

CFU Calling

29 OCTOBER 2010

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Once again our apologies for playing truant again last week and not getting our weekly bulletin out to you all. The truth is that events just overtook us as we were busy for the whole day in a workshop last Friday which ended after dark. We will try to make up for it in a news-filled bulletin today.

Firstly though, the week started on a very sad note with the deaths of two very notable and charismatic personalities in our industry. We ask you all to pray for their families in this terrible time of their recent grief.

The first to leave us was Robin Gilmore who was well-known in our beef industry and more specifically with his Brahman stud and Carswell Meats abattoirs. Robin was a very special person who always followed his instincts and led the way. He was a great mentor in the industry and always shared his ideas and experience with all. He will be greatly missed and our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

The second was the murder of Kobus Joubert in an armed robbery in his home on his farm in the Chegutu District. Kobus was a determined and in some ways a similar man to Robin who stuck to his ideals. His strength of character came to the fore when he stood up against his unlawful eviction and merely moved onto a lay-bye on the national highway instead of completely deserting his farm. He remained there in protest for 12 days together with his family and farm workers until the matter was eventually resolved through the courts.

Kobus was involved in his community through the Church as well as doing his 'national service' by representing the tobacco industry as president of ZTA.

We are extremely concerned about the increasing number of armed robberies, or attempted armed robberies, which were belatedly reported to us only after the above tragic event.

It is imperative that all events continue to be reported to us so that we are in a position to firstly be able to build up a bigger picture and thereby be able to forewarn other possible victims out there. The more information we have the more we will be able to assist you.

Secondly we must have all the facts in order for us to be able to stamp out any damaging rumours.

This is particularly pertinent as we appear to be entering another election period which as we know has been traditionally marked with violence and intimidation, which inevitably spills over to our farming sector because of the large labour pools we have on the farms which are still managing to operate.

As you know your Union's mandate has always been to be strictly apolitical and we would encourage our membership to be the same and just 'become invisible' and to carry on farming as best as you can.

However, in saying that we do understand that it is an individual's personal decision or right to become involved in politics and we cannot interfere with that, unless he/she is a Union representative. Perhaps we have learned our lesson over the years but be careful not to expose yourself, your family or your community as a possible target. We need to get through the next few months of increased turmoil.

At the moment we should perhaps work together more as a community, meet regularly and ensure that everyone has good communications with everyone else.

Over the last few weeks your team has been quite busy in the international arena where they have been lobbying for your best interest at any given opportunity.

From the President's desk

After gathering the views of members over the past month, Council has been meeting on a regular basis collating, analysing and strategising how best to implement what you want. It is clear that there is a lot of appreciation and support out there for what we are doing, but at the same time there is still a lot of frustration and concern expressed in certain areas.

We are looking at a roadmap that will spell out what we will be doing, with timeframes so that you will be able to monitor and measure it, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability. This includes expectations and priority services required by farmers, strategic priorities, CFU structures, management, performance, finances, communications and public relations, advocacy, leadership, policies, constitution, options of bouquet services etc.

We will continue to work around the clock so that we are able to give you feedback prior to the EGM on the 30th November.

I would like to thank everyone for their time and effort in contributing thus far, whether through the various meetings (CFU or Independent) or through correspondence.

On a different note.

The high regard for CFU and the role that the Union is able to play on our behalf must never be underestimated. Being elected and serving as the current President of the BCZ (Business Council of Zimbabwe) encompassing all the major National Business bodies (Bankers Association of Zimbabwe, Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe, CFU, CZI, EMCOZ, ZCFU, Zimbabwe Council of Tourism, ZFU, Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce) illustrates this fact.

After years of work, the CFU was part of the delegation that attended the final formation and launching of PAFFO (Pan African Farmers Forum) which is the first agricultural body that represents a whole continent (Africa). It includes Southern Africa (SACAU), North Africa (UMAGRI), Eastern Africa (EAFF), West Africa (ROPPA) and Central Africa (PROPAC). After three days we came up with a final declaration, delivered by the Malawian Minister of Agriculture, and the Official launch of PAFFO was then done by the Malawian Minister of Finance.

