

**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**

**February 2016**

Previous disease reports can be seen on the RuVASA website [www.ruvasa.co.za](http://www.ruvasa.co.za)

**Click on Disease Reports**

**The following practices and laboratories (129) submitted reports during 2015:**

**Mpumalanga (12)**

Balfour – Dr. Louis van Jaarsveld  
Bethal – Dr. Hardus Pieters  
Delmas – Dr. Johan Jooste  
Delmas – Drs. Du Plessis and Ferreira  
Grootvlei – Dr. Neels van Wyk  
Karino (Nelspruit) – Dr. Silke Pfitzer  
Lydenburg – Drs. Trümpelmann and Steyn  
Nelspruit – Dr. André Beytell  
Middelburg – Drs. Fourie, Malan and Erasmus  
Piet Retief - Drs. Niebuhr and Weber  
Standerton – Dr. Kobie Kroon  
Volksrust – Drs. Watson and Solomon (André Visser)

**Gauteng (7)**

Bronkhorstspuit – Drs. De Bruin, De Bruin, Rudolph and Slabber  
Krugersdorp – Dr. Clare Speedy  
Magaliesburg – Dr. Ryan Jeffery  
Nigel – Dr. Cindy van der Westhuizen  
Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital – Proff. Annandale, Prozesky, Shakespear, Holm and Drs. De Haast, Esposito, Gratwick, Hamman, Harmse and O’Dell  
Pretoria – Dr. Hanneke Pienaar

**Limpopo (7)**

Lephalale (Ellisras) – Dr. Brigitte Luck  
Makhado (Louis Trichardt)– Drs. Harris, Klopper and Jacobs  
Modimolle (Naboomspruit)– Drs. Huber, Bredell and Barnard  
Mokopane (Potgietersrus) - Dr. Henk Visser  
Mookgopong (Naboomspruit) – Prof. Dietmar Holm

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

Vaalwater - Dr. Hampie van Staden

### **North West (11)**

Brits – Drs. Boshoff and Coertze

Christiana - Dr. Pieter Nel

Klerksdorp – Drs. Van den Berg and Theron

Klerksdorp – Drs. Coetzee and Venter

Leeudoringstad - Dr. Ian Jonker

Lichtenburg – Dr. Fritz Ras

Lichtenburg – Dr. Nelmarie-Krüger-Rall

Rustenburg – Drs. Gaigher, Grobler, Sparks, Van Edom, Van Rooyen, Goosen and Van Rensburg

Stella - Dr. Magdaleen Vosser

Ventersdorp/ Koster – Drs. Marais and Benadé

Vryburg – Dr. Jurie Kritzing

### **Free State (27)**

Bethlehem – Drs. Strydom and Strydom

Bethlehem – Dr. J.C. Du Plessis

Bethlehem – Dr. Henk Basson

Bloemfontein – Dr. Stephan Wessels

Bothaville – Dr. Johann Blaauw

Bultfontein – Dr. Santjie Pieterse

Clocolan – Dr. Liezel Wasserman (Marwick)

Dewetsdorp – Dr. Marike Badenhorst

Ficksburg – Drs. Kotze and Coetzer

Frankfort - Drs. Lessing, Cilliers and Janse van Rensburg

Gariep Dam – Dr. Henk Basson

Harrismith - Drs. Thirion, Pretorius and Nel

Hoopstad - Dr. Kobus Pretorius

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

Ladybrand/Excelsior - Drs. De Vos and Nel

Memel – Drs. Nixon and Nixon

Parys – Drs. Wessels and Wessels

Phillipolis – Dr. Stephan Vermeulen

Reitz - Dr. Murray Smith

Trompsburg/Springfontein – Dr. Wyn Irwin

Viljoenskroon - Dr. Johan Kahts

Villiers – Drs. Hattingh and Hauptfleisch

Vrede – Drs. Myburgh and Bester-Cloete

Vrede- Dr. Rudolph Fourie

Wesselsbron –Dr. Johan Jacobs

Winburg – Drs. Albertyn and Albertyn

Zastron – Drs. Troskie and Strauss

**KwaZulu-Natal (18)**

Bergville - Dr. Ariena Shepherd

Bergville – Dr. Jubie Muller

Camperdown – Dr. Anthony van Tonder

Dundee – Drs. Marais and Fynn

Eshowe – Drs. Pryke and Hoffman

Estcourt – Drs. Turner, Tedder, Taylor, Tratschler, Van Rooyen and Alwar

Greytown – Dr. Mike Caldicott

Howick – Drs. Hughes, Lund, Gordon, Allison and Taylor

Ingogo – Dr. Trish Oglesby

Kokstad- Drs. Clowes and Shrives

Mooi River - Drs. Fowler, Hartley, Waterman and Mallet

Mtubatuba – Dr. Trever Viljoen

Newcastle – Dr. Barry Rafferty

Pietermaritzburg – Dr. Rick Mapham

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

Alexandria – Dr. Thys Potgieter

Aliwal North/Zastron – Drs. Troskie and Strauss

Bathurst – Dr. Jane Pistorius

Cradock – Dr. Frans Erasmus

Graaff- Reinet - Dr. Roland Larson

Graaff-Reinet – Drs. Hobson, Strydom and Hennesy

Humansdorp - Drs. Van Niekerk, Jansen Van Vuuren, Barker and Kotze

Jeffreys Bay – Drs. Hoek, Lategan and McFarlane

Kareedouw- Dr. Marten Bootsma

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

**Western Cape (18)**

Beaufort West - Drs. Pienaar and Grobler

Caledon – Drs. Retief and Rissik

Ceres – Drs. Pieterse, Wium, Freeman, De Villiers and Scheepers

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  
Malmesbury - Drs. Bosman and Groenewald  
Oudtshoorn – Dr. Glen Carlisle  
Oudtshoorn – Dr. Adriaan Olivier  
Piketberg – Dr. André van der Merwe  
Plettenberg Bay – Dr. André Reitz  
Riversdale – Drs. Du Plessis, Taylor and De Bruyn  
Stellenbosch – Dr. Alfred Kidd  
Swellendam – Drs. Malan and Venter  
Vredenburg - Dr. Izak Rust  
Wellington – Dr. William van Zyl

**Northern Cape (7)**

De Aar – Dr. Donald Anderson  
Calvinia – Dr. Bertus Nel  
Jan Kempdorp – Dr. Jan Brand  
Kathu – Dr. Jan Vorster  
Kimberley – Drs. Van Heerden and Swart  
Kimberley – Dr. Trudie Prinsloo  
Upington – Drs. Vorster and Visser

**Feedlots (2)**

Drs. Morris and Du Preez  
Dr. Andy Hentzen

**Laboratory reports (6)**

Dr. Mark Chimes - Deltamune laboratory  
Dr. Marijke Henton - Idexx SA Johannesburg  
Dr. Liza du Plessis – Idexx SA Onderstepoort  
Dr. Alan Fischer – Queenstown Provincial laboratory  
Dr. Rick Last – Vetdiagnostix, Pietermaritzburg  
Dr. Emily Lane – National Zoological Gardens

## Summary of disease report for February 2016

129 Reports from veterinary practices and laboratories were received (Mpumalanga (MP) 12; Gauteng (G) 7; Limpopo (L) 7; North West (NW) 11; Free State (FS) 27; KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) 18; Eastern Cape (EC) 14; Western Cape (WC) 18; Northern Cape (NC) 7; Feedlots (FL) 2 and Laboratories (Lab) 6).

Drought situation

Although good rains have fallen in many drought stricken areas reports of empty dams were received. Roughage will be scarce this coming winter and cash flow may be a problem.

Visit the website of the Livestock coordinating committee for valuable information regarding managing the present drought situation. <http://www.lwcc.org.za/>

## **DROUGHTS AND LIVESTOCK**

Droughts are a seasonal occurrence in our Region and are predicted to become more intense in Southern Africa. The years when droughts are likely to occur are not really predictable far in advance. Livestock farmers should factor into their management plan in advance appropriate action/s they plan to institute in the event of a drought. Livestock farmers remain accountable for the welfare of their animals at all times and the animals should not bear the brunt of poor planning. It is totally unacceptable for livestock to starve to death which is cruel, slow and totally avoidable.

There are three options that can be taken when faced with a prolonged drought: to feed , to sell or to slaughter . The time to act is immediately when confronted with the realisation that things are not going to improve in the short term. Starvation (doing nothing) must be avoided at all costs .

- Allowing animals to starve is both financially disastrous with no return at all for livestock that die and morally unacceptable.
- Money obtained from livestock sales can be used to buy feed for the remaining animals and eventually to buy livestock when the drought ends.
- Reducing livestock numbers has the advantage that less but more effective supplements for remaining livestock can be made available.
- Delaying the culling of an animal deprived of food may also render the meat from such an animal unsuitable for human consumption.
- Stocking drought-stricken farms with a full complement of hungry animals will force them to graze very aggressively, which can ruin pastures and veld for years before they can recover.
- Overstocking these farms increases the likelihood of plant poisoning in desperate, hungry livestock.
- Starved animals will not grow or reproduce adequately and their offspring are likely to be permanently stunted and unproductive.
- Undernourished livestock are far more susceptible to a range of diseases and parasites.
- Economic recovery after the drought ends will be slow and expensive.
- Last but not least, it is ethically not acceptable simply to allow animals to starve to death slowly.

Farmers have to implement their contingency plans in stages as the drought becomes more critical.

- Sell older animals that will struggle during a drought and may not make it through the winter in a poorer condition
- wean calves, lambs or kids as far as possible even if lighter than normal and assist small weanlings that are not immediately marketable
- keep core livestock that will be needed to rebuild the herd later and remove all non-breeding livestock, and stores from the grazing .

When the condition of livestock has deteriorated to the point that they are not marketable, it is preferable to kill them humanely rather than to allow them to die a lingering and pointless death.

Because droughts of varying degrees are inevitable, it is advisable that farmers accumulate a reserve of at least 6 months feed in the form of hay, silage, foggage or conserved grazing.



Brown ear-ticks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Bont-legged ticks	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Red-legged ticks	X		X	X	X	X			
Paralysis ticks	X				X	X			
Biting lice	X							X	
Sucking lice		X			X				
Itch mites					X			X	
Sheep scab	X			X	X			X	
Mange mites			X		X				
Nuisance flies	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Midges	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Mosquitoes						X			
Blowflies	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Screw-worm	X		X			X			
Nasal bot		X			X	X			

Reports of an increase in tick numbers were received. As many animals are in poor condition, bloodloss due to blue ticks taking in blood meals could result in serious losses.

In most areas severe infestations of brown ear-tick and bont-legged tick infestations were reported.

Be aware of wounds that are caused by ticks with long mouth parts (bont and bont legged-ticks) as the screw-worm fly lays its eggs in these wounds leading to myiasis (screw-worm larvae in wounds) and even deaths.

**Selection for resistant blue ticks are an ever increasing problem, discuss your ectoparasite control program with your veterinarian.**

## 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	X	X	X	
Asiatic red water	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Anaplasmosis	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Heartwater	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Lumpy skin disease	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Corridor disease						X			
Theileriosis									

Tick borne diseases are rife due to tick numbers increasing during the summer months. Susceptible animals are also moved into red water and heartwater areas. Infected ticks are also transported with grass bales from infected areas. Vaccines are available to control most of these tick transmitted diseases. **Discuss preventative measures with your veterinarian.**

The following tick toxicoses were reported by practices in the provinces:

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

Heavy infestations of bont-legged ticks were reported. Sweating sickness is caused by the toxin secreted by the bont-legged tick. They like to attach in the tail brush and therefore this area should be treated as well.

Paralysis due to the toxin secreted by the Karoo paralysis tick was also reported.

## 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			
Ephemeral fever (Three day stiff sickness)	x	x	x	x	x	x			X
Blue tongue	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Rift Valley Fever									
Wesselsbron									

An increase in the occurrence of insect transmissible diseases were reported. This was due to an increase of midges and biting flies which are carriers of viruses.

In the past Rift Valley Fever outbreaks were seen after good rains following a drought period. Do not neglect vaccinating animals! After good rains midge and mosquito numbers will increase and so will insect transmittable 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		
Pizzle disease	x								

New cases of **trichomonosis** are reported every month and this disease is out of hand. This month it was reported that the disease was brought into the herd by buying in bulls. Make sure that you buy bulls from farmers where biosecurity measures are in place!

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.

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.**



## Bacterial diseases

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

Bacterial diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Blackquarter	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Botulism	x			x					
Pulpy kidney	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Lamb dysentery					x				
Swelled head	x	x			x	x	x		
Red gut (cattle)	x				x	x	x		
Blood gut (sheep)				x	x		x	x	
Tetanus	x					x	x		
Salmonellosis	x				x	x	x	x	
Bovine brucellosis	x		x	x	x	x			
Ovine brucellosis					x				x
<i>Actinobacillus seminis</i>									
Bovine tuberculosis						x			
Johne's						x			
Leptospirosis									
Listeriosis									
<i>Pseudomonas</i>									
<i>Fusibacterium necrophorum</i>					x				
Septicaemia								x	
<i>E. coli</i>	x			x	x	x		x	
Enzootic abortion	x			x					
Lumpy wool									
Uterine gangrene									
Bovine dermatophilosis (Senkobo disease)	x					x			
Wooden tongue									
Lumpy jaw								x	

### A few comments on bacterial diseases:

Smallstock are given additional concentrates and feed during the drought. Make sure that animals are vaccinated against pulpy kidney as many deaths were reported.

New brucellosis and *E. coli* outbreaks are reported every month.

**Study the presence of diseases in your area and update your vaccination programme and order vaccines and booster doses in advance!**

**To control and eradicate brucellosis is a top priority for all of us!**

## 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		
Rabies				x	x	x			
BVD					x	x			
IBR					x	x		x	
BRSV									
PI3		x							
Rotavirus / Coronavirus									
Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)	x							x	
Sheep leucosis									
Jaagsiekte						x			
Orf	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Warts	x		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.

There is not a vaccine available against snotsiekte. This deadly virus is associated with wildebeest but remember there is also a sheep associated strain. Wildebeest sheds the virus especially during their calving season, when calves are weaned and during the hunting season when they are stressed.

Discuss vaccination programmes with your veterinarian.

## Fungal diseases

The following fungal disease was reported by practices in the provinces:

Fungal diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Ringworm				x	x	x		x	

## Protozoal diseases

The following protozoal disease was reported by practices in the provinces:

Protozoal diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Besnoitiosis (olifantsvelsiekte)			x						

## Toxicities

The following toxicities were reported by practices in the provinces:

Toxicities	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Cardiac glycoside				x				x	
Gifblaar				x					
Gousiekte				x		x			
Cestrum (ink berry)					x		x		
Tulip							x	x	





Bladder stones					X				
Blindness				X	X		X		
Bloat		X		X	X	X	X	X	
Blood gut (sheep)							X		
Blue udder					X	X	X	X	
Diarrhoea	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Epididymitis					X	X			
Eye cancer	X			X	X	X		X	
Eye infections	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Joint ill	X				X	X	X		
Lameness/foot problems	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Lung infection	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Mastitis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Navel ill				X		X			
Red gut (sheep, torsion of gut)									
Rectal prolaps									
Trauma	X	X	X		X				
Plastic bags (ingestion)									
Downer	X	X		X	X	X		X	

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	
Displaced abomasums					X	X			
Ketosis	X				X	X		X	
Milk fever					X	X		X	

There is an increase in the reporting of acidosis. Many farmers are feeding their animals due to the drought. 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
Dystocia (difficult births)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Endometritis					X	X		X	
Metritis		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	
Vaginal prolaps	X	X		X	X	X		X	X

The drought and heat experienced play a huge role in fertility. Fertility of animals is one of the most important factors determining the success of farming. Discuss all issues with your veterinarian.

## Environmental conditions

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

Other conditions: predators (FS); sabotage, theft (FS) and trauma (MP, G, FS, KZN) and traumatic pericarditis – wire penetrating the heart sack from the reticulum.

### Comment:

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**

**Karino (Nelspruit) – Dr. Silke Pfitzer**

**Greytown – Dr. Mike Caldicott**

**Jan Kempdorp – Dr. Jan Brand**

### **Ostriches**

#### **Western Cape**

##### **Oudtshoorn – Ostrimed**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Tapeworms	2
Bont-legged ticks	3 High tick incidence which leads to down grading at abattoir due to export regulations. Bad season for ticks so far.



