



# DAFFnews

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Editor-in-Chief: Reggie Ngcobo, Email: [MLO.Minister@dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:MLO.Minister@dalrrd.gov.za),  
Cell number: 082 883 2458

Editor: Piwe Mbiko, Email: [PiweM@daff.gov.za](mailto:PiweM@daff.gov.za), Celnr: 072 937 2337



**Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**



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# Livestock Identification and Traceability System

The red meat industry is one of the largest agricultural commodities in the South African agricultural sector with a turnover of approximately R60 billion. Livestock are farmed in conjunction with other mixed farming enterprises. Beef cattle comprise approximately 80% of the total number of cattle in the country, while dairy cattle make up the remaining 20%.

The recent Foot-and-mouth outbreaks led to the national suspension of livestock auctions. Although the minister lifted the ban on 17 February, the red meat industry realised that a livestock traceability system is urgently needed. Traceability systems are important tools to prevent the spread of animal diseases and to enhance bio-security in general.

At the end of January, livestock industry role-players, agricultural organisations and government collaborated at a Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS) information day to plan the way forward.

South Africa does not have a central national database, which poses a problem in establishing a livestock traceability system. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural

Development (DALRRD) will be the authority to deal with the legislative part of the LITS, while an implementing authority will be responsible for the day-to-day management of LITS.

A policy on LITS was finalised by DALRRD in March 2018. According to Mr Mooketsi Ramasodi, Deputy Director-General: Agricultural Production, Health and Food Safety, it is now time to implement the policy provisions contained in the LITS policy.

South Africa has a commercial sector and an emerging sector and for both these sectors their cattle is their capital investment. "If one takes into account the small-scale farmers in the former homelands and the deterioration of support such as dip tanks, the incorporation of small-scale farmers into the commercial sector is one of the most challenging factors that the sector face," said Mr Wandile Sihlobo of AgBiz.

At the moment the Animal Identification Act is one method of identification with branding. It will be easy to change the regulations to make provision for

# Livestock Identification and Traceability System

*from p 2*

devices to trace animal movement. The feedlot industry uses the traceability system for data for production systems.

The Red Meat Producers Organisations (RPO) is committed to traceability systems in the cattle and small stock sectors. “Red meat producers do not always have access to internet so the system should be user friendly and affordable,” said Mr Koos van der Ryst, CEO of RPO.

Animals and animal products are by far the biggest contributors in terms of the Gross Production Value. Therefore, the

implementation of LITS is crucial.

Growing domestic and global demand for animal product and emerging opportunities for exporting animal products have encouraged governments and livestock organisations in many countries to invest in developing infrastructure and processes and traceability systems to track animals and their products. Animal traceability forms the basis of sanitary control systems in the production of food of animal origin. It constitutes the link between animal health, public health, and food safety and quality.



# ***Agri SA responds to the national state of disaster declaration***

**A**gri SA acknowledges the announcement by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma to declare a national state of disaster in South Africa. The rationale behind this national disaster declaration remains unclear owing to good rains and good production prospects in most provinces. In the event of such a declaration, government has to make available all resources to alleviate the plight of all those suffering as a result of this disaster. In practice it means implementing the National Disaster Management Plan and making available stores, equipment, vehicles, facilities and personnel to execute the plan effectively and efficiently, specifically in provinces where there is persistent drought for the past four to five years.

An integrated and uniform approach to disaster management in all provinces by all provincial organs of state, provincial statutory functionaries, non-governmental organisations and agricultural structures involved in disaster management in these provinces and by the private sector, is now of critical importance. In view of the aforementioned, Agri SA

appeals to the Minister to meet urgently with all the stakeholders to ascertain the following:

- Provinces that are most severely affected by the drought;
- Roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder;
- Areas of collaboration;
- Possible risks that might undermine relief efforts and strategies to mitigate it;
- Identify and prioritise the areas that require immediate assistance;
- Activate the action plan;
- Monitor and assess the cost effectiveness and impact of relief efforts.

The reprioritisation of unutilised funds in various departments presents an opportunity that must be thoroughly utilised before the end of the financial year in support of this disaster declaration.

Agri SA commits its expertise and network to assist with governments' efforts to successfully implement all contingency and emergency arrangements in drought-stricken areas.

