

CFU Calling

12 August 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Charles Taffs)

As we enter into a new period of leadership within the CFU the challenges we face have never been greater. The compensation awaited for by so many is yet to come; farmers still farming are under immense pressure, both financially and politically; and the country as a whole is under an illusion of recovery, driven mainly by retail outlets being well stocked with imported goods; the productive sector being in near total collapse.

We as a Union must focus on addressing the one major economic fundamental which will solve all the above mentioned challenges and that is the restoration and respect of property rights.

With the restoration of property rights in place, compensation will be a reality, all farmers can farm with confidence and inflows of money into the general economy will begin.

Let us not underestimate the challenge ahead. The environment in which we operate is hostile and we have to fight for every inch, but this is being done. Since dollarisation the magnitude of the damage done is now being realized by all and there is now a real desire across the divide to resolve these issues so that the country generally, and agriculture in particular can redevelop. We can no longer ignore the fact that we are totally import dependent of everything including electricity and this is not sustainable, resulting in a general acceptance that the key to the country's recovery is the recovery of agriculture. To this end we will be driving this agenda.

There however remains one part of our strategy still lacking and that is unity. Let me stress we cannot be divided, separated or sidetracked by petty side shows. We have to come together to resolve our issues and for any person or persons to do otherwise is to do our entire community a massive disservice. I therefore appeal to you all, wherever you are, to join us in finalizing the task ahead so that we and our children may have a future. Constructive criticism is always welcome but my advice has and always will be, attack the argument and not the personality – the stakes are too high to do any different. To you all, wherever you are, rest assured that we will continue to do everything within our power to make this happen for the betterment of both us and our country as a whole.

Finally to my predecessor and friend Deon Theron, you have laid a foundation on which we can build at great expense to both you and your family and as a community we are eternally grateful.

Should you wish to contact either me or my Vice President Peter Steyl directly please feel free to use the following email addresses – ctaffs@cfuzim.org; pres@cfuzim.org; psteyl@cfuzim.org

EXECUTIVE NEWS

The weather is definitely warming up a little bit and obviously the fish have begun to bite again which is probably why a number of offices which we are dealing with have not been fully functioning over the past week. Admittedly our own offices have also been devoid of a few staff members as they took advantage of a longer holiday weekend to spend time with their families during the school holidays.

Although we hope this coming week will bring us back to normal capacity here unfortunately some of the vital players with whom we are currently negotiating with on the financial deals may still be away for a few more weeks. This has been responsible for the slight delay of finalising the deals so you will just have to bear with us until their return. We will certainly keep you informed as we fully realise that the finance offered is vital for your continued viability and should be made available as soon as possible so the necessary inputs can be acquired prior to the commencement of the new season.

The week itself has otherwise been relatively quiet – as far as we know – and we continue to encourage you to send in all reports of either disruptions or court cases to mashc@cfuzim.org

We did have the long awaited judgment finally handed down on a farmer whose BIPPA was previously recognised by the High Court, on 3 separate occasions. The farmer was found guilty under the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act and was fined US\$ 400 or 1 month imprisonment. He was given 90 days to vacate the house on the property which is the only use he has had of the highly intensive irrigation property for a number of years now. An appeal is due to be filed as none of the strong legal arguments submitted in this landmark case were allegedly even considered by the magistrate.

Of concern about this case is that there are a further four farmers under prosecution in the same court who are, or should be, protected by three other BIPPAs which were signed between their respective Governments and the Zimbabwean Government. The wrong message is being sent out to any potential foreign investors in Zimbabwe, especially in agriculture, should these cases be allowed to continue.

It is rather strange that in the same court two other BIPPA agreements have been fully recognised and the charges against those three farmers were dropped some time ago.

A further judgment was handed down yesterday in another province and the farmer was found guilty under the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act and sentenced to a fine of US\$ 100 and given 14 days to wind up his farming business and to vacate the property. This is now the fourth farmer to be evicted by the courts in that particular province during the last month. Three more farmers were issued court summons.