Cryptosporidium	2 See as prolaps of the cloaca. High water intake/ high urination, wet soils = pica = exposure to oocysts. Immune compromise – low feed intake during hot weather = prolapses
Enterotoxaemia (Red gut)	2 High heat leads to intermitten feed intake. Cooler periods birds overeat and develop clostridial enterotoxaemia. Strategie treatment with antibiotics assists. Vaccination helps.
Diarrhoea	Soil pica, high temperatures triggers opportunistic bacterial infections. Heat triggers clostridial bacteria due to overflow of nutrients into the hind gut fermenting system.
Protein /Energy deficiency	2 High temperatures lead to over intake of water, flushing of nutrients, wet urinated areas lead to soil pica. Reduced feed intake, all contribute to diarrhoea – sand irritation and fecal bacteria. Insufficient nutrient intake, stress on immune system and growth. Opportunistic bacteria or other infections, chronic low grade <i>C. perfringens</i> infection. Gut damage. Poor growth partly due to low feed intake but significantly due to poor quality raw material being bought in for complete feeds. Soya 40% protein vs speced at 47%
Phosphate deficiency	1
Calcium deficiency	1
Vitamin E/Selenium deficiency	1 High heat, high energy ration, high fat places high demand and antioxidants. Develop classical white muscle disease with acute heart failure. Supplementation gives rapid response to recovery.
Vitamin A deficiency	1
Micro-element deficiency	1 Farmers reformulating due to expensive full feed. Own mixes frequently are unblanced or they dilute or cause imbalances to raw material added to full feeds
Ophthalmia	2
Sinusitis	3 Dusty environment due to high heat and dry environment. Wind every afternoon. Dust bowl effect. Together with challenges on nutrients and stress. Opens door for <i>Mycoplasma</i> .
Heat stroke	1 Birds have significantly reduced feed intake, resulting in energy and protein deficiency – poor growth and any stress e.g. handling or slightly cold weather causes acute mortalities due to protein energy deficiencies.

## Equines

### Mpumalanga

#### Lydenburg

Dermatophilosis – 2

Ophthalmia - 1

### Gauteng

#### Magaliesburg

Equine encephalosis - 1

### Limpopo

## **Mokopane – Dr. Henk Visser**

Midges – 1

African Horse Sickness – 2

### **Vaalwater**

Obstruction of oesophagus – Old mini horse

## **Free-State**

### **Bethlehem**

Colic - 1

### **Memel**

Ionophore toxicity – 1

Babesiosis - 2

## **Eastern Cape**

### **Port Alfred**

Babesiosis - 2 cases

Weird viral disease – looked like dikkop African Horse Sickness but was not AHS nor EEV1

## **Swine**

## **Gauteng**

### **Onderstepoort Academic Hospital**

Abscesses - 1

## **Eastern Cape**

### **Alexandria**

Urea poisoning – 2

### **Graaff-Reinet**

Botulism

## **Game**

## **Mpumalanga**

### **Lydenburg**

Resistant roundworms – 2

Cysticercosis - 1

### **Standerton**

Drought – 3 Some specific farms horribly affected. Fodder bank for winter is problematic.

## **Gauteng**

### **Pretoria -A nimavet**

Heartwater ticks - 3

Brown ear-tick – 3

Bont legged-tick - 3

Abortion – 2

Arthritis – 1

Ophthalmia - 2

Abscesses – 2 Secondary to tick infestation

Lameness – 3 Secondary to tick infestation

## **Limpopo**

### **Mokopane**

Heartwater tick – 3

Brown ear-ticks – 3

Bont-legged tick – 1

Red-legged tick - 2

Blowflies – 1

Screw-worm 3

### **Polokwane**

Bont-legged tick – 3

Capture myopathy – 2

### **Vaalwater**

Heartwater – Springbuck

## **North West**

### **Magaliesburg**

Tick toxicosis - Sable and wildebeest calves

Babesiosis - Sable calves

Wireworm – Springbuck in small camp, stress

Blue lice - Springbuck in small camp, stress

### **Klerksdorp**

Intestinal roundworms – 2

Tapeworms – 2

Brown ear-ticks - 2

Bont-legged ticks – 3

Red-legged tick – 3

Red gut - 2

### **Lichtenburg**

Blue ticks – 3

Heartwater ticks – 2

Brown ear-ticks – 1

Bont-legged ticks – 3

Red-legged ticks – 3

Abortions – 1 Joint-ill – 1

Lameness- 2

Nutrition deficiency - Sable

## **Free-State**

### **Memel**

Blackleg – 1

Trauma – Fractured limbs due to fighting. Injuries possibly due to unnatural stocking densities.

### **Philippolis – Dr. Stephan Vermeulen**

Paralysis ticks – 8 Gemsbuck out of a herd of 30 died a few days after a rain and hail storm. A cold strong wind blew which most probably activated paralysis ticks. This event occurred early in the season which usually only start in March.

## **KwaZulu-Natal**

### **Pongola**

Heartwater tick – 2  
Brown ear-tick - 3  
Protein deficiency – 3  
Energy deficiency - 3  
Drought – 3

## **Eastern Cape**

### **Alexandria**

Joint ill - 1

### **Graaff –Reinet – Camdeboo Veterinary Clinic**

Panleukopenia virus – Lion 1

### **Port Alfred**

Abscess – Sable, purulent abscess from tick worry.

Snake bite – suspected cobra bite in a Bontebok

## **Northern Cape**

### **Kimberley –Drs. Van Heerden and Swart**

Wounds – Tiger 1, Letchwe 1, Sable

Vaginal prolapse – Sable 1

Pneumonia – Roan 1

Malkopui toxicity – Buffalo 2

## **Monthly report on Livestock and Wildlife isolations for January 2016 from IDEXX Laboratories supplied by dr. Marijke Henton ([marijke-henton@idexsa.net](mailto:marijke-henton@idexsa.net))**

Samples from respiratory disease in feedlot cattle yielded *Mannheimia haemolytica* [2], *Pasteurella multocida* [2], *Histophilus somni*, *Mannheimia* 8C and *Mannheimia* 7.

*Brucella abortus* caused an abortion. Cases of calf diarrhoea yielded *Salmonella* Dublin, *E. coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Abscesses yielded *Trueperella pyogenes* in two cases, one of them together with *Prevotella*.

Pneumonia in sheep yielded *Pasteurella multocida* and *Histophilus somni*, and in an Angora goat, *Trueperella pyogenes*. Blue udder in sheep yielded *Mannheimia haemolytica* [2], *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*, and a combination of *Trueperella pyogenes* and *Porphyromonas*. The OBP Blue Udder vaccine contains 3 strains of *Mannheimia haemolytica*, and two of *Staphylococcus aureus*. It is unknown whether the vaccine protects against *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* or not.

*Mannheimia* strains need to be typed at Onderstepoort to establish whether they are similar to strains included in the vaccine, before the vaccine can be recommended.

*Salmonella* Choleraesuis was isolated from a pig farm, *E. coli* [2] from enteritis and *Pasteurella multocida*, *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and *E. coli* from cases of pneumonia in pigs.

*Sporothrix* caused lymphangitis in a horse and *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* caused a skin infection in another horse. There was difficulty to treat a case in a stallion infected with both

*Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, where two sets of samples from the prepuce, before and after treatment yielded both each time. Post-operative wounds yielded a combination of *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* in one case, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Actinomyces* in another, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E. coli* in a third.

*Mannheimia varigena* caused septicaemia in a buffalo, and *Pasteurella multocida* a joint infection in a springbok. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* caused septicaemia in a rhino, but the underlying infection was most probably *Clostridium novyi*.

## Monthly report on Livestock and Wildlife isolations for Febuary 2016 from IDEXX Laboratories supplied by dr. Liza du Plessis ([Liza-DuPlessis@idexx.com](mailto:Liza-DuPlessis@idexx.com))

Condition	Comments and Specie
Hepatotoxicity	B 1
Endometritis	G 1
Abscesses	B,O 1
Fusobacterium	B,O 1
Trauma	G 2
<i>Molluscum contagiosum</i>	E 1
Theileriosis	G 2

## Feedlot report received from Dr. Shaun Morris and Dr. Eben du Preez for February 2016 ([edupreez1@telkomsa.net](mailto:edupreez1@telkomsa.net))

### Sheep feed lots

The following was observed:

Wireworm infestation caused numerous losses. Weak anaemic sheep react poorly to immunization with pulpy kidney vaccine and the inability to adapt to feedlot conditions.

