

# Milk Essay

Vol 6 no 2 • September 2015

Tel 012 460 7312 • [www.milk.co.za](http://www.milk.co.za)

## CONTENTS



Dairy Standard Agency freshens up EHP's dairy responsibilities in the Eden district	2
Real time disease reporting by the farmer to the veterinarian	3
Slow process to export certification mentioned at the CEO Forum	4
Milk SA at the SA Large Herds Conference, PE	
Progress made in the export certification Task Team	5
Code of Practice for the Secondary Industry Sector	
Dr Coetzee on the International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN)	6
Improved co-operation discussed with Western Cape Department of Agriculture	7
CEO gave a Presentation at the SASAS Mini Symposium held at the Fort Hare University	8
Update on the Dairyman Training Project	9
CEO visited processors in KwaZulu-Natal	
Milk SA Board of Directors	10
Dr Chris Van Dijk appointed to the Board of Directors	
Changes in the quantities of retail sales and retail prices	11
Dairy legislation at your fingertips. . .	12

This is a publication of Milk SA. Milk SA was founded by the primary and secondary dairy industry sectors to promote a healthy South African dairy industry.

# Dairy Standard Agency freshens up EHP's dairy responsibilities in the Eden district

On 10 April 2015 in George, Jompie Burger (MD: DSA), gave a detailed lecture to the EHP's of the municipalities in the Eden district, which covers a large area in the southern Cape. Nico Fouché, CEO: Milk SA, also attended.

"Because of the wide spectrum of work within their portfolio, it is vital to impress upon them the importance of their role in respect of dairy in the primary and secondary industry sectors." These lectures are given once a year in the larger municipal districts throughout the country.

Jompie gave a broad overview of the dairy industry and Milk SA; highlighted important aspects regarding the various pieces of legislation concerned; the product specifications in terms of the

different dairy products as contained in the Code of Practice; and also pointed to a host of areas which required the attention of the EHP's when visiting a farm and a factory, such as attention to equipment, facilities and records. Amongst others, he showed statistics which indicated that bulk unpasteurized milk and packed unprocessed milk posed major risks to consumers.

The indispensable role of the EHP's as partners of the organized dairy industry as well as their powers to enforce the law were also stressed.



# Real time disease reporting by the farmer to the veterinarian



A major limitation in providing a planned herd health and production management service to livestock clients is the establishment and maintenance of a communication channel between the livestock farmer and the herd veterinarians. The advent of the "smart cell phone" which is equivalent to a mobile computer, can overcome this limitation and provide the solution for real time communication.

The emergency service provided by the herd veterinarian is in many cases an unplanned expense which can limit a close working relationship between the veterinarian and the dairy farmer - which is actually necessary for progress. Therefore, the ideal would be to follow a more structured disease prevention approach.

Currently, about half the livestock veterinarians in South Africa ( $\pm 100$  veterinary practices) report the diseases observed by them on a monthly basis to a centralized system. These veterinarians capture their reports, which are then aggregated and analysed to produce a monthly national report, which is available on Milk SA's website.

A structured extension system is envisaged which deals with the principles of disease prevention and their application at farm level, so that both the dairy farmer and veterinarian can use it to build a common understanding of the principles of disease prevention.

Disease monitoring must actually start where the cattle spend their time feeding (pasture or zero grazing) and resting. The workers who look after the cattle play a crucial role in the identification of the first signs of disease, because they have the opportunity to observe the animals over an extended period of time while they are eating or resting.

Future development includes a cellular phone application which will enable the livestock worker to communicate the structured observation of the first signs of disease to the computer at the milking parlour/office.

Dr Danie Odendaal is the project manager for the National Disease and Extension Systems Project of Milk SA.

# Slow process to export certification mentioned at the CEO Forum



During the recent CEO Forum in Pretoria, Nico Fouché made it clear that the South African dairy industry was concerned about the slow progress in getting export certification for the EU up to speed again. He lauded DAFF and the Department of Health for their cooperation on Milk SA's Export Certification Task Team, as well as for the results which had already been achieved with regard to the chemical

residue monitoring programme and the updating of legal requirements and standards in consultation with the industry; but requested that the necessary additional resources be made available and coordinated. Ms Lynette Havenga, Registrar of the SA Veterinary Council, added that the provincialized management of state veterinarian services was not conducive to harmonious management.

