates a considerable amount of its time to promoting the profitability in the grain industry as well as improving market transparency. This is done by continually monitoring and reporting on input costs in line with international trends; removing and evaluating import tariffs on inputs and grains; coordinating international and local research for the improvement of grain production; and collecting and distributing market information so that producers can make better marketing decisions.

Grain SA Economic & Membership Services
Grain SA supports the needs of grain and oilseed producers nationwide through the constant monitoring of both local and international markets. Through effective communication and advocacy, Grain SA acts on behalf of its members in the policy and regulatory environment.

Grain SA's department focuses on three divisions, namely Inputs, Production, and Markets.

Input Division
Sustainable production remains an importantaspect for Grain SA, and producers cannotfarm sustainably in an uncompetitive input market environment.

The input economics team's core responsibilities are to monitor input prices, input availability, and quality, handle member disputes, and ensure a fair and competitive inputmarket environment. This is done through various projects and endeavours, including:

- The fertiliser and lime qualitymonitoring project is conducted annuallyin collaboration with FERTASA and the Department of Agriculture.
- Diesel rebateautomation systems development, in collaboration with SARS.
- Diesel qualitymonitoring.
- Input pricemonitoring (seed, fuel, fertiliser, lime,and other inputs)to ensure that international price trends follow through to the local market and to prevent market manipulation.

Topical Issues we currently face:

- EPR / SACTA - PBR Act & SANSOR Workshop;
- New emphasis on biofuelsthat can createalternative markets
- Agro-chemicals - pressure on many agro-chemical tools for grainand oilseed producers
- Alternatives to HHP’s
- DFFE - taking part in the GlobalFramework on Chemicalsto phase out HHP's by 2035 & making sure there are economically viable alternatives
- Terbufos - what is next after Terbufos have been prohibited
- Glyphosate - media pressure
- Diesel Rebate disputes
- Fuel & Fertiliser prices and supply on the back of the conflictin the Middle East

The current input cost environment presents one of the most significant profitability challenges facing grain producers. At the 2026 Grain SA Congress, it was highlighted that fertiliser continues to account for between 35% and 50% of total production costs, while fuel accounts for a further12% to 18%. This cost burden is being carried into a weaker commodity price environment, placing severe pressure on producer margins.

Grain SA continues to monitor international fertiliser benchmarks closely and engages with FERTASA, individual fertiliser companies and relevant government departments to ensure that global price relief is passed through to local producers without undue delay or margin extraction by intermediaries.

Grain SA engages directly with affected suppliers and regulators to correct identified deficiencies and, where necessary, supports producersin pursuing remediesfor crop damageor yield losses attributable to substandard inputs. Meetings were held with the umbrellabodies SANSOR, FERTASA,CROPLIFE, and SAAMAto discuss mutual concernsand to communicate the financial positionof producers. Individual inputcompanies were also engaged where relevant.

Production Division

The production economics team is responsible for monitoring and communicating the latest production methods, technologies, and market dynamics to Grain SA members and the broader agricultural community.

This team sets up production budgets for each represented commodity across the various production regions, which serve as guidelines and benchmarks for producers and industry role players alike. The production economics team also monitors producer deliveries and production trends throughout the season, providing valuable insight into current supply and demand dynamics.

Timely production monitoring reports and communications ensure that the broader agricultural market has access to importan tdecision-making information. This also protects members from speculation and market rumours by keeping them informed with factually correct data.

Typical production-related reports published by Grain SA include:

- Weekly producerdeliveries report
- Biweekly crop condition report during production seasons
- Quarterly grain economic barometerreport
- Monthly fuel price forecast

Grain SA will monitor planting progress and crop conditions closely throughout the season to provide timely updates to members.

Topical issues we currently face:

- NBT's - New breedingtechniques are currentlyseen as GMO's in SA
- New wheat varieties, including white wheat
- Profitability - grain and oilseed production profitability under pressure - high input costs; low international grain prices; high stocks locally and internationally

Market Division

The market economics team's focus area is the trading environment. Market economists aim to keep the trading environment competitive and to promote market access for all grain producers.

