

AFMA MEMBER UPDATE

For more information on any of the projects and actions reported on in the AFMA Member Update, kindly contact the AFMA office at +27 (0)12 663 9097 or admin@afma.co.za

Welcome, 2024!

Welcome to the February 2024 edition of the *AFMA Member Update*! As we delve into the latest developments and initiatives within our dynamic industry, we're thrilled to share valuable insights and opportunities with each of you.

In this edition, we highlight essential updates from various committees, insightful discussions from recent webinars, and upcoming events that promise to shape the trajectory of the animal feed industry in South Africa. We provide a comprehensive overview of our membership statistics and adherence to the AFMA Code of Conduct, emphasising our commitment to industry standards and safety.

You will meet our newly appointed committee leaders who will steer AFMA towards achieving its strategic goals in the coming year, and learn how you can actively contribute to shaping the future of the animal feed industry by joining the AFMA Committees.

This edition also provides insight into critical discussions related to soya oilcake import duties, the National One Health Forum, the regulation of gene-edited products and the collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing the efficiency of freight logistics in South Africa.

Mark your calendars for upcoming AFMA events and committee meetings throughout the year and be sure not to miss the opportunity to participate in the 2024 Intersivity Writer's Cup and showcase your writing talents.

As we navigate through the intricacies of our industry, it's crucial to remember that our collective efforts drive meaningful change and progress. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your dedication, passion, and commitment to advancing the goals of AFMA. Together, we can overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and shape a brighter future for the animal feed industry and beyond.

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AFMA Membership and Code of Conduct

AFMA Membership consist of

63 Full members
76 Associate members
15 Affiliate members

Total AFMA Members
154

As participants in the industry self-regulation initiative, both Full and Associate members of AFMA demonstrate their dedication to ensuring the production of safe feed for safe food.

This commitment is validated through the renewal audits, conducted every two years at all AFMA Members' premises, to verify compliance with the AFMA Code of Conduct. The obligation to adhere to the industry code is explicitly outlined in the AFMA Memorandum of Incorporation (MOI).

Since January 2022, the following updates regarding the membership status of the Code of Conduct have been documented:

- ➔ 92 renewal applications have been received.
- ➔ 120 facility audits were completed.
- ➔ 102 certificates of compliance with the Code of Conduct were issued.
- ➔ 54 new membership applications were submitted.

AFMA Membership and Code of Conduct

(from previous page)

Compliance issues identified during the audits were as follows:

- ➔ Loss of continuity due to personnel changes resulted in 21.1% of non-conformances reported.
- ➔ Labelling not compliant with approved labels.
- ➔ Legal entity not compliant with section 7(1)(a) – it is registered under this Act under the name or mark under which it is so sold.
- ➔ PPE not in use.
- ➔ Section 9 invoicing not included in bulk delivery documentation.

The above compliance matters highlight areas that require attention and corrective actions to ensure adherence to established standards and regulations.

At present, the AFMA membership status is as follows:

STATUS	FULL MEMBERS	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
APPROVED	47*	44*
RENEWAL IN PROCESS	13	12
OUTSTANDING	3	20

* 29 Full members and 16 Associate members are entering the second round of the Code of Conduct evaluation.

A new format of the AFMA membership list, including the Code of Conduct status of members, is available on the [AFMA website](#).



AFMA welcomes new committee leaders for 2024-2025

AFMA is pleased to present our new leadership group which will manage and drive the organisation’s strategic outcomes in the coming year.

1

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Chairperson

Gay Boomgaard

Meadow Feeds

Vice-Chairperson

Janke Bestbier

Alltech Biotechnology

2

TRADE COMMITTEE



Chairperson

Ruan Stander

Meadow Feeds

Vice-Chairperson

Paul Saunders

Sovereign Foods

3

REGULATORY COMMITTEE



Chairperson

Hanaa Soloman

Allied Nutrition

Vice-Chairperson

Liza Burger

Epol

4

MARKETING AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE



Chairperson

Liesl Breytenbach

AFMA

5

TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Chairperson

Liesl Breytenbach

AFMA

Under this leadership, AFMA looks forward to a dynamic year where the strategic focus areas are actively pursued and the identified outcomes for each committee are achieved.

