

Monthly report on livestock disease trends as informally reported by veterinarians belonging to the Ruminant Veterinary Association of South Africa (RuVASA), a group of the South African Veterinary Association

June 2017

For the full report and previous disease reports visit the RuVASA website www.ruvasa.co.za

Click on Disease Reports

The following practices and laboratories (113) submitted reports during June 2017:

Mpumalanga (12)

Balfour – Dr. Louis van Jaarsveld
Bethal – Dr. Hardus Pieters
Delmas – Drs. Du Plessis and Ferreira
Ermelo – Drs. Potgieter and Steinberg
Grootvlei – Dr. Neels van Wyk
Karino – Dr. Silke Pfitzer
Lydenburg – Drs. Trümpelmann and Steyn
Middelburg – Malan, Erasmus and Bernitz
Nelspruit – Dr. André Beytell
Piet Retief – Drs. Niebuhr and Weber
Standerton – Dr. Kobie Kroon
Volksrust – Drs. Watson, Solomon and Scheepers

Gauteng (5)

Magaliesburg – Dr. Ryan Jeffery
Nigel – Dr. Cindy van der Westhuizen
Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital - Proff. Annandale, Prozesky, Shakespear, Holm and Esposito, Gratwick, Hamman and O'Dell
Pretoria – Dr. Hanneke Pienaar
Vanderbijlpark – Dr. Kobus Kok

Limpopo (5)

Lephalale (Ellisras) – Dr. Brigitte Luck
Makhado – Drs. Harris, Klopper and Jacobs
Mokopane (Potgietersrus) - Dr. Henk Visser

Polokwane (Pietersburg) – Drs. Watson, Viljoen, Jansen Van Vuuren, Van Rooyen, Snyman and Cremona

Vaalwater – Dr. Hampie van Staden

Vaalwater – Dr. Annemieke van der Goot

North West (7)

Brits – Drs. Boshoff and Coertze

Christiana - Dr. Pieter Nel

Klerksdorp – Drs. Theron, Van den Berg, Van den Berg and Geral

Lichtenburg – Dr. Nelmarie-Krüger Rall

Stella - Dr. Magdaleen Vosser

Ventersdorp/ Koster – Drs. Marais and Benadé

Vryburg – Dr. Jurie Kritzinger

Free State (28)

Bethlehem – Dr. Strydom and Strydom

Bethlehem – Dr. J.C. du Plessis

Bothaville – Dr. Johan Blaauw

Bultfontein – Dr. Santjie Pieterse

Clocolan – Drs. Wasserman and Basson

Dewetsdorp – Dr. Marike Badenhorst

Excelsior – Dr. Deidré Nel

Ficksburg – Drs. Kotze and Coetzer

Frankfort - Drs. Lessing, Cilliers and Janse van Rensburg

Gariiep Dam – Dr. Marni Strauss

Hertzogville - Dr. Nico Hendrikz

Hoopstad – Dr. Kobus Pretorius

Kroonstad – Drs. Daffue, Eksteen, Van Zyl and Van der Walt

Ladybrand - Dr. De Vos

Memel – Drs. Nixon and Nixon

Parys – Drs. Wessels and Wessels

Philippolis – Dr. Stephan van Niekerk

Reitz - Dr. Murray Smith

Reitz – Dr. Schabort Froneman

Senekal – Dr. Jan Blignaut

Smithfield – Dr. Nienke van Hasselt

Trompsburg – Dr. Wyn Irwin

Viljoenskroon - Dr. Johan Kahts

Villiers – Drs. Hattingh and Hauptfleisch

Vrede – Drs. Bester - Cloete and Fourie

Wesselsbron – Dr. Johan Jacobs

Winburg – Drs. Albertyn and Albertyn

Zastron – Drs. Troskie and Strauss

KwaZulu-Natal (14)

Bergville - Dr. Ariena Shepherd
Bergville – Dr. Jubie Muller
Camperdown – Dr. Anthony van Tonder
Dundee – Drs. Marais and Fynn
Dundee – Dr. Paul Reynolds
Estcourt – Drs. Turner, Tedder, Taylor, Tratschler, Van Rooyen and Alwar
Howick – Drs. Hughes, Lund, Gordon, Allison and Taylor
Kokstad - Drs. Clowes and Shrives
Mooi River – Drs. Fowler, Hartley, Alexander and Reisinger
Mtubatuba – Dr. Trever Viljoen
Pietermaritzburg – Dr. Phillip Kretzmann
Pongola – Dr. Heinz Kohrs
Underberg - Drs. Collins, King and Delaney
Vryheid – Drs. Theron and Theron

Eastern Cape (14)

Alexandria - Drs. Olivier and Dreyer
Aliwal North – Drs. Troskie and Strauss
Bathurst – Dr. Jane Pistorius
Cradock – Dr. Frans Erasmus
Graaff- Reinet - Dr. Roland Larson
Humansdorp – Drs. Van Niekerk and Janse Van Vuuren
Jeffreys Bay – Drs. Hoek and Lategan
Kareedouw – Dr. Martin Bootsma
Middelburg/Steynsburg – Drs. Van Rooyen and Viljoen
Port Alfred – Dr. Leon de Bruyn
Queenstown – Drs. Du Preez, Godley, Klopper, Jansen van Vuuren, De Klerk and Catherine
Stutterheim - Dr. Dave Waterman
Uitenhage – Drs. Mulder and Krüger
Witelsbos – Dr. Elmién Kotzé

Western Cape (14)

