



MELKPRODUSENTE-ORGANISASIE
MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION

MILK BULLETIN

In partnership with
the dairymail
Publication for the dairy industry

Represents and empowers the producer

7 October 2016

Imports still at low levels

Dairy product imports are still at lower levels than in 2015. In the first eight months of 2016, 38 371 tonnes of dairy product were imported, significantly less than the 62 537 tonnes imported during the same period last year. Exports are marginally down on 2015. In the first eight months 115 877 tonnes of dairy product were exported, compared to 121 495 tonnes in the same period last year. South Africa remains a net exporter of dairy products.

“Nutritious milk” celebrated

“A glass of fresh milk daily makes a healthy, active and smart kid” is the theme of recent local celebrations focusing on milk. Last week the MPO participated in the School Milk Day celebrations of the Department of Basic Education (DBE) held in Lichtenburg and Potchefstroom in North West. Pupils from Sensako Primary School in Lichtenburg and Keotshepile Primary School in Potchefstroom celebrated milk through song, dance and poetry on 28 and 29 September, respectively. The events were attended by officials from the DBE, the Department of Health (DoH) and the National School Nutrition Programme. The MPO informed the pupils about the process milk goes through from the cow to the consumer, the nutritional value of dairy and the importance of including milk and milk products in a balanced, healthy diet. Educational material supplied by Milk SA’s Consumer Education Project was handed to teachers to use in their classes. Every pupil – 2 500 in all – received a 250 ml portion of milk sponsored by Clover.

How to manage waste water

Milk producers in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape have the opportunity to find out 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. Following successful workshops held in the Eastern Cape last year the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation (DWS) and the MPO decided to roll out the workshops to milk producers in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. Workshops will be held in KwaZulu-Natal on 8 and 9 November 2016 and in the Western Cape on 15, 16 and 17 November. The interactive workshops will focus on the registration and authorisation of effluent dams for the storage and discharge of waste. Officials from the DWS and Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) will make presentations and address dairy farmers’ concerns in this regard. The departments are eager to explain the requirements of the Acts to dairy farmers so that the farmers can comply with them. The workshops are scheduled to take place at various venues in the following towns from 10:00 to 14:00.

KwaZulu-Natal

Date	Town
8 Nov	Ixopo
9 Nov	Estcourt

Western Cape

Date	Town
15 Nov	George
16 Nov	Swellendam
17 Nov	Malmesbury

The MPO supports the departments' efforts and urges farmers to attend the workshops. For more information contact Barbara Bieldt, MPO manager: market protection and development at 083 235 2629 or send an email to barbara@mpo.co.za.

Watch out for dairy equipment scam

Dairy farmers are warned about a scam in Port Elizabeth in which bulk cooling tanks are advertised at very low prices. People who are interested in buying the equipment are requested to pay a deposit to secure the purchase. The address mentioned in the advertisement does not exist and it was found that the photographs used had been copied from the Internet.

Dairy farmers are advised to insist on viewing any equipment advertised before making payments.

International market

International dairy prices recovering

International dairy product prices have been recovering rapidly since May 2016. At present prices are on average 48% higher than the lowest level reached in May 2016. The IFCN combined world milk price indicator passed the US\$30/100 kg milk in September, after it had remained below US\$30 for 15 months. The recovery in global dairy product prices was caused by a decrease in the growth of milk production. Such growth has come to an end in the European Union, and production in Oceania is lower than in 2015. The same is true for many South American countries. Total global milk supply growth slowed down to negative growth in September 2016. Positive demand side factors also influenced global prices. The global market is not as depressed as it was in 2014, Chinese imports increased by 22% year on year in the first half of 2016 and both the EU and USA managed their intervention stocks carefully.

Prices on the Global Dairy (GD) trade auction held on 5 October were 3% down on the previous auction at the end of September. However, the GD trade-weighted price index is at 885, still 41% higher than in March 2016. Prices will probably stabilise at current levels.

Walk the walk

It is your responsibility to walk the walk when you have the talk but this is not always the case as far as farm rescue movements are concerned. Many struggle with the rehabilitation of "rescue animals" because they do not understand the animal's real needs. The *Farm Journal's* Milk recently published a blog in this regard, demonstrating how a Jersey bull calf that had been removed from a farm exemplifies this. To read more, click [HERE](#).

Ice cream on the farm

Imagine having an ice cream stand on your farm, selling ice cream to visitors who wander onto your property. Some people may regard this as a preposterous plan with many risks but this is an everyday reality for a farmer in Wisconsin in the US. Tetzner's Dairy of Washburn milks 60 cows and has an on-farm processing facility with an ice cream stand. "We knew it was different than what other farms have, but I guess now you understand how unique it is to have our own farm and processing plant to make ice cream from milk", says Pete Tetzner, dairy processing plant manager. To read more, click [HERE](#).

Training

Training courses for dairy herd managers

The MPO and Milk SA will be presenting a second course for dairy herd managers: A dairy farm business management course at the MPO offices in Pretoria from 7 to 11 November 2016. The course will be presented by various industry experts and topics critical to effective and efficient dairy management will be covered. All dairy herd managers are invited to attend the course.

The Farm Business Management Course will cover:

- farm business management;
- farm labour management;
- financial and stock management; and
- natural resource management.

The registration fee per course is R500. Contact Helene Pheiffer at the MPO Institute for course details and registration at 012 843 5600/4759 or 079 528 1394 or helene@mpo.co.za. For more information, click [HERE](#).

The Dairy Mail

Innovative finance for a greener tomorrow

As South Africa gradually recovers from the worst drought in decades, there is no doubt that the dairy farming sector has been severely affected. On a positive note, it has been suggested that over the next decade the demand for milk production will increase. Not only is this an opportunity for farmers to invest in new manufacturing processes, but also to help grow the economy and create jobs. But could it pay to go green? Turn to page 62 of the October issue of *The Dairy Mail* for an interesting article by John Hudson, divisional manager for agriculture at Nedbank Business Banking. To read the digital copy of TDM, go to www.agriconnect.co.za.

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Contact us

Dr Chris van Dijk
CEO: MPO

Barbara Bieldt
Manager: Market Protection and Development

Dr Koos Coetzee – Economist

Philip Swart – MPO: Manager of Member Services

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