

CFU Calling

03 DECEMBER 2010

EXECUTIVE NEWS

The beginning of this month has seen the onset of the rains in earnest and although still scattered some good falls have been recorded across the country. The early crops that we have seen to date are looking good and we hope that the season continues to go well for the few of us who are still farming. On the other hand there have been reports of serious crop damage by hail in the Nyazura/Headlands and Karoi districts.

On Tuesday the 30th November the Commercial Farmers' Union's Extra General Meeting was held at our offices, which had been called for at our last CFU Congress in August, where the decision was taken to specifically look at the restructuring the Union so as to create a lean mean, effective and financially viable organization.

Our focus must now, and going into the future, be one of full representation for all within our sector regardless of their current status. We at the CFU firmly believe that we have a social responsibility to all and as a result there was a need to restructure the Union to make this possible.

The EGM saw the coming together of both farmers currently farming and farmers who no longer have that opportunity, due to having lost their farming businesses, debating and strategizing in an extremely positive manner. We thank all those who participated and we now feel that we have a real workable structure in place with which we can now service all, and we encourage everyone regardless of their current positions to come back on board.

In order to implement the decisions approved at the EGM certain necessary adjustments were also proposed and agreed to be made to our CFU Constitution, which also needed to be updated following many years of valuable service to the Union.

Although the proposals may only be officially ratified and implemented at and after next year's Congress respectively it was agreed to implement most of them immediately on a trial basis. This way they could be further refined before their official acceptance in August 2011.

Members attending the meeting were also briefed on the difficulties currently being experienced in our current financial position and how we propose to generate funding to keep the Union afloat bearing in mind that total reliance on our membership to continue to fund the Union is no longer possible.

Some exciting and realistic funding proposals were put forward, one of which was the introduction and official launching of The Discounters Club, membership of which will benefit both farmers and the members of the public with the opportunities to obtain varying discounts from an increasing number of participating businesses and retail outlets across the country.

In closing the successful EGM both President Deon Theron and Director Hendrik Olivier paid glowing tribute and sincere appreciation to "Kuda" Kudakwashe Ngoro who has tirelessly served the Union's members for over 20 years in many ways, but especially as Senior Economist to the Union. Kuda has resigned and in fact his last day was the day of the meeting. The President said that he was very sad to see him go but was pleased, for his sake that he will be taking up a senior position elsewhere which would significantly improve his personal wellbeing.

Our legal advisors are still busy with an intensive study on the rather disappointing judgment which was handed down last week in the Supreme Court so unfortunately we cannot sign our name to any official statement on the outcome at this stage. We hope to be in a position to do so by next week's edition.

Copies of the judgment have been distributed to all the legal practitioners and should anyone want a copy on email they should contact the Union as we are currently experiencing some difficulty in loading the long document onto the website. We hope to overcome this soon.

Despite last week's adverse ruling in the Supreme Court application for a moratorium by the Commercial Farmers' Union we have seen some positive rulings come out of the courts this week.

This week judgment was handed down in a case brought against a magistrate for the wrongful arrest of a farm manager. The result was that the magistrate was ordered to pay some US\$ 54 000 in a successful claim for damages. Earlier this year another successful claim was made against a policeman for similar charges and a similar amount was also awarded to the applicant.

In the mean time farmers should not shy away from defending themselves in the courts because despite the dramatic statements made in our Supreme Court judgment we are still finding some sympathy from other judges or magistrates who have remained courageous and impartial despite the alleged threats against them.

We also note the continued success of some of our farmers in the South African courts, which will ultimately be to all of our advantage. In this case the seizure of Zimbabwe Government assets (houses) in South Africa had been appealed against by our Government but which was turned down. It is understood that one more case will be brought before the South African Courts later this month and another is set down for early next year.

Remaining on the positive side we were pleased to read in the press about the arrest, trial and conviction of one member of a gang of highway robbers who had been preying on victims who stopped at lay-byes on the Masvingo – Beitbridge highway. Although this may be encouraging we should be aware that at least two members of the gang are still at large so we should still retain our vigilance when travelling on that portion of our national highway.

