



## **Livestock & Meat Advisory Council**

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### **Industry Update for week ending 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

#### **OVERVIEW**

With the launch of a pilot pig production project in Chikwakwa last month, the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe (PPAZ) has extended its outreach to the Goromonzi/Chikwaka/Bindura area. In a joint initiative with the Pig Industry Board (PIB), PPAZ has launched pig producer clubs for small-scale farmers interested in achieving greater productivity. PPAZ will provide mentorship and suitable production models, whilst PIB is providing technical support.

In a new pig production model in Zimbabwe, smallholders will grow weaners, bred and supplied by PIB and other breeder operations. This will ensure that smallholder pig producers can start with good quality, healthy, uniform stock, bred from improved genetics. To realize the potential from this, the project is also designed to impart management skills for higher productivity.

The PPAZ/PIB pilot project was launched in a well attended ceremony, officiated by Chief Chikwakwa on 29<sup>th</sup> September. There is significant interest in commercial pig production in the small-scale sector, where weaning rates are currently very low, at four piglets per sow, which is limiting farmer productivity and profitability.

At the Chikwakwa pig production club launch, small-scale pig producers voiced concern about the escalating cost of stockfeed. The current high cost of key feed ingredients and the feed cost : return ratio are cited by the pig industry as an issue that must be addressed if pig production is to grow significantly at national level.

#### **Leadership for Enhanced Agricultural Development Series (LEADS) Goat Production**

##### **Meeting**

The potential of goat production in Zimbabwe under climate change came under the spotlight at the LEADS Goat Production Meeting hosted by the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society (ZAS) at Exhibition Park on 6<sup>th</sup> October as part of the on-going LEADS series which examines ways to unlock Zimbabwe's agricultural potential for economic development. The meeting highlighted the role that the hardy goat can play in Zimbabwe, from sustaining rural livelihoods to the production of meat for the export market.

This national forum on goat production examined issues critical to the development of the goat sector in Zimbabwe, including suitable goat breeds, production systems, the underlying policy framework, quality standards, local and international markets and value chain

financing. The programme included a panel discussion on 'Lessons from Various Projects and Development Partners' examining international experiences in goat projects.

Goat meat, now readily available at meat retail outlets, is becoming more popular in urban as well as rural markets.

**Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events: October**

<b><i>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></i></b>	Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association
<b><i>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October</i></b>	Beef School 2017
<b><i>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></i></b>	Meeting of the Meat Processors Association of Zimbabwe