



# MPO Newsletter / Nuusbrief

*Represents and empowers the producer*  
2011

27 May

## **Production season may run late**

The 2011/2012 milk production season may run later than the previous one. Milk production during the first four months of 2011 was marginally below that of January to April 2010. Heavy rains and very wet conditions continue in the summer rainfall area. This has already had a negative effect on milk production, as producers in most areas report lower production. Fresh milk processors currently find it difficult to obtain enough milk to supply consumers. According to MPO economist Dr Koos Coetzee, the current downturn may continue for longer than normal, and supply and demand may not balance before late in spring.

## **Meeting to discuss financing mechanisms for milk producers**

Mr Danie Schutte, MPO Gauteng chairman, Mr Bertus de Jongh, MPO CEO, and Mr Bertus van Heerden, MD of Agri Inspec, attended a meeting with representatives from the Reserve Bank to discuss the creation of tailor-made financing mechanisms for milk producers. Mr de Jongh said the discussions were positive and encouraging, and a follow-up meeting will take place in the near future.

## **Record payments for New Zealand farmers**

Fonterra has forecast a record milk payment for New Zealand milk producers. The forecast Fonterra producer price is NZ\$7,50 per kilogram of milk solids for the 2010/2011 dairy season which ends next week. The forecast distributable profit has been increased by 10 cents per share to between 50 and 60 cents. Milk producers whose milk supply is fully backed by shares will earn NZ\$7,75 to 7,80 per kilogram milk solids after Fonterra's portion of the distributable profit is deducted. Fonterra has also forecast a producer price of NZ\$6,75 per kilogram milk solids for the 2011/2012 dairy year.

## **Pilot school milk project nearing implementation**

Dr Nico Schutte of the MPO's Cendel and representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries this week

visited the eight identified primary schools in the Fort Beaufort district of the Eastern Cape, in preparation of the implementation of the pilot school milk project. Discussions were held with school principals and supervisors regarding a proposed implementation plan, which details the obligations of the role players at schools and the MPO as implementer of the project.

### **Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee meets**

Dr Nico Schutte represented the MPO at a meeting of the Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee held on Friday, 20 May. Among the matters discussed, was the need for guidelines for selling calves at auctions and the transportation of calves. The dairy industry was requested to compile guidelines to indicate the circumstances under which calves younger than three weeks may be offered for sale at auctioneers' stockyards without their mothers. Dr Nico Schutte requests that any constructive proposals regarding guidelines for this practice and for the transport of calves be submitted to him to assist the MPO in compiling these guidelines, which will be used as a standard by animal welfare authorities. Contact Dr Schutte at 012 843 5600 or 082 807 1539 or send an e-mail to [nico.schutte@mpo.co.za](mailto:nico.schutte@mpo.co.za).

### **Informative MPO route meetings in Eastern Cape**

The MPO held nine route meetings in the Eastern Cape this week. Mr Bertus de Jongh, MPO CEO, gave an overview of the recently developed strategy for the primary dairy industry and Dr Koos Coetzee informed milk producers that international economic prospects continue to be positive and should impact favourably on local market conditions in future. State veterinarians also addressed the meetings. They encouraged farmers to ensure proper biosecurity on their farms, particularly, in the light of the recent Foot- and- mouth disease, Rift Valley Fever and other outbreaks. The meetings were generally well-attended and were characterised by positive and lively interaction between the milk producers and MPO representatives. A number of useful comments and suggestions by milk producers will be followed up by the MPO.

### **New MD appointed at Agri Connect**

Ms Erika Alberts has been appointed as the new managing director of Agri Connect, publisher of, among others, *The Dairy Mail*. Ms Alberts has more than twenty years' experience in the marketing, communication and media sectors. She is expected to play a key role in the establishment and development of the electronic media division of Agri Connect.

### **Final deadline to register for Large Herds Conference**

MPO members can still register for the Large Herds Conference at the reduced fee until 27 May. Keep in mind that more than half of the conference programme consists of parallel sessions for pasture-based and TMR herds.

### **June edition of *The Dairy Mail* on its way**

Keep an eye out for the June edition of *The Dairy Mail*, which contains interesting articles on the farming business of milk producer Johan Breytenbach of Cullinan and how to manage



Please take note that this e-mail is not spam. It is a newsletter sent from the MPO to you as valuable milk producer. [www.mpo.co.za](http://www.mpo.co.za) / 012 843 5600



Brought to you by **The Dairy Mail** in conjunction with the **MPO**