



## **Livestock & Meat Advisory Council**

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## **LivestockZimbabwe Update: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

### **OVERVIEW**

The livestock industry has welcomed the establishment of the National Competitiveness Commission (NCC) by an Act of Parliament. Under NCC, the drive to establish a one-stop shop for permit application and registration has moved up a gear. LMAC and its allied organisations are working together with the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries and Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce under the umbrella of NCC, to drive 'the ease of doing business' initiative. The target is the establishment of a one stop shop for business and the renewal of import licences within 24 hours.

On price stabilisation, LMAC member livestock associations are playing their part in stabilising retail prices, by supplying average producer wholesale prices every month. In compliance with this process, some manufacturers have already started publicising MRRPs – Manufacturer Recommended Retail Prices or printing them on product packaging.

Zimbabwe has been certified Avian Influenza (AI) free by the World Organisation for Animal Health. In a public notice announcing this, the Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services advises all poultry producers to remain vigilant and practice strict biosecurity.

### **Council Meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association**

The poultry industry has welcomed the lifting of quarantine on Lanark Farm, Irvine's Zimbabwe on 31<sup>st</sup> January. The first ZPA meeting of the year took stock of the current state of the broiler and egg industries and strategised on the way forward for the poultry industry recovering from AI.

An analysis of poultry trends presented to the meeting showed that national broiler meat production dropped from 118 000mt in 2016, to 106 000mt last year. Small-scale production declined from 82 0000mt in 2016 to 71 0000mt in 2017. Large-scale production of broiler meat declined marginally from 36 000mt in 2016 to 35 000 mt in 2017. Over the same period, broiler day old chick production declined from 75 million to 69 million.

The impact of AI is apparent in declining national egg production. The outbreak of AI in breeder layer flocks in mid-2017 lead to a crash in the egg market last year. In 2017, table

egg production declined dramatically from 55 to 38 million dozen. This contributed significantly to increased retail prices for eggs in late 2017.

The drop in egg production is most pronounced in the small-scale sector which recorded a 30% decline and produced 21 million dozen eggs in 2017. Small-scale production now accounts for 55% of national egg production. Large-scale egg production declined by some 22% last year, totaling 17 million dozen. Production of day old layer chicks declined to 1.7 million in 2017, its lowest in five years.

The meeting observed that the industry strategy to focus efforts on rebuilding breeder capacity to ensure continued self-sufficiency in the production of Zimbabwe's most widely consumed meat and eggs, is paying off. Going forward, the next step to build capacity in the poultry industry will be to focus on importation of grandparent and parent stock by breeders. The breeder industry, the nucleus of the poultry industry, produces genetically strong and healthy day-old chicks for the industry mainly made up of smallholder broiler and egg producers.

In 2018, the poultry breeder industry will also focus on producing more hatching eggs once again, to reduce reliance on imports. Gains made in 2016 were lost after the AI outbreak, when hatching eggs had to be imported to rebuild poultry capacity and maintain a supply of day-old chicks to the market.

The Annual General Meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association was held in December 2017 and Solomon Zawe has been unanimously re-elected Chairman.

#### **Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events: February**

***Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>*** Council meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association

#### **Enclosures**

- ZAGP: Guidelines for Grant Applicants