

CFU CALLING

17th October 2014

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1. EXECUTIVE NEWS

Only a few days to go before our much anticipated Congress and we hope to see you all there.

As you know there will be a change of guard as President Charles Taffs' very active, extended term of office will come to an end and he absolutely deserves a huge turnout to give him a fitting send off as an expression of our most sincere appreciation for his invaluable service to the community.

His two year term of office as Vice President and three year term as President has not exactly been easy, or fun and games either, and has been mentally and physically exhausting, as well as very frustrating in many aspects. However, we are currently in probably the best position we have ever been in for more than a dozen years so we now only wait for the decision makers to come out of their lengthy period of dormancy so that we can all move forward together for the benefit of our entire nation.

There will be several very worthwhile and interesting presentations at Congress during which we will elaborate more clearly on this, so be assured that although President Taffs will be moving on he has certainly left us in good stead for the future. We can only hope that the cocoon will open very soon to end this far too lengthy period of dormancy.

By now you know that President Charles Taffs will be stepping down as President at next week's Annual Congress. Please note that with effect Sunday 26th October 2014 his official CFU email address that of ctaffs@cfuzim.org will no longer be in use.

Should you wish to communicate directly with Charles you are requested to use the following address africaconsult.t@gmail.com

You are reminded that all official correspondence addressed to the Office of the President of the Commercial Farmers' Union must be sent to pres@cfuzim.org

It has been full steam ahead with our preparations for Congress next week which should be a great success. Vice President Peter Steyl has spent the week outside the country again attending another workshop with SACAU and will be flying back today.

The following email was sent to us by Auditor Mike Frudd, which is much appreciated indeed as it does clear up the often asked question about the Companies Act and compensation:

"We have talked over a period of time about the necessity of farmers keeping their companies which have the title deeds to their land, up to date and I have seen a number of articles encouraging this on CFU Calling. This being advocated because of the enormous amount of work required to reinstate a company should it be struck off.

However, in a meeting with Kevin Arnott yesterday on another matter, he pointed out that in terms of the Companies Act, in Section 321 "where a company is dissolved, whether as a result of being wound up or as a result of being struck off the register as defunct, the property of the company shall vest in the State which may dispose of it".

This is a very compelling reason for farmers to ensure that their companies are not struck off as a result of non-submission of returns, which is now being pursued in earnest in the Registrar's office. Government could indeed further speed up the strike off of companies in order to reduce its liability for compensation to farmers."

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CONTINUED

Therefore we urge all farmers to be aware and to keep their companies and returns up to date. Should anyone need advice and possible assistance to please contact Marc Carrie-Wilson at the office who will gladly assist.

On the downside we must report that this week that a daring robbery in the form of a quick snatching of a handbag from a vehicle parked outside the yard at CFU Headquarters. This was in full view of Police who were nearby and gave chase to the speeding getaway car but to no avail. Another bystander also gave chase in a motorbike but also lost the vehicle which had a Botswana white number plate on the front and Zimbabwe yellow plate on the back. Our security guard was able to identify the number. We ask our visitors to please take care of their valuables when parking their cars.

Obituary

Brian Pearce

For those of us who had the privilege to have known Brian he will be sorely missed. He sadly passed away on the 14th October 2014, in the United Kingdom. Beloved husband of Juliette, father of Yvette and Kelly and friend to many.

His sense of humour and his ability to talk down even the tensest situations will forever be remembered. Brian farmed cattle in the Somabhula area of Zimbabwe, was at one stage Chairman of the Somabhula Stock Owners Association and also Midlands Branch Chairman of the CFU before he left for the UK.

Brian carried out his duties for the Union with the utmost effort and diligence and was constantly promoting his vision of a single, dynamic Union representing all forms of Agriculture in our country.

He could always be heard in the pub after a meeting saying – “Government would have to listen to us if there were 500 000 farmers under one umbrella Union – what a voice we would have”.

He was a passionate Liverpool supporter, even naming one of his dogs Anfield, and there is no more fitting tribute to this man than the club’s motto – “You’ll never walk alone”.

Rest in peace Brian

.....
We are shocked to hear this very sad news that Brian has finally lost his long battle with Cancer and we would like to pass our most sincere condolences to Brian’s family.

As mentioned above Brian spent some time with us on CFU Council where he very ably represented the Midlands farming community through one of their most difficult periods. His very dry sense of humour most certainly kept the debates very lively and he will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

His work was greatly appreciated and the cattle world will certainly be missing him.

May his dear soul now rest in peace.

Charles Taffs

President
Commercial Farmers’ Union

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Membership

Our apologies for this repeated section but this subject is very necessary and important as the subscriptions are vital for us to continue to provide the required services to our membership.

Although the response to our membership drive and payment of subscriptions has been a fair success and we sincerely thank those who have responded so promptly, it was most certainly much slower than the situation demands, or what we had initially anticipated. We would therefore make the request again for all of you out there to please supply us with the necessary resources to allow us to ensure your future is what we all desire.

This includes those of you who are now settled into new homes and jobs overseas. Although many of you have made a point of putting what happened behind you and simply getting on with a new life we must encourage you to please keep paying and supporting your Union. Should your Union be allowed to simply fade away into irrelevance so will the issue of compensation therefore we appeal to you to fully support the small team who are acting so diligently on your behalf.

It is imperative also that we continue to support those who have remained in active farming and to promote the resuscitation of commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe. The way forward is easy but we need your continued support to promote this common sense approach and to lobby the right people to act responsibly.

Below are the subscription fees for the 2014/15 season:

Corporate/Affiliate	\$1 500.00
Farming	\$800.00
Non-farming	\$200.00
Non-farming over 70-years of age	\$50.00

We do urge members to note that should you be making a living from agriculture in whatever form and even to the extent of not being on your original farm, you are required to pay \$800.00 and not \$200.00 should you wish to be a member.

The new email reminder will be sent out monthly and when payments are made they will be reflected in your schedule on the email you receive.

In all cases where direct banking transactions are made into our account please notify us accordingly by email and send us a copy of the deposit slip.