It seems that the press may not always be on the farmer's side as a Karoi farmer recently found out in an article printed in a national newspaper yesterday. It is alleged that the journalist approached the tobacco farmer to write a story about the hail damaged crop. The story printed in the paper turned out to contain numerous allegations of how farmers in that particular district were allegedly leasing farms from beneficiaries of the land acquisition programme.

Whilst we remain as purely a service organisation we are in no position to be a judge of how individuals are managing to continue farming but we have been reliably informed that the majority of those farmers who have been mentioned in the article have leased property from black commercial farmers who have title deeds.

We ourselves would be very interested to obtain information on the situation on most of the farms which are still being farmed by our farmers so that we could make a correct analysis and stop the rumours.

In the article, for example the farmer concerned is said to be one of five brothers, yet the truth is that he only has one brother.

The deadline for contributions to the Constitution debate is 8 December 2010, so if you have any points you wish to be included please send to marc@cfuzim.org He also has our proposed CFU contribution available which he would share with you upon request.

As we enter the month of December the festive season is now upon us and we at the Union would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

DISCOUNTER'S CLUB



The Discounters Club of Zimbabwe has been established in conjunction with the Commercial Farmers Union and had its official opening on the 30 November 2010. Its focus is to boost Zimbabwe's businesses through free advertising for the companies that have joined and will be joining in the future by providing a discount mechanism to the general public of Zimbabwe.

All companies that join will pass on a discount to any customer using a valid Discounters Club Card. The Discounters Club Card will have the name of the member, ID number and a card number for verification purposes. Signage indicating participation will be given to each member of the Discounters Club who offers discounts to card holders.

The Discounters Club has a wide range of companies (with more coming into the fold) offering discounted prices on their products and services to the discount card members. There are a wide range of companies ranging from: Retail; Spares & Hardware; Manufacturing; Gyms; Restaurants; Hair & Beauty Salons; Catering; Groceries; and many others.

The advantages to the companies that come onboard are: Guaranteed and regular free advertising through the AgriZim Magazine, in the yellow pages which goes out to 600 members at present and expanding, advertising through the CFU Classifieds with an email address list of over 4000 and growing and a broader customer base as word of the discounters club circulates. We are setting up a new Zim Discount Club Website which will reach many more people. Regular newsletters will keep the participating companies briefed as to the clubs growth. Companies can advertise this through their own websites if they so wish.

To the public who wish to become members, you will need to register through the CFU Office. Once you have registered, it will take 4 – 5 days to process the Discounters Club Card. The cost to the member is \$60.00 for 6mths or \$100 for the year. The potential saving to you is huge through the various discounts on offer, yet the potential to the companies are greater through a bigger, broader customer base.

If you are a BUSINESS or a CUSTOMER and are interested, join the club today. Don't miss this opportunity as we would love to welcome you on board. We look forward to your support.

Sign up today or contact:

Hendrik 0772 235 640
 June 0773 434 925
 Rich 0772 311 704
 Email discountersclub@cfuzim.org / dir@cfuzim.org

LABOUR UPDATE (from the desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson)

There are some significant developments with regard to Labour Affairs. Moves have been made to challenge the recent purported Collective Bargaining Agreements. Members will be equipped with copies of the relevant documents once these are available. Once again Members are advised to contact Tongai Marodza or Marc Carrie-Wilson if they are faced with problems or if they wish to receive full updates on Labour issues.

COMMODITY UPDATE

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 will also be 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

R6.90 to the USD

Local as at 03 December 2010 US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	Intergrain	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	275	270	N/A	250	250
Yellow Maize	275	270	N/A	250	250
Maize Bran	150	160		160	150
Soyabeans	300	500	N/A	450	480
Soyabean Meal		650			650
Wheat	466		440	440	440
					(imported)
Wheat Bran		145		(selling)	160
Groundnuts	450 (unshelled)		(shelled)	700 (shelled)	650 (shelled)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 5 November 2010

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1291	187	1451	210
Yellow Maize	1388	201	1548	224
Wheat	2662	386	2822	409
Soyabeans	3190	462	3350	486
Sunflowers	4820	699	4980	722

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne		Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	287		437
Maize	237		387
Soyabeans	487		637

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

Just a reminder that we have this scheme available

The below items are now available through the Radzim Agri-Power, CFU scheme. Please get hold of me at CFU rtaylor@cfuzim.org or contact Radzim directly: Sean Bell 0912 515 920; Keith Lowe 0912 515 919; Office 744 759, otherwise pop in to Radium Africa, 17 Pichanick Drive, Alex Park, Harare for a chat with Sean or Keith.

