



**Western Cape  
Government**

Agriculture

**BETTER TOGETHER.**

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ): Covid-19 in Agriculture**

**Version 8**

**Western Cape Department of Agriculture**

**29 May 2020**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **DISCLAIMER:**

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. GENERAL AND FOOD SECURITY**

#### **1.1. What does the lockdown mean for our sector?**

In the Alert Level 4 Regulations the Agricultural Sector already received permission to resume full operation. More specific, "All agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, bee-keeping, including preparation, cultivation, harvesting, storage, transport of live animals and auctions (subject to health directions) and related agricultural infrastructure and services (including research, inspection, certification and quality control)" received permission to continue full operation..

The recognition of the important role the Agricultural Sector, as well as its forward and backwards linkages, is an important moment for the Agricultural Sector. However, this recognition also comes with responsibility and it is up to all people involved in the food value chain to accept this responsibility, to continue food production, to maintain proper Covid-19 related hygienic standards and to keep themselves from contamination.

#### **1.2. What does it mean for those who are harvesting at the moment?**

As explained above, the food value chain has been exempted from the lockdown and the South African society is relying on harvesting to continue. Hence, nothing prevents people involved in the harvesting process to continue with their important work. However, it is also expected from those involved to continue with basic preventative measures such as washing your hands, social distancing, not gathering in large groups, etc.

#### **1.3. What does it mean for food security?**

It is important to note that South Africa is a surplus producer of food with the value of food exports exceeding imports with a significant margin. The main export crops include citrus fruit, wine, grapes, deciduous fruit, maize, etc. and over the last few years the country has become a net exporter of beef. On the import side whiskey is the most important imported product, followed by rice, poultry and wheat (note that products such as rice and wheat are largely non-perishable). Furthermore, large parts of South Africa experienced good summer rainfall and a bumper crop of 15,5 million tons of maize (the 2nd largest maize crop in history) is expected to be harvested this season. In the winter rainfall area, the harvest of table grapes, stone fruit (e.g. peaches and nectarines) and pears has been completed with only about 15% of the apple harvest still to come and citrus harvesting soon to start. For the rest of the year marketing of fruit will continue from Controlled Atmosphere (CA) cold storage. Volumes of vegetables are also adequate and South Africa became a net exporter

of beef a few years ago. It follows that there should be no fear of any shortage of food over the short term.

Hence, the empty shelves recently seen in supermarkets is not as a result of a lack of the availability of food, but rather as the result of panic buying which led to temporary shortages of particular products in specific supermarkets. These products will be replenished via stocks available in the various food value chains.

## **2. PERMITS**

*Whilst under Alert Level 3 the requirement of a permit in order to travel to work is no longer required, it remains a possibility that certain areas may return to Alert Level 4, in which event the permit requirement will likely return and the guidance under this section will again apply.*

### **2.1. Do I (or my truck driver) need a permit to travel in order to pick up farming inputs or to take agricultural products to the market/depot/distribution centre?**

Transport of food as well as other logistical operations pertaining to food are exempted from the shutdown. The Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent – e.g. a farm-owner / manager) is allowed to issue the travel permit.

### **2.2. Where can I obtain permits for my workers?**

The Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent – e.g. a farmer) is allowed to duly designate in writing people whom are required to conduct essential services (i.e. issue a “permit”). Please note that must be duly stamped with the official stamp of your business or, in lieu of a stamp, attach a copy of your own stamped permit.

However, please note that it is expected of each business / farm to develop a Covid-19 Workplace Plan prior to reopening of an enterprise employing persons or serving the public.

### **2.3. I am a farmer. Where can I obtain a permit for myself?**

A farmer may issue a permit to essential workers, but is not allowed to issue a permit to him or herself. You could approach your farmers federation (e.g. Agri West Cape, AFASA, etc.), industry association (e.g. Hortgro, Vinpro, etc.).

### **2.4. I am a smallholder farmer. Where can I obtain a permit for myself?**

A smallholder farmer may issue a permit to essential workers, but is not allowed to issue a permit to him or herself. You could approach Mr Darryl Jacobs at the Western Cape Department of Agriculture for a permit for yourself. Please contact him at:

E-mail: [Darryl.Jacobs@elsenburg.com](mailto:Darryl.Jacobs@elsenburg.com)

Tel: (021) 808 5013

**2.5. My business supply inputs to the Agricultural Sector, process farm products or distribute food and non-alcoholic beverages. Where can I obtain a permit for myself?**

A business can register on the website of DTI by follow the link to: <http://bizportal.gov.za>. This can be done on-line and the registration certificate could be downloaded.

The Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent – e.g. a Managing Director) is allowed to duly designate in writing people whom are required to conduct essential services (i.e. issue a “permit”).

### 3. AGRI WORKERS

#### **3.1. A significant number of my workers live off-farm. Am I allowed to transport my workers to and from my farm during the lockdown? Are there any special terms and conditions?**

Public transport has been allowed to resume, under certain conditions, during Level 4. To date the Transport Directions issued by Minister Mbalula on 4 May 2020 in Government Gazette No 43272 ("the Transport Directions") have not been replaced despite the nationwide move to Alert Level 3 and are therefore still in force.

As per the Transport Directions :

- a) Public Transport Sedan vehicle is limited to carry not more than 50% of its permissible passenger carrying capacity, sedan vehicle with carrying capacity of 5 persons is allowed to carry two passengers plus a driver (3 persons).
- b) E- hailing, meter taxis, shuttle services, chauffeur driven vehicles are permitted to carry not more than 50% of their permissible passenger carrying capacity as follows:
  - i. vehicle with a permissible carrying capacity of 5 persons is allowed to carry two passengers plus a driver (3 persons);
  - ii. vehicle with a permissible carrying capacity of 7 passengers is allowed to carry three passengers plus a driver (4 persons); and
  - iii. vehicle with a permissible carrying capacity of 10 passengers is allowed to carry five passengers plus a driver (6 persons).
- c) Mini and Midibus Taxi vehicles must not carry more than 70% of their maximum licensed passenger carrying capacity as follows
  - i. A minibus licensed to carry 10 passengers, is limited to carry a maximum of 7 passengers plus a driver;
  - ii. A minibus licensed to carry 15 passengers, is limited to carry the maximum of 10 passengers plus a driver; and
  - iii. A midi -bus permitted to carry a maximum of 22 passengers, is limited to carry a maximum of 15 passengers plus a driver.
- d) Busses are permitted to carry not more than 50% of their permissible passenger carrying capacity which includes both seating and standing passengers.
- e) In the case of LDVs and trucks, see 3.2.

In addition to the above:

- a) All directions in respect of hygienic conditions and the limitation of exposure to persons with Covid-19 must be adhered to.
- b) All employees must be in possession of a permit (see 2.2) (restricted to Alert Level 4).
- c) Public transport vehicles must be sanitised before picking up and after dropping off passengers.
- d) All passengers and drivers must wear masks.

### **3.2. The vehicle I use to transport my workers is not registered to transport people (e.g. a truck or bakkie), so I do not know how many people I may legally carry.**

The licensed capacity for LDV and Trucks is not stated as a passenger capacity as it is for private and other public transport vehicles. The difference between the GVM (total maximum loaded weight) and the Tare (total unladen weight) gives the carrying capacity of a freight vehicle. The carrying capacity, divided by 68kg (average weight per person), provides the number of people that may be carried legally.

However, during the lockdown, only 50% of the normal weight may be carried. See below a table of the capacity of various vehicles. Accordingly, the following table should be applied when dealing with transport of passengers by LDV or Truck:

<b>Capacity (KG)</b>	<b>KG/person</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>50% capacity</b>
<b>5000</b>	68	74	37
<b>4000</b>	68	59	29
<b>3000</b>	68	44	22
<b>2000</b>	68	29	14
<b>1000</b>	68	15	7

It is also important that there is sufficient space between workers to ensure their protection. As a guide, the space utilised should only be approximately 50% of what it could be if the vehicle were fully loaded.

Please note that bakkies have a stated passenger capacity as well as a stated weight carrying capacity. Accordingly, they will only be permitted to carry 50% of their licensed passenger capacity as well as 50% of their stated weight capacity. Accordingly, if the specified vehicle is only licensed to carry 3 people within the cab of the bakkie and, under the Regulations, it cannot exceed 50% of its licensed capacity, it will not be permissible to travel with more than one 1 person (the driver) in the cab of this vehicle.

