



MELKPRODUSENTE-ORGANISASIE  
MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

# MILK BULLETIN

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

*Represents and empowers the producer*

**7 April 2017**

## Local market

### Information and ideas exchanged at MPO Gauteng meetings

MPO Gauteng's route meetings were held on Willow Valley Dairy Farm in Rayton and Juna Dairy Farm in Henley-on-Klip on 29 and 30 March 2017. Both meetings were well attended by dairy farmers including milch goat farmers under the leadership of MPO Mid-region chairperson Rina Belcher. Congratulations to Neels Neethling who was elected the new chairman of MPO Bronkhorstspuit branch.

The meetings were characterised by an informal and open exchange of information, ideas and experiences between dairy farmers and MPO directors and staff. The guided farm tours were definitely the highlight of the programme, which was concluded by a light lunch. MPO Gauteng chairman Douglas Dickson extended a special word of thanks to the Yeomans family of Willow Valley Dairy Farm and the Hartley family of Juna Dairy for their hospitality and arrangements for the meetings.

### 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 posters 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](http://www.largeherds.co.za). Book now to avoid disappointment. Contact Julie McLachlan – [julie@mipo.co.za](mailto:julie@mipo.co.za) or 012 843 5638, 083 740 2720.

### Dare to dairy – save the date!

The SA Society of Dairy Technology will host its 50<sup>th</sup> 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 programme is available for download at <http://www.sasdt.co.za/2016symposium/>

### Nestlé commits to small business development

Nestlé South Africa and the Department of Small Business Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 3 April 2017 with the commitment to source and develop micro-distributors who are primarily located in townships and rural areas. Through this partnership, Nestlé South Africa and the Department of Small Business Development commit themselves to create and recruit 200 micro-distributors

between 2017 and 2020. Each micro-distributor will employ at least three additional permanent employees, thereby creating 600 jobs over the three years.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, said: “We are proud of this partnership with Nestlé South Africa as it supports our mission of providing an environment that is conducive to the development and growth of small businesses and cooperatives. We hope that this partnership will encourage other companies to follow suit by unlocking opportunities that can create decent work.” **Press Release.**

## **International market**

### **Tips to curb lameness**

Have you ever noticed that problems with lameness increase during autumn and that foot problems affect your cows when they are at peak production? According to international hoof care consultant Karl Burgi this is not a coincidence. Burgi stated: “The cows are telegraphing that they experienced a period of stress earlier – usually about four to six weeks before you see lameness set in.” Burgi owns Dairyland Hoof Care Institute in the US and trains hoof trimmers in addition to consulting with persons involved with dairy herds all over the world. He believes that cows around the globe can have healthier hoofs which impacts on their general health and that properly balanced feet contributes to low-stress living.

Burgi identified heat stress, cows standing for too long and transition as the three primary factors that can trigger lameness. According to him heat stress definitely affects the feet because cows stand when trying to cool off. For useful tips to curb lameness, click [HERE](#).

### **Heat stress affects unborn calves**

According to Geoff Dahl, a dairy physiologist with the University of Florida in the US, unborn calves of cows experiencing heat stress will have lower birth and weaning weights, and might produce as much as 1 300 litres less milk during their first lactation. It is important to keep dry cows cool during periods of heat stress since this leads to better in-calving and after-calving performance. Many farmers are not aware that the impact of heat stress on unborn calves can last into adulthood. Dahl states: “Cooling is pretty important for the fetus”. For advice on keeping cows cool, click [HERE](#).

### **New packaging for ready-to-drink liquid nutrition**

Tetra Pak has launched two smaller packaging sizes – 200 ml and 250 ml to capture the sports nutrition and fortified milk market in the US. This follows the increasing trend of busy consumers who rely on ready-to-drink liquid nutrition to satisfy their hunger. More than 40% of Americans replace meals with snacks-on-the-go at least once a week. The dairy drink category in Asia has also seen an unprecedented demand for drinkable meal replacements designed for a range of lifestyles. 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

#### 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.

### Taking on transformation together

Tshilidze Matshidzula, a young black dairy farmer, and Walter Biggs, an experienced white dairy farmer, have taken a rundown farm with little infrastructure but a great deal of potential and turned it into a successful commercial venture. The farm is 100% black-owned. To read how Tshilidze became the Eastern Cape's representative at the Young Farmer of the Year Competition, turn to page 35 of the April issue of *The Dairy Mail*. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to [www.agriconnect.co.za](http://www.agriconnect.co.za).

### Events

#### You are invited to the 2nd annual Pasture Management Symposium

Grass SA is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.grassa.co.za).

#### 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).

#### 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](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.

### 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](http://www.largeherds.co.za/shuttle_bus_booking_sheet.pdf). Full information can be found at [www.largeherds.co.za](http://www.largeherds.co.za) or contact Julie on [julie@mpo.co.za](mailto:julie@mpo.co.za) or 083 740 2720

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#### Links

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

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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.*

[www.mpo.co.za](http://www.mpo.co.za) / 012 843 5600

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