

28TH October 2011

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EXECUTIVE NEWS

The weather has certainly changed this week with some of the hottest temperatures ever recorded for this time of year over the last 50 years being experienced. Does this mean that the tiger fish will be biting in the competition at Kariba this week? That we will find out later but the most certain winners, financially anyway will be the retailers of the coldest beers in the area as the temperatures continue to soar at the lake.

We will see a small band of cooler wet weather coming in from the south which will affect the lowveld areas only, which should receive some relief and light precipitation over the last two days of this week. However, this will be short lived and the heat will soon follow again after that.

After that we can only hope the rains will fall on time by the official start of the rainy season in the middle of November – if not before – to cool things off. You can track your weather and that at chosen locations around the country on the website we recommended last week <http://www.yr.no/>

Your team has been extremely active and busy again attending a succession of meetings on your behalf, and it has certainly not been fun for them having to wear jackets and ties to attend most of them, so please think of them when you complain about the heat yourself.

Ben Gilpin gave you some insight in last week's bulletin as to what happened at one of several meetings he attended last week with the team and the line or direction we are following. We were extremely appreciative and encouraged to receive feedback from a number of correspondents who expressed their own views, opinions and appreciation on our ongoing work. It is always welcomed to have this feedback and support, which helps us to keep on track during the hard slog. Not all meetings were as encouraging as the one reported in Ben's report back but be assured that your team will keep moving onwards on your behalf and take the rough with the smooth in our stride.

Although we would love to give you in-depth reports on all the meetings we attend but besides being time consuming you would probably find them to be most boring indeed as with a lot of them we are merely slowly chipping away to achieve our final goal. Furthermore much of what is discussed at the meetings may sound repetitive and irrelevant to you and we also need to be extremely careful not to inadvertently expose any of our strategies.

We ask you therefore to please bear with us, but if you want to know more details please remember that our doors are always open. We also encourage you to make an effort to attend our **Open Farmers' Meetings** which will be held at **2.30 pm** at your Union's offices on the below dates:

Tuesday 8 November 2011

Tuesday 6 December 2011

Please diarise these dates particularly if you do live outside Harare so that you may combine these dates with other appointments in Harare. We ask that you also remember that these are not organised as any form of typically male dominated events as your wives are more than welcome, and in fact encouraged to attend. The venue is air-conditioned and ice-cold refreshments are always available at the social following the short meetings where you can get to know the team better.

The last two weeks have been unusually quiet and many of those who are still able to operate have been very busy planting.

All is not at all bright and rosy though for the last assault victim from Guruve who was viciously assaulted on 2 October 2011. The latest news we have from the Avenues Clinic is that he is still unconscious and in intensive care some 3-weeks after the assault. His doctor does say that the present condition of this 77-year old man is also due to other underlying medical conditions from which he was already suffering from before the callous assault. We urge you all to pray for him and his family to help them through this totally unnecessary tragedy.

The following article taken from the press on the diesel situation is copied below:

“Diesel shortage hits Harare

<http://www.dailynews.co.zw>

By Gugulethu Nyazema, Senior Writer
Monday, 24 October 2011 08:56

HARARE - Harare has been hit by a shortage of diesel that has affected various sectors of the economy.

A snap survey by the Daily News yesterday revealed that most service stations did not have the precious commodity.

Fuel attendants told the Daily News the diesel supplies to service stations has been erratic for the past month.

Most attendants suspected that the dwindling supplies were a result of maintenance work being carried out on tanks at the National Oil Company of Zimbabwe (Noczim).

“We suspect that supply cannot meet demand because fuel dealers have to go all the way to Mozambique to get the diesel. Noczim is giving out limited amounts of diesel, while they repair their tanks.

“We are getting 15 000 litres less than what we normally get, from Noczim,” said McDonald Fende, a Total Service Station fuel attendant in the city.

Most BP service stations had the precious commodity but was availing diesel to account holders only.

The attendants said that most BP service stations were operating on reserve tanks with the hope that renewed supplies of diesel would resume.