There was a real spirit of solidarity and agreement that farmers would be strengthened through concerted action, in particular working together to improve productivity under the challenges posed by land grab, conflicts, climate change, access to markets, energy demands etc.

We have once again had one of our members tragically murdered. We need to unite in our battle for justice and equality. If we are not united, we stand alone and will be picked off one by one, or find ourselves standing isolated and alone in a long queue for compensation.

Deon Theron

Director Hendrik Olivier was at the Namibian Farmers' Union Congress in Windhoek and has submitted the following report:

"I attended the Namibia Agricultural Union Congress on the 13 & 14 October 2010. The theme of the Congress was "Principals for a Successful Private Partnership."

During the two day Congress, it became very apparent to me that despite a Land Reform Programme in Namibia the Union is recognised as a public private partnership with their respective Government. They have frequent interaction with their President. Their Minister of Lands and Agriculture is just a telephone call away and that there is compensation on the table. In my address to the Congress I reiterated these three important issues and congratulated and urged them to keep this very good relationship working.

The key note speaker was the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable Minister John Mutorwa and I was equally impressed with the speech that he made signifying the good working relationship between his office and NAU.

I left Namibia thinking about Zimbabwe. If only we could have had a similar relationship in Zimbabwe. Speaking to the CEO he confessed to me that the NAU had two significant challenges. The first was how to speak English in a predominantly German/Afrikaans country and the second was to find agenda items and discussion points for their Annual Congresses."

Vice President Charles Taffs attended the AgriSA Congress in South Africa and reports the following:

"On my recent visit to the Agri SA Congress last month in Johannesburg it was such a pleasure to be at a congress dealing in the main with productive issues. However, having said that, they are heading into a very murky unclear future with regards to the land reform.

The SA Government is under pressure to accelerate land acquisition and yet by the SA Governments own admission 98% of all farming businesses as acquired to date, have failed, leading to an interesting comment made by one of the delegates "show me the 2%". There is currently a green paper being presented to their parliament, dealing with this issue and the current rules as they stand, of the willing buyer willing seller system. The similarities in the lead up to our recent history are frightening and the SA farming leadership needs to take note of all these indicators and red flags. SA Governments dilemma is how do you accelerate land reform whilst:-

- 1) Ensuring that acquired properties maintain viability
- 2) Land values are maintained
- 3) Investment in agriculture is maintained
- 4) General production levels are maintained
- 5) Food security is ensured
- 6) To promote to the rest of the world that they are not going the Zimbabwe way

All this on a limited budget.

What was made clear to Government is that they must follow the rules, and I quote" if a man wants a fish do not just give him a fish, teach him how to fish and once he has caught that fish teach him how to market that fish." In other words there is no point giving land for the sake of giving land, it needs to be productive, because in the end the hunger for food will always be greater than the hunger for land. It is an interesting fact that the African Continent is at the moment sitting on 60% of the total unused agricultural land in the world, and as such has the potential to feed the world. All we are waiting for on this Continent is good policy."

In between all this CFU Council sat and deliberated over the outcome of Rob Ward's fact finding tour around the country. Although the results of the survey were not earth-shattering they have given us something to work from to help us remould the Union to adapt to the current scenario as well as to weather the financially lean period we are currently experiencing.

We certainly thank everyone around the country for their important input and we are working as fast as we can towards getting the final document together so that we can circulate the document in the requisite period prior to the EGM on November 30th 2010.

Council will be sitting again next week to finalise the document so should you feel that you need to add, or retract, any information please work through your regional structures over the weekend.

With regard the CFU High Court case on compensation there has been some movement within the Ministry which the Applicants are following up on and with regard to the Supreme Court application for a moratorium we await the judgment. We will keep you informed as soon as anything materialises.