Beaufort West - Drs. Pienaar and Grobler
Caledon – Drs. Retief, Coetzer, Jansen and Woudstra
Caledon – Drs. Louw and Viljoen
Darling – Drs. Van der Merwe, Adam and Senekal
George - Drs. Strydom, Truter and Pettifer
Heidelberg – Dr. Albert van Zyl
Malmesbury – Dr. Otto Kriek
Malmesbury – Dr. Markus Fourie
Piketberg – Dr. André van der Merwe
Plettenberg Bay – Dr. André Reitz
Stellenbosch – Dr. Alfred Kidd
Swellendam – Drs. Malan
Vredenburg – Dr. Izak Rust

Wellington – Drs. Van Zyl and Louw

Northern Cape (6)

Calvinia – Dr. Bertus Nel

Colesberg – Drs. Rous and Rous

Kathu – Dr. Jan Vorster

Kimberley – Drs. Van Heerden and Swart

Postmasburg – Dr. Boeta van der Westhuizen

Upington – Drs. Vorster and Visser

Feedlots (2)

Dr. Andy Hentzen

Drs. Morris and Du Preez

Laboratory reports (6)

Dr. Marijke Henton - Vetdiagnostix, Johannesburg

Dr. Alan Fisher – Queenstown Provincial laboratory

Dr. Rick Last – Vetdiagnostix, Pietermaritzburg

Dr. Liza du Plessis – Idexx, Onderstepoort

Dr. Lucy Lange – Pathcare, Cape Town

George - Deltamune

Key Message

The key message this month is:

VACCINATE YOUR HEIFERS WITH BRUCELLA STRAIN 19 OR RB51 VACCINES

I recently had to break the news to a commercial beef cattle farmer that 41% of his breeding herd (or 44% of his cows) or 56/126 cows are infected with Brucellosis on serology. (His 9 bulls were negative). Blood samples were taken after *Brucella abortus* type 1 was identified from a foetus. 11 Cows had aborted when I tested the herd last week.

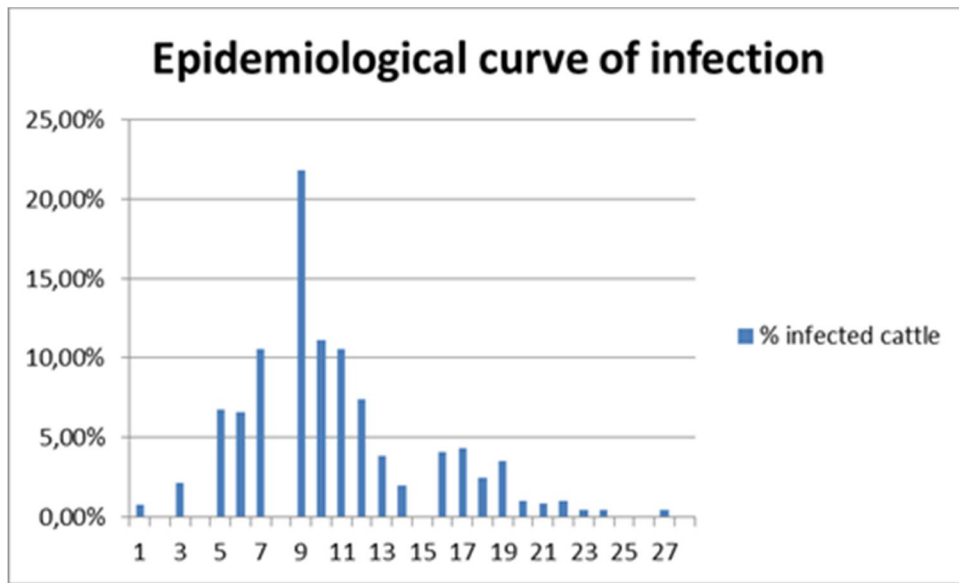
The herd was not vaccinated. The neighbouring small farmer's cattle tested negative for Brucellosis.

When vaccination programmes are drawn up for any cattle herd please do not forget to include *Brucella* vaccinations first and foremost on the list of necessary vaccinations for heifers and/or cows.

Heifer calves between the ages of 4-8 months: Strain 19 used only once. If Strain 19 is not available use RB51.

Heifers and cows older than 8 months only with RB51, do not vaccinate pregnant cows as they may abort.

This is what happened in an unvaccinated Jersey herd after it became infected with brucellosis



Monthly testing

In the first test 1120 cattle were sampled for brucellosis. The peak in the graph (month 9) represents 216 positive cattle. The number of total cattle slaughtered as a result of brucellosis in this herd is 904 cattle. When brucellosis was ravaging through this herd, the number of cows in the herd dropped to 549. Fortunately the farmer was very compliant and cooperated well and as you can see from the results that he is almost free of brucellosis.

Strick management, the use of RB51 and frequent testing resulted in the relatively quick eradication of brucellosis from this herd. Had vaccination been used in heifer calves we would probably have seen a less dramatic picture.

So please, I beg of you, add Brucella vaccination to your list of compulsory vaccinations.

Regards,

Dr Sewellyn Davey

State Veterinarian Malmesbury

Veterinary Services: Animal Health

Department of Agriculture

Western Cape Government

E-mail: sewellynd@elsenburg.com

One dozen things you must know about bovine brucellosis

Brucellosis is not a simple disease and can destroy the productivity of your herd. Here are one dozen things that you must know about this disease.

