

**Minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting of the Beef Producers Society held at 10:00h on
Friday 12th May 2023 in the Seminar Room, ART Farm, Harare**

Present: Shingai Jaravaza (Interim Chair/KJ) George Chiunda (Interim Vice Chair/GC)
Anne Cooke (AC) Kevin Higgins (KH)
Ranga, Huruba (RH) Stuart Tippett (TM)
Charles Mufudze (CM) Godadi Tafirei (GT)
Jaco Erasmus (JE) Richard Dennison (RD)
John Crawford (JC) Sandy Worswick (SW)
Julie Havercroft (JH) Nompumelelo Abu-Basutu
Peter Evans (PE) Alison Evans (AE)
Amen Nesvinga (AN) Maree Osborne (MO)
Rob Jarvis (RJ) Morris Madziyire (MM)
Jenny Joubert (JJ) John Anderson (JA)
Debbie Anderson (DA) Russell Smith (RS)
Dave Wakefield (DW) Marco Richards (MR)
Tapiwa Matasva (TM) Ericah Nyamande (EN)
Silent Dube (SD) D J Erasmus (DJE)
Lianne Herbst (LH) A Herbst (AH)
Amy Duffy (AD) Joseph Mponda (JM)
Gareth Hook (GH) Vimbai Munodawafa (VM)
David Nyamweda (DN) Joram Nyahora (JN)
Mussolini Ganyo (MG) G A Breytenback (GAB)
Zacharia Joubert (ZJ) Jairos Machakwa (JM)
Matilda Mabhiza (MM) N Mabhiza (NM)
R Mashinge (RM) Paula Jarman (PJ)
Mike Stobart Vallare (MSV) Ajs Kirk (AK)
Abel Nell (AN) Mildred Nleya (MN)
Trevor Shaw (TS) Mark Hook (MH)
Martin Matsa (MM) Prince Dizamuhupe (PD)
Max T Uzande (MTU) Kennedy Uzande (KU)
Boysen Joseph Matema (BJM) Elijah Mabhiza (EM)
Dewaal Viljiem (DV) Martin Mashingaidze (MM)
Christina Makuvis (CM) Fessy Chabikwa (FC)
Edith Muzondiwa (EM) Dennis Chabikwa (DC)
Pesman Mhere (PM) Francis Chirimuuta (FC)
Elliot Mutangadura (EM) Macdonald Chiroka (MC)
Philemon Madziyire (PM) Taurayi Taruvinga (TT)
Fradreck Chimhenga (FC) Chengetai Mukosera (CM)
Billy Mitchell (BM) Masimba Chigumira (MC)
D Jobson (BJ) Ncebisi Bruce Ndlovu (NBN)
Marcelino Jakuvos Jaya (MJJ) Steve Collins (SC)
James Duff (JD) Kudakwashe Ebrahim Onias Tombe (KT)
Dave Worswick (DW) Mario Beffa (MB)

In attendance: Taurai Piano (TP minuting)

<p>1</p>	<p>Notice convening the meeting</p> <p>The notice convening the Annual General Meeting was read and the meeting was convened.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Official opening</p> <p>Minister’s speech delivered by Dr Nyika the Principal Director of Veterinary Services</p> <p>SALUTATIONS</p> <p>Interim Chair of the Society - Shingi Jaravaza</p> <p>Invited Guest from RSA</p> <p>Breeders</p> <p>Auctioneers</p> <p>Cattle Farmers</p> <p>Abattoir Operators</p> <p>Ladies and Gentlemen</p> <p>It is indeed my singular honour and privilege to be invited to officiate at the launch of the Zimbabwe Beef Producers Society (ZBPS). This is yet another milestone achievement in our agriculture transformation agenda.</p> <p>Agriculture is the backbone of Zimbabwe’s economy and livestock is the backbone of agriculture for various reasons ranging from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only African currency not affected by inflation More than 80% of tillage for cropping is done by cattle Provides livelihoods to 70% of rural communities Provides raw materials to upstream and downstream industries Store of wealth Traditional uses – lobola <p>Ladies and gentlemen</p> <p>I am happy to note that the objectives of the Society speaks directly to the national blueprints, namely; The livestock Recovery and Plan, Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy, National Development Strategy 1 and ultimately attainment of Vision 2030.</p> <p>The livestock sector is faced with numerous challenges related to animal breeding and genetics, animal health, animal nutrition, climate change, marketing, access to concessional finance and the Livestock Growth Plan seeks to address these and other constraints. I am particularly happy that the Society joins other functional commodity associations like Poultry, Pork, Dairy, etc. The sleeping giant is waking up.</p>

Zimbabwe has climatic and agro-ecological conditions that are suitable for cattle production and a tradition and reputation for producing outstanding quality beef. The Society needs to tap into that and ensure orderly of cattle. The Society needs to grow the beef industry and take advantage of regional, continental and international export opportunities that are available. The Africa Continental Free Trade Area is one such great opportunity to tap into.

