

**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**

**March 2017**

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 (117) submitted reports during March 2017:**

**Mpumalanga (14)**

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  
Nelspruit – Dr. André Beytell  
Malalane – Van Sittert and Van Sittert  
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)**

Bronkhorstspuit – Drs. De Bruin, De Bruin, Rudolph and Slabber  
Magaliesburg – Dr. Ryan Jeffery  
Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital - Proff. Annandale, Prozesky, Shakespear, Holm and Esposito, Gratwick, Hamman, Harmse and O'Dell  
Pretoria – Dr. Hanneke Pienaar  
Vanderbijlpark – Dr. Kobus Kok

**Limpopo (6)**

Bela-Bela – Dr. Nele Sabbe  
Lephalale (Ellisras) – Dr. Brigitte Luck  
Makhado (Louis Trichardt) – 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

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

Brits – Drs. Boshoff and Coertze

Christiana - Dr. Pieter Nel

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

Klerksdorp- Drs. Coetzee and Venter

Leeudoringstad – Dr. Ian Jonker

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

Schweizer-Reneke – Dr. Cizelle Naude

Stella - Dr. Magdaleen Vossler

Ventersdorp/ Koster – Drs. Marais and Benadé

Vryburg – Drs. De Jager and Rautenbach.

Vryburg – Dr. Marnus de Jager

### **Free State (23)**

Bloemfontein – Dr. Stephan Wessels

Bothaville – Dr. Johan Blaauw

Bultfontein – Dr. Santjie Pieterse

Clocolan – Drs. Wasserman and Basson

Dewetsdorp – Dr. Marike Badenhorst

Ficksburg – Drs. Kotze and Coetzer

Frankfort - Drs. Lessing, Cilliers and Janse van Rensburg

Gariiep Dam – Dr. Marni Strauss

Harrismith – Drs. Pretorius, Bester and Nel

Hertzogville - Dr. Nico Hendrikz

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

Reitz - Dr. Murray Smith

Senekal – Dr. Jan Blignaut

Smithfield – Dr. Nienke van Hasselt

Trompsburg – Dr. Wyn Irwin

Viljoenskroon - Dr. Johan Kahts

Villiers – Drs. Hattingh and Hauptfleisch

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  
Estcourt – Drs. Turner, Tedder, Taylor, Tratschler, Van Rooyen and Alwar  
Howick – Drs. Hughes, Lund, Gordon, Allison and Taylor  
Kokstad - Drs. Clowes and Shrives  
Mtubatuba – Dr. Trever Viljoen  
Pietermaritzburg – Dr. Phillip Kretzmann  
Pietermaritzburg – Dr. Rick Mapham  
Pongola – Dr. Heinz Kohrs  
Underberg - Drs. Collins, King and Delaney  
Underberg – Drs. Dommett and Dommett  
Vryheid – Drs. Theron and Theron

### **Eastern Cape (11)**

Alexandria - Drs. Olivier and Dreyer  
Aliwal North/Zastron – Drs. Troskie and Strauss  
Bathurst – Dr. Jane Pistorius  
Graaff- Reinet - Dr. Roland Larson  
Graaff-Reinet – Hobson, Strydom and Hennesy  
Humansdorp – Drs. Van Niekerk and Janse Van Vuuren  
Middelburg/Steynsburg – Drs. Van Rooyen and Viljoen  
Queenstown – Drs. Du Preez, Godley, Klopper, Jansen van Vuuren, De Klerk and Catherine  
Stutterheim - Dr. Dave Waterman  
Uitenhage – Drs. Mulder and Krüger  
Witelsbos – Dr. Bernadine van den Berg

### **Western Cape (17)**

Beaufort West - Drs. Pienaar and Grobler  
Caledon – Drs. Retief, Coetzer, Conradie 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  
Malmesbury – Dr. N.J. Heyns  
Oudtshoorn – Dr. Glen Carlisle  
Oudtshoorn – Dr. Adriaan Olivier  
Piketberg – Dr. André van der Merwe  
Plettenberg Bay – Dr. André Reitz  
Plettenberg Bay – Drs. Nell and Tindall  
Stellenbosch – Dr. Alfred Kidd  
Swellendam – Drs. Malan  
Vredenburg – Dr. Izak Rust