1. Brucellosis is a Controlled Animal Disease in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, and there is no treatment to cure it in cattle.
2. It is a herd disease. Thus, if one animal in the herd is infected the whole herd must be considered as potentially infected.
3. It is compulsory by law to vaccinate all heifers against brucellosis with a registered vaccine. The available vaccines are S19 (OBP) or RB51 (MSD), see table 2 of the Animal Diseases Regulations. Vaccination helps protect your herd from disease, reduces the spread of the disease and decreases the number of abortions.
4. The S19 vaccine may only be administered once in heifer calves between 4 and 8 months of age. If S19 is used at an older age the animal may persistently test positive on blood tests, causing confusion about the animal's disease status. The RB51 vaccine may be administered to non-pregnant heifers and cows at any age as it will not cause positive blood test results. Do not vaccinate bulls with S19 or RB51 as they may become sterile.
5. Pregnant heifers and cows infected with brucellosis may abort, resulting in reduced production in terms of calves weaned, milk yield, prolonged inter-calving intervals.
6. Cows and heifers infected with brucellosis often look healthy, which is misleading! If these animals remain in the herd, they continue to silently spread the infection which will cause severe economic and production losses.
7. The most important mode of transmission is when an infected animal calves normally or has an abortion, as this process releases millions of bacteria into the environment that can easily infect other cattle.
8. Heifers that were born from infected cows often test negative before they have calved and only test positive after their first calf is born. Newly bought-in heifers pose a high risk and should ideally be kept separate from the rest of the herd until they have calved and have tested brucellosis negative.
9. People can become infected with brucellosis by drinking unpasteurised milk, slaughtering an infected cow and handling infected birth material and aborted fetuses (calves). Human symptoms are flu-like with fever, headache and body aches. If a diagnosis is not made and appropriate treatment taken, it can become a chronic illness that continuously relapses. Meat from infected animals slaughtered at certified abattoirs is safe for human consumption.
10. *Brucella* bacteria can also be spread through run-off water from infected neighbouring farms. Predators such as roaming dogs, jackals and crows may carry infected material

(aborted foetus and afterbirths) between farms. Flies that feed on infected material may spread the bacteria mechanically when sitting on the mucous membranes of animals.

11. Owners are responsible for the health of their animals and may be prosecuted under the Animal Diseases Act and the Consumer Protection Act if they propagate the spreading of brucellosis.
12. **The only person who can protect your cattle herd against brucellosis is YOU!** When you are buying cattle, insist on vaccination records and recent negative **herd tests** of the farm of origin. The seller must be able to declare that the cattle are vaccinated and the herd of origin tested negative for brucellosis. The seller should be able to provide proof of regular negative herd tests results. It is always advisable to isolate any cattle bought into the herd for biosecurity reasons; to test for different diseases, to get vaccinations up to date and to treat against internal and external parasites.

For further information, please contact your state or private veterinarian.



Visit the website of the National Animal Health Forum

The website of the National Animal Health Forum (NAHF) is now operational.

www.nahf.co.za

Read what the Forum is all about:

<http://nahf.co.za/about/>

This website will become the information centre of animal health in Southern Africa.

On the toolbar click on **Stakeholders** and you will find links to producer organizations and other organizations who are participating in the NAHF

<http://nahf.co.za/stakeholders/>

Provincial Animal Health Forums have their own site – click on **Provinces**

<http://nahf.co.za/provinces/>

Important is to study the Veterinary Strategy (2016 -2026) as it gives direction to where we are going with Animal Health in South Africa.

<http://nahf.co.za/wp-content/uploads/Vet-strategy-final-signed.pdf>

Click on **Info centre** for more information on the “war” we have against Bovine Brucellosis. Please be up to date on the role all have to play to control this zoonotic disease.

<http://nahf.co.za/category/diseases/brucellosis/>

Information on other controlled diseases (Ovine Johne’s Disease, Pest of small stock – PPR, and African Horse Sickness) is available

This link will continuously be updated.

Information on **antibiotic resistance** is also available at this address:

<http://nahf.co.za/category/antibiotic-resistance/>

Better relationships are being built between the State Veterinary departments and the private sector.

For additional information on Brucellosis in Afrikaans go to the following website:

Besoek ook www.landbou.com

Klik op Indeks van antwoorde

Klik op Beeste

Klik op Siektes

Klik op Brusellose

Klik op die verskillende antwoorde

Live the slogan so that we ALL can be part of controlling bovine brucellosis!

V = Vaccinate

E = Educate

T = Test

Summary of disease report for June 2017

113 Reports from veterinary practices and laboratories were received (Mpumalanga (MP) 12; Gauteng (G) 5; Limpopo (L) 5; North West (NW) 7 Free State (FS) 28; KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) 14; Eastern Cape (EC) 14; Western Cape (WC) 14; Northern Cape (NC) 6; Feedlots (FL) 2 and Laboratories (Lab) 6).

Internal parasites

The following reports were received from practices regarding internal parasite infestations:

Internal parasites	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Roundworms	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Resistant roundworms	x	x	x		x	x			

Wireworm	X			X	X	X		X	X
Brown stomach-worm						X		X	
Long-necked bankruptworm									
Large-mouthed bowelworm									
Nodularworm				X	X				
Lungworm									
Eyeworm									
<i>Parafilaria</i>						X			
Tapeworms	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Liver fluke	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Conical fluke	X			X	X	X	X		X
Cysticercosis (measles)	X				X	X			X
Schistosomiasis (bilharzia)									
Coccidiosis	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Cryptosporidiosis				X	X				

There is a perception that parasites are dormant in the winter. From the table above it is not the case. Use the five point check to keep on top of what is happening in the flock. For further detail contact your local veterinarian.

