

# AGRI TRENDS

**Weekly Market Analysis** 

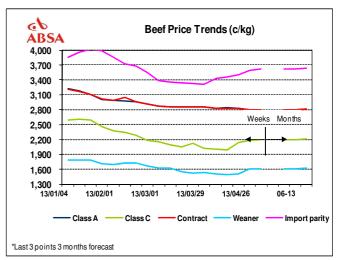
03 May 2013

# The World Economic forum on Africa – are these forums beneficial?

This week the World Economic Forum on Africa takes place in Cape Town. This forum highlights topics such as Precision medicine, Social gaming a waste of time, Future of government, Robotics and smart devices, Cyberspace as a game of two halves and Intellectual property systems. By visiting the Biz-tradeshows website you will be introduced to almost 90 conferences on Agri business. Each conference has some renowned speakers on the agenda. The questions to answer for Agri stakeholders are; what happens after these conferences? Are there next action steps to be taken? If so, will the Agri landscape be informed whether these steps put emphasis on strategic implementation and if the outcomes are documented to be discussed by ....? Is it business as usual or will these conferences lead us to embark on well researched, practice driven business as unusual Agri pathways?

#### **Beef Market Trends**

International: The US market prices traded higher during the week compared to the previous week except for Chuck. In the US, beef traded as follows: Top side traded 2.52% higher at \$ 211,69/cwt, Rump traded 4,55% higher at \$ 343,10/cwt and Strip loin traded 9,84% higher at \$ 686,10/cwt. Chuck traded 0,74% lower at \$ 204,22/cwt, Brisket traded 2,31% higher at \$ 196,05/cwt which gave us on average an increase of 4,97% in the carcass price of \$ 303,41/cwt. New Zealand Steers traded higher at Nz 378c/kg (1,07%) and cows also traded higher at Nz 282c/kg (2,55%). US cattle futures headed for the biggest



gain in a long time on signs of increasing demand for US beef, however, the US manufacturing market has continued to decline. The high volumes shipped from New Zealand earlier this season mean there is almost no stress on US importers to buy right away. Demand for beef has also decline, mainly due to cold weather and snow in many states which extended the winter. However, import prices are 15-20% above the five-year average levels, but the strong kiwi dollar is a negative for profits and taking a big portion out of these returns. Imported cow increased 2% on five-year average levels in New Zealand dollar terms and is 7% below this time last year. Asian markets remain relatively flat. After months of large shipments to China, purchasing has slowed somewhat as the market digests the record high volumes received.

Domestic: Local beef prices traded mixed during the past week compared to the previous week
following the international market. The prices of the different meat classes were as follows: Class
A prices decreased by 0,50% to R27,5/kg, Class C prices increased by 0,55% to R21,90/kg and
Contract prices decreased by 0,32% closing at R27,90/kg. The weaner prices traded the lower





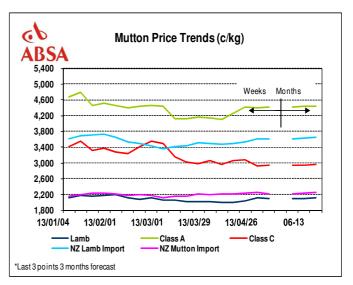
compared to last week at R16,04/kg or a 0,19% lower. Hide prices traded higher at R13,92/kg for the week compared to last week's R13,54/kg. The landed imported price of beef trimmings from Namibia and Botswana traded the same at R45.60/kg week-on-week.

#### Outlook

Internationally, beef prices are expected to move upwards in the short term with an upwards movement in the medium term due to higher demand and the fact that the producers in the US will keep breeding stock back as well as less meat from the Oceanic countries in the coming months. Locally, the market is expected to trade upwards in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term due to lower supplies during the winter because of the drought conditions and therefore poor grazing in the Central and Northwest region.