The regulations do not prohibit the transportation of passengers on the back of a bakkie but this would be subject to the following rules:

- Cannot exceed 50% of the licensed capacity (see above table).
- Passengers must be seated at least 350mm below the sides and tailgate of a bakkie.
- No goods or tools are to be transported alongside your workers in the load bed.
- Sufficient space is allowed between workers to ensure their protection

While the lockdown regulations are silent on conditions that apply where passengers are transported on trucks or bakkies and it is not illegal to convey workers in such a



manner, it is important however, to note that there are significant safety risks involved in transporting employees in such a manner.

As a guideline, we would recommend that a maximum of 5 persons can be transported on the back of the bakkie, allowing for sufficient space between workers and ensuring that the space utilised will be approximately 50% of what it could be if the vehicle were fully loaded.

### **3.3. What are the minimum sanitary requirements which needs to be implemented when workers are transported?**

In addition to normal transport regulations (e.g. drivers needs to be in possession of a PDP permit), the following are the minimum measures which should be in place:

- a) Every worker must have an identity document with him / her at all times.
- b) Proof that each worker's fever was taken before getting on the vehicle. This proof can be in the form of a note on the transport permit and must show the following information:
  - the date / time (hour and minute) at which the seasonal worker's fever was taken; and
  - the name and signature of the person who took the seasonal worker's fever.
- c) Sufficient hand sanitizer in each vehicle - at least one large bottle per taxi/minibus, with a content of at least 500 ml.
- d) Each worker must wear a face mask of suitable material that can serve as protection during transport.
- e) Every driver of a vehicle carrying workers must be in possession of a permit indicating when he/she is leaving and when he/she must return back.
- f) Every worker returning to his/her usual home must have his/her employment contract with him/her indicating the date of termination of employment.
- g) UI19 forms for each seasonal worker whose contract has expired.

#### **3.4. I am living near the border of the Province/Metropole and some of my essential workers are living in another Province/area. May I transport them to work and back on a daily basis?**

Workers may commute across borders to and from work on a daily basis. However, such workers must be in possession of a permit to perform any service permitted under Alert level 3. Should Alert Level 4 apply to your region, such movement will be restricted to essential services.

#### **3.5. I employed seasonal workers during the harvest time / I need to employ seasonal workers to harvest my citrus. May I transport them across a provincial border?**

Alert level 3 regulations allow a person to move between provinces in the course of carrying out work responsibilities or performing a service permitted under Alert Level 3.

The seasonal workers must be in possession of the following documentation:

- a) A permit that is completed by the employer for each essential worker rendering seasonal work. The permit must comply with Annexure A, Form 2 to the Regulations and state the full name and surname of the worker, their place residence, the individual's identity number, and then certify that the worker is carrying out work responsibilities or performing a service permitted under Alert Level 3. The permit must clearly indicate that the essential worker is returning to their usual home after rendering such seasonal work or is on their way to a specific farm for a seasonal activity away from his usual home. **The travelling worker/s must be screened by the employer before embarking on the trip.**
- b) Every worker must have an identity document with him / her at all times.
- c) Although not prescribed by law, it is recommended that each worker be screened before getting on the vehicle, and that proof of such screening be provided to the worker. This proof can be in the form of a note (with employer's stamp) on the transport permit and must show the following information:
  - a. the date / time (hour and minute) at which the seasonal worker's fever was taken;
  - b. the worker's fever at the time of screening; and
  - c. the name and signature of the person who performed the screening of the workers.
- d) Every driver of a vehicle carrying workers must be in possession of a permit indicating when he/she is leaving and when he/she must return back.
- e) Every seasonal worker must have his/her employment contract with him/her indicating the date of termination of employment.
- f) UI19 forms for each seasonal worker whose contract has expired must be available for inspection on route.

