

DIVISION OF VETERINARY SERVICES
Weekly Highlights
Week ending 8 June, 2018

1. STATE OF ANIMAL HEALTH

1.1. Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

The division of Veterinary Services continues to fight incursion of FMD in traditionally free districts of Gutu and Bikita in Masvingo Province as well as Macheke Part of Murehwa district in Mashonaland east province. This week the outbreak in Gutu was reported to have spread to two dip tanks in Buhera district of Manicaland which share grazing and watering points with infected dip tanks in Gutu. The Macheke outbreak was also reported to have spread to 4 dip tanks in the Headlands area of Makoni district in Manicaland again through shared grazing and watering points with infected areas of Macheke. Adequate vaccine has been dispatched all these infected areas and vaccination is underway. The Department continues to appeal to farmers and traders to observe quarantine measures as the department will not hesitate to destroy animals moved illegally from infected areas to clean areas. All the infected districts as well as previously infected districts namely Chirumhanzu, Mberengwa and Shurugwi in Midlands; Chivi, Zaka and Chiredzi in Masvingo; Chegutu in Mashonaland Province; and Chipinge in Manicaland, remain under quarantine until further notice as DVS continues to monitor the areas.

So far this year the DVS has imported 893,880 doses FMD vaccine worth 1.8 million USD to control outbreaks.

Dairy farmers and feedlots are continuing to access vaccine from the Division on a cost recovery basis to protect their herds where the risk is deemed high.

1.2. Rabies

During the week twenty-one samples were tested for rabies at the Central Veterinary Laboratory and 17 of them were confirmed positive for the disease (4 cattle, 8 dogs, 3 goats, 1 donkey and 1 honeybadger). There were 6 human cases that were referred for medical attention. A child in Murehwa district is suspected to have died of rabies.

From January 2018 to date 262,430 doses rabies have been distributed to DVS veterinary offices throughout the country and routine vaccinations are ongoing. A total of 1,779 dogs vaccinated this week.

1.3. Newcastle disease

There were no outbreaks reported in the past week. Preventive vaccinations are on-going in all known known Newcastle disease hot spots, where a total of 136,797 birds were vaccinated during the course of the week.

1.4. Anthrax

No outbreaks were reported this week and a total of 26,590 cattle were vaccinated during ongoing routine vaccinations in anthrax prescribed areas.

The total annual anthrax vaccine requests from provinces was 1,325,200 doses. A million doses have so far been supplied in the first quarter and the balance is expected to be supplied before the year ends.

1.5. Tick-borne diseases

Theileriosis continues to be the leading tick-borne disease in Mashonaland East province. The two districts mostly affected are Hwedza and Chikomba where a number of farmers have lost their entire herds. A lot of farmers are reportedly in panic mode and are disposing of their cattle to buyers at prices as low as \$50 USD per beast. DVS is frantically working with suppliers of dip chemical to improve supply which has been short supply since end of 2017 due to shortage of active ingredients for manufacture on the world market, and challenges in accessing forex on the local market. Despite tick-borne disease being notifiable disease there is a lot of under reporting to the Division by both farmers and private veterinarians, making quantification of the actual extent of the problem by DVS difficult. Tick-borne diseases reported this week were theileriosis (127 cases, 85 deaths), babesiosis (88 cases), anaplasmosis (65 cases) and heartwater (31 cases) throughout the country.

2. Veterinary Public health

Fourteen carcasses were detained for *Cysticercus bovis* (beef measles) out of the 5,599 inspected carcasses. A total of 107 livers and lungs were condemned for hydatidosis. Also inspected were 3,301 pigs, 95 sheep and 455 goats.

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