

NATIONAL LUCERNE TRUST: 47 NORTH WEST FARMERS ASSISTED TO REGISTER AS MEMBERS OF THE TRUST

The NAMC together with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), North West Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development conducted a needs assessment of Taung irrigation scheme and assisted forty-seven farmers to register as members of National Lucerne Trust.



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This comes after discussions held with Lucerne stakeholders, on market access opportunities and the need to further develop North West Lucerne farmers. Overall, the farmer engagement took place in North West on two occasions, in August and October 2021 respectively, at the Rethuse Redire Primary Cooperative.

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Nati Against this background, the farmer engagement was motivated by market access challenges experienced by Lucerne farmers.

According to an NAMC assessment it discovered that there was lack of information on market requirements, lucerne grading, lucerne cutting, baling and analysing soil mixture.

Furthermore, other challenges identified included insufficient working implements and storage infrastructure capacity.

The National Lucerne Trust (NLT) is the representative body for the South African lucerne seed and hay industry. Its services include co-ordination of research projects, the collection and distribution of information, technology transfer, cultivar evaluation and stabilization of the industry."

The NLT in collaboration with SA Alfalfa PTY (LTD) and Vaalharts Feed and Grains and Triangle Commodity Trading SA (PTY) Ltd, shared a presentation on market specifications required by lucerne buyers to farmers.

Farmers were also shown the practical aspects such as moisture measured, illustration on bale size required for market, farm demonstrations on cutting and weeding lucerne.

NLT donated Lucerne hay sampler, Lucerne hay moisture meter and other items to the value of R25 000, as a benefit to newly registered members.



NW farmers taken through baling & cutting of lucerne