Market economists supply important and timely information to members, industry stakeholders, and policymakers. In the past year, Grain SA was at the forefront of decisions surrounding alternative differential methods ,the wheat tariff reference price, and the wheat tariff automatic implementation system, and in handling grain grading disputes. Grain SA also constantly lobbies for free and equal access to important market information that influences trading decisions, including import parity prices and import and export figures.

To promote equal and transparent market information, Grain SA publishes the following regular market reports:

- Daily morning grain market report
- Daily OFM grain market radio broadcast
- Monthly international and local market reports
- Monthly supply and demand estimates and scenario forecasts

Topical Issues we currently face:

- Maize Exports
- Wheat import tariffs
- Alternative differential and soybean contract sizes
- Access to timely import and export data for oilseeds

Grain SA will continue to engage government and trade bodies on market access, tariff frameworks, and export opportunities, including the ongoing efforts to develop South Africa's soybean export protocol with China, to ensure that producers are able to participate fully in both local and international markets.

KZN Milk Producers Organisation

By Sandra Berning

The Milk Producers Organisation (MPO) in KwaZulu-Natal continued to play a significant leadership and support role within the dairy industry during a particularly challenging year.

MPO membership continued to show positive growth between March 2025 and May 2026, reflecting stronger producer alignment with the MPO's expanding role in industry decision-making, as well as the organisation's active involvement in the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination rollout. Membership figures will be updated once final numbers are confirmed.

A major development during the year was the joint statutory levy application between the MPO and the South African Milk Processors' Organisation (SAMPRO). Previously submitted by SAMPRO with no input from the MPO, this marks a major collaborative levy application between producer and processor organisations. The statutory levy, charged on milk and dairy products, will fund critical industry projects. The new application will cover the period from 1 July 2026 to 31 December 2030 and includes direct MPO participation in industry information, consumer education, skills development within the primary dairy sector, research and development, animal health and welfare, research and transformation.

The ongoing FMD outbreak remained a key focus area. Between October 2025 and March 2026, more than 70 dairy farms in KwaZulu-Natal tested positive for FMD, with the highest concentration in the Mooi River and Kokstad areas. In partnership with the state veterinary services and seven private veterinary practices — EG Vet, Underberg Vet, Two Rivers Vet, Howick Vet, Mooi River Vet, Estcourt Vet, and Endumeni Vet — the MPO coordinated an extensive vaccination campaign.

Between February and April 2026, approximately 360,000 Biogenesis and Dollvet vaccines were administered, ensuring that all animals on dairy farms in KwaZulu-Natal were vaccinated. MPO received a further 290 000 Dollvet and Biogenesis from National. 230 000 were allocated to KZN as there were several new FMD outbreaks in KZN. Underberg still needs to have their booster done, as well as beef animals on dairy farms. We anticipated that this would be done before the end of June.

The MPO remains deeply appreciative of the partnerships and collaborative efforts that safeguarded herd health and strengthened industry stability.

Two refrigerated vehicles donated by Orange Grove and FNB is used to move vaccines from Allerton to the private veterinary practices. RPO and Allerton also made use of our vehicles to transport vaccines.

The MPO helped Allerton to repair their fridges with a donation from FNB to the MPO value R100 000. All the fridges are now operational. We also donated R100 000 to Kwanalu towards the FMD permit office at Allerton. Our regional manager Debbie Last has done an outstanding job in getting all the data needed that the state needs before the allow the rollout of vaccines. Debbie also helped the RPO collect information needed for the rollout of the beef FMD vaccine. We are very grateful for her excellent service.

Our Large Herds conference in Ballito was a huge success, and speakers from all over the world covered very interesting and relevant topics. Bakkies Botha, who was the guest speaker at the gala dinner, was very well received leaving everyone with a smile.

Despite ongoing pressures facing the agricultural sector, the dairy industry continues to demonstrate resilience, innovation, and commitment to food security, rural employment, and sustainable milk production in KwaZulu-Natal.

KZN Poultry Institute

by Mary-Ann Burton

KwaZulu-Natal Poultry Institute (KZNPI) remains committed to developing and strengthening skills within the poultry sector through ongoing training and skills development for both emerging and established poultry farmers.

