



BUNNY WORLD NEWSLETTER

ZICORBA
ZIMBABWE COMMERCIAL RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Zimbabwe's only Collective
Voice of Rabbit Farmers

Member of the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council

JUNE
2023 Edition

ZICORBA urges government to restrict imports of rabbits from SA



Collage showing the devastating effects of the Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease

Rabbit farmers lobby group, the Zimbabwe Commercial Rabbit Breeders Association (ZICORBA) has called for an immediate ban of imports of live rabbits from South Africa following the recent outbreak of a deadly rabbit virus in that country.

The Kingdom of Eswatini recently banned imports of live rabbits from South Africa and more countries in Southern Africa may follow suit.

ZICORBA President Regis Nyamakanga said a temporal ban of imports of live rabbits from South Africa would help prevent the spread of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD), which broke out in South Africa recently.

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease is fatal in rabbits. It is caused by several virus strains. Animal health officials detected one of these strains, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 (RHDV2), in North America in the past few years. The disease has largely been confined to America, Europe and some parts of Asia.

South African authorities recently confirmed the outbreak of RHD in the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape provinces, where rabbits deaths due to the disease had been reported.

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) said private South African companies had

been contacted regarding importation of monovalent RHDV2 vaccine for use in South Africa.

The DALRRD said this was the first detection of the disease in South Africa, adding that it was still unclear how the disease entered the country, since the importation of rabbits was not allowed.

Investigations were still under way to determine whether illegal importation could be the source.

Western Cape Agriculture MEC Ivan Meyer said biosecurity measures for RHD was very similar to other contagious diseases.

“Any new animals should be kept isolated for two weeks to ensure they are healthy before they are mixed with resident animals.

“People who may have had contact with infected animals should not be allowed on properties with healthy animals and if contact is necessary, they should change clothes, thoroughly wash their hands and arms and disinfect footwear.

Any potentially contaminated equipment or other objects should be cleaned and disinfected with an effective disinfectant,” Meyer told South African media.

Nyamakanga said ZICORBA was working with the Zimbabwean veterinary authorities to import vaccines, as part of a cocktail of measures to protect the local rabbit industry from the deadly virus.

Rabbit meat eatery and distribution centre open doors in Harare



Harareans enjoying rabbit dihes at the Raymeg Tsuru Imvundla Grill

Diversified group, Raymeg Consultants Private Limited (Raymeg), recently opened a multi-million-dollar Rabbit Meat Distribution Centre and a Rabbit Grill & Chill Spot in Harare as demand for rabbit meat in the country continues to firm.

The two facilities are the first of their kind in Zimbabwe.

Raymeg owns Zimbabwe's only rabbit abattoir and one of the biggest in Africa. The abattoir, which is built to export specification, has the capacity to process about 3 tonnes of rabbit meat per 8-hour day shift.

"Opening of the multi-million-dollar rabbit meat distribution centre and an eatery in Harare is part our of promise to continuously invest in the growth and development of the rabbit industry in Zimbabwe. The journey that we started about two years ago is now gathering momentum. Our quest is to ensure that we bring rabbit meat to every home in Zimbabwe," said Mrs Paidamoyo Nyamakanga, the Executive Director of Raymeg.

Plans are underway to open other Rabbit Grills and Chill Spots throughout the country, she said.

Raymeg has interests in strategic communication, agriculture, retail and real estate. It has operational hubs in Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. It also runs projects in the Horn of Africa region.

Nyamakanga said the Raymeg Rabbit Meat Hub will be distributing meat to supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, and eateries in various parts of the country. It will also serve the export market.

The two facilities employ more 50 people, mostly youth and women from some of Harare's biggest suburbs of Waterfalls and Hatfield.

"Our passion as an organization is to improve the livelihoods of our people through the creation of much needed jobs," Nyamakanga said.

Rabbit farmers plot the future of cuniculture in Zimbabwe



Main picture showing ZICORBA Head Office, insert ZICORBA Vice President, Abigail Japajapa

Leaders of rabbit farmers in Zimbabwe will meet in Masvingo early September to plot the future of the fastest growing farming subsector in the southern African country, a top industry official has said.

ZICORBA Vice President, Abigail Japajapa, told Bunny World that the Masvingo gathering was expected to come up with a road map for the country's cuniculture sector.

