

# MPO Newsletter / Nuusbriëf

**Represents and empowers the producer**  
**April 2011**

29

## Pasteurised milk now also allowed into Botswana

The veterinary authority of Botswana recently announced that pasteurised milk from South Africa will also be allowed to enter the country after the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) requested that the importation of South African dairy products which have been pasteurised in accordance with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines be allowed. Certificates for export of pasteurised milk are issued by DAFF upon receipt of the results of a phosphatase test which confirms that the products were adequately heat-treated. UHT milk was imported by Botswana to supply the demand during the period that the country prohibited the entry of pasteurised and raw milk from South Africa as a result of the foot-and-mouth disease crisis. Raw milk from South Africa is still not allowed to enter Botswana. However, this means that normal trade in dairy products between the two countries will resume shortly.

## Milk demand higher than supply

Recent market information shows that the demand for milk nationwide currently outstrips supply but differences exist on a regional basis. This trend is in line with the sharp decline in production during March reported in last week's newsletter. Anybody requiring assistance with the trading of milk can contact Yolanda Strydom or Sarel Grobler of the MPO at 012 843 5600 or send an e-mail to [yolanda.s@mpo.co.za](mailto:yolanda.s@mpo.co.za) or [sarel.grobler@mpo.co.za](mailto:sarel.grobler@mpo.co.za).

## MPO North branch management confirmed

At the recent MPO route meetings held in the MPO North region the following management members were confirmed at several branches. The MPO congratulates them and expresses gratitude for their willingness to serve in their respective positions.

BRANCH	CHAIRPERSON	VICE-CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY
GAUTENG:			
PRETORIA	Danie Schutte	Corlia Swanepoel	Marsha Grobler Sandra



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			Erasmus
GAUTENG NORTH	Johan Breytenbach		Hanna Breytenbach
GAUTENG SOUTH	Hendrik Opperman	Fanie Coetzee	
MID-REGION BRANCH	Rina Belcher	Mandy MacGregor	
HEIDELBERG	Sarie Conradie	Dirk van der Wouden	
RANDFONTEIN	Dawid Roux	Chris Vosloo	
BRITS	Dirk Venter	Adriaan Coetzee	Suzette Venter
<b>LIMPOPO:</b>			
LOUIS TRICHARDT	Joubert Fourie	Leon Thom	
MODIMOLLE	Jan-Hendrik Jacobs	Hoffie Hoffman	

### Compulsory Community Service for veterinarians in prospect

In a press release on the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' (DAFF) budget vote for 2011/12 it is stated, among others, that the Department intends to amend the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 to compel veterinarians to undergo Compulsory Community Service (CCS). DAFF stated that the amendment of the Act will address the shortage of veterinarians in rural communities and laboratories by the strategic stationing of newly qualified veterinarians to ensure that all communities have access to basic veterinary services.

Furthermore, DAFF indicated that a comprehensive partnership with the commercial agricultural sector is required to promote and create greater food security, create jobs and contribute to the country's economy and that the State must facilitate the ability of smallholder farmers to farm commercially. To read more < [click here](#) >.

### Lactalis mounts takeover bid for Parmalat

Following its recent acquisition of 29% shareholding of Parmalat SpA, French dairy company Lactalis has made an offer of €3,4 billion to acquire Parmalat in full. If Lactalis is successful it would create a dairy company with an annual turnover of €14 billion. This announcement followed intervention by the Italian government in allowing Parmalat by decree to delay its Annual General Meeting by 180 days to provide time for an Italian bid before Lactalis can take control of the board. Furthermore, the government also made it possible for public funds to be used to protect "strategic" companies. Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi said at a news



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conference that he did not consider the Lactalis bid as “hostile” but that he would welcome an Italian partner joining the French dairy in ownership of Parmalat. According to reports Lactalis is interested in Parmalat’s European business and not in its operations in other markets. However, Italian confectionery company, Ferrero Rocher’s expressed interest in acquiring a shareholding in Parmalat as well as the tragic death of Mr Pietro Ferrero, joint chief executive of the Ferrero group, whilst on an undisclosed business trip in Cape Town, raises questions about the future of Parmalat South Africa. < [Click here](#) > to read more.

