



# DAFFnews

24 January 2020

*Official newsletter of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*

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Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



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# Update on the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Limpopo

**F**our further cases of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) were reported since mid-December 2019, with three cases reported in December and one case reported in the first week of January 2020. The total number of confirmed positive locations since the start of outbreak has risen to 15.

More than 130 points were identified with possible links to specific auctions and known affected properties. Follow-up investigations and collection of samples were already performed on 95 of these points and precautionary quarantine has been lifted on 44 properties that have been proven negative for FMD.

All properties where the disease has been confirmed have been placed under quarantine and cloven-hoofed animals are not allowed to move off the quarantined properties. Guidelines and application procedures have been finalised for animals on FMD quarantined properties to undergo early slaughter at designated abattoirs with specific conditions to prevent the spread of FMD. FMD does not affect people, therefore meat and milk from infected livestock is safe for human consumption.



***Cow mouth with  
FMD sores.***

# FMD Awareness Campaign in Limpopo

*By Rony Moremi*

When members of Ward 9 and 11's Farmers Association in Inveran, Senwabarwana in Limpopo heard about the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Molemole, they immediately called their extension officer, Kgatiso Mpati for assistance. Matome Molapo, the chairperson of the association said they would buy the vaccine right away if they could. "Livestock is our livelihood, if we lose our cattle we wouldn't survive, there are no factories in our area where we can work to make a living".

He said the association was grateful for the support from the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Senwabarwana local office and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DARLD). He added that it was important that the officials allay the farmers' fears by educating them more about foot and mouth disease and how they can prevent and control it from affecting their livestock, mostly cattle.

John Lobeko and Chris Digwamaje from DALRD conducted the awareness campaign in Rita Bethesda, Marobala, Mohodi, Maponto, Lissa, Sako and

Inveran villages. They made farmers aware about the importance of practising good biosecurity measures to prevent FMD and many other animal diseases. And that FMD was a controlled disease only government can vaccinate. They encouraged farmers to not move high risk animals, buy animals only from a proven source and ensure that they get a veterinary health declaration to accompany any animals that are brought to their farms or villages in order to prevent their animals from being infected.

Four further cases of FMD were reported— three in mid-December 2019 and one during the first week of January 2020, raising the total number of confirmed positive locations since the start of outbreak to 15.

***For the rest of the article and photos contact Rony Moremi at email: [rincertm@daff.gov.za](mailto:rincertm@daff.gov.za) and cellnr: 066 084 6192.***

# Rift Valley Fever (RVF) vaccination

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) would like to remind owners of cattle, sheep and goats to vaccinate their animals against Rift Valley Fever (RVF).

The recent good rainfall in certain areas of the country will result in an increase in the numbers of mosquitoes that transmit this disease. RVF is a serious viral disease that is spread through mosquitoes that causes abortions and death in young cattle, sheep and goats. People coming into contact with the blood and other body fluids of infected animals can also develop RVF.

Farmers are therefore advised to vaccinate all cattle, sheep and goats

against Rift Valley Fever, especially in areas that have recently received rainfall. Live vaccine (OBP Live) can only be used in non-pregnant animals as the live vaccine can cause abortions. Only dead/ inactivated (OBP) vaccine must be used in pregnant animals. It is the responsibility of the animal owners to vaccinate their animals and prevent loss.

Any suspicion of RVF disease must be reported immediately to the nearest State Veterinarian.

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# DAFF hosts enlightening extension and advisory services seminar

**By Samuel Kgatla**

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) in collaboration with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development hosted a seminar on national extension and advisory on 15 November 2019 at Bolivia Lodge. This was the first seminar before the awards ceremony since the inception of the National Extension and Advisory Services Awards in 2017. The National Awards is hosted rotationally by the Provincial Departments of Agriculture (PDAs) and the host province automatically becomes part of the National Organising Committee (NOC). The purpose of the seminar was for the department to share best practices and set a new bilateral agenda on extension and technology transfer and to share experiences on the commercialisation of small holder farmers to increase access to market and skills through training. This was done in partnerships with the Kenyan government, Zambian government and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations who continue to provide technical support.

The three countries shared their

experiences and best practices in the extension and advisory services. Both Zambia and Kenya shared their experiences about the implementation of the E-voucher financial inclusion and accountability.

