

23rd February 2023



Good day to you all,

Firstly, my apologies for not sending these messages to you as often as I had hoped.

I trust you have had a good rainy season, so far, I know the rains have been particularly patchy to start with – personally we have had the highest rainfall (to end January) since 1926. This was mostly in Nov & Dec, but I do know of other areas in the South of Zimbabwe, that were experiencing drought conditions during that period.

I have heard positive news, recently, from these (previously dry) areas. Most dams are spilling, or nearly full, grass is green, ready to carry the National cattle herd into the winter.

With the generally heavy rainfall around the country, there have been numerous cases of Theileriosis (January disease), please be very vigilant in your dipping program. There is very limited success with treatment of this disease, the only effective control measure is reducing the tick hosts – regular “effective” dipping.

Please don't take this disease lightly.

ZHB staff have suffered a technical setback with data being lost, thank you to the Staff for their efforts in restoring this information.

Recently ZHB Council have noticed that many of our Breed Society Constitutions are in serious need of an update. It has been agreed that all Constitutions must be updated, by the Breed Societies, by the 30th June 2023.

If these are not done, that breed won't be able to enter animals on the 2023 National Breed Sale.

Whilst on the National Breed Sale set for Saturday 29th July, all animals entered must be DNA Parentage Verified (at the cost of the seller).

The National Breed Sale is an Elite Sale (offering the best Zimbabwe has) and therefore we have set exceptional standards for the animals on offer.

We have had a very good response to the RTU Scanning offer for the end of April, *just over 900 head from 13 Breeders, representing 6 breeds.*

These animals will be evaluated for carcass traits as well as indicators related to onset of puberty correlated with female fertility.

Please continue focusing on the long-term industry we are LEADING.
The decisions we make affect the National Herd.

John Crawford
Chairman