

**04<sup>TH</sup> November 2011**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>1. EXECUTIVE NEWS.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. OBITUARY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. SECURITY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. OPEN FARMERS' MEETING</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. AGRI SA CONGRESS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8. DISCOUNTERS CLUB</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9. BUSINESS CHAMBER</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>10. ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>11. LIVESTOCK REPORT</b>	<b>7</b>

## 1. EXECUTIVE NEWS

The extremely high temperatures experienced over the past week or so have broken a number of records as can be seen on the interesting chart below which was sent to us by one of our members. The heat certainly took its toll especially with some of those at the tiger tournament ending up in hospital, or worse, battling with heat fatigue and dehydration.

Over the last couple of days the weather has changed dramatically with some very useful rain being recorded over most parts of the country as well as much lower temperatures offering some relief from the record breaking high temperatures. Drop us a line and let us know your rainfall figures as the season progresses.

### Record of maximum temperatures broken;

Record max temp broken

Station	Last temp. record	Year	New record in 2011
Harare Belvedere	35.1	1925	35.4
Harare Airport	34.2	2010	36.1
Gokwe	36.5	1954	37.6
Karoi	35.7	1954	37.2
Binga	40.8	1962	41.5
Lupane	41.2	1962	42.5
Matopos	37.7	1962	38.2
Plumtree	37.8	1962	38.5
Kadoma	38.2	1998	39.7
Tsholotsho	39.1	1962	42.0
Chisumbanje	42.0	1989	44.2
Buffalo Range	44.4	2010	45.5
Beit Bridge	44.5	2010	44.0
Chipinge	37.0	1954	37.5
Chinhoyi	37.3	1968	37.7
Vic Falls	40.1	1995	40.7
Hwange	38.1	1992	39.2
Byo Airport	38.0	2011	38.2
West Nicholson			44.4
Zvishvane			41.7
Goetz			38.2
Masvingo	38.5		40.4
Gweru	36.3	2010	36.9
Kwekwe	38.1	1954	39.0
Mhondoro	38.0	1990	38.0
Wedza	35.6	1954	36.1
Mt Darwin	38.6	1954	38.7

## 2. OBITUARY

Last week we lost another of the great characters of our industry who had made such a huge personal contribution to agriculture in Zimbabwe and we publish below a very fitting obituary written by an old friend of us all, past President Jim Sinclair. Although he will be missed he most certainly will not be forgotten.

**“Ben Norton  
1929-2011**

Ben Norton was born in Aliwal North Eastern Cape and died peacefully in his home in Amber Valley, Howick Natal on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2011.

He spent his last few years in Somerset West, Cape and Howick, Natal.

He was a remarkable man, conservationist, hunter and fisherman, leading and innovative farmer, raconteur and loving husband, father and grandfather. Those of us who knew him well knew him to be a man of action and also ideas. He pushed his strongly held views on a large variety of subjects with determination and sometimes downright cussedness.

His farm Dahywe became a showpiece with his leadership in the use of legumes in pastures and his well stocked game park. He was also a top cattleman with his herd of Brahmins. He was active in organised agriculture being the Chairman of the Cattle Producers Association and a member of C.F.U. Council, also taking a prominent role in the Mashonaland Hunters Association with an interest in conservation education.

Those of us lucky enough to know him well had wonderful trips to the Zambezi with Jenny and him and his property at Chirundu was a Mecca for starting fishing and canoeing trips.

Jenny and Ben’s son Larry the well known wildlife artist in a commentary on his work titled “In the Valley of Memories” a wonderful painting of Mana says the following.

“The three buffalo painted in the front of the herd reminded me of my Dad, Ben Norton and his two good friends, John Wood and Bill Francis. The three of them hunted together, fished together, argued furiously across campfires and walked untold miles through dry jesse bush. They gave us kid’s incredible memories, experiences, bellowing reprimands and endless humour”.

All three of those great characters are sadly now no longer with us and this really is the end of an era.

In common with many of us he suffered hugely from the wanton destruction wreaked upon his property in the guise of so-called land reform.

I am personally grateful that Ann and I had the privilege of knowing Ben Norton. He was the kind of person who added a great deal to our lives. We shall miss him but we know he is in a better place. He is survived by his wife Jenny and his son Larry and his family.

Jim Sinclair”

### **3. SECURITY**

This week we have had another fairly quiet week as far as reported disruptions on farms, which have been taken advantage of by those who are still farming who have been able to complete the harvesting of their wheat crops and get busy with the planting of their summer crops. They have no doubt welcomed the early rain on such new crops and we can only hope that it continues.

