



DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO ALL MEDIA

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IDENTIFICATION OF FMD VACCINATED ANIMALS IN LIMPOPO

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is effectively implementing mass vaccination programme to combat the spread of Foot-and-Mouth Disease through intensified surveillance, vaccination, traceability and movement-control measures.

All cloven-hoofed livestock vaccinated under the provincial FMD control programme, currently exceeding **300,644 animals** - have been properly identified and recorded in accordance with prescribed Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS) standards. Identification is conducted through **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ear tags**, which securely capture and link each animal to its registered owner on the system.

In addition, LDARD is working closely with industry partners through the **Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS)** platform. Through this collaboration, industry has supported the campaign by donating over **20,000 RFID ear tags**, as well as providing **personnel and logistical resources** to strengthen vaccination operations.

Private veterinarians are also authorised to vaccinate animals belonging to their clients, with vaccines supplied by the **National Department of Agriculture**. All vaccinations—whether conducted by State or private veterinarians—are recorded and subject to verification through official departmental systems.

It is important to emphasise that the Department maintains records of all cattle owners participating in the vaccination programme. Farmers intending to trade livestock, including moving animals to auctions or other sale points, are required to ensure that their animals are **properly identifiable** as stipulated in the Gazette no. 52868 of 13 June 2025, subparagraph 3 i e) and must obtain **proof of vaccination** from their local State Veterinarian, in compliance with national disease-control regulations.

To ensure coordination, awareness and continuous improvement, LDARD convenes a **weekly FMD Priority Committee (JOC)** comprising Provincial Joint Operational and Intelligence structures (PROVJOINTS) and all key stakeholders. This platform enables the resolution of operational challenges, strengthens traceability systems, and enhances accountability across the vaccination campaign.

The primary objective of the Department (DoA and LDARD) remains to achieve **at least 80% vaccination coverage** of all susceptible livestock in Limpopo by **December 2026**, thereby strengthening herd immunity, implementing outbreak containment and improve biosecurity measures along the Value Chain.

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Limpopo shares an extensive interface with the **Kruger National Park**, where buffalo acts as a known reservoir of FMD, and Limpopo being the province with the highest number of Disease-free buffalo farms as well as international borders with Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique. All the areas next to the infected KNP are being vaccinated every three months hence the current outbreak has not impacted the areas bordering KNP and Zimbabwe, namely, Maruleng, Ba-Phalaborwa, Greater Giyani, Collins Chabane and Musina Municipality.

LDARD reaffirms its commitment to a **science-based, legally compliant, and transparent FMD control programme** that safeguards animal health, protects livelihoods, and upholds national and international livestock trade standards.


The provincial FMD response continues to receive strong support from the Honourable Premier and MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development.

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