



MELKPRODUSENTE-ORGANISASIE
MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

MILK BULLETIN

In partnership with
the dairymail
Publication for the dairy industry

Represents and empowers the producer

13 April 2017

Local market

Expropriation without compensation in the spotlight

According to Agri SA many irresponsible statements about expropriation have been made recently, some by senior politicians. However, the truth is that our Constitution does not make provision for expropriation without compensation. Agri SA looked into the matter of expropriation and compensation and contextualised the current political debate surrounding these issues in an interesting document which is available on their website. To read the document, click [HERE](#).

Implications of regulations requiring metering of irrigation

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) published regulations requiring that, as from 17 February 2017, the taking of water for irrigation purposes be measured, recorded and reported for implementation. Following concern about the implications of the regulations for dairy farmers, the MPO requested clarification from the DWS.

According to the DWS the regulations are not an immediate instruction to all users to install measuring devices but instead a prescription on how measuring devices must be selected, installed, operated, maintained and verified. Powers to instruct water user(s) are already provided for in the National Water Act (item 4 of Schedule 3, Act 36 of 1998).

The authority when implementing the regulations is the local catchment management agency (CMA). In the absence of a CMA, the Minister is the authority. The relevant authority will instruct a water user or water users to install measuring devices if there are good grounds or reasons to do so. Guideline documents for both water users and the authority are being finalised to guide the implementation. After an instruction has been issued, the authority will monitor compliance with the regulations. Non-compliance with an instruction issued in terms of the regulations constitutes an offence.

Milk producers who have enquiries in this regard or any other water use authorisation issues can contact the MPO manager market protection and promotion, Barbara Biedt, at 083 235 2629 or send an email to barbara@mpo.co.za. To view the regulations, click [HERE](#).

You are invited to MPO Mpumalanga's route meetings

MPO Mpumalanga chairman Douglas Dickson invites milk producers to attend the route meetings that will be held in Balfour, Morgenzon, Carolina and Belfast on 19 and 20 April 2017. The aim of the meetings is to provide a platform for dairy farmers in the province to exchange ideas and experiences in an informal manner. Dairy farmers who attend the meetings will also have the opportunity to interact with MPO directors and staff. A tour of the farm is included in meetings held on dairy farms. The programme will be concluded with a light lunch. Join the MPO Mpumalanga at one of the meetings below.

Date	Place	Time	Venue
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Wednesday, 19 April	Balfour Morgenzon	10:00 14:00	Dairy Care (Collin Usher) Westend Landgoed (Hannes Lombard)
Thursday, 20 April	Carolina Belfast	10:00 14:00	Fairview (Aubrey de Jager) De Kroon (Deon Janse van Rensburg)

For more information contact Benita Oelofsen on 073 116 8544 or send an email to benita@mpo.co.za.

SA Cheese Festival: sweet 16 and better than ever!

South Africans are happiest when they can combine good food (and especially a smorgasbord of locally produced cheese) with time spent with family and friends, and the 16th SA Cheese Festival offers exactly that. For three glorious autumn days (Friday, 28 April to Sunday, 30 April) cheese lovers will once again converge at Sandringham outside Stellenbosch for their annual rendezvous with all things cheese.

As always, cheese remains the main focus of this popular festival. Cheesemakers from all over the country bring their very best cheeses for visitors to taste and stock up on. Be sure to taste the artisanal products of first-time exhibitors such as Chechil SA from Bloemfontein, Bettie Bok (West Coast), Milkwood (George) and many more.

Visit www.cheesefestival.co.za, contact us on tel 021-975 4440 or email admin@agriexpo.co.za for more information. For competition details and programme highlights, follow us on Facebook (pages/Cheese-Festival), Twitter (@SACheeseFest) and Instagram (sacheesefest).

International market

Fonterra introduces new traceability technology

It is reported in the New Zealand press that Fonterra recently introduced new traceability technology enabling shoppers to use a unique QR code to check the authenticity of infant formula products before buying any. Shoppers of Fonterra's infant formula brand Annum can now scan the QR code on the product, which connects them to a webpage with information and a batch number verifying that it is authentic. According to Fonterra, 90 per cent of its global plants will be electronically connected with traceability data, with the remaining 10 per cent to be completed by 2019. To read more, click [HERE](#).

Build labour efficiency into new facilities

When extending your dairy farming operations it is important to incorporate labour efficiency into the design. Globally, large dairies account for the majority of the growth in the dairy sector. Increased efficiency and profitability go hand in hand with larger farming operations. US dairy farmer, veterinarian and dairy performance consultant Gordie Jones states that the size of a farm alone does not guarantee labour efficiency. Bad layout of facilities can lead to bottlenecks and inefficient use of time and labour. Jones says: "With no plan, the facilities will dictate management. Dairy facilities are tools. They are tools that let you implement your plan". For a useful labour plan, click [HERE](#).

