



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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OVERVIEW

Discussions regarding the limited availability of cotton seed meal and cake and the Fuel Tax Rebate dominated Association meetings held this week. The Secretariat has consulted with Cottco, oilseed expressers and cottonseed users (stockfeed manufacturers, dairy producers and feedlot operators) and submitted a situation analysis to the Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA) to ensure adequate supplies of cotton meal and cake to meet increasing demands for ruminant feeds.

Producers who attended the Council meetings of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association and the Pig Producers Association welcomed the provision for fuel relief to be granted to specified sectors and look forward to further stakeholder consultations with ZIMRA to finalise the registration and refund processes.

The economic situation and monetary policy have also been discussed at length and all stakeholders in the value chains are absorbing increased costs and erratic foreign currency allocations to the best of their ability. Costs of production have escalated since August last year and many businesses have had to review their performance targets and outputs for 2019.

The Department of Veterinary Services circulated an advisory about movement controls in the management of diseases and all stakeholders have been reminded that all animal movements should be accompanied by a veterinary movement permit indicating approval by the local veterinary office and acceptance by the veterinary office at the receiving end.

The poor rainfall season in many parts of the country has resulted in reduced maize plantings and many areas are reporting limited grass growth for livestock. Drought relief mitigation and supplementary feeding for livestock is already being rolled out in those areas most affected.

Council Meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association

The performance of the poultry industry in 2018 was under the spotlight at the Council meeting held this week. The industry has recovered well after the outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in 2017 which affected the supply of broilers, layers and parent stock.

Breeding stocks and the production of hatching eggs have increased to pre-AI levels. Nearly 91 million day-old chicks were produced in 2018, the highest figure since 2013.

It is estimated that broiler meat production in the large- and small-scale sectors increased by 29% and a massive 38%, respectively compared to 2017. Meat prices increased sharply from August and levelled out in December.

Table egg production has also increased throughout the year and matched production achieved in 2017 while the wholesale price has also firmed.

Open Meeting of the Pig Producers' Association of Zimbabwe

Soya meal prices have skyrocketed, selling at \$2,200 – 2.400/mt or USD\$590 – 650/mt while transporters are also demanding payment in USD. However, the Returns report from the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association for the last quarter of 2018 indicates a softening of stockfeed prices in December, possibly due to low uptake, and producers noted the significant relief in the maize input cost component. However, most inputs are being procured with foreign exchange while feed is being sold in local currency.

Members further discussed proposals to promote the consumption of fresh pork. There is a need to encourage producers to join PPAZ to ensure adequate advocacy and lobbying to support the pig industry and promote pork consumption.

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Borrowdale has resulted in a number of farms being placed under quarantine, including a supplier of pig breeding stock.

Livestock Diary: February 2019

Wednesday 6th	Council meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association Annual General Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association
Thursday 7th	Open meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs
Friday 9th	Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association

Enclosures

- Advisory from Department of Veterinary Services
- Advisory from ZIMRA on the Fuel Tax Rebate