



MELKPRODUSENTE-ORGANISASIE  
MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

# MILK BULLETIN

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

*Represents and empowers the producer*

**27 January 2017**

## Exciting MPO North West Silage Day

Johan Strydom, chairman MPO North, invites milk producers to one of the highlights on the dairy calendar - a Silage Day on 16 February 2017. The event will take place on the farm Wolvenfontein in the Lichtenburg district from 08:30. Registrations will commence at 07:30. The programme promises to be interesting and informative, and includes presentations on the science of silage by experts, practical demonstrations and product exhibitions. The MPO's Institute for Dairy Technology and NWK will also present training to farm labourers. Click [HERE](#) for the invitation and programme.

All dairy farmers are also invited to a farmers' braai at Wolvenfontein farm on 15 February from 18:30. Piet Pompies will provide the entertainment for the evening. Click [HERE](#) for the invitation. For more information contact Benita on 073 116 8544 or send an email to [benita@mpo.co.za](mailto:benita@mpo.co.za).

## MPO North enters 2017 with style

MPO North chairman Johan Strydom is proud to announce that the region once again takes the lead in having obtained the go-ahead from the first ten milk producers to implement the revised MPO membership fee structure. Johan encourages the other MPO regions to take up the challenge.

## Cattle brucellosis in the spotlight

Dr Faffa Malan, manager of Ruvasa, gave an overview on Kyknet of the threat posed by brucellosis in a television interview conducted at Grootplaas. To view the interview, click [HERE](#).

## International market

### Milk more popular than ever

In the busy streets of Hong Kong, there is a new soft drink everybody craves. Believe it or not, it is milk! Sales of full-cream UHT milk in the city are booming, One-litre cartons of full-cream UHT milk has on occasion been even more popular than the world's most popular drink, Coca Cola. The product is sold in the 759 Store snack chain, which has 280 branches in Hong Kong. UHT full-cream milk produced in Jersey has become the drink of choice among families and young consumers.

Dairy chairman Andrew Le Gallais said: "We are regularly in the top ten of drink sales in our Hong Kong stores but to get to number one position and above Coca-Cola is really fantastic news, especially as it is a big place with a population of more than 7 million. Milk is proven to be a very nutritional drink and these people get it big time." To read more about this, click [HERE](#).

## Myths about cow's milk busted

Concerns that estrogen levels in cow's milk has an effect on blood levels and reproductive hormones in humans has been found to be just that, concerns and not a fact! In order to gain a better understanding about the link between estrogen in milk and blood estrogen levels, a team of researchers from the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia looked at the effects that different levels of milk estrogen had on adult mice. "The aim of our study was to evaluate whether the consumption of milk with known doses of estrogen could affect blood hormone levels and reproductive organs in mice", explained senior co-author Tomaz Snoj, DVM, PhD, Veterinary Faculty at the Institute for Preclinical Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

"Our results suggest that estrogen in milk, even when derived from cows in the third trimester of pregnancy, do not pose a risk to reproductive health", concluded Dr Majdic. "Even estrogen at concentrations 100 times higher than usually found in native milk did not cause any physiological effects in the present study." This is indicative that naturally occurring hormones in milk are found in far too low concentrations to have any biological effect on consumers. To read more about this, click [HERE](#).

## Advice on improving margins

Farmers have been encouraged to cut more costs to achieve relief in a tight market where low milk prices have been experienced over an extended period of time. Dairy farmers are under financial pressure have already cut all the costs they can – feed, labour and maintenance. For practical advice on improving margins without impacting milk production negatively, reproductive performance or labour efficiency, click [HERE](#).

## Technology transfer

## Check your hoof health checklist

Lameness in dairy herds is and continues to be one of the major factors that affects profitability, as well as the sustainability of cows in the herd. Not only are there direct costs involved in treating a lame cow, but indirect costs such as losses in milk production and reduced fertility also have a significant effect on cow longevity. For an interesting article by Jackie Tucker, ruminant nutritionist at Chemuniqué turn to page 50 of the January issue of *The Dairy Mail*. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to [www.agricconnect.co.za](http://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](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 about 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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