

# EWT Chitter Chatter – 4 November

## Showing off livestock for sustainable farming

*Bonnie Schumann, Senior Field Officer, EWT Drylands Conservation Programme  
bonnies@ewt.org.za*

The EWT's Drylands Conservation Programme held a "MiniShow" for the Loxton municipal commonage emerging farmers on 5 September 2018. Johan Botes and Kosie Hugo from CMV put the farmers through their stock-selection paces. The day was well attended with 27 community members taking part, and ten farmers entered their Merino sheep in the competition. The judges selected the best quality animals and the top four farmers received prizes on the day.



*Emerging farmers recently took part in a "MiniShow" organised by the EWT*

Improving production forms one of the five pillars of sustainable land management, together with reducing risk, conserving natural resources, economic viability, and social acceptability. The day's training was aimed at improving the farmers' livestock selection skills, as well as familiarising them with the breed standards and rules of commercial showing of Merinos. Improving the quality and production of livestock herds goes a long way towards supporting financial stability by ensuring products align with market demands. However, quality of stock versus quantity is also an important aspect that can help support better rangeland management by enabling farmers to apply more conservative stocking rates for improved veld condition, while not losing out financially. Knowledge sharing events like this one enable farmers to make informed choices to improve their agricultural competitiveness, which includes improved sustainable land management.

The Karoo landscape supports a wide range of biodiversity, effectively making the farmers the custodians of some of our most precious natural resources. Successfully integrating agriculture and conservation is a win-win situation for all.

*This initiative is supported by the Global Environment Facility through the Department of Environmental Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme.*

# EWT Facebook and Instagram

 **Endangered Wildlife Trust**  
Published by EWT [?] · November 9 at 2:08 PM · 🌐

This week the EWT's Drylands Conservation Programme is hosting a permaculture course for 13 community members. The course is presented by I3A, with the purpose of establishing vegetable gardens in Loxton in the near future.



## Performance for Your Post

**1,920** People Reached

**23** Reactions, Comments & Shares ⓘ

<b>17</b> Like	<b>13</b> On Post	<b>4</b> On Shares
<b>2</b> Love	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>1</b> On Shares
<b>2</b> Wow	<b>0</b> On Post	<b>2</b> On Shares
<b>1</b> Comments	<b>0</b> On Post	<b>1</b> On Shares
<b>1</b> Shares	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

**50** Post Clicks

<b>22</b> Photo Views	<b>0</b> Link Clicks	<b>28</b> Other Clicks ⓘ
--------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------------

### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

<b>0</b> Hide Post	<b>0</b> Hide All Posts
<b>0</b> Report as Spam	<b>0</b> Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts





## Endangered Wildlife Trust

Published by Esté Matthew [?] · August 24 at 11:58 AM · 🌐

The EWT's Drylands Conservation Programme travelled down the Road to Successful Restoration together with Dries Wiese, commercial farmer, and a group of Loxton's emerging farmers, farming on the Loxton Commonage. Dries shared his expertise and donated his time and a tractor to demonstrate the correct placement of erosion barriers along farm roads. Dries worked with the 22 farmers to pack stone barriers in gulleys, demonstrating his unique and very effective stone-packing technique. Soil conservation and combating degradation form the foundation to protecting rangeland and its associated biodiversity, as well as the livelihoods of people dependant on the land. Farmers are the custodians of much of the biodiversity in South Africa and the Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit occurs on the Loxton commonage farmland. Therefore, it is imperative that we integrate conservation and agriculture activities to achieve the common goal of sustainable land management. Many thanks to Dries for his great mentorship and enthusiasm. The local KVB also supported the day and lucky draw prizes were sponsored by Jooste Cylinders. This event was funded by Rand Merchant Bank and the Global Environment Facility.



👤 2,030 people reached

Boost Post

👍❤️😮 32

1 Comment 8 Shares