

meat CHRONICLE

MEAT BOARD OF NAMIBIA NEWSLETTER



Meat Board
of Namibia



OIE PRESENTS NAMIBIA BSE FREE STATUS

THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE) GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) FOR 2016 WAS HELD FROM 22 TO 26 MAY IN PARIS, FRANCE THIS YEAR

The Manager of Meat Standards of the Meat Board of Namibia, Dr Anja Boshoff accompanied the Namibian Delegation which consisted of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable Anna Shiweda, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Directorate Veterinary Services (DVS), Dr Milton Maseke and Dr Juliet Kabajani, Chief Veterinarian Diagnostic Services, Central Veterinary Laboratory.

Attendance of the GA provides an opportunity, amongst others, to learn of animal health trends and the animal disease situation worldwide, to catch up on all activities and goals of the OIE and to network and meet key persons in animal health.

Numerous speakers confirmed that the objective of the OIE, 'TO PROTECT ANIMAL HEALTH IS TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE', is in line with global needs. Speakers from a number of member countries, including Honourable Anna Shiweda, talked about the important role that livestock plays in the livelihood of especially rural and poor communities across the globe. Some speakers also mentioned the important link between animal health, animal welfare and human health, emphasizing the importance of the One Health approach.

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From left to right: Dr Anja Boshoff (Manager Meat Standards Meat Board), Hon. Annah Shiweda (Deputy Minister of Agriculture), Dr Adrianatus Maseke (Chief Veterinary Officer Namibia), Dr Juliet Kabajani (Chief Veterinarian Diagnostic Services)

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From left: Dr Kabajani (Nam), Dr Boshoff (Nam), Dr Maseke (Nam), Dr Eloit (Director General OIE), Hon Shiwede (Deputy Minister of Agriculture Namibia), Dr Modisane (President of World Assembly of OIE Delegates)

Matters of interest to our livestock and livestock product industry in Namibia were:

- Economics in animal health.** During a disease outbreak, visible losses are incurred and money is spent to reduce the visible loss. However, there needs to be a balance between how much is spent on outbreak control and how much is spent on the prevention of an outbreak. It was shown that losses caused by disease outbreaks have a lasting effect on trade and that these losses are borne throughout the chain. Efficiency in resource allocation is becoming increasingly important, and countries should be pro-active in using economic forecasts for decision making. One way could be to determine the loss due to an outbreak plus the loss in trade to determine the cost that should be invested in prevention and disease control .
- Combating antimicrobial resistance.** Antibiotics are important in animal and human health and for food security. Around 60% of diseases occurring in humans originate from animals and the responsible use of antibiotics in animal health is critical to maintain the effectiveness of antibiotics. Good governance in future will be required to ensure the responsible use of antibiotics. Counterfeiting and falsification is a growing concern. Registration and governance across the chain from manufacturer to consumer is essential for quality control, use control (only on prescription, with clear storage instructions) and to prevent illegal importation. Antibiotic resistance is a general problem in society and therefore an awareness needs to be created to promote behavioural change and prevent the unnecessary use of antibiotics. Antibiotic resistance is a major public health concern.
- Global eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and dog-mediated human Rabies by 2030.** Global strategies for the eradication of PPR and dog-mediated human Rabies were developed in 2015. A step wise pathway for obtaining PPR freedom will be developed which will be based on the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) freedom pathway. Value will be added to this strategy by addressing other diseases at the same time. A Rabies pilot project has already commenced in Namibia in March 2016.

