



MPO Newsletter / Nuusbrie

Represents and empowers the producer
September 2011

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MPO request leads to SARS audit

The MPO, in cooperation with Agri Inspec, identified a potential risk with regard to importers entering imported dairy products into duty-free warehouses at the ports of entry without immediately clearing the goods and having to pay import tariffs. These products are only cleared as required by the importers, who then have to pay the import tariffs applicable. Doubts exist about the efficiency of control measures in this regard. Agri Inspec submitted relevant documentation to SARS with a request to investigate the matter. SARS agreed to the request and recently embarked on an extensive audit of import warehouses at certain harbours. Ms Barbara Bieldt, manager market protection and development at the MPO, lauded the authorities for their active support in protecting the market for milk producers.

Bovine tuberculin available

After enquiries made by the MPO, Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) confirmed that it currently has stock of bovine tuberculin available. Unfortunately, no avian tuberculin is available in South Africa yet and therefore no comparative tests for tuberculosis can be conducted. OBP is awaiting information from overseas with regard to the specifications for avian tuberculin in order for the Directorate: Animal Health to issue an import permit. Bovine tuberculin is however freely available and milk producers are advised to consult with state veterinarians, as well as their own veterinarians, on the matter. For more information in this regard, contact Dr Noduma at 012 522 1500 or send a fax to 012 565 5260 for vaccine orders.

Concern about higher imports

Import statistics recently supplied to the MPO by Agri Inspec show a sharp increase in imports from June to August. During the first eight months of this year 26 700 tons of dairy products were imported, compared to 24 800 tons in the same period last year. On a milk equivalent basis, total imports are 11% more than during the same period of 2010. Imports by secondary industry role-players contributed to the increase in imports. According to MPO economist Dr Koos Coetzee, the MPO is concerned that importers may

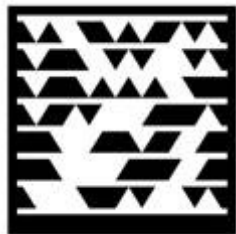
import more products than needed to supply their demand, particularly as milk production normally increases in spring. Imports by processors, some of whom reduced producer prices significantly in 2010, are another source of concern.

MPO investigates practical and affordable biogas plants

Biogas is widely used all over the world, in particular on dairy farms, where cow dung and other farm waste is fed into biogas digesters that produce biogas utilised for cooking and heating purposes, as well as electricity generation. The technology is still quite untested in South Africa and only a small number of digesters, both domestic and commercial, have been built and commissioned to date. The MPO believes that the main reason for dairy farmers not investing in biogas digesters is the cost involved. The MPO is of the opinion that biogas is a source of sustainable alternative energy, which requires relative low technological input and could be cost effective in view of escalating electricity costs. Discussions in this regard have taken place with various companies and organisations, including the Industrial Development Corporation.

Mentorship established for Meyers Trust

On Tuesday, Ms Lise Roberts of RSG conducted an interview with Dr Nico Schutte of the MPO's Cendel about a mentorship programme that was established for Meyers Trust in the Eastern Cape. Use the tag below to **listen** to this interesting interview.



(This tag can be scanned from your computer screen.)

Consumption of butter and cream beneficial

In a groundbreaking Australian study conducted by the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne, it was found that the consumption of butter, cream and milk actually lowered the markers that are indicators of heart disease and diabetes. Researchers said the unexpected decline in the concentrations of a number of biomarkers, in particular after consumption of butter and cream, remains unexplained. According to Australian dietitian Glenys Zucco, these results contradict previous beliefs that high fat meals increased the levels of markers related to heart disease and diabetes and suggest that dairy fat has different effects than other types of fat. She said: "A growing body of evidence from observational studies suggests all types of dairy foods have a neutral or even beneficial effect on the risk of heart disease and diabetes." To read more <[click here](#)>.

