



## GroCapital News and Noteworthy

2 September 2019

### **Switching to no-till? Restore degraded soil first!**

It is often assumed that implementing no-till production is the immediate next step towards restoring degraded soils. Not so, says Guy Thibaud, a veteran soil scientist with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

<https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/crops/field-crops/switching-to-no-till-restore-degraded-soil-first/>

### **South Africa's wool sector has a R5bn question for China**

South Africa's wool industry is on tenterhooks as exporters seek clarity on a Chinese ban on imports of the fibre following an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease earlier this year in the world's second-biggest producer.

<https://www.moneyweb.co.za/news-fast-news/south-africas-wool-sector-has-a-r5bn-question-for-china/>

### **SA poultry industry and government work to boost access to new export markets**

SA's poultry sector has shed thousands of jobs and blames its demise on cheap chicken imports from Brazil, the US and Europe. This has brought it into conflict with SA meat importers who blame the lack of competitiveness of the local poultry industry for its woes.

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2019-08-21-sa-poultry-industry-and-government-work-to-boost-access-to-new-export-markets/>

### **How chicken became the rich world's most popular meat**

The chicken industry is a dirty business, but it is also a profitable one. In the oecd, a club of mostly rich countries, pork and beef consumption has remained unchanged since 1990. Chicken consumption has grown by 70% (see chart).

[https://www.economist.com/international/2019/01/19/how-chicken-became-the-rich-worlds-most-popular-meat?utm\\_source=Twitterk&utm\\_medium=Economist Films&utm\\_campaign=Link Description&utm\\_term=Social&linkId=100000005828464&linkId=100000007493593](https://www.economist.com/international/2019/01/19/how-chicken-became-the-rich-worlds-most-popular-meat?utm_source=Twitterk&utm_medium=Economist%20Films&utm_campaign=Link%20Description&utm_term=Social&linkId=100000005828464&linkId=100000007493593)

### **SA's oranges take world by storm**

One in every 10 oranges eaten around the world now comes from South Africa. The country's flourishing fruit industry has increasingly made up a bigger proportion of the international trade, said the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy in its latest agricultural outlook for the period 2018 to 2028.

<https://city-press.news24.com/Business/sas-oranges-take-world-by-storm-20190823>

### **African free-trade pact gives reason for hope in SA agriculture**

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) was recently ratified. Although it is well understood that a reduction of tariffs in isolation won't necessarily encourage trade, it is still an important development from an agricultural perspective. This is because there is still a lot of work to be done across the continent to address the lack of infrastructure, costly and prohibitive border processes, corruption and weak institutions.

<https://wandilesihlobo.com/2019/08/24/african-free-trade-pact-gives-reason-for-hope-in-sa-agriculture/>