The Deputy Director-General for Food Security and Agrarian Reform from DAFF, Mr Andile Hawes, emphasised that the purpose of the seminar was for South Africa and its partnering countries to share experiences about the extension and advisory services. In addition, he said he was pleased that both Zambia and Kenya had managed to attend.

In closing, Ms Bafedile Bopape; also from DAFF, thanked all the delegates including the international ones who made a lot of contributions with their presentations. "I am really happy that people decided to make this seminar a success. We thank you for your support. I want to salute the organising committee for coming with the brilliant idea of having a seminar before the NEASA awards. This really worked I wish they continue doing it," concluded Bopape.

# DAFF hosts enlightening extension and advisory services seminar



*From left, Minister Thoko Didiza, Mr Thys Botha, veteran extension practitioner and Mr Dieter Georg Jordaan, 2019 NEASA overall winner.*



*From left, Mr Alvin Varuthan, Mr Dieter Georg, Minister Didiza and Mr Thabo Mokone.*

*Ms Thembi Ngotho, Ms Rendani Mapholi who won the award for the Supervisor category and Mr Benjamin Ndengwa from Kenya.*



# Data collection for the farmer register continues in Limpopo

By **Jamela Nkanyane**

**D**ata collection for the Producer Farmer Register continues in the Limpopo Province. A team of officials from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development were dispersed to supplement and monitor the commencement of data collection at the Vhembe District Municipality covering the areas of Makhado, Malamulele and Musina. This is the second-final stage of the Producer Farmer Register national project, which involves collection of data from smallholder farmers. The project, started in 2018 and is expected to end in 2021.

When interviewed, farmers showed a great deal of passion for what they do. Although some of them do not keep record of the farming activities such as harvesting figures, they nonetheless have joy that they contribute to the market.

One such farmer is 57 year-old Samuel Makhubele who operates the Madonoro se Plaas at Chavani village outside Louis Trichardt. He started farming on communal land of 20 hectares in 2005 with other members of the cooperative—practising mixed farming. He plants crops and has over 70 indigenous chickens, 114 pigs and 17 goats.

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**Extension Officers from the Hlanganani Service Centre, Makhado Local Municipality, interview Mr Samuel Makhubele in his storeroom at Madonoro se Plaas during the data collection phase of the Producer Farmer Register project.**

# Data collection for the farmer register continues in Limpopo

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He has currently planted 4 ha of maize, 1 ha chillies, 1 ha green beans, mixed crops on 3 ha including spinach, baby marrow, beetroot and cabbage. In the past season, he harvested 6 tons of green beans, 7 tons of chillies; both supplied to the Johannesburg Market. Spinach and maize, which were not recorded, were sold to hawkers and locals.

Makhuvele is quite a sociable farmer whose networking skills have landed him a market opportunity with the

Johannesburg Market. He said that he also gets advice on animal health from other farmers. Madonoro se Plaas is also training three agriculture students from the Mashamba TVET College and the University of Johannesburg on crop farming. He welcomed the visit and hoped that the farmer register will bring change, especially to those who have never received government support from relevant department.

Farmers are also encouraged to send their queries to [FarmerRegister@daff.gov.za](mailto:FarmerRegister@daff.gov.za)

## AFMA Forum 2020

The 10th AFMA Forum themed "Explore today for a better tomorrow" will be held at the Sun City Convention Centre from 3 to 5 March.

The Forum will bring together animal nutritionists, veterinarians, feed manufacturers, feed formulators and technical sales consultants from South Africa and further afield.

Attendees will learn from the cream of international and local experts who will be sharing their expertise on topics ranging from feed science and research

to best practices for animal health and food safety.

Another highlight is the Ruminant Formulation Workshop that will be taking place from 2 to 6 March 2020.

For programme details and to register, visit the AFMA Forum 2020 website at [www.afmaforum.co.za](http://www.afmaforum.co.za)

# DAFF graduates making a difference at Baynesfield Training

The Baynesfield Training Academy (BTA) was opened in June 2012 with the purpose of transferring industry knowledge to aspiring pig farmers, existing smallholder farmers, government officials and any other person with the interest of learning pig farming.

