



Kingdom of Cambodia visits Namibia



The Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN) recently hosted a study visit from the Kingdom of Cambodia to learn and share first-hand experiences about the dynamics and implications of preferences in public procurement practices with the Republic of Namibia. Cambodia aims to develop and strengthen its model of domestic preference implications as an advanced public procurement management system. The study will focus on understanding the policies, opportunities, and issues related to promoting preferences within public procurement in Namibia.

WHAT THE LLPB HAS DONE

Rundu abattoir registered as A-class export abattoir

The Livestock Products Board of Namibia has approved the registration of Rundu abattoir, managed by Meatco, as an A-class export abattoir after it received export status registration from the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS).

This certification is only awarded after implementing strict animal health and food hygiene processes. As a result of this certification, meat and meat products from the Rundu abattoir can be exported outside the country as well as to areas south of the veterinary cordon fence (under strict supervision of the DVS). The LLPBN hopes that this certification will lead to increased prices for producers in the affected area.



Standard values announced for next financial year

Government Notice nr 139 of 2012 determined that the Livestock Products Board (formerly known as the Meat Board) must annually calculate standard values for the next financial year. These values form the basis for the calculation of levies where transaction values of livestock could not be audited. Levies are calculated as percentages of the standard values during the export and import of livestock, local ("out of the hand") transactions and slaughtering at local abattoirs. Standard values are calculated according to the real trade value of livestock during the previous calendar year. New values applicable during the 2024-25 financial year will be implemented from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Item	Standard Values (N\$)
Cattle – (live)	7 141
Cattle – (for slaughter)	15 810
Goat (any transaction)	1 097
Sheep (any transaction)	1 444
Pork (any transaction)	3 198

Compulsory "N" brand on livestock meant for export to South Africa

On 13 March 2024, the Director of Animal Health in South Africa notified the livestock industry of Namibia about the livestock improvement legislation (Act 62 of 1998) that needed to be followed for importing livestock into this country.

This requirement is specific to South Africa and states that a permit issued by the registrar of livestock improvement in South Africa is necessary, along with a veterinary import permit from South Africa, to export livestock.

This new requirement has been in effect from 1 April 2024 and also mandates that livestock must be marked with the Namibian "N-character" at the time of export.

Importers must obtain a permit from the livestock improvement office in South Africa before applying for a South African veterinary import permit, as per a letter dated 5 April 2024.



Local produced meat/Namibian meat promoted at border post

The goal of this project is to make customers and visitors aware of locally-produced meat. Billboards have been put up at the Noordoewer border post.

New name, new mandate



The well-known Meat Board of Namibia's mandate has been expanded since August 2023 with an amendment to the Meat Industry Act of 1981, and is now known as the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN). This expansion involves the new declaration of poultry as livestock, as well as including poultry meat, eggs, dairy, hides and skins as newly controlled livestock products to be regulated by the LLPBN.

This new expansion to the LLPBN has created a very unique livestock board, not only in terms of the scope of livestock and livestock products to be regulated, but also in terms of the governance of the Board. Globally, agricultural boards are largely private institutions funded by members of the board, whereas the LLPBN is constituted in terms of an Act, but not receiving any government funding. All funding to the Board is in the form of levies generated through livestock and livestock product transactions in Namibia. This unique setup showcases the commitment of both the private sector and government in Namibia towards a healthy and prosperous livestock sector, and recognises the importance and need for collaboration between public and private sectors.

In terms of practical implication, this amendment to the Act (Livestock and

Livestock Products Act 12 of 1981) implies that producers of poultry, poultry meat, eggs, dairy, hides and skins would have to register with the board as a legal producer. Such registration also applies to importers and exporters of the aforementioned. Further to that, poultry abattoir operators, egg packing operators, dairy operators and tannery operators would also need to apply to register with the LLPBN and will have to comply with a set of conditions specific to the said operation. As explained before, a levy will be payable to the Board when poultry, poultry meat, eggs, dairy, hides or skins are sold within Namibia, exported from Namibia or imported into Namibia, as is the case currently with cattle, sheep, goats and pigs and meat derived thereof. The levies collected by the Board will be utilized to perform the required regulatory functions. These include amongst others, border control, facility inspections, issuing of permits and export quality control at export approved facilities.

