

PROSPECTUS

2017



Buhle

FARMERS'
ACADEMY

"Training People in the Business Of Farming"

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1. Mission Statement

Buhle's mission is to train and mentor aspiring farmers from across South Africa to run farming businesses that are both profitable and sustainable. Our ultimate aim, of course, is to help alleviate poverty in the rural areas by creating jobs in the agricultural sector.

Over the years we have developed best practice in our field, with a training model that has five main pillars:

- A thorough grounding in the theory of agricultural production
- Hands-on practical experience
- Training in farm business management
- Training in the appropriate life skills
- Effective farmer support.

2. Introduction to Buhle

Buhle Farmers' Academy is a non-profit organisation that was established in the year 2000 by the Food Health Hope Foundation, with the aim of empowering aspiring farmers. We started off with just 57 students at our first campus in Delmas Mpumalanga, and have been growing ever since. In 2011, we trained 517 students, and we now have the capacity to double this number, due to the establishment in 2016 of our second campus in in Mkhondo (Piet Retief), KwaZulu-Natal.

The Mkhondo campus was established as part of our agreement, in partnership with Mondi Zimele and Monsanto SA, with the Treasury's Jobs Fund. The Jobs Fund is a project of the South Africa Treasury dedicated to job creation.

We offer courses in Vegetable, Crop, Livestock and Poultry production, as well as mixed farming. Our courses are effective (with a high success rate), practical and of appropriate length. We also generate 30% of our costs from our own commercial farming ventures and consultancy training, pouring this money back into the organisation to help fund further training.

Our skills training and support enables our graduates to access the many excellent initiative developments of our government and the private sector.



3. Admission Requirements

Our courses are accessible to the typical aspirant farmer in our country who has the will and capability to farm, but may not have gained a National Senior Certificate, and may not have the money to gain a place to study agriculture at a university or college.

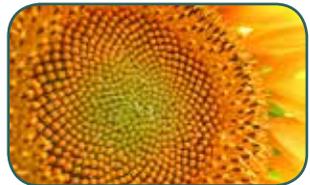
Our admissions requirements are as follows:

- Access to land on which to farm
- Minimum schooling - Grade 9
- The ability to speak, read and write English
- Functional numeracy
- The ability to do physical farm work
- A sincere commitment to farming
- A successful interview with academy selection panel
- Full-time course attendance.

4. How to Apply

The application form is attached to centre page of this prospectus and is available on website www.buhle.org.za. The form can also be obtained from the academy by post or email. Please note that:

- All relevant sections of the application form must be completed by the applicant.
- A non-refundable application fee of R100.00 per application must be paid into the academy's bank account.
- The application form, accompanied by a copy of your ID and proof of payment, must be faxed, posted or emailed to the academy.
- Applications should reach the academy at least two weeks before the start of the course.
- The academy will acknowledge receipt of your application, and a date will be set for your interview with the selection panel.



5. Student Selection Process

The Buhle selection panel assesses all applications against the admission requirements, and candidates are invited to an interview with the panel. At this interview, the applicant's motivation is evaluated and further information is obtained. The panel then makes a decision on which students to accept. Candidates are notified of the outcome immediately.

It is mandatory for applicants to bring along the following documents:

- Your Curriculum Vitae
- A copy of your ID
- A copy of your highest qualification

6. Registration and Fees

After the selection process is complete, successful applicants pay a course fee and are then registered for a specific course.

The training courses are highly subsidised, so no deferred payment is accepted and no bursaries are available unless directly negotiated with an independent third party.

Information about course fees can be obtained from

fikelephi@buhle.org.za or 087 803 0563 Delmas Campus
phethile@buhle.org.za or 087 150 4936 Piet Retief Campus

7. The Buhle Approach to Training

Buhle adopts a multi-pronged approach to training, to give our graduates the optimal chance of success. The five main aspects of our training programme are as follows:

Our students gain **knowledge** of the principles of agricultural production. They need to understand which crops to choose; how to ensure that their crops grow properly; how to feed, care for and breed livestock, and all the other aspects of farming that are indispensable for a thriving farm – all depending, of course, on the course they have selected.

