OVERVIEW

While many businesses have re-opened, the shortage of public transport has shortened operating hours as staff are unable to easily get to and from the workplace, adding further stress to a volatile environment. Prices of basic commodities, including fuel, have also escalated unabated in the last week, eroding cash resources and disposable incomes. COVID-19 health and safety protocols remain in place.

Zimbabwe Herd Book

On behalf of the Mashona Cattle Society, cattle inspections were carried out at Fertyline Mashona Stud in Headlands. Carmen Stubbs is one of a special kind of cattle breeders who has long championed Zimbabwe’s indigenous breeds of cattle and has done much over the last 50 years to help ensure the survival, integrity and improvement of Zimbabwe’s indigenous cattle genetic heritage. She has recognised the value of this unique breed and the potential for genetic improvement through the same method of selective breeding used to continuously improve the world’s prominent cattle breeds over hundreds of years. Carmen has worked tirelessly to maintain the genetic purity of the Mashona breed, even when the thinking of the day in the 1960s and 70s was that massive infusion of exotic genes was the only way to improve indigenous breeds. She was also part of the dedicated group of breeders that registered cattle with the Indigenous Breeds Bureau, instituted performance and progeny testing and participated in the Mashona Group Breeding Scheme, Indibreed.

The Fertyline stud celebrated 50 years of Mashona breeding in 2013 and Carmen has inspired other producers to establish their own herds. Over 200 head of cattle were inspected, ranging from 12-year-old cows to heifers and all the bulls.

The Zimbabwe Boran Cattle Breeders Society will be hosting their annual Production Sale on Wednesday 1st July. Viewing is at Mr Hampden Sale Pens on 30th June. This indigenous breed from East Africa has gained popularity in Zimbabwe for its suitability to Zimbabwean farming conditions.
Inclusive Poultry Value Chain Project

Work is in progress for the strategy to create demand for egg consumption, including a work plan for an egg campaign. World Egg Day will be celebrated on 9th October this year and Zimbabwe will join the rest of the world in celebrating the *eggscellent* health and nutritional benefits of the power food, “egg”. According to statistics that have been generated by the International Egg Commission, one person in Zimbabwe eats 42 eggs per year or about one egg per week while per capita consumption in neighbouring South Africa is 150.

Enclosures

- Notification of the 5th Annual Production Sale of the Zimbabwe Boran Breeders Society
- Second Round Crop and Livestock Assessment Report, 2019/2020 Season