Hex Valley honours top grape producers

Table grape farmers from the Hex Valley region and industry leaders recently gathered in De Doorns to announce this year’s winner of the Hex Valley Table Grape Association’s Block Competition.

The competition has been running since 1977 and farmers who compete are judged on the quality of viticulture practices and the appearance of grapes in the block entered.

Edward Taylor from AS Viljoen & Sues Boerdery, of the farm Werda in De Doorns, took first place for a block of Flame Seedless grapes.

![Image]

A total of 24 entries was received compared to 18 last year and Gawie van der Merwe, who convenes the competition, said most of the vineyard blocks entered showed good vigour and canopy control.

The competition includes a separate division for young grape blocks, and the winner was Robert Brown of the farm Kanetvei in De Doorns. – Denene Erasmus

Canola Competition winners

The winners of the 11th annual Canola Competition presented by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the Protein Research Foundation (PRF) were announced at this year’s Swartland Small Grain Development Group Pre-harvest Information Day in Moorreesburg.

AJ Louw of Malmesbury achieved the highest yield per hectare (2,359/ha) and he also won the prize for the best gross profit margin per hectare (R6 188/ha).

The winner of the prize for highest yield per millimetre of rain was Dirk Lesch, who achieved yields of 9,84 kg per millimetre of rain.

Louw planted Jarder cultivar seed during April and the seed was sown at 3kg/ha. Yield per millimetre of rain was 8,7 kg/ha. Lesch planted AGA MAX in May with a yield of 2,488/ha at a gross profit margin of R5 92/ha. – Denene Erasmus

RPO and NWGA hold regional meetings in KZN

The KwaZulu-Natal sections of the Red Meat Producers’ Organisation and the National Wool Growers Association (NWGA) recently held their joint 2012 regional meetings for their members in the province. The leadership of the two organisations was kept busy, sometimes holding meetings at two different venues on the same day. These venues were Vryheid, Llandslaagte, Utrecht, Mooi River and Swartberg. Apart from receiving the latest news from the KZN RPO and KZN NWGA, members were also given a talk entitled “Selecting For Adaptability in Livestock” by Professor Frikkie Nes and a talk on biosecurity for livestock by Dr Fafifa Malan. – Lloyd Phillips

Ceva announces winners for the 2011 Rugby World Cup promotion

Ermelo sheep farmer, Phillip Randall and his wife Marina were the winners of the one-ounce gold Kruger Rand from Ceva’s Maxicare Rugby World Cup promotion that began in September 2011. Ceva specialises in animal healthcare. The Randalls were invited to Ceva’s Midrand offices for a tour of the plant where Phillip received his prize – Peter Mashala.

![Image]

From left: Born Louw (KZN NWGA’s technical advisor), Hendrik Botha (joint chairperson of the KZN NWGA and the KZN RPO) and Danieran Smit (KZN RPO’s general manager). – Lloyd Phillips