Moerkwekers inspireer: 2024 se top tien aangewys

Deur André Wessels, tegniese bestuurder, Aartappelsertifiseringsdiens

Bayer is al sedert 2005 die trotse borg van die Moerkweker van die Jaar-toekenning. Dit is vir ons 'n groot voorreg om met hierdie gesogte toekenning geassosieer te wees en 'n pad te stap met hierdie groep uitsoekboere. Elke jaar bring sy eie geleenthede en uitdagings, en 'n 'goeie', 'slegte' of selfs 'normale' jaar kan nie met sekerheid gedefinieer word nie.

Eksterne faktore sal altyd die lewe interessant hou – ons werk immers binne 'n biologiese sisteem met 'n magdom veranderlikes wat meestal buite ons beheer is. Ons kan egter sekere faktore tot die beste van ons vermoë bestuur. In die aartappelbedryf sluit dit die keuse van insette soos aartappelmoere, toerusting, kunsmis en gewasbeskermingsprodukte in.

Bayer streef daarna om innoverende, nuttige, hoë-gehalte produkte na die bedryf te bring en so ons produsente te help om tot hul volle potensiaal te presteer. Die gehalte en uitnemendheid van Suid-Afrikaanse moerkwekers is vir ons by Bayer 'n inspirasie en in lyn met ons maatskappy se eerste doelwit: Science for a better life.

Ons sien uit om saam met hierdie bedryf nuwe hoogtes te bereik
– *Wilbri Vorster, Bayer Horticulture Go-to-Market lead, Afrika*

Figure 1: Criteria.

30 hectares	**3** consecutive seasons	**Zero** regulated pests
53 certification aspects	**5 300** maximum points	**Independent** auditors

**Information supplied is the total performance on G0 to G7 material planted during the review.*

Top ten seed potato growers

The Potato Certification Service (PCS or ASD) plays a crucial role in enabling growers to ensure a sustained supply of good quality planting material. Through certification of seed potatoes, planting material complies with the requirements of the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme (Scheme).

However, it is these growers, the producers of this critical crop, who truly deserve commendation. With this in mind, it is time for the Bayer Top Seed Potato Grower of the Year Award. The eligibility criteria for the award necessitate a consistent contribution, requiring seed potato growers to register a minimum of 30 ha for three consecutive seasons during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023.

Grower performance is determined through analysis of data recorded by certification officials during the certification process, which plays a pivotal role in determining the top seed potato grower. All findings made by the certification officials are scrutinised against the tolerances outlined in the Scheme and, as such, each deviation counts.

All qualifying seed potato growers are ranked according to points earned, leading to the determination of the top ten and identification of the finalists. These growers serve as exemplary ambassadors for the seed potato industry.

Based on the outcome of the evaluation done by industry leaders during farm visits to the finalists, the Bayer Top Seed Potato Grower 2024 will be crowned. This announcement is scheduled to take place at the Seed Potato Growers' Forum, to be held at Century City in Cape Town on 16 and 17 July 2024.

It gives us great pleasure to announce the top ten seed potato growers. The top ten are listed in alpha-numerical order as per the grower code.

B 008 | Potato Seed Production (PSP)

Jakkie Mellet, Lydenburg, Mpumalanga, individual grower

PSP se aartappelmoerproduksiesukses is eerstens te danke aan genade

185 ha registered
212 808 x 25 kg bags certified
33 varieties planted

van ons liewe Vader. Ons het 'n jong span, maar ons glo die mens maak die moer. Tweedens glo ons dat die unieke ligging van ons plaas vir ons 'n omgewing bied wat hom perfek tot moerproduksie leen. Plant in droë grond terwyl jy bid vir reën en maak betyds dood om plantluise vry te spring. Derdens glo ons daarin om 'n pad met die regte kliënt te stap. Alles wat ons doen rakende moerproduksie, word gedoen met die kliënt se behoefte in gedagte.

Johandré Breitenbach, ASD-streeksbestuurder, Lydenburg

Jakkie Mellet, eienaar van PSP, is nie net 'n produsent nie, maar ook 'n besigheidsman. Dit dra by tot die sukses van PSP.

PSP wil 'n landbou-onderneming wees wat die sukses van hul werknemers en kliënte ondersteun, volhoubaar in landbou groei deur hulle toewyding aan werknemer-ontwikkeling, en die verskaffing van die beste produk op die regte tyd aan die kliënt. Die lewering van gehalte aartappelmoere is vir hulle van uiterse belang.

