


MICHELLE GOUWS

PhD Student (AgriSciences)

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PROFILE SUMMARY

I am an extremely hardworking, well organised and driven person. I am a team player and excellent communicator. I am passionate and ambitious, always doing more than necessary to reach my goals. I thrive in places where I am able to work with people, and my inquisitive nature means that I am a fast learner, constantly exposing myself to new learning possibilities in order to broaden my skillset.

SKILLS

Problem solving  80%

Logical approaches and simplification of complex issues

Detail-orientated  90%

Meticulous and methodical

Scientific Writing  75%

Successfully published popular articles on research conducted during my postgraduate studies. Selected as the AFMA Intersvarsity Writer's Cup 2023 winner.

Computing  90%

Proficient in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Outlook. Has experience in Cow Manager Software

Positive attitude  100%

Hardworking and dedicated



Languages

Afrikaans (Native)

English (Fluent)

EDUCATION

PhD Student

Stellenbosch University

2023 – present

Dissertation title: *Clostridioides difficile* in farm environments, food producing animals. and game: Prevalence and genetic profiling to aid in risk control strategies in the Western Cape, South Africa

MSc Animal Science (Cum Laude)

Stellenbosch University

2021 – March 2023

The research thesis titled 'The comparative effects of essential oil compounds and monensin in the diet of pre-weaned calves on animal growth, performance and the prevalence of antibiotic resistant *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* spp.' highlighted the role subtherapeutic antibiotics present in animal feed plays in contributing to multi-drug resistance present in the gastrointestinal microorganisms of South African dairy calves.

BScAgric Animal Science (Animal Production Systems)

2016 – 2020

Stellenbosch University

- Computer skills (*Cum Laude*)
- Animal Production Science (*Cum Laude*)
- Monogastric Animal Nutrition (*Cum Laude*)
- Animal Nutrition Science (Ruminant) (*Cum Laude*)
- Animal Science* (*Cum Laude*)

* (Final Year Thesis: *Genetic and Non-Genetic Factors affecting Tick Resistace in African Beef Cattle*)

National Senior Certificate

2015

HMS Bloemhof

EXPERIENCE**Postgraduate Research, MSc**

April, 2022 – July, 2022

Stellenbosch, Western Cape

- Successful raising of 34 Ayrshire heifer calves up until weaning for MSc research purposes.
- General calf management.
- Essential animal husbandry skills, such as correct disease diagnosis, administering of medication, intravenous fluid therapy, and wound treatment.
- Competent in techniques used in assisted calving.
- Identifying and enumerating of *Eimeria* oocytes from faecal samples using the McMaster method.

Intership

July, 2021 – March, 2022

Tradouw Ondernemings Bpk., Swellendam

- Successful raising of 18 Jersey bull calves up until weaning for MSc research purposes.
- Systematic improvement of calf rearing unit.
- Practical farm management experience.

Course Tutor

January, 2021 – June, 2021

Animal Nutrition 324, Sheep digestibility Trial

- Supervising students during a practical 3 week trial consisting of caring for and sampling from 49 Dohne Merino sheep.
- Laboratory analysis of animal feed, faeces, and urine.
- Determination of crude protein, crude fibre, fat, moisture, and ash from feed obtained during the trial.
- Assisting in marking of tests and assignments.

Research Assistant

September, 2020 – January 2021

Centre for Food Safety, Department of Food Science at Stellenbosch University

- Isolation of *Salmonella* spp. from raw chicken samples using ISO standard method 6579-1:2017
 - Laboratory techniques in total viable microbial counts, and isolation of *E. coli* and *Enterobacteriaceae*.
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Stable Manager

December , 2017 – March , 2018

Maties Equestrian, Stellenbosch

- Consisted of caring for 23 horses, overseeing of billing of clients where each horse would have personalised feeding regimes and seperate veterinary needs.
 - Management of staff, grazing fields, and feed orders.
 - Management of social media accounts, marketing, and hiring of new staff.
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AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

AFMA Intervarsity Writer's Cup Winner

2023

Student Award – Own Research

- Article: The effect of ionophore use and essential oil compounds in calf diets on animal growth and the prevalence of antibiotic resistant *Escherichia coli*

Nominated for the AFMA Student of the Year award (Koos van der Merwe Prize)

2023

Industry recognition

- Exceptional graduate and postgraduate students that have made significant contributions to field of Animal Nutrition, or students who show general commitment towards the animal feed industry are nominated for this award.