We finally have copies of the third edition of the **AgriZim** magazine for your collection at the Union offices and urge people coming in from the districts to collect some for distribution in your areas. Our apologies again for the delay, but it was completely out of our control.

Work on the discount club is coming together nicely and we so far have in the region of 72 participating companies. We are also busy registering the name which may be different to our previously advertised one. We will keep you updated.

Licence/subscription fees are still coming in and there have been a number of queries re overpayments which were made prior to the reduction in the fees. What Council was hoping was that, if approved by the individual, that the excess would be receipted for a prepayment of part or all of the following year's subscription as whichever the case may be.

"Veterinarians for Animal Welfare Zimbabwe (VAWZ) in conjunction with National Parks are trying to urgently translocate 15 buffalo that have been held in a boma for over a year, in an area called Mateke Hills, close to Mwenezi. The herd was originally 45 strong, but they have been abandoned with no food and water. A report was made to National Parks yesterday and a member of Masvingo National Parks visited the site and reported back that the remaining 15 buffalo are in very poor condition and are very weak.

Meryl Harrison is going to the site on Monday to assess the situation. Urgent funding is required for vitamin injections, food, darting and translocation. If anyone is able to assist please could they contact Gwen Wawn on 0772321399 or gwen@safafrika.com."

Meryl did visit the property last week as described above and was absolutely shocked at the poor condition of the remaining animals. She has arranged for them to be transported to National Parks HQ in Gonarezhou at Mabalauta during the middle of next week. She thanks everyone for their generous donations so far but adds that what she needs most now is diesel for the vehicles which will be used in the transporting of the buffalo.

South African Citizens – Louis Fick

Dear Farmer,

The SA embassy has asked me to organize a meeting in Bulawayo for 11H00, Thursday 4 November 2010. The Department of International Relations (Pretoria) will send a team to join this initiative. Imran Simmins, Gary Smith and the team from SA will leave on Wednesday the 3rd of November for Bulawayo and will meet with SA Nationals in Gweru (time to be confirmed but my guess would be around lunch time). They will spend the night (Wednesday) in Bulawayo and will leave on Thursday afternoon for Beit Bridge, if there are any farmers (problem farms) close to Bulawayo that would like a farm visit on Thursday it could be fit in depending on available time. Beit Bridge – they intend to visit farms already decided on by them and also meet with SA Nationals in Beit Bridge. Friday evening / Saturday morning to meet with Bubi / Mwenezi farmers and then back to Harare.

On their way back to Harare – I am still trying to persuade them to visit a farm or two on the road - will let you know.

The Bulawayo meeting with the Ambassador will obviously be the main event and your input at this meeting will be vital. I would like to ask farmers from Gweru, Masvingo, Beit Bridge and Matabeleland in general to attend or at least send a delegation to represent your district.

At this meeting we would like farmers to hand in letters / statements (duplicate one for our records) to the Embassy regarding your situations – farm problems, compensation etc.

We have been pushing for a long time for meetings with our SA Nationals and should make use of this opportunity.

The final arrangements will be made next week, please pass this on to all SA Nationals – farmers.

It is really difficult for people to find the ROSA link on the site and I would like to recommend that you use the following url which will take them straight to the registration process

[https://www.foreign.gov.za/TIBCO%20iProcess%20Client%20\(ASP\)/StaffDFA/Custom/ROSA/start.aspx](https://www.foreign.gov.za/TIBCO%20iProcess%20Client%20(ASP)/StaffDFA/Custom/ROSA/start.aspx)

Mooi loop

The following is a circular sent out by Mica Hardware re SI 154/2010:

Dear All, we had a meeting with SAZ (Standards Association of Zimbabwe) yesterday about the confusion that surrounds the implementation of this S.I.