However there has been one reported case of a farmer being evicted by his DA but we believe that he is now back on the farm. In Bulawayo an entire family were severely assaulted during a robbery of the farm wages last Sunday evening. Although the police have reacted there is no news of any arrests yet. The family has been brave and uploaded their very graphic photographs on Facebook which has created quite a stir. They can be viewed on the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10150365723758697&set=a.10150365723578697.350375.746738696&type=3>

As we have previously warned farmers, whether on their farms or living in town, they should tighten up their security in their homes as there have been a number of attempted and successful robberies

in Bulawayo and other centres during this time of economic hardships and high unemployment. Don't put you and your families at risk by carrying large sums of money.

There have still been no arrests in the majority of the recent assaults and murders, apart from the incident in which Keith Nicholson lost his life where 6 arrests have been made. This has of course led to a lot of speculation and even more reason to be extremely careful.

#### **4. OPEN FARMERS' MEETING**

There has been a huge amount happening over the past month which would be of interest to you as everything slowly comes together, therefore we 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 so that if you do live outside Harare you may combine these dates with other appointments in Harare. We ask that you also remember that these are not any 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.

A guest speaker at the Open Farmers' Meeting next week will be Mr Alfred Nkhono who is the **General Manager of Press Agriculture Limited (PAL) in Malawi** who are offering long term subleases for some 112 properties in Malawi. He and his associates will be on hand to answer any questions you may have if you are interested.

The **diesel shortage** being experienced in Harare appears to have been resolved, or at least subsided as the product is now being freely advertised at locations where stocks were either previously absent or in limited supply only to their own regular customers.

#### **5. STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS**

In the **Government Gazette** this week there were several Statutory Instruments which concerned our members, all three of which have been uploaded onto the website [www.cfuzim.org](http://www.cfuzim.org) under the section, **The law, Acts and Statutory Instruments**.

The first was **Labour (Domestic Workers) Employment (Amendment) Regulations, 2011**, SI 126 of 2011, which is a confirmation of the wage increase previously reported in this bulletin. It is available on the following link <http://www.cfuzim.org/images/domwag12611.pdf>

The second is **Customs and Excise (Suspension) (Amendment) Regulations, 2011** being SI 125 of 2011, which involves the importation of vehicles in the Tourism and Safari sector. This is available on the following link <http://www.cfuzim.org/images/susamend12511.pdf>

The third is **Customs and Excise (Tourism) (Rebate) Regulations, 2011** being SI 124 of 2011, which also involves the importation of vehicles in the above two industries. This is available on the following link <http://www.cfuzim.org/images/tourreb12411.pdf>

## 6. AGRISA CONGRESS

Following our report on the recent **AgriSA Congress** in South Africa we have been sent a link by AgriSA which covers all the important speeches at the Congress which may be of interest to those who still have an interest in organised agriculture. <http://www.agrisa.co.za/kongres/Kongres.htm> Of particular interest is the excellent PowerPoint presentation by Dr Theo de Jager which reveals a lot of facts and information on the sensitive land issue in South Africa.

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### **EMA striving to protect Zimbabwe's environment Origins of EMA**

The Environmental Protection Agency has been quite active in most areas recently. They recently put out a document with the above heading following which they gave an email address for people to submit comments. The article is available on our website or through the following link:

[http://www.cfuzim.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2070:ema-striving-to-protect-zimbabwes-environment&catid=82:agriculture&Itemid=92](http://www.cfuzim.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2070:ema-striving-to-protect-zimbabwes-environment&catid=82:agriculture&Itemid=92)

## 8. DISCOUNTERS CLUB

A reminder to all paid up members - come in and get your Christmas Special Discounters Club Card free of charge. This card will be valid until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. This is a great way to start your Christmas shopping and *save, save, save!*

Discounters Club had a stand at the ***Shopping Under the Stars*** fair on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Old Georgian's Sports Club. Thank you to all the members and staff who popped in and supported us. This fair was well attended by the public and word is spreading about Discounters Club fast and all the savings that can be made by using your card. We issued some Christmas Special Cards and the public were very enthusiastic and excited about this initiative which promotes competition amongst businesses and ultimately leads to savings.

Debbie attended website training last week and is currently updating the Discounters Club Web Page and soon all the companies who are currently partners offering discounts to the public will be complete for Harare Partners. Hopefully shortly thereafter the Partner Listings for Gweru and Bulawayo will also be done.

