

**Secretariat: PMF of SA**

PO Box 34291, Newton Park, 6055  
Pickeringstraat 41a Pickering Street,  
Newton Park, Port Elizabeth, 6045  
Tel: 041 3655 030 ; Fax: 041 3655 035  
email: nwga@nwga.co.za



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## **MEDIA VRYSTELLING / MEDIA RELEASE**

**Deur / By:** Harry Prinsloo, Voorsitter / Chairman  
**Datum / Date:** 29 April 2015

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### **Woolworths se roofdiervriendelike skaapvleis**

As Woolworths roofdiervriendelike vleis in sy winkels wil verkoop, is dit belangrik om die konsep goed te definieer. Voorts moet behoorlike en deursigtige ouditstelsels in plek gestel word sodat die oorsprong van die produk nagespeur kan word, sê mnr. Harry Prinsloo, voorsitter van die Predasiebestuurforum (PMF).

Hy het gereageer op Woolworths se verklaring dat dié kettinggroep roofdiervriendelike vleis wil verkoop. Die PMF verteenwoordig die Rooivleisprodusente-organisasie, die Nasionale Wolkwekersvereniging, die Suid-Afrikaanse Bokhaarkwekersvereniging en Wild SA.

Hy het gesê dat die PMF 'n Kode vir Beste Praktyke vir Roofdierbestuur ontwikkel het wat boere aanmoedig om vleis volgens die mees omgewingsvriendelike metodes te produseer. Die kode verbied uitdruklik die gebruik van gif as 'n beheermetode.

Die PMF het ook reeds vir prof Graham Kearly van die Nelson Mandela Metropolitaanse Universiteit aangewys om 'n omvattende wetenskaplike opname te doen om tekortkominge in predasiebestuur te identifiseer.

Die Departemente van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye en van Omgewingsake het R1,33 miljoen hiervoor bewillig, terwyl die wolbedryf R500 000 en die bokhaarbedryf R150 000 beskikbaar gestel het. Dié stap beklemtoon die lewende hawe bedrywe se erns om wetenskaplike oplossings vir die probleem te vind.

Woolworths het ook R60 000 vir die navorsing van prof Kerley bewillig en het na bewering R4,7 miljoen aan nie-regeringsinstansies beskikbaar gestel om roofdiervriendelike vleis vir die groep te verkry.

Mnr Prinsloo het daarop gewys dat produsente 'n ook verantwoordelikheid het om hul vee sover moontlik teen bedreigings soos siektes, droogtes, rampe én roofdiere te beskerm. Die publiek moet ook kennis neem van die wreedhede waaraan lewende hawe blootgestel word wanneer hulle deur roofdiere aangeval word en die pyn en lyding wat dit veroorsaak. Mnr Prinsloo het roofdieraanvalle [rooijakkals en rooiakat] op kleinvee as 'n "nasionale ramp" beskryf.

Die PMF is van mening dat daar ander prioriteite is om 'n produk te bevorder sonder om 'n indruk by die verbruiker te skep wat die produsent nadelig kan raak, soos om eerder omgewingsvriendelike produksiemetodes aan te moedig wat die produksie van rooivleis se koolstofspoor kan verlaag.

### **Woollies' predator-friendly meat**

Should Woolworths decide to stock predator-friendly meat in its shops, it is very important that the concept is properly defined. There should also be robust and transparent audit systems in place so be able to trace the meat to its origin, says Mr Harry Prinsloo, chairman of the Predation Management Forum (PMF).

He reacted to a statement by the retailer that it planned to stock predator-friendly meat. The PMF represents the Red-meat Producers' Organisation, the National Woolgrowers' Association, the South African Mohair Producers' Association and Game SA.

He said that the PMF had developed a Code of Best Practices for Predator Management, which encouraged producers to produce their products according to the most environ-friendly methods. It explicitly prohibits the use of poison as a management tool.

According to Mr Prinsloo the PMF has tasked Prof Graham Kearly of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to conduct a wide-ranging scientific evaluation to identify the deficiencies in predation management.

The Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and of Environmental Affairs have made R1,33 million available for this research, while the wool industry put aside R500 000 and the mohair industry R150 000. This action emphasised the live-stock industry's serious intent to find a scientific solution to the problem. Woolworths has contributed R60 000 to this reasearch. It is alledged that the retailer has also made R4,7 million available to a non-governmental organisations to source predator-friendly meat for the group.

Mr Prinsloo stressed that producers have a responsibility to protect their stock against threats, such as diseases, droughts, fire, other disasters and predators. The public should also take note that predator attacks can be extremely cruel and cause tremendous pain and suffering to an animal. He described predator attacks (jackal and caracul) on small stock as a "national disaster".

He said the PMF was of the opinion that there were other methods for promoting a product without creating a perception with the consumer that could be detrimental to the image of producers, such as rather encouraging environmentally-friendly production metods to reduce the carbon footprint of red-meat production.



**HARRY PRINSLOO**  
**VOORSITTER / CHAIRMAN**



(Representative of the Wool Industry ; Mohair Industry ;  
Red Meat Industry (Large Stock and Small Stock) & Wild Life Industry)

