



Absolom & Shepherd
attorneys

LIVESTOCK LEGISLATION OVERVIEW AS AT DECEMBER 2025

for

ZIMBABWE BEEF PRODUCERS' SOCIETY

Introduction to the Zimbabwe Beef Producers Society (ZBPS)

The Zimbabwe Beef Producers Society (ZBPS) is the unified voice of the nation's beef producers, representing communal, small-scale, and commercial cattle farmers across all ten provinces. Established in 2022 and recognized by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, ZBPS is committed to fostering a thriving, sustainable, and profitable beef industry that contributes meaningfully to Zimbabwe's economic growth and food security.

At the core of our mission is the belief that a conducive legal and regulatory environment is fundamental to the success of every beef producer. Our members operate within a complex web of legislation governing animal health, livestock movement, branding, disease control, and trade. Understanding these laws is not merely an administrative exercise – it is essential for protecting herds, ensuring market access, and operating with confidence and legitimacy.

In pursuit of this goal, ZBPS has partnered with **Absolom & Shepherd Attorneys**, a forward-thinking law firm committed to delivering practical, accessible legal insight. Together, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of the legislative framework governing livestock in Zimbabwe. The resulting overview, set out below, is designed to equip ZBPS members with the knowledge to navigate their legal obligations, manage risks effectively, and identify areas where law reform is urgently needed to support a more competitive and resilient beef industry.

We encourage every member to engage with this document, share their on-the-ground experiences, and join us in advocating for a regulatory environment that works *for* farmers, not against them.



1. INTRODUCTION

This overview note provides a comprehensive overview of the key laws and regulations governing livestock in Zimbabwe. The purpose of this note is to guide the Society and its members in understanding their legal obligations and rights in the livestock sector, and to identify any areas that warrant change and, therefore, reform of the relevant laws. The note will examine the legislative framework that regulates livestock production, movement, health, and trade in Zimbabwe. It will cover relevant laws, including the **Animal Health Act [Chapter 19:01]**, the **Control of Goods Act [Chapter 14:05]**, the **Veterinary Surgeons Act [Chapter 27:15]**, and other applicable statutory instruments and guidelines. Attention will also be given to issues such as **livestock branding, disease control, import and export regulations, and compliance with veterinary and environmental standards**. By outlining the legal landscape, the note aims to equip the **Zimbabwe Beef Producers Society** and its members with the knowledge to operate lawfully, manage risks, and engage effectively with regulatory authorities in the livestock industry, and to facilitate the required amendment of laws where necessary.

2. STATUTORY PROVISIONS

2.1 ANIMAL HEALTH ACT [CHAPTER 19:01]

One of the cornerstone pieces of legislation governing livestock management in Zimbabwe is the **Animal Health Act [Chapter 19:01]**, which provides for the **prevention** and **control** of animal diseases and the **regulation** of livestock movement. This Act is crucial as it imposes duties and restrictions that directly impact livestock production and trade.

Section 3 of the Act empowers the Chief Veterinary Officer to take all necessary measures to prevent the introduction or spread of animal diseases in Zimbabwe. This includes issuing regulations, directing inspections, and instituting quarantines. Specifically, **Section 5(1)** states: *“The Minister may, for the purpose of preventing the introduction into or the spread within Zimbabwe of any disease, by order prohibit or regulate the importation, exportation or movement of animals or animal products.”* This provision is particularly relevant to members involved in the cross-border sale or transport of cattle, as it means compliance with animal movement permits and disease-free certification is mandatory, not optional.

Section 7(1) of the Act allows the Minister to declare any area as an infected place, which can result in the restriction of livestock movement to and from such zones. The section provides that *“If the Minister is satisfied that any area within Zimbabwe is infected or is likely to become infected with any disease, he may by order declare such area to be an infected place.”* This has direct operational implications, especially during disease outbreaks such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease or Theileriosis, when transport and slaughter of cattle may be suspended until veterinary clearance is obtained.

Section 8(1) of the act mandates the reporting of any notifiable disease. It states: *“Any person who has in his possession or under his charge any animal affected or suspected to be affected by a notifiable disease shall forthwith report the fact to the nearest veterinary officer or police*

officer.” Failure to report can attract legal consequences and expose the Society and its members to liability for the uncontrolled spread of disease. Thus, this is something to note.

