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Media Statement **26 August 2026**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR SUPPLYING LIVESTOCK FOR RED MEAT EXPORT TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

In a step aimed to continue uninterrupted red meat exports and safe key agricultural trade, the Minister of Agriculture, Willie Aucamp, announced an extension of the registration deadline for farms and feedlots supplying red meat to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
Farms and feedlots supplying livestock for slaughter for the export of red meat to the UAE will now have until 31 December 2026 to ensure they have put the necessary systems in place to comply with the Veterinary Procedural Notice 59 (VPN-59) regulations.

“This extension is critical for our livestock sector and agricultural trade relations with the United Arab Emirates. By allowing trade to continue smoothly while our state veterinarians and farmers complete the registration process, we are protecting local livelihoods, supporting market continuity, and ensuring our red meat industry can meet all international standards without unnecessary disruption”, Minister Aucamp said.
He added that the Ministry and the Department of Agriculture remain fully committed to supporting South African producers as they expand their reach in key global markets.

During this extended period, exports may proceed only where:
- the facility has been inspected by the responsible provincial state veterinarian;
- compliance with the applicable requirements has been verified; and
- a compliant application form for registration of the farm or feedlot has been submitted to the Directorate: Animal Health for processing.

“This extension is intended to facilitate the completion of the registration process and prevent unnecessary interruptions to trade. This however does not exempt any farm or feedlot from the applicable registration requirements,” Minister Aucamp explained.

It is further important to note that after 31 December 2026, farms and feedlots that have not been registered will not be eligible to supply livestock for slaughter for the export of red meat to the UAE. Exports originating from unregistered facilities will therefore not be supported or endorsed.

End.

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