#### **Mutton Market Trends**

International: The New Zealand lamb and mutton prices traded higher this week compared to last week. New Zealand lamb closed the week higher at NZ\$ 4,50/kg for 15kg and other lamb weights were also higher but New Zealand ewe closed the same at NZ\$ 2,40/kg for the week. Import parity for lamb increased by 0,34% due to higher prices while mutton decreased by 1,72% due a stronger exchange rate against the New Zealand dollar. Lamb lea forequarter prices have lifted over the past few weeks. For forequarters in particular, China has purchased much of the extra production this season, and it's becoming evident that there



aren't significant volumes leftover. With New Zealand's processing numbers declining every week, and no major build-up in inventory, exporters are in a good position where they can demand higher prices. Word of tighter product availability has also drawn some traditional buyers in Europe back into the market, as they can see that the hand-to-mouth approach they have been taking lately is becoming a risky one. Some high-end, restaurant trade products such as French racks are still proving hard to sell, but prices now look to have bottomed out. Ongoing dry conditions in southern regions of Australia continued to force producers to turn off lambs in large volumes throughout February. Meat and Livestock Australia reports that lamb slaughter remained high at 1,8 million sheep, an increase of 10% compared to February last year.

• **Domestic**: The mutton price traded higher during the week compared to the previous week after an unexpected slightly decline. The Class A2 prices closed the week higher on R 44,15/kg which was 0,30% higher than the previous week. Class C2 prices closed on R 29,35/kg or 0,55% higher, while contract prices closed higher on R 44,10/kg or 0,34% higher during the past week. The price of lamb traded lower at R 20,87/kg or 1,46% lower than last week. The average price for a dorper skin traded lower at R 60,83 per skin compared to the previous week and the price of a merino skin traded lower at R 91,00 per skin. The landed imported price of mutton rib from Australia and New Zealand traded the same at R 29,40/kg compared to the previous week and mutton shoulder's traded the same at R 39,95/kg according to AMIE.

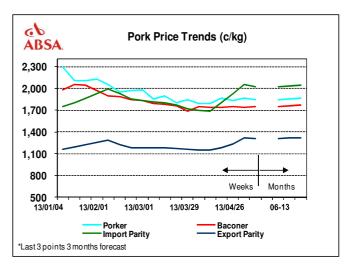


## **Outlook**

Internationally, prices will trade higher in the short to medium term due to lower supplies because of the drought in the Oceanic countries and higher demand especially from Eastern countries. Locally, the prices of mutton will move sideways in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term due to lower possible supplies during late winter and spring.

#### **Pork Market Trends**

International: US pork prices traded higher during the week compared to last week's prices. Carcass prices traded 1,06% higher at US\$ 86,67/cwt, Loin traded 2,01% higher at US\$ 88,43/cwt, Rib traded 1,89% higher at US\$ 126,77/cwt and Ham traded 0,65% higher at US\$ 71,00/cwt. There were 245,9 loads of pork meat sold on Friday. Mexican meat producers are interested in starting exports pork and poultry to Russia in addition to their current exports of beef and horse meat. A strategy to stop pork from illegal European Union farms entering the British food chain has begun. The



British pig industry has started checking for pork that is non-compliant with the sow stall ban, to ensure, it does not enter the food chain.

• **Domestic:** Local pork prices traded mixed again during the past week compared to the previous week. The price of Porkers traded lower at R 18,45/kg (1,13%), and the price of Baconers traded higher at R 17,47/kg (0,58%) and Contract traded lower at R 17,96/kg (0,31%). According to AMIE, the landed price of imported loin from Canada and the US traded lower at R 32,40/kg week-on-week.

## **Outlook**

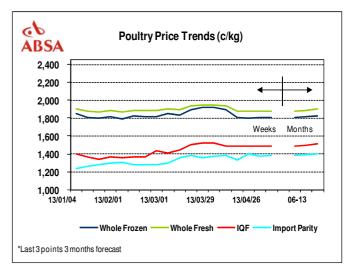
Internationally, prices are expected to move upwards in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term due to lower supplies and cheaper feed. Locally, the prices are expected to trade sideways in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term due to higher demand and possible higher maize prices due to extensive drought damages that become clearer as harvesting season draw nearer.