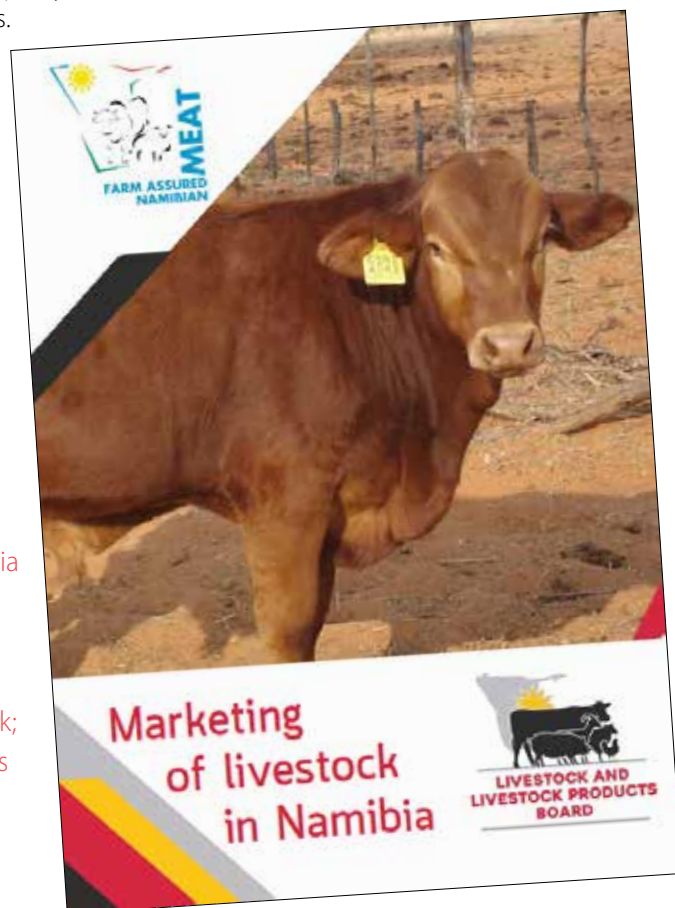
In terms of the functions of the Board, these will now be expanded to the additional industries, and will follow the mandate of the Board, which is to promote the interests of the related

industries within Namibia and elsewhere. Such a mandate includes, but is not limited to, creating a conducive environment for production, identifying lucrative markets, aligning related industries to market trends and collecting data for strategic planning within the related industries. This could also include the development of farm assurance schemes, like the current Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme (FAN Meat) which is administered by the Board and successfully used as negotiation tools for entry to lucrative international markets.

The LLPBN is in the final stages of drafting amended regulations and repealing necessary notices. The full implementation of the new expanded mandate, and thus the requirement for registration with the board will take place after a date which will be specified by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform through publication in a National Government Gazette.

Marketing guide keeps producers well-informed

The aim of the recently published marketing of livestock in Namibia guide is to ensure that all producers and stakeholders are well-informed on the procedures for marketing animals and producing the best livestock possible. Topics that are covered include: Why should farmers market animals; How to produce the best livestock; Where to sell livestock; What type of animal to sell; How are prices determined and veterinary issues and permits.



Namibia's self-declaration for a zone historically free from bovine tuberculosis

In January 2024, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) published Namibia's self-declaration for a zone historically free from Bovine Tuberculosis. This declaration is for the zone south of the veterinary cordon fence, which is also recognised by WOAHA as free from Foot and Mouth Disease without vaccination since May 1997, free from bovine lung sickness since May 2016, free from small stock pest since May 2015 and the entire country is recognised as having a negligible risk for mad cow disease since May 2016.



Dr Anja Boshoff-De Witt
Executive Meat Standards

In order to comply with the requirements of the WOAHA for self-declared freedom from disease, Namibia had to provide extensive information pertaining to disease detection, prevention and control.

