

CFU Calling

20 MAY 2011

EXECUTIVE NEWS

We are completely in the dark with regard to the incessant power cuts which are affecting all areas across the entire country. As you know we have been working closely with ZESA in an effort to try to ensure stable power for our wheat growers across the country, but unfortunately they are shedding no light as to when the power situation will stabilise.

According to ZESA officials, the power cuts are still being blamed on the prolonged maintenance exercise being carried out at Kariba, which seem to be taking an extraordinary long time to complete and much longer than their originally announced period on their published schedule.

Although the 'wheat farming clusters' have been set up in wheat growing areas the lack of power during the crucial period of germination has already seriously affected both germination density as well as potential areas of the crop to be grown. We quote from a report in the press from Manicaland which said that only 243 ha of wheat has currently been planted this season out of an intended 5 000 ha. The power utility seriously needs to get its act together and to work much closer with the remaining farming community.

Although we look to the clouds with anticipation after reading the favourable weather forecast today, which predicts some rain in 75% of places, any relief, even from above, would be far too late to remedy the situation.

As we all know power generation on the farm is extremely costly and not at all cost effective when it comes to irrigation of crops. However, we have recently received news of a new fuel additive which works by cooling down the engine temperature which decreases the fuel consumption significantly – and therefore cuts costs. More news on this product will be published in a future copy of AgriZim.

Of course we realise that much of the instability in the farming sector is not only caused by the unreliable power supply and other economic factors, but by the fact that land expropriation just continues ad nauseam. There just seems no let up at all in the courts either and there has been continued pressure on several farmers who are currently being jambanjaed.

The situation itself is understandably extremely depressing for some of those still in such unenviable positions but be assured that your team is slowly making some headway in setting up meetings aimed at alleviating the untenable situation. Although progress is very slow some major advances have been made, but unfortunately it is, frustratingly, only one step at a time in the current environment. In saying this we do urge those who may currently be under pressure not to give up as we are constantly involved in trying to get meaningful relief and to move forward to get agriculture back on track again.

To this end we again encourage everyone to work together with common cause. Whilst it has been previously acknowledged that perhaps some mistakes were made in the past we desperately need to put this and our differences behind us, learn from our mistakes and to forge a way forward together.

An important part of our work is done through regional bodies like SACAU where we communicate with sister agricultural unions within the SADC region with whom we share and resolve common problems to encourage viable production. Be assured that the group has also been working on regional proposals to ensure stability in regional agriculture, part of which is to ensure that no similar land expropriation exercise, like what happened in Zimbabwe would be allowed to ever happen again.

Our neighbours are known to be very sympathetic about the disastrous consequences of undertaking any similar programme elsewhere in the region as ours, particularly as to how it adversely affected agricultural production and the economy caused by the loss of property rights.

President Deon Theron and Director Hendrik Olivier therefore spent this week attending the SACAU AGM and related meetings in South Africa. They will both be back in office next week so we can expect a full report on the SACAU meetings in next week's bulletin.

Early in the week it was rather disheartening to receive the news about Crawford von Abo that his application for historical case to be heard in the South African Constitutional Court has been turned down and that it is the end of the road in his lengthy legal battle to achieve compensation from the South African Government for their alleged failure to protect his extensive investments in agriculture in Zimbabwe. Apparently both parties' applications were denied – Crawford von Abo and the South African Government.

This came at a time when, only last week Crawford had expressed absolute confidence in this final step in his 7-year court battle to achieve his ultimate goal. We are not sure whether it is the absolute end of the road or whether he intends referring the matter to a regional or international court.

The Zambezi Trader raffle

There are still many tickets still available for you to take advantage of the extended period of the raffle to win two days free on **The Zambezi Trader**. Although the ticket sales have gone well we are trying to sell as many of the remaining tickets as possible as the money will be in aid of the Pensioners' Fund.

The prize is for the use of the whole boat so you can entertain up to 40 of your own guests who will be accommodated and fed free for the two days, complete with tender boats etc. The only thing you pay for is the drinks – unfortunately for some. The time limit has also been extended in that the timing of the cruise can be negotiated with the owner of the boat and is no longer specified as it was before.

What a wonderful opportunity for a special wedding venue; a 21st Birthday; 60th Birthday; 50th Wedding Anniversary; engagement party; etc. Furthermore, if you want to assist in selling the remaining tickets the books contain 11 tickets – 10 are for sale and the other one is free to the seller.

Please help us to help the aged with the proceeds of this raffle.