For those who have not received the email yet there is a [letter attached from President Taffs](#) also attached, which fully explains the benefits and what we do and a [membership/renewal form](#) is also attached. Both are also on our website.

Remember our doors are always open.

CFU Council

Please note that the Pre-Congress Council meeting starts promptly at **10.00 hours on the 27th October 2014**. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting. Please see the Agenda for the 71st Annual Congress on the next page.

Dam Levels

Here are the [dam levels from ZINWA dated 5 September 2014](#) which have been uploaded onto our website.

Zambia National Farmers' Union Newsletter

Herewith is a hyperlink to the latest copy of the [Zambia National Farmers' Union newsletter Number 38 of 2014](#), which makes very interesting reading as usual.

1. EXECUTIVE NEWS CONTINUED

COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION OF ZIMBABWE 71st ANNUAL CONGRESS AGENDA Tuesday 28th October 2014, Sango Conference Centre, Cresta Lodge, Harare

THEME: ZIMBABWEAN AGRICULTURE WITHIN AN AFRICAN GLOBAL CONTEXT

07.00 . 08.00 Registration of delegates

CLOSED SESSION

08.00 . 08.30 Opening with scripture reading and prayer

08.30 . 10.00 Regional Chairman Annual Tabled Reports
ARAC Annual Tabled Report
Legal Annual Tabled Report
Labour Annual Tabled Report
AISD . Vice Presidents Annual Tabled Report
Appointment of legal adviser(s)
Confirmation of Trustees
CFU Financial Reports and Accounts year ending 31st March 2014
Appointment of Auditors
Resume of 2013 Resolutions
Resolutions
(a) Membership and Licence Fee
Way Forward
Debate

10.00 . 10.30 Tea

10.30 . 13.30 **OPEN SESSION**

11.00 . 11.45 Guest Speaker 1 . Mr Sam Malaba, Chief Executive Officer, Agribank
"The state of funding for agriculture and the whole value chain as well as the prospects of the forthcoming agricultural summer season."

Guest Speaker 2 - Mr Ernst Janovsky, Head of Agri Business Centre of Excellence, ABSA Bank Johannesburg
"The food demand and opportunities that exist in Sub Sahara Africa and especially pertaining to Zimbabwe"

11.45 . 12.00 Address by the Chief Executive Officer of Commercial FarmersqUnion on the 2013/2014 Season and the way forward for the Union in 2014/2015.

12.00 . 12.30 Address to Congress by President of Commercial FarmersqUnion

12.30 . 12.45 Wishes of goodwill from visiting Agricultural Unions

12.45 . 13.00 Debate / Questions

13.00 . 13.30 Post Congress Council Meeting

13.00 . 13.30 **LUNCHEON**

13.30 . 15.30 CFU Farming Oscar and Honorary certificates to be presented during luncheon

15.30 Closure

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CIMAS Press Statement

Cimas Medical Aid Society would like to advise Members and other Stakeholders of the Society's position, in the light of a recent Press article which named it as one of four medical aid societies that the article said were facing collapse in the light of a Government directive for them to pay health service providers at the newly gazetted medical tariffs backdated to May 2014.

- Cimas fully recognises the Ministry of Health and Child Care as its parent Ministry and regulator. It has no intention of defying any regulations that bind it. (There is doubt that SI 330 of 2000 is binding on medical aid societies and available legal advice indicates the contrary.) The failure to settle member claims at the recently gazetted maximum tariff charges is a matter primarily of affordability.
- Earlier this year, the Ministry of Health and Child Care increased the maximum tariffs for doctors and other health service providers by up to 75%.
- In common with other medical aid societies, Cimas found it difficult to understand how such increases could be justified in a low inflation environment, with a non-performing economy and serious liquidity challenges.
- Through the Association of Healthcare Funders of Zimbabwe, medical aid societies sought to engage both the Minister of Health and Child Care and the Zimbabwe Medical Association to explain that medical aid societies could not afford to pay the new tariffs without increasing membership contributions, which members would find it difficult to pay.
- Cimas is fully aware of the reality that in the current economic environment, the majority of its members cannot afford an increase in membership contributions.
- Medical aid societies are legally required to maintain reserve funds that represent at least 25 percent of total contributions received.
- The only way in which Cimas would be able to meet the cost of increased tariffs without increasing membership contributions would be to dip into its reserves. Not only would the depletion of reserves in this way contravene government regulations but it would lead in to the reserves being exhausted in less than three years.
- The Ministry of Health and Child Care is now seeking to compel medical aid societies into paying service providers at the new tariff rates by threatening not to renew their licences if they cannot prove that they are paying them at the newly gazetted rates.
- Cimas is therefore faced with the alternatives of either increasing membership contributions, which it believes would cause considerable financial hardship to the majority of its members, or defying the directive of the Ministry with the risk that its licence, which expires at the end of March next year, may not be renewed.
- Cimas is a member society and exists to promote the interests of its members. For this reason, it has over the years gone into the provision of some medical services in order to ensure such services are affordable.
- Payments for services are made timeously, which is likely to no longer be the case, if the society is faced with the inevitable liquidity challenges that would result from paying on the basis of the new tariffs without increasing contribution rates.
- Cimas will continue to engage representatives of the doctors and hospitals, as well as the Ministry and other stakeholders, and is hopeful that there will be an appreciation that it is not viable to require medical aid societies pay the new tariffs.

ZESA

This link provides an interesting insight to our current [electricity generation status in Zimbabwe](#).

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Thankfully another quiet week although there are a few ongoing cases that have not yet been fully resolved. Although there are some rumblings of problems in the south of the country no reports about this have come in as yet.

It is absolutely essential that all reports of incidents on farms or court cases should still continue to [be sent to Mike Clark](#) as soon as any problems may appear because we are still able to assist if notified early.

3. OPEN FARMERS MEETING

The date of the next meeting to be held at the Wingate Golf Club will be advised later. This will be in November 2014. We advise our members and farmers to take this opportunity to meet your leadership and exchange ideas on your future.

4. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

In the Government Gazette dated 17 October 2014 there is nothing of particular interest to our members.

There are also no new properties advertised for acquisition in today's copy of The Herald.

5. LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Zimbabwe Land Commission Bill

The CFU was invited to give comments and submissions on the draft Zimbabwe Land Commission Bill (click [here](#) to see a copy of the Bill) by the Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement.

I drafted submissions which were presented to the Ministry at a stakeholder consultative meeting which took place yesterday (23rd October, 2014). To see a copy of the submission please click [here](#).

Members are invited to e mail any comments suggestions or criticisms on the Bill or our submissions to me on marc@cfuzim.org. We have a further 10 days in which to make additional submissions.

The Agricultural Employers' Handbook

You will be aware that two changes to the Labour regulations have rendered some of the parts of our Agricultural Employers' Handbook (2014 edition) already out of date. I refer to:

The increase in the General Agricultural wage; and

The promulgation of the updated General Regulations in SI 116 of 2014

I have drafted an addendum to the book incorporating all the changes. This addendum is available to all those who have previously purchased the handbook for no extra cost. Please come and collect your copy from our offices. I will also distribute copies to the Gweru and Bulawayo offices for your convenience. Also anyone who wishes to purchase a handbook from now will have the addendum automatically included with it.

I will shortly begin drafting a new 2015 edition which will consolidate all the changes and include a few extra Chapters. Including HR Record Keeping for farms, Types of Contracts and increasing productivity with Man management and motivation techniques. I hope to have this available to members in the early part of the New Year.

Agricultural Employers' Half Day Seminar

Finally a reminder of the ongoing Agricultural Employers Half Day Seminars where we cover some of the most important aspects of the Labour Regulations. The Programme is below.

We are currently taking bookings for the 21st of November in which there are, at the time of writing this, only 3 places left and for the 27th of November 2014 which is beginning to fill up.

A reminder of the details is as follows:

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5. LEGAL AFFAIRS

The venue remains the CFU Offices in Harare located at number 42 Bates Street, Milton Park, Harare. The seminar Programme will be as follows:

Time	Programme Item	Facilitator
0830 - 0900	Arrival and Tea	CFU Admin Team
0900 - 0910	Welcome and Introductions	Marc Carrie-Wilson
0910 - 0940	Background to Labour Law General Rights and Duties of the Employer. (The impact of the new regulations SI 116 of 2014)	Marc Carrie-Wilson
0940 - 1000	Types of Contracts. Fixed Term Contracts and Record	Marc Carrie-Wilson
1000 - 1030	Aspects around Workers Committees	Luxmore Nhutsve
1030 - 1100	Tea Break (Kindly sponsored by the ZTA)	CFU Admin Team
1100 - 1115	Introduction to Disciplinary Issues	Marc Carrie-Wilson / Luxmore
1115 - 1230	Mock Disciplinary Hearing	Marc Carrie-Wilson / Luxmore
1230 - 1300	Feedback and Close	Marc Carrie-Wilson
1300	Lunch and Departure	CFU Admin Team

The Seminar will be conducted by Marc Carrie-Wilson (LLB) of the CFU Legal and Labour Department assisted by Luxmore Nhustve an experienced Agricultural Labour Relations Consultant and former GAPWUZ Agent.

This seminar is targeted at Agricultural Employers, Farm or Estate Managers and Farm Human Resource managers.

The Seminar will require the payment of a participation fee to cover costs. The fee will be as follows:

Paid up Farming CFU Members	US \$ 15.00
ZTA Members	US \$ 15.00
Non Members	US \$ 100.00

The fee includes the costs of Teas, snacks, a seminar pack and Lunch. Fees are payable on registration or on the day.

Registration of participants will be on a first come/first serve basis. There are only 14 places available for each seminar and registration for the seminar will close on the on the day before the event or as soon as all places are filled. Any employers interested in participating should contact the CFU Office in Harare (04) 790264 or e mail reception@cfuzim.org and register to participate.

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6. ARAC UPDATE

((From the desk of Ben Gilpin))

EBOLA in a time of Crisis.

“Love in a time of Cholera” is a classic of South American literature and is title to a recent movie that some of you may have seen. A young man falls for a beautiful woman of higher status and is rejected in his bid to woo her on account of his lowly estate. Undeterred, he works hard and becomes a wealthy businessman, however in spite of a series of relationships along the way he still yearns for his first true love. Finally, after many years they meet again; the woman is now widowed and at last they can be together. He hopes, as the owner of a large river boat, to take her on a private cruise, but there are problems. The boat has already been booked and he risks breaching passenger and commercial contracts. Well, where there is a will there is a way and the boat soon heads down river with the happy couple in private...Cholera flag hoisted above!

Somehow today’s international and local news headlines seem to resonate with this: the world is gripped with news of Ebola; Zimbabwe has not escaped some red flags and sensational headlines in this regard. None the less, this is perhaps simply an opportune diversion; our crisis seems to be occasioned more by the topsy-turvy love hate of our political elite and the perception that Zimbabwe is a private boat with no need to honour contractual obligations to the public.

I thought it would be a good idea to touch on Ebola before looking at the other aspects in the news. The disease is named after a river in in the DRC where the first outbreak 1976 was noted. There are 5 strains of the virus which is a worm like single strand of RNA. There have been many small outbreaks over the years, most of these have been confined to remote rural areas and the disease has been quickly isolated and controlled. The current outbreaks in West Africa have occurred in crowded urban squatter camps and this has caused a chain reaction of infections that are proving difficult to control.

The primary vector is a fruit bat, which in a part of the world that uses substantial amounts of bush meat, has resulted in humans contracting the virus. Subsequent transmission is through contact with body fluids of affected people. This includes, blood, urine, faeces, vomit, mucosa and sexual fluids. Like HIV, once in the body the virus replicates rapidly attacking the immune system and causing vascular instability and leakages. Incubation averages around 7-10 days during which nonspecific symptoms will emerge, often it is simply like flu with raised temperature which progresses to vomiting, confusion and bleeding, although the current outbreak has not been noted for this. Two diseases which are endemic in the areas concerned, namely Malaria and Typhoid have similar symptoms and control therefore depends on accurate diagnosis and appropriate management. There have been significant scares to health workers, in family settings and at burials. Infected people are not contagious whilst asymptomatic and a 21 day symptom free period post contact is sufficient to clear contacts. The viral load increases as the disease progresses and the bodies of the deceased are highly infectious for around 3 days post mortem.

