



MELKPRODUSENTE-ORGANISASIE
MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

MILK BULLETIN

In partnership with
the dairymail
Publication for the dairy industry

Represents and empowers the producer

20 January 2017

Embark on a journey of excellence in 2017!

With the first Milk Bulletin of 2017, the MPO wishes all milk producers and their families a blessed new year filled with opportunities. We look forward to embarking on a journey of excellence with our dairy farmers in 2017!

Local market

Milk intake marginally up in December

Based on Milk SA data, the total milk intake in December 2016 is estimated at 276 million litres, up 0,9% on December 2015. Drier conditions and water scarcity have resulted in a slowdown in production growth since September 2016. Total milk production for 2016 is estimated at 3 031 million litres, 1,4% less than in 2015. The milk:feed price ratio remains negative but production conditions and roughage availability, especially in inland areas, have improved. Water availability in the irrigation areas still remains scarce.

Imports and exports in 2016 down on 2015

Total imports during the first eleven months of 2016 were at 39 180 tonnes, 36% less than between January and November 2015. Exports were 18% lower than in 2015. On milk equivalent basis exports exceeded imports by 46 million litres.

Facts about bovine brucellosis

The National Animal Health Forum published links to various interviews with experts on bovine brucellosis which were broadcast on RSG. To listen to the recordings, click [HERE](#).

Outlook for agriculture in 2017

Dawie Maree, head of marketing and information at FNB, gave an overview of the outlook for agriculture in 2017 in an interview with Hennie Maas on RSG Landbou. To listen to this interesting interview, click [HERE](#).

International market

Sharp increase in international dairy product prices

The recently released quarterly review from the New Zealand Global Dairy Trade auction platform show that international dairy product prices increased on average by 47% in 2016 to reach a 30-month high in December

2016. From July 2016 the average price of full-cream milk powder increased by 68% and skimmed milk powder by 38%. At the latest auction held on 17 January prices were 0,6% up on the previous sale. The main reasons for higher prices are quoted as increased Asian demand and a lower supply.

A new perspective on dairy

Ireland's National Dairy Council wants to encourage sports enthusiasts to use dairy as their main protein source. They recently revamped their marketing campaign. For the next two years the Council will focus on reaching athletes, as they have discovered that most consumers do not associate dairy with a good source of protein. "We want sports enthusiasts to also discover the nutritional value of cheese and yoghurt, and not just milk", Zoe Kavanagh, chief director of Ireland's NDC says. To read more about this, click [HERE](#).

Hitting your somatic cell count target

A herd's somatic cell count is an easy way to prove a farmer's commitment to delivering good-quality milk. For Grand View Dairy a somatic cell count of 85 000 in a 1200 herd, it is a priority. "Somatic cell count has been about 85 000 for the last two years", Jackie Schnackel says. She manages the 1 200-cow herd owned by brothers Corey and Bruce Schmidt in Brillion, Wisconsin. They have six focus points in the management of their herd to enable them to achieve this. Read more about this, click [HERE](#).

Research

Test to determine overmilking

A simple test can help prevent damage to teat ends and compromised udder health caused by over- or undermilking. Recent research and field experience have shown that it is impossible to milk a cow completely dry because she is constantly producing milk. For practical tips and advice on the use of a strip yield test which looks at overall completeness of milking and can be done by anyone on the farm, click [HERE](#).

Technology transfer

Think about your sustainability checklist

Sustainability is quite the buzzword, and with good cause – it seems to exude excitement and the ability to draw people's interest. But what does it mean? How can individual farmers use these ideas to run good, profitable businesses? For an interesting article by Craig Galloway, researcher for the Woodlands Dairy Sustainability Project, turn to page 37 of the January issue of *The Dairy Mail*. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to www.agricconnect.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 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 again at this year's Large Herds Conference. Should you wish to sponsor or exhibit, please contact Julie McLachlan on 083 740 2720 or at julie@mpo.co.za

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Links

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