90% of Zimbabwe's national herd is in the hands of farmers owning 5 or less animals. The Society needs to work in the interests of all beef producers. The sustainability and growth of the industry in Zimbabwe will rely on the Society's ability to improve the production, productivity and profitability of the smallholder farmer.

Broadly, Zimbabwe Beef Producers' Society seeks to improve trading conditions for live animals (cattle) and animal products (beef) so as to uplift the small-scale farmers and improve their livelihoods. The conditions precedent for this affects all farmers. ZBPS seeks to achieve the following:

Information dissemination - improving networks for Beef Producers so they can improve fertility as well as lift the quality and grade of animals produced.

Stockman courses to be held across the country to provide management capacity to all beef farmers and those interested in farming beef.

Liaise and partner with state agencies on policy matters affecting the beef industry with a view to growing capacity and profitability for all players. Partnerships for growth.

Build producer business capacity to improve sustainability - notably, business skills, financial and cash flow management.

Ladies and gentlemen

Disease control poses a significant challenge and the cattle industry would benefit from an "all hands on the deck" approach to coming up with innovative and effective ways to control notifiable animal diseases and pests to enable farmers to trade freely.

I am happy to note that the Society is concerned about issues that impact beef cattle breeders. Breeding stock is going for slaughter and the Society should partner with other stakeholders to find better solutions that allow, particularly, young new and up and coming indigenous breeders to continue to make advances in the breeder market whilst supplying quality seed stock for the growth of the industry.

The challenges as articulated in the Livestock Growth Plan should be addressed with urgency if the sector is to grow. The Second Republic is willing and ready to work with the Society to ensure the growth of the beef cattle sub-sector.

Ladies and gentlemen

To conclude, I would like to assure the Society of the commitment by the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure the transformation of the Livestock Sector by providing the necessary technical and institutional support. I would like to invite all stakeholders to continually partner GOZ in support of the development of the livestock sector nationally, regionally and beyond, so that it can contribute significantly to the livelihoods of many communities, farmers and other stakeholders who depend on it.

With these few remarks, I would like to declare the ZBPS officially launched.

I thank you and wish you successful deliberations

Abel Nell's speech on Quality feed from Pastures

Some of the topics covered in the presentation include:

What is a Cover Crop?

The Main Purpose of Cover Crops?

Why Cover Crops?

Immediate savings of cover crops

Why multi-species cover crops?

Why multi-species cover crops?

Designing a Cover Crop Mix

Cover grazing systems

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

Dr Masukwa Director Veterinary Field Services speech

Livestock Sub-Sector

Agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy.

Livestock is the backbone of the agricultural sector.

contributes to the livelihoods of an estimated 70% of the country's rural population.

Diseases is one of the major limiting factors to livestock production.

'Without effective disease control there can be no cattle industry'

Veterinary services

Clinical services (treatment of diseased animals and control of production limiting disorders).

Preventive services (avoiding the outbreak of diseases).

	<p>Provision of drugs, vaccines and other products (such as artificial insemination). Veterinary public health (inspection of marketed animal products).</p> <p>Challenges</p> <p>Tick-borne diseases (Theileriosis/January disease, Heartwater, Redwater and Anaplasmosis/Gallsickness)</p> <p>Intensive dipping</p> <p>Dip tank rehabilitation</p> <p>War against JD</p> <p>Foot and mouth diseases outbreaks</p> <p>Vaccinations</p> <p>Animal movement controls</p> <p>Illegal cattle movements</p> <p>Veterinary check-points</p> <p>Prosecution and destruction of illegally moved animals</p> <p>Livestock identification; branding moving to electronic ear tagging</p> <p>Other production diseases (LSD, Anthrax, Blackleg)</p> <p>Vaccinations</p> <p>Animal movement controls</p> <p>Advisory services</p> <p>DVS Expectations</p> <p>Improved compliance to veterinary regulations by the organised beef sector.</p> <p>Enhanced Public-private partnership (PPP) for improved Veterinary Services and thereby improving outcomes in the beef sector. Examples include:</p> <p>Production of Newcastle vaccine (Vet services and Poultry producers);</p> <p>Crocodile Farmers Association provided vehicles for the Wildlife Unit;</p> <p>Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers augments FMD vaccines.</p> <p>Beef farmers to strengthen biosecurity for improved animal disease control.</p> <p>Beef farmers to not be partners in illegal animal movements.</p> <p>Beef farmers to be co-workers with the Veterinary Services in combating all vices that are drivers of the proliferation of disease outbreaks in the country.</p> <p><i>'Collaboration between the cattle industry and Veterinary Services is a critical and inalienable success factor important for the health and welfare of our animals.'</i></p>
3	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Troy Maidwell</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>The interim chair acknowledged ART Farm for making the venue available. Thanked and welcomed everyone for attending, acknowledging Dr Masukwa Director Veterinary Field Services for delivering a speech.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Zimbabwe Beef Producer Society was born out of a long-held need to represent, advocate for, and develop the interest of all beef farmers in Zimbabwe. It is a nonaligned organisation and exists for the improved conditions preside to the production of good Zimbabwean quality beef. Its mission is to promote the growth of the beef industry in our beloved country. It will work for the improvement of conditions of entry into the industry, advocate for the milia that will see small-scale farmers grow their beef operations and profitability and importantly work with the DVs, the ministry and other agencies to enhance both internal and re-establish external markets for beef producers. This requires a lot of hard work, and we all need to comply with the rules. We need to work on improving the conditions of our animals and building up production capacity. ZBPS is ready to work with all stakeholders, and crawl back inch by inch the elevated ground where small and large producers find an increase in profitability and sustainability. A central pillar will be stockman training bringing together large and small producers. ZBPS will advocate on behalf of producers with other value chain operators, the regulators, the marketers the abattoirs and the retailers and we need producers to win more.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Adoption of the Constitution</p> <p>The constitution was circulated through various WhatsApp groups and emails and hope everyone had a chance to read it.</p> <p>Name</p> <p>The name of the Association shall be the ZIMBABWE BEEF PRODUCERS SOCIETY hereinafter referred to as “ZBPS”</p> <p>Status</p> <p>ZBPS will represent all persons and entities involved with beef.</p> <p>ZBPS will have a COUNCIL with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 11 councilors elected initially for a period of one, two or three years.</p> <p>In each cycle of three years, two Councillors will retire at the end of the first year, and three Councillors at the end of each of the following two years.</p> <p>They will be eligible for re-election. Ideally, each Province will be represented by a Councillor and his Alternate.</p>

