



## **Livestock & Meat Advisory Council**

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### **LivestockZimbabwe Update: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The festive season was a very quiet period for most producers as the challenges facing the agricultural sector are slowly escalating in intensity.

At their meeting held last week, members of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association noted that the supply of raw materials for the manufacture of stockfeed is dire and that regionally, maize will be very short as many countries in southern Africa will require humanitarian aid sponsored by food agencies.

Locally, the maize crop has been severely affected by dry period experienced in December and it is expected that the crop harvested this year will be greatly reduced.

Some pig and poultry producers have already downsized their breeding stock because of the price of stockfeed which has added significantly to the costs of production in recent months.

#### **Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association**

At their meeting, it was noted that government is understood to be finalising importation of maize but complexities over the financing are delaying the finalisation of these programs.

The Grain Marketing Board is also undergoing restructuring, and it is understood that maize stocks are critically low. The Grain Millers Association is reported to be importing 100,000mt of white GM-free maize.

A crop similar to last year's soya bean harvest is expected, although private contractors have reduced their hectareage under contract due to financing constraints. Yields are also expected to decline because of the dry period in December.

Wheat and maize bran are still not available and currently, molasses is not available on the market and official reports indicate that the product will remain unavailable until the new crop, expected in May.

#### **Inclusive Poultry Value Chain Project**

The collective action training took place last week in Mutare and 94 farmers attended the workshop including lead farmers from Honde Valley, Mutasa, Zimunya and Marange area.

The Business Development Service training on Collective Action for Gweru and Bulawayo clusters was also undertaken last week concurrently with Financial Literacy Trainings.

### **Beef Sector**

Total cattle slaughters for 2019 were 236,781, a decrease of 11% on the previous year's slaughters.

Total slaughters through formal abattoirs in 2019 were the lowest since 2011.

A difficult operating environment characterised by uncertainties over pricing by cattle producers wary of trading in a rapidly depreciating local currency and higher operating costs through challenges around frequent quarantine orders by authorities in response to disease outbreaks such as Foot and Mouth Disease and theileriosis has contributed to depressed selling patterns.

### **Open Meeting of the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe**

Pig producers met last week and the EU-ZAGP VALUE programme for the pig sector provided an update of their activities. Registration of women, youth and small to medium-scale producers is ongoing in Mashonaland East and West. The construction of pig sties for breeder stock has started at two Integrator sites.

The producer price of pork is ZWL 40/kg and wholesale price is at ZWL 50 – 55/kg. Demand is low and, in some instances, the wholesale price is being revised to between ZWL 42 – 45/kg. The retail price of loin chops ranges between ZWL 80 – 140/kg.

### **Livestock Diary:**

Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Annual General Meeting and Council meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Council meeting of the Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Annual General Meeting and Open meeting of the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe