

Dear Producer

For your convenience, the Afrikaans version follows the English news.

In this week's news:

1. Meatco Special General Meeting: 3 February 2009
2. ATF responds to misleading article in Windhoek Observer
3. N\$10 000 Delivery Agreement Lucky Draw winner announced
4. Reminder: Delivery Agreements
5. Meatco National Braai
6. Top Ten Producers: November & December 2008

1. Meatco Special General Meeting: 3 February 2009

All producers delivering to Meatco, regardless of membership, are herewith reminded of a Special General Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 3 February 2009, at 10h00 at the Out Of Africa Town Lodge, 43 Long Street, Otjiwarongo.

The meeting has been requested by Meatco's members in terms of terms of article 14 (5) (b) of the Meat Corporation of Namibia Act, Act 1 of 2001 to discuss the future ownership structure of Meatco.

For more information, kindly contact us on 061 -321 6400.

2. ATF responds to misleading article in Windhoek Observer of 17 January 2009 entitled: "EU decision mean massive losses for Meatco and Namibian Beef Farmers"

This article is based on a media release by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) at the beginning of December 2007 and was relevant at that time, when Namibia was not sure whether the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA) between the European Commission and Namibia would be initialled or not. Consequently, Namibia initialled the IEPA on 12 December 2007, while noting her concerns in this agreement with the procedure of initialling. This opened the way for Duty and Quota free (DFQF) access of all Namibian exports to the EU markets from the 1st of January 2008.

Negotiations during 2008 were ongoing, focusing on market access issues and the initial concerns raised by Namibia. This process has not been concluded and is still ongoing. New negotiations, especially on a combined market access formula for all Southern African Customs Union (SACU) member states, including South Africa, will be resumed. Possible internal Southern African Development Community (SADC) – EPA negotiations may start middle February, to formulate a common SACU position in market access negotiations with the EC.

The concerns raised by Namibia are related to Namibia's own developmental policies. Conditions placed upon Namibia by the EC in the IEPA are not economically and politically acceptable to Namibia and have to be negotiated to lessen the impact on Namibia's internal sovereignty.

The heading of the article in the Windhoek Observer: “EU decision means massive losses for Meatco and Namibian Beef Farmers” was relevant at the beginning of December 2007, but not thereafter. The contents of this article mirror the press release by the MTI before Namibia initialled the IEPA and through this, got DFQF market access to the EU markets as from 1st January 2008.

The article and its heading is misleading and far behind times and further developments. Namibia has enjoyed DFQF market access for all its products – and not only for meat- since 1 January 2008 and still enjoys this preference.

The same argument is applicable to the second article on the same page of the Windhoek Observer of 17 January 2009, titled: “Impact on Meatco following the loss of the preferential market access to the EU”. Again, this contribution by the Chairman of the Meatco Board of Directors, Mr. Arne Gressmann, is relevant only in the context of the possibility of Namibia NOT initialling the IEPA, which was effected on 12 December 2007. The article is, therefore, not relevant to the current state of play of the negotiation process.

On the one hand, it is regrettable that through bad research a wrong impression has been created by the Windhoek Observer. The article published is without any substance in regard to the current efforts of Namibia to come to a successful conclusion of the negotiations with the European Commission. It even undermines the current negotiation process and misinforms its readers. Only a successful finalisation of the whole negotiation process will safeguard the DFQF access of all Namibian products to the EU markets indefinitely.

On the other hand, the article attributed to Mr. Gressmann , although outdated (in fact, more than one year old) and written out of context, nevertheless illustrates the possible consequences of the loss of market access if the negotiations, in the future, will not be successful and possibly so, ends in a stalemate or is terminated and only in a worst case scenario.

All role-players can be assured that the Ministry of Trade and Industry is well aware of the results of the possible loss of DFQF market access not only for the meat export sector but also for the whole Namibian economy. The main priority of the Ministry is to negotiate and conclude an agreement beneficial to Namibia. – *Jürgen Hoffmann, ATF.*

3. Congratulations to the 2008 winner of Meatco’s N\$10 000 Delivery Agreement Lucky Draw, Mr. Niklaas Mberirua from Windhoek.

The N\$10 000 lucky draw-campaign was run for two years (2007 and 2008) and served to generate interest about cattle marketing to Meatco. To qualify for the draw, producers south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) had to sign a Delivery Agreement with Meatco and delivery on it once, whilst producers north thereof had to deliver at least one animal to the factory at Oshakati or Katima Mulilo.

