

AFMA MEMBER UPDATE

For additional information regarding the projects and actions mentioned in the AFMA Member Update, please reach out to the AFMA office at +27 (0)12 663 9097 or email admin@afma.co.za.



The H5N1 avian flu has reared its head again, forcing some tough decisions on poultry farms and tightening biosecurity protocols

A lot on our plate and plenty to be proud of

It's been a tough stretch for the industry lately. The H5N1 avian flu has reared its head again, forcing some tough decisions on poultry farms and tightening biosecurity protocols. At the same time, Foot-and-Mouth Disease has been making its way through parts of the country, sparking stricter movement controls.

Biosecurity has become the hot topic at every event we've attended; it's on everyone's minds, and for good reason. These outbreaks don't just stay on the farm; they ripple right through the feed supply chain. Let's be honest, when avian flu hits, the impact on our members is immediate. Feed volumes drop and everything starts to feel a bit uncertain. It's a reminder that "safe feed for safe food" isn't just a tagline; it's something we live every day.

June was an active month at AFMA, with all our internal committee meetings taking

place as scheduled. A wide range of topics and projects were discussed, and important progress was made across several focus areas. For those who weren't able to attend, this edition of the *AFMA Member Update* provides a comprehensive overview of the key discussions.

We highlight the progress made in modernising the AFMA Code of Conduct, a process that now enters its third phase with a focus on implementation, audit expansion, and practical alignment with global feed safety standards. On the regulatory side, key developments include the amended Farm Feed Regulations, the proposed repeal of the hominy chop exemption, and ongoing engagement around the Feeds & Pet Food Bill.

This edition also features a recap of the 2025 Feed Miller Short Course, which once

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A lot on our plate and plenty to be proud of

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again delivered practical, in-depth training to participants. It also includes a highlight of the Student Outreach event hosted at Meadow Feeds in Pietermaritzburg, which gave students valuable exposure to feed industry operations. A standout moment was the graduation of our first international learner from the Feed Mill Operator Blended Learning Program, alongside participants from Botswana.

Trade-related updates remain a key focus, with progress on the economic study reviewing soybean oilcake import duties, advancements in listing soybean oilcake futures contracts on SAFEX, and the latest on copper sulphate rebate developments, all with direct relevance to our members' day-to-day operations.

As we prepare to celebrate AFMA's 80th anniversary later this year at the AGM, considerable effort has gone into preserving the association's rich history. Over the past few months, the AFMA team has been hard at work "dedusting" shelves and archives, carefully

uncovering old Chairman's Reports and documents dating back to the 1950s. Many of these records, originally typed on classic typewriters or even handwritten, have now been digitised using modern technology. It's been a time-consuming but rewarding process, helping to ensure that AFMA's history is preserved and made accessible for future generations.

With a busy season ahead, including the AGM, Golf Day, and upcoming workshops, we look forward to reconnecting with members and celebrating our milestones.

There's a lot to reflect on and even more to look forward to. Thank you for being part of the AFMA journey.

Liesl

Liesl Breytenbach
Executive Director: AFMA

AFMA MEMBERSHIP AND CODE OF CONDUCT

AFMA welcomes new members in 2025

AFMA is pleased to announce the addition of new members. As the voice of the South African animal feed industry, we are delighted to strengthen our network with companies committed to quality and compliance. An updated membership list is available on the website (www.afma.co.za) and includes a status of compliance for each facility. We welcome the following new members:

Associate Member:
COMDI Agricultural Markets



Affiliate Member:
Famsun

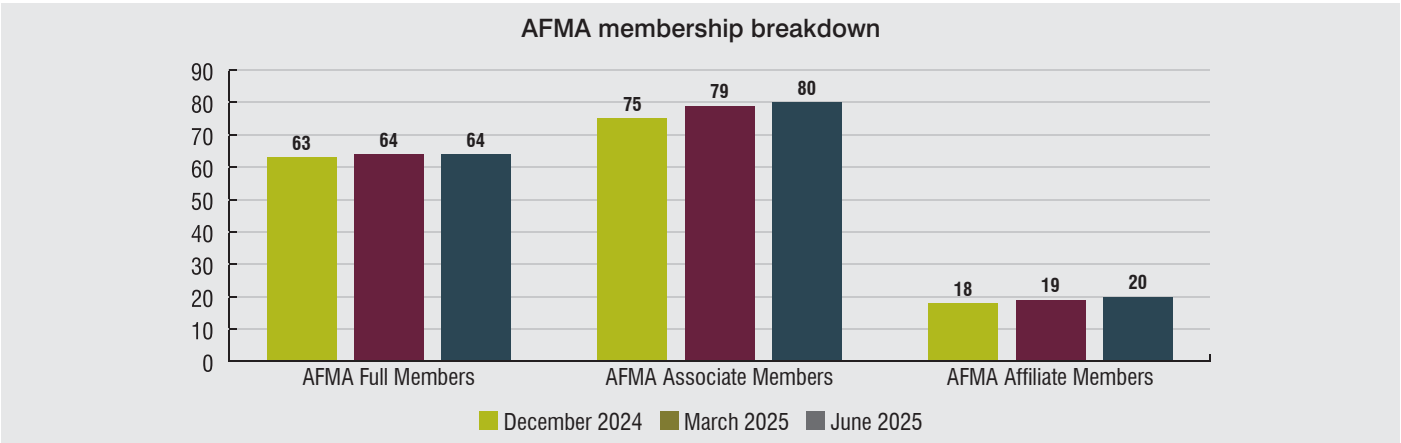


AFMA membership: Current status

AFMA currently comprises **164 members**, consisting of **64 Full members**, **80 Associate members**, and **20 Affiliate members**. We continue to receive a steady stream of membership applications via our online platform (www.afma.co.za/application-form), underscoring our role as a prominent representative body in the agricultural sector and a leading authority within the animal feed industry.

The figure illustrates steady growth in AFMA's membership base

across all categories. While Full Membership remained stable at 64 from March to June 2025, Associate Membership increased from 75 in December 2024 to 80 by June 2025, reflecting growing engagement from suppliers and industry stakeholders. Affiliate Membership also showed a gradual rise, reaching 20 by June 2025. An updated membership list is available on the website (www.afma.co.za/membership-list) and includes a status of compliance for each facility.



AFMA's Code of Conduct gains momentum in 2025

The AFMA Code of Conduct remains a strategic priority aimed at standardising industry practices, aligning with international standards, and supporting self-regulation. Introduced in 2008, the Code is now in Phase 3 of a major modernisation process, focusing on implementation, pilot testing, and the expansion of audit capacity.

Expanding assessment capacity

AFMA is evaluating the addition of assessment bodies to offer members greater flexibility. While Afri Compliance is currently the sole provider, discussions with six other certification bodies currently used by members are underway. All will use a standardised AFMA audit template to ensure consistency.

AFMA member certification landscape and benchmarking

In March and April 2025, AFMA surveyed its members to assess the certification landscape. The findings revealed that 57% of members – 65% of associate members and 48% of full members – do not operate under formal quality systems such as HACCP, GMP, or ISO, and instead rely exclusively on the AFMA Code of Conduct as their primary “quality standard.”

