



# MILK BULLETIN

In partnership with  
**the dairymail**  
Publication for the dairy industry

*Represents and empowers the producer*

**24 February 2017**

## Successful Silage Day in Lichtenburg

The Silage Day presented by MPO North West at the Lichtenburg Showground on 16 February was most successful and informative. Products and agricultural machinery of some 40 companies were exhibited. The programme contained lectures and practical demonstrations. More than 300 farmers, students and suppliers attended the event.

Johan Strydom, chairman of the MPO North West, welcomed everybody present. Albert van Rensburg of Biomin provided advice on how to neutralise mycotoxins in silage while Wynn Dedwith of Valtrac shared practical hints on making hay and silage. Kenneth Botha of Barnlab shared information on how to increase one's profit from silage and Hennie du Toit of NWK shed some light on the best possible handling of hay.

The practical demonstrations of rakes, balers and wrapping the hay found a ready audience.

NWK presented training to farmworkers in tractor maintenance while the MPO's Institute for Dairy Technology trained farmworkers on the ins and outs of milking shed hygiene.

The convener of the event, Johan Strydom, chairman of the MPO North West, 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 Biomin, other sponsors and exhibitors, as well as the organisers, all of whom had contributed to the success of the day.

## Review of the diesel fuel tax refund system

The National Treasury published the "Discussion Document on the Review of the Diesel Fuel Tax Refund System" for public comment and further consultation on 15 February 2017. This paper was jointly developed by the National Treasury and the South African Revenue Service (SARS).

The diesel refund system has faced several technical, administrative and legal challenges. Some eligible firms are unable to benefit from the system, while others appear to be making disproportionate refunding claims. The main administrative concerns relate to shared VAT administration, logbook compliance and authorisation of primary production.

To address these concerns, this discussion paper outlines the main options for a simplified administration system and proposals for reform that will ensure that the policy intent of the diesel refund system is maintained. To view the *Diesel Refund System Review Discussion Paper*, click **HERE**.

Written comments should be submitted to [dieselrefundcomments@treasury.gov.za](mailto:dieselrefundcomments@treasury.gov.za) by close of business on **15 May 2017**. Send enquiries to [Memory.Machingambi@treasury.gov.za](mailto:Memory.Machingambi@treasury.gov.za) and [C&E\\_legislativecomments@sars.gov.za](mailto:C&E_legislativecomments@sars.gov.za).

**International market**

## Tips for calving

Helping a cow to calve can be just as challenging as helping your wife deliver a baby. To go through the process with the minimum of hiccups, one has to be prepared. Farmers forget to equip their workers with the skill set required to deal optimally with calving time. Investing in proper training could help to streamline the process and turn calving day into a happy occasion. To read more about the benefits of this kind of training, click [HERE](#).

## Edible packaging a reality

What if we lived in a world where you could eat your food with its packaging? Or if ocean creatures were protected against mountains of plastics because packaging material were 100% biodegradable, and even if they consumed them they wouldn't die. Such a future is possible, researchers believe, and it could even become a reality only three years from now. Researchers are working on a biodegradable, edible packaging material made from none other than milk protein. To read more about this fascinating research, 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

### Making progress takes action

Over the past few years there have been various discussions and articles to raise awareness of the challenges surrounding lameness in dairy herds. It is hoped that the result will be a better understanding of the causes of lameness and the solutions we could apply to reduce its negative impact on farm profitability. For an informative article on the value of collecting on-farm data by Jackie Tucker, ruminant technologist at Chemuniqué, turn to page 62 of the February issue of *The Dairy Mail*. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to [www.agriconnect.co.za](http://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](http://www.cheesefestival.co.za), contact us on 021 975 4440 or email [admin@agriexpo.co.za](mailto:admin@agriexpo.co.za) for more information. For competition details and programme highlights, follow us on Facebook (Cheese Festival), Twitter (@SACheeseFest) and Instagram (sacheesefest).

## Diarise 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](http://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](mailto: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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