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30 October 2020 | IN TODAY'S NEWSLETTER

- **Scam involving the sale of livestock**
- **Forestry to take action against charcoal producers who violate new measures**
- **FA and other news**

Scam involving the sale of livestock

The Meat Board of Namibia would hereby like to inform all livestock producers of a scam involving the sale of livestock (specifically sheep and goat).

The perpetrators are using forged stock brand cards and are lately also illegally using the FANMeat logo in an attempt to legitimize the transaction.

The Meat Board hereby confirms that NO livestock sales are being conducted by the Meat Board. Producers are urged to do thorough background checks and to contact the Meat Board to verify stock brand certificates and -cards as well as producers using the FANMeat logo.

The information regarding current scams has been shared with the legal authorities. Producers are urged to report any suspected scams involving the sale of livestock to the Meat Board and to legal authorities.

Members may contact the Meat Board to verify a brand or producer before livestock transactions are done. Please contact Johan Engelbrecht at the Meat Board, 061 275856, chfanmeat@nammic.com.na.

Forestry to take action against charcoal producers who violate new measures

During the Namibia Charcoal Association's (NCA) visit to the Directorate Forestry this week, the Director, Mr Joseph Hailwa, promised that stricter action will be taken against those who violate the new measures to prevent bushfires.

The offices of the NAU and the NCA receive complaints daily from non-charcoal producers that neighbouring charcoal producing farms are not abiding by the new measures and thus increasing the fire hazard for their farms as well as neighbouring farms. Since the new measures were implemented on 1 August 2020, various bushfires have nevertheless occurred due to negligent charcoal burning where these measures were not adhered to.

Even though the Director of Forestry promised stricter action against perpetrators, he mentioned that the Directorate alone cannot solve this problem. He appealed to the NAU, NECFU and the NCA for cooperation.

Farmers who witness charcoal producers not following these measures and where a definite risk of a bushfire is present, must first approach the concerned farm owner or charcoal producer. In cases where this is not possible, or nothing came from the discussion, the perpetrators can be reported to the NCA office at 067 304 220 with photographic evidence where possible. The NCA office will contact the local regional Forestry officers, who will undertake an inspection. Perpetrators' harvest licences can be suspended immediately and as this is also an infringement of the law, charcoal producers can also be charged with civil action by Forestry for damage to nature.

The measures that came into effect on 1 August 2020 state that annual charcoal production between August and December may only be done provided the following measures are implemented:

- Cluster all kilns at a designated facility or central burning places per camp;
- An area of at least 5 meters radius must be cleared around grouped kilns;
- Charcoal producing farms should be surrounded by 15-meter firebreaks;
- Where kilns are lit, there must be constant supervision by a delegated person;
- Fire-fighting equipment must be accessible at central burning places.

The NAU urges all charcoal producers as well as non-charcoal producers to ensure as a team that they are aware of the prevention guidelines so as to manage the risk and prevention of bushfires.

Charcoal is a very important agricultural commodity for many farmers and the economy of the country. It also creates jobs for thousands of people in a country where unemployment is a huge problem, but the risks need to be managed.

Damara Breeders' Association offers course

A junior-level course will be presented on 18 and 19 November 2020 at the Omatjenne research farm at N\$ 450 per person. Registration is to be done via the Association by 13 November. Direct enquiries to Linda Sterkenburg at btgn@afol.com.na at 061 252994.

FA and other news

Kalkfeld FA

They have a members' meeting on 10 November at 08:30 at Farm Onduasú (on the D2493) of Ute & Kurt Kretzschmar. The guest speakers are Stuart Jacobs and Helmut von Seydlitz. Please RSVP by 2 November to Ute Kretzschmar at 081 2931707 or onduasuu@iway.na. For more information contact Silke von Gossler at 067 290119 or orua@iway.na.

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.

Agra ProVision courses

DATE	SUBJECT	PLACE	COST
2-3 November	Livestock production	Windhoek	N\$2 750
3-4 November	Applied Animal Health (Session 2)	Windhoek	N\$2 750
5-6 November	Cattle breeding for beginners	Windhoek	N\$2 750
10-11 November	Applied Animal Health (Session 3)	Windhoek	N\$2 750
12-13 November	Animal Feed	Windhoek	N\$2 750
17-19 November	Commercial pig production	Windhoek	N\$3 200
23-24 November	Dry land cultivation	Windhoek	N\$2 750

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

Landbou Joernaal on Channel 7

Saturday morning at 06:00 on *Landbou Joernaal*:

- The mystery of water divining will be discussed by Juan Coleman.
- Brigitte Reissner talks about her version of recycling on a small scale.
- Alani Janeke of *Landbouweekblad* gives advice on how to handle donations received for the recent runaway bushfires in South Africa and Namibia.

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**.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back. — Regina Bret