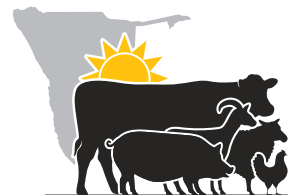


MEAT CHRONICLE

NEWSLETTER 1/2024



The Meat Board of Namibia undergoes a name change



**LIVESTOCK
AND LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTS BOARD
OF NAMIBIA**

Legislation was published in the Government Gazette of August 2023, which brought changes to the wider functions of the Meat Board. This meant that the Meat Board's name needed to be changed to accommodate its new functions. For instance, chicken and dairy products have been declared controlled products. To include the new species and products under the Meat Board's banner, it was decided to change the name to the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN), or the shortened version Livestock Products Namibia. The Board will now deal with the products of cattle (dairy, hides and skins), sheep, goats, pigs and chickens.



WHAT THE LLPB HAS DONE

Farm Assured Namibian Meat producer of the year

Exceptional record-keeping has been the key to success for 2023's Farm Assured Namibian (FAN Meat) producer of the year, Gero Schonecke from Kalkfeld. As responsible producers, we aim to ensure that all documentation from the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) and the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPB) is up-to-date and filed properly. The NamLITS system and guide have been a great help. Sabine, Gero's wife, adds that animal welfare is essential to their farming operation.

Gero farms with Bosmara, Simmentaler, Simbra and Simmentaler x Bosmara crosses in a cow-calf and ox production system. These breeds are well-adapted to the Namibian environment and produce good quality carcasses for slaughter, which earns a good price at abattoirs.

On an annual basis, FAN Meat conducts desktop as well as on-site audits of producers to verify compliance with FAN Meat rules and standards.

FAN Meat is a farm assurance scheme giving guarantees to international consumers that Namibian meat is wholesome and safe to consume. This scheme was developed in collaboration between the LLPB and DVS. It was declared a national scheme in 1998.

FAN Meat assures that livestock were raised and handled in accordance with international animal welfare standards, that livestock never received any growth promoters and that animals are traceable back to the farm of origin.



This year's FAN Meat producer of the year is Gero Schonecke (left) and his wife Sabine. Gero is the fourth generation Schonecke on the family farm Ombona near Kalkfeld. His great-grandfather bought the farm in 1921. The newly appointed chairperson of the Meat Board, now known as the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia, Adv Lucia Panduleni Hamutenya, presented the award.

This year the FAN Meat office conducted on-site farm inspections on 62 producers who delivered livestock to export approved abattoirs.

In order to recognise the effort invested by producers, it was decided to, on an annual basis, identify and reward a producer of the year. On-site audits focus on record-keeping and animal welfare standards – an important international market requirement.

The office identified Gero Schonecke as the

producer of the year for 2023 because of his exceptional record-keeping, sound farm management practices, animal welfare standards, identification of livestock and good agricultural practices.

The LLPB hopes to motivate producers to maintain the rules and regulations of livestock production in the country as set out in relevant legislation as well as the rules and standards of the FAN Meat scheme in the interest of Namibia's meat and livestock industry.

Lesotho National Development Corporation visited the LLPB



Lesotho National Development Corporation visited the Meat Board. The purpose of their visit is to learn from Namibia how the meat industry is structured and for them to develop a beef value chain study for their country.

Electrification of the 20 degrees

The LLPB is collaborating with DVS to repair and electrify 25 km of the veterinary cordon fence (VCF) to the west of the Namapan Veterinary Gate. This is necessary to maintain Namibia's animal health status as recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), especially in the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) disease free zone. There have been frequent elephant breakages of the fence. The LLPB aims to complete the repair and electrification of a total of 75 km before the end of the financial year.



Annual increase of stock brand fees

This communique serves as a reminder that the stock brand fees increased on 01 January 2024 as per Government Notice No. 145 of 2015. The Livestock and Livestock Products Board, as the mandated administrator of the stock brands herewith informs you of the updated fees.

The fees payable to the Registrar for the registration of a brand in terms of Section 6 (2) of the Act or the transfer of a registered brand in terms of Section 8 (3) of the Stock Brand Act (Act 24 of 1995) as set out in the table below.