- Disease Status Applications:** Namibia has obtained official recognition of Bovine Lung Sickness (CBPP) freedom for areas south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence. It also obtained negligible risk for Mad Cow Disease (BSE) status becoming the first African country to obtain such status.
- FMD chapter review:** The FMD chapter is being reviewed to possibly make provision for compartments to be declared FMD free with vaccination. No vaccination against FMD in a compartment is currently allowed. This will be useful to many African countries. There is also the proposal for allowing the establishment of containment zones during an outbreak in order to facilitate trade.
- Global Animal Welfare Strategy to be developed.** A global animal welfare strategy is to be developed and will be presented at the upcoming Welfare Conference to be held in December 2016.
- Animal Health Status Worldwide.** The major diseases which were reported on during the previous year were Avian Influenza (AI), Blue tongue, Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). There has been a slight increase in Blue tongue cases since 2005 and latitude calculations indicate that the disease has spread. 25% of member countries are affected by Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and there has been an increasing trend over the last few months. Traditionally LSD was endemic to Africa, but has now spread to Asia and Europe. The disease now occurs in areas where it has never occurred before due to climate change. 28% of member countries were affected by PPR in 2015. From 2005 to 2015 there has been a significant increase, although the situation in Africa has stabilised slightly. The spread beyond the traditional range is alarming.
- Climate change.** It was mentioned that climate change will most probably result in diseases occurring in areas where it has never occurred before.
- OIE 6th Strategic Plan.** The 6th strategic plan has been developed and is to be implemented over the period 2016 to 2020. The 6th strategic plan has 3 objectives: TRANSPARENCY, RISK MANAGEMENT and IMPROVED VETERINARY SERVICES. The four pillars of the OIE, which are STANDARDS, TRANSPARENCY, EXPERTISE and SOLIDARITY, are aimed at improving animal health and welfare. Quality of expertise is to be placed at the forefront and all standards are based on science. It is crucial for countries to note that it is important to invest in people and capacity, along with investing in vaccines in disease control.
- Namibia will be hosting the 22nd **African Regional OIE Commission** in February 2017 in Swakopmund.

WHAT THE MEAT BOARD HAS DONE LATELY



Brigadier General John Enenche (Nigerian Army), Mr Paul Strydom (Meat Board of Namibia) and Mr Gizaw Negussie



NIGERIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE VISITED MEAT BOARD

A delegation from the Nigerian Defence College visited the Meat Board of Namibia on 10 May 2016. The main objective of the visit was to explore the reasons behind Namibia's successes in terms of agricultural production and meat exports and how the Nigerian government could benefit from this. The delegation was led by Brigadier General John Enenche and included participants from the Nigerian army, navy, air force, correctional services and police, as well as two officials from the Republic of Niger and Tsjad. In his opening remarks, Brigadier General John Enenche stated that the members of the delegation consist of Directors and are strategic thinkers in terms of national development. He further commented that, due to the total population size of Nigeria, which is around 245 million, the demand for beef exceeds local supply and that Nigeria is a potential market for Namibian beef.

Mr Gizaw Negussie presented a comprehensive overview of the Namibian Meat Board and the Namibian livestock industry. He included graphs that depicted the Namibian beef production, beef market shares and the competitive nature of beef exports globally. Some of the questions raised after the presentation were about the nature of the FANMEAT traceability system and how Namibia remains competitive in the global beef trade.

CONDITIONS FOR EXPORT OF LIVESTOCK TO SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Directorate of Animal Health announced new conditions/requirements for the import of Livestock from Namibia to South Africa in their Government Gazette on Friday 10 June 2016. These conditions, to be applied as from 1 July 2016, require extensive testing before any animals can be

exported. The Meat Board committed itself to assist the Directorate Veterinary Services to make the export of livestock easier from 1 July 2016.

However, the hope remains that the less strict Veterinary Health Certificate, together with the Standard Operating Procedures, will soon be successfully negotiated between the South African importers and the South African Directorate of Animal Health.

SMALL STOCK

1. Small stock must be moved into an isolation camp for the period of preparation for export.
2. Individual identification of small stock is required by means of an ear tag with a unique number for each animal. As per agreement between the Directorate of Veterinary Services and the Meat Board of Namibia, these ear tags will be purchased and disseminated by the Meat Board. These specific ear tags will initially only be applicable to animals that will be exported. The small stock will thus have to receive these specific identification ear tags when they are moved into the isolation camp.
3. A list of the ear tag numbers should accompany the animals to their end destination.
4. Small stock should come from a farm that is certified free from Brucella Mellitensis OR each animal in the group that will be exported must be tested within thirty (30) days before export.
5. Sheep rams for breeding purposes must be tested for Brucella Ovis within thirty (30) days before export.
6. Sheep should be treated against sheep scab during the period of preparation for export.
7. Small stock should be treated against internal and external parasites seventy-two (72) hours before export.