Resistant wireworm infestation is rife.

Numerous pneumonia cases due to *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Pasteurella multocida* occurred.

Vitamin B1 deficiencies with nervous signs which could easily be confused with botulism occurred.

This deficiency was seen occurring with nutritional disturbances.

Rumen atrophy was seen in sheep arriving from poor grazing conditions.

The cause of mortalities in lambs within 5 to 6 days after birth is still unclear.

A few blue tongue cases were observed.

Lung abscesses were seen at meat inspection at abattoirs.

Prolapses in sheep that were in good condition occurred when they coughed due to dusty conitions.

### Cattle feedlots

Pneumonia was the biggest cause of losses and lung lesions at abattoirs.

Pericarditis causes mortalities and is the reason why hearts are condemned at abattoirs. Cattle show clinical signs such as ventral oedema (watery swelling) of the neck and brisket similar to traumatic pericarditis (wire penetrating the heart sack from the reticulum).

Numerous deaths occurred in C-grade cattle arriving in poor condition at feedlots.

Acidosis with bloat and red gut mortalities occurred. At the abattoir severe lesions were seen on the rumen wall in animals that survived.

A few cases of three day stiffness were seen.

Numerous anaplasmosis and red water (Asiatic and African) cases were seen. Mortalities due to cerebral red water occurred.

Livers were condemned at abattoirs due to liver fluke infestations.

Parafilaria infestation damaged carcasses and losses occurred due to lesions that had to be trimmed.

*Lantana* toxicity caused serious damage to skins.

## Feedlot report received from Dr. Andy Hentzen for February 2016

([andyvet@mweb.co.za](mailto:andyvet@mweb.co.za))

Condition	Comments and Specie
Intestinal roundworms	O 2
Tapeworms	B 2
Blue ticks	B 3
Brown ear-ticks	B 3
Red-legged ticks	B 3
Biting lice	B 3
Sucking lice	B 3
Nuisance flies	B 3
Midges	B 3
African red water	B 3
Asiatic red water	B 3
Anaplasmosis	B 3
Lumpy skin disease	B 1
Three day stiffness	B 2
Blackleg	B 2
Swelled head	B 1
Red gut	B 3
Pulpy kidney	O 1
Ringworm	B 3
Leptospirosis	B 1
<i>E. coli</i>	B 2
BVD	B 3
IBR	B 3
Warts	B 3
Water contamination	B 3
Protein deficiency	B 3
Energy deficiency	B 3
Phosphate deficiency	B 3
Copper deficiency	B 2
Zinc deficiency	B 2
Selenium deficiency	B 2
Vitamin A deficiency	B 2
Combination of trace mineral	B 3

deficiencies	
Abortions	B 2
Poor conception	B 2
Dystocias	B 2
Metritis	B 2
Retained afterbirths	B 2
Lameness	B 3
Lungs	B 3
Diarrhoea	B 3
Ophthalmia	B 3
Abscesses	B,C 3

**Monthly report for February 2016 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 Gengan
- Dr Rick Last

<b>LIVESTOCK DISEASE SURVEILLANCE</b>			
<b>LIVESTOCK SPECIES</b>	<b>DISEASE AGENT</b>	<b>NO. CASES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Bovine, Calves	Colisepticaemia	1	Kokstad, KZN
Bovine, Cows	Monensin poisoning	2	Estcourt, KZN
Bovine Bulls	Trichomonas foetus	6	Bergville KZN
Bovine, Beef Cow	Liver fluke and toxic nephropathy	1	Empangeni, KZN
Bovine, Yearling	Clostridial red-gut	1	Howick, KZN
Bovine Weaner	Listeriosis	1	Ladysmith, KZN
Bovine Stillbirths	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (micronutrient def)	7	Harare, Zimbabwe

<b>WILDLIFE SPECIES</b>	<b>DISEASE AGENT</b>	<b>NO. CASES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Lama	Enteric coccidiosis and hypovitaminosis A	1	Pietermaritzburg, KZN
Wild Dog	Pyothorax pleuritis migrating foreign body	1	Lammermoor, Gauteng
Golden Wildebeest Calf	Iron storage disease with CCN	1	Grahamstown, E.Cape
Roan Antelope, Calf	Nutritional myopathy	1	Hoedspruit, Limpopo
Blue Wildebeest	Black mamba neurotoxic shock lung	1	Nylstroom, Limpopo
Sable Antelope yearling	Hereditary sebaceous gland hyperplasia / dysplasia	1	Nylstroom, Limpopo

Lion Cub	Bacterial pleuropneumonia (Pasteurella?)	1	Ottosdal, Northern Cape
Sable Antelope, Yearling	Granulomatous osteomyelitis	1	Nylstroom, Limpopo
Buffalo, Adult	<i>Theileria parva</i>	4	Matubatuba, KZN

**Monthly report for February 2016 from Queenstown Provincial Veterinary Laboratory as supplied by Dr. A.D. Fisher ([alan.fisher@drdar.gov.za](mailto:alan.fisher@drdar.gov.za))**

Condition	Area	Comments and Specie
Intestinal roundworms		O 3
Resistant roundworms		O 2 (moxidectin)
Liver fluke	Cofimvaba	O 1
Heartwater ticks		B 1
Tampans	WhittleWhittlesea, Queenstownsea, Cofimvaba	Avian 2
Fleas ( <i>Echidnophaga gallinaceae</i> )		
Asiatic red water	Queenstown, Nqeleni (cerebral), Elliot (cerebral)	B 3
Blackleg ( <i>Clostridium chauvoei</i> )		B 1 (visceral)
Botulism		P 2 – chicken carcasses
<i>Chlamydophila pecorum</i>	Cofimvaba	O 1 - encephalitis
Rabies	Coffee Bay, Port St. Johns	3 (4 positives) Canine (Queenstown) Canine (Port St Johns) Canine (Mthatha) Equine (Mqanduli)

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 February 2016 from Deltamune laboratory Oudtshoorn as supplied by Dr. Mark Chimes ([mark@deltamune.co.za](mailto:mark@deltamune.co.za))**

Disease condition	Specie
Mastitis – Eastern and Western Cape	B 3
Trichomonosis - Queenstown	B 2

B – bovine; 2 = 2 to 9 cases; 3 = more than 10 cases

**Wildlife Pathology Research Programme – National Zoological Gardens.  
Information supplied by Dr. Emily Lane ([Emily@nzg.ac.za](mailto:Emily@nzg.ac.za))**



25 th Decemer 2015 to 31 st January 2016

**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**

**February 2016**

**WILDLIFE PATHOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAMME**  
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The National Zoological Gardens of South Africa is a proud facility of the National Research Foundation

Member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Pan-African Association of Zoological Gardens. Aquaria and Botanic Gardens (PAAZAB)

DAFF Import/Export Policy Unit Subdirectoriate

Monthly report: Cases sent to referring veterinarians between 25 th December 2015 and 31 st January 2016 Cases from State vet Skukuza or Orpen Cases imported with master permit and CITES permits (none)

Previous disease reports can be seen on the RuVASA website [www.ruvasa.co.za](http://www.ruvasa.co.za)

**Click on Disease Reports**

**The following practices and laboratories (129) submitted reports during 2015:**

**Mpumalanga (12)**

Balfour – Dr. Louis van Jaarsveld

Bethal – Dr. Hardus Pieters

Delmas – Dr. Johan Jooste

Delmas – Drs. Du Plessis and Ferreira

Grootvlei – Dr. Neels van Wyk

Karino (Nelspruit) – Dr. Silke Pfitzer

Lydenburg – Drs. Trümpelmann and Steyn

Nelspruit – Dr. André Beytell

Middelburg – Drs. Fourie, Malan and Erasmus

Piet Retief - Drs. Niebuhr and Weber

Standerton – Dr. Kobie Kroon

Volksrust – Drs. Watson and Solomon (André Visser)

### **Gauteng (7)**

Bronkhorstspuit – Drs. De Bruin, De Bruin, Rudolph and Slabber

Krugerdsdorp – Dr. Clare Speedy

Magaliesburg – Dr. Ryan Jeffery

Nigel – Dr. Cindy van der Westhuizen

Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital – Proff. Annandale, Prozesky, Shakespear, Holm and  
Drs. De Haast, Esposito, Gratwick, Hamman, Harmse and O’Dell