The consensus that was reached was:

- 1) That the ECE / SANS uniform provisions for the approval of advance warning triangles should be adopted but, with the following proviso;
 - a) That it be reflective on both sides,
 - b) That the date & serial number requirements be substituted with batch numbers (as is normal in manufacturing),
 - c) The sizes be in line with the S.I. being 500mm long on each side (+/- 50mm) & 50mm wide, and the inside being 70mm long per side.

The recommendation was that SAZ, with a committee that was formed for the task put in an urgent application to the Minister of Transport today (Tuesday 26th) in order to not only accept this recommendation, but to repeal the implementation date of 1st December to a much later date. SAZ were hoping to have a "face to face" meeting with the Minister as early as tomorrow – Wednesday 27th.

The reason for this is that no one manufacture's warning triangles to this specification as of yet, and there is an estimated requirement for 1,2 million of them which is physically impossible for anyone to cope with.

Of course, the SAZ would have to give their approval to the product before any go-ahead can be given so there would be these delays as well.

- 2) On the subject of fire extinguishers, the S.I. in question is being hotly debated as, the minimum requirement of a 750gram unit for a passenger vehicle & a 1,5kg unit for a commercial vehicle are totally inadequate. Again, the question of local manufacture, serial numbers, dates etc.etc. are being contested. Furthermore, a company is trying to introduce a product called "Fire Stryker" which is extensively used worldwide in motorsport, but has to be tested by SAZ.

Therefore, while representation has also been made to the Minister on the fire extinguisher issue as well, as it falls under the same S.I. this committee along with SAZ are also making representation to the Minister today & hopefully, both issues will be dealt with as early as tomorrow – only hope he is available. Hopefully this issue will also be deferred to a later date as with the warning triangles.

I hope this answers a few questions that you will be facing from your customers.

Obviously, we are not in a position to make recommendations to our customers & cannot be held legally responsible for anyone being fined after 1st December in the event that this S.I. & the attached penalties are enforced by ZRP, in the event that the S.I. is not repealed or deferred to a later date.

So please, be careful of what you say to anyone. I am only passing on the information that I have to hand as at this time. Obviously, as & when (if) there are any updates, you will be the first to know.

There has been a plethora of amendments in a recent Statutory Instrument, some of which affect us as follows:

Statutory Instrument 166 of 2010.

(CAP.19:01)

Animal Health (Dermatophilosis Areas) Order, 2010

IT is hereby notified that the Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development has, in terms of section 5 of the Animal Health Act (*Chapter 19:01*), made the following order:-

1. This order may be cited as the Animal Health (Dermatophilosis Areas) Order, 2010.
2. The areas specified in the Schedule are prescribed as Dermatophilosis areas for the purposes of the Animal Health (Dermatophilosis) Regulations, 2010.

Schedule (Section 2)

DERMATOPHILOSIS AREAS

1. *Mashonaland Central Province*
 - Bindura district
 - Guruve district
 - Shamva district
2. *Mashonaland West Province*
 - Kadoma district
 - Zvimba district
 - Makonde district
 - Chegutu district
 - Hurungwe district
3. *Matabeleland North Province*
 - Hwange district
 - Binga district
 - Lupane district
4. *Midlands Province*
 - Gokwe North district
 - Gokwe South district
 - Kwekwe district

Supplement to the Zimbabwean Government Gazette dated the 22nd October, 2010
Printed by the Government Printer, Harare.

Statutory Instrument 167/2010 which further describes the disease is available in soft copy from the CFU Office.

Under the General Laws Amendment Bill there are several which may affect us in some way or other:

8 Amendment of section 3 of Cap. 14:33

The Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act [*Chapter 14:33*] (No. 14 of 2007) is amended in section 3(6) by the deletion of “company” and the substitution of “business”.

