



FMD UPDATE

On the 8th of August 2019 the South African Wool and Mohair Buyers Association released a statement that the first auction of the 2019/2020 wool season will not be attended by the buyers.

Their decision was based on the economic implications of the time that newly auctioned wool would need to be held back prior to meeting the time and temperature requirements of the new greasy wool export health certificate. To reach the point where wool would comply with these requirements and be certified for export, would create a delay of some months, placing them in a very undesirable financial position.

This, especially when account is taken of the announcement by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) of 23 July 2019, where it is stated that the ban on the import of cloven hooved animals and their products is lifted except for specific areas of the Republic of South Africa. (Limpopo, the Ehlanzeni area of Mpumalanga province and the Umkhanyakude area of KwaZulu Natal).

The buyer's interpretation of this is that any new season wool coming on auction from now on originating outside of these areas should qualify to be exported without having to comply with the time temperature requirements. Wool from within these areas would have to comply.

As the new export health certificate issued by China at the end of June 2019 specifically requires the time temperature requirement to be certified to in all cases the above interpretation cannot be instituted without written agreement from China that it is in fact acceptable.

Without this written agreement the certification of greasy wool exports by the state veterinarian can be done only in terms of the existing negotiated health certificate with the time temperature requirements as stipulated.

This new health certificate also required that facilities from which wool is exported be approved by the National Department of Agriculture. (DAFF). This has been completed and registration of these facilities is in place.

Both Cape Wools and SAWAMBA have requested DAFF to approach China as a matter of urgency for clarity on the GACC announcement of 23 July 2019. In the interim, wool meeting the FMD virus inactivation requirements, continues to be exported.

The first week of exports of greasy wool to China, meeting these requirements, has been completed, with close liaison between the state veterinarian and Cape Wools continuing on an ongoing basis.

The only body with the authority to approach the GACC is DAFF. Confirmation has been received that DAFF is communicating with the GACC to request clarification on the interpretation of announcement no. 122.

Cape Wools remains in a dialogue with DAFF to obtain clarification on the situation and to ensure wool can reach its export destinations, with the least possible delay, whilst still maintaining its acceptability on arrival in the importing countries.

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