8. Loading of small stock for export may only be done under veterinary supervision.

CATTLE

1. Cattle herds should be declared clinically free from Infectious Bovine Rhino-Tracheitis /Infectious Pustular Vulvo-vaginitis (IBR/IPV) and must be vaccinated against IBR more than thirty (30) days, but not more than six (6) months before export with an inactive/dead vaccine.
2. The entire cattle herd should test negative for Bovine Brucella and TB for twelve (12) months prior to export.
3. Cattle should be kept in an isolation camp before export.
4. A list of ear tags should accompany the cattle to the final destination.
5. Each head of cattle exported should test negative for Brucella Abortus and TB within thirty (30) days before export. Only heifers younger than eighteen (18) months, that were vaccinated against Brucella between the age of four (4) months and eight (8) months, do not need to be tested.
6. Bulls for breeding purposes should be tested for Trichomonas and Vibriosis.
7. Anthrax vaccines should be up to date (applied within 12 months prior to export).
8. Cattle should be treated against internal and external parasites seventy-two (72) hours before export.
9. The loading of cattle may only be done under veterinary supervision.

Proof of all vaccinations and treatments is needed for the veterinary official in order to certify the export permit.

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TOURISM EXPO 18- 21 MAY

During the annual Tourism Expo held in May 2016, the Meat Board introduced consumers to the Namibian classification system and its relevance for the consumer. The goal of the activity was to explain the difference between the grades of meat using a different colour code for each respective grade. The Board also had information available that explained the different tastes and textures associated with the different grades of meat.

Products that originate from the members of the Seal of Quality were also displayed to give them exposure and involve them in the expo. In future this will have the additional advantage to promote locally produced meat and entice companies to present their products to the public.

A competition was run at the stand and visitors won meat products sponsored by Farmers Meat Market and Food Lovers Market. The eight prizes were won by: Priscilla Walters, Bianca Seager, Elise Hanghome, Rosemarie Rusch, Aisha Isaak, Glenrose Norich, Jason Mwanyangapo and Ryan Lehmann.



Rosemarie Rusch, Daron Seager and Elise Hanghome

THE MEAT BOARD OF NAMIBIA PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO THE MEAT ACT

The Meat Board accepted amendments to the Meat Act of 1981, for submission to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, at a special Board Meeting held on 15 June 2016. These amendments include practical recommendations with regards to the improvement of the efficiency of the Meat Board in the meat industry, the constitution of the board, appointment of marketing agents, etc. The act amendments were made by request of the Minister and stakeholders in the meat industry were directed to submit such proposals by 17 June 2016.



MEAT BOARD SHARES ITS ACTIVITIES WITH REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL UNIONS

On 13 June 2016 the Meat Board of Namibia shared its role, functions and activities of the past year holding meetings with the regional agricultural unions at Gobabis and Outjo. The meetings in Outjo and Gobabis were attended by representatives of the Namibia Agricultural Union and persons involved in the meat value chain. Questions regarding the proposed South African import regulations, NamLITS classification standards and Meat Board registrations were addressed. The Meat Board will visit Karasburg on 20 June 2016 to inform producers about the role, functions and activities of the Meat Board.

Mr Tujendapi also informed producers in Rietfontein about the implementation of the new South African conditions for the import of livestock from Namibia to South Africa.

CARCASS CLASSIFICATION STANDARD OF THE MEAT BOARD ON PAR

The standard of the carcass classification services by the Meat Board is audited on an annual basis by the South African Meat Industry Company (SAMIC). SAMIC is an independent company conducting carcass classification in South Africa. Mr Rudie van der Westhuizen, the CEO of SAMIC, conducted the annual audits at the following export abattoirs in Namibia: Natural Namibian Meat Processors in Aranos, Farmers Meat Market in Mariental, Brukarros in Keetmanshoop and Meatco in Windhoek.

Mr Van der Westhuizen was impressed by the high standards maintained by classification staff members at all the abattoirs audited. The Meat Board would like to congratulate and thank Mr Petrus Maritz, the chief of the classification division at the Meat Board, for the exceptional standard of work maintained.

