this edition

The AgriTrade module on Extension Suite Online

Piet van Zyl

During 2014, the DAFF Directorate: Food Import and Export Standards, approached Manstrat to assist them in making existing food import and export standards more readily available to officials using Extension Suite Online (ESO). Overlapping of authority and responsibility within the department is common due to the specialized nature of agricultural import and export controls. This situation often resulted in farmers and extension officers having to consult a number of sites controlled by different directorates, for simple information leading to frustration and time wasting. Commentary and complaints centered on the fact that the information was extremely difficult to extract and farmers often received inadequate or wrong information.

To solve the problem, the Directorate requested Manstrat AIS's assistance. The Directorate's initial suggestion was to place links on ESO to the DAFF website to enable officers using ESO, easy access to the different legal and departmental standards and norms.

The provision of links however, would not have solved the problem of the spread of information over numerous sites. Manstrat AIS specialists solved this by firstly creating a dedicated Main Navigation Tab (AgriTrade), on ESO. Secondly, they decided to copy each document individually from the DAFF website for display on ESO, and to create re-organised Information Modules on the system. This allowed MAIS to arrange and present the documents in a way that was familiar to our users, rather than a legal and prescriptive approach.

During the copying phase, personnel from the Data Research and Maintenance (DRM) Division found duplicates and other documents that were either removed or changed into pdf, and protected formats, to protect our client and ourselves.

The next step will be for DAFF personnel from the relevant directorates to access, check, replace and add to the current content of the new AgriTrade module. For this purpose, MAIS has created a special platform on the system with access limited to those involved.

The Main Menu Items created for the AgriTrade navigation tab are; Agri Inputs, Animal Health, Imports and Exports, Safety and Quality, Inspection Services, Plant Health, Veterinary Public Health and Veterinary Hygiene.

Once checking is completed and the display of the information agreed upon, the Tab will be uploaded onto ESO and the information will be available to all users.

Piet van Zyl

ESO WALLPAPERS

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE DESKTOP WALLPAPER TODAY!

Liven up your computer's desktop with an Extension Suite Online wallpaper. Download wallpapers directly from the ESO newsletter e-mail or on the ESO media website: media.esuite.co.za

Tips and tools for advisors

Zandisiwe Manyathela

Agricultural marketing tips

Marketing is a very complex and important structure and farmers need to be familiar with their roles and general marketing procedures. The following tips should help to make marketing endeavours more successful:

- Have a proper sales plan and act on it
- Define the target market properly
- Ensure that detailed supply chain plan is in place and apply it
- Know that the price of a product is determined, amongst other things, by market forces such as Supply and Demand
- Adhere to good hygiene practices, as they will add to the demand for products from a particular supplier/producer

TOP NATIONAL ESO USER:

The monthly national ESO user will receive the following prizes: First time National ESO User 2014: **4 Gig USB memory stick,** second time National ESO User 2014: **Digital Camera**, third time National ESO User 2014 **Nokia Lumia 520**, fourth time National ESO User 2014: **Samsung Galaxy Tab**.

Congratulations to **Mr Jeremia Murovhi** (Limpopo Department of Agriculture), the ESO National Top User for March 2015.

Jeremia Murovhi

Talk about progress! Last month we introduced Mr Jeremiah Murovhi as one of our provincial top users of Extension Suite Online (ESO), and this month we congratulate him as the National Top User for March 2015.

