

CFU Calling

18 MARCH 2011

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Wouldn't it be nice if life just evolved around the exciting DSTV sports channels, with not a worry in the world and you were just able to concentrate on the performance of your favourite teams, and hoping that they will win either their game or the series?

For those who have been lucky enough to spend some time watching their favourite teams play they would have also been able to watch firsthand the incredible coverage of the recent tragic events of the natural disasters which occurred in both New Zealand and Japan. Our hearts really go out to those victims of those terrible earthquakes or tsunamis and subsequent loss of absolutely everything they have worked for and built up in their whole lives. Our prayers are certainly with them all, especially with damaged nuclear reactors and the possibility of a serious nuclear threat on top of everything else. The mind just boggles just thinking about how each individual family has been affected and how long it would be before their life will get back to normal.

Although only the coastal areas were affected by the tsunami, from what we saw on the news, there was huge damage inflicted to their agricultural industry as well. Hopefully the interior of the country would be able to produce sufficient food later this year to overcome the serious loss of productive farm land. This is yet another agricultural disaster which has beset the world's agricultural production this year.

We continue with our efforts to come up with an amicable resolution to this disaster which has struck the agricultural industry in Zimbabwe.

Back here in Zimbabwe what we are finding at the moment is that the disruptions, threats, prosecutions and insecurity to farming operations are continuing, although not as much as before, obviously because there are only a very few farmers left out there who are still able to produce. However, the threat continues and of concern at the moment is that a larger number of the threats to acquire property and agricultural business is being brought in the form of indigenisation by forcing new partners. This is particularly prevalent in the surviving conservancies, which have a fairly high percentage of their owners falling under international Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements.

However, we have not given up and we are determined to keep pushing the Way Forward proposal as hard as we can and at the same time to look for more avenues to assist those who are still on the ground financially. We already have a number of schemes already in place and we are constantly looking for, and developing more. You can find out more by contacting Richard Taylor of our newly formed Business section. We fully recognise that the biggest threat to current farmers, apart from the security of tenure, is the rising cost of production, which is where we are making efforts to assist farmers to combat this where ever we possibly can.

Fertiliser and Crop Chemicals

Your Union has, this week met with representatives from Windmill (Pvt) Ltd to work on a pricing structure as well as to make available terms of credit for both fertiliser and crop chemicals for farmers. Details of the scheme will be released to farmers once they are concluded.

Should anyone be interested in taking advantage of this they should send details of their cropping programme as well as fertiliser and chemical requirements to Neil Wright on nw@cfuzim.org

Lowveld Trading, Chipinge

Should any farmers be using the premises of Lowveld Trading in Chipinge for storage purposes please be advised that their possessions should be removed from the premises as soon as possible. This is extremely urgent and those involved should please phone 0772 206 901 or 0772 551 635.

Telephones

People telephoning the Union using **309800** have been experiencing problems getting through at the moment. We have found that it is far better for people to use **309811/20** and they should find they will get through much easier.

Information

There is still the need for your assistance to slot together all the information on farm invasions and disruptions like a jigsaw puzzle to make the recording exercise accurate, credible and worthwhile. Any information, including court dates, should please be sent in to Mike Clark at the Union or mashc@cfuzim.org Every little scrap of information will be very useful.

Accommodation

Every now and again there are still farmers being violently evicted from their properties and we need to be in a position to identify **suitable accommodation** for them as soon as possible. Harare seems to be the destination of choice due to the medical facilities but the very high rentals are generally out of reach of many of the farmers whose income has been severely curtailed over the last few years.

Please let us know, through ARAC of any suitable properties which may be available immediately and affordable by affected farmers and their families.

The dates for the **Open Farmers' Meeting** to be held at your Union's offices in Harare, for next few months, to which all farmers are welcome, all of which start at **2.30 pm** in the afternoon are as follows;

6 April 2011

11 May 2011

8 June 2011

6 July 2011

Please remember that our doors at your Union are always open for you to come in and discuss your situation with us and we also encourage you to come and present to us any suggestions or solutions you may have.

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UPDATE ON ZETDC – THE FORMATION OF WHEAT FARMING CLUSTERS

(From the desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson)

This is a must read for those farmers who are considering growing a crop which will require irrigation in the coming winter season. Once again I interrupt the series of articles on viability challenges to give an important update on electricity supply.

Today the President and I were invited to a meeting at ZESA head office to discuss the modalities of ensuring a guaranteed and reliable supply of electricity to farmers in the coming winter season. In order to ensure that you are supplied with guaranteed electricity we need to compile a list which indicates the following:

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	FARM NAME	CUSTOMER NAME/NAME OF FARMER	PROPOSED NUMBER OF HECTARES UNDER IRRIGATION BY CROP
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This list must be submitted to ZETDC by no later than Monday the 28th of March in order to plan for prioritised grids.