The Discounters Club

We are constantly receiving favourable reports from more than satisfied members of The Discounters Club. In one recent report a satisfied customer received a higher discount on a \$4 000 purchase of motor spares, which was above the advertised 10% discount offered by the dealer. He saved nearly \$500, which paid for his membership fee of The Discounters Club for quite a number of years into the future.

Should you be happy with your discounts obtained please write to us so we can share your joy with others.

We have more great news for new potential members. We have recently purchased a card processing machine which prints out your new card as you wait. No more delays!

Updated lists of The Discounters Club partners are available either by email, on request from robyn@discountersclub.com or else directly on the website www.discountersclub.com

We once again remind you that our doors are always open to listen to your advice, your problems and to advise you where we can. Don't listen to rumours, come and clear them through us and hear what we are trying to achieve at the moment – you may be pleasantly surprised!

**BUSINESS CHAMBER
OF THE
COMMERCIAL FARMERS UNION
AND
LIBERTY BLUE MEDICAL INSURANCE**

We have managed through discussions with HRIB to set up a corporate medical insurance scheme for members of the CFU.

Pre-existing conditions are automatically covered, providing you can prove previous cover was in place for a minimum period of 12 months. The following two schemes are offered at the moment:

Liberty Diamond

Covers Medical Expenses up to a limit of \$1,000,000

Geographical limits – Throughout Africa.

Cost → \$75 per month (same cost for children & adults).

(The Diamond cover will casevac where and when necessitated)

AND

Liberty Gold

Covers medical expenses up to a limit of \$100,000

Geographical limits – Zimbabwe

Cost → \$41 per month (same cost for children & adults).

This scheme is for corporate members only and will not be offered to individual families unless they are a member of a company or in the case of CFU a union member.

For further information please contact Sally on sally@hrib.co.zw or michelle@hrib.co.zw

Please note that we have been a little slow on our side in getting members to join and info out. As such we have missed an opportunity to get the 1st years scheme up and running at the \$65 per person per month. People joining need to register before the 15th of each month to get medical cover for the 1st of the following month. Liberty Blue's new year starts from July hence the increase in fees.

Membership application forms can be collected from the CFU ARAC office, see Shayne or from The Business Chamber office, see Robyn, or directly from HRIB offices at 2 Beit Ave, Milton Park, see Sally or Michelle. These forms seem long winded but are actually pretty basic to fill in.

If a family who is not a farming member but wishes to participate in this scheme they may join firstly as a CFU member (only \$100/annum) and then subscribe to Liberty Blue Medical Insurance.

Please forward any questions you may have to myself, rtaylor@cfuzim.org or Sally and we will answer these.

We are negotiating at present to try get members over 70 onto this scheme. How it looks at the moment is that should we get 300 new corporate members subscribed, we will be allowed to bring 4 over 70's into the fold. So the more of us who join the more over 70's we can bring onto the scheme.



IN AN EMERGENCY

Try to stay calm, there will be enough chaos around you. Here are some guidelines to help keep you focused.

Call MARS **immediately** if you think someone is in crisis. This includes **seizures, shortness of breath, unconsciousness, chest pain, possible stroke or heart attack, heavy bleeding, severe stomach pain, possible broken bones, poisoning, serious burns, complications with newly-borns and minors, pregnancy related complications,** etc.

- Stay on the phone with the **MARS** Dispatcher. They are trained to help you. They'll ask you questions and can help you stabilize the person until help arrives.

- Talk to the patient to keep them from going into shock. Ask him/her questions about himself/herself, tell them stories. Fear and emotional stress can cause them to go into shock. Talking will keep them focused on something else. Keep them warm.
- Make it easy for the ambulance to find you. If there are other [family](#) members or friends around, send them to stand on the nearest corner so they don't have to look for house numbers. Lock away dogs if any.
- Ask to ride in the ambulance. One family member is usually allowed in the front seat. If it's a young child, you may be allowed to ride in the back.

But Remember ,

- Always make sure you have **MARS ambulance contact numbers** and your **medical aid info** (if on medical aid) easily accessible. This may be stuck on a wall visible to all in the home, as well as in wallets or any other retrievable belonging on you.
- Prepare an information sheet that includes each family member's date of birth, known allergies and medical history. This must also be easily accessible.
- Also make sure to include numbers of **next of kin** or **friends**, in your home near the phone.
- As soon as a child can talk, they can be taught to dial their parent's numbers, and the ambulance numbers. Practice this with your child, using a toy telephone. (they too may save your life one day).