Mr. Mberirua was one of 2 727 cattle producers automatically entered into the draw. The lucky draw to place on 19 January 2009 and was audited by KPMG. *Read the full article in your January edition of the Meatco News.*

4. Meatco Delivery Agreement

You are kindly reminded that you have until Tuesday, **31 March 2009**, to sign a Delivery Agreement with Meatco if you want to market your animals from **May 2009 until December 2009**.

Meatco is currently preparing at operational level for the implementation of the two new contracts, namely the *Off Season Contract* and the *Peak Season Delivery Agreement*. These contracts were suggested at a producer forum held in October 2008. The operational preparation is scheduled for completion during April 2009, where after a test run will take place.

In the meantime, producers are invited to sign a temporary Delivery Agreement for the delivery periods mentioned above. Once implemented, the new contracts (i.e. the *Off Season Contract* and the *Peak Season Delivery Agreement*) will be open for signing 12 months per year. **Read the full report in the January issue of the Meatco News.**

5. Meatco National Braai – Okahandja

Hollywood! That is the theme of the 2009 Meatco National Braai Competition to be hosted by the Okahandja Farmers' Association (FA) on 24 & 25 April 2009. The competition will again take on a *ready, steady, cook* format, so as to level the playing field so that all participants – master chefs or not – stand a chance to win.

Apart from the N\$70 000 up for grabs for the conquering FA to host next years competition with, the winning social teams stand the change to win N\$10 000 for their effort. Other prizes amount to tens of thousands of Namibia Dollars. All FAs from both the communal and commercial farming sector are heartily invited to shine their braai forks and enter teams of three participants.

This year's judging panel include Elzabe Zietsman and Francois Ferreira from South Africa, as well as our very own cooking guru Sanet Prinsloo. Participants and the public alike can also look forward to live entertainment from Eden on the evening of the 25th.

What is more, all participating FAs that have to travel more than 200 km to reach the venue, will receive a N\$500 fuel voucher.

To enter, contact Johan Pieterse at 062 – 203 381 or 081 227 9702 or email him at johanp@iway.na. Entries close on 20 March 2009.

6. Top Ten Producers:

November 2008

NR.	PRODUCER	TOP TEN POINT
1	W. Metzger	94.70
2	E.W. Fischer	94.20

3	C.J. Steenkamp T/A S&M Boerdery	92.10
4	Espag Abraham Jacobus	91.10
5	H.H. Frowerk	90.60
6	Pommersche Farmgesellschaft	90.50
7	K.D. Rumpf	90.30
8	C.H. Bornman	90.20
9	S. Wilckens	90.00
10	P. Zensi	90.00

December 2008

NR.	PRODUCER	TOP TEN POINT
1	W.R.M. von Maltzahn	91.80
2	Pommersche Farmgesellschaft	91.50
3	E.W. Fischer	90.80
4	A.A.R. Klose	89.50
5	H. Halenke	89.10
6	W. Metzger	88.90
7	Otongovi Farming	88.00
8	L.S. Family Trust	87.80
9	P.W.A. Schaëpe	87.60
10	Nico Pretorius Trust	87.00

Your next e-newsletter will be sent 4 February 2009.

Geagte Produsent

In vandeeweek se nuus:

1. Meatco Spesiale Algemene Vergadering: 3 Februarie 2009
2. ATF reageer op misleidende artikel in Windhoek Observer
3. Wenner van die N\$10 000 Leweringsoorenkoms geluktrekking bekend gemaak!
4. Herinnering: Leweringsoorenkoms
5. Meatco Nasionale Braai
6. Top Tien Produsente: November & Desember 2008

1. Meatco Spesiale Algemene Vergadering: 3 Februarie 2009

Alle produsente wat aan Meatco lewer, ongeag van lidmaatskap, word hiermee herinner aan die Spesiale Algemene Vergadering wat op Dinsdag, 3 Februarie 2009, om 10h00 by die Out Of Africa Town Lodge, 43 Long-straat, Otjiwarongo, gehou word.

Die vergadering is ingevolge artikel 14 (5) (b) van die Vleiskorporasie-wet van Namibië, Wet 1 van 2001 byeengeroep om die toekomstige eienaarskap van Meatco te bespreek.

Vir meer inligting, skakel asseblief 061 -321 6400.

2. ATF reageer op misleidende artikel in die Windhoek Observer van 17 January 2009 getiteld “EU-besluit hou ernome verliese vir Meatco en Namibiese beesvleisprodusente in”

Hierdie artikel is gebasseer op ‘n media-verklaring deur die Ministerie van Handel en Nywerheid begin Desember 2007 en was relevant ten tye van uitreiking, toe onsekerheid geheers het oor of die Tussentydse Ekonomiese Vennootskapsooreenkoms (IEPA) tussen die Europese Kommissie en Namibië onderteken sou word.