2.2 THE CONTROL OF GOODS ACT [CHAPTER 14:05]

The Control of Goods Act empowers the government to regulate the production, distribution, pricing, and movement of certain goods, including agricultural and livestock products. This Act plays a pivotal role in the commercial aspects of livestock farming, particularly in relation to the marketing, pricing, and transportation of beef and live cattle.

Section 3(1) of the act provides that the President is authorized to “*make such regulations as he may deem necessary or expedient for the control of the distribution, disposal, purchase and sale, and the wholesale and retail prices of any manufactured or unmanufactured commodity or of any animal or poultry specified in such regulations.*” This means the sale and distribution of beef and cattle may be subject to government control, especially during economic instability, drought, disease outbreaks, or food security concerns. These controls can include licensing requirements for slaughterhouses, transporters, or traders, and may even fix the prices at which beef can be sold to wholesalers or the public.

2.3 THE FENCING ACT [CHAPTER 20:06]

The Act provides for the construction, maintenance, and dispute resolution concerning dividing fences between adjacent landowners. For members of the Zimbabwe Beef Producers Society who rely on secure grazing boundaries to manage cattle movement, prevent trespass, and protect livestock, the provisions of this Act are crucial to daily operations.

Section 15(1) of the Act addresses shared responsibility for fences. This section mandates that owners of adjoining land share equally in the cost of constructing or repairing a

dividing fence. *“The owners of adjoining pieces of land... shall contribute to the cost of construction or repair of the dividing fence in equal proportions.”* However, if one party wants a more expensive fence than standard, they may be responsible for the additional cost unless otherwise agreed.

Sections 16 and 19 of the Act go on to set out the procedure for seeking a cost contribution. When there is no agreement on fence costs, the landowner can: Serve a contribution notice outlining the boundary, specifications, cost estimate, and intended timeline. If there's no agreement within **30 days**, they may apply to a fencing court (magistrates' court) for a **contribution order** to compel the neighbour to pay their share. *“The fencing court may... make an order in respect of the matters referred to in the contribution notice...”*

Section 27 of the act goes into fence damage and Liability. This section protects livestock farmers from bearing the cost of repairs where damage is not their fault: *“If a dividing fence is damaged... solely through the act or omission of the owner... that owner shall forthwith repair the dividing fence at his own expense”*. If the damage is accidental or not clearly attributable, both owners may need to share repair costs through the same procedures under **Sections 16-19**.

Section 26 of the act goes into fence location flexibility. In cases where natural obstacles (rivers or hills) make fencing on the boundary impractical, *“The line of the dividing fence may... be sited to one side... of that boundary.”* **Section 26(2)** This allows beef producers to build functional fences without breaching legal boundary lines, provided parties agree or the fencing court authorises it.

Section 25 of the Act addresses enforcement and the recovery of costs. If a landowner fails to pay their share of a fence, the creditor can take legal action to recover the debt or apply for a court-endorsed charge (hypothecation) against the defaulter's land title. *“...the creditor owner may recover the unpaid balance... or obtain a direction that the Registrar of Deeds make an entry... which shall constitute a hypothecation of the land...”* Section 25(1)(b). This gives beef producers security when investing in fencing adjacent to uncooperative

neighbours.

Sections 29–32 of the Act go on to discuss fence-related offences. The Act criminalises several fence-related acts, protecting cattle farmers from vandalism or negligence: **Section 29:** *“Wilful damage... or removal of fences”* is punishable by fines or imprisonment. Section 30 states the obligation to report and repair damage caused by others. Section 31 speaks to leaving gates open unlawfully. Section 32 provides for Unauthorized climbing over or crawling under fences. These provisions help secure grazing land and deter cattle rustling or trespass.

Section 34 of the Act speaks to access for fence repairs. Farmers repairing fences have the right to access neighbouring land (with notice), provided crops or homesteads are not disturbed “...may... enter on or cross the land of any other person... to clear rocks, vegetation... for a width not exceeding two metres...” Section 34(1) This ensures practicality in maintaining long boundary lines, especially in remote areas.

2.4 THE VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT [CHAPTER 27:15]

Section 16(1) of the Act speaks to the requirement for registration. This section states that *“No person shall practise as a veterinary surgeon in Zimbabwe unless he is registered in terms of this Act.”* This means that all veterinary services accessed by the Society’s members, especially services related to disease diagnosis, vaccinations, and certification for cattle movement, must be provided by properly registered professionals. Engaging unregistered individuals could result in invalid certification, legal liability, and increased disease risk.

