
PROSPECTUS ²⁰₁₆



"TRAINING PEOPLE IN THE BUSINESS OF FARMING"

Contents

1.	Mission Statement	1
2.	Introduction and Background of the Academy	1
3.	Admission Requirements	2
4.	Application for Training	2
5.	Trainee Selection Process	3
6.	Registration and Fees	4
7.	Buhle Approach to Training	4
8.	Training Programmes	4
9.	Practical Training Courses	5
10.	Short Courses	6
11.	Accreditation	7
12.	Accommodation and Meals	7
13.	Follow-Up Services and Support to Graduates	7
14.	Directions and Map	8

1. Mission Statement

To enable new and emerging farmers to establish themselves in viable farming businesses through effective skills training and support in order to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable economic development and resources use in south Africa.

Objectives of Buhle learning programme are to provide:

- An appropriate theoretical knowledge base.
- Hands-on practical skills training.
- Training in farm business management.
- Training in life skills.
- Effective post training follow up and support

2. Introduction and background of the academy

In the support of initiatives aimed at sound economic development in South Africa through the effective utilization of land, capital and human resources in the agricultural sector, BUHLE FARMERS' ACADEMY was established in 2000 by the FOOD HEALTH HOPE FOUNDATION.

The objective is to empower farmers through practical skills training and holistic instruction to become competent in their abilities to understand and apply technical information, manage the farm as a production unit and a business, and market their produce profitably. Skills training and support in fact enables access to the many fine development initiatives from the government and the private sectors that are currently available.

It is only aspirant farmers that understand the complexities of production systems, the cost of operations, the management of high risk and the components of profitability that they can intelligently begin to seek out and use the service, support, products and information available to them within the agricultural industry. These skills have to be deliberately learned, acquired and mastered and learning is costly and takes time, but there are no short cuts to successful farming.

The importance of a viable and sustainable black commercial farming sector in South Africa is also of major relevance for the long term

maintenance of national agricultural and economic growth and food security, however current and aspirant black commercial farmers are at a great disadvantage as they try to establish themselves in farming ventures. Some of the main obstacles they face are:

- Acquiring sufficient and suitable basic infrastructure, and, funding and capital equipment.
- Limited technical and practical knowledge, skills and historical farming experience.
- A fragmented support system that does not go all the way with the new farmer.

Emerging farmers require a basket of issues to be addressed over time before there can be much hope of long-term success. It is only when the whole chain of critical constraints are all adequately dealt with that sustainable progress towards the objective of establishing competitive black commercial farmers can be met.

3. Admission requirements

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

4. Application for training

- Application form-attached to centre page of this prospectus or from the website www.buhle.org.za
- Application forms are also obtained from the academy by fax, post or email.

- All relevant sections of the application form must be completed by the applicant in full.
- 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
- Acknowledgement of receipt of application will be made by the academy and a date. Arranged for the selection panel interview with the applicant.

5. Trainee selection process

Applications for training are measured against the admission requirements. Candidates are then invited to an interview with the selection panel where details are clarified, further information is obtained and the applicant's motivation evaluated. An overall assessment is made by the panel and the application is accepted or declined. Candidates are notified of the outcome immediately.

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

- CV
- ID copy
- Copy of your highest qualification



6. Registration and fees

Successful candidates approved by the selection panel are then registered for a specific course after payment of the course fee.

Due to the high level of subsidization of the training courses, no deferred payment is accepted and no bursaries are available through the academy unless directly negotiated with an independent third party. Information about course fees can be obtained from fikelephi@buhle.org.za or cell: 087 803 0563 or 079 409 2187.

7. The Buhle approach to training

Training at Buhle is based on “learning by doing” approach. A sound conceptual basis is laid on which practical skills are developed. Competence based assessment is conducted to determine if acceptable level of skills are essentially mastered. Farm business management knowledge and skills are an essential requirement for establishing and maintaining a successful farming enterprise. Life skill covers a range of life issues and integration of all the individual components for success. Once knowledge and skills are mastered, the academy provides a follow up support service to graduate to assist them to work through obstacle that they will face in setting up their own farming businesses.

8. Training programmes

The academy’s training programme made up of skills programmes, short courses and learnerships. The skills programmes vary from two to nine months depending on the production cycle of the commodity under training. Short courses run for a week or two. Additional short courses are developed as required, for presentation either at Buhle or at convenient sites elsewhere. The training programme incorporates the following courses:

Courses

5

Course name	Course description	Training dates	SAQA credits
Livestock Production	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: 11 Jan - 18 March 2016 11 July - 16 Sept 2016	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: 08 Feb - 20 May 2016 08 Aug - 17 Nov 2016	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: 22 March - 20 May 2016 19 Sept - 17 Nov 2016	43 credits
Crop Production	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: 03 October 2016 - 08 June 2017	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.

Graduation Dates

Winter graduation	09 June 2016
Summer graduation	17 November 2016

6

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.	11-15 April 2016
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.	16-20 May 2016
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.	30 May-03 June 2016
Hydroponics	Topics include raising plants in tunnels, fertigation, disease and pest control, house environmental control and marketing of vegetables	20-24 June 2016
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.	10-14 October 2016
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.	21-25 November 2016

Other short courses can be presented on request and tailor-made to meet the farmers' needs/challenges



11. Accreditation

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

12. Accommodation and meals

All trainees can be accommodated on site at the academy's training farm at Delmas. Accommodation allows for two students per room. Each house has three rooms. 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 the Academy, 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 by the Academy.

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

13. Follow-up services and support to graduates

After the completion of training, the Academy will remain in contact with graduates as far as possible, to support the establishment of their farming business. This involves visiting the graduate's farms, providing assistance with problems encountered, technical planning and business plans.



14. Directions and map

The Academy is situated 3 km outside Delmas Town, Mpumalanga on the Bronkhorstspruit road (R42). It takes approximately one hour to travel from Pretoria or Johannesburg. (See map).

GPS coordinates: S26 07'19.3" E028 40'46.5"



From Pretoria / Limpopo: Take the N1 to Johannesburg, take the Rigel off-ramp, turn left on the R50 Delmas Road, cross over the 4-way stop at Bapsfontein, cross over the N12 (Johannesburg – Witbank highway) at the first set of traffic lights turn left (on the R42 to Bronkhorstspruit) and the Academy is 3 km on the left. Travel time approx: 1 hour

From Johannesburg and the airport: Take the N12 to Witbank, take first off-ramp to Delmas, turn right to Delmas, at the first set of traffic lights turn left (on the R42 to Bronkhorstspruit) and the Academy is 3 km on the left. Travel time from centre of Johannesburg approx: 1 ¼ hours

From Witbank / Nelspruit: Take the N12 to Johannesburg, take the first off-ramp to Delmas, turn left to Delmas (on the R42 from Bronkhorstspruit), the Academy is 3 km on the right before you reach Delmas. Travel time approx: 1 hour

From Heidelberg / Standerton / Secunda / KZN: Join the R50 to Delmas, cross over the first 4-way stop, at the second set of traffic lights (opposite the golf course) turn right (on the R42 to Bronkhorstspruit) and the Academy is 3 km on the left. Travel time from Secunda approx: 45 minutes



CONTACT DETAILS

Buhle Farmers' Academy, P.O. Box 652,
Delmas, Mpumalanga, 2210

Tel | 087 803 0563

Fax | 086 696 2162

Training Manager | Nyiko Maluleke 083 277 2308

Email | nyiko@buhle.org.za

Director | Neil de Smidt 082 824 5514

Website | www.buhle.org.za