There is no treatment and infection prevention and control measures involve avoiding contact as far as possible. The use of protective clothing, rather like space suits, careful specimen management and having a high index of suspicion where symptoms and possible contact are factors. That said, the virus is easily destroyed by washing with soap and water. As far as Zimbabwe is concerned the fears should be seen in context. First we have no vector bats and second, the medical services here, although challenged by funding and other constraints, are staffed by experienced and qualified people and are significantly more capable of dealing with any problem than in the affected areas of West Africa. There, the limited capacity of health sectors is largely the result of years of recent conflict and the impact of that on both human resources and physical infrastructure. Already our medical officials have received specialised training and this is being cascaded to all levels of the country’s services and community centres. Additional measures are being put in place to screen people from affected regions on entry into the country.

Sadly it remains clear that the disease will continue for some time to cause immense suffering in those places where it is proving most difficult to control. I for one hope and pray that there will be significant collaboration amongst all stakeholders in the effort to resolve the outbreak and enable the affected countries which have already had so many traumas to deal with, to move forward into full recovery and renewed development.

Perhaps, this is where our own aspirations resonate most closely with those areas. It is now 34 years since the end of our own war and we seem still stuck and unable to move out of a post conflict mentality. Somehow inclusive collaboration eludes us and hence Zimbabwe and its current plight. Over the years since independence there have been 14 blue prints produced for national development, the latest being Zim Asset. One wonders why there has been need for such a succession of documents. Indeed we are well known for our capacity to produce such items... our difficulty comes rather from our troubles with implementation. A number of factors most likely account for this, somehow the more things change in Zimbabwe, the more they stay the same. Perhaps the narrow involvement of the general population has resulted in a limited sense of ownership of these plans. Success of programmes requires inclusion, harmonisation, alignment and mutual accountability. The country is characterised by limited social cohesion and it is therefore not really surprising that we appear to be moving so resolutely in reverse.

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6. ARAC UPDATE

One might ask, how do we change direction? Some years ago the Churches of the country collaborated to produce a document "The Zimbabwe We Want". There is now a fresh impetus to revive this proposal which was aimed at finding a common vision and identity for Zimbabwe through the promotion of common values and the establishment of institutional vehicles that can deliver prosperity once more to the people. Much of the experience of people in their day to day existence in the country these days is managed by a culture in which permission must be sought before anything can be done. What one knows to be right in one's heart it therefore subverted to a kind of imposed restraint and results in endless waiting? Action is held hostage to a sort of inertia, maybe fear, and requires determined effort to move ahead. Perhaps it is time for the Churches and Civil Society to assert the right to speak and act in a more prophetic manner without waiting for a go-ahead otherwise it seems the boat will once again sail without us!

EVD, Cholera, typhoid, HIV...these we can deal with... it's managing the impact of political disunity and the toxic consequences that seems to simply defy resolution at a national level.

We still receive a trickle of information on farming positions and opportunities, if you are interested please let me know and I will ensure you receive the details. For those who have not already made a note this is a reminder of our CFU congress to be held on Tuesday 28th at Cresta Lodge starting at 800am with a reflection by Bishop Chad Gandiya of the Anglican Communion. I am certain his words will renew and strengthen our hope at this time.

7. ECONOMICS REPORT

(From the desk of Antonnette Chingwe)

Seed Maize

According to [Zimbabwe Seed Traders](#) Association chairman Mr. Walter Chigodora, seed maize processing companies have increased the price of the commodity as they seek to recoup the increasing costs of producing different hybrids. A survey by The Herald revealed that the price of a 10kg bag of seed which cost between US\$21 and US\$24 last season had risen to between US\$27.50 and US\$31. A 25kg bag of a long season variety now costs between US\$68 and US\$113, up from around US\$57 to US\$96 the previous farming season. A 5kg seed pack now costs between US\$13 and US\$15, while a 2kg pack costs between US\$5 and US\$7.

Fertilizer

Zimbabwe has imported an estimated [90 000 metric tonnes of fertiliser](#) for the upcoming 2014 /15 farming season as local production continues to be augmented by imports while generally the market continues to be subdued in line with the general economic outlook. The projected demand for fertiliser for the 2014 /15 season is expected to remain flat at 350 000 metric tonnes the same as that of the previous season.

Cotton

Cotton Ginners Association has said that, Zimbabwe's cotton output in the 2013 /14 season declined to its [lowest level in four years](#) as farmers continue shifting from the crop to better rewarding crops such as tobacco. Cotton output for the 2013/ 14 season declined 6.2 percent to about 136 million kg, from 145 million kg last season. During 2011/ 2012, Zimbabwe's cotton production was 350 million kg.

According to CGA, cotton prices ranged from 50c and 70c per kg during last selling season, an improvement from between 45c and 60c per kg from a season earlier. Analysts, however, said the sector could still be viable if properly regulated. They have blamed side marketing as one of the major factors killing the once viable sector.

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7. ECONOMICS REPORT

Description	Rate of duty	VAT	Surtax
Manure spreader sand fertilizer distributors	Free	Free	Free
Mowers for tractor mounting	Free	15%	Free
Haymaking machinery	Free	Free	Free
Combine harvesters	Free	Free	Free
Machines for sorting eggs	Free	Free	Free
Machines for preparing animal feed	Free	Free	Free
Agricultural tractors	Free	Free	Free
Cattle	Free	Free	Free
Wheat seed	Free	Free	Free
Potassium chloride/sulphate	Free	Free	Free
Live pure breeding pigs, goats and sheep	Free	Free	Free

8. ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

(From the desk of Richard Taylor)

