

## **Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak**

### **Current (29<sup>th</sup> April 2015) Status**

*(Synopsis of report prepared by Dr J Nyika, Director, Division of Veterinary Services)*

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is the most contagious disease known to cattle has a severe economic impact on the livestock sector. Affected areas are put under quarantine for prolonged periods of time which has a serious negative effect on the trade in livestock.

Although under normal situations, FMD may not result in high livestock mortalities it can seriously affect productivity due to lameness and inability to feed. The impact on the animals is even worse under drought conditions when they are in poor condition and may need to travel long distances to access water and grazing. Quarantine controls will also affect movement of livestock for relief grazing during drought.

An outbreak of FMD occurred at the end of April 2014 on three farms in the Rutenga area of Mwenezi District of Masvingo Province. However, vaccination coverage has proved to be inadequate in containing the outbreak. FMD has now spread to adjoining districts of Chivi, Masvingo, Mberengwa, Zvishavane, Shurugwi, Gwanda and Insiza.

To limit further spread outside the already infected areas as indicated by the red area in the map below, the Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services (DLVS) has created a barrier of vaccinated cattle along the northern boundary of the infected area as shown by yellow band.

The map below shows the present disease status as at 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015.



Province	District	No. of dip tanks / farms	Census	Date of first case	Date of last case	Remarks
Matabeleland South	Gwanda	2	2,062	06-09-14	03-10-14	Resolved
	Insiza	22	23,353	12-09-14	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25,415</b>			
Masvingo	Mwenezi	69	112,799	27-04-14	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Masvingo	56	65,359	10-08-14	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Chivi	14	21,379	02-10-14	25-11-14	Resolved
	Chiredzi	20	38,659	01-11-14	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>238,196</b>			
Midlands	Mberengwa	24	37,356	06-07-14	08-02-15	Resolved
	Zvishavane	17	25,957	30-08-14	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Shurugwi	23	28,553	10-11-14	Ongoing	Ongoing
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>91,866</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>247</b>	<b>355,477</b>			

Regrettably, the FMD situation continues to deteriorate and continued spread of the disease will be catastrophic not only to the livestock sector, but also to the national economy which is already under severe pressure.

The grave status and extent of the FMD outbreak was discussed at length at both the Executive Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs held on 29<sup>th</sup> April and the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Members of both ZAA and LMAC affirm their commitment to work with the Department in controlling this outbreak.

Further information will be circulated as soon as it becomes available.