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VRYDAG 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

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FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

MINI SHEEP SHOW AT LOXTON FOR EMERGING FARMERS

Nine merino farmers took part and 27 attended

LOXTON — The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Drylands Conservation Programme held a "Mini Show" for Loxton municipal commonage emerging farmers on 05 September.

Johan Botes and Kosie Hugo from OVK put the farmers through their stock-selection paces. The day was well attended with 27 community members taking part, and nine farmers entered their Merinos in the competition.

Congratulations to George Olifant (first place), Paul Vorster, Elton Riegert and Dewald van Rooi, the top four exhibitors.

Improving production forms one of the five pillars of sustainable land management together with reducing risk, conserving natural resources, economically 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.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust, with support from the Global Environment Facility, has embarked on a project titled Sustainable Land Management. The project aims to reduce degradation in the Karoo by improving rangeland management, and addressing all aspects of sus-

tainable land management, from soil conservation, to social aspects. Knowledge sharing enables farmers to make informed choices to improve their agricultural competitiveness, including 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.

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

LOXTON MINISHOW

FOUR top exhibitors who took part in the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Dryland Conservation Programme MiniShow for emerging farmers on 5 September 2018 were George Olifant (first Place), Paul Vorster, Elton Riegert and Dewald van Rooi.

