



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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OVERVIEW

The *MillSmart and Nutrition School* is an important addition to the Zimbabwe livestock calendar. The Stockfeed Manufacturers Association (SMA) has been commended for introducing this forum to keep the stockfeeds industry abreast of latest global technologies in feed production. SMA hosted this event in collaboration with Kemin Inspired Molecular Solutions, which has developed the globally recognised MillSmart Programme to optimize feed production efficiency.

Efficiency and competitiveness are paramount as Zimbabwe gears up for business at every level. Current challenges are undermining efficiency and competitiveness in the stockfeeds industry. Procurement of inputs (soya beans, vitamins, premixes and minerals) and spare parts for milling equipment, as well as accessing the required foreign currency, are driving up the cost of stockfeed production.

The first *Millsmart and Nutrition School* has also firmly established biosecurity as an integral part of stockfeed production. This applies to all stockfeed operations, not only vertically integrated livestock operations producing their own feed on site. Biosecurity is an important part of mill hygiene and management, to ensure that animal disease is not transmitted to the stockfeed plant in the delivery of raw materials to the mill, visiting personnel, or transmitted outwards via stockfeed products.

The Command Agriculture Programme has been extended to tobacco, the largest agricultural export earner, in a drive to increase production of flue-cured tobacco to a targeted 200 million kgs. Commercial beef production integrates successfully with tobacco production (in a tobacco, grass rotation) for optimal land utilisation, with rotational benefits accruing to both beef and tobacco production.

Millsmart and Nutrition School, Harare 20 and 21 March

The inaugural *Millsmart and Nutrition School* drew 45 participants from across the stockfeed industry, including feed companies, vertically integrated livestock operations making their own feeds and consultant animal nutritionists. Participants rated the first *MillSmart and Nutrition School* of great value, with the majority indicating that they intend to implement the Millsmart Programme to improve the efficiency of their feed manufacture operations.

The intensive two-day School focussed on how to improve the 4 P's in feed milling - Processes, Productivity, Pellet Quality and Profitability. The programme covered Feed Safety, Mill Hygiene, Biosecurity, Optimising Feed Mill Efficiency as well as Animal Nutrition – improving animal digestion.

Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events:

- March 28th*** Open meeting of the Pig Producers' Association of Zimbabwe.
- April 11th*** Council meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers' Association
- April 13th*** Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers' Association
- April 20th*** Council meeting of the Meat Processors Association of Zimbabwe
- April 25th*** Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association

Enclosures

- Invitation to the National Livestock Exhibition in Arusha, Tanzania
- PTA Bank Funding