



## ***Manager - Animal Health and Welfare Program of the DRDC***

**(PRJ-0390-2024)**

***Dr Mark Chimes***

***Year 2024*** (January 2024 till December 2024)

### **Project goals**

**Goal 1 - To attend 4 x DRDC quarterly meetings and give inputs as required**

#### ***Achievements***

4 Meetings were attended.

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

**Goal 2 - To attend 4 x NAHF quarterly meetings and give inputs as required**

#### ***Achievements***

4 NAHF meetings were attended.

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

**Goal 3 - To attend 4 x LWCC quarterly meetings and give inputs as required**

#### ***Achievements***

4 xLWCC meetings were attended.

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

**Goal 4 - To represent South Africa on the IDF-subcommittees for Animal Health & Welfare as well for Antimicrobial Resistance**

#### ***Achievements***

Representation at the IDF SCHAW is ongoing. I also attended the IDF meetings on AMR.

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

**Goal 5 - To attend 2 x IDF-subcommittee on Animal Health & Welfare annual meetings and give inputs as required**

***Achievements***

2 x IDF SCAHW was attended. One was attended in person at the IDF world conference in Paris.

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

**Goal 6 - To attend 2 x IDF Farmer's meetings and give inputs as required**

***Achievements***

I attended 2 x IDF Farmer's meetings. One was attended in person at the IDF world conference in Paris.

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

**Goal 7 - To be appointed to the SABS Technical Committees that are tasked with revising SANS 1694 & SANS 1488 and to make recommendations regarding the standards for the benefit of the dairy industry**

***Achievements***

The whole year was spent on trying to get a date set for the revision of the SANS regulations. A date has finally been set for early 2025.

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

**Goal 8 - To represent Milk SA by securing appointment to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and present inputs**

***Achievements***

The appointment of the MAC has been postponed until further notice.

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

**Goal 9 - To represent Milk SA as a guest lecturer on dairy animal welfare**

## and health at at least 2 universities

### ***Achievements***

I only managed to present a lecture at the University of Stellenbosch on "Brucellosis, TB and Foot and Mouth Disease".

### ***Non-achievements / underperformance***

I only managed to present one lecture to students during the year.

### ***Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance***

1. Since Dr Chris van Dijk has left Onderstepoort, they no longer offered the week long dairy symposium for students this year. As a result I was not invited to present a lecture.

2. Due to the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak in the Eastern Cape I was occupied with meetings on controlling the disease and presenting talks to farmers and interested parties on the effects and control of FMD.

### ***Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance***

FMD is under control, with the result that I will have more time available to present lectures again.

## **Goal 10 - To present 2 webinars for the DSA**

### ***Achievements***

I presented 3 webinars on behalf of the DSA on the following subjects:

1. Understanding lameness
2. Dairy calf welfare
3. How to reduce your somatic cell count

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

## **Goal 11 - To represent Milk SA at the RUVASA congress**

### ***Achievements***

I attended the World Veterinary Conference in Cape Town from 15 to 19 April 2024 and provided input in several post-lecture discussions.

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

**Goal 12 - To represent Milk SA at the Large Herds Congress**

***Achievements***

I attended the Large Herds Congress in Gheberha from 26 to 28 May 2024.

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

**Goal 13 - To represent Milk SA and South Africa at the IDF World Congress in Paris**

***Achievements***

I attended the IDF World Dairy Summit in Paris from 13 to 18 October 2024. I also attended the AGM of Standing Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SCAHW), the IDF Dairy Welfare Forum, the IDF joint meeting of the SCAHW and Farm Management Committee and the Farm Management Committee meeting. See reports attached.

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

**Goal 14 - To initiate the project to collect data on the status of calf welfare in South Africa**

***Achievements***

This project has started with limited success in terms of completed surveys received. However, there plans affot to improve the sirvey in 2025.

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

**Goal 15 - To assist the Red Meat Industry on how to set up a Biosecurity and Traceability system through the Veterinary Network based on my experiences in dairy farm audits**

***Achievements***

This role has been taken over by the RMIS that have initiated their own program for traceability. In addition the ECOS system has been implemented in the dairy industry of the Eastern Cape and also in the pork industry. I have been approached informally to advise on how to conduct the audits, based on my experience as a dairy parlour auditor. I will only be assiting in an informal role from now on.

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

## **Goal 16 - To assist in establishing a disease monitoring system through the abattoirs**

### ***Achievements***

This system has not materialised.

### ***Non-achievements / underperformance***

The aim was to establish a real-time electronic feedback system where animals are traced from the farm to the butcheries. The abattoirs would give immediate feedback on their meat inspection findings to assist the monthly disease reporting of RUVASA.

### ***Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance***

The Abattoir Association and the Food Safety Agency, whom between them, provide meat safety inspection services at nearly all abattoirs in SA are both reluctant to share their data with each other. In addition the RMIS has taken over the monthly disease reporting and are also implementing a traceability system for the red meat industry. As a result this role has been taken out of my hands.

### ***Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance***

I am withdrawing from this project and will only be assisting in an informal role as required.

## **Goal 17 - To support Milk SA by: a. Advising on matters pertaining to animal health and welfare b. Attending farmer days and presenting talks as required c. Compiling advisory documents for farmers on matters relating to animal health and welfare**

### ***Achievements***

I attended 4 x DRDC meetings, 4 x NAHF meetings, 4 x LWCC meetings, 2 x SAVA meetings, 2 x RUVASA meetings, 2 x TB/CA Steering committee meetings, presented 3 x DSA webinars, presented 1 x lecture at the Univ of Stellenbosch, presented 5 talks on FMD at farmers' days and other organisations, represented Milk SA at the RUVASA, IDF and Large Herds conferences, attended endless FMD JOC and FMD Technical control meetings, conducted several TV, radio and agricultural press interviews, produced farmer informational leaflets and chaired the TB/CA Steering Committee.

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

## Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	<a href="#">Expenditure Summary 2024 - Dr Mark Chimes.xlsx</a>
Unnecessary spending during period	No

## Popular Report

[POPULAR REPORT - Annual Report 2024 - M Chimes.docx](#)  
[Planned activities on behalf of Milk SA for 2025.docx](#)

## Additional documentation

- [1. SANCIDF Report - IDF Dairy Summit - Paris 2024 - Popular report - for publication.docx](#)
- [2. SANCIDF Report - IDF Dairy Summit - Summary - Dairy Mail Article.docx](#)
- [3. SANCIDF Report - IDF Dairy Summit - Meetings - SCAHW committee.docx](#)
- [4. SANCIDF Report - IDF Dairy Summit - Meetings - Farm management committee.docx](#)
- [5. SANCIDF Report - IDF Dairy Summit - Lectures - Experts views on global dairy trends.docx](#)
- [6. SANCIDF Report - IDF Dairy Summit - Lectures - Welfare on dairy farms.docx](#)
- [7. SANCIDF Report - IDF Dairy Summit - Attendance.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