	<p>Registered Office</p> <p>The Association shall operate from a registered office. This office shall be housed at the Zimbabwe Herd Book until such a time as the Society elects to relocate it.</p> <p>Aims & Objects</p> <p>Promote long-term prosperity of Zimbabwean beef producers through the growth and development of the beef industry</p> <p>Advocate on behalf of stakeholders in the beef industry interacting with state agencies, feed producers, veterinary suppliers, auctioneers and abattoir operators, marketing agencies and consumers</p> <p>Create a network for obtaining, distilling and disseminating relevant information including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinary Department protocols Policy proposals and changes industry standards Beef production, management and business of growing beef Provision of cash flow tools for financial and production performance analysis Organise and host Stockmans’ courses and field days <p>Membership</p> <p>Full membership of ZBPS shall be open to any person who, or entity that, produces beef for sale or sells beef in Zimbabwe and has agreed to pay a levy at the point of sale</p> <p>A group of up to 20 small-scale farmers (A1) or communal farmers who must appoint a single contact person as their representative.</p> <p>The constitution was approved and adopted.</p>
6	<p>Election of Council members</p> <p>The interim council that has been working on the Zimbabwe Beef producers society since the last quarter of 2022 was elected adding a Bulawayo representative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harare: Anne Cooke and Doug Bruce Manicaland: Stu Tippet Mash Central: Shingai Jaravaza and Dave Wakefield Mash East: Charles Mufudze Mash West: Lianne Herbst Masvingo: Godard Tafirei Mat North: Troy Maidwell Mat South: Ranga Huruba

	<p>Midlands: George Chiunda and Fred Chimhenga Bulawayo: Ncebisi Bruce Ndlovu Ex Officio: Andrew Chamisa – GOZ; Brian Beattie – Abattoirs; Jaco Erasmus - Technical Services; Kevin Higgins – Auctions/Marketing; Blessing Ndoro -LMAC; Mario Beffa – ZHB</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Financial and Production Performance Analysis of Beef Cattle</p> <p>Jaco Erasmus presented a template for recording information for comparison of costios, benchmarking, analysis planning and budgeting. The cost of production template is that it is based on Animal Livestock Units, AUs, which allows comparison from year to year.</p> <p>Financial records and records of herd performance are of vital importance to the beef producer. Analysing past seasons assists in planning a new one. "Managing performance requires measuring performance". With a standardized procedure, a producer can assess his efficiency by comparing his figures across years and to those of other farmers. The following is a suggested template for recording basic information which generates useful results. A producer can use these figures for planning and budgeting. Anonymised figures can be sent into a central collection point and averages for a group can be calculated. A producer can then compare/benchmark his figures to the average.</p> <p>Production (numbers)</p> <p>Monthly livestock returns/inventories are relatively simple to maintain and when kept in spreadsheet format on a computer can easily be used to generate a cumulative annual livestock return. An example will be included in the notes.</p> <p>The template and notes will be available to registered members.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>Membership fees will be as follows: Communal and small-scale farmers (A1) - Up to 20 people in one membership, USD20 per year. For all other farmers, USD20 per individual per year.</p> <p>PJ Budler coming from America he has done 103 countries so far in the world. He will be giving a talk at CC Sales on the 13th of June at 09: 00hrs. He is very practical on cattle ranching and has seen more and has gone through more different production systems than any of us has ever seen.</p>

There being no further business meeting was closed at 13:10 am.