We have confidence in their capacity to bring about significant progress in the upcoming term.

Congratulations to the new AFMA Committee management teams and best wishes for your new roles!

Join an AFMA Technical Sub-Committee:

Your opportunity to shape the future of the animal feed industry

Individuals who are employed by an AFMA member company and have expertise in feed manufacturing, animal nutrition, feed analysis, or quality control, have an opportunity to join the AFMA Technical Committee (TC). Members of this committee can actively contribute towards various strategic projects of AFMA through participation in a TC Sub-Committee.

The **TC strategic projects** focus on **feed safety, ingredient quality, feed analysis** and **nutritional standards**. These are further diversified into specific project outcomes relating to (1) the monitoring of undesirable substances such as salmonella, mycotoxins, and dioxins, (2) medicated feed and antimicrobial resistance, (3) ingredient quality and specifications of known and/or novel feed ingredients i.e., sulphur, and (4) the revision of nutrient specifications of all types of farm feed.

Eligibility to participate – All employees of AFMA member companies can join, provided you are committed to the Technical Committee's objectives, possess the relevant experience and knowledge to contribute, and can commit themselves for the duration of the project(s).

Your role as a committee member provides you with an opportunity to:

- ▶ assess, evaluate, or update industry guidelines to keep information relevant.
- ▶ compile new guidelines for improved feed safety and communication with the industry and assess feed contaminant data for risk management.
- ▶ provide input and comment on feed safety and regulatory matters regarding animal feed, ingredients, and manufacturing.
- ▶ vote for the adoption of new and/or updated AFMA technical guidelines etc.

Registered professional animal scientists can earn CPD points for their participation in industry committees. Becoming part of the AFMA Technical Committee isn't just a professional opportunity, it's an opportunity to create a meaningful impact on the animal feed industry. For additional information on each Sub-Committee, please get in touch with Bonita Cilliers, our Technical and Regulatory Advisor, at technical@afma.co.za.



Join the AFMA Advisory Committee on Feed Regulation (ADCOM-FR)

With significant changes expected in the animal feed sector's regulatory environment, AFMA invites individuals with expertise in regulatory affairs to join the RC Advisory Committee on Feed regulation. As we navigate these changes, the insights and expertise of professionals experienced in regulatory matters are more crucial than ever. The strategic outcomes for the Regulatory Committee this year will focus on updated animal feed regulations, the industry self-regulation mechanism, and the new regulatory framework for animal feed that will be introduced with the new proposed legislation – the Feed and Pet Food Bill. This presents a unique opportunity to impact the industry's regulatory future.

Benefits of joining the Committee

- **Influential Role** – Play a key role in influencing feed regulations and regulatory guidelines that impact the animal feed industry.
- **Networking Opportunities** – Connect with industry leaders, government officials, and other experts in the field, expanding your professional network.

- **Stay Informed** – Gain firsthand knowledge of upcoming regulatory changes and trends, allowing you to stay ahead in your field.
- **Contribute to Industry Growth** – Help shape regulations that balance compliance with opportunities for innovation and sustainability in the animal feed sector.
- **Professional Development** – Enhance your standing and expertise in regulatory matters. SACNASP-registered professional animal scientists can earn CPD points for their participation in this industry committee.

HOW TO JOIN

If you have the relevant expertise and are eager to contribute to the future of the animal feed regulatory environment, we invite you to get in touch. Reach out to Bonita Cilliers, our Technical and Regulatory Advisor, at technical@afma.co.za for further information on becoming a part of the AFMA Advisory Committee on Feed Regulation.

The National Freight Logistics Roadmap – an update

The webinar held on December 12, 2023, provided a comprehensive update on the National Freight Logistics Roadmap, with a particular focus on Transnet's efforts to enhance operational performance and collaboration within the freight industry. Rudi Dicks, Head of The Presidency's project management office, emphasised understanding the challenges faced in the logistics sector, particularly in corridor recovery teams (CRTs). He praised recent collaborative efforts in the action labs addressing issues like iron ore, coal, and container terminals. He also emphasised the need to adapt procurement regulations to suit Transnet entities' commercial nature.