Jakkie en sy plaasbestuurder, Werner Schutte, bou deurentyd aan hulle span se kennis en handhaaf 'n goeie verhouding met elke werknemer. Hulle is ook toegewy aan innovasie deur 'n wetenskaplike en datagedrewe plaas te bou om sodoende nuwe hoogtes te bereik.

Wanneer afsprake gereël is vir sertifiseringsaktiwiteite, is hulle altyd stiptelik en georganiseerd. Welgedaan, Jakkie en span.

B 054 | Sirkel-N-Landgoed

Rudi Heinlein, Baltimore, Limpopo, Wesgrow Potatoes

Die keuse van aartappelmoere is 'n fundamentele aspek van aartappelproduksie. Deur in gehalte aartappelmoere te belê, word die kanse op 'n suksesvolle aartappelseisoen verhoog. Dit is Sirkel-N-Landgoed se doel om die beste gehalte aartappelmoere binne ons vermoë te produseer en om die koper te verseker van waarde vir sy geld.

Daar is baie uitdagings rondom klimaatsverandering, droogte en peste en plae wat toenemend

304 ha registered
253 261 x 25 kg bags certified
5 varieties planted

weerstand bied teen die beskikbare landbouchemiese middels. Ons glo dat 'n positiewe aanslag tot groot sukses in ons boerdery lei. Passie maak 'n verskil en goeie beplanning is baie belangrik om vorentoe te beweeg. Langtermyn-beplanning is noodsaaklik om die regte besluite te neem en risiko's te bestuur.

Om die beste moontlike gehalte gesertifiseerde moere te produseer, geniet die volgende bestuursmaatreëls veral baie aandag:

- Ons het 'n kernspan verkenners wat deeglike skoonmaakwerk ten opsigte van virusse en problematiese plante uitvoer.
- Die verkoeling van die aartappelmoere op die plaas word baie streng en noukeurig gemonitor.

Die kennis, eerlikheid en integriteit van die sertifiseringsbeamptes dra by tot konstante gehaltebeheer. Hul insette en behulpsaamheid tydens land- en knolinspeksies is vir seker 'n aanwins.

Die besluit om in gehalte moere te belê, is 'n deurslaggewende keuse wat elke aartappelboer moet maak om goeie opbrengs, gehalte en weerstand teen plae en siektes te verseker.

Johandré Breitenbach, ASD-streeksbestuurder, Lydenburg

Sirkel-N-Landgoed is tussen Baltimore en Tolwe in Limpopo geleë. In 'n moeilike produksiegebied soos Limpopo, is Rudi Heinlein en sy span uitblinkers. Hulle streef daarna om topgehalte aartappelmoere te produseer.

Ek glo hulle wenresep is dat almal, van die topbestuur tot die personeel op grondvlak, toegewyd is aan die boerdery en dat hulle alle aspekte van moerproduksie met passie aanpak.

Met Abrie van Schalkwyk aan die stuur by die aartappels, word alle aspekte van moerproduksie met 'n valkoog dopgehou. Hulle suiweringsproses word met militêre presisie uitgevoer en daar word boekgehou van elke plant wat uit die lande verwyder word.

Dit is altyd lekker om met Rudi en sy span te werk. Van my en Michael Schultze se kant af wil ons net sê: Welgedaan, Sirkel N!

D 204 | Henbrie Boerdery

227 ha registered
152 907 x 25 kg bags certified
4 varieties planted

Wynand Human, Douglas, Noord-Kaap, GWK Bpk

Ons sukses lê daarin dat ons op nuut-ontwikkelde grond plant waarop daar nog geen aanplantings was nie.

Aangesien dit nuwe grond is, doen ons kartering en maak die nodige regstellings sodat daar nie voedingstekorte is wat die gehalte van die moere beïnvloed nie.

Ons spandeer baie tyd en aandag aan die sorteringsproses sodat ons 'n hoë-gehalte aartappelmoer in die sak gooi. Ons werk saam met ASD om betyds enige foute uit te skakel. Hierdie prestasie is alles te danke aan baie genade van bo en 'n goeie bestuurspan.

Leon Zietsman, ASD-streeksbestuurder, Douglas

Vanuit 'n sertifiseringsoogpunt verg dit baie harde werk om onder die top tien in die Moerkweker van die Jaar-kompetisie te wees en in hierdie opsig het Henbrie Boerdery hulself goed bewys.

Dit is deurentyd duidelik, al van landinspeksies af, dat Henbrie Boerdery met alles op hoogte wil bly. Hulle bestuurspan maak altyd so gou as moontlik werk daarvan om risiko's te beperk. Dit sluit deeglike virus- en onkruidbeheer in.