In accordance with the Transport Directions issued by Minister Mbalula on 4 May 2020 in Government Gazette No 43272:

- a) Sufficient hand sanitizer must be available in each vehicle – at least one large bottle per taxi/minibus, with a content of at least 500 ml and containing at least 60% alcohol content;
- b) All operators must ensure that public transport vehicles are sanitized before picking up and after dropping off passengers;
- c) Operators must ensure that all public transport vehicles' doors and window handles, arm rest and hand rails are sanitized after every load;
- d) Passengers must be encouraged to sanitise after they enter the vehicle and after getting off the vehicle;
- e) Operators must ensure that all public transport vehicles are clean and tidy;
- f) All public transport operators must provide disinfection information materials and procedures;
- g) All drivers must wear a cloth face mask or a homemade item that covers nose and mouth;

- h) Any marshal or security officer who interacts with members of the public in a public transport facility must wear a cloth face mask or a homemade item that covers nose and mouth; and
- i) All public transport operators must put measures in place to adhere to physical distancing to curb the spread of the virus.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** should seasonal workers who are tested Covid-19 positive be allowed to travel from the Western Cape to neighbouring provinces or regions as per the health protocols. Covid-19 patients should, as per the health protocols, be isolated or in quarantine sites and not be allowed to travel.

The vehicle must adhere to the carrying capacities as set out in 3.1 and 3.2.

**It is also recommended that workers (doing seasonal work) travelling from or to the Western Cape to and from neighbouring provinces should also undergo additional screening by the provincial health authorities of the receiving provinces at the provincial borders. This is an additional precautionary measure by the receiving provinces.**

### **3.6. I am a labour broker providing seasonal workers to a number of farms. Am I exempted from the lockdown?**

Under alert level 3 persons will be allowed to perform any type of work outside the home, and to travel to and from work and for work purposes, subject to –

- a) strict compliance with health protocols and social distancing measures;
- b) the return to work being phased-in in order to put in place measures to make the workplace COVID-19 ready;
- c) the return to work being done in a manner that avoids and reduces risks of infection;
- d) the work not being listed under the specific economic exclusions listed in Table 2, Alert Level 3 to the Regulations published on 29 May 2020

### **3.7. Must farm workers work or are they part of the lockdown?**

Under alert level 3 persons will be allowed to perform any type of work outside the home, and to travel to and from work and for work purposes, subject to –

- a) strict compliance with health protocols and social distancing measures;
- b) the return to work being phased-in in order to put in place measures to make the workplace COVID-19 ready;
- c) the return to work being done in a manner that avoids and reduces risks of infection;

- d) the work not being listed under the specific economic exclusions listed in Table 2, Alert Level 3 to the Regulations published on 29 May 2020.

**3.8. I am an agri worker. May employees be forced to take annual/unpaid leave during the lockdown if they were not considered to be essential staff under alert levels 5 and 4? May employers refuse to pay employees?**

While government has encouraged all businesses to continue to pay their employees/workers, who may be stuck at home and won't be able to work during this time, many companies can't afford this and are considering other options.

The options for the employees during the period are as follows:

- a) Annual leave, or
- b) Temporary Lay-off; or
- c) Unpaid leave until the lockdown comes to an end. (This is not an option one wants to consider as it will mean the worker/ employee will be without an income/ salary/ wage for the lockdown period)

It is the prerogative of the employer to inform the employees that they need to take leave as currently there is no work. This is similar to indicating that annual leave (aka holiday leave) is during off time and not the busy harvest time.

The employer can indicate to employees to take annual leave for purposes of adhering to the lockdown regulations. Employees won't be allowed to work during the lockdown period of three weeks, which starts on Thursday midnight. This is if the service or duties they perform were not categorised as essential services.

If an employee has leave available, this would be the first and best option to use employees' leave allocation until it is depleted." This will ensure workers receive a wage/ salary.

Employers may consider other options to ease their cash flow during this time, including staggering wage payments. Another option would be reduced wages. The guideline on the Temporary Employer/ Employee Relief Scheme, which could assist struggling companies, is available on request. This includes contact details of the Department of Labour.

A relatively new option will be a temporary lay-off, whereby you will still officially be in the employment of a company. You will be able to claim money from the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), but it won't be your full salary. A booklet/ easy guide on this matter and the processes to be followed is available on request.

The UIF normally doesn't pay out money quickly, there are stringent processes and there is uncertainty whether the local offices will be operational. With severe impact currently on businesses, it is expected that Labour/ UIF will be flooded with huge

volumes of claims during this time. Therefore clarity will be required as to how payments by Labour will happen during the lockdown.

On Tuesday 24 March 2020 Minister of Employment and Labour, Mr Thulas Nxesi, confirmed that companies may do pay outs directly to staff, and then claim it back from the UIF.

For further information please visit [www.labour.gov.za](http://www.labour.gov.za)

Or contact your Labour Centre or the details provided in the attached guides.

