

# CFU Calling

**24 SEPTEMBER 2010**

## **EXECUTIVE NEWS**

We begin by once again sincerely apologising for no bulletin being sent out last week. Our excuse this time is that most of our top team were out in the districts involved in very interesting discussions with our members and farmers out there.

Their tour kicked off in the Masvingo Province with that leg ending in Matabeleland South by the end of the week. They were back on the road this week and are currently in Manicaland.

The meetings have been well attended by a good representative group from each district so even though the actual numbers were understandably lower than what we were used to in the past our message and updates will certainly be spread to those who were unable to make the meetings due to various individual circumstances.

Although our members were very keen to hear what your Union has been busy doing and therefore listened intently to the speakers there was good interaction and many good suggestions which really made the meetings worthwhile. Last year your team was unable to break away to do a similar tour but with all the encouragement which the team received from its farmers and members out there whilst on this tour, we are determined to make the time available again to visit you all out there again.

Some of the points which we will be dealing with from the tour were:

- More regular meetings by local structures which need to be reconstituted
- Advice on deceased estates concerning acquired property
- Costs and continuation of legal actions
- Revamp email mailing lists to ensure all members receive our mail and avoid duplications
- Use computerised text messaging to pass on information
- Overcome ROSA registration problem for those without Internet
- Resolve GMB payments and RBZ forex amounts which are long overdue
- Investigate best marketing options for wheat and other crops
- ZESA .....
- Concern expressed over valuations of wildlife properties particularly those in Transfrontier CA

As soon as the team is back in their offices again all of the issues, like the above sample of issues, which were brought up at the various meetings will be tackled, and where possible, resolved, and reported back to our members out there.

During the trip around the country our team handed out copies of the second edition of our monthly in-house magazine, AgriZim. At the moment we await registration of the magazine to enable us to put it on sale at various outlets. In the mean time it is free especially to our members who will be eligible to receive a free copy every month. However, distribution may be a problem and for this we are relying on each district to arrange for collection and distribution of the magazine to our members.

For those overseas it is available on our website [www.cfuzim.org](http://www.cfuzim.org)

Obviously it is not easy finding suitable material for printing in the magazine so if any of you out there feel you would like to contribute articles to the magazine please contact Richard Taylor on [rtaylor@cfuzim.org](mailto:rtaylor@cfuzim.org) Anyone interested in advertising in the magazine should also contact Richard.

As members are aware we have some cases which are currently in court on behalf of our members. Next week, on 30 September 2010, our application for a moratorium on land acquisition and prosecution of farmers under the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act will be heard in the Supreme Court.

As soon as the case kicks off we will be able to start publishing more about the case without fear of being accused of prejudicing the outcome of the case. The facts of the case will no doubt create much interest both nationally and internationally as they have been well prepared. We will keep you fully updated on this case.

With regard to the compensation case which we filed with the High Court of Zimbabwe several months ago we have finally received a response from the Respondents in the case as was required by their consent. Their response was long overdue and was obviously encouraged by our application for a contempt order against the Respondents.

In course of their response the Respondents have belatedly provided the requested valuations for the fixed improvements on the properties but have failed to meet the other parts of the requests which they had previously consented to, which are included in the initial application. These valuations have been provided without a breakdown of calculations so there is a definite need to take the next step.

Those farmers who are involved in the case will be meeting with our legal team next week to decide what further action to take. We will keep you informed as this case will have some impact on future compensation, so it is imperative that we have all of our ducks in a row.

Statutory Instrument 155 of 2010, Collective Bargaining Agreement: Agricultural Industry was published in the Government Gazette dated 17 September 2010. This was a belated registration of the controversial 2009 wages. Our team will study the implications of this publication and will advise members in next week's bulletin.

In the same Gazette, Statutory Instrument 154 of 2010 the new Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment and Use) Regulations were published. This is a fairly lengthy document which mainly covers lighting and braking system requirements of vehicles and trailers. Members should note extracts from the following sections, which are copied below:

*Special visual warning device: all motor vehicles*

52. (1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a road unless two warning devices complying with the requirements of this section are carried in that vehicle:

Provided that, if the motor vehicle is drawing one or more trailers, two additional warning devices shall be carried in respect of each such trailer.

The regulation then goes on to describe the type of reflective triangles required and their positioning on the road in the event of a breakdown. The full regulation will be made available next week.

*Spare wheel, tools and fire extinguisher: all vehicles*

53. (1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle on any road unless the vehicle is equipped with –

- (a) a serviceable spare wheel; and
- (b) an efficient jack; and
- (c) a wheel-brace or wheel-spanner capable of undoing the vehicle's wheel-nuts; and
- (d) in the case of a light motor vehicle, a serviceable fire extinguisher of a commercially known as zero comma seven five kilograms; or

The rest of Section 53 goes on to describe similar requirements for heavy vehicles and the Standards Association requirements of the fire extinguishers – and in the case of Section 52, the reflective triangle manufacture and storage.

