

CFU Calling

1 July 2011

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Today we remember Neville Brown who gave up so much of his own time voluntarily on the CFU Council to help his fellow farmers and to share his seemingly infinite wisdom to help steer the ship of the CFU on a steady course. This is something that perhaps many do not realise or understand in the workings of your Union, as to just how much valuable time is sacrificed by so many on the farmers' behalf which helped commercial agriculture develop so rapidly and to such great heights of viability and productivity.

It is with great sadness we heard of the passing of Neville Brown who died of a heart attack in Plettenberg Bay on Friday 24th June.

Neville was at different times Chairman of COPA (Oilseeds) and CCGA (Cotton) at the CFU and contributed greatly to the welfare of these Associations and the Union. His outstanding work and wonderful sense of humour was greatly appreciated by your Union who sends its deepest condolences to his family.

It is in this context that we wish it to be noted that the usual change of the guard is due to take place at your Union after Congress on 26 July 2011, at which President Deon Theron's very busy and eventful term comes to an end. There will be an as yet unfilled vacancy for Vice President as well as a number of Regional Chairman's seats in the provinces, which urgently need nominations of dedicated and willing people to fill these vacancies. The most significant of these are from Matabeleland, Manicaland and Mashonaland North.

Whilst it is fully understood that many of those who are still able to farm prefer not to put their hands up bearing in mind their current circumstance we do urge them to move away from the position of sitting on the fence undecided and to come into the system so that they will be in a position to direct your Union in the new direction which they and their fellow farmers would prefer to see. It should be clearly understood that no change can take place unless you are personally involved, or well represented, at your Union.

We know that there are some incredibly knowledgeable, community spirited and committed people out there who could do the job of taking us into the future, but they may just need a small nudge from you.

Although we have been living through desperate times but we truly do believe that commercial agriculture cannot remain in limbo forever and judging on the themes and general discussion held during the many workshops we and our staff have recently attended that there is still very much an awareness of a place for our full involvement to a future developments in the agricultural field in Zimbabwe.

We can only hope that the commitments towards the urgency resuscitating commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe transcends into a meaningful change in all quarters, for the good of our nation.

We therefore have to be prepared and your Union has already made many preparations towards this. Vice President Taffs and Richard Taylor have made huge headway in sourcing and making funding available across the board, for both Agriculture and Industry in Zimbabwe. We are looking forward to an official announcement being made on the available finance very soon.

Probably the most important area, the development of which will be carried over in the new Council will be the unity of the other agricultural unions through a Commodity Council. So there too we need more capable and willing volunteers to come forward to resuscitate the various commodity associations which have been placed in mothballs over the last few years. Of course a number of changes will take place in their makeup and operation due to the working relationships with the other unions but we only see this advancement as being beneficial to Zimbabwean agriculture as a whole.

So to all you forward thinkers out there, now is the time for you to become a part of the new team which will guide commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe and your Union through a new and exciting phase in our history.

This is the season, or time of year, when most of our AGMs are being held and we urge you to support and attend them. However, in some areas where AGMs cannot be held we have permitted proxy voting via the email system, which we urge you to respond to. Should you have no email address you should contact either your current Chairman to obtain or else contact Head Office for the same.

There is a lot going on both at the Union and with the powers that be, both of which are crafting your future at the moment, so it is in your best interest to take note of the date of our next meeting here in Harare, as it will be well worth attending for an update. The next **Open Farmers' Meeting** will be held at the Union at **2.30 pm** on **Wednesday 6 July 2011**.

In just over a month we will be holding our Annual Congress. See below the Agenda:

AGENDA

MONDAY 25 JULY 2011

Pre Congress Council meeting to be held at the Commercial Farmers' Union in the Boardroom commencing at 14:00 hours.