This information included, amongst others:

1. Evidence that bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is a notifiable disease in the entire country. This claim is supported by animal health law implemented in Namibia since 1956, listing bTB as a notifiable disease, and declaring the whole of Namibia a disease control area for bTB. Reporting of notifiable diseases in Namibia is compulsory. Based on available records, bTB has been a controlled disease in Namibia since 1911.
2. The history of occurrence of bTB in Namibia, which was first diagnosed in Namibia in 1913. All of the 167 confirmed bTB cases from 1913 to 1986 were in dairy cattle and were all traced to imported cattle. The last confirmed case in the zone declared as free from bTB was in 1986.
3. Absence of bTB in wildlife: bTB has not yet been reported in any of the wildlife spill-over and maintenance hosts in Namibia. Several pre-export tests have been conducted on African buffalo and kudu, with no positive reactors.
4. Surveillance and early warning systems: the bTB surveillance

protocol, as updated in 2017, describes the surveillance strategy, setting procedures for routine abattoir surveillance, testing of imported animals, pre-export testing of cattle destined for RSA and investigating reported cases. Namibia is consistently up to date with the submission of 6 monthly and annual reports to the WOAHA and has a history of prompt reporting of any WOAHA-listed disease. Active and passive surveillance for bTB has been implemented in Namibia since 1910, when abattoir inspection was first introduced. Awareness programmes for bTB is also implemented.

5. Pre-export testing of cattle destined to South Africa: cattle weaner exports to feedlots in South Africa for eventual slaughter is an important marketing channel for the Namibian livestock industry, with subsistence farmers producing approximately 70% of these exports. New import requirement set by RSA requires pre-export isolation and testing for bTB. Since implementation on 01 July 2016 to January 2024, a total of 1,512,430 head of cattle were tested, with all negative results.
6. Measures implemented to maintain freedom: strict import control ensure Namibia remains free from bTB. Importation of animals is done under the close supervision of the Directorate of Veterinary Services and in compliance with the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011). All imported livestock are branded and individually identified according to the Animal Identification Regulations (2017).

The dossier as developed in collaboration between the Livestock and Livestock Products Board (LLPBN) and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) was submitted by the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) to the relevant office of the WOAHA in August of 2023. After performing administrative and technical screening, the self-declaration was published by WOAHA in January of 2024.

This publication by the WOAHA is further testament to Namibia's commitment towards exceptional animal health standards for the progression and success of the Namibian livestock and livestock products industries, with a focus on export of world class produce, of which the markets have been established over decades.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) mostly affects cattle and wild animals such as kudu, lions, warthogs and buffaloes. It is caused by a bacterium. Namibia has declared itself historically free from bTB. It is a notifiable disease.



How it could enter Namibia

- bTB could enter Namibia through importing infected cattle
- Cattle get bTB from close contact with infected animals or eating contaminated feed

Signs in sick & dead animals

- Losing a lot of weight over a long time
- Moist cough and struggling to breathe
- Small lumps in lymph nodes of head and chest
- Small lumps also in lung, spleen, liver and inside walls of chest and abdomen

Prevention & gathering evidence

- Avoid smuggling cattle into Namibia
- Report signs of bTB to your State Veterinarian immediately
- Adhere to bTB testing protocols to help provide more evidence to support Namibia's bTB status

Problems related to bTB

- Pre-export testing for bTB has cost the cattle industry millions of dollars every year since 2016
- bTB can cause tuberculosis in people
- Farmers will suffer production losses



Drought mitigating measures

Climatic conditions globally is deteriorating and the Namibian livestock producer is yet again experience the full wrath of another drought that has become a norm. These consecutive droughts not only erode the composition but also the number of the national herd. Due to a lack of reliable data on the exact number of livestock nationally the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia marketing statistics reveal that the number is declining at a steady pace. Another impact is the high number of reproductive female livestock that exits the national herd through slaughtering.

Drought management's main objective is to reduce the number of livestock and to remain with a core herd. This will reduce the stocking rate and fodder cost required to sustain the core herd until the next rain.