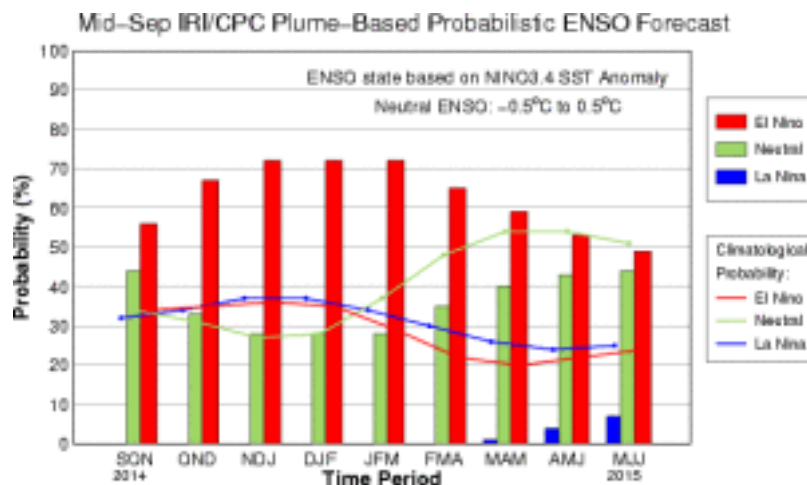
September Climate Briefing: Weak El Niño Still Favoured Forecast

Posted by Elisabeth Gawthrop on September 22, 2014

From the September climate briefing, given by IRI's Chief Forecaster [Tony Barnston](#):

Changes from last month's briefing

Based on the latest models, the chance of an El Niño developing during the September-November season is 55%, which is the same as the forecast for the same period that was issued in August. The probability for El Niño development by the late months of 2014, however, remains at 70-75%, similar to [the forecasts released the past few months](#). This El Niño forecast for late 2014 is slightly higher than the [NOAA Climate Prediction Center/IRI forecast](#) issued on September 4.



The IRI/CPC probabilistic ENSO forecast issued mid-September 2014. Note that bars indicate likelihood of El Niño occurring, not its potential strength. Unlike the official ENSO forecast issued at the beginning of each month, IRI and CPC issue this updated forecast based solely on model outputs. The official forecast, available at <http://1.usa.gov/1j9gA8b>, also incorporates human judgement.

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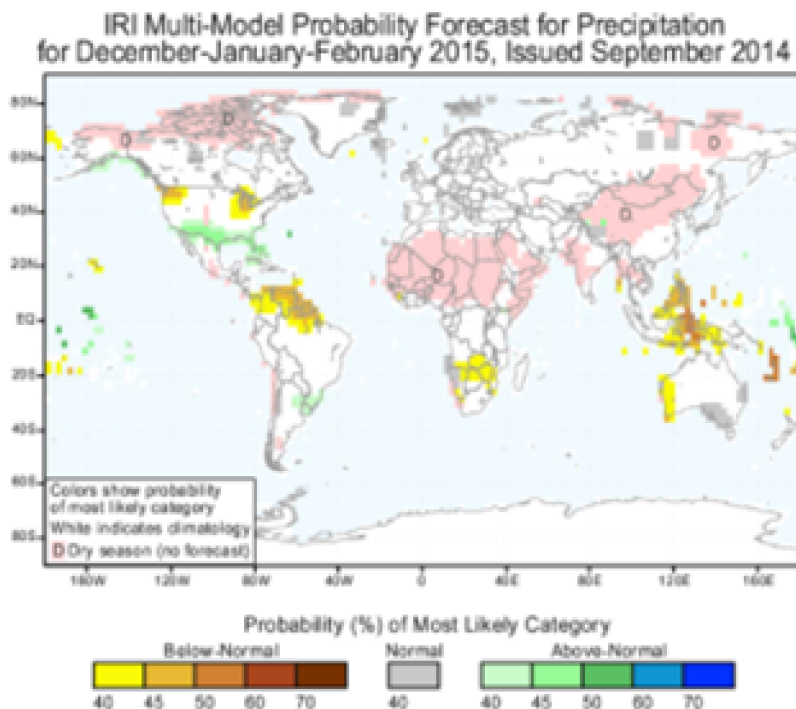
El Niño Conditions vs. El Niño Events

If an El Niño is going to materialize, it will almost certainly do so in the next month. Most models indicate that a weak El Niño will develop, though some indicate a moderate event and some no event. In the week leading up to the September briefing, increasing warming was observed in the Nino3.4 area of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Barnston says this warming is consistent with a budding El Niño, though it is still too early to confirm. These above-average temperatures are in fact *not* warmer than those seen in June, but the atmospheric conditions needed to engage the coupled ocean-atmosphere phenomenon of El Niño were not present earlier this year. Surface waters therefore cooled during late July and much of August.

Barnston says the difference now is that at this time of year – early autumn in the Northern Hemisphere – conditions tend to persist for the next several months, so it is more likely the warmer sea surface temperatures will remain. Further, the atmosphere is also now presenting conditions consistent with El Niño. The 30-day average of the Southern Oscillation Index, which measures the pressure differential between Tahiti and Darwin, Australia, was -10 in the week leading up to the climate briefing. An SOI value sustained below -8 is considered to indicate an El Niño may be present.

As alluded to above, however, the presence of warming in the Pacific and a negative Southern Oscillation Index do not on their own constitute an El Niño condition. Such observations must persist for generally one calendar month for NOAA and IRI scientists to declare that an El Niño event has officially arrived. Even then, an El Niño episode does not go on the books in the U.S. until the 3-month average of sea surface temperatures in Nino3.4 are at least 0.5°C above normal for five continuous overlapping 3-month seasons (i.e., about 7 months).

Effects of El Niño on global seasonal forecasts



Each month, IRI issues [seasonal climate forecasts](#) for the entire globe. These forecasts take into account the latest ENSO projections and indicate which areas are more likely to see above or below normal temperatures and rainfall.

Although an El Niño has yet to develop, the climate impacts are still expected to resemble those of a weak to moderate El Niño. For the December-February period, when the potential El Niño is predicted to be at its strongest, the forecast shows a likelihood of drier than normal conditions over Indonesia, northern South America and southern Africa (image right). Wetter-than-average conditions are expected over southeastern South America and the southern United States later this year.

Scientists should know more each month about the chances for El Niño, its potential strength, and the climate impacts. [Sign up here](#) to get notified when the next forecast is issued, and in the meantime, check out [#IRIforecast](#) or use [#ENSOQandA](#) on Twitter to ask your El Niño questions.