"We have just had our elections and a new executive has been installed. It is time for the new leadership to reflect on where we are coming from and where we ought to be going as an industry. We are excited to be partaking in this process," she said.

"Since the formation of ZICORBA three years ago, there has been a massive influx of farmers venturing in rabbit production. Consequently, there has been a sharp rise in demand for rabbit meat on the domestic market, which farmers are failing to meet. We need to close this gap.

"Among other things, the Masvingo retreat will examine ways to ramp up production to meet the insatiable demand on the local

market and beyond. It is our conviction that this is the opportune time to devise strategies to take the Zimbabwe rabbit farming subsector to another level," Japajapa said.

"We see rabbit farming as one of the catalysts for reviving our agriculture industry, through employment creation among women and youth, the general improvement of the livelihoods of our people and the generation of the much-needed foreign currency, especially given a growing interest by a number of countries to import rabbit meat from Zimbabwe," she said.

Officials from the Chinese Embassy in Zimbabwe recently visited the country's sole rabbit abattoir and rabbit meat hub in Harare, and they expressed interest in facilitating exports of rabbit meat to China, which is the largest consumer of the product in the world. China consumes 1 million tonnes of rabbit meat annually.

Japajapa said demand for rabbit meat on the domestic market had increased from just under a tonne per month, about three years ago to more than 10 tonnes per month currently.

ZICORBA elects new leadership

The Zimbabwe Commercial Rabbit Breeders Association (ZICORBA) recently elected a new leadership to preside over the affairs of the organisation for the next two years.

Cuniculture producer, Regis Nyamakanga was re-elected President of the three-year old organisation while Harare farmer, Abigail Japajapa was elected Vice President and Ntokozo Sibanda from Matabeleland province retained her position as Secretary General.

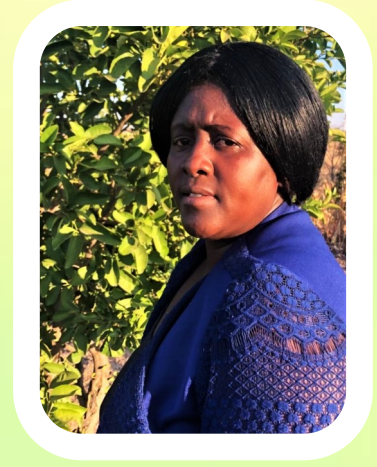
James Samhembere from Mashonaland East was elected Treasurer, while Joseph Chipanga, from the same province was elected Membership Secretary.

Kingston Rakupeni from Manicaland was elected Inspection and Certification Secretary while Joyce Tamirepi from Masvingo was elected Organising Secretary.

Lloyd Mangoh from Goromonzi was elected Marketing and Publicity Secretary while former VP Siphosethu Ncube Moyo was nominated Committee Member representing the Bulawayo Province.

Alexio Kamuzu was nominated Committee Member representing Mashonaland West while Takaendesa Ukama was nominated Committee Member representing the Midlands Province.

Nyamakanga pledged to continue working for the growth and development of the rabbit industry in Zimbabwe and beyond.



From Top left Regis Nyamakanga (President), Abigail Japajapa (Vice President), Ntokozo Sibanda (Secretary General), James Samhembere (Treasurer), Joseph Chpanga (Membership Secretary), Kingston Rakupeni (Inspection and Certification Secretary), Joyce Tamirepi (Organising Secretary), Lloyd Mangoh (Marketing and Publicity Secretary, Siphosethu Ncube Moyo (Committee Member: Bulawayo), Tonderai Kamuzu (Committee Member: Mash West), Tatendaishe Ukama (Committee Member: Midlands)

Chinese delegation tour of Raymeg Holdings



“Knowing your breeds is a key factor in running a successful rabbitry”



Farmer Jane

KNOW YOUR BREEDS



Join Zimbabwe's only collective voice of rabbit farmers and grow your business today

*** BREED : AMERICAN SABLE RABBIT**

The American Sable is a commercial breed that was developed by Otto Brock in 1924. By crossbreeding many purebred Chinchillas, he developed the American Sable rabbit with different coloring. Recessive genes in the Chinchilla lines produced an entirely new color, with an identical body shape.