Type of Fee	Old fees	Fee from 10 January 2024
Registration of a brand	N\$163	N\$173
Transfer of brand	N\$59	N\$63
Duplicate of brand	N\$103	N\$109

The annual increase is based on the average annual inflation rate which is 6% as per Bank of Namibia CPI.

All State Veterinary Offices, Livestock and Livestock Product Board Offices, Agriculture Farmers Unions, Associations and Livestock Agents are requested to implement the above notice as from 10 January 2024.

Veterinary students visit LLPB



The LLPB hosted UNAM 2nd year veterinary students for an information session on the roles and functions of the Livestock and Livestock Products Board, the NamLITS system and FAN Meat Scheme.



No ordinary ear tag

Dr Anja Boshoff-De Witt
Executive Meat Standards



The individual identification of livestock is an internationally prescribed and recognised method for tracing of livestock as a means of providing food chain information in the international trade of livestock products. Understandably, such devices used for the individual identification of livestock should comply with a number of specifications and standards in order to qualify as an internationally recognised device, providing a sufficient level of confidence and integrity.

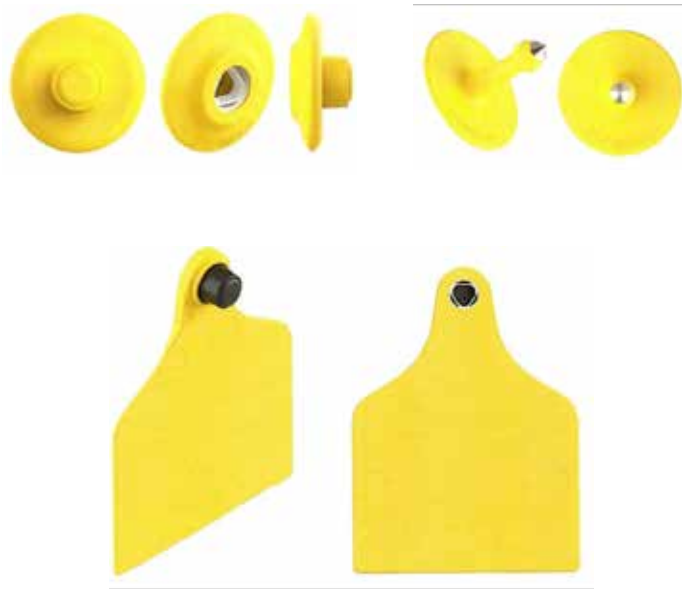
The Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPB) (previously the Meat Board of Namibia) was appointed by the minister of agriculture, water and land reform as the administrator for the distribution of approved identification devices for the individual identification of livestock in Namibia.

The identification device approved by the directorate of veterinary services (DVS) is a combination of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) and visual ear tags. The approval of suppliers of such ear tags is also done by the DVS. The selection of a supplier is done via a detailed tender process, of which the LLPB, DVS and agricultural unions are part of. During this process, compliance with Namibian specifications (developed by DVS), International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standards are verified. The price for the supply of these ear tags is also considered during the tender process in order to determine the impact on producers in Namibia. However, price is only considered once the compliance of the ear tag is verified.

The supplier selected during the latest tender process for the supply of ear tags for the individual identification of cattle in Namibia is DATAMARS, an internationally renowned supplier, accredited by amongst others, Australia and Botswana.

During a previous period of use of DATAMARS ear tags, field samples collected indicated that sand and dust caused abrasion of the anti-fraud locking system (white triangle at the back of the female part of the ear tags) in field conditions in Namibia. Especially the large visual ear tags were affected due to the higher weight.

As a result, DATAMARS started a project in 2018 to reduce the effects of abrasion. The effect of rotating tags in a dusty environment was replicated in the laboratory using the previous design tags. Consequently, one design and one material modification was developed and tested in the same setup. The modification led to a 10x higher resistance against abrasion. These modifications were included in mass



production of tags since 2022.

ICAR laboratory tests as well as long term field experience provide evidence that DATAMARS ear tags do not visually or physically deteriorate because of UV light, rain, atmospheric heat up to 45°C or other environmental influences such as chemicals, mud, dust, urine or manure for at least 5 years on the animal.

Notice of ear tag price increase

This notice serves to inform you of an ear tag selling price increase from 1 February 2024.