External parasites

The following reports were received from practices regarding external parasite infestations:

External parasites	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Blue ticks	X		X	X	X	X	X		
Resistant blue ticks					X	X			
Heartwater ticks	X	X	X			X	X		
Brown ear-ticks		X	X		X	X			
Bont-legged ticks	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
Red-legged ticks	X			X	X				
Paralysis ticks							X		
Tampans									
Biting lice	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Sucking lice					X		X		X
Itch mites									
Sheep scab					X	X	X	X	
Mange mites									
Nuisance flies	X				X	X			
Midges	X					X			
Mosquitoes									
Blowflies	X		X		X				
Screw-worm									
Gedoeelstia (uitpeuloogsiekte)									
Nasal bot	X				X			X	

In the cooler months the larval and nymphal stages of the multi-host ticks are more prevalent. These stages often attach in the ears of animals. In areas where brown ear-ticks are present a winter dipping is advocated to control these stages.

Blue tick resistance to drug groups is on the increase – ask your veterinarian to assist you with information so as to minimize the chances of selecting blue ticks for resistance. Biosecurity is of utmost importance when buying in animals.

Tick borne diseases

The following tick borne diseases were reported by practices in the provinces:

Tick borne diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
African red water	X		X		X	X		X	
Asiatic red water	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Anaplasmosis	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Heartwater	X		X						
Lumpy skin disease	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Corridor disease									
Theileriosis									

The best time to vaccinate cattle against Asiatic red water is during the winter months. Visit your veterinarian to discuss your vaccination programme and order vaccines in time.

The following tick toxicosis was reported by practices in the provinces:

Tick toxicosis	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Sweating sickness				X	X				

Insect transmittable diseases

The following insect transmittable diseases were reported by practices in the provinces:

Insect transmittable diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Lumpy skin disease	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ephemeral fever (Three day stiff sickness)					X	X			
Blue tongue									
Rift Valley Fever									
Wesselsbron									
Nagana									

After the first frost insect transmitted diseases usually decline as is seen in the table above. The reason why lumpy skin disease outbreaks are still reported is that this disease is also transmitted by ticks. Now is the time to order vaccines for the next rainy season to control these diseases.

Venerial diseases

The following venereal diseases were reported by practices in the provinces:

Venereal diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Trichomonosis	x			x	x	x	x		
Vibriosis	x			x	x		x	x	
Pizzle disease									x
<i>Actinobacillus seminis</i>									

New cases of **trichomonosis** are reported every month and this disease is out of control. Make sure to buy bulls from farmers where biosecurity measures are in place and bulls are tested for these diseases at regular intervals.

Make sure that fences are in tact and gates closed so that bulls cannot escape to neighbouring cows that may be infected with *Trichomonas* and become infected or infected neighbouring bulls are jumping fences.

Cattle study groups should discuss preventative and control measures with their veterinarians. **Be sure to test bulls regularly for these diseases.**

Beware when buying in or sharing bulls! Remember female animals may also be infected.

Study the Good management SOP's for cattle farmers as is on the RPO website

<http://www.rpo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/nuutRPO-NERPO-Code-Addendum.pdf>

<http://www.rpo.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/nuutRPO-NERPO-Code-Addendum-4-Good-management-practices-and-SOPs-for-cattle-farmers-1.pdf>

Bacterial diseases

The following bacterial diseases were reported by practices in the provinces:

Bacterial diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Anthrax									
Blackquarter	x			x	x	x	x	x	
Botulism				x					
Pulpy kidney		x		x	x	x	x	x	
Lamb dysentery									
Swelled head	x								
Red gut (cattle)				x		x	x		
Blood gut (sheep)	x			x	x	x			x
Tetanus									x
Salmonellosis						x		x	
Bovine brucellosis	x		x	x	x	x			
Ovine brucellosis (Ram's disease)							x	x	x
<i>Actinobacillus seminis</i>									
Bovine tuberculosis						x			

Johne's									X
Leptospirosis									
Listeriosis				X					
<i>Pseudomonas</i>									
<i>Fusibacterium necrophorum</i>					X				
Septicaemia				X				X	
<i>E. coli</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Enzootic abortion	X				X		X	X	X
Lumpy wool									
Uterine gangrene									X
Bovine dermatophilosis (Senkobo disease)									
Wooden tongue									
Lumpy jaw						X			

When buying animals this Vendor declaration can help you to minimize risk!

VENDOR DECLARATION BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS

I hereby declare that I am the legal owner or authorised representative of the cattle on sale and am competent to make this declaration

1	The cattle for sale are clearly and permanently identified		Yes	No
2	The cattle for sale/slaughter were born on my farm		Yes	No
3	The farm has a closed herd policy i.e. I do not buy in cattle, rent out grazing or speculate with cattle		Yes	No
4	I practice bio-security on my farm to a level that is **	Poor	Moderate	Good
5	I vaccinate my heifer calves against Bovine Brucellosis once between the ages of 4 – 8 months		Yes	No
6	In addition I vaccinate my cattle older than 8 months with RB51		Yes	No
7	I have all the cattle on my farm tested for Bovine Brucellosis		Yes (date)	No
8	My herd has been tested negative within the past year		Yes	No
9	I did not buy in cattle since my last negative brucellosis test		Yes	No
10	I/my vet investigates any abortions on my farm		Yes	No
11	To the best of my knowledge, my immediate neighbours and farms in my area are free of Bovine Brucellosis		Yes	No
12	I use a veterinarian to advise me on my cattle's herd health		Yes	No
13	The cattle handling facilities on my farm are	Poor	Average	Good

Note: Vaccination does not mean freedom from Bovine Brucellosis as cattle can still be carriers
Please attach the most recent *Brucella* blood test certificate

Owner or authorised representative:.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

**** * Biosecurity**

Poor – speculates with cattle, does not vaccinate, poor fences, cattle come into contact with other cattle

Medium – Vaccinates heifers, does not buy in cattle of unknown health status

Good – closed herd/never buys in cattle, vaccinates heifers and no contact with other cattle, follows a herd health plan as advised by his veterinarian, does not allow transport trucks onto property, washes and disinfects truck after returning from the abattoir or auction grounds.

