



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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OVERVIEW

The livestock industry has been commended for providing up to date statistics on livestock production, important for strategic national agricultural planning. LMAC, through its constituent livestock producer associations, produces statistics on beef, dairy, broiler, egg, pork, fish and processed meat production, as well as stockfeed manufacture. Statistics on protein production, number of animals in production, the status of the breeder industry in each livestock sub sector, and other industry and marketing trends are all critical in forward projection and planning for the largely self-sufficient Zimbabwean meat industry.

LMAC collates and analyses livestock production figures and produces statistics on aggregated production in each livestock sub-sector. This information is critical to national economic and agricultural planning, formulating Government policy as well as for import approval for breeding stock, and veterinary and other inputs required by the industry.

A comprehensive overview of national livestock production, projections and challenges is a vital basis for planning in an industry earmarked for further development under Command Livestock.

Coordinated planning and sharing of livestock production statistics are vital to ensuring protein security, balancing supply and demand for different protein products, as well as achieving producer viability and price stabilisation. Coordination and transparency are also critical in ensuring that illegal imports of meat do not find their way onto the local market, and in the case of smuggled goods, posing a potential health hazard.

There is concern in the livestock industry that stocks of imported acaricides are fast running out, jeopardising dipping regimes. As well as being a parasitic burden to livestock, ticks transmit tick-borne diseases such as Theileriosis.

Council Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers' Association

It is envisaged that the two-day Millsmart Programme on animal feed production, being conducted by Kemin International, in conjunction with SMA this month, will attract interest across the feeds industry. The intensive two-day programme will focus on latest developments on food safety, feed optimisation and efficiency.

LMAC has been invited to prepare a document on the soya requirements of the livestock industry for incorporation in the soya bean value chain document under the Rapid Results Initiative. This will highlight the importance of soya meal, a by-product of oil expressing, in livestock production and other value addition benefits to Zimbabwe of importing whole beans, rather than crude oil.

Early estimates put this year's local soya harvest at the same as 2017 production, despite the larger hectareage planted. Maize production too has suffered in the difficult growing season, but with carryover stocks from last year's bumper harvest, local supply should be adequate for livestock as well as human consumption.

With locally produced molasses now channelled into the production of ethanol for fuel blending, there is no local supply of molasses for livestock feeding. It is not cost-effective to use an alternative supply identified in Mozambique with the long-distance transport cost.

Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers' Association

To support the Command Fisheries Programme, ZFPA is preparing economic models on different methods of aquaculture, factoring in fingerling survival rates.

The National Strategy for Aquaculture will incorporate all the different forms of aquaculture – intensive, semi-intensive, cage and pond culture. ZFPA will also explore the potential of incorporating aquaculture into existing irrigation schemes and focus on expanding national fish production through identifying value chain opportunities in fish catchment areas.

Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events: March

March 14th	Open meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs
March 20th and 21st	MillSmart and Nutrition School
March 22nd	Livestock Business Forum, Harare

Enclosures

- Raw Materials Supply, February 2018
- MillSmart and Nutrition School flyer and programme
- ZPA newsletter, February 2018
- Notification about the forthcoming Shepherd's course.