TUESDAY 26 JULY 2011

Closed Session Wild Geese Lodge – Harare Zimbabwe

07:30 – 08:30	Registration of Delegates	
08:30 – 09:00	(i) Director's welcome and Notice to convene	
09:00 – 09:15	(ii) Welcome and opening statement by CFU President	
	(iii) Regional Chairmen's Annual Reports	(tabled)
	(iv) Commodity Chairmen's Annual Reports	(tabled)
	(v) Labour Report	(tabled)
	(vi) AISD Report	(tabled)
	(vii) Council Report	(tabled)
09:15 – 09:35	(viii) ARAC Report Presentation	
09:35 – 10:00	(ix) Legal Report Presentation	
10:00 – 10:30	(x) Recovery Program Report Presentation	

10:30 – 11:00 **TEA**

11:00 – 11:30	(xi) Appointment of Legal Advisors
11:30 – 12:30	(xii) CFU Financial Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2011
	(xiii) Appointment of Auditors
	(xiv) Resume of Resolutions 2010
	(xv) Resolutions
	a) of Membership Licence Fee
	b) CFU Constitutional amendments
	c) CFU Policy Document
12:30 – 13:00	(xvi) Way forward and Debate

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH**

Open Session Wild Geese Lodge – Harare Zimbabwe

14:00 – 15:00	(xvii) Guest Speakers
15:00 – 15:30	(xviii) Address to Congress by CFU President

15:30 – 16:00

TEA

16:00 – 17:00

- (xix) Address to Congress by VALCON
- (xx) Address to Congress by visiting Agricultural Unions
- (xxi) Debate and Questions
- (xxii) Thanks and Closure

17:00 – 17:30

- (xxiii) Post Congress Council Meeting

OFFICIAL OPENING AND COCKTAIL FUNCTION AT WILD GEESE LODGE

18:30 – 19:00

- (xxiv) Guests arrive

19:00 – 20:00

- (xxv) Welcome and opening by CFU President
- (xxvi) Farming Oscar Presentation
- (xxvii) Thanks and Closure
- (xxviii) Snacks

We urge as many people to attend our Congress as possible. In particular we need people who are still farming out there to come in from the districts to share your ideas with those members who are now stuck in town through no fault of their own. We look forward to an interesting Congress which will be of benefit to all. It is also a good opportunity of meeting your old friends from all corners of the country.

It is urgently requested that all districts and provinces submit their **lists of official delegates** to Congress to dir2@cfuzim.org as soon as possible. We also require urgently the outstanding Chairman's Reports, which need to go to the printers as soon as possible to be included in the Congress brochure.

We are having a few logistical problems with the printing of our new AgriZim magazine but please be aware that the latest copy of the magazine, and all back copies are available on our CFU Website www.cfuzim.org Just open **AgriZim Magazine** in the menu on the top of the left hand column.

There is a huge amount of information available on the website with daily updates of the news on events affecting agriculture being uploaded under **Newspaper Article** where the articles are filed under 13 sub-headings for your convenience. There is a huge amount of work pending on the development of our website but you will have to bear with us until more funds are available. If you scroll to the bottom of the front page of the website you will find the 15 latest uploads for easy access.

Although most of the reports coming into your Union this week were updates on court appearances, trials and remands for prosecution under the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act we have received some reports on new mass invasions in the southern parts of the wildlife conservancies in the Masvingo lowveld. This is of great concern because many of those properties are currently entertaining clients from overseas and the current lawlessness could have a detrimental effect on their business and in particular future client's willingness to visit these internationally popular resorts.

Investigations are also underway into the callous slaughter of two young elephants (a young bull and a lactating cow) that were left with their heads cut off in a blatant and obvious show of defiance. The herd itself has been a tourist attraction in itself as it began with calves which were orphaned in the 1982 drought and bottle fed. It could be likened to the "Presidential Herd" in Hwange and are very docile as they trust humans due to their constant contact with them.

We sincerely thank those of you who have continued to submit their reports on incidents on farms and in the courts as the records are extremely important indeed. Please continue reporting either directly to Mike Clark at your Union or mashc@cfuzim.org and remember your reports are treated as strictly confidential.