Compiled by: Dr. Sewellyn Davey, Chairman of the Brucellosis Steering committee of the National Animal Health Forum

Viral diseases

The following viral diseases were reported by practices in the provinces:

Viral diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
BMC (snotsiekte)	x	x	x	x	x		x		x
Rabies (cattle)					x	x	x		
BVD					x			x	
IBR				x	x	x	x		
BRSV					x				
PI3									
Maedi visna virus									
Rotavirus / Coronavirus				x					
Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)					x	x	x	x	
Sheep leucosis									
Jaagsiekte					x	x	x	x	
Orf	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Warts	x		x		x	x		x	

There is no treatment for viral diseases with the result that animals have to be protected by vaccinations if they are available.

Ryegrass									
Ganskweek									
Paspalum staggers									
<i>Phalaris aquaticum</i> (Phalaris staggers)									
Photosensitivity (Turknael, <i>Erodium moschatum</i>)									
Photosensitivity (Stellenbosch)									
Lusern									
Mycotoxicosis									
Diplodiosis									
Lupins									
Harpuisbos									
Syringa berries									
Kraalbos, Geelbos									
Crotolaria									
Radish									
Carrot poisoning									
Onion poisoning									
Bracken fern									
Pollen beetle (<i>Astylus atromaculatus</i>)									
Water contamination									
Nitrate									
Urea					X	X	X		
Snake bite				X	X				
Moth cocoons (impaction)									
Blue green algae					X				
Copper								X	
Selenium									
Zinc									
Fluoride									
Lead									
Paraquat									
Phosamine									
Organophosphate									
Zinc phosphide									
Pyrethroid									
Amitraz									
Levamisole									
Ivermectin							X		
Tilmicosin									
Ionophor									
Hypo									

Beware when buying in animals or moving into rested grazing camps as they are the animals which usually eat toxic plants such as tulip and ink berries (*Cestrum*).

For further information on treatment of tulip and other poisonings visit:

www.landbou.com

Klik op Indeks van antwoorde

Klik op Beeste of Skape

Klik op Vergiftigings

Klik op die Opskrifte

Nutritional deficiencies

The following nutritional deficiencies were reported by practices in the provinces:

Deficiencies	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Energy	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Protein				X	X	X	X	X	
Phosphate							X		
Calcium				X	X	X	X	X	

Micro-nutritional deficiencies

The following micro-nutritional deficiencies were reported by practices in the provinces:

Deficiencies	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Iodine						X			
Copper			X				X	X	
Zinc								X	
Selenium				X	X	X		X	
Magnesium					X			X	
Manganese								X	
Vitamin A	X			X	X	X	X		
Vitamin B 1									

There are antagonists such as calcium, iron and sulphur which hamper the uptake of micro-minerals. Have water and soil samples analysed to see what the levels of these antagonists are. Arrange with your veterinarian to have liver samples analysed to determine the status of these micro-minerals in your herd or flock.

Beware of fluoride poisoning as borehole water levels fall.

Supplement animals with vitamin A during drought conditions.

Multifactorial diseases and other conditions

The following conditions were reported by practices in the provinces

Multifactorial diseases and other conditions	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
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Abortions	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
Stillbirths				X	X	X		X	
Abscesses	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Intestinal ulcers									
Bladder stones –urolithiasis					X				
Blindness					X			X	X
Bloat	X				X	X		X	
Blue udder	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Diarrhoea	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
Epididymitis					X			X	
Eye cancer					X	X		X	
Eye infections			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Joint ill					X			X	
Lameness/foot problems	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Lung infection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mastitis	X			X	X	X		X	
Navel ill	X				X		X	X	
Red gut (sheep, torsion of gut)					X				
Rectal prolaps									
Trauma						X	X	X	
Teeth wear									
Plastic bags (ingestion)									
Downer		X		X	X	X		X	

Lung disease is one of the most prevalent diseases during the winter. There are excellent vaccines available and should be considered.

Discuss the origin, treatment and prevention of these diseases with your veterinarian

Metabolic diseases

The following diseases were reported by practices in the provinces:

Metabolic diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Acidosis	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Displaced abomasums						X		X	
Ketosis (Domsiekte)	X				X			X	X
Milk fever	X			X		X	X	X	X

Make sure that you adapt animals to feed containing concentrates.

Discuss the etiology, treatment and prevention of these diseases with your veterinarian.

Reproductive diseases

Reproductive diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
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Dystocia (difficult births)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Endometritis					X	X		X	
Hydrops								X	
Metritis	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Poor conception	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Retained afterbirth	X		X		X	X	X	X	
Sheath prolaps				X	X	X			
Uterine prolaps	X			X	X	X		X	
Vaginal prolaps	X	X			X	X		X	X
Penis injury									
Orchitis							X		

Environmental conditions

	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Exposure to cold	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
Frozen to death					X				
Heat stress									
Lightning									
Drought							X	X	

Other conditions

	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Drug residues (milk, meat, liver, kidney etc)									
Preditors		X			X		X		
Theft					X				
Traumatic pericarditis (wire in fore stomachs)							X		
Trauma (fractures etc)					X	X			

In the CODE OF CONDUCT of the RPO the following standard operating procedures are documented. The local veterinarian should be your partner to help you achieve the necessary standards. <http://www.rpo.co.za/BestPractices/English.aspx>

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO SUPPORT BIO-SECURITY.