Pretoria – Dr. Hanneke Pienaar

### **Limpopo (7)**

Lephalale (Ellisras) – Dr. Brigitte Luck

Makhado (Louis Trichardt)– Drs. Harris, Klopper and Jacobs

Modimolle (Naboomspruit)– Drs. Huber, Bredell and Barnard

Mokopane (Potgietersrus) - Dr. Henk Visser

Mookgopong (Naboomspruit) – Prof. Dietmar Holm

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

Vaalwater - Dr. Hampie van Staden

### **North West (11)**

Brits – Drs. Boshoff and Coertze

Christiana - Dr. Pieter Nel

Klerksdorp – Drs. Van den Berg and Theron

Klerksdorp – Drs. Coetzee and Venter

Leeudoringstad - Dr. Ian Jonker

Lichtenburg – Dr. Fritz Ras

Lichtenburg – Dr. Nelmarie-Krüger-Rall

Rustenburg – Drs. Gagher, Grobler, Sparks, Van Edom, Van Rooyen, Goosen and Van Rensburg

Stella - Dr. Magdaleen Vosser

Ventersdorp/ Koster – Drs. Marais and Benadé

Vryburg – Dr. Jurie Kritzinger

### **Free State (27)**

Bethlehem – Drs. Strydom and Strydom

Bethlehem – Dr. J.C. Du Plessis

Bethlehem – Dr. Henk Basson

Bloemfontein – Dr. Stephan Wessels

Bothaville – Dr. Johann Blaauw

Bultfontein – Dr. Santjie Pieterse

Clocolan – Dr. Liezel Wasserman (Marwick)

Dewetsdorp – Dr. Marike Badenhorst

Ficksburg – Drs.Kotze and Coetzer

Frankfort - Drs. Lessing, Cilliers and Janse van Rensburg

Gariep Dam – Dr. Henk Basson  
Harrismith - Drs. Thirion, Pretorius and Nel  
Hoopstad - Dr. Kobus Pretorius  
Kroonstad – Drs. Daffue, Eksteen, Van Zyl and Van der Walt  
Ladybrand/Excelsior - Drs. De Vos and Nel  
Memel – Drs. Nixon and Nixon  
Parys – Drs. Wessels and Wessels  
Phillipolis – Dr. Stephan Vermeulen  
Reitz - Dr. Murray Smith  
Trompsburg/Springfontein – Dr. Wyn Irwin  
Viljoenskroon - Dr. Johan Kahts  
Villiers – Drs. Hattingh and Hauptfleisch  
Vrede – Drs. Myburgh and Bester-Cloete  
Vrede- Dr. Rudolph Fourie  
Wesselsbron –Dr. Johan Jacobs  
Winburg – Drs. Albertyn and Albertyn  
Zastron – Drs. Troskie and Strauss

#### **KwaZulu-Natal (18)**

Bergville - Dr. Ariena Shepherd  
Bergville – Dr. Jubie Muller  
Camperdown – Dr. Anthony van Tonder  
Dundee – Drs. Marais and Fynn  
Eshowe – Drs. Pryke and Hoffman  
Estcourt – Drs. Turner, Tedder, Taylor, Tratschler, Van Rooyen and Alwar  
Greytown – Dr. Mike Caldicott  
Howick – Drs. Hughes, Lund, Gordon, Allison and Taylor  
Ingogo – Dr. Trish Oglesby  
Kokstad- Drs. Clowes and Shrives  
Mooi River - Drs. Fowler, Hartley, Waterman and Mallet  
Mtubatuba – Dr. Trever Viljoen  
Newcastle – Dr. Barry Rafferty  
Pietermaritzburg – Dr. Rick Mapham  
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  
Alexandria – Dr. Thys Potgieter  
Aliwal North/Zastron – Drs. Troskie and Strauss  
Bathurst – Dr. Jane Pistorius  
Cradock – Dr. Frans Erasmus  
Graaff- Reinet - Dr. Roland Larson

Graaff-Reinet – Drs. Hobson, Strydom and Hennesy  
Humansdorp - Drs. Van Niekerk, Jansen Van Vuuren, Barker and Kotze  
Jeffreys Bay – Drs. Hoek, Lategan and McFarlane  
Kareedouw- Dr. Marten Bootsma  
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

### **Western Cape (18)**

Beaufort West - Drs. Pienaar and Grobler  
Caledon – Drs. Retief and Rissik  
Ceres – Drs. Pieterse, Wium, Freeman, De Villiers and Scheepers  
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  
Malmesbury - Drs. Bosman and Groenewald  
Oudtshoorn – Dr. Glen Carlisle  
Oudtshoorn – Dr. Adriaan Olivier  
Piketberg – Dr. André van der Merwe  
Plettenberg Bay – Dr. André Reitz  
Riversdale – Drs. Du Plessis, Taylor and De Bruyn  
Stellenbosch – Dr. Alfred Kidd  
Swellendam – Drs. Malan and Venter  
Vredenburg - Dr. Izak Rust  
Wellington – Dr. William van Zyl

### **Northern Cape (7)**

De Aar – Dr. Donald Anderson  
Calvinia – Dr. Bertus Nel  
Jan Kempdorp – Dr. Jan Brand  
Kathu – Dr. Jan Vorster  
Kimberley – Drs. Van Heerden and Swart  
Kimberley – Dr. Trudie Prinsloo  
Upington – Drs. Vorster and Visser

### **Feedlots (2)**

Drs. Morris and Du Preez  
Dr. Andy Hentzen

### **Laboratory reports (6)**

Dr. Mark Chimes - Deltamune laboratory

Dr. Marijke Henton - Idexx SA Johannesburg Dr. Liza du Plessis – Idexx SA Onderstepoort Dr. Alan Fischer – Queenstown Provincial laboratory Dr. Rick Last – Vetdiagnostix, Pietermaritzburg Dr. Emily Lane – National Zoological Gardens
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## Summary of disease report for February 2016

129 Reports from veterinary practices and laboratories were received (Mpumalanga (MP) 12; Gauteng (G) 7; Limpopo (L) 7; North West (NW) 11; Free State (FS) 27; KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) 18; Eastern Cape (EC) 14; Western Cape (WC) 18; Northern Cape (NC) 7; Feedlots (FL) 2 and Laboratories (Lab) 6).

### Drought situation

Although good rains have fallen in many drought stricken areas reports of empty dams were received. Roughage will be scarce this coming winter and cash flow may be a problem.

Visit the website of the Livestock coordinating committee for valuable information regarding managing the present drought situation. <http://www.lwcc.org.za/>

### **DROUGHTS AND LIVESTOCK**

Droughts are a seasonal occurrence in our Region and are predicted to become more intense in Southern Africa. The years when droughts are likely to occur are not really predictable far in advance. Livestock farmers should factor into their management plan in advance appropriate action/s they plan to institute in the event of a drought. Livestock farmers remain accountable for the welfare of their animals at all times and the animals should not bear the brunt of poor planning. It is totally unacceptable for livestock to starve to death which is cruel, slow and totally avoidable.

There are three options that can be taken when faced with a prolonged drought: to feed , to sell or to slaughter . The time to act is immediately when confronted with the realisation that things are not going to improve in the short term. Starvation (doing nothing) must be avoided at all costs .

- Allowing animals to starve is both financially disastrous with no return at all for livestock that die and morally unacceptable.
- Money obtained from livestock sales can be used to buy feed for the remaining animals and eventually to buy livestock when the drought ends.
- Reducing livestock numbers has the advantage that less but more effective supplements for remaining livestock can be made available.
- Delaying the culling of an animal deprived of food may also render the meat from such an animal unsuitable for human consumption.
- Stocking drought-stricken farms with a full complement of hungry animals will force them to graze very aggressively, which can ruin pastures and veld for years before they can recover.
- Overstocking these farms increases the likelihood of plant poisoning in desperate, hungry livestock.

- Starved animals will not grow or reproduce adequately and their offspring are likely to be permanently stunted and unproductive.
- Undernourished livestock are far more susceptible to a range of diseases and parasites.
- Economic recovery after the drought ends will be slow and expensive.
- Last but not least, it is ethically not acceptable simply to allow animals to starve to death slowly.

Farmers have to implement their contingency plans in stages as the drought becomes more critical.