The Livestock and Livestock Products Board (LLPB) – formerly the Meat Board of Namibia – has for the past 8 years not increased the selling price of ear tags to producers.

However, increases in production, shipping and administrative costs have necessitated the LLPB to adjust the selling price to continue delivering the service on a cost recovery basis.

The new selling price will be:

- Standard cattle ear tags: N\$24 per set
- Large cattle ear tags: N\$27 per set
- Standard cattle ear tags for the protection zone: N\$24 per set
- Standard cattle ear tags for the infected zone: N\$24 per set
- Small stock ear tags: N\$4.85 per set

Norway's quota distribution model leads to equitable allocation

Ace Mutelo

Manager: Information Systems

Namibia equally shares a quota of 3 200 tonnes for the export of beef to Norway with Botswana administered under two different regimes. The generalized system of preferences (GSP) quota of 2 700 tonnes is allocated to importers on a first-come, first-served (FCFS) basis. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) quota of 500 tonnes is allocated through an auction purchase. Quotas are then administered through firm-specific allocations in Botswana and Namibia.



Botswana and Namibia were first approved for export in 1995. Exporters have since had preferential and duty-free market access to Norway.

The export of bovine meat from Botswana to Norway started in 1996 while Namibia had to overcome salmonella contamination. The country did not export continuously on an annual basis before 1998. While the GSP quota was implemented in 1995, the EFTA-SACU quota came into force in 2008. The GSP allows for the import of a few specific boneless beef products such as steaks, fillets and other cuts of meat. The meat can either be fresh/chilled or frozen.

Cabinet directives

In August 2010 the Namibian cabinet provided principles for the allocation of the Norwegian quota. At the time of this directive, only the Meat Corporation of Namibia (Meatco) and Witvlei Meat were active exporters to the Norwegian market. The cabinet foresaw the inevitable possibility of more companies participating in the quota, proactively making provision for allocative principles. The Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPB) is mandated to administer these principles under the guiding hand of the minister of industrialisation and trade. Furthermore, due to dynamics in the industry, the cabinet issued more directives in the distribution of the Norway quota in 2013 with the following underlying principles:

- The price to be paid to producers north and south of the veterinary cordon fence (VCF)
- Total additional employment resulting from the quota amount applied for
- Detailed outline of current value-addition activities
- Binding offer for additional value addition and processing capacity improvement
- Outlook towards secondary industry development both for inputs and output products, and
- Reinvestment of proceeds from quotas allocated.

Historical utilisation and performance

The allocation of the Norway quota has been predominantly based on relative capacity as measured by industry share. This allocation did not provide a holistic application of cabinet directives, i.e. other factors outlined in

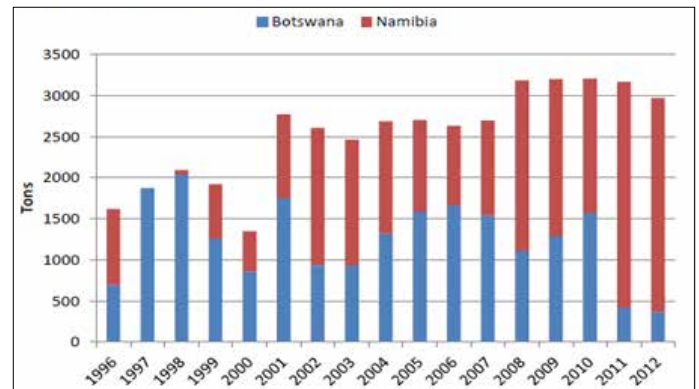


Figure 1: Bovine meat import from Botswana and Namibia (1996 to 2012)

the directives were not reflected in the allocation.

The increasing competitiveness in the beef industry has broadened the scope of participation in the Norwegian quota, increasing the possibility of more exporters qualifying for the market. Under such circumstances, an equitable and just system of allocation is required to ensure that cabinet directives are implemented with utmost efficiency.