To ensure the AFMA Code of Conduct stays globally aligned yet locally practical,



AFMA conducted a comprehensive benchmarking exercise. The aim was to develop a self-regulatory framework that reflects international best practices without placing unrealistic demands on South African feed businesses. Findings showed that the proposed revised Code, initially aligned with FSSC principles, may be too stringent and placed unnecessary verification burden on members. The AFMA Code of Conduct audit criteria and manual were adjusted accordingly.

The Code was benchmarked across four categories:

- 1 **Quality & Food Safety Systems** – ISO 9001, ISO 22000, GMP+; etc
- 2 **PRP & GMP Standards** – ISO/TS 22002-1, Codex, FAO, PAS 222, and SANS 489;
- 3 **Feed Industry Codes** – FeedAssure (Canada), FSC36 (USA), FeedSafe (Australia), and FEDIAF (EU); ETC.
- 4 **Local Benchmark** – SAPPO's Pork 360.

Fit-for-purpose compliance through tiering

A tiered audit framework is being introduced, aligning with ISO 22000 and

global feed industry codes. This approach avoids the complexity of GFSI schemes, ensures scalability, and sets appropriate compliance expectations based on operational complexity, supporting small operators without lowering standards. This is still in process.

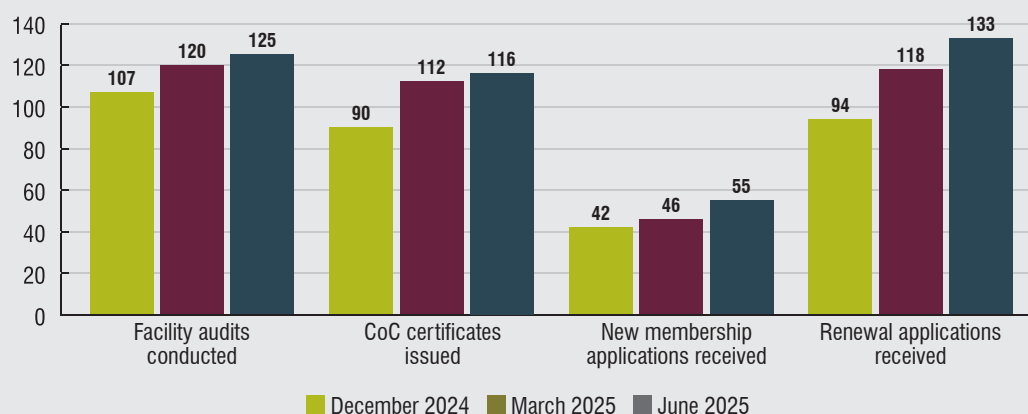
Supporting legislative modernisation and industry recognition

This framework will support future feed legislation under the Feeds Bill, where facility licensing is expected. The Code is also gaining traction in sectors like dairy, where it serves as a pre-approval tool for feed suppliers. AFMA advocates for its formal recognition in national policy.

Non-compliance issues

All Full and Associate members are required to comply with the AFMA Code of Conduct, with adherence evaluated bi-annually by an independent auditor appointed by AFMA. Since June 2023, the following membership-related activities have taken place: During this period, 12% of the audited facilities were found to have non-compliances. The primary concerns identified included issues with labelling, health and safety, unregistered SACNASP nutritionists, unregistered raw materials, biosecurity risks, inadequate housekeeping, contamination risks, and risks related to the legal status of entities (*figure below*).

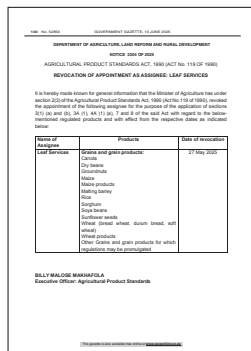
AFMA COC tracking since June 2023



Leaf Services revoked as an assignee of APS Act 119 of 1990

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture has revoked the designation of Leaf Services as an assignee under section 2(3) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act 119 of 1990. Leaf Services, appointed in 2006 to conduct inspections of grain and grain products within South Africa, was authorized under various provisions of the Act. The revocation followed a comprehensive review of Leaf Services' role, particularly concerning transparent consultation in setting inspection fees, procedural fairness, and delays in the application for fees of the Act. Concerns were also raised regarding the absence of a substantiated methodology for fee determination, as evidenced in the 2021 Appeal Board outcomes.

The Minister reaffirmed the importance of maintaining high standards in the inspection and regulation of staple foods such as maize meal and bread, which are vital to the South African population, and highlighted the industry's reputation for quality. The proposed fee increases by Leaf Services would have substantially raised costs, potentially by tens of millions of rands impacting the prices of grain and oilseeds. Consequently, the Department of Agriculture's Inspection Unit will assume responsibility for inspecting grain and grain products. Additionally, the Department will pursue the development of a private-public partnership inspection model, as envisaged in the Act, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of inspection services.



DNA Economics update: Economic study to review soybean oilcake import duty

AFMA members are advised that an economic study conducted by DNA Economics to review soybean oilcake import duties is currently underway. The report was originally scheduled for finalisation at the end of May 2025. However, due to ongoing consultations with key industry stakeholders such as Grain SA, the Oilseed Crushers Association, and others, the deadline has been extended. To date, the draft report has been shared during the 2nd AFMA Trade Committee meeting, with stakeholder consultation been completed.

The DNA Economics finalized the validation of data and assumptions, completing the analysis, and submitted the draft report. Following this, they will present the final report and recommendations. AFMA will ultimately prepare a submission to the International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC).



Futures Contracts listing on SAFEX: Soybean oilcake

An update regarding the listing of soybean oilcake futures contracts on SAFEX. To date, crushers have committed a total storage capacity of 22,500 tons, thereby meeting the minimum requirement of 20,000 tons set by the JSE to proceed with the listing. A draft of the detailed contract specifications is to be finalised and will be under review by the JSE legal team.

Concurrently, a subcommittee comprising technical experts is being formed to thoroughly review the contract specifications. This subcommittee will ensure that the specifications are comprehensive and supported by all relevant role players, facilitating a smooth and effective launch of the soymeal futures contracts.



Updates on ITAC copper sulphate rebate creation investigation

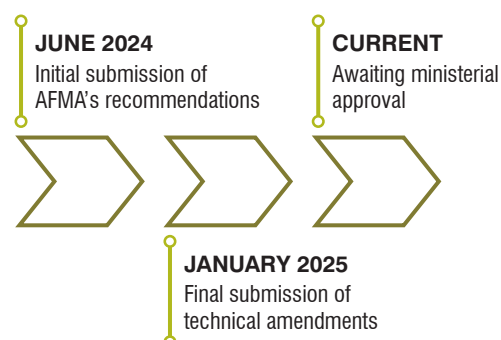
The application and investigation concerning the rebate creation for copper sulphate are currently being processed by ITAC. Further communication will be provided in due course.