NAMIBIA OBTAINS APPROVAL FOR EXPORTS TO USA:

Namibia has finally obtained approval after a period of roughly 12 years of negotiations to export deboned beef to the USA. Namibia is the first country in Africa to obtain such approval. This new market for deboned beef could

assist the Namibian export abattoirs with being more competitive. The MBN would like to thank all stakeholders involved with the negotiations, and in particular would like to congratulate DVS on this achievement.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS TESTING REFRESHER TRAINING CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION BETWEEN MBN AND DVS

On 15 July 2016, the MBN and DVS in a collaborative effort conducted a refresher training course on the testing of Bovine Tuberculosis. The testing of herds against Bovine TB is a requirement on the new RSA import permit for cattle, and the refresher course was aimed at assisting with the development of a standardized testing protocol as well as standardized interpretation of testing results. The course was attended by 23 veterinary officials consisting of both state veterinarians and animal health technicians and consisted of a theoretical and practical part. The practical part of the course could be conducted at the Meatco Okapuka Feedlot, as there is a zero day withdrawal period for tuberculin. During the opening of the refresher course, the MBN also handed over Bovine TB testing equipment to DVS in order to assist with the service delivery to producers wanting to export.

The MBN would like to thank DVS for the collaboration and the positive spirit in which the course could be conducted. The MBN would also like to thank the Meatco Okapuka Feedlot personnel for assisting with the very important practical part of the course.

LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY REGISTER

Producers may obtain a copy of the LTR software programme free of charge from the Meat Board. LTR was developed by the Meat Board to assist producers to manage their ear tags and registration thereof. The programme is also designed to work with electronic scanning devices for farmers using such scanners. The software can be downloaded from the Meat Board website or Mr van Rooy (081 2006588) can be contacted at the Meat Board Head Office to obtain a CD copy of the programme.

MEAT INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

CATTLE SECTOR

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

The total number of cattle that were marketed between the months, January to May 2016 stood at 144 859 of which 50 568 were slaughtered whilst the Live exports made up 94 291. The live cattle exports make up 65% of the total cattle marketed whilst the cattle that have been slaughtered locally accounted for 35% during the reporting period.

Comparing year on year, a decrease of 10.18% can be observed in the total marketing of cattle from 161 277 units in 2015 to 144 859 in 2016 over the reporting period (January to May). Increased live exports can be attributed to emergency marketing of weaners by producers due to the drought conditions.

FIGURE 1. 5-YEAR MONTHLY AVERAGE CATTLE MARKETING CYCLE

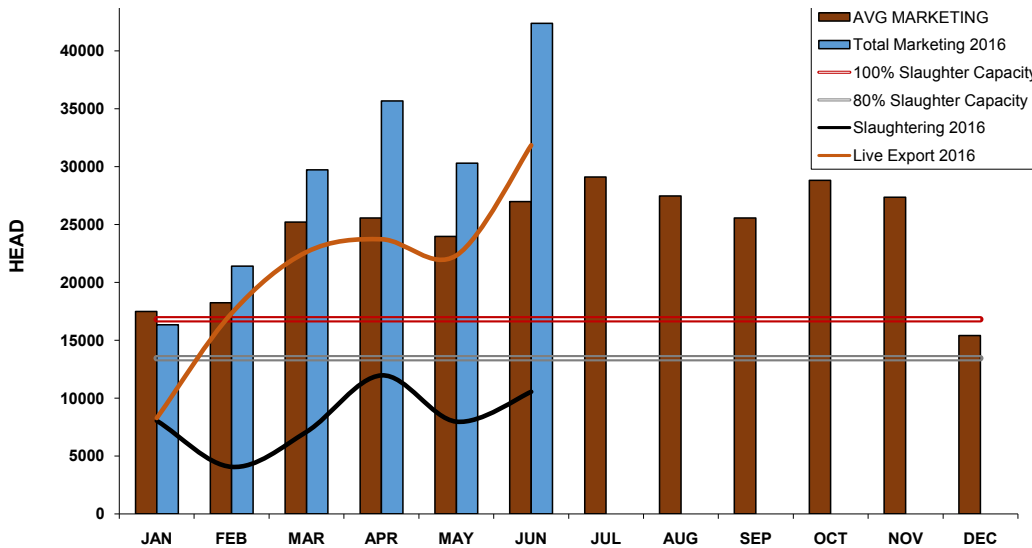


Figure 1 above clearly shows the cattle slaughtering and live exports compared to the 5 year average marketing. It is evident from the graph that both the Slaughterings and live exports of cattle are below that of the 5 year average. A slight decrease can be observed in both the cattle that have been slaughtered as well as those that have been exported from specifically April to May 2016. It is therefore evident from this graph that total live exports of cattle are well above those that are slaughtered. The prevailing drought situation in the country can be a factor affecting the willingness for farmers to continue producing slaughter animals compared to weaners for live exports.