Selected as one of the Top 10 Student poster presentations at the IAFP European Symposium

2023

Aberdeen, Scotland

- Poster title: The effect of ionophore use and essential oil compounds in the diet of South African calves on the prevalence of antibiotic-resistant *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* spp.

Publication of popular articles

2022 – 2023

- South African Dairy Mail
- AFMA Matrix

Conference attendings

2022 – 2023

- International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) European Symposium held during May 2023 in Aberdeen, Scotland (Poster presentation)
- The 8th All Africa Conference for Animal Agriculture (AACAA) held during September 2023 in Gabarone, Botswana (Poster presentation – attended online)
- Animal Feed Manufacturer's Association's 2023 Forum held during September 2023 in Sun City, South Africa
- International Dairy Federation (IDF) held during October 2023 in Chicago, USA (Poster presentation)

Other

- A media communication through Stellenbosch University's Corporate communications and media office was made available to the media, which led to multiple articles in popular magazines (Grond tot Mond, Landbou Weekblad), a newspaper article (Die Burger), as well as radio interviews with RSG Landbou and Namakwaland FM.
 - Two scientific articles are to be submitted for peer-review early 2024.
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LICENCES & CERTIFICATES

Driver's Licence: B 60460002CW92

Artificial Insemination Course 2022

Rothman Livestock Training Services

- Competent in the artificial insemination of cattle

Agri-Management and Mentorship Course 2021

Stellenbosch University

- Credential ID CeDiD: 21IK-1RWA-MESJ
- Project Management.
- Expert Leadership skills.

Firearm Competency 2018

Western Cape Firearms Training School

- Completed firearm competency training of handling and using Manually Operated Rifles or Carbines, Handgun and Shotgun.

Dohne Merino Junior Course 2018

Dohne Merino Breed Society of South Africa

- Competent in Dohne Merino Breed Standards.

Diploma in South African Mutton Merino Breed Standards 2018

SAMM Breeder's Society

- Competent in South African Mutton Merino Breed Standards.

Other

- Competent in Statistics (*Biometry Course taken in BScAgric Animal Science*).
- Above average knowledge of SAS software (*Postgraduate data analysis course, Stellenbosch University*).
- Proficient in Microsoft programmes (*Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Publisher, XLStat*).
- Competent in AMTS.Cattle and Winfeed Animal Feed Formulating Programs (*Ruminant Nutrition and Monogastric Nutrition Courses taken in BScAgric Animal Science*).
- Refresher Artificial Insemination course completed in Swellendam (2022).
- Key note speaker at the annual Stellenbosch University Postgraduate Information evening for 2021 and 2022.
- Member of the marketing team for the Department of Animal Sciences during 2021.

HOBBIES



Photography



Hiking



Music (Violin)

REFERENCES

Dr Lobke Steyn

*Masters
Supervisor*

lobke@sun.ac.za

Dr Diane Rip

PhD Supervisor

dirip@sun.ac.za

Ms Monika Basson

*Undergraduate Recruitment
and Marketing
Faculty of AgriSciences*

mh@sun.ac.za

FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

After completing my undergraduate degree in Animal Science, I was faced with the question of "what to do next?"

I have always loved research, and so I decided to continue my studies, completing a master's degree in Animal Science. I am now pursuing a PhD in Agriculture with the focus on an emerging food-borne pathogen, where we are hoping to identify science-based risk control methods to be able to effectively ensure food safety in South Africa.

I have a passion for working with people, and I want to be able to find a career opportunity where I will be able to teach, share knowledge, and uplift the individuals and communities I work with.

My hope with this opportunity is to gain invaluable experience and knowledge, and develop a valuable skillset that I may be able to incorporate into all areas of my future career.

Looking forward to hear from you,
Michelle

