

## MEDIA STATEMENT FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE



FMD Resources



### **Foot-and-Mouth Disease Update 2: Garden Route District Municipality Multi-Agency Command Centre on 11 February 2026 at 16h30**

*Joint Statement: Agri Western Cape, Western Cape Government and GRDM*

The State Veterinarian leading the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) response in the Garden Route, Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg, has confirmed positive test results in cattle tested for FMD at a dairy farm near Hartenbos. The dairy farm is under official quarantine.

#### **NEW SUSPECTED CASES AND PROTOCOLS FOLLOWED**

“Livestock on two farms adjacent to the index farm are showing lesions. Samples have been collected from several livestock on these premises, and test results are expected later this week,” said Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg.

“Provisional quarantine notices will be issued to the 10km radius farms from tomorrow, 12 February 2026,” said Dr Janse van Rensburg.

Once the State Veterinarian and her response team have visited a farm where suspect lesions are observed in livestock, they will not visit any other farms for a minimum period of three (3) days. This precautionary measure is implemented to minimise the risk of potential cross-contamination and prevent the spread of the disease between farms.

“Livestock at farms where lesions have been noted will be vaccinated to prevent the further spread of FMD and to limit the viral load possibly present in suspect herds.”

#### **BIOSECURITY AND MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS**

Biosecurity on farms remains the responsibility of each owner. Uncontrolled access to farms must not be permitted, and strict measures should be implemented to ensure that animals remain within property boundaries.

In cases where cattle need to cross public roads, this poses a significant biosecurity risk. Appropriate measures - including the disinfection of road surfaces after animals have crossed - must be applied. Vehicles driving through contaminated areas, including manure, can inadvertently spread the virus to other locations.

Although no livestock movement permits have been formally gazetted at this stage, strict restrictions on the movement of livestock within a 10 km radius of the FMD-affected farm remain in force.

Multiple control points have been established around the affected area and are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to ensure compliance and to contain the spread of the disease.

Transporters are reminded to keep all required documentation on hand, including:

- Owner declaration;
- Buyer undertaking; and
- Certificates issued under Sections 6 & 8 of the Stock Theft Act.

Producers are again urged to review and strengthen their own biosecurity measures and to report all cloven hoofed animal movements via the WCG online form:

<https://tinyurl.com/AnimalMovementApp>

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO WILDLIFE FARMS**

Wildlife farms are strongly advised not to accept cattle mortalities from affected or neighbouring farms, particularly where buffalo or other cloven-hoofed species are present, due to the heightened risk of disease transmission.

### **GENERAL PREVENTATIVE FMD MEASURES**

**Slaked lime (Calcium hydroxide):** Works well for disinfecting soil, kraal areas, and footwear. It raises the pH to levels at which the FMD virus cannot easily survive.

**Soda ash (Sodium carbonate):** Works well for disinfecting contaminated surfaces such as concrete floors, equipment, and vehicle tyres. It is mildly corrosive and should be handled with care.

**Caustic soda (Sodium hydroxide):** Works well for disinfecting heavily contaminated surfaces, equipment, and animal housing areas. It is highly corrosive. Always add the powder to water — never water to the powder — to prevent dangerous reactions.

**Household vinegar (Acetic acid, 4–8%):** Works well for disinfecting equipment and smaller surfaces where organic material has been removed. Surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned before application for effective results.

**Household bleach (Approx. 3% Sodium hypochlorite in South Africa):** Works well for disinfecting equipment, footwear, and hard surfaces. Prepare fresh solutions and use immediately after mixing, as effectiveness decreases over time. Always add sodium hypochlorite to water, not water to the concentrate. It is corrosive and may damage certain materials.

**Stalosan F:** Works well for disinfecting footwear, footbaths, and stable or housing floors. Effective in areas with high moisture and organic load.

**F10CL (General farm disinfectant):** Works well for hosing down vehicles, disinfecting equipment, washing hands, and general biosecurity use around farm entrances and facilities.

**Virkon S (Potassium peroxymonosulphate-based disinfectant):** Works well for disinfecting equipment, vehicles, footwear, housing facilities, and biosecurity stations. Effective against a broad range of viruses when mixed and applied according to manufacturer guidelines.

Picture Caption: Thuli Makala (Control Animal Health Technician), vaccinating livestock.

*The next update will be published by 13 February 2026.*

Report Suspected FMD Incidents  
Garden Route Emergency Call Centre  
044 805 5071 or WhatsApp 081 709 5193

### **Media Queries**

#### **Herman Pieters**

GRDM Manager: Communications  
[communications@gardenroute.gov.za](mailto:communications@gardenroute.gov.za)  
081 455 5699

#### **Rojeanne de Wet**

Agri Western Cape  
[rojeanne@awk.co.za](mailto:rojeanne@awk.co.za)  
071 170 3744