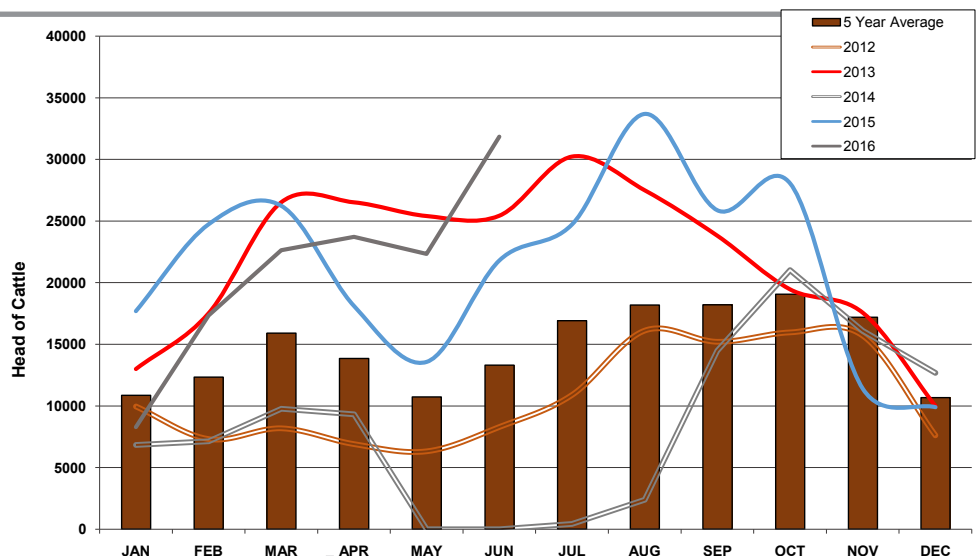
LIVE EXPORTS OF WEANERS

Live export of cattle to South Africa reduced from 100 332 in 2015 to 94 291 cattle units in 2016 showing a decrease of 6 % between the two years. Figure 2 below compare the trend in live exports of cattle for the years 2012 to 2016. It is evident from the graph that live exports for 2016 are below that of 2013 specifically. Although lower than that of 2013, a very similar trend in terms of the fluctuations is observed.

2013 was a drought year similarly to that of 2016 as declared on the 31 June 2016. Increased marketing of live cattle compared to those that are slaughtered at both the export abattoirs and the butchers will prevail. The new revised RSA import conditions are anticipated to have an impact of the live cattle export in a negative manner as South Africa is the market for the Namibian weaners. The combined impact of the drought as well as that of the new import conditions might put the cattle sector at large at a disadvantage.

FIGURE 2: EXPORT OF WEANERS

Live exports has the biggest junk of the market share standing at 65% whilst export abattoirs and local abattoirs made up 27% and 8% of marketing, respectively. No slaughtering took place in the NCA therefore accounting for 0 % of the total market share of the formal channels.



SHEEP SECTOR

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

The total marketing of sheep by the end of May 2016 was 396,295 head, indicating a 10.12% decrease in the total marketing, down from a level of 440,934 head last year, over the same reporting period. This is composed of 148,196 head of sheep exported to South Africa and 158,900 head of sheep slaughtered during the reporting period. Despite the rainfall received in some parts of the country, it was not sufficient to help farmers maintain the animals on the land, due to limited availability of forage. The decrease in marketing, between the two years, month on month can be attributed to the fact that the rain prospects for 2016 were much better than that of the previous year as the expectation for more rain was positive at the beginning of the year.