This week an exciting new Partner joined up with Discounters Club. Stamrod Trading (Pvt) Ltd T/A **AION** – Digital, IT, home and kitchen, hardware, outdoor and camping and technical services. They share premises with Mass Mart (who are also a Discounters Club Partner offering 0.25% discount storewide) at 124 Mutare Road, Msasa, Harare. AION are offering a discount of 5% on everything in store except on specials and technical services. If you are looking for anything in this range, stop in and have a look at their wide range of stock. They are also becoming an Agent for Discounters Club and will shortly be able to take in applications for Discounters Club Cards.

A team for Discounters Club has been entered into the ***Garry Bell Golf Day*** at Wingate Golf Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and Discounters Club is sponsoring the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:brenda@braintrain.co.zw) to obtain further details.

## 9. **BUSINESS CHAMBER** (From the desk of Richard Taylor)

We had a very encouraging meeting with Afrexim Bank yesterday. Concerns of ours that maybe this money is not going to come, due to the lengthy time it is taking to get this finance facility in place, were laid to rest.

We were assured that this is definitely going to come. The delays are on their side, as they want this to work, quote "it is the first of its kind for them" unquote. Money will only be available in the new-year, Jan 2012. Good news for small businesses which are agricultural related, is that this facility has been opened up to them. For farmers who needed the facility for this seasons row crops, it is too late.

We continue to look at and look for other finance facilities for farmers.

We have signed a preferential trade agreement with CBZ Optimal Insurance Company. Optimal are offering insurance at very good rates for all crops. The only things it does not cover is drought and credit risk. For more info on this please contact me, Richard Taylor 04 309862 or email [rtaylor@cfuzim.org](mailto:rtaylor@cfuzim.org)

## 10. **ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**

### Producer Prices

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>GMB</b>	<b>Agrifoods</b>	<b>PHI Commodities</b>	<b>Staywell</b>	<b>Croplink</b>	<b>ProGroup</b>
<b>White Maize</b>	285	Not available	255	255	240-250	Not available
<b>Yellow Maize</b>	285		240	245	230	
<b>Maize Bran</b>	100		150	165	-	
<b>Soya beans</b>	500		610	610	600	
<b>Soya bean Meal</b>	-		650	670		
<b>Wheat</b>	TBA		Premium 460 Std 450 Utility 440 Undergrade 410	Premium 440	450	
<b>Wheat Bran</b>	-		200	185/190	-	
<b>Groundnuts</b>	400		850	Shelled 900	800	
<b>Sugar Beans</b>	800		1150	1200	1000	
<b>Sorghum</b>	285		-	255	250	
<b>NOTES :</b>			Premium Grades A/B		Delivered to Harare at sellers cost	

### Producer Prices

#### South African Grain Information Services (SAGIS)

#### South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) 1st November 2011

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Rand/tonne</b>	<b>US\$/Tonne</b>	<b>Import Parity Rand/Tonne</b>	<b>Import Parity US\$/Tonne</b>
<b>White Maize</b>	1862	238	2022	259
<b>Yellow Maize</b>	1873	240	2033	260
<b>Wheat</b>	2950	378	3110	398
<b>Soyabeans</b>	3320	425	3480	446
<b>Sunflowers</b>	3895	499	4055	519

#### International Gulf

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>US\$/Tonne</b>	<b>Import Parity</b>
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		US\$/Tonne
<b>Wheat</b>	313	463
<b>Maize</b>	283	433
<b>Sorghum</b>	293	443
<b>Soyabeans</b>	472	622

## 11. LIVESTOCK REPORT 04/11/2011 (From the desk of Rob van Vuuren)

### NADF

The next NADF Executive meeting is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 on Mr Hela's farm which is in close proximity to the Marirangwe Milk Collection, Harare South.

Dr. Rachel Stewart has kindly prepared the following programme for our members.