A Brief Report on the "Mandi Rukuni Seminar"

Zimbabwe's Agricultural Sector Past, Present and Future

From the Desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson

Recently I had the good fortune of being able to attend the Mandi Rukuni seminar on Zimbabwe's Agricultural sector past, present, and future. This seminar was arranged by Professor Mandi Rukuni, a prominent academic with vast experience in agricultural economics and land tenure policy issues in Zimbabwe, together with his very able team. The theme of the seminar was to look at the positive lessons of the past to inform the current constraints in the agricultural sector in the present and look to a positive more productive future.

The Seminar drew interest from a number of players in the Agricultural industry including Scientists in the research sector, representatives from the seed houses and seed breeders, representatives from the banking sector who were involved in agri-business finance, representatives from some of the Farmers' Unions, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, academics and many other stakeholders. A variety of topics were covered and a lot of frank discussion between the participants took place. The most controversial discussions focused on land tenure systems and the role of GMOs (genetically modified organisms). Overall there appeared to be a real consensus that the policy constraints to increased agricultural production need to be carefully reviewed if the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe is to have a much needed renaissance.

One of the speakers was CFU past president John Laurie who amongst others spoke about the strengths of the Agricultural sector in the past and proffered some suggestions about how to move forward positively into the future. Other speakers were drawn from the seed industry, the fertilizer industry, livestock commodity experts, grain and oilseed commodity experts, The Pig Industry Board and others.

BUSINESS CHAMBER: (From the desk of Richard Taylor)

The finance deals are almost signed and sealed so hopefully we will be able to let members know by the latter half of next week that all is in place and farmers can now access cheaper finance through certain banks.

We do have a fertilizer deal on the table

The fertilizer company is offering CFU member's terms which shall not exceed the final payment date of 28 Feb 2012 (Currently 240 days). This period in future can cover 270 days working back from the 28 Feb 2013. The fert co will require a bank guarantee from an approved bank (most banks have a formal agreement with them already). The fert company will charge an interest rate of 0.75% per month.

Interest will be charged from date of final confirmation of official order and not on collection of product. Price will be fixed as agreed on the date of confirmation of order.

Members are able to purchase in tranches throughout the season however price of the day will apply to each separate order.

System:

Farmer obtains a proforma invoice from the fert co and takes it to his/her bank.

The bank will prepare the guarantee and forward it to the farmer or directly to the fert co.

(Please note that the Pro-forma invoice will have a validity date)

The official order will be completed and product will be released for collection immediately.

Payment is made by the farmer to the fert co on or before the guarantee due date.

On this note please do be aware that world fertilizer prices are on the increase, so it will pay you to fix the fertilizer price as soon as possible on the 240 day facility, as increases that will be coming on later purchases of fertilizer, are going to cost you.

We are currently waiting on two chemical companies to give us what their best deal will be and are talking with another chemical company this coming week.

For those farmers who are interested to hear what we have on the table reference the finance and insurance schemes, please do come and attend our ZCPA AGM where we will be discussing this.

We managed to negotiate the HP finance down slightly and so now have in place the hire purchase scheme for tractors, equipment and vehicles at:

6% deposit against purchase price

15% interest for 2, 3 or 5 yrs and payment terms are negotiable

All of the above will be at a preferential rate for CFU Members but please note that non CFU Members can access these deals but it will be at slightly higher rates.

We have more members signing up to Liberty Life (Blue Diamond) medical insurance scheme. For those who are still interested but have questions that they would like answers to, please send these to me and I will put together a Question and answer sheet.

Contact address rtaylor@cfuzim.org

Till next week and trust that we will see a lot of you at our ZCPA AGM

ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

Fertiliser Deal – Richard Taylor

The fertiliser deal has now been sorted out, and should you wish to participate in this scheme, please contact me at rtaylor@cfuzim.org or 04-309862, and we can get the ball rolling. Please be aware that fertilizer prices are increasing, and if you commit now to your total requirements, this will more than negate the present interest charges.

We in the process of reformatting the commodity prices schedule, and trust that we will have this back in CFU Calling shortly.