**Northern Cape (7)**

De Aar – Dr. Donald Anderson

Calvinia – Dr. Bertus Nel

Kathu – Dr. Jan Vorster

Kimberley – Drs Van Heerden and Swart

Kuruman – Dr Gerhard van der Westhuizen

Philipstown – Dr. Stephan Van Niekerk

Upington – Drs. Vorster and Visser

**Feedlots (2)**

Drs. Morris and Du Preez

Dr. Andy Hentzen

**Laboratory reports (7)**

Dr. Annelie Cloete – Provincial Vet Lab Stellenbosch

Dr. Marijke Henton - Vetdiagnostix, Johannesburg

Dr. Liza du Plessis – Idexx SA Onderstepoort

Dr. Lucy Lange – Pathcare, Cape Town

Dr. Alan Fisher – Queenstown Provincial laboratory

Dr. Rick Last – Vetdiagnostix, Pietermaritzburg

Dr. Emily Lane – National Zoological Gardens

**Key Message**

**Insect and tick transmitted diseases were rife during March!**

**Insect transmitted diseases**

**Lumpy skin disease**

**Three day stiff sickness**

**Blue tongue**

**African horse sickness**

**Anaplasmosis**

**Tick transmitted diseases**

**African red water**

**Asiatic red water**

**Heart water**

**Anaplasmosis**

**Lumpy skin disease**

**As winter sets in the incidence of these diseases will decline. Many losses were reported during the past months. It is now the time to sit down with your veterinarian to plan your management programme for the next rainy season. Most of these diseases can be prevented with vaccines!**

## **Brucellosis**

**We should not lose momentum in controlling bovine brucellosis. Buying in one positive animal could have disastrous consequences!**

### **Danger of spreading Bovine Brucellosis (BBR) via auctions and shows**

This article will try and point out the dangers of how bovine brucellosis can be brought onto your farm unknowingly and infect your herd.

In an actual case the following happened:

“ In an area which is relatively free of BBR, one farmer with cattle of unknown brucellosis status spread BR to 5 farms after he sold some of his commercial cattle.....two of the farms were so infected as a result of the sale that the herds were slaughtered out.

In another outbreak, also in a commercial herd where the herd was tested negative in June after calving and all cattle sold at a dispersal sale held in October .....four herds got infected from that sale. One new owner had a stud which was completely separate and fortunately not infected. BBR has a very varied incubation period so there were obviously some animals that had become serologically positive after the test.

Presently there is a young vet (28 years) from the xxxx, where there has been no Brucellosis in years, in hospital in xxxx being treated for Brucellosis .....he can remember doing a caeser on a cow 2 months previous to onset of symptoms – but he cannot remember where the farm is or the farmers surname. This makes tracing the disease difficult. Hopefully when he gets out of hospital he can go and check his records”.

**Question: Our Show ruling is that all animals that come to the show must be tested for CA and TB. In respect of stud breeding cows, could they be BBR positive and transmit the disease?**

**Answer:** Are these cows pregnant? If the cows are anything from 4 months pregnant and come from a herd of unknown BBR status, a negative serological test may not be sufficient. Brucellosis is a herd disease and these cows may be incubating the disease. Heifers/cows that have become infected may abort from 5 months pregnancy especially if never vaccinated. It is at this stage of pregnancy that the uterus starts producing the sugar erythritol that the field strain needs to grow and multiply. If newly tested and infected before this stage of pregnancy the heifers/cows normally test negative. Heifers born from infected cows can be infected in the uterus (latently infected) but only sero-convert from 5months pregnancy, but this sero-conversion may take much longer and only occur after abortion or calving.

**Question: Would it be understandable to ask farmers that are bringing heifers or oxen to merely test the specific animal. I know the chances that a heifer or ox transmitting the disease is very rare.**

**Answer:** Oxen cannot transmit the disease, and heifers if not pregnant are fine. If they come from a herd of unknown Brucella status, they should not be sold as they may be latently infected.

