

# CFU Calling

28 JANUARY 2011

## EXECUTIVE NEWS

The weather is probably the most dominant feature of our news at the moment with water now flowing into the major storage dams around the country, a number of which are already spilling, as well as the flood-gates of Lake Kariba being opened last weekend in anticipation of excessive inflows into the lake from flooded rivers in its catchment area.

Whilst Harare has been behind in the volume of precipitation recorded so far this season it is welcome news to hear that in Matabeleland most of the storage dams which supply Bulawayo with water are already overflowing with Bulawayo already recording in the region of 800 mm of rainfall. Much of that excess water has already flooded the rivers running through the southern lowveld region.

When looking at the immediate outlook on the Internet, the northern part of the country have predictions of heavy rain this weekend. You can check for yourself on the suggested sites on our website, [www.cfuzim.org](http://www.cfuzim.org) under "Weather" on the sidebar.

When looking through the papers this week one can easily become depressed on the future of commercial farming in Zimbabwe. On one hand the odds appear to be stacked against us which is being dramatised in the increased propaganda currently being put out.

However, this is most certainly not the case and although there does appear to be a renewed onslaught against a few targeted remaining farmers in the name of 'indigenisation', it was certainly very encouraging to see how quickly the powers that be became involved in the jambanja of several properties and lake side tourist resorts in the Norton district. We therefore congratulate the Police for acting so swiftly and decisively.

There are many forces at play at the moment, but we are definitely getting help from some unexpected friends as well as our normal allies. We just need to continue to work together, united, and beware of rumours or expansions of the facts. We are still very confident that the road we are currently walking will eventually lead to success.

Our scheduled meeting of the minds with our learned friends, our somewhat overworked lawyers, has had to be rescheduled as unfortunately the chosen date was in conflict with many of their own schedules. Although those lawyers who arrived did take the opportunity to swap some useful ideas we do still need them all together to map out a way forward and come up with the best common strategy.

We are intentionally not commenting in public, on the outcome of our Supreme Court case, the judgment of which came out late last year. However, you are welcome to come in and discuss it with us or better still to work through your lawyer who is being kept well informed. The main advice is not to lose hope as we have been involved with similar tough situations before which we have been able to overcome.

The final judgment handed down in the SADC Tribunal two weeks ago in which a number of Zimbabwean torture victims were awarded in the region of a total of \$17 million damages against the Zimbabwe Government was extremely encouraging indeed and has set a very useful precedent. We however await the dispute over the SADC Tribunal to be amicably and swiftly resolved as well as the appointment of further judges to fill the requisite numbers of the panel.

Whether or not the Zimbabwe Courts will allow registration of the above judgment remains to be seen, but whichever way it turns out will be yet another test, on record, of the independence of our current judiciary. Regardless, we most certainly have not written off further use of the SADC Tribunal, especially in the continuation of the Campbell case with regard to the compensation which was ordered for three of the interveners.

Last week there were fuel queues developing all around the country as many fuel stations had run dry of fuel, especially diesel. However, this week the situation appears to have got back to normal, albeit with approximately only 48 hours of fuel to meet the national demand at any one time.

It is understood that undisclosed measures are taking place to ensure stability in the fuel supply chain in Zimbabwe, success of which should be announced shortly. There is concern of how quickly some suppliers raised the price on the commodity, whilst in short supply but it is encouraging to note the current downward trend in the prices again.

On the ground we are seeing a few farmers being pressurised, especially in cases where the new beneficiary is of political high profile. Otherwise the situation is relatively quiet, but we urge you to report any disruption to our offices, in particular via email on [mashc@cfuzim.org](mailto:mashc@cfuzim.org)

Should you be experiencing problems on the property affecting the welfare of animals, be it pets, livestock or wildlife please do not hesitate to contact us or else contact Meryl Harrison on the below contact details:

**VAWZ** – Veterinarians For Animal Welfare Zimbabwe  
18 Borrowdale Road  
P/Bag BW 6238  
Borrowdale  
Harare

0774 168 218  
0772 308 234  
04 253 185/7 (ask for VAWZ)

### **Fertiliser Scheme**

The Union is currently in discussion with a fertiliser companies to negotiate the best deal for the farmers.

To enable further discussions next week it would be appreciated if we could have an indication from farmers on what their requirements are for the forthcoming winter season and next summer cropping season.

