



KZN steps up FMD vaccination drive with mop-up campaign

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Veterinary teams are expected to continue operations in Lidgetton and Dargle as the department works to close the remaining gaps in coverage.



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture has intensified its response to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) with a mop-up vaccination campaign targeting livestock missed during earlier phases of the rollout.

The latest phase of the campaign began in the Karkloof area of uMngeni Municipality yesterday, where about 150 cattle were vaccinated.

Veterinary teams are expected to continue operations in Lidgetton and Dargle as the department works to close the remaining gaps in coverage. Department spokesperson Vusi Khumalo said some areas were not covered during the mass vaccination campaign, which included private and communal farms in parts of the uMgungundlovu District, including uMngeni, Msunduzi and Mpofana.

Khumalo said some farmers did not bring their cattle for vaccination, while some farms under the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme were omitted during the first phase.



“This is despite the MEC’s numerous calls for farmers to present their cattle at dip tanks across all districts. Mop-up vaccinations are now essential to ensure we achieve the 80% target required under the mass vaccination protocols,” said Khumalo.

He said the province had vaccinated about 1,567 million animals and expected to complete the first phase of the campaign by the beginning of October.

Vaccinations are continuing in iLembe and King Cetshwayo districts and are expected to be completed this week. Only Amajuba and uMzinyathi districts have yet to begin the first phase.

Nationally, Agriculture Minister Willie Aucamp recently announced that 17 million vaccine doses had been secured to support South Africa’s response to FMD. He said government was working closely with industry stakeholders to strengthen co-ordination, improve vaccine distribution and enhance disease control measures.

Meanwhile, livestock farmers have been urged to register as authorised vaccinators to help accelerate the rollout.