**3.9. I am an agri worker. Am I entitled to additional pay / benefit (danger pay) as a result of the dangerous or hazardous circumstances I will be working under during the period of lockdown?**

“Danger pay” is not part of legislation and is also not in the disaster regulations gazetted over the past two weeks. Normally the allowances or benefits for working in hazardous situations form part of the collective agreements through the Bargaining Councils, which has not been the case with the Agricultural Sector and is not included in the Determination of Farm Worker remuneration.

**3.10. I have lost my job. May I be evicted from the house where I stayed when I worked on the farm?**

No, no person may be evicted whilst Level 3 lockdown measures are in place. Although a competent court may grant and order for the eviction of any person from land or a home under the provision of relevant legislation, such an order may only be executed after the last day of Level 3 lockdown. Nevertheless, a court may also take the decision that such an order must be executed sooner than before the last day of Level 3 lockdown.

**3.11. I am an agri worker and I suspect that my employer does not comply with Covid-19 related workplace measures. What am I to do?**

Every business, in order to operate under Covid-19 lockdown measures, must adhere to minimum occupational health and safety standards. These measures include Section 8 of the OHS Act (85 of 1993) as well as R.479 on Covid-19 Occupational Health and Safety Measures in workplaces. Farmers must develop a Workplace Plan (see 5.2) and adhere to transport regulations (see 3.1 and 3.2). Some of the relevant documentation is available on the Elsenburg Website at <http://www.elsenburg.com/content/covid-19>.

Please remember that every worker is obliged to comply with measures introduced by their employer as required by these directives.

If you suspect that your employer does not comply with all the labour regulations, please contact your nearest labour centre by e-mail or telephone. As one of the key anti Covid-19 interventions is to create social distancing, it is not advisable to visit the labour centres, but rather to first call for an appointment. The relevant contact details of the various centres of the Department of Labour is as follows:

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Provincial centre	(021) 441 8000	wc.customercare@labour.gov.za
Chief inspector	082 791 4485	
Beaufort West	(023) 414 3427	Rina.vrensburg@labour.gov.za
Bellville	(021) 941 7000	Thozama.ngonyama@labour.gov.za
Cape Town	(021) 468 5500	Bhele.Mzinyati@labour.gov.za
George	(044) 801 1200	timoti.nyakaza@labour.gov.za
Knysna	(044) 302 6800	Sarie.le-chat@labour.gov.za
Mitchell's Plain	(021) 391 0591	James.stigling@labour.gov.za
Mossel Bay	(044) 691 1140	Gerhard.JansevRensburg@labour.gov.za
Oudtshoorn	(044) 203 6100	edmund.fortuin@labour.gov.za
Paarl	(021) 872 2020	aziza.leitch@labour.gov.za
Somerset West	(021) 852 6535	Zulaigha.Smith@labour.gov.za
Vredenburg	(022) 703 8100	Evril.adams-august@labour.gov.za
Worcester	(023) 346 5200	tembekile.hoza@labour.gov.za

## **4. MARKETING MY PRODUCTS**

### **4.1. May I continue to deliver my products to the local market/depot/distribution centre during the lockdown period?**

Under Alert Level 3, all goods other than tobacco products are permitted for sale, with the sale of alcohol being restricted to reduced trading times (Monday – Thursday; 09:00 – 17:00).

### **4.2. Do I need a travel permit to deliver my products to the market?**

This is no longer required under Alert Level 3.

### **4.3. May I transport my products across provincial and metropolitan borders?**

Yes, all food products, including alcoholic beverages and animal food may be transported across provincial borders. This includes the transport of live animals.

Please note that necessary precautions must be taken to sanitise and disinfect such cargo and that all normal and Covid-19 requirements pertaining to the transport of goods must be complied with.

### **4.4. I sell farm products to informal traders. Am I allowed to continue with this practice during the lockdown period?**

- a) Under Alert Level 3, all goods other than tobacco products are permitted for sale, with the sale of alcohol being restricted to reduced trading times (Monday – Thursday; 09:00 – 17:00).

However, flea markets, open air food markets, fêtes and bazaars are prohibited. Hence, it will not be allowed to provide food to them.

### **4.5. May I sell farm products to restaurants and fast food outlets?**

Yes. Although restaurants and fast food outlets are not allowed to serve sit-down customers, they may sell food for off-site consumption. Hence, it is allowed to sell farm products to these types of outlets.