Precautionary measures are required to protect the herd against diseases acquired because of external contact. The following categories are of concern:

1. DIRECT LIVESTOCK PURCHASES (and own animals returning):

The following should be **verified** before importing new animals into the herd:

How long animals have resided at the purchase or previous location?

Have there been any recent disease outbreaks in the location?

Do brand marks clearly confirm ownership?

Was a vaccination program followed (need paper or veterinarian proof). What are the local prevalent external parasites and the routinely implemented control program?

Is a veterinarian supported control program against transmittable diseases followed?
Dates and sufficient number of tests for reproductive diseases of both male and female
Dates and tests for zoonotic diseases
The above should also be verified with the purchaser's own veterinarian.

2. PURCHASES FROM SALES OR SPECULATORS

Purchase only in areas which are not in close proximity to scheduled areas
Visually inspect the animals before purchasing for:
* brand marks
* parasite infestation

3. TRANSPORT TO THE FARM

Use only reputable transporters
Has the truck been cleaned and disinfected?
Truck to follow the shortest uninterrupted route
Truck to take the shortest route to the handling facilities
Do not allow the truck personnel to get in contact with the farm herd

4. ARRIVAL ON THE FARM

Off-load the livestock to limit stress and to be visually evaluated for any unnatural conditions.
Isolate them from the farm herd and shared facilities for at least 21 days (quarantine)
Retest for diseases of concern if needed, before mixing with the rest of the herd
Process new arrivals within 24 hrs after arrival (unique ID tag brand, dip, dose, vaccinate)
Inspect regularly

5. FEED PURCHASES

Ensure bales of hay are sourced from areas that are not bordering scheduled areas
Purchase feed from reputable dealers only
Avoid buying feed in second hand bags
Ensure feed trucks are also disinfected and cleaned, especially if also used to transport animals to abattoirs

6. VISITORS

Do not allow strangers or their vehicles amongst the livestock
Ensure fences are well maintained and preferably jackal and warthog proof

7. EMPLOYEES

Do not allow the employees to eat in feed stores
Supply employees with sufficient ablution facilities
Regularly arrange to let employees be medicated for tape worm and have health check-ups
Keep record of all employee livestock on the property
Treat employee livestock with separate but dedicated health programs
Ensure employees understand the reason behind the implemented bio-security measures to help ensure compliance.

GENERAL AND REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Record keeping: All animals are individually identified and recorded.
To prove ownership: All animals are marked with the registered brand mark according to the Animal Identification Act, No 6 of 2002.

A defined breeding season is the basis of effective management: The breeding season coincides with the rainy season, i.e. the period when nutritive value of the pasture is at its best.

Sufficient energy reserves in the herd as measured by condition scoring are vital, especially for effective breeding, and when inadequate the herd is supplemented in consultation with a nutritionist: Condition scoring of bulls and cows are regularly done, particularly at the onset of the breeding season and supplemented if necessary.

Bull - cow ratios are maintained: A ratio of 1 to 25 is maintained in every separate herd.

Fertility of breeding bulls: All breeding bulls are tested for mating ability and semen quality before the breeding season.

Sexually transferable diseases: Sheath washes or scrapes on bulls are performed annually.

Diseases that can cause poor conception, abortion or weak calves: Cows are vaccinated against such diseases in consultation with the veterinarian.

Breeding success monitored by a veterinarian: Rectal pregnancy or scan diagnosis is done by the veterinarian 8 weeks after the breeding season.

Twenty percent of cows or more not pregnant: Further tests are done to determine cause of low pregnancy rate.

Culling of non-pregnant cows: Non-pregnant cows are removed from the herd and considered a necessary bonus to supporting herd income.

HERD HEALTH AND BIO-SECURITY

Maintenance of herd health is key to a successful enterprise: A veterinarian should visit the farm bi-annually at least.

Calf mortality before 3 months of age is an important reason for poor weaning percentage: Good management practices are applied to limit early calf deaths.

Some diseases and parasites (internal and external) are more often encountered in specific areas: Annual vaccinations and a parasite control program should be applied according to regional requirements and in liaison with the veterinarian.

Farmers selling weaned calves to feedlots may want to have a market advantage compared to others: A specific vaccination program is applied before weaning for that purpose.

Herds may be at risk of being exposed to CA and TB: The herd is tested annually for CA and all heifers are vaccinated against CA between 4 and 8 months of age with an efficient, approved remedy. The herd is tested at least every 5 years for TB

Precautionary measures are required to prevent diseases being imported into the herd: A quarantine program to keep incoming animals separate is followed. All incoming animals have a suitable certificate of negative test results or are of a certified clean, closed herd.

Stock remedies and medicines should be registered, correctly stored and used before the transpire date: All medicines and stock remedies are registered, stored and applied according to prescription.

Prescribed medicines with a specific application are under the control of the veterinary profession: All prescription medicines are obtained and applied under prescription from a veterinarian.

