



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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LivestockZimbabwe Update: 8th February 2018

OVERVIEW

The Department of Veterinary Services has circulated an advisory about the suspected outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Nyamaropa and Nyakomba areas of Nyanga North. ASF is a highly contagious haemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs which is responsible for serious economic and production losses. It is a transboundary animal disease which can be spread by live or dead pigs, domestic or wild, and pork products. There is no vaccine against ASF.

The Statutory Instrument expected last week about the Fuel Tax Refund system has not been gazetted and further information will be provided in due course.

Council Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association

The carryover maize crop is expected to last through to the fourth quarter of 2019. Thereafter, the industry expects that imports will become necessary given the indications that the 2018/2019 maize crop will be significantly less than last year.

A larger soya bean crop is expected for the 2018/2019 season with estimates ranging from 60 – 80,000mt. The government role in announcing a support price remains unclear in light of its thrust to contain budget deficits and it was proposed that import parity should guide the setting of the producer price for the next crop. This position is supported by the escalating costs from RTGS \$700 – 800/hectare at the beginning of planting to RTGS \$2,000/hectare at current prices.

Supply of cotton cake into the market is thin and some expressers have exported at the expense of the local market and this has been exacerbated as one major expresser has temporarily shut down.

Open Meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs

The export of raw hides is set to resume following the gazetting of SI 279 of 2018 which suspends the export surtax of \$0.75/kg for selected exporters. However, international hide prices are low, and exports are being driven by the need to generate foreign currency for importing essential spares and raw materials.

It was noted that most feedlot operators have downsized as the increase in the cost of stockfeeds has seriously impacted upon their operations. It is likely that there will be a higher than usual demand for ruminant feeds for survival feeding in drought-stricken areas.

Cattle slaughters have been dominated by economy grade which has resulted in increased stockholding of lower grades at some abattoirs. This has partly been driven by increased supply due to cattle being delivered for direct slaughter from areas that were previously under quarantine. The market is short of commercial and super grades and operators are increasingly reluctant to bear the extra costs of pen feeding because of the high cost of feed and other operating costs. The decrease in the price of chicken has put downward pressure on beef prices in the last week.

Livestock Diary: March 2019

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| Wednesday 6th | Council meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association |
| Thursday 7th | Open meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs |
| Friday 8th | Council meeting of the Brahman Breeders Society of Zimbabwe |

Enclosures

- Advisory from Department of Veterinary Services on African Swine Fever
- Department of Veterinary Services, Weekly Highlights, week ending 24th January