



MELKPRODUSENTE-ORGANISASIE  
MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

# MILK BULLETIN

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

*Represents and empowers the producer*

**18 November 2016**

## Taking dairy research to a new level

On behalf of Milk SA and the MPO Dr Heinz Meissner and Dr Chris van Dijk met on Tuesday, 15 November with Dr Ilse Trautmann, Chief Director: Research and Technology and her team from the Department of Agriculture (DoA), Western Cape government to discuss important aspects of research, specifically on dairy in the Western Cape.

Feedback was also given on the recently completed evaluation of the research information needs of dairy producers in the Western Cape. Key evaluation findings were discussed, as well as recommendations, were discussed. An improvement plan was discussed with clear objectives set by the DoA. These objectives will now be shared with the management team of the Western Cape MPO on 29 November at the meeting in Swellendam to discuss the further roll-out and points of action to take R&D to the next level in the Western Cape.

## Overview of NAHF conference

Dr Chris van Dijk, representing the dairy industry, attended the National Animal Health Forum (NAHF) meeting in Pretoria on 17 November 2016. The official website of the NAHF was launched at the meeting. Please follow the link to the website to read about all the important activities being undertaken at the NAHF at present. The link is [www.nahf.co.za](http://www.nahf.co.za)

Some of the important matters on the agenda were the roll-out and implementation of the veterinary strategic plan, as well as discussions on brucellosis and the strategy currently being adopted, namely **vaccination, education and testing (VET)**. Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) also reported that they had sufficient stock of Brucella S19 vaccine which would enable producers, as required by law, to vaccinate all their female animals between the ages of three to eight months.

Although we don't have many dairy farmers in Limpopo, they need to be aware of foot-and-mouth disease as it was reported that border control and movement of animals over the borders are not optimal at present.

OBP also informed the meeting of the possibility of Rift Valley fever outbreaks, especially with the current raining season in the summer rainfall areas.

Rabies, a highly fatal zoonotic disease, was also discussed. Articles will very soon appear in *The Dairy Mail*, *Red Meat/Rooivleis* and *Wolboer/Wool Farmer* on the symptoms and what you need to do when you have a positive case on your farm. Any animal behaving abnormally (usually aggressively) while salivating a lot should be considered as a possible case of rabies. Your local vet or state vet should be contacted immediately and will take the case further.

## Interactive workshops on waste water management

Milk producers in the George, Swellendam and Malmesbury regions of the Western Cape attended workshops on how to manage waste water in terms of the requirements of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) and the Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) on 15, 16 and 17 November 2016. The workshops were well attended and there was a high level of interaction between the dairy farmers and government officials. Officials from the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs informed producers about the legislative requirements and the process involved with the registration and authorisation of effluent dams and irrigation from effluent dams in an informal and practical way. The interactive workshops provided the platform for dairy farmers and government to raise important issues which will be addressed in the near future. Developing and distributing a simplified list of requirements dairy farmers have to comply with are some of the action steps that were identified at the workshops. The MPO and officials from both departments stressed their commitment to supporting dairy farmers in being informed of the requirements, understanding what is expected by government and assisting them with the registration and authorisation processes.

## Diarise SALHC 2017

The South African Large Herds Conference will be held at Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensberg from 5 to 7 June 2017. The theme is “Resilience” – something that every farmer needs to have 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 are pleased to announce that Dr Jude Capper, who spoke so brilliantly on sustainability at the MPO’s National Congress in September this year, has accepted our invitation to address us once again at next year’s Large Herds Conference.

Should you wish to sponsor or exhibit, please contact Julie McLachlan on 083 740 2720 or [julie@mpo.co.za](mailto:julie@mpo.co.za)

## Successful dairy farm business management course held in Pretoria

The MPO Institute for Dairy Technology presented a very successful Dairy Farm Business Management Course at the MPO offices in Pretoria from 8 to 11 November 2016. The course addressed matters concerning the position of the local and world milk market, the importance of and concepts concerning strategic planning for the dairy farm, important managerial skills, quality management, labour legislation and management, financial management and environmental and natural resources management. Speakers at the course were Dr Chris van Dijk (CEO MPO), Carien Havenga, Jompie Burger (CEO DSA), Adv Ernst Richter, Dr Koos Coetzee (economist, MPO) and Craig Galloway (researcher at the Woodlands Dairy Sustainability Project).

## Farmers and agriculturists receive highest honour in agriculture

The Agricultural Writers SA recognised the outstanding achievements of commercial farmers, new entrants into commercial agriculture, and agriculturists at an awards evening held just outside Pretoria on Friday. Allesbeste Boerdery (Dr André, Liezel, Edrean and Zander Ernst) walked away with the honour of National Farmer of the Year, while Eric Ntlaba was honoured as the best new entrant into commercial agriculture. Dr Theo de Jager is the 2016 Agriculturist of the Year.

