

DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES
Weekly Highlights
Week ending 24th January 2019

State of animal health

1.1 Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

Following the detection of FMD cases at Plot 6A Hedsor road in Borrowdale , Harare, reported last week, the seven cattle that had FMD lesions were destroyed on the 22nd of Jan this week. The carcasses were burnt and buried on site under veterinary and police supervision. Inspection of properties in the surrounding areas is ongoing and to date all 6 properties within the 10 km Quarantine radius have been inspected once and no suspect cases were detected. The remaining 7 cattle and 2 goats on the affected property, which had no lesions have been vaccinated and the owner has been instructed to send them for direct slaughter at Koala abattoir within the next two weeks. The offender has since been prosecuted and paid an admission of guilt fine of \$20.00.

Matabeleland South province was investigating suspected new FMD cases at a previously infected dip tank in Insiza district. The dip tank was last vaccinated in April 2018 following detection of FMD cases. A total of five suspect cases were detected, all of which were calves indicating a the possibility of subclinical infection in the herd and need to give a booster vaccination to all cattle in the area.

Depopulation of Komani Estate feedlot in Mashonaland Central following an FMD outbreak reported in November 2018 is ongoing. The DVS Provincial office and the owner agreed on a destocking plan for the 1718 cattle that was to be implemented from 17 December 2018 to 27 February 2019. The plan is now a week behind schedule following the violence experienced during last week stay away. To date six hundred cattle have so far been slaughtered.

No FMD outbreaks were detected in the other provinces this week

Two buffaloes were sighted in Beitbridge East, a traditional vaccination area. The presence of buffaloes warrants regular vaccinations in this area.

Botswana Vaccine Institute acknowledged receiving two payments totaling USD450 000 at the end of December 2018 and beginning of January 2019, thanks to the Ministry of Finance. The overdue balance now stands at USD 1 200 789.23 on a 60-day credit facility and a further USD 1 378 082.09 which is not overdue. The total amount owed to BVi stands at USD2 578 871.32.

1.2 Anthrax

Two outbreaks were reported this week, one from Vinga dip tank in Bikita district where one cow died from the disease and the other was reported from Gutu district where a report of 7 human cases was received from ministry. Vaccinations have been scheduled for both outbreak areas in the last week of January areas.

2 Dipping

The provinces continue to face challenges with the supply of dip chemicals, The little dip chemical trickling in from the suppliers is being directed to Theileria outbreak areas in Gutu, Hwedza and Chivhu districts. Most areas throughout the country reported heavy tick infestation in cattle. Suppliers of dip Chemicals continue to sight failure to access foreign currency to import active ingredients required in the manufacture of dip chemicals.

The manufacturing of dip chemical heavily depends on foreign currency availability which is scarce to the manufacturers. The Division is appealing for special consideration in foreign currency allocation to sustain the dipping program and wellbeing from livestock. In the last 12 weeks since beginning of November 2018 the two suppliers of dip chemicals have only managed to access a total USD 200 000 forex, against a total requirement of USD 1 200 000 for that period.

3 Administration

The challenge in redeeming fuel coupons continues as the 20 L coupon was revalued to 8L thereby stalling all lined up programs for the month. This has seriously affected the operations of the department especially the delivery of the little dip chemicals being supplied from manufactures.

Dr. J. Nyika

Director: Division of Veterinary Services