

15/3/2018

## Chairperson's Report

By: Rene Werner

I'm pleased to present to you the annual report for the year 2017 for the Poultry Producers Association.

This last year we have seen a number of significant changes in the Poultry business of Namibia. Although the year has started very positive, with feed prices decreasing, bringing production cost for eggs and meat to a manageable level, there were also many challenges to overcome.

The outbreak of Newcastle Disease in the 4 "O" regions north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence has put severe pressure on producers. Movement restrictions were put in place by DVS on the VCF with the result that no products were allowed out of these regions. Although it is believed that the outbreak is under control, restrictions is still enforces and unfortunately we have no further information on this matter. There were no reports of any Newcastle disease outbreaks outside those infected regions.

The biggest challenge that hit the Poultry industry in Namibia was when South Africa confirmed the first Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak better known as Bird Flu. According to international law in an event of AI outbreak no poultry product eg., Table Eggs, Meat, Fertile Eggs, Point of Lay(PoL) or Parent Stock(PS) is permitted to be imported. As most egg producers get their PoL from South Africa they were forced to add a rearing department to their Layer Farms to start rearing Day old chicken from Europe. Namibia Poultry Industries (NPI) had to find a new supplier of Parent stock so they changed to a company from Zambia and had to change the breed from Cobb to Ross as well. These changes were necessary to prevent a big Egg and Poultry Meat supply shortage in Namibia. There are still reports of AI in seabirds around the Western Cape, but all the other provinces have reported no new outbreaks since October 2017.

Despite the challenges, producers kept calm and worked hard to increase Bio security in their operations and educating other smaller emerging producers.

Small producers are particularly vulnerable, and desperately need assistance and mentorship from established agribusinesses. It is in all our interests as poultry producers that we work together to transform our industry and in so doing, supply the nation with relatively cheap animal protein. With that said:

Feedmaster have been running a successful campaign in developing the SME poultry market. They help with the supply of Day old chicken and technical backup. At the moment NPI (who hatch the Day old Chicken) supply about 30 000 per month, which they want to increase to 100 000 Day old chicken per month in the next years.

All in all we had a challenging Year but looking forward into a bright future for the Poultry Industry in Namibia.