



AGRICULTURE

in the Department of
Correctional Services



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



1. Background and Introduction

The rapid increase of the inmate population since 1939 and especially since 1945, created serious challenges for the then Prison Services, i.e. with the provision of constructive work and training opportunities for offenders. The latter resulted into a decision to introduce the concept of prison farms, which are now correctional centre farms. Subsequently, the Agriculture Division/ Sub-Directorate Agriculture was established, which has been progressively expanded and developed over the years.

The mandate of the departmental farms is embedded in Section 3(2)(b) of the Correctional Services Act (Act 111 of 1998), which states that “the department must as far as practicable be self-sufficient and operate according to business principles”. Additionally, the enhancement of the productive capacity of offenders in paragraph 4.4.8 of the White Paper on Corrections (2005), which acknowledges that employment and contributing to the wealth of the community by means of production, is a key component to rehabilitation and the prevention of recidivism. It is therefore the responsibility of the department to ensure that offenders are appropriately skilled in market related skills so that they can be economically active and gainfully employed upon their release.

2. Mission

To support the departmental mission through the provision of agricultural products/produce and services.

The objectives of this mission are:

- to provide work opportunities to offenders;

- to provide development opportunities to offenders;
- to ensure a positive financial contribution/cost saving;
- to ensure effective utilization of resources and
- to ensure product self-sufficiency.

3. Land for Agricultural use

The department has twenty-one (21) farms. These are mixed-farms, with plant and animal production and consist of three (3) or more enterprises.

The departmental farms are situated on approximately 40 000 hectares of which:

- 6 386 hectares are dry lands
- 2 040 hectares are under irrigation
- 20 885 hectares are natural grazing and
- 9 937 hectares are not usable

In addition, the department has one-hundred and fifteen (115) small sites/correctional centres that are mainly producing vegetables at a small scale.

The qualified agricultural technicians/agriculturists specialising in either plant or animal production, or both, are responsible for managing the correctional centre farms.

Work opportunities are provided to approximately 3 200 offenders per day, whilst formal/accredited agricultural courses are presented to offenders through the Directorate Skills Development.

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List of farms and their sizes

REGION	FARM	SIZE	ACTIVITIES
KwaZulu-Natal	Waterval	2 071 Ha	Dairy, beef, layers, piggery, vegetables and agronomy.
	Ncome	2 930 Ha	Dairy, beef, piggery, vegetables and agronomy.
	Sevontein	1 882 Ha	Dairy, beef, piggery, vegetables and agronomy.
	Glencoe	775 Ha	Beef, fodder and vegetables.
Western Cape	Brandvlei	6 446 Ha	Dairy, beef, small stock, vegetables, fruits and agronomy.
	Voorberg	3 232 Ha	Dairy, beef, small stock, vegetables, fruits and agronomy.
	Overberg	1 000 Ha	Dairy, piggery, small stock, vegetables and agronomy.
	Drakenstein	402 Ha	Dairy, layers, broilers, piggery, vegetables, fruits and agronomy.
Eastern Cape	Mthatha	141 Ha	Piggery, layers and vegetables.
	Kirkwood	3 849 Ha	Dairy, layers, small stock, beef, vegetables, agronomy and game
	Middledrift	210 Ha	Piggery, layers, vegetables and fruits.

REGION	FARM	SIZE	ACTIVITIES
Free State and Northern Cape	Goedemoed	6 848 Ha	Dairy, beef, small stock, piggery, vegetables, fruits, agronomy and game.
	Grootvlei	1 637 Ha	Dairy, beef, layers, piggery, vegetables and agronomy.
	Groenpunt	1 064 Ha	Dairy, beef, piggery, vegetables and agronomy.
Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West	Losperfontein	444 Ha	Dairy, layers, vegetables, fruits and agronomy.
	Rooigrond	1 685 Ha	Dairy, beef, piggery, vegetables and agronomy.
	Barberton	1 541 Ha	Dairy, piggery, beef, vegetables, fruits and agronomy.
	Thohoyandou	323 Ha	Beef, piggery, vegetables and fruits.
Gauteng	Leeuwkop	870 Ha	Dairy, beef, piggery, vegetables, fruits, agronomy and game.
	Baviaanspoort	616 Ha	Dairy, beef, piggery, vegetables, fruits and agronomy.
	Zonderwater	1 490 Ha	Dairy, beef, broilers, vegetables, fruits and agronomy.



4. Product range

The departmental farms are producing a wide range of agriculture products in order to contribute towards self-sufficiency, and consequently, to create a saving for Government.

The following are the produce from departmental farms: fresh milk, chicken meat, eggs, red meat (beef, mutton, and goat meat), pork, venison (Game meat), vegetables, fruits, and fodder for livestock production. Additionally, butter (from dairy farms) and some of the farms are cultivating white maize for maize-meal production.

Virtually all the products are for offenders' ration.

5. Agricultural projects

The selection of farming/agriculture enterprises on various farms is determined by the natural resources and climatic conditions in the specific region/area. Nonetheless, the availability of resources (human resources, functional machinery and equipment, sufficient operational budget, conducive/functional infrastructure, adequate support services from key stakeholders, etc.) play a critical role in agricultural operations.

One or more of the following agricultural enterprises are implemented on correctional centre farms:

5.1 Dairy farming

There are seventeen (17) dairy farms. The total dairy herd consists of approximately 2 500 animals, with milk production of over 6 000 000

litres per annum. On average, there are approximately 1 000 dairy cows nationally. All the dairy herds are Holstein-Friesland cattle.