Please forward the following details to Neil Wright on [nw@cfuzim.org](mailto:nw@cfuzim.org) :

- Farm name
- Contact details
- Fertiliser requirements

### **Labour Affairs Bulletin**

We have been advised by our umbrella employer's representative organisation the Agricultural Labour Bureau (ALB) of a number of key points as follows:

#### **NEC Dues SI 101 of 2010**

The ALB have instructed their lawyers to take action against the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) formulated and later published as a statutory instrument 101 of 2010. This will mean the dispute over the NEC dues will be placed before the Labour Court for its determination. Until this case is finalised the ALB have advised that members continue to not remit dues to the NEC. If members are deducting NEC dues from their employees they should ensure that these amounts are kept aside and properly accounted for and if possible deposited into special accounts or with their legal representatives.

We understand that the NEC will attempt to make reports to the Zimbabwe Republic Police of Contraventions of section of the Labour Act which is a criminal offence. However, the reasons for not adhering to the CBA of are *bona fide* and further this matter will be *sub judicæ* before the Labour Court. It is therefore improper for a docket to be opened against an employer until the Labour Court determines the dispute and unlikely to be the case.

#### **Legally Binding Nature of Collective Bargaining Agreements**

The position as to wages is clear in terms of section 79 and 80 of the Labour Act CBA are only legally binding once they have been registered and published as a Statutory Instrument. The

Statutory wages set are to be found in SI 12 of 2010 (US \$32) and SI 155 of 2010 (US \$ 50) for the General Agriculture and Agro and Horticulture sectors respectively.

**It is the employer's discretion to implement an agreement that has not been registered or to implement when it is registered with back pay. BACK PAY IS YOUR DISCRETION.**

Any Trade Union official, Workers committee member NEC designated Agent of Labour Officer who incites an illegal strike is guilty of a criminal offence in terms of section 109 of the Labour Act and is further personally liable for the pure economic loss you may suffer as a result of the strike.

If members have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us. Inform yourself of your rights as employers and insist that any allegations or complaints by Trade Union officials or designated Agents are placed in writing so that they can be properly considered and responded to.

The dates and days of the week of our monthly **Open Farmers' Meeting** to be held at Agriculture House have been changed when we developed our schedules for meetings to be held in the coming year. The new schedule is on the website and it should be noted that the meetings are scheduled to be held on **Wednesdays at 2.30 pm**, instead of Tuesdays. They are also not necessarily on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month as they were previously held.

The dates for the next few months are as follows;

**9 February 2011**

**9 March 2011**

**6 April 2011**

**11 May 2011**

**8 June 2011**

**6 July 2011**

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

Have you ever heard the expression PBZ. I heard it for the first time yesterday and was impressed. Put simply it means "Plan B to Z" i.e. what you do when the first option, namely plan "A" fails. I have often heard of Plans "B" and "C" or even "D" but realise that our options are invariably only stifled by our ingenuity. Farmers have long utilized this facility and we in our changed circumstances continue to explore options to find a way forward. We receive correspondence from people with a wide variety of ideas... perhaps you have one that can stimulate dialogue... please share it.

Yesterday a group from the CFU visited Foundations for Farming and met with Brian Oldrieve and his team. We will soon be embarking on a mentoring process for farmers interested in extension work in conjunction with their team. In due course it will also result in the development of demonstration plots at in the grounds of Agriculture House. I was struck by the quality of crops that we saw there and realise that the upheavals we have faced over the last ten or so years in the farming sector have also occurred at a time when many would have been involved in a substantial shift in the way that we farmed and the paradigm of chemicals and the like. I suspect as the country explores recovery this will involve many fresh technologies pioneered by Brian and his team. If you are interested in the planned program please contact us at ARAC and we will keep you posted.

I will be out of office for the next couple of weeks and hope to engage with a number of stake holders in the UK. In my absence I have asked Wynand Hart to send out a few notes on the documentation work that he is coordinating at present. We believe that it will be helpful in due course, initially to assist others who have already completed Loss Claim Documents to standardise these, but in addition much useful information can also be gained in verifying disturbance losses which will assist the overall compensation issue. I guess the fundamentals that Foundations for Farming use, namely:

1. On time ,
2. To a high standard,
3. With minimum wastage,

#### 4. Do it with Joy!

apply equally to all that we endeavour and certainly this paradigm is being applied to the work on compensation and consequential losses that we are doing.

Some of you may be aware that John Laurie who has been so instrumental in furthering the Valcon process has been in Cape Town for emergency medical treatment. We have been advised that he will be out of hospital in a day or so. We wish him a speedy recovery and thank him for the considerable effort he has put in on all our behalves.