Other issues discussed were as following:

Bill Payments and payment arrears:

The General Manger of ZETDC reported that from the Mashonaland provinces alone there are outstanding bills in respect of the Commercial Farming areas amounted to about 40 million dollars. We agree with the GM that it is outrageous that ZETDC be expected to continue to supply electricity when however we stress that where there are reasonable unresolved disputes over estimates etc there must be substantial negotiation.

Demand Side Management:

Members are encouraged to take all measures necessary to conserve electricity (when it is supplied of course). The use of energy saving bulbs is encouraged and management of large appliances such as heaters, pool pumps and geysers.

Electricity Safety:

We will be liaising with ZETDC to provide safety briefings in the future. Please ensure any electrical wiring is done according to the minimum safety standards. In the event of a fault or downed cables please make a report as soon as possible.

Theft and Vandalisation:

This is an enormous problem. Reports of this to ZETDC should be made as promptly as possible. ZETDC is encouraging that farmers place guards on transformers and where possible set up neighbourhood watch schemes to protect electricity lines.

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

We have no doubt that many of our members are experiencing pressure from the NEC to remit dues to them. This article is intended to update members on this issue.

To recap SI 101 of 2010 published in June 2010 sets out a purported Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA") which was concluded in February 2009. It sets the dues payable to NEC as 1 USD deducted from each employee matched by a further 1 USD paid by the employer for each employee.

In terms of the Labour Act a CBA becomes binding when it is registered and published as a SI by the Registrar of Labour, so in this case this was in June 2010. The Act further provides that it is a criminal offence to not abide by the terms of a legally binding CBA.

However, acting on direction from the ALB we have advised all members to keep these dues aside until the conclusion of a legal challenge instituted in the Labour Court. The reasons for this are that there are allegations which have come to our attention of very gross breaches of the financial and other provisions of the NEC Constitution by the NEC and its secretariat as follows:

- The NEC has not produced an audited set of accounts for the past five years. (This is in violation of Article 24(2) of its Constitution).
- The NEC has regularly not had an annual budget ratified by the full Council, or if so, not all the Councillors were invited to attend the meeting where such ratification took place, nor have they had sight of such budget. (This is in violation of Article 22(2) of the NEC Constitution).
- The NEC has not recorded proper and accurate minutes of all the meetings of the council or the Collective Bargaining Processes. (Contravening Article 19 of the NEC Constitution).
- No proper notice of meetings of the NEC is sent to all NEC Councillors. (See Article 16 (4) of the NEC Constitution).
- CBAs concluded at subcommittee level are not ratified by the full Council of the NEC before being forwarded to the Ministry of Labour for Registration. (See Article 13(1) of the NEC Constitution).

A1	32.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00
A2	34.56	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52	47.52
A3	37.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32	51.32
B1	40.31	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43	55.43
B2	43.54	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87	59.87
B3	47.02	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65	64.65
B4	50.78	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82	69.82
B5	54.84	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40	75.40
C1	59.23	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44	81.44
C2	63.97	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96	87.96

Allowances for all sectors

Allowance	Effective 1 st February, 2009
Transport	Actual cost to be paid by employer
Accommodation	US\$4,00
Fuel	US\$1.5
Light	US\$2,00

Exemptions

An employer can apply to the National Employment Council within 14 days for an exemption from paying wages as set up in the above schedule, stating the reasons why that application should be considered.

Declaration

The employers and the trade Unions, having arrived at the agreement set forth herein, the undersigned officers of the Council hereby declare the foregoing is the agreement arrived at, and affix their signatures hereto.

Signed at Harare this Friday, 16th April, 2010.

.....
M. MUNYANYI,
*Chairman Employees
Representative*

.....
D. H. CHIMBWANDA
*Chairman Employers
Representative*

.....
S. JERERA,
General Secretary – NEC Agriculture

*Supplement to the Zimbabwean Government Gazette dated 4th March, 2011.
Printed by the Government Printer, Harare.*

Statutory Instrument 24 of 2011

[Cap. 28:01]

Collective Bargaining Agreement: Agricultural Industry

IT is hereby notified that the Collective Bargaining Agreement set out in the Schedule, which amends the agreement published in Statutory Instrument 323 of 1993, has been registered in terms of section 79 of the Labour Relations Act [Chapter 28:01].

