



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

Exhibition Park, Samora Machel Ave West, P O Box BE 209, Belvedere, Harare
Phone: 756 600, 772 915, 777 391 **Fax:** 774 800 **Email:** admin@lit.co.zw

Industry Update for week ending 22nd September 2017

OVERVIEW

The Competition and Tariff Commission has recommended the crafting of a Beef Industry Policy for Zimbabwe. This is viewed as an important starting point to tap the potential of beef, which the now complete beef industry study found “has the potential to contribute 86% to rural incomes.”

Consensus among stakeholders is that beef industry policy must take the entire value chain into account, recognising the interdependence of all players. The Beef Sector Study validation workshops also questioned the sustainability of the current maize producer price, which, whilst stimulating production of the national staple, adversely impacts on the economics of meat production in the value chain. Beef industry revitalisation efforts are expected to focus on strengthening the value chain.

In synchrony with the ongoing Rapid Results Initiative (RRI), the Beef Validation workshops have also called for streamlining the many costs to the sector - in the form of fees, taxes and levies - ‘to lessen the burden on value chain players’. Various Foot and Mouth disease control strategies were also explored at the series of workshops, held at different centres around the country this month.

The Beef Sector Study has found that ‘farmers are dissipated and not coordinated in production and marketing’, which is not conducive to the establishment of strong beef value chains. Lack of cattle management skills were also identified as a limitation to realising the potential of beef to the national economy.

In line with current thinking in the beef sector, this year’s Beef School 2017 has a focus on participation in the meat value chain. The finer points of beef cattle breeding and husbandry, as well as veldt management will be covered in the programme which also features latest thinking from the United States and visionary beef production operations. Enrolment for Beef School 2017 is in progress, through the offices of the Zimbabwe Herd Book, Exhibition Park.

Council Meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association

The meeting heard that there is no need for Zimbabwe to import chicken meat or eggs, as rebuilding of production capacity is underway, following the outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in May. Poultry producers reported that a rebuilding strategy is in place to safeguard the industry and the upstream and downstream benefits of poultry to the Zimbabwe economy.

Government has agreed to a six-month waiver of import duty on hatching eggs from outside SADC to allow registered poultry producers to rebuild production capacity. This rebuilding of the supply of broiler meat and table eggs to the market will work in two ways. In the short term, imports of hatching eggs will ensure adequate supply of day old chicks to counter the decline in local hatching egg production brought about by the culling of breeder birds due to AI. In the long-term vertically integrated breeder operations will increase their breeder birds to ensure adequate local supply of broiler and layer day old chicks thereby reduce reliance on imported hatching eggs. Day old chick production is the basis of Zimbabwe's poultry industry, which is predominantly made up of small-scale producers.

Major investment by commercial producers in the importation of hundreds of thousands of hatching eggs a week to rebuild production capacity is of economic importance to Zimbabwe. This ultimately translates into protein production, livelihoods for thousands of smallholder producers and other value chain players, such as day-old chick vendors.

Poultry, which remains the largest meat sector in Zimbabwe, also has the shortest livestock production cycle, allowing rapid recovery of production. This is supported through a rebuilding strategy in the poultry sector and observance of strict biosecurity, underpinned by Veterinary Services authority and surveillance.

The meeting emphasized the importance of safeguarding Zimbabwe against poultry imports, to protect the poultry industry and all the other economic benefits that accrue from poultry self-sufficiency. The ban on the importation of all poultry products – meat, gizzards, offal, eggs and day-old chicks – remains in force. Any poultry product suspected to be imported, should be reported to the Zimbabwe Poultry Association or the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events: October

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

Enclosures

- Agricultural Marketing Authority Bulletin No 37 of 2017
- Statutory Instrument 122 of 2017, Control of Goods (Open General Import Licence) (Amendment) Notice, 2017 (No 5)
- Statutory Instrument 122A of 2017, Exchange Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2017 (No 5)