FIGURE 3. SHEEP SLAUGHTERING VERSUS LIVE EXPORTS 2016

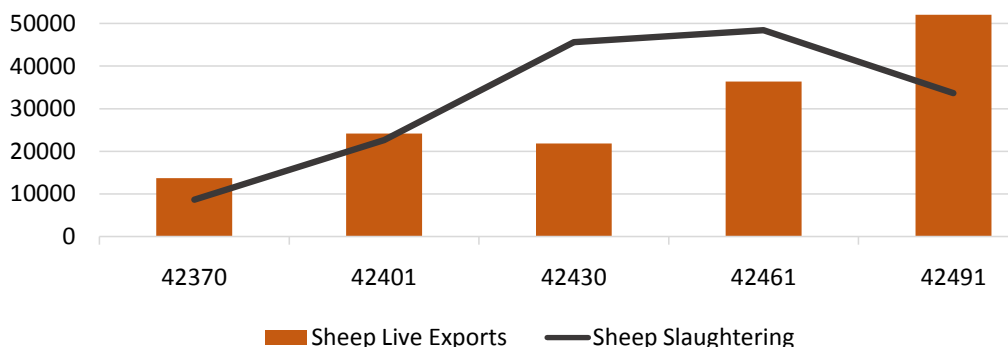


Figure 3 presents the actual fluctuations of the total sheep that has been marketed. There has been a steady increase in sheep slaughtering from January to May 2016, moving from 8,660 in January to 33,641 sheep units in May 2016.

Out of the total live exports to South Africa, a total of 7 190 sheep were exported under the “too lean too small” scheme. Sheep exports that were exported under the normal quota made up 140,250 sheep units accounting for 94.6% of the live exports, whilst the stud exports and the Fat tail sheep was equivalent to 56 and 700 sheep units, respectively.

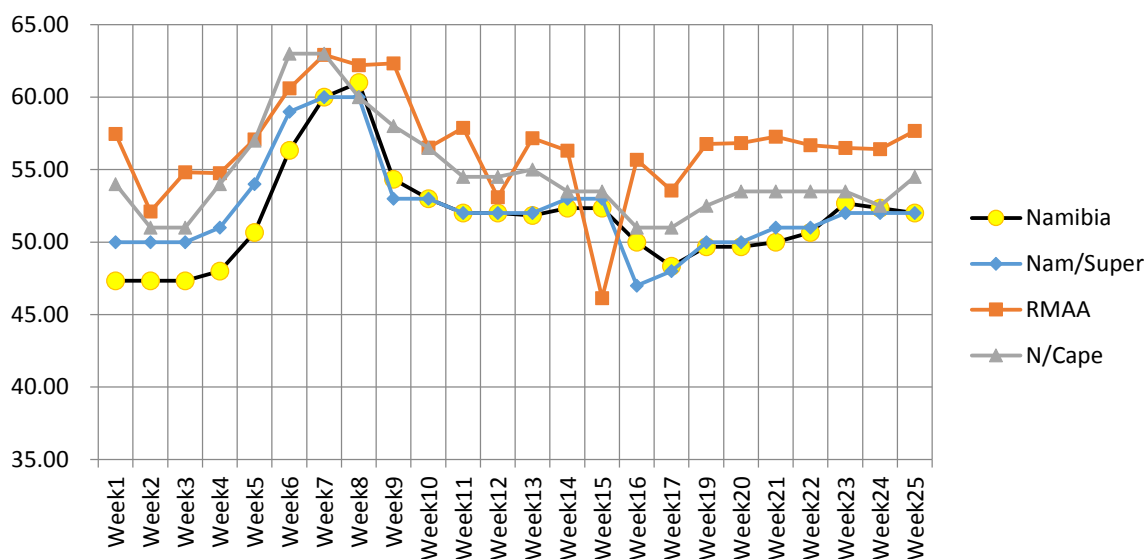
With a three month capacity of 165,000 a total of 60,763 sheep were slaughtered at the Mariental abattoir, representing a 37% capacity utilization of the abattoir during January- May 2016. Keetmanshoop abattoir and the Aranos abattoir utilized 38% and 21% of their five month slaughter capacity respectively. The low capacity utilization percentages can be attributed to the shortage of slaughter ready sheep.

There has however been a steady increase in the slaughtering capacity utilization from January to May 2016 across all three abattoirs thus also causing an increase in the ratio of slaughtering compared to that of live export. However it is clear that abattoirs are still operating below the 80% capacity. Low production numbers of sheep as well as the uncompetitive pricing of the abattoirs can be one of the attributing factors to the low through-put at these abattoirs.

A2 SHEEP PRICES

It is evident from figure 4 below that both the Namibian and The Namibian-Super prices for the A2 sheep traded below both the RMAA and the Northern Cape prices.