Practices that had nothing to report

Bathurst – Dr. Jane Pistorius

Karino – Dr. Silke Pfitzer

Lephalale – Dr. Brigitte Luck

Magaliesburg – Dr. Ryan Jeffery

Trompsburg/Springfontein – Dr. Wyn Irwin

Vanderbijlpark – Dr. Kobus Kok

Equines

Free State

Bethlehem

Colic - 1

Eastern Cape

Humansdorp

Screw-worm

Port Alfred

Equine piroplasmiasis – 1 South Seas

Equine Encephalosis - 1

Western Cape

Wellington

Equine encephalosis virus - 1

Sand colic – 3 +

Northern Cape

Upington

Botulism – Two stallions died, dead birds in reservoir

Game

Mpumalanga

Lydenburg

Intestinal roundworms – 1

Resistant roundworms - 1

Gauteng

Pretoria

Intestinal roundworms – 2

Tapeworms -2

Brown ear-tick – 2

Bont-legged tick - 2

Heartwater – 2

Coccidiosis – 2

Lantana toxicity – 1

Mastitis - 1

Limpopo

Mokopane

Blue ticks - 1

Heartwater ticks – 1

Polokwane

Intestinal roundworms – 3
Resistant roundworms - 3
Brown ear-tick – 1
Bont-legged tick -1
Coccidiosis – 1
Dystocia – 1
Diarrhoea - 3
Abscesses – 1
Capture myopathy – 1
Vaalwater
Coccidiosis- Roan 1
Blackleg – Giraffe 1

North West

Christiana

TB – Buffalo 1

Klerksdorp

Coccidiosis – 1

Lungs - 3

KwaZulu-Natal

Pongola

Brown ear-tick – 1

Vitamin A deficiency – 1

Eastern Cape

Graaff-Reinet

Rabies – Bat eared jackal

Port Alfred

Joint abscess – Buffalo 1

Screw-worm – Buffalo 1, Elephant Park following tick worry

Witelsbos

Zinc deficiency – hoof problems in sable 2

Drought

Western Cape

Vredenburg

Mortality – Sable calf died at 4 months of age – low calcium in liver sample, heart muscle atrophy

Wellington

Red water - Buffalo

Northern Cape

Colesberg

Cold and poor adaptation – Buffalo and rhino mortalities

Poaching – Two rhino's

Swine

Gauteng

Onderstepoort

Trauma – Dog bite wounds 2

Alpaca

Mooi River

Paralysis tick - 1

Monthly report on Livestock and Wildlife isolations for June 2017 from Vetdiagnostix –Microbiology Laboratory, supplied by dr. Marijke Henton (henton@vetdx.co.za)

Enteritis in young ruminants was again common during May. Most [11/13] of the cases yielded *Cryptosporidium* as well as *E. coli* in calves [4] and lambs [7]; but one case in calves was only *E. coli*, and one in a lamb, only *Cryptosporidium*. *E. coli* strains need to be further characterized [serotyping is presently unavailable] to distinguish them from environmental strains of *E. coli*. In two cases from lambs, PCR tests showed that no virulence factors were present, and so the *E. coli* were certain to be environmental opportunists. Enteritis in a pig also yielded *E. coli*.

Respiratory disease in feedlot cattle yielded *Mannheimia haemolytica* [8], *Pasteurella multocida* [3], *Histophilus somni* [4], *Mycoplasma* [8], *Trueperella pyogenes* [2] and one each of *Mannheimia* biovar 9, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*. Respiratory disease in sheep was due to *M. haemolytica* in one case, and the anaerobe, *Prevotella* in another.

There were two cases of *Salmonella* Dublin in calves.

An abscess in a bovine yielded *T. pyogenes*, and a lung abscess *Mycoplasma*. One abscess in a sheep yielded *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* and the secondary invader *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and the other *Actinobacillus lignieresii*. *A. lignieresii* causes Wooden Tongue and sporadic abscesses in the head and neck area of ruminants. Bovine mastitis was caused by *Streptococcus uberis*, *Actinomyces*, *Nocardia*, *Enterobacter* and a methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*.

Dermatophilus congolensis [Senkobo disease] was isolated from a bovine skin.

Clostridial myositis was associated with *C. chauvoei* and *C. septicum*, and a third case was positive for *C. novyi*, *C. septicum* and *C. sordellii*, which made the case more likely the result of putrefaction than disease.

Streptococcus zooepidemicus and *S. dysgalactiae* [was *S. equisimilis*] were isolated from various conditions in horses; abscess [1], respiratory tract [1], nasal discharge [2], eye [1] and an infected wound. Other wound infections yielded *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Actinobacillus equuli*, *Porphyromonas* and two cases of *Actinomyces*. *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* were isolated from joint infections.

Salmonella Typhimurium was isolated from the liver of a serval, and *Pasteurella multocida* from the liver of a cheetah. A roan abscess yielded *T. pyogenes* and *S. aureus* was isolated from the uterus of a sable. A rhino with a respiratory infection yielded *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and another rhino *S. dysgalactiae* from the uterus. A cheetah with enteritis yielded an Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase *E. coli* isolate, which means that the isolate was resistant to all penicillins and cephalosporins. A lion had ringworm due to *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*.

Feedlot report received from Drs. Shaun Morris, Eben du Preez and Pierre Jansen Van Vuuren for June 2017 (edupreez1@telkomsa.net)

Sheep Feedlots:

A relative good period of the year for sheep feedlots.

Pneumonia the most reported condition causing disease and mortalities as well as condemnations at the abattoirs. *Pasteurella Multocida* and *Mannheimia haemolytica* lesions seen in lungs at the abattoir, even in sheep that went through the feeding phase in the feedlot without showing any symptoms of disease but often are the poor performers.

Few cases of pulpy kidney, foot abscess, keratitis, fleece rot and orf were seen.

Beef Feedlots:

Tick borne diseases still caused morbidities and mortalities, especially on backgrounding.

Pneumonia cases increased in the first part of the month and then tapered off for a week or two. Dusty conditions are increasing and so does pneumonia cases.