## **Poultry Market Trends**

**International:** The poultry prices in the US traded mixed during the past week compared to the previous week. Whole bird prices traded 0,66% lower and closed at 107,02 c/lbs despite a 3,41% decrease in supplies. Breasts traded a 5,22% higher and closed at 191,5 c/lbs, while leg quarters traded 2,88% higher and close at 53,5 c/lbs compared to the previous week. The estimated number of broilers available for slaughtering the week ending 04-May-13 was 155,4 million chickens compared to 153,6 million chickens slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated US slaughterings this week is 154,9 million chickens or -0,5



million less than estimated available. For the week of 11-May-13 the estimate chickens available are 155,0 million chickens. Prices for whole broiler were steady overall. Offerings were light to moderate for current trade needs. Retail and food service demand cover the full range, mostly moderate with some improved activity noted for planned Mother's Day feature activity. Floor stocks were balance. Market activity for whole birds was moderate. In the parts structure, movement was mostly moderate entering the weekend with some trucking issues noted mostly due to competition from the produce sector. Prices were weak for wings, firm for breast items and tenders and firm for dark meat cuts. Supplies of breast cuts and tenders were light, dark meat was light to moderate, and wings readily available but slow to clear. Market activity for parts was moderate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, but noted as desirable. Import of Chinese chicken products into Pakistan continued to be high despite the fact that many countries suspended procurement of any poultry and poultry products from China after the outbreak of avian influenza that claimed several lives in China. Sources said that some local companies had been importing crispy chicken patty, grilled chicken patty, chicken patty, chicken nugget, value chicken patty from China.

• Domestic: Poultry prices traded the same during this week compared to the previous week. Frozen birds traded at R 18,07/kg compared to the previous week. Whole fresh medium bird prices traded at R 18,80/kg and IQF traded at R 14,90/kg for the week compared to the previous week. The import parity traded 0,46% higher due to higher prices despite of a stronger exchange rate. The landed price of Brazilian imported chicken leg quarters traded lower at R18,00/kg, with grillers traded higher at R27,90/kg week-on-week according to AMIE.

## **Outlook**

Internationally, prices will trade upwards in the short term due to lower supplies and higher demand with an upward movement in the medium term due to higher prices of red meat. Locally, the market is expected to trade sideways in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term due to higher price of substitute products.

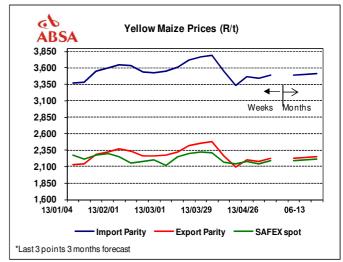




Livestock Prices (R/kg) 03 May 2013	В	eef	Mu	tton	Po	ork	Poultry		
•	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Week	Previous Week	
Class A / Porker / Fresh birds	27,90	28,04	44,15	44,02	18,66	18,66	18,80	18,80	
Class C/ Baconer / Frozen birds	21,90	21,78	29,35	29,19	17,37	17,37	18,07	18,07	
Contract / Baconer/ IQF	27,90	27,99	44,10	43,95	18,02	18,02	14,90	14,90	
Import parity price	36,15	35,92	22,20	22,59	20,57	20,57	13,82	13,76	
Weaner Calves / Feeder Lambs/	16,04	16,07	20,87	21,18	-	-	-	-	
Specific Imports: Beef trimmings 80vl/b/Mutton Shoulders/Loin b/in /chicken leg1/4	45,60	45,60	39,95	39,95	32,40	32,60	18,00	18,25	

#### **Yellow Maize Trends**

International: The average yellow maize prices traded higher week-onweek. The average US yellow maize spot price closed the week 4,3% or US\$ 12,01/ton higher compared to the previous week. Weekly export maize sales totalled 985,300 tons with 329,300 tons for 2012-2013. The stock market had sharp gains along with precious metals and crude oil. Heavy snow and rain fell across parts of the western and northern maizebelt supporting higher grain prices along with most commodity markets closing higher. However, the forecast is improving for next week with temperatures between 15,5°C



and 21 °C. With excessive wet conditions through much of the maize-belt in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Michigan concerns remain. Maize planting showed only 5% of the crop planted early in the week as compared to the 5 year average of 31 %. Producers across the Maize-Belt are eager to start planting maize or are in the early stages of planting their 2013 crop. If cool, wet weather continues, planting will be delayed for many producers and prompt switching to earlier-season maize hybrids or soybeans. The next week is not completely dry. but there are no significant weather systems until the late May. The lack of drying as the current system moves east, southeast at a slow pace is probably the biggest concern, as the longer it hangs on with clouds, the smaller the gap to create another planting window. Maize producers in Ukraine have started exploring the benefits of imported high quality hybrid maize seeds and are becoming more knowledgeable about maize seed choices. Ukraine maize exports, on which buyers from the Middle East and North Africa are increasingly relying, and which have reportedly gained entry to the Chinese market too, were pegged at 14,0m tons, an increase of 12,9% year on year. Investors have begun downgrading ideas for US maize plantings from the highest levels since the 1930s - although not all because of the wet and cold weather which has got plantings off to one of the slowest paces on record.