Since Congress we have noted that there have been several press articles published which have contained an unusually large number of errors or misquotes. We therefore request our members to please disregard these and to clear up any queries you may have with us. We will endeavour to put in place new preventative measures in the near future to deal with this.

A clear example of this was the press article that stated that the Union is going to sue Government for US\$20 billion in respect of losses due to farmers and farm labourers. This is totally incorrect.

Last week we announced the presentation of the *Ordre National du Merite* to Clive Stockil by the French Ambassador for his outstanding services to the wildlife industry in Zimbabwe. He has sent us both the Ambassador's speech and his own which is now published on our website www.cfuzim.org under Newspaper Articles – Conservancies and Wildlife.

Below is a recent bulletin published by Veritas, which has been copied for your interest. At the end of a Parliament Session, all pending Bills and motions, and uncompleted portfolio and thematic committee proceedings, lapse. Standing Orders, however, allow for lapsed Bills and motions to be restored to the Order Paper and for the committees appointed for a new session to adopt the uncompleted work of their predecessors – and this is what usually happens:

BILL WATCH 33/2011
[11th August 2011]

Both Houses of Parliament have adjourned until Tuesday 30th August

Before then it is likely that the President will have ended the present session and opened a new session –the 4th session of the 7th Parliament

POSA Amendment Bill: Introduced in Senate, but Blocked

Eight months after it was passed by the House of Assembly Mr Gonese's Private Member's Public Order and Security Amendment Bill was finally introduced in the Senate on 2nd August, when Mr Gonese delivered his speech opening the Second Reading debate and explaining the Bill in detail. He pointed out that the Bill had been passed by the House of Assembly with co-operation of members of all parties; denied any intention to usurp the powers of the Executive by introducing a Private Member's Bill; and argued that the Bill was furthering Articles 12 and 13 of the GPA. Those Articles deal with freedom of assembly and the need for law enforcement agencies to be impartial. After ZANU-PF Senators questioned the need for the Bill and said more time was needed for "research", the debate was adjourned until 3rd August. On 3rd August Justice Minister Chinamasa, who is ZANU-PF's chief GPA negotiator, objected to the Bill being before the Senate at all, saying that the amendment of POSA was a matter under consideration by the GPA negotiators as part of the Election Roadmap and that further debate might undermine the Inclusive Government.

The Minister moved that the debate be adjourned. Mr Gonese agreed that the debate be adjourned but emphasised the Bill was not being withdrawn. But, the Senate then adjourned until 30th August and a new Session of Parliament will probably be opened before that date, meaning that the Bill will lapse. So Mr Gonese's marathon, which began in November 2009 when the House of Assembly gave him permission to introduce his Bill – unopposed by ZANU-PF MPs – has been brought to a halt on the last lap. This is probably the end of the Bill – after these developments it

seems unlikely that the Bill will be revived next Session, unless all three parties agree to do so following further negotiations.

This tactical blocking of the Bill suggests a change of heart by ZANU-PF since December last year, when the Bill was approved by the House of Assembly with the co-operation of ZANU-PF members. If there was an objection to the introduction of a Private Member's Bill, that could have been raised at the beginning of the Bill's journey or at any time since. The Bill was gazetted on 11th December 2009, went through Portfolio Committee meetings and public hearings round the country, was in the Lower House for a year and has been on the Senate's Order Paper since December 2010. So, the Senators' claims to need further time for research also ring hollow. The end of the Session has given ZANU-PF a convenient procedural method of stopping the Bill without incurring the odium of having to vote against what are really very mild compromise amendments to a piece of legislation that many want to see repealed altogether.

Questions raised: Is the Inclusive Government really going to come up with more comprehensive amendments? In the meantime, who benefits from POSA continuing in its present unamended form? Should a member of the Executive pressure a private member to stop debate on a Bill and let the Executive deal with the matter? Is what has happened to the POSA Amendment Bill another regrettable illustration of Parliament's continuing subservience to the Executive?

