



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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OVERVIEW

Beef cattle, dairy cattle and pig producers are advised to practice strict biosecurity as a preventive measure. Foot and Mouth Disease can affect all cloven-hoofed animals with pig and dairy cattle operations most seriously affected.

January Disease is another serious problem in cattle, with over 2 000 cattle deaths already recorded from the tick-borne disease this season. Farmers are advised to maintain dipping regimes. There is concern in the livestock industry that if new supplies are not procured in time, current dip stocks will run out over the next few weeks.

Open Meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs

The meeting heard that three new abattoirs are being established in Shangani, Filabusi and Featherstone.

ZAA has been consulted on the draft Classification Standards Specifications document currently being drawn up and members will study this and give feedback.

Open Meeting of the Pig Producers' Association of Zimbabwe

PPAZ is advocating a review of the pig carcass grading system, to bring it into line with international trends in pork grading and reflect the heavier pig carcass being produced today in a shorter time with improved genetics. There is a need for a pig carcass classification system that takes into account the higher growth rates now being attained with improved genetics, whilst also accommodating off-take from smaller producers.

South Africa, which leads the region in pork production, is currently reviewing its pork grading classification system and this could serve as a useful model.

The smallholder pig producer pilot project established in four areas across Goromonzi by PPAZ and the Pig Industry Board (PIB), is attracting interest. The Bromley cluster group has demonstrated initiative in setting goals and managing the pilot project. The Ministry of Youth has visited the cluster groups and expressed interest in co-opting assistance from LMAC in establishing viable pig project models.

It is envisaged that mentorship by PPAZ and PIB and fine-tuning of their joint pilot pig production model for smallholders, can play a significant role in the future in growing national pig production under Command Livestock.

Pig producers are reminded that African Swine Fever inspections and certification for 2018 are now due.

Annual General Meeting of the Meat Processors' Association of Zimbabwe

In his address to the Annual General Meeting, Chairman Blessing Ndoro noted that the past year had been one of the most challenging for the meat processing industry, with a ban on importation via South Africa of mechanically deboned meat (MDM), the key ingredient in processed meat. Whilst the situation has stabilised, importation of MDM, which is not produced in Africa, is currently not permitted via South Africa which is the cheapest import route. "Macro-economic variables" also contributed to a difficult operating environment in 2017, where shortages of foreign currency also drove up production costs.

Meat processing is not a competing industry to meat production, emphasised Mr Ndoro. It plays a complementary role in the meat industry and provides a market for locally produced raw ingredients such as trimmings and soya.

Mr Ndoro was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of MPAZ.

Council Meeting of the Meat Processors' Association of Zimbabwe

On the issue of price stabilisation, the meeting observed that processed meats have a role to play in price stabilisation in the meat industry. MPAZ has proposed the establishment of a consolidated cold storage facility for the meat processing industry. A cold chain warehousing facility for processed meat would ensure year-round supply of processed meat, in an industry where livestock production and prices are cyclical.

Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events: February

<i>Wednesday 14th</i>	Livestock Business Forum
<i>Wednesday 28th</i>	Council Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association

Enclosures

- Monetary Policy, January 2018
- Statutory Instrument 13 of 2018, Collective Bargaining Agreement: Agricultural Industry
- Agricultural Marketing Authority Bulletin Number 4 of 2018