

SOCIAL & ACHIEVERS

Swellendam celebrates 148th agricultural show

The Swellendam Agricultural Society is the oldest of its kind in South Africa and the second oldest in the world.

It will celebrate its 180th anniversary next year and this year hosted the 148th consecutive Swellendam Agricultural Show.

The 2011 show featured the Western Cape

Simmentaler Championships as well as the South Western Cape Vlaam Horse Championships and a fine cattle parade.

Swellendam Agricultural Society was founded by Francis William Reitz in 1832, explained Charles de Kock, the society's current president.

According to Edmund Burrows's *Overberg Outspan*, Reitz revolutionised the agricultural landscape through championing the concept of a farmers' association and was also pivotal in establishing regional agricultural shows. – Denene Erasmus

TOP TO BOTTOM:

• Chrisjan Smit enjoys an ice cream while watching the Swellendam Agricultural Show's signature cattle parade.

• Hoffie van Blerk (left) and Marius Kemp pilot a coach that was built in 1952 for the 300-year anniversary celebrations of Jan van Riebeeck's arrival at the Cape. The replica of an original Cape coach is being pulled by four Vlaam stallions.

• Thys Swart (left), vice-chairperson of the Simmentaler milk interest group and Charles de Kock, president of the Swellendam Agricultural Society.

• Swellendam's Faansie Basson of the South African Sheepdog Association showcases his acclaimed herder dog.

• Learners from the Laerskool Buffeljachts show off their milk goat herd. These learners tend to their goats with great care, milking them and using the milk to make cheese that gets sold at local supermarkets.

PHOTOS:

DENENE ERASMUS