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) as at 28 June 2011

Commodity	Rand/Tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1734	255	1894	278
Yellow Maize	1745	256	1905	280
Wheat	2888	424	3048	448
Soyabeans	3220	473	3380	496
Sunflowers	4100	602	4260	626

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne			Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	309			459
Maize	292			442
Soyabeans	516			666

Source: South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)

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

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

ANDY MILLAR HALL, EXHIBITION PARK, SAMORA MACHEL AVENUE, HARARE.

Things are really "reeling and crashing" by this week as we are in the final throes for the preparations for our National AGM meeting. Should you phone the office and receive an incomprehensible reply, please bear

in mind that we are all tearing our hair out to ensure that our AGM runs smoothly and all arrangements are on track.

As usual our AGM 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. Please will everyone note that there will be Registration in the morning and the **Registration Fee will be \$10.00 per head**. This allows you access to the Technical Talks taking place in the morning, followed by lunch and then the Open Session of the AGM in the afternoon. The Dairy Dinner Dance will begin at 7.30p.m. with a splendid Buffet Dinner. As usual, it will be an event packed with business, interaction and also fun.

We are still finalising our Agenda and it may be tweaked here or there, but we have planned the following :

TIME	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION ~ MAIN HALL	TECHNICAL PRESENTATION ~ BAR AREA
08.00 – 08.30	TEA AND COFFEE FOR GUESTS ON ARRIVAL and NADF EXECUTIVE MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ONLY	
08.30 – 09.00	Forage Sorghum and Other Pastures – Mr J Meyer ~ Coopers	
09.00 – 09.30	Mastitis Vaccine - Prof D Goosen ~ Milborrow, Medvet, Pennvet and Medivision	
09.30 – 10.00	Labour Update and How to deal with Union Officials – Mr T Marodza ~ CFU	
10.00 – 10.30	TEA/COFFEE AND SANDWICHES	
10.30 – 11.00	Advantages of Seasonal Calving for Small Scale and Commercial Farmers – Mr D Harvey ~ Land O Lakes	De Laval DCC Cell Counter – Miss M de Bruyn ~ DeLaval SA (Pty) Ltd ~ DairyMac Zimbabwe
11.00 – 11.30	Dairy Express and Easy Dairy Programmes – Dr M Beffa ~ LMAC/LIT and Mr I Lang	Nutrition – L Kearney ~ Keenan Systems
11.30 – 12.00	Small Scale and Commercial Farming Equipment – Radzim Agri-Power	EMA – Update and Presentation to Farmers Regarding Regulations and Fees
12.00 – 12.30	Artificial Insemination – Mr P Marx – Semex South Africa ~ Tselentis & Company	Financial Market Report - Mr V Semwayo ~ Tetrad
12.30 – 14.00	LUNCH	
14.00 – 16.30	NADF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OPEN SESSION	
	NADF Chairman's Report – Mr A Kirk	
	Processors Report – Mr K Katsande ~ Nestle Zimbabwe	
	Dairy Services Report – Mrs T Marecha ~ Dairy Services	
	CPA Chairman's Report – Mr P Erasmus	
	TEA/COFFEE	
	ZRP Anti Stock Theft Forum – Assistant Commissioner Dumbura ~ Zimbabwe Republic Police	
	Market Report – Mr R Ormerod ~ Croplink	
	Commercial Farmers' Union Update – Mr C Taffs ~ Vice President	
16.30 – 17.00	NADF Closed Session Meeting for Members Only Finances will be presented by Grant Thornton Camelsa Auditors	
19.30/20.00 Until 12.00 midnight	Dairy Dinner Dance ~ FLICK A HOOF AND HAVE SOME FUN Guest of Honour ~ Mr K Pienaar from MPO ~ South African Dairy Trends	

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.