- Sell older animals that will struggle during a drought and may not make it through the winter in a poorer condition
- wean calves, lambs or kids as far as possible even if lighter than normal and assist small weanlings that are not immediately marketable
- keep core livestock that will be needed to rebuild the herd later and remove all non-breeding livestock, and stores from the grazing .

When the condition of livestock has deteriorated to the point that they are not marketable, it is preferable to kill them humanely rather than to allow them to die a lingering and pointless death.

Because droughts of varying degrees are inevitable, it is advisable that farmers accumulate a reserve of at least 6 months feed in the form of hay, silage, foggage or conserved grazing.

The end of a drought does not mean the end of its consequences. What follows is often termed a “green drought”, where pastures become green but are scanty and fragile. The pastures have to be given enough time to recover before they can be used again.

## 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	
Resistant roundworms	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Wireworm	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Brown stomach-worm								x	
Large-mouthed bowelworm									
Nodularworm				x					
Lungworm									
Eyeworm									
<i>Parafilaria</i>			x	x		x			
Tapeworms	x	x			x	x	x		
Liver fluke	x				x	x	x	x	
Conical fluke	x				x	x	x	x	
Cysticercosis (measles)	x				x				
Schistosomiasis (bilharzia)									
Coccidiosis	x	x			x	x	x	x	

An increase in the number of animals affected by internal parasites was reported during February. Be aware that when rain fall after a drought period, large numbers of infective nematode larvae

will be present on the short grass and animals will become infested with especially wireworm in the summer rainfall areas..

**Be on the alert for signs indicating internal parasitism: anaemia, bottle jaw, weight loss and diarrhoea. Animals under stress and lack of protein and energy, are more susceptible to parasites.**

As resistance of worms, especially wireworm, to many of the anthelmintic groups are reported, control and preventative measures against parasites should be discussed with your veterinarian to prevent serious losses of livestock.

## 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	X	X	
Resistant blue ticks	X				X	X			
Heartwater ticks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Brown ear-ticks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Bont-legged ticks	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Red-legged ticks	X		X	X	X	X			
Paralysis ticks	X				X	X			
Biting lice	X							X	
Sucking lice		X			X				
Itch mites					X			X	
Sheep scab	X			X	X			X	
Mange mites			X		X				
Nuisance flies	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Midges	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Mosquitoes						X			
Blowflies	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Screw-worm	X		X			X			
Nasal bot		X			X	X			

Reports of an increase in tick numbers were received. As many animals are in poor condition, bloodloss due to blue ticks taking in blood meals could result in serious losses.

In most areas severe infestations of brown ear-tick and bont-legged tick infestations were reported.

Be aware of wounds that are caused by ticks with long mouth parts (bont and bont legged-ticks) as the screw-worm fly lays its eggs in these wounds leading to myiasis (screw-worm larvae in wounds) and even deaths.

**Selection for resistant blue ticks are an ever increasing problem, discuss your ectoparasite control program with your veterinarian.**

## 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	X	X	X	
Asiatic red water	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Anaplasmosis	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Heartwater	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Lumpy skin disease	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Corridor disease						X			
Theileriosis									

Tick borne diseases are rife due to tick numbers increasing during the summer months. Susceptible animals are also moved into red water and heartwater areas. Infected ticks are also transported with grass bales from infected areas. Vaccines are available to control most of these tick transmitted diseases. **Discuss preventative measures with your veterinarian.**

**The following tick toxicoses were reported by practices in the provinces:**

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

Heavy infestations of bont-legged ticks were reported. Sweating sickness is caused by the toxin secreted by the bont-legged tick. They like to attach in the tail brush and therefore this area should be treated as well.

Paralysis due to the toxin secreted by the Karoo paralysis tick was also reported.

## **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			
Ephemeral fever (Three day stiff sickness)	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Blue tongue	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Rift Valley Fever									
Wesselsbron									

An increase in the occurrence of insect transmissible diseases were reported. This was due to an increase of midges and biting flies which are carriers of viruses.

In the past Rift Valley Fever outbreaks were seen after good rains following a drought period. Do not neglect vaccinating animals! After good rains midge and mosquito numbers will increase and so will insect transmittable diseases.

## **Veneral diseases**

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





### A few comments on bacterial diseases:

Smallstock are given additional concentrates and feed during the drought. Make sure that animals are vaccinated against pulpy kidney as many deaths were reported.

New brucellosis and *E. coli* outbreaks are reported every month.

**Study the presence of diseases in your area and update your vaccination programme and order vaccines and booster doses in advance!**

**To control and eradicate brucellosis is a top priority for all of us!**

### 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		
Rabies				x	x	x			
BVD					x	x			
IBR					x	x		x	
BRSV									
PI3		x							
Rotavirus / Coronavirus									
Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)	x							x	
Sheep leucosis									
Jaagsiekte						x			
Orf	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Warts	x		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.

There is not a vaccine available against snotsiekte. This deadly virus is associated with wildebeest but remember there is also a sheep associated strain. Wildebeest sheds the virus especially during their calving season, when calves are weaned and during the hunting season when they are stressed.

Discuss vaccination programmes with your veterinarian.

### Fungal diseases

The following fungal disease was reported by practices in the provinces:

Fungal diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
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Water contamination								X	
Nitrate	X								
Urea					X	X			
Snake bite				X	X	X			
Blue green algae									
Copper									X
Selenium									
Zinc									
Fluoride									
Lead									
Paraquat									
Phosamine									
Pyrethroid									
Amitraz								X	
Levamisole									
Tilmicosin									
Ionophor									

Many toxic plants sprout first after good rains eg. tulip. Be aware of toxic plants when animals are brought into a new area.

## 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		X	X
Protein	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Phosphate	X			X			X	X	
Calcium	X	X		X	X	X		X	

The severe drought comes with serious nutritional deficiencies. It is now the time to plan for the winter that lies ahead!

## 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						
Zinc									
Selenium				X	X	X			
Magnesium								X	
Manganese									
Vitamin A	X				X	X			
Vitamin B 1				X	X			X	

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.

With the drought and lack of proper grazing, mineral deficiencies will increase.

Supplement animals with vitamin A.

## 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
Abortions	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Stillbirths					X	X		X	
Abscesses	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Intestinal ulcers									
Bladder stones					X				
Blindness				X	X		X		
Bloat		X		X	X	X	X	X	
Blood gut (sheep)							X		
Blue udder					X	X	X	X	
Diarrhoea	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Epididymitis					X	X			
Eye cancer	X			X	X	X		X	
Eye infections	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Joint ill	X				X	X	X		
Lameness/foot problems	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Lung infection	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Mastitis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Navel ill				X		X			
Red gut (sheep, torsion of gut)									
Rectal prolaps									
Trauma	X	X	X		X				
Plastic bags (ingestion)									
Downer	X	X		X	X	X		X	

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	
Displaced abomasums					X	X			

Ketosis	x				x	x		x	
Milk fever					x	x		x	

There is an increase in the reporting of acidosis. Many farmers are feeding their animals due to the drought. 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
Dystocia (difficult births)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Endometritis					x	x		x	
Metritis		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	
Vaginal prolaps	x	x		x	x	x		x	x

The drought and heat experienced play a huge role in fertility. Fertility of animals is one of the most important factors determining the success of farming. Discuss all issues with your veterinarian.

## Environmental conditions

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

Other conditions: predators (FS); sabotage, theft (FS) and trauma (MP, G, FS, KZN) and traumatic pericarditis – wire penetrating the heart sack from the reticulum.