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For all the spider lovers out there - Spiders and spider bites

Do you know how to spot a dangerous spider? Learn how to protect your family.

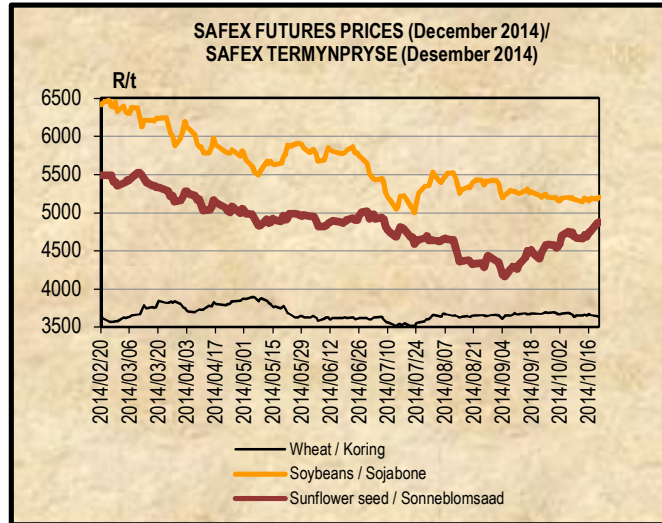


Producer Prices

Commodity	GMB 04-79 40 799	Kurima Gold 04-6 62 39 2 0772 382 028 / 0772 235 588	Agrifoods 04-77 56 23 0712 6 01 52 8 071 26 00 58 8	Staywell 04-3 03 02 1 30 78 68 07 74 17 5 9 7 4	Profecds 04-6 67 1 73 or 66 10 4 8
White Maize	390		390		390
Yellow Maize	310		320		
Maize Bran	-	-	200	n/a	190
Soya beans	580	530 7 Day transfer 540 14 Day transfer 520 24hrs Textacash	N/A	550 COD 560 14 days	560
Soya bean Meal	-	N/A	670	n/a	630
Wheat	466		-	430 (Premium) 30 Days	-
Wheat Bran	-	-	190	190 Sample Required TBC	190
Groundnuts	570 unshelled		-	900 Sample Required TBC	-
Sugar Beans	1300	n/a	-	1200 Sample Required TBC	n/a
Sorghum	310	-	n/a	n/a	-
NOTES:	-	-	Raw Materials Prices		All prices are negotiable depending on tonnages and payment terms

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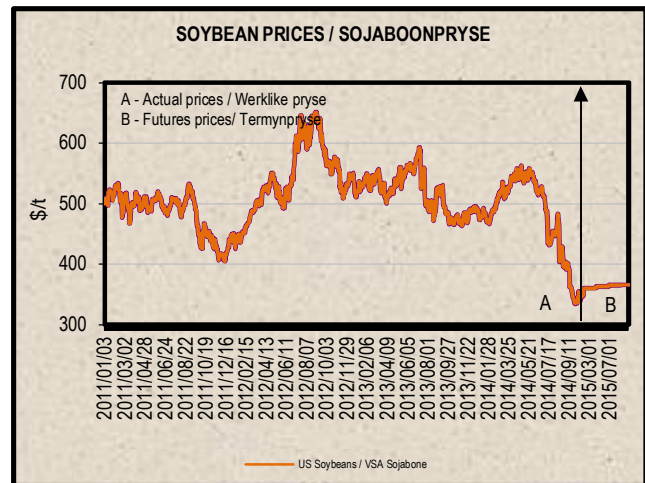
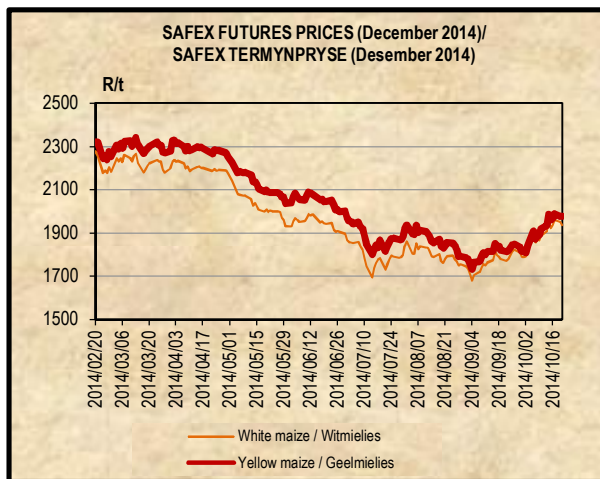


Producer Prices

South African Grain Information Services (SAGIS)

South African Foreign Exchange (SAFEX) 24th October 2014 R10.97

Commodity	Rand/tonne	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity Rand/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
White Maize	1922	172	2722	248
Yellow Maize	1945	177	2745	250
Wheat	3800	346	4600	419
Soybeans	5150	469	5950	542
Sunflowers	4800	438	5600	510