Groot naamborde wat deur Henbrie Boerdery voorsien en aangebring word, help die ASD Douglas-span baie en verseker dat sertifisering vinnig en doeltreffend gedoen word.

Henbrie Boerdery weet dat beplanning en spoedige optrede nodig is vir sukses.

Vanaf ASD Douglas: Ons is baie trots op Wynand Human en sy hele bestuurspan.

L 002 | Firna (Edms) Bpk

805 ha registered
1 770 915 x 25 kg bags certified
64 varieties planted

Frans Engelbrecht, Tosca, Noordwes, Wesgrow Potatoes

Die beste kunsmis vir 'n aartappelprodusent, veral vir 'n produsent wat aartappelmoere produseer, is sy voetspore in die lande.

Pieter Leibbrandt, ASD-sertifiseringsbeampte, Christiana

Hierdie is nie die eerste jaar dat Firna in die top tien is nie en sal beslis ook nie die laaste wees nie. Met twee Moerkweker van die Jaar-toekennings reeds in hulle sak, verg dit baie werk en tyd om so 'n rekord op te bou en te behou. Firna kyk gedurigdeur na nuwer en beter boerderypraktyke, volhoubaarheid en deeglike toepassing van alle aspekte van moerproduksie, asook algemene boerderypraktyke. Dit verseker sukses sonder om die wiel te probeer herontwerp.

Meer as 20 jaar gelede het hierdie droom en proses begin met een Engelbrecht se visie en insig. Die tweede geslag sit nou stewig in die saal en 'n derde geslag is sterk op pad.

From left to right are Frans Engelbrecht, Patricia van der Westhuizen, and Carel and Rob Carroll.

526 ha registered
1 201 328 x 25 kg bags certified
15 varieties planted

L 026 | Carbrecht (Pty) Ltd

Rob Carroll, Tosca, North West, Wesgrow Potatoes

People are the most important asset in any business. Relationships, leadership, and our organisation's culture are very important to us. We have a great responsibility towards our clients and the industry as a whole and set an extremely high standard for ourselves to deliver the best quality seed potatoes. This requires great dedication, hard work, discipline, determination and a positive attitude from everyone involved.

The most important aspect of seed potato production is the health of the seed, particularly virus management. This includes everything from biosecurity and disease control to soil management – stretching from the day the soil

is first prepared to the day the last volunteer potato is removed.

Pieter Leibbrandt, ASD-sertifiseringsbeampte, Christiana

By die Carrols werk die familie nou saam. Alhoewel Rob die gesig van Carbrecht is, glo ek deel van die wenresep hier is onder andere die ondersteuning van sy suster, Patricia, tydens planttyd en by die bestuur van die pakstoor. Al die ondervinding en kennis van hulle pa, Carel, rakende besproeiings-boerdery in die Molopo, is van onskatbare waarde.

Carbrecht streef daarna om altyd die beste gehalte aartappelmoere te produseer deur op fundamentele boerderypraktyke te konsentreer. Hulle het 'n werksmag opgebou wat jaarliks meer en meer eienaarskap van hulle verantwoordelikhede neem. Dit opsigself is van groot waarde.

N 029 | GA Vorster Farming (Pty) Ltd

Gary Vorster, Elliot, North-Eastern Cape, Wesgrow Potatoes

Thank you to PCS for the support given to me over the years as a seed grower. No producer can be a successful seed grower on their own.

510 ha registered
373 084 x 25 kg bags certified
9 varieties planted

To produce quality seed potatoes, I concentrate on controlling volunteer seed potatoes and implementing a good crop rotation programme with cover crops. We are virtually surrounded by forestry, so virus infections mostly come from on-farm infections via volunteer seed potatoes. These are controlled by using Roundup. My crop rotation has been expanded to once every six years with maize, soya and cover crops planted in between.

These crop rotations have significantly reduced my soilborne diseases and eelworm levels. My committed and enthusiastic team makes seed potato production possible.

Kevin Swiegers, PCS certification official, Christiana

Gary Vorster would no doubt have made it to the top ten seed potato growers, especially with how he handled previous challenges such as the last season's rainfall.

Gary and his team believe in 'quality before quantity'. The precision with which everything on the farm is done is amazing. He says that the personnel on the farm is his biggest asset. One can see that it is true because of the great oversight he has over the staff. He guides his team to do the best they can in the potato industry and be precise in preparing for planting, during planting, throughout the growing season, up to sampling until the end of certification.

Congratulations to you and your team for being one of the top ten seed potato growers of the year. Well done!