Newly weaned calves arriving at feedlots and animals travelling long distances in bad weather or at night, are the very high risk animals that make up most of the pneumonia cases.

Isolated cases of Acidosis, bloat, Red Gut and vitamin B1 deficiency were reported.

Adult animals on harvested soybean land died from Soybean toxicity.

Clostridium chauvoei caused mortalities in cattle close to marketing stage.

Vitamin A deficiency has a negative effect on the immunity of animals and is necessary to include in all processing programs.

Feedlot report received from Dr. Andy Hentzen for June 2017
(andyvet@mweb.co.za)

Condition	Comments and Specie
Cysticercosis	B3
Blue ticks	B 3
Biting lice	B 2
African red water	B3
Asiatic red water	B3
Anaplasmosis	B2
Blackleg	B2
Red gut	B 3
Ringworm	B 2
BVD	B 2
IBR	B 3
Orf	O 2
Protein deficiency	B 2
Energy	B2
Lameness	B3
Lungs	B3
Diarrhoea	B3
Ophthalmia	B 3
Abscesses	B,C 3

Monthly report for June 2017 from Dr R D Last (BVSc; M.Med.Vet(Path); MRCVS)

Specialist Veterinary Pathologist, Vetdiagnostix - Veterinary Pathology Services

Contributors

Mr Butch Bosch, Ms Ntando Magoso, Mrs Beverley Williams, Ms Nicole Genga, Dr Rick Last

LIVESTOCK DISEASE SURVEILANCE			
LIVESTOCK SPECIES	DISEASE AGENT	NO. CASES	LOCATION
Bovine, Beef Cow	Cerebellar abcessation	1	Newcastle, KZN
Goats, Adult	Teladorsagia (ostertagiosis)	1	Caledon, W Cape
Bovine, Calves	Calf paratyphoid	1	Mooi River, KZN
Bovine, Calves	Cryptosporidia + E. coli and mycotic abomasitis	1	Kroonstad, Free State

WILDLIFE DISEASE SURVEILANCE - 2017			
WILDLIFE SPECIES	DISEASE AGENT	NO. CASES	LOCATION
Giraffe, Adult Bull	Thyroid goitre	1	Brits, Gauteng

Cheetah, Adult Female	Pseudomonas pneumonia with aspiration	1	Matubatuba, KZN
Red Hartebeest	Lung abcess (Truperella pyogenes?)	1	Polokwane, Limpopo
Sable Antelope, Heifers x 2	Hypothermia / Exposure	1	Koue Bokkeveld, W Cape
Buffalo, Cow	Mycotic myocarditis and pericarditis	1	Hoedspruit, Limpopo

Monthly report for June 2017 from Queenstown Provincial Veterinary Laboratory as supplied by Dr. A.D. Fisher (alan.fisher@drdar.gov.za)

Condition	Area	Comments and Specie
Intestinal roundworms		O 3
Tapeworms		O 1
Liver fluke		B,O 3
Paralysis tick		O 1
Sheep scab	Whittle sea	O 1
Asiatic red water		B I dairy
Anaplasmosis		B,O 2
<i>E. coli</i>		B dairy 1; P 2
Rabies	Port St Johns Dutywa Libode	Canine 1 case Canine 2 cases Bovine 1 case
Orf		O 2
West Nile Fever	Dutywa	Equine 1
African Horse sickness		Equine 1
Ivermectin overdose		O 2
Acidosis (sorghum silage)		B,O 2
Cold exposure		O 1
Traumatic pericarditis		B 1

B – bovine; O – ovine; C – caprine; P – pigs; G – game

1 = one case; 2 = 2 to 9 cases; 3 = more than 10 cases

Monthly report for June 2017 from Dr. Lucy Lange: PathCare Vetlab (lange@pathcare.co.za)

Disease condition	Specie
Pneumonia/ <i>Pasteurella</i>	Cattle
<i>Campylobacter</i>	Cattle
<i>Tritrichomonas</i>	Cattle

Salmonellosis	Cattle
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	Cattle
Septicaemia	Cattle
BMC - Snotsiekte	Cattle
Brucellosis	Cattle
Cestrum (Inkberry) toxicity	Cattle
Hypoproteinaemia	Cattle
Bacterial pneumonia	Cattle
Necrotic endometritis	Cattle
Squamous cell carcinoma	Horses
Sarcoid	Horses
White muscle disease	Sheep
Pasteurellosis	Sheep
Internal parasites	Sheep
Laminar cortical necrosis	Sheep
Neonatal septicaemia	Sheep
Orf	Sheep
Johne's disease	Sheep
Pulpy kidney	Sheep
Game:	
Lung worm	Bontebok
Hypoproteinaemia	Bontebok, sable, eland
Capture myopathy/myonecrosis	Nyala, Springbok, Gemsbok, Alpaca
Laminar cortical necrosis	Sable
Septicaemia	Sable
Liver necrosis	Nyala

Monthly report on Livestock and Wildlife isolations for June 2017 from IDEXX Laboratories supplied by dr. Liza du Plessis (Liza-DuPlessis@idexx.com)

Condition	Comments and Specie
Corridor disease (suspected)	B 2
Theileriosis	G 1
Blackquarter	B 1
Pulpy kidney (FSE)	O 1
<i>E. coli</i>	B,O 2
BMC (snotsiekte)	B 2
Q-fever	G 1
<i>Trueperella pyogenes</i>	B 1
Equine sarcoid	E 1
Protein/Energy malnutrition	G 2
Abortion	B,O,C,G 2
Lungs	B,O 1

Diarrhoea	B,0 2
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Rhabdomyolysis	G 1
Cold exposure	G 2