



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Media Statement

Attention all Editors

For Immediate Release
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MEC FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MR THEMBA MTHEMBU, OFFICIALLY HANDS OVER FIRST OF ITS KIND LIVESTOCK AGRI-PARK IN KZN

MEC of Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Themba Mthembu, has officially handed over the St. Paul Farmer Production Support Unit (FPSU) to communal livestock farmers in the Harry Gwala District.

The first of its kind, livestock AgriPark in KwaZulu-Natal has an infrastructure investment of R7 million which will benefit over 300 communal livestock through free feed supply, training on animal husbandry and guaranteed access to markets.

MEC Mthembu says having programmes like the FPSU will assist small-holder farmers in rural areas to get an opportunity to participate in formal markets by working with the private sector, auctioneering companies, feed companies and animal health companies.

Harry Gwala is well-known for high agro-ecological potential due to an abundance of high quality soil, high altitude and abundant water and climatic conditions that make the area suitable for a variety of products including crops and vegetables, and livestock.

MEC Mthembu says "Promising opportunities exist through increasing the participation in formal red meat markets, but access to these markets have been constrained by distance, lack of suitable marketing channels, lack of adequate information and poorly suited animals. It is for this reason, that the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform entered into a Service Level Agreement with the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) to promote and implement the red meat value chain in Harry Gwala District. The Red Meat Development programme will assist in addressing the challenges highlighted above as the livestock production represents a major under-tapped source of income for the poorest households within the district."

St. Paul FPSU has 10 kraals with an animal capacity intake of 500 cows, auction pen, remedy house, water supply reservoir and a storage facility that will benefit Harry Gwala Cooperative which has 82 members.

MEC Mthembu says the FSPU has been built by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and has a standing partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide extension and veterinary services and the Department will continue providing this support to benefit the livestock farmers in the area. MEC also reminded all livestock farmers to take advantage of the vaccination programme run by the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to get their livestock vaccinated with Doraject AD3E which is a three in one supplement and which will also assist with deworming.

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KWAZULU NATAL

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