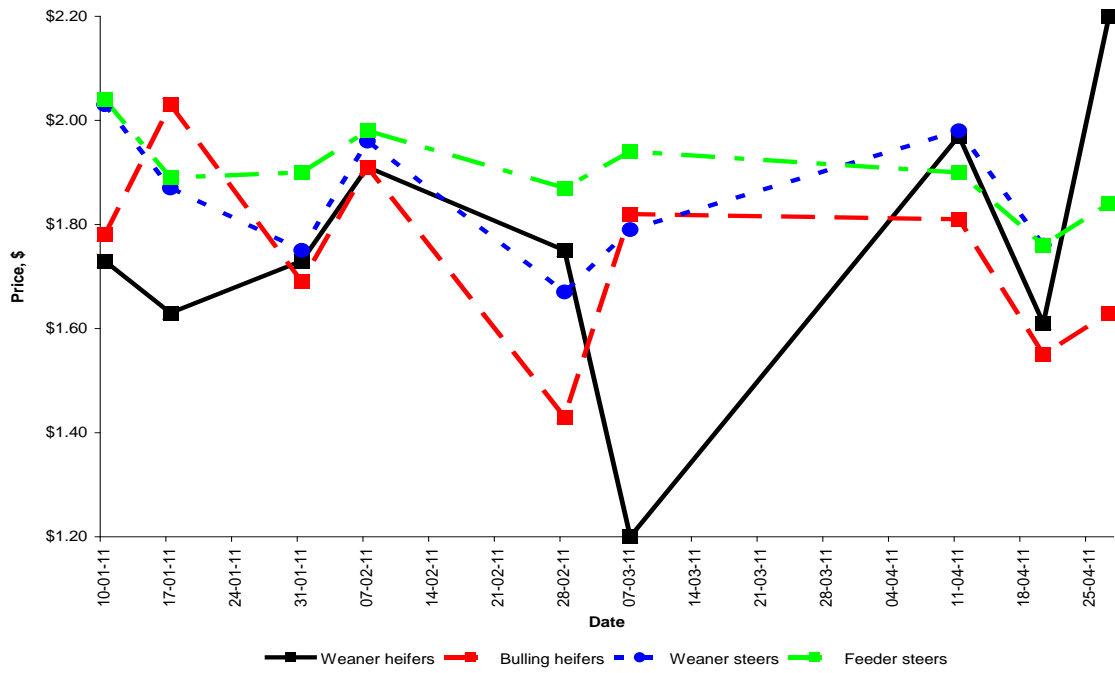
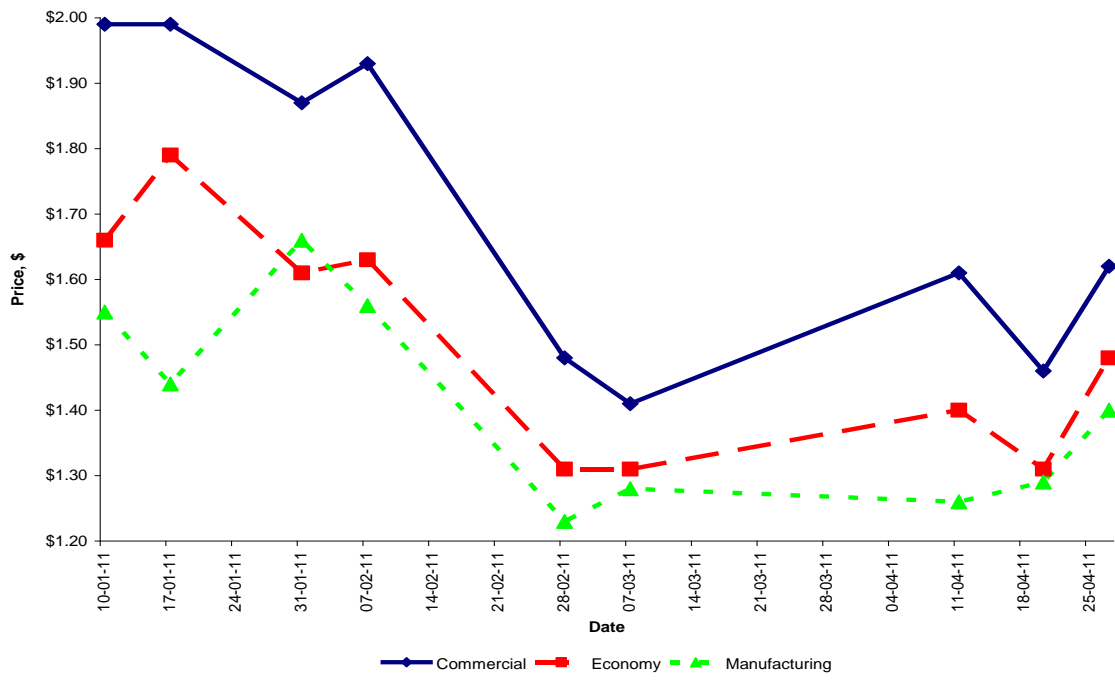
CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