233 ha registered
187 751 x 25 kg bags certified
5 varieties planted

N 054 | D1 Farms (Pty) Ltd

Ryan McDonald Underberg, KwaZulu-Natal, Wesgrow Potatoes

As a seed potato grower, we focus on the crucial aspects essential to success. This includes selecting high-quality seed potatoes, addressing soil and climate conditions, rigorous disease management and pest control.

We are fortunate to have put together a strong team who, through training and development, are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for successful potato cultivation. We strive to be meticulous from the first seed tuber going into the ground, to the last certification label on the bag.

Johan Germishuys, PCS regional manager, Pietermaritzburg

D1 farms perform exceptionally well in producing seed potatoes. The end goal of D1 farms is to set the standard in producing good quality, low virus and low soilborne-disease seed potatoes. Ryan upholds good relationships with the PCS regional office and applies the Scheme and protocol strictly in his farming practices. He also has the agents' and the industry's best interests at heart. This combination makes him worthy of a spot in the top ten.

N 058 | Pidelta (Pty) Ltd

320 ha registered	
314 510 x 25 kg bags certified	
5 varieties planted	

Dean Brown
Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal, individual grower

Pidelta strives to ensure top quality in all the agricultural products we produce. During the last two exceptionally wet seasons, Pidelta has been able to maintain this quality throughout and deliver quality seed to our customers. Attention to detail and catering to our clients' needs remain a focal point to ensure sustainable relationships. We are honoured to be part of this prestigious award again and I would like to thank my team for all their efforts.

Tristan Pillay, PCS certification official, Pietermaritzburg

Pidelta (Pty) Ltd is an innovative and sustainable agribusiness. It has around 350 employees, contributing to job creation. In seed potato certification, we mostly work with around 100 staff members, all of whom work hand in hand with PCS.

The management team is talented and well-versed in the rules and regulations that go along with the Scheme, as well as being attentive to the crop. When unsure of something, they contact PCS for assistance. Seed potatoes at Pidelta are produced under rigid guidelines in collaboration with the erratic weather in their region in KwaZulu-Natal. Seed potatoes are sorted according to high standards in accordance with the Scheme and protocol.

N 226 | Melbrake Farming (Pty) Ltd

Joe and Harry Mandy
Mooi River, KwaZulu-Natal, individual grower

207 ha registered	
105 663 x 25 kg bags certified	
4 varieties planted	

It is an honour to be one of the top ten seed potato growers in South Africa. Our goal is always to supply the best seed potatoes possible.

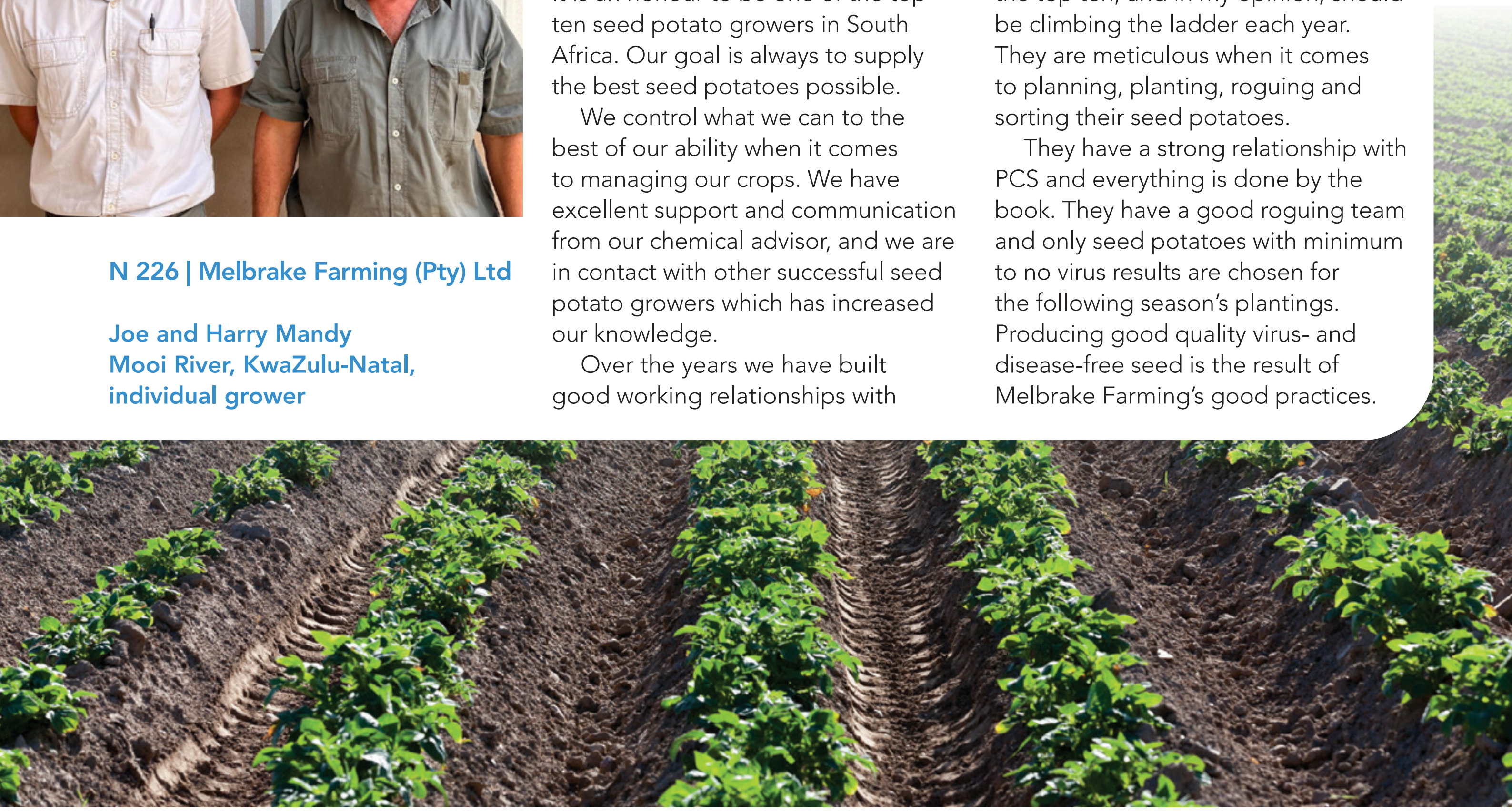
We control what we can to the best of our ability when it comes to managing our crops. We have excellent support and communication from our chemical advisor, and we are in contact with other successful seed potato growers which has increased our knowledge.