SCHEDULE

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY OF ZIMBABWE

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT: AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY (WAGES FOR THE TIMBER SECTOR EFFECTIVE 1 SEPTEMBER 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2010)

Made and entered in accordance with the provisions of the Labour Relations Act [*Chapter 28:01*], between the Zimbabwe Agricultural Employers Organisation, Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers' Union, Zimbabwe Farmers' Union as the one part, and the General Agricultural and Plantation Worker's Union of Zimbabwe (hereinafter referred to as "the employees" or "trade union") and Horticultural General Agricultural Plantation Workers' Union of Zimbabwe as the other part, being parties to the National Employment Council for the Agricultural Industry to amend the principal agreement Statutory Instrument 323 of 1993.

Wages/salary increases

NOW, THEREFORE, it is recorded that the awarded new minimum wages for the Timber Sector in the Agricultural Industry of Zimbabwe as provided for in Statutory Instrument 323 of 1993 shall be as follows:

The NEC Agriculture comprising the social parties that is GAPWUZ, HGAPWUZ, on the one side and ZAEO, ZCFU and ZFU on the other, have agreed on wages of the Timber Sector effective 1st September, 2009 to 30th September, 2010 as follows:

TIMBER SECTOR	AUG 2009	SEP 2009	OCT 2009	NOV 2009	DEC 2009	JAN 2010	FEB 2010	MAR 2010	APR 2010	MAY 2010	JUNE 2010	JULY 2010	AUG 2010	SEPT 2010
GRADE	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
A1	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	87.00	87.00	87.00	87.00
A2	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	81.00	93.96	93.96	93.96	93.96
A3	87.48	87.48	87.48	87.48	87.48	87.48	87.48	87.48	87.48	87.48	101.48	101.48	101.48	101.48
B1	94.48	94.48	94.48	94.48	94.48	94.48	94.48	04.48	94.48	94.48	109.60	109.60	109.60	109.60
B2	102.04	102.04	102.04	102.04	102.04	102.04	102.04	102.04	102.04	102.04	118.37	118.37	118.37	118.37
B3	110.20	110.20	110.20	110.20	110.20	110.20	110.20	110.20	110.20	110.20	127.83	127.83	127.83	127.83
B4	119.02	119.02	119.02	119.02	119.02	119.02	119.02	119.02	119.02	119.02	138.06	138.06	138.06	138.06
B5	128.54	128.54	128.54	128.54	128.54	128.54	128.54	128.54	128.54	128.54	149.11	149.11	149.11	149.11
C1	138.82	138.82	138.82	138.82	138.82	138.82	138.82	138.82	138.82	138.82	161.03	161.03	161.03	161.03
C2	149.02	149.02	149.02	149.02	149.02	149.02	159.02	149.02	149.02	149.02	172.86	172.86	172.86	172.86

Exemptions

An employer can apply to the National Employment Council within 14 days for an exemption from paying wages as set up in the above schedule, stating the reasons why that application should be considered.

Declaration

The employers and the trade Unions, having arrived at the agreement set forth herein, the undersigned officers of the Council hereby declare the foregoing is the agreement arrived at, and affix their signatures hereto.

Signed at Harare this Tuesday, 2nd November, 2010.

.....
M. MUNYANYI,
*Chairman Employees
Representative*

.....
D. H. CHIMBWANDA
*Chairman Employers
Representative*

.....
S. JERERA,
General Secretary – NEC Agriculture

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

Local as at 18 March 2011 R6.89 - US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	Intergrain	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	275	N/A	280	250	N/A
Yellow Maize	275		280	250	
Maize Bran	150			160	
Soyabeans	300		460	450	
Soyabean Meal				700	
Wheat	466		440@30 Days 400@7 Days	500	440 (imported)
Wheat Bran		155		(130 Buy)	170
Groundnuts	470 (unshelled)		(shelled)	900 (shelled)	(shelled)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 9 March 2011

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1559	226	1719	249
Yellow Maize	1618	235	1778	258
Wheat	3109	451	3269	474
Soyabeans	3510	509	3670	533
Sunflowers	4340	630	4500	653

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	349			499
Maize	307			457
Soyabeans	530			680

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

As can be seen the Soya bean price has dropped dramatically. Why, simply because the Zim crop is starting to become available. If I was a farmer and had the capacity to store his/her crop, I would and then play the market, as these prices will increase with demand. There is probably only between 25,000 and 40,000 tonne's of beans that have been produced this year. This will not go far before the traders will need to import again thus driving prices higher.