We all know that farming is an extremely practical job. We also know that the best way to really learn a new skill is to get your hands dirty by doing it. As

a result, we have taken our training one step further than similar institutions by giving our students extensive **practical experience**. Each student has his or her own production unit to manage on the working farm. In order to graduate, each student must solve all the practical challenges of farming as he or she encounters them.

When we first drew up our curriculum, we examined why so many agricultural development programmes fail. One of the key reasons, we realised, is that many aspiring farmers lack **business skills**. To help our students turn their own farms around, we need to teach them every aspect of how a business operates. These elements range from the principles of market research to how to draw up a business plan, plan their production, compile and stick to a budget, manage cash flow, manage loans, and do all the administration that a working farm requires.

Farmers are people, too, and a lack of personal development can cause a farming business to crash quickly. In fact, farming is such a long, hard road that it requires considerably more self-management than many other disciplines. At Buhle, we provide the **lifeskills training** that successful farmers need. These are matters of the heart; of attitude; of developing good personal values that enable us to work hard and happily, and interact with others for our mutual benefit. Our lifeskills training therefore includes how to develop a healthy self-esteem; how to cultivate the integrity, diligence and self-discipline needed to run a profit-making business; environmental awareness; presentation skills; HIV/Aids awareness, and communication and other interpersonal skills that result in good relations with workers, purchasers, suppliers and the many others with whom our graduates will have to work constructively. Buhle's staff do their utmost to exemplify these values.

Competence based assessments are conducted to determine if the student has gained an acceptable level of skill in each aspect of the training. Our long courses last between 2.5 and nine months, depending on the complexity of the course and the duration of the production cycle in question. All of our courses are AgriSETA-accredited.

We have always mentored our graduates by a combination of phone and Farmer Support visits. During these visits, we have witnessed the difficulties new farmers face, discussed possible solutions, and drawn up a plan of action with them. Over time, this work has given us an in-depth understanding of the hurdles that aspiring farmers face, and how best to address them. We now offer a formal **post-training support** programme, in which we mentor our graduates, visiting as many as possible on their farms to help them overcome the myriad obstacles they will inevitably face. These challenges may range from acquiring funding for machinery and seeds, to coping with unexpected diseases and pests, and the difficulties of gaining access to markets for their produce. This mentorship takes time and determination from both parties, but in the end, it gives new farmers the support they really need to become a successful agricultural entrepreneur.

8. Training Programmes

In the section above, we have described our full-time skills programmes. We also offer short courses and learnerships. The short courses are developed as required, for presentation either at Buhle or at convenient sites elsewhere.

Please find below the details of our practical training courses and, in the subsequent table, our short courses.

9. Full-time Skills Programmes

Course name	Course description	Training dates	SAQA credits
Livestock Production *Only available in Delmas	Provides new farmers with an excellent grounding in livestock production. Includes modules in beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goat production, pig production, artificial insemination and farm business management.	Duration of the course is 2 ½ months. Dates 09 Jan - 17 March 2017 10 July - 15 Sept 2017	43 credits
Vegetable Production	The course equips trainees with the expertise and skills to set up their own vegetable production business. It includes topics like land preparation, planting, fertilization, disease and pest control, irrigation, harvesting and marketing of vegetables. It covers both open field and hydroponics production.	Duration of the course is 3 ½ months. Dates: 06 Feb - 19 May 2017 07 Aug - 16 Nov 2017	49 credits
Poultry Production	The course equips trainees with the knowledge and ability to set up their own poultry farming unit. It covers both broiler and layer production. Topics include housing, feeding, disease control, brooding, record keeping, processing and marketing of poultry products.	Duration of the course is 2 months. Dates: 20 March - 19 May 2017 18 Sept - 16 Nov 2017	43 credits
Crop Production *Only available in Delmas	Trainees are equipped with knowledge and skills to establish their own crop farming enterprise. The focus is mainly on field crops like maize. Topics include amongst others farm mechanization, tractor operation, planting, weed control, fertilization, disease and pest control, harvesting, grading and marketing of field crops.	Duration of the course is 9 months. Dates: 09 October 2017 - 07 June 2018	64 credits
All the above mentioned four courses also have the Farm Business Management and life skills modules each. The business module covers topics of market research, production planning, budgeting, cash flow management, business plans, administration and business leadership. The Life Skills module covers aspects of self-discipline, respect, communications, environmental awareness, attitude, presentation skills and HIV/Aids awareness.			
Graduations dates			
Winter graduation	08 June 2017 Delmas		
Summer graduation	16 November 2017 Delmas		
Winter graduation	13 June 2017 Piet Relief		
Summer Graduation	21 November 2017 Piet Relief		

