

Dear Producer

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

In this week's news from Meatco:

1. Double ear tagging: answers to the questions raised at Farmer Liaison Committee Meetings;
2. Repeat: Only Namibian bred and born cattle allowed to be slaughtered at Meatco;
3. 2009 Meatco Producer of the Year to be announced this Friday
4. Closing dates of Meatco abattoirs for routine maintenance.

### **1. Double ear tagging: feedback from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry**

The implementation timeline for double ear tagging in Namibia has been suggested by the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) to be as follows:

1. All cattle of 6 months and older to have double tags by 30 June 2010;
2. Veterinary officials to conduct an ear tag audit on 1 April 2010 and
3. A pilot study to test the sending of reminders about outstanding permits to producers via SMS and per post to take place from 1 October 2009 to 31 December 2009.

Please note that these are suggested dates only and the MAWF will officially announce and gazette the dates soonest.

Following questions from producer representatives at the recent Farmer Liaison Committee Meetings about whether or not the new visual tags will be large enough for farmers to write their own cattle identification numbers on it, Dr. Alexander Toto said that there will be no change in the current sizes of ear tags. He said that there will be two options to choose from, one being the standard visual tag as is currently being used and the second being the MaxiTag (large) which is presently being used by producers to add their own animal identity numbers.

He added that the MAWF will soon announce support to producers towards the implementation of the double ear tag system. Currently the price guideline is N\$16,50 per ear tag set.

### **2. Reminder: only Namibian bred and born cattle are allowed to be slaughtered at Meatco**

Producers are kindly reminded that in line with regulations from the European Union (EU), only Namibian born and bred cattle are allowed to be slaughtered at Meatco's abattoirs. The reason for this is that cattle coming from other countries cannot be guaranteed to be hormone free. This regulation applies for all animals originating from other countries, including stud animals whether they are male or female.

Namibian cattle, when exported to other countries, are identified with an **N** brand mark on the side of the face, whilst cattle from South Africa, for example, are marked with an <>.

### **3. 2009 Meatco Producer of the Year to be announced this Friday**

Meatco's annual Producer Awards takes place this coming Friday evening and cattle farmers from across Namibia are biting nails while waiting to hear who will be announced the 2009 Producer of the Year.

This year's gala will be hosted against the lush backdrop of the Parliament Gardens in Windhoek and with nearly 250 guests who confirmed their attendance, this year's event promises to be the biggest yet.

Meatco's Producer Awards ceremony is aimed at rewarding farmers who have delivered exceptional quality cattle throughout the year. Categories in which prizes will be handed over include:

- Producers of the Month (2008/9);
- Big Five (the five biggest cattle suppliers);
- Judges Winners (on-the-hoof);
- Farmers' Association Competition;
- Northern Communal Areas (NCAs) winners and
- The Top Ten Producers of the Year 2009.

Many surprises are in store in terms of who will be winning which prizes. Watch this space to find out who was crowned the 2009 Meatco Producer of the Year...

### **4. Closing dates of Meatco abattoirs for routine maintenance**

The closing dates of Meatco's abattoirs for routine maintenance work are as follows:

The Windhoek abattoir's last slaughter day for 2009 will be on 18 December and the factory will reopen for slaughtering on 5 January 2010.

The Okahandja abattoir will be closed as from Friday, 4 December 2009. The factory will be undergoing large scale maintenance to its floors and will only reopen for slaughtering in March 2010.

The Katima Mulilo abattoir will temporarily close on 16 December 2009 and reopen for slaughtering on 11 January 2010. Meanwhile, the abattoir at Oshakati will close for slaughtering on 27 November 2009 and reopen during the first week of February 2009.

Your next e-newsletter will be sent on Wednesday, 11 November 2009.

Geagte Produsent

In vandeeweek se Meatco-nuus:

1. Dubbele oorplaatjies: antwoorde op vrae wat gerig is by Skakelkomiteevergaderings;
2. Herinnering: net bees wat in Namibië geteel en gebore is mag by Meatco geslag word;
3. Die 2009 Meatco Produsent van die Jaar word Vrydag aangekondig en
4. Die sluitingsdatums van Meatco-aanlegte.