Nutrient Guidelines update

The Nutrient Guideline Revision Project (NGRP) remains one of AFMA's flagship technical initiatives, aimed at modernising South Africa's nutrient standards for farm feeds. Following years of scientific review, the amended regulations under Act 36 of 1947 are now awaiting ministerial approval. The updated nutrient guidelines, developed to align with these regulatory amendments, will be published alongside the regulations once they are officially gazetted.

While the exact timeline for publication remains uncertain, a release within the next two to three months is anticipated, with internal process improvements possibly enabling an earlier outcome. Once gazetted, the revised nutrient standards will serve as the authoritative framework for complying with the acceptable nutrient standards for each species, including updated minimum and maximum guarantees.

In preparation, AFMA has already begun developing a practical, user-friendly version of the guidelines to support member compliance that will be published on the AFMA website. This important milestone



will strengthen alignment with international best practices and enhance feed quality, animal health, and export readiness. Members are encouraged to stay informed through AFMA communications, as AFMA remains committed to supporting a smooth transition once implementation begins.

AMR Alliance gains traction ahead of July stakeholder dialogue

In a major step forward, the Department of Agriculture (DoA) has invited AMR Alliance members, regulators, and academia to a landmark virtual engagement in July. Each sector – including livestock, veterinary, feed, and academic stakeholders – will present AMR and AMU initiatives, aiming to align strategies and inform national policy. Government has confirmed

this dialogue will guide future AMR oversight. As part of broader reform, SAHPRA, DoA, and the Department of Health (DoH) have formed a dedicated task team. The task team will focus on strengthening the regulatory framework for veterinary antimicrobials by reviewing existing legislation (Acts 36 and 101), identifying areas for alignment, and exploring governance improvements.

Its work will also include consideration of the role of over-the-counter access and the development of a long-term roadmap to support evidence-based stewardship. The AMR Alliance Collaborative Platform remains instrumental in promoting responsible antimicrobial use through improved coordination, data sharing, and science-led collaboration across sectors.

Understanding maize moisture content

Recent concerns from maize suppliers regarding moisture deviations greater than 0.3% between loading and delivery have led to confusion within the animal feed industry. However, this 0.3% difference pertains to measurement method uncertainty, not actual moisture loss during transit.

The regulation allows any suitable method to determine maize moisture content, provided it considers method variability and is validated – specifically using Class 1 meters aligned with ISO 7700 or AACC Method 44/15A. The focus is on the precision

of the instrument, not the physical change in moisture.

Misinterpretation can lead to disputes, delays, and unnecessary reporting burdens. To avoid this, feed mills are encouraged to validate their moisture testing methods and maintain clear communication with suppliers. Understanding this regulatory nuance promotes fair trade, quality assurance, and efficient industry practices. Ongoing education on testing protocols – alongside supplier dialogue – remains key to alignment and the smooth operation.

AFMA explores role in South African Food Loss and Waste Initiative

The South African Food Loss and Waste Initiative (SAFLWI) is positioning itself as a key national effort to address the challenges and broader impacts of food waste. Central to its mission is the reduction of environmental and economic burdens through the safe, innovative, and sustainable redirection of surplus food – particularly for use in animal feed.

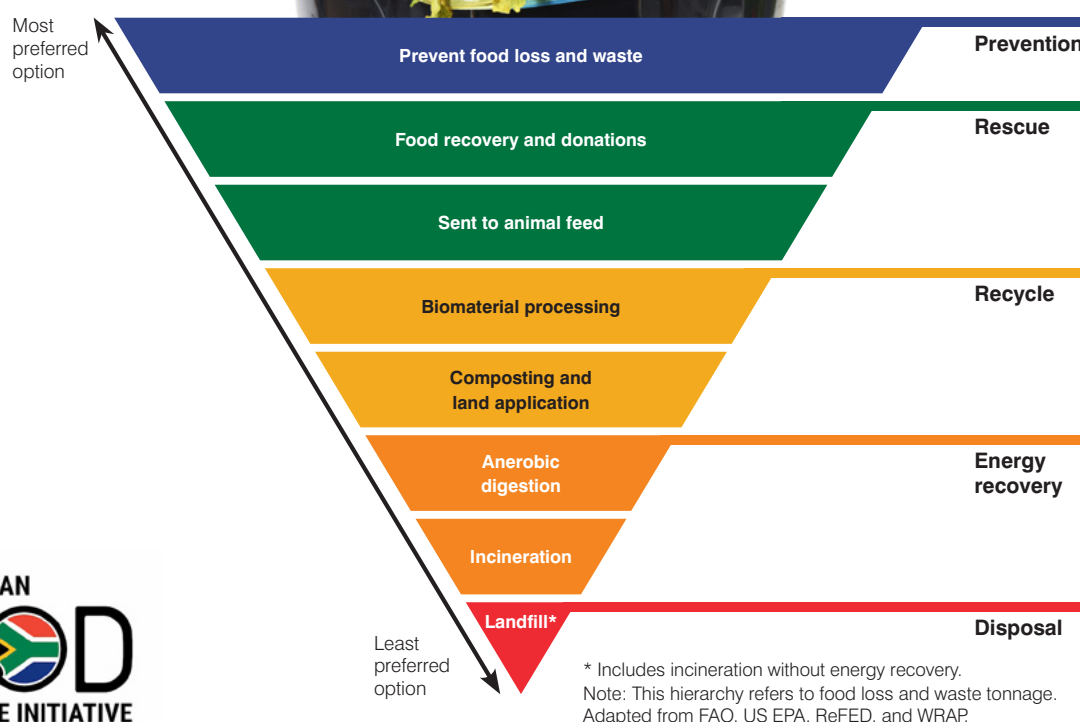
As part of this effort, SA FLWI has established an Animal Feed Working Group to develop science-based, regulation-aligned guidelines for the responsible use of edible “food waste” in animal feed. The group was initiated in response to growing interest from SAFLWI signatories seeking guidance on which food products can be safely diverted for feed use. Its role is to

assist businesses in understanding food waste eligibility, applicable legislation, and compliance obligations, all in line with South Africa’s Food Loss and Waste Utilisation Hierarchy. AFMA has been formally invited to participate, in recognition of its leadership in feed regulation, safety standards, and its position as the official representative of South Africa’s animal feed industry.

SA FLWI is in the process of finalising its draft Terms of Reference (ToR), while AFMA considers establishing an internal *ad hoc* support group of technical experts to contribute specialised input. These experts would assist with risk assessments, regulatory compliance, and the development of safe-use protocols for food waste in

animal feed. Discussions are also ongoing regarding AFMA’s longer-term collaboration with the CGCSA and other key stakeholders.

Although challenges such as inconsistent food waste quality, limited traceability, and regulatory uncertainties remain, the initiative presents a significant opportunity to shape practical, scalable solutions. AFMA’s involvement is expected to focus on technical guidance, compliance support, and effective communication across the industry. The formal introductory session of the Animal Feed Working Group is scheduled for July 2025, and AFMA has confirmed its participation. Members are encouraged to stay engaged and contribute as the initiative progresses.



