



Meat Board of Namibia

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MEAT BOARD PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN IDENTIFYING NEW MARKETS

In the past few years, The Meat Board launched several studies and investigations in a bid to identify evolving markets. In terms of beef, the South African, USA, Norwegian and European Union markets were initiated either by The Meat Board, or in conjunction with Meatco. Follow up animal health and meat hygiene negotiations are conducted by the Directorate Veterinary services, whereas trade agreements, where applicable, are conducted by the Agricultural Trade Forum. Recently, The Meat Board conducted research regarding several Middle Eastern markets which delivered promising results. Current markets are Foot-and-Mouth Disease sensitive and therefore Middle-Eastern markets can offer alternatives. We need to be cognisant of the current limited production of cattle and beef as a consequence of the 2019 drought, and that further research on alternative markets will not necessarily lead to market utilisation. Current markets like the South African weaner calf market and the European Union beef market remain extremely profitable markets for Namibian beef producers.

WEANER EXPORTS SHOW SIGNIFICANT DECREASE

Total cattle marketing (in comparison with the same period in 2019) significantly decreased by 31% for the period 1 January 2020 to August 2020, in spite of producer prices that showed a 2% increase for slaughter cattle and a 39% increase for weaner calves. Weaner calf exports that represent 63% of the total cattle market share, however decreased by 49% during the reported period. This is mainly due to a low supply and a greater demand from commercial slaughter cattle producers. The current favourable per kilogram weaner calf (200 – 250 kg) price at auctions, and the per kilogram B2 slaughter price relation encourage weaner calf production, and can potentially initiate future weaner calf exports.

ZAMBEZI EXPORT ABATTOIR STARTS COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTERING

The Zambezi export abattoir at Katima Mulilo started the commercial slaughtering of cattle on 29 September 2020. At the moment, 10 cattle are slaughtered every second day. In the next four weeks, this number will increase to 25 cattle per slaughter day. In the near future, the intended throughput is estimated at 45 cattle per slaughter day. Cattle prepared for slaughter and beef production are subjected to strict veterinary rules. The first shipment of so-called chilled beef is already available in Windhoek. Test reports for both abattoir readiness and Directorate Veterinary Audits have taken place under the banner of The Meat Board of Namibia.

SHEEP INDUSTRY REACHES HISTORICAL LOW

Meat Board statistics show that the total sheep marketing for the period 1 January 2020 to the end of August 2020 (in comparison with the same period in 2019) decreased by 56% in spite of producer prices that increased by 20%. Sheep exports decreased by 52%, despite covering 65% of the sheep market shares. In total, only 270, 000 sheep were marketed during this period, as a result of several factors like

drought, policy uncertainties, and predation. The local abattoir market share could only maintain 35%. Interestingly, the price difference between the Namibian and Northern Cape abattoirs still exceeds N\$5, 00 per kg despite the free market environment that exists. The total marketing, including the export of goats, decreased by 50% during this period in spite of an average price of N\$34.00 per kg.