

CFU Calling

29 APRIL 2011

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Today's bulletin will also be a bit shorter because a number of the staff have taken advantage of the recent spate of public holidays, which fall in with the school holidays, but they will all be back at work on Tuesday.

Further to this, today the remainder of the staff have joined representatives of our membership at an important consultative workshop to map out the practicalities of the formation of joint commodity associations together with other farming organisations in Zimbabwe. In fact this first meeting will have an historical impact on the future of the entire agricultural industry in Zimbabwe, which is extremely exciting indeed. First and foremost the CFU is an agricultural organisation and we truly believe that this inaugural meeting is the most favourable and advantageous way in which we can get agriculture back on track by working in unison with all Zimbabwean farmers.

We will keep you informed on how the new system will operate and believe that now is the time for those of you out there who have been sitting on the sidelines, for reasons which we fully understand, to come back into your Union and to take an active part of the reunification of agriculture and the rebuilding of Zimbabwean agriculture to the giant it once was. However, it goes without saying that this cannot be achieved overnight as it will be one step at a time with this current initial step being one of the most important steps which we hope will lead to a resolution of the logjam.

We have to move forward and your Union is working hard to make this possible even under the current difficult environment. Behind the scenes a huge amount of work is being done and constant negotiations are taking place to locate and obtain better deals for the purchase of agricultural inputs as well as capital equipment. With the lack of any recognised collateral we are currently working our way around this with agricultural suppliers and banks in an effort to alleviate the lack of short-term crop finance in the market or to make it available at lower interest rates.

Although we are extremely busy at the office, please remember that our doors are always open to listen to your ideas or advice and to answer any queries you may have.

You are probably wondering why there are an increased number of power cuts over the last few days. We note that ZESA has put an advertisement in today's newspaper stating that Kariba Power Station is undergoing, quote; "its mandatory routine annual maintenance to ensure the continued operational efficiency of that generating asset. The scheduled maintenance will commence on Wednesday 27 April 2011 and be completed by Sunday 8 May 2011. During this period, a total of 250MW will be lost to the national grid."

Several court cases for the continued prosecution of farmers under the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act were heard this last week, despite the reported renewed strike of the magistrates around the country, who are apparently appealing for more suitable remuneration. Although most of the cases were again remanded one case was given a final judgment of an eviction of an elderly lady from a smallholding on the outskirts of a town, on which she had built her retirement home. She has appealed, but this brings to a total of 29 farmers who have been evicted from their farms through the courts and another 193 or so have cases still pending in the courts.

The numbers of prosecutions is rather obscure because many farmers are still failing to report court cases and disruptions/incidents to the Union. It is important that we have the correct information at our finger tips as well as detailed information of incidents which occurred between 2000 and 2011. Please contact Mike Clark at the Union to make reports or simply send via email to mashc@cfuzim.org Thank you.

In a new trend which we have picked up two Church leaders have recently arrived at two different dairy producing farms and 'flashed' specially laminated green offer letters to the owner, saying the properties are now theirs. Although 'we all know the drill' and the farmers concerned are not budging, but this new form of alleged patronage needs to be carefully monitored and any similar incidents should please be reported.

In another two recent incidents two brand new vehicles, blatantly obviously belonging to a particular political party with the party insignia boldly painted on the doors, have been involved in transporting people to and from two attempted jambanjas.

With all the other positive signs coming through at the moment one would hope that it is only a matter of time before the momentum of the above would slow down and the respect for law and order return.

Public Holidays - in the absence of our labour consultant we understand that all Public Holidays are now classified as Agricultural Holidays. We will seek clarification for specific days for our next bulletin.

Copies of the latest Volume 1 Number 8 of **AgriZim** magazine has just arrived from the printers and is available for distribution from our office in Harare. This popular magazine is also available at several supermarkets or can be viewed on our website www.cfuzim.org

The AgriZim Magazine continues to grow from strength the strength and improves monthly. 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 Richard Taylor. 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

On the compensation side the **Valuation Consortium** recently sent out the following newsletter:

Newsletter: 4/11

With our limited and unreliable funding now in place, we are struggling to make up lost ground. We have some good news but not the ultimate that you would really like to hear.

Title Deeds held by Commercial banks; we are assured by two banks, and we assume that it applies throughout, that the title deeds have been put in storage and will be available for release to dispossessed landowners when required.

Google Earth Images are now at a much improved resolution and in addition have introduced a time line so that we can view images as the farms were in the past.