This prestigious event was sponsored by Absa, Monsanto and Santam Agriculture. Agricultural Writers SA has been honouring the best of the best in agriculture since 1977. **Press release.**

## Please complete the MPO survey

Milk producers are requested to complete the MPO’s electronic questionnaire that was sent to them recently. According to MPO economist Dr Koos Coetzee the MPO uses the information on milk production and herd numbers to give members timely and accurate statistics on the primary dairy industry. The MPO administers a statutory measure in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (Act 47 of 1996), which requires milk producers to register with the organisation and provide it with records and returns. Since the MPO collects and

assimilates the information, its confidentiality is guaranteed. No individual information will be supplied to anyone.

The MPO wishes to thank producers who have already completed and returned the questionnaire. Producers who have not yet completed the questionnaire are urged to do so as soon as possible. If you require more information, please contact Dr Koos Coetzee at 012 843 5600 or email him at [koos.coetzee@mpo.co.za](mailto:koos.coetzee@mpo.co.za).

Producers can use the following link to complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJM53FH>

## International market

### International dairy prices at highest level in 2,5 years

International dairy product prices are at their highest level since June 2014. The Global dairy trade price index reached 1 000 at the beginning of November 2016 and increased by a further 4,5% at the second sale on 15 November. Future prices are also positive. The prices of skimmed milk powder for delivery in the first four months of 2017 are between 9,1% and 10,8% and cheese prices more than 10,4% higher than at the previous sale. Butter prices for delivery in March to May 2017 are also higher.

The main reasons for the increase in global prices are the lower and in some cases negative production growth in major exporting countries and the slow recovery in global demand, especially in China. However, EU stock levels remain high and will limit future price increases.

The steady weakening of the South African rand (28% since June 2014) has resulted in a sharp increase in international product prices in rand terms. This has resulted in an increase in the import parity for South African processors and retailers.

### Extending shelf life

The shelf life of milk can be extended to seven weeks by putting milk through a rapid heating and cooling method. Researchers at the Purdue University in the USA are looking at this new technique which also reduces the amount of bacteria in milk significantly – even more than the pasteurisation process. To read more, click [HERE](#).

### Food safety saves lives

In this day and age over 500 million people are still affected by eating contaminated food. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) 420 000 of these people, including 125 000 children under five years of age, die, the organisation said in its first-ever estimates of the global burden of foodborne disease made available last year. Creating rapid pathogen detection methods is one of the ways to reduce that burden. Read more about modern methods of pathogen testing by clicking [HERE](#).

## Training

### Become a dairy farming mentor

The MPO Institute annually engages in programmes, coordinated by various agricultural colleges and universities and the AgriSeta, to help agricultural students gain experiential learning on dairy farms for a period of **one year**. These students are usually in their final year of Animal Production or Agricultural Management and need proof of experiential learning before they can be awarded their official qualifications.

Dairy farmers who agree to act as mentors for a student or students are expected to:

- provide accommodation for the student on the farm;
- ensure that the student get exposure, mentoring and supervision in any of the following dairy

disciplines:

- calf and heifer rearing
  - reproduction
  - dairy feeding and health
  - milk harvesting;
- write two **AgriSeta reports**: one after six months of internship and a final report at the end of the internship (12 months') period.
  - The format of the report includes a rating of the student on the various learning areas and general performance. The report will be emailed to the mentor for completion, and must then be returned to the MPO for further distribution.
  - Students also need to compile two **reports** for their respective **university/college**. However, it is the student's responsibility to discuss the requirements of the learning experience and reports with the mentor. The mentor should monitor the student's work progress, sign off the student's report and also submit two reports on the student's performance during the training period.
  - The MPO will pay monthly stipends of **R3 150** to the student.
  - The mentor should be in possession of an equivalent qualification, with five years' experience, or higher qualification in the same field that the student is studying. The MPO will act as the master mentor, should the mentor not have the required qualifications. The MPO will therefore sign off all the reports before they are submitted to the university/college.
  - Note that experiential learning can also be used as a skills development element in BBBEE scoring.
  - Experiential learning will take place from February 2017 to Jan 2018.

Kindly contact Helene Pheiffer (079 528 1394 / 012 843 5749 / helene@mpo.co.za) if you are interested in mentoring a student for experiential learning and any further enquiries.

## The Dairy Mail

### What do you know about your water risk?

The recent drought in South Africa has reminded us that we live in a water-scarce country and that water shortages could well be the new normal. Water challenges are likely to worsen in the future due to population growth, climate change, urbanisation and changing consumption patterns arising from higher incomes. Understanding one's water risk is the first step towards addressing its likely impacts. Turn to page 33 of the November issue of *The Dairy Mail* for an interesting article by Sue Viljoen, water stewardship project manager at WWF. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to [www.agricconnect.co.za](http://www.agricconnect.co.za).

*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.*

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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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