Black market fuel dealers are already cashing in on the shortage with most selling it at almost double the usual price of \$1,35 per litre.

The shortage, some observers said, could also be due to increased demand for diesel as most households and the industry have resorted to the use of generators to augment limited electricity supplies due to load shedding.

Mining companies in August told a Parliamentary committee on Indigenisation that they use thousands of litres of diesel in generators per month to support their operations when there is no electricity.

The shortage is also set to hit the agricultural community, which critically needs the precious liquid for the preparation of the 2011-2012 farming season.

Minister of Energy and Power Development Elton Mangoma and Noczim authorities were not available to comment on the issue at hand.

This is not the first time the country, under the inclusive government, has been faced by fuel shortages.

Minister Mangoma had to resort to a controversial deal with a South African company, NOOA Petroleum for the supply of five million litres of fuel to avert a severe fuel shortage at the beginning of this year.

He was arrested but the High Court later ruled that he had done it to save the country from a catastrophic shortage of the product.

Mangoma sanctioned the purchase of \$4, 4 million worth of diesel from the little-known South African petrol agent at the height of fuel problems in January.

Mangoma was later arrested following the botched deal for not following the proper tendering procedures and later acquitted.”

Although we have been unable to verify the position for you we can confirm the existence of the notices seen at service stations as referred to in the article.

As spoken about in a previous bulletin we have found it very useful and constructive attending and voicing our constructive opinions at meetings as the one advertised below. It would appear that the Mashonaland Central meeting previously advertised was rescheduled as indicated below. We have already sent this notice out to those concerned.

“Please be advised that the Mashonaland Central 2012 National Budget Consultative Meeting will NOW be held on Friday, 28 October, 2011 at Kimberly Reef Hotel in Bindura from 8:30 am.

May you advise, inform and invite all CFU members of the meeting.

Thank you for your support.

*T. Chigumira
Ministry of Finance”*

We continue to go through the Government Gazettes as they are received and there has still been no verification of either of the below, which have been copied from last week’s bulletin.

“We have gone through the Government Gazettes of the last two weeks and have still found noting 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.”

LABOUR LAW UPDATE (From the desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson)

Employers are advised that the ALB instituted action in the Labour Court to review SI 101 of 2010 (the legislation which requires the payment of NEC dues @ 2 USD per employee per month) This legislation was published in June 2010. The ALB challenge was instituted on the 8th of February 2011 but to date the case has yet to be determined. Notwithstanding this pending case, we have received reports of many farmers being threatened with criminal prosecutions if they do not remit NEC dues. We enclose below a model letter in response to these threats which we suggest you modify to suit your particular circumstances:

Dear Sir,

RE: Demand for Payment of NEC Dues in terms of SI 101 of 2010

The above matter refers. I write in response to your final demand for payment of NEC dues in accordance with SI 101 of 2010.

I wish to draw your attention to the following pertinent points:

- This is the first correspondence or communication of any kind which I have had from NEC on this issue. You’re office has our telephone numbers and other contact details on record. I am therefore extremely surprised that you have resorted to such drastic measures without communicating with me or attempting to first settle this matter amicably.*
- I have been advised that SI 101 of 2010 has been challenged by an employer representative organisation 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. I am advised that 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. I feel it is unreasonable to remit these funds in these circumstances.*

My wish is to remain compliant with the law. I will therefore set aside the dues payable to the NEC and remit them when the NEC lays open an audited set of accounts for my inspection and the Labour Court decision in case number LC/H/11/11 upholds the validity of SI 101 of 2010.

Yours faithfully,

Please be guided accordingly. If you have any specific concerns, reservations or queries regarding this issue please contact me on marc@cfuzim.org.

