



**22 July 2011**

**FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK:**

This will be my last communication as President of CFU with members all over the world, as I will be standing down as President on Tuesday at Congress.

I have so much going through my mind at the moment (i.e. have I really made a positive difference during my time as president) but I will keep it short and reserve most of my thoughts for Congress.

We have all suffered under a dictatorship that not only robbed us of our legitimately owned possessions, but ruined our lives as our homes and source of income was also taken from us. To make matters worse families were driven apart as they moved all over the world to try and survive what happened to them.

Although it was always going to be near impossible to stop all this happening, I am extremely proud that we never became cry babies but still continue to fight against overwhelming odds for our rights on a daily basis. Even though we allowed ourselves to become divided at times, overall we are still united in our struggle for justice.

I am aware that I have not been able to achieve all I wanted to as president, but I do believe that in certain areas we have made significant progress. Despite not having the luxury of financial security, the staff and elected continue to work tirelessly on behalf of members.

We did all we could with the available staff and resources to ensure that farmers could continue farming. Major challenges such as security of tenure, affordable finance and inputs remain on the agenda. We represented you on labour matters, gave advice and support on crop and livestock issues, engaged government on policy and legislation issues (i.e. indigenization) and gave advice and assistance with court cases.

We formed close working relationships with various partners, and sourced finances to assist in putting together the most comprehensive database on land ownership with valuations that Africa has seen. Whether still farming or whether evicted, this database is going to be invaluable in resolving compensation for us all. (We also have the most amazing records of thugs and their activities, for which they will be held accountable in the future.)

We have worked tirelessly to put a Way Forward Proposal on the table that would bring acceptable closure of the land reform to us all. This Proposal covers compensation and recovery, and has been put together after consulting various people over the past two years. We engaged our top economists and most financial institutions and banks in Zimbabwe. We engaged the diplomatic corps (over 50 Embassies) and the donor community, in particular the World Bank on a regular basis. We also engaged the government of Zimbabwe on a regular basis, all the way up to the Prime Minister and the two deputy president's offices. We presented the Proposal to both the DA and ANC in South Africa. We continue to be summoned by various ministers for continued dialogue.

This proposal is on our website [www.cfuzim.org](http://www.cfuzim.org) and you can also purchase a DVD of the Proposal from us at a cost of \$10.

Surviving financially has been a nightmare for us. Suffering from fraud as well as theft from a staff member certainly has not helped. Thankfully both these cases are now in the High Court and I trust that they will be resolved in the near future.

I thank my team and congratulate them that we have managed to see the year through. As part of our survival strategy we formed a Business Chamber within the Union. This is up and running, and if all goes well the Union finances could soon experience a positive turnaround.

I need to thank the Councillors and the full CFU team led by Hendrik as CEO for their support and dedication over the past two years. In particular I also need to thank my PA Louise O Connor, as well as Louis Fick and Charlie Taffs, the two vice presidents.

I have huge respect for Louis who continues to drive the SA initiative with an unselfish commitment and energy, even though he is no longer a VP. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Charlie. Few people would be willing to step forward at this time to take on the mantle of President of CFU. It is a personal sacrifice of huge proportions that you cannot fully fathom until you have done it yourself. I have the utmost faith in your ability, and trust that you will receive the same support and encouragement that I received during my term. We are fortunate in having someone of your calibre driving the Recovery Proposal and the Business Chamber. I wish you and your family well for your term as President.

To all of you out there: On the farms, in the cities and in other countries. Thank you for your amazing support over the past two years. Although I received my fair share of criticism I also received my fair share of support. I tried to keep it simple by sticking to the basics: Unity, accountability to grassroots and transparency in whatever we did.

Even though there was the odd person that still queried our motives and how we operated, I am confident that we did the right thing by standing up for our rights, and also representing both farmers as well as evicted farmers. It was and is the right thing to do.

May we stay humble and seek our wisdom and courage from God, as the battle is not yet over.

To my wife Martha: At long last I am coming home, and together we will continue to fight for our rights while rebuilding our lives.

I thank you all.

Deon Theron

## EXECUTIVE NEWS

With the weather warming up a bit now it should bode well for good Congress in a comfortable environment on Tuesday 26 July 2011, which is next week.

We sincerely hope that the turnout will be good and appeals for lists of official delegates and attendees to assist the caterers and organisers have continually been sent out again this week. Of concern at the moment though, is the difficulty we are experiencing in the various regions of people willing to put their hands up and serve their communities. Whilst we fully realise that everyone who is still farming are under serious pressures and most of all trying to keep financially viable, it is essential that all provinces are fully represented on Council.

The week itself has been an extremely busy one as far as organising Congress is concerned with many senior staff burning the midnight oil, busy with the last minute preparations.