**Question: I would like the rule to stay as, "All breeding animals coming to the show need to be tested for CA (Brucellosis) and TB".**

**Answer:** If not pregnant, and no sale takes place they may be shown. However infected farms are under quarantine so no animal may be moved from the farm without the permission of the local State Vet, and under cover of a Red Cross permit. There are many cases where farmers have bought in infected cattle that were sero-negative and have suffered the consequences of buying in Brucellosis into their herds. Remember you do not pay stud prices for meat of cows slaughtered for Brucellosis – cross breed and a stud animal receive the same price.

**Question: Some guys/exhibitors are trying to get it right that every animal on the farm should be tested before an animal is allowed on the show.**

**Answer:** This is our ultimate aim with the BBR scheme – to find where the disease is so that we can control its spread.

**Question: Please understand how this will drop our entry as well as create a logistical and administrative nightmare to monitor.**

**Answer:** A vet who is also an attorney was asked the question about whose responsibility is the animal at an auction (and in your case it would be the show grounds) and was referred to Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act and a manager of the ground (auction or show) will be responsible for any disease outbreak that may occur.

(1) Any owner or manager of land on which there are animals, and any owner in respect of animals, shall, whether or not such owner or manager has obtained advice regarding the health, or any certificate of fitness or health of the animals in terms of section 13 (1) (c) , from the director-

(a) take, with due observance of the provisions of this Act, all reasonable steps to prevent the infection of the animals with any animal disease, or parasite and the spreading thereof from the relevant land or animals, or which are necessary for the eradication of animal diseases and parasites on the land or in respect of the animals; and

(b) whenever such animals-

(i) have become or can reasonably be suspected of having become infected with any animal disease or parasite, apply in respect of such animals the prescribed treatment or any other treatment which may be deemed suitable and customary in the particular circumstances; and

(ii) have become or can reasonably be suspected of having become infected with any controlled animal disease, immediately report such incidence in the prescribed manner to the director.

Section 34 refers to vicarious liability, so if a sero-negative animal comes from an infected farm and the owner knows the farm is infected, he/she can be held liable.

Attached is a link to the copy of the Act



ANIMAL DISEASES  
ACT 35 OF 1984.doc

**Question: The types of animals coming to the show are:**

**Cows calved/with calf/in calf**

A barren cow does not transmit the disease, a pregnant animal if infected and calves/aborts at the show ground can. In calf must come from a herd tested for brucellosis with negative results.

**Bulls of all ages**

Should be tested.

**Heifers**

Not pregnant or from a known negative herd

**Oxen**

Cannot transmit the disease

**Please help me and comment...**

Farmers should want to “know their status” Brucellosis is not only a zoonotic disease, but also a disease which negatively effects the economy of a farming enterprise, and can cause financial ruin. Use a negative status as a status symbol – announce it at the show that these animals are from a negative TB and BBR herd .....it will get other farmers thinking about their status.

Brucellosis is an emotional disease .....I have cried with many farmers whose herds have become infected and seen years of sweat, toil planning and breeding being destroyed by this disease. I feel for them because Brucellosis is a disease that can be prevented and controlled. Don't let shows and auctions be a part of the problem in spreading disease.

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 by my private vet  
never/regularly
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/moderate/good

Note: Vaccination does not mean freedom from Bovine Brucellosis as cattle can still be carriers

Please attach most recent *Brucella* blood test certificate

Owner or authorised representative:.....

Signature:.....

## 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](http://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/>









Sweating sickness		X	X	X	X				X
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## 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	X	X	X	X	X		X
Blue tongue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rift Valley Fever									
Wesselsbron									
Nagana									

Serious outbreaks of lumpy skin disease, three day stiff sickness and blue tongue were reported. In most cases animals were not vaccinated.

