



# FARM SECURITY

A view from the ground



We develop the South African Agricultural Industry.  
Ons ontwikkel die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou Industrie.



## Introduction

### **Dan Kriek – President**

Farm security is much bigger than a single organisation, a community or even structures of authorities. The reality is that every farm attack, shocks a community to its core.

Agri SA's approach is to get a full picture of the situation at hand. We source statistics from the police, and from local structures. In an attempt to address the matter, Agri SA will continue to discuss this important matter with all parties involved. This includes the Minister of Police as well as relevant government departments.

There will have to be a focus on solutions, which will have to address socio-economic challenges such as rural poverty and unemployment.

Agri SA welcomes public debate on the issue and believes that as a country we can find the solutions.

### **Agri SA is committed to accuracy**

There is currently differing sources and interpretations of farm attack statistics in the media. Statistics are limited, and official statistics are revised and updated post-facto. The information published in the latest Agri SA farm security report is based on:

- Information from SAPS that was presented in Parliament
- Input from security experts within Agri SA
- Cooperation with SAPS on strategic and grassroots level.

The latest Agri SA report shows that since its highest levels in 2001/2002, farm attacks have decreased. Possible reasons for this can be that farmers and workers are more aware of safety concerns, they are involved with local safety structures and an improved relationship between SAPS and rural communities has been established. The efforts of the farming community, provincial agricultural organisations and Agri SA must be acknowledged, in the fight against these attacks.

Notwithstanding the decrease over 19 years in farm attacks and murders, the levels of attacks and murders, and the coinciding brutality are still unacceptably high. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in farm attacks in the past two years. This increase is extremely worrying and shows that there is still a definite threat to the agricultural community.

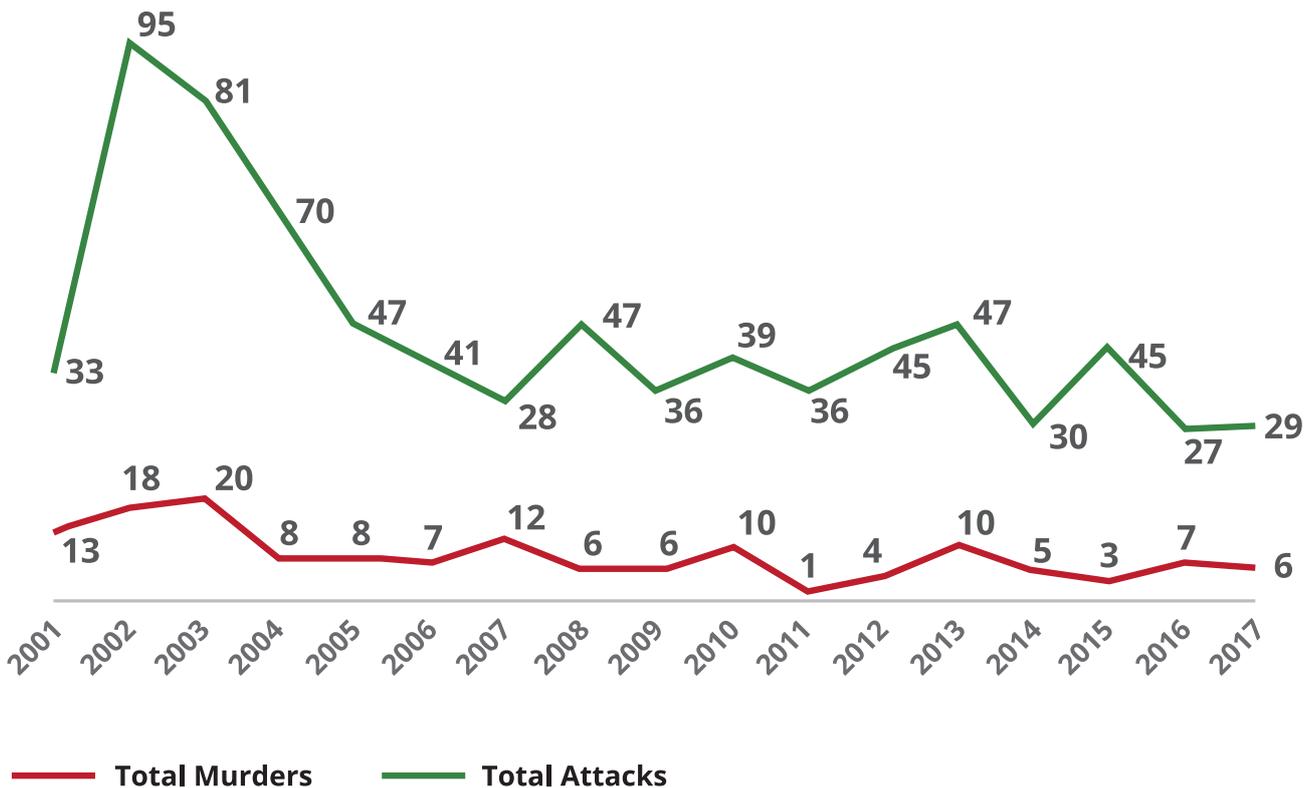
Below is relevant information from involved role players within Agri SA's structures.



