

Delivering Animal Welfare and Quality: Transparency in the Food Production Chain

## A Global Perspective on Animal Welfare - Meat Trade –


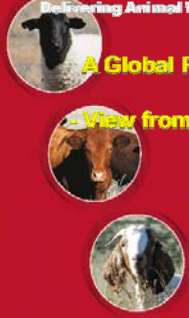

### – View from an African Exporting country -

8 October 2009

**Outlines**

- Performance of the industry
- Production environment
- Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme
- Animal Welfare
- Critical Issues
- Conclusion

P. J. Strydom  
General Manager


---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

## PERFORMANCE OF NAMIBIAN MEAT INDUSTRY

### -Export orientated - 85% (N\$1.6 billion)

- Cattle
  - 171 000 weaners (8 month; 180 – 240kg) South African feedlots
  - 115 000 steers – EU export abattoirs (Meatco & Witvlei)
- Small stock
  - 190 000 sheep – South Africa (informal market)
  - 270 000 goats – South Africa Kwazulu-Natal (ceremonial market)
- Beef
  - 9 400 tons – South Africa (Woolworths, Steers)
  - 9 500 tons – EU (UK, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands)
- Lamb
  - 850 000 carcasses – South Africa (Checkers, Pick.n Pay, Spar)
  - ? (500) tons - Norway
- Springbuck
  - ? (90) Tons – Norway


---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT

### Free range extensive grazing conditions

- Grazing conditions – animals produced from natural vegetation
  - Carrying capacity: 10 -14 hectares per cattle unit
  - Feed intake < 1% body mass – rest dry matter intake natural pastures
- Age : Cattle 24 – 28 months; Lamb 6 – 8 months
- 5 EU establishments and EC third country regulations
- Quality Assurance Scheme – FAN Meat (1<sup>st</sup> Africa)
- Compulsory vaccination programs – Anthrax and Brucellosis
- EU approved abattoirs - ISO & HACCP certified
- No animal by-products, growth stimulants, antibiotics
- Traceability (RFID?) & Record keeping
  - Movement control
  - Supplementary feeding
  - Medicines control
  - Farm management techniques
- Animal Welfare policy - awareness
- Environmental sensitivity







---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Compliance to Standards Set by importing country & consumers

- OIE Terrestrial Code
    - Adoption by Namibia
  - International
    - EU Council Regulations (e.g. Protection of animals at time of killing)
  - Private standards
    - British Retail Consortium?
    - McDonalds
  - Legislation – 1972 outdated with no standards – revised
  - Code of Practice for the Transport and Handling of Animals
  - Meat Industry Act, 1981
    - Registration of producers/abattoirs/auctioneers
  - FAN Meat Scheme
    - Loading densities – Cattle/sheep/goats
  - Animal Welfare Protocol - Export abattoirs
  - SPCA
- EXPORTS TO EU COMPLY WITH STANDARDS



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## FARM ASSURED NAMIBIAN MEAT SCHEME (FAN MEAT) - Minimum Standards and Traceability System -



"A consumer-oriented, total meat quality assurance scheme which, through a process of inspections, monitors and certifies Namibian meat for the export market"

- to the highest European Union requirements/standards
- with respect to bio-safety, food safety, animal welfare and meat quality
- and makes adequate provision for individual traceability
- subscribes to Good Agricultural Practices
- supportive to existing QA systems ISO, HACCP
- certification: competent authority: Directorate Veterinary Services



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Support by FAN Meat Scheme

- FAN Meat Manual
  - Available to most/all? producers
- FAN Meat Welfare Code
  - Covering Five Freedoms
  - Drawn from other exporting countries
    - On-farm animal welfare
    - Auctions, shows, and other animal gatherings
    - Transportation -
    - Abattoirs
- Farm/transport/slaughter facility inspections
- Audits – Meat Board auditors
- Ultimate responsibility of certification by competent authority




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Animal Welfare Focus areas

Message – low quality AW, low value meat

On-farm	Facilities minimise injury Minimise pain – castration, branding, dehorning
Transport	Loading densities Minimise injuries Similar batches Trained drivers
Animal gatherings	Facilities - minimise injury Minimise stress Flooring
Abattoirs	Facilities – minimise injury Minimise stress Slaughter humanely




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Animal Welfare issues to be considered

- Standards to be set
- Societal value and empathy towards animals differ
- Country's production environment differ
- Specific circumstances:
  - In transit time: 6-8 hours
  - Castration/dehorning/branding < 3 months
  - Inclusion Animal welfare – trade negotiations
  - Animal welfare/trained officers - slaughterhouses
  - Financial constraints to comply – covered by industry
  - Human resources, trained/appointed to enforce requirements




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Response by the meat industry

- Raising awareness of the OIE Animal Welfare Standards
  - Continuous education – Farmers associations
  - Message – improve meat quality-improve value
- Open dialogue with stakeholders on setting national standards
- Commence a review of existing legislation and private standards on animal welfare in Namibia
- Formulate legislation and policies to support the implementation of the OIE Welfare standards and national standards



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## I thank you for your attention



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---