- First eliminate all non-reproductive and old livestock. This includes all male animals such as tollies, castrates, kapaters and all old female livestock.
- Secondly if the decision above does not reap the targeted benefits commence with selecting the poor-performing female reproductive livestock. Keep those cows and ewes that are pregnant and have an optimal performance history and cull the rest. This ensure that you keep on selecting for good fertility traits that is further aided by proper record keeping.

Feeding regime during droughts is totally different from that offered during normal conditions. The bodily demand of livestock requires additional protein and energy during droughts and the feed composition should include this. Critical important is roughage that keeps the digestive organisms in the rumen healthy that aids in digestion. When feeding livestock make sure that all livestock receives equal opportunity to feed by separating the dominant ones from the rest. In ad-



Desmond Cloete
LLPBN Chief of Marketing

dition, make sure that livestock has unlimited access to clean drinking water.

For a drought-prone country such as Namibia, an effective legislative environment is critically important to mitigate the impact of reoccurring droughts. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform with the cooperation of key stakeholders are in the process of reviewing the National Drought Policy and Strategy of 1997. During a validation workshop that took place during March 2024, some recommendations were passed that include essential mitigating measures to be implemented and adhered to during the pre, during and after droughts phases. Another key recommendation is the outsourcing of government-funded incentive pay-outs that are currently resorts under the Office of the Prime Minister. This may speed up the payment process that will enable beneficiaries to use these funds to mitigate drought at their farms. The reviewed policy and its strategies are in its final stages of validation before it's tabled to Cabinet for approval and publishing in the government gazette.

Lastly, Cabinet at their 6th Decision Making Meeting on the 25 April 2024 approved the extension of the 2023/2024 Drought

Programme	Estimated Budget (N\$)
Food Assistance	600 000 000
Seed and Horticulture Provision	25 000 000
Livestock Support Programme	100 000 000
Water Provision	100 000 000
Total	825 000 000

Relief Support Programme. This extension is effective from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and valued at N\$825 million as per the 4 interventions contained in the table.

Under the Livestock Support Programme the following interventions were approved.

- The livestock marketing incentive was increased for large stock from N\$500 to N\$ 750 per head while small stock from N\$100 to N\$150 per head to a maximum amount of N\$56 000 per applicant.
- Lease of grazing and transport to and from lease grazing payable.
- Subsidy on the purchase of fodder and licks.
- Sales of subsidized fodder to farmers via Agriculture Development Centres in the regions.

The following supporting documents are required for application:

- Certified copy of applicant's ID
- Certified copy of applicants stock brand card
- Bank confirmation letter
- Duplicate livestock movement permit
- Original sale invoices (auction or abattoir)
- Herd statement
- Certified drought declaration form (for each transaction)

For any enquiries visit your nearest Agriculture Development Centre (extension office).



Livestock and meat industry

The livestock and meat industry witnessed increased marketing activities during the first quarter of 2024. The cattle sector recorded a remarkable growth rate of 47,9%. Similarly, the sheep, goat and pig sectors all saw growth rates surpassing 10%. The industry is expected to remain under severe pressure as farmers prepare for drier conditions for the remainder of the season. This article will review marketing performance in the cattle, small stock and pork sectors. The review will cover the first quarter of this year compared to the first quarter of 2023.

Cattle sector

During the first quarter of 2024, cattle marketing improved, especially observable in live exports and at A-class abattoirs. Meanwhile, throughput at B- and C-class approved abattoirs declined compared to the first quarter of 2023.

Production and marketing

- Year-on-year, 86 693 cattle were marketed across all channels. This brings the growth of the cattle sector up by 47,9% from the 58 607 heads marketed in the same quarter last year.
- The notable increase is owed to increased marketing activities, particularly during the last month of the first quarter which saw a rise in animals slaughtered at A-class abattoirs.
- A total of 57 562 were exported live on the hoof to neighbouring SADC states while 21 525 were slaughtered at local A-class abattoirs and 7 879 were slaughtered at various Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN)-registered B- and C-class abattoirs.