## Milk SA at the SA Large Herds Conference, Port Elizabeth

Milk SA was honoured to participate in the SALHC by means of an exhibition and a presentation by Dr Danie Odendaal on the National Disease Monitoring and Extension System Project. It was a privilege to be able to inform milk producers about Milk SA's valuable contributions to the dairy industry of South Africa.



*Dr Danie Odendaal explaining the new cellphone application to Nicky Serdyn, producer from Riebeeck-Wes.*

# Progress made in the export certification Task Team



CEO of Milk SA and Chairman of the Task Team, Nico Fouché, reported that he was delighted with the positive spirit of co-operation amongst the Task Team members which include Milk SA, DAFF and the DoH. Progress is being made in the following areas:

- A joint effort between Milk SA and DAFF to review the Veterinary Procedures Notices (VPN20) and the Standard Operating Procedures for the export of dairy products. This document applies to establishments wishing to be registered for export. Jompie Burger (DSA) and Dr Chantelle Erwee (DAFF) lead the process.
- Clarification on the administration of movement certificates: A special meeting will be held.
- DAFF will approach the EU Commission to start a process to establish the EU's import requirements for dairy products from South Africa.
- A special meeting will be held on communicable diseases.

## Code of Practice for the Secondary Industry Sector

At the recent General Meeting of Milk SA, Jompie Burger, MD of the Dairy Standard Agency, officially presented the Code of Practice for the Secondary Industry Sector, to Melt Loubser, Chairman of SAMPRO.

Mr Burger said the Code of Practice should be seen as an instrument that encourages industry self-regulation, which in turn enhances consumers' confidence. Mr Loubser praised the DSA for its crucial role in the promotion of a mature and responsible dairy industry and said that the organized dairy industry could take pride in this achievement.



*Jompie Burger (left) presenting the Code of Practice to Melt Loubser (right).*

The Code of Practice deals with various chapters including HACCP principles, the collection and reception of milk, processing of dairy products, packaging, cold storage, transportation, laboratory practice, building structure, documentation and records.



## Dr Coetzee on the International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN)

“International milk producer prices will have to increase in future to a long-term average price of US\$44,5 per 100 kg energy-corrected milk (R5,27/litre) to keep the global dairy supply and demand in balance.”

This is the consensus opinion of dairy scientists who attended the 16th IFCN Dairy Conference in Kiel, Germany between 8 and 10 June 2015.

Dr Koos Coetzee (Project Manager: Industry Information of Milk SA) represented the South African industry at the conference. Delegates agreed that current lower international producer prices will not encourage the increased production needed to fulfil the growing demand for dairy.

Delegates learnt that the IFCN world price index peaked at the end of 2013 and has since decreased steadily, thus reflecting the decrease in international product

prices. The IFCN world milk price indicator decreased by 16% from 2013 to 2014. This is the highest annual drop in prices since 2009. Global milk production increased by 25 million tonnes (3,1%) in 2014, mainly driven by the higher producer prices paid in 2013. Milk demand increased at an estimated 21 million tonnes or 2,7%. Current producer price levels are not sustainable. Dr Coetzee's attendance was partially funded by Milk SA.

## Improved co-operation discussed with Western Cape Department of Agriculture



*Left to right: Dr Heinz Meissner, Dr Ilse Trautmann, Marliné Burger, Nico Fouché, Annelene Swanepoel, Dr Buks Olivier, Dr Carel Muller.*

The Programme Manager: R&D and the CEO of Milk SA recently held a meeting with the Chief Director: Research and Technology Development Services of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and her team, to discuss ways to improve co-operation between the Department and Milk SA in terms of their Memorandum of Agreement.

It was decided to establish a Steering Committee as required by the MoA, which would oversee the implementation of decisions and activities as agreed, and ensure that internal and external communication were optimized.

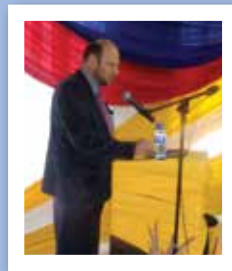
Because active involvement of milk producers in the province is of crucial importance, the CEO and Programme Manager engaged in discussions with the new CEO of the MPO, Dr Chris van Dijk.

