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Letter of Intent

Taking a first level course in economics has highlighted the importance of the subject and how it can be applied and internalised to change one's perception of the working economy. Only once exposed to the domain of economics did I realize the complexity of our everyday lives and the decisions that we make, which inevitably guide our trajectory as individuals and societies, whilst maintaining a very fine balance that is all too susceptible, as we have seen with the coronavirus and the resulting economic impacts.

Although a first level course was enough to spark my curiosity, it was not enough to cement the ideas and teachings in a way that can be of practical use. For this reason I have decided to continue my studies in economics, and view the short course that Wits offers as the perfect choice and opportunity.

My main objectives are two-fold; Firstly, to increase my quantitative ability and understanding of economics, so that I can shift from understanding to applying (this also incorporates my desire to ultimately progress to real economic analysis, and the ability to interpret and understand empirical econometric work).

Secondly, to open up the door to further studies within the agricultural economic domain, either at a honours or masters level.

EDUCATION

BSc Agricultural Business and Management, *University of South Africa*

2018 - Present, Graduate in 2021

Autodesk Certified Professional, *Inventor*

2017-2020

Paul Roos Gymnasium

2011 - 2015

EXPERIENCE

Harmonie Farming (Pty Ltd), Eastern Cape - *Management Internee*

January 2020 - June 2020

- The management of Livestock in all life stages, with an emphasis on reproduction scheduling/facilitation, livestock health, marketing and critical operations (such as shearing, pregnancy testing, etc.)
- The management and implementation of a fodder flow programme and fodder bank. This includes the oversight of all cultivation and management procedures (fertilization programmes, irrigation scheduling, cutting and bailing, etc.)
- Administration of all farm related activities, with an emphasis on inventory management, maintenance and human resources.
- Attending/visiting farmers association and other related business events/peripherals such as agricultural shows, auctions, abattoirs etc.

GreenLab Technologies, Stellenbosch - *Digital Illustrator*

February 2017 - August 2017

- Junior draughtsman assisting in the design and compilation of various production drawings (agricultural machinery).
- The construction, installation and servicing of company machinery (farm call outs, mostly servicing grape orchard post harvest machinery).

Southwell Primary School, New Zealand - *Boarding House Tutor*

January 2016 - December 2016

- Supervision of boarding house procedures and duties.
- Teacher aide and special needs assistant.
- Coach and manager of various sports teams.

SKILLS and INTERESTS

- **Agri-Business:** From Livestock to Cash Crops
- **Data Analytics / Big Data:** Data exploration and analysis using mainly Python and Excel.
- **Machine Learning:** Which is developing at such a rate now its best to learn first principles and the math that made it possible.
- **Economics & Policy:** Which Includes management, oversight and following policy to achieve objectives.
- **Literature, Philosophy and Writing:** Which incorporates the continuous desire to learn and stay on top of industry and academic developments, whilst framing them in the lessons of the past.

Open Source Software

We find ourselves in a new educational and business paradigm, where open source software, that is built and maintained by very active and dedicated communities is better than old industry standards. This is evident in highly skilled professions, where this freely available software leverages the professionals ability to do their job and empowers rather than displaces. This is in contrast to the huge displacements seen in service, retail and blue collar industries, where this software has displaced rather than empowered individuals.

Business Architecture, Automation and Productivity

I have always been intrigued by how companies and corporations achieve what they achieve, this naturally led to an interest in back end operations and company processes. No two companies are unique in their policies and procedures, but one thing is certain, the disruption of the business environment. Companies have been forced to change and adapt in these turbulent times. This has opened the door to new opportunities for those who are bold enough to embrace this change, what form this change comes in is up to the company itself.

With new business models emerging, that prioritize resilience and flexibility, we will see a continued adoption of software as a service (SaaS).