Namibië het gevolglik haar bekommernisse oor hierdie ooreenkoms genoteer en die IEPA is op 12 Desember 2007 geparafeer. Dit het tot gevolg gehad dat alle Namibiese uitvoere na die Europese Unie (EU) sedert 1 January 2008 kwota- en invoerbelastingvry (DFQF) geskied.

Onderhandelinge is in 2008 voortgesit en het gehandel oor kwessies oor marktoegang en Namibië se aanvanklike bekommernisse. Hierdie proses is nog nie afgehandel nie en duur voort. Nuwe onderhandelinge, spesifiek oor ‘n gesamentlike marktoegangsformule vir alle lidlande van die Suider-Afrikaanse Doeanes-unie (SACU), insluitende Suid-Afrika, sal hervat word.

Interne Suider-Afrikaanse Ontwikkelingsgemeenskap (SAOG)-EPA-onderhandelinge kan moontlik middel Februarie 2009 afskop ten einde ‘n algemene SACU-posisie vir onderhandelinge met die EU oor marktoegang te formuleer.

Die bekommernisse wat deur Namibië gelig is hou verband met haar eie ontwikkelingsbeleide. Van die voorwaardes soos wat deur die EU in die IEPA gestipuleer is, is nie ekonomies en polities aanvaarbaar vir Namibië nie en onderhandelinge moet plaasvind ten einde die impak op Namibië se interne oppermag te verminder.

Die opskrif van die artikel in die Windhoek Observer: “EU-besluit hou enorme verliese vir Meatco en Namibiese beesvleisprodusente in” sou relevant wees begin Desember 2007, maar nie daarna nie. Die inhoud van hierdie artikel is gebasseer op ‘n media-verklaring wat die Ministerie van Handel en Nywerheid vóór die parafering van die IEPA uitgereik het. Deur die parafering van die IEPA, is DFQF-marktoegang tot die EU reeds vanaf 1 Januarie 2008 bekom.

Die artikel en opskrif is misleidend en ver agter wat tyd en verdere ontwikkelinge daarna betref. Namibië geniet al sedert 1 Januarie 2008 en steeds DFQF-marktoegang vir al haar produkte (nie net vleis nie).

Dieselfde argument is van toepassing op die tweede artikel op dieselfde blad van die Windhoek Observer van 17 Januarie 2009, getiteld: “Marktoegang tot EU verloor: die impak op Meatco”

Weer eens, die bydrae van die Voorsitter van die Meatco Direksie, mnr. Arne Gressmann, sou net relevant wees indien Namibië NIE die IEPA onderteken het soos sy op 12 Desember 2007 gedoen het

nie. Hierdie artikel is daarom ook nie relevant in terme van die huidige stand van sake. Dit is jammer dat 'n verkeerde indruk as gevolg van swak navorsing deur die Windhoek Observer geskep is.

Die artikel is gepubliseer sonder enige verwysing na Namibië se huidige pogings om die onderhandelinge met die Europese Kommissie suksesvol af te sluit. Dit is misleidend en ondermyn selfs die huidige onderhandelingsproses. Net die suksesvolle finalisering van die onderhandelingsproses sal die DFQF-toegang van alle Namibiese produkte tot EU-markte onbepaald beveilig.

Hoewel die artikel met mnr. Gressmann se kommentaar verouderd is (meer as 'n jaar oud) en buite konteks gebruik is, illustreer dit nietemin die moontlike nagevolge sou toekomstige onderhandelinge onsuksesvol wees of 'n dooiepunt bereik en marktoegang verloor word. Hierdie moontlike nagevolge weerspieël toestande in die slegste moontlike scenario.

Alle rolspelers kan gerus wees dat die Ministerie van Handel en Nywerheid bewus is van hierdie die nagevolge – nie net vir die rooivleisbedryf nie, maar die hele Namibiese ekonomie. Die Ministerie se hoofprioriteit is om te onderhandel vir 'n ooreenkoms wat voordelig is vir Namibië. – *Jürgen Hoffmann, ATF.*

3. Geluk aan die wenner van die 2008 N\$10 000 Leweringsooreenkoms geluktrekking, mnr. Niklaas Mberirua van Windhoek.

Die N\$10 000 geluktrekking is vir twee agtereenvolgende jare aangebied (2007 en 2008) om belangstelling in die bemarkingsprosedures na Meatco te prikkel. Om vir die geluktrekking te kwalifiseer, moes produsente suid van die rooilyn 'n kontrak met Meatco aangaan en ten minste eenkeer daarop lewer, terwyl produsente noord van die rooilyn minstens een bees na die fabriek op Oshakati of Katima Mulilo moes slag.

