

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

January 2017

Previous disease reports can be seen on the RuVASA website www.ruvasa.co.za

Click on Disease Reports

The following practices and laboratories (126) submitted reports during January 2016:

Mpumalanga (13)

Balfour – Dr. Louis van Jaarsveld
Bethal – Dr. Hardus Pieters
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 an Bernitz
Nelspruit – Dr. André Beytell
Piet Retief – Drs. Niebuhr and Weber
Standerton – Dr. Kobie Kroon
Volksrust – Drs. Watson, Solomon and Scheepers

Gauteng (8)

Bapsfontein – Drs. Engelbrecht, Olivier and Ribbens
Bronkhorstspuit – Drs. De Bruin, De Bruin, Rudolph and Slabber
Krugersdorp Animal Hospital – Drs. Walter and Van Eeden
Magaliesburg – Dr. Ryan Jeffery
Nigel – Dr. Cindy van der Westhuizen
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 (7)

Bela-Bela – Dr. Nele Sabbe
Makhado (Louis Trichardt) – Drs. Harris, Klopper and Jacos

Modimolle – Drs. Bredell, Barnard and Slabbert

Mokopane (Potgietersrus) - Dr. Henk Visser

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

Vaalwater – Dr. Hampie van Staden

Vaalwater – Dr. Annemieke van der Goot

North West (10)

Brits – Drs. Boshoff and Coertze

Christiana - Dr. Pieter Nel

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

Klerksorp – Drs. Coetzee and Venter

Leeudoringstad – Dr. Ian Jonker

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

Schweizer- Reneke – Dr. Cizelle Naudé

Stella - Dr. Magdaleen Vossler

Ventersdorp/ Koster – Drs. Marais and Benadé

Vryburg – Dr. Jurie Kritzinger

Free State (24)

Bethlehem – Drs. Strydom and Strydom

Bethlehem – Dr. J. C. Du Plessis

Bloemfontein – Dr. Stphan Wessels

Bothaville – Dr. Johan Blaauw

Bultfontein – Dr. Santjie Pieterse

Clocolan – Dr. 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

Viljoenskroon - Dr. Johan Kahts

Villiers – Drs. Hattingh and Hauptfleisch

Vrede – Drs. Bester-Cloete and Fourie

Wesselsbron – Dr. Johan Jacobs

Zastron – Drs. Troskie and Strauss

KwaZulu-Natal (15)

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
Greytown – Dr. Mike Caldicott
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
Cradock – Dr. Frans Erasmus
Graaff-Reinet - Dr. Roland Larson
Graaff-Reinet – Hobson, Strydom and Hennesy
Humansdorp – Drs. Van Niekerk and Janse Van Vuuren
Kareedouw- Dr. Marten Bootsma
Middelburg/Steynsburg – Drs. Van Rooyen and Viljoen
Stutterheim - Dr. Dave Waterman
Uitenhage – Drs. Mulder and Krüger

Western Cape (20)

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
George (Hoekwil) – Dr. Riaan Putter
Heidelberg – Dr. Albert van Zyl
Malmesbury – Dr. Otto Kriek
Malmesbury – Dr. Markus Fourie
Malmesbury – Drs. Bosman and Groenewald
Montagu – Dr. Trudie Prinsloo
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 and Venter
Vredenburg – Dr. Izak Rust
Wellington – Dr. William van Zyl

Northern Cape (9)

De Aar – Dr. Donald Anderson
Calvinia – Dr. Bertus Nel
Jan Kempdorp – Dr. Jan Brand
Kathu – Dr. Jan Vorster
Kimberley – Drs Van Heerden and Swart
Kuruman - Dr. Lea Shuda
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 are reported from numerous areas where good rainfall figures were recorded.

Many outbreaks of lumpy skin disease, three day stiff sickness, blue tongue, African red water, Asiatic red water, heartwater and anaplasmosis were recorded. There are good vaccines available and **THIS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN!**

Plan now already to vaccinate animals before the next rainy season start.

Reports of an increase in mosquito numbers were received. Rift Valley Fever should always be kept in mind . Report incidences of abortions and mortalities immediately to your veterinarian!