Regulatory approval in sight for amended Farm Feed Regulations

AFMA welcomes the continued progress on the long-awaited amendments to the farm feed regulations under Act 36 of 1947. The amended regulations, a key step in modernising South Africa's feed legislation, have been submitted to the Minister and are currently undergoing final legal and internal review. Once approved, they will be published for a 30-day public comment period. The final version is expected to closely reflect the

draft shared with industry in December 2024, following extensive and detailed input from both AFMA and the PFI. Provided no major changes have been made, further substantial comments during the consultation period are not anticipated. Members are encouraged to stay informed through AFMA's official channels, where additional information and guidance may be provided to support understanding and compliance.

Feeds & Pet Food Bill: Industry calls for inclusive, science-based regulation

A dedicated task team – comprising primary stakeholders from AFMA, PFI, and representatives from the Registrar's office under Act 36 – has played an active role in shaping the Feeds and Pet Food Bill. The team has worked collaboratively to develop principles for a science-based, practical regulatory framework that supports innovation and reduces unnecessary regulatory burden. However, recent developments have raised concerns, as the final discussion paper was released without incorporating input from the task team, despite earlier assurances of inclusive consultation before Act 36 embarks on their consultation process with secondary stakeholders. This departure from prior agreements has prompted strong industry reaction and calls for renewed engagement.

Particularly concerning is the registrar's proposal to exempt on-farm feed mixes from regulatory oversight – contrary to previously agreed-upon principles that all feed inputs should be regulated to protect and ensure animal welfare and consumer food safety. AFMA has submitted formal objections, emphasising that animal welfare, feed safety, and public health should not be negotiable and that all feed for food-producing animals, including on-farm mixes, must be subjected to appropriate regulatory oversight.

AFMA continues to support a regulatory model that prioritises:

- Public and animal health;
- Licensing of feed manufacturing facilities rather than pre-market approval for feed products; and
- Recognition of existing industry-led self-regulation initiatives such as the AFMA Code of Conduct, Pork 360 and other industry-led initiatives.

There is broad industry consensus that minimum feed safety standards and ingredient controls are essential. However, a "one-size-fits-all" model is not appropriate. AFMA have strongly advocated for a tiered regulatory approach, aligned with the risk profiles of different facility types and production systems. This would allow for appropriate oversight without imposing excessive burdens – particularly on smaller producers.

Moving forward, AFMA remain committed to engaging the regulator and wider stakeholder producer groups, including red meat, pork, and poultry producers to ensure the bill is both effective and practical. Members will be kept informed of developments, and their participation in future consultations will be vital to shaping a fair, science-aligned regulatory framework for the animal feed and pet food sectors.

Inspection oversight and compliance gaps

The Inspection Compliance Forum (ICF) has recently reconvened after a considerable break, exposing deeply concerning weaknesses within South Africa's inspection framework under Act 36 and highlighting urgent, systemic challenges across inspection services in the agricultural sector.

Despite exceeding its annual inspection targets with 1,878 routine visits (125% of target), inspection coverage across sectors remains highly uneven. Agricultural remedies dominated inspection efforts, with 5,036 inspections conducted, while only 17 livestock feed sites, 7 ingredient sites, and no pet food or stock remedy sites were inspected. Fertilisers received just one inspection, underscoring the limited reach across several key regulatory areas. This concentrated effort on agricultural remedies was driven by several urgent concerns under Act 36 of 1947, including a surge in illegal pesticide imports (often repackaged and sold in informal markets), multiple chemical poisoning cases, and widespread non-compliance in manufacturing and repackaging. Routine inspections across farm feeds and related industries remain critically low, compromising overall regulatory oversight.

Concerns were also raised about the inspection model itself as it is based on staff availability, not actual risk, revealing systemic inefficiencies.

In addition, stakeholders highlighted poor-quality reporting, including errors, incomplete data, and misspelled names in official documentation. Complaint handling remains a serious issue, with unresolved internal labour disputes resulting in a backlog of complaints being routed to an inactive inbox. This has left urgent non-compliance issues – especially from SAPCA and PFI – unaddressed and eroded industry trust. To address several issues within Inspection Services, the Strategic Agricultural Inputs Forum (SAIF) has made inspection reform a top priority. A comprehensive gap analysis is planned across all Act 36 sectors to identify inspection risks and shortcomings.

Current feed registration landscape

Blacklock resurfaces: Delays mount again for Farm Feed approvals under Act 36

Between 1 February and 30 April 2025, the Department of Agriculture (DoA) received 887 farm feed applications, including 197 new registrations and 690 amendments. A total of 595 were completed, including 556 registrations and 39 rejections, while 1,509 applications remain outstanding – comprising 297 on hold, 153 awaiting approval, and 1,059 pending technical evaluation. Amendment applications continue to far outweigh new registrations, with pet food submissions leading, followed by feed additives, livestock feeds, and raw materials. The persistent rise in amendments has further strained processing capacity, leading to extended turnaround times and a growing backlog. Currently, a 3-month backlog is experienced in addition to the agreed 4-month service delivery timeframe for applications.

Multiple factors have contributed to this renewed pressure:

- ✓ Staffing constraints, with reduced external technical evaluator support
- ✓ The discontinuation of the internship programme, which had bolstered operational capacity
- ✓ Prioritisation of legislative work over registrations, notably the Feeds and Pet Food Bill
- ✓ Surging submission volumes, particularly in the amendment category

Looking forward, the industry remains cautiously optimistic. The publication of revised farm feed regulations is expected to ease some administrative pressure on the Department by introducing a notification-based process for specific minor amendments, and allow businesses to continue marketing of products without awaiting approval. Furthermore, the anticipated rollout of the electronic submission system for farm feeds is seen as a critical step toward streamlining applications, enhancing traceability, and alleviating long-term delays.

Although the current backlog is not yet at historical levels, industry

stakeholders are advised to remain vigilant. AFMA urges members to monitor the status of their applications closely and report any unresolved cases for follow-up.



Farm Feed Renewals: High-volume backlog

Every few years, the farm feed sector undergoes a major renewal cycle, and 2025 marks one of these high-demand periods. For the 2025/2028 cycle, the Department of Agriculture (DoA) has received 5,128 renewal applications. Of these, 2,996 have been completed, while 2,132 remain outstanding, including 19 late submissions. Additionally, 42 of 58 cancellation requests have been processed.

Although the renewal window opened as early as August 2024, a significant number of applications were submitted just before the March 2025 deadline, placing strain on the system. The late surge was primarily attributed to budget constraints, with some companies delaying submissions until the start of the new financial year to secure funding. This contributed to a backlog and delayed turnaround times. To address the pressure, the department has launched a special project aimed at finalising outstanding renewals by the end of June 2025. However, some early submissions made before February remain unresolved due to handling inefficiencies. AFMA urges members to monitor their renewal status closely and report any outstanding cases. Early submission and improved coordination remain key to avoiding delays in future renewal cycles.

Rendering and sterilisation plant renewals

Registrations for rendering and

sterilisation plants have progressed slowly, with only six applications received across the 2024/2027 and 2025/2028 cycles. To date, two applications have been completed, one rejected, while four for 2025/2028 and one for 2024/2027 remain outstanding and in process, bringing the total number of pending renewals in this category to five.