## A view from the ground, KZN's security situation:

Sandy La Marque - CEO: Kwanalu

### KwaZulu-Natal Murders and Attacks 2001 - 2017



Source: Kwanalu Analysis on Farm Murders & Attacks (Reflects national trends)

The KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union (Kwanalu) is an organisation which represents the interest of its members, inclusive of all farmers, commodities and agribusiness in KwaZulu-Natal. Safety and security of members is one of the key strategic focus areas which the organisation attends to. In 1999, Kwanalu recognised the need to take a proactive stance on dealing with safety and security matters in KZN. Kwanalu established a security desk which provides a service to Kwanalu members including amongst others; gathering of details and statistics of crime, conducting analysis of every farm attack and murder in KZN, working closely with all relevant provincial structures, submissions for proactive action and operational planning, assisting members with guidelines, providing expert evidence in court etc.



From the expert analysis Kwanalu conducts on all attacks and murders in the province it enables us to adopt a multipronged approach with all stakeholders including members. The findings of the analysis help to dispel various myths e.g. regardless of your racial orientation or whether you live in a city, town or on a farm, you're a potential target. Unfortunately, the rural nature of farms, where the nearest neighbour is generally some distance away, does make farmers more vulnerable to attack.

Furthermore, the Kwanalu analysis and reviewing evidence heard in court indicates the reason behind these attacks is not driven by race, politics or land but by socio-economic circumstances that lead to opportunistic crimes.

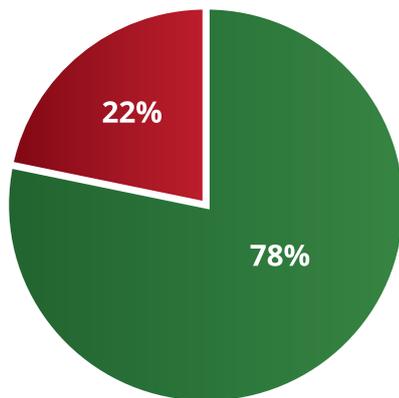
Certainly, the level of violence associated with farm attacks only adds to the shock but it is imperative that people refrain from making or supporting inflammatory comments and statements inciting hatred and fuelling racial tension especially on chat groups and social media. This is counter-productive and serves no purpose other than to breed negativity, distrust and discord amongst the community when we should focus on working together instead.

By tightening security even further, working together in our communities by forging relationships and building trust, reporting all incidents, no matter how minor, to the local SAPS and making sure security is a top priority we will be able to beat the statistics. Security starts at home! You need to take responsibility for your security.



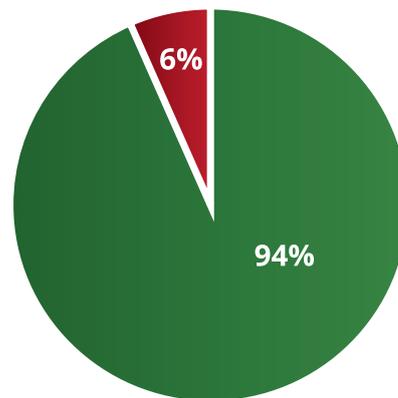
During a recent survey, some interesting responses were gathered from farmers, the feedback helps to focus discussions and identify areas which could receive further attention:

Do you have a farm security cell?



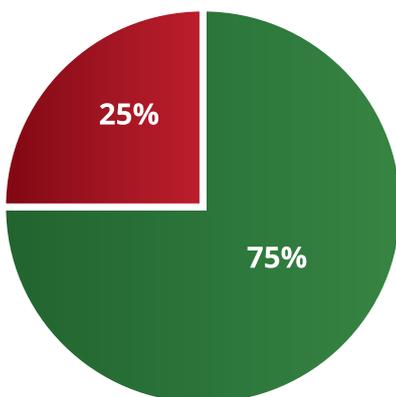
■ Yes ■ No

Do you report crime, theft etc. on the farm?