Red Meat Industry Workshop 2017

Visit: <http://www.syntagm.co.za/rmi/>

Subsequent to the Stockman School, the Federation of Primary Red Meat Producers (RPO and NERPO) as well as the RMIF (Red Meat Industry Forum) supported the BGP PC objective to conduct a Red Meat Industry workshop during the first quarter of 2017 with the aim to establish a strategic roadmap for the SA Red Meat Industry to become a world-class competitor.

Theme:

"Unlocking value for every actor in the SA red meat industry and becoming a world class competitor"

Animal Identification and Traceability of animals, the key to successful animal production!

This is such an important issue that it is kept on the report for another month.

The future of animal production lies in food security, supplying a safe product to customers, having a healthy national herd/flock of animals and expanding our local and export market!

When it comes to proper livestock management, the identification of every animal in your herd is important right from the outset. It is essential that you mark your animals with a high-quality tag and a unique number which cannot be duplicated. Make sure that you capture the animal's details and all other details regarding his/her history, in a management system.

Tests conducted by the state veterinarian or a private veterinarian, can be accurately linked to specific animals. A good management system also assists the producer in recording test results and information about the abattoir where his animals are slaughtered.

It is very important to keep records of the animal's initial immunisation information. Record the information and make sure you are able to use the name of the product, expiry date and serial number for further reference or audits.

Insist that suppliers give you the necessary certification before you release the "beautiful infected bargain" which you bought at the auction into your herd. Brucellosis raises many concerns in the South African livestock industry. Make sure you record everything you buy from reliable suppliers in your register. It may be of great help when you have to trace information if heifers, cows or bulls prove to be latent brucellosis carriers.

Characteristics of a good management system

Identification of individual animals and recording of data next to the number

Make sure your animals are marked with a tag containing a unique number. Duplication of numbers can cause problems when positive blood tests are linked to animals whose identity is questionable or tags may be swapped between tests and results.

Duplication and data integrity

The processing environment has its challenges and the numbers may easily be entered or written down erroneously. Therefore it is convenient to enter the tags from a stock list in your management system. When the animal's number is entered into the system, make sure the tag numbers are not duplicated.

Recording of immunisations to comply with legal requirements

If all the animals are on an auditable management system, the planning, management of immunisations and compliance to legal requirements become all the more easier. A list of these records can be printed and one can plan when to obtain the correct inoculants, determine the immunisation data and time, and prepare the animals accordingly. The name, serial number and expiry date of the inoculants may be recorded or written down at the same time.

Recording of blood tests and monitoring of disease status

Make sure every blood test, regardless of the result, is recorded in the system. Use a management system which allows you to add test results to your database by means of the internet. This will eliminate unnecessary extra work when adding results.

Certification and declarations from producers when animals are sold

Insist on certification. There is nothing as damning as when the brucellosis axe falls in your herd. This disease can be eradicated from your herd and controlled through good management practices and the necessary precautions.

Recording, disease management and record keeping

This is key to combating infections or the spread of diseases in your herd. It assists in preventing and combating financial losses, risks and the dangers of brucellosis infections in your herd.

Practical application

Dr. Santjie Ferreira from Bultfontein in the Free State uses the GMPBasic[®]-management software since 2010 to record and manage her beef herd's production, reproduction, health treatments and recording and additionally to also manage and control brucellosis.

Every animal is marked at birth individually with a uniquely numbered ear tag issued by the GMP Traceability central database. Each tagged animal is registered in the software, cross-referenced and linked to the dam and is also synchronised to the central database.

Records are kept of:

- Cow, calf and bull groups
- Regular weight recordings

- Weaning weights
- Breeding group conception percentages
- Cow birth records
- Calving percentage of breeding groups
- Genetic selection
- Dispatch documents (Article 6 and 8 of the Stock Theft form)
- Medication and health treatments
- Procedures conducted and by whom
- Disease tests and their results

Testing for brucellosis

Her herd's test results have been recorded into the system since 2011. In 2015 she repeated the test method according to the state veterinary recommendations. All the cows, bulls and female animals older than 18 months were bled for testing and were tested for the presence of a brucellosis infection in the herd. These tests were repeated three times with intervals of approximately two months. The herd tests received back from the Free State Veterinary laboratories tested negative on all three occasions. Any cow that had even a false positive was summarily removed from the herd and dispatched from the Farm profile to the nearest approved abattoir.