• **Domestic:** The local maize market follow the international market and traded on average 2,0% or R42,00/ton higher during the past week, and is still 9,3% higher than an year ago. The



average exchange rate for the week was stronger at R 8,99/US\$ compared to R 9,18/US\$ the previous week, which was 2,26% stronger. Safex futures traded higher during the week: May-13 traded 3,80% (R81/t) higher, Jul-13 traded 4,93% (R104/t) higher, Sep-13 traded 4,67% (R100/t) higher, Dec-13 traded 4,76% (R104/t) higher, Mar-14 traded 4,67% (R101/t) higher and Jul-14 traded 1,94% (R39/t) higher from the previous week.

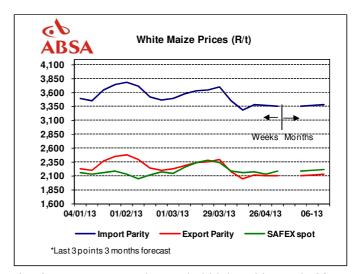
#### **Outlook**

Internationally, prices will continue to move upwards in the short term with a sideways movement in the medium term due to a possible dryer planting window. Locally, the market is expected to trade upwards in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term due to lower than expected yields because of the drought in the Central and North-western regions.

Yellow Maize Futures 03 May 2013		May-13	Jul-13		Sep-13	Dec-13	Mar-14		
CBOT (\$/t	BOT (\$/t)		260,30		228,02	217,86	2	21,80	
SAFEX (R	/t)	2,212	2,212 2,212 2,240		2,240	2,287	1	2,264	
	Jul-13		Sep-13			I	Dec-13	·13	
Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call	
2,260	112	64	2,280	151	111	2,320	196	163	
2,220	89	81	2,240	129	129	2,280	174	181	
2,180	69	101	2,200	109	149	2,240	153	200	

#### **White Maize Trends**

- International: The US white maize spot market traded higher by 1,9% or US\$ 5,12/ton in the past week compared to the previous week. The local import parity of white maize traded 0,6% higher compared to the previous week due to higher prices despite of a stronger exchange rate. The rand: dollar exchange rate traded weaker at R 8,99/US\$ this week compared to R 9,18/US\$ last week.
- Domestic: The local average white maize spot price traded 2,9% (R61,40/ton) higher compared to the previous week, with white maize trading 4,2% higher than the same



time a year ago. Week-on-week white maize future contracts also traded higher this week. May-13 traded 3,88% (R82/t) higher, Jul-13 traded 4,46% (R95/t) higher, Sept-13 traded 4,21% (R91/t) higher, Dec-13 traded 4,12% (R91/t) higher, Mar-14 traded 3,02% (R67/t) higher and Jul-14 traded 1,09% (R22/t) higher compared to last week.

## **Outlook**

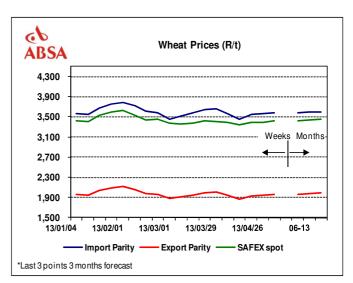
Internationally, the white maize price will move upwards in the short term following the world yellow maize prices with a sideways movement in the medium term due to the slower pace of plantings in US maize regions. Locally, prices will move upwards in the short term with an upwards movement the medium term due to the possibility of lower yields.



