



## **KZN REACHES ONE MILLION CATTLE VACCINATED AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE**

<https://witness.co.za/news/2026/05/23/kzn-reaches-one-million-cattle-vaccinated-against-foot-and-mouth-disease/>

May 23, 2026

The mass vaccination drive started in late February and forms part of a national plan to vaccinate all 2.4 million cattle in KwaZulu-Natal.



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has vaccinated more than one million cattle against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) as part of efforts to contain the outbreak and restore the province's livestock industry.

The department announced that vaccination teams had completed the campaign in four districts — uGu, Harry Gwala, uMkhanyakude and Zululand — with the next phase set to begin in uMgungundlovu District on Monday, May 25.

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MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa praised veterinary teams for reaching the milestone.



“I am proud of our veterinary services. They have worked tirelessly across four districts and have administered one million vaccines to cattle, making KwaZulu-Natal the only province to have reached this milestone since the campaign began on February 26,” she said.

KaMadlopha-Mthethwa urged livestock owners and livestock associations in uMgungundlovu to cooperate with officials by bringing cattle to dip tanks for vaccination.

She added that newly recruited Animal Health Technicians would join the campaign from Monday to strengthen the rollout.

“This is a major step towards vaccinating all 2.4 million cattle in the province. I thank Veterinary Services for running the campaign efficiently and private veterinarians for vaccinating most commercial farms. I remain committed to mobilising resources so that we can restore the livestock industry to its pre-2021 state,” said kaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

According to the department, 1 016 944 cattle have been vaccinated to date, placing the province’s vaccination coverage at about 40%. The target is to achieve 80% coverage to establish herd immunity.

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