Traceability test records

These bleeding procedures and the results were recorded to the management system. For traceability and record purposes all cross references such as the laboratory name, test official, veterinarian responsible for the blood collection and subsequent test results of each cow versus its unique traceable system number were recorded in the central database.. Each cow's calves were tagged and recorded against the dam's records where they are available for viewing and checking. Hence the heifers are correctly identified and can be verified, even with DNA if such a need arises. These heifers can then be made available for sale as low risk brucellosis heifers from this herd even before they are individually tested at a later age. Buyers can then purchase these commercial heifers for new genetic material or to build a herd at a low risk of contracting or "buying-in" brucellosis. The risk of contracting brucellosis from this herd is practically zero! It is a system and procedure which is a whole lot safer and more accurate than buying cows or heifers from another producer or at an auction where there are no records available or cattle sold on the basis of a solitary test result to unsuspecting buyers as "clean and certified" animals.

Central database

All records are stored on the central databases form where they may be viewed by authorised individuals e.g. at a cow or heifer sale or a bull sale or bull dispatch when they have been tested negative for **Trichomonosis** and **Vibriosis** with 3 **PCR** tests. It can also be very useful for veterinarians when they want to monitor the movement of such animals in the herd health planning of a herd. The same principles are applicable to positive animals. Their movements to abattoirs and status change after slaughtering at the abattoir can be monitored on the system. These movements can be audited for various purposes.

For further information contact Dr. Santjie Pieterse (dr.sdferreira@shisas.net) and Rachele Cloete (support@gmpbasic.co.za)

Visit the website of the National Animal Health Forum

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

www.nahf.co.za

Read what the Forum is all about:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This link will continuously be updated.

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

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

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

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

Besoek ook www.landbou.com

Klik op Indeks van antwoorde

Klik op Beeste

Klik op Siektes

Klik op Brusellose

Klik op die verskillende antwoorde

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

V = Vaccinate

E = Educate

T = Test

Summary of disease report for January 2017

126 Reports from veterinary practices and laboratories were received (Mpumalanga (MP) 13; Gauteng (G) 8; Limpopo (L) 7; North West (NW) 10 Free State (FS) 24; KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) 15; Eastern Cape (EC) 11; Western Cape (WC) 20; Northern Cape (NC) 9; Feedlots (FL) 2 and Laboratories (Lab) 7).

Internal parasites

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

Internal parasites	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Roundworms	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Resistant roundworms	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Wireworm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brown stomach-worm						X			
Large-mouthed bowelworm									
Nodularworm									
Lungworm									
Eyeworm									
<i>Parafilaria</i>			X			X	X		
Tapeworms	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Liver fluke	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Conical fluke	X				X		X		
Cysticercosis (measles)	X								
Schistosomiasis (bilharzia)									
Coccidiosis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cryptosporidiosis					X				

Parasites thrive when good rains fall! Internal parasite outbreaks with numerous mortalities, especially due to wireworm were reported. On one farm 64 out of 500 lambs died of a severe wireworm infestation. Farmers should be aware of clinical signs of parasitism i.e. anaemia (pale mucous membranes), bottle jaw, weight loss and diarrhoea. Visit www.wormx.info for more information and videos on the FAMACHA and Five point check management systems. Contact your veterinarian regarding the Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) to establish which dewormers (active groups) can still be used effectively in your flock to control worms. Evaluate the group of anthelmintic used after each treatment and record your finding.

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	

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

Uterine gangrene									
Bovine dermatophilosis (Senkobo disease)	x					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, 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		
Rabies (cattle)				x	x	x			
BVD			x		x			x	
IBR									
BRSV									
PI3									
Maedi visna virus									
Rotavirus / Coronavirus					x				
Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)					x	x	x	x	
Sheep leucosis									
Jaagsiekte									
Orf	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.

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 the calving season, when calves are weaned and during the hunting season when they are stressed. A vaccine against snotsiekte is at present being tested.

Ryegrass								X		
Ganskweek										
Paspalum staggers										
Photosensitivity (Turknael, <i>Erodium moschatum</i>)										
Photosensitivity (Stellenbosch)										
Lusern										
Mycotoxycosis										
Diplodiosis										
Lupins										
Harpuisbos										
Syringa berries										
Kraalbos										
Crotolaria										
Radish										
Carrot poisoning										
Onion poisoning										
Bracken fern										
Pollen beetle (<i>Astylus atromaculatus</i>)										
Water contamination										
Nitrate						X				
Urea	X					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										

Toxic plants are usually greener than the natural grazing and farmers should be aware of these plants and which clinical signs are seen when they are eaten. Tulp toxicity was the major cause of death.