Tips for keeping animals healthy

Prevention is better than cure. Nobody knows this better than a dairy farmer. It is critical to keep animals healthy and prevent rather than treat diseases. Treating sick animals is expensive and uses valuable time. For basic principles and techniques to keep your animals healthy, click [HERE](#).

Training

Schedule your dairy farm training now

Helene Pheiffer, manager of training at the MPO, urges milk producers to schedule their dairy farm training as soon as possible. The Institute for Dairy Technology is currently scheduling its training programmes for 2017. Courses are aimed at dairy farm workers and supervisors. Click [HERE](#) for details of the training programmes offered. Please contact Jas Wasserman at 012 843 5743 or 082 490 2465 for assistance and to book a five-day course.

MPO helps with occupational health and safety issues

The MPO's Institute for Dairy Technology offers a five-day training course on the occupational health and safety code of best practice for dairy farmers. The course is practical and arms participants with the knowledge to comply with the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Training is conducted on-farm in the language of preference. Dairy farmers who need assistance in complying with the Department of Labour's health and safety requirements on their farms are encouraged to contact the Institute to schedule a training programme. The Institute is currently scheduling its training programmes for 2017. Click [HERE](#) for details of all the training programmes offered. Please contact Jas Wasserman at 012 843 5743 or 082 490 2465 for assistance and to book a five-day course.

Technology transfer

Take part in our competition!

Do you know how much milk was supplied in South Africa in February 2017? Put your knowledge to the test and stand a chance to win. A winner will be announced every month with several prizes to be won. After 12 editions a national winner will be announced at the MPO's 2018 gala dinner. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to enter.

Plan to cover the future

Farmers whose estate planning is centred on ensuring that their agricultural legacy is continued by their children should critically examine the way they are preparing for the future. Relying on a single financial solution to provide the financial means for a family to inherit a farm may not meet the mark. For practical advice on succession planning by Errol Meyer, head of advisory propositions at Standard Bank, turn to page 56 of the April issue of *The Dairy Mail*. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to www.agricconnect.co.za.

Events

You are invited to the 2nd annual Pasture Management Symposium

Grass SA is hosting its 2nd annual Pasture Management Symposium at the Farm Inn, Pretoria on Thursday, 20 April 2017. Grass SA was established by a group of pasture / animal scientists and specialists in Southern Africa. Since pasture science is regarded as a scarce skill, very few specialists remain to develop this field of expertise and to support the people who require assistance in improving any business that is dependent on pasture science. Topics to be discussed at the symposium include species selection and establishment, weed control and grazing systems. To register for the symposium, click [HERE](#). For more information visit www.grassa.co.za.

Exhibition space at SALHC sold out

Exhibition space is sold out at this year's SA Large Herds Conference, which promises to be the best ever. Our theme is resilience and never in the history of agriculture in South Africa have farmers needed to be more resilient. We have excellent speakers on relevant topics which will definitely send our delegates home with much food for thought.

For the first time this year we are inviting academics who are involved in dairy/agricultural research to submit abstracts in order to present a poster of their research results at the conference. The poster session will take place during a prolonged tea break on Tuesday, 6 June which is expected to be an interesting day.

Please see full details on the website: www.largeherds.co.za. Book now to avoid disappointment. Contact Julie McLachlan – julie@mpo.co.za or 012 843 5638, 083 740 2720.

Dare to dairy – save the date!

The SA Society of Dairy Technology hosts its 50th Annual AGM and Symposium with the theme “Dare to Dairy” at Kievits Kroon outside Pretoria from 9 to 11 May 2017. The programme includes presentations by local and international experts and a visit to a robotic dairy farm in Rayton. The registration form and program is available for download at <http://www.sasdt.co.za/2016symposium/>

Shuttle service to and from SALHC

Delegates to the SA Large Herds Conference, which will be held at Champagne Sports Resort in KwaZulu-Natal from 5 to 7 June 2017, can make use of shuttle buses scheduled to run between OR Tambo and King Shaka Airports and Champagne Sports Resort. The shuttle buses will depart at 10:30 from OR Tambo Airport and 14:00 from King Shaka Airport on Sunday, 4 June to the Champagne Sports Resort. The shuttle buses to both airports will depart at 12:30 on Wednesday, 7 June. The price for a one-way transfer from and to OR Tambo Airport is R500 and R400 for a one-way transfer from and to King Shaka Airport. The booking form can be downloaded from www.largeherds.co.za/shuttle_bus_booking_sheet.pdf. Full information can be found at www.largeherds.co.za or contact Julie on julie@mpo.co.za or 083 740 2720

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Links

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Please take note that this e-mail is not spam. It is a newsletter sent from the MPO to you as valuable milk producer.

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