Although overall volumes are lower than in previous years, the continued presence of unresolved applications highlights ongoing inefficiencies in the system. Renewal delays have been linked to poor coordination between the inspectorate, technical, and administrative teams within AIC. The department has acknowledged these challenges and committed to improving internal workflows to prevent future lapses.

While a list of registered Act 36-licensed sterilising facilities has been shared with members, it lacks product-specific details. Importantly, a valid product registration certificate does not necessarily mean that the facility's licence is still valid. Members are therefore urged to verify both the registration status of products received from rendering/sterilising plants and the facility's current licensing status, and to request updated sterilisation certificates where applicable.

Farm Feeds division faces ongoing capacity challenges amid budget and structural shifts

In early 2025, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development officially split into two standalone entities: the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development. This restructuring has brought significant changes to staffing, budget allocations, and digital infrastructure. Within the Farm Feeds Division, the transition – compounded by existing budget constraints – has exacerbated capacity challenges and delayed recruitment. Although all funded posts within the farm feeds

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Current feed registration landscape

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division are currently filled, broader administrative functions across the AIC remain limited due to a freeze on positions predating 2019. Additionally, four of eight inspector vacancies remain unfilled, reducing inspection capacity. The discontinuation of the internship programme, once essential to daily operations, has placed added strain on the core team, with no clear timeline for reinstatement. External Technical Advisor (ETA) contracts expired in August 2024 and were not renewed. While other AIC sectors continue to use ETAs, the Farm Feeds Division has opted against reappointment, citing inefficiencies and limited benefits observed during previous contracts. A new business case is being developed for other divisions, while Farm Feeds has cited to prioritise building internal capacity as a more sustainable long-term solution. While improvements are anticipated, they hinge on several long-term developments, including regulatory changes, resource allocation, and digital system rollout, all of which may be slow to materialise. Leadership engagement remains critical to addressing current capacity gaps and restoring operational efficiency within the whole division.

Department of Agriculture launches new website following departmental split

Following its separation from Land Reform and Rural Development, the newly established Department of Agriculture (DoA) has launched its official website: www.nda.gov.za. While the site is live, updates are still in progress. Planned improvements include clearer navigation, an FAQ section, updated contact information, and a product registration tab to better support users navigating Act 36 processes.

AFMA has offered input to assist the Farm Feeds Division with improving usability, including support for the FAQ section currently hosted by AFMA. Once completed, the site is expected to offer easier access to regulatory information, improved transparency, and a more user-friendly experience for stakeholders.

Farm Feeds e-Submission System approaches testing stage
The Department of Agriculture (DoA)

has finalized Phase 2 of its long-awaited electronic submission system for farm feeds. Internal testing was anticipated for June 2025, with external testing to follow. The rollout timeline remains unclear, as it may face similar delays to those experienced with the Agricultural Remedies electronic platform. Although progress has been delayed due to limited IT capacity following the departmental split and ongoing system integration challenges, AFMA and PFI emphasised the importance of rigorous external testing to ensure the platform is equipped to handle submission volumes and complexities. AFMA is in discussion with the Chief Director to incorporate an industry developed e-submission system for pre-screening to improve the accuracy of submission inputs, workflow, technical assessment and client communication. The industry-developed system will offer long-term assurances to industry for a sustainable process and will add benefits to the planned Departmental system. Once fully implemented, the e-submission system is expected to reduce backlogs, improve transparency, and streamline application processes within the Farm Feeds Division.

SAIF reasserts role to tackle critical regulatory shortfalls

The South African Industry Forum (SAIF) has regained momentum as a key cross-sectoral platform tackling regulatory challenges under Act 36. With Alan Cloeck (SAAHA) appointed as Chair and Liesl Breytenbach (AFMA) as Vice-Chair, fresh leadership is driving renewed purpose and collaborative action.

SAIF conducted a registration gap analyses across sectors in 2021, and is currently reporting on the progress of implementation. A progress report will outline the top three priority focus areas that needs attention and prioritization and will be submitted to the management of DoA and its Agricultural Inputs Control division.

The deficiencies in inspection services have prompted SAIF to request a gap analysis of this sector to be prioritized to highlight risks to compliance and public safety. SAIF continues to emphasise accountability, pushing for improved enforcement, transparency, and responsiveness. As a unified industry voice, SAIF's strengthened leadership and strategic direction mark a critical step forward in ensuring more effective regulatory governance and protecting both industry integrity and public trust.



40 Years later: Is it time to regulate Hominy Chop?

After four decades of exemption, hominy chop is set to return to regulatory oversight. The process began in 2013 when the Registrar of Farm Feeds published Notice 1113, signalling his intent to regulate hominy chop with a 13% maximum moisture limit. AFMA engaged with the the regulator and noted industry's concern that it is impractical due to modern maize milling equipment and existing practices in conditioning that will result in a much higher moisture level in the milling by-product.

Following consultation with NCM and AFMA, the Department tasked AFMA with developing safe moisture and shelf-life guidelines that will support registration. In 2021, AFMA proposed that two categories be considered based on preliminary trials conducted: a standard hominy chop with a 13% max moisture, and a high-moisture hominy chop with 15.5% max moisture plus the inclusion of a registered antioxidant, date labelling, and a "feed within 14 days" warning. The AFMA proposal was supported by the SA Feedlot Association.

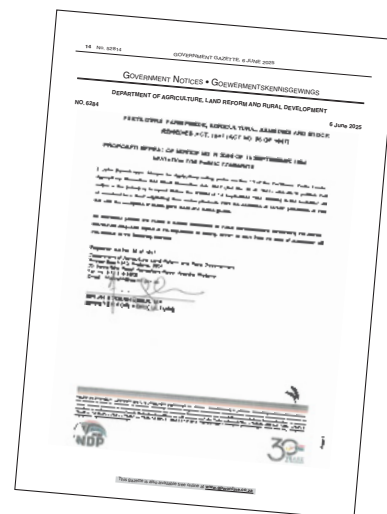
On 6 June 2025, the Department of Agriculture published Notice No. 6284 and requested public comment on its intention to regulate all maize milling by-products. AFMA has requested a 30-day extension to review its 2021 proposal in light of evolving practices and feedback from major hominy chop users.

Ongoing engagements with feedlots, nutritionists and maize millers highlighted additional concerns, including varying needs for bulk vs bagged product to preserve quality and safety. While feedlots

manage rapid turnover, smaller volume users who receive bagged product, face increased risk of spoilage due to oxidation and loss in product quality.

AFMA is committed to engage the relevant stakeholders to reassess its previous recommendations for registration and consider the current best practice of managing quality and safety of a milling by-product via existing supplier contracts.

Although the initial intent to regulate hominy chop was based on providing equal marketing opportunities for a uniform and safe product, the practical implications is severely limiting implementation. **Public comment is due by 6 August and members are urged to provide additional inputs to AFMA on whether registration is required for this byproduct from the milling industry, or whether status quo should be recommended.**



AFMA TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AFMA Feed Miller Short Course 2025

The 2025 course was hosted from 31 March to 11 April at Riverstone Lodge, Muldersdrift. For two intensive weeks, 55 delegates from 22 companies participated in a rigorous training programme covering key technical aspects of the animal feed manufacturing process. The course concluded with a particularly challenging final assessment. Those who passed were awarded their certificates at the official Certificate Ceremony, marking the end of a rewarding journey of growth and learning.

