



# Dairy MONTHLY

012 460 7312 • nico@milksa.co.za • www.milksa.co.za

## FMD and dairy product safety

South Africa is currently experiencing its most severe outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) to date. The scale and spread of the disease have reached unprecedented levels across the country.

Milk SA welcomes the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 12 February that FMD has been declared a national disaster. This declaration enables the mobilisation of additional government resources and ensures that the disease is addressed strategically and operationally at all levels, including enhanced research initiatives, regulatory review processes, and improved collaboration and coordination with industry stakeholders. Milk SA also welcomes the arrival of the Biogénesis Bagó vaccines in the country and look forward to the arrival of follow-up batches from this and other suppliers.

Milk SA established a working group in 2025 to adopt a holistic approach and align industry actions with those of government and other stakeholders. The working group is chaired by Dr Mark Chimes, Milk SA's veterinary advisor, who also serves on the ministerial task team along with two other specialist veterinarians, Drs Anthony Davis and Jacqui Marais.

While the FMD virus can have serious consequences for dairy cattle and other cloven-hoofed animals – including severe illness and, in some cases, death – humans are not susceptible to the virus. Consumers can therefore rest assured that the consumption of dairy products such as pasteurised milk, long-life milk, yoghurt, cheese, and butter remains safe and poses no risk of FMD infection.

## Registration of a management control system

The *Regulations Relating to the Management Control System (MCS) in Respect of the Sale and Export of Certain Agricultural Products* were published under *Government Notice No R 6634* on 19 September 2025. In terms of these *Regulations*, any person or food business operator intending to implement or exercise control over an MCS in the production, processing, or preparation of certain agricultural products must apply for the registration of a method of production with the executive officer, as prescribed in *Regulation 4*.

The *Regulations* define an MCS as a method of production that may be claimed using descriptive terms such as organic, free-range, grass-fed, naturally produced, no added hormone products, and the like.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications for registration of an MCS to the office of the executive officer on or before 31 March 2026 at [MbulaheniM@nda.gov.za](mailto:MbulaheniM@nda.gov.za)

For any enquiries, contact Dr Mbulaheni Thomas Mutengwe at 012 319 6121 or [MbulaheniM@nda.agric.za](mailto:MbulaheniM@nda.agric.za), or Thabang Rampa, manager of regulations and standards at Milk SA, at 012 665 4250 or [thabang@dairystandard.co.za](mailto:thabang@dairystandard.co.za)

[Click here](#) to access the relevant regulations and required information to register a management control system.

## Raw milk production slows in 2025 heading into 2026

Between 2020 and 2023, South African dairy producers recorded year-on-year declines in milk deliveries, largely due to the impact of Covid-19 and ongoing pressure on consumer spending.

In contrast, 2024 marked a recovery. Not a single month recorded a contraction, and total annual performance stood at 3,56% compared to 2023, despite the FMD outbreak in the Eastern Cape.

However, renewed disease outbreaks across the country in 2025 disrupted this momentum. Five of the twelve months recorded contracted intake, resulting in a modest preliminary production increase of just 0,7% for the year.

According to NielsenIQ data, as reported by Milk SA up to September 2025, retail sales volumes were positive across all seven measured dairy product categories, with the exception of fresh milk. However, most categories failed to keep pace with inflation. 