

DEVELOPING PIG PRODUCERS

SAPPO believes that commercial pork producers must assist developing pig farmers to farm sustainably as it is an intensive and highly specialised form of farming. SAPPO's Portfolio Committee for Emerging Farmers, is tasked to manage emerging farming projects countrywide. Kgadi Senyatsi is the coordinator.

SAPPO's developing programme for new producers mainly focuses on training, which takes place at developing pig units, at farmers' days and by means of study groups among developing pig farmers. SAPPO wants to ensure that these farmers develop and eventually make a meaningful contribution towards commercial and sustainable pork production in South Africa.

Farmers who are on the brink of becoming commercial producers receive intensive mentorship. Those already farming commercially receive regular and more focused attention. Provincial pig veterinarians, who keep a close watch on the disease status of the units, regularly visit them. SAPPO pays for these veterinarian visits.

The number of successful developing projects in North West, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western and Eastern Cape and in Gauteng proves that some developing pig farmers are already crossing the bridge from just making a living out of pigs, towards becoming commercially successful.

SA Pork Baynesfield Academy

The SA Pork Baynesfield Training Academy is a training service provider, covering accredited training at NQF levels 1 in pig production. The facility is an article 21 company, jointly run by SAPPO and the Baynesfield Estate. The Academy, situated outside Pietermaritzburg, was officially opened on 15 June 2012.

The training covers all aspects of pig production (basic knowledge and skills)

and also the management of a pig production unit (business skills). The course is AgriSETA accredited (National Certificate NQF). Training focuses on emerging pig farmers with the aim to improve their knowledge and skills of pig production to ensure the economic sustainability of these farmers in future.

The emphasis of the training is therefore also on entrepreneurship and the running of a commercially viable pig unit. Training is provided at various levels of knowledge and skills. Clients include pig farm owners/managers, pig farm labourers, extension officers, students, learners, the agricultural sector and members of the public.