CC sales have advised that their sales are still restricted because of the foot and mouth outbreak. However, the Veterinary Department are 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.

GRADE	AVERAGE PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES			
	HARARE	GWERU	BULAWAYO SLAUGHTER	BULAWAYO YOUNG STOCK
SUPER	-		-	1.82
COMMERCIAL	1.75		1.46	1.40
CHOICE	-		-	1.54
ECONOMY	1.55		1.34	1.26
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY	-		1.40	1.30
MANUFACTURING	1.44		0.93	0.95
BULLS	1.66		1.45	1.38
WEANER HEIFERS	1.83		-	2.30
BULLING HEIFERS	1.58		-	1.35
LONG WEANER HEIFERS	1.98		-	-
COW & CALF	-		-	-
WEANER STEERS	1.84		-	1.35
LONG WEANER STEERS	1.91		-	-
FEEDER STEERS	1.78		-	1.46
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS	-		-	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER STEERS	1.13		-	-
BREEDING COWS	-		-	-
BREEDING BULLS	-		-	-
STANDARD MUTTON	3.19		-	-

Summary of auction prices for beef cattle at Mt Hampden, Jan to Apr 2011

GRADE	10-Jan		17-Jan		31-Jan		07-Feb		28-Feb		07-Mar		11-Apr		20-Apr		27-Apr	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Super															9	1.9		
Choice	1	1.86							3	1.53	4	1.92	14	2.06	3	1.82		
Commercial	9	1.99	12	1.99	4	1.87	26	1.93	26	1.48	4	1.41	26	1.61	14	1.46	10	1.62
Economy	102	1.66	27	1.79	82	1.61	89	1.63	59	1.31	19	1.31	122	1.4	25	1.31	9	1.48
Manufacturing	22	1.55	3	1.44	70	1.66	10	1.56	14	1.23	5	1.28	39	1.26	23	1.29	10	1.4
Comm weaner heifers	2	1.02							6	1.16	1	1.46						
Weaner heifers	68	1.73	1	1.63	55	1.73	12	1.91	30	1.75	1	1.2	29	1.97	6	1.61	4	2.2
Long weaner heifers	6	1.78	1	1.47	17	1.82			4	1.56	8	1.71	42	1.96				
Bulling heifers	14	1.78	2	2.03	37	1.69	30	1.91	5	1.43	10	1.82	30	1.81	15	1.55	9	1.63
Cow & calf	39	1.67			20	1.53	7	1.52					1	1.46				
Comm weaner steers			1	0.87									1	1.46	3	1.24		
Weaner steers	70	2.03	30	1.87	49	1.75	46	1.96	39	1.67	36	1.79	62	1.98	59	1.76		
Long weaner steers	4	1.78	3	1.72	34	1.89	24	2.03	11	1.76	75	2.04	36	2.1	55	1.82	7	1.89
Feeder steers	14	2.04	18	1.89	50	1.9	23	1.98	131	1.87	38	1.94	68	1.9	23	1.76	10	1.84
Bull					20	1.51	2	1.37					11	1.75	11	1.67	9	1.45
Total Head sold			98		438		269		328		201		481		246		68	