Jeremiah starts his day as an extension practitioner at the office where he sorts and prepares everything he needs to do for his farm visits that day. He has a work plan in his office helping him to carry out his activities with ease. He endeavours to visit at least five farmers per day and provides them with technical advice and assists them with agricultural related activities. For all this, he uses ESO on a regular basis. Not only does he access ESO from his laptop, but also on his cell phone. Jeremiah says that he has learned that ESO can provide answers regarding technical advice to farmers and that he doesn't spend a day, without consulting ESO.
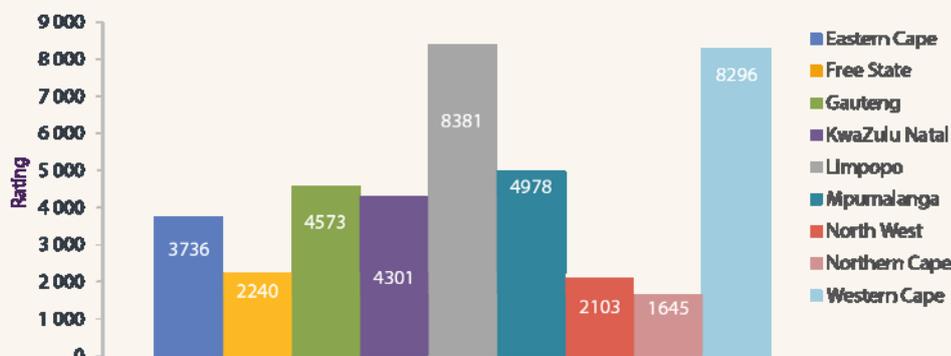
To encourage colleagues to become better Extension Practitioners, they need to be aware of the fact that Extension is continuously changing and that farmers need more and better assistance on farming activities. "This compels us as Extension Practitioners to improve our knowledge and understanding of our jobs and related subjects. Extension practitioners must be honest with farmers and not knowing the answer should not be a problem as one can simply find appropriate answers through excellent information sources such as ESO, and in discussions with colleagues."

Jeremiah encourages all Extension Practitioners to use ESO to improve their knowledge and the services rendered to clients. He says that the majority of Extension Practitioners work in wards where it is required of them to be a "jack of all trades", having to support both crop and animal farmers. "Extension Suite Online has simplified the act of gathering information and producing information that farmers can use anytime."

EXTENSION SUITE ONLINE UTILISATION: MARCH 2015

Extension Suite Online (ESO) utilisation is determined through monitoring user utilisation in the nine provinces and by attaching values to Visits, Pages Visited and Duration of Visits; a rating is calculated to establish the ESO National Top User of the Month.

ESO PROVINCIAL TOP USER GRAPH

ESO PROVINCIAL TOP USERS

PROVINCE	NAME
Eastern Cape	Mzuthule Nobadina
Free State	Griffith Hadebe
Gauteng	David Phasha
KwaZulu Natal	Thandiwe Sima
Limpopo	**Jeremia Murovhi**
Mpumalanga	Fanyana Moses Shongwe
North West	Mompati Gabanakgosi
Northern Cape	George Du Preez
Western Cape	Riaan Nowers

PEST TALK:
FEATURED PEST
Further information on all featured pests can be found on ESO.

Scientific Name: *Archips occidentalis*
Popular Name: Leaf Roller

The Leaf roller is a small caterpillar often found under sepals of fruit or binding leaves of fruit by means of webbing, that causes superficial damage to fruit. They also damage leaves and buds of new shoots.

Leaf roller on grapes

ESO TIPS:

Where can I get archived newsletters?

Jeanne-Louise Bekker

The monthly Extension Suite Online newsletter carries interesting articles relating to the system. Articles include interviews with ESO Top National Users, provincial utilisation information, tools for advisors, general tech tips and interesting information on pests and diseases. All registered users of Extension Suite Online automatically receive the ESO Monthly Newsletter.

Should any user not receive their newsletter or need to view previous newsletters and articles, the newsletter archive is a handy tool. Copies of the Newsletter from 2010 onward are available in PDF format from the archive via http://newsletter.esuite.co.za/Archive.aspx.

Subscription to the Newsletter is available to any interested party, by simply going to www.newsletter.esuite.co.za to register. Any registered ESO user not currently receiving their ESO newsletter could check their email information on the ESO profile page. For assistance, please contact ESO support on 072 382 8278, or send an email to newsletter@esuite.co.za.

Do you have any technology related questions? Send them to newsletter@esuite.co.za, with your name, province and the question and we will answer them in a following newsletter edition.