Standing water is present in many parts of the summer rainfall areas. This is the ideal habitat for mosquitoes to breed. Mosquitoes are the hosts spreading the Rift Valley fever virus and midges spread blue tongue viruses. Other insect transmitted viruses are lumpy skin disease, three day stiff sickness, Wesselsbron disease and African horse sickness. There are other viruses that we sometimes encounter such as Wesselsbron, Akabane and West Nile fever viruses but we hardly talk about them.

Be on the lookout for these diseases. If possible move valuable animals to higher areas on the farm and spray them with insect repellent actives such as deltamethrin if needed.

## 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					
<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	X
Botulism				X	X				
Pulpy kidney	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lamb dysentery									
Swelled head		X	X	X	X			X	
Red gut (cattle)	X			X	X	X			
Blood gut (sheep)	X			X	X			X	
Tetanus					X				
Salmonellosis					X	X			
Bovine brucellosis	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Ovine brucellosis (Ram's disease)		X			X		X	X	
<i>Actinobacillus seminis</i>									
Bovine tuberculosis									
Johne's								X	
Leptospirosis									
Listeriosis									
<i>Pseudomonas</i>									
<i>Fusibacterium necrophorum</i>					X		X		
Septicaemia		X		X	X				
<i>E. coli</i>	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Enzootic abortion				X	X				X
Lumpy wool					X				X
Uterine gangrene									
Bovine dermatophilosis (Senkobo disease)	X								
Wooden tongue									
Lumpy jaw									

Comment: Too many diseases are reported for which vaccines are available. Visit your veterinarian to update your vaccination programme.

The brucellosis control programme consists of:

V = Vaccinate all heifers between the ages of 4 and 8 months with either strain 19 or RB 51

E = Educate: visit [www.nahf](http://www.nahf), click on Information centre, click on diseases and then on Brucellosis

T = Test: arrange to have your herd tested, **KNOW YOUR STATUS!**

Due to wet wool fleeces caused by rain, be aware of lumpy wool caused by a bacteria.

## 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		
Rabies (cattle)					X				
BVD			X						
IBR					X	X			
BRSV									
PI3					X				
Maedi visna virus									
Rotavirus / Coronavirus									
Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)					X	X	X	X	
Sheep leucosis									
Jaagsiekte							X		
Orf	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Warts	X		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.

Discuss vaccination programmes and biosecurity measures 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	X		

## Protozoal diseases

Protozoal diseases	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
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Bracken fern									
Pollen beetle ( <i>Astylus atromaculatus</i> )									
Water contamination									
Nitrate									
Urea		x						x	
Snake bite					x	x			x
Moth cocoons (impaction)									
Blue green algae									
Copper					x				x
Selenium									
Zinc									
Fluoride									
Lead									
Paraquat									
Phosamine									
Organophosphate									
Zinc phosphide									
Pyrethroid									
Amitraz									
Levamisole									
Tilmicosin									
Ionophor									
Hypo					x				

Beware when buying in animals as they are the animals which usually eat toxic plants such as tulp.

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

[www.landbou.com](http://www.landbou.com)

Klik op Indeks van antwoorde

Klik op Beeste of Skape

Klik op Vergiftigings

Klik op die Opskrifte

Urea poisoning was on the increase which is due to a management problem.

Before treating animals read the lable or packet insert and make sure of the dosage rate and warnings.

Chemical substances are recorded every month as being the cause of huge losses. Top of the list is urea poisoning. Numerous cattle died when they entered a shed and consumed a chemical containing copper that was used for potatoes.

**Nutritional deficiencies**





Joint ill	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Lameness/foot problems	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lung infection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mastitis	X			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

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	X
Displaced abomasums		X				X		X	
Ketosis (Domsiekte)					X				X
Milk fever	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
Dystocia (difficult births)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Endometritis	X	X			X	X		X	
Hydrops									
Metritis	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Poor conception	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Retained afterbirth	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Sheath prolaps	X	X			X	X			
Uterine prolaps	X	X			X	X		X	X
Vaginal prolaps	X	X			X	X		X	X
Penis injury									

Regular visits of your veterinarian can help you to improve your animals' calving percentage!