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

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. In October over 90 cows died as a result of zincphosphide poisoning!

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

Micro-nutritional deficiencies

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

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

Beware of fluoride poisoning as borehole water levels fall.

Supplement animals with vitamin A during drought conditions.

Multifactorial diseases and other conditions

The following conditions were reported by practices in the provinces

Multifactorial diseases and other conditions	MP	G	L	NW	FS	KZN	EC	WC	NC
Abortions				X	X	X	X	X	X
Stillbirths					X	X			
Abscesses	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Intestinal ulcers									
Bladder stones -urolithiasis					X				
Blindness					X			X	X
Bloat		X			X			X	X
Blue udder					X			X	
Diarrhoea	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Epididymitis					X				
Eye cancer		X		X	X	X		X	X
Eye infections	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Joint ill				X	X	X	X		
Lameness/foot problems	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)									
Rectal prolaps									
Trauma		X		X					X
Teeth wear									
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	
Displaced abomasums		X			X	X			
Ketosis (Domsiekte)					X	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	
Hydrops									
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			x
Uterine prolaps	x				x			x	x
Vaginal prolaps		x			x	x	x		
Penis injury									

Environmental conditions

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

Other conditions

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

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 – Dr. Silke Pfitzer
 Greytown – Dr. Mike Caldicott
 Jan Kempdorp – Dr. Jan Brandt
 Pietermaritzburg – Dr. Rick Mapham
 Piketberg – Dr. Andre van der Merwe
 Plettenberg Bay – Dr. Stephan Nell
 Stutterheim – Dr. Dave Watermann

Ostriches

Western Cape

Oudtshoorn – Ostrimed

Condition	Comments
Bont-legged tick -1	
Midges/flies -2	Hot weather with flood irrigation allocation has seen an explosion of insects, dry hot weather forces insects to search for moisture? Thunderstorm weather brings out plenty of flies.
Diarrhoea-3	Very hot days or over heating followed by cooler days trigger diarrhoea. Severe tiflocolitis – normal entero flora overgrowth notably <i>Clostridium</i> group. Peracute to acute condition. If preliminary antibiotics (oxytetracyclines or macrolides) do not work mortality rate of 80% is to be expected. 2nd and 3rd generation antibiotics or quinolones have little to no effect.
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type A- 3	Heat wave days result in lowered feed intake, moderate weather following result in increase/ over intake op highly fermentable and digestible nutrients. Overgrowth of <i>Clostridium</i> = rooiderm= enterotoxaemia
Navell ill - 2	
Energy deficiency - 3	Heat waves reduce feed intake considerably.
Acidosis -2	Low on manpower. Tendency to over feed or make flocks too large for easy feeding management. Farmers on leave so workers adjust their SOP to accommodate holiday feeding. Seen many birds with acidosis – overeating on maize and <i>Clostridium</i> enterotoxaemia due to over and underfeeding.
Heat stroke/cold weather - 3	Very hot weather followed by very cold day or evenings. Notably older chicks which are not fully protected suffer most. Show poor intake, negative metabolic rate and long tail of mortalities
Vitamin E, Selenium deficiency - 1	Notably seen in birds on warm rations. Together

	with high temp. this is increased oxidation of vitamins and increased free radicals resulting in classical white muscle disease.
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Equines

Gauteng

Bapsfontein

West Nile fever – 2 – Suspected awaiting results

Limpopo

Modimolle (Nylstroom)

Brown ear-ticks – 3

Pneumonia - Roans 3. November, December and January, too high concentrates fed, shipping fever complex.

Mokopane

African Horse Sickness – 1- One Horse died off mixed dunkop /dikkop infection. Head slightly swollen
Still eating eating previous afternoon , morning recumbend ,dead by 13h00. Owner from East Rand.
Horse not vaccinated

Free State

Bethlehem

Colic -1

KwaZulu-Natal

Pongola

African horse sickness – 1

Underberg

Middelburg virus – Quarter horse with Middelburg virus complicated with polysaccharide storage myopathy.