### **Melamine-tainted milk powder seized in China**

The woes of the Chinese dairy industry continues with reports by State media that police seized 26 tonnes of melamine-tainted milk powder from an ice cream manufacturer in south west China. According to media reports the tainted powder which allegedly originates from Inner Mongolia in north west China has not yet filtered through to the consumer. Melamine, which is added to milk products to artificially increase protein levels and disguise watered down products has been a major problem for Chinese authorities since 2008. Melamine-tainted dairy products continue to appear in the Chinese dairy supply chain despite new laws and strict enforcement measures by the government. < [Click here](#) > to read the full report.

### **Read all about the Large Herds Conference**

Since the first Large Herds Conference held in South Africa in 1999, interest in the event has grown continuously locally as well as internationally. This year the conference takes place at The Premier Regent Hotel in East London from 6 to 8 June. Turn to page 35 of the May edition of *The Dairy Mail* (TDM) for valuable information if you intend to attend the conference.

### **Improve breeding with genomics**

If you are interested in improving your herd faster and more accurately with less guesswork go to page 73 of the May edition of *The Dairy Mail* (TDM) for an informative article on genomics, the new direction in dairy cattle breeding technology.

### **Important dates**

#### **• MPO roadshow meetings:**

- Free State, Contact Veronica Marais at 051 444 4603 or 083 276 4703 or [veronica@mpo.co.za](mailto:veronica@mpo.co.za)
  - Tuesday, 3 May: 10:00 – VKB Hall, Reitz  
14:00 – District Farmers Association Hall, Warden
  - Wednesday, 4 May: 11:00 – Qwa  
Qwa
  - Thursday, 5 May: 10:00 – Kleingraan,  
Bethlehem

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Friday, 6 May: Bloemfontein	14:00 - Senekal 10:00 – Senwes Hall,
Tuesday, 10 May	10:00 – Senwes, Parys 14:00 – Koppies
Wednesday, 11 May Hall, Ventersburg	08:30 – Farmers Association
Thursday, 12 May Hall, Dealesville	14:00 – Senwes, Bultfontein 10:00 – Farmers Association
Kimberley	14:00 – Horse Shoe Motel,
Friday, 13 May Ladybrand	10:00 – OVK Head Office,

- Institute for Dairy Technology Information Days** in the Western Cape. The programme runs from 09:30 to 13:30 each day. For more information please call Dr Jan du Preez at 083 656 3638 or send an e-mail to [jan.dupreez@mpo.co.za](mailto:jan.dupreez@mpo.co.za).
 

Tuesday, 10 May:	SSK, Swellendam
Wednesday, 11 May:	Oakdale High School, Riversdal
Thursday, 12 May:	Outeniqua Experimental Farm, George
Friday, 13 May:	Fynbos Golf Estate, Tsitsikamma
- Large Herds Conference**, 6 to 8 June 2010, The Regent hotel, East London. To avoid disappointment please contact Julie McLachlan at 012 998 6616 or 083 740 2720 or send an e-mail to [julie.mclachlan6@gmail.com](mailto:julie.mclachlan6@gmail.com) or [julie@cendel.co.za](mailto:julie@cendel.co.za). <Click here> for a direct link to the official website.
- Dairy farm managers' course**, 12 to 14 July in Caledon. This course will be presented in Afrikaans. Please contact Julie McLachlan at 083 740 2720 or send an email to [julie@cendel.co.za](mailto:julie@cendel.co.za) for programme information and a registration form.

#### Links

**Milk Producers' Organisation – The Dairy Mail**

#### Contact us

**Bertus de Jongh** – Chief executive officer

**Barbara Bieldt** – Manager: Market protection and development

**Dr Koos Coetzee** – Economist

**Philip Swart** – MPO member services



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