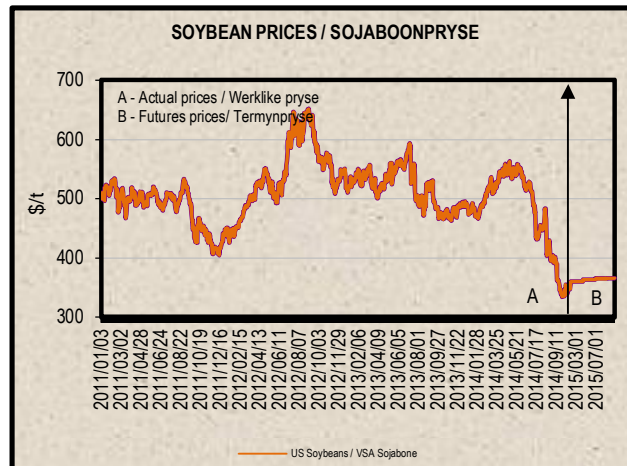
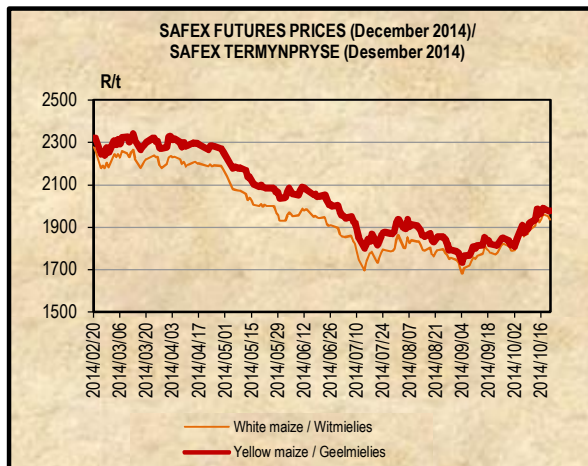
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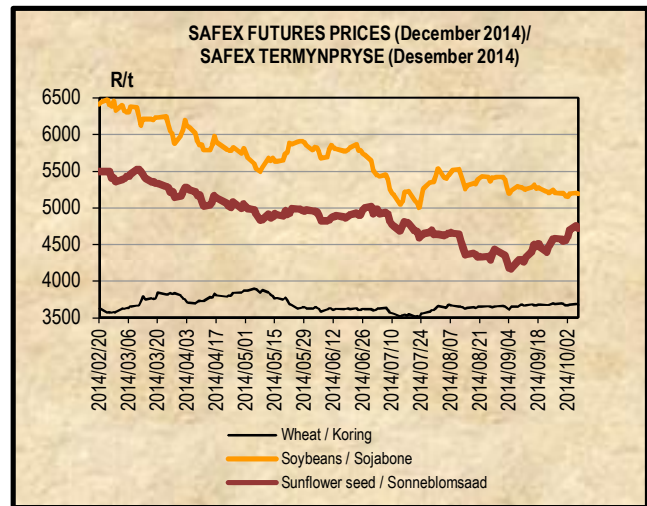
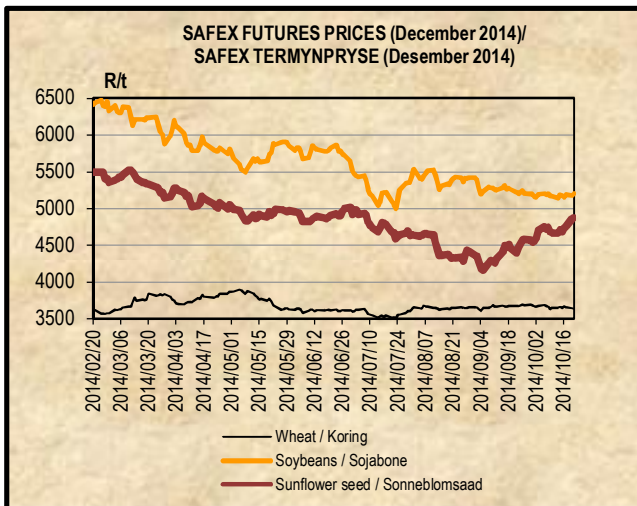
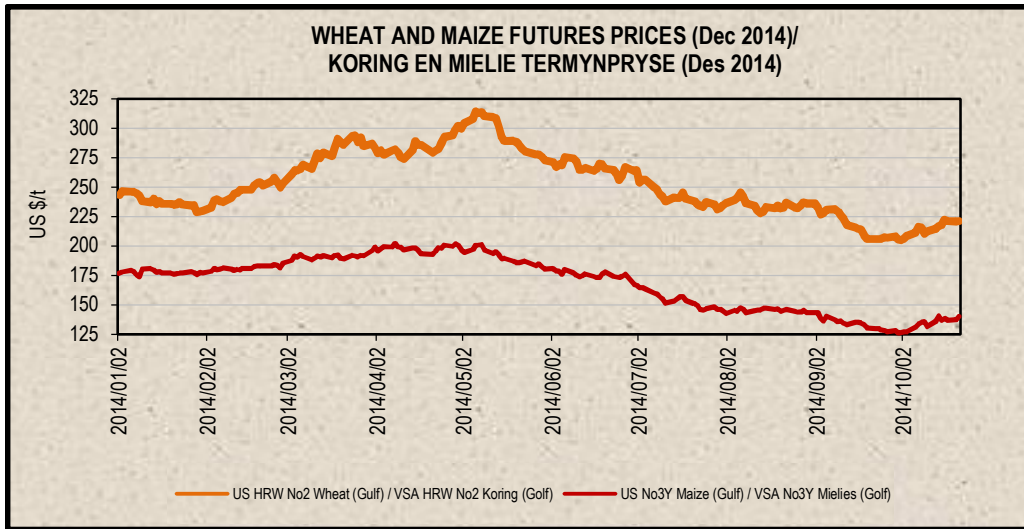
International Gulf

Commodity	US\$/Tonne	Import Parity US\$/Tonne
Wheat	290	440
Maize	181	331
Sorghum	236	386
Soyabeans	414	564

— Increase
— Decrease
— No Change


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AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

Govt To Launch Livestock Policy

22 Oct 2014

Financial Gazette



GOVERNMENT will launch a new livestock policy by year end which seeks to protect cattle owners from being short-changed by private abattoirs as well as reduce statutory charges in trading, a junior minister has said.

Paddy Zhanda, the deputy minister of agriculture responsible for livestock told *The Source* on Monday that under performance of state-owned abattoir Cold Storage Company had resulted in the proliferation of private abattoirs that have prejudiced livestock owners.

“Some of the issues that are going to be addressed by the policy would be ensuring that villagers are not short-changed. We want to develop an auction system as opposed to the current situation where one player can just buy so that sellers get a fair price for their livestock,” Zhanda said.

“We have also expressed concern over the charges being levied on villagers by rural districts when they sell their livestock. The 10 percent charged on the value of the livestock should be lowered and it should also be used to develop the same community.”

He said the new policy, which will be reviewed after five years, will also set a platform to increase the national calving rate which he said was below regional averages. “Zimbabwe has a national cattle herd of 5,3 million and this figure is more than that of Botswana and Namibia combined but our biggest challenge here is that we must increase our calving rate. Our calving rate is currently at 45 percent, which means we are very inefficient,” Zhanda said.

