

Tractor cake for loyal employee

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By Kerry van Rensburg

A man who loves tractors recently received a long service award from the company he has been part of for the past 10 years. Denis Usher, Abagold's development manager, was honoured for his service to the company at a special function on Friday morning.

Denis, with his farming background, joined Abagold in November 2000 after spending 15 years managing a mixed farming enterprise of maize, beef and sugar production in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

He started his career at Abagold as farm manager a time when the company only had one production unit and a total staff complement of 45. Since then, Denis has been closely involved in Abagold's extensive expansion projects, which include two further production units, major technical upgrades and the building of a processing plant.

"Denis has been an integral part of this company for the past 10 years. He assisted Abagold's development from a fledgling business to one of the largest companies in the Overstrand. His positive attitude and vast technical knowledge are two of the qualities I have come to rely on heavily in the day-to-day running of the company, as well as its further development," said engineering manager, Christiaan de Wet.



Denis Usher (centre) was delighted with his tractor cake which took centre stage at his long-service celebration at Abagold on Friday. Admiring the cake and congratulating Denis are Christiaan de Wet, Abagold's engineering manager, and Christo du Plessis, Abagold's managing director.

Denis has a passion for tractors and still has the first toy tractor that was given to him at the age of nine months. He currently has a collection of about 1800 model tractors, as well as a few real life vintage tractors of which the oldest dates back to 1929. He is a member of the We4stern Cape Vintage Tractor and Engine Club where he is the convener of judges, as well as a member of SAVTEC, the national vintage tractor club, and an honorary member of the Natal Vintage Tractor Club. It was therefore only fitting that the Abagold staff celebrated his loyal service with a cake in the shape of a green tractor called "Denis Deer".