

21ST October 2011

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EXECUTIVE NEWS

As the rainy season approaches fast we find ourselves constantly looking up at the skies in anticipation of what may come and wondering how the season will turn out. The first sign of the incoming swallows is also an exciting indication that the rains are definitely on the way. Even though many of us are no longer farming it remains a habit as well as a topic of conversation.

The weather website which we called your attention to last week can be used to get insight into the long-term predictions for the season, to which the link is repeated below for your convenience. The second website link is an interesting one, which although based in Norway, gives an interesting preview of weather on a day-to-day or weekly basis of centres all around the World, and is found to be extremely accurate. Once set up through the Search button to view the particular districts or towns you may be interested in you may even be surprised to see some of the farm names of your district mentioned, at which a specific weather forecast is given. You may even be lucky enough to find your own farm name there too, which would assist you greatly in your planning.

<http://www.kwanalu.co.za/upload/files/seasonalforecast260911.pdf>

<http://www.yr.no/>

For those of you who do have the benefit of Internet we once again remind you of our own website www.cfuzim.org on which you will find a tremendous amount of information. The website is updated daily with any news pertaining to our industry. The latest news is found right at the bottom of the website which shows the latest 15 updates for your convenience. Although the majority of the over 2 000 news articles are filed and indexed under Newspaper Articles, other topics of interest are found in the side menu of the site and the Classified are right at the bottom.

Not too many reports of incidents have come in this week but we do know that the prosecutor's strike is now over so those of you who have been called to court need to attend and be prepared.

We are currently sending out statements for the renewal of licences/subscriptions for membership of your Union, which we encourage you to do, not only for yourself but all your farmer friends as well. It is imperative that we all get back on board supporting each other so that we make a united front to resolve the problems we continue to face.

When rejoining we request that you complete the licence renewal/application form. This is not to make life difficult for anyone, or just to be difficult, but it is to ensure that we have all of your correct information in our comprehensive confidential database so that we can keep in touch with you, wherever you are. Both forms for either farmers or non-farmers are available on the website under [About Us](#) or [Membership Information](#) on the website. The banking details are also on the website under those headings and please note the new bank which we are using for that specific account is Stanbic, which is different from the old one. Should you not have access to the Internet please email us and request the forms and banking details, which we would gladly forward to you or else have for your collection at the office.

Should you make any direct payments into our account we request that you please notify your Union of the details of the payment made. Please include the farm name, members name and the amount. This can be forwarded to cfuaccounts@cfuzim.org We are currently sitting with about 50 payments which we cannot identify so if you have already made a deposit please check with us that the amount is reflected against your account at your Union.

The week itself certainly started on a positive note when reading the encouraging reports in the press with regard to the widespread recognition that Zimbabwe cannot go forward until the land issue is satisfactorily resolved and that compensation is fully paid to the dispossessed farmers. There was also a very strong call on the Government to stop the continued land invasions as well as the attacks on businesses. What was very encouraging indeed was to hear this from an ambassador from one of the SADC States as well as our Prime Minister himself.

Their courage and their sentiments are greatly appreciated by all concerned as we are finding that all sectors in the country are now desperate to seek a final and lasting solution to see an end to the destruction of our vital industry and to establish a solid and secure way forward so we can be self sufficient in food production once again.

Everywhere we go and everyone we talk to only want to move forward positively and to put the past behind us, as is well reflected in the report, below, on our attendance to the seminar titled "The Status of Dialogue on the Future of Land Policy Issues" this week, which has been one of a series of constructive seminars organised by Professor Mandivamba Rukuni which have already been held and with the anticipation of several more in the near future. There is certainly a revitalisation and eagerness about a positive resolution of the current stalemate caused by the land issue.

A report on this seminar has been written by Ben Gilpin, which you will find very interesting is included in the ARAC Update below.

Last week your Union was represented by Vice President Peter Steyl and Director Hendrik Olivier at the AgriSA Congress in South Africa and this report will be available in next week's bulletin.

