



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY FARMERS

NOVEMBER 1 - 2010

Dear Member, Stakeholder and Supplier

From the Chairman's Desk

Stock feed shortages seem to be worsening with hardly any bran being available locally. Imports seem to have slowed down too. Cotton cake and meal have also been in short supply but I am attending a meeting with ministry of Trade and industry to try and get resolution on the issue of exports. Please will all farmers try and attend the upcoming area meetings and training.

Proposed dates are as follows;

Monday 8th November 2pm Chipinge venue TBA
Tuesday 9th November 10am Mutare venue TBA
Wednesday 10th November 2pm Beatrice (Mash B) venue TBA
Thursday 11th November 10am Bulawayo venue TBA
Friday 12th November Gweru 10am Piet De Bruyn's Farm Ndembeni
Tuesday 16th November Mash A venue and time TBA

I have been involved in a series of meetings with CFU in an effort to restructure CFU so it can survive the dwindling membership and provide improved service to those that remain. I urge all farmers on or off the land to pay the revised membership fees as soon as possible. These were reduced to the original levels due to a cry from members so let's rally together to keep this important organization going. I really enjoyed the Small Scale Farmer of the Year presentations and thank Sue and Linda for all the work they have done in this sector. The rains are here so remember to step up your dipping before you see the ticks. Also ensure dip concentrations are correct to avoid ticks building up resistance. Early rains in some areas will enable some early land prep but don't plant yet unless you have irrigation. Please all look at what home grown feed you can produce it will do wonders to your viability. Forage sorghum seed is available from Coopers if you don't want to grow maize for silage. If growing crops is not an option at least manage your pasture to best advantage this rainy season.

Think ahead!

STABEX '95 VACCINE 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 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.

STABEX '95 MARKETING PROGRAMME

We have received the following report from Sue Bell and Linda Nielsen:

Last week 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 judges' 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!

RIFT VALLEY FEVER –

RIFT VALLEY FEVER – AN EXPENSIVE LESSON

(Enzootic Hepatitis)

Willie Botha: Special Projects Manager – Onderstepoort Biological Project (OBP)

The reason for the increased outbreak of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in South Africa in the summer months of 2009/2010 is quite clearly due to the fact that the farmers are not vaccinating their livestock against this disease. Because of this the livestock are affected by abortions and death. It is impossible to predict the seriousness of this disease. Nobody expected this outbreak to be so serious in South Africa.

Vaccinations cannot be used as a treatment against disease. They can only be used as a preventative which needs to be administered regularly. By vaccinating regularly, this will prevent further outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever. This will also give OBP more accurate information and a better chance to have the vaccine readily available for scheduled vaccinating periods. Clients in the high risk areas are encouraged to vaccinate their animals as soon as possible with the necessary vaccine. Should there be an outbreak, clients are advised to rather not vaccinate as by doing so it can cause the virus to spread like wild fire. The vaccination needle transmits the disease from a sick animal to a well animal. In the event of an outbreak, it is essential to use a clean needle for each animal.

OBP would like their clients to know that the live vaccine is available direct from themselves or from their local vet or cop's. OBP have got all relevant information available. Both the live (active) and dead (inactive) vaccine is available. It is preferable to vaccinate the livestock in the winter months to protect them against outbreaks in the summer months.

Additional information for livestock farmers

Rift Valley Fever is transmitted by mosquitoes (*aedes mosquitoes*). It mainly affects small livestock (sheep and goats) but also large livestock as well as game. It is very important to know that this disease can be transmitted to and from affected animals to humans. Man can get this directly or indirectly through the handling of infected blood and organs. This normally happens when an infected animal has been slaughtered, or when the infected animal aborts or gives birth. There is also evidence that milk that is not pasteurized and meat that is infected can carry this disease to man. Human beings also contract the disease through the bite of an infected mosquito. OBP advises farmers and livestock owners to use protective clothing and gloves and to also contact their nearest vet should they suspect an outbreak.

