

CFU Calling

26 August 2011

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Firstly, we offer our sincere apologies for the lack of email communication this week. It has been entirely out of our hands as firstly our server blew up and secondly the modem on the V-Sat also went so the boffins have been busy reinstalling the system for most of the week. The link was up yesterday afternoon and this morning briefly but has gone down again so the team are back at work again to get us on line again.

Apart from affecting our normal communications it has also meant that our CFU Classified advertisements could neither be received nor put together. However, we have made a plan for that to go out with whatever has already come in – when the server is back to normal.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and do suggest that should you have corresponded with us on email and have received no response please resend in case your message/s were lost during the period when the server crashed. We sincerely hope that the problem is solved in time to get this bulletin out to you.

There have also been severe power outages in Harare, and we presume over most of the country as well because even areas that are not normally subjected to load shedding, like hospitals, have also had complete blackouts this week for the first time.

As far as we understand there has been some major problem which has affected power in the region as both Zambia and Mozambique are also said to have experienced blackouts this week.

The following is a press report on a proposed increase in tariff but we await official confirmation of this:

“Zimbabwe raises electricity tariffs 31 percent
<http://af.reuters.com>

Thu Aug 25, 2011 10:06am GMT

By Nelson Banyana

HARARE Aug 25 (Reuters) - Zimbabwe's electricity regulator has ordered a 31 percent tariff increase, in a move it said was meant to ensure the state-owned power utility ZESA's profitability, the authority said on Thursday.

The increase would see the average tariff going up to 9.3 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), from the current 7.5 cents, with effect from Sept. 1, the Zimbabwe Electricity Regulatory Commission (ZERC) said in a statement.

ZESA, the country's sole power supplier, has often blamed low tariffs as one of the reasons behind erratic electricity supplies.

The southern African country currently generates less than 1,000 megawatts against demand of more than 2,000 megawatts, a situation that has held back the recovery of the key mining and manufacturing sectors.

Zimbabwe compliments local power generation with imports from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Zambia.”

Our stand at the Harare Agricultural Show has been a great success as it has attracted quite a bit of attention from visitors this week and has even been recognised in the press. This has been the start of a PR exercise which will, hopefully, boost the image of your Union. Interviews were carried out this week to fill the positions of a PR consultant and assistant who will also be improving communications with our members as well as the general public.

The new CFU Council will be meeting for the first time during the morning on **Wednesday 7 September 2011**. This will be followed at **2.30pm** on the same day by the **Open Farmers' Meeting**, which will be held at the Union offices in Harare. Please make every effort to attend' whether you are living in Harare or out in the districts as this is an ideal opportunity to get to know the new team and find out what progress they are making on both resuscitating agriculture and compensation.

It is important therefore that we start rebuilding our structures out there and in particular you need to propose the election of representation on CFU Council of 2 dedicated people, one farming and the other not farming from each province/region. We still have a few positions on council which urgently need to be filled. Vice President Peter Steyl has been tasked with this so please liaise with him directly psteyl@cfuzim.org

President Taffs and his new team have been very proactive this last week and are very confident that everything is coming together as there is a new understanding by the powers that be on the way we feel we should be going. There appears to be a general acceptance that our Way Forward proposal is the only way to go and is now receiving huge interest from 'the right people'.

Although there is a great excitement developing on the movement forward and our proposal unfortunately there are still the odd jambanjas occurring around the country and in one case the police have allegedly been ordered to assist the Messenger of the Court to physically evict a farmer who is in fact fully protected by a High Court Order. The group is currently busy loading up all his personal effects onto their lorries despite the High Court Order.

It is still disappointing that despite the apparent gains and progress we are still unable to achieve a moratorium on prosecutions and evictions. But this does not come from lack of trying. We will continue to push for this until it is finally achieved because the current situation is counterproductive and retrogressive at a time when agricultural production desperately needs to get back on track and be encouraged.

Apart from the above it has been relatively quiet but one elderly farmer was involved in an attempted hijacking at the electric gate of a retirement home in Harare whilst waiting for it to be opened. Although he managed to fight three young men off his briefcase was taken. As the group fled in an unmarked new car the farmer chased them through town in his heavy 4x4.

He eventually managed to overtake them and their vehicle crashed into the back of his vehicle causing considerable damage to theirs and very little to his own. They then discarded the briefcase, which the farmer retrieved with the contents intact. When they took off again in their damaged vehicle they were now pursued by a taxi driver who had witnessed the chase whilst the farmer reported the matter to the police before returning to his wife and other anxious people in the retirement village to receive a hero's welcome, and a very strong cup of coffee.

