



Mentoring of emerging farmers at Elim

(PRJ-0042-2014)

Milk Producers Organisation

Quarter 4 2014 (October 2014 till December 2014)

Project goals

Goal 1 - Establishment of irrigation pasture

Achievements

Elim has 40ha irrigated pasture and 60 ha dry land. The pasture plan has been completed according to the business plan. Elim plans to develop extra irrigation in future, but as donor funds are depleted, Elim has to generate own funds for the installation of thereof. Approximately 34 tons of lucern were purchased in Dec 2014. Kikuyu has been planted for the December to March pasture. Pastures are currently in a very good condition.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Increase cows (to 200 cows in milk by Oct 2014)

Achievements

Herd composition:

- Cows in milk: 168
- Dry cows: 22
- Calves and heifers: 143
- Total herd: 333
- Average litre per cow: 16ℓ

The general health condition of the herd is good. A few cases of redwater (babesiosis) and gall sickness (anaplasmosis) occurred, but are under control.

Non-achievements / underperformance

Cows in milk did not increase to 200 in milk by Oct 2014.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

Though the aim was to extend the cows in milk to 200 by Oct 2014, the Elim technical committee decided against further extension to avoid pressure on the current fodder flow system. Elim purchased 22 Jersey cows from Elsenburg (8 cows in milk, 4 dry cows, 6 pregnant heifers and 4 calves of 12 months old). The initial plan to purchase cross breed cows was abandoned, as it was decided that cow numbers can only increase once extra irrigation has been implemented.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Elim dairy is planning for the implementation of an extra pivot. Water supply, capacity of the dam and the registration of the irrigation water are being investigated.

Goal 3 - Training

Achievements

Students (five Elim students and six neighbouring farm students) completed a Dairy Production course, presented by the IDT during Nov 2014. According to mentor feedback, the course was constructive and informative and the students viewed the course very positive.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Mentorship reports (every three months)

Achievements

The mentor pays three visits per month to Elim. The mentor's report for the period Oct – Dec 2014 include the following:

- Slasher and water troughs were purchased.
- Approximately 34 tons of lucern were purchased for extra roughage.
- Cows from Elsenburg were delivered in December 2014. The Elim Board of Directors approved the decision to only purchase Jersey cows and not the cross breeds as well. Cows are purchased through the Parmalat scheme, including a rent free loan that is subtracted from the monthly milk cheque.
- Planning and quotations for implementation of another pivot is a priority.
- Average milk production is between 16ℓ and 17ℓ milk per cow per day.
- Elim dairy function independently and survived 2014 without any government funds.

MASTER MENTOR VISIT: 20 NOV 2014

The master mentor, Jas Wasserman, and the project manager, Helene Pheiffer visited Elim on 20 Nov 2014. They engaged in a consultation session with the mentor and the herd manager, followed by a sight visit. The mentor's evaluation is as follow:

- The improvement from Aug 2014 to Nov 2014 has been significant, ie the milk production increased from 12.9ℓ per cow to 18.1ℓ per cow during the month of Nov.
- The volume increase can be ascribed to sound herd and feed management.
- Herd composition for Nov 2014 included: 144 cows in milk, 32 dry cows, 20 calves from 0-3 months, 21 heifers from 3-6 months, 22 heifers from 6-12 months, 80 heifers + 12 months. Total herd is 319.
- 8 Cows were culled during Nov.
- 10 Cows calved during Nov and 5 cows were dried up.
- 41 Cows were artificially inseminated.
- Quality of the milk is good as evident in the figures obtained from the milk recording reports:
 - o Butterfat 5.22%
 - o Protein 3.99%
 - o Lactose 4.85%
 - o MUN 15.5

- o SSC 284 000
 - o Days in milk 169
 - Dairy Production course was presented from 03 – 07 Nov 2014.
 - Upon recommendation by the master mentor a computerised milking management program was implemented in Oct 2014.
 - The master mentor also presented management programmes for the herd manager and parlour workers ie milk recording sheets, AI recoding, calving recording and a service recording programmes for the milking machines.
- Recommendations: Master mentor once again advised to spread milking times equally to increase milk production. (Milking times are at 06:00 at 15:30 and are advised to change to 05:00 to 16:00).

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	No file has been uploaded
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

[PHOTOS.ELIM DAIRY.NOV.2014.docx](#)

Statement

Levy funds were applied only for the purposes stated in the contract	Yes
Levy funds were applied in an appropriate and accountable manner	Yes
Sufficient management and internal control systems were in place to adequately control the project and accurately account for the project expenditure	Yes
The information provided in the report is correct	Yes