## Office Changes

Please be advised of the following office changes:

- ✓ Vice President Mr Charles Taffs into office 102 (next to Director) -
- ✓ Vice President's Personal Assistant, Mrs Louise O'Connor into office 105
- ✓ Marc Carrie-Wilson into office 115 ( Vice President Charles Taffs previous office)
- ✓ Richard Taylor – Crops – now upstairs in office 114 (Louise O'Connor's previous office)
- ✓ Clive Levy – Crops – now upstairs in office 117 (between Mike Clark and ARAC offices)
- ✓ Pam Cooper – now doing Classifieds – upstairs in office 119
- ✓ Alison Burdett – now doing Agriculture House – ground floor office G19
  
- ◆ Please be advised that with immediate effect, Mrs Louise O'Connor is the PA to both Vice Presidents and the President.  
Email : [pres@cfuzim.org](mailto:pres@cfuzim.org) for the President  
Email : [louise@cfuzim.org](mailto:louise@cfuzim.org) for the Vice Presidents
  
- ◆ Please be advised that with immediate effect, Mrs Shayne Wells is doing the licences for both CFU and ARAC  
Email : [arac@cfuzim.org](mailto:arac@cfuzim.org)

## Motorcycle Scheme

Please be advised of the following arrangements regarding the motorcycle scheme.

Mr Neil Wright for the period of this scheme will administer the motorcycle scheme.

Those farmers who have applied will have to fulfil the following requirements before taking any motorcycle.

1. Paid their farmers licence or have made arrangements to pay with the Director.
2. Pay a deposit of 25% or \$350.00 up front at accounts (Mrs Lynda Jones or Mrs Hannelie Olivier).
3. An additional \$15.00 administration fee is payable on application, once again at accounts. Accounts to receipt administration and 25% deposit separately.
4. Balance is payable over six (6) months at \$180.00 per month (inclusive of interest) at accounts. Interest is 9% per annum calculated on a diminishing balance.
5. Each beneficiary will be required to fill out an Agreement of Hire Purchase form kept with Neil Wright.
6. Beneficiary is responsible for taking out fully comprehensive insurance to cover the period of purchase. This must be completed before taking delivery of the motorcycle.

## ARAC UPDATE (from the desk of Ben Purcell-Gilpin)

What do we mean by recovery? Put simply, the restoration of a desirable sustainable environment for the economic and social advancement of the people of Zimbabwe.

Just as Donkey repeatedly asks in the cartoon comedy "Shrek", we also ask: "Are we there yet?" The answer is "NO!"

The question means different things to different people and it seems last week's send out has aroused a number of opinions and queries in this regard. Amongst these are attitudes towards farmers on the ground who contribute to the country's heralded recovery; perhaps their input should be looked at more in terms of disaster mitigation. Their impact is likely to remain relatively small so long as the essential financial resources required to drive economic activity remain scarce. In 2000, commercial

agriculture borrowed +-1.87 billion US dollars for production, currently there are less than 100 million devalued US dollars available for inputs for agriculture through the formal financial sector, hardly the requisite requirements of a vibrant recovering industry! The purported rebound of the tobacco sector to around 121 million kilograms this season seems questionable. This would appear to be a significant over statement of production for a number of reasons; however we are unlikely to see an official revision of the figure. On the maize front the declared production of 1.4 million tonnes against a national requirement of around 1.8 million tonnes has done little to stem the average monthly import of around 100 thousand tonnes.

In reality, production deficits and the need to import essential commodities will remain a reality until fundamental issues are dealt with. This season's domestic wheat production is a case in point, we are unlikely to produce more than a tenth of what we did in 2000. What this means is that current levels of production, which in some instances show marginal improvement over last year's level, hardly constitute recovery. There may be some few farmers who have managed to continue farming throughout the period when the bulk of us have experienced eviction, for most this remains a highly stressful and tenuous existence. For most of us the trauma and sense of outrage at our treatment remains pretty close to the surface. We demand compensation or restitution and find it difficult to frame our needs in other terms or see these losses in the context of the economic calamity that has struck most citizens. There remain many young men who would love to farm and who would dearly like to be a part of a recovery, for the majority this remains a dream as policies of exclusion deny them the rights all would experience in a recovered Zimbabwe.

Resolution to the land question remains a fundamental obstacle to this. We believe only when significant attention is paid to resolving the outstanding issue of compensation and an end to discrimination, will significant recovery become possible. Traditionally most agricultural lending was based on the track record of skilled farmers and secured on the legal respect for property rights. The supposed empowerment of new farmers has been limited, for although there has been a massive shift in access to land, this has not been accompanied by a transfer of secure tenure or skills. The upheaval has indeed caused much suffering in our constituency and also for well over a million farm workers and their families. The country will only recover when it finds space to engage its entire skilled people and this includes both experienced farmers and farm workers.

