



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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Industry Update for week ending 15th December 2017



Festive greetings

Please be advised that the offices will be closed for business from **Wednesday 20th December 2017** and re-open on **Monday 8th January 2018**.

We wish you all a truly Zimbabwean festive season spent with family and friends and a wealth of hope and promise in the New Year.

OVERVIEW

The importance of biosecurity in livestock production has again been highlighted this year, with the outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in poultry. Stringent biosecurity on the affected farm prevented the spread of AI outside the site of infection. In contrast, an outbreak of AI in a smallholder flock in South Africa has continued to spread across that country.

A broader perspective on biosecurity as an animal disease control tool across the livestock industry came out of the discussion at the poultry workshop hosted by the Zimbabwe Poultry Association earlier this month, where a number of salient points were raised. Issues such as how to prevent cross-infection across different livestock species on the same farm and whether biosecurity should also be extended to livestock input supply points and feed mills, will be examined further in 2018.

Biosecurity is an important animal health management tool and together with good hygiene, is a critical protective measure against the spread of disease and other pathogens in livestock production.





Workshop and Annual General Meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association

The Zimbabwe Fish Producers' Association held a fish educational forum in conjunction with the Association's Annual General Meeting on 12th December. This event attracted prospective as well as established fish producers in the growing aquaculture industry.

The programme focused on key management principles in aquaculture, including *Fish Health, Disease Control and Food Safety*, which underpins fish production. Other topics covered were *The Types of Production Systems in Fish Farming; Affordable Food Rations in Fish Production and Business Challenges and Investment Opportunities in the Fish Industry*. A presentation on *Fisheries Policy and Aquaculture Development* provided an overview of Command Fisheries programme, initiated by the Department of National Parks to complement the Command Agriculture programme with its various components.

The fish event provided an insight into the degree of management required in a viable aquaculture project, which requires management of both the fish (livestock) and the aquatic environment, for optimum productivity.

Also in attendance were aquaculture service providers, who took up stand space in the Andy Millar Hall, displaying their products and services to the growing aquaculture industry. The hall was provided for the event by the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society as part of its support to agriculture.

In his Chairman's Report to the AGM, Paul Mwera noted that "the aquaculture industry is at an exciting confluence", and is poised to expand. ZFPA continues to build on the momentum achieved last year when fish farming was classified as livestock production and ZFPA was formed. He urged the industry to take advantage of the different aquaculture programmes and other opportunities to develop fish farming in Zimbabwe.

Poultry Workshop and Annual General Meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association

This year's Zimbabwe Poultry Association AGM, held on 13th December, was expanded into a workshop for poultry producers.

It provided an important platform to take stock of the impact of Avian Influenza on the industry and highlight the importance of biosecurity in maintaining healthy, disease-free flocks. The programme covered: *The Role of Livestock in Developing Countries; A.I. Biosecurity Training; and ZPA Poultry Trends*. A presentation on *Zimplats Mhondoro Ngezi Chegutu Zvimba Community Share Ownership Trust* provided an inspiring insight into how community share ownership funding is being harnessed and invested in a productive poultry project.





In his Chairman's Report to the 47th AGM of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association, Solomon Zawe noted that poultry production is now on the rebound and that efforts by ZPA members to rebuild lost capacity in the breeder industry are now bearing fruit. He paid tribute to Irvine's and to the Department of Veterinary Services for reacting swiftly and decisively to the outbreak of AI, noting that massive depopulation of breeder flocks had been carried out in the national interest.

Projecting forward, ZPA anticipates that the supply of table eggs to the market will increase again in 2018. With breeder capacity and the supply of day old chicks to the market restored, poultry producers can take advantage of abundant maize produced under Command Agriculture to increase production of broiler meat and eggs again in 2018.

Council meetings of the livestock associations will resume in January 2018.