10. Short Courses

Course name	Course content	Training dates (5 days)
Tractor operation and Maintenance	The course touches all aspects of farm machinery and implements which might be tractor pulled or manual used. Tractor operations and maintenance is included.	10-14 April 2017
Harvesting and marketing of maize	Lessons include forms of marketing (contracts and spot-on prices) maize, harvesting moisture content, technical harvesting using machinery, transport and grading of maize in silos.	17-19 May 2017
Project Management	The course emphasizes more on the Project Life-cycle stages of initiation, planning, execution and closing out phases. It shows clarity on day-to-day management and project management differences.	22-26 May 2017
Hydroponics	Topics include raising plants in tunnels, fertigation, disease and pest control, house environmental control and marketing of vegetables.	19-23 June 2017
Crops land preparation	The content covers use of implements for land preparation. Both primary and secondary cultivation methods are included. Topics on planting of crops forms part of this training.	16-20 October 2017
Buhle Alumni Refresher Course	A condensed course typically for farmers with experience in poultry who wish to extend and or enhance the poultry farm and now seek the knowledge and skills to prepare them to do so and to make it a success.	20-24 November 2017
Other short courses can be presented on request and tailor-made to meet the farmers' needs/challenges		

11. Accreditation

The Buhle Farmers Academy has full accreditation with AgriSETA as a training provider. Our accreditation number is: AGRI/c prov/0032/06. Selected credit bearing unit standards are included in the learning programme of certain course, as indicated in the programmes in this prospectus.



12. Accommodation and Meals

All trainees can be accommodated on site at one of the two the academy's training farms. These are at Delmas, in Mpumalanga, and Mkhondo (Piet Retief), KwaZulu-Natal. The accommodation allows for two students per room, and there are three rooms in each house. Communal ablution blocks are available, where students can also do their laundry. Should they wish to, trainees are free to arrange alternative accommodation at their own expense, provided they are available whenever required.

Beds, mattresses and lockers are provided by Buhle, but **trainees must bring their own bedding (blankets, pillows, sheets) as well as their own cutlery (plates, knives, forks, spoons and cups)**. Cooking pots, small stoves and cleaning materials are supplied.

A main meal, prepared in the Buhle kitchen, is provided for lunch on each working day. The students are given food to prepare themselves for breakfast and supper, and over the weekends and holidays. Accommodation and meals at the academy are all included in the course fees. Applicants with specials dietary requirements need to provide their own foodstuffs.



13. Directions and Map

We have two training campuses, one in Delmas, Mpumalanga, and the other in Piet Retief (Mkhondo), KwaZulu-Natal.

- The campus in **Delmas** is situated 3 km outside Delmas town on the Bronkhorstspuit road (R42) next to McCain Foods. It takes approximately one hour to travel from Pretoria or Johannesburg.
GPS Coordinates: 26°07'19.1"S 28°40'46.7"E
- The campus in **Piet Retief (Mkhondo)** is situated in Witklip Farm, Commondale next to KwaShuku Secondary School
GPS coordinates: 27°14'51"S 30°55'45"E



14. Thank You

Thank you for considering Buhle for your training needs. We look forward to welcoming you at our campus soon!







Contact Details

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