This year also marked the final presentation in South Africa by Mr Ernst Nef, who has played a central role in the development and delivery of the Short Course over the past 15 years. AFMA

bid him a heartfelt farewell during the closing ceremony, thanking him for his long-standing partnership, expertise and dedication to advancing knowledge in the industry.

AFMA is grateful to our generous sponsors:

- **Automill**, which hosted the registration session
- **Bühler**, sponsor of the "Industry Mixer" social dinner
- **R-Biopharm**, who brought some much-needed fun after the exam with their sponsored "Bliss Break Box Cart" activity

The Short Course remains one of AFMA's flagship educational initiatives, and we look forward to seeing the



Watch the Plaas TV interview video

positive impact of this year's participants as they return to their roles across the sector.

The next course is planned for 2027.

Click here to read the article in the latest edition of the AFMA Matrix.



Feed Mill Operator (FMO) Blended Learning Program



Feed Mill Operator Blended Learning Programme



Scan me
or click me

AFMA's Blended Learning Program offers feed mill operators a unique opportunity to build critical skills through a combination of e-learning modules and hands-on, work-based training. By blending theoretical knowledge with real-world, practical experience in actual feed production settings, the program ensures operators are fully prepared to meet modern industry demands. AFMA encourages companies to invest in this program to develop skilled operators

capable of leading and improving operational efficiency. The program is flexible and can be implemented at any feed mill globally, using your own facility as the training site.

AFMA also had its first learner from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), representing Grand Mills, successfully complete the program, marking an important milestone in expanding AFMA's international reach and demonstrating the global relevance of our training initiatives.

To support continued growth and improvement, AFMA recently held a dedicated meeting with Learning Pathways to explore the development of additional modules and enhancements to existing content. This collaboration aims to ensure that the program continues to meet evolving industry needs and provides maximum value to learners and employers alike.

For more information or to register, visit www.afma.co.za/livestock-feed-milling-operator-e-learning-program or contact admin@afma.co.za or 012 663 9097.

LEARNER TESTIMONIALS

Operator: Seabe Moje
(Master Farmer T/A Nutri Feeds (Pty) Ltd)

"Hello AFMA Team,

The key aspect that stood out on this course, was feed processing, understanding how feed mill operations are integrated together, from receiving raw materials, quality control, storage, feed processing, equipment and maintenance and safety. The course helped me to understand more about leadership, effectively and efficiently leading personnel to understand how raw materials is used to produce finished goods or products.

The course is work integrated, it is beneficial as it gave me high knowledge and exposure in feed milling operations through practical training on how to run day to day execution and application of theory into practice or implementation. I am happy to be part of the AFMA FEED MILL OPERATOR TRAINING, the journey was spectacular and eye opening.

Thank you."

Operator: Pheny Bimbo-Master
(Mater Farmer T/A Nutri Feeds (Pty) Ltd)

"Good day AFMA team.

The key aspect that stood out on this course was safety. I will divide it into 3 sections being safety of personnel, safety of feed and safety of environment. Safety of personnel I understand that there are certain safety protocols for everyone involved in feed milling so that all of us are safe from any hazards. I've learned that feed safety means producing high-quality feed to keep animals healthy and prevent diseases from being passed to humans through meat consumption. All aspects involved in feed milling being raw material, equipment, storage, and feed processing should be of high standards. I've also learned that environmental safety means properly containing and discarding feed mill waste so it doesn't harm the environment.

The course was practical and beneficial because it combined theory with practise. What I learned from theory I put into practice.

I really enjoyed the experience of being part of AFMA FEED MILL OPERATOR TRAINING, because I have gathered knowledge and skills that will make me a better feed mill operator.

Thanks."

Feed Mill Operators graduate

AFMA congratulates some of the learners who have completed the Feed Mill Operator (FMO) Blended Learning Course. Their dedication and perseverance in mastering the technical and operational aspects of feed milling reflect their commitment to excellence in the industry.

Congratulations to all the learners from De Heus, Nutri Feeds, RCL Molatek, National Foods-Zimbabwe, Grand Mills (UAE) and Master Farmer, Botswana for achieving this milestone! Your hard work and newly acquired skills will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success of the feed manufacturing sector.



Master Farmer, Botswana: Seabe Moje (right) receiving his certificate from Lame Goepamang (left) (Senior Health and Safety Officer).



Master Farmer, Botswana: Pheny Bimbo (right) receiving the certificate for Ephette Phalaagae (left) (Shift Miller).

AFMA-Tertiary institutions engagement platform

In April, AFMA hosted a dedicated engagement session with representatives from nine tertiary institutions offering Animal Science programs. The meeting created a valuable platform to discuss how universities and the feed industry can work more closely together, particularly in aligning academic focus areas with practical industry needs. It was clear that there is strong willingness across institutions to deepen collaboration.

As a next step, AFMA is compiling an inventory of each of the institutions. This data will help us better understand the landscape of animal science training in South Africa and identify areas where more structured collaboration can add value. Whether it's highlighting key subject strengths or mapping out how institutions approach feed-related modules, the aim is to create a clearer picture of where academia and industry can connect more meaningfully.

SAVE THE DATE

Act 36 Registration Workshop

A one-day Act 36 of 1947 Registration Workshop is planned for the last quarter of 2025 and an Expression of Interest from members confirmed the need to reinstate this valuable training opportunity. This workshop will guide delegates through the animal feed registration process, offering practical insights and useful tips that will equip them to submit quality applications for registration. More details will be confirmed in due course. For enquiries, please contact intern@afma.co.za.

Act 36 In-practice Training Workshop

AFMA will be hosting a two-day workshop at our office on 2–3 October 2025. The training is provided by Afri Compliance and is designed to give delegates a clear understanding of what the Act permits and how it applies in practice. The attendance fee will be confirmed soon. For more information, please contact admin@afma.co.za.

AFMA Student Outreach

AFMA aims to connect academic learning with real-world animal feed operations and expose students to diverse roles in the feed industry, beyond nutrition, including logistics, production, and quality. On 24 April 2025, AFMA, in collaboration with Meadow Feeds, hosted a dedicated Student Outreach event at the Meadow Feeds facility in Pietermaritzburg, aimed at educating and inspiring the next generation of animal feed professionals.

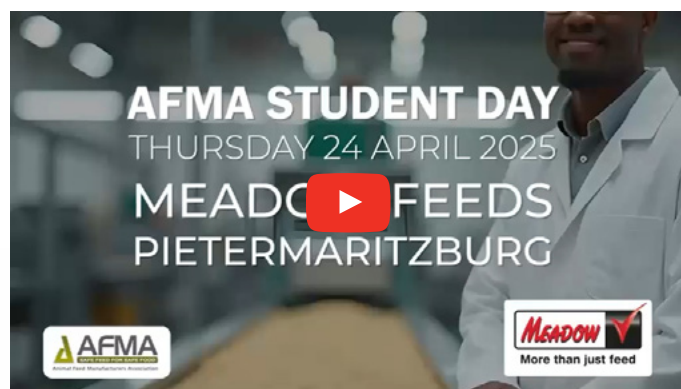
The event welcomed 65 third-, fourth-year, and postgraduate Animal Science students from the University of Zululand, offering them a rare opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the workings of the animal feed industry.