Human Rights Commission Bill : Public Hearings Disrupted

Parliament's public hearings from the 18th to 22nd July in Chinhoyi, Masvingo and Mutare on the Human Rights Commission Bill were all disrupted. The Harare hearing was originally scheduled for 23rd July at Highfield. Fear of disruption by the same unruly mobs led Parliament to change the venue to a committee room in Parliament. But outrageously, the hearing in Parliament itself was also invaded by a violent mob – they were bussed in and several hundred were toyi-toying in Africa Unity Square before invading Parliament. Inside the committee room members of Parliament, those attempting to make representations to the committee, journalists and members of the public were assaulted. The hearing had to be prematurely terminated. These events, which were clearly orchestrated and seemed to have nothing to do with objections to the Bill, are deeply disturbing because they testify to a determination by whoever organised them to erode the power and standing of Parliament as a national institution. Also disturbing is the fact that the chaos at the hearing in Parliament went on for so long without effective police intervention. These events recall the invasion of the Supreme Court in November 2000 by elements not prepared to entertain the notion of an independent and fearless judiciary. It is important, as the constitution-making process nears its final stages, to remember that if State institutions are weak they cannot provide the checks and balances without which true democracy is not possible.

Speaker's Statement on Disturbances

On 26th July the Speaker issued a press statement on the disturbances. He attributed the disruption in Parliament on 23rd July to "rowdy gangs identified as ZANU-PF activists who were dropped off at Parliament as they chanted their party songs and slogans." Condemning the events as showing contempt for the authority of Parliament and as punishable offences under the Privileges, Immunities and Powers of Parliament Act, the Speaker called on law enforcement agents to move with speed to bring "the sponsors and perpetrators of these crimes" to book, pointing out that "it is these displays of lawlessness, human rights violations and violence that continue to keep Zimbabwe high up on the international relations scene for all the wrong reasons". [Electronic version of full statement available.] [Note: Identification of the perpetrators of the disturbances in Parliament on 23rd July should be easy for the police. Parliament is equipped with surveillance cameras which recorded everything that happened.]

Electoral Amendment Bill Tabled but will have to be Revived next Session.

On 26th July the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs tabled the Electoral Amendment Bill in the House of Assembly. In accordance with the Constitution and the House's Standing Orders the Bill was immediately referred to the Parliamentary Legal Committee [PLC] for the committee's report on its constitutionality. The PLC has until 2nd September to compile its report, although it has the right to ask the Speaker for more time if it needs it. [Electronic version of Bill available.]

Veritas makes every effort to ensure reliable information, but cannot take legal responsibility for information supplied

UPDATE – ISSUES OF INTEREST

From the desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson

ZESA

In the last week we have had an increase in reports from wheat/barley producers of a reduction in electricity supply resulting in moisture stress.

We have liaised with ZESA extensively over this problem. In short, the increase in load shedding is a result of a failure in 2 of the units at Hwange power station. The situation is expected to improve early next week. Please continue to report any major problems in this regard. You can e mail marc@cfuzim.org

Open Space Technology Meeting between CFU and ZF Members

Harare – About 200 people participated in an Open Space Technology Workshop held on Friday the 29th April 2011 at the Celebration Centre in Harare. The Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) and Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) conducted the workshop and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) a partner of ZFU supported it. The experienced Theo Groot and eight members from the local Association of Certified Process Facilitators facilitated the workshop.

Open Space Technology (OST) is a powerful meeting tool for the 21st Century. Developed by Harrison Owen, it taps into the spirit of an organisation like no other large or small group intervention can. It is now used around the world to enable organisations to learn and achieve beyond expectations. Based on clear principles and values, OST creates an environment for communication, innovation, problem solving, creativity, teamwork and rapid change.

ZFU has used this approach now a few times, but outcome is always surprising. OST will help to start the communication of the two unions and will be the first platform where an exchange of the members on a national level takes place. It will identify common grounds and needs of the unions.