IN AN EMERGENCY

These numbers will give you access to **Ambulance Services, Fire Brigade** and **Police** across Zimbabwe. Save these numbers in your phone and pass on to all on your contact lists. This could make the difference in accessing assistance during an emergency.

Should you or any of your relatives/friends be faced with an emergency, always remember you can contact **MARS** on the following numbers :-

Econet subscribers (Toll free number) : **112**
NetOne subscribers (Toll free number) : **114**
Landlines (Toll free number) : **0800 3222 911**

or you can **DIAL YOUR CLOSEST MARS BASE ON THESE TELEPHONE NUMBERS :-**

Harare	04-771221/ 759361/ 753677/ 753164/ 706034
Bulawayo	09-64082 OR 60351
Gweru	054-223339 OR 223337
Mutare	020-66466 OR 64647
Victoria Falls	013-44646 OR 44764
Kwekwe	055-21999 OR 055-22761
Masvingo	039-263222
Kariba	061-3006/7
Marondera	0279 - 24949 /24211
CELL PHONE: Harare	0712 600 002/0912 235 461
CELL PHONE: Bulawayo	0912 220 618
CELL PHONE: Masvingo	0712 701 904, 0712214 222
CELL PHONE: Kariba	0912 412 763, 0912 560 448

You can access **MARS** via your Medical Aid benefits, if you are on any of the following :-

- Cimas
- Fidelity Life Medical Aid Society
- First Mutual Life Medical Fund
- Altfin
- TN Medical Fund
- Masvingo Municipal Medical Aid Society
- Cellmed
- Galaxy
- Generation Health
- Northern Medical Aid Society

- Northern Alliance
- Multimed
- Ultra Medical Aid
- Liberty Blue
- MASCA
- Access Medical Aid
- Zimpapers Medical Fund
- Suremed
- I.G.I Life Medical Fund

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

NADF is held an Executive Meeting on Tuesday 17th May 2011. This was well attended and very lively. Your Regional Chairmen will be report to members about this meeting at the upcoming Regional AGM Meetings listed below.

Most Regional Chairmen returned to their areas with the 10 back issues of the Dairy Mails that were collected from South Africa for distribution, so if you wish to have copies of these, please contact them. They are also available in Debbie Mylroie's Office.

Please will members bear in mind the new law that has been passed regarding "driving and talking on the cell phone". Should we happen to be driving at the time of an incoming call, please bear with us if you are cut off. Please allow us a few minutes to be able to pull to the side of the road and phone you back safely.

I will be on leave for the next two weeks visiting my son and daughter-in-law and their recent new addition to our family in the Isle of Man. I will be back in the office on the 7th June 2011.

Regional Meetings

Regional Annual General Meetings for **PAID UP** NADF Members were set as follows :

Chipinge	:	15 TH June 2011 at 9.00a.m. at Fiddlers Green
Manicaland	:	15th June 2011 at 2.00p.m. at Mutare Club
Mashonaland A	:	22 nd June 2011 at 2.00p.m. at Agriculture House, Marlborough, Harare
Mashonaland B	:	22 nd June 2011 at 10.00a.m. at the Beatrice Club
Matabeleland	:	23 rd June 2011 at 10.00a.m. at the Members Pavilion, ZTIF Grounds, Bulawayo
Midlands	:	24 th June 2011 at 10.00a.m. at the CFU Gweru Offices

Should you have any questions or queries, please bring these to the attention of your Regional Chairman.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE STABEX '95 VACCINE PROGRAMME ENDED IN DECEMBER 2010 SO PLEASE CONTACT YOUR USUAL SUPPLIERS TO PLACE AN ODER WITH THEM TO SECURE YOUR VACCINES FOR 2011

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

A reminder that our 45th Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th July 2011. We are pleased to advise that this event will be held at **THE ANDY MILLAR HALL, HARARE AGRICULTURAL SHOW GROUNDS**. As usual it 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. As soon as we have been able to finalise speakers, we will be circulating a programme to everyone. Keep watching this space.