Western Cape

Oudtshoorn

Nuisance flies -3

Game

Mpumalanga

Lydenburg

Resistant roundworms – 3

Wireworm – 3

Heartwater tick – 2

Bont-legged tick – 3

Red-legged tick – 3
Lameness - 1

Gauteng

Pretoria

Biting lice – Nyala's, cattle were recently introduced into the camp
Intestinal roundworms – 3
Tapeworms – 3
Blue ticks – 2
Bont ticks - 3
Brown-ear tick – 3
Bont legged-tick – 3
Biting lice – 2
Coccidiosis – 3
Abortions – 2
Metritis – 2
Retained placenta – 1
Lameness – 3
Ophthalmia - 2

Limpopo

Bela-Bela

Theileriosis - stress – 2 sub-adult sable died probably due to theileriosis
Abortion – sable 1, *Brucella* negative
Heart valves affected – Bushbuck ewe died. Neurological signs, blood tests negative
Bont-legged ticks – Eland bull with wounds
Malnutrition – Sable cow died

Makhado

Clostridium novyi – Sable, 5 cases

Modimolle (Nylstroom)

Intestinal roundworms – 3
Resistant roundworms – 1
Screw-worm -2
Retained afterbirth – 1
Ophthalmia – 2
Abscesses - 1

Mokopane

Blue ticks – 1
Bont ticks – 2
Brown ear tick -3
Bont-legged tick - 1
Screw-worm -2
Midges – 1
Sweating sickness - 1
Abscesses – 1

Polokwane

Intestinal roundworms – 3
Brown ear-tick – 3
Bont-legged tick -3
Protein deficiency -3
Abscesses – 1

Dystocia - 3

North West

Klerksdorp

Blue ticks – 3

Bont-legged ticks – 3

Red-legged ticks – 3

E. coli – 3

Ophthalmia – 1

Diarrhoea – numerous impala lambs died

Schweizer-Reneke

Pneumonia – Roans 3. November, December and January, too high concentrates fed, shipping fever complex.

Stella

Intestinal roundworms – 3

Free State

Gariep dam

Malnutrition – 4 Sable died during drought in Koffiefontein area

KwaZulu-Natal

Pongola

“Sudden death” syndrome. In white rhino one sees “epileptic fit” Will graze and next moment pulls back ears, lifts head, star gazing, ataxia and stumble or fall down. After 20 seconds back to normal. Problem unknown in KZN except this recent outbreak on a game farm where previously cattle were farmed. Paddock of pasture was fertilized following above average rainfall and rhino picked up *Clostridium .novyi* spores which sporulated and endotoxins affect duodenum and jejunum, liver, heart and lungs. “Fit” Sx from Hepatoencephalopathy. Contact Dr. Heinz Kohrs for further details. Pulpy kidney – Lechwe - 3, Typical ‘pulpy kidney’ PM. 13 out of 14 lechwe died following exposure to same pasture/paddock as white rhino above.

Heartwater - Odd strains of heartwater?

Orf - 2

Swelled head – 2

Pulpy kidney -1

Underberg

Rabies – 1 Jackal in surrounding district

Eastern Cape

Middelburg

Bont-legged ticks – 3

Protein deficiency – 3

Energy deficiency - 3

Western Cape

Vredenburg

Botulism – Zebra 1, fed lucerne bales

Northern Cape

Kimberley

Botulism – Gemsbok 2

Upington

Clostridium septicum -Rhino cow died of severe oedematous gangrene of the brisket and shoulder.

Swine

Free State

Bethlehem

Lameness - 1

Dogs

North West

Stella

Rabies - 1

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

Enteritis in ruminants was again common, and caused by a combination of *Cryptosporidium* and *E. coli* [5 cases; calves, lambs and an impala lamb] or *E. coli* alone [5 calves]. *Salmonella* Dublin caused septicaemia in a calf.

Cases of mastitis were caused by *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

Other problems in ruminants were pneumonia in sheep, caused by *Pasteurella multocida*, lung abscesses in cattle caused by *Trueperella pyogenes* and *Actinomyces bovis* together with a yeast. A purulent joint from a sheep yielded *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Septicaemia in pigs was caused by *Salmonella* Choleraesuis, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pasteurella multocida* and *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*. Erysipelas in pigs is not common in South Africa, as vaccination is usually effective. In this case the pigs had been vaccinated, and so the outbreak may have been due to a strain which is not in the vaccine. There were 5 cases of enteritis in piglets due to *E. coli*, one of which was an ESBL [Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase] strain, which means that it is resistant to all penicillins and cephalosporins. Respiratory infections were caused by *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* type 9, *Pasteurella multocida* [2], *Streptococcus suis* [2], and *S. dysgalactiae*.

Enteritis in a foal was also caused by an ESBL *E. coli*. Equine uterine infections were caused by *Enterobacter* [2 cases; one strain was ESBL positive], *Streptococcus zooepidemicus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [2]. Respiratory infections yielded *S. zooepidemicus*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *P. aeruginosa*. An infected lacrimal duct yielded *S. zooepidemicus*. *Rhodococcus equi* [2], *Streptococcus dysgalactiae*, *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* and *Pasteurella caballi* were isolated from equine abscesses. *Sporothrix schenckii* was isolated from skin nodules. A joint infection was attributed to *S. aureus*.

Rhodococcus equi was also the cause of septicaemia in a springbok.

A rhino was positive for *Clostridium novyi* [FA test].

A cheetah with a tooth abscess yielded *Streptococcus canis*, *E. coli* and *Enterobacter*.

Moraxella bovoculi and many yeasts were isolated from a nyala with conjunctivitis. The yeast were probably secondary invaders after antibiotic treatment, and not the cause of the problem.

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

Condition	Comments and Specie
Bont ticks	E,G 2
Theileriosis	G 1
Red gut	B 1
BMC (snotsiekte)	B 1
Protein/Energy	B,G 2
Abortion	B,G 1
Mastitis	G 1
Lameness	G 1
Lungs	O,G 1
Abscesses	G 1
Lightning	G 2
Trauma	G 1

Feedlot report received from Dr. Shaun Morris and Dr. Eben du Preez for January 2017 (edupreez1@telkomsa.net)

Sheep Feedlots:

Severe Orf (Vuilbek) outbreaks with many secondary infections.

Footrot and Sweerklou problems more than usual due to wet conditions in feedlots
Increased morbidity and mortalities due to pneumonia after the wet conditions began.

Few problems with pulpy kidney, mal-adaptation, enteritis and acidosis.

Zinc and Selenium deficiency in young lambs with posterior paralysis.

Severe wireworm infestations and in one case mortalities due to ketosis after severe worm infestations

Cattle Feedlots:

Widespread outbreaks of Lumpy Skin Disease

Footrot and injuries causing lameness due to wet pens.

Less acute interstitial pneumonia (AIP) cases as dust is not a problem after the onset of good rains.

Rain affecting feed intake resulted in more cases of bloat, acidosis, red gut and increased mortalities.

Brown ear tick infestations in background calves as well as cases of Heartwater.

Mortalities and morbidities due to Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis.

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

Condition	Comments and Specie
Resistant roundworms	O1
Liver fluke	B3, O2
Conical fluke	B1
Cysticercosis	B3
Blue ticks	B 2
Brown ear-ticks	B 3
Bont-legged ticks	B1
Biting lice	B1
Sucking lice	B3
Nuisance flies	B 1
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	B2
Trichomonosis	B3
Blackleg	B2
Red gut	B 3
Ringworm	B 3
Leptospirosis	B 1
BVD	B 3
IBR	B 3
EBL	B 1
Warts	B 3
Water contamination	B 3
Urea poisoning	B 1
Protein deficiency	B 3
Energy deficiency	B 3
Phosphate deficiency	B 2
Copper deficiency	B 2

Zinc deficiency	B 2
Selenium deficiency	B 2
Vitamin A deficiency	B 3
Combination of trace mineral deficiencies	B 3
Abortions	B 3
Dystocia	B2
Metritis	B1
Retained afterbirth	B2
Lameness	B3
Lungs	B3
Diarrhoea	B3
Eye problems	B3
Abscesses	B,C3

Monthly report for January 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 2017			
LIVESTOCK SPECIES	DISEASE AGENT	NO. CASES	LOCATION
Bovine, Holstein 8 months	Coccidiosis	1	Howick, KZN
Bovine, Dairy Cows	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> mastitis	1	Humansdorp, Eastern Cape
Bovine, Adult Dairy Cow	Ionophore Poisoning	1	Dundee, KZN
Bovine, Adult Dairy Cow	Enzootic Bovine Leukosis	1	Dundee, KZN
Bovine, Beef Calf	<i>Salmonella</i>	1	Newcastle, KZN
Bovine, Aborted fetus x 4	<i>Coxiella burnetti</i>	1	Harare, Zimbabwe