The academy is situated outside Pietermaritzburg. As part of the training, the academy operates a 100-sow unit which is operated by commercial standards. To ensure the sustainability of the academy, both the training facility and the piggery must operate profitably. Even with all the available resources, for a farm to achieve its maximum efficiency, the personnel remain the important part of the equation.

To further fulfil its objective (knowledge transfer), Baynesfield Training Academy (BTA) in 2015 partnered with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) through the Directorate Animal Production (DAP) to

offer practical experience to agricultural graduates. It is a known fact that most graduates lack exposure to practical farming experience and this affect their advisory service when employed.

Since its inception, the objective of the internship programme of DAFF has been to impart skills and to do that, various stakeholders, including commodity organisations have been used as vehicles to impart the needed skill that will be relevant for the job market. The academy, through SAPPO (South African Pork producer's Organisation) accommodates two graduates at a time for a period of 12 months with their monthly salary being covered by DAFF. Graduates who are placed in the academy are expected to stay on the farm and are involved in all activities.

***For the rest of the article and photos contact Mercia Smith at, [mercias@daff.gov.za](mailto:mercias@daff.gov.za) or 060 973 3816.***



***From left are Sabelo Mthembu (DAFF graduate), Rodney Khumalo (BTA piggery manager), Zanovuyo Sithole and Tebogo Ledwaba (DAFF graduates).***

# ***Baphuduhucwana production incubator a success story for the agricultural sector***

***By Innocent Mhlanga***

**B**aphuduhucwana Production Incu-bator's vision: "To improve the livelihoods of our farmers and the broader community through sustainable agricultural practices and entrepreneurship, profitable growth through producing high quality produce, to be innovative and to farm as a group to benefit from economic of scale."

The Baphuduhucwana Production Incubator (Pty) Ltd (BPI) is the largest black-owned farming enterprise in the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme. Its main aim is to support farmers over a long-term period; they are developing the internal capacity to access various markets for their produce and also focus

on skills development and transfer through mentorship, providing technical, financial, business and practical support to their farmers.

The BPI was incorporated in 2014, with the initial objective to establish an agricultural production incubator for previously disadvantaged farmers. The company was incorporated with the view of utilising the entity as a vehicle to address the multiple challenges of the farmers in the specific region. To this day, the company aims to produce high-quality crops to various markets through agricultural best practices, operating as an aggregator to benefit from economies of scale and to become a successful black-owned farming enterprise.

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***Mr Noel Bastiaan, Director  
Leading Edge Farming, Ms  
Kedimetsi Hadebe with Mr  
Jacob Hlatshwayo, Chief Fi-  
nancial Officer at DAFF and Mr  
Morgan Bonnanye, BPI Manag-  
ing Director.***

# ***Baphuduhucwana production incubator a success story for the agricultural sector***

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The BPI will also participate in the entire agricultural value chain and will have various operational divisions such as farming, agro-processing, trade and investment in future.

On 18 November 2019, the BPI invited all their stakeholders to the Wheat Harvest Day held at the Pudimoe Farm in Taung, North West Province, in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality. Some of the stakeholders present were DAFF, which was represented by the CFO Mr Jacob Hlatshwayo; Peulwana Agricultural Financial Services, represented by Dr Romanus Monji; ABSA, represented by Mr Tlhoale and Eskom, John Deere,



***Various demonstrations were held at  
Wheat Harvest Day.***

Gefada, Tiger Brands and Zenzele/Itereleng were also represented.

When outlining the objectives and future plans, managing director of BPI, Mr Morgan Bonnanye said their dream is to farm the total area of arable irrigation land productively, simultaneously empowering their farmers and helping them farm on the land as a group and to create jobs and reduce poverty in their region. He says he resumed his activities on the farm in 2000 when he took over from his brother and they encouraged all of the members to rethink the model they were using. As a result, they changed the model from operating individually to the current one. They realised that it would not be easy to attain some of the farm assistance and equipment such as machines, funding, seeds and other farming aids if they operated as individuals, therefore, they came together as a group to form the BPI, which turned out to be a success.

***For the rest of the article and photos  
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# ***Themba voted as the new Chairperson of APAC***

***By Samuel Kgatla***

**T**he newly elected chairperson of the Association of Principals of Agricultural Colleges, Mr Themba Qebani, promises to work with everyone in the association. He mentioned this during his first speech at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Southern Sun in Bloemfontein on 11 December 2019.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' (DAFF) Sectoral Colleges Directorate was the electoral officer for the election of the chairperson and deputy chairperson.

