Harvest SA July Highlights

Welcome to the July 2020 issue of Harvest SA. It may be winter but farmers’ hearts are on fire with desire to grow and produce food for the nation – and the world. Yes, SA citrus is on the menu world-wide and it’s thanks to inspirational organisations like the Citrus Growers Association (CGA). Turn to the opening section of the magazine to find out what’s happening and also glean inspiration and practical information from industry leaders such as Villa Crop, Komati Fruit, Meridian, SQM, UPL and more.

This year has placed a firm accent on the need to be able to adapt under constantly changing and unpredictable conditions. In this issue, find out how the pome fruit industry has managed to stay ahead of the curve, how dairy is incorporating solar, and how protein derived from insects is providing to be an attractive investment case. For additional insight into how farmers can perform under pressure, be sure to read our special Zimbabwe section for some reports from the horse’s mouth.

Follow the science, not the money, has become a new watchword in pandemic times, and we welcome the continued efforts of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to inform the agricultural sector on the big picture as it applies to growers and producers. In this issue, the ARC provides must-read analysis of changing weather patterns and their likely implications for the future.

One thing that has become clear since the beginning of lockdown is the vital role that agriculture plays in the economy, not just as a GDP contributor but also as a critical foundation of food security and an enabler for other industries. This means that for agriculture to work, other systems must be working too. An interview with the TLU on the impact of the pandemic on farm security draws attention to some of the issues that have come to light, while a poignant opinion piece from SAB painfully reveals the farmers’ hopes that are dashed when the liquor industry is forced to close down – as well as the promise that all may well still end up well.