WILDLIFE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE - 2017			
WILDLIFE SPECIES	DISEASE AGENT	NO. CASES	LOCATION
Sable Antelope, Cow	Follicular dysplasia with colour dilution	1	Rooiberg, Limpopo
Lion cub, 3 weeks	Suspect attaching and effacing <i>E.coli</i> enteritis	1	Rustenburg, Noth West
Impala, Black Neonate	Cryptosporidiosis	1	Brits, North West
Springbok, Adult	Heartwater	1	Rooiberg, Limpopo
Gemsbok, Calf	Dermatophilosis	1	Rustenburg, Noth

			West
Sable, Calf	Micronutrient imbalance	1	Thabazimbi, Limpopo

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

Condition	Area	Comments and Specie
Intestinal roundworms		O 3
Asiatic red water		B 2
Anaplasmosis		B 1
Heartwater	Cofimvaba	O 1
Blue tongue		O 2 Number of cases reported in young unvaccinated sheep after the first good rains fell and midges are on the increase
Pulpy kidney		O 3 Large scale losses in young unvaccinated sheep in communal areas – lush green grass after first rains fell after Christmas following the prolonged drought.
Rabies	Cofimvaba, Ngqeleni	B 2
Orf		O 1
Tulip		B 1
Lantana		B 2
Senecio (acute)		B 3 18/180 heifers introduced from Bethlehem, Free State had died at that stage of sub acute to chronic Senecio toxicity – large scale losses anticipated over next few months
Lungs		O,C 2
Lightning		P 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 on Livestock and Wildlife isolations for January 2016 from IDEXX Laboratories supplied by dr. Liza du Plessis (Liza-DuPlessis@idexx.com)

Condition	Comments and Specie
Intestinal roundworms	O,G 1

Heartwater tick	B, E, G 2
Red-legged tick	E 2
African red water	B 1
Heartwater	B,C,G 2
Red gut	B 1
Pulpy kidney (FSE)	G 1
<i>E. coli</i>	B,P,G 2
Coccidiosis	G 1
Snotsiekte (BMC)	B 1
Orf	C 1
Equine sarcoid	E 2
Urea	B 1
Dystocia	B 1
Lungs	O 1
Diarrhoea	B,G 2
Traumatic pericarditis	G 1

Monthly report for January 20176 from Dr. Lucy Lange: PathCare Vetlab
lange@pathcare.co.za

Disease condition	Specie
Pneumonia/<i>Pasteurella</i>	Cattle
Inhalation pneumonia	Cattle
<i>Campylobacter</i>	Cattle
Trichomonosis	Cattle
Necrotic enteritis	Cattle
<i>Corynebacterium</i>	Cattle
Septicaemia	Cattle
Liver necrosis (toxic)	Cattle
Seneciosis	Cattle
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	Cattle
Ketosis	Cattle
Squamous cell carcinoma	Horses
Sarcoid	Horses
White muscle disease	Sheep
Hepato-toxicosis	Sheep
Pneumonia	Sheep
Domsiekte (ketosis)	Boer goats
Pulpy kidney	Boer goats
Blackquarter (Clostridium)	Boer goats

Game:	
Pneumonia	Sable
Septicaemia	Roan
Emaciation	Roan
Septicaemia	Rhino

Report from Dr. Emily Lane Wildlife Pathology Research Programme

27 January 2017

Dear

Department Policy and Administration

Weekly report

Thank you for returning information between 20th Jan 2017 and 27th Jan 2017

Information only - Review in Progress Issues

Information only - Review Complete and CTR Issues

Project	Issue	Type	TR / CR
14 Jan 17	Review Item	Review complete (pending)	00/00
17 Jan 17	TR	TRF submitted for final review	00/128
		Information only - Departmental responses and TRF	
20 Jan 17	Review Item	Review	00/00
23 Jan 17	Review Item	Review complete (in progress)	00/00
26 Jan 17	Review Item (TR)	Review complete (pending)	00/00
28 Jan 17	Review	Review in progress	00/128
29 Jan 17	TR	Information only - Review of responses received (TR)	00/12
29 Jan 17	TR	Information only - Review of responses received (TR)	00/12
29 Jan 17	Review Item	Review	00/14