Section 30 of the Act goes into the offences for unlawful practice. This section makes it a criminal offence for anyone to falsely claim to be a veterinary surgeon or to practice without registration. It states that *“Any person who falsely pretends to be a registered veterinary surgeon or who practises as such without being registered shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine or imprisonment.”* This safeguards the cattle industry against malpractice

and reinforces the need for Society members to verify the credentials of any veterinary practitioner they engage.

Section 3 of the Act establishes the Veterinary Council of Zimbabwe. The Council is responsible for regulating veterinary education, registration, and discipline. This is important for the Society because it provides a formal channel for reporting misconduct or substandard services by veterinary professionals and serves as a reference point for verifying practitioners' qualifications.

Section 22 of the Act states the Grounds for refusing or Cancelling Registration. This section empowers the Council to deny or revoke registration for practitioners who are unfit or unqualified. This protects the beef industry from negligent or fraudulent veterinary services that can compromise cattle health, lead to disease outbreaks, and damage trade prospects.

Section 25 of the Act provides for the Council's Disciplinary Powers. The Council may discipline registered veterinary surgeons found guilty of professional misconduct. This ensures accountability among veterinary professionals working with the Society's members and helps maintain the integrity of veterinary services.

2.5 BRANDS ACT [CHAPTER 19:03]

Sections 5 to 9 provide detailed information on the requirements for brand registration. Under **Section 5**, cattle owners are required to apply for registration of a brand in writing to the Registrar of Brands. The application must include vital items such as the following:

- The name and address of the applicant,
- The district in which they reside,
- The prescribed fee.

“No person shall be entitled to use a brand unless it has been duly registered in terms of this Act”.

Section 7, brands are allocated by the Registrar, not chosen by applicants, to avoid

duplication or confusion. Furthermore, upon registration, **Section 8** requires the Registrar to issue a Certificate of Registration, which serves as proof of legal brand ownership. A directory of brands is published annually under **Section 9**, listing all registered brands and proprietors. This is to say that Members of the Society must apply for and obtain a registered brand from the Registrar before legally branding their cattle. A certificate provides legal recognition and helps prove ownership in disputes or cases of theft. The annual directory helps identify owners and deters illegal possession. **Section 10** goes into the provision for the transfer of brands. It permits a registered brand to be transferred to another person. There are a few boxes that should be ticked:

- The transfer ought to be in writing,
- It has to be registered with the registrar,
- It has to be officially recorded for it to be legally effective.

This is to say that in cases of inheritance, sale, or succession planning, members must formally transfer brand ownership. Failure to do so may create legal uncertainties regarding ownership, mainly if unregistered transfers occur.

Sections 11 to 13, and Section 16, go into the offences and prohibited conduct. **Section 11** prohibits the unauthorized use of another person's registered brand. *"No person shall brand any animal with a brand registered in the name of another person unless he has first obtained that person's written authority."* **Section 12** criminalizes altering or defacing a registered brand, while **Section 13** prohibits using deceptive brands that resemble registered ones to mislead others. **Section 16** identifies the use of an unregistered brand as an offence. Members of the Zimbabwe Beef Producers Society must avoid using unregistered or unauthorized brands to prevent criminal liability. Additionally, any attempt to alter brands, whether to disguise ownership or for resale, can lead to prosecution. The Society must educate its members on the legal consequences of such actions.

2.6 THE STOCK AND THEFT PREVENTION ACT [CHAPTER 9:18]

Section 7 of this Act deals with proof of ownership. It provides that *“No person shall sell, exchange, barter, give, or in any manner otherwise dispose of any stock unless he proves to the satisfaction of a police officer or buyer that he is the lawful owner or has the lawful authority of the owner.”* One must ensure all cattle are clearly branded (under the Brands Act) and that proof of ownership is available in the form of stock cards, receipts, or clearance certificates. This is critical during inspections, transfers, and sales.

Section 8 of this Act provides for restrictions on movement and transport. It stipulates *“No person shall drive or transport any stock from any place to any other place unless he is in possession of a stock clearance certificate issued by a police officer.”* This is to say that one must obtain police-issued stock clearance certificates before transporting cattle, whether to markets, abattoirs, grazing lands, or another farm. Failure to do so may result in arrest, detention, or seizure of the cattle.

Section 5 of the Act deals with unlawful possession, which provides that, *“Any person who is found in possession of stock and fails to give a satisfactory account of such possession shall be deemed to have stolen the stock.”* One should take note that possession of cattle without credible, documented proof, such as a purchase receipt or transfer note, may lead to criminal charges. The presumption of guilt applies unless the accused proves lawful acquisition.