Several amendments to the CFU Constitution will also be proposed at Congress which will tidy up the finances and assets of your Union. In line with this it is necessary for your Union to draw up a register of all its assets, which also includes all assets of Farmers' Associations, Regional Offices and Commodities. It is important that the Farmers' Association's assets in the form of farmer's halls, offices, sale pens, shareholdings, etc all be accurately recorded. We therefore seek the assistance of all previous Farmers' Association Chairpersons and secretaries to please come forward with such information so that it can be written down in the register. This is extremely important indeed.

All this information must be channelled to the Director on [dir2@cfuzim.org](mailto:dir2@cfuzim.org)

We apologise for the delay of the printing of the last two copies of **AgriZim** magazine but this should be resolved, hopefully by the end of next week and in time for Congress. With the proposed print run of 20 000 copies it will become the largest magazine in circulation in Zimbabwe! Something we should be proud of when considering its small beginnings.

At **Congress** itself we will be having a **Ladies Day** at the Foundation for Farming offices where interesting demonstrations on compost making and vegetable growing will be given. Would ladies interested please speak to **Ben Gilpin** at the **ARAC** Office.

**At Congress there will be a nominal charge of \$ 10 for entry to cover the cost of teas and lunch etc.**

Please could those intending to come to Congress indicate numbers and which session/s they wish to attend, as well as whether they will be there for lunch. RSVP [dir2@cfuzim.org](mailto:dir2@cfuzim.org) Those coming as delegates should please indicate who they are representing.

Prosecution of farmers under the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act has also been a cause of concern this week. The main focus was the in Chiredzi where we travelled to attend the judgment of an extremely important case, only for the date to be changed to early next month. The judgment in this particular case and the other ongoing cases against farmers in Chiredzi is ultimately a test of the effectiveness of several different BIPPAs to protect investment in Zimbabwe – and of the full implementation of the GPA.

During this time, when our country so desperately needs confidence in the investment community, whether foreign or local Zimbabweans, this case is the real acid test.

In the eastern part of the country attacks against the few remaining farmers has once again raised its head. Following 2 days of being barricaded in a homestead which was attacked and damaged the farmer spent an uncomfortable night in police custody being charged for a few unconfirmed allegations. The situation is being closely watched.

On the other hand it was very encouraging to hear the good news of the arrests of several people in Harare who were caught trying to sell rhino horn. Follow up operations are underway in the conservancy where the alleged poachers allegedly slaughtered the rhino.

The situation in the other Lowveld conservancy where two elephant were recently shot by poachers has quietened down a bit as well as some of the mass invasions have been removed by force – albeit only to be replaced by increased demands some of the new partners who have been imposed on them. Vast areas within the conservancy are being ploughed up by settlers following the 30 mm rain which recently fell. This is in preparation for the planting of cotton by the settlers.

Well known in the lowveld areas, by cattlemen of the past and present is Dr Japie Jackson whom we wish to pay tribute to today, and congratulate him on the celebration of his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Japie must hold the world record by far for the number of cows he has carried out pregnancy diagnoses on – and even at his current age he is continuing to do the work he so loves and add to his total. He not only has our admiration for his incredible veterinary work as a whole but also for his wonderful personality and continued community work.

### **Urgent Communiqué to Winter Wheat Farmers re Electricity Supply**

Members are advised that the CFU has been contacted by the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) who has made the following request:

#### **RE: 2011 WINTER WHEAT CROP PERFORMANCE**

*Dear Marc,*

*Further to previous communication in the above regard, may you advise us of the final planted hectareage of winter wheat crop for your members and its location so that we can put in place measures to ensure its power supply security till maturity.*

*Eng RT Katsande*

*Commercial Services Manager*

*ZIMBABWE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION COMPANY*

*Electricity Centre  
25 S.Machel Avenue  
PO Box 377  
Harare Zimbabwe*

We therefore require the following information:

Name of Farm	Name of Customer	Final Planted Hectarage of Winter Wheat	Location (ZESA Feeder if known, District and Province)

Please email this information to Marc Carrie-Wilson on [marc@cfuzim.org](mailto:marc@cfuzim.org) or call 0772 861140

For further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact the above.

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

NADF is holding its first closed Executive Meeting after the AGM on the 28<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00p.m. Should you have any queries or questions that you would like addressed, please bring these to the attention of your Regional Chairmen and these will be brought up and discussed at the meeting.

I travelled to South Africa last week and collected the next batch of Dairy Mail Magazines. These will be distributed by the Regional Chairmen shortly.

Dairy Farmers who are concerned about Foot and Mouth Disease in close proximity to their operations should liaise with their local Provincial Veterinary Officer regarding a vaccination programme. Each case is dealt with on an individual basis by the Department of Veterinary Field Services.