This week Dr Clive Levy was invited to represent us at the meeting on Climate Change COP 17 in Boksburg, where about 30 invitees representing 14 SADC countries are getting together to formulate a policy document which will be presented at the COP 17 International meeting which will be held in Durban later this year. The meeting has been organised by SACAU.

One of the areas which is of current concern to us is that Zimbabwe is losing an estimated 300 000 hectares of woodlands every year with one of the main culprits being the emerging tobacco farmers who are using trees rather than coal and there are also the effects of the constant load shedding by the power company in the urban areas. We are not sure if this figure also takes into account the vast clearing of lands constantly being carried out by settlers on the farms, and in particular the arid areas of the Lowveld.

Today we will be meeting with all the Ambassadors in a special function which we have requested them to attend so we can give a briefing on your own issues and show them our new positive direction as well as being on hand to answer their questions or suggestions.

We have gone through the Government Gazettes of the last two weeks and have still found nothing with regard to the Domestic Wage increase or confirmation that the proposed ban on the importation of used vehicles over 10-years old has been cancelled. We continue to go through them every week and should anything come up we will inform you accordingly.

In the Government Gazette of the 14 October 2011 there is a General Notice 430 of 2011 – Petroleum Act [Chapter 13:22], Basic Specification for Imported Fuel, which is published by the Minister of Energy and Power Development. However, the specifications and standards of the composition of the fuels would only be of interest to major players in the game and importers.

Following our notification of 112 properties being available for lease in Malawi there was a publication in a local newspaper which suggested that the farms belonged to a former head of State, which is incorrect and we have been asked to clarify this and to set the record straight.

The properties actually belong to a private company, which has its own Board, and its parent company that own the majority shareholding and the remaining 7% is owned by an insurance company. These estates were not repossessed from the former Head of State as presented in the newspaper article. The sublease in question is a pure business deal and does not involve Government except to the extent of seeking consent for sublease, which is a normal procedure for any sublease.

Should anyone be interested in receiving further details they should please contact Ben Gilpin.

ARAC UPDATE #11 20/10/11 (From the desk of Ben Gilpin)

It has been a while since we circulated an update. Perhaps this should be seen as a breaking of the silence. The early part of October has seen an early start to the rainy season; in local idiom these first rains are

referred to as *BVUMA RUTSA*, the *rain that washes away the dust*... well one might aptly say that the new season of our Union's work has seen significant activity to settle the dust. Our office has been busy and we hope to keep communication relevant and timely without loading you with unnecessary junk mail!

Since our last send-out we have had to say good bye to Shayne Wells who has left to take up a position at St. George's College, where she will apply her considerable qualities to serve using her professional nursing skills. ARAC would like to both thank Shayne for her dedicated work from the outset and wish her the best for the future. You will be missed! We would also like to welcome and thank Rose Brent, who for several months has been working on our consequential loss project, for stepping in to assist.

Over the past couple of months there appears to be a growing awareness of the need to bring some positive direction into the debate on the way forward for Zimbabwe with regards to the land issue. This dialogue has been facilitated through a number of forums; in particular through seminars organised by Professor Mandivamba Rukuni. Most farmers will recognise him as being the coordinator of the land commission that took place in the early nineties. Hindsight suggests that if the full recommendations of that commission had been embraced, we would not be in the situation we now find ourselves. That said we are fortunate to have in Prof Rukuni a respected professional who has committed himself to facilitate a dialogue for all stakeholders. He is supported in this endeavour by others anxious to break the log jam in Zimbabwe's development.

Earlier this week, I, together with VP Pete Steyl, participated in a seminar entitled "The Status of Dialogue on the Future of Land Policy Issues". Stakeholders present included diplomats, donors, technical experts, representatives from a number of critical government ministries, farmers' union representatives and MPs who sit on the Parliamentary Portfolio on Land and Agriculture.