I did ask last week if any farmers would be interested in growing wheat this winter to contact me as there is a finance package available. CFU are in negotiations with ZESA to try extract a guarantee that there will be uninterrupted power to wheat producers. We will keep you updated. Still needing ZINWA to reduce their water charges to a realist charge (\$2/mega ltr would be good)

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH TRUST

Open Day Wednesday 23 March 2011 - 9am for 9.30am

A.R.T. has pleasure inviting all farmers and interested members of the trade to our Summer 2011 Open Day. Numerous variety trials on different major food crops being conducted can be viewed. Short field presentations will be made by seed house representatives and A.R.T. staff.

Regrettably no schools or colleges, please

Calgary Close off Alpes Road (Teviotdale Ext) opp Wingate Golf Club
Telephone: 2930401 Email: artres@mweb.co.zw

So chaps, lets support this open day. It will be good to catch up with farmers from their respective regions.

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

We now have just over 200 companies as partners offering varying discounts with more and more companies interested and joining. If you are interested in joining the discounters club as a member and benefit from these discounts then please come on board. Should you wish to see the list of the companies that are partners and offering discounts then contact us and we can email the list to you. Negotiations continue with some of the supermarkets, with Ballantyne Spar having joined as a partner offering pensioner's who hold a discount card 5% discount. So ladies and gents, this discount card would be a great gift for those who have parents or mates who are of the pensioner's age.

We have recently employed a young lady to assist in getting systems etc for the discounters club up and running smoothly, in order that partners and discount cardholder members are kept up to date with developments within the club. We have contracted a number of other ladies who are visiting companies and sweet talking them into joining as a partner. Their other duties involve convincing potential customers of the benefits to becoming cardholder members, along with selling advertising space in the AgriZim magazine. We now have Billy's Meats on board with Supreme Butchery and Surf & Turf coming on board as of April.

A comment from a happy partner: "Hi this is Coconut Joe, I had my first discount member from the Sabi Valley yesterday. Her discount came to \$72 so they were extremely chuffed". So for all those who think the concept of the discounters club is a good one, the above statement says it all. Stop sitting on the fence, contact us and get your discounter membership card asap.

Check the list of discount partners on www.discountersclub.com

Subscription to become a discounters cardholder is only \$5 per month (\$60/yr) so join now.

For more info on the discounters club, contact myself rich@discountersclub.com or Robyn robyn@discountersclub.com

The AgriZim Magazine grows from strength the strength and has improved every month. The March edition is out and looks to have surpassed all other editions. So if you are a member and in town pop in too see us and collect a magazine. Once you have read this please send us your comments as we need these to help improve the content and quality of this magazine. If you have an agribusiness that is interested in advertising in the magazine, please contact me. We have also started an editor's letters page, so please send in your letters or comments to "Editor in Chief" email address agrizimb@gmail.com



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY
FARMERS

MARCH 5 - 2011

Dear Member, Stakeholder and Supplier,

People telephoning the Union using 309800 have been experiencing problems getting through at the moment. We have found that it is far better for people to use 309811/20 and they should find they will get through much easier.

Farmers are reminded that Regional Meetings are as follows :

- Mutare : Tuesday 29th March 2011 Mutare Club at 10.00a.m.
- Chipinge : Monday 28th March 2011 at 10.00a.m. and the venue is likely to be the Polo Cross Club
but this will be confirmed. Should you have any queries, please contact the Regional Chairlady, Mrs Elaine Leach
- Mash A : Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at CFU Harare – NADF Committee Room at 9.30a.m.
- Mash B : Wednesday 6th April 2011 Beatrice Club at 10.00a.m.
- Midlands : Wednesday 30th March 2011 – CFU Offices Gweru at 10.00a.m.
- Matabeleland : Thursday 31st March 2011 Members Pavilion – ZTIF Showgrounds at 9.00am for 9.30a.m.

I confirm that I will be attending the Chipinge, Mutare, Gweru and Bulawayo meetings together with Rob Van Vuuren and Dr Rachel Stewart. We rely on Regional Chairmen to keep us advised of topics to be discussed at these meetings, so if you have any concerns that you would like addressed, please speak to your Regional Chairman.

We look forward to well attended meetings and sharing information to help members to become more viable.

Milborrow advise that they have only just had their new telephone numbers connected, and ask you to record them. They are all [04]: 663 226, 663 232, 667 454, 667 460 and the Fax is 666 885.

Their e-mail address remains the same i.e. gg@milborrow.co.zw.