NEW "CBA" INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (*From the Desk of Marc Carrie-Wilson*)

The NEC has concluded another collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). See below copy of NEC CBA:

AGRICULTURAL ALLOWANCES FOR ALL SECTORS EFFECTIVE 01 OCTOBER 2011 TO 31 SEPTEMBER 2012

The NEC Agriculture comprising the Social Parties that is GAPWUZ, KWUZ, Agro, Horticulture, Timber on the employees side and ZAEO, ZFU, ZCFU, IKPA, Agro, Horticulture and Timber on the employers side have agreed on allowances for all sectors effective 1 October 2011 to 31 September 2012.

The allowance for Agro, Horticulture, Kapenta, General Agriculture and Timber Industrial Sectors in the Agricultural Industry shall be as follows:-

<u>ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
<i>Transport</i>	<i>Actual Cost to be paid by employer</i>
<i>Accommodation</i>	<i>USD 35.00</i>
<i>Fuel</i>	<i>USD 8.00</i>
<i>Light</i>	<i>USD 10.00</i>

NB: Those who are not provided the above allowances by the employer should be paid those allowances.

Declarations

The employers and the Trade Unions having arrived at the agreement set forth herein, the undersigned officers of the Council hereby declare that the foregoing agreement arrived at affix their signatures hereto.

Signed at Harare Friday 14 October 2011.

.....
M MUYANI
**CHAIRMAN EMPLOYEES
REP**

.....
D.H. CHIMBWANDA (ZCFU)
**CHAIRMAN EMPLOYERS
REP**

.....
S JERA
**GENERAL SECRETARY-NEC
AGRIC**

Please note the following points:

1. The legal position is that CBAs only become legally binding on Employers when they are registered with the Ministry of Labour and published as a Statutory Instrument by the Minister.
2. The last CBA to be registered and published as a Statutory Instrument was SI 25 of 2011 which sets the Minimum wage at USD 44 for General Agricultural Workers and confirmed the now previous allowance structure.
3. Therefore, in terms of current published legislation the allowances have not changed. However, the NEC continues to implement and attempt to enforce CBA's prior to their registration and publication as a statutory instrument so regardless of the legal position employers will be pressured to implement this.
4. Those employers whose workers live off the farm and who do not provide transport, fuel and lighting will be impacted significantly.
5. An urgent meeting with a significant number of employer representative organisations will be held next week to discuss this issue and plan a response.

BUSINESS CHAMBER (*From the desk of Richard Taylor*)

I have no other news to add from last week, other than time roles on and the frustrations continue.

All is still on track for the finance and we are still looking at Mid December. However this is dependent on how quickly the projects credit committee takes to get to Zimbabwe and do their due diligence on the banks. Only wish I had better news, as in the finance would be available a lot sooner.

AGRI SA CONGRESS

On 13 October 2011 Vice President Peter Steyl and Director Hendrik Olivier attended the AgriSA Congress in South Africa. The AgriSA Presidential Address at the Congress is available on the link below.

<http://www.cfuzim.org/images/agrisacong2011.pdf>

Congress Report (*From the desk of Hendrik Olivier*)

The Congress was held at Misty Hills Country Hotel in Muldersdrift, South Africa. On arrival there the evening before congress the VP and myself decided to have dinner in the Carnivore Restaurant and little did we know what we had let ourselves into. Venison, beef, pork, lamb and even crocodile are served on skewers and cut off as desired. A small SA flag is situated on each table. Consequently both of us realized that whilst the flag is flying the waiter's keeps coming to serve, after which we hastily put our flag down. The following day we both realized how much we had eaten and how a lion would feel after eating its kill. Needless to say we were not very hungry for the next 3 days.

The theme of the congress was Political and Economic Dimensions of Change. Highlights of the first day were the Presidential address by President Johannes Moller, which can be viewed on the above link and the CFU Website and a section on property rights as a pre requisite for investment and production. There were some eloquent speakers such as the Chairman of AgriSA policy committee, Mr Louw Steytler who spoke on the right to private property as the corner stone of a market economy. The Vice President of AgriSA Dr Theo de Jager spoke in his capacity as the AgriSA transformation policy committee, on Redistribution and State Involvement in the land market. Interesting in this talk was the State's involvement in the disruption of the land market and that 13 000 farms were literally locked down in the restitution process and that no progress has been made in three years. The similarities to Zimbabwe were that transferred farms had been taken out of production and demolished in 10 years. Also of note was the amount of money government was

paying and this equated to 60% of the market value. The SA farmers were in a similar situation as the Zimbabwean farmers who were in litigation in the Courts and finding it very expensive and time consuming to resolve. Basically there are two options available, one being confrontational or secondly negotiating for the interest of their farmers. After this presentation the similarities between Zimbabwe and SA's land reform programme were very clear.