White Maize Futures 03 May 2013		May-1	3	Jul-13	Sep-13	Dec-13		Mar-14	
SAF	EX (R/t)	2,193	2,193 2,223		2,252	2,302		2,287	
	Jul-13			Sep-13		Dec-13			
Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call	
2,260	111	74	2,300	177	129	2,340	227	189	
2,220	89	92	2,260	154	146	2,300	205	207	
2,180	69	112	2,220	133	165	2,260	184	226	

## **Wheat Market Trends**

International: The average weekly wheat spot price traded 2.86% or \$8,42/ton higher compared the previous week. Soft red wheat traded 1,16% (\$3,23/t) higher, while hard red wheat traded 4,39% or \$13,60/ton higher. Import parity traded 0,4% higher due a higher prices despite of a stronger exchange rate. Wheat saw lower good to excellent ratings in Kansas at 27%, 23% in Oklahoma and 7% in Texas as dry conditions in the southern freezing plains along with temperatures has battered conditions. Wheat had bearish export sales of 716.500 tons with 219.200 tons 2012-2013. Analysts



increased their estimate for a decline in the US hard red winter wheat crop as analysts digested the on-the-ground estimates, which forecast the largest decreased in Kansas since 1996, when prices set records. Canada is braving a delayed planting period, threatening a late harvest and increased reliance on old crop supplies, with the smallest wheat stocks in five years. Concerns over dryness raised doubts over a forecast by US officials that Ukraine's wheat harvest will rebound by 40% this year, underpinning a 69% growth in exports.

Domestic: The average SAFEX wheat spot price traded 0,8% or R28,60/ton higher this week compared to the previous week. These prices were higher due to higher international prices despite of a stronger exchange rate. Safex future prices traded higher during the past week compared to last week: May-13 traded 1,39% (R47/t) higher, Jul-13 traded 1,72% (R59/t) higher, Sep-13 traded 1,82% (R62/t) higher and Dec-13 traded 2,24% (R72/t) higher.

# Outlook

Internationally, the market prices will move upwards in the short term with an upwards movement in the medium term due to possible damage to the crop because of frost and snow. Locally, the market will continue to follow the international market prices in an upwards movement in the short term with a possible upwards movement into medium term due to higher international prices and lower yields in the US.

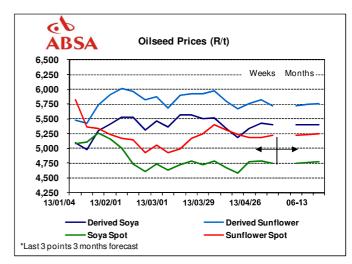




Wheat Futures 03 May 2013		May-13	Jul-13		Sep-13		Dec-13		Mar-14			
SAFEX	<b>EX (R/t)</b> 3,437 3,492 3,462		,462	3,462		3290						
CME	(\$/t)	261,32	264,92	)	268,38		273,81		268,38 273,81		1 278,	
	Jul-13		Sep-13			Dec-13						
Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Р	ut	Call	Ask	Pu	ıt	Call		
3,540	145	97	3,500	19	97	159	3,320	23	7	207		
3,500	123	115	3,460	3,460 1		178	3,280	21	6	226		
3,460	103	135	3,420	1	55	197	3,240	19	5	245		

#### **Oilseed Market Trends**

International: US soybean prices traded week-on-week on average 1,4% or \$7,79/ton higher compared to the previous week. Soy meal traded 2,5% higher, while soy oil traded 0,4% lower compared to a week ago. Compared to last week, grain and soybean bids closed higher after a roller coaster week. Soybeans had bullish weekly export sales totalling 1,231,300 tons with a reduction of 109,000 tons for 2012-2013. The US March stocks data released last month sent grain prices tumbling worldwide, but the Canadian figures fell short of market expectations, which for canola stocks



were for at least 4,1m tons. Hedge funds turned positive on agricultural commodities increasing with the fastest pace in nine months, because of the slow pace of US spring plantings, and fears for winter wheat, prompted them to reassess historically extreme bearish positioning.