From feed formulation and manufacturing processes to regulatory considerations and

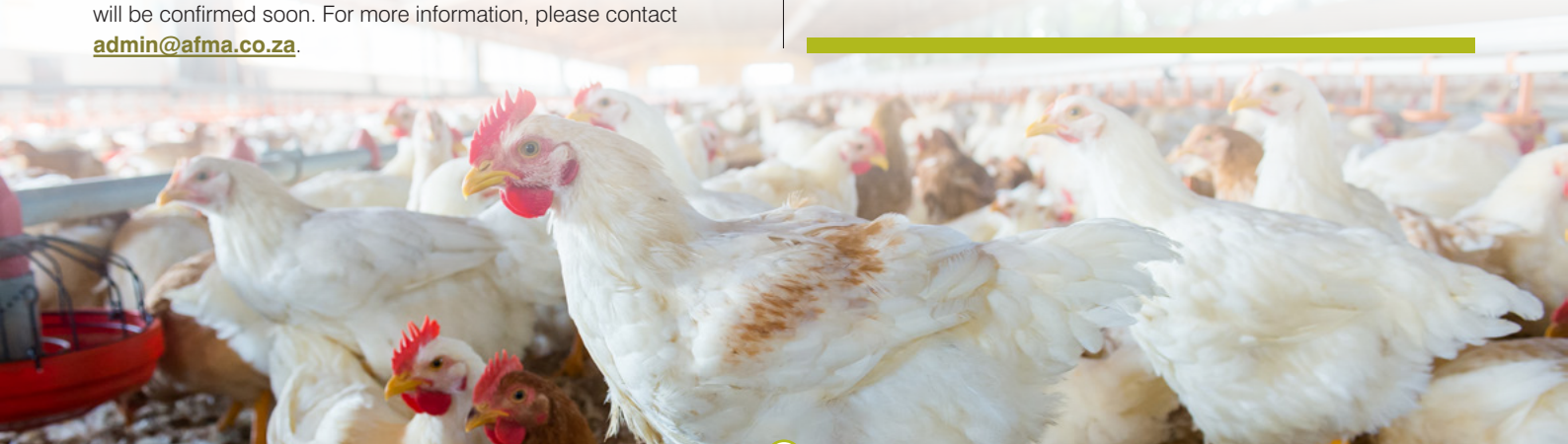
career pathways, the students were exposed to a wide range of topics that brought their academic studies to life.

Meadow Feeds representatives shared their professional experiences, answered questions, and highlighted the importance of innovation, responsibility, and sustainability in animal nutrition. Students also had the chance to tour the facility and engage with technical staff, giving them a practical understanding of the industry's daily operations. The outreach forms part of AFMA's ongoing efforts to support education and skills development in the agricultural sector, while strengthening connections between industry and academia.

[Click here](#) to read the full article in the latest edition of the AFMA Matrix.



▶ Watch video highlights supplied by Meadow Feeds



The Intervarsity Writer's Cup

Since its inception in 2017, the Intervarsity Writer's Cup (IWC) competition promotes student participation in the animal feed industry and recognises and encourages scientific contributions by animal nutrition students.

Articles may be submitted under two categories: **Own Research** or **Literature Review**. The winners of the 2005 rounds are featured in the [AFMA Matrix January 2025 edition](#) (Round 1), [AFMA Matrix April 2025 edition](#) (Round 2) and

[AFMA Matrix July 2025 edition](#) (Round 3). To read their winning submissions, please refer to the respective editions. The overall winner in each of these categories (Own Research and Literature Review) will be selected after a final evaluation by AFMA's internal judging panel. The overall winners will be officially announced in the September 2025 edition of the AFMA Matrix, as well as on AFMA's social media platforms. Stay tuned to celebrate these outstanding student contributions!

Type of entry	Name & Surname	University	Article Title
Winner: Round 1			
Literature Review	Kean Jacobs	University of Pretoria	<u>Digestible calcium in broiler production</u>
Winners: Round 2			
Literature Review	Jorja Ashford	University of Pretoria	<u>Factors affecting bone health in laying hens</u>
Own Research	Cherise Basson	Stellenbosch University	<u>Supplementing pasture-based dairy cows with <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> fermentation product</u>
Winners: Round 3			
Literature Review	Anri Pienaar	University of Pretoria	<u>The effects of limestone variability on nutrient metabolism and performance in laying hens</u>
Own Research	Lisa van Deventer	Stellenbosch University	<u>The potential of <i>Allium sativum</i> to alleviate the impact of cryptosporidiosis on dairy calf growth</u>



2025 AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP COMPETITION

WINNER ROUND 1 LITERATURE REVIEW



Student name: Kean Jacobs
University: University of Pretoria
Article title: Digestible calcium in broiler production



2025 AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP COMPETITION

WINNER ROUND 2 LITERATURE REVIEW



Student name: Jorja Ashford
University: University of Pretoria
Article theme: Nutritional Science: All Species
Article title: Factors affecting bone health in laying hens



2025 AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP COMPETITION

WINNER ROUND 2 OWN RESEARCH



Student name: Cherise Basson
University: Stellenbosch University
Article theme: Feed Science: Additives
Article title: Supplementing pasture-based dairy cows with *Aspergillus oryzae* fermentation product



2025 AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP COMPETITION

WINNER ROUND 3 LITERATURE REVIEW



Student name: Anri Pienaar
University: University of Pretoria
Article theme: Nutritional Science: All Species
Article title: The effects of limestone variability on nutrient metabolism and performance in laying hens



2025 AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP COMPETITION

WINNER ROUND 3 OWN RESEARCH



Student name: Lisa van Deventer
University: Stellenbosch University
Article theme: Feed Science: Additives
Article title: The potential of *Allium sativum* to alleviate the impact of cryptosporidiosis on dairy calf growth

AFMA EVENTS

AFMA Media & Industry Day

AFMA hosted its first-ever Media & Industry Day on 7 May 2025 at the Grain Building Auditorium in Pretoria. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including members of the media, policymakers, industry experts, and representatives from across the animal feed value chain.

The goal of the day was to open dialogue, share industry insights, and strengthen relationships between the feed sector and its key external partners. Attendees were treated to a series of informative presentations on AFMA's key strategic priority areas. Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, with many noting the value of transparent, open engagement between the industry and its broader network.

[Click here](#) to read more in the latest edition of the AFMA Matrix.

AFMA Symposium

PLEASE
TAKE NOTE

As preparations begin for the AFMA Forum 2026, please note that the AFMA Symposium will not take place this year. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to welcoming you back to the Symposium in 2027, with a renewed focus and fresh, engaging content.

