



AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SAYS FMD VACCINATION PROGRAMME IS WORKING

<https://www.ecr.co.za/news/news/agriculture-department-fmd-vaccination-working/>

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Agriculture officials say a reporting system is now in place to help detect issues early and speed up the collection of data.



The Department of Agriculture says the current foot and mouth disease mass vaccination drive is yielding positive results.

More than 2 million animals have been vaccinated across the country since the rollout began in KZN in February.

No new infections detected in vaccinated herds

The department says there have been no new infections in the vaccinated herds.

Spokesperson Joylene van Wyk says a reporting system has been introduced to allow for early detection and capturing data faster.

She explains that awareness has also increased to help identify cases of animals who carry the virus without symptoms.

Additional vaccine doses expected by end of April

Van Wyk has given the assurance that the department has secured a steady supply of vaccines.

“An additional 2 million doses from Dollvet are expected to arrive by the end of April. In order for 5 million doses from Biogénesis Bagó has already been placed with Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP).



“The process to import has begun and 3.5 million doses of the ordered 5 million doses is expected arrive at [the] end of April.”

Milk producers pleased with vaccination effort

Earlier this month, the Milk Producers' Organisation said that government's vaccination campaign has helped limit the impact of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks on dairy herds.

As of last month, the country recorded over 1 200 FMD cases, with KwaZulu-Natal being the most affected.

Fannie Ferreira, the CEO of Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) says that the vaccination programmes have been crucial in maintaining herd health and stabilising supply.

Ferreira warned though that the sector remains under pressure from biosecurity risks and future outbreaks.

"It is quite well known that the dairy animals in South Africa are affected extremely badly by the foot-and-mouth disease. But we are glad to report that we haven't lost that amount of milk, although it is sweeping right through the country and through all our producers.