• **Domestic:** The average soybean spot prices traded 1,0% or R48,70/ton lower compared to the previous week. These lower prices were due a stronger rand: US dollar exchange rate despite of lower week-average international prices. The rand traded stronger against the US dollar at R8,99/ US\$ compared to last week's R9,18/US dollar. The soybean futures prices traded higher during the past week: May-13 traded 1,15% (R55/t) higher, Jul-13 traded 2,38% (R110/t) higher, Sep-13 traded 2,48% (R112/t) higher and Dec-13 traded 2,46% (R101/t) higher compared to the previous week. The average sunflower spot prices for the week traded 0,6% or R19,60/t higher than the previous week. This is still 8,0% higher than the same time a year ago. The sunflower futures prices closed lower compared to the previous week except for Dec-13: May-13 traded 3,40% (R161/t) lower, Jul-12 traded 2,89% (R125/t) lower, Sep-13 traded 3,01% (R127/t) lower and Dec-13 traded 2,46% (R101/t) higher compared to the previous week. Sorghum futures for May-13 traded at R2,900/t, Jul-13 traded at R2,775/t and Sept-13 traded at R2,755/t.

#### Outlook

Internationally, soybean markets will continue to move sideways in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term depending on the planting season in the US, the Russian crop and demand by China's. Locally, the soybean prices will follow international prices and trade sideways in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term due to higher demand.





Oilseeds Futures 03 May 2013				М	ay-13	J	ul-13	S	Sep-13	De	c-13	Mar-14
СВ	CBOT Soybeans (US \$/t)				534,62	ļ	509,71		465,03	44	18,71	453,93
CI	BOT Soy o	il (US c/b)			49,16		49,27		49,01	4	18,77	48,42
CBOT Soy cake meal (US \$/t)			t)		417,80	4	406,50		387,20	36	64,40	345,20
SAF	SAFEX Soybean seed (R/t)				4,576		4,202		4,088	4	1,215	
SAFE	X Sunflow	er seed (R/t	)		5,245		5,292		5,400	5	5,500	
S	afex Sorgh	num (R/t)			2,900		2,775		2,755			
Sun	flower Cal	culated Opti	on Pric	ces (	R/t) Absa	a Ca	apital T	radin	ng Desk: (	)11 –	895 5	524
Jul-13				Sep-13				De	ec-13			
Ask	Put	Call	Ask	k	Put		Cal	Call Ask			Put	Call
5,340	229	181	5,44	10	357		317		5,540		531	491

335

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#### **Fibres Market Trends**

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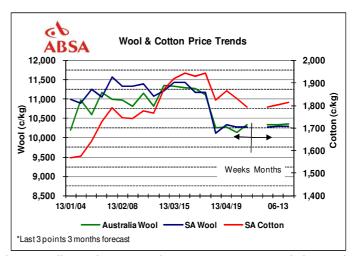
5,400

5,360

5,300

5,260

**International:** The Australian wool market traded lower the past week compare to the previous week. The Australian wool market closed the week lower on Au 966c/kg or 2,91%. This was lower than the previous closing price of Au 995c/kg. The volume of exports has been higher this season, however the value Australia's exports declined 12% in 2011/12 which demonstrates weakness of raw wool demand. Mills in the major wool processing countries have been buying 'hand-to-mouth' for some time with optimism that retail demand for the Northern



5,500

5,460

509

487

509

527

Autumn/Winter 2013 would improve. Unless retailer orders staged a recovery, raw wool demand will remain weak finishing the second quarter of 2013. The US cotton price increased from US 79,49 c/lb to US 80,44 c/lb or a 1,20% increase week on week. The total cotton sales for the week were 7,009 bales compared to 10,803 bales last week and 5,736 bales reported a year ago. Total spot transactions for the season were 1,616,583 bales, compared to 840,308 bales the corresponding week a year ago. Cotton prices recovered from their worst fall in an early year after the International Cotton Advisory Committee raised price expectations, despite increasing its estimate for world inventories. The extent of China's cotton imports are a hot debate topic in cotton markets, with the country in theory having more than enough supplies in stock. Because of the Chinese national cotton reserve policy, a seismic shift in the location of world cotton use is underway.

• Domestic: The last auction for 2013 took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> Apr 2013. The local market did follow the Australian market with the market indicator closed 0,43% lower this week at R 102,84/kg. The wool market was characterised by another boring performance despite of a very small limited offerings. The offering comprised 3,958 bales of which 96% were sold. Sales resume on 8<sup>th</sup> May when approximately 11,500 bales will come on auctions with the final sale of the season on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. The SA derived cotton price decreased by 1,96% from R18,30/kg to R17,94/kg week on week.

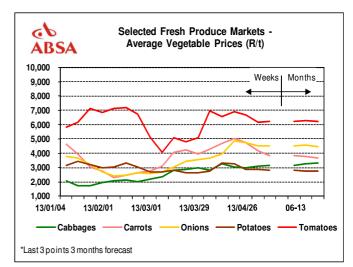
# **Outlook**

International wool prices will move downwards in the short term due to lower demand with a possible sideways movement in the medium term due to higher demand from the EU and China. Cotton prices will move upwards in the short term with an upward movement in the medium term due to higher demand. Locally, prices of wool will follow world prices and move downwards in the short term due to lower demand with an upwards movement into the medium term if demand increase in the EU. Local cotton prices will follow the international cotton prices with an upward movement in the short term and an upwards movement into the medium term due to higher demand.

Fibres Market Trends Week ending 03 May 2013									
Wool prices	SA (R/kg)	prices	Australian prices (SA R/kg)		Australiar Future 2013 (AUS	Jul -	Australia Future I 2013 (AU	Dec -	
Wool market indicator	102,84		90,28		-		-		
19µ micron	105,00		103,58		10,65		9,85		
21µ micron	105	,16	105,26		10,15		9,25		
23µ micron	101	,83	97,76		8,85		8,15		
Cotton prices	SA Cotton (R/kg)	derived	New York A Index (US\$/kg)	- 1	New future 2013 (US\$/kg)	York May-	New future Ju (US\$/kg)	York I-2013	
Cotton Prices	17,	94	1,86		1,85		2,00		

## **Vegetables Market Trends**

- Cabbage: Cabbage prices increased this week by 3,3% w/w and traded 6,7% higher y/y for the same week last year under review and 112,4% higher than two years ago. The price increased was due to a decrease of 4,2% in volumes on a w/w basis. Prices are expected to move upwards in a short term with a sideways movement in a medium term due to lower supplies during winter.
- Carrots: Carrot prices decreased by 8,6% w/w but traded 41,9% higher y/y and traded 5,1% higher than two years ago. The price decreased was due to a 7.4% increase in the volumes of



carrots. Prices are expected to move downwards in the short to medium term with a sideways movement in a long term due to higher supplies.

- Onions: Onion prices decreased by 0,8% w/w but is still traded 65,8% higher y/y and 40,3% higher compared to the same week two years ago. The price decrease was due to a 26,0% increase in volumes compared to the previous week. Prices are expected to increase slightly in the short term with a downward movement in the medium term due to lower demand during winter.
- **Potatoes:** Potato prices decreased by 1,2% w/w but traded 1,3% higher y/y but 1,4% lower than the same week two years ago. The decrease in prices was due to an increase of 13,4% in volumes compared to the previous week. Prices are expected to move upwards in the short term





with a sideways movement in the medium term due to lower supplies. About 36 000 hectares of potatoes have already been planted or is currently being planted. Compared to the same time last year about 2 100 hectares less have been planted. It is anticipated that the hectares will not decrease by more than 2 400 hectares. Traditionally prices start moving upwards during end of March / beginning of April, the reasons being lower temperatures, therefore slower production and the effect of the holidays. This year was no different.

Tomatoes: Tomato prices increased by 0,8% w/w and traded 52,0% higher y/y as well as 27,5% higher than two years ago. The increase in prices was despite of an increase of 12,6% in volumes during the past week. Prices are expected to move upwards in the short term with a sideways movement in the medium term because of lower supplies.

Vegetable Prices: Fresh Produce Market (Averages on the Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban markets)										
Week ending 03 May 2013  This week's Average Price (R/t)  Previous Week's Week's Average Price (R/t)  Total Volumes (t) Volumes										
Cabbages	3,162	3,062	1,132	1,182						
Carrots	3,826	4,187	1,646	1,531						
Onions	4,495	4,532	6,712	5,326						
Potatoes	2,811	2,845	16,219	14,307						
Tomatoes	6,199	6,152	4,072	3,615						

**Disclaimer:** Although everything has been done to ensure the accuracy of the information, Absa Bank takes no responsibility for actions or losses that might occur due to the usage of this information.

**Enquiries: Dawid Snyman Specialist: Sector Intelligence** 

Absa Agri-Business

E-mail: dawidsn@absa.co.za