10 Amendment of section 128 of Cap. 20:14

The Parks and Wildlife Act [*Chapter 20:14*] is amended by the repeal of section 128 and the substitution of the following –

“128 Special Penalty for certain offences

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, any person who is guilty of an offence under this Act involving –

- (a) the unlawful killing or hunting of rhinoceros, or any other Specially protected animal specified by the Minister by statutory instrument; or
- (b) the unlawful possession of, or trading in, ivory or any trophy of rhinoceros or of any other specially protected animal that may be specified by the Minister by statutory instrument;

Shall be liable –

- (i) on a first conviction, to imprisonment for a period not less than nine years;
- (ii) on a second or subsequent conviction, to imprisonment for a period of not less than eleven years;

Provided that where on conviction the convicted person satisfies the court that there are special circumstances in the particular case justifying the imposition of a lesser penalty, the facts of which shall be recorded by the court, the convicted person shall be liable to a fine four times the value specified in a notice published under section 104(2) for a rhinoceros, elephant or other specially protected animal, or four times the value of the ivory or any trophy, as the case may be, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(2) No portion of a sentence imposed in terms of subsection (1) shall be suspended by the court if the effect of such suspension is that the convicted person will serve –

- (a) in the case of a first conviction, less than nine years imprisonment;
- (b) in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, less than eleven years.”

There is also a proposed amendment to the Environmental Management Act which we will cover in another bulletin.

Labour Affairs Update

From the desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson

Members please note that the dispute over the so called collective Bargaining Agreements for the Agro and Horticultural Sectors (setting the minimum wage at USD 70 per month) is still ongoing and still before the courts. Both the Horticultural Promotion Council and the ALB have challenged the Agreement in two separate cases. Moreover, the agreement has not been registered or published as a statutory instrument by the Ministry of Labour and is therefore not binding.

We have heard reports of NEC and GAPWUZ officials claiming that the Labour Court had thrown out the case challenging the validity of those agreements. On this basis NEC and GAPWUZ continue to try and pressurise farmers into paying the wages in line with this agreement. To avoid confusion please see the below statement from the Horticultural Promotion Council who is the applicant in one of the cases:

To all members

Horticulture industry Wage Dispute; NEC for Agriculture and 3 others vs. Horticultural Promotion Council: LC/REV/H/04/10

- 1. On Friday 22 October 2010, the case concerning the horticultural industry wage dispute was heard in chambers by Justice Kachambwa of the Labour Court. Our lawyers, Kantor and Immerman had requested the Judge for the hearing.*
- 2. As you all remember an "Urgent Application for Interim Order Suspending Execution of a Purported Collective Bargaining Agreement Pending Determinations of an Application for Review" was filed at the Labour Court in July 2010. We are now in October 2010 and the lawyers were of the view that the urgency had now fallen away because of the time lapse. They requested the court to now deal with the substance of the matter in order to bring an end to this saga.*
- 3. The Labour Court Judge informed the lawyers that there was now a more compelling reason to have the Horticulture Industry Wage dispute and the Agro Industry Wage dispute to be combined and to be dealt with as one matter. The Judge asked for more time to consult his colleague, Justice Musairi who is handling the Agro-Industry case.*

4. *The matter was, therefore, postponed to a future date yet to be announced. In discussions with Kantor and Immerman this morning, today 20 October 2010, they indicated that they are going to request the court to deal with the matter in the first week of November 2010.*
5. *There is no change at all as the matter is still in the courts. The judge has made no pronouncement except to postpone the case after asking for more time to consolidate the cases. Please be advised accordingly and request documentary proof from anyone who states otherwise.*
6. *Officials of workers' unions have been visiting farms and stating that the case has been withdrawn. This is total misrepresentation of facts, and is not true. One of their top leaders in Harare has distanced himself from what the officials are doing and agreed that the case was postponed to a future date and so the matter was still in court.*

Horticultural Promotion Council

As regards General Agricultural Sector wages the Collective Bargaining Agreement of April the 16th setting the minimum wage at US \$ 44 per month and imposing 7 months back payments was objected to by both CFU and ZFU in writing to the Ministry of Labour. This agreement has not been registered or published as a statutory instrument by the Ministry of Labour. We therefore take the view that it is not binding. Notwithstanding this many farmers have no objection to the wage increase itself but they have a strong objection to the principle of back payments in a multi currency environment. The agreement has in any event expired in September 2010 before any clear resolution on the dispute over back payments has been achieved, and no new agreement has replaced it. Our fear is that this unsustainable pattern of Collective Bargaining Agreements being negotiated after the expiration of previous agreements and imposing several months of back payments will continue if not checked now.

