



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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OVERVIEW

Inflationary pressures predominately driven by exchange rate depreciation continue to characterise the operating environment. The principle concern for the forthcoming season is the tight liquidity on the market. Farmers estimate that in local currency terms, the nominal amount required to cover a fixed hectareage is 13 times higher than that needed a year ago. This will severely constrain producers as the maximum bank lending limit of ZWL 50 million for each project is inadequate to finance cropping by major contracting companies for the new season.

Estimated maize stocks are 400,000mt. To date, intake of maize by the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) amounts to 150,000mt, while monthly drawdown is between 100,000 -120,000mt.

Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe

Plans are at an advanced stage for the first Goat Indaba and Launch of the EU-ZAGP Goat Value Chain Initiative.

In order to maximise the profitability of goat farming, “**Transforming Goat Production to Commercialisation**” is the theme for this first Indaba. Stephan Botes, Chairman of the Boer Goat Breeders’ Society of Namibia will be making a presentation about breeding, production and marketing of goats in Namibia and how Zimbabwe can learn from their experiences. Joe Sikosana is a renowned local expert on goats and will talk about indigenous goat breeds in Zimbabwe and their adaptability to the harsh dry environment. A panel of technical experts and key players in the goat industry will lead the open discussion in the afternoon and impart knowledge, expertise and tools on goat production on nutrition, goat health, husbandry and forages and participating farmers will have an opportunity to learn how to manage their goat farms. In addition, the indaba will to discuss ways of improving breeds and addressing bottlenecks that have hampered commercialisation of small and medium scale goat producers.

The Goat Value Chain Initiative under the European Union funded Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme will also be launched at the Indaba. The project will run for four years and is being implemented by ActionAid Zimbabwe with the support of COSV and Mercy Corps together with two private integrators, namely Michview Enterprises and

Zvikomborero Farm. The project is supported by Matopos and Grasslands Research Institutes in the areas of research on fodder, cost saving feed and goat breeds.

Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association

The meeting was dominated by discussion about the supply of raw materials, both for human consumption and the manufacture of stockfeed. The maize situation is dire and users of maize have reported that the Grain Marketing Board has rationalised the drawdown and authorities have prioritised drought vulnerable communities, then milling companies and lastly, stockfeed manufacturers. The local supply of soya bean is already exhausted. Reportedly, Zambia and Malawi have excess stocks of soyabeans available for export for around US\$ 500/mt, landed Harare. Maize and wheat bran are not available and the price of molasses ex-factory has also increased.

Livestock Diary: September

- Thursday 12th :** Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association
Friday 13th: Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association
Wednesday 18th: Goat Indaba and Launch of the EU-ZAGP Goat Value Chain Initiative
Thursday 19th : Goat Stud Breeders Training: Junior Course

Enclosures

- Mid-term tax changes;
- Invitation to a seminar on soyabeans
- Final Programme and details of the Junior Course from the Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe