



**Mentoring at Elim**  
 (PRJ-0065-2015)  
**Milk Producers Organisation**

**Year 2015/2015** (January 2015 till December 2015)

**Project goals**

**Goal 1 - Monthly visits by Mentor to Elim**

**Achievements** *Please report on the monthly findings of the Mentor*

MENTOR VISITS 2015												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Visits	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	2	2

The mentor paid 25 visits to Elim during 2015 (*Note that mentor was only compensated for 24 visits*). The following important aspects can be elaborated upon:

**Pasture management:**

Rye grass was planted during the summer months (January to March).

Elim initially planned to prepare and plant 130ha of dry land, but owing to the drought and preparation cost it was decided to only prepare 60ha of dry land for triticale. Rural emerging farmers participated in the tender process of dry land preparation.

Too much rain damaged the quality of the dry land pastures during June, though it releases pressure from irrigated pasture that had serious drainage problems. The installation of drainage systems for the irrigated pastures is a priority. Pasture conditions however improved in October.

The installation of an extra pivot system has also been a priority for 2015. Owing to cash flow problems resulting from the decrease in the milk price, Elim decided to postpone this objective. The installation of a pivot system also requires approval from the community, an investigation into water availability, registration for additional water, an extra pump system and electricity. The installation of an extra pivot system is critical for herd extension of 200 cows in milk.

**Milk production and herd health:**

High herd average days in milk (DIM), negative energy balance (concentrate versus roughage) and fluctuations in the weather patterns contributed to the decrease of the average milk production from January to July. Milk production increase significantly from August and the average SSC is acceptable.

**Reproduction management:**

Artificial insemination during the beginning of 2015 was not successful. The Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg assisted Elim to improve conception rate.

**Personnel management:**

The herd manager resigned during June and one of the dairy workers was appointed as acting herd manager. The Elim board of directors participate in the management of the various sections and share responsibility. This new approach contributed to a positive attitude and work

commitment. The board of directors also participates in training sessions.

A dairy production course was presented during July and in-house calf rearing training conducted in November.

**See attached document for Herd Composition and Management Information.**

### ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

#### **Goal 2 - Two visits by Master Mentor to Elim: April - June and October - December**

##### ***Achievements*** *Please report on the findings of the Master Mentor*

Mr J. Wasserman (master mentor) had to reschedule a visit planned for June to August. The second visit took place in November. The master mentor introduced the daily recording of a meteorological, production and a sitobacteriological chart in order to provide monthly averages that will assist in production management.

Mr Wasserman also presented a briefing on the relation between high quality calf feeding and high milk production, to the Elim team. He was highly impressed with the hygienic milking parlour conditions and general positive attitude and motivation of the workers.

### ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

#### **Goal 3 - Articles in The Dairy Mail (x2)**

##### ***Achievements***

See attached articles.

### ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

## **Income and expenditure statement**

Income and expenditure statement	<a href="#">201512 final mentor budget.pdf</a>
Unnecessary spending during period	No

## **Popular Report**

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## **Additional documentation**

[Elim.Jan 2016.pdf](#)  
[Elim.Oct 2015.pdf](#)  
[ELIM.STATS.docx](#)  
[REPORT SUMMARY ELIM.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