
Grootfontein College of Agriculture Student Award

Minette van Lingen
DAFF - Grootfontein ADI
minettevl@daff.gov.za

The GSSA trophy, together with a certificate, is awarded to a deserving third year Grootfontein student. This award is made to a final year student who achieved the highest marks for rangeland, pasture and environmental management modules, with an average of at least 70 % for all modules. In 2014 this prestigious award was presented to Marno

Mouton during the diploma ceremony at Grootfontein. Marno was an exemplary student and he was the dux student during his first, second and third year and excelled in all other fields within the diploma programme. He is currently enrolled for the B.Tech in Agricultural Management programme at the Central University of Technology in Bloemfontein.



Learner that receives GSSA award also wins Gold at the Eskom Expo

Beanelri Janecke
University of the Free State
janeckbb@ufs.ac.za

The Eskom Expo for Young Scientists is an annual regional science fair at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. Learners from schools all over the region exhibited their scientific investigations and mini research projects at the Expo from 14 – 15 August 2015.

Projects with an ecological theme that dealt with a grassland science issue were judged by Dr Beanelri Janecke. The GSSA Award for the Best Ecological Project was awarded to Ané Scholtz, a grade 9 learner from Sand du Plessis High School in Bloemfontein. The title of her project was: Organic fertilizer versus chemical compost. The aim was to determine the best fertilizer for grass seed germination and growth. The learner used bone meal as organic fertilizer and lawn dressing as chemical fertiliser. Three experiments were done: similar quantities of garden soil were mixed in separate containers with either the chemical or the organic fertiliser or with an equal mixture of the two. A similar number of grass lawn seeds (that are known to grow in autumn/winter) were used in each container and each container received an equal quantity of water. Ané quickly realised that she had to redo her

experiment after the first attempt, because these quantities were not kept constant from the beginning. Thereafter, germination success and growth of the grass were determined.

The learner then also contacted three big nurseries in Bloemfontein and enquired which of the fertilisers they found worked best for their plants in the nursery. She then incorporated their findings with her results to make the final conclusion, namely that for the grass, the mixture of the two worked best, while for other plants it differed between different types of plant species. The project contained a series of photographs showing the progress of the grass plants. The learner was very well informed and had good answers for all the questions.

Consequently, this project also won Gold at the Bloemfontein Expo and will be presented at the National Expo! Prof Hennie Snyman and Beanelri Janecke also offered to give some guidance to help this truly excellent project achieve more excellence at the nationals.



Ané Scholtz's science project entitled 'Organic fertilizer versus chemical compost'