Model specifications

The Norway quota award model (NQAM) developed by the LLPB (formerly known as the Meat Board of Namibia) is premised on the principle that more should be allocated to exporters that have sufficient relative capacity to fulfil quota requirements and act as a conduit for the transfer of derived economic benefits to the Namibian value chain. This principle is broken down as follows:

- Sufficient relative slaughter capacity as measured by the industry share of a processor in comparison to other eligible participants.
- Transfer of derived economic benefits to the Namibian value chain as measured by
 - a. Transfer to producers north of the veterinary cordon fence through producer prices in pursuit of quota development objectives
 - b. Transfer to producers south of the veterinary cordon fence who sell livestock to fulfil quota requirements
 - c. Support to the tertiary sector as measured by the relative contribution to the logistics sector in the export of meat to Norway

To give effect to the above principle, the allocation model comprises the following parameters.

Parameters	Allocation weight
Slaughter market share	0,5
Industry development	0,2
Local support	0,1
Producer price	0,2
Total	1

YEAR	Meatco			Brukarros/Witvlei/Beefcor			Namibia		
	GSP	EFTA	Total	GSP	EFTA	Total	GSP	EFTA	Total
2014	1 049 283,21	183 288,15	1 232 571,36	187 999,54	-	187 999,54	1 237 282,75	183 288,15	1 420 570,90
2015	796 454,70	195 312,50	991 767,20	295306,38	54677,13	349 983,51	1 091 761,08	249 989,63	1 341 750,71
2016	1 327 942,03	250 000,00	1 577 942,03	-	-	-	1 327 942,03	250 000,00	1 577 942,03
2017	2 281 280,00	437 508,00	2 718 788,00	141 296,42	23 000,00	164 296,42	2 422 576,42	460 508,00	2 883 084,42
2018	1 281 754,20	250 000,00	1 531 754,20	-	-	-	1 281 754,20	250 000,00	1 531 754,20
2019	1 341 969,19	250 000,00	1 591 969,19	-	-	-	1 341 969,19	250 000,00	1 591 969,19
2020	1 339 247,86	142 741,48	1 481 989,34	-	-	-	1 339 247,86	142 741,48	1 481 989,34
2021	1 221 681,49	140 977,00	1 362 658,49	645 911,60	46 979,86	692 891,46	1 867 593,09	187 956,86	2 055 549,95
2022	998 841,53	140 917,57	1 139 759,10	337 046,02	48 951,48	385 997,50	1 335 887,55	189 869,05	1 525 756,60

Table 1: Quota utilisation by Namibian companies (based on export approvals)

Livestock and meat industry fourth

The livestock and meat industry recorded mixed results during the last quarter of 2023. Marketing activities, except the cattle and goat sectors, continued on an upward trajectory during this period compared to the same period in 2022. This article reviews the marketing performance of the cattle, small stock and pork sectors in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

Cattle sector

Cattle marketing decreased in the fourth quarter of 2023. The drop was most notable in live exports and at B- and C-class abattoirs while throughput at export-approved abattoirs performed better compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

Production and marketing

- Year-over-year, the total marketing of cattle declined by 7,8% during the fourth quarter of 2023. A total of 58 460 animals were marketed compared to the 63 439 heads of cattle marketed during the corresponding quarter in 2022.
- The decrease is owed to reduced marketing activities particularly during the last month of the

year due to the festive season.

- From the total number of cattle marketed during the final quarter of 2023, 55,9% were live exports while export abattoirs took up 33,7% and B- and C-class abattoirs absorbed 10,3% of the market share. Compared to 2022, B- and C-class abattoirs as well as live exports lost 8,1% and 1,7% of the market share, respectively. On the other hand, export-approved abattoirs gained 9,8%.
- Up to 97,5% of all live cattle exported on the hoof were marketed to South Africa (31 898) whereas Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe took up 1,8% (604 heads), 0,6% (184 heads) and 0,01% (15 heads) of total live exports.
- Export-approved abattoirs slaughtered 19 710 heads of cattle during the fourth quarter of 2023 whereas throughput at export-approved abattoirs during the corresponding period in 2022 stood at 15 160 heads of cattle. This showed a growth of 30%.
- Weaner prices in each month of the fourth quarter of 2023 remained lower than those observed in the same period in 2022. There was generally a decrease in prices during the period under re-

view. Similarly, slaughter prices slowed by 2,8% and averaged N\$61.23 per kg during the fourth quarter of 2023.