FIGURE 4: REPORTED CARCASS PRICES BY EXPORT ABATTOIRS (A2-GRADE)



Producer price differences can be observed in figure 4. This indicates the difference between the Namibian and Namibian-Super price compared to that of the RMAA and Northern Cape prices. A big difference between both Namibian prices and that of the RMAA was experienced in week 1 as well as week 9 with a price difference of N\$11.32 and N\$9.32, respectively. The weeks 19, 20 and 25 also saw a huge difference between the Namibian prices with that of the RMAA specifically with an average of N\$8.

C2 SHEEP

FIGURE 5. REPORTED CARCASS PRICES BY EXPORT ABATTOIRS (C2-GRADE)

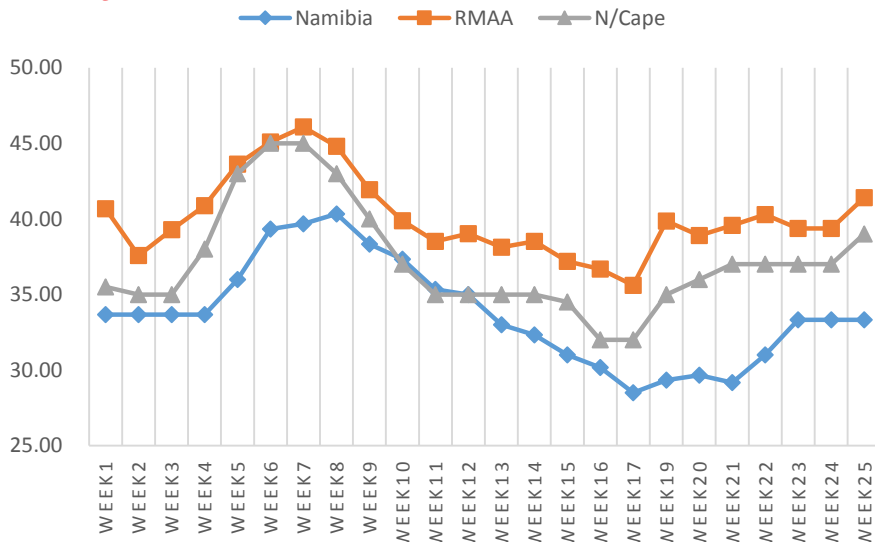


Figure 5 show the C2 sheep price fluctuations and differences between the Namibian prices with that of the RMAA and the Northern Cape prices. The Namibian price traded lower than that of the RMAA and Northern Cape prices for the past 25 weeks with the highest price difference being reported in week 13 of N\$5.00 lower than the Northern Cape and N\$8.13 lower than that of the RMAA. Vast price differentials were also witnessed between the weeks 19 and 22 specifically.

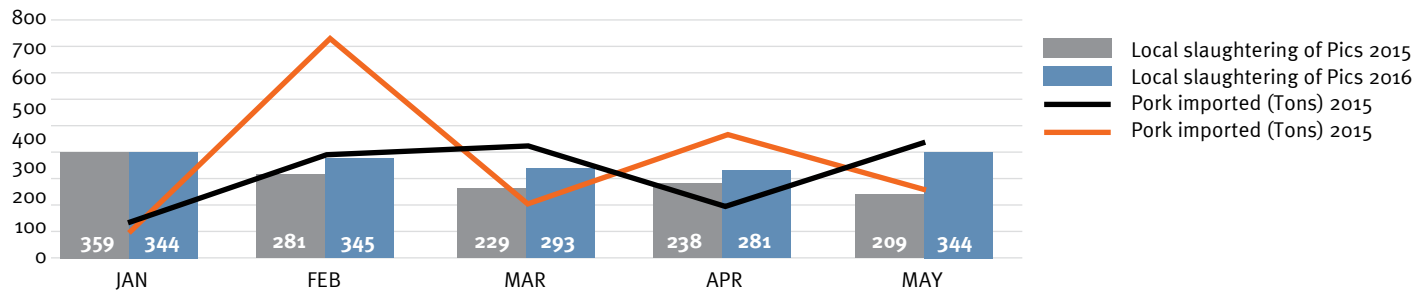
Namibian abattoirs are unable to pay equivalent prices compared to the prices offered by South African abattoirs. The 60% levy payable on raw sheep skins is one of the major contributing factors affecting the competitiveness of the Namibian abattoirs.