During the year, a total of 172 delegates attended our training courses across 12 courses. Delegates came from both the corporate and private sectors. These courses provided valuable technical knowledge and practical skills aimed at improving knowledge and farming practices.

Our commitment to education and skills development also extends to the younger generation, considering careers in agriculture. During the period, 72 students from tertiary institutions visited our training farm, where they gained valuable hands-on exposure to poultry production and farm management. In addition, 54 learners from Grades 10 to 12 took part in educational farm visits, giving them an opportunity to learn more about the poultry industry and the career opportunities it offers. Such initiatives play an important role in building the future of the poultry industry.

KZNPI extends its sincere appreciation to all companies and organisations that have supported us through sponsorships and donations. These contributions enable us to continue delivering quality training. A special word of appreciation is also due to the many individuals who generously gave their time, knowledge, and expertise to assist and advise KZNPI throughout the year.

Natal and EG Wool Growers Association

By Dr A. Shephard

The NWGA is celebrating its centenary this year. The organisation was founded in 1926 and has been the voice of wool farmers for a 100 years. We had a successful congress in the Eastern Cape to recognise this wonderful achievement.

There were many ups and downs along the road, but wool farmers are still going strong, and currently, South Africa produces the most certified wool in the world. The Sustainable Cape Wool Standard (SCWS) is becoming a sought-after commodity, and new players like Icebreaker are entering the South African market.

This certification has also been rolled out in our emerging and small-scale farmers, which means they are now able to compete in international markets.

Exports have continued despite the Foot-and-Mouth outbreak. Export protocols, which were put in place after the last Rift Valley Fever outbreak, were adequate to satisfy our export partners that out wool is safe for export.

Cape Wools and the NWGA have been successful in completing a carbon life cycle analysis, which proves that wool is fully biodegradable, produced sustainably, and in a circular system.

The wool value chain follows a distinct 7-stage life cycle, and combined with regenerative farming practices, wool production leads to a net carbon sink.

In KZN, the NWGA is assisting the government with the development of emerging wool farmers, especially in the Umzinkhulu district.

The project has been slowed down due to the FMD outbreak, but should be back on track later in the year. We visited and assisted some of the sheds late last year, as well as attending their annual show. Our project in the Eastern Cape has been a success story with emerging farmers banking more than R300 million last year. Hopefully, our KZN farmers will be able to copy them.

Thank you to all our producers. You have pulled through during a very difficult year and, as always, have proven your resilience and tenacity. May the price increase continue, and the next season be better than ever.

SKZN Banana Association

By Blaine Peckham

The 2025/26 season proved to be a relatively challenging one for Southern KwaZulu Banana Association (SKZN) members, with devastating winds experienced in June 2025, which resulted in most members suffering some of the worst damage ever recorded. Due to severe flooding in Mozambique, lower volumes of bananas were exported during their peak production period. However, significant new plantings in Eswatini have resulted in increased exports to the National Fresh Produce Markets, placing downward pressure on prices.

Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) has now spread as far south as Marina Beach and northwards to Umgababa. BBTV has severely affected plantings where intensive scouting and the destruction of infected plants have not been consistently implemented. SKZN would like to take this opportunity to thank the National Department of Agriculture for its continued assistance and support in combating the spread of BBTV.

A total rainfall of 996 mm was recorded between July 2025 and June 2026, which is well below the long-term average.

The first half of 2026 has been particularly dry, with many dams reaching critically low levels.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kwanalu for its continued commitment to representing and promoting the interests of our members.

KZN Red Meat Producers' Organisation
By Angus Williamson

Over the last 12 months, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has had a severe impact on the r**ed meat economy in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)**, with consequences extending from farm profitability to exports, processing, employment, and consumer prices. KZN has remained the province most heavily affected by the outbreak.

Reduced cattle movement and disrupted marketing
Movement controls have been one of the biggest economic impacts.

- Farms under quarantine have been unable to move cattle freely to auctions, feedlots, or abattoirs.
- Many livestock auctions have been cancelled or operated under strict veterinary controls.
- Farmers have had to retain animals longer than planned, increasing feed and management costs while reducing cash flow.