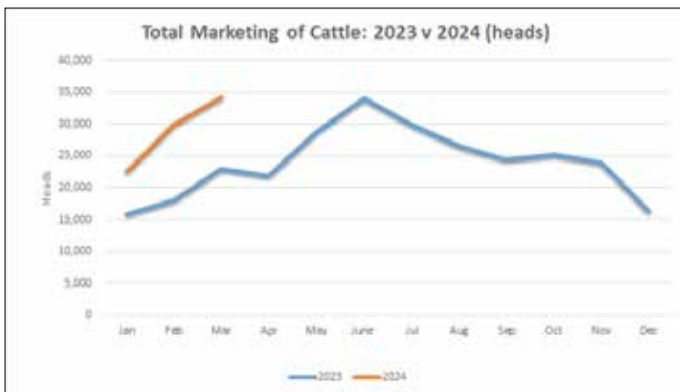


Figure 1: Total cattle marketed (2023-2024)

- B- and C-class abattoirs slaughtered 7 879 heads of cattle during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the 11 902 heads of cattle at the same time last year – this is a decline of 33,8%.
- From the total number of cattle marketed during the first quarter of 2024, 66,4% were live exports, export abattoirs took up 24,5% while B- and C-class abattoirs absorbed 9,1% of the market share. Compared to 2023, A-class abattoirs and B- and C-class abattoirs lost 3,7% and 11,8% respectively while live exports gained 15,5%.
- Domestic auction weaner prices faced downward pressure and recorded lower levels during the period under review.
- The average weaner price south of the veterinary cordon fence (sVCF) dipped to N\$24.74 per kg during the first quarter of 2024. The price varied from



Figure 2: Live weaner versus B2 carcass prices (2023-2024)

N\$26.57 recorded in January 2024 to N\$22.13 in March 2024.

- Similarly, tolly prices north of the veterinary cordon fence (nVCF) averaged N\$22.55 per kg during the period under review. The highest and lowest prices of N\$28.35 and N\$19.31 were recorded in January and March 2024, respectively.
- Year-on-year, the B2 producer carcass price dropped by N\$3.31 per kg and averaged N\$60.87 during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the N\$64.18 per kg paid to producers during the same period in 2023.
- The further outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in South Africa severely affected producer prices within the South African market. As a result, the Red Meat Abattoir Association (RMAA) paid N\$12.75 per kg less than its Namibian counterpart.

Sheep sector

This sector recorded an increase in activity of 15,7% led by live exports and slaughtering at A-class abattoirs. Live exports increased by 29,3% growing from 118 853 heads in the first quarter of 2023 to 153 713 in 2024.

Production and marketing

- Total sheep marketing during the first quarter of 2024 grew by 15,7% compared to the first quarter of 2023.
- The live export segment recorded significant growth while A-, B- and C-class abattoir activities declined by 12% and 20,8% respectively, going from a combined total of 50 331 heads in 2023 down to 41 989 heads in 2024.
- Live exports of sheep grew by 29,3% during the first quarter of 2024, recording 153 713 heads in comparison to the 118 853 in the same 2023 period.
- Live exports increased its market share to 78,5% during the quarter under review from 70,3% recorded during the first quarter of 2023.
- Export-approved abattoirs and B- & C-class abattoirs lost market share during the period under review, accounting for 11% and 10,5% of total marketing.

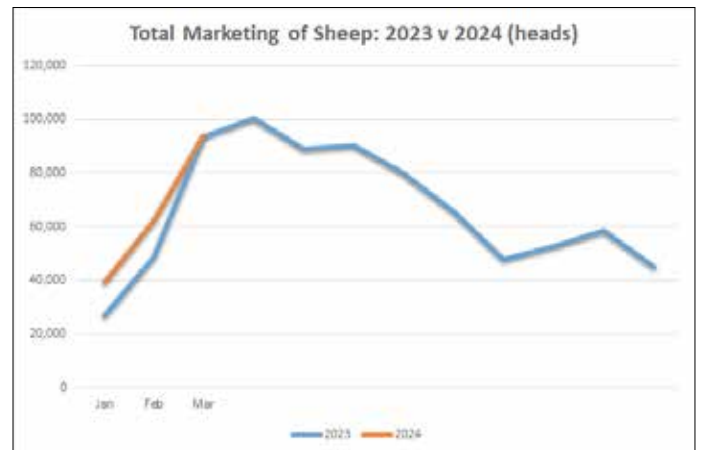


Figure 3: Total sheep marketed (2023-2024)