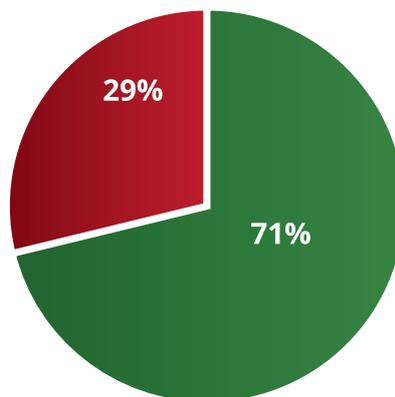
■ Yes ■ No

Does illegal hunting with dogs take place on your farm?



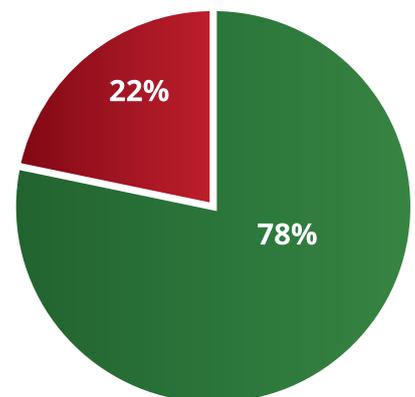
■ Yes ■ No

Do regular rural safety meetings take place with your farmers' association?



■ Yes ■ No

Do you have a good working relationship with your local police?



■ Yes ■ No



## An analysis of farm attacks in the Free State for the past two years (April 2016 – March 2018)

**Dr. Jane Buys – Security Risk Analyst, Free State Agriculture**

The phenomenon of acts of violence on farms and smallholdings against producers, their families and dwellers/workers living on farms are evident over decades in the Free State. Concerning the dynamics of this specific serious and violent crime targeting farming communities, it should be stated that no act of violence is taking place randomly, meaning that opportunistic criminals are not deciding on the spur of the moment to target a specific farmer, his family or workers. In the majority of attacks, prior knowledge was obtained knowingly from workers or former employees or either unknowingly by employees talking in social places about the endeavours of their employers whereby the opportunity to rob arises.

It is evident in the case studies conducted by the Free State Agriculture (FSA) Safety Desk by interviewing victims of farm attacks in the Free State, that attackers kept prior observations regarding which dogs were on the site, that they had prior information where security gates were installed inside houses, that they were well aware of the routine of victims, that they had already launched such attacks in the past deriving from the way they acted and handled firearms and that they were constantly in conversation with a vehicle that transported them to/from the scene. In some of the incidents the suspicious vehicle that transported the attackers, was spotted a day before the attack by some farmers in the area.

In a lot of cases specific details as to where safes are being located that harbours firearms, cash and valuable items are known to attackers. Research furthermore revealed that farm attacks are mostly well planned and executed with precision, which means that groups are involved in an organized manner that does not exclude the possibility of syndicates / organized groupings' potential involvement in farm attacks that should be investigated by SAPS task teams through linkage analysis.

Except for vehicles, tractors and stock that were targeted, only in 4 incidents items stored outside houses were robbed by attackers such as generators, truck batteries, tools, petrol, etc. All items attackers aspire to rob/steal are mostly located inside houses. It is also a given that in 20-24% of incidents nothing was stolen/robbed in farm attacks the past 2 financial years in the Free State. The most probable reason was quick response by victims to alert neighbors or activate RSS (mobilization of farming community); some victims carry firearms and when fired upon fired in return. The analysis further shows that 40-50% of attacks were aimed at gaining entrance to houses, thus the intention to steal and rob. Furthermore, that some sort of negligence (20-25%) could be detected



from some victims by not securing their houses more sufficiently. In some incidents victims went outside to investigate when dogs bark or when hearing voices, making them easy targets for attackers. It is also known that in 3 attacks, the wrong farms were targeted thus emphasizing the motive to rob.

Nearly one-third (32.43%) of farmers in the Virginia area where an impact and extent of crime study was conducted in October 2016, reported that they experience psychological trauma due to the impact of mostly property related crimes (brutality with which stock theft is sometimes being executed) in their area and that they are receiving psychological treatment. The impact of farm attacks on farming communities' well-being cannot be determined presently and further research is needed. It was also stated that except for drought, crime is the biggest threat preventing a sustainable agricultural sector in this area that contributes that a lot of farmers are leaving the sector.