## Environmental conditions

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

## Other conditions

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

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### **Practices that had nothing to report**

**Malmesbury – Dr. N.J. Heyns**

**Pietermaritzburg – Dr. Rick Mapham**

**Plettenberg Bay – Dr. André Reitz**

**Stutterheim – Dr. Dave Watermann**

**Vanderbijlpark – Dr. Kobus Kok**

**Vaalwater – Dr. Hampie van Staden**

### **Ostriches**

#### **Western Cape**

**Oudtshoorn – Ostrimed**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Nuisance flies	Thunderstorms (1-4mm) suddenly a lot more flies
Poor doers	Slow growth rate/ mass gain – cold mornings hot day times just too large fluctuations. Poor feed intake = poor growth increased problems
Upper respiratory problems	Few cases of sinusitis/rhinitis – dust of winds/ thunderstorms

## **Equines**

### **Mpumalanga**

#### **Delmas**

African horse sickness – 2 cases confirmed, other cases reported by farmers

Middelburg virus – 2 cases confirmed by PCR

West Nile Virus – 1 positive on PCR

#### **Middelburg**

Brown ear-tick – 2

African Horse Sickness and Equine Encephalitis Virus – confirmed and unconfirmed cases

### **Gauteng**

#### **Bronkhorstspuit**

African Horse sickness- 8 cases

West Nile Fever – 1 suspected case

Biliary – 1

Brown ear-tick – 3 rotten ears

Colic – 2

Trauma- wire cut wounds

### **Limpopo**

#### **Mokopane**

African Horse Sickness – 1

### **North West**

#### **Klerksdorp**

African Horse Sickness – 3 Many cases in unvaccinated farm horses

#### **Viljoenskroon**

African Horse Sickness- 2

#### **Vryburg**

African Horse Sickness – 2

### **Free State**

#### **Ladybrand/Excelsior**

Blowflies – 1

#### **Trompsburg**

A stock horse was brought in with biliary which is relatively uncommon around here.

### **KwaZulu-Natal**

#### **Underberg**

Middelburg virus – 1

Rabies – 1 suspected jackal

Worm infestation – three deaths in black wildebeest  
Tick infestation - severe

## **Eastern Cape**

### **Graaff-Reinet**

Ringworm -2

## **Northern Cape**

### **Colesberg**

Middelburg virus – Few horses, neurological signs

Equine encephalosis

West Nile Fever – 3 cases

### **Upington**

African horse sickness – Numerous cases from Groblershoop to Augrabies. Some horses that were vaccinated against AHS developed fever of 40 degrees Celsius but recovered after 3-4 days.

## **Game**

## **Mpumalanga**

### **Bronkhorstspuit**

Eye infections – Eland, 4 cases; Nyala, 3 cases

### **Kaapmuiden**

Wireworm – Blesbok in boma

Bont ticks – Lots of bont ticks in giraffe with severe snare wound (immune suppression and time of year)

Red-legged ticks in general

### **Malalane**

Brown ear-tick – Kudu, tick damage to ears

## **Gauteng**

### **Magaliesburg**

Q- fever abortion in Sable- *Coxiella burnetti*

Myiasis in wounds

## **Limpopo**

### **Bela-Bela**

Anaemia – Two sable with severe anaemia, blood tests negative, both died

Cachexia – One blesbok, thin and cachectic, died

### **Lephalale**

Wireworm

### **Mokopane**

Intestinal roundworms - 1

Abscess - 1

Blue ticks – 1

Brown ear ticks - 1

Heartwater ticks – 3  
Red legged-ticks – 1  
Screw-worm - 2

### **Polokwane**

Intestinal roundworms – 3  
Resistant roundworms - 3  
Brown ear-tick – 3  
Bont-legged tick -3  
Coccidiosis – 1  
Dystocia - 1  
Abscesses – 2  
Capture myopathy - 1

## **North West**

### **Klerksdorp**

Intestinal roundworms – 3  
Tapeworms - 1  
Blue ticks – 3, good rains contributed to high tick numbers  
Bont-legged ticks – 3  
Red-legged ticks – 3  
*E. coli* – 3  
Lameness - 2  
Capture myopathy – 2 Animals transported in wrong crates. Heat stress in another case.