For commercial beef producers, this has delayed production cycles and reduced turnover. For communal and emerging farmers in KZN, who often rely on periodic livestock sales for household income, the effect has been particularly severe.

Loss of export opportunities
Perhaps the largest economic loss has come from export restrictions. Following confirmation of FMD in South Africa, several trading partners—including China—restricted imports of South African cloven-hoofed animals and related products. South Africa's beef exports declined by approximately 26% during 2025, despite strong international demand. Although KZN exports only a portion of its beef directly, the province is integrated into the national market. Reduced exports have meant:

- greater domestic oversupply of some products;
- downward pressure on producer prices in affected regions; and
- lower profitability throughout the value chain.

Higher production costs
Farmers have experienced significant increases in operating costs through:

- enhanced biosecurity measures;
- veterinary inspections and testing;
- quarantine compliance;
- additional feeding while cattle cannot be marketed; and
- transport disruptions.

Many producers have also incurred costs associated with vaccination programmes and stricter disease surveillance.

Pressure on abattoirs and processors
The disease has disrupted throughput at meat processors. Abattoirs have faced:

- inconsistent cattle supplies;
- additional certification requirements;
- increased sanitation costs; and
- reduced processing efficiency.

Some processors have operated below capacity because cattle from restricted areas could not enter the normal marketing channels.

Effects on rural employment
The beef industry supports employment across:

- farms,
- feedlots,
- transport,
- auctions,
- veterinary services,
- abattoirs, and
- retail.

When cattle cannot move through the supply chain, seasonal and casual employment opportunities decline. Industry organisations have warned that prolonged outbreaks threaten rural livelihoods, particularly in provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal where livestock farming is economically important.

Consumer impacts
Consumers have seen mixed price effects. Initially:

- movement restrictions created local oversupply in some areas, depressing farm-gate prices.

Later:

- higher production costs,
- reduced feedlot efficiency, and
- supply chain disruptions

contributed to rising retail beef prices. Analysts warned in early 2026 that beef prices would continue increasing as the outbreak affected feedlots and production.

Estimated economic impact
While there is not yet a published figure specifically for KwaZulu-Natal alone, national estimates suggest:

- South Africa’s livestock sector is worth around **R80 billion**, and
- the economic impact of FMD extends well beyond infected farms through export losses, quarantine costs, reduced production, and market disruption.

Industry analysts now describe the cumulative losses to the beef and dairy sectors as running into **billions of rand** nationally.

Implications for KwaZulu-Natal
For KZN specifically, the last 12 months have resulted in:

Area	**Economic effect**
Beef farmers	Lower income, higher feed and compliance costs
Emerging & communal farmers	Reduced livestock sales and cash flow
Auctions	Lower trading volumes and cancellations
Feedlots	Slower turnover and higher operating costs
Abattoirs	Lower throughput and higher compliance costs
Exporters	Loss of overseas markets
Rural economy	Reduced employment and business activity

Outlook

The outlook depends largely on successful disease control. Recent policy changes allowing greater private-sector participation in importing and administering FMD vaccines are intended to accelerate vaccination and reduce the duration of outbreaks, helping restore domestic confidence and regain export markets.

Overall, FMD has been one of the most significant shocks to KwaZulu-Natal's red meat economy in recent years, affecting every stage of the beef value chain—from cattle producers to consumers—and imposing substantial costs on both commercial and emerging livestock farmers.

KZN RPO continues to engage with role players across the spectrum to ensure that our producers continue to receive the vaccine, no matter how frustrating it may be.

A positive is that the weaner and general red meat price have improved over the last few months. Bull sales are in full swing, and most have had pleasing results.

Information days and stock theft forums have been well supported, and our bulletin platform shares relevant information on a weekly basis.

Please do not hesitate to contact Freddie van Tonder regarding stock theft issues or Garth Saville regarding vaccine and general matters.

Lastly, thank you to all our producers who have shown resilience, determination, and patience in these testing times.

Kwanalu

Your voice on rural and agricultural matters in KwaZulu-Natal