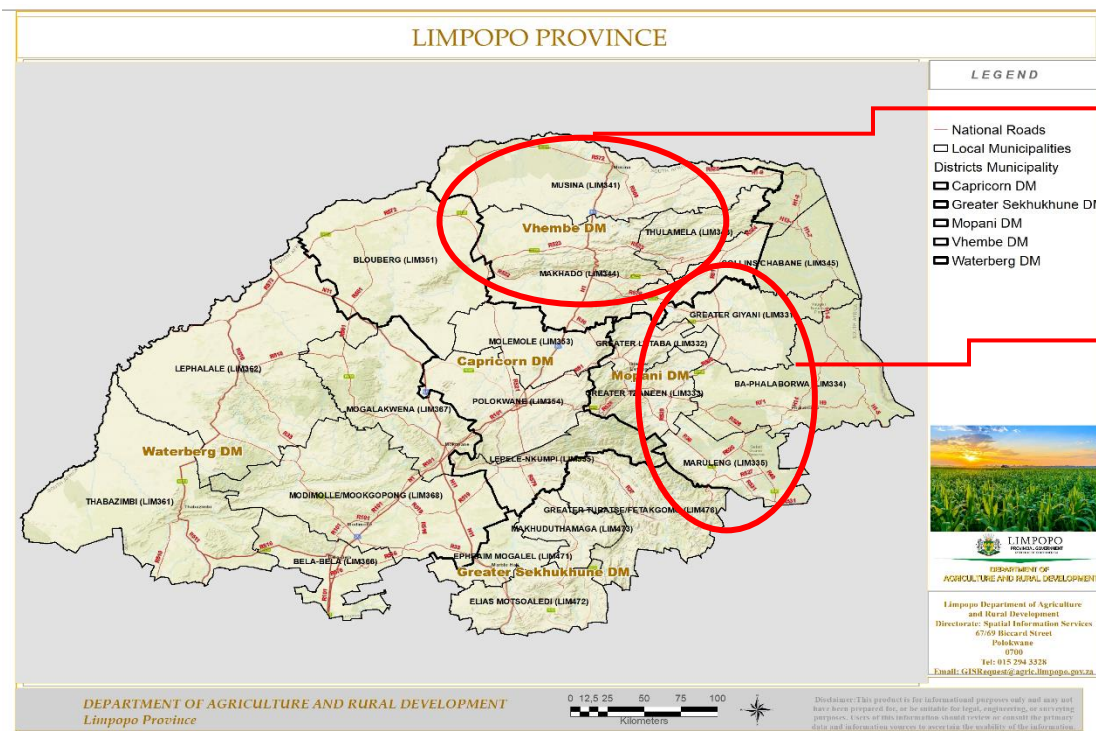




## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

National warning issued by SAWS valid for Friday, 13 October 2023 until Friday 13 October 2023.

**Hot and humid weather will lead to extremely uncomfortable conditions in the Lowveld and northern parts of Limpopo today on Friday 13 October 2023 valid until 13 October 2023.**



**Hot and humid weather conditions are prevailing at Vhembe and Mopani districts**

**HOT**

Hazard	Alert Level	Valid From (SAST)	Valid To (SAST)
<b><u>HOT AND HUMID WEATHER</u></b>	<b><u>Warning</u></b>	<b><u>13/10/2023</u></b> <b><u>10h00</u></b>	<b><u>13/10/2023</u></b> <b><u>17h00</u></b>

### **Description: Extremely High Temperatures**

When temperature and the humidity is high at the same time or when the temperature exceeds a certain threshold, Heat stress can greatly impact cattle producers through decreased milk production and subsequent calf growth, decreased reproductive performance in cows and bulls. Pigs and poultry are also at high risk to extreme hot and humid weather conditions.

## **WARNING: TAKE ACTION**

### **The High temperature aggravates the impact of the current drought conditions in Limpopo Province.**

**The major heat wave conditions are to increase the rate of evaporation of water, and thus to increase the effects of aridity, also cause high respiratory rates, and open mouth breathing of animals.**

#### **What to do when heat wave conditions is forecasted: LIVESTOCK**

1. Identify animals that are most susceptible to heat stress.
2. Develop an action plan for heat stress.
  - Animals in heat stress need to drink water
  - Move the animals' feeding time to late afternoon or evening.
  - Air movement is an additional factor that promotes animal cooling.
  - Cool the ground and the cattle gradually.
  - Provide shade if possible.
  - Adding bedding to the ground can reduce the temperature of the ground on which cattle are lying.
  - Control flies as much as possible
  - most importantly, do not work cattle during extreme temperature

Pay attention to long- and short-term weather forecasts and have a copy of the temperature humidity index chart readily available.

#### **What to do when heat wave conditions forecasted: CROPS**

- Do not irrigate during the day as more water will evaporate.
- Irrigate early in the morning or afternoon.
- Choosing more and better heat and drought resistant crops. e.g. sorghum/ millet
- Consider mulching to minimize evaporation.

#### **Concerns and Recommendation:**

Signs of heat stress:

- Bunching in shade, high respiratory rates, open mouth breathing

Risk factors:

- Health problems, confinement, weight, dark hide
- Consider heat resistant breeds
- Limit stressful handling of stock to cooler hours of day or night
- Former, plus shade over feed bunks and sprinklers with fans at feed bunks
- Choose suitable cultivars as a precautionary measure

**A comprehensive list of strategies can be found in the monthly NAC Advisory. It can be accessed from the following websites: [www.lard.gov.za](http://www.lard.gov.za); [www.dalrrd.gov.za](http://www.dalrrd.gov.za) and [www.agis.agric.za](http://www.agis.agric.za) and [www.agis.agric.za](http://www.agis.agric.za)**

The Disaster Management Act (Act No. 57 of 2002) urges Provinces, individuals and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning information.

**For more information contact Provincial Disaster Risk Management and Vulnerability:**

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