Key points highlighted during the webinar include:

- ➔ **Immediate Action Plans** – Businesses are committing resources to address immediate challenges, leading to the development of clear three-month plans.
- ➔ **Government Support** – The Minister in the Presidency has adopted the Freight Logistics Roadmap (FLR), outlining short, medium, and long-term strategies for addressing logistics challenges.
- ➔ **Stakeholder Collaboration** – Structured stakeholder collaborations are being established to improve Transnet's performance. The Transnet Board and stakeholders, through Operational Excellence Centres (OECs), are closely monitoring the path to business recovery.
- ➔ **Necessity for Support** – The necessity for both government and private sector support has been carefully defined to address comprehensive operational challenges and promote sustainable growth.

Mr Mxolisi Mgojo, CEO representative on the National Logistics Crisis Committee (NLCC), endorsed the collaborative efforts and emphasised the collective responsibility to support Transnet for the

country's sustainability and competitiveness in global markets.

Transnet's Group Executive, Michelle Phillips, along with her team, highlighted Transnet's recovery plan involving collaboration with customers, stakeholders, and experts. The plan includes initiatives to enhance financial stability, cost-saving measures, and a high-performance culture. Infrastructure improvements, equipment reliability, and protection of rail networks from vandalism and sabotage were also discussed.

The Key focus areas for Transnet include:

- ➔ **Infrastructure Improvements** – Plans to improve operating efficiency at port terminals and rectify past mistakes.
- ➔ **Financial Viability** – Prompt payment from customers to enhance financial stability.
- ➔ **Procurement Adaptations** – Changes to procurement regulations to suit the commercial nature of transit entities.
- ➔ **Digital Transformation** – Initiatives to reduce manual processes and human errors, prioritising safety and efficiency.

The last section of the webinar involved participants offering comments and questions, highlighting overwhelming support for Transnet's initiatives and plans for recovery. Participants emphasised the importance of engagement with stakeholders across different sectors and raised questions regarding procurement processes and equipment acquisition.

In closing, speakers expressed gratitude for participant engagement and support, acknowledging the complexity of challenges but remaining optimistic about overcoming them through collaborative efforts and continuous improvement. Overall, the webinar underscored the importance of protecting Transnet's network, improving operational efficiency, and fostering collaboration to enhance the national freight logistics system.

Computing purpose and progress of established oilcake import duties

Several years ago, South Africa heavily depended on imported oilcake from Argentina due to limited local production. In 2000, a tariff system was implemented for oilcakes to protect and boost the domestic agricultural sector, fostering the growth of local production and the expansion of crushing capabilities.

Since then, the scenario has transformed, with South Africa consistently producing over 2 million tons of soybeans annually and trading at export parity prices. The export parity price, serving as a baseline, signifies that locally produced soybeans can compete globally, indicating a surplus in the local market.

Additionally, crushing capacity has increased, considering that local soya oilcake is traded based on import parity calculations. Notably, the tariff has successfully achieved its goal of developing the local soybean industry, as evident from South Africa now trading at export parity for soya beans and import parity for oilcake.

This forms the basis for AFMA Trade Committee's request to reassess the current tariff structure for oilcake to ensure fair trade practices that will benefit all participants in the value chain. AFMA will continue to liaise with the soya value chain stakeholders on this matter and advocate for the reduction of the import duty for soya oilcake.

Laboratory Sub-Committee explores new project proposal

In October 2023, the Laboratory Sub-Committee evaluated a new project proposal aimed at standardising feed analysis methods. Whilst the proposal was not immediately adopted by the TC Exco as a strategic project due to certain shortcomings, the committee acknowledged its educational value for AFMA members.

Subsequently, they proposed that the outcome be redefined as an awareness project that will inform all members of various factors to consider when assessing laboratory analysis reports and requesting specific analysis from a feed laboratory.

The committee endeavours to publish an article in the *AFMA Matrix* in this regard, which underscores the committee's commitment to address industry challenges and facilitate the transfer of knowledge.

The National One Health Forum Webinar: A Comprehensive Discussion on One Health in South Africa

On 19 January 2024, the National One Health Forum and Future Africa, at the University of Pretoria, jointly hosted a pivotal webinar addressing the state of One Health in South Africa.