THE PORK SECTOR

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

A total of 19,138 pigs (1 608 tons) have been slaughtered locally between the months January to May 2016. This indicates an increase of 3,470 of from 15,668 pigs (1,316 tons) slaughtered over the same reporting period in 2015. This gives an indication of an increase of 18.13 % between the two years. It can however than be depicted from the figure 6 below that 1,700 tons were imported compared to the 1,316 ton slaughtered locally.

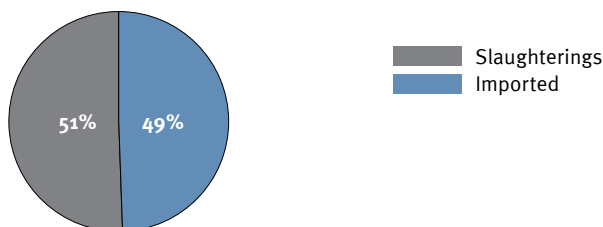
FIGURE 6. PORK SLAUGHTERING VERSUS IMPORTS 2015 AND 2016 IN TONS JANUARY TO MAY



PORK MARKET SHARE

The low production of pigs and therefore pork meat is much lower in Namibia compared to the volumes that are produced in South Africa. This therefore contributes towards the higher market share that the imported pork has compared to the local slaughterer. The imports make up 51% of the total market share whilst the local pork makes up 49% of the market share. This difference is such as Namibian remains to be a net importer of pork and pork products from South Africa.

FIGURE 7. PORK MARKET SHARE JANUARY TO MAY 2016



CONCLUSION

Namibia is currently experiencing a drought despite positive rain prospects in the first quarter of the year. The lack of rainfall will result in the even less availability of feed for cattle which will in turn shall result into cattle losses for some of the farmers. Farmers would then opt to move into weaner production in order to save on the available feed as well as associated costs. A decrease in the slaughtering at the abattoirs compared to the live exports could be anticipated as the year commenced.

The further impact on the marketing of cattle to South Africa as a result of the revised import conditions will be seen forth ward. There is therefore a need to develop in-house capacity to retain weaners in the country. No market currently exists for the cattle producers in the NCA.

There has been a general decrease in the marketing of sheep during the reporting period compared to the same period last year. According to the rangeland status report, most areas in Namibia have received rainfall below average. This therefore means that farmers are faced with the challenge of a shortage in fodder for their animals resulting in low production figures and a reduction in the quality of slaughter animals. Emergency marketing will be witnessed as the months proceed.

Abattoirs continue to face the challenge of the 60% levy on the export of raw skins which contributes to the low prices offered to producers when compared to that offered by the RSA abattoirs. These factors could result in Namibia losing market share in RSA retail markets due to the inconsistency in delivery and lower quality products.



The Meat Board Management would hereby like to congratulate Mrs Ursula Nguvauva on her official appointment as Head: Finance at the Meat Board of Namibia, effective 1 June 2016.

Ursula has a long working relationship with the Meat Board. She started as an Accounting Clerk in February 1998, working her way up until she was later appointed as an Accountant; she held this position for 15 years. Ursula obtained her B. Tech Accounting and Finance degree at NUST in 2013. We wish her the best of luck and know that she will excel in this new position.



On 29 June 2016, Mr Cloete (Chief: Marketing) appeared on NBC television regarding Meat Board matters. The NBC News Desk requested an interview with the Meat Board to discuss the new revised import regulations of livestock to South Africa.

Mr Cloete deliberated on the new requirements such as the vaccinations against diseases, testing for Bovine Brucella, TB and the isolation of these animals before export starts. He also discussed the status of current export markets, particularly the EU, Norway, USA, China and Honk Kong markets.

WE LOVE OUR MEAT

Premium quality Namibian meat controlled and guaranteed by the Meat Board across the value chain according to highest quality and safety standards.



VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the meat Board of Namibia is to be an internationally and locally recognised organisation that promotes a profitable, vibrant, quality-driven Namibian meat industry in local and international markets.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Meat Board of Namibia is to promote a conducive environment for sustainable livestock production, market growth and diversification for livestock, meat and meat products; and to maintain standards and quality assurance by way of appropriate regulatory intervention.