



### Livestock and Meat Advisory Council

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## Livestock Zimbabwe Update: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### OVERVIEW

As the country slowly regains its business footing after the lockdown period, many industries are catching up on lost man hours, paperwork and re-adjusting calendars to fit in with requirements of Statutory Instrument 99 of 2020 [Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) (Amendment) Order, 2020 (No. 5)].

The Livestock and Meat Advisory Council was instrumental in assisting the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries in keeping the agriculture sector and other essential services open and functional during the lockdown. While there were numerous issues, breakdowns in communication and severe travel restrictions, the sector was able to remain largely operational. The impact of the Covid-19 restrictions has been significant for small and medium-scale producers who have not been able to access transport nor travel to supply agents for their inputs. As a result, hundreds of thousands of day-old chicks have been destroyed and feed companies reported an average drop in sales volume of 50%. At the other end of the value chain, retail sales of livestock products slumped due to reduced access to supermarkets as well as the erosion of buying power.

As Zimbabwe adopts the “new-normal” for trade and office hours, LMAC and its Allied Associations have re-opened in a very quiet atmosphere. There is no doubt, however, that as the sector becomes busy and vibrant once again, there will be much work to do.

### Zimbabwe Poultry Association

The Council of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association was held just before the lockdown period was announced and it was noted that broiler meat and eggs are cheaper now in USD terms than they were in 2016 which is attributed to the significant erosion of buying power.

### Inclusive Poultry Value Chain Project

The Poultry Industry Market Price Bulletin Number 5 was released at the end of March and it was noted that month-on-month price increases occurred across all types of poultry and poultry products.

Although the information is now out of date, it was noted that the uptake of chicken products on the formal wholesale and retail markets was relatively low and upward price



adjustments persisted. The retail price of day-old chicks increased from ZWL 12.00 to ZWL 15.00 per chick since mid-February.

The outbreak of COVID 19 has impacted upon the IPVC project and the Team have not been able to work in the field to establish poultry business associations in the various centres. Discussions and implementation plans have taken place via Skype meetings and so the project is still active.

### **Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs**

ZAA held their Open meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March and discussions centered on Theileriosis as the disease has had a major impact on abattoir operations, especially in the Wedza and Mhondoro areas. Throughput in February was the lowest ever at one of the largest abattoirs. Catchment areas have diminished and first quarter slaughter statistics are lower than those for the same period in 2019. However, screening of infected cattle has been much better this year and fewer deaths have been recorded of animals in transit and at the lairage.

### **Enclosures**

- Poultry Industry Price Bulletin, March 2020
- Notes compiled by Peter Jackson entitled "What Every Farmer Should Know About Theileriosis"