



MELKPRODUSENTE-ORGANISASIE  
MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

# MILK BULLETIN

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

*Represents and empowers the producer*

**5 May 2017**

## Local market

### SA Cheese Festival the best ever

Johan Ehlers, CEO of Agri-Expo, organisers of the SA Cheese Festival, attributed the success of the 16<sup>th</sup> Festival to the focus on cheese and this diverse dairy product's culinary companions, set in a festive Cape atmosphere. About 30 000 people attended the Festival at Sandringham where they enjoyed sampling 30 t of cheese from boutique and larger commercial cheeseries from across the country.

The Agri-Expo Cheesery, which enabled visitors to spend quality time with some of the country's best cheesemakers, proved to be very popular.

Consumers were treated to new and innovative cheeses, including those flavoured with coffee, red wine and lavender.

Agri-Expo joined forces with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, which enabled smaller producers and entrepreneurs to expose the consumer to their unique niche products such as figs, pomegranates, honey, mushrooms and more – all the perfect cheese companions.

Agri-Expo warmly thanks every visitor, exhibitor, partner, supplier and all co-workers who contributed to the success of the 16<sup>th</sup> SA Cheese Festival. **Press release.**

### Book your seat at the SALHC 2017

We are hard at work organising the 10<sup>th</sup> SA Large Herds conference, to be held at Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensberg from 5 to 7 June. Please visit our website: [www.largeherds.co.za](http://www.largeherds.co.za) for all the information on this conference.

We are bringing you the best speakers on the most relevant topics. After the last conference, we studied the feedback very carefully and also spoke to various dairy farmers, taking every comment to heart. The result is a programme offering pertinent topics and the very best speakers – international and local experts in their fields - for each topic.

All refreshments and lunches, as well as the meet-and-greet function will be presented in the Buttress and Summit halls. There will be a happy hour each day directly after the conference, which promises to be as popular as at the previous conferences. The Drakensberg Boys Choir will present a musical programme on Monday evening.

To register for the conference, please contact Julie McLachlan on 083 740 2720 or [julie@mpo.co.za](mailto:julie@mpo.co.za). Don't delay – avoid disappointment and register NOW.

Accommodation is arranged by Agri Travel & Tours. Please contact Anneke Kubannek on +27 12 843 5724 or [anneke@agrivia.co.za](mailto:anneke@agrivia.co.za) to book your accommodation. Please note that accommodation must be booked as soon as possible, otherwise we will lose the rooms that are being kept for us.

## Bovine brucellosis advice

Dr Sewellyn Davey, chairperson of the brucellosis working committee of the National Animal Health Forum, has drawn up an information document on the dangers of spreading bovine brucellosis via auctions and shows and what preventive measures to take in this regard. To read more, click [HERE](#).

## Implications of “junk status” for agriculture

Dr John Purchase, Agbiz, CEO wrote: "As the dust settles on the past month's dramatic political developments and South Africa's much-publicised investment downgrades by the rating agencies Standard and Poor's (S&P) and Fitch to so-called junk status, reality is setting in and we have to determine what the probable impact will be, and more importantly, how we deal with this less than satisfactory situation,". To read this interesting article, click [HERE](#).

## You are invited to MPO North West farmers' meetings

MPO North West chairman Johan Strydom invites milk producers to attend the region's route meetings that will be held in Sannieshof, Ottosdal, Klerksdorp and Potchefstroom from 22 to 24 May 2017. The aim of the meetings will be to provide a platform where dairy farmers in the province can exchange ideas and experiences in an informal manner. Dairy farmers who attend the meetings will also have the opportunity to interact with MPO directors and staff. Some of the meetings will be held on dairy farms. Join the MPO North West at one of the meetings below.

Date	Place
Monday, 29 May	Sannieshof
Tuesday, 23 May	Ottosdal Klerksdorp
Wednesday, 24 May	Potchefstroom

For more information contact Benita Oelofsen on 073 116 8544 or send an email to [benita@mpo.co.za](mailto:benita@mpo.co.za).

## International market

### US Secretary of Agriculture supports school milk options

US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced that the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) will implement regulations to allow school districts to again offer low-fat (1%) flavoured milk as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programmes. The USDA excluded low-fat flavoured milk as a school meal option under the Obama Administration. This led to a decline in the consumption of school milk and overall participation in the school lunch programme.

Jim Mulhern, president and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation, stated: "In just the first two years after low-fat flavoured milk was removed from the programme, 1,1 million fewer school students drank milk with their lunch. Secretary Perdue's action today recognises that a variety of milks and other healthy dairy foods are integral to child nutrition programmes in schools." To read more, click [HERE](#).

### EU milk producers reduce production

According to the final figures from the European Commission more than 48 000 milk producers from across the EU agreed to voluntarily reduce their milk production by approximately 861 000 tonnes from November 2016 to January 2017 in terms of the EU milk production reduction scheme. The once-off scheme was launched in 2016 by the EU Commission in response to the milk crisis. In terms of the scheme dairy farmers

are paid €0,14 for every actual kilogram of reduced milk production. According to the European Commission the scheme contributed to rising trends in EU milk prices and bringing markets closer to balance. To read more, click [HERE](#).

### Clean biofilm from calf facilities

According to Don Sockett, veterinary microbiologist at the University of Wisconsin it is critical to not only remove bedding when cleaning your calf facilities but also to effectively remove harmful biofilms. Cleaning calf pens goes beyond removing bedding to cleaning floors to remove biofilms that harbour bacteria which have a negative effect on calf health and farm profitability. Effective cleaning of calf facilities starts with the design which must include slopes and drains for water run-off. High-pressure washers should be avoided because of the risk of cross-contamination. Sockett states that biofilm is the community in which bacteria associated with respiratory disease, scours, roto virus and crypto live and describes biofilm as the enemy of calf raisers. "If your cleaning is not efficiently removing the biofilm layer, you're really not accomplishing much", Sockett claims. For practical advice on the efficient cleaning of your calf facilities, 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 continuously updating its schedule of 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 equips participants with the knowledge they need 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

#### Congratulations to the winner of our February competition!

Congratulations to Jurie Hartley of Juna Dairy, who is the winner of *The Dairy Mail's* competition in February to see who knows our industry the best. Jurie's projection of a monthly milk production of 222 million litres in February 2017 earned him a Russel Hobbs 5-in-1 coffee machine valued at R1 800 sponsored by Agri Bonus.

Do you know how much milk was supplied in South Africa in March 2017? Put your knowledge to the test and stand a chance to win. A winner will be announced every month and there are several prizes to be won. After 12 draws, a national winner will be announced at the MPO's 2018 gala dinner. Click [HERE](#) for more information and instructions on how to enter.

## Embracing technology to become better stewards

Although it comes with a daunting price tag, the construction of a biogas plant remains an attractive option for large-scale dairy farmers. Four years ago, Willem and Paul Basson from Uilenkraal in Darling in the Western Cape embarked upon such a project, and recently they had to make some adjustments. To read more about Uilenkraal's progressive waste management system, turn to page 38 of the June issue of *The Dairy Mail* for an article by Jacques Claassen. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to [www.agricconnect.co.za](http://www.agricconnect.co.za).

## Events

### Dare to dairy – save the date!

The SA Society of Dairy Technology will host its 50th 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. Click [HERE](#) to download the registration form and programme.

### Shuttle service to and from SALHC

Delegates to the SA Large Herds Conference, which will be held at the 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 the 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, for 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

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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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