

CFU Calling

15 OCTOBER 2010

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Council sat on Tuesday morning for the first time since Congress as the dates of the President's country tour and other important commitments conflicted with the dates which were planned on our calendar.

There were a number of very important issues which were discussed, the most important of which was probably our finances, because like every other business or organisation still operating in the country we need to be very imaginative and innovative to keep going through the current difficult and unusual times.

Our current cash flows and budgets were very carefully scrutinised and our new Finance Committee was duly elected and will be holding their first meeting next week.

The issue of the new subscription rates was brought up as a result of representations made to us during our recent country tour. Although we desperately need the money from our membership reservations were expressed that with the increased fees, which were adopted at Congress as a result of a proposal from the floor, many felt that the amount was just too much to attract more members.

It was therefore unanimously agreed by Council to take into consideration the concerns, which had been expressed by our members to reduce the subscription rates back to what they were originally proposed as at Congress. The new rates are as follows:

Farmers –	US\$600
Non-farmers –	US\$100
Non-farmers over 70-years –	US\$20

Council is of the opinion that increased membership which would be attracted by the lower and more affordable fee would fully cover the reduction in the amounts of the subscription. The issue of higher amounts already paid at the previous rate will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting next week and we will report back in next week's bulletin.

Obviously the subscriptions will not be sufficient to cover the Union's current running costs so it is very important that we all need to encourage new membership bearing in mind the reduction of fees. However, we do have a number of other money generating ideas which should be sufficient to run the Union, but we would still all need to do everything in our power to bring back all of the previous membership.

The problems relating to payments of subscriptions outside the country is being addressed and should be finalised next week. We will let you all know in next week's bulletin.

Work on the Zimbabwe Discount Club is progressing well and our intention is to have it up and running by November 2010. Currently we have a team visiting hundreds of shops and businesses seeking their participation. A list of these participating outlets will be drawn up and published once everything has been finalised.

We are also working on acquiring more fertiliser at a discounted price for our members, but of course the first prize would be to also be in a position to offer possible lines of credit for financing farmers for the purchase of similar inputs. We are working on this.

Rob Ward has now completed his fact finding tour of the country. His Harare meeting took the place of our normal Monthly Open Farmers' Meeting at the Union and was very well attended. He is currently preparing a report which will be presented to Council for its consideration on Friday 22 October 2010. The final document would form the basis of proposals to be debated for adoption at the proposed Emergency General Meeting at the end of next month.

It is imperative that we have a good cross section of representatives from all around the country attending the EGM, which we encourage you all to attend.

Vice President was unable to attend Council this week because he was representing the Union at the AgriSA Congress in South Africa this week. He will be back in office next week as will the Director Hendrik Olivier who was also away for the latter part of the week attending the Namibian Agricultural Union's Congress in Windhoek.

They will both report back to you in next week's bulletin.

This week we received a photograph of Mr Ben Freeth receiving his MBE from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. This was an auspicious occasion and we congratulate him and thank him for his services rendered to his embattled community. Unfortunately there is an embargo on the photograph so we are unable to reproduce it for you all to see.

We must apologise for the delay in publication of our third edition of AgriZim, but it seems the printer's machine broke down and was sent for repairs outside the country. We believe everything has been satisfactorily repaired so we can expect the publication to be out very soon. It is however, available on our website www.cfuzim.org

Two weeks ago we gave you a heads up with regard to the below Statutory Instrument, which has now been fully summarised below:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 154 of 2010: ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT & USE) REGULATIONS 2010.

The above regulations, gazetted on 17th September 2010, come into operation on 1st December 2010 and replace the regulations of 1972 (Chapter 13:11) as last amended in 1988. The motivations of these regulations included the consolidation and updating of road traffic regulations pertaining to vehicle construction and equipment as well as the granting of legal force to some provisions of the Highway Code and those of the VID Handbook. The regulations also make a major shift towards conformance with Standards Association of Zimbabwe standards and gives a greater role to SAZ in the approval of road traffic equipment. National Tyre Services Ltd had informal input through the Zimbabwe Traffic Safety Council and the Ministry of Transport.

