



Manager - Animal Health and Welfare Program of the DRDC

(PRJ-0390-2024)

Dr Mark Chimes

Quarter 1 2024/2024 (January 2024 till March 2024)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The first meeting was attended on 15 March 2024 where I reported on the activities of the Animal Health & Welfare project.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

The first meeting was attended on 15 February 2024. My appointment as representing SAVA as well as Milk SA at the NAHF was officially accepted. The state has ample systems in place to control disease outbreaks but due to a shortage of veterinarians and funding the state has limited capacity to enforce the systems. The emphasis of the meeting was to improve biosecurity (especially to assist exports) by creating certified quarantine farms or to construct quarantine stations at the border entry posts. Foot and Mouth disease has become endemic in the wild buffalo populations of northern KZN. It is difficult to decide where to draw the new border for the FMD infected area since it will cause socio-economic and political disaster. The majority of cloven hooved animals in this area is in informal farmers' hands. No animals may be moved for lobola, wedding, funeral and religious slaughter reasons.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

The first meeting was attended on 16 February 2024. I reported that the SABS has finally stated

that they will be setting a meeting for the revision of the SANS regulations as requested. No date has been confirmed as yet. The LWCC wants to compile guidelines/Protocols for various health and welfare issues.

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

I have successfully been nominated to represent Milk SA / SANCIDF on the subcommittee for antimicrobial resistance (AMR). I am due to submit a report on what measures South Africa are taking and have in place to reduce AMR. I will also be giving farmer day talks on the responsible use of antibiotics on farms.

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

The first meeting was held on 26 March 2024. I gave a report on the activities of the Animal Health and Welfare subcommittee of the IDF.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

I have been requested to attend the IDF Farmers' Meetings as well to take cognisance of any issue that may relate to animal health, welfare and antimicrobial resistance. The first meeting is due to take place on 12 June 2024.

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

I have been appointed to the technical committee. I made contact with the SABS regarding setting a date. I was told

Non-achievements / underperformance

No date for the revision of SANS

that a date is due to be set, but that the person dealing with the issue was abroad at the time and would set it upon her return. I have not been able to confirm whether a date had been set yet. I will keep on presurising the SABS for a date.

1694 and SANS 1488 has been set yet.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

The SABS are trying to clear the backlog of existing revisions before adding new revisions. Some revisions took longer than anticipated and have run over the time allocated.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Keep the pressure on the SABS to set a date.

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

Achievements

No reply from the Committee has been received yet.

Non-achievements / underperformance

I am not appointed yet.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

No reply from the committee.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Keep pressurising them for an answer.

Goal 9 - To represent Milk SA as a guest lecturer on dairy animal welfare and health at at least 2 universities

Achievements

I have offered my services to the Univ of Stellenbosch, but have not received a reply yet. The lectures are usually presented in the second half of the year when the dairy section of the curriculum is taught.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - To present 2 webinars for the DSA

Achievements

On 20 March 2024 I presented the first webinar on "Understanding Lameness in dairy cows".

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 11 - To represent Milk SA at the RUVASA congress

Achievements

I will be attending the congress on 15-19 April 2024 in Cape Town. I hope to have in depth discussion with colleagues regarding

1. Reviving the brucellosis subcommittee
2. Getting the brucellosis subcommittee to attend to TB matters as well
3. What is our progress towards a FMD vaccine

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

The conference is due to be held on 27-28 May 2024 in PE.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

This will be held on 13-18 Oct 2024. My attendance still needs to be confirmed.

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

A cellphone app. was developed on Google Forms where the questions can be answered on a

drop down menu. The first questionnaires will only be completed in April 2024 when the dairy parlour audits start. This app will collate the answers and automate analysis.

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

I have been working with a company called BIOSEC to compile a practical audit system to verify biosecurity standards on animal production farms. The purpose is to establish a national system that can certify farms on their biosecurity standards so that biosecure farms can be identified with a nationally accepted mark of approval. This is an ongoing project.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

This is an ongoing process. I have made contact with the Food Safety Company that performs meat inspections at 140+ abattoirs. They are driving the process and will be developing the electronic system to report meat inspection results.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Advisory documents were completed in late 2023 on Selective dry cow treatment and Disbudding of calves. These documents were posted onto the Milk SA website and distributed to farmers that supply Lactalis. It has also been distributed to other milk processors and the MPO for distribution to their members and suppliers.

I am also booked to give talks at Lactalis' Farmer Days on 9 April (George), 9 May (Humansdorp) and 21 May (Swellendam). The subjects of my talks are "Disbudding of calves" and "The responsible use of antibiotics on dairy farms".

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	Expenditure 1st Quarter 2024 - Dr Mark Chimes.xlsx
Unnecessary spending during period	Yes
Explanation	The RUVASA conference fee (to be held in Cape Town from 16 to 19 Apr 2024) was approved and paid in Dec 2023 to get the early bird discount. This expense was not recorded in the last quarterly report of 2023 and therefore reported in the 1st quarterly report of 2024.
Steps taken to prevent unnecessary spending in future	No preventative steps required.

Popular Report

[2024 - 1st Quarter report.docx](#)

Additional documentation

[DSA-Paired Calf Housing and Group Housing_0224-v1.pdf](#)
[DSA-When to Intervene When a Cow is Calving_0224-v1.pdf](#)
[191st LWCC MEETING MINUTES - Draft 2 - 5 March 2024.docx](#)
[AGENDA - DALRRD-NAHF Liaison Meeting 2024-02-15.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