Their new physical address is:

33 Craster Road, [cnr. Manchester Road]
Southerton,
Harare

FEED PRICES

PRICES ARE IN US\$	Agrifoods	Croplink	Ice Feeds	Surface Investments	Olivine Harare	United Refineries Bulawayo
Cotton Cake		\$220	\$220	-		-
Cotton Seed Meal		\$410	\$390	\$390/t -3000t for March & April 2011	\$410 when available	38% protein 365 & 28% protein \$280
Whole Cotton		\$220	-	-		
Cotton Hulls		-	\$30	\$30/t – unlimited	\$30/t and is available	60
Soya Bean Meal		\$740	\$950	\$800/t – 1600t	\$680 when available	Out of stock
Wheat Bran		\$155	\$160	-		-
Maize Bran		\$155	\$160	-		-
Coarse Salt		\$70	\$170	-		-

Sunflower Meal		\$220	\$180	-		-
Molasses		-	\$130	-		-
NOTES						

LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

We have in stock and available at our offices at present :

Animal Foods of Central Africa Technical Handbook @ US\$10,00 each

Stock Registers @ US\$5,00 each

Dairy Milk Records of Individual Cows for One Month Register @ US\$5,00 each

Recommended Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practices @ \$2.00 each

Dairy Handbooks @ US\$40,00 each

Cattle Producers' Association Beef Production Manual @ US\$40,00 each

Go Green Mastitis Mint @ \$10.00 per bottle

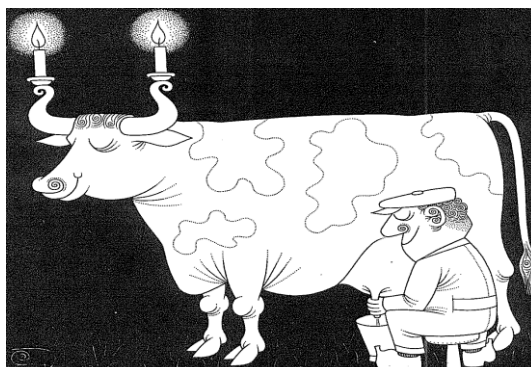
Should you be interested in purchasing any of the above items, please call at Commercial Farmers Union.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY FARMERS

STOCK FEED COMPANY DETAILS

COMPANY	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Agrifoods	procurement@agrifoods.co.zw	756101 – 5 or 0772 726 902
Crop Link	bridget@croplink.co.zw or royo@croplink.co.zw	443258-60 or 490818/9/0
Ice Feed	icefeed@zol.co.zw	2921137 or 0773 273 399
Olivine Harare	jmushangari@olivine.co.zw	369390/1/2/4
Surface Investments	mauricechinyani@gmail.com	0712 875 800 or 0774 640 794
United Refineries Bulawayo	hcharumbira@url.co.zw	



ARE YOU COPING WITH ZESA OUTAGES?

Yours faithfully
A KIRK
Chairman
National Association of Dairy Farmers

ARAC UPDATE #518/03/11

Dear Farmer,

We have been fairly busy of late and at the same time there has not been a lot to report on the ARAC side. There are a number of issues that will nonetheless be of interest to you.

1. The Union council restructuring has got underway and significantly there is now a specific compensation sub-committee of council headed by VP Charles Taffs. This committee has both regional representation and includes ARAC committee members. People with particular expertise will be called in as necessary and this will include regular close contact with VALCON.
2. It has come to our notice that there are significant numbers of farmers who have shareholdings in farming related companies and whilst the interests might be small in many instances companies don't have current contact details. If you are one of these and you would like us to follow up please give us your details.
3. We recognise that for those people who are still farming in very difficult circumstances our emphasis on compensation may seem to undermine their day to day issues. We are focused on a solution that will bring a future to all farmers and not exclusively on compensation.

Preliminary Notice of ARAC Annual General Meeting.

This is a preliminary notice for the ARAC AGM to be held in conjunction with the Open Farmers' Meeting on Wednesday 11th May 2011 at 2.30pm at CFU, Agriculture House, Marlborough Drive/Adylinn Rd, Marlborough, Harare.

Best regards,
Ben Giplin

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 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 confidentiality or security of the e-mail system' or as to the accuracy of the information in this email and any files transmitted with it is virus-free. No responsibility or liability is accepted for: the proper, complete transmission of the information contained in this email or any files transmitted with it or any delay in its receipt; or rising from or as a result of the use of or reliance on the content of this email or any files transmitted with it. Any views expressed in this email or any files transmitted with it are not necessarily the views of the Commercial Farmers' Union. Queries regarding this email or any files transmitted with it should be directed to dir@cfuzim.org. This disclaimer forms part of the content of this e-mail for purposes of section 11 of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 2002 (Act No. 25 of 2002).