### **Schweizer-Reneke**

Sore eyes - 3

## **Eastern Cape**

### **Middelburg**

Bont-legged ticks – 3

## **Northern Cape**

### **Kimberley**

Wireworm - Bontebokke 2

### **Upington**

Pneumonia – Eland

Pneumonia – Steenbuck and Duikers that are hand reared develop pneumonia and die

## **Swine**

## **Eastern Cape**

### **Humansdorp**

*Brachyspira* -1 swine dysentery

*Salmonella* - 1



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

**Vetdiagnostix**

Enteritis caused by a combination of *Cryptosporidium* and *E. coli* continued to be identified in lambs [8] and calves [4] from all over the country. *E. coli* alone was found in lambs [1], calves [6], impala [1] and piglets [3]. One of the calf isolates was an ESBL [Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase] producer. Another cause of enteritis was *Clostridium perfringens* in cattle [1].

Mastitis in cattle was caused by an ESBL positive *E. coli*, also *Streptococcus uberis* and *Corynebacterium amycolatum*, and in a goat by *Staphylococcus aureus*. *S. aureus* also caused a bovine lung abscess.

Respiratory disease in feedlot cattle was associated with *Mannheimia haemolytica* [2], *Mycoplasma* [2], *Histophilus somni*, *Pasteurella multocida* and *Trueperella pyogenes*. *T. pyogenes* was also the cause of an infected sheep hoof, together with the anaerobe, *Porphyromonas*, an abscess in a sable, and pneumonia in a giraffe.

Clostridial myosotis was caused by *C. novyi* in cattle [3] and *C. septicum* and *C. sordellii* in sheep.

Other infections in sheep were pneumonia due to *Streptococcus suis* and an abscess due to *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*.

Septicaemia in a pig was due to an ESBL positive strain of *Salmonella* Choleraesuis. It is rare to find ESBL production in *Salmonella* strains. Pneumonia in a pig was caused by *Pasteurella multocida* and *Streptococcus suis*. *S. suis* can cause disease in a variety of animals and man, and not only pigs.

Respiratory tract disease in horses was associated with *Streptococcus zooepidemicus* [3], *S. dysgalactiae*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* [2]. Metritis was also associated with *S. zooepidemicus* and *Candida tropicalis*. Peritonitis yielded *S. dysgalactiae*, a skin abscess *Sporothrix schenkii* and a stallion was found to carry *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in his semen.

*Streptococcus* infections were also found in wildlife: *S. dysgalactiae* from the joint of a sable, and *S. suis* from a rhino with respiratory disease.

An abortion in a cheetah was associated with *Salmonella* Typhimurium, which is commonly carried by rodents.

**Monthly report on Livestock and Wildlife isolations for March 2017 from IDEXX Laboratories supplied by dr. Liza du Plessis ([Liza-DuPlessis@idexx.com](mailto:Liza-DuPlessis@idexx.com))**

Condition	Comments and Specie
Anaplasmosis	B 1
Heartwater	G 2

Theileriosis	G 1
A-typical three day stiff sickness	B 1
Jaagsiekte	O 1
Pneumonia	O 1
Equine sarcoid	E 1
Sporotrichosis	E 1
Abortions	B,O 2

## **Feedlot report received from Drs. Shaun Morris, Eben du Preez and Pierre Jansen Van Vuuren for March 2017 ([edupreez1@telkomsa.net](mailto:edupreez1@telkomsa.net))**

### Sheep feedlots

Lambs arriving in poor condition had mostly severe wireworm (*Haemonchus*) infestations. Those were also the ones that did not react well to the vaccinations and deaths due to mal-adaptation, pulpy kidney, blood gut and emaciation that occurred.

In general , conditions were good due to better grazing after the good rains.

Few cases of salmonellosis were diagnosed as well as coccidiosis and foot abscesses.

*Trueperella* abscesses, pneumonia due to *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Pasteurella multocida*, peritonitis and *Stilezia hepatica* (liver tapeworm) were seen at abattoirs.