Section 6 of the Act deals with slaughter without clearance. It provides as follows: *“No person shall slaughter, or cause or permit to be slaughtered, any stock unless he has given prior notice to the police and has received clearance.”* Farmers selling cattle for slaughter must notify and obtain police clearance before the animals are slaughtered. This ensures the cattle were not stolen and creates a traceable paper trail for accountability.

Section 14 of this Act provides for harsh penalties for theft. It states, *“Any person who steals any stock shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not less than nine years”*. Stock theft is a serious criminal offence with a minimum mandatory sentence of **nine years' imprisonment**. One must ensure that livestock is well-secured, and thefts

are promptly reported to enable prosecution.

Section 9 of the act goes into Community Monitoring and Assistance. While not all community responsibilities are strictly codified in a single section, **Section 9** empowers police officers to enter any kraal or premises where they suspect stock is being kept illegally. This is done because it allows law enforcement and local leadership to monitor cattle ownership and movements. One should engage with community policing efforts, allow inspections when required, and report suspicious activity. Cooperation with local authorities strengthens efforts to prevent stock theft and promotes compliance with the Act.

As regards movement of livestock, the Act should be read together with the Animal Health (Movement of Cattle and Pigs) Regulations, 1984 (see Clause 3.14 below), which, beyond just the police clearance, also makes the obtaining of a veterinary permit mandatory before movement of livestock.

3. REGULATIONS

3.1 Animal Health Regulations, 1976

The duties are that one ought to report to the nearest authorised person or to other owners' suspicion of a specified disease, and that, when an animal dies, it must be reported. When an animal is sick, it must be isolated. It is also crucial to report each stray animal to the nearest Veterinary Officer or Police.

3.2 Animal Health (Anthrax) Regulations, 1971

In accordance with these Regulations, strict measures must be followed to prevent the spread of **anthrax** in livestock. Movement of animals or animal products from areas under anthrax quarantine is strictly prohibited. Any animal death suspected to be linked to anthrax must be reported immediately to the relevant authorities. If no postmortem examination is conducted, a blood smear should be taken from the ear of the deceased animal. The carcass must then be either thoroughly incinerated or buried safely to avoid

environmental contamination. The disposal site should be disinfected with slaked lime. Furthermore, all animals within an anthrax-prone area must be vaccinated once annually for a continuous period of three years. Lastly, producers are required to present animals for inspection or vaccination as and when directed by an authorised person. These regulations are critical for safeguarding public health, maintaining the integrity of the livestock sector, and ensuring continued market access for Zimbabwean beef.

3.3 Animal Health (Rabies) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations require strict protocols for suspected rabies cases to ensure public safety and animal health. Any animal suspected of having died of rabies must be isolated, and the case reported immediately to the nearest veterinary office or police. All suspected rabid animals or those that have come into contact with them must be confined, reported, and, where necessary, humanely destroyed without damaging the brain, which is essential for diagnostic testing. The burial of any suspected rabid animal is prohibited unless authorised. Furthermore, all dogs in a rabies-designated area must be securely confined, and owners must ensure that dogs are vaccinated against rabies at 3 and 12 months of age, with subsequent vaccinations every 1 year. These measures are critical in managing rabies risks and maintaining public confidence in the safety of Zimbabwe's livestock and animal products.

3.4 Animal Health (Stock Register) Regulations, 1970

These regulations provide that a stock register should be kept, and within 14 days, one ought to enter the number of animals owned, moved onto/off the farm, and the farm of origin and destination. The stock register should indicate the number and date when animals were dipped. It should also indicate the reasons for additions and removals, along with the dates. The stock register ought to indicate the number of births and deaths of animals.

3.5 Animal Health (Quarantine Areas) Regulations, 1976

These regulations impose strict restrictions on the movement of animals and animal

products to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. It is prohibited to move, or allow the movement of, any animal or animal product into or out of a quarantine area, or even within the quarantine area from one location to another, without proper authorisation. Owners and custodians of animals within such areas are required to produce animals for inspection at the specific time and place indicated in the official notice. Furthermore, they must render full cooperation by providing all necessary assistance and ensuring that adequate facilities are available to enable veterinary officers to carry out inspections effectively. These regulatory measures are essential to safeguarding animal health and controlling potential disease outbreaks within Zimbabwe's livestock sector.

3.6 Animal Health (Fees) Regulations, 1973

This regulation provides that one must pay fees for services determined by the department, such as quarantine, detention, dipping, and vaccination.

