



## **Livestock & Meat Advisory Council**

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### **LivestockZimbabwe Update: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Zimbabwe is on high alert following the emergence of new strains of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) serotypes O and A, which cause severe clinical diseases and deaths in pigs and small ruminants such as goats and sheep.

The strains — types O and A — are new to the SADC region and pose a serious threat to livestock, particularly small stock which is mainly owned by smallholder farmers. Types O and A can be severe in wildlife and has caused deaths in gazelles and wild pigs.

Historically, FMD outbreaks in the region have been caused by Southern African Territories types 1, 2 and 3 (SAT 1, 2 and 3).

Outbreaks of the new strain have been recorded in Zambia, Tanzania, Comoros and the DRC. Countries at risk include Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique and Malawi.

Dr Nyika, Director, Department Veterinary Services, attended the SADC Livestock Technical Committee meeting in South Africa recently. The meeting was a platform for sharing of information, experiences and knowledge on FMD serotypes O and A outbreaks; assess the response capacities and actions of member states; identify key constraints and opportunities for more effective response and collaborative management of FMD outbreaks in the region and develop a harmonised action plan and way forward in addressing current FMD outbreaks, among other issues. Dr Nyika also noted that Zimbabwe had intensified FMD awareness campaigns, especially along border-lying areas to educate farmers about the new strain of the virus.

#### **Poultry Indaba 2019**

The Poultry Indaba 2019 held at ART Farm in early July was a vibrant, festive event attended by more than 200 people. The Indaba itself was held in the auditorium at the Farm and exhibitor stands were set up around the charming gardens. The weather was also perfect and poultry farmers, experts and other stakeholders participated in an informative day of discussion and networking on poultry production.

In order to maximise the profitability of a poultry enterprise, “**Back to Basics**” was the theme of the Poultry Indaba and this full day event explored the feeding and management

of chickens during the winter season so that poultry producers can minimise losses and maintain healthy flocks for increased production efficiency. Technical sessions are a key part of the Poultry Indaba and this year's programme included presentations about: Factors affecting feed performance in broilers and layers; Optimising layer production in winter; Troubleshooting poultry production problems; and the cost-effectiveness routine laboratory testing. Poultry producers asked questions, sought advice and interacted with nutritionists and veterinarians.

The "Back to Basics" theme also explored common causes of mortalities in winter as well as biosecurity issues. In 2017, the outbreak of Avian Influenza severely constrained the operations of a major poultry producer with drastic knock-on effects to the industry and continuing outbreaks of Newcastle Disease regularly impact upon small flocks in and around poultry markets. To avoid future catastrophic consequences from Avian Influenza, the industry needs to develop effective mitigation strategies. To this end the state of preparedness by Zimbabwe to effectively manage poultry disease was discussed at length.

### **Stockfeed Manufacturers Association**

SMA met last week to discuss issues in the stockfeed industry, the most serious of which is the non-availability of raw materials.

The marketing of maize has been severely disrupted since the promulgation of Statutory Instrument 145 of 2019, Grain Marketing (Control of Sale of Maize) Regulations, 2019 which precludes the purchase of maize by private traders and stipulates the Grain Marketing Board as the sole trader of maize grain and as a result, maize is not available on the open market. The producer price of ZWL 2,100 does not encourage farmers to sell their harvest to the GMB and very few deliveries have been made.

Concerns have been raised that the input cost of maize will impact upon meat protein prices that are sold into a market where incomes are declining in real terms.

The country is expected to import between 800,000 – 1.4million mt to cover the domestic shortfall arising out of this season's drought.

### **Livestock Diary**

<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July:</b>	<b>National Breed Sale, Mt Hampden Sale Pens, Harare</b>
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<b>Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association</b>
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August:</b>	<b>Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August:</b>	<b>Open meeting of the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August:</b>	<b>Zimbabwe Agricultural Show week</b>