### Comment:

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

Karino (Nelspruit) – Dr. Silke Pfitzer  
 Greytown – Dr. Mike Caldicott  
 Jan Kempdorp – Dr. Jan Brand

## Ostriches

Western Cape  
 Oudtshoorn – Ostrimed

Condition	Comments
Tapeworms	2
Bont-legged ticks	3 High tick incidence which leads to down grading at abattoir due to export regulations. Bad season for ticks so far.
Cryptosporidium	2 See as prolaps of the cloaca. High water intake/ high urination, wet soils = pica = exposure to oocysts. Immune compromise – low feed intake during hot weather = prolapses
Enterotoxaemia (Red gut)	2 High heat leads to intermitten feed intake. Cooler periods birds overeat and develop clostridial enterotoxaemia. Strategie treatment with antibiotics assists. Vaccination helps.
Diarrhoea	Soil pica, high temperatures triggers opportunistic bacterial infections. Heat triggers clostridial bacteria due to overflow of nutrients into the hind gut fermenting system.
Protein /Energy deficiency	2 High temperatures lead to over intake of water, flushing of nutrients, wet urinated areas lead to soil pica. Reduced feed intake, all contribute to diarrhoea – sand irritation and fecal bacteria. Insufficient nutrient intake, stress on immune system and growth. Opportunistic bacteria or other infections, chronic low grade <i>C. perfringens</i> infection. Gut damage. Poor growth partly due to low feed intake but significantly due to poor quality raw material being bought in for complete feeds. Soya 40% protein vs speced at 47%
Phosphate deficiency	1
Calcium deficiency	1
Vitamin E/Selenium deficiency	1 High heat, high energy ration, high fat places high demand and antioxidants. Develop classical white muscle disease with acute heart failure. Supplementation gives rapid response to recovery.
Vitamin A deficiency	1
Micro-element deficiency	1 Farmers reformulating due to expensive full feed. Own mixes frequently are unblanced or they dilute or cause imbalances to raw material added to full feeds
Ophthalmia	2
Sinusitis	3 Dusty environment due to high heat and dry environment. Wind every afternoon. Dust bowl effect. Together with

	challenges on nutrients and stress. Opens door for Mycoplasma.
Heat stroke	1 Birds have significantly reduced feed intake, resulting in energy and protein deficiency – poor growth and any stress e.g. handling or slightly cold weather causes acute mortalities due to protein energy deficiencies.

## Equines

### Mpumalanga

#### Lydenburg

Dermatophilosis – 2

Ophthalmia - 1

### Gauteng

#### Magaliesburg

Equine encephalosis - 1

### Limpopo

#### Mokopane – Dr. Henk Visser

Midges – 1

African Horse Sickness – 2

#### Vaalwater

Obstruction of oesophagus – Old mini horse

### Free-State

#### Bethlehem

Colic - 1

#### Memel

Ionophore toxicity – 1

Babesiosis - 2

### Eastern Cape

#### Port Alfred

Babesiosis - 2 cases

Weird viral disease – looked like dikkop African Horse Sickness but was not AHS nor EEV1

## Swine

### Gauteng

#### Onderstepoort Academic Hospital

Abscesses - 1

### Eastern Cape

#### Alexandria

Urea poisoning – 2

#### Graaff-Reinet

Botulism

## **Game**

### **Mpumalanga**

#### **Lydenburg**

Resistant roundworms – 2

Cysticercosis - 1

#### **Standerton**

Drought – 3 Some specific farms horribly affected. Fodder bank for winter is problematic.

### **Gauteng**

#### **Pretoria -A nimavet**

Heartwater ticks - 3

Brown ear-tick – 3

Bont legged-tick - 3

Abortion – 2

Arthritis – 1

Ophthalmia - 2

Abscesses – 2 Secondary to tick infestation

Lameness – 3 Secondary to tick infestation

### **Limpopo**

#### **Mokopane**

Heartwater tick – 3

Brown ear-ticks – 3

Bont-legged tick – 1

Red-legged tick - 2

Blowflies – 1

Screw-worm 3

#### **Polokwane**

Bont-legged tick – 3

Capture myopathy – 2

#### **Vaalwater**

Heartwater – Springbuck

### **North West**

#### **Magaliesburg**

Tick toxicosis - Sable and wildebeest calves

Babesiosis - Sable calves

Wireworm – Springbuck in small camp, stress

Blue lice - Springbuck in small camp, stress

#### **Klerksdorp**

Intestinal roundworms – 2

Tapeworms – 2

Brown ear-ticks - 2

Bont-legged ticks – 3

Red-legged tick – 3

Red gut - 2

#### **Lichtenburg**

Blue ticks – 3

Heartwater ticks – 2  
Brown ear-ticks – 1  
Bont-legged ticks – 3  
Red-legged ticks – 3  
Abortions – 1 Joint-ill – 1  
Lameness- 2  
Nutrition deficiency - Sable

## **Free-State**

### **Memel**

Blackleg – 1

Trauma – Fractured limbs due to fighting. Injuries possibly due to unnatural stocking densities.

### **Philippolis – Dr. Stephan Vermeulen**

Paralysis ticks – 8 Gemsbuck out of a herd of 30 died a few days after a rain and hail storm. A cold strong wind blew which most probably activated paralysis ticks. This event occurred early in the season which usually only start in March.

## **KwaZulu-Natal**

### **Pongola**

Heartwater tick – 2

Brown ear-tick - 3

Protein deficiency – 3

Energy deficiency - 3

Drought – 3

## **Eastern Cape**

### **Alexandria**

Joint ill - 1

### **Graaff –Reinet – Camdeboo Veterinary Clinic**

Panleukopenia virus – Lion 1

### **Port Alfred**

Abscess – Sable, purulent abscess from tick worry.

Snake bite – suspected cobra bite in a Bontebok

## **Northern Cape**

### **Kimberley –Drs. Van Heerden and Swart**

Wounds – Tiger 1, Letchwe 1, Sable

Vaginal prolapse – Sable 1

Pneumonia – Roan 1

Malkopui toxicity – Buffalo 2

## **Monthly report on Livestock and Wildlife isolations for January 2016 from IDEXX Laboratories supplied by dr. Marijke Henton ([marijke-henton@idexxa.net](mailto:marijke-henton@idexxa.net))**

Samples from respiratory disease in feedlot cattle yielded *Mannheimia haemolytica* [2], *Pasteurella multocida* [2], *Histophilus somni*, *Mannheimia* 8C and *Mannheimia* 7.

*Brucella abortus* caused an abortion. Cases of calf diarrhoea yielded *Salmonella* Dublin, *E. coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Abscesses yielded *Trueperella pyogenes* in two cases, one of them together with *Prevotella*.

Pneumonia in sheep yielded *Pasteurella multocida* and *Histophilus somni*, and in an Angora goat, *Trueperella pyogenes*. Blue udder in sheep yielded *Mannheimia haemolytica* [2], *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*, and a combination of *Trueperella pyogenes* and *Porphyromonas*. The OBP Blue Udder vaccine contains 3 strains of *Mannheimia haemolytica*, and two of *Staphylococcus aureus*. It is unknown whether the vaccine protects against *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* or not. *Mannheimia* strains need to be typed at Onderstepoort to establish whether they are similar to strains included in the vaccine, before the vaccine can be recommended.

*Salmonella* Choleraesuis was isolated from a pig farm, *E. coli* [2] from enteritis and *Pasteurella multocida*, *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and *E. coli* from cases of pneumonia in pigs.

*Sporothrix* caused lymphangitis in a horse and *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* caused a skin infection in another horse. There was difficulty to treat a case in a stallion infected with both *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, where two sets of samples from the prepuce, before and after treatment yielded both each time. Post-operative wounds yielded a combination of *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* in one case, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Actinomyces* in another, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E. coli* in a third.

*Mannheimia varigena* caused septicaemia in a buffalo, and *Pasteurella multocida* a joint infection in a springbok. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* caused septicaemia in a rhino, but the underlying infection was most probably *Clostridium novyi*.

## Monthly report on Livestock and Wildlife isolations for February 2016 from IDEXX Laboratories supplied by dr. Liza du Plessis ([Liza-DuPlessis@idexx.com](mailto:Liza-DuPlessis@idexx.com))

Condition	Comments and Specie
Hepatotoxicity	B 1
Endometritis	G 1
Abscesses	B,O 1
Fusobacterium	B,O 1
Trauma	G 2
<i>Molluscum contagiosum</i>	E 1
Theileriosis	G 2

## Feedlot report received from Dr. Shaun Morris and Dr. Eben du Preez for February 2016 ([edupreez1@telkomsa.net](mailto:edupreez1@telkomsa.net))

### Sheep feed lots

The following was observed:

Wireworm infestation caused numerous losses. Weak anaemic sheep react poorly to immunization with pulpy kidney vaccine and the inability to adapt to feedlot conditions.

Resistant wireworm infestation is rife.

Numerous pneumonia cases due to *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Pasteurella multocida* occurred.

Vitamin B1 deficiencies with nervous signs which could easily be confused with botulism occurred.

This deficiency was seen occurring with nutritional disturbances.

Rumen atrophy was seen in sheep arriving from poor grazing conditions.