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Arla Foods to increase stake in Germany

Danish-Swedish dairy company Arla got the go-ahead for a takeover from members of German cooperative Allgäuer Bergbauern-Milch. According to Dairyreporter.com, 80% of the co-operative's members voted in favour of Arla's takeover offer. The EU competition authority still has to approve the deal, but role-players do not expect any difficulties in this regard. If Arla Foods is successful with the takeover, it will save the German dairy from the threat of bankruptcy. Arla is keen on the acquisition due to the "important potential" the German dairy has for its speciality cheese business, both in Germany and abroad. To read more <[click here](#)>.

NAMC publishes MPO request for continuation of statutory measures

The MPO administers a statutory measure that requires milk producers to register with the MPO and provide records and returns to the organisation in order to ensure continuous timeous and accurate statistics with regard to the primary dairy industry. The current statute lapses on 1 November 2011 and the MPO has applied for the continuation thereof for the next four years, until 1 November 2015. A notice in this regard will be published by the National Agricultural Marketing Council in the government gazette today. For more information, please contact Dr Koos Coetzee on 012 843 5600 or send an e-mail to koos.coetzee@mpo.co.za.

Dairy herd for sale

The Holstein herd of a milk producer in the Western Cape is for sale. The herd consists of 300 cows in milk (different stages of lactation), 200 dry and/or pregnant heifers. The herd was tested in February 2011 and is TB and CA free which is confirmed by the appropriate certificates. Producers who are interested are requested to contact Philip at 012 843 5600 or 082 462 1712 or send an e-mail to philip@mpo.co.za. The MPO will gladly act as mediator between parties in this regard.

Feed facts: Quality silage tips

If you are interested in tips on the production of quality silage, turn to page 65 of the September edition of *The Dairy Mail* for expert advice on this topic.

R1 000 won in bumper sticker competition

A new winner of the MPO bumper sticker competition was announced this week: Mr Harry Muller of Herbertsdale. Congratulations on winning the prize of R1 000! Anybody spotted driving with the MPO's '**Drink milk**' sticker on a vehicle stands a chance to win the cash prize of R500. Winners are announced every second Tuesday on RSG Landbou (12:00 on 104fm), between 12:30 and 12:45. If the prize is not claimed, it rolls over to the next draw.

Important dates

- **Eskom workshops on energy efficiency and funding options:** 13 to 27 September at various venues in the Northern region. For more information, send an e-mail to mareey@eskom.co.za and for full programme details, please <[click here](#)>.
- **MPO AGM, KZN AGM, MPO national congress and gala dinner:** 21 September at the Fern Hill Hotel in the Midmar/Howick region of KZN. For travel and accommodation arrangements, please contact Sarine Wolmarans on 012 843 5600 or send an e-mail to sarine@agrivia.co.za.
- **World Dairy Expo:** Madison, Wisconsin, USA, 4 to 8 October 2011. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Sarine Wolmarans on 012 843 5600 or send an e-mail to sarine@agrivia.co.za.
- **Farm managers' course:** 5 to 7 October 2011, University of Pretoria's experimental farm. To register, <[click here](#)>. For more information, contact Julie McLachlan on 083 740 2720 or send an e-mail to julie@cendel.co.za.
- **International Dairy Federation (IDF) World Dairy Summit** in Parma, Italy, from 15 to 19 October 2011. Please <[click here](#)> for more information. For all travel and accommodation requirements, contact Sarine Wolmarans of Agri Travel on 012 843 5600 or send an e-mail to sarine@agrivia.co.za.
- **Cape Dairy Experience:** 4 and 5 November 2011, Sandringham, Western Cape. For more information <[click here](#)> or contact Mariana Rabie on 021 975 4440 or send an e-mail to mariana@agriexpo.co.za.

Links

[Milk Producers' Organisation](#)
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Contact us

Bertus de Jongh – Chief executive officer

Barbara Bieldt – Manager, market protection and development

Dr Koos Coetzee – Economist

Philip Swart – MPO member services

MPO regional coordinators

Eastern Cape: Call: Lesa Badamvan on 071 950 5707 or

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- If you have a smart phone, you can download the tag reader from your phone's App store.

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- Go to the tag reader on your phone and open it.
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