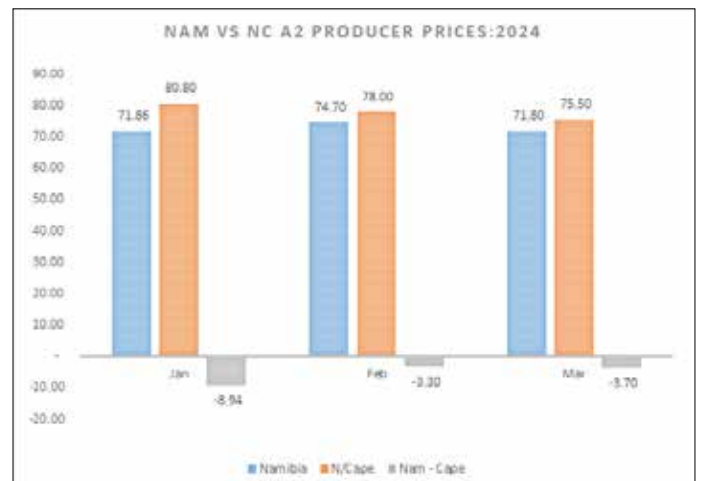


Figure 4: Namibia versus Northern Cape sheep prices for 2024 (N\$ per kg)

first quarter review for 2024

- The price difference between Namibian sheep export abattoirs and Northern Cape abattoirs widened by N\$1.33 per kg from a positive price difference of N\$2.36 per kg in favour of Namibian producers.
- The price difference remained within the LLPBN nominal benchmark of -N\$4.98 per kg established in 2020 during the last two months of the quarter. The Namibian A2 producer price on average traded at N\$72.79 per kg during the first quarter of 2024 whereas the Northern Cape price averaged N\$78.10 during 2024 – N\$5.31 higher than the Namibian A2 producer price.
- Northern Cape producer prices serve as a benchmark for Namibian producers, given that the majority of sheep exports are destined for the Northern Cape region.

Goat sector

The goat sector witnessed growth during the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. This is due to increased live export activities.

Production and marketing

- Total goat marketing during the first quarter of 2024 grew by 12,1% compared to the first quarter of 2023.
- Live exports of goats increased by 18,8%, recording 23 331 heads compared to the 19 616 during the same period in 2023.
- From the total number of goats marketed during the first quarter of 2024, 99,7% were live exports, while B- and C-class abattoirs accounted for 0,3% of all animals marketed.



Figure 5: Total goats marketed (2023-2024)

Pork sector

Pig slaughtering activities at LLPBN-registered abattoirs recorded some growth during the period under review.

Production and marketing

- During the first quarter of 2024, 12 253 pigs were slaughtered at LLPBN-registered abattoirs, a 10,3% growth compared to the 11 113 pigs slaughtered at the same time last year.
- A total of 1 959 tonnes of pork (excluding processed pork) was imported into the Namibian market representing 43,8% of local consumption. Total pork imports (inclusive of processed pork) amounted to 2 225 tonnes.

