



Represents and empowers the producer

17 February 2017

Vaccines against vector-borne diseases available

Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) this week advised livestock farmers that the current wet conditions are very favourable for vector-borne diseases. OBP anticipated these wet conditions and stock-piled vaccines against the most common vector-borne diseases. Vaccines against African horse sickness, Rift Valley fever, three-day stiff-sickness, lumpy skin disease and bluetongue are readily available. Farmers are encouraged to take the necessary precautions against these diseases.

Innovators compete for title as Agripreneur of the year

Fifty world-class innovators in food, ag tech and agriculture will compete for the Agripreneur of the Year title at the Third Future Agro Challenge (FAC) Global Championships to be held at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC) in Johannesburg from 12 to 15 March 2017.

In just three years, Future Agro Challenge has managed to mobilise participation from more than 60 countries in over five continents to identify ground-breaking agro initiatives addressing national, regional, and global challenges across the food supply chain.

"The food chain is broken. We need a bottom-up approach to identifying new and sustainable solutions to current and future challenges. Innovators who have submitted high-calibre applications to the FAC are positioned to help us address those challenges. Agripreneurs must be on the frontline and the FAC ecosystem, including all our national stakeholders, are committed to helping them succeed", Carla Tanas, Future Agro Challenge co-founder said.

The 2016 Future Agro Challenge winner was **VACuCh**, an antibacterial milk liner that mitigates bovine mastitis and reduces the amount of bacteria in milk. To read more, click [HERE](#).

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 equips participants with the knowledge to comply with the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act 85 of 1993). 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 at present scheduling their 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.

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 best wine and gourmet food.

The SA Cheese Festival will be held at Sandringham, Stellenbosch from Friday, 28 April 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 (pages/Cheese-Festival), Twitter (@SACheeseFest) and Instagram (sacheesefest).

Nation in conversation – focus on the dairy industry

Nation in conversation, which was broadcast on Soweto TV on 10 February 2017, focused on the dairy industry. To watch the video of the programme which features an interview with MPO CEO Dr Chris van Dijk, click [HERE](#).

International market

Arla plans to boost profitability with investment

Major international dairy company Arla Foods plans to invest €335 million in its production sites around the world in 2017. The planned investment is to support its Strategy 2020 by moving more milk from bulk into branded retail sales and food service. The investment is nearly 50 per cent higher than last year's plan and one of the highest-ever single-year supply chain investment forecasts in company history.

Most of the investments focus on production upgrades that will increase the profitability of products sold on core markets like Germany, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands and Finland, as well as on production sites that supply high-quality dairy products to Arla's emerging markets outside the European Union.

"With these investments we continue our relentless pursuit of the goals in our Strategy 2020 to move more milk from bulk into brands and to improve the profitability for our farmer-owners. You will see Arla take an even stronger position in the market as the innovative farmer-owned dairy company providing great-tasting, natural dairy products that help people make good food choices. That is the main focus of these investments", says Arla CEO Peder Tuborgh. To read more, click [HERE](#).

Africa's thirst for UHT milk grows

It seems that Africa and Asia are mainly responsible for the growth of the UHT market as consumers on these continents create a higher demand for the product. According to dairy market specialist Proteus Insight, UHT milk consumption in sub-Saharan Africa has increased at an average annual rate of 22% since 2013. This is in marked contrast to overall static white drinking milk markets in Europe and North America. The company's research investigated data from more than 30 sub-Saharan markets up to the end of 2015. There is a marked difference between Asia and Africa, in that Africa has a tradition of drinking milk, which is not the case in Asia. To read more about this, click [HERE](#).

Almond milk on the menu

Starbucks, one of America's favourite retailers when it comes to coffee shops, now offers almond milk on their menu, to be selected as a option to add to your caffeine drink. Non-dairy customers are now spoiled for choice as they can choose between three alternative non-dairy-based milks. The almond milk is added to soy milk and coconut milk. Starbucks introduced its first non-dairy milk alternative in 2004 with the launch of soy

milk, followed by coconut milk in February 2015.

Their decision to include almond milk is based on research. According to Starbucks' management more than half (58%) of all USA adults consume non-dairy milk, and almond milk is the most popular option, which has captured 60% of the non-dairy market. The data come from research done by Mintel Data, which tracks grocery shopping habits. To read more about this, click [HERE](#).

Technology transfer

On the road to sustainability

Sustainability is not a destination but a journey. We can never do enough to farm sustainably since we work with so many variables. It is an ongoing goal a farmer sets himself to be as productive and profitable as possible. He needs to commit to becoming a responsible steward of what has been entrusted to him. For an informative article on sustainable dairying in practice on Colin Wellbeloved's Melrose Farm in Boston, KwaZulu-Natal, turn to page 30 of the February issue of *The Dairy Mail*. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to www.agriconnect.co.za.

Events

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.

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

[Milk Producers' Organisation](#)
[The Dairy Mail](#)

Contact us

Dr Chris van Dijk
CEO: MPO

Barbara Bieldt
Manager: Market protection and development

Dr Koos Coetze – Economist

Philip Swart – MPO manager of member services

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 / 012 843 5600

PRINT | DIGITAL | MOBILE | RADIO | EVENTS | BRANDED CONTENT



Published by Agri Connect