Special Funding will now allow us to employ another technician and process images for most units that need them. There is someone charging to do this commercially, we provide the service free so don't go elsewhere until you have spoken to us.

ARAC update #3/2011;/Ex CFU Calling.

Both issues in the last Newsletter have been dealt with but we are still having fallout. If you are registered with the database you do not need to take further action at this stage. Further there will be no differentiation between CFU members/non-members in Valcon; we will not even ask the question

Zimbabwe land Issue the true facts.

We have completed 99% of the cadastral mapping and are uniquely in a position to give out figures that in a lot of cases dispel misconceptions and downright falsehoods.

Zimbabwe land area 39,100,000 ha.

In 1980

Communal land National parks etc. 24,600,000 ha

Land designated Commercial Farming 14,500,000 ha

Of which roads/townships/state land was 1,500,000 ha

1980 – 1984

Commercial farm land purchased for resettlement 2,500,000 ha

1984 – 2000

Commercial farm land purchased for resettlement 2,000,000 ha

2000

Land designated commercial farming 10,315,000 ha
Of which;

Purchased by Indigenous farmers/business men. 1,074,000 ha
Quasi-political (permitted to operate) and Still farming 1,415,000 ha

LAND ACQUIRED UNDER FAST TRACK 7,410,000 HA
This amounts to 5200 titles owned by 3000 farmers.

PEER ASSESSMENT

We have already run some pilots on this with gratifying results; correlations on a blind/blind basis have been very good.

The theory is that we will ask reputable/trusted and knowledgeable farmers to rate on a very simple scale the farms they know well in a given area. This could be done on either a small committee basis or as individuals. This is not to value the farms but to adjust, within a suitable range, the values we achieve on the basis of the facts we have.

This is going to lead to much finer valuation detail through Valuation Zones to Individual units and the ability to report and facilitate any compensatory exercise with speed and precision.

ANY FARMER CAN VOLUNTEER TO TAKE PART. We will email you a map of your area of interest with a list and rating columns and basic instructions. You can also nominate any farmer you wish to involve and we will prevail upon him/her.

ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Agrochemicals in Zimbabwe (by Dr. C. Levy, Plant Pathologist)

This is going to be a short spiel – it could be longer, but the message would be the same!

DO NOT buy agro-chemicals and fertilisers from dealers that don't have a long track record in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe has got one of the tightest legislated restrictions on the marketing of chemicals in Africa. Thus, farmers have been used to being able to buy and being supplied registered products that are what the label says they are, and do what they're meant to do. However, that is not that case today. The legislated 'system' has broken down, and all the 'checks-and-balances' of the registration process are not being adhered to. Anything can be sold on the streets by any unscrupulous briefcase salesmen, their labels mean nothing, and the buyer is at great risk - not only in that the chemical may have the desired effect, but some products are distinct health hazards. Frequently, they are wrongly packaged, without any warning to the user. A typical example of this malpractice is the recent sale of lethal generic aldicarb (a "Temik[®]" look-alike; thus a "Purple Label" chemical) in small sachets as a rodenticide around Harare and Chitungwesa, without any handling warnings.....

Fertiliser technology has progressed in leap-and-bounds in the last decade. So has the amount of rubbish being sold locally as fertiliser.....

BEWARE! Only buy from companies that have been operational in Zimbabwe for decades, have a reasonably-sized staff, and a 'back-up service'. Avoid generics (they are not all the same – even if the active ingredient is present in the correct amount) - stick with the patented products. Be well aware of what you're buying – and don't make your decision solely on the price.

CROP PRICES

Local as at 29 April 2011 R6.60 - US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	PHI Commodities	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	275	220	240	220	240
Yellow Maize	275			220	
Maize Bran	150	150	150	140	125
Soyabeans	300	500	530 500	535	500

Soyabean Meal		620	620	640	750
Wheat	466		460@30 Days 420@7 Days	475	490 (imported)
Wheat Bran		155		130	
Groundnuts	470 (unshelled)		(shelled)	900 (shelled)	(shelled)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 27 April 2011

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1594	242	1754	266
Yellow Maize	1595	242	1755	266
Wheat	2993	453	3153	478
Soyabeans	3110	471	3270	495
Sunflowers	3860	585	4020	609

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	339			489
Maize	314			466
Soyabeans	516			666

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

Please note that PHI Commodities for soyabeans is \$530 for a transfer and \$500 cash on delivery. Maize prices and Soyabean prices have come down due to the new local crop having started to come in. This may well come down further. Again if you are in a position to store your crop for 4 – 6 months you will be able to sell at higher prices due to imports having to start.