The perception that the constant flow of funds from donor countries is there to support the recovery is misleading. For the most part donor support has been injected to avoid further decline. This is certainly the case in the health and education sector. With regard to agriculture most support focuses on the need to provide inputs and extension to households that fall outside the areas where land occupation is a cause of conflict. Most foreign governments engage with Zimbabwe under less than satisfactory conditions. They remain constant in their desire to see the issues of governance restored to an acceptable level to permit the full re integration of Zimbabwe into the family of nations. They are looking for a win-win for the people of this country and have promised significant support for the recovery of the country when this happens. For our constituency it is important to focus our need for compensation in this context and find a way that enables the restoration of rights regarding citizenship and property to deliver empowerment to all farmers through fair access or transfer supported by legal transparent mechanisms that fulfil the requirements of justice. The challenges ahead are significant and we need your support and commitment to find a satisfactory outcome for us all. We need all 4500 farmers lobbying with a common theme that attracts the right attention.

Please feel free to contact us at our ARAC offices for information on re-joining and becoming a part of our 'team' to take this forward.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY FARMERS (from the desk of Rob Van Vuuren)**

### **STABEX '95 MARKETING PROGRAMME**

Funding through the Land O Lakes sub-award came through in early August and since then intensive training of the Centre Administrators and Book-keepers in the Accounting Bureau System and the Components of Good Record Keeping has taken place. Introductions to Executive Committees on the ABS system, Good Record Keeping and Governance have also been done during August.

The NADF ABS office is now in operation with the hiring of the Bookkeeper who will operate this. Hilda Musukutwa joined us on the 6<sup>th</sup> September and we welcome her. Centres are now submitting weekly records to NADF ABS office, this is then loaded onto the Quickbooks system and Financial Statements sent back to the Centre. Further training on the interpretation of these records and how to make decisions based on the actual financial situation of the Association will be undertaken as a follow-up to our first session. The Accounting Bureau System is a service that we would like to offer any of our members who feel they need assistance with record and book keeping, so if you would like to find out more about this, please contact Sue Bell or Linda Nielsen.

Centre Administrators and Farmers are currently undertaking an Artificial Insemination Course at Livestock Breeding Services in Banket during this week. They will then have further training on the business component of running an AI small business on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at the Courtney Hotel in Harare. It is hoped that this will be a service that the Centres can then offer to their members and an opportunity for a Farmers from each area to be educated and equipped in AI. Through the Land O Lakes partnership, each participant will be equipped with semen flasks, straws and a bicycle to enable him/her to provide AI services to an area of the community.

### **STABEX '95 VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

Not much activity has taken place over the past few weeks as we awaited the arrival of another vaccine draw-down. This has now arrived, although Quarter Evil is still not available. This is being manufactured as we write this and are hopeful of delivery within the next few weeks. We have continued to process VDA's.

In the meantime, Farai Tinarwo has attended a number of Agricultural Shows country-wide, in partnership with The Department of Veterinary Services, in order to promote the Vaccine Programme.

Activities will decrease over the next few weeks as our funds replenishments are still outstanding for both programmes from the EU.

### **CATTLE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**

#### **WEEKLY CATTLE PRICES**

GRADE	AVERAGES PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES		
	HARARE	GWERU	BULAWAYO
SUPER	-	-	-
COMMERCIAL	1.63	1.45	-
CHOICE	1.69	-	-
ECONOMY	1.42	1.35	-
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY	-	-	-
MANUFACTURING	1.25	1.31	-
BULLS	-	-	-
WEANER HEIFERS	1.48	2.08	-
BULLING HEIFERS	1.34	1.80	-
COW & CALF	-	-	-
WEANER STEERS	1.50	1.37	-
LONG WEANER HEIFERS	-	2.07	-
LONG WEANER STEERS	-	1.77	-
FEEDER STEERS	1.78	1.58	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER STEERS	-	-	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS	-	-	-
BREEDING COWS	-	-	-
STD MUTTON	-	-	-
STD GOAT	-	-	-

***No prices are available from Bulawayo this week, nor will be for a few weeks to come as all sales have been cancelled due to foot and mouth outbreak.***

## ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION (from the desk of Richard Taylor)

R7.14 to the \$

Local as at 24 September 2010 US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	Intergrain	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	275	230	220	240	235
Yellow Maize	275	230	220	240	220
Maize Bran	150	260		150	140
Soyabeans	300	400	400	400	400
Soyabean Meal		500			470
Wheat	466 (to confirm)		420	440 440 (imported)	435 440 (imported)
Wheat Bran		260		140(selling)	140
Groundnuts	450 (unshelled)		(shelled)	700 (shelled)	(shelled)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 14 September 2010

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1052	138	1212	159
Yellow Maize	1107	146	1267	167
Wheat	2298	302	2458	323
Soyabeans	2530	333	2690	354
Sunflowers	3320	437	3480	458

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	186			336
Maize	165			315
Soyabeans	380			530

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

The wheat price from GMB @ \$466 has been set by the ministry, however GMB are still waiting for confirmation.