Mnr. Mberirua was een van 2 727 produsente wat automaties vir die geluktrekking kwalifiseer het. Die geluktrekking het op 19 Januarie 2009 plaasgevind en is deur KPMG waargeneem. *Lees die volle berig in die Januarie-uitgawe van die Meatco Nuus.*

4. Meatco Leweringsooreenkoms

U word daaraan herinner dat u tot Dinsdag, **31 Maart 2009** tyd het om 'n Leweringsooreenkoms met Meatco aan te gaan indien u, u diere vanaf **Mei 2009 tot Desember 2009** wil bemark.

Meatco is tans besig met voorbereiding op bedryfsvlak om die twee nuwe voorgestelde kontrakte te implementeer. Dit sluit in 'n *Off Season Contract (afseisoen kontrak)* en die *Peak Season Delivery Agreement (drukseisoen leweringsooreenkoms)* soos voorgestel tydens 'n produsente-forum gehou in Oktober 2008. Die voorbereiding op bedryfsvlak is geskeduleer om teen April 2009 voltooi te wees, waarna 'n toetslopie sal plaasvind.

Intussen word produsente uitgenooi om 'n tydelike Leweringsooreenkoms vir die bogenoemde leweringstye te teken. Die nuwe kontrakte (met ander woorde die *afseisoen kontrak* en die *drukseisoen leweringsooreenkoms*) sal, wanneer geïmplementeer word, 12 maande van die jaar oop wees vir ondertekening. *Lees die volledige berig in die Januarie-uitgawe van die Meatco Nuus.*

5. Meatco National Braai – Okahandja

Hollywood! Dit is die tema van die 2009 Meatco Nasionale Braaikompetisie wat vanjaar op 24 en 25 April deur die Okahandja Boerevereniging (BV) aangebied word. Die kompetisie neem weer 'n *ready, steady, cook*-formaat aan ten einde die speelveld gelyk te maak en alle deelnemers – bobaaskokke of *de not* – die kans staan om te wen.

Afgesien van die N\$70 000 prysgeld waarmee die oorwinnende BV wegstap om volgende jaar se kompetisie mee aan te bied, is N\$10 000 in die sosiale afdeling op die spel. Ander bykomende pryse beloop tienduisende Namibiese Dollar. Alle BVs van beide die kommunale en kommersiële sektor word hartlik uitgenooi om hul braaivurke blink te vryf en 'n span van drie lede in te skryf.

Vanjaar se beoordelaarspan bestaan onder meer uit Elzabe Zietsman en Francois Ferreira van Suid-Afrika, asook Namibië se eie kos-ghoeroe, Sanet Prinsloo. Deelnemers en die publiek kan ook uitsien na vermaak uit die boonste rakke met Eden wat die aand van die 25ste optree.

Daarbenewens kwalifiseer all deelnemende BVs wat meer as 200 kilometer moet reis om aan die kompetisie deel te neem vir 'n N\$500 brandstof-bewys.

Kontak gerus vir Johan Pieterse by 062 – 203 381, 081 227 9702 of johanp@iway.na om 'n inskrywingsvorm te bekom. Inskrywings sluit op 20 Maar 2009.

6. Top Tien Produsente:

November 2008

NR.	PRODUSENT	TOP TIEN PUNT
1	W. Metzger	94.70
2	E.W. Fischer	94.20
3	C.J. Steenkamp T/A S&M Boerdery	92.10
4	Espag Abraham Jacobus	91.10
5	H.H. Frowerk	90.60
6	Pommersche Farmgesellschaft	90.50
7	K.D. Rumpf	90.30
8	C.H. Bornman	90.20
9	S. Wilckens	90.00
10	P. Zensi	90.00

Desember 2008

NR.	PRODUSENT	TOP TEN PUNT
-----	-----------	--------------

1	W.R.M von Maltzahn	91.80
2	Pommersche Farmgesellschaft	91.50
3	E.W. Fischer	90.80
4	A.A.R. Klose	89.50
5	H. Halenke	89.10
6	W. Metzger	88.90
7	Otongovi Farming	88.00
8	L.S. Family Trust	87.80
9	P.W.A. Schaëpe	87.60
10	Nico Pretorius Trust	87.00