The regulations lay minimum compliance requirements for motor vehicles construction and equipment and fixtures required to be carried on or fixed to the vehicle. It also sets out specific requirements with respect to the use of vehicles, equipment and fixtures. Provisions of general interest to motorists are as follows (own emphasis):

1. **Left hand Drive Vehicles:** No LHD vehicles will be registered for the first time after 31st March 2011. LHD Heavy vehicles will not be allowed on the road after 31 December 2015.
2. **Rear View Mirror:** Mandatory
3. **Tyres:**
 - a. **Minimum tread depth on any part of the tyre stated as 1mm.**
 - b. **Regrooving of non-regroovable tyres prohibited**
 - c. **Tyres with exposed cords, lumps / bulges consistent with ply separation, tread lift prohibited.**
 - d. **Adherence to tyre load and speed indices a must.**
 - e. **Tyres must be of the right size and correctly inflated as per manufacturer's specifications.**
 - f. **Tyres on the same axle must be of the same size, type and construction.**
 - g. **Retreaded tyres outlawed on front axles of passenger public service vehicles and heavy vehicles and passenger service vehicles without dual tyres.**
 - h. **Serviceable Spare Wheel, working jack and appropriate wheel spanner mandatory.**
4. **Tail Lights:** White lights prohibited hence tail lights with broken lenses will not be allowed.
5. **Headlamps, Tail Lights and "park" lights:** Defective lamps prohibited.
6. **Height lamps:** Heavy vehicles to be fitted with Height lamps front and rear.

7. **Reflectors:** White reflectors in front, red reflectors at the rear. Heavy vehicles to have reflectors on the side as well. Detailed specifications available in the regulations.
8. **'Breakdown' Triangle:** Two reflective breakdown triangles per vehicle and with serial numbers, name of manufacturer and year of manufacture and conforming to SAZ standards will be mandatory. A pair is also required for each trailer. These must be placed one in front and one at the rear of a vehicle (30 to 50m) when it is stationary on any road at a place not designated for stopping.
9. **Fire Extinguishers:** All vehicles to carry an appropriate and SAZ approved fire extinguisher in the CAB of the vehicle - Light vehicles (750g) and heavy vehicles (1,5kg).
10. **Direction Indicators:** Functional requirements specified and mandatory.
11. **Suspension and Axles:** Must be properly maintained.
12. **Seats:** Must be secured
13. **Doors and Panels:** Driving of a car with defective locking mechanisms, hinges or catches, malfunctioning window winding mechanism prohibited. Doors must be operable from both the inside and outside.
14. **Speedometre:** Working speedometer mandatory for vehicles capable of at least 40km/h.
15. **Speed Monitoring and Speed limiting Devices:** All heavy vehicles and passenger public service vehicles must have a speed monitoring device e.g. tachograph, data recorder.
16. **Motor Vehicle Imports:** Imports of Vehicles that are over 5years old prohibited.
17. **Gross mass:** Pickups and other commercial vehicles must display the gross and net mass in kilograms.
18. **Maintenance of Engines:** Vehicles with defective exhausts, silencers, emissions outside SAZ specifications; *oil, grease and fuel leaks* prohibited.
19. **Carriage of passengers:** Goods Vehicles: Maximum permissible number is seven except where the vehicle is carrying employees of the vehicle owner or the employees' family members in which case the floor area available to each person shall not be less than 0.5m².

Failure to observe any of the regulations will constitute an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding ***level five or to a period of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or both.***

The above Statutory Instrument has attracted the interest of a number of MPs who we believe have tabled several objections against certain paragraphs in the Statutory Instrument which they wish to debate in Parliament.

The situation over the last week has been relatively quiet but with a number of farmers being called to court for prosecution under the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act. The results have been somewhat mixed – both hot and cold.

Just reminders once again to everyone to please keep us fully updated on any disruptions, evictions or court cases. Reports should be sent to mashc@cfuzim.org and this includes any old reports or diaries of all events which have been recorded of events which have affected you personally since 2000, when the violent acquisition of property began.

Our doors are always open and we are always willing to discuss either your problems or to listen to your suggestions.

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

Rob has been spending some time in the office each day as he continues to adjust to his changed circumstances.

Debbie is due to have an operation on the 15 October 2010 and Marilyn Taylor will be temping from time to time to maintain the office. Debbie will be off work for a few weeks as she recovers. Please bear with us as we try our best to continue to offer you our services.