The cause of mortalities in lambs within 5 to 6 days after birth is still unclear.

A few blue tongue cases were observed.

Lung abscesses were seen at meat inspection at abattoirs.

Prolapses in sheep that were in good condition occurred when they coughed due to dusty conditions.

### Cattle feedlots

Pneumonia was the biggest cause of losses and lung lesions at abattoirs.

Pericarditis causes mortalities and is the reason why hearts are condemned at abattoirs. Cattle show clinical signs such as ventral oedema (watery swelling) of the neck and brisket similar to traumatic pericarditis (wire penetrating the heart sack from the reticulum).

Numerous deaths occurred in C-grade cattle arriving in poor condition at feedlots.

Acidosis with bloat and red gut mortalities occurred. At the abattoir severe lesions were seen on the rumen wall in animals that survived.

A few cases of three day stiffness were seen.

Numerous anaplasmosis and red water (Asiatic and African) cases were seen. Mortalities due to cerebral red water occurred.

Livers were condemned at abattoirs due to liver fluke infestations.

Parafilaria infestation damaged carcasses and losses occurred due to lesions that had to be trimmed.

*Lantana* toxicity caused serious damage to skins.

## **Feedlot report received from Dr. Andy Hentzen for February 2016**

**([andyvet@mweb.co.za](mailto:andyvet@mweb.co.za))**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Comments and Specie</b>
Intestinal roundworms	O 2
Tapeworms	B 2
Blue ticks	B 3
Brown ear-ticks	B 3
Red-legged ticks	B 3
Biting lice	B 3
Sucking lice	B 3
Nuisance flies	B 3
Midges	B 3
African red water	B 3
Asiatic red water	B 3
Anaplasmosis	B 3
Lumpy skin disease	B 1
Three day stiffness	B 2
Blackleg	B 2

Swelled head	B 1
Red gut	B 3
Pulpy kidney	O 1
Ringworm	B 3
Leptospirosis	B 1
<i>E. coli</i>	B 2
BVD	B 3
IBR	B 3
Warts	B 3
Water contamination	B 3
Protein deficiency	B 3
Energy deficiency	B 3
Phosphate deficiency	B 3
Copper deficiency	B 2
Zinc deficiency	B 2
Selenium deficiency	B 2
Vitamin A deficiency	B 2
Combination of trace mineral deficiencies	B 3
Abortions	B 2
Poor conception	B 2
Dystocias	B 2
Metritis	B 2
Retained afterbirths	B 2
Lameness	B 3
Lungs	B 3
Diarrhoea	B 3
Ophthalmia	B 3
Abscesses	B,C 3

**Monthly report for February 2016 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 Gengan
- Dr Rick Last

LIVESTOCK DISEASE SURVEILLANCE			
LIVESTOCK SPECIES	DISEASE AGENT	NO. CASES	LOCATION

Bovine, Calves	Colisepticaemia	1	Kokstad, KZN
Bovine, Cows	Monensin poisoning	2	Estcourt, KZN
Bovine Bulls	Trichomonas foetus	6	Bergville KZN
Bovine, Beef Cow	Liver fluke and toxic nephropathy	1	Empangeni, KZN
Bovine, Yearling	Clostridial red-gut	1	Howick, KZN
Bovine Weaner	Listeriosis	1	Ladysmith, KZN
Bovine Stillbirths	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (micronutrient def)	7	Harare, Zimbabwe

WILDLIFE SPECIES	DISEASE AGENT	NO. CASES	LOCATION
Lama	Enteric coccidiosis and hypovitaminosis A	1	Pietermaritzburg, KZN
Wild Dog	Pyothorax pleuritis migrating foreign body	1	Lammermoor, Gauteng
Golden Wildebeest Calf	Iron storage disease with CCN	1	Grahamstown, E.Cape
Roan Antelope, Calf	Nutritional myopathy	1	Hoedspruit, Limpopo
Blue Wildebeest	Black mamba neurotoxic shock lung	1	Nylstroom, Limpopo
Sable Antelope yearling	Hereditary sebaceous gland hyperplasia / dysplasia	1	Nylstroom, Limpopo
Lion Cub	Bacterial pleuropneumonia (Pasteurella?)	1	Ottosdal, Northern Cape
Sable Antelope, Yearling	Granulomatous osteomyelitis	1	Nylstroom, Limpopo
Buffalo, Adult	<i>Theileria parva</i>	4	Matubatuba, KZN

**Monthly report for February 2016 from Queenstown Provincial Veterinary Laboratory as supplied by Dr. A.D. Fisher ([alan.fisher@drdar.gov.za](mailto:alan.fisher@drdar.gov.za))**

Condition	Area	Comments and Specie
Intestinal roundworms		O 3
Resistant roundworms		O 2 (moxidectin)
Liver fluke	Cofimvaba	O 1
Heartwater ticks		B 1
Tampans	WhittleWhittlesea, Queenstownsea, Cofimvaba	Avian 2
Fleas ( <i>Echidnophaga gallinaceae</i> )		
Asiatic red water	Queenstown, Nqeleni (cerebral), Elliot (cerebral)	B 3
Blackleg ( <i>Clostridium chauvoei</i> )		B 1 (visceral)
Botulism		P 2 – chicken carcasses
<i>Chlamydophila pecorum</i>	Cofimvaba	O 1 - encephalitis
Rabies	Coffee Bay, Port St. Johns	3 (4 positives) Canine (Queenstown) Canine (Port St Johns) Canine (Mthatha) Equine (Mqanduli)

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 February 2016 from Deltamune laboratory Oudtshoorn  
as supplied by Dr. Mark Chimes (mark@deltamune.co.za)**

Disease condition	Specie
Mastitis – Eastern and Western Cape	B 3
Trichomonosis - Queenstown	B 2

B – bovine; 2 = 2 to 9 cases; 3 = more than 10 cases

**Wildlife Pathology Research Programme – National Zoological Gardens.  
Information supplied by Dr. Emily Lane ([Emily@nzg.ac.za](mailto:Emily@nzg.ac.za))  
25 th Decemer 2015 to 31 st January 2016**

**WILDLIFE PATHOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAMME  
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DAFF Import/Export Policy Unit Subdirectoriate

Monthly report: Cases sent to referring veterinarians between 25 th December 2015 and 31 st January 2016 Cases from State vet Skukuza or Orpen Cases imported with master permit and CITES permits (none)

PMDate	Species	Final	PM No
30-Nov-15	White faced Owl	None possible (autolysis)	152232
30-Nov-15	African Buffalo	Cachexia, bronchopneumonia	152231
27-Nov-15	African Buffalo	Ruminal acidosis, suspected copper deficiency	152233
04-Dec-15	Tartar Sand Boa	Melanoma	1522408
04-Dec-15	African Wild Dog	Disseminated tuberculosis	152239
08-Dec-15	Red Hartebeest	Dog bite wounds, abscess	152243
09-Dec-15	Cheetah	Grade 3 gastritis	1522448
14-Dec-15	Cheetah	Suspected oesophageal granulation tissue	1522488
14-Dec-15	Taiwan Beauty Ratsnake	Hepatic haemosiderosis and lipidosis	1522458
14-Dec-15	Leopard	Anaesthetic death	152246
14-Dec-15	Leopard	Complications of a broken tarsus	152247
14-Dec-15	Honey Badger	Problem animal	152249
14-Dec-15	African Buffalo	Presumed bovine tuberculosis	152250
17-Dec-15	Black shouldered Kite	None possible (no lesions)	152251
18-Dec-15	Capuchin Monkey	Suspected tetanus	152252
21-Dec-15	Chameleon	Suspected starvation	152253
21-Dec-15	Steenbok	Suspected blunt trauma, bite wounds	152255
21-Dec-15	Lion	Suspected subclinical CDV	152254
23-Dec-15	Lion	Suspected CDV	152258
24-Dec-15	Civet	Rabies	152256
24-Dec-15	Capuchin Monkey	Suspected tetanus	152257
24-Dec-15	Domestic Rabbit	Suspected uterine adenocarcinoma	152259
26-Dec-15	Lion	Cerebral and intestinal vasculitis	152260
27-Dec-15	Lion	Canine distemper virus infection	152261
29-Dec-15	Cheetah	Complications of oesophageal scar	152262
31-Dec-15	Tent Tortoise	Stomatitis	152263