### **4.6. I am a wine farmer. May I sell my wine to the wholesale and retail trade?**

A wine farmer may sell his or her wine on both the domestic as well as the export market. Wine may be transported by land, air and sea across provincial and national borders.

#### **4.7. May I transport my wine only on specific days to retail outlets?**

Wine may only be sold at retail outlets on Monday to Thursday between 09:00 and 17:00 (except when one of these days falls on a public holiday). However, the transportation and distribution of liquor (including wine and beer) to licensed outlets may take place on any day of the week as of 29 May 2020.

#### **4.8. May I open the licensed restaurant / tasting room on my wine farm?**

The on-site consumption of any form of liquor, as well as serving of sit-down meals, remains prohibited. However, all restaurants may sell meals for consumption at home. Similarly, liquor license holders, irrespective whether it is for on-site or off-site consumption, may sell their liquor for off-site consumption. This means that meals may be sold and collected at the restaurant during approved business hours, but no wine may accompany these meals outside the hours during which liquor sales are allowed. Please visit the VinPro website for more practical information:  
<https://www.wineland.co.za/covid-19-info/>

#### **4.9. May I sell wine or beer from my farm?**

If your farm has a licensed facility for on- or off-site consumption of liquor, you may sell wine or beer from your farm. However, all sales may only be for off-site consumption and may only take place from Monday to Thursday between 09:00 and 17:00 (except when one of these days falls on a public holiday when no sales are allowed.) Please visit the VinPro website for more practical information:  
<https://www.wineland.co.za/covid-19-info/>

#### **4.10. May my restaurant sell wine with takeaway meals?**

If your restaurant is licensed for on-site consumption of wine, it may sell wine with meals for off-site consumption. However, please note that liquor may only be sold from Monday to Thursday between 09:00 and 17:00. The implication is that wine will not be allowed to accompany meals outside these hours.

#### **4.11. May prepared food be sold?**

Any food product (excluding "hot cooked food") may be sold via the retail trade (covering stores, spaza shops, e-commerce and informal traders). Grocery stores are also allowed to deliver food products (basic foodstuff) to the homes of clients.

The sales of "hot cooked food" is only for home delivery or collection for consumption at home. It follows that any food prepared in-store may not be sold hot. However, it may be prepared, preserved (e.g. frozen, packed, canned, etc.) to be re-heated at home.



#### **4.12. May I sell my products on-line?**

Yes, all products, except tobacco, may be sold on-line and via e-commerce.

Please note that a strict set of health and safety protocols are in place regarding practices in the warehouse or depot from where the products are dispatched, during delivery as well as how social distancing must be maintained during delivery. Some of the other requirements include:

- a) Provision must be made for payment through multiple channels.
- b) Preference must be given to locally produced or manufactured products.
- c) Written instructions must be provided on how the customer can safely disinfect the goods before use.
- d) The person delivering the product is not allowed to enter the home of the customer.
- e) All normal rules and regulations must be adhered to.

## **5. RUNNING MY FARMING BUSINESS**

### **5.1. Am I allowed to continue with normal farming practices (e.g. irrigating my crops, milking my cows, preparing my fields for the planting season)?**

All agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, bee -keeping, including preparation, cultivation, harvesting, storage, transport of live animals and auctions (subject to health directions) and related agricultural infrastructure and services (including research, inspection, certification and quality control) is allowed.

Harvesting and storage activities essential to prevent the wastage of primary agricultural, fishing and forestry goods, may also continue.

Export of all agricultural, agro- processed, fishing and forestry products.

Please remember that all directions in respect of hygienic conditions and the limitation of exposure to persons with Covid-19 must be adhered to and the necessary permits needs to be obtained (see 2). Farmers must adhere to R.479 on Covid-19 Occupational Health and Safety Measures in workplaces as well as Section 8 of the OHS Act (85 of 1993). Farmers must develop a Workplace Plan (see 5.2) and adhere to transport regulations (see 3.1 and 3.2) As an example of practical implementation, see the SIZA-guidelines. All are available on the Elsenburg website).