An OST workshop follows four principles:

1. Whoever comes is the right person (Ivo vauya ndivo chaivo; Bona laba ababuyileyo yibo)
2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened (Zvaitika pano ndizvo chaizvo; Okwenzakale lapha yikho sibili;)
3. Whenever it starts is the right time (Nguva yatino-tanga ndiyo chaiyo; Isikathi esiqalisa ngaso yiso sibili)
4. When it is over it is over (Kana zvapera zvapera; Nxa sokupelile kupelile);

The ZFU – CFU had the theme: **How a joint commodity council can help commodity associations to improve the service to their members?**

After short welcoming remarks by the President of CFU Mr. Theron and by the Vice President of ZFU Mr. Nyathi, Theo Groot introduced the methodology of OST. After the participants understood what will happen during the day, small groups of four prepared topics to be presented in the open space and later discussed in small groups. The participants came-up with 43 topics which were displayed at the market place (Musika; Umkhambo) and then allocated a time and a space. 18 topics were addressed in the morning and 17 in the afternoon. The participants discussed the topic in small group with a facilitator in order to focus on the theme of a joint commodity council and to document the proceedings.

The discussion circles followed two laws which are contributing to the success of an OST Workshop:

1. Be ready to be surprised (Gadzirirai Kushamisika; Lungiselelani ukumangala)
2. Law of the two feet (Mutemo wetsoka mbiri; Umthetho wenyawo ezimbili)

Therefore participants change the space to attend to another topic because they were not interested or another participant dominated the discussions. The hit among the topics were around marketing, training and commodity associations. Some groups had only 2 or 3 members and other topics were not discussed.

The discussion results of each group were written down and displayed on the wall called “The News Wall” (Nhau, Indaba).

At the end of the day, the participants received each five beans which were used for prioritising the topics. Everybody could now put between one to five beans into an envelope which was fixed under each topic at the news wall. The topics with most of the votes were presented to the audience assembled around the open space.

The ZFU President Mr. Hungwe closed the OST after a few participants gave highlights of their OST experience.

Market (Musika; Umkhambo)

1. Pricing of commodities
2. Security of land tenure
3. Credit facility scheme; private sector support to farmers
4. Market research both internal and external
5. Dairy: fodder species; water closer to farmers; dairy heifers; producer prices low;
6. Industrial crops: problems faced : lack of farming inputs
7. Marketing; Inputs; Training; Support farmers with implements
8. Commodity Associations: Clear structure of the commodity forum, i.e. implementation/ process and strategies; remodelling the commodity forum on a success story, i.e. milk.
9. Training of farmers
10. Ways of removing corrupt practices among our group leaders; e.g. limited time for official duties
11. Early disbursement of inputs
12. Consideration of disable persons in farming
13. Sicela since dwe ngoku irrigatelwa indawo yabalimi; (assistance in irrigation)