Live Cattle Prices – Mt Hampden Jan – May 2011

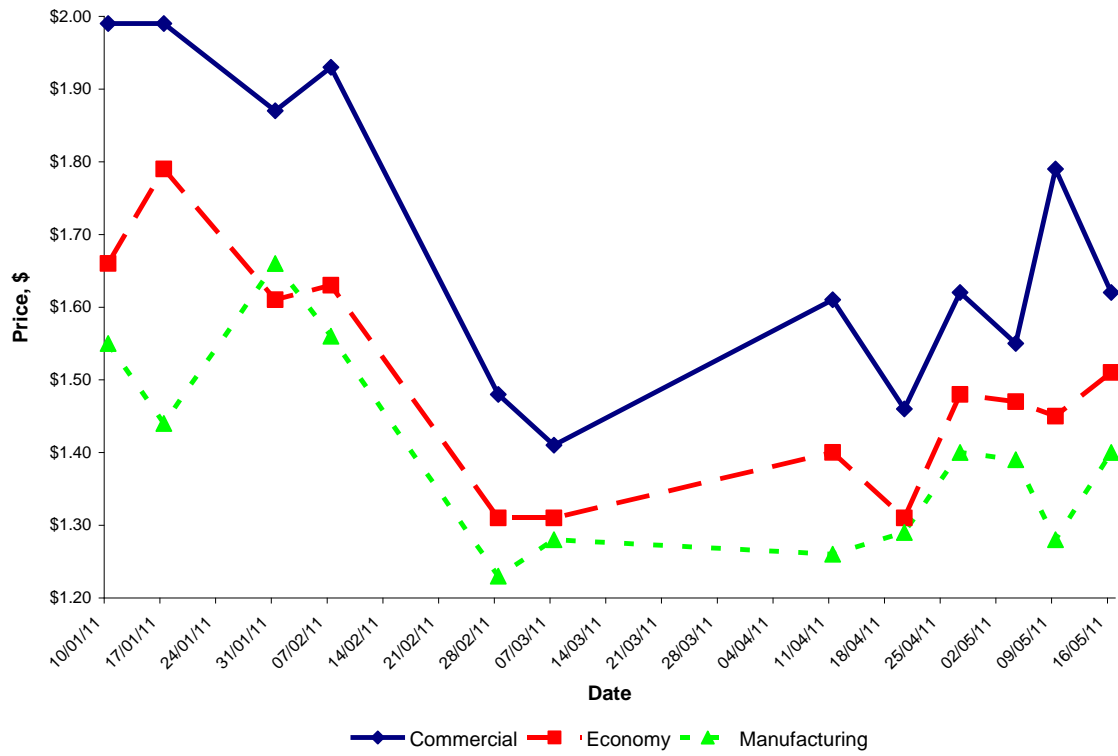


Figure 1. Slaughter stock prices

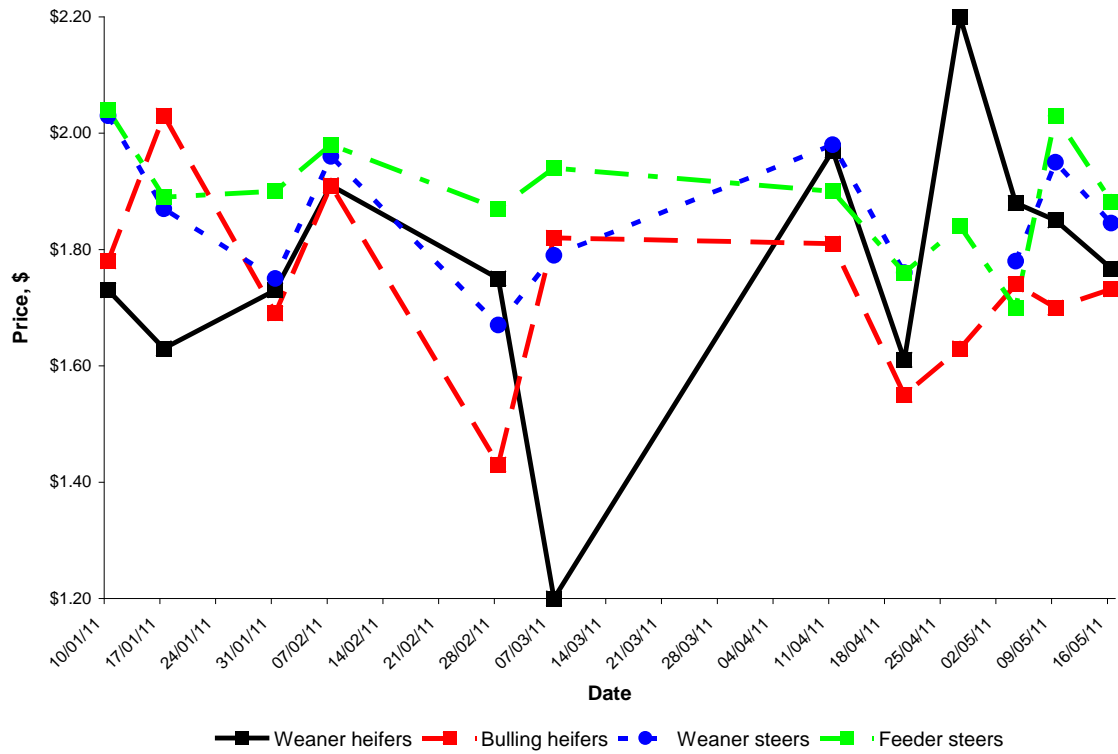


Figure 2. Young stock prices

ARAC UPDATE #10 (From the desk of Ben Gilpin)

1 July 2011

Dear Farmer,

Earlier in the month a group of farmers (not all men) attended the three day workshop that we had arranged with Foundations for Farming. It was a rewarding experience for all who participated and I would like to particularly thank Brian Oldrieve and his team for the dedicated effort they put into sharing their experience and vision. As one participant put it: "The last few days have been a like a breath of fresh air. Hope for our nation is not always so readily available."

The course offered a unique insight into how a number of farmers have dealt with loss and how they have acquired a fresh perspective on how to make use of long acquired farming skills in a changed environment. I believe all those present learnt a great deal from the practical demonstrations on conservation farming.

Certainly many farmers were aware of the technology but adoption was slow; for many of us we left thinking, given a fresh opportunity to farm we would do things differently next time around. One farmer presenter put things in a very relevant way: "What are you as a professional farmer doing to prepare yourself for the recovery of Zimbabwe?" For those there, the challenge, I am sure has set them thinking and turning things over in their minds We were shown how various different bits of trash form the raw materials to make really top quality compost.

For many of us the parallels of trashed lives remoulded into something new and productive is still hard to envisage. The processes, practices and paradigms espoused at Foundations for Farming offer much to our constituency and nation.

