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3 Meet the woman who literally brings home the bacon



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## Breeder keeps pork coming

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Comprehensive Agricultural Skills Programme (CSAP) of empowering previously disadvantaged people is bearing piglets.

MELITAH MADIBA

One such person is Anna Phosa of Dreamland Piggery in Vanderbijlpark in the Vaal area.

The 46-year-old Phosa is a self-starter who does not let a good opportunity pass her by because she is still waiting for the government to grant her employment.

Instead, she went out of her way to take advantage of favourable laws and training government has put in place for ambitious people like her to be able to create employment for themselves and others.

Armed with zeal and

willpower, she left behind her comfort zone and resigned from her day job as a cashier to tap into the sometimes volatile pig farming industry.

And today, through her hard work and inspiring entrepreneurial spirit, she is one of the leading pork suppliers in Gauteng.

"I have always had passion for the farming industry and started with a small holding selling vegetables," the soft-spoken Phosa recalled.

Her eagerness to learn and grow as a business person led



Anna Phosa at her piggery in Vanderbijlpark

Photograph: Thomas Chanke

to her meeting an established pig farmer at one of the business networking sessions.

"I was inspired by what he told me about pig farming and decided

to buy four pigs as a start in 2004. By 2005 my pigs had increased to twenty five," she said.

That was the start of good things for Phosa. She entered

GDARD's Female Farmer of the Year in 2005 where she was a runner up and eventually won the first prize in 2006.

"I was encouraged after receiving these accolades and because I started my business with no formal training and skills, I decided to attend the Agricultural Research Council training in pig production," Phosa said.

Her business grew rapidly and she had to buy a bigger farm to be able to meet the growing demand for her livestock and products. She now employs a total of 17 people at both her farm and abattoir. One of her staffers is her own daughter, Nthabiseng, who holds a degree from Tshwane University of Technology in Animal Production.

"I now sell more than hundred pigs a week and supply bigger markets like Pick 'n Pay, New Style Pork, Vereeniging Meat Packers to mention a few," she said.

Her message to aspirant entrepreneurs, especially women who want to go into farming, is to always search for opportunities and use the government's financial institutions to start or grow their own businesses.