

NOTICE 498 OF 2006**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****FERTILIZER, FARM FEEDS, AGRICULTURAL REMEDIES AND STOCK
REMEDIES ACT, 1947 (ACT NO. 36 OF 1947)****PUBLICATION OF FARM FEEDS (ANIMAL FEEDS) POLICY FOR PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

I, Angela Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture hereby publish the farm feeds (animal feeds) policy for comments by the general public. Comments must be submitted in writing within 30 days of publication of this notice to:

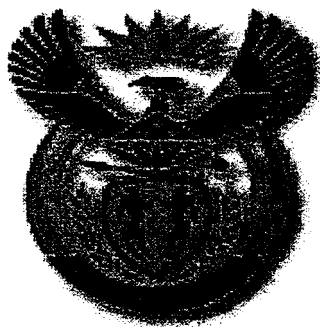
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ANNEXUTURE A

DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY ON ANIMAL FEEDS".

DRAFT

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SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY ON ANIMAL FEEDS

1. INTRODUCTION

Animal feed encompasses livestock feeds, feed ingredients, feed additives and pet foods. Livestock feed (farm feeds) refers to the feed intended to supply nutrients for livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, horses, chickens and pigs). Commercial feeds are also manufactured for wild animals, fresh water fish, birds and ostriches. Animal feeds have evolved from a period mainly involved in unprocessed or mixed feeds containing whole grains where the quality of these feeds could be easily assessed by qualitative means to a period where quality can be quantitatively measured.

The industry put a lot of emphasis on improving productivity of livestock, facilitating the availability and distribution of animal feeds, and providing nutritional information to livestock breeders and producers. Over the years the inclusion of production enhancers such as antimicrobials, hormones, proteins of animal origin, minerals, vitamins and other growth promoters into animal feeds has increased markedly. There have been an increasing number of reports from Scientific and Medical Journals regarding the risks posed to human health by the use of these products in animal production. As a result, good agricultural practice from producers in order to ensure food safety has become increasingly important.

The other sector of the animal feed industry is the Pet Food Industry, which deals exclusively with domesticated animals normally maintained as pets. The main household pets in South Africa (**SA**) are dogs and cats. There is no official statistics on the number of pets in this country. The main source of nutrients for dogs and cats are home cooked meals and table snacks with a few of these animals scavenging for food. The lifestyles and food eaten by dogs and cats follow the same pattern as that of human beings which is mainly influenced by socio-economic factors. There is an increased number of commercial pet foods in the animal feed market which are mainly used by affluent individuals. The major role players in the market are international companies; as a result, approximately 80% of pet food consumed in SA is imported.

The primary responsibility for registration and regulation of animal feeds in **SA** rests with the Department of Agriculture (DoA) under Act No. 36 of **1947**. Currently, the Act does not address recent issues related to food safety and public health. It is the responsibility of the DoA to ensure that animal feeds and human food are safe, efficacious and among others do not contain residues of drugs, pesticides, environmental contaminants, or micro-organisms that are harmful to the public. In order to address these issues adequate policies and legislation must be developed.

This policy will serve as an information document as well as a guide to support new animal feeds legislation, regulations and guidelines.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

The animal feed industry faces various challenges many of which affect the economy of the country. The industry operates in a highly competitive environment that must continuously respond to the new challenges with regard to safety, efficacy and quality of agricultural production inputs. There is no policy to address agricultural production inputs registered under Act No. 36 of 1947 including animal feeds and rendering plants. Animal feeds registered under the Act require a policy that will address these challenges.

2.1 Legislation

The scope of the Act is broad, covering the regulation of Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and *Stuck Remedies* under one act. *The Act has been amended* several times, in 1950, 1970, 1972, 1977 and 1980, to accommodate some of the developments within the agrochemical industry. The Act is outdated. The current animal feeds regulations are also outdated and do not consider recent developments in agriculture and other Acts which are indirectly involved with the regulation of animal feeds with the exception of the Medicine and Related Substance Control Act, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965);

- * Agricultural Product Standards Act (Act 119 of 1990) determines the standards and requirements regarding control of the export of feed products.
- * Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act 40 of 2000), governs the use of safe animal products to be used for human and animal consumption.
- * Animal Health Act, 2002 (Act 7 of 2002) provide measures to promote animal health and to control diseases and regulate the importation and exportation of animals and things. This Act will replace Animal Disease Act of 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984), which currently provides the legislative framework once the President has proclaimed the Animal Health Act.
- * National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) provides for cooperative environmental governance by establishing principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment.
- * Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997 (Act No. 15 of 1997) provides measures for managing activities involving **GMOs**
- * The National Environmental: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) provides for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998; the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant national protection; the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources; the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from bioprospecting involving indigenous biological resources.
- * National Environmental Management Act: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) provides for the regulation of air quality in order to protect the environment **by** providing reasonable measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological