



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 04 March 2025

KZN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFIRMS AN OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE FOLLOWING A POSITIVE CASE IN AMAJUBA DISTRICT

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, has confirmed another positive case of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in Newcastle, Amajuba District. Following the detection of a suspected case on 10 February 2025, laboratory results have confirmed the presence of FMD virus infection in tissue and blood samples, with virus typing currently underway to determine whether the SAT1 or SAT2 strain is responsible.

In response, a team of Veterinary Services practitioners have been deployed to the District to conduct vaccinations and implement disease control measures in line with the Disease Management Area (DMA) protocols. The affected dip tanks have been placed under quarantine and vaccination efforts are ongoing. Amajuba District is the fourth District in the province to be affected by FMD, alongside uMkhanyakude, Zululand and King Cetshwayo. The latest outbreak has resulted in the suspension of animal auction sales and disrupted beef sales in the region.

MEC Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa has expressed concern over the outbreak, stating that it poses a significant threat to the region's meat sales. "Upon my deployment as the MEC for Agriculture last June, we made strategic efforts to making sure that every dip tank (2 207) in the province has acaricides or dipping chemicals and we encourage our farmers to see to it that they dip their cattle routinely." kaMadlopha-Mthethwa emphasised the importance of farmers working closely with the Department to prevent further spread of the disease and urged them to seek permission from Veterinary Services before moving animals, "Law enforcement agencies will be monitoring roads to prevent the movement of animals to other Districts.

The Department has developed an action plan, which includes engaging with stakeholders such as the livestock farming community, organised agriculture and industry role players," concludes kaMadlopha-Mthethwa before she leads a team of industry experts, Veterinary Services and Animal Health technicians to Newcastle to address the problem. In a separate matter, the Department has clarified that the recent outbreak of Hand, Foot and Mouth disease among school children in Durban is distinct from FMD, which affects cloven-hoofed animals. The Department's surveillance has not detected any presence of FMD in dip tanks or among commercial farmers in the eThekweni Municipality.

For more information, please contact Vusi Khumalo (MLO) at 082 350 4674 or Vusi Zuma (Head of Communication) at 082 419 2887