These prices include interest and insurance. You will be required to pay a 30% deposit and then equal monthly instalments. As security for these loans Radzim will require:

1. Personal Guarantees from the directors
2. Facility letter from their bankers and/or Tobacco company
3. For the 12 month deals, Radzim will require a pledge of title deed or by negotiation
4. CR14 (confirmation of directors), Certificate of Incorporation
5. Introduction letter by CFU and recommendation

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.

We have a 12mth facility for 2 x 40hp 4x4 tractors; 2 x 45hp 2x4 tractors and 2 x 45hp 4x4 tractors at present but are negotiating for more and bigger HP tractors. These are of Chinaman manufacture but based on the ford engine (\$ 12,000 each with a small admin fee. 25% deposit with 11 equal instalments). Please note that I will be away from Tuesday next week and will be back in the office on the 11th October. For details on these tractors for those who are interested please contact me on email rtaylor@cfuzim.org or phone 04 309862 / 0772 311 704

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

We are pleased to report that the Mash A Regional meeting held on December 1st 2010 in the NADF Committee Room was supported by enough farmers to form a quorum. It was a very informative and

interesting meeting and everyone was encouraged to spread the word to farmers in the area the importance of attending these regional meetings. Please look out for notifications of the January meetings as the constitution and changes to this will be discussed, so your input and attendance is vital.

STABEX '95 VACCINE PROGRAMME

Vaccine orders are still being processed and we urge all farmers to collect their VDA forms and vaccines from Fivet Animal Health as soon as possible.

PLEASE WILL ALL FARMERS NOTE THAT DUE TO CFU CLOSING FROM 20TH DECEMBER 2010 UNTIL 3RD JANUARY 2011 THE LAST DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF VACCINE APPLICATION FORMS UNDER THE VACCINE PROGRAMME WILL BE DECEMBER 10TH 2010 at 13:00 hour TO ENABLE THESE FORMS TO BE PROCESSED TIMEOUSLY PRIOR TO SHUT DOWN. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AND THIS IS THE FINAL DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF APPLICATIONS FOR VACCINES UNDER THE STABEX '95 VACCINE PROGRAMME.

NADF is circulating a form via e-mail for completion by those farmers who have benefited under the vaccine programme to enable us to try to evaluate the success of the programme. We will also have hard copies available at the office, so if you are dropping in to CFU, please could you fill one out. Hardcopies will also be given to ZFU and ZCFU for distribution. Your comments etc. will help us with our final reporting and data capture to the E.U. Please could you assist us by completing this form and returning it to NADF either to Debbie Mylroie at livestock@cfuzim.org or the Marilyn Taylor at livestock2@cfuzim.org This will also assist us with information as to whether we should seek funding for the vaccine project to be continued. Many thanks for your assistance and cooperation.

STABEX '95 MARKETING PROGRAMME

Sue Bell, Linda Nielsen and Hilda Musukutwa are in Bulawayo this week doing training. This will be reported on next week.

CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY CATTLE PRICES

GRADE	AVERAGES PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES		
	HARARE	GWERU	PLUMTREE
SUPER		2.00	
COMMERCIAL		1.92	
CHOICE		-	
ECONOMY		1.57	
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY		-	
MANUFACTURING		0.98	
BULLS		-	
WEANER HEIFERS		1.89	
BULLING HEIFERS		-	
LONG WEANER HEIFERS		1.49	
COW & CALF		-	
WEANER STEERS		1.75	
LONG WEANER STEERS		1.64	
FEEDER STEERS		1.89	
COMMERCIAL WEANER STEERS		-	
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS		-	
STANDARD MUTTON		-	

COMMENTS AND VIEWS

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