3.7 Animal Health (Trypanosomiasis) Regulations, 1971

These regulations prohibit moving an animal into or from a trypanosomiasis area or from one place.

3.8 Animal Health (Trypanosomiasis) Regulations, 1971

The movement of animals is strictly controlled to prevent the spread of trypanosomiasis, a severe disease affecting livestock. It is prohibited to move any animal into or out of a designated trypanosomiasis area, or from one location to another within such an area, unless expressly authorised. Animal owners or custodians are obligated to present animals for inspection at the time and place specified in the official notice. Additionally, they must provide all necessary assistance and ensure adequate facilities are available to support effective inspection procedures by veterinary authorities. These regulations play a crucial role in managing and containing trypanosomiasis, thereby supporting the health and productivity of Zimbabwe's livestock industry.

3.9 Animal Health (Theileriosis) Regulations, 1976

These regulations require strict measures to curb the spread of Theileriosis, a tick-borne

disease that poses a significant threat to cattle health and productivity. It is prohibited to allow any animal to stray into or out of an area designated as a Theileriosis zone. Owners are required to present all animals for inspection as and when instructed by an authorised person. In addition, where a property is under quarantine, livestock must be dipped or sprayed at intervals not exceeding seven days to ensure effective tick control. These measures are fundamental to the containment and management of Theileriosis and are essential to safeguarding the national herd and supporting the viability of Zimbabwe's beef industry.

3.10 The Animal Health (Cattle Cleansing) Regulations, 1993

These regulations establish a strict regime to control tick infestations in cattle, which are vectors for numerous livestock diseases. Cattle owners must ensure their animals remain tick-free at all times. Any cattle found to be tick-infested must be dipped at intervals not exceeding seven days until the infestation is resolved. Movement of livestock from one location to another, including through intermediate places, is prohibited unless the animals are confirmed to be free of ticks. Furthermore, cattle that have been recently dipped must not be sent for slaughter until the legally prescribed withdrawal period has elapsed. Producers are also required to present cattle for counting, dipping, and inspection when directed by an authorised person. Additionally, it is prohibited to present cattle for sale by public auction unless they are free of ticks. Complementing these regulations are the Animal Health (Brucellosis) Regulations, 1995, which require the vaccination of all dairy heifers between the ages of three and six months to prevent the spread of brucellosis, a disease of significant concern for both animal and public health. These regulations are key pillars in Zimbabwe's broader animal health framework, supporting sustainable livestock production and public safety.

3.11 Animal Health (Brucellosis) Regulations, 1995

These regulations provide that all dairy heifers should be vaccinated between 3 and 6 months of age. They should also produce satisfactory proof that the heifer or cow has been vaccinated.

3.12 Animal Health (Contagious Vaginitis and Epididymitis) Regulation, 1976

Provides that animals should be produced for inspections at a time and place specified in a notice.

3.13 Animal Health (Enzootic Bovine Leukosis) Regulations, 1976

In line with animal health protocols concerning disease surveillance and control in dairy herds, dairy producers are obligated to present all dairy animals for testing whenever directed by an authorised person. Where an animal tests positive, the owner must comply with instructions to brand, isolate, or slaughter the affected animal as prescribed. Importantly, no positive animal may be removed from the property except for the sole purpose of direct slaughter. Following the disposal of a positive case, the owner must ensure that all remaining dairy animals are retested no later than 3 months thereafter to confirm the herd's health status. Furthermore, introducing untested or known positive animals into a previously cleared (free) herd is strictly prohibited. These measures are critical to maintaining disease-free herds, protecting public health, and preserving the integrity and productivity of Zimbabwe's dairy and beef industries.

3.14 Animal Health (Movement of Cattle and Pigs) Regulations, 1984

These regulations establish a strict permit system to regulate the movement of cattle and pigs and prevent the spread of livestock diseases. It is prohibited to move cattle or pigs from one location to another without first obtaining a valid permit. A separate, specific permit must accompany each consignment. Even where a permit has been issued, animal movement is not permitted if there is a disease outbreak in the area concerned. Applicants for movement permits must provide accurate and complete information, and it is the responsibility of the owner or transporter to ensure that the relevant permit accompanies the animals throughout the journey. Additionally, the permit must be produced upon request by any authorised officer. These regulations are vital in maintaining effective disease surveillance and control, ensuring animal traceability, and safeguarding Zimbabwe's livestock industry.

