

Buitelandse Sake, het vanjaar 'n groep aspirant-kaasmakers na Boergondië gestuur om meer oor kaasmaak te leer. Die groep, wat vanaf 12 tot 30 Junie in Frankryk was, is deur Kobus Mulder van Agri Expo, vergesel.

Die opleidingsprogram wat in 2005 begin is, bied jong Wes-Kaapse kaasmakers uit voorheen benadeelde gemeenskappe die geleentheid om hulself verder binne die groeiende kaasbedryf te bekwaam, sê Cobus Dowry, Wes-Kaapse Minister van Landbou.

Capespan sug oor vrugtemandjie oorloop

Die 2005-boekjaar was een van die uitdagendste nóg vir Capespan, bemarker van vrugte in die internasionale mark, sedert die groep se stigting in 1999. Volgens dr Paul Clüver, voorsitter van Capespan, is die bedryf in die oorsigjaar gekenmerk deur prysdeflasie. Dit is veral teweeggebring deur kleinhandelaars wat 'n toenemend groter markandeel besit, sowel as 'n ooraanbod van vrugte wêreldwyd. Daarby het die voortdurende sterkte van die rand, inflasiedruk op produksievlak en die veranderende klimaat, opbrengste ook onder druk geplaas. – *Sake Rapport*

Parmalat introduces new hot-brewed tea

Parmalat has stepped into the ice tea market with the launch of its new hot-brewed ice tea. The product is made with rooibos tea and is available peach, lemon and mixed berry flavours. The ice tea market has experienced exceptional growth over the last few years and is one of the fastest growing categories in the retail environment, says Tracey Benn, Parmalat's product manager: beverages. The launch was backed by a television commercial and in-store point of sale, as well as a comprehensive below-the-line marketing campaign. – *Food Review*

Clover se syfers lyk goed

Clover se tussentydse resultate tot einde Desember 2005 was baie bemoedigend. Die omset van R2,3 miljard het 'n goeie bruto bedryfswins van

R195 miljoen opgelewer – vir 'n baie beter handelsmarge van 8%. Die netto wins was R65,4 miljoen en die kontant uit bedrywigheede 'n baie gerusstellender R177,5 miljoen. Johann Vorster, uitvoerende hoof, waarsku egter dat Clover tradisioneel 'n sterker prestasie in die eerste helfte van die boekjaar lewer, maar hy is vol vertroue dat die groep sy mikpunt van 'n 6%-handelsmarge vir die volle jaar sal verwesenlik.

Hy wys daarop dat die sterk tussentydse vertoning verkry is ondanks uitdagende marktoestande, waar die marge vir UHT-melk, losmaatkaas en melkpoeier steeds onder druk verkeer. Vorster sê 'n groot faktor in Clover se beter vertoning is 'n herstruktureringplan, wat 'n aggressiewe kosteverlagingspoging en laer produsentemelkprys insluit. "Ons het in Februarie verlede jaar wakker geskrik." – *Finweek*

Pick 'n Pay to add Fruit & Vegetable City to its stable

The supermarket chain, Pick 'n Pay, recently said that it would be buying Fruit & Vegetable City, although no purchase price was revealed. The deal is still subject to a due diligence review and competition authorities' approval. Fruit & Veg City operates 86 corporate and franchise stores nationwide and produced a turnover of R1,5 billion last year.

Brian Coppin, the managing director of Fruit & Veg City, said the group was established as a family business 13 years ago. The Coppin family held a 98 % stake in the business and, although Pick 'n Pay will buy out the group, the Coppin family will remain in management positions. "We saw this as a means of unlocking value for Fruit & Veg City and believe there are great synergies between the two groups, with huge opportunity for the Fruit & Veg brand to grow further," Coppin said. – *Business Day*

Milk SA plans campaign

Milk SA is planning to launch a campaign this year with the theme "Wholesome Goodness" to encourage consumption among the South Africa public. Dairies will support the programme with new product extensions, such as energy drinks,

new yoghurt flavours, new cheeses and long-life milk. The industry also plans to upgrade its packaging. Clover has introduced a new milk pack that promises 50% longer shelf life. Overall there is going to be a lot more action from the dairy products industry. – *Avantage*

South African to serve on international standards board

Dr Campbell from the South African Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) has been elected to the EurepGAP certification committee, the body that ensures agreed food safety standards are applied internationally.

The PPECB is the South African body tasked with ensuring the maintenance of quality standards for all perishable goods exported from South Africa, which had a total value of R7 billion last year. The organisation's primary service to exporters is to approve the processes perishable cargoes must follow to comply with international food safety standards, such as cold chain management. The board was made South Africa's official food safety author-

ity in May last year, tasked with ensuring compliance with food quality and safety standards under the Agricultural Product Standards Act. – *Business Day*

Drinking milk is fun

A novel straw that adds flavour to plain milk drunk through it, has been launched in South Africa. Strawtech has introduced Sipahh milk flavour straw, the perfect solution to wake up milk without the negative health impacts, appealing to both children and parents alike. The Sipahh straw has beads that flavour the milk as it passes through them.

The product is portion-controlled and contains less than half a teaspoon of sugar, unlike other flavoured milk drinks. The straw comes in four natural flavours – chocolate, strawberry, caramel and banana – and uses no artificial preservatives or colourings. Moreover, Sipahh is perfect for kids who are lactose intolerant, as Sipahh can be used with milk alternatives including soy drinks and goat's milk. – *FMCG Retailer* **M&J**



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Port Elizabeth	041 484 4028	gregbrowne@pixie.co.za
Pretoria	082 417 5423	desmondi@tiscali.co.za

www.magaliescitrus.co.za

Marketing Manager
Leon Farrell
082 801 7461 – leon@magaliescitrus.co.za