



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: 3 July 2026

UPDATE ON WEEK 50 OF FMD OUTBREAK RESPONSE

1. INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the FMD control activities for the week 50 (25th May 2026 to 29th May 2026) of the FMD outbreak response. The activities include FMD vaccination, awareness activities and sanitary controls in the country.

2. WEEK 50 HIGHLIGHTS/ REPORTS

A total of 6 300 doses of the anticipated 185,000 doses of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine were delivered on 30 May 2026. These vaccines will be used to commence booster vaccinations in Ntfontjeni and Luve dip tanks.

During Week 50, dip tank inspections continued throughout the country. No cases of FMD were observed in the majority of the inspected dip tanks. However, at Mgobodzi dip tank, fresh FMD lesions estimated to be less than 10 days old were observed in some cattle.

Field inspections also revealed that cattle continue to mix freely on communal grazing lands, posing a significant risk for disease transmission and spread.

Reports were received of cattle abortions and deaths occurring after FMD vaccination. These reports require thorough investigation to determine the causes and to address concerns among livestock owners. Outbreaks of Dermatophilosis and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) were observed during inspections.

Progress inspections were conducted on the cordon fences being constructed under the Microprojects programme. Of the planned 20 km of fence, 13.4 km had been completed, while construction was ongoing on an additional 4 km section.

Three cordon camps were visited during the week. Cordon guards were present in only one of the camps, while guards were absent from the remaining two camps. The issue of absenteeism will be investigated and addressed. Inspections also revealed shortages of essential working tools and equipment in the cordon camps.

3. OTHER DISEASES

During the dip tank inspection, diseases of cattle other than FMD were noted. These included;

- Abortions in cattle that were vaccinated for FMD in Zombodze, in the Shiselweni region. These abortions are to be investigated to allay fears that they were a side effect of the FMD vaccine.
- Dermatophilosis and Lumpy Skin Disease cases were seen during the inspection.

4. AWARENES AND SENSITIZATION

- FMD awareness and sensitization activities continued in selected dip tanks across the country. Livestock owners were reminded of the importance of complying with disease control measures, including movement restrictions, vaccination programmes, and reporting suspected disease cases promptly.

5. WAY FORWARD

a. Vaccination schedule for week 51

Date	Day	Dip Tank
1.06.2026	Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ngubhela, Mandlangempisi
2.06.2026	Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ntfwalamkhono, Mphameni
3.06.2026	Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sobathathu, Bhalekane Breeding• Bhalekane Prison
4.06.2026	Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mhlambanyoni, Mpotshini

b. Training of VOs and AHIs on the SOPs which will take place on the 3rd June 2026 at Mpisi Training Centre at 0900hrs.

c. Relocation of checkpoints

Three Hhohho checkpoints will be relocated from Siganganyaneni, Lozimvu and Masheleleni to Lazwane, Magadzeni and Gangakhulu on the 30th May 2026

