



Mentoring of emerging farmers at Elim

(PRJ-0042-2014)

Milk Producers Organisation -

Quarter 3 2014 (July 2014 till September 2014)

Project goals

Goal 1 - Establishment of irrigation pasture

Achievements

Pasture and irrigation plan are according to schedule.
Irrigation pastures are 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 is as follows:

- Cows in milk: 141
- Dry cows: 41
- Calves and heifers: 137
- Herd: 319

According to the Technical Committee reports, Elim planned to purchase calves through the "Parmalat Scheme". This decision has been negated following the negotiations with Elsenburg to hire 40 milking cows. These cows will be used to research breeding at Elsenburg. The funds generated by these cows will be reinvested in the community. Two pupils will be given the opportunity to attend an agricultural school on secondary level.

The condition of the herd is very good. Low yielding cows are continually culled.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Training

Achievements

Farmworkers and personnel attended a three day Farm Management course presented by the Department of Agriculture.

IDT Dairy Production Course has been scheduled for Nov 2014.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Mentorship reports (every three months)

Achievements

The mentor visits Elim three times per month. Technical committee meetings and board of directors meetings coincide with the mentor's visits. The following matters were reported by the mentor during Jul - Sep 2014:

Owing to excessive rain in the winter months, the irrigated pastures were mostly flooded and could not be used for grazing. Management is currently in consultation to construct draining systems to control the excess water. However, owing to the flooding, Elim had to address feeding practices to increase magnesium levels.

A pump system was also hired to clean the slurry pit.

Elim dairy has a positive turnover and bought a bakkie in Jul 2014.

The World Jersey Bureau visited Elim during the AgriMega exhibition. Approximately a 120 guests visited Elim and were introduced to Elim Dairy.

Master mentor visit: 16 July 2014

The IDT planned two visits, in the second and fourth quarter, for the master mentor during 2014. Owing to unforeseen circumstance the first visit only took place at the beginning of the third quarter. The visit was conducted by Jas Wasserman (master mentor) and Helene Pheiffer (project manager). The master mentor was highly impressed by the visible management improvement of Elim, since his previous visit two years before.

Milk production has increased significantly from 14 ℓ to 18 ℓ per cow per day.

Milk production was negatively affected by the inaccessibility of the irrigated pasture owing to flooding during the winter season. Walking distance for the milking cows from and to the dry paddock and milking parlour also affected milk production.

The master mentor suggested that the herd manager should consider spreading milking times equally to increase milk production.

Logic Milk, which has been contracted for milk recording, also distributes a copy of the Herd Management report to the master mentor monthly. With reference to these reports the master mentor regularly discusses matters regarding reproduction, milking machines and feeding with the herd manager.

Master mentor also facilitate programmes with the herd manager regarding weather recordings, cost management and herd composition.

Good dairy management, recordkeeping and planning are contributing to the positive condition of Elim.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	Copy of MPO REPORT MENTORSHIP 2014 Q3.xlsx
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

[ELIM DAIRY.PHOTOS.3.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