In this regard we are happy to announce that a further three day course will be offered to interested farmers on Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st July. There is no charge; we will send full details on request.

We are also happy to announce that Foundations for Farming will host a Ladies Day for wives who accompany their husbands to congress on 26th July. In addition to interesting presentations those who attend will be shown practical quality compost making, innovative gardening techniques and herb gardening. Let us know if you are interested in attending.

In recent weeks you have been made aware of efforts to engage with the Government and others with regards to increased commitment to the compensation issue. We have also been looking at the possibility of pensions secured against claims. Thus far nothing concrete has emerged.

It has been said that communication is at the heart of a relationship. How this is achieved is equally important, it has therefore been distressing recently to read on the zimbabwesituation.com web site much criticism regarding the current efforts by CFU and ARAC to service current and past members' requirements.

There is always the temptation to enter the fray with fists flaying when one feels affronted by innuendo or accusation, however generally there is limited point in doing that. On behalf of the ARAC team, I would like to reassure you all of our continued and sustained efforts to advocate for your rights. Progress at times may seem only incremental; there is clearly stress where expectations and achievement are not immediately matched. That however should not be used as an excuse to undermine one another. We are here to serve you, listen and inform. Please feel free to communicate directly with any query or request and I assure you we will do our best to provide a proper response.

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

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