For further information contact Andrea Campher at Agri SA, Disaster Risk Manager on 079 8872 174

# Corona crisis threatens agricultural trade globally

The unexpected and alarming spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has sparked fears of a global economic slowdown. South African agriculture exports approximately 25 commodities to a value of more than \$10 billion annually.

“The current uncertainty of the markets and the subsequent global economic slowdown is adding additional pressure on the debilitating South African economy. The growing impact of the COVID-19 coincides with the announcement of a 1,4% retraction in our economy as well as a decline of 7,6% for agriculture in the fourth quarter of 2019,” says Omri van Zyl, Agri SA’s Executive Director.

On Friday, 28 February 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Covid-19 outbreak as a global pandemic, resulting in governments around the world to strengthen their containment measures. Last week, the global market lost more than \$6 trillion resulting in the worst economic week since the global recession in 2008.

“At this stage, it is difficult to quantify the economic impact on South African agriculture. Over the short term, we are

expecting supply chain and logistical disruptions that may cause harm to export-driven agricultural sectors,” says Van Zyl. Agri SA will continuously work alongside industry bodies to monitor the impact of COVID-19.

Enquiries:

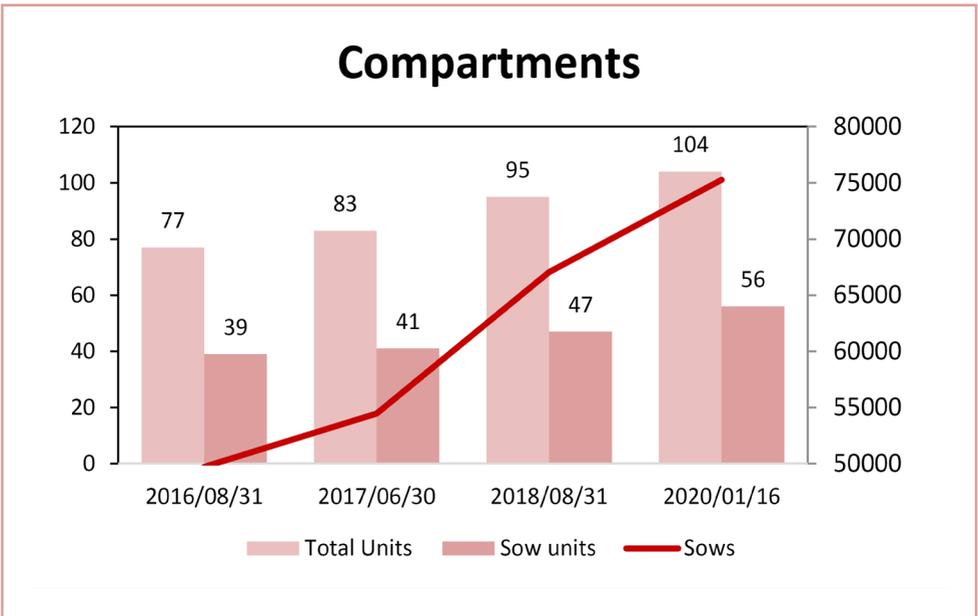
Omri van Zyl

Agri SA Executive Director

Cell: 082 417 5724

# Pig compartmental system grows

By end of January 2020, 104 piggeries and 57 sow units were already participating in the compartmental system. They represent around 75 000 sows. View graph on the progress since 2016.





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Editor-in-Chief	Reggie Ngcobo	082 883 2458	MLO.Minister@dalrrd.gov.za
Editor	Piwe Mbiko	072 937 2337	PiweM@daff.gov.za
Subeditor	Lerato Mofokeng	012 319 7927	LeratoMOF@daff.gov.za
Reporters	Samuel Kgatla	066 084 6653	SamuelK@daff.gov.za
	Innocent Mhlanga	063 693 0353	InnocentM@daff.gov.za
	Rony Moremi	066 084 6192	RincertM@daff.gov.za
	Jamela Nkanyane	066 084 6355	JamelaN@daff.gov.za
	Mercia Smith	060 973 3816	MerciaS@daff.gov.za
Intern	Khauhelo Lerata	012 319 7819	KhauheloL@daff.gov.za