### **5.2. What should be included in a Workplace Plan?**

The Plan for medium and large businesses must include the following:

- a) The date the business will open and the hours of opening;
- b) The timetable setting out the phased return -to -work of employees, to enable appropriate measures to be taken to avoid and reduce the spread of the virus in the workplace;
- c) The steps taken to get the workplace COVID -19 ready;
- d) A list of staff who can work from home: staff who are 60 years or older; and staff with comorbidities who will be required to stay at home or work from home;
- e) Arrangements for staff in the establishment:
  - a. sanitary and social distancing measures and facilities at the entrance and exit workplace; to the
  - b. screening facilities and systems;
  - c. the attendance -record system and infrastructure;
  - d. the work -area of employees;
  - e. any designated area where the public is served;
  - f. canteen and bathroom facilities;
  - g. testing facilities (for establishments with more than 500 employees);
  - h. staff rotational arrangements (for establishments where fewer than 100% of employees will be permitted to work).

- f) Arrangements for customers or members of the public, including sanitation and social distancing measures.

**5.3. I am a wine farmer with a cellar. May I continue to produce wine and to export?**

Yes. All agriculture, including wine production, is permitted to continue. This include preparation, cultivation, harvesting, storage, transport and related agricultural infrastructure and services (including research, inspection, certification and quality control). The same conditions as explained in 5.1 and 5.2 must be adhered to.

Wine may also be exported via land, sea and airports and may be transported across provincial borders for the purpose of exports and sold on the domestic market (see 4.6).

Please visit the VinPro website for more practical information:  
<https://www.wineland.co.za/covid-19-info/>

**5.4. I am involved in a farming business which could be classified as non-essential (e.g. producing fynbos flowers). Am I exempted from the lockdown?**

Yes. Non-essential agriculture may continue with all production activities such as preparation, cultivation, harvesting, storage, transport and related agricultural infrastructure and services (including research, inspection, certification and quality control). The same conditions as explained in 5.1 and 5.2 must be adhered to.

All agricultural products may also be exported via land, sea and airports and may be transported across provincial borders for the purpose of exports and all products may be sold domestically to the general public via supermarkets, shops, e-trade or informal markets.

**5.5. I have a smallholding with some live animals a distance from where I live. Am I allowed to travel to the smallholding to feed, water and tend to them on a daily basis?**

Yes. All agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, bee -keeping, including preparation, cultivation, harvesting, storage, transport of live animals and auctions (subject to health directions) and related agricultural infrastructure and services (including research, inspection, certification and quality control) is permitted. However, a permit needs to be obtained should the journey be across provincial, metropolitan or district lines (see 2.3).

**5.6. I own a horse which is stabled on a smallholding outside town. May I go horse riding as a form of exercise?**

Yes, all forms of exercise is allowed between 06:00 and 18:00 every day. However, it may not be done in organized groups and beaches and parks remains closed.

**5.7. I own a boat and sometimes I go fishing over weekends. May I fish during the lockdown period and donate the catch to a charity or school?**

All fishing, operations of fish hatcheries and fish farms are allowed. However, fishing is limited to "Commercial Fishing Right holders" and only such right holders are allowed to fish and may transport their catch to a nominated establishment.

**5.8. I own a landscaping and gardening business. May I operate under Level 4 lockdown regulations?**

Landscaping and gardening is allowed under Level 3 regulations.

It is important that all Covid-19 health and safety measures must be complied with (see 5.1 and 5.2).

**5.9. I run a nursery and I supply seedlings and plants to the Agricultural Sector. May I operate under Level 4 lockdown regulations?**

Yes, nurseries are allowed to operate.

It is important that all Covid-19 health and safety measures must be complied with (see 5.1 and 5.2).

**5.10. I have game on my farm and normally allow visitors to conduct self-drive excursions. May I resume this activity?**

Yes, private self-drive excursion activities is allowed.

## **6. PROVIDING INPUTS AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO FARMERS**

### **6.1. My business supply direct inputs to the Agricultural Sector (e.g. fertilizer, seed, chemicals, fertilizer, etc.). Is my business exempted from the lockdown**

Under alert level 3, all services may be rendered subject to it not being listed under the specific economic exclusions listed in Table 2, Alert Level 3 to the Regulations published on 29 May 2020.

### **6.2. My business supply seedlings to farmers. Is my business exempted from the lockdown?**

Under alert level 3, all services may be rendered subject to it not being listed under the specific economic exclusions listed in Table 2, Alert Level 3 to the Regulations published on 29 May 2020.