3.15 Animal Health (Game Carcass) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations provide strict controls on the handling and movement of game meat and related animal products to safeguard public health and prevent the spread of disease. Game meat may not be moved from a prescribed area unless it has first been inspected by an authorised person and appropriately stamped. Before inspection, the meat must be stored in an approved cold room within the designated area. Additionally, the carcass must retain the head, tongue, and all four feet intact until the inspection has been completed. The removal of hides or skins is not permitted unless they have been salted and dried for a minimum of seven days. Similarly, horns, hoofs, bones, teeth, or tusks of game animals may not be removed unless they have been exposed to direct sunlight for no less than 14 days. These measures are essential to ensure the safe handling, traceability, and biosecurity of game meat products within Zimbabwe. It is crucial to keep a register for inspections and record details within 7 days of slaughter.

3.16 Animal Health (Foot and Mouth Disease) Regulation, 1971

The Regulations establish controls to contain and prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals. It is strictly prohibited to move any “infectious thing” which includes animals, animal products, animal feed, or any item capable of transmitting the disease into or out of a designated Foot and Mouth Disease area, from an infected area, or from one place to another, unless a permit has been lawfully obtained. Additionally, livestock owners are required to produce animals for inspection and vaccination at the time and place specified in any official notice. These measures are critical to mitigating the risks posed by FMD, preserving animal health, and protecting the economic stability of Zimbabwe’s livestock and meat export sectors.

3.17 Animals Health (Vehicle Sanitation) Regulations, 1986

Requires that the vehicles used to transport animals for slaughter be adequately sanitized.

3.18 Animal Health (Livestock Identification) (Cattle) Regulations, 2003

These regulations require the identification of cattle to ensure traceability, disease control, and regulatory compliance. All cattle aged **six months** or older must be tagged or branded with an approved veterinary tag or brand on the left side of the neck, bearing the specified brand mark for that area. If the neck is already branded, the mark may be placed on the shoulder instead. Each animal must be identifiable to its farm or dip tank of origin by branding or ear tagging with a brand registered with the Director of Veterinary Services. Only ear tags approved by the Director may be used for this purpose. Owners are also required to present cattle for branding, tagging, and inspection whenever directed by an authorised person. Furthermore, cattle may not be moved from one prescribed area to another unless they bear the appropriate numeral brand.

Under section 10 of SI 35 of 2003, registered stud animals and dairy cattle are exempt from the branding requirements stipulated in the regulations. This is because they already have animal identification protocols under the Registration of Pedigree Farm Livestock Act. There is, however, an issue with the implementation of SI 35 2003, in that the veterinary brands register to identify animals on a farm is not in place (not to be confused with the Brands Act), and the Society might want to take this up with the Veterinary Department. These identification requirements, as provided for in the regulations, are essential for maintaining effective disease surveillance, ensuring animal traceability, and supporting the integrity of Zimbabwe's livestock industry.

3.19 Animal Health (Artificial Insemination) Regulation 1978

These regulations govern the distribution and use of semen for the artificial insemination of cows and pigs, to ensure genetic integrity and prevent the spread of disease. It is prohibited to distribute semen unless the source and distribution process are properly registered with the relevant authorities. Furthermore, individuals are not permitted to inseminate animals that do not belong to them or the intended recipient without authorisation. Accurate records must be kept for all animals inseminated, including details of the procedure and the semen used. These provisions help maintain

accountability, biosecurity, and transparency in Zimbabwe's livestock breeding programs.

3.20 Animal Health (Control of Goods) (Livestock Hormones) Regulations, 1988

These regulations prohibit the import, distribution, disposal, purchase, or sale of any livestock hormone within Zimbabwe.

CONCLUSION

Considering the above legislative framework, the Zimbabwe Beef Producers Society is strongly encouraged to ensure full compliance with all relevant animal health regulations governing disease control, animal movement, livestock identification, and artificial insemination. These laws are not only critical for safeguarding animal and public health but also for maintaining the integrity, traceability, and marketability of Zimbabwean beef products both locally and internationally. Members must adopt stringent on-farm biosecurity practices, cooperate fully with veterinary authorities, maintain accurate records, and ensure that all cattle are appropriately inspected, vaccinated, branded, and treated in accordance with statutory requirements. Failure to comply may result in legal sanctions, compromise access to domestic and export markets, and undermine national efforts to build a resilient and competitive beef industry. It is therefore essential that all beef producers treat regulatory compliance not as an administrative burden, but as a vital component of sustainable livestock production and industry credibility.

DISCLAIMER

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