Mr Koot Klaassen the President of Mpumalanga Agriculture – AgriSA also showed evidence and statistics of how the mines had literally taken over vast tracts of land in the Mpumalanga agriculture area and showed delegates the destruction caused by the mining groups in his talk regarding Conflicting Economic Demands on Natural Resources/Policy and Practice.

In the afternoon the honourable guest speaker the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti spoke of the implications of a changed land policy and property rights, investment and agric production and entertained questions from the floor. One would think sections of the debate were being held in the Minister's office in Harare Zimbabwe and once again similarities between Zimbabwe and SA were detected.

The evening was an informal function and a presentation by AgriSA to recipients of honorary awards. As usual AgriSA Congress is well organized and well presented and I would like to take the opportunity to thank AgriSA for hosting the VP and myself. It was unfortunate that we could not attend the second day's proceedings.

REGIONAL SACAU MEETING IN JOHANNESBURG (*Report from the desk of Dr Clive Levy*)

On behalf of the CFU, Dr. Levy attended the **Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) Regional Positioning Workshop, COP-17** last week in South Africa, which dealt with consolidating Southern African farmers' positions regarding climate change. The workshop was held at the enormous Birchwood Hotel & Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng and brought together approx. 30 people, representing the 16 member farmers' unions, several regional UN bodies, and media organisations. Advice was also sought with the head of Climate Change Studies of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) in Denmark via a live Skype link. It was held in preparation for the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP-17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will be held in Durban, South Africa in early December, being the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties (CMP7) to the Kyoto Protocol.

Although SACAU is not a negotiator in COP-17, it will have 'observer status' at this meeting, and will be able to lobby the negotiators on its' positions. Currently, agriculture is not covered under the UNFCCC and therefore, international funding is not available to agriculture to offset the ravages of climate change. Thus, it is hoped that the negotiators will see fit to include agriculture within the COP-17 agenda, and include SACAU's positions in their deliberations.

The workshop was an intensive, three-day event. There was generally little disagreement amongst the participants, and a final draft of the positions was formulated after a day and a half's discussions. Although, this draft has still to be ratified by the members of SACAU, essentially, the positions have been finalised. CFU has expressed concern that the noting of massive deforestation, which is being caused by commercial exploitation and political gain, and not agriculture, is accelerating desertification and climate change in the sub-region, was not included in the preamble of the draft, as agreed. Despite this, one can only thank the members of the drafting committee of SACAU's secretariat for their tireless efforts after hours, so that any developments/agreed changes were readily available to the participants at all times.

Thanks must go also to the French and Portuguese interpreters, who provided simultaneous translation to those participants who could not speak English.

DISCOUNTERS CLUB

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!*

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.

Now that all the data bases have been updated, we are liaising with the e-mail provider "YoAfrica" to ensure that the Group E-Mail lists for Partners and Members is updated and shortly a Newsletter to both Partners and Members will be sent out – hopefully on a weekly or fortnightly basis - updating everyone of new Partners or of any specials that are on offer from Partners.

A team for Discounters Club has been entered into the **Garry Bell Golf Day** at Wingate Golf Club on the 2nd December and Discounters Club is sponsoring the 5th Green/T box. We will be setting up a stand at this hole and will have cards on sale throughout the day. Should you be interested in participating in this very worthwhile golf day, contact Brenda at brenda@braintrain.co.zw to obtain further details.