### COMMODITIES

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

Please note that Intergrain, Staywell and Croplink prices reflect last week's price as I have been unable to contact them to get updated commodity prices.

Local as at 28 January 2011 R7.07 - US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	Intergrain	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	275	267	270	290	270
Yellow Maize	275	267		290	270
Maize Bran	150	165			165
Soyabeans	300	700	580	730	640
Soyabean Meal		720			750
Wheat	466		440@30 Days 400@7 Days	460	440  (imported)
Wheat Bran		145		(selling)	165
Groundnuts	450 (unshelled)		(shelled)	700 (shelled)	650 (shelled)

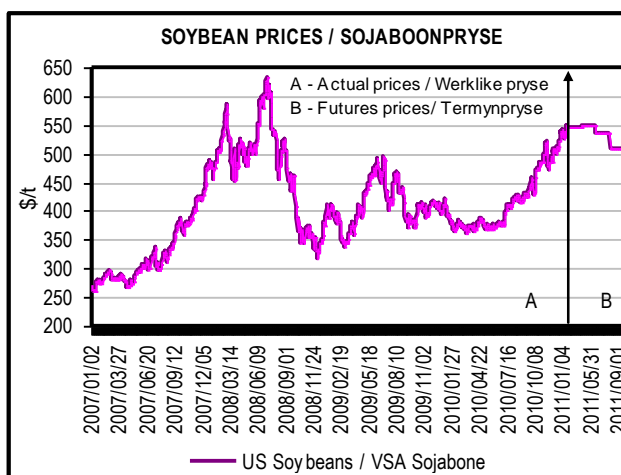
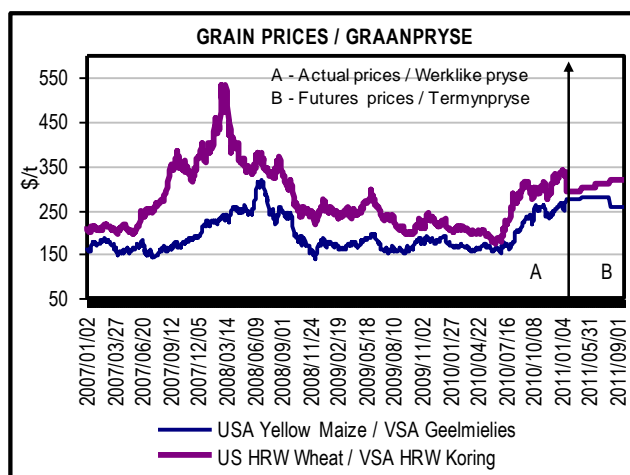
South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 21 January 2011

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1409	199	1569	222
Yellow Maize	1522	215	1682	238
Wheat	3070	434	3230	457
Soyabeans	3985	564	4145	586
Sunflowers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	351			501
Maize	276			426
Soyabeans	543			693

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)



## **BUSINESS SECTION (from the desk of Richard Taylor)**

**The Zambezi Trader** is currently the largest ship on Zimbabwe Waters. She has carried up to 170 people on a day cruise and has a cabin capacity of 52 people. The cabins range from 16 x Twin cabins, 2 x 4 sleeper bunk cabins, 4 x Double suites, 1 x King suite and 1 x Honeymoon suite. All cabins, dining room, conference and games rooms are air conditioned.

### **Win a trip for two nights at Kariba on the Zambezi Trader:**

Winner will receive 2 nights free whole ship use for up to 44pax. Including everything except drinks (cash bar) cruising up to Elephant Point. Departing Marineland on Sat 30th April and returning Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 12h00 (long weekend Workers day 1<sup>st</sup> May).

For more info on how to enter contact Richard Taylor @ 309862, cell 0772 311 704 or email

The below items are now available through the Radzim Agri-Power, CFU scheme. Please get hold of me at CFU [rtaylor@cfuzim.org](mailto: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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Price US\$</b>	<b>Months</b>
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.

## **COMMENTS AND VIEWS**

Please let us know your comments and views on items contained within this issue or any other issues of CFU Calling by sending an email to us on [dir@cfuzim.org](mailto:dir@cfuzim.org)Disclaimer: This email and files transmitted with it contain confidential and privileged information and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please -- do not read, disseminate, distribute, copy or take action in reliance on this email and- delete it immediately and arrange for the deletion thereof on your server, and- notify the administrator immediately. Any unauthorised, use duplication or interception of this e-mail or any files transmitted with it is expressly and strictly prohibited. No representation, guarantee or undertaking (expressed or implied) is made or given- As to the

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