- Domestic weaner prices dropped 28,1% during the final quarter of 2023 compared to the same quarter in 2022. On average, Namibian weaners traded at N\$27.35 per kg during the fourth quarter of 2023, N\$10.70 higher than in 2022.

Sheep sector

The sheep sector performed relatively well in the fourth quarter of 2023 with live exports and slaughtering at A-class abattoirs recording improved growths. Slaughtering activities at B- and C-class abattoirs declined.

Production and marketing

- Total sheep marketing during 2023's fourth quarter grew by 35% compared to the same period in 2022.
- Live exports of sheep grew by 56,8% during the fourth quarter in 2023, recording 110 716 heads compared to 70 710 in 2022.
- Live exports and export-approved abattoirs in-



Figure 1: Total cattle marketed (2022-2023)



Figure 2: Live weaner versus B2 carcass prices (2022-2023)

Norway's quota distribution

Industry market share is the most important factor determining the quota allocation and accounts for 50% of the total allocation (800 tonnes). It is measured by the number of cattle that a processor can procure and slaughter. It also indicates production capacity which is crucial in ensuring that the demand for beef is sufficiently met by supply. A processor that can attract a large number of animals for slaughter is likely to sustain employment numbers and meet other criteria provided in cabinet directives.

Industry development is a critical principle outlined by the cabinet's directives in the form of capacity building. Hence, the slaughtering activity in the relatively under-developed industry north of the VCF accounts for 20% (320 tonnes) of the quota to encourage operators to set up export facilities north of the VCF. However, to fully benefit from this portion of the quota, processors ought to pay at least 75% of prices paid to producers south of the VCF to producers north of the fence.

On the other hand up to 20% of the total quota (320 tonnes) is allocated solely based on prices paid to producers south of the VCF. The rationale is that prices collected in Norway should filter through to producers that supply cattle from which beef is produced to develop the primary producer as an important player in the value chain.

Lastly, in recognition of the role of the tertiary sector in general and the logistics industry in particular, processors are encouraged to utilise the local harbour for their logistic needs. Thus 10% of the quota (160 tonnes) is allo-

YEAR	Norway quota Utilisation		Slaughtering Export abattoirs sVCF	
	Meatco	Others	Meatco	Others
2014	87%	13%	94%	6%
2015	74%	26%	97%	3%
2016	100%	0%	96%	4%
2017	94%	6%	95%	5%
2018	100%	0%	88%	12%
2019	100%	0%	90%	10%
2020	100%	0%	73%	27%
2021	66%	34%	63%	37%
2022	75%	25%	53%	47%

Table 2: Quota utilisation and changing industry structure

cated to the use of the local harbour. In this respect, exporters who export a large quantity of beef through the Walvis Bay harbour stand to benefit more.

Conclusion

The model developed by the LLPB is a deliberate effort to ensure the full implementation of cabinet directives in a holistic manner, ensuring the development of primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of the Namibian economy. The benefits offered by the Norwegian market are equitably and justly distributed to industry players using the quota award model.

quarter 2023 performance

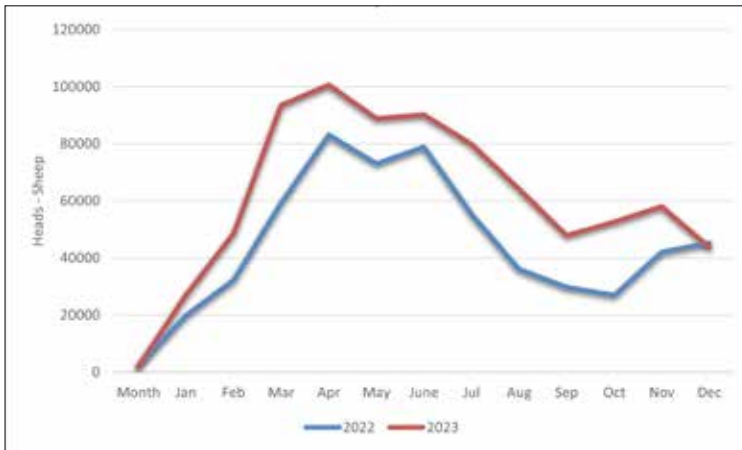


Figure 3: Total sheep marketed (2022-2023)

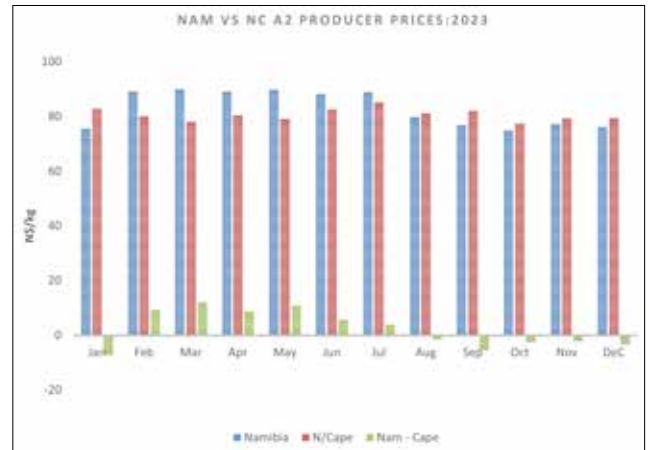


Figure 4: Namibia versus Northern Cape sheep prices for 2023 (N\$/kg)

- creased their market share to 71,8% and 10,1% from 61,9% and 9%, respectively. B- and C-class abattoirs lost their market share during the period under review and accounted for 18,2% of total marketing from 29,2%.
- The resumption of slaughtering activities at Farmers Meat in Mariental yielded positive results for the sector. As a result, export-approved abattoirs increased their performance by 51,6% during the final quarter of 2023 compared to 2022.
- Minimal price differences remain between Namibian A2 sheep prices and the Northern Cape during the fourth quarter of 2023. An average difference of -N\$2.61 per kg was observed during the period under review with Namibian A2 prices averaging N\$75.98 while those in the Northern Cape averaged N\$78.59 per kg.
- Namibian C2 prices remained relatively lower than Northern Cape C2 carcass prices. The average Namibian C2 price for the fourth quarter of 2023 was N\$49.44 per kg, whereas South African abattoirs in the Northern Cape paid N\$52.72 – N\$3.28 higher than the Namibian C2 average price.

- the fourth quarter of 2023 recording 44 041 heads compared to 44 760 in the same period in 2022.
- From the total number of goats marketed during the last quarter of 2023, 98,9% were live exports while B- and C-class abattoirs absorbed 1,1% of all animals marked.

Pork sector

Slaughtering activities at LLPB-registered abattoirs recorded slight growth during the period under review compared to 2022.

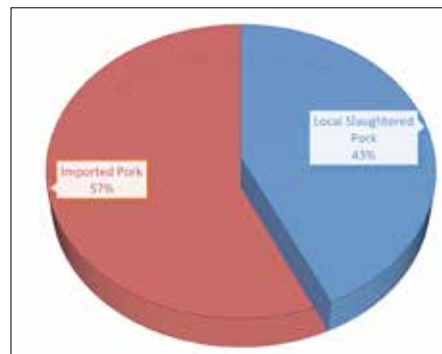


Figure 6: Pork market share for Q4 of 2023 (excluding processed meat)

- A total of 2 883 tonnes of pork (excluding processed pork) was imported into the Namibian market representing 62,3% of local consumption. Total pork imports (inclusive of processed pork) amounted to 2 941 tonnes.
- The average Namibian pork-ceiling price for the fourth quarter of 2023 averaged N\$51.03 per kg.

Conclusion

Although the cattle and goat sectors recorded declines, the last quarter of 2023 proved to be decent in terms of overall industry performance despite a couple of challenges. Meanwhile, domestic weaner prices struggled to recover in the fourth quarter while South African weaners fetched relatively higher prices.

Sheep marketing increased on account of improvements in live exports to South Africa while total slaughtering improved. Sheep export-approved abattoirs gained market shares and it is expected that Namibian abattoirs will be able to take up more sheep for slaughter if alternative high-paying markets beyond South Africa can be realised.



Goat sector

The goat sector declined during the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. This performance is owed to both live exports and slaughtering activities that recorded decreases during the period under review.