A summary of our general position with regard to wage negotiations is as follows:

- Back pay in a stable multi currency environment cannot be entertained. No business can budget in its cash flows for an unknown expenditure which will arise many months in the future. This will affect the viability of the agricultural sector and hamper growth causing the loss of jobs and unemployment.
- % increases in minimum wages should not exceed the rate of inflation. Minimum wages in other countries in the region in relation to the GDPs of those countries may be a good indicator. Therefore regard may be had to Zimbabwe's GDP.
- Minimum wages negotiated in Collective Bargaining Agreements must be set for a period of 12 months in accordance with the Labour Act.
- An expectation within work forces created by the years of hyperinflation, and fuelled by the activities of the NEC and Trade Unions, that regular wage increases of 30% or more and back pay is acceptable is detrimental to economic recovery and growth in the agricultural industry.

Should you have any concerns or problems, or need further clarification, please contact our Labour Officer Mr Tongai Marodza or myself.

Spot Fines for Contravening the Forest Act

Many farmers are being called upon by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) to pay spot fines for cutting trees or keeping or processing firewood.

The relevant legislation makes it very clear that no tree may be cut without the relevant permit. To find out what you have to do to get a permit you must contact the Forestry Commission.

Some Farmers are being requested to pay fines up to US \$ 5,000-00. Please note the maximum fine is up to level 8 i.e. US \$ 500 -00.

ARAC (from the desk of Ben Purcell Gilpin)

This week has been overshadowed by the brutal murder of Kobus Joubert. He was well known to many of us for his role in the ZTA and more recently for his determined resistance to eviction from his Selous farm. In 2008, after spending almost two weeks encamped with farm workers on the main Harare Chegutu road, he was eventually able to return to his farm. I spoke with him recently when he attended and contributed to the CFU review session conducted at Agriculture House. Indeed life for those who continue to battle to farm has been extremely difficult and stressful. His shocking murder and the assault of his wife highlight the denial of the break down in the rule of law in our country and the ongoing daily persecution of the dwindling number of the country's skilled commercial farmers and farm workers. We join all farmers in offering our prayers and condolences to family and friends of the Joubert family at this time.

For a long time much local dialogue has sought to distance itself from the reality of the massive impact that the decline in commercial agriculture has had on the well being of the nation. Any attempt to avoid this reality and the need to be inclusive of the broad interests of our constituency, remain our focus. There are some who have misgivings, but to those I say, as indeed William Shakespeare wrote: "Our doubts are traitors that make us lose the good we oft might win by failing to attempt!" This week we previewed a DVD produced over the last couple of months that puts the CFU's recovery and compensation plan into a simple format for advocacy use. We hope that before long it will be available to you all to see; the initial response from the council and those who have seen the film has been positive. The need to explore ways of broadening the dialogue to include a uniquely farmer perspective into the national and international agenda is imperative for us and we hope that this tool will be useful in doing this.

This morning a paper by Professor Ian Scoones landed on my desk. His work through the University of the Western Cape's Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies has recently focused on research carried out in Masvingo Province. The work focuses on five purported myths:

1. Zimbabwean land reform has been a total failure,
2. The beneficiaries of Zimbabwean land reform have been largely political 'cronies',
3. There is no investment in the new resettlements,
4. Agriculture is in complete ruins,
5. The rural economy has collapsed.

