

## POULTRY

### Chicken anti-dumping measures expire

Anti-dumping levies against cheap poultry products from certain European countries recently expired.

The levies were a temporary measure to protect South Africa's poultry industry from cheap poultry imported from the UK, Netherlands and Germany, while a dumping investigation was taking place, Kevin Lovell, chairperson of the SA Poultry Association, said.

"Strictly speaking, these are not duties, but a form of interim

measure to limit the harm caused by dumping, whilst an investigation is in process. The provisional measures usually lasted for six months. We expect the investigation to be concluded by April this year," he said.

Thus far the removal of the provisional measures had not had a significant impact on the local market, owing to an avian influenza outbreak in these European countries.

"This means that poultry can't be

exported to South Africa until the outbreak is under control," Lovell said.

But once the outbreak was over, the imports could affect the local industry negatively.

"The weakness of the rand against major import currencies won't really help, as we're dealing with produce for which the export country doesn't have a market," he said. "If the export country can't find a poor country to absorb this produce, they

might just as well have dumped the poultry in the ocean. What makes matters worse is the fluctuation in prices, which makes it difficult for the import countries to adapt to the situation."

Lovell added that if the export country struggled to sell the produce, they would merely drop prices.

The levy had little impact on imports from the EU to South Africa, as it affected only three of the nine European countries that exported



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chicken to this country, according to Chris Schutte, CEO of Astral Foods.

Imports in effect stayed above 40 000t per month, despite these measures, he said. – *Glenneis Kriel*

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