“In 1996, Zimbabwe slaughtered 780,000 cattle when we had 5,9 million cattle. Now with 5,3 million, we are slaughtering about 200,000 because some people don’t believe in selling their cattle to get their real value.” - *The Source*



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9. CATTLE PRODUCERS INFORMATION CONTINUED

GRADE REPORT BY GRADE (\$KG)_23-09-2014-GWERU

GRADE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	AVG_KG	AVG_AMT	AMTKG4AVG KG
	SUPER		1.98	417.5	825
	BULLING HEIFER		1.88	320	600
	LONG WEANER HEIFER		2.35	144	338
	BULLS		1.75	415.5	728
	COMMERCIAL		1.91	437.86	836.07
	ECONOMY		1.63	360	588.4
	STD MUTTON		0	0	52.78
	MANUFACTURING		1.18	300	352.5
	FEEDER STEER		1.84	310.97	570.97
	LONG WEANER STEER		1.78	252.5	488.75

GRADE REPORT BY GRADE (\$KG)_21-10-2014-MT-HAMPDEN

DESCRIPTION	QTY	AVG_KG	AMTKG4AVGKG
SUPER	4	477.00	2.20
BULLING HEIFER	2	317.00	1.92
LONG WEANER HEIFER	9	241.89	1.71
WEANER HEIFER	14	129.43	1.68
CHOICE	5	374.40	1.93
COMMERCIAL	20	447.35	1.63
COMMUNAL WEANER STEER	3	182.00	1.45
ECONOMY	23	427.33	1.59
MANUFACTURING	9	280.89	1.37
FEEDER STEER	18	337.83	1.97
LONG WEANER STEER	41	210.39	1.78

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9. CATTLE PRODUCERS INFORMATION CONTINUED

BULWAYO SHOWGROUNDS SALE PENS - SALE		COLLEEN BAWN	PLUMTREE
PRICE PER Kg	YOUNGSTOCK	YOUNGSTOCK	
	<u>22.10.14</u>	<u>15.10.14</u>	<u>22.07.14</u> <u>09.09.14</u>
BULLS			
SUPERS	\$2.15	\$2.13	
CHOICE		\$2.04	
COM	\$1.94	\$1.88	\$1.40 \$1.64
COM/ECO	\$1.79	\$1.70	\$1.55
ECO	\$1.57	\$1.62	\$1.50
MAN	\$1.17	\$1.40	
BULLS	\$1.87	\$1.76	\$1.35 \$1.68
F/STEERS	\$2.13	\$2.22	\$1.50 \$1.84
B/HEIFERS	\$2.14	\$2.10	\$1.50
W/STEERS	\$2.15	\$2.10	
W/HEIFERS	\$2.47	\$2.50	\$2.00
BULLED HEIFERS			
YOUNG BULLS			
LONG W/HEIFERS			

GRADE REPORT BY GRADE (\$KG) 09-10-2014-HEADLANDS-S

DESCRIPTION	QTY	AVG_KG	AMTKG4AVGKG
BULLING HEIFER	1	333	1.65
WEANER HEIFER	1	211	1.66
COMMERCIAL	3	369.67	1.51
ECONOMY	20	342.8	1.31
MANUFACTURING	4	287	1.07
LONG WEANER STEER	4	239	1.36
WEANER STEER	4	177.75	1.24

Forthcoming Cattle Sales

MT HAMPDEN CATTLE SALE EVERY TUESDAYS @ 12 NOON

HEADLANDS CATTLE SALE EVERY 2 WEEKS @ 11AM

See **CATTLE SALE DATES FOR CC SALES NATIONWIDE** for October 2014 on our website.

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ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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Maize Handbook ~ \$20.00

Soya Bean Brochure ~ \$5.00

Sorghum Brochure ~ \$5.00

Wheat Brochure ~ \$10.00

Sunflower Booklet ~ \$10.00

Groundnut Booklet ~ \$10.00

Contact Debbie at the CFU Offices at 42 Bates Street, Milton Park Harare or e-mail reception@cfuzim.org if you are interested in purchasing any of these handbooks

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We collect anything that can be sold!!

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Or Phone us on 04 707 673 / 707 659 / 707 481 and we will collect.

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Contact details **Email: info@oncopharm.co.zw**

Tel: 04 764 276, Tel/Fax: 04 764 277, Cell: 077 2 363 518

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Email: nndhlumbi@suzuki.co.zw , cchikara@amc.co.zw

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- SAME 603 2WD
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For all you're Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Security requirements.

We will quote for free!

We will also supply and install any of the following specialized security fencing:

- Razor wire
- Farm and Game fencing
- Electric Wall top and Panel Protection fencing
- General fencing
- Palisade Fencing
- Bonox Fencing

We make all sizes of diamond mesh.

Contact: Harare - Dirk 077 2 337 853 or Allan 077 2 292 108

P O Box AY 234, Harare. Unit 5, 18 Martin Drive, Msasa, Phone: 04 446 386, Tel/Fax: 04 498 790

Email: soper@zol.co.zw

Bulawayo 09 60476/60352

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Very strong agricultural repping background: agronomy, crop chemicals AND veterinary - farming experience in flue-cured tobacco, commercial and seed maize, soyabeans, cotton, citrus, wheat, pigs, poultry, beef cattle and a little dairy. Please phone Stu Taylor on 0772100475 or e-mail thetaylors1234@gmail.com - would also consider something in the leisure/hospitality industry; good knowledge of the wilderness and remote areas of Zimbabwe.

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Dave Gregson Allcott : Centenary 0712 869 167

Geff Dollar : Guruve 0772 385 414

My name is Mike Lapham : (04) 861 007, 0712 410 417 email : doublel@mango.zw

My name is Mike Lapham : (04) 861 007, 0712 410 417 email : doublel@mango.zw

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- Gardening, land scaping and general cleaning.

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- 7 foot = 2 metres – US\$30 p/m
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We also have a number of farmers who have moved to town who can no longer afford the high rentals being asked, which are often being increased to prices far beyond their means.

Should you know of any suitable accommodation available, please let us know so we can keep a record to assist affected farmer's.

Calendar of Key Dates

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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