14. Kuwana mnombe dzokutenge sa, loan (cattle to sell and loans)
15. Exclusion of non-members of the two unions
16. Load shedding affecting dairy producers. Leading to deforestation
17. Banking and finance
18. Uncontrolled inputs; uncontrolled importation of heavily brined GMO fed chicken into Zimbabwe – unfair competition – resulting in limited unviable local production. Knock on problem also affects pig farmers and soya and maize farmers
19. Transport charges of milk to processing plant; DZL;
20. Farmers to be trained in Grading for quality products
21. Livestock vanhu vanoba mombe nguva yose, kuba mari yokutenga dzimbe ngombe (people steal livestock)
22. Chibage chinononoka kutengwa, mbeu ino nonoka kuuya; (Buyers of maize come late and offer low prices);
23. Pricing of cotton and tobacco ;
24. Water supply in dairy schemes
25. Methods of improving production
26. Segregation of women in farming and accessing loans
27. Conservation for farming improvement
28. Support for crop farming should be same as animal farming;
29. Membership card to have discount when buying
30. Inputs like seeds e.g. cotton seed should be on the open market;
31. Resuscitation of coffee and macadamia crops
32. Affordability of dairy heifers which suit the environment
33. Mombe mbudzi hwai nguruve (we have cows, goats and sheep) but marketing problem kumakoronyera
34. Price of stock feeds production
35. Title deed to access loans
36. Support given to crop farmers should also be given to cattle producers
37. Expensive inputs
38. Quality products; our products must be on a high quality so that to have a special market
39. Transport to market
40. Seed, inputs kunoka kutengwa kwe cotton, Magiredi tino bairwa nerna company, transport; (On cotton buying and grading, we are exploited by companies, middleman, transporters).
41. Cost of production; sharing of information; improving services to members; identifying areas of need; capacity building; facilitation of dialogue;
42. Need for value addition to produce before selling and to increase shelf live of perishable commodities
43. Value addition; peanut butter processing
44. Tinorima wheat. But price ye GMB neinozo tengwa nehurumende kunze zvine mutsauko.
45. Marketing tobacco, crops, beef;

Priority Ranking:

No	Topic	votes
1	Marketing of crops and livestock	72
2	Training of farmers	70
3	Cattle loans	65
4	Commodity associations	53
5	Segregation of women in farming and accessing loans	45
6	Livestock production in Zimbabwe	43
7	Security of land tenure	41
8	Pricing of tobacco and cotton	38
9	Training of farmers in grading for quality products	37
10	Dairy heifers and dairy farming	36
11	Pricing of commodities	33
12	Private sector support to agricultural industry in Zimbabwe	31
13	Market research	28
14	Banking and finance	28
15	Conservation farming	21
16	Need for value addition before selling	20
17	Cost of production	20
18	Supply of water in dairy schemes and its challenges	17
19	transport	15
20	Chicken imports	10
21	Resuscitation of coffee production	6
22	Support given to crop farmers should also be given to cattle producers	5
23	Disability issues/representation as special interest	2
24	Ways of improving production	0
Total votes		736

736 votes means at least 147 people voted in the prioritising exercise.

Later in the year ZFU and CFU will follow-up on the topics and priority areas and call for a future search conference to develop action plans to address the issues.

To see a detailed report on the Open Space Technology meeting go to our website www.cfuzim.org

Labour Issues

We have had a number of queries on Labour issues from members. We ask members to continue to contact our offices to receive detailed updates. Please contact Marc or Tongai (marc@cfuzim.org or tongai@cfuzim.org) The following general information may be of use:

- There are a number of new Trade Unions most purporting to be affiliated to the ZFTU and whose registration with the Ministry of Labour is unclear. These Trade Unions are not members of the NEC and we advise employers **not** entertain them. They do not have a right to inspect your records (only the NEC designated agent and a Labour Officer may inspect records), nor do they have a right to disrupt working activities to address workers during working hours. If they have a genuine complaint or concern you should ask them to put this in writing and then we are more than prepared to meet with them at the Ministry of Labour offices to resolve the matter.
- The latest statutory instrument for General Agricultural Workers (SI 25 of 2011 published in the Gazette on the 4th of March 2011) sets a minimum wage of USD 44.00. You are therefore not legally obliged to pay anything more. The NEC do have a new Collective Bargaining Agreement setting the wage at USD 55 minimum but that has not been Gazetted and its implementation is entirely at your discretion. However, most employers are already implementing this agreement.
- The problem is managing the expectations of the Labour force because the Trade Unions and NEC are not giving workers the correct legal information.
- As to the NEC dues there is a statutory instrument (SI 101 of 2010) covering this. We have had reports that the NEC is attempting to enforce this Statutory Instrument by threatening to make or making reports to the ZRP. In all cases the NEC has threatened this action without any previous correspondence with the employers in question or any attempts to settle outstanding issues amicably. Members need to be aware of the following points:
 - SI 101 of 2010 has been challenged by ALB as being invalidly concluded in accordance with the provisions of the NEC constitution and the Labour Act. The case is currently pending before the Labour Court under case number LC/H/11/11.
 - In terms of the NEC Constitution (Article 24(2)) the NEC is required to produce an audited set of accounts annually. The NEC has not complied with the provisions of its own Constitution in this regard for at least 5 years now. This lack of financial transparency and accountability means that neither employers nor employees in the agricultural industry are informed about how these NEC dues (public funds) are being used.

