



NEWSFLASH

2018 PRESTIGE AGRI AWARDS (FINAL)



2018 Prestige Agri Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to all winners/regions announced at the 2018 WCPAA Gala Ceremony hosted on Saturday, 3 November 2018!!!

This year marks the seventh year that the Department of Agriculture has partnered with supermarket giant Shoprite to sponsor the awards.

The competition aims to celebrate excellence among those working in the Province's agricultural industry, across 11 categories and in 16 districts.

The awards were originally started in 2002 by the Hex River Valley Association. Since then, over 10 000 people have participated.

Speaking at the launch of the awards, Minister Winde paid tribute to those who worked hard to ensure that the province's agricultural industry continued to be one of the biggest economic and job creation sectors in the province.

"The awards are recognition for people who put so much of their energy into ensuring that there is food security, that there is foreign exchange coming into the country from exports, and that they can provide for their families," he said.

"Agri workers are the reason we are able to sell fresh, quality produce in our supermarkets on a daily basis and the Agri-Worker of the Year Awards are a great way to acknowledge and reward their hard work,"

Dr Johan van Deventer, General Manager at Freshmark, Shoprite's fruit and vegetable procurement and distribution arm, said that they have been a proud sponsor of the competition for the past seven years.

An independent study into the impact of the awards conducted in 2015 found that the awards inspired pride in agricultural workers, encouraged them to learn new skills and created positive perceptions around agricultural work.

Winners of the regional awards will receive a cash prize, a certificate and trophy, and Shoprite vouchers. They will also go on to compete at the provincial awards to be held in November, where the overall Agri-worker of the year will be selected.

The overall winner, walks away with a R25 000 cash prize, an overseas trip valued at R60 000, an iPad, Shoprite vouchers, data and a place on the prestige Agri- worker board which meets with Minister Winde each quarter to discuss issues in the sector.

"I am also very pleased that we saw an increased number of entries from young people in the competition this year. Developing opportunities for the youth is one of my priorities as Minister of Economic Opportunities, and agriculture, as one of the cornerstones of our economy, is key in helping us drive this." New minister of Economic Opportunities, Beverley Schafer

Outgoing Minister, Alan Winde said: "Over the years, this competition has shown us the calibre of the workforce we have in this sector. This year has been a particularly difficult one in agriculture, with the drought, avian influenza and the listeriosis outbreaks. But despite the uncertainty, the men and women who work in this sector still played their part in ensuring that seeds were sown, animals were fed, and crops were harvested."

A total of 1318 agricultural employees entered the competition this year from 16 regions across the province. Regional winners were chosen in Piket Bo Berg, Durbanville, Stellenbosch, Central Karoo, Berg River, Franschhoek, Breede River, Swartland, Overberg, Langeberg, the Garden Route, Olifantsrivier, Hex Valley, the Elgin, Grabouw, Vyeboom and Villiersdorp region and Witzenberg.

2018 WCPAA Gala Ceremony Results

All participants did extremely well during the final adjudication, but unfortunately only 1 winner per category are announced and awarded at the function.

Worcester Wine and Olive Route is very proud to announce that Worcester had received winners in 3 Categories:

- **General Worker - Petros Baliwe (Bellevue Boerdery)**
- **Social Development - Ronitha Visagie (Lemoenpoort)**
- **Junior Management - Jan Maritz (Bellevue Boerdery)**

To all our participants and winners, we thank you ALL for taking part! Most importantly we THANK YOU for all your hard work during a very difficult year. Please do know, that you are part of Worcester's success !!