

A word from the Editor

Politics can mud the milk

In this issue we bring you a supplement focusing on the 4th African Dairy Conference and Exhibition to be held in Kenya. Dairy Mail Africa is glad that things are back to normal in Kenya, and that the milk has started flowing again!

After recording an increase of 37 million litres going through processors' hands in November last year, milk production went down to 26 million litres in February 2008 as a result of the post-election violence in Kenya. But ever so slightly the scales are starting to balance with an increase of 29 million litres in April.

Truly speaking, the dairy sector is too sensitive to political instability. Even a cow will not give a farmer enough milk if there is a lot of noise. It needs a quiet environment.

We say well done to Kenya's political players and we hope that other dairy producing countries who are in the same situation, will take the Kenyan doctor's prescription. Politics can mud the milk. We do hope the stats will keep going up, considering that this is the flash period.

In this issue of *Dairy Mail Africa* we look at the situation of dairy in the SADC region. We compare numbers and identify shortages based on a recently released report. We also look at the troubling issue of world food prices and the subsequent food crisis. Where does the situation leave Africa?

On a more technical note, we look at the importance of maintaining hoof health in your



herd. In our processing section we turn on the heat and listen to the words of an expert, who informs us about the importance of the right heat treatment techniques.

We welcome the good working relationship that we have built up with Land O'Lakes and Heifer International and many more who are supporting us. Thank you to our readership, which is growing by the day. Thank you for your involvement and the letters we receive so regularly. This means that our magazine is reaching its target and adding value where it is needed.

All dairy role players, this is your magazine and we really need your support.

Editor