When taking into consideration that 8 workers and 5 producers have been killed the past 2 financial years in farm attacks in Free State, farming communities should become more focused on the prevention of such incidents within the Rural Safety Strategy (RSS). Free State has experienced a decrease in farm attacks comparing 2016-2017 with 2017-2018. Workers on farms are also getting targeted in farm attacks. For the past 2 calendar years, 17 farm attacks were prevented per year in the Free State. This calendar year (2018) 10 attacks were prevented already, mostly through early observation and detection of suspicious vehicles/persons moving in rural areas by both workers and farmers, enquiries to some workers by potential robbers about money and firearms inside houses; informer networks by SAPS (Crime Intelligence) as well as Farm Watch structures that specific farms will be targeted.

The good partnership approach within the RSS contributes significantly to the success in terms of a pro-active approach on farm attacks. Only 5 producers who are members of organized agriculture were targeted in farm attacks the past financial year in the Free State. It could be deducted that the involvement of farming communities to participate within the RSS, by building and improving relationships with SAPS, neighbors, communities, workers/dwellers on farms; to improve communication networks through safety WhatsApp groups and radio networks; by sharing information on pro-active and preventative measures; and lastly to enable them through training workshops by both organized agriculture and SAPS as to how to act/react in emergency situations, definitely contributes to safer rural areas and farming communities in the Free State.



## ANNEXURE "A"

The underneath table reflects on an operational analysis of the dynamics involved in acts of violence (farm attacks) on agricultural land in the Free State for the past two financial years, thus from April 2016 to March 2018:

TYPE	2016-2017	2017-2018	REMARK
<b>Nr of serious and violent crimes (farm attacks)</b>	<p><b>Farm attacks/murders:</b> 66 (42 producers including upcoming farmers attacked/murdered, 1 incident both producer/workers attacked)</p> <p><b>Murder:</b> 6 (1 producer, 5 workers)</p> <p><b>Attempted Murder:</b> 13 <b>House robbery:</b> 39 <b>Other crimes:</b> 22</p>	<p><b>Farm attacks/murders:</b> 60 (38 producers including 2 upcoming farmers attacked/murdered, 4 on both producers/workers)</p> <p><b>Murders:</b> 7 (4 producers, 3 workers)</p> <p><b>Attempted Murder:</b> 12 <b>House robbery:</b> 38 <b>Other crimes:</b> 10</p>	<p>Other crimes include rape, kidnapping, housebreaking with intent to rob, arson, pointing of firearm, theft of vehicle/tractor, trespassing, etc. 8 Workers and 5 producers killed in farm attacks past 2 years in FS Nr of farm attacks decreased with 13.2% whilst murders increased with 1 (14.2%)</p>
<b>Nr of farms/ smallholdings targeted</b>	<p><b>Farms:</b> 61 (92.42%) <b>Smallholdings:</b> 5 (7.58%)</p>	<p><b>Farms:</b> 50 (83.33%) <b>Smallholdings:</b> 10 (16.67%)</p>	<p>The type of dwelling targeted in rural areas in farm attacks is farms (83.33 – 92.42% past 2 years)</p>
<b>Crime Pattern Analysis (CPA):</b>	<p><b>DOW:</b> Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, Tuesday</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 18:00-06:00 (60.6%)</p> <p><b>Month:</b> March, August, November</p> <p><b>Quarter:</b> October to December; January to March</p>	<p><b>DOW:</b> Sunday, Monday, Tuesday</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 18:00-06:00 (48.43%)</p> <p><b>Month:</b> August, November, October</p> <p><b>Quarter:</b> July to September, October to December</p>	<p>Sundays and Tuesdays are most prominent days the past 2 years Majority of attacks (50-60%) occurred during night time (2 years) August and November problematic months during past 2 years October to December quarter most prominent in past 2 year</p>
<b>Victimology:</b>	<p><b>Total nr of victims:</b> 96</p> <p><b>Nr of victims per incident:</b> 2 victims (51.51%); 3-4 victims (9.09%)</p> <p><b>Age of victims:</b> 50-80 years (46.88%); under 50 years (29.16%)</p> <p><b>Children:</b> 2</p>	<p><b>Total nr of victims:</b> 106</p> <p><b>Nr of victims per incident:</b> 2 victims (36.67%), 3-6 victims (20%)</p> <p><b>Age of victims:</b> 50-80 years (31.13%); under 50 years (33.1%)</p> <p><b>Children:</b> 6</p>	<p>Number of victims affected by farm attacks increased with 20 Number of victims affected in one incident increased with more than 10%. Eldest victim was 87 years of age. Younger victims are being attacked which are under the age of 50 years. Number of children also affected increased with 4 incidents (6.67%) comparing 2016-2017 with 2017-2018. 5 victims members of organized agriculture in FS, thus 5/38 producers or 5/106 victims</p>



