

# SAIAE News Bulletin

## South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers February 2005

---

*In this edition of the SAIAE News Bulletin, the President expresses his satisfaction with the financial statements and the fact that funds were correctly utilized to reach SAIAE's strategic objectives. Fees in arrear are however still a problem.*

*The Dalein group of companies received a golden award from SAIAE and they are congratulated. The excellent achievements of this group are enunciated in this edition.*

*The new SAIAE Council has also been elected and announced in this edition. Congratulations to these members.*

*Ed.*

### **From the President's desk**

February 2005 is a special month for SAIAE. Several administrative tasks come to an end, as well as the end of term for the present Council. I hope that members have included in their updating of their personal information also their nominations for a new and energetic council.

A quick look at the close of our financial statements shows that SAIAE has succeeded very well in matching expenditure with its strategic goals. It confirms that funds are channeled correctly to support our strategic aims. I am very concerned about a trend that was addressed during the previous Annual General Meeting, namely membership fees in arrears. It has risen further to an astronomical 31% of members in arrears. If previous years' arrears are taken into account, SAIAE has received in rand value less than 50% of projected membership income in the past book year. I am presently busy to determine the root cause of this divergence, but strong action from the Council will be taken to rectify the situation. Members are welcome to contact me direct if there are any uncertainties about membership fees.

Simultaneously the marketing campaigns, attendance of branch meetings and attendance of the Continuous Professional Development events show good growth. From March 2005 a new Council will tackle the coming two years and will probably adapt present strategic areas to address new market needs. Keep an eye on the SAIAE mail for the new members and their new ideas.

Kind SAIAE regards

Louis

## **Dalein group receives golden award**

*Congratulations to the Dalein group of companies which received a golden award from SAIAE for their role in the Agricultural Engineering field in South Africa. This company received this award for the following aspects:*

### **Background**

The Dalein group of companies was founded in 1976 with the establishment of Dalein Plaasbou (Edms) Bpk (intensive animal housing systems) and has grown with the addition of Dalein Agriplan (milling and mixing equipment), Dalein Voere (stock feeds) and Dalein Estates (piggeries for demonstration and training purposes).

### **The company as employer**

The company was operated as a one-man business for the period 1976 to 1982. Since 1982, one additional professional engineer was appointed and a second in 1994. From 1997 to date, three full-time engineers are employed.

### **Activities and technology development**

The group of companies delivers a comprehensive professional service to farmers and farming organizations. This includes, among others, farmyard planning, handling systems for cattle on farms and at abattoirs, handling systems for sheep, shearing sheds, cattle feedlots, bull pens, fodder processing facilities, complete pig, chicken, and milk feeding systems. Equipment has been designed, tested, upgraded, and optimised continuously over the past three decades, for use in South African conditions.

Among the projects and clients handled, are Mangweni Dairy in the former Kangwane, Dept of Public Works, Animal Improvement Institute Irene, SA Development Trust in KwaNdebele en Kanhym Investments Ltd. Dalein Plaasbou was contracted as sub-agent for the design of handling facilities for the Pyramid abattoir at Pretoria.

This was the first of its kind in the Republic of South Africa and the company Burger and Pretorius Inc., as main agent, received a silver medal for this project from the South African Institute of Civil Engineers.

Over the past ten years, Ibis Piggery at Pietersburg and Penvaan Estates at Vryheid, as well as Taaibosch Boerdery at Fochville, were upgraded with Dalein Plaasbou technology. These units represent the Agricultural Engineering profession well.

The company also consists of a newly built ultra-modern 650 sow unit piggery, in which various housing techniques are demonstrated and tested under commercial farming conditions.

Dalein Agriplan is currently the leader in coarse fodder handling, as well as the automation of feed mills. A unique automated system of evaporation-cooling in intensive housing systems for pigs and chickens was also developed locally as a first and is currently presented country-wide.

### **Involvement in training and publications**

Various final-year thesis projects were sponsored for students over the years. An annual thesis prize has also been awarded for many years.

Except for Dalein Heyl's own sons (also agricultural engineers), one student was provided with a full study bursary over four

years and another's study bursary was redeemed from the government.

Final year students at the University of Pretoria are received for a **training visit in pig housing** annually. Training courses in pig farming management has also been presented to advanced diploma students of the then Pretoria Technikon.

Various scientific and popular articles have been published in the *SAIAE Journal*, *Landbouweekblad*, *Farmer's Weekly* and *Porcus* over the years.

### **Achievements**

The need for mixing own pig, cattle, sheep and chicken feed gave rise to the design and building of a mini-mill.

An ETA (Eskom's Effective Energy Design Competition) award was won in 2002 in the category industry, commercial, agriculture, and residential. The cost-effective, dust free milling and mixing equipment with electronic control for the manufacture of stock rations was the category winner.

The new convection-ventilated house design was entered in the 2004 ETA awards and has already reached the panel round at the time of going to press.

The group of companies has made a substantial difference to the South African agricultural market over the past three decades. It has put across the Agricultural Engineering Profession to students as well as agriculturalists in South Africa in a professional and responsible way.

## **The new SAIAE Council for 2005 to 2007 has been announced:**

Louis Lagrange	President
Adriaan Louw	Immediate Past President
Johann Fuls	Branch Chairman – Pretoria
Chris Venter	Branch Chairman – Western Cape
Dan Ciolkocz	Branch Chairman – KZN
Neels Bezuidenhout	Council member
Jeff Smithers	Council member
Massoud Shaker	Council member
Felix Reinders	Honorary Secretary

Please send your contributions not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the specific month to the Editor at fax: 012 804 0753 or e-mail [vdMerweD@arc.agric.za](mailto:vdMerweD@arc.agric.za)