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WEEKLY NEWS – 20 November 2020

In today's newsletter –

- Understanding of the sheep export value chain necessary
- Dordabis farmers help local hostel
- FA and other news

Understanding of the sheep export value chain necessary

During the recent regional meetings, the LPO identified the need for members to better understand the sheep export value chain.

The past has taught us that if sheep abattoirs in Namibia only focus on the South African market, they are not competitive in the open market compared to the live export of slaughter-ready sheep to South Africa. Namibian producers are, however, willing to deliver their sheep to Namibian sheep abattoirs if these institutions can pay a competitive price.

To ensure sustainability primary products must automatically be drawn to these value chains. It is not sustainable to force producers through market regulations to sell their product to a certain value chain. The LPO, in collaboration with Hartlief (owner of the Farmers Meat Abattoir in Mariental), is currently planning research on whether sufficient value can be created for sheep meat in international markets to pay competitive prices for primary producers. This way an export abattoir will be able to automatically attract sheep to this value chain.

A steering committee consisting of producers and Hartlief is currently being established, after which the terms of the research study will be agreed upon. The aim is to start this study early in 2021.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS



Producers will be informed as soon as more information is available.

Dordabis farmers assist local hostel

The Dordabis Farmers' Association currently supports the school and the Stephanus Hostel in Dordabis that is run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Namibia.

After farmers were informed of the shortage of food and funds for the school the Farmers' Association decided to help by donating 120 mattresses to the hostel. In 2019 a FA member, Mr. Gerd Niehaus and his wife, fixed all the broken windows and requested businesses to donate taps, washbasins and toilets. The FA is currently busy raising funds for three solar-powered geysers and a big industrial stove. The matron of the hostel greatly appreciated the support they received from the FA.

Trade Fair coming to southern Africa

In October 2021 Messe München will host a trade fair, **bauma CONEXPO AFRICA 2021** (<https://www.bcafrica.com/en/>), in South Africa. This is sub-Saharan Africa's leading trade fair for construction, building material, mining, agriculture and forestry machines, machinery and vehicles. Farmers or organisations who would like to exhibit their products and get more information about the fair can download the following documents:

- Visitor flyer: [Click here](#),
- Africa flyer: [Click here](#),
- Application co-exhibitor: [Click here](#),
- Application international: [Click here](#),
- Application national: [Click here](#)

The Southern Africa-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry is the official authorized representative of German industry and trade and as such also represents various trade fairs in southern Africa. They officially represent Messe München, a world-renowned trade fair organizer situated in Munich, Germany.

For more information about Messe München visit their website at <https://messe-muenchen.de/en/>.

For more information about the trade fair contact Katrin Geisler at + 27 11 4862780 or

kgeisler@germanchamber.co.za.

Three agri-unions collaborate with NAIC

The three agricultural unions (NAU, NECFU and NNFU) have requested support from the Namibia Agricultural Industry Committee (NAIC).

All four parties concerned agree that there is a need to invest in the future and agriculture represents a key component to revitalise the Namibian economy. This success will only come through industry-level collaboration.

The Deputy Executive Director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Ms S. Kasheeta, welcomed the collaboration of the three unions in the interest of the farmers in Namibia.

The unions requested a letter of support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR). Such a letter of support would help greatly in securing funding for the livestock sector. It was agreed that although the unions and MAWLR may have slightly different approaches, they should support one another in achieving their goals. The unions hope to meet with MAWLR management this month and with the Minister and ED next year.

During October and November 2020, consultations continued regarding upscaling crop and livestock production and improving the profitability priorities of the NNFU, NAU and NECFU.

Presentations were done to each of the major stakeholders of NAIC to increase the understanding of the unions' plans as well as to incorporate their priorities.

Funding requests were submitted to each stakeholder. In general proposals to banks included plans to reduce banks' current defaulting rate as well as improve the profitability of future loans to ensure improved repayments from these loans.

In terms of the Meat Board and Agronomic Board of Namibia, the proposals were adjusted to ensure that the union-led initiative will increase production as well as levies paid which will result in increased and more resilient income streams for these Boards.

The possibility of insurance companies offering lower interest premiums for regenerative practices and outcomes is being pursued, as regenerative methods will increase climate resilience and reduce the impact of droughts.

The proposals are all being followed up and have been favourably received by the various stakeholders. The improved service delivery should increase membership of the unions – thereby contributing to their own sustainability.

FA and other news

Leonardville FA

Leonardville FA have their AGM and year-end function on 25 November at 17:00 in the FA hall. For more information contact Johannie Brenkmann at 062 581108 or lvillebv@gmail.com.

Helmeringhausen FA

They will host an informal year-end function on 28 November at 18:00 at the FA Centre. For more information contact Lizelle Murray at 063 283 309 or Whatsapp 081 7195689.

Karibib FA

Karibib FA will have a meeting on 28 November at 16:30 at the Etusis Lodge. Speakers are Riaan Oberholzer, Tobie le Roux, Adriaan Louw and Dr Herbert Schneider. For more information contact Doris Gladis at 061 237400 or doris@hemconamibia.com.

Biomass Fair 2021

The Standard Bank Biomass Fair 2021 will take place from 3 to 5 June 2021 at Otjiwa Lodge, Otjiwarongo. On 3 June will be the research symposium, on the 4th the conference and on 5 June the Expo. Details available from Roelien Coffee, 081 1240081, roelien@biomassfair.com.na.

Agra ProVision courses

| DATE | SUBJECT | PLACE | COST |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| 23-24 November | Dry land cultivation | Windhoek | N\$2 750 |
| 1-2 December | Hydroponics & Aquaponics | Windhoek | N\$2 750 |
| 7-8 December | Pasture Management | Windhoek | N\$2 750 |
| 8-9 December | Horticulture | Windhoek | N\$2 750 |

For more information contact Agra ProVision at 061 290 9208 or apvtraining@agra.com.na

Channel 7

Three highlights from the Afrikaans programme *Landbou Joernaal* at 06:00 on Saturday:

- Did you know that when you buy a South African wool jersey the wool can be traced to a certain animal and its welfare status? Come listen to *Landbouweekblad's* story about this.
- Bush fires are still a contentious issue, especially with the rainy season and the expected lightning. Michael Degè will give statistics and other information.

York Ritter talks about the challenges to import saffron bulbs.

A re-broadcast of Saturday's *Landbou Joernaal* takes place on Wednesday evenings from 20:00. Channel 7 can also be heard on their website at www.k7.com.na or on their cell phone app or on DStv Audio Channel 825. Enquiries and requests can be sent via SMS to 1023 with the code **landbou**. Like, share & follow the FB-page, Landbou op K7, for interesting agri-info.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

True life is lived when changes occur. (Leo Tolstoy)

Exchange Rate NAD (12 - 18 Nov 2020)

| | <i>Nov</i> | <i>EURO</i> | <i>USD</i> | <i>POUND</i> | <i>PULA</i> |
|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>Thursday</i> | 12 | 18.409 | 15.581 | 20.478 | 1.395 |
| <i>Friday</i> | 13 | 18.398 | 15.560 | 20.501 | 1.393 |
| <i>Saturday</i> | 14 | 18.335 | 15.493 | 20.447 | 1.388 |
| <i>Sunday</i> | 15 | 18.372 | 15.484 | 20.426 | 1.388 |
| <i>Monday</i> | 16 | 18.143 | 15.318 | 20.209 | 1.372 |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 17 | 18.289 | 15.417 | 20.420 | 1.381 |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 18 | 18.241 | 15.349 | 20.382 | 1.376 |

Saturday to Thursday: 17:00 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)