



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Daily News - 25 July 2018 - Page 5

Livestock auctions boost rural areas

GIVEN MAJOLA

THE National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) said yesterday that cattle auctions held throughout KwaZulu-Natal were expected to fetch a minimum of R40 million this financial year.

National Red Meat Development Programme (NRMDP) manager in the NAMC, Dr Xolile Ngetu, said their cattle auctions made close to R16m in the 2017/18 financial year.

"As of April this year, we are standing at R14m. At this rate we will break above R40m with the people's livestock. The beauty of this is all that money is injected in the rural economy, which was not seen as important in the past few years," Ngetu said.

The NRMDP does market facilitation, especially for

small-scale farmers – who are predominantly black – encouraging them to make a living from their livestock.

The Eastern Cape and KZN provinces have the most cattle, at about 3.1 million and 2.7 million, respectively.

Ngetu said in those provinces, while black farmers at household level individually had fewer animals, collectively they had more cattle than their white counterparts – the difference being that commercial farmers sold more cattle.

Ngetu said the black farmers' participation was improving significantly, however, it was not where it ought to be.

"In marketing terms, farmers should sell around 20% to 25% of their stock annually to make income. About 10 years ago, most experts were of the view that market role-playing

by black farmers was less than 5%, with very few reaching the market."

In July last year, the cattle auction in Nkandla attracted 36 cattle, yielding R499 000, and this year it attracted 205 cattle, which sold for R1.7m. In Nqutu in 2016, 52 animals were attracted, while this year they auctioned 133 animals.

In Ndawana area in Umzimkhulu farmers made more than R255 000, another in Amajuba district made more than R160 000. "On average, in every auction we have had some farmers who would leave with close to R100 000."

The NAMC said they hoped these numbers would help farmers gain confidence.

The NAMC hoped to make black farmers understand the red meat industry better, to derive maximum value from it.