# CEO gave a Presentation at the SASAS Mini Symposium held at the Fort Hare University

The South African Society of Animal Science: Eastern Cape branch (SASAS-EC) hosted their first event since the society was launched in 2014. The mini-symposium was held on 23 July 2015 at the University of Fort Hare (UFH) and attended by approximately 115 people. Eight speakers from various industries were invited to share information on i) the national and international scope of the industry, ii) latest technologies, iii) career opportunities and iv) research initiatives.

The purpose of the symposium was to orientate the undergraduate (and some postgraduate) students involved in animal production science on possible and relevant career paths. Furthermore, it was to serve as a reflection point for the currently established academics and scientists on improvement areas, to ensure that students maximize their research output through publications, conference presentations and community engagement.

The CEO also used the opportunity to visit Amadlelo Dairy (a member of SESCORD) and to discuss matters concerning the R&D programme of Milk SA, with the newly appointed herd manager, Mr Jarrod Beattie.



*Top: The CEO, Nico Fouché, delivers a presentation.*

*Above: Mazhangara Irene Rumbidzai, the recipient of the SASAS best Animal Science Student-class of 2014 with Prof Muchenje, Mr Ndlovu, Prof Mupangwa and Nico Fouché.*



# Update on the Dairyman Training Project



*Gerhard Venter*

Mr Gerhard Venter, SAMPRO Training Manager and Project Manager: Skills Development Projects of Milk SA, announced that the Dairyman Curriculum is being captured onto the official template for submission to QCTO and SAQA, for final approval.

SAMPRO, who is the Development Quality Partner and Assessment Quality Partner, has entered into a Service Level Agreement with FoodBev SETA to co-operate with the latter in assuring the quality of assessments for the Dairyman qualification.

A comprehensive Quality Management System has been submitted to FoodBev SETA in terms of which the Dairyman learning intervention should be managed. This has been provisionally approved and is being considered for final approval.

Once completed, information dissemination workshops with prospective industry users will be conducted to empower them to deploy this qualification.

In the meantime SAMPRO intends to run a further round of workshops in this second semester for interested enterprises. Nominations have been requested and received, while final arrangements are currently being made to conduct these workshops. A small number (7) of learners of a total of just less than 50 learners active in the Dairyman curriculum have completed their Portfolio's of Evidence and have subsequently completed their final assessments successfully. Three of them are Processed Cheese Makers and four Ripened Cheese Makers. All four are all from the Clover branch at Lichtenburg.

## CEO visited processors in KwaZulu-Natal

The CEO recently visited a number of milk processors in KwaZulu-Natal, mainly to foster a better understanding of Milk SA, its projects and the statutory requirements in terms of the monthly returns and levy payments.

"It was worthwhile and very pleasant to engage with the role-players directly, while

it was also a bonus to be able to experience the beauty of the Natal Midlands", said the CEO. He added that the "road show" had proved the importance of more effective communication - an aspect which was receiving attention currently.

# Milk South Africa Board of Directors March 2015



Pictured above, from left to right:

**Seated:** Frik Grobler, Tom Turner (Vice-Chairman), Prof Chris Blignaut (Chairman), Bertus de Jongh, Porchia Adams.

**Standing:** Willie Prinsloo, Godfrey Rathogwa, Alwyn Kraamwinkel, Melt Loubser, Nigel Lok, Jacques van Heerden.

## Dr Chris Van Dijk appointed to the Board of Directors



Dr Chris van Dijk was recently appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Milk Producers Organisation. Dr Van Dijk, previously from Zoetis SA, took over the reins from outgoing CEO, Bertus de Jongh and serves as an *ex officio* member on the Board of Milk SA.

# Changes in the quantities of retail sales and retail prices

Changes in the quantities of retail sales from the year April 2013 – March 2014 to the year April 2014 – March 2015, and changes in the retail prices from March 2014 to March 2015 of specific dairy products

Dairy product	Changes in retail sales quantity %	Changes in retail prices %
Fresh milk	2.9	9.2
Long life milk (UHT)	3.8	18.5
Flavoured milk	0.2	4.2
Yoghurt	2.8	5.1
Maas	4.6	10.0
Pre-packaged cheese	20.0	7.0
Cream cheese	1.8	10.8
Butter	2.2	13.3
Cream	8.1	8.5



# Dairy legislation at your fingertips ...

The DSA website offers a one-stop portal for every piece of legislation, guideline and code, which is easy to locate under the relevant sections:

