



MPO Newsletter / Nuusbrief

Represents and empowers the producer
August 2011

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Milk production declines

Milk production during July 2011 is 2% lower than during July 2010. The main reasons for the decrease are adverse weather conditions, stagnant producer prices and high grain feed and energy prices. According to MPO economist Dr Koos Coetzee total production for 2011 will probably not exceed production in 2010.

Lichtenburg Dairy Organisation established

The Lichtenburg Dairy Organisation (LDO) was established on Monday, 15 August 2011, as an initiative of Mr. Johan Strydom, chairman of MPO North West. The LDO is a private company of which milk producers can acquire shares. The aim of the LDO is to strengthen the negotiation power of its members, in particular with regard to inputs, by establishing a depot that will distribute products to MPO members in North West province. The directors of the company are Messrs. Johan Strydom, Louis Lemmer and Pieter du Plessis. For more information, contact Johan on 082 569 3668, Louis on 082 704 9344 or Pieter on 082 495 4301.

More producer groups to form in Western Cape

Milk producers in the Heidelberg region of the Western Cape are to follow the example of their counterparts in the Overberg district, with a strategic planning session aimed at the establishment of a producer group similar to the Overberg Dairy Action Group (ODAG). During the strategic planning session that led to the establishment of ODAG, a need was identified for the establishment of dairy farmer groups per geographic area to benefit from the unique features of specific areas. A strategic planning session for milk producers in the Heidelberg region will take place on Monday, 22 August 2011. Mr. Dèan Kleynhans, MPO chairman will open the session, while Mr. Bertus de Jongh was invited to act as facilitator. Mr. Kleynhans said that a definite need exists for milk producers to improve their negotiation power and increase their share of consumer spend. Furthermore, it is believed that the pool of skills and experience created by producer groups will help address imbalances in the

value chain and contribute to the future sustainability of milk production in the Western Cape. Milk produced in the region has a high milk solids content, which renders it highly suitable for further processing.

MPO provides input regarding training of veterinarians

The Department of Production Animal Studies of the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science hosted a special committee of investigation to, among others, determine whether the current training curriculum of veterinarians still addresses the requirements of production animal industries. Relevant industries were consulted and requested to provide input to the committee. The MPO submitted input regarding the requirements of the milk production animal industry from veterinarians over the next ten years. Dr. Nico Schutte of the MPO's Cendel said this effort from government to support production animal industries with suitably trained veterinarians is welcomed.

Positive interaction at research and development forum

A dairy research and development forum arranged by Milk SA and attended by various role players in the industry was held in Pretoria on Tuesday. Mr. Bertus de Jongh, MPO CEO, chaired the forum in which MPO board members, members and officials actively participated. Attendees were pleasantly surprised by the extent of the research that is still conducted within the dairy sector and which was reported on during the meeting. Dr. Nico Schutte of the MPO's Cendel said that it is clear from comments and other inputs that a significant portion of research was not formally recorded and/or efficiently communicated to the industry. The conclusion at the end of the forum was that a network of stimulating and encouraging research still exists and that a strategy for consultation and communication within the industry regarding existing research, as well as research needs, must be developed and implemented as soon as possible. Furthermore, information regarding present research activities should be effectively communicated to the broad dairy fraternity.

Report from MPO Free State AGM and congress

The MPO Free State's annual general meeting (AGM) and congress took place in Bloemfontein yesterday. Both events were well attended and characterised by the lively and positive interaction of attendees. At the AGM, Mr. Koos Pienaar, stalwart in the South African dairy industry, retired as MPO Free State chairman and Mr. Bernard Maree was elected in his place, with Mr. Piet Gouws elected as vice-chairman. Mr. Bertus de Jongh, MPO CEO, made a presentation on the future focus of MPO activities and Dr. Koos Coetzee, MPO economist, gave an overview of national and international economic trends. Speakers at the congress included Dr. Peter Johnston from the University of Cape Town, who gave an interesting overview of climate change and the effect thereof on dairy farming businesses, while Ms. Lize Terreblanche from the University of the Free State shared valuable information about the benefits of group forming and the establishment of co-operatives.



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