Therefore, members may if they choose, put aside the dues and only remit them to the NEC when:

1. The labour Court hands down its judgement in the case mentioned above and that judgement upholds SI 101 of 2010; and
2. The NEC produces an audited set of accounts for inspection at their offices.

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

NADF is holding the next full Executive Meeting on the 6th September 2011 with open and closed sessions. Should you have any queries or concerns, please bring these to the attention of your Regional Chairman so that these can be discussed at this meeting.

At the last closed Executive Meeting dates for regional meetings were set as follows :

Mash A – 29th September 2011 at 9.30a.m. at CFU

Mash B – 21st September 2011 at 10a.m. at the Beatrice Club

Chipinge – 27th September 2011 at 10a.m. – venue to be confirmed

Mutare – 28th September 2011 at 10a.m. – venue to be confirmed

Gweru – 23rd September 2011 at 10.a.m. at the CFU Offices Gweru
Bulawayo – 22nd September 2011 at 10a.m. – venue to be confirmed

Please support these regional meetings. It is the only way that NADF can interact with members and obtain feedback. We are hoping to be able to introduce all our new Executive Members to you at these meetings. Please see below a list of the new Executive Members :

<u>NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY FARMERS</u> <u>ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS 2011/2012</u>		
AREA	CHAIRPERSON	VICE CHAIRPERSON
NATIONAL	VENEKA BWERINOFA	CRAIG FOLLWELL
CHIPINGE	ELAINE LEACH	IAN LANG
MUTARE	JOHN STANGER	NABOTH MAKUNIKE
MASHONALAND A	TELFAN STAMPS	STEVE LAPHAM
MASHONALAND B	STOFF HAWGOOD	
MIDLANDS	PETER DE BRUYN	EMANUEL ZIMBANDU
MATABELELAND	CRAIG FOLLWELL	DR BG MOYO
NATIONAL MEMBERS	AJS KIRK and CHARLES NYATANGA	

Please take note that today, Friday 12th August 2011 is Debbie's last day with the NADF. We thank her for her loyalty and dedication to the NADF and wish her well in the future.

**NADF has for sale Automatic Syringe Kits at a cost of \$100.00 per set.
 Should you be interested in purchasing these, please contact
 Rob Van Vuuren on robvan@cfuzim.org or during office hours on (04)309861.**

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 the NADF Offices.

CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

GRADE	AVERAGE PER KG/LIVE WEIGHT PRICES			
	HARARE	GWERU	BULAWAYO YOUNG STOCK	BULAWAYO SLAUGHTER
SUPER	-		-	1.80
COMMERCIAL	1.46		1.40	1.45
CHOICE	1.77		1.66	1.62
ECONOMY	1.33		1.30	1.30
COMMERCIAL ECONOMY	-		1.34	1.33
MANUFACTURING	1.37		0.98	0.92
BULLS	1.71		1.37	1.38
WEANER HEIFERS	2.07		2.00 – 3.40	-

BULLING HEIFERS	1.69		1.70	-
LONG WEANER HEIFERS	-		-	-
COW & CALF	-		-	-
WEANER STEERS	1.57		1.35	-
LONG WEANER STEERS	1.54		-	-
FEEDER STEERS	1.76		1.60	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER HEIFERS	1.88		-	-
COMMERCIAL WEANER STEERS	1.10		-	-
BREEDING COWS	-		-	-
BREEDING BULLS	-		-	-
STANDARD MUTTON	-		-	-

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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