A framework for discussion on how land impacts on society from three perspectives was outlined; namely: economic, political and governance.

The economic perspective examined the dynamics of transformation from agrarian economy to urban industrial developed economy. Generally transition from the former to the latter takes place through four steps:

1. The population is involved in primary production, after a period of capital formation the surplus money generated by agriculture goes into other investments.
2. Agriculture develops strong links with industry as the market economy develops.
3. Most of the population is urban based and finally,
4. a fully industrialised economy develops.

Land use over time requires that it is transformative: from small scale, through economies of scale, to economies of size. In Zimbabwe over 70% of the population are directly dependent on the land for their livelihood; this contrasts with around 3% in developed economies of the West.

The political framework concerning land is both important and controversial, particularly when the vast majority of the population is land dependent, it becomes a crucial part in the dynamics of power; access to it determines both social and economic status. The dynamics of land reform in Asia and South America are essentially different in that the former relates mostly to change from feudal or traditional systems whilst the latter to post colonial redistribution.

Africa has both traditional and postcolonial models to deal with. In Zimbabwe the process has been inherently political as the process moved from willing- buyer /willing-seller, to changing the law, to breaking the law. However the transfer that has largely dispossessed our constituency has failed to convert into economic power at either individual or national levels.

The governance framework has six essential components:

1. Land rights and tenure.
2. Land administration that facilitates registration and transfer in an accountable way.
3. Compensation for acquisition (without this no secure instruments of tenure can be issued).

4. A dispute resolution Court.
5. Land use and development planning and access to capital.
6. Land taxation (generally aimed at limiting holdings and or generating revenue).
7. The environment and the need for balance.

It is interesting to note that the process of postcolonial development in North and South America was also determined to a large extent by the countries that colonised. North America was largely settled by people whose roots were originally in countries with established property rights, whilst the south was taken by Spain and Portugal, which exported its feudal model. It is not surprising that the development of North America was well ahead of the south. Within Africa similar patterns were exported by colonisers. Zimbabwe's dual agrarian economy was in the commercial sector underwritten by secure tradable property rights or title whilst the communal areas remained essentially traditional. Today Zimbabwe's land is essentially under feudal control and it remains within the political domain and it is unable to deliver economic advances.

The crossroads for policy and the country's future requires a paradigm shift that recognises that both economic and political factors are dependent on governance to deliver value.

There were a number of presentations given from various perspectives and the seminar was closed with recommendations to the parliamentarians that they should deal with expeditiously in order to facilitate the administrative arrangements that can move the country's land issues through to resolution and enable agriculture to deliver fully.

Put simply the politicians must first ensure the already agreed to Land Audit is authorised and the necessary administrative structures and procedures are put in place to it make possible for all necessary records to be collected and managed. The second step that concerns Parliamentarians relates to the necessary clarification of land rights and tenure. From an administrative and governance point of view productivity will not be structurally possible without the ability to raise finance and this remains impossible without the conclusion of compensation.

From the CFU's perspective, whilst the prejudices suffered by the majority of the population in the past are acknowledged, exclusion and persecution of our constituency in the present has little value in finding a way forward. Inclusive dialogue can assist in a profound way and this should and can start between farmers unions; there is already much common ground and this should be explored in a formal way and presented to policy makers.

DISCOUNTERS CLUB

A reminder that Discounters Club will be having a stand at the Shopping Under the Stars fair on 28th October 2011 from 3.00p.m. to 9.00p.m. at Old Georgian's Sports Club which is always a huge affair. If you are at the fair, call in at the stand. Debbie will have updated hard copy lists of the Partners should you want one.

Debbie has continued to call on existing Partners, firming up relations with them and is also pleased to announce that there are some exciting new Partners who have signed up. These are:

- Polarchem Investments
- Tarrys
- Afgri Zimbabwe Equipment
- Farmec
- Green Solutions
- Lomag Irrigation
- SeedCo

Should you want their contact details, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie on debbie@cfuzim.org and she will forward you their details.