### **6.3. My business supply direct services to the Agricultural Sector (e.g. maintenance of tractors, maintenance of irrigation equipment, maintenance of wine processing machines). Is my business exempted from the lockdown**

Under alert level 3, all services may be rendered subject to it not being listed under the specific economic exclusions listed in Table 2, Alert Level 3 to the Regulations published on 29 May 2020.

### **6.4. I am busy with contract work on farm (e.g. planting fruit trees on farm, etc.). Without this maintenance the farm will not be able to continue to operate. Am I exempted from the lockdown and will I be allowed to continue with my business?**

Under alert level 3, all services may be rendered subject to it not being listed under the specific economic exclusions listed in Table 2, Alert Level 3 to the Regulations published on 29 May 2020.

### **6.5. I am running my business from my house and can render all services without leaving my house (e.g. via telephone, the internet, social media, etc.). May I continue my business?**

Yes. All persons who are able to work from home should do so, irrespective whether the client base is domestic or international.

### **6.6. May on-farm construction projects continue during Level-4 lockdown (noting that the entire country will, effective 1 June 2020, be moved to Alert Level 3)?**

Yes. Construction projects may continue. Below is a list of examples of permitted projects:

a) Maintain a building by, for instance, replacing the leaking roof of a milking parlour.

- b) Clean an earthen dam / or irrigation canal – an action which needs to be completed before the rainy season starts.
- c) Do maintenance by replacing the outdated and malfunctioning milking machine in an existing milking parlour.
- d) Complete the final touches of a facility by installing the equipment in a newly built facility:
  - a. Installing a new milking machine in a recently completed building.
  - b. Installing the cages in a recently completed layer unit.
- e) Complete the construction of a semi-constructed facility in order to increase food production.
- f) Build a new building and install equipment for a:
  - a. Cold storage facility for a recently planted blueberry plantation which will be ready for its first harvest in the next month or two.
  - b. Bottling plant for the just completed harvest of wine grapes.

## **7. VETERINARY SERVICES AND ANIMAL HEALTH**

### **7.1. Are private veterinary clinics to close down or are they exempted from the lockdown?**

Under alert level 3, all services may be rendered subject to it not being listed under the specific economic exclusions listed in Table 2, Alert Level 3 to the Regulations published on 29 May 2020.

### **7.2. Are pet food stores to close down or are they exempted from the lockdown?**

Under alert level 3, all services may be rendered subject to it not being listed under the specific economic exclusions listed in Table 2, Alert Level 3 to the Regulations published on 29 May 2020.

### **7.3. I am a farrier and need to fit new horseshoes. Am I exempted from the lockdown?**

Animal care services is allowed.

### **7.4. Will government continue to provide important services to the Agricultural Sector (e.g. Export certificates for animals, abattoir inspections, etc.)?**

Yes. Special arrangements has been made for government to continue providing essential services. Visit <http://www.elsenburg.com/content/important-contact-information> for contact details.

## **8. ON-FARM SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **8.1. My workers compete in the local soccer / rugby league. May they start competing again?**

No. Only professional athletes are allowed to train on sporting facilities and only professional non-contact sport events may take place and then only under certain conditions. In these instances only a limited number of people (e.g. match officials, journalists, medical personnel, television crew, etc.) may attend the match.

### **8.2. The community hall on my farm is usually used for a church event on Sundays. May this practice resume?**

Yes, religious events may resume. However, no more than 50 people may attend and strict Covid-19 related social distancing and sanitation protocols must be followed.

### **8.3. May the farm school on my farm re-open?**

Yes, schools may operate. However, as of 1 June only grade 7 and 12 students may attend school and other grades will gradually start to return to school. The whole process is coordinated by the Department of Education and strict Covid-19 related social distancing and sanitation protocols must be followed.

### **8.4. May the crèche on my farm reopen?**

No. Crèches are not allowed to operate under Level-3 restrictions. Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres are anticipated to open on 6 July 2020.

### **8.5. I have a wedding chapel on my farm. May I allow couples to get married in the chapel?**

No. Weddings are only allowed to take place at the Department of Home Affairs.

### **8.6. An initiation school is annually held on my farm. May this practice continue this year**

No. For the duration of the national state of disaster any land owner may not provide consent for the use of his or her land for the holding of an initiation school.