### **Notes for Home Mixers**

At a recent Tuli field Day, Dr Doug Bruce gave an excellent demonstration on how to do a post mortem on a mombie. The sacrificial animal was a heifer that had dislocated its hip and generally considered in good health, BUT the post mortem conferred that the animal had a piece of wire stuck in its heart. This is a common occurrence if wire is taken in by cattle, due to the alignment of the rumen and the heart, helped by muscular movements of the rumen. An animal with wire piercing its heart will appear normal, but will show a steady decline in performance and general health. Remedial treatment will have no positive effect and in time the animal will die.

To prevent this happening, home mixers must arrange their mixing facilities to ensure all raw materials are passed through a sieve/screen to capture foreign materials such as wire and this will prevent "wire disease".

### **Rhodes Grass Seed**

We have traced a supplier of both Giant and Katambora Rhodes grass seed in Harare. If you wish to purchase this, please contact : Lomag on (04) 885 645 or Mr Manning on 0772 260 431.

### **Hay Bales and Mashanga Bales**

We have a farmer with 1000 bales of hay and 1000 bales of 'mashanga' available for immediate sale. Please contact the Union.

**NADF has for sale Automatic Syringe Kits at a cost of \$100.00 per set.  
Should you be interested in purchasing these, please contact  
Debbie Mylroie on [livestock@cfuzim.org](mailto:livestock@cfuzim.org) or during office hours on (04)309837.**

### **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**

**Automatic Syringe Kits @ \$100,00 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**

CC sales have advised that their sales are still restricted because of the foot and mouth outbreak. However, the Veterinary Department is now allowing them to have one young/breeding stock sale per month and this takes place on a Friday. NADF therefore only receives the figures after the CFU Calling report is submitted for publication so some of the prices published are already a week old.

The NADF in conjunction with the CFU Inputs Department are still in the process of updating the 6 Beef Cost of Production Models.

### **BOTSWANA CATTLE**

There is obviously much concern about the slaughtering of Botswana cattle in Zimbabwe. I obtained the following information from the Director of Livestock, Production and Development.

The recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Botswana resulted in the EU exports being stopped. Botswana had two options :

1. Engage a slaughter out strategy
2. Get an agreement for Zimbabwe to have the animals slaughtered in Zimbabwe.

The Director believes there are 20 000 animals involved and since local slaughtering account for about 18 000 head a month, the effect should be short term!!

He understands the implications for local beef producers and stressed there was no consultation before this Government to Government agreement was signed.

Had there been an active Cattle Producers' Association this situation could possibly have been curtailed or at least dealt with differently. Beef producers need to appreciate the importance of an association to represent their interests.

GRADE	AVERAGE PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES			
	HARARE	GWERU	BULAWAYO SLAUGHTER	PLUMTREE
SUPER	-		1.77	-
COMMERCIAL	1.61		1.44	1.27
CHOICE	-		-	-
ECONOMY	1.37		1.30	1.12
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY	-		1.38	1.21
MANUFACTURING	1.11		0.86	0.95
BULLS	1.33		1.30	1.22
WEANER HEIFERS	2.05		-	-
BULLING HEIFERS	1.68		-	-
LONG WEANER HEIFERS	-		-	-
COW & CALF	-		-	-
WEANER STEERS	1.80		-	-
LONG WEANER STEERS	1.74		-	-
FEEDER STEERS	1.37		-	1.30
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS	-		-	-

COMMERCIAL WEANER STEERS	-		-	-
BREEDING COWS	-		-	-
BREEDING BULLS	-		-	-
STANDARD MUTTON	-		-	-

### **BORAN BREEDERS SOCIETY**

Mr Tim Ralfe, the Boran Senior Breed Inspector, and Mr Stephan Buys, the Technical Advisor for the South African Boran Breeders Society, will be attending the Zimbabwe National Bull Sale. The Zimbabwe Boran Breeders Society (ZBBS) is pleased to invite you to attend their promotion day and seminar where Tim, Stephan and Dr Beefa will give their valuable time and knowledge to speak to interested stockman followed by lunch and Bull viewing.

DATE; Tuesday 26th July, CC Sales Yard at 9am

#### **AGENDA**

0900-0930 Registration and tea  
 0930-1030 Tim Ralfe talks about why he chose to import Borans into South Africa  
 1030-1100 Tea  
 1100-1200 Stephan Buys talks about "The X Factor" in the Boran breed  
 1200-1245 Dr Mario Beefa talks about the economic contribution of the Bull to your beef business  
 1300 Lunch, open discussion and Bull viewing

Cash Bar Available

For further enquiries contact

Mark Hook 0772-236491  
 Dave Jobson 0772-238881  
 Solomon Zawe 0772-800269

### **ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**

R6.77 – US\$1 South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 21 July 2011

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1749	258	1909	282
Yellow Maize	1700	251	1860	275
Wheat	2955	436	3115	460
Soyabeans	3250	480	3410	504
Sunflowers	4065	600	4225	624

#### **International Gulf**

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	297			447
Maize	294			444
Soyabeans	528			678

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

For accurate weather forecasts go to [www.yr.no](http://www.yr.no). I was shown this on Wednesday by a Kadoma farmer's wife. Many thanks Ronel, this is a great site for farmers to use.