Distinct Features: The main colour of these rabbits is sepia brown with darker sepia brown over the back, feet, face, ears and tail. It has graduated coloring with a sepia brown over the flanks that darkens on the face, ears, feet, back and tail.



RATING : * * * *

American Sable rabbits have a lifespan of 5-10 years and weigh around 4- 4.5 kgs when fully grown.



JOIN NOW AND BECOME A MEMBER



info@zicorba.com



+263 777 535 079

HAPPY

FATHER'S DAY



www.zicorba.com

18 JUNE



The Chinese Year of the Rabbit Celebrated in South Africa



Picture of rabbit lights made in honour of the Chinese New Year

Johannesburg, RSA: The Chinese New Year celebrations took place on the 4th of February this year, with The Chinese Association of Gauteng hosting its annual celebration and lantern festival to honour the new year.

This year the event was hosted at Sacred Heart College and offered food stalls, crafts, Dragon and Lion Dancing and martial arts to name a few.

The year 2023 marks the Year of the Rabbit. This is a very good year, according to the Chinese Zodiac. The Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture and this year will be a year of hope. People born in the year of the Rabbit are said to have qualities of vigilance, and wit, are quick-minded and ingenious.

According to the Chinese lunar calendar, this signals the beginning of spring and the start of a new year. New Year is the most celebrated Chinese holiday, observed worldwide and is marked by a week-long holiday, family reunions, and fireworks.

Similar to Christmas and Hannukah in other countries, people exchange gifts during the Spring Festival. Chinese tradition sees

the exchange of New Year red envelopes with Lucky Money. The colour red symbolises luck, joy, and happiness.

There are twelve zodiac animals, and they appear in a 12-year cycle. This is the order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

Years of the Rabbit include 2023, 2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963, 1951, 1939 and 1927. However, each of these years has been different. For example, this year is the Water Rabbit.

The zodiac years are always assigned an element, which means that the Year of the Water Rabbit will only happen every 60 years. According to China Highlights, the Water Rabbit will bring hope. So this could very well be the year we find new hope for what the future holds.

The Chinese Association (TCA) of Gauteng works to connect the South African Chinese community, with the country at large. It was founded in 1903 and is the oldest Chinese association in South Africa.

Pan Roasted Rabbit in Wine and Garlic Sauce



Recipe by
Oyla

Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive
1.5 lb. rabbit, (cut up)
3 cloves garlic, (chopped)
a splash of water
1 cup dry white wine
½ cup chicken stock
sea salt
fresh thyme

Directions

Using a very sharp knife or a meat cleaver, cut the rabbit in 4 parts: back legs, 2 pieces for the bust and another piece front legs. Pan Sear the Rabbit

Heat a large pan on medium-high heat and add oil to the pan. Add the rabbit pieces and sear them on all sides until it is all well browned (5 minutes per each side). It's important to be patient when coloring the meat - don't turn too often. Season the rabbit with salt and pepper while it's cooking.

Reduce the heat slightly and add chopped garlic to the pan. Brown the garlic while continuing to cook rabbit, about 2-3 minutes. Make sure that the pan is not too hot at this point.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Make sure that the pan is on medium heat now. Season the rabbit again and deglaze with white wine to get all the caramelized juices from the bottom of the pan. After the wine evaporated, we're left with syrupy substance of the wine. Now add chicken stock.

Put the pan with the rabbit pieces into the preheated oven and roast for about 30 minutes until the internal temperature is about 140 to 145°F.

One thing to keep in mind is that the meat will continue to cook while it is resting, and the internal temperature will reach the desired temperature of about 150°F.

Serve with fresh thyme.


ZIMBABWE COMMERCIAL RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
ZICORBA



+263 777 535 079



info@zicorba.com



Like us on Facebook

Zimbabwe Commercial Rabbit Breeders Association



Follow us on Twitter

@RabbitZimbabwe



Follow us on Instagram

_zicorba

VISIT US AT

Head Office

15 Collosium Building

7th Street

Harare Showgrounds

Editorial Team

Lloyd Mangoh : Editor

Editorial Board

Regis Nyamakanga

Abigail Japajapa

Ntokozi Sibanda

Siphosethu Ncube Moyo



www.zicorba.com