Livestock Zimbabwe Update: 29th May 2020

OVERVIEW
The business environment continues to be stretched as inflation and a run on the rate has exacerbated the difficult macroeconomic conditions. COVID-19 hygiene protocols have also added unexpected costs for all businesses and constrained cashflows.

Cattle sales have resumed at the Mt Hampden Sale Pens under strict conditions, an encouraging sign that the sector is slowly recovering.

Results on research on alternative feeding regimes to lower feed costs carried out at the University of Zimbabwe and Chinhoyi University of Technology were expected at the end of the academic year after students had submitted their theses. However, these will be delayed by the current COVID-19 regulations and protocols.

Inclusive Poultry Value Chain Project
The Poultry Industry Market Price Bulletin Numbers 6 and 7 was released last week and it was noted that month-on-month price increases occurred once again across all types of poultry and poultry products.

The IPVC team attended the needs assessment exercise for the Gweru and Mutare clusters in line with the revised IPVC strategy and is a step towards the establishment of the Poultry Business Associations (PBA). The Team also met with legal counsel to discuss the concept and structure of PBA’s and Business Management Units as well as the content of their Constitutions and important considerations to note during the drafting process.

Pig and Goat Value Chain Activities
LMAC has been engaged to institutionalise grass roots livestock business associations and business management units under the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project. Currently, business plans are being developed for 14 District Goat Producers Associations and two Pig Producer Syndicates to strengthen their participation in the value chain and to benefit from advocacy undertaken by LMAC and its allied Associations.
**Beef Value Chain Activities**

LMAC has an advisory role in the setting up of Cattle Producer Associations under the Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST) project, funded by the European Union and part of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme. BEST have set aside funds to build infrastructure and help manage these regional associations up to 2022. As part of the business plans, strategies to create sustainability will be built in to ensure the associations can survive once the project has wrapped up. It is also expected that these associations will affiliate with LMAC and its allied associations into the future.

LMAC is also working with BEST in an assessment of the policy and regulatory costs of doing business in the beef sector. Consultants have been interviewed and work is expected to start soon.

LMAC is also contributing to proposals to create a framework for farmer – Department of Veterinary Services – private sector partnerships for the procurement and deployment of dipping chemicals and how the World Bank and other development partners can assist such a scheme.

**Enclosures**
- Poultry Industry Market Price Bulletin Numbers 6 and 7, 27th May 2020