NADF HAS AUTOMATIC SYRINGES ON SALE FOR ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS TO CFU AND NADF MEMBERS ONLY. THESE ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO BEEF FARMERS, BUT THEY MUST NOTE THAT THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE PAYMENT OF A LEVY TO NADF PRIOR TO PURCHASE OF SYRINGES IN RESPECT OF THE CATTLE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION. SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED

**IN PURCHASING THE ABOVE FOR \$100,00 PLEASE CONTACT
ROB VAN VUUREN on robvan@cfuzim.org or
Debbie Mylroie on livestock@cfuzim.org**

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

GRADE	AVERAGE PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES			
	HARARE	GWERU	BULAWAYO	ESIGODINI
SUPER	-		-	
COMMERCIAL	1.62		1.40	
CHOICE	-		1.67	
ECONOMY	1.51		1.29	
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY	-		1.35	
MANUFACTURING	1.40		0.88	
BULLS	-		1.26	
WEANER HEIFERS	1.75		-	
BULLING HEIFERS	1.69		-	
LONG WEANER HEIFERS	1.55		-	
COW & CALF	-		-	
WEANER STEERS	1.76		-	
LONG WEANER STEERS	1.75		-	
FEEDER STEERS	1.74		-	
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS	-		-	
BREEDING COWS	-		-	
BREEDING BULLS	-		-	

ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Insurance Scheme by R. Taylor

We have once again organized an insurance scheme with Optimal Insurance P/L that will cover both barley and wheat, but will extend to any crop you wish to insure. Please get in touch with me at Ph: 04-309800/17 and e-mail rtaylor@cfuzim.org , or contact Tawona Chimbwanda tchimbwanda@optimal.co.zw for further information and application forms.

Presently, we are negotiating with banks and the insurers, to use insurance cover as security against seasonal loans, instead of your property, and these talks are at an advanced stage. Hopefully we will have some good news for you in the near future.

This article should interest you all:

Grains BlightOtherwise Stable Food Price Index

By Jess Halliday, 05-May-2011

<http://www.foodanddrinkeurope.com>

April saw sharp rises in grain prices due to exchange rates and oil prices, with the future curve to be determined by how much production increases and ability to replenish reserves.

According to the latest data from the [FAO's Food Price Index](#), [cereals](#) were the bleak spot for April, and falling prices for dairy, rice and sugar acted as a counterweight to provide overall stability. Other food commodities, such as meat and oils, remained firm.

The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 265 points, up 5.5 percent from March and 71 percent from April 2010.

Maize prices were particularly influential, rising 11 percent. *"Among all the cereals, maize is the most worrisome,"* said grain analyst Abdolreza Abbassian. *"This year we would need above-average, if not record, yields in the United States for the maize situation to improve but maize plantings so far have been delayed considerably due to cool and wet conditions on the ground."*

Wheat increased four percent in April 2011 as a result of unfavourable weather and planting delays, but the FAO said that large export supplies kept rice prices under downward pressure. But weather-permitting world wheat production is expected to increase by 3.5 percent this year, and rice by three percent.

"A sliding dollar and increased oil prices are contributing to high food commodity prices, particularly [grains](#)," said David Hallam Director of FAO's Trade and Market Division. *"With demand continuing strong, prospects for a return to more normal prices hinge largely on how much production will increase in 2011 and how much grain reserves are replenished in the new season."*

Critical weather

Maize aside, the FAO is eyeing a good production outlook for cereals as long as the weather holds out, due to more plantings in response to higher prices.

However Abbassian was cautious due to disappointment in 2010.

"Production prospects for 2010 were extremely favourable at this time last year but unfavourable weather conditions between July and October changed that outlook drastically."

Stock levels do not look so rosy, either.

"World cereal stocks for the crop seasons ending in 2011 are forecast to decline to their lowest level since 2008, mostly due to depleting coarse grain inventories. Global wheat inventories are forecast to decrease too, but the wheat stock-to-use ratio will remain relatively comfortable, while rice inventories are even expected to rise."

Commodity Prices

Local as at 20 May 2011 R6.89 - US\$

Commodity	GMB	Agrifoods	PHI Commodities	Staywell	Croplink
White Maize	270		Cash 220 Trans 230	230	250
Yellow Maize	270		210	230	250
Maize Bran	N/A		120	140	130
Soyabeans	500		Cash 500 Trans 530	535	550
Soyabean Meal			620	630	750
Wheat	N/A		P grd 460 St gd 450 Utility 440 7 days trans	480	525 (imported)
Wheat Bran	N/A		150	130	155
Groundnuts	400-600 (unshelled)		(shelled)	900 (shelled)	(shelled)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 20 May 2011

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1653	240	1813	263
Yellow Maize	1680	244	1840	267
Wheat	3229	469	3389	492
Soyabeans	3253	472	3413	495
Sunflowers	3952	574	4112	597

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	344			494
Maize	294			444
Soyabeans	516			666

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

COMMENTS AND VIEWS

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