BUSINESS SECTION (from the desk of Richard Taylor)

Companies continue to join as partners. Card sales are slow and we need not just members to buy their cards but family and friends. Please, when you are next in town pop in to the CFU offices, pay for your membership of the discounters club and get your discounters club card. We should have our own card printer soon, which will mean you pay and collect your card in a matter of minutes.

Subscription to become a discounter's cardholder is only \$5 per month (\$60/yr) so join now, we need your support.

For more info on the discounters club, contact myself rich@discountersclub.com or Robyn robyn@discountersclub.com Also check our website for the list of partners – www.discountersclub.com

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

Please will all members note that the STABEX '95 Essential Vaccine Programme has ended and there are no more supplies of vaccines available.

Arrangements have been made to collect the Dairy Mail Magazines from Louis Trichardt in the first week of May and these will be distributed as soon as they can be unpacked.

45TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY FARMERS ON 5TH JULY 2011

This year we have a somewhat different format for our AGM which will be held on Tuesday 5th July 2011. Sadly, due to financial and economic constraints, we will not be holding this meeting in Nyanga this year. However, we will be hosting a one day event, which will be packed with technical talks and presentations in the morning, the AGM meetings in the Afternoon, followed by the Dairy Dinner Dance in the evening. We

are confirming arrangements for the venue and our programme and will let you have further details as soon as they have been finalised. Initially, we have planned the following :

08.00	-	Guests arrive and refresh with a welcoming cup of tea or coffee
08.30-		Technical Presentations begin. These will be roughly a twenty minute presentation with a 10 minute question and answer session. We are planning a range of interesting, relevant topics for farmers.
10.00	-	Tea and Coffee with sandwiches
12.30	-	Lunch
13.30 – 14.00	-	National Association of Dairy Farmers AGM Meeting
13.30 – 14.00	-	Cattle Producers' Association AGM Meeting
		These meetings will be run concurrently. Please feel free to attend one of both of them
		NADF Chairman's Report – Mr A Kirk
		Processors Report
		Short Address by Asst. Commissioner Dumbura from the ZRP Anti Stock Theft Forum
		Market Report
19.30 – late		Dairy Dinner Dance

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

Daily Milk Records of Individual Cows @ 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 @ US\$10,00 each

Should you be interested in purchasing any of the above items, please call at Commercial Farmers Union, Agriculture House and see Debbie Mylroie.

CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (from the desk of Rob Van Vuuren)

Several years ago the NADF undertook to keep the CPA flag flying and at every opportunity is the voice for beef producers. The most recent benefit for beef producers via the NADF was the Stabex 95 Essential Vaccine Programme sponsored by the EU.

With assistance from the CFU accounts department the NADF maintains the CPA accounts. Issues relating to EMA, (Environment Management Authority), are and will continue to affect a cross section of livestock producers and the NADF in close liaison with the CFU legal department are engaging EMA to find an amicable way forward.

The NADF is considering working with the CFU inputs department to maintain the cost of production models for the various production systems.

NADF is serving Cattle Producers in the following way :

- Holding and Selling of Cattle Producers Manual
- Support to farmers via the Stabex '95 Vaccine Programme
- Ajs Kirk sits on Livestock and Meat Advisory Council
- Ajs Kirk sits on the Livestock Identification Trust
- Rob Van Vuuren sits on National Manpower Advisory Council (NAMACO)
- Rob Van Vuuren sits on the Livestock Information Committee
- Ajs Kirk, Veneka Bwerinofa and Rob Van Vuuren assists when and where possible, beef farmers with Land Issues
- Ajs Kirk represents beef farmers on the Commodities Council

We appeal to beef producers to support the NADF efforts by paying us the CPA levy which is based on 0,5% of the value of all beef sales. This may entail authorizing auctioneers to deduct this levy at cattle sales and making the payment to the NADF.

GRADE	AVERAGE PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES			
	HARARE	GWERU	BULAWAYO	ESIGODINI
SUPER			-	
COMMERCIAL			1.40	
CHOICE			1.62	
ECONOMY			1.21	
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY			1.25	
MANUFACTURING			0.90	
BULLS			1.39	
WEANER HEIFERS			-	
BULLING HEIFERS			-	
LONG WEANER HEIFERS			-	
COW & CALF			-	
WEANER STEERS			-	
LONG WEANER STEERS			-	
FEEDER STEERS			-	
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS			-	
BREEDING COWS			-	
BREEDING BULLS			-	
STANDARD MUTTON			-	

COMMENTS AND VIEWS

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