The virus can survive in mosquito eggs during the winter months. This virus can survive in the environment. As soon as the temperature changes after the winter and/or after the first rains, the mosquito eggs can hatch and those mosquitoes will already be carriers of the virus and thereby carry it to the animals as they feed on the animal's blood. Rift Valley Fever can be expected to break out early in the season. Animals that have been vaccinated can lose their immunity after a heavy infestation of round worm, hair worm and brown stomach worm when they lose large volumes of blood because of the infestation.

For further information, please contact Dr. Rachel Stewart at the NADF office or 0772 315 124.

NEC UPDATE

Labour Regulations Update

SI 155 of 2010

This month we have noted in the Government Gazette that the Collective Bargaining Agreements and Arbitral award applying to last year (2009) have been registered in terms of section 70 of the Labour Act and published as a Statutory Instrument (SI 155 of 2010).

General Agricultural Wages

The so called agreement of April 2010 applying to the General Agricultural Sector (imposing 7 months back pay) is yet to be registered by the Ministry and published in terms of the Labour Act. This agreement is invalid for the following reasons:

- This agreement was not ratified by the full National Employment Council as required by the NEC Constitution before being forwarded to Ministry for registration.
- Requests for minutes signed by the participants of the negotiations leading to the agreement have been ignored.
- In order for an agreement to be binding it must be registered in terms of the Labour Act.

The agreement is also very negative for the following reasons:

- Back payments in a multi currency environment are totally contrary to economic recovery and growth. No business can budget for this.
- Wage increases should have some reference to the size of our GDP, and the rate of our inflation. It is again contrary to economic growth and viability of agricultural production to have wage increase of 30 to 40% when inflation is less than 7%.

The problem is that NEC (who is supposed to be structured as an impartial umpire to resolve disputes, and facilitate negotiations, between employers and employees) has taken the position that the Agreement is valid and together with Workers representative Unions has created the expectation within Work forces that they are entitled to the back pay.

Agro and Horticulture Wages

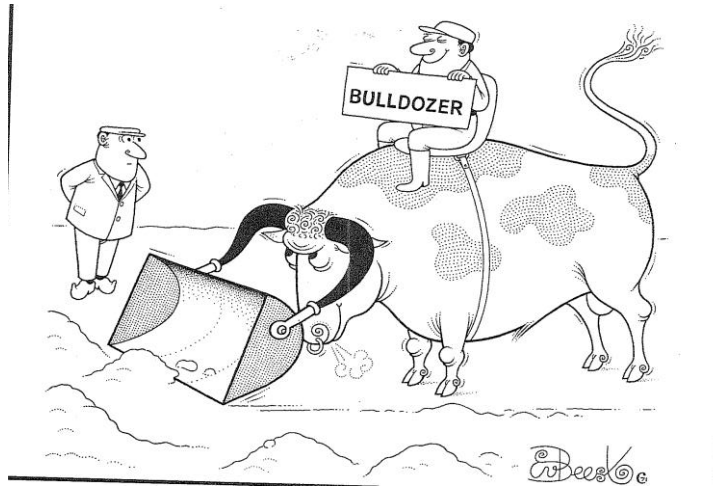
Likewise the so called agreement of June 2010 applying to the Agro and Horticulture sectors has many of the same features. This agreement has been challenged in the Courts by both the ALB and the HPC both members of the NEC. The matter is still *sub judicae*. Further to that the agreement has not been registered and published as a statutory instrument and was also not ratified by the full NEC culture. The agreement is therefore not binding on members.

Other General News

A meeting was held in early October between all the main employer organizations in the Agricultural Industry at the offices of HPC. Members are to please note the following resolutions of interest were adopted by the representatives present at that meeting:

- No new wage negotiations will be entertained until the outstanding issues have been adequately resolved. The Labour Act allows an agreement to continue after it has expired if there is no new agreement in its place.
- Wage negotiations and any resulting increases will be made in line with inflation.
- Back pay will not be entertained in a multi currency environment.

IS THE DAIRY INDUSTRY BEING BULLDOZED OVER?



**AJS KIRK
CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY FARMERS**