AFMA Forum 2026

We're excited to announce that the **AFMA Forum 2026** will be held at **Sun City** from **8 to 10 September 2026**. This flagship event brings together industry leaders, experts, and stakeholders for valuable discussions, networking, and insights into the future of animal feed. Further details and the programme will be shared soon. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for updates.

Stay tuned for more details in the coming months. If you have any questions, please make contact with Bee Oelofsen at events@afma.co.za.

AFMA Golf Day

TOP EVENTS OVER
TWO EXCITING DAYS!

We're looking forward to another memorable **AFMA Golf Day**, taking place on **4 September 2025** at the scenic **Zimbali Country Club**.

Excitement is already in full swing, all sponsorship opportunities were snapped up within 30 minutes, and 30 AFMA member companies have confirmed their 4-ball teams. It promises to be a fantastic day of friendly competition, relationship-building, and a few good laughs along the way.

The event is not only a highlight on the AFMA calendar but also a valuable opportunity for members to connect with clients in a relaxed, informal setting. Expect a full day of golf under the KwaZulu-Natal sun (with a bit of wind, as always), followed by a festive closing celebration.

The day will wrap up with a Prizegiving Ceremony at the Stingray Bar, where we'll celebrate the day's winners – and of course, award the ever-popular Spirit Award Floating Trophy to the team who brings the most energy, creativity and fun to the day.

[Click here](#) to explore the Golf Day website and see which AFMA members will be joining in the fun.

AGM & Gala Dinner

On 5 September, the AFMA AGM will feature a full programme of industry updates and engaging guest speakers. The celebrations will close with a glamorous Gala Dinner, where we'll honour past leaders and celebrate the achievements of current industry role-players.

[Click here](#) for the preliminary programme.



AFMA's website upgrade and WIMMS

AFMA is excited to announce that a major upgrade of our website is currently in progress and set to launch by the end of August 2025. The new website will feature an improved design, enhanced user experience, all aimed at making it easier for members and stakeholders to access essential information, industry updates, and resources.

In parallel, we are also developing a Web-Integrated Member Management System (WIMMS), a longer-term project designed to strengthen member engagement, and operational efficiency. The WIMMS development is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2026. We will share more updates as these projects move forward.

AFMA Matrix

The latest edition of the AFMA Matrix was released on 30 June 2025. In this issue, we delve into key industry topics such as global feed trends, biosecurity in feed mills, and the impact of global trade wars. You'll also find valuable insights from technical experts and highlights of AFMA's ongoing training and skills development initiatives. Don't miss this comprehensive snapshot, it is available for download at www.afma.co.za/afma-matrix.

While originally a printed publication, the AFMA Matrix is now primarily distributed digitally to ensure broader reach and accessibility. Members can access it via WhatsApp, email, Digimags downloads, and AFMA's online platforms.

Don't miss the opportunity to advertise in our special 80th anniversary edition of the AFMA Matrix. This celebratory issue will be widely circulated and referenced long after publication. To secure your space or learn more about advertising options, contact Plaas Media directly.

If you'd like to receive the AFMA Matrix in PDF format via WhatsApp, simply message 064 890 6941 with the reference "AFMA Matrix 2025". To have it sent to your email inbox, contact Beauty Mthombeni at beauty@plaasmedia.co.za.

Landbou Radio

AFMA is excited about its ongoing collaboration with Landbou Radio, a platform hosted by Plaas Media, to further strengthen industry engagement and communication. Through this partnership, AFMA aims to continuously extend its communication reach, ensuring that essential industry insights, developments, and updates are shared with a wider audience.

Click below to listen to the interviews:

- ➔ **Liesl Breytenbach (Executive Director, AFMA)**
Topic: [Wie is AFMA?](#)
- ➔ **Dirk Bezuidenhout (Retired, Afri Compliance)**
Topic: ['n Ouditeur se perspektief op AFMA se Code of Conduct \(Gedragkode\)](#)
- ➔ **Lourens Pieterse (Head of Sales, Bühler)**
Topic: [Die evolusie en waarde van tegnologie in die veevoerbedryf](#)
- ➔ **Dr Lucius Phaleng (Trade Advisor, AFMA)**
Topic: [The crucial role of grain farmers and livestock producers in the animal feed supply chain](#)
- ➔ **Bonita Cilliers (Technical and Regulatory Advisor, AFMA)**
Topic: [Die belangrikheid van biosekuriteit in die veevoerbedryf](#)
- ➔ **Bonita Cilliers (Technical and Regulatory Advisor, AFMA)**
Topic: [Praktiese maatreëls om biosekuriteit in die bedryf te versterk](#)

NEWS FROM THE AFMA OFFICE

Welcome to the AFMA Team, Cilé-Mari and farewell to Olivia

AFMA is delighted to welcome its new technical intern, **Cilé-Mari Schultz**, who joined the team in June 2025. Cilé-Mari is currently pursuing her master's degree in Ruminant Nutrition at the University of Pretoria. She received the 2024 SASAS Northern Branch Prize for the top undergraduate student in Animal Science.

Her passion for dairy cows and fascination with the rumen run deep, she even considers rumen microbes her close friends! Outside the world of animal science, Cilé-Mari is an enthusiastic weightlifter and runner who brings energy and dedication to everything she does. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to her contributions to AFMA's technical and regulatory initiatives.

At the same time, we also bid farewell to **Olivia Botha**, who will be leaving AFMA at the end of July 2025. We thank Olivia for her contributions during her time with us and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.



Cilé-Mari Schultz



Olivia Botha

About AFMA

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

AFMA's membership comprises animal feed and ingredient manufacturers and suppliers of essential services such as feed ingredients and related services such as consultants, laboratories, and feed-system installations.

Collectively, AFMA members produce 100% of the broiler feed and represent 60% of the total animal feed manufactured in South Africa. AFMA provides a unified voice and promotes the animal feed industry as an integral part of the food chain ensuring the production of safe, nutritious, and affordable food for all.

For more information on AFMA please visit www.afma.co.za.

Thank you to the contributors

- ➔ Liesl Breytenbach, Executive Director (*Pr.Sci.Nat*)
- ➔ Petru Fourie, Operations Manager
- ➔ Wimpie Groenewald, Membership Liaison Officer
- ➔ Lucius Phaleng, Trade Advisor
- ➔ Bonita Cilliers, Technical & Regulatory Advisor (*Can.Sci.Nat*)
- ➔ Cilé-Mari Schultz, Technical Intern
- ➔ Bee Oelofsen, Marketing and Events Coordinator
- ➔ Ronel Urquhart-Bosch, Layout Artist



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AFMA's additional contact number

AFMA has a dedicated cell phone number for easy communication during office hours. Save the number on your phone and feel free to reach out to our team for any assistance or inquiries. We're here to help at 072 461 2497.



admin@afma.co.za
www.afma.co.za



STAY INFORMED WITH AFMA ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
AFMA encourages you to stay up to date with the latest news, industry updates, and upcoming events. With just a simple click on the social media icons, you'll gain access to valuable information that will keep you well informed and connected with the animal feed and agricultural industries.