The event brought together experts and stakeholders from diverse sectors, highlighting the crucial integration of human, animal, and environmental health for optimal health outcomes.

The discussion underscored the importance of a multi-sectoral approach to address One Health challenges, emphasising the necessity for robust governance and adequate resources for successful strategy implementation. The webinar delved into the global significance of One Health, its application in Africa, and its specific implementation in South Africa. Notably, the effective response to avian influenza in the Western Cape exemplified collaborative efforts across various health sectors.

Challenges such as farm access for human surveillance and the impact on community mental health were explored, emphasising the ongoing need for multi-sectoral collaboration, education, and communication. The webinar concluded with a call for heightened awareness and preparedness

for zoonotic diseases, particularly avian influenza, recognising its potential impact on human health.

This event underscored the imperative of a comprehensive One Health approach in addressing health challenges, emphasising the critical role of continuous collaboration and communication among stakeholders. Such an approach is vital to safeguard the health of humans, animals, and the environment and to prevent health crises.

This webinar serves as a prelude to the 8th World One Health Congress scheduled from 20-23 September 2024. Organised by the global One Health Community, the Congress will facilitate insightful discussions on One Health science, antimicrobial agents and resistance, and the science-policy interface.

It will provide a platform to showcase One Health progress, share initiatives, and build a global network. For more information about the Congress, [click here](#).

Update on the Sulphur Project

A request to address safety issues with feed-grade sulphur initially sparked interest, with a dedicated Sub-Committee formed to define the project's objectives and potential outcomes. Understanding the need for detailed data to make an informed decision, the committee agreed that an initial survey was essential.

This survey was designed to gather information on the quantity and source(s) of sulphur utilised in the animal feed industry and to assess any associated risks. This vital step was necessary to decide if the project should be pursued actively by the Technical Committee.

Despite the importance of this initiative, the response rate to the initial survey was disappointingly low. Only 25% of feed manufacturers and 22% of premix producers participated.

To gather more extensive data, a follow-up survey was issued in November. This second survey reached out to the same feed mills and premix manufacturers and additionally extended to ingredient suppliers.

Following this effort, the Sulphur Sub-Committee reconvened at the end of November to reassess the project's viability and strategic relevance based on the latest input. After careful consideration, the Sulphur SC concluded that AFMA should not actively pursue changing current standards or legislation regarding feed-grade sulphur use.

Instead, the consensus was to shift the focus towards improving awareness of the safe handling of potentially hazardous materials, including sulphur. This initiative will be conducted through the AFMA matrix, aiming to enhance safety practices within the industry.



The AFMA Matrix is now accessible online!

WhatsApp Alert:

Get the AFMA Matrix in a PDF format on WhatsApp by simply messaging 064 890 6941 with the reference "AFMA Matrix 2024."



Email Option:

To receive your Matrix via email, send a message to Beauty Mthombeni at beauty@plaasmedia.co.za



Thank you for your dedication to staying well-informed.

SAVE THE DATE!

AGBIZ WORKSHOP - GENE-EDITING: REGULATORY CONSTRAINTS: FINDING A WAY FORWARD

26 FEBRUARY 2024
10:00 - 13:00
VIRTUAL SESSION

AGBIZ workshop on how the current regulations of products generated with gene-editing can affect cultivar development in all sectors and trade constraints in the rest of the agricultural value chain.

The workshop will focus on the negative implications of the current regulatory environment for precision based breeding or so-called new breeding techniques for the sector and to try and chart a way forward.

A detailed agenda and the Zoom link will be circulated closer to the time.

Enquiries: annelize@agbiz.co.za



The way forward for gene-edited products

A major upset was caused in the agricultural value chain in August last year when the Minister of Agriculture decided to overrule an Appeal board recommendation, which resulted in gene-edited products being regulated under the existing risk assessment framework for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) under the GMO Act.

This decision by South Africa on products derived from gene-editing / new breeding techniques (NBT's) could impede agricultural innovation and investments and undermine efforts to improve productivity and food security. It may also impact the trade of agricultural products and act as a new barrier to trade in emergencies.