5.2 Beef farming

Eighteen (18) of the correctional centre farms have beef herds with a total herd of approximately 5 000 animals. On average there are approximately 1 700 cows nationally. The main breeds are Angus, Bonsmara, Simmentaler, Sussex and Drakensberger. The choice of breed is determined by the breed's ability to adapt to the specific environmental and climatic conditions.

Farms are planned in such a way that animals are slaughtered from the veld (extensive farming system) in order to reduce feed costs. The annual production which include (dairy culls) is over 400 000kg.



5.3 Pig farming

There are fifteen (15) piggeries in the department, which range from 75 to 300 sow units. On average there are approximately 1 600 sows nationally.

Large White and Landrace mother lines are mainly used with crossbreeds between Large White, Landrace and Duroc.

Porkers are slaughtered at a live mass of 60kg (approximately at four to five months). The annual pork production is above 1 700 000kg.

5.4 Small Stock (sheep and goats)

There are four (4) farms that are farming with sheep and one (1) farm is farming with goats. The size of the herds vary, i.e. the smallest herd is approximately 500 animals and the largest is above 2 400 animals. The main breeds for sheep are Ile de France, Mutton Merino, Dorper, and for goats is Boer goats.

The total average ewes, nationally is approximately 2 700.

Lambs are slaughtered at 40 to 45kg live mass. Approximately 70 000 kg of mutton and goat meat is produced annually.

5.5 Broiler farming

There are three (3) farms that are farming with broilers. The broiler projects produce approximately 1 400 000kg of meat annually. Day-old broiler chicks are purchased, reared and slaughtered at an age of 6 weeks. The main strains/breeds are Ross and Cobb.

5.6 Layers farming

There are seven (7) farms that are farming with layers (for egg production). The layers are purchased at point of lay (18 weeks) and are reared in conventional battery systems. Approximately 1 300 000 dozen eggs are produced annually. The main breed is Lohmann browns.



5.7 Vegetable cultivation

Vegetables are cultivated in all the twenty-one (21) farms and one-hundred and fifteen (115) small sites/ correctional centres. The total production of vegetables is approximately 9 300 000kg per annum. Approximately 380ha

is being used for vegetable production, i.e. under irrigation.

The planting of vegetables is scheduled to ensure that fresh vegetables are available throughout the year.

Manual labour is being used on a relatively large scale, however, certain operations such as planting, pest control, and weed control are mechanised.



5.8 Fruit cultivation

Fruit cultivation takes place on thirteen (13) farms. Mainly deciduous fruit and citrus are grown with a total annual production of over 500 000kg.

5.9 Fodder production

High potential agricultural land is used for the cultivation of kernel, hay and pastures for feeding of livestock.

5.10 Game farming

There are three (3) farms with Game, which includes amongst others Kudu, Bushbuck, Waterbuck, Warthogs, Eland, Duiker, and Deer. On average, approximately 10 000kg of venison/

Game meat is harvested annually to augment red meat production.

5.11 Abattoirs

The department has three (3) white meat and seventeen (17) red meat abattoirs, nationally.

The training and development of offenders:

The operation of agricultural activities is pivotal in the correctional services' system as it provides work (to enhance work ethic), and training and development opportunities to offenders.

The following are some of the training and development opportunities for offenders:

- General care of livestock (beef and dairy cattle, calves, pigs, sheep and goats) which includes feeding, control of internal and external parasites, control and prevention of animal diseases, branding, ear notching etc.
- Animal breeding, including practicing artificial insemination (dairy farms).
- Milking machine operation and dairy hygiene.
- Butter production.
- Care of poultry (for meat and egg production), which entails adherence with Bio-security plan, cleaning of poultry houses, collection of eggs and slaughtering.
- Fencing maintenance and repair.
- Abattoir operation, which encompasses animal slaughter, disposal of dead animals, abattoir hygiene and safety.
- Tractor operation, i.e. driving/ use of tractor.
- Maintenance of farm implements and tractors.
- Cultivation and general growing of vegetables, i.e. preparation of soil, planting, fertilizing, irrigation, control of weeds/pests/plant diseases and harvesting.

- Cultivation and general growing of fruit trees, i.e. application of fertilizers, irrigation, pruning, control of weeds/pests/plant diseases and harvesting.
- Fodder production, which consists of preparation of soil, planting, fertilizing, irrigation, cutting/bailing/storing of pastures and making of silage.

6. Personnel

Qualified agriculturists/agriculture technicians with the support of the custodial personnel are responsible for the management of various agricultural projects/enterprises on correctional centre farms. A specific project/enterprise is designated to an agricultural official who is responsible for the management thereof.

Regional contact persons: Agriculture

Regions	Regional Coordinators Production Workshops and Agriculture	Tel. No
Eastern Cape	Mr A Passmore	(043) 706 7821
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Western Cape	Mr W Modisenyane	(021) 550 6021/6025
Free State and Northern Cape	Mr C Molamu	(051) 404 0266
Kwazulu Natal	Mr F Botha	(033) 341 0407
Gauteng	Mr T Marumo	(012) 420 0202

Head Office

Designation	Names	Tel. No
Director Production Workshops and Agriculture	Ms Lepule EMC	(012) 305 8779/8789 060 967 0843
Assistant Director: Agriculture Planning	Ms Malahlela AM	(012) 305 8315
Assistant Director: Agriculture Operations	Mr Molefe GM	(012) 305 8316
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Senior Correctional Officer: Principal user	Ms Venter B	(012) 305 8344
Correctional Official: Administration Clerk	Ms Nengovheta	(012) 305 8314

Department of Correctional Services

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