<p><b>Perpetrator analysis:</b></p>	<p><b>Total nr of perpetrators:</b> 180</p> <p><b>Nr of perp per incident:</b> 2-3 attackers (50%); 4-7 attackers (31.92%)</p>	<p><b>Total nr of perpetrators:</b> 181</p> <p><b>Nr of perp per incident:</b> 2-3 attackers (50%); 4-6 attackers (30%)</p>	<p>Number of perpetrators stays almost the same with 181 executed attacks per year, average 3 attackers per attack</p> <p>Majority of attacks executed with 2 attackers, whilst 4-6/7 attackers execute 30% of attacks in FS</p> <p>Age of perpetrators difficult to determine if they are not being arrested</p> <p>It is known that in 10/60 (16.67%) of attacks foreign nationals were involved especially in areas bordering RSA/Lesotho border.</p>
<p><b>Operational analysis:</b> <b>Type of instrument used</b></p>	<p>51.51% <b>firearms</b>; 13.63% knife</p> <p>Other: 34.86%</p>	<p>61.67% <b>firearms</b>; 16.67% knife</p> <p>Other: 21.66%</p>	<p>Use of firearms in attacks increased with more than 10% past financial year. Knobkieries, iron pipes, garden fork, spear, sharp objects form part of other items that can be regarded as dangerous weapon</p>
<p><b>Type of items targeted</b></p>	<p>27.27% cell phones 27.27% money 22.73% vehicles 18.18% firearms 9.1% animals</p> <p>None: 16 (24.24%) incidents nothing stolen/robbed</p>	<p>38.33% cell phones 20% money 20% firearms 15% vehicles 5% animals</p> <p>None: 12 (20%) incidents nothing stolen/robbed</p>	<p>Increase in nr of cell phones robbed in attacks with almost 10% and firearms with 1.2%. Keys of vehicles/houses are also being taken</p> <p>% of property taken was calculated per nr of incidents and not per nr of property stolen</p> <p>In 12-16 incidents the past 2 years, nothing was stolen/robbed in farm attacks in FS</p>
<p><b>How perpetrators move to and from attacks?</b></p>	<p><b>45.45% vehicle used</b> to move to and from attack; 22.73% fled with <b>victim's car</b></p> <p>Arrived per foot: 54.44%</p>	<p><b>30% vehicle used</b> to move to and from attack; 15% fled with <b>victim's car</b></p> <p>Arrived per foot: 55%</p>	<p>30-45% of attackers use vehicles to and from attacks. In 15-22.73% they also stole victim's vehicle for transportation purposes. In these incidents they arrived per foot on the crime scene, thus 55%.</p>



<p><b>Where do acts of violence occur?</b></p>	<p>40.91% <b>inside houses</b> 27.27% outside houses 12.12% at farm gate 19.69% negligence</p>	<p>50% <b>inside houses</b> 41.67% outside houses 3.33% at farm gate 25% negligence</p>	<p>Analysis shows that 20-25% of attacks could have been prevented due to some sort of negligence on side of victims, namely alarm not activated, go outside to investigate when dogs barking or hear noises, doors and/or windows left open (no burglar proof/security gate); open door when knock, etc Half of the attacks occurred inside houses/dwellings</p>
<p><b>How do it occur?</b></p>	<p>Break open burglar bars/security gate 40.91%</p>	<p>Break open burglar bars/security gate 50%</p>	<p>In 40-50% of attacks, perpetrators gain access to houses by breaking open burglar bars and/or security gate.</p>
<p><b>Arrest rate:</b></p>	<p>Arrest rate: 33.33%</p>	<p>Arrest rate: 30%</p>	<p>Decrease in arrest rate on farm attacks with approx. 3% in FS comparing 2016-2017 with 2017-2018. Majority of arrests executed with assistance of farming communities (mobilisation of RSS). Possible that some arrests could not reflect on database yet. Past financial year 33.3% of arrests executed wherein foreign nationals were involved in the attacks. In 4 arrests, workers/former workers involved in executing attacks in FS (22.22%).</p>



## Conclusion

The information received from Free State Agriculture and Kwanalu supports Agri SA's report that there has been a decrease in farm attacks and murders. Even though this shows that current interventions are bearing fruit, it also shows that more should be done.

### **Agri SA is committed to create a safer rural and farming community by:**

- Continued engagement between Agri SA and its provincial organisations with the police and other safety structures;
- To encourage members to be a part of farmer associations, and to take part in local safety structures; and
- Improved cooperation on local level with SAPS through priority committees.

**One farm attack or murder, is one too many.**

## Queries

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