To give all our loyal members a chance to experience how much you are able to save using your Discounters Club Card at all the Partners outlets, the Discounters Club has decided to issue all paid

up members with a Christmas Special Discounters Club Card **free of charge** and this card will be valid until the 31st December 2011. To take advantage of this wonderful special offer, please contact Debbie at debbie@cfuzim.org and she will gladly assist you. Debbie can also forward you a list of the Partners should you wish to see where you can shop to obtain your discounts. This is a great way to start your Christmas shopping and *save, save, save!*

Zimbabwe Crop Producers' Association

PRODUCER PRICES

| <u>Commodity</u> | <u>GMB</u> | <u>Agrifoods</u> | <u>PHI Commodities</u> | <u>Staywell</u> | <u>Croplink</u> | <u>ProGroup</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| White Maize | 285 | 255 | 255 | 250 | 245 – 260 depending on quality | 245 |
| Yellow Maize | 285 | 255 | 250 | 250 | 250 on farm | 245 |
| Maize Bran | 100 | 165 local 180 imported | 150 | 165 | 160 | 150 |
| Soya beans | 500 | 650 | 610 | 480 | 600 on farm | - |
| Soya bean Meal | - | 685 | 650 | 625 | 690 | 680 |
| Wheat | 466 | - | Premium 460 Std 450 Utility 440 | 460 | 460 | 450 |
| Wheat Bran | - | 180 local 200 imported | 180 | 200 | 200 | 170 |
| Groundnuts | 400 | - | 800 | Shelled 900 | 800 | - |
| Sugar Beans | 900 | - | 1150 | A grade 1200 | 800 | 1150 |
| Sorghum | 285 | 230 | - | White 260 | 250 | - |

Producer Prices

South African Grain Information Services (SAGIS)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) 19th October 2011

| Commodity | Rand/tonne | US\$/Tonne | Import Parity Rand/Tonne | Import Parity US\$/Tonne |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| White Maize | 1862 | 233 | 2022 | 253 |
| Yellow Maize | 1873 | 234 | 2033 | 254 |
| Wheat | 2950 | 369 | 3110 | 389 |
| Soyabeans | 3320 | 415 | 3480 | 435 |
| Sunflowers | 3895 | 487 | 4055 | 507 |

International Gulf

| Commodity | US\$/Tonne | Import Parity US\$/Tonne |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wheat | 299 | 449 |
| Maize | 280 | 430 |
| Sorghum | 283 | 433 |
| Soyabeans | 495 | 645 |

Business Chamber *(From the desk of Richard Taylor)*

The long awaited term sheets from Afrexim bank for NMB and African Century have finally been drafted and given to the banks. NMB and African Century have gone through the term sheets and have returned them to Afrexim Bank with a few Queries. These should be finalized by Tuesday/Wednesday next week

On acceptance of the term sheets, the African Export Import Bank (Afrexim) projects credit committee, then come to Zim to do their due diligence on the banks. Once this is sorted then their Lawyers come to Zim and with the banks lawyers do the final paper work and signing. Once all the I's have been dotted and the T's crossed then it will take 2 – 4 weeks for the money to come in and be availed to the farmers.

We are told that this should be 1st week or 2nd week of Dec.

Unfortunately for a number of farmers applying for this facility, finance will be too late. Where do we go from here for those farmers? We will be meeting with traders to see if we can make plans for some form of bridging finance against contracts. Inputs will not be a problem as we have the suppliers as partners who are offering terms. African Century with the Capex side should not be an issue either. We will be negotiating with NMB for those farmers who sign contracts with traders to be allowed to move across once the funds are available.

For farmers applying for loans that are later in the season and wheat or barley finance, this obviously does not affect them. We will be getting both NMB's and African Century's template for the loan applications, which we will have to work with and adjust individual proposals to suit in order to help expedite your loan applications once submitted to NMB.

