



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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OVERVIEW

Zimbabwe Herd Book (ZHB) hosted the Beef School in Matabeleland for the first time this year. The event was well-attended and rated the 'best Beef School to date'. It attracted 150 participants from the predominantly cattle producing south where new abattoirs are coming into operation as well as beef cattle breeders from other parts of the country. The intensive two-day school was conducted by international beef cattle experts from Australia, United States and South Africa in partnership with ZHB.

Beef School 2018 held under the theme *Reproduction: the foundation for profitability*, focused on reproductive technologies and other tools driving progress in beef production globally. It provided an in-depth look at the tremendous impact on herd productivity of the fixed time artificial insemination with oestrous synchronisation as well as the evolution of an exciting beef cattle assessment tool - international/multi-country and breed evaluations. Through ZHB, Zimbabwean Tuli cattle breeders are accessing this tool and using it to evaluate their own breeding animals and genetic progress.

The annual ZHB Beef School keeps the cattle industry abreast of latest global developments in beef production, with a focus on how local breeders can apply these technologies to drive productivity in Zimbabwe's beef industry. With herd rebuilding underway and a drive to build a vibrant commercial beef industry, the theme of Beef School 2018 was especially relevant. Furthermore, genetic progress in cattle, achieved by the breeder industry, ultimately translates into potential for greater animal productivity right down the cattle production line.

Open Meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs

Economic dynamics, the continuing challenge of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and cattle movement restrictions are all contributing to low throughput of slaughter animals at abattoirs. It was also noted with concern that the shortage of fuel is negatively impacting on the capacity of the Department of Veterinary Services to travel and carry out FMD vaccination in affected areas, as well as transportation of cattle from these areas for direct slaughter.

Members lamented the continued stockpiling of locally produced hides in a scenario where prices offered by the local market will not even meet the basic cost of curing hides and where an export

surtax (at five times the current local market price) effectively makes hide exports unviable. The local shoe industry is currently using imported leather.

The establishment of new abattoirs in Hwange, Lupane and Binga brings private sector growth and support for the national initiative to build commercial cattle production in the more marginal areas of the country. This provides a potential market for small-scale beef producers.

Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events: November

<i>Wednesday 7^t</i>	Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers' Association
<i>Friday 9th</i>	Council Meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers' Association
<i>Thursday 15th</i>	Council Meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association
<i>Wednesday 21st</i>	Open Meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs
<i>Thursday 22nd</i>	Open Meeting of the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe

Enclosures:

- Dorper News, October 2018