We once again appeal to everyone to assist us by reporting all incidents and court appearances to mashc@cfuzim.org or to Mike Clark at the Union. This collection of information also involves disruptions and events leading up to evictions right from the year 2000 onwards. We are attempting to ensure that every single incident that occurred on every farm is recorded in the greatest detail for historical and advocacy purposes as well as conflict resolution.

Where farmers have been violently evicted please also remember that Meryl Harrison, now with VAWZ, is highly experienced and always available to assist with either the removal of either pets or livestock. She is available on 0774-168 218.

Remember, our doors are always open and we are also available on our respective emails.

Business Chamber (from the desk of Richard Taylor)

GOOD NEWS to those farmers that are not solely tobacco producers. The AFREXZIM BANK deal has been approved.

This deal will be for seasonal finance through NMB and capital development finance with a; Hire Purchase Company (being a 3yr facility). Afrexim Bank has been and is still negotiating the finer modalities of the HP facility; however assure us that this will be finalized by the end of business today.

Once this has been finalized it should take around two weeks before we are able to access these funds. In the mean time we need to get all our proposals and cash flows in place and submitted to the relevant managers at NMB and the HP Company. The processes that we need to follow will be:

Proposals need to be seasonal finance required for your various crops (please note again, that at present this does not include tobacco) and livestock, projected forward for 3yrs. Only project forward for 3yrs if you are requiring capital development finance. Within the cash flow you will need to show how you will be able to pay back your capital purchases, should you be purchasing pivots, tractors, equipment etc through the HP Company. This is required by the HP Company as the bank will have to provide you with a guarantee that the installments will be paid according to your repayment schedule on your cash flow.

These proposals you will need to bring to either myself or Neil Wright. We will go through these with you and amend should there be a need to adjust (please bring a copy of the proposal on your flash stick). A letter of referral with the CFU stamp will then be given to you, with the names of the relevant contact people to submit your loan application to. The bank will then do their due diligence on you and your proposal. Should this be accepted you will then have to go to Optimal Insurance Company to insure your crops and livestock. Once you have the insurance cover you return to the bank to submit this, where they will then start the process of transferring your funds into your account.

From the bank you can now proceed to the HP Company with your proforma invoices for your capital purchases. The HP Company will also do their due diligence on you and your proposal. On their acceptance, you will be required to go and get the items insured (fully comprehensive cover). Return with the insurance cover note and they will then pay the company direct for your required items.

We have through our talks with traders, one company come forward with a minimum price contract for Soyabeans and highest price on the day of sale should this be more than the \$550/ton minimum price contract. A good deal for farmers wanting to diversify, or already growing Soyabeans. The contract will be \$550/ton minimum price for 2.4ton/ha. Anything over this you can speculate with or sell to the same trader.

For further info on any of the above please email me rtaylor@cfuzim.org

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

NADF is holding the next full Executive Meeting on the 5th September 2011 starting at 1400 (Open Session) and the 6th September 2011 starting at 0830(Closed Session). This is a new format proposed by the incoming Chairman and Vice Chairman. 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 :

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAIRY FARMERS
ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS 2011/2012

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	

I am very happy and relieved to welcome Debbie`s replacement, Tarryn Stodart, who started her employment with NADF today, 26th August 2011. We wish Tarryn everything of the best as she joins the NADF team and will ensure she is well supported as she learns the ropes..

Rob sits on the Agriculture Sector on the National Manpower Advisory Council, (NAMACO) and they are planning an advocacy workshop on the 15th September, 2011 – Venue still to be confirmed. Chairman, Veneka and I met their staff member and the proposed issues to be debated are relevant to the livestock sector in general and dairy in particular.

Aglabs have recently published milk test results from the inter-lab exercise, comparing results with those of LACTOLAB, SOUTH AFRICA. Aglabs are commended for their last results that compare favorably with those of LACTOLAB.

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.

Mt Hampden Sale 15 th August, 2011	AVERAGE PRICES	AVERAGES
GRADE	NO OF CATTLE	Per kg live weight
SUPER	-	-
COMMERCIAL	24	1.60
ECONOMY	63	1.48
MANUFACTURING	32	1.39

WEANER HEIFERS	68	1.67
BULLING HEIFERS	36	2.10
COW & CALF	2	1.26
WEANER STEERS	45	1.87
LONG WEANER HEIFERS	35	1.62
LONG WEANER STEERS	12	2.00
FEEDER STEERS	2	1.89
COMM WEANER HEIFERS	2	1.15
BULL	10	1.64

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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