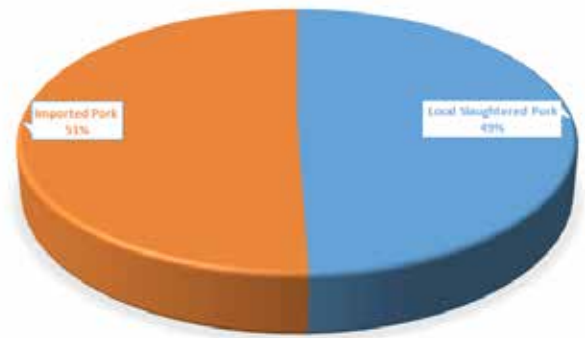


Figure 6: Pork market share for Q1 of 2024 (including processed meat)

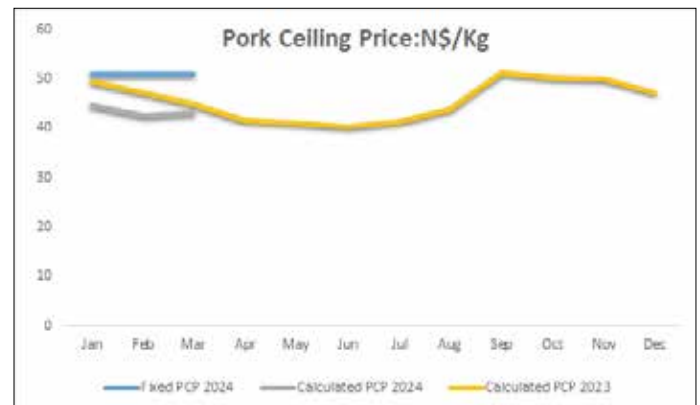
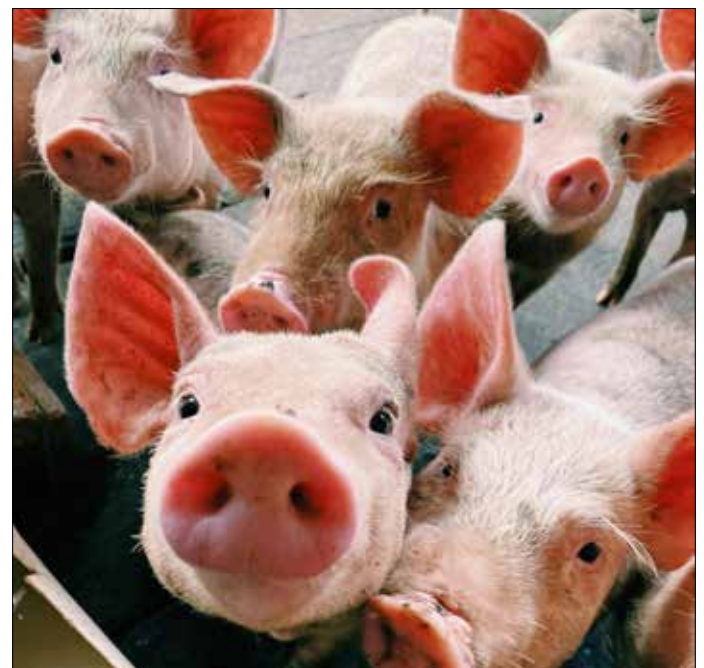


Figure 7: Pork ceiling price (2023-2024)

- Local fresh pork production (including processed pork) serviced 49,4% of local consumption demands during the period under review.
- The average Namibian pork-ceiling price for the first quarter of 2024 averaged N\$51.03 per kg compared to the N\$ 50.52 recorded during the first quarter of 2023.

Conclusion

The first quarter of 2024 proved to be decent in terms of overall industry performance despite a couple of challenges. Meanwhile, domestic weaner prices struggled to recover during the quarter under review while South African weaners fetched relatively higher prices. Sheep and goat marketing activities increased due to improvements in live exports to South Africa while total slaughtering declined.



STAFF NEWS

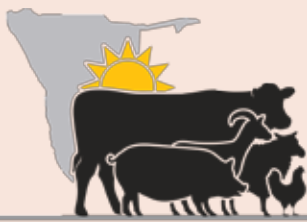


Well done Penny!

Penny Haufiku one of the bursary holders of the LLPBN completed her Masters in Animal Feeding using readily available palatable indigenous shrub species in Namibia.



The LLPBN ladies participated in the Spar Women's Challenge 5 km and 10 km walk/run on 6 April 2024.



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.

