



MPO Newsletter / Nuusbrief

Represents and empowers the producer
2011

20 May

Imports of sub-standard UHT milk stopped

Several important issues were discussed at a meeting of the MPO's Dairy Classification and Technical Liaison Committee held on Friday, 13 May. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Department of Health, South African Revenue Services and the Dairy Standard Agency are members of the committee. DAFF representatives stated that the investigation requested by the MPO into the importation of UHT milk with a butterfat content below South African requirements, was finalised and the import of the product was stopped. The product was imported from Argentina under the brand name 'Veronica' and was labelled as full cream milk although the butterfat content was 3g per 100g and not 3,3g per 100g as required. The draft new regulations for dairy products were finalised after consultation with the organised dairy industry and will be published in the government gazette today for public notice and comment. One of the major differences between the existing regulations and the draft amended regulations is that all standards will apply to the hospitality sector as well. Resulting from a formal complaint by the MPO various samples of cheddar cheese imported from Ireland were obtained from Durban and Cape Town and analysed for compliance. No deviations were found with regard to the content of the products but the labelling was incorrect and importers were requested to amend it in line with SA requirements. Ms Barbara Bieldt, chairperson of the committee, said that the private-public partnership brought about by the committee significantly enhances the protection of milk producers' market through the efficient management and control of dairy imports.

Meeting to discuss Terms of Reference for dairy value chain analysis

Mr Bertus de Jongh, MPO CEO, Dr Koos Coetzee, MPO economist and Ms Barbara Bieldt attended a meeting with representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry (dti) to discuss proposed terms of Reference for the dairy value chain analysis to be funded by the dti. The dti was requested to include input suppliers and the retail in the study. The MPO will be notified once a service supplier has been appointed by the dti

whereafter a meeting will be arranged for further discussions before the study commences. Reports on the progress of the study will be given in future newsletters.

Import prices increase

Import statistics discussed at the MPO's monthly meeting with Agri Inspec indicates that quantities of virtually all imported dairy products have declined from March to April together with an increase in the average prices of all these products. This trend is in line with the continuous increases in international dairy product prices over the past 3 months. Dr Koos Coetzee said the fact that import parity currently is in the region of R4,00 per litre while the average producer price locally is about R2,80 per litre, makes it difficult to import dairy products at competitive prices. It is expected that imports will decline further in the short term.

FMD virus isolated

The Agricultural Research Institute (ARC) Onderstepoort Veterinary institute isolated the viruses involved in the current foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in KwaZulu Natal (KZN). The virus was isolated from samples collected from a dip tank in KZN and a feedlot in Gauteng and typed as a SAT 1 related to the FMD virus isolated in the northern part of the Kruger National Park (2006) and the Pafuri area in 2003. This confirmed that the infection did not originate from a neighbouring country. To date over 93 000 cattle have been vaccinated and will be monitored. According to DAFF the disease is under control and a second round of vaccinations is under way. To read the press release [<click here>](#).

Livestock Improvement Scheme Trust re-elects chairman

At a meeting of the Livestock Improvement Scheme Trust held on 17 May Mr Bertus de Jongh, MPO CEO was unanimously re-elected as chairman of the Trust for 2011. The purpose of the Trust is to fund scientific research that can be linked to the advancement of the purposes of the National Livestock Improvement Schemes (excluding wool sheep) with a specific initiative to ensure that developing agriculture benefit from this. Mr de Jongh said that the trust was created to ensure that South Africa stays at the forefront of genetic development.

MPO Free State branch management and representatives confirmed

At the recent MPO route meetings held in the Free State management members were confirmed at the Bloemfontein, Ladybrand and Bultfontein branches. MPO representatives were appointed at the Bethlehem, Reitz, Lindley, Warden, Dealesville and Hertzogville branches. The MPO congratulates them and expresses gratitude for their willingness to serve in their respective positions. Management members in the remaining regions have to serve in their positions for another year before elections will take place.

BRANCH	MANAGEMENT MEMBER	REPRESENTATIVE
BLOEMFONTEIN	Neville Hobbs	
LADYBRAND	Bernard Maroo	



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