

Finalists announced in the 2021 Santam Agriculture National Silage Competition

Plaas Media is proud to announce the finalists in its eighth Santam Agriculture National Silage Competition. Despite various challenges that had to be overcome during the sampling season, the competition was once again a huge success.

This year's instalment saw a record number of 105 entries, 79 of which were maize, 16 small grains (oats), eight sorghum, and two grass (test bales). These entries consisted of 73 bunkers, 26 silo bags, and six bales. As in 2020, the bales category was included as a test category with a view to possible formal inclusion in the competition in future.



Source: vivros62 via [Pixabay](#)

This year's entries

A total of 23 companies and producers entered their clients or their own farms. Eleven of these companies are new to the competition.

The companies that entered this year were Afgri Animal Feeds, Quantum Foods/Nova Feeds, Welgemoed Farm, Kemin Industries, RCL Foods/Epol, Nutribase, Meadow Feeds Paarl and Meadow Feeds Natal, Winterstorm Investments, Pannar Seed, Sparta Baby Beef, Strapping & Profile, EC Contracting, Kameeldrift Voere, Hurwitz Farming, Saxeni Agric, White Gold Farms, Malati Farm, JW Nel & Seun Boerdery, Lactimar, Mas Corporation, Limpopo Dairies, Pioneer, and Envarto.

Sponsors

The head sponsor in this year's competition was once again Santam Agriculture, who has been the name sponsor since the competition's inception and has been hugely supportive throughout their involvement. The prize sponsors are Labworld, Claas/Kempston Agri, Pannar Seed, Kemin Industries, Strapping and Profile, Nutribase and Hurwitz Farming.

Sampling

The sampling was conducted by four post-graduate animal science students from various South African universities. They were Gerrit Putter and JG Els from the University of the Free State, Timothy Chilemba from the University of Pretoria, and Henlo Smit from Stellenbosch University.

These students were trained in the sampling process by Richardt Venter of AgSci, the competition's coordinator. The sample testing was conducted by Dr Elrisa Taljaard and her team at Labworld. The analysis was done by the creator and overseer of the competition protocol, Prof Robin Meeske of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Outeniqua Research Farm.

Meet the finalists

There are three formal categories in which finalists are announced, namely maize, feed (forage) sorghum, and oats. There is one test category, namely silage bales, and finalists are announced in that category as well.

For the first time in the history of the competition, the top ten maize entries are equally split between bunkers and silo bags. Among the maize finalists are three previous competition winners, which bodes for an exciting finish and speaks to the competitiveness of the entries, as well as the importance that the results have for our participants.

Maize category finalists in alphabetical order:

Farm/enterprise name	Farmer/producer	Entered by	Entry type
ALS Group	Arno Joubert	Nutribase	Silo bag
Deale Beef	Cronjé Deale	Nutribase	Silo bag
Gerber Boerdery Trust	Ian Gerber	Aagri Animal Feeds	Cement wall bunker
Just Milk (Queensvalley)	Steve Moss	Strapping & Profile	Silo bag
Maluti Beef	Danbri Saayman	Strapping & Profile	Silo bag
PD Hauff & Son	Mark Hauff	Pioneer	Cement wall bunker
Simpson & Son Farming	Shane Simpson	Meadow Feeds Natal	Gravel wall bunker
Sparta Beef	Sello Ntjoboko	Sparta Beef	Silo bag
Stubbs Farming Paternership (Denleigh)	Nick Stubbs	Pioneer	Gravel wall bunker
Westend Landgoed	Hano Lombard	Nutribase	Gravel wall bunker

The small grains category also boasts with some fantastic results this year and three out of the four finalists are previous category winners.

Small grains (oats) finalists in alphabetical order:

Farm/enterprise name	Farmer/producer	Entered by	Entry type
Dassenvaley	Johan Mbstert	Aagri Animal Feeds	Gravel wall bunker
De Draay	Awie Erasmus	Meadow Feeds Paarl	Bun/drive-over pile
Groenwei Boerdery	Bull van Rensburg	EC Contracting	Gravel wall bunker
Ocean Breeze Holsteins	JK Basson	Nova Feeds	Gravel wall bunker

Feed (forage) sorghum finalists in alphabetical order:

Farm/enterprise name	Farmer/producer	Entered by	Entry type
Berg en Dal Boerdery	Pieter Hamman	AFGRI Animal Feeds	Gravel wall bunker
Hurwitz Farming	Jarren Hurwitz	Hurwitz Farming	Silo bag
Saamstaan Boerdery (Vyevele)	Elanza Fouché	AFGRI Animal Feeds	Gravel wall bunker

Bales test category finalists in alphabetical order:

Farm/enterprise name	Farmer/producer	Entered by	Entry type
Exact Silage	Burger Marais	Kameeldrift Voere	Bale
JW Nel & Seun Boerdery	Kempen Nel	JW Nel & Seun Boerdery	Bale
Saxeni Holdings	Emje Ferreira	Saxeni Agric	Bale

Winners will be announced during a live streaming and watch party on 3 December at 6pm. To watch the announcement of the finalists, click on the link:

For more information regarding the competition, 2022 entries, or other queries, contact Deidré Louw at 066 231 2430 or deidre@plaasmedia.co.za.

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