Zimbabwe Crop Producers' Association**PRODUCER PRICES**

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>GMB</u>	<u>Agrifoods</u>	<u>PHI Commodities</u> Premium Grades A/B	<u>Staywell</u>	<u>Croplink</u>	<u>ProGroup</u>
White Maize	285	182	255	255	Quality dependent 265	255
Yellow Maize	285	-	240	240	250 on farm	245
Maize Bran	100	160	150	160	180	150
Soya beans	500	580	610	600	620 to Harare	600
Soya bean Meal	-	670	650	670	690	-
Wheat	466	-	premium 460 standard 450 utility 440 u/grade 410	premium 463	460	455
Wheat Bran	-	180 local & 190-200 imported	180	180	180	170
Groundnuts	400	-	850	Shelled 900	650	-
Sugar Beans	1000	-	1150	A grade 1200	1000	1100
Sorghum	285	-	-	White 255	250+	-
			All prices are			

NOTES :			delivered Harare. Premium of \$10 per ton for wheat and maize deliveries to Bulawayo. Payment for maize is 7 days from delivery, all other commodities are 14 days from delivery			
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Producer Prices

South African Grain Information Services (SAGIS)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) 25th October 2011

Commodity	Rand/tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1862	234	2022	254
Yellow Maize	1873	235	2033	255
Wheat	2950	370	3110	390
Soyabeans	3320	417	3480	437
Sunflowers	3895	489	4055	509

International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	308	458
Maize	282	432
Sorghum	287	437
Soyabeans	475	625

LIVESTOCK REPORT 27/10/2011 (*From the desk of Rob van Vuuren*)

NADF

The Mash A meeting finally took place today, (27/10/2011), with 4 members present, although not a quorum it was decided to proceed because visitors had made the effort to attend for the second time. It was a very informative meeting with national chairperson in attendance.

Livestock producers are reminded that there is no VAT charges for the sale of live animals reference S.I. 75 Of 2010.

The next NADF Executive meeting is scheduled for the 15th November 2011 at Agriculture House Marlborough commencing at 08.00 am.

The NADF Small-Scale Farmer's field day is scheduled to take place on the 9th November, 2011 on Mr Hela's farm which is in close proximity to the Marirangwe Milk Collection.

C.P.A**BEEF OPEN MARKET PRICES (PLEASE NOTE THESE PRICES ARE ONLY A GUIDE)**

VENUE	MT. HAMPDEN		BULAWAYO SHOWGROUND S YOUNG STOCK	PLUMTREE		
	DATE	24.10.11	26.10.2011	25.10.2011		
	AVE. PRICE	AVERAGE	AVE. PRICE	AVERAGE	AVE. PRICE	AVERAGE
GRADE	NO. OF CATTLE	PER KG LV WT	NO. OF CATTLE	PER KG LV WT	NO. OF CATTLE	PER KG LV WT
SUPER	20	2.44	N/A		N/A	
CHOICE	3	2.07		2.65		2.93
COMMERCIAL	5	2.02		2.20		2.29
ECONOMY	14	1.59		2.20		1.90
MANUFACTURING	5	1.53		1.34		1.30
WEANER HEIFERS	7	1.97	N/A			2.48
BULLING HEIFERS	N/A		N/A	2.06	N/A	
WEANER STEERS	21	2.07	N/A	2.25		2.20
LONG WEANER HEIFER	1	1.88	N/A		N/A	
LONG WEANER STEER	N/A		N/A		N/A	
FEEDER STEERS	6	1.96	N/A			2.25
COMM WEANER STEERS	N/A		N/A		N/A	
COMM WEANER HEIFERS	N/A		N/A		N/A	
BULL	N/A			2.20		1.85
TOTAL HEAD			138		62	

There has been a noticeable increase in the open market prices of beef cattle, particularly in the upper grades and trend that will be welcomed by producers.

STOP PRESS

You are invited to view the following interesting article which has just been forwarded to us.

<http://www.theindependent.co.zw/local/32885-sa-envoy-breaks-mould-on-invasions.html>

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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