Over the years we have built good working relationships with our employees which adds to our success.

Johan Germishuys, PCS regional manager, Pietermaritzburg

Melbrake Farming deserves to be in the top ten, and in my opinion, should be climbing the ladder each year. They are meticulous when it comes to planning, planting, roguing and sorting their seed potatoes.

They have a strong relationship with PCS and everything is done by the book. They have a good roguing team and only seed potatoes with minimum to no virus results are chosen for the following season's plantings. Producing good quality virus- and disease-free seed is the result of Melbrake Farming's good practices.



W 001 | Agrivan Farming (Pty) Ltd

Werner du Plessis
Christiana, North West,
Wesgrow Potatoes

1 997 ha registered	
1 227 334 x 25 kg bags certified	
8 varieties planted	

Agrivan Farming poog voortdurend om topgehalte aartappelmoere te produseer. Hiervoor word beproefde basiese tegnieke en praktyke gevolg. Ons ondersoek deurentyd innoverende praktyke om ons produk te verbeter. Ons 'geen kortpaaie'-kultuur en korrekte toepassing van alle praktyke is prioriteit in ons boerdery.

Agrivan Farming is bevoorreg om deel van Wesgrow te wees waar duidelike riglyne, uitstekende tegniese bystand en bedryfskennis gedeel word. Landbou bied unieke uitdagings en ons verwelkom dit – ek glo goeie ervaring word onder moeilike omstandighede verkry. Die ou gesegde, 'die beste kunsmis is 'n produsent se voetspore', word steeds gevolg.

Kortom, ons moere is vir ons 'moer'-belangrik, daarom gee ons hulle elke dag al die aandag wat hulle verdien.

Leonard van der Walt, ASD-streeksbestuurder, Christiana

Agrivan Farming bewys dat waar kundigheid en ervaring hande vat, groot sukses behaal word. Agrivan plant jaarliks 'n groot aantal hektare en lewer uitsonderlike gehalte moere aan die bedryf. Netheid en deeglikheid kan in alle aspekte van die plaas waargeneem word.

Onder leiding van Werner du Plessis en sy bestuurspan, word elke afdeling van die moerproduksieproses noukeurig nagegaan. Agrivan se suiweringspan is van top gehalte en tydens sortering word gereelde gehaltebeheerondersoeke gedoen. Hierdie stappe verseker dat die beste produk tydens inspeksie op die tafel beland. Baie geluk aan die Agrivan-span.

For enquiries regarding the PCS or the 2024 top ten seed potato growers, contact André Wessels at andre@potatocertification.co.za, the PCS at 060 716 2607 or visit *www.potatocertification.co.za*.