### Cattle feedlots

At abattoirs carcasses were condemned due to measles, icterus (mostly anaplasmosis), lumpy skin lesions and fever carcasses. Organs were condemned due to liver abscesses, pneumonia and peritonitis. *Parafilaria* caused a lot of trimming on the carcasses.

In the feedlots the morbidities and mortalities increased due to the changes in the weather with the nights becoming cooler and the days that are still very hot. Newly weaned and very light weight calves arriving are also a common part of the problem.

In areas where it became dry again, the dust is also severe and contributes to many mortalities due to Acute Interstitial Pneumonia (AIP) .

Few cases of clostridial diseases occurred with red gut more and few blackquarter.

Lameness due to injuries and footrot, especially when the pens started drying off after the rains.

Anaplasmosis and red water (Babesiosis) caused many mortalities. Few heartwater cases occurred.

## **Feedlot report received from Dr. Andy Hentzen for March 2017 ([andyvet@mweb.co.za](mailto:andyvet@mweb.co.za))**

Condition	Comments and Specie
Cysticercosis	B3
Blue ticks	B 3
Brown ear-ticks	B 3
Bont-legged ticks	B2
Nuisance flies	B 3
Midges	B3
African red water	B3
Asiatic red water	B3
Anaplasmosis	B2
Heartwater	B1
Sweating sickness	B1
Lumpy skin disease	B3
Three Day Stiff sickness	B3
Blackleg	B2
Swelled head	B1
Red gut	B 3
Ringworm	B 2
BVD	B 2
IBR	B 3
Protein deficiency	B 3
Energy	B3
Copper deficiency	B 2
Zinc deficiency	B 2
Selenium deficiency	B 3
Vitamin A deficiency	B 3
Combination of trace mineral deficiencies	B 3
Lameness	B3
Lungs	B3
Diarrhoea	B3
Abscesses	B,C3

## Monthly report for March 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 SURVEILLANCE			
LIVESTOCK SPECIES	DISEASE AGENT	NO. CASES	LOCATION
Equine, Adult Stallion	Oxalate nephrosis	1	Midrand, Gauteng
Bovine, Jersey Cow	Salmonellosis	1	Underberg, KZN
Bovine, Dairy Heifer	Atypical pulmonary ephemeral fever	1	Howick, KZN
Bovine, Dairy Calf	Mycotic abomasitis	1	Durbanville, W. Cape
Ovine, Adult Ewes	Ovine Johne's Disease - paratuberculosis	2	Moorressburg, W. Cape

Bovine, Adult Cow	Theileriosis	1	Malelane, Limpopo
WILDLIFE DISEASE SURVEILANCE - 2017			
WILDLIFE SPECIES	DISEASE AGENT	NO. CASES	LOCATION
Sable Antelope Bull	Cutaneous parakeratosis	1	Thabazimbi, Limpopo
Impala, Lamb	Coccidiosis	1	Polokwane, Limpopo
Impala, Lamb	Cryptosporidiosis	1	Thabazimbi, Limpopo
Sable Antelope Cow	Haemonchosis	1	Thabazimbi, Limpopo
Roan Antelope, Stillbirth	Thyroid goitre	1	Kroonstad, Free State
Sable Antelope, Yearling Bull	Salmonellosis	1	Elisras, Limpopo
Impala, Ewe	Rumen acidosis	1	Rooibkkrall, Limpopo
Impala, Lamb	Forestomach mycotic rumenitis	1	Koedoeskop, Limpopo
Sable Antelope, Calf 2 months	Cerebral babesiosis	1	White River, Mpumalanga
Roan Antelope, Bull	Haemonchosis	1	Thabazimbi, Limpopo
Impala, Calf 4 months	Heart-pluck clostridial myositis	1	Pretoria, Gauteng
Wildebeest Golden, Adult Cow	Rumen acidosis and hypersensitivity pneumonia	1	Uitenhage, E. Cape

