



## agriculture & rural development

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**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

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### **SURVEY FOR CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP)**

CBPP is a disease of cattle and water buffalo. As the name suggests, it attacks the lungs and the membranes that line the thoracic cavity (the pleura) causing fever and respiratory signs such as laboured or rapid respiration, cough and nasal discharges. Because it is highly contagious with a mortality rate of up to 50%, it causes significant economic losses.

CBPP is a prominent cattle disease in Africa. CBPP is a disease listed by the OIE in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and member countries are obligated to report occurrences of the disease according to the standards in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. CBPP is one of the diseases for which the OIE has official recognition status. The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specifies the steps a country must follow in order to be officially recognized by the OIE as free of CBPP.

CBPP was introduced into South Africa in 1853 when an infected bull was imported from the Netherlands and spread through South Africa by trek oxen along the transport routes. It played a role in the Great Xhosa Cattle-killing Movement of 1856 to 1857 and resulted in the starvation of thousands of Xhosa people (Coetzer & Tustin, 2004). It was eradicated from South Africa in 1924 and South Africa has been free from CBPP since then. South Africa does not currently have OIE recognised freedom due to lack of surveillance evidence, which is required for OIE recognised CBPP freedom.

## CBPP SURVEILLANCE

Transmission of the disease occurs through direct contact between an infected and a susceptible animal which becomes infected by inhaling droplets disseminated by coughing. Since some animals can carry the disease without showing signs of illness, controlling the spread is more difficult. There is no evidence of transmission through fomites (inanimate objects such as clothing, implements or vehicles) as the organism does not persist in the environment (OIE Technical disease card on CBPP). Zimbabwe and Mozambique are considered to be infected, even though no data is available from them. South Africa has eradicated CBPP and the disease therefore qualifies as a controlled disease according to the Animal Diseases Act 35 (Act 35 of 1984). Therefore any suspicion of CBPP has to be communicated to the nearest State Veterinarian and ultimately, as soon as possible to the Director: Animal Health at DAFF. **This forms a major part of South Africa's passive disease surveillance system, along with State para-veterinary inspections and diagnostic laboratory disease reporting.**

Jozini, Umhlabuyalingana and Harry Gwala District Municipalities are two possible entry points from the neighbouring Lesotho and Mozambique respectively.