Themba is the hardworking principal of the Grootfontein Agricultural Institute in Middleburg, Eastern Cape. He was voted for by many members of the association who have confidence in him. The principal received seven out of eight votes from the college representatives. Dr Karabo Mabe from Taung Agricultural College was elected as the deputy chairperson of the association. He thanked everyone for the confidence they have in him. "I am humbled by this development and this is not about me, but APAC. We are all equal and have roles to play to move the association forward. I am just going

to guide and promises to work with you all the way. We have to move with speed and together we can move APAC forward," he said.

The Director of Sectoral Colleges at DAFF, Mr Sivelile Nompuzolo, said APAC used to be a beggar, but the association has grown. "Colleges were defaulting but things have changed with the help of APAC. It used to be a hassle and now I can see that APAC members are starting to brand themselves seriously. APAC has grown and I salute the leadership of the association. Keep up the good work," he said.

In conclusion, the APAC Executive pleaded with the members to be punctual and improve the attendance of their meetings. They requested everyone to be hands-on and make sure that they professionalise and prioritise the APAC meetings. APAC will have another AGM on 26 November 2020.



***Mr Themba Qebani.***

# ***Livestock expos and shows pool resources to improve biosecurity***

The presenters and organisers of six of South Africa's biggest livestock events, have jointly committed themselves to a science-based biosecurity protocol for the hosting of their various events in 2020, as well as in future.

The statement follows a meeting at the offices of Plaas Media's in Centurion, Gauteng, on 16 January 2020. The parties present at the meeting were Elmarie Prinsloo, CEO of Bloem Show, Terry Strachan, CEO of the Royal Show in Pietermaritzburg, Albert Loubser, co-organiser of Nampo ALFA in Bothaville, well-known veterinary consultant, Dr Faffa Malan, as well as Dr Danie Odendaal, director of Veterinarian Network. Johan Ehlers, CEO of Agri-Expo, the presenter of Agri-Expo Livestock, and Toit Wessels, general manager of Nampo, participated in the meeting electronically.

The current outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was the main driving force and topic of the meeting, and served as the starting point for finding solutions to present the above mentioned livestock events in 2020 and in future, against the background of and with consideration to biosecurity matters. The ultimate goal

of the meeting was to establish a set of best practices at each of the various events, in order to serve the industry holistically and in the best interest of exhibitors.

## ***Prevention is better than cure***

The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 2019 and the subsequent second outbreak early in 2020, once again emphasised the importance of biosecurity among all stakeholders in the livestock industry. The onus is on all agricultural role-players to prevent and properly manage these types of incidents – it is not just a function of government.

Support will also be provided to smaller regional shows to help them to implement such a biosecurity protocol.

The six events involved in the meeting, and which will implement the protocol from the outset, will take place on the following dates in 2020: Bloem Show 24 April to 2 May, Nampo Harvest Day 12 to 15 May, the Royal Show 22 to 31 May, Nampo Cape 9 to 11 September, Nampo ALFA 24 to 26 September and Agri-Expo Livestock 8 to 10 October.

# Northern Cape CASP project visit by Programme Development Support

*By Matsepo Malatswane*

The Directorate Programme Development Support and the Northern Cape provincial office visited agriculture projects in the Francis Baard and John Taolo Gaetsewe districts in the Northern Cape to monitor the CASP and Ilima/Letsema programmes in the province.

The aim of the visits is to assess progress and value for money invested in the projects. The desired outcome for CASP and Ilima/Letsema programmes is to yield higher levels of productive efficiency, create on-farm and off-farm jobs, increase income and wealth in the rural economy. To ensure this, the directorate Programme Development Support is tasked to conduct verification together with provincial extension officers, in a bid to highlight challenges

and outcomes of the CASP programme. Project Management Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Processes, National Office is expected to conduct monthly and quarterly monitoring and evaluation on CASP and Ilima/Letsema supported projects.

Farmers can reap great rewards with the Ilima/Letsema and the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP). The two programmes, run through the provincial agriculture and rural development departments offer small scale farmers support so they can improve their farming projects, livestock and plant farming production support.

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***DAFF officials visited agriculture projects in Northern Cape province.***