STABEX '95 MARKETING PROGRAMME

Sue Bell and Linda Nielsen are visiting Tsonzo and Chipinge this week. They have been judging the Small Scale Dairy Farmer of the Year participants and will be hosting a dinner at the Courtney Hotel on Saturday 23 October 2010 to announce the winner of this competition. More details on the winner next week.

STABEX '95 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Farai Tinarwo should complete the mass vaccinations exercise in the Hwange area at the end of this week.

We still await the next tranche of funding from the E.U. so our vaccine stocks are pretty low. Hopefully the payment will come through this week and we can then place our next vaccine order with Onderstepoort Biological Products in Pretoria. We will keep you advised of developments.

Vaccine applications continue to be processed and Fivet have received a large consignment of Quarter Evil, so remember to fill out your application form for your 2010 requirements as this program is ongoing until December 2010.

CATTLE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY CATTLE PRICES

All cattle sales in Bulawayo have been cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak and will probably only resume in January 2011.

GRADE	AVERAGES PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES		
	HARARE	GWERU	BULAWAYO
SUPER	1.97		-
COMMERCIAL		1.71	-
CHOICE	1.83		-
ECONOMY	1.47	1.55	-
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY	1.75		-
MANUFACTURING	1.08	1.45	-
BULLS	1.36		-
WEANER HEIFERS	1.79	2.31	-
BULLING HEIFERS	1.59	1.90	-
LONG WEANER HEIFERS	1.66	2.03	
COW & CALF		1.43	-
WEANER STEERS	1.80	1.54	-
LONG WEANER STEERS		1.57	-
FEEDER STEERS	1.87	1.67	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER STEERS	1.58		-
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS	1.48		-

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

For those who have produced Barley this year, Delta have reviewed their contract price and will be paying \$400/ton on farm dependent on quality.

CFU were extended an invite to the Zambian National Farmers Union, 105 Annual Congress, held in Lusaka on the 6th and 7th October. Luckily for Pete Steyl and myself, we were elected to attend the congress and were able to get there.

This was an eye opener. Over 600 delegates attended the 2 days. Various professionals gave talks on Productivity, Competitiveness and Market Development both internally, regionally and globally. What is clear here is that Zambia and Zimbabwe in +90% of ways face very similar problems. High input costs etc due to

the fact that we are landlocked countries. Certain banks in Zambia are now starting to compete for farmers business and are seeing the bigger picture, seasonal, medium and longer term loans are now available at competitive interest rates.

Maize productivity with the small scale commercial producers has improved from under 1mt/ha to on average 2.4mt/ha in the last few years. They will be looking hard at their livestock production with 2 main areas being, the increase of livestock numbers and increasing weights of slaughter stock through the health of all livestock. The average slaughter weight of cattle in Zambia sits at 120-150kg's per animal. They have set themselves a target of increasing this to over 200kg per animal.

ZNFU are the only farmer's representative union in Zambia and their huge numbers of members have given them the power to help government set good policy for agriculture and the country as a whole. The other thing that was obvious is that government is prepared to listen to the farmer's representatives and act on good policy decisions.

The president of ZNFU, stated in his speech, (which President R Banda of Zambia took heed) "when agriculture sneezes, the whole of the country's economy catches the flu" No Farmers, No Food, No Future. Only too true! Both the Zambian President and the Minister of Agriculture gave talks at the congress which were both focused on the farmer and improving production. All in all it was a very successful Congress. Well done to the Zambian farmers. It was a privilege to have been there.

R6.81 to the \$
Local as at 15 October 2010 US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	Intergrain	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	275	240	220	250	240
Yellow Maize	275	240	190	250	230
Maize Bran	150	165		150	165
Soyabeans	300	400	400	415	450
Soyabean Meal		500		540	500
Sunflowers	110			270-300	To confirm
Wheat	466		440	440	440 (imported)
Wheat Bran		145-160		150(selling)	155
Groundnuts	450 (unshelled)		(shelled)	900-1100 (shelled)	650 (shelled)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 15 October 2010

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1281	188	1441	212
Yellow Maize	1358	199	1518	223
Wheat	2710	398	2870	421
Soyabeans	3255	478	3415	501
Sunflowers	4275	628	4435	651

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	302			452
Maize	239			389
Soyabeans	456			606

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

COMMENTS AND VIEWS

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