



**KINGDOM OF ESWATINI**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**DATE: 3 July 2026**

## **UPDATE ON WEEK 14 OF FMD RESPONSE**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report highlights the FMD control activities for the week 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025. The activities include the awareness activities and sanitary controls in the FMD affected areas of the Shiselweni region, Lubombo region and other parts of the country.

### **2. WEEK 14 REPORTS**

Farmers reported cattle that were showing signs of FMD in Nkonjane dip tank in Mambane. The Lubombo team went to investigate this report and they found cattle that had typical FMD lesions. On inspection of the area, the VOs discovered that two Cordon Camps in this area had no cordon guards. One house was occupied by community members and the other was abandoned. Because the cordon guards had abandoned the camps, no one was maintaining the cordon line and ensuring that RSA, and Mozambique cattle were straying into the country.

RSA cattle with 'F' brand marks in the neck (a brand mark given to RSA cattle that are vaccinated for FMD) were found on the Swazi side. One Swazi cow with the RSA 'F' brand was also seen at the dip tank area.

More teams have been created to ensure that vaccination is done in the shortest time possible and that surveillance continues. A total of seven teams have been created. Six of these are vaccinating teams and one is the surveillance team.

The FMD Vaccine started arriving on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and vaccination was to start on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025. All vaccinated cattle will be branded 'F' on the right rump.

### **3. INVESTIGATION REPORTS**

Three dip tanks which were investigated in Lubombo were Nkonjane, Mndobandoba, Makhulusihlengi, Mountain View and Gangakhulu. Suspects were found at Mndobandoba, Nkonjane and Makhulusihlengi.

### **4. AWARENESS / COMMUNICATION**

During this reporting week, the following was done on awareness and communication;

- a. A sensitization and awareness meeting was held with Veterinary Assistants, Ranch managers, Livestock Extension Officers at Mpisi on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025. From this meeting, the staff;
  - i. Appreciated the update on the activities that are implemented to control the FMD. They went on to request that such meetings should be held regularly.
  - ii. They requested for a review of the legislation so that offenders can be prosecuted. They felt that if this can happen, the spread of the disease can slow down.
  - iii. They suggested that IEC material should be distributed in the sensitization campaigns.

- b. A sensitization and awareness meeting was held with Mbulungwane livestock stakeholders on the

17<sup>th</sup> September 2025. This meeting was attended by REPS, community police, butchery owners,  
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TDL farmers, communal farmers, veterinary staff, teachers and students at Tjendlovu High School. The outcome of the meeting was;

- i. Stakeholders appreciated the sensitization about FMD. They promised to join hands with government in the fight against this disease.
  - ii. The fines in the legislation were too low, the stakeholders suggested that these should be reviewed.
- c. A planning meeting for the vaccinating teams was held at Mpisi VFTC on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025. In this meeting, the area to be vaccinated was described and the camping logistics were clearly outlined. Teams were asked to share their experiences and challenges that they encountered while on camp. The following was noted;
- i. Working long hours yet the issue of incentive was not clear.
  - ii. The work needed able bodied people and stamina but it was very challenging for them because at times they are forced not to eat lunch when they are working very far from their camp sites.
  - iii. Inadequate PPE that is suitable for the different weather conditions. This includes sun hats, rain coats and enough coveralls.
- d. A meeting with the retired veterinary staff at Manzini Veterinary Services Conference Room on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025. This meeting was attended by all veterinary officers and 17 retired animal health staff. Of the 17 retirees, 3 are already engaged by NDMA (stars are put next to their names) and their contract is expiring at the end of September 2025. In this meeting, the FMD update was given and the PS's request to get assistance from the retirees was conveyed. A paper was circulated for registration of those who were willing to assist the department in the control of FMD. All 17 retirees registered (see attached list).

## **5. SANITARY CONTROLS AND GENERAL INSPECTION**

### **Check points**

- a. 40 adult pigs which were being illegally transported from Hluthi to Malkerns were stopped at the check point phansi-kwaMbulungwane on Tuesday night (21<sup>st</sup> September 2025). They were escorted back to origin by the police and AHI – Hluthi.

## **6. NEW INFECTIONS**

- i. Makhulusihlengi was inspected on the 15th September 2025 and clinical cases were picked up.
- ii. A suspect case at Nkonjane dip tank in Mambane was reported, on mouching, six cattle were found to be having FMD lesions. Blood and tissue samples were collected for testing in the laboratory and all samples tested negative for FMD.
- iii. Mndobandoba dip tank was inspected and six cattle were found with typical FMD lesions. Blood and tissue samples were collected from these and all six tested positive for FMD in the laboratory.

## **7. ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK 15**

### **Inspections**

- a. Simiso and Mnyafula dip tanks in Mambane will be investigated.
- b. Lomagengane dip tank in Sithobela will be investigated.
- c. Ntongane dip tank in Shiselweni will be investigated

### **Vaccination Schedule**

The vaccination schedule will be as follows;

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Dip Tank</b>
22.09.2025	Monday	Ntjanini Bhokweni Phumlile Richmond Makhulusihlengi Mahlabaneni Sagula
23.09.2025	Tuesday	Makhulusihlengi Nkonjane Magogweni Sigwe Mpini Mahlabaneni Sagula
24.09.2025	Wednesday	Luvatsi Nkonjane Mngcuphane Mbutfu Mbatshane (1 kraal) Gangakhulu Phophonyane Mohhoshe
25.09.2025	Thursday	Mbabala Lemhlophe Lunkuntfu Phophonyane Hlongamanzi

Vaccination will start at 0530hrs

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made;

- a. Since more teams have been formulated, it is recommended that more cars and PPE be provided for the people in the teams.
- b. The fencing material has run out. There is need for urgent procurement of this material to cover the Shiselweni cordon fence and the recently discovered Mambane cordon fence
- c. The contract of Dr. Nokukhanya Ncube who is leading one vaccinating team is expiring at the end of September 2025. It recommended that her contract be renewed soon.
- d. There is need for formation of 3 surveillance teams, engagement of more personnel s recommended.
- e. The PS facilitates engagement of the Lubombo RA on the outbreak of FMD in the Lubombo region.