LIVESTOCK REPORT *(From the desk of Rob van Vuuren)***NADF**

Mash A producers are reminded of the regional meeting scheduled for the 27th October, 2011, to be held at Agriculture House, Marlborough at 10 am.

The NADF Small scale Dairy Farmer of the Year Field Day will be held on the 9th November, 2011, and the venue is likely to be close to Harare but this needs to be confirmed. This is a major event for the small-scale sector and it is anticipated that 150 participants will attend.

Land O Lakes are still trying to secure 250 bulling or in-calf dairy heifers for their programme. They are paying \$3.00/kg live mass.

Formal daily milk intake is remaining fairly constant at between 118,000-120,000 litres per day.

CPA

1. FLIES-screwworm flies, nuisance and Biting flies have emerged and are causing irritation and being vectors for diseases such as ophthalmia, eye worm, screwworm and scours. Control them with certain pyrethroid sprays, dips and pour-ons that contain deltamethrin and cypermethrin. These also still control multi-host ticks, (brown, bont leg, bont and red leg) but have little effect on resistant blue ticks(single host tick). These resistant blue ticks now have widespread distribution.

2. Red leg and bont leg ticks. These are prevalent at this time of year where they prefer the anal area where they may cause significant damage allowing screwworm to enter. You can also get bont leg ticks in the tail brush and around the udders and testicles and even heels. Use tick grease as it sticks to these hairless areas. It is good to use this in young calves less than 3 months of age.

3. Feeding-many first calvers have now calved. Whether they re-conceive depends on how they are fed in the first 60 days after calving and at what condition they calved in(target 3.5 body condition score(BCS)). If they are not ideally BCS 3.0 or at a stretch 2.5 on a rising plane of nutrition when the bulls go in ,they will not conceive within the usual 3 month breeding season.

4. 2011 bulling heifers-ideally these will have started to be bulled on the Highveld in October and were in good condition, (target BCS 3.0) and cycling when the bulls went in.

5. Cows/heifers calving-watch recently calved cows and calves that they have bonded and are suckling well. Supplement feed cows until the veldt has improved and do not stop too soon. Tag calves as soon as possible after birth.

6. Vaccinate for Vibrio. Also vaccinate for Lumpy skin before the challenge period which is usually mid to late summer.

7. Cows, bulls and long weaners that drink from rivers and open water that are fluke infested should be dosed for fluke.

8. Tick control-adult brown ear ticks will begin to appear shortly and weekly dipping should have started on the Highveld.

9. Now that the green grass is emerging with the warmer weather and rainfall in some areas, it is time to start phosphorus supplementation.

Dr Doug Bruce is acknowledged for providing the above information

| VENUE | MT. HAMPDEN | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| DATE | 17.10.11 | | |
| | | AVERAGE | |
| GRADE | NO. OF CATTLE | PER KG LV WT | |
| SUPER | 1 | 2.00 | |
| CHOICE | 1 | 2.09 | |
| COMMERCIAL | 9 | 1.85 | |
| ECONOMY | 35 | 1.72 | |
| MANUFACTURING | 4 | 1.60 | |
| WEANER HEIFERS | 19 | 1.85 | |
| | | | |
| WEANER STEERS | 21 | 1.96 | |
| LONG WEANER HEIFER | 0 | | |
| LONG WEANER STEER | 10 | 1.92 | |
| FEEDER STEERS | 5 | 1.79 | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| BULL | 4 | 1.76 | |
| | | | |
| STD GOAT | 14 | 0.77 | |

Meryl Harrison, who represents VAWZ, has been doing a sterling job once again by assisting in animal welfare problems or evacuation either domestic pets or livestock from properties on which farmers and/or their workers have been victims of recent violent evictions. She is always available to assist and may be contacted on **0774 168 218**.

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 dir2@cfuzim.org

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