## **1. Dubbele oorplaatjies: antwoorde op vrae wat gerig is by Skakelkomiteevergaderings**

Die implementeringstydlyn van die dubbele oorplaatjies in Namibië is as volg deur die Direkoraat van Veeartsenydiens (DVS) voorgestel:

1. Alle bees ouer as ses maande moet teen 30 Junie 2010 met dubbele oorplaatjies toegerus wees;
2. Veeartsenybeamptes sal 'n oorplaatjie-oudit doen op 1 April 2010 en
3. 'n Proeflopie om produsente via SMS en die pos te herinner aan uitstaande permitte moet van 1 Oktober 2009 tot 31 Desember 2009 geskied.

Neem asseblief kennis dat die bogenoemde datums voorstelle is en dat die Ministerie van Landbou, Water en Bosbou (MAWF) dit so gou moontlik amptelik sal aankondig en in die staatskoerant aankondig.

Tydens Meatco se Skakelkomiteevergaderings verlede week, wou produsente weet of die nuwe visuele oorplaatjies steeds groot genoeg sal wees sodat hulle, hulle eie reeksnommers daarop kan skryf. Dr. Alexander Toto het sy versekering gegee dat daar geen verandering in die huidige grootte van die visuele oorplaatjies gaan wees nie. Hy het gesê daar gaan twee opsies wees waaruit produsente sal kan kies. Dit sluit in die standaard visuele plaatjie soos huidiglik gebruik word en tweedens, die MaxiTag (groot) wat produsente op die oomblik gebruik om hul eie reeksnommers op aan te dui.

Dr. Toto het bygevoeg dat die MAWF binnekort 'n aankondiging sal maak in verband met finansiële ondersteuning met die implementering van die dubbele oorplaatjies. Tans is die prysriglyn N\$16,50 per stel oorplaatjies.

## **2. Herinnering: net bees wat in Namibië geteel en gebore is mag by Meatco geslag word**

Produsente word vriendelik daaraan herinner dat soos in lyn met die reëls en regulasies van die Europese Unie (EU), mag net bees wat in Namibië geteel en gebore is by Meatco geslag word. Die rede hiervoor is dat bees wat van ander lande ingevoer word nie hormoon-vry gewaarborg kan word nie. Hierdie reël geld vir alle bees wat van ander lande ingevoer word, insluitende manlike en vroulike stoetbees.

Wanneer Namibiese bees na ander lande uitgevoer word, word dit deur 'n **N**-brandmerk geïdentifiseer, terwyl diere van Suid-Afrika byvoorbeeld met 'n **<>** brandmerk uitgeken word.

## **3. Die 2009 Meatco Produsent van die Jaar word Vrydag aangekondig**

Meatco se jaarlikse Produsentetoekennings vind komende Vrydagaand plaas en beesprodusente van regoor Namibië byt naels in afwagting om te hoor wie is die 2009 Produsent van die Jaar.

Vanjaar se prysuitdeling word teen die asemrowende agtergrond van die Parlementstuine in Windhoek gehou en met nagenoeg 250 gaste wat reeds hul bywoning bevestig het, belooft dit om die grootste funksie nog te wees.

Meatco se Produsentetoekennings is daarop gemik om produsente wie uitstekende gehalte bees gelewer het te vergoed. Kategorieë waarin pryse oorhandig gaan word sluit in:

- Produsente van die Maand (2008/9);
- Groot Vyf (die grootste vyf leweraars);
- Beoordelaars wenners (op-die-hoef);
- Boerevereniging Kompetisie;
- Noordelike Kommunale Area (NCA) wenners en
- Die Top Tien Produsente van die Jaar 2009.

Heelwat verrassings is in stoor in terme van wie gaan watter pryse ontvang. Hou hierdie spasie dop om uit te vind wie is as die 2009 Meatco Produsent van die Jaar gekroon...

#### **4. Sluitingsdatums van Meatco-aanlegte vir roetine onderhoudwerk**

Meatco se abattoirs sluit elke jaar tydelik vir roetine-herstelwerk. Vanjaar se datums lyk as volg:

Die Windhoek-fabriek se laaste slagdag vir 2009 sal wees op 18 Desember. Die fabriek sal op 5 Januarie 2010 vir verslagting heropen.

Die Okahandja-fabriek sal op 4 Desember 2009 tydelik sluit en grootskaalse herstelwerk aan sy vloere ondergaan. Die fabriek sal eers weer in Maart 2010 begin slag.

Die fabriek op Katima Mulilo sal op 16 Desember 2009 sluit vir verslagting en op 11 Januarie 2009 heropen. Op Oshakati sal bedrywigheide op 27 November tydelik tot stilstand geroep word en verslagting sal eers gedurende die eerste week in Februarie hervat.