



Progress Update

20 February 2026

The Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) situation in South Africa continues to escalate across multiple provinces as an ongoing national animal health crisis, impacting the livelihoods of producers and the red meat value chain.

Prioritise Mass Vaccination at Scale for Stabilisation

During the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement debate on 13 January 2026, the Minister of Agriculture stated that South Africa will follow a vaccination-to-live strategy, as successfully implemented by Brazil to control FMD. The strategy included the use of mass vaccination at scale as the primary mechanism for stabilisation, enhanced by partnerships with the private sector to expand capacity for rapid deployment.

The FMD ICC supports the Minister's stated direction and the use of mass vaccination at scale as the primary mechanism for stabilisation, guided by the following principles:

- The immediate objective is to stop the disease spread without red tape and administrative delays.
- The effective vaccination of as many susceptible livestock as possible, within the shortest time, using approved vaccines.
- During the initial phase of the rollout priority is focused on cattle and pigs in hot spots determined by FMD heat maps, to optimise the use of limited vaccine supplies.
- Although traceability is strongly recommended, it is not a precondition for vaccination during the initial roll out. Full compliance frameworks for traceability can be prioritised once stabilisation has been achieved.

Important Notices & Updates:

Update: Section 10 Scheme

As previously reported, the FMD ICC submitted the Section 10 Scheme to the relevant authorities, and it is scheduled for discussion next week with the aim of finalisation.

The following has come to our attention:

- Private companies and individuals are circulating messages that imply farmers have to register on specific websites or systems and pay deposits to secure access to FMD Vaccine. (Please refer to the notice attached as issued by RMIS.)
- Provincial state veterinarians are presenting an application and indemnity to vaccinate for FMD. We are investigating the necessity of complying to such document since FMD is a state controlled disease.
- A document circulating on social media implies that the Department of Agriculture is amending the control measures relating to controlled diseases of cloven-hoofed animals, in relation to the movement of animals (inter provincial and cross provincial borders). The FMD ICC is investigating the legitimacy of this document.

The FMD ICC will continue to update stakeholders and provide practical guidance as the national response progresses.

- *Please raise any implementation issues through your industry representatives.*
- *If you want to report or raise something anonymously, you can send it to 073 786 7363 on WhatsApp.*
- *If you notice clinical signs of FMD in your animals such as limping, mouth or nose lesions, or excessive drooling/salivation - whether current or anytime in the past three months - please send only the GPS coordinates from the nearest S-road or main road to the same number.*
- *You are not required to submit any information that can identify you.*

Note to Media:

- *All media enquiries must be directed to Sara-Lea van Eeden, FMD ICC Communications Lead, at sara-lea@s-ellepr.com.*
- *A minimum lead time of 24 hours is required.*
- *While we recognise the pressure of news deadlines and will always aim to respond as soon as possible and meet deadlines, the operating environment is dynamic, which may at times affect response timelines.*

All media requests must include the following information:

- *Your deadline*
- *Preferred format (for example: live or pre-recorded interview, telephonic, in-person, online, email interview, or written comment)*
- *The specific focus of your enquiry (for example: scientific or animal health matters, economic or trade impact, or operational response)*
- *The specific questions you would like addressed*

Responses are coordinated across all nine FMD ICC members and this procedure enables the FMD ICC to provide you with accurate responses that support responsible and factual reporting during a national crisis.