



MSSA PRESS RELEASE: COMMERCIAL FARMER STUDY 2015

For the past 18 years it has been a benchmark study of great value for the farming sector of South Africa. Demographic and related results are shared and some of it are reported with this press release. The advantage of participating with your own questions, is that it can be related to the demographic questions. Recent participants were Old Mutual, Santam, Veeplaas and CNH Industrial.

Sole ownership reduced to 56%. However it is still the dominant way to administer commercial farming in South Africa. The percentage of private companies, is still on the increase and is presently at 14%.

According to Schalk van Vuuren, the commercial farmer demographic profile, by main and secondary farming activities, changed slightly during 2015 in comparison with 2014 study, but some interesting trends are emerging, for example 18% of producers mentioned that they increased their farm sizes.

As was expected the drought had a negative effect on farming activities in general as it was apart from input cost and labour issues, challenges that producer had to cope with. Political interference is a future concern for producers

Stock farming (beef) is still the major farming activity that farmers engage in. The report estimates a total of 23 000 beef farmers. Stock farming (beef) is the main farming activity of an estimated 11 000 farmers and 12 000 have stock farming (beef) as a secondary farming activity. Summer crops is the 2nd leading farming activity that farmers engage in, with an estimated 6000 primary farmers and 9000 secondary farmers as estimated from the 2015 results. The report also confirmed the previous year study and showed that there are an estimated 2 400 dairy farmers of which 1 600 have it as a main farming activity and 800 as a secondary farming activity.

Most farmers have a tertiary education and 1 out of 3 is graduates. The largest number of active farmers obtained their agricultural related qualifications through The University of Stellenbosch followed by The University of Pretoria and Free State.

To participate in the 2016 study please contact Schalk Van Vuuren at 012 346 0718 or mssa2@mssa-research.co.za.

MSSA