### Recommended Vaccination and Prevention Program for Zimbabwean Dairy Herds.

#### DRY COWS

*At drying off (which should be done when 7 months pregnant)*

1. Rotavirus, coronavirus, E. coli, Clostridium perfringens type C (**scour guard/ bovishield**)
2. Clostridium chauveoi (Blackleg), Clostridium septicum (malignant oedema), Clostridium novyi (Black disease), Clostridium sordelli, Clostridium perfringens type C and D (pulpy kidney), Pasteurella (Mannheim) haemolytica (Haemorrhagic septicaemia). All of these come as one vaccine from Pfizer called **Ultra shot 7**.
3. If this is the first time cows are vaccinated against Clostridium it should be followed by a booster vaccination of just the clostridial diseases four weeks later. This vaccine is also available from Pfizer and is called **Ultra Choice**.
4. Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella Dublin, Salmonella Newport (Cattle (calf) paratyphoid). This is what the South Africans called **bovillus s**
5. Use an appropriate dry cow therapy that contains either penicillin, streptomycin, ampicillin or cloxacillin or all the above. If not sure of appropriateness of antibiotic in the therapy please consult with me.
6. Teat dip all dry cows daily for a week after dry off.
7. Treat all dry cows with an injection of Vitamin A, D and E and selenium three weeks before calving.
8. Teat dip all cows again daily for two weeks before calving

#### PREGNANT HEIFERS *when they are 7 months pregnant*

1. scourguard
2. ultra shot 7
3. bovillus s
4. all of the above three should be **repeated** at three weeks before calving (only in pregnant heifers)
5. If there is a problem with mastitis in the heifers then you can inject them with pen strep or infuse with an appropriate lactating cow therapy three weeks before calving. ( I prefer the injection as infusing can open the teat canal and cause problems)
6. Inject heifers with Vitamin A, D, E and selenium three weeks before calving.
7. Teat dip all heifers daily for two weeks before calving

**FRESH COWS** 30 days after calving but before re breeding

1. Campylobacter fetus (vibrio), Leptospira spp, Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, Infectious pustular vulvovaginitis, Parainfluenza 3, Bovine virus diarrhoea. Used to be called **preg guard 9 also called vibrio lepto or bovishield.**

**ADULT HERD** yearly vaccinations

1. Clostridium tetani (tetanus), Clostridium botulinum (Botulism), Bacillus anthracis (Anthrax). Do this a month before you expect the rains (October)
2. Lumpy skin disease also one month before rains
3. Ephemeral fever (3 day stiff sickness) at the onset of the rains (November)
4. Rift Valley Fever one month before rains

**CALVES**

1. **5 days of age** Calf paratyphoid (Salmonella vaccine)
2. **4 weeks of age** ultra shot 7, bovishield and bovillus
3. **5 months old** ultra shot 7, bovishield, bovillus, contagious abortion,
4. **12 months old** **Tetanus, botulism, anthrax**

**DEWORMING**

1. **weaning to 6 months of age** dose against tapeworm and roundworm once a month (need a remedy with Albendazole and praziquantel in it)
2. **6 months to one month before first calf** dose once a month against roundworm and liver fluke (Albendazole and tramizol)
3. **at dry off in adult cows** dose against round worm and liver fluke)

**BULLS**

1. Supavax, lumpy skin disease, ephemeral fever, foot and mouth, bovishield once a year before the rains as with the cows
2. RB51 at 6 months of age, a year of age and then every second year.
3. Vitamin A, D, E and selenium once a year.
4. Dose for liver fluke before and after the rains.
5. Dose for round worms at least twice a year but more if required.

**C.P.A**

Dr. Rachel Stewart will provide a recommended Vaccination and Prevention Program for Zimbabwean Beef Herds next week.



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

VENUE	MT. HAMPDEN		BULAWAYO SHOWGROUND S LAUGHTER STOCK		BULAWAYO SHOWGROUND S	
	DATE	31.10.11	02.11.2011	26.10.2011		
	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	12	2.58		2.73	N/A	
CHOICE	N/A			2.66		2.65
COMMERCIAL	5	2.17		2.32		2.51
ECONOMY	29	1.71		1.79		2.10
MANUFACTURING	13	1.61		1.10		1.34
WEANER HEIFERS	13	1.99	N/A		N/A	
BULLING HEIFERS	7	1.90	N/A		N/A	
WEANER STEERS	30	2.18	N/A		N/A	
LONG-WEANER HEIFERS	37	1.93	N/A		N/A	
BULLS				2.08	2.20	
LONG-WEANER STEER	2	2.13	N/A		N/A	
FEEDER STEERS	4	2.03	N/A		N/A	
COMM WEANER STEERS	2	1.44	N/A		N/A	
COMM WEANER HEIFERS	1	1.46	N/A		N/A	
STD MUTTON	56	1.83			N/A	
TOTAL HEAD			244		138	

There has been a noticeable increase in the open market prices of beef cattle across all categories of stock, a welcome trend for producers.

Reports have been received that cull dairy cows in good condition are fetching good prices as well and this should be of concern to milk processors!!!

**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](mailto:dir2@cfuzim.org)

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