



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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Festive greetings

Please be advised that the offices will be closed for business from **Thursday 20th December 2018** and re-open on **Monday 7th January 2018**

We wish you all a truly Zimbabwean festive season spent with family and friends and a wealth of hope and promise in the New Year

OVERVIEW

Zimbabwe, origin of three of Africa's unique indigenous cattle breeds, was the chosen venue for the AU-IBAR Conference on Preservation of Animal Genetics, held at Henderson Research Institute (HRI) in November. The conference focused on the need to preserve Africa's unique livestock genetics, underscoring the important role that Zimbabwe's indigenous breeds of cattle – Mashona, Nguni and Tuli – as well as the East African Boran, are playing in animal production, food security and the survival of rural communities in Africa today.

Zimbabwe was commended for not only preserving the integrity of its unique indigenous cattle breeds, but further improving the fine attributes of the Mashona, Nguni, Tuli and Boran. Working hand in hand with Zimbabwe Herd Book, the country's dedicated pedigree livestock breeders continually make genetic progress with their herds to further improve the productivity and resilience that indigenous breeds are renowned for. There is growing global interest in Africa's unique livestock genetic heritage and the ability of indigenous livestock breeds to withstand the effects of climate change and remain fertile and productive under extreme conditions.

Zimbabwe's four national livestock agricultural research institutes under the Department of Research and Specialist Services also run herds of purebred indigenous livestock. These will play a significant role in the new five-year national livestock research programme to be rolled out next year, with a focus on mitigating the effects of climate change.





Open Meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs

Operators registered with concern that margins in the abattoir industry are continuing to shrink against rising cattle prices. Procurement of cattle for slaughter is becoming more difficult, with high market prices, and many farmers now opting to retain cattle as a hedge in the current economy. At the other end of the value chain, meat prices are affecting demand for meat, also threatening abattoir viability. At the same time, abattoir operating costs are also increasing.

The Association submitted a document to authorities supporting the export of hides and skins as local tanneries are not taking up stockpiled hides. It was proposed that the gelatine industry in Zimbabwe could be revived, to generate value addition and growth in the beef value chain.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) remains a challenge to the livestock industry. Whilst the movement of cattle from FMD zones for direct slaughter is now permitted in many areas, cattle movement restrictions are hampering restocking efforts and the rebuilding of the beef industry.

The need to establish a national beef producers association was highlighted - to represent the interests of cattle farmers, the largest group of livestock farmers in the country. The Beef Industry Revitalisation proposal prepared by the Association provides for the establishment and funding of many activities to grow the beef industry as well as support a beef producers' association.

ZAA ran a promotional Abattoirs and Butcheries Guide in association with the Standard newspaper in November.

Open Meeting of the Pig Producers' Association of Zimbabwe

Significant progress has been achieved in the PPAZ/PIB pilot project initiative to develop small-scale pig production in Zimbabwe. Interested pig producers have been identified in the project catchment areas of Goromonzi, Chegutu and Chikwaka and formed into cluster groups for mentorship and consolidated marketing.

With growing farmer interest in this pilot project, it is envisaged that the PPAZ/PIB project model can be successfully replicated in other parts of Zimbabwe. PPAZ has welcomed the stipulation by the Department of Veterinary Services that all producers entering the pig industry must be compliant with African Swine Fever regulations.

Going forward into 2019, PPAZ will embark on a programme to promote the versatility and health benefits of pork. This will also support national expansion in pig production, with all the benefits that accrue to the national economy from this.