I am sure that many of us will see the literature and discourse that it provokes. My first comment is that the work seeks to propose minimalist criteria for the assessment of the "tsunami" that has hit agriculture in order to present it in the best possible light. It is also a little biased in that Scoones draws his conclusions mainly from a small sample in Masvingo, which was hardly the heart of commercial plantation agriculture. The study seems to be an active seeking out of the positives of land reform whilst ignoring the general national economic and social impact.

I would prefer to pose more objective criteria: "Has what has happened on commercial farm land over the past ten years met the agreed criteria set down in 1998 for a proper programme of Land Reform and Resettlement?"

To refresh your memory these were set out as follows:

The Objectives of Land Reform and Resettlement

- Acquire five million hectares of land from Large-Scale Commercial farming sector for redistribution
- Resettle 91,000 families and youths graduating from agricultural colleges and others with demonstrable experience in agriculture in a gender sensitive manner
- Reduce the extent of poverty among rural families and farm workers by providing them with adequate land for agricultural use
- Increase the contribution of agriculture to GDP by increasing the number of commercial small scale farmers using formerly underutilized land

- Promote the environmentally sustainable use of land
- Increase conditions for sustainable peace and social stability by removing imbalances in land ownership

No reasonable person will argue with the above intended objectives. That improved access to land may create opportunity for an individual to better his livelihood is not in dispute; the clear intention of land reform is that there should be such benefit. For our constituency and clearly for all the people of Zimbabwe there is nonetheless legitimate expectation of the purported promise of the government of Zimbabwe that this should be done in a transparent and accountable way. The events of the last ten years with regard to commercial farming have been doused in political rhetoric and our courts have sought to remove any reasoned investigation by suggesting all has been done "*In the national interest.*" Certainly such a premise that underwrites the current disregard for our rights and presumes to justify the current state of affairs requires impartial investigation and this should extend to the academic sphere. We should also bear in mind that life might become much more difficult for those on the land with the possibility of elections next year; election years are usually violent and farmers and farm workers are highly vulnerable at these times. Beneficiaries of fast track are hardly free in the exercise of their vote as long as their tenure is insecure and subject to political influence. Till next time, enough for now...

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

Looking for a home, if anyone is interested please contact me on 04 309862 or e mail rtaylor@cfuzim.org

2 x Claas Dominator 485 Combine Harvesters

Wheat Blades

One has done 2901 hours and the other has done 1875 hours.

Very good condition.

Both have recently been serviced.

We are looking for a price of US\$25,000 per machine but we are willing to negotiate

We are also happy to discuss lenient payment terms and soft monthly re-payments.

One SAME 90 4WD: Very good condition not sure of the year, price approx 20K

R7.02 to the USD

Local as at 29th October 2010 US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	Intergrain	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	275	260	220	250	260
Yellow Maize	275	260	220	250	230
Maize Bran	150	165		160	160
Soyabeans	300	500	450	480	450
Soyabean Meal		620			550
Wheat	466		440	420	440
					(imported)
Wheat Bran		165		145(selling)	160
Groundnuts	450 (unshelled)		(shelled)	700 (shelled)	650 (shelled)

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

STABEX '95 MARKETING PROGRAMME

Following the installation of a generator at Mayfield Milk Collection Centre in Rusitu, deliveries of their milk to DZL have resumed last week on Tuesday! This is a major break-through for Mayfield as they have been

limping along on a tiny intake for the past 3 years. We hope to see a big improvement there as they have the potential for great things.

This week we held the culmination of months of work for our Stabex/NADF Small Scale Dairy Farmer of the Year Competition, with the Winners Dinner held at Courtney Hotel on Sat 23 October.

Invitees included the seven finalists from 5 Centres, members of CFU and NADF, guests from Land O' Lakes, Centre Administrators, a representative from Stabex and representatives from our sponsors and stakeholders in the Dairy Industry. We would like to make special mention of these and thank them again for their generous support and show of faith in our small scale colleagues; Red Dane Farming, Ice Feeds, National Foods, Land O' Lakes, Semex, Fivet, NADF, Coopers Animal Health, Seedco, Big 5 Wines, Aglabs and Onderstepoort Biological Products.

We extend our grateful thanks also to our three independent judges, Dai Harvey and Christine Smith of Land O' Lakes and Gideon Zenasi from Aglabs/Dairy Services. Judging is an exhausting, hot, arduous task and takes up a great deal of time and commitment. We appreciate their outstanding efforts. The Chief Judge, Dai Harvey stated in his report that the judges were generally most impressed with the standard of the farms they judged and said that he had seen some of the best records and the fattest cows he has seen in Africa ! This is a high accolade considering the number of African countries that Dai has worked in.

The final positions were as follows

Winner : Mr and Mrs E Chiweshe from Gokwe

2nd place : Mr and Mrs Z Mutengu from Rusitu

3rd place; Reverend and Mrs Simbabure from Sangano

4th place: Mr and Mrs J Nyamuda from Tsonzo

5th place; Mr and Mrs A Sithole from Rusitu

Special awards – based on judge's discretion

Best record keeping – Mr and Mrs P Manjoko from Rusitu

Best laid out and most improved farm: Mrs Ncube from Umzingwane.

The Winners Field Day will be held at Mr Chiweshe's farm in Gokwe on Tuesday 2 November, commencing at 10 am. All interested parties will be most welcome. Directions will be left at the Gokwe Milk Processing Centre. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

STABEX 95 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Rob Van Vuuren reports the long awaited replenishment was finally deposited into an account late last week and our 12th drawdown order has been placed with O.B.P. and another order has been lodged with Pfizer, S.A. Transfer of funds is in progress and the list of supplies so hopefully vaccine stocks will improve over the next 10 -14 days. Three-day sickness vaccine will only be available from O.B.P. towards the end of November 2010.

What is likely to be the last training by O.B.P. is currently in progress, having started at Chinhoyi on 25th October moving to Bindura on 26th October, Mutare 27th October and Masvingo on 28th October 2010.

As the vaccine programme is drawing to a close, we are anxious to distribute as much vaccines as possible. Accordingly, if you have not collected your VDA within the specified 7 days from it being completed, we will not be held responsible if your vaccine allocation has been given to someone else.

CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

GRADE	AVERAGES PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES		
	HARARE	GWERU	BULAWAYO
SUPER	1.92		-
COMMERCIAL	1.44	1.63	-
CHOICE			-
ECONOMY	1.36	1.36	-
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY			-
MANUFACTURING		0.87	-

BULLS	1.75	1.59	-
WEANER HEIFERS		2.18	-
BULLING HEIFERS		1.59	-
LONG WEANER HEIFERS		1.68	
COW & CALF	1.44		-
WEANER STEERS	1.30	1.57	-
LONG WEANER STEERS		1.47	-
FEEDER STEERS		1.56	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER STEERS			-
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS			-

NOTE NEW DATE
LUIPAARDSVLEI BRAHMANS
8th Annual Production Sale

AT MOUNT HAMPDEN SALE PEN
DATE: WEDNESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2010
TIME: 11AM

Offering:

27 Purebred Brahman Bulls
36 Brahman Breeding Females, including 7 females with calves at foot, as well as bulling heifers.
2 Teaser bulls and 3 Crossbred males
5 Dairy/Brahman Crossbred females

PLEASE NOTE \$1000.00 CASH DEPOSIT REQUIRED ON REGISTRATION

Sale Details/Catalogues:

CCSALES 04-252253-6
MARK HAYTER 0712-604623; 0772 286828
LORNA JOUBERT 0772 567142/4
DAWIE JOUBERT 0774 334554/lorna@bsatt.com

COMMENTS AND VIEWS

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