Northern Farming, sister company to Northern Tobacco, is involved in contracting commercial farmers to grow food crops (maize, soya, wheat and sugar beans) and seed crops (maize, sugar beans and soya beans). Our core business is effectively providing farmers with timely provision of affordable inputs, access to affordable finance for working capital, technical support to improve farmers' productivity and trading expertise to secure premium prices on the local market.

We will be hosting a field day at ART Farm on the 3rd of August 2011 and any commercial growers are welcome. *Please note this is NOT restricted to our contracted growers.*

We will start with tea between 10.00am – 10.30am, followed by;

- The Farm Tour (10.30am – 12.00pm)
  - Wheat seed varieties- research feedback from Seed Houses
  - New Fungicide & Herbicide trials
  - Results on summer crop trials
- Lunch (12:00pm – 13:30pm)
- Discussion in the Hall (13.30pm – 15.00pm) where the following topics will be covered;
  1. Wheat Agronomy
    - a. Planting times and rates
    - b. Seed varieties
    - c. Irrigation scheduling
    - d. Fertilizers
    - e. Chemicals, Herbicides and Fungicides
    - f. Conservation Agriculture
  2. New equipment (irrigation)
  3. Market report
  4. Summer season- Row cropping options
  5. Question and Answer

If you are interested in attending this field day, please **RSVP** to Graham Riley on 0772 260 202 or email to [grahamr@nf.co.zw](mailto:grahamr@nf.co.zw) before the 29th July 2011.

Just wanted to let you know I have 5tons Windmill A.N for sale at \$2700.00 [\$540/ton] it is at our warehouse in Southerton available for collection upon payment.  
James Dunford, Jr  
Director  
Probox Investments P/L  
61 Birmingham Rd  
Southerton  
Harare

The fert deal is sorted so should you wish to participate please contact me and we can get the ball rolling. Please all be aware that fertilizer prices are on the increase and that if you commit now to your total requirements this will more than negate the interest charges at present.

### **Business Chamber News Letter**

We have been pushing to get the external underwriters cover documents to banks for them to go through in great anticipation that money for loans through the banks will be made available now.

However as with most new schemes there are always teething issues. There is still a lot of negotiating to be done between the various players in this scheme, which to us is a frustration, in that it all takes time. We would like this now but again we need to be patient for a little longer. As one bank manager stated, "we have been working on this for 18 – 20 months now and we are close, so please another 2 or 3 months in the overall picture is not much longer"

All players in this scheme want this to work just as much as we do. We will continue to push as much as we possibly can for every ones benefit.

On the insurance side, we are learning all the time! The fundamental matter is an insurance policy provides protection on the Asset, at no stage can financial guarantees be arranged. There are 2 aspects to the insurance proposals:

- a.] the Lloyds cover which are the political riot, strike, malicious damage and/or looting cover

b.] the local conventional “comprehensive” cover which caters for the fire, theft, accident risks. Both classes will be a prerequisite of any lender.

We apologise for any misunderstanding as far as “financial guarantees” are concerned but should anyone require clarification on insurance matters please contact Paul Rugg/HRIB on 04-251551/7

The HP company we set up the HP scheme with seems to have hit another hurdle. We are still negotiating with them and others to get the best deal available for tractors, vehicles, equipment generators etc at affordable rates and payment terms.

We continue to look at avenues that will be beneficial to farmers, reducing cost of production through access to more affordable finance, equipment, inputs etc which improves overall viability.

With the Preferential Trading Partnerships, most companies have the agreement and these should be signed up between CFU and the companies within the next week or 2. Once we have these all signed I will send a list of the PTP companies to everyone.

Rich Taylor

### **WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN! FITMENT OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS/RIFA FUNDRAISER**

The third session fitting fire extinguishers is on this Saturday 23 July while raising much needed funds for Rifa Conservation Education Camp. Two crews from Fire Armour Services will professionally fit within a few minutes.

Please note the renovations at the Pomona Shopping Centre will prevent us from fitting again for a while. If you want your extinguisher safely and professionally secured – this is your opportunity!

Where: Opposite Big Sky Supplies

When: Saturday 23 July (9am to 1230pm)

Cost: \$5 donation to Rifa Conservation Education Camp, Chirundu

Big Sky Supplies – We prepare you for your journey (An AAZ Consul Office)

9 Pomona Shopping Centre (Next to the new Nando's)

Phone: 04 870 827/851 002

Cell: 077 2 942 086/077 6 270 341

Email: [bigsky@zol.co](mailto:bigsky@zol.co).

### **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)

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