Production and Marketing

- Total goat marketing during the fourth quarter of 2023 contracted by 3,4% compared to 2022.
- The live export of goats dropped by 1,6% during

Production and marketing

- During the fourth quarter of 2023, 11 762 pigs were slaughtered at LLPB-registered abattoirs, a 1,6% decline compared to the 11 951 pigs slaughtered in the same period of 2022.
- Local pork production serviced 38,4% of Namibian consumption requirements during the period under review, compared to 35,1% in 2022.

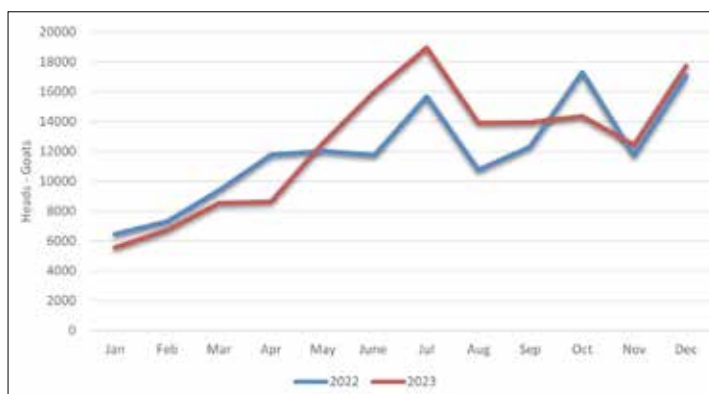


Figure 5: Total goats marketed (Q4: 2022-2023)

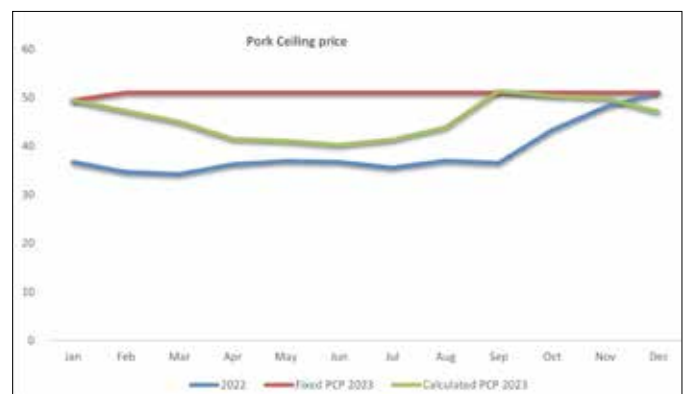


Figure 7: Pork ceiling price (2022-2023)

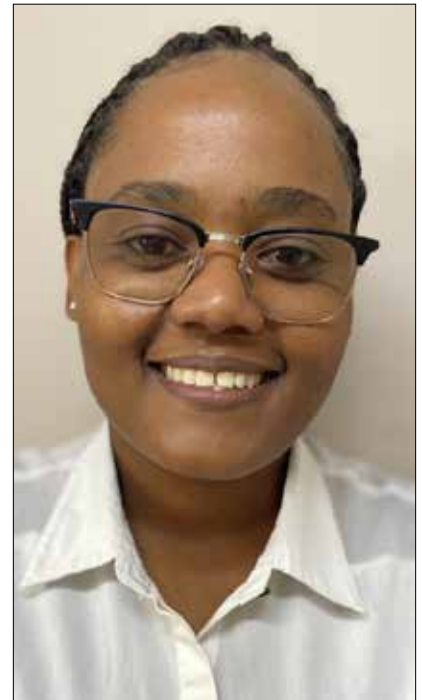
STAFF NEWS | **New Appointments**



Kachana Imwaka
Administrative Officer,
Marketing Division head office
Appointed on 13 November 2023



Ivy Ngeama
Border Officer
Noordoewer
Appointed on 1 February 2024



Utjevera Tjiramba
Statistician: Research and Development
Trade and Marketing, Windhoek Head Office
Effective from 11 March 2024

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

We know you are all looking forward to an exciting journey with the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia is to promote a conducive environment for sustainable livestock production, market growth and diversification for livestock, meat and meat products; and to maintain standards and quality assurance by way of appropriate regulatory intervention.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia is to be an internationally and locally recognised organisation that promotes a profitable, vibrant, quality-driven Namibian meat industry in local and international markets.

WE LOVE OUR MEAT

Premium quality Namibian meat controlled and guaranteed by the Livestock and Livestock Products Board across the value chain based on high quality & safety standards.

