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Overview

July 2023 proved to be a good month for the livestock and meat industry as the sector recorded strong growths across the board relative to July 2022.

Cattle Sector

YTD marketing within the cattle sector stood at 67 417 animals relative to 67 262 animals marketed during the same period in 2022. Improved activities recorded at export-approved abattoirs during the month of July 2023 offset the declines recorded within the B & class slaughter segment as well as live exports that declined by 61.6 percent and 0.1 percent respectively. Although, the demand for weaners declined during July 2023, this is still an increase from the June 2023 level of 12 482 animals to 15 577 animals exported during July 2023.

Farmers continued availing slaughter-ready animals to export-approved abattoirs and as such, the segment recorded a staggering growth of 65.8 percent during July 2023 compared to July 2022. Increased marketing was consistently observed at export-approved abattoirs since May 2023.

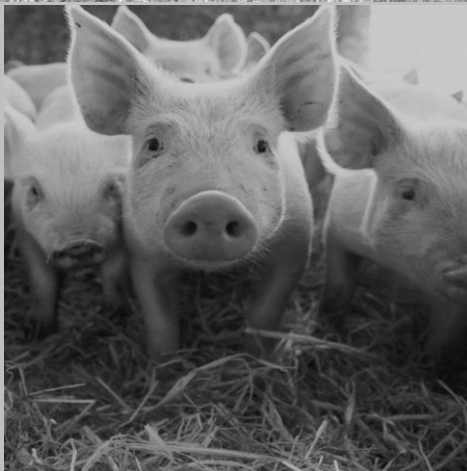
The increased slaughtering at export approved abattoirs was accompanied by decent producer prices during the month under review. Efforts in accessing lucrative export markets by export-approved abattoirs continue to pay-off and the gains are being filtered through to the producers. As a result, the all grade beef producer price increased by N\$0.07/kg to N\$60.26/kg during July 2023 from the level of N\$60.19/kg paid to farmers during July 2022.

Namibian weaner prices south of the Veterinary Cordon increased from N\$26.42/kg in July 2023 from the June level of N\$23.48/kg. Year-on-year, The Namibian weaner price dropped by N\$7.76/kg from the July 2022 level of N\$34.18/kg to N\$ 26.42/kg in July 2023, a decline of 22.7 percent. South African weaner prices on the other hand, remained higher than their Namibian counterpart and averaged N\$33.75/kg in July 2023 bringing the gap between Namibian weaner prices and South African weaner prices to N\$7.33/kg, making South African weaners pricier than Namibian weaners.

Additionally, The Rundu export abattoir is expected to resume operations in the coming months. This will serve as an additional marketing stream for the Northern farmers which will inadvertently complement beef exports to regional markets.

Sheep Sector

Live exports, particularly to South African remain the leading marketing channel for Namibian producers as local marketing channels are unable to retain and absorb all the slaughter-ready animals produced. The sector grew by 37.1 percent as a total of 75 827 sheep were marketed during July 2023 relative to the July 2022 level of 55 304 heads.



Domestic export approved abattoirs slaughtered a combined total of 9 374 animals during July 2023 relative to the 2 587 animals slaughtered during July 2022. Coupled to the increase in the slaughter numbers is the sustained increase in Namibian A2 prices that averaged N\$88.81/kg in July 2023, an increase of N\$ 1.87/kg from the June 2022 level of N\$86.94/kg.

Price differentials between Namibia and Northern Cape abattoirs remained in favour of Namibian farmers. A positive difference of N\$3.81/kg was observed during the period under review. Year-on-year, Lamb dorper auction prices dropped by 19.9 percent averaged N\$32.14/kg in July 2023 compared to the same period in 2022.

Goats Sector

The goat sector has recorded a positive growth of 18.4 percent as a total of 18 555 goats were marketed during July 2023 relative to 15 668 goats marketed in July 2022. Of this total, 99.8 percent (18 527 heads) were exported live to South Africa mainly to the traditional Kwa-Zulu Natal market.

Goat lamb prices dropped by N\$5.60/kg from June 2023 to July 2023 to stand at N\$29.54/kg by end of July 2023. Year-to-date average goat lamb price stood at N\$33.11/kg by the end of July 2023.

Pork Sector

3 767 pigs were marketed at Meat Board-registered pig abattoirs during the period of July 2023. Of this total, 64.6 percent of all animals marketed were slaughtered at the Mariental abattoir, 35.1 percent were slaughtered at the Tsumeb abattoir and the remaining 0.3 percent were slaughtered at other smaller Meat Board-registered abattoirs. The pork ceiling price operating under the Pork Market Share Promotion Scheme (PMSPS) remains set at N\$51.03/kg until further notice.

Trade in Meat and Meat Products

The meat and meat products trade balance improved by 1 652 343 kg during the month of July 2023. A total of 2 152 818 kg of meat and meat products were exported during the month under review and only 500 475 kg of meat and meat products were imported during July 2023.

The composition of the export basket for July 2023 comprised of 91.7 percent beef and beef products, 8.1 percent mutton and mutton products and 0.2 percent pork and pork products.

The import basket on the other hand was primarily made up of pork and pork products, making up 67.5 percent of all controlled meat imports, followed by beef products which made up 31.2 percent of imports and the remaining 1.3 percent was made up of mutton products.

The shortage of pork within the local market remains a risk for the sector in terms of food security and input cost for meat processors as this was further exacerbated by the ongoing ban of pork imports from South Africa due to the outbreak of FMD in South Africa. The situation has resulted in the country importing pork from the EU, primarily Germany despite the disadvantage of higher purchase cost in Germany. The additional cost of sourcing pork for the local market has over the past couple of months been passed down to local consumers and has consequently made pork pricier within the domestic market.