We are in the process of finalising a deal with **Radzim Agri – Power**. Please can you read through the various types of equipment that are on offer and reply with your wish list.

Kipor KD6700T with digital panel 5 kva generator	Price: US\$1350
Prostar 1500w Inverters	Price: US\$1050
Prostar 500w inverters	Price: US\$2200
Single Disc Spreader	Price: US\$22870
Electric Maize Mills with cyclone	Price: US\$ TBA

The above items will be on a similar scheme to the motor bike scheme, down payment and six months to pay (**SUBJECT to availability of funds**).

Onis Visa Generators ex Italy will also be available in open and silent models.

MODEL	Kva Prime/Standby	Price	Engine
P9 3 phase	9.1/na	1200	Perkins
P21 1/3 phase	20/22	16800	Perkins
JD30 Open	30/33	16350	JD
JD30 Silent	30/33	19700	JD
JD40 Open	40/44	17700	JD
JD40 Silent	40/44	21750	JD
JD60 Open	60/66	19900	JD
JD60 Silent	60/66	24000	JD

JD80 Open	80/88	23000	JD
JD80 Silent	80/88	27200	JD
JD100 Open	100/110	25700	JD
JD100 Silent	100/110	30000	JD
JD120 Open	120/132	28800	JD
JD120 Silent	120/132	33650	JD
JD150 Open	165/180	33900	JD
JD150 Silent	165/180	38800	JD
JD180 Open	180/198	35000	JD
JD180 Silent	180/198	39900	JD

Larger units are also available with prices provided on application. The generators unfortunately will be on a cash upfront purchase.

We are also able to supply the following agricultural equipment against specific orders. Prices will be available on request due to currency fluctuations:

Mowers, Cultivators, Harrows, Chisel Ploughs, Ploughs, V Rippers, Feed Mixers, Spreaders, Planters, Sprayers, Silage and Forage Harvesters, Trailers and other tractor drawn equipment on request.

Item	Price US\$	Months
Harrow 18 disc	12000	6
Harrow 24 disc	15225	6
Harrow 28disc	17350	6
Planter 4 row	20900	12
Planter 6 row	31000	12
Planter 7 row on 4 row frame	36000	12
Spreader Fert and Lime Single Disc	3015	3
Spreader Twin Disc 12001	6850	6
Spreader Fert and Lime Trailed 4.3m	16000	12
Spreader Lime attachment 6m boom	6750	12
Spreader Manure and Lime 6m3	23100	12
3 Furrow Plough Hydraulic	5800	6
Single Row Silage Machine	11050	6
Double Row Silage Machine Trailed	29500	12
Double Row Silage Machine Mounted	23700	12
4 Wheel Metal Trailer with Sides	8000	6
Radium Unigrader	8000	6
Electric Maize Mills with Cyclone	TBA	3
Montana Boom Sprayer 6001 10m	6300	6
Montana Boom Sprayer 6001 12m	6500	6
Montana Canon Sprayer 4001	6700	6

The above scheme varies in time span according to price. Should you be interested in any of the above items then please reply to me on [rtaylor@cfuzim.org](mailto:rtaylor@cfuzim.org) We require an indication of what you the farmer are looking for in order to check stocks, what sort of financial figure we are looking at and to see if there may be a trend in equipment required.

Please note the below.

**Amazone Equipment - Precision farming field day**  
**Hosted by Tarrys and Falcon equipment SA**  
**Venue; Art Farm**  
**Date; Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October.**  
**Time: 13 00 hrs**

**Arrive and have a finger lunch and drinks followed by a talk /slide show by Ruben van der Merwe of Amazone SA, followed by a field demonstration. Tea and discussion after.**

We have a 3000 litre towed sprayer (24m boom) and 3 tonne fertilizer spreader which will be demonstrated. This is high tech equipment which uses an AMATRON + on-board COMPUTER to control and monitor all functions .The equipment is very user friendly and will save you considerably with extremely precise applications of Ferts and Chemicals avoiding any wastage and boosting yields with timeuos and accurate applications.

With the escalating costs of inputs and the squeeze on margins we believe this is the future of farming. We look forward to hosting you and would appreciate if you could advise us if you do plan to attend.

gbennett@tarrys.co.zw or mcharteris@tarrys.co.zw

### **COMMENTS AND VIEWS**

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