



MILK BULLETIN

MELKPRODUSENTE-ORGANISASIE
MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

In partnership with
the dairy mail
Publication for the dairy industry

Represents and empowers the producer

17 March 2017

Concern about the postponement of price increases

The MPO is concerned about rumours that milk buyers are planning not to grant the normal pre-winter increases in producer prices. MPO CEO Dr Chris van Dijk points out that though feed prices are lower at present than in 2016, the decrease is not yet enough to put producers on a profitable level. An increase in producer prices is required to maintain production during the coming winter.

Positive outlook for milk producers in 2017

Milk producers can expect a better year in 2017 than in 2016. In a presentation at the Alzu Agricultural Economy Day held on Friday, 17 March MPO economist Dr Koos Coetzee told farmers that conditions in 2017 are more favourable than a year ago. International production growth has slowed down and important global exporting countries like Uruguay, New Zealand and Argentina experienced negative production growth in 2016. Globally, dairy product prices increased by more than 30% in 2016.

In South Africa total milk production in 2016 was 1,4% below that of 2015. Very little production growth is expected before spring. Lower grain prices have already resulted in higher margins for farmers and, as the expected lower grain prices are achieved, farmers' situation will improve further. Lower grain prices will stimulate production growth after the winter. Dr Coetzee cautioned farmers to "enjoy improved conditions responsibly".

Successful Free State Silage Day

The Silage Day presented on 9 March 2017 by MPO Free State at the Dutch Reformed Church Hall in Lindley and Gideon Lamprecht's farm Sameloope outside Lindley was most successful and informative. Products and agricultural machinery were exhibited and the programme contained lectures and practical demonstrations. More than 70 farmers and suppliers attended the event. Gideon Lamprecht, chairman MPO Free State, welcomed everybody present. Consultant André Diedericks provided advice on family businesses and the chairman of Silage South Africa, Richardt Venter, shared valuable tips about silage making.

The practical demonstrations of machinery were popular.

Gideon Lamprecht said he had been pleasantly surprised by the good attendance and success of the event. He added that the MPO would like to express its thanks towards the sponsors and exhibitors, as well as the organisers, all of whom had contributed to the success of the day.

You are invited to MPO North's route meetings in Gauteng

MPO North chairman Johan Strydom invites milk producers to attend the MPO Gauteng route meetings that will be held on 29 and 30 March 2017 on dairy farms in Rayton and Henley-on-Klip, respectively. 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. The programme will be concluded with a tour of the farm and a light lunch. Join the MPO

North at one of the farmers' days below.

Date	Place	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 29 March	Rayton	11:00	Willow Valley Dairy Farm
Thursday, 30 March	Henley on Klip, Meyerton area	11:00	Juna Dairy

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

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 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

International market

A new way to detect mastitis

Mastitis is a serious challenge farmers face and should be managed properly. The early detection of mastitis, is the key to success – the earlier the better. There is a new way of early detection available called thermal imagery technology. Thermal imagers are sensory devices that detect infrared energy emitted, transmitted or reflected by all materials - at temperatures above absolute zero. To read more about this new exciting technology, click [HERE](#).

Dairy – one of the best sources of calcium

For us to gain the full benefit of calcium, supporting bone and heart health, it is essential to eat more dairy and/or leafy greens. According to a review paper published in the *Open Heart Journal*, the majority of the US population do not consume the dietary calcium requirements they need. The article states that dairy is a rich dietary source of calcium and is readily available. To read more, click [HERE](#).

Chinese regulations benefit local infant formula manufacturer

Ausnutria, the Hong Kong-based infant formula group, said that net profit attributable to shareholders rose 320% in the 12-month period up to 31 December 2016. This follows an increase of 30,3% in the sales of infant formula by the Chinese company. Chairman Yan Weibin said the company benefited from changes to regulations governing the sector which raised the industry's barrier to entry.

Yan stated: "As a result of increasing consumer purchasing power in the People's Republic of China the relaxation of the one-child policy, and the increasing demand for higher food quality and safety standards, the Administrative Measures for the Registration of Formulas for Infant Milk Formula Powder has raised the market competition threshold, effective since October 2016. We see a clear developmental opportunity for us to become the industry leader with our advanced business layout and global supply chain expansion, as well as solid market position plus strict and high-quality controls." To read more, click [HERE](#).

Research

Treat droughts like hurricanes

A recent study which analysed 1,420 droughts between 1979 and 2009, identified “hotspots” around the world and common directions in which droughts move. According to the study conducted at Princeton University about 10 percent of droughts travel between 1 400 km to 3 100 km from where they begin. Researchers are beginning to view droughts as a dynamic force similar to hurricanes which slowly grow in one place and then move across a region, gaining intensity and size. Some hope that droughts will soon be monitored similarly to hurricanes - with scientists able to predict their development and forecast their paths, helping to protect those living in their path.

Some droughts in the south-western United States, for example, tend to move from south to north while they migrate in the opposite direction in Argentina. It was found that droughts in Central Africa tend to move south-eastern toward the coast.

The scientists found that droughts that travel are usually the largest and most disastrous. According to the National Drought Mitigation Center, based in the United States, these droughts can cause a loss of agriculture, wildlife, wetlands and human life. To read more, 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

Facts and myths about antibiotics in food-producing animals

Growing scientific concern about the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals and the perceived link to antibiotic resistance in bacteria that affect human health is real and needs to be addressed. The collective livestock industries, scientists and policymakers must jointly develop long-term solutions that protect public health and enhance food security and animal welfare. For an informative article on this topic by Prof. Moritz van Vuuren, veterinarian and specialist microbiologist, turn to page 39 of the March issue of *The Dairy Mail*. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to www.agriconnect.co.za.

Events

So many great reasons to visit the 2017 South African Cheese Festival!

Spoil yourself with a ticket to the award-winning South African Cheese Festival and discover an amazing selection of excellent and unique cheeses, other cheese products and delicious preserves that perfectly complement cheese, as well as the finest wine and gourmet food.

The SA Cheese Festival will be held at Sandringham, Stellenbosch from Friday, 28 April 2017 to Sunday, 30 April 2017. Tickets are available at any Computicket outlet, Shoprite or Checkers store at R160 per person per day. Visit our website www.cheesefestival.co.za, contact us on 021 975 4440 or email admin@agriexpo.co.za for more information. For competition details and programme highlights, follow us on Facebook (Cheese Festival), Twitter (@SACheeseFest) and Instagram (sacheesefest).

The countdown has begun – book now for SALHC 2017

The South African Large Herds Conference will be held at the Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensberg from 5 to 7 June 2017. The theme is “Resilience” – something every farmer needs in abundance. The programme has already been finalised and can be found on our website www.largeherds.co.za.

We would like to thank our sponsors, and especially our platinum sponsor, Standard Bank, for so generously supporting this conference yet again. Anyone wishing to sponsor and/or exhibit (stands are going at a rapid rate) must please contact Julie McLachlan on 083 740 2720 or email julie@mpo.co.za as soon as possible.

All information on the conference, the programme, speakers, venue and accommodation can be found on the website where booking and registration forms can also be downloaded.

Disclaimer: The MPO Milk Bulletin is compiled from sources deemed reliable. However, the publisher accepts no responsibility for any errors or the effect of any decisions based on this publication.

Links

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