The severity of the potential impact of this decision on South African agriculture necessitates a collective approach of all stakeholders. AGBIZ is hosting a **workshop** on **26 February** that will address the current regulation of products generated through gene-editing techniques and the potential implications on cultivar development and associated trade constraints within the agricultural value chain.

Members are encouraged to attend this workshop and participate in finding a way forward for the effective regulation of gene-edited products in South Africa.

To register for this event, please [click here](#).



SAVE THESE DATES for 2024!

AFMA EVENTS

- ➔ Technical Writing Skills Workshop – Pretoria
10 April
- ➔ General Meeting – Virtual
4 April
- ➔ Student Outreach – KZN
16 April
- ➔ Feed Miller Short Course – Gauteng
6-16 May
- ➔ Golf Day – Centurion Country Club
7 August
- ➔ Annual General Meeting – TBC
6 September
- ➔ Symposium – CSIR, Pretoria
31 October

AFMA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	Feb	May	Aug	Nov
Technical Committee	20	28	20	19
Trade Committee	26	27	26	25
Regulatory Committee	28	29	27	26
Marketing & Promotion Committee	27	29	27	26
Training & Skills Development Committee	20	28	20	19

2024 AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP COMPETITION

The AFMA Intersivity Writer's Cup competition allows you to share your research in the *AFMA Matrix* magazine, a quarterly publication dedicated to the animal feed industry in South and Southern Africa, with articles based on scientific research and the latest industry news.

The second round of the 2024 Intersivity Writer's Cup is in full swing. If you haven't submitted your article yet, please do so before 12 February 2024. Information is available [here](#).

ENTER NOW!

DEADLINE: ROUND 2

Article submission date: **12 February 2024**

Publication date: **April 2024**



Who may enter?

Final year Animal Science students or Postgraduate Nutrition Science students, studying at a South African university.



Article themes

- Feed industry: Legislative environment; Trade environment (economy/pricing/trade)
- Feed science: Additives
- Nutritional science: All species
- Feed processing: Milling/mixing/formulation/packaging



Competition categories

- Own research
- Literature review

Prizes

AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP CHAMPION:

The university represented by the overall winner of the own research category will receive a cash prize of **R10 000** and a floating trophy as the AFMA Intersivity Writer's Cup Champion.

OWN RESEARCH CATEGORY:

Authors of winning articles published quarterly will each receive a cash prize of **R2 000**. The author of the overall winning article and his/her promoter will each receive a cash prize of **R7 000**.

LITERATURE REVIEW CATEGORY:

Authors of winning articles published quarterly will each receive a cash prize of **R1 000**. The author of the overall winning article will receive a cash prize of **R3 000**.

PLEASE NOTE:

The highest-scoring articles in each category will be published in the relevant edition of the AFMA Matrix.

The overall winners will be chosen from all the articles that were published in the AFMA Matrix.

Published own research articles will be considered for the AFMA Intersivity Writer's Cup award.

The overall winners in both categories will be allowed to present their submitted articles at the annual AFMA Symposium.

Stay in the loop with the AFMA Intersivity Writer's Cup – follow AFMA on social media for the latest competition updates!

For more information contact the AFMA Office • Telephone: +27 (0)12 663 9097 • E-mail: events@afma.co.za

Visit www.afma.co.za/afma-intersivity-writers-cup for more information.



About AFMA

The Animal Feed Manufacturers Association (AFMA) is the official representative body of the South African feed industry in the livestock sector and plays a pivotal role in the larger agricultural environment.

AFMA members consist of animal feed and -ingredient manufacturers as well as suppliers of feed ingredients and related services such as consultants, laboratories, and feed-system installations. AFMA members feed 100% of the broilers in South Africa and represent 60% of the total animal feed produced in South Africa.

AFMA provides a unified voice and promotes the animal feed industry as an integral part of the food chain to deliver safe, nutritious, and affordable food for all. For more information on AFMA please visit www.afma.co.za.

Thank you to the contributors of this *AFMA Member Update*

- ➡ Liesl Breytenbach, Executive Director (*Pr.Sci.Nat*)
- ➡ Lucius Phaleng, Trade Advisor
- ➡ Bonita Cilliers, Technical & Regulatory Advisor (*Can.Sci.Nat*)
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