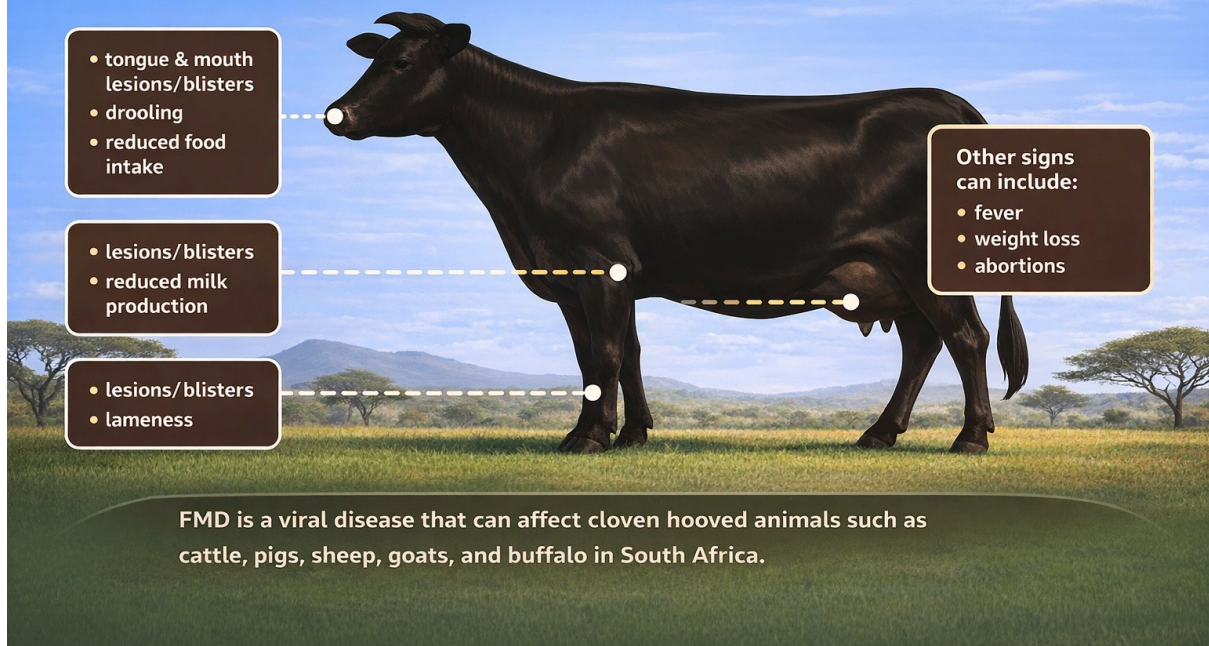


CLINICAL SIGNS OF FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE



Media statement by Executive Mayor, Marais Kruger

Executive Mayor commends Western Cape Government for proactive intervention in containing the spread of foot-and-mouth disease

8 February 2026

The Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) Executive Mayor, Marais Kruger, welcomes the Western Cape Government's (WCG) proactive steps in containing the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

WCG Premier Alan Winde, joined by WCG Minister of Agriculture, Dr Ivan Meyer, announced that an amount of R100 million has been made available to procure vaccines.

The province has committed to working closely with the National Department of Agriculture to ensure that the vaccine roll-out is managed efficiently, to prevent any foreign strains from entering the region and the development of new strains of FMD.

"A move to enforce the permitting system to clamp down on the movement of animals will be implemented within days."

The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre tabled a 21-point plan today to ensure that the spread of the disease is brought under control.

As the Garden Route District Mayor, Mayor Kruger strongly supports the call to ensure rapid response procedures, which include, but are not limited to:

- the implementation of 10 km biosecurity control measures at key entry points
- restriction of animal and vehicle movements

- proper disinfection of equipment and vehicles
- no access for unauthorised persons to farming premises

The containment and eradication of diseases require a collective effort and must be managed in the best interests of jobs and the economy. The agricultural sector is critical, as it contributes approximately R14 billion to the Western Cape economy.

Media queries:

Kabelo Mohlohlo – Manager in the Office of the Executive Mayor

kabelo@gardenroute.gov.za

079 133 0543

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Awareness

FMD is a serious disease that spreads easily in livestock. It is caused by a virus found in all body fluids such as saliva, urine, faeces, milk and in the air that is breathed out by all infected animals. The incubation period is between 2 – 14 days, while at this time, animals can appear healthy but still be infectious.

FMD is a controlled animal disease in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No 35 of 1984). Any suspicious clinical symptoms (salivation, blisters in the mouth, limping or hoof lesions) must be reported to the local State Veterinarian immediately and such animals must not be moved under any circumstances. The Act prescribes certain control measures, like isolation and movement control, that are being enforced by Veterinary Services.

Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg

State Vet: Animal Health (George)

Phone: 044-803 3770/1 - 083 797 0010

Leana.JanseVanRensburg@westerncape.gov.za

SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za

Dr C Fox

State Vet: Animal Health (Oudtshoorn)

Phone: 044-203 9443/5 - 082 699 6043

Cathy.Fox@westerncape.gov.za

DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za