**Monthly report for March 2017 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 1
Liver fluke worms		B 1
Blowflies		O 3
Asiatic red water		B 3
Anaplasmosis		B 3
Heartwater	Cofimvaba	B,O 3
Lumpy skin disease		B 1
Blue tongue	Tsomo/Sterkspruit	O 3
African Horse sickness	Stutterheim	E 1
Pulpy kidney		O 1
Clotridium septicum		B 1
Bovine Brucellosis	Maclear	B 2

	Umzimvubu	
<i>Brucella ovis</i>	Queenstown	O 3
BMC (Snotsiekte)	Queenstown (WAV) Tsome (SAV)	B 2
Rabies	Dutywa	Ovine 1
Jaagsiekte	Elliot	O 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 March 2017 from Dr. Lucy Lange: PathCare Vetlab**  
[lange@pathcare.co.za](mailto:lange@pathcare.co.za)

Disase condition	Specie
<b>Pneumonia/Pasteurella</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b><i>Campylobacter</i></b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b><i>Tritrichomonas</i></b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>Salmonellosis</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>Oak toxicity</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>Septicemia</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>Snotsiekte (BMC)</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>Brucellosis</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>Squamous cell carcinoma</b>	<b>Horses</b>
<b>Sarcoid</b>	<b>Horses</b>
<b>Melanoma</b>	<b>Horses</b>
<b>Hepatotoxicosis</b>	<b>Horses</b>
<b>Parasitic dermatits</b>	<b>Horses</b>
<b>Laminar cortico-necrosis</b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b>Neonatal septicemia</b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b><i>Cryptosporidium</i></b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b>Johne's disease</b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b>Pulpy kidney</b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b><i>Corynebacterium absesses</i></b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b>Pregnancy toxaemia</b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b>Pulpy kidney</b>	<b>Boer goats</b>
<b>Vitamin E/Selenium deficiency</b>	<b>Pigs</b>
<b>Pneumonia</b>	<b>Pigs</b>

<b>Game:</b>	
<b>Fibrosis of the heart</b>	<b>Sable</b>
<b>Severe worm infestation</b>	<b>Sable</b>
<b>Severe pneumonia</b>	<b>Sable</b>
<b>Pregnancy toxemia</b>	<b>Springbok</b>
<b>Coccidiosis</b>	<b>Buffalo</b>
<b>Myopathy</b>	<b>Bontebok</b>
<b>Bacterial enteritis</b>	<b>Impala</b>
<b>Myopathy</b>	<b>Waterbuck</b>

## Report from Dr. Emily Lane Wildlife Pathology Research Programme



**WILDLIFE PATHOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAMME**  
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27 February 2017

DAFF

Import/Export Policy Unit Subdirector

## Monthly report:

Cases sent to referring veterinarians between 27<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

Cases from State vet Skukuza or Orpen (none)

Cases imported with master permit (none)

PMDate	Species	Final	PM No
20-Jan-17	Cheetah	Chronic renal disease, systemic amyloidosis, enteritis	17Z018
31-Jan-17	Serval	Suspected oxalate nephrosis	17Z029
31-Jan-17	African Buffalo	Suspected iron storage disease	17Z030
31-Jan-17	White Rhino	Encephalitis	17Z031
03-Feb-17	African Black Duck	Suspected pulmonary carcinoma	17Z032
03-Feb-17	Ring tailed Lemur	Toxoplasmosis	17Z033
03-Feb-17	Ring tailed Lemur	Toxoplasmosis	17Z034
03-Feb-17	Ring tailed Lemur	Presumed Toxoplasmosis	17Z035
03-Feb-17	Ring tailed Lemur	Presumed Toxoplasma	17Z036
08-Feb-17	Cheetah	Grade 3 gastritis	17Z037B
09-Feb-17	White faced Owl	Fungal and bacterial blepharitis	17Z038B
09-Feb-17	Black Rhino	Traumatic injury (poaching)	17